

ABATE of GA's

# Rolling Wheels of Freedom

The Official Newsletter

## ABATE of GEORGIA



**To preserve the freedom of the road by protecting the rights of all motorcycle riders through fair and reasonable legislation, education and public awareness.**

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- Spokes by Ben R. Baker
- Highway Construction Zone Safety by Chuck Watwood
- Swap Meet Photos
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- Motorcycle News

# Contact Us

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# Contact Us

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# Contact Us

## **ATTENTION MEMBERS**

If you have had trouble with receiving your member card, a pin or a patch, a hotline has been set up to make sure your issue will be addressed as soon as possible.

Please call the Membership Hotline at 678-753-6018. All calls will be returned within 72 hours.

You may also send an email to [membership@abatega.org](mailto:membership@abatega.org).

**Lifetime Members:** If you need lifetime member patches, Cam Mccalister from District 5N has extras. See his contact info above.



# What is ABATE of GA?

**Our mission:** To preserve the freedom of the road by protecting the rights of all motorcycle riders through fair and reasonable legislation, education and public awareness.

ABATE stands for American Bikers Active Toward Education. We are composed of motorcyclists from all over the state, from all walks of life, who ride all makes of bikes. ABATE is not a club. It is a non-partisan, politically active organization working on motorcyclist's rights. We are affiliated with national rights groups like the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM). Our focus is to keep motorcycle legislation in its proper perspective.

Uninformed legislators enact many motorcycle laws. ABATE's goal is to keep them informed of our collective position on legislation. Rider education and public awareness of motorcyclists are also goals of ABATE. We are not against the wearing of helmets, and we encourage all riders to ride safely. An informed and educated rider is a safer rider.

## Member Benefits

- Organized lobbying of state and federal legislators to make your views on motorcyclist rights known to your representatives
- Current information on all motorcycle related legislation and where your legislators stand on the issues that affect your motorcycling rights and freedoms
- Monthly newsletter with legislative updates, event dates and other useful information
- Membership card, patch, and one year pin for new members. Yearly pin for renewals.
- Admission discounts at ABATE events around the state, including Swap Meets
- Discounts at many motorcycle shops and dealers around the state
- Personal satisfaction of joining your fellow riders in promoting the great sport of motorcycling, by participation in a range of events around the state
- Spiritual consultation with the Christian Motorcycle Association for ride prayers, weddings, and visitation



# A Few Accomplishments

- Fought and stopped legislation introduced in the session of the Georgia General Assembly that would have made it illegal for kids age 10 and under to ride as passengers on motorcycles
- Established May as “Motorcycle Awareness” month through a proclamation signed by the Governor and through resolutions passed by the Senate and House each year
- Our successful lobbying efforts have:
  - Created the Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program (GMSP), our state’s rider education program that is available to all
  - Repeal of the Georgia law prohibiting use of speakers or headphones while riding a motorcycle
  - Increased funding for the Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program, in the amount of \$170,000 after the license tag rate was raised on all vehicles to \$20
  - Stopped proposed legislation that would have increased the size of motorcycle tags
  - Allowed handicapped tags for motorcycles without further enabling legislation, by bringing it to the attention of the Department of Revenue that the code section was written in such a way that it was already authorized
  - Created antique tags for motorcycles
  - Passed the “Frank-Lee” (ROW) bill to enhance penalties to those who cause death or serious injury to a motorcyclist by failing to yield the right of way
  - Created the “Tag/Title” bill SB-437 that allows for registration of kit/assembled bikes.
  - Increased maximum handlebar height from 15” to 25”
  - Defunded Georgia motorcycle-only checkpoints at the federal level
  - Allowed motorcycles to access the HOV-HOT lanes free of charge



## From the State Director...



### The Keys to Success

Coming off a successful Swap Meet makes one thing clear. Simply put, my friends, the key to success is unity. This means unity among members, all members. Unity among the districts; partners who want to join in the fight like the Motorcycle Riders Foundation or the Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program. Solidarity among the general motorcycle community. All riders must come together if we are to be successful.

The questions to ask ourselves is how can we best partner with each other or members of the community? Is it jointly planning events? Coming together to support state events? What resources are available to us outside our membership? Clubs, motorcycle organizations, even independent riders have a vast amount of resources to draw on.

But, how do we get people to donate their time, talent and resources to our organization? It starts with raising awareness of our mission. The more people who know who we are and what we do, the more willing they are to donate. This means getting out in the community, in creative ways. You don't have to set up a membership table, plan a large event. Just show up. Be there. Talk about ABATE. Hand out literature. Support community events.

The next, most important and most often overlooked step is to simply ask them! When donors are asked why they gave, overwhelmingly the answer is a simple, "Because they asked me." It can be an awkward thing for most people to do. It takes practice but the more you do it, the easier it becomes. If you're not comfortable asking, find someone who is. Find someone who is influential in the motorcycle community or who knows your target donors and ask if they would be willing to approach people they know to ask for support. Again, you'd be surprised how many people will say, "Sure!"

Looking for volunteers to donate their time? They don't have to be members. Go outside the membership to look for support. That's the way many nonprofit organizations mobilize donors and volunteers. The basic process is – raise awareness of the mission, give them a chance do something meaningful with your organization, ask them for a donation or to volunteer again, after a positive experience. I emphasize the word meaningful here. People want to have fun, do something that makes a difference and not be overworked. It's the way nonprofits "hook" people in so they become connected to your mission. The more meaningful the experiences, the longer and greater their commitment.

Look forward to seeing you all out there, working closely together, in my travels around the state to visit the districts and preach the gospel of ABATE at motorcycle events across Georgia.

And kudos to all for a successful Swap Meet! It was a great success. Special shout out to David Neal, and all the volunteers, members and non-members alike!

- Skinny Bob, Acting State Director

**“There is more  
power in unity than  
division.”**

**– Emanuel Clever**



# Chaplain's Corner...

I don't know about you but for me lately it seems that my life tends to be more stressful day by day. I try to read the bible and allow it to give me direction for my life and I know that it says to not be anxious or worried but sometimes it just seems so hard. As I was reading some material recently about stress I came across a quote by Hudson Taylor that I thought was quite interesting. It said, *"It matters not how great the pressure is, only where the pressure lies. As long as the pressure does not come between me and my Savior, but presses me to Him, then the greater the pressure, the greater my dependence upon Him."*

At the time of this writing we have just celebrated Easter and I had been thinking about Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane before the crucifixion. Talk about stress. I was thinking about the tremendous amount of stress that Jesus went through knowing what he was about to go through and him actually not wanting to do it but was still willing to do it so that you and I could be saved from our sin and have a relationship with our Father God. Luke 22:41-42 says, *"He withdrew from them about a stone's throw and knelt down and prayed saying, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will but yours, be done.'" Jesus was under such physical torment that the bible says his sweat was as drops of blood. But he responded to His crucifixion by releasing his anxiety to the Father in prayer. He admitted His desire to avoid death by asking His Father to remove the cross from His life. Yet, His heart remained submissive to His heavenly Father's will. Jesus paid a tremendous price for our salvation and I pray that if you have not received Him as your Lord and Savior that you would please consider doing so today and that you would cast all of your cares onto Him and follow His example in living your life so that you can be all that your were created to be and that you would fulfill the plans that God has for your life.*

One last verse that I wanted to leave you with is Matthew 11:28-30 which says, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

God Bless!

- Eric Shumans





# The Christian Motorcyclists Association

## ABATE of GA's Spiritual Leadership

<u>ABATE Districts</u>		<u>CMA Chapter Presidents</u>	
<b>District 1:</b>	<b>Dalton</b>	<b>Robert Bearden</b>	<b>706-581-2007</b>
	<b>Ellijay</b>	<b>David McDaniel</b>	<b>706-669-0388</b>
	<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>Phil McGuire</b>	<b>706-331-7283</b>
<b>District 2:</b>	<b>Blairsville</b>	<b>Tom Boyland</b>	<b>239-961-2987</b>
	<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>Kayse Niehoff</b>	<b>478-258-3596</b>
	<b>Gainesville</b>	<b>Dan Montgomery</b>	<b>678-513-3763</b>
<b>District 3:</b>	<b>Carrollton</b>	<b>Paul Holder</b>	<b>404-247-3854</b>
	<b>Cartersville</b>	<b>Billy Doster</b>	<b>678-221-8730</b>
	<b>Rome</b>	<b>Sky Atkins</b>	<b>706-331-5529</b>
<b>District 4:</b>	<b>Duluth</b>	<b>Monte Wyrick</b>	<b>678-485-5962</b>
	<b>Lawrenceville</b>	<b>Ricky Berry</b>	<b>404-432-7381</b>
	<b>Marietta</b>	<b>Lee Brooks</b>	<b>770-309-3618</b>
<b>District 5:</b>	<b>Athens</b>	<b>Tracy Allen</b>	<b>706-338-0655</b>
	<b>Conyers</b>	<b>Keith Fowler</b>	<b>706-816-5113</b>
	<b>Loganville</b>	<b>John Adams</b>	<b>678-643-4895</b>
<b>District 6:</b>	<b>Griffin</b>	<b>Tom Spivey</b>	<b>770-358-2068</b>
	<b>Newnan</b>	<b>Sam Connor</b>	<b>770-301-1937</b>
<b>District 7:</b>	<b>Warner Robbins</b>	<b>Bill Gragg</b>	<b>678-423-4330</b>
<b>District 8:</b>	<b>Augusta</b>	<b>Jimmy Goldman</b>	<b>803-507-4526</b>
<b>District 9</b>	<b>Columbus</b>	<b>Todd Newkirk</b>	<b>706-988-6574</b>
<b>District 11</b>	<b>Savannah</b>	<b>Jim Williams</b>	<b>912-349-1496</b>
	<b>Statesboro</b>	<b>Harold Piet</b>	<b>912-515-9050</b>
<b>District 15</b>	<b>Brunswick</b>	<b>Ricky Harper</b>	<b>912-778-4759</b>
	<b>Jesup</b>	<b>Larry Madray</b>	<b>912-586-2384</b>
	<b>St. Mary's</b>	<b>Curt Johnson</b>	<b>912-674-3253</b>



# Key Announcements

## Upcoming Elections

**ABATE of Georgia's Executive Board would like to announce that we are seeking nominations for two state positions: State Director and Sergeant at Arms. All nominations must be submitted in writing to [eboard@abatega.org](mailto:eboard@abatega.org) by midnight May 5th. To run for State Director, a candidate must have been a member of ABATE of GA for two years. Only one year is required for the SAA position.**

**Nominees will be announced at the next BOD meeting May 6th. All nominees who wish to accept their nominations will announce their candidacy at the next BOD May 6th. Following that, candidates' names will be published in the June and July newsletters. They will run their campaigns until the next BOD on August 5th. Elections will be held during the August BOD meeting. If you have any questions, please contact an Executive Board member.**

**Here are the job descriptions for each position:**

**State Director:** To preside at all Executive and Board of Directors' meetings of the organization or to designate another State Officer to preside in their absence. To have general supervision of the affairs of the organization. To appoint persons to committees to handle special events, functions, happenings, etc. To represent the organization on proper occasions and business contracts subject to consultation with other State Officers. To work, aid, and assist other workers of ABATE and other motorcycling functions. To represent ABATE of Georgia at other State and National functions. To maintain contact with other ABATE of Georgia officers and to maintain contact with other motorcycle organizations and clubs on the State and National level. To ensure each State Officer is fulfilling the duties of their office and make assistance available to any not doing so. To help the State Activities Director coordinate all dates for State and District and/or Chapter events. To supervise District and/or Chapter Officers, and intervene only in cases of impropriety or dispute and failure to report to the State. To stay in contact with District and/or Chapter Coordinators and to randomly attend District and/or Chapter meetings.

**State Sgt. at Arms:** To ensure that all Executive Board, Board of Directors and special called State meetings are run per the Constitution and Bylaws of ABATE of Georgia or Roberts Rules of Order. When necessary the Sgt. at Arms, in consultation with the State Director, shall procure the interpretation of Roberts Rules of Order. It shall also be the responsibility of the Sgt. at Arms to ask for the removal of any persons violating the above referenced rules. To staff security at State Events. To recruit District and Chapter Sgt. at Arms as needed to work State Events. May appoint, with consent of the Executive Board, temporary assistant Sgt. At Arms.



# Key Announcements

## Committee Members Needed

Committee work is an essential part of our organization. Participation is a chance to make a difference in how we are managed day-to-day and the direction we are heading. The Executive Board is seeking members to help with the following committees:

### Budget Committee

Purpose: To set and monitor the budget of the organization

Members: State Director, State Treasurer and up to two members

Time commitment: There will be some longer budgeting sessions at the beginning, but once the budget is set for the current and next fiscal years, demand on your time will be minimal.

### Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Purpose: To update the foundational documents of the organization. Required to be updated by law every two years. They haven't been updated since 2012. These documents define who we are, how we are structured and the rules we follow. The committee will draft the documents based on board feedback and submit to the board and members for review.

Members: State Director and up to three other members

Time commitment: Roughly 1-3 hours per week with occasional day-long drafting sessions. As this is such a critical committee and we need to get this done asap, time commitment will be higher here. More so in the beginning, will taper off as we progress.

### Activities-Fundraising Committee

Purpose: Help create, plan and implement statewide activities to raise money for and awareness of our mission. We need to grow, but if people don't know who we are and we're broke, that isn't going to happen.

Members: Activities Director, Membership Director, and up to three other members

Time commitment: At least 1 hour every two weeks, will increase as we get closer to events.

**\*\*Contact Skinny Bob at [State.Director@abatega.org](mailto:State.Director@abatega.org) if you are interested.**

# Board of Directors Updates

## Board of Directors Minutes (Summarized)

Meeting Date: Feb 3, 2017

Location: AP's Hideaway, Macon, Georgia

Commenced 11:19am at the direction of Harry Jones who Acted at Sergeant At Arms. Paul Kerr led us in a prayer. Motion passed for all cell phones to be turned off, or turned to vibrate. Any that ring will insure that the owner will be fined one dollar (\$1.00) to be donated to the general treasury.

Districts 2, 4E, 4W, 5 N, 6, 6-2, 7, 9, 11 reported up-to-date with insurance payments. District 3 has not yet fully re-established. District 13 having trouble establishing a checking account. Moved to allow those districts not in compliance today to have a vote today. Carried by an 8-1 vote.

The minutes taken by an attendee of the November 2016 BOD were read and accepted.

Dec 11 conference call was made to all DC's. Purpose was to vote on action to temporarily stop printing and mailing the newsletters. It carried. (\*\*State Director note: Newsletters will be available on the website and Facebook.)

Membership: We have dropped to somewhere around 500 members from 1,200 four years ago. We are signing up new people, but not retaining the ones we already have. People are not attending meetings. Not getting information. Trying to contact state office with complaints. Computer is down frequently due to interruption in signal from Comcast and other internal issues. Membership Director can't access the computer to update database and print cards. (\*\*State Director note: The computer issues have been resolved. We will be catching up asap.)

Activities: Only 7 districts are doing activities. Go to Bike Nights or other places bikers gather. Go to things being held in other districts. Should include Can Am and Slingshot machines in recruiting. A question was raised - Is it true that there is a steady decline in attendance at state events? The answer was Yes.

Legislative: There is now a bill HB38 in the legislature that while not defining a motorcycle, does state that if a machine has handlebars for directional control, it is motorcycle. If it has a steering wheel for directional control, it is no longer a motorcycle. But, a helmet is required to be worn. At this time, we have 3 representatives sponsoring bills. These include: Increased penalties for distracted drivers (sponsored by Karen Mathias; headphone/earbud use to be legal (sponsored by David Clark); Lane filtering (sponsored by Matt Gurtler). No one wants to touch a Red-light bill. The cross-over date is 30 March. Wayne wanted to know if there was any interest in a Legislative Bootcamp, where members learn the process by which legislation is passed. Gentle schmoozing and relationship building is the key, but there's a right way to do it. There are Legislative Luncheons on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Communications: Brian Clifford reported that we have about 6,777 likes on FB page. Brian should be made either admin or editor on district FB pages to post directly. ABATE of Georgia is going to be 40 years old on 17 October 2017. Should we have a party?

District 3 now has the required number of officers to be a district. Wayne Nunez is DC. Dave Woodruffe is proxy. Treasurer is Cindy Woodruffe. Membership is Donna Nunez. Sgt at Arms is Dave Woodruffe. The motion to restart District 3 was carried by unanimous show of hands.

Junkyard: Sideways in Savannah was not so good as last year, as Chatham County was evacuated due to hurricanes and flooding. The event broke even, however. The 2017 event is being planned for 11 November.

**Continued next page...**

## **Board of Directors Minutes (Summarized)**

Brian Clifford reported no progress on updating the Constitution and Bylaws. Steve Murrin printed Legislative Packets handed out at Great American Motorcycle Show. They only have the 2017 agenda in them.

Chili Day was 3 weeks ago. David Neal and Brian Clifford cooked about 40 gallons of chili. Leftovers were donated to the Fire Department. Legislators and staff showed up.

Great American Motorcycle Show did very well. Vendors had mixed reviews, but more passes were handed out. We had a corner booth and handed out many legislative packets (which included membership applications); sold 120 raffle tickets. The 2017 raffle bike was at the back of the booth space. We had signs on the back wall stating our legislative aims; only one person asked why we are not pushing an anti-helmet bill.

State Spring Swap Meet: We are not going back to Griffin Fair Grounds, aka the Mud Bowl. We have the Blue Lot at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. With 20 plus showers, actual rest room facilities for both men and women, paved parking and no mud! AMS has its own food vendors, but David Neal was able to work a deal so we have some food vendors who have supported us for years. AMS will have the beer sales, though. How many vendors do we need? Because we charge \$40 for the entire weekend, we would need 120 vendors to break even. At this point, we have only 3 paid vendors. If you can think of any more who might be interested, please pass the information to David Neal so he can contact them. Raffle items for this year:

- 1) 2000 HD 1200 Custom – modified machine
- 2) Fat-tired minibike (ideal for campground running)
- 3) 55" Polaroid TV (for which David paid 325, not its asking price of 800)
- 4) One Drone

We need more vendors. Districts should get their vendor lists to David Neal so he can contact them all. Garage 71 has said they would charge us half-price (\$400) for the event. David has yet to see anything in writing for last year. And has as yet not received a receipt for what he had paid last year.

North Georgia Swap Meet: Scheduled for 30 September and 1 October in Helen.

State Anniversary party: Maybe 21 October. Indian Springs has been suggested. And a party/picnic/cookout has been suggested. More planning is needed.

ABATE Membership trifold: A new one has been created and updated. Amy Adams from D13 has been working on them. She handed out samples. We need a sponsor to print them, or a grant to pay for the printing. Randy Snyder from D4W said he has printing contacts whom he could contact for prices when we have an idea how many we would need. Ned Williams offered that lawyers often are willing to offer funding when they have space for their logos.

Survey 2017: Brian reported that 109 surveys were completed. Members are not happy on many levels. Of those responding, 38% have been members for more than 10 years; 19% for 1 year. Motorcycle type – 99% are cruisers/trikes/touring machines. How satisfied are you overall? More than 62% reported somewhat dissatisfied to very dissatisfied. How likely are you to recommend ABATE to others? About 50%. How likely are you to renew your membership? 65%. Newsletter: how valuable is it to you? Very 26%. Over 70% read it in print. Prefer in print or online? Both. Most common comment on newsletter: Grammar and editing could be improved. How did you learn about ABATE? Friends, previous contact. Do you value the district meetings? 83% said yes. Are they effective? 80% positive (but each DC could know more about what is going on.)

Clear majority of respondents were upset with the way the organization is run at the state level. Most members feel they are not being heard at the state level. Many suggested a change at the state level leadership. Website could be changed and updated. Other said stop supporting legislation which cannot be won. Better leadership from the Executive Board was suggested. Also, individual contact with more members. Maybe an organizational name change to indicate that we are a motorcycle rights group (and not just a group of old white men, riding Harley Davidson motorcycles, who drink beer and party.)

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## **Board of Directors Minutes (Summarized)**

The overall theme of most of the comments was that the membership feels it is not being heard nor is communication coming from the State Office. When ideas are offered, people feel they (and the ideas) are being ignored. And this breeds distrust. Of the surveys turned in, 67% were members, 22 % were district officers.

A motion was made for a Vote of Confidence on the performance of the State Director. After being seconded, discussion followed. It would be a non-binding vote, per Roberts Rules of Order. If the motion is carried, other steps will need to be taken. Vote of NO CONFIDENCE in the performance of the State Director - 9 votes. Vote FOR CONFIDENCE in the performance of the State Director - 2 votes. Abstain from vote - 1 vote.  
Result: 9 – 2 – 1 vote in a vote of No Confidence in the performance of the State Director. A motion was made asking the State Director to step down.

### District Reports:

- District 2 is trying to raise numbers. Has ads in papers. Has 7 people at meetings, would like 20.
- District 3: meeting on 26 February at Semper Fi in Woodstock at 2 PM.
- District 4E: May 20 at Tannery Row, 554 Main Street in Buford will be a District Party. Cost is \$5 for non-members, free to members.
- District 4W: Nothing to report.
- District 5: Been taking destination rides such as the "Meat Up and Pig Out". See the FB page for details. Hold special events at district meetings such as Biker First Aid. In November, sponsored an event where people spoke about the problems distracted drivers. One of the speakers was a caretaker of a 5-year old whose mother got rear-ended and killed by a distracted driver.
- District 5N: Planning a "Presidents Ride". There are 10 cities in Georgia named for presidents. The idea is to have riders travel to each city and earn points/pins. In March, they are having a poker run. They are involved with Cycle World. American Legion Post in Statham (First Saturday in October), and Memorial Day ride
- District 6: Cherry Blossom Ride is always a great success. Found bumper stickers and patches to be good money makers. Coozies not so much. Burnout of officers is a problem (actual rotation of officers might help). Place for meetings (choices are needed). Another group ride is being considered. They would like to form a public group forum on FB. Suggested posting flyers as PDF files.
- District 6-2: Now have 47 active members. Meeting at Twilight Bar and Grill. Actively working with Coweta Area Motorcyclists.
- District 7: 18 March will be the Chili Cookoff/Challenge to be held at AP's Hidden Hideaway.
- District 9: Now have 35 members. Biggest problem - no one has cards/pins/patches. They need assistance in getting them. They work with and support CAM (Columbus Area Motorcyclists)
- District 11: They have had trouble with officers having severe illnesses. They are going to make up temporary membership cards until new members get ones from the state. Hurricane and tropical depression hurt their events. Their Toy Run only had 400-500 bikes but they raised a lot of money. Frosty Balls ride had about 170-180 people from many clubs. District brought a check for \$4,700. The annual calendar sales went well (major fund raiser). D 11 got connected to a DUI school, which will allow them to talk about motorcycle safety to students. They have been invited onto Fort Stewart to do the same. The Indian Dealership will perform a Safety Check at no charge if you ride in. The 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of June is joining with the Outlaws on a Poker Run.
- District 13: Christmas Parades are always a good idea. Rode in many for the visibility. Still waiting for information to get checking account. 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of March a Poker Run is planned. D13 goes to as many other district meetings as they can. Have a number of Valdosta riders as members.

MRF Report: RPM act discussed. The EPA thinks it can govern all motorsports – MRF knows that is outrageous. One the motorcycle council only one seat of 10 will go to those who represent motorcyclists. Follow the MRF newsletter. Ethanol – working to require separate pumps so it won't harm our engines. Black boxes on motorcycles - MRF wants the owner of the box to determine its operation. Meeting of the Minds will be in Williamsburg, VA on 21- 25 September.

***Continued next page...***

Open Forum: Question was asked: What does state insurance cover? Director and officer general liability. Covers every valid member working at an ABATE function. Does not general public, we need waivers signed.

Statement was made that we need to pay annual incorporation fees to the Secretary of State's office.

District 11 says they will have raffle tickets for their bike build at the next BOD meeting. Suggestion was made to wear appropriate clothing to the capital to present a positive image. Question was raised about the Swap Meet idea in Elko at S and E Cycles.

Legislative Director said he will issue a call to action when our bills are dropped. Will send information on fax and phone numbers. Said phone calls work. Emails and faxes don't. When calling legislators, he asked that we be polite and request they favorably consider our bills. Keep it brief.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ann F. Turner, Secretary Pro-Tem

## **BOD Meeting Dates** (2017-2018)

ABATE GA Board meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month every three months.

**May 6, 2017**

**August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

\*\*All District Officers and members are invited and encouraged to attend and observe the BOD meetings. If you wish to address the BOD, please contact Skinny Bob to get on the agenda. Otherwise, you will be given an opportunity to speak in Open Forum.

**To promote transparency in ABATE of GA, the Executive Board will soon begin publishing its updates monthly to the newsletter.**

**Stay tuned to this space!**

# Legislative Update



## 2017 – 2018 Legislative Session

### **HB163: Distracted Driving - “Handsfree Bill”**

Makes holding a phone in your hand illegal as a method to reduce distracted driving accidents. Although this bill never made it out of House committee, Wayne Overholt, our Legislative Director is working on pushing this through for next year.

### **HB401: “Earbud Bill”**

Allows use of headphones or earbuds for any purpose on a motorcycle. It is currently illegal to use them for any purpose other than communication. Our Legislative Director reports that the bill was attached to another Senate bill, however, the bill did not pass. We will pick this up again next year.

### **HB490: “Lane Filtering”**

Makes safe, lane filtering legal. This is different from lane splitting. Lane filtering is moving between cars at low speeds or while stopped. The bill has been given a number, but has yet to be assigned to a committee. ABATE intends to continue pushing this through next year.

### **HR282: “Distracted Driving Study Committee”**

HR282 – Although ABATE didn’t introduce this legislation, the resolution passed the House and has created a Distracted Driving study committee. The committee’s goal is to come up with actionable solutions to this issue in Georgia. Wayne Overholt has been asked to participate on the committee.



# Legislative Agenda



ABATE of Georgia, Inc.  
Legislative/Government Relations  
2017-2018 Agenda

- 
1. End motorcycle profiling.
  2. Tougher penalties if you kill a motorcyclist.
  3. Increased prosecution for distracted drivers.
  4. Use headsets for music on your bike.
  5. Move safely through inoperative red lights.
  6. Helmet use is rider choice.
  7. Legalize lane filtering.
  8. More ethanol-free gas.
  9. Greater motorcycle use on public roads.
  10. Safety and development plans include motorcycles.
  11. Safer roadway repair and design strategies.
  12. Lower cost for rider License-Waiver Courses.
  13. Monitor organizations that oppose ABATE.
  14. Support the MRF, the AMA and other SMRO's.



# Member Benefits Under Discussion

**As part of our ongoing efforts to make your membership more valuable, the Executive Board has reviewed and will propose to the BOD the following insurance benefits program. American Income Life serves many ABATE's around the country offering up to \$3,500 in free accidental and death life insurance benefits to ABATE members. A representative from the company will be presenting the following as a **POSSIBLE** program for ABATE GA at the May BOD meeting. Stay tuned for updates.**

**Key Points of AMERICAN INCOME LIFE'S  
Association "MEMBER BENEFITS PROGRAM"  
Prepared for ABATE of Georgia**

*AIL's mission is "What can we do to help your credit union accomplish their membership and marketing goals?"*

***Over 8 million working families are protected under the blanket no cost program!***

**Step 1 – No Cost Value-Added Benefits:**

- **The Accidental Death and Dismemberment Increased Benefit of \$2,000** is provided at no **cost to members**. All members will be eligible with a Group AD&D benefit. Individual certificates of coverage or policies will be issued to members if the members would like them.
- **Health Service Discount Plan.** This plan provides members and their families with discounts at point of service on vision, hearing, prescription drugs and chiropractic. On average, **members receive discounts up to 30% per prescription and up to 60% on vision care, chiropractic, and hearing aids.** This program is NOT insurance, so members are not required to fill out forms. All they need to do is show a discount card at the point of service.



# Member Benefits Under Discussion

- **Child Safe Kits®.** Endorsed by the International Union of Police Associations, this kit provides parents with the tools they need to gather vital information for use by authorities, if needed, to search for a missing child.
- **Family Information Guide.** When emergencies occur, families can avoid confusion and additional stress by having all of their critical information organized in one place. We will provide every member with a document that helps him or her catalog information such as beneficiaries, estate data, professional contacts, and health records.
- **Provide Collateral Marketing.** AIL can assist your marketing efforts by personally placing collateral marketing materials into the hands of members, helping the association market new products, services, or events. ***This saves the association time and money!***

## Step 2 – Implementing the Benefits:

- We ask you to mail to your member's a letter introducing the new benefits at **NO COST to the association.** (AIL will pay for all postage and printing costs)
- AIL respects the confidentiality of membership lists. The association controls the mailing list.
- Enclosed with the letter is a postage-paid response card that your members can return on a voluntary basis through the mail or electronically.
- All members are eligible for the no cost Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefit.

## Step 3 – For All Members Who Return the Card, an AIL Representative will:

- Personally contact the member to set an appointment.
- Deliver and explain the no cost benefits.
- Implement the Marketing Strategy.
- Complete a needs-based analysis.
- Request a non-perishable food item for the food bank.



# District Meeting Notes

**D2** Meeting Minutes from District 2. As a lot of you know the weather is getting warmer so there are more bikes on the road. Let's let the public know to share the road. Our lives matter! District 2 met at JW Reeds at 2 pm in Cleveland Ga. We had a good turnout being spring break. Anthony Love started the meeting with the pledge and a prayer. Next Brian Love gave his report on the money in the District. Richard Malcomb gave his report on the legislation.

I want to thank the officers for the great job they do. On that note we have openings in the officer positions and membership. So if you ride or not and want to be a part now is the time to step up.

Next we talked about our poker run. We are going to have a poker run June 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at Ingles in Cleveland Ga. Meet at 10 am; ksu at 11am. This is a special poker run to help ABATE fight for your rights.

Make plans for our August meeting. It's our annual hot dog cook out with a twist too it. We will be setting up at different events around the district. Stop by and say hi! Bring a friend and sign them up. We have strength in numbers. Ride hard and ride often.

Anthony(Ghost Rider) Love - DC-2

## **D11** April 9, 2017 Twilight Bar & Grill

Junkyard called the meeting to order at 3:10pm.

Welcome James Phillips, new member.

Jukebox led us in the pledge of allegiance and Jim delivered prayer.

We had a total of 22 attendees.

Legislative Report: Rex stated that legislators are now in recess.

Webmaster Report: Our website was hacked but caused no real damage. The problem has since been corrected. Our calendar page is now being picked up by motorcycle event websites.

Secretary Report: Reading of the minutes was waived.

Treasurer Report: Darlene stated the bank shows a we have a balance of \$6429.01. The state is holding an outstanding check of \$4700.00 which will leave us a balance of \$1729.01 when cashed.

Membership Director Report: Breezy announced we presently have 41 active members

**D11 (cont...)** Activities Director Report: Stephanie reminded us of upcoming events: Run for the Son...May 6, Thunder Run...May 28, & Red Knights...April 23.

District Coordinator report: Junkyard explained our new "Bike Night" event that begins May 7. This event will take place the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from 5-8pm at Hooters. ABATE will be running this event while Indian Motorcycle & Hooters will be sponsors. Vendor spaces will be free; there will be live entertainment, games, doors prizes and a 50/50. Advertising for this event will be provided by I-95 radio.

Motion made and accepted for officers' report.

Trish announced the Jr. ABATE fishing derby will be held at Pat's house May 13. There will be hot dogs a fish fry and prizes. \$5 for adults and children under 16 are free.

Old Business: District 10 hopes to be back up & running in a couple of weeks. The State has been in disorganization mode for some time now causing our district to come up with a temporary solution to the problem of membership cards by printing and distributing our own.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 3:57

**D15** Great turn-out for today's District 15 meeting ! Best membership showing in awhile, with a total of 5 members. WooHoo ! Jerald & Louise rode up on their NEW "ride". Told me the warranty was up on his old bike, and the cost of renewal would make a good down-payment on a new bike. Glad I still have three more years before I have to "cross that bridge".

\* No treasury report today, as she did not make the meeting, and I haven't received an update in awhile now.

\* No secretary report, as we have NO secretary!

\* Old business: we continued our discussion on having both the state and local governments post lighted road / highway signs promoting motorcycle awareness & safety. May is "motorcycle awareness month". No word if the governor will issue a proclamation again this year, as in years past.

\* New business: We discussed having a poker / dice run in the near future to get more riders out and familiar with ABATE. Due to lack of membership participation, decided a dice run would be easier, and not have to have someone run ahead to set up a table at each stop. Asked for suggestions for next months meeting. So far, we have not invaded either Long or McIntosh Counties. For those that are not aware, we voted a few months back to rotate our meetings as this district membership is so spread out. Will keep this option open for a couple of weeks while we scout around (and get more suggestions). I do not have any contact information on a large number of our members. Please send me your e-mail address! Hate having ONLY Facebook to get the word out. A couple of members have told me, that they "don't do" social media, and only receive info via e-mail or state newsletter.



# **NCOM Newsbytes**

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, NCOM

## **DRIVER WHO "DIDN'T CARE" HE HIT MOTORCYCLIST GETS 15 YEARS**

Remember the Texas driver who was filmed deliberately swerving across centerline into a passing motorcyclist and then said "I don't care" that he'd knocked the rider and his girlfriend to the ground?

The heartless car driver is 69-year-old William Crum and following a two-day trial at 355th District Court in Hood County, Texas, he's been sentenced to 15 years in prison after being convicted on one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon causing bodily injury.

The 15-year sentence means that Crum, who was arrested soon after the incident in Granbury, TX in October 2015, will be in prison until he's 84.

## **HARLEY PULLED INTO POLITICAL FIGHT OVER LEATHER PRODUCTS**

Many challenges face motorcycle manufacturers selling their products in other countries; and a strange example of this is Harley-Davidson facing a public relations issue in India over leather, something as closely associated with bikers as the bikes they ride.

Leather comes from cows, which are revered and even worshiped by many in the Hindu community, and according to the Hindustan Times a well-known Bollywood actor is taking on the iconic American motorcycle-maker over religious principles.

Popular actor and producer Ajaz Khan is urging India's Prime Minister to impose a ban on Harley-Davidson products, claiming they're made from cow hide. "I just bought a leather belt from Harley Davidson," Khan is quoted by the Hindustan Times as saying. "This is a cow leather belt. It's being sold in the entire world. If you really consider yourself men, then I request [the Prime Minister] shuts down Harley Davidson."

## **MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS RALLY PUT ON HOLD AFTER LONDON TERROR ATTACK**

A mass London "Awareness Ride-Out" to be held a day after a deadly terrorist attack in the vicinity of the Palace of Westminster, seat of the British Parliament, had to be here scheduled in the wake of the Wednesday, March 22 car attack that killed four and injured more than 50 pedestrians.

The campaign group "We Ride London," which aims to be the "main lobby group for riders of motorcycles, scooters and mopeds in London," had invited thousands to join a ride at 1pm on Thursday April 23, from Regents Park through central London to City Hall, but had to call the event off. A statement on the group's Facebook pages aid: "We have decided to cancel tomorrow's awareness ride in light of the terrible events in our capital today. Now is not the time to be hindering the emergency and security services as they investigate and recover from this."

## **ROLLING INTO RENO FOR NCOM CONVENTION**

With the 32nd Annual NCOM Convention in Reno just weeks away, the National Coalition Of Motorcyclists is requesting that MROs, Motorcycle Clubs, & riding associations submit the names of those members & supporters who have died this year, so that we may honor their memories during the traditional "Ring of the Bell" tribute to fallen riders during the opening ceremonies. Attendees are also encouraged to bring an item on behalf of their organization for the Freedom Fund Auction, with proceeds benefiting the motorcyclists' rights movement nationwide through Getting Our People Elected donations, NCOM Speaker Program, lobbying activities & other pro-motorcycling projects as determined by The NCOM Board of Directors. The 32nd annual NCOM Convention will be May 11-14 at the Silver Legacy Resort-Casino, Reno, NV.



# From the MRF

## **Bipartisan Bicameral Bill Introduced Addressing Motorcycle Profiling**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Representatives Tim Walberg (R-Mich.), Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.), Michael Burgess (R-Texas) and Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) along with Senators Ron Johnson (R-Wisc.) Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hamp.) jointly introduced a bipartisan and bicameral resolution concerning the profiling of motorcyclists.

The bill defines the practice of motorcycle profiling and expresses the sentiments of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on the issue of motorcycle profiling. Additionally, the bill promotes increased public awareness on the issue and encourages collaboration, education and training for the motorcycle and law enforcement communities in order to end instances of profiling.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), which has been advocating for a national solution to address motorcycle profiling with the support of the Motorcycle Profiling Project, will work over the coming months with states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders to advance the measure.

President of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, Kirk 'Hardtail' Willard, stated this with the bill's release: "For too long motorcyclists have felt the effects of discrimination from law enforcement. Riding a motorcycle doesn't make me suspect. We hope that, with this bill's introduction, we can shine a national spotlight on this issue that affects every rider in every state, and helps put an end to this unconstitutional practice."

## **MAY 23<sup>rd</sup> IS BIKERS INSIDE THE BELTWAY!**

INFORMATION IS POWER. The MRF's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Michael 'Boz' Kerr Bikers Inside the Beltway provides a forum to meet personally with your fellow riders, Senators, Congressmen and their staff and tell them directly what issues we care about. This year's BITB is set for Tuesday, May 23, 2017. Similar to last year, the MRF will host a prep session the night before (Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>) to discuss the issues and make sure you are prepared to get the most out of your meetings.

Read below to get more information or visit us at <http://mrf.org/events/>

# Safety Tips

## Road Construction/Work Zone Safety

As anyone living in the Southeast knows, there are actually 5 seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Road Work. Considering recent developments in Metro Atlanta, the Road Work Season has begun in a brutal fashion.

Work zones are hazardous for all drivers, more so for motorcyclists. With less stability, the rider must be alert for potential danger. Some work zone road hazards include:

**Gravel/Sand on Pavement.** Slow down, no sudden turns, and brake lightly in a straight line.

**Grooved Pavement.** Keep your head up. Keep a steady throttle, go slow, and don't fight the handlebars.

**Oil/Fresh Tar.** Go slow and avoid sudden movements.

**Uneven Temporary Pavement.** Scan ahead and pick the smoothest line. Be aware of height differences in lanes repaved and waiting to be paved. Crossing into the higher lane at higher speeds could cause a loss of control.

**Crowned Roads.** This is a road that is higher in the middle than on the sides. Be aware of the angle on straight lines, and use caution on curves to the left. The lean angle will be less than a flat road.

**Objects.** Scan ahead. Increase your distance between other vehicles to allow maneuvering. And of course, try to go around the object!

**Burning Bridges:** Avoid the smoke and fire!

Ride Safe!

Chuck Watwood  
LawBike.com  
770-650-0016





# From The GA Motorcycle Safety Program



# SPOKES

By Ben R. Baker



## SPOKES



with Ben Baker  
RedneckGenius@Gmail.com

Looking for a way to remind yourself that you need to be in a saddle instead of sitting in a chair staring at a screen? Get some motorcycle computer wallpaper here:

<http://www.zrarts.com/Cool-Motorcycle-Wallpapers-Background/>

From the Some People Have All The Luck file comes the story of a bro who was "giving a lady a ride home." She wore only her birthday suit for the ride.

[http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2017/04/naked\\_woman\\_cited\\_for\\_indecent.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2017/04/naked_woman_cited_for_indecent.html)

Buy, Sell, Trade, Window shop. Came across this website that promises to be a steel steel trading website. Anyone used it? Let us know if you have.

<http://www.cyclesoup.com/>

Checking in with the Thin Blue Line about motorcycle safety.



Hey. Read it. It gives you a look at what the PoPo watches for when bikers roll past.

<http://www.albertleatribune.com/2017/04/ask-a-trooper-safety-guidelines-for-riding-a-motorcycle/>

As if cages, deer and wild hogs were not enough trouble. Now the snakes have attitudes. Watch this bro just miss getting tagged by a Danger Noodle.

<http://nesn.com/2017/04/watch-this-snakes-terrifying-attempt-at-biting-motorcycle-driver/>

Most of us think cool paint jobs when motorcycle art is mentioned. But here's a look at some art that features motorcycles. A cool read.

<http://www.freshwatercleveland.com/features/MotorcyclesPartOne042017.aspx>



**SHAMELESS PLUG-** I write for an online magazine and need to talk to bikers. If you are willing to be interviewed, or want me to write about something bike-related, drop me a note at my email or at Ben R Baker on Facebook

A while back I wrote a piece for The Hub at <http://www.Jafrum.com> about the most famous motorcycle crashes. Here's a look at the top crashes in the Rock & Roll community.

<http://ultimateclassicrock.com/rock-motorcycle-crashes/>

You've still got time to make it to this show. Saddle up. Road trip time.

<https://carolinianunecg.com/2017/04/19/a-motorcycle-show-and-an-art-exhibit-all-in-one/>



Indian riders. Time to start counting pennies. Two new rides due out from the American motorcycle make this year.

<https://www.fool.com/investing/2017/04/18/polaris-industries-introduces-2-new-indian-motorcy.aspx>

An iBike? Maybe. The Chinese company that makes the iPhone is looking an electric bike.

<http://www.foxnews.com/auto/2017/03/13/apple-iphone-maker-to-build-evolve-electric-motorcycle.html>

That dude on the very back... Yeah. Doncha know he had to change his shorts.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nd-UqQAJWLY>

If you do Pinterest, I don't, check out this.

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/motorcycles/?lp=true>

Georgia Motorcycle Safety from the Department of Driver Services. <https://online.dds.ga.gov/motorcycle/chooseacourse-form.aspx?ptthis=P&did=576444>

Speaking of licenses, if you need to renew and you're in SOWEGA, try the Crisp County DDS. Fastest one around.



# The History of ABATE

## Where it all began...

**The following material was originally published in Easyriders Magazine in the early 1970's. Each month we will feature another section of the publication. We hope you enjoy this great piece of history!**

### ABATE Membership in 44 States Have Started Working Toward Our Freedom of the Road

*Originally published in the February 1972 issue of Easyriders Magazine*

We are off and running, after a slight delay caused by having to change the name of our organization. It was discovered at the last moment that the NCCA name was not available for use as a non-profit corporate name-the initials being too similar to those of another corporate name.

So, as long as we had to create a new name for the organization, it was decided to create a name with letters that spelled a word describing the organization's purpose. It was a bitch to do, let me tell you -try it some time.

After much hassle, we came up with ABATE (which means to put an end to; to reduce in degree or intensity; to beat down; to decrease in force or intensity).

The letters stand for A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian (i.e., strict control by coercive measures; completely regulated by the state) Enactments (i.e. to make (as a bill) into law).

A mouthful, to be sure, but it lays it all out in front of God and everybody, exactly why the brotherhood was formed-to protect individual freedom of the road.

Our mission is positive. We want to educate the lawmakers, to give them our side of the story, before laws are enacted, and we are devoted to working aggressively toward the abatement of all unfair, unjustified, arbitrary anti-bike laws everywhere.

Our insignia is a no-nonsense, uptight eagle (see above) that represents our firm, no-bullshit, resolved to get the job done. Now, not tomorrow.

We all know what our problems are, so let's get it on, rather than merely sitting around on our asses complaining about them.

#### Project No. 1

As members of ABATE already know, our immediate project to get all existing bike laws, state by state, county by county, city by city, into a computer. To do this, we are asking everyone, ABATE members or not, to go to your State capitals, libraries, police departments, and send us documented evidence of every bike law in your area and state. We want facts, not rumors.

## **The History of ABATE (cont...)**

We also want to know what bike laws are pending, what bike laws almost passed and may be back during the next legislative session.

We want names and addresses of all anti-bike and pro-bike legislators. We want to know where the speed traps are, and where the especially anti-chopper police departments are.

We want to get the national problem down on paper in order to intelligently plan our campaigns. ABATE members are already working on this project, and all bikers, everywhere, are urged to help us. There may be some duplicated efforts initially, but it is better that ABATE be oversupplied with information, rather than not having all of it.

### **Project No. 2**

As reported in the last issue, ABATE and NCCSI (the chopper manufacturers association) are presently preparing a chopper to send to Washington, D.C. for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to test. We know choppers are safe, but the only way the government is really going to know it is to test them, rather than taking some anti-biker's word for it. Rest assured that the choppers we supply the government with will be good, strong, safe choppers. (Complete photo feature in next issue.)

### **Project No. 3**

ABATE needs members. Only in numbers is there sufficient strength to get the job done. To enter a fight without enough members is like hunting bear with a BB gun. It takes numbers to command respect, to be heard over the din created by the anti-bike forces, and worse, the anti-chopper forces.

But we don't want just members, we want doers. We know there are only some of you who will get off your ass and do something and we want that group as members. The battle is in 50 different states. The only way ABATE can be effective and effective fast enough is to have doers in every state. Not a doer, but thousands of doers,

### **ABATE has members in 44 states!**

As we go to press, we still need doers in Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Washington, D.C.

What can you do? Join ABATE. Let's get together in a mass, so that our voice means something, has the weight and strength of numbers.

ABATE is a non-profit organization, sponsored by Easyrider magazine. If what has been said above doesn't get you off your ass, If you don't see the pending arbitrary laws, If you don't see that an organized protest is much more effective than a shotgun approach, then what else can we say?

When you join ABATE, you'll receive a decal (full color as at beginning of this article), membership card, and ABATE's monthly bulletin bringing you up to date on all bike laws, pending bike laws, and reports on ABATE's progress and activities.

Send \$3.00 for a year's charter membership, to ABATE . . .

Do it now, keeping in mind that tomorrow, today will be yesterday and we're already short of time.

© Copyright 1972 Easyriders Magazine (February)

# SWAP MEET!

# SWAP MEET!

A sincere thank you to the team who were able to make it out to the Swap Meet! It went VERY well. We had a great time. We received so many great compliments from the vendors, the attendees, the clubs and the venue. It was smooth and organized. We made a great impression on the venue who definitely wants us back next year. There is much potential for growth.

Your efforts and support made all of this possible. I especially want to thank the Exec-Board members who worked tirelessly 18-hour days making this event happen. A HUGE SHOUT OUT to David Neal for all of his efforts in bringing this to fruition.

We made many great impressions and folks loved the new venue. 57 vendors and so many great motorcycle parts dealers like a Swap Meet should be! I, for one, am encouraged and cant wait for our next Swap Meets! We really knocked it out of the park this weekend. Let's make ABATE great again!

Skinny Bob

## Quotes:

"It was one of the best Swap Meets ever!"

"Love the new venue!"

"Can't wait for the next one!"

"Reminded me of the old days. Saw many old friends but more importantly, met a lot of new young people. They key to ABATE's continued success. It was really a resounding success. The raffles, music, food, the track ride, the assorted vendors, it really had it all. Excellent job!" [Steve Murrin](#), ABATE's legal advisor



Right: Because I'm called Skinny Bob and fat, the CMA made Tom Spivey President of the Freedom Riders, who is skinny, a name tag with FAT TOM on it! Good times at the Swap Meet!

# SWAP MEET!

# SWAP MEET!

We would also like to thank Atlanta Motor Speedway for allowing us to use their venue. It was very professionally run. If we had a problem, they were there immediately. They generously allowed us to use the track for a ride. The grounds are very well maintained. The shower and bathroom facilities were clean and seriously top quality. They have these "endless hot water" showers that were fantastic after a hard day of hustling at the Swap Meet. Ted Austad, thanks for all you did for us! We are very grateful!



# SWAP MEET!



# SWAP MEET!





# SWAP MEET!



*Activities Dir. David Neal - the man!*



*Top Volunteers - The Larkos*



*Bike Show Winner!*



*Raffle Bike Winner from D6!*

# Out and About

If you want your districts activities featured here, please send pics to [newsletter@abatega.org](mailto:newsletter@abatega.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of month.



## D5 and D5N

**Covington Bike Fest**

**Hot Rod's Cruise In**



# Out and About



## D7 & D13

Angel City



# What's Happening?

## District 3



40<sup>th</sup>

### DISTRICT 3

### Open Meeting

WHEN: May 28th, 2017  
TIME: 2:00pm— 4:00pm  
PLACE: AMVETS 2001  
30 Walenda Drive,  
Rome, GA 30165

Food—Fun — Prizes— 50/50 Raffle



AMVETS 2001  
30 WALENDA DRIVE,  
ROME, GA



#### MISSION STATEMENT

" To preserve the freedom of the road, by protecting the rights of all motorcycle riders through fair and reasonable legislation, education and public awareness

**BE READY TO RIDE TO  
BIKER BASH KICK OFF**

# What's Happening?

## District 3

This is not an ABATE event, but District 3 will be setting up a membership table there. We need volunteers! Free admission!

**SMOKIN BUTTS DIRT DRAGS**  
**BBQ Cook Off & Rally**  
**May 19-21**

284 Kraftsman Rd. sw Rome  
 NO COLORS

Gates open at noon Fri.  
 live music fri. nite by  
 ROADHOUSE ATLANTA  
 Saturday events-  
 BBQ cookoff judging from 12-2  
 Biker Games at 2-4  
 Test and Tune 4-6  
 Live music Sat. nite by  
 SOUTHERN EXPOSURE  
 tattoo contest  
 Sunday Races at 1:00  
 sign ups 10-12

Classes:  
 50-100 Knobby Kids  
 125-400 Knobby  
 Import Street  
 Vintage Street  
 Sportster Street  
 Big Twin Street  
 Open Street  
 Open Knobby  
 Modified Digger  
 Nitro Digger

Primitive camping  
 Vendors & concessions  
 Backyard BBQ Teams Welcome  
 Peoples Choice Awards

fri. Nite  
 Miss  
 Smokin  
 Butt  
 Contest

lakes  
 will  
 be  
 open  
 for  
 fishing

20 \$ age 15 & over  
 10 \$ age 6-14  
 5 and under FREE  
 5 \$ car  
 30 \$ campers  
 tents are free

No Glass, Dogs, 4wheelers, golf carts or attitudes  
 we reserve rights to all photos

For Info call: Kerry 706-766-3990










# What's Happening?

## District 11

ABATE of Georgia



American Brewers Active Toward Education

District 11

[www.abatega11.org](http://www.abatega11.org)

## Jr. ABATE Fishing Derby 2015



**MAY 13, 2017 10:30-4:00**



@ Pat's Place, 226 Godley Road, Bloomingdale, GA 31302

2 ¼ Miles down Stagecoach Rd. 2<sup>nd</sup> road west of Jimmy DeLoach Parkway on Hwy 80 in Bloomingdale. Look for the American Flag with the yellow ABATE sign & the Fishy sign across the road.

**Hot Dog LUNCH will be served and  
we will have a Fish fry too!**

Sodas, tea, & Kool-Aid provided, BYO Adult Beverage or Special Requests.

**Prizes for the Biggest Fish & the Most Fish**

**Cost is \$5.00 admission for each adult,  
which includes meal(s). Kids 16 and under are free.**

(If you don't wish to fish, you can still purchase meals for \$5.00.)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO JR. ABATE ACTIVITIES. THANK YOU for coming.

Feel free to bring your own pole and/or your own bait if you like.

We will have a few extra poles and some bait on hand.

Questions? Jr. Abate Liaisons Tricia & Jeff @ 748-5266, 507-1516, 429-4595





# From the Motorcycle Safety Foundation



## QUICK TIPS: General Guidelines For Riding A Motorcycle Safely

### Be visible:

- Remember that motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles.
- Make sure your headlight works and is on day and night.
- Use reflective strips or decals on your clothing and on your motorcycle.
- Avoid riding in the blind spots of cars and trucks.
- If possible, flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.
- Have an escape route in case a motorist doesn't see you and violates your right-of-way.

### Dress for safety:

- Wear a quality helmet and eye protection. A full-face helmet provides the best protection.
- Wear leather or other sturdy, protective clothing (jacket and pants); over-the-ankle boots; and gloves.
- Bright clothing and a light-colored helmet increase the chances of being seen.
- Dress for a crash as well as for the ride.

### Apply effective mental strategies:

- Constantly search the road for changing conditions. Use the Search-Evaluate-Execute strategy (**SEE**) to assess and respond to hazards before you have to react to an emergency.
- Give yourself space and time as you search for traps and escape paths.
- Give other motorists time and space to respond to you.
- Use lane positioning to see and be seen.
- Search for vehicles that may turn across your path, especially at intersections.
- Use your turn signals for all turns and lane changes.
- Ride as if you're invisible.
- Don't ride when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Know and follow the rules of the road.

### Know your bike and how to use it:

- Study your motorcycle's owner's manual and make a habit of doing a pre-ride check.
- Visit [msf-usa.org](http://msf-usa.org) to take one of our online courses or review the wealth of information in our library.
- Get formal hands-on training and take refresher courses. Call 800.446.9227 or visit [msf-usa.org](http://msf-usa.org) to locate a Motorcycle Safety Foundation *RiderCourse*<sup>SM</sup> near you.
- Develop your riding techniques before venturing into traffic, especially emergency braking and swerving maneuvers. Practice often to keep your skills sharp.
- Corner within your skill limits. Aggressive cornering is a major cause of crashes.
- Know how to handle your bike in adverse conditions such as wet or sandy roads, high winds, and uneven surfaces.

**Remember: Be mindful of collision traps and escape paths. People driving cars often don't notice motorcycles. Ride within your skill level and situational limits.**

# ABATE Top Volunteers



**Celeste and Frank Larko with Activities Director David Neal. The Larko's were recognized for their outstanding dedication and service to ABATE of GA over the years. Well deserved!**

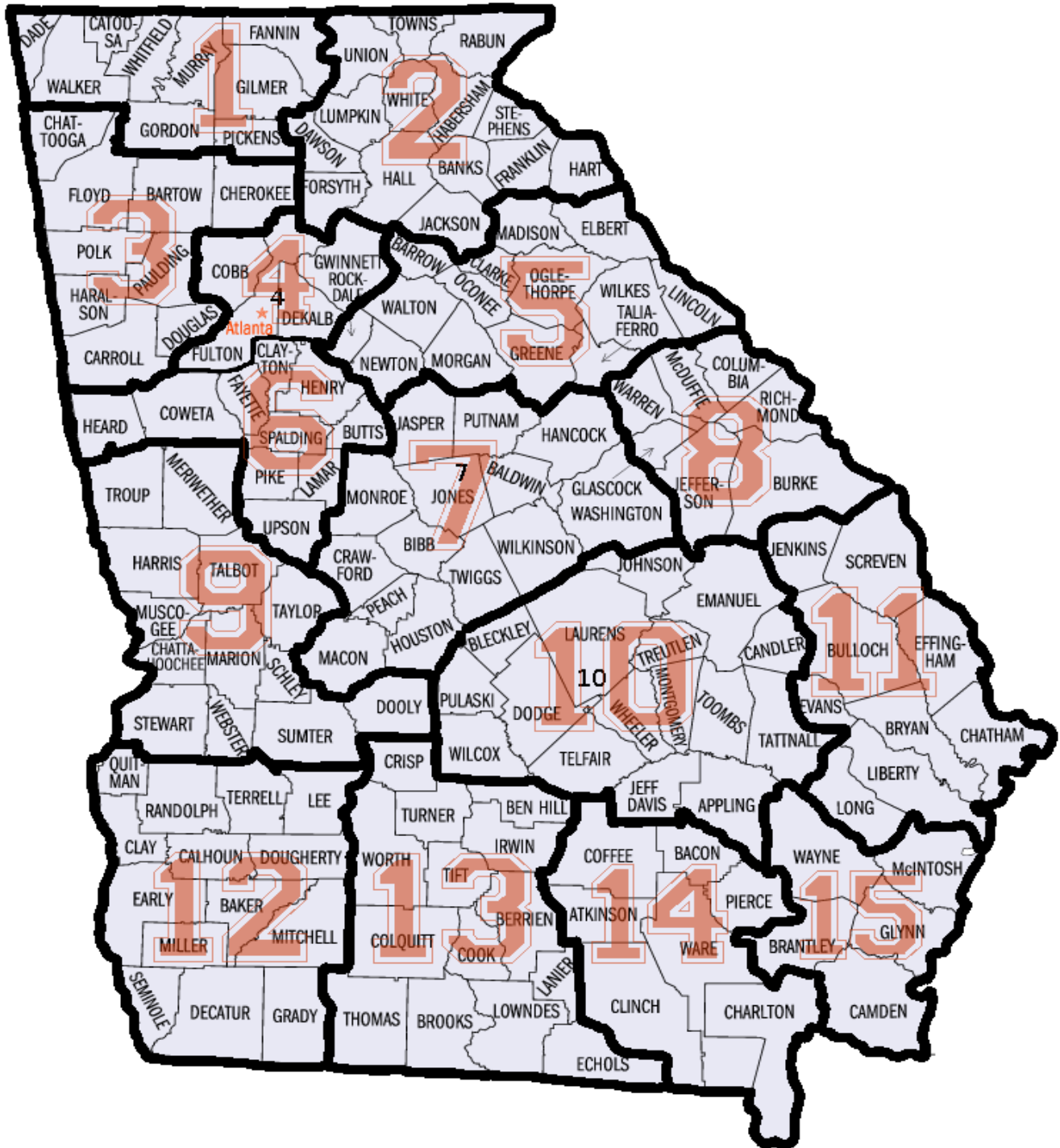


# When Do We Meet?

- D1 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7:30p  
Logan Roadhouse, Dalton
- D1W 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 6:30p  
Dari Dip, Lafayette
- D2 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 2p  
J.W. Reed's, Cleveland
- D3 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 2p  
Location varies, see web or FB
- D4E 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 7p  
Confetti's, Norcross
- D4W 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7:30p  
Mazzy's, Marietta
- D5 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 3p  
Location varies, see web or FB
- D5N 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7p  
Cycle World, Athens
- D6 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7p  
The Grove, Locust Grove
- D6-2 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 7p  
Twilight Bar and Grill, Newnan
- D7 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 2p  
AP's Hideaway, Macon
- D9 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7p  
Buffalo Wild Wings, Columbus
- D11 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 3p  
Twilight Bar and Grille, Bloomingdale
- D13 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 2p  
Crime and Punishment Museum, Ashburn
- D15 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7p  
Location varies, see web or FB



# What District Am I In?



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# Support and Partners

**ABATE OF GEORGIA IS A MEMBER OF NATIONAL COALITION OF MOTORCYCLIST**

## Motorcycle Accident?

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**ATTENTION ABATE OF GEORGIA MEMBERS:** Our nationwide network of A.I.M. Attorneys donate a significant portion of their legal fees from motorcycle accident settlements back into motorcycling by being the sole financial sponsor of the **National Coalition of Motorcyclists**.

AM3260

## If you ride...

## you need an attorney that rides.

### (800) ON-A-BIKE

ATLANTA OFFICE: 1201 Peachtree St. NE | 400 Colony Square, Suite 200 | Atlanta, Georgia 30361  
AUGUSTA OFFICE: 631 Ronald Reagan Drive | Suite 102 | Evans, Georgia 30809

# Support and Partners



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**A Special offer for ABATE of Georgia Members  
from Two Wheel Adventures**

<http://www.twowheeladventures.com>

Call us (678) 896-5909

Two Wheel Adventures will be offering a class every other month.

Cost per Student is \$125.00

First class offering starts Feb 26, 2012

Students have to ride their own bikes, must have a valid motorcycle endorsement

**GET YOUR LICENSE**

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Abate Preferred Provider and **Abate member**

Official trainer of the Zac Brown Band

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(229) 432-2015 [www.powersportsplus.com](http://www.powersportsplus.com)

Mountain Motorsports  
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Blueberry Hill  
1550 C Dean Forrest Rd, Garden City, Ga  
(912) 964-8401 [www.blueberryhillbar.com](http://www.blueberryhillbar.com)

Connie Zbikowski, American Family Insurance  
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(770) 504-9500  
<http://insurance-agency.amfam.com/GA/connie-zbikowski/>

Cycle Nation of McDonough  
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<http://www.cyclenationofmcdonough.com> 770-957-7404

Brian Andrews, state Farm Insurance  
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## Business Support Member Program

Any business that wishes to offer a discount on goods or services to members may have a listing in the monthly newsletter in the Supporter section. This listing will show business name, address, phone number, web site, district number and discount amount offered. No Logos or other info. The cost to be listed is \$25.00 per year. The Business Support member will receive an ABATE membership Easel and 2 Decals showing they offer a discount along with one full year of being listed. Any Business that is owned by an ABATE of Georgia member will receive this for \$15.00

## Business Sponsor Member Program

Any business that wishes to be a Sponsor and offer a discount on goods or services to members may have a listing in the monthly newsletter in the Sponsor Section. This listing will show the business name, address, phone number, web site, district number and discount amount offered in large bold type. No Logos etc. The cost for this is \$100.00 per year. The Sponsor will receive an ABATE membership easel, 2 decals showing membership, a discount of 5% on any additional advertising in the newsletter. Any business owned by an ABATE of Georgia member will receive this for \$75.00. An individual or Business that provides more than \$100.00 in goods or services to ABATE of Georgia will be listed in an Honor Roll section.



# Advertising

<b>Publication</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Length</b>
Website	\$115	1 Month
Newsletter		
Business Card	\$ 40	1 Month
	\$ 110	3 Months
	\$ 200	6 Months
1/4 Page	\$ 70	1 Month
	\$ 200	3 Months
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	\$ 660	12 Months
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1/2 Page	\$ 125	1 Month
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1/2 Page Member Memorial	\$ 2	1 Month
Full Page	\$ 225	1 Month
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	\$ 1,200	6 Months
	\$ 2,200	12 Months
Full Page Member Memorial	\$ 3	1 Month

Ads must be received in digital format or ready to scan by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, accompanied by full payment, to be printed in the next issue. Credit card payments are welcome. Ads must be paid in advance to receive a multiple ad discount rate. If you wish, we can lay out your ad for you for an additional \$25 charge plus any reasonable costs. Additional charges and services offered at the discretion of the editor. Please allow additional lead time for all ads that we must lay out. Payment must be received in advance for ad renewals. If not, you will lose the discounted multiple ad rate and the account will revert back to monthly prices. Make your check or money order payable to A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia, Inc. Send to: A.B.A.T.E. OF GEORGIA, INC. P.O. BOX 116 Austell, GA 30168



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someone's whole  
world is on that bike.



**LOOK TWICE - SAVE A LIFE**



Motorcycles are  
**EVERYWHERE!**



In partnership with



**Help keep motorcycles off the endangered species list.**

- According to NHTSA, in 2013 there were 2,182 multi-vehicle crashes involving a motorcycle. In 42% of these crashes, the other vehicle was turning left in front of a motorcycle either going straight, passing, or overtaking another vehicle.

- Roughly 40% of a vehicle's outer perimeter zone is hidden by blind spots, which are caused by improper adjustment or lack of side mirror usage.

- Motorcyclists can easily be hidden in a vehicle's blind spot. Always check mirrors and blind spots, **TWICE**, before signaling your intentions and changing lanes.

**LOOK TWICE - SAVE A LIFE**

**Motorcycles are  
EVERYWHERE!**



**Want to ride?**

**Ride Safe - Ride Smart!**

**REGISTER TODAY**  
for a Motorcycle Training Course near you.

[www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov)



## STOP IMPAIRED RIDING

- In 2014, motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes had higher percentages of alcohol impairment than any other type of driver.
- The highest percentage of fatally injured, alcohol-impaired riders was between the ages of 35 to 39.
- Most alcohol related accidents occur between midnight and 3 am.



### What can YOU do?

- Always wear a DOT-approved helmet and protective clothing. Never ride while distracted. Be properly licensed. Don't speed. Ride SOBER.
- Designate a sober rider/driver *before* you have any alcohol.

[www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov)