

ABATE of GA's

Rolling Wheels of Freedom

The Official Newsletter



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

In This Issue...

- **May is Motorcycle Awareness Month**
- **Law Update from Chuck Watwood**
- **How To Talk to Legislators**
- **Safety Tips**

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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.

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...

Random thoughts...

Our back to basics strategy seems to be moving along. It was a successful BOD this month, especially since it was the first one I have ever chaired. The notes are pending as they did not quite make it in time to get into this issue. Stay tuned!

I think what I was impressed with the most was the renewed energy in the room. District Coordinators were more engaged and we were working together to solve issues. It was also great to see so much innovative activity going on, from D3's Gena Mcloud Memorial Ride to raise funds for the state to the groundbreaking D11 event – Joint Outlaw and D11 Poker Run. There is new life in this organization!

Getting out there is so critical. And even though our mission is a serious one, having fun is critical to keeping folks engaged. Bike nights, rallies, track days, leisure rides, there's a million things to do out there. We just have to plan them. You don't even have to plan our own events. Just go to others' and have a presence. Grab some mic time on stage somewhere and introduce yourself and what ABATE does. Heck, have the DJ do it. Get the word out, however we can. Its important to break out of our routines and explore new sources of support.

We are diligently working on fixing membership issues. We understand how frustrating it can be to wait so long on your cards and pins. The Executive Board has appointed a special assistant to the Membership Director who will help us streamline and automate our systems and processes, bringing us into the 21st century. I love the ideas he has come up with so far, so stay tuned for more updates on that.

Another primary focus of ours is financial accountability. We are seeking the support of a tax attorney and CPA to help us improve the way we do things. We seek to update our financial systems and processes over the coming year to again, streamline activities, increase cost-saving measures and ensure compliance with all regulations. We are a nonprofit business after all.

I'm looking forward to the August 5th BOD meeting. We have our special elections coming up. I am running for State Director and we have two excellent candidates for Sergeant at Arms.

Hope you all ride safe and are having a great motorcycle event season! It's a New Day at ABATE GA!

God bless,

Brian "Skinny Bob" Clifford



Chaplain's Corner...

I've recently been reading a book called "The 7 Places Jesus Shed His Blood" by Larry Huch. So, to give credit where credit is due the following thoughts are actually from his book and not something I came up with on my own. However, because I could relate to the information from my own personal experience, I wanted to share them with you as well.

In the Garden of Eden, Eve was deceived by Satan and Adam willfully disobeyed what God had told them, which was not to eat of the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. (See Genesis 3:17) So, in essence, Adam said, "Father, not Your will, but mine be done." And at that moment, Adam sacrificed man's willpower in every area of our lives. But, the willpower we lost in the Garden of Eden was won back in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus said, "Not My will, but Thy will be done." (Matthew 26:39) The first Adam surrendered our willpower to Satan. The second Adam, Jesus redeemed our willpower by saying, "Father not My will, but Thy will." And sweating great drops of blood. This is where we gain back our willpower to overcome the drug problems, the alcohol problems, the anger problems, and the depression problems.

Jesus won the victory when He submitted to the will of the Father. He won the battle, broke the curse, redeemed us, and gave us back our willpower. This is where I said that I personally related to the story as well. I used to be full of hate, violence, and anger and I would say, "I don't want to explode in this anger anymore. I don't want to be like this anymore." I tried to quit the drugs and alcohol and tried to deal with my anger issues on my own. I wanted to, but I couldn't. I had no willpower. My spirit was willing, but my flesh was weak.

So, how is it that Jesus can set us free when we cannot do it on our own? Because when Jesus sweat drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, our willpower was redeemed and given back to us. What Adam lost in the Garden of Eden was restored in the Garden of Gethsemane. All we have to do is receive Jesus into our hearts as our Lord and Savior and once we've done that we just have to say, "I plead the blood of Jesus" over those areas in our lives where we need help with our willpower. We no longer have to struggle with trying to overcome these issues with our own power and strength but we can acknowledge and accept the fact that Jesus has already won the battle for us and we can look to Him for wisdom, guidance and direction in obedience to the will of the Father.

Not our will Father, but Thy will be done! God Bless!

Eric Shumans
CMA Georgia State Coordinator



The Christian Motorcyclists Association

ABATE of GA's Spiritual Leadership

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



Key Announcements

Printed Newsletter Temporarily Suspended

During a December conference call, **the Board of Directors voted to suspend the printing and mailing of the ABATE GA newsletter.** This decision was purely for financial reasons. The newsletter will be available online at newsletter.abatega.org for the time being.

Upcoming Elections

Elections for the State Director and Sergeant at Arms positions will be held at the next BOD meeting – August 5th. **Absentee ballots** are available by emailing secretary@abatega.org and submitting a request. They are also available on the website at abatega.org on the District Officer's page.

As of the May 6th BOD meeting, nominations for the State Director have been closed. Two candidates were nominated; however, one candidate withdrew his name from the race. Brian “Skinny Bob” Clifford is running for the State Director position unopposed. There will be no write-in candidates allowed, according to the bylaws.

Two nominations for Sergeant at Arms were accepted. Stephanie Cruwys and Harry Jones. Write-ins will be accepted.

Here are the job descriptions for the SAA position:

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 if you are interested.**



Board of Directors Updates

Board of Directors Minutes (Summarized)

Meeting Date: May 6, 2017

Location: AP's Hideaway, Macon, Georgia

Unfortunately, the BOD meeting minutes for the May meeting are unavailable at this time due to a transition in the Secretary position. If they come available soon, they will be published in the subsequent newsletters.

BOD Meeting Dates (2017-2018)

ABATE GA Board meets the 1st Saturday of the month every three months.

May 6, 2017

August 5th, 2017

November 4th, 2017

February 3rd, 2018

May 5th, 2018 (BI-ANNUAL STATE ELECTIONS)

**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 monthly updates 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.**



Legislative Tools

ABATE of GA is committed to serving each rider in Georgia. Our primary goal is to promote fair and reasonable motorcycle legislation. But, ultimately, we depend on each of you. Through efforts like grassroots lobbying, you become the boots on the ground and it is your efforts that are the key to ABATE's success!

Grassroots Advocacy: How To Talk to Legislators

Our members are the experts on motorcycle riding that ABATE calls upon to help advocate for rider rights. We often ask members to engage directly with legislators. But, what do you say to them and what message should you be delivering? How should I approach them? Below is a simple guideline to help you navigate through.

Your time to make your case is limited so it's important to prepare a strong, yet brief message. Answering these questions can help you develop a message that is clear and convincing and provides the necessary information for your audience.

1. Who are you?
2. Are you a constituent? Are you're a rider? How long have you ridden?
 - a. Briefly describe your history as a rider. This is your opportunity to establish yourself as an "expert".
3. What is the issue for the meeting?
 - a. Be prepared to describe your issue and don't be surprised if your legislator is unfamiliar with it. It can be hard to do so briefly, but using plain language and thinking in bullet points can help zoom in on the heart of the issue.
 - b. As time is limited, try to focus on only one or two issues.
 - c. If possible, bring data and research with you. Facts and numbers can help policy makers to make the case to colleagues.
4. Why is this issue important to you?
 - a. Because you know our world better than most, you can discuss the impact – both positive and negative – any legislation would have on your life.
 - b. Be prepared to discuss the opposing view as well as it can help shape the discussion and shows you truly are the expert.
 - c. Why should this issue be important to the policy maker?
 - d. Describe how this issue will affect his/her constituents. This can range from increasing unsafe road conditions to local economic impact. Most legislators will work hard to mitigate negative impacts such as financial or safety impacts that result from passing certain legislation.
5. What action would you like the legislator to take?
 - a. Always have a clear call to action and always ask for a follow-up or response.
 - b. Be specific in your request– do you want them to write a letter supporting your position? Reach out to colleagues? Hold a hearing? Come to an event or a meeting?
 - c. Sometimes the best action is to keep dialogue open. Be sure to follow up in a timely manner.
6. What can you leave behind?
 - a. Try to leave something in writing that is factual and tells the story. What you leave with them should mention the issue and help them remember your visit. Examples can be a fact sheet about your issue or even photographs of unsafe conditions, or other possible outcomes of the legislation.

District Meeting Notes

No districts submitted any news for May 2017. Please submit all news to newsletter@abatega.org

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

LOOK TWICE - SAVE A LIFE

Motorcycles are
EVERYWHERE!



In partnership with





NCOM Newsbytes

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, NCOM

ANTI-PROFILING LEGISLATION FILED IN U.S. HOUSE & SENATE

A bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers introduced a resolution to address the issue of motorcycle profiling and promote collaboration between the motorcycle and law enforcement communities. U.S. Representatives Tim Walberg (R-MI), Mark Pocan (D-WI), Michael C. Burgess, M.D (R-TX) and Collin Peterson (D-MN) led the effort in The House (H.Res. 318), and U.S. Senators Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced the Senate version (S.Res.154).

“This bipartisan resolution should send a clear message to relevant regulatory and Law enforcement agencies across the country: motorcycle profiling has no place on our roads. Instead, we must foster collaboration and cooperation between these agencies and the riders in order to promote safety and ensure all motorists are treated fairly under the law,” stated Rep. Pocan in a press release issued by Rep. Walberg, co-chair of the House Motorcycle Caucus.

“From coast to coast, Americans of all backgrounds responsibly ride a motorcycle as their means of transportation or simply to enjoy the open road. This bipartisan resolution aims to raise awareness about the reality of motorcycle profiling and foster an open dialogue between motorcyclists and law enforcement,” said Walberg.

H.Res.318 – “Promoting awareness of motorcycle profiling and Encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycle community and Law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling,” has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee, and defines profiling as; “motorcycle profiling means the illegal use of the fact that a person rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle related apparel as a factor in deciding to stop and question, take enforcement action, arrest, or search a person or vehicle with or without legal basis under the Constitution of the United States.”

CONGRESSIONAL MOTORCYCLE CAUCUS SEEKS MEMBERS

Since 2009, the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus has provided a forum for members of Congress who ride to support motorcyclists “through education and awareness in order to encourage responsible motorcycling.” The CMC also “serves to ensure that the motorcycling community is treated equitably by Congress as it considers infrastructure and environmental policies, as well as safety and education programs.”

U.S. Representatives Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX) head the caucus, and with the new Congress being recently seated the two sent a “Dear Colleague” letter to their peers in the U.S. House of Representatives soliciting CMC Memberships from those who ride or have an interest in motorcycle issues: “We invite you to join the CMC to help promote these and other initiatives,” and in addition to promoting sound policy, “CMC members can help highlight the safety of motorcyclists through the recognition of Motorcycle Awareness Month, hosting and participating in industry fly-ins, drawing attention to the national ‘Ride to Work Day,’ promoting rider awareness and safety at national events – such as the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and Summer X Games -- ensuring motorcycle safety is remembered in the transportation reauthorization process, and working to remind operators to be aware of motorcycles with whom they share the roads and highways.”

If he or she rides, please encourage your Congressional Representative to join the CMC by contacting Rep. Burgess’ office at 5-7772 or Rep. Walberg at 5-6276.



NCOM Newsbytes

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, NCOM

LIQUOR SALES CHARGE AGAINST MOTORCYCLE CLUB DISMISSED

A North Dakota district court judge has dismissed a liquor sales charge against a Minot motorcycle club, following motions to dismiss filed by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists(A.I.M.) Attorney Justin Vinje and the prosecuting attorney.

The Ice Cold Ryders Motorcycle Club had been charged with engaging in the unlicensed sale of alcohol at their clubhouse. A police investigation of a near by disturbance during the morning of November 29, 2015, led law enforcement to peer inside the clubhouse during a social gathering.

Inside, officers saw a large number of people socializing and drinking alcoholic beverages. Law enforcement concluded that unlicensed liquor sales were occurring. One officer testified in support of a search warrant, falsely claiming to have also seen a cash register in the clubhouse.

Law enforcement received a search warrant and entered the clubhouse later that morning, seizing the club's security equipment, sound system, coolers, alcoholic beverages, and paper documents. Law enforcement also froze the club's bank accounts.

On October 6, 2016, nearly a year after the raid, law enforcement charged the club with the unlicensed sale of alcohol. A.I.M. Attorney Justin Vinje represented the club and requested law enforcement's investigative reports. Those reports mainly consisted of an analysis of the club's banking records and an inventory of items seized. The reports also revealed that law enforcement never seized a cash register from the premises.

During the case, a confidential informant with ties to local law enforcement contacted Vinje, telling the club's lawyer that law enforcement asked her to attend club gatherings and wear a wireless recording device to capture proof of unlicensed alcohol sales.

The informant wore a wire and attended two club gatherings in the spring of 2016. A SWAT team stood at the ready to raid the club in the event of illegal activity. No unlawful alcohol sales took place, but the government failed to provide any records of this to the defense.

Attorney Vinje filed a motion to dismiss the charge, due to the government's failure to turn over records related to the confidential informant's activities. Vinje also filed a motion to suppress evidence from the search, arguing that law enforcement testified falsely about the presence of a cash register during its application for the search warrant.

Three days later, the government filed a motion to dismiss the charge, citing insufficient evidence to proceed and that dismissal would serve the interest of judicial economy. The case was dismissed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE REPEALS HANDLEBAR HEIGHT LAW

Without a federal standard, the regulation of handlebars on motorcycles rests with the states, and until recently New Hampshire was among more than 30 states that limit the height of handlebars.

On May 15, 2017 N.H. Governor Chris Sununu signed SB27; "RSA 266:77, relative to grips and handlebars on motorcycles, is repealed."



NCOM Newsbytes

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, NCOM

Unfortunately for attendees of this year's Laconia Motorcycle Week, held annually since 1923 during the nine days in June ending on Father's Day, the law becomes effective 60 days after passage, which will be July 11, 2017.

BILL ADDRESSES "MASKED" MOTORCYCLISTS BEING CITED IN LOUISIANA

Louisiana has a law prohibiting the wearing of masks in public, and according to an article in the Baton-Rouge Times-Picayune, motorcycle riders are being "pulled over and ticketed under the mask-wearing law because they were wearing helmets that concealed their faces." Louisianans are banned from "concealing their faces with masks or hoods, except during Mardi Gras, Halloween or for religious reasons."

Now a bill authored by Rep. Alan Seabaugh (R-Shreveport), HB161, would revise the law to exempt motorcycle safety helmets. By all indications, the bill will pass, and it is currently pending Senate final passage. Speaking before the Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, Rep. Seabaugh said his bill arose out of complaints from motorcyclists in his district who said they have been harassed by "overzealous law enforcement officers." Riders have been pulled over at random, according to testimony by ABATE of Louisiana, claiming one officer in particular has targeted motorcyclists whose helmets and face shields concealed their faces.

Apparently recognizing the absurdity of ticketing motorcyclists for wearing helmets, when helmets are required by law, committee members unanimously agreed that the mask-wearing ban needs revision. They tacked on an amendment "clarifying that the exemption only applied to motorcycle helmets being used during a ride," then recommended the bill for full House approval.

Rep. Terry Landry (D-New Iberia), a former Louisiana State Police superintendent, thanked the committee for supporting the bill. "I think it corrects a wrong."



From the MRF

MRF Reps/Board/Friends/Supporters & Allies

I am pleased to report that tomorrow, both the House of Representatives and the Senate will introduce a bipartisan and bicameral measure that addresses concerns over motorcycle profiling.

Leading this effort are Senators Johnson (Republican - Wisc.) and Shaheen (Democrat - New Hamp.) in the Senate and in the House, Representatives Walberg (Republican - Michigan) and Pocan (Democrat - Wisconsin). Additional co-sponsors are being sought this evening in the House so we may end up with additional supporters before introduction tomorrow. Notably, this bill is both bicameral and bipartisan - a significant achievement in today's political climate. It demonstrates the importance of this issue and shows that it's an issue that affects everyone - not just Republicans or Democrats.

The bills will look similar to what was introduced last summer; it will define the practice of profiling, promote public awareness of motorcycle profiling and encourage collaboration and communication between law enforcement and the motorcycle community. Further, it urges state law enforcement officials to condemn motorcycle profiling in written policies and training materials. Though the bills are resolutions, they send a strong message on this issue that affects so many riders.

A quick note of thanks to our allies at the Motorcycle Profiling Project for their support and supplying the MRF with data to convince our federal lawmakers that change is needed, as well as all of our MRF members and supporters and the Motorcycle Profiling Working Group that helped get us this far.

- Megan Ekstrom, VP Gov. Affairs and PR, MRF

Riders Keep Close Eye on Infrastructure Legislation

WASHINGTON, DC – Though modernizing the nation's infrastructure has been a looming issue for the federal government for decades, there has been increased emphasis since the 2016 presidential elections when then-candidate Donald Trump pledged a significant investment to the issue. He came one step closer to his promise when the White House released its principles for an infrastructure package along with the president's FY18 budget request. The principles outline \$200 billion in infrastructure investments.

For motorcyclists, the area of infrastructure is one of interest. Roads, highways, bridges are all well utilized by motorcyclists, yet many of these are considered structurally deficient. More importantly, because the concept of infrastructure is so broad, some policymakers will offer proposals that they have championed for years that they hope to include in an infrastructure vehicle. Many of these could very well include seemingly unrelated efforts in the name of safety. Often, large legislative packages are viewed as opportunities to slip in provisions related to highway safety. These "riders" (no pun intended) are easy to miss in a large legislative package, but the effects are far-reaching.

In addition to maintaining a vigilant eye on what gets "stuck" into an infrastructure package, there is also concern that President Trump will pursue a proposal to lift a federal ban that prevents tolling on existing lanes of interstate highways:



From the MRF

“Tolling is generally restricted on interstate highways. This restriction prevents public and private investment in such facilities,” the White House fact sheet says. “We should reduce this restriction and allow the states to assess their transportation needs and weigh the relative merits of tolling assets.”

Supporters say it’s a way to charge motorists directly for the roads that they use. Alternatively, others fear that if they don’t pay for the infrastructure through toll roads, they will pay at the pump via a gas tax.

While an infrastructure plan is easy to talk and campaign about, it doesn’t mean it is easy to write, pass through Congress, or sign into law. Although Republicans currently control the House, Senate, and presidency, several factors stand as roadblocks to any major piece of legislation becoming law.

Despite a polarized Congress and busy legislative schedule, however, there is a real appetite for considering a major overhaul to the nation’s infrastructure, and plenty of room for negotiation to help make it possible.

About Motorcycle Riders Foundation

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states’ motorcyclists’ rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond.



Safety Tips for New Riders

Below are some more tips to help you stay safe on two wheels. Learn more in our [motorcycle hub](#), [buying guide](#), and in our [reliability and owner satisfaction report](#).

Don't buy more bike than you can handle. If you've been off of motorcycles for awhile, you may be surprised by the performance of today's bikes. Even models with small-displacement engines are notably faster and more powerful than they were 10 or 20 years ago.

When shopping for a bike, start with one that fits you. When seated, you should easily be able to rest both feet flat on the ground without having to be on tiptoes. Handlebars and controls should be within easy reach. Choose a model that's easy for you to get on and off the center stand; if it feels too heavy, it probably is. A smaller model with a 250- to 300-cc engine can make a great starter or commuter bike. If you plan on doing a lot of highway riding, you might want one with an engine in the 500- to 750-cc range so you can easily keep up with traffic. (Before buying, see our [report on motorcycle reliability and owner satisfaction](#).)

Invest in antilock brakes. Now available on a wide array of models, antilock brakes are a proven lifesaver. IIHS data shows that motorcycles equipped with ABS brakes were 37 percent less likely to be involved in a fatal crash than bikes without it. "No matter what kind of rider you are, ABS can brake better than you," says Bruce Biondo of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Motorcycle Safety Program.

The reason is simple: Locking up the brakes in a panic stop robs the rider of any steering control. That can easily lead to a skid and crash, which can result in serious injury. ABS helps you retain steering control during an emergency stop, and it can be especially valuable in slippery conditions.

This critical feature is now standard on many high-end models and adds only a few hundred dollars to the price of more basic bikes. You may be able to offset some of the cost with an insurance discount. Either way, we think it's a worthwhile investment in your safety.

Hone your skills. As Honda's Jon Seidel puts it, "There is nothing we could say or advise more than to go find a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) riding course in your area. That's critical, absolutely critical." An MSF course or similar class can teach you the basics, as well as advanced techniques, such as how to perform evasive emergency maneuvers. The cost ranges from free to about \$350. An approved safety course may make you eligible for an insurance discount and, in some states, to skip the road-test and/or the written test part of the licensing process. Some motorcycle manufacturers offer a credit toward the cost of a new motorcycle or training if a rider signs up for an MSF course. The [MSF website](#) lists about 2,700 locations for such courses around the United States.

Use your head. Yes, helmets are an emotional topic for some riders. But the facts show the risk. Riders without a helmet are 40 percent more likely to suffer a fatal head injury in a crash and are three times more likely to suffer brain injuries, than those with helmets, according to government studies.

When Texas and Arkansas repealed their helmet laws, they saw a 31- and 21-percent increase in motorcycle fatalities, respectively. "It is absolute insanity to repeal helmet laws," says Orly Avitzur, M.D., a neurologist and a Consumer Reports medical adviser. "Because helmets do save lives, it is insanity to expose the skull and the brain to potential trauma that could be prevented or at least mitigated."



Safety Tips for New Riders

A full-face helmet that's approved by the Department of Transportation is the best choice. (Look for a DOT certification sticker on the helmet.) Modern helmets are strong, light weight, and comfortable, and they cut down on wind noise and fatigue. Keep in mind that helmets deteriorate over time, and may not be safe even if they look fine. The Snell Memorial Foundation, an independent helmet testing and standards-setting organization, recommends replacing a helmet every five years, or sooner if it's been damaged or has been in a crash. Beyond potential deterioration due to aging and exposure to hair oils and chemicals, Snell points out that there is often a notable improvement over that time in helmet design and materials.

Wear the right gear. Jeans, a T-shirt, and sandals are recipes for a painful disaster on a bike. Instead, you want gear that will protect you from wind chill, flying bugs and debris, and, yes, lots of road rash if you should slide out. For maximum protection, go for a leather or other reinforced jacket, gloves, full pants, and over-the-ankle footwear, even in summer. Specially designed jackets with rugged padding and breathable mesh material provide protection as well as ventilation for riding in warm weather. You'll also want effective eye protection; don't rely on eyeglasses or a bike's windscreen. Use a helmet visor or goggles. And keep in mind that car drivers who have hit a motorcycle rider often say they just didn't see them, so choose gear in bright colors.

Be defensive. A recent study by the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research found that in collisions involving a motorcycle and a car, car drivers were at fault 60 percent of the time. So, you need to be extra alert, especially in this age of epidemic phone use and texting behind the wheel. Keep an eye out for cars suddenly changing lanes or pulling out from side streets. And don't tailgate; keeping a safe following distance is critical, both to ensure you have enough stopping distance and so you have time to react to obstacles in the road. An object that a car might easily straddle could be a serious hazard when on a bike.

Avoid bad weather. Slippery conditions reduce your margin for error. Rain not only cuts your visibility but reduces your tires' grip on the road, which can make cornering tricky. If you need to ride in the rain, remember that the most dangerous time is right after precipitation begins, as the water can cause oil residue to rise to the top. And avoid making sudden maneuvers. Be especially gentle with the brakes, throttle, and steering to avoid sliding. When riding in strong side winds, be proactive in anticipating the potential push from the side by moving to the side of the lane the wind is coming from. This will give you some leeway in the lane, should a gust nudge you.

Watch for road hazards. A motorcycle has less contact with the pavement than a car. Sand, wet leaves, or pebbles can cause a bike to slide unexpectedly, easily resulting in a spill. Bumps and potholes that you might barely notice in a car can pose serious danger when on a bike. If you can't avoid them, slow down as much as possible before encountering them, with minimal steering input. Railroad tracks and other hazards should be approached as close to a right angle as possible, to reduce the chances of a skid.

Be ready to roll. Before each ride, do a quick walk-around to make sure your lights, horn, and directional signals are working properly. Check the chain, belt, or shaft and the brakes. And inspect the tires for wear and make sure they're set at the proper pressure. Motorcycle mechanics we've spoken with say they routinely see worn-out brakes and improperly inflated tires that greatly increase safety risks. When tires are under-inflated, "handling gets really hard, steering gets hard, and the bike doesn't want to lean," says Mike Franklin, owner of Mike's Garage in Los Angeles.

Law Update

By Chuck Watwood

Georgia Good Samaritan Law

We all have seen it. A biker goes down in front of us and we immediately jump to render aid. But, are their consequences to doing so? Will you get sued if you worsen someone's injuries or even worse, kill them because you thought you did right thing? Few of us are medically trained professionals. But we also cannot stand by in good conscience and not render aid to our brothers and sisters. Well, unfortunately, Georgia has a law to encourage such practices. Here is a short summary from Chuck Watwood from Lawbike.com



“All 50 states have some form of the Good Samaritan Law. These laws are designed to encourage people to render emergency aid at the scene of an accident without the concern of liability or civil damages. O.C.G.A. §51-1-29 lays out Georgia’s Good Samaritan Law:

(a) Any person, including any person licensed to practice medicine and surgery pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 and any person licensed to render services ancillary thereto, who in good faith renders emergency care at the scene of an accident or emergency to the victims thereof without making any charge therefor shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission by such person in rendering emergency care or as a result of any act or failure to act to provide or arrange for further medical treatment or care for the injured person.

(b) As used in this Code section, the term "emergency care" shall include, but shall not be limited to, the rescue or attempted rescue of an incapacitated or endangered individual from a locked motor vehicle.

One important aspect of the code section is that the party rendering the care cannot charge for the services. In Georgia, if you render emergency care and receive no compensation and do not intentionally harm the injured party, you cannot be held liable for civil damages.

**Chuck Watwood
LawBike.com
770-650-0016**

What's Happening?

District 3



40th

DISTRICT 3

Open Meeting

WHEN: June 25th, 2017
TIME: 2:00pm— 4:00pm
PLACE: Sixes Tavern
650 Henderson Drive,
Cartersville, GA



Food—Fun — Prizes— 50/50 Raffle



Dickson's Tiger-Rock

Martial Arts

will be on hand to discuss personal safety and self-defense.



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

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

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 125-400 Knobby
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 Vintage Street
 Sportster Street
 Big Twin Street
 Open Street
 Open Knobby
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 Nitro Digger

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 5 \$ car
 30 \$ campers
 tents are free

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What's Happening?

District 5

Doors Open 6pm
Bell Time 7pm

Ringside: \$12
General Admission: \$10

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June 24th

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Card Subject To Change

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For Tickets & To Reserve Seat's Call: (770) 601 - 3676

Twitter Facebook YouTube

What's Happening?

District 6

ABATE of Georgia's Bike Night at AMS



Meet at The Grove Bar & Grill, exit 212 off I-75, Kickstands up at 7 PM, Laps on the track & enjoy drag racing up close!

\$10 at the gate.

What's Happening?

District 11

Outlaws
inc
Savannah Chapter

*Joint
Poker Run*

ABATE of Georgia



American Bikers Active Toward Education

District 11

June 17, 2017

Sign in at **Indian of Savannah**
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10:00 - 12:00
FBO: 10:30
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Junkyard @ 912-441-7586 or
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What's Happening?

District 11

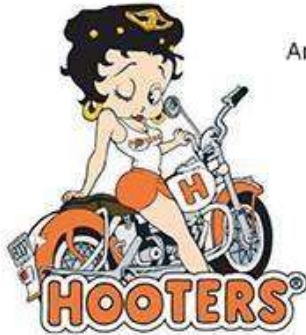
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District 11

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What's Happening?

District 11

ABATE of Georgia



American Brewers Active Toward Education

District 11

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. 2nd 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



Out and About



D3, 5, 11 & 13

D13 Chicken Q



Ride for America - D3 and 5



D11 Bike Night in Savannah



D3 at Smokin' Butts

Out and About



D5 Ride for America



D5 Second Amendment Presentation

D5 & 5N



*D5 Second Amendment Presentation
w/ Chuck Watwood*



D5/5N Ride to Remember Georgia's Fallen



From the Motorcycle Safety Foundation

THE SEE SYSTEM

Here is a good reminder for riding safely in traffic.

A large black rectangular graphic with a blue border. It contains three items, each with a large blue letter and a corresponding description. The first item is 'S' for 'SEARCH AROUND YOU FOR POTENTIAL HAZARDS.' The second is 'E' for 'EVALUATE ANY POSSIBLE HAZARDS, SUCH AS TURNING CARS, RAILROAD TRACKS, ETC.' The third is 'E' for 'EXECUTE THE PROPER ACTION TO AVOID THE HAZARD.'

- S** • **SEARCH AROUND YOU FOR POTENTIAL HAZARDS.**
- E** • **EVALUATE ANY POSSIBLE HAZARDS, SUCH AS TURNING CARS, RAILROAD TRACKS, ETC.**
- E** • **EXECUTE THE PROPER ACTION TO AVOID THE HAZARD.**

HIGHWAY, BYWAY, STREET AND ALLEY

This SEE strategy is a mental system for safe motorcycling. Use it effectively and you'll cover many safer, happy miles on your motorcycle.

What District Am I In?

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



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Website	\$115	1 Month
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	\$ 110	3 Months
	\$ 200	6 Months
1/4 Page	\$ 70	1 Month
	\$ 200	3 Months
	\$ 360	6 Months
	\$ 660	12 Months
1/4 Page Member Memorial	\$ 1	1 Month
1/2 Page	\$ 125	1 Month
	\$ 360	3 Months
	\$ 660	6 Months
	\$ 1,200	12 Months
1/2 Page Member Memorial	\$ 2	1 Month
Full Page	\$ 225	1 Month
	\$ 660	3 Months
	\$ 1,200	6 Months
	\$ 2,200	12 Months
Full Page Member Memorial	\$ 3	1 Month

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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