

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

a Newsletter for Motorcycle Safety & Awareness

ISSUE 404

March 2017



A MERICAN
B ITERS
A IMING
T OWARD
E DUCATION



**NEXT
CHAPTER
MEETING
10 AM
March 19,
2017**

at American Legion
Post 222



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<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Joanne "Critter" Napoli <i>news@abatese.us</i>	<p>To Advertise in this Publication, Please contact the "<u>Newsletter Editor</u>" or any B.O.D. Member in this list.</p>	

Please Note In order to maintain a "Professional" appearance on this list, you will need an abatese.us email account. NO EXCEPTIONS!! We don't need a sloppy page with many different email addresses. Call Mike Hager to help you get set up.

ABATE of Florida, Inc - www.AbateFlorida.com - flabate@bellsouth.net - (386) 943-9610 (voice & fax)

WHO WE ARE

- ABATE of Florida, Inc. is a non–profit organization of motorcycle enthusiasts from all walks of life.
- We lobby and educate the government and the general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image.
- We endeavor to enlist the cooperation and participation of all organizations and individuals that share a similar interest in preserving our American tradition of FREEDOM.
- We promote motorcycle safety, training, and political awareness.
- We fund our work by holding a series of annual events at different locations within our service area and other motorcycle activities.
- We are your neighbors and friends who work, pay taxes, and get involved with our community.
- We serve and support our country and believe in freedom.
- We use all legal means to protect our rights without infringing on the rights of others.
- ABATE of Florida, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of Florida as a motorcycle rights organization or MRO. We are currently the only political MRO in Florida representing the interest of its members and the motorcycling public at-large.
- WE ARE NOT A CLUB OR A GANG.

ABATE is open to all individuals age 18 and older interested in motorcycle rights, safety or education. It doesn't matter what you ride or even if you ride. Everyone is welcome to join ABATE of Florida, Inc., which ensures YOUR opinion and views on motorcycle laws will be heard.

There are no requirements to join us and we respect and welcome all motorcycle clubs or any other motorcycle associations or organizations. We do not have any mandatory meetings or rides.

Paid Membership Includes:

- ABATE Voting Privileges
- Free \$4,000 Accidental Death or Dismemberment Insurance Policy from the American Income Life Insurance Company. As long as your membership is current, you are covered.
- Free classified advertising in the Southeast Chapter and State ABATE newsletters.
- Motorcycle Safety and Educational Updates.
- A full-time ABATE of Florida, Inc. lobbyist who fights for your rights at the state and national levels.



ABATE of Florida, Inc.
PO Box PO 2520
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(386) 943-9610
www.abateflorida.com



Some of ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s Accomplishments

- On July 1, 2000, we had the 30 year old Florida Helmet law repealed; July 1, 2010 was our 10th Anniversary of Freedom of Choice.
- We've become the 4th largest State Motorcycle Rights Organization (MRO) in the country (IN & IL are 1&2, we regularly switch for 3rd & 4th with PA).
- We got the handlebar heights law modified.
- We successfully fought a bill that would forbid our children from riding on our bikes.
- We successfully fought the bill that would confiscate motorcycles for going 30MPH over the speed limit.
- We developed an effective MSAP program that has raised motorist's perceptions and awareness of motorcycles, and have received funding from the State of FL totaling over \$750,000 to promote motorcycle safety and awareness.
- We successfully fought the bill against vertical tags that had over \$1,100 in fines for a first offense.
- Supported and fought for a texting-while-driving ban for the last few years.
- Our 2009-2010 Stiffer Penalties Bill made it through five of the FL House & Senate's committees; this is the farthest it has gone in the number of years we have tried. On the last day of session, a committee member strenuously attempted to attach a revival of the helmet law to our Bill. To avoid a new helmet law in Florida, we had to kill the Bill.
- We publish monthly Press Releases and/or Articles of Interest in many online & print publications, including Florida Full Throttle.
- The President of ABATE of Florida, Inc. has been asked to be on and currently sits as a member of The Motorcyclist Advisory Council (MAC) to the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, D.C. The Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation may appoint a representative from only two State MROs throughout the entire U.S.A. to be on this council.
- The President of ABATE of Florida, Inc. sits as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Collation of Motorcyclists (NCOM). NCOM has over 1000 member organizations.

See Page 47 for Membership Application



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Hey there brothers and sisters, and thank you for taking the time to pick up and read our newsletter!

First and foremost, I would like to remind the membership of the three pieces of legislation that are most important to ABATE of Florida, Inc. The first is the Helmet Bill HB6009 (that we oppose), and the other two are the Vulnerable Road Users Bills SB 432 and HB 541 (that we support). Please figure out who's district you belong to and call or send one of the postcards we have for this purpose (if you do not have any of our ABATE postcards, please ask myself or Critter) to your Senator or Representative and let them know where you stand on these issues. If you need help, please refer to the legislation section of this booklet (Pgs. 16, 18, 21-23 & 40).

On the weekend of the 10th through the 12th of February, Critter and myself rode up to Ocala for the ABATE of Florida, Inc. State meeting, and as always had a great time seeing all of our friends from other chapters again! On the way up we stopped at our favorite little pizzeria in Jupiter, about a mile and a half west from the turnpike exit as we do every time we are passing that way on the bikes. The pizza in that place is one of/if not *the* best in Florida! We then headed up and up until we reached Ocala. The ride back was a little better, as we came down the more bike friendly highways till we hit US27. Passing the orange groves with the trees blossoming was an added treat to the perfect riding conditions that we had that day! Critter and I apologize for not being able to make it to AOA's annual event that was on Sunday the 12th, but we heard that it was a good time with good food and plenty of eye candy!

The following weekend on the 18th, we attended Scurvy Few MC's 2nd Yearly Pirate Party and had a great time!!! There was plenty of delicious food and drink being served by awesome maidens and wenches! The 19th was our chapter meeting that went off without a hitch, and was held at American Legion Post 222. I would like to thank Post 222 for allowing us the use of their facilities and having the best breakfast I have ever had at a meeting yet! Which brings us to the last but most assuredly not least, weekend in February. On the 25th was Wheels of Man MC's 44th Annual ["Stationary"] Poker Run. The angel-hair pasta with meatballs

dinner was fantastic, and the WOMMC always has great door prizes!!! Our next stop was a Mardi Gras party at American Legion Post 222 where the people, the food and the music were *manifique!* Then it was off to the Kingdom of Brothers MC's clubhouse where they were celebrating Stogie's birthday and throwing one hell of a birthday bash!!!

So with that, I'd like to thank everyone for their continued support of our chapter and state organization!

May Saint Christopher, Holy Patron of Travelers, guide and protect you and your loved ones so that you may RIDE FREE AND RIDE SAFE my brothers and sisters!!!

With Honor and Respect,
William G. "MAGNETO" Prewitt,
President, ABATE of Florida, Inc.
Southeast Chapter



New Members For February



Barry Blundell
Laurel Conner
John I. Grove
David Liebman

Clarke Maher
Dennis Ramos
Michael "Motorcycle Mike" Romanowicz
Tania "Sawgrass Sally" Senatore



-- Reminder -- Membership Due For February 2017

Karen Bell	Fred Sutton III
Vito Borzumato	Louis "Lou" Tkacz
Jon "Shadow" Bradley	Geri Sciple
Richard Fasano	Brad Smith
Craig "Happy Gilmore" Glassman	Mike "Rogue" Hager
Jack Kuharsky	Barry "Barry HOG" O'Neil
Malcolm Stewart	
Craig "Throttle off the bottle" Throssell	
Joseph "Sportster Joe" Podojack	

	ATTORNEY BRAD WINSTON		WINSTONLAW.COM Davie, Florida 954-475-9666
AT YOUR SIDE ON THE ROAD AND IN THE COURTS			

Membership Due For March 2017

Angel Arvelo
Nicholas G."Catfish" Black
Phillip Cole
Mark "Metro Prez" Dunn
Dale R. Kirk
Joseph "Bearwulf" Lole

Vincent "Mongoose" Parlatore
Ray "Rainman" Purcell
Sheldon"Weld'n Sheldon" Shor
Robb "Chainz" Timm
Jon Viger

If you have already renewed

Thank You

for your continued support



For Membership Renewals contact, George Torrence by either email:
membership@abatese.us or by phone: 954-560-5547

See Page 47 for Membership Application

* PLEASE NOTE *

You have 30 days from the last day of your expiration month to renew your membership,
or be deleted from the State's List. Also (very important) be sure to notify us of any changes.



**Southeast Chapter Meeting Minutes
Held at American Legion Post 222
February 19, 2017**

Magneto call the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. with 19 members present. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer by Poppie.

President's Report: Magneto announced that our Safety Director, Prime, has resigned. A small group of members went to Scurvey Few's pirate party last night and had a great time. Johnny Rose is recovering and should be home soon.

Vice-President's Report: It's great to see some faces that haven't been here in a while. Poppie spoke about an encounter he had recently. It's so easy to forget to be nice when we are out and about. Let's try hard to be friendly, especially when out and wearing something that reads ABATE. A simple friendly gesture could really make someone's day and go a long way to promote this organization.

Treasurer's Report: Critter read the financial

report for January. A motion was made to accept the financial report, seconded, all were in favor. Motion passed.

Sergeant at Arm's Report: Nighthawk thanked everyone who came out and helped with the Antique Bike Show. He also reminded everyone that we are here to educate the community, not just ABATE members. When you are talking to people, let them know what's going with the helmet bill. You'd be surprised at how many people have no idea that a new bill even exists.

Road Captain's Report: Wavy thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and for showing up and helping at the bike show. He also mentioned what a nice ride we had for Papa Harley's memorial out at Café 27. He reminded everyone that when we ride in a group, the ride will vary depending upon the experience of the riders present. He takes everything into consideration when planning the route we take. Safety is his number one priority. Magneto reminded everyone that Wavy is in charge when we are on the road.

Safety Report: This position is now open. Critter gave a brief report on the safety booth at the Antique Bike Show. Diddles and Princess were a hit, as usual. We signed up several new members and spoke to literally hundreds of people about the helmet bill.

Products Report: All the products are here and for sale, be sure to check out the great new display Wavy has setup. The Biker Lives Matter patches are in. If you are interested in anything, just let Wavy know.

Events Coordinator: This position is open. Please let the Board know if you are interested in volunteering.

State Representative Report: Critter announced that the State Board is working on sending out a letter regarding the AIL insurance we get. If you don't want to be contacted about additional insurance, send the beneficiary card to the State Office or give it to a Board member. Be aware that the current issue of Rider Now contains a press release Darrin's (State VP) name on it. He didn't put it in there and it has some incorrect info. Nothing malicious, but some of the information in it is someone's opinion rather than fact. Darrin has compiled photos of safety booths from every chapter to show the governor that ABATE is statewide so we can use the safety money to effectively educate across the whole state. HB6009 was put in over 3 weeks ago and has not had a

committee meeting yet. This shows that our calls and postcards are having an effect. Doc met with the bill's sponsor (Rep. Don Hahnfeldt). Hahnfeldt didn't have anything to back up what he was told about how much money not wearing helmets costs this state. Doc handed him 12 pages of information supporting our position and completely backed up by stats from NHTSA. There was a discussion about whether SE Chapter supports Florida trying to host the 2019 NCOM convention in Orlando. We need more information about what it entails and will discuss it further at the next meeting. Tallahassee Freedom Ride to the capitol is Saturday, April 8. The next State meeting is Sunday, April 9. We need to promote this to every motorcycle organization. We need numbers to show Tallahassee the voting power we have. Critter cannot get time off work in April, therefore we also need volunteers to represent SE Chapter at the state meeting.

Newsletter Editor: Critter will be working on the newsletter. Articles are due ASAP. Photos are welcome so if you have anything you'd like to see in the newsletter, please email them to her.

Legal Council: Brad stated that there are currently two bills that ABATE is concerned with – the Helmet Bill and the Vulnerable Road Users Bill (VRU). Neither one of them are on committee right now which means they both have a chance of dying in

committee. Hopefully the VRU makes it and the Helmet Bill dies.

Public Relations: Fern is present and is glad the meeting is closer so she can attend more often. She is always out there promoting ABATE.

Billing and Invoicing: Pixie is excused.

Social Director: Patty was not present, however she did drop off a cake so there will be a birthday party after the meeting. Brad mentioned that we should add a “Sickness and Distress” segment to the meetings. Poppie tries to get the info out to everyone, but often members know of someone who’s sick or in the hospital and that information doesn’t get to Poppie.

Newsletter Distribution: Jon, Postal, Teddy Bear and Bars are doing a great job of helping Poppie get the newsletters distributed. Sheila Rose is now bringing them to Heaven Cycle down on Bird Road. If you know of somewhere we should add to the route, let Poppie know. Keep a few on your bike or in your car and leave them places where people sit and wait – the doctor’s office for example. It’s good to put them in places where they are not advertisers. The most important thing is that we get our word out.

Quartermaster Report: Bob had nothing to report.

Photographer’s Report: This position is

open. We are looking for volunteers.

Web-Master’s Report: Rogue was not present but everything is up and running.

Legal Council: Brad had nothing to report.

Old Business: The Memorial Day event was discussed.

New Business: We will look into something different for the Hotline that will give us more room to post information.

Good of the Order: Magneto thanked everyone for their help at the Antique Bike Show. Our next meeting is March 19. We will go to the Keltics’ party at JP Mulligans after the meeting. J.R. mentioned that States M/C has a dinner every Monday night at their clubhouse – all you can eat for \$6. States MC Annual is April 2.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was called for, seconded, all were in favor. Our next meeting date is March 19, 2017, at the American Legion Post 222, 4250 NE 5th Avenue, Oakland Park.

Hope to see everyone there.
Joanne “Critter” Napoli





TO PLACE ADVERTISEMENTS



You must submit print ready ads or PC compatible disk. Black type on white paper, including business cards, required. Ads and copy must be prepaid to "SE ABATE Chapter" and submitted at or before the chapter meeting to be included in that issue. Due to limited space all ads must be paid to date or they will be dropped without notification. THE ADVERTISER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COPY AND AD CHANGES. Non-camera ready advertisements will incur a minimum \$50 layout charge and will be billed separately.

The Southeast Chapter Newsletter is published monthly by ABATE of Florida, Inc. Southeast Chapter, PO BOX 292693, Ft. Lauderdale FL 33329-2693. 850 NEWSLETTERS PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC., or the Southeast Chapter. This publication encourages its members to express their own beliefs and/or opinions. ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. and the Southeast Chapter accepts no responsibility for the opinions, views, or comments contained in this publication. Southeast Chapter reserves the right to edit any article submitted for publication for mis-spellings or inappropriate language, or photos.

Motorcycle Rights & Safety Dedicated to

"Freedom of Choice, Freedom of the Road"

You may know us as the motorcycle organization that got the helmet law repealed in Florida or from our motorcycle rights and safety rally's throughout the year.

ABATE of Florida is not a club, we are a motorcycle rights & safety organization dedicated to promoting motorcycle safety while remaining ever vigilant of the legislative issues concerning motorcyclists' nationwide.

We Are Not ANTI-HELMET, We are ANTI-HELMET Law!

One of the most popular misconceptions about ABATE is that we are anti-helmet. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are "anti-helmet law" if you choose to ride with or without a helmet it's your choice, it is your right to decide whether wearing a helmet is right for you. ABATE is an organization fighting to protect your rights.

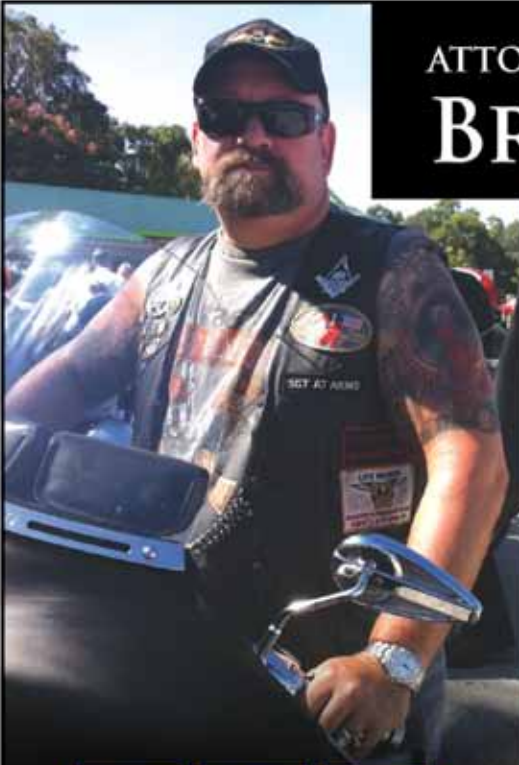
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A Message From Your Vice President

Whenever you have a group of people get together on a regular basis for a certain reason, like we do as members of Abate SE chapter, we never agree on all things completely. We're only human. We don't always like everybody we have to be with at meetings and at other things we do together.

The thing that can hurt the chapter the most is holding grudges against each other for one reason or another. That can be very disruptive and sometimes stops us from going in the right direction.

What I think we have to try to do is get along, at least during the times when we meet. If one member has a problem with another member, or a member is not happy with the direction our chapter is going, the thing to do is try to help make changes to make our chapter better. Just talking about it does no good to anyone. Remember we all want to keep SE chapter the best, and try to make it even better.

We have to try and take care of any problems we might have with the chapter or a brother or sister in-house, it will only make us a stronger chapter in the long run.

Remember if you have a problem with any of us board members, or if we can help you with a problem, you can always come to us. We are always open to suggestions and we will try to help solve any problem in a way that will benefit the SE chapter of Abate.

We will always try to make our brothers and sisters happy and to strive to keep going in the right direction. We are all members of Abate SE chapter, and we must work together for the benefit of all.

As Always,

Poppie

VP Southeast Chapter



From Brad “Blackball” Winston – ABATE SE Chapter Legislative Liason:

As you probably know, both of the bills we are officially interested in (Helmets and Vulnerable Road Users) are in the committee process in both the House and the Senate. They may or may not make it out of each of their three committees in both the House and Senate. The legislative session lasts 60 days and officially starts on March 7, 2017. May 5th is the last day of the session.

Some other bills of interest that we are watching are summarized below. We have never seen so many gun control bills, on both sides of the issue. I predict that CCW (Carry Concealed Weapons) license holders will soon be able to carry weapons into many more places that they previously could not, and that openly carrying of weapons may well be allowed. The assault weapons bans appear to have been drafted extremely broadly, and will likely fail in their present forms.

CS/SB 120 - Offenses by Aliens Unlawfully Present in the United States: Requiring specified offenses to be reclassified if committed by such aliens; specifying the reclassification of these offenses; specifying the enhancement of the level of the ranking for purposes of sentencing and gain-time eligibility, etc.

- General Bill by Judiciary, Hutson
- Last Event: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 - 02/22/17 S Subcommittee Recommendation: CS/CS by Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice; YEAS 3 NAYS 2

SB 140 - Openly Carrying a Handgun: Authorizing a compliant licensee to openly carry a handgun, etc.

- General Bill by Steube
- Last Event: Thursday, December 29, 2016 - 12/29/16 S On Committee agenda-- Judiciary, 01/10/17, 2:00 pm, 110 Senate Office Building --Meeting cancelled

SB 254 - Gun Safety: Prohibiting the sale or transfer of an assault weapon or large capacity ammunition magazine; prohibiting possession of an assault weapon or large-capacity magazine; requiring certificates of possession for assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines lawfully possessed before a specified date; providing enhanced criminal penalties for certain offenses when committed with an assault weapon or large capacity magazine, etc.

- General Bill by Stewart (CO-SPONSORS) Farmer

- Last Event: Thursday, January 12, 2017 - 01/12/17 S Referred to Judiciary; Criminal Justice; Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Appropriations

HB 167 - Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines:

Prohibits sale or transfers of assault weapon or large capacity ammunition magazine; provides exceptions; prohibits possession of assault weapon or large-capacity magazine; provides exceptions; requires certificates of possession for assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines lawfully possessed before specified date; limits transfers of weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines represented by such certificates; provides conditions for continued possession of such weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines; requires certificates of transfer for transfers of assault weapons or large capacity magazines; provides for relinquishment of assault weapons or large capacity magazines; provides requirements for transportation of assault weapons; specifies circumstances in which manufacture or transportation of assault weapons or large capacity magazines is not prohibited; provides enhanced criminal penalties for certain offenses when committed with assault weapon or large capacity magazine.

- General Bill by Smith

- Last Event: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 - Now in Criminal Justice Subcommittee

SB 170 - Prohibited Places for Weapons and Firearms:

Revising the locations where a licensee is prohibited from openly carrying a handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm, etc.

- General Bill by Braynon

- Last Event: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 - 01/10/17 S Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

SB 610 - Firearms: Requiring a business, organization, or entity that prohibits a concealed weapon or firearm licensee from carrying a weapon or firearm onto its property to assume certain responsibility for the safety and defense of such licensee; providing a cause of action for a concealed weapon or firearm licensee who incurs injury, death, damage, or loss as the result of certain acts or attacks occurring on the property of such business, organization, or entity or on

Continued on page 18 

Hey Everyone... it's Minnie's 1st Birthday Party... come celebrate!



8PM Friday February 17th
Live Music by Soulcide
 Bring your pet & have a blast!

Plus... JP SOARS ON THE 10TH
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From Brad "Blackball" Winston (Cont. from page 16)

other specified properties, etc.

- General Bill by Steube

- Last Event: Thursday, February 09, 2017 - 02/09/17 S
Referred to Judiciary; Appropriations; Rules

HB 611 - Expunging and Sealing Criminal History

Records: Establishes nonjudicial expunction process within FDLE for specified criminal history records; specifies types of records eligible; provides for effect of expunction; revises provisions relating to court-ordered expunction; revises provisions relating to nonjudicial process within FDLE for sealing of specified records.

- General Bill by Pritchett

- Last Event: Thursday, February 09, 2017 - Now in Criminal Justice Subcommittee

SB 618 - Concealed Weapons and Firearms:

Authorizing a concealed weapons or concealed firearms licensee to temporarily surrender a weapon or firearm if the licensee approaches courthouse security or management personnel upon arrival and follows their instructions, etc.

- General Bill by Steube

- Last Event: Thursday, February 16, 2017 - 02/16/17 S
Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

SB 620 - Concealed Weapons or Firearms:

Authorizing a concealed weapons or concealed firearms licensee to carry a concealed weapon or firearm into any meeting or committee meeting of the Legislature, etc.

- General Bill by Steube

- Last Event: Thursday, February 16, 2017 - 02/16/17 S
Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

SB 622 - Concealed Weapons or Firearms:

Prohibiting a concealed weapons or concealed firearms licensee from carrying a concealed weapon or firearm into any athletic event for a K-12 school, college, or university which is not related to firearms; deleting an exception authorizing a student, employee, or faculty licensee to carry specified nonlethal weapons, etc.

- General Bill by Steube

- Last Event: Thursday, February 16, 2017 - 02/16/17 S
Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and

Accountability; Appropriations; Rules

SB 626 - Concealed Weapons or Firearms: Authorizing a concealed weapons or concealed firearms licensee to carry a concealed weapon or firearm into any meeting of the governing body of a county, public school district, municipality, or special district, etc.

- General Bill by Steube

- Last Event: Thursday, February 16, 2017 - 02/16/17 S
Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

SB 640 - Concealed Weapons or Firearms: Concealed Weapons or Firearms: Authorizing a concealed weapons or concealed firearms licensee to carry a concealed weapon or firearm into any career center, etc.

- General Bill by Steube

Effective Date: 07/01/2017

Last Event: 02/16/17 S Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules on Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:27 PM

SB 644 - Openly Carrying a Handgun: Openly Carrying a Handgun: Authorizing a concealed weapons or firearms licensee to openly carry a handgun, etc.

- General Bill by Steube

Effective Date: 07/01/2017

Last Event: 02/16/17 S Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules on Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:27 PM

SB 646 - Weapons and Firearms: Weapons and Firearms: Providing that a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon or firearm who is lawfully carrying a firearm does not violate certain provisions if the firearm is temporarily and openly displayed; authorizing each member of the Florida Cabinet to carry a concealed weapon or firearm if he or she is licensed to carry a concealed weapon or firearm and does not have full-time security provided by the Department of Law Enforcement, etc.

- General Bill by Steube

Effective Date: 07/01/2017

Last Event: 02/16/17 S Referred to Judiciary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules on Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:27 PM



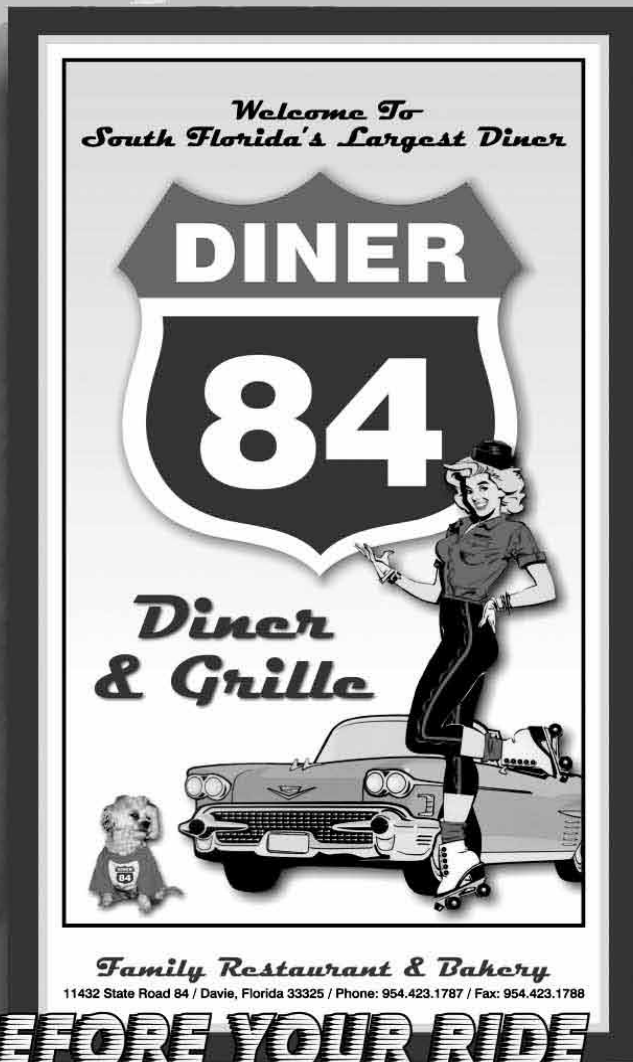
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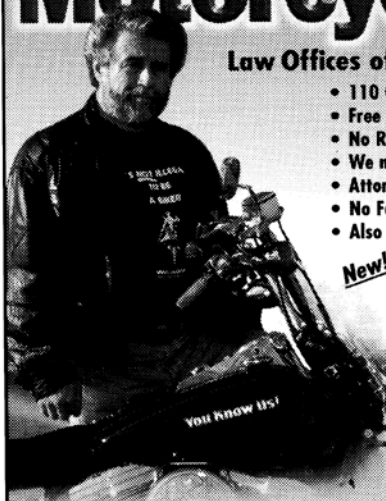
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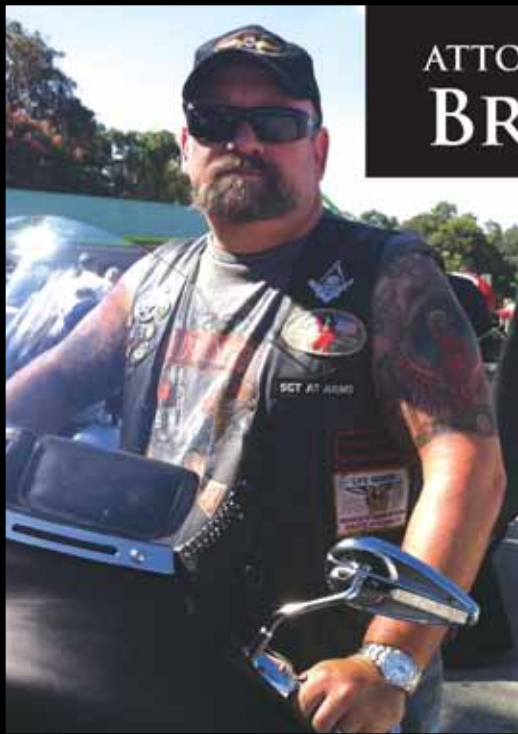
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*Here is an editorial that was published in the DAILY COMMERCIAL newspaper on Sunday Jan. 1, 2017 in support of the helmet law. Darrin "Scribe" (ABATE State VP & Legislative Rep) responded to the editor. The original editorial in is printed here. Darrin's comments are in **BOLD**.*

Dear Editor: I have taken the opportunity to respond to your editorial. My comments will be inserted in [bold] where needed. Thank you, Darrin "Scribe" Brooks

Editorial: In favor of the helmet law
Jan 1, 2017

A local lawmaker has filed a bill that would require all motorcycle riders to wear helmets in Florida, a measure that is long overdue.

State Rep. Don Hahnfeldt, R-The Villages, said he filed the helmet bill because he believes it will save lives and taxpayer money. (**"He 'believes' it will save lives and taxpayer money." Did he provide any proof that this will happen? Or is this just one of those generic feel-good statements like "I want to stop world hunger?"**)

Hahnfeldt correctly noted that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration labeled Florida as the leader in motorcycle fatalities.

There is little question that other factors play into the Sunshine State's dubious record-setting achievement. It is one of the largest states, so it stands to reason that Florida has more motorcycle riders than most states. It also has pleasant year-round weather, which means bikers are riding 12 months of the year because they don't have to deal with snow, sleet, bitter cold and other adverse conditions.

But there is also little question that the 2000 law that made it optional for bikers over 21 to wear helmets has exponentially increased the carnage on Florida's highways (**Please see table 1 below for the proof that the fatality rate per number of registered motorcycles has actually DECREASED since 2000. In 2000 the death rate per registrations was 8.5. In 2015 the death rate dropped to 4.6 per registered motorcycles**)

"Now 16 years later we have doubled the number of motorcycle fatalities (**they don't tell you that in the past 16 years motorcycle registered has increased from 289,760 in 2000 to 1,227,674 in 2016**) and cost hundreds of lives and hundreds of millions of dollars in medical costs, attorney and legal fees and lost productivity, not to mention the pain and suffering of families of loved ones who have been killed on our highways or severely injured permanently simply because they did not wear helmets," Hahnfeldt told Daily Commercial reporter Livi Stanford last week. (**Show me the stats where he gets this "hundreds of millions of dollars"? Not to mention that they are making the assumption that all of this money was passed on to the Florida taxpayers. That whole quote is "silly and defies logic and science"... Oh wait.. You will hear those exact words in a few paragraphs**)

Predictably, Hahnfeldt's bill is drawing opposition for bikers who believe the bill infringes on their freedom.

If you've ever ridden a motorcycle, you know - and even if you haven't ridden one, you can imagine -

the sense of peace and freedom you feel with the wind blowing against your face and through your hair, the sun shining on you as you cruise down the highway sans helmet.

But when weighed against the sobering state and national statistics on injuries and deaths among helmetless riders, the rider's freedom to choose pales. **(again, look at Table 1, the death rate per number of registered motorcycles has been cut in almost half since 2000)**

According to the Center for Urban Transportation Research study, after the universal helmet law was repealed, motorcycle crashes and fatalities increased sharply. The report stated that while motorcyclist injuries nationwide increased 60 percent between 2001 and 2008, they ballooned 85 percent in Florida during that time. **(During that time motorcycle registrations increased from 289,760 to 649,210.. See Table 1...)**

Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety, a public interest group, concluded that in 2013, in states without an all-rider helmet law, 59 percent of the motorcyclists killed were not wearing helmets, as opposed to only 8 percent in states with all-rider helmet laws in 2013. **(invalid stat.. it is like saying drivers in Orlando have a 59% chance of being stuck in traffic as opposed to only 8% of drivers in Weirsdale... Riders in states that have all-rider helmet laws HAVE to wear helmets, that is why the helmetless deaths are so low.)**

Motorcycle groups like ABATE, of course, serve up their own data **(really? Our OWN data? Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles doesn't count? Or do the facts get in the way of your article?)** to show that there is no correlation between helmet use and death rate. Some overly ambitious bikers will even argue that there is a greater incidence of death and injury among helmeted riders than non-helmeted riders, **(as a matter of fact.. the 2015 FHSMV Crash Facts show that 296 riders wearing a DOT approved or other helmet died compared to 237 without a helmet. https://flhsmv.gov/pdf/crashreports/crash_facts_2015.pdf)** which is silly and defies logic and science. **(see, I told you would see those words again. I think that writing something for the newspaper without checking your facts is silly and defies logic and science, But then I am just a biker.)**

As for the arguments that the law infringes on riders' freedoms, we say this: Of course it does. Most laws prohibit behavior that lawmakers and the public at large judge too risky or too detrimental to the individual or the common good. In that regard, the helmet law is no different than laws that proscribe smoking in public places or wearing seat belts in cars. **(In 2015 632 pedestrians were killed in Florida, should we force people walking to wear helmets? https://flhsmv.gov/pdf/crashreports/crash_facts_2015.pdf)**

We support Rep. Hahnfeldt's bill and encourage you to contact you local legislators and get them behind it as well.(ABATE of Florida, Inc. does not support this bill as it has no basis in fact and only uses emotion and "feel good" rhetoric.)

+++++

Please see Table 1 [next page]..... I also have included other documented facts.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/html/VulnerableUsersRpts/Motorcycles2009.pdf>

I am using the 2008 report to show how many registered motorcycles were in 2000 compared to 2015

TABLE 1 - The graph below is from FHSMV 2008 Traffic Safety Statistics

Year	Fatalities	Registrations	Rate
2015	546	1,185,787	4.6

The death rate per registered motorcycles has “exponentially” **DECREASED** the “carnage” on Florida Highways.

Motorcycles vs. All Vehicles (Fatality Rate per 10,000 Registrations)

<i>Motorcycles</i>			<i>All Vehicles</i>			
Year	Fatalities	Registrations	Fatality Rate	Fatalities	Registrations	Fatality Rate
2000	246	289,760	8.5	2,999	11,948,485	2.5
2001	276	323,301	8.5	3,013	13,448,202	2.2
2002	304	366,196	8.3	3,143	12,989,278	2.4
2003	365	432,732	8.4	3,179	14,080,886	2.3
2004	416	489,167	8.5	3,257	14,512,264	2.2
2005	477	561,455	8.5	3,533	15,062,993	2.3
2006	550	599,036	9.2	3,365	15,612,161	2.2
2007	550	647,968	8.5	3,221	14,858,332	2.2
2008	532	649,210	8.2	2,983	15,966,287	1.9

Encourage all drivers to share the road with motorcyclists.

When motorcycles crash with other vehicles, the other vehicle driver usually violates the motorcyclist’s right-of-way (NHTSA, 2011b). Motorcycles and motorcyclists are smaller visual targets than cars or trucks and drivers may not expect to see motorcycles on the road. Many states have conducted communications and outreach campaigns to increase other drivers’ awareness of motorcyclists.

NHTSA (2011b). Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasures Guide for State Highway Safety Offices. Sixth Edition, 2011. DOT HS 811 444. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. <http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/811444.pdf>

This is to help everyone know that some people who are for the helmet bill will use only half of the facts and throw away the facts that go against their argument. ABATE of Florida, Inc. is neither pro-helmet nor anti-helmet. We want all riders to make the best choice for themselves. And we want the facts to be stated correctly.

ABATE of Florida, Inc. has a patented “Motorcycle Awareness Safety Program” that educates the general public to be aware of motorcycles on the road. When given the financial resources we have shown education can results in decreased deaths, but that is another story that will not get printed.

I know that you won’t print this but if you have any questions, please email me.

**Darrin “Scribe” Brooks,
State Vice President
State Legislative Trustee
ABATE of Florida, Inc.
flabatestatevp@gmail.com**



MARCH 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Hernandad M/C Annual	6 States MC Pompano Dinner	7	8	9	10 76th Daytona Bike Week Fri. March 10 - Sun. March 19	11
12	13 States MC Pompano Dinner	14	15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18
19 Keltics M/C Annual	20 States MC Pompano Dinner	21	22	23	24	25 US Military Vets M/C (Chapter 1) Party
CHAPTER MEETING						
26	27 States MC Pompano Dinner	28	29	30	31	

Always **Check the Hotline** for more additional information: 954-310-4636...
Sometimes "Events" get missed or don't get listed in time for the Calendar.



APRIL 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
States M/C Annual ²	States MC Pompano Dinner ³	4	5	6	7	Mystic Seven M/C Party ⁸ Freedom Ride (Tallahassee)
ABATE State Meeting (Tallahassee) ⁹	States MC Pompano Dinner ¹⁰	11	12	13	14	Outcast M/C Annual ¹⁵
EASTER ¹⁶ CMA Easter Service	States MC Pompano Dinner ¹⁷	18	19	20	21	22
Alternative M/C Annual ²³ CHAPTER MEETING	States MC Pompano Dinner ²⁴	25	26	Leesburg Bikefest ²⁷ Apr. 27- Apr. 30	28	29
30						

Always **Check the Hotline** for more additional information: 954-310-4636...
Sometimes "Events" get missed or don't get listed in time for the Calendar.

2017 CALENDAR

MANDATORY CLUB EVENTS ARE LISTED IN BOLD



SOUTH FLORIDA PRESIDENTS COUNCIL
of Motorcycle Clubs and Organizations

CALENDAR EVENT

FOR CHANGES EMAIL:

INDIAN (WOM MC)

Indianwommc@yahoo.com

SFPC CHARIMAN

AUGUST

- 6: WINGS OF GOLD MC MIAMI - PARTY
- 7: 77th STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY
- 11-13: S. FLORIDA TATTOO CONVENTION
- 13: AOA FT. LAUD. 50th ANNIVERSARY & MOLDY'S B-DAY PARTY
- 19: LOS COQUIS MC - SMOKEY & DIESEL B-DAY
- 26: OUTCAST MC PARTY

MARCH

- 5: HERMANDAD MC - ANNUAL
- 10-19: DAYTONA BIKE WEEK
- 17: St. Patrick's Day
- 19: KELTICS MC - ANNUAL
- 25: US MILITARY VETS MC CH.1 - PARTY

APRIL

- 2: STATES MC - ANNUAL
- 8: MYSTIC SEVEN MC - PARTY
- 15: OUTCAST MC - ANNUAL
- 16: EASTER
- 16: CMA EASTER SERVICE
- 23: ALTERNATIVE MC - ANNUAL
- 28: LEESBURG BIKEFEST

MAY

- 7: SOUTHERN MC - ANNUAL
- 13: SCURVY FEW MC - ANNUAL
- 14: Mothers day
- 20: WINGS OF GOLD MC MIAMI - ANNUAL
- 27: S.E. ABATE - MEMORIAL DAY EVENT
- 28: LOS COQUIS MC - ANNUAL
- 30: Memorial Day

JUNE

- 4: NEW ATTITUDES MC - PARTY
- 10: AOA SOUTH FLORIDA MEMORIAL GBNF 1%ers
- 11: WINGS OF GOLD MC FT. LAUD. - ANNUAL
- 18: Fathers Day
- 24: LEATHERNECKS MC - PARTY

JULY

- 1: US MILITARY VETS MC S. BROWARD - ANNUAL
- 4: Independence Day
- 16: SOLDIERS FOR JESUS MC BROWARD - ANNUAL
- 29: WHEELS OF MAN MC - CHILI COOK-OFF



MONTHLY EVENTS

FRIDAY

- Outlaws MC WPB Open House at 7PM
- USMV MC Ch 2 Open house at 8PM (Dania Beach)
- Der Krieger MC Open House at 8PM
- Mystic 7 MC Open House... Ladies drink FREE!
- Keltics MC Open House
- Los Coquis MC Open House at 8:30PM til ??
- 1st Fri - Soldiers for Jesus Open House 7-10PM
- 1st Fri - Enforcers MC First Friday of Month Party
- 1st & 3rd Fri - Kingdom of Brothers Open House
- 2nd & 4th Fri - Los Coquis MC Open house
- 3rd Fri - Wings of Gold MC Open House Davie
- 4th Fri - American Legion Post 36 Bike Night

SATURDAY

- 1st & 3rd Sat - AOA MC Dania Open House
- 2nd Sat - USMV MC Ft. Laud. Open House
- 2nd & 4th Sat - Mystic 7 Open House
- 2nd & 4th Sat - Kingdom of Brothers Open House

SUNDAY

- Free pool at Sharkey's Lounge Margate
- Wind Rider Church Services at Mickeys

WEEK DAYS

- Mon - States MC Pompano Dinner Nite 6:30pm start
- Mon - Ladies nite at Sharkey's 9-2, 241 beverages
- Tues - Lone Legion Brotherhood Open House
- Last Tues - USMVMC Palm Bch Open House
- Wed - Scurvy Few MC Open House 954-325-6838
- Wed - Blues Nite at Mickey's
- Thurs - Leathernecks MC Open House 8-mid
- Thurs - Hermandad MC Open House, 8-2am
- 3rd Thurs - Peterson's Harley South Bike nite 6-10PM

ROAD CAPTAIN REPORT



Hey Everyone,

If you are reading this article and the ABATE S.E. Chapter newsletter, thank you for taking the time to do so.

Wow, hasn't the weather has been great for riding? I guess that's why we all live in Florida.

We had a couple of good rides to a few events. Sorry to say I missed a couple due to health reasons. I would like to thank those who went on the rides and thank the MC's for inviting ABATE to

their events.

Those that do not go to the MC's events really miss out as they are always a good time with good food and lots of eye candy. Oh Yeah!

To all that are going to Daytona Bike Week, have a safe trip and enjoy.

Some events coming up in March:

March 5th	Hermandad MC – Annual
March 10-19	Daytona Bike Week
March 19th	Keltics MC Annual
March 25th	US Military Vets Chapter 1 party

Hope to see you all there. If at all possible I will have group rides.

**To be included in texts
about these and/or
other events
Contact Wavy
at 954-261-9242**

A couple of facts about Harley Davidson:

- *Forbes magazine founder, Malcolm Forbes, didn't start riding Harley Davidson motorcycles till the age of 40. He loved them so much that he owned 50 of them and began giving them away as gifts.*
- *Harley Davidsons were first called Hogs in 1920. Their race team mascot was a pig and after each victory the rider would put the pig on the gas tank and drive a victory lap.*

Well that's all for now. Look for more fun facts next month, until then...
Enjoy life, ride a motorcycle.

Jon "Wavy" Viger
Road Captain



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Bagpipe

Blarney Stone

Brogue

Cabbage

Celtic

Charm

Clover

Coins

Corned Beef

Erin Go Bragh

Four Leaf

Gold

Green

Ireland

Irish

Jig

Leprechaun

Limerick

Luck

March

Parade

Pot o' Gold

Rainbow

Saint Patrick

Shamrock

Shillelagh

Snakes

Top o' the mornin'

ABATE Of Florida, Inc Lake County Chapter's Campground Open to the Public for Leesburg BikeFest™



Campground is off of Hwy 27 & CR 48 --6 miles S from downtown LSBG. Coming from N on 27 pass CR33, & Turn Right at gas station, by light. Traveling S on 27, turn left at the light onto CR48, look for signs.

RVs Welcome \$20 & Trailers \$10 one time Fee
NO hook ups- NO Reservations- Cash Only

- *24 Hr Security
- *Hot Showers
- *Bike Blessing
- *50/50 & Prizes
- *Wreath Drawing
- *NO PETS

DATES: April 27, 28, 29, 30th --- -2017
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Gates close Sunday at noon.
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ABATE of Florida, Inc, Lake web: <http://lake.abateflorida.com/>

- *Live Band Thur
- Fri- Bottoms Up**
- Sat- Evil Monkey**
- * Tiki Bar outside
- *Sat Poker Run
- *Food available
- @ Eagles Aerie**
- ***VENDORS**

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Take-A-Break Poker Run

Sat sign up outside of the ABATE campground from 9:30-11. Last bike back to campground by 4:30. Cost \$10 pp. Plaques awarded*** About 100 mile ride.
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Our mission is to lobby and educate the government and general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image.

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 Wayne "Loffi n' Wayne" Bragg
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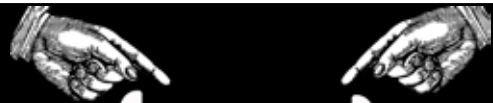
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Fell from above

Past President Johnny Rose and his wife Sheila have been married about a year - congratulations and God Bless them. I have a good story about what happened just before I performed the ceremony.

They came to me and asked if I could do the ceremony, I told them yes. They asked how much I would charge them, I told them I don't charge for

doing something in the name of God.

It was about a couple of months later I had the honor of performing their Marriage. It went great.

They did a nice motorcycle involved ceremony, along with the sand ceremony. They rode there on separate bikes and left on one, really cool.

When I was filling out the paperwork Johnny came to me and handed me an envelope, I told him I wouldn't take any payment. He then proceeded to tell me about what happened to him and Sheila a few days before.

They were riding when they saw what they thought was a dollar bill. When they retrieved it, it was a one hundred dollar bill. That just fell out of the sky! They both came to the conclusion that the money came from God. They wanted to give it back to God, being it was found money, not out of their pocket.

Johnny told me the story and I felt the same way. He gave it to me and I donated to the church the next day.

Now I don't know how you feel about this, but I know that Johnny and Sheila's marriage will be and is Blessed.

Just remember God works in ways we sometimes don't understand, but He is always working.

As always
Your Chaplain
Poppie





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HB6009 Update.....Although they have not yet planned to meet, the helmet bill has been assigned to committees. It has only been given two committees so we need to keep in contact with our legislators.

If any of these people are your legislator, please call their office to let them know that HB 6009 has been assigned to one of their committees (tell them which committee). Ask them again for their support in OPPOSING HB 6009. See Darrin's last few articles for talking points and remember NOT TO HARASS the legislators or their staff. Always speak in a calm easy voice, do not argue and do not post negative things about a legislator.

The first committee that it will be heard in is the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee:

Brad Drake - Chair
Clay Ingram - Vice Chair
Barbara Watson - Ranking Democrat
Kimberly Daniels
Michael Grant
Kristin Diane Jacobs
Amber Mariano
Ralph Massullo
Mike Miller
Wengay Newton
Bobby Payne
Jackie Toledo
Matt Willhite
Jayer Williamson
Clay Yarborough

The second and last committee is the Government Accountability Committee:

Matt Caldwell - Chair
Charlie Stone - Vice Chair
Clovis Watson - Ranking Democrat member
Joseph Abruzzo
Ben Albritton
Colleen Burton
Neil Combee
Brad Drake
Jay Fant
Patrick Henry
Kristin Diane Jacobs
Chris Latvala
Amber Mariano
Wengay Newton
Cary Pigman
Scott Plakon
Holly Raschein
Daniel Raulerson
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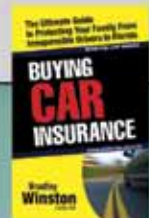
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2. Why comparison shopping can save you money.
3. How much uninsured motorist coverage to buy.
4. What to say when your insurance agent suggests you buy an "umbrella policy."
5. Where to look in your policy to determine your current coverage.

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NCOM BIKER NEWSBYTES

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish,
National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

BUTCH HARBAUGH. GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

It is with great sadness that we report the death of longtime Freedom Fighter, Butch Harbaugh, former Chairman of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists - Legislative Task Force (NCOM-LTF), among other positions. Butch passed away February 7th from heart failure and cancer.

“When I began as the AIM (Aid to Injured Motorcyclists) and NCOM Attorney for Oregon back in the late 1980’s, Butch was actively involved with ABATE, and with BikePAC since it was founded,” recalls Sam Hochberg, AIM Attorney Emeritus, and now Of Counsel to Christopher Slater, Oregon & Washington AIM Attorney. “He spent many years as the lobbyist for ABATE, and was well-known, respected and liked by many in the legislature in Salem.”

A biker rights activist since the 1970s, Butch attended and helped organize many STEAM conferences and ABATE/BikePac planning retreats. He was a regular at many ABATE runs around the state, often helping AIM Chief of Staff “Gunny”, now retired, at the AIM/NCOM tables, and was known and highly respected in the biker’s rights community nationwide.

Butch also participated in many NCOM Conventions, and in 2003 was bestowed with the Ron Roloff Lifetime Achievement Award, NCOM’s highest tribute. This year’s 32nd Annual Convention, to be held over Mother’s Day weekend May 11-14th in Reno, Nevada at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino, will be dedicated in his honor.

For the past dozen or so years, Butch lived with his loving wife Laura in Rigby, Idaho, where he enjoyed riding his Panhead and was active in the home-brewing community. Always friendly, engaging and enthusiastic

about motorcycles and biker’s rights, he will be greatly missed.

With the 32nd Annual NCOM Convention in Reno just weeks away, at this time the National Coalition of Motorcyclists is requesting that MROs, motorcycle clubs, and riding associations submit the names of those members and supporters who have died since last May, so that we may honor their memories during the traditional “Ringing of the Bell” tribute to fallen riders during the opening ceremonies. Dedications should be e-mailed in advance to Bill Bish at NCOMBish@aol.com, or can be hand-delivered at the Convention to “Doc” Reichenbach, NCOM Chairman of the Board.

NHTSA SEEKS TO CURB DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is proposing new federal guidelines to provide a safety framework for developers of portable and aftermarket electronic devices to use when developing visual-manual user interfaces for their systems. According to NHTSA and the Department of Transportation (DOT), their “Visual-Manual NHTSA Driver Distraction Guidelines for Portable and Aftermarket Devices” [Docket No. NHTSA-2013-0137] will “encourage innovative solutions such as pairing and Driver Mode that, when implemented, will reduce the potential for unsafe driver distraction by limiting the time a driver’s eyes are off the road, while at the same time preserving the full functionality of these devices when they are not used while driving.”

Driver distraction is a specific type of inattention that occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the driving task to focus on another activity. This distraction can come from electronic devices, such as texting or emailing on cell phones or smartphones, and more traditional activities such as interacting with passengers, eating, or events external to the vehicle.

The crash data indicate that visual-manual interaction (an action that requires a user to look away from the roadway and manipulate a button or interface) with portable devices, particularly cell phones, is often the main distraction for drivers involved in crashes.

In 2015, 10% of the 35,092 traffic fatalities involved one or more distracted drivers, and these distraction-affected crashes resulted in 3,477 fatalities, an 8.8% increase from the 3,197 fatalities in 2014. Of the 5.6 million non-

fatal crashes in 2014, 16% were distraction-affected crashes, and resulted in 424,000 people injured.

At any given time, an estimated 542,073 drivers are using hand-held cell phones while driving.

Currently no safety guidelines exist for portable device technologies when they are used during a driving task.

RESEARCHERS BLAME “OTHER DRIVERS” FOR MOST MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS

An Australian study states “failure of other drivers to give way” as the most common factor in motorcycle accidents. Research by Monash University in Melbourne has found that human error was the primary contributing factor for 94% of bike accidents. “Whilst with single-bike crashes, rider error and loss of control were found to be the most common causes, for incidents involving more than one vehicle, it was found that ‘motorcycle crashes occurring in lighter traffic more likely involved an error by another driver, including such things as failure to give way’.”

The motorcycle crash research studied over two hundred and thirty accidents between January 2012 and August 2014, with nurses at the hospitals and crash scene investigators aiding with the compilation of the data.

“Whilst car drivers were responsible for the majority of accidents in less-dense traffic, it was the motorcyclist to be more likely at fault for most ‘urban’ crashes and collisions however,” Trevor Allen of the Monash University Research Centre told The Herald Sun newspaper, adding that this was most likely due to the greater frequency of danger; “Higher traffic density leads to more hazards and a higher level of difficulty for riders to move safely in and among traffic, compared with other vehicles.”

The research also found that the older the rider, the less likely it was that the rider was primarily to blame for the accident.

STUDY SHOWS MOTORCYCLE MARKET EXPANDS WHILE E-MOTO SALES FLATTEN

According to a study by the market research company Freedonia Group, global demand for all types of motorcycles is projected to climb 3.8% per year through 2020 to 113 million units. Internal combustion engine (ICE) models have historically dominated the global motorcycle market, but demand for e-bikes and electric scooters, motorcycles, and mopeds has grown rapidly.

In 2005, electric models accounted for just 22% of worldwide motorcycle sales. Their share of the market grew to 35% in 2015, as the use of electric motorcycles in China increased sharply.

“Multiple developed countries – particularly Germany, the Netherlands, and the U.S. – also registered rapid electric product sales growth during the 2010-2015 period,” said analyst Gleb Mytko.

Global demand for ICE motorcycles is forecast to increase 5.5% per year through 2020, according to Freedonia Group’s World Motorcycle Sales Study, with advances fueled by strong ICE product sales gains in a wide range of industrializing nations. As personal incomes in these countries rise between 2015 and 2020, more households will be able to afford motorcycles. Improving market conditions in the U.S., Western Europe, Japan, and other mature markets will contribute to growth as well.

Worldwide sales of e-bikes and electric motorcycles, scooters, and mopeds is projected to be flat during the 2015-2020 period because of declining product demand in China, by far the world’s largest market for electric models, though demand for electric motorcycles outside of that country is forecast to grow at a double-digit annual pace.

In developed nations, e-bikes will continue to rapidly capture market share from bicycles.

LANE-SPLITTING BILL INTRODUCED IN LONE STAR STATE

Texas is contemplating becoming only the second state, after California, to allow motorcycle riders to split lanes in heavy traffic under certain conditions. Senate Bill 228 was introduced on December 9, 2016, and if passed would make it legal for motorcycles to ride between lanes of traffic on limited-access or controlled-access highways during periods of traffic congestion at a speed not more than 5 mph above the speed of other traffic, and only if that traffic is moving at 20 mph or less.

Lane-splitting, which was a long-standing but legally-ambiguous practice in California until it was made legal there in 2016, is common in Europe where motorcycles typically “filter” to the front of the line at intersections and ride between lanes of traffic in crowded cities. Lane-splitting advocates in the U.S. cite the safety of the practice overseas as well as its effect on reducing traffic congestion.

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATION COULD REPEAL HANDLEBAR HEIGHT LAW

Legislation repealing the restriction on the height of motorcycle handlebars -- Senate Bill 27, by Senator Harold French (R-Franklin) -- carried the New Hampshire Senate by a voice vote on January 19 and has been referred to the House of Representatives where most likely it will be assigned to the Transportation Committee.

The current law prescribes that the hand grips can be no higher than the shoulders of a rider seated in the saddle. Charlie St. Clair, executive director of the Laconia Motorcycle Week Association, told the Laconia Daily Sun that if the House endorses and the governor signs the bill, New Hampshire will become the 19th state and first in New England not to restrict the height of handlebars, but it's not clear whether the restriction will be lifted before the 94th running of Laconia Motorcycle Week in June.

As the host of the nation's oldest rally, which attracts visitors from across the country, St. Clair said that New Hampshire should not impose restrictions that may inconvenience motorcyclists from other states. Limits in other states vary considerably from shoulder height in Massachusetts, Maine and Connecticut, to eye level in some states and to heights above the saddle measured in inches in others. Most restrictions on high bars, called "ape hangers" were introduced in the 1960s. Although touted as a safety measure, many motorcyclists claimed the restrictions were imposed to provide police with a pretext for stopping and searching bikers.

MISSISSIPPI CONSIDERS LOWERING SALES TAX ON MOTORCYCLES

Legislation has been introduced (House Bill No. 1631 by Representative Steve Hopkins R-D7) which would "reduce the sales tax rate on retail sales of motorcycles from 7% to 5%," as well as reduce the sales tax on other agricultural and farming products. On February 15, the legislation was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

QUINCY MIDNIGHT MOTORCYCLE BAN - FALSE!

According to the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association (MMA), a recent report on quincy.com indicating that the City of Quincy, MA, has instituted a ban against any motorcycle being ridden between the hours of Midnight and 5am, unless exempted for work or emergency purposes, is NOT correct.

Although such a proposal was indeed filed, the council

member who introduced it "immediately asked that it be withdrawn" after learning that such a proposal would not be legal.

NCOM CONVENTION ROLLS INTO RENO

The 32nd annual NCOM Convention will be held Mother's Day weekend, May 11-14, 2017 at the Silver Legacy Resort-Casino, located at 407 N. Virginia St. in Reno, Nevada so reserve your room now for the special NCOM rate of \$99 by calling (800) 687-8733 and mention "GNCOM17".

The largest gathering of motorcycle rights activists in the world, this year's NCOM Convention will draw over a thousand concerned bikers from across the country to the "Biggest Little City in the World" to engage in serious discussions on topics of concern to all riders.

All motorcyclists are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the many meetings, seminars and group discussions that focus on legislative efforts and litigation techniques to protect our riders' rights and preserve Freedom of the Road.

Topics will range from legal and legislative issues to organizational effectiveness, with Special Meetings for Veterans Affairs, Women in Motorcycling, Clean & Sober Roundtable and World of Sport Bikes, as well as the Christian Unity Conference and Confederation of Clubs Patch Holders Meeting.


NCOM has successfully outreached to numerous segments of the motorcycling community in an effort to unite for our rights, both legal and legislatively, and has become a unifying voice amongst North America's motorcycle rights organizations (MROs), motorcycle clubs, women riders, religious riding organizations, touring groups, trikers, sportbikers, and minority motorcyclists.

To pre-register for the 2017 NCOM Convention, contact the National Coalition of Motorcyclists at (800) 525-5355 or visit www.ON-A-BIKE.com.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."



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Due to the large expense incurred mailing our monthly newsletter, effective January 2014 the newsletter will no longer be mailed to your home address. REMEMBER: The ABATE SE newsletter is free on-line at the Chapter's website: www.abatese.org. You may also pick up a copy of the newsletter at any of our 38 distribution sites located in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties or at our monthly Chapter meeting held on the third Sunday of the month at 10AM at various locations within our service area. Please call the hotline 954-310-4636 for meeting location or see our website. If you have any questions, please contact the SE Chapter President.



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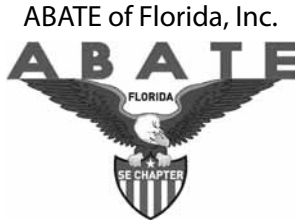
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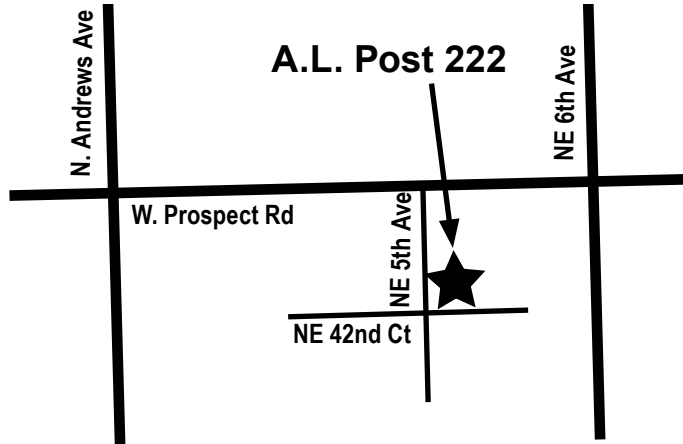
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To provide a lobbyist to represent ABATE of Florida, Inc. on the state and national level.

To promote voter registration and motivate members to write their legislators.

To promote safe riding habits without infringing on individual rights.

To educate the public about motorcycle awareness.

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UPCOMING SE CHAPTER MEETINGS

March 19, 2017 - Sunday 10AM

April 23, 2017 - Sunday 10AM

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