

ABATE of Michigan

Fighting for the rights of all motorcyclists since 1976

Riding free since 2012!!

Official Michigan Rider Newsletter

July 2026



Gary Kopta, Congressman Tim Walberg
(MI-05), Jinx



Jinx, Congresswoman Kristen McDonald
Rivet (MI-08), Gary Kopta

Michigan MRF State Rep Jinx and ABATE of Michigan President Gary Kopta traveled to Washington, D.C. for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation's annual Bikers Inside the Beltway event.

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*Monthly Michigan Rider
Newsletter*

On the Go??

*Read /Download your On-
Line Copy here:*

https://www.

*abateofmichigan.org/
michigan-rider-newsletter.
html*

https://abateofmichigan.org/



Visit our Website for
downloadable
flyers, forms, monthly
newsletters, events and much
more!!

www.abateofmichigan.org

*Michigan Rider
DEADLINE*

Monthly Deadline is
The 12th of each
month.



The Prez Report - Gary Kopta

Hello everyone, I just returned from our Freedom Rally in Lansing. It was a good time. It started out with a phone call from Ted Nugent welcoming us all in a way only Ted Nugent could. Then he proceeded to introduce a young lady that played guitar and sang a couple beautiful songs. After that our friends from the timber industry gave their presentation. This is the group that brings the Capital Christmas tree to Lansing every year. When they were done it was my turn. We began with a few helmet laws suck chants followed by region roll call. We had a couple of Reps speak (thanks Rep Greg Alexander and Rep Dave Martin). These two Representatives are strong supporters and ABATE of Michigan members. Also, Rep Martin rode to the Freedom Rally. Always nice to see. Bear spoke about legislative events happening and Jinx talked about the MRF. Magoo also added some comments. Thanks again to those guys for speaking. Especially thanks to all the members that showed up to support us. If you missed it you missed a lot. Along with ABATE and the timber industry we had the best fish dinners again and Denny from the timber industry brought down 12 tubs of ice cream from the U.P. Thanks Scott (Owner of the capital house where event is held) for organizing an outstanding event. It takes a lot to coordinate these many organizations, and Scott did a phenomenal job. Friday morning my wife Debbie and I are heading up to the Field Meet. This field meet should be quite an event also. Merry and her committee have done a great job of setting up a bunch of activities to keep everyone entertained. I was volunteered for the dunk tank so I'm hoping for hot weather. It sounds like there may be a few members that would love to see me in the water.

One last thing. There is an election this year. Some districts are won in the primary meaning if it's mostly a democrat district then the democrat

primary winner is probably going to win the general election. Same for republican districts. Please do your research on the candidates in the primary make sure to vote for the candidate with a good track record or one that has a good line to feed ya. Ride safe everyone.



Phone: 989 781-2306
gkopta1@gmail.com

Gary



State Event - Cash Raffle - October 3rd

ABATE OF MICHIGAN



A total of
\$18,000
in cash prizes



RAFFLE

\$10.00
TICKETS



Cash Prizes are:

- FIRST_ _ _ \$10,000**
- SECOND_ _ \$5,000**
- THIRD_ _ _ \$2,000**
- FOURTH_ _ \$500**
- FIFTH_ _ _ \$500**

Location:

Sanilac County, Evergreen Park
4731 VanDyke Rd.
Cass City, MI 48726

Drawing: Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

Sponsored by: Marine Corps League 157, Monroe Co. Detach Michigan

MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS

GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS HERE!

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

LICENSE #R84064

Please send your ticket stubs to:
ABATE of Michigan Bike Raffle
P.O. Box 1354
Monroe Mi. 48161

Tickets are available from Sherri, Your RC or from
Debbie Townsend
Call: 269 435-2058

*Anyone interested can purchase these tickets it's not
limited to ABATE members.



Secretary Report - Debra Townsend

Hello Everyone,

Finally, there is some good riding weather. I've seen many event flyers in the Rider and the ABATE Facebook page. Hopefully you are getting out there and participating in some of them.

As this is my 3rd month as Secretary, I'm finding there are a lot of things I don't know yet. As time goes on, I'm sure there will be much more. Thank you all for being patient and helping me along the way.

May was very productive with the Awareness campaign.

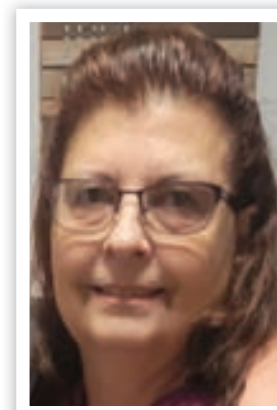
Quite a few donations and I received a fair number of inquiries about wanting to sign up for riding courses.

Great job everyone. Motorcycle Riders Foundation "MRF" reported hundreds of riders went to Washington DC to stand up for motorcyclists' rights. If you're not a member, join the MRF to support the work already happening on your behalf, <https://www.mrf.org/join-the-mrf> Please share.

By the time you read this the Freedom Rally has happened, and the Field Meet will have had many laughs and new friends and memories are made. Keep an eye out on FB and in next months Rider for pics of all the fun. If you missed these events, mark your calendars for the MRF Meeting of the Minds September 24-27, 2026. Only a short ride away in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Check out the ABATE FB page for more information. And don't forget to check out some of the other Regions events.

Y'all have a great rest of the month.

Debra



Phone: 269 435-2058

abatemichsecretary@frontier.com

P.O. Box 19, Sheridan, MI 48884

Where to find us!!



Explore our ABATE of Michigan website at: www.abateofmichigan.org for information including: Region Event Flyers, Bike nights, RC/Region meeting info, Board and Officer contact info, Officer articles, Forms, Classified, ABATE Supporter ads, our monthly Michigan Rider Newsletters, Chain of Events calendar, Document downloads, Maps, Bylaws, Products, MRF, State Events, Legislative updates, Membership forms and online renewal....Everything you need!



We also have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ABATEOFMICHIGAN>



Region Event Flyers

ABATE AMERICAN BIKERS AIMING TOWARD EDUCATION
fundraiser night
 at Foxfire Fairs, Thurs June 25th, 3 pm - 9 pm

ABATE is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting overall rights and promoting safe operating practices of all Michigan motorcyclists.

ABATE OF MICHIGAN - Region 11

Please come support this self-funded, grass-roots organization's very active safety education program.

LOOK TWICE SAVE A LIFE

OUR 4-PART SAFETY PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Rider Education for new and experienced motorcyclists
- Motorcycle Awareness for students in school's at
- Learning Awareness for motorcyclists
- Alcohol Awareness - 3-part: Five Straight Campaign, Workshop with Proves Techniques, and a Ride Model Program

Foxfire Fairs will donate 20% of all meals purchased on June 25th between 3pm and 9pm directly to ABATE of Michigan - Region 11

Delicious Food + A Good Cause = A Great Time!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!
 7200 River Road, Marine City, MI 48039
 (810) 765-8255 - www.foxfirefairs.com
includes alcohol drinks, taxes and tip

ABATE OF MICHIGAN
REGION 11

32nd ANNUAL OBSERVATION RUN

Sunday July 12th, 2026

STARTS AT: JJ KNAPPS TAVERN
 67126 Gratiot Richmond, MI 48062

Located on the east side of Gratiot, between 31 mile & Main St

FOOD MENU AVAILABLE

Sign in from 10:30 - Noon

Prizes for: Best 3 hands and 50/50

For more information, please call or text Cowboy at 586-746-4765

Or email: gochorfaservices@yahoo.com

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS

*This event is a bonus stamp in the ABATE Region 11



ABATE OF MICHIGAN REGION 13
 GRAND RAPIDS • MOUNTAIN • CAHOON

PAC RIDE 2026
August 1st
 Proud Vets
 7901 Benn Rd

More information Call DANO 517-414-8183
 All proceeds goes to MMPAC

Registration opens at 11am
 Kickstands up at noon
 \$20 for rider
 \$5 passenger

8TH ANNUAL Ricky D MEMORIAL RUN

We will start and finish at
Lapeer VFW
 128 Daley Rd Lapeer MI
KICKSTANDS up at NOON
 doors open at 10am

Call Kevin Daley (517) 614-0101 with any questions

Rick Daley Memorial Run Saturday August 15th, 2026

A 10% per person donation will go to ABATE of Michigan for Motorcycle Awareness in Rick Daley's name. You receive a double stamp for your Abate book this year!



Region Event Flyers



32ND ANNUAL REGION 5

FALL RODEO WITH A TWIST

HALLOWEEN THEMED WEEKEND

DRESS UP YOUR CAMP SITE DRESS UP YOURSELF
PRIZES FOR * BEST COSTUME MALES AND FEMALES *
AND BEST DECORATED CAMP SITE

DATE CHANGE: AUGUST 21ST-23RD 2026

Twisting Trails Snowmobile Club

5875 Ruprecht Rd, Twin Lake, MI 49457

GAMES/ LIVE BANDS

Friday Night Better Desire

Saturday Night Kinical Trail

Food Vendor on Site

Food Responder

Soda Splash/ dirty soda's



COMMUNITY FIRE/ VENDORS

COMMUNITY DINNER on Saturday

RUSTIC CAMPING

PRICE FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND/ FRIDAY

\$75 A COUPLE/ \$45 SINGLE

COME IN EARLY ON Thursday Additional \$10 A PERSON

CANT MAKE THE WHOLE WEEKEND WE HAVE DAY PASSES TOO

CONTACT Joker @ 231-578-2454 or Barn Barn @ 231-769-3185

NO ONE UNDER 18* NO WEAPONS* NO PETS

Sponsors:



Region Bike Nights



Thank You to Kelly Newman for the generous donation to ABATE from the memorial ride they held in her son's honor.



**American Income Life Insurance – \$3,500 AD&D
Insurance!!
For being a current member of ABATE of Michigan**

Additional Member Benefit at No Cost!

Through a partnership with American Income Life Insurance Company, an AD&D benefit and other no-cost offers are being provided to all members of ABATE of Michigan.

Included:



Group Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefit



AILPlus Health Services Discount Program*



Child Safe Kit®



Needs-Based Analysis

Learn more at MyBenefits.AILife.com

Enter access code: **SGNMO**

*AILPlus Health Services Discount Program is not available in NY. Lab Testing not available in MD, NJ, or RI.

This is a solicitation for insurance.

An AIL representative will contact members who return the reply card by mail or respond online to arrange a convenient time to deliver their certificate of coverage and other no cost offers and review other supplemental insurance benefits that may be available.



Lisa Bennett

AIL Public Relations

1-616-635-7554 | imbennett@AILife.com

Have something to sell?
Looking for something??

FOR SALE: '00 Valkyrie Interstate. Well cared for runs great. \$3500.
Call Bill: 989 274- 5754

Classified Ads are free to current ABATE of Michigan members as part of your Membership fee!

Advertising in the Michigan Rider and on line is the most direct way to reach Michigan motorcyclists. Ads must be resubmitted each month. Please include your ABATE membership number.

- * "FOR SALE" biker related items & services only.
- * No ads over the phone will be accepted.
- * Photos not necessary but can be helpful.

*Email ads with pics & description to:
Michigan Rider Copy Editor
Silla: abatewebeditor@gmail.com*



Classified ads can also be found on our website: <https://abateofmichigan.org/classified-ads>

WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

WESLEY BERGER
LARRY BARTEL
MICHAEL KAY
KIM COLE
KAYDEN SEEKARS
RICHARD SWICK
RUSSELL STANG
ROSE HATT
ROBERT JEFFERSON
BETTY J EFFERSON
TOM MCGUIRE
RON MICHALIK
JOANNE MICHALIK
EUGENE MAIDA
DIXIE MAIDA
STEVE FIELD

DENNIS GILLAM
ROSE GILLAM
WILLIAM HOUSE
ELIZABETH STROM
JAYNA GARVIN
RAYMOND BUCHANAN



Michigan Confederation of Clubs

The MCOCC represents motorcycle club members and individual motorcyclists alike to fight for everyone's freedoms and rights as bikers. We work with and support ABATE and MRF to ensure what we all enjoy - the freedom of motorcycling without discrimination.

To join and support the MCOCC contact
Trash at: destrecker/@msn.com
FB: <https://facebook.com/michigancoc>
Web: www.mcoc.us

Membership: Clubs\$100/year
Individuals\$ 20/year
Individuals Membership includes a patch and member card

UNITED WE RIDE



MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS

**Look Twice
Save a Life** 



BECOME AN AWARENESS SUPPORTER

Do you want to show your support for our Awareness Program? If you do, please fill out this form and send your check (made out to ABATE of Michigan) to: ABATE of Michigan, P.O. Box 19, Sheridan, Mi. 48884 Your contribution will assure that we can continue teaching new car drivers to look out for motorcycles. The cost is \$100 per person or business. You will receive a patch and your name will be listed in the newsletter.

There will be a year rocker that will be given to you for every year that you contribute.

Name/Business _____

Membership ID _____ Phone No.: _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____



ABATE of Michigan Legislative Support



We need you to become a Legislative Supporter

Do you want to show your support for our Legislative program? Your contribution will assure that we continue the fight in Lansing. The cost is \$100 per person or business. You will receive the patch (shown above) and your name will be listed in the Michigan Rider Newsletter. A year rocker will be given to you for every year that you contribute. If you can get a corporation or business to sign up as a Legislative Supporter, they will receive a certificate of appreciation (with the year of their contribution) to display in their building.

Name: _____

Membership ID: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Make check payable to:
ABATE of Michigan, Inc.,
2424 N. 17th Street,
Fountain, Mi.
49410

***Help us make a difference - any amount is a huge help!
All donations, big or small, make a difference!!**

Region Coordinators & Meeting Info

Region 1

Todd Wloszczynski

Phone: 906 250-9303
1966panhead@gmail.com

Region 2

Bernie Winicki
906 287-5706

Region 3

Van Dunson

Phone: 231 676-0760
vanmdunson@gmail.com

Meetings: Johnny's
Torch Riviera at 12899
Cherry Rd, Rapid City,
Mar, April, May 1st
Thursday of the month
6:30pm

Region 4

Dave Etherton

231 818-5277
Etherdav@yahoo.com

Region 5

Larry BamBam Peters

larrykimpw@outlook.com,
231 769-3185

Region 6

Merry Garrett

Phone: 734 652-9739
merrysgarrett@yahoo.com

Meetings: 1:00 pm

Second Sunday
Baileys Bar and Grill
Bay City

Region 7

Tim Polk

Phone: 989 670-9976
tpolk3966@gmail.com

Meetings: First Sunday
2PM, Nov.-April
at Lucky Thumb

Motorcycle Club 7394
Bevens Rd. Deford

May - Oct. at
Evergreen Park 4731
Van Dyke Rd., Cass
City

Region 8

RC - Tara Hendee

Phone: 616 589-1551
tarame7789@yahoo.com

2nd Sunday of the
month @4pm

BC Pizza in Dorr
1628 142nd Ave
Dorr MI, 49323

Region 9

Nick Henry

RC & Treasurer
Phone: 517 647-6623
abateofmich.region9@gmail.com

Region 10

Amy Penny

Phone: 517 290-9134
abateregion10rc@gmail.com

Meetings 1st Sunday of
the month at 3

Evergreen Tavern in
Hemlock
Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar,
May July

Ghost Town Saloon in
Elwell

Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr,
Jun, Aug

Region 11

Arnold Schneider

Phone: 810- 334-8600
abatemi.region11rc@gmail.com

Meeting:

1st Wednesday of the
month at 7pm.

Chicky's in Almont:
March, May, July,
September &
November.

Total Sports in
Harrison Twp: April,
June, August, October
& December.

Region 12

Joylynn Wojciehowski

Phone: 269 599-1767
joylynngerow@att.net.
Meetings: 1st Sunday

of the month 1pm

Paw Paw Eagles,
Lawton

Region 13

Dan "Dano" Kenzie

dkenzie1@hughes.net
Phone: 517 414-8183

Meetings: 1st Sun 12
noon

7901 Benn Rd

Parma, MI. 49269

Region 14

Shiny Bob

shinybob@gmail.com
Phone: 734 417-1369

Meetings: Saline

4th Sunday 4pm

Saline American

Legion Post 322

Region 15

Interim RC - Shiny

Bob

Meetings: Saline
American Legion Post
322 - 4th Sunday of the
month 4 pm

Region 16

Jesse Gordy

Phone: 734 957-6033
jesse.gordy76@gmail.com

Read meeting notes for
dates and times

Region 17

TBD

Wanted!...If you ride a
motorcycle or anyone
you know rides and
enjoy the freedom
of choice. We are

Reuniting the region
and spreading the joy
of ABATE to the UP.
We want to hear from
you and help bring the
region back strong.

Please feel free to reach
out to Woody - State
Operations Officer,
he will help with the
process.

Call Woody: 231 884-
2192

Email: Dberg01@
hotmail.com.

Region 18

Leroy Cuykendall III

Phone: 734 755-3684
bigsexy1665@hotmail.com

Meetings: 1st
Sunday of the month@
2pm

VFW Post 1138 400
Jones Ave, Monroe

Region 19

Bill Stewart

Phone: 248 802 7221
harleyhippy@comcast.net

Meetings: 1st Tues
7:00pm

The Shark Club
6665 Highland Road
Waterford 48327

Region 20

Steve (General) Graves

Phone 810 471-5588
Meeting last Sunday of
Month 2 PM

Region 21

Interim RC - Vern

Shock

Meetings TBD

Region 22

RC - Greg Bennett

"Break Down"

Phone: 231 620-6243
Meetings: 1st Sunday

of the month at 1 pm
at the Laughing Horse
Saloon at 15888 Lindy
Rd Thompsonville,
MI

Region 23

Ted Calabrese

Phone: 586 216-4971
whiskers58@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st Sunday
of every month at 1pm
at Dead Bear brewery
company 2552 South
I-75 Business loop
Grayling Michigan.



Region Reports



Operations Officer

Dave "Woody" Berg

Phone: 231 884-2192

Dberg01@hotmail.com

REGION 1 - Keweenaw, Baraga, Iron, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Houghton RC - Todd Wloszczynski
No report this month.

REGION 2 Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa, Mackinac RC - Bernie Winicki
No report this month.

REGION 3 - Antrim, Kalkaska, Charlevoix RC - Van Dunson
No report this month.

REGION 4 - Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Ilse RC - Dave Etherton
No report this month.

REGION 5 - Mason, Lake Oceana, Muskegon, Newaygo RC - Larry BamBam Peters

REGION 6 - Gladwin, Arenac, Midland, Bay RC - Merry Gerrett

Merry Garrett RC

It's been a month of May my friends. And this month of June is just as busy and crazy as the last. I apologize

that I didn't get my newsletter in!!! I thought I had. I even set an alarm but things happen and boy have things been happening. I'll catch you all up this month.

Region 6 has been very busy and on the move. We had our annual Bubba's swap meet in Midland on Mother's Day. It was a good one and we sold some tickets and sold out of signs. Thanks Vern for getting me some more!! I want to thank the members that came out and worked the table and the gate. Without you all we can't make May our best Awareness month. Every day is Awareness but on this day we bust butt to bring the word to many that cross over the threshold of the Bubba event.

The following Sunday we had our Abate meeting at Baileys. It was a crash course of business. Bringing to the table all that was happening.

Our Awareness Run. We had a pretty good turnout starting at Pipes in Pinconning and ending there. It was a beautiful day with some great friends

ABATE OF MICHIGAN

Bubba's Mother's Day event in Midland was well attended and we had a blast as usual Thank you Bubba and crew
Memorial Day was spent in the great outdoors of Michigan. It was raining it was cold it was windy but I made it work.
Sold some raffle tickets at each event and sold out of signs. So all in all our region had a very busy month.

Freedom Rally will be June 10. Hoping it was well attended and everyone had a great ride. We need to get out there and fight. Insurance is taking over and it's a hard battle!!!

Now on to the field meet. Hope to see a lot of Region 6 there to enjoy a great state event.

Our next regional event will be July 18. It's is our Memorial Run to honor our families that have lost a loved one. Again this event is rain or shine as Pipes has a great barn to hang out, some great food and of course our ABATE family

So get busy support the state support the legislative, support awareness and support your region.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Let the sun shine on your rides

Let you and yours ride safe

Let the wind blow and keep the rain at bay.
Summer is here my friends

Sincerely
Merry Garrett.

**REGION 7 - Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac
RC - Tim Polk**

ABATE Region 7 - Meeting June 6, 2026
- Evergreen Park

Meeting called to order at 2pm. Pledge,
moment of silence for troops, and prayer
by Deb Melcher.

Secretary report - approved as read,
motion by Ray / support Wes.

Treasurer report - Paul Melcher provided
bank account update. Motion to accept
by Wes / support Ray.

Legislative - Butch updated what is
happening in Lansing. We had attorney
Craig Datz, speak at the meeting about
his campaign run for Tuscola County
District Court Judge.

Butch signed up two new members
Craig and Victor. Welcome to Abate
Region 7.

Our Rest In Peace Ride was held before
our meeting. The region honored our
deceased members and Deb Melcher
provided the blessing of the bikes.
Beautiful day for the ride. Butch lead
the group on a 50-mile jaunt from
Evergreen Park and back. A meal was
setup for after the ride and meeting by
Danny and Jan. Thank You Much.

New Business - The Veteran's Moving
Wall will be in Chesaning, Sept. 3rd.
Event will start in Saginaw. With a
motorcycle escort. Butch and Larry will
provide us with other updates at a later
meeting.

Upcoming events- July 11th - Scoot
& Shoot / Meeting at Farmers Tavern,
Ruth.
Aug. 22nd - Porcupine Bash, Caro VFW

Motion to adjourn by Dennis / support
Ray.

Don't forget to get your reservation for
the Carved In Stone event weekend,
even if you are just coming for the
Saturday night Money Raffle!

Yesterday was the Freedom Rally in
Lansing and I must say that it's a sad day
when so few members make an effort to
come to Lansing to spend a day talking
with our Reps and Senators, plus miss
out on a free fish dinner lunch! The
first year I went to the Freedom Rally,
there were Bikes lined up all around the
capital and people were covering the
front lawn and sidewalks in front of the
capital! What happened to the crowd
that gave a damn about their rights and
freedoms? I've had people respond
"What rights and freedoms am I talking
about?". Look at your bike and look at all
those extras that you put on there! Seats,
handlebars, exhaust, to name a few!
Not to mention how we had to fight
for years to finally get to choose if we
want to wear a helmet or not! They even
tried to get to tell us what color clothes
we were to wear while riding! This is
why we need membership to show up
at THIS event! Just like the old saying,
"There's strength in numbers!", and we
need the numbers to show up! Just like
when we have the Pop and Pizza Day in
the beginning of the year, it's not about
the pizza, it's about being able to sit with
our Reps and Senator and their staff and
talk about issues that concern you and
our organization. Okay, done with my
rant, have a great month of safe riding!!
Tim.

**REGION 8 - Ottawa, Kent, Allegan,
Barry
RC - Tara Hendee**

Region 8 kicked off the riding season in
style with our Season Opener Poker Run
on May 30th. Riders traveled through
all four of Region 8's counties, covering
just over 300 miles during a 12½-hour
adventure filled with beautiful scenery
and great roads.

The day was packed with laughter, camaraderie, and the shared passion for riding that brings us all together. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and welcome new friends as we celebrated the beginning of another riding season. Events like these remind us that ABATE is more than an organization—it's a community.

We invite anyone interested in learning more about ABATE and Region 8 to join us at our monthly meetings. Meetings are held at 4:00 PM on the second Sunday of each month at BC Pizza in Dorr. Whether you're a longtime member or just curious about what we do, all are welcome.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the road this season. Ride safe, and remember: Look Twice, Save A Life.

**REGION 9 - Ionia, Clinton, Eaton, Inghan
RC - Nick Henry**

Hello Region 9
By the time you read this the Freedom Rally at the Michigan Capital and the ABATE field meet will be done. I hope you were able to attend both.
I had a booth at the Sunfield Cycle Shop, I had a good time listening to music, handing out information, and selling raffle tickets. I have plans to set up booths at events around the region, would be happy to see you, look for the Region 9 banner.
I got a message from the MRF that the year around E15 bill has passed congress, it is headed to the senate where I'm sure it will pass. This well not be good for us as Motorcyclists, the next step will be to eliminate E10, be ready to get lower gas mileage and do more rebuilds.
The summer's here! Get out and ride!
Nick
Region 9 R.C.

**REGION 10 - Gratiot, Saginaw
RC - Amy Penny**
No report this month.

**REGION 11 - Lapeer, St. Clair, Macomb
RC - Arnold Schneider**
No report this month.

**REGION 12 - VanBuren, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph
RC - Joylynn Wojciehowski**

Sunday June 7th, 2026

Started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joy with Treasury Report - We had a good month in May with selling some products, but we need to focus on selling Money Raffle Tickets for the State.

Bear with MRF Report - E15 is at pumps, be care filling any vehicle. Only 2001 or newer vehicles and flex fuel vehicles are approved by EPA. 2000 and older vehicles, motorcycles, boats, ATV's, snow mobiles, small engines, and heavy duty vehicles are NOT approved and use of E15 may void your warranty. MRF has been involved in this fight since the beginning and will continue to be.

Representative Derrick Van Orden of Wisconsin is this years MRF's Legislative Champion, he is a rider who understands our life style, culture and rights. He is the lead sponsor of H.R.3385 to update the federal definition of a motorcycle.

H.R.8870 the "Highway Bill" has advanced with possible 4 legislative priorities for the MRF extending authorization of the Motorcycle Advisory Council, protections against profiling, protections for Right to Repair Act, language to ensure emergency braking tech can detect motorcycles and the Know Before You Drive Act. H.R.7737 which helps robo car buyers know what the vehicle can and can't do. Not that most of them read it anyway.

American Motorcyclists Association, independent motorcycle after market, state rights organizations, National Coalition of Motorcyclists, National Council of Clubs, National Council of Informed Riders & Independent Riders

Nation as well as supported MRF's efforts on this legislation.

Meeting of the Minds is September 24-27. This year it takes place in Milwaukee, WI. See flyer in the Rider.

Bear's Quotes of the Month - "Never let your sense of morals prevent you from doing what is right." Issac Asimov
"Illegal Aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any (American) Indian."
Robert Orben.

We all need to reach out to our representatives about the laws of learning to drive. If a person waits until they are 18, there is hardly any training to do and they are 'free' to just drive with a small test before getting the license. Everyone needs to learn how to drive with motorcycles. This impacts all of us on the road.

Events - Field Meet will take place June 12th -14th at Clare Co. Fairgrounds. See you there!

June 27-28 our region will have a booth set up at the Bagger Racing League at Gingerman Raceway in South Haven. Big racing event and camping all weekend long. Racing on Saturday starts at Noon. See you there at our tent as early as 9 am Saturday and Sunday. \$30 pre sale online or \$40 at the gates for the whole weekend (7/26-7/28).
BaggerRacingLeague.com
The decision has been

made that Region 12 will not have a booth set up at this year's Nile Burn Run. If you want to do something with ABATE then reach out to me.

There will be more info to come with a future Poker Run and camping opportunity for later this summer.

I'll share more details for the Sturgis Toy Run when I learn more about it. Help support a great cause.

We do have area events with ABATE of Indiana with the 46th Annual Boogie July 16th-19th, 2026 in Springville, IN Lawrence County Park and Summerfest in August at Boot Hill Ranch in Three Rivers/Jones, MI. Details are on Facebook and more to follow.

Money Raffle Tickets - reach out to me to buy tickets for yourself or to sell to others for the region. \$10 gets you a chance to win \$10,000!!! Or to turn in sold tickets back to me 269-599-1767.

We drew for the incentive drawing and Thomas W. would have won if he were present. We drew for a MRF Membership and Aric N. won. We drew for a Money Raffle ticket and Pauletta W. won.

Gary motioned to close the meeting and Melissa seconded it.

Thank you,
Joylynn Wojciehowski.
REGION 13 - Calhoun,

Jackson, Branch, Hillsdale RC - Dan "Dano" Kenzie
No report this month.

REGION 14 - Livingston, Washtenaw RC - Shiny Bob
No report this month.

REGION 15 - Wayne Interim RC - Shiny Bob

THANK YOU to the Michigan Fish Association for the Fish Fry at the State Capital also Thank You to the Great Lakes Timber Professional Association for tree management and the Ice Cream, it helped cool us off, also Michigan Camping for the s'mores. A Big thanks to all the members of Regions all over the state. I am proud of all my fellow Freedom Fighters, HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY ABATE OF MICHIGAN. We The People, Happy 4th of July 250 years of freedom, Summer is here stay cool next meeting 4th Sunday American Legion Post 322 Saline Mi 4pm. RIDE SAFE.
JOHNNY.

REGION 16 - Oscoda, Ogema, Alcona, Iosco, Montmorency, Alpena RC - Jesse Gordy
No report this month.

REGION 17 - Marquette, Dickinson, Menominee, Delta, Alger RC - TBD

Wanted!!...If you ride a motorcycle or anyone you know rides and enjoy the freedom of choice. We are Reuniting the region and spreading the joy of ABATE to the UP. We want to hear

from you and help bring the region back strong.
Please feel free to reach out to Woody – State Operations Officer, he will help with the process.
Call Woody: 231 884-2192
Email: Dberg01@hotmail.com.

REGION 18 - Lenawee, Monroe
RC- Leroy Cuykendall III
No report this month.

REGION 19 - Oakland
RC- Bill Stewart

From Region 19
For the July, 2026 Issue of Michigan Rider

We were very pleased to welcome back a familiar face when Vince F. (one of the three, famous Vince's of our Region's glory days) joined us at the Shark Club for our June meeting. A former Region LO and an effective mover and shaker for our Region, it was a great pleasure to have Vince with us again!

RC Bill Stewart called our meeting to order at about 7:00 pm after we had finished stuffing ourselves. Bill began with:

- Comments from the MRF regarding its recent and very successful Bikers Inside the Beltway. At this event, MRF folks from all around the country descended on Washington D.C. to visit the offices of all the members of Congress and spoke about the issues that are important to motorcyclists.
- BITB took place at the same time as committee meetings were being held to shape the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.
- This process takes place once every five years, and will control the legislative landscape for bikers all across the country.
- Other topics that Bill discussed included:
 - The debate surrounding the definition of the motorcycle itself
 - Electric bicycles, how and where they are ridden and how they may affect attitudes about motorcycles for good or ill

- Potential efforts to limit when and where older vehicles (including old motorcycles) may legally be operated
- AMA's May 2026 issue which listed the 10 most important issues motorcyclists face

Speedy then presented her Treasurer's Report:

- Bill had received an email from Woody suggesting that we send a check to ABATE in support of the Field Meet (which is being held the weekend after the Freedom Rally).
- A motion was made by Mike to send a \$100 check to ABATE for the Field Meet.
- The motion carried and Speedy will take care of writing the check.

Hess distributed and discussed his written LO Report:

- He first discussed the PIP relief allowed by the recent appeals court decision and his concerns that because that decision might itself be appealed or that legislation to circumvent the appeals court decision might be introduced and passed into law.

- Michigan's legislature has shown itself unwilling to accept its responsibilities to correct the problems that are caused by malignant legislation.
- While ABATE of Michigan certainly has a lot of good friends in the House of Representatives and in the Michigan Senate, ABATE spent seven laborious years working to develop a legislative approach to the PIP issue. That nothing was actually achieved during those years tells us a lot about the interests that motivate many of the people who are elected to serve in Lansing.
- Hess also spoke about the MRF's successful trip to D.C. and included in his report a list of the issues involved along with his own comments about the challenges (both old and new) that have threatened and continue to threaten motorcycling today.

A special message to Oakland County's motorcyclists:
Region 19 currently exists as only

a shadow of its former self. But our Region also represents a potential ABATE tiger, lying quietly in the grass waiting for the right moment to leap up and assume a rightful leadership role.

Oakland County has 12.8% of Michigan's population (over 1,294,000 people) and 12.8% of Michigan's 610,000 licensed riders—that's 78,000 bikers!

Region 19 needs maybe TEN of those Oakland County riders to come to our meetings, step into active roles and turn our Region into an ABATE powerhouse.

Please say these words out loud: "Yes, I can do that. I can play a meaningful role in protecting the lifestyle that means so much to me!"

Countless folks have worked hard for ABATE during its 50-year history; now is the time for new and energetic people to make their contributions. Please, attend our next meeting and help make Region 19 what it should be.

And that next meeting will be at the Shark Club (6665 Highland Road in Waterford) on Tuesday, the 7th of July 2026. Be there for food at 6:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:00.

Submitted by Hess Bates, Region 19 Legislative Officer.

**REGION 20 - Genesee, Shiawassee
RC - Steve (General) Graves**

June meeting was informal discussion on the freedom rally June 10 in Lansing and Field meet June 12-14 in Harrison awareness picture was taken and posted on the RC face book page awareness ride after picture of about 75 miles be safe out there.

**REGION 21 - Oscoda, Clare, Mescosta, Isabella, Montcalm
Interim RC - Vern Shock**
No report this month.

**REGION 22 - Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Manistee, Wexford
RC - Greg Bennett "Break Down"**

Meeting was held at the Laughing Horse and called to order at 13:14 hrs by Greg.

The pledge was led by Ron and recited by all, followed by a moment of silence.

Our first bike night of the year was a success with 30+ bikes. It was a great night with fun for all.

It was stated that the Laughing Horse is adding a slab for motorcycle parking only. It should be ready in a few weeks. Greg stated that he has been assisting GTI with a route for their ride in August. It is almost done and it will be a nice ride. He encourages all to attend. He also stated

that we have gained a few new members and that our actual members for Region 22 is now at 41.

Woody reports that it was a great time at the Houghton Lake Blessing of the bikes. They are thankful for all the support that Region 22 gave them. Woody also states that he will be going to the Freedom Rally in Lansing. Woody states that the legislative position in Region 22 is open. He made a nomination and motion to elect Matt Ritter to fill the spot until the next election, seconded by Karen. In the discussion Matt accepted the nomination. Motion was carried. Congratulations Matt!

Sam gave a brief synopsis of the last meeting minutes. Woody made a motion to accept, second by Ron. Motion carried.

They gave a treasurers report. Woody made a motion to accept, second by Ron. Motion carried.

Karen made a motion, second by Gina that the secretary needs to present a written/typed copies of the actual minutes by/at the next meeting so that those who were not present are accurately informed of what transpired. Discussed and carried.

Karen stated that there was nothing new on the awareness front. She states that she would like to participate in more

senior events to educate children as they come up.
at some other events as they come up.

Mary Irene stated that she is starting a new sponsored raffle for the bikers that rode their bikes to the bike nights. These will be sponsored by the nights sponsor. Great idea!!

Mary made a motion to have our summer months meetings after the bike nights as she worked every other weekend and that Sunday was taking up valuable family time. Karen seconded the motion. Discussed and motion failed. Mary then made a motion to hold the meeting at 17:00 hrs instead of 13:00 on Sunday for the next 2 months, seconded by Gina. Discussed, motion carried.

Ron stated that there will be security at the summer party.

There is a multi region ride being planned for the fall.

Matt Ritter was appointed by Greg to be the region chaplain. If anyone needs to contact him his info is email: 1963cummins59@gmail.com or 231-281-8900.

Motion to adjourn, motion carried.

**REGION 23 - Otsego, Crawford, Roscommon, Missaukee
RC - Ted Calabrese**

REGION 23, Meeting was called to order at 1:00pm our new location at the Dead Bear brewing Grayling is working out very well. We wanted out to think everyone came out for the Houghton Lake Blessing of the bikes. This was the first time for the two day event ,and with warmer weather came more bikes. At our June meeting, we signed up and recognized 4 new members. We would like to remind ABATE members you get 15% off in store Twisted Attitude leather and more in Houghton Lake, Prudenville. Raffle ticket sales and sign sales are up from last month and are still available at Twisted Attitude. We are working on two events, one is Halloween bike night (possibly a trunk or treat event) and the other will be a 2027 passport for restaurants , watering holes and other businesses .

Be safe on the road.
TED CALABRESE



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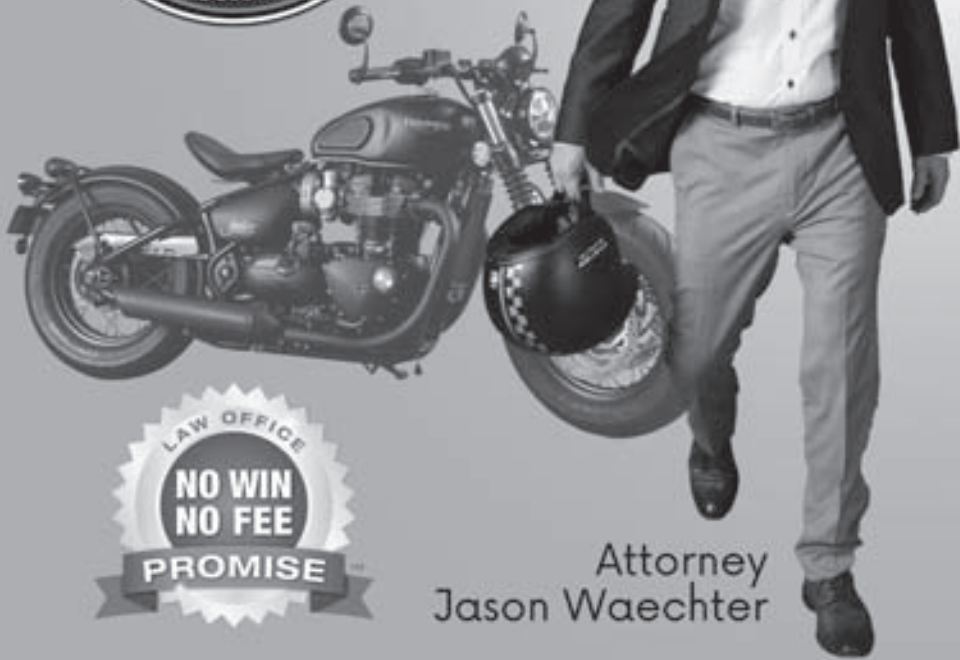
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Region 8) Ottawa, Kent, Allegan, Barry

Region 9) Ionia, Clinton, Eaton, Inghan

Region 10) Gratiot, Saginaw

Region 11) Lapeer, St. Clair, Macomb

Region 12) VanBuren, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph

Region 13) Calhoun, Jackson, Branch, Hillsdale

Region 14) Livingston, Washtenaw

Region 15) Wayne

Region 16) Oscoda, Ogemaw, Alcona, Iosco, Montmorency, Alpena

Region 17) Marquette, Dickinson, Menominee, Delta, Alger

Region 18) Lenawee, Monroe

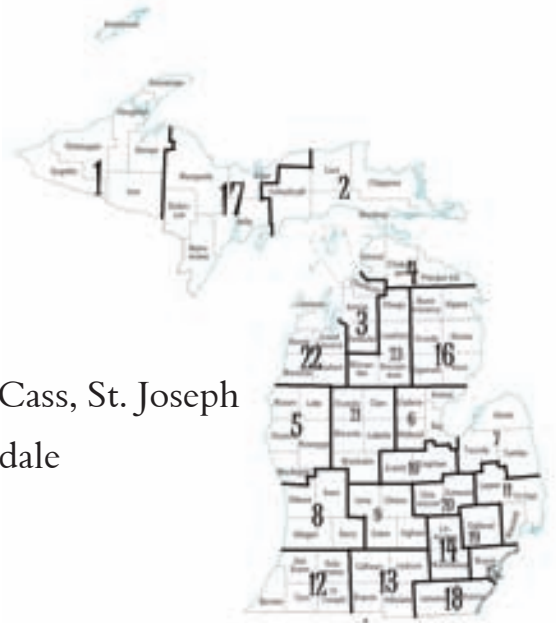
Region 19) Oakland

Region 20) Genesee, Shiawassee

Region 21) Oscoda, Clare, Mecosta, Isabella, Montcalm

Region 22) Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Manistee, Wexford

Region 23) Otsego, Crawford, Roscommon, Missaukee,



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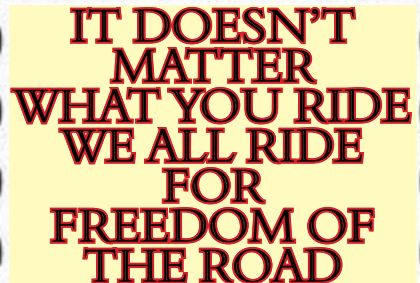
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Thanks for the Region 7 hardy bunch who came out for our 40th year



Region 8 kicked off the riding season in style with our Season Opener Poker Run on May 30th. Riders traveled through all four of Region 8's counties, covering just over 300 miles during a 12½-hour adventure filled with beautiful scenery and great roads



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Pre-registration for conference through the MRF, PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612

Pre-registration (must be received by Sept. 4, 2026): \$100.00 (current member) / \$120.00 (non-member)

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Registration includes all workshops, workshop materials, and Saturday banquet.

Registration questions call the MRF at 202-546-0983, or email Fred Harrell at fred@mrf.org.

*See registration form for details.



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State Events are highlighted in GOLD
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Bike Nights are highlighted in GREY
*Legislative Events in Green

Date	Region	Region & State Events 2026	Contact
		REGION BIKE NIGHTS	
June 3 - Aug 26	Reg 22	Laughing Horse Saloon - 15888 Lindy Rd. Thompsonville	
Printable copy available online	Reg 11	Region 11 Summer Tour Books have been circulated and are available for purchase at participating establishments	Oscar: 810 334-8600.
June 25	Reg 11	Fundraiser Night - *This event is a bonus stamp in the ABATE Region 11 summer tour book	
July 11	Reg 7	Scout & Shoot & Meeting - Farmers Tavern, Ruth	Tim: 989 670-9976
July 11	Reg 10	Annual Poker Run	
July 12	Reg 11	32nd Annual Observation Run	Cowboy: 586 746-4765
July 15	Reg 5	19th Bike Time	
July 18	Reg 6	Memorial Ride	Merry: 734 652 9739
Aug - 2nd	Reg 5	Hill Climb	
Aug 1	Reg 13	PAC Ride	Dano: 517 414-8183
Aug 15	Reg 11	8th Annual Ricky D Memorial Run	Arnold: 810 334-8600
Aug 16	Reg 5	Reg 5's Family Picnic - Stoney Lake	
Aug 20 - 23	Reg 5	Fall Rodeo - Twisting Trails Snowmobile Club	
Aug 21 - 23	Reg 22	Summer party - Eagles campground in Interlochen Michigan	Greg: 231 620-6243
Aug 22	Reg 7	Porcupine Bash - Caro VFW	Tim: 989 670-9976
Aug 22	Reg 8	Veteran Escort to Hart	
Sept 12	Reg 8	Gilmore Booth - Ford Model A Days	
Sept 19	Reg 10	End of Summer Ride/Book Party	
Sept 20	Reg 11	Summer Tour End of the Year Party and Poker Run	Oscar 810 334-8600
Sept 23	Reg 7	Adopt-a-hwy trash pickup - Evergreen Park	Tim: 989 670-9976

Sept 24 - 27		42nd Annual Meeting of the Minds	
Oct 2 - 4	Reg 7	Carved in Stone Weekend - Evergreen Park	Tim: 989 670-9976
Oct 3		Tap into The Money Tree Raffle	
Oct 10	Reg 5	Toy Run	
Oct 10	Reg 10	Color Tour	
Nov 1	Reg 5	Christmas Auction	
Nov 1	Reg 7	Meeting & Chili Cook-off - Lucky Thumb	Tim: 989 670-9976
Dec 5	Reg 7	Christmas Party & Meeting	Tim: 989 670-9976
Dec 5	Reg 10	Christmas Party	
Dec 5	Reg 22	Christmas Party	Greg: 231 620-6243
Dec 6	Reg 5	Christmas Party	



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ABATE of Michigan Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving motorcyclist rights, promoting safe operating practices and raising motorist's awareness of motorcycling in Michigan.

Vision: ABATE of Michigan Inc. will work diligently to increase the penalties to anyone who injures or causes a fatality to a motorcyclist or their passenger and will work with other organizations in order to preserve the universal right to a safe, unrestricted motorcycling environment on a state and national level.

ABATE of Michigan, Inc. will expand into other areas, grow in membership and work with other organizations.

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Are you a registered voter? Yes No
 New member Renewal Your Membership number _____

Single \$25 on line \$30 mail* Couple \$45/on line \$50 mail*
 2 years - \$40/person - \$70/couple

*** Processing fees are added when using on line services*

Living at same address *Applies to one-year membership only
 Life: 15x's annual membership/person
 Life: 15x's annual membership/couple living at same address
 Awareness donation _____



Scan QR Code to visit the membership/join page

Please make checks payable to ABATE of Michigan, Inc. Voting rights take effect 30 days after application has been received at the ABATE State Office.
 Membership fees and donations are NOT tax deductible. Membership fee is nonrefundable.
 Clip & Mail to : ABATE of Michigan, INC. P.O. Box 19, Sheridan, Mi. 48884. This form is also available on line: <https://abateofmichigan.org/download-forms-%26-files>

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