

ABATE of Michigan

Fighting for the rights of all motorcyclists since 1976

Riding free since 2012!!

Official Michigan Rider Newsletter

September 2026



**2025 Overall Member of the Year
Merry Garrett**

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*Monthly Michigan Rider
Newsletter*

On the Go??

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michigan-rider-newsletter.
html*

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newsletters, events and much
more!!
www.abateofmichigan.org



The Prez Report - Gary Kopta

Hello everyone,

Summer is going strong, I hope you're getting plenty of riding in before the weather changes.

The primary election is over I hope you voted. Now the commercials are really going to start coming. Make sure you vote in November's election. **DO YOUR RESEARCH!!!!!!!** This is a very important election. Voter turnout is needed. If you don't vote you don't get to complain. If you don't know who to vote for go to a meeting or call our legislative officer Ed "Bear". He is on top of the game and can tell you which candidate stands for what.

There is not much going on in Lansing now because of the election. The politicians are all campaigning. If you happen to see a candidate at a parade make sure to go up and introduce yourself and talk about the issues affecting us. How will they know what we need if we don't tell them?

Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) is having their Meeting Of The Minds this September in Milwaukee. I will be attending along with Jinx and a few others to represent ABATE of Michigan. If you are not a member of the MRF you need to consider joining. The MRF is basically a nationwide ABATE. We fight for our rights at the national level. If they decide to pass the dreaded helmet law in Washington DC there is nothing ABATE of Michigan can do except put the tupperware back on our heads. Nobody wants that. We have given up enough freedoms over the years and I don't know about you but I have had enough of losing our rights. Some of these candidates I'm seeing are talking about taking away more of our rights and I know a lot of people are gonna vote for them essentially voting to give away our rights. I don't get it. Why would people do that? Benjamin Franklin said "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty or Safety". Remember that in November when you're filling your ballot out.

Thanks for listening, ride safe and JOIN THE MRF!!!!!!

Gary

ABATE of Michigan President



Phone: 989 781-2306
gkopta1@gmail.com



Join the MRF

<https://www.mrf.org/join-the-mrf>





ABATE of Michigan Legislative Support



Legislative Support - Join Us in the fight in Lansing

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!!



Secretary Report - Debra Townsend

Hello Everyone,

July was a very busy month for me. Hopefully you all were able to get out and spend quality time with your families and some wind therapy. I've been receiving many new memberships which tell me you are out there and being present.

Yesterday I went to a local car show to sell raffle tickets. It's amazing how many people who don't know about ABATE or how the insurance reform affected bikers. It felt good to talk about ABATE, what we do and encourage people to get involved. And I was able to sell all the tickets I brought with me. Don't forget that time is running out for ticket sales. I'm seeing many of you have upcoming events to help spread the word, and I'm sure much success will come to all. Take a minute and check out all the events that are happening in the back of the Rider.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the MRF Meeting of the Minds September 24-27, and the raffle drawing in Cass City on October 3rd.

Y'all have a great rest of the month.

Debbie
ABATE of Michigan Secretary



Phone: 269 435-2058
abatemichsecretary@frontier.com
P.O. Box 19, Sheridan, MI 48884

**Don't let your membership
expire??**

Stay up to date with new legislative and
motorcycle laws and upcoming events.

Renew at: www.abateofmichigan.org

Send your updated info to:

**ABATE of Michigan State Secretary
Debra Townsend PH: 269 435-2058**

ABATE of Michigan Inc.

P.O. Box 19

Sheridan, Mi. 48884

E-mail Debra

abatemichsecretary@frontier.com



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.

Motorcycle Injury Accident? Jason-THE Motorcycle Lawyer®



Attorney
Jason Waechter

\$27 Million Record Jury Verdict!
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Call 877-Biker-Law
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<https://www.vikingbags.com/pages/motorcycle-saddlebags>



"ABATE of Michigan is a grassroots organization focused on protecting the rights of Michigan motorcyclists while promoting

rider education, motorcycle awareness, and safer riding practices. Its work includes legislative advocacy, rider training, driver awareness programs, and efforts to improve the overall safety and freedom of motorcyclists across the state.

For riders, practical motorcycle equipment can also be part of preparing for everyday riding, longer trips, and changing riding conditions. Items such as leather motorcycle seats for Harley Davidson can influence comfort and riding position, while a Harley Davidson saddlebag with mounting hardware can provide additional carrying space for personal gear and essentials."

More on page 9



Members Only!
Once again Viking Bags have donated this 45L - Tactical XL Motorcycle Backpack to ABATE of Michigan to raffle off at the 2026 Seminar. See your RC for tickets.

ABATE OF MICHIGAN MEMBERS ONLY!
45L - TACTICAL XL MOTORCYCLE BACKPACK
Help Support our Fight!
Raffle tickets 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20!
Raffle tickets will be sold from now until drawing at the Seminar in January.
See your RC for tickets!

Valued at \$143.43

ABATE Classified OF MICHIGAN Ads

Veteran - Biker Owned Storage LUCKY CLOVER STORAGE LLC

Heated winter 5' x 10' spaces. Bikes-ATV's-PWC's-Golfcarts, Sep 2026 thru May 2027.
6 to 9 month contracts. Easy access off I-94 in Albion, Mich.
Veteran/Biker owned.
Call/Text 517-740-3771 for details.



ADV Soft Panniers Vs. Hard Side Cases: Which is Better for Off-Road?

Picture a winding dirt trail far from the main road, a loaded ADV bike pushing through loose rock and mud, and gear that needs to survive

every bump, drop, and downpour. That is the real test of ADV motorcycle luggage, and not every bag passes it. The choice between soft panniers and aluminum side cases is one of the most talked-about debates in the ADV riding world, and for good reason. Each type has real strengths, and each has clear trade-offs.

Viking Bags, the best ADV motorcycle luggage maker trusted by riders around the world, has been building model-specific storage for major bike platforms like the BMW R1250GS, Harley Pan America, Honda Africa Twin, Triumph Tiger, Yamaha Tenere 700, Suzuki V-Strom 1050, and Kawasaki Versys 1000. With a full lineup of ADV soft panniers and hard aluminum side cases, Viking offers riders the option to choose the luggage system that best fits their riding style. But choosing the right one starts with knowing exactly what each option brings to the table.

Continue reading to get a full breakdown of ADV soft panniers versus aluminum cases for off-roading, so the best call can be made for any setup.

1. What Makes ADV Soft Panniers Stand Out

Soft panniers are fabric bags built from tough, flexible material. They mount to a bike's frame with a bracket system, and most allow for fast removal when not in use. For off-road riding, this flexibility is one of their biggest assets.

The Viking Apex ADV soft panniers are built around a 1680D ballistic nylon outer shell paired with a 100% waterproof TPU tarpaulin inner liner. The result is a bag that can take real punishment on rough trails without letting moisture through. The 60L version, avail-

able for bikes like the Harley Pan America RA1250/S, BMW R1250GS, and Honda Africa Twin CRF1100L, offers 3,661 cubic inches of storage per pair. That is enough space for a full weekend of camping gear and more.

Here is what makes the Viking Bags Apex soft panniers worth looking at closely:

- ◆ **Quick-mount and dismount system:** The mounting bracket allows riders to mount and dismount the bags in seconds. This is a big deal on tight trails where removing the bags means the bike can slip through gaps that a fully loaded setup cannot.
- ◆ **Lockable bracket:** The bracket locks in place, so the bags cannot be lifted off by someone passing by. This adds a real layer of security when the bike is left parked at a trailhead or campsite.
- ◆ **Digilock system on the bag opening:** The built-in digital lock seals the bag's main compartment. Gear stays secure even when the bike is out of sight for hours.
- ◆ **MOLLE panel on the front face:** The MOLLE webbing lets riders attach extra pouches, tools, a first-aid kit, or other modular gear. The panel folds down to reveal a velcro pocket behind it, which adds even more accessible storage.
- ◆ **Inner webbing and velcro buckle:** Inside the main compartment, webbing straps and a velcro buckle hold larger or bulkier items in place during rough riding.
- ◆ **100% waterproof inner dry bag:** The TPU inner liner keeps everything dry through river crossings, heavy rain, and muddy trail splashes.

For riders tackling tight, technical trails, soft panniers offer a key advantage: they absorb impact in a fall rather than cracking, denting, or damaging the lid seal. A soft bag that hits a rock

will flex and bounce back. A hard case might take a permanent dent.

2. What Makes Aluminum Hard Side Cases Stand Out

Aluminum cases are rigid boxes built from welded and riveted aluminum panels. They sit wide and low on the bike and offer a different kind of protection compared to soft bags. The appeal is clear: nothing inside a well-sealed aluminum case gets crushed, pierced, or soaked.

The Viking Apex side cases for the BMW R1250GS are the best example of what a well-built ADV hard case should offer. Available in silver and black, these cases are made with precision welding and self-piercing riveting to keep water out completely. Each case holds 45 liters (63 cans), and the pair delivers 2,746 cubic inches of total storage with a 22 lb weight capacity per case.

Key features of Viking's aluminum side cases include:

- ◆ Full aluminum hard shell: The rigid walls protect fragile gear like cameras, electronics, and glass containers from impact during falls, dropped bags, or rough roads. Soft bags cannot match this level of hard protection.
- ◆ Waterproof precision welding: The sealed construction keeps moisture out even in the worst conditions. No inner dry bag is needed because the case itself is the barrier.
- ◆ Removable lid with quick-release fastener: Loading and unloading is fast, and the lid can be removed completely when packing large or awkward gear. Four built-in tie-down points on the lid let riders strap extra camping gear on top.
- ◆ Built-in LED lights: A pair of LED lights comes included with the cases, making it easy to search through gear at night without needing a separate torch.
- ◆ Solar power bank: For long-distance riders and campers, the included power bank is a

practical touch. It keeps phones, GPS units, and other small electronics charged when there is no nearby power source.

- ◆ Key lockable system: The cases use a key lock to keep the gear safe when the bike is parked.
- ◆ Stainless steel hinges and aluminum handles: These details add long-term strength and make it much easier to carry the cases off the bike, even with riding gloves on.

3. Off-Road Performance: Soft Panniers vs. Aluminum Cases

This is where the real comparison begins. Both types work well on some terrain, but each has a clear edge in specific situations.

- ◆ Weight and center of gravity: Soft panniers are lighter than aluminum cases by a meaningful margin. Less weight means a lower center of gravity and sharper handling on loose or uneven ground. On technical trails with rocks, roots, and steep grades, that weight difference is felt quickly. Aluminum cases add bulk and raise the overall weight of the loaded bike.
- ◆ Flexibility on tight trails: Soft bags flex slightly when the bike leans or shifts. On tight single-track trails, this helps the bike move through gaps without the wide, rigid profile of hard cases catching on brush or rocks. Aluminum cases are wider and unforgiving in tight spaces.
- ◆ What happens in a fall: On off-road terrain, tip-overs happen. A soft pannier takes the impact, deforms slightly, and returns to shape. An aluminum case may dent, which can affect the lid's fit and the seal over time. This is not a deal-breaker for most riders, but it is a real consideration for anyone regularly pushing into technical terrain.
- ◆ Gear protection: For fragile items, aluminum cases win clearly. Cameras, lenses, bottles, and electronics survive a crash inside a rigid case far better than inside a soft bag. The rigid

shell does what fabric cannot.

♦ Weather sealing: Both types handle rain well when properly made. Viking's soft panniers use a 100% waterproof TPU inner liner, while the aluminum cases use precision welding to keep water out. Both solutions work. The aluminum case does not require a separate inner bag, which some riders prefer for simplicity.

4. Which One Is Better for Off-Roading?

The short answer is: it depends on the type of off-road riding.

For technical, tight, single-track, or rough off-road trail riding, soft panniers are the better pick. They are lighter, more flexible, less likely to cause problems in a fall, and easier to remove when the trail demands it. Viking Bags's Apex series of soft panniers for bikes like the BMW R1250GS, Harley Pan America, Honda Africa Twin, and Triumph Tiger 1200 are purpose-built for exactly this kind of riding.

For long-distance adventure touring that mixes paved roads, gravel tracks, and moderate off-road sections, aluminum cases offer strong value. Rigid protection, clean looks, and practical extras like the LED lights and power bank found in Viking's BMW R1250GS aluminum side cases make them a compelling choice for touring-focused riders.

For mixed riding that spans both on and off-road, soft panniers remain the more versatile option. They handle trail riding better, pack down easier, and do not restrict lean angle or ground clearance the way wider hard cases can.

5. Final Thoughts

Viking Bags, the best soft ADV pannier and hard case maker for serious adventure riders, has built both luggage types to meet the demands of real-world riding. Whether the trail calls for a flexible, waterproof soft pannier or a rigid, impact-resistant aluminum case, Viking has a model-specific solution designed to fit and perform without compromise.

The choice between soft and hard ultimately comes down to the terrain, the bike, and what gets packed. Soft panniers earn the edge on raw off-road performance. Aluminum cases earn the edge on gear protection and long-distance touring. Pick the one that matches the adventure ahead, and the luggage will take care of the rest.



<https://www.vikingbags.com/pages/motorcycle-saddlebags>



<https://www.facebook.com/VikingBags/>



Viking Bags

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - Phone: (888) 208-1949



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1966panhead@gmail.com

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Bernie Winicki
906 287-5706

Region 3

Van Dunson

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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
joylynnngrow@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



**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 Isle RC -
Dave Etherton**
No report this month.

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

WOW!! Thank you to everyone. August was busy. We had 4 bike nights, Hill Climb, the Tunder in the Creek, Family Picnic and Fall Rodeo. Thank you to all the volunteers, members and

Operations Officer

Dave “Woody” Berg

Phone: 231 884-2192

Dberg01@hotmail.com

supporters!!

A representative from MMC was at the meeting and Thanked us for a great job and the hard work we put in to parking all those cars!

At the meeting we voted to only have one Christmas party/ with auction. We also voted to keep to a Chinese auction and live auction. Donations are needed, clean out the basement and garages. We are working supporting 10 Families!!!

Upcoming events:

Next Meeting, Sept 13th at 7-Mile

Oct Meeting on the 4th also at 7-Mile

Oct 10th Color/Toy run (more info coming)

Nov. Meeting on the 1st at

The Dirty Dog

Dec 6th is the Christmas Party/ Auction at The Dirty Dog

Thank you for all your hard work and support!

Gail Folwer secretary

Let's get out there, let's show up!! Secretary Gail Fowler.

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

Good evening fellow ABATE members. It's August out here and it's been hot and sunny. Getting cooler at night. Perfect riding, boating and having a bonfire. Which one have you done so far??? If you haven't done all three then dang it “get er done”!!!

Region 6 is still plugging along. We had our memorial run with attendance down but still had a wonderful day. Thanks Jerry Soto as always!! Also a huge thank you to Gary Kopta and his awesome wife Debbie for coming and hanging out with us. Believe it or not one of our stops was 2 miles from their hacienda and they still kept riding with us. Woot woot thank u both!!

At our meeting today we discussed the field meet, the seminar, the bylaws, had our fifty fifty which Desi Soto won and donated back. Thanks honey. You are ok in my book. I'll keep you!!!

We were invited to Thunder Roads event for Veterans. More on that next month to let everyone know how it went. We definitely need to hit more events at different regions.

Raffle tickets need to be turned

in at our September meeting please. Sold and unsold. So far Jerry and Mich. are in the lead.

The drawing will be October 3rd at Evergreen. Region 7 is hosting so try to stop in and win that \$10000

Seminar was discussed and will be wild Wild West theme with a few new things to do. Like a fundraiser with a jail. Bring your cash folks.

We are also looking for a few ideas for breakout sessions. Got some??? let me know and I'll put them in front of the committee to vote on!! If we get enough we will draw from the winners. Of course we have our breakout session with Dondi, Bear, Jay Jackson and some other great names

Don't forget October is getting close. We will be voting on member of the year and asking if anyone wants to run for a position. You must be a member that has attended meetings, participated in events and supported your region.

Any questions on this let me know and if I can't answer them Gary Kopta our president will help me get the answers.

Hope to see you all next month at our meeting or stop out and enjoy that boat ride with us

Let the sun shine on your cheeks,

Let the wind blow in your hair

Let your beard get lots of tangles

And enjoy life to the fullest!!!

Peace

Merry.

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

ABATE Region 7 - Meeting August 2, 2026 - Evergreen Park

Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm. Pledge, moment of silence for troops, and prayer by Paul M.

Attendance 22

Secretary report- read June meeting minutes / no meeting July read Tim's statement from July Rider. Motion to approve as read by Wes N. / support Bob B.

Treasurer report - Paul M. reported for June and July income and expenses. Motion to approve by Wes N. / support Ray N.

Legislative - Butch B. reminded region members of the importance of voting in the primary election on August 4th. E bikes are an issue for Abate and the MRF. They are tentatively being classified with motorcycles without any rules or oversight. Lansing passed the state budget and are waiting for the governor to approve,

Old business - The Shoot and Scoot event in July was a success. Tim has heard positive feedback for this event. We will continue event for next year with improvements.

The Porcupine Bash event date and venue has changed. The new date is August 29th, at the Mayville Veteran's Memorial. Sign up starts at 11 am / kickstands up at noon. There will be a flag ceremony at 11:30. Bob B. has planned the ride to go to region area memorials. Dinner after the ride back at Mayville Veteran's Memorial.

New business - August 19th is the Cheeseburger Parade in Caseville. Tim and Bob B. are working on the Motorcycle Awareness float to be in the parade. All are welcome to help.

August 22nd at Ray C's in Lapeer, there is an event for the Epilepsy Foundation, 2nd annual in memory of Joe and Lea Taylor's daughter. Butch B. made motion for region to donate a new membership for this event. Members voted on motion and agreed the region would donate a two year membership for this event.

October 2,3, & 4th weekend is our Carved in Stone / Toys for Tots event and also the Abate state cash raffle to be held at Evergreen Park. On October 3rd. We need someone to do the bag auction and 50/50 raffle for Region 7. Lea Taylor and Leah Pabst volunteered to handle the 50/50 raffle. October 3rd for The Abate Cash Raffle, there will be a band starting at 4:00-4:30, at the big pavilion prior to the drawing. Band will continue playing after the raffle. Region 7 has a pot luck dinner on Saturday. Please bring a dish to pass and table service.

Dan and Jan Brown also during this weekend, have two quilts they are raffling to help with the cost to the region for the up keeping of our memorial stone at Evergreen Park.

Upcoming Event - September 23rd at 5pm - Adopt-A-Highway trash pick at Evergreen Park. Will have pot luck dinner after.

Motion to adjourn by Butch / support Parcus.

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

No report this month.

REGION 9 - Ionia, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham RC - Nick Henry

No report this month

REGION 10 - Gratiot, Saginaw RC - Amy Penny

REGION 10 SECRETARY REPORT

August 2, 2026

Meeting called to order at 3:10pm.

No secretary report for July.

Treasurer report was given.

September 2026

MRF report was given. Reminder of the Meeting of the Minds September 24-27th. Congratulations to Region 10 for currently having the largest membership and the most new members to date.

Reminder to return all raffle tickets to the September meeting. Time to get any unsold tickets sold.

The Gunner Dortch foundation will be holding "Accident Scene Management" classes this October or November. Keep an eye out for announcement flyer.

Region 10 will be escorting the Moving Wall on September 3rd. Possibly leaving from Shields at 10am. Final details are still being worked out. Watch the region face book page for updates. The End of Summer ride/party will be September 19th. Mark your calendars more details to come.

The color tour was discussed.

If you have any suggestions for bylaws changes or nominations for officers, please give them to Region 10 secretary by October 1st.

Because of the Labor Day holiday the September meeting will be changed to the 13th at Woody's in Merrill.

Upcoming Events

September 13, Region meeting, 3pm at Woody's in Merrill

September 19, End of Summer Ride/party

October 4, Region meeting, 3pm Ghost Town

October 10, Color Tour

November 1, Region meeting, 3pm TBD

December 5, Christmas Party. Ghost Town NO MEETING this month

Respectfully submitted

Debra Townsend

Region 10 Secretary.

REGION 11 - Lapeer, St. Clair, Macomb RC - Arnold Schneider

REGION 11 NEEDS A NEW RC. ARNOLD SCHNEIDER (OSCAR) WILL OFFICIALLY BE STEPPING DOWN ON DEC 2, 2026.

I hope someone will step up and take over this

Region!!

Our summer tour party is Sunday September 20. Details are on the back of the summer tour book. Books are still available for sale.

Enjoy the rest of Michigan's riding season!

Oscar.

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

RC - Joylynn Wojciehowski

Gary started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joy read the Treasury Report.

Joylynn is going to set a booth up at the ABATE of Indiana's Summerfest Friday, August 14th to Sunday, August 16th. It will be open from 11 am to maybe 10 pm Friday and Saturday and just the morning of Sunday.

The meeting for September will be on Sunday September 13th at 1 pm at the Paw Paw Eagles. See you there!

If you have any Money Raffle Tickets that you have bought or been mailed and not buying from the State, turn into Joylynn with any money and I will get them to Sherri for the raffle in time.

We drew for a 50/50 and a patron in the bar won. We drew for the incentive drawing and Melissa M. won and was present. We drew for a Money

Raffle ticket and Larry B. won.

Melissa motioned to close the meeting and Joy 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**

We will be doing a Raffle Ticket Round up for region 14 and 15 see shiny Bob or Johnny for more tickets bring them to the August 23rd. Meeting. THANKS to Shiny Bob and Ann Tobian for selling tickets and membership at the Ypsilanti bike and music festival, August 22 ,region 18 is having Aces and 8's poker run and party , \$20 for the ride and a cash raffle ticket. Free Camping, summer is going fast, watch for distracted drivers, meeting 4th Sunday Saline American Legion Post 322. Also region 15. Ride Safe. Johnny.

**REGION 15 - Wayne
Interem RC- Shiny Bob**
No report this month.

**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**

For the September, 2026 Issue of Michigan Rider

No one would choose to start a Region Report with bad news. Unfortunately that's almost all we have to write about this month. When Region 19's few active members began to gather around our table at the Shark Club, the news about Chip passed quickly from person to person...and that news was as bad as it gets. In July Chip Ashton, one of our older members and the anchor of

our group, broke a hip and was admitted to a rehab program at St. Joe. Not long after that we learned that Chip suffered another incident and was placed in Hospice care. Only a few days later on August the 8th, the word came that Chip had passed away.

Chip was many things to many people. He was an exceptional machinist, the person to whom engine builders routinely turned for machine work on motorcycle, automobile and marine engines. Chip was also a first-class person in many other respects with his family, his biker friends and motorcycle riding (Beemers especially, for many thousands of miles) all contributing to the life of our friend. Chip's loss is an immeasurable blow to Region 19 and we are all deeply saddened.

Making this even worse, it was at this meeting where we also learned that Grumpy, another long-time, active member of Region 19 had recently died. Counting Dave Buchanan's death earlier this year, Region 19 has lost three important members this year alone, three folks whom we could not afford to lose. Sad times indeed for Region 19.

With heavy hearts we turned to our meeting at 7:00 with a period of silence that was especially poignant. The meeting went on in a half-hearted sort of way with RC Bill making only a few brief comments about the MRF and Hess giving an informal report about a victory on the Right-to-Repair front coming from a settlement with John Deere and attorneys-general from the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Arizona. That settlement is a significant development and with these important states involved there is reason to hope that precedent will spread to other states across the country.

The remainder of this report is addressed to Oakland County's thousands of bikers, especially those riders who are also members of ABATE's Region 19. Tuesday September the 1st will find us back at the Shark Club, 6665 Highland Road in Waterford with dinner

at 6:00 and the meeting starting at 7:00. As our numbers shrink, there is more and more room for new and active ABATE folks at our table. Sad to say, the future of Region 19 looks pretty bleak as our few officers (we have only 3) struggle to keep the wheels turning. We desperately need new, younger and energetic folks to rejuvenate and energize Region 19. If new folks (yes, I'm speaking to you!) do not show up soon, Region 19 may no longer exist at a time when Oakland County's bikers will really need it. Please come out and join us!

Submitted by Hess Bates, Region 19 Legislative Officer.

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

Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm with 4 members and 1 guest. Thanks for giving a shit. Treasurer report was read and accepted. Sick call: Kritter is home from the hospital. Prayers for him as he recovers.

Old Business:

State raffle tickets are due to our RC or Cupcake by Sept. 4th.

Bike nights at Vehicle City H-D are the last Friday of each month from 6-9pm.

Michigan Primary election Aug. 4th. I hope everyone got to vote, either absentee, early or at the polls.

New Business:

Fall color ride. We are looking for ideas on a Date to be held, Route and Flyers. Contact Cupcake with your suggestions.

Bikes on the Bricks in Flint. Sept. 11-13. We will not set up a tent for this year as cost is too high.

End of Summer Party. Looking for suggestions on a Date and Place to be held. Contact Cupcake with recommendations.

Officer Elections:

Nominations will be at the September meeting for RC, Treasurer and Secretary. If you would like to throw your hat in the ring please say so. Elections will be at the October meeting. The

new RC will do Appointments for L.O., Road Captain(s), Sergeant At Arms and Products.
Legislative:
No report
Meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm
Ride and stay safe. Steve "General" Graves.

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 by Greg.

Matt, our chaplain led us in prayer followed by the pledge which was recited by all followed by a moment of silence.

Greg welcomed all who showed up for the meeting. He stated that there is a lot of things happening all around us and a lot of things that will keep us busy. He reminded all that we need to keep the negativity out of our region.

AC Mary stated that our T-shirts are not really selling. Karen made a motion, second by Mary to lower the prices by \$5 per shirt. Motion discussed and carried.

Karen presented copies of the minutes. Motion was made by Mary, second by Ty to accept the minutes as presented. Discussed and carried.

Chey gave a treasurer's report. Motion was made by Karen, second by Mary, to accept the treasurer's report. Discussed and carried.

Matt, our legislative guy stated that there was nothing new to report.

Sgt. of Arms stated that the light house ride was great and a fun time was had by all who attended.

Karen our awareness gal and Sarah showed up to send off the group on the light house ride. After the bikes left a woman in a truck stopped the girls and questioned what was going on. They had a great opportunity to share all about motorcycle awareness, after that she thanked them. Karen also states that she has spoken to people she doesn't know trying to raise awareness. She also sold signs at bike nights at the Pines.

OLD BUSINESS:
Our summer party: We have vendors coming and things are filling up. Woody will check to make sure that there is someone there to sew on patches. We will have one more meeting before the party. It will be on Aug 16th at 18:00

hrs. at Eagles.
NEW BUSINESS:
It was brought to our attention that some things don't seem to appear on our Facebook page and that we might be missing a lot of notifications. Karen made a motion to have Mike Hansen be our social media person, second by Russ. Discussed and motion carried.

Our next meeting is in September. Karen made a motion that our meeting would go back to Wednesday nights, second by Russ. Discussed and motion carried. Our next meeting will be September 2, 2026, at 18:30 hrs. at Laughing Horse.

Meeting adjourned.

**ABATE REGION 22
SUMMER PARTY**

*****AUGUST 21-23*****

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**13:00 HRS PARADE
STARTS**

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18:00 HRS DINNER.....A TACO BAR \$10 - AGES 12 AND UP \$5 -AGES 6-11

THERE IS A DAY PASS AVAILABLE FOR \$10. AFTER 18:00 HRS \$5

PRIMITIVE CAMPING \$50 PER COUPLE FOR THE WEEKEND
\$35 FOR SINGLE FOR THE WEEKEND
OPEN TO ALL.

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

Region 23 August 2nd meeting minutes. We're going to reschedule September's meeting because of the Labor Day weekend. To the following Sunday. September 13th... Lori at Twisted attitude leather and More in Houghton Lake has signed up 4 new members , And still have raffle tickets and signs available. Don't forget your 15% discount for new and existing ABATE members. The Red Circle Bar, would like to host a bike night . We are planning a trunk or treat on October 24, at the family fare in Grayling. We'll have a tent up with Raffle Tickets, Abate signs and Candy to pass out. All bikes all are invited to this family-friendly event. We're working on a fall color ride in October as well. There will be more details to come as we get closer to the event.
BE SAFE ON THE ROAD.

TED CALABRESE



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Send tabs and money for patch to:
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27705 Larchmont. St. Clair Shores, MI. 48081



Michigan Confederation of Clubs

The MCOC 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 MCOC contact

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Michigan Rider Newsletter

The Deadline for newsletter
submissions is
the 12th of each month.

* Please add your Region
number to the subject line in
all emails.

Michigan Rider Newsletter Copy Editor

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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>

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ROXIE CARPENTER
MICK WESOLOWSKI
TONY SEVERS
WARREN JANSEN
BRANDI FROG MILLER
ERNIE MOOMAW
RALPH SHIFFER
GAIL SHIFFER
ROBERT BETSON
NICK BOSANAC
DOUGLAS WIROSTEK
DOUG SAWADE
JOHN ORMAN JR
CHARLENE ORMAN
DAN CONNER
MICHELE CONNER
SUZIE COSTELLO**

WELCOME New MEMBERS

**CRAIG DATZ
TONY DICKENSON
JAMES MAREK
KENNETH SALAMON
MAC MCCRACKEN
HOLLYM CCRACKEN
EARL NICHOLS
JJ ARBOUR
KEN BROWNE
TIM WAYBRANT
JAMES DARLING
LORI DARLING
CHRISTIAN TOMERLIN
JOHN TOMERLIN**





25 Year Membership & Life Member!!!! **congrats**

Michael Papiez, Region 7 for 25 years of
membership and becoming a LIFE member!!!

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ABATE of Michigan, Inc. (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education) is a non profit organization dedicated to preserving the rights and promoting the safe operating practices of Michigan motorcyclists.

ABATE of Michigan is a freedom of choice organization: believing that the rider is best able to decide the type of motorcycle to ride, and the type and extent of safety gear worn. Our primary objective is to monitor motorcycle related legislation and encourage all members to become politically involved. Through public forums, writing letters and meeting elected representatives ABATE of Michigan members have the opportunity to speak their side of the issues and educate others on the needs of Michigan motorcyclists. ABATE works to get legislation and funding for riders education program throughout the state. These programs train thousands of new motorcycles each year. Courses are also offered for the experienced rider. In addition, ABATE members have staged and participated in events raising tens of thousands of dollars and collecting much needed items such as food, clothing and toys for local communities. ABATE of Michigan enables you to become educated both politically and in safe riding practices. ABATE offers you activities and the brotherhood of fellow motorcyclists. ABATE fights for the rights of ALL motorcyclists

to ensure that we and our children will be able to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dear. ABATE of Michigan is open to everyone 18 years or older having an interest in preserving personal freedoms and sharing our goals. Owning a motorcycle is not necessary. Members receive a newsletter covering important issues and information on local, regional and national events. (One newsletter per household). Membership fees & donations are NOT tax deductible. Membership fee is nonrefundable.

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

Region 13) Calhoun, Jackson, Branch, Hillsdale

Region 14) Livingston, Washtenaw

Region 15) Wayne

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

Region 18) Lenawee, Monroe

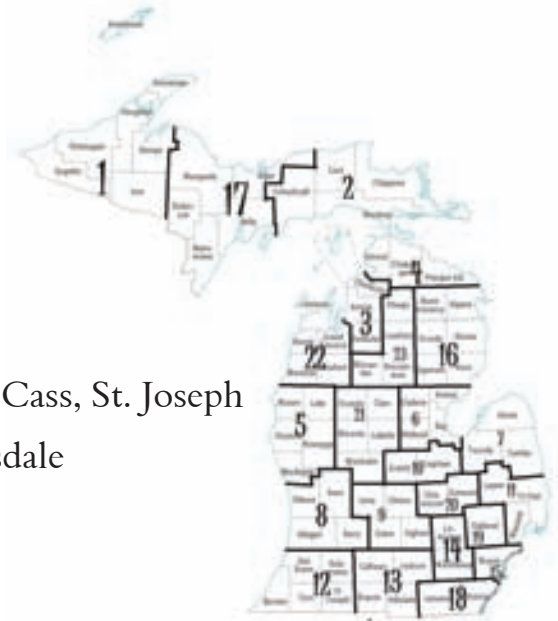
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Registration includes all workshops, workshop materials, and Saturday banquet.

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Business Card
(Approx. 3.5"x2")
Member:
\$20/issue
\$10/month for card online
\$100.00/
6 issues
\$150/12 issues
Non-Member:
\$40/issue
\$200/6 issues
\$225/12 Issues

1/4 Page Ad/Flyer
(Approx. 2.50"x3.5")
\$45/issue
\$225/6 issues
\$450/12 issues

1/2 Page Ad/Flyer
(Approx. 6.5"x4.5")
\$85/issue
\$425/6 issues
\$850/12 issues

Full Page Ad/Flyer
(Approx. 6.50"x8.50")
\$155/issue
\$775/6 issues
\$1,550/12 issues

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State & Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Member # _____ Region #: _____
Payment Enclosed: \$ _____ Pay by phone: Yes - No
Number of issues Ad is to run: _____ Months: _____
Please circle requested Ad above. Mail advertising form and check payable to
ABATE of Michigan, Inc.
to: Silla Balla 2050 West State Route 89A #95, Cottonwood, Az. 86326.
Email ad to: abatewebeditor@gmail.com
Contact Debra to use your credit card to pay by phone: 269 435-2058



CHAIN OF EVENTS



Scan for
printable flyers

State Events are highlighted in GOLD
MRF is highlighted in BLUE

Bike Nights are highlighted in GREY
*Legislative Events in Green

Date	Region	Region & State Events 2026	Contact
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.
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	



ABATE of Michigan
A New Beginning
Our Youtube Channel!!





ABATE of Michigan
P.O. Box 19
Sheridan MI. 48884
269 435 2058
www.abateofmichigan.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Membership Application/Renewal



Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Zip+4 _____
County: _____
Phone: _____ E mail: _____

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 ☐

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 ☐ _____

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>



Scan QR Code
to visit the
membership/
join page

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American Bikers Aiming Toward Education ~ A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments