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Words from the Chairman

Our 14th Annual NMMRO Bike Day at the Capital brought together approximately 350 to 400 motorcyclist, bicyclist, survivors of motorcycle crashes and family of fallen motorcyclist to our state capital on February 25. We filled the rotunda so our voices could be heard as one to promote safety awareness on our roads, and to support legislation for an increase in fines for careless, reckless and distracted driving. Survivors of motorcycle crashes were honored with a survivor patch and a poem. The families of fallen motorcyclist Eloise Armijo and Jerry Hicks joined us to honor their loved ones. Thank you to Law Tigers for printing our flyers, Thank you to Thunderbird Harley for allowing us to start our journey at their dealership, and to David Pearson from Santa Fe Harley for providing lunch for our group and for providing a stop to pick up our other riders. Thank you to our speakers Rick Miera, Tom Newell for an excellent presentation on the dangerous of texting while driving and on the dangers of unsecure loads, and to Dozer Ruben Moore for honoring our Veterans. Thank you to Khal Spencer and Ann Overton, Jennifer Buntz and the bicycling community for their support and attendance. Thank you to an amazing NMMRO board of directors for help making the day a success. Most of all thank you to everyone who attended and supported the NMMRO and motorcyclist in our state.

As most of us are aware, there has been a shift in the political leadership in Santa Fe. We have new freshmen senators and representatives who are anxious to try and "change the world." Some have degrees in political science and others our the common working man. In either case they have lots of surprises in store for them. The first one being this; "All calculations based on our experiences elsewhere fail in New Mexico ~ Governor Lea Wallace 1881" So when some of those new legislators reached out to the elder statesmen about passing some sort of helmet bill (because they thought they might save the motorcycle community), they were very quickly informed of the potential yet, powerful opposition (Yes the NMMRO and many in motorcycle community who feel it should be rider choice) they would encounter.

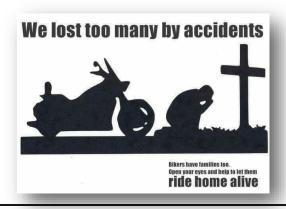
Our attempts to have our careless driving bill introduced during this session were not as successful as we had hoped. The bill that was introduced was modified without or knowledge or consent, and we felt did not meet the intended results we wished to achieve. So, respectfully we withdrew our support for the bill as introduced, and did we did so also to protect the integrity our organization. Our state leaders need to understand that we will not accept a watered down hand out. Currently we have shifted our efforts into supporting Senate bill 55 introduced by Senator Steven Neville, this bill would increase fines for reckless driving and texting while driving. Although this bill has many facets, it is a solid bill to combat distracted driving in our community. This bill was brought to light by Summer Jakino-Whistle, Mrs. New Mexico 2016, after the death of her father at the hands of a reckless driver. We feel that this bill can benefit the riding community and others impacted by distracted driving and reckless driving. The bill has currently passed the senate floor with a vote of 24 Yes and 16 No, and is currently waiting to be heard in the House. While following this bill through a committee hearing, it was interesting to discover that one of the concerns brought up was the impact on indigent and low income individuals if they have to pay higher fines for their carelessness. So, I guess if you injure or kill one of us, as long as you are poor an indigent, you get a free pass in the eyes of one of our Senators and the defense attorneys association who came in opposition of the bill.

2017 has already been a bad year for motorcycle crashes. To date there have been 37 motorcycle crashes reported to the NMMRO, with 10 fatalities. 15 of those have been cruisers, 13 of those have been sports bikes, 7 unknown reported, 1 trike and 1 scooter. 5 of the fatalities have been sports bikes and 4 have been cruisers and one unknown. Important things to do after a motorcycle crash; Never admit liability, if you are at fault the investigation will provide that information later. Identify witness and drivers and obtain name and phone numbers and statements if possible. Obtain a police reports as soon as possible, hey are usually available within 10 days. If you feel the report is inconsistent or incorrect, police officers have advised NNMRO officers you can go into a police station and add an amendment, so it is part of the report. Immediately notify your insurance company and protect your legal rights and obtain legal advice. If you are in the hospital and are unable to do so, advice your family or friends as what needs to be done. Because of our dangerous lifestyle, please discuss the WHAT IF CONVERSTION with your family in case of a motorcycle crash, God forbid one ever occurs. I urge each of you to become ambassadors for safety awareness and talk to at least 10 persons on dangers of the road, remind them to look out for motorcyclists, don't text and drive, don't drink and drive, don't ride and drink. Driving and riding is not a right or a privilege but a responsibility which should be taken very seriously. Always be courteous to all who share the road.

It was disappointing that a state District Court judge dismissed the vehicular homicide case against Megan Carrillo who had been charged with killing motorcyclist Jerry Hicks in an August crash at a Santa Fe intersection that had gone dark during a widespread power outage. Judge Glenn Ellington, sided with Carrillo's attorney to dismiss a grand jury indictment against her because a prosecutor failed to present evidence to jurors that may have been exculpatory. Judge Ellington dismissed the case without prejudice, which means prosecutors could refile the charges against Carrillo. Prosecutor Todd Bullion district attorney's options include to continue to pursue the case and to present evidence to a new grand jury or to go through a public preliminary hearing, in which a judge would then decide if there's probable cause to charge Carrillo. Dashboard camera video from a police car traveling southbound showed Carrillo's SUV, traveling northeast on Cerrillos, slamming into the motorcyclist and rolling over him and his motorcycle. Jerry Hicks' wife Michelle and 18-year-old daughter were approaching the intersection in a different vehicle and witnessed the collision. Jerry Hicks' was one of fallen motorcyclist honored at bike day.

Another disappointment while fighting for justice was when Judge Louis McDonald released Maryann O'Quinn to her mother after victims request a high bond and argued she should be locked up, but in the end it was not what the victims were hoping for. Last August, Maryann O'Quinn was speeding around a curve near Cochiti Lake and crashed into a group of motorcyclists. O'Quinn and her three passengers were ejected. Her own 15-year-old daughter was killed. O'Quinn is facing charges which including vehicular homicide and child abuse. The prosecution argued she is a flight risk because she is facing up to 63 years in prison, which makes her a potential flight risk. The judge ordered O'Quinn to be booked into jail and then released, so she will have a mug shot taken, but she did not spend any significant time in jail. The two other passengers in O'Quinn's car were her nephews. One of her nephews was on life support for several days that is why she is facing child abuse charges. The crash left members of our community Jeremy and Lauren Wallaert without limbs and Deb Hill with serious injuries to her leg. Several other motorcyclists also received injuries in the crash. A community has rallied to assist the motorcycle crash victims, therefore is very discouraging for Quinn to walk out while our friends are learning to walk again. Many of us are questioning, where is the justice in many of these cases where it appears the criminals have more rights than victims do.

Annette Torrez and Raymond Gallegos NMMRO Co Chairs



Being a Good Witness

Annette asked me to write a short article about being a good witness, i.e., what to do if you are involved in and/or witness a motorcycle crash. Obviously, the circumstances of each accident are different. If the bikers injured in the crash are seriously hurt and incapacitated, they may be unable to do much, if anything, to protect their interests. This is all the more reason to preserve the accident scene and gather critical evidence.

Try as much as possible to remain calm and call to summon help. Anybody who is not helping the injured person(s) should take pictures of the scene and gather contact information from any witness(es). that may have stopped. This includes names, phone numbers and addresses, if available. Provide this information to the police but be sure to retain a copy for yourself. Do not presume that the witnesses names and contact information will appear on the police report. Oftentimes, they will not. If possible, note what each witness has stated about what they saw.

Pick the most calm and well-spoken member of the group to interact with the police. It is important, whenever possible, that the original version of the police report reflect the biker's version of how the accident occurred.

It is also advisable to try to speak to the driver(s) involved in the accident and to get their version of events and insurance information. In the heat of the moment, they or passengers in their vehicle(s), may make statements such as, "I (We) never saw him/her," "I thought I had time to clear the intersection," or "I did not notice the light was red." By the time the police arrive, their stories may have changed. Note: it is important to gather this information before the police arrive, especially information from the adverse driver. Once the police arrive, they will sequester the parties and the adverse party's story may change. Normally in trial settings, the version of events believed by the judge or jury is the version that had been told at the accident scene. This is why incomplete and erroneous police reports can be a big problem for the injured biker and why critical witnesses being left off a police report can change the outcome of litigation.

If you have been injured in a crash, it is important to recall what happened and if a witness comes up to you, have them put their contact information in your jacket pocket or somewhere safe. Obviously, you can only do what you are able to do.

Safe Riding,

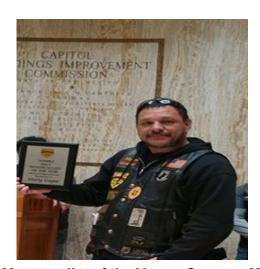
Cloyd G. Hinkle. HINKLE LAW OFFICES, P.C. 505/883-4357

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2017 NMMRO Motorcyclist Group of the Year - Onagers MC

The Onagers are a Veterans support club. They are the founders of the Duke City Toy Run which help provide toys for children in our community during the Christmas Holiday. They have started a program, Fallen Soldiers of NM which assist families of fallen soldiers in active duty who have been KIA. They work with "Operation Let It Wave" to help Veterans who don't have the physical ability to put up a flag at their home; the club comes out to assist. They work with the Veterans Integration Center to provide food and clothes for Veterans returning back from war. They assist the Blue Star Mothers welcome back Veterans returning home at the airport with a flag line. They have provided food for low income senior citizens for Silver Horizons. They are now assisting the Santa Fe National Cemetery to appropriate the last spots left at the cemetery for code talkers. They have also assisted in putting up a sign to honor Veterans in the Gallup area.



2017 NMMRO Motorcyclist of the Year - Onagers Marty Moose Gagne

Marty Gagne is a loyal, compassionate person who is always willing to help people in need. His club President Indio said "Marty is a mover and always focused to compete tasks. He also said, "Marty is the heart of the club".

Annette said "Marty has a huge heart. His head is always spinning with ideas to improve and assist our community. He is the true meaning of brotherhood."

WNMMRO

Hello N.M.

Just want to say thanks to all that made it to Bike Day at the Capitol. There was a good turnout and great speakers.

It is a full time job working to protect our right to ride what we want, when we want, with who we want & where we want. It seems that anymore OUR legislators are more intent on taking away our freedoms & rights rather protecting them. We can never forget that the official's we send to Santa Fe & Washington D.C. work for US! Somewhere along the road to Santa Fe OUR elected official's seem to have forgotten this fact. They are more than willing to give criminal's rights while ignoring the victims, taking our freedoms in the guise of safety! If you have taken some time to look at some of the BS bills being heard in Santa Fe you will truly realize that OUR legislators have lost their way and need to be reminded constantly why they are there. There is a huge division in this country now being the folks that want to control our every move (nanny state) and the folks that want to make their own decisions. We must speak louder than the nanny state folks to protect the enormous government intrusions into our everyday lives.

Part of this involves taking personal responsibility for our own actions. It makes it extremely difficult to explain the dangers of distracted driving to someone who has never ridden when riders themselves are on their phones when in their cages! Not to even mention the few that chose to rider distracted or impaired or that ride like there is no tomorrow. We must practice what we preach in a do as I do instead of do as I say. So put your phone away while in your cage, drive respectfully and have a little patience with others!

There is a new rider training outfit in Rio Rancho. Ride like a pro. If you have never watched their video on slow speed cornering the techniques they offer are amazing and well worth the time. Their website has details on setting your own practice course. They are offering courses for advanced rider training in Rio Rancho. Cost of \$175.00 per rider or will offer a group rate of \$150.00 per rider for a group of 8 or more.

Contact info: Richard Graves Owner/Instructor Ride Like A Pro New Mexico, LLC

www.ridelikeapronm.com Phone: 505-263-6500

Email: rich@ridelikeapronm.com

As for WNMMRO we are still doing out quarterly highway cleanups and supporting McKinley County Toys for Tots. Our MAP (Motorcycle Awareness Program) has slowed considerably due to most of our local school's no longer offering driver education courses. Membership is up slightly thanks to a new local club the Endless Riders and they have shown a strong participation with the organization. We will be having our annual Veterans Appreciation BBQ the 3rd Saturday in May (Armed Forces Day) and starting to work on the Rt. 66 Freedom Ride, Flight & Cruise planned for the end of July.

Ride Free, Ride Safe but most of all RIDE!

Jim

Coordinator WNMMRO

CNMMRO

Night Riding Safety

Make sure all your lights are working, cleaned and properly aimed. A dirty headlight can have a major impact on your vision at night. If you ride an older bike, consider upgrading the headlight bulb. Halogen or LED lights provide much better vision. Carry spare bulbs and fuses with you - a flashlight and basic tools won't hurt either.

To avoid the bright lights of on-coming traffic, follow the painted white lines on the right side of the road until the car passes you. You should be able to see them without being dazzled and it's a much safer alternative than guessing which way the road goes.

You can use other motorist's headlights to your advantage if you're following them, look ahead and use their headlights to watch the road or to spot potential hazards. But don't tailgate. Keep your distance from the car in front, they may need to suddenly stop or swerve to avoid a hazard. Following the taillights of a semi on a dark stormy night can also help see where the road goes.

Wear high visibility clothing with reflective strips so others can see you. Make sure you have good clear goggles or face shield on your helmet. Nothing is worse than trying to see through dark tint at night.

Do not ride faster than the road in front of you. You can ride as fast as you can see. If you can see the road in front of you, then you can ride at a reasonable speed, but keep in mind that in the dark, hazards can appear from anywhere.

Always be on the lookout for drunk drivers. Raise your awareness level of other vehicles at night time. Tap the brakes a few times when slowing or stopping, watch your mirrors. Use caution at red lights, stop signs and intersections, where impaired drivers are known to speed through without stopping.

Night riding can be a lot of fun, just use a little extra caution, and enjoy the ride.

Rod - CNMMRO chair.

CNMMRO MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE FAT SQUIRREL AT 7:00 PM ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

ChoppHearse the "Last Run" gas tank urns and handlebar keepsakes now available.

Here at ChoppHearse we believe that how we live is how we should be remembered and with cremation averages on the rise we created a way to still honor every motorcycle enthusiast with their "Last Run". We take a sportster gas tank and fabricate it into an urn, adding a choice of 5 select colors, personalization including the deceased name, date of birth and date of passing for \$650.00, we can also custom paint them to match the individuals bike for an additional \$100.00. We recently were asked to create one for a sport bike enthusiast. We will soon have a completed our first GSXR tank urn. Our standard turnaround time on our sportster gas tank urn is 12-15 days; please allow 3-6 additional days for sport bike tank urns and price may vary depending on tank availability. Now if you want your loved one to forever be riding with you then consider our handlebar keepsake. The ChoppHearse handlebar keepsake holds a portion of cremated remains, again with personalization, that slides into the left side of your handlebars using your grip to lock it into place. The ChoppHearse side car hearse can carry any and all urns styles and shapes so that even if your loved one was cremated we can still provide a "Last Run". For additional information please visit our website www.chopphearse.com or call us at 505-288-0755.









FROM THE BICYCLING COMMUNITY

Once again, both motorized and human powered two-wheeler aficionados packed the Roundhouse for the annual "Bike Day at the Capitol". I would like to thank Annette Torrez and the Board and members of the New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization for making room for bicyclists in the tent, Duke City Wheelmen officer Jennifer Buntz for her work getting us invited, and to the various bicycling individuals and organizations who worked hard to make the rally a success. These included Diane Albert and her law firm who bought the goodies, Tim Rogers who hosted a bicycling Community Cruise de Santa Fe, Tony Farrar and New Mexico Bike N Sport for hosting us for prerally goodies, and the Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico and Bike Albuquerque for their efforts at getting people there. My apologies to anyone I forgot to mention. In show of solidarity with our motorcycle brothers and sisters, as a Board member for the Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico I put on my leathers and rode down on my BMW sport touring motorcycle, a big red K1100RS.



Speaker Khal Spencer

That's me giving my speech, with NMMRO Chair Annette Torrez and other NMMRO officers around me.

Following the color guard, national anthem, and invocation was the Reading of the Names of the Fallen. Then NMMRO Chair Annette Torrez welcomed us and NMMRO Vice-Chair Raymond Gallegos discussed ongoing legislative efforts. Rick Miera, former Democratic House Floor leader, gave a guest speech followed by an excellent discussion of distracted driving by NMMRO's Tom Newell. I gave the speech for the bicycling community, discussing rider safety, SB 55 to increase penalties to distracted drivers who kill or injure, and the Complete Streets Memorials. I threw in a few remarks about how the Legislature is consumed with gun bills but ignores the carnage on the streets, where NM is competing for top honors in not only killing motorcyclists, but per capita killing of bicyclists and pedestrians. "Complete streets" is a "Vison

Zero" concept and means we design our streets and rights of way to be as safe as possible for all users. Such things as partial shoulder paving, which can upset a bicyclist or a motorcyclist trying to get off the road, would be prohibited in a Complete Streets/Vision Zero world. In urban settings, one would ask the question "does this street design put motorcyclists, pedestrians, or bicyclists at risk due to their small size and ability to be overlooked? Ann Overstreet followed me for BikeABQ adding key information. There were then awards to motorcyclists and clubs of the year followed by honors to fallen riders and survivors of crashes.

My wife and I were witnesses to this crash, about ten years ago, where two motorcyclists were killed by an elderly wrong-way driver on NM502 just east of Los Alamos. This Descanso is just east of the junction of NM502 and NM4.

Bicyclists feel vulnerable and certainly we are, but on a sombre note, we must remember all those names of fallen motorcycle riders that were called out by the NMMRO folks. Motorcyclists bear the brunt of two wheeled death on the streets, something I am acutely aware of when I am on the K1100RS. The combination of higher motorcycle speeds and the fact that a motorcycle is not a steel cage means when things go wrong, they can go wrong badly. Motorcyclists have a death rate on the road, in deaths per exposure hours, of about ten times that of bicyclists. So Annette finally got my NMMRO membership letter yesterday.

Finally, as I said, I rode down on the big BMW, so my "bicyclist's kit" included leathers and a pretty thick wool sweater. Halfway to Santa Fe my leather jacket unzipped from the bottom because I had not fully seated the zipper around the bulky warm clothing. That is not a good thing in sub-40 degree weather at 70 mph and when on two wheels, whether motorized or not, its never good to miss the small stuff before getting rolling. I had to stop and deal with my own "wardrobe malfunction" out on the road. That just reminds us to sweat the details when one is on two wheels rather than thinking one is safe in a two ton cage (and when you let down your guard in a two ton cage it is other people who are at risk).

Stay safe out there and enjoy the ride!



You are a Survivor

I had the privilege of attending the Ride to the Capitol this year. The weather turned a little chili but that did not stop a great turn out. It was impressive to see the number of riding groups, clubs and riding disciplines that came together, joined forces and turned out. We think there were almost 300 people that stopped in the shop for a quick bite and mass departure to the Capitol. It was even cool to see the bicyclist turn out to support and represent.

Many survivors and victims were honored in our efforts to be known to those who represent us. So many could have been prevented. I was also honored with a survivor patch and poemit hit me hard. I have been riding motorcycles for over 30 years and I have been down a few times. This last one was a big one. It has been over a year and a half and I am still battling injuries and insurance companies. To be denied by one insurance company simply for "being on two wheels" was a shock. The fight goes on.

As I was riding home from that day at the Capitol, it dawned on me that we are all survivors. Each time we hop on the bike and do our thing, the risk is always there....and we survive. Weather you enjoy skiing, skydiving, driving, swimming, shooting or needlework, there is always risks when we make decisions...and we survive. I believe one of the reasons I ride is the choice to accept the risk and the offsetting reward that comes from it. The clarity and in the moment focus is what makes the ride worth it for me. If we all continue to believe in what we do....we will survive.

When we can come together to mitigate the risks from controllable sources - we are opening the door to enjoy more of what we do. When we can limit the distractions other drivers take, we can all be in better focus. Thank you to everyone that showed up in person or in spirit to support the NMMRO's efforts to keep us out riding. Cheers to you all,

David Pearson

Owner - Santa Fe Harley-Davidson

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
3/18 NOON	NMMRO Meeting	Post 49, Abq
3/25	Ride for the Cure	See Attached Flyer
4/1 noon	COC Meeting	Post 49, Abq
4/11 7:00pm	CNMMRO Meeting	Fat Squirrel
4/22	Brotherhood Ride	See Attached Flyer
4/27	Vicious Vixen First Bike Night	See Attached Flyer
4/29	GOC– Family Fun Day	See Attached Flyer

Please email your event flyer to Mzscarlet7@gmail so we can get them in the newsletter

Colors Welcome

At this time I will be contacting the local businesses to see who is welcoming colors.

Next newsletter I will have this updated.





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