

A.B.A.T.E. of Alaska



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Rider Education 566-3334
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June 2009

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ABATE of ALASKA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

☐ Annual Membership \$20 ☐ 3-Year Membership \$50
☐ New ☐ Address Change ☐ Renewal Member Number if Known _____
NAME: _____ DOB: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____
☐ Check here if you do not wish ABATE to contact you by e-mail.
Are you a registered voter? ☐ Yes ☐ No
What is your State Senate District? _____
What is your State House District? _____
MSF Course taken: ☐ None ☐ BRC ☐ ERC ☐ RC

☐ VISA Card No: _____
☐ MC Exp. Date: ____/____/____
☐ AMEX Signature: _____

By signing this application, I agree to waive any and all claims against ABATE of Alaska, its officers, board members and general members for any personal or property loss or damage which may occur as a result of my participation in ABATE functions. I understand that ABATE cannot and will not assume responsibility for my safety and that if I participate in any ABATE-sponsored ride or event, I do so voluntarily, and I assume all risk and I release and hold ABATE harmless for any personal injury or property loss which may result there from. I agree not to sue ABATE or any property owner for any injury or damage which may occur as a result of my own or my guests' participation in any ABATE-sponsored event and I agree to reimburse ABATE for any and all losses it may suffer as a result there from.

Please read and understand the above agreement and sign below

Member Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail payment with detached application to:

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ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION
June 2009

Volume II - Issue 2

ABATE ADVISOR



For Statewide run
information go to
www.akbikerruns.com

Motorcycle News:

05/03/2009 Action Alert: Important Legislation on Missouri Governor's Desk

Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 202 (SCS/SB-202), originally introduced by Senator Kurt Schaefer (R-Columbia), was agreed to and finally passed by the House of Representatives on April 29. It passed in the Senate on March 10. SCS/SB-202 is now in the governor's hands.

SCS/SB-202 has three important sections:

1. Provides that operating a motorcycle, in and of itself, shall not be considered evidence of comparative negligence.
2. Provides that when investigating an accident or settling an automobile insurance policy claim, no insurer, agent, producer, or claims adjuster of an insurer shall assign a percentage of fault to a party based upon the sole fact that the party was operating a motorcycle in an otherwise legal manner.
3. Exempts persons 21 years of age or older from wearing protective headgear except when operating or riding motorcycles or trikes upon interstate highways. The motorcycle helmet exemption expires on August 28, 2014.

**04/12/2009 Action Alert:
No Passengers Under 16 Years Old!**

North Carolina Legislation Affects Parental Rights

House Bill 920, introduced by Representative R. Van Braxton (D-Kinston), would prohibit motorcycle operators from carrying any passenger under 16 years of age. The bill was filed on March 31 and referred to the House Committee on Transportation April 1.

If you believe that a parent or guardian, not the government, is best qualified to determine at what age their child is able to be a passenger on a motorcycle, you MUST speak out and stop this legislation.

Many families travel and recreate on motorcycles. To deny parents or guardians the right to include their own children in a form of transportation and recreation is an infringement on parental rights.

Continued on page 2

Inside this Issue:

President's Desk . . . 1
Safety Message . . . 2
Nationwide 3
Local 4
Event Calendar. . . . 6
Forms 8

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North Carolina Legislation from page 1

Here's what YOU can do to stop this bill from becoming law:

1. Contact Representative R. Van Braxton's office (919-715-3017 or Van.Braxton@ncleg.net) and respectfully tell him why you OPPOSE HB-920.
2. Contact Representative Becky Carney's office (919-733-5827 or Becky.Carney@ncleg.net) and respectfully ask her NOT to bring HB-920 up for a hearing.
3. Contact your representative to encourage him or her to OPPOSE HB-920. Use the AMA "Issues and Legislation" page or the North Carolina General Assembly's "Who Represents Me?" link to obtain the telephone and email address for your representative.

Here are a few talking points:

1. Responsible motorcyclists with children, not the government, know how to safely transport their own children and know at what age their children are ready to be a passenger on a motorcycle.
2. Passenger age restriction bills such as HB-920 often result from domestic disputes; an ex-spouse suddenly decides that his or her child is not safe

on a motorcycle operated by her or his ex. This issue should be resolved in the courts between the disputing parties, not in the legislature.

3. This bill is not about safety – it's about parental rights.

If you don't take action NOW, you may lose your rights as a parent or guardian to transport and recreate on a motorcycle with your own children. Stop HB-920 NOW

Helmet Legislation Introduced

Legislation before the Legislature of Nebraska would change state law regarding motorcycle helmet use.

Legislative Bill 200, sponsored by Sen. Charlie Janssen (NP-Lincoln), would permit adult motorcycle operators and passengers 21 years of age and older to make their own decision regarding helmet use. It would also permit minors over 15 years of age but less than 21 years of age who have successfully completed a motorcycle safety course under the Motorcycle Safety Education Act to decide helmet use for themselves. You can check the status and read the text of this bill at <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/intro.php>.

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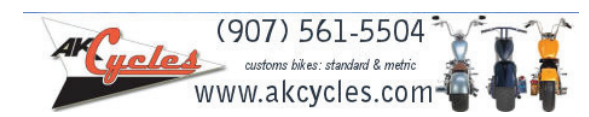
ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

ABATE Business Sponsor Listings

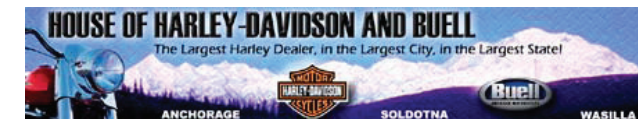
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ABATE of Alaska

Business Membership Application

Business Membership Policy

A business membership will be established to benefit both the members of ABATE and our business partner.

Business membership will cost \$60.00 per year.

The benefits to ABATE members will be a discount on all merchandise and services from the participating business if they choose to provide a discount. The discounts that are offered by a participating business would be listed in the business member section of the newsletter.

The benefit to the business member will be:

- A free monthly business card ad in the newsletter and 25% off on all additional ads placed in the newsletter.
- ABATE will also list the business members in a section of the newsletter identifying them as a business member.
- ABATE will provide a certificate for the business to hang in their store identifying them as a business member.
- ABATE will provide Tri-Folds and holders to the businesses for displaying ABATE information on their countertops (if requested).
- ABATE will provide at least 10 copies of the newsletter and a holder to the businesses for countertop display (if requested).
- ABATE will display the business's logo identifying them as a business member on the ABATE web page, and provide a link to their web page (if applicable).

Business Name _____ E-mail Address _____

Contact Person _____ Website Address _____

Type of Business _____ No. of copies of the Advisor ☐5 ☐10 ☐15 ☐20 ☐25

Physical Address _____ Discount to Members ☐5% ☐10% ☐15% ☐20% ☐____%

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☐ Annual Membership \$60.00

☐ 3-Year Membership \$150.00

Please send your application and payment to:

ABATE of Alaska
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Would you like ABATE info for your countertop?

☐Yes ☐No

Would you like to have an ABATE Web link?

☐Yes ☐No

Are you willing to make a tax-deductible cash donation for ABATE projects? ☐Yes ☐No

Are you willing to make a tax-deductible product donation to ABATE? ☐Yes ☐No

03/10/2009 Action Alert – Traffic-Actuated Signal Legislation Moving

House Bill 1795, authored by Representative Chuck Hoskin (D-District 6), would permit motorcycle and bicycle riders to proceed through stuck red lights under certain conditions. Operators stopped at an intersection controlled by a traffic-actuated signal, which must detect the presence of a vehicle in order to activate a green signal, could proceed with caution if they came to a full stop, determined the signal failed to detect their vehicle and their movement would create no hazard to other motor vehicles or persons at or near the intersection.

HB-1795 received a “DO PASS” recommendation by a 10-2 vote in the House Public Safety Committee on February 19. Representative Ken Luttrell (D-District 37) was added as a coauthor and Senator Randy Bass (D-Lawton) was added as principal author.

ABATE of Oklahoma reports the full House of Representatives could hear HB-1795 as early as March 10 (today). Time is short to show your support.

Take a few minutes to contact your representative in support of HB-1795. Points to consider when communicating with your representative on HB-1795:

1. Seven states (Arkansas, Idaho, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wisconsin) have modified their laws to allow motor-



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cyclists (and in some cases bicyclists) to proceed through an intersection if they determine a traffic-actuated signal didn't recognize their vehicle.

2. Prolonged delays at signalized intersections may expose motorcycle and bicycle riders to unnecessary safety hazards caused by other moving vehicles.
3. Motorcycle and bicycle riders may not “run red lights;” they must stop, determine the signal did not recognize them, and may proceed safely ONLY when no other vehicle or person is in or near the intersection.
4. There is no cost associated with this legislative solution to an engineering problem. Many traffic-actuated signals can be tuned to detect motorcycles and bicycles, but department of transportation staff or funds may not be available to permit adjustment of every intersection controller.

1/19/2009 Action Alert - Favorable Right of Way Legislation Introduced in Senate

Senate Bill 2432, sponsored by Sen. Fred Madden (D-Sewell) and backed by ABATE of the Garden State, would impose additional penalties for vehicle operators involved in right-of-way crashes that result in serious bodily injury or death. It would also increase penalties for subsequent violations of failure to yield the right-of-way at an intersection or failure to obey stop or yield signs.



For covered crashes resulting in serious bodily injury to another person, additional penalties of up to \$500, a 90-day license suspension, and attendance in a Driver Improvement Program are provided.

For covered crashes resulting in death to another person, additional penalties of up to \$1,000, a six month license suspension, and attendance in a Driver Improvement Program are provided.

You can check the status and read the text of this bill at <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us>.

33 Secrets for Smart Touring

It can take years to develop that knowledge through trial and error. But we've got a shortcut. We've asked AMA staff members to share with you the experience they've accumulated over decades on the road. What you'll find here are 33 insider tips—useful suggestions that have made tours more fun.

1. Eat at weird times. Everyone and their dog eats around 8 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. To get in and out of restaurants in a hurry, don't be hungry then.
2. A short metal cable with loops on both ends (like those made to keep people from stealing bicycle seats) is perfect for securing a jacket and helmet to your bike's helmet lock.
3. Carry a spare key. Zip-tie or duct tape it somewhere hidden on your bike, or better yet, give it to a traveling companion.
4. Portable weather radios are now in the \$20 range, and the first time one saves you from running right into a massive storm, you'll wonder why you ever traveled without one. Check accessory companies like Aerostich, or Radio Shack.
5. On high-mileage days, you'll feel a lot better if you carry eyedrops and use them every time you stop for gas.
6. If you're nearing the end of your riding day, and want to set yourself up for a quick getaway in the morning, consider riding to the far side of the next city you reach before you stop for the night, eliminating urban traffic the next day.
7. Take a tip from off-road riders and carry a back-pack hydration system so you can drink while you ride. A must for arid weather.
8. Going on a long, complex trip? Keep yourself organized with the envelope system. Before you leave, prepare one envelope for each day on the road. Mark the dates and locations on the outside, then stuff things like hotel reservation info and lists of things to see inside. Instead of juggling your entire stack of literature to find the piece you need, you can just open up that day's envelope.
9. A simple map case attached to your bike's tank (we've used a Rev-Pak version that has been available through www.whitehorsepress.com for years) can keep you on course without the bulk of a tankbag.
10. Keep your stuff dry in saddlebags by using trash compactor bags as waterproof barriers. They're thicker and more durable than standard garbage bags.
11. Use earplugs to help reduce wind noise. You can get them from most mail-order shops or dealers, or in bulk from safety-equipment supply houses.
12. Don't forget that pack-and-ship places are just about everywhere these days. They're perfect when you spot that antique umbrella stand you're dying to buy hundreds of miles from home.
13. Don't forget a small towel or rag for wiping dew off seats, windshields and mirrors, and even for doing a quick whole-bike cleanup. Those synthetic chamois cloths work particularly well.
14. Pack extra bungees and zip-ties. 'Nuff said.
15. Go ahead, buy that GPS you've always wanted. They're perfect not only for finding yourself, but also for allowing you the freedom to get lost in the first place.
16. You've heard it a million times, but we'll say it again: look over your bike carefully every morning on the road. Checking the simple stuff—air pressure, oil level, loose or missing fasteners—can save you from big trouble.
17. Sign up for road service or AMA MoTow. For \$25 a year, you get peace of mind, knowing that if you do break down, a motorcycle-savvy towing crew is only a phone call away. To sign up, call the AMA at: (614) 856-1900.
18. Stash a little cash somewhere hidden on the bike or on you, so you can make something happen when all else fails.
19. Before you take off from the hotel or campground in the morning, double check every strap on tankbags or soft saddlebags, and every latch on hard luggage.



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Continued on page 5

The bike stopped. Now what?**What to do when your motorcycle quits running**

by Bill Andrews

You're riding along, it's a beautiful day, your motorcycle is humming along beneath you. Then all of the sudden, it's not. Maybe it popped or sputtered once, but the bottom line is: you're coasting to the side of the road.

"What'll I do now," you think.

Here's a brief look at what you need to know. First and foremost, make sure you are safely off the side of the road. Hanging out on the pavement is usually a recipe for disaster. Then, it's time to take stock. Still, there are a few things worth checking. Who knows? One of them might get you back on the road. Your motorcycle engine needs three basic things to run; fuel, electricity and air. Consider looking at each of these components individually to see if there is anything simple to fix.

Fuel

When was the last time you gassed up? Running out of fuel, especially on a motorcycle without a fuel gauge or warning light. If your bike has a petcock, make sure it's switched to reserve. Folks have been known to accidentally switch the fuel supply off while trying to find reserve on the petcock, or even simply forgot they had that option.

If you're riding an older model motorcycle, and you know you've already been on reserve, you may not be dead in the water just yet. On carbureted models with a gravity fed fuel supply, try rocking the bike side to side. What you're hoping to do is fill the carburetor(s) up one last time with whatever may still be in the tank. Those precious ounces

can mean the difference between walking a mile or more, and literally coasting into the gas station on fumes.

If your motorcycle is equipped with an electronic fuel pump, or a vacuum type petcock, this trick unfortunately won't work for you. If you know you have fuel, but it's simply not getting to the engine, check for a blocked line. Now this can get complicated, but if you're running a gravity fed system, it may be as simple as removing whatever the obstruction is. There are instances where fuel can get trapped in the line by an air bubble, and it's usually caused by heat. Here's an instance where doing nothing is the solution. Wait a few minutes for the bike to cool down, and you should be able to fire up. You might also try opening your gas cap and closing it again, allowing fuel to flow through the lines.

Electrical

Keep in mind, most modern motorcycles have worked out most electrical gremlins by way of solid-state components in the attempt to prevent this very thing from happening.

The fuse box is the electrical junction point for your entire motorcycle. If it is on fire, or melted, that's a disaster and you're on the cell phone. Of course, the likelihood of the fuse box literally being on fire is low, so check the fuses to see if any are blown or have come loose.

Usually the bike will come with a spare fuse or two. Otherwise, borrow one from a non-essential component to get you home.

Remember that blown fuses can knock out all kinds of electronic components, not just ignition. Also remember that following the recommended maintenance schedule for your motorcycle can help prevent one of the most common causes of

electrical failure - a tired or neglected battery. Make sure your battery has the proper amount of electrolyte before heading out.

There's a simple check for batteries. Does the engine crank when you hit the starter? If the starter engages and turns the engine over, it's probably not the battery. If you hit the starter button and nothing happens, you could try making sure the battery is still hooked up properly. If your battery is behaving properly, you could look to see if you're getting a spark. To do that, you'll need to know where your spark plugs are, and you'll need to have a tool to get one out. Most motorcycles come with a small tool kit that'll include a spark plug wrench. After removing the plug, reconnect the spark plug wire and lay the plug next to the spark plug hole. You want to be able to see the electrode end, but make sure the metal part of the plug is touching a metal part of the engine. Turn the engine over and look for a spark. If you get nothing, there's really not much you're going to be able to do unless you happen to carry spare spark plugs.

Air

Air is the third factor to keep you happily motoring down the road, and this is another case of preventive maintenance. If your air filter gets clogged, the engine can't breathe. This really isn't a situation, though, that is likely to occur all of the sudden, and can be readily avoided by following your bike's maintenance schedule. Regular maintenance is the real key to avoiding unexpected stoppage of any kind. If you're noticing a recurring theme, here, it's regular maintenance. Nearly all of these problems can be avoided with regular check-ups.

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33 Secrets from page 4

20. Especially if you're riding alone, wear a dog-tag with your name and contact info. You can get them lots of places, including your local army surplus store.
21. Take a look back at where you were parked every time you leave someplace. You'd be amazed at what you find.
22. A cellphone can be a lifesaver in an emergency. You can dial 911 for help anywhere you find cell service, but you'll need to tell a dispatcher where you are. Keep track of route numbers, interstate exits, towns you've passed, mileposts—anything that can save emergency officials time in getting to you.
23. Good motorcycle gear really is worth it. Waterproof, breathable linings in boots and jackets will transform the way you think about bad weather. A number of companies offer materials that work well, but always test your gear on a rainy day at home before facing a storm on the road.
24. Do routine maintenance at home with your bike's toolkit, so you're sure you have what you need along the side of the road.
25. On a long tour, plan for at least one day every week of doing nothing. Time is the ultimate luxury, and can mean the difference between a vacation and an endurance run.
26. Be realistic with your daily mileage. In really scenic areas, 150 miles may make a very full day. Don't assume you can achieve freeway mileage on good back roads.
27. Guidebooks can be invaluable, but these days, a search of the Internet can add spice to your trip by revealing special-interest locations most books fail to include. One of the sites we've used is www.roadsideamerica.com. World's largest concrete bison, anyone?

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28. It is possible to use a kit to make emergency repairs on tubeless or tube-type tires alongside the road. But before you count on this as your safety net, practice using the kit on an old tire in your garage.
29. A packable motorcycle cover not only keeps your bike clean and dry overnight, it also discourages thieves. And don't forget a stout lock of some kind for the bike itself.
30. If you can afford it and are short of time, you could always ship your bike somewhere cool and ride it back. Call the Federal Companies at (800) 747-4100, ext. 217 or 218, for details.
31. If you call a hotel—even if you're two blocks away—you can often get a better rate than if you just walk in. And if you have access to a computer, there are some spectacular Internet-only deals available these days. Either way, do yourself a favor and have a reservation by 4 p.m. You never know when a convention will take over your destination city. AMA members get a discount at several hotels chains including: Red Roof Inns (call 800-RED-ROOF or go to www.redroof.com and use discount code CP503343); Choice Hotels (call 800-258-2847 or go to www.choicehotels.com, click on "Enter Special Rate ID" and use discount code 00947556); and Motel 6 (call 800-4-MOTEL6 or go to www.motel6.com and use discount code CP540176).

32. A nap can do wonders on a long day.

33. If you're traveling east or west, schedule your breakfast or dinner times near sunrise or sunset so you don't have to stare into the sun when it's low on the horizon.

ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

June 2009

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|----------------------|
| week 23 | | 1 | 2 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | 3 | 4 7pm ABATE of Alaska Board Meeting | 5 | 6 9am - Star 299 |
| week 24 | 7 | 8 | 9 6pm Midnight Son Riders Monthly Meeting | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| week 25 | 14 | 15 | 16 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | 17 | 18 6pm ABATE of Alaska General Membership Meeting | 19 | 20 9am - Star 299 |
| week 26 | 21 10:30am Dawgs Father's Day Run/BBQ | 22 | 23 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| week 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | | | | |

Calendar online at: akbikerruns.com

July 2009

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------|--|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|
| week 27 | | | | 1 | 2 7pm ABATE of Alaska Board Meeting | 3 | 4 ABATE 4th of July Run (26th Year) 9am - Star 299 |
| week 28 | 5 ABATE 4th of July Run (26th Year) | 6 | 7 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 9am - Star 299 |
| week 29 | 12 | 13 | 14 6pm Midnight Son Riders Monthly Meeting | 15 | 16 6pm ABATE of Alaska General Membership Meeting | 17 | 18 |
| week 30 | 19 | 20 | 21 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| week 31 | 26 | 27 | 28 Midnight Son Riders - Ride & Treat | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

August 2009

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|
| week 31 | | | | | | | 1 CMA State Rally cont'd Midnight-4am 9am - Star 299 |
| week 32 | 2 CMA State Rally cont'd | 3 | 4 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | 5 | 6 7pm ABATE of Alaska Board Meeting | 7 | 8 |
| week 33 | 9 | 10 | 11 6pm Midnight Son Riders Monthly Meeting | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| week 34 | 16 | 17 | 18 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | 19 | 20 6pm ABATE of Alaska General Membership Meeting | 21 | 22 |
| week 35 | 23 | 24 | 25 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| week 36 | 30 | 31 | | | | | |

September 2009

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------|---------------------------|-----|--|-----|--|-----|---------------------------|
| week 36 | | | 1 Midnight Son Riders Ride & Treat | 2 | 3 7pm ABATE of Alaska Board Meeting | 4 | 5 |
| week 37 | 6 | 7 | 8 6pm Midnight Son Riders Monthly Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 9am - Star 299 |
| week 38 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 6pm ABATE of Alaska General Membership Meeting | 18 | 19 ABATE Freeze-up Run |
| week 39 | 20 ABATE Freeze-up Run | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 9am - Star 299 |
| week 40 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |