ABATE ADVISOR



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Inside this Issue:

MRF Report

July 31, 2015

The United States Senate passed a robust, six-year highway bill as well as a three-month extension to current funding, reports the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF). With a healthy bi-partisan majority of the Senate supporting the bill, the DRIVE act or Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy act, was passed off the floor by a vote of 65-34.

The legislation includes language that would end the federal funding of motorcycle-only roadside checkpoints as well as defining autocycles as their own class of vehicle.

The bill now moves on to the House of Representatives where it will receive attention in the fall.

The Senate also passed a three-month extension to the current funding of

transportation programs. That extension runs out just before Halloween, so the House is likely going to act before then.

Bill managers, Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and Ranking Member Barbara Boxer (D-CA) worked together to create the bipartisan majority needed to pass the bill, with approximately three quarters of the Republicans and slightly more than half of the Democrats (including Democrat-leaning Independents) voting in favor of it.

The funding portion of the bill, however, remains a stumbling block. As of now, the bill contains revenue offsets to fund its first three years from 2016 thru 2018. If enacted, Congress would have to find additional revenue sometime before October 2018 for the final three years.

News Alerts

**Motorists in the State of Washington were told in March they have to obtain transponders for their bikes and deposit money in a state account if they wanted to keep using the high-occupancy-vehicle lanes on I-405. The state was converting the HOV lanes into HOT lanes, high-occupancy-toll lanes which allow solo drivers to pay a fee and use the lanes otherwise reserved for motorcycles and vehicles with two or more occupants. Federal law bans states from charging motorcyclists for using HOV lanes. In

Georgia motorcyclists are required to carry a Peach Pass to ride in the HOT lanes along I-85 in Atlanta.

**The battle between the government and two motorcycles clubs (Mongol Nation Motorcycle Club, LLC and Devils Diciples Motorcycle Club) regarding the right of a motorcycle club to keep ownership of its trademarked logo and patch. The case breaks legal ground in terms of trademark law and it would be no surprise if the issue ends up before the United States Supreme Court. Any precedent set in either of these

cases has the potential to affect any motorcyclist who wears a logo or patch on their back as part of their affiliation with a motorcycle club or organization.

**May 7th, 2015, Milwaukee, Michigan. Harley-Davidson announced it is offering all

continued on page 10



REPORTS

President's Report: It's about freedom. The freedom to ride as we choose. Please help preserve the freedoms we enjoy. Motorcyclists have been getting some bad press this year. Many of the motorcycle accidents recently have been the fault of the loose nut behind the handlebars. Please don't be part of the problem. Be part of the solution. Ride responsibly. Let's not give John Q Citizen anything to go to the legislature about that will take away any of our freedoms.

Treasurers Report: I am happy to report that ABATE of Alaska is in sound financial shape. ABATE of Alaska Inc. was the recipient of a 2015 reimbursable Alaska Highway Safety Office/National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (AHSO/NHTSA) grant for \$17,850.00. ABATE was required to contribute a match of \$7,150.00, totaling \$25,000 together. These dollars were designated for the purchase of seven-250 cc motorcycles for training purposes. I'm thrilled to tell you that seven motorcycles were purchased and are being used in this year's training sessions. ABATE of Alaska, thanks to you, was able to contribute beyond our required \$7,150 and buy more scoots. ABATE is now in the process of closing out the 2015 grant and we did not apply for a 2016 grant. However, we are considering ideas for a 2017 grant. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please send your thoughts forward. In addition, ABATE of Alaska made some huge advances. They are:

- a) \$10,000 on fencing improvements along the range
- b) Built a platform floor and erected two canopies for some range-side shelter
- c) New asphalt and striping for the range
- d) Brought forward to the Municipality of Anchorage, rededication of the range to "Three Angels Memorial Track", which was accepted and passed by the Municipality
- e) Restocked our "Watch Out For Motorcycles" signs
- New inventory of ABATE of Alaska, men's, women's, short and long sleeved shirts
- g) Hosted the Bike Blessing, Break-Up Run, and Christmas in July
- h) Freeze Up Run is September 19, 2015

- i) Implemented new membership software that vastly improves customer (your) service
- j) Sending three ABATE leaders to the Meetings of the Minds in Milwaukee, 2015

We have more to do.

- 1) The conex and trailer that we store motorcycles in are leaking and need to be replaced
- 2) The fueling system is not up to Municipality of Anchorage code and requires improvement
- 3) More motorcycles are needed

If you have any trailers', conexes, ideas, time, muscle, please let us know. We have accomplished a lot, but there is still more to do.

Riders Ed Report: Reporting through August 14th, 2015, 667 riders took the Basic Riders Course; 167 were trained in the Experienced Riders Course and 47 riders were licensed tested for the Division of Motor Vehicles. ABATE's military training contract has been awarded for three years. The Municipality of Anchorage approved the dedication of the training range to Three Angels Memorial Track and in the works are dedication benches and a memorial plaque. We were able to complete the new fencing of the range and 2015 has been a successful year.

Web Master Report: We have spent the last year increasing ABATE of Alaska's presence in social media. Click on the links below to follow us on your favorite social media site!

We have also moved our membership management to a cloud app called WildApricot to reduce the workload on the Membership Coordinator, give us better data backup, and also to improve access to the data for our officers.

On Facebook we have over 2230 followers on our page. That is up from about 1400 this time last year. On Twitter we have about 385 followers.



ABATE of Alaska on the Internet:

ABATE of Alaska Website: www.abateofalaska.com
AK Biker Run Calendar: www.akbikerruns.com
Membership site (WildApricot): www.abateofalaska.
wildapricot.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/abateofalaska Google+: www.plus.google.com/+AbateofAlaskaPlus/

posts

Twitter: www.twitter.com/AbateofAlaska
Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/abateofalaska
Instagram: www.instagram.com/abateofalaska

Public Relations Report: The Christmas in July Toy Run was a huge success. The media attention we received was unprecedented for ABATE of Alaska. I believe that everyone who saw the news broadcasts came away with a better feeling about bikers. Many thanks to the Salvation Army and McKinnell House for your exuberant participation. Many thanks to the Motorcycle Club's and Riders Group's that donated so much time and effort to make this a reality.

ABATE of Alaska has been embracing a "good cause" as part of our runs this year. I would like to continue participating in worthy causes – there are SO many! Our Freeze Up Run is coming up soon – September 19th. If you have a worthy cause that you would like to partner with ABATE to promote during our Freeze Up Run, please contact me at PR@abateofalaska.com

Membership Coordinator: The implementation of WildApricot has greatly facilitated the handling of membership. WildApricot is a software program and ours is specifically designed for non-profit organizations. Now, people can join ABATE on line, receive electronic renewal notices, update contact information and manipulate e-mail notifications. Currently, ABATE of Alaska has 227 active members, 59 lapsed, and 65 requiring renewal. Remember, all active members may post "For Sale" items in the ABATE newsletter free of charge. I am trying to develop business memberships in Anchorage, so if you would like to assist, please contact me via www.abateofalaska.com. Thanks for your support of ABATE.



Riders Ed Statistics To Date

Here are some statistics on the ABATE of Alaska Riders Education Training classes offered here in Anchorage at the Three Angels Memorial Track. The season is not over, so these numbers will increase, but it gives you an idea. The information source is Barbara Smart, Riders Ed Officer. Barbara is considering extending the Riders Ed program until later in the year, given the longer riding conditions Alaska is experiencing. That's good news huh? Stay tuned for more on that topic. If you want demographics on participant gender, age, or other factors, let me know.

Riders Education Data 2009-2015

Rider#	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Basic	760	909	593	917	922	870	739 + (164)
Expert	166	173	112	204	231	182	175 + (27)
3rd Party Testing for DMV	48	48	66	77	29	52	58 + (9)

Figures for 2015 showing "+ (XX)" are signed-up, or anticipated participants for the remainder of the training season in 2015. "Anticipated participants" numbers are based on history. So, for 2015, final numbers are expected to tally 903, 202, and 67.



Solving challenges.™

Note From The Editor

from Bobbe Reilly

Well, Tuesday I was cruising back from a little run up the Old Glenn Highway to Palmer, making the loop back the bore tide on Turnagain when I was heading north. to Anchorage and I missed a shift. I don't ordinarily miss a shift. Actually, that was about the third shift I'd missed. I wondered, "What??? Am I tired? Lazy? Weak? Sloppy?" Then I heard a rattle. It wasn't the engine. The engine sounded strong. Nope. Sounded like a fender rattling. Something was loose. I check the fender. Nope that's not it. Any change in torque produced the rattle. Whether I crank the throttle or let it off, the rattle sounded. No torque, no rattle. It sounded like it came from deep underneath. Mostly I heard it in second gear, but, maybe, I couldn't hear it in third or fourth because of wind, highway noise, engine etc. Finally, it just was not right. I said, "Self, this is not going to repair itself. It's not going to get better. Riding is gonna make this worse. You're gonna ride this right over to your mechanic, that's where your gonna ride this!!!"

Well, the compensating sprocket bolt inside the primary had come loose and was rattling around. My ace mechanic had me on the road the next day for my ride to Seward on Thursday. The ride to Seward was great!!! I saw 25 swans on the pond along the highway of Turnagain Arm going south and four surfers surfing The weather was beautiful, and the ride was great.

My mechanic tells me the material on the washer was re-designed and seems to wear. When the washer wears, the compensating sprocket bolt becomes loose which affects the belt, the shifting, everything actually, including the battery, because the belt is not tight and charging the battery. He's seen about six of these cases in the last month or so on 2004 Harleys and later. I asked him if it was just wear and tear and he said "No. It's the change in material, the re-design. When the washer wears down, all the different parts just don't hold together. They get loose." I got out pretty cheap, as far as compensating sprocket bolts go. Cheaper than others, because I realized it wasn't going to repair itself and took it right in to the shop. What's my point: listen and pay attention. When you hear something on a motorcycle, STOP. Check it out. Find out what's making that noise. Noises don't just "happen" on a motorcycle. Noises are telling you something. Pay Attention. Riding with ear buds does not help you hear your machine or other road noises.



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Christmas in July Toy Run July 19, 2015

ABATE of Alaska again benefited from its annual Christmas in July Toy Run providing gifts to approximately 45 kids from infant to teen. Providence Hospital, Alaska Native Medical Center, and McKinnell House were visited again this year. The parents, staff, and of course the kids were thrilled when Santa showed up. At McKinnell House where we are able to intermingle with the families there was such an overflow of good will and merriment. Staff, families, kids, and even KTUU Channel 2 News all had a visit with Santa. We appreciated the interaction and hospitality they showed us.

The Alaska Vets Motorcycle Club again provided their clubhouse for ABATES use starting at 9 AM on a beautiful sunny Sunday. Bikes were decorated with garland while riders were fueling up with refreshments in the AM. The sleigh was loaded up with a ton of toys/baby clothes/ books & electronic devices.

At approximately 10 AM riders lined up with RC from AK Vets MC leading the procession, followed by Santa and sleigh, approximately 75 bikes in tow, other AK Vets MC as road guards, and followed by the run truck.

continued next page

Christmas in July Toy Run continued

The ride took approximately five hours and all returned around 3 PM to a BBQ at the clubhouse.

I appreciate all who showed up for this special run, staying in town to support the kids when it was a fantastic sunny day and they could have taken a long ride out of town. This ABATE run has continued to grow just because of what it does for the kids who get to witness all the motorcycles pulling in with Santa. Those who contribute receive gratification doing for others. I had taken a break for a few years in coordinating this run, but was again reminded how gratifying it is to see how happy this run makes the children and the families. I am quite positive we caught the attention of the community as well, with the KTUU Channel 2 coverage at McKinnell House airing at 5 PM. I had a few calls come in that they had seen the Run on the news, and thought it was quite extraordinary. We had door prize giveaways and played bike games outside while the toys were distributed to the kids. I cannot tell you enough how much we appreciate all the clubs-associations-independents: AK Vets MC/Red & White MC/Second to None MC/CMA/Green Knights/ Combat Vets/Rig Riders/Iron Wolves/Tooth & Claw/BACA/ Diamond Girls/HOG and independents that showed up. The great success of this run is attributed to volunteers before, during, and after. I would like to sincerely thank the Alaska Vets MC for being the first to volunteer their help to ABATE. They stepped up early on clearing their

calendar for that day/use of their clubhouse to host the run/shopped and cooked the food for the BBQ//helped assemble the sleigh the day before and assisted with any other preparations they could carry out. Of course it is hard to have a Christmas run without a Santa, and Boyd McFail has volunteered tirelessly year after year, thank you we appreciate it, you are an awesome Santa and it shows in your interaction with the kids. Thanks to head elf, Jan Plummer (CMA) for assisting Santa year after year, without your help I could not get through the day. Assistant elves Mary Walls, Julie & Makayla Remelin, Emily, and Donovan Plummer ("The Christmas Tech"), for pulling the wagon, thank you for volunteering. Terry – who brought in his trike to pull the sleigh year after year, impossible without you. Bobbe Reilly for delivering all the posters and flyers around town/Big Dave for ABATE Blast communications/Tom Evans & Ed Rutledge taking on products while on the run. And all who donated toys and money.

Last but far from least of course to my partner, RC, for assisting me in all the above. I really appreciate all your help, it would be tough to get it all done without you. It is a perilous job I know, but you have the voice of reason, and knowing when to stay the hell out of the way. I hope I am not missing anyone here, apologize if I failed to thank you personally...but a BIG "Thank you" to all our benefactors:

outh Central Chapter 611 Minnesota Drive Anchorage 40 W Fireweed Anchorage	Use of Clubhouse/assistance Door Prize Giveaways Cash Donation Door Prize Giveaways Cash Donation
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40 W Fireweed Anchorage	Door Prize Giveaways
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334 Spenard Rd Anchorage	Door Prize Giveaways
	Cash Donation
	Toy Donations
301 Spenard Road Anchorage	Door Prize Giveaways/Toys
	Cash Donations
	Toys/Electronics
BATE members and friends	Toy Donations
ll Over	Toys and Money
30 BA	11 Spenard Road Anchorage ATE members and friends

So, to all of you, ABATE of Alaska and the families involved THANK YOU enormously and appreciate your generosity of time and money for this year's run. I personally was jazzed to see everyone there and who took an interest in doing for others. We look forward to your continued assistance and participation in next year's run.









Here's Santa!

A Clubhouse cutie!

Another cutie



Santa and his Helpers



Briefing @ AK Vets Clubhouse



At Providence Hospital



Let the Games Begin!

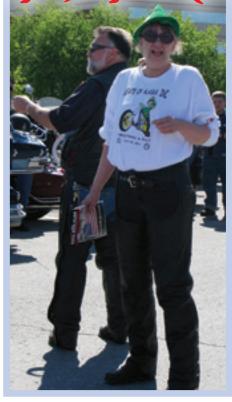


Christmas at Providence



Livin' the dream @ Alaska Native Medical Center

July Toy Run



Santa's elf in bad company!



McKinnell House



McKinnell Staff and Santa



AK Vets Bar-B-Que





Christmas in July at McKinnell House!



Proud Owner of a new scoot

Study Shows Lane Splitting Riders Are Safer in Traffic

A study released in May by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, reports that motorcyclists who split lanes in heavy traffic are less likely to be struck from behind by other motorists; are less likely to suffer head or torso injuries, and are less likely to sustain fatal injuries than other riders reports *American Motorcyclist*, August, 2015.

The researchers, led by Dr. Thomas Rice of the Safe Transportation Research and Education Center reviewed nearly 6,000 motorcycle-involved traffic collisions between June 2012 and August, 2013, including 997 in which the riders were splitting lanes at the time of the crash.

U.C. Berkeley findings are:

- a) 69% of lane-splitting motorcyclists were exceeding the traffic speed by 15 mph or less; speed differentials up to 15 mph were not associated with changes in the frequency of injury
- b) Compared to riders who were not splitting lanes, lane-splitting motorcyclists were markedly less likely to suffer head injuries (9% v.s.17%), torso injury (19% vs. 29%) or fatal injury (1.2% vs. 3%).
- c) Lane splitting riders were significantly less likely to be rear ended than non-lane-

- splitting riders (2.6% vs. 4.6%).
- d) Lane-splitting motorcyclists were more likely to be wearing a full-face helmet than other motorcyclists (81% vs. 67%)
- e) Compared to other motorcyclists lanesplitting riders were more often riding on weekdays and during commuting hours; were using better helmets and were traveling at slower speeds
- f) Lane-splitting riders were less likely to have been using alcohol.

The AMA supports responsible lane-splitting and finds it to be a safe and effective riding method, useful for riders and motorists alike. The AMA formally endorses responsible lane-splitting and will continue to assist groups and individuals working to bring legal lane-splitting and/or filtering to their state. To read the AMA Position Statement on lane splitting, see www.americanmotorcyclist.com





SEPTEMBER 19TH TUG BAR





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continued from front page

current and former U.S. military free Riding Academy motorcycle training. The new "Learn To Ride" program is open to active-duty, retired, reservists and to veterans, and begins on Armed Forces Day, May 16th, and runs through Sept. 13th.

**Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. of Canada agreed to recall nearly 7,100 Spyder RT motorcycles globally from the 2013 year. It also agreed to re-notify owners of motorcycles from 2008 through 2012 that were recalled in 2012 for problems that could cause fires, according to documents posted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Investigators found 103 complaints and two fires during the investigation on more than 52,000 motorcycles. The agency says Bombardier agreed to address rider burns, fuel boiling due to inadequate heat management and excessive fuel vapor emissions. The 2012 recalls were to fix a fuel cap that may not fit into the fuel filler neck of 33,700 motorcycles from 2008-2012 and for fuel vapors that could exit a vapor canister hose in the engine compartment in 9,600 motorcycles from 2008 to 2010.

**Oregon passed SB 533 which allows motorcycles to run a "dead red" light, where a traffic signal has not detected the presence of the motorcyclist after a full cycle. The bi-partisan Oregon House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development Oregon denied access to a general vote on SB 694. This was a bill on lane-filtering.

RECALL NOTICES

Honda 2014 & 2015 CBR1000S Models: Recall notice released through NHTSA for certain 2014 and 2015 CBR1000S (CBR1000RR Special Edition) motorcycles for a potential rear shock issue.

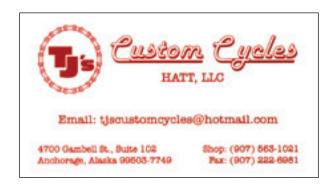
Yamaha 2015 YZF-R1M Motorcycles: Recall notice for 2015 YZF-R1M owing to a potential defect with the Ohlins rear shock absorber.

H-D 8904 Street & 45,901 Touring Models: Two recalls released through NHTSA for 2015 Street 500 and 750 models. One recall affects 45,901 touring models.

Yahama 2015 Motorcycles: Certain 2015 motorcycles for a potential defect with the shift cam segment stopper.

Ducati 2010-2014 Multistrada 1200: Potential issue with the inner sleeve opening throttle cable.

Brammo Empulse & Empulse R: Defect in the transmission breather tube



September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		form Tuesday Night Ride from Anchorage City Church	6pm Hog Night Ride 2 from House of HD 6pm Mat-Su Hog Chapter Ride	6pm Last Frontier 3 Motorcycle Ride 7pm ABATE Board Meeting	4	5
6	7	6pm Tuesday Night Ride from Anchorage City Church	6pm Hog Night Ride from House of HD	10 6pm Last Frontier Motorcycle Ride	11	12 2016 Harley-Davidson Demo/release party House of Harley- Davidson Anchorage Freedom Flag Run
13	14	15 6pm Tuesday Night Ride from Anchorage City Church	16 6pm Hog Night Ride from House of HD	Valley ABATE General Membership 17 6pm Last Frontier Motorcycle Ride 7pm ABATE Board Meeting	18	19 ABATE Freeze-Up Run Swap Meet Alaska Leather
20 ABATE Freeze-Up Run	21	6pm Tuesday Night Ride from Anchorage City Church	23 6pm Hog Night Ride from House of HD	6pm Last Frontier Motorcycle Ride	25	26 5pm Ascendant's End of Season Party
27	28	6pm Tuesday Night Ride from Anchorage City Church	30 6pm Hog Night Ride from House of HD			

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States Increase Tolls, Gas Taxes and Fees

The backlog of neglected bridges and roads in America has led nearly one-third of all U.S states to approve measures that could collectively raise billions of dollars through higher fuel taxes, vehicle fees, renaming of HOV lanes to HOT lanes, and tolls. This analysis was conducted by the Associated Press. At least half the states since 2013, from coast to coast, both Democrats and Republicans, have now passed transportation funding measures to secure funds to repair aged, failing infrastructure. lowa recently raised fuel taxes by 10 cents a gallon in order to garner funds to repair crumbling roads, decrepit highways, and unsafe infrastructure.

About 20 percent of the nations' 900,000 miles of interstates and major roads need resurfacing or reconstruction, according to one analysis of

federal data. A quarter of the 600,000 bridges are considered structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. This means they show worrisome signs or are no longer adequate for today's traffic.

Congress has yet to agree on long-term funding to supplement the states' efforts. Instead it recently passed its 34th short-term extension of the nations' transportation program since 2009, ensuring only that states will continue to receive federal highway funding through Oct. 29, 2015.

Let's hope that the dollars from increased gasoline taxes, vehicle fees, tolls, and HOT/HOV lane renaming go to our roads, highway, and bridges, and not to the General Fund or some other disappearing bank account.

ABATE of Alaska, Inc is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the rights and promoting the safe riding practices of Alaskan motorcycle enthusiasts.

ABATE of Alaska is a freedom of choice organization. We embrace the maxim "Let Those Who Ride Decide." We believe that the rider is best able to decide the type of motorcycle to ride, and the type and extent of safety gear worn. Our objectives include monitoring motorcycle related legislation locally and nationally; offering affordable rider safety courses as prescribed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation; and demonstrating our commitment to civic affairs through charitable measures.

ABATE of Alaska offers activities and the brotherhood of fellow motorcyclists. We stand for the rights of ALL motorcyclists to ensure that we and our children will be able to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dear. Membership is open to everyone interested in preserving personal freedoms.

ABATE Business Sponsor Listings

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officers, board of dire which may occur as a ABATE of Alaska, Inc. participate in any AB risks. I release and he which may result the injury or damage tha Alaska, Inc. sponsore suffer as a result their	ectors, and general a result of my partic cannot and will no ATE of Alaska, Inc. old ABATE of Alaska refrom. I agree not t may occur as a red event. I agree to refrom. PLEASE READ	ive any and all claims a members for any persocipation in ABATE of Alat assume responsibility sponsored ride or event, Inc. harmless for any to sue ABATE of Alaska sult of my own or my greimburse ABATE of Alaka AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOLES	onal or property lo aska, Inc. functions for my safety and t I do so voluntaril personal injury or a, Inc. or any prope uests participation aska, Inc. for any a	iss or damage I. I understand that that if I y, and I assume all property loss, erty owner for any in any ABATE of and all losses it may	OFFICIAL USE ONLY Charge Card Cash Check (#) Card Sent Date Sent
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