

# ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

## Last of the Season 2016

### ABATE NEWSLETTER



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# LAST OF THE SEASON ISSUE

## 2 0 1 6

### THE BREAK UP RUN!!!! May 14, 2016



Birchwood Saloon



Sheep Creek Lodge!!! Great food!



Sign up those poker hands!!!!



Gathering up!! What a beautiful day!!



Spin that wheel Face!!!



A great Break-Up Run!!!!

## BENEFITS OF ABATE OF ALASKA

*By the ABATE of Alaska Board of Directors & Officers*

*As a motorcyclist why should I be a member of ABATE of Alaska? What does it do for me anyway? Have you ever asked yourself these questions? Here are some of the answers.*

**ABATE of Alaska** is the Motorcycle Rights Organization for the State of Alaska. Regardless if you wear a patch, are an independent rider, if you ride a cruiser, or ride a sport bike, all motorcyclists should have all rights and freedoms to ride the open road without interference from local, State or Federal entities.

**ABATE of Alaska** works with, and supports, officials in the local, state, and federal levels along with other State Motorcycle Rights Organization's (SRMO) from all over the USA to assure these rights. These rights include profiling or being pulled over simply because you are on a motorcycle or dressed like a "biker". There are many other freedoms (aftermarket products, noise levels, dress, fuel composition, lane splitting, V2V communication to name a few) that can be taken from us.

**ABATE of Alaska** administers and teaches the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) motorcycle safety courses in Anchorage and to military personnel on JBER. Whether you are a brand new rider, or an experienced rider wanting to refine your skills, we offer instruction to make sure you have the tools to be safer and more aware while you are riding. **ABATE** also performs road testing thereby relieving pressure on the Division of Motor Vehicles and saving you time in obtaining your motorcycle license.

**ABATE of Alaska** sponsors five major events. First, is the annual Gathering and Bike Blessing on the Park Strip on the first Saturday in May. The Gathering brings together the entire motorcycle community for a day of brother and sisterhood with booths representing many organizations, foods, vendors and the Presentation of the Colors by the Alaska Vets Motorcycle Club. It is the official platform for kicking off May: Motorcycle Awareness Month, throughout the State of Alaska, as decreed by the Governor. Motorcycle Awareness Month is geared to bring motorcycle awareness to the public at large; emphasize that we are on the road and to watch for us. **ABATE of Alaska** reinforces May: Motorcycle Awareness Month, with radio advertising, ads and print. In 2016, over one thousand motorcycles came to the Gathering. The second major event is the Break-Up Run also in May. Then, in July, is **ABATE's** annual Christmas in July when motorcyclists join together to deliver toys and joy to various locations for children in need. We do this because bikers know that bikers care about those less fortunate, especially, when it comes to children. In the middle of September, **ABATE of Alaska** sponsors the Freeze-Up Run, celebrating the seasons riding adventures and signaling the seasons end soon. In January, when all the holidays and parties have ended, **ABATE of Alaska** throws it's Meet & Greet. At the Meet & Greet, all bikers, riders, members, and their guests can join together again, in the midst of the cold and dark and re-unite over an **ABATE of Alaska** hosted dinner, free to members and their guests, usually at La Cabana restaurant in Anchorage.

These are just a few of the things your membership in **ABATE of Alaska** help provide. For more information, you can go to **ABATEOFALASKA.COM** or contact one of our Officers or Board members for more information.

**ABATE of Alaska** is a 510(c)3 nonprofit organization. All of our Officers and Board Members are volunteers and do not get paid. We encourage all our members to volunteer where they can to help us maintain our rights as motorcyclists. You make us strong.

**RIDE FREE AND RIDE SAFE**





**CHRISTMAS  
IN JULY  
2016**



*continued on page 4*





**CHRISTMAS  
IN JULY  
2016**



### Christmas in July Toy Run • July 24, 2016

ABATE of Alaska again benefited from its annual Christmas in July Toy Run on July 24th providing gifts to approximately 80 children and 38 NICU babies staying at Providence Hospital, Alaska Native Medical Center, and McKinnell House. ABATE has sponsored this run annually for over 15 years. Providence Hospital was not going to be able to participate due to policy issues and availability to accommodate us on the 24th so a small group of volunteers went to Providence Friday the 22nd along with Santa to distribute toys to the children there. ABATE is dedicated to making sure that all the children are included and did not want those children and babies to miss the excitement of seeing Santa and receiving some joy as well. On Sunday the 24th we made our run to Alaska Native Medical Center so Santa and Elves could visit with the children there. Outside in the rain the approximately 80 riders and supporters hung out and played biker games. The next stop was at McKinnell House, an 18 unit facility for families in need, and where we are able to intermingle with the families. Here is such an overflow of good will and merriment, staff, families, and kids all had a visit with Santa. We appreciated the interaction and hospitality they showed us as well.

The Alaska Vets Motorcycle Club again provided their clubhouse for ABATES use starting at 9 AM on a beautiful but rainy Sunday, we were impressed on how many volunteers showed up in spite of the rain. Just goes to show you how committed the biker society is towards serving its community. Bikes were decorated with garland while riders were fueling up with refreshments in the AM. The sleigh was loaded up with tons of toys/baby clothes/books & a few bicycles.

At approximately 11 AM all riders lined up with RC from AK Vets MC leading the procession, followed by Santa and sleigh, approximately 80 bikes in tow, with Combat Vets – Green Knights – Disciple Christian MC, and Todd Bored (sp) as road guards, and followed by the run truck. The ride took approximately 4 hours and all returned around 3 PM to a BBQ at the clubhouse.

I appreciate all who showed up for this special run, in spite of the rain to support the kids when you could have stayed home warm and dry. There is overwhelming support from the biking community to want to help and participate in this event. This is the most important and gratifying run our organizations can do, and the reason this event takes place year after year.

Cannot tell you enough how much we appreciate all the clubs-associations-independents: AK Vets MC/Second to None MC/Disciple Christian MC/CMA/Green Knights/Ascendants/Combat Vets/Iron Wolves MC/Tooth & Claw/BACA/Diamond Girls/HOG/independents that showed up on run day.

The great success of this run is attributed to all whom volunteered their time before, during, and after. First





## ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

I would like to sincerely thank the Alaska Vets MC, 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 (Face and Mitch), and assisted with any other preparations they could carry out. Of course the ever jovial Santa, Boyd McFail, who has volunteered tirelessly every year, even flying down from Nome this 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 each year, without your help I could not get through the day. Assistant Elves Wendy Mack, Eva Mejia, Erika Shedlarski, Kelly Mazzei, 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 Riley for delivering posters and flyers/Big Dave for ABATE Blast communications/RC, Tom Evans (Waldo), Kyle Mayeaux, Monk, Brad B, Havoc, Big Dave, Ed Rutledge for assembling the sleigh. And all who donated toys and money.

And of course to my partner, RC, for supporting me in this event. I really appreciate all your help, it would be tough to get it all done without you. You should receive hazardous pay I know, but you have the voice of reason, and knowing when to stay the hell out of the way. If I am missing anyone here I apologize if I failed to thank you personally....but a BIG "Thank you" to all our benefactors:

AK Vets MC	South Central Chapter	Use of Clubhouse/assistance
Alaska Leather	3611 Minnesota Drive Anch	Gift Collection General Support
American Legion-Jack Henry Post	840 W Fireweed Anchorage	Cash Donation
Christian Disciples		Huge donation of toys this year
Denali Fed Cr Union		Gift Cards-trinkets for kids
BACA		Handouts to kids
Iron Wolves MC		Cash Donation
Barry Matteson		Cash Donation
Ascendants		Toys for kids
Eagle River Triathlon		Cash Donation
Craig Otto – 2nd to None		Toy Donations
Bosco's	2301 Spenard Road Anchorage	Toys for kids
Valley ABATE		Cash Donations
Dimond Girls		Teen Gifts/ Stuffed toys
Tiny – Combat Vets		Toys for kids
Paul Loew		Bicycles
Fred Meyers	Abbott Location	Discount on all toys bought
Tina and Darrell Jerue	Juneau, AK	Toy donation
Mike Menough		Bags and Bags of stuffed toys
Unknown	Sorry I did not get your name	Lots of Beanie Babies
Timothy Kelly		Cash Donation
All the Bikers - Supporters	All Over	Toys and Money

So, to all of you, ABATE of Alaska and the families involved want to give you a tremendous THANK YOU and appreciate your generosity of time and money for this year's run. I was personally inspired to see everyone there and thrilled that everyone took an interest in doing for others. ABATE looks forward to your continued assistance and participation in next year's run. See you then and have a great winter.

–Laura Goggins ABATE of Alaska Toy Run Coordinator

# ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

## Freeze Up Run 2016





# ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

## Freeze Up Run 2016





### 2016 Meeting Of The Minds

*By "Big Dave Grizzly" Monroe*

From September 23rd through September 25th 2016, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) held their 32nd annual Meeting of the Minds (MOTM) in Oklahoma City. Both Tom Evans and I attended representing both ABATE of Alaska and motorcycle riders throughout the State of Alaska.

This year's theme for MOTM was "Bridging the Gap", basically building bridges and working together. Without a doubt, the most popular subject all weekend was motorcycle profiling and furthering anti-profiling legislation.

This year, for the first time, I not only attended the conference, but was honored when asked to attend planning sessions and committee meetings in addition to the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) board meeting itself.

This year the MRF appointed a new Vice-President of Government Affairs and Public Relations, Megan Ekstrom. Megan is the MRF lobbyist in Washington, DC. She brings a strong history with her and has already been instrumental in improving the MRF's effectiveness in DC. Megan created a list for the MRF board to approve and prioritize to make more efficient use of our limited manpower and financial resources. She was also able to suggest some additional tools that the MRF is trying to fully fund for use by the individual states to monitor legislation and regulations related to motorcycles and then also notify our own constituents when any of these items need our attention or activity. If the MRF is unable to fully fund them, they should be able to provide the services for a greatly reduced user fee to the state motorcycle rights organizations.

The MRF, much like ABATE of Alaska, is seeking ways to increase participation and effectiveness. One way they are working on this is to facilitate a partnership between the MRF and a national Coalition of Motorcycle Clubs. The MRF not only has representatives from individual state motorcycle rights organizations, they also have reps from regional coalitions to combat legislative attacks on motorcycle riders around the country. The MRF also wants to partner with aftermarket vendors in the motorcycle community to help prevent legislation that would restrict the use of aftermarket equipment and upgrades further curbing our freedom of choice.

As I noted earlier, the most popular subject for discussion this weekend was motorcycle profiling. We were very honored to have Dave "Double D" Devereaux speak during the general session about motorcycle anti-profiling efforts across the country. "Double D" also took the opportunity to both attend and speak at several breakout sessions on Friday and Saturday. His primary message was that: ABATE of Alaska and the other SMROs around the country should not only document any and all occurrences of motorcycle profiling, but also use House Resolution 831 as a driver to enact motorcycle anti-profiling legislation in our home states. "Double D" was a very articulate and engaging speaker and we should consider bringing him here to Alaska to talk to us at a motorcycle rider gathering.

At the MRF Representatives Meeting, elections were held for the Rep's Rep. This is a MRF board position that provides a additional point of contact for other individual state Representatives. This means that Alaska now has a seat on the MRF Board of Directors for the next year. Again, I am very honored to have been elected by the other state reps and I hope to serve you all very well.

Once again, my biggest take away from the conference is membership growth and participation on both the state and federal levels is critical for the motorcycle rights movement to continue to move forward and be successful. For that to happen we have to find a way to attract all members of the motorcycle community regardless of age or participation. We have to put aside old issues and conflicts and bring the entire motorcycle riding community together. That includes street, off-road, and two and three- wheeled riders from all walks of life. That includes clubs, associations, groups, and individual riders. If we don't maintain our rights and continue without supporting both ABATE and the MRF, there's a strong possibility we could lose our ability to choose what we ride, and how we ride, the motorcycles we love so much.

## ANOTHER MIND MEETING

*By Tom Evans, ABATE of Alaska, Inc., Board of Directors*

I attended the MRF's Meeting of the Minds on behalf of ABATE of Alaska with BIG Dave Grizzly. There were about three hundred other motorcyclists in attendance from Motorcycle Rights Organizations (MRO's) around the USA. Our purpose was to discuss both the good and the bad that effects every motorcyclist rights. We celebrated the successes, and discussed solutions that are being implemented throughout the States and at the Federal level. Among the successes, is the passage of the FAST Act Highway bill which (among other things) stripped all Federal funding for motorcycle-only check points. This means if States want to have motorcycle-only check points there will be NO federal funding and the States will have to fund motorcycle-only check points themselves. This is a big step.

The big topic this year was motorcycle profiling. Motorcycle profiling is defined as "the practice of a law enforcement agent or agency using the fact that a person rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle related paraphernalia as a factor in deciding to stop and question, take enforcement action, arrest or search, a person or vehicle, with or without legal basis, under the United States Constitution". The MRF is asking people to report if they feel they have been profiled so they can use this information to fight this on a Federal level. Report the following information if you feel you have been illegally profiled:

\*Officers Name                      \*Officer Badge number                      \*Squad number                      \*Incident Location  
\*Incident Date & Time                      \*Witnesses (if any) name, mailing addresses and phone number  
\*Description of incident

Report this information to the MRF and they will tell you how to proceed from there. You can also go to: **abatemn.org** to download the complaint form.

Another important success is that in 2017 the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration is going to separate statistics between motorcycles and auto cycles (like the Polaris sling shot). This is critically important since helmets are not required on auto cycles at any time. No longer will a fatal accident with an auto cycle be included in statistics reporting fatalities occurring with motorcycles. Especially statistics of motorcyclists not wearing helmets. With the separation of motorcycles and auto cycles these statistics (along with many others) will not be included in motorcycle stats. These are just a couple of the subjects discussed at the conference along with many others. I plan on reporting some of these other things in future reports.

It is important to know that MRF has a lobbyist in Washington that is fighting every day for all of our rights. It is just as important to be aware that the board of MRF is made up entirely of volunteers that fight day in and day out for freedom to ride the open roads. All funds raised by the MRF go to help in that fight. Motorcyclist's rights are not a patch thing or an independent rider thing only. Rights affect all of us that want to ride free without government interference so it is important that we all unite and support our rights by joining both your local MRO (ABATE of Alaska in this case) and the MRF so these freedoms are not taken from us.

Finally, I want to personally congratulate our own BIG Dave Grizzly for being elected to the national board of MRF as a national rep. This is very important because he will have direct contact with MRO State reps throughout the United States and will literally be at the fore front of what is going on around the U.S. regarding legislation on both the State and Federal level. So, next time you see Big Dave, give him a big congrats. It's well deserved.



# ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

## 2016: FROM YOUR RIDERS EDUCATION REP

By Barb Smart

Presented below are the demographics from the 2016 ABATE of Alaska, Inc. Riders Education Program.

### ABATE of Alaska Demographics List: Basic Riders Course 2016

AGE	# 2016	Males	Females	# 2015	Males	Females
Under 21	95	78	17	100	77	23
21-25	140	116	24	219	180	39
26-30	101	74	27	157	112	45
31-35	68	44	24	74	55	19
36-40	40	25	15	61	45	16
41-45	35	21	14	45	31	14
46-50	35	20	15	36	28	8
51-55	35	19	16	50	33	17
56-60	26	20	6	22	14	8
61-65	13	10	3	14	14	0
Over 65	11	10	1	11	10	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>190</b>

### ABATE of Alaska Demographics List: Experienced Riders Course 2016

AGE	# 2016	Males	Females
Under 21	11	11	0
21-25	44	41	3
26-30	37	36	1
31-35	22	21	1
36-40	16	12	4
41-45	12	11	1
46-50	10	9	1
51-55	4	4	0
56-60	3	3	0
61-65	6	6	0
Over 65	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>11</b>

### ABATE of Alaska Demographics List: THIRD PARTY TESTING 2016 & 2015

AGE	# 2016	Males	Females	# 2015	Males	Females
Under 21	1	1	0	6	6	0
21-25	21	19	2	9	7	2
26-30	10	9	1	17	11	6
31-35	14	11	3	6	5	1
36-40	4	4	0	11	7	4
41-45	3	3	0	6	5	1
46-50	5	5	0	4	4	0
51-55	8	7	1	3	2	1
56-60	3	3	0	6	6	0
61-65	4	1	3	1	1	0
Over 65	3	3	0	3	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>15</b>

### LETTER FROM YOUR EDITOR

*By Bobbe Reilly*

Well, I hope everyone has been out enjoying this great weather!!! August was a little wet but what tha hey? Hope you've been getting your miles in and enjoying your friends!!!

I had the great pleasure of touring Italy for three weeks, but I have to tell you about the riders in Sorrento, Italy. Picture little, tiny, old, cobblestone, one-lane streets, teeming with cars, huge, Greyline-type tour busses and fifty zillion motor scooters and bikes!!! Packed. Three to four vehicle of sorts across the street! Everyone zipping in and out of the traffic! I can't believe anyone has side mirrors left!!! There are traffic signals, but they don't work!!! Some people actually stop at the "STOP" signs, but most don't. But everybody, EVERYBODY, knows exactly what everyone else is doing and this frenzied motorized mass skirts in and out and between each other with never a mishap. The riders!!!! Women with three year olds sitting on the tanks holding on to the tank, with Mom riding!! Women riding in skirts and dresses that actually manage to stay tucked it!!! A lady gets off her scooter, takes off her helmet, raises up the seat; puts it under the seat, and takes out her 4 to 5-inch stiletto heels; puts them on; fluffs out her hair and goes to work. We took a picture of a traffic light that was actually working. A guy stops his scooter; his dog jumps off, takes a leak, jumps back on and peers around the front signaling, "O.K. Dad!!! I'm ready!" These people were amazing!!! If you ever want to ride a motorcycle in Europe, I suggest Italy. The roads are well maintained; they're windy, twisty, hilly, up and down with gorgeous, jaw-dropping scenery. The cities are crowded and nutso, but the countryside is all around, with little traffic.

The Break Up Run, Christmas in July and the Freeze-Up Run were great!!! Thank you everyone!!! The turn-out for all was fabulous and everyone had a great time! Lotsa fun and the kids and families at Christmas really appreciate you. Check out the pictures and see yourself!!!

ABATE of Alaska is about Riders rights, training and education. Some topics I would like to see acted upon in Alaska are lane splitting, dead red lights, motorcycle profiling, getting drivers education back into the high school curriculum, and distracted driver enforcement. I've had several reports of motorcycle profiling here in Alaska. If you are interested in any of these actions send an email to the ABATE web page; come to the Board meeting (first Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.), attend the General Membership meeting (Sea Galley, third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.) or go by Alaska Leather on Spenard. Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom. Keep the rubber on the road and ENJOY!!!!



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### Autopilot Tesla Car in Mangled Heap

**Alaska Dispatch News July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The Alaska Dispatch News reports that a 74-year-old man was killed while **NOT** driving his Tesla Model S, a vehicle equipped with an autopilot system. The Model S Tesla struck a big-rig truck while “driving” on a divided highway in central Florida. The Tesla vehicle was traveling 10 miles over the speed limit and safety regulators speculate that the autopilot system “failed to intervene in time” to prevent the collision. Most of the car was flattened and its roof was “sheared off”. The Tesla’s semiautonomous autopilot driving feature was engaged at the time of the collision the report from the National Transportation Safety Board states. The tractor-trailer suffered slight damage to the right and the driver was not injured. This is the first known fatality in a Tesla using autopilot.

Tesla Motors Inc., Palo Alto, California, has emphasized its autopilot program is in the “public beta” phase of introduction and has limitations. For those of you not familiar with “beta” stage testing, this means a second phase of testing in which the intended audience tries the product out, not “alpha”; the initial phase of testing. Tesla CEO Elon Musk speculates that the system might not have functioned correctly because it could not discern the image of the trailer from the bright sky behind it. Musk tweets “tunes (sic) out what looks like an overhead road sign to avoid false braking events.” “Tesla drivers are warned to stay alert and keep their hands on the steering wheel because the technology does not provide fully autonomous driving.”

Google’s prototype has a fleet of 58 self-driving vehicles currently being tested on public streets in California, Washington, Texas and Arizona. GM, Daimler, Volvo, Ford, Jaguar Land Rover, Audi and BMW have also announced plans to develop driverless technology.

*Editors Note: So, this is the “public beta testing” phase. The public will test these cars even though the technology has not passed all testing that may be required. I was taught riding, figure half the people driving don’t see you, and the half that see you, don’t like you. You might have a chance. Now the possibility exists, they don’t even look for you.*

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## ASK YOUR LAWYER

Rod Taylor, ABATE Legal Services, [abatelegal.com](http://abatelegal.com)

### FIRE INSURANCE FOR A BIKE YOU ARE RESTORING

**Q.** Rod, I read your article about the person who lost a bike in a garage fire only to discover that he did not have coverage for that bike under his home owner's policy. In that case, the insurance company pointed to an exclusion in the policy that disallowed coverage for loss of the bike in a fire. The insurance company took the position that even though the bike was being restored, that it was excluded under the home owner's policy and needed a separate policy as a functioning vehicle. You advised us to request that the bike be placed on an additional schedule much like other valuables out of the ordinary, e.g. gold coins, valuable jewelry, rare guns etc - especially if the bike was in pieces or in the process of being assembled. Guess what? When I tried to do that my insurance company insisted that they would only cover the bike we are restoring if we insured it as an operating motorcycle. What gives and what can we do? - ABATE of OHIO member.

**A.** We need to educate the motorcycle insurance companies. It makes no sense that when we have a bike in the process of being assembled or put together from swap meet parts, that we can't get coverage for parts that we obtain over a period of time. Certainly we can't plate a bike like that until it meets state standards. For bikes that are not eligible for plating, consider listing the most valuable parts i.e. transmission, engine, tanks and frame on your homeowner's policy. If the insurance company is dug in on insuring the bike as a motor vehicle, consider a company with seasonal insurance, so you do not have to pay for liability coverage while the bike is in an un-restored condition. I would also have that company assign a value to the bike especially if it is a vintage bike. Let me know if this works.

### FIRE INSURANCE FOR A BIKE YOU ARE RESTORING

**Q.** Hello Rod. My name is Allen Simpson, been an Abate member for several years.

I just finished making a hazard report at Roadhazard.org of a condition I encountered on June 29th, 2016

at approx 7:45 PM. I was involved in a accident with a automobile in which I received the ticket.

I was stopped at the stop sign at Powis Rd traveling South, crossing Army Trail, in Wayne, IL. I pulled up to the Stop sign and looked to the east, looked to west, and looked again to the east.

It appeared to be clear, so I proceeded.

This was a mistake, I should have stopped again 10-15 feet further than the Stop sign, I stopped at.

From the East there is a fence, and tree overgrowth obstructing my view.

Posted speed limit 25 MPH. My ticket is for "failed to Yield / Stop intersection". My insurance person says no one will represent me due to the citation. Can you guide me?

**A.** This is the question I received from Allen. My response was along the line in an article I wrote for the January article "How to deal with a traffic ticket that is wrong" about representing yourself regarding a traffic ticket which is set out below:

1. List your facts chronologically
2. Bring photos of the area
3. Tell your story to the Judge

Armed with that information and my direction to take several photos to show the court the obstruction blocking his view Allen presented himself on trial date before the court. When the court heard the evidence the judge dismissed all charges against Allen. The point is: good guys with good facts, fairly presented, win.

*continued on page 16*



### EUROPEAN NEWS THAT MATTERS TO YOU!!!!

*Submitted by an ABATE of Alaska, Inc. Member, Thank You!*

From the article, "Tesla is a wonderful car, but an accident on a Norwegian motorway this summer made us very concerned. In the accident, the motorcycle of a young, female rider was hit hard from behind by a Tesla, with its 'autopilot' in the ON position."

Also of interest is the article and pictures from the motorcyclists' protest in France. It looks like a hell of a turnout, that should embarrass the Americans that always have an excuse to not to participate in an MRO, or fund one!

### FEMA's news update!!!!

This is a news update from FEMA, the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations.

FEMA's mission is to promote riders' interests, to defend riders' rights and to protect and preserve motorcycling throughout Europe and globally.

### Norwegian riders ask Elon Musk: is Tesla's 'autopilot' properly tested with motorcycles?

In a letter to Elon Musk, founder of Tesla Motors, Norwegian FEMA member NMCU asks a very simple question: Is the Tesla 'autopilot' properly tested with motorcycles? The letter to Mr. Musk is a follow-up of an earlier initiative by NMCU, addressing the issue of so-called adaptive cruise control systems not being able to detect motorcycles.

### French protest against restrictions for motorcyclists

This is a news update from FEMA, the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations.

FEMA's mission is to promote riders' interests, to defend riders' rights and to protect and preserve motorcycling throughout Europe and globally.



### Motorcycle recalls

Products placed on the European market are subject to general safety requirements. These requirements are included in the General Product Safety Directive which aims at ensuring that only safe consumer products are sold. The European Commissions' Rapid Alert System (RAPEX) enables the quick exchange of information between the European countries and the European Commission about dangerous non-food products posing a risk to health and safety of consumers.

FEMA publishes all recalls from the RAPEX reports that are of concern to motorcyclists, such as recalled motorcycles or motorcycle clothing.

*FEMA represents motorcyclists in Europe and is fully funded by membership fees and donations. FEMA is completely independent and we do not receive any financial support from governments or from Europe.*

*Does your club or federation want to become an FEMA Supporter? Go to our website for all the information!*

*Ask Your Lawyer, continued from page 17*

### **MICRO-SEAL - IS IT A TIRE KILLER? ADDITIONAL DISTURBING REPORTS FROM SELLERS**

**Q:** More about my tire damage from the Micro-Seal. Two weeks ago the same company applied the Micro-Seal process to State Route 41 west of Springfield. A fellow motorcyclist reported that he rode on St. Rt. 41 the day that it was being paved and several times after that the next two days. He had ordered a new front tire for his bike; and when they removed his wheel; both he and the repairman thought that the crud that was falling from his tire was just some loose new asphalt and didn't give it much thought. His eyes were as big as saucers after he heard what I had to say and viewed my photos. He told me that he was immediately going home to check out his rear tire for damage. I will let you know if I hear any more about his tire. ABATE MEMBER - GARY SELLERS

**A:** Gary. Where there's smoke there's fire. Let's stop this problem before someone is seriously injured or killed.

### **ARE GETBACK WHIPS LEGAL?**

**Q:** I been asked by member of my chapter if a "Get back Whip" is illegal to have hanging from the handlebar of a motorcycle in Illinois. I was asked this by a member of the VNV MC who is also a member of our ABATE Chapter. My research on the matter is that in California a getback whip is considered a "Slungshot" which in Illinois is illegal to have in your possession in a vehicle. My question is, is a Getback Whip considered a Slungshot in Illinois or is it illegal to have a getback whip hanging from my handle bar. Mike Gallagher, President, St Clair ABATE Chapter

**A:** Good question Mike. Get back whips have been used since the 30's. They attract attention and catch the eye of other drivers, or so say the manufacturers. And they claim whips can be used to display colors and to make a statement. But here is the problem. In California they are considered a deadly weapon - like a slungshot. See Cal. Penal Code Sec. 12020. And that is troubling, especially if you are involved in an "incident" and a prosecutor wants to call your whip a deadly weapon. With all of that confusion, we turned to the authorities on this one and below is the response provided by Officer Mike Link of the Illinois State Police:

"Thank you for writing to the Illinois State Police (ISP). I cannot locate any law restricting the use of the whips".

I don't know about you but I would take that as a "go for it! But notice he did not guarantee that some State's Attorney wouldn't want to make you a test case and try to call it a deadly weapon. So I say how lucky do we feel? But whatever you do put them up while in California.

### **ABATE MEMBER WHO GOT RUN OVER SAYS THE FOLLOWING:**

*"Just Read And Do This"*

Do you like playing real Russian Roulette? How about for \$100 bucks a year? Doesn't seem worth it, does it? But that's what you're doing if you don't buy adequate uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage for your motorcycle, car, or truck insurance policy.

Studies indicate that 14 out of a 100 drivers do not carry any sort of coverage. And another 50 out of a hundred have minimal limits that effectively provide no coverage (It is a farce for the adverse driver to claim \$25k of insurance coverage when your losses approach \$500k. So it looks like in 6 out of 10 serious injury crashes the adverse driver will not have enough insurance to pay you for your losses. I suspect Mike's medical bills alone will be north of 200k. Since most drivers do not carry adequate coverage for serious injuries, protect yourself.

Your parachute as a motorcyclist is adequate uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage. Most people who don't have insurance don't, because they can't afford it or don't want to pay for it. In other words, they do not have the money so the odds of them having sufficient resources to pay you for a serious personal injury claim is slim and none. Without coverage of your own, you lose.

## ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

*Ask Your Lawyer, continued*

Even if you carry the legal minimum coverage, like Mike Seiler did, you are still woefully underinsured. \$25k for a seriously injured motorcyclist is nothing. In a serious injury case, AirVac bill alone will be more than that. So why do motorcyclists continue buying minimal limits? My guess is - to save a few bucks, and they are relying on the law requiring everyone to have coverage. In other words they are trusting that the others will do the right thing. Bad decision based on bad facts. The fact is most cagers do not have enough insurance to take care of you. Let me repeat that, "MOST CAGERS DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INSURANCE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU".

My best advice is to have the highest limits (both liability and UM/UIM) that you can afford. And afford it till it hurts. The reason for this is even if the other guy carries minimum coverage you will be covered by your policy. Let's say you get injured in an accident that is the other guy's fault. You have losses from the accident (medical bills, bike repairs, and pain and suffering) of \$200,000.00. The other guys has basic coverage of \$25,000. His insurance company will only pay you \$25,000.00, leaving you with \$175,000.00 of uncompensated damages. You can then make a claim for the additional damages from your insurance company under your UM/UIM coverage. However, you can only make a claim for coverage to the extent that your UM/UIM coverage exceeds the other guys basic coverage. The higher your coverage is, the better your protection is. And that additional coverage costs peanuts compared to your potential losses.

There is no excuse for ANYONE to decline adequate UM/UIM coverage. It can be your resource of last resort. Don't be caught on the wrong side of being injured - protect yourself, and carry UM/UIM coverage.

Mike. Thank you for allowing us to use your situation as a learning tool. None of us like to be called out. From now on I will call this lesson, "Mike's Law" in your honor.

**Ride Safe & Free,**

**Rod Taylor, ABATE Legal Services, [abatelegal.com](http://abatelegal.com)**

*All questions from ABATE members are answered confidentially unless otherwise authorized and only after the matter is concluded, except when authorization for publication anonymously or otherwise is given for pending matters. Remember, injured ABATE members pay only 28 ½% of total recovery and expenses as approved by client, consistent with and conforming to applicable state law. Elsewhere, you may pay 33 ⅓%, 40% or even 50% of your recovery. ABATE members are not charged for recovery of damage to your motorcycle, and have access to a 24-hour toll-free telephone number. Call us at 1-(800)-25-RIDER. Questions? Submit them to: [RodTaylor@abatelegal.com](mailto:RodTaylor@abatelegal.com) © 2016.*





## AROUND AND AROUND THE U.S.

### From American Motorcyclist, August, 2016

**Georgia:** Senate Bill 76, The Motorcycle Mobility Safety Act, passed by a vote of 51 to 4, allowing motorcyclists and bicyclists to proceed through a red light "if the driver has stopped...and has a reasonable belief that the traffic-control device or signal is inoperative due to the lightweight design of his or her motorcycle or other motor vehicle."

**Illinois:** House Bill 1410 amends the driver's education act in Illinois School Code to require that all behind-the-wheel instruction includes lessons on motorcycle safety and awareness "to insure students understand their surroundings when operating a motor vehicle".  
*Editor's Note: Too bad we don't have Drivers Education in the school system in Alaska.*

**Maryland:** Passed a law prohibiting the profiling of motorcyclists. "Motorcycle profiling" is defined as the arbitrary use of the fact that an individual rides a motorcycle or wears motorcycle-related clothing or paraphernalia as a factor in deciding to stop, question, take enforcement action, arrest or search the individual or vehicle. The law also requires the Police Training Commission to write training policies that condemn motorcycle profiling and to include such policies in police training courses.

**Minnesota:** Prohibition of motorcycle profiling as stated in Maryland and including the language "... arrest, search a person or vehicle with or without a legal basis under the United States Constitution or Minnesota Constitution". The law requires anti-profiling training for law enforcement officers also.

Minnesota Governor signs autocycle bill defining autocycles as having three wheels in contact with the ground; seating that does not require operators or passengers to straddle or sit aside; a steering wheel; anti-lock brakes; and was built to meet the federal standards for a motorcycle.

**Texas:** S.B. 754 would increase the state's motorcycle training and safety program funding. The Legislature has declined to appropriate money from the fund since 2005. ***Because of this non-appropriation of available funding for training and safety programs the general revenue dedicated account for motorcycle education has accumulated more than 17.7 million in unspent funds. (Way to go Texas!! Ya Boy Howdy!! Editor's italics and bold).***

## COALITION OF CLUBS CHANGE

By Big Dave Grizzly

We have replaced the Webmaster officer position with the "COC Liaison". Chris "Token" Rigel has graciously stepped up into that role until the coming elections in October. FYI, I intend to continue functioning as the Webmaster, but as I have stated, it is a technical role not appropriate as an elected officer. In my mind, I should report to both the Public Relations officer and the President.

## CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!!!

### From the Anchorage Free Press, News of the Weird, Chuck Sheppard, July-Aug., 2016

\*\*\* In the "open carry" state of New Mexico, in the town of Vaughn (population 500, 90 miles east of Albuquerque), the only two people not legally able to carry guns are the town's two police officers. June (2012) KOB-TV report reports that Chief Ernest Armijo had been convicted in 2011 of criminal non-support of a wife and two sons, and was barred from possessing a gun. Deputy Brian Bernal has a conviction for family violence that bans him, under federal law, from carrying a gun. A month after the News of the Weird story, both men resigned, leaving the towns' police with only one active "officer"; the towns' police dog.

\*\*\* Esteysi Sanchez Izazaga, 29, Oceanside, California, June, was arrested for DUI, hit-and-run and vehicular manslaughter after driving three-fourths of a miles (3,960 ft.) with a pedestrian's corpse firmly lodged in her windshield after she struck a man. Esteysi had driven home where her horrified husband noticed the body in the windshield and called police.

\*\*\* Brazil is a democracy with few controls on how their candidates' name themselves on the election ballots. Sept, 2012, New York Times reports that running for office are: five "Batman's", two "James Bond", 16 people whose name contains "Obama", and the ever popular "John Kennedy Abreu Sousa", "Jimmy Carter Santarem Barroso", "Ladi Gaga", and "Christ of Jerusalem". "It's a marketing strategy" says city council candidate Geraldo Custodio, who thinks he'll do great running as "Geraldo Wolverine".

\*\*\* Montpelier, Vermont is combating America's policy of ignoring infrastructure maintenance needs by un-paving some of its roads. This cost-effective, "un-paving" solution begins by converting roads back to cheaper gravel and dirt (dust of course). Way to go Vermont!

### MRF's Jay Jackson Elected to Serve on Executive Committee for State Motorcycle Safety Administrators

**Motorcycle Riders Foundation, August 10, 2016**

WASHINGTON, DC - The State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA) announced the results of its recent elections. Notably, Jay Jackson, Vice-President of the Board of Directors for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, was elected to serve on the SMSA Executive Committee as the Individual Members' Representative.

The SMSA is an Association representing State Motorcycle Safety Administrators from across the country. The purpose of the group includes goals to influence national policy and standards affecting motorcyclists, provide guidance on state policies or standards, as well as allow for communication, collaboration and partnerships between Motorcycle Safety Administrators across the U.S. The SMSA's recent elections resulted in a number of new appointees to the Executive Committee which leads the organization. Jay Jackson is one of those recently elected.

"The SMSA really can serve a valuable purpose," stated Jackson who indicated his excitement about

rider education programs. "The previous and incoming Executive Committees members are dynamic individuals and have the enthusiasm to make things happen," he went on to say.

According to Jackson's SMSA nominee biography, he became a certified motorcycle instructor in 1986 and a decade later became State Director of the Motorcycle Safety Division for ABATE of Indiana where he is still working today. Under his leadership, ABATE of Indiana's rider education program expanded exponentially and he started to develop an extensive network of motorcycle safety professionals. In 2000, Jackson received his designation as a Chief Instructor by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. He has conducted and assisted in numerous training courses across several states.

As the Individual Members Representative to the SMSA Executive Committee, Jackson is hopeful he can help "cross pollinate" in getting motorcycle rights enthusiasts and motorcycle safety administrators to work together. Given his extensive background in motorcycle rights, his work with the MRF and ABATE of Indiana, and his strong interest and success in rider training and education programs, Jackson may be just the guy to do the job.

*Editor's Note: Each year we send Hovac to the SMSA conference to represent you. Jay Jackson is the current Vice-President of the Board of Directors for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation.*

### Touring Tips:

- The American Motorcycle Association (AMA) offers [americanmotorcyclist.com](http://americanmotorcyclist.com). Check out:
- 33 Secrets for Smart Touring
- Photo Tips for Motorcyclists
- A Guide to Loading Your Bike
- Trip Planning Guides
- Tips for Crossing the Border
- Extending Your Riding Season



**Goin Home, Alana Polega, Port St. Lucie, FL, 8-2016**

### Freedom of Association

*By Mack Backlund, State Coordinator, ABATE of Minnesota, 763-226-9195*

Lately I have heard many news reports of people claiming their right to free speech is being violated. In some cases their claims are true, in others not. Those who do not read the US Constitution sometimes take their rights for granted without even knowing exactly what they are. The right to free speech, while vitally important to a free society, is not the only right guaranteed by the First Amendment. It is also our right to "peaceably assemble". This is what ABATE of Minnesota members do hundreds of times per year at meetings, rallies, and runs. There are many places in the world where this cannot happen or would be heavily regulated. I am sure the Founders of our country never envisioned motorcycling, but we can be thankful they had the forethought to include this provision.

Which brings me to your Fourth Amendment rights. I call this the right to be left alone as long as you are not bothering anybody. It spells out that without probable cause, you are free to go on your way. Again, in several

parts of the world, this is not the case. And again we should thank the Founders of this country for their wisdom.

Folks, these two provisions in our US Constitution are the foundation of legislation at both the state and federal level to prevent the singling out and profiling of motorcyclists where they ride or gather. If you would rather not be detained for no reason other than the fact you ride a motorcycle or look like a motorcyclist, then support this legislation. If you would rather not be told you can't hang out (assemble) together because you ride a motorcycle or look like a motorcyclist, then support this legislation. These bills are not anti-police. They are not expensive. They only ensure that every law enforcement jurisdiction has a policy on pretextual motorcycle traffic stops.

If you have questions regarding this, call me. If you have a difference of opinion regarding this, call me. If you believe you have been stopped without reason while riding your motorcycle, call me. If you have talked to your legislator, and they have an opinion either way on this legislation, call me.

Lastly, thank you for being a member of ABATE of Minnesota!

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**Ron & Krista Feece**







## *A.B.A.T.E. OF ALASKA*

*Alaska Bikers Advocating Training and Education*  
P.O. Box 92213 Anchorage, AK 99509-2213

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October 1, 2016

Dear Member

It's that time of year again. Time to elect new Officers and Board members for ABATE of Alaska to serve for the 2017 calendar year.

Remember that ABATE has a purpose that is unlike any other organization in the motorcycling community. ABATE is not a social club, but we do try to have some fun activities for our members after we get the work done.

We have two missions:

1. To promote motorcycle safety education programs, public awareness programs, and motorcycle rider training programs.
2. To promote fair motorcycle legislation, and work to prevent enactment of, or the repeal of existing unfair anti-motorcycling legislation.

These tasks are not easy tasks. To accomplish them we need to have dedicated people to make the whole organization work. So please take a minute and think about the fact that we all love the life style that has become a part of our daily lives, and that we need to work to keep those who would take it away from us from doing just that.

Please nominate someone you know that is **capable and willing** to do the job at hand, and don't forget that you also may be the one for the job.

Please bring the nomination sheet with you to the **October 20<sup>th</sup> General Membership** meeting at the Sea Galley Restaurant in Anchorage at 7:00pm, or mail in your nomination to the address above postmarked before **October 20<sup>th</sup>**. You may also drop them off at Alaska Leather before the meeting. **Nominations will close during the meeting after the last nomination is taken from the floor. Elections will be held at the November 17, 2016 General membership meeting.**

ABATE of Alaska encourages new nominations from our membership. Currently, several individuals hold more than one title. New blood is always welcome.

Visit us at: <http://www.abateofalaska.com> or <https://www.facebook.com/abateofalaska>

## ALASKA BIKERS ADVOCATING TRAINING & EDUCATION

(The nominated persons must be a member of ABATE of Alaska in good standing)

### ABATE Nomination Form

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Legislative Affairs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sgt. at Arms:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rider Education Coordinator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Coordinator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Run Coordinator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gaming / Fundraising:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Products:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter Editor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COC Liaison:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Relations:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Board Members: (Please nominate 6 Board Members)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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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## Last of the Season 2016

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### ABATE OF ALASKA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

You may also JOIN US online at [www.abateofalaska.com](http://www.abateofalaska.com)

- ☐ 1 Year Membership \$20      ☐ New Membership      ☐ Update  
☐ 3 Year Membership \$50      ☐ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ (Previous Member Number)

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

**PLEASE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE AGREEMENT AND SIGN BELOW**

#### Member Signature and Date

Please mail payment with this application to: ABATE of Alaska, Inc PO Box 92213 Anchorage, AK 99509-2213

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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____ MC	Exp. Date _____
____ AX	Signature _____

Suggestions for ABATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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