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Sponsors and Fundraisers

Now's Your Chance to Tell the EPA About Your Concerns Over Ethanol

In the last several years, we have seen increasingly higher blends of ethanol like E10 and E15 showing up at the pump. However, these higher blends, specifically E15, have not been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use in small engines like those in motorcycles. Studies have shown the potential of clogged intank pumps and filters as well as potential damage to fuel lines, injectors, seals, gaskets, and valve seats, as well as to carburetors.

As a result, the EPA banned the use of E15 and higher blends of ethanol in small engines, effectively making its use illegal in a num-

ber of instances. In turn, many of the manufacturers of smaller engine vehicles and equipment started including statements that warranties would be voided if E15 was used.

Last month, the EPA actually proposed a reduction in the amount of biofuels, like ethanol, used in the U.S. marketplace.

While this activity is encouraging, the proposed volumes are still extremely high - sitting at levels that our motorcycles cannot han-

We need your help - Comment on the EPA proposal to let them know

Ten Simple Steps to Winterize Your Motorcycle How-To's

while it's a start, it's not good enough!

Comment on the Proposal! (http://cqrcengage.com/mrf/app/write-a-letter?8&engagementId=394893)

RIDE FREE-

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1) Surface Pren

Washing your bike when nobody will see it for a few months anyway can be a drag, but giving your bike a thorough cleaning before storage is important; letting bug guts or water spots sit on your paint can corrode the finish permanently. Wash your bike and dry it completely to get all the moisture off the surfaces.

2) Change Oil and Filter

Change your oil and filter. It's better for your lubrication system to have fresh oil sitting in it for several months than to have used, broken down oil in it, not to mention the last thing you'll want to do when riding season begins is change the oil before you can go ride. Using a winter weight oil like 5W30 can help it start up easier come spring time as well.

3) Lube Moving Parts

Keeping moving parts lubed during the winter will help keep moisture from building up on them and causing any rusting or binding. Any part of your motorcycle that needs to be lubed at any point should be lubed again before storage. Some parts to check are: chain drive, cables, controls, fork surfaces, and any other pivot points.

4) Prep Fuel System

Gas tanks have a tendency to rust when not in use, and untreated pump gas breaks down and becomes gummy over time. To prevent rusting and make sure your fuel is ready to run after a few months in storage, you'll want to fill your tank completely with fuel treated with a product like Sta-Bil Fuel Stabilizer.

5) Safeguard Battery

Batteries have a tendency to selfdischarge when sitting over time, especially when they remain hooked up to the bike. The easiest way to combat this is to hook up a battery tender like the Battery Tender Super Smart Junior which uses smart technology to monitor the charge and keep the battery topped off without overcharging. Normally you should pull the battery from the bike for storage, but with a smart tender you can also connect the tender with the battery left in the bike. Before doing this, make sure the electrodes are clean and corrosion free; if necessary, clean them off and give them a light coating of grease.

6) Protect Tires

If your tires are left to sit in the same position all winter long, they could develop flat spots. Keeping the tires off of the ground will prevent this, so if you have Motorcycle Stands, put the bike up on them for storage. If you don't have stands, try to get at least the rear tire off the ground, or you can rotate your tires by rolling your motorcycle slightly every few weeks. If you need to leave your tires down on concrete, put a piece of carpet or plywood under them to keep any moisture from seeping into them.

7) Check Coolant/Anti-freeze
If you'll be storing your bike somewhere

If you'll be storing your bike somewhere that gets below freezing, make sure you have adequate levels of anti-freeze in your coolant system. This is very important; if you run straight water in your coolant system and it freezes, you could come back to a cracked head in the spring!

8) Plug Out Pests

Mice and other rodents are notorious for hiding from the cold inside exhaust pipes and making homes out of air filters. If order to avoid any furry surprises when it's time to ride again, plug up your pipes with an exhaust plug like the

BikeMaster Rubber Muffler Plug. You can also simply stuff your air intake and the ends of your exhaust with some plastic bags - but do use bright colored bags or tie something to them so you don't forget take them out when you fire up the bike!

9) Keep it Covered

With your motorcycle fully prepped for winter, invest in a proper motorcycle cover. A quality motorcycle cover will not only keep dust off the bike, but will keep the moisture out so it doesn't get trapped underneath it, and create corrosion or rust. If you're storing it outside, be sure to get a cover with tie downs to prevent it from blowing loose in wind. If you're storing it inside you're in much better shape, but you should still use a cover to prevent dust from building up on it.

10) Theft Protection

If you're storing your bike outside, bear in mind that being parked unattended for months at a time makes it an easy target for theft. In addition to protecting your bike from weather, using a cover will conceal it from view, and securing it with a heavy lock and chain can give you some peace of mind. If you'll be storing your bike anywhere it can be accessed by others, read our guide on How To Keep Your Motorcycle From Getting Stolen, and consider investing in some security measures.

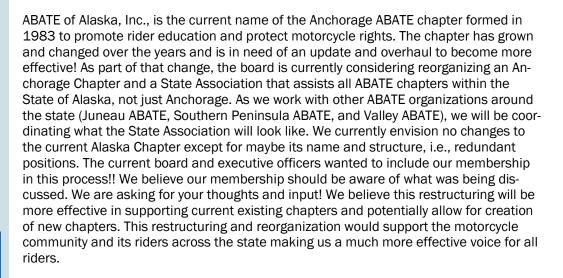
For the full article, click here: https://www.bikebandit.com/blog/post/ ten-steps-to-winterize-your-motorcycle

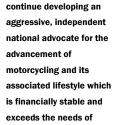
11. November 2016 Aaron Cortez

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

Alaska Bikers Advocating Training and Education P.O. Box 92213 Anchorage, AK 99509-2213 November 2, 2017

Dear ABATE Member,





motorcycling enthusiasts.

-MRF Mission Statement

That first time you hit

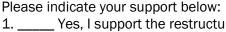
the road again after a

long hiatus, make

sure your bike looks

as good as you feel.

Our mission is to



1. Yes, I support the restructure and reorganization.

2. _____ No, I do not support the restructure and reorganization.

3. _____ I don't really have a position one way or the other and would need additional information to have a stronger position.

Please contact me with additional information.

NAME: Best way to contact (Circle one and provide info)

E-mail:

Text:

If you would like to be involved, please let us know!

1. Yes, I would like to be involved (either in the restructure or other ABATE events)

2. ____No, I am not interested.

Please respond by 12/31/2017. You may also include this letter in your return reply when you submit your ballot for the elections.

Thank you for your time and assistance. Your efforts will help make us all safer on the roads.

Regards. Tom Evans President ABATE of Alaska, Inc.



The 2015 ABATE of Alaska Break-Up Run to Sheep Creek Lodge.

MRF Legislative Update

MRF Friends, Allies and Supporters:

Its hard to believe that it's already been a week since Meeting of the Minds! For those that attended, I hope you enjoyed your time in Williamsburg as much as I did.

I know that many of you that attended requested copies of some of the presentations that were given; namely my legislative update, the "How to Talk to Staffers" breakout session and the National Rifle Association Presentation.

Additionally, for those that attended the legislative planning session, many asked for a copy of the 2017 document that we worked off of. I am also including this but please note that you will receive the 2018 version shortly after I



work with Hardtail and others to finalize the outcome of our discussion at Meeting of the Minds.

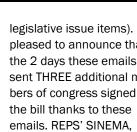
Last but not least, I love examples where I can show that "the proof is in the pudding" - for those that attended Meeting of the Minds, we had laptops set up outside of the general sessions so attendees could use our software program to contact their legislators and ask them to co -sponsor the anti-profiling resolution (as well as other

legislative issue items). I am pleased to announce that in the 2 days these emails were sent THREE additional members of congress signed on to emails. REPS' SINEMA, YOUNG & NAPOLITANO great job to Arizona, Alaska and California! THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING.....in other words, ASK and sometimes

Try it for yourself by visiting the MRF website where there are 3 issues (profiling, ethanol and RPM Act) that you can contact your member of congress about: http://mrf.org/ federal-legislative-issues/

Thank you all for your support of the MRF - let's ride together!

Megan J. Ekstrom Vice-President, Government Affairs & Public Relations **Motorcycle Riders Foundation** 1325 G Street N.W. Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20005 Phone: (202) 725-5471 Fax: (202) 546-0986 www.mrf.org



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ABATE of Alaska is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

"First and foremost ABATE of Alaska is the **Motorcycle Rights** Organization for the state of Alaska."



Please donate to support your ABATE of Alaska

MRF State Rep Report

As I enter my third year as the Alaska State Rep to the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), the support by ABATE of Alaska, the Coalition of Clubs, and the motorcycle community in general has been overwhelming. Several different members of our community ask questions about what we are working on, let me know about issues they are specifically concerned with, and want to know what is coming, or how they can help. This lets me know what your priorities are and the financial support is much appreciated because it allows me to do this work that you all have made me feel is very important to you. I hope that you can continue to guide me on your priorities and that I can continue to remain productive in this capacity.

September each year marks the annual Meeting of the Minds (MOTM) for the MRF. This year, it was held in historic Williamsburg, VA. Despite the great distance from Alaska, we managed to have 7 members of ABATE of Alaska attend the MOTM! (Most of them paid their own way there! That's how important this event is!) It has been over a decade since so many from our state have made it to this event. As a state, we continue to impress the other members of the MRF and help make our issues into their issues. The MOTM is where we get a status update on the issues that the MRF is focusing on, measure our effectiveness for those issues, learn about new concerns to watch for, and evaluate each issue before us. Using that information, representatives from each state vote to set the priorities for the MRF as a whole.

I don't think it will surprise most of you to know that Motorcycle Profiling and anti-profiling ef-



Boyd McFail helping road guard at the 2015 Eagle River Triathlon.

Ballots have been
mailed for the
2018 ABATE of
Alaska Board and
Officers



A volunteers bike parked during the 2015 Eagle River Triathlon. forts were the primary topic at the MOTM. I'm proud to announce that both Senators Murkowski and Sullivan have signed on as co-sponsors for Senate Resolution 154, the senate version of the bill. I'm still working with Don Young's office, but I need your help. Despite all of our efforts to utilize the MRF tool CQEngage, as of now, less than 50 people in Alaska have submitted letters to their federal legislators expressing concern about Motorcycle Profiling. Alaska is not alone in its apathy. The numbers from other states across the US are very similar. (That's numbers, not percentages!) So many of you have expressed your concerns with this issue, please let me know how to help you share this info and get yourselves, your families, and your friends to click on the links and send these letters! Please go to the MRF Legislative issues site at http://mrf.org/federallegislative-issues/ and fill out letters for any of the engagements that we have listed there. Also check out the Motorcycle Profiling Project at http:// www.motorcycleprofilingproject. com for more info.

For 2017, the other issues that we focused on included the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act (RPM Act), the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) better known as Ethanol, autonomous vehicles, and autocycles.

The RPM Act and RFS are both driven by activities from the EPA. The RPM act was for me, the scariest as it was the most immediate threat to us here in Alaska. The EPA is trying to use regulations to limit or eliminate your ability to modify your motorcycle at all. No aftermarket add-ons, no new exhaust, etc. They specifically were directing these limits at the RACING community. Yes, the guys who our running the motorcycles on the track, not on the road. Our thought is, they thought it would fly under the radar and then they could go after road users next. The RPM Act is meant to curb these regulatory activities. Email your federal legislators about the RPM Act here: http:// mrf.org/federal-legislativeissues/.

RFS/Ethanol is requiring higher blends of Ethanol be included in





the nation's fuel supply. Though the Ethanol is a concern due to the damage that higher ethanol blends does to older small engines, (Motorcycles, marine, lawn mowers, etc.) we are a bit insulated from it here in Alaska thanks to Senator Murkowski's efforts to keep it out of the state. (Thankfully, there is not much of a corn lobby here!) But if they continue to increase the Ethanol blend requirements, then non-Ethanol gas will become even less readily available and may leave us with fuel shortages here if we continue to keep Ethanol out of Alaska. Some of you may be unaware that despite Alaska being an Oil & Gas state, most of the fuel we put in our cars comes from refineries in the lower 48. This makes there issue, our issue. Email your federal legislators about the Ethanol here: http:// mrf.org/federal-legislativeissues/.

We had two great general sessions on Friday and Saturday at the MOTM.

On Friday, the MRF vicepresident Jay Jackson gave the opening remarks, Frank Carbone provided the MRF finance report, and Megan Ekstrom gave the MRF legislative update. Then legend and 1997 Motorcycle Hall of Fame inductee Dick "Slider" Gilmore from Iowa gave his nationally known "Golden Hour" presentation about accident scene management. He gave a great presentation and is a great person to talk to. Slider has been riding since the mid-60s, but has not made it to Alaska yet. He really wants to come up and visit and I think he could give an engaging presentation to the riders here in Alaska.

On Saturday, we had two guest speakers at the general session. Sunshine Beer from the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA) spoke to us about "Why Crashes Happen". (Yes, that really is her name.) She presented a lot of troubling statistics that reinforced our need to promote rider education. Our second speaker was Dr. Todd Adkins from the National Rifle Association (NRA). Dr. Adkins spoke about how to be more effective in politics during his presentation "Taking a Page

from the NRA's Playbook: How to Stand Out in Today's Politics". Regardless of your opinion of the NRA or their activities, one cannot argue with how successful they are. Also, due to recent profiling incidents involving bikers being stripped of their concealed carry permits due to being a patch holder in a club, the NRA may be able to partner with the MRF on that specific issue.

Friday and Saturday afternoon were both filled with a lot of Break-out sessions directed at specific groups. Some of them involved conducting MRF business such as the state reps meeting, while others provided more insight and information for useful subjects to MOTM attendees. (Women in Motorcycling, The US Constitution, Executive Directors Town Hall, Conference Planning, Rider Education, etc.)

For 2017, I was proud to represent Alaska and serve on the MRF Board of Directors as one of two Rep's Reps. I was only in a one year term to fill out the seat vacated by Doc D'errico who was promoted to the Director of the Reps Program. This year, I am honored to say that I was re-elected to the MRF Board for a full two year term.

I look forward to continue representing Alaska with the MRF from here at home and in Washington, DC in May. Next year, the MOTM will be in Denver, Colorado. If you want to help ABATE of Alaska and the MRF, I cannot recommend attending MOTM strongly enough. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns

David "Big Dave Grizzly" Monroe ABATE of Alaska, Board Chairman MRF State Rep—Alaska MRF Reps Rep, MRF Board of Directors



A.B.A.T.E. of Alaska works closely with our business partners

> "When life throws you a curve, TAKE IT"



MRF Press releases keep you informed of what is going on in our nation's capitol. Join the MRF today!



"...approximately 85 riders and supporters hung out and played biker games."



Christmas in July Toy Run July 23, 2017

ABATE of Alaska and the community benefited from its annual Christmas in July Toy Run on July 23rd providing gifts to approximately 125 children and 50 NICU babies staying at Providence Hospital, Alaska Native Medical Center, The Ronald McDonald House, and McKinnell House. ABATE has sponsored this run annually for over 20 years and is dedicated to making sure that all the children are included in the excitement of seeing Santa and receiving some joy as well. On Sunday the 23rd our first stop was to Providence Hospital. This year Providence was able to participate in the festivities and we took a new route going around to a back entrance so the NICU families could also participate. In past years we could only drop off infant bags as entrance to the NICU was not allowed. Although we can still cannot enter the Unit, families were able to come outside and visit with Santa. Our next stop was to Alaska Native Medical Center where children and staff got to enjoy Santa and Elves in the Pediatric Unit. In addition this year, ABATE was able to add The Ronald McDonald House to our ride. In January of 2017 the RMH moved into one of the ANMC buildings which houses children and adults with some in critical condition. We were thrilled to have this opportunity to help with the Units children and families. Outside in the hot and sunny skies the approximately 85 riders and supporters hung out and played biker games. It was such a nice day we had to take shelter in the shade. 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. A visit with KTUU Channel 2 News was on hand to help spread the word.

The Alaska Vets Motorcycle Club again provided their clubhouse for ABATES use starting at 9 AM on a beautiful and sunny Sunday with all the volunteers who took time off with their families to support this run. 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 & stuffed toys.

At approximately 10 AM all riders lined up with RC from AK Vets MC leading the procession, followed by Santa and sleigh, approxi-





mately 85 bikes in tow, with road guards and followed by the run truck. The ride took approximately 5 hours and all returned around 3 PM to a BBQ at the clubhouse. I appreciate all who showed up for this special run to support the kids when

you could have stayed with your family

or took care of chores. 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/Red & White/Second to None MC/Disciple Christian MC/Hangmen MC/Mechanized Calvary MC/Original 13/CMA/Green Knights/Ascendants/Combat Vets/Iron Wolves MC/BACA/Diamond Girls/Freedom Flag Riders/Pavement Pounders/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 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/cooked the food for the BBQ (Face and Mitch), and assisted with any other preparations they could carry out.

Of course the ever jovial anta, Boyd McFail, who has volunteered tirelessly every year, thank you w 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 Sarah and Dannika Schneider, Cami Zifko, Emily Organ, Brooke Ober, Tiffany Karling, Jamie Carlson, Kelly Mazzei, and Donovan Plummer ("The Christmas Tech"), for pulling the wagon, thank you for volunteering. Terry Lee – who brought in his trike to pull the sleigh year after year, impossible without you. Erin Goggins who stepped up in a big way to help shop and organize, Ken Coston and Lesle (Scottie) Moore shopping, Big Dave for ABATE Blast communications/RC, Havoc, 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, your assistance is immeasurable.



"As anyone with an old motorcycle can attest, the major issue with putting this many vintage machines inside one building is the high likelihood that some bikes will be leaking fuel."



ABATE of Alaska Newsletter

October 2017

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

Environmental Compli- Anchorage, AK Cash Donation ance Consultants

Disciple Christian MC Huge donation of toys again this

year

Ken Coston and Judy Teen Gifts

Smith

BACA Toy Donations

Iron Wolves MC Cash Donation

Barry Matteson Toys R Us Gift Cards

Lesle (Scottie) Moore Teen Gifts

Eagle River Triathlon Cash Donation

Diane McDonald Cash Donation

Spider - Green Toys for kids

Knights

"Thank you to all who

support our

Christmas in

July Run"

Tonya & Rich Donation

Bruechex

Dimond Girls Toys/Stuffed toys

Pete Larkin Donation

Mechanized Calvary Donation

Bob Borgen Donation

Jan Plummer Toy donation

Freedom Flag Riders Toy Donations

John Ellis Electronic Donation

Sam Fuller Original 13 Toy Donation

All the Bikers - Sup- All Over Toys and Money

Page 8

porters



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



"ABATE looks forward to your continued assistance and participation in next year's run. See you then and have a great winter."



Fallen

D.J. Bittinger

"Before buying his first motorcycle he enjoyed sleek beautiful cars. He'd always wanted a motorcycle, and finally took the safety course and jumped right in. He loved riding with his younger brother and made many new friends to enjoy his new found love. He lived for sunny days when he could ride to work or just go for an evening cruise. D.J. touched many lives with his quick wit and magnetic personality, and his laugh was infectious.

I'm sure he would agree that raising awareness and safety for the motorcycle community would be money well spent when asked where a donation in his name could be sent."

The family has asked that donations be made on his behalf to ABATE of Alaska to help increase motorcycle awareness and help improve motorcycle safety within our community.

In Loving Memory of D.J. Bittinger



November 1, 1986 - August 8, 2017

** I have to remind myself that SOME BIRDS AREN'T MEANT TO BE CAGED.

Their feathers are just too bright.

And when they fly away, the part of you that knows it was a sin to lock them up *DOES* rejoice.

But still, the place you live in is that much more drab and empty that they're gone.

I guess I just miss my friend. **

Riders

Emily Treadway

I thought I would focus on how Emily got into motorcycling, it really speaks to how she did everything that was important to her, if you would like more just let me know and I will be happy to add some detail.

"My parents began to plan a motorcycle trip to Alaska from Alabama in 2010. I asked Emily, who was 10 years old at the time, if she would be interested in going and she was very excited about the trip. Even after I tried to make the trip less appealing by telling her about the long hours in the bike, bad weather, cold/hot weather none of it deterred her. The trip was fan-



tastic, most of the trip had good weather but we had our bad days too with riding in a downpour in Montana, 60 mph cross wind in New Mexico, and sub 40 degree temperatures through Canada, through it all she never complained and she was positive throughout which kept the rest of us motivated for the next day of the ride.

It was after that ride the seed had been planted for Emily, she would have her own bike, when she was 13 and she informed all of us she was going to save her money and buy a Ducati motorcycle when she turned 18! So I made a deal with her, she needed to get the motorcycle permit and I would get her a beginners bike (definitely not a Ducati). Always determined, she had her motorcycle permit when she was 15 yo. We rode together all summer in 2016, so she could get comfortable on the bike and build her confidence. Last summer she took the ABATE course and became licensed. Even after she had her license she waited for me to go riding; she felt like there was more to learn. Our last ride together was September 9, 2017 with the destination being Hope, Alaska.

Emily always had the ability to make the people closest to her want to do better. She was a very modest young women, but she was constantly pushing herself to be better and to do better, which was infectious to the rest of us. She was the best of us. She never complained and never passed blame, she was always responsible for herself, if she needed to change something to be better, she would change it.

Emily has gone to a better place now, but her effect on all of us will be everlasting. We each need to be better, do better, if we do that then we will honor her memory. "

Kind Regards, Tom Tredway and Kari Reese



Please pass on to everyone who participated in the procession our deepest thanks, it was a terrific tribute to Emily from the motorcycling community and you all will forever be in our hearts. If there is anything I can do to help you in your mission please ask, I am forever in your debt. Thank you.

Motorcycle Ear Plugs

Aaron Cortez Lifestyle 14. July 2017

Whenever a discussion about wearing ear plugs while riding a motorcycles comes up, there are a lot of opinions about whether or not doing it is a good idea. We've noticed that, like so many other elements of this sport, the use of ear plugs while riding tends to be a controversial topic; many riders swear by using ear plugs, but many others refuse to do it, wanting to be as connected their bike and traffic conditions as possible to enhance their safety. The truth is, however, that most riders on both sides of the debate are under-informed about what the real threats to your hearing are while riding, and how hearing protection actually works.

So to clear up some confusion, and make sure you have the right information to make your decision, we've put together a few myths and facts about using hearing protection while riding. Most importantly, we focus on the often unnoticed, "silent killer" of hearing while operating a motorcycle. It's actually not your exhaust or traffic, like most people think; it's ambient wind noise, which occurs at levels of well over 100dB at highway speeds! Find out how it can destroy your hearing, and what to do about it, by reading on.

Common Myths about Hearing Protection

Myth #1: You can't hear traffic hazards, sirens, your bike, or other important sounds while wearing ear plugs.

Wearing ear plugs does block sound, but the way it actually affects your hearing is counter-intuitive. The real killer of hearing, and what we are trying to prevent while riding, is wind noise; the continuous, high-frequency sound created as you rush through the air at riding speeds. What we want to hear are low-frequency sounds, things like cars around us, engine RPM, and approaching sirens. Because wind noise beats on your ears non-stop while you ride, it creates a condition called temporary threshold shift (also referred to as TTS), which is a temporary hearing loss that results from continuous over-exposure to sound (we've all experienced this at a concert, races, when operating machinery, etc.) In other words, you go partially deaf for a while after an extended period of riding. That temporary deafness is even more dangerous to your safety on the road than wearing ear plugs, because it affects all frequencies of hearing. Proper hearing protection prevents that from happening, and cuts high-frequency wind noise while still allowing important low-frequency sounds to be heard.

Myth #2: You only need to wear ear plugs if you have a loud bike.

Naturally, loud bikes are more likely to create hearing damage than quiet bikes, when revving or accelerating for example. But once again, the biggest danger to your hearing while riding is wind noise, and it piles up a lot faster than you think.

Whether you ride a thunderous V-twin or a stock 250, the sound of your bike is miniscule when compared to the volume of wind noise, which is usually around the 100-110dB range at highway speeds. It is a constant, high-frequency sound; the type that is the biggest threat to your hearing, as you tend to not notice it slowly beating your eardrums to death.

Myth #3: You don't need to wear earplugs if you wear a full-face helmet.

True, wearing a full-face helmet does cut exposure to sound, but to degree that is not significant with



respect to hearing damage. Check out these numbers: different studies show a reduction in the range of 5-10dB when wearing a full-face helmet; but at 100dB-plus levels found at normal highway speeds, this is still well within the territory of permanent hearing damage. Some helmets flow air so well, the wind noise can actually be almost equal to that of not using a helmet at all!

Myth #4: A windshield/fairings will cut wind noise enough.

Much like the difference between full-face and half-helmets, there is a reduction in sound level, but not to a significant degree. Depending on the style of windshield or fairings, and the height of the rider and his body position, the resulting turbulence may mean there is hardly any reduction in noise at all.

Facts You Should Know about Hearing Protection

Fact #1: Normal highway riding does irreparable, but imperceptible, hearing damage.

According to OSHA, up to 85-90dB of exposure for 8 hours a day is within hearing safety limits. However, when sound levels exceed 100dB, safe exposure time drops to only 2 hours, and at 115dB, it's reduced to only 15 minutes!

What does that mean to us riders? 85-90dB is the level of noise you're exposed to in normal to heavy traffic, at speeds of under 40mph. Think city driving; car horns, big rigs, sirens and loud vehicles can strain your ears, but not to the level of permanent hearing damage.

However, at speeds of 65mph or more, wind noise creeps up past the 90db mark, and increases dramatically with speed. In other words, more damage is being done to your ears cruising on an empty highway at the speed limit than in the middle of a crowded city!

Fact #2: Some riders can hear better when wearing hearing protection.

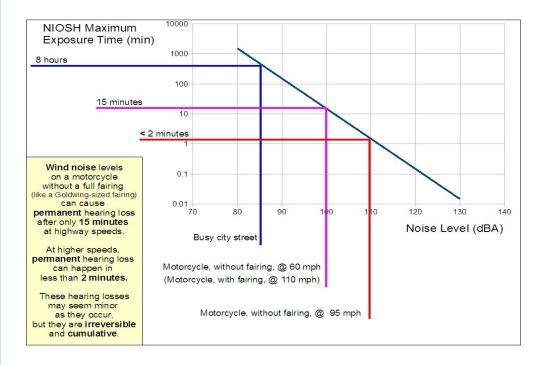
This is completely counter-intuitive, but true. Recalling the TTS we mentioned earlier - the temporary reduction in hearing that occurs from sustained exposure - we know that a rider that does not wear ear plugs will have worse hearing while on the road (whether he realizes it or not.) On the other hand, by reducing that high-frequency wind noise, ear plug wearers are preventing TTS and retaining full hearing ability, still being able to clearly hear low-frequency sounds like approaching cars, sirens, and their engines. As a result, many users actually report feeling more in tune with the road, and especially their bikes, when wearing proper ear plugs, because they are less fatigued or distracted by the roaring wind noise that they probably didn't even notice before. The important factor is choosing ear plugs that attenuate (reduce sound) enough to take the edge off of high frequency wind noise, while still allowing important sounds to be heard. This is usually accomplished at 15-30db attenuation, the range most "foamie" style earplugs fall into.

Fact #3: Wearing hearing protection makes you less tired after a ride.

Many ear plug wearers report lower fatigue after riding versus when riding without them. This is due to the reduction in "noise fatigue," a condition of exhaustion and even pain that can result from sustained expo-



sure to high levels of noise (a condition commonly known in the aviation industry, and other industries where loud noise is constant.) In other words, you may literally feel more energetic during and after a ride with ear plugs in, which is especially important if you're a motorcycle commuter. And of course, more energy and focus can't hurt your riding ability either.



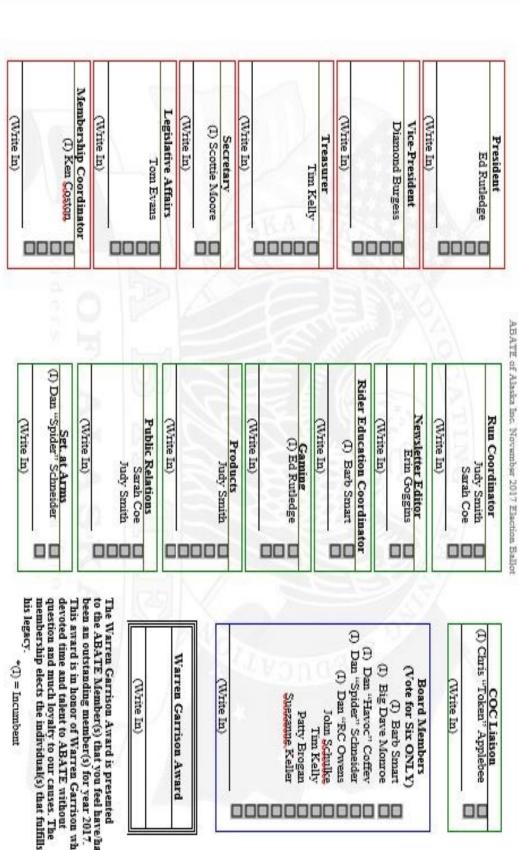


How To Keep Your Hearing

While there are many routes you can take when choosing ear protection, from bulk packs of cheap disposables to custom fit plugs made by a doctor, we recommend trying these ear filters (plugs) from Hearos. They come in multi-packs with attenuation levels from 26-33dB, and at only \$4.99-5.99 a pack, they are the perfect way to inexpensively try out hearing protection on your next ride. Try adding a set to your next purchase!

The Bottom Line

Here's what it comes down to: there is a lot of both anecdotal evidence and hard science that says there is a whole list of dangers associated with riding without hearing protection, but no net benefit. So if you're not wearing ear plugs when you ride, we'd like you to give some re-useable foamies from Hearos a try along with your next order. Even if you're a skeptic, spending \$5 to find out if they work for you is a cheap experiment, and compared to how much you value your lifelong ability to hear, earplugs are a pretty tiny investment. While this debate will rage on in motorcycle forums and riding clubs everywhere, we hope we've given you enough information to at least try riding with hearing protection. After all, nobody wants to be that rider in his older years, saying "if I had only known then what I know now." And besides, if you think reducing your ability to hear "the road" is unsafe; consider how dangerous actually being deaf is!



We only regret the <u>rides we</u> don't take.

The Warren Garrison Award is presented to the ABATE Member(s) that you feel have has been an outstanding member(s) for year 2017. This award is in honor of Warren Garrison who devoted time and talent to ABATE without question and much loyalty to our causes. The

To the members of Abate of Alaska,

Thank you so much for your support of the Alaska motorcycle community. It's in large part because of all of you that we are able to enjoy Alaska on two wheels the way we do, and its very much thanks to you that there are so many riders here that have been trained not to just ride but to ride safely. I took the MSF basic rider course in high school, and to this day I use what I learned there to get home safe after every ride.

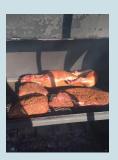
As a manager at The Motorcycle Shop, I'm acutely aware of how important rider education is to the future of motorcycling in Alaska. I'm lucky that I get to do what I love for a living, and the importance of getting new motorcyclist on the road in relation to keeping my job is not lost on me. With that said, what is much more important to me is the safety of the people I'm lucky enough to share the road with. Having been in the industry for over a decade, I, like many of you, hade had too many friends and colleagues injured or killed doing what we all love to do – riding bikes.

This winter, my partners and I decided we wanted to figure out a way to give back to the organization that has done so much for the community. At the beginning of this year, The Motorcycle Shop began a pilot program that not only encourages new bike owners to complete the BRC, but rewards riders that do complete the course with a reimbursement voucher that can be used on safety gear or a new motorcycle at our dealership. For each of these vouchers we receive, we make a donation to Abate of Alaska, and since courses began this summer, we've been able to contribute \$360.00 to the organization. This is just a start, as we will continue to honor these vouchers throughout the rest of the year, and as word spreads that the BRC is essentially free for any new bike owner, we hope to see a large increase in the number that we receive. We provided Abate of Alaska with 600 of these vouchers to hand out to riders that complete the course, and I hope we'll continue to see them come into our shop over the next few months.

I know that in the scheme of things this is just a small contribution so far, but I plan on running this program indefinitely, and if it continues to be successful I hope that some other dealers will follow suit in donating to Abate of Alaska in the same way as The Motorcycle Shop.

If you haven't had a chance to visit our new shop, I'd really encourage all of you to do so at some point this summer. We have an incredible facility, an amazing staff, and our focus is not just on one brand or one type of riding. We're not "The BMW Shop" or "The Ducati Shop" or "The Triumph Shop". We're "The Motorcycle Shop" and we want to continue to support all riders like we have for the past 45 years. Thank you all so much for what you do and for your active participation in Abate of Alaska. We owe you more than we've given, and I hope that I can make a change to that in years to come.





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Andrew McConnell Sales Manager The Motorcycle Shop

WHY SHOULD YOU BE A MEMBER OF ABATE AND THE MRF?

Have you ever worried about being rear-ended while sitting at a red light? Or sitting there needing to make a left turn and the light would never change? And what about driving down the road passing a policeman and having this feeling he was going to follow you? All of these things are only a portion of what your local ABATE and MRF representatives are working on. AND THEY NEED YOUR HELP.

While ABATE offers some of the best motorcy-

cle rider education around, they also are your largest supporter for making your highways and roads safer for riding. ABATE of Alaska is your representative to the legislature for safety, Alaska regulations, and biker advocacy. How does ABATE and the MRF campaign for your safety? ABATE engages our legislators on several different subjects. One of them would be to legalize "Lane Splitting." This is the practice of riding a motorcycle between lanes (whitelining) of slow moving or stopped traffic moving in the same direction. This helps eliminate being hit from behind by that person who is focused on their cell phone and not paying attention to traffic. There are also several issues involving the construction of road and highway projects. These issues include anything from construction materials to landscaping. Some landscaping will invite Mr. Moose to cross the road right in front of you to munch on some ornamental shrubs. If you wish to continue to enjoy your freedom of choosing to ride in your chosen style and to be able to select the gear you wear, become involved. Remember, there is always somebody who wants to take that right away from you. ABATE continues to educate and inform state law makers on your behalf concerning oppressive laws and regulations.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) has a congressional lobbyist who tries to talk to each and every congressional member about those issues that we, as bikers, bring forward. During a recent meeting, they stated there is always somebody at the State and Federal level who is trying to take your rights from you. Every year, there are State legislators from all fifty states, who meet with Congressional representatives to determine what issues will be on their agenda for the coming year. While your tax dollars pay for this meeting, many times that agenda includes restricting many motorcyclists' rights. Every year, they attempt to enforce helmet and safety gear laws, while some law makers even want to go so far as to outlaw motorcycles. The most recent Governmental attempt to restrict your rights was an attempt by the EPA to restrict the alteration of factory produced motorcycles. If you have ever wanted to modify your bike, this regulation would have outlawed it. This regulation alone could have doomed many motorcycle racing advocates.

Have you heard about the new self-driving cars? They will be one of the most dangerous obstacles in your path while you ride and they will be everywhere. Guess what, they can see pedestrians while going slow, but cannot see a motorcyclist while running down the highway at 65 miles per hour. Seeing a motorcycle has never been included in the



THE HOUSE OF HARLEY-DAVIDSON

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requirements of the manufacture of these vehicles. Such a requirement should have been established by congressional mandate. While prototypes of these cars are currently in production, the ability to perceive a motorcycle should be a requirement and should be regulated by Congress to make sure these vehicles are safe. Where is your voice?

One of the current major pushes of the MRF is to stop Motorcyclist Profiling by police officers. While many Alaskans believe none of this will ever happen to them, I can tell you that it already happens in Alaska. Several of my Alaskan brothers and sisters out there have requested police assistance, or have been stopped by the police, and then are perceived as committing a crime themselves without any evidence. Maybe this is not intentional, but I believe it is because of the vest or colors we wear.

Each of us have view points on several motorcyclist matters. We all have particular issues that we feel very strongly about and want our voice heard. The path to get our voice heard and our opinions listened to is through ABATE and the MRF. There are over 30,000 motorcycles registered in the State of Alaska. That is one for every twenty-three people who live here. Alaska is not ranked number one, but is in the top 10 per capita for motorcycle ownership. South Dakota, New Hampshire, and lowa all rank higher than Alaska, yet less than 1% of all Alaskan motorcyclists are involved with doing something about their rights. Alaska is one of the lowest ranking States for membership in ABATE and the MRF. We need to get organized and let our voices be heard.

If you have any interest about any of these issues or any of the many issues about motorcycling, we should join together and make our voices listened to. While ABATE and the MRF are heard, we need to make our voice louder. How does this happen? MEMBERSHIP!! Engaging our legislators is like being in a union, the more members, the louder the voice. Legislators will listen to people within their district, whether that be Alaska, Anchorage, Wasilla, or Sitka. The more in each district, the more they will listen. Even if you have a membership, does your spouse care about you? Are they a member? They would want you to be as safe as possible. Even your children could be members of ABATE. If anybody cares about riding, or if they care about a rider, they should join and make riding safer for everybody.

Alaska Bikers Advocating Training & Education and Motorcycle Riders Foundation - Timothy Kelly



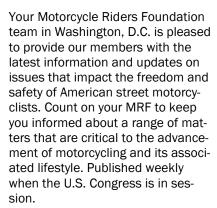
2016 Christmas In July staging for the run.

"ABATE of Alaska is dedicated to bringing some joy to displaced children and their families during the summer season. "



2016 Christmas In July Santa and his Elves outside ANMC.

NEWS FROM THE HILL – Discussion on E15 Bill PLUS Passage of Driverless Car Bill



other EPA/motorcycle emissions issues. Our sources say he also is considering setting up a sunset provision for the conventional biofuels part of the Renewable Fuel Standard. There is talk that a Senate Committee may markup the E15 bill (giving Inhofe his chance to introduce his amendments). This markup could occur next week or possibly after the August recess. My personal opinion is that Republicans may accept Fischer's bill as a



Remember a few weeks ago when we informed MRF members about a new bill from Senator Deb Fischer (R-Nebraska) regarding ethanol? ICYMI (in case you missed it) the bill would allow year-round sale of 15 percent ethanol. And it got some attention this week when Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) took to the Senate floor to call on Republicans to work together on the issue of ethanol - very divisive among Republicans depending on where they hail from. There is discussion that he may introduce amendments that would expand Sen. Fischer's bill into a broader package. This broader package would include a host of Republican priorities, including altering Clean Air Act standards, and

bargaining chip for broader changes to ethanol and maybe even other things like the RPM Act....also in the jurisdiction of the Committee. Stay tuned.

This week, Congress took its most significant action to date on driverless cars. A House panel approved a draft bill that would expand the ability of automakers to get driverless cars on the road - and curtail the ability of states and localities to stop them. Democrats - especially the delegation from California, are skittish about taking so much power away from cities and states, whose remaining powers to regulate drivers' licensing and education don't mean much when there are no driverses.







ers. Large parts of the bill are still in brackets, meaning the language is still under discussion. The bill heads to the full committee for a vote next week,

but some Democrats are asking what the rush is, while Republicans want to get the bill done by August recess. And over in the Senate, this week your MRF had a private closed-door meeting to discuss "imminent" legislation which also would regulate the self-driving cars. I'm happy to report that the identification and responsiveness to motorcycles is a top priority there. Though the House is taking a narrower piecemeal approach by passing individual bills instead of comprehensive legislation, its concerning that "motorcycle" appears nowhere in the text. Not so in the Senate. We'll communicate more on the Senate bill as the process moves forward.

EXECUTIVE & REGULATORY UPDATES

- Relief for Harley, NHTSA Turns to
Marijuana Impairment

As we all know, under the Obama Administration, Harley-Davidson was fined \$15 million after allegedly selling aftermarket devices that allowed motorcyclists to cheat U.S. emissions standards. Under the originally proposed deal, Harley-Davidson would have paid a \$12 million fine and given \$3 million to the American Lung Association. However, the Trump Administration announced this week that the company would NOT have to pay a portion of the settlement. Attorney General Jeff Sessions declared an end to such third-party settlements, like the portion that was set

to go to the American Lung Association, in which companies pay for projects not directly related to their violations. The announcement comes as Harley-Davidson plans to cut dozens of jobs in coming months in an effort to cope with slowing motorcycle sales. News outlets reported that

about 180 jobs are on the chopping block in Milwaukee and Kansas City.

Though out of the jurisdiction of the MRF, we thought it pertinent for our members to know about activity at NHTSA to address driving under the influence....of marijuana impairment. Now that a number of states have legalized marijuana, this week your MRF attended a meeting of the House Highways and Transit Subcommittee. NHTSA Acting Deputy Administrator Jack Danielson told lawmakers that they are trying to figure out how to set a scientific threshold for marijuana impairment over which people shouldn't be allowed to drive - and perhaps more importantly, they're working on a way for police to measure it. Marijuana is tricky because it's detectable in urine for up to 30 days. Danielson said they would be looking to detect and measure impairment, not use - so having days-old marijuana in your system wouldn't get you busted for a DUI. We'll continue to keep an eye on this one.

UNTIL THEN, RIDE FREE-

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www.mrf.org





Wristbands from the 2016 Dragon's Last Ride



Riders checking in for the 2016 Dragon's Last Ride

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Did you know that you can purchase advertising space in future editions of this newsletter?

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ABATE of Alaska publishes our very own newsletter up to four times a year and emails or prints out 350 to 500 copies to distribute directly to our members, display at our Business Member locations, and also to hand out the motorcycle community events that our members attend.

Running your advertisements in our newsletter is a great way to not only support ABATE of Alaska, but also show our members that you support ABATE as well.

ABATE of Alaska always encourages our membership to frequent the businesses that support our freedom to ride and rights.

For more information, please contact us at: pr@abateofalaska.com

Ken Coston ABATE of Alaska Membership Coordinator Public Relations Coordinator

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Business Card	1.7" x 3.0"	Free	\$15.00
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1/2 Page	9.5" x 7.2"	\$35.00	\$45.00
Full Page	9.5" x 3.5"	\$75.00	\$100.00

Motorcyclist Advisory Council Update

You'll recall that the MRF and its congressional champions raised concerns over the makeup of participants as there was only 1 seat dedicated to a motorcycle rights organization and the rest of the seats were slotted for experts in engineering, safety, construction and roadway design.

Below is the list of the 10 individuals that were selected. Not surprisingly, no one from the MRF is represented. This is disappointing to say the least. The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) will serve as the 1 motorcycle association on the Council:

- Mr. James Baron: American Traffic Safety Services Association
- Mr. Michael Crow: Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association
- Dr. Chanyoung Lee: Center for Urban Transportation Research at University of South Florida
- Mr. Eric Line: Michigan Department of Transportation
- Ms. Jane Lundquist: Texas Department of Transportation

- Dr. Shane McLaughlin: Center for Automated Vehicle Systems at Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
- Mr. Joel Provenzano: Florida Department of Transportation
- Mr. Michael Sayre: American Motorcyclist Association
- Dr. Craig Shankwitz: Western
 Transportation Institute at Montana State University
- Ms. Fay Taylor: Retired, Ohio Department of Transportation

Please note that the MRF will be following up to convey its disappointment to the FHWA as well as inquiring about the selection process. Further, the Council will meet in a public forum and the MRF WILL BE REPRESENTED AT EVERY MEETING. We will not be silenced. Our voices will be heard.

Lastly, if you have a personal relationship with any of the individuals that will serve on the Council, please contact me asap. This fight isn't over.

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Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

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- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
- For more information, please visit <u>www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards</u>.

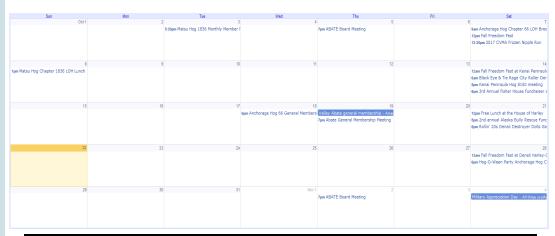
Please check the Alaska Biker Runs calendar for the most up-to-date info:

http://www.akbikerruns.com

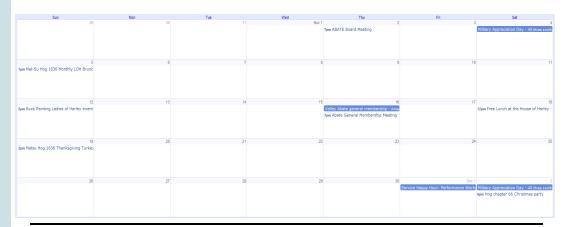


Alaska Biker Runs

October 2017 Biker Runs

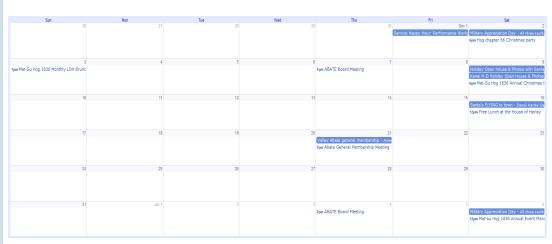


November 2017 Biker Runs



Meet and Greet tentatively scheduled for January 27th 2018

December 2017 Biker Runs



ABATE of Alaska 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 of Alaska Business Member Listings

Support these businesses who support your freedom to ride!

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Neighbors Windows & Doors

Anchorage Billiard Palace

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