March 2012

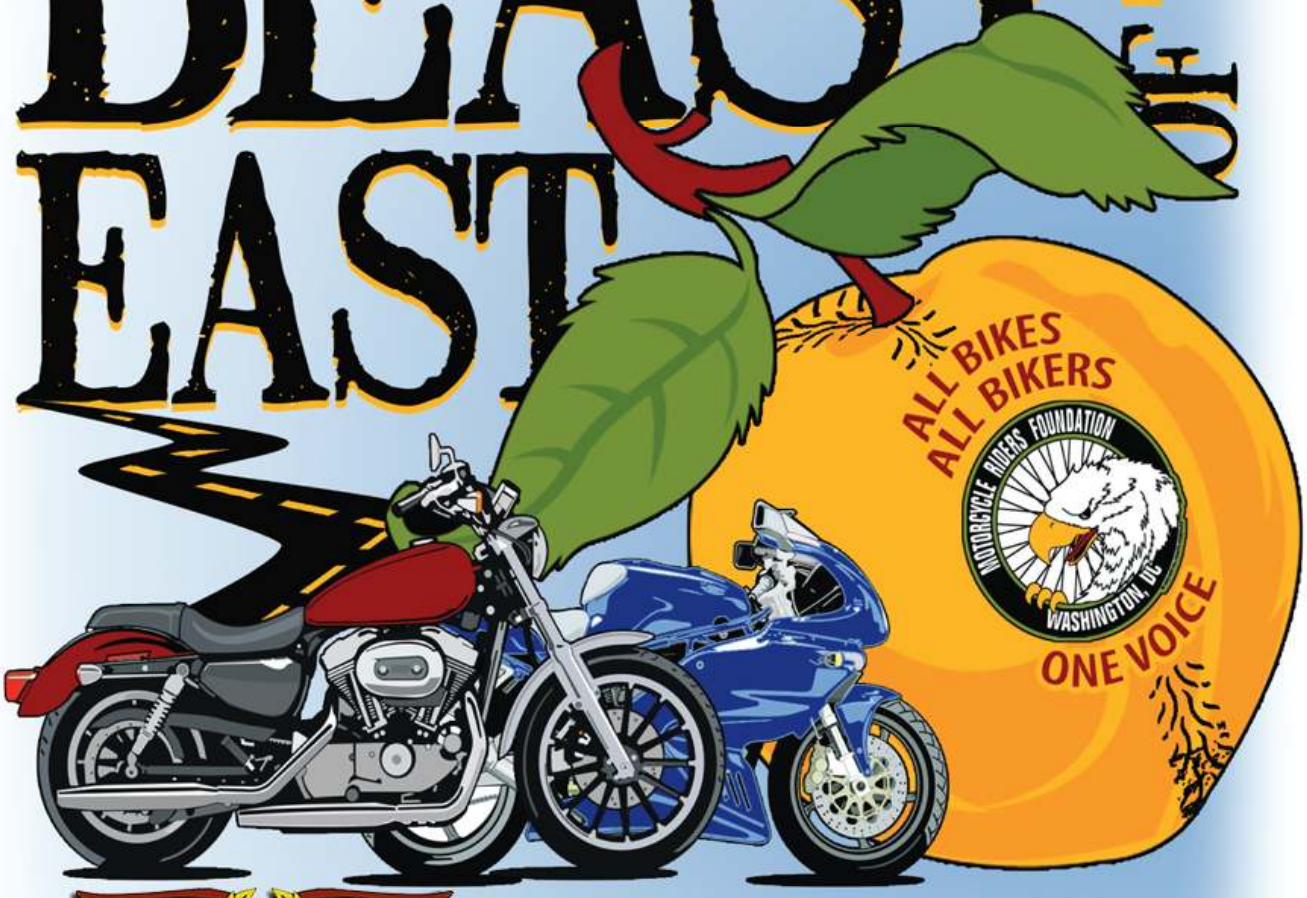
ABATE of Georgia

Rolling Wheels Of Freedom!

American Bikers Active Toward Education Official Newsletter

THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

BEAST OF THE EAST



HOSTED BY ABATE OF GEORGIA • ATLANTA, GEORGIA • APRIL 13-15, 2012

American Bikers Active Toward Education

The Westin Atlanta Airport 4736 Best Road, Atlanta, GA 30337

STATE OFFICE ADDRESSES

www.abatega.org

(Mailing Address) A.B.A.T.E. OF GEORGIA, INC.
P.O. BOX 116
Austell, GA 30168

Phone: **(770) 881-7438**
Fax: **(770) 234-4177**

A.B.A.T.E. OF GEORGIA STATE OFFICERS 2010-2012 Term

Director
Dan Forrest (706) 402-1593
E-mail state.director@abatega.org

Legislative Director
POSITION OPEN
E-mail

Treasurer
Gary Bonds (404) 915-8778
Email: treasurer@abatega.org

Membership Director (Acting)
Gil Robinson
Email membership@abatega.org

Asst, Membership Director
Ann Crenshaw (229) 924-7449
Email ridin4theson@hotmail.com

Sgt. At Arms
Dave Woodruffe
Email: sgt.arms@abatega.org

Activities Director
Michael Collins (770) 938.3285
Email activities@abatega.org

Secretary of State and Newsletter Editor
Ned Williams (770) 881-7438
Email secretary@abatega.org

A.B.A.T.E. Legal Advisor
Steve Murrin (404) 221-0777

Christian Motorcyclists Association GA State Coordinator
Mike Cook (229) 268-4455

A.B.A.T.E. State Chaplain
Wade Warnock (678) 271-2860

Director of Education
Dr. Sue Duggan Sduggan2010@gmail.com

Regional Director, Northern Region
POSITION OPEN

Regional Director, Central Region
Ricky Jordan rickyroy@netcommander.com

Regional Director, Southern Region
Jerry McDaniel thunderroadsga@yahoo.com

Webmaster and Newsletter Design
Bill Mattison webmaster@abatega.org

Advertising Fees

Website Newsletter	**115**	**1** Month

Business Card

Black & White	Term in Months
$ 40.00	1
$ 110.00	3
$ 200.00	6

1/4 Page

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$ 660.00	12

1/2 Page

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$ 1,200.00	12

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$ 660.00	3
$ 1,200.00	6
$ 2,200.00	12

Ads Must Be Received **in digital format or ready to scan** by the 10th of the month, accompanied by full payment, to be printed in the next issue. Credit card payments are welcome. Ads must be paid in advance to receive the multiple ad discount rate. If you wish, we can lay out your ad for you for an additional $25 charge plus any reasonable costs. Additional charges and services offered at the discretion of the editor. Please allow additional lead time for all ads that we must lay out.

Payment must be received in advance for ad renewals. If not you will lose the discounted multiple ad rate and the account will revert back to monthly prices. Make your check or money order payable to **A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia, Inc.** Send to:

A.B.A.T.E. OF GEORGIA, INC.
P.O. BOX 116
Austell, GA 30168

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Some of A.B.A.T.E.'s accomplishments over the years:

- Successfully lobbied for legislation that created the Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program (GMSP), our state's rider education program that is available to all.
- Lobbied to have legislation passed to modify the existing mandatory helmet law to allow adults age 21 and older freedom of choice as to the wearing of a helmet.
- Successfully lobbied for legislation leading to the repeal of the Georgia law prohibiting use of speakers or headphones while riding a motorcycle.
- Fought and stopped legislation introduced in the 1992 Session of the Georgia General Assembly that would have made it illegal for kids age 10 and under to ride as passengers on motorcycles.
- Established May as "Motorcycle Awareness and You" month through a proclamation signed by the Governor and through resolutions passed by the Senate and House each year. This is an annual effort that raises public awareness of motorcycles.
- Successfully lobbied legislators to approve increased funding for the Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program, in the amount of $170,000 after the license tag rate was raised on all vehicles to $20.
- Successfully stopped proposed legislation that would have increased the size of motorcycle tags.
- Successfully lobbied for handicapped tags for motorcycles without further enabling legislation, by bringing it to the attention of the Department of Revenue that the code section was written in such a way that it was already authorized.
- Successfully lobbied for antique tags for motorcycles in the 1998 legislative session.
- Established a 15 District organization that has led to more participation locally, while raising our membership statewide. The more members we have, means the more clout we have at the State Capitol.
- Sponsor and promote the largest Swap Meet/Bike Show in Georgia, 5 times a year.
- Successfully forced prosecution of a trucker who, while making an illegal turn, killed fellow motorcyclist Mark Bonner.
- Successfully lobbied to pass the "Frank-Lee" (ROW) bill to enhance penalties to those who cause death or serious injury to a motorcyclists by failing to yield the right of way.
- Successfully lobbied to pass the "Tag/Title" bill SB-437 that allows for registration of kit/assembled bikes. Signed by Governor Purdue May 14, 2008.

Your benefits as a member of A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia:

Organized lobbying of State and Federal legislators to make your views on motorcyclist rights known to your Representatives.
Current information on all motorcycle related legislation and where your legislators stand on the issues that affect your motorcycling rights and freedoms.
Monthly newsletter with legislative updates, event dates and places, and information
Membership card, patch, and one year pin for new members. Yearly pin for renewals.
Admission discounts at most A.B.A.T.E. events around the state, including ALL State Swap Meets.
Discounts at many motorcycle shops and dealers around the state
Personal satisfaction of joining your brothers and sisters in promoting the great sport of motorcycling while supporting your right to ride by participation at State and District meetings, toy runs, blood drives, camp-outs, bike shows, swap meets, etc.
Spiritual consultation with the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) for ride prayers, weddings, and visitation.

A.B.A.T.E. OF GEORGIA, Inc. IS A TEAM EFFORT
WE WELCOME ALL RIDERS, ALL BRANDS

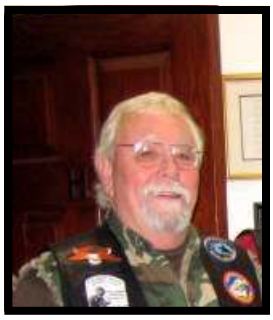
WHAT IS A.B.A.T.E. OF GEORGIA, Inc.?

The letters "**A.B.A.T.E.**" stand for **A**merican **B**ikers **A**ctive **T**oward **E**ducation. A.B.A.T.E. is composed of motorcyclists from all areas of the state, from all walks of life, and who ride all makes of bikes. A.B.A.T.E. is not a club, it is a non-partisan politically active organization working on motorcyclist's rights. We are affiliated with national rights groups like the **American Motorcyclist Association** (AMA), the **Motorcycle Riders Foundation** (MRF) and the **National Coalition of Motorcyclists** (NCOM).

Our main focus is to keep motorcycle legislation in its proper perspective. Many restrictive laws are enacted by uninformed legislators. A.B.A.T.E.'s goal is to keep our lawmakers informed of our members collective position on Motorcycle related legislation. Preventing unfair legislation from becoming law is easier than fighting to get the law repealed.

Rider education and public awareness of motorcyclists are goals of A.B.A.T.E.. We are **not** against the wearing of helmets, and we encourage all riders to ride safely. An informed and educated rider is a safer rider. Helmet laws do nothing to prevent an accident, and a helmet only provides the illusion of safety, while **rider education** is proven to prevent accidents and save lives.

Dan Forrest, State Director



We have been blessed with an unusually mild winter, and that has allowed us a lot of extra ride time in January and February. Many of us enjoy the winter ride as we can see through the trees deep into the woods. The terrain is visible and we can easily see tiny streams and ponds that normally are out of sight due to the foliage.

This is also the time of year when we can take a good clear look at what lies ahead of us in the immediate future. We are normally not being pulled in different directions, as the Runs, Rides and Rallies are still a ways off yet this is the time we need to get our plans made.

We, as ABATE of Georgia, have undertaken the task of preparing a program to promote Motorcycle Awareness across the State of Georgia through the Educational tapes called "Intersections". In addition to this our venture to create a 501[c][3] corporation called "Look Twice Save a Life Inc. will ensure that we can receive tax deductable donations for the continuation and expansion of the Awareness needs of Georgia Riders through Radio and TV announcements, billboards, signs and other educational avenues.

Why a 501[c][3]? The answer becomes clearer as we look around us for Donations, Grant money and in kind donations. We lost our attempt to stage a major event at Atlanta Motor Speedway when at the last minute our request for the event was pulled as we were not a qualified 501[c][3]. In requesting applications for grants our requests were returned since agencies such as GOHS cannot give Grant Money to a non government 501 [4][c], but they can to a 501[c][3]. In fact most money is earmarked for Tax Deductable giving.

The BEAST OF THE EAST is also close at hand. This major conference put on by The Motorcycle Riders Foundation of Washington DC is of considerable importance to ABATE of Georgia as we were part of the formation of the MRF back in the 80s. We are also the host for his prestigious event and we have much work to do before April 13th arrives.

We have a good group of Volunteers already signed up and many of the districts are on board to allow their members to attend without a conference fee. The collection of door prizes and Auction items has begun and I am hearing good things from various districts on their progress. The BIGGEST hurdle still facing us is the financial donations from larger companies, Dealers, Retailers, Law firms, Insurance Agencies and other motorcycle minded businesses. The financial burden to ABATE of Georgia will be around $2000.00. This amount can be raised with $100.00 and $200.00 cash donations.

House Bill 161 Is being re-crafted and a substitute bill will be introduced by Representative Purcell as I write this article.

Our "Bikers at the Capitol" day will have taken place on February 29th and I am hoping that we had a good turnout.

Based on information received it looks like we will be going back to the Capitol in late March or Early April to protest more Illegal Motorcycle Only Checkpoints and the unprovoked act of pulling Motorcyclists over at random to perform a "safety" Inspection of the bike and rider.

Info will be coming soon about the re birth of the now famous ABATE swap meets. Stay tuned to your ABATE Newsletter and www.abatega.org.

A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia, Inc. HONOR ROLL 2011

Thank you to the following contributors:

WOW Motorcycles
Bob Bowman D4W
D6 Cherry Blossom
Tami Culver
Chris (Brian) Poss
Southern Cruisers, Chapter 109 LaGrange GA

Members, Districts, Businesses & Supporters with your donation of $100 or more you become an Honor Roll Member of A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia! As always your generosity and support is appreciated.

A.B.A.T.E. Of Georgia Sponsors!

These Businesses offer discounts to ABATE members

Mitchell's Automotive and Truck Repair
4281 Interstate Drive, Macon, Ga 31210
(478) 477-6403

Mountain Motorsports
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Phone: 770.761.4800 Fax: 770.761.4900
http://www.mtn-motorsportsnorth.com/
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20% off on Parts and Accessories

Xtreme Rider
60 Main St. (Lil Sturgis St.)
Warm Springs, Georgia
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http://xtreme-rider.com
District 9

Weathers Honda
1808 Vernon Road LaGrange GA 30240
Phone: 706.884.7327 Fax: 706.884.3827
http://www.weathershonda.com
District 9-2

District Coordinator Contact Information

District	1st Name	Last Name	Phone #	EMAIL
1	Heidi	Stockwell	706-428-9760	heidis8661@hotmail.com
1W	Terry	Simmons	706-313-2006	terrylsimmons@hotmail.com
2	Anthony G	Love	706-754-8517	dc@abatega2.org
3	Dave	Woodruffe	678-778-9646	djwoodruffe@gmail.com
4E	MICHAEL	COLLINS	770-938-3285	keymanmc@earthlink.net
4W	Ann	Turner	770-845-5864	clothingtofitpeople@yahoo.com
5	Michael	Mustain	404-229-4022	pilot69@aol.com
5/N	Joe	Harris	770-921-5238	joescopy@att.net
6	Don	Whitlow	770-294-7640	wdwhitlow1@gmail.com
6-2	Michael	Volk	770-252-9653	abate62@mindspring.com
7	Delmar M	Singleton	478-474-3150	
8	Nancy	James	706-592-1015	dubljblythe@netzero.net
9	Ronald	Foxworth	706-681-1694	ronfox5@hotmail.com
9-2	Derrick	Lewis	706-333-7729	greyghost57@me.com
11	David	Jackson	912-441-7586	badrodz55@yahoo.com
13	Danny	Jones	229-322-6966	abate13dc@yahoo.com
15	Vicky	Sanders	912-269-8391	d15abatega@gmail.com

A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia District Boundaries

1W: The Fourth Saturday of each month at the Dari Dip on Villanow St. Lafayette. Meeting starts at 11:00am

1:1st Tuesday of the month at the Sports Zone 3359 HWY 411 Elton GA 10% given to A.B.A.T.E. MEMBERS call

2: 1st Sunday of the month at
El Jinete Mexican Restaurant
345 W. Louise Street (Historic Hwy 441)
Clarkesville, GA 30523

4E : 1st Wednesday of the Month 7PM, Confetti's Bar and Grill, 6470 Spalding Dr.
Norcross, GA 30092-4656

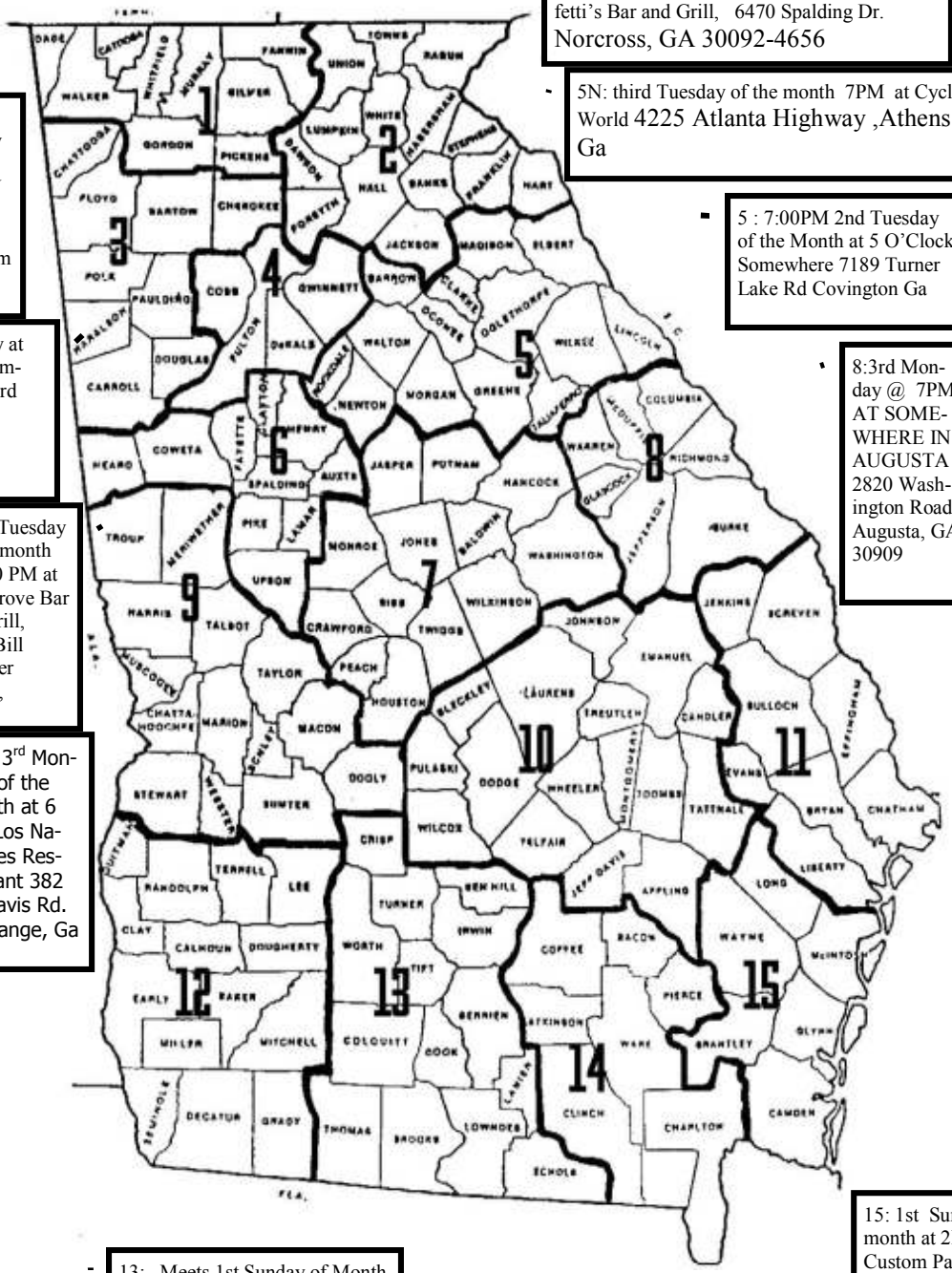
5N: third Tuesday of the month 7PM at Cycle World 4225 Atlanta Highway ,Athens Ga

3 The Watering hole ,Tri County Plaza 451 W Bankhead HWY Villa Rica 1st Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm

5 : 7:00PM 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 5 O'Clock Somewhere 7189 Turner Lake Rd Covington Ga

4W :2nd Sunday at 2pm at Red's Timbers, 730 Concord Rd. Smyrna Ga.

8:3rd Monday @ 7PM AT SOMEWHERE IN AUGUSTA 2820 Washington Road Augusta, GA 30909



6/2: the 1st Thursday of the month at 7PM @Jekyll and Hyde's, HWY 29 North, Newnan

6 :1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at The Grove Bar and Grill, 4681 Bill Gardner Pkwy.,

7: 1st Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM at AP's Hidden Hideaway on Broadway in Macon

9: 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at Player's on 54th St. Columbus.

9/2: 3rd Monday of the Month at 6 pm Los Naopales Restaurant 382 S. Davis Rd. Lagrange, Ga

11: 2nd Sunday of the month at 3:00 PM at The Redleg Saloon Savannah, GA

6/3: Last Thursday of every month at 7pm at Big Daddys Oyster Bar,101 Crossings E # 3, Peachtree City, GA

15: 1st Sunday of every month at 2PM at Ted and Dot's Custom Parts, Brunswick, Ga

13: Meets 1st Sunday of Month @2PM at The Henry T. Elrod Welcome Center 100 Washington Ave. Ashburn, Ga

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www.xtreme-rider.com

ATTENTION ABATE OF GEORGIA SWAP MEET INFO!!

Xtreme Rider is offering Free Space for all ABATE districts to bring items to sell at the swap meet FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT DISTRICT!

When: March 3rd 10:00pm—5:00pm
March 4th 12:00pm-5:00pm

Where: Xtreme Rider
Warm Springs, Ga
(706-655-2463)

Interested Districts should contact Xtreme Rider with their request for space no later than
February 25th leave message if no a (nswer)

IMPORTANT:
ABATE of Georgia:
PEACHPASS INFO FOR MOTORCYCLES

The new "HOT" Lanes (most of the current HOV Lanes are being converted to HOT Lanes) will require a "PeachPass" to use the Lane, this cost money, $20.00 minimum, plus the cost of the **Georgia Legislature realized the motorcycles will still need to be exempt from the "PeachPass" and still be able to use either the "HOV" or "HOT" Lanes.**

What do you need to do? To use the new "HOT" Lanes will require that you register your motorcycle with the "PeachPass" people and there is NO CHARGE for this. All you will need is your motorcycle license tag and drivers license numbers. You CANNOT NOT USE THE WEB to register but must call the following number: (855) PCH-PASS (724-7277). If you use the online form then you will end up paying for the privilege to use the "HOT" Lanes.

RIDE LIKE A PRO
ATLANTA
706.200.6700

Ride like a pro would like to offer the members of ABATE a special discount on Ride Like A PRO Atlanta Advanced Motorcycle skills training. This offer is good for current and future members of ABATE. The ABATE discount pricing is $140.00 per rider - a $10 discount off regular price. As I offer to all my students, they can retake my advance training classes for 12 months after they take the initial class. They will need to email or call and check if I have additional space in the class

Scott Ford

Ride Like A PRO Atlanta

www.ridelikeaproatlanta.com

ABATE OF GEORGIA
WANTED
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR - MUST HAVE :
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GOOD COMPUTER SKILLS.
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GOOD VERBAL AND WRITING SKILLS.
SLIGHTLY AGGRESSIVE, POSITIVE PERSONALITY
SHOULD LIVE CLOSE TO ATLANTA.
POSITION MAY OR MAY NOT BECOME LOBBYIST
REWARD

A.B.A.T.E. Of Georgia Club Recognition page

Bomber Girls LRC D-11
The Bomber Girls, LRC is an organization of female motorcycle riders, formed in 2007 and based in Savannah, GA. This group of independent women promotes strength and courage in themselves and others, as well as motorcycle safety and awareness. This sisterhood proudly supports our military personnel and their families. They choose to publicly voice this support by raising money to send care packages to troops overseas, and supporting other military and veterans causes. For more information on events call Cin at 912-247-8878 or www.bombergirlslrc.com.

BLACK PISTONS MOTORCYCLE CLUB D-11
Black Pistons MC, Savannah chapter, is a Georgia non-profit organization. It exists as a supporter club of the Outlaws MC and to support all areas of biking and brotherhood which extends to various biking interests on both the state and local level. We promote biker safety and education. At present time we share the clubhouse with Savannah AOA's on Wright Street. Contact "Psycho" at 912-414-1176 or "Evil" at 912-547-9054. Support your local Black & White.

BLUE KNIGHTS D-11
Blue Knights Motorcycle Club – Members of this organization are police officers who enjoy motorcycling. This group annually raises money for local charities. Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month in Statesboro or Savannah, GA. For more info call Bobby Durden at 912-536-3644 or visit the website blueknightsgaVIII.org.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS & TROOPERS M/C D-11
The Savannah Chapter of Buffalo Soldiers & Troopers M/C is one of 77 chapters that are located throughout the United States and Canada. We have been established for the purpose of fostering unity and pride among brother and sister members. We are committed to projecting a positive image of ourselves, by always showing respect for each other and the community at a large. The immediate goals of this club is to foster a sense of community involvement with a strong belief of giving back to the community and our long range goals are to teach and educate our community of our forefathers deep and enriched history of the Buffalo Soldiers, and to be leaders in our communities. For more info go to www. savannahbuffalosoldiers-mc.com

CMA D-11
Christian Motorcycle Association – Glory Riders chapter 493 – The purpose of this group is to share the love of Jesus Christ with motorcyclists, one heart at a time. Based on this purpose, CMA's objectives are 1) To encourage and conduct among motorcyclists public worship and personalized ministry. 2) To proclaim, teach and spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. 3) To encourage Christian fellowship among motorcyclists. CMA hosts one run a year, being the Run for the Son. The money raised on this run is used to support the Jesus Film Project, Open Door Ministries, and Missionary Ventures. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm at the Western Sizzlin' Restaurant in Pooler, GA. For more info contact Elton Stafford at 912-308-8869.

GWRRA D-11
Gold Wing Road Riders Association members usually own Honda Gold Wing motorcycles, Members participate in group rides and activities for enjoyment of the open road. Meetings are held the 4th Saturday of each month at 5pm at Lovezolla's Pizza in Pooler, GA. For more info contact Julian Osborne at julianred1500@uno.com.

HOG D-11
Harley Owners Group – Chapter 818, Savannah GA – HOG works to promote responsible motorcycling activities for Harley Owners Group members by conducting chapter activities and encouraging participation in other HOG events. This chapter is family-oriented, and operates with a non-political philosophy. The monthly HOG meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, Ga. For more info contact Savannah Harley-Davidson at 912-925-0005.

IN COUNTRY VETS MOTORCYCLE CLUB D-11
In Country Vets Motorcycle Club – This group provides a club for Vietnam veterans who served the United States Military within the borders of the country of Vietnam during the conflict. Members are offered brotherhood and the opportunity to establish relationships with other veterans who experienced the same era as themselves. For more info call Darrell Austin at 912-601-6665, or contact him at wdaustin67@gmail.com. http://ICVMC.com

OUTLAWS MOTORCYCLE CLUB D-11
AOA Savannah, Inc. Your local Outlaws MC is a Georgia non-profit corporation. It exists to promote biking and brotherhood and to support the various biking interests of the local community including biker education and safety, programs to assist bikers in the need, and community benefit projects and programs. The clubhouse is located on Wright Street. Our members are close supporters of ABATE and participate in local and state ABATE events. The Strong will Survive.

A.B.A.T.E. Of Georgia Club Recognition page

SOUTHERN CRUISERS RIDING CLUB – CHAPTER 3 D-11
Southern Cruisers are a group of motorcycle enthusiasts who meet in Pooler, GA at the Western Sizzlin' Restaurant at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month to share their interest. For more info contact Phil Ward or go to www.scrcga.com.

U.S. MILITARY VETS MOTORCYCLE CLUB D-11
U.S. Military Vets Motorcycle Club – This group provides a club for qualified military veterans which offers brotherhood and an opportunity to establish relationships with other military veterans who have served in the defense of the United States of America; to establish and support a strong defense of pride in having service in the active military; and to improve the image of military veterans and bikers to the general public. For more info contact Restart at 912-398-1992 or visit www.usmvmcgach4.com. Clubhouse – 4873 Old Louisville, Rd., Garden City, GA

WINGMEN MOTORCYCLE CLUB D-11
Wingmen Motorcycle Club – Members of this club create a close brotherhood of motorcyclists. This group is strongly involved in annual fund raising events such as the Savannah Toy run. Chapter Clubhouses are located locally in Savannah, Long County, Effingham County and Beaufort County, SC. For more info call the Savannah clubhouse at 912-233-3535, Long County clubhouse at 912-545-3304, Beaufort, SC at 843-290-0621, or Effingham clubhouse at 912-424-1646.

XXX RIDERS D-11
XXX Riders are a Sport Bike Riding Club. For more info contact Marcus, President at 912-429-3055, Ron, Vice-President at 912-341-5772, or Molina, Road Captain at 912-441-9909.

RED KNIGHTS
The Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club seeks to promote motorcycle safety. To project a positive image of motorcycling. To enjoy the fraternity of Firefighters. To engage exclusively in social, charitable and educational activities directed at increasing the general understanding of, enjoyment of, competency, sportsmanship and participation in the sport of motorcycling. For information contact VP, Mike Seiko at 912-690-6003 or President, Tommy Branch at 912-660-3333.

SONS OF LIBERTY RIDERS
The Sons of Liberty is dedicated to educational and political activity for the preservation of the Constitution of the United States of America, the Bill of Rights, free market and rule of law. With legitimate and lawful authority, based on conservative values, Sons of Liberty supports peaceful and non-threatening efforts to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic, in order to preserve our uniquely American way of life. www.sonsofliberty.com

Does your district have a riding or social club that supports ABATE of Georgia?

If so let us know and we will list them on this page.

Requirements:
At least 1 member of the club must be an A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia member
A short description of your club
A location and time of where your club meets.

ABATE OF GEORGIA IS A MEMBER OF NATIONAL COALITION OF MOTORCYCLIST

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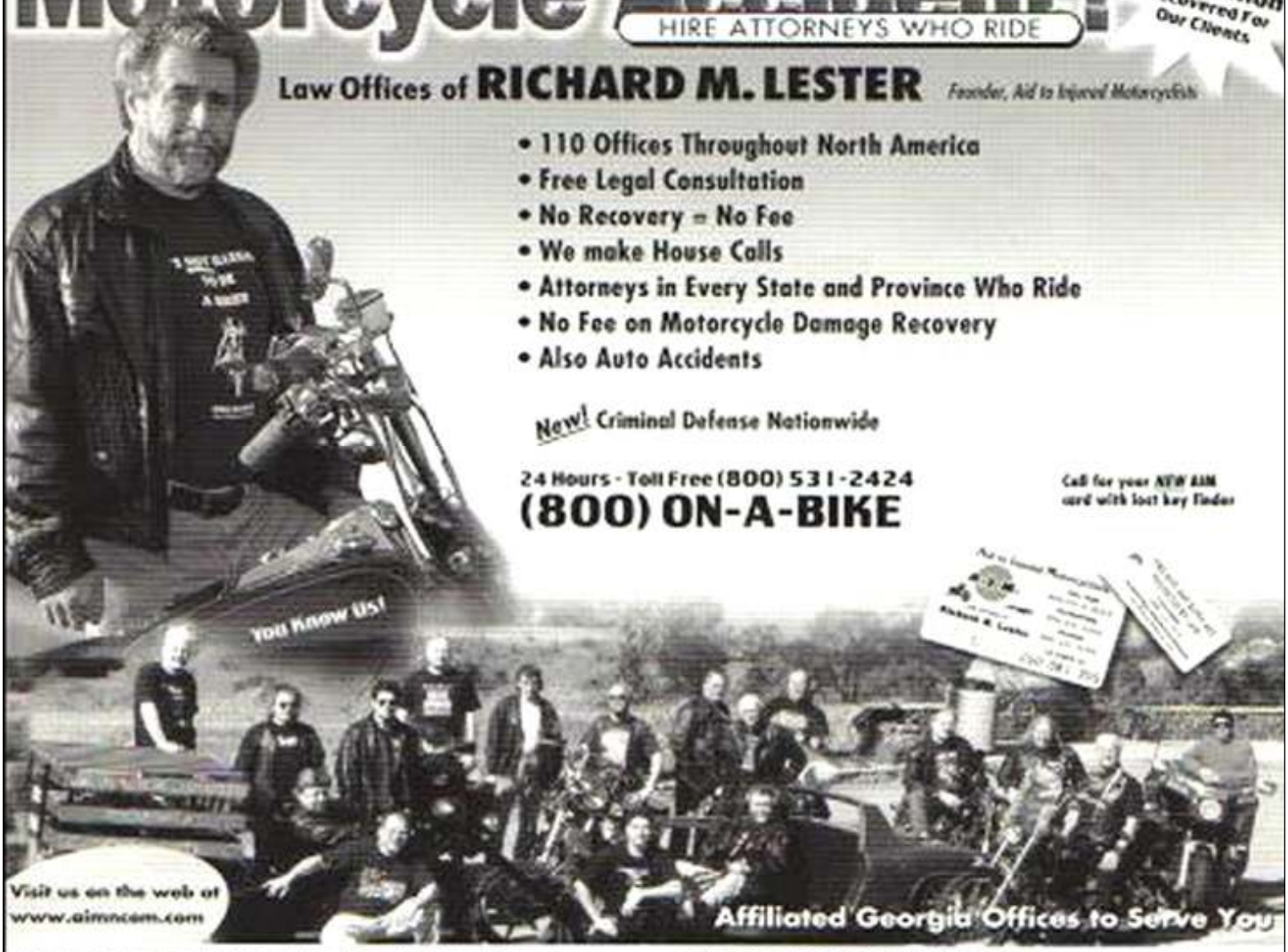

We are endorsed by the **National Coalition of Motorcyclists** and more than 600 motorcycle groups throughout the United States and Canada, and serve as Legal Counsel for the **Confederations of Clubs**.

ATTENTION ABATE OF GEORGIA MEMBERS: Our nationwide network of A.I.M. attorneys donate a significant portion of their legal fees from motorcycle accident settlements back into motorcycling by being the sole financial sponsor of the **National Coalition of Motorcyclists**

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2:

El Jinete Mexican Restaurant
345 W. Louise Street (Historic Hwy 441)
Clarkesville, GA 30523

3
The Watering hole in Villa Rica
123 Tri County Plaza, Villa Rica, GA

4E :
Confetti's Bar and Grill,
6470 Spalding Dr., Norcross, GA
20% Discount with your ABATE card

4W :
Red's Timbers

730 Concord Road Southeast, Smyrna, GA

6 :
The Grove Bar and Grill
4681 Bill Gardner Pkwy., Locust Grove.

5 :
5 O'Clock Somewhere
7189 Turner Lake Rd, Covington Ga

5N:
Cycle World
4225 Atlanta Highway, Athens, Ga

6/2:
Jekyll and Hyde's, HWY 29 North,
Newnan, Ga

6/3:
Big Daddy's Oyster Bar & Pub
101 Crossings E # 3, Peachtree City, GA

7:
AP's Hidden Hideaway
4274 Broadway, Macon, GA

8:
Somewhere in Augusta
2820 Washington Road, Augusta, GA

9:
Player's
1500 54th Street, Columbus, GA

9/2:
Los Nopales Restauarnt
382 South Davis Road, LaGrange, GA

11:
The Redleg Saloon
2805 Fort Argyle Road, Bloomingdale, GA

15:
Ted and Dot's Custom Parts
4217 US Highway 82, Brunswick, GA

March 12, 2012

Sample letter. Create your own to **your Senator**

Senator Josh McKoon
District 29
P.O. Box 2565
Columbus GA 31902

Senator McKoon,

As a voter, a citizen of Georgia and a motorcycle rider I would like to express my opposition to S.B.275 by Senator Rogers of the 21st

This bill would make it mandatory for a person between the ages of 17 and 26 to receive a motorcycle operator's license unless they completed an approved motorcycle operator safety training class.
This bill would also allow an individual from another state who currently has a class M endorsement to receive a Georgia license without taking the course. This is punitive to Georgia residents.

This bill would also allow for an individual 17 and older to receive a permit to operate a motorcycle on the highways of Georgia, without benefit of an approved training course, for a period of 6 months.

I feel that this bill is discriminatory as it imposes age limitations. I believe it also unfairly discriminates against motorcycle operators and places an additional requirement on us to operate a legal pleasure vehicle on the highways of this state. I furthermore feel that this is financially discriminatory as it requires us to pay for an expensive specialty course not taken by any other pleasure vehicle operator.

Operating a motorcycle is no more dangerous than being a pedestrian or a bicycle rider as can be attested to by the fatality rates of motorcycle operators vs. the combined total of pedestrian/pedal power operators. *This group is not required to take any specialized training yet their fatalities are in line with motorcyclists.*

This bill also appears to be directed at minority motorcycle operators as the age range fits the primary age of sport bike riders in Georgia.

This bill, although presented as an educational bill to provide training, does not address the real issues with the safety of the motorcycle operators. The statistics available from The Governors Office on Highway Safety clearly shows that a majority of all fatalities are caused by the motor vehicle operator and NOT the motorcyclist. Why then penalize the motorcyclist when we are truly the victims?

I am not against rider education. I am against mandatory and discriminatory legislation that unfairly targets a specific group of citizens.

Please vote NO to S.B. 275.

Sincerely,

Dan Forrest
State Director ABATE of Georgia {American Bikers Active Toward Education}

Find your local ABATE of Georgia District:

http://www.abatega.org/districtmap.htm

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FIRE ANT SCRAMBLER POKER RUN

Saturday, March 24

50 miles

Sponsored by ABATE

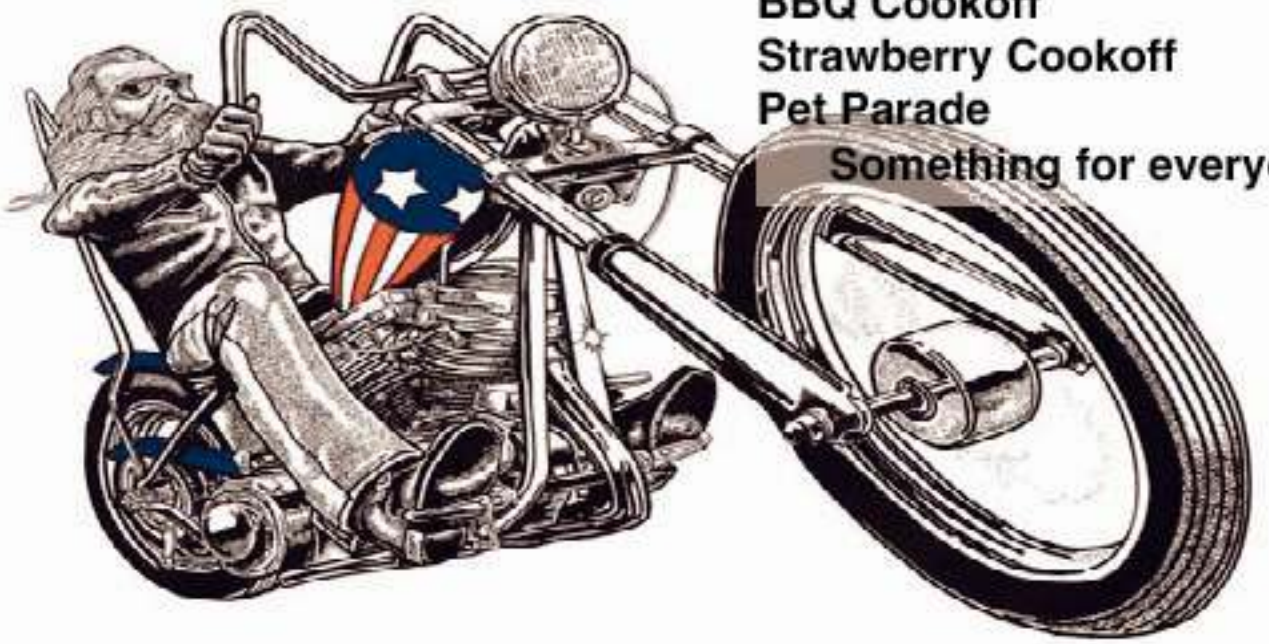
Ol Georgia District 18

abate

$10 per hand - 3 hands $20
Cash Prizes
All vehicles & riders welcome
All losing hands in Losers Drawing
Registration 10-11 a.m.
All rides out at 11 a.m.

Turner County Elementary School
ASHBURN, GA I-75 Exit 82
For more information call
Earl "The Pearl" Perry 229-567-1233
or Ben Baker 229-445-0923

Come enjoy the festival!
Sausage Dogs · Funnel Cakes
Arts & Crafts vendors
Health Fair
Live entertainment
Carnival
Fire Ant Calling Contest
BBQ Cookoff
Strawberry Cookoff
Pet Parade
Something for everyone!



Chaplain's Corner

Mike Cook
Ga. CMA State Coordinator

The Beast is coming to Atlanta was the scrolling message that caught my eye as I surfed to the Abate of Georgia website. What is the Beast I thought so I clicked on it to see what beast was coming to Georgia? From the description it looks like it is going to be informative and also ways we can work to get bills passed as well as help us lobby to get them stopped. From the information that I read it will be three days of seminars to address any questions that may come up. We should all be continually gathering information that will help us to survive in this world. One of my teachers told me many years ago that we should never quit learning. Although there are some things that I have learned that I have had no use for or think that I will ever use! I have learned more about computers in the last few years that I really wanted to know but that comes with my work. I like to eat regular so it helps me too maintain my weight. The thing I am trying to say is that we do need to continue to learn, even if it is something that we may never use again. Fighting for our rights is something that we will have to do if we are going to keep riding our motorcycles or as long as there are politicians that continue to try to make things better for us. If they were to ask us we could put them on the right road if they would just listen! So with this event we have the opportunity to learn how the big boys do it without leaving our great state of Georgia. I like a road trip but tend to like thing closer to home.

As I have gone through this life I have learned many things that I continue to use, some of those things I use on a daily basis. In my younger life I lived a little wilder than I do now and done some things that I am not proud of. Sometimes I look back and am not sure how I made it through some of those times only to realize that I really did not do it alone. Problem is I could not see anyone with me at the time just a feeling that I had someone by my side. As I matured (and I still have a lot of maturing to do) I realized there was a unseen hand on me. A hand that guided my way through the difficult times and also through the good times! Each of us have a hand on us we just do not realize it. Someday I hope that you also will fill that urging and know that there is more around you than you realize. There are guides that can assist you just look for a member of CMA. They can help you feel the hand on your life that you have overlooked.

Christian Motorcyclists Association

Georgia Contacts - Here if you need us!

State Coordinator – Mike Cook 229-268-4455
NW Area Rep – Bobby Grimes 678-986-4708 M GA Area Rep – Terry Kleeblatt 770-788- 3948 SE Area Rep- Eric Shumans 912-269-3272 M West Area Rep-Barry Walker 770-328-0873 NE Area Rep – FL- Cliff Finney 706-491-0658
SW Area Rep Mark Joiner 229-886-2124

ABATE District - CMA Chapter Presidents

District 1 – Dalton – Robert Bearden 706-217-8229
Lafayette- Rick Winkler 423-987-4137
Ellijay – Eric Wieberg 706-273-9987
District 2 – Gainesville – Dan Montgomery 678-513-3763
Blairsville – Rick Chandler 828-644-5689
Cleveland – Keith Garrison 770-869-0414
District 3 – Rome – David Maloney 770-527-8260
Cartersville – Mark Germany 678-721-1216
Carrollton- Greg Harper 770-949-0265
District 4 – Lawrenceville – Dave Wilson 404-432-7381
Jonathan Landwer – 678-463-6955
Marietta – Lee Brooks 770-309-3618
District 5 – Conyers – Roy Skinner 770-483-0416
Athens – Diane Hardigree 706-769-6911
Loganville – Mike Luther 770-267-5712
District 6 – Griffin – Jimmy Dykes 770-567-5994
Newnan – Riley Guttirrez 770-301-4172
District 7 – Warner Robins – Scott Frey 478-235-6555
District 8 – Augusta – Kelly Newsome 803-593-5351
District 9 – Columbus – Larry Eggie 706-888-2603
District 14 – Jesup – Larry Holloway 912-586-6324
District 15 - Brunswick – Dan McFee 912-399-2663
St. Marys – Jon St. John 912-510-0264

If life has not been what you had hoped, why not come home to Jesus.

Minutes Board of Directors February 11, 2012

Call to Order Dave Woodruffe Sgt at Arms
Pledge Dave Woodruffe
Prayer Wade Warnock CMA Chair
Roll call Districts 1,1W,2,3,4E,4W, 5 5N, 6, 6/2,7,8,9,9/2,11,13,15
District 5N and 9 were not represented
Minutes from Last meeting, VOTE Voted to waive reading
Secretary's Report Comments on newsletter and web site
Treasurers Report Spoke about districts that were not compliant in bill paying/reporting.
Membership Report Just under 1600
Activity Report Biker Day / MRF
Education Report Talk to DA's, LTSAL,Inc project
Legislative Issues HB 161 SB 275 Ann Purcell rewriting 161. No action on 275
State Directors Report Reviewed past year and spoke of changes ahead.
Bob Bowman State Membership Director Resigned due to health reasons.
Special orders
Appointment of Sgt at Arms VOTE 5 min Approved Dave Woodruff
Confidence in the Executive Board VOTE 5 min Unanimous Approval
Confidence in the State Director VOTE 5 min Unanimous Approval
Old Business
Beast of the East 20 min Ricky reviewed status of Volunteers, requested cash donations to cover expenses, spoke about recognition in program
State Elections 10 min
a. Date VOTE
Dates in April 1 open, 8 Easter 15 BOE Atlanta, 21 Angel City 28 Milledgeville and Xtreme Rider.
b. Location VOTE
State elections will be held April 15th at the Beast of the East location from 10AM to 11AM room location TBA.
The Last Ride June 30th VOTE 5 min Approved

Atlanta Motor Speedway June 3rd , 20 min Event cancelled by AMS looking at Kiwanis Fairgrounds in Griffin for Fall event.

Ride to the Capitol open date on Calendar. 10 min February 29th Legislation day with Bikers at the Capitol.

Awareness Program 15 min
a. Accepted by Sheriff Jolly for GSA

b. Creation of" Look Twice Save a Life, Inc." Pending 501c3 status

c. Flyers

Announced Board members and relayed info that application is pending.

LUNCH 1 PM 60 minutes

New Business

District 3 District Status VOTE 2 min Approved

District 9 c 2 Full Status 9/2 VOTE 2 min Approved

District 6 Chapter 3 Creation 10 Min. Approved

Open Discussion

AMA Action Alert!

House Committee passed bill to require EPA to seek independent scientific analysis on the effects of 15 percent ethanol
Urge your Representative to support today!

On February 7, 2012, the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology reported H.R. 3199 favorably, as amended, with a vote of 19 - 7. The bill, introduced by Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), would require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to seek independent scientific analysis on the effects of 15 percent ethanol blend (E15) gasoline.

The bill now heads for consideration on the House floor. No date has been scheduled.

"The EPA's decision to allow E15 into the marketplace will impact every American who owns a car, lawnmower or boat," Sensenbrenner said. Automakers insist that using E15 will void warranties, lower fuel efficiency and cause premature engine failure. In off-road engines, the effects can even be dangerous for users.

"There are serious concerns that the EPA used only one Department of Energy test and rushed E15's introduction into the marketplace," Sensenbrenner said. "This test was limited in scope and ignored a plethora of evidence – albeit inconvenient evidence for the EPA – that shows E15 gasoline has a negative effect on engines."

The new E15 gasoline formulation may appear at a fueling station near you and you need to be careful where you use this new fuel blend. That is because the EPA, in October 2010, approved E15 for use in model year 2007 and newer light duty vehicles (cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles). In January 2011, it added model year 2001-2006 light duty vehicles to the approved list.

Riders should pay attention to this list because no motorcycles or ATVs are currently listed.

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) is concerned about E15 because it burns hotter than gasoline that contains a lesser amount of ethanol. In engines not designed to dissipate that extra heat, damage in the form of premature wear can result. Although this is a concern in all motorcycles, it's particularly problematic for air-cooled engines found in many bikes. Moreover, use of E15 may even void the manufacturer warranty.

Since the approved list includes many light-duty vehicles in use today, refineries, distributors, and fueling stations may choose to offer primarily E15 gasoline because of this action by the EPA. This should concern all motorcyclists and off-highway enthusiasts since this may affect the availability of gasoline with less or no ethanol (E10 or E0).

We need your help to pass H.R. 3199 when it reaches the House floor. You can find contact information for your Representative at AmericanMotorcyclist.com > Rights > Issues & Legislation, then enter your zip code in the "Find your Officials" box. A prewritten e-mail is available for you to send to your federal elected official immediately by following the "Take Action" option and entering your information.

In a previous AMA alert, Rep. Sensenbrenner also introduced H.R. 748. This bill would prohibit the Administrator of the EPA from authorizing the use of gasoline containing greater than 10 percent ethanol in certain vehicles.

Again, the AMA urges you to write your Representative today and ask them to support H.R. 748 and H.R. 3199.

DON'T GIVE UP YOUR PASSION: EDUCATE THE UNINFORMED

By Richard Malcolm Edited by Dr. Sue Duggan and Amanda Duggan

"Biker Born, Biker Bred and When I Die I'll BE Biker Dead." Nothing could adequately describe me and my choice of lifestyle more than that phrase. I proudly wear a large patch on the back of my vest with that statement. In fact, when I proposed to my wife of 42 years I told her, "There's my bike and there's you, if one of you has to go, it's been nice knowing you." Lucky for me everything worked out fine and I still have both.

I am 64 years old, a Life Plus member of the American Motorcyclist Association(AMA), a member of American Bikers Active Toward Education (ABATE) of Georgia, and the Harley Owners Group, and have been riding motorcycles for 65 years. Yeah, you do the math. My parents were bikers in the 40's and 50's and my aunts and uncles continued on through the 70's when my generation took over the family tradition. My mom's brothers were members of the Yonkers NY motorcycle club, joining in the 1940's,as did my dad. Needless to say, I come from a motorcycling family.

Until I was five years old, our family's only mode of transportation was a 1939 Harley ULH with a side car. My dad and uncles used to engage in motorcycle competitions -mostly endurance runs-and one of my uncles even owned a flat track race team, sporting a Harley 45 WR. One of my uncles, at the age 16, daily mode of transportation was a Harley 125, which the family used as a "Polo Pony" competing in motorcycle polo games. I spent most of my early youth attending motorcycle events at Langhorne PA, Laconia NH, and Bike Week at Daytona (when the races were held on the old beach race course). I received my first event pin, which I still treasure to this day, in 1948 at the age of 1 while attending an AMA sponsored Gypsy Tour. Currently, I can't remember how many field meets, club runs, short track races, or hill climb events I attended as a child as that was my family's normal weekend activity.

I have ridden on almost every make and model of Harley Davidson made to date: 1930's, 40's and 50's Indians, most of the 1950's, 60's and 70's British motorcycles, and many Japanese models as well, beginning with their introduction in the US in the 1960's. I started my front seat time at the age of 13 when my dad presented me with a 1955 Cushman Highlander, and I have owned a motorcycle ever since. Through the years I progressed upward graduating from a Yamaha 80, a Harley 250 Sprint, a 425 Suzuki, a 650 Suzuki Savage, and a Harley 883 Sportster, to my current 1999 96 ci American Ironhorse Stalker. In addition, throughout my progression from the Cushman to the Ironhorse, I was privileged to ride numerous different makes and models of motorcycles of various displacements.

Growing up during my era, people used their motorcycle as an all -purpose machine. My dad would replace his rear fender with a bobbed one, pull off the front fender, change the wheel sizes from 16 inches to 19, put on a rear tire chain, change out the handle bars, and take that old ULH with the side car attached on endurance rallies (no, my mom didn't ride on those). I learned to do the same in the 1960's with my HD Sprint:trail riding in the woods, hill climbing, and flat racing with my buddies at a reclaimed land fill we called the "Sand Pitts".

You may be asking yourself, "Why is he boring me with his life history of motorcycling?" Well, it's important for you to understand my past before I elaborate on my future. You see, I am the victim of a distracted driver. In 2006, a distracted driver crossed the center line on a two lane mountain highway to avoid rear ending two stopped cars in his lane. He was driving a 36,000 lb. garbage truck. The nearly head on collision resulted in the loss of my left leg two inches above the knee. My lifelong motorcycle riding experience, the skills I had been taught by my family at an early age when there were no formal riding courses, and the continuing education in defensive riding skills provided by various motorcycle publications - and countless hours practicing and honing those learned skills - saved my life. The first thing the truck driver said to the investigating office was, you guessed it, "**I didn't see him."** Hell, he was in my lane, 80 feet away!

As a motorcyclist, if you are ever injured in a motorcycle accident you will be beset with many comments on the cause of the wreck as if it were your fault; followed by additional comments and questions regarding your lifestyle and future riding intentions from the uninformed non-rider**. It is amazing how ignorant the non-rider is about the dangers from other motorists we, as riders, face while enjoying our passion and life-style.** I could tell from the comments and questions that these uninformed, yet well-meaning folks were verbalizing, that hey placed some or all of the blame on me for my plight, just for riding a motorcycle. In fact, no one ever questioned the skills and abilities of the offending driver. No comments were ever made that the offender should give up driving or that he was totally responsible for the wreck due to poor driving skills or distracted driving habits. This guy had 10 previous driving accidents. Does that tell you something? Some of the questions I got and still get today are: " I hope you don't intend to get back on one of those things"; " You don't need to ever ride again"; " The next time may be your last"; " Those things will kill you", "Maybe you'll learn something from this and give up motorcycles"; " Why do you still ride, haven't you learned yet?" and this one is my favorite, "You're lucky you didn't kill yourself."

The bias toward motorcycles has been fueled by the media, insurance companies, government bureaucrats, law enforcement officials and law makers who believe they, and the government have the best interest of the public by **demonizing the motorcycle** and the motorcycle lifestyle. This has been going on since the 1940's when New York lawmakers tried to prohibit motorcycles from riding on the New York State Throughway in the interest of public safety. My family, the Yonkers Motorcycle Club, and the AMA fought the legislation and won, preserving New York motorcyclists the right to ride on the throughway today.

Even some medical professionals want to discriminate against motorcycles and motorcyclists. Many emergency room doctors, nurses, and some prominent orthopedic surgeons are biased toward motorcycling as well. I've talked to many of them. I know they see the damages sustained by injured riders and the grief suffered by bereaved families. But, what those professional care givers don't understand is that most likely the motorcyclist was the victim of a distracted driver, and the motorcyclist's choice of transportation was not the cause of his or her injuries or death. I had to lay my bike down in a curve in 1989 to avoid hitting several distracted pedestrians crossing the road. They drive, too, failing to see me as I was exiting the curve; yeah I know how to execute that maneuver having practiced it on one of my dirt bikes in the "Sand Pitts" back in the 60's and 70's. They walked directly into my path and never noticed me until I was wriggling in pain on the ground. That wreck resulted in a broken right shoulder, a two week stay in the hospital and six months of recovery. Upon awakening from surgery my doctor informed me that I should never have been riding a motorcycle, that they are dangerous and I should never ride again for the rest of my life.

As a result of the 2006 wreck that resulted in the loss of my left leg, I was transported by helicopter to a trauma level one hospital some 60 miles from my home town. During the flight, I had to endure an EMT who told his coworkers and me that motorcycles were dangerous and he would never ride "one of those things". He based his decision on his experiences in treating injured bikers without knowing the circumstances of the accident (s). So much for compassion! After being discharged from intensive care, the doctors recommended that I move to a rehabilitation hospital so I could receive basic physical therapy, as well as engaging an orthopedic surgeon who could treat my amputation, monitor my recovery, and prescribe the proper prosthetic device and physical therapy for my condition. Naturally, my family contacted the doctor who treated me in 1989for my broken right shoulder, as he was a renowned physician in our community who had treated my son for orthopedic injuries he sustained during his high school athletic years. He was someone that was familiar with our family, someone that we thought we could trust. The good doctor refused to take my case stating," I told him not to ride again, sorry, but he did it to himself." Fortunately for me, we found a very good surgeon who was more sympathetic and never mentioned anything negative about motorcycling.

However, to those uninformed individuals such as my so-called trusted family doctor, I would say if you ever want to get a better sense of the general driving public, spend some time in a wheel chair while shopping in a "Big Box" store. It will scare the living hell out of you and change your perspective on the driving public. Watching the masses pushing their shopping carts through the aisles in pursuit of happiness, just knowing that those other shoppers are going to be behind the wheel of a 4,000 lb. motor vehicle shortly after leaving the store is eye-opening to say the least. Since you are two feet lower than the walking upright, you are totally impervious to their view and they become unaware of your presence. **Sound familiar to you?** They converse eye to eye, face to face with those in their party, not watching where they are going. Focused on the merchandise they intend to purchase, they look everywhere but where they are going, too busy focused on: disciplining their children, failing to yield the right of way, changing lanes without looking forward, eating snacks, blocking your path without any consideration for others, cutting you off to grab that sale item they didn't intend on buying, and pulling out in front of you at aisle intersections. These shopping cart pilots talk, text, and surf the internet on their cell phones while doing all of the above mentioned activities.

Three weeks after being discharged from the hospital and not having yet received a prosthetic leg, I went shopping with my wife in a "Big Box" hardware store in the middle of the week. With it being mid-week there were very few shoppers. I was sitting in an aisle, up against the shelves, looking at some merchandise, when all of a sudden I was rear-ended by a guy piloting a shopping cart. We were the only two people in the aisle. Guess what he was doing? You got it, talking on a cell phone. Give me a break, he couldn't even push a shopping cart and watch the aisle at the same time. Well, I promptly informed him that a moron like him put me in this wheel chair and that I was going to follow him around the store until he left. Once he left, I was going to wait fifteen minutes before leaving as I did not want to be on a road anywhere near him. He promptly made his purchase and left in a hurry.

It's incidents like these that have led me to believe that anyone who is at fault for injuring a motorcyclist should have to display the banner bumper sticker "LOOK TWICE SAVE A LIFE MOTORCYCLES ARE EVERYWHERE" on their personal vehicles as part of their punishment or civil judgment rendered against them for causing the wreck for the rest of their driving days. Why shouldn't they be made to assist us in spreading the word and educate others on the perils of distracted driving?

Nevertheless, in an effort to spread the word and as a favor to one of the doctors who assisted in my recovery, each year I speak to physical therapy students at a local state university. This particular doctor specializes in above the knee amputee therapy and lower prosthetic ambulation and proper usage. Within my speech, I tried to relay to the students the obstacles and challenges that above knee amputees have to overcome, both physically and mentally. However, I also make it a point to relay the <u>cause</u> of my disability. In fact, each time I tell the story, I preface it by asking that they not take a negative position toward motorcycle riding; distracted, unaware drivers can cause damages and injuries to those engaged in forms of transportation other than motorcycles, including walking and bicycling. Typically I find that the students obey my request, and by the end of my speech ,each of them is glad that I hadn't given up riding. More importantly, they typically voice their intentions on becoming more aware of motorcycles while driving.

Although it is my hope to educate all uninformed individuals about the dangers of distracted drivers, I realize I am but one person, and accidents do occur. Approximately twenty years ago, my brother was seriously injured when an unaware and distracted driver violated his right of way by turning left in from of him. At the time of the wreck, he was a very accomplished amateur road racer. He T-Boned the driver's vehicle on the passenger side of her car, went over the top of her vehicle, landed twenty to thirty feet from the collision site and totaled her car. After several months of intensive care recovery in a physical therapy hospital, and three years of additional outpatient physical therapy, he went out and bought a brand new Sport Bike and enrolled in an advanced motorcycle riding class sponsored by an internationally renowned champion road racer. He never quit and continues to ride in on-road, off-road rides and rallies, and cruises the west coast today.

Seeing his two siblings being seriously injured by the inattentive, our younger brother gave up street riding almost twenty years ago. He and his four sons took up motocross riding, even building a practice track on their 10 acre tract of land in rural north Alabama. He was my riding buddy, and I miss our late night rides after the wives and kids were tucked in bed.

We I do understand his concerns, as he was one of my primary caregivers during one of my recuperation periods and witnessed first-hand my painfully long recovery processes. can't even get him to through his leg over the saddle of a street bike today.
Eventually I converted my American Ironhorse to a trike as there was very little damage done to it in the wreck, just some tin damage and a bent frame which was easily straightened. I often joke and say that it and I both got prosthetic devices. After spending almost five years of non-riding following the wreck of 2006 that resulted in the loss of my left leg, I am back in the saddle enjoying my lifelong passion with my friends and relatives. Most of my family rides, including my five year old grandson who rides a 50 cc dirt bike that was passed down from his four cousins, in a controlled environment. Even as an experienced rider with generations of riding experience in my blood, I do plan on taking a course for trike riding as it is a totally different experience than a two wheeler. My family and I also intend to, and will, enroll my grandson in a youth motocross class. Now, a new generation and new skills need to be learned!

However, I write this as a lifelong experienced, accomplished, skilled, informed and educated biker, motorcyclist, motorcycle enthusiast or whatever you think is applicable. I know you are too,or you would not be reading this publication or article. I am not telling you anything you don't already know. The goal here is to challenge you and encourage you to do several things:(1) continue to ride post- accident;(2)take the applicable motorcycle safety course for your level of riding experience;(3) read as much motorcycle safety literature as you can, and on a regular basis;(4)practice those defensive riding skills, finely honing them until they become as natural to you as buttoning your shirt;(5) attend races and observe the riding techniques of the professionals;(6) take time to educate the non-riding general public, particularly government bureaucrats and elected officials, about the damage and destruction inflicted on the motorcycling community by unaware and distracted drivers; (7)register to vote and let those running for public office know of your concerns regarding motorcycle rights; (8)inform your health insurance carrier that it is wrong to discriminate against you because you engage in a lawful means of recognized transportation. You are licensed to do so, and that any change in premium because of your choice of transportation will be met with organized resistance by motorcycle rights organizations; (9) write letters to the editor of your local newspaper explaining the true causes for motorcycle accidents;(10)take time to speak to your coworkers about motorcycle awareness and their responsibility to share the road with you and all bikers;(11) call a radio talk show and explain the concerns we have about the distracted unaware driver. I listen to many radio talk shows, and I know you as a biker can express our interests and concerns far more articulately than many of those folks who call in speaking nonsense. At least you will say something beneficial to all listeners;(12) If you are a member of a motorcycle organization such as the AMA, ABATE, a manufactures riding club, or you are a three piece patch holder, you have a responsibility to assert and protect your right to ride and to resist and educate those who would impose or condone restrictions on your constitutional rights to pursue your lifestyle and chosen means of transportation. Put up posters from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation concerning motorcycle awareness in public places, as well brochures provided by your state's highway department concerning motorcycle safety, and please assist in fund raising for your organization's efforts to make the general public, law makers, and law enforcement agencies aware of the motorcycling communities presence and rights to use public roads.

In addition to those key goals I've mentioned above, always remember those who shop using carts also drive on the same highways and roadways you ride on, so be careful out there and keep the rubber side down (or at least try to). I just hope the uninformed non-rider insurance underwriter or government official who might read this doesn't wig out. The next thing you know, us wheel chair riders will be required to wear a DOT approved helmet, reflective clothing, eye protection, take a safety course, obtain a license, and our chairs will be required to be equipped with horns, mirrors, hard wired head lights, brake and tail lights, and two 6 foot reflective flags on each side of the chair so we can take on the sole responsibility for our own safety. They just don't see us!

Lastly, May is motorcycle awareness month. Our state has graciously agreed to assist us with informing the general public that we are out there and that we matter. Let's take the time, each one of us, to do something to prevent another one of our brothers or sisters from becoming killed or maimed by a distracted unaware driver. Maybe the first place you should start is in your local "Big Box Store".

Proposed new By-laws

6.2 An acting District Coordinator has the same voting privilege as a D.C.

22. Additional corporation may be created and opened to provide a separate organization to meet specific needs that cannot easily or legally be accomplished through ABATE of Georgia , Inc.
A new Corporation can be created by the State Director and the purpose of it must be proven to the Executive Board. Approval will be based on a vote from the Board of Directors.
Any new corporation shall have as its President the current President/ State Director of ABATE of Georgia Inc. Other Officers can be appointed by the State Director with approval of the Executive Board.
[Even though it is understood that this should NOT happen without approval now it will NOT happen]

23 From time to time a committee may be formed to handle issues of major concern to the membership and the Board of Directors.
These committees will be formed by the Executive Board and the Board of Directors must approve the purpose and the need.
The current State Director shall over see the committees and name a Chairperson to head each committee. The Chairperson and the Executive Board shall name committee members. Any person serving on a committee must be a member of ABATE of Georgia. All actions by the committees shall require the approval of the Board of Directors.
[This will allow for us to properly establish a PAC, legislative committees and others as needed]

District News

District 2

January 1, 2012 Meeting Minutes

At 2:07PM Our Assistant Sgt. at Arms David Wright opened our meeting and Annual Frosty Balls Run with the pledge and prayer.

We then asked for a motion to waive the reading of the previous meeting's minutes and received it and a second to the motion.

Anthony then introduced our officers present to the attendees.

Crystal then offered a Treasury Report, and Chris gave a Membership Report. Anthony then told us how we will have a presence at all Bike Shows in our District and how he has approached Frazier's Harley Davidson to donate gifts for our Poker Run in May...details to follow...

Nathan our Activities Director was not present but Anthony gave an Activities Report including our Second Annual Lover's Ball to be held at Lorena's on February 11th.

Anthony then gave an overview on many topics of concern to the membership including the evolution of ABATE protests, our State Education Initiative, the RTE. 190 audit, the acquisition of our run flag, the need to fill out your newsletter resolution form if your address needs updating.

He also addressed the need to send event pictures to me for web posting. We also elaborated on the State office, in an effort to promote consistency on the web, will acquire website URL name ownership and District 6-2's recent resignations and the need to seek out newsletter sponsors.

Anthony then elaborated on the volunteer program for the MRF's Beast of the East conference in Atlanta this April 13 - 15 2012. He also has personally paid the fee for the Beast of the East conference allowing all D2 members free admission! Thanks Anthony!

We then opened the floor for discussion which included a lively conversation about GA state insurance's warning of increased premiums for "risky activities" such as Sky Diving and Motorcycling!

At 2:38PM we took a 15 minute break.

Upon returning we then held our door prize drawing, and 50-50.

We then asked for a motion to adjoin this truncated meeting at 2:52PM

We then rode to Helen GA on this not too Frosty Balls Run...

Our February 5 2012 meeting will be back at the El Jinete.

District News

District 3

Date: February 5, 2012
Location: The Watering Hole Villa Rica, GA
Our meetings are held the 1st Sunday of every month at 2:00pm at the Watering Hole 123 Tri County Plaza Villa Rica, GA 30180.
Meeting Minutes
Sgt. at Arms Donnie Norman called the meeting to order and led the pledge shortly after 2:00pm with 6 Officers, and 1 Member present. Our Chaplain Greg Harper led us in prayer.
Dave read the minutes from the last meeting and they were approved as read. Then read the treasurers report and said that as Treasurer Cindy has been busy, because the bank was going to start charging a monthly fee, she got them to waive the fee because we are a non profit org.
Linda gave the Legislative report telling everybody about HR3199 and 15% ethanol at the federal level and gave updates on SR140 HB275 HB 468 HB224 and HB161 at the state level. Linda also noted that the MRF Meeting of the Minds will be in North Carolina this year in September and its close enough that we should be thinking about attending.
Dustin gave the membership report stating that we have 53 members in district, and the need to contact members about Beast of the East and our upcoming poker run.
Activities Director Jannetta updated us on the progress of our poker run saying that all is coming together fine.
Sgt at Arm Donnie Norman said he wants us to think on walmart time and start thinking about our Christmas event now so we don't fall behind.
Dave then reminded everybody that the next BOD meeting is February 11th when he has to ask for District Status and would like other members to accompany him.
Dave thanked everybody for their attendance and participation and adjourned the meeting.

District 4 East

2/1/12

The February meeting took place on Wednesday, 2/1/12 at Confetti's in Norcross GA.

7pm - Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Prayer

12 Attendees

Old Business – None

Treasury report – We have some money in the bank and insurance payments are up to date.

ABATE did very well at the Great American Motorcycle Show (GAMS). We had numerous volunteers we sold some hats, shirts and approx 40 new or renewal memberships. There were some new advertising contacts made such as Blue Moon Cycles and looking into using the Garage 71 public service announcement in other locations. Still looking to attract non- Harley riders into ABATE.

Activities – Visiting with the Killer Creek HOG Chapter in February to discuss ABATE and educate the HOG members as to what ABATE is about. 2/11/12 Board meeting in Austell, all members are encouraged to attend. Also on 2/11/12 is a Sweetheart Ride at 1:30pm with District 6. 2/18/12 – The Vortex. This as a meeting initiated by Gil to contact District 4 East members that are to far from Confetti's to make the monthly meetings. 2/19/12 – Legislative ride to the capital. All members that can make this ride are encouraged to attend. 3/3/12 – Mr. Charlie's Party at Stone Mountain Harley. 3/17/12 ABATE has been invited to attend the St. Patrick's Day Party at Killer Creek Harley. We will need volunteers to staff an ABATE table. 5/20/12 May Motorcycle Madness Chili Cook-off is planned for Confetti's sponsored by ABATE District 4 East.

The 50/50 was won by Dean. Congrats.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm. Next ABATE District 4 East meeting scheduled for Wednesday 3/7/12 at Confetti's in Norcross GA.

District News

District 4 West

5 February 2012
Meeting called to order at 1:18 pm; Our Flag will be hung onto the wall before the next meeting.
Minutes of previous meeting were waved and passed; Treasurer's report was that we have money, and what is owed will go to the state.
DC Ann reported that we still need more members at the meetings; Any suggestions? Wild Dog (Gerald) is willing to make phone calls to members the night before our meetings. Dwayne suggested getting e-mails out to members also. Not sure who will do this, though.
Activities: a list of different rides we could start for a calendar year was suggested. We will have a list next month, and can discuss it. If meetings are short, with weather breaking, (as Wild Dog suggested) we could go on a local ride after the meeting Sunday afternoon.
Cheef reminded us that SB 275 (left turn on red) is again a bill. We should contact our reps at the State House to let them know our feelings. REGISTER to vote in Primaries ends 6 Feb; but VOTE
Motorcycle show: (GAMS); had pros and cons; more vendors than last year; wonder why we could not have filled the building like that for our shows? No real answers.
Beast of The East; Need people to help with registrations, as shuttle drivers, and general helpers. And things for silent auctions, door prizes and live auction items. We each should talk with those with whom we do business and ASK for things. (esp from people to whom we give money insurance people, banks, finance companies,) Not easy to ask for things, but if we don't ask, we wont get.
Renewals: Dwayne, Cheef and Marc K. The 50/50 was won by Wild Dog.
Meeting lasted one hour.

District 5

Meeting Minutes
February-14 – 2012
Officers Present

DC Michael Mustain Asst. DC Michael Cushing
Treasurer Heather Smith Secretary Sandee Clark
Membership Sherri Cushing Asst.Legis. Dir. Michele Mustain
Sgt. At Arms Scott Spence

Meeting Held at Five "O" Clock Somewhere in Covington, Ga.

Members present 4 Guest 5
Michael called the meeting to order at 7:08PM,
led the Pledge and Prayer
Officers Report
Secretary: January Minutes – the motion made to accept, and second
Treasure Heather : all bills are paid with $441.50 in account
motion made to accept and second
Act Dir: Steph not present.
Legis Report : Gene in the hospital, posted on our site all the reports.
Membership Dir. Sherri, voted in last month. Membership stands at 36
Asst. DC Michael C. E Topic for tonight, Lane Position
Old business, Beast of the east, April money was paid for D5 members.
We need our items for our gift basket in March meeting.
Board meeting was held on February 11th Michael discussed the meeting.
House bill 161, 275, the Look Twice Save A Life package.
The upcoming rides dates set for February 29th for the Capital,
June 30th for the Last Ride.
New Business March 3rd bake sale at SMHD for Mr. Charlie Party
Door prizes drawn and 50/50 collected total $98.00 $49.00 Michele M won donated back to abate.
Thanks to our Feb. Sponsor Mt. Motor Sports

Motion to Adjourn at 8:PM Gene & second

District News

DISTRICT 6
February 7, 2012
Meeting called to order, pledge, prayer
Lois not present, minutes from previous meeting ask to be waived, agreed.
Frank stated we have $1559.70, he gave the breakdown of 80.00 for 50/50, sent State 30% (24.00) also sent 50.00 to the State.
Don discussed the notes from the Officers meeting and updated us on the "Beast of the East Conference". They have decided District 6 would be responsible for the store, check-in, and door prizes. He also ask for donations for auction items and door prizes. They do not have to be motorcycle related. He also let everyone know we need 3 more volunteers for Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the day.
We are sending a check to the State for $100.00 to cover fees. This will get everyone in that wants to attend. However, we need a list with your complete name, address, and telephone number. This cost does not include the banquet. If you want to attend the banquet there is a separate charge of $40.00 per person. The proposed due date is March 15th.
He also reminded us about the Board of Directors meeting in Austell on Feb 11th @ 11am.
Don and Paul discussed the Cherry Blossom Festival, It was suggested that we pay for everything up front for the year, which it would make it less that we have to pay monthly. . Paul let everyone know he has about 9 posters and 50 flyers that need to be hung and distributed, he ask for some help posting them. Also, the cost for the Cherry Blossom shirts will be $15.00 each. Which they will be in by the end of the month. Don also ask for help with donations for door prizes at the festival.
Marcus spoke about the Sweetheart / Poker run this Saturday Feb. 11th. He and Mack Daddy will lead the ride. It will start at 1pm. Leaving out from The Grove Bar. It will be about a 4 hour ride, around 4-5 stops and door prizes at every stop. They were donated by Jim. We would greatly appreciate the donation of more door prizes to help out. The cost of the ride is $5.00 per bike.
After the ride The Grove bar is holding a Sweetheart dinner that will start at 6pm until whenever. For $20.00 you will be treated to a steak dinner on the grill for two. Please reserve your table in advance.
Dale our safety advisor ask that on all rides please be aware of the riders around you, especially the rider in front of you. Go single file around curves and watch your speed and spacing of your bikes. You can only go as fast as the person in front of you.
Lisa let us know about the Legislative ride on Feb 29th @ 10am. Which is a Wednesday. We will meet at The Grove Bar @ 9am. She also discussed the Motorcycle only check points that are to start again on March 9th. We have heard about one, I-95/75, the beginning of Bike Week. They do not have to release the check points for 30 days prior. Lisa also discussed the Red light bill, also the House bill SB275 for a mandatory skills class. Also Lisa ask that we get with our Representative and vote on the proposed testing of increased ethanol in the fuel we use.
Chris let everyone know we are at 120/125 members. We welcome 2 new members, DJ & David. Also, we have a couple of potential members. And also a welcome to Marsha Fortson a first time member.
Paul let everyone know that the event that was scheduled June 3rd at the Atlanta Motor Speedway was not going to happen. Apparently we are a 501-C4 non-profit group and the charity event that is scheduled is a 501-C3. According to The Speed Way we can not combine the two. Dan did apply for a 501-C3, but we will not get it in time. However, we are still going to do the Friday night drags scheduled for June 22nd and August 18th.
Also, on a lighter note Paul will hold a cookout at his house on April 28th, details to follow.
Bo spoke about everyone donating new and gently used bras to the Bikers Battling Breast Cancer cause.
David with Wind Walkers let everyone know about the Relay for life event in Griffin on May 4th from 7am-7pm. Lots of booths, and all proceeds will go to Relay for Life.
Jim with District 6:3 let us know they will hold their meetings on the 1st Monday of each month at Big Daddy's Oyster bar. They are up to 4 Officers, 2 Members, and 6 pending members. He ask to borrow Yankee to update them on Legislative information till they get someone from their district.
Darlene with District 6:3 let us know they will hold a yard sale March 31st, to raise money. See Darlene for details.
As a reminder on July 4th there will be an All you can eat BBQ ride. We will meet up at The Grove bar and ride to Indian Springs in Flovilla. The cost will be $6.00 per person.
Also on the schedule for March 10th there is a swap meet scheduled at the New Senoia Raceway.
Congratulations to Jim Wilson winning the 50/50 (45.00) to the winner. He donated $20.00 back. We were able to bank $65.00 for the district.
Meeting adjourned.

District News

DISTRICT 8
Jan 16,2012

Meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 7:20pm by Nancy James.

INTRODUCTION of new members or guests – 1 new member Wes Townsend

ATTENDANCE: (See attached) - 5 officers, 6 members, and 3 guest. Totaling 14 attendees.

OLD BUSINESS-

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES of Nov. 21, 2011 Regular meeting, Minutes accepted as written
All approved.

SECRETARY – Diann Marum: Read to group the last meeting minutes, Nov. 21,2011 and handed out a CSRA event schedule.

DC Report given by Nancy James - Feb. 14 Coyotes is having an all day benefit to raise money for bullet proof vest.
March 3rd the Southern Cruisers having an event at Gordon Chevrolet to raise money for the Wounded Warriors/St. Jude.
Our Proclamation Presentation is coming up. The tentative date is April 29th. Still have to talk to the Mayor of Augusta. We need to get the word out, have fliers made up, and find someone to do the yard signs. The Proclamation statement should be May is Motorcycle Awareness and You month.
The Proclamation will be at the Municipal Building on Telfair St. in Augusta. We will need volunteers for parking, maybe sell 50/50, T-shirts, coozies, and sign up new members.
David Pierson is still working on ABATE tri-folds. We need these to hand out at events.
There will NOT be a Fried Green Tomato Festival at the Iron Horse this year. Jan Yu suggested that ABATE D-8 maybe think of taking this on. This would be a lot of work.
We need money making events.
Jan Yu suggested we need to go to different groups and let them know what we are all about.

TREASURER report – Roger Pilcher - Lucky 8 drawing - Must be a member and present to win

Starting today with $ 44.00

$ 465.37 in petty cash,$ 1,031.01 in checking
Totaling $ 1496.38

The 2 missing checks have been found. The checks were sent in to State and have been cashed.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR Report - Dave Pierson suggested we set an ABATE booth up at the Kelsi Long Ride.
Will be working on getting the ABATE Tri-folds ready to hand out at future events.

Our current membership is 45

LEGISLATIVE/ MRF – Report by Roger Pilcher – Everyone should be a MRF member.

ACTIVITIES DIR. Report by Jan Yu – D-8 ABATE should sponsor the Sno Cap Bike Night June 26th.
The reservations have been made at Pine Point for our event August 5th. The cost was $75.
The ride after the Proclamation will be ending at Nancy James house.
Dave Pierson suggested that Cliff Bennett from Eagle 105 radio station will be glad to help us out with on sight coverage.
The yard signs should read Look Twice, Save a Life or some statement to that order. Kenny Rayburn, Nancy James, and Jan Yu will be checking on prices and places to have them done.

SGT at Arms report – No report

District News

NEW BUSINESS :

50/50 $21.00 won by Chris Knox

Lucky 8: $56.00 won by Diann Marum.

Next OFFICERS meeting; 6:00pm, Monday February 6, 2012, Mi Rancho's Washington Rd.
Rd.
Next REGULAR meeting: 7:00pm, Monday February 2, 2012 at Mi Rancho's Washington Rd.
Rd.
Meeting adjourned - 8:30pm

Additional Notes from Nancy James, DC– District 8
Okay, forget all the meeting info. I gave you last month! At the meeting on Feb 2nd we changed our schedule for 2012. We are back on track for a phenomenal 2012, it just took a few months to get it straight. Sorry for any inconvenience.

So as to not have 3 hour meetings, it was decided to go back to having the Officer mtgs. and the Regular meetings on separate days. I have typed up a schedule for the year (which is subject to change) and we will be handing these out at the meetings. If you'd like one via email contact the D-8 Secretary, Diann Marum at soaringeagle4freedom@yahoo.com.

First, the OFFICERS meeting will be held on MONDAY, Mar. 19th at 7 p.m. at Mi Rancho Mexican Restaurant on Washington Rd., as always, anyone is welcome.

Second, The D-8 March Regular Monthly meeting will be held on the LAST SUNDAY of the month – March 23rd and will be held at the Road Runner Café on Peach Orchard Rd. (Rt. 25), Augusta. The meeting will start at NOON sharp and will be followed by the 6th annual "Winters Over Let the Good Times Roll… Dice Run". See the flyer in this newsletter.

Yes, it was decided to bring back some of our most popular EVENTS!! Yes, D-8 is back in the Dice Run/Poker Run/good times business!!

Our new Activities Director, Jan Yu, has decided to get her feet wet and bring back some of our more popular rides. Besides the Dice Run we WILL be having a Proclamation Presentation and thank you event. I haven't gotten a firm response from Mayor Co-penhaver regarding the actual presentation time but we will hold our April meeting in the parking lot of the Municipal Building at 10 a.m., prior to the Presentation on Sunday April 29th. Tell all your friends – we need LARGE participation!!!

Jan has also reserved the Pine Point Pavillion up at Lake Springs Park for another "Beat the Heat Poker Run and Cook-out" on August 5th. Reserve the date – private beach, private parking, private pavilion!! More to come later.

Last but not least it was voted to bring back the ever creepy "Ghosts, Ghouls, and Goblins Poker Run" scheduled for October 26th – reserve the date!

I'd like to plan an over-nighter to Helen, perhaps a rolling dice run or poker run culminating with a combined District 2 event or ride. We're tossing dates around. Come to a meeting and put in your two cents!

District News

VERY IMPORTANT and coming up quick - April 13th thru 15th - the MRF's BEAST OF THE EAST! District 8 is paying the "district fee" for any of our members who want to attend one or all of these seminars. People – take advantage of this event being sponsored by ABATE of GA – volunteers are desperately needed – here I go again – the more hands, the lighter the load!!! I said this last month but it bears repeating - if you aren't familiar with this event – look it up on-line. People will be coming from all over the country. It's a great opportunity to learn and share how and what things are being done to fight for your rights in other States. This is a weekend of seminars and workshops for those who are interested in preserving what rights we have and how to get back the ones we've lost.

The only event not available with the "district fee" is the Banquet. If you sign up with the District (as a group) and want to go the Saturday evening Banquet, you can buy a ticket for $40.00 however, YOU MUST HAVE YOUR MONEY IN TO ME BEFORE MARCH 12th. I have to have it in to the State Office BY March 15th!! This is free schooling folks – take advantage of it. This is one of those events that States vie for the rights to host (kind of like the Olympics) and ABATE of GA is honored to be the host State this year. Along with this "honor" comes a lot of hard work! We need VOLUNTEERS from every District, in every capacity. Set-up prior to the event (Friday), Greeters both Friday and Saturday, Information Booth (there will be a lot of different seminars going on at once and "students" looking for the right room, etc.), the host hotel will be giving us a full floor of covered parking and ABATE will provide 24 hour Security. I'm sure there's a lot to do that I'm leaving out. Volunteers will be needed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Pick one or two. Make a weekend of it! There should be a lot of interesting folks from all over the country, let's show them some Southern Hospitality while having a good time ourselves! FYI The cost to this event would be $60.00 to an MRF member / $70.00 for non-members, so sign up ASAP to attend for free! The party is on you –let's all go have a good time in Atlanta!

All of you who have let your ABATE memberships lapse – we need you back! I know that there are a lot of mc groups out there to be members of, I know that money is tight and memberships are not free, IF YOU CAN ONLY BELONG TO ONE – IT SHOULD BE THE ONE WORKING FOR YOUR RIGHTS AS A MOTORCYCLIST! Please renew your ABATE membership.

Have a safe month folks, hope to see you at the meeting and Dice Run on 3/25/12.

District 9

Feb 7, 2012

District 9 Monthly Meeting is held at Players on 54th street, 7:30 pm, first Tuesday of the month

District Officers in Attendance: D9 Coordinator- Ronald Foxworth, Treasurer-Cindy Foxworth, Activities director- Cyndi Griffith, Membership director – Wayne Hubbard, Secretary –Sherry Hubbard, Sgt in Arms- Mike Griffith, Legislative director- Ferrell Hamer, Chaplin –William Lowery

27 members in attendance and 15 guests (awesome!)
Meeting started at 7:30 and adjourned at 8:15

William Lowery D9's Chaplin was introduced and called upon to lead us in the prayer and the pledge of allegiance.
Officer's Reports:
Membership voted to dispense the reading of last month's minutes.
Wayne recognized the new members, and invited us to renew or join Abate.
Stop- really read this! D9's Legislative Director is Felon Hamer- We need to take a moment and THANK him – he keeps D9 up on all the Accomplishments and he informs us at each D9 meeting on the motorcycle related legislation that WILL – oh YES IT WILL- get you head out of that saddle bag!!! Because like it or not it will effect each of our Motorcycle rights. Let's help fight unfair legislation from becoming law!
OKAY continuing with the minutes…..
Felon talked to D9 about
1. The state might require disclosure on your health plan if you ride a motorcycle and they would like to label it as dangerous activities along with skydiving. State rep CARL Rodgers (he is also an insurance agent) wants your insurance plan to list riding a motorcycle under dangerous activities in order to bring down states health plan cost-
Contact Representative Rogers (carl.rogers@house.ga.gov rogerssr@bellsouth.net) and let him know you are offended that anyone would single out the legal operation of a motor vehicle [motorcycle] as a way to decrease insurance costs. He can be reached at 770-535-0994 tel or 770-535-0996 fax
2. Felon talked about Air cool engines and 3. Motorcycle Check Point coming your way……BEWARE……possible March 9th-around interstate 95- Macon ga area-

District News

Ronald – discussed the Beast of the EAST- D9 needs volunteers to help with the parking April 13-15, contact Ron and let him know when you can help out- his cell is 706 681 1694Or ronfox5@hotmail.com.

If you want your club to be listed on the club recognition page in the monthly newsletter– provide him the information. Requirements are at least 1 member of the club must be an A.B.A.T.E of ga member; we will need a short description of your club with a location and time of where your club meets.

Cyndi D9 Activities director will be sending out emails of the monthly activities – This is another member doing a "fine" job…. Send Thank you's her way; for her time and energy put forth on Our D9 Activities sheet.

ICMC- open invite every Saturday night meet at 7 pm at the club house
CMA- Feb 14th Valentines Ride to Johnny Carrino
Heaven Saints- March 24th open door community- fund raiser-
Sudern Connections – bowl for charity – Saturday april 21- winner gets to donate the money raised to their favorite charity
Combat Vets- Spring Bash March 31 @ Xtreme Riders Little Sturgis blvd parking lot
D9 – Rally on the River May 18-20 & MRF Beast of the East conference April 13-15
CAM- Frozen toe ride Feb 25th in house poker run- food & music provided -
Southern Cruiser- Thursdays night dinner rides

Wow- there is a lot you missed during Feb. meeting if you didn't attend and I can't list everything in these minutes….make sure you attend the next d9 monthly meeting – So YOU Will be in the KNOW on what's going on….
Meeting adjourned

District 9/2

District 9-2 February Meeting Minutes

Our meeting began on February 20th at 6:10 p.m. at Los Nopales in LaGrange. David Crowe led us in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Derrick informed the group we are now our own district and not a chapter anymore.
The officer reports were first. Sue read the minutes and they were approved as read. Al Harper discussed legislative issues which included possible Motorcycle Only Safety Stops and Bikers Education Awareness Safety Team (BEAST) stops coming in March for those heading to Daytona Bike Week and he specifically stated there may be one March 9th. He reported an incident in Florida where a 3 year old was riding in front of a driver and how dangerous that could be. There isn't an age limitation in Georgia for passengers riding on a motorcycle, but the driver must have a motorcycle license to carry a passenger. A discussion followed regarding lawyers and ABATE. If you feel your rights as a motorcyclist are violated, contact a lawyer who specializes in motorcycle litigation. Bridget stated we have $507 in our account and we are up to date with what we owe the state. Michelle reported we have 79 current members with 3 new and 5 expired. She asked we keep up with our expiration dates. We have several members about to expire and they need to make sure they renew.

Old business included the March 3-4 swap meet at Xtreme Rider in Warm Springs. Derrick stated we need members to sign up for volunteer times and to make chili. Two members signed up to bring chili and a discussion entailed we needed crackers, cheese and more chili. It was agreed bowls of chili will be sold for $2.00. Derrick volunteered to bring bowls, spoons, and napkins. It was discussed we needed to bring between 10 and 15 gallons of chili and we needed a variety of chili from several members. Bryan, Sue, and Susan will be bringing chili and we need more. Two volunteers signed up for two hours on Saturday and two hours Sunday.
The next discussion was about the Beast of the East. Derrick asked for a show of hands from those who were planning on attending. Three people raised their hands. Therefore, the district decided not to pay the $100 and those three would be paid for separately. Gift baskets for the MRF were displayed and members donated some items to go into the District 9-2 joint basket. Please bring any additional "Road Trip" items or other baskets to the March meeting.

New business included Biker Day at the Capitol on February 29th. We have Washington Street reserved to park the bikes from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. All motorcyclists need to be on the fourth floor before 10 a.m. because both the House and the Senate lock their doors at this time and no one else may enter after that. Sue discussed May as Motorcycle Awareness Month and the Intersection DVD fundraiser. Special thanks go out to Jerry Mc for placing a two page ad in Thunder Roads and magazines were passed out. Please use these magazines to ask for donations to purchase the Intersection DVD kits. Bridget brought up the idea of pulling together items to make gift baskets we could raffle at events. Everyone agreed this was a way our district could make money, so bring "Road Trip" items to our March and April meetings and we'll raffle our first gift basket at Xtreme Rider's Anniversary Party April 28-29th.

District News

There were several prayer requests which included Ron McLain who lost a leg recently. He has been diagnosed with cancer and for Roy Evans (see the event below).

Future Rides or Events include:

Feb. 25 – Ride for Baby Brooklyn – She is 8 months old and suffers from Pompe Disease. $20 Registration begins at 9 a.m. at Mike Patton's Body Shop in LaGrange. Big Sam's Bar B Q plates will be sold for $8 and T-Shirts will be for sale.
Feb. 26 – Ride for Roy Evans – Big Sports Grill – Exit 70 on I-85 – 1:00 p.m.
March 3-4 – Xtreme Rider Swap Meet in Warm Springs
March 17 – Crossmen 5th Anniversary St. Patrick's Day Party – Iron Cross MC Clubhouse in LaGrange – 2 p.m. until…
April 14-15 – MRF Beast of the East Conference – Westin in Atlanta, Georgia
April 28-29th – Xtreme Rider Anniversary Party in Warm Springs

There were 31 members and 11 guests in attendance. Shelby Thompson won the 50/50. The meeting adjourned around 7:30 p.m. Our next meeting is March 19th at Los Nopales. Eat at 6 p.m. and Meet at 7:00 p.m.

District 15

2/5/12

1. Jerald Penzo taking notes for this meeting in the absence of a secretary.

2. Sign in list passed around to all attendees. See list for names.

3. Tragic Wingmen Member death discussed Adam Huckstep, 23 yo army sgt, killed in right-of-way violation. Memorial 2-9-12 @ 9PM

4. Open the meeting with prayer from Chaplain Fred. 2:15pm.

5. Recite the pledge of allegiance.

6. Vicky-notes from Jan. meeting read.
   Nominations at today's meeting discussed.
   Vicky to contact Regina Davis for assistance with ABATE membership.

7. Feb. and future meetings to be held at Toucans Restaurant on the 1st Sunday of each month @ 2PM.

8. Treasurer report given by Randy. $100 cash given to Stephanie for the Beast of the East event. Balance in account= $521. Bank account not established yet.

9. Report from Stephanie;
   a. Members list to be updated and brought current.
   b. Sign up new member Red and Paul. Collected $30 each.
      Cash donation of $20 collected from Chris Pippart.
   c. Idea to use post cards to contact past and present members.
   d. Suggestions asked for.
   e. ABATE email for D15 is d15abatega@gmail.com
   f. Suggestion to create and keep current a Facebook page for D15.

Chaplain Fred volunteered to co-administer on this page. Use Google Alert with the calendar app to notify the public and members.

g. D15 Douglas Speedway event-we will need volunteer help. We need to set up our table and printed material. Will have items for sale. Will sell raffle tickets and 50/50.
Will be $20 gate entry fee. This will be clarified by Steph.
% of the gate take will go to D15. Amount to be clarified by Steph.
Need to set up a tent for our booth. Need banner. Randy to price cost of a banner for D15. Suggestions for the design given by Fred, Randy, & Steph.
$5 donation given to D15 for each new member signed at event.
Steph will present flyers of event to the State.
Consider selling a generic style T used by another dist. We can personalize the sleeve with D15 recognition. Offer at $15 each. Steph to bring photo of the T to march meeting.
Fred offered to bring his ministry tent and equip for us to share. Steph to clear this with Tony.
Need band suggestions.
Hold the dice game at this event.
Hold our monthly meeting at this event.
Douglas is in D14 bounds. D14 non-active.
Offer expensive item for auction. Set ticket price for auction item. Suggestions for auction item. Work with Ted and Dot on auction item.
Make nametags for volunteer members working the event.

State Election Information

With the exception of Bob Bowman, All current State Officers are running for re-election of their current positions.

James F. Trucks has declared his intent to run for State Legislative Director.

Gil Robinson has declared his intent to run for State Membership Director

The State Elections will be held April 15th At the Beast of the East Conference at the Westin Airport Hotel., the room for the election is yet to be announced.

Any member needing an Absentee Ballot must be received by the state office no later than March 20th, 2012, requests may be made via email or US postal mail

Requests should be mailed to ABATE of Georgia, PO Box 116 Austell Ga, 30106

h. Beast of the East event. 4/13-15/12. Since Steph will have the $100 D15 fee, all members will be admitted free if they want to attend. Steph needs to know by march 15th who will be going. Need volunteers to work the event. Need door prizes and auction items. Need money donations.

i. Toucans for new meeting place. Tony is owner. Currently have Thurs. bike night there. Inside or outside meeting accommodations.
Generally have Sunday food specials.
Steph to report change to Ned, and update state calendar
Suggestion to hold a meeting in D10 and d14 area on occasion, to recruit new members. Hold at least six meetings in D15. Work out the schedule for the other 2 districts.
Steph will reserve room for each monthly meeting.

j. Suggestion to purchase enough acrylic brochure racks to set in shops and businesses to advertise our meetings. Suggestion to reword the ABATE backdrop for the brochure holder.

k. We now have ABATE attorney for our assistance. Steve Murrin.

l. Steph to check on the existence of the Safety 1st Foundation Inc (old 501c(3).

m. ABATE had information problems during the transition period re: membership.

n. ABATE is paying down the credit card. All accounts current. Presently have a contract on the copier and that is all.

o. Suggestion made to start a database of member information for updating and protection from loss. Can Ned export member list to each DC each month?
We can keep them as backup to what Ned has. Steph to check with Bob, Webmaster, Bill, Ned, and Dan.

p. Discussion concerning the Co-op planned camp out in May to be tabled until Fred can get some information concerning the cost for D15 group.

10. Nominations and Voting for 2012 D15 Officer Staff.
a. For DC= Steph. Nomination by Fred 2nd by Vicky
b. For Treasurer= Randy Nomination by Fred 2nd by Vicky
c. Secretary position open at this time. Jerald Penzo will be able to assist when he is present at the meeting.
d. Sergeant of Arms= Lucious
e. Membership director=Vicky
f. All nominations passed.

11. Red present to tell us about a Benefit ride he is giving. Will have flyer at March meeting. Hoboken event.

12. Meeting adjourned.

Do you know of a traffic signal that does not see your bike when you pull up? Is there a pothole that no one will fix? Is there some form of road hazard that public works NEEDS to
repair? Are there roads that have more than a few isolated accidents, with or without fatalities?

If so, TELL US!
http://www.abatega.org/roadhazard.htm

A.B.A.T.E. Members Events Coming up in 2012

February 2012

Don't forget Valentine's Day

Feb. 7th – ABATE District 9 Meeting 7:30 pm at Players

Feb. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd - Southern Cruisers Dinner Rides, 6:30pm
Feb. 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th - Southern Cruisers Lunch Rides, KSU at 1:00pm from Welcome Center
Feb. 9th - CMA Calvary Riders Chapter Meeting, Lake Pines Event Center, 6:30pm to eat 7:00pm to meet
Feb. 14th – HOG meeting FOP Lodge, Heiferhorn Way off of Whitesville Rd., 6:30 to eat 7:00 to meet
Feb. 14th - CMA Valentines Ride to Johnny Carrino's, KSU from BK by Extreme Sports at 6:00pm
Feb. 16th - HOG Dinner Ride, KSU from Hooch at 6:30pm
Feb 20th – ABATE D-2 Meeting, 6:30pm LaGrange, Ga.

Feb. 25th – CAM Frozen Toes Party and Cookout - 12:00 Noon

Feb 25th – CMA Lunch Ride to O'Hanlon's in Geneva, KSU from BK by Extreme Sports at 11:00am

March 2012

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th - Southern Cruisers Dinner Rides, 6:30pm
March 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th - Southern Cruisers Lunch Rides, KSU at 1:00pm from Welcome Center

March 4th – National Day of Prayer, Please take time out to Pray for our Country

March 6th - ABATE District 9 Meeting 7:30 pm at Players

March 8th - CMA Calvary Riders Chapter Meeting, Lake Pines Event Center, 6:30pm to eat 7:00pm to meet
March 13th – HOG meeting FOP Lodge, Heiferhorn Way off of Whitesville Rd., 6:30 to eat 7:00 to meet
March 15th - HOG Dinner Ride, KSU from Hooch at 6:30pm
March 15th - CMA Dinner Ride, Pat's Backwaters in Lick skillet, KSU from BK by Extreme Sports at 6:00pm
March 17th – Charity Ride for Pink Ladies Breast Cancer, Sponsored by Essence of Beauty MC, at Chattahoochee Harley 9:00am till
March 24th - CMA Lunch Ride, Joe's Crab Shack in Morrow, Ga, KSU from BK by Extreme Sports at10:00am
March 24th - Tru Ryderz Bike Blessings, 11:00am at Commando's on Victory Drive
March 31st – Combat Vets Spring Bash at Extreme Leather, Food, Fun, and Entertainment all day

Save these Dates:

April 13- 15, 2012 - MRF Beast of the East Conference

Information in Attachment.

May 18 – 20, 2012 - Rally on the River

See Flyer for more Information

I have listed some Web Sites below for Groups in District 9

gaabate9.org *abatega.com* *CMAUSA.org* *cmaser6.org/AL/CALVARYRIDERS* *zsam gwrra@aol.com*

southerncruiserscolumbusga.com *columbushog.com* *blueknightsgav.com* *redknightsga3.com* *combatvet.org*

heavenssaints.com/HSMM-Chapters/Alabama-Phenix-City-Columbus-Georgia-Chapter.html

Rollingthunderga1.com *sudernconnection.webs.com* *buffalosoldiersofcolumbusga.com* *travelingmen.com*

http://cam.muddywolf.net

January Executive Board Actions

- Appointed Gil Robinson as acting State Membership Director
- A special note of thanks for District 11 and their success with the Frosty Balls Ride and the $900.00 turned into the State Office.
- **The ABATE back patches are available in large for men $30.00 and medium for women $25.00 , Contact y our District co-ordinator to get yours now!**

Closed Districts are a complete loss to ABATE of Georgia.

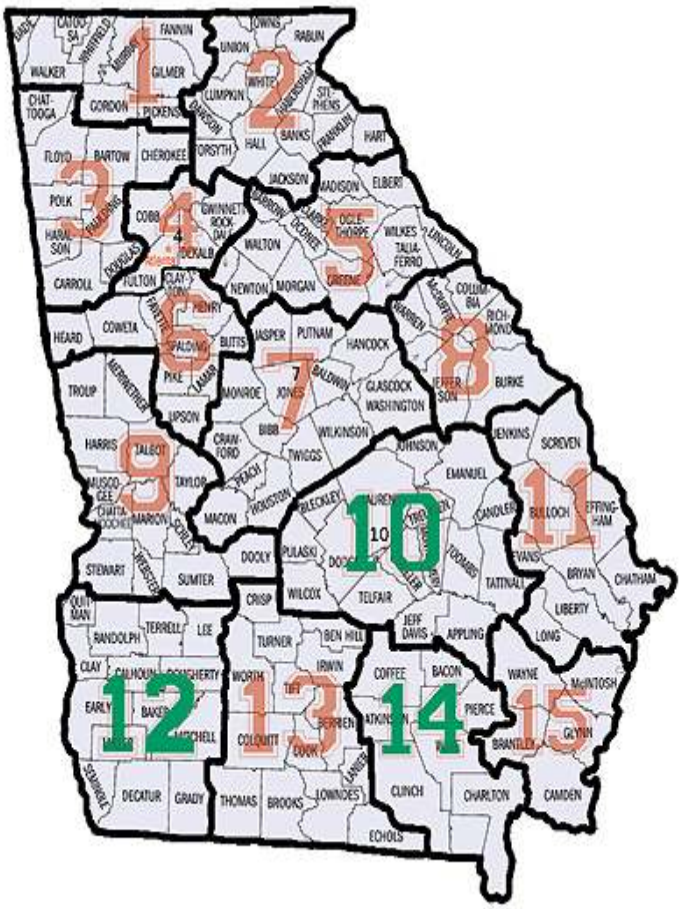
Districts 10, 12 and 14 need to be reopened and made productive once again. These Districts closed for different reasons and for the most part they still have a membership base.

If you have friends or family members in those areas please talk with them about reactivating the districts so we can continue with the growth we need in order to accomplish the fight for our rights.

I have made an effort to contact those that have an e-mail address however a friend's request is much more likely to have an impact in getting this done.

It only requires 3 officers to open a district. One must be the District Coordinator and the other must be a Treasurer and the third can be any position.

Make the phone calls and see what we can accomplish.



CHERRY BLOSSOM RUN

Sponsored by

ABATE of Georgia, District 6

Saturday March 17th, leaving **"The Grove Bar & Grill"** at I-75 exit 212, 4681 Bill Gardner Parkway in Locust Grove. Depart 11AM, registration begins at 9 AM and is $10 per bike, $5 per passenger with free coffee & doughnuts while they last. Includes admission to Macon's Cherry Blossom Festival, raffle ticket for door prizes, and parking on the Exhibit Lawn! Police escort most of the back-roads route. Free digital video of the group rolling down the highway. Event shirts & patches available. For more info call: Paul Kerr 404-925-4268

10th Annual Cherry Blossom Run

A Special offer for ABATE of Georgia Members from Two Wheel Adventures

http://www.twowheeladventures.com

Call us (678) 896-5909

Two Wheel Adventures will be offering a class every other month.
Cost per Student is $125.00
First class offering starts Feb 26, 2012
Students have to ride their own bikes, must have a valid motorcycle endorsement

GET YOUR LICENSE

MSF and Georgia approved training provider

Abate Preferred Provider and Abate member

Official trainer of the Zac Brown Band

2 Locations : Lakewood Amphitheater & Fraziers Harley Davidson

Classes taught by Chris Carr
2011 National Middleweight Superbike Champion

HTTP/www.garage71.com

Be sure to check out the South's only call in Radio show starting Tuesday January 3rd 2012 that will bring riders a place to join the conversation on Motorcycle Happenings and News

Garage 71 presents

Rumblings

Call in Internet Radio Show
Tuesdays at 6PM

Leathers Repaired
Road Rash Replaced

Leathers Enlarged
Zippers Replaced

Embroidery Now Available!

Clothing To Fit People

Riders Helping Riders

Ann & Randy Turner
770-941-1142

5415 Austell-Powder Springs Rd.
Austell, GA 30106

MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT
INJURY ATTORNEY

425 East Crossville Road
Suite 101
Roswell, GA 30075

phone: 770.650.0016
1-866-LAW-BIKE
fax: 770.998.2541
www.lawbike.com

LAWBIKE.COM

Charles W. Watwood, Jr.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE

A.B.A.T.E. Of Georgia! That's What's Happening?

Please send your photos to be in your A.B.A.T.E. Newsletter

ABATE members did a great job getting the word out, signing up new members and talking to potential sponsors and advertisers, where? At the Great American Bike Show!

ABATE OF GA. - DISTRICT 8

AMERICAN BIKERS ACTIVE TOWARDS EDUCATION
(A POLITICAL VOICE FOR ALL MOTORCYCLISTS)

50/50

6th ANNUAL

Door Prizes

WINTER'S OVER –
LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

DICE RUN

STARTING AT

ROAD RUNNER CAFE

2508 PEACH ORCHARD RD. (RT. 25), AUGUSTA

FIRST bike out 2:00; LAST bike out 2:30

Sunday

MARCH 25, '12

The ABATE of GA Inc., District 8 "Monthly meeting" will take place prior to this event.
The meeting will start at NOON and is open to the public. *ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.*

DOOR PRIZES PROVIDED BY
ALL POWER MOTORSPORTS
AUGUSTA HARLEY-DAVIDSON
CAROLINA ALEHOUSE
CLASSIC CYCLES & LEATHER
CRAZY TURKS
THE LOFT
OLD NAVY
ATTY. RICHARD INGRAM JR.
ROAD RUNNER CAFÉ
STRIP CLUB CHOPPERS

CASH PAY-OUT

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

CAROLINA ALEHOUSE

CURRENT ABATE CARD HOLDERS	**NON-MEMBERS**
$5.00 PER HAND	$6.00 PER HAND**CAROLINA ALEHOUSE**
2 HANDS FOR $9.00	2 HANDS FOR $11.00
3 HANDS FOR $12.00	3 HANDS FOR $15.00

For more info. CALL JAN (706) 910-9990 or NANCY (706) 592-1015

THE NEW Supporters Program

A.B.A.T.E of Georgia

American Bikers Active Toward Education

Business ***Support*** Member Program

Any business that wishes to offer a discount on goods or services to an ABATE of Georgia member may have a listing in the monthly newsletter in the Supporter section. This listing will show business name, address, phone number, web site, district Number and discount amount offered. No Logos or other info.
The cost to be listed is $25.00 per year. The Business Support member will receive an ABATE membership Easel and 2 Decals showing they offer a discount along with one full year of being listed.
Any Business that is owned by an ABATE of Georgia member will receive this for $15.00

Business ***Sponsor*** Member Program

Any Business that wishes to be a Sponsor and offer a discount on goods or services to an ABATE of Georgia members may have a listing in the monthly newsletter in the Sponsor Section. This listing will show the business name, address, phone number, web site, district number and discount amount offered in large bold type. No Logos etc.
The cost for this is $100.00 per year. The Sponsor will receive an ABATE membership easel, 2 decals showing membership, a discount of 5% on any additional advertising in the newsletter.
Any business owned by an ABATE of Georgia member will receive this for $75.00.
As a thank you to those business's that allow us to meet there we will run their info in the Sponsor section FREE for as long as a district meets there.
An individual or Business that provides more than $100.00 in goods or services to ABATE of Georgia will be listed in the Honor Roll section

American **B**ikers **A**ctive **T**oward **E**ducation
Post Office Box 116 Austell GA, 30168 Tel 770-884-7138 Fax 770-234-4177
www.abatega.org

Business Program for Supporters or Sponsors

Supporter_____ Sponsor_____

Name of Business_____

Address_____

City,State, Zip_____

Business Phone_____

Business web site_____

Discount Percent offered_____

District located in_____ Application taken by _____

Date of Application _____ Years of Term____

Notes_____

_____

_____

Please turn in to your DC with a Check made out to ABATE of Georgia.

A.B.A.T.E. Rally on the River

Sponsored by D9

May 18th - 20th

Calling All Bikes and Cages

COME OUT AND HELP US TO
SUPPORT MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS
WE WILL HAVE
DOOR PRIZES, 50/50 DRAWING,
RAFFLES, FOOD, FUN, & GAMES

Vendors

Bike Games

Pre Registration
is $20.00 and includes
Your entry to all Events
& a T-Shirt
Contact Ronald Foxworth
for more information
E-mail: ronfox5@hotmail.com
Phone: 706-681-1694

Music
Friday & Saturday
Night

Overnight Camping Available

Deadline to Pre Register is April 15th 2012

Only $10.00 per Person at Gate for the Weekend

Ride to Event
Saturday 19th
Meet at
Civic Center
8:30am with
KSU at 9:00am

Fun for the Entire Family

Please come out and Support
A.B.A.T.E.

Directions to Rally:

Take Victory Dr south on hwy 27 through Ft Benning to Cusseta, FOLLOW SIGNS, turn right on hwy # 1 toward Lumpkin about 2 miles, turn Right on River Bend Rd.
We are 6 Miles Straight Ahead!

ABATE of Georgia, Inc. DISTRICT 11

SPRING SWAP MEET

March 23, 24 & 25, 2012

At Effingham Co. Fairgrounds in Springfield, GA.

(Hwy 21 North to Springfield – take Business District 21 [across the street from Huddle House] – turn right at the Fairgrounds.)
Access to RV grounds & fairgrounds open Friday March 23 at noon. Everyone out before noon Sunday, March 25.

LIVE MUSIC
Friday Nite: THE TWINS
Saturday Nite: HIGH VELOCITY

FIELD GAMES

BIKE SHOW
7 Class Winners & a Judged Best of Show
Chopper Bagger Trike
Rat Sport FX FL
Entrance Fee: $5

VENDORS

BBQ COOK-OFF
Judging Saturday Afternoon
Pork Ribs Chicken
Pork (Butt) Sauce
Entry Fee $50
(Includes Admission For Two)
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

BIKE GAMES

CAR SHOW
20's-30's Era
40's-50's Era
60's-70's Era
80's Era
Custom
Entrance Fee: $5

$25 -- RV sites WITH power & water for 2 nites (NO DUMP STATION)
$15 -- RV sites W/O power & water for 2 nites (NO DUMP STATION)
$25 -- TENT sites WITH power & water for 2 nites
FREE -- Tent sites W/O power & water

2 day pass > Non-members $20
ABATE members $15
1 day pass > Non-members $10
ABATE members $8
Ages 13-17 $5 per day
12 and under -- FREE

WE WILL HAVE SECURITY AROUND THE CLOCK

VENDOR SPACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE

For information or questions call St. Louis @ 912-856-1730 or Junkyard @ 912 441-7586

Legislative Update: House Bill 161

House Bill 161 is still alive after being held up in committee last session. The bill was referred back to Representative Ann Purcell.
After meeting with Rep Purcell and reviewing all of the other bills that have passed the 12 states, she has made some adjustments to language in the bill that will include Mopeds and Bicycles and may include language that plays down the " Running of the Red Lights"

February 29 th is set as our Bikers at the Capital Day and plans are being made as we speak. The time is set for 9am to 3 pm with the Georgia General Assembly meeting at 10am.
Watch for Facebook announcements as we get closer to February 29th

New text of HB 161

LC 35 2591S

substitute to HB 161:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To create the "Motorcycle Mobility Safety Act"; to amend Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 40

2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to traffic signs, signals, and markings,

3 so as to provide for the safe operation of a motorcycle or similar lightweight motor vehicle

4 through a partially inoperative traffic-control signal; to authorize motorcycles to safely

5 proceed at partially inoperative traffic signals in the same manner as other motor vehicles

6 proceed through inoperative traffic signals or flashing red signals; to provide for related

7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Motorcycle Mobility Safety Act."

11 SECTION 2.

12 Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to

13 traffic signs, signals, and markings, is amended by revising Code Section 40-6-23, relating

14 to flashing red or yellow signals, as follows:

15 " 40-6-23.

16 Flashing signal indications shall have the following meanings:

(continued on next page)

(continued from last page)

17 (1) Flashing red (stop signal) —. When a red lens is illuminated with rapid
18 intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop at a clearly marked stop line or, if there
19 is no stop line, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if
20 there is no crosswalk, at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has
21 a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection,
22 and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a
23 stop sign;

LC 35 2591S

- 2 -

24 (2) Flashing yellow (caution signal) —. When a yellow lens is illuminated with rapid
25 intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past such
26 signal only with caution; or
27 (3) Partially inoperative (red signal). A driver of a motorcycle or other lightweight
28 motor vehicle approaching an intersection controlled by a traffic-control signal with a
29 steady red indication shall stop as provided in paragraph (1) of this Code section. If the
30 traffic-control signal is inoperative due to the size of the motor vehicle and the driver of
31 the motor vehicle has remained stopped for not less than 60 seconds, the driver of the
32 motor vehicle may proceed subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop
33 sign, as provided for other motor vehicles in paragraph (1) of this Code section. Nothing
34 in this paragraph shall in any manner restrict motorcycles or other similar lightweight
35 vehicles from making turns as already authorized for all motor vehicles in paragraph (3)
36 of subsection (a) of Code Section 40-6-21."
37 SECTION 2.
38 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

Following our Constitution & Bylaws

By Jim Blessitt, District Coordinator 6/3

Is it ever okay to ignore the Constitution and Bylaws of an organization? They are not simple 'guidelines' and should not be taken lightly or ignored. As with the Constitution of the United States, the ABATE Constitution and Bylaws are equally important as the binding law between the general membership and the officers of the organization. There are 3 reasons why bylaws should be followed;

To prevent anarchy and tyranny by one person or a small group of people.

To ensure harmony, orderliness and cohesiveness of the organization and the rule of impartial law.

To ensure the continuity of the organization itself.

In looking at ABATE, one can clearly see where there have been times of confusion, discontinuity, chaos, and a lack of harmony within the organization. It has experienced disarray because it did not fully hold true to its own bylaws. When I say ABATE, I mean all of us – officers and members.

The bylaws are one of the most important documents of this organization, here are some quotes from ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED, 1990 ED, "The bylaws, by their nature, necessarily contain whatever limitations are placed in the powers of the assembly of a society (that is, the members attending a particular one of its meetings) with respect to the body as a whole. Similarly, the provisions of the bylaws have direct bearing on the rights of members within the organization --whether present or absent from the assembly. It is a good policy for every member on joining the society to be given a copy of the bylaws, printed together with the corporate charter, if there is one, and any special rules of order or standing rules that the body may have adopted. A member should become familiar with the contents of these rules if he looks toward full participation in the society's affairs."

It goes on to explain, "The content of a society's bylaws has important bearing on the rights and duties of members within the organization --whether present or absent from the assembly --and on the degree to which the general membership is to retain control of, or be relieved of detailed concern with, the society's business. Except as the rules of a body may provide otherwise, its assembly (that is, the members attending one of its regular or properly called meetings) has full and sole power to act for the entire organization and does so by majority vote."

The purpose of bylaws is to ensure rule by "law" and not the whims of men. Obedience to bylaws constitute righteous government and a form of action, without such, the rights of members and the organization as a whole are unprotected, and allows for a small group to gain control and tyrannize the rest. If members are not happy with the provisions in the bylaws, they should amend them to fit the current need. Because of the strict process of amending bylaws, it becomes the wishes of the membership and not just a few people, so democracy is still in operation.

The officers need to remember that without bylaws or obedience to them you have no organization. The "bylaws" is that document that usually brings an organization into being (unless they have a Corporate Charter or Constitution). It gives it structure; defines its purpose for existence; and establishes the relationship between members and officers, boards and the assembly, and the member's relation to the organization as a whole. It defines both the rights and duties of members and limits or extends the power of officers and the boards.

Ignore them and you have tyranny and chaos. Disobedience to them is the same as amending them without going through the proper procedures. Bylaws are the rules of the game and we know how teams feel when one team doesn't follow the rules and the other does. Especially when the other wins! We cry "fowl", "unfair", and "cheat". And so your officers are being "unfair", and "cheating" the members of their rights by not playing by the rules.

Bylaws are, in effect, a contract among members, and must be formally adopted and/or amended. In a nutshell, Bylaws are how an organization conducts and governs itself. They are not optional and must be followed as legal and binding laws within the organization.

(continued on next page)

All of us can clearly point out where some By-Law or another was side-stepped or not followed in the past. A little bending here or a little there will lead to bigger violations later. Eventually the whole organization becomes disconnected with its membership and begins to crumble and grows to be disorganized. ABATE can only be as strong as its membership, not its officers. The strength and integrity of ABATE is the responsibility of each and every one of us.

ABATE is the membership and the membership is ABATE. Some are nominated and voted in as officers but they are still a member with the rights and duties granted to each of us by our Constitution and By-Laws. They represent us and conduct our business and it's our responsibility to be involved and participate in the process and give this organization strength and purpose. It is up to each and every one of us to see that the organization as a whole keeps true to these rules as well as know and understand all our By-laws. If not, we will get what we give. Chaos and discontent will prevail making this a very ineffective motorcycle rights organization.

The BEAST is Coming to Atlanta!

Teri Stobbs Ricci, MRF Conference Assistant, **teri@mrf.org**

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) Annual BEAST of the East Conference will take place in Atlanta, April 13-15, 2012, hosted by ABATE of Georgia. MRF conferences are designed to educate and motivate those in the motorcyclists' rights community. In addition to being a fantastic learning opportunity, these events are a great chance to meet other people from all over the country who are as passionate about motorcyclists' rights as you are. Workshops and seminars this year will be presented by motorcyclists' rights activists from Georgia, Washington DC, Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin, and we expect participants from all over the country as well.

Registration begins at 12:00 noon on Friday, April 13, and workshops begin at 1:00 pm. The agenda covers a wide range of topics, and naturally, we will update participants on all federal motorcycling issues and the MRF's 2012 legislative agenda. We will have informative seminars regarding motorcycle awareness and education, women in motorcycling, a variety of legal perspectives, and the U.S. Constitution. In addition, we will have training seminars on how a federal bill becomes a law, developing relationships with legislators and agencies, passing bills, and "Share the Road" programs; as well as special meetings for MRF Reps and for motorcycle club members. You can view the tentative agenda at **www.mrf.org/events.php**. One of the highlights of the conference will be a general session on "The History of the MRF," which will include ABATE of Georgia's significant role in the MRF's formation. Some of the most valuable knowledge you will gain will be in the "meetings after the meetings," which take place in the hallways, hospitality suite, and banquet. The networking opportunities are phenomenal at MRF conferences.

Because ABATE of Georgia is hosting this conference, a special registration rate has been offered for its members. Accordingly, ABATE of Georgia members, from participating districts, only have to pay for their banquet ticket, $40 per person (a $20-$40 savings from the full conference registration cost!). Contact your ABATE of Georgia district officers for instructions on where to send your payment for your banquet ticket. We do have an auction at the banquet to raise money for the MRF (it costs approximately $1000/day to keep our office open in DC, even with an entire volunteer Board of Directors). Auction item donations are greatly appreciated, and will be collected on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at the conference hotel.

Conference participants are required to make their own hotel reservations. We have negotiated a special room rate of $89 per night at the Westin Atlanta Airport, which includes free parking and special meal rates in the hotel restaurant. Attendees who are not staying at the Westin will be required to pay $10/day to park in their lot. Rooms must be reserved by March 15, and you must mention the Motorcycle Riders Foundation BEAST of the East Conference to get the special room rate. The BEAST conference poster provides all of the hotel registration information. You can also access conference information at **www.mrf.org/events.php**.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), incorporated in 1987, is a membership-based national motorcyclists' rights organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. The MRF monitors and when necessary, sways federal legislation and regulatory action that pertains to street riders. The MRF concerns itself with what is going on in the arena of motorcycling safety education, training, licensing, and public awareness. The MRF provides members and state motorcyclists' rights organizations with direction and information to protect motorcyclists' rights and motorcycling. Additional information about the MRF can be obtained at **www.mrf.org**.

MRF BEAST of the EAST Conference

April 13-15, 2012 - Atlanta, Georgia

TENTATIVE AGENDA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Motorcycle Riders Foundation BEAST of the East Conference

Hosted By

abat Of Georgia, Inc

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

12:00 NOON - 6:00 PM	**REGISTRATION**
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	**BREAKOUT SESSIONS** - Women in Motorcycling - Passing a Red Light Bill
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	**BREAKOUT SESSIONS** - Developing a Relationship With Your Legislators - What Are Your Rights and Obligations at Motorcycle Checkpoints?
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	**STATE REPRESENTATIVES MEETING**
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	**DINNER (On Your Own)**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	**GENERAL SESSION** - Meet the MRF Board & SMRO Introductions

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON	**REGISTRATION**
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	**GENERAL SESSION** - State of the MRF - Washington DC Legislative Update - Fact or Fiction
10:15 AM - 11:30 AM	**GENERAL SESSION** - History of the MRF
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	**LUNCH (On Your Own)**
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	**BREAKOUT SESSIONS** - Protecting Your SMRO - How to Keep Your SMRO Out of the Lawyer's Hands - Developing Relationships Outside the Legislature - How the MRF Can Best Work With Your SMRO
2:15 PM - 3:45 PM	**BREAKOUT SESSIONS** - How a Federal Bill Becomes a Law - How to Get the Most from Your Insurance Company - MRF Awareness & Education - 3 R's - State Legislative Summary
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	**BREAKOUT SESSIONS** - Search & Seizure - Your Right to Privacy on a Bike - Planning a Trip to DC - Share the Road - And Secure the Blessings of Liberty, A Biker's View of the U.S. Constitution
5:45 PM - 6:45 PM	**SUSTAINING MEMBER MOTORCYCLE CLUB MEETING**
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM	**COCKTAILS - REVIEW OF SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM	**BANQUET AND AUCTION**

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 - 9:00 AM	**WORSHIP SERVICES - BLESSING OF THE BIKES**

SPECIAL THANKS TO ABATE of GEORGIA
FOR HOSTING THIS MRF CONFERENCE

Conference registration and hotel registration information is available on the Motorcycle Riders Foundation's website at www.mrf.org/events.php

TENTATIVE AGENDA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THE MOTORCYCLE RIDERS FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

HOSTED BY
A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia

abate Of Georgia, Inc

April 13-15, 2012

THE MRF'S 2012 BEAST OF THE EAST

The Westin Atlanta Airport **4736 Best Road, Atlanta, GA 30337**

For room reservations call **1-888-627-7211** or **404-762-7676**. Rate **$89**. Rooms must be reserved by 03/15/12.
Must mention Motorcycle Riders Foundation BEAST of the East Conference to get the conference rate.

Conference Cost if registered by March 13, 2012: MRF Members $60, Non-MRF Members $70
Conference Cost if registered after March 13, 2012: MRF Members $70, Non-MRF Members $80

Registrations are accepted through the MRF website at www.mrf.org (Visa, MasterCard, AmEx & Discover),
by mail: MRF, 236 Massachusetts Ave NE, Ste 510, Washington, DC 20002, or call the MRF Office: 202-546-0983.

MRF BEAST OF THE EAST 2012 PRE-REGISTRATION

Must be received by March 13, 2012 to qualify for discounted rate. Registration includes all workshops, materials, and Saturday banquet.

PRE-REGISTRATION RATE (through March 13):	☐ $60 Current Individual MRF Member	☐ $70 Non-MRF Member
REGISTRATION RATE (after March 13):	☐ $70 Current Individual MRF Member	☐ $80 Non-MRF Member

PLEASE PRINT

NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
PHONE:		
E-MAIL:		

Send check or money order to: MRF, 236 Massachusetts Ave NE, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20002-4980

INTRODUCING
A FILM ON SHARING THE ROAD.

ABATE of Georgia is proud to lead the way in a statewide motorcycle awareness program using the MSF Intersection Kit training program. The 14-minute Intersection video is about real people in real driving situations, and highlights the need for car drivers to focus and avoid distractions. These kits will be distributed through the Georgia Sheriffs Association to all 159 Georgia Sheriffs Departments with additional kits for larger Departments.

HOST-AN-EVENT SERIES on SHARING THE ROAD

MSF TRAINING SYSTEMS

Please make a contribution today to Look Twice Save a Life Inc. (pending 501[c][3] approval), P.O. Box 184, Austell, GA 30168.
In the Memo area of your check write "EDUCATION."

HELP ABATE OF GEORGIA IN THIS STATEWIDE MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS PROGRAM.

Raising Funds To Raise Awareness!

Why a Special Focus on Sharing the Road?

HOST-AN-EVENT SERIES on SHARING THE ROAD

On today's roadways we can find large numbers of new motorcycle riders and even more new automobile and commercial drivers who do not always understand how to share the road safely. A general lack of knowledge was identified in a University of Southern California in-depth research study of 900 motorcycle crashes, with a review of an additional 3,600 crashes.

In the majority of crashes involving a motorcycle and another vehicle, the other vehicle violated the motorcyclist's right-of-way.

Introducing "Intersection"

"Intersection" is a 14-minute video intended to increase a motorist's awareness of motorcyclists and scooter riders on the roadway. It illustrates potentially hazardous situations through the eyes of different types of motorists and illustrates why intersections in particular are so dangerous. The main theme is that all motorists, regardless of their driving experience or the type of vehicle they drive, need to be aware of motorcyclists sharing the road with them.

What's in the Kit:

The kit includes an English/Spanish Language DVD, one Leader's guide, 10 Participant's guides, and 25 Quick Tips brochures all packaged in a handsome library-edition storage case. The DVD contains three separate versions to appeal to various potential audiences: teens (via driver education classes and high schools), adults (via traffic schools and community outreach), and commercial drivers (via employee orientation and safety training).

How Can I Participate in Motorcycle Awareness?

Send your check today for any amount to Look Twice Save a Life Inc. (pending 501[c][3] approval), P.O. Box 184, Austell, GA, 30168. In the Memo area of your check write "EDUCATION."

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation

Since 1973, the MSF has set internationally recognized standards that promote the safety of motorcyclists with rider education courses, operator licensing tests, and public information programs, working to increase cooperation between motorists and motorcyclists.

The MSF works with the federal government, state agencies, the military and others to offer training for all skill levels so riders may enjoy a lifetime of safe, responsible motorcycling. The MSF is a not-for-profit organization sponsored by BMW, BRP, Ducati, Harley-Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, KTM, Piaggio, Suzuki, Triumph, Victory and Yamaha motorcycles.

MSF MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION®

msf-usa.org
forcardrivers.com

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March 23, 24 and 25

MAKE ROOM ON YOUR CALENDARS FOR

ABATE of Georgia, Inc. DISTRICT 11

SPRING SWAP MEET

At Effingham County Fairgrounds in Springfield, Georgia

BBQ COOK-OFF

Restaurants and Individuals Are Invited To Compete

BIKE SHOW & CAR SHOW

Friday Night, Mix It Up With *THE TWINS*

Saturday Night, Rock Out With *HIGH VELOCITY*

VENDOR SPACES AVAILABLE FOR CONTRACT NOW

with and without power

For More Info Contact Junkyard @ 912-441-7586 or St. Louis @ 912-856-1730

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

ABATE of Georgia

American Bikers Active Toward Education

Education Not Legislation!

DISTRICT 6/3 IS GOING LIVE!

On March 5th, District 6/3 goes live with it's first official meeting. The district is an expansion of existing Districts 6 & 6/2 that will cover Fayette County. Meetings are the last Thursday of the month at 7 pm with social hour starting at 6 pm. Stop by and say hello, learn what ABATE of Georgia is all about, catch up on current events, and see what legislation affects you.

All motorcycle riders are welcome to join!

Contact Jim Blessitt, District 6/3 District Coordinator at 770-235-9642 or email JimABATE63@comcast.net

Meetings at Big Daddy's Oyster Bar & Grill located on Hwy 54 in Peachtree City behind the McDonalds & Chick-Fil-A, 2.5 miles east of

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID

AUSTELL, GA
PERMIT NO. 15

IF YOU ARE A MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIAST—JOIN TODAY!

Your membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter, admission discounts at most A.B.A.T.E. events, discounts at bike shops throughout the state who support our ideals, a patch and pin for new members, and a year pin for renewals. Help protect your right to ride! Fill out the application below and

New Card #

_____

New Card #

_____

How Paid

_____

Amount Paid

_____

Expiration Date

_____

Date Received

_____

Pin ( )Patch ( )

_____

__/__/__

Registered Voter
Y or N

A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia, Inc. Membership Application 0209

Membership Dues: Single $30, Couple $50, Junior $10 (Juniors must be 15 years old or younger)
Make check or money order payable to A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia, Inc., or enter credit card information under your signature.
Send to A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia, Inc., PO Box 116 Austell, GA 30168

NAME_____DOB____/____/____ NEW OR RENEW

NAME_____DOB____/____/____ NEW OR RENEW

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

COUNTY_____DISTRICT_____PHONE (_____) _____

OCCUPATION_____REFERRED BY_____

E-MAIL ADDRESS_____

(OPTIONAL) LEGISLATIVE DONATION $10 _____ OTHER _____ MAIL PIN (S) $3 _____

I agree to comply with A.B.A.T.E. rules for sanctioned motorcycle activities. I understand that all benefits become effective upon receipt of my membership card. I agree not to hold A.B.A.T.E. responsible for accidents that may occur at sanctioned events. Membership dues and donations are **NOT** tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE_____

Prefer to register and pay online?

http://www.abatega.org/join.htm

Buy Now

PAY BY CREDIT CARD ON WWW.ABATEGA.ORG