

**ABATE of Florida, Inc.**

# *Polk County Chapter*

**DEDICATED TO THE FREEDOM OF THE ROAD – LET THOSE WHO RIDE DECIDE**

**March 2012**



*American Bikers Aimed Toward Education*

## What is ABATE?

ABATE is a non-profit organization of motorcycle enthusiasts from all walks of life. We lobby and educate the government and general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image. We endeavor to enlist the cooperation and participation of all organizations and individuals that share a similar interest in preserving our American Freedom. We promote motorcycle safety, training, & political awareness. We ARE NOT A CLUB OR A GANG. We fund our work through toy runs, poker runs, campouts, and other motorcycle activities. We are your neighbors and friends who work, pay taxes, and get involved with our community. We serve and support our country and believe in freedom. We use all legal means to protect our rights without infringing on the rights of others.

- ABATE of Florida Inc., is incorporated under the laws of Florida as a motorcycle rights organization or a “MRO”.
- ABATE of Florida Inc., currently is the only political MRO in Florida representing the interests of its members and the motorcycling public at large.
- ABATE of Florida, Inc. is dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of all motorcyclists in the state.

### ABATE’S Objectives are to:

- Keep all bikers informed on legislative actions and events that affect their safety and rights.
- Be a powerful political force in legislation that affects Motorcycle safety and rights.
- Provide a lobbyist that will represent ABATE interests at State and National levels
- Promote voter registration and to motivate members to speak up for their rights.
- Promote safety without infringing on individual rights and freedoms.
- Educate the public about Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Issues.

### ABATE’S Accomplishments:

- ABATE was the driving force behind the changes in Florida’s Helmet Law. Florida Motorcyclist, over the age of 21 and who carry at least \$10,000 medical insurance coverage now enjoy the Freedom to Choose whether to wear a helmet or not.
- ABATE has developed & copyrighted “The Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Program” (MSAP). The program is presented to non-motorcyclists to educate them on how to safely share the road with motorcyclists. It is taught in local schools & to civic organizations at no charge in the hope of reducing motorcycle accidents and deaths through education, not legislation.
- ABATE has gained a positive and respected position in Tallahassee. Because of our Lobbyist and Legislative efforts, State Representatives are aware of ABATE members and our vigilant quest.
- ABATE reminds travelers everyday to “Look Twice Save a Life, Motorcycles are Everywhere” through our Billboard campaign.

### Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of ABATE of Polk County Chapter or ABATE of Florida Inc. This newsletter encourages all members to submit ABATE related material, photos, events, and commentaries, etc. ABATE of Florida Inc., and the Polk County Chapter of ABATE accept no responsibility for the comments, views or opinions contained in this newsletter. Polk County Chapter reserves the right to edit or omit any article submitted for publication. All materials submitted to Polk County Chapter for use in this letter become property of the chapter.

### Guidelines for Submissions

Members are asked to submit articles, photos, and other materials that would be of interest to their fellow members by 11:00pm on the Friday following the Meeting. All board members are encouraged to submit their articles as soon as possible following the monthly meeting. Please do not submit slanderous or accusing letters, profanity or nudity.

### Identification Statement

This Publication is the Monthly Newsletter of:  
ABATE of Florida, Inc.  
Polk County Chapter  
PO Box 2743  
Lakeland, FL 33806





# Board Officers

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Delegates	Chris and Pattie Brandfast	863-934-5052	
Products	Linda Vernon	863-934-9333	

# President

*Greg Vernon*

Hey All,

Well as you know it the next 3 meetings are very important to the chapter as our board elections are upon us, with that said mark your calendars to be present so you can put your nominations in. The nominations are governed by our chapter by-laws and will be run by such. This past year has been very successful for our chapter and we need to continue the forward pace we are on, stay focused and diligent on why we do what we do.



Another Bike week has come and gone and to those who attended I hope ya'll had fun and made it home safe. Our 1st Annual Bike Rodeo is a month out so and we need to make this a huge great event for our chapter and our fellow biker brother and sisters in Polk County and surrounding areas. Our event committee has been working very hard on the Rodeo and I believe this will put our name on Polk Counties map for years to come, so please tell all your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, bike shops, supporters, ETC, about this event. If you would like to volunteer for a pacific job at the rodeo please see our VP for details. We need everyone's support. And thank you again to our members and supporters for a great year so far...

Ride Safe My Brothers and Sisters.

# Vice President

*Tim McDermott*

Well it's that time of year again-nominations. It is very important that all come to the next ABATE meeting on April 15 to nominate your new officers. I would like to thank Chris B for leading our March fun run. It was filled with some shaded country curves, yeehaw.



My hat's off to the Skills on Wheels Rodeo committee. We have worked very hard and have gotten the games built and are now ready for a chapter practice. The Joust: while riding your bike, put your 10 ft pole through the five 8 inch rings (much harder than it looks). Can you judge how long 5 seconds is? Drop the ball into the pvc pipe, feet up, now balance while ya try to time the 5 seconds down 20 feet of pvc so that you can catch the ball before it hits the ground, wow! And that's just to start! We will meet at Steve A's house on April 22. This has all the potential to be great fun! Please tell all your ABATE bros and sisters, the more the merrier! BYOB The plan is to throw some burgers and dogs on the grille and start havin' some fun. Pls be sure to tell all your friends we will be needing all the volunteers we can get for our Rodeo, this is imperative so that the games all run smoothly. Remember, without volunteers, it will be a fiasco. Please help!

Well, that's all for now. Remember it's not the Destination but the Journey, your VP, *Roadmap*

# Membership

*Mark Dillon*

Thank you to our...

New/Returning/Transferring Members: Dixie Gray, Jesse Hicks, Joe Hill, Tony Testa and Ray Weber

Renewing Members: Christopher Cox, Lex Taylor and Patricia Boone

Reminder for Renewal ...

**Due in February:** Patricia Boone, Debbie McFarland, Harold McFarland

**Due in March:** Cynthia Johnson, John Roth, Sammie Kinnett, Lesa Kinnett, Aaron Ford and Jeff Schilling

**Due in April:** none

**Due in May:** Joanne Gunner Fletcher, Tim McDermott, Pat Smalley, Brenda George, Bill Hardy and Earl Thibeault

Please renew a month early to avoid expiring and losing your years of continuous membership.

Dues can be paid at our Chapter meeting or mailed to: PO Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33806

If you have not updated your contact information recently or did not receive your renewal, please send me an email with your correct info at [membershipabatepolk@hotmail.com](mailto:membershipabatepolk@hotmail.com) or mail updates to: PO Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33806.

# Products

*Linda Vernon*

Hello Everyone, Hope everyone is doing great. Hope all those that went to Bike Week had a great time and got home safely. We still have Chapter patches left and also some shirts. If anyone wants to see or buy some, please let me know. Also if anyone is interested in State Products please get with me and I will get it ordered for you. Products help to support our Chapter and also the State. If anyone would like to see other products in our Chapter, please let me know, I am always open to ideas. Well, that is all for now. I hope everyone has a good and safe month.

# Secretary

*Lo Alexander*



MINUTES: March 18, 2012  
ABATE of Florida, Inc. POLK COUNTY CHAPTER  
The Boondocks, 8515 US Highway 98 N Lakeland, Florida

Thank you to all of today's meeting attendees: Lo Alexander, Z Man, Joanne Fletcher, Roadmap, Brenda George, Rick Lewis, Kim Struve, Steve Ammerman, Bill Hardy, Chris Brandfass, Tim Cross, Wendy Cross, Chris Young, Linda Vernon, Greg Vernon, Patty Brandfass, Kevin, Mark Dillon, George from Illinois.

**1:00p THE PLEDGE** was led by Greg Vernon and was followed by a moment of silence.

**PRESIDENT, GREG VERNON**, called the members to attention, led the pledge and the MOS. He thanked the people who worked the Lakeland Bike Night Safety Tent and suggested another opportunity April 21 in Mulberry @ the S and M Bike Shop. Greg thanked everyone for a great year. He's retiring from the presidency.

**VICE-PRESIDENT, TIM McDERMOTT**, thanked Chris B. for leading the excellent Breakfast Fun Run. This Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> will be Highway Beautification Day. Meet @ the Shell Station @ South Florida and Shepherd Rd. @ 9a. Tim announced that the Rodeo committee would meet at the end of today's meeting whereupon a discussion of the rodeo ensued.

**SECRETARY, LO ALEXANDER**, Correction: NCOM is planning a rodeo for sport bikes-not one for cruisers. The minutes, after a motion from JoAnne and a second from Steve, were ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

**TREASURER, TIM CROSS**, gave his report then suggested that we plan a new fund raiser in November because a permit to sell beer for the traditional Nov event may not be forthcoming. Discussion followed.

**SGT @ ARMS, CHRIS YOUNG**, was present, but gave no report.

**MEMBERSHIP, DILLON**, gave his report. We have 162 members! Dillon would like to move from membership to legislation. No one objected.

**PRODUCTS, LINDA VERNON**, displayed the patches and shirts available.

**LEGISLATION, LO ALEXANDER**, Sometimes it's to our benefit to blanket our congressional representatives STATEWIDE with emails, letters and calls. We are updating the PHONE TREE.

**WEBMASTER and NEWSLETTER Editor in Chief, was absent.** Lo announced that she would forward any newsletter submissions for any member who cannot submit electronically.

**PR, JOANNE FLETCHER** while overcoming medical issues, pledged to work with the RODEO “Skills on Wheels” committee.

**DELEGATES, CHRIS AND PATTY BRANDFASS JR. Following a motion** from JoAnne and a second from Dillon, the chapter voted on its choices for the ABATE slate of directors for the state level. Chris and Patty will need substitutes for the Pensacola meet in June.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Volunteers will be needed to help man the games at the “*Skills on Wheels*”.  
Discussion

**NEW BUSINESS,** ABATE is on *facebook*. Go there and “like it”

**GOOD OF THE ORDER,** Thanks to Greg and Linda for providing lunch. Thanks to Jessica of The Boondocks.

**ADJOURN,** After a motion from JoAnne and a second from Patty, the meeting adjourned at 2:30p

## Breakfast Run

*Roadmap*

We will meet at Brunch Box, KSU at 10 am.

## Bike Rodeo Trial Run

**MARCH MOTO MADNESS: WHOOPS & WHEELIES**

Do you practice going slow when you see a red light ahead? Do you feel pretty confident when you have to drive with one hand? No hands? Do you go “Whee-ee” as you negotiate a curvy road? Good. **YOU ARE INVITED** to the **TRIAL RUN/MOTORCYCLE RODEO skills on wheels committee** meeting next month at NOON @ Steve Ammerman’s house, @ 4902 Charlie Taylor Rd.

Come and play the rodeo games. The committee has already set up five awesome games and will be setting up the rest. We need to see how it all fits together, we need to see how many volunteers will be needed, how many score keepers, spotters, et al. In short, we want to get the logistics PERFECT.

So if you are a member or a non-member who wants to volunteer, bring a dish, bring your drinks, BRING IT ALL Sunday, April 22, 2012  
Until the next Lo moment, Ride Safe

**ABATE of Florida Inc. Polk County Chapter Presents  
First Annual**



# **Motorcycle Rodeo**



## **SKILLS ON WHEELS**

**Bike Show / Trophies Awarded**

**Joust**

**Tennis ball pipe**

**Tennis ball cones**

**Corn hole**

**Clothes line**

**Balloon toss**

**Plank**

**Barrel race**

**Winnie bite**

**Slow race**

**Admittance and Play only \$5.00**

**Held at Aldine Combee Arena - 1140 Fish Hatchery Road, Lakeland, FL 33801**



**Sunday May 6 2012**

**10 am to 4pm**



**For event info call Tim McDermott @ 863-688-3161 or Chris Brandfass @ 863-934-5052**


**Safety & Membership Information Available**

**Donations to ABATE of Florida, Inc. are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.**

**ABATE of Florida, Inc. does not condone drinking and driving.**

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# Upcomming ABATE Events

## *Polk County Chapter*

- April 15<sup>th</sup> 🏍️ Chapter Meeting 1pm @ Boondocks
- April 15<sup>th</sup> 🏍️ Following Chapter Meeting @ Boondocks – Bike Rodeo Committee
- April 22<sup>th</sup> 🏍️ Bike Rodeo Trial 12pm @ Steve Ammerman's house, 4902 Charlie Taylor Rd.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> 🏍️ Newsletter submission deadline
- TBD 🏍️ Chapter Board Meeting (please contact Greg for date & location)

## *State*

- April 2012 🏍️ tbd

## Local Bike Nights

### *Weekly on Tuesday*

- Lakeland 🏍️ Beef O'Bradys on US 98 North across from Best Buy from 6pm to 8pm
- Lake Wales 🏍️ Just One More Bar & Grill on 1st & Crystal from 5pm to 9pm

### *Weekly on Wednesday*

- Bartow 🏍️ Beef O'Bradys on SR 60 @ US 98 from 6pm to 8:30pm

### *Monthly on Wednesday*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 🏍️ Lake Wales 🏍️ Customer Appreciation at Iron Eagle Cycles on SR 60

### *Weekly on Thursday*

- Winter Haven 🏍️ Red Lion on Route 27 in Dundee from 6pm to 8pm

### *Weekly on Saturday*

- Lake Wales 🏍️ Open House at Iron Eagle Cycles on SR 60

### *Monthly on Saturday*

- 1<sup>st</sup> 🏍️ Plant City 🏍️ Bike Fest in downtown from 5pm to 9pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 🏍️ Lakeland 🏍️ Biker Bash at 2<sup>nd</sup> Gear Cycles 6601 North Socrum Loop Rd from 10am to 2pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 🏍️ Winter Haven 🏍️ Bike Night in downtown Central Park from 5pm to 9pm

### *Monthly on Sunday*

- 1<sup>st</sup> 🏍️ Webster 🏍️ Swap Meet Bike and Car Show from 8am to 3pm

Do you know of exciting biker events that can be placed in the newsletter?



## We are going Green



As of January 2012 we will be offering the newsletter via our website <http://polk.abateflorida.com>, please complete the below information if you would like to continue to get the newsletter via mail and submit to:

**The Iron Press  
PO Box 2743  
Lakeland, Fl. 33806**

MemberName \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You For Your Support**

ABATE Does Not Condone Drinking and Driving

All donations, monetary or otherwise to ABATE of Florida, Inc.-Polk County Chapter are not deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes

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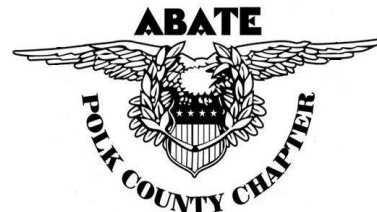
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**ABATE of Florida, Inc**  
**Polk County Chapter**  
**PO Box 2743**  
**Lakeland, FL 33806**



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**Is this a contact information change:** \_\_ Yes \_\_ No    **How did you hear about ABATE?** \_\_\_\_\_

**May we use your phone number for our Phone Tree?** \_\_Yes \_\_No

**Are you a registered voter?:** \_\_Yes \_\_No

**Accommodations:** All hotel accommodations and related special requests must be made directly with the hotel.

Please choose:

- New Membership \$20
- Renew Membership \$20
- Lifetime Membership \$150

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive, with their paid membership, a membership card, our bi-monthly MasterLink magazine, chapter newsletter, chapter voting privileges, personal involvement in statewide legislative actions and their freedom to ride! Don't forget to renew your membership at least one month early to avoid gaps in membership.

**Please contact us for more information: [polkcountyabate@hotmail.com](mailto:polkcountyabate@hotmail.com).**

All applications are subject to approval

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