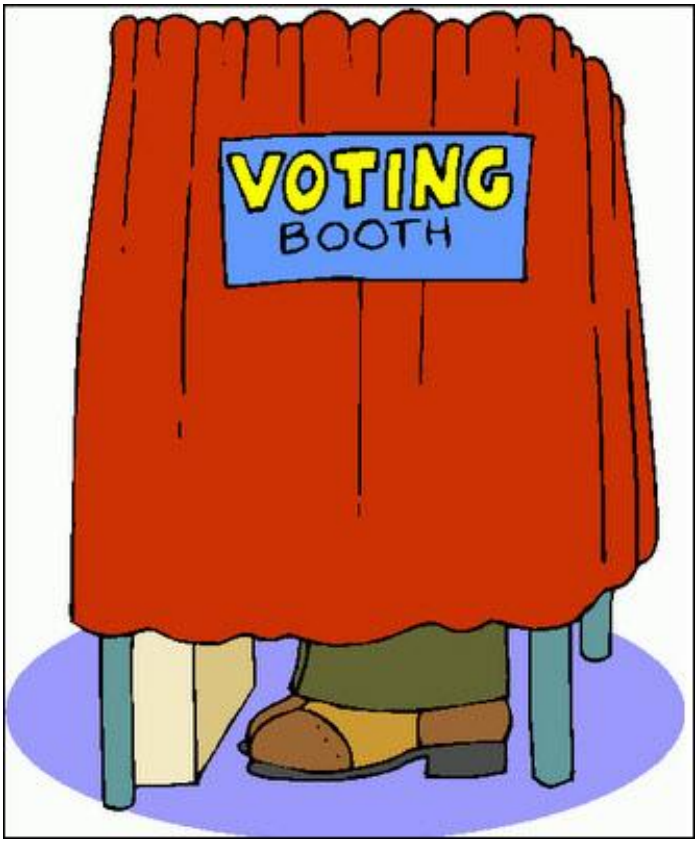
ABATE of Florida, Inc. • Polk County Chapter

The Iron Press

DEDICATED TO FREEDOM OF THE ROAD - LET THOSE WHO RIDE DECIDE

June 2015

Chapter Meeting – June 21st at 1:00pm



Its election time!

American **B**ikers **A**imed **T**oward **E**ducation

Our Mission Statement: WHO WE ARE

ABATE is a non-profit organization of motorcycle enthusiast 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 tradition of 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 it's 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 and 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 motorcycles. 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 had 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 every day to "Look Twice Save a Life, Motorcycles are everywhere" through our billboard campaign.
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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 accepts no responsibility for the comments, views or opinions contained in the 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 becomes 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 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.

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

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State

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Newsletter	Deb Daggett	863-594-6661	abatenewsletter@hotmail.com
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From the President's Desk

Bob Fletcher

Greetings Members and Friends;

It's hard to believe it's been a year. How time goes by. Our event was well received and we had a good turnout considering we did word of mouth and postings on Facebook. (Thanks to everyone who helped spread the word and most off all the persons who put this together) This could be the next big thing. I would like to thank this year's board for making this one of the best terms I have served with Polk County ABATE. We have made progress and made some new friends along the way. As you may know Our VP Greg was a victim of a careless driver. He will be back up and riding as soon as he can. With that said PLEASE be careful out there, YOU are your best defense and all you have is a split second to make a decision and all you can do is hope it was the right one. Sometimes there is no right one.

Ride SAFE

Bob

P.S. Promote the State event in AVON Park and make this a successful event.

Vice-President

Greg Vernon

Hey All;

I guess everyone has heard about how I joined "The Over the Handle Bars Club" ,LOL. Yep a cage decided to do a U-turn in front of me and I was doing 45-50 mph, well I came out alive but broken. My wife and I have been very touched for all the support, a huge thank you goes out to all my Brothers and Sisters. I am proud to say that I have accepted my nomination for VP and I will serve you as a chapter with pride. The overall nominations went flawless and it's nice to see we will have a full board. A big thanks goes out to Barbara Watkins for being our election supervisor as she does a professional job with sincerity. Welcome all the returning members and new members. A special thanks goes out to all that helped with the Scooters and Shooters Poker run we had. Looks like we will be doing this again.

All for now
Ride Safe and Ride Free
Greg Vernon
Vice President

Secretary

Lo Alexander

MAY 17, 2015 ABATE OF Florida, Inc., Polk County Chapter Meeting AGENDA
Johnny G's 5153 North US 98, Lakeland, Florida 33809

THANK YOU to today's meeting attendees: Lo Alex, Linda Vernon, Greg Vernon, Kim Struve, Crazy Rick, Barbara Watkins, Ronald Cain, Jessie Hicks, Ralph Snearly, George Swatebaugh (GK), John T. McDermott (Roadmap), Steve Ammerman, Kevin Collison, Harry Housour, Zman, Rafael Febre III (Iron Fisherman CMA), Bill Cone, Darlin' Deb, Bill Hardy, Sharon Lane, Stan Severson, Rusty (Rawson Goff), Maria Griffith, Don Jones,

1:05p Vice President**, Greg Vernon led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence from his wheelchair. [**He was blindsided Friday while coming home from work! See his article in this newsletter.] President, Bob Fletcher could not attend because of work demands.

VP, Greg Vernon thanked everyone for supporting the "**Scooters `n Shooters"** event held yesterday.

Secretary, Lo Alexander thanked everyone for signing in. There were no corrections noted to last month's minutes. Zman moved to accept them and Roadmap seconded. **UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**

Treasurer, Jessie Hicks gave her report. Roadmap moved to accept it; Steve followed. **UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT**

Sgt. at Arms, Tim McDermott thanked everyone who helped with "Scooters 'n Shooters. He thanked Dewey for leading a fun run to lunch after the event.

PR, Linda Vernon urged us to continue the "Meet `n Greets" in the coming new [fiscal] year.

Safety Officer, Bill Cone brought safety supplies.

Membership, Newsletter, Deb Daggett welcomed new life member, George.

Legislation, Zman brought news from Tallahassee. Online registration bill signed by Scott….Court says trailer hitch reasons to stop motorists….Scott signs bills regarding "Growlers", ban on ticket quotas… Drones / privacy issue…. Supreme Court turns DOWN red light camera case…. School guns bill likely dead…. Scott signs bill on carrying guns during evacuations. See how an idea becomes a LAW. MRF News…. Autocycles…. Bikers inside the Beltway (this is like our Tally Rally on steroids!!!) at a National Level. See Legislative Report in Newsletter.

Products, Lo Alexander announced the next shirt project: Scooters 'n Shooters! Also, we're forming a T-SHIRT COMMITTEE. Sign up with Bill Hardy, Steve, Lo, or any board member.

Webmaster, Steve Ammerman thanked the Illinois ABATE chapter for their good ideas i.e. Accident Scene Management and Scooters 'n Shooters

Delegates' Report: Tim McDermott reported that State has a new Safety Officer, John Massoth. State Sgt. at Arms, Painter asked Tim to carry the flag during the ceremonies at Tallahassee. **Dewey reported** that only 6000 tickets will be printed this year for the DRAWING held during BIKE WEEK. Our income tax classification will be **501(c) 3** only for the Avon Park Rodeo.

OLD BUSINESS: Shooters 'n' Scooters was discussed and deemed a success! ……..Steve volunteered to house the trailer.
A brief recess followed.

NEW BUSINESS: Barbara Watkins accepted the position of **Supervisor of Elections of the 2015-16 board of directors.** She asked each nominee if he/she would accept. Responses:

For President: Zman accepted; Ralph declined; Ray was absent; Greg declined; Bob was absent; Cecil was absent; Tim declined; Dewey declined.

For VP: Greg accepted; Zman declined; Ralph declined; Bill Cone declined; Tim declined; Roman Ryan was absent; Earl was absent; Dewey declined.

For Secretary: Lo accepted; Ida was absent; Cathy Mitchell was absent.

For Treasurer: Jessie accepted, Ralph accepted, Bob was absent.

For Sgt. at Arms: Tim declined; Cecil was absent; George accepted; Earl was absent; Bill Hardy declined; Bill Cone declined; Ralph declined.

For Public Relations Trustee: Linda accepted; Ida was absent; Cathy was absent; Steve declined.

For Safety Officer: Bill Cone accepted; Ralph declined; Tim declined; Cecil was absent.

For Newsletter: Deb accepted; Cecil was absent.

For Membership: Deb accepted; Linda declined.

For Legislation: Zman accepted.

For Products: Lo accepted; Ida was absent, Linda declined.

For Webmaster: Steve accepted.

For State Delegates: Dewey accepted; Tim accepted; Rusty accepted.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION will be Saturday, May 30th at 8:00a. Meet at the Seven-Eleven at Shepherd Rd. and S. Florida Av. …..Mike Gray has moved to the panhandle, near Niceville. ……Remember Bike Night at VFW Post 8002, the first Thursday at 6:00p……THANKS to Shoot Straight, The Brunch Box, everyone who came out to support our event and especially everyone who worked hard to make it a success.

The meeting Adjourned at 2:30p after a motion from Dewey and a second from Steve. **UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**

Respectfully submitted, Lo Alexander, May 20, 2015

Our crew for May's Highway Cleanup!! Thanks guys for showing up and helping out!!!

CLASSIFIEDS…..

Ads are free to Abate Members

Any Runs in this section are NON-ABATE events

Want to Ride?

Tim McDermott (better known as "Roadmap") is going on a **FUN RUN** before our meeting on June 21st. He would love for you to join him!! If you're interested meet at the **Brunch Box on 92 in Lakeland** at **9:00 am** if you want to have breakfast first, **KSU 10:00** am sharp.

Meeting of Friends

Our Chapter Vice President, Greg Vernon was in a serious motorcycle accident where a driver tried to make a U-turn in front of him resulting in a broken ankle, wrist and clavicle as well as a totaled bike. The kid had only the minimum for insurance. ABATE of Florida - Polk County Chapter will be helping the Cobras MC and VFW Post 8002 on North HWY 98 in Lakeland with a fundraiser by setting up a Safety Booth at Post 8002. Greg has always been there for us, its payback time. The fundraiser will be on **June 20th at 1:00 PM** at: **VFW Post 8002, 9398 US Hwy 98 N, Lakeland, FL 33809**

FOR SALE

If anyone has something they would like to sell and want to put it in the newsletter, feel free to contact me at abatenewsletter@hotmail.com and I will gladly put it here. Pictures with ad would be great.

Thought you might like to see this article that was in the Orlando Sentinel. Given to me by the Zman.

Florida man gets max sentence of 15 years for DUI crash death of biker

By Kevin P. Connolly
Staff Writer

A 43-year-old Volusia County man convicted of DUI manslaughter in a crash that killed a Deltona motorcyclist was sentenced to 15 years in prison last week.

Chadwick Dean Vogt's sentence, handed down by Circuit Court Judge Leah Case on Friday, is the maximum allowed under state law, Assistant State Attorney Spencer S. Hathaway said.

"This case was not the first time the defendant chose to drink and drive, and his level of intoxication was more than 3 times the legal limit," State Attorney R.J. Larizza said in a statement. "It is disturbing to note the fact that this tragic and senseless death could have been avoided but for an alcohol-tainted choice to drive while intoxicated."

Vogt was found guilty of the second-degree felony in the death of Ernest Alan Smith after a jury trial on April 10.

Smith, 59, was driving northbound on Tomoka Farms Road in the Samsula area at about 9:40 p.m. April 21, 2012 when Vogt's Ford Bronco turned in front of his motorcycle at Ludlow Boulevard.

Smith, a security guard for a local hospice, was heading to work before the crash. He was thrown from his bike and died at the scene, the Florida Highway Patrol said. Shortly after the crash, FHP determined that Vogt violated Smith's right of way.

Vogt had a blood-alcohol level of .26; the limit for drivers in Florida is .08. The trooper who investigated the crash noticed "an odor of an alcoholic beverage" coming from Vogt, an arrest affidavit said.

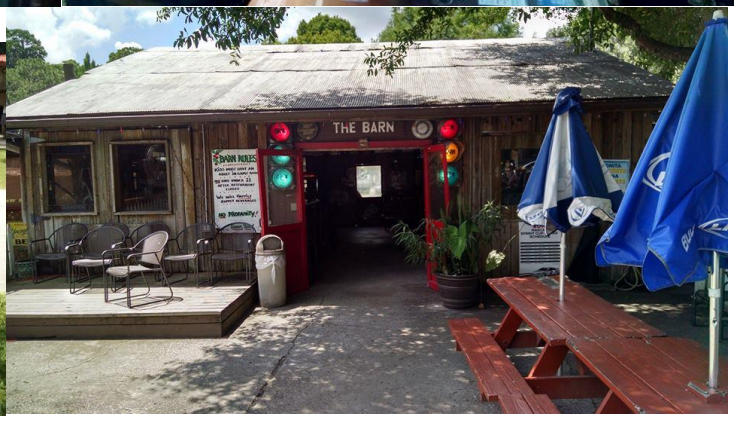
The officer later found an open, 12-ounce can of Busch beer on the driver's side floorboard.

He told the officer he drank two beers of the same size at a friend's house before the crash.

"When asked about the open Busch can in his vehicle, Vogt stated it was probably the one he was drinking at the time of the crash," the affidavit said.

Smith, who graduated from Merritt Island High School in 1979, served in the U.S. Air Force, his obituary said.

A Special THANKS to SHOOT STRAIGHT for allowing us to have our Poker Run at their facility and opening their doors to us earlier in the day to accommodate our needs. You guys are awesome and we appreciate it!!



Thanks again for all who were able to make the Shooters & Scooters poker run. No pictures were taken at Shoot Straight because everyone was having tooooooo much fun so these are from the ride after.

Membership

Debbie D

Membership Report

Total Members: 148

Welcome to NEW Members: Larry Goodman, Kendall Woods, Michael Shotts, Brenda and Mark James, and Life Member George Swatzbaugh, also Rusty Goff who is a transfer from Hillsborough Chapter

Thank you for renewal: Tim McDermott, Bill Hardy and Jim Fyffe

Past Due in May: Charlie Cline, Tim Day, Gary Grooms

Due in June: Ed Cottrell, Judith and Melvin Gulley, Cecil Mitchell, Joe Towry

Due in July: April Angle, Melissa and Sonny Brown, Maria Griffith, Margaret Mullins, Lori McMillan, William Poindexter, Ryan Roman,

Reminder for Renewal: *Please be sure to check your membership cards*

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 our PO Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33806

If you have not updated your contact information recently or email or did not receive your renewal card, lease send me an email with your correct info at membershipabatepolk@hotmail.com **or mail updates to** ABATE of Florida Inc. – Polk County Chapter PO Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33806.

Legislative

Zman

LEGISLATIVE REPORT for JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

Hey y'all. This month's topics are:

1. Online registration bill signed by Scott. 2. Court says trailer hitch reasons to stop motorists. 3. Scott signs bills regarding "Growlers", ban on ticket quotas, and Drones / privacy issue. 4. Supreme Court turns down red light camera case. 5. School guns bill likely dead. 6. Scott signs bill on carrying guns during evacuations.
2. How an Idea becomes a LAW.
3. MRF News. 1. Autocycles 2. Bikers inside the Beltway (this is like our Tally Rally on steroids!!!) at a National Level.

From: Darrin \Scribe\ Brooks <statelegislative@abateflorida.com>
To: Darrin <darrinsbrooks@comcast.net>
Sent: Sat, May 16, 2015 9:19 am
Subject: Tally News week of May 16th

Hey Everyone,

Here are some of the highlights of what happened this week in Tally. We have confirmation that the Vulnerable Road Users Bill will not be addressed in the Special Session. So we are back to step one… but we now know what they like and did not like about the Bill *AND* the Bills did pass all the committees and has support in both sides. Theoretically, it should do well….. BUT….. we all know that anything and everything can happen during session.

TALLAHASSEE NEWS

SCOTT SIGNS ONLINE REGISTRATION LAW 'WITH SOME HESITATION'
In a couple of years, Floridians will be able to register online to vote, as residents can already do in 20 other states. Gov. Rick Scott expressed concerns Friday as he signed into law a measure (SB 228) that requires the state Division of Elections to develop an online voter-registration application by Oct. 1, 2017. The governor's office released a signing letter Scott sent to Secretary of State Ken Detzner, who opposed the proposal as it moved through the Legislature. Scott wrote that he signed the bill "with some hesitation," expressing apprehension about implementing the new system while modernizing the Florida Voter Registration System. Scott, who has signaled possible interest in running for the U.S. Senate in 2018, also repeated the need to ensure cybersecurity, an issue that Detzner raised with lawmakers. "Cyberattacks are on the front pages almost every day, and fraud and identification-theft issues arise whenever a new avenue for information transmittal is created," Scott wrote. But Rep. Alan Williams, a Tallahassee Democrat who helped sponsor the House version of the bill, said he was proud lawmakers and Scott approved the measure "that makes voter registration more accessible to Floridians and moves the state from the equivalent of the typewriter age into the iPad age. Anytime we increase voter access, it is a positive step toward greater civic engagement."

COURT SAYS TRAILER HITCH REASON TO STOP MOTORIST
A state appeals court ruled Friday that police officers can pull over motorists if trailer hitches obscure portions of vehicles' license plates. A three-judge panel of the 1st District Court of Appeal refused to toss out evidence against Calvin Eugene Baker, who was stopped by an Okaloosa County sheriff's deputy because of an unreadable license plate. The car Baker was driving was stolen, and a search uncovered drugs and drug paraphernalia, according to Friday's ruling. Baker, who was charged with a number of offenses, challenged the validity of the traffic stop because it was based on a trailer hitch obscuring the license plate. But the appeals court, in a 14-page ruling, pointed to a state law that says license plates must be legible from 100 feet away. "Appellant (Baker) asserts that the notion that a license tag obscured by a trailer hitch could violate the statute is absurd, as the Legislature could not have intended that every vehicle with a trailer hitch attached to it would be subject to a stop by law enforcement officers," said the ruling, written by Judge Brad Thomas and joined by Chief

Judge Joseph Lewis and Judge Robert Benton. "We disagree, and hold that this plain reading is reasonable, as the Legislature has a legitimate public-safety interest in ensuring that license tags remain unobstructed. The Legislature has an interest in ensuring that law enforcement officers can readily identify license tag numbers. In addition, the Legislature could have intended that the general public has the ability to identify license tags, if necessary, to report criminal activity or other important information. As such, we do not think such a plain reading of the statute leads to an absurd conclusion." The ruling, however, also suggested the Florida Supreme Court take up the issue.

SCOTT SIGNS 'GROWLERS' AND BAN ON TICKET QUOTAS

Gov. Rick Scott signed 27 bills into law Thursday, including measures that target speed traps, take aim at "revenge porn" and allow residents of a North Florida fishing village to vote on incorporation. But in perhaps the highest-profile move, Scott signed what has become known as the beer "growler" bill (SB 186), which will allow half-gallon containers to be filled at breweries, as can be done with other sized bottles. But don't rush out to fill-er-up just yet, as the law doesn't go into effect until July 1. Scott said in signing the measure that he was "eliminating another burdensome regulation." The sudsy topic had been a heavily lobbied issue in the Capitol the past few years because of objections from large beer distributors. The distributors pointed to a need to protect the state's Depression-era three-tier regulation system, which has required the manufacture, distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages to be separated. The bill was filed this year by Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, as a straightforward attempt to repeal the ban on the 64-ounce containers, which are considered the most popular size among "growler" aficionados. But after some give and take, the final bill includes regulations that would limit cup sizes to 3.5 ounces for beer tastings, ban the use of electronic-benefits transfer cards --- formerly known as food stamps --- to buy alcoholic beverages and cap at eight the number of tap-room licenses a single brewer can hold. "Florida brewers should have every tool at their disposal to succeed, and this bill is a huge step in that direction," Latvala said in a statement issued by the governor's office.

Among the other bills signed Thursday is an effort to prevent local police from using traffic-ticket quotas.
The law (SB 264), which also goes into effect July 1, stems from a longstanding speed trap in the small Alachua County town of Waldo, which is along U.S. 301. The town's police department disbanded last year, at least in part because officers disclosed they had been placed under a ticket quota. State law-enforcement agencies are already barred from using ticket quotas, but restrictions on cities and counties have not been so clear.

Scott also signed a measure (SB 766), which starting July 1 will prohibit the use of aerial drones to capture images that could infringe on the privacy of property owners or occupants.

SUPREME COURT TURNS DOWN RED-LIGHT CAMERA CASE

The Florida Supreme Court this week declined to hear an appeal in a potentially far-reaching case about the way local governments administer red-light camera programs. The city of Hollywood asked justices to hear the case after the 4th District Court of Appeal ruled in October that the city violated state law by relying on a private company to issue traffic citations to red-light runners. The case was filed by motorist Eric Arem, who received a notice that a camera caught him failing to comply with a red-light signal. Arem did not respond and then received a traffic citation generated by American Traffic Solutions, Inc., a company that had a contract with Hollywood to provide cameras and other related services. A county judge found that Hollywood had improperly delegated responsibilities to the private company and dismissed the citation. A three-judge panel of the appeals court agreed. The Supreme Court, as is common, did not give reasons for declining to consider the appeal by Hollywood. But in a brief filed in February, attorneys for the city noted that class-action lawsuits were filed against Hollywood and other local governments after the appeals-court ruling, with plaintiffs demanding refunds of fines for red-light camera violations. Also, the brief said the appeals-court ruling created "confusion in the administration of red light camera safety programs" throughout Florida. "This situation threatens the ongoing efficient administration of these red light camera safety programs, thus undermining the Florida Legislature's express authorization of these programs," the brief said. Arem's attorney filed a brief last month that said the dispute is a case of "first impression" --- a legal term that signals a first-of-its-kind question. The brief said the appeals court "concluded only law enforcement officers and traffic enforcement officers have the legal authority to issue citations for traffic infractions." An online docket indicates Hollywood last week filed a separate petition with the Supreme Court on the issue.

SCHOOL GUNS BILL LIKELY DEAD

A Senate bill that would allow school superintendents to tap employees or volunteers to carry concealed weapons on school property was effectively killed by a committee Wednesday, meaning that two high-profile proposals blending firearms and education could fail during the legislative session. The Senate Education PreK-12 Committee agreed to temporarily postpone --- a procedural move similar to tabling --- the "school safety" bill (SB 180). Because the committee is not scheduled to meet again, the legislation is bottled up and can't go before the full Senate. It also can't be added to another bill on the Senate floor. The bill was postponed as a courtesy to Sen. Greg Evers, the Baker Republican who sponsored the measure, according to Education PreK-12 Chairman John Legg, R-Lutz. It would have failed if the panel voted on it, Legg said. "It did not have the votes in this committee," he said. Technically, the language could still end up before the Senate.

House lawmakers could attach the proposal to another bill, then send it over to the Senate. The upper chamber would then be free to vote on that legislation --- but Legg said he thought that move was unlikely.

SCOTT SIGNS BILLS ON CARRYING GUNS

Gov. Rick Scott signed 44 bills into law Thursday, including a measure that will allow Floridians without concealed-weapons licenses to carry guns during mandatory emergency evacuations. The new gun law (SB 290) went into effect as soon as Scott signed it. Backers say the measure will allow people to bring their weapons when forced to leave home because of hurricanes and other disasters.

"It's really a no-brainer," National Rifle Association lobbyist Marion Hammer said. "When people are forced to leave their homes, they have a right to carry their possessions with them --- including their firearms to protect their property."

A similar measure died in the Senate last year amid concerns by the Florida Sheriffs Association and senators on both sides of the aisle. Some were apprehensive about increasing the number of armed people on the streets without concealed-weapons licenses during emergencies.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, addressed those concerns this year by limiting the amount of time people can carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses to 48 hours, which can be extended by the governor.

Florida House of Representatives

How An Idea Becomes A Law

House Bill Drafted

The Representative (also called a member) contacts House Bill Drafting Services and requests a bill to be drafted. The member may provide very detailed instructions or just the general idea. A staff member, called a “bill drafter,” will work with the member and his or her staff until the member is satisfied and a final draft is approved. Once approved, the idea receives a bill number (odd numbers only in the House) and is called a bill for the first time.

Idea

A citizen, group, or legislator has an idea for a new law. A Representative then decides that the idea should be a bill.

1st Reading is by Publication in the House Journal

In accordance with Article III of the Florida Constitution, all bills must be read three times before being voted on. The 1st Reading is by Publications of the bill number, its sponsor, and a short one paragraph description of the bill, called a title, in the House Journal. The Speaker will also refer the bill to one or more committees or subcommittees in the House. Committees and subcommittees are groups of members appointed to review specific areas of government such as education, criminal justice, and agriculture, to name a few.

House Committee or Subcommittee Meeting

Once a bill is referred to a committee or subcommittee, it is reviewed for inclusion on an agenda. The Chair of the committee or subcommittee will decide which bills should be heard. In 2010, of the 843 general bills filed, 488 “died” in a council or committee, never being heard. Once a bill has been heard and voted favorably by all of its committees or subcommittees, it is placed on a House Calendar signifying that it is available for 2nd Reading.

2nd Reading on the Floor is by consideration of the Special Order Calendar

Once a bill is on the House Calendar that does not mean that the bill will be heard on the floor. The House has a special committee called The Rules & Calendar Committee that will determine when and if a bill will be sent to the floor for 2nd Reading. These bills are placed on a Recommended Special Order Calendar. Each Special Order Calendar is voted on prior to the House considering those bills on a specific legislative day. Once a bill has been introduced and read on the Special Order Calendar, it is explained, questions are answered about the bill, and amendments are considered. This constitutes a bill’s 2nd Reading.

3rd Reading on the House Floor by consideration of the Third Reading Calendar

After a bill has been read a second time on the Special Order Calendar, it is taken up on 3rd Reading, generally, on a subsequent legislative day. This is the final reading of the bill prior to being voted on. Once a bill’s title has been read a third time, it is explained again, questions are again permitted, and amendments may be offered; at this point, amendments may only be considered by a 2/3 vote. The final action is for debate on the bill prior to the sponsor making a closing statement. The bill is then voted on by the members of the House. Any bill not receiving a favorable vote “dies” on the floor.

Senate Consideration

Once the bill is passed by the House, it is sent to the Senate with a “message.” The Senate’s process varies slightly from the House’s process. The Senate may vote to pass the bill without amendments and return the bill to the House, refer the bill to a committee for consideration, or defeat the bill on the Senate floor. The Senate may decide to further amend the bill and pass it. If this happens, the bill is returned to the House.

Return to the House

If the House has received a House bill having been passed by the Senate without amendments, it puts the bill in its final form called an "Enrolled" version. The enrolled version of the bill is then sent to the Governor for consideration. If the Senate has further amended the House bill, it is returned to the House for consideration of the Senate amendments. This "back and forth" consideration of the bill is an Attempt to perfect the bill's language by working out the differences, but generally ends after several exchanges by each side. At any time, either the Senate or the House may decide to abandon the effort of reaching a compromise and the bill dies. If the issue is important enough, however, the House and Senate may agree to appoint a conference committee comprised of Representatives and Senators to work out the details of the bill.

Consideration by the Governor

Generally, if the Legislature is in session and has sent the Governor a bill, he/she has seven days to consider the bill while the Legislature remains in session. If the bill is received after the Legislature has adjourned "sine die" (the 60-day session has ended), the Governor has 15 days to consider the bill. The Governor may take one of three actions: sign the bill into law, allow the bill to become law without his/her Signature, or veto the bill. If the Governor vetoes the bill, the Legislature may override his/her veto by a 2/3 vote of the Legislature during the next Session.

Key Point... Law

At any point of consideration, the bill may "die" for that legislative session, which means it will no longer be considered.

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MRF News

MRF, ABATE, and NHTSA discuss "AUTOCYCLES"

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation along with ABATE of Illinois recently met with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to discuss certain three-wheeled vehicles currently being included in the motorcycle vehicle category. Three-wheeled vehicles are nothing new. Trikes, sidecars and the Can-Am Spyders are commonly seen on the road and even fit in at most motorcycle events. The problem is that other new forms of three-wheeled vehicles mainly emulate a car in many more ways than they do a motorcycle. Yet, this new breed wants to wear a motorcycle license plate.

This type of vehicle is definitely an emerging form of transportation, and it is likely that it will grow into a notable percentage of the vehicles on the road. The Polaris Slingshot, the Elio and the Toyota iRoad all combine different aspects of a motorcycle and passenger vehicle into one vehicle, leaving it without the worthy class of vehicle that this mode of transport needs. Autocycle perhaps?

ABATE of Illinois has already begun to address this by passing legislation to create an autocycle category. That legislation was signed into law in 2014.

All of these new types of autocycles are different, but they do have one similarity; they are not motorcycles. But because of the loose definition of a motorcycle at the federal level these vehicles can technically be categorized as a motorcycle. But therein lies the rub; some of these new vehicles have airbags, steering wheels, the powertrain of a passenger car, side-by-side seating, windshield wipers and seat belts.

"This is going to be a long, difficult road to create a new class of vehicle, but it must be done," said Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation. "Opening a dialogue is the first step to address what is sure to be a big issue in the motorcycle community."

The NHTSA team agreed that we do need to address this issue head on before it is too late. Keeping these vehicles out of the motorcycle class will ensure that inaccurate fatality and injury will be reduced.
Creating a new class of vehicle brings many challenges. Training and licensing will have to be modified, helmet laws will be blurred, and expert crash reporting will be crucial, but it's only fair that they get their own class of vehicle, because they are clearly not motorcycles or passenger cars.

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http://motorcycleridersfoundation.wildapricot.org/page-1654836 or call (202) 546-0983

Bikers Inside the Beltway - 2015

May 18, 2015

This year was another highly successful Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) event in our Nation's capitol. We were blessed with perfect weather and a robust number of citizen motorcycle lobbyists on the most important day of the year for motorcyclists.
Motorcyclists from Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin descended onto Capitol Hill to defend the freedoms of motorcyclists.
This years only national lobby event for motorcyclists resulted in over 500 individual interactions with Senate and House offices to advance the MRF agenda in Washington D.C.
The focus of Bikers Inside The Beltway 2015 (BITB) was H.R. 1861 & S.127, bills to prohibit federal funding of motorcycle only roadside checkpoints. The group also lobbied for H.R. 21 a bill that would require the Environmental Protection Agency to halt the sale of E-15 gasoline and conduct an independent study on the effects of the E-15 blend on internal combustion engines. The group also advocated for the passage of black box privacy legislation. Autocycle legislation was also discussed.
Representative Jim Sensenbrenner's letter of inquiry to the EPA was hand delivered to multiple relevant members of congress during the event.
This year's Congressional program was held on the House side of Capitol Hill. The attendees heard from several members of congress who were all very supportive towards the motorcycle rights community.
This years Bikers Inside the Beltway was a tremendous success. The MRF thanks all of you who attended from near and far to defend liberty.

Til next month, ride safe and enjoy. Zman

PR

Hello Everyone. I would like to thank everyone for your love and support after Greg's accident. I can't tell you guys how much it meant to Greg and I for you guys to come out of your way to check on Greg. It just reinforces what we already knew that A.B.A.T.E. is filled with a great bunch of people. We are looking forward to moving ahead with a new board and great upcoming year. Hope everyone can make it out to our next meeting for the vote. Thank you to Johnny G's for providing the food at our meeting. Hope to see you all at our next meeting

Linda Vernon
Public Relations

Webmaster

Hi Polk County,

I just wanted to thank the chapter for backing me up on the ideas I came home with from Chicago.

1. We now have twelve chapter members with Accident Management/Emergency First Aid training. This will serve our chapter for years to come.
2. Scooters & Shooters was more fun than any of us ever imagined. Having breakfast, riding to Shoot Straight to shoot our poker hands and then riding as a group to Cherry Pockets for lunch to raise money for the chapter was way too much fun to do only once a year. We will be repeating that SOON!!!

Look at our Facebook page, ABATE of Florida – Polk County Chapter or on POLK COUNTY MOTORCYCLE RIDERS for upcoming events. We will be having a fundraiser for Greg Vernon around 6-20-15, keep posted for details.

I will be traveling in the mountains for the next month so I will miss the next meeting, but rest assured, my computer will be with me…

Steve Ammerman
Webmaster

Join Us!

At our next meeting June 21st, 2015 at **1:00PM**

Johnny G's

5153 US Hwy 98 North

Lakeland, FL

Editor

Hey Guys!!

Hope everyone had a happy and safe Memorial Day!! As always, please make sure I have your current **email address** or **home address** so that you can get the newsletter or renewed Membership card. If you have anything you would like to put in the newsletter let me know, always enjoy new pictures to put in. We have a "Classified" section in the newsletter now so if you have anything you would like to add to that section or if anyone has something they want to sell and want to put it in newsletter, contact me **abatenewsletter@hotmail.com**.

Until next time, enjoy the ride and be safe!

Deb

Please note any political information in the chapter newsletter is for your educational purposes only and is not meant as promotional materials.
All members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and other materials that would be of interest to their fellow members by 11:00pm on Friday following the chapter meeting except when announced otherwise. 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.

Calling all members we are looking for letters from YOU!!!

It does not have to be about the chapter it can be about legislative issues, community activities that have happened or other vital information. Please send your submissions to either PO Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33806 or email abatenewsletter@hotmail.com

History of ABATE of Florida, Inc

ABATE came to Florida in the mid 1970's. At that time it was a group of individual and unaffiliated chapters. In 1979, ABATE of Florida, Inc. was formed by the individual chapters. This union was the basis for today's organization. Throughout the years, ABATE of Florida, Inc. has strived to be an effective political force for the rights of motorcyclists in Florida. We have also attempted to keep up to date on all legislation on a federal level and have tried to input our concerns to our federal officials.
ABATE of Florida, Inc. has hired a professional lobbyist to aid us in our fight for freedom of choice. Our lobbyist has also been instructed to keep a close watch on all State or National legislation that would affect all motorcyclists.

Upcoming ABATE Events

Polk County Chapter

June 21st — **Chapter Meeting 1:00pm @ Johnny G's**, 5153 Hwy 98 North
June 26th — **Newsletter submission deadline**

State

June 13th — State Meeting hosted by Inerstate Chapter, Sebring, 12:00 pm

Other Chapters

June 6th — Alachua Motorcycle Awareness Ride
June 21st — Estero River Red White & Blue
June 27th — Palm Beach Freedom Rally

BIKE NIGHTS IN THE AREA

Every **TUES**	6 - 9 PM	BEEF O'BRADYS Northside Lakeland
Every **WED**	6 PM - ??	MOJO's - Lakeland
Every **THURS**	7 PM - ??	JOHNNY G's – Lakeland
Every Thurs	7 PM - ??	LA's MIDWAY – Across from Winter Haven Airport
Every **FRI**	7 PM - ??	POUR HOUSE – Havendale Blvd, Winter Haven
First THURS,	6PM - ??	**VFW on North 98**

ABATE of Florida Safety and Education, Inc.

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Contact your elected officials – They work for YOU!

For corrections to this listing please email abatenewsletter@hotmail.com

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

Dues, Donations, and fees to ABATE Events, etc. are not Deductible for federal income tax purposes

Use a separate form for each member; duplicate form as needed.

First: _____ MI: _____ Family/Last: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State: _____ Postal Code: _____ County: _____

Phone: ( ) _____ Email: _____

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.

All applications are subject to approval

FOR ABATE OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership dues paid by: Cash Check Money Order Total Paid: $_____