

ABATE of Florida, Inc. • Polk County Chapter

The Iron Press

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

April 2016

Vol 33 issue 4

Chapter Meeting – Apr 17th @ 1:00pm



ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. POLK COUNTY CHAPTER

PRESENTS A

MOTORCYCLE RODEO

COME SHOW YOUR

SKILLS ON WHEELS



Cone Ball
Joust
5 second Tennis Ball
Clothes Line
Plank
Bean Bag Toss
Straw in Bottle
Balloon Toss
Winnie Bite
Slow Race



\$5.00 Admittance per person, Participation free with Admission

– Do overs \$5.00

Awards for 1st and 2nd place

Separate Award for Winnie Bite & Slow Race

50/50

Held at Boondocks - 8515 US Hwy 98, Lakeland, Florida

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be available

Saturday May 21st

11am – 4pm

Signups from 11:00 – 1:00

For more information call Mark "Zman" (PRES) @ 863-559-9550 or Greg (VP) 863-834-9719

Or email president1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP AND SAFETY INFORMATION AVAILABLE

NO PETS, GUNS, OR ATTITUDES. ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. DOES NOT CONDONE DRINKING AND RIDING

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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.
- 🏍️

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.

Identification Statement

ABATE of Florida, Inc.

Polk County Chapter

PO Box 2743

Lakeland, FL 33806



Board Officers

State

Position	Name	Email
President	James "Doc" Reichenbach	statepresident@abateflorida.com
Vice President	Dennis "Mudder" Rudoi	statevice-president@abateflorida.com
Secretary	Shelly Johnston	statesecretary@abateflorida.com
Treasurer	Patti Nasrallah	statetreasurer@abateflorida.com
Sgt. at Arms	TJ Painter	statesgtatarms@abateflorida.com
PR/Communications	Sarabeth Kohl	statepr@abateflorida.com
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Safety Program	John Massoth	safetydirector@abateflorida.com
Legislative	Darrin "Scribe" Brooks	statelegislative@abateflorida.com
Products	Steve "Caretaker" Knee	stateproducts@abateflorida.com
Legal	Larry Crow	statelegalcounsel@abateflorida.com

Polk County Chapter

Position	Name	Phone	Email
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Vice President	Greg Vernon	863-934-9719	vicepresident1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
Secretary	Lo Alexander	863-688-3161	secretary1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ralph Snearly	863-206-9028	treasurer1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
Sgt. at Arms	George Swatzbaugh	410-852-6663	sgtatarms3.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
Membership	Darlin Deb Daggett	863-594-6661	membershipabatepolk@hotmail.com
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	Dewey Cain	863-688-0608	
Newsletter	Darlin Deb Daggett	863-594-6661	abatenewsletter@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Steve Ammerman	813-363-9540	webmaster1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com

From the President



Z man



Hey y'all,

I hope all Chapter members are doing well and getting in some needed wind therapy! March is just about over, with beautiful weather for the 75th Anniversary of Daytona Bike Week. Damn it's great to be in FLORIDA!!! Looking ahead, our next "big thing" of course is Polk County ABATE Chapter **"Skills on Wheels" motorcycle rodeo** on May 21st. We have a great place to hold it, thanks to Ginny of the Boondocks for letting us use their property out back. We will have lots of flyers at the Chapter Meeting April 17, so plan on attending and helping to get them out to spread the word. Talk about affordable entertainment, only \$5 to see a rodeo AND enter if you want to show your riding skills! Challenge your bros & sisters who ride to see who scores the highest! Anyone who wants to help out setting up a "mock rodeo" before the April Chapter meeting is welcome. See details in this newsletter. We will also need volunteers to set up and run the Rodeo May 21st. See a Board Member if you can help. See the Flyer in this Newsletter Issue for all the details. Thanks to all our members for making Polk County ABATE Chapter one of the best in the state! Ride safe and enjoy, Zman.

Vice-President



Greg Vernon

Hey All

Sorry couldn't make the last meeting but I was there in spirit. Stay tuned we got some good things going on and maybe a new adventure for our chapter. We will discuss this at the April meeting. Don't forget to do the safety checks on your bikes.

Greg, VP

Secretary



Lo Alexander



MARCH 20, 2016 ABATE of Florida, Inc. Polk Chapter Meeting MINUTES The Boondocks, 8515 US Hwy 98 North, Lakeland, Florida 33815

THANK YOU to today's meeting attendees: Laneata "Lo" McDermott, John T. McDermott, Zman, Corina McCoy, Dewey Cain, John Klugo, G.K. Swatzbaugh III, Ralph Snearly, Charlie Cline Ouellette, Gary Ouellette, Dian Ranney, Pat Ranney, Bill Hardy, Maria Griffith, Steve Ammerman, Mike Harman,

1:15 The Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence were led by SGT. At Arms, GK. PRESIDENT, Zman welcomed everyone and read a letter from Sandy Toledo of the Christmas Angels thanking us for our kindness and generosity toward Polk County's foster children..... He invited us to the State Meeting in Cocoa..... To be ready to RODEO by May 21st, we will meet April 2nd, to finish the trailer [meet at Hammer's at 7:30] and again on the 17th, to lay out the course [meet at the Brunch Box at 8:00a] We will wait for insurance info RE: SCOOTERS 'n SHOOTERS.

VP, Greg Vernon was absent and excused

Secretary, Lo Alexander gave a brief synopsis of the last Board Meeting. February's Minutes were ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer, Ralph Snearly reported our numbers and our checking activity. His report was ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sgt. At Arms, GK told us he completed the inventory. Call GK if you want to help with the trailer. Consult his website, <routes, rides and rallies>.

Membership AND Newsletter, Deb Daggett was absent and excused. Zman gave her report..... Welcome to John from Columbia County, NY!

PR, Linda Vernon was absent and excused.

Safety Officer, Bill Cone was absent and excused. The FDOT could be a source of safety related bumper stickers.

Products, Lo Alexander had tentative **good news** about safety products.

Legislative, Zman related that the Vulnerable Road Users Bill is progressing adequately through congress **ALTHOUGH MOTORCYCLES HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED** from the bill. Contact Jeff Clemons, committee chair. See Zman's article in this newsletter.

Webmaster, Steve Ammerman reported that he, GK and Ralph were wrapping up the details in Paypal. It could be very convenient for our members and supporters..... See Facebook and visit <POLKCOUNTYMOTORCYCLERIDERS> for more news. See Steve's article in this newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: A rubber stamp with our logo will be helpful at the RODEO-stamp. GK is in charge.

NEW BUSINESS: We will want to set up a safety booth at ROSCOE'S **drag races** Sunday, April 3rd.

Good of the Order: Cecil's mom is not well. Please remember the family in your prayers and thoughts.

Adjournment: 2:07

Respectfully submitted, Lo Alexander March 21, 2016



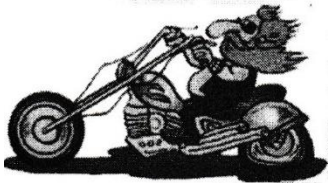


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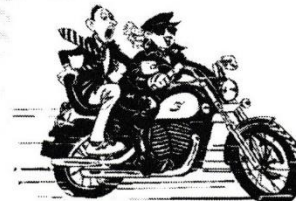
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Slow Race



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Separate Award for Winnie Bite & Slow Race

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CLASSIFIEDS.....

Ads are free to Abate Members

Any Runs in this section are NON-ABATE events

Want to Ride?

No ride, gonna be helping with the pre Rodeo set up.

FOR SALE



1985 Mobile Home, 14'x 55', roof over car port, shed 12'x12', new walk in tiled shower, 4'x8', 2 bdrm 1 bath, wheelchair accessible, new kitchen cabinets and tile floor. Central air and heat. Many updates have been done on this mobile home in the past year. Located just between Duff Rd & Banana Rd on 98 North. Lot rent is \$300.00 per month includes water and trash. Best deal around. No lease, no background chks. Asking \$12,500.00 or best offer. No emails or text. Please call Gary @ 863 397 5197.

FOR SALE

Firewood for sale!!! Call Dave @ 863-816-2844. Wood located at 6411 Stroud Rd, Kathleen, FL. Call Dave to set up time and get prices. 10% off for all ABATE members.

CAR FOR SALE

2010 Honda Civic, in brand new condition, has 5971 miles, owned by an older woman that has taken excellent care of it. Asking \$9900.00. This is a really nice car. Call Deb @ 863-324-7499.



Membership



Darlin Deb



Rodeo time in May!!

Membership Report

Total Members: 145

Welcome New Members: John Klugo

Thank you for renewal: Greg Vernon and Michael Harman

Past Due in February: Patricia Boone, Michael Hough, David Melanson, Earl Thibeault,

Due in March: William Ford, Harry Housour

Due in April: Larry Goodman, Brenda James, Mark James, Cathy Mitchell, Michael Shotts, Kendall Woods

Due in May: Charlie Cline, Bill Hardy, Tim McDermott,

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, please 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 APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

Motorcycles Riders Foundation (MRF)

Legislative Strategy Agenda for 2016

At the 2015 Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) 31st annual Meeting of the Minds Conference held in Milwaukee, WI, a Legislative Strategy Session was hosted by the MRF's Legislative Committee. As has been done for the past several years, the MRF requested that it be attended by Sustaining State Motorcyclists' Rights Organizations (SSMRO) Legislative and/or Executive Officers. We welcomed several representatives from our Sustaining Motorcycle Clubs and Organizations as well. The goal was to set the MRF's Federal Legislative Agenda for the 2015 Meeting of the Minds to the 2016 Meeting of the Minds annual cycle.

The MRF's SSMRO partners responded once again with a majority attendance that resulted in a healthy dialogue focused on motorcycling. The MRF Legislative Committee remains extremely pleased at the aligned and clear direction we experienced again this year from our SSMRO partners. This level of agreement continues to allow for solid action plans to be developed by our Legislative Committee and our Board of Directors that can be effectively employed by our Government Relations Department and our SSMRO partners while in Washington D.C. and in working federal issues in their home states. Additionally, we continue to see productive gains in state legislative activities that support our federal efforts when it comes to protecting on-road motorcyclists, motorcycling, and its associated lifestyle.

The MRF Legislative Committee continued the practice instituted five years ago of recording one vote per SSMRO in attendance. A full breakdown of each vote will be printed in the upcoming issue of the MRF Reports. The session this year was moderated by MRF Vice President, Jay Jackson, with support from MRF Vice President of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Jeff Hennie, and MRF President, Kirk "Hardtail" Willard.

- FAST reauthorization (the Highway Bill) – work to include Motorcycle 2010 type Grant Funding, continuation of the NHTSA Lobbying Ban, pursue reinstatement of the Motorcycle Advisory Council (MAC) to advise the FHWA, oppose any motorcycling related federal blackmails or federal sanctions contained in the highway bill; closely monitor for any action that would negatively impact motorcycles, motorcycling, and motorcyclists; seek to include HR1861 type language to ban motorcycle specific roadblock grant funding; seek to clarify ownership of "black box" data
- SAE Motorcycle Roadside Sound Test – The MRF to NOT promote the use of the SAE Sound Test as a National enforcement standard, majority considered this a state issue
- Continue monitoring the Federal Crash Causation study and the MSF Naturalistic study
- Strongly oppose any federal standard proposing stamping and certifying of motorcycle exhaust systems

- Work to discourage ALL forms of distracted driving, and oppose all forms of funding blackmails or withholding of funds as related to motorcyclists, watch this issue closely for motorcycle specific discriminatory language
- Continue participation at the federal level where the definition of a motorcycle is under review taking advantage of any opportunity available to enhance and further clarify
- MRF will oppose any motorcycling, motorcycle, or motorcyclist-based discriminatory legislation or rules proposed by the U.S. Congress or by a federal agency
- MRF to seek a legislative vehicle to include motorcyclist anti-profiling language this upcoming session
- Continue participation in motorcycle related activity in the European Union, United Nations, and Canada
- MRF to fiercely oppose any mandatory helmet or apparel standards
- MRF directed by our SSMRO's to not support the use of ethanol fuels higher than E10 or any other newly developed fuel blends including alternative renewable fuels without further testing on motorcycle engines and obtaining specific recommendations from motorcycle manufacturers approving their use
- MRF to continue to ensure the inclusion of motorcycles in ongoing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) emerging technologies
- Pursue safer roadway design strategies at the federal level
- Continue to promote our theme of crash avoidance versus safer crashing, using the principles of House Resolution 1498 urging NHTSA to focus on crash prevention and rider education
- MRF to pursue limiting funding in a relevant legislative vehicle of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for their increasing involvement in motorcycling safety issues
- MRF to monitor private organizations that oppose the legislative agenda or mission of the MRF and investigate their funding sources to make certain they are not receiving federal tax dollars
- MRF to monitor public organizations for funding sources when in opposition to our legislative agenda or mission, respond appropriately if they receive federal tax dollars
- MRF to monitor and report on non-transportation federal agencies becoming increasingly involved in motorcycling such as the Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- MRF to continue to closely monitor the federally mandated Affordable Health Care Act for potential motorcyclist and motorcycling discrimination
- MRF to fully engage the EPA on upcoming activity on motorcycle emission regulations and motorcycle drive train mandates
- MRF to support the Black Box Protection Act to regulate black boxes in motorcycles, seek to clarify the rights of the vehicle owner to ownership of the recorded data
- MRF to monitor fair tolling concepts on federally funded roads and roads supported by federal bonds
- MRF to seek to add clarification of an "autocycle" as third class of vehicle at the federal level
- Lane splitting was discussed and decided it should remain a state by state issue with the MRF providing resources, there is no federal lane splitting initiative at this time
- Federal Agency Motorcycle Design Standards – MRF to oppose non motorcycle manufacturer mandated specific design standards
- SSMRO's by discussion and vote requested the MRF engage with multiple partners to draft federal anti-profiling language specific to motorcyclists and work to include it in the upcoming Congressional session
- Request for MRF Sustaining Member Motorcycle Club Committee to lead an effort to provide resources to clarify the usage of the terms gang, club, known associate, associate when referring to motorcyclists
- There was agreement that there would be an effort by the MRF and SSMRO's to get non-motorcycle powered two- and three-wheelers such as mopeds, scooters, and the various cabin-based steering wheel type vehicles removed from motorcycle crash statistics.
- There was discussion on the novelty helmet educational promotional campaign by NHTSA to the Law Enforcement Community and it was decided the SSMRO's should be educating their members on the definition of a helmet as practically used in their states

With the current U.S. Congress, combined with our comprehensive and aggressive legislative agenda, the MRF Legislative Committee strongly encourages our SSMRO partners and our MRF members to actively engage in a lively motorcycling dialogue with their U.S. House of Representative and U.S. Senate Members as an immediate priority. We will need our strong presence to continue with this Congress. If your SSMRO needs any assistance in planning a trip to Washington D.C. to begin or strengthen the dialogue with your members of Congress, contact the MRF Washington D.C. office at 202-546-0983. We would also like to encourage you to finalize your plans to attend our national biker lobby day event in Washington D.C., Bikers Inside the Beltway, on Thursday May 12th, 2016. See our website at www.mrf.org for more details.

FROM THE AMA State News

DENVER, Colo. – The state’s effort to make lane splitting legal for motorcyclists died on an 8-5 vote of the Transportation and Energy Committee of the legislature. Sponsor Gordon Klingenschmitt (R-Colorado Springs) told the Colorado press he was pleased the bill received as many positive votes as it did. Two major opponents of the bill were the committee chairman, Max Tyler (D-Lakewood) and the Colorado Highway Patrol. They claimed that not enough evidence was available to demonstrate that lane splitting is safe.

LINCOLN, Neb. – A bill to repeal the state’s mandatory motorcycle helmet law passed the state Legislature’s Transportation and Telecommunications Committee by a 5-1 vote, and two senators immediately promised to filibuster efforts to get the bill through. State Sen. Dave Bloomfield (R-Hoskins) has made the bill his priority this session. The bill would allow riders 21 and older to choose whether to wear a helmet and would establish a brain injury trust fund, using a \$19 hike in motorcycle registration fees.

JACKSON, Miss. – Motorcyclists would be allowed to use the shoulder of the road to proceed around “stalled traffic” under H.B. 109, introduced by state Rep. William Tracy Arnold (R-Booneville). The provision would apply if traffic is moving at a speed of less than 30 mph and the motorcycle travels no more than 10 mph faster than other traffic. The bill also would prohibit other motorists from impeding motorcyclists engaging in this maneuver.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – A bill sponsored by state Rep. Jay Reedy (R-Erin) that would exempt drivers and passengers 21 or older from the requirement to wear a helmet while operating or riding a motorcycle, if the person is covered by health or medical insurance other than insurance through TennCare, is stalled in the House Finance Committee while Reedy tries to answer questions from legislators. Reedy took the bill “off notice,” but said it is not dead this session. There will be no further consideration of the bill unless Reedy asks to bring it back up.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – The ongoing effort to save the Bonneville Salt Flats International Speedway got support from state legislators in February. A resolution urges the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to restore the speedway “to safe high-speed racing conditions.” The resolution unanimously passed the House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee. The Salt Flats are facing a depletion of salt that forced the cancellation of all 2015 racing events. The AMA is working with the Save the Salt Coalition, the Utah Alliance and other groups and government officials to devise a plan to save the Bonneville Salt Flats.

SEATTLE, Wash. – The first meeting of the state’s Motorcycle Safety Education Advisory Board is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 19 at the Moto Shed, 3208 Queen Anne Ave. North. The advisory board represents the state’s motorcyclists in the development of the Motorcycle Safety Program, including operator training programs, safety education and outreach efforts. The board meets a minimum of four times a year. Those attending the meeting will be able to share their views with the board.

International News

BHAGALPUR, India – Motorcyclists caught riding without a helmet will not be allowed to buy fuel, as well as facing fines and other penalties. Bhagalpur District Magistrate Adesh Titarmare enacted the new penalty after several motorcycle crashes were attributed to “non-use of helmets,” according to a report in the *Times of India* newspaper. Bhagalpur requires all motorcyclists and their passengers to wear helmets while riding.

GENOA, Italy – The mayor has decreed that Vespa motor scooters built before 1999 will be banned from the city’s streets for 12 hours each weekday to reduce air pollution. Genoa is the birthplace of Enrico Piaggio, who invented the Vespa. A report in *The Telegraph*, a British newspaper, says the decree infuriated Genoa’s 20,000 scooter riders, who mobilized on social media using a hashtag that translates as “Don’t touch my Vespa.”

That’s it for this month. Ride safe and enjoy, Zman

sgt of Arms



George Swatzbaugh (GK)

George has had a death in the family so no report this month.



PR



Linda Vernon



Hello Everyone, I hope everyone had a great month. We have some good things coming up like our Rodeo in May. We are going to need volunteers to help with that. So come on out and help and have a real fun day at the same time. I will be working hard to pass the word so we have a great turnout. I hope everyone has a good and safe month. See you all at the next meeting.

Linda Vernon
PR



Webmaster



Steve Ammerman



Hi Polk County!

The 20th Annual Leesburg Bikefest is coming in April. Our brothers and sisters with ABATE of Florida – Lake County Chapter are once again hosting their campground. Party with friends and support the Lake County Chapter.

DATES: April 21, 22, 23, & 24, 2016

WHERE: 27150 Haywood Worm Farms Rd Okahumpka 34762 Eagles Aerie # 4273

TIME: gates open Thurs 7 am NO Early arrivals Gates close Sunday at noon.

COST: \$13. per person, per nite -Includes Tax Kids 10 & under FREE

We can NOT accept reservations – CASH ONLY ABATE of Florida, Inc, Lake web:

<http://lake.abateflorida.com/>

Ride safely and have fun.

Steve Ammerman

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.

Editor



Darlin Deb



Hey Guys!!

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 abateneewsletter@hotmail.com.

Until next time, enjoy the ride and be safe!

DD

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 abateneewsletter@hotmail.com

I wanted to share something that Steve Ammerman posted on FB on the Polk County Motorcycle Riders FB page. Good information for new riders....and maybe some old ones. Thanks Steve for sharing!!!

I was talking to a new rider the other day. She was so sure of her ability until I started asking her a few simple questions. It reminded me to share these few simple tips that can save lives.

1. Do you know the difference between steering and swerving?
2. Do you use both brakes?
3. Do you use your high beam headlights during daytime?
4. Do you ride in the rain?

The answers are simple to veteran riders, but are lost on new rider's course graduates. Most rider's courses do not go into these issues. They can save you or someone you love.

1. Steering is generally done while your feet are on the ground and at low speeds. As you lift your feet the geometry changes. You use weight shift and "swerving" to steer your bike. Swerving generally uses your wheel angle and centrifugal force to steer the bike. Try this, while riding down a straight road, push gently forward on your left grip. Your thought would be that the bike would go right, but wrong, it goes left. The harder you push, the sharper you turn. Learn this before any mountain riding. If you hit a curve too fast it can save your butt.

2. After asking her if she used her front brake, she answered "That's all I use!". When braking, use both. About 70% of your braking power is with the front wheel. In an emergency you may need that other 30%. Also you need to know when to go easy on the front brakes. Loose gravel or rain can put you down if you use too much front brake. Using only the back brakes severely limits your ability to stop. Practice using both, you never know when you'll need 100% braking power.

3. During daylight hours, bikes are hard to see. Low beams are designed to prevent blinding oncoming traffic. That is not an issue in the daylight. You want that headlight pointed at oncoming traffic so they will see you. You will not blind them.

4. Riding in the rain can be uncomfortable, but you need to know the proper way to do it. It takes practice. Ride in light rain and light traffic to practice. You never know when you will be caught in a shower. REMEMBER: Use very little front brakes while riding in the rain, especially while turning. Your front wheel can slide putting you down.

Riding safely takes practice. Your loved ones are depending on you to come home in one piece.

Join Us!

At our next meeting April 17th, 2016 at **1:00PM**

Boondocks

8515 US Hwy 98 North
Lakeland, FL



Upcoming ABATE Events

Polk County Chapter

Apr 17th  Chapter Meeting 1:00pm @ **BOONDOCKS 8515 Hwy 98 North**
Apr 22nd  Newsletter submission deadline






State

Apr 9th  State Meeting Hosted by Brevard County

Other Chapters (go to www.abateflorida.com/events/index.php to see flyers)

Apr 21-24  Lake County, Leesburg Bike Fest
Apr 16th  Innerstate Memorial Run
Apr 17th  Gator Alley Casino Run

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

FYI ya'all

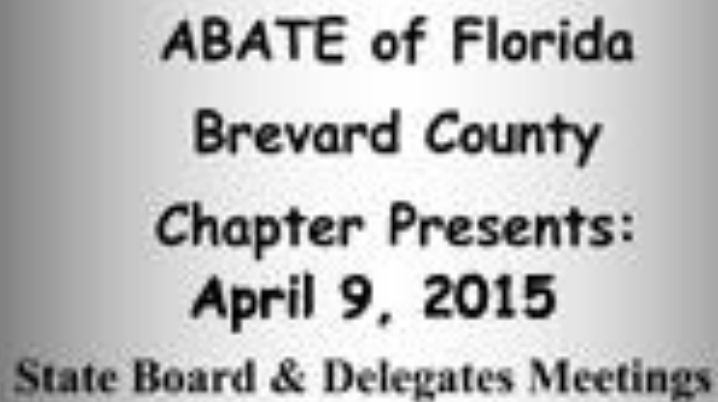
**\$10,000 Drawing Was Held
March 12, 2016 at Noon**

Congratulations To Our 2016 Winners

\$7,000 First Prize
Rich Loghry of
Clay County, FL

\$2,000 Second Prize
William Deaver of
Lake County, FL

\$1,000 Third Prize
Christine Marshall of
Bradford County, FL



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Michael Dunn
Vice President


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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
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**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: \$ _____