

ABATE of Florida, Inc. • Polk County Chapter

The Iron Press

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

March 2016

Vol 33 issue 3

Chapter Meeting – Mar 20th @ 1:00pm



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
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Secretary	Lo Alexander	863-688-3161	secretary1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com
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From the President



Z man

Hey y'all. First, most of us know "Puddles". Well she had a brain aneurysm and spent time in the hospital. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers for a healthy recovery.

I would like to thank Keith Merritt from Merritt Law for coming and speaking to all of us regarding accidents. The information was helpful.

Next, we had a meeting to discuss events we would like to do, both for fun and fundraising. Two events have a lot of support, and we are going to do them. A "Skills on Wheels Rodeo", and another "Scooters and Shooters" poker run. See flyers in the next newsletter for details. We will be getting together March 12 to finish getting our trailer in shape. Volunteers are appreciated. Let George, Sgt. @ Arms, know if you can help (410-852-6663), sgtatarms3.polkcountyabate@gmail.com. The only possible event hang-up is Scooters & Shooters, due to insurance issues. More on that later.

Bike week is upon us as I write this, and I hope all who go have a safe and great time. It's the 75th anniversary and is expected to be more crowded than usual.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you at our next meeting, Sunday, March 20.

Ride safe and enjoy, Zman.

Vice-President



Greg Vernon

Hey All

Our meetings are growing and growing so tell a friend or coworker to come out a see what we do. With bike week upon us I hope everybody gets a chance to go, have fun and enjoy the nice riding weather we have here. We have some great fun events coming up soon so stay tuned in to our social media page on Facebook or our newsletter on our webpage for all the latest updates. Be very safe out there all my brothers and sisters. Accidents can and will happen, I know all too well.

Greg
VP, Polk County ABATE

Secretary



Lo Alexander



Feb. 21, 2016 ABATE of FLORIDA Inc., Polk County Chapter Meeting MINUTES
The Boondocks, 8515 US 98 North Lakeland, Florida 33815

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S meeting attendees: John T. McDermott Roadmap, Ralph Snearly, Linda Vernon, Greg Vernon, Steve Ammerman, G.K. Swatzbaugh III, Pat Ranney, Diane Ranney, Zman, Rick Lewis, Kim Struve, Rawson Goff, Bill Hardy, Naruena McLeod, Steve (Muff) McLeod, Rafael Febre, Veronica Febre, Bill Cone, Keith Merritt, Kevin Cullison, Darlin Deb, Earl Wemer, Don Jones, Lo Alexander,

1:15 GK called the meeting to order. President Zman led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Moment of Silence. He explained that the Board Meeting had run late. He welcomed everyone. Then he introduced our Guest Speaker.

Guest Speaker, **Keith Merritt** gave us all a pamphlet "How to Handle Yourself After a Motorcycle Accident". He gave us his legal perspective as well as common sense advice such as "First, get to safety". Also, photographs of the scene and witness info can be very helpful. Keith is eager to be of help to you. If your problem requires specialized help he will hook you up.

President, Zman told the chapter about upcoming events.

VP, Greg Vernon thanked everyone for coming.

Secretary, Lo Alexander brought The ABATE of Florida, Inc. 2015 Financial Report for the membership to peruse. January's minutes were accepted UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer, Ralph Snearly gave a concise report which EVERYONE ACCEPTED.

Sgt. At Arms, GK proposed that Saturday March 12 would be a good day to finish the trailer. It needs minor repairs, final stripping and priming. Once we have a design figured out, we give it to Earl. Earl volunteered to have it painted! GK suggested 7:30am as a start time. Meet at Hammer's

PR, Linda Vernon reminded us that Dewey is planning a lunch run.

Safety Officer, Bill Cone brought safety supplies. We need to find more sources

Legislation, Zman informed us of the progress of the Vulnerable Road Users Bill and of the possibility of Split Lanes in Colorado. See Zman's report in this newsletter.

Products, Lo Alexander asked if anyone wanted any products from State.

Webmaster, Steve Ammerman posts our events on the ABATE sites as well as on FB. See Steve's article in this newsletter for more.

Delegates' Report, Tim McDermott. Dewey Cain was absent and excused. Tim reported that Mudder was stepping down due to illness in the family.....We voted again to keep dues at the prices they have always been-NO increases. Those monies, however, will ALL go to State. The annual State party will be Oct. 7, 8 and 9 in the Ocala area. More info to come.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Realizing State ABATE needs more income, our discussion concluded that we would send \$750.00. We will hold the popular Skills on Wheels RODEO Saturday, May 21 at the Boondocks starting at 1:00p. Registration will begin at 11a. Refreshments will be available. Our new favorite event, ``SCOOTERS `n` SHOOTERS'' will be Saturday, June 18. Tickets will be sold ahead of time. Register @ Brunch Box by 8:45am. Ride to the range, shoot with your choice of the rifles we will provide; then off to Cherry Pockets for LUNCH!!!

Good of the Order: PUDDLES (Teresa Smith) suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. She was in ICU at LRMC. Puddles has volunteered for almost all our projects. Husband Stitch has served as Webmaster, Treasurer and Membership Trustee for ABATE...Many thanks to **Ginny** of the **Boondocks** for volunteering her back yard for our RODEO. There will be plenty of space for our ``Skills on Wheels'' games. Thanks also for the wonderful hospitality at every meeting.

Adjourn: 2:45p to everyone's satisfaction.

Respectfully Submitted, Lo Alexander February 25, 2016.



Keith Merritt wants to make a correction to what was said at the last meeting when he gave his presentation.

CORRECTION: I mistakenly suggested the existence of PIP coverage for motorcyclists at the recent Abate meeting. I apologize for suggesting that Personal Injury Protection (“PIP”) coverage of car drivers covers injured motorcyclists. As many of you already know, PIP coverage isn’t available to motorcyclists.

I re-read the PIP Statutes after I spoke and realized that the PIP coverage for automobiles covers the “insured, relatives residing in the same household, persons operating the insured motor vehicle, passengers in the motor the motor vehicle and suffering self-propelled vehicle.” This DOES NOT cover injured



vehicle, and other persons struck by bodily injury while not an occupant of a means that PIP coverage for cars motorcyclists.



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 to go on a **FUN RUN** Sunday morning, March 20th. If interested meet him at Brunch Box to have breakfast first. KSU 9:00 am sharp!

Meeting of Friends

Nothing for March

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.

Membership



Darlin Deb



Rodeo time in May!!

Membership Report

Total Members: 144

Thank you for renewal: Don Jones, Vickie Bradshaw, Kevin Cullison, Dewy Cain, Jeff Schilling, Charles Wallner and Me

Past Due in January: John Gsellman and Michael Harman

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

Due in March: William Ford, Harry Housour

Membership Dues are \$20.00 and Lifetime is \$150.00, no changes as of this month.

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 MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

Topics this month:

1. Open Carry Bill
2. Vehicle Rescue Bill
3. Stand Your Ground Bill
4. Vulnerable Road Users Bill (HB 253 & SB332)
5. Lane Splitting in Colorado
6. Nebraska Helmet Law
7. Mississippi Bill regarding stalled traffic & motorcycles
8. Tennessee Helmet Bill
9. Hardcore Helmet Laws in India
10. Italy bans Vespa scooters to 12 hour daily use

ATTEMPT TO REVIVE OPEN-CARRY BILL SCUTTLED

The Senate on Thursday didn't take another shot at reviving a measure that would have allowed people with concealed-weapons licenses to openly carry guns in public places. Sponsor Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, had proposed attaching the proposal (SB 300) onto a separate bill that aims to lift a ban on the manufacturing or sales of a maritime tool known as a slungshot. The tool was once a 19th-Century gang weapon. But Gaetz withdrew his amendment because of a Senate rule that bars lawmakers on the Senate floor from tacking language from a bill that has stalled in the committee process onto a separate bill. "All we have wanted throughout this legislative session was an opportunity to have the debate," Gaetz said. "We don't fear the debate. We wanted to have the debate and present the evidence and have the opportunity in the court of public opinion, and on the floor of the Legislature, to make our case." The open-carry measure --- approved a month ago in the House in a mostly party-line 80-38 vote --- did not get through the Senate Judiciary Committee. The slungshot measure (HB 4009) will go before the Senate for a final vote Friday. The House has unanimously approved the slungshot proposal.

VEHICLE RESCUE BILL, 18 OTHERS SENT TO SCOTT

Legislative leaders have sent 19 bills to Gov. Rick Scott, including a measure (HB 131) that would provide legal protections to good Samaritans who break into locked cars to rescue animals and vulnerable people. Sponsored by House Majority Leader Dana Young, R-Tampa, Rep. Jared Moskowitz, D-Coral Springs, and Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto, R-Fort Myers, the bill focuses on situations such as pets, senior citizens and children being trapped in hot cars. It would provide legal immunity for damage that rescuers might cause to vehicles while trying to help the animals or vulnerable people. Legislative leaders sent the bills to Scott on Tuesday and Wednesday. He can sign, veto or allow the bills to become law without his signature. Among the other measures is a bill (HB 381), sponsored by Rep. Jake Raburn, R-Lithia, and Sen. Travis Hutson, R-Elkton, that would broaden a public-records exemption as part of an issue stemming from "The Ultimate Fighter" television show. The mixed-martial arts company Ultimate Fighting Championship taped the show last year in Florida, with matches shown at later dates. A Senate staff analysis said UFC contended a broadened public-records exemption for proprietary business information was needed because of concerns that the results of the taped matches could become public before the broadcasts.

'STAND YOUR GROUND' CHANGE STALLS IN HOUSE

The House did not take a second shot at a proposal to change the burden of proof in "stand your ground" self-defense cases. After his committee held its final scheduled meeting of the legislative session Thursday, Judiciary Chairman Charles McBurney said it was his decision not to bring up the proposal (SB 344), which was backed by Second Amendment groups. "There were some concerns which were raised with the bill when we first got it," McBurney, R-Jacksonville, said. "I had concerns from the members. I had concerns from certain groups about the bill. I had concerns from victims' groups. So we kind of put the pause button on the bill." McBurney said he also heard from influential National Rifle Association lobbyist Marion Hammer, but the two "disagree" on the bill. Hammer said in an email Thursday that McBurney is the only House member to contact her to discuss any concerns. "I am waiting for the 'pause button' to be

removed," Hammer said in an email. "The prosecutors' association opposes the bill, however, the public defenders' association supports it. NRA and the public defenders are looking out for people caught in a legal trap created in part by prosecutors. Prosecutors appear to be looking out for their own convenience." The issue, which deals with pre-trial evidentiary hearings in "stand your ground" cases, appeared to die late last year in the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee. But the Senate went ahead and passed the bill and sent it to the House, raising the possibility that the proposal could be revived before the legislative session ends March 11. In "stand your ground" cases, pre-trial evidentiary hearings are held to determine whether defendants should be immune from prosecution. The Florida Supreme Court ruled last year that defendants have the burden of proving during the hearings that they should be shielded from prosecution. The Senate bill would have shifted that burden to prosecutors.

Here is an update on the Vulnerable Road User Bills.

HB 253 - Passed all three House committees and is now on the Second Reading Calendar. Next will come the Third Reading and the House Floor vote.

SB 332 - Passed all three Senate committees, however in the last committee Sen. Jeff Clemens (West Palm Beach) put forth an amendment that took out the motorcycle from the Bill. The next action is to go to the Senate floor for a vote. We have one last chance to do an amendment to add motorcycles back into the Bill.

We need to call Sen. Clemens to support putting "motorcycles" back into the bill. 850-487-5022 & 727-563-2100

From the AMA

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.

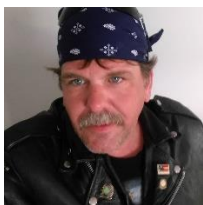
International News

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."

Till next month, Ride Safe and Enjoy, Zman

Sgt of Arms



George Swatzbaugh (GK)

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MHIL-31858; FL-HI8172
FL Radon: R2432; 203-K P-1791
gk@emeraldinspectionsservice.com

Hello Abate Members.

By the time you read this we will have had planned out 2 great events for upcoming fundraisers. We are doing a Rodeo in May at Boondocks. In June we are doing Shooters and Scooters. Please read the newsletter for dates and times. We will need volunteers for both events. So if you can spare some time, please see me and we will gladly appreciate the effort.

On the 12th March we are having a working party on the trailer and inventory. If you are not going to Bike Week Daytona, this would be a great time to get in a ride and help the chapter. Everyone is welcome to help out for this time. Prior to our April meeting we are going to be doing a mock rodeo and we will again need volunteers for this event.

As far as riding, I am leading a ride to Leesburg on 19 March 2015. This event is for honoring Veterans, Fire Fighters and Police. This is a friendly Non-Abate Ride. If you like more information, please contact me personally and I will give you the info. Also, I would like to try to plan an overnight trip down the road this year where we as members can just get together and ride without meetings or planning. I feel this would be a great time to bring everyone together. I will have a few ideas next meeting and please feel free to share yours.

Lastly, we are approaching the time where we are riding the wind more than in the winter months. Please remember that tuning up and maintaining your bike is a necessity. If you have a question or need a tech tip please email any Abate Member as we all try to help each other. Additionally, we are adding a way to pay on line for our events and membership.

Ride The Wind!

GK

Sgt @ Arms, Polk County Abate

410-852-6663 (cell)

PR



Linda Vernon

Hello

Plans are in the works for new events coming up and it's good PR for every member to help get the word out on these upcoming events. It was a very informative meeting last time and it was nice to see so many people attend. Please be safe while out riding.

Ride Safe

Linda Vernon, PR

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Webmaster



Steve Ammerman



Hi Polk County,

It's that time of year again; Bike Week signals that Spring is here. More bikes on the road and more dangers ahead. First of all, check your bike before leaving home. Fluid levels, air pressure, tread depth and cable lubrication are a must for hitting the road, but remember that many of the Bike Week bikers have not ridden since October due to weather back home. Cagers are not used to all of the bikes on the road. Look Twice goes for us too. Your safety and that of your passenger depends on YOU watching out for those who are not. Be safe out there...

Steve Ammerman,
Webmaster



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 abatnewsletter@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 abatnewsletter@hotmail.com

Seffner man dies in crash on SR 60 in Mulberry

By [Kaitlyn Pearson](#)
The Ledger

Published: Monday, February 15, 2016 at 9:33 a.m.

Lucia Flores-Rubio



MULBERRY — A 43-year-old man died Sunday after a vehicle pulled in front of his motorcycle. Anthony Cook of Seffner was declared dead at the scene by EMS, according to the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

About 4:20 p.m. Sunday, Cook was driving a 2012 Yamaha motorcycle west on State Road 60 approaching Coronet Road, according to the Sheriff's Office. He was traveling in the inside lane at highway speeds when a 2004 Ford Explorer, driven by 23-year-old Lucia Flores-Rubio, attempted to turn left onto SR 60 from Coronet Road. Flores-Rubio of Plant City pulled into Cook's path, causing the motorcycle to strike the Explorer on the left side just behind the driver's door, according to the Sheriff's Office. The Explorer was propelled about 25 feet and rotated 90 degrees before coming to rest in both the median and inside lane of travel. The motorcycle came to rest near the point of collision in the inside lane.

Flores-Rubio was taken to Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center for minor injuries, according to reports. She was not wearing a seat belt.

Deputies determined Flores-Rubio is not a citizen of the United States and she does not have a driver's license. After being treated for her injuries, she was charged with driving without a valid driver's license involving a crash death and was booked in the Polk County Jail. Donna Wood, Sheriff's Office spokeswoman, said Flores-Rubio is a resident alien, which means she legally resides in the country but does not have citizenship. "She will have to face the charges in court at a future date," she said. SR 60 had one lane open in the eastbound lanes for about four hours during the investigation, which is still ongoing.

Woman dies from injuries due to motorcycle crash

LAKE WALES — A 53-year-old woman died Sunday evening after being involved a motorcycle accident Saturday afternoon, said the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

About 2 p.m. Saturday, Dennis Owens, 52, and Louise Callaghan, 53, both of Haines City, were heading east in the outside lane of State Road 60 on Owens' red 2008 Honda Goldwing motorcycle, reports said.

The two were about a mile west of Deland Avenue in Lake Wales when for undetermined reasons the tread of the rear tire on the motorcycle began to separate along the vulcanized seam, reports said.

Owens lost control, which caused the motorcycle to topple over onto its side and slide about 50 feet. Owens was thrown from the motorcycle but Callaghan came to rest with the motorcycle partially on top of her, reports said.

Callaghan was taken to Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center for her injuries and was pronounced dead Sunday evening, reports said. Owens suffered facial lacerations and abrasions but did not need emergency transport.

Join Us!

At our next meeting March 20th, 2016 at **1:00PM**

Boondocks

8515 US Hwy 98 North

Lakeland, FL



Upcoming ABATE Events

Polk County Chapter

Mar 20th  **Chapter Meeting 1:00pm @ BOONDOCKS 8515 Hwy 98 North**
Mar 25th  **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)

Mar 16th  **Freedom Tribute to Joy**
Mar 19th  **Gulf Coast Scavenger Hunt**
Mar 18-19th  **Estero 14th Annual Legendary Party**

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
Brevard County
Chapter Presents:
April 9, 2015
State Board & Delegates Meetings**

Meetings held at Oasis Bar & Grill
200 Willard Avenue Cocoa FL 32922
Board Meeting at 12:00 pm & Delegates Meeting at 2:00 pm

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ABATE OF FLORIDA INC.

ESTERO RIVER CHAPTER

PRESENTS

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ABATE OF FLORIDA INC

Freedom Chapter

A Tribute To Joy Ride

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Rain or Shine

Sign-ups

9:00 - 10 am

at Breakfast Station #3

1242 S Broad Street

Brockville, 34601

This will be a Dice Ride.

Donations \$10 per card.

Additional cards \$5, \$20

per riding couple. Kick

Stands Up at 10:00 am -

Last Bike In at 2:00 pm

Winners will be announced

after Last Bike In. Must

be present to win.

Event ends at 6:00 pm.

Proceeds benefits ABATE

of Florida Inc-Freedom

Chapter and Relay For

Life. Membership/Safety

Information Available



Steps Include:

Breakfast Station

Horns and Crown

Reber

Coney Island

Sail Inn

Music By Rebel Soul

1 - 5 PM



Vendors



Vendor Donations By Black

Mark-It Arts and Horse &

Crown Lounge to benefit

Relay for Life in Joy's

Honor and 50/50 Drawing

For More information contact

Robert "Tort" Hancock

(888-1276) or rtort@abate.com

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ABATE-Polk County Chapter Life Member



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President

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Fax: 863-686-6694

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Thurs. Fri.
Sat.

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Mailing address, P.O. Box 92412, Lakeland, FL 33804 or visit us at www.merrittlawoffice.net

Contact your elected officials – They work for YOU!

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

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



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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: \$ _____