

ABATE of Florida, Inc. • Polk County Chapter



# The Iron Press

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

October 2016

Vol 36 issue 10

## Chapter Meeting – Oct. 16th @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  
Wienie Bite  
Slow Race

**\$5.00 Donation per person, Participation free with Donation**  
**Do overs \$5.00**  
**Awards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place**  
**Separate Award for Weenie Bite & Slow Race**  
**50/50**  
**Held at Boondocks - 8515 US Hwy 98, Lakeland, Florida**  
**Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be available**  
**Saturday Nov. 12th**  
**11am -4pm**  
**Signups from 11:00 – 1:00**

For more information call Mark "Zman" (PRES) @ 863-559-9550 or Greg (VP) 863-934-9719  
Or email [president1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com](mailto:president1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com)  
MEMBERSHIP AND SAFETY INFORMATION AVAILABLE

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# American Bikers Aimed Toward Education

## 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

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Position	Name	Email
<b>President</b>	James "Doc" Reichenbach	<a href="mailto:statepresident@abateflorida.com">statepresident@abateflorida.com</a>
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<b>Products</b>	Steve "Caretaker" Knee	<a href="mailto:stateproducts@abateflorida.com">stateproducts@abateflorida.com</a>
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<b>Delegates</b>	Tim "Roadmap" McDermott	863-688-3161	<a href="mailto:Delegates1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com">Delegates1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com</a>
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## From the President



Z man

### PRESIDENTS REPORT OCT. 2016 NEWSLETTER

Hey y'all,

Hope my fellow ABATE sisters and brothers are well and getting lots of "wind therapy". First item to mention is it's only 2 weeks until the State BIKER BASH in Arcadia happens for 3 days! Oct 7, 8, and 9. Even if you can't make it for multiple days, it's just \$15 to go down for a whole day (like Fri or Sat) from noon til midnight. And all proceeds go to ABATE of FLORIDA, INC, so it's like recycling our own money for us! Next to mention is the gun raffle also benefitting us all by having proceeds go to ABATE of FLORIDA, INC. For a \$5.00 donation, you can win a Henry 30/30 rifle, or for second prize, an Over/Under Shotgun!! See Dewey at the Chapter meeting, or call him at 863-688-0608 and get your tickets before the drawing December 10. Next item is our chapter is going to put on another "Skills On Wheels" motorcycle rodeo at the Boondocks in November. We will be seeking volunteers as always, and will discuss "loose ends" at the October Chapter meeting October 16, also at the Boondocks. Ask anyone who was at the last rodeo in May, and they will tell you it was fun for volunteers and all who showed up to watch or enter the events. There will be flyers at the next chapter meeting for anybody who wants to spread the word. Finally, our Chapter is proud to be having our 33rd ANNUAL TOY RUN to benefit Polk County Christmas Angels, Inc., for needy children in Polk County. This is a great way to shine a positive image on ABATE and motorcycling and get into the spirit of Christmas. It will be December 4th. See flyer in this newsletter. Next to mention, the "cookout" at our local motorcycle dealer, Harley Davidson of Lakeland. We manned the grill Sept. 24 and were able to add funds to our chapter. A huge "THANK YOU" to Tim "Roadmap" for running that show, and to the volunteers that made it possible. A special thanks to HD of Lakeland for letting us be a part of their Community Spirit and generosity.

Also, please exercise your privilege to vote next month!  
Ride Safe and Enjoy, Zman





# Vice President

Greg Vernon



Hey all

Sorry I missed the last meeting we we're out of town. Well our Rodeo flyers are out so we need to be steadfast get the word out . This one I'm sure will be bigger and better. Had a great day at Lakeland Harley with our chapter and thank you to all that attended and worked so hard to to help raise funds for our chapter. Great riding weather around the corner so be safe out there

Ride safe and ride free  
Greg Vernon, VP



Secretary

Lo

September 18, 2016 ABATE of Florida, Inc., Polk County Chapter meeting MINUTES  
The Boondocks, 8515 US 98 North, Lakeland, Florida 33809

THANK YOU to today's Meeting attendees: Mike Gray, Dewey Cain, Ralph Snearly, Lo Alexander, Kim Lewis, Crazy Rick, Judy Gulley, Melvin Gully, Bill Hardy, Kevin Cullison, Joe Towry, Steve Ammerman, Stephen Klapach Jr. "Block", Don Jones, Vickie Bradshaw, Bill Howe, Muff McLeod, Muffett McLeod, Candi Cahill, Z Man, Tim McDermott,  
1:00p The Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence were led by President Z Man who then spoke of our need to finalize details of our events and the State FALL BIKER BASH. We need a Santa for the December 4th. TOYRUN; we'll need serious help with the Skills on Wheels RODEO; and we'll need light help October 2 at Lakeland Harley-Davidson. We will have a "drawing" for Biker Bash tickets later in the meeting.

VP, Greg Vernon was absent and excused.

Secretary, Lo Alexander thanked everyone for coming out today and signing in. The ending time for the hamburgers at H-D has been lowered from 4p to 3p as reported in last month's Minutes. Lo handed out the new version of the chapter's Sponsorship Opportunity Form. No responses were noted. Corrections will still be made. A Santa graphic [for the front of the TOYRUN T-shirt] was passed around. Sponsors' names will be on back.

Treasurer, Ralph Snearly gave his usual comprehensive report which was received well.  
Sgt. At Arms, Tim McDermott thanked everyone who came out to ride this morning. He asked for volunteers and got some.  
Membership, Debbie Daggett was absent and excused.  
PR, Ida Holland was absent and excused.  
Newsletter, Ida Holland was absent and excused.  
Products, Lo Alexander brought in small shirts and will proceed with the RODEO and TOYRUN shirts.  
Safety Officer, Rusty Goff was absent and excused.  
Legislation, Z Man warned us about imminent helmet legislation. Find out where your congress people stand on motorcycle issues. Look for Z Man's article in this newsletter.  
Webmaster, Steve Ammerman said that Mike of 102.5 FM, The Bone has posted our flyers on the Bone Biker Bar. See Steve's posts on <POLKCOUNTYMOTORCYCLERIDERS> and ABATE Facebook.

OLD BUSINESS is all set.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Gray spoke of supplemental warranties on vehicles and the FINE PRINT on them. He was sold a policy that in FINE PRINT excluded the very vehicle for which he bought the policy. The salesman and the dealership were ignorant of Mike's exclusion. Mike Moved and Dewey seconded that the delegates bring to the attention of the State, the following motion: Supplemental warranties on vehicle accessories not covered be printed in 2X print and be noted with an asterisk. MOTION PASSED

Good of the Order: We held a "drawing" among the members present. Our chapter had previously bought some tickets to the Fall Biker Bash. We had fun and tickets were bought. October 7, 8 and 9.

A million thanks to Ginny for her generous hospitality not only for the fine buffet every meeting day, but also for letting us run around in the Boondocks backyard with the RODEO and the TOYRUN. We couldn't operate without her.

Adjourn: 2:06p

Respectfully submitted, Lo Alexander September 20, 2016



ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC  
Polk County Chapter's



# 33rd ANNUAL TOY RUN

*Benefiting the*  
Polk County Christmas Angels, Inc



## SUNDAY DECEMBER 4, 2016

POLK COUNTY CHRISTMAS ANGELS WILL BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS  
That will benefit only POLK COUNTY CHILDREN

GATHERING AT CHRISTINA PARK 11:00AM – FREE ADMISSION  
W CR-540A LAKELAND, FL. 33813  
KICKSTANDS UP PROMPTLY AT 1:00PM

Ending at BOONDOCKS  
8515 US Highway 98 N Lakeland, FL 33801  
Decorate your bike to show Your Christmas Spirit  
There will be activities for the children so bring them along  
EVENT ENDING AT 4:00 PM

For more information call  
Mark "Zman"(PRES) @ 863-559-9550 or Greg (VP) 863-934-9719  
or email [president1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com](mailto:president1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com)

MEMBERSHIP AND SAFETY INFORMATION AVAILABLE  
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# CLASSIFIEDS.....

*Ads are free to Abate Members*

**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.

## Want to Ride?

Tim McDermott (better known as "Roadmap") is going on a **FUN RUN** before our meeting on Oct. 16th. He would love for you to join him!! If you're interested meet at the **Red Top Ng8** at **8:00 am** if you want to have breakfast first, **KSU 9:00 am** sharp. Come early and have breakfast with us.



**PR**

**Ida Holland**

Hey Ya All

I would like to extend a big thank you to Harley Davidson for allowing us to participate in there event. I would like to remind everyone of the up coming events, **Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Skills on Wheels, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Toy run.** I would also like to thank everyone who came out and helped with serving food for the Harley event.

Ida  
Ride Daily and Ride Safe

# Membership



*Darlin Deb*

*Membership Report: October 2016 Newsletter*

*Total Members: 140*

*Welcome New Members: David Zinser, Judith and Melvin Gulley*

*Thank you to our Renewing Members: Marvena and Steve McLeod, Chris Parsels*

*Reminder for Renewal: Please check your membership cards*

*Past Due in August: Kurt Barnett, Dana Clausen, John Gardner, Jessie Hicks, Alicia MacDonald, Jeannie Parnell, Abel Santos, Tony Shank, Virginia Sullivan, Tom Kinney (Santa)*

*Due in September: Bill Cone, Stephen Dubrey,*

*Due in October: Phillip Castor, Richard Lock, Keith Merritt, Jason Ritchie, Vernon Shoots*

*Due in November: Pete Drahorad, Bill Howe, Cathy Howe, Stephen Klapach,*

*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 need to update your contact information or e-mail address or did not receive your renewal card, please send me an email with your correct information at [membershipabatepolk@hotmail.com](mailto:membershipabatepolk@hotmail.com) or mail updates to Abate of Florida Inc. Polk County Chapter P.O. Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33816*

*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](mailto:membershipabatepolk@hotmail.com) or mail updates to ABATE of Florida Inc. – Polk County Chapter PO Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33806*

# Legislative



Zman

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT OCT. 2016 NEWSLETTER**

**State Legislator in Fatal Motorcycle Crash; Details Raise Questions About Strategies to Address Motorcycle Safety**

**WASHINGTON, DC –** This week, Pete Pettalia, a lawmaker who served in the Michigan State Legislature was fatally injured when a pickup truck turned directly into his lane. It is important to note that, Pettalia, was wearing a helmet at the time of the incident. State Representative Pettalia was an avid motorcyclist rights defender and advocate playing a key role in what would eventually become the repeal of the helmet law in Michigan state in 2012. News sources like CNN quickly tried to appeal to the irony that a critic of a universal helmet law was killed in a motorcycle accident. CNN's headline read, "Lawmaker Who Opposed Universal Helmet Law Dies in Motorcycle Crash." You would expect CNN to be more professional, the headline infers that the lack of a helmet was the reason for the fatality. This biased headline and notion is completely false as reports confirmed that the lawmaker was wearing a helmet at the time of the incident. This particular occurrence is, very unfortunately, one that has been repeated in the past. Despite helmet use, drivers of the four-wheeled variety often fail to see motorcyclists for a multitude of reasons that can include distracted or reckless driving, or simply the failure to be aware of their surroundings. It is for reasons like what caused the crash involving Mr. Pettalia and others like him, that groups such as the Motorcycle Riders Foundation emphasize the concept of crash prevention rather than safer crashing. The reality is, even if riders choose to wear a helmet and all the protective gear available, it is often not enough to stand up to reckless and distracted driving by motorists who fail to adhere to the oft-repeated biker adage. "Look Twice, Save a Life." Biker Rights' activists including SMROs (State Motorcyclist Rights Organizations) are doing their part to emphasize rider education for motorcyclists and driver awareness for the majority of the population behind the wheel. The battle is likely to mount, as referenced by the



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's recent Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) report which showed that crashes due to 'human choice' errors, specifically distracted driving, increased in 2015 by almost nine percent. Though it's not clear what caused the pickup truck driver to drive into Mr. Petallia's lane, a safe assumption is that it could have been prevented and that, in this instance, a helmet did not make any difference in keeping the lawmaker safe. Yet, there are many, many groups across the nation that point to helmet use as the 'cure all' problems. However, the tragedy that occurred this week speaks to what many bikers have been saying for years; let's work together on a meaningful campaign to enhance motorcycle safety to adopt a strategy that focuses on avoiding motorcycle crashes and not merely surviving them. NEWS FROM THE AMA September 2016

National and Regional News WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Coalition for Ethanol is telling fuel retailers they should require a minimum purchase of 4 gallons at blender pumps offering E15 and post signs saying that buying less than 4 gallons may violate federal law. The advice, found in the E15 & Flex Fuel Retailer Roadmap, 2016-2017 Edition, is intended to convince retailers to carry more E15 fuel (15 percent ethanol) and use blender pumps to dispense it. In 2012 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed the 4-gallon minimum purchase as part of its misfueling mitigation plan. But the agency withdrew the proposal after the AMA pointed out that motorcycle fuel tanks hold only 3-5 gallons. In addition, as much as a quart of the higher-ethanol fuel could remain in the dispenser hose after a vehicle finishes fueling, potentially damaging an engine not designed to operate on E15. Motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles are not EPA-approved to operate on ethanol blends higher than 10 percent and inadvertent misfueling with E15 is a major concern. The EPA requires that stations dispensing E10 and E15 from the same hose also provide a separate E10 pump for consumers who are not buying at least four gallons. State News FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – A federal lawsuit over loud motorcycles at rallies in Fayetteville and Fort Smith was tossed out of court because the plaintiff lacked legal standing. Ricky Holtsclaw, a former Texas police officer and self-proclaimed motorcycle-sound crusader, sued the cities and city officials for failing to enforce existing sound ordinances during the motorcycle rallies. He was seeking \$500,000 from each defendant and an injunction prohibiting all motorcycle rallies until the state adopts a policy to protect residents from "the audible assault perpetuated by illegally equipped, illegally loud motorcycles." In his ruling, U.S. District Judge P.K. Holmes said that Holtsclaw failed to state a plausible claim. The judge also wrote that Holtsclaw has no claim because he was not prosecuted and only seeks to challenge the decision not to prosecute others, so he lacks legal standing in the case. Fayetteville stages the Bikes, Blues & BBQ event, and Fort Smith hosts the Steel Horse Rally. SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Lane splitting by motorcyclists is legally recognized in California, now that Gov. Jerry Brown has signed A.B. 51 into law. The law defines lane splitting and authorizes the California Highway Patrol, in conjunction with motorcycle safety groups, to draft and distribute

guidelines for the practice. California is the first state in the nation to formally recognize lane splitting as a practice. Several other states—including Texas, Oregon, Nevada and Washington—have considered bills during the past few years to make lane splitting legal.

**Industry News** IRVINE, Calif. – The Motorcycle Industry Council has announced five female entrepreneurs who are part of the PowerLily “Gas Tank” program. The women will present their business plans to powersports industry leaders on Oct. 13, during the AIMExpo in Orlando, Fla. Participants include Debra Chin of MotoChic apparel and accessories; Alisa Clickenger of Women Motorcycle Tours; Katie McKay of ModernMotoMagazine.com; Ashley Simpson of Vixen Riding Gear; and Gina Woods of Open Road Incredible Edibles, which features organic and natural artisan, handcrafted specialty confectionery bars for riders. The PowerLily “Gas Tank” program is similar to the television show “Shark Tank,” where aspiring entrepreneur-contestants make business presentations to a panel of “shark” industry leaders.

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Skully Inc., a startup that promised high-tech helmets with heads-up displays, closed its doors and hinted at a bankruptcy filing amid allegations in a federal lawsuit that company founders Marcus and Mitchell Weller used company funds to pay for vacations, sports cars, apartment rent and a visit to a strip club. The lawsuit, filed by a former Skully employee, accused the Weller brothers of using corporate accounts “as their personal piggy banks.” The company raised \$2.4 million during a 2014 crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo. Reports say those early backers, many of whom pre-ordered the \$1,400 helmets, are unlikely to recoup their money or receive the Skully helmets.

**NORFOLK, Va.** – Websites and email addresses ending in “.motorcycles” are now available through Dominion Registries exclusively for the powersports industry. The company says the domain names are available only to verified companies and organizations in the powersports community.

**RICHMOND, Va.** – The state of Virginia is seeking an exemption from the U.S. EPA that would allow the sale of ethanol-free gasoline at marinas in Northern Virginia, Richmond-Petersburg and Hampton Roads. E0 currently is sold in areas of the state that are not required to sell reformulated fuel. The request passed the legislature as S.B. 557, which restricts the sale of E0 to marine recreational or commercial vehicles. The ethanol-free fuel could not be sold for use in street vehicles.

**MILWAUKEE** – Harley-Davidson Motor Co. introduced its first new major engine redesign since 1998, the Milwaukee-Eight. The new engine will power the company’s 2017 touring bikes and trikes. It will be available as either a 107-cubic-inch or 114-cubic-inch configuration. The Milwaukee-Eight marks just the eighth time in the company’s 113-year history that it has launched a completely redesigned version of its venerable V-twin engine.

**MILWAUKEE** – India-based Royal Enfield is scheduled to open its North American headquarters in Milwaukee on Sept. 10. Former Harley-Davidson executive Rod Copes has been leading the Royal Enfield expansion into the U.S. market. He told the Milwaukee Business Journal that the company hopes to position its motorcycles as urban transportation. The target market for the bikes is urban millennials. Royal Enfield North America employs about 20 people,

with 10 of them at the Milwaukee office and dealership. International News  
**CANBERRA, Australia** – The Australian government plans to assign a bandwidth for a national vehicle-to-vehicle communication network early in 2017, according to Wards Auto. The Australian Communications and Media Authority announced it plans to set aside the 5.9 GHZ band for its Cooperative Intelligent Transportation Systems network. Automotive industry officials said the announcement is an essential step in the development of an integrated, automated connected-driving system. The network will allow digitally-equipped vehicles to communicate with each other and with connected infrastructure.

**VARESE, Italy** – MV Agusta is reportedly in talks with three investors to buy Mercedes-AMG's 25 percent stake in the company. The Italian newspaper Il **Giorno** says the motorcycle company has been performing poorly financially and is a strained relationship with the German car maker. MV Agusta's chief executive, Giovanni Castiglioni, holds 49 percent of the company and previously announced plans to buy back the stock held by Mercedes-AMG. **AMA News PICKERINGTON, Ohio** – The American Motorcycle Hall of Fame Class of 2016 honors eight motorcycling greats, who will be inducted during a ceremony in Orlando, Fla., on Oct. 13. The Class of 2016 includes: Indian motorcycle designer and engineer Charles Franklin, racer and tuner Chris Haines, engine builder Dennis Mahan, race frame builder Jeff Cole, AMA road racing legend Miguel Duhamel, desert racer Jack Johnson, motorcycling pioneer Gloria Struck and dirt-track racer Ronnie Jones. The 2016 AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held the first night of the American International Motorcycle Expo, which runs Oct. 13-16 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. The gala event is open to the public and, for the third consecutive year, takes place in conjunction with AIMExpo. AIMExpo brings together consumers, dealers, manufacturers, and the world press in one location for global product launches, demo rides, motorcycling seminars, and much more. Make your candidates aware of the AMA Vote Like A Motorcyclist Campaign Provide questions to candidates today! Take Action! The American Motorcyclist Association is encouraging its members to let their candidates know about the 2016 AMA Vote Like A Motorcyclist campaign and ask them to respond to questions about issues important to motorcyclists. The 2016 AMA Voter Guide provides links to their campaign websites, candidates' responses from you and your fellow motorcyclists on issues such as access to public lands, distracted driving and E15 fuel. A key component is the federal incumbents' "AMA gauge" rating. A green indicator indicates a candidate is 100 percent in agreement with the priorities of the AMA and its members. We need your help to make the federal incumbents aware of this AMA gauge rating. Let them know that there is still time to raise their score by cosponsoring key bills that motorcyclists favor or by not cosponsoring bills unfavorable to motorcyclists. For each candidate from the two major political parties, the AMA provides questions on these issues. Candidate responses may be included in the AMA online voter guide. Be sure to send the prewritten message to your candidates by clicking on the "Take Action" link. Take Action! FROM THE MRF



**NEWS FROM THE HILL** In the House of Representatives this week, all eyes were on the House Freedom Caucus (a small group of Republicans who tout themselves as the most conservative of all Republicans serving in Congress) and its agenda of pressuring a vote to impeach IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. You may recall that Koskinen was one of the central figures that in the IRS scandal that lead up to the 2012 election that found the federal tax agency was being used to inappropriately harass conservative organizations. Under Koskinen's watch, tens of thousands of e-mails under congressional subpoena were illegally destroyed, inhibiting investigation into the agency's wrongdoing. Behind the scenes it remains unclear if the Freedom Caucus has the votes they need for an impeachment. There are a number of moderate Republicans who have signaled they are not willing to vote for impeachment. **The BIG Story** In MRF-related hill news, Senator Sullivan from Alaska delivered good on his promise to question the Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx about the agency's plans to reestablish the Motorcyclist Advisory Council. Secretary Fox officially made his response to Senator Sullivan this week, no less than 90 days after being asked. Secretary Foxx wrote that the agency is working through the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requirements to establish the Council and stakeholders would be afforded the opportunity to weigh in publicly about who would serve as members of the Council. He went on to give more insight on what the Council would focus on, specifically suggesting that it would, "...provide meaningful insight into the safety topics identified in the FAST Act, including barrier design; road design, construction, and maintenance practices; and the architecture and implementation of intelligent transportation system technologies." The MRF is pleased with Senator Sullivan's assistance with our inquiry (and all of the twenty legislators who signed on to a letter questioning the Agency for its intentions regarding Council participants) and hopes to continue to work with the Senator's office on this particular issue through the positive relationship built by ABATE of Alaska. **EXECUTIVE & REGULATORY UPDATES** Wisconsin Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner is taking the EPA to task for failing to produce legally required reports on the environmental impact of the Renewable Fuel Standard which concerns how much ethanol is in use in the U.S. In August, the EPA Office of Inspector General published a report finding the EPA's Office of Research and Development has not complied with a statutory requirement to provide a report to Congress every three years on the impact of biofuels including ethanol. In Sensenbrenner's letter sent late last week, the legislator demanded that the agency produce the report and provide updates by October 8. "Additional and updated research and analysis allows lawmakers to better gauge the strengths and weaknesses of policy we enact, and science-based decision-making is vital when evaluating our biofuel mandate," he wrote in the letter. As of this writing, the EPA has not yet responded. **STATE SNAPSHOT - WISCONSIN** Though generally speaking most state legislatures are out of session, that doesn't mean the work stops being done. Even in the "off" months, many SMROs like Wisconsin have to keep a close ear to the ground to ensure they are prepared for

the 2017 legislative year. ABATE of Wisconsin has recently been discussing its legislative agenda for 2017 and are in the process of identifying priorities which will include an autocycle bill to try and separate autocycles and motorcycles for reporting and classification purposes as well as augmenting a Right of Way law which they worked on in 2006 and 2010. Executive Director Dave "Chubby" Charlebois indicated that the law is limited and they were looking forward to adding additional components including violations for crossing left of center, etc. They have already secured sponsors in both houses for the measure and look forward to the legislative session getting underway. In other news, ABATE of Wisconsin will be undergoing some possible changes with Officer elections scheduled for October. The entire Board of Directors is up for reelection and many are deep in "campaign mode" sharing their profiles and accomplishments in their monthly newsletter to highlight what they have achieved on behalf of their members. Another initiative that Wisconsin bikers are focusing on is legislative training for their politically active members. For many, lobbying elected officials and clearly understanding the state legislative process is complicated. The hope was that with legislative training, more bikers in Wisconsin would get involved with state government affairs resulting in an even great voice for the biker community within the state. Though interest is starting out slow, ABATE of Wisconsin is hopeful that more of its members express an interest in this critical component for biker rights.

**ELECTION NEWS – Spending to Win** Compared to the astronomical numbers being spent in the presidential election, spending in congressional House races seem like a drop in the bucket. But I would venture to guess that what some would call a "drop in the bucket" is a pretty astronomical number to most. House elections have seen a jump in outside spending in the last few years, from about \$29 million in the 2012 elections to \$43 million in 2014. This time around, we've only seen about \$40 million spent on things like advertisements, TV spots, and websites, but we still have almost 7 weeks to go. There is a fairly good chance we will set a new record for this election when it's all said and done. Interestingly, there have been a few 'hot spots' where serious money has been dumped into local races and at the primary level. Kansas' race for the 1st Congressional District primary had a price tag of about \$2.7 million. The reason being that it's a super competitive seat and featured a fierce rivalry between incumbent Rep. Tim Huelskamp and newcomer Roger Marshall. Marshall defeated Huelskamp in the primary held August 2. Other 'top spenders' include Ohio's 8th Congressional District and Maine's 2nd District – also both battleground races. As we wrap up state primaries and move into the general election in November, we're likely to see more money dumped into battleground district and state races. The three weeks leading up to election day are prime spending weeks as 'undecideds' are picked off one by one. I don't have a crystal ball to tell you who wins what states, but what is for sure, is that TV networks and media moguls are turning a pretty profit as election spending hits an all-time high.

**MRF NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS MEETING OF THE MINDS IS UPON US!** This time next week, I will make my first trip ever to Oklahoma City and participate in

my first ever Meeting of the Minds, (or MotM as many of us has abbreviated). Though I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you during May's Bikers Inside the Beltway event, I am looking forward to connecting with more of our members and letting them know about what's been going on in Washington. It's been a whirlwind since I started back in May and I am eager to hear your thoughts and comments about we can continue doing to bring value to our members. I hope you won't be shy when I see you next week – come up and introduce yourself, and please forgive me if we've met before or spoken on the phone or traded emails and it takes me a few minutes to place you! Eventually I will have everyone memorized but that's going to take a little time. Flag me down next week, I want to hear from you and hear what you like about what your MRF is doing and what we could be doing more of. I take these comments to heart and am committed to ensuring all of our members have a voice. Come use yours next week in OKC! Until then, I remain: Your Friend in Washington, Megan Ekstrom  
Vice-President of Government Affairs & Public Relations The Motorcycle Riders Foundation  
**MORE FROM THE MRF For Immediate Release September 1, 2016**  
**2015 Motor Vehicle Crash Data Released; Increase in Motorcyclist Fatalities**  
**WASHINGTON, DC –** This week, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released 2015 data concerning motor vehicle crashes and fatalities. This data also included information on motorcyclist fatalities. The data comes from NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) as well as the National Automotive Sampling System and General Estimates System. The information provides an overall measure of highway safety, and aids in guiding policy solutions for federal and state lawmakers as well as provides a basis to evaluate the effectiveness of motor vehicle safety standards and highway safety programs. In 2015, the nation saw an overall upward trend in vehicle crashes and fatalities across all segments of the population. Overall, there was a 7.2 percent increase which is the largest percentage increase in almost 50 years. Increases in fatalities were seen in all types of vehicles and roadway users including SUVs, vans, trucks, pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists. Specifically, motorcyclists' fatalities in 2015 had an increase of 8.3%, the largest since 2012. There were other statistics, specific to motorcycles that are of note: \* While the proportion of people killed 'inside the vehicle' (which includes drivers and passengers of cars, trucks, etc.) has declined by roughly 15% over the last decade, the proportion of people killed 'outside the vehicle' (which includes motorcyclists, pedestrians, etc.) has increased by roughly 15% over the last ten years. \* There were increases in motorcyclist fatalities in every age group except those 19 and under which saw fewer fatalities in 2015 than in 2014. \* Though not specific to motorcycles, the most common fatal crash type in 2015 was multi-vehicle rollovers. \* Data showed that crashes due to 'human choice' specifically distracted driving, increased by almost 9%. \* Other 'human choice' factors included alcohol impaired drivers in which fatalities increased overall by 3%. \* Interestingly, there was a half percentage point drop in motorcyclists who had been involved in fatal crashes due to alcohol-impairment. This may suggest that



some of the recent motorcycle and alcohol awareness programs could be starting to take effect.

The NHTSA release offered some possible explanation for the overall upward trend in fatal crashes. Specifically, it linked economic trends like a recovering economy and lower gas prices as reasons more people were on the road, likely due to work travel and increased recreational travel. Warmer weather and milder winters which some of the nation saw in 2015 were also contributing factors. Though no specific policy solutions were offered with the NHTSA release, it was noted that, "in States without universal helmet laws, 58 percent of motorcyclists killed in 2015 were not wearing helmets, as compared to 8% in States with universal helmet laws." This is likely an indicator that NHTSA will continue its position in viewing universal helmet laws as a solution for highway safety. This emphasizes 'safer crashing' rather than crash prevention; of which many motorcyclists find fault. In response to the release of the data, The White House and Department of Transportation are issuing a call to action to involve a wide range of stakeholders in helping determine the causes of the increases seen in the 2015 crash and fatality data. NHTSA announced plans to share the information with its safety partners, state and local officials, technologists, data scientists, and policy experts. States and the nation as a whole are likely to see policy solutions offered and initiatives brokered over the following weeks and months as a result of the newly released data. The motorcyclist community is also in the process of responding to the recently released data through reviewing and confirming the information and preparing to work with the federal agencies to ensure that policy solutions are achieved through the lens of crash avoidance and do not infringe upon their personal rights. These activities will complement the already existing efforts being achieved at the federal and state levels like emphasis on rider education, alcohol awareness programs, share the road initiatives, motorcyclist awareness programs and reduced distraction efforts. The raw data can be accessed via NHTSA's website: <ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/fars/2015/> FROM ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. From: Florida ABATE State VP

<flabatestatevp@gmail.com> To: flabatestatelegislative

<flabatestatelegislative@gmail.com> Sent: Sun, Aug 28, 2016 5:32 pm Subject:

Annual bikers' teddy bear event canceled after sheriff's office drops out Hey Everyone, I wanted to pass this along to show that it is just not ABATE of Florida, Inc. that is being affected by increased insurance to do runs. I would bet that insurance companies all over are taking a harder look at motorcycle runs. Annual bikers' teddy bear event canceled after sheriff's office drops out Ray Collins Aug 24, 2016 After 18 years, the "Great Teddy Bear Run" has canceled it's annual ride. Thousands of motorcyclists over the years have collected and donated countless teddy bears and stuffed animals for families touched by cancer. But the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office says it will no longer provide an escort for events of this magnitude. No one from the Sheriff's Office was willing to appear on camera, but the media relations department issued a statement that said in part: "Due to the inherent danger that escorts

like these present to the traveling public, participating riders and to our personnel, we found it in everyone's best interest not to participate in these events any longer." The statement also said it is important to point out the sheriff's office did not cancel this event; that decision was made the event organizer. No one from the event was willing to talk Wednesday  
[http://www.mysuncoast.com/news/local/annualbikersteddybeareventcanceledaftersheriffs-office/article\\_09345eae6a6d11e6be642ff74d90e0bd.html](http://www.mysuncoast.com/news/local/annualbikersteddybeareventcanceledaftersheriffs-office/article_09345eae6a6d11e6be642ff74d90e0bd.html) 2/2 Ray Collins -- Darrin "Scribe" Brooks State Vice President State Legislative Trustee, ABATE of Florida, Inc. [www.abateflorida.com](http://www.abateflorida.com) THAT'S IT FOR THIS MONTH. RIDE SAFE AND ENJOY!! ZMAN

## How to contact your Washington Legislators

### US Senators

Sen. Bill Nelson [www.billnelson.senate.gov/contact-bill](http://www.billnelson.senate.gov/contact-bill)

Sen. Marco Rubio [www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact](http://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact)

### US House of Representatives

Go to <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> enter your zip code into the box

http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/

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UNITED STATES HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

114th Congress, 2nd Session · The House is in session · Watch Live House Floor Proceedings

REPRESENTATIVES LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY THE HOUSE EXPLAINED

### Find Your Representative

Not sure of your congressional district or who your member is? This service will assist you by matching your ZIP code to your congressional district, with links to your member's website and contact page.

Please review the frequently asked questions if you have problems using this service.

Enter your ZIP code:

**FIND YOUR REP BY ZIP**

Type your Zip Code in either place. Click on "GO" or the "Find your Rep by Zip button."

#### Frequently Asked Questions

- Where can I find a list of public e-mail addresses for members of Congress?
- What should I do when I enter my ZIP code information and I get the wrong elected representative?

#### Resources

- Directory of Representatives
- Leadership
- Committees
- Advanced Search
- Site Map

#### Technical Difficulties?

Send comments about the Find Your Representative service to the webmaster. Please note that

It will then take you to a page that looks like this

You will be taken to a page that looks similar to this. Just complete the form and write what you want to say then click the "SEND" button

http://ziplook.house.gov/htbin/findrep?ZIP=34116&SI

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REPRESENTATIVES LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY THE HOUSE EXPLAINED

### Find Your Representative

Information provided:  
Zip code: 34116  
is located in the 25th Congressional district of Florida.

The representative for this district is:

 **Mario Diaz-Balart**  
Republican

Click on envelope icon to write message

Port Charlotte Fort Myers Cape Coral Bonita Springs Naples Marco Island Everglades City Jupiter West Palm Beach Delray Beach Boca Raton Fort Lauderdale Hollywood Miami





# Mario Diaz-Balart

REPRESENTING THE 25TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

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[Contact Mario](#)
[Plan a Visit to D.C.](#)
[Federal Casework](#)
[Flag Requests](#)
[Academy Nominations](#)

Home » Contact Mario » Write Rep. Diaz-Balart

## Write Rep. Diaz-Balart - Zip Authenticated

[Tweet](#)
0
0
3

[Like](#)
[+1](#)
[Share](#)

### Step Two - Write Your Message

\* Indicates information that you need to provide.

#### Your Information

Prefix:	First Name: *	MI:	Last Name: *	Suffix:
Prefix	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Suffix

Street Address: \*

Street Address

Street Address Continued:

Street Address Continued

City: \*

City

State: FLORIDA      Zip Code: 34116      +4 Extension:

Email: \*

Email

#### Telephone

Telephone Number: \*

Telephone Number

@Voice ○VP ○TTD

#### What are these options?

This is to help the constituents that are hard of hearing or use a video phone alert us to that fact so we can use the proper technology when we need to call them. The default option "Voice" is a normal audible telephone.

#### Your Message

Choose an issue category from the drop-down list which most resembles your issue of concern. \*

Message Subject: \*

Message Subject

#### Contact Mario

Write Rep. Diaz-Balart

Offices

Office Hours Near You

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## Sgt of Arms



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No submission this month.

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OCTOBER 7-9 2016

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES WILL BE DRAWN AT SEPTEMBER MTG



Steve Ammerman

# Webmaster

Hi Polk County,

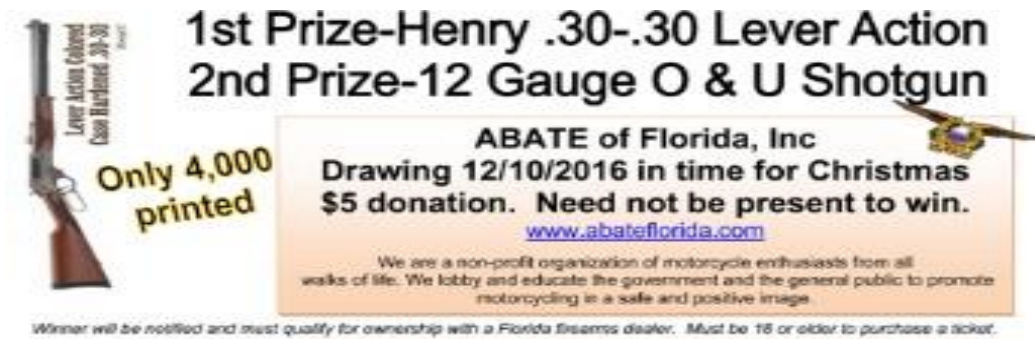
It's that time of year again. Biketoberfest is upon us. Daytona Beach and the surrounding area will be full of motorcycles and RV's. Please ride safe, obey the traffic laws and be patient. Riding with your high beam on during daylight hours will greatly increase your visibility and remember, Those people in the RV's only drive them a couple days out of the year. Keep an eye out for people in a hurry, they will pull out and ruin your day. Be safe, play safe and come home safe, somebody needs you.

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. ABATE of Florida, Inc. is also a member of the AMA (American Motorcyclist Association), N.C.O.M (National Coalition of Motorcyclist) and MFR (Motorcycle Riders Foundation).



1st Prize-Henry .30-.30 Lever Action  
2nd Prize-12 Gauge O & U Shotgun

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Drawing 12/10/2016 in time for Christmas  
\$5 donation. Need not be present to win.  
[www.abateflorida.com](http://www.abateflorida.com)

We are a non-profit organization of motorcycle enthusiasts from all walks of life. We lobby and educate the government and the general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image.

Winner will be notified and must qualify for ownership with a Florida firearms dealer. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket.

## Editor



Ida Holland

Hello ABATE Members;  
To recap what has already been said, we have events coming up in Nov. and Dec.  
Ida  
Ride daily and Ride Safe

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](mailto:abatenewsletter@hotmail.com)



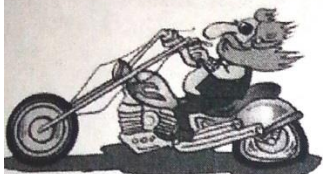


**ABATE OF FLORIDA INC, POLK COUNTY CHAPTER**  
PRESENTS A

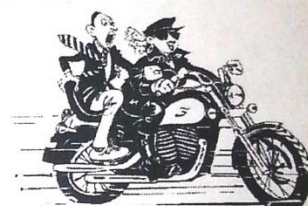


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**Do overs \$5.00**

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**50/50**

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

**Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be available**

**Saturday Nov. 12th**

**11am -4pm**

**Signups from 11:00 – 1:00**

For more information call Mark "Zman" (PRES) @ 863-559-9550 or Greg (VP) 863-934-9719

Or email [president1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com](mailto:president1.polkcountyabate@gmail.com)

MEMBERSHIP AND SAFETY INFORMATION AVAILABLE

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

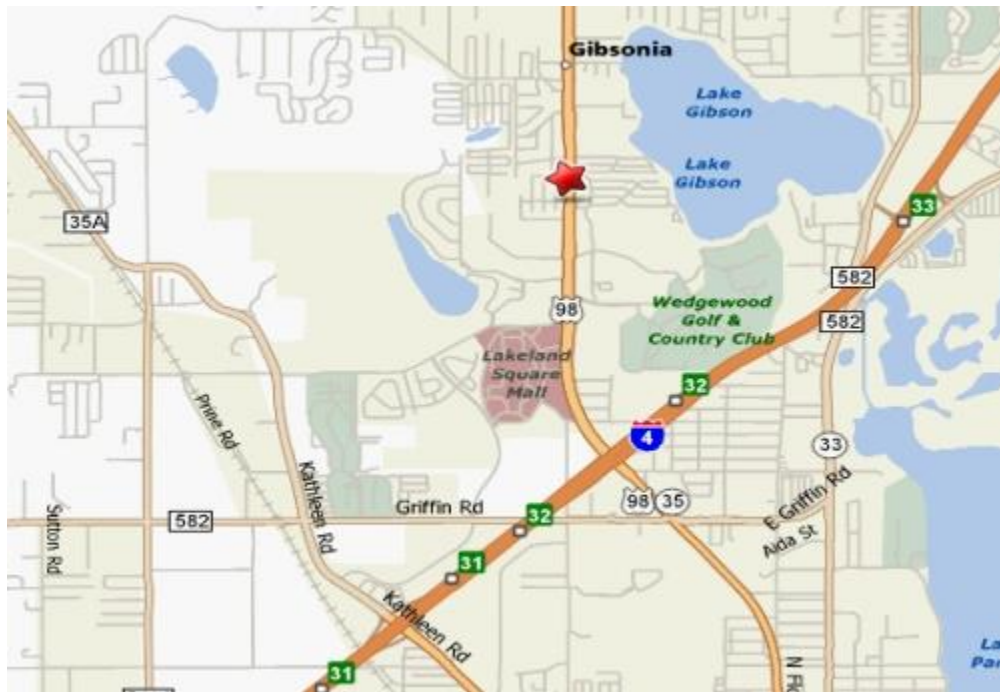
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# Join Us!

At our next meeting Oct. 16th, 2016 at **1:00PM**





## **Boondocks**

8515 US Hwy 98 North  
Lakeland, FL



# Upcoming ABATE Events

## Polk County Chapter







Oct. 16th          Chapter Meeting 1:00pm @ **BOONDOCKS** 8515 Hwy 98 North  
 Oct. 21th          Newsletter submission deadline  
 Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>          Rodeo at Boondocks Skills on Wheels  
 Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>          Toy Run


## State

April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10th          Tallahassee Run  
 Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>          Gun Raffle

**Other Chapters** (go to [www.abateflorida.com/events/index.php](http://www.abateflorida.com/events/index.php) to see flyers)

## BIKE NIGHTS IN THE AREA

Every <b>TUES</b>		6 - 9 PM	BEEF O'BRADYS Northside Lakeland
Every <b>WED</b>		6 PM - ??	MOJO's - Lakeland
Every <b>THURS</b>		7 PM - ??	JOHNNY G's – Lakeland
Every <b>Thurs</b>		7 PM - ??	LA's MIDWAY – Across from Winter Haven Airport
Every <b>FRI</b>		7 PM - ??	POUR HOUSE – Havendale Blvd, Winter Haven
Every <b>Thurs</b>		7PM - ??	Sal's Island – Cypress Gardens Blvd. Winter Haven



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President

**B. Watkins Office & Financial Services Inc.**  
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Michael Dunn  
Vice President

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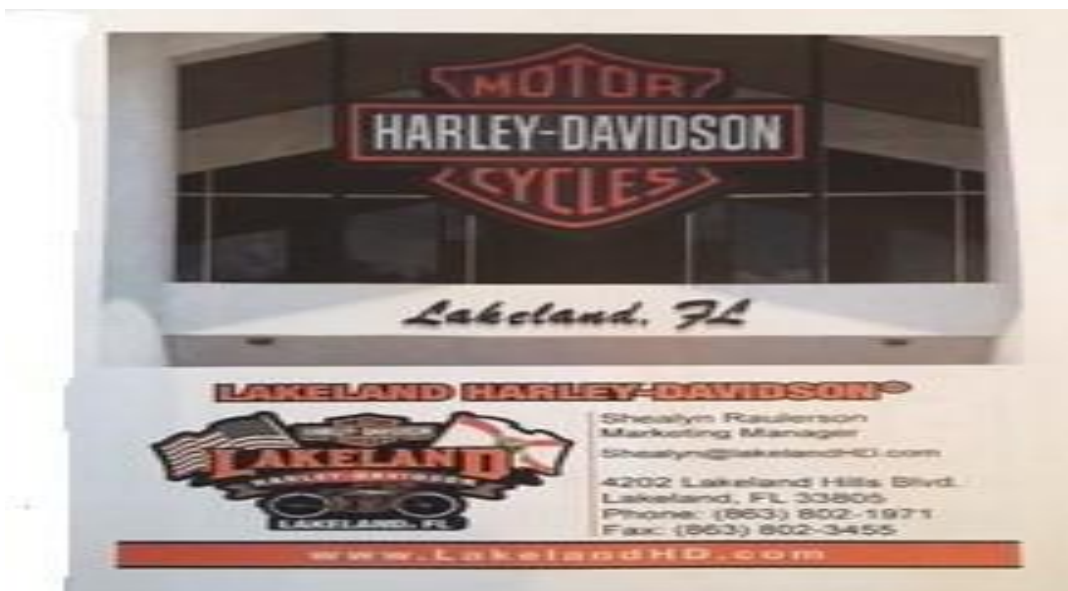
**Keith P. Merritt, M.B.A.**

*Supreme Court Certified Mediator*

Cindy Green

335 Doris Drive Lakeland, FL 33803 (863)683-3333 Fax (863) 937-9333

Mailing address, P.O. Box 92412, Lakeland, FL 33804 or visit us at [www.merrittlawoffice.net](http://www.merrittlawoffice.net)







**ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

P.O. BOX 2520  
DELAND, FL 32721-2520  
(386) 934-9610



NAME (Please Print Legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE+4 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Include Area Code)

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAY WE USE YOUR PHONE NUMBER FOR OUR PHONE TREE YES ☐ NO ☐

ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER YES ☐ NO ☐

PLEASE LIST YOUR VOTING DISTRICTS FROM YOUR REGISTRATION CARD

\_\_\_\_\_ FL HOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ FL SENATE \_\_\_\_\_ US CONGRESS

NAME OF CHAPTER YOU WISH TO JOIN \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a member of more than one chapter, please designate your home chapter \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE BOX THAT APPLIES TO YOU:

- ☐ NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (\$20)  
☐ RENEWAL OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (\$20)  
☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP (\$600)  
☐ TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP TO :

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive with their paid membership, a membership card, our electronic bi-monthly Masterlink magazine, a chapter newsletter (electronic or hard copy), chapter voting privileges, a \$4000.00 Accidental Death or Dismemberment policy and personal involvement in statewide motorcycle safety and legislative concerns and their freedom to ride.

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

FOR ABATE OFFICE USE \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER MEMBER

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAID BY: CASH ☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ CC ☐

MAILED DATE \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP CARD \_\_\_\_\_ COPY OF BYLAWS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

6/11/2016

# **Contact your elected officials – They work for YOU!**

For corrections to this listing please email [abatenewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:abatenewsletter@hotmail.com)

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