

ABATE of Florida, Inc. • Polk County Chapter

The Iron Press

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

March 2017

Vol 41 issue 14

Chapter Meeting – March. 19th @1:00pm



ABATE OF FLORIDA INC, POLK COUNTY CHAPTER
PRESENTS A
MOTORCYCLE RODEO
COME SHOW YOUR
SKILLS ON WHEELS



Joust
5 second Tennis Ball
Clothes Line
Plank
Bean Bag Toss
Balloon Toss
Wienie Bite
Slow Race

\$5.00 Donation per person, Participation free with Donation
Do overs \$5.00
Awards for 1st and 2nd place
Separate Award for Weenie Bite & Slow Race
50/50
Held at Boondocks - 8515 US Hwy 98, Lakeland, Fl.
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be available
Saturday May 6th
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
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

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Lakeland, FL 33806





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State

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From the President



Z man

PRESIDENTS REPORT MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Hey Y'all,

Hope all is well for my fellow ABATERs. Hard to believe March is here already! Play it safe out there, especially if going to Daytona, with all the extra traffic. First up on the agenda, Gun Raffle Tickets. Please bring any donations for tickets, or unsold tickets if you have any left and couldn't sell them, to the Chapter meeting March 19, and we can get them to others who can get them sold. The drawing is April 16, at the Chapter Meeting. The May 6 Skills On Wheels Rodeo is a go, so start talking it up, and get Flyers at next meeting to pass out and give to local businesses. The last May Rodeo was a great success, and it's because of the dedication of our Chapter that made it so.

Another reminder about the Ride to Tallahassee April 8, 9, and 10. With the push for mandatory helmets, the vulnerable road users, and the stiffer penalty law, this is the year to show our representatives that we are paying attention and we VOTE!! Roadmap will have more details soon. Also, even if you can only go for Sunday or Monday (the day we go to the State Capitol Building), it all adds up. Be a part of hundreds of motorcyclists rolling in with a police escort!!

And one more reminder to CALL your Representatives & Senators at State level to ask them to oppose HB 6009, which removes the "over 21 years old" choice to wear a helmet option.

RIDE SAFE AND ENJOY, Zman.



Vice President

Greg Vernon



Hey all

Wow great attendance at our last meeting. Thanks to all that came out. Remember to bring your fresh ideas to the March meeting for our motorcycle rodeo. And don't forget to be safe during bike week.

Greg Vernon, VP
Ride safe and ride free



Secretary

Lo

FEBRUARY 19, 2017 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: Ralph Snearly, Rawsom M. Goff, John Goff, Gary Saunders, Pete Drahorad, Greg Vernon, Jude Redding, Mike Harmon, Bill Hardy, Gerald Elliot, Steve Ammerman, Rick Lewis, Robert Fletcher, Z Man, Muff McLeod, Muffett McLeod, Aaron McCormick, Stephen Klapach Block, Dewey Cain, Kimberly Jones, Mike Gray, John McDermott, Lo Alexander, Tom and Julie, Glenda,

The Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence were led by President, Z Man who introduced two welcome, but unscheduled speakers: Breeze, President of the Cobras and Richard, Commander of VFW Post 8002. Breeze invited us to a Poker Run April 8. For \$10 a bike, participants compete for a first place win of \$100 and second place payoff of \$50. ALL the proceeds go to Veterans' charities like Wounded Warriors and Paralyzed Vets. For more info, visit Facebook. Richard plans to reinstate Bike Night on the first Thursday of the month with music and food starting at 6pm. He wants us to feel welcome any time.

President, Z Man has a few drawing tickets. See him if you need help selling yours or have any problems. The drawing will be at the April meeting.

VP, Greg Vernon encouraged us to sell our tickets. Give the proceeds to Ralph.

Secretary, Lo Alexander asked if there were any corrections needed for the January Minutes. There were none. The January Minutes were ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer, Ralph Snearly delivered a concise and optimistic report which was ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sgt.-At-Arms, Tim McDermott suggested that everyone going to Tallahassee for the Freedom Rights Run to the Capitol, meet at the shopping center at 98 N and Daughtery Rd. Saturday, April 8.,(where Sweetbay used to be.) State meeting will be the 9th; the run will be the 10th

Membership, Deb Daggett was absent and excused.

Safety Officer, Rusty Goff brought "watch for motorcycles" signs. Drive defensively.

PR and Newsletter, Ida Holland was absent and excused.

Products, Lo Alexander brought State patches and sale priced shirts.

Legislation, Z Man reminded us that the law moves slowly. Gun laws, red light cameras and lane splitting debates continue. [That means there is still time to contact your legislators.] See Z Man's article in this newsletter.

Webmaster, Steve Ammerman donated a raffle roller to the chapter. Sign up for the Accident Scene Management class. It's possible CPR may be an element. Steve will check. The course costs \$65, takes 8 hours and will be held at VFW Post 8002.

DELEGATES' REPORT, Dewey Cain and Tim McDermott: Dewey reported that the BIKER LIVES MATTER shirts are in. Black on orange. [Order yours at our next meeting and they will be ready for pick up on the 9th Wear them April 10th for the "rally".] Hillsborough Co. donated \$2K to State. POLK COUNTY CHAPTER WON recognition for having the most new members in November 2016.

OLD BUSINESS: Greg moved and the chapter agreed that we should have business cards modified to include a few words about HB 6009 (Adults must wear helmets)- how it was ABATE's activities that enabled us to CHOOSE to wear them or not in 2000 and how motorcycle enthusiasts should join us. Ralph is in charge.

New Business: There was none.

Good of the Order: A young man, Brendon Patterson, was killed last month when a woman in a car violated his right of way. His mother came here from New York to find support. An ad hoc committee, Dewey, Tim, Greg, Linda, Steve, Gerry and Gary from Auburndale, joined the mother, Carla Swartz, at the courthouse in Auburndale last Tuesday to witness the legal proceedings. The cager did not show. ::::: Another young man, Glenda's nephew, was hit and killed. We'll have a benefit ride in April.

Adjourn: 2:20p

Respectfully submitted, Lo Alexander, February 23, 2017 Call your congress person RE: HB 6009



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.

Tee Shirts

If interested in purchasing one please contact Lo McDermott, 863-688-3161



Want to Ride?

Tim McDermott (better known as "Roadmap") is going on a **FUN RUN** before our meeting on March 19th. He would love for you to join him!! If you're interested meet at the **Brunch Box on Memorial ave.** 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

Sorry I missed the meeting. Please remember the gun raffle April 16th, we also have a rodeo coming in May. Please tell all your family and friends to join us.

Ida

Ride Daily and Ride Safe



Membership

Darlin Deb

Membership Report: Feb 2017 Newsletter

Total Members: 144

Welcome New Members: Gary Saunders and Jami Blankenberg

Thank you to our Renewing Members: Dewy Cain and Greg Vernon

Reminder for Renewal: Please check your membership cards

Due in February: Charles Wallner,

Due in March: William Ford Jr, Jeff Schilling

Due in April: Brenda James, Mark James, Stephen Klapach Jr (Block), Cathy Mitchell, Gary Ouellette and Michael Shotts

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 or mail updates to

Abate of Florida Inc. Polk County Chapter P.O. Box 2743 Lakeland, FL 33816

ABATE



Of Florida, Inc **Lake** County Chapter's **Campground Open to the Public** **for Leesburg BikeFest™**

Campground is off of Hwy 27 & CR 48 –6 miles S from downtown LSBG. Coming from N on 27 pass CR33, & Turn Right at gas station, by light. Traveling S on 27, turn left at the light onto CR48, look for signs.

RVs Welcome \$20 & Trailers \$10 one time Fee
NO hook ups- NO Reservations- Cash Only

*24 Hr Security

*Hot Showers

*Bike Blessing

*50/50 & Prizes

*Wreath

Drawing

*NO PETS

DATES: April 27, 28, 29, 30th --- -2017

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: \$15. pp, per nite -Includes Tax

Kids 10 & under FREE –

**inquire about free night camping*

Can NOT accept reservations – CASH ONLY

ABATE of Florida, Inc, Lake web: <http://lake.abateflorida.com/>

*Live Band Thur

Fri- Bottoms Up

Sat- Evil Monkey

* Tiki Bar outside

*Sat Poker Run

*Food available

@ Eagles Aerie

*VENDORS

ABATE OF FLORIDA, Inc. Lake County Chapter and its affiliates of the Leesburg BikeFest ABATE campground will not be held responsible financially or otherwise for any adverse weather conditions that may affect, delay or cancel any scheduled performance-event described herein this promotional flier. *Join ABATE of Florida, Inc & receive \$4,000 accidental death INS. Our rights as motorcyclists are constantly being challenged at an alarming rate, every motorcycle enthusiast should belong to a Motorcycle Rights Organization (MRO)*

Take-A-Break Poker Run

Sat sign up outside of the ABATE campground from 9:30-11. Last bike back to campground by 4:30. Cost \$10 pp. Plaques awarded*** About 100 mile ride.

A percentage to benefit VORRH, the homeless Vets www.vorrh.org

NO site fires

NO Weapons

NO Pets

NO Attitudes

NO EXCEPTIONS

Pres: Griz 352-742-7754 LakeAbatePresident@gmail.com VP: Tuna LakeAbateVicePresident@gmail.com

ABATE of Florida, Inc does not condone drinking & riding. www.abateflorida.com – Visit our Membership & Safety Booth
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Legislative



Zman

LEGISLATIVE REPORT MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Hey y'all,

Again, a reminder to CALL your State Rep & Senator to ask for their support in OPPOSING HB6009, MAKING THE MANDATORY USE OF A HELMET, even to those 21 or over. I know this stuff is a repeat, but we must keep the vigil up until our right to choice and liberty are once again secure!!

Talking points suggestions for HB 6009

Below are a few talking points that you can use to talk with your legislators about HB 6009

- * Phone calls to either the legislators District office or Tally office are better than sending an email.
- * You have more clout with your own legislator than with one from another district. Use that clout by telling the legislators office that you are one of their constituents. To find out who your State legislators are visit this web page and enter your address. <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/myrepresentative.aspx>
- * The absolute most important thing is to speak to them in a calm friendly manner. Do not call angry or talk down to the person. The old saying is true "You attract more bees with honey than you do with vinegar." We cannot afford to turn any legislators against us.
- * When you call the legislators' office, you will almost always get the secretary or aide. Be prepared to tell your name, address and phone number. Tell them that you are a member of ABATE of Florida, Inc. _____ Chapter. If you are a regular voter then tell them that. Don't tell them you vote if you rarely ever vote.
- * If you do vote regularly, the past few general and primary elections you are a Super Voter. This carries more clout because they now know that you actually do get out and vote.
- * Tell the person at the office that you are opposed to HB 6009 and you would like the legislator help fight against this bill. Something as simple as:

o "Hello, my name is Darrin Brooks, 1234 Main Street in Naples, Florida. I am a member of ABATE of Florida, Gator Alley Chapter in Collier County. I am call to ask for Rep. Donalds help in opposing HB 6009. I live in Rep. Donalds district and I vote in every single election. Please let Rep. Donalds know that I am opposed to HB 6009 and I would like his help opposing this bill. Thank you."

o Occasionally they might ask you why you are opposed to the bill. If the office is busy that day they probably will not ask you why you are opposed.

* Here are a few short easy to give reasons why you oppose HB 6009:

o There has not been any definitive proof that simply wearing a helmet will guarantee saving a life. In 2015, 296 motorcyclists were killed in Florida while wearing a helmet. This is compared to 237 killed without a helmet.

o There is no definitive proof that all motorcyclists killed without a helmet died from head injuries.

o There is no definitive proof that the cost of medical treatment to an injured motorcyclist is actually

passed on to "society" to pay. People for the mandatory helmet law love to say that "X amount of dollars for motorcyclists medical bills are passed on to the citizens of Florida". This is simply illogical and is presumptive that ALL motorcyclist have no insurance at all.

o If the only reason for this bill is to save lives, then support a statewide Motorcycle Awareness Program. Education not legislation can save more lives.

o \$2.50 of all motorcycle registration fees goes into a motorcycle awareness education fund. Give ABATE of Florida at least 25% of that yearly money and we can mount a Statewide Motorcycle Awareness program that is effective, efficient and saves the State of Florida lives and money.

* When done, Thank the person for listening and let them know that if they have any further questions we will get back with them. Then contact Doc and myself so that we can answer their questions. * From: Florida ABATE State VP <flabatestatevp@gmail.com> To: Darrin Brooks <darrinbrooks@gmail.com> Sent: Mon, Jan 9, 2017 3:41 pm Subject: Helmet bill assigned to committees

IS IT WORTH A PHONE CALL ??????

IN OTHER LEGISLATIVE NEWS:

COURT SIDES WITH FELON IN GUN POSSESSION CASE A sharply divided appeals court Friday sided with a convicted felon who was arrested for carrying a gun while exercising on the grounds of a Jacksonville middle school. A panel of the 1st District Court of Appeal, in a 2-1 ruling, said that evidence of Ricky Rand carrying a gun should be suppressed because a police officer improperly stopped him for trespassing at the school. Friday's ruling reversed an April 2016 decision by the appeals court that found prosecutors should be able to use the evidence. The new ruling said the middle school allowed members of the public to use its track outside of school hours. Rand was stopped by a police officer

at 2 a.m. and was charged with trespassing and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. "Mr. Rand did not violate any law or school policy by using the school track at night," said the majority opinion, written by Judge Timothy Osterhaus and joined by Judge Harvey Jay. "State trespassing laws (give) substantial leeway to schools to invite people onto their campuses. And Mr. Rand did not act unlawfully by accepting the school's invitation to use its track. ... In fact, the school kept the track open at night and posted signs inviting the public to access the track after school hours. Mr. Rand also had a legitimate reason for being there; he was walking the track." But Judge Susan Kelsey wrote a lengthy dissent, defending the actions of the officer, identified as R.A. Jackson, in stopping Rand. "This encounter occurred at 2:00 in the morning, on a dark part of a school campus, in a high-crime area in which Officer Jackson had previously made numerous arrests for trespassing and burglar," Kelsey wrote. "Although the majority reasons that the 2 a.m. hour of the incident is unimportant because there was evidence that other adults walked the track in the daytime, that reasoning dodges the issue of the significant likelihood-of-crime difference between daytime hours and the wee-small hours of the night. Common sense and common experience tell us that 2:00 in the morning is not a usual --- or safe --- time to be wandering around alone outside in a poorly-lit, high-crime area."

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, February 13, 2017..... A measure that would reduce the penalty for people who briefly display a firearm in public and make it a non-criminal offense has been filed in the House. The proposal (HB 779), filed Friday by Rep. Neil Combee, R-Polk City, is identical to a bill (SB 646) filed by Senate Judiciary Chairman Greg Steube, R-Sarasota. Steube recently turned an omnibus gun measure (SB 140) into a series of bills. Combee said his proposal would apply to people with concealed-weapons licenses. The proposal would change what is currently a second-degree misdemeanor charge --- carrying a fine up to \$500 and 60 days in jail --- into a \$25 noncriminal violation that can be paid to a county clerk of the court. The proposal also would allow members of the state Cabinet --- the attorney general, chief financial officer and agriculture commissioner --- to carry concealed weapons when unaccompanied by full-time Florida Department of Law Enforcement security. As with the majority of other stand-alone gun-related measures by Steube, the proposal has yet to be scheduled to appear before a House or Senate committee. On Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, Steube filed nine bills tied to gun ownership rights after telling reporters of his plan to separate the broader bill. "Just from feeling the tea leaves, it's probably better to attack it piece by piece," Steube said at the time. The Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence has called Steube's "flurry" of bills "dangerous." "The sheer breadth of his call to allow citizens to arm themselves in public, including at schools and airports, would extend legal gun carry opportunities to unprecedented levels in the state of Florida," the coalition --- whose members include the League of Women Voters of Florida, the Florida PTA, Equality Florida and Doctors for America --- said in a release. Florida Carry attorney Eric Friday said Monday that the Second Amendment advocacy group supports Steube's effort, either as a single bill or as a series of proposals. "Sen. Steube is fighting to restore the right of people to defend themselves," Friday said in an email. Among Steube's other bills is a proposal (SB 610) that could lead to businesses being held liable if they prevent concealed-carry permit holders from bringing firearms onto their property and the permit holders get injured by other people or animals.

Among the more prominent of Steube's revised efforts is a bill that would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to openly carry handguns (SB 644) and to carry firearms on college and university campuses (SB 622). Both proposals stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee last year, but the former chairman of the committee, Republican Miguel Diaz de la Portilla of Miami, is no longer in the Legislature. Other proposals by Steube include a measure (SB 618) that would allow people to carry guns in airport terminals; a measure (SB 620) that would allow people to carry guns at legislative meetings; a measure (SB 626) that would allow people to carry guns at local-government meetings; a measure (SB 640) that would allow people to carry guns at career centers; and a measure that would allow concealed firearms licensees to temporarily surrender firearms at courthouse security. The airport terminal proposal is identical to a measure (HB 6001) filed in November by Rep. Jake Raburn, R-Lithia. In December, Rep. Scott Plakon, R-Longwood, introduced a House version of the campus-carry measure (HB 6005). The campus-carry proposal faces opposition by university and college leaders, campus law-enforcement officials and faculty members. The Florida Sheriffs Association has opposed efforts to allow open-carry in Florida. Separately, Sen. Dennis Baxley, R-Ocala, on Monday filed his own measure (SB 908) that would allow the 1.7 million concealed weapons permit-holders in Florida to carry at the state's 15 seaports. The proposal also would delete provisions in state law that bar carrying concealed weapons at police and sheriff's stations, jails, courthouses, polling places, colleges, professional sporting events and establishments where alcohol is sold for consumption on site. The measure also would delete a provision that prohibits people from carrying firearms in places prohibited by federal law. Baxley also filed a pair of measures (SB 912 and SJR 910) on Monday that would ask voters in November 2018 or in an earlier special election to amend the state Constitution to exempt law enforcement officers and "qualified" retired officers from having to wait three days to purchase handguns.

TIE VOTE GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO RED LIGHT CAMERAS The annual effort to ban red-light cameras in Florida crashed Tuesday when the Senate Transportation Committee rejected the idea in a tie vote. "To all the lobbyists, you got me," said Sen. Frank Artiles, R-Miami, complaining his bill (SB 178) faced opposition from a 24-member lobbying team hired by American Traffic Solutions, the dominant red-light camera vendor in Florida. Artiles, who was elected to the Senate in November after serving in the House, has been one of the strongest advocates for repealing a law that allows Florida's cities and counties to install red-light cameras. His legislation, and a companion House bill (HB 6007), sought to repeal use of the cameras by July 1, 2020. Tuesday's vote came down to one of the Senate's smallest committees, which was further diminished by the absence of Sen. Dorothy Hukill, a Port Orange Republican who is recovering from a cancer treatment. The key vote came from committee Chairman George Gainer, a newly elected senator who was a longtime Bay County commissioner.

Gainer, who said his community has never authorized red-light cameras, said he opposed Artiles' bill because he believed it should be left up to the local governments to decide whether to install the devices. "They know more about their traffic patterns," Gainer, R-Panama City, said. "They know more about their intersections." If the cameras are "a bad deal," Gainer said local elected officials would have to face their voters. Sen. Kevin Rader, D-Delray Beach, joined Gainer in opposing the bill, which was filed for the legislative session that starts March 7. In the Legislature, tie votes kill bills. Rader said his constituents were split about the use of the cameras and that his wife had advised him to support the cameras if they "saved one life." Sen. Darryl Rouson, D-St. Petersburg, and Sen. Dennis Baxley, R-Ocala, voted for Artiles' bill, resulting in the 2-2 tie. Baxley said he originally supported the use of red-light cameras when he served in the House. But he has since become convinced the cameras and the related fines are imposing a financial "hardship" on Floridians and are not improving public safety. "I have buyer's remorse," Baxley said. "This did not turn out the way I intended it." The Transportation Committee vote effectively kills Artiles' bill. But the issue may not be over for the session. Katie Betta, a spokeswoman for the Senate, said "procedurally there are other bills that could address the same issue." Artiles and other advocates of the bill believed their case had been bolstered by a Dec. 31 report from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles showing intersection crashes were up 10.41 percent when comparing data before the cameras were installed and after they were in place. Camera supporters complained the report was flawed because it included crashes up to 250 feet from the intersections. They say the devices have improved roadway safety. Opponents said the cameras, which lead to a \$158 fine for violators, had become a new revenue source for local governments and red-light camera companies, which earn an average of \$4,250 or more per month from each camera. The red-light cameras are expected to generate about \$148 million this year, with \$75 million going to the state and \$73 million to local governments.

COURT REJECTS LAWSUIT OVER LOCAL GUN ORDINANCESAn appeals court Friday rejected a lawsuit filed by gun-rights groups that challenged the city of Tallahassee over decades-old firearms ordinances that conflict with state law. A panel of the 1st District Court of Appeal, in a 25-page ruling, said the ordinances, while still on the books, are "null and void" because of the state law and that the city has not sought to enforce them.

It upheld a decision by a Leon County circuit judge who turned down arguments by the groups Florida Carry, Inc. and The Second Amendment Foundation, Inc. that the city should be required to repeal the ordinances and should be blocked from enforcing them. "While appellants' (the gun-rights groups') frustration with the city's inaction and the individual appellees' (city officials') unwillingness to engage in what some might describe as a simple task of repealing void ordinances is understandable, (state law), as it currently stands, does not prohibit the re-publication or re-printing of the void ordinances," said the ruling, written by appeals-court Judge Joseph Lewis and joined by judges Ross Bilbrey and Thomas Winokur. "... The fact that appellees refused to remove the ordinances from the city's code does not constitute prohibited conduct under the statute." In the ruling, however, the appeals court also agreed with the circuit judge's dismissal of arguments by city officials that state law violates their constitutional rights by subjecting them to stiff penalties if they pass or enforce local firearms regulations. "Had this been a situation where (city officials) were penalized through a fine, denied the use of public funds for their legal defense, or removed from office by the governor, the counterclaim would certainly need to be addressed," the appeals court ruled. "However, not only was there no violation of (state law) that has occurred in this case, but there were also no penalties imposed. As such, no bona fide, actual, present, and practical need exists for the declaration sought by (the city officials)." The dispute stems, in part, from a 1957 Tallahassee ordinance that said, "No person shall discharge any firearms except in areas five acres or larger zoned for agricultural uses" and a 1984 ordinance that made it illegal to discharge guns in parks or recreational facilities owned or operated by the city, according to Friday's ruling. In 1987, the Legislature approved a law that gave the state exclusive power to regulate firearms and ammunition and declared "null and void" any local ordinances or regulations --- a legal concept known as state "preemption." The Legislature followed up in 2011 by amending the law to allow potentially far-reaching penalties against local officials for enacting or enforcing firearms regulations. The Tallahassee police chief advised officers on June 30, 2011, that the city ordinances were unenforceable, according to Friday's ruling. But later, the Tallahassee City Commission indefinitely tabled discussion of repealing the ordinances --- effectively leaving them on the books. -- Both of the Vulnerable Road User Bill's have been assigned to their committees.

HB 541 Vulnerable Road Users by Rep Stone

* Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

* Criminal Justice Subcommittee

* Government Accountability Subcommittee

The members of the first subcommittee "Transportation and Infrastructure" has the following members:

Brad Drake - Chair

Clay Ingram - Vice Chair

Barbara Watson - Ranking Dem.

Daniels, Kimberly [D] Grant, Michael [R] Jacobs, Kristin Diane [D] Mariano, Amber [R] Massullo, MD, Ralph E. [R] Miller, Mike [R] Newton, Sr., Wengay M. "Newt" [D] Payne, Bobby [R] Toledo, Jackie [R] Willhite, Matt [D] Williamson, Jayer [R] Yarborough, Clay [R]

SB 432 Vulnerable Road Users By Sen. Baxley

* Transportation

* Criminal Justice

* Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice

* Appropriations

The first committee "Transportation" consists of:

Sen. George Gainer - Chair

Sen. Darryl Rouson - Vice Chair

Sen. Dennis Baxley

Sen. Dorothy Hukill

Sen. Kevin Rader

FROM THE AMA

PICKERINGTON, Ohio - The AMA Board of Directors issued an official position statement objecting to the profiling of motorcyclists by government agencies, including judging riders on their chosen apparel, mode of transportation or associates, rather than specific behavior and actions. "The AMA strongly condemns the profiling of motorcyclists by government agencies and has long championed the undeniable fact that the vast majority of riders and enthusiasts are upstanding, law-abiding citizens," the statement reads.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Senate joined the U.S. House of Representatives in reintroducing the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act of 2017, the RPM Act. The bipartisan bill (S. 203), introduced by Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), would provide protection for the right to modify street cars and motorcycles into dedicated race vehicles and the industry's right to sell the parts that enable racers

to compete. The bill would ensure that the conversion of motor vehicles into competition-only racers does not violate the federal Clean Air Act. The AMA joins SEMA and other organizations in the RPM Coalition in supporting this important legislation.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The AMA supports H.R. 701, the Security and Privacy in Your Car Study Act of 2017, known as "The SPY Car Study Act," which would direct the National Highway Traffic Administration to conduct a study to recommend a framework for regulating automotive software safety (e.g. diagnostic systems, navigation, and entertainment systems), cybersecurity and privacy regulations. Motorcyclists will share the road with vehicles using these technologies. Safety is of utmost concern and security from cyber-intrusion is crucial. In addition, the AMA supports measures to assure the privacy of vehicle information. The U.S. Department of Transportation needs to test the security of vehicle-to-vehicle communications to ensure motorcyclists' safety and privacy. If this bill becomes law, it will help ensure that vehicles using advanced crash-avoidance and vehicle-to-vehicle technologies are not compromised.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Freshman state Rep. Don Hahnfeldt (R-The Villages) wants to institute mandatory helmet use by eliminating the exemption adopted in 2000 that allows motorcyclists 21 or older to ride helmetless if they carry at least \$10,000 in medical insurance. The bill is H.B. 6009.

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Policies and education aimed at ending the profiling of motorcyclists would be required for all law enforcement agencies under H.F. 164, introduced to the state legislature by state Rep. Steve Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa). The bill would require the development of a statewide model policy by Oct. 1, covering what constitutes profiling and tactics for officers to avoid. By Nov. 1, each law enforcement agency in the state would have to adopt a written anti-profiling policy. SALEM, Ore. - A proposal sponsored by state Sen. Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg) S.B. 385 would allow riders to split lanes at a speed of no more than 10 mph faster than other vehicles, if traffic is moving slower than 20 mph on certain roadways. AUSTIN, Texas - State Rep. Kirk Watson (D-Austin) introduced S.B. 288, which would allow motorcyclists to split lanes when traffic is congested on limited-access or controlled-access highways. The motorcyclist would be limited to traveling no more than 5 mph faster than traffic. And splitting would be permitted only when traffic is moving at 20 mph or slower. OLYMPIA, Wash. - H.B. 1157 would allow motorcyclists to split lanes, as long as the rider travels no more than 10 mph faster than surrounding traffic and no faster than 35 mph. This bill, introduced by state Rep. Drew MacEwen (R-Union), also creates a new traffic infraction for drivers who intentionally impede lane-splitting riders.

SPIRIT LAKE, Iowa - Polaris Industries is halting production of its Victory motorcycle brand, which has been produced in the Iowa Great Lakes Region since 1998. Polaris spokesperson Megan Kathman said there will be some job losses in Spirit Lake as a result of the Victory shutdown but declined to say how many positions would be lost. The Spirit Lake plant will continue to make Indian brand motorcycles. Polaris plans to focus future efforts on the Indian brand and the three-wheeled Slingshot. Polaris Chairman and CEO Scott Wine said in a press release that Indian has more potential to grow than the Victory brand.

TOKYO - Honda has developed a concept motorcycle that keeps itself upright at a stop and during low-speed maneuvers. Using Honda Riding Assist technology, the system increases fork angle and disconnects the front forks from the handlebars. Sensors and software take over control of the bike to keep it balanced. At the company's presentation at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Honda demonstrated Riding Assist by having a motorcycle slowly wheel itself onstage. No plans have been announced to include the Riding Assist technology in production motorcycles

That all for this month. RIDE SAFE AND ENJOY!! Zman



ABATE of Florida, Inc.

20th ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHTS RALLY April 9 - 10, 2017

State Meeting Sunday April 9th at 2:00 pm

State Board Meeting Sunday April 9th at Noon

Monticello, Florida • American Legion Hall • 1065 S. Water St. • Monticello, FL 32344

Ride to the Capitol Monday April 10

Behind Super 8 in Parking Lot Kickstands up at 9:00am

BE A LEGISLATIVE WARRIOR! STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS!

• Membership & Safety Information Available

American Legion Hall

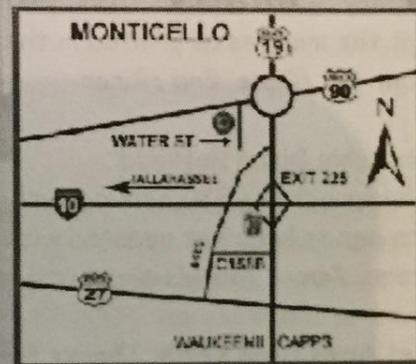
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I-10 Exit 225 south on US 19 Hotel located on west side

Days Inn Monticello 44 Woodworth Dr Monticello, FL 32336 Phone 850-997-5988
I-10 Exit 225 south on US 19 Hotel located on east side

There are other campgrounds and hotels in the area. The two above offer discounts to ABATE. Please make reservations early.

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Tim “Roadmap”

No submission this month. Ride Safe Ride often Ride Free, Roadmap



Steve Ammerman

Webmaster

Hi Polk County,

Over the years I have posted rider safety tips on the ABATE of Florida – Polk County Chapter Facebook page as well as my Webmaster Column in the Chapter Newsletter. I have often thought of putting them together in one place. This is my attempt to do so. These tips are mostly aimed at new riders. If you know a new rider, read through this with them. Together we may save a life.

As riders, our number one preventative measure is to pay attention to our surroundings and to look as far ahead as possible to pick out upcoming dangers. Yes, many accidents are caused by cagers violating our right-of-way, but paying attention and looking for upcoming trouble can save lives.

VISIBILITY:

1. When riding, there are many simple things you can do to help others see you. One simple thing is to ride during daylight hours with your bright lights on. During the daytime your brights will not blind anyone, but they will be pointed directly down the road at upcoming traffic. Upgrade to the high intensity “white” headlamp bulbs.

2. Many accidents occur from a motorcycle being struck from behind. Most of the stock tail/brake lights and turn signals have a single bulb. There are many aftermarket LED bulbs and light kits that greatly increase your rear end visibility. Many of these pulse to further increase visibility.

3. Wearing brighter colors can also help.

BRAKING:

1. On an average motorcycle, about 70% or more of your braking power is on the front wheel. I hear people say that they are scared to use the front brake thinking that it will lock up. In normal riding, you should use both brakes. Not only does it give you more control in normal riding, it greatly increases your stopping power in an emergency.

2. When riding in the rain, traction is greatly reduced. Use less front brakes and more rear. As noted before, look ahead for traffic and other dangers and brake early. Riding in the rain is an experience that can only be made safer by practice. Ride in the rain when traffic is light and you are close to home on roads you know. You cannot prepare for something that you rarely do.

3. When riding in gravel, go slow and use your rear brake. In gravel, the front wheel will easily lock up resulting in you going down. Especially when turning into a gravel driveway off of an asphalt road.

STEERING:

1. When riding a motorcycle, about the only time that you “steer” a bike is when your feet are on the ground. Once you lift your feet and begin riding, you swerve a bike. Swerving is described as follows. When riding straight down a road, if you push forward on the left handlebar grip, the bike will swerve left. Push forward on the right handlebar grip and the bike will swerve right. The harder that you push, the sharper you will turn. It sounds wrong, but try it on a straight road with a gentle push.

SHARP CURVES:

1. Riding through sharp curves takes a combination of the two previous sections, BRAKING and STEERING.

2. First is braking. You only get one chance to slow down, before entering the curve. Once you enter the curve, if you are not going slow enough it is very hard and dangerous to slow down. If you are riding on unfamiliar roads, enter the curve slowly and accelerate from the middle of the curve, out the other end.

3. Second is steering. The art of swerving needs practice and trust in your bike and your skills. If you are entering a left hand curve, push forward on the left hand grip. Once again, a novice will think this is backwards. If you find that you are going too fast, don't panic and push harder. It is

better than trying to brake in the middle of the curve. Many people lose control trying to brake in the middle of a curve.

RIDING IN GROUPS:

1. When riding in a group, the lead bike should always take the left side of their lane with the following riders in a staggered position. This has two safety reasons. First, with the lead bike in the left side of their lane, the leader can better see around traffic in front of them as well as see the oncoming traffic. Secondly, riding in a staggered position doubles the reaction time of the group as the rider in front of you is not in your half of the lane. Meaning your first obstacle is the bike two positions ahead of you.

2. Although you may be following a leader in a group, do not think that they are looking out for you. Just because they proceed through an intersection, doesn't mean that you too have enough time to make it. Only you are in charge of your bike and your safety. Look before you go.

INTERSECTIONS:

1. When you are approaching a side road intersection, you have two major dangers. A vehicle pulling out of the side road in front of you and a vehicle coming from the other direction turning left in front of you. Don't assume that they see you. Adjust your speed so that you both do not arrive at the intersection at the same time. Either accelerate and get there first or slow down to be sure that they stop before you get there.

2. A cross street with traffic signals adds more dangers, vehicles running traffic lights, turning left on red lights and diving on their brakes at the first sign of a yellow light. Look ahead and read the traffic.

FOLLOWING TRAFFIC:

1. The one major mistake many riders make is following too closely behind the vehicle in front of you. You need to be able to read the road and the traffic not only in front of you, but the traffic in front of them. Especially large trucks and vans which usually have very small tail lights. If you cannot see around them, give them and you, space to react.

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).

EDITOR



Ida Holland

Hello ABATE Members;

Think I am finally getting the hang of this maybe. Sorry for not emailing everyone, I knew there was something I was forgetting to do.

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 abatnewsletter@hotmail.com



Join Us!

At our next meeting Feb. 19th, 2017 at **1:00PM**

Boondock

8515 US Hwy 98 North

Lakeland, FL

SAFETY



Rusty Goff

No submission this month.



Upcoming ABATE Events

Polk County Chapter

State

- April 9th & 10th  Tallahassee Run
- April 16th  Gun Raffle
- May 6th  Skills On Wheels

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

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 |
| Every Thurs |  | 7PM - ?? | Sal's Island - Cypress Gardens Blvd. Winter Haven |



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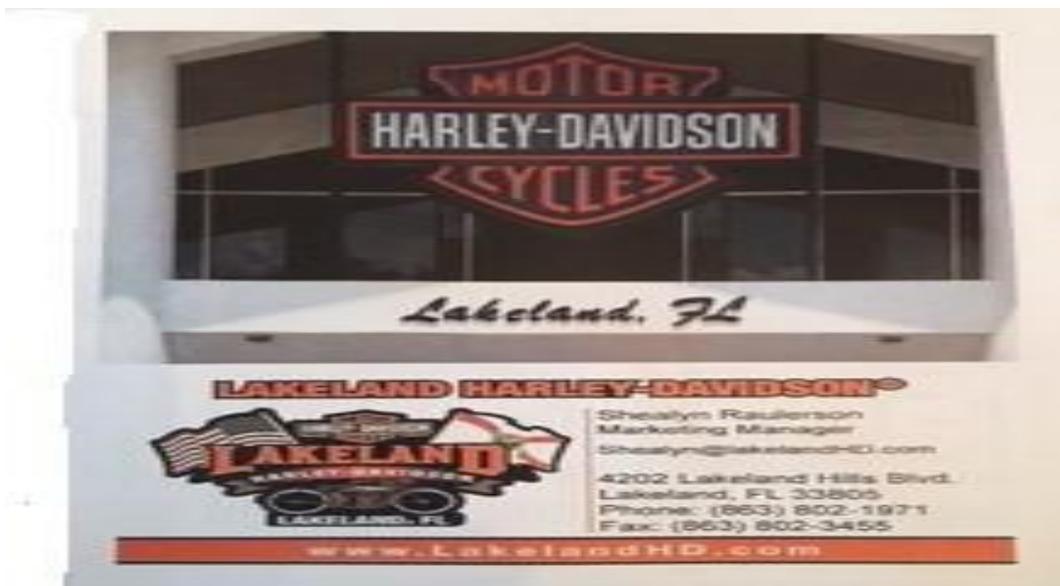
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NAME OF CHAPTER YOU WISH TO JOIN _____

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

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- LIFE MEMBERSHIP (\$600)
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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

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6/11/2016

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