

August, 2009

Celebrating our 28th Year Chartered Sept. 10th, 1980



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Temporary Change

Rob's health is improving, but he isn't quite ready to resume the challenges of our monthly newsletter.

In the meantime, I am helping by putting together this temporary replacement until

we get our Editor back behind his desk.

We ask that you keep Rob and Lynn in your thoughts and prayers.

ATM



Rob Assenzio, our Editor-in-Chief

From the desk of the Chief

As always, I hope this newsletter finds all in good health and spirits.

Our chapter was blessed with good weather for our 7th Annual 5 Star Event. The turn out for the event was a bit lower than I expected but it was a great time and fun for all that attended. We played some bike games and people games there was a bike show hosted by our very own Trick Rick and as usual he did a great job with it. A very special thank you to Ms. Donna Ellis from the shell factory for all of her assistance in helping to make the event the success that it was. All 5 Chapters chipped in to lighten the work load and fun was had by all. This year the Southwest Chapter donated a 58 year old trophy to the event and after some cleaning and remodeling we awarded it to the

chapter with the highest attendance. Although I wanted that trophy so bad I could taste it, Gator Alley chapter came out on top and took the trophy home with them. But I haven't given up yet, as I WANT that thing back for next year.

A quick history on the trophy it was awarded to the state champion chess player back in 1951. Teresa and I were at an antique auction quite a few months ago up in Arcadia and kind of ended up with it along with so much other stuff that we had planned on reselling we got caught up in the moment and had to call for a truck and trailer to carry all of our treasures home with us. We learned that we aren't antique people, but it was so much fun I'm sure we will do it again sometime soon.

Anyone that hasn't heard, Rob our newsletter editor and his bride Lyn are both home now Rob spent 50 plus days in the hospital after the crash on Ft Myers Beach. He is home and still recovering so please keep them in your prayers.

The Southwest chapter is currently putting together a joint effort event with Rack'em billiards and Gearhead Tattoo to celebrate our birthday. It has been suggested that the proceeds go to the Assenzios. It would be my honor to do that for them and it will be brought up at the next chapter meeting. Watch the newsletter and the website for more details to follow.

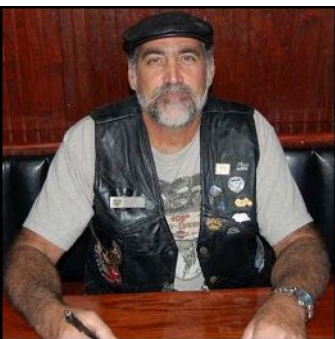
The state office put together the seminar program up in DeLand again this year and we had a small

continued from page 1

group go up with us to attend all the available classes. Thanks to Bob and Peggy Litterello, Victor Piorkowski, Ron Berg, and Teresa for assisting me with their support of this program. Sunday morning was the Presidents' meeting that Bob and I attended. It was well attended and a show of hands let all in the room see how many new presidents there are around the state. I was very pleased to see this, as new faces bring new and fresh ideas, not to mention it's a sort of changing of the guard. I personally have been on board for a long time and I have been seriously considering stepping down at the end of my term to give someone else a chance. So any of you out there, it's your time now step up and fill some of the vacancies on the BOD and learn how this organization operates. I have until June of next year, that's plenty of time for new people to familiarize themselves with the jobs and duties of the different board positions.

Bike night at Victory Lane has had its ups and downs with pretty much no rhyme or reason as to the attendance. If anyone has any ideas how to breathe some new life into this bike night please let me know, I need all the input I can get as after all these years I'm running out of new ideas. While I'm on the subject of our weekly bike night, I'm also in the market for someone to take over running that event as again I've been doing it every Wednesday night since it started, it must be someone else's turn by now. So don't be shy, let me know I won't hang you out to dry I'll do it with you till you feel confident enough to do it on your own.

School will be starting up on August 24th this year and our safety director Ron Berg and I met with the assistant superintendent of Lee School System earlier this month. We were invited back to a meeting on the 21st of August with Mr. Wiesman



Hello
Brothers
& Sisters,

Well, the
5 Star
Event is
now be-

hind us. We had a pretty good turnout from our chapter and I want to thank all of you that came out to support the chapter. I want to say a special thank you for all the people that helped out in the heat. I know it was a long day. I would like to especially thank our President, Frankie, for all the long hours and

and all the driver ed. instructors. That certainly was a stroke of luck as it will make our scheduling process so much easier for us this year. We are always looking for more people to get involved with our MSAP program, so if you think you have what it takes to be an instructor, let me know and I'll get you trained. You will have the time of your life, it is truly a rewarding experience. I have been teaching this program for the past 7 years in the Lee County School System and I really and truly feel as though we have made a difference with our MSAP. The students that took our classes seven years ago are now in their early twenties and they are aware of motorcyclists and after all, that is our goal. So come out and help with this very worthwhile program, the life you save may be your own.

Along with that news on the MSAP, I would just like to mention that I was able to secure a spot on the agenda with AARP to do our program for them. So that will mean that all you folks that are not able to help or train to get your certification during the daytime because of your job etc., this will be an ideal situation for you as the AARP classes will be in the evenings not to mention if you didn't already know, AARP is the largest grass roots organization in the world. Imagine that if we do well with the first demonstration. The sky is the limit, so please come out and get involved helping us save lives.

That's about all I got this time around remember we are the only MRO (Motorcycle Rights Organization) in the state. Our duty and our obligation is to educate the motoring public to be aware of motorcyclists. I for one, am honored to be part of this program and after you get involved, you too will be proud to be a

From the Vice President

running around to make this a huge success.

There are a few of us going to Deland for the State Seminars and we will bring back some new information to share with the chapter. We have our anniversary party coming up in September, and we need all the help we can get. Please see Frankie or myself if you want to help out.

Rob is now home and getting better every day, but it is going to be a long time before he is back to 100%, so please pray for him and Lyn.

MSAP patch holder. I am absolutely sure that we are making a difference in our state and our program is directly responsible for saving lives.

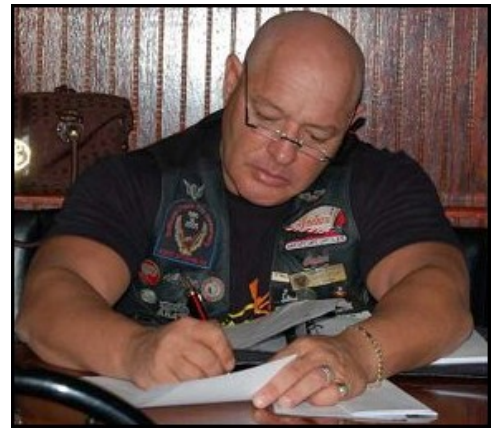
In closing I would just like to add that it has been my honor serving as your president. We have many dedicated people in our chapter, and I am blessed with a terrific board of directors that make me look good all the time and I thank them all for all their support you folks make my job easy thank you.

Ride Safe,

Frankie

Remember,

NO CRASH NO NEED FOR A HELMET !!!!!!!



On a funny note, Frankie put his bikes in the show at the 5 Star and Frankie, Victor, and I rode his bikes back to Frankie's house. But before we left the Shell Factory, Victory said that one of the bikes was going to run out of gas, and guess what? The Chopper that Frankie was riding did. That's Frankie.

With the rain coming back, watch the roads. Due to lack of rain, the roads will be slippery.

Till next time, ride safe
Bob

Southwest Chapter meeting minutes:

Date: July 19, 2009

Location: Victory Lane Café

Called to order @ 10:20

21 members

1 guest

Pledge Allegiance and moment of silence for lost brothers and sisters

President Frankie Kennedy: Frankie thanked everyone who helped out with the Five Star event yesterday held at the Shell Factory. We have pins for sale for \$5. Gator Alley won the trophy for bringing the most members to the event!! Congrats to Gator Alley!! We are leaving this Friday for the Deland Seminars. Frankie, Vic, Bob and



Peggy and Teresa are attending. Biker Bible Café is August 7, at 7:45. See Pastor Tom report for more details. Phantoms MC is holding their annual Arm Wrestling competition on Aug.9 and is having their Dog Days of Summer. See flyers for details.

August 8 is the State Meeting hosted by Caloosahatchee Chapter. This is held locally so please lets have a good turn out. See flyer for details.

Discussed having our Anniversary party in conjunction with Bikers for Babies. More details to follow.

Vice-President Bob

Litterello: Five Star was a great success. Total attendance was 554. Bob thanked all who volunteered for the Five Star Event. Bob discussed prices for a page in the biker for babies calendar. Secretary Teresa Webster: Motion to accept the minutes from last month was approved. 1st – Ron Cox and 2nd Big Bird.

Treasurer John Spinella: Motion to accept the treasury report subject to audit 1st – Trudy R. and 2nd by Big Bird.

Membership Trudy Rabell: 4 new members with one being a life member. 5 renewal for this month Trudy gave a update on Rob & Lyn A. and for members to continue to pray for them.

continued on page 4

Sgt-at-Arms Report

First I would like to thank, Pat Jablonski, Tom Pizzano, Larry Holloper, Todd Peterson, and Gator for excellent Job doing security For the 5 Star event. Again the Deland Seminar was fun and informative, Next event is August 8th State meeting, It will be hosted by

Caloosahatchee Chapter.

Ride safe,

Victor Piorkowski

Sgt.-at-Arms

P.S. If interested for Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms. Please let me know.



Shameless Plug

With some extra space to fill, Frankie suggested that I plug InTown Rider Magazine.

Check out the August Issue if you don't already have a copy.

Let our advertisers know that you saw them in InTown Rider, and let other businesses know that they should be seen

in the magazine as well.

We're always looking for stories, so if you know of something that would be of interest to our community, let us know.

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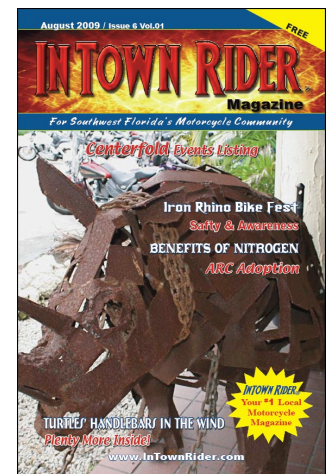
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Thank you again for the warm reception we have received. If you can't find a copy, let us know.

Kind regards,

ATM



from page 3. Southwest Chapter meeting minutes:

Products: OPEN (Frankie) Come and check out OUR table at OUR bike night at Victory Lane Café. We do have the doo-rags with Southwest logo for sale and bike flags as promised.

Legislative-PR Communications Teddy Bear: See newsletter for Kenny's report.

Newsletter Editors Rob and Lyn Assenzio: Rob is still our newsletter editor! Taylor is stepping up again this month to help as Rob continues to improve. Please email Taylor with any information at abate@musburger.net, in the subject line please put NEWSLETTER. Deadline is July 27, 2009. Please do not send PDF files for the newsletter. If you do they can't be in the newsletter. Please put NEWSLETTER in the subject area when sending email.

Advertising: OPEN

1. This position has been reopened due to lack of interest.

Safety Ron Berg: For the next two weeks Ron will be booking appointments with our school for the MSAP program.

Website Taylor Musburger: Email Taylor with any information at abate@musburger.net

Chapter Chaplin Tom Provenzano: (absent) See newsletter for Pastor Tom report. (Tom is in London and needs money to get home as per Frankie!)

Old, New Business and Good of the Order: Bike week Feb. 26 to March 7, 2009. See flyer in the newsletter.

Flashback State party is September 4 to 6, 2009. See flyer for more info.

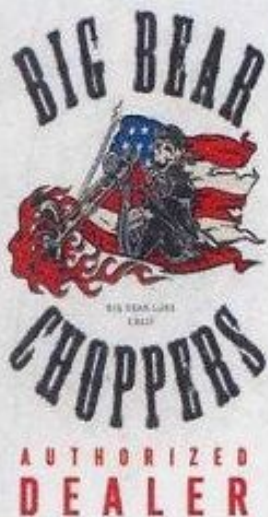
Ron Cox has written an article about the Five Star Event for Thunder Road magazine August issue. They will be available Wednesday night bike night.

Motion to adjourn @ 11:07- Motion by Trudy and 2nd Ron B.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Webster-Malibu Barbie



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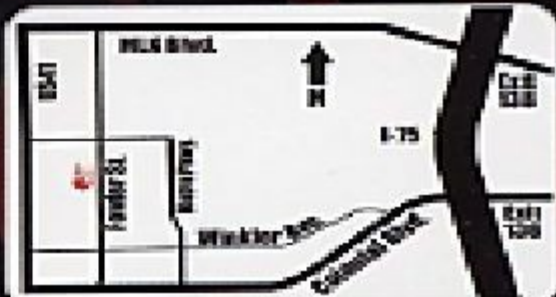
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Membership Report: July 2009

Welcome New Members: We hope that you choose to get involved with this growing and fun chapter...Bruce Inman, Debra Knox, Liz Demski Van Hemme and "KD" Marlowe (New Life Member)

Thanks for your renewals: Ron Berg, James Rosser III, Lois Crusan, Todd Peterson, and John Spinella.

Expired and/or Delinquent Members: If you know any of these folks, please encourage them to REJOIN or renew with SOUTHWEST CHAPTER!! Brian Boyle, Robert Shaffner, Klay Snyder, Rick Jones, Teddy Simmons, and Grimes Tinsley.

If you are not receiving your news-

letter or Masterlink, PLEASE CONTACT me to make sure your information is correct. If you have moved, your newsletter will not be forwarded.

Your membership expires on the last day of your Anniversary month. Delinquent renewals must be received no later than the Chapter meeting of the month following your anniversary date in order to maintain renewal status, otherwise you will be enrolled as a new member.

Anyone who would like to recycle his or her first year pins in order to save the Chapter money PLEASE

turn your pins into Membership. Thanks.

Ride Safe and Free

Trudy Rabell, Membership Trustee



Southwest Chapter Life Members

Darrell Barnett
Denee Bartels
Scott Blink
Chet Butz
James Burkholder
Nora Burkholder
Don Campbell
Frances Cazes
Jonathan Conant
Terry Covington
Audrey Cran
Maggie Cran
Rick Cran
Rob Cran
Robert "Cruz" Crusan
Ginny D'Asti
Mary Dicenzo-Porter
Al Diagiaco
Frank Disomma
Cindy Doak
Randy Eck

Brian Galvin
Sonny Gartrell
Lynnda Gray
Bob Hall
Harry Hoover
George Huttman
Susan "Red" Huttman
Dan Jackson
Frankie Kennedy
John Kennedy
Ed LaCombe
Russell May
Rev. Rea Means
Don Meredith, Jr.
Jo Ann Miller
Kenneth Miller
Jim Mozeleski
Terry Padilla
Bob Penn
Asuncsion Peppers
Richard Peppers

Kathleen Provenzano
Rev. Thomas Provenzano
Bill Robinson
Janet Rolfe
Tabitha Rossi
Roland Salsberry
Jencye Schmitt
Jerry Schmitt
Bruce Scheiner
Elsie Seif
Robert Simon
Richard Stergulz
Sandy Stergulz
Grandpa Stewart
Ruth Vorys
Teresa Webster
D. Payton Wells
Michael Wieland



Chapter Chaplin, Pastor Tom: Commitment to our Motorcycling Organizations and Commitment to God

A few months ago, we were sitting in the parking lot of a charitable organization, getting ready to start a benefit run with many other bikers. During the time we were waiting for the run to commence, we had some time to talk with a leader who represented one of our Southwest Florida motorcycling associations. He said (as close as we can remember), "Chaplain Tom, I don't know if you have problems with your Messiah's Messengers. But, the biggest problem our group has is commitment."

We began to think about what he said and decided how much motorcycling would really be promoted, how much motorcycling would be better understood by the cagers, how much legislation our ABATE organization could push through, and how much Messiah's Messengers could accomplish if we had more committed members! We thought about the numbers that wear our organization's t-shirts with our logo and the numbers that were patched. Then, we compared it to the numbers that show their commitment by doing what it takes and the time it takes to move us forward. The sum of the exercise was disappointing. Commitment in our society seems to be lacking in major areas. Many more students seem to be dropping out of school before graduation takes place. Look at the percentage of marriages ending in divorce... When one of us was teaching school, the numbers of students who made commitments to complete academic projects vs. the numbers that actually completed the projects was terrible. Then, when the student was reminded of the commitment and asked to finish what was started, the student would have the parents call the teacher to offer lame excuses and/or find a way out of doing what was committed to. Sometimes parents would call the school administration to put pressure on the teachers to "back off."

There are people who call us and let us know what wonderful people they are, how much they love motorcycling, and they'd like to consider being Messiah's Messengers. However, when they see the

commitment it will take to join our ranks and the commitment to be shown during a probationary period, they soon change their tune and interest quickly wanes.

When we ask people to give their hearts, minds, and souls to God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, we are asking for a real commitment. This commitment is something that should remain and guide you for the rest of your life and something that will carry you into all eternity. Jesus said, in Revelation 3:15-16 (NASB) **"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; -I wish that you were cold or hot. 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth."** To us, this scripture is very clear that God is not looking for "fence sitters" and has a disdain for those who cannot commit to Him.

Jesus was looking for commitment in Luke 9:57-62. **57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." 59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."**

It's clear to see in this passage of Luke; everyone had something else to do. They were all into their own thing. They were looking at their situation, all wrapped up in their own small ambitions, instead of looking at the big picture and turning their lives to Christ. They could not make a commitment. What would have happened to the world if our parents had not made commitments to win at all costs, during World War II? What would happen if our current



military service members could not make a commitment to fight the current war on terror?

Jesus said, "I stand at the door and knock." How will you answer that door? Can you answer with your commitment to Him? If so...

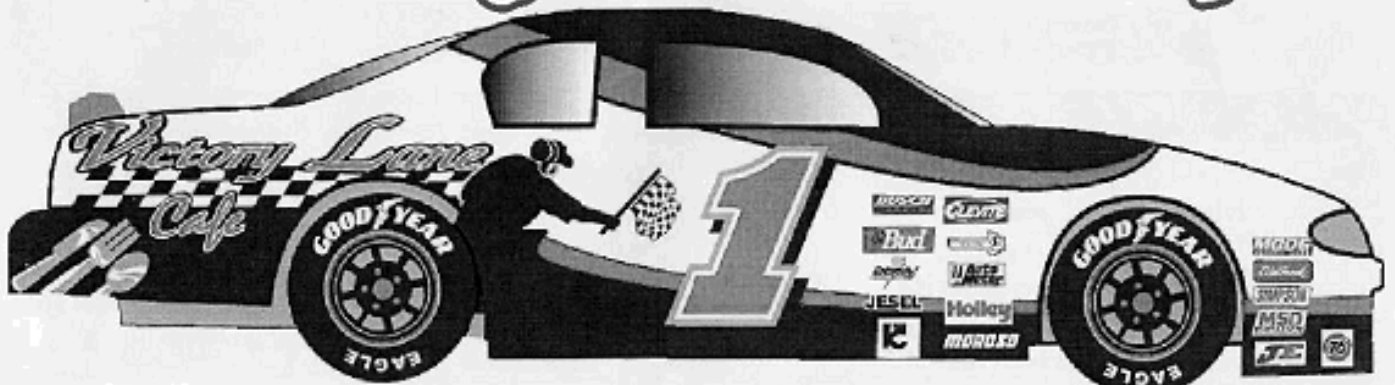
Will you please pray this to God? **"Dear God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, my heavenly Father, I confess that I am a sinner and have been separated from You. I ask forgiveness of my sins. I repent and accept this gift of repentance. I confess with my mouth that your son Jesus is my savior and died for me. I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. I receive Jesus into my heart and ask Him to become the center of my life. I ask, in the Name of Jesus. Amen."**

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"**

Blessings,

Tom (Estero River and Southwest ABATE Life Member and Chapters' Chaplain) and Kathy (SW ABATE Life Member)- www.messiahsmessengers.org - tprovenz@comcast.net - 239-267-8641 PS. The next Biker Bible Café is set for August 7th, 7:45 PM in our home. Make a commitment to be there!

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5 Star Event

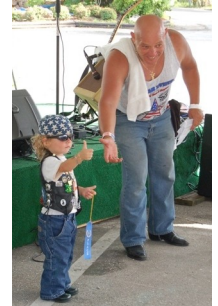


Estero River, Caloosahatchee, Gator Alley, Southwest, and Peace River; the points of the 5 Star Event held on Saturday, July 18th at Southwest Florida's own Shell Factory & Nature Center.

Started in 2003 as a celebration for the change made in Florida's helmet law, the 5 Star Event has become an annual event to bring together the five ABATE Chapters in three counties of Southwest Florida.

Even with typical July temperatures, the event had a good turnout. Gator Alley Chapter took home the new traveling trophy created for largest number of chapter members present. Biker games, a tattoo contest, and a bike show were the activities for the day with Cat Daddy and The Manipulators adding the background music.

Sponsored by The Shell Factory & Nature Center, Phase 2 Towing, Associates & Bruce L. Scheiner, and Victory Lane Motorcycles, the event drew non-ABATE member motorcyclists as well as the general public. A good mix of vendors also did their best to make this an event of substance. I know that Frankie is looking forward to taking home that trophy next year.



Squirrel!

I never dreamed slowly cruising on my motorcycle through a residential neighborhood could be so incredibly dangerous! Little did I suspect!

The weather has been unseasonably warm in Austin, so I got the bike out to go for a ride. I was on Brice Street - a very nice neighborhood with perfect lawns and slow traffic. As I passed an oncoming car, a brown furry missile shot out from under it and tumbled to a stop immediately in front of me.

It was a squirrel, and must have been trying to run across the road when it encountered the car. I really was not going very fast, but there was no time to brake or avoid it -- it was that close.

I hate to run over animals, and I really hate it on a motorcycle, but a squirrel should pose no danger to me. I barely had time to brace for the impact.

Animal lovers, fear not. Squirrels, I discovered, can take care of themselves!

Inches before impact, the squirrel flipped to his feet. He was standing on his hind legs and facing my oncoming VTX with steadfast resolve in his little beady eyes. His mouth opened, and at the last possible second, he screamed and leapt! I am pretty sure the scream was squirrel for, "Bonsai!" or maybe, "Die you gravy-sucking, heathen scum!" The leap was nothing short of spectacular ... as he shot straight up, flew over my windshield, and impacted me squarely in the chest.

Instantly, he set upon me. If I did not know better, I would have sworn he brought 20 of his little buddies along for the attack. Snarling, hissing, and tearing at my clothes, he was a frenzy of activity. As I was dressed only in a light T-shirt, summer riding gloves, and jeans, this squirrel was causing me more than a little concern. In fact, the furry little tornado was doing some serious damage to my clothes and my skin!

Picture a large man on a huge black and chrome cruiser, dressed in jeans, a T-shirt, and leather gloves, pattering at maybe 25 mph down a quiet residential street, and in the fight of his life with a squirrel. And losing...

I grabbed for him with my left hand. After a few misses, I finally managed to snag his tail. With all my strength, I flung the evil rodent off to the left of the bike, almost running into the right curb as I recoiled from the throw. That should have done it. The matter should have ended right there. It really should have. The squirrel could have sailed into one of the pristinely kept yards and gone on about his business, and I could have headed home. No one would have been the wiser.

But this was no ordinary squirrel. This was not even an ordinary angry squirrel. This was an **EVIL MUTANT ATTACK SQUIRREL OF DEATH!**

Somehow he caught my gloved finger with one of his little hands and, with the force of the throw, swung around and with a resounding thump and amazing impact, he landed squarely on my back and resumed his rather antisocial and extremely distracting activities. He also managed to take my left glove with him!

The situation was not improved. Not improved at all. His attacks were continuing, and now I could not reach him. I was startled, to say the least. The force of the throw and only having one hand on the handlebars (the throttle hand) caused a jerking backwards motion which put a healthy twist through my right hand and into the throttle. A healthy twist on the throttle of a VTX can only have one result. Lots of torque. This is what the VTX is made for, and she is very, very good at it.

The engine roared and the front wheel left the pavement.

The squirrel screamed in anger. The VTX screamed in ecstasy.

I screamed in ... well ... I just plain screamed.

Now picture a large man on a huge black and chrome cruiser, dressed in jeans, a slightly squirrel-torn-t-shirt, wearing only one leather glove, and roaring at maybe 50 mph and rapidly accelerating down a quiet residential street on one

wheel and with a demonic squirrel on his back. The man and the squirrel are both screaming bloody murder.

With the sudden acceleration I was forced to put my other hand back on the handlebars and try to get control of the bike. This left the mutant squirrel to his own devices, but I really did not want to crash into somebody's tree, house, or parked car. Also, I had not yet figured out how to release the throttle ... my brain was just simply overloaded. I did manage to mash the back brake, but it had little effect against the massive power of the big cruiser.

About this time the squirrel decided that I was not paying sufficient attention to this very serious battle (maybe he is an evil mutant NAZI attack squirrel of death), and he came around my neck and got INSIDE my full-face helmet with me. As the faceplate closed part way, he began hissing in my face. I am quite sure my screaming changed intensity. However, it had little effect on the squirrel. The RPMs on the Dragon maxed-out (since I was not bothering with shifting at the moment) so the bikes front end started to drop.

Now picture a large man on a huge black and chrome cruiser, dressed in jeans, a very raggedly torn T-shirt, wearing only one leather glove, roaring at probably 80 mph, still on one wheel, with a large puffy squirrel's tail sticking out of the mostly closed full-face helmet.

By now the screams are probably getting a little hoarse. Finally I got the upper hand ... I managed to grab the squirrels tail again, pulled him out of my helmet, and slung him to the left as hard as I could. This time it worked ... sort-of. Spectacularly, sort-of -- so to speak ... but not exactly in a good way.

Picture a new scene. You are a cop. You and your partner have pulled off on a quiet residential street and parked with your windows down to do some paperwork. Suddenly a large man on a huge black and chrome cruiser, dressed in jeans, a torn T-shirt flapping in the breeze, and wearing only one leather glove, moving at probably 80 mph on one wheel, and screaming bloody murder roars by and with all his strength throws a squirrel grenade directly into your police car.

I heard screams. They weren't mine... I managed to get the big motorcycle under control and dropped the front wheel to the ground. I then used maximum braking and skidded to a stop in a cloud of tire smoke at the stop sign of a busy cross street. I would have returned to fess-up (and to get my glove back).

Honest. I really would have. Except for two things. First, the cops did not seem interested or the slightest bit concerned about me at that moment. When I looked back, the doors on both sides of the patrol car were flung wide open. The cop from the passenger side was on his back, doing a crab walk into somebody's front yard, quickly moving away from the patrol car. The cop who had been in the driver's seat is now standing in the street and aiming a riot shotgun at his own police car. So, the cops were definitely not interested in me, at that point in time.

Besides, they often say to "let the professionals handle it" anyway. That was one reason for not going back. The other? Well, I could clearly see shredded and flying pieces of foam and upholstery from the back seat of the patrol car. And I could swear I saw the squirrel in the back window, shaking his little fist at me. That is one dangerous squirrel! Now he has taken control of a police car. A somewhat shredded police car ... but it was all his ... no question about it.

I took a deep breath, turned on my turn-signal, made a gentle right turn off of Brice Street, and sedately left the neighborhood. I decided it was best to just buy myself a new pair of gloves... and a large box of Band-Aids.



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Legislative Report by Teddybear

Good Morning Freedom Fighters:

It has not been a very good day for me as my computer took a dump, and I lost my entire report. However, thanks to Taylor, I was able to solve at least some of the problems. So I apologize to all of you for the shortness of this report.

Tuesday, September 15, 2009, will be the Municipal Primary Election, and November 3, 2009, will be the Municipal General Election.

Only the residents of the cities of Fort Myers and Cape Coral are eligible to vote in these Municipal Elections.

Early voting for the Municipal Primary Elections will start on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009. However, early voting will **NOT** be available on Labor Day, Sept. 7th. Early voting will start up again on Tuesday Sept. 8th and run thru Saturday Sept. 12th.

For the Municipal General Election, early voting will start on Monday, October 26th, and run thru Saturday, October 31st..

The hours for early voting will remain the same as they were last year. Mon. thru Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Only two sites will be open for the Municipal Elections for early voters, the Lee County Elections Main Office at 2480 Thompson St. in Ft.. Myers, and the Cape Coral Branch Office at 1031 SE 9th Place #3. For more information you can call LEE-VOTE (533-8683).

I want to thank John Sullivan for being our guest speaker at our June chapter meeting. John is a mayoral candidate for the City of Cape Coral and spoke about his

campaign.

John is an outspoken, long-time city activist who seems to have a very clear understanding of the issues and problems facing the residents of the Cape. John is well known and respected in political circles, both in Lee County and in Cape Coral.

Like most residents, John is opposed to the tax-and-spend government currently in place. He is also opposed to the high cost of the UEP, where homeowners are facing assessments of anywhere from \$6,000 to \$17,000, not to mention all the other costs associated with the hook-ups that the homeowners have to pay out of their pockets up front.

With foreclosures and unemployment rising at alarming rates in the Cape, we need a Mayor who can work with the City Manager and the City Council to effectively address these problems, and avoid gridlock.

When John was finished, I asked him a question: One of the primary thrusts of ABATE of Florida is motorcycle safety and awareness. One of the ways we accomplish this is by asking our local elected officials to issue a public proclamation declaring the month of May to be Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. If elected, as the Mayor of the City of Cape Coral, would you support issuing such a public proclamation? His answer, "Yes! Absolutely!" John has my vote.

John will be facing incumbent mayor James Burch, who was appointed by council last year. Jim wants to keep his job and is running for his first full term as mayor. He is also going up against former mayor Roger Butler, former mayoral candidate Robert

continued on page 16

Upcoming Membership Renewals



August

DIMARIE ANDUJAR
 RON BERG
 JOHN CROSS
 LOIS CRUSAN
 FELIX CRUZ
 CHRISTINA MAROON

September

ADRIENNE BERGES
 CHUCK BERGES
 LORI CALDWELL
 DAVID ELIAS
 TONY MARCHESE
 JAMES McCOMAS
 SHELLEY McCOMAS
 BARBARA WYNKOOP

October

DOUG CAHN
 PAUL DEBUQUE
 BONNIE GRIECO
 A. TAYLOR MUSBURGER
 DON ROSIO

Legislative Report continued from page 15

Pizzolongo and Stephen Lovejoy.

Three council seats will also be up for grabs. However, the District 1 and 4 seats will be decided in the Municipal General Election in November, because they have less than three candidates running in those races. In the District 6 race, incumbent Tim Day will be stepping down due to term limits. This race has garnered four candidates, they are: Frank Antos, John Cataldi, Kevin McGrail and Joe Trunkett. I am not familiar with any of these candidates. So it's your choice here.

In the Fort Myers mayoral race, at least one of the three candidates has landed himself in some hot water. On his campaign Website, Derrell Gardner claims he was a Green Beret. A criminal background check revealed that he was convicted of battery in 2001, and may have never completed his training for the Army Special Forces, which has angered local Green Beret veterans.

Of the other two candidates, Randy Henderson paid a \$50 fine a number of years ago for boating in a manatee zone, and

Jenna Persons, boy, is she hot, has no criminal record in Lee County.

Council Wards 1, 3 and 5 will also be on the ballot in the Municipal Elections this year. Council Wards are elected by Ward. You must be a resident in those Wards in order to vote in those races. Wards 3 and 5 will be decided in the Municipal General Election in November, because they have less than three candidates in those contests.

The Ward 1 race has drawn four candidates. The thing that caught my attention in this race is that, three of the four candidates live on the same street, all within a block or so of each other. What do you suppose is up with that? That race is going to be interesting. I don't think I've ever seen that happen before.

See you in the wind,
'TEDDYBEAR'

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- ***A short and open discussion from the Bible w/illustration(s) related to motorcycling***
- ***Prayer for your specific physical, emotional, and spiritual needs***
- ***Bike blessing on request***
- ***Informal setting – all colors/patches welcome***
- ***Refreshments and a variety of Desserts and Fellowship after the meeting***
- ***Lots of parking (if our drive is full, there is a huge parking lot directly across the street)***

Do you have at least one hour that you can give to the Lord? Join us at:

Pastor Tom (SW ABATE Chapter Chaplain) and Kathy's home:

8201 Sanibel Boulevard (just 1.1 mile east of US 41 and Sanibel Blvd. intersection and across the street from the San Carlos Community Pool parking lot)

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