

Celebrating our 29th Year Chartered Sept. 10th, 1980

SMRO is an acronym for State Motorcycle Rights Organization. They are organizations comprised of individuals who are dedicated to insuring personal liberties in our legislature. They are dedicated to maintaining the lifestyle of motorcycling by working legislatively to promote motorcycle awareness & road safety and regaining lost liberties.



Temporary Change

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So, you are probably wondering why the newsletter looks different this month. Frankie asked me to step in an help put together this temporary replacement until

we get our Editor back behind his desk. We ask that you keep Rob and Lyn in your thoughts and prayers. ATM



Rob Assenzio, Our Editor-In-Chief

From the desk of the Chief

Hi everyone. As always, I hope this newsletter finds all in great health and spirits.

The holidays are upon us, the riding weather is great, and we have been out enjoying it.

The Frankie's Birthday Bash and Big Ass Bike Show was rained out on the 25th of November and was rescheduled for the following Wed. on December 2nd, which as of this writing, is still a few days away. I hope this event is attended by many.

Most of you have heard that I have gone back to work and am out at Southwest Cycle with Steve and Dave we are doing our best to help promote

this business and we had our grand opening this past Saturday. We had a wonderful turnout and a great time was had by all who attended. Anything you need or want for your riding pleasure is available at our new location as well as a full parts counter and a repair shop that is staffed with some of the premier mechanics in the area, these guys are great. Come out and meet the staff and decide for yourself. We are here to make your motorcycling experience the best possible. So make some time in your schedule to just take a ride over to our brand new location on the corner of 15th Ave. and Pine Island Road across from Mel's Diner. Hope to see you there

soon.

On a much sadder note, we had a few people in the hospital this past month including Ron Berg who is still recovering from his illness. Victor, our Sgt-At-Arms, is also still recovering from his injuries from the crash he was involved in back in October. And it is with a great deal of difficulty that I share the following news with you, we lost Jimmy Moseleski who was a long time member of the Southwest Chapter and a very active member as well. Jimmy was also a member of Rolling Thunder, we will miss you Jimmy. I spoke to Jimmy about two weeks ago at Victory Lane



From the desk of the Chief, continued.

bike night and he was saying that he didn't feel well and that he had an appointment to see the doctor, after seeing the doctor it was determined he had some serious liver problems and after about two weeks in the hospital Jimmy succumbed to his illness and again he will so be missed by all that knew and loved him... We will ride together again my brother, one day...

Christmas Run to the Gulf Coast Center is on track and will be our last ride there as the state will be closing this facility and relocating all of its residents. The Southwest Chapter has provided Christmas to these people for the past 29 years and I have personally been involved with the last 15 or 16 years of this event. I'm sorry to see this worthy event come to its end, but we are working on putting together another situation with the Sunrise Center, another facility that houses handicapped adults out off of Pine Island Road. We did the first one to that facility last year under the direction of our former secretary, Teresa. She worked very hard to make this happen and I would like to continue this event for many years to come. So any of you that plan on attending the Christmas Run this year, please bring your friends and help us to make this last ride a great

one. Anyone having any questions and or input please call me or any board member for more info.

Thanksgiving has come and gone and we

that meeting back to you for our next chapter meeting.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a

happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Also, I want all that are reading this to know that I, for one, greatly appreciate all that you do for the Southwest Chapter and for ABATE of Florida. It's you people that make this whole thing possible and I could not do it without your involvement. I have sur-



rounded myself with quality people and together we have been bringing the Southwest Chapter to premier levels in the state as one of this state's best MRO chapters and I thank all of you that have had input in our success as a chapter. Thanks again and till next time...

Ride Safe,
Frankie

Ride Safe,
Frankie



From the Vice President

Salutations!

Welcome again to all of our new members and happy birthday to Frankie. Here's to good weather the second time round.

We are rolling right along towards our 29th Annual

Christmas Ride, and we'll be needing assistance with getting the ride started. Please contact me at 239-334-1620 to help with the Christmas Ride setup.

As we head further into terrorist season, be mind-

ful of what those cagers are doing, or what they could do with no warning. Always have an escape planned out.

That said, ride safe and enjoy!

ATM

Secretary's Report

Location: Victory Lane Café
 Date: November 22 2009
 Called to order@ 10.15 am
 29 members
 Pledge Allegiance and moment of silence

President:

There is a error in the October newsletter. Our Christmas run is on December 6, not on the date in the newsletter. Our members Ron Berg, Victor and Jimmy Moseleski are in the hospital. Our thoughts go out to them. Rob Crane and Kelly went out to raise funds and sell advertising. They have raised \$965.00 to date. The State meeting will be on December 13. Frankie and Birdie will be attending If anyone knows of a family who could be a candidate for adopt a family,, please let Frankie know. He has the forms

Frankies Birthday Bash Nov. 25
 Grand Opening South West Cycles Nov. 28
 South West Abate Christmas run Dec. 6
 State Meeting (Blackcreek, fl) Dec 12
 Freedom Rights Rally-2010 Bike Week
 Volunteers are needed April 19

Vice President:

Taylor asks for help fort the Christmas run on Dec. 6. This will be the last time for this run because Gulf Coast Center will be transformed into a geriatric prison. Trudy, Cat and Liz have volunteered to open and close. Rob Rabbel and Victor will help with parking. Taylor will recruit more helpers for this event.

Secretary:

Motion to except last months minutes was accepted 1st Trudy and 2nd by Rob

Treasurer:

Absent and excused.

Membership:

2 new members, 3 renewals. Welcome to all. Trudy also reports that Ron Berg has a fungus and pneumonia. He will be undergoing a new treatment and will probably be going to a nursing home. Rob can accept visitors.

Products (open)

Frankie will design a cover for the t-shirts for the Christmas run.

Legislative PR/Communications:

See news letter for report. People who want to sign up for the Legislative newsletter can do so on-line on the Abate web site.

State Business:

State meeting is on Dec. 12

Safety Trustee:

Birdie has safety signs in Spanish . If anyone would like one, please contact Birdie. Richard is being trained for MSAP instructor. Birdie thanks him with a notebook. We need more people to be certified. Get with Birdie for that

Motion to adjourn the meeting: 10.45

am 1st Trudy, 2nd Smokie
 The ride after the meeting will go to Estero Pilgrims Pride and the Adopt*A*Troop chili cook-off.





As we begin a new year, I thought we'd re-visit the question some bikers are being asked consistently: Why do you ride without wearing a helmet?

I'm not going to try and tell you that *not* wearing a helmet while you ride offers the ultimate in safety. Wearing a helmet has its benefits. However, let's talk about some mostly unknown points, and bring them to light.

First, to simulate the impact a helmet experiences while your head is in it during a crash, the DOT requires helmet manufacturers to drop the helmets on an anvil at 4.7 MPH to 13.4 MPH.¹ Some of the research I've read even tries to sell the idea that if you're traveling at 67 MPH and crash, your head with a helmet on will finally impact somewhere at the equivalent of hitting an anvil at 11 MPH!² I think most of us are much more intelligent than that. Hell, I'm almost insulted at that assumption!

Since the government has spent years and so much money to convince us, the ones that actually ride, that helmets are the next best thing since sliced bread, consider this: helmets can offer a false sense of safety. Many will hate to admit it, but if they look deep inside, they'll admit that when they're riding with a helmet on, they possess a belief on some level that if they are involved in an accident, the helmet will keep them from harm. I know years ago when I laid my Kawasaki GPZ750 down at 55 MPH, I ended up with road rash. I was riding stupidly... I did have the feeling that the helmet would save the day. Yeah, I walked away from the accident. Not because the helmet saved my life... for a reason much simpler than that: my head never hit anything during the accident.

This conveniently brings me to my next point. For years we keep hearing that the majority of fatal motorcycle accidents involve bikers not wearing helmets. They never seem to break down the *type* of fatality that caused the tragedy, just that it involved a motorcycle, involved a death, and did not involve a motorcycle helmet. Therefore, a majority of the pro-helmet people have been hanging their hats on these statistics.

However, that ends now. In late 2008, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) reported that "58% of motorcyclists and their passengers killed **WERE** wearing helmets". Specifically, the DHSMV further stated that of all the 2007 motorcycle-involved accidents in Florida, 57.39% of them resulted in an incapacitating injury in which the riders/drivers **were** wearing a helmet.³ It appears the helmet wearers are now a MINORITY. Statistics no longer support the anti-helmet choice advocate's claims.

I don't wish to preach doom and gloom about the helmet/no-helmet issue. Safety aside, one thing does remain true: we live and ride in the United States of America. As legal adults, as the individuals riding the motorcycles, and as some may say; the ones putting *ourselves* at risk, we should have the right to make our own choice if we wish to wear a helmet or not. Helmet laws are simply another way for the government to tell grown men and women what to do.

Oh yeah, in case you're asked; this is not an issue tied to the seatbelt laws; those in cars don't have to pay extra for insurance to ride without a seatbelt. FL law requires us to hold a Personal Insurance Policy to ride without helmets.

Helmet use is a choice. ***Let those who ride decide.***

Until next month, keep the chrome side up,
 Dave "Lockdown" Rich
 State PR/Communications Trustee,
 ABATE of Florida, Inc.
statepr-comm@abateflorida.com
www.abateflorida.com

¹ Federal DOT § 571.218 Standard No. 218; Motorcycle helmets

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorcycle_helmet

³ FL DHSMV Traffic Crash Statistics Reports 2007, page 8 & 11

Membership Report

Welcome New Members: We hope that you choose to get involved with growing and fun chapter... David Elias, Roger Marnul, and Capt. Larry Phillips.

Thanks for your renewals: Paul Jones and Doug Cahn.

Expired and/or Delinquent Members: If you know any of these folks, please encourage them to REJOIN or renew with SOUTHWEST CHAPTER!! Paul Dubque, Don

Rosio, Justin Beasley, Michael Flye, Tom Wallen, and Steve Wyatt.

If you are not receiving your newsletter or Masterlink, PLEASE CONTACT me to make sure your information is correct.

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 & Free,

Trudy Rabell
Member ship Trustee



Upcoming Renewals

DECEMBER

- Keith Baker
- Barbara Bardell
- Debra Barlow
- Darlene Daniels
- Matt Faulk
- Bill Geary
- Randall Glass
- Paul Jones
- Scott MacPhee
- Carl Nelson
- James Terault
- Rick Tiner
- Ray Walters

JANUARY

- Ronald Cox
- Biffe Davis
- Peggy Litterello
- Robert Litterello
- Marcia Penn
- Cody Webster

FEBRUARY

- Joel R. Bachuber
- Scott R. Brown
- Larry Crews
- Tom Greenfield
- Patrick Jablonski
- Marion Ward



NEW LOCATION !

NEW LOCATION !

11th Annual

Lee County Church Crash!

January 30th and 31st

SUNDAY (The Big Day), January 31st, 2010 – Fort Myers,
Florida
Starts: 12 Noon

New Location: Hope of God's Glory Foursquare Church–(see directions below):

SLOW RACE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE UNIVERSE

(Champion and Runner-up Trophies for Male and Female Slow Race Divisions)

A Welcome by Pastor Wilma and Chaplain Scott "Road Rabbi"

A "Brief" Message by Pastor Tom

Awesome Lunch and beverages available from menu for inexpensive purchase from the

famous: Ken's – Mixer's Grill

TRIKE GAMES

"NICE BIKE" JUDGING - Open Class – 3 Trophies

Live Music by: BOB AND LEAN INGENBRANDY - BURDEN OF TRUTH

(Just one entry donation for all activities : \$5.00 per person (food available for separate purchase). All donations by riders and passengers on the day of the event will go to a local biker/family in need and to help with the MMMM ministry outreach activities)



SATURDAY Evening (Pre-event activity), January 30th, 2010

RUN-FOR-RIBS... Restaurant visit and pre-event fellowship (Dutch treat)
(5:30 PM – leaving from the Hope of God's Glory Foursquare Church parking lot – see directions below)

For information: www.messiahsmessengers.org or call: 239-267-8641

All bikers are welcome at Hope of God's Glory Foursquare (VERY biker friendly!). Services: Sun. 10:30am – Club patches, colors, and informal road attire are appropriate. We're located at: 3856 Evans Avenue (just 1/2 blk. south of Carroll Corners and, 1/2 block north of Winkler). Biker Bible Café – every other first Friday evening of the month, 7:45 PM at the informal setting of Pastor Tom and Kathy's home. Please check the website or call for dates.

Legislative Report

Good Morning Freedom Fighters:

Watchdog Sullivan takes the Cape by Storm

Whether it was because of the economy, last year's tax increase or mounting frustration over City Council, voters have picked one of the city government's most vocal critics to lead the city.

John Sullivan - whose campaign slogan "Had enough, yet?" graced much of his literature - took 63 percent of the vote to beat out incumbent Jim Burch, who had 37 percent. Sullivan, 66, will become the city's 13th mayor.

"Now the hard work starts," Sullivan said, as the unofficial election results rolled in. "We're going to get some good things done."

Sullivan has promised to cut city spending, reform the city's administration and revamp the utility expansion program.

In five years in the public eye, Sullivan has earned a reputation based on what he was against - a \$110 million bond for a public safety building, the utility expansion program and city spending.

He founded the Cape Coral Minutemen, a government watchdog group, and he speaks weekly at council meetings. His supporters now hope he can find solutions to those issues.

Burch offered his support to the four council winners as well as Sullivan. "I hope they're successful," said Burch, who was appointed to the seat last year. "If these guys are successful, the city's successful. It's a long learning curve."

Sullivan said this is the start of sweeping change. He has at least three allies on the council. Sitting councilmen Pete Brandt and Bill Deile have supported Sullivan, both with financial donations and philosophically by signing a document, called the Contract with Cape Coral, which pledges to work toward common goals.

"It looks like help is on the way," Deile said. He and Brandt joined Sullivan at a party hosted by District 1 candidate Jim Martin.

The recession-battered residents are hoping Sullivan can deliver on his promise for change.

"These are tough times," said resident Hank Springsteen, a Sullivan supporter, "I figure we need a change in the mayor."

My whole-hearted congratulations to John Sullivan as the newly-elected mayor of Cape Coral. I wish him all the best in the world. It's true, he has a long road to travel, but I'm sure he's looking forward to the challenge.

If you live in Cape Coral and would like to contact John to congratulate him on his election as Mayor of Cape Coral, you can contact him at (239) 574-0436, or e-mail him at: jsullivan@capecoral.net, or write to him at P.O. Box 150027, Cape Coral, Fl. 33915-0027.

If you do contact John, please mention your chapter affiliation. **'TEDDYBEAR'**

There is a nasty rumor floating around Tallahassee that there will be an attempt to put lids back on our heads during the next legislative session.

We have enjoyed our freedom of choice for about ten years now, and this rumor has persisted for almost as many years, but fortunately, it has never materialized. But, that doesn't mean it won't happen.

We must remain vigilant. We must remain current with the issues we're watching in Tallahassee. Log onto ABATE of Florida's web site, become informed about these issues. There's a wealth of information on that web site that affect you as a motorcyclist.

The best way to head something like that off, is by maintaining a positive rapport with your legislators and their staffs.

If you've never contacted your legislators before, give their office a call, or drop them a line. Identify yourself as a constituent. Provide their staff with your contact information. Ask their staff if your legislator puts out a newsletter, ask to be put on that list, it will keep you informed about what's going on in either the House or the State Senate, or ask about constituent services, you'll be surprised what they can do for you.

By building this type of rapport, when you do contact their office about an issue that concerns you, as a constituent, your communication will get immediate attention. **Keep the shiny side up! 'TEDDYBEAR'**

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

GOVERNOR

Charlie Crist: (850) 488-4441. PL05 Capitol, 400 South Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl, 32399-0001.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Jeff Kottkamp: (850) 488-4711. PL05 Capitol, 400 South Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0001.

FLORIDA STATE SENATE

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Jeff Atwater (R-25): 409 Capitol, 404 S Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 487-5229. Office: (850) 487-5100. **E-Mail:** atwater.jeff.web@flsenate.gov.

Dave Aronberg (D-27): District Address: 6415 Lake Worth Rd., Suite 210, Greenacres, Fl. 33463. (561) 43-2627. FAX: (561) 434-3995.

Capitol Address: 405 SOB, 404 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 487-5356. **E-Mail:** aronberg.dave.web@flsenate.gov.

Michael "Mike" Bennett (R-21): District Address: 3653 Cortez Rd. West, Suite 90, Bradenton, Fl. 34210. (941) 727-6349. FAX: (941) 727-6352. **Capitol Address:** 306 SOB, 404 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 487-5078. **E-Mail:** ben-net.mike.web@flsenate.gov.

Garrett Richter (R-37): District Address: 3301 E. Tamiami Trl., Bldg. F, Suite 203, Naples, Fl. 3412. (239) 417-6205. FAX: (239) 417-6207. **Capitol Address:** 310 SOB, 404 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 487-5124. **E-Mail:** rich-ter.garrett.web@flsenate.gov.

*Legislative Report, continued...***FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: Larry Cretul (R-22): 422 Capitol, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 488-1450. Office: (850) 488-0887. **E-Mail:** larry.cretul@myfloridahouse.gov.

Gary Aubuchon (R-74): District Address: 3501 Del Prado Blvd., Suite 305, Cape Coral, Fl. 33904. (239) 344-4900. FAX: (239) 344-4901. **Capitol Address:** 13401 Capitol, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 488-7433. **E-Mail:** gary.aubuchon@myfloridahouse.gov.

Paige Kreegel (R-72): District Address: 410 Taylor St., Punta Gorda, Fl. 33950. (941) 575-5820. FAX: (941) 575-5822. **Capitol Address:** 303 HOB, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 488-9175.

E-Mail: paige.kreegel@myfloridahouse.gov.

Kenneth Roberson (R-71): District Address: 992 Tamiami Trl., Unit E-2, Port Charlotte, Fl. 33953. (941) 613-0914. FAX: (941) 613-0916. **Capitol Address:** 308 HOB, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 488-0060. **E-Mail:** ken.roberson@myfloridahouse.gov.

Nicholas "Nick" Thompson (R-73): District Address: 2120 Main St., Suite 208, Fort Myers, Fl. 33901. (239) 53-241. FAX: (239) 338-2486. **Capitol Address:** 417 HOB, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 488-1541. **E-Mail:** nick.thompson@myfloridahouse.gov.

Trudi Williams (R-75): District Address: 12811 Kenwood Ln., Suite 212, Fort Myers, Fl. 33907. (239) 433-6775. FAX: (239) 278-7573. **Capitol Address:** 303 HOB, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fl. 32399. (850) 488-2047. **E-Mail:** trudi.williams@myfloridahouse.gov.

U.S. SENATE

George LeMieux (R): Capitol Office: 356 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-3041. FAX: (202) 228-5171. **Florida Office:** 2120 Main St., Fort Myers, Fl. 33901. (239) 332-3898. FAX: (239) 332-3447. Toll Free: (866) 630-7106. TTY: (407) 254-548.

Website: lemieux.senate.gov/public/?p=EmailSenatorLeMieux.

Bill Nelson (D): Capitol Office: 716 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-5274. FAX: (202) 228-2183. **Florida Office:** Justice Center Annex Building, 2000 Main Street, Suite 801, Fort Myers, Fl. 33901. Phone: (239) 334-7760. FAX: (239) 334-7710.

E-Mail: senator@billnelson.senate.gov.

Website: www.billnelson.senate.gov.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Connie Mack (R-14): Capitol Office: 15 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2536. FAX: (202) 226-0439. **Florida Office:** 804 Nicholas Pkwy., Suite 1, Cape Coral, Fl. 33990. (239) 573-5837. FAX: (239) 573) 9125. **District Director:** Kara Moore.

Website: www.mack.house.gov.

IN THE NEWS

Many state legislatures and city councils are making a lot of noise about motorcycles, with new ordinances popping up across the country to silence loud pipes. "Loud Pipes Save Lives," has been a biker mantra for years, but politicians, spurred by citizen complaints, have discovered new ways to muffle unwanted exhaust tones.

The Albuquerque City Council voted 6-3 earlier last month to approve an ordinance making revving of motorcycle engines downtown a vehicle nuisance. Amending Section 7-10-3 ROA 1994, The Vehicle Nuisance Ordinance now reads: "It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in exhibition driving in the Downtown Quiet Zone by operating a vehicle in a manner that willfully creates excessive engine noise due to revving the engine to magnify the engine noise."

Bikers blasting through East Greenwich, Rhode Island, may want to steer clear of town if their exhaust systems aren't the proper match for their bikes. The Town Council unanimously passed an emergency ordinance in late July allowing the police to pull over and levy fines on bikers if the noise-rating data stamped into the chrome of their exhaust doesn't match the label on the bike frame. Modified exhaust systems are outlawed. The ordinance, now in effect, provides for fines \$500 for the first offense, and jumps to \$700 for the second offense, and \$1,000 for the third and each subsequent violation.

In West Virginia, the Charleston City Council let it be known loud and clear that nuisance noise won't be tolerated, and unanimously passed an ordinance an August 17 with fines up to \$250 to crack down on loud music, barking dogs and revving of car and motorcycle engines in residential areas.

In an attempt to silence community concerns regarding excessive motorcycle exhaust sound, the Boston City Council fast-tracked enactment of Docket 0658 on June 3, 2009. The new ordinance mandates that all on-highway motorcycles built after December 31, 1982, must either have OEM (original equipment manufacturer) or aftermarket exhaust systems that comply with the U.S. EPA labeling provision in the Code of Federal Regulations. Violations will result in a \$300 fine.

Earlier this year in California, a bill was held over that would have required periodic emission testing for 2000-and-newer motorcycles in an effort to make aftermarket exhaust systems illegal if they do not comply with EPA labeling.

Meanwhile, the Motorcycle Industry Council has teamed with the Society of Automotive Engineers International (SAE) to produce a stationary roadside sound test standard that can be used to determine whether a street bike exhaust system emits excessive sound. "The new SAE standard provides a much-needed alternative to outright bans, restrictions, and sound test standards that vary state to state and city to city, frustrating riders, exhaust system manufacturers, and municipal governments alike," said MIC President Tim Buche. Next month I will give you an update as to what's going on with the situation in Massachusetts.

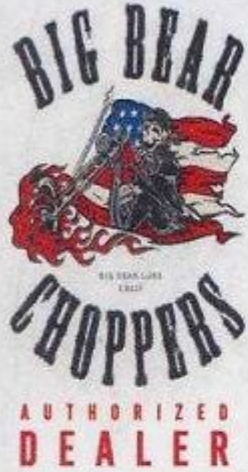
See you in the wind,

'TEDDYBEAR'

29th Annual Christmas Run To Gulf Coast Center



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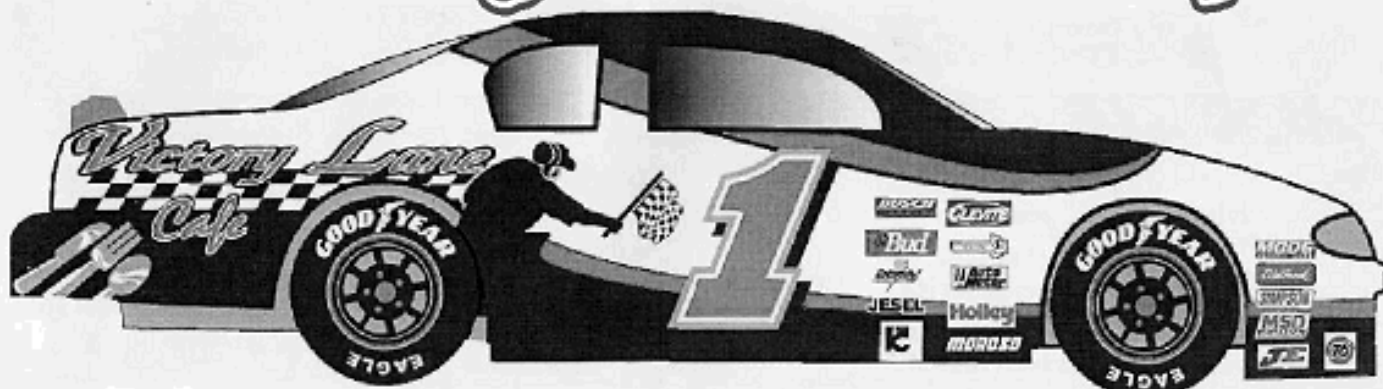
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Bucket Specials

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.35 Clams

**CAR SHOWS
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**FRIDAY NITE
ALL YOU CAN EAT
FISH**

Supported by Abate of Florida, Inc., Southwest Chapter

HOME OF THE SOUTHWEST CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETING

JOIN US FOR SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

BIKE NITE

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT 5 - 10 PM

Self storage facility in Cape Coral and North Fort Myers Florida. A-1 Shelters



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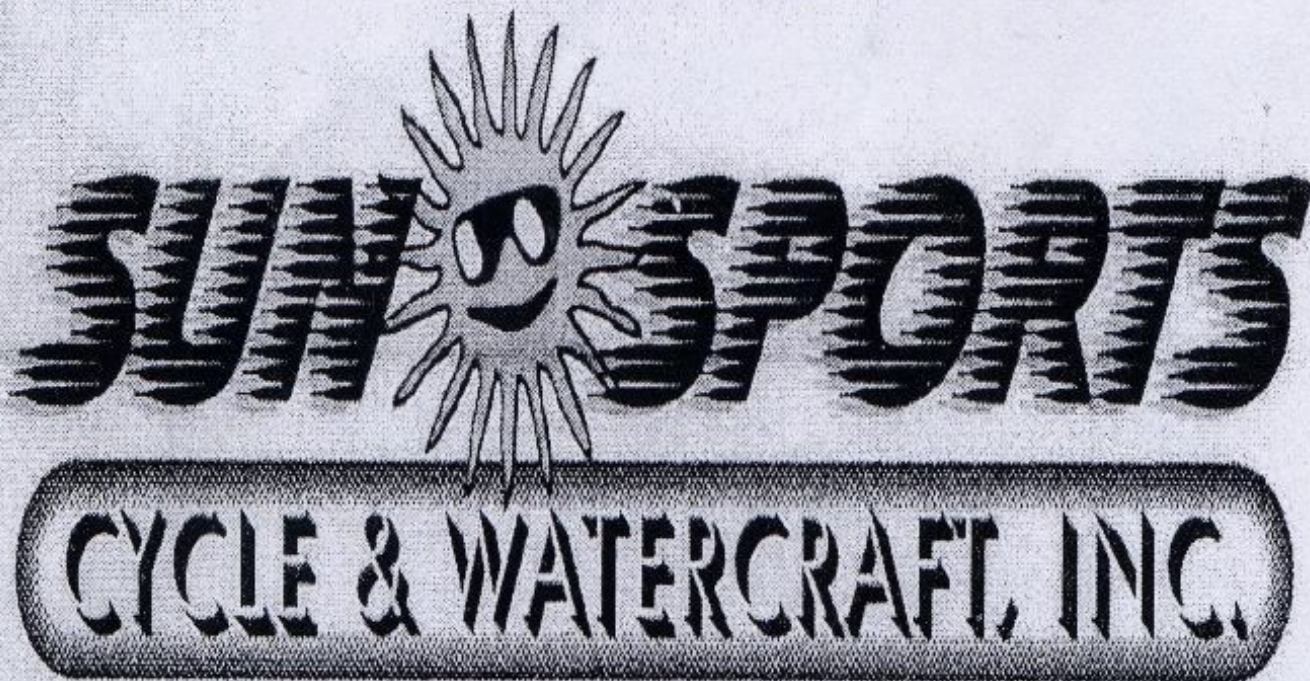
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