

ABATE of Florida - Southwest Chapter

APRIL 2010
Volume XLIV, Issue XXXVIII



American Bikers Aimed Towards Education

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- Membership Report
- 7th Annual Easter Bunny
Toy Run
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- Calendar

Support Your Chapter

**BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER
ATTEND CHAPTER MEETINGS
OFFER YOUR TIME
AT CHAPTER EVENTS
HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD
AT ELECTIONS
VOTE**

MANY ABATE EVENTS THIS MONTH ■ SEE CALENDAR



ABATE of Florida, Inc.
Southwest Chapter
PO BOX 60745 • Fort Myers, FL 33906

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ (Include Area Code)

May we use your phone number for our phone tree? YES NO

Are you a registered Voter? YES NO

Please Lister your voting districts from your Voter Registration Card:

_____ FL House _____ FL Senate _____ US Congress

Name of Chapter you wish to join _____

Select ONE of the following:

____ New/Renewal - Annual Membership Due \$20.00

____ Lifetime Membership \$ 150.00

____ Transfer Membership to: _____

____ Change of Address: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Sponsored by Chapter Member : _____

CHAPTER USE

Dues Paid by Cash Check Money Order

Mailed Date: Membership Card _____

Copy of By Laws _____

Membership Expiration _____

Memberships are open to anyone 18 years of age or older All members receive with their paid membership a membership card, our bi-monthly Masterlink magazine, Chapter Newsletter, Chapter voting privileges and personal involvement in Statewide legislative actions and their from to ride

President's Report

March 2010

From the desk of . . .

The Chief

Hi, Every one,

As always I hope this newsletter finds all in good health and spirits. We enjoyed a very busy month and the riding weather has been improving daily. The nominations were open again at this last meeting and I feel very confident that we will be able to assemble an outstanding board of directors for the 2010 2011 elections. Many have stepped up and offered their help so I am very excited to see how this all works out.

Being one of the oldest chapters in the state we at the Southwest chapter have been involved for many years in many local activities such as our Chili cook off and our Bears for Bears as well as so many other annual events that serve to improve our image and make folks aware of the many issues facing motorcyclists, with safety being at the top of our list. I trust that the passing of the guard will only help to further advance our cause at the Southwest chapter and help to improve ABATE of Florida as this states lead-

ing MRO.

Many of you are aware that I will be accepting the nomination for state president at the April meeting up in Tally and if all goes well I expect to be the next state president of ABATE along with Frenchie Mooreland as the states next VP. We have chosen our direction and now we will proceed to make it happen we will be happy to accept your support in any way that you can help.

In closing I have made everyone very aware also that I will be available to help in any way I can should the Southwest chapter need any assistance however as I stated earlier I am very excited about the nominations and have the utmost faith in the people who have stepped up.

Thanks to all for all that you do for ABATE of Florida inc. you efforts are greatly appreciated.

Till next time ride safe Frankie

Ride safe,

Frankie

Frank M. Kennedy Sr

(cell) 239 849 9065

(fax) 239 772 3320

www.southwest.abateflorida.com

Membership Report:

MARCH 2010

Welcome New Members: We hope that you choose to get involved with this growing and fun chapter... Dale Conrad

Thanks for your renewals: Ronald Cox, Pat Jablonski and Frank Story

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

Joel Bachhuber, Scott Brown, Larry Crews, Tom Greenfield, Marion Ward, Forest Glover, Terry Lanyon, Ernest Maroon, Bob Miller, Roy Steel, Trudi Steel and Kenneth Thomas

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 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
Biffle Davis
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
"KD" Marlowe
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
Kelly Smith
Richard Stergulz
Sandy Stergulz
Grandpa Stewart
Lynda Stewart
Scott Turner
Ruth Vorys
Teresa Webster
D. Payton Wells
Michael Wieland
Jama Wyatt
Steve Wyatt

ABATE of Florida, Inc.
Southwest Chapter

PO Box 60745, Fort Myers, FL 33906

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Road Captain Vic Piorkowski	239.823.6159	pior@yahoo.com
Road Captain Bob Litterello	239.542.2313	robertlitt@embarqmail.com

HELP SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MRO*

*MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

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ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

WHO WE ARE

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

OUR GOALS

- To become a powerful and viable political force in legislative matters concerning the motorcyclist.
- To promote the safe riding habits without infringing on individual freedoms.
- To motivate the bikers to write letters to their legislators before, during, and after the legislative session.
- To furnish our members with a newsletter to keep all bikers informed in regards to upcoming legislation.

Disclaimer:

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of ABATE of Florida, Inc. and or the Southwest Chapter. This publication allows members to express their own beliefs and opinions. ABATE of Florida, Inc. and the Southwest Chapter accept no responsibility for the comments, opinions or views contained in this newsletter.

Please direct any correspondence in reference to this publication to:

Frank M. Kennedy Sr.

(cell) 239 849 9065

(fax) 239 772 3320

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ABATE of Florida, Inc.

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ABATE of Florida, Inc. and the Southwest Chapter do not condone drinking while riding or driving

Southwest Chapter Meeting Schedule

April 25th, 2010

@ 10 a.m. at

Victory Lane Café

Located at

4150 Hancock Bridge Pkwy.,
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
239.995.0340




PRESENTLY, MEMBER MATERIAL DEADLINE IS THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE EACH CHAPTER MEETING FOR BOARD APPROVAL FOR SUBMISSIONS NEW ADVERTISERS OR AD CHANGES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
ISSUE DATE: APRIL 2010
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
BY
ABATE of Florida, Inc.
Southwest Chapter
PO Box 60745
Fort Myers, FL 33906

**JIM WAS RIDING HIS MOTORCYCLE AND GOT HIT BY A CAR...
JIM DIED!**




**JIM'S FAMILY MISSES HIS SON
START SEEING MOTORCYCLES!**

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program Presented By:
ABATE of Florida, Inc.
PO Box 2520 • DeLand, Florida 32721-2520
(386) 943-9610

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MOTORCYCLE RIDERS ARE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE




**LOOK TWICE SAVE A LIFE,
LOOK FOR MOTORCYCLES**

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program Presented By:
ABATE of Florida, Inc.
www.abateflorida.com
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I LOOK FOR YOU OUT ON THE ROAD




**RETURN THE FAVOR!
START SEEING MOTORCYCLES!**

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DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF A MOTORCYCLIST

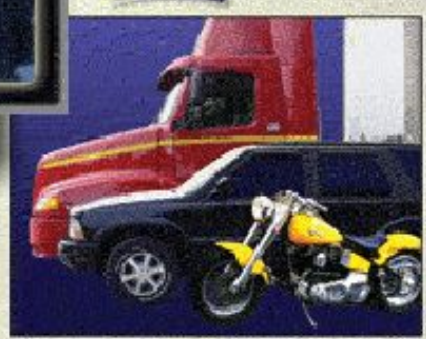


**LOOK TWICE - SAVE A LIFE
MOTORCYCLES ARE EVERYWHERE!**

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PO Box 2520 • DeLand, Florida 32721-2520
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WHAT DOES MATTER!



**MOTORCYCLES ARE OUT THERE...
LOOK FOR THEM!**

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(386) 943-9610

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Safety ■ Safety ■ Safety ■ Safety



QUICK TIPS: General Guidelines For Riding A Motorcycle Safely

Be visible:

- Remember that motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles and reacting in time.
- Make sure your headlight works and is on day and night.
- Use reflective strips or decals on your clothing and on your motorcycle.
- Be aware of the blind spots cars and trucks have.
- Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.
- If a motorist doesn't see you, don't be afraid to use your horn.

Dress for safety:

- Wear a quality helmet and eye protection.
- Wear bright clothing and a light-colored helmet.
- Wear leather or other thick, protective clothing.
- Choose long sleeves and pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves.
- Remember – the only thing between you and the road is your protective gear.

Apply effective mental strategies:

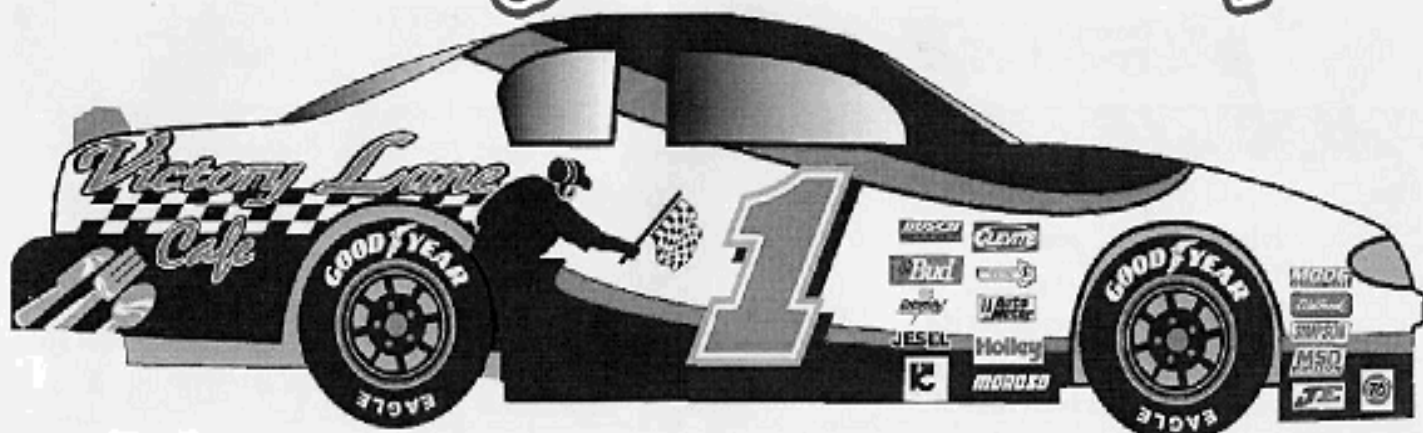
- Constantly search the road for changing conditions. Use MSF's Search, Evaluate, Execute strategy (**SEESM**) to increase time and space safety margins.
- Give yourself space and time to respond to other motorists' actions.
- Give other motorists time and space to respond to you.
- Use lane positioning to be seen; ride in the part of a lane where you are most visible.
- Watch for turning vehicles.
- Signal your next move in advance.
- Avoid weaving between lanes.
- Pretend you're invisible, and ride extra defensively.
- Don't ride when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Know and follow the rules of the road, and stick to the speed limit.

Know your bike and how to use it:

- Get formal training and take refresher courses.
- Call 800.446.9227 or visit www.msf-usa.org to locate the Motorcycle Safety Foundation hands-on *RiderCourseSM* nearest you.
- Practice. Develop your riding techniques before going into heavy traffic. Know how to handle your bike in conditions such as wet or sandy roads, high winds, and uneven surfaces.

Remember: Give yourself space. People driving cars often just don't see motorcycles. Even when drivers do see you, chances are they've never been on a motorcycle and can't properly judge your speed.

Victory Lane Cafe'



Victory Lane Cafe' 4150 Hancock Bridge Parkway N. Fort Myers 33903
995-0340

Wednesday Night Bike Nite Specials:

Bucket Specials

.35 Wings

.35 Clams

**CAR SHOWS
TUES NITE
CRUISE IN**

**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



ABATE of Florida, Inc. Gator Alley Chapter



Presents their annual

Casino Run

April 11, 2010

Starts at Sneaky Pete's
3465 Bonita Beach Rd
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

First Bike Out 10:00 am
Last Bike Out 11:00 am

Ends at The Tavern

11397 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 34113



Last Bike in 3:00 pm
Event over at 3:30 pm

\$5.00 for each participant

Prizes for **best** and **worst** score

For more info call:

Darrin Brooks	239-398-7145
Dave Pappas	239-404-7317
Makayla Brooks	239-272-8124

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Driving

Safety and Membership information available

What a beautiful day for the 7th Annual Easter Bunny Toy Run



more pictures on page 19



ABATE
of Florida, Inc.

15th ANNUAL FREEDOM RIGHTS RALLY

April 16 - April 19, 2010

State Meeting Sunday April 18th at 2:00 pm

State Board Meeting Sunday April 18th at Noon

Monticello, Florida - American Legion Hall - 1665 S. Water St. - Monticello, FL 32344

Ride to the Capitol Monday April 19
from Monticello KOA Campground at 9:00am

ALL ARE WELCOME

Free Tent Camping

RV Hookups \$45.00 per night - Cabins \$150 (3 night event price)

KOA Campground - 946 KOA Road - Monticello, FL 32344

Located at exit 229 on I-10 in Monticello, call 850-997-3898 for directions only. 20 miles east of Tallahassee & 6 miles SW of Monticello. From I-10 at US97 proceed south 600 feet, then west on CR148 for 2 miles, then north on SR20 for 1/2 mile. Follow the signs.

American Legion Hall

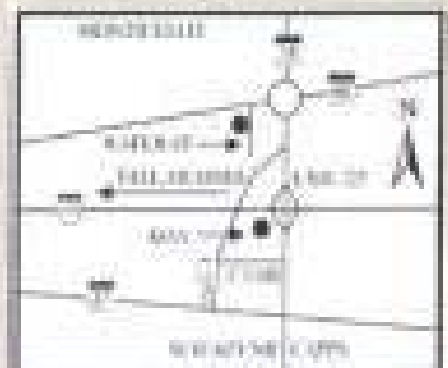
Go 2 blocks west of the Opera House on US90, then turn west on Water Street. Go 1/2 mile to Legion Hall.

Reservations for RV Hookups (Pop-Up Campers, Travel and RV's) and Cabins need to be made through the ABATE of Florida State Office.

Call 386-947-9630 for reservations. RV sites and cabins are limited.

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Thank you
To
Victory Lane
Café
For your
Support
Of
Southwest
Chapter

HONDA • YAMAHA • SUZUKI • POLARIS



(239)277-7777 • FAX (239) 939-3598

3441 COLONIAL BLVD., SUITE 1 • FT. MYERS, FL 33966
www.sunsportscycle.com • E-mail:sales@sunsportscycle.com

UPCOMING RENEWALS

APRIL

GARY BELLAIRE
BARBARA HOLLOPETER
LARRY HOLLOPETER
ROB SAMPLE
FRANK STORY

MAY

ROB ASSENZIO
KATHY BELLAIRE
WAYNE CERRA
ALBERTA "BIRDIE" CLARK
EARL "SMOKEY" CLARK
ANNE MARIE ECKHARDT
ROBERT ECKHARDT
PAUL JONES

CINDY JORDAN
VCTOR PIORKOWSKI
TOM PIZZANO
MARY PLAYER
THOMAS PLAYER
ROBB RABELL
TRUDY RABELL

JUNE

LYNN ASSENZIO
THERESA BAKER
MIKE BRETSNYDER
BRETT BUSH
JANET FUHR
ED KIRCHNER
ALAN KONIKOW

**ABATE of Florida, Inc
Presents**

Main Street Campground

2770 East Richey RD Leesburg, Florida 34748

Hosted by:

Nature Coast and Seminole County Chapters

Leesburg Bikefest

April 23rd - 25th, 2010

1.5 miles from downtown just off West Main St.

24 Hr Security

Great Food

Vendors

Hot Showers

Public Camping

For Everyone, So

Come Join Us !

Fri. / Sat night

Campfires

RV and Tent

Camping

Only \$15 per person per night

Gates open 12 pm Thurs. until 12 pm Sun.

**A one time
RV / Trailer Fee**

**NO RESERVATIONS
First Come, First Served**

**NO Guns, NO Pets
NO ATTITUDES**

For more information contact:

Rande - 321 277 9912

Joe - 352 317 2642

Mychelle - 407 719 2108

Steve - 352 870 9984

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With the permission of the Author, Greg Zaffke II
I submit to you the story of the beginning of the
BLACK NAIL BRIGADE

Respectfully, Barbara L. Bardell, Assistant Editor

Please visit the website blacknailbrigade.com and/or the facebook site

The morning after I heard the fact that Lora Hunt had admitted to the police she had been painting her nails while driving when she slammed into my mother at highway speed, I felt compelled to go buy black nail polish. Lora Hunt's nail polish was reportedly red but I thought black more appropriate. It's not exactly my style, but I really wanted to make a statement.

At first, it was meant to be an outward sign of disgust for me about what Lora Hunt did. In the back of my head, I had hopes that people would maybe ask me "what's the deal, dude?". This thought stuck in my head as I began to learn about the lack of awareness it seems our society has about how their driving habits affect other people's lives.

I then decided to change it to painting

only my right hand. I felt people would be somewhat more prone to asking about it if only one hand was painted rather than passing it off as just a fashion or lifestyle statement.

While I'm sure some people are still unsure about it or feel uncomfortable asking a question, it has provided many opportunities for me to tell the story to the people that do ask. In fact, the cashier that I bought it from originally even asked about it. And just yesterday, the girl helping me with my new eye-glasses asked about it & had heard about the story.

Barrington High School students joined in with me after they heard about the crash. Tons of people in the motorcycle community have joined us. I even got my grandmother to paint one nail. Many people have heard about

it. But there are more that haven't. If we all pay it forward and tell even just one other person about my mom & the Nail Polish Crash, maybe they tell another & another. Somewhere down the line hopefully one of those people will think more & be aware when they get into their car. That alone could save someone's life.

It's a great reminder for me as well. Every time I see it, I think about my mom. Every time I see it in the car, I remember to just drive. Every time you pick up your cell phone in the car, this will remind you that maybe it can wait until you get there.

Please join us in trying to make a difference on our roads. Be brave & black out your nails.

Greg Zaffke II

Black Nail Brigade

ABATE of FLORIDA, Inc.
GATOR ALLEY CHAPTER

24th Annual

M*A*S*H B*A*S*H



FRIDAY • SATURDAY
APRIL 30TH • MAY 1ST

2010

LIVE MUSIC ALL WEEKEND!

Funds benefit The Continued Operation of our Legislative Efforts In Tallahassee.

- ★ NEW VENDORS ★
- ★ BIKE SHOW ★
- ★ FOOD ★
- ★ DRINKS ★
- ★ SWIMMING POOL ★

GATE FEES:

\$10 Fri. Night • 5PM-1AM

\$15 Saturday • 10AM-1AM

\$20 Weekend

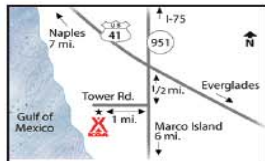
Children under 12 FREE!

For Further Information Contact:

Bill & Marie Ratcliff/Chairpersons

wmandmarie@comcast.net

239.370.5886 or 239.564.4953



KOA CAMPGROUND

1700 Barefoot Williams Road, Naples, FL 34113

From I-75 take Exit 101, go south

8 miles on 951 (Collier Boulevard)

and turn right on Tower Road.

(239) 774-5455, (800) 562-7734

Email: naples@koa.net

- ★ SLOW RACE ★
- ★ EVENT T-SHIRTS ★
- ★ 50/50 ★
- ★ SAT: KIDS GAMES ★
- ★ CAMPSITES AVAIL. ★

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Florida Inc., Monetary
or Otherwise, are NOT
Tax Deductible.

MEMBERSHIP
AND SAFETY
INFORMATION
AVAILABLE.

★ No Weapons

★ No Attitudes

★ No Pets In Event Area

www.GATORALLEY.net

MEETING MINUTES



Southwest Chapter of ABATE
Of Florida, inc.

Location: Victory Lane Cafe

Date: March 28, 2010

Secretary: Motion to except last months minutes was accepted, 1st by Trudy 2nd by Gator

Treasurer: Motion to except last months minutes was accepted, 1st by Big Bird 2nd by Rob

Called to order @ 10.20 AM

19 Members and 1 Guest

Pledge Allegiance and moment of silence

President: If anyone wants a cabin or camping space for the Freedom Rally, please contact Vic.

-Gator Alley will be organizing the Mash Bash again this year. They are inviting all the slow race champions of all chapters to join the slow races that will be held at that time.

Our products trustee's, CJ and Wayne, will be covering or delegating members for events to man the table.

The 5 star committee backed out of the NCOM event in Orlando.

Vice President: CJ and Taylor represented our chapter at the Legendary party. He said they had a great time there.

The Rat Pack will be leaving on friday to go to Leesburg Bike fest. They will be staying at the Villages. Anyone who would like to ride up with them, please let Taylor know

The Bunny run will be next Saturday (April 3) Please bring an unwrapped toy. Please no stuffed animals.

Membership Trustee: We have 1 new member and 3 renewals

Products Trustee: We have some patches and pins. The meeting decides, without vote, that we will order \$200 - \$300 of products to supplement our supply.

We can buy any product on our website. Just click on the bumper sticker

Nominations: There are no new nominations. Nominations will be re-oped in the May meeting and elections will be held in the June chapter meeting

Ride safe, but have fun
With respect,
Liz Demski-van Hemme

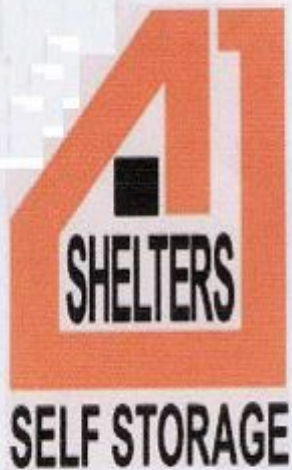


7th Annual Easter Bunny Toy Run

Continued from page 11



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



A-1 Shelters, Convenient Locations in Cape Coral and North Fort Myers Florida

A-1 Shelters Self Storage in Cape Coral and Fort Myers, Florida

Cape Coral (Near City Hall)
1014 SE 12th Place
Cape Coral, FL. 33990
239-574-4184

A1 Shelters has provided Lee County's storage needs since 1975. Our wide variety of air-conditioned and non a/c self storage units provide space for household furniture, records storage, car and boat storage and we also have RV vehicle storage. Call or email us for unit availability.

Pine Island Road
1318 Pine Island Road
Cape Coral, FL. 33909
239-574-8182
800-718-0733

▶ Concrete Units

Our concrete storage buildings with their concrete and cement tiled roofs provide "peace of mind" for your personal self storage needs. A welcome change over metal buildings.

▶ Remote Business Locations

We provide remote company locations for inventory storage, distribution staging and vendor storage. We accept Fed-Ex and UPS deliveries.

North Fort Myers
16130 N. Cleveland Ave.
North Fort Myers, FL. 33903
239-656-2070

▶ Clean, Well Lighted Facilities

There's plenty of light for security and visibility around our individual buildings. Our air conditioned buildings feature electronic access while most outdoor facilities are equipped with electronic gates and computerized access.

Park 720 RV Storage
An A1 Shelters Affiliate
710 NE 25th Ave
Cape Coral, FL. 33909
239-573-9990

www.A-1 Shelters.com

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All Rights Reserved.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 2010

Good Morning Freedom Fighters:

House Bill 875, our stiffer penalties bill, has passed its first hurdle in the House, but not without some snags. The vote was 11 yeas and no nays.

The Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee added a flurry of amendments to the bill, which has changed the nature of the entire bill. But the changes are really not all that bad; in fact, I would say that HB 875 has been improved.

Our bill has been downgraded from a criminal action to a non-criminal infraction. The part requiring incarceration has been removed, and substituted with community service, which is consistent with the non-criminal status.

The fines, license revocations and the requirement to take a safe driver course remains in tact. To me, what they are saying here is that they don't want to make criminals out of people who make simple mistakes behind the wheel. But, at the same time, they want to reinforce the idea the driving is a serious responsibility, and the proverbial slap on the wrist will become a thing of the past.

One of the biggest changes, and probably the most positive change, is that the bill now gives a lot more consideration to the victims and their families.

Under the new bill, victims and their families will have the *right* to attend any and all hearings in that case and they will also have the *right* to address the courts.

In my mind, this signals a big change in direction for the Florida Legislature, one that I applaud and wholeheartedly support.

A copy of the new bill will be included in this report for you to study. Our sponsor has accepted these changes and HB 875 now moves on to the next committee, which is the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee.

No members of the Lee County Legislative Delegation sit on this committee, however, our sponsor, Rep. Greg Evers does. A list of those committee members and their contact information will also be included in this report.

'TEDDYBEAR'

Legislative Contact List

Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee

Ambler, Kevin C., (R-47), Chair: (850) 488-0275.

E-Mail: kevin.ambler@myfloridahouse.gov.

Hooper, Ed, (R-50), Vice Chair: (850) 488-1540.

E-Mail: ed.hooper@myfloridahouse.gov.

Garcia, Luis R., (D-107), Democratic Ranking Member: (850) 488-9930.

E-Mail: luis.garcia@myfloridahouse.gov.

Adams, Sandra "Sandy", (R-33): (850) 488-0468.

E-Mail: sandy.adams@myfloridahouse.gov.

Bernard, Mackenson, "Mack" (D-84): (850) 488-8632.

E-Mail Rep. Bernard through his Web site at www.myfloridahouse.gov.

Drake, Brad, (R-5): (850) 488-4726. E-Mail:

brad.drake@myfloridahouse.gov.

Evers, Greg, (R-1), Sponsor: (850) 488-8188.

E-Mail: greg.evers@myfloridahouse.gov.

Heller, Bill, (D-52): (850) 488-5719.

E-Mail: bill.heller@myfloridahouse.gov.

Holder, Doug, (R-70): (850) 488-1171.

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Ray, Lake, (R-17): (850) 488-4388.

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Robaina, Julio, (R-117): (850) 488-6506.

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Rouson, Darryl, Ervin, (D-55): (850) 488-0925.

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Stargel, Kelli, (R-64): (850) 488-2270.

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Waldman, James "Jim", (D-95): (850) 488-3164.

E-Mail: jim.waldman@myfloridahouse.gov.

You can also contact all these committee members through their Web sites at www.myfloridahouse.gov.

Other Legislative Updates

Remember last year when the State of Florida raised the driver's license fee's and the taxes on your vehicles? Well, there is a bill moving thru both the Florida Senate (SB 2036) and the Florida House (HB 99) that would decrease these fees and taxes to the previous level.

With last year's decision to raise the fees, renewing a driver's license went from \$20 to \$48 and registering a new car jumped from \$100 to \$225. Lawmakers also boosted the amount of money going to the state from the sale of specialty license plates from \$14 to \$33, meaning that with organizations collecting \$15 to \$25 per plate, a specialty plate could cost nearly \$60.

In addition to returning prices to previous levels, SB 2036 would also credit drivers who paid the higher fees between Sept. 1, 2009 and August 2010. You did read that correctly, you would get a credit if you paid the higher fees.

Why the change of heart? State transportation officials have told lawmakers that registrations have been off by about 1.5% and specialty tag sales fell 67% statewide in November through January.

Texting While Driving Bills

A Florida Senate committee approved three bills regarding texting while driving a motor vehicle with varying levels of restrictions. The Senate Transportation Committee did not decide yesterday which of the measures (SB 488, 244 and 324) was too hot and which was too cold. Rather than picking one course in a single bill, the panel approved all three.

The most stringent of the measures, SB 244 by Sen. Frederica Wilson (D-Miami) would ban all cell phone use in cars without hands-free devices, while the least restrictive, SB 324 by Sen. Carey Baker (R-Eustis) would limit the ban to drivers under 17. The third measure, SB 488 by Sen. Nancy Deter, was amended to ban using cell phones for texting or e-mail for all drivers, but punishable only if the driver is first pulled over for something else. That may have been done to win support from lawmakers reluctant to impose restrictions on personal behavior.

Having each been approved by the Transportation Committee, the texting measures will all go to Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities and Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations committees, where they may possibly be combined.

Miscellaneous Bills Updates

Just a few miscellaneous bills that are moving through the Legislature that might be of interest to you who might enjoy fishing and those who enjoy a smoke in the privacy of your own car. These are not motorcycle related in any way (unless you sit on your motorcycle while fishing or smoke while taking your children for a ride on your motorcycle).

SALTWATER FISHING FEE NOT A KEEPER, SENATE THROWING IT BACK

Last year the Legislature instituted a fishing license requirement for people to fish from the shore or beach, which had never been required before. The \$7.50 fee was expected to be paid by about 120,000 anglers. It wasn't very popular, and the Senate Ways and Means Committee on Thursday approved a bill (SB1514) to re-

peal it.

SMOKING IN CARS WITH KIDS

The House Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee may continue a workshop on a bill (HB 141) that would allow enhanced penalties for drivers who are pulled over for something, and then found to be smoking in their car with kids in the car. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Kevin Ambler (R-Tampa), and is obviously controversial for its implications on the rights of government to control personal behavior.

HB 875 2010

CODING: Words in bold italics are deletions; words underlined are additions.

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to traffic offences; amending s. 316.027, F.S. ; requiring the court to impose certain penalties for a person who commits a non-criminal traffic infraction that results in the death or serious bodily injury; amending ss.318.14 and 318.18, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 318.19, F.S.; providing that the victim of a crash that causes death or serious bodily injury or the victim's representative is entitled to certain rights regarding any judicial proceeding relating to the crash; requiring the state attorney to consult the victim or the victim's representative about the disposition of any such case; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 316.027, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.027 Crash involving death or personal injuries. –

(4) A person whose commission of a non-criminal traffic infraction or any violation of this chapter or s. 1006.66 causes or results in the death or serious bodily injury, as defined in s. 316.1933 (1), of another person shall *may*, in addition to any other civil, criminal, or administrative penalty imposed, be required by the court to complete an 8-hour driver improvement course and serve not less than 15 but not more than 120 community service hours in a trauma center or hospital that regularly receives victims of vehicle accidents, under the supervision of a registered nurse, an emergency room physician, or an emergency medical technician pursuant to a voluntary community service program operated by the trauma center or hospital.

Section 2. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 318.14, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

318.14 Non-criminal traffic infractions; exceptions; procedures.-

(1) Except as provided in ss. 318.17 and 320.07 (3) (c), any person cited for a violation of chapter 316, s. 320.0605, s. 320.07 (3) (a) or (b), s. 322.065, s. 322.15 (1), s. 322.16 (2) or (3), s. 322.161 (5), 322.19, or s. 1006.66 (3) is charged with a non-criminal infraction and must be cited for such an infraction and cited to appear before an official. If another person dies as a result of the non-criminal infraction, the person cited may be required to perform **120** community service hours under s. 316.021,- in addition to any other penalties.

(5) Any person electing to appear before the designated official or who is required so to appear shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to the civil penalty provisions of s. 318.18. The official, after a hearing, shall make a determination as to whether an infraction has been committed. If the commission of an infraction has been proven, the official may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$500, except that in cases involving unlawful speed in a school zone or involving unlawful speed in a construction zone, the civil penalty may not exceed \$1,000; or require attendance at a driver improvement school, or both. If the person is required to appear before the designated official pursuant to s. 318.19 (1) (a) and is found to have committed the infraction, the designated official shall impose a civil penalty of \$1,000 in addition to any other penalties and the person's driver's license shall be suspended for 6 months. If the person is required to appear before the designated official pursuant to s. 318.19 (1) (b) (2) and is found to have committed the infraction, the designated official shall impose a civil penalty of \$500 in addition to any other penalties and the person's driver's license shall be suspended for 3 months.

If the official determines that no infraction has been committed, no costs or penalties shall be imposed and that any costs or penalties that have been paid shall be returned. Moneys received from the mandatory civil penalties imposed pursuant to this subsection upon persons required to appear before a designated official pursuant to s. 318.19 (1) (a) or (b) (2) shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue and deposited into the Department of Health Administrative Trust Fund to provide financial support to certified trauma centers to assure the availability and accessibility of trauma services throughout the state. Funds depos-

ited into the Administrative Trust Fund under this section shall be allocated as follows:

Fifty percent shall be allocated equally among all Level I, and Level II, and pediatric trauma centers in recognition of readiness costs for maintaining trauma services. Fifty percent shall be allocated among Level I, Level II, and pediatric trauma centers based on each center's relative volume of trauma cases as reported in the Department of Health Trauma Registry.

Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section 318.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

318.18 Amount of penalties.- The penalties required for a non-criminal disposition pursuant to s. 318.14 or a criminal offense listed in s. 318.17 are as follows:

(8) (c) If the non-criminal infraction has caused or resulted in the death of another, the person who committed the infraction may perform 120 community service hours under s. 316.027 (4),- in addition to any other penalties.

Section 4. Section 318.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

318.19 Infractions requiring a mandatory hearing.-

(1) Any person cited for any of the following infractions listed in this section shall not have the provisions of s. 318.14 (2), (4), and (9) available to him or her but must appear before the designated official at the time and location of the scheduled hearing:

(a) (1) Any infraction which results in a crash that causes the death of another;

(b) (2) Any infraction which results in a crash that causes "serious bodily injury" of another as defined in s. 316.1933 (1);

(c) (3) Any infraction of s. 316.172 (1) (b);

(d) (4) Any infraction of s. 316.520 (1) or (2); or

(e) (5) Any infraction of s. 316.183 (2), s. 316.187, or s. 316.189 of exceeding the speed limit by 30 m.p.h. or more.

(2) Any victim of a crash that causes death or serious bodily injury as provided in paragraph (1) (a) or paragraph (1) (b) or his or her lawful representative, including the next kin if the victim is deceased, is entitled to the right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant at all crucial stages of a judicial hearing, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused. The state attorney, if applicable, shall consult the victim or his or her lawful representative about the disposition of any such case.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

SAMPLE LETTER #1

The Honorable Kevin Ambler,
Chairman,
Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee

March 24, 2010

Dear Mr. Chairman:

House Bill 875, a stiffer penalties bill entitled "Traffic Offenses," sponsored by your colleague and fellow committee member, Rep. Greg Evers, is now in your committee.

I like the amended bill because it doesn't seek to make criminals out of people who make simple mistakes behind the wheel, but still reinforces the idea that driving is a serious responsibility.

What I like the most about HB 875 is that it gives a lot more consideration to the victims and their families, by giving them the right to attend hearings and address the courts.

Understandably, as an avid motorcyclist, I have a vested interest in this type of legislation. I urge you to review and support HB 875 when it is heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

Ken "Teddy Bear" Miller

13219 2nd St.

Fort Myers, Fla. 33905

ABATE of Florida, Inc.

Southwest Chapter

E-Mail: km-13219@yahoo.com

TEDDYBEAR'S NOTE: When contacting our lawmakers in Tallahassee, please make sure you include your return address, chapter affiliation and your e-mail address if you have one.

SAMPLE LETTER #2

The Honorable Sandra Adams
Florida House of Representatives

13219 2nd St.

Tallahassee, Fla. 32399

March 24, 2010

Dear Sandy,

House Bill 875, a stiffer penalties bill entitled "Traffic Offenses," sponsored by your colleague and fellow committee member, Rep. Greg Evers, is now scheduled to be heard in the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee, which you are also a member of.

I like the amended bill because it doesn't seek to make criminals out of people who make simple mistakes behind the wheel, but still reinforces the idea that driving is a serious responsibility.

What I like the most about HB 875 is that it gives a lot more consideration to the victims and their families, by giving them the right to attend hearings and address the courts.

Understandably, as an avid motorcyclist, I have a vested interest in this type of legislation. I urge you to review and support HB 875 when it is heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

Ken "Teddy Bear" Miller

ABATE of Florida, Inc.

Southwest Chapter

E-Mail: km-13219@yahoo.com

TEDDYBEAR'S NOTE: When contacting our lawmakers in Tallahassee, please make sure you include your return address, chapter affiliation and your e-mail address if you have one. Thanks, 'TEDDYBEAR'

SAMPLE LETTER #3

To The Honorable Greg Evers,
Florida House of Representatives
13219 2nd St.
Tallahassee, Fla. 32399

March 27, 2010

Dear Greg,

Congratulations on the passage of our stiffer penalties bill, HB 875, out of the Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee.

I like the new amended bill and I am very grateful that you have accepted those changes. I particularly like the part that gives the victims and their families the right to be present at the hearings and address the courts.

I have written all the members of the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee, asking them to support HB 875.

Thank you for sponsoring HB 875, and a very special thank you to you and your staff for all their hard work and support in the Florida House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Ken "Teddy Bear" Miller

ABATE of Florida, Inc.

Southwest Chapter

E-Mail: km_13219@yahoo.com

P.S. I have been trying to find out what Rule 7.20 is. I can't find this Rule on the House Web site. However, please bear in mind that I'm a "Techno-klutz" and probably looking in the wrong place. Could you please ask one of your staff to send or e-mail me a copy of Rule 7.20 so I can see what it is?

Thanks. 'TEDDYBEAR'

Report continued next page



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For more information on the following please refer to www.splitinthebreeze.com

Sat., 4/10

American Legion Riders
Post 130 Poker Run
699 W Hickpochee Ave (SR 80).
Information call 561-801-5822

CAPE CORAL BIKE NIGHT
47th Terrace - Downtown Cape Coral
SOWF 6th Anniversary
Fund Raiser
Fort Myers

Patriots Rally, Rally Across America

Sun., 4/11

Gator Alley Annual Casino Run
3465 Bonita Beach Road
Flyer page 10

Sat., 4/17

Free Lunch
Everglades Motorcycles
Call Michelle or Lynn for more info
239-649-4362

Sun., 4/18

2nd Annual Thunder Run

Fri., 4/23

Emerald Coast Bike Fest
Leesburg Bike Fest
Flyer page 15

Sun., 4/25

Stay Alive Just Drive Safety
SunSports Cycle and Watercraft

Friday, April 30, 2010

MASH BASH

Flyer page 17

April 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For more detailed information on the following please refer to www.splitinthebreeze.com						
4	5	6	7 BIKE NIGHT VICTORY LANE	8	9	10 CAPE CORAL BIKE NIGHT
11 GATOR ALLEY CASINO RUN	12	13	14 BIKE NIGHT VICTORY LANE	15	16	17 FREE LUNCH EVERGLADES MOTORS
18 THUNDER RUN	19	20	21 BIKE NIGHT VICTORY LANE	22	23 EMERALD COAST LEESBURG	24
25 STAY ALIVE JUST DRIVE SW CHAPTER MEETING	26	27	28 BIKE NIGHT VICTORY LANE	29	30 MASH BASH	

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER
OF ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.

For more information on the following please refer to

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WEEKLY BIKE NIGHTS:

TUESDAY

BEACON BOWL
PORKY'S LAST STAND
PELICAN LARRYS

WEDNESDAY

VICTORY LANE CAFÉ

ARIZONA PIZZA
ALVINO'S
IRON RHINO
TIKI TIME

THURSDAY

HOOTERS (PORT CHARLOTTE)
ZOOKIES
SOUTH SIDE BAR AND GRILL
THE CAFFEINATOR
THE HOT SPOT
MEMORIES BAR & RESTAURANT
THE SPOT

FRIDAY

PARADISE TIKI HUT
IRON RHINO

SATURDAY

SALT WATER COWBOYS

May 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr-i	Sat
2 RUN FOR THE STATUE	3	4	5 BIKE NIGHT VICTORY LANE	6 NCOM National Coalition Of Motorcycle	7	8 FORT MYERS BIKE NIGHT
9 PUNTA GORDA BIKE NIGHT	10	11	12 BIKE NIGHT VICTORY LANE	13	14 HD NAPLES BIKE NIGHT	15 POWMIA VETERANS DANCE
16 PACE CENTER RUN RUN A MUCK	17	18	19 BIKE NIGHT VICTORY LANE	20	21	22 FOR THE LOVE OF OUR SOLDIERS
23 MOTOR-CYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS	24	25	26 BIKE NIGHT VICTORY LANE	27	28	29
30 SW CHAPTER MEETING	31					

From the Motorcycle Riders Foundation
Washington, D.C.
March 2010

Department of Transportation offices re-open; Congress passes 30-day extension

State reimbursements for highway construction resume after 2-day stoppage.

The Senate floor has seen some spectacular partisan politics in the past two days. With Sen. Jim Bunning (R-NY) essentially filibustering the bill, HR 4691 for fiscal conservative reasons and Sen. Harry Reid and his leadership refuting Bunning all the way. Bunning refused to allow the bill to pass by voice vote so he demanded a roll call vote, something every Senator has the power to. Reid refused to allow the roll call vote. Bunning relented late Tuesday in exchange for a vote on his proposal. The original bill HR 4691 passed 78-19.

As a result this bill allowed DOT agencies to re-open, authorized spending from the Highway Trust Fund, and allowing reimbursements to the States for highway work.

Including an additional 2 years for the motorcycle safety programs contained in SAFETEA-LU (PL109-59). Those programs known as 2010 grants provide grants to States to be used for rider education and motorist awareness campaigns.

Perhaps the most troubling aspect of this week's shutdown of the Federal Highway Administration has made it clear that Congress has no problems with subjecting the Nations highway progress and programs to a seriously broken political process.

President signs hiring incentives to restore Employment Act or HIRE Act

Today, in a sunny outdoor ceremony, President Barack Obama signed into law the HIRE Act (HR 2847) or as it's more commonly known the jobs bill. In an increasingly rare show of bipartisanship the U.S. Senate passed the measure 68 to 29, clearing the final hurdle for the President's signature. The House passed similar legislation late 2009.

The bulk of the \$17.6 billion dollar package is tax cuts, hiring incentives, unemployment extensions, and programs to help retain employees, cash incen-

tives for businesses to hire unemployed Americans, tax offsets, and tax credit bond programs. However, Congress used this as a vehicle to move forward a handful of extensions to some transportation measures. Because SAFETEA-LU (PL 109-59), the last highway funding bill signed into law expired last September; the future of some highway safety programs was in question. The short term extensions to the expired law passed every month or two don't address various yearly funded grant programs and other safety measures. The Congress will continue to pass these short term extensions for the foreseeable future.

The MRF worked with the Congress to include the motorcycle safety program set up under SAFETEA-LU on the list of extended programs.

The program that sends cash back to the States to be used only for motorcycle rider education and public awareness campaigns aimed at motorists. The program is fully funded for one more year. Details are forthcoming on State application deadlines and procedure, but likely will be similar to the past four years. Last year, all fifty States applied for and received motorcycle safety money from this program.

"As the authors of the original legislative language creating this program, we are thrilled that Congress and the President agree that the program has merit and deserves repeating," said Jeff Jennie Vice President Government Relation and Public Affairs for the MRF. "Considering that most States are using dedicated state funded motorcycle safety funds for everything but motorcycle safety, this law could not come at a better time.

Late last month, President Barack Obama signed into law the Health Care Reform Act that narrowly passed Congress the week before. The law is being touted as a "historic piece of legislation" by both the Administration and the Democratic leadership. Before the President officially signed the measure, the Democratic Congress was busy passing "fix-it" legislation to correct some of the disparities of the bill. The over 2,500-page package will now go to regulators who, over the next several years, will be putting the nuts and bolts in place to make it work.

However, the GOP has taken a hard line against the measure, and many state attorney generals from across the country have vowed to challenge the law in the courts. Considering, that according to the

polls, 59 percent of Americans are opposed to this legislation, with only 31 percent saying they support the measure, it appears that the dust is far from settled.

Regardless of how you stand on this issue, there is no doubt in anybody's mind that the Health Care Reform Act will impact every American.

Therefore, I believe that it is important that all of us understand how this legislation is going to affect us and what it is going to mean to all of us.

Over the next several months I will try to answer some of those questions. Much of this information will come from various media sources.

Health care reform bill 101: Will it make health care more effective?

Buried within the massive new US health care reform law is a small provision that in years to come could have a major effect on the kinds of treatments that American patients receive.

The provision requires the federal government to set up something called a "Patent-Centered Outcomes Research Institute." It sets aside \$500 million in seed money for this new nonprofit organization, which is suppose to become a national guiding force for comparative effectiveness research.

What's that? Simply put, comparative effectiveness research takes a particular health problem, then pits different ways of treating that problem against one another, in an attempt to find which, if any, is a more effective way to restore or maintain patent health.

Healthcare 101: What the bill means to you:

(Yes, it does sound a little like "American Medical Idol," doesn't it? But let's not trivialize a serious subject.)

It's true that the point here is to save money as well ensure successful outcomes for patents. Supporters of comparative effectiveness research believe it's a no-brainer way to figure out whether cheaper drugs, medical devices or surgical techniques work just as well as fancy, expensive ones.

Prices for healthcare stay low, patents and insures pay less, so the cost curve of healthcare gets bent downward. Everything would be good, right? And in fact, the US already funds a lot of research in this area. There was more than \$1 billion for grants for comparative effectiveness studies in the stimulus package, for instance.

The new centralized organization funded by the health reform law simply is suppose to be a headquarters for this effort, by directing studies, then synthesizing and disseminating results.

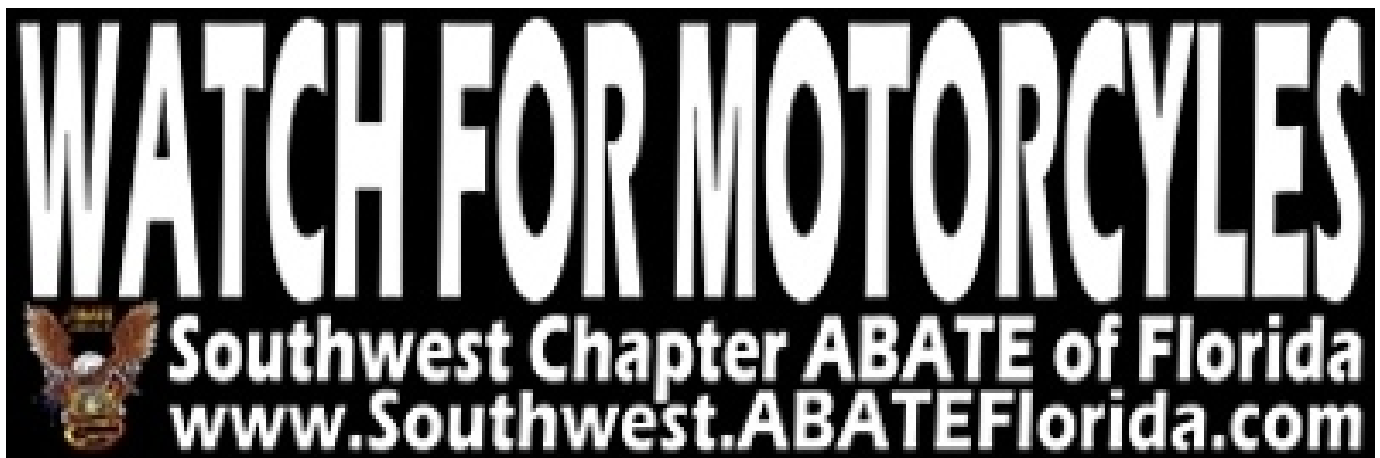
Not so fast, say opponents. They worry that this whole thing could lead to rationing of care – particularly new, expensive treatments.

That is why the just-enacted health reform law also contains language saying that findings from this new institute can't be construed as mandates for particular treatments.

The new institute will be run by a 19-member board of directors chosen by the US Comptroller General. It is supposed to be up and running in about six months.

Keep the shiny side up,
'TEDDYBEAR'

■



Compiled and edited by **Bill Bish - MARCH 2010**

National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

THE AIM/NCOM MOTORCYCLE E-NEWS SERVICE is brought to you by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), and is sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester. For more information, call us at 1-(800) ON-A-BIKE or visit us on our website at www.ON-A-BIKE.com. NCOM BIKER NEWSBYTES Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

HALF A BILLION E-CYCLES TO HIT THE ROAD

Worldwide sales of electric powered two-wheel vehicles are set to explode over the next six years. According to a recently released study by U.S. based firm, Pike Research, 466 million e-bikes, e-motorcycles and e-scooters will be on the road by 2016.

“Demographics and economics are aligning to create a strong market opportunity for two-wheel electric vehicles,” Pike's industry analyst Dave Hurst told Cycle Canada. “In some countries, these vehicles will be engines of economic growth, while in others they will be signals of broader consumer behavioral shifts.”

Not surprisingly Hurst claims that China will dominate the global electric two-wheel vehicle market, representing more than 95% of sales during the next six years. E-bikes will hold a 56% share of the market, predicts Hurst, followed by e-motorcycles at 43% and e-scooters in distant third with less than 1%.

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES LANE SPLITTING IN ARIZONA

A bill to allow “Lane Splitting” in Arizona has been unanimously approved by legislative committee. Also known as white lining, or “filtering” as it is commonly referred to in Europe, motorcycles are allowed to weave between lines of cars in heavy traffic. Such practice is legal in the United States only in California and Washington, D.C., but HB2475 would allow lane splitting through stopped traffic in Maricopa County only to begin with for a one-year trial starting next year.

“The biggest factor on this bill is SAFETY and to try

and reduce the number of rear end accidents,” said Mick Degan, lobbyist for the Modified Motorcycle Association (MMA) of Arizona. “DPS is behind and support of this bill along with AAA.” Also advocating for the measure is former California cop Ted Storck who wrote to the Arizona Republic newspaper; “As an ex-Los Angeles police officer, I support House Bill 2475, which would allow Arizona motorcyclists to split lanes. It is allowed in California and has proven to be safe. I never once investigated an accident where a motorcyclist had an accident due to passing other vehicles in the same lane when the freeways were slow or stopped. However, it did result in more and more people riding motorcycles, cutting down on traffic congestion. Even the head of the California Highway Patrol agrees that this California law should remain in effect. He agrees it cuts traffic congestion and has not resulted in any extra risk to motorcyclists or other vehicles.”

The lane splitting bill, sponsored by Republican Rep. Jerry Weiers of Glendale, has already cleared two committees in the House and faces a floor vote soon before it can be considered in the Senate.

OHIO MEASURE WOULD MAKE MOTORCYCLE PARKING SAFER

Buckeye bikers will be able to back their motorcycles into angled parking spaces, under legislation unanimously approved by the Ohio House on March 10. Substitute House Bill 204, sponsored by Rep. Tom Letson, D-Hubbard, passed 96-0 and now heads to the Ohio Senate.

Under existing state law, motor vehicles parked on public streets and highways cannot face into traffic. That poses a problem for people who drive motorcycles, which don't go in reverse, Letson told reporter Marc Kovac, Dix Newspapers Statehouse Bureau chief. For angled parking spaces, motorcyclists have to physically push their bikes into traffic, creating a dangerous situation.

Letson's bill would allow cycles to be backed into angled spaces, instead. “Many of you are probably asking why this is necessary or what this even means,” Letson said. “...The purpose for this legislation is to increase safety on Ohio's roadways and to ease the unnecessary burden on Ohio motorcycle drivers.”

HIGHWAY SIGNS DELIVER A MESSAGE

Some of the best riding roads are in California, and a new campaign aims to make the roadways safer for motorcyclists by lighting up over 700 changeable freeway message signs saying "Share the road, look twice for motorcyclist."

Following years of lobbying and letter-writing, ABATE of California is now working with state officials to utilize Amber Alert electronic message boards, when not in official use, to display the motorcycle awareness alert to millions of commuters daily.

ABATE Executive Director Anthony Jaime says the joint effort with CalTrans, the California Highway Patrol and the California Motorcycle Safety Program "highlights the impact that grassroots organizations like ABATE can have on their government when they actively become part of the process of governance rather than just sitting back and being governed."

The signs displayed the messages statewide for a one-week period during peak drive times, and serves as an example that other states can easily follow since it doesn't cost anything extra to do. Similarly, HB2351 would require the Iowa DOT to use electronic message boards on Hawkeye highways to flash "Watch for Motorcycles" during May for Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month.

MORE NOISE ABOUT NOISE

Across the country, more and more communities are exploring efforts to silence noisy motorcycles, but in Maine a bill that began as a broad measure to cut back on loud pipes has evolved into a proposal to force motorcycle riders to display vehicle inspection stickers on their bikes.

During hearings, the House Transportation Committee connected the noise problem to reports that nearly 40% of Maine motorcycles aren't inspected. Faulty and noisy mufflers would fail motorcycles in annual inspections, so the measure was amended to require an inspection sticker be visibly affixed to the rear of the bike either on a mounting plate or on a rear fender or frame.

The bill, which also calls for a study of motorcycle noise, has received initial House approval but still needs to be approved by the full House and Senate. A Racine, Wisconsin city panel has voted 4-0 recommending a newly written ordinance that would create

a \$100 fine plus court costs for "disorderly conduct with a motor vehicle." It would outlaw, in a motorized vehicle, "violent, dangerous, abusive, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct." That would include: squealing tires; revving an engine; unnecessarily blowing a horn; sudden veering or acceleration; and popping wheelies on a motorcycle. The Culpeper Town Council Ordinance Committee has recommended that the Virginia municipality repeal its existing noise ordinance because it is legally unenforceable in light of recent court decisions. "The ordinance can't be enforced the way it is written," Mayor Pranas Rimeikis said of town noise regulations that rely on "a reasonable person" finding a sound too noisy.

The town's movement to repeal its ordinance, and possibly replace it with a decibel-based measurement, is based on a Virginia Supreme Court ruling from last April that found a similar ordinance in Virginia Beach was unconstitutionally vague. In January, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the state court's decision, denying a review of it as requested by the city.

PATCH HOLDERS DENIED ENTRY TO FLORIDA FAIR

About 50 bikers from an array of clubs rolled into the Florida State Fair looking for a good time, but because of the patches on their vests, they were refused entry and turned away. Fair rules, enforced by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, ban gang colors or signs.

But a lawyer representing the bikers says their First Amendment rights have been violated. "They're trying to stifle people's rights by using a blanket policy," said Florida Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) Attorney Jerry Theophilopoulos. "It's suppressing their right to associate in public." The banned bikers belong to a wide variety of clubs, from the Outlaws MC to Christian clubs such as the Spirit Riders, and the New Attitudes, a group of clean and sober riders. "The clubs that were with us, none of them have ever gotten into fights at the fair," Theophilopoulos told the St. Petersburg Times. "They're not street gangs, and they are being lumped together." The bikers' lawyer said he called the Sheriff's Office Sat to tell the agency the bikers were coming, and he was told that if they wore their colors, they wouldn't be let in. They tried to go, any-

way. "Sometimes you have to make a statement, to stand up for what you believe in," said Jerry T, who also serves as legal counsel for the local Confederation of Clubs.

MOTORCYCLE INDUSTRY ASKS CONGRESS TO AMEND LEAD RULES

The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) has delivered nearly 4,000 letters to Congress signed by motorcycle industry professionals who have had their livelihoods impacted by the lead provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA).

"We believe these letters along with the other communications will help add to the momentum encouraging Congress to amend the CPSIA's lead content provisions to exclude youth vehicles," said MIC chairman Larry Little.

The CPSC recently requested flexibility to grant exclusions from the lead content limit to address certain products including youth vehicles in a Jan. 15 report to Congress.

The MIC stressed three key reasons why youth ATVs and motorcycles should be excluded from the CPSIA's lead content provisions: 1. The lead content poses no risk to kids. Experts estimate that the lead intake from kids' interaction with metal parts is less than the lead intake from drinking a glass of water. 2. The key to keeping youth safe is having them ride the right size vehicle. Kids are now at risk because the availability of youth ATVs and motorcycles is limited due to the lead ban. 3. The lead ban hurts the economy for no good reason when everyone is trying to grow the economy and create jobs. MIC estimates that a complete ban on youth model vehicles would result in about \$1 billion in lost economic value in the retail marketplace every year.

WEIRD NEWS: HOG VS. HORSE ACCIDENTS

In a landmark 1985 study, Dr. J.L. Firth estimated that while "a serious incident can be expected at the rate of 1 per 7,000 hours of motor-

cycle riding, serious injury rates exceeding one per 350 horse riding hours have been described, making horseback riding 20 times more dangerous than motorcycling." As far as injuries go, horseback riding leads to more spills on average than motorcycling.

According to www.bookofodds.com, the odds a person will visit an emergency department due to a horseback riding accident in a year are 1 in 3,837. Most of these accidents are caused when a horse bucks or bolts, throwing the rider, and female injury rates are typically higher.

The odds a motorcyclist will be injured in an accident in a year are 1 in 82.55. The odds a motorcyclist will be killed in an accident in a year are 1 in 1,488, about the same odds a person will be diagnosed with breast cancer in a year (1 in 1,506). And the odds a rider killed in a motorcycle accident in a year was not wearing a helmet are 1 in 2.39.

POLICE IN ENGLAND ISSUE RIDERS HI-VIS VESTS

Thousands of British motorcyclists are being stopped by police for not wearing high-visibility clothing. Beginning in March, riders will be stopped and given lectures on "being seen" as well as reflective vests to put on over their jackets or leathers.

The Motorcycle Action Group says the tactics are a step towards compulsory hi-vis clothing or reduced insurance pay-outs for riders in dark kit. "We're advising all riders stopped without obvious cause in order to deliver these lectures to make a stand by lodging formal complaints. If police time is tied up too much they may soon drop this tactic."

QUOTABLE QUOTE:

"We may never have tyrants... but if we should have them, they will seek to accomplish the downfall of free government, not by directly overriding the Constitution, but by using the forms of law to strangle and subvert its spirit." Charles S. May (1875)

Southwest Chapter Meeting Schedule

April 25th, 2010

@ 10 a.m. at

Victory Lane Café

Located at

4150 Hancock Bridge Pkwy.,

North Fort Myers, FL 33903

239.995.0340

