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*“Dedicated to Freedom of the Road”*

[www.abate-wa.org](http://www.abate-wa.org)

## Freedom



ABATE is an organization dedicated to the Freedom of the Road, raising public awareness through education, political and community action and charitable deeds. Membership is open to anyone, 18 years or older, interested in promoting freedom, whether or not you own or ride a motorcycle.

Legislative information - Events - Cycle Tech - and More

# STATE DIRECTORY/Membership form

Unless specified otherwise, the mailing address for officers and committee heads is ABATE of Washington, P.O. Box 8369, Tacoma WA 98419-0369

Unless specified otherwise, the mailing address for officers and committee heads is ABATE of Washington, P.O. Box 8369, Tacoma WA 98419-0369				
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	Spring Opener	Jimmy George	253-678-1713	
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PHONE	ORIGINAL JOIN DATE
EMAIL	
VOTER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

# CHAPTER DIRECTORY

CHAPTER REP	CHAPTER	CONTACT	BUSINESS MEETING	SOCIAL MEETING
REP 1 POSITION VACANT	Central Washington P.O. Box 9022 Yakima, WA 98909	Bob Turner 509-830-9043 19Turner61@gmail.com	1st Thursday 6:30 PM Yakima VFW 18 So 5th Avenue, Yakima	PLANNING MTG 3rd Thurs 6:30 PM Old Town Pump 3716 Main St, Union Gap
	Columbia Gorge PO Box 357 Goldendale, WA 98620	Micki Robinson 509-250-2245 mickij_robinson@yahoo.com	2nd Monday 7:00 PM American Legion 108 North Grant, Goldendale, WA 98620	
	Columbia River 148 N James Ave East Wenatchee, WA 98802	Keith Parkison 509-760-3199	1st Thursday 7:00 PM Abby's Pizza 702 Grant Rd, East Wenatchee WA 98802	6:00 PM social prior to business meeting
	Inland Empire PO Box 40474 Spokane, WA 99220	Seth McIntosh 509-991-5400 sethmc@hotmail.com	2nd Tuesday 6:00 PM Sweet Old Bob's 3243 E Trent Avenue, Spokane, WA	
	Kittitas County P.O. Box 1724 Ellensburg, WA 98926	Joe Hill 509-929-0729 papahill.66@gmail.com	1st Tuesday 6:00 PM Business meeting Buzz Inn Steakhouse 2202 South Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA	5:30 PM social prior to business meeting
	NE Washington PO Box 1886 Newport, WA 99156	Milt Carvell 503-713-8862 miltcarvell69@gmail.com	2nd Sunday 4:30 PM Michael's 208 S. Washington Ave, Newport, WA 99156	
	Tri-Cities Chapter PO Box 2425 Richland, WA 99352	Tammi Plum taffi1966@hotmail.com	2nd Thursday 6:30 PM Clover Island Inn, 4th Fl next to Crow's Nest 435 Clover Island Dr., Kennewick, WA 99336	
	REP 2 RON FRYER 360-574-8070 RCFRYER@GMAIL.COM CHAPREP2@ABATE-WA.ORG	Clark County Freedom Riders 13023 NE Hwy 99, Suite 7 Box 110 Vancouver, WA 98686	Ron Fryer 360-574-8070 rcfryer@gmail.com	2nd Thursday 7:30 PM 40 et 8 7607 NE 26th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98665
Elk Country PO Box 1835 Morton, WA 98356		Brian Lange 253-209-2439 elkcountrypabate@yahoo.com	Last Sunday at 12:00 noon Moose Lodge 102 Main Ave., Morton, WA 98356	
Grays Harbor PO Box 1032 Aberdeen, WA 98520		Don Florek 360-533-7900 gutterguy67@yahoo.com	2nd Wednesday 6:30 PM 40 et 8 2313 Simpson Ave., Aberdeen, WA 98520	
Lewis County P.O. Box 1108 Centralia, WA 98531		Pat Payne 360-269-5570 lewiscountypabate@yahoo.com	2nd & 4th Wed 7:00 PM Moose Lodge Centralia, WA	
Pacific County P.O. Box 203 Naselle, WA 98638		Lenny Pletsch 360-484-7226 lenny@wwest.net	1st Sunday 10:00 AM Hunter's Inn 1060 State Route 4, Naselle, WA 98638	
REP 3 SONNYBOY (JERRY) LACROSSE 253-223-7331 CHAPREP3@ABATE-WA.ORG		East Pierce County PO Box 1348 Sumner, WA 98390	Noel Ortiz 206-218-4812 noelortiz1@comcast.net	1st Sunday 10:00 AM Buckley Eagles 29021 SR 410 E, Buckley, WA 98321
	Rat City PO Box 46033 Seattle, WA 98146	Tim McCall 704-400-0556 tcmccall@comcast.net	2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM Business meeting The White Center Pizza & Spaghetti House 10231 16th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98146	6:00 PM social prior to business meeting
	South King County P.O. Box 30 Milton, WA 98354	Doug Hubbard 253-691-0814 ultra03hd@gmail.com	1st Monday 7:00 PM Performance Grill 1525 A St. N.E., Auburn, WA 98002	
	Spanaway PO Box 154 Spanaway, WA 98387	Billy De Hunter 253-223-5393 wcfango3@hotmail.com	1st Tuesday 7:00 PM Uncle Sam's American Bar & Grill 16003 Pacific Ave. S, Spanaway, WA 98387	10:00 AM agenda planning mtg Sunday prior to business mtg
	Tacoma PO Box 612 Graham, WA 98338-0612	Donnie Ahola 253-376-8643 Cadhd67@yahoo.com	1st Wednesday 7:00 PM VFW Post #969 3510 McKinley Ave East, Tacoma, WA 98404	
REP 4 POSITION VACANT	North Snohomish County P.O. Box 1288 Marysville, WA 98270	Kevin A. Larson 360-659-7010 kal45@comcast.net	3rd Sunday 10:00 AM Everett Eagles (F.O.E. #13) 1216 Broadway, Everett, WA	
	Sky Valley P.O. Box 784 Snohomish, WA 98291	Rod Hobelman 360-563-9763 hdreddog92@aol.com	2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM Eagles FOE #195 606 Maple Ave, Snohomish, WA 98290	
REP 5 JAY JACKSON 253-884-1909 CHAPREPS@ABATE-WA.ORG	Key Peninsula P.O. Box 602 Burley, WA 98322	Jay Jackson 253-884-1909 jayj1251@gmail.com	2nd Thursday 7:00 PM Floatation Device Pub & Grill 14511 Sherman Dr. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332	3rd Thursday 7:00 PM Location varies (determined at business meeting)
	Mason County PO Box 213 Shelton, WA 98584	Derek VanSpoor 360-259-3031 chrome_horse@live.com	2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM Business meeting Taylor Station Restaurant 62 SE Lynch Rd., Shelton, WA 98584	6:00 PM social prior to business meeting
	North Kitsap PO Box 5831 Bremerton, WA 98312	Chris Varner 360-440-1344 buellboybynight@aol.com	1st Wed 7:00 PM Silverdale All Star Lanes & Restaurant Atrium) 10710 Silverdale Way, Silverdale, WA 98383	
	North Olympic P.O. Box 3745 Sequim, WA 98382	Neil Eckerson 360-683-8598 eckersonc@olympen.com	3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM Las Palomas 1085 E. Washington St., Sequim, WA 98382	
	Olympia P.O. Box 7129 Olympia, WA 98507-7129	Ron Crowe 505-716-1073 crowebar72@gmail.com	1st Thurs 6PM Social hour, 7pm Business Mtg Tea Leaf II 4646 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503	3rd Thurs Time/Place TBD

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- July 25,26,27 Sun & Surf Run, Ocean Shores  
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(Fight For Your) FREEDOM Volume 36—Issue 7

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Eighth page	\$24/Mo	\$23/Mo	\$22/Mo	\$20/Mo
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## ABATE of Washington

*“Dedicated to Freedom of the Road”*

### EDITOR’S CORNER



With Spring Opener now behind us and the riding season in full swing, we can now concentrate on making our rides safe and dependable, checking our tires and brakes, changing the oil, and getting on the road again. The rides and events that are coming up are plentiful and there are many choices to make to fill our free days and nights. This is a great opportunity to visit other Chapter events and rides and get to know each other better, make new friends and rekindle old relationships.

Better yet, if your Chapter does not have a ride scheduled for any particular weekend, why not ask if your Chapter would like to organize a Chapter Ride to another Chapter’s event? What a great way to show support. Can you imagine what the reaction would be for your Chapter to ride into the parking lot where another Chapter is starting their ride or event? Wouldn’t they be surprised and honored? What a great way to get to know everyone as well as create feelings of brotherhood and friendship.

Congratulations to Lyle on his reelection as State Coordinator. Even though I did not win, I hope to be able to work with leadership to improve ABATE in any way I can. I appreciate those who supported me, and all I can say at this time is that there is another election coming up in just two years. In the meantime I will be working to promote good ideas for ABATE. One of the things I said in recent months is that I will listen to any ideas that members might have. If you come up with an idea, please share it with me and together we will see what can be done to accomplish anything that will help ABATE grow and be successful.

One idea that I had was to ensure that when a proposal was made and presented to the members for a vote, that vote should be heard at the BOD meeting, and not be tabled (and forgotten). There were several member votes that were never heard in the past couple of years because they were tabled and then never brought up again. These were issues that all of you voted upon at your Chapter meetings, but that vote was never carried through to the BOD meetings because the issues were tabled. I do not believe that this is the right way to do things. I think that all your voices should be heard. If you feel the same way, please let our leaders know how you feel. Start with your Chapter Coordinator and let them know that your voice should be heard and that your vote counts and should be registered at the BOD meeting. Then let the State leaders know the same. EVERY MEMBER COUNTS!

ABATE is my passion. I want to see ABATE be very successful and grow into an amazing organization.

Ride safe, ride often, and never give up.

Best regards,  
Ron

### ABATE of Washington 2014 Meeting Schedule

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

July 12 - Tri Cities

October 25-26 STEAM / BOD Kittitas

#### ECOM MEETINGS

11:00 AM Johnnie’s in Fife

unless otherwise posted

June 1, September 14, November 30

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# OFFICER REPORTS



## From the State Coordinator Lyle Coyle

Hello everyone,

The first thing I need to do is to thank all of you who had the confidence in me to reelect me for another term as your state coordinator. I know that we can accomplish anything we set our minds to but as I have said in the past, we have to work as one to accomplish anything big or small. We have to be a team even if you don't believe the team is going in the correct direction because, as we have learned in the past, if we don't work as a team on a common goal, no one wins and everyone loses.

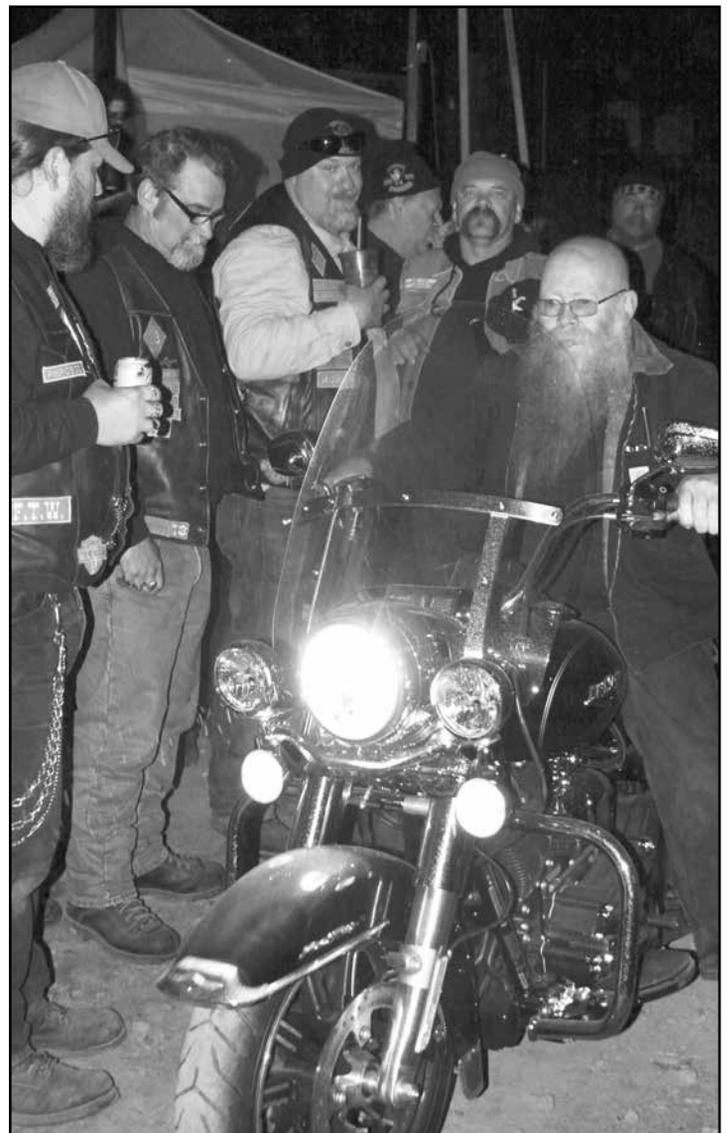
One thing I have noticed lately is that we have members who work extremely hard to make us successful, but they turn around and put the rest of the members down because they feel others don't work as hard. In five minutes, all the good is wiped out. Potential volunteers are chased away and discouraged, perhaps someone who with a little guidance and a couple of nice words might help next time. So think before you speak. I know that sometimes it is frustrating when it seems as though you have done all the work to get something done. But when you really think about it, you did not really do it all yourself. There is always someone who has helped, someone who has said, "let's go participate in this event," or someone you did not realize was working behind the scenes to help. There is always someone else.

I just returned from the 2014 Spring Opener and let me tell you a great time was had by everyone. Now, if you were there and did not have great time, I really don't know what we would have to do to make you happy. We had a little rain, a little wind, a little sunshine and a whole lot of fun with enough activities going on it make your head spin. We will have a complete report in the next issue but I will give you the short version now: we had about 1100 people through the gate; Mason County Chapter did a scavenger hunt; Spanaway Chapter did a poker run; North Kitsap did the bike show; Tacoma Chapter did the bike games;

and Freedom Seekers did a bike wash. We had music every night with Hell's Belles rocking the stage on Saturday night. We had about every kind of vendor you would need. We had an auction that raised a few thousand dollars and we raffled off a 2014 Harley Davidson Road King. And, we did it in just three days. I know this seems impossible to do all of this in just three days, but if you were there you know it is the truth and if you weren't there, ask a friend who was, they will let you know. As I said earlier, in the next issue we will have a full report with all of the thank you's, who did what, who won what, what happened—the whole ball of wax.

As always if you have a question, concern, constructive criticism or idea for me or the organization you can always contact me at [coordinator@abate-wa.org](mailto:coordinator@abate-wa.org) or leave a message at 253-326-5201.

*The tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. ◇*



Lyle, the raffle bike & the winner (dark cap); photo by Beth Sanderson

## Eastside Deputy Coordinator

### Scott Robinson

Great to be home after six months with my daughter and her husband in Texas. There is no place like home.

Packing for the Spring Opener. Taking my fire pit and all the rest of the fun stuff. What a great time for a camping trip. Looks like it will be one of the best ever. Weather is cooperating so I do not need much more.

Congratulations to Lyle—looking forward to working with him this coming year. Lots of new challenges.

I will be talking with folks at the Opener and looking for thoughts from the membership on new ideas for ABATE. You can also call me if you have some positive input. If you have something to complain about, call Mike Campbell. (LOL)

Okay, I am making this short and hitting the road. Ride Safe and remember the ABC'S—Always Be Cool ◇



*Hell's Belles; photo by Dragoni*



*Charles Ramos & Dave Sanderson, Whiskey Creek; photo by Beth Sanderson*

## Ambassador at Large

### “Dragoni” Dutch Phillips

The ABATE of Washington Spring Opener 2014 was a lot bigger than the 2013 event!

This year they had five Bands starting on Thursday night with MINDZEYE. Friday morning was the first Spring Opener Poker Run hosted by ABATE of Washington Spanaway Chapter. They also had the Scavenger Hunt, this year's winner was ABATE of Washington SOUTH KING COUNTY CHAPTER. Friday night the band LIQUOR SWITCH started rocking the house followed by the class act band SUB-VINYL JUKE BOX. Then Saturday morning they had the usual Bike Show then the Bike Games with trophies and awards! Saturday night they had the 50/50 drawing and the Bike raffle ticket give-away. The big winner was Amigo Mongo! He was a happy camper. Then the number one female AC DC Tribute band HELL'S BELLES did a fantastic show.

The newly reformed band WHISKEY CREEK finished out the night's entertainment with another great show!

Ticket sales were about the same as last year's event. I think the bad weather played a big role with the attendance for Spring Opener 2014!

I think the Spring Opener committee with Jimmy George at the helm did a fantastic job with Spring Opener 2014. I had a real good time even in the bad weather! ◇

## NCOM Ambassador

Irish McKinney

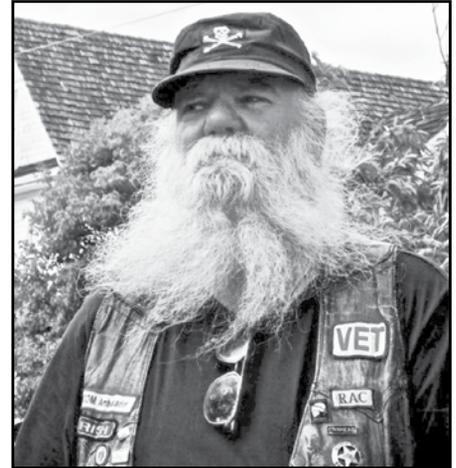
### DALLAS NCOM 2014

To start off I have to thank my traveling companion, Donnie Ahola, Coordinator of Tacoma ABATE and member of the Freedom Seekers MC. Most of these things I end up having to get to on my own. Other people don't have the luxury of a profession that will allow them to take the time to get to a National Motorcycle event by Motorcycle, but Donnie was adamant this year that he was going with me. We met at Hawk's Prairie, just north of Olympia, pulling up within seconds of each other at the Chevron to gas up and begin our travels together. This report is about the NCOM Convention in Dallas, but in my mind there is a symmetry about getting there, being there and getting home; so indulge me a little as I try to paint the full portrait.

As a member of the Board of Directors I needed to be in attendance bright and bleary the morning of 5/8 for a Board meeting, so I had to be settled in no later than the evening of 5/7. It's the morning of Thursday the first of May as Donnie and I head South. The plan was south on I-5/Hwy 99 to Bakersfield CA, take a left to Barstow and pick up I-40, from there it was I-40 all the way to Amarillo TX, then US 287 to Dallas/Ft. Worth within a few miles of what we figured to be 2,500 miles. Building in an extra day and being able to not beat oneself to death on the way to a meeting gets me there in better shape to take care of business. Our first night was Yreka CA, our second Bakersfield; it was already becoming clear that we were covering ground too fast. The third day of travel we stopped for breakfast in Ludlow and decided to follow the Old Route 66 cutoff through Amboy and back to I-40 at Essex just before Needles (Needles is really hot).

After crossing the Colorado River we were in Arizona, a free choice state (as are the rest of the states until we were once again back in a coastal state). Flagstaff AZ was our next stop, with enough time to find an Auto Parts store that would let us tuck in out back so we could change oil by the dumpster and recycle our old oil, a nice place for an evening meal finished the day for us. The fourth morning was breakfast in Winslow AZ and a short detour to the famous corner where there is a statue of a man and his guitar looking at a flatbed Ford parked by the side of the street (take it easy it's all in fun). Soon after we crossed into New Mexico at Gallup, where we tried to catch a section of Rte 66 but were thwarted by road construction, so on to Albuquerque for the night. The road east from Albuquerque rises quickly and is cold in the mornings, once past Clines Corners the high desert begins to drop again and by the time you're at Santa Rosa for breakfast it's time to shed garments. It was here I got the message my Club Brother Virgil had lost his valiant fight against cancer (RIP Virgil). We were in Amarillo TX that evening.

Amarillo has a place called "The Big Texan" a steak house that offers a 72 oz steak dinner for free if you can finish the meal in under an hour; we ordered regular meals and had no trouble finishing. It's now Tuesday the 6th of May and we have a short two gas stop day to get to Dallas. I have a cousin in the Ft. Worth area; we spend an afternoon and a meal with her and get our bearings on getting to the hotel where the conference will be. We find the hotel and back out to a less expensive accommodation for the evening; a refreshing beverage and a good night's sleep bring us in good shape to the main venue the next day. Checked in, moved in and bikes under cover—the rain starts. If all you've see is rain here in the state of Washington you really have no frame of reference; many places in the state of



Texas get more rain than we do here in this state, they just get it all at once. For about twenty-four hours we watched the rain and still the bikes rolled in.

My part in the event started 9:00am Thursday morning with an executive session of the Board; this was followed Thursday afternoon with an open session welcoming people and sharing information of an administrative nature. The first day is all about renewing acquaintances and watching people arrive. The meat of the event began on Friday with meetings of the AIM Attorneys and the Legislative Task Force in the morning. The Opening Ceremonies kick things into high gear Friday afternoon, followed by seminars in incorporating your organization, grant writing, and the US Defenders program. After that came Special Interest meetings for Women in Motorcycling, Clean and Sober Round Table, World of Sport Bikes, and Christian Unity Conference; followed by a seminar in the use of Social Media—this is the twenty-first century and we need to know how to use these tools available to us in a responsible and effective manner. Saturday began with a General Session that included the "Ringing of the Bell" for those no longer with us, before breaking into Regional Meetings so we could tell and hear about events in our states and regions. Saturday ended with the Silver Spoke Awards

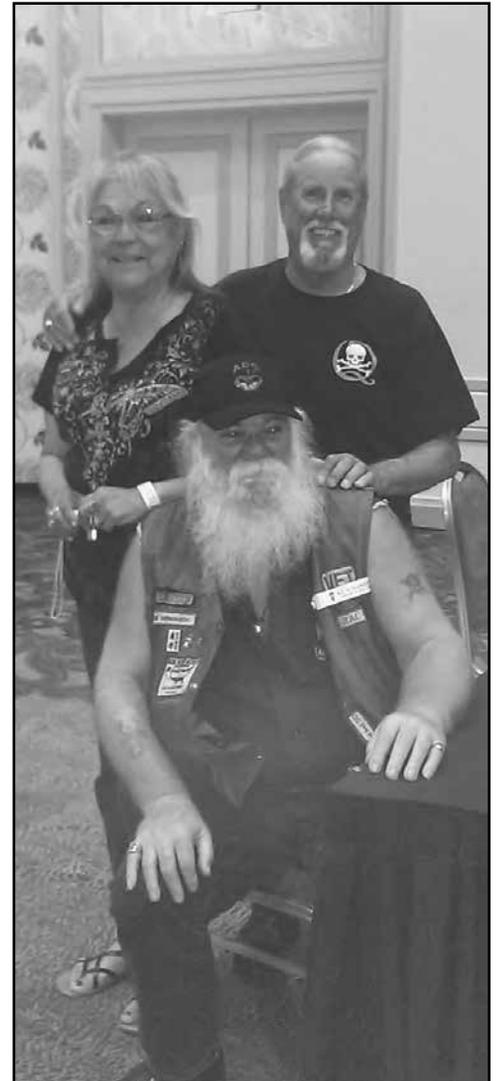
Banquet where, among others, awards were given to the 2 Million Bikers to DC ride, Stan Elsworth (for a down to Earth history program on the BYU channel), Michael Mosia (Motorcycle Movement of Quebec) and Monte "Stick" Kenner (for Oklahoma's COIR and Defenders program's response to the Oklahoma Tornado's disaster).

The overwhelming theme for the weekend had to do with a court case that is now being prosecuted by the Federal Government. I'm not a lawyer and am not smart enough to follow all the implications of this issue, but let me do the best I can. A few years ago members of the Mongol Nation MC were under Federal charges (invoking RICO). Using this as a stepping stone the government began confiscating property of the club; not just of those indicted. One of the unindicted members of the club filed suit and said: "I have committed no crime; I am not under indictment, what right do you have to take things that belong to me?" The court agreed, but told the prosecutors they had gone about things the wrong way. So, while the government had lost that case, they turned right around and filed suit against the Mongols MC as an organization, again intending to take all property showing any sort of club affiliation. The Federal Government and many state

and local governments publish lists of so called criminal organizations, using whatever criteria they want. Is it right that the actions of a few may impact what may be a benign organization? Is it right that the government gets as many swings at the plate as it wants using my tax money, while I at the same time must spend my own money to defend myself? Like I said I'm not a lawyer; but I do know about precedent, how one court case can be pointed to in deciding the next case. I understand how the government takes little steps in limiting a citizen's ability to express himself, to associate with whom he wishes to associate and to defend himself in the face of massive government intrusion. "Save The Patch."

We left on Sunday, coming home the same way we went. We missed more rain in Dallas, snow in Albuquerque and fires in Arizona and California. There were flat tires, bad gas, a bad battery and other minor issues; but we were home in five days. Thanks Donnie, it wouldn't have been the same without you!

Respectfully Submitted, IRISH



*Glencye, Jay & Irish at NCOM Convention; photo Donnie Ahola*

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# OFFICER REPORTS

## NCOM Convention Hotel Experience — forwarded by IRISH

Subject: Interesting review from the NCOM convention hotel - and response

Date: Wed, 14 May 2014 18:56:11 -0500

Gentlemen:

I was contacted by the Intercontinental and asked to give a review of my stay there. Of course, it was a first rate review, and I even named an employee who deserved extra recognition. This afternoon, I received an email with a link back to the hotel where I could read a response to my review. It was a nice note from the General Manager, who said he'd forward my compliments to the staff, etc. Below my entry was the following - and the response from the General Manager. I'm sure you and others will appreciate the positive comments by the General Manager.

Have a great summer - see you on the road, or in Baltimore in November.

**ANIMAL**

### MY FAMILY WAS SURROUNDED BY FELONS

12 May 2014

By: Family Scared, from Houston, TX, USA

Age:50-64

Traveler Type: Business

Check Out Date: 2014-05-09

I stay at the hotel on a regular basis and love the hotel. The staff at this hotel is great and amazing. But the staff cannot control unsavory groups that are booked by hotel management. Starting on Thursday evening bikers started arriving for a big meeting, (FYI, I own and ride a motorcycle). The group was headed by the Banditos 1% Motor Cycle gang as well as gangs named Outlaws, Mongols, Hells Angels, Scorpions, Sons of Silence, etc. All of these gangs are on a FBI and DEA watch list. The Bandidos ran security on the hotel property telling guests where they would allow them to park and where they could go on the property. Guests and staff were terrorized and bullied. I spoke to the Hotel GM and he did not see a problem with the group and expressed dismay that we would be offended by this group using the facilities. The Bandidos broke the law by taking drinks out of the hotel bar and smoking marijuana on the hotel grounds. The valet entrance was shut down by the Bandidos and their cohorts using the front entrance as a party location. The party went on indoors and outdoors until 5:00 AM. Where was the GM to protect his staff and guests?  
Reason for Visit:Business and Family  
Next Destination:Austin, Texas  
Pros Location, Room Cleanliness, Amenities, Recognition for IHG® Rewards Club Members  
Cons poor decision in booking a group, failure of gm to protect staff and guests

-----  
Posted by HotelStaff  
on 13 May 2014

Dear Guest,

Thank you for taking the time to provide me with feedback regarding your recent visit. I am happy to hear that you are a loyal guest of the hotel and that you feel our staff is amazing. I will most certainly relay your kind words to my team.

In regards to the group that was also our guest during your stay, as we discussed for 20 minutes over the phone during your visit, I hope you understand that we definitely do not discriminate against any group and that we experienced ZERO issues while they were in our hotel. I still don't quite understand where you got the gang information from, but please know that our staff definitely wasn't bullied and we received no other complaints from guests. In fact, the entire hotel staff had nothing but nice things to say about the group and enjoyed servicing them.

You asked where the GM was during this time, and I am here to tell you that I was on-site the entire time this group was at the hotel and did not feel that any member of this group was a threat to other guests or my team. The safety and security of our guests and hotel associates is the most important part of my role as General Manager at InterContinental Dallas. You will be glad to know that not one single incident surfaced during the entire weekend as all our guests and hotel associates were safe and sound.

Furthermore, the hotel has its own security team and I can assure you that the group of bikers you mentioned did not run the security efforts while they were at the hotel. We gave the bikers certain areas to park their bikes in, which they might have asked you to steer clear of. And, yes, due to the size and nature of the group, a lot of members spent time outside, but none of our entrances were ever shut down. Additionally, as far as members breaking the law by taking beer and drinks outside the building, I would like to inform you that it is not against the law to do so and if there were members of the group that stayed awake until 5:00 AM, they certainly did not disturb anyone, being that we did not record any noise complaints during the 5 days the group was at the hotel.

I truly regret that you and your family did not enjoy your time at the hotel.

Sincerely,

Xxxxxx Xxxxx

General Manager

## Key Peninsula Chapter

From GLENYCE JACKSON, CHAPTER SECRETARY

The Motorcycle Show @ Key Fest is getting closer every day. Preparations are nearing completion. Of course, it won't be over until the "Fat Lady sings"—no, not me. She hasn't pre-registered yet either! Entries before July 5 save \$5. But your entry on Sunday, July 13 at 9 a.m. is also welcome.

Plans are in the works for a summer Chapter run. Details will be firm soon! (I've heard rumors that it will be brewery to brewery on a Saturday.) Watch the Key Peninsula ABATE group Facebook page.

The Summer Solstice has passed so we should be planning for the last days of summer and fast approaching fall and winter. The Chapter is looking forward to a first anniversary shindig too.

Sounds like the Spring Opener was enjoyed by everyone who made it over the mountains. What Party is next? Is there time in between to plan successful Legislation and to further the goals or mission of ABATE of Washington? Who knows? Sometimes it appears that the mission of ABATE has been lost in the endless quest for bigger parties that take all the resources of our organization before the purpose of our organization is met. It seems that the celebration is taking precedence to the completion of the goals. But without the success of meeting our goals is there reason for celebration?

Ride safe, ride free! ◇

## Columbia Gorge Chapter

From "MILES" MICKI ROBINSON, COORDINATOR

Hello ABATE members:

The time is just flying by. Summer will be here and gone before we know it, so get out there and attend all the events you can.

We (Scott and I) just got back from Texas and attended our Business meeting for the first time in 6 months. It went very well, as Columbia Gorge Chapter is planning its 1st Annual Lori Baranovich Poker Run on July 5th, 2014. The ride will be about 70 miles long on some twisty and winding roads. I'll thank all in advance for showing up and supporting us.

A lot of us went to the Spring Opener and had a good time. Great Bands.

Looking for some thoughts on putting together a motorcycle show in Goldendale. Have spoke with the Mayor and the city is all for it. If some of the other chapters have any advice, I would like to hear from them.

Our chapter is not getting bigger but it is staying strong. We have some good thinkers and it looks like it is paying off.

Ride safe and sober. Never let fear stop you from doing anything and never do anything that you feel guilty for later. That's my motto. ◇

## North Olympic Chapter

From NEIL ECKERSON, COORDINATOR

Our membership is in decline and we are resurrecting an earlier device to gain new members. We had placed flyers at all local motorcycle dealers in nice-looking plastic holders in prominent places in the showrooms. The flyers promised one year's free membership to any person who bought a new or used motorcycle or trike and brought their sales slip and the flyer to one of our monthly meetings. We didn't get one bite! So, doing the old insane thing we're going to try it again.

Lyle is going to send us some more ABATE tri-folds; we have a stamp that imprints our local information on the the tri-fold and we lay them on every biker we see.

Younger motorcyclists are not in evidence up here. Young people leave the peninsula for better employment opportunities elsewhere or work long hours for low pay just to make a living. They do not have "disposable income" to buy a motorcycle. The U.S. Census Bureau calls Clallam County "a dying county" due to high unemployment and declining population.

The older motorcyclists don't seem to be "joiners." They putt around on a nice day but don't go far. Weather is one drawback; we attended a band concert in one of Sequim's parks, come to think of it Sequim's only park, and got high winds and rain. We could see the concern on the band's faces as they watched us deal with the elements. Run weather, it's not yet. We'll see what the upcoming weather brings. It's not yet summer in Clallam County. This year we resolve to attend our sister chapter's runs/events; Gray's Harbor, Kitsap, etc.

Thank you newsletter people Ron Fryer, Tina Lawson and Cathy Salomone for what you do. ◇

## Pacific County Chapter

From LENNY PLETSCH, COORDINATOR

Just got home last week after 3 weeks in the front of a pick-up and 7,000 miles. Got to see several friends and family too. Stopped one night and it was 36, when we woke it was 18. Was glad the bike was home—brrr. Then, just out of Okie City we hit thunderstorms for about 50 miles. Even on high it would not keep the windshield clear.

Our "101 Run" was on the Saturday before we left town. Was a good turn out, with good weather and friends. Dry is always good in this state. Now, most of our chapter is looking at other people's runs and events. Hope to see ya' down the road. Be safe. ◇

## Tacoma Chapter

From **DONNIE AHOLA, COORDINATOR**

Hi there ABATE brothers and sisters,

Well Spring Opener has come and gone and for me it went by in a blink. I was so busy next thing I knew it was Sunday AM. I would like to thank all the committee members and each and every volunteer that worked this event, you do not get enough credit. You people make Spring Opener happen. I would also like to thank all the Chapters that helped put on all the different events. You all did a great job. To all the brothers and sisters that braved the weather and showed up, I thank you. Without you we could not make this happen. You are the greatest group of people I know and I love you all. I also have to thank my Freedom Seeker brothers and sisters for putting on the bikini bike wash. We donated \$370 dollars to next year's Spring Opener fund. I also want to thank the Rebel brothers and sisters that show up early every year and set up the gate. Just so ya' know the Rebels and Freedom Seekers are mostly all Tacoma Chapter members. I thank you.

There are so many runs going on this summer it's hard to choose what to do. I know July 10th I'm heading to the Republic Rally.

Tacoma Chapter's next run will be the Lost Brother and Sister's Run September 6th. More details to follow. That's all for now...Ride Safe ◇

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## Rat City Chapter

From **MARJORIE MCKINNEY**

Rat City Chapter is looking forward to Spring Opener as of this writing—it will be over when you read this. The summer looks promising for lots of fun rides and BBQs. Members will be showing up at events all around the area.

The chapter will celebrate the end of summer with our annual Rat Roast on September 6th, tentatively at the home of James Hemmingsen. More details to come.

The most consistent activity for our chapter is our Roadside Cleanup—we do it every other month on the third Sunday, meeting for breakfast at 9 and cleaning the road from 10 until 12 or whenever we are done. At our last session in May we collected over 20 bags of trash. It's pretty satisfying!

Have a great summer and keep the dirty side down! ◇

## Sky Valley Chapter

From **HIGHWAYMAN (ROGER HANSON), DEP. COORDINATOR**

Well, I just got back from the Spring Opener, and wow! was it great! The weather was a little shaky at times, but we rode on Saturday to Ellensburg and of course to Rosland. If you have not yet been to this site for the opener you have got to come next year!

Lots of trees to camp in and hook ups for motorhomes. A natural little amphitheater for the band, bike show, and bike games. Hot showers and flush toilets too. Our chapter camped together for the first time and we will do the same next year! We laughed till we almost puked! One of our group (Tim) had Bloody Mary's for breakfast and decided to take a nap. We went for a ride and when we got back he was just waking up. He thought it was around noon...it was 5:30 pm. He had slept for almost 8 hours!!! Ha ha! Anyway the music, and food, vendors, and all the strange machines made for one of the best openers I have ever been to.

The next event for our chapter for the month of July will be the Delta House run, followed by dinner, and live band at the Snohomish Eagles club on Saturday the 19th. Check out our web site for complete details. Hope to see you all there!

I will include a few pictures of our group at the opener so you can check out the camp sites with hook ups. I'm sure there will be lots of pictures of all the action somewhere in the newsletter as our State photographer was making the rounds.

Also don't forget our bike show appreciation party in September at the Sultan Eagles club. Food, live music, free camping and free entry! This party is a blast! Hope you can also make that one! Once again check Sky Valley ABATE's web site for all the details.

All for now! See you in the wind...Highwayman ◇



*Sky Valley camp at Spring Opener; photo by Highwayman*

## Columbia River Chapter

From ANGELA PARKINSON, SECRETARY

Greetings from Columbia River Chapter of East Wenatchee!!

First we want to thank everyone involved with ABATE of Washington for welcoming our Chapter! Special thanks to Dragoni, Ambassador at Large, for making several trips over the pass to attend our meetings and help us become a chartered group and State Coordinator, Lyle Coyle, for answering any questions that needed to be answered and any one we may have forgotten!

Columbia River Chapter's first appearance was at the BOD and since then, we have been busy going on rides and attending events. Our first local event as a chartered group was riding in the Annual Classy Chassis Parade in East Wenatchee. We were welcomed by the spectators and they were very excited to see a group of motorcycle riders! Columbia River Chapter also rode over and supported our brothers and sisters of the Kittitas County ABATE with their Annual Iron Horse Trail Motorcycle Show. A few of our members participated in Run for the Border put on by our local HOG Chapter and others attended the Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) 100-mile ride.

Coordinator Keith contacted several members and the chapter pulled together to escort our member Nicole (Realme) Walker and her bridal party to her wedding destination. Nicole was so surprised and overwhelmed that our chapter went the extra mile for her and now husband Cole, also a Columbia River Chapter member. And to top it off, Coordinator Keith is also Ordained and married Nicole and Cole! May 10th will be a great day to remember for the Columbia River Chapter!

Central Washington Motorcycle Training invited Columbia River Chapter to be a part of their first ever Bikes-N-Brats held on May 24th. The weather was amazing and our group enjoyed each other's company, sharing with the community what ABATE is and watching the riding demonstration that Central Washington Motorcycle Training instructors put on. We will continue to work alongside CWMT to help promote rider safety and education!

Many of our Members will be attending Spring Opener and it will be awesome to meet more ABATE members!! Until next time.. Keep it shiny side up and the rubber on the ground! ◇

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# *Lori Baranovich Memorial Run* (Poker Run)

*July 5, 2014*

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*KSU*

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## Lewis County Chapter

From PAT PAYNE, COORDINATOR

Hello everyone,

As I write this, Spring Opener is just over. I was not able to attend this year, being I was asked by my niece to officiate her wedding and it was an honor that I could not pass up. I look like a good time was had by those that went. I hope to make it next year.

Lewis County Chapter has been giving away scholarships to each of the 11 high schools in Lewis County for the past 10 years now and this year was no different. Our scholarship program has a set of criteria that benefits those that may not get any other scholarships. It is intended to give someone a boost that may be sitting on the fence about going to college or a trade school. Some of our members go to the school ceremony to present the scholarships to the students. It is a time where we are able to get the word out as to what ABATE is about. This year we gave the honor of presenting the awards in the east end of the county to Brian Lange, the Coordinator of the new Elk County Chapter. Good job Brian!

Some of us will be joining Pacific County Chapter at the Flat Mattress Run this next weekend, June 20th–22nd. This year it is being held next to the Brooklyn Tavern in Brooklyn, WA. This has always been a fun weekend for Audrey and I. I hope to see some of you there.

Our Chapter is going to do some short evening rides this year and there is talk about doing a non bar run sometime this summer. If you have Facebook, that is a good place to find out what is going on with our chapter, and check in often to see if there is a short-notice ride going on. Also, if you and some friends are going for a ride and are looking for others to join you, make a post on our page and see who shows up.

We are still putting things together for the Kickback Campout on August 14th thru 17th. The Johnny Ray band will be playing both Friday and Saturday night. They are a good dance band! Save the date.

Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Moose Lodge at 7pm. Come on by and join us. ◇



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## Spanaway Chapter

From BILLY DE HUNTER, COORDINATOR

WOW where to start. That saying if you're going to be a motorcycle rider in Washington you better not mind the rain could not be more true then over the weekend of our Spring Opener. I want to thank all the riders who supported our 1st Annual Poker Run. We had 38 riders. In the rain I might add. We rode 173 miles. Best hand was won by Tim with four Aces from Spanaway Chapter; runner-up was Boris from Tacoma Chapter with four Jacks. All the entry monies went to support Spring Opener. I want to thank you all that bought a Spring Opener Poker Run shirt.

I want to welcome all our new members and wish them nothing but good experiences in ABATE.

And a very BIG tip of the helmet to Lyle and the whole Spring Opener committee for a fantastic job pulling off this year's Spring Opener. Our only downfall was weather. Looking forward to next year's already. Our first Spring Opener at the ranch we had sun, next year rain, next was sun, this year rain. So that tells me next year is the SUN year again. Hope it follows suit. Also congrats Amigo Mongo on winning the 2014 Harley Road King, he is a deserving person. But now I agree the Amigos have won their limit now. LOL.

Our next event is Rock and Libbie's Birthday Party on July 26th at 4:00. There will be live music and plenty of camping for all. So if you're tired of the same ol' same ol' Sun and Surf BS come have a good time with us.

We are all looking forward to all the summer stuff but keep in mind what we really are here for our rights when you get a call to action PLEASE act on it. It is the only way we can help the ones helping to keep us in the know of what is going on in WASHINGTON DC and Olympia.

I know it is a little early but start thinking about attending our next STEAM event. It is one of the best things out there to help young and old members learn the ins and outs of ABATE of Washington. I went last year and will go again this year. Get out there and recruit new members, the more members we have the stronger we are in Olympia. Can't express it enough there is strength in numbers.

Before each ride get in the habit of doing a quick safety check of your bike. Look twice for cars 'cause they don't always. Be safe. ◇



## South King County Chapter

From DOUG "CURLY" HUBBARD, COORDINATOR

Hello from SKCC,

Well summer seems to be coming at about a week at a time. In May we had our annual Jim Adams Memorial Ride. Was a great day for riding and for a couple of good causes. The tally for the ride for Combat Vets was about \$800 and for legislative \$800. There was good food and lots of prizes given out. Want to thank all that participated and the committee for a job well done. Thanks to all that turned out!



JAMR participants; photo by Tina Lawson

The Combat Vets were at our June meeting to receive the donation and told us that the money will be used for a wish list that they get from the soldiers in Orting. That way the money goes directly to vets and not into a general fund. SKCC will be informed when the list will be distributed and will be invited to help.



SKCC donation to CVMC; photo from Doug Hubbard

The Spring Opener in Easton is over and I'll say Dawn and I had a great time. The bands were great and it was fun seeing old and making new friends. SKCC won the scavenger hunt, thanks to Karen for heading that up and her helpers too. Congratulations



SKCC wins Scavenger Hunt; photo from Rona

to Pete Fox for winning Most Patriotic Tattoo.

Upcoming event for SKCC in July 19 is our annual "Round the Mountain" ride. Starts at Shaffer's in Sumner. KSU at 9:30am and ends at our place for dinner and prizes. August 23 is our Fun Run with details to be determined.

I know nominations are going to be in the next few months so let's see some support for your chapters and get out and volunteer for a position

Well till the next time I can make a dead line. Be Safe and Shiny Side Up ◇

## East Pierce County Chapter

From NOEL ORTIZ, COORDINATOR

I would like to thank everyone that participated in EPCC's 34th anniversary party during the Spring Opener. A special thanks goes out to all of our chapters members who have been there and helped us throughout this past year through thick and thin. I also hope that many of you are able to attend this years Teddy Bear Run in August, as in year's past it should prove to be a fun filled weekend.

Reminder: General meeting. July 6th, 10am Buckley Eagles. We'll start the elections process for next year's chapter board members. Time to come in and raise those hands to move our chapter forward. ◇

# Canada to Mexico

## In Under 36 Hours

By **RANDY VANADISSON**  
*ABATE Independent member*

Sometimes you just have to take off and find a little peace. No better way to do that than catapulting yourself through an insane quest to cross both the Canadian and Mexican borders in under 36 hours, yeah, right...the Iron Butt Association.

Originally my quest was to do it in 24 hours, but common sense and unforeseen obstacles made that a suicidal idea 19 hours later. On Tuesday, June 3, I took off from south Whidbey Island and rolled across the border into Surrey, B.C. If you're going to do this run, taking the I-5 corridor, there is no better start point than the Pacific Inn. It's not even a mile from the border. They had good food at reasonable prices and the idea was to chill out, watch some TV, and get plenty of sleep. That did not happen.

Wednesday, June 4, I woke up around 3am and there was no getting back to sleep. I was already packed so I just split with the hotel clerk's affidavit showing my departure at 3:20 am. There was no traffic at the Peace Arch. I went right through. Gassed up in Bellingham and blew through Seattle like nothing. A marine front came in and chilled me a bit. I gassed up again in DuPont, but had to get a cup of coffee

and warm up. I lost serious time when I hit Portland. Really debated taking the 205, but gambled on I-5 and lost about 90 minutes – bad call. After Portland, it was smooth sailing all the way to the California border. I stopped twice for gas and stripped down as the heat increased. I was feeling strong and good, right up until I hit exit 71, Sunny Valley Creek. I didn't see it until it was too late, but the south bound on-ramp was under repair. That meant after I stripped off a few more layers, I would have to back track to the Wolf Creek exit and go south from there – about a 12 mile loss. No biggie and I wasn't concerned, just annoyed a little.

Once I crossed into Cali, there was construction jams galore and traffic moved at a snail's pace. I pulled off in Yreka to get gas and ran into a brand new unforeseen problem. My bank has done this to me a couple of times where I have gone out of town and then suspended my cash card because they 'assumed' something was wrong. This turned into a 20 minute ordeal. As I was getting that sorted out, I had the good fortune to meet Hatchetman of the State of Jefferson MC. Now I know all about the separatist movement of the State of Jefferson, but I had no idea that a bunch of righteous dudes created an MC out of that concept. We were swapping IBA stories when I finally got though to my bank's fraud department. I told them I would call if my card were actually stolen. The guy tells me they can put me on their 'traveler's plan'. I replied, "Oh, you mean where I give you my entire itinerary of every city I'm going to hit. He responds in



the affirmative and then I ask, "Will this include every bathroom I take a s\*~t in?" Before he could respond I hung up and let it go. Onward – Lake Shasta and more construction. Now I was getting concerned. I was heading into the early evening and hadn't even made it to Redding yet. As I plowed through the evening, more construction work came up. I was starting to get the sense that I hadn't really considered the pitfalls of doing this on I-5. Fatigue was starting to hit me as well. By the time I was rolling through Stockton it was dark. I looked down at my trip odometer and did some quick math. If I was going to make it in 24 hours I would have to maintain a speed of 80 miles an hour, get through Los Angeles, and get an affidavit signed while trying to deal with the Tijuana border crossing. It didn't take long to figure out it wasn't going to happen, not safely anyway. At around 940 miles in, I came to two conclusions, 1) I was not going to make it. I checked my ego and decided to play it safe and get recognition for doing it in under 36, and 2) I was too close to another Saddle Sore 1000 to give that up. Once I was in the clear on being over a 1,000 in 24 hours I stopped and got a hotel in Firebaugh.

The next day, on Thursday, June 5, I got up at 6 am, ate a good breakfast, scraped off all the bugs guts, gassed up and hit the road. Los Angeles sucked,



Mainstream media is inherently biased and manipulative. Now owned directly by six large multinational corporations, our so-called news is nothing more than a government-controlled mouthpiece for elite interests. I like to ride, party, and be free just like you, but awareness, once attained, is not something I will ever take for granted again. Due to recent legislation in Germany, Australia, and even California, the federal government is quietly working overtime to destroy the 1st Amendment by designing a plan to take your club patch, your ABATE patch, and any other patch they decide is a 'problem'. Stay active with ABATE, join C.O.I.R., hold your elected representatives to their Oath of Office, and above all stay alert! - Mr. V - COIR LT. Commander, LMC



To get some 'real news' check out:  
[www.LibertariansMC.com/news](http://www.LibertariansMC.com/news)

Our mission:

We, the Libertarians Motorcycle Club, will actively defend the US Constitution, work to restore the original philosophy and governance set forth by the Bill of Rights, and zealously expose the difference between true freedom and the illusion of freedom.



Disclaimer: The LMC is not an extension of the Libertarian Party. Individuals may be members of the Libertarian Party, but this is not a requirement of the club. We embrace many of the same beliefs, but the LMC's choice of the name 'Libertarians' pertains to our shared love of libertarian philosophy, not a political affiliation.

but it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. There were a couple of bad jam ups that made me wish I had set up that wake up call, but oh well. At Oceanside the air actually got chilly and as I pulled over to throw on a jacket, I had the good fortune of getting to see an Aircraft Carrier out at sea. There were helicopters provisioning the ship and it was just an awesome thing to witness. I pushed on. When I was about 2 miles from the border I saw a big sign that read, NO WEAPONS ALLOWED IN MEXICO. Now I am sure some of you are aware of veteran Andrew Tahmoore's incarceration in a Mexico prison. Well that entire event happened at the check point I was about to go through. I always carry a knife and once again didn't think about all the possibilities of what I was attempting. Although I didn't have a piece, I wasn't taking any chances. I got close to the shoulder and let go of I knife I've loved for nearly two decades. It was okay. I was getting a new one anyway. This would give me the excuse to get it done.

Now I had friends waiting for me at Big Bear Lake, so I had no intention of hanging out in Tijuana. I watched a YouTube video about a dozen times learning the loop to get back to the border once I had got in. I saw exactly what Andrew did. If you were disoriented, there is just no way out of it. There are reverse spikes making it impossible to turn back into the USA once you have crossed a certain point. I find that a bit odd. They just waived me through and then I got pissed about throwing away my knife. Then the exit I needed was blocked off. I said one four-letter word and you all know what that word was. After about 15 minutes of cruising around Tijuana and making damn sure I knew where north was, I found the line back. Great thing about being on a bike is that you don't have to wait for hours and hours. You just go right up front. The CBP officer swiped my passport, looked at me, and asked, "Where did you rent that ride?" I replied that it was my bike. He looked back at his screen and said, "This shows you were in

Canada yesterday." I told him what I was doing and he seemed impressed. He said, "Well the good news is that you made it. The bad news is that anyone who goes from one border to the other that quick is automatically going to get searched." They were cool about it and the dude that searched the bike actually certified my end time. I had a couple of great riding hours to Big Bear Lake and after the sun disappeared I was knocking back some good strawberry moonshine with a dear friend under a cool starry sky. I was happy it was done. The real beauty of this trip was the ride back. After what I had just done, I had no desire to see the interstate again. If you have never done it before, I encourage you to explore California State Route 395. It was awesome.

As to accomplishing any Iron Butt Run, those of you who have done it know full well – don't ever underestimate it. It's going to kick your butt, literally! ◇

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By JAY & GLENYCE JACKSON  
MRF Reps for Washington State

**T**he Best of the West got off to a breathless start for lots of the attendees who live at elevations much lower than the 9,085 feet above sea level posted at the edge of Frisco, Colorado. We are familiar with the 5,000 foot altitudes of northern Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and parts of Nevada and California but the “high in Colorado” took on new meaning for us sea level people! Huff and puff just walking up one flight of stairs!

The Friday evening “Meet the Board & SSMRO Introductions” was a great start to the weekend. There were 16 states represented with California and Oregon being conspicuous by their absence along with Alaska and Hawaii. Jeff Hennie (MRF Vice President of Governmental Relations) rode from Washington, D.C. with Matt representing S. Carolina and the Virginia Rep. Utah also passed a Red Light bill and is working on a lane splitting bill. Several states are working on Right of Way bills which will enhance penalties for running down motorcycles. Most all of the states are working on building good relations with their highway departments and Safety Councils. Most states have gained use of the highway electronic reader boards for motorcycle safety messages including “Share the Road.” Many lively discussions continued in the Hospitality suite which was well stocked by the hosting ABATE of Colorado Crew. Yippee! It was fun to visit with friends from around the country.

Best of the West, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation western regional conference, is a thing of the past. The MRF will no longer put on regional conferences due to fiscal considerations, poor attendance, and other factors. We are fortunate in being a part of the legacy that promotes Motorcycle Rights, safety, and education of both riders and non-riders. We look forward to being part of the event that will replace the educational and idea sharing part of the conference. Discussion has already started to find a suitable location for the next western conference. The MRF can and will help by supplying speakers and expertise. This news Saturday morning put a damper on the high spirits for awhile but everyone recuperated their enthusiasm before lunch.

I will be an assistant to the MRFA&E Board for the coming year. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation Awareness and education is a 501 c Corporation which is separate from the MRF. It is a tax deductible organization that operates with grant funding and donations. The MRFA&E mission is to “promote awareness and education in the motorcycle community to improve rider safety and educate non-riders globally in the interest of riders’ safety.” Check it out at [www.mrfae.org](http://www.mrfae.org).

The “Fact or Fiction Update” was entertaining and informative. I picked up some pointers in the “Working with your

State Legislator” seminar and Jay learned more about the fourth Amendment & Motorcycle-only Checkpoints. After a short break we continued our learning with the **3 R’s Program**—

*Be Responsible  
Ride Responsible  
Take Responsibility*

We brought a disk of the program home with us and would love to share it with you. Give us a call. Jay sat in on the Sustaining Member Motorcycle Club Meeting where they discussed regaining your voting privileges and expunging your records after trouble with the law. There really is no excuse for NOT voting and taking part in the political process. It is our duty to let our voices be heard.

Many more discussions and much idea sharing happened before and during the Braking Demonstration by Idaho STAR, riding coach, Ax. Yikes! He does stuff with his motorcycle that really makes you jump!

The day ended with the Auction and Dinner. The guest speaker was a Legislator from Colorado who works with the motorcycle community who believes smaller less

intrusive government is the way to go. It would be wonderful if her ideas were common to more Legislators across the country. The silent auction is always lots of fun bidding up your friends—it’s all for the good of the organization and the MRFA&E puts it on so any amount over the fair price of an item is tax deductible! And the live auction is also lots of fun. Utah’s Apple Pie moonshine sold twice. Several other treasures were acquired in bidding wars. Since we were on the Road King we didn’t buy anything we couldn’t fit in the bag. (Retirement has put a crimp in my spending habits!)

Sunday the Blessing of the Bikes was done on a “before you leave” basis because some took off early and others spent some more time riding around the beautiful Rocky Mountains. The scenery around Frisco was truly awesome and Colorado worked with the motorcyclists to make a map with riding skill ratings for the mountain roads. The map is very beneficial for the ‘flatland’ riders who visit the area. The local ABATE people had also mapped out several rides of varying distances to highlight favorite areas.

The 30th Meeting of the Minds conference in Kansas City, Missouri is just around the corner September 25-28, 2014. It would be great to have some of you go with us. Ride safe, Ride free! ◇

**“We’re in the  
Freedom business”**

—Karen Bolin

BY MATT DANIELSON  
MCGRATH & DANIELSON  
THE MOTORCYCLE LAW GROUP  
1-800-321-8968  
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## Why Motorcyclists Can't Afford to Just Sit Back and Enjoy the Ride

There are many different things that draw people to motorcycling. For some it is the sense of freedom. For others it is a source of relaxation. It can also be a source of exhilaration. If you are like me, it is to some degree all of the above. That being said, it is the ride that we crave regardless of what each of us gets from it. This time of year the roads are packed with motorcyclists who are sitting back (or forward) and just enjoying the ride. That begs the question; can we as avid motorcyclists afford to do that?

I had the privilege this month of riding to Frisco Colorado to attend the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) Best of the West Conference. For those who have been to Colorado you know that it is some of the prettiest riding country you will ever encounter. Yet on a gorgeous Saturday in June, I found myself not on my bike riding the Rockies, but in a room with motorcyclists from around the country discussing issues riders are facing all around the United States. The following is a list of some of the issues that were being addressed by the participants:

- Working to prevent motorcyclists from being excluded from public parking lots, roads, and parking garages.
- Working to eliminate roadside checkpoints aimed only at motorcyclists.
- Working to address the ever growing problem of distracted driving.
- Working to prohibit the use of higher ethanol blends at the pump until the effects on motorcycle engines can be further studied.
- Working for legislation allowing motorcyclists to safely and reasonably proceed when they are stuck at a traffic light that will not recognize them.
- Working to prevent legislation which arbitrarily sets age restrictions for passengers on motorcycles.
- Working with state and local governments to promote sensible motorcycle awareness campaigns.

All of these are real issues being faced by real riders. As I took in everything being discussed I thought to myself, what would riding be like if there were no one addressing these issues on behalf of motorcyclists? The answer was chilling. It is easy to sit back, enjoy the ride, and count on everything being all right. But can we afford to do that? If we all did, we may soon find no ride left to sit back and enjoy.

So what can you do to protect yourself and the activity that we all love and cherish? Take some simple steps to become involved in protecting the rights of fellow motorcyclists. I am not suggesting that everyone start riding all over the country attending seminars (although it is a great excuse to ride all over

the country). You can get involved locally. Start paying attention to the positions that your local, state and federal legislators take regarding issues affecting motorcyclists. Share your thoughts in letters and emails. Write letters to the editor of your local paper. Go to City Council or County Board meetings. Join a motorcycle rights organization and attend their lobby day, where motorcyclists go the State Capitol to discuss issues important to us with elected officials. I would also encourage you to join the MRF. This is an organization dedicated solely to protecting the rights of American motorcyclists. You can learn more and join at [mrf.org](http://mrf.org).

There are numerous ways to protect your rights as a motorcyclist. The ways are limitless, bound only by your passion and imagination. There is, however, a wrong way and that is to count on someone else to do it. That someone else may be sitting back, enjoying the ride, and counting on you.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this article or any other matters concerning your rights as a motorcyclist, please feel free to contact me at 1-800-321-8968 or at [matt@motorcyclelawgroup.com](mailto:matt@motorcyclelawgroup.com) ◇



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## Motorcycle Awareness Month – The Wrong Way Down

By WAYNE BUSCH

*A controversial viewpoint that looks at motorcycle safety from the other side of the looking glass.*

I'm a lifelong motorcyclist. I'm a professional rider, I earn my bread from the seat of my bike. I been a trainer, had training, been all over the country and overseas, led tours, coordinated events and rallies, read the books and every accident study I can get to. I've had my share of spills, close calls, and mistakes and I've got the scars to remember them by.

Motorcycle Awareness Month doesn't even make the list of "commemorative months" on Wikipedia and is about as effective as "National Ice Cream Month" (which does make the list) – It's the wrong approach to the problem of how to be safer riding a motorcycle on our increasing dangerous roads.

False Hope

"Watch out for Bikers" is wishful thinking. It puts the responsibility on someone else – "You need to watch out for me". Believing that little yellow diamond is going to penetrate the brain of a pony-tailed soccer mom with a minivan full of kids rushing to get to the little league game is quite a leap of faith. Or that the road warrior salesman is going to suddenly take his mind off his next meeting as he's fighting his way through the traffic on his way to Des Moines. That the old codger in the Buick with a line of traffic a half mile behind him is going to suddenly wake up and recognize there are other vehicles on the road? That teen is gonna put away the cell phone and start driving the car? Not my experience. Not the real world. YOU need to watch out for YOU.

Even if you could get through and alert every other driver on the road you're not going to change the laws of physics. Motorcycles are just plain hard to see because they are the smallest vehicle out on the roads. They are comparatively rare so people don't expect them. They are easy to lose track of surrounded by so many larger vehicles. Every one of us knows a driver can look right at you and not see you coming. Accept it – you're virtually invisible to others the road.

The "motorcycle awareness" that will keep you alive longest is the awareness that you are responsible for your own safety on the road. You need to up your riding game. Distracted driving is the leading contributor to accidents on our roadways. The counter strategy is increased awareness on the part of the motorcyclist, not all the other people out on the road. They're not going to change, you need to change to adapt to the conditions that exist. We know the most common causes of motorcycle accidents related to other vehicles – car pulls out or turns in front of motorcycle, car changes lanes on highway into motorcycle, car runs into motorcycle stopped at intersection.

The motorcycle awareness we need is to deal with these situations as riders as effectively as possible. This is what happens

– expect it and assume it will every time. Ride as if that car IS going to pull out or turn in front of you. Be prepared to react to it. Every car, every time. Constantly be aware of your position to surrounding traffic on the road and don't ride in blind spots. Don't assume that car next to you sees you – if he needs to swerve I'll bet he'd rather hit you than a truck. Move out of the situation. When they crowd in on you get out of the situation as soon as possible.

Position yourself to be visible when stopped. Don't sit right behind a car, move out to create a silhouette that stands out from behind. Keep the bike in gear and have an escape route ready in case you see that car running up on you too fast.

The roads are getting more crowded and more dangerous. There are new challenges to face. People are just going to keep doing what they're doing, they are not going to change. If you want to be safer, take your safety in your own hands – the others are too busy to bother. ◇



Wayne Busch lives in Waynesville, NC, where he produces the most detailed and comprehensive and up-to-date motorcycle pocket maps of the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains to help you get the most of your vacation experience. See them here - [AmericaRidesMaps.com](http://AmericaRidesMaps.com)

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## The Road Guard Bill — What's the Whole Truth?

By RON FRYER

Last January, a bill was introduced to the House and Senate that would allow groups of 20 or more motorcyclists to provide their own road guarding under certain conditions. Members of the group could take training from the State and be granted a certificate allowing them to provide road guarding for the group. This would require some advance planning on the part of the organizers of the group ride and the plan would be submitted to the proper agencies for review. Upon approval, the certified road guards could follow the correct procedures to block traffic at intersections to allow for safe passage of the entire group of motorcycles along the designated route.

Right now, without this bill being made into law, there are a few choices for travelling in a group of 20 or more motorcycles. One choice is to do the road guarding without any permission and break the existing traffic laws to do so. This is not a good choice. Another choice is to ask local law enforcement to do the road guarding for you. While this seems like an obvious choice, it may not always be practical. Law enforcement may charge you for this service, or may not be available at all. Worse yet, law enforcement may be pulled away from your event to answer an emergency call; leaving you without any road guarding at all. The third option is to hire a commercial Road Guard company. While this may be expensive, it is a legal option. Or you can just to obey all the traffic laws, like stopping for all the stop signs and signals along your route. While this is a safe way to travel, the group often becomes separated and some people may get lost if they do not know the route.

What the Road Guard Bill will do is offer you another choice. There is nothing that says that you must absolutely use this bill if it becomes law. It is just another choice available to you, should you decide that it fits your needs. Opponents to this bill failed to disclose this fact when they were making statements all over Facebook and writing letters and making phone calls to legislators saying how terrible this bill is. This bill would provide you with another legal and lawful choice.

Isn't that what ABATE is all about? Freedom of choice? If the helmet law is ever repealed, won't wearing a helmet then become a choice that you can make? It won't say that you cannot wear a helmet; it would just make it a choice that you can make for yourself. If the Road Guard Bill becomes law, it will just give you the choice to use it or not.

Another thing that opponents were saying is that Road Guards could be arrested and go to jail, according to the bill. This is simply not true. What the bill states is that if the driver of a car does not obey the directions of the certified road guard,

that driver would be subject to a misdemeanor citation. Even that would not send someone to jail. I don't even know where that came from.

To sum it up, the Road Guard Bill offers motorcyclists a legal choice to help move their group safely through traffic along a predetermined route. Nobody is required to use it, but it would be there if your group wanted it. It does require some training for each person that wants to become certified, and there is some advance planning to use it, and, yes, law enforcement is part of the planning; but the Road Guard Bill could become a valuable tool for groups of riders to travel their route safely and efficiently in a lawful and legal manner. Before you decide if you are in favor or opposed to this additional choice, be sure that you get all the facts, not just some of them.

ABATE of Minnesota recently passed a Road Guard Bill in their State, as well as ABATE of Ohio and ABATE of Illinois. The Patriot Guard Riders are very much in favor of this bill, and it is approved by the MRF, and the AMA. ◇

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## Political Involvement

By STEVE PUCCIO, LAC

There are over 280,000 motorcyclists in Washington state. How many of us contact our legislators regarding motorcycle issues? A good "estimate" is 40. A few years ago at an Inland Empire Coalition meeting a questionnaire was passed out. It listed seven reasons why you have not contacted your legislators regarding motorcycle issues. The number one answer was "they did not know what to say." Not one person of the fifty attendees said, "wait a minute, I DO contact my legislators."

Since there are so few that do, they should be valued and credited for keeping us FREE. Sure they make mistakes, we all do, we are human. We need to work together to correct or prevent those mistakes but NOT discredit them or focus on those mistakes. Focus on their value not their faults. They are the ones that fight for us and prevent laws and enactments that take away our freedom. Helmet laws, MC only checkpoints, MC modification, noise laws, mandatory airbags, anti-profiling, day-glo clothing, handlebar height, rider training programs, MC awareness, red light problems, etc., are all things they have been involved in.

Politically involved motorcyclists keep us free. Support them and value them for their willingness to make a difference. ◇

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## The Social Cost Theory

Submitted by “MR. BREEZE” DONNIE LANDSMAN

*The following article appeared in the July 1988 issue of the NMA's newsletter. Keep in mind that the numbers cited in this article reflect costs at that time.*

BY JAMES BAXTER, NMA PRESIDENT

For well over two decades I have climbed onto innumerable podiums and written hundreds if not thousands of pages in an attempt to warn of the dangers of accepting ‘social cost’ arguments as justification for limiting or reducing personal freedoms and individual discretion.

Traditionally, governmental intervention or intrusion into personal affairs was typically confined to actions where other people or other people’s property were likely to be directly harmed. Certainly there were exceptions, particularly where moral judgements were involved (e.g. sexual conduct, suicide, and religious rites). Even Prohibition and early drug laws were sold on the basis that users were directly harming other members of society, including abuse of their families.

That a person could assume risks or engage in practices that would be personally injurious was never seriously questioned, to my knowledge, until 1966. In 1966 the U.S. Government embarked on its first large-scale effort to mandate that certain safety initiatives be adopted at the state level, or highway funds would be withheld. One of the mandates was a mandatory helmet law for all motorcyclists.

At the time I resented being told to wear a helmet, being told to do so by some condescending elected official, and being coerced by the force of law to do something that impacted only me directly. In comes the social cost argument.

“Mr. Baxter, your failure to wear a helmet and subsequent injury in an accident will result in lost benefits to your family and others in society, as well as place a financial burden on other taxpayers for your care and possibly the support of your family.” Pretty heavy stuff!

I and other motorcyclists re-thought our position and came back with a two-pronged attack. One: helmets may cause as many accidents and injuries as they prevent. Two: motorcyclists were being discriminated against.

**We chimed in, “Why not pass seat belt laws or prohibitions on smoking?” Never did we realize that we were in a sense institutionalizing the social cost concept as justification for controlling individual discretion.**

A combination of raising the discrimination issue and the efficacy of helmet usage resulted in a majority of states repealing mandatory helmet laws in the late 1970s. The pendulum has again reversed and mandatory helmet laws are being heavily promoted in a number of states. Ironically, this pressure is occurring during a period where motorcycle fatalities are in decline.

Louisiana was the first state to reinstate a helmet law. This past year Nebraska, one of two states to repeal its seat belt law via

referendum, passed a mandatory helmet law. Oregon followed suit and reinstated its helmet law through a referendum. California, the only state never to have a helmet law (and never lost any highway funds) almost did, had it not been for the Governor’s veto.

In each case the social cost or social burden argument was honed to a fine edge with magnum dollar amounts and statistics implying that unhelmeted motorcyclists were responsible for at least half the national debt.

“**Let those who ride decide**” and similar slogans from the 1970s sounded pretty weak against testimony presented by the medical community, insurance industry, and the remaining safety establishment. Add in a certain amount of resentment and hostility harbored by a large portion of the non-motorcycling public and the “free to choose” people didn’t have a snowball’s prayer in Miami.

**But this isn’t really about helmet laws; this is about the pervasive nature of the social cost argument.**

Helmet laws simply provide a case history of how this argument can be applied and accepted for limiting individual choice and discretion.

A recent article on the same subject in a motorcycle trade journal trotted out the usual exaggerated examples of how the Government would next be telling us that we couldn’t eat fatty foods, smoke or drink because such habits could lead to disease and premature death and lost productivity. At least, these used to be exaggerations.

In a recent newspaper article quoting US Surgeon General Koop, he seriously floated the idea that the public (whoever that is) was sick and tired of these people with poor lifestyles (i.e., people who eat and drink too much, smoke, and fail to get adequate exercise), and it might just come to pass that this same public would not continue to support the provision of health care to these overweight, self-indulgent couch potatoes.

Now as harsh as this might sound, I doubt that our society will simply stand by and let fat people die in the streets. However, sanctions, penalties and publicly sponsored forms of discrimination against overweight people are not all that far from reality. Perhaps a program preventing anyone more than 20 percent overweight from enjoying the ‘privilege’ of a driver’s license could be introduced! Sounds a little extreme!

**These esoteric tirades aside, there is one basic truth that is being ignored in this whole debate: the social cost theory is an economic fraud.**

Setting aside personal values and morality issues—which is exactly what the social cost theorists do when they dismiss the importance of personal freedom and individual discretion—we can take a purely economic view of motor vehicle accidents.

Consider the following points:

- Motor vehicle accidents account for \$6 billion annually in medical costs, or one percent of the \$600 billion spent annually on health care in the United States. Motorcycle accidents represent something in the range of 8-10 percent of motor vehicle accidents, or less than one-tenth of one percent of total health care costs.

*Cont’d on page 32>*

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It is literally impossible to prove that the total elimination of motorcycle accidents, let alone those related only to failure to wear a helmet, would have any meaningful impact on health care expenses in the United States.

- Of the roughly \$60 billion spent annually as a result of motor vehicle accidents, \$21 billion is retained by the insurance industry to cover administrative expenses. This does not include \$4 billion for legal expenses associated with these accidents. The largest chunk (\$27 billion) goes for property damage and represents the real motivation behind most insurance company policies.

Not only do they view helmet laws as reducing personal injury—a minor financial consideration—but they may also recognize that helmet laws significantly reduce vehicle and passenger miles ridden, thereby reducing overall exposure, particularly property loss. Actually I give them too much credit, as I suspect they only recognize that losses are greater in states without helmet laws and may not really understand why.

- Social cost theorists never examine or account for the positive economic aspects associated with accident-related expenditures. Body shops, vehicle component manufacturers, retail dealers, the health care professions and even the insurance industry derive income from the aftermath of vehicular accidents (in the case of insurance companies, from the anticipation of such accidents).

This income pays employees and taxes, and is circulated back into the economy through the purchase of goods and services. Keep in mind I'm not making personal value judgements on how this money could otherwise be spent, or the personal losses related to the accident. The owner of the body shop might commiserate with the owner of a damaged vehicle but his family needs food, clothing and shelter, just like the plumber, or ski salesperson or appliance store owner who might have otherwise captured the dollars spent on auto repair.

From a personal perspective the victim would rather spend his money with these other three people, but we're not talking personal preference. We're talking social cost.

- A point that only a few people will refute is that everybody dies; some sooner, some later. Assigning lost value to a person's premature (accidental) death is an abstract absurdity. There is no shortage of people on this planet or in this country. When a productive position opens up as a result of death, injury or retirement it is rapidly filled, frequently by someone with

new and better ideas, more ambition, and often at lower cost. To suggest that every person who dies prematurely represents a loss to society is little more than moralistic nonsense. The chances are probably equal that they would have benefitted or detracted from society. The greatest likelihood is that they would go through life carrying their own weight, no more and no less.

- It is not uncommon for an individual to put in 30 years in the work force, retire, and spend another two or three decades living on Social Security and pensions. During retirement, many people are forced by illness or other infirmities into nursing homes, or become dependent on others for their care and well being. The social cost theorist would argue that the entire system would be economically better off if these elderly invalids were forced to take a one-way walk across the Bonneville Salt Flats without water.

If they believe that we as a society cannot afford to let people make decisions concerning their own welfare, it follows that they also believe we cannot afford to keep large numbers of incapacitated old people around using up finite resources and billions of dollars of services while returning no economic benefit.

What has been lost among the safety zealots is that human beings joined into groups to enhance their freedoms and share the burdens of certain risks, including old age. Security has too often been confused with the loss of freedom and individual discretion. That is an unfair and inaccurate characterization. The security that results from joining together in a society is the freedom to make decisions concerning your own welfare, and protection against the tyranny of man and nature.

When the individual makes a decision the risk inherent in that decision is largely borne by that individual, but there are obviously secondary impacts. Because everyone in the society makes decisions every day that entail some risk, it is inherent in a free society that the secondary burdens and the benefits of those risks are shared.

The safety establishment led by the insurance industry now says that we as a society should not share risks, but rather that the risks be eliminated, i.e. criminalize the use of individual discretion in matters that potentially impact an individual's welfare. This covers just about every aspect of life.

The general public had better start thinking long and hard about whether they want to live in a society that shares risks, or a society that attempts to eliminate all risks through the elimination of personal freedoms and individual discretion. ◇



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## Policies for the ABATE Newsletter

The deadline for submissions to the ABATE Newsletter is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Chapter reports must be submitted by the Chapter Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator or a person authorized by the Chapter Coordinator in writing.

Chapter announcements and flyers are free with the following restrictions:

- Chapters are limited to one full page ad per month
- If the event is during the first week of the month, then a full page ad is allowed in the previous month's issue.
- If the event is not in the first week of the month, the full page ad is limited to the issue published in the month of the event.
- Chapters may place ¼ page ads for up to two months prior to the event except for the issue that the full page ad is inserted. Chapters may not have a ¼ page ad and a full page ad for the same event in the same issue. Full page ads may be allowed if there is space available in months prior to the month of the event at the sole discretion of the Newsletter Team.
- All flyers submitted for publication for Chapter events must have "ABATE of Washington" and the Chapter name at the top of the flyer. Use of the ABATE logo is optional. Any flyers submitted without this information will not be considered Chapter events and will be subject to policies contained in these rules. This may require payment before the flyer can be published.

Charities with 501 (c) (3) status must submit a copy of their IRS status letter to the Newsletter Team before their ad can be published. All events must be motorcycle related. There is no charge for charities to place ads under these conditions on a space available basis. If there is no space available, the charity has the option to pay for the ad at current published rates.

No other discounts or free ads will be allowed.

Commissions: Any ABATE member or Chapter may earn 10% on any ads sold for the newsletter.

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- 15-17 Kick Back Campout, Lewis Cty ABATE (pg 17)
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