

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE ! GET INVOLVED !



ABATE of Northern Nevada



MESQUITE VIRGIN THUNDER FUN RUN
May 16—17
See Page 3 for More Details



John Bland, President

April / May 2008

your web site. I thoroughly enjoyed reading your account of the OTS Motorcycle Safety Meeting in Carson City.

Of course, I wasn't too pleased to read the numerous misspellings of my name (its Geeser) but we're just getting to know each other so I'll give you a friendly pass.

Your account of my reaction to your thought of wearing a helmet in a car was highly descriptive, "He had this look of confusion or contemplation."

I guess my surprise to that comment was that you were comparing cars and motorcycles. I even mentioned that comment to some of my colleagues when I returned home. They asked why you said that and I said he was trying to make a point that helmets are an intrusion and cumbersome. One colleagues asked, "Surely, he didn't mean to compare the safety of cars versus motorcycles, did he?" I said, I don't think so.

Then I read your web site comments and thought maybe I'm wrong.

At any rate, just wanted to correct you on the spelling of my name.

Take care,
Michael

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month's message consists of the following correspondence between AAA insurance representative Michael Geeser and me.

April 4, 2008

I read the email you sent on behalf of Bruce Arnold with great interest.

Mr. Arnold makes a lot of strong points. I have no doubt he sincerely believes what he has written. The passion he has comes through loud and clear in the response. In listening to you, your passion for motorcycle safety comes through as well. I respect you and Mr. Arnold a great deal for that.

I also consider you an expert when it comes to riding a motorcycle. I hope our differences on the helmet law never mislead you the high esteem I hold you in.

The one part of the argument against a helmet bill that I can't get past was mentioned again in the re-

sponse. I believe its one of the cornerstones of the helmet law itself.

Mr. Arnold states, "that a motorcycle safety policy based on universal mandatory helmet usage as a means of crash survival FAILS TO ADDRESS OVER 84% OF ALL MOTORCYCLE FATALITIES"

If 15.5% (or 16%) of lives are saved by wearing helmets isn't that a good thing?

We know a helmet isn't going to save everyone's life. There isn't a 100% fail proof piece of equipment out there. We know that. But what I never seem to hear from anyone is that one death is too many. If we can agree that a helmet has saved one life, isn't that worth it?

Perhaps with better education, better rider training, better equipment, better technology and other advances that number of lives saved will go up over time. I believe the meeting we held in Carson City and hopefully others to come is a start in improving motor-

cycle safety.

But to say, since the helmet doesn't save every life, every time, we shouldn't have to wear it, is painting such a broad stroke over the issue, it doesn't make sense to me.

Anyway, just my thoughts.

I appreciate being able to discuss this issue with you outside of the legislature and outside of some public forum where we often get pitted against each other as arch enemies. I don't see it that way. I believe we actually see eye to eye on more issues than not.

Look forward to working with you on this.

Thanks,
Michael

April 4, 2008

Hi John,

Just to catch up on the latest and greatest with ABATE, I logged on to

Message from the President Continued.

April 6, 2008

Michael,

Your compliments to me and your expressed interest in the motorcycle helmet issue really caught me by surprise, a pleasant surprise I will say. I want to respond to each of your comments in a manner that will uphold the respect you say you have for me. First of all I apologize for misspelling your name; spell check let me down again. I think it is important to share with you the basis of my opinions. The older I get, the more patriotic I become. My father and grandfather fought in our world wars. I have a cherished daily diary my father kept during the Battle of the Bulge as the flagship tank driver under General Patton. The carnage my father faced to protect our freedoms will forever guide me. The military has been very successful in protecting our American freedoms from foreign invasion. The loss of freedoms in our country is internal, through the congressional and legislative process. As a citizen of this country I feel it is our responsibility to protect freedoms so gallantly fought for by our soldiers. I don't remember the exact number, but something like 1,500 bills were passed last session and you can be assured that most of those bills took some form of freedom away. When I am faced with the decision regarding safety verses freedom I will always lean toward freedom. I would like to reference a quote from Benjamin Franklin "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety".

I want to make it very clear, ABATE is not against the use of helmets. It is the law that takes a very basic American right away, the freedom of choice that we oppose. The value of a motorcycle helmet as an effective safety devise is too controversial to mandate its use. As Mr. Bruce Arnold stated in his March 27th letter paragraph #5 that I forwarded to you states; "New Hampshire and Iowa, which have no helmet laws, reported fatality rates of 3.0 and 3.5 per 10,000 motorcycles, respectively, in 2006. By comparison, the rates in Mississippi and Maryland, which require helmets for all riders, where much higher--20 and 12 respectively. In order to prove that helmet laws save lives, one would need to show that an increase in helmet usage by motorcycle riders yields a decrease in fatalities among those riders." This is also true of our neighboring states of Idaho and Utah; they do not have mandatory helmet use but have a lower percentage of registered motorcycle fatalities than Nevada.

In response to your comment, that if we can agree that wearing a helmet saves one life isn't it worth it. I again refer to Mr. Franklin's quote. The apparent small amount of safety that is offered by a helmet does not warrant the loss of a personal right to make a decision regarding ones own safety. Remember, the decision not to wear a helmet only affects the safety of the person that is making the decision. This is not the same problem as impaired alcohol or cell phone accidents that kill innocent people that are crash victims because of someone else's bad judgment. Michael, it is a reality, we cannot preserve life. We are all going to die. It is the pursuit of happiness and quality of life that is important.

You can tell your colleagues my question is that if it is believed helmets are a good safety devise for protecting a head from impact in a motorcycle accident then why aren't they worn in cars? Yes, I am comparing the safety of a car head injury and a motorcycle head injury. The head can't tell the difference, an impact is an impact, whether it be falling off a motorcycle and hitting the ground or a car windshield that is forced out of it's frame and onto the car occupants head. Because of the higher percentage of cars on our roads, 80% of highway related head injuries are a result of car accidents. There is no question that it is believed that helmets in cars are a good idea, every motor car competition requires the use of helmets. Going around an oval dirt track in the same direction with a maximum speed of 50mph is less dangerous than passing opposing traffic on our highways at 75mph. Don't miss understand me, I do not want helmets mandated in cars, I just use this as another example of the inconsistencies in helmet usage.

Add all this together and it is apparent there is a real injustice going on. Motorcyclists are a minority that has been targeted with unfair prejudice safety regulations. The majority, who do not ride motorcycles, believe that saving just one life is worth taking a small freedom away, especially if it doesn't affect them.

Respectfully,

John Bland

MESQUITE VIRGIN THUNDER FUN RUN

ABATE OF NORTHERN NEVADA, MEETS ABATE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, AT THE MESQUITE VIRGIN THUNDER FUN RUN.

YOU CAN MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CONTACTING SANDY AT 1-888-711-4653 EX. 22. IF SANDY IS BUSY OR ON THE PHONE PLEASE LEAVE HER A MESSAGE, SHE WILL CALL YOU BACK.

SOME RIDERS ARE LEAVING FROM ELKO ON THURSDAY MAY15, 2008 IN THE AFTERNOON OR AFTER WORK. THEY WILL RIDE TO ELY AND STAY THE NIGHT. SOME ARE GOING TO LV AND SOME ARE GOING THROUGH UTAH.

CHECK IT OUT ON THE A.B.A.T.E. OF NORTHERN NEVADA SITE www.abatennv.org

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EVERYONE ATTEND.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL DALE AT 775-340-5128 OR JOHN AT 775-744-4570.

**Come Play Pool at Bike Night
Every Thursday at 6:00
(Except for Meeting Nights)
Telescope Lanes**

**March ABATE Meeting
At Elko Trophy**



DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT
YOUR RIGHTS
JOIN A.B.A.T.E. TODAY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Jr. Membership (16 & Under) \$5.00

Name: _____

NEW/RENEWAL

SINGLE

1 Year \$20.00

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1 Year \$30.00

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(SINGLE) \$250.00 / (COUPLE) \$375.00

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I understand that all benefits become effective upon receipt of my membership card. I agree to hold harmless A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada for any accident that may occur at A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada sanctioned events.

Signed _____

Date _____

Comments, Suggestions, Problems or any way you can help A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada

Mail Applications to:
A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada
P. O. Box 1566
Elko, NV 89803
abatennv.org

Office Use Only

Date _____ Rcvd\$ _____ By _____

FYI:

Here's NRS 486.231. Protective headgear and glasses: Standards; when use required.

1. The Department shall adopt standards for protective headgear and protective glasses, goggles or face shields to be worn by the drivers and passengers of motorcycles and transparent windscreens for motorcycles.
2. Except as provided in this section, when any motorcycle, except a trimobile or moped, is being driven on a highway, the driver and passenger shall wear protective headgear securely fastened to the head and protective glasses, goggles or face shields meeting those standards. Drivers and passengers of trimobiles shall wear protective glasses, goggles or face shield which meet those standards.
3. When a motorcycle or a trimobile is equipped with a transparent windscreen meeting those standards, the driver and passenger are not required to wear glasses, goggles or face shields.
4. When a motorcycle is being driven in a parade authorized by a local authority, the driver and passenger are not required to wear the protective devices provided for in this section.
5. When a three-wheel motorcycle, on which the driver and passengers ride within an enclosed cab, is being driven on a highway, the driver and passengers are not required to wear the protective devices required by this section.

9. *How does a helmet get added to NHTSA's approved helmet list? DOT or NHTSA does not "approve" motorcycle helmets, thus, there is no list of "approved" helmets. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has the statutory authority to issue Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) applicable to motor vehicles and items of motor vehicle equipment, including motorcycle helmets. The law establishes a self-certification process in which the motorcycle helmet manufacturers certify that their products are in compliance with FMVSS No. 218, which establishes minimum performance requirements that the products must meet. NHTSA enforces the standard by randomly selecting and purchasing motorcycle helmets from the marketplace and testing to the requirements of the standard at independent test labs. (from NHTSA's website)*

Check Out these Websites:

www.mrf.org
www.bikernation.us
www.ldrlongdistancerider.com
www.lets-ride.com
www.nevadagop.org
www.thereidworld.com
www.dambikers.com (good jokes)
www.harleylovers.proboards56.com
www.CycleQuest.com
www.AMAdirectlink.com
www.motorcyclists-against-dumb-drivers.com

If you have a favorite website, send it to me and I'll post it. Thanks, Deb

*Photos from March 2008
ABATE Meeting at Elko Trophy*



2008 ABATE of Northern Nevada Events

Jan. 2008

1/3 bike night
 1/10 meeting
 1/17 start pool tournaments
 1/24 play pool/bike night
 1/31 play pool/bike night

Feb. 2008

2/7 play pool/bike night
 1/14 meeting
 2/21 play pool/bike night
 2/28 play pool/bike night

March 2008

3/1 flea market
 3/6 play pool/bike night
 3/13 meeting
 3/20 play pool/bike night
 3/27 play pool/bike night

April 2008

4/3 play pool/bike night
 4/10 meeting
 4/17 play pool/bike night
 4/19 finale pool tournament
 4/24 bike night
 Laughlin River Run

May 2008

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month
 ABATE of NNV goes green
 5/1 bike night
 5/8 meeting
 5/10 Blessing of the Bikes/ABATE poker
 run
 5/16, 17, 18, Mesquite Virgin Thunder Fun Run
 5/22 bike night
 5/24, 25, 26 Run-a-Mucca
 5/29 bike night

June 2008

6/5 bike night
 6/12 meeting
 6/13,14, 15 Best of the West/Vancouver, Wash.
 6/19,20, 21 Elko Motorcycle Jamboree
 6/26 bike night

July 2008

7/3 bike night
 7/10 meeting
 7/17,18,19 ABATE summer run & rodeo/
 Round Mountain, NV
 7/24 bike night
 7/31 bike night

Aug. 2008

8/1-9 Sturgis Rally
 8/14 meeting
 8/16 Ryndon poker run campout
 8/21 bike night
 8/28 bike night
 8/29-9/1 Labor Day campout, Idaho

Sept. 2008

9/4 bike night
 9/11 meeting
 9/18 bike night
 9/25-9/28 Meeting of the Mind, Denver, Colo

Oct. 2008

Start working on Christmas For Kids
 10/2 bike night
 10/9 meeting
 10/16 bike night
 10/23 Poker tournament for CFK
 10/30 bike night
 10/31 Nevada Day

Nov. 2008

Make decisions on CFK
 11/6 bike night
 11/8 Veterans Day Parade
 11/13 Meeting
 11/20 bike night

Dec. 2008

Christmas For Kids
 12/4 bike night
 12/6 Parade of Lights
 12/11 meeting
 12/13 ABATE Christmas Party
 12/18 bike night
 12/25 Merry Christmas

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Sheri Eklund-Brown
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John Ellison
 738-6284

Mike Nannini
 752-3748 or 738-4078

Warren Russell
 753-4723

March ABATE Meeting



 <p>Brandi Snyder District Sales Coordinator Writing #CV443 An Independent Associate Representing Aflac</p> <p>5330 Grass Valley Rd Winnemucca, Nevada 89445 775.623.2106 office 775.421.5386 cell 775.623.9509 fax brandi_snyder@us.aflac.com aflac.com</p>	 <p>Picture This! Custom Framing & Art Gallery</p> <p>Dale & Vicky Andrus Phone 775-777-7955 Fax 775-738-5123</p> <p>418 Commercial St. Elko, Nevada 89801</p>
 <p>Marvin Orr Owner</p> <p>2223 North Fifth Street Elko, Nevada 89801</p> <p>Ph: (775) 738-8011 Fax: (775) 738-7358</p>	 <p>Dale & Vicky Andrus</p> <p>418 Commercial Street Elko, Nevada 89801</p> <p>Phone: 775-738-5568 Fax: 775-738-5123 Email elkotrophy@wirelessbeehive.com</p> <p>LASER ENGRAVING CORPORATE AWARDS CRYSTAL AWARDS NAME BADGES TEAM TROPHYS RUBBER STAMPS</p>

Many Thanks to the above newsletter sponsors. Please support those merchants that support ABATE. If you'd like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact Deb at debodyna@frontiernet.net for rates. Thanks.

Welcome New Members Jody and Cathy Atkins. We're happy to have you on board.

Very Important Notice to all ABATE Members

On Monday, April 14th Dale Andrus will once again go before the court, Judge Memeo this time, for the final ruling on his protective headgear ticket appeal. If you will recall, he went to court on the ticket last Fall, lost the case, and appealed the ruling by Judge Kacin. The time is 11:00 A.M. upstairs in the court house. If there is any way possible you can attend and show your support, please show up in District Court on Monday April 14th at 11:00 A.M. Thank you.

MRF E-MAIL NEWS Motorcycle Riders Foundation

236 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Suite 510

Washington, DC 20002-4980

202-546-0983 (voice) 202-546-0986 (fax) <http://www.mrf.org> (website)

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations

Email: jeff@mrf.org

March 14, 2008

WASHINGTON DC UPDATE - Winter on its way out of town here in Washington can only mean one thing. No, not cherry blossoms, but the other springtime spectacle - biker lobby season. The past month has brought motorcyclists from all over the country to DC. ABATE of Colorado, ABATE of Ohio, ABATE of Iowa and ABATE of Wisconsin have all been to DC so far this year to meet with their federal delegations, as did the St. Croix Valley Riders who did double time and represented both Minnesota and Wisconsin. All of the groups that sent folks to DC should be proud of the teams they sent and of the work they accomplished.

The issues being discussed in one-on-one meetings with Members of Congress, Senators and their staffs included closing the HIPAA loophole, DOT Secretary Mary Peters' proposed legislation, the right to repair bill, and the highway bill which will begin to take shape next year. Of importance to note is the widespread, uniformly negative response coming from individual Members of Congress and Senators to Mary Peters' proposed legislation to gut the 2010 grant program language and trump the funding for rider ed and awareness campaigns in favor of helmet use promotion. Most Members of Congress are content to leave the program intact and continue to fund only education and awareness campaigns through the life of the program.

Mary Peters, however, is standing by her desire to push for helmet use and helmet laws, as evidenced by her testimony in a Senate committee hearing on March 6. Combating proposed legislation through a call to action can be confusing to Capitol Hill, which is why it's best to handle proposals like this one through face-to-face conversations with your elected officials. So if you really want to be effective in stopping her proposal, plan now to visit with your federal elected officials either in Washington or back in your home state. Congress will stand in adjournment from March 17 through 30, and chances are there will be an opportunity to meet with your lawmakers back home. It's also not too late to plan that trip to DC to meet with your legislators on Capitol Hill. Contact the MRF office if you need any assistance planning such a trip.

SEE YOU IN PEABODY? - BEAST of the East is just outside Boston this year and is also just around the next corner of the calendar. April 18-20, the MRF will take the show on the road, and it promises to be a weekend packed with lots of information, networking and good clean fun. Who knows, maybe some of those guys who enjoy the breeze between the knees will make an appearance... you know who I'm talking about. Hope to see you there.

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE ! GET INVOLVED !

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A.B.A.T.E.'s Website: www.abatennv.org

Christmas for Kids, Inc.

VMaria Cammarano – President
Jacque Orr – Vice President
Connie Campbell – Secretary
Jenn Hobbs – Treasurer

**Freedom Isn't Free
Join A.B.A.T.E. Today**

April 17th is the last night to qualify for the
Final Pool Tournament on April 19th
At the Telescope Lanes from
12:00 Noon to Whenever, See You There

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **A.B.A.T.E. Meeting: April 10th and May 8th**

(See the complete schedule on Page 6.)

(A.B.A.T.E. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M.) We are changing the meeting place so watch for emails announcing the place.

- **Check the Website for upcoming events. www.abatennv.org**
- **Bike Nite every Thursday. Watch for e-mails or check the website for location. Every Thursday at 6:00, except for meeting nights, of course. . Until further notice, Bike Nite will be at the Telescope Lanes. Don't be a fool, come play pool.**

E-mail Deb at debodyna@frontiernet.net If you'd like to list your event here.

"The battle for bikers' rights is not about patches, parties or poker runs. We fight to protect the freedom and promote the interests of American motorcyclists ... to defend our right to choose our own modes of transportation, attire and lifestyle ... to deter and defy discrimination against us ... and to vanquish those who violate our rights or right-of-way."--Bruce Arnold