

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE ! GET INVOLVED !



# ABATE of Northern Nevada



Christmas for Kids  
Needs Stuffed Animals  
(No Toys Please,  
Just Stuffed Animals)  
Drop off at  
Last Chance Auto Body  
433 South 5th Street



John Bland, President

June/July 2007

Mike representing the Southern Confederation of Clubs. Connie and I were gifted with spending Friday evening with the famous "Twiggy" famed writer for Easy Riders Magazine. Twiggy has been with Easy Riders since the seventies and was there during the conception of ABATE and has lived through its history. For those of you that did not attend the conference, Saturday evening during dinner Twiggy took the microphone and ask for everyone to give ABATE of Northern Nevada a standing ovation for doing such a great job hosting the event and rolling out the red carpet. Twiggy has called me twice at home since the event and is writing an article about ABATE of Northern Nevada that will be in an upcoming Easy Rider magazine. ABATE of Northern Nevada is now a recognized and respected motorcycle rights organization, be careful what you ask for!

The following are some of the workshops that were offered during Elko's "Best of The West"

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Careful what you ask for. It was becoming apparent to me last year that ABATE of Northern Nevada was heading in the right direction as a motorcycle rights organization. It was also apparent that our members would need to decide if they had the commitment it would require to proceed in this direction. At that time I felt we were at a crossroad, we needed to make a decision of how committed we were. To continue on our path, we could become Nevada's leading motorcycle right organization and a national MRO, or we could back off from this direction and spend more of our time just enjoying each others friendship, camaraderie of riding together, and enjoy the easy life. The response I received from our ABATE members that Thursday night was that you wanted to press for-

ward and be Nevada's leading motorcycle rights organization. I am pleased to say we have accomplished your desire. After two legislative sessions working to amend Nevada's helmet law we are no longer the new kids around Carson. ABATE of Northern Nevada wrote and introduced the helmet bill this year and Bob Beers introduced it for us. The transportation members know who we are and what our mission is, they also know Dale and I on a first name basis. We are now developing relationships with both Northern and Southern Confederation of Clubs.

Sponsoring the Motorcycle Riders Foundation's "Best of The West" in Elko last weekend turned out to be our greatest success yet! Connie did one of those asshole and elbows

kick-butt Get'er Done approaches to putting on an event she is well known for and the results were flawless. She aggravated a few of us that didn't jump high enough when told to but we're learning, at least I am! I want to thank every ABATE member who was present and helped with the event and took the time to attend a workshop. I know that if you were there you have a new pride and respect about being an ABATE member. It was truly an uplifting experience to be with such committed, successful, motorcycle Freedom Fighters from 13 other states and Washington D.C. I got to have long visits with Jeff Hennie, Washington DC MRF Vice President of Government Relations and Hard Tail, MRF President, and Jethro and

**Message from the President Continued.**

conference.

- Helmet Legislation – What Are We Facing in 2007?
- Making friends to Influence People
- International Issues
- The Relationship Between Advanced Riding Courses and a State Riding Test
- Federal Issues – Why They Are Important
- The Media Never Gets It Right

A motorcycle rider’s safety course/class was held in the East parking lot of the Red Lion. A slot tournament raised \$350.00, the auction items generated several thousand dollars and all proceeds were forwarded to the MRF Pack Fund.

I have been thinking about what we need to do now that this year’s legislative session is over:

We need to assist Southern Nevada ABATE with getting on their feet and continue to develop our relationships with Bolt and the Confederations North and South. We need to continue to develop a network of all motorcycle rights organizations that will respond and assist each other when “Calls to Action” are needed. We need to develop relationships with the Nevada’s Tourism committees, Restaurant and Casino boards and educate them of the potential revenues available if Nevada would relax the helmet law. We need to hold regular conference calls with clubs, organizations, and individuals throughout the country.

We must unite, to achieve our common goal of protecting personal freedoms.

John Bland - President, ABATE of Northern Nevada

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**(No Toys Please, Just Stuffed Animals)**

**Drop off at**  
**Last Chance Auto Body**  
**433 South 5th Street**  
**Mon—Fri 8:30 to 4:30**

\*\*\*\*\*

A Message from Bones:

From: Mike Davis - Public Works <[midavis@LasVegasNevada.GOV](mailto:midavis@LasVegasNevada.GOV)>  
Inspection Department  
>Traffic Engineering and Maintenance  
>Office 702-229-1641 \* Cell 702-604-1471

From the South:

**On Thursday night 6/14 I was at the local COC meeting and totally unexpectedly I was asked to speak in front of the crowd. Needless to say I was not prepared but had been working on a presentation for the next meeting. I did my best to present ABATE in the best way I know how and I seem to have hit the nerve of the general popular. When I started letting them know what the possible outcome would be in the near future for all motorcycle I know you could have heard a pin drop. I let them know that if the State of Nevada continued on there present course not to be surprised to have only stock from the factory motorcycles allowed to be registered in Nevada. I let them know that without the votes that they carried, to make a statement and try and change legislation is nothing but an exercise in futility. I got several offers from people to help and a lot of new recruits. I have said before that I realize this will a long up hill struggle but time is working against us. We have got less than two years to get Sen.. Nolan out of office and get someone who is more sympathetic toward our cause. I also asked for any suggestions that would help speed up this process and got a couple of solid ideas. Altogether I did a pretty good job without being prepared but I am sure that the next meeting will go a little better with some preparation. Thanks for the opportunity to let your readers know what's happening down here. I think that I'm getting ready to have my first official ABATE get together party and membership drive.**

**Bones**

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*Jamboree and Best  
Of the West Conference*



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

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

*More Photos of the  
MRF Best of the West Conference*



# A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada

Lucky Starr Station  
Summer Rodeo

July 20, 21, and 22

1-80 Exit 333 Deeth—Starr Valley  
6 Miles South—Watch for Signs

Entry Fee \$35.00 a Person  
Includes Two Nights Camping  
Two Bands, Insurance,  
Rodeo, and Auction

Food Will be Available on Site  
Or Bring Your Own

## **ADULTS ONLY**

Proceeds are For Fighting for All  
Motorcyclists' Rights  
and Christmas for Kids

For More Information Call  
Dale @ 340-5128  
John @ 744-4570  
Connie @ 777-4668

## NEVADA'S PUBLIC SERVANTS

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 U. S. Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510  
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 Fax: 202-228-2193

Sen. Harry Reid  
 U. S. Senate  
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 Fax: 202-224-7327

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## ELKO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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 Elko, NV 89801

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 charlesmyers@citlink.net

Sheri Eklund-Brown  
 738-5612 or 738-4773

John Ellison  
 738-6284

Mike Nannini  
 752-3748 or 738-4078

Warren Russell  
 753-4723



Here's Dale Andrus' letter to the editor in response to the Free Press's editorial of June 15th. If there's one thing I learned from attending the MRF Conference two weekends ago, it's this: Every time there is adverse or untrue press on a motorcycling issue, not just on helmets, but every issue pertaining to motorcycling, we should ALL be writing letters to editors, not just one or two people. Same thing goes for positive press. We need to reinforce the positive things that are said about us too. Many thanks to Dale and John debo

From: "junkmann" <[junkmann@wirelessbeehive.com](mailto:junkmann@wirelessbeehive.com)>

>To: <[editor@elkodaily.com](mailto:editor@elkodaily.com)>

>CC: <[hddude98@hotmail.com](mailto:hddude98@hotmail.com)>

>Subject: EMJ 2007

>Date: Mon, 18 Jun 2007 15:51:25 -0700

>

>Editor,

>

> On June 15, 2007 your editorial on the Motorcycle Jamboree " Let's keep it biker friendly weekend" (Death toll is higher in states without helmets laws, but Nevada has such a regulation and enforces it with vigor.)

> Where do you find this stuff? Nevada has a Protective Headgear Law, nowhere does it say a thing about HELMETS. Most law enforcement officers won't stop a motorcycle if they have anything on that resembles a helmet.

>If I do get stopped and cited, it has been my experience they don't know the proper NRS.

> Now here are facts taken from NHTSA (National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration) website. Nationally, in 2004 there were 4003 motorcycle deaths, 55.3% were wearing a helmet, 44.7 were not. In 2005 there were 4553 motorcycles deaths with 57.2% wearing a helmet, 42.8 were not. That tells me more die with helmets than without. Thirty states don't have helmet laws for adults, and twenty do, so when you hear that states without helmets have more deaths, it is true, but it is also a gross

>misrepresentation of the facts. One should truly get as much information as possible when trying on statistics especially if you plan to do something with those facts - like publish them in a newspaper. It is a very well known that when many people read something in the newspaper they believe it as gospel.

> In 2004 and 2005 78% of the crashes were impacted in front, (statically, a right of way violation, i.e. vehicle turning into path of a motorcyclist.

> NHTSA says that helmets are only 37% effective in preventing fatal injuries to motorcyclists. Would you let a doctor do surgery on you if you knew that 63% of his patients died? Oh how about if your employees only came to work 37% of the time?

> NHTSA also observed that states without helmet laws, have a 45% to 56% voluntary usage of helmets.

>Some say if motorcycle riders don't wear helmets, insurance will go up. Well, when was the last time it went down? This just isn't true, more vehicles, more motorcycle on the roads, more deaths in both. Insurance companies don't want people to die - and not for the reasons you might think. If an insurance customer causes a person to die, the insurance company has to pay a death benefit, if that same person is injured and >lives on (no matter what condition) the state has to take custody and begin paying for their care. This is an incredible savings for insurance companies! And this is the same for motorcyclists and motorists. They really don't care about riders, it is their bottom line that is their true concern. Insurance companies have very accurate statistical information regarding motorcycle and vehicle accidents and deaths; they do not share >with the general public because it does not suit their rating schedules for how much insurance costs.

> Please get your facts right first, before thinking about how many papers you can sell. I have ridden a motorcycle for over 30 years and lived, I don't need lawmakers that are bought and paid for by the insurance companies making my decisions for me.

>

>Dale Andrus

>Spring Creek, Nv

This is a letter to the Editor of the Elko Daily Free Press written by John Bland in response to their editorial printed on July 15th.

Editor,

### **The Media Never Gets It Right**

The July 15, 2007 Elko Daily Free Press front page article displayed operation Iraqi Freedom veteran Wade Pierce, of Pocatello, Idaho displaying his memorial tattoo in honor of the unit he served with in Iraq. The tattoo read, "I will never forget those who died for freedom." This front-page article also showed his customized bike that featured painted images of soldiers and Humvees in Iraq. This type of patriotism is common at motorcycle events, riding motorcycles, taking responsibilities for their actions and being on the open road feeds patriotism and the love for America.

Then the Editorial "Let's keep it a biker-friendly weekend" on page A4 from the members of the Elko Daily Free Press Editorial Board. The article had the wrong title. This article didn't have anything to do with being friendly; it was about drivers being attentive to reduce motorcycle/car accidents. This is good information but boy did you guys get off track with the sentence "The death toll is higher in states without helmet laws, but Nevada has such a regulation (helmet) and enforces it with vigor." This type of reporting would have not been questioned in Elko a few years ago but you should be aware we have motorcyclists that live in our community now that are very knowledgeable of facts and statistics in regard to motorcycle issues. Please make every effort to know your facts before you write about motorcycle laws etc. Per NHTSA (National Highway Transportation Safety Administration) the motorcycle accident fatality national average is 10% of all registered motorists. Nevada's is 13% with a mandatory helmet law. Idaho, Utah, and Arizona's are less than 10% and these states do not mandate helmet use for adults over the age of 21. The fact is there is little, if any, increase in the percentage of motorcycle accident injuries or deaths when a state amends or repeals its mandatory helmet law. Legislators of 30 other states in our union have realized this and now give an adult the right to decide for themselves when a motorcycle helmet should be worn. Helmets are good; it's the helmet law that is bad.

You're completely out in left field with the statement that Nevada has a helmet regulation and enforces it with vigor. You obviously have not read the motorcycle helmet statute NRS 486.231. It is so poorly written it can't be enforced and the attorney general has admitted it. The statute states the Department shall adopt standards for protective headgear (this hasn't happened). The statute requires the motorcycle operator to wear protective headgear securely fastened to the head; it doesn't say anything about a helmet. A high percentage of motorcyclists are having fun with this by wearing hats that resemble a helmet. These hats are not DOT approved but are a lot more comfortable, it really doesn't matter because DOT does not approve helmets anyway. So our officers are turning their heads if anything is being worn that resembles a helmet. The best helmets on the market are only required to be designed and tested to pass a 14 mph impact, this allows the manufacturer the right to place the DOT sticker on the back of the helmet. It makes no sense to mandate a safety device that is not designed for its intended use. The helmet law is a joke from the design, testing, and enforcement. Almost all motorcycle helmets are being manufactured overseas to avoid lawsuits from the neck injuries and deaths caused by them.

Mr. Wade Pierce of Pocatello Idaho is fortunate to live in a state that allows him the right to exercise the personal freedom he fought for, to decide for himself when a helmet is appropriate apparel. It is wrong to expect our citizens to fight and die for freedom, then to legislate it away or have the media give such false information that supports such unnecessary legislation.

Elko is fortunate to host the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, "Best of The West Conference" with some of the most knowledgeable motorcycle right activist in the county including Jeff Hennie from Washington DC and Chuck Abbott, from the Nevada Department of Public Safety speaking. This conference will be held at the Elko's Red Lion Casino this weekend June 22-24. We invite the Elko Free Press Editorial Board and their writers to attend some or all of the classes offered, especially the class "The Media Never Gets it Right" June 23, from 1:15 to 2:45 at the High Desert Inn Gallery 1.

Sincerely,

ABATE of Northern Nevada

**FREEDOM ISN'T FREE ! GET INVOLVED !**

A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada  
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*A.B.A.T.E.'s Website: [www.abatennv.org](http://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**

Lucky Starr Station  
Summer Rodeo  
July 20-22  
See Page 6 for  
Complete Details

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **A.B.A.T.E. Meetings: July 12th; August 9th; September 13th**  
(A.B.A.T.E. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the Round Table by Raley's.)
- **Check the Website for upcoming events. [www.abatennv.org](http://www.abatennv.org)**
- **Lucky Starr Station Summer Rodeo 7/20-22**
- **Sturgis Rally 8/6—12**
- **Banbury's Labor Day Campout 9/1—3**
- **Nevada Day Parade 10/26**
- **Bike Nite every Thursday. Watch for e-mails or check the website for location. Every Thursday at 6:00.**

Call Deb at 738-6015 If you'd like to list your event here.