

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

*March / April 2008*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a very busy month. I received an e-mail from Chuck Abbott with the Nevada Department of Traffic Safety informing me they were going to have a meeting in Carson to discuss alcohol related motorcycle fatalities. This was the first meeting of its kind offered and the more I thought about it the more I thought we should participate. We need to show the state safety folks we do care about motorcycle safety and we want to be included when they are discussing education or regulation that affects motorcycling. So, I took a vacation day and Dale closed his shop and we made a round trip to Carson on February 27<sup>th</sup> to attend this meeting. We are very glad we went. We have gotten to know Chuck Abbott, and Ken Kiphart, on a first name basis and received a

warm welcome when we arrived. Some of the other participants in the meeting were; the Carson City Sheriff, DOT Traffic Engineer, AAA Insurance, Emergency Medical Services, members from Star Riders Club and the Red Riders Club. There were a few others, probably about 20 participants total. After introductions Chuck started the meeting with reviewing some recent motorcycle crash statistics. Last year there were 50 Nevada motorcycle fatalities. Fatalities have been on the rise for several years now. Fourteen of these fatalities were alcohol related. Chuck told us they didn't know what to do to reduce alcohol related motorcycle fatalities and was asking for our ideas and suggestions. Twelve of the 50 fatalities were riders operating without the proper motorcycle en-

dorsement. There were other lower statistics and causes of motorcycle accidents but I won't go there in this letter. About two hours into the meeting a woman and a guy walk in and sit in the back of the room. When they introduced themselves I was shocked! It was Mr. Geezer with AAA Insurance and a representative from MADD (Mothers against Drunk Drivers) Both of these people had testified in Carson against our helmet bill in 2005. If you remember I had written a very angry and poignant letter to Mr. Geezer telling him he had presented false statistical information to the legislators. I told him I would ask all ABATE members to boycott AAA Insurance until they stopped giving false information and stopped lobbying against helmet freedom

of choice. At the first break I went back to the MADD woman and Mr. Geezer to introduce myself. Mr. Geezer recognized my name. He wasn't the gray-haired insurance veteran I had envisioned. He was younger than me, small framed and reserved. I asked him if he was aware that 80% of accident related head injuries were in cars, he did not. I asked him if AAA or anyone else had ever done any testing to determine if helmets would be a suitable safety device to be worn in cars. He said he didn't know of any. I told him, if the helmet offered any protection as a safety device it should be considered for automobiles. He had this look of confusion or contemplation. I told him the public would not wear helmets in a car and asked him if he knew why. He didn't answer, so I told him. Helmets are too big, they're awkward, intrusive, and too restrictive to be accepted by the public as a reasonable safety device and this is the same reason motorcyclists continue to fight mandatory use. I told him there is an

## Message from the President Continued.

acceptable level of intrusion when mandating safety apparel and helmets cross that line. Society was first reluctant to accepted seatbelt use; but has now pretty much accepted it. Helmets are just too much. Mandated helmet use has been fought for 30 years. Just imagine trying to mandate helmet use in cars and you will understand the point I'm trying to make. Mr. Geezer told me he was not a motorcycle expert; I told him I had been riding motorcycles for 40 years and that I did consider myself a motorcycle expert. I then struck up a conversation with the MADD lady. I told her that I had seen statistics that drivers impaired by cell phone use were responsible for as many accidents and fatalities as drunk drivers. I asked her if MADD was looking at this problem. She told me that their concern was drunk driving only. I told her, I know why MADD doesn't want to address this problem, because mothers want to use their cell phones while they drive. Dale was there and he will confirm the woman's reaction. The woman's nostrils flared and her eyes bulged! Before she could think of a response I added fathers and grandparents to the list of cell phone drivers and defused the bomb. Isn't it interesting? These are the same people that will go to great lengths to attend the transportation hearing to oppose helmet freedom of choice for motorcyclists. Don't miss understand me, I wasn't rude to these people, that's not my way. But I did let them know I had opinions I wanted to share with them and give them something to think about. I am still suspicious that Dennis Nolan has some way of pressuring these folks and others to be present during the legislative hearing to speak against freedom of choice. Does Dennis Nolan offer to support their bills if they cooperate? Does he offer to get funds allocated for their issues? I think so. I think Dennis Nolan fights freedom of choice to appease the safety folks in Washington or NTSHA. I'm just speculating, but something is just too fishy. Anyway, there were some good suggestions about reducing fatalities. I encouraged education and opposed any additional legislation. Dale asked that the insurance companies be held responsible for selling insurance to riders that do not have the proper motorcycle license endorsement. We asked that a video conference be established so that interested motorcyclists could participate from different areas of the state without having to drive to Carson.

As delegates, Connie, Vicky, Dale, and I participated in a Republican platform meeting at Grant Gerber's in preparation for the County Convention. The County Convention was an all day event on March 8th. There are several workshops that go on at the same time and the delegates are able to attend the workshop of interest to them. Everyone should go through this process at least once, it's America! All four of us will now attend the State Convention April 26<sup>th</sup> in Carson.

You should all know by now Mike Gerber's neighbors, the Currivans, called the sheriff's department and complained that our music was too loud during the ABATE Rodeo last summer that was held at Mike's ranch in Starr Valley. I'm not going to go into details but it was no more than the Currivan's not liking Mike and an overzealous sheriff's department. A court hearing was held in Wells and many of us were subpoenaed. The judge found that the sheriff's department did not have adequate information or claim to file a complaint against Mike and dropped the case. During the drive back to Elko, Connie, Vicky, Dale, and I were talking about ABATE volunteering to help with the Wells earthquake fund drive. We agreed we would offer our assistance during the community fund raising event scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>. We also talked to Mike Gerber about having another ABATE event at this ranch to raise funds for Wells. We will have a band (yes, a band, Currivan's), barbeque and games. Calcutta betting on flat-track and barrel races are on the agenda. This will be a family event with kid games, and activities for all. Come join us for some good clean watermelon eating fun!

Thursday night ABATE pool tournaments have been a good time. If you haven't participated yet stop by Telescope Bowling Alley at 6:00pm and get in on some cash prizes. You can still qualify for the finals to be held on April 19th; the winner will receive some big cash and some great prizes. Visit the ABATE website for information and leave a comment on the blog.

John Bland, President-ABATE of Northern Nevada

## 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 FOR FLIER [www.abatennv.org](http://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**

*Memories of the  
2007 Riding Year*



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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Jr. Membership (16 & Under) \$5.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW/RENEWAL**

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**COUPLE**

**1 Year \$30.00**

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Photos from the Lucky Starr Station  
2007 Rodeo*



## 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, Den-  
 ver, 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

## NEVADA'S PUBLIC SERVANTS

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Carson City, NV 89710  
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Sen. John Ensign  
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Fax: 202-228-2193

Sen. Harry Reid  
U. S. Senate  
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Memories of 2007 Events

## ELKO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Elko, NV 89801

Charlie Myers  
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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



AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION A08015

March 12, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Pete terHorst Telephone: (877) 877-8969

E-mail: [peter.terhorst@sympoint.com](mailto:peter.terhorst@sympoint.com)

### MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TRAINING FUNDS UNDER ATTACK

PICKERINGTON, Ohio--U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters reaffirmed her desire to lobby states for mandatory helmet-use laws in testimony before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee Transportation Subcommittee on March 6, the American Motorcyclist Association reports.

Peters' testimony follows letters she sent in February to U.S. House and Senate leaders urging Congress to allow states to divert federal money away from motorcycle safety training and awareness programs and instead push for mandated helmet use.

Under federal law, the U.S. Transportation Department is barred from lobbying for or against specific state laws. That measure was passed by Congress at the request of motorcyclists who specifically wanted to prevent the federal government from lobbying for mandatory helmet laws. But when asked whether she would support an exemption to the law to allow her department to lobby the states for mandatory helmet laws, she said she would.

"I support giving the information to states so that they can act on those laws," Peters testified. "And I certainly have made myself available to a number of states, and, in fact, have called governors when I see substantial increases in the number of motorcycle deaths in a state, especially a state that has repealed a helmet law."

Peters is pushing to move funds out of motorcycle safety training and awareness even though the money was specifically approved by Congress at the request of motorcyclists who wanted to beef up the nation's motorcycle safety training and awareness efforts.

In February, in response to the letters Peters wrote, Ed Moreland, AMA vice president for government relations, expressed concern that diverting federal motorcycle safety funds to mandate helmet use could harm rider training courses and motorcycle awareness programs that are already underfunded in many states.

At that time, he also expressed concern that Peters' proposal could contradict sections of transportation bills passed in 1998 and 2005 that ban the use of federal motorcycle safety funds to lobby state legislatures in favor of mandatory helmet laws and could effectively reverse that ban.

"Banning the federal government from lobbying for mandatory state helmet laws was the very reason Congress passed this measure in the first place," said Moreland. "What Peters is asking for is not an exception to the rule, it's an example of an exception completely circumventing the rule."

Moreland believes Peters is willing to push for mandatory helmet laws at the expense of rider training and awareness programs designed to teach motorcycling skills that would prevent crashes from occurring in the first place.

"This latest testimony reaffirms our fears--that the U.S. transportation secretary wants to lobby for mandatory helmet laws by diverting funding specifically set aside for motorcycle safety training and awareness to further her mandatory helmet-use agenda," Moreland said.

"Helmet use is certainly one part of a comprehensive approach to motorcycle safety, but the use of motorcycle helmets is already advocated in existing motorcycle safety training programs," Moreland said.

"Congress decided to fund motorcycle safety training and awareness programs at the request of the motorcycling community. This effort by Secretary Peters to divert money away from those programs is an attempt to circumvent the wishes of Congress and those motorcyclists nationwide who wanted to specifically augment rider training and awareness programs," he said

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<http://www.mrf.org> (website)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael "Boz" Kerr, MRF Vice-President

bozrf.org (e-mail)

26 February 2008

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) is taking action in light of what appears to be an alarming trend with high-level government agency and cabinet-level appointees of President George W. Bush.

President Bush campaigned for the presidency on a platform of "compassionate conservatism." During his campaign he often spoke of his desire to reign in big government and his commitment to personal freedoms. His message resonated with many in the motorcycling community and with the leadership of the MRF at that time.

While the president continues to speak of his conservative approach to public policy and respect for the rights of the states during this election cycle, the practices of a growing number of his appointees seem to be in marked contrast with his rhetoric. Both Mark Rosenker, Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Mary Peters, Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT) have embarked on a course that at first glance would seem out of place in a conservative Republican administration.

Mr. Rosenker appears to be enamored with 1960s era "Great Society" style programs. He is using his agency and his position to pressure every state in the Union to adopt mandatory helmet laws for all motorcycle riders.

Ms. Peters must have a battalion of Philadelphia lawyers on her staff watching over her as she walks on the edge of federal regulations. The DOT secretary is on a budget-busting spending spree that would make a "New Dealer" blush. She is not content to just spend the DOT's budget on social engineering, she is crafting ways to legally skirt the letter and the intent of SAFETY-LU (the highway funding act passed by the 109th congress) to scoop up what ever monies she can to advance her personal mission, even if such funds are a meager amount dedicated to aiding motorcycle rider education.

The MRF finds this to be rather peculiar behavior in an administration that bills itself as "compassionately conservative." Perhaps even more peculiar is the fact that the president appears to be comfortable with his appointees' actions. The MRF is certainly not comfortable as we watch these presidential appointees lining up against us.

Our level of discomfort increases as we recall other issues with appointees of the president. An unpleasant tussle with the Environmental Protection Agency set the tone early on in this administration, followed by Dr. Runge at the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration referring to motorcyclists as the scourge of the highways.

While the MRF will aggressively fight any negative legislation that may be introduced at the behest of these presidential appointees, we will not waste time wrestling with the current lame duck administration that has historically low approval ratings with the American public; we are looking to the future.

The MRF is calling on the leadership of the Republican Party to explain to us and to six million motorcycle-riding Americans if this is the type of public policy that we can expect in the future should a Republican be elected president in November. We will be writing a formal letter to Mike Duncan, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, expressing our displeasure over the course that the current administration has taken and asking for assurances that this is not the direction that his party is going to follow. A copy of that letter will be forwarded to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Republican Leader John Boehner. We will also be asking for a meeting with Mr. Duncan, and will present him with a questionnaire on motorcycle-related issues. We will ask that our questionnaire be forwarded to the presidential nominee of his party.

The MRF will be making a similar request to Howard Dean, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. When the questionnaires are completed they will be posted on the MRF website and published in the MRF reports without editorial comment, or any endorsement from the MRF.

Michael Kerr MRF Vice President

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

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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**

**Pool Tournament  
Thursdays at 6:00 at the  
Telescope Lanes on Silver Street**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **A.B.A.T.E. Meeting: April 10th (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](http://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](mailto: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**