

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE ! GET INVOLVED !

A.B.A.T.E. OF NORTHERN NEVADA

Freedom Isn't Free
Join A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada Today

October 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I received a form letter from Lorraine Hunt in my mail yesterday informing me she is running for Nevada Governor in 2006. Lorraine is presently our Nevada Lieutenant Governor and is Chair of both the Nevada Commission on Tourism, the Nevada Commission on Economic Development, and Vice Chair of the Nevada Department of Transportation. I know Lorraine understands the economic benefits of motorcycles and motorcycle events in Nevada. I am hopeful that Lorraine will also understand and be supportive regarding motorcycle rights and freedoms.

Lorraine Hunt was instrumental in giving grant funds to the Elko Motorcycle Jamboree during its first years when I was president of the event. The first year of the Jamboree the Nevada Commission on Tourism's theme was "Adventure in Tourism". Our new Elko motorcycle event fit the description of adventure and brought in a lot of tourists and therefore was eligible for tourism funds. When our city fathers (and mothers) local news reporter, (Lori Gilbert) and local business people were so reluctant

and unsupportive to have a motorcycle event in Elko, Lorraine told them during a luncheon held at our convention center that they should recognize the financial benefits of such an event in Elko and nurture it. Dale Andrus has long felt that Nevada and our politicians have not realized the economic benefit of making helmet use an adult personal choice. Dale's presentation during the legislative hearing on SB-151 this year focused on this issue. We now have Bob Beers who introduced SB-151, Jim Gibbons a Harley rider and motorcycle enthusiast, and now Lorraine Hunt a supporter of motorcycle events in Nevada, all running for the Republican ticket in 2006. These are promising times for freedom loving motorcyclists in Nevada. It is very important for us not to sit on our duffs doing little, and lose this unique opportunity. We must beat the freedom drum loud and clear, we are the freedom fighters of Northern Nevada.

I will forward the following letter to Lorraine Hunt:

Dear Lorraine Hunt, Candidate for Governor

I am writing you on behalf of ABATE of Northern Nevada. ABATE is a non-profit political motorcycle rights organization. We are very excited about the announcement that you are running for Nevada Governor in 2006. As co-founder and past president of the Elko Motorcycle Jamboree I know you understand the economic benefits of motorcycles and motorcycle events in our state. There is another facet of motorcycling that has the potential of generating millions if not billions of dollars for our state, "Adult Motorcycle Helmet Freedom of Choice". Please note the following article printed in the National Coalition of Motorcyclists, volume 05 Issue #1.

ABATE of Florida, Inc. concluded an economic impact study for the first three fiscal years of Florida's amended helmet law, and the bottom line reveals that "freedom of choice" has generated over a billion dollars into the state's economy for the increase in rider ship. From 2000 to 2003 Florida's motorcycle registra-

tions went from 228,914 to 355,007, which represents a 55% increase. The motorcycle registration figures are compiled from the statistics of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The monetary figures come from the license and registration bureau.

114,457 motorcycles at a low average of \$10,000 each = \$1,144,570,00
Sales tax on motorcycles at 6% = \$68,674,200
Registration fees on motorcycles = \$4,578,280
Change of title = \$3,406,094
TOTAL = \$1,221,228,574

"This is a low estimate as it doesn't include accessories and other items bought," according to James Reichenboch, State President and Lobbyist for ABATE on Florida, and Chairman of the Board for the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM). "This is over **1.2 Billion Dollars** in three years that was put into the economy of the State of Florida." Over 75 MILLION DOLLARS went directly into the state treasury for the general fund. This does not include the tourist money that has increased because of Florida now being a freedom of choice state. In the past three years, over 1.3 billion dollars has been spent in Florida for Bike Week and Bikeoberfest. "I hope this report will help anyone who has heard the bad publicity that has come out of our amended law," said Mr.

Message from the President Continued.

Reichenboch.

Motorcyclists have certainly paid their fair share into the Florida economy. Lorraine Hunt, with your support **it can be done in the state of Nevada!**

We encourage the use of motorcycle helmets but feel strongly that an American adult should have the personal right to decide. Helmet laws limit a fundamental freedom, the right to make one's own decisions regarding safety, and that point should prevail over all others.

At this time 30 other states in the union have laws giving adults this freedom and we are asking Nevada to follow suit.

ABATE of Northern Nevada has several hundred members and is anxious to hear if you support adult motorcycle helmet freedom of choice in Nevada.

This letter will be published in our monthly newsletter and will be available on our website at www.abatennv.org

Sincerely,

John Bland,
President – ABATE of Northern Nevada,
2005-192 ABATE Lobbyist
historicleenv@frontiernet.net

I'm on a roll with AAA Insurance, the bastards! This is one of the best articles I've found yet. So that you don't think it's just me that sees the wrong in AAA lobbying against freedom of choice, check out this article printed in *BIKER Newsragazine* July 2005. This is obviously a national problem we have with AAA Insurance.

Michigan helmet repeal passes Senate.

Senate Bill 297, which allows motorcyclists over the age 21 to choose whether to wear helmets, passed the State Senate on March 17. The House version, HB 4505 was introduced on March 16. A press release from AAA of Michigan on PR Newswire makes it abundantly clear why every freedom-loving motorcyclist should burn his or her AAA card. "We are disappointed and saddened that state lawmakers have chosen this course of action," sobbed Richard J. Miller, manager of Community Safety Services for AAA Michigan. "It makes absolutely no sense to make optional the only validated personal safety device available to a motorcycle rider," Miller added. Source: PR Newswire, AAA of Michigan.

John Bland, President
A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada

Fall Thoughts By Connie Campbell

ABATE and Christmas for Kids had a booth at the first River Street Festival. It was a lot of fun and good exposure for ABATE. I would like to thank Dale & Vicky Andrus, John Bland, Deb & Bill Bonetti, John & Jenn Hobbs, Donny Wisner and Susan Deshane for helping with the booth. Remember Christmas is right around the corner and December will be a busy month. I would like to see more members participate with activities if possible.

Unfortunately, the riding season is coming to a screeching halt so we are trying to squeeze in as much riding as possible. John and I rode our motorcycle to Hagerman, Idaho the end of September. It was a chilly ride going up on Saturday, beautiful on Sunday and Monday, but a bit wet on the way home Tuesday. The Hagerman area is a wonderful place to ride bikes, fish or camp and not too far from Elko. John's brother Steve Bland from California is looking at buying property in that area for retirement. Steve owns a beautiful 1958 Panhead Chopper and a 1997 Evolution. It will be nice to have him a little closer.

On another note, it appears the coming year will be an interesting one in the political arena with the three Republican candidates running for governor. I will be curious to see which one of them will stick their neck out in support of amending the helmet bill.

I am working with Tom Lester at the Convention Center on the 2007 MRF Conference. The proposal for the conference is ready and I'm waiting to hear when Carol Downs, who is the MRF Conference Coordinator, is coming to Elko. I will keep you posted.

Interesting Article from our ABATE Friends in Florida

September 21, 2005 For Immediate Release:
Contact: Cyndi von Bulow PR/Comm Trustee
ABATE of Florida, Inc.
PO Box 2520
DeLand, Florida 32721

"Helmetless" Riders are Less Likely to Die in Motorcycle Crashes on Florida Roads. The 2004 Crash Statistics for Florida wipe away NHTSA's prediction of a blood bath.

According to the recently released, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles annual Traffic Crash Statistics Report for 2004, motorcycle riders wearing helmets were more likely to sustain an injury or suffer a fatality than their non-helmeted counterparts. The huge increase in death and injury to non-helmeted motorcycle riders, predicted by NHTSA (National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration) in a report released this summer, has not been substantiated. The numbers are going to disappoint the proponents of helmet laws while simultaneously confirming the facts presented to the public by ABATE of Florida, Inc. (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education). ABATE is a non-profit motorcycle rights organization in Florida and has spent years focusing on motorcycle related issues, including crash prevention and stiffer penalties for negligent vehicle operators who kill and injure motorcycle riders.

Continued on Page 5.



Turdy's Toot. It's a Long Story



Fixing Dinner at Banbury's



Bike Nite at the Park



We got your back Bill. Good Luck with Surgery. We Luv Ya.

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

COUPLE

1 Year \$30.00

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

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 _____

Datte _____

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

Office Use Only

Date _____ Rcvd\$ _____ By _____

Continued from Page 3.

Of the 388 motorcycle riders killed in crashes on Florida roads during 2004, over 51% were wearing safety helmets. The crash facts also demonstrate that riders wearing safety helmets were more likely to sustain injuries than non-helmeted riders. In each of the statistical focus topics presented in the study, the percentage numbers were very close between helmeted and non-helmeted riders, except for non-injury crashes. The study stated that non-helmeted riders were 20% more likely to walk away from a crash without injuries than riders who were wearing helmets. This disparity could be due to the visual and physical limitations imposed by a helmet. Wearing a motorcycle helmet cannot keep a crash from occurring, however, riding without a helmet could allow a rider to respond more quickly or to visually recognize potential hazards, decreasing the severity of the injury sustained or avoiding injury all together. There are no statistics available for crashes which riders were able to completely avoid due to training or equipment use.

Motorcycles for Sale:

1987 Honda Magna, VF 700 C
4 Cylinder Shaft Drive, Water Cooled, Excellent Runner – Great at picking up Harley Parts and dodging tarantulas. Call Connie 738-3414 Days; 744-4570 Evenings.

1973 Harley Trike, Runs and Drives, Needs TLC. Clean Nevada Title
Call Bill at 738-6015.

According to the crash statistics, the top three contributing causes of all motor vehicle crashes include careless driving, failure to yield the right-of-way and driving under the influence of alcohol. None of the three include equipment failure, environmental or weather related issues. Each of the top three causes for crashes are directly linked to driver error or negligent action by the motor vehicle operator. Therefore, it stands to reason that a significant number of crashes could be avoided if motor vehicle drivers took personal responsibility for operating a deadly weapon prior to engaging their engines.

People can only control two things in their lives; what they think and what they do. Personal responsibility cannot be legislated. Political and governmental entities cannot mandate ethical and honorable actions. It is society, which dictates acceptable public behavior. Rehabilitation programs rely on education and a series of problem identification and behavior modification systems to alter behaviors that are harmful to a group or individual. Reeducating the public on safe operation of their motor vehicles or rehabilitating vehicle operators that habitually drive impaired or recklessly is an enormous job, however, ABATE of Florida, Inc. is taking on one piece of that task. The group is getting information out to the public on motorcycle safety and awareness through high school drivers education programs, posters, flyers, the presentation of a free Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Program, along with a series of annual safety seminars for the motorcycle riding and non-riding public.

In conjunction with the Florida legislature, ABATE is putting Billboards throughout the state to encourage drivers to be aware of motorcycles and to drive alertly. In other words, to take personal responsibility for their driving actions and to think about the way they operate their vehicles. James "Doc" Reichenbach, president of ABATE of Florida, Inc. who's group lobbied strongly for motorcycle helmet reform in 2000, said, "The numbers from the crash report for 2004 may favor our point of view, but even one death is too many. We (motorcycle riders). have to ride defensively and we have to educate everyone we meet." To help educate the driving public, four billboards with motorcycle safety messages have already been installed on major Florida highways. Within the next few months, Mr. Reichenbach expects approximately ten more billboards to be in place in areas where high motorcycle injury rates have been reported.

Motorcycle shop owner, Dan Fish of Doc's Southern Cycles in Pace, Florida, said, "I've had five times as many people in the shop in the past week looking for bikes under 600cc's." He said people are worried about getting around and are looking for economical transportation. The motorcycle population has more than doubled in the past five years with over 700,000 endorsed riders. With the marked increase in gasoline prices and concern over fuel availability, the number of motorcycle riders on Florida highways could easily reach 1.5 million in the next five years. Motor vehicle operators will be encountering an ever-increasing number of two wheeled travelers in the future. Motorcycles are smaller and can easily be lost in blind spots of larger vehicles. Drivers need to be aware of the presence of all vehicles in their vicinity and give motorcycles their full lane of travel. Perception of the speed that a motorcycle is traveling is often misjudged and failure to yield the right-of-way is sighted as the cause in a significant number of motorcycle versus automobile crashes.

Statistical reports, no matter how reliable the source, will not stop the motorcycle helmet usage debate, however, the real issue is crash prevention. To get involved in motorcycle crash prevention or to find out more about the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Programs being offered, contact ABATE of Florida, Inc. at P.O. Box 2520, DeLand, Florida, 32721 or visit www.abateflorida.com.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- A.B.A.T.E. Meeting October 13, 7:00 P.M. Round Table by Raleys
(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.)
- Bike Nite is Every Non-ABATE meeting Thursday at 6:00 P.M. at the Scoreboard until further notice. Everyone is Welcome.

Fall Barbecue in Lee, NV
October 15th 3:00 P.M.

All of you are invited to our town in Lee, on Oct. 15, 2005 around 3:00pm for our fall b-b-q. We are also having Karaoke for the party. We are serving hamburgers and hotdogs, so please bring side dishes and your drink of choice. We encourage you to bring camp trailers or sleeping bags if you have too much to drink, so you can spend the night. It is also John & Jenn Hobbs, one year anniversary and their baby Garrett will be on display. They are ABATE members. Lee is located 17miles from the stop light in Spring Creek on the Jiggs Hwy. Turn left at the small green "Lee" sign and travel about 5 miles to the end of the pavement and we live in the red school house with the bell tower. Our phone # is 744-4570 for questions.

**Hope you will join us!
Connie & John**

**Christmas for Kids, Inc.
New Officers
Vicky Andrus, Pres.
Phil Ackerly, VP
Danielle Kohler, Sec/Treas.**

