

# ABATE



# OF GEORGIA

AMERICAN BIKERS ACTIVE TOWARDS EDUCATION



**JUNE**  
NEWSLETTER  
2023

ROLLIN' WHEELS OF FREEDOM



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FATHER'S  
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# ABATE of Georgia

ABATE of Georgia's mission is centered on education. We preserve the freedom of the road by protecting the rights of all motorcycle riders through fair and reasonable legislation; education and public awareness.

We promote a positive public image of the motorcycle riding community. Our members are from all areas of the state, from all walks of life, who ride all makes of bikes. ABATE is not a club, it is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit educational organization. We are affiliated with national groups like the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM).

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**ABATE of GEORGIA** encourages all members to submit letters, articles or cartoons they feel may be of interest to fellow members. **ABATE of GEORGIA** supports the rights of ALL motorcyclists. **ABATE of GEORGIA** does not endorse any products or services other than its own.

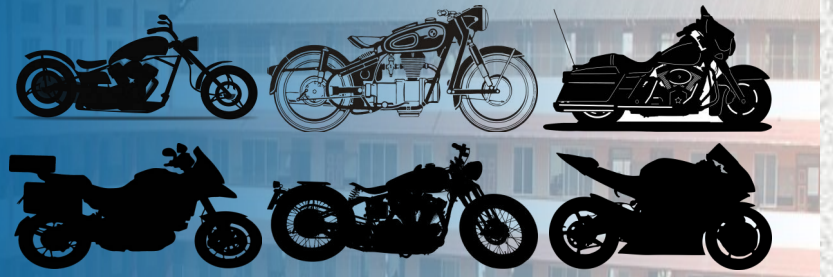
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The thoughts and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ABATE of GEORGIA board and it's members.



FROM THE

# STATE DIRECTOR



Before I get started, on behalf of ABATE of Georgia, I would like to thank Steph, for representing ABATE of Georgia at the Annual MRF Bikers Inside the Beltway in Washington D C. In this newsletter, she will be sharing the details of what she learned there.

The riding season is in full swing and the weather is perfect for any upcoming rides you may attend or if you are just going for a peaceful joy ride. But remember people, you can get just as dehydrated riding in 90 degree weather as you can if you were working out in it, just because you feel the wind, doesn't mean it is not hot. Be sure to drink plenty of water, as drinks with caffeine and alcohol will be more harmful to you, as it is not the proper way to hydrate and can also put that ole monkey on your back. It is important to stay properly hydrated and safe when you are riding. Sport drinks help too. I had a friend of mine go down years ago by going too long on a road trip, he was dehydrated, and the temp was in upper 90s to low 100s. Luckily he didn't get hurt bad, he had road rash and the bike came out with a few dings. So please, enjoy the ride and be safe.

Our main concentration right now is to build up our membership both locally and state wide. It is not just up to our membership directors to do this, every member can recruit new members. Lets work together and grow ABATE to be what it needs to be. I as well as other DC's, have gone to events with their membership directors, setup an ABATE membership and info booth, and worked together to get new members. Remember that it is important to get some of the younger riders involved with ABATE as they are the future of the organization.

It was really great to see and Ann Crenshaw at the State BOD meeting in May. She looked great and hope she continues to improve. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

As is close, I want to remind everyone to keep it safe out there and always support your district and the officers. They are all doing a good job and they can't do it all by them self. Ya'll be safe and will see ya on the road soon.

**Junkyard.....**

**State Director**





# Editor's **NOTE**

## Editorial Staff

Janet Heaney   Stephanie Cruwys   Ruby Galloway

Welcome to our June edition!

Thank you to all who attended our May quarterly board of directors meeting in Macon. It was a successful meeting with lots accomplished. If you have not attended our board meeting, please plan on coming to the next meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>! You can meet our officers as well as other members and lunch is provided!

Steph attended the Bikers Inside the Beltway legislative meetings in Washington D.C. She has a lot to report so look for her legislative article in this months edition!

We have some state rides coming up so please look for information in our newsletter if you would like to attend.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Keep the Shiny Side Up!

**ABATE of Georgia Editorial Staff--**

**Janet Heaney**

**Stephanie Cruwys**

**Ruby Galloway**

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**





# Motorcycle Riders Foundation



## Bikers, Bikers Everywhere!

This week bikers from across the nation descended on Capitol Hill. The 2023 Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) Bikers Inside the Beltway was the largest event in the 14-year history of the event! Motorcyclists from 34 states made the trip to Washington, D.C. to advocate for issues that matter to the street rider.

The list of policy concerns was long! Issues include: right to repair, preserving the internal combustion engine, profiling of bikers, autonomous vehicles, ethanol mandates, the definition of a motorcycle, and the creation of a Motorcyclist Advisory Council within the Department of Transportation.

In just one day, all 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 Senators received an informational packet from the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) explaining who we are, what we've done, and what we want.

Working with our State Motorcyclist Rights Organization (SMRO) partners, sustaining clubs and the National Council of Clubs we earned many important victories. In 2022 we saw the passage of an anti-profiling resolution, answers from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on autonomous vehicles, and language requiring a report from the Department of Transportation on policies related to the targeting of bikers.

Perhaps the best part about Bikers Inside the Beltway is the buzz that occurs on Capitol Hill when hundreds of bikers roam the halls on Congress. They not only hear us, but they see us!

The MRF is committed to being your voice in Washington, D.C. We've had a presence in town since 1986 and we won't leave until the job is done! We are, and will remain, the voice of the street rider in our nation's capital.

Thank you to all the motorcyclists that attended the event! It's never too early to start making plans for the next installment of Bikers Inside the Beltway in May 2024.

Check out some of the pictures of your fellow riders fighting for your rights in the halls of Congress.



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## Calling Chuck Dodson

I once knew this biker named Chuck Dodson. He was a friend of mine. He was always smiling. Always happy. He lived in Senioa, volunteered for ABATE, and rode with the Delta riders. He worked at Delta Airlines and was a dedicated employee for many years. He gave me his phone number one of the first times I met him. *"If you ever need anything, give me a shout,"* he said. People rarely say that and really mean it. I sensed right away that he meant it. I never did. I'd see him every few months at all kinds of motorcycle functions, and he always gave me a genuine smile and a hearty 'biker hug.' We drank gallons of coffee together at District meetings on Saturday mornings. He told me he was a mechanic with Delta airlines. I noticed right away that a lot of people liked him.

Several years ago, I saw him at a biker function in the old "Fat Cats" Bar in Austell, since renamed B-3. He was thinner and looked older. It was whispered to me that he was 'sick.' I said a fruitless prayer. He died not long after our last meeting. It must be 10 or 12 years now. Cancer got him. He was gone quickly. I heard about it at another ABATE meeting. I wished I had called him before he died. Just to say "hi." Maybe to thank him for all his charitable work with the organization we both enjoyed membership in.

I decided to write this after thumbing through my iPhone numbers, looking for a friend's contact info whose last name is "Dodson." I saw "Dodson" staring off the lit screen back at me. Chuck has been dead for many years, but his number remained on my contact list with about 6,000 other people and businesses. All these numbers and contacts migrate over the years from one iPhone to the next. All in succeeding evolutions of new phones promising faster speed, more storage, and bigger screen size, each with a different charger plug! Years and years of contacts levitating to something called a 'cloud,' storing all those I know somewhere, I know not where.

Either way, the contact info of biker pal after biker pal is all sent to this nebulous place. Even after they pass from this life. The older I get, the more frequently I see dead people's names in my contact list. Greg Estes, Uncle Jeff, Dodson, and Big Jim, are all deceased but remain in my cell phone contacts. Occasionally, I will call the number with perhaps some oddly placed subconscious hope that my departed friend will answer. Of course, they never do. Initially, the number rings, and I hear their voice inviting me to leave a message to no one. Then, after some months, the line rings, and no one and no recording answers. Eventually, the line disconnects. After enough time, the number is reassigned, and someone else, a stranger, will pick up the phone. *"Sorry, wrong number,"*-as is the way of the world.

I called Chuck's number last week, years after his death, kind of as a fluke. Surprisingly, a woman answered the phone. I listened intently after introducing myself but was at a loss to explain why I had called: *"Sorry, I just got this phone and don't know anyone by that name."* She seemed pleasant enough. *"Sorry, ma'am, I don't mean to waste your time,"* was my initial reply. There was that pregnant pause in the line that signaled to me she was at least not going to hang up on me.



So I took a small chance. I told her that the number was that of an old friend and that he was deceased. I didn't want to waste her time, but she was seemingly intrigued by my call. For whatever reason, she was not creeped out by what I told her, although I admit it was a bit odd.

In retrospect, calling him a 'biker' friend made all the difference. She asked how he died and when. When I explained that he was a 'biker' friend, she told me she and her husband had just purchased a new Harley. Their 1<sup>st</sup> one! The conversation turned and lightened. She seemed friendly and anxious to tell me about their newfound hobby. She knew about ABATE and what it was, but she and her husband were not yet members. She explained that their kids had grown up and moved away, and they bought the bike for some weekend fun. I had an ABATE newsletter on my desk, and I thumbed through it and advised her which district her hometown was in and where the meetings were held. Before I knew it, we were on the phone for 20 minutes. I told her I was ABATE's lawyer and that I spoke at her district's monthly meeting in March on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and how it relates to bikers. She advised that she and her husband were avid sport shooters and asked many questions about ABATE and the meetings. I directed her to the ABATE website, and she thought she would get her husband to come to the next meeting in their district and perhaps become members. I apologized for taking so much of her time, and she thanked me for the information.

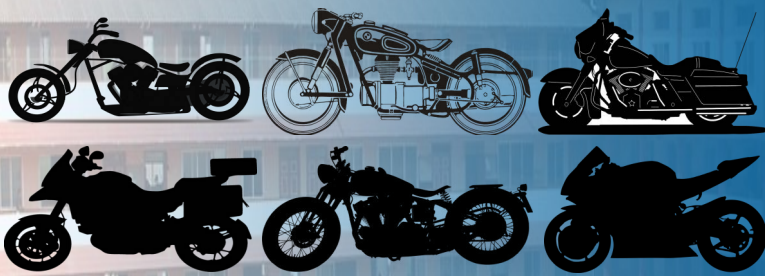
I wonder if I will meet her and her husband at an ABATE meeting. Kind of like I met Chuck 15 years ago. I ponder what I'll say if they do show up. Perhaps: *"Hi, nice to meet you; if you ever need anything, give me a call."* Adding new biker friends to your contacts in the cloud can never be a bad thing. Those bikers that pass in and out of your life and give you their cell numbers are numerous. Those that tell you to call them if you need something are few. Those that mean it are fewer still. Take a look at your contact list. We all have one now. Who, as you look through, would go riding with you on a sunny day? Who would come over with the correct tools to help you change a dead battery on your bike? Which ones would watch your kids in a pinch, loan you their bike, or for that matter, bail you out of jail? I hope plenty. If not, get out on that bike. Stick out your hand. Smile and maybe even hug some people with that hearty biker hug. Before you know it, you'll have loads of contacts qualifying as biker friends. The best kind.

Well, signing off for now. Remember, ride hard, ride safe, and when life lets you, ride full throttle.

Steve Murrin







# LEGISLATIVE

This will be brief. I had a wonderful time in Washington DC lobbying our Congress people. I met with Aides from both our Senators' offices as well as 6 of the 14 Georgia House members' Aides. I met with our District 1 Representative Buddy Carter. The issues we were discussing and asking them to support were:

**Commitment to co-sponsor H.R. 1435** "Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act". Currently we only have 4 of all our Congresspeople signed on to Co-Sponsor this bill. Rep. Rick Allen (GA 12), Rep. Buddy Carter (GA 1), Rep. Richard McCormick (GA 6) and Rep. (GA 8). Austin Scott (GA 8). H.R. 7731 Consumer Education on Ethanol. Introduced by Rep. Austin Scott (GA 8) and co-sponsored by Rep. Barry Lauder milk (GA 11)

**Continue to support House Res. 366** on Anti-profiling of motorcyclists passed in 2022 and S.154 passed in 2018. Congressman Bishop Sanford is the only one of all of our Representatives to sign on to this bill.

**Pressure the Department of Transportation** to seat the Motorcycle Advisory Counsel which is over 15 months behind the required time frame of 90 days. We are requesting our House members to sign onto Rep. Mike Gallagher's letter to Secretary Buttigieg to seat the MAC which is our voice in assuring that motorcycles unique needs are also a focus of our roads and infrastructure.

Sign the letter to the Acting Administrator of NHTSA to provide more oversight on vehicles with self-driving capabilities. At this time, no Georgia Congress people have signed the letter. We are also asking that each of our Representatives be fully committed to the safety of motorcyclists by assuring they are mentioned by name in any legislation related to automated driving systems.

We are also requesting our Representatives to require NHTSA to update the definition of motorcycle and address the definition of auto cycles and remove them from the motorcycle category.

**We are asking them to Co-sponsor H.R. 906** the Repair Act. The language in this bill is focused on protecting our ability to modify, replace and repair the products we buy. We want to make sure that manufacturers are not making it impossible by pricing us out of the market for diagnostic equipment, repair manuals, etc. At this time ZERO of our congress people are co-sponsors.

**Finally**, we are asking them to join the House Motorcycle Caucus. It is a good way for them to insure they are staying up to date on all issues related to motorcycling.

At the time of our Bikers Inside the Beltway Lobby Day, we do not have any bills in the Senate. However, we did request the Senators to start their own letters to NHTAA and DOT, to join the Senate Motorcycle Caucus, and to work towards their own versions of the legislation currently in the House.

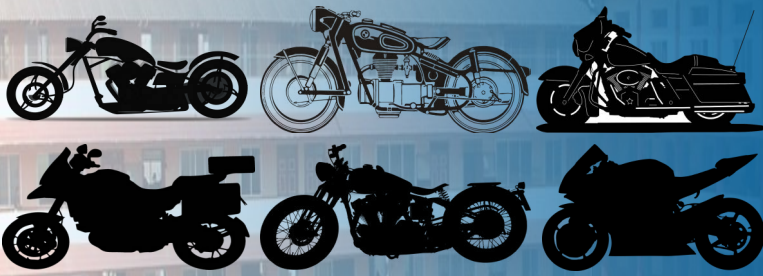
This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year participating in BIB with the MRF and other state motorcycle rights organizations. We had 33 states represented in this year's event, and it also allowed a group to head to the capital on Wednesday to reach out to anyone not contacted on Tuesday. It was an easy ride up and back and it's motivating and energizing to share stories and strategies with friends from all over the country... Even Alaska is represented.

If anyone is interested in specific information to contact their Representatives, contact me at my [ABATEGA.Leg.Cruwys@southeastsecondchance.org](mailto:ABATEGA.Leg.Cruwys@southeastsecondchance.org) email address.

These are important national issues.

Thanks for reading  
Stephanie Cruwys  
State Sgt. At Arms





# LEGISLATIVE



33 states represented at Bikers Inside The Beltway annual motorcycle lobby day in D.C.

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## An Educational Minute

Janet Heaney...Editorial Staff

June is a great month to go out and hone your riding skills! Heck, every month is a great month! The weather is perfect for getting out to practice some tight maneuvers and emergency breaking, in a school parking lot for instance.

This month I took an advanced rider course and, even though I've been riding a good part of my life, this course helped me sharpen my skills, reminded me of a few things that I needed to practice, and also gave me some extra confidence riding my big V Twin! Here are a few ways to accomplish this:

- Take an MSF certified course (There is a facility in Alpharetta, GA with some really good instructors. Visit their website for upcoming courses at [msf-usa.org](http://msf-usa.org))
- Set up some cones in an empty parking lot and practice your tight circles by weaving in and out of the cones. Make a large, medium and small circle for a more challenging practice.
- Educate yourself with some great reading material! I recommend the following books:  
Proficient Motorcycling, The Ultimate Guide to Riding Well by David L. Hough (He also has another edition called More Proficient Motorcycling)
- Get out and ride some different routes that will challenge your skills (but always ride within your skill set!

Enjoy the ride and be safe out there!

*ABATE of Georgia, State Treasurer  
Prior MSF Instructor with 20+ years riding*

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We all had a wonderful relaxing time at the Jr. Abate Fishing Derby. The kids were on fire catching fish. Jeff and William were on fire cooking up some great food. It takes a village. Thanks to all who came and to all who pitched in. It was a great day.

We had 46 attendees, plus the folks that were working the event. The kids caught 40 catfish and 3 brim. They were rocking it! Those cats averaged between 14 - 17 inches. For the kids, catching the big ones, was what it's all about and they had a blast.







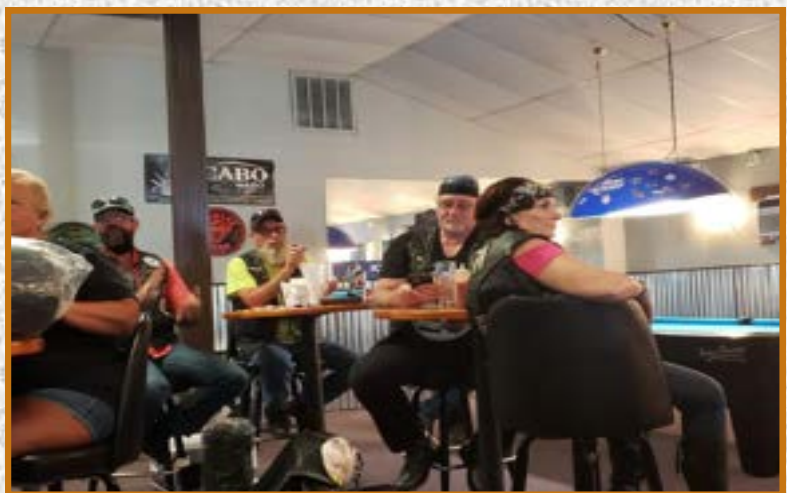














# What ABATE is and What it is NOT!

Editorial By Kim Adams, ABATE of Georgia Office Manager

Do you know what ABATE is? Do you know what the purpose of ABATE is? Why did you join ABATE? Can you tell your fellow motorcyclists and friends and neighbors what ABATE's purpose is? If you answered that ABATE is a motorcyclist rights organization that deals with any legislation concerning motorcyclists, then you know why you joined and what this ABATE stuff is all about. If you couldn't answer those questions, then sit down and get comfy, and prepare to learn a little about who ABATE is and what it does.

We are at the beginning of quite a few important happenings. We have elected a whole new set of State Officers, all of our Districts have held elections and several new District Officers are about to begin a whole new experience, our Legislature is beginning their 2002 session, and we have a very important ride this month to our State Capitol. It seems an appropriate time to consider what ABATE is and what it's not, and where we've been and where we are going.

Our new State Secretary, Nancy Jewell, made some very good observations in her article in the November 2001 issue of our newsletter in her article "Have We All Forgotten What ABATE Is?" With the recent changeover in State Officers, as well as new District Officers taking over, the recent terrorist attacks on our country and the aftermath of more and more new laws, and some of the comments and calls I've received lately, I feel that it is imperative that the members and officers of this organization get re-focused on ABATE priorities.

I've recently gotten a lot of questions about what is ABATE and just what do we do and "where did ABATE come from anyway?" I've also gotten some comments lately that "ABATE has just gotten too political for me," and "ABATE has gotten too religious for me," etc. Ok, sounds like a good history lesson needs to be done. Luckily, I have that history lesson; compliments of Bill Bish, former ABATE of California State Director and former Executive Coordinator of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists.

Back in May, 2001, my husband Rick and I attended the National Coalition of Motorcyclists Convention in Orlando, FL, and Bill Bish was the keynote speaker at the Saturday night dinner. His speech was titled "A History of Bikers Rights in America," and one of his main points was **YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING!** Bill was kind enough to send me a copy of his speech, so I will quote from it on where and how ABATE began:

*Easyriders magazine editor Lou Kimzey issued a plea in issue #3, October 1971, for bikers to come together to fight impending restrictions from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) by joining a new national bikers' rights organization called the National Custom Cycle Association, but because of a conflict with the acronym the name was changed in February 1972 to A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments (ABATE). I recall Joe Teresi, publisher of Easyriders, telling me that they had a contest around the office to come up with a new name, and one of the secretaries came up with "ABATE". He told me they were on deadline and had to come up with a logo real fast, so they took a stylized German eagle and transformed it into the logo used by many ABATE's to this day.*

*Easyriders began granting state charters around 1974, and Keith Ball was the original national coordinator (Keith later became editor of Easyriders until his recent retirement). ABATE's which came into existence around this same time were chartered in Kansas, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and New York; and also MMA of California, MMA of Massachusetts, New Hampshire Motorcycle Rights Organization, Rhode Island Motorcycle Association, Connecticut Motorcycle Rights*

*Association, and the Wisconsin Better Bikers Association. Easyriders published some phone numbers and the bikers rights network began to grow.*

*The Modified Motorcycle Association of California had already been founded, and it's interesting to note that Easyriders' original name for their rights group was similar to the MMA's because the biggest threat, aside from the original federal helmet mandates, which were instituted in 1966 by Congress and later repealed in 1976, was that the U.S. DOT (Department of Transportation) was investigating ways to restrict modified or customized "choppers" which they deemed unsafe, especially extended forks and apehangers. Deacon once related to me that the 60's fad of ridiculously high sissy bars came about because the government started requiring "grab bars" for passenger safety, so the riders of the day flaunted the law by building them as long and garish as they could get by with.*

*Almost every state during this time began passing handlebar height restrictions, eyewear requirements, motorcycle licensing requirements, lights-on laws and other equipment regulations, and many other restrictions on our "Freedom Machines" were coming down the pike to make motorcycle riding "safer"... Funny, but back in the sixties, they just wanted to get bikers off the streets, but now they want to **SAVE US** from ourselves!*

*In most states, before motorcyclists became politically organized, the clubs were the first to fight helmet laws and other restrictions, and in many instances founded the states' motorcycle rights organizations.*

*For the previous decade before MMA or ABATE of California came into existence, the Hells Angels M/C and Ralph "Sonny" Barger in particular had succeeded in keeping the state of California helmet-free even though Congress had passed legislation in 1966 requiring every state to pass a helmet law or lose 10% of their federal highway funds (this should sound familiar, since we just recently faced the same type of national helmet law in the nineties). Rumors still circulate around Sacramento about 1,000 Hells Angels on the Capitol lawn (well, it must've seemed like a thousand), and HA's camped out on the door step of legislative opponents. But the old intimidation tactics were beginning to wear thin and club leaders realized that they needed to legitimize their efforts by creating a more sophisticated political lobbying arm, in this case they founded the MMA of California. And I'm sure you all have similar stories about the roots of your own MRO in your state.*

*About this same time, the **American Motorcyclist Association** began to recognize the motorcyclists rights movement and they established the AMA Government Relations Department.*

*As the rights movement grew, Don Pittsley, a member of the Huns M/C in Connecticut convinced his congressman, Rep Stewart McKinney, to introduce H.R.3869 to end the Federal authority to withhold highway funds from states without helmet laws. In July of 1975, Rob Rasor of the AMA, Ron Roloff of MMA and Ed Armstrong of ABATE of Chicago presented the House Sub-Committee on Surface Transportation with convincing testimony to repeal the mandates. Later that year, with California being sued by the DOT because Governor Ronald Reagan refused to comply with the federal mandate, Roloff helped convince California Senator Alan Cranston to offer the language of the bill as an amendment to the 1975 Federal Highway Act, which passed with overwhelming support from the California delegation because of the impending lawsuit, and was signed by President Gerald Ford on May 5, 1976. **Not bad for a rag tag bunch of bikers with little or no previous political ambitions.***

*Spurred on by many successful protest rallies around the*



country following the national helmet law repeal, and the eventual repeal of more than 30 state helmet laws, ABATE, MMA and other motorcycle rights organizations sprang up in every state across the country and are now a fixture in state houses across America.

Isn't it interesting that ABATE was started by Easyriders magazine back in 1971 in response to impending regulations from NHTSA, who still to this day are regulating us to no end. It's also interesting to note the name that was chosen. ABATE – A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments. Today, if you say “Totalitarian Enactments” most people will say HUH? and think you are making up words. How many people these days know what “totalitarian enactments” are, and why anyone would form a group against them? Also a perfect fit to this name is the definition of ABATE – to bring down, diminish, reduce, lessen, to bring to an end, to do away with, to decrease, grow less, grow smaller.

Ok, so now we know where ABATE started to begin with. It started out as National ABATE, but by the early 80's, Easyriders gave up the reins of National ABATE, and by this time ABATE organizations were all over the country. ABATE of Georgia was incorporated in 1977 as “American Bikers Active Toward Education.” That makes 2002 our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!

**ABATE OF GEORGIA BEGAN AS, AND STILL IS, A MOTORCYCLIST RIGHTS ORGANIZATION.** For a simple comparison – think about it this way – we are to motorcyclists what the NRA is to gun owners.

**ABATE OF GEORGIA IS NOT A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION** like the United Way or Red Cross or others. Donations to ABATE, (whether they are by cash, check, or in kind contributions of door prizes, etc.), **ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES.** However, some donations made by businesses such as sponsorship of an event are deductible to the business as an advertising expense.

**ABATE OF GEORGIA IS NOT “TAX-EXEMPT.”** We are a non-profit organization, which means that we are not in the business of making a profit to benefit the owner, stockholders, employees, etc. Under IRS codes, no officer, member, or individual can benefit from the activities of the organization. Our purpose is contained in our by-laws, and income generated by the organization is to be used to accomplish the purpose of the organization. The IRS allows us to not pay federal taxes as a business because we are not in business to make a profit; we are in business to accomplish our purpose.

**ABATE OF GEORGIA IS NOT A SOCIAL CLUB.** There are many other social groups like HOG and others whose main purpose is to offer social or group riding experiences. Although ABATE of Georgia may offer social activities for it's members, it does not compete with the other social clubs.

And just what is that purpose? Article 1 of our Constitution and By-laws states: This organization shall be known as ABATE of Georgia, Inc. Its purpose is to work towards sensible safety legislation and to fight anti-motorcycle legislation at the State Capitol.

So, anything and everything that we do as ABATE, and any money we raise is to be used to accomplish that purpose. However, it seems that somehow, a lot of folks have forgotten that. For some reason, that purpose has seemed to take a back seat to a myriad of other activities. It's time to re-focus.

Each and every member really needs to ask themselves the question – why did you join ABATE? Did you join to protect your rights as a motorcyclist? Did you join to help fight anti-motorcycle legislation at the State Capitol?

I've gotten inquiries from prospective members who want to join because they think our purpose is to raise money for charity. If they join for that reason, or if any of you joined for that reason, you joined for the wrong reason.

However, even if you joined for the wrong reason – you have still done something positive for your rights, because you JOINED! Like it or not, it takes numbers and money to fight for your rights, and if we are not careful, we will be legislated right off the road. BELIEVE ME, IT'S ALREADY IN THE WORKS! Motorcycles are viewed as unsafe and a complete bother and that makes us an easy target.

Some of you may think that all the charity activities will help to improve the image and stereotyping of motorcyclists. I've heard some of you say it will make the general public realize that bikers have big hearts and we aren't just a bunch of hellraisers like the old movies portrayed us to be. I even had one member tell me that he wasn't interested in the legislative part (the sole reason for the existence of this organization), he was only interested in raising money for kids and getting more members to join his District. I couldn't understand why he would want to get more members to join an organization whose purpose he wasn't interested in.

So you think that by doing all the charity stuff, you are helping to accomplish our purpose. While that is a noble idea, do you really believe that will work? Don't be so sure.

First of all, charity organizations cannot, by law, support our fight for our rights. They can say wow, bikers really are great people with big hearts and not so bad after all. But does that get rid of any of the restrictions being pushed on us? NO, in fact, it may prompt them to think it's their responsibility to help protect us from ourselves by encouraging more and more safety measures. I can think of one case in particular right now. I recently read in Full Throttle magazine that someone did a charity ride for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. I'm quite sure that they believe that they are raising money for a very good cause. After all, it's “for the children.”

What I'm not so sure about is if they realize that Children's Healthcare of Atlanta has been one of our biggest opponents at the State Capitol. Their lobbyist has testified against our helmet law modification bill on numerous occasions. They don't believe that we should have the right to make our own decisions on safety equipment. They believe that you should be forced, under penalty of arrest, fine and incarceration to wear something that is, after all, for your own good. When asked why a Children's hospital would have a position and spend so much time, money and effort on an issue that doesn't pertain to children, the answer was that children learn by example and we have to make the adults set this example, so that the children won't grow up and make unsafe choices. They even went so far as to exploit these children to make their point. They talk about adults setting examples; they need to take a look at their own example.

A couple of years ago, during our Biker Day at the Capitol, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and SafeKids of Georgia brought a group of kids to the Capitol and made it a point to parade these kids in front of our tables and up and down the steps in front of us wearing bicycle helmets and t-shirts that said “Don't hit the road without your helmet” (these shirts had Children's Healthcare of Atlanta above this wording). Some of these kids were wearing these bicycle helmets in a very unsafe manner, some were backwards and unstrapped so they fell down over their eyes (they obviously didn't show them the proper way to wear them). A couple of them almost fell down the steps because of this. They stopped them right in front of our table and had them start singing “wear your helmets” at us. Here we were minding our own business and trying to ignore this carefully orchestrated provocation. Well, myself and a couple of others decided that since one of SafeKids stated purposes is to educate about and promote bicycle helmet use and safety, we would try to help them with that instead of getting angry and telling them to go away and leave us alone. We started to give the kids some stickers that said “in case of



injury, do not remove this helmet until I am examined by a doctor," since a bicycle helmet is the same as a motorcycle helmet in this respect. Immediately, the adults with the group started taking the stickers away from the kids. When I asked one lady why the kids couldn't have the stickers, she said no one said they couldn't. I told her she appeared to be taking the stickers away from the kids, she told me it appeared wrong then, while at the same time she had a whole handful of the stickers. I asked one of the other ladies why they would be so opposed to the kids knowing that someone shouldn't take their helmet off if they crashed their bike. She said that's not what they were there for. I said I thought you were there to educate the kids about bicycle helmet safety. She said yes, they were, but this was just too far over their heads, after all, they were only in third grade and besides, emergency personnel were trained for that. I told her that emergency personnel were NOT trained for that, and what if the first person to that child was not a trained professional, but another child, or a parent or someone who thinks they are trying to help by taking off the helmet, but end up breaking the child's neck instead? She said that was all fine and good but that wasn't what they were there for and walked away. So what were they there for then? Was it to purposely antagonize these bikers who were so stupid that they wanted to go without helmets? It was amusing to watch the wheels ticking in this lady's head as she searched for an answer and couldn't find one. She was totally unprepared for these questions from us because she came there pre-programmed that we were just a bunch of stupid bikers who wanted to ride without helmets (totally unaware that it's the freedom to choose that we want). I'm sure the kids were also pre-programmed the same way. We were the bad guys and we were so stupid for wanting to ride without a helmet, how could we possibly have any useful information for these kids? It was not the way they expected us to react, and it would go against their pre-programming of the kids for them to know that we had useful information that hadn't already been given to them by the self-proclaimed helmet safety experts. Talk about indoctrinating our kids!! Do you really believe that bikers raising money for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta will change this perception of us?? I may be wrong, but I think all it does is make them think that the more money bikers raise for them, the more money they will have to pay their lobbyist to fight to protect those bikers who are too stupid to protect themselves, and the less money bikers will have to fight for the right to choose what safety equipment they wear.

After this incident at the Capitol, I vowed that I personally would not give a dime to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and I will NEVER take my child there for any reason. I didn't notice this charity ride for them in Full Throttle until after the ride was over, or I would have at least passed on what I knew about Children's Healthcare and their lobbying activities and tactics. If they still had decided to raise money for them anyway, fine, but at least they would be aware of what they were doing. I am curious to know if they plan to make this a regular event however, and I'm curious to know how much money they raised.

I know I sound like I'm really down on charities. It's not that I'm against charity. In the last couple of years, I've done a lot of my own soul searching on giving to charity. I've come to the conclusion that I'm not against charity, it's just that I'm more interested in protecting what few rights I have left than I am in doing charity stuff. Whatever money I give to charity leaves less money I can give to protect my rights. About the only charity thing I do anymore is Toy Runs, because if I give a toy, a kid gets a toy, and no one gets a cut off the top.

Instead of giving to charity, I choose to give my money and my time to the fight to protect and restore my rights. No one else is gonna do it for me. That's why I joined ABATE. I didn't

join to raise money for charity, I joined to fight for my rights, that's the purpose of ABATE. So I don't believe that ABATE should be expending time and energy to raise money for anything other than that purpose. Our District program was formed so that more people could become active in working on our purpose, to spread our message about the fight for our rights, and help raise the funds to continue that fight. To a large degree, the Districts have done that very well. However, it seems as if some of our Districts have lost their focus on our purpose and turned instead to the purpose of raising money for everyone but ABATE. That is something that needs to change.

Through the years, bikers have given away more money than it would take to change the helmet law. And while bikers have been busy giving away their money, the government has been busy figuring out what more restrictions they can impose to protect us, and they don't plan to stop any time soon. I've been to a Highway Safety Convention called Lifesavers that is put on by NHTSA and others, and believe me; motorcycles are not in the plans for the future. Their ultimate goal is to get rid of motorcycles. They consider motorcycles dangerous, and they think they need to get rid of anything that's dangerous.

It's only because of the ABATE organizations and the nationwide motorcyclist rights movement and their efforts that motorcycles haven't been legislated off of the roads already. Remember, ABATE was formed to begin with in response to the federal helmet mandates, and the restrictions imposed on modified or customized choppers. That was the just the beginning of the plan to get rid of motorcycles altogether. Most of the people imposing these restrictions viewed bikers as scum and wanted to get them off the roads. Think about it, the first restrictions were on "modified or customized choppers," that these scum were building for their personal, individual preferences. They knew they couldn't get rid of motorcycles all at once, so one at a time, they imposed restriction after restriction, starting with the federal helmet law mandates. If they made these bikers wear helmets, it was more of a hassle for them to ride. Then it was handlebar height restrictions, eyewear requirements, lights on laws, licensing requirements and other equipment regulations. I think the idea was that after a while, if they made it such a hassle to ride a motorcycle, we would get tired of trying to comply with all of these restrictions, and we would just eventually give up and quit riding, or they would use all these laws to turn us into criminals and get us off the road that way.

Lucky for us, bikers don't give up so easy. Even though most bikers didn't have much political ambition back then, they figured out that no one else was gonna fight for our rights for us, so they stepped up to the challenge. Through the years, bikers have been quite successful. Twice the federal government has imposed helmet law mandates for all states, and twice bikers have gotten those mandates repealed, once in 1976 and again in 1994. The first time, it took ten years. The second time, we got better at learning how to play their game by their rules, and it only took 4 years! Today, the score is 20 Helmet Law States, and 30 Freedom of Choice states. Not bad for a rag tag bunch that most people considered scum. Who would have thought that a rag tag bunch of bikers most people considered scum could accomplish what they have in the game of politics, a big game with powerful players and big money.

One thing you can say about us bikers, we are a tenuous bunch. Consider that Georgia was the very first state to enact a helmet law, back in 1962. ABATE of Georgia was formed in 1977 and began the effort to repeal the helmet law. It's now been 25 years and we still have that law, but we are not giving up and we are not going away. Just because we haven't changed the helmet law yet doesn't mean we haven't accomplished anything. In the last 25 years, we've accomplished a lot, because the helmet law is not our only



issue (see the What is ABATE page in the front of the newsletter).

From the time I joined and started to spread our message, I've come across quite a few people who were under the wrong impression of what ABATE is all about. The most common thing I would hear was – ABATE, aren't you that Harley rider group that doesn't like helmets? I always replied that we were not a brand specific organization because we deal with the laws that govern motorcycles and when the law says motorcycle, it's not brand specific, and it's not that we don't like helmets, it's just that we think we should have the right to make that choice, not the government. I was always frustrated by the assumption that we were a "Harley only" group, and that our only issue was getting rid of helmets. I always wondered just where did that assumption come from.

It wasn't until I read Bill Bish's article on where and why ABATE started that it dawned on me. ABATE was started by Easyriders magazine. Who read Easyrider magazine in the early 70's? Who was the main target of all of the restrictions that were being imposed? Who was it that most people regarded as scum who should not be allowed on the road? Who was it that decided to join together and fight back? Harley Riders. What was one of their main beefs that got them stirred up enough to fight back? Helmet Laws. Wow, so that's where all that started from. It didn't take long for those Harley riders to understand that these restrictions would affect ALL motorcyclists, no matter what they rode, and that these restrictions were just the beginning of the attack on our freedom to ride. Pretty soon, Harley riders were spreading the word to ALL motorcyclists.

But it doesn't just stop there. We need to get better at spreading our message of fighting for our rights to everyone, whether they ride a motorcycle or not. Senator Joey Brush made some enlightening comments during his speech at the Helmet Law Protest Ride at the Capitol last year. He said that helmet laws were elementary compared to the restrictions we will be facing in the coming years. If we give up on fighting for our freedom of choice, the other restrictions will be easier to get past us. He said we need to recruit everyone to help us regain freedom of choice, not only our fellow riders, but our friends who don't ride motorcycles, our neighbors, our co-workers, everyone. We need to make them understand that if they can take our freedom, they can take theirs too. Kinda like the story I heard about the government coming for one group, it didn't concern me, I wasn't one of that group, then they came for another group, it still didn't concern me, I wasn't one of that group either and so on, until they did come for my group, but by that time there was no one left to care.

By now you're probably wondering just where I'm going with all of this. Hopefully, now you understand where we've been. As we begin a New Year and a new legislative session, it's time to get re-focused on where we are going. What's that mean?

Each and every member, ask yourself, what have you done personally to help fight anti-motorcycle legislation. Have you written a letter to your Senator and Representative about our helmet law repeal bill or our anti-discrimination bill? Just because you can't make it to meetings doesn't mean you can't contact your legislators. If the legislators hear from enough of us, and often enough, they will soon realize that we are a force to be reckoned with. Have you made plans to be at the Helmet Law Protest Ride on January 17 and March 11? Every member needs to be there. It's the most important thing you can do as an individual to protect your rights. Yes, this ride is on a weekday, that's when the legislators are there and in session and voting on bills. Last year, both the House and the Senate voted on our bills while we were there. We have given you a whole year's notice of the dates; there is no reason that with

that much notice you can't schedule a vacation day or personal day to be there. Even if you live a long way from Atlanta, you can still bring your bike on a trailer, we've made arrangements for you to be able to leave the trailer at Lakewood while you're at the Capitol. How much are your rights worth to you? Enough to make the effort to come to the Capitol and speak to the legislator who represents you? Have you encouraged a buddy who isn't a member to join? Better yet, ABATE memberships make great gifts. If every one of us gave one membership as a gift, our numbers would double.

Each and every District needs to schedule a ride to both of the Helmet Law Protest Rides. These are the two most important events in ABATE, and every District needs to be represented. This is what ABATE is all about – LEGISLATION, and every District should have already been promoting this ride and planning a meeting place for their District to meet and ride together to Lakewood. Some Districts are on the ball and have already scheduled this, if your District hasn't, you need to get busy and do it.

Every District needs to use their meeting as a time to write letters to our legislators. If you need help on how to do this, call the ABATE office, we can help you. It's not hard, it's painless and it DOES make a difference. At every meeting in every District, you need to write letters and educate your members on our issues and our bills. Every District meeting should be focused on accomplishing the purpose of ABATE, in other words focused on motorcyclists rights, what we can do to protect them, and how we can spread that message to others. Every District should contact each and every legislator in their District and invite them to attend their meetings. Talk to them and find out how they stand on our issues. Even if they don't agree with freedom of choice on helmet use, doesn't mean they won't agree with us on other issues, such as our anti-discrimination bill. Invite them to your meetings anyway so that you can let them know how their constituents feel about the freedom of choice issue, as well as our anti-discrimination bill, and any other issues that affect us as motorcyclists. If you get to know your legislators, and continually write letters and make phone calls to them and invite them to meetings, pretty soon they will remember that the laws that they pass affect us in ways they don't even realize. Eventually, they will seek the input of motorcyclists before they vote on issues that affect us. If you aren't contacting them, how are they going to know how you feel?

This year is an election year, and every District needs to get busy on finding out who is running for office in their District. Find out how they stand on our issues, figure out who needs to get re-elected and who needs to be un-elected. Then decide which candidates your District should help, and ask them what you can do to help them. The time to start this is NOW, not waiting until October when the elections will be held the first week in November. ABATE cannot give money to candidates, by law that can only be done through our Political Action Committee, MOTO PAC. There are plenty of things your District can do as individuals to help the candidates who support us, such as putting out yard signs for them, helping them stuff envelopes for a mailing, answering phones, etc. You can do something as simple as plan a day for your members to get together and hand out literature for the candidate at a shopping center or grocery store. You can also plan a fundraiser for MOTO PAC so that we will be able to give campaign contributions to the candidates who help us. A BIG part of having an impact on motorcyclist rights is getting the right candidates elected to office to begin with. It's something we need to start working on immediately, since the legislators can't campaign during legislative session, but you can start setting dates and making plans now to help as soon as they are out of session. Better yet, run for office yourself. Get involved



in the political parties on a local level, it's a good opportunity to have input on the party platforms. I remember a few years ago how the Texas Motorcycle Riders Association pretty much got themselves all elected as delegates to the Democratic Party convention and changed the party platform to support freedom of choice on helmet use. Shortly after, Texas modified their helmet law to allow freedom of choice.

Every District should begin now to start promoting MAY as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Talk to the local mayors and county commissions within your District about proclaiming MAY as Motorcycle Awareness Month. We can provide you with the wording of the proclamation as well as "Look Twice, Save a Life, Motorcycles are Everywhere" bumper stickers that you can take to them. This needs to be done BEFORE May. Start contacting these people now and plan a ride to a signing ceremony. Contact the local newspapers and press to cover the signing ceremony. The goal should be for every city and county in the state to proclaim MAY as Motorcycle Awareness Month. After all, the purpose of Motorcycle Awareness Month is to get the public to be more aware of motorcycles on the road so they don't run us over as often. About 75% of car/motorcycle crashes are due to the car driver not seeing the motorcycle. Notify the office of each proclamation, and we will list them in the newsletter.

If your District is planning an event, ask yourself how this event is promoting ABATE. Is it to raise money for ABATE? If it isn't to raise money for ABATE to accomplish our goals, then why are you using ABATE's name or resources to promote it. Every District event needs to have a membership table set up. I once heard a comment from a District Coordinator that it was his responsibility to keep his members updated on and to support all of the other groups and events within his District. That is not his responsibility, however it is a good idea to keep in contact with these other groups who are doing events and ask for permission to set up a membership table. Anywhere there is a gathering of motorcyclists, ABATE should have a membership table. If each District made it a goal to have a membership table at every motorcycle event in their District, they would double their numbers within a short time. Even if no one joins at a particular event, it's still an opportunity to get our information to motorcyclists who might not have heard of us, or who are mistaken about what ABATE is all about. It's a chance to bring their attention to the future restrictions that we will be facing very soon.

Every District Officer in this organization needs to be at the District Officers Training Meeting, so that you understand the responsibilities of your position. Every District needs to be represented at every Board meeting. Some Districts have not been to a Board meeting for a whole year. How can you be promoting the purpose of ABATE if you aren't coming to the Board meetings to find out about what is going on.

As we begin the year 2002, and our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of fighting for our rights, take a few minutes to think about where we've been and where we're going. Think about what it would be like today if the folks who started this grass roots lobbying effort had taken the attitude that so many motorcyclists today have and just said, oh well, there's nothing we can do about it so just accept what happens and live with it. Helmet laws wouldn't exist, because it would be illegal to own or ride a motorcycle. To all of those folks, thank you for having the passion, drive and dedication to stand up and get this fight started. I consider myself proud to be able to have done my small part to carry on that fight for the last 13 years.

Think about what the future of motorcycling is going to be like. Right now, we are facing strict restrictions from the EPA, and serious changes due to the Globalization of standards. The current European standards are headed our way. They already dealing with anti-tampering standards that prevent you from

working on your own motorcycles, along with a myriad of other restrictions and standards that will ban air-cooled engines. At the Meeting of the Minds, we attended a workshop where a guy from Belguim spoke about these things they are facing right now, and the globalization of standards. He told us that there are 300,000 new motorcycles sold in the US each year, and 1,000,000 new bikes sold in Europe. Which standards do you think will be adopted? The manufacturers will be more than happy to adopt the standards they are already using on the European models. So don't expect them to do our fighting for us. They are already preparing for what is about to happen as evidenced by the new Harley V-Rod. Wonder why Harley developed a water-cooled engine? Harley knows that air cooled engines are going to be a thing of the past, so if they want to stay in business, they have to comply.

I plan to keep fighting for my right to ride long into the future. I hope that all of you will also. But what about the future of motorcyclist rights? Who is going to come along after us and continue the fight? Think about it. How many of you teach your kids about what ABATE does? How many of you have kids who might grow up and want to ride a motorcycle? What will the motorcycle they ride be like? If we don't teach our kids about the never ending fight for freedom, by the time they grow up, they won't be able to ride a motorcycle at all. They will only be looking at them in museums.

I mention the importance of teaching our kids because I've heard people say they couldn't come to ABATE meetings because they have kids and they can't get a babysitter while they go to the meeting. What's wrong with bringing them along with you? They just might learn something, and they can only benefit from learning about fighting for freedom. My son has been to ABATE meetings with me most of his life. He's almost 16 now, and starting to think about getting his motorcycle license before he gets his drivers license. He soaked up a lot of information through those years that I didn't even realize until he was about 13 and he came home one day and told me about talking to another kid on the bus about helmets and freedom of choice. He said, "Mom, I had to educate him." You could have knocked me down with a feather; he even used my words. Well, what did you tell him, I asked. He told me all the things that he had heard me repeat through the years, and all the things he had heard other people say. I was amazed that he had learned all that! He finished by asking if he had told him the right stuff. He had told him the right stuff, and I was very proud of him, especially since he was at the age where it seems that you tell them stuff over and over and they don't seem to listen. As I learned that day, they do listen!

We will have to be the ones who teach our kids about freedom, because no one else will. My son is already being taught by the public school system that it's not okay to defend yourself, and not to question the rules, just follow them. Our kids are being prepared not to question giving up freedom, just do what we tell you to do, it's for your own good.

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, we have lost not only the victims and heroes who died, but a big chunk of our freedom also. New laws are being passed every day since then in the name of our safety. What seems to be forgotten is that we will never be completely safe. And like it or not, none of us are gonna get out of this life alive! I would rather face the risks that life is inevitably going throw our way than give up all my freedom just to be safe from those risks.

I hope that as we begin this new year, and the new legislative session that everyone now has a new understanding of what ABATE is, what it isn't, where we've been and where we're going, and what part you are going to play in our never-ending fight for freedom. I'll look forward to seeing you all at the State Capitol on January 17.



# ABATE of GEORGIA



District 15

**ABATE Free Fun Ride**

Saturday, June 24th

Meet at Exit 29 Truckstops of  
America, KSU @ 10:30am

We will ride to the  
LL Creek Bar & Grill  
421 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA  
then return to Brunswick

**ABATE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

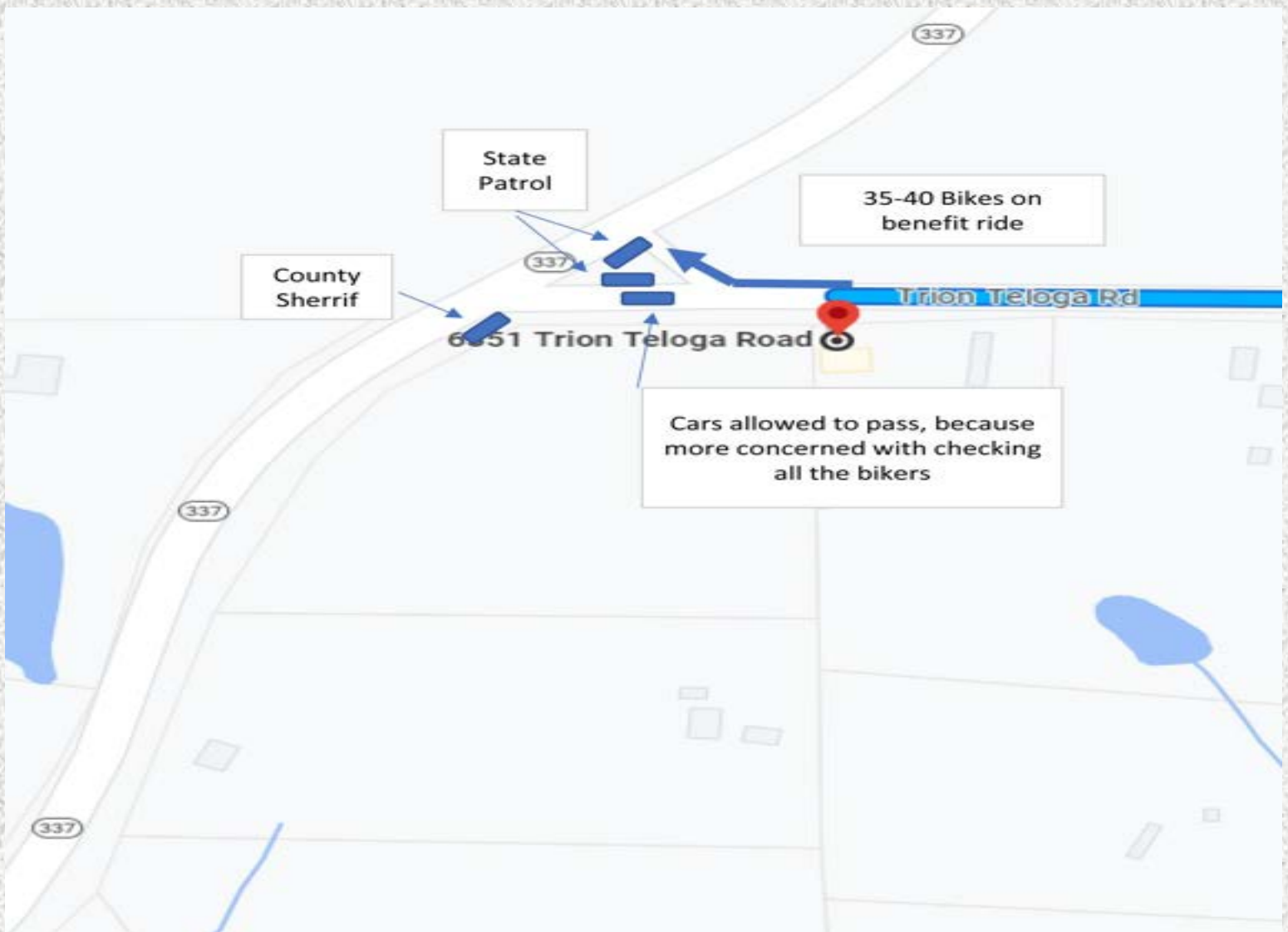
For More Info Contact Randy  
(912)399-5005





On May 20, 2023 I was on a benefit ride for my niece Ayla Alexander. The event was put on by the Freedom Seekers MC of NW Georgia. We all left in an obvious group formation, which showed we were all riding together, and for a purpose. When we approached SR 337 to turn left, off of Trion Teloga Rd (SR327) we noticed there were 2

Georgia State Patrols, and 1 Chattooga County Sheriff's patrol cars. The officers were performing a license check, we believe. The Ga State patrol officer made a hand signal to show ID to the first group of motorcyclists. I do not know what the conversation was, but it was apparent that checking all the people in the group was more important than stopping traffic in all directions, since the 3 officers all came our way, while allowing other traffic to go by on SR327 off of SR337, passing directly by our group. My question is, if we had been a funeral procession, would it have been handled the same way?





# STATE CHARTER GOAL

1)... To initiate, endorse and sponsor educational programs such as rider safety, public awareness, legislative and affirmative action and, individual freedoms and rights.

2)... To create and promote a positive public image of motorcyclists and motorcycle groups and to dispel and disprove media hype, unfounded propaganda and the "Hollywood" image.

3)... To encourage goodwill and mutual understanding among motorcyclists, law enforcement personnel and the general public.

4)... To serve as an information source on matters pertaining to current laws, pending legislation, personal rights, political inclinations of elected officials and their constituents, and voter awareness.

5)... To act as a central responsive agency to devise and coordinate recreational, legislative, educational, and charitable activities



# ABATE of Georgia MEMBERS

# the news

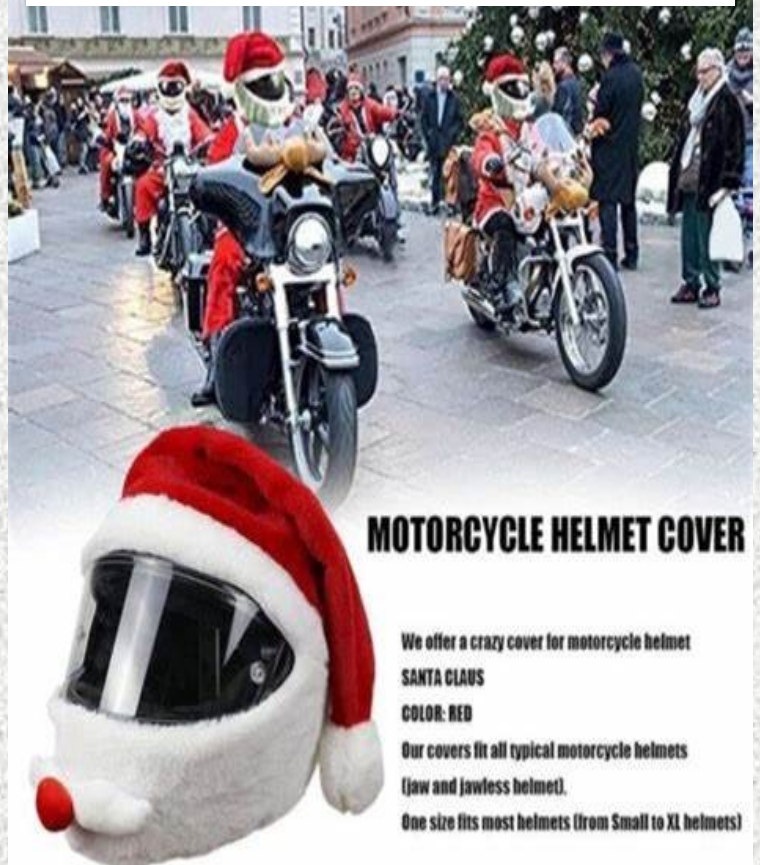
## MEMBERS PLEASE SUBMIT

Articles..Pictures..District Information  
Pictures.. Run / Party / Shows  
This is YOUR publication.

PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO

[abateganewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:abateganewsletter@gmail.com)

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## MOTORCYCLE HELMET COVER

We offer a crazy cover for motorcycle helmet

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COLOR: RED

Our covers fit all typical motorcycle helmets

(jaw and jawless helmet).

One size fits most helmets (from Small to XL helmets)





## **SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg Hershey, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111

Hotel Room cost \$109/night (cut off date September 6, 2023)

Call 717-939-7841 (mention the MRF MEETING OF THE MINDS)

Pre-registration for conference through the MRF, PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612

Pre-registration (must be received by Sept. 6, 2023): \$100.00 (current member) / \$120.00 (non-member)

Registration rate after Sept. 6, 2023: \$110.00 (current member) / \$130.00 (non-member)

Registration includes all workshops, workshop materials, and Saturday banquet.

Registration questions call the MRF at 202-546-0983, or email Fred Harrell at [fred@mrf.org](mailto:fred@mrf.org).



# RIDE WITH THE LEADERS!



Thousands of motorcyclist rights activists have attended MRF sponsored annual regional and national workshops since 1985. These workshops provide the nuts and bolts, "user friendly" subjects and training to assist motorcyclists in defending, building, and strengthening their grass roots organizations.

**Motorcycle Riders Foundation is proud to present their annual conference for politically motivated motorcyclists! Spend the weekend with some of motorcycling's most educated and dedicated activists. Learn what issues will impact bikers today and in the future!**

Use the applications below to join and support the Motorcycle Riders Foundation and to pre-register for the **39th Annual Meeting of the Minds, September 21-24, 2023.**



## MRF MEETING OF THE MINDS 2023 PRE-REGISTRATION

(Must be received by September 6, 2023 to qualify for discounted rate)



PRE-REGISTRATION RATE:

\$100.00 Current individual MRF member (before Sept. 6)

\$120.00 Non-MRF member (before Sept. 6)

REGISTRATION RATE (after Sept. 6):

\$110.00 Current individual MRF member (after Sept. 6)

\$130.00 Non-MRF member (after Sept. 6)

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PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Send check or money order to: MRF, PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612 before Sept. 6. After Sept. 6 registration fee increases \$10 per person.  
For room reservations call 717-939-7841 (mention Motorcycle Riders Foundation) \$109/night (room cut-off date, September 6, 2023).

## PRE-PURCHASE YOUR MRF MEETING OF THE MINDS 2023 T-SHIRT NOW!

39th Annual Meeting of the Minds T-shirts can be pre-ordered now with your registration. Guarantee your shirt size, color, and style now, by ordering today!

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**Mail to:** Motorcycle Riders Foundation — PO Box 9090 — Peoria, IL 61612 — Phone 202.546.0983 — [www.mrf.org](http://www.mrf.org) — [mrfoffice@mrf.org](mailto:mrfoffice@mrf.org)

Annual Individual Members \$35

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

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HARLEY-DAVIDSON

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FOO FIGHTERS

GREEN DAY

CODY JINKS · SOCIAL DISTORTION  
JOAN JETT AND THE BLACKHEARTS · PHANTOGRAM  
WHITE REAPER · KENNYHOOPA

1903

120

2023

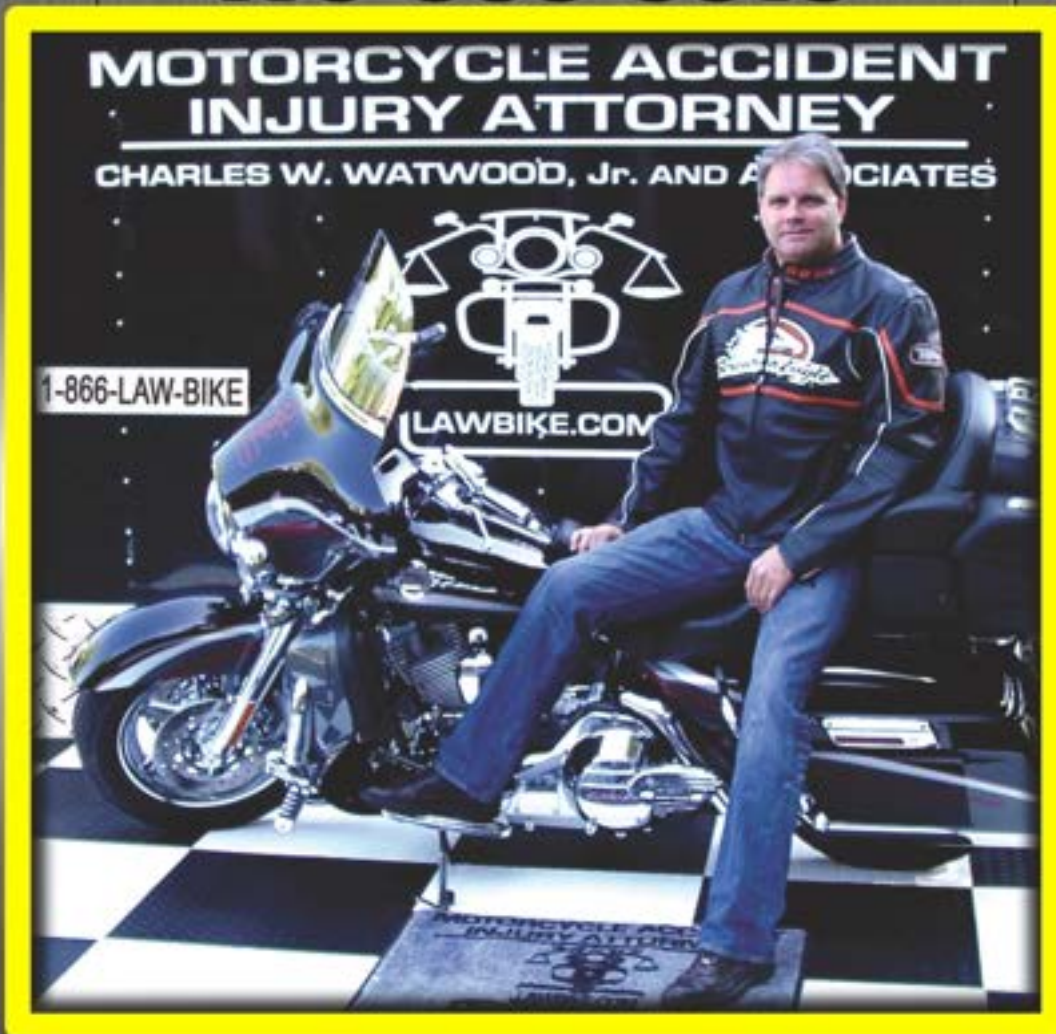


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DUES**

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- ★ Monthly Newsletter
- ★ \$2000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance
- ★ Monthly Meetings
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*A friendly entrance into the biker community*

When you join you receive your ABATE patch, membership card, welcome letter and insurance.

**ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF  
MEMBERSHIP**



**Join the cause & become a member today !**





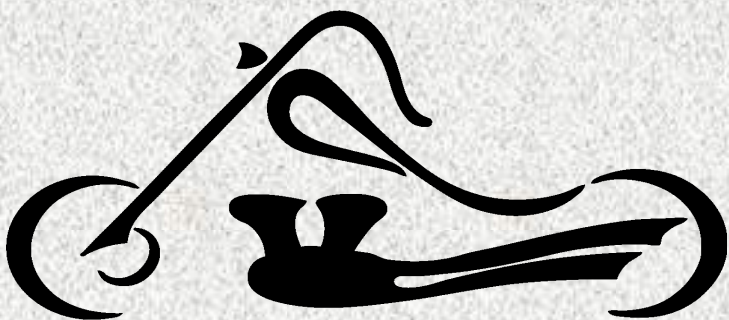
## DISTRICT 1 WEST

District One-West covers the Counties of: Catoosa, Dade, Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon, Murray, Pickens, Walker, and Whitfield. Meetings are the fourth Monday of each month at the Dari Dip on Villanow Street in Lafayette, GA. Meeting starts at 6:30pm For more information contact Frank 706-694-8626 or email

[sgt.baldy@windstream.net](mailto:sgt.baldy@windstream.net)

or visit us on FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/abategad1W/>



## DISTRICT 2

District 2 includes Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Jackson, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and Whitecounties in Northeast Georgia. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at Pitts Park in Clarkesville, Ga at 2pm.

D2 isteaming up with D5N in organizing a legislative ride to Wheels Thru Time, Maggie Valley, NC on June 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

We are riding in honor of Dave Norman who was Anthony's mentor and Dave Martin who was important in D5N. We're calling it the DUO DAVE'S LEGISLATIVE RIDE and we're planning it to be an annual event.

Riders will get donations per mile from sponsors and we'll follow state protocol with the money collected after the ride. Pictures will be taken of beginning and ending odometer readings for the trip to make calculating donations easy.

Wheels Thru Time is very excited to have us set up a tent in their yard. Bikers from all over the country visit so we'll have a great audience.

Steph Scribbler has said she'd love to be a speaker at the event. And we'll also have a couple current topics and mention our DAVE'S.

Please mark your calendars to attend the event and if you like to ride up with us you can contact Cynthia Love 706-239-1055 [abateofgad2@protonmail.com](mailto:abateofgad2@protonmail.com) (text or email please) and Mary Ann Callahan 706-224-5766 (text please) for sponsor sign up sheets and more information.

Dave Martin was a District Coordinator for 5 North. He rallied the members and was quite a character in his own loving, funny, sarcastic, caring, wise a\$\$ way. He fought for no discrimination against bikers, my life my choice helmet law, for custom built bikes being allowed titles again, plus a multitude of other laws that discriminate against bikers. It didn't matter if he was at the state capital, the White House, or in your face; he was true to the cause.... Kill a Biker go to Jail.







## DISTRICT 2 continued

Anthony met Dave Norman in 2001 after buying a Sportster. Dave had cool stuff in his motorcycle shop and Anthony hung out there a lot. He was a mechanic and a teacher. Dave took a shine to him and introduced him to important people in the motorcycle industry. They became close friends riding together all the time. Dave was educated and interesting. He talked to everyone about the legislative side of riding and grew District 2 because of his foresight and leadership. As the District 2 Coordinator Dave groomed Anthony from Treasurer to taking over as DC. David was well connected to the motorcycle world and believed in Abate.

## DISTRICT 3

ABATE of Georgia District 3 meets the 4th Sunday of every month at...  
Los Arcos Mexican Restaurant  
1010 N. Tennessee St. Cartersville, GA



To members having a Birthday in JUNE

## DISTRICT 5 NORTH

**District Five North** includes Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Lincoln, Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Wilkes, Rockdale, Walton, Morgan, and Newton counties.

Our meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7 p.m. in the customer lounge at Cycle World of Athens, 4225 Atlanta Hwy, Athens, GA.

<https://www.facebook.com/ABATEGA.D5N/>

**District Five North** is also known as **District 5 North, D5N** and **District Five**. We are a sustaining member of The Motorcycle Riders Foundation, aka MRF.

## District Five North Officers

**Mary Ann Callahan**

District Coordinator  
Activities Director

**Tammy Gray**

Secretary

**Glenn "Doc" Hurley**

Treasurer & Safety Director

**Cam McCallister**

Membership Director  
Legislative Director

**Elden Kasmier**

Road Captain

**Cindy Tatkovsky**

Assistant Activities Director

**Harry Jones**

Sargent of Arms

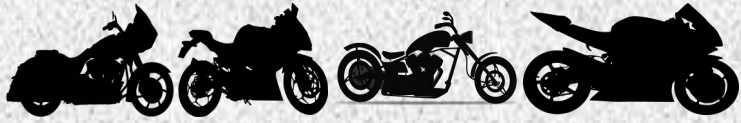
**John "Cowboy" Craig**

Photographer



# "IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT YOU RIDE

# WE ALL RIDE FOR FREEDOM OF THE ROAD"



## DISTRICT 9

District Coordinator... Wayne Hubbard  
Treasurer... Doug Pullen  
Membership Officer... Gene Hartin

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## DISTRICT 10

District 10 meets on the 4th Saturday of the month at Earnie's Lounge 706 North St. Vidalia, GA at 1pm. For more information contact Lacey Poole at 902-805-1778

District 10 covers the following Counties: Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler, and Wilcox. See <https://www.facebook.com/ABATE-of-Georgia-District-10-663888670676315/>

## DISTRICT 11

District 11 meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2PM.  
The Brass Rail..GUYTON

Hi everyone, well May has been a busy and wonderfully blessed month for us here in Dist 11. We had our yearly Jr. ABATE Fishing Derby, hosted by Patricia & Jeff Cantaline, Pat Hardin & Kurt Malinowski. Every year, for many years they have planned and put on the best fishing derby around...Plenty of fun, fishing and food...

We also had a very successful benefit ride for Ann Classen Horn, she has been diagnosed with cancer, and is currently doing her treatments. She was so overwhelmed with the awesome support from our biker community...

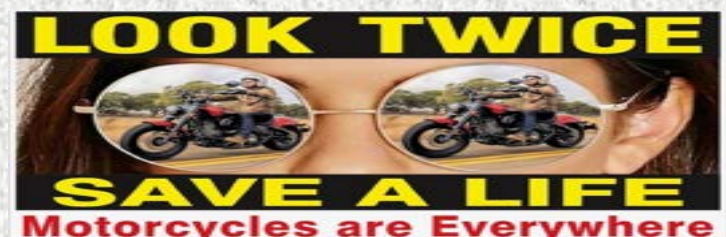
Yesterday, May 20 we supported the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Operation LANK feed the homeless ride, in memory of one of our own, Mark Lank, who we lost in a motorcycle accident last year, actually May 21<sup>st</sup> is a year since we lost him. What an amazing turnout it was, so many showed up to help support this event/cause.

I am so blessed to be a part of District 11, we have aprox. 214 members, and everyone one of them from the youngest junior to the oldest member are always there to help, no matter what.

I hope everyone who gets out on the roads, keeps it safe, and if you don't have your motorcycle license, please take that extra step and get it....It is really important to have that, because if you don't, it will cost you in the long run, trust me.

I am going to scoot on outta here....  
Hope to see you on the road somewhere,

William "Billy Bob" Galloway  
DC, District 11





## DISTRICT 13

District 13 covers the following Counties: Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Thomas, Tift, Turner, and Worth. Meetings are on the first Sunday of each month at 2PM at the Wiregrass Farmer on Gordon Ave in Ashburn, GA. See

<https://www.facebook.com/AbateofGaDistrict13/>

Dennis at 229-924-7449 or  
[DC-13-ABATEGA@hotmail.com](mailto:DC-13-ABATEGA@hotmail.com)  
for more information

## DISTRICT 15

### MEETING

3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
718 Glynn Isles  
Brunswick, GA

D15 at Downtown Brunswick First Friday on May 5th. We will have a Free Ride planned for June 24th. A flyer will be out shortly after we determine our destination for the ride..

D15 had our second Free Ride on April 15th - we rode to the Salty Pelican Restaurant in Fernandina Beach, FL. The weather was perfect and the riding was great. We also had our ABATE booth set up during Brunswick's monthly First Friday on April 7th and continue to put the word out about the Legislative Issues in Georgia. We have another Free Ride Planned in June on the 24th (destination yet to be determined). Our Monthly Meeting are still being held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Buffalo Wild Wings.



*Happy  
Father's  
Day!*



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TANK TOPS \$20  
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)Black or Gray)

LONG SLEEVE  
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LONG SLEEVE  
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(ORANGE)



Dual sided yard signs are being offered for sale by A.B.A.T.E. of Georgia for 10.00 each. Put them in your yard or the yard of your business! **For now, we will make them available at meetings exclusively.**



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[Treasurerabatega@yahoo.com](mailto:Treasurerabatega@yahoo.com)

# RIDE SAFE



# JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 DISTRICT 2 MEETING DISTRICT 13 MEETING 2PM	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 DISTRICT 5 MEETING 7:00PM	14	15 DISTRICT 15 MEETING 7PM	16	17
18 Happy FATHER'S Day	19	20	21	22	23	24 DISTRICT 10 MEETING
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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