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ABATE OF FLORIDA INC. GATOR ALLEY CHAPTER T E R



Volume 32

January/February

Issue 01



American **B**rotherhood **A**gainst **T**otalitarian **E**nactments
Bikers **A**iming **T**owards **E**ducation
DEDICATED TO FREEDOM OF THE ROAD • LET THOSE WHO RIDE DECIDE

PUBLICATION DEADLINE

The **deadline** for all submissions is at the Chapter Meeting or if submitting by e-mail, no later than **6:00pm on the Tuesday following the Meeting**. All Members are asked to submit anything they have that would be of interest to their fellow Members such as stories and/or pictures.

GATOR ALLEY MEETINGS

Board Meetings
January 15, 2015
February 12, 2015

Chapter Meetings
January 25, 2015
February 22, 2015

GOALS & PURPOSE

To fight for the freedom of the road and the freedom of choice for the motorcycle riders of Florida.

To become a powerful and viable political force in Florida by encouraging riders to register to vote and to communicate with their Legislators.

To promote safe riding habits and to promote driver awareness without infringing on the rights of the individual.

To work toward educating our Legislators on motorcycle issues so they are able to make the right decisions regarding Florida's motorcycle riders.

To publish a newsletter to keep members of ABATE of Florida, Inc. **Informed.**

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of ABATE of Florida, Inc. nor those of Gator Alley Chapter. This publication allows members the Freedom of Expression of their own beliefs and opinions. ABATE of Florida, Inc. and Gator Alley Chapter accepts no responsibility for the comments or opinions contained in this publication.

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

This publication is the Monthly Newsletter of:

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WEBMASTER (appointed):



The PREZ: Dave

Hey everybody

Wow. What a couple months this has been. Want to thank everyone who came out and helped support the Gobble Run, we helped a lot of hungry people who really need just that, a little help.

Let's not forget the Heritage Health Run! Great Big smiles on everyone's faces, and on the residence's face's too. What a bunch of nice elves for Santa.

Went through some tough changes with cutting chapter operating cost and we are now moving forward in a Positive direction. Some new changes from state on what and how we can advertise events and what we can and can't do as a chapter. It's an insurance thing. Hope everyone had a Great Christmas and Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing a lot of you at the Swamp Around The City Run. Also don't forget to check the calendar for the Casino Run, and State Meeting in Feb.

I want to thank a large number of people for all the generosity, hard work and true support of their chapter. To Coin the fray's "Ask not what your chapter can do for you! Ask what you can do for your chapter? This is your mind set and with it we can do anything. And I Thank You!!

Ride Hard and Safe
Dave (The Glue)
theglue@naples@aol.com

PR & Communications

THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA!

Well, since Gator Alley has created their Facebook Page, we are up to over 600 friends which include Abate Chapters all over the country and Canada. We will be posting Abate and Gator Alley events and announcements periodically every month. (see ad for the link)

ALSO, We have Motorcycle Awareness Month coming up in May and will be going to the County again for that which is very exciting for Gator Alley to be part of.

If anybody has anything they'd like to contribute, let me know. Thanks. LauraJo

Sunshine Report

November Sunshine Report

Debra Halcomb, Owner of Corkscrew Country Store, Sympathy card for the loss of her husband, Charlie. Both were long time supporters of Gator Alley and Estero Chapters. His battle with cancer was lengthy, but we know that he made the best of his time when he had it. He was loved by many, and will be missed. We all have special memories that included the Corkscrew Country Store, and he will be remembered with fondness and laughter. Our best to Debra and the family.

Ken Keller, a Get Well Recovery card for his slight heart attack scare. Good news is that he hasn't lost his sense of humor as he has been posting some great images that will more than likely end up in someone else's card in the future. We know that he has a heart of gold and that he and Cheryl will be back out on that trike supporting his favorite haunts and bike nights. XO

Leo "Murph" Murphey, a Get Well card for his bike accident on Saturday, November 22 in Ft. Myers. He was taken to Lee Memorial and although the pictures from the hospital were not our "Murph's" best side, his injuries are ones that he will recover from with time and TLC. Luckily, he has Miss Dinah for that! He tells me all the time that he reads my report word for word so I here is one just for you, Murph!!! **WICKED GOOD HEALING TO YOU, MY FUNNY SOUNDING FRIEND!** I am sure he will be the first one to tell you that the roads are packed with idiots who do not know how to drive or they just don't care about anyone else on the road. Be careful out there, people. Eyes and ears open and pay attention. We are glad that this incident is just another story to add to the many tales of his colorful life and not an ending. I am sure there will be a book someday! :-) XO

Debi Reinbold, a Sympathy card for the loss of her furbaby, Penny Pincher. The myth that the biker world is so tough and bad is easily crushed when we lose a member of our fur family. Pets bring us so much joy, and all we can do in return is be grateful for

December Sunshine Report

Dan "Pappy" and Michelle "Mouse Freeman", a Thinking of You card. Followed by a Sympathy card for the passing of Pappy. If any at all, a service may be held for Pappy after the holidays. His family is taking care of each other right now and as per his wishes, he did not want a big fuss. This man touched many lives and will be held dearly in our hearts until we meet again. There aren't very many in his category of fine gentlemen, and we were very lucky to have had his wisdom and kindness in our lives. He cared deeply for so many, and was heartbroken to have lost some of his best friends before him. It must been a helluva reunion up there. Keep his warm hugs and genuine smile with you every day and let his good heart be yours to give to someone else as he did. May God keep his family together and comforted. We will miss you, Pappy. XO

NON-ABATE MEMBERS:

Mickey DeLeo, a Sympathy card for the loss of his father. Once again, cancer shortened the life of a loved one and the loss of a parent is grief we all understand. Our hearts go out to Mickey and his family and may Frank be a Guardian Angel to all.

Eddie Fitzpatrick and girlfriend, Shana Stiehler, a Get Well card for their hit and run incident that severely injured both and totaled the bike. A woman in a black SUV who lives in the Lely area is at fault, and they are still trying to find her to make her take responsibility for her despicable decision to run from the scene after hurting two innocent people. Please be extra diligent out there as bikers are getting hurt every day, both from inattentive drivers and personal fault. The sad part is that we are immediately put in the blame category 99.9% of the time. Eddie and Shana...you have our healing prayers and positive thoughts as you nurse yourselves back to good health and get back to lovin' life.

Alex Zevatsky, son of Zeke, a Get Well card for a very terrifying single car accident he endured up in Virginia. Both of his arms are pretty much hardware now, but he still has them! Zeke was up there the very next day and prognosis is that he will be better with time and lots of TLC which he is getting from his steadfast girlfriend. Life throws some pretty nasty curve balls at us and sometimes, the message we need to embrace is to slow down, make better choices, and change for the better. Eye opener events are just that. We hope that Alex will heal, and dad Zeke can kiss this rotten year of surgeries, the loss of a good friend and a tragic accident good-bye. May 2015 bring us all the happiness we all deserve. XO

Dr. James Kalvin, Jim's dad, a Get Well card for a fall he took from a ladder that broke some ribs and punctured a lung. This 83 year old puts most of us 40-50 something's to shame as you would never know his age from looking at him so it was no surprise to see him up on a ladder...just unfortunate luck that it got the best of him! We know where Jim gets his story telling abilities (and corny jokes) so we look forward to seeing Dr. Dad at the Swamp Buggy Races or at the Busted Knuckle for a cold one. Happy Healing!!!

SPECIAL NOTE:

Once again people, I just want you to know that I am happy to send out cards when I can, but Gator Alley is first and foremost. But. I can't do it alone. I need you to contact me with full names, addresses and information to send out a proper card. Also, as much as I would love to send each and every one of you a card to brighten your day...and I know we could all use one...it gets a little out of hand when we get too far away from our own group. We spoke of how many tragic motorcycle accidents are being reported on the nightly news, and our empathizes for the families are automatic even though we did not know these individuals. All that we can do is remain diligent in the fight for our freedom and respect on the road, but it our responsibility to be aware, pro-

DELEGATE REPORT

STATE MEETING, VERO BEACH, FL TREASURE COAST CHAPTER

President Doc: Accident at Brevard Toy Run. 2 yr. old girl injured, her mother passed away, grandmother was also injured. ABATE has been served with intent papers. Doc and lawyer Larry Crowe, saw the videos of the accident and feel ABATE is not liable. Make no statements on this or any accident except through ABATE attorney.

Avon Park event is on the weekend of Oct 3, 4,5th. ABATE and Avon Park lawyers are working out contracts.

Vice President Mudder: Need lots of volunteers for Avon Park. Fun Runs: discuss after meeting, outside of meetings.

Sgt. of Arms: All inventories should already be completed.

State Office: American income life insurance is not supposed to contact you about buying their insurance but you can purchase more if you would like. All drawing tickets sold and unsold must be in by the next state meeting, Feb. 14th. Get insurance and flyers approved per S.O.P. for all events

Masterlink: Dec. is the last hard copy. Will be in color online.

Webmaster: using Dreamweaver?

Products: Order forms are in the packet for bells and other products.

Legislative: We fight for all motorcycle rights. He will issue watch list for any bills pro or con motorcycle.

Legal: Must follow protocols on all runs. If you directly or indirectly sponsor ABATE runs without insurance you are wide open, personal, for a law suit.

N.C.O.M. Meeting Denver, May 9th.

MASH BASH MEETING

Anyone wishing to help with Mash Bash please come to the first meeting
It will be at the VFW on Thursday Jan 22, 2015, at 7:00PM
Any questions please call me at [239-784-9661](tel:239-784-9661)

Gator Alley Members...
We are now on
Facebook!!!!



GatorAlley Chapter Abate Florida
www.facebook.com/GatorAlleyNaples



CHAPTER MINUTES

CHAPTER MEETING AGENDA Nov 23, 2014 VFW 11:05

WELCOME - PLEDGE – MOMENT OF SILENCE PRESIDENT (Dave)

Thanks to all that attended the “Gobble-Gobble. Lots of food to the St Matthews House. PLEASE ATTEND CHAPTER EVENTS. If possible, make arrangements to be here. Some members want this current board to fail. Let’s not let it. It’s everybody’s responsibility in running the chapter. Just a reminder that we follow “Roberts Rule” in governing the meetings. Non-Chapter items will be discussed at “GOOD TO THE ORDER”.

VICE PRESIDENT (Scott) – Apologies for dropping the ball on the Run and Gobble. Thank you to Laura Jo for stepping up. No Fun Run in Dec.

SECRETARY (LYNN) – No changes to the minutes. Accept the minutes as written in the Newsletter. RiffRaff Made motion. Jenny McCallion seconded.

TREASURER (CARI) – Bank Balances. We only have a few packets of Tickets for State.

SARGENT AT ARMS (BRAD) – Please sign the sheet. All’s good

LEGISLATIVE (LYNN CORR) – Explained the HB to be introduced concerning carrying on campus. Looking forward to Tally. Will confirm actual date.

DELEGATES REPORT (Frizz and Jude) – State Meeting in Vero Beach on Dec 13th. No Updates on By-Laws. 501C could be the issue.

MEMBERSHIP – (Trudi) 356 Members, Handed out pins.

NEWSLETTER (NANCY) – Advertising will be sold by issues not months.

CHAPTER MEETING Dec 28th, 2014 VFW 11:01 AM

WELCOME - PLEDGE – MOMENT OF SILENCE PRESIDENT (Dave)

Happy Holidays. Thank you for the bigger attendance. A BIG thanks to those who attended the Heritage Run. Thank you to Roger for his work. Looking Back, when I ran for President I wanted to increase membership. We’ve only had 20 new members. With 4000 registered motorcyclist in Collier County, we should be able to have more people and keep them.

VICE PRESIDENT (Scott) – Thank you to Roger and LauraJo for the Heritage Run.

SECRETARY (LYNN) – Please read the newsletter for all the minutes. They will need to be accepted for next month. Also, all flyers HAVE TO BE IN SOONER for approval. Casino Run – end of February. MASH BASH by the beginning of March, Preservation Run by the end of March.

TREASURER (CARI) – We have a low bank account. All tickets have to be in to turn over to State by February Meeting.

SARGENT AT ARMS (BRAD) – Please sign in. **LEGISLATIVE (LYNN CORR)** – See Report

DELEGATES REPORT – See Report **MEMBERSHIP – (Trudi)** Excused

NEWSLETTER (NANCY) – Looking at a new company to print and mail newsletters for good price. We will have extra copies for advertisers. Question about addresses to outsiders. Contract will include address info not to be sold or distributed.

SAFETY (RIFFRAFF) – Next CPR/AED class to be in 3-4 weeks. People will need to sign up. No safety person at state. Very low on supplies. We

Must use regular paper, old newsprint not available.

SAFETY (RIFFRAFF) – Safety was a presence at the event on Nov 9th for Bikes for Tykes, and VFW event. CPR/AED classes will be available in January. Thanks to Rusty, Bill and Marie, and George for their continued help.

PR COMMUNICATION/ADVERTISING -SPECIAL EVENTS (LAURAJO SMITH) – “Like us on Facebook”, Heritage Run Dec 7th, Jan 4th is the Swamp to the City, Casino Run in April (Thanks to Margo for stepping up), Needed a chair for MASHBASH. Scarlett and Marie volunteered to chair.

QUARTERMASTER (ROGER) – All ok. Just a reminder about inventories

PRODUCTS – Thank you Tina for volunteering. Remember to buy our products for Christmas Gifts. Lefty to volunteer in Dec.

SUNSHINE REPORT – (MARGO) See Report

OLD BUSINESS - Gobble, Gobble – we donated over \$700 in food to St. Matthews House. Heritage Run – Kick stands up at 10. Thank you to Wiley for being Santa again. Please donate some socks. Swamp Buggy race needs volunteers!!! January 24th & 25th.

NEW BUSINESS – Wiley stepped up to show his appreciation for the Chapter. It was mentioned to check on Pappy. Not doing very well. No new info on the Jamboree.

GOOD TO THE ORDER – Ron Stroeble stressed the importance of supporting our chapter. Buy and wear our shirts. Rick and Tina Loy to have garage sale and will make a donation to Gator Alley. Dec 6th, 7am. Frizz says

should look into making our own bumper stickers. (Magnets)

PR COMMUNICATION/ADVERTISING - SPECIAL EVENTS (LAURAJO SMITH) – Jan 4th Swamp Around the City, Casino Run in April, MASH BASH May 1st, need chairperson for Preservation Run in July. Everglades’s ad is missing. Verified it was in the next newsletter. Lots of info on our FACEBOOK page. LauraJo contacted all of the previous year’s advertisers to confirm or renew ads. Many new ads in the next newsletter.

QUARTERMASTER (ROGER) – All’s good

PRODUCTS - Lefty showed off some of GA products. Rusty to volunteer for next month.

SUNSHINE REPORT – (MARGO) See Report Nothing on a Memorial for Pappy Freeman. Maybe at the Eagles after the Holidays. Lynn – BEWARE of SNOWBIRD Drivers. 2 deaths in the last couple of weeks. Cadillac reiterated that “whether you were in the right or wrong, we all will pay the price.” Don’t be foolish.

OLD BUSINESS – Roger, Great Heritage Run. Thank for the Secret Santa gift of the iPod and Music, Wylie and the Raffettes. Rusty – The patience appreciate everything we do for them. Garage Sale – Thank you Rick and Tina for your donation to the chapter. MASH BASH – We need to know who is chairing each area. Please contact Scarlett if you are. First Meeting in January on the 13th of Jan at the VFW. WE HAVE TO HAVE MORE PEOPLE VOLUNTEERING TO SWAMP TO THE CITY. THIS IS MONEY FOR THE CHAPTER. See LauraJo. People needed for Sunday during the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – State Meeting in February is in Cape Coral. A group will be formed to ride together. Dec State Meeting (Chaired by LauraJo and Margo) will be checking in to hotels in the area.

GOOD TO THE ORDER – Rusty is sponsoring an event to help with ex-

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

LEGISLATIVE REPORT December 2014 by Lynn Corr

Merry Christmas everyone. Here's the latest info I have received from Darrin at State.

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, December 9, 2014.....A Florida lawmaker has filed a bill that would allow people to carry concealed weapons on the campuses of state colleges and universities.

Rep. Greg Steube, R-Sarasota, said he already planned to sponsor the measure (HB 4005) before a shooting incident last month at Florida State University --- but that the attack, which left three people injured and the gunman dead, helps to make his point. The bill, filed Monday, would apply to people who are licensed to carry concealed weapons.

"I think it (the attack) brings it closer to home for people who think these events don't occur in Florida, or that law enforcement can prevent them from happening," Steube told The News Service of Florida on Tuesday.

He said that although Tallahassee and university police officers reached Florida State's Strozier Library less than five minutes after the shooting, more people could have died in that time.

Steube's bill would accomplish, in part, what a 2011 measure failed to achieve. The 2011 bill was derailed due to another shooting at Florida State. Ashley Cowie, 20, was at a campus party when a gun held by another student accidentally discharged, sending a bullet through her chest. Her father, Robert, a Jacksonville resident, traveled to Tallahassee to lobby against the bill, arguing that putting guns in an area where drugs and alcohol are commonly used would make campuses more dangerous.

Robert Cowie's tearful testimony, coupled with the opposition of then-Sen. John Thrasher, a St. Augustine Republican who took over last month as president of FSU, helped end the bill's chances.

"(Thrasher is) the one who shut it down in the Senate," Steube said. "It appears to be a very personal issue with him."

SENATE COULD CONSIDER TOUGHER TEXTING LAW

A Brevard County senator filed a proposal Wednesday that would strengthen Florida's ban on texting while driving. The bill (SB 192), filed by Sen. Thad Altman, R-Viera, would allow enforcement of the ban as what is known as a "primary" offense. That would mean police officers could stop motorists for texting behind the wheel. Under current law, texting while driving is considered a "secondary" offense, which only allows drivers to be cited if they are stopped by police for other reasons. Rep. Richard Stark, D-Weston, also has filed has a similar bill (HB 1) to be considered during the 2015 legislative session.

MEASURE PROPOSED TO RESTORE FELONS' RIGHTS

A South Florida lawmaker Monday proposed a constitutional amendment that would automatically restore the voting rights of most convicted felons. Sen. Jeff Clemens, D-Lake Worth, filed the measure (SJR 208) for consideration during the 2015 legislative session, which starts in March. The proposal would restore voting rights of felons after they have completed their sentences, though it includes exceptions for people convicted of sexual offenses and homicides. Restoration of voting rights has long been a controversial issue in Florida, with Democrats arguing that the state has disenfranchised many people who have served their sentences.

BILL COULD QUIET QUESTIONS ABOUT CRIMINAL PASTS

Pointing to a need to increase employment opportunities and reduce recidivism, a South Florida lawmaker this week proposed restricting the ability of employers to ask about job applicants' criminal histories. Sen. Jeff Clemens, D-Lake Worth, filed the proposal (SB 214) for the 2015 legislative session. The bill would bar employers from asking about job-seekers' criminal histories on initial applications. Employers would be able to ask about such information and consider it after applicants' qualifications have been screened and found to meet minimum requirements for the jobs. The bill says that "reducing barriers to employment for people who have a criminal history and lowering unemployment rates in communities that have concentrated numbers of people who have a criminal history are issues of statewide concern."

ABATE OF FLORIDA INC. GATOR ALLEY CHAPTER

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hello all! Here is the list of renewals for January and February!

JANUARY

Ray Scott
James Cornman
Frank Foster
Barbara Grassi
Tom Howes
Stephanie Kettwig
Don Korff
Cari Lamontagne
George Lenhard
Vito Trupiano

FEBRUARY

Ron Jefferson
Greg Loomis
Roy Steel
Jerry Storey
Rodger Tobey
Bill Tweton
Richard Wedge



SPECIAL EVENTS

Hello Gator Alley Members and Friends of Gator Alley,

We've got some great Events coming up and would love for everybody to please come join us or volunteer. Our proceeds help Abate of Florida, Inc. support Biker Rights, Safety and Awareness and also Stiffer Penalties.

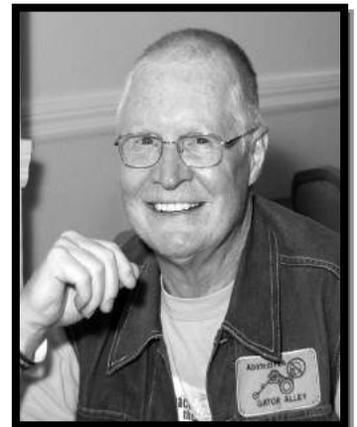
January 04, 2015 - Swampin to the City Poker Run
 January 24-25, 2015 - Swamp Buggy Race (Work Gates)
 April 12th, 2015 - Casino Run
 May 1-2, 2015 - M*A*S*H B*A*S*H
 July, 2015 - Preservation Run (Date to come)

If you'd like to help or support at any of these events, let me know.
 thanks, LauraJo

The Birth of Our Savior

The birth of Jesus caused much excitement in the year 0 AD. As the story unfolds in the Book of Luke we find both Zechariah and the Virgin Mary visited by the angel Gabriel with exciting news. Zechariah will become a father in his old age and Mary would give birth to Our Savior. When Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth, her baby, who would be John the Baptist, leapt for joy in Elizabeth's womb upon hearing Mary's voice. When Jesus was born the sky was filled with singing angels, angels visited the shepherds with the news so they could come visit the baby Jesus, and wise men came from afar bearing gifts for the new born king.

For so many in today's world Christmas has lost the focus of the real reason for the Holiday, and for them it is no longer Holy. It has become a reason to have big sales, wild parties, excessive drinking, and extravagant spending. I hope the commercialism of Christmas didn't take the meaning of the Holiday away from you. Always keep Our Savior foremost in your mind in prayer, good deeds for others, and thankfulness for the greatest gift of all time; the birth of Jesus Christ our savior, who came and took away the sins of the world. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and I wish you a Happy, Healthy New Year.



Jerry Mason, Chaplain

Jerry Mason, Chaplain

2015 SWAMPIN' AROUND THE CITY

BLESSING OF THE BIKES & POKER RUN



2015 SWAMPIN' AROUND THE CITY

BLESSING OF THE BIKES & POKER RUN



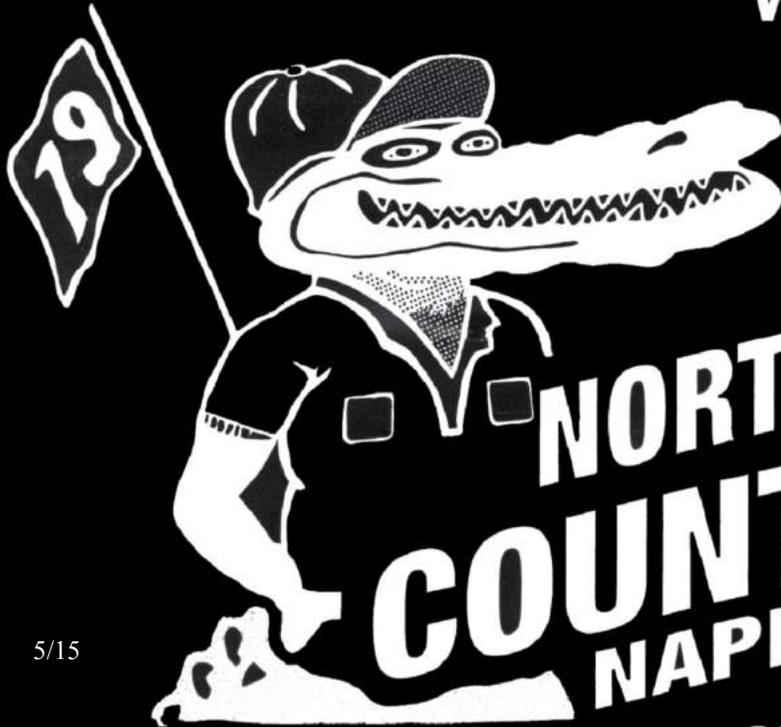
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Events 2015

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAIRPERSON</u>
JANUARY	SWAMPIN TO THE CITY	JANUARY 4, 2015	Laura Jo Smith
FEBRUARY	PRE-TALLY (NON-ABATE)	TBD	Rusty Crans RiffRaff
APRIL	CASINO RUN	APRIL 12, 2015	
	TALLAHASSEE RIDE (NON-ABATE)	APRIL 20, 2015	Riff Raff
MAY	MASH BASH	MAY 1-2, 2015	Scarlett Leeper Marie Ratcliff
JUNE	ELECTIONS	JUNE 28, 2015	Margo Fucco
JULY	PERSERVATION RUN	TBD	NEED CHAIR
	5 STAR	TBD	NEED CHAIR
	STATE LEADERSHIP SEMINARS	TBD	ALL ELECTED NEED TO BE THERE
AUGUST	PLAN YOUR OWN RUN!	TBD	GOT AN IDEA? LETS US KNOW
SEPTEMBER	BIRTHDAY PARTY	TBD	Margo Fucco
OCTOBER	MEMORIAL RUN	TBD	NEW CHAIR
NOVEMBER	RUN AND GOBBLE	TBD	NEED CHAIR
DECEMBER	HERITAGE RUN	DECEMBER 5, 2015	NEED CHAIR

NON-GATOR ALLEY EVENTS

JANUARY 18, 2015	ABATE Southeast Chapter— Pompanno	Motorcyclists Rights Rally	www.abateflorida.com/events
FEBRUARY 14, 2015	ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. CAPE CORAL	STATE MEETING	www.abateflorida.com/events
FEBRUARY 15, 2015	ABATE SOUTERNMOST CHAPTER-TAVERNIER	SCAVENGER HUNT	www.abateflorida.com/events
FEBRUARY 15, 2015	ABATE PEACE RIVER SHAPTER-VENICE	PRE-DAYTONA BIKER BASH	www.abateflorida.com/events
APRIL 23-26, 2015	ABATE LAKE COUNTY CHAPTER	LEESBURG BIKE BEST	www.abateflorida.com/events
MAY 17, 2015	ABATE PEACE RIVER CHAPTER-PEACE RIVER	RUN-A-MUCK	www.abateflorida.com/events

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2015 MRF Legislative Strategy Agenda FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 November 2014

Contact: Kirk 'Hardtail' Willard, MRF President, kirk@mrf.org

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation Releases its Legislative Strategy Agenda for 2015

At the 2014 Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) 30th Anniversary Meeting of the Minds Conference held in September in Kansas City, Missouri, a Legislative Strategy Session was hosted by the MRF's Legislative Committee. As has been done for the past several years, the MRF requested that it be attended by Sustaining State Motorcyclists' Rights Organizations (SSMRO) Legislative and/or Executive Officers. We welcomed several representatives from our Sustaining Motorcycle Clubs and Organizations as well. The goal was to set the MRF's Federal Legislative Agenda for the 2014 Meeting of the Minds to the 2015 Meeting of the Minds annual cycle.

The MRF's SSMRO partners responded once again with a majority attendance that resulted in a healthy dialogue focused on motorcycling. The MRF Legislative Committee remains extremely pleased at the aligned and clear direction we experienced again this year from our SSMRO partners. This level of agreement continues to allow for solid action plans to be developed by our Legislative Committee and our Board of Directors that can be effectively employed by our Government Relations Department and our SSMRO partners while in Washington D.C. and in working federal issues in their home states. Additionally, we continue to see productive gains in state legislative activities that support our federal efforts when it comes to protecting on-road motorcyclists, motorcycling, and its associated lifestyle.

The MRF Legislative Committee continued the practice instituted four years ago of recording one vote per SSMRO in attendance. A full breakdown of each vote can be seen in the upcoming issue of the MRF Reports. The session this year was moderated by MRF Vice President, Jay Jackson, with support from MRF Vice President of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Jeff Hennie, and MRF President, Kirk "Hardtail" Willard.

- MAP 21 upcoming reauthorization (the Highway Bill) – To include Motorcycle 2010 type Grant Funding (the MRF to pursue the current levels of funding along with a request to tighten up language for qualification and use), continuation of the NHTSA Lobbying Ban, pursue reinstatement of the Motorcycle Advisory Council (MAC) to advise the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration), oppose any motorcycling related federal blackmails or federal sanctions contained in the highway bill; closely monitor for any action that would negatively impact motorcycles, motorcycling, and motorcyclists; seek to include HR1861 type language to ban motorcycle specific roadblock grant funding
- SAE Motorcycle Roadside Sound Test – The MRF to NOT promote the use of the SAE Sound Test as a National enforcement standard, majority considered this a state issue
- NHTSA motorcycle-specific checkpoint grant program – MRF to carry out a full effort to cut off specified use of funding for this motorcycle-based discriminatory practice, work with SMRO's to exchange information on passing anti-checkpoint laws within the state, work to get new HR1861 like resolution language written and introduced
- Continue monitoring the Federal Crash Causation study and the MSF Naturalistic study
- Strongly oppose any federal standard proposing stamping and certifying of motorcycle exhaust systems
- Continue to oppose federal agency activity regarding EPA Sound Emission User studies and the encouragement of state activity with federal resources – again deemed to be a state issue
- Work to discourage ALL forms of distracted driving, and oppose all forms of funding blackmails or withholding of funds as related to motorcyclists, watch this issue closely for motorcycle specific discriminatory language
- Continue participation at the federal level where the definition of a motorcycle is under review taking advantage of any opportunity available to enhance and further clarify
- MRF will oppose any motorcycling, motorcycle, or motorcyclist-based discriminatory legislation or rules proposed by the U.S. Congress or by a federal agency

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MRF directed by our SSMRO's to not support the use of ethanol fuels higher than E10 or any other newly developed fuel blends including alternative renewable fuels without further testing on motorcycle engines and obtaining specific recommendations from motorcycle manufacturers approving their use, MRF and SSMRO's to continue to pursue passage of HR875 type language

MRF to continue to insure the inclusion of motorcycles in ongoing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) emerging technologies

- Pursue safer roadway design strategies at the federal level, include safer cable barrier research similar to European improvements in the discussion
- Continue to promote our theme of crash avoidance versus safer crashing, using the principles of HR1498 urging NHTSA to focus on crash prevention and rider education
- MRF to pursue limiting funding of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for their increasing involvement in motorcycling safety issues
- MRF to pursue limiting of funding of CDC on their involvement in motorcycling safety issues through a relevant appropriations bill, pursue CDC lobby ban and seek to remove language where CDC suggests motorcycle crashes are preventable injury events. MRF to continue to support efforts to refocus the CDC on their mission as stated in the letter from Congressman Petri to the CDC on September 27th, 2013
- MRF to monitor private organizations that oppose the legislative agenda or mission of the MRF and investigate their funding sources to make certain they are not receiving federal tax dollars
- MRF to monitor public organizations for funding sources when in opposition to our legislative agenda or mission and respond appropriately if they receive federal tax dollars
- MRF to monitor and report on transportation entities that are active in motorcycling but by their charters or mission statements are or should be non-relevant to motorcycles
- MRF to monitor and report on non-transportation federal agencies becoming increasingly involved in motorcycling such as the Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- MRF to continue to closely monitor the federally mandated Affordable Health Care Act for potential motorcyclist and motorcycling discrimination
- MRF to fully engage the EPA on upcoming activity on motorcycle emission regulations and motorcycle drive train mandates
- MRF to support the Black Box Protection Act, currently HR2414, seek introduction of similar language in the upcoming Congress to regulate black boxes in motorcycles, seek to clarify the rights of the vehicle owner to ownership of the recorded data
- MRF to research fair tolling concepts on federally funded roads and roads supported by federal bonds
- Federal Agency Motorcycle Design Standards – MRF to oppose non-motorcycle manufacturer mandated specific design standards
- There was agreement that while the handling of non-motorcycle powered two and three wheelers such and mopeds, scooters, and the various cabin based steering wheel type vehicles was considered a state by state issue that there would be an effort to get these removed from motorcycle crash statistics if they do not have to follow the existing motorcycle licensing program in the state.

With the current U.S. Congress, combined with our comprehensive and aggressive legislative agenda, the MRF Legislative Committee strongly encourages our SSMRO partners and our MRF members to actively engage in a lively motorcycling dialogue with their U.S. House of Representative and U.S. Senate Members as an immediate priority. We will need a strong presence going into the new 114th Congress as well. If your SSMRO needs any assistance in planning a trip to Washington D.C. to begin or strengthen the dialogue with your members of Congress, contact Jeff Hennie in the MRF office at 202-546-0983 or Jeff@mrf.org. We would also like to encourage you to finalize your plans to attend our national biker lobby day event in Washington D.C., Bikers Inside the Beltway, on Thursday May 14th, 2015. See our website at www.mrf.org for more details.

MRF Legislative Committee Members:

Dave "DAD" Dwyer, George Gorman, Jeff Hennie, Lenny Holcomb, Jay Jackson, Jim "Legs" Korte, Boyd McFail, Bob Myers, Todd Riba, Kirk "Hardtail" Willard (Chair)

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January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 Star Chapter Meetings: <i>West Coast- 3rd Sunday</i> <i>Estero River- 3rd Sunday</i> <i>Southwest- 4th Sunday</i> <i>Peace River- 4th Sunday</i></p>				1	2 Hell Yeah Bike Night	3 Bill's Caf� Bike morning 9-1
4 <i>Swampin around the city</i>	5	6 SW FL Abate chapters Bike Night at The Joint Cape Coral every Tuesday 6pm	7 North Naples Country Club Bike Nite	8	9 Hell Yeah Bike Night	10 Bill's Caf� Bike morning 9-1
11	12	13 SW FL Abate chapters Bike Night at The Joint Cape Coral every Tuesday 6pm	14 North Naples Country Club Bike Nite	15 Board Meeting	16 Hell Yeah Bike Night	17 Bill's Caf� Bike morning 9-1
18 St. Augustine Swap Meet	19	20 SW FL Abate chapters Bike Night at The Joint Cape Coral every Tuesday 6pm	21 North Naples Country Club Bike Nite	22	23 Hell Yeah Bike Night	24 <i>Swamp Buggy Race</i> Bill's Caf� Bike morning
25 Chapter Meeting	26	27 SW FL Abate chapters Bike Night at The Joint Cape Coral every Tuesday 6pm	28	29	30 Hell Yeah Bike Night	31
<p>Last Sunday Every Month Collier County Chopper Swap Meet</p>						

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Hell Yeah Bike Night	7 Bill's Café Bike morning 9-1
8	9	10 SW FL Abate chapters Bike Night at The Joint Cape Coral every Tuesday 6pm	11 North Naples Country Club Bike Nite	12 Board Meeting	13 Hell Yeah Bike Night	14 <i>State Meeting</i> Bill's Café Bike morning
15 St. Augustine Swap Meet	16	17 SW FL Abate chapters Bike Night at The Joint Cape Coral every Tuesday	18 North Naples Country Club Bike Nite	19	20 Hell Yeah Bike Night	21 Bill's Café Bike morning 9-1
22 Chapter Meeting	23	24 SW FL Abate chapters Bike Night at The Joint Cape Coral every Tuesday 6pm	25 North Naples Country Club Bike Nite	26	27 Hell Yeah Bike Night	28 Bill's Café Bike morning 9-1
Last Sunday Every Month Collier County Chopper Swap Meet						

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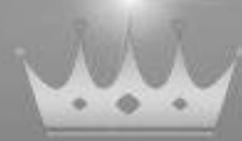


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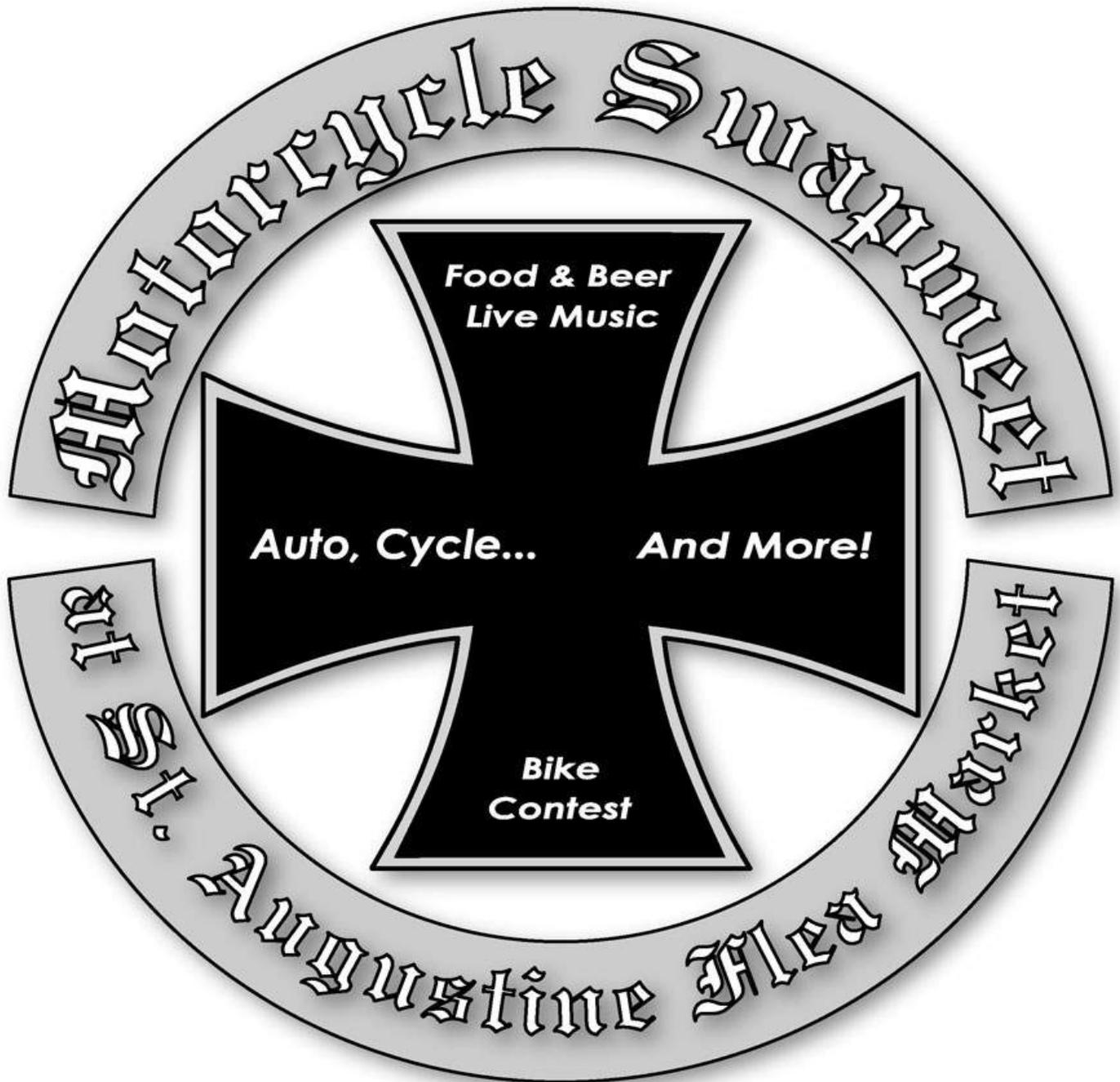
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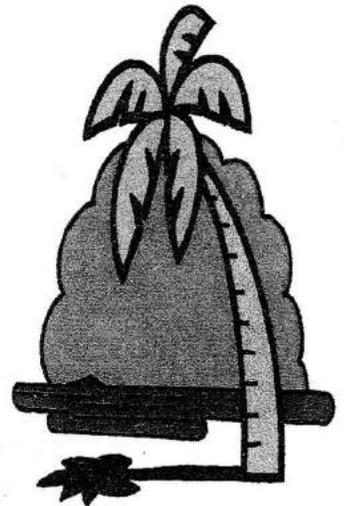
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On the local level our members get out the vote and support candidates who are sympathetic to our issues. We have helped candidates across the state who in some cases faced formidable opponents, yet still won. We also will endeavor to lobby local governments whenever there are issues that need to be addressed, affecting local motorcycle use, ownership, and any discrimination that may result from said use of ownership.

At the state level we have a paid registered lobbyist who regularly visits our state capital in Tallahassee to lobby our legislators on the issues concerning the motorcycling public in Florida. He also finds reliable House and Senate sponsors for the bills we support.

On the national level we are aligned with Motorcycle Riders Foundations (MRF), and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), along with several other international motorcycle rights organizations (MRO's).

As one can see we have our ear to the ground and our resolve tempered like steel. As Americans we have had it demonstrated to us time and again the vigilance is armor of free men and women. We shall not let the armor rust or weaken. With your support we can re-enforce and strengthen the armor for now and generations to come.

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