

# American of Montana Newsletter Bikers Aiming Toward Education



## The “BOOT LEG”

Volume 16, Issue 4

July - August 2011

For a complete listing of  
ABATE of Montana  
Chapters and  
their events, please check  
our website at:

[www.mtabate.com](http://www.mtabate.com)

### “I Have Met the Enemy, and He is Us!”

I hate all accidents. I especially hate all motorcycle accidents because they: (1) cause injury or death to my fellow riders (2) damage or destroy the motorcycle, one of man’s finest creations, and (3) tend to focus adverse publicity upon the entire motorcycling community.

After reviewing Montana motorcycle accident statistics over the past two years, it is painfully evident that, in the words of Pogo, “We have met the enemy, and he is us”. Very simply, we riders are our own worst enemies! In many accidents the motorcyclist either “failed to control” or “lost control” of the bike, or the rider “failed to negotiate” a curve. Seemingly, these accidents are either completely within control of the rider (in other words, the rider is 100% at fault), or the rider may have been able to avoid the accident if he or she were better trained; more familiar with the handling characteristics of the bike; more aware of the potential dangers on all sides; was not speeding; or, was not impaired by alcohol or drugs. Even in accidents where the motorcyclist is not “at fault”, a defensive-minded rider might have been able to anticipate and avoid the accident. For example, when a car turns in front of a bike, the driver often claims that he “didn’t see the motorcycle”. However, the rider must ask him-

self, “Did I do everything I could to make my bike and me visible? Did I anticipate (and expect) that the person coming toward me or from a side road would turn in front of me? Did I plan for an escape route in the inevitability that a driver does something stupid, putting me in jeopardy?” The unfortunate fact is that when a 700 pound motorcycle meets a 3,000 pound vehicle, there is no question who will prevail. The motorcyclist might be in the right, but he or she might also be dead right.

In most motorcycle accidents, especially the fatalities, newspapers love to point out in that the rider “was not wearing a helmet”. It is seldom reported whether the rider had head injuries; the mere fact that he or she was not wearing a helmet seemingly shifts much of the blame to the victim. It is the **perception** of the injuries that the public remembers, not necessarily the reality. Inevitably, after a fatal accident, there are editorials, letters to the editor, and over-zealous legislators who clamor to get on the bandwagon to mandate helmet use for all motorcyclists. I won’t pontificate on helmet use—that is a personal decision each motorcyclist must come to on his or her own, and be prepared to live with the potential consequences. The inconvenient truth is that our government’s role in traffic safety is to protect us from each other, *(continued on page 6)*

### ATTENTION!!!

Email us your picture/s of your “BOOTLEG” shots. We can crop them down to use them so any size will work. So get out there and get us some pics!!



1-800-922-BIKE  
<http://motorcycle.msun.edu>



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## NEWSLETTER

The **deadline** for the next newsletter will be **August 1st**. So please submit all your articles, ads, run dates and just about anything before this date, thank you.

The cost for ads are as follows;  
Full page - \$130, Half page - \$70,  
Quarter page - \$40, Business card - \$10,  
Classifieds - free to members, \$5 for non-members, articles from any member are always appreciated and welcome.

**Please send your requests to BOTH Editors in the same email. Thank you.**

Deadlines for the year:  
December 1st for the January - February issue.  
February 1st for the March - April issue.  
April 1st for the May - June issue.  
June 1st for the July - August issue.  
August 1st for the September - October issue.  
October 1st for the November - December issue.

## PRODUCTS:

### Year Pins:

First to Ninth year - \$2.25  
Tenth year - \$3.00  
Eleventh to Nineteenth year - \$2.25  
Twentieth year - \$3.00  
Twenty First year - \$2.25  
25th Anniversary pin - \$4.00

**NEW!**

### Patches:

State Logo Patches - \$6.00  
DBBNF patch - \$ 3.00

### Can Coozies:

Blue or Black - \$2.00  
Purchase all of the above through the Products Coordinator.

Digital Flags (\$20) and Embroidered Flags (\$40) of the State Logo can be purchased through the State Treasurer.

(All contact information is above!)



# EVENTS CALENDAR

- June 25 - Hi-Line, Gone West Run, Leave 15 West 10AM
- July 9 - Hi-Line, Dam Dino Run, Leave 15 West 9AM
- July 9 - Big Sky HOG Invite, Helena MT Fairgrounds
- July 15/17 - Beartooth Rally & Iron Horse Rodeo, Red Lodge, MT (888)827-2663
- July 21/23 - Montana State Hog Rally, Bozeman, MT (877)340-1542
- July 21/23 - Knieval Days, Butte, MT <http://www.knieveldays.com>
- July 29/31 - Ramble Inn Weekend Rider, Sun River, MT (Cathy 406-264-5906)
- July 30 - Hi-Line, Lewistown Run, Leave 15 West 10AM
- August 3/7 - Testy Festy, Clinton, MT (406)825-4868
- August 8/14 - Sturgis Rally, Sturgis, SD
- August 15 - Hi-Line, Kips Campout, Leave 15 West 10AM
- August 20 - Hi-Line, Wolf Creek Run, Leave 15 West 9AM
- August 20/21 - Beat The Heat Rod Rally, Red Lodge, MT (Marie 406-860-6513)
- August 27 - Hi-Line, Glacier Run, Leave 15 West 9AM
- September 9/11 - Run to the Cascades / Resurrection 2011 (541)647-1630
- September 10 - Hi-Line, Fall Closure, Leave 15 West 12PM



## CLASSIFIEDS **FOR SALE**

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information you can call me (Dawn) at 406-234-4092 if I'm not home leave a message or call my cell phone 406-853-2143. Other pics are available from [yendor1@midrivers.com](mailto:yendor1@midrivers.com) .

**FOR SALE** Or.... Just about anything you want to put in the classifieds!! Wanted, Will Trade, Renting, Need Work and Etc.



# **ABATE CHATTER**

## **State Coordinator**

## **State Deputy Coordinator**

## **State Secretary**

## **State Treasurer**

A big thank you to all the Chapter Treasurers, The books went a "LOT" better this year with the added information that was asked for.

We have a lot on the table that I hope all of your Chapter Officers have taken back to your members for discussion. We will be discussing all of it at the next State Meeting. So bring your questions and ideas to Billings on September 17th 2011.

Please read Rob Knotts's article "A Good Winters Project" on the next page. It sort of goes along with my ramblings in the last newsletter.

Hope to see ALL of you in Billings.

Rodney L. Comer

## **State Membership**

## **Black Eagle Chapter**

Here's a BIG HELLO from the Black Eagle ABATE Chapter here in Great Falls Montana. A few of our members (6) attended the State ABATE meeting in Great Falls this past weekend, June 4<sup>th</sup> to be exact. It was really nice to put some faces to the names of the people we had been talking with over these past few months. Sure would have liked to have had a better turn out with some of our own members. But I know the weather was nice, the first in a REALLY LOOOOOOOONG TIME :o) There was a lot of good information going around that we'll have to share at our next chapter meeting (June 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm at the Ramble Inn). It was nice to meet the members from the Lower Yellowstone, Hi-Line and Helena Chapters. I sure wish we could make it to all their events they have planned, they sure sound like fun, so we'll see what we can do :o) Black Eagle ABATE was established 9-11-2010 with 9 original members. In 9 months we have grown to 94 members. All this growth was done in the cold months, just think what we can do during our events and rides this summer! If summer ever gets here that is :o) I know everyone is eager to get out and ride, but please watch the gravel in the corners, pack for weather changes (sunscreen/raingear) and watch other drivers, they don't see us so we need to watch out for them. Keep the shinny side up and may your guardian angel ride as

your passenger :o)

Connie Anderson

Chapter Secretary

## **Helena Chapter**

It was a great day for a ride - for a while! Then it became a great day to party!

Partly cloudy skies with intermittent sunshine was the order of the day by 9:00AM on Saturday, April 3, 2011. Breakfast was enjoyed by many at the Motherlode then off on the run! 56 hands riding on many different types and styles of motorcycles enjoyed the lovely morning to start the run.

Temperatures reached 54°F. before the clouds closed in and the black sky opened up! The farmers and ranchers were happy but not all the riders shared their enthusiasm. Several riders learned how to ride in a downpour! But it only lasted for a little while, then all were able to get back "on the road again"!

As this is the Polar Bear Run, and it normally is weather only good for polar bears, a long run was not scheduled. Riders were treated at stops beginning at The MotherLode Sports Bar, and continuing to The Grub Steak, The Causeway, The Glass Slipper, The VFW in East Helena, and The Eagles in Helena.

The clear objective is to gather a winning poker hand, but the participants riding along on their favorite two-wheels, along with at least one three-wheeler, were really out to enjoy a spring day of riding in the Rockies and to visit with friends.

At each stop, conversations centered around various brands of motorcycles, along with the add-ons and modifications that are part of today's motorcycling world and also the "catch-up" of the winter, renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. The talk turned to trips and rides that are planned for the 2011 upcoming riding season

Thanks to Gary & Jean Schiller, Jean Zimmerman-Olson, Rachel Ihnot, and Leon Edens of the Helena ABATE Chapter, for all their hard work in making this ride a success!

Karen Lapham

Chapter Member

## **H-Line Chapter**

We had our awareness/poker run May 14 we went from Havre to Fort Benton ate lunch in Belt on into Great Falls then up 87 to the Chester turn off and on to Chester then back home with a stop in Hingham.



We had 11 bikes and 14 poker hands. Mugs won high hand. We battled the wind for the better part of the day but I guess that's riding in Montana. We crossed paths with a group on a poker run from Great Falls but could not find out if they were abate members. Our next scheduled ride is May 21 the Golden triangle run. We will go to Shelby then down to Great Falls planning on eating at the golden corral then back home. The road construction East of us is preventing us from any riding that direction for a few more weeks.

Todd Obrecht

Events Coordinator

**Houndstooth Chapter**

**Lower Yellowstone Chapter**

**Northern Chapter**

**Prairie Riders Chapter**

The Poker Run was on May 14, 2011-- Very cold and damp day-- but had 8 riders to ride to Glendive for the bike show. All in all a good ride, but everyone wished it was a little warmer.

Another run to be planned for later in the summer.

Jerry Smith

Chapter Coordinator

**Southeastern Chapter**

## A Good Winters Project

So the other day I got to thinking about ABATE: what we're doing in the world, where we're going, where're we're going to be in ten years: and that's when it occurred to me that most of us will likely be in a rest home somewhere, drag-racing our mobility scooters up and down the halls, wishing the grandkids would visit more often. It's a fact. Go ahead and take a good look at your fellow ABATE members the next meeting you attend.

How many of them are *way* north of forty? Fifty? Even sixty? So go ahead and do the math and then you tell me, how long have we got as a viable organization without the infusion of new blood... young blood with the energy and motivation to carry on this behemoth? This behemoth that came to life when we were in our twenties and thirties, and still possessed the vim and vigor required to move such a beast.

Let's face it, poker runs and hog roasts are preaching to the choir. They're great for membership renewals and all-around feel-goods, but as a vehicle for attracting the younger generation they suck, big time! Name me one twenty-some year-old rider that wants to hang-out with a bunch of fat old farts riding cruisers.

There's no question that ABATE's changed a lot in the last thirty years, we as individuals have changed a lot in the last thirty years. But nonetheless ABATE's mission remains the same; to preserve our rights as motorcycle enthusiasts. The question is how do we engage the next generation to take the reins (or handle-bars, if you will)?

When I think back about the things that first attracted me to two-wheeled conveyance I have to confess a distinct lack of mental clarity, it has been thirty-three years after all since I spent all of my calf-money on a sparkling clean 1971 Suzuki TS250. You wanna talk about defecating in tall cotton? You should try to imagine a fifteen year-old boy holding the keys to a new (to him) motor-sickle without his mother's permission.

That's the kind of energy we need to capture.

ABATE has been an effective advocate for motorcycle rights since the '70's; we know how to play this game and we have the members to walk (ride) the talk. What we don't have is a clue as to how the younger generation perceives our collective situation, even though (or in spite of the fact) most of us have grandkids their age!

So here's your winter project; ABATE needs to attract new members. How are we going to appeal to the next generation?

I realize this upsets the status quo. We, as a group, are way too comfortable with the way things are.

So-and-so does the hog-roast (He's got a B-in-law who's a caterer and can get us a good deal), and someone else does the music because so-and-so has a tin ear. You know the drill. It's almost by rote these days; *we've been doing it for twenty years...*

And that's where I'll leave it. Let's all think about this throughout the season and perhaps by next winter when we're going a little crazy and the snow drifts are seeping under the front door we can brainstorm a few ideas to recruit the next generation into our cause.

Rob Knotts

Lower Yellowstone Deputy Coordinator



continued from page 1: but never to protect us from ourselves. Self-preservation is our responsibility.

Motorcyclists must be especially aware of potentially adverse actions based upon the public's negative perception of motorcycle accidents. We don't want to give the insurance companies any more excuses to raise our rates or cancel our policies because motorcyclists seem to have an unacceptably high number of accidents. We also don't want to resurrect the debate on mandatory helmet use. Perhaps our greatest concern is health insurance coverage. There is talk in some circles to deny health coverage to motorcyclists because motorcycles are "inherently dangerous". In past accidents, even when the rider was not at fault, there were attempts to deny or lessen payment of health coverage or damages because the rider was not wearing a helmet. Health care reform is currently a major national topic; if the government starts declaring who should and who shouldn't get coverage, you can bet there will be a group clamoring for a lessening or complete denial of health coverage for all motorcyclists. Don't let your actions give the anti-motorcycle advocates more ammunition in their campaign against us!

The bottom line is we all must recognize that motorcycling is a potentially dangerous form of transportation which is subject to a great amount of public scrutiny. We all must do everything we can to mitigate the possibility of our involvement in an accident. It all begins with a desire to learn, followed by willingness to get trained, a lot of practice to increase skill levels, constant vigilance to anticipate and avoid potentially dangerous situations, and a commitment not to speed or ride impaired. To paraphrase a famous Yellowstone bear, "Only you can prevent motorcycle accidents". You owe it to yourself, your loved ones, and the entire motorcycling community.

Carl Lawson

\*\*\*\*\*  
★  
★ Check out our Memorial ★  
★ Page on the website! ★  
★  
\*\*\*\*\*

# In The Headlights



# In The Rearview Mirror





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(Contact info on 2nd page).**

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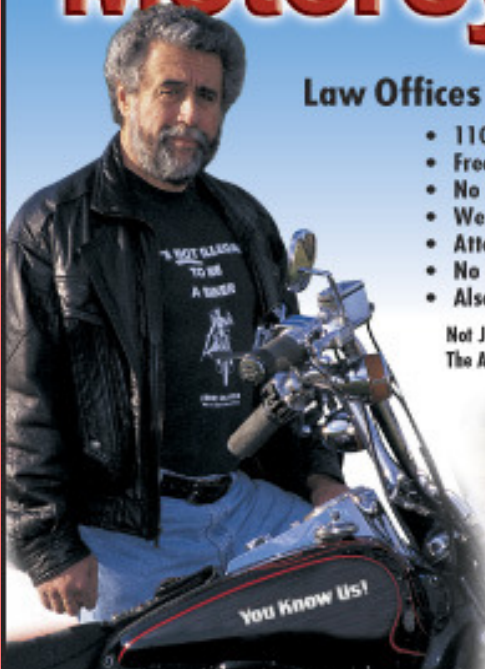
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FONZIE PRODUCTIONS INC. PRESENTS

# RUN TO THE CASCADES MOTORCYCLE RALLY CROOK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup> PRINEVILLE OREGON

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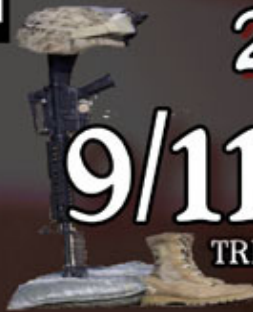


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## Big Sky HOG Invite

So what's the big deal in Helena at the Lewis and Clark County Fair Grounds July 9<sup>th</sup>? What's the big deal a few bikers getting together to share a few old stories and have a few laughs? Here's the big deal. We are opening the event up to other "HOG" chapters as well as other bike "CLUBS" and the general public! Walk in or drive a cage, who cares, just show up to join Big Sky Harley Owners Group's event. Here is what's different. Most bike Rallies are only for bikers, some others only to certain clubs or chapters based on memberships. Example you must own a Harley Davidson motorcycle to become a "HOG" member. (Harley Owners Group). Now you know why some riders are referred to as HOGS. As you would guess most of their "events" are reserved only for their members. This is true for most bike clubs. We decided it was time to invite the public to an "OPEN" event. "Why not, we share the highway together"! Countless times people wave at us from their cages (cars, motor homes, trucks). I remember myself seeing groups of bikes headed down the highway all information. There was always a powerful feeling of admiration and curiosity combined. Couldn't help wonder who they where and were they are going. Helena is the perfect place and July 9<sup>th</sup> is the perfect time to get together and meet

each other. Big Sky Harley Owners Group has invited their sister chapters from Butte, Bozeman, Missoula and Billings to join them in Helena as well as opening up to all other motorcycle clubs and individuals. We have a full day of activities planned. Just getting there is half the fun. Then a bike rodeo, where riders and passengers show off their riding skills. After the rodeo we have a poker run planned around the City of Helena with a chance to win a little cash. Then end up back at the fairgrounds. All the bikes will be staged for a "ride in" bike show. The winners will be decided by "the people's choice". The evening events will be centered around the bands and food/beverage vendors with overnight camping for the brave ones. "Come get to know us" and get a closer look at the bikes. Best of all no charge to get in! Remember, most of us look bad, but we are not. Most of us have big families and little budgets. And most important-- we are your neighbors. NEXT TIME WE PULL UP AT A RED LIGHT TOGETHER AND GLANCE AT EACH OTHER-----MAYBE WE WON'T BE STRANGERS ANYMORE! Sorry fellow members this was not only to remind you what's going on, but more importantly to use as an invitation to family, friends and co-workers, or just cut it out and nail it up somewhere.

Mick

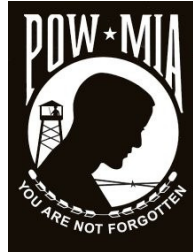


Here is Larry Myran presenting Black Eagle members their Chapter Charter at the last State Meeting. (R to L) Raym Oakley, Amy Oakley, Larry Myran, Connie Anderson, David-Paul Anderson, Cory Eli and Zack Mannon.

# ABATE OF MONTANA



# ABATE



# A.B.A.T.E. OF MONTANA



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**Northern**, 1609 29th St. N. Lethbridge, AB. CA. T1H5K4  
**State Chapter**: 517 N. Stacy, Miles City, MT 59301

Youth Authorization (Adult Signature) \_\_\_\_\_