The NMMRO Newsletter

Freedom & Independence Starts Today

Volume 2, Issue 1
July/August 2010

NEW MEXICO MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
P.O. Box 25281
Albuquerque, NM 87125

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THE NMMRO BOARD:

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Treasurer - Patty Berry
Sgt at Arms - Dave Covert
Editor – Bev Covert
Webmaster-RockHell Thompson
Public Relations – Ed Chaffee
Club Liaison - Pat Larkin

MEETING SCHEDULE:

NMMRO Monthly Meetings:

July – No Meeting

August – 11:00 am
American Legion Post 49
11005 Central Ave NE Albuquerque,
(Exit Eubank go South to Central take a left (east) Post is on the corner of Elizabeth St.)

COC Meeting:
Saturday July 10, 2010
Time: 3:00 pm
Valencia County Fairgrounds in Belen

NMMRO Chairperson's Letter

I got the opportunity to see many of you at the Red River Run, thank you all who came up to say hello. I wish to thank Steve Stucker from Channel 4 Morning News, for his announcements on motorcycle safety the whole week prior to Red River Run, and on Monday when many were still returning and for his announcements during the recent HOG Rally. He recently bought a Harley and took the Basic Safety Rider Course. Steve we wish you safety on the road, welcome to the motorcycle community.

I attended the Best of the West Conference in Idaho, in June (see report in newsletter). I made a lot of good contacts with representatives from different states. I gave a report on all the things our state has accomplished over the last year. Our state was looked upon favorably and it was commented by many, including the President of the Motorcycle Rights Foundation (Hardtail on the unity of our state in addressing issues that infringe on our rights. He was especially impressed with the candidate forum we held in May. Dave Covert has expressed his interest in representing our state as our next MRF representative. Chuck Ryder from the Southern NM Bikers Coalition has also thrown his hat in the Ring. We will set up a meeting by the state MRO's and hopefully choose the best person for the position and also appoint some assistant reps.

It has been a tragic month for motorcyclists on the road. We recently lost NMMRO member, Donald Harris (Scar) from Vicious Cycle MC in a motorcycle accident. The media also reported on several motorcyclists who were also killed on NM roads. Nationwide statistics show that motorcycle accidents are on the decline by 16%, but in our state they seem to continue to increase. Representative Rick Miera recently contacted me, and he wants to work with us and DOT on safety awareness. We also lost an important and influential motorcyclist activist, Sputnik Strain 70 who died of a heart attack in June. He was from the state of Texas and was a strong activist in his state and on a national level in the fight for motorcycle rights. I am also sad to report Preacher Ed lost both of his parents to illness in the past month. We often saw Betty, his mother at the runs or events; she always had a kind word or smile for everyone. We considered her a member of our motorcycle community. My condolences, thoughts and prayers go out to all the persons who have lost a loved one.

The next NMMRO meeting will be held on August 21 at a new location at 12 noon, at the American Legion Post 49 (Exit Eubank, go south to Central take a left (East). It is on the corner of Elizabeth Street. We cancelled our July meeting as it falls on the same weekend as the Grants Fire and Ice Run. I have recently heard comments on how there are too many meetings to attend, so we are going to cut back on the meeting schedule. We will notify you of the changes. We know you all have busy lives and there are a lot of events during the riding season that make it difficult to attend.

Nominations for NMMRO board members were held at the June meeting. All the officers nominated ran unopposed, so it was voted by the members at the June meeting, that we have the election at the same time (Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure were

followed). Courtney Farris was re-elected as Vice Chairman, Patty Berry was re-elected as Treasurer, Dave Covert was re-elected at Sergeant of Arms, Beverly Covert was elected as Editor, and Preacher Ed Chaffee was elected as Public Relations Officer. Welcome to all the newly elected officers. Next time you see one of your board members please remember to thank and appreciate them, they put in many long hours making sure you rights are not being violated.
I've recently heard from many you that you are receiving motorcycle related citations. Please remember to notify us of any citations you may receive. I have a call into the persons who write the motorcycle laws for a copy of the NM laws for our review. If we are aware of what is occurring we can address the issues. Several members of the motorcycle community are going to meet with someone from the State of NM Deputy Counsel Office of Legal Affairs to address the wording on the previous Gang Bills that came before the Senate and House of Representatives in 2010. Our hope is to change the wording on future bills and how they affect motorcyclists.

Remember NMMRO dues are due in July. Please contact Patty Berry if you have any questions at 934-1548. Thank you all for your continued support. God Bless and be safe.

Annette Torrez, NMMRO Chairperson ◻

Best of the West Conference

I recently attended the Best of the West MRF Conference in Boise Idaho in June. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation is the leading voice for you, the street rider. In Washington, D.C. The MRF firmly supports the rights of the individual state governments to enact legislation without the threat of federal intervention. They stand for freedom of choice, freedom from unsafe highways and freedom from unfair and overly restrictive federal and international regulations. Many states were represented by officers or members of the motorcycle rights organizations and clubs.

I had a blast, and learned so much which can help assist our state with issues we face. I met the MRF board and representatives from different states. I made a lot of new and important contacts. I met members of the Arizona and Texas MRO's that committed to assist us in our states issues, and in return we assist them. We are stronger in numbers, knowledge and show of support. I gave a report on our state, and shared with them the things we have accomplished in the past year. Our state was looked on very favorably. I got many positive comments on the strength of our membership from clubs and independents in the NMMRO. The NMMRO's candidate forum in May was a big hit. It was commented on by the president of MRF Hard Tail, that no state has held a candidate forum of this magnitude, with such a diversity of candidates. They were impressed with our letter writing campaign and lobbying that helped kill the Gang Bills in the 2010 legislation. Chuck Ryder from the Southern New Mexico Bikers Coalition also attended the conference.

They discussed how impaired riding is increasing becoming a serious problem in the motorcycle community. Impaired riding occurs in a variety of conditions, the most common concern is alcohol, but can also include under the influence of prescription drugs, illegal drugs and over the counter drugs. Be aware of the hazards, and assume personal responsibility, we can make a difference and perhaps save a life and help reduce fatality numbers.

Seven states are currently fighting helmet laws at this time. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) has repeatedly called for a national mandatory helmet law. , Lautenberg said that there should be a mandatory motorcycle helmet law for all riders in America. This is typical for the 86-year-old senator. He has routinely attempted to put a federal mandatory helmet law in place before. Lautenberg currently chairs or sits on every single senate committee that has jurisdiction over roads and road safety. They also talked about distracted driving, and how dangerous it is especially to a motorcyclist on the road. Texting and the use of cell phones while driving have taken the lives of many on our highways. A motorcyclist was recently killed by a woman who was doing her nails while driving in Illinois. The son of the motorcyclist killed, led a campaign to increase the penalty to the woman driving the vehicle and was successful.

Idaho police have recently been setting up what they call safety awareness road stops and claim it is a way to educate motorcycles on safety. In all reality it is just a road block and another way to target and harass motorcyclist.

They are trying to stop the Right to Repair Bill. Current laws currently force a vehicle owner to return to dealerships for diagnostic issues and because everything is computerized, these days we don't have much choice. Many small independent shops have shut down because they don't make diagnostic tools, training and software available to the regular public. At his time this is a very slow moving bill.

Many issues kept a HIPAA Bill from getting through both bodies to the congress; this bill would have made it legal for health insurance providers to refuse payment for an injury simply because it came from a motorcycle mishap.

Many states are currently working with DOT of Safety Awareness Campaigns and getting messages of motorcycle safety on DOT signs. This is something we are currently working on.

Motorcycle fatalities dropped almost 16 percent according to a Governors Highway Safety Association.

These are just a few highlights of what was discussed. I took a lot of good notes, made a lot of good contacts and I promise you I will take everything I learned and use for the betterment of our motorcycle community.

Annette Torrez – NMMRO Chairperson ◻

Condolences

Sputnik – June 24, 2010 – ***Texas*** - The Texas Motorcycle Rights Association is sad to announce that our great Leader, Sputnik, passed away suddenly at approximately 5:00 AM this morning. I woke up at 5:45AM to find him on the floor at the state office. It appeared that he crossed over quickly and did not suffer, from a massive heart attack. I cannot begin to even put into words how devastating the loss is to the biker community, to his family, and to us who live with him at the state office, for all TMRA2, and to all of his brothers and sisters who loved him dearly. Sputnik will go down in history as the greatest Motorcycle Rights Activist in the History of our Nation and we as his Task Force were truly blessed to be a part of this great Warriors life…God has a special place in Heaven for Sputnik and he told me yesterday that wanted all of us to continue the political work and to carry forward with his final Rally for the Birthday Bash in July. As soon as we know the Memorial Service information we will send out another broadcast.

Donald Harris (Scar) - Our condolences, thoughts and prayers go out to the Vicious Cycles MC, wife, daughter, family and friends of Donald Harris (Scar) who recently passed away from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. Donald was a member of the Vicious Cycles MC, NMMRO and the COC.
Rest in peace Scar.

Candidate Forum

The NMMRO hosted a "Meet the Candidate's Forum" in May. The board met prior to the meeting to compile a list of questions for the candidates, on issues that affect the motorcycle community. The members who attended were also able to address the candidates and ask questions.

Candidates were asked for their support on the Failure to Yield Bill. Issues addressed included, the City Wide Vehicle Noise Ordinance and discrimination against bikers. Candidates were asked if they would support motorcycle organizations, motorcyclists and the issues we face.

The candidates were educated and shocked on issues motorcyclists face. They all said they would support us and would meet with us to discuss issues at hand if elected, or offer assistance if they are in another position where they could be of help to us. They all suggested that we boycott establishments that discriminate against bikers and encouraged us to continue to fight for our rights.

Representative Rick Miera said he would continue to support us and assist us during legislation in our fight against the Gang Bills, and sponsor The Failure to Yield Bill. Rick has always supported the motorcycle community. We thank Rick for his past and continued support.

It was impressive that these candidates took the time to address issues, concerns and answer our questions. These candidates saw past the leathers, colors and motorcycles and saw that we are members of the community just like anyone. We encourage everyone to become registered voters and ask that you exercise your constitutional right to vote and suggest you take the time to listen to the candidates and vote in those who are open to the issues we face. Thank you to all the candidates who took time from their busy schedules to meet with us. We also wish to thank Tito Chavez from the New Mexico Film Producers Association who helped set up this forum and get the candidates to address our organization.

List of Candidates who spoke include; **Rick Miera**: State Representative, **Doug Turner**: Governor, **Manny Gonzales**: Bernalillo County Sheriff, **Harry Montoya**: Public Land Commissioner - **Lawrence Rael**: Lt Governor, **Dan Serrano**: District

1, Bernalillo County Commission and **Edward Arnold Padilla** for District Judge who had addressed NMMRO and COC officers a week prior.

Annette Torrez - NMMRO Chairperson ◻

Farewell to a Warrior…

We are sad to announce of the passing of Sputnik Strain, 70 on June 24, 2010, he was a great leader and motorcycle activist from the state of Texas. He often strode through the button-down world of the Texas state Capitol wearing a Mohawk. Sputnik was also the U.S Defenders National Legislative Advisor. Just one look at Sputnik left no doubt that freedom was his absolute first priority in life. He had FREE tattooed on his forehead. Sputnik was also a Viet Nam Veteran.

He had been working at the state office of the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association when he apparently died of a massive heart attack. Strain had just finished lobbying this past session for one of the most comprehensive motorcycle safety bills in the country. He will also be remembered for his determined push to repeal the motorcycle helmet law in Texas. The legislature approved the repeal in 1997.

After several years driving back and forth to Austin to acquaint lawmakers with Texas motorcycle right's issues, he finally moved to the Austin area, after that, Sputnik became a daily fixture in the Texas State Capitol during legislative sessions. We have heard stories of how he walked the halls of the Capitol building, greeting State Representatives, poking his head in their offices, relentlessly reminding them of important issues coming on the docket that effected motorcyclists and pointing out the fact that thousands of bikers were watching.

The loss of this great Warrior is devastating to the biker community as a whole. He will go down in history as the one of the greatest Motorcycle Rights Activists in the history of our nation. We offer our sincerest condolences, thoughts and prayers to his family and friends. I have heard many great comments and stories from those who knew this great man and were privileged to have heard him speak, they were all honored that he had been a part of their life.

Annette Torrez ◻

Do you get an Itch to ride during the week?

If the answer is yes, I have great news for you!

Since the closing of Garduno's on the Green and Athena's Place restaurants, many of you have been looking for Bike Nights to go meet up and socialize with fellow riders. The following is a list of where you can go to do just that!

Tuesday's @ Hooters on San Mateo sponsored by TopNotch Ryderz

Wednesday's @ Buffalo Wild Wings sponsored by R&S Motorsports

Thursday's @ Fudrucker's; also, Stoneface Tavern is hosting a Bike Night every other week

Friday's @ Elliot's sponsored by Sinful Dolls and Vicious Cycle

The time for Bike Night is 6pm – 9pm for all locations, and is usually followed by a ride!

Enjoy the season & Ride Safe!

Cassandra

P.S. If your club/group/organization sponsors a Bike Night and you would like it put in our newsletter, please contact me. cassfischer@hotmail.com ◻

Events Calendar 2010

July 1-3	NM State HOG Rally	www.nmstatehograll y.com
July 3-4	2nd Annual Freedom Rally	Alamogordo
July 10	COC Meeting	Valencia County Fairgrounds
July 10	Mz Behavin' Diva Day	www.showstoppers.net
July 16-18	Fire & Ice Rally	Grants
July 23-25	Rough Rider Rally	Las Vegas
August 1	Poker Run	Elk's Lodge in Rio Rancho
August 9-15	Sturgis	South Dakota
Sept 10-12	Route 66 Festival & Rally	Santa Rosa
Sept 15-19	Golden Aspen Rally	Ruidoso

Reminder NMMRO dues are due in

July

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Individual Membership	**$20.00**
Individual Renewal	**$15.00**
Couple Membership	**$30.00**
Couple Renewal	**$20.00**
Club membership	**$100.00**
Corporate Membership is	**$100.00**

Note: Since there will not be a July Meeting you can drop off dues at Patty's Office on 10th & Coal.
Please call her first @ 505-934-1548

NMMRO Membership
Single Membership $20.00
Couples Membership $30.00
Corporate Membership $100.00
Renewals:
Single $15.00 Couple $20.00
Please send info & checks to:
NMMRO
PO Box 25281
Albuquerque NM 87125

Name:_____
Address:_____
_____
(City, State and Zip Code)
E-mail: _____
Phone Number: _____
Are you a registered voter? _____

Motorcycle Clubs Help Host Schooltimes Duds in Madrid on June 26, 2010

Several years ago, a few of us living in the Madrid, Cerrillos and La Cienaga area heard about a first grader at Turquoise Trail School arriving the first day of school wearing duck taped shoes. It so touched our hearts that we thought there had to be a way to help.

In 2002, we started Schooltime "Duds" Community Group. ("duds" being a slang word for clothes back in the day--aging ourselves, we know!).

Our committee holds one fundraising event per year, which includes: a Motorcycle rally and rodeo, live music, food/beverages, arts/crafts vendors, dunk tank, face-painting and a great raffle.

The School staff provides us with the names of children they feel most in need and we buy as many gift cards as we

can, to use for clothing and shoes. We also provide the staff with an assortment of sweat pants for the very young ones, as often times the excitement is a bit much. This gives them dry bottoms for the rest of the day!

The Staff will contact us throughout the year if an emergency arises, such as needing winter coats and boots.

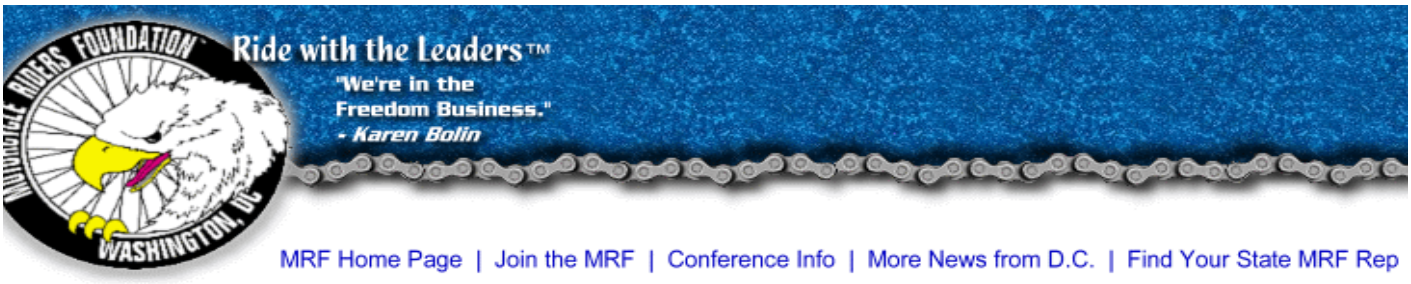
Our event has grown from only being to help 10 kids the first year to over 60 last year!

A couple years ago, two of our members passed away and with donations received in their memory, we helped the School build a small greenhouse, which will be used as an educational tool.

To hear of a child telling his teacher "Look, Mrs. Smith, my first, very own, NEW pair of jeans!!" Makes it all work while.

This event has been able to help so many children because of the combined efforts and support of so many motorcycle clubs; The Bandidos (one member is on the Committee), the Christian Motorcycle Assoc., The Priesthood and various other motorcycle clubs. Thank you to all who attended and helped support our event.

Marilyn Lewis
Schooltime Duds Committee Chair ◘



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10NR20 - MRF News Release - Lobby Ban Supported

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
1 July 2010

Contact: Jeff Hennie, Government Relations and Public Affairs

Lobby Ban Supported - Washington DC
Today, 5 Members of the House of Representatives introduced a resolution that "supports efforts to retain the ban on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's ability to lobby state legislatures using federal tax dollars and urging NHTSA to focus on crash prevention and rider education".

The ban is current Federal law, the resolution simply supports the lobby ban and puts the Obama Administration on notice that this is an important law and should remain in place.

There is recent activity to support the fact that the current Administration would like the ability back to lobby state legislatures. At a hearing, Obama's NHTSA chief, Mr. Strickland, has said the motorcycle helmet use will be the core of NHTSA's approach to motorcycle safety. He went on to say that "anything the Congress does that would support the movement of riders into helmets would produce the desired effect of safety."

So, we are pleased that Representatives Sensenbrenner (WI), Ryan (WI), Rehberg (MT), Lanborn (CO), and Petri (WI) have all sponsored H Res 1498 today, and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) hopes more of their colleagues will follow suit. The bill is a direct result of the MRF's spring ride to the capitol known as **Bikers Inside the Beltway**. A group from ABATE of Wisconsin brought this issue up with Congressman Sensenbrenner and he agreed to do the resolution.

Prior to 1996, NHTSA could and did send paid staff to State legislatures, uninvited, to testify in favor of State helmet laws. This irked

the constituents and Members of Congress, who felt that it was a waste of tax payer money. They felt that the feds should not be able to use taxpayer moneys against the will of the taxpayers. So, Congress passed a law that forbids NHTSA staff from entering state assemblies uninvited. Sensenbrenner led the charge back in '96.

He had this to say about the issue "It is the job of Congress to defend the freedom and individual responsibilities that motorcycle riders across the nation enjoy as they travel the open roads of America," Congressman Sensenbrenner said. "Mr. Strickland's plan greatly concerns me as it is not the job of the federal government to create one-size-fits-all helmet laws. Mr. Strickland appears to be intent on pursuing all means possible to enact mandatory helmet laws, either at the federal level or by violating the principles of the 10th Amendment and bullying the States into enacting mandatory helmet laws."

Down the Road

It's with a heavy heart that we have to report this next bit, as many of you know, Sputnik Strain passed away last week. For those of you who aren't familiar with Sputnik's life work. I'll try to sum it up. Sputnik organized the State of Texas motorcyclists and convinced a bulk of them to run for elected office. He was so effective, that by 1996, the entire State House and Senate were run by biker majorities. It didn't matter to Sput if you were a Republican or a Democrat, just that you were a biker. They held the majority until just few years ago. It is, without question, a feat that has gone unrivaled in the motorcyclists' political world. Services for Sputnik Strain are going to be held July 10th, in Austin, Texas.

10NR18 - MRF News Release - California Anti-Motorcycle State Senator at it Again. Help us kill SB-435.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 28 June 2010 Contact: Jeff Hennie, Government Relations and Public Affairs

California Anti-Motorcycle State Senator at it Again. Help us kill SB-435.

California State Senator Fran Pavely, who represents Hollywood, has brought her anti-motorcycle agenda alive once again. And it's worse than ever. Pavely, a Democrat, has amended her legislation so that now it would make aftermarket exhaust systems on any motorcycles illegal. SB-435 gives law enforcement the ability to inspect motorcycles as they see fit for an EPA approval stamp. If they can't find the stamp, the motorcycle is illegal.

We here at the MRF love our clean air and could not agree more that California's air should be as clean and fresh as possible. It seems this isn't about fresh air as one would think. You see, Pavely's bill started life as smog check bill forcing motorcycles to participate in the same emissions program as autos and trucks. With motorcycles maintaining about 3% of California's entire vehicle population, this expensive proposal went nowhere.

So what does a Hollywood senator do when her anti-motorcycle, anti-freedom agenda fails? Change the bill! The new SB-435 doesn't look for polluters; it punishes people who don't have the EPA stamp required by manufacturers, regardless of the actual emissions. The stamp is often hidden from view due to aesthetic purposes, or in the case of older bikes with stock pipes, just isn't there.

SB-435 is scheduled to be heard today, Monday June 28, 2010. Please take action. Instructions are below. Help defend your freedom.

ABATE of California along with the Motorcycle Riders Foundation is asking you to assist us by voicing your disapproval of this particular piece of legislation by calling Assembly Transportation and Housing Committee Chairman Bonnie Lowenthal and asking that the Chair not support this bill.

You can reach Mrs. Lowenthal at:

Additional calls may be also placed to Governor Schwarzenegger, informing him of the potential loss of tourism and tax revenue in the event SB-435 is passed. ABATE of California asks that you send cards, letters, faxes, or emails as promptly as possible.

California Governor: http://gov.ca.gov/interact

For those who would like further information to help fight this, please contact Carol Cromwell at the ABATE state office at: 10240 7th Avenue, Hesperia 92345-2631. Telephone: (760) 956-1669. (Fax) 760-956-6519.

Capitol Office
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P.O. Box 942849
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Fax: (916) 319-2154

District Office
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Suite 804
Long Beach CA 90802
Tel: (562) 495-2915
Fax: (562) 495-2983

THE AIM/NCOM MOTORCYCLE E-NEWS SERVICE is brought to you by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), and is sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester. For more information, call us at 1-(800) ON-A-BIKE or visit us on our website at www.ON-A-BIKE.com. NCOM BIKER NEWSBYTES Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

HALF A BILLION E-CYCLES TO HIT THE ROAD

Worldwide sales of electric powered two-wheel vehicles are set to explode over the next six years. According to a recently released study by U.S. based firm, Pike Research, 466 million e-bikes, e-motorcycles and e-scooters will be on the road by 2016.“Demographics and economics are aligning to create a strong market opportunity for two-wheel electric vehicles,” Pike's industry analyst Dave Hurst told Cycle Canada. “In some countries, these vehicles will be engines of economic growth, while in others they will be signals of broader consumer behavioral shifts.”
Not surprisingly Hurst claims that China will dominate the global electric two-wheel vehicle market, representing more than 95% of sales during the next six years. E-bikes will hold a 56% share of the market, predicts Hurst, followed by e-motorcycles at 43% and e-scooters in distant third with less than 1%. ◻

News & Notes

AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION
13515 Yarmouth Drive / Pickerington, Ohio 43147 / Phone (614) 856-1900 / Fax (614) 856-1920
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Posted July 1, 2010

U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) has introduced a resolution urging the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to concentrate on motorcycle crash prevention and rider education instead of lobbying state lawmakers to enact mandatory helmet laws.

The resolution is in response to a statement made by NHTSA Administrator David Strickland in May reemphasizing Congressional testimony he gave in March when he stated that the core component of NHTSA's motorcycle safety plan is to increase helmet use and "anything the Congress does that would support the movement of riders into helmets would be efficacious of safety."

On April 2, AMA Senior Vice President for Government Relations Ed Moreland sought a clarification of Strickland's comments. The letter can be read here:

AmericanMotorcyclist.com/legisltn/documents/Strickland_Olver_Appropriations_3-25-10.pdf.

Strickland's response can be read here:

AmericanMotorcyclist.com/legisltn/documents/Strickland_Response_Helmet_5-24-10.pdf.

The resolution -- H. Res. 1498, which was introduced on July 1 -- supports efforts to retain a federal ban on the agency from using taxpayer dollars to lobby state and local legislators. Reps. Denny Rehberg (R-Mont.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Tom Petri (R-Wis.) co-sponsored the measure.

The anti-lobbying language was originally written into the Transportation Equity Act approved by Congress in 1998.

"It is the job of Congress to protect the rights of the states and also the freedom and individual responsibilities that motorcycle riders across the nation enjoy as they travel the open roads of America," Sensenbrenner said.

The AMA's Moreland thanked Sensenbrenner for his efforts.

"The key to reducing motorcycle injuries and fatalities is found in the implementation of strategies that prevent the likelihood of a crash from happening in the first place," Moreland said. "We are pleased to see that Rep. Sensenbrenner and his colleagues who back his resolution are mindful of the importance of motorcycle crash prevention, and the pursuit of rider education as a primary means to reduce injuries and save lives," he said. Sensenbrenner's resolution notes that federal law currently states: "No funds appropriated to the secretary for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shall be available for any activity specifically designed to urge a state or local legislator to favor or oppose the adoption of any specific legislative proposal pending before any state or local legislative body." The resolution also states that federal lawmakers support efforts to retain the lobbying ban, encourages continued growth in motorcycling, recognizes the importance of motorcycle crash prevention, and encourages the traffic safety agency to focus on crash prevention and rider education "as the most significant priorities in motorcycle safety." ◻

Newsletter Submissions…

The Safety Corner....I'm going to dispense with a safety message this month and address the rider I almost killed today, which of course, would have put him in the "passing's" column. I don't know him but if he's reading this, I hope he's showered and changed his drawers. He was riding a Harley or Kawasaki, I couldn't tell. I didn't see anything other than the bike was a bagger and the bags were white, and he found himself between two trucks, riding the double yellow line - me coming down the hill into the very tight left-hander, the service truck you were passing heading up the hill and bearing right. It's Tuesday, June 22nd and the time was about 1215 and we met in the first real tight left-hand turn leading out of Cloudcroft to Alamogordo. If you're reading this, know that we missed each other by about a foot. I could have killed you if I hadn't been keeping my line, on my side of the road. Wouldn't have been my fault, you know - you shouldn't have been there. You should have been smart and been behind the truck going up, no matter how slow he was going, but even if it wouldn't have been my fault, I probably wouldn't have survived either.

Where did you get the balls to be where you were, to do what you did? Why weren't you riding smart and safe? What in God's name possessed you to ride the double line between two vehicles on a tight mountain road? How stupid are you?

As I write this I get angrier and angrier. Here we stress share the road - get along with the four wheelers, ride safely and responsibly, position yourself, be visible, ride aware and you do this stupid stunt! Maybe you need to realize when you pull out to pass, you don't do it on a double line, on the outside curve, on the blind side, or maybe you just knew that I wasn't really there... but I was, and you could be dead. Ron White, the comedian, was right when he said "you can't fix stupid." Go be stupid somewhere else. Get the hell off my roads. You act like that, I can't be responsible for you, and I won't be.

Maybe we shouldn't worry so much about educating the drivers, sounds like we need to go back to educating the riders. My God... when I think about what could have been, it makes me sick. I should have pulled a u-turn and gone after you, caught you and told you what a jerk you were. I didn't. Shame on me, but if it ever happens again, you can bet I'll find you, hunt you down, tell you what an ass you have been, tell you how close you came to destroying your life... and mine as well.

Submitted by Chuck Ryder, SNMBC http://www.snmbc.us ◘

This one's too good to pass up...From the newest edition of the Eagle, the ABATE of North Idaho newsletter....

Talk about distracted driving... Published Friday, March 5th, 2010.

A two-vehicle crash in Florida happened because the driver was shaving her bikini area while her ex-husband took the wheel from the passenger seat, according to a report in keysnews.com.

The incident happened at about 11:00 am on Tuesday, on Cudjoe Key when Megan Mariah Barnes' 1995 Ford Thunderbird struck a pickup from behind at about 45 mph, the report stated. Passengers in the truck suffered minor injuries.

Barnes, 37, was allegedly not supposed to be driving. According to the report, she had been convicted the day before of DUI with a prior and driving with a suspended license. Barnes is charged with driving with a revoked license, reckless driving, leaving the scene of a wreck with injuries, and driving with no insurance. Her passenger Charles Judy was not charged.

According to the article, Barnes said she was shaving behind the wheel to get ready for a liaison with her boyfriend in Key West.

It's gotta be true, nobody in their right mind would invent that one...

Submitted by Chuck Ryder, SNMBC http://www.snmbc.us ◘

Tips For The Season From Show Stoppers Unlimited

Bikers Beware!!!!

Riding tips for the summer

Active Scanning

Don't become fixated on any one object. You constantly need to be looking around at anything that may potentially be a danger. And remember to use your mirrors! How can you move out of the way of a truck flying up behind you if you never look back? It may be tempting to look around and take in the beautiful scenery you are passing, but if you are the driver you need to DRIVE. If you want to look around at the beautiful scenery then maybe you should be riding on the back!

Keep Your Forward View Clear

Always try to position yourself where you can see what is going on up ahead. If you are in heavy traffic, on the freeway, going 55 MPH, don't ride right behind a big moving truck. If traffic suddenly comes to a dead stop, you aren't going to know it until the driver of the truck realizes it and slams on his brakes. THEN, after all that happens, you will have to slam on your brakes. If you keep a clear view ahead, you will have much more time to react to upcoming hazards if you can see at least a few cars up.

Lane Positioning

Lane position ties in with your forward view. Don't ride in the center of a lane! If you choose the left or right third of the lane, even if you can't see over a vehicle, you may be able to see around it. Another bad thing about the center of a lane to think about is traction. Engines, transmissions, radiators, and rear differentials are all located between the tires of cars and trucks, (the center of the lane!) All that oil, grease, and coolant can get pretty slick. Especially when you live in New Mexico and go 50 days with no rain to wash it off.

Riding In the Rain

- Here in New Mexico, we don't have to worry about rain gear very often. But we all know how fast that can change. A storm can roll up on you in literally a few minutes. The most dangerous part of a rain storm is usually in the first 15 to 30 minutes. After 50 days of no rain the oil on the roads can be built up thick. In the first part of a storm all that oil is mixing with water and can be as slick as ice. A light sprinkle may feel good on your skin, but that can also be the most dangerous time to ride. After a steady rain fall has happened most of the oil and grim has been washed away.
- Be especially careful to use smooth movements when riding in the rain. Abrupt acceleration or braking will cause you to lose traction. A tire that may be "good enough" on dry pavement may feel like riding on ice in the rain. A fairly bald tire will tend to hydroplane when you hit puddles.
- Watch the cars ahead of you. They will tell you where water has puddle when they go through and make a huge splash. Be careful with the right or left sections of the lane since they might be worn down and sit lower than the center of the lane, water usually puddles there.

A person could literally write a whole book filled with riding tips. These are just a few to help everybody have a fun safe riding season ◻

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