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N.M.M.R.O

The Newsletter of the New Mexico Motorcyclists Rights Organization

Motorcycle Riders Foundation
The Bad News

By Barbara Alvar, NMMRO Chairperson

At the MRF Meeting of the Minds Conference in Denver in September the MRF Board of Directors had to give us some very bad news. The MRF is almost out of money and after January there may not be enough funds to support all of the activities of the MRF this would include no conferences, no MRF Reports Newsletter and the Board of Directors will not hold any board meetings. The funds that they have at this point will keep the office in Washington DC open. You ask why should I care, why should I sign up for MRF? Here are some reasons why you should become a member.

First, the MRF has an office in Washington, D.C. with two full-time employees – one of them being a federal lobbyist looking out and arguing for your right to ride free and promoting motorcycle safety and awareness. If you sign up for the MRF mailing list online, you receive regular email reports about what **your** lobbyist is doing in our Capitol.

Next, the MRF conducts three seminars a year; BEAST of the East in the Eastern U.S., BEST of the West in the Western U.S. and the national conference, the Meeting of the Minds, usually located in the heartland – to educate motorcyclists on topics that are necessary for freedom fighters to conduct business in this new era.

And finally, the MRF is funded by members only. We represent you as a motorcycle rider in Washington, D.C.

The reason for this written commercial: Just like our volatile economy, the MRF is in a deficit. It's not that we're spending some outrageous amount of money on pizza or beer or anything – it's that our donations are down considerably, and a pattern is developing. Donations and pledges are what fund the MRF. It costs in the neighborhood of $2000 per day to operate the MRF Office in D.C. and conduct business throughout the year.

What should this mean to you? The MRF needs members and we need them now. These are desperate times. We need to sign-up or renew expired members to the tune of 600 by January and another 600 by March to allow us to continue to publish our newsletter the" MRF Reports" every other month. This publication is the lifeblood of the MRF- it informs members of our efforts in Washington, D.C., six times a year. Without it, we lose a major pipeline of information to the motorcycle community – about their very freedom.

Bottom Line – Without the MRF there to represent your voice on a Federal Level, that leaves the road wide open for the states to be forced into legislation that they wouldn't have chosen for themselves – such as a federal helmet law or further deterioration of our current freedoms.

If you have ever been an MRF member, please renew and continue to show your true colors as a New Mexican Freedom Fighter. If you have never been a member of the MRF, consider the benefits – your freedom represented on the Federal level.

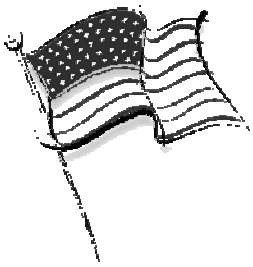
You may join or renew very easily online at: http://mrf.org/register.php

Take a minute, join the MRF and help to ensure that we all continue to ride free.

NMMRO Happenings By Barbara Alvar NMMRO Chairperson

Over the last few months we have had a lot more participation at our meetings. The Northern New Mexico Confederation of Clubs (NNMCOC) has asked all northern clubs to start sending a representative to the NMMRO meetings. Part of this stems from what is happening in Texas, where they have what they call the Texas Defenders Program. This program asks the clubs to have two member representatives attend the defenders meetings and report back to their respective clubs what is happening in Texas. If it is decided they need to have a letter writing campaign then the representative is responsible for making sure their club members get it done. The NNMCOC looked at the program and decided that we already had it set up to do the same thing with the NMMRO. The clubs just needed to start showing up for the meetings. In July they started attending the meetings and it has grown since then. It is really great to have all these people showing up for the meetings because there is a lot more exchange of ideas, problems and some solutions. We believe this will make us stronger.

NMMRO WELCOMES CLUBS by Annette Torrez NMMRO Secretary



The NMMRO and the COC would like to encourage more participation from all motorcycle clubs. At this time we have less than 50% of the motorcycle clubs and their members participating and attending the meetings, yet 100 % of all motorcycle clubs and motorcyclist benefit from what these committees do. They work hard to fight for your rights as a motorcyclist and privileges we all take for granted.

All members from each club do not need to attend each meeting, though all are welcome. You can send one representative or officer from your club so your voice is heard and your club stays current on new information. Also if you have events you would like to have sanctioned by the committees, attendance at your event will be encouraged. By attending these meetings, your events are exposed to more motorcyclists and their clubs and you have will have better participation.

NMMRO Memberships by C.J. August NMMRO board member

Did you know you can now become a member of the NMMRO or renew your membership online? We recently added a PAYPAL button to our website. Check out this link to use it: http://www.nmmro.org/home/join_us.html. The cost of NMMRO memberships has not increased since 2003 and are very reasonably priced at $20.00 for a single person, $30.00 for a couple and $100.00 for a corporation. Renewals are only $15.00 for a single person, $20.00 for a couple and $100.00 for a corporation. Our organization works on a shoestring budget your donations are not only needed but very much appreciated. You will also find a paper membership form you may send by US mail elsewhere in this newsletter.

Motorcycle Rider's Foundation Meeting of the Minds

By Patty Berry, NMMRO treasurer

Last Sepember I was privileged to attend the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Meeting of the Minds in Denver. At that conference I attended a presentation by a member of the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Assoc. to find out what issues motorcyclists are dealing with worldwide. Many of us can't imagine that anything happening in Europe could possibly affect us but the reality is that the United Nations is now concerning itself with motorcycling worldwide through the World Health Organization & the UN Economic Commission for Europe. Around 10 years ago we started hearing about the effort to require higher emission standards for motorcycles worldwide, now builders are finding out in this country that they can't register their custom bikes because they don't meet emission standards required by the Environmental Protection Agency. If that doesn't prove that we have to consider ourselves to be a part of a worldwide community, just look at the economic crisis that we are currently undergoing. This isn't just affecting us; it is affecting the entire world. That said, here is a little bit of what we have to look forward to.

In Europe, emission requirements are enforced using anti-tampering bolts on exhaust pipes. If you are pulled over & you have changed your pipes your bike is impounded & destroyed. Mandatory power limits are imposed on all motors, noise levels are strictly enforced, there are mandatory anti-lock brakes & if you break these rules your bike is impounded & destroyed. Speed management enforced by connecting a global positioning system to your ignition thereby enabling your bike to be shut down by remote control. And in some places the answer to the problem of motorcyclists dying in accidents is to outlaw motorcycles completely. These "solutions" are just some of the issues that the Federation of European Motorcyclists Association is currently dealing with. We can expect to be dealing with some of these same "solutions" within the next 10 years & the Motorcycle Riders Foundation is the organization that is keeping a watchful eye on what is happening both nationally & internationally. The MRF is the organization that always intercedes on the behalf all riders. The cost to protect your right to ride is high & the MRF is in danger of having to close their doors at a time when they are needed the most. You can help keep the fight alive by joining the MRF. Consider the money you spend on MRF membership an investment toward maintaining your right to ride, both now & in the future. The MRF needs your help now in order to continue to fight for your rights.

ShadowRiders MC by Annette Torrez NMMRO secretary

Shadowriders MC is an independent club out of Valencia County. Men and women both hold equal patches and officer's positions. Their motto is **Assisting others not as fortunate.** They are a close knit group who always has fun together whether it is riding, partying, barbecues, or just hanging out. It's like having a second family, sometimes even closer than immediate family.

As a group they've had several events to raise funds. The funds have been used to assist the local community and charities. Their bike washes and benefits runs have helped families in need. They have assisted families with medical expenses and funerals. Last Christmas they adopted 11 children and supplied them with toys and clothes.

This year they bought school supplies for all 72 foster kids in Valencia County. They recently supplied and delivered 10 needy families with Thanksgiving baskets. The baskets included all the food needed for a thanksgiving meal. They held the first Shadowriders sponsored Bike Show in December to raise money for toys for kids. They again help underprivileged children and with toys and clothes for Christmas. They provided 175 head start children with Christmas teddy bears.

The club is thankful to many. They acknowledge all this would not be possible if not for the support of the community, local business, family and friends.

2009 Legislative Session by CJ August NMMRO board member

The 2009 Legislative session was a 60 day session this year. I personally marvel at the fact that our state legislature manages to get any of the important bills heard in committees, voted on by the house of representatives and the state senate and on to the governor for review in these whirlwind sessions. We again held BIKE DAY at the State Capitol and had an outstanding presence at with about 100 bikers in attendance. Thanks to those who participated.

There were two hot issues that pertain to motorcyclists this year. One was a gang penalty enhancement bill. We watched this bill wanting to make sure it did not end up being worded so it would incriminate innocent motorcycle club members. This bill didn't even make it to be voted on in the house or senate so the point was moot.

We again lobbied for the bill that would increase penalties for motorists who cause death or great bodily injury when the fail to yield the right of way to other motorists. (Yes, we have been working on this one since the 2005). The bill died in the house judiciary committee. We are working with state representatives to have the bill researched in an interim committee so that a bill can be crafted which would pass the legislature and become law. NMMRO board member Dave Covert is taking the lead on this bill. If you have any ideas about making this bill a law, please contact Dave at quietdave@nmmro.org.

Southern NM Biker's Coalition By Cactus Ron SNMBC secretary

We are now at 16 members. Remember, your membership helps support the fight for biker's rights in southern New Mexico. Our officers serve on a voluntary basis, not being paid for their work to protect **YOUR** rights as a biker. Everyone is welcome to join, as there are no restrictions as to who may do so. Concurrent memberships in clubs, other MROs, etc. are not a problem. The SNMBC is open to everyone. We do not discriminate. Please join the SNMBC, and help to protect your rights!

Remember, if your membership is about to expire, you will be getting something in the mail, or email for you to renew. You do not have to wait until then. You can renew any time you want by sending your check to the SNMBC Street address:

Southern New Mexico Bikers Coalition / SNMBC
1300-G El Paseo Rd. #124
Las Cruces, NM 88001-6024

You can also send your dues to our PayPal account at: snmbc@yahoo.com.

We have had a pretty eventful year. The SNMBC turned one year old, and we have hooked up with the SNM Confederation of Clubs to help support club efforts in Southern New Mexico. Chuck attended the MRF's Meeting of the minds, and our organization has contributed to the New Mexico Motorcycle Safely Program. (NMMSP). Thanks to a team effort of all the SMROs in New Mexico, we got a pretty good idea of what direction we need to go in as a state. There are some pressing issues that we have talked about in great length, including a major push for all bikers to join the MRF. This is VERY important. Without them we do not have a presence in Washington, and lose a great deal of influence where it really counts.

PLEASE join the MRF. http://www.mrf.org/join.php If you can become a sustaining member, all the better. We can't lose our ground now. As I have said before, **if you are not willing to fight for your rights as a biker, then you do not deserve to ride.**

If you haven't done so already, log on to our web sites and see what we are up to!
http://www.snmbc.us
http://www.myspace.com/sonmbc
http://groups.myspace.com/snmbc

Ride safe,
Ride free!
Cactus Ron

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.nmmro.org

Other NMMRO business

Official nominations for the following NMMRO board members will be taken at our July 2009 meeting: chairperson, secretary, public relations officer, web master and club liaison. A vote will be held at the August 2009 meeting.

It is anticipated that some board members will step down or take a leave of absence, so now is your chance to step up to the plate, show your leadership skills and make a positive impact on the future of motorcycling in New Mexico.

The next NMMRO meeting is Saturday May 16th 2009 at 12 noon at Athena's place at the corner of 10th and Coal in Albuquerque.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE AND EMAIL _____

Single$20 __ Couple$30 __ Single Renew$15 __ Couple Renew $20 __

Mark your preference and send your check or money order to the address shown to the left. New Members will receive a NMMRO patch.

NMMRO
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