The NMMRO Newsletter

Freedom & Independence Starts Today

Volume 1, Issue 5
Mar/Apr 2010

NEW MEXICO MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
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THE NMMRO BOARD:

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Sgt At Arms - Dave Covert
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MEETING SCHEDULE:

NMMRO March Meeting:
Saturday March 20 at 12 noon
Athena's Restaurant on
10th and Coal
.
NMMRO April Meeting:
Saturday April 17, 2010 **2:00 PM**
Tropicana Club Chama Highway
Espanola NM !!!!!!!!!!

COC Meeting:
Saturday April 10, 2010 2:00 PM
Valencia County Fairgrounds in
Belen

NMMRO Chairperson's Letter

Spring and daylight-saving time is upon us, and the riding season is here again. We are lucky to live in a state where we can ride almost all year long. As we start riding more frequently; remember to practice safety on the road and to insure that your bike is in good working condition.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 7th annual Bike Day at the Capital a success. Also, thank you to everyone who helped us to lobby, to Patty Berry and the Defenders Program who helped and encouraged everyone to write letters against the five Gang bills. If these Gang Bills had passed, they would have taken away our rights as American Citizens. We sent hundreds of letters to the Senate and showed them that they cannot decide whom we can associate with. We refuse to allow government to dictate our lives. What happened to Freedom of choice?

The NMMRO recently met with the Southern New Mexico Bikers Coalition and ABATE of New Mexico to unite the motorcycle community and improve communication between the motorcycle rights organizations throughout the state. The organizations are working together to find a suitable candidate to fill the open MRF (Motorcycle Rights Foundation) Representative position for the state of New Mexico. Thank you Patty Berry, Barbara Alvar, Preacher Ed Chaffe, Levi Nabors and Psycho for accompanying me to Socorro, to improve communication barriers between the organizations. The summit meeting went well. The hope is to unite the state whether you are an independent motorcyclist or a motorcycle club. We are all working toward the same goals.

On April 17th the NMMRO will hold their monthly meeting in Espanola, New Mexico at the Tropicana Club, on the Chama Highway across from the Espanola Hospital at 2:00 PM. We want to meet the independent motorcyclist and motorcycle clubs from the northern part of the state. The meeting is open to everyone as always, so if you want to take a ride up north and join us, we welcome you.

NMMRO board members will be attending the New Mexico Motorcyclist Safety Advisory Board meeting in mid April. We will report back to you at the May NMMRO meeting as to what was discussed. We are still in need of a newsletter editor, if any one is interested please see any of the board members. At this time Dave Covert and myself have been working on the newsletter for a mid March release.

Thank you to Barbara Alvar for all her years of service to the NMMRO and the motorcycle community of New Mexico, as a chairperson and lobbyist and MRF representative. Enjoy your well deserved time off.

Remember to visit our web-site at www.thenmmro.org.

Be Safe and God Bless you all.

Annette Torrez

NMMRO Chairperson

Legislative Update

Submitted by Barbara Alvar

I have been often asked what the NMMRO has accomplished in the last few years when it comes to legislation and I always have to stop and think about that one. We have not passed a bill in several years and the ones we did pass had to do with license plates. But then the answer comes, we have stopped the Criminal Street Gang bills from passing for the last 7 or 8 years, we have introduced the Failure to Yield bills every year that we can, although without them passing, but each year we bring back something that we did not know or we learn something different that may work to our benefit and we move on. We are not discouraged because we understand it can take years to get a bill passed through but we never give up. We keep moving forward and that is an accomplishment in its self. So if you are reading this article pat yourself on the back because in some way you have helped us accomplish our goals either by supporting us, writing letters, emails and phone calls, by coming to Santa Fe for bike day or just all around support of what we are trying to do. It is you the Independent motorcyclists, the State Motorcycle Rights Organizations and the Motorcycle Clubs that keep us motivated and fighting. Please continue to support the NMMRO Board as they continue to fight for your rights to ride free.

Ok on to what happened this year with legislation. As you know it was a 30 day session which is the budget session and we all know that the state budget had/has a deficit and that the legislature's primary goal was to get that fixed. However that did not stop the powers that be from dropping the Criminal Street Gang bills again this year. We knew in December that the Senate had pre-filed the bills. They were SB 11 and SB13, so we already knew that we were going to have our work cut out for us. At the first hearing Annette Torrez, Patty Berry, Horny Toad (with the Ding Dong Gang) and I all attended. Both Annette and Patty spoke against the bills and they did a wonderful job. Thanks also to Courtney, Cheryl, Psycho for attending hearings also. Both bills were passed through the Public Affairs committee with SB 13 being referred to the Senate Finance committee after Senate Judiciary was to hear it. However Senate Finance was only working on the budget. They did pass through the Senate Judiciary and stalled in the Finance committee never to be seen again. This was good, however, the House dropped three (3) bills. HB 194 and HB 195 were the same as the ones that the Senate was looking at, however HB 174 was a combined bill of the two bills which made it even scarier. They passed through the House Consumer and Public Affairs committee and on to Judiciary. As far as I can tell, the Judiciary committee decided to table HB 194 and HB 195 and go with the combined bill HB 174 which passed through their committee. At 1:06 am on the final morning of session, HB 174 passed through the house and would have been sent to the Senate if there had been more time. Unfortunately we were not able to make all of the hearings on the house side because they did not publish the hearings until sometime during the night for the next day and the hearings were usually in the mornings. The good thing out of all of this is that they did not pass both the House and Senate. We, and that is all of you working together, accomplished this task. By writing your letters and emails you helped slow them down so that they did not pass and are not setting on the Governor's desk. Thanks to all of you.
Bike Day at the Capitol turned out good. We had a large turnout, however, the weekend we chose to hold the event, the legislators were not there. So, those in attendance could not sign in to the offices and let them know how they felt about the bills. Although Representative Nate Cote did come in and speak with us during our time in the rotunda, he discussed the fact that the Transportation Committee was not able to get funding for road repairs this year and he wanted to let us know that for the next few years we would have to be more careful out on the roads because they would not be maintained the way we are used to. Pretty much he wants us to be careful and look out for the pot holes.

At Bike day I announced my retirement from Motorcycle Rights here in New Mexico. It is time for others to step up and continue the fight that was started by the original board members some 10-11 years ago. There is a need for fresh eyes and fresh blood to carry on the fight. As one of the founding members of the board I felt that it was time to leave and allow the NMMRO Board to carry on the fight and I have faith that the board will carry on the work that was started by the original board those many years ago. The NMMRO has a very strong board with lots of ideas and many different strengths in many different fields. So please continue to support the board, they have a lot of work ahead of them but the ground work has been laid and they will prosper.

I would like to thank the Motorcycling community for allowing me to fight for your rights for these many years and who's to say in a year or two I may come back to help but I just need some time to remember why I started fighting in the first place. See you on the road.

2010 BIKE DAY AT THE CAPITAL

Annette Torrez

The 7th Annual Bike Day at the State Capital on January 30, was a success. Approximately seventy-five motorcyclists from all over the state filled the Rotunda. Many rode their motorcycles to Santa Fe (despite snow and cold weather), and many went in their vehicles.

A united motorcycle community came together to meet their State Representatives and Senators, to protect their rights on motorcycle issues, to promote fair laws and regulations involving discrimination, safety and awareness. State Representatives, members of the NMMRO, ABATE (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education), MRF (Motorcycle Rights Foundation), and MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers), spoke on issues that affect the motorcycle community.

The hope was to bring awareness and educate on safety issues and the dangers the motorcyclist faces everyday. State Representative from District 53, Nathan Cote from Las Cruces, who also rides a motorcycle, expressed his concerns on motorcycle safety. He stated that this year, The Department of Transportation appropriated less money to highway repair due to budget cuts, this will make our highways less safe to travel on, and the motorcyclist more vulnerable to the dangers they already face on the road.

This year the NMMRO and motorcycle clubs lobbied against five gang bills that were before the senate. If passed, these bills could have been used to discriminate and profile bikers, who choose to ride in groups and wear a common name or identifying sign or symbol, as a street gang or criminal. Motorcycle organizations and clubs are already under constant scrutiny by society, the media and law enforcement that harass and discriminate against them. The good news is none of these bills, passed. But, we have to be prepared to lobby against them next year again, because they will be back. Next year the NMMRO will again lobby in favor of the Failure to Yield Bill, which will increase penalties for failure to yield the right of way to a motorcyclist, causing great bodily harm or death.

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Bike Day at the Capital. Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedules to ride to Santa Fe so that our voices could be heard.

The Fight Against Discrimination

Annette Torrez

Any motorcyclist who wears patch of any type is perceived as a patch holder, whether you belong to a motorcycle rights organization or a motorcycle club. Patch holders are under constant scrutiny from the media, government and law enforcement, they label and profile us as criminals. Law enforcement often use the patch as a way to harass the motorcyclist and view it as gang affiliation, therefore we are guilty by association, and we must prove our innocence.

The First Amendment protects our rights as citizens to choose our lifestyle, mode of transportation and dress. We must fight to secure our freedoms. Just because we choose a different lifestyle other than what is considered the norm by society, does not give any one the right to use that as a tool to discriminate against us.

I personally feel a sense of pride when I wear my patches, whether they associate me as an officer, a member of a motorcycle rights organization, or my motorcycle club. That patch is my commitment to my brothers and sisters in the motorcycle community, that I claim my brotherhood and sisterhood and will not betray it.

We are constantly fighting against discrimination from government, law enforcement and a society who do not understand our lifestyle. It is a shame when we have to fight discrimination amongst our own motorcycle community, then we are cutting our own throats. We need to unite as a motorcycle community and develop an effective network of communication that will result in a stronger unity. Whether we are members of motorcycle organizations, independent motorcyclists or motorcycle clubs, we need to remember, we are all working toward the same goals.

Annette Torrez
ShadowRiders MC
NMMRO Chairperson (New Mexico Motorcyclist Rights Organization)
Member of ABATE of New Mexico (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education in New Mexico)
Member of MRF (Motorcycle Riders Foundation)

Share The Road With Motorcycles

As Reported By, Traffic Safety News
New Mexico Dept of Transportation Traffic Safety Bureau

Motorcyclist fatalities have steadily increased over the past decade. In 2007, nationwide, there was a seven percent increase in fatalities from 4,837 in 2006, to 5,154. Fifty-two of those motorcyclists were from New Mexico. Spring is a fantastic time to see the New Mexico countryside on a motorcycle. Motorists are reminded to safely "Share the Road" with motorcycles and to be alert. Motorcycles are some of the smallest vehicles on our roads, often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot. Motorcyclists are more vulnerable than passenger vehicle occupants in a crash. NHTSA reports that per vehicle mile traveled, motorcyclists are about 37 times more likely than a passenger car occupant to die in a traffic crash.

Listed Below Are Tips For Motorists To Help Keep Motorcyclists Safe On Our Roadways:

- Motorcycles have all the rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle on the roadway.
- Allow a motorcyclist the full lane width;
- Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and especially at intersections;
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic;
- Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle: they are often not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed;
- Allow more following distance, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.

Thank You Barbara

Barbara Alvar announced at Bike Day at The Capital, that she has chosen to step down as our NMMRO lobbyist and as the MRF (Motorcyclist Riders Foundation) Representative for the state of New Mexico. Barbara has held these positions for the last 10 years. She needs a well deserved break. She also feels that other people need to step up and get involved. Barbara has devoted many hours to the NMMRO and MRF. She will continue to serve both organizations as a member and advisor. Barbara, the motorcycle community thanks you and honors you for all the thankless, countless hours that you have devoted to these organizations. We appreciate everything that you have done to fight for the rights of Motorcyclists in our state. We sincerely thank you and honor you for all the hours that you have devoted to these organizations. You will be missed.

From the NMMRO, MRF, COC, ABATE,

and the entire Motorcycle Community of the State of New Mexico

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236 Massachusetts Ave. NE | Suite 510 | Washington, DC 20002-4980
202-546-0983 (voice) | 202-546-0986 (fax) | http://www.mrf.org

10NR04 - MRF News Release –
Department of Transportation Offices Re-Open
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3 March 2010
Contact: Jeff Hennie, MRF V.P. of Government Relations & Public Affairs

Department of Transportation offices Re-Open, Congress Passes 30-Day Extension

State Reimbursements for Highway Construction Resume After 2-Day stoppage.

The Senate floor has seen some spectacular partisan politics the past two days. With Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY) essentially filibustering the bill, HR 4691 for fiscal conservative reasons and Senator Harry Reid and his Leadership refuting Bunning all the way. Bunning refused to let the bill pass by voice vote so he demanded a roll call vote, something every Senator has the power to do. Reid refused to allow the roll call vote. Bunning relented late Tuesday in exchange for a vote on his proposal. The original bill, HR 4691, passed 78-19.

As a result this bill permitted DOT agencies to re-open, authorized spending from the Highway Trust Fund, and allowing reimbursements to the States for highway work. Including an additional 2 years for the motorcycle safety programs contained in SAFETEA-LU (PL109-59). Those programs, known as the section 2010 grants provide grants to States to be used for rider education and motorist awareness campaigns.

Perhaps the most troubling aspect of the this week's shutdown of the Federal Highway Administration has made it clear that Congress has no problems with subjecting the Nations highway progress and programs to a seriously broken political process.

Motorcycle Riders Foundation
Do something more to protect your rights!
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Please choose a membership option:
___New Member
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Suite 510
Washington, DC 20002-4980

Or you may call to join the MRF (202) 546-0983 • Fax (202) 546-0986

http://www.mrf.org

News & Notes
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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

April 2010

AMA News & Notes is a monthly publication compiled and edited by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) Government Relations Department. Designed to inform motorcyclists of rights-related issues and events around the world, News & Notes welcomes your input. Suggestions and editorial contributions can be sent to AMA Legislative Assistant Sheila Andrews by e-mail at: sandrews@ama-cycle.org.

Protect your right to ride! Volunteering is easier than you think. Visit us at: AmericanMotorcyclist.com > Rights > Get Involved to learn how you can help.

Sign up and stay informed: AMA's electronic Action Alerts and News & Notes keep you informed on hot topics, news affecting the motorcycling community and opportunities to communicate with your elected officials. By signing up to receive AMA Action Alerts, you will be notified by e-mail when and how you can make a difference on important issues. In addition to signing up for AMA Action Alerts, you can sign up to receive AMA's monthly electronic edition of News & Notes. AMA News & Notes keeps motorcyclists informed of rights-related issues and events around the world.

Washington, D.C.: USDA Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell recently announced a series of events to provide opportunities for public discussion on the development of a new Forest Service Land and Resource Management Planning Rule (planning rule). The Forest Service will host a national science forum, three national roundtables and nine regional roundtables. Additional information, including specific meeting locations and dates, can be found at http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule. Webcasting may also be available for selected meetings, please check the website for full details. Also in an effort to encourage widespread participation, the Forest Service is using new media tools in conjunction with the public meetings. Visit http://blogs.usda.gov/usdablogs/planningrule to see the Forest Service's web-based planning rule blog.

Washington, D.C.: Bipartisan condemnation was swift following the publication by the AMA and others of an internal Department of Interior (DOI) document that revealed the agency's plan to designate without public debate as many as 13 million acres of public and private land in the West as National Monument areas. According to DOI documents obtained by the AMA, the administration is considering new National Monument designations totaling 13 million acres in 11 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Interior Department spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff told the Salt Lake (Utah) Tribune that the documents that created the uproar were simply the result of a "brainstorming session" at the department. "It remains incumbent upon the government to responsibly protect our lands for the people, not from the people," said Ed Moreland, AMA vice president for government relations. "And that means proposals for land-use designations must be fairly debated. This proposal is not only an end-run around Congress, but also around the individuals and communities who would be directly impacted by this type of administrative maneuver."

Source: http://www.amadirectlink.com/news/story.asp?id=1782

Washington, D.C.: The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT), a federation of national and regional trail-related organizations, is pleased to announce its 2010 achievement awards to recognize outstanding trail projects funded by the national Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The awards will be presented in Washington, D.C. during Great Outdoors Week 2010, June 7-13, as part of the Coalition's ongoing effort to build awareness and appreciation of this highly successful program, which has greatly enhanced the quantity and quality of trail experiences available to the public. The awards ceremony will be held on Capitol Hill,

AMA News & Notes (continued)

and members of Congress will be encouraged to join the ceremonies to honor the outstanding achievements of their constituents. Award winners will be selected from projects nominated by public agencies, trail administrators or other project sponsors. Projects must be completed in order to receive an award. In addition, projects completed before 1998 are ineligible. Project award categories include: construction and design; maintenance and rehabilitation; education and communication initiatives; accessibility enhancement; multiple-use management or "corridor sharing;" environment/wildlife compatibility; and use of youth conservation/service corps. For additional information and a nomination form visit: http://www.americantrails.org/rtp/crtawards.html

Hollister, Calif: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) extends comment period on Clear Creek Draft Plan. The public comment period for the draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement has been extended by 45 days by the BLM. The Clear Creek Management Area in southern San Benito and western Fresno counties has a long history of public recreational use. The draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement was released in December 2009 with a 90 day comment period. Three public meetings were also held in Coalinga, Hollister and Santa Clara, CA in January 2010 to gather comments. The initial 90-day comment period ended on March 5, 2010. With the new extension comments must be postmarked or received by April 19, 2010.
Source: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/hollister.html

Grass Valley, Calif.: BUB Enterprises has received approval from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), allowing the sale in California of their catalytic converter equipped exhaust for Harley Davidson motorcycles. This allows replacement of OEM exhaust with BUB True Dual or TDX headers and BUB catalyst equipped mufflers. These exhaust systems carry up to a full five-year emissions warranty when installed on new or qualifying mileage motorcycles. This represents a new milestone in the aftermarket exhaust business as the executive order process for motorcycle critical emission components was only approved in October 2009 and BUB Enterprises is the first aftermarket motorcycle exhaust company to produce compliant exhaust. *Source: http://www.bubent.com/*

Utah: Senate Bill 106, which would have required all motorcycle exhaust systems meet the federal labeling requirement (40 CRF part 205) has been removed from consideration for the remainder of the 2010 legislative session. Originally introduced by Senator Patricia Jones and passed by the transportation committee, it would have required all vehicles to be equipped with an exhaust system that is "installed by the original manufacturer of the vehicle and is not modified; or meets specifications equivalent to the muffler installed by the original manufacturer of the vehicle and is not modified." Opponents of the bill pointed out it would force many older vehicles off the road either due to a lack of parts or prohibitive costs for original OEM equipment. Likewise the bill did not provide law enforcement or riders with a clear standard, and would have forced them to make subjective judgments on whether or not an exhaust system was in fact compliant.

Fairfield County, Ohio: Former American Motorcyclist Association Board Chairman Dal Smilie was sentenced Monday, Feb. 22, to eight months in prison and two years probation for embezzling more than $100,000 through fraudulent travel reimbursement claims submitted to the AMA over a period of years ending in 2007. Smilie pleaded guilty to felony counts of grand theft by deception and of receiving stolen property in the Fairfield County, Ohio, courtroom of Judge Chris Martin. He was taken directly into custody to begin serving a sentence that could see him request early release after 30 days. He was also ordered to pay a $1,000 fine and court costs. *Source: http://www.amadirectlink.com/news/story.asp?id=1775*

AMA News & Notes (continued)

Nevada: Assembly Bill 3, if approved by the senate as proposed, would allow monies from the rider training program to be raided as part of an ongoing effort to attempt to balance the state's budget. This user-funded program has served thousands of riders since its establishment by the legislature in 1991 and works closely with the state driver's license division, motorcycle clubs and groups, law enforcement, the media, the community college system, (which primarily conduct the training classes) and traffic safety professionals statewide. These groups work cooperatively to raise awareness and reduce the incidence of motorcycle crashes and fatalities statewide. However if approved by the senate as proposed, it would allow the monies in this important program to be reallocated to other non specified purposes.
Full story: http://capwiz.com/amacycle/state/main/?state=NV&view=myofficials
Florida: House Bill 875, sponsored by Rep. Greg Evers (R-Milton) and Senate Bill 1918, sponsored by Sen. Dave Aronberg (D-Fort Myers), would enhance penalties for those who commit a moving violation that causes serious bodily injury or death to a person operating or riding in/on a motor vehicle or motorcycle. For causing serious bodily injury, the bills call for a fine of not less than $500, a minimum of 30 days incarceration, a mandatory driver improvement course and revocation of the offender's driver's license for not less than 30 days. In those cases resulting in death, the bills seek a fine of not less than $1,000, a minimum of 90 days incarceration, mandatory attendance in an advanced driver improvement course and revocation of the offender's driver's license for not less than 1 year.
Iowa: House Bill 2351, introduced by Rep. Geri D. Huser (D-Altoona), would require the department of transportation to feature the message "Watch for Motorcycles" on all electronic message boards on Iowa's interstate highways for a four-day period during the month of May 2010, except when an emergency or other situation requires the use of a message board. Also introduced by Rep. Huser is House Concurrent Resolution 105, which seeks to designate the month of May 2010 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and encourage all Iowa motorists to strive to improve motorcycle safety in this state.
Hawaii: After more than four years of work the Sand Island Off-Highway Vehicle Association has been granted a permit to operate an off-highway vehicle park on 30 state-owned acres in Sand Island. The park will be Oahu's second legal public riding facility. At this time the park is only open to BMX riders and RC car enthusiasts but plans for dirtbike and ATV tracks are in the works. For more info see www.sandboxhawaii.com.
Illinois: House bill 5029, which would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or off-highway motorcycle (OHM), was scheduled to be heard in February in the House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee; however, the bill was reassigned to the Mandates Subcommittee. The text and status of HB 5029 and a prewritten response are available on the "Rights" page of AmericanMotorcyclist.com.
Kentucky: At the request of the Kentucky Motorcycle Association (KMA), House Resolution 215, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Robert Kerr (R-Taylor Mill) and Senate Resolution 170, sponsored by Perry B. Clark (D-Louisville) recognize May 2010 as Motorcycle Awareness Month and urge all Kentuckians to share the road and keep motorcycle safety in mind as they travel the Commonwealth's streets and highways.
Massachusetts: The Massachusetts Motorcycle Association (MMA) announced on March 2nd that four additional insurance companies have agreed to refund about $9 million in motorcycle insurance premium overcharges; this news comes less than two months after three insurance companies agreed to refund $11.1 million to motorcycle policy holders in the Bay State. Complete details are available at MMA's website at http://www.massmotorcycle.org and from the Attorney General of Massachusetts' website at http://tiny.cc/massinsure.

AMA News & Notes (continued)

Maryland: House Bill 1282, authored by Del. Curt Anderson (D-Baltimore) and Senate Bill 492, authored by Sen. John C. Astle (D-Annapolis), would provide exemptions to the motorcycle helmet requirement for those operators or occupants of three-wheeled enclosed-cab motorcycles or operators of two-wheeled motorcycles who have been licensed for at least two years or completed a motorcycle rider safety course. Adult passengers on two-wheeled motorcycles would be able to choose as well if the operator is exempted.

AMA Government Relations *News & Notes* is a monthly service compiled and edited by the AMA Government Relations Staff to keep motorcyclists informed of happenings around the world. We welcome your news & views. Please submit all material to Sheila Andrews, Legislative Assistant, 101 Constitution Ave., NW Suite 800W, Washington, DC 20001; fax (202) 742-4304 or e-mail to sandrews@ama-cycle.org

Tips For The Season From Show Stoppers Unlimited

Batteries: An Electrifying Experience

Tom and Debby Matthews

It's Spring and you want to go for a ride. You try starting your motorcycle and it won't start! It can't be my battery cause I just bought it last year?

Batteries are one area where motorcycle technology hasn't kept pace with automotive technology. Bike batteries still need frequent attention. Storing you battery in a warm environment through the winter months will help save its life time.

You should also check the level of the electrolyte in your battery at least every week or two. Check the electrolyte level by looking at the side of the battery. The battery case will be translucent plastic, allowing you to see the level of fluid inside. If the level is slightly low, you can add distilled water. If the level is extremely low, you'll need to get battery acid, which is nasty, dangerous stuff. Be sure not to get it on your body or clothes. And don't inhale the fumes!

Several things can cause extremely low electrolyte levels. Your battery may have cracked or in some way come apart and is leaking, in which case you'll need to replace it immediately. Or you may have tipped the bike over or leaned it far enough for the electrolyte to drip out the overflow tube at the top of the battery. Or, your charging system maybe malfunctioning, overcharging your battery and evaporating the fluid. If you suspect charging-system problems and you're not a skilled mechanic, it's probably time to take the bike in for professional help.