The NMMRO Newsletter

Freedom & Independence Starts Today

NEW MEXICO MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
P.O. Box 27673
Albuquerque, NM 87125-7673

NMMRO Dues are DUE in July

Website: www.thenmmro.org

Volume 3, Issue 1
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Inside this issue:

Chairperson's Letter	1
NM Fatalities	2
No Color Establishments	3
Trademark Law	3
In Memory of	4
Welcome PR Officer	4
A Visit with Deb Hill	5
White Bandana	5
Letter to DA	6
Alternate Transportation	7
MRF	8
CNMMRO Update	9
Tech Tip	9
Calendar of Events	10
Membership Form	10
Rally in the Valley	10

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MEETING SCHEDULE:

NMMRO Monthly Meetings:

July - No Meeting
August 18, 2011 - Noon

American Legion Post 49
11005 Central Ave NE Albuquerque,

COC Meeting:

July 9, 2011 - 2:00 pm
2 Minute Warning, Los Lunas

Chairpersons Letter…

Thus far it has been a summer full of events. New Mexico hosted the 26th NCOM Annual conference on Mother's Day weekend with approximately 2000 plus in attendance. It was awesome to see so many patch holders and organizations coming together in unity, to fight for our rights and liberties; instead of the typical media generated misconception that when MC's come together there will be criminal activity and feuding. I guess we proved them wrong huh. I was privileged and honored to attend a ceremony for The Run for Wall as it passed through New Mexico, and welcomed veterans on their way to The Vietnam Veterans Wall in Washington DC. It was an honor for me, as these veterans helped me honor the memory of my brother Manuel who had been killed in Vietnam and my Veteran ShadowRider brother Candy Man who recently passed away. My motorcycle club the ShadowRiders, along with members of the Patriot Guards and my brother Del, assisted Channel 4 Weather Man Steve Stucker during his Run for the Valley in Red River during the Memorial Day weekend to benefit The Make a Wish Foundation. Thank you to the NMMRO and the COC for their sponsorships, we were able to raise over five thousand dollars and help a terminally ill child's wishes come true. Since April I have seen our motorcycling community raise money for homeless animals, breast cancer, a terminally ill little girl, domestic violence, Veterans, and school supplies for children and the list goes on and on. As I always say, bikers have the biggest hearts and are always willing to help those in need, even in times when we are struggling ourselves to make ends meet. I am so proud of you all.

I have recently seen how the impact of one person's disrespect for human life can affect a whole community. Juan de Dios Cordova was driving drunk in Chimayo (with prior convictions that had gone unprosecuted because of family political affiliations) plowed into the motorcycle of Mark Wolfe, then left him on the road to die and seriously injured his wife Deb as he fled from the scene. I have seen the state of New Mexico, friends & family; the motorcycling community and the media come together in support of this couple. Deb has months of healing ahead of her, she is a school teacher who is greatly missed by her classroom and colleagues, Mark's father passed away four days after Mark because he could not deal with the grief of losing his son. His MC club The Duke City Drifters, friends and family are grieving his loss. On July second, I attended a ceremony for bicyclist and avid motorcyclist Dan Montoya; as the Duke City Wheelmen Foundation placed a ghost bike descanso 3.5 miles east of I-25 on Tramway (Highway 556), between mile markers 5 and 6. Bruce Wickensburg failed to maintain his traffic lane and crashed in to Daniel resulting in his death. There were 50 plus people in attendance along with a grieving family, all who thanked the NMMRO for their support. On the same day, bicyclist Matt Trujillo was stuck by 20 year old, Memori Hardick, (who was in possession of a controlled substance), she also left the scene of the accident. This careless driving accident resulted in the death of Matt Trujillo near Indian School and Washington NE. And as all of this occurred, pleas from a motorcycle and bicyclist community go unheard from the NM Dept .of Transportation as we ask for safety awareness on our roads. The DOT made promises that have gone

unfulfilled and monies allocated for safety awareness are unaccounted for. As the summer progresses more of the vulnerable users on our roads become fatalities or persons with serious injuries,

In June I attended the MRF conference in Utah. I gave a report on New Mexico's accomplishments and projects we are currently working on, I want to share with you that our state is looked upon very favorable by the MRF officers and state representatives. New Mexico has made a positive and impressive mark on a national level. Thank you all for your support as we tackle issues that affect motorcyclists.

God Bless you all and keep safe on the road and in your travels. Please keep Bandido Sparky and Deb Hill in your thoughts and prayers as they recover from injuries obtained in motorcycle accidents.

Annette Torrez*

NM Motorcycle Fatalities…

Motorcyclists throughout the state are outraged with the lack of Motorcycle Safety Awareness that is and has put themselves and friends in serious jeopardy. Too many of our brothers and sisters are losing their lives or quality of life at the hands of inattentive, irresponsible and or careless/reckless drivers in this state. Mark Wolfe and his wife Deb Hill of Algodones were hit and left for dead on May 28th by Juan de Dios Cordova, (brother of former Sheriff in Rio Arriba County Nelson Cordova) when he crossed into oncoming traffic and hit the couple's motorcycle head on. Cordova left the scene of the accident while Mark lost his life on the road that day. Deb was taken to the hospital and suffered serious injuries that will take months if not a lifetime to recover from. Still intoxicated, Cordova was arrested at his home by Rio Arriba deputies hours later. This isn't the first time (or second or third…) that Juan de Dios Cordova has been arrested with records dating back to 1995 that include drunken driving, drugs and domestic violence. Our fear is that this will be another instance of "Kill a biker, suffer no consequences". A repeat of another tragedy that occurred during the 2004 Red River Run "Kill two, maim two, pay $125 fine". Gerald J. Bailon, who was 15 at the time of this incident was driving with only a learners permit and without a qualifying adult, paid his fine and was granted his full-blown drivers license when he turned 16. Who do you think he knew? District Attorney Donald Gallegos admits to being a "family friend" of the Bailon family. This is one of many disturbing circumstances regarding Gallegos's handling of the prosecution that give you serious doubts as to whether justice has or will be served. Why didn't he immediately remove himself from the case in light of this potential conflict of interest? We cannot allow this to happen again.

NMMRO Chairperson, Annette Torrez has been vigilant in her attempt to hold David Lapington with the department of transportation accountable for his promise to aid in the Motorcycle Safety Awareness campaign during the month of May where Governor Susana Martinez signed a proclamation proclaiming May as Motorcycle and Bicyclist Safety Awareness month. This fell on the deaf ears of our NMDOT, shame shame on David Lapington and DOT officials who have been contacted repeatedly by Representative Rick Miera and Annette Torrez. With more awareness and Public Safety Announcements our roads could be a safer place for all of us. If you are concerned and would like to have your voice heard please contact the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau and let them know how you feel and what your expectations are.

david.lapington@state.nm.us. If you can't get a response from Mr. Lapington you can try his boss; Michael Sandoval, Director of the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau michael.sandoval@state.nm.us 505-827-0430. If you are able to contact them, ask the questions as to why other states are utilizing State and Federal funds set aside for safety awareness and yet in New Mexico those monies go unaccounted for, why do promises go unfulfilled as the number of fatalities and injuries of motorcyclists and bicyclists continue to grow. This has been a bloody year for the vulnerable user on our highways.

Representative Rick Miera along with Annette Torrez and Rockstar were interviewed by Stuart Dyson of KOB Eyewitness News 4 regarding Mark Wolfe; all three would like to see what has happened to Mark become the inspiration to push for better awareness and safety on our roads for all road users. To read the full stories go to: http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2145846.shtml?cat=0. They were later interviewed by Stuart Dyson regarding awareness of motorcyclist rights and safety, watch the interview at http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2163072.shtml?cat=10106

In the last few months there have been a number of fatalities and injuries to motorcyclists and bicyclists throughout our state due to driver in attention and the use of alcohol and drugs, whether legal or not. One motorcyclist is still hospitalized with severe injuries that were sustained as his motorcycle hit a break in the asphalt on Lomas and 6th street which caused the accident during a memorial run for another fallen motorcyclist.

Robert Roland: James Dickson, the Arenas Valley man accused of killing motorcyclist Robert Roland while allegedly driving drunk on May 29, was released from the Grant County Detention Center just after noon Wednesday but will remain on house arrest with an alcohol monitoring bracelet, the Silver City Sun-News reported.

MC Fatalities Cont…

Please don't let those that have lost their lives to have died in vain, hold their memories and fight to make our roads safer. Remember that on July 16, 2009 Calvin Finch, 48, of Aztec, was arrested for his sixth DWI, just 11 days after he was involved in a crash that killed 62-year-old Harry Irvin, whose motorcycle was struck by Finch's pickup truck at the intersection of U.S. 550 and San Juan County Road 2105, We need tougher penalties and more awareness from our law makers and those that uphold the law.

We need your help, you need our help. We have seen from past experiences that when a community bands together, what we accomplish is "measurable". Help us send a message to the public officials that we elect into office that if you kill a motorcyclist or a bicyclist on our roads due to carelessness, recklessness or homicide, then that person should be held accountable for his or her actions. Those officials who believe in political favors and continue to allow these criminals on our road are just as responsible as the person who caused the death or injury. These are the public officials that we need to get out of office; they do not have the best interest of the community in mind. Register to vote so your voice can be heard and lives can be saved.

Bev Covert*

NO-COLORS Welcome …

Establishments as reported by NMMRO members who do not allow colors *or* have refused service to a motorcyclist:

- Twin Peaks Bar and Grill
- T.D.'s
- Stone Face Tavern
- Silva's in Bernalillo
- Uptown Sports Bar
- Horse & Angel Tavern
- Ned's on the Rio Grande
- Cottonwood Mall
- KnuckleHeads – Bar and Grill (ABQ)
- The Library Bar and Grill (downtown)
- Crazy Crocs Tavern in Rio Rancho
- Slate Street – Rio Rancho
- Hard Rock Casino
- Billy's Long Bar

This list will be updated and published in every newsletter.
Please email Annette Torrez with new submissions or resolutions
atorrez2@msn.com

Hard Rock Casino…

I recently spoke with a manager at Hard Rock Casino Robert Lucero, he had approached one of our members at a bike night and asked that the NMMRO contact him. I called him about recent profiling and not allowing MC Colors at the Casino, He stated they would allow MC colors, but only when there is a motorcycle event. The rest of the time colors need to be removed and left on our bikes or we are to fold them and carry the in our arm. He claims they are trying to keep the criminal element out, but at the same time are concerned because they are refusing service to Veteran MC. He claimed the no incident has occurred from any motorcycle club. He was hoping to bring the Black Beret Toy run there, but said the board would only lift the no colors ban on an event day. I explained that by welcoming us on an event day with colors and asking us to remove our colors any other day is wrong and that we will continue to list their establishment as a no colors establishment on our newsletter and he hung up the phone on me. He said his policy is listed on the website but I could not find it. I suggest the motorcycle community as whole, boycott businesses that refuse service to all motorcycle clubs and do not frequent their establishment or hold events there. We should stand together as a community. Some of these businesses don't even know the difference between a patch and colors. Annette*

White Bandana Campaign…

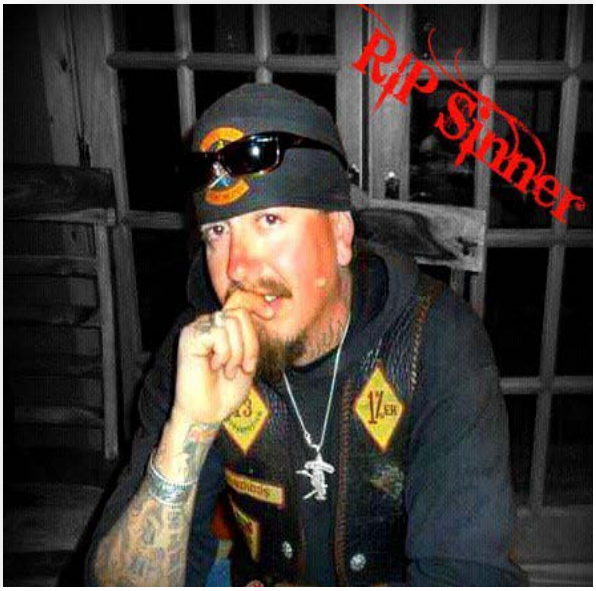
On the way to the Memorial Day Weekend Red River Run between Espanola and Taos my Trike broke down. I just want to say thank you to all who passed me and waved, but yet no one stopped to help. Oh, I will tell you, I was pissed. I even stood on my bike and resigned of all my positions, it even echoed through the canyon. But then when I saw all these persons in Red River, and I as I gave them dirty looks and a piece of my mind, they apologized, they said they thought I had just pulled over and did not realize I had broke down. So, that being said, Vice Chairman of the NMMRO Courtney Farris suggested that everyone carry a white bandana during their travels and if your bike breaks down, tie the white bandana to your handlebar, as a sign that you

need assistance, I want to thank Psycho, Dolores, my brother Del, and to the ShadowRiders MC for helping me get my bike transported to Taos and back to Albuquerque. I think I have forgiven and maybe in time will forget LOL. As New Mexico's MRF representative I am also going to put this out on a national level and hope this takes off throughout the United States so all will follow this example. God Bless you all.
Annette Torrez, NM MRF Representative & NMMRO Chairperson*

In Memory of…

Kevin Nichols age 31, died as a result of a motorcycle accident on Sunday, June 5, 2011. He was a man with many passions and talents. His natural ability as an artist varied from painting southwest scenes to tattooing, and garment designing. He enjoyed traveling, which was compatible with his career as a heavy transport operator. His other passion was motorcycles. He was an active member of the Bandido Motorcycle Club, The New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization, and The Confederation of Clubs. He was well liked and respected by all. His presence in our lives, meetings and events will be greatly missed. He was always willing to lending a helping hand. He was a caring man devoted to his loving mother, children, girlfriend, MC brothers and friends. Sinner you will forever live in our hearts and in our memories.

Rest in Peace.
Sinner you are gone, but will never be forgotten. You are in the forever chapter now looking upon us! See you soon brother. From your brothers in West Albuquerque



Let us Introduce…

Greetings from your new Public Relations Officer: Hello, and many thanks to the people who were present at the May meeting who honored me with their nomination to the position of Public Relations Officer for the NMMRO. I intend to do my very best to represent the interests of the Organization and you, the members, in the best possible way. I believe that in order to do this I must represent you with honesty, passion, integrity, and honor. I hope that my training and experience in education, public speaking, writing, and organizational leadership will be a benefit to our shared goals and concerns. Please feel free to contact me at:

Diva_BB_MBDMC@yahoo.com and thank you for allowing me to be a voice for the rights of the motorcycle community in New Mexico!
Diva BB*

Help me welcome JC Hunter, (Bandido Rockstar) to his new positions as Deputy Coordinator for the Defenders Program, and New Mexico's Statewide Confederation of Clubs Coordinator. He will communicate information to Richard Lester's office, and help the North and South COC run smoothly. In just the short time I have worked with JC in these positions, I am impressed with his can do attitude. He is eager to make a difference for the betterment of the motorcycle community and is willing to learn as he grows in his new positions. Good luck Rockstar make us proud.

A quote from JC "What we do today echo's tomorrow." He has an open door policy and is willing to listen to anyone who needs to contact him.
505-328-6864.

A Visit with Deb Hill…

She remembers everything. She remembers seeing that old beat up orange-brown truck coming toward them; the three people in the truck laughing and carrying on like people do when they are partying. She remembers his hair, the man who was driving, and she remembers watching as he veered his truck across the double yellow line into their lane of travel in a tight corner and headed straight at them. She remembers realizing in that frozen moment in time that he was going to hit them and that someone was going to die.

Earlier in the day I had seen them, my friends Mark "Scary" Wolfe and Debbie "Legs" Hill. A group of us had ridden up to the Red River Rally that Memorial Weekend Saturday to enjoy the day at the rally. We had just finished eating lunch and we were making our way down the long strip of vendors on the main drag when we ran into Mark and Deb with some of our other friends. You know that feeling when you run into old friends but are pressed for time; you hug and chat and catch up a bit and then you hug again and part ways, expecting that your hug meant "Until we meet again my friend."

If you have ever had the pleasure of meeting Mark and Deb you know what extraordinary people they are. They are friendly and kind and always have enough positive energy to brighten even the shittiest of days. Ask any of the hundreds of people Mark has lead on a ride and they will tell you what a stand up guy he was. The very first time I rode to the Valles Caldera was with Mark and Deb in the lead. They took me under their wing when I was a newbie, just as they have done for many others.

I wish I had hugged them a little bit longer that day. I wish I had taken a few more minutes to spend chatting with friends that really matter to me, but I had no way of knowing that it was not a hug until next time – I was hugging Mark goodbye.

I didn't get the news until I returned home on Monday – a voicemail from my friend Kozmik, his voice broken with the sound of disbelief and loss. Mark was gone and Deb was in the ICU in Santa Fe. A drunk driver with three prior convictions had murdered my friend. He hit them head on while they were enjoying a beautiful ride through the mountains of northern New Mexico on their way home from Red River. Two more bikes riding behind them couldn't avoid the crash ahead of them and ran into the mess, escaping with non-life threatening injuries. As Mark and Deb lie on the side of the road, their bodies and bike mangled and Mark bleeding out, the driver of the truck and his two passengers ran away and left them to die.

A few days after the crash I went to see Deb in the hospital. I didn't know what to expect when I arrived. Would she be conscious? On life support? Recognizable? All these thoughts swimming in my head, in addition to the anger and frustration and strong need for some justice. How could I help my friend?

She was awake. They had moved her from the ICU that day into a 'step down unit' as she was no longer critical. We hugged hello and as I tried to find the words to offer comfort to her she began to speak. She told me all about that fateful day with absolute clarity and an amazing calm in her spirit.

She said that a little while before the accident there were two opportunities to change the course of the events that happened. The group of riders collectively decided to take a certain route home, but as they pulled out of the gas station with Mark leading the pack, he turned the other direction and the route changed. She said she had wanted to stop at a scenic overlook on the new route to stretch her legs but as they were approaching the turn off she changed her mind and told him to keep going. Then she told me she thought that the whole thing – the accident & Mark's death - was supposed to happen.

I said very little, just listened to her as she recounted everything to me in great detail. I felt that the best way to help my friend was to listen to her. I was amazed at the calm in her voice as she spoke. There was no hatred or anger, no tone of vengeance. She spoke to me with the honor and integrity that I have come to admire in her. She spoke about accountability, fairness, and consequences for one's actions.

She wants me to tell you how much she appreciates the outpouring of love and support their family has received because of this life changing event. She wants you to know that when she has healed her body and grieved for her husband that she will be a loud and active voice for motorcycle safety and motorcycle rights in our state. She believes she was charged with this duty and honoring that charge is the best way to honor Mark.

When I left her hospital room that day, I was forever changed. Her grace has touched my life. I believe you have only just begun to hear her name and I believe she will be a strong advocate for change in our community in the near future. I went to see her, hoping that I could offer my friend some support in her time of need. It turns out we both had a gift for the other. I offered her my support and she reminded me that to err is human; to find the grace to move forward is divine.

Her battle has just begun. There will be weeks and months and years of healing her body and her life. Mark's passing has left a huge crater in the community. Their lives were intertwined with so many groups of people that we are only beginning to understand the impact of our loss. She will need our help and support for a long time to come. Please remember Mark and honor his legacy by continuing to support the woman who always had his back.

And please, hug your friends just a moment longer.

Diva BB*

Letter to DA regarding Mark Wolfe …

New Mexico Motorcyclists Rights Organization
P.O. Box 27673
Albuquerque, NM 87125-7673
www.thenmmro.org

June 3, 2011

To: Angela R. "Spence" Pacheco
District Attorney
First Judicial District
P.O. Box 1209
Espanola, NM 87532-1209

Ms. Pacheco,

The New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization (NMMRO), and on behalf of the Motorcycle Rights Foundation (MRF) are writing to you to express great concern about the tragedy which occurred over the Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 28 specifically, in Rio Arriba County. This vehicular accident occurred when the alleged drunk driver and previously convicted DWI offender Juan de Dios Cordova crossed over the center line on State Road 76 and ran head-on into a motorcycle ridden by Mark Wolfe resulting in his death, severe injuries to his wife and passenger Debbie Hill, and injuries to several other motorcyclists riding with Mark Wolfe.

With lives lost and shattered due to drunk drivers on almost what seems to be a regular basis, the NMMRO and the MRF offer full support and is encouraged that Mr. Cordova has been arrested. We will be watching with interest as the determination is made on how to charge Mr. Cordova with a crime. All too often the motorcycle community has witnessed the death of motorcyclists in traffic accidents treated with disregard as the perpetrators of these crimes are charged with minor offenses or walk away with no charges at all. The case of Gerald Bailon in Taos County on Memorial Day weekend 2004 is an example of motorcyclists dying and the perpetrator being charged with a minor traffic offense.

A recent story on the KOB website documents the doubt by friends of Mark Wolfe that any justice will be served in his case. (http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2135886.shtml?cat=0)

We fully understand this process takes time and are confident that your office will do a thorough and professional job in order to successfully prosecute Mr. Cordova and obtain a conviction that will show that your community will not tolerate this lawless behavior. We are relying on your vigorous prosecution as this case makes its way through the judicial system. We are here to help and truly miss Mark Wolfe.

Thank you for listening to our concerns on this subject.

Annette Torrez
Chairperson
New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization

Alternative Transportation…

Ghost bike descanso placement for Albuquerque's two most recent fallen cyclists.

Duke City Wheelmen Foundation will place a ghost bike descanso for Dan Montoya on July 2, at 9:00 am. The location is about 3.5 miles east of I-25 on Tramway/Highway 556, between mile markers 5 and 6. It's just east of the Historical Marker, and just west of the curve sign and the turn off to La Luz. Check dukecitywheelmen.org for a map. If you drive, please park well off the shoulder to allow cyclists a clear, safe path along Tramway. Next, we will place a ghost bike for Matt Trujillo. Matt's ghost bike will be dedicated on July 30, at 9:00 am. There will be a ride from REI to Indian School and Washington that will leave at 8:15. For both dedications, a few words will be said and then people who want may place a flower on the ghost bike.

Both these men were hit on May 12, 2011. According to police reports, both were hit by drivers breaking the law. Due largely to her admitted methamphetamine use, Memori Hardwick who hit and mortally wounded Matt Trujillo, has been indited by a grand jury on several counts, including vehicular homicide. She is currently being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center on a $500,000 cash only bond. Bruce Wickensburg, who hit and killed Dan Montoya instantly, has not been charged and remains free. In the Dan Montoya case, I have read the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department report on the incident. Officer Leonard R. Armijo, from the traffic investigations unit, said "Based upon the crash investigation completed at the scene, road evidence, debris, as well as the oral interview it is this investigators findings that the driver of the motor vehicle, Mr. Bruce Wickensburg, failed to maintain his traffic lane, he drove left of center and onto the shoulder of Tramway Blvd crashing into the bicyclist (Daniel R. Montoya) which resulted in his fatal injuries. Therefore Mr. Wickensburg was found to be at fault for the crash which resulted in Mr. Montoya's death." Memori Hardwick was charged with vehicular homicide largely because she was high. This is not what I expect in the Montoya crash and fear Mr. Wickensburg will not face any substantial criminal penalty. It is great the DA has pursued charges as a result of Matt Trujillo's death, but Dan Montoya was hit on the same day, equally at the hand of a driver violating the law, yet this driver may not face anything close to the same criminal penalty. Mr. Wickensburg may not have been a DUI driver, but his actions did result in the death of another road user. How is it that the same outcome can be treated so differently by our criminal justice system? This is exactly the kind of inequity that Duke City Wheelmen Foundation (DCWF) teamed up with the New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization about during the last legislative session - to see a law created that allowed penalty options more commensurate with the outcome of severe bodily harm or death at the hand of a 'careless drive' as opposed to a 'reckless driver.' House Bill 68, introduced by Rep. Miera did progress through the House, with a unanimous House floor vote sending it to the Senate. The bill did not however make it to the Senate Judiciary Committee before the end of the session. We are now working towards introduction and passage of a similar bill in the 2013 Legislative session. New Mexico traffic laws have a strict definition for 'reckless driving' and many crashes that claim the life of cyclists, motorcyclists, pedestrians and even other occupants of motor vehicles do not rise to the level of 'reckless' although the crashes kill or inflict severe bodily injury on another road user. The very serious injuries suffered by John and Liz Mazzola are another example of this situation; that driver was charged with failure to yield. Meanwhile, John was fighting for his life. Still today, 2 years after this crash, Liz and John face daily challenges due to the injuries they sustained. They will face the physical challenges for the rest of their lives.

The driver who hit John and Liz? There was no consequence past a $30 dollar fine and 90 day probation period. The families of Dan Montoya and Matt Trujillo will face the tragedy of their loss for the rest of their lives. Memori Hardwick may face jail time but Bruce Wickensburg will, in all likelihood, pay a small fine and continue to drive, his life relatively uninterrupted. DCWF will place these ghost bike descansos to remember Dan Montoya and Matt Trujillo, and other cyclists who have died in crashes with motor vehicles, but the stories do not end there. These inequities and this gap in our current New Mexico traffic laws need to be changed. People need to be informed about this issue. For more information about Duke City Wheelmen Foundation, and other ghost bikes they have placed, see dukecitywheelmen.org

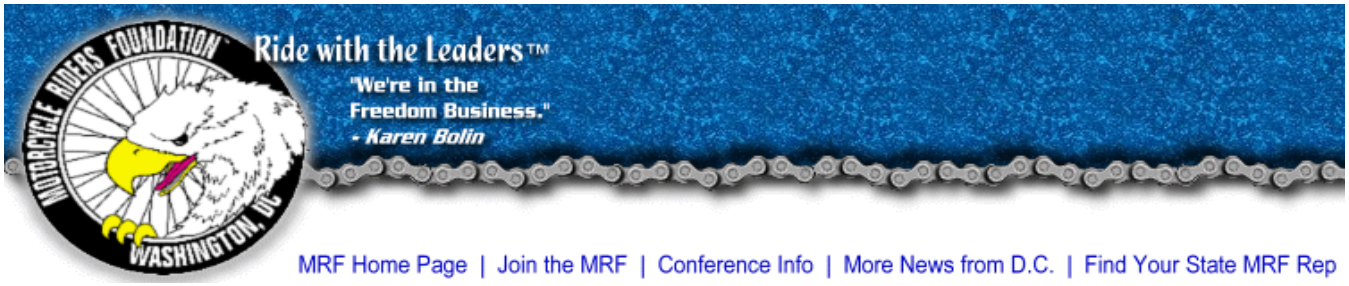
ghostbikes.org has more info about the history and worldwide placement of ghost bike memorials.

http://ghostbikesfilm.com/ profiles a documentary about ghost bikes that will feature New Mexico's installations. This film should be released next summer. If you have other questions, please contact me. We hope you can join us on July 2 and July 30 for these ghost bike placements.

Thank you,

Jennifer Buntz, President, Duke City Wheelmen Foundation,
505-306-1443,
bikefunsafe@gmail.com*

Duke City Wheelmen Foundation



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

11NR21 - MRF News Release - National Transportation Safety Board Updates "Top Ten Most Wanted" List

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
23 June 2011

Contact: Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs

National Transportation Safety Board Updates "Top Ten Most Wanted" List

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released its yearly update to its "Top Ten Most Wanted" list Thursday, June 23rd. The list is a targeted group of the safety board's ten priorities for the year.

Last year for the first time, motorcycle safety was a target. However, the safety board missed the mark. Their answer to motorcycle safety, at the time, was to ask each State to pass mandatory helmet laws. This was not acceptable to the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF).

The NTSB has an extremely brief and inexperienced history with motorcycle safety, so the MRF led the charge with educating their board members and staff. The agency has investigated just 6 motorcycle accidents in their 44 year history of surface transportation investigation. Compare that to the 60,000 other surface transportation incidents and their lack of expertise is obvious.

The MRF is pleased that the new recommendations for motorcycle safety no longer call for a helmet law. What the NTSB is now asking for is voluntary helmet use and puts equal importance on crash prevention. The MRF has been key in getting all government agencies to focus on crash prevention over injury reduction for decades.

"Of course, the NTSB has a long way to go before they can even be considered amateur motorcycle safety specialists, but this is certainly a step in the right direction" said Jeff Hennie, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation. "This should be considered a victory for motorcycle rights groups who have engaged on this issue" he added.

To read the entire "Top Ten Most Wanted" check here: http://www.ntsb.gov/news/2011/110623.html

To read the specific motorcycle recommendations check here: http://www.ntsb.gov/safety/mwl-10.html

The NTSB is an independent government agency charged with determining the probable cause of transportation accidents and promoting transportation safety, and assisting victims of transportation accidents and their families. Formed by Congress in 1926, their original charter was to investigate only airline and airplane accidents. In 1967, that charter was expanded to include; marine, pipeline, railroad and highway modes.

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS FOUNDATION WASHINGTON, DC

It's time you did something more to protect your rights!

JOIN AND SUPPORT **Motorcycle Riders Foundation** *REGISTER, VOTE, WRITE AND RIDE!*

☐ Annual Individual Membership $30 ☐ 3-Year Individual Membership $80 ☐ Annual Sustaining Membership $100
☐ Annual Joint Membership $50 ☐ 3-Year Joint Membership $130 ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Member #_____
Freedom Fighter Donation: ☐ $10 ☐ $25 ☐ $_____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
(All information treated confidentially)
Referred by _____
Date _____
MRF# _____
Exp. Date _____
Member was given:
☐ Pin
☐ Patch
☐ Year Rocker
☐ Newsletter
What issue? _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR INFORMATION
Name | Phone ( ) –
Address
City | State | Zip
E-mail Address
Are you a member of a state motorcyclists' rights organization? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, name:

Mail with remittance to: Motorcycle Riders Foundation, Inc., 236 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20002-4980
(202) 546-0983 • FAX (202) 546-0986 • http://www.mrf.org • mrfoffice@mrf.org

1st Notice

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CNMMRO Update…

The CNMMRO held its most recent monthly meeting on June 7 at the Smokehouse BBQ in Rio Rancho. Topics on the Agenda included:

- **Officer Elections** – As per chapter bylaws officer nominations were taken at the May meeting. Votes were cast during the month of June, and results will be announced at the July 5 meeting. Nominated for Officer positions were:
  Chapter Chairman – Dave Covert, Chapter Vice Chairman – Steve Summers, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer – Rod Owens, Chapter Sgt at Arms – Dave Schnurr
- **Chapter Patches** – A vote was taken and chapter approval was given to order chapter patches based on the chapter logo.
- **NMDOT** – A report was given to the chapter by Annette Torrez about promises made by the New Mexico Dept of Transportation and the lack of follow through by the DOT.
- **NCOM** – The recent NCOM Convention, which was held in Albuquerque, was discussed. The Black Berets provided security with no major incidents.
- **MAP Classes** – A Motorcycle Awareness (MAP) class was taught in May at Rio Rancho high school by Bev Covert and Cassandra Fischer. Anyone interested in helping out with MAP classes should contact Bev.
- **NMMRO Letter to Rio Arriba DA** – The letter which the NMMRO sent to the Rio Arriba District Attorney was discussed. CNMMRO members participated in the drafting of the letter.
- **NMMRO Interview on KOB** – Annette briefed the chapter on the KOB interview.
- **NMMRO/CNMMRO Trifold** – The membership recruitment trifold was presented with the changes suggested at the last meeting.
- **Motorcycle Escort Training** – A question was asked about whether the City of Albuquerque would provide training to motorcyclists so that we could be certified to legally be our own escorts for our runs. Annette said she would ask APD if this was an option.

CNMMRO meetings are held at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month and are always open to everyone. Our next meeting will be held on July 5. Dave Covert*

Tech Tip for the Season…

Group riding requires the full attention of all the participants. Riding in the group does not relieve any of the participants of their responsibility to exercise good judgment and does not place the responsibility for personal safety on the Road Captains. In the unlikely event of an emergency condition, the Road Captains will make every attempt to move the formation to the shoulder in an orderly manner. If a bike breaks down, let the rider move to the right.

1. Less experienced riders and Trikes should be at the back of the line.
2. All riders are expected to arrive at the group ride meeting point with a full tank of gas, and properly clothed.
3. Safety is everyone's responsibility. Do not consume alcohol or use any drugs or medication that would impair your judgment or ability to ride.
4. Keep your position within the lane and do not cross from one side to the other side of the lane.
5. If at any time a rider feels they are riding at a level beyond their current skill level they should drop out of the group ride. Trying to keep up with the group may be hazardous to the rider and the group.
6. The group must obey all traffic signals and obey all traffic laws. Do not run stop signs unless some special arrangements have been made.
7. Maintain your position within the group and do not pass. If you need to change position wait until the next stop then change your position when the ride starts again.
8. Maintain a constant speed within the group. Do not accelerate past another rider or brake late and pass another rider.
9. If you are riding with a passenger, instruct your passenger on the proper riding technique and appropriate protective gear.
10. If you must leave the group ride, exit from the side you are riding on, preferably at a location that does not disturb the other riders.
11. Large groups may be a road hazard so riders must be aware of other motorists wishing to enter or exit the roadway and provide space for them to pass through the group.

Calendar of Events…

July 5, 7:00 pm	CNMMRO Meeting	Smokehouse BBQ, Barbara Loop & Hwy 528
July 9, 2011 Saturday	Shadow Riders MC & Poor Boys MC bike & car wash	Time: 11:00 Location: Two Minute Warning, Los Lunas
July 9, 2:00 pm	COC Meeting	2 Minute Warning, Los Lunas
Sept 11 – 8 am	Tunnel to Towers Run	Veterans Memorial Park 1100 Louisiana SE (Registration starts 6:30 am) http://tunneltotowersrun.org/albuquerque.aspx

Rally in the Valley…

KOB TV's Channel 4 Weather Man and fellow motorcyclist Steve Stucker, lead the Rally in the Valley to benefit the Make a Wish Foundation of New Mexico on May 28, 2011 during Red River's Annual Memorial Day Weekend Rally. It was a great day for a run, a little windy but, overall great weather. Steve led the riders on a tour on some of Northern New Mexico's most beautiful scenery. The run started in down town Red River through Bobcat Pass, Cimarron Canyon, Eagle Nest Lake and to the Angel Fire's Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and back to Red River. We had planned for 250 riders but had an awesome turnout with 350 participants. Lunch was provided and thousands of dollars of prizes were raffled, which were donated by various businesses. The NMMRO and the COC were co-sponsors and our names were included on the back of the event t-shirts. The ShadowRiders MC and members of the Patriot Guards assisted as road captains for the event. Thank you to all who participated and made donations to helped make this event a success and to the police officers who help with the run. Thank you to Steve Stucker for his continued support to the New Mexico Motorcycle Community. He attended our May NMMRO meeting, and was made an honoree member of the NMMRO.

Annette Torrez

"I'm especially thankful to the NMMRO, COC and all of its member clubs for their help in making this event such a huge success. We had over 350 participants for RALLY IN THE VALLEY, and raised over $5,000 for Make A Wish of New Mexico!"

"Even though my name is on the event, it was a total community effort. We had many volunteers from Calvary of Albuquerque, ShadowRiders MC and the Patriot Guards that made it all possible. There was also a LOT of help from sponsors like Lohman's, Renegade Classics, Eppie's, Lujan's, Showstoppers & Thunderbird Harley Davidson."

Steve Stucker

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 27673
Albuquerque NM 87125-7673

Name:_____

Address:_____

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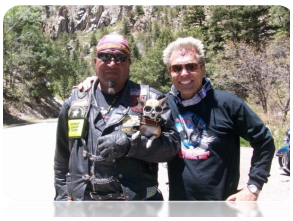
(City, State and Zip Code)

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a registered voter? _____