

The NMMRO Newsletter

Freedom & Independence Starts Today



NEW MEXICO MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
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Volume 2, Issue 5
March/April 2011

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THE NMMRO BOARD:

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Secretary	VACANT
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Sgt at Arms	Dave Covert
Editor	Bev Covert
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Club Liaison	Ed Chaffee

MEETING SCHEDULE:

NMMRO Monthly Meetings:

March 19, 2011 - 12:00 pm
April 16, 2011 - 12:00 pm
May 21, 2011 - 12:00 pm

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 4/2/2011- 2:00 pm
American Legion Post 49

Chairpersons Letter...

Wow we couldn't have asked for a better Bike Day at the Capital. The 150-175 in attendance made it a success. As I looked out and saw all the familiar faces, I felt like I was amongst family. Thank you to all involved for your support and loyalty. It was our day to shine and celebrate as HB 68, The Careless Driving Bill, sponsored by Representative Rick Miera and supported by both the motorcycling and bicycling communities had passed unanimously through the House Judiciary Committee the day before. Since then, it has passed the House Floor 68-0, and the Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee. Our next step is the Senate Judiciary Committee, then to the Senate Floor and on to the Governor for her signature to become a law. Thank you Representatives Rick Miera and William Rehm and all the House of Representatives and Senators who have supported us, as we fight for tougher laws that protect those killed or injured on our highways. One voice can be heard, but a united biker community gets bills passed. Special thanks to the bicycling community for their support. I truly believe

that them uniting and rallying with us has been a contributor to our victories. Representative Eliseo Alcon approached the NMMRO for our support on HB 531, which will require the Posting of Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price on all new motorcycles. When legislators come to us for our support, the NMMRO and the motorcycling community has received the respect and the acknowledgment we've worked so hard to achieve to promote fair laws in our state.

I was recently endorsed by all the SMRO's and the COC in our state as your next MRF Representative, and I would like to announce to you my choice as assistant MRF representative; Mz Behavin MC, Diva Debbie Matthews. Deb has been an important and vital part of our community for many years, and I know she will give 100% to the motorcyclists in our state. I am proud and honored that she accepted my offer and I know we will work well together. We hope to bring national recognition to our state for all of our accomplishments and hard work. And, report on information from other states that we can all learn

and benefit from. I have already sent reports from our state to the MRF, and have kept all the MRF state representatives informed on all our recent victories. From the responses I have received, I can tell you; on a national level New Mexico is being recognized and acknowledged as a state that is making positive accomplishments in the motorcycle community locally and nationally. Our NMMRO secretary Cassandra Fischer recently resigned her position due to personal reasons. While she will no longer sit on our board, she will continue to support as a member. Thank you, Cassandra from the NMMRO Board and membership. I am also very proud of our new Central New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization; see their report in this newsletter on their recent accomplishments. A friend recently called me a freedom fighter for the motorcycle community. At first I was confused, but as I thought about it, I have to say it is one of the highest complements any one has ever given me. I am strong in my beliefs and convictions and although everyone does not always agree with me, it is okay, to

Chairperson's Letter

Cont...

agree to disagree; this is how we move forward and learn from each other. I vow to you all my loyalty & support, to promote safety awareness to all who share the road, fight discrimination by local businesses and law enforcement, support and to listen and learn from the community as a whole. My door is always open to everyone as your NMMRO Chairperson and MRF Representative. I thank you for your trust and belief in me. I recently received word from Chuck Ryder that he has resigned as SNMBC President, and that the SNMBC will now go into hiatus, we wish them well. I have to say I will miss Cactus Ron's newsletters. The NMMRO and COC have made some new contacts in the South and hope to work with them in the future. We have recently learned that The Hard Rock Casino and Ned's on the Rio Grande have added a no colors policy to their establishments. They both stated that APD Nuisance Abatement Officers are putting pressure on them not to allow colors in their establishments. This is discrimination against the motorcyclist in our state and goes against our constitutional rights. I say boycott these businesses and **don't support those who don't support us.**

In 2010 there were 39 motorcyclists killed on the highways of our state. This number is too high. I have spoken with Representative Rick Miera and we want to get a Safety Awareness Campaign, to promote safety to all who share the road. This will include a safety awareness day, bill boards and DOT electronic signs, making everyone aware of motorcycles and bicyclists on our roads and saving the lives of both. We are also in the process of requesting monies from the Department of Transportation for our campaign. I have reported to Rick that in the past I have had no success in receiving funding for promoting safety awareness from the DOT. Rick has now requested information on total accounting for State Motorcycle Safety Funds. We received an email from DOT that the request has been put forward and we should receive a response soon. I lost a good friend and the VP of my motorcycle club, Gary Hepler Candy Man, to cancer in February. I want to personally thank everyone for their support to Gary during his illness and to the ShadowRiders MC and myself during our time of grief. I am very proud of my Motorcycle Club the ShadowRiders; they stepped in and took care of Gary in his time of need and illness. They have shown me the true meaning of brother and sisterhood, and that you don't have to be blood to be family. God Bless you all, be safe on the road. Annette

Bike Day at the Capital 2011...



150-175 motorcyclists and bicyclists attended Bike Day at the Capital. One could hear the roar of motorcycles from Sandia Casino all the way to the State Capital. A channel 4 news reporter was there to interview and film our quest. The chairs and walls of the Rotunda were filled with motorcyclists in black leather and as you looked up one could see the banners from the motorcycle organizations, clubs and bicycling community. There was no flag available so Black Beret Pancho stood up front as we pledged the allegiance to the flag on his vest, and on to an opening prayer from Bandido Preacher Ed. Chairman Annette Torrez spoke on safety awareness and said, "We are here to celebrate a



Bike Day at the Capital cont...







victory, because the day before the Judiciary Committee had passed HB 68 with a unanimous vote". Representative Rick Miera, who sponsored HB 68, also spoke on our victory, safety awareness, and vowed to the crowd that as long as he is in office no Helmet Bill will ever pass in New Mexico. Bicyclist Jennifer Buntz, from Duke City Wheelman spoke on behalf of the bicyclist, the Duke City Wheelmen Foundation and the Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico all have also endorsed, lobbied and supported HB 68. Annette, Mz Behavin Diva Deb, and Jennifer provided a Tribute to Fallen Bikers. There were pictures of bikers that had been killed on New Mexico highways displayed, along with the names being read. On the way to Santa Fe Bandido John Juan drove a truck with a trailer caring the motorcycle of his brother and member of the Wagon Burners MC, Joel Cherino who had been killed several months prior to careless driving from someone in a cage. The trailer also carried a sign that read, **Can You See Me Now**. The bicyclists also displayed a Ghost Bike in tribute to fallen bicyclists. Dave Covert spoke on HB 68 and our journey to this point, and Patty Berry thanked everyone one for their support on the recent calls to action. Thank to everyone who attended and helped make Bike Day at the Capital a success. A special thank you to Diva Deb and China for helping with the Tribute to Fallen Bikers, Bandido JC for being our Road Capitan on the way to Santa Fe and to the Veterans MC who had our back at the end, and to Desert Posse member Johnny Aguilar who helped with the sign for the trailer. We also thank Channel 4 weatherman, friend and supporter Steve Stucker who announced "Bike Day" on his newscast several times, Kim Kinter NMMRO Public Relations officer, and Jennifer Buntz for all the press releases in the local papers and for getting the media to come in support. If we have forgotten anyone we apologize. The NMMRO board would like to thank everyone for your continued support, for your attendance, and to all who helped make Bike Day at the Capital a success. We thank the Lord for getting everyone home safely on a very windy day. Annette Torrez, NMMRO Chairperson



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

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

Condolences...

Our Condolences go out to the Mz Behavin Diva's MC and Show Stoppers Desert Posse RC during the loss of their friend Barney Cook. Barney was the mechanic for Show Stoppers Unlimited for 3 years. Rest in Peace Barney.



Farewell to a Friend

Gary Hepler passed away on Sunday, February 20, 2011. He was the Vice President of the Shadow Riders Motorcycle Club and a member of NMMRO, COC and the U.S. Defenders. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1964 to 1970 and received the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Good Conduct Medal. Gary was very proud of his service to our country. He was a very devoted man to his charity work in Valencia County. Gary loved to ride his Harley and helped many ladies learn to ride. He fought his cancer until the time

he peacefully passed away in the company of his mother and club members. The ShadowRiders MC would like to thank everyone for their support during Gary's illness and passing. A special thank you goes to Preacher Gray Wolf for administering Gary his last rights, and for officiating at the funeral service; and to Lance Sedillo, and his band Traveler in Pain for their Tribute to Gary on Friday night at The 2 Minute Warning. May you rest in peace Gary.

Patriot Guard Riders Standing for Those that Stood for Us...

Patriot Guard Riders Standing for Those Who Stood for Us

I met members of the Patriot Guards at the Red River Run last year and told them about the NMMRO. Their members attended Bike Day at the Capital and shared with us how they support the veterans and their families. They have been filling the Albuquerque airport when one of our troops returns from war, to welcome them home and celebrate their homecoming; *how awesome* is that. In days of the Vietnam War when our troops returned home they were spit on and persecuted. The Patriot Guards are making sure that the heroes of today know they are appreciated for their service to our country.

I personally want to thank them for escorting me to my Vice President Gary's funeral in Belen, for standing guard with their flags before and

after the service and funeral, and for escorting his body and our procession to his final resting place at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe. Thank you for all you do, for your support to all those heroes that we take for granted and who fight for our rights and freedoms. **You are also our heroes.** God Bless you. Continue the great work. I am honored to call you friends.

ShadowRider: Annette Torrez (Vamp)

Patriot Guard's Mission Statement:

The Patriot Guard Riders is a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation. We have one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security. If you share this respect, please join us. We don't care what you ride or if

you ride, what your political views are, or whether you're a hawk or a dove. It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn't matter where you're from or what your income is; you don't even have to ride. The only prerequisite is Respect.

Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes *as invited guests of the family*. Each mission we undertake has two basic objectives:

1. Show our sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families and their communities.
2. Shield the mourning family and their friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors.

We accomplish the latter through strictly legal and non-violent means. To those of you who are currently

servicing and fighting for the freedoms of others, at home and abroad, please know that we are backing you. We honor and support you with every mission we carry out, and we are praying for a safe return home for all.

<http://www.patriotguard.org/Home/tabid/53/Default.aspx>



Status of HB 68 Careless Driving Penalties Bill

HB68 is the official designation in the current New Mexico legislative session for the Careless Driving Penalties Bill. If passed, HB68, will amend the current careless driving statute to increase penalties on drivers who cause a crash which results in "great bodily harm" or death. The current careless driving statute provides for a maximum penalty of \$300 or not more than 90 days in jail or both. If passed the maximum penalty for a regular careless driving infraction would remain unchanged but wording would be added to the statute which would increase penalties for careless driving resulting in "great bodily harm" or death to a maximum of \$1000 or 1 year in jail or both. At the time of the publication of the last NMMRO newsletter in January members of both the motorcycling and bicycling communities were meeting with Representative Rick Miera and had decided to change the bill we were presenting from a bill which would increase penalties on Failure To Yield infractions to a bill which would increase penalties on a whole range of "Moving Violations". After getting a bill writer to create a discussion draft of the bill Rep Miera showed the bill to representatives who were members of the various committees the bill would pass through. Representative Bill Rehm,, who is a member of the House Judiciary committee suggested that we would stand a better chance of getting a bill passed which targeted the "Careless Driving" statute instead of "Moving Violations". Because the House Judiciary committee was always where we encountered the most problems in our previous attempts we decided to follow Representative Rehm's

advice and change course again. Representative Rehm then had a discussion draft created for the Careless Driving Penalties bill. The draft was discussed among members of the motorcycling and bicycling communities and we decided to support it. Representative Miera agreed to sponsor the bill and it was "dropped" into the list of bills for the 2011 session as "**House Bill 68 Increase Certain Careless Driving Penalties**". The bill can be viewed on the New Mexico legislature website by following this link:

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/session.aspx?chamber=H&legty pe=B&legno=%20%2068&year=11>

Since then the bill has passed through and been approved by two committees in the NM House of Representatives, the floor of the House of Representatives, and one committee in the NM Senate. At the time of the writing of

this article the bill was awaiting approval by the Senate Judiciary committee. If approved there, the bill would then move on to the Senate Floor and then on to the Governor for her Signature. The greatest danger the bill faces now is if it doesn't complete its journey through the Senate before the legislative session ends on Saturday March 19. Inaction by the Senate would effectively kill the bill for this session. Members of the NMMRO and various bicycling organizations have been working hard to lobby both the House of Representatives and the Senate for their support of this bill as it has passed through the legislature. We will keep you informed of the progress.

Dave Covert 3/13/2011

CNMMRO Update...

Greetings! Hope everyone is doing well.

At our monthly meeting we talked about some bills, besides our own HB 68, which are being proposed and going through committees in Santa Fe. We also discussed our regular business.

On March 3, 2011 Bev Covert and I went to Rio Rancho High School and taught MAP (Motorcycle Awareness Program) to the driver's education class. This was the first time I have taught this class. The students were very receptive to the lesson and stayed awake, which isn't always easy with teenagers. It was a lot of fun for all of us. The visual aids we took were a big hit with the students!

The driver's education teacher, Mr. Woods, asked if we would teach again to his next class which is starting after Spring Break for the high school. Of Course we said yes. We all believe that this program should be taught to all drivers' education classes.

The CNMMRO meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Our meeting location is Smokehouse BBQ in Rio Rancho (on the corner of Barbara Loop and Deborah Rd). You are always welcome to come join us in our meeting.

Happy & Safe Riding, Cassandra



MRF E-MAIL NEWS Motorcycle Riders Foundation

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11NR09 - MRF News Release - United States House of Representatives Bill to Prohibit Funding for Motorcycle Checkpoints

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
03 March 2011

Contact: [Jeff Hennie](#), Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs

United States House of Representatives Bill to Prohibit Funding for Motorcycle Checkpoints

Today in Washington, Representative Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) introduced legislation, H.R. 904, a bill to prohibit the United States Department of Transportation funding for motorcycle-only roadside checkpoints. Representatives Tom Petri (R-W) and Paul Ryan (R-W) are original co-sponsors.

Last year, the USDOT set aside a pool of federal monies to fund motorcycle-only roadside checkpoints. One grant was awarded to the state of Georgia in the amount of \$70,000. The Georgia Department of Public Safety, through the Georgia State Patrol, plan to begin the motorcycle-only checkpoints this spring, targeting motorcyclists heading to Daytona, Florida for bike week.

The grant was supplied by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) whose goal is supposed to be accident avoidance not injury reduction. Clearly motorcycle checkpoints do not promote accident avoidance. H.R. 904 will not stop the Georgia checkpoints, only future funding of motorcycle checkpoints.

"We introduced this important piece of legislation because Secretary LaHood and NHTSA remain adamant that mandating helmet use will prevent motorcycle crashes," Sensenbrenner said. "The first step in motorcycle crash prevention should be rider education and increased awareness. Taxpayer money should not be spent on helmet checkpoints that do not prevent crashes."

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation thanks Congressmen Sensenbrenner, Petri and Ryan for their support and defense of the motorcyclists of this country.

The MRF urges you to contact your Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 904. You can reach your Representative through the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.



News & Notes

13515 Yarmouth Drive / Pickerington, Ohio 43147 / Phone (614) 856-1900 / Fax (614) 856-1920

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Bill introduced to prohibit funding discriminatory motorcycle-only checkpoints

Urge your Representative to support today!

On March 3, 2011, [Representative Jim Sensenbrenner](#) (R-WI) introduced [H.R. 904](#). This bill would prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from providing grants or any funds to states or local governments to be used for any program to create motorcycle-only checkpoints (MOCs). In addition to Sensenbrenner, Reps. [Tom Petri](#) (R-WI) and [Paul Ryan](#) (R-WI) are original cosponsors.

Because MOCs are discriminatory and have not been proven effective, the [American Motorcyclist Association](#) (AMA) strongly supports H.R. 904, and urges motorcyclists to take action to assure passage. The AMA needs your help to contact your Representative immediately and urge them to cosponsor this legislation. This bill came about in response to the Motorcycle Law Enforcement Demonstrations Grant (DTNH22-10-R-00386) program administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). You can view the grant notice [here](#). Initially begun in New York State, the process involves establishing checkpoints in which only motorcycles are pulled over and subjected to a series of inspections.

As you may know, the state of Georgia was the only state to receive a grant in the amount of \$70,000 from the NHTSA program to create MOCs. The grant will be used to conduct one or more roadside motorcycle-only checks in accordance with what was outlined in the Request for Applications. The Georgia State Patrol (GSP) will oversee the day-to-day operation of the program. On October 26, 2010, the AMA sent a letter to Georgia's former Governor Sonny Perdue requesting he suspend the implementation of the grant until questions raised by the motorcycling community are addressed. The former governor did not respond to AMA's letter. Therefore, the AMA sent another letter, dated February 15, 2011, to Georgia's newly-elected [Governor Nathan Deal](#). To see AMA's letter, [click here](#).

The AMA cautions riders traveling through the state of Georgia that the GSP may mobilize the MOC before, during and after Daytona Bike Week. In addition to the letters submitted to the past and present governors of Georgia, the AMA has questioned the potential discriminatory and legal nature of this program and submitted a list of questions for clarification to the New York State Police. To date, New York authorities have not responded. The AMA also sent a letter to the NHTSA Administrator David Strickland urging him to suspend the grant program until questions have been addressed. The AMA believes that the primary source of motorcycle safety is in motorcycle crash prevention and not in arbitrarily pulling over riders and randomly subjecting them to roadside inspections. The NHTSA should focus on decreasing the likelihood of crashes from occurring in the first place. The methods used in New York State and possibly Georgia remain highly suspect and no public money should be applied to promoting such a program without first addressing questions from the motorcycling community. Specifically, how do MOCs increase the safety of motorcyclists? Where do the selected states draw their authority to conduct MOCs? Will "probable cause" be required to stop a motorcycle under the terms of this grant program? If so, what will constitute "probable cause?" What types of infractions were recorded by New York law enforcement officials at these checkpoints? What criteria will be used to determine if the MOCs are successful? Do states have the jurisdiction to inspect vehicles registered in another state? And, how was the safety of motorcyclists improved by the use of MOCs?

This bill is critical to ending the discriminatory practice of MOCs. The motorcycling community needs you to contact your Representative now to ask them to cosponsor H.R. 904 to end funding for MOCs. Just follow the "Take Action" option to send a pre-written e-mail directly to your Representative. Be sure to forward this to your motorcycling friends! The AMA needs motorcyclists to unite against MOCs.



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)

Anti-Discrimination Law - NEW MEXICO

DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF CLOTHING OR CLUB MEMBERSHIP IS ILLEGAL

New Mexico Civil Rights legislation codified in N.M.S.A. Sec. 28-1-1, et. seq. establish certain Civil Rights and prohibit certain discriminatory practices. The Act was modeled after the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 2000 (e), et. seq.). A "civil right" has been defined as a privilege accorded to and or a right due from one individual to another, the trespassing upon which is a civil injury. The interference with a person's lawful conduct and actions is a violation of a civil right, U.S. v. Gugel, 119 F.Supp. 897. Discrimination need not be only on the grounds of race, color, national origin, etc. Any invidious discrimination is prohibited, Nanez v. Ritger, 304 F.Supp. 354. Coverage includes the right to free speech, peace- able assembly and freedom of association, Ames v. Vavreck, 356 F.Supp. 931. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that individuals have a constitutional right under the First Amendment to wear clothing which displays writing or designs, Cohen v. Ca., 403 U.S. 15. A person's right to wear the clothing of choice, and the right to belong to any club or organization is constitutionally protected. Persons or establishments who discriminate on the basis of clothing or club membership may have violated the Act.

SNMBC Update...

Action Time and a Sad Note... a tribute to Rodney

BIKE DAY at the Roundhouse last February 19th in Santa Fe has come and gone. From the information I've received, it was a great success. This is the important support from the New Mexico motorcycle and bicycling community for HB 68; INCREASE CERTAIN CARELESS DRIVING PENALTIES, a bill sponsored by Rick Miera (Dist 11). We're unsure of the timing of appearances before the various committees but just being there and communicating with your elected representative was vitally important. They - the politicians you elected needed to know how you felt about this important piece of legislation. This is what the motorcycle rights movement is all about folks, helping to structure the rules we ride by, and the freedoms we enjoy. Just remember, if we don't stand up for ourselves and what we believe in, others will do it for us and we probably won't like the result. On a positive note, my understanding is that the bill awaits only a senate floor vote until Gov. Martinez can sign it into law. The bill may be seen here:

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/11%20Regular/bills/house/HB0068.pdf>

Details may be seen here: http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/_locatorcom.aspx?year=11 Hats off to Dave Covert and the New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization (NMMRO) for the work they have invested in this bill and Rep Rick Miera for sponsoring this effort once again. Dave has really done a bang-up job with it this year and he needs our support. Tell your bicycling friends too - they benefit as well. Hats off again to Annette Torrez who has been recognized by the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) as New Mexico's State Representative. She has received the endorsement of all three (3) Sustaining State Motorcycle Rights Organization's (SSMRO) in NM and is really looking forward to serving the entire motorcycle community, north and south. The SNMBC anxiously awaits her visit here in the south. The SNMBC would like to note the passing of Kara Jan Polson Peterson January 22nd, of pancreatic cancer. Jan was my neighbor and a friend of the SNMBC, or at least my part of it, as she was the first outsider to review the organization's bylaws and listen to my vision, which has held up for the past 3 plus years. I offered her a position on the board as legal eagle but she politely declined, having some misgivings relative to mandatory helmet use. She was a prosecutor for Dona Ana County and felt that she couldn't go against what she believed. I respected that and remained her friend. She smiled a lot, made lots of friends, put some bad guys away and if it hadn't been for her, my initial meeting in 2004 with the Dona Ana County DA, now Governor, Susana Martinez wouldn't have happened. Ms Martinez and the SNMBC have enjoyed a supportive relationship since then. Jan passed quietly, happy to have done what she could to make her world a better place, at the age of 40. God rest, we'll see you down the road. And with Jan's passing, another chapter... The late Rodney Dangerfield had a wonderful tag line - "I don't get no respect." He used that expression plus his physical antics to capture the world and be known as a great comic talent. It took a lot of work - years - but he was a success at portraying the poor schmuck who never could quite grab the golden ring. Rodney's gone now but his legacy lives on and the message is still there. Rodney fought an uphill fight but he lived to see the downhill side of the mountain he chose to climb. Some of us don't last as long. This will be the last column this writer will be penning for a while. It's time to move on. I need to take a break. To quote Barbara Alvar, who spent 10 years building the NMMRO into the organization that it is today, it's time to go riding and recapture what got me into this situation in the first place, or something to that effect. At our recent monthly meeting last Saturday, I stepped down as President of the SNMBC effective March 15th and the board voted to put the SNMBC to sleep for a while. I have issues that bother me, issues that are out of my control that affect how I perceive my role in the motorcycle community, issues with the very organizations that proclaim to defend my right to ride. The SNMBC has tried valiantly to awaken the sleeping giant of motorcycle rights awareness here in the south end of the state only to be met with apathy and club resistance. Okay. We tried for almost four years to make people aware of the MRF, the AMA, the need for monitoring legislative activities, the need for getting involved... and we got basically nowhere. Yeah Rodney, we got no respect. The newsletter was our main instrument of communication, but here in the south we need more than that. We need some hero of mythical proportions to lead the many varieties of riders here to salvation, to Nirvana, to supreme awareness, to unity, but it's not me. Hopefully, the new MRF State Rep will be able to make a difference. I'll be spending my time with personal stuff - family, spouse, rides by myself, things I need to do... but I'll be pulling for her. Lots of bikes on the road at this writing. Please be careful out there, be safe, be aware Da Prez.

Da Prez
Chuck Ryder

Tech Tip for the Season...

Spring into Action

The arrival of warmer temperatures in spring means a long-anticipated return to the road for a number of winter-weary riders. For those climate-challenged enthusiasts forced to store their ride over the winter months, the first ride of the season should be preceded by a thorough check-up. Nationwide Insurance offers the following "First Ride" checklist for motorcyclists heading back out on the road:

- 1.) Tires - Look carefully for signs of weather cracking and test the tread depth in several places. If your tires are cracked or worn, invest in new ones. Also, be sure to check the tire pressure. If your tires are the originals, inflate to the pressure specified in the owner's manual. If they aren't the originals, it is best to consult the tire manufacturer's recommended pressure on the sidewall of the tire.
- 2.) Wheels - Check your wheels for loose spokes or bent rims.
- 3.) Lights - Check for cracking and condensation in the lenses. Test your headlamp, turn signals, tail and brake lights to ensure they are in working condition. Replace failed bulbs.
- 4.) Battery - Make sure your battery's fully charged. Replace it if the case is bulging. Clean battery terminals before installing.
- 5.) Fluids - Check the levels of your engine oil, hydraulic fluid, brake fluid, coolant and fuel. Replace or refill those that need it. If your bike didn't get an oil and filter change prior to winterizing, take care of it now.
- 6.) Controls - Ensure the throttle twists freely and snaps back in the off position. Examine cables and hoses for damage and be sure they don't interfere with suspension and steering.
- 7.) Brakes - Inspect your brake pads and liners, and replace them if they are worn.
- 8.) Supplies - Examine your tool kit and first aid kit to make sure you have the items necessary in the event of an accident or breakdown.
- 9.) Review your insurance policy. Be sure your policy is up-to-date and you're covered for any valuable accessories you added during the winter.

"Other resources to ensure the first ride of spring is a safe one are owners' manuals and, of course, a professional mechanic," says Mitch Roggemann, national sales director for Nationwide's Property & CasualtySpecialty Products. "These resources will make the return to the road enjoyable."

Calendar of Events...

March 19 - Noon	NMMRO Meeting	Post 49
April 2 - 2:00 pm	COC Meeting	Post 49
April 16 - Noon	NMMRO Meeting	Post 49
May 21 - Noon	NMMRO Meeting	Post 49

NMMRO Membership

Single Membership	\$20.00
Couples Membership	\$30.00
Corporate Membership	\$100.00
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