

From the desk of Abate of Wis. PR Guy

It seems that all too often bikers hear about the bad news that complicates their lives. We're being banned from having events in certain cities, loud pipes will no longer be tolerated, motorcycle fatalities are rising, right of way violations are not being prosecuted and the list goes on. Well, I'm going to share some of the things that bikers are doing to make a difference and how being vigilant about what we believe in can pay off.

Grayslake, IL showed its totalitarian side by cancelling the Ironhorse Roundup, and now I see that Myrtle Beach has also deemed bikers as undesirable. Be assured that both motorcycle rights activists and lawyers in both states are working diligently to correct this unfair discrimination and everyone can do their part by supporting the efforts of those that are fighting for our freedoms.

Loud pipes are the hot topic among sheriffs in Wisconsin right now, and even though there is very little ABATE of WI can do to change the law that makes it illegal to alter a stock exhaust, we are making substantial efforts toward a solution by promoting "throttle management" to all bikers and asking that everyone show respect by curbing the unnecessary noise in residential neighborhoods. ABATE of WI will continue to monitor the situation and make sure that motorcycles are not unfairly targeted on this issue. We have had success in the past by meeting with law enforcement in highly targeted areas and I expect similar results as the year continues.

Motorcycle fatalities are always a hot topic among the safety Nazis and statistics put out by their organizations often put a negative slant on the actual facts. Although the head of US DOT, Mary Peters (who is not a biker), thinks she will save us all by making helmet use mandatory throughout the US because a helmet saved her life in a recent crash, the facts present a much different case. Over the last ten years motorcycle fatalities have not kept up with increased registrations throughout this country. The three states with the least fatalities per ten thousand registrations were Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Funny, all these states have freedom of choice for their riders. And, if Mrs. Peters would have been paying attention to the task at hand, she probably wouldn't have rear ended her husbands' motorcycle. If we really want to save lives, let's start promoting awareness to motorists and hold them accountable for their actions.

At the recent sentencing of a driver accused of killing a motorcyclist in a right of way violation accident in Marquette County, WI the presence of bikers in court made a substantial difference in the outcome the trial. With the PR help and support from the law firm of Hupy/ Abraham, officers from ABATE of WI (including myself), and bikers from the community, a case that was originally dismissed by the presiding judge before the appeals court overturned the dismissal ended in a win for the motorcycle community by sentencing the driver to a year in jail and five year license revocation.

So, it seems that all is not lost in the bikers' world. With vigilance and determination bikers are making a difference. If you feel you could do more to protect your freedoms, please join ABATE of WI by calling 1-800-386-4442 or join online at abatewis.org. Until next month...Ride Free.

Rare Rides

The motorcycle exhibit at the Putnam Museum

It was going to be a rainy morning this past June 8th but none the less over 150 riders showed up at the Le Claire Iowa welcome center for the beginning of the ride that KICK started the Rare Rides Motorcycle exhibit at the Putnam Museum & I MAX 1717 w 12th Street in Davenport Iowa. The ride was about 15 miles and took close to a hour due to the weather. It was quite a sight to watch the bikes coming up Division Street then filling the front parking lot with several makes of motorcycles from new to old. The only thing that showed more diversity was the riders themselves. From young to old and all walks of life they rode in together braving the rain and sharing the road as one. Watching the bikes round the corner and into the parking lot were dozens and dozen of people who came in cars. Many of them friends of Bill Tuman, "Smitty" Smith and Pearl Smith ("Smitty" was unable to attend) others who came to see the bikes from the Kick start ride and those inside. A much as they all came from different places and backgrounds they all had one thing in common a love of and for motorcycles.

Once inside the Museum the staff greeted you and gave you a wrist band with little tear off tabs. The tabs were your tickets to get inside the actual exhibit plus a sandwich, chips and a soft drink all at a cost of zero-zip-nada. That's right FREE.

The exhibit runs through September 7th. For hours, ticket pricing and more information visit the web site www.putnam.org you can see more photos on www.qccruz-news.com

Gery Schemel



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WHAT IS IT?

By Richard 'Bingo' Cosby

*Some people have most of it in front of them
 Some people have left most if it behind.
 Some people waste some every day.
 Some people - enough they cannot find!*

*For some - it seems to 'drag along' -
 And for some - it seems to FLY!
 Some use it very wisely -
 And some - just let it pass them by.*

*It's TIME my friend! It's NOW! TODAY!
 Your tomorrow might never come!
 Most will waken to a new day -
 But it WON'T be there - for SOME!*

*Time goes you say? Ah no my friend!
 I'm afraid that's not quite so.
 It 'passes' us every day - but in the end -
 It's time that stays - and it's WE that GO!*

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