

Who out there hasn't attended a bike night at Quaker Steak & Lube in Middleton, WI? I try to stop in and eat when I can. The food is great. But the pictures here are from July when I stopped in and checked out one of their summer bike nights. Attended by hundreds of bikes that come to see the vendors, live band, bikes and you can't forget the wings. If you've never stopped you don't know what you're missing. With the full size racing cars, bikes hanging from the ceiling make for some interesting viewing while you eat. Check out the website for upcoming events and menu at [www.thelube.com/middleton\\_wi](http://www.thelube.com/middleton_wi)



Some more news

OMG

Distracted driving apparently causes fatal crashes affecting bikers and drivers of light trucks more than any other group on the road, according to 2009 statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Though the statistics don't break down which operator was distracted, only that "distracted driving" affected one or more drivers in fatal crashes, you can be sure there aren't too many bikers distracted by talking or texting on a cell phone while riding their bikes.

It's estimated that approximately 959,000 traffic incidents last year were caused by distracted driving and 4,898 of those resulted in at least one death. As a result, Massachusetts recently joined 29 other states in passing a texting ban; almost all of those same states (28) have also banned cell phone use in some form.

However, a new insurance industry study says that such bans have not reduced automobile accidents. The report does not dispute the danger of texting while driving, but rather it suggests that banning the practice does not automatically produce safer roads.

"If we're counting on texting bans to reduce crashes from distracted driving, they're not doing that," said Adrian Lund, president of the Highway Loss Data Institute in presenting the group's findings in Kansas City during the annual meeting of the Governors Highway Safety Association.

The new study is not the first time the research institute has suggested that legislative efforts to combat distracted driving are not affecting crash rates. In January, the institute found virtually no change in crash frequency for states that had enacted bans on handheld phone use.

Lund suggested multiple explanations, pointing to prior studies that found many drivers are not heeding the texting ban, and may be lowering their hands and taking their eyes off the road to text more discreetly.

US Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, who has championed awareness of the dangers of cellphone use and other distractions, immediately condemned the study as "completely misleading." [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

High Court Rules Against South Australian Gang Law

Six of seven High Court judges have ruled that aspects of anti-"bikie" laws, which prevent members of "declared" motorcycle gangs from associating with each other, were unconstitutional as applied in South Australia.

Under SA laws passed last year to disband outlawed motorcycle clubs, the state attorney-general can "declare" an organization to be an illegal gang if satisfied that its members associate for serious criminal purposes and represent a risk to public safety and order.

This is the second resounding legal defeat of this calculating and reactionary piece of legislation, according to the United Motorcycle Council of New South Wales, a coalition of motorcycle clubs organized to fight such discriminatory gang laws. "This decision is an important milestone not just in terms of the fight against the South Australian legislation, but also against similar hastily adopted legislation of other states," said Ferret, UMC Chairman.

Other Australian states, including NSW and Queensland, have enacted similar legislation but officials there believe that their legislation differs in key respects.

To celebrate the Supreme Court decision, members of rival clubs came together for a drink to toast a win against the very laws aimed at stopping them from associating.

But South Australian Premier Mike Rann said the ruling was only a setback in his self-declared war on bikies, saying he would "keep coming" at members of motorcycle clubs with new legislative measures. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

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