

The Elusive Troopers Finally Appear.

I got a notice via e-mail from Nikki of ABATE 4A that Trooper Fochs and Trooper Binder were finally going to appear at the November 7th meeting to explain their side of the loud pipe and many other issues.

I was skeptical that they would show, due to the last minute cancellations in the past. Can you blame them? The loud pipe crowd is huge and many of them are heartfelt pissed off at the tickets they have gotten in the past. So their appearance could turn into an interesting meeting. Noone likes to be in the middle of cage surrounded by wolves who would love to take just one bite out of your hide.

Mom Rags and I headed out to Eagle II saloon in Mosinee. As we pulled in so did the Troopers. Cool I thought, as I knew this wouldn't be another wasted trip. As the meeting started, we got right into it, hearing from the Troopers about their background and thoughts.

Trooper Jim Binder started out by saying he used to be into riding, long hair, earrings and was on the wild side. Last bike was an Asian bike that he sold a few years back. He trains other law authority in recognizing illegal items like non stock pipes. Goes through swap meets and looks for stolen parts. He mentioned that, " if you see a 5 gallon gas tank in good shape for \$20, it's a good sign it may be stolen, same with a tranny that has no case and examples like that". He also touched on receipts, mentioned he specializes in motorcycle recovery, saying that in one central Wisconsin County they had 18 bikes recovered. Binder had a really good attitude and a really neat way to get his message and points across.

Trooper Bob Foch on the other hand has a reputation that proceeds him for writing tickets, that touched off a few in the crowd that didn't agree with anything he said. Foch used to ride but decided that it wasn't worth it after seeing how people in cars now drive. Been a trooper for 20 + years and had a much colder personality, with dry humored attempts at telling jokes. A peoples person he doesn't seem to be, but at least he showed to give his opinion. He seemed to be sincere when answering the questions asked him, and was firm on his beliefs.

Some of the other issues that were answered by other questions are:

What is your actual area for patrolling. City, County, state and Federal?

Any street, anytime, anywhere.

What is the law as far as decibal reading?

There is no decibal reading machine used by law enforcement. 80 is the decibal for stock motorcycles leaving the factory. Buell runs 82 DB's.

How many bikes other than Harleys have been ticketed?

Both Fochs and Binder said they write many tickets for bikes other than Harleys. It does not matter to them what kind of bike it is. If it sounds above 80db, they are getting a ticket. Binder mentioned how his mom hates that loud Harley that goes down the road and he reminds her it was actually a Suzuki. Both Troopers mentioned that any factory pipes can be made to sound louder just by downshifting and revving. People assume that a noisy bike going by is a Harley.

Warnings: No Warnings any more. Foch mention how he used to write warnings but got tired of seeing the bikes owner take the bike home, change pipes, get the citation fixed, go home, change pipes again and see the rider screaming down the road again with original ticketed pipes back on again. Foch says he has better things to do than paper work like this. Now he tickets out right. If you look at it that way, it's understandable.

Roadway Users act- Trooper Binder responded to the law that if your bike doesn't trip the light, you have to wait 45 seconds/2 cycles of light. He also mentioned that you have to proceed through the light with Due Regard! Meaning you have to give right of way if you are going through a red light.

Handle bar height Law- 30" from top of seat to top of handlebars and told a story of a rider in his area that has tall apes on his bike and when the rider sees the law he pulls the bars down to shoulder height. We know that trick Binder said.

Another item that is looked for: is that the license plates have to be horizontal and is illegal to run them vertical.

And lastly was a mention of people that are trying to slim down their bike by taking turn signals off: Need to have turn signals as bright or brighter than stock is good to go.

To wrap up the meeting I would have to say that it was very informative, while entertaining by the Troopers telling stories to try and make their point, while having good responses. Everyone there in attendance was treated with respect on both sides. I hope more riders can attend the next time the Troopers come to the meeting (possibly in Spring).

One quotes I thought important:

Trooper Binder & Fochs both said, "They will not pull a rider over who is running non-aggressively just for the sake of checking if pipes are stock from factory."

So remember, ride safe, ride quietly, ride with respect to others and enjoy the ride.

PS: The words "Biker Gang" is a really old way of looking at Bikers/Motorcyclist. A really negative way of thinking. They are "Motorcycle Clubs". But that's my view.

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