

**From the Desk of ABATE of Wisconsin's PR Guy-
"Chubby"**

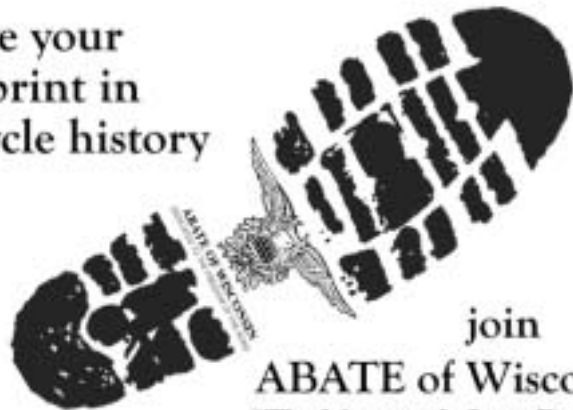
This is the best time of year to be a biker. Great weather, long days, and plenty of different events to attend every weekend, what more could a biker ask for? The Fourth of July is a special time for me, besides being my birthday; it's a day I enjoy seeing everyone showing their patriotism. It seems that everyone is proud to be an American on the Fourth, and there's never a lack of patriotic spirit. Unfortunately, these part time patriots fade away after the parades are done and the smoke from the fireworks blows away to clearly view the moon again. It makes me wonder how many people really understand what it means to be a patriot and the sacrifices our forefathers made to make sure we could all be proud to live in the United States of America. Can a nation remain strong when all the patriots are gone? When freedoms are taken away from us every day and still we remain apathetic, are we truly free? At what point will we decide to be a part of what makes America great, instead of just being an American? What will it take to make you step up and truly become a patriot?



Our state government does not seem much better than the feds when it comes to transparency and responsibility. Everyone I know has had to tighten their belt lately and put off some of their wants and just concentrate on their immediate needs. Why can't the Wisconsin legislature do the same? Is there really a good reason to increase a budget during a financial crisis? Will taxing us more really help us as Wisconsin citizens? Why is a budget allowed to have bills attached to it instead of letting the legislators we voted for discuss and vote on them as stand alone bills? As I write this, we still do not have an answer as to whether motorcycle program funding will take a hit so that other programs can increase but only time will tell. Whether or not you support the smoking ban that passed earlier this year, you should clearly understand that anyone that voted for it will have no problem voting to put a helmet on your head in the name of protecting every citizen from harm and burden. I'm not a smoker, so ultimately it doesn't matter to me whether you can smoke in a bar or not. But, I see no reason to make a law when all the while a responsible bar owner could have decided to make their establishment smoke free. I spoke with one bar owner that felt this leveled the playing field for bars that were in cities that already instituted smoking bans and lost business to neighboring towns without bans. With this kind of thinking we will all have to wear not only helmets, but full reflective Kevlar or leather gear all the time so that the ATGATters (All The Gear All The Time) don't feel out of place. I mean no disrespect to those that feel more comfortable dressing for the crash, but as adults don't we deserve to make that decision? Shouldn't safety and awareness education come before regulating riding gear? Who knows what the future will bring, but be assured that ABATE of Wisconsin will be ever aware of issues that concern all motorcyclist in the state.

In 1775, farmers, merchants, sailors, and tradesmen banded together to fight for their freedom. The Minutemen, probably America's first patriots, were prepared to fight tyranny on a minutes notice. Patriots like Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Paine gave up wealthy lifestyles to fight for the freedoms of all Americans and in doing so gave us the structure by which we are governed yet today. These original patriots gave no concessions or compromises in their struggle to become free. Individual freedoms became the precedent in our new country. How do you think these original patriots would think of the way our country is run today? Benjamin Franklin was once quoted as saying "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety". These patriots were part of a brotherhood that still exists today. Because of this brotherhood they were able to achieve what no one man could do on his own. Our brotherhood is a united voice for bikers no matter what machine they choose to ride. It's up to you to decide if you want your voice heard. What will it take for you to stand up? As for me, I'll be a patriot forever. Have a great Fourth of July, God bless America. Until next month... Ride Free

leave your
footprint in
motorcycle history



join
ABATE of Wisconsin
"The Motorcycle Issue Experts..."

Call 800-386-4442 or go to www.abatewis.org

UNITED WE RIDE

TAKES A FRESH START

AUGUST 15, 2009

THE RIDE: 80 MILES THROUGH PORTAGE COUNTY

with a mid-way stop at Almond-Bancroft School

START: 1 P.M., AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

Lincoln Center, 1519 Water St., Stevens Point

Check in time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

END: 4:30 P.M., BREWS BRATS & BANDS

Meal and rally at Brewery Park in Stevens Point

PURPOSE: 2009 CAMPAIGN KICK OFF

HELP PREPARE KIDS FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

Please bring school supplies to donate to

United Way's Project Fresh Start.

REGISTRATION: \$25 SINGLE/\$35 DOUBLE

LIVE UNITED™

TO REGISTER:
UNITED WAY OF PORTAGE COUNTY
www.unitedwaypoco.org
(715) 341-6740
uway@unitedwaypoco.org

Boogie & the Yo-Yo's
to perform at Brews,
Brats & Bands
Saturday night!



Independent motorcycle shops providing the latest and the greatest in parts, service and accessories for today's distinguishing biker who's tired of the rubber stamp look.

The Independent Shop Association
www.ISAinfo.com

Members of:
**The
Motorcycle
Riders
Foundation**



Are you a bit different?
Want to be?
Check out the shops listed
in this publication to
show the world who you
really are!

The *Independent Shop Association* is supported by the law office of:
Weigel, Carlson, Blau & Clemens, S.C.
3732 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53208

Providing a specialized Motorcycle Accident Team for your needs.
Medical Doctor, Private Investigators, Engineer, Paralegals and Attorneys.

If you're in an accident, don't hesitate to call the law office that does so much to support your rights as a biker and works the hardest at getting you the compensation you deserve when you have been injured by the actions of others.

1-800-486-0106
Member of ABATE of Wis.

Supporters of the "Run to the Wall"
A Memorial weekend ride to the
VNVM in Washington DC as part of
"Rolling Thunder"

