

Laura the Potter

Hi Everyone! Thought I would share this experience with you...

Last week I was on a bike run...about 120 bikes, and I was in the middle of the pack. There was a road guard at a stop sign blocking traffic as we were taking a right hand turn. Suddenly a squad car coming the opposite direction whipped a U turn, turned on his lights and was behind us...we were all slowing down, getting out of his way, and then he decides to cut off about 50 motorcycles and get right behind ME!!!!!! I raised my hand up in a gesture like - "WHAT?????" He set of his siren in a "Whoop Whoop" sound telling me - "Yes, I DO want you to pull over." So, I did.

There are all my friends going by me just shaking their heads like - why would he do that!!!!!!

So, he says to me..."Do you know why I pulled you over?" I said "I have no idea." He said "Because you didn't come to a complete stop at that stop sign." I just said "Oh." Now what I wanted to say was - "Damn right I didn't stop! If I would have stopped I would have had 50 bikes up my butt!" "We were all going thru the stop sign like one great big vehicle! That is what you do at bike runs! You Little Punk Ass Idiot!" But no, I kept my mouth shut! Like a good girl!

In the mean time the Road Guard was still there not wanting to leave me alone, and the cop says - "Ride over here, I want to talk to this guy too." So I did. Well, the Road Guard had a few words for the guy. I got off with a verbal warning, and he got a ticket for obstructing traffic.

It made for interesting conversation the rest of the day. No - I didn't wink at him or do anything else to get out of the ticket, and I don't think he was pulling me over to get my number! I did get a lot of teasing the rest of the day... I know its not "legal" for someone to block traffic, but I think most police would rather see road guard, for the safety of the group and have some respect for what a bike run is all about, and can certainly see that if every motorcycle would have to come to a complete stop would just be - crazy!

That Deputy made the run dangerous! He totally cut off the motorcycles and got right behind me! That made all the other bikes have to slow down abruptly, swerve around, and I'm sure they were all looking ahead at him pulling me over. Somebody told me I shouldn't have stopped. Well, when an Officer is blowing the siren right behind you - that means you had better stop. I sure wasn't going to until he did that.

Anyway...this is what is happening out there on bike runs...be careful! Take Care, Laura the Potter



U.S. Defenders Ask Judge To Send Manslaughter Charge To Trial

A state district judge in Texas has rejected a plea bargain that would have placed a blind woman on deferred probation in the traffic death of motorcyclist. Judge Ralph Strother of Waco's 19th State District Court refused to accept the plea deal in a felony manslaughter case that involves a vision-impaired 39-year-old who was driving without a license and was cited at least twice before for the same offense.

The U.S. Defenders, a politically-active arm of the Confederation of Clubs, conducted a "Call to Action" and Judge Strother's office was inundated with 1,200 letters from motorcycle enthusiasts who urged him not to accept the prosecutor's recommended plea deal.

Trena Evette Mitchell, who is legally blind and had four children in her car when she turned in front of Richard Craig Schroeder's motorcycle last December as he was returning from a toy run, withdrew her guilty plea and her case is now set to go to trial in mid-August.

Mitchell had been scheduled for sentencing in late July, but the judge moved up her case after more than a thousand motorcyclists said they would ride to the courthouse to show support for Schroeder, known as "Hat Trick" to his biker friends.

"Last year we worked with the legislature to net a minimum fine for those who injure or kill an innocent party by encroaching on their right of way," said Sputnik, State Chair for the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association (TMRA-2) and Chairman of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists' Legislative Task Force (NCOM-LTF). "We did not receive a single no vote in the House or Senate on SB 1967.

Unfortunately we did not take into consideration a Plea Bargain where they could be given adjudication and end up not being found guilty. It is apparent that we shall have to return to the bill's sponsor Senator Carona and reconstruct SB 1967 during the upcoming session to make allowances for such an occurrence." www.ON-A-BIKE.com



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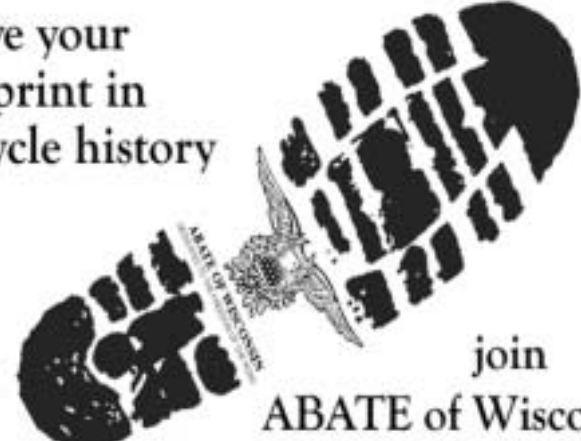
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