

We Are ABATE - Hear Us Roar!

Every year we can count on it. It's as sure a thing as that one girl always was on high school prom night. But our sure thing every year is the attacks that we receive from the media. And there have been a lot of them over the past few weeks.

As some of you may already know, Gannett Media who is one of the largest owners of newspapers in the country launched an all-out campaign for mandatory helmets this year. They flooded all their newspapers in the state with editorials about how many lives would be saved with a mandatory helmet law as well as public polls about helmets. And when the poll numbers didn't go their way and they didn't get the responses to the articles that they had hoped for, they started to attack ABATE of Wisconsin.

They minimized our cause by comparing it to North Korean -style totalitarianism. They mocked our Lobby Day by inferring it was a wasted trip to Madison because no Wisconsin lawmaker is introducing a helmet law anyway. And then they called us a "single-issue" group totally ignoring the fact that most of our Lobby Day agenda had absolutely nothing to do with helmets. They were totally laser-focused on helmets in every article across the whole state. (Boy, talk about an organization being single-issue!)

I fielded a lot of complaints from our members who were angry that the newspapers would portray us as reckless heathens of the highway who had no regard for our own safety. I heard from members who were dumbfounded that the newspapers called us a "single-issue" organization even though the reporters had actually sat in on some of our Lobby Day meetings and had seen first-hand the varied list of issues that we brought to our legislators. In fact, throughout their extensive article, the newspapers found it necessary to dedicate only one sentence to what this year's Lobby Day was actually about. (Get used to it folks.) However, a lot of our members failed to read between the lines. Look at how else the newspapers described us. They stated that "ABATE wields power" and we're a "powerful politically connected group". Yes we are! They wrote that the size and scope of our group makes debates "largely one-sided". The newspapers remarked how we "received a warm reception from Democrats and Republicans alike". We were quoted as being "effective lobbyists" and that we "pack hearings, are visible and persistent, and holding regular lobby days". And quoting a State Representative, "ABATE has a pretty developed grassroots organization". Guilty on all counts!

The newspaper editors did their best to try to show us in a negative light. But even through the snarky comments of a biased article, the truth still came through... We are a well-oiled machine and the best motorcycle rights organization in the state, if not the whole country! We are a force to be reckoned with and we will have a voice in our state!

Never apologize for who we are! Never try to defend ABATE of Wisconsin against attacks of this type! Just smile, nod and thank them for recognizing our strengths. The issues that the newspapers try to bash over our heads are some of the same reasons why we "received a warm reception from Democrats and Republicans alike". We are well organized, we know our stuff and we're willing to work with either side of the aisle to further motorcycle rights. Hundreds of us show up at Lobby Day every year because we're passionate about motorcycles - not because we're paid to be there. We're there on our own time and our own dime as well as being extremely knowledgeable about motorcycle rights issues. That's why our legislators like seeing us and that's why we're so successful!

One of the largest news corporations in the country has launched an attack upon us because our message is contrary to all the "safety" talk that they preach. We're gaining ground while the newspaper in general is going the way of the dinosaur. When we're attacked like this, wear it like a badge of honor! Hold your head high! We are ABATE of Wisconsin - hear us roar!

Dean "D-Day" Bartosh
 Director of Public Relations
 ABATE of Wisconsin

**NORTHERN WI VET'S FEST
 JULY 13TH**

10:30 AM: CADOTT VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HIGHWAY 29

11:30: KICKSTANDS UP TO CHIPPEWA VETERAN'S HOME

NOON-2 PM: LUNCH WITH THE VETERANS.

2 PM: SCENIC RIDE

6 PM: FOOD, BANDS, GUN RAFFLE, 50/50 RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZES AT BROKEN ARROW BAR, HWY 27 NORTH, CONRATH.

ALL 50/50 AND DOOR PRIZE RAFFLE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF THE CHIPPEWA FALLS VETERAN'S HOME.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT ROOSTER, 715-944-4596

Federal Rule Require A "Black Box" In New Vehicles

Congress failed to pass legislation that would have required manufacturers to install event data recorders (EDRs) in all new vehicles, so a federal safety agency is using its rulemaking authority to mandate that all new cars sold in the United States be equipped with so-called "black boxes" - capable of capturing what happened in the moments before and during a crash.

Citing privacy concerns, House Republicans had succeeded in removing a Senate provision requiring EDRs from the final transportation bill last year, so the Obama administration is bypassing the legislative process in favor of the administrative rule.

Insisting the devices are meant for crash investigation purposes, and not for invading privacy, the U.S. DOT National Traffic Safety Administration mandate will require all automobiles and light trucks manufactured after September 1, 2014 to have an EDR device that stores driving information for federal investigators.


Automotive EDRs are similar to -- though not nearly as sophisticated as -- the black boxes used in commercial airliners, and they are already installed in nearly 92% of today's vehicles, according to industry officials, and provide important information for industry engineers and, in some circumstances, law enforcement authorities.

But Horace Cooper of the National Center for Public Policy Analysis called the move "an unprecedented breach of privacy for Americans." Cooper said that contrary to what is being claimed, EDRs "can and will track the comings and goings of car owners and even their passengers" -- and what they can record is virtually unlimited.

In the meantime, U.S. Representatives Mike Capuano (D-MA) and Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) have announced their intentions to introduce the "Black Box Privacy Protection Act" that will protect drivers' and riders' rights by requiring dealers to disclose to consumers if a vehicle is equipped with an EDR, would require manufacturers to allow consumers to deactivate the device, and clarifies that the owner of the vehicle owns the data and it cannot be accessed without permission.

"Consumers should have control over the information collected by event data recorders in vehicles that they own and they should have the option of disabling the device if they choose to do so. This is a basic issue of privacy," said Rep. Capuano.

It doesn't matter what you ride... what matters is that you have the right to ride.
 Join and Support ABATE of Wisconsin: Protecting your Right to Ride since 1974.

 PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR INFORMATION
 _____ Annual Individual Membership \$25
 _____ Annual Couple Membership \$45 •
 (*Two people at same address—only one copy of our newsletter.)
 For Life Membership Rates or to join with a credit card visit our webpage at www.abatewis.org

This is a _____ New Membership or a _____ Renewal Membership

Name: _____

Second Name if Couple: _____

Postal Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County Of Residence: _____ ABATE of Wisconsin, Inc. does not sell or share our membership information with anyone.

ABATE of Wisconsin, Inc. is a Non-Profit Membership Corporation dedicated to Protecting the Rights and Safety of all Motorcyclists. Paid members receive a sew on patch, membership card, our monthly newsletter and other rights of membership. For more information visit us on the web at www.abatewis.org.

Mail with payment to: **ABATE of Wisconsin Membership**
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 715-284-7415 or 800-386-4442 abatewis@abatewis.org
 Thank you to the Free Riders Press for this support & promotion.

HAWS  **Humane Animal Welfare Society**

Saturday August 17th
Start at 8:30 AM at Hal's HD
1925 S Moorland Rd
New Berlin, WI 53151
End at 4PM In
Menomonee Falls at
HAL'S annual pet fair.

www.hawspets.org/ride_for_rover.html