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Summers finally here

by Chubby

With the warm weather finally upon us, I'd like to take this time to invite you to the many events ABATE of WI has going on this year. All the money raised at these events goes towards protecting our freedoms on the road. Information on local events is available on our website at www.abatewis.org and we also have information posted on our campground for Harleys 105th and for our state rally the "Summer Hummer". Please take the time to give it a glance.

Our State Legislature is still working on trying to fix the state budget as I write this in the middle of May. So far, I have not seen any attempts to take any money away from Motorcycle Rider Education or Motorcycle Awareness programs. It would be wonderful to see an increase in the funding for those programs, but I do not think that is going to happen in this budget period. Our next best chance to get a much-needed increase in funding will be during our ABATE Lobby Day on February 26, 2009. This will be shortly before the Legislature starts to work on the 2010-11 Wisconsin state budget. Other than the budget, things are slow in Madison during this election year and many of you legislators should be home campaigning. This is a great time to meet the people running for political office from your area. Take the time to attend some of these events and get to know the candidates so that you can make an informed choice this fall. With the interest in the Presidential race this year there should be a large voter turnout. Our friends are going to need all the support and help we can give them. One key point to remember is that No ABATE of Wisconsin Inc. funds can be donated to any candidate for public office. All political donations must come from individuals or a Political Action Committee (PAC). There is a federal PAC run by the Motorcycle Riders Foundation that makes donations to candidates for Federal office. There is no longer a motorcycle specific PAC for State level candidates in Wisconsin, so all donation must come from individuals. As always, time is one of the best donations you can give a candidate. Pitch in, get involved, and make a difference.

So, with all that said lets go out and enjoy the summer. Take in a few events, put some much needed miles on the scooter, and remember why we love this life so much. Remember, if you like great biker parties, pack your tent and head to ABATE of Wisconsin's own land in Greenwood, WI for our state rally, the "Summer Hummer". We are adding an additional day this year with the gates opening Thursday June 19. Ten live bands and all the events that make a biker party, a biker party. Check our website for advanced ticket discounts. Saddle up, enjoy the wind, and I hope to see you around this summer. Until next month... Ride Free.

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