

## Some more news

## **Bikers Protest Motorcycle-Only Checkpoints**

Hundreds of motorcyclists from around Georgia rode to the Capitol to rev their engines in protest of a federal grant the Georgia State Patrol is using to conduct motorcycle-only checkpoints.

The crowd denounced the overly-invasive and discriminatory roadblocks as unconstitutional and chanted "No more profile stops" and "Education, not checkpoints!" The protest rally came two weeks after the state patrol conducted motorcycle check-

points on Interstates 75 and 95 during Daytona Bike Week, during which troopers stopped motorcyclists at roadblocks to check for proper paperwork, approved helmet, and properly functioning equipment.

"The roadblocks are a violation of our rights and are a pure attempt at profiling," said Dan Forrest, State Director of ABATE of Georgia. "Having a registration, proof of insurance and an endorsement on our license does make us safe. Loud pipes never killed anyone."

Georgia is the first state to conduct such checkpoints under a federal grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as part of a \$350,000 pool of funds available to as many as five law enforcement agencies nationwide to test the effectiveness of a New York State Police pilot program.

Several motorcycle organizations are urging riders to call on Governor Nathan Deal to cancel the remainder of the checkpoints, which will be scheduled over the next 20 months at undisclosed locations during unannounced times

Some in Congress have also questioned NHTSA's grant and called for Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to pull the plug on future funding for motorcycle-only checkpoints. Rep. Tom Petri (R-WI), who recently cosponsored legislation to prohibit such grants, called the checkpoints "outrageously intrusive." Indeed, many of the protesters at the March 23rd rally held signs in support of US House Resolution 904 which would prevent the US DOT from providing funds to states which would be used for motorcycle roadblocks. In the meantime, motorcyclists are also awaiting a court ruling on the constitutionality of the New York checkpoints, being challenged by N.Y. Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) Attorney Mitch Proner on behalf of his clients as well as representing the interests

of ABATE of New York and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM). www.ON-A-BIKE.com

#### **Motorcycle Fatalities Drop in 2010**

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation has been informed of a report that will be released at midnight April 19th by the Governors' Highway Safety Association. The report takes a close look at preliminary highway fatality data for the States. The report which examines data for the first three quarters of 2010 shows motorcyclists fatalities dropped two percent. A similar report released last year had motorcyclists deaths down ten percent.

It is not known what the fourth quarter will bring but the first two had significant drops and the third had a slight increase.

The same report also indicated that overall use of DOT helmet use had risen by thirteen percent.

On a call with journalists, MRF Vice President of Government Relations said "if you want to increase DOT helmet use, abolish mandatory helmet law, forcing helmets onto motorcyclists against their will pushes them to purchase the lightest, smallest helmet that can be found and are often times not DOT compliant." "Furthermore most helmet law States do not require a DOT helmet."

## Virginia Launches "Rider Alert" Card

Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) and Bon Secours Virginia Health System, in partnership with Motorcycle Virginia, Inc., have launched a new program designed to save the lives of injured motorcyclists. The program provides free identification data cards that will help first responders provide rapid and accurate medical assistance to riders involved in accidents.

Motorcyclists who participate are provided a free Rider Alert card that contains their personal emergency contact and medical information in the event of a crash. The cards are kept inside the lining of riders' helmets and come with a 1-inch round sticker placed outside the helmet to alert emergency responders of the card. The sticker also warns bystanders not to remove the rider's helmet, which could prevent further injury.

RAA officials say the Rider Alert card program is the first of its kind in the United States, and said that they modeled their program on an initiative in Great Britain known as "CRASH Card", developed two years ago by that country's Ambulance Motorcycle Club. On a national level, Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) was founded on a similar premise over 25 years ago by California attorney Richard M. Lester, issuing free Emergency Medical cards to bikers across the country that are linked to a database of their important medical information and emergency contact. A.I.M. has notified ambulance companies and first responders across the country to look for the yellow A.I.M. Card in a downed rider's wallet.

"We applaud Virginia's Rider Alert program and can appreciate their organizers' level of commitment to implement such a life-saving project," said Lester, whose A.I.M. program also networks with biker attorneys in every state to represent the interests of injured motorcyclists. "When a rider is down, they need all the help they can get as fast as they can get it."

More than three million A.I.M. Cards have been issued since 1985, and you can get yours free by calling (800) ON-A-BIKE or visit www.ON-A-BIKE.com. Free "Do Not Remove This Helmet" stickers are also available. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

# "Heavens Devils MC Central Chapter's 14th Annual"



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