

The Bailing Wire

ABATE of CA. Newsletter for Motorcyclists Volume XXXIII ISSUE XII

A Union of Motorcyclists
Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

Member Richard Carver

December 2014

American
Brotherhood
Aimed
Towards
Education



Executive Director's Report



by Dave Hastings, Executive Director

I had the privilege to speak at the October Unification Rally in Sacramento and I would like to repeat some of the things I said while representing our ABATE of California.

First things first, I would like to send out a big ABATE "Thank You" to Assembly Members Beth Gaines, Curt Hagman, Brian Jones, and Dan Logue for picking up the bill for the sound system and related equipment that was required for our Rally.

There were many speakers waiting patiently for their turn at the podium and all of us were asked in advance to limit our time to about three minutes. The time limit would guarantee each speaker could have a chance to address the assembled riders and I really hadn't decided what I would talk about until the morning of the event. My wife and I had arrived in Sacramento Friday afternoon to a steady drizzle that turned into a hard rain during the night and continued on into Saturday morning. After breakfast we returned to our room to wait for the Rally start time and I began writing down a few thoughts. My wife asked me what I was going to talk about and I said "I've been asked too many times "What is ABATE and what's it all about?" and I think maybe it's time for a short history lesson". She just sat there quietly for a moment and then gave me that "Are you sure?" look and left me alone with my thoughts again. So for those of you who couldn't attend I'm going to repeat my history lesson one more time so when some-

one asks you what has ABATE "done for me" you will have a ready answer.

I'm going to cover about thirty three years of ABATE history in three minutes so please bear with me. Before we had motorcycle rights organizations or MROs as we call them now, the club members of California and a few independents were the only ones who saw the writing on the wall and actually did anything to protect our right to ride. Back in the 60's the Federal Department of Transportation was trying to outlaw modified or "chopped" bikes as unsafe for use on our highways. A nationwide effort was put together by the clubs and in 1975, then President Gerald Ford, signed into law a bill that stopped the withholding of funds to states without a mandatory helmet law. This was a huge victory for riders nationwide and led to the establishment of MROs across the country.

Today's ABATE of California was started 33 years ago by "Deacon" Dave Phillips in 1981 and incorporated in 1986. So what have we done in the last 33 years?

- (1) Passed the handle bar height or "ape hanger" bill.
- (2) Defeated a high performance super bike ban for the sport bike riders.
- (3) Opened up the "Diamond Lanes" to motorcycle use.
- (4) Stopped mandatory motorcycle "smog checks".
- (5) Increased the penalty for "Right of Way" accident violations.
- (6) Spearheaded "Share the Road - Look Twice for Motorcycles" on California freeway message boards.
- (7) Banned "motorcycle only" checkpoints in California.
- (8) And the list goes on and on!

In closing, ABATE has 33 years of experience, Lobbying expertise and the connections already in place to write and pass needed California legislation. But unfortunately, we can't keep doing it all by ourselves. The clubs and a few independents were the original freedom fighters of California and we need everyone's support to be successful. The word "I" will never get any person or group an outcome that benefits everyone that rides. "I" may have an idea but it takes "We" to fulfill that dream. Join ABATE now and help us continue to turn those ideas and dreams into reality for the riders of California!



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What is ABATE?

ABATE is a motorcyclists' rights organization (not a club) dedicated to preserving freedom of choice and freedom of the road, with emphasis on education and safety. Our members are active in programs for public awareness and motorcycle safety, and in supporting many types of charity events.

Included with an ABATE membership are a sew-on patch, membership card, and our monthly newsletter THE BAILING WIRE. There are no special requirements for joining aside from an interest in promoting motorcyclists' rights and safety with payment of the appropriate fees.

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Region 3: Vacant

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Region 8: Tom Lubbers 626/622-9237

Region 9: Mark Loudermilk 951/599-5234

Region 11: Gill Mellen 949/632-9787

Region 12: Dave Connors 760/975-5953

Region 13: Yermo Ed 760/953-7353

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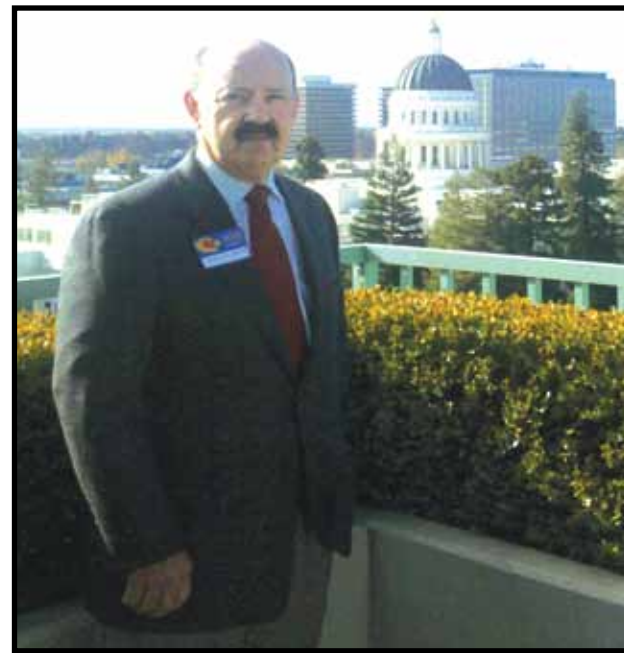
Ed Rogers 559/264-2891

by James Lombardo, Lobbyist

The Legislature returns December 1st and the Assembly will officially elect Toni Atkins (D - San Diego) as its Speaker and the Senate will select Kevin De Leon (D - LA) as the President Pro Tem. Both of the Democrat-controlled California legislative houses lost their Super Majority 2/3 vote margins in the November elections.

Interesting as to how much was made over both houses having Super Majorities, yet neither exercised them on any controversial votes. The final make up of the Assembly is not complete due to close vote counts in several Assembly races. The Senate has been decided with 26 Democrats and 16 Republicans. The Assembly will probably have 52 Democrats and 28 Republicans after final ballot counts.

This is the first increase for Republican Assembly members in the past two election cycles. The Republicans had lost members in both of the last elections; this time they held seats and look to have captured four, overall. It's a credit to the new Assembly Republican Leader, Kristen Olsen! She was the author of AB 1835, which removed mandatory helmet use for off road Side by Side riders. We were able to pass it off the Assembly Floor only to be forced by the Senate Transportation Committee to allow the helmet choice exception to only those riding on private property, which Governor Brown signed into law. However, that's the first helmet use repeal of any kind in California, since the helmet law madness began, here, in 1987.



At this time, the Committee Chairmanships have not been named for either houses and, obviously, no committee members have been assigned, either. This is important to see how our motorcycle bills will fare in the next two year session.

Thanks again to all of you that worked in the elections. I know Nick Benson was involved in helping elect Marc Steinorth in Assembly District 40 and Ed Rogers with other Local 24 members worked phone banks for Senator Vidak in the Fresno/Bakersfield area - **BOTH CANDIDATES WERE ELECTED! BOTH WERE BIG TARGETS FOR DEFEAT!** Job well done! **IT REALLY HELPS US IN THE CAPITOL!**

Several Congressional seats are still involved in ballot counts and recounts. I will have a complete report at the January 10th ABATE Legislative/PAC meeting in Southern California.

Thanks again for your contributions to the Lobbyist Fund. 'See you at the next Legislative/PAC meeting in January.

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Mission Statement

ABATE of California is committed to protect and promote the interests of the motorcycle community. ABATE exists to preserve and safeguard the individual rights and liberties of all riders thru political and legislative action. ABATE promotes motorcycle safety through education, training and public awareness.

ABATE of California now has their off road division up and running!

Join on Page 15

ABATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.**American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education**

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EDITOR**John (Milky) Loudermilk****Assistant Tina Sanders****PRODUCTION & PROOFREADERS****Carol Cromwell & Caroline Griffith****PHOTOGRAPHERS****Bruce Waldron & Gill Mellen****COLUMNISTS**

Bill Bish, Sporty Milligan, Jim Lombardo, Dave Hastings, Norm E. Newiger & Craig Griswold.

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All run flyers and ad copy will be camera ready. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication for ALL material for publication.

Business Card size	\$15.00/Mo	\$150.00/YR
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Super-Size Business Card with color	\$250.00 Yearly only	

A Super-Size Business Membership includes Business card on our website with a web link to your business.
ALL Yearly rates Includes a Business membership to ABATE Of California.

Business Memberships include two persons at the same mailing address, and a display plaque for the first year. Business cards need to be mailed to the ABATE State Office with membership application and appropriate fee.

Other Business Ads or NON-ABATE Event Flyers Rate:

¼ Page (5" w x 7.8" h)	\$150.00/Mo	\$1,500.00/Yr.
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Color for an ad or flyer is extra and (ad copy, print ready) must be submitted showing color. All ads MUST be pre-paid for whatever duration you will be running the ad. Prices do not include any changes that you may want to make to existing ads placed with us.

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PHOTOS

If you have any photos of ABATE motorcycle events please send them to us. They will be returned if you ask. Please include name of event, date, sponsor, etc. Must be received by the 10th of the month. You can email pictures in .jpg file to: bailing.wire@abate.org

Donations to ABATE Of California are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes. However, dues and fees may qualify as business expenses and may be deductible in limited circumstances subject to various restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code.

Recap of ABATE Board of Directors meeting held on October 26, 2014 in Sacramento.**by Dave Hastings**

Remember, this is a "recap" not the "official minutes", but I will do my best to bring you up to speed on what actually transpired at the meeting.

Tom Lubbers called the meeting to order and then announced the prior resignation of Jim Schlachter. Tom praised Jim's contribution and dedication to ABATE of California and said he would be missed by the Board of Directors although he will continue to assist our organization through his Local 17. Sarge Matthews, a long time former Board of Directors member, was then nominated and approved to fulfill the remainder of Jim's term by the Board.

After the Board of Directors member roll call, Greg "Coach" Coppes also announced his resignation because of his ongoing commitment to the upcoming elections. Coach had already informed the Board of Directors of his desire to not seek another term on the Board and we accepted his immediate resignation and decided to leave his seat open until the new Board of Directors members take office at the January meeting. Coach will be missed also and the Board thanked him for his help and hard work for the motorcycling community and we assured him of our commitment to assist him with the anti-profiling legislation he is spearheading at this time.

We had 14 Locals in attendance and 12 absent at the meeting. Board members Gill Mellen and Ed "Iceman" Mathis were absent and excused from this meeting. In addition we had five of our eight Regional Representatives present at the meeting.

Tom asked for a "moment of silence" for departed members Debbie Caballero (Local #17), Brian "Creeper" Gabel (Locals #8 & 20) and Jim Jung-

wirth (Local #9).

"Lil" David Morena presented the Treasurer report and I presented the State Director's report and both were accepted. After Ruby Weber presented her MMA Liaison report, the Board of Directors approved a motion to approach the California MROs and Club Confederations to try to set up a meeting to discuss and possibly implement a statewide legislative agenda/"wish list" that would benefit the riders of California.

The Regional Rally Committee provided a financial accounting of their 2014 Mother's Day event and then the Board was informed of an event promoter who would like to either assist with or actually put on the State Run in Kernville in 2015. The Board set up a committee to look into the offer and then report back with their recommendations.

A motion was made and accepted to invite a representative from Russ Brown's office to our January Board of Directors meeting to discuss and answer any questions from the Board regarding an offer they have made to ABATE regarding possible involvement and support of our organization.

Nominations were asked for and accepted for the 2014 Freedom Fighter of the Year award which will be presented at our January Board of Directors meeting.

The last order of business was setting up a Training and Retention committee to prepare new Local Officers for their duties and ensure we have trained and willing replacements for retiring State Office holders when they step down.

The January 10, 2015 Board of Directors meeting will be hosted in southern California by Local 20 in Orange County.

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ABATE of California Inc. neither endorses nor promotes the services of any particular Law Firm. We are committed to working with all MROs including NCOM, MRF, AMA, MMA, BOLT and any other motorcycle rights organization that strengthens our lobby on legislative issues and on motorcycle safety.

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LOCAL NEWS

Local #01 Los Angeles



Hi all! Today, November 16th, we had our monthly meeting at the Elks Lodge, which is located at 10137 Commerce Ave in Tujunga. You are welcome to join us the third Sunday of the month. Meeting starts at 9 am.

ABATE Local 1 member Bob Warren lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. I informed the membership of the activities that transpired at the Unification Rally in Sacramento. I also gave them a brief run down of the Board of Directors meeting.

Glen gave us a review of ABATE Local 1's booth at the Love Ride (held October 25th). He plans to raffle off a helmet camera starting with the tickets sales at the Love Ride and ending with giving it away at the Polar Bear run on February 22nd.

On the political side: We talked about the recent elections and talked mainly about our local area that affected our members. I told the membership that our lobbyist would give a more involved report in the December Bailing Wire to explain how we did with the ABATE endorsed candidates. I also explained the possibilities of doing an anti- profiling bill this next legislative session in January.

Jim Nickla is still looking into the designs for a Local 1 t-shirt. We have some ideas - nothing firm at this point. We also talked about donating the money for three bicycles for Local 19's toy run on December 7th - collection made and money collected; check to be written tomorrow and sent out.

Steve B who does the run report was really late getting to the meeting and since we had already talked about the Fred Jordan Skid Row Toy run on December 14th and Local 19's toy run, we dispensed with his report. Pays to be on time Steve B!

That's it for the report. Our next meeting is the third Sunday in December (December 21st) at the Elks Lodge 10137 Commerce Ave in Tujunga. The meeting starts at 9 am. All are welcome to attend.

Regards, Sporty Milligan, ABATE Local 1 President.

Local #02 Simi Valley



Again, it's another beautiful night for Local 2. Great thanks to our "Volunteer Cooks" our Pres Guy and VP Jim! They was rocking it tonight with our famous \$5.00 BBQ dinner of burgers/hot dogs with all the good fixin's plus. We start serving at 6:45 pm until 7:30 then it is time for our meeting. We here at Local 2 meet every second Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 10049 at 4242 East Los Angeles Street.

After Guy led the Pledge of Alliance, he got down to business. First he introduced Pastor Rick from the Live Ride and he talked about Frank and Jane's loss. We also talked about Local 2's contribution to the Live Ride during the Holidays and future rides that Pastor Rick invited Local 2 to. Yes it is that time of the year! This was a real good discussion and the Live Ride and Local 2 is a good match for the upcoming Christmas season.

Our Pres Guy also discussed our Christmas party, which will be our last meeting of the year. This will be a smorgasbord of super delicious foods and fun up the cazoozee! We always have a white Christmas gift

exchange as well. We hope to see those who can't make the regular meetings. If you have any questions call our super-duper faithful secretary, Jane, she knows everything! She's our Radar O'Reilly!

Jane read the minutes from last month's meeting, we got our treasury report from Pattibock, and Norm talked about using ABATE'S website and Goodsearch Again! Pres Guy filled in for Frank and talked about runs as well, Merchandise Coordinator Scott talked about what we have in stock and anything new that we all would consider having.

2014 is almost gone and after months and months of dedicated volunteer work we get to have a month off! I, as well as all the officer's from Local 2, thank all our members and the officers that work endlessly thru-out the year. We do this for the camaraderie, friendship, education and promotion of lobbying for our freedom of the roads through ABATE. Freedom is a responsibility; use it to the max, after all this is what we're about!

We all thank VFW Post 10049 for letting us use their building, BBQ and awesome patio as well as the access to their bar. They have been a total blessing for Local 2 - you all know it!

Ride safer than last time and remember this, there will be many, many drivers/riders out there with more on their minds than vigilant driving! This is the time of the year to be extra careful! Ride Safe! PTL norm e.

Local #08 Orange County



We had a good meeting last Monday night. We had a buffet, so, good food then active discussion. We discussed the run to Totally Kids hospital on Sunday. Local 8 had good participation. I learned something new: Totally Kids is privately owned. Most kids received public support for medically required care and family support for some incidentals. But without our support a large number of kids, without family support, don't get new clothes, in-hospital entertainment, outings, Birthdays, Halloween, Christmas and all those other things that the state won't pay for. We give those little kids a little of the quality of life we all take for granted.

We had a successful booth at the Long Beach Motorcycle Swap Meet recently. We donated half the proceeds to the ABATE General Fund & PAC.

A big part of our meeting was a discussion about ABATE, what it represents, who it represents, where it is going and how we can make it more relevant to California motorcyclists. Comments & topics discussed included: Why hasn't ABATE attracted more California motorcyclists? And Why hasn't ABATE attracted more sports bike riders? 1. When Bryan first joined ABATE he sat in a Board Meeting and listened to comments putting down sport bike riders & riders. Surprisingly he is still a member, but those comments still stick with him. We state that we support all riders, but sometimes the Harley bias still shines through. 2. A large percentage of non-ABATE members think that ABATE is only concerned about the helmet law. After more than 20 years, most of them don't care about the helmet law. And 3. ABATE doesn't seem to support any sport bike activities.

The discussion included relatively new and long term members, all of whom attend our meetings. We all want ABATE to prosper. To have political influence takes large amounts of money or a large, active membership. Where do we go from here? We are listening and thinking.

Tires down, Tank up. Larry

Local #11 North San Diego County



Hey all from Local 11 North County San Diego! Missed a couple of meetings due to traveling and such. So here we are in November already. Damn time flies when you get old. Relatively small turnout this month

We started off the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Preacher Dick offered a prayer for the veterans currently deployed and past.

Discussed the Rally at the state capitol. More of an MC presence, which is a good thing. Congratulations to our Local 11 president, Dan Buse, who is now one of three new Board members. Local 11 is proud to have two of our members as Board members, including Mark (Dogman) Castillero.

Prez Dan ran down the events coming up - never a shortage of events! One of the events Local 11 participates in is Local 38's Turkey Run in El Centro on November 22nd, this is the 27th annual. Take a ride down, purchase a turkey there and a truck will deliver them to the less fortunate families in the area. Flyer in the November Bailing Wire.

Tim Clark gave us the treasurer's report. No COC report this month. Dave Connors gave us the Regional rep report on judicial issues. Check out the website. www.nationallibertyalliance.org.

Also thanks again to the Escondido Moose Lodge 1874 for allowing us to have our meetings and upcoming events there.

Happy Holidays, Gary Elliott and Family

Local #17 Solano & Napa Counties



Our hearts are heavy with sadness due to the loss of two of the Local's most influential members. Tom Watson and Frank Guzzo both passed within a day of each other in early November, both leaving a legacy of leadership and dedication to ABATE. (Pictures on page 9)

Tom was a long time ABATE member, a past President of Local 17, soft-spoken, but passionate about biker's rights. Frank, also a past President of Local 17, was intense, outspoken, but he made people think, and inspired many of the members. They will be missed by all that knew them. Ride in heaven, brothers; you have earned your place there.

ABATE Local 17 is continuing to grow and be active in the biker community. At the current time we have over 250 members and 22 business members. We are closely monitoring the legislative process, always vigilant for anything that affects our rights to ride. The Unification Rally in Sacramento in October was well attended and a large group from the Solano County area was able to participate.

With the Holiday Season, toy runs abound, and the Local is preparing for their Toy Run on December 7, which this year begins at the Moose Lodge and ends in downtown for the first time in many years.

We are preparing for our Freeze Your Ass Off Run, with a tentative date in early March; and also our Poker Tournament, a major fundraiser for our Local.

With colder and damper weather, we encourage everyone to be careful out there. The roads are slick, visibility

LOCAL NEWS

can be reduced significantly, and a lot of cagers don't pay attention. Always ride defensively, and make sure you have an escape route! Ride Safe, Ride Free! Shauna.

Local #20 Orange County



The temperature dipped down to the mid 60s, which may have kept people home as we only had 30 attendees which included six guests.

The first order of business was voting for Local 20 Officers for the New Year. The results are the same as last year: President/Treasurer: Gill Mellen, Vice President: Paul Yerardi, PAC: Spike, Membership Administration: Moonie and Secretary: Leenie.

We then planned our Christmas dinner for next month's meeting on December 9th. We all agreed that we would purchase turkey with all the fixins from Stater Bros and Andy will pick up the dinners and bring a Honey Baked Ham. Then Gregg from the Azraels M/C handed us \$100.00 to help pay for the dinner so ABATE 20 will also pitch in \$100.00 and that will cover the cost of the meals and we all eat free.

We then moved on to Yosemite. Officials have announced that they are planning on raising the fee to enter the park and the biggest increase seems to be for motorcycles which will be \$15 for individual and \$25 for motorcycles. We all need to write, email and call our local representatives as well as email progers@mercurynees.com and yose_planning@nps.gov and mail to Superintendent at PO Box 577 Yosemite, CA 95389 Attn: Proposed Fee Increase. Please do so as soon as possible.

Bruce Ledyard would have been the winner of the \$33 we have in the dollar draw but he was not at the meeting so the money rolls over to next month when we just keep drawing names until we get a winner.

Submitted by Leenie

Local #23 San Bernardino



Well it is that time of year again – Changing of the Guards. After many years of being President of Local 23 Kevin Sorrell has stepped down. Kevin and his wife Bea, have been very active members of ABATE over the years. They have had many fundraising events

at their home and have attended many ABATE rallies. They have supported ABATE in many ways. They have planned mystery rides, coordinating motorcycle games at different events, and burned burgers just to name a few. Thank you so much for all your hard work Kevin and Bea!

Ed Pelton will be the new President of Local 23. Ed has been riding motorcycles since he was young. He grew up in Palm Springs and now resides in Rialto. You may have seen Ed's motorcycle at the Southern California Regional Rally 2014, where he won "Best Custom bike" and "Best in Show". He is also the current Horse-shoe Tournament Champion of the Southern California Regional Rally 2014.

Ed will be supported by his newly elected Vice President, Mark Loudermilk, aka Bosco. He has been instrumental in creating a Facebook page for Local 23. He also has some great ideas about promoting ABATE and getting new members. His energy and ideas are refreshing.

Tammy Odell will be the new Secretary and Treasurer. Tammy has been around for a couple of years now and has been promoting ABATE at many events. She has also coordinated vendors for the Southern California Regional Rally for the last two years. She is an Event Planner who puts on the "TaTa" Breast Cancer events to raise money for wigs for women who have lost their hair from the cancer fighting treatments.

ABATE Local 23 has started a monthly "Bike Nite." It is on the Second Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm at Demetri's Burgers, 21900 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. We have raffle prizes, bike games, and music. The food is great and priced right. The next one will be on November 13, and then on December 11, 2014.

Hope to see more people attending and supporting ABATE. Tammy Odell.

ABATE LOCAL 38

IMPERIAL VALLEY LOS NINOS TOY RUN To Benefit the Kids of Imperial Valley

Location

Lucky's Supermarket Parking Lot
South 4th Street
El Centro, CA



Saturday, December 20, 2014

Sign In - 8:30 am

All Bikes, Cars and Trucks are Welcome

Donation \$15.00 per Person - Plus a NEW TOY
Lunch Included

BIKERS WON'T FORGET KIDS!!!

For Information contact Robert "Bob" Brown @ (760) 482-4818

It's About
the KIDS!!

Sunday

It's All About
the Kids!!

December 7th

28th Annual Toy Run

**All riders
And
Clubs
Welcome**



**Rain
or
Shine**

**Contact
Glenn
707-624-6310**

**Bring an unwrapped toy
Breakfast at 9 depart at 11
Join us at the Moose Lodge
6585 Gibson Canyon Rd
Vacaville, CA**

2014 ABATE of California Freedom Fighter Nominations – and Why they have been recommended for this year's award.

Nick Benson Sr.

I nominate Nick: for His excellent work & results in the anti-helmet bill for side x sides.

I nominate Nick: He has been continually researching candidates and all the bills that can affect motorcyclists and questions everything until he gets some good answers. This takes a lot of dedication. He has also willingly volunteered to do the secretary of ABATE's job on the Board of Directors, so that ABATE can be more effective in doing its role.

He always is willing to answer my questions and has been instrumental in motivating me to be more involved.

I would like to nominate Nick Benson Sr.: for Freedom Fighter of the Year because he is the one who seems to be moving the most for the last year, he's more of a blur than a solid figure these days, no pun intended or that could be my old eyes too. His formation of the Off-Road coalition is some welcome thinking as well.

Nominated by Jim S., Dogman & H.R.

Lee "Sporty" Milligan

I officially nominate Sporty. Through all his pain, trauma, stress and surgery procedures Sporty has stayed on top of his tasks for ABATE - talk about frk'n DEDICATION! Nominated by Ruby.

Ernie "Godfather" Dorsey

I nominate Godfather for Freedom Fighter of the year. For every year that I have known him (over 20!), he has

made every statewide run, worked without any complaints, did not only what was asked of him but WAY beyond. He has rarely missed the gathering at the Capitol steps. Several others might be more eloquent in praising him but few with as much heartfelt thanks as I have. He helped guide me on the path to fighting for our rights as much as anyone. Currently, Godfather is the Local 40 President, and even without holding that title, he has been instrumental in keeping Local 40 active for many years. Nominated by Teach & Sporty

Greg "Coach" Coppes

I nominate Greg Coppes (Coach) for Freedom Fighter of the Year. This man has gone to the Capitol for the motorcycling committee, was instrumental in getting the anti-profiling bill at the capitol, he has always been there for every motorcyclist for whatever they needed, and he always told the truth. His integrity is impeccable and he has my respect. Nominated by "Big Ray".

Glenn Phillips

Glenn Phillips has served as President of ABATE Local 17 for 3 terms and has already volunteered to serve a 4th term. He came into the presidency under some difficult conditions, but through his outstanding leadership our Local has met the challenges and was able to become a stronger organization. Glenn's skills as a spokesman for ABATE has brought in several new members to our organization. He won the 2013 membership drive and is in line to win the award for 2014. Glenn has worked tirelessly

planning and organizing Local 17's events. This has proven to be very successful. Through his leadership, Local 17 has been able to contribute substantial amounts of money to the state ABATE treasury. Glenn has attended all the quarterly state Board and PAC meetings during his presidency. By attending these meetings, he has kept the Local up to date on important issues and listens to the membership on their views and comments. Glenn has also kept in communication with other motorcycle rights groups and motorcyclists and has maintained a respectful and positive relationship. He is a very honest person and a great asset to ABATE. He is a positive and generous leader and always has ABATE's best interest at heart. Nominated by Ron V. & Bill M.

Marty Rapp

This letter is to inform you that the members of ABATE Local 29 are nominating Marty Rapp (Local 29 President) as the 2014 Freedom Fighter.

Marty is an unselfish wealth of motorcycle and motorcycle riding knowledge. He is an MSF Rider Coach and Instructor. There he is informing all the new riders the laws and freedoms that we have.

Marty rides every day. He has in excess of 180,000 miles on his 2002 Harley Davidson Electra Glide. He has made several cross country trips. He exercises our freedoms every day and everywhere he goes. He is always spreading the word and promoting ABATE.

Every year ABATE Local 29 puts on a poker run in Laughlin, held at the Aquarius Casino. We call it the Pot of Gold run. Marty maps out the run every year and then pre-rides the route to ensure that it is safe prior to run.

Marty attends the risk management meetings. During our monthly meetings Marty schools the group on what freedoms we have and which ones are in the works and how to vote. Marty has worked tirelessly keeping our Local going even when the membership was low. He believes in the ABATE 100% and does not want to see it die or go away.

It is time for Marty Rapp to get the recognition he so deserves and rates.

Regards, Ed Folts, Local 29 V.P.

Chuck Pedersen

I nominate Chuck Pedersen for Freedom Fighter of the Year. Not only did Chuck take on the role as Legislative Director this year, he has also been Local 3's President for many years. He took on Local 13 this year when they were ready to fold, welcoming them as Local 3/13. It has been a great collaboration. He is passionate about fighting for our motorcycle rights, and this is why I nominate him as Freedom Fighter of the Year. Nominated by Aaron H.

Douglas S. Van Raam

I nominate myself, Douglas S. Van Raam. Partly because I spent \$1,740 for a filing fee in order to stand up to Democrat Mike Thompson in CA (U.S. Representatives) District 5. They could not even find a Republican anywhere near here to do that. It is a tough job but somebody has to do it. Unfortunately there was another Independent from Napa who managed to beat me by 3,000 votes and make it to the General Election. Another part is for my courage to stand up and fight Martinez City Council on their bad decision making and policies too. Not motorcycle related, but freedom fighting none the less.

James Lombardo

I realize that Jim is ABATE's paid Lobbyist. In the past, there have been times when we didn't have the resources to pay him on time but to my knowledge he never allowed that to affect the work he did for us. I think we always squared with him but that isn't the point. He always has his ear close to the ground listening to the scuttlebutt circulating the Capitol concerning "biker issues".

But through it all he remains a stalwart and dedicated member (for 21 plus years) an advocate, if you will for ABATE of California.

His list of accomplishments are truly impressive, to name a few: Handlebar height, ban on sport bikes, removing smog checks for motorcycles, etc. Absolutely, others have been involved and worked hard for those wins but Jim was and is on the front line spearheading those endeavors. There are many others equally deserving of this honor but, Jim is my nomination for Freedom Fighter of the year. Just my opinion. Respectfully, Tom L.



A Union of Motorcyclists

www.abate.org

Ballot for Freedom Fighter for the year 2014

You can only vote for ONE

- ☐ Nick Benson Sr.
- ☐ Lee "Sporty" Milligan
- ☐ Ernie "Godfather" Dorsey
- ☐ Greg "Coach" Coppes
- ☐ Glenn Phillips
- ☐ Marty Rapp
- ☐ Chuck Pedersen
- ☐ Douglas S. Van Raam
- ☐ James Lombardo

Membership #: _____

Member Name: _____ Local # _____

For couple Memberships: Member Name #2: _____ must be filled in. If you are voting for the same person put a second check mark by the name. If you are not voting for the same person then use a separate ballot.

Rules are:

Ballots MUST BE RECEIVED AT the State Office by DECEMBER 12th.

IF you are snail mailing YOUR Ballot, it Must be POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 10th.

IF you can scan your ballot and then email it – Email it to Bailing.wire@abate.org In the subject line write the word BALLOT.

IF you can fax your ballot – FAX it to 760/956-6519 (No Cover sheet required).

Ballots will not be counted IF they are Anonymous votes, or not a current member of ABATE.

Pomona Valley H.O.G. & ABATE Local 19 proudly present:

The 26th Annual TOY RUN

Toys To Benefit SANTA CLAUS, INC.



Hourly Prize Drawings

Vendors ■ Food & Beverages Available

Cash Prize for Largest Group Participation Sign In

Best Decorated Bike Award ■ Ride In Bike Show

(\$5.00 per Bike, Bikes must be entered before 11am)

M.C. & D.J. Services provided by Mike Morris of Stompbox Entertainment

Live Music provided by The Pack

Sunday December 7th, 2014, 10am to 2pm

at the Ontario Elks Lodge 1150 W. 4th St. Ontario, CA

Ride in or walk in, Just come IN! Event will be held rain or shine.

Run Pins while supplies last!

Minors must be accompanied by legal guardian

	10 Frwy San Bernardino	→			
57 Frwy			Mountain Ave.	N	15 Frwy
	Central Ave	San Bernardino / 4th		↑	
	60 Frwy San Bernardino				

The 26th Annual TOY RUN

■ Entry Fee Donation: \$8.00 plus
One new unwrapped toy per guest.

■ Event Info: Mike Young - (951) 206-0703
myoung49@aol.com
Lela Spencer - (951) 321-9404
laspencer410@yahoo.com

■ Vendor Info: Lucas DeGraaf - (909) 247-4591
lucasdegraaf@msn.com

All active Military receives free admission with I.D.

See other side for donation information



Help Pomona Valley Harley Owners Group
and ABATE 19

make a child's Christmas brighter by
sponsoring a bicycle and helmet for our
2014 Toy Run.

A bicycle and helmet costs \$43.00; however
we will accept donations in any amount.

The Toy Run will be held on December 7th.

Toys collected at the Toy Run, as well as your
donation, will benefit Santa Claus, Inc.

Thank you for your support!

Donor's name: _____

Donation
amount: _____

Make checks payable to: Ginger Hughes

Mail to: Toy Run 2014
c/o Ginger Hughes
1916 W. Lufkin St.
West Covina, CA 91790

For more information about donations, contact
Ginger Hughes, Toy Run Treasurer, at
626-252-2030 or ga.hughes@verizon.net



See other side for event information.

Pac/Treasurer's Report



PAC Treasurer's Report by Dave Hastings, Treasurer

This will be the last PAC report for 2014 and I want to thank everyone who contributed financially, worked a campaign, and took the time to vote this year. I'm sure Jim Lombardo, our Lobbyist, and Chuck Pedersen, our Legislative Director, will bring us all up to date on our successes and failures in the November election cycle and I sincerely hope your candidate was successful in their political quest.

Now more importantly to ABATE PAC is we need to keep every politician accountable to us and their promises during their upcoming term of office. ABATE PAC has been very successful in getting our people elected and we need to continue to help our friends and keep a watchful eye on those who do not support our motorcycle lifestyle. Vigilance is the first step in prevention and we have learned the hard way it is much easier to stop a bad piece of legislation than remove it once it becomes law. Keep your eyes and ears wide open and help ABATE PAC help you. Keep us informed! Don't just assume we already know or have the information you have access to. Communication is preventative medicine in the political arena and we need your help to prevent bad motorcycle legislation from ever seeing the light of day.

2015 looks like it might be a very busy year for ABATE PAC so let's all get some rest from the campaign battles and get ready to gear up for next year. Until then, "THANKS TO ALL THAT DO, AND TO THOSE THAT DON'T, PLEASE TRY TO!"

ABATE "Brothers & Sisters" Lost in 2014

Robert "Jus' Bob" Baker, Local 5;
Debbie Caballero, Local 17;
Gypsy Cantu, Local 22;
Michael Decker, Local 6;
Brian Gabel, a.k.a. "Creeper", ABATE Locals 8 & 20;
Frank Guzzo, Local #17;
Jim Hilton, Local 27;
James Jungwirth, Local 9;
Bob Kelly, Local #17;
Mike McMullen, Local #13;
Timothy Edward Rodgers, Local #48;
Tom "Duck" Russo, Local 27;
Tom (Thomas A.) Watson, Local #17;
Rest In Peace, May they ride Forever Free.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Lee 'Sporty' Milligan, Membership Chairman

Hi all! Greetings! This is the final report of the year. What should I say that has not been said before? I could once again remind you that we will announce the winners of the Membership Drive at our first Board of Directors meeting in January 2015. I could again say that when you get members you also need to keep those members through renewals so our organization can continue to grow. Finally I could announce that I plan to be your Membership Chairman for year 2015, if you will again have me fill the position.

I need some ideas from the membership to help grow ABATE. I have asked for suggestions regarding new and better ways to get members and to keep the renewals. It's up to you and me to do this. You can reach me at my email sportymilligan@yahoo.com.

Let's try real hard to keep renewals and get more members for the year 2015. The effort we put into this will be a project that will benefit YOUR organization.

In closing, I hope to keep the membership at a level that keeps the ABATE Ship Sailing through the rough waters we may face.

Regards, Sporty Milligan, Membership Chairman.

EVENTS FOR 2014 and 2015

www.abate.org Events Calendar

December 7 – ABATE Local #19 & Pomona Valley H.O.G. Annual Toy Run (Page 8.)

December 7th – ABATE Local 17 – 28th Annual Toy Run (Page 6.)

December 14th – ABATE Local 1 – Annual Fred Jordon Toy Run – (Contact Sporty for Details 818/361-8800)

December 20th – ABATE Local #38 Imperial Valley Los Niño's Toy Run (Page 5.)

Even if you are not an ABATE Member, YOU are WELCOME to attend ABATE Events - Your attendance and support of these events helps ABATE to continue to represent YOU in our ongoing preservation of "Freedom of the Road".

January 10th, 2015 – ABATE's 1st Quarterly meeting of the year (PAC, Presidents/State Officers & ABATE Board) – American Legion Post, 5646 Corporate Ave; Cypress, CA. 90630.

ABATE Members Please attend, Welcome your new Board of Directors, Find out who the Freedom Fighter for 2014 will be, who are the 3 Winners of the 2014 Membership Drive, and who will be your State Officers for 2015. And if for no other reason, come and take part in the camaraderie of like-minded Members of your organization. Meeting times will be posted on our website, when available.

All event flyers that have been received are also on ABATE's website Event Calendar – can be downloaded and printed in a PDF format –

ABATE LOCALS – Don't Forget To Get Your Event Insurance, contact the ABATE State Office.



Our hearts are heavy with sadness due to the loss of two of the Local's most influential members. Tom Watson and Frank Guzzo both passed within a day of each other in early November, both leaving a legacy of leadership and dedication to ABATE.

Tom was a long time ABATE member, a past President of Local 17, soft-spoken, but passionate about biker's rights. Frank, also a past President of Local 17, was intense, outspoken, but he made people think, and inspired many of the members. They will be missed by all that knew them. Ride in heaven, brothers; you have earned your place there.



Motorcycle Safety Report

by Norm e. Newiger, Safety Officer

Survivor

It's coming to that time of the year. Hopefully we all had safe and free rides all year long. "Safe" meaning without getting into the stats of riding life, the bad stats that is. "Free" ride is meant to be Freedom of riding, yep it's an ABATE thing!

In all my articles this year I stressed the importance of being educated and well prepared mentally as well as physically. Motorcyclists are still and will always be a minority on the roads of America. In California (January - December 2013), there were over 34 million registered vehicles versus 857,624 motorcycles on all the roads and highways. This statistic does not include visitors from out of state, anyone driving in California that is not registered in our state, and out of state truck drivers. These additional drivers greatly increase that 34 million figure. Let's just say over a million and we will be safe with that number.

I think that the state of California gives motorcycle safety the holiday treatment, a once or twice a year shout-out. My theory is this: Most government or organized events promote themselves for serving free turkey dinners on Thanksgiving and/or Christmas, but forget the other 363 days! One or two days a year promoting motorcycle safety is just a scratch soon to be forgotten. I don't know why California/DMV doesn't fund organizations like ABATE to help to continue to educate the general public on motorcycle safety. After all it's not just about us riders, right?

I have always stated that continuous education is important, whether new or just a repeat! You just can't blame the motorcyclist just because they are more vulnerable. It's in fact the opposite, but we get blamed because of our vulnerabilities! So the ones who dictate laws etc. use limited facts, very limited facts for the benefit of themselves. They think restrictions and control will solve problems, but the facts are simple, very simple if you ask me, public awareness! The California government and DMV have a great opportunity to educate and make ALL drivers/riders aware of motorcyclists.

We have a great sign system on all our roadways, whether posted or electronic. We protect deer with deer crossing signs and falling rocks with falling rock signs! Why not share the road with motorcyclist's signs!

It seems to me that because we are a minority they throw us a bone just to get rid of us for a little while. I remember that we rejoiced when we saw the state use the electronic signs for just a little bit — "Share the road with motorcycles" etc. The fact is that it didn't last that long and it was like the holiday treatment I talked about earlier. If these signs were used during rush hour Monday thru Friday maybe people would drive with more caution in



regards to our safety. I'm sick of the "click it or ticket" flash or the "extreme water drought" flash. The lawmakers cry about the high cost of medical bills and the financial hardship motorcycle accidents cause but don't spend money to help educate all the people on the roads, go figure. I would like to see posted safety signs aimed toward motorcyclist's safety on all major highways and freeway systems.

For the year of 2013 there were over 24 million licensed drivers in California, now the state says that it will license approximately 1.4 million undocumented immigrants under the new law, AB60 signed by your Governor! On a side note, we used Nevada's law as a platform for this new law, 90% of them failed the written exam the first time around! I'm just reporting the facts with no prejudice aforethought! Add the thousands of new drivers monthly (mostly teens) and persons that drive illegally on our roads and I think we have a lot more vehicle drivers than what the California government says.

The good news is that the DMV will make millions and the insurance companies will make many millions! The bad news is that there will be a constant rise in accidents, lawsuits and a bunch of scary drivers on the roads! Properly insured drivers are a very good thing, un-insured drivers or the minimally insured drivers are a major issue for me. I suggest you know and understand what kind of insurance you have, especially for your motorcycle. Case in point is this: YOUR insurance company will be as cheap as possible for all claims against you or the other party when you get the cheapest (minimum as per law) form of insurance. And if the other person has the minimum as well, don't think you'll get the big slice of pie in the sky, because you WON'T! I know it's about economics and most of us live month to month, and to have the good insurance doesn't equate in our cost of living, but it should. We have to have uninsured motor-

ists insurance because there are so many drivers on the roads that don't have any insurance, I know that sucks. I guess in the insurance world it's true when they say "you get what you paid for"! So it brings me to this, for you the biker and driver of any such vehicles, you should have the best motorcycle and vehicle insurance possible. I understand the higher medical risks on the motorcycle versus the car, but because of the severity of physical damage you can get, let alone the property damage, the bills could set you so far back you'd be riding a model 5-D from way, way back! Fun Fact: It's a Harley

The important thing here is that you need to know what your insurance on your motorcycle and other vehicles is, what it covers for you and your property and/or the other person's property and themselves as well. Can you upgrade your bike insurance to the max? Find out is there another company that will give you additional insurance for your motorcycle. Bring in your policy and ask questions, don't be afraid or shy about this because after all is said and done, you got what you got! It's their job to inform you what your coverage is and what the payouts are etc.

To have good insurance is smart. You need this protection because the way I see it is and I'm not saying this to put down anybody or judge you on your financial situation, but this is a two way street - people who have nothing, give nothing, people who have, can have what they have taken! There are millions of drivers and riders that have the bare minimum insurance required and a lot of them have nothing to lose, i.e. houses, financial savings etc. What do you have to lose?

If you are a survivor of a bad accident, the treatment and property damage could be tremendous, hundreds of thousands of dollars (I know this). Even like the one I wrote about a few months back (lucky for him he had really good insurance). And it doesn't have to be really that bad of an accident to cost a lot of money. This happens every day. In today's world you really need to protect your ASS(SETS), you could lose everything even if it's not your fault. With the daily amount of new drivers just remember they are the least experienced on the roads and we don't know if they have insurance or the cheapest available, so what you are forced into doing is to protect yourself to the maximum because you'll never know!

Being a survivor is an expensive endeavor, whether accident free or with one or two behind you, you will always pay, for yourself and others and that's the law - isn't freedom fun!

Now just one more thing: How's your tire pressure? As seasons change so does your tire pressure - this is free and done very quickly.

Please stay alert and be visible, especially to the newbies on the roads. Norm e.




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Sustaining ABATE Members aka V.I.P.

THANK YOU!! For the Extra Support!!!

Sustaining ABATE Members aka V.I.P.
THANK YOU!! For the Extra Support!!!

ABATE Local #00
Mike & Linda McIntyre
Richard & Rae Mobraaten

ABATE Local #01
Lisa Garber & Bruce Hersch
Sporty Milligan
Bob Warren

ABATE Local #02
Pattibock
Scott & Pat Burton
Tom & Nick Cass

ABATE Local 3/13
Mike & Mary Osborn

ABATE Local #06
James Larson
Bart & Wendy Perry

ABATE Local #08
Steve Howe

ABATE Local #11
Dick & Sherry Beckton

Tim & Cheryl Clark

ABATE Local #17
Bob Blatz
Greg & Diane Howe
Carl Smith & Barbara Kennedy

ABATE Local #19
Jesus Godinez

ABATE Local #22
“Biker Bob” Martin
Tim Sr. & Yvonne Tennimon

ABATE Local #24
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ABATE Local #25
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Dave (Deacon) Phillips

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ABATE Local #29
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ABATE Local #33
Robert Duvall

ABATE Local #38
Frank Reece

ABATE Local #44
Hank & Kris Hallmark
Dave & Carol Hastings
Ken & Glenice Hatfield
Tom Lara
Jeff & Nina Ozanne

ABATE Local #52
Leland & Debbie Phillips

Sustaining Members (VIP’s) are mailed a hard copy of the Bailing Wire (the months it is printed); a certificate of Appreciation (suitable for framing); their membership card with VIP printed on it; and as you see here, their names are printed on this list. ABATE of California appreciates their extra support.

Donations!! – General, Lobbyist & PAC Funds – THANK YOU!!!!

Donations!! – General, Lobbyist & PAC Funds – THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you to each and every one of you who have contributed to these various funds in 2014; either by sending separate donations or by adding extra dollars when you renew!! Large, small and in-between donations all add up when combined, so, THANK YOU!

We will do our best to recognize your generosity by listing and thanking you here; IF we leave your name off, please contact Carol@abate.org or Dave Hastings 760/947-4700 and we’ll list you next month. (Most times it’s just a matter of when the mail arrives and the Bailing Wire deadline.) But it never hurts to follow-up.

Our THANK YOU THIS MONTH... (Received up to November 15th) GOES TO the following:

For Donations designated for the **General Fund**:

Bob Blatz, V.I.P., L#17;
Michelle Ferguson, L#20;
Barbara Kennedy & Carl Smith V.I.P.’s, L#00;
Jered Yates, L#08;
And from ABATE Locals: 2, 11, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, & 31.

Donations to the Lobbyist Fund from:

Bob Blatz, V.I.P., L#17;
James Larson, V.I.P., L#06;
Rick Mullaly, L#52;
And ABATE Locals: 1, 2, 6, 11, 17, 19, 21,

23, 24, 25, 31, & 40.

Donations to the **PAC Fund** from:

Bob Blatz V.I.P., L#17;
Todd Haeckel, L#27;
And **ABATE Locals:** 2, 11, 17, 21, 23, & 24.

Thank you ALL for your donations!! Donations are welcomed at any time for any fund... you can snail mail checks payable to ABATE of CA; 10240 7th Ave; Hesperia, CA 92345-2631. In the memo please indicate which fund(s) you want your donation applied to.

APPLICATION JUNIOR ABATE of California

New☐

Renew☐

Date: _____ LOCAL# _____

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: _____ (with area code)

Sponsored by: _____ (Parent/guardian/grandparent)

Their Membership #: _____ (Sponsor)

Junior Membership receives patch when new _____ \$5.00

Renewing Junior membership – renewal pin _____ \$5.00

Junior ABATE Membership # _____

(Usually the same as sponsor and expires when sponsor’s membership expire)



Sporty's Rides

by Lee 'Sporty' Milligan

Well hello all! Another medical report is in order as I need to tell you folks some exciting news. As you know I had a temporary Prosthetics. It has been replaced by my new carbon fiber model. The bottom part is the same but the top is carbon fiber. It has a silk screened ABATE logo on the carbon fiber part. It looks very smart.

On October 28th I had my first physical therapy session. All they did was take some measurements and show me some exercises to do to strengthen my leg muscles. As for my first walking session, I did not do much because the therapy lady wanted to wait until I got my permanent prosthetics.

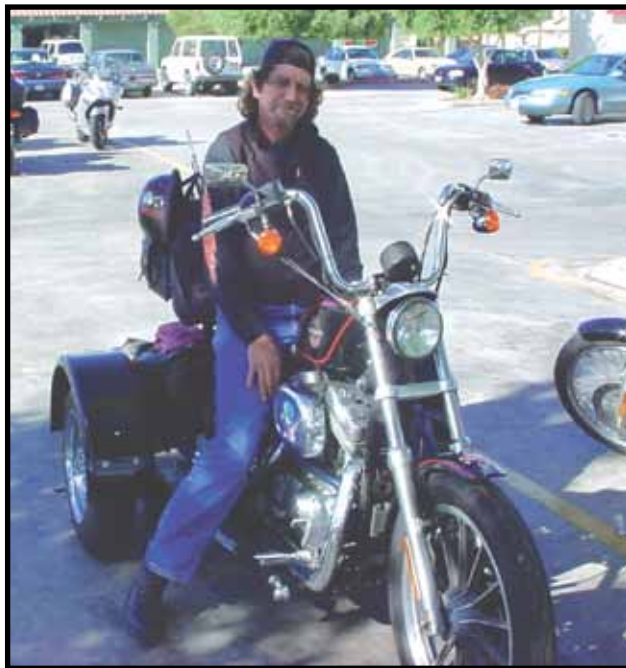
November 10th was the date I got my permanent Prosthetics. I was really proud of the way the silk screen came out. Some of you can see it on my Facebook page. By the way, I drove to that appointment! Yes, Sporty is driving automatics.

November 13th I had my second physical therapy session and I am learning to walk better. It is going to take time to master my walking. Right now I am walking like an old man, but I am walking.

The weekend of October 24th - 26th Local 1 member, Steve Broughton and I left for Sacramento for the Unification Rally and the Board of Directors meeting. Steve was my designated driver because at this point I was not going to drive until my first Physical Therapy session on October 28th. The Little-Truck-That-Could was the one to do the job. We did not get out on the road until 9.30 am and had our first stop at the Grapevine Denny's.

Steve had directions to an ex-girlfriend boyfriend's house that he was offered a free room to stay at in Bakersfield. So we wanted to see where it was. Unfortunately Steve did not have good enough directions so we were in the general vicinity of the area but could not find the house. After an hour I told Steve to skip it especially since the number to the x boyfriend was incorrect. We lost an hour of time do to this comedy of errors - it pays to get good directions and phone numbers!

Lucky for us the Toyota truck gets decent gas mileage so our first gas stop was in Fresno. Steve is diabetic so he needed a snack and pee break as well. As we traveled on I put on some CDs to amuse us. I also



rolled down my window and held out my prosthetics and shook it up and down trying to get the truckers to blow their horns. No avail.

After a couple of coffee stops and gas stops, the last one being about 50 miles from Sacramento, we finally pulled into the Best Western Sandman motel at 6 pm. I had ordered a handicap room. So it had all the bells and whistles handicap rooms would offer you. There is a Mexican restaurant adjacent to the motel so - Oley - that's where we had dinner. It was great seeing everyone, ABATE members and all.

The next day we had breakfast continental style. Later that morning/early afternoon we were going to do the Unification Rally at the capital steps. Steve and I were going to get associate memberships. These are free memberships kinda like what Harley does when you buy a new bike you get a free one year membership in the HOG chapter. So we had a limited amount (100) we would do at this event. By the time the Unification Rally was over we had 19 associate memberships. Hopefully after the year these will turn into permanent ABATE members.

Saturday evening Steve and I ate at Denny's. The next day after a quick breakfast at the motel we settled in for the Board and PAC meetings at the Mexican Restaurant conference room. We had a good meeting; took care of business Board wise and Pac wise and were on our way home by 2.30 pm. You can

read Dave Hastings's recap of the Board meeting elsewhere in this issue of the Bailing Wire. The trip home was long on Hwy 5 and we finally got to my house at about 9 pm tired but safe. Steve spent the night and left for his house the next day.

The day after my first physical therapy session Renee and I went to the Pacoima Costco parking lot and I had my first driving test with her and I PASSED! Yes, folks, I am driving automatics. But what about the Little-Truck-That-Could? Ok that is another story. I am in the process of seeing about getting handicap controls for it. I am presently using a company called dSi Driving Systems Incorporated. So they wanted to see the truck to get an idea what they were up against so Renee had to drive it to the shop. Since she is only 4ft 11in tall the seat is pushed up as far as it will go. Got to the shop and told Junior Salazar what I needed. He took pictures of the interior and engine. Junior is trying to work a low cost system so I can keep the truck and shift it with hand controls. I should hopefully know if it can be done for a reasonable cost soon. I have a price that I am willing to spend to get this done, but if the estimate is over that - well I will have to sell my truck and get an auto truck. Renee and I are the original owners of the Little-Truck-That-Could so it's got sentimental value.

After the meeting with Junior, we went to my wife's favorite hot dog shop, Fab Hot Dog's. It's located in the shopping center at the corner of Victory Blvd and Tampa Ave. They greet her by her first name so that tells you she's a regular customer. Ok so thank God it was not a hot day as we left to go home to San Fernando (no a/c in the truck). We took the freeway home - yeaks!

Ok some of you might be asking, "What about your bikes, Sporty?" I made a recent trip again to confirm that I would be using Casey's Motorcycle to rebuild my 2002 883 XL with 103,244 miles on the speedo. As of this month's column, I have made arrangements to get the funds necessary to accomplish this task. So the repair will be sooner rather than later.

On November 9th I attended the Shagger's Poker Toy run in Antelope Valley. I brought a couple of my AA members, Christy and Albert, along for the ride. The Poker run starts at Antelope Valley Harley Davidson and ends at the Pearblossom Park on 121st Street E. We drove the route and it was the usual fair run. I enjoyed seeing all my Shagger buddies and it was emotional when I saw Kat at AVHD. I knew her from the old days when she worked at Van Nuys HD. I had a good time with the fellows at the park.

Ok so there you have it. I am driving again and hope to be able to get back to work in the near future. Till next time, remember the membership drive is drawing to a close, so get those last minute members and keep your renewals. Regards, Sporty.

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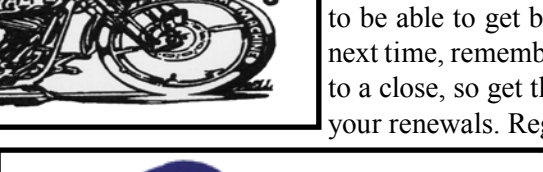
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Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish,
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MOTORCYCLISTS GAIN SOME RELIEF FROM CONGRESSIONAL HELMET LAW EFFORTS: Driven by discontent, disillusionment and distrust, American voters saw red in November's mid-term elections and whisked control of the United States Senate to the first Republican majority since 2006 and won additional seats in the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives, as well as favoring the GOP in numerous statewide races and a majority of gubernatorial contests nationwide.

While most of the electorate is simply happy to see an end to a record \$4 billion in campaign ads appearing incessantly on television, radio and newspapers, and in in-boxes and mailboxes everywhere, motorcycle riders should be especially glad to have won at least a temporary respite from helmet law threats from Congress and in states where Republicans have remained or gained in governance.

As recently as this summer, the Obama Administration included a thinly-veiled attempt to impose a national helmet law through the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) surface transportation reauthorization proposal to Congress, but the measure was derailed by the Republican-controlled House. Three years ago, motorcyclists across America successfully opposed a proposed amendment to S.1449, the "Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Improvement Act of 2011," that would have called for a National Mandatory Helmet Law for all motorcyclists.

Although federal agencies like the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will undoubtedly continue to advance their pro-helmet law agendas, lacking a Democrat majority in either chamber will likely curb enthusiasm for helmet law mandates from Washington, for now.

PAY-TO-PLAY HELMET LAW PROPOSED IN NEW MEXICO: In a unique scheme to punish motorcyclists for exercising their right to ride without a helmet, a Discussion Draft of a Senate



bill proposed for the 2015 52nd Legislature for the state of New Mexico would create a system of taxation for riders who opt not to wear a helmet.

Specifically, "The department [Motor Vehicles Division] shall make available distinctive motorcycle validation stickers that signify that any person age eighteen or older who operates a motorcycle on which that sticker is affixed are not required by law to wear a safety helmet. The department shall issue validation sticker when a qualifying person pays the fee as provided for."

A standard validation sticker is just \$15 annually, but it would cost \$692 per year for the "distinctive motorcycle validating sticker" that allows the rider to go lidless...the additional tax revenue to be distributed as follows: \$541.60 to the trauma system fund, \$135.40 to the brain injury services fund, and \$15 as additionally provided by law. Otherwise, the rider and passengers must wear a helmet, even though New Mexico law currently does not require helmet use for those 18 and older.

"My concern is this will turn into a helmet law in New Mexico," said Annette Torrez, chairperson for the New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization (NMMRO) and a member of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) board of directors, who reported on the effort at a recent NCOM Regional Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. "We found out that a lobbyist in New Mexico asked a senator to draft the bill, and though it does not have a sponsor yet, we are currently researching who is behind it."

TEXAS SAYS NO POLARIS SLINGSHOTS: The Polaris Slingshot, a brand new three-wheeled sports-vehicle now just arriving at dealerships across the U.S., lacks componentry necessary to be considered "a car" and in most states you register it as a motorcycle; but the Texas DMV says "Whoa pardner, not so fast."

Though Polaris says they'd already received approval from the Lone Star State to sell their Slingshot there, according to a letter to Texas Polaris dealers posted on a Slingshot forum on November 4th they were notified by the Vehicle Titling and Registration Division of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles that the DMV is taking the position that even if dealers are licensed to sell it as a motorcycle, owners of the Slingshot will not be able to register it because it is not street legal as far as Texas "motorcycles" are concerned.

The conflict hinges on the wording used to define a motorcycle in Texas. The Texas Department of Public Safety Motorcycle Operator's Manual says three-wheelers are defined by certain characteristics, one of them being "saddle seating," meaning "seating in which the rider/passenger straddles the vehicle," but the Slingshot's seats sit side-by-side. Because it doesn't have a "saddle," the DMV ruling prohibits the Polaris Slingshot from being registered as a motorcycle, so they will not be sold in the state until this "VERY urgent matter" is resolved.

The Texas precedence has the potential to sway other states to define the Slingshot similarly, a scenario Polaris is surely hoping to avoid.

Polaris has fought hard for their not-car classification, and have used the fact that their vehicles are legally considered motorcycles to ease their passage through regulatory waters, but this gray area has led to some other unintended legal consequences, such as operator licensing, vehicle registration and applicable helmet requirements. Ultimately, it has everything to do with the way laws are written and how "motorcycle" is defined therein, which varies from state to state.

INDIANA SCOOTER RIDERS FACE NEW REGULATIONS: Indiana officials are warning motor scooter drivers that starting in January they'll need license plates on those bikes. Legislators have approved Indiana's first license requirements for scooters, and under the new law drivers of scooters with engines of 50 cubic centimeters or less will need to buy license plates and pass a Bureau of Motor Vehicles test involving road signals and signs. Operators of scooters with larger engines will be required to follow motorcycle requirements, including holding a valid motorcycle license or learner's permit.

Evansville police officials told a legislative committee that scooters had often been involved in accidents and used in crimes such as robberies, but that the owners couldn't be found because they lacked any registration.

The new law doesn't require insurance for drivers of the smaller scooters, and the registration

Continued on next page

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Biker Newsbytes continued From Page 14

will cost \$26.35, plus a \$10 excise tax.

Law sponsor Rep. Dave Wolkins (R-Winona Lake) said not requiring a driver's license for scooter operators was important because he felt it was necessary that those with drunken driving convictions still have a way to get to work.

MINIBIKE MANUFACTURER TO PAY RECORD \$4.3 MILLION FEDERAL FINE: Baja Inc. of Anderson, South Carolina, has agreed to pay a record \$4.3 million civil penalty to settle a complaint from federal regulators that it delayed reporting safety defects on its go-karts and minibikes, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has reported.

The settlement resolves CPSC charges that the firm knowingly failed to report within 24 hours, as required by federal law, known defects and an unreasonable risk of serious injury involving 11 models of minibikes and go-carts sold nationwide from November 2004 through June 2010.

The defects in Baja's products, which consisted of fuel leaks and unintended acceleration, resulted in the recall in 2010 of 308,000 Baja Motorsports minibikes and go-karts, which is when Baja filed its Full Report with CPSC.

Although the company agreed to pay the fine, it did not admit any wrongdoing and said it was paying to "avoid the cost, distraction, delay and uncertainty" of continued proceedings.

Previously, the highest penalty the safety commission had issued was a \$4 million fine against Graco Children's Products in 2005 for failure to inform CPSC about dangers to children.

NEW ARMY RULES BAN BASKETBALL SHOES AND CLUB COLORS: U.S. Military installations worldwide require military members and employees to utilize a variety of safety equipment to ride motorcycles on base that is not required by laws outside their boundaries, but some new Army rules in Hawaii sound way off base.

On Nov. 1, Military Police and leaders at all levels began enforcement of U.S. Army-Hawaii Policy Letter 11 on Motorcycle Safety, consisting of four major changes to the pre-existing policy, including changes to required safety equipment and prohibited equipment.

"When operating a motorcycle on USARHAW installations, riders must wear a DOT approved helmet, protective eyewear, abrasion-resistant gloves, long pants (excluding PT pants), long sleeves, and leather/canvass boots or sturdy over-the-ankle shoes," and such regs are typical of most military bases, but their new policy "prohibits riders from wearing high-top basketball shoes while riding."

Additionally, the new policy specifies the use of reflective gear at all times, and riders must wear

either a fluorescent (brightly colored) and reflective vest, jacket or upper outer garment, or they must wear a motorcycle specific jacket with padding/armor.

But what's most concerning is "Prohibited Equipment" that is NOT allowed to be worn: "Riders on-post are not authorized to wear any garment that displays an affiliation with a motorcycle club or other group that offers or solicits membership."

The new policy applies to all motorcycle operators on USARHAW installations. In addition, the policy applies to all 25th Infantry Division Soldiers, both on and off-post.

STUDY SHOWS LANE SPLITTING POSES NO ADDITIONAL DANGERS: A series of new studies out of the University of California, Berkeley found that the practice of lane splitting poses no additional danger to motorcyclists. California is the only state that allows for the maneuver, which is the act of a motorcyclist passing slow or stalled traffic by riding in between cars along the lane lines.

Two year long studies were recently released by UC Berkeley and were commissioned by the California Highway Patrol and the Office of Traffic Safety, and determined that the seemingly risky move of weaving in-between traffic to be no more dangerous than just riding a motorcycle, when executed in a safe and prudent manner.

The state-commissioned research considered thousands of accident reports and found lane splitting poses no more risk than riding a motorcycle in a marked lane, with the exception when lane splitting (a.k.a.; lane sharing, or filtering) is done at speeds over 10 miles an hour in excess of traffic flow.

One report is a crash study that examined 8,262 motorcyclists who were involved in crashes while lane splitting between June 2012 and August 2013. The second report examined lane-splitting habits among various groups in 2012 and 2013.

Researchers found lane splitters are less likely to be rear-ended (2.7% of crashes vs. 4.6% for average motorcyclists), and lane-splitting motorcyclists involved in crashes were notably less likely than other motorcyclists to suffer head injury (9.1% vs. 16.5%), torso injury (18.6% vs. 27.3%), or fatal injury (1.4% vs. 3.1%).

Lane-splitting in California appears to be on the rise, with 62% of motorcyclists admitting to lane-splitting on both freeways and other roads,

a 7.5-percentage-point increase over 2013.

Data from the studies will be shared with the CHP, which this year began working on guidelines for lane-splitting. Authors say the report, the first of its kind about lane-splitting, will be followed up by more in-depth analysis, including looking at rider age, rider gender, motorcycle characteristics and collision and roadway characteristics.

In many countries, lane splitting and filtering are normal practices for motorcyclists, particularly in highly urbanized areas of Europe and Asia.

LANE FILTERING APPROVED DOWN UNDER: Following consultation with riders, motorists and road safety groups, the government of Queensland, Australia decided to make changes to the laws regarding motorcycle riding, and beginning early next year motorcyclists will now be able to move around stationary or slow moving vehicles, as long as they are traveling less than 30 kilometers an hour (18.64 mph).

A trial in New South Wales found lane filtering could help ease traffic congestion and Transport Minister Scott Emerson agreed it should be rolled out in Queensland, but it will only be allowed for experienced riders and won't be allowed in school zones during school hours.

Among other "sensible changes," motorcyclists will also now be able to legally stretch their leg off the bike to help avoid fatigue, take both feet off the footsteps to reverse into a parking space and turn their head to do a shoulder check.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "Since when do we have to agree with people to defend them from injustice?" ~ Lillian Hellman (1905-1984), American playwright and memoirist

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ABATE of California, a leading organization in protecting motorcycle rights in California, is excited to announce the opening of our "Off-Road" Division to fulfill our desire to protect the riding rights of ALL riders in California, both on and off-road.

Recently the off-road community was caught totally off guard by the passage of Assembly Bill 1595 that severely impacts the ability to modify and use "upgraded" off-highway side-by-side vehicles.

AB 1595 prohibits the use of (approved/sanctioned racing style) seat belt harnesses, prohibits the addition of full roll cages, and requires mandatory helmet use in these and ONLY these vehicles.

Portions of this law go into effect on January 1, 2013 and all parts of the law will be enforced on July 1, 2013. AB 1595 will have an immediate and very negative impact on side-by-side safety and prevent the use of many of these family recreational vehicles that have been upgraded with additional safety equipment.


Please join ABATE of California in our quest to repeal this poorly written legislation and help us restore the rights of side-by-side owners statewide who use these vehicles for safe and responsible family off-road recreation.

Your annual membership will help us retain a full time lobbyist to watch out for future negative off-road legislation. With everyone's help, we can beat these laws, without your help, we could lose all of our off-road freedoms. Join us now!

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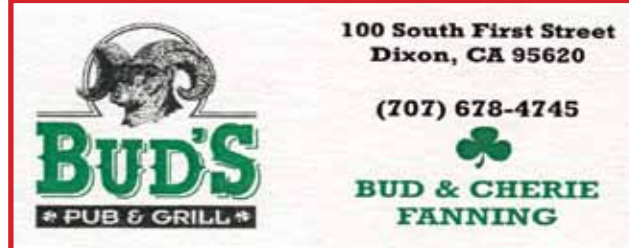
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S/S Navy Pocket T-shirts			S/S Ice Gray Medium	07-194		Sponsor T's L/S		
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X-Large 07-193			XX-Large	07-206				
MEN'S Educate NOT Legislate White T-Shirts								
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		Medium	11-316				Large	11-323
		Large	11-317				X-Large	11-324
		X-Large	11-318					
		XX-Large	11-319		Long-Sleeve	No/Pocket	Small	11-326
		XXX-Large	11-320				XX-Large	11-330
							XXX-Large	11-331
Total Men's T's							X \$ 20.00 =	
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Short-sleeve		Large	11-334		Long-sleeve	Small	11-337	
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Simi Valley - Local #02-Reg#7

Guy Corrigan 2nd Tues 7:30 PM
805/796-6328 VFW Post#10049
4242 E Los Angeles Ave.
Simi Valley
Crashman1@sbcglobal.net

Thousand Oaks/Ventura Local#03/13-Reg#7

Chuck Pedersen 3rd Thurs - 7:00 PM
Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge
805/496-0323 158 N Conejo School
Thousand Oaks

San Diego County - Local #06-Reg#12

Snowman 1st Sun - 12 Noon
C/O Boozefighters M/C Kate Sessions Park
P O Box 501946 Pacific Beach
San Diego CA 92150
619/855-9981

Orange County - Local #08-Reg#11

Daniel Pfaffly 2nd Mon.7:30PM
American Legion #354
8071 Whitaker
714/335-9627 Buena Park

South Orange County - Local #09-Reg#11

Cory Toroian Meets with L#20
949/496-2936

San Diego County (North) - Local #11-Reg#12

Dan Buse 2nd Sun - 11 AM
buse13@att.net Escondido Moose Lodge
760/807-7294 25721 Jesmond Dene Rd
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Jeff Bassler 4th Wed - 7:00 PM
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Rancho Cucamonga 1020 N Mountain
91730 Ontario, CA 91729
909/596-9685

Orange County - Local #20-Reg#11

Gill Mellen 2nd Tues - 7:00 PM
2104 Continental Ave. American Legion
Costa Mesa 92627 5646 Corporate Ave.
949/632-9787 Cypress CA 90630



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Antelope Valley - Local #21-Reg#13

Ron Sundquist 2nd Thurs - 7:00 PM
37230 52nd St. East AV Roadhouse
Palmdale 93552 320 W Ave J2
661/586-5555 Lancaster 93534
ron.sundquist@sbcglobal.net

South Bay - Local #22-Reg#11

Suzanne Palmiere 2nd Tues - 7:00 PM
310/245-0543 Meet with Local 20
suzpalmiere@aol.com

San Bernardino - Local#23-Reg#9

Kevin Sorrell 1st Sun 9:00 AM
909/793-1112 Vicky's Restaurant
502 S Waterman Ave
San Bernardino CA

Fresno - Local#24-Reg#6

Jeff Krebs 2nd Tues. 7:00 PM
559/801-5655 Yosemite Falls Cafe'
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Sacramento - Local#25-Reg#2

Lil' David Morena 3rd Thurs - 7:00 PM
916/616-9605 Denny's
3520 Auburn Blvd.
Sacramento 95821

Riverside - Local#27-Reg#9

Kenny Nuttall 1st Tues - 7:00 PM
P.O. Box 7070 American Legion
Riverside CA 92513 2979 Dexter Dr
951/377-5772 (in Fairmont Park)
www.abatelocal27.org Riverside, CA 92513

Morongo Basin - Local#29-Reg#13

Marty Rapp 2nd - Thurs - 6:30 PM
P.O. Box 2334 Odd # Months
29 Palms CA 92277 Call Marty for Location
760/367-1694

North Valley - Local #31-Reg#2

Larry James 2nd Tues - 7:00 PM
Last Call Lounge
530/893-4827 876 East Ave. Chico

Yuba City - Local #33-Reg#2

Steve Katen 2nd Tues. - 7:PM
530/749-1003 American Legion
5477 Feather River Blvd.
Olivehurst

Imperial Valley - Local#38-Reg#12

Ed Aranda Last Thurs - 7:00 PM
760/337-8372 La Fonda Bar & Grill
220 Wake Ave.
El Centro, CA 92243

Bakersfield - Local#40-Reg#6

Godfather 3rd Tues. 7:00 PM
P.O. Box9311 Rusty's Pizza
Bakersfield 93389 5430 Olive Dr
661/301-5403 Bakersfield 93308
661/323-9819

High Desert - Local#44-Reg#13

Dave Hastings 2nd Sat. 9:30 am
760/947-4700 Eagles Order #4181
P.O. Box 3094 16195 Main St
Victorville, CA 92392 Hesperia 92345

Barstow - Local #47-Reg#13

Yermo Eddy Meet with L#44
PO Box 521
Yermo CA 92398
760/953-7353

Grass Valley - Local#52-Reg#2

Craig Griswold 3rd Wed - 6:30 PM
21183 State Hwy 20 Alta Sierra
Penn Valley Pizza & Grill'
530/263-8071 15690 Johnson Place
Grass Valley

Ridgecrest - Local #58-Reg#13

Dave Cornelius Meet with Local#44
760/447-4342

Venice Beach/Santa Monica Local # 63-Reg#7

Kimko 310/907-6174 1st Monday 7:00pm
On the Water Front Cafe'
205 Ocean Front Walk
Venice Beach 90291
mindbodyalignment@verizon.net

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Region 2: Regional Representative Lil' David Morena 25, 31, 33 & 52.
Region 3: Vacant
Region 6: Regional Representative Ed Rogers 24 & 40.
Region 7: Regional Representative - Chuck Pedersen 2 & 3/13 & 63.
Region 8: Regional Representative Tom Lubbers 18&19.
Region 9: Regional Representative Mark Loudermilk 23, & 27
Region 11: Regional Representative Gill Mellen 8, 9, 20 & 22.
Region 12 Regional Representative Dave Connors, Locals 6, 11 & 38
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