



FRONTLINE

FREEDOM FIGHTERS NEWS



**The Board of Directors
of CBA/ABATE
wishes each and
every one of you a
safe and happy
holiday season!**



**DON'T FORGET ABOUT OPENING DAY IN RALEIGH
ON JANUARY 26th - BE THERE!**

Coming Events

November 7
Randolph County
Showdown III

November 13-14
Charlotte Swap Meet
Metrolina Expo
Fairgrounds

November 14 at 4:30
Central District Meeting
Swap Meet in Charlotte

December Toy Runs
Please check with each
chapter for times and
locations

January 2, 2005
Jason's Memorial Run
Randolph County

January 26, 2005
Opening Day in Raleigh
Feed the Legislator Day
**EVERYONE SHOULD
ATTEND**

February 12, 2005
Sweetheart Party
Randolph County

February 12-13, 2005
Eastern District Swap Meet
Wilson County
Fairgrounds

April 29, May 1, 2005
Freedom Rally 2005
Busco Beach
Goldsboro, NC

Letter from the Editor...

It is hard for me to believe that the year is almost to an end! I am still riding high from the passage of HB965 and the many new networks and associations that have been formed this year.

A couple of important notes for everyone... first, the State newsletter will be changing publication schedule for 2005. We are going to a quarterly schedule since that is the way the organization is run. Late breaking news and pertinent information will be posted to the website at www.cba-abatenc.org. Each chapter will be responsible to check for information that needs to be given to the membership. With all the new technology available, it has become glaringly apparent that our newsletter cannot deliver the activity quickly enough to make a difference. The motorcycle rights organization network on the net has grown to be a very useful tool and we need to use it too! The extra monies realized will be put to good use on promotional materials to help build this organization. If every member would sign on one member a quarter, we could quadruple the size of this organization with very little effort. Be thinking about that for 2005.

Second, NC BikePAC, Full Throttle Magazine and Dixie Rider National Motorcycling News will be sponsoring and hosting a "Meet The Legislators" luncheon on January 26th, the beginning of the new legislative session. I encourage each of you to attend. It will be an up close and personal time to meet and greet our legislators. We can thank them for their support on HB965 and encourage them to support our other issues being presented in 2005. Don't miss this opportunity!

And last but not least... I want to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season! Let's come back into the battle with renewed legislative commitment in January 2005!

*Ride safe,
Crazy Deb*



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Biker Charity 101

It's that time of year when most bikers attend toy runs, and our clubs and chapters decide on who will receive our charitable donations. This is the time of year when we all get to do what we love to do. Help others!!!

This is also the time of year when we should all give some serious thought to who will receive our charity. Which organizations deserve our support and which organizations do not? Just because an organization is defined as a charity doesn't mean we should throw money at them. Many have such high administrative costs that our funds will not help anyone but the charity organization itself. Many hospitals and children's charities take our donations and use them to lobby against us. They use our donations to help pay their lobbyists, who lobby for mandatory helmet laws. Please research your charity before donating funds to them. Find out their goals and find out exactly how they feel about bikers and bikers' rights. Don't blindly

assume that you are doing a good deed. That good deed may hurt bikers.

One charity that we should not forget during the holidays is our fellow downed riders. We should look to find out which riders in our community have gone down this past year and try to help them and their families. Many of them are physically hurt or have lost wages due to their accident. Also look for the families of riders who have passed away. We bikers should take care of our own. Help their spouses and help their children. Not only with monetary donations, but also look for other things you can do for their family. Helping a fellow biker is the best way to support motorcycling. One of the organizations that I belong to will always donate to "biker charities" before we donate to what we call "stranger charities".

We should also make sure we have done due diligence to bikers rights during the year. If your club has not contributed to bikers rights during the year,

you may want to consider making a legislative donation to your local MRO or local PAC fund (Political Action Committee). That form of charity will help promote fair motorcycle legislation, education, and safety programs. Furthering motorcycle safety and education may save a life next year. Saving a life may enable a child to grow up with both parents. The life you save may also be someone's teenage son or daughter. Think about it! That is the BEST form of charity anyone could ever give!!

Please don't forget motorcyclists' rights organizations as a charity this holiday season. Happy Holidays!

Vinny Neuman
Join ABATE and the MRF TODAY!
www.NCRider.com

Young Activist Scholarship Essay

By: Crystal Maney

As far back as I can remember, motorcycles have always been a part of my life. My dad has had motorcycles since long before I was born. As a child, my parents even used to use the motorcycle to tire me out so that I would go to sleep early without complaint. Then, as I got older I enjoyed riding

CRYSTAL MANEY WINS YOUNG ACTIVIST AWARD

through the woods on tiny mountain trails on the back of my brother

and uncle's dirt bikes. At the age of ten, I learned the hard way that Evil Knevil makes his jumps look much easier than they are because I tried to make a jump on my bicycle and had to have 13 stitches in my head and face. As I grew up, I still cherished those leisurely rides with my dad, brother, or uncles. In the mid nineties my dad joined an organization called the Concerned Bikers Association/ABATE. Until that time, motorcycle rights were something I had never given any thought to.

I went to a couple of CBA/ABATE chapter meetings with my dad while I was still in college and got an idea of what they were all about. I attended their Hot Springs Rally because my dad told me I would be helping out a good cause and get more than my money's worth in fun. He was right. As soon as I finished college, I bought myself my first motorcycle. It was a Yamaha Maxim 600. I rode around the local ball field until I felt like I could work the controls and handle the bike, but I wasn't ready for the road. I enrolled in the MSF Motorcycle Safety Course. I have never learned so much in one

weekend. I then got my endorsement, joined the CBA, and two months later, bought my next bike. It is a 1984 Harley FXRS and the love of my life.

I've been a CBA member since 2001, active on both the chapter and state level. I've been the chapter secretary for two years; I'm on the Hot Springs Event Committee. I have written several articles for our chapter newsletter, helped with toy runs, poker runs and assisted the legislative coordinator. On the state level, I regularly attend state meetings as well as committee meetings. I'm on the State Events Committee and Membership Committee. In my short time as a member, I have met and learned from many interesting

people and I have seen the CBA accomplish a lot. We are now on the verge of getting our helmet law amended, getting a right-of-way bill passed and getting the month of May declared Motorcycle Awareness Month statewide. Locally, our chapter has become recognized by many politicians through our charity work and changed the biker image for many people. I'm excited about being a part of an organization that protects motorcyclists' rights for us as well as for future generations. If I am granted the Young Activist Scholarship, I hope to gain even more knowledge and inspiration by attending the Meeting of the Minds and being a part of the MRF, which I can then bring back to my chapter and state.



Miles French presents first ever Young Activist Award to Buncombe County's own.

These businesses offer 10% discounts to CBA Members

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State Of The Organization

Two Thousand and Four was a transitional year for CBA/ABATE of NC. We are slowly emerging into a Motorcycle Rights Organization. With change brings new opportunities and new responsibilities to our organization. Today I will bring you up to speed on the different areas that CBA/ABATE has moved into, and areas of responsibility that each committee and Board member has worked on.

Our legislative endeavors reached a goal this year in our first piece of legislation to be pushed from a bill to a law. The hard work and perseverance of the members of CBA, BikePAC, and independent riders from across the state, led by the Legislative Director and BikePAC lobbyist, Sam Nobles, worked relentlessly to see this piece of legislation come to pass. The ROW legislation will effectively close the loophole that has for years seen the maiming and killing of NC bikers go forgiven without cost or recognition by the motorists of our state.

NC also saw a new BikePAC formed and immediately saw results in the legislative arena. Under the administration of Debra Knox and Sam Nobles many new alliances were formed and old ones were reinforced. Thousands of dollars were handed out to our friends in Raleigh that worked with us and those dollars were put to work to help the ROW bill see the light of day.

The first ever Legislators Choice Bike Show will be held the first part of 2005 and a new coalition of BikePAC, Full Throttle Magazine And Dixie Rider Magazine will be a first for Bikers Rights in our state. We will continue to expand our area of influence and continue to form new coalitions in our effort to advance bikers rights here in our state.

The advances in our state have been significant and likewise our national presence. While we were not able to secure the NCOM Convention for 2005, we are still on the schedule for 2006. Our concentrated efforts to the MRF agenda have brought the offer to host the 2008 MOTM. The premier conference of the MRF, these opportunities did not come without the hard work of members such as Sherry Hand the NCOM rep, Deb Knox Info Director of CBA/ABATE and Treasurer of NC BikePAC, Peggy Burns, Secretary of CBA/ABATE, and Cindy Hodges MRF Rep. They had assistance from a lot of other members of our Organization as well.

The National Organizations have a large presence in our State due to the involvement of the membership in the work of the National Organizations. They have brought home many awards for their work in the motorcycle rights movement. Both Vinnie Neumann of our Chatham County Chapter and Crystal Maney of our Buncombe County Chapter won national awards at the MOTM Conference in Saint Louis. Debra Knox won an award from Oklahoma City at the NCOM Convention. Sam Nobles also received an acclamation from the AMA for his work on the ROW Bill at the MOTM conference. Of the 11 states that filed 21 pieces of legislation, NC had the only piece of ROW legislation that

passed. The law comes into effect Dec 1 2004, and dictates a \$500.00 fine, loss of license for 90 days and points on the offenders drivers license. These are all non-negotiable penalties.

Our helmet repeal bill will again be reintroduced in 2005 with the added support of the Select Committee hearings which gave it a favorable recommendation. Our Bill now has the endorsement of the NC Tourism Dept.

Our efforts to bring NC motorcycle rights endeavors to bear on Washington DC. has brought about the monumental task of uniting the South in intense lobbying efforts in DC., to address problems that we as southern bikers face geographically. This has brought about the Southern Cross Conference. The conference, slated to happen in Charleston, Oct.29, 2005, was spearheaded by myself and Fred Ruddick, State Coordinator of Abate of SC.

The conference organizers have had three meetings thus far and a governing council has been formed and work committees are being formed. A web page is now operational and member states are still signing on. The states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Kentucky and Virginia are now sitting on the governing board. The conference will move from year to year and the host state will chair the council.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the NC delegation Jim and Peggy Burns, Deb Knox, Lane Wise, Boyd Spertzel, Aaron Tedder, Todd Graham, Jan Tedder, and the SC delegation Fred Rudduck and Pam Martin. The delegation from Virginia consisted of Penny Adams of the Va. Freedom of the Road Riders and Tenn. Members Halfrack, and Steve Lundwall President of Abate of Tenn. The Governing Council is comprised of the participating States' Presidents or delegates. All proceeds from the conference will be divided among the participating states, and the conference to help train and send delegates to DC., to lobby for Southern bikers rights. No National Organizations will participate in the operation of the conference, however speakers and experts in their field will be solicited.

Our work in areas other than the legislative process to achieve our goals is through Regulatory agencies. Our Reps to the Motorcycle Safety Work Team, Deb Knox, Jim Burns, and Jim Everhart have used their involvement in this committee to secure vital statistics as well as privileged information to enforce our position with legislators. Dept. of Transportation was prepared to support our efforts in Raleigh on the ROW legislation, however it became unnecessary for them to do so as a result of our members efforts. However, it defines the relationship that we have acquired with State and Federal Highway Transportation Agencies.. Currently, the Motorcycle Work Team has petitioned the Department of Transportation to utilize their portable and stationary overhead signs to notify motorists of motorcyclists activities statewide as a part of our safety campaign. In time, I hope that we will secure notification of road

conditions and hazards pertaining to motorcycles be addressed via these signs.

Safety and Education is a major area that the State as well as National Organizations are addressing. The AMA, MRF, and NCOM recognize that alcohol and lack of rider training are among the largest contributors of motorcyclist death nationally as well as locally. We will start an aggressive campaign this year to secure funding and a program to show the bikers of NC that you don't have to stage your events with alcohol involved for them to be successful. We will work with the AMA and its Ride Straight Campaign to get the facts out about riding under the influence of alcohol. We must address this problem now in preparation for our helmet amendment. We must take an active role in keeping our motorcyclists alive. Over half the fatalities of bikers on our roads have alcohol involvement. We can no longer bury our head in the sand and pretend that we don't see.

Our Motorcycle Awareness Program is well under way. Jim Burns has had meetings with Safety Education and Awareness Directors in Florida and Iowa. With the help of Sue Everhart, he has designed a presentation to be delivered in the NC Education System and is now in the process of training instructors. It will, I believe be a major accomplishment and our crowning achievement in the days to come. Volunteers are needed on this program. This program will translate into lives saved.

Jim has also been involved in an Outreach Program, recognizing that communication is a major obstacle in our objective for the membership to take on a larger role in doing the work of the Organization. He has been traveling the state interviewing chapter members for their opinions and suggestions on how the BOD can more effectively communicate with its membership. As the membership continues to grow, more members will be required to take on the leadership roles of committees, panels, surveys and projects.

As our membership grows, new and inexperienced members are taking on positions that require the knowledge of our Constitution and the duty of record keeping and the many other facets of running a chapter of CBA/ABATE of NC. We must institute a program that will train future officers to excel in the task of leading our chapters in achieving our goals. We must insist that the leaders of our Organization have the same goals and are consistent with the goals of the Organization. We have no time nor tolerance for personal agendas at the leadership level.

Our Membership continues to fluctuate between sixteen hundred to two thousand members. This means that we are not reaching most of the bikers of NC. We have got to do a better job as an Organization of recruiting members either through our programs or our marketing. Both Membership Services and Marketing have been working on new strategies to reach more bikers in areas that we have not gone before, geographically. Marketing is working on developing and implementing

Chapter Meeting Places

Membership Services

(704) 283-0465

Fax: (704) 291-2182

Email:

ABATEMEMBRSHPSNC@aol.com

Brunswick Chapter

PO Box 188 • Shallotte, NC 28459

Kyle Caison: (910)842-3475

Cleve Gore: (910)754-7394

Meets at Brunswick County CBA Lodge. Located on Hwy. 179 behind Shallotte Muffler shop. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8:00 PM.

Buncombe Chapter

PO Box 9271 • Asheville, NC 28815

Larry Blankenship: (828)683-3734

Email: blankenboat@charter.net

Eldon Moore: (828)252-1195

Email: eldoncora@juno.com

Meets at Home Folks Diner, 1459 Merrimon Ave., Asheville on 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Cabarrus Chapter

PO Box 6092 • Concord, NC 28027

Tom Rotundo: (704)723-9155

Jimmy Wilson: (704)279-3527

Meets at the Golden Corral in Concord on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Carteret-Craven Chapter

PO Box 1474 • Havelock, NC 28532

Jan Commo: (252)223-5188

Email: jccommo@nclawyers.com

Ron Tong: (252)223-5238

Email: kathit@starfishnet.com

Meets at Jeans Place, East Main Street, Havelock on 1st Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM.

Charlotte Chapter

PO Box 26445 • Charlotte, NC

Lloyd Isaacs: (704)483-0938

Gary Bridges: (704)457-0571

Meets at 10411 Beagle Club Rd. on every Wednesday of the month at 8:00 PM. Lodge #: (704)391-1222

Chatham Chapter

PO Box 408 • Apex, NC 27502

Mike Mohan: (919)363-8662

Email: flhs92@nc.rr.com

G.B. Lewis: (919)542-5759

Email: jilldene@hotmail.com

Meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Please call for location. Mike (919)363-8662.

Columbus Chapter

PO Box 669 • Chadbourn, NC 28431

Randy Norris: (910)653-4066

Email: randnorr@intrstar.net

Greg Stevens: (910)646-35200

Email: gngstevens@hotmail.com

Meets at CBA Lodge on Hwy. 130 at the Gore Center in Whiteville on first Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM.

Davidson Chapter

PO Box 227 • Lexington, NC 27295

Kenneth Moon: (336)757-5677

Email: fullmoon1860@aol.com

Carey Booth: (336)853-2397

Meets at Prime Sirlain in Lexington on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 5:30 PM.

Granville Chapter

1639 Hwy. 50 • Creedmoore, NC 27522

Bobby Evans: (919)528-7313

Meets on the lodge, 1st Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM.

Hickory Chapter

PO Box 4154 • Hickory, NC 28603

Tim Austin: (828)632-6821

Meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Contact

Tim Austin for more information.

High Point Chapter

PO Box 176 • Jamestown, NC 27282

Robert Causey: (336)434-3065

Email: JulRackar@aol.com

Mark Little: (336)676-9160

Email: mlittle.nc@juno.com

Meets at the American Legion Hall in High Point, Bus. 85 N. between Brentwood and Kivett Drive on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Macon County Chapter

PO Box 2126 • Franklin, NC 28744

Cliff Cyhers: (828)369-8060

Email: maconcba@yahoo.com

Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Contact Cliff Cyhers for more information.

New Hanover Chapter

PO Box 1429 • Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

Phil Andrews: (910)259-5193

Meets at Kefi's once a month on Thursdays. Call for more info.

Raleigh Chapter

PO Box 28082 • Raleigh, NC 27611

Charles Boone: (919)269-4193

Email: fbird54@bellsouth.net

Meets at Griffins Restaurant, 1604 N. Market Drive on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM.

Randolph Chapter

PO Box 87 • Asheboro, NC 27204

Buddy Grainger: (336)629-3895 or (336)676-9160

Email: theoldman59@aol.com

Meets at Mayflower Seafood Restaurant on 2200 N. Fayetteville Street on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

Rowan Chapter

PO Box 334 • Salisbury, NC 28145

Roger Boger: (704)933-4924

Email: Superg1200@aol.com

Meets at 4:30 on 2nd Saturday of each month.

Tar River Basin Chapter

1716 Wallace Drive • Wilson, NC

Eddie Mercer: (252)363-1092

Tom Umberger: (252)237-7515

Email: tomu@bbnp.com

Meets 1716 Wallace Drive, Wilson NC on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Union Chapter

PO Box 1142 • Monroe, NC 28111

Brandon Cruz: (704)893-2033

Todd Graham: (704)263-3818

Meets on every other Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. Call for times and location.

CBA Chaplain

Vince Mehaffey: (828)654-0376

Email: screamin_eagle@charter.net

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Debi Knox
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stateinfo@atmc.net

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the solution!

Eastern District Swap Meet

February 12-13, 2005

Wilson County
Fairgrounds

Chapter Letters

Buncombe

Hello from Buncombe County! We have had a busy summer. Our Hot Springs Weekend was extremely successful, despite rain. Thanks to all of you who came out and supported us. A big thanks to all the people who worked so hard to put the event on. We had a huge turnout at the Veterans Appreciation Run, including local politicians. This is one of the favorite events of the year among local bikers, with the great entertainment by Southern Comfort and the competitive bike games with so much participation. But the best part is the look on faces of the vets from the nursing home when they see all of the motorcycles and the people who came out to honor them. Most recently we helped out with the Madison County Alzheimer's Association in a poker run combined with their fund-raising event. This is also a touching event when you see how pleased the elderly patients are to have a day all for them. James and I just got back from the MRF Meeting of the Minds in St. Louis, MO. It was quite an experience. If you have never attended the Meeting of the Minds, I recommend you do so because the amount of expertise and experience in one room is overwhelming. A conference like this really puts what we're doing in perspective. It reminds you that all the things we are trying to accomplish are possible because it's happening in various other states. We still have plenty to keep us busy and riding with toy runs, committee meetings, and of course, the upcoming election. See you at the state meeting!

Crystal Maney
Chapter Secretary

Hickory

Hi from Hickory!

Our Ride with Friends Poker Run September 18th to help with medical expenses for Jesse Bullman was successful. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed the ride. We had many riders in our 4th Annual Shriners' Poker Run held September 25th. We met a lot of nice people, gave out CBA/ABATE literature and possibly gained some new members. Our members worked the stops on both runs and it was gratifying to be able to help with two good causes. Thanks to members from other Chapters who came to support us with this.

Whew! Now that we have the work over with, we're gonna take time for fun. Our President, Tim Austin, appointed a new Activity Committee.

Kathy Goltz and Teresa Adams already have plans for October, November, and December. Our first social will be October 16th and it will be a big deal. It's a "Down Home Pig-Picking". We'll party and eat. Everyone is really looking forward to it, and we appreciate these ladies working so hard to bring it together for us.

Please vote in the November election. It's so important to express your opinion and protect your future.

Legalize Freedom!
Glorria Wellbeloved
Hickory CBA/ABATE Secretary

Raleigh

Greetings from the Capital Chapter

The Raleigh chapter just held our fall poker run. Even though we did not have as much participation as we had hoped for, we still had a great time. We got our name and our cause out to lots of bikers and that is really what is important. All the businesses that hosted our stops gave us great door prizes and everyone knows that we bikers always love our door prizes! Cathy Mohan from the Chatham chapter rode over to help us out and ended up winning the worst hand of the day! (EDITORS NOTE: Cat generously donated those winnings to NC BikePAC...way to go Cat!)

We have nailed down the new chapter officers for 2005. We assigned (oops! Elected!) Bill Johnson for 2005 president. He will be filling the shoes of our out-going president Charlie Boone.

Our chapter is working with the six other chapters in the Eastern District to plan our big Swap Meet and Bike Show planned for February 2005. Hope to see a lot of you there. After all, there are not a lot of things going on in February!

Remember, opening day for the 2005 Legislative Session is January 26!

Gail Rumler
Chapter Secretary

Just My Opinion

In all the years I have been a CBA member, I have attended a lot of State Meetings and Committee Meetings as well. The State Meetings have become shorter and a lot of wasted time is longer spent on things that are now being handled by the Committees. I remember when the Executive Council Meeting started at 11:00 a.m. and hopefully we would get out at around 7:00 p.m. or so. The new shorter meetings make it easier for everyone who attends and has helped in cutting the cost of travel and overnight stays for everyone.

In my opinion, if you don't have about 4 hours to spend at the meetings and don't ever attend any committee meetings, how can you have any comments to make at the State Meeting when reports are being given?

These Committee reports are the tool that ALL organizations use in keeping EVERY member up to speed with the advances and failures of any organization! So if you have no interest in the Committee reports, gracefully excuse yourself and quietly leave the room. You may not want to hear the reports but many other members do.

I was at the October 16th meeting and I personally was interested in the committee reports, not negative comments from those who do not participate, just appear now and then. So please give us all a break, let us hear the reports and you excuse yourself if you have no interest in them.

From an active and informed CBA Member

To My Brothers & Sisters...

I do not say it enough. Thank you.

As a board member of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, I thank you for voting to underwrite my expenses. The fact that you have such confidence and trust in me is very humbling and I do not take it lightly. I am very aware that it is our money I am spending and do my best to be careful.

As a CBA member, I thank you for believing in the MRF so much that you'd rather see their funds stay where they are, working for us on the DC capitol hill, instead of paying my way to board meetings. I will tell you that a good deal of the MRF board members have their expenses underwritten by their home SMRO. You make me proud.

As me, myself, I thank you and think you folks are awesome. When my life was on a different path I had the financial wherewithal to pay all my expenses. For years I did not ask CBA to reimburse me for anything. Now there has been a trade off. Six years ago I decided life was too short to let someone control all my time and I started working at home, doing something that gives me not much money but a LOT of flexibility

in my time. I did this because there are things I think are important, things I have to make time for. Some folks are lucky enough to be able to have both money and flexibility; I'm not one of them. At least not right now.

If you know me at all, you know how I feel about our liberties. People died to give us that and we are honor-bound to keep it safe. By working on the MRF Board, I am afforded the opportunity to do the most I can in my pursuit of maintaining our liberties. I consider it an honor, a privilege, and a duty. Each time a person that tells me they are voting for me, or they think I am doing a good job, I know it is only because of you, my brothers and sisters, that I am able to do a thing.

Every time someone ask me a question, or strikes up a conversation about the issues we fight, I feel good, in fact, I feel DAMN good. Our membership is awesome.

Highest personal regards,

Cindy

MSF Delivers Response to Questions From MOTM Panel

September 28, 2004

During the "Future of Rider Education" seminar at Meeting of the Minds a question from the floor was posed to panelist Tim Buche, President Motorcycle Safety Foundation. The question centered around MSF lobbying activities in Georgia, and MSF's involvement in the demise of rider education funding in Georgia.

Mr. Buche was not prepared to respond at the time, and asked to submit a written response by Tuesday, Sept. 28th. He further asked that the MRF release his response to MOTMs attendees and MRF members. The official MSF response is posted below.

This response is not an official MRF endorsement, nor does it reflect the MRF position on this matter.

Karen Bolin
MRF President

September 28, 2004 Via email

Dear Karen:

On behalf of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, thank you for inviting me to participate on the "Future of Rider Training" panel this past Saturday in St. Louis. As promised, here are MSF's responses to the two questions that needed further clarification. Thank you in advance for communicating these responses in their entirety to MRF members.

It is absolutely, categorically false that MSF lobbied to eliminate state funding for the Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program - or any other state program. In fact, the MSF has a strong history of helping to protect or increase state funding for rider education programs.

During the last two years MSF has helped

Michigan and Utah protect state funding for rider education. Additionally, for many years we have helped Massachusetts and South Carolina secure legislative appropriations for their rider education programs. When the South Carolina appropriation was vetoed in 2003, MSF intended to work to override the veto, but was told by program principals that an override was unnecessary. Therefore, without support from those involved with the program, MSF did not pursue a veto override to restore the appropriation.

In 2002, in response to a growing number of complaints from potential students about the unavailability of rider education courses in Georgia, from RiderCoaches regarding their inability to teach courses, as well as MSF member companies' increasing frustration with the inability to expand training opportunities for Georgia consumers, MSF began working with government officials in Georgia to address capacity concerns.

Unfortunately, efforts to increase training capacity in Georgia were seriously impeded because independent programs were not allowed to operate effectively, if at all, in Georgia.

Repeated discussions over a long period of time with the state coordinator in an attempt to address these concerns did not result in improvement.

Over the past two years, MSF has met several times with Georgia officials to discuss these capacity issues. During one of our meetings, a state legislator discussed the fact that Governor Perdue was exploring the privatization of a number of state government services. The governor had asked him to explore the possibility and options for privatization of the motorcycle rider education program.

In response to his request, we provided information on the framework for privatization as it is utilized in several other states. At no time did we promote, advocate for, or pursue complete privatization of rider edu-

cation in Georgia or the elimination of state funding. In fact, it was made clear at all our meetings that our desire was to work with the existing state coordinator, within the framework of the existing Georgia State Motorcycle Program to increase the ability for more riders and prospective riders to participate in the GMSP.

As a result of our work in Georgia, the GMSP has formed a working group comprised of those within the rider education and training community to address mutual concerns and we are confident that the GMSP will continue as an even stronger state program.

Regarding MSF communication with Senator Murkowski's staff: Mike Pearlstein and Kathy Van Kleeck, of MSF's Government Relations staff, met with Bill Woolf of Senator Murkowski's staff and two other Congressional staff members prior to the December 10 meeting. They did not meet in person with him following the meeting, but Mike Pearlstein followed up with him by phone. During that phone discussion, Mr. Woolf read him a proposed change to the Murkowski amendment language. While MSF was evaluating the proposed change, the Senate passed TEA-21 reauthorization without the Murkowski amendment and action shifted to the House. MSF supports the motorcycle safety provisions contained in the House version.

Karen, please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you again for the opportunity to provide the MSF's responses to these questions.

Best regards,

Tim Buche
President Motorcycle Safety Foundation

Opening Day Announcement

NC BikePAC is pleased to announce "Meet the Legislators Day" on Opening Day of the legislative session in Raleigh on January 26, 2005. The event is being hosted by NC BikePAC and co-sponsored by Full Throttle Magazine of North Carolina and Dixie Rider National Motorcycle News. Full Throttle Magazine and Dixie Rider will come together on this day to help the motorcyclists of North Carolina make the biggest impression possible on the legislators of our State.

We will be cooking a pig on the back lawn of the Legislative Building when the Representatives and Senators show up for the first day of the new session. We are inviting them to come meet us, and it is important for you to meet them. There will be people there from motorcycle related businesses, and many different motorcycle organizations. The point of this event is to show the legislators how many of us there are in the state. We need to show them that we are a voting force to be reck-

oned with. We will also be demonstrating our willingness to come down and get involved in the process. YOUR attendance is needed!

Come down to Halifax Mall (the grassy area between the Legislative Building and the Legislative Office Building) on Wednesday January 26 to eat barbecue with the people who represent you in Raleigh. Tell them what concerns YOU as a motorcyclist. We have an ambitious legislative agenda this session and it will take all of us working together to accomplish our goals.

Thank you to our sponsors for making this possible, and thank you in advance for your attendance. I can't wait to see you there!

Sam Nobles
State Legislative Director, CBA/ABATE of North Carolina
NC BikePAC Lobbyist

IMPORTANT!
IMPORTANT!
IMPORTANT!

All chapters report
officer information for 2005
as soon as possible.
Send updated information to:

stateinfo@atmc.net
or
peggyburns@for-evernc.com

Meeting Of The Minds - A General Overview

This year's Meeting of the Minds was very special. It was 20 years ago that members of various MROs came to St. Louis to discuss a common problem.... They recognized the need for a presence at the federal level yet, knew they were limited with what could be done - - things back in each individual state ate up all their time and resources. Thus the Motorcycle Riders Foundation got its start. First thing on the agenda was to fight the proposed "superbike ban", and we won!

CBA/ABATE of NC had a good showing of members at this year's event. I was real proud to see so many of our members there, and to see folks from many other states seeking them out for advice, interest in projects, or just getting to know them better. There was a LOT of focus on North Carolina this year. My MRF Board position is up for re-election and the lady running against me was in attendance. The 450+ folks attending the meeting were encouraged to talk to us both about the position. Crystal Maney of Buncombe Co. won the FIRST EVER Young Activist Scholarship. Vinny Neumann of Chatham Co. was presented an award for Excellence. Cotton had meetings with other national and international leaders that went very well. James Buckner attended his first MOTM and very quickly became vocal about his ideas, adding a nice edge to an already great picture the rest of the nation was getting of us folks here in NC. Jim Burns met a lot of folks from other organizations who are involved in awareness and education programs - he tells me that he made some great contacts. Peggy Burns is now involved in a very exciting project that just might make us all happier about our motorcycle insurance and also started talks with the MRF about the possibility of bringing a Meeting of the Minds to our state!!! Boyd Spertzel of Charlotte chapter looked to the needs of his brothers and sisters, took some of us off site to restaurants for meals (that hotel food is very expensive). He got in Thursday evening and hauled myself, Carol Simpson (ABATE of Maryland and also an MRF board member), Fast Fred (ABATE of SC and new MRF board member), and Sputnik (TMRA II and NCOM board member) to dinner. It was very much appreciated. Boyd also had the honor of delivering a \$5000.00 check from Charlotte chapter, donation to the MRF. According to Boyd, the Charlotte chapter recognizes that it takes nearly \$1000.00 a day to run that organization, keep that DC office open. Charlotte voted

(and not for the first time) to underwrite the expense of running that office for one week.

Each day there was a general session until noon, and then two breakout sessions. It is getting harder and harder to select which session to attend... Jeff Hennie, MRF VP of Govt. Relations gave the legislative update, with Karen Bolin, MRF President, adding her comments. Bob Tomlins of FEMA (Federation of European Motorcyclists Association) gave both an overview of the issues being followed by FEMA and an overview of how we are watching the helmet issue make the rounds from the United Nations Work Party to, yes folks, the WHO (World Health Organization)... apparently there is a trend to consider us a disease! Bob spent some time with Cotton discussing these issues and I am sure you will be hearing more about this soon.

There was a session "Patriot Act; What does it mean to bikers?". Sitting on this panel were Matt Lemieux, ACLU, St. Louis office and Tom Novoe, FBI, St. Louis office. The Sons of Liberty Riders were there in force and filmed this session. I'm told copies will be made available at some point. ALL THE RIGHT QUESTIONS were asked and the answers were predictable. I highly suggest you go to <http://www.inbradio.com> and click on Meeting Of The Minds, St. Louis, find this session, and listen to it.

The first day's workshops were: First Time Attendees, run by former MRF President and member of BikePAC of CO Mark Buckner, and MRF Reports editor Teresa Hepker; Justice for All; Right of Way Legislation run by Imre Sautzer of the AMA. This particular session highlighted OUR OWN right of way bill. Again, check the INRadio website. Planning a Trip to DC was run by Cheryl Pearre, legislative director for ABATE of Illinois. Illinois has their political act TOGETHER and we continue to learn from them; Winning the Battle but Losing the War was run by Ken Ray, MRF Board member and member BikePAC of Oregon, ABATE of OR. This seminar focused on picking your battles and how to keep your goal in sight; MRF PAC: An Open Discussion on Federal PACs was a GREAT seminar put on by Boz Kerr, MRF Board member and ABATE of IL, BikePAC of IL). Carol Simpson, MRF Board member and ABATE of MD, put on How to Sell Anything to Anyone; 3 sets of 3; Transportation Research, Lifesavers & other Conferences by Steve Zimmer (MRF Board and ABATE of OH, and Steve Garrets (TEAM Oregon); How to be Most Effective in Your SMRO by Mark Buckner. Also during this time was the MRF Reps meeting, which I had to attend. There are new plans and projects coming to help the Reps do their jobs. The support and inspiration in that room was great and you will feel the backlash here in NC as I am coming to each chapter in the coming months - - Look Out!

The next day the Legislative Update continued with Kirk Willard, MRF Vice President and ABATE of Wisconsin. The panel discussion that day was The Future of Rider Education. Panelists were: Jay Jackson (MRF Board, ABATE of IN Exec. Dir.), Ron Shepard (IDAHO STAR Director), Steve Garrets (TEAM Oregon), Tim Buche (MSF President), Vince Consiglio (ABATE of Michigan). This particular panel discussion was RIVETING. If there was any doubt about the attitude and stance of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, or its deter-

mined direction, there surely is not now. After Mr. Buche's unfortunate statements to a congressional committee earlier in the year, he continued to show his true colors. We don't like them. Just my opinion here and not that of "any organization I may or may not belong to"... but I think this man needs to be replaced. I do not see how even his bosses (HD, Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki, etc.) can find his performance to be acceptable. When the PRESIDENT of a corporation tells 400-some odd folks that he "does not know" the details of a touchy move his company made... he's telling us he thinks we are stupid. Ok, opinion off.

Workshops for Saturday were Electronic Communications, by JD DePaolantonio (MRF Board member, ABATE of AZ and former Chatham Co. CBA member) and Fast Fred (ABATE of SC, Sons of Liberty, and MRF Board member); Building Political Relationships by Ken Ray, Bob Letourneau and Sherman Packard. Bob and Sherm are both legislators in their home state of New Hampshire AND they are biker activists. In fact it was their biker activism that got them into the state House and state Senate. Speaking in Front of Your SMRO and Others by Bill Gillespie (ABATE of IA); Newsletter Publications: A Roundtable on What Works by Teresa Hepker (MRF Reports) and Marc Falsetti (ABATE of IN); Lobbying - Lingo, Lies and Luck by Charles Johnson (ABATE of Michigan); What Kind of a 501c Am I? By Dixie Lee Laun and Dean Walkin (ABATE of UT); Holding Successful Meetings by Mark Buckner; and the SMRO Legislative Strategy Session by Dave Dwyer (MRF Board and ABATE of Wisconsin). This session was the result of an inquiry sent to all SMROs asking for input on what was felt to be important enough to be on the MRF's goals list for the coming session. Three SMROs contributed a list. I feel certain the list will be much bigger next year. Happily, many SMROs were represented in this session and we agreed on most all the goals.

Freedom of Road Riders of Missouri hosted this year's MOTM and were very gracious hosts. Anyone with bike troubles was taken care of. The hospitality suite was always open and fun. The bike parking was handled very well, including security. There are always a lot of behind-the-scenes things that go on at *Cont. on Page 9* such events and if you do not notice it, then the hosting chapter and event coordinator are working very well together. This was indeed the case this year.

It is difficult to put what you get out of these seminars into a report. What you bring from the seminars comes back to you and your organization in the projects you tackle, the ideas you try implementing at home, and the network of brothers and sisters across the globe you can call on for advice and support. You'll notice that a lot of the sessions that were done, were done by folks from different states, working together. Not everyone is on the MRF board, either. We (the biker nation) are literally teaching each other how to grow and protect our liberties. The energy at this meeting was electrifying. There were so many interesting ideas and conversations going on between and after sessions....

I urge each chapter to work on trying to send at least one member to this year's Meeting of the Minds. I'll be seeing you all, and we WILL talk.

Cindy Hodges - MRF State Rep

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MRF Unveils Roadside Assistance Program - FAQ's

Q. Who is the provider of services for the MRF Roadside Assistance Programs?

A. Road America is an independent national auto club company. You can visit Road America's site to learn more about them at www.road-america.com. Road America has been providing motor club services business to business for over 25 years.

Q. How would I receive roadside assistance services and information?

A. You will be supplied with a toll-free telephone number that you can call 24-hours a day, every day of the year. You also will receive a complete membership kit in the mail within 7-10 days from enrollment that explains all of the benefits and services of the roadside assistance program.

Q. Is the membership cancelable? What if I'm not satisfied with the service?

A. Road America prides itself on its excellent record of total customer satisfaction, however, if you are not satisfied with your Road America membership, for any reason, you can receive a pro-rata refund of the membership fees paid. If you elect to cancel within the first thirty days of membership, you will receive a full refund.

Q. How do I enroll?

A. You can enroll over the phone and via the internet with a credit card or by mail with a check and/or credit card.

Q. How does Road America compare to other motor clubs? (AAA, Amoco, Allstate, etc.)

A. MRF's plans provides you with emergency roadside assistance, up to \$200 per occurrence, with no limit on the number of times you may use the service during the year.

Other clubs usually limit the number of times you may use the service and restrict the number of miles you may be towed. Road America provides whatever service you need, up to the per occurrence limit.

The Premium motorcycle and auto packages provides roadside assistance coverage for any driver of 2 vehicles and 2 motorcycles owned by the member and/or the member's spouse automatically, at no additional cost. Most other clubs charge

an additional fee for spouses and associate members.

Q. Who are Road America's service providers?

A. Just like all other motor clubs providing dispatched road service, Road America utilizes a network of thousands of independently owned and operated emergency road service and towing providers throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Q. Are Road America's service providers different from any other motor clubs?

A. Road America ensures the finest towing and service providers available through a rating system based on each provider's assistance capabilities, service record, and other pertinent criteria. This rating system is unique to Road America and delivers the best possible service for each member.

Q. When does my membership begin?

A. You should receive your membership kit approximately 7-10 days after we receive your application for membership. Your membership effective date will be noted on your membership card and is scheduled to begin a few days after you enroll.

Q. Will I receive any information explaining the program and how to use it?

A. Your membership terms and conditions and membership card which you will receive in your membership kit provide all of the details regarding the specific MRF roadside plan.

Q. What if I break down and need service on a holiday or weekend?

A. All services are available 24-hours a day, every

day of the year throughout the United States and Canada. Simply call our toll-free roadside assistance number and service will be dispatched to your location immediately.

Q. Will I have to pay for towing or other road services out of my own pocket?

A. Road America will cover the cost of all covered services up to the per occurrence limit (\$200) for each service call. In most cases, you will simply sign for the service performed. The service provider will invoice Road America for the service.

Q. How many times can I use the service per year?

A. There is no limit on the number of times you may utilize the program per year. There is a limit to 1 service per 7 days.

Q. How do the Hotel Discounts work?

A. You simply call the toll free line located next to the name of the hotel on your terms and conditions and use the discount code. You will receive up to %15 off of the regular rates.

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State Meeting Minutes

CBA/ABATE of N.C. State Meeting
October 16th, 2004
Randolph County Chapter Hosting

Meeting called to Order @ 1:10pm
Opening Pray given by Vince Mahaffey.
Pledge of Allegiance lead by Cleve Gore of the
Brunswick County Chapter

Chapter Role Call:

Present: Brunswick, Buncombe, Cabarrus,
Carteret/Craven, Charlotte, Chatham, Columbus,
Davidson, Hickory, High Point, Raleigh, Randolph. Rowan,
Tar River Basin, and Union.

Not Present: Granville and New Hanover

Present At Large: Jim Burns

Announcements:

Cotton called Cindy Hodges, Charlie Boone, Rick Nail,
Larry Blankenship and Fred Beaver (not present) up to
the front and honored them with awarding all of them

with plaques for their long time dedicated service to the
Organization. All hold the honor of Director of Emeritus.
Cotton then opened the meeting by reading the State of
the Organization report.

(This report can be found in this newsletter.)

Cotton informed the membership of Sam Nobles recent
surgery and asked that member try and support him. A
hat was pasted around and funds were collect to
aid in the daily needs Sam may have.

State Secretaries Report: Peggy Burns

The minutes of the meeting hosted by
Buncombe/Hickory Chapters had been printed
in the last State Newsletter and were accepted as print-
ed.

State Treasurer's Report: Mike Hodges

The balances and expenses were read and copies of
them were handed out. The Labor Day Event turned a
small profit after expenses. Mike also stated that all
Chapters are current on there invoices with the excep-

tion of one which was due to a mailing error. The report
was excepted as read.

New Business:

Cotton announced that we have a new chapter joining us
and that is Macon County. It was voted in by the
Executive Council to grant Macon County there Charter.
Cliff Cifer, President of Macon County was asked to
come forward and accept the Charter from Cotton.

The schedule for next year's State Meeting were opened
to the floor.

The State Meeting are as follows for 2005:

January 8th, will be hosted by the Charlotte Chapter
April 9th, will be hosted by the Hickory Chapter
July 16th, Will be hosted by Carteret/Craven Chapter
October 15th, will be hosted by Cabarrus Chapter
Cotton thanked all the Chapter for their enthusiasm
with the desire the host the State Meetings.

Cotton then took the time to go over the hand outs he

cont. page 11

State Of The Organization (cont.)

increased benefits for membership in CBA/ABATE.
We will in the coming year offer incentives to those
chapters that retain their membership and grow. We
will be traveling to those parts of the state that don't
have chapters to start new on's, a large project but I
think a very interesting one. Marketing is working on
redesigning the membership packet and inquiries are
being made to provide discounts at motels and hotels
as well as insurance discounts under a corporate rate
for membership. We are trying to align ourselves with
the same benefits that some of the National
Organizations offer.

Due to little or no input from the chapters,
most of the news that is printed in the newsletter is
old news, that along with the chapters publishing their
own newsletters, has made the State Newsletter
almost obsolete and a waste of money that could
more effectively used elsewhere. The Newsletter will
now be published quarterly and the three thousand
dollars saved be used by the Information Director to
market the Organization. All news that needs to get to
the membership between publications of the newslet-
ter will now be posted to the website. It will be the
responsibility of the chapters to incorporate this
news into their individual newsletters.

Our Treasury has been under a strain this
year with much more work going on. A finance meet-
ing was held and ways to save money were discussed
as were ways to better utilize the funds we have avail-
able. Convention participation was cut back and travel
by Board Officers had to be curtailed. The work
went on with the funds coming from individual Board
members. Finance meetings will now be a regular part
of the Boards Agenda as we investigate additional
funding from outside sources.

The two State Events have not as of yet real-
ized their potential. A major effort must be made by
this Organization to make these two events a success,

I dare say that the future of this Organization depends
upon this. While our budget remains the same our
work load increases and these two events profitabili-
ty will dictate at what pace we will accomplish our
goals. The Freedom Rally, has up to this point been the
more profitable of the two. However the State Party
provides for the hotel rooms, gas, logistics, and the
other expenses that make the Freedom Rally a suc-
cess. Member participation has been minimal at both
events, so another plan must be devised to increase
member participation and at the same time make it an
event that will pull the membership together and truly
make us a band of brothers and sisters. I will advise
the Special Events Committee on my ideas and if they
warrant installation, we must move on them immedi-
ately. I think that they will be better events if the dis-
tricts themselves put them on.

The Committee theory has been somewhat
of a success, they started out strong but have slipped
back into somewhat of a slump. Members started out
very enthusiastically and once they got their issues
resolved quit coming to the meetings. These commit-
tees are important as they give you, the members, the
opportunity to effect change and make the rules. It
does however come with responsibility. You are now
responsible for doing the work, as many of you that
have quit coming to the meetings know, the work has
continued. That is a direct result of someone else car-
rying your load. If you are not on a committee to get
the work done, then why are you here?

A new tool to the Board will be a group of
advisors. Experts in Finance, Communication, etc. Our
first volunteer is JD DePantonio, JD sets on the MRF
Board as a communications expert and has agreed to
assist in our communication problems. I am actively
searching for that person that can help us get the
Government Grants. They are there for the asking and
I will learn how to ask.

A special emphasis will be placed on the
District Coordinators to handle projects and prob-
lems in their perspective districts. Please use them.
They are your Representatives to the Board. They can
handle your issues much better than another Board
member that is not familiar with the circumstances or
problems you are experiencing. They all have areas
that they are responsible for and the chapters fall
under the guidance of the District Coordinators. All
other problems can be handled in committee.

I have in the last couple of months, met with
the President of the MRF, Karen Bolin, the North
American Rep to the Geneva Convention, Bob Tomlin,
Fred Rudduck, State Coordinator of SC, Steve
Lundwall, President of Abate of Tenn., Sputnik, Pres.
TMRA2, and JD DePaolantonio, the MRF
Communications Director. I have been to Charleston
twice and Saint Louis once and will attend a NCOM
BOD meeting on your behalf in Salt Lake City, Utah
in November. I will be having meetings with the
President of Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky and
Arkansas in the coming months to secure their
involvement in the Southern Cross.

As you can see, CBA/ABATE has been busy.
The work is starting to pay off and you are now a
major player in Motorcycle Rights Movement in the
South as well as the Nation. You can no longer follow,
you are now expected to lead.

I can see very good things happening to our
Organization in the next year. If you will just grab your
oar and pull, I will appreciate it, and the guy behind
you, I'm sure will appreciate it too.

COTTON
State President
CBA/ABATE OF NC

State Meeting Minutes (cont.)

had prepared.

1. The Chain of Command: This chain of command gives everyone an idea who they need to report to with question or problems they may encounter. Cotton explained that all Chapters need to follow this chain of Command. No one State Officer can be expected to answer all the question that can and do arise in an Organization. He asked that all Chapters please try and follow it. He emphasized that all BOD officers will still remain available to all Chapters.

2. Charity begins at Home: This hand out is from the Sons of Liberty Riders. Cotton explained that although charity is an amicable thing we truly need to look at what charities we are supporting as Chapters. We need to do all we can to protect our freedoms and maintain our Organization. Chapter need not stop doing charities, but please look closely at which ones you are supporting. Charity truly does begin at home.

3. The Green/Boswell Letter: Chapters are urged to have this letter copied and passed out to their membership. The letter calls for support of HR3550 (this is a Federal Bill). We need CBA members to write to Congressmen asking for their support of this bill. The bill would Expand access to motorcycle training for all who seek or need training. It also calls for a council to advise the Federal Highway Administrators on motorcycle friendly road and barrier designs. This is important to saving motorcyclists lives. All Chapters please follow up on this letter.

4. Is Your Insurance Company Lobbying Against You? This last handout will get you wondering if you are using the right Insurance Company. It gives a list of Insurance Companies that use your premiums to Lobby against you. Cotton once again urges all Chapters to copies this handout and pass it around. A list of Insurance Company are given in this handout. The question is do you want your premiums used to lobby for a mandatory helmet law? Think about it, you may want to change companies.

Committee Reports:

1. Legislative: Deb Knox (Sam was out sick) Deb read a letter from Sam. He urges that all Chapters have Members attend Feed The Legislators on opening day (Jan. 26th 2005) in Raleigh. Sam has worked relentlessly in Raleigh all year. His was instrumental in getting the Right of Way Bill passed. He has done all the leg work with got our helmet bill through the Select Committee with a favorable report. He has taken time from his job (that's the thing we all do everyday to pay our bills at home) to get things done. And now he has managed to get us the lawn area between the Legislative Building for a Feed the Legislators Day on opening day. This lawn area is of great demand by every Organization that lobbies in Raleigh for that one most important Opening Day of the session and Sam has obtained it. All Chapters need to be there on opening day. Please show on Jan. 26th 2005.

2. MRF: Cindy Hodges

Cindy explained the importance of National Conferences. She covered what goes on at these meet-

ing and the information and knowledge that is gained by networking with people from all over world. Information obtained at these meetings help us with our issues. Examples given for instance were issues such As the Nation Highway Safety System, also known as smart highways. This project puts satellite tracking devices in highways and motor vehicles that will track them and when the drive seems to have problems driving the computer system will take over and drive the vehicle for that driver. The problem with this is passing, the satellite and computer can not see a motorcycle. Issues such as our Right of Way Bill. North Carolina was the spot light in this venture. So many freedom fighters what'd information on the bill, the AMA used our State as the center of there presentation highlighting passage of the Right of Way Bill. So much is gained at these conferences and Chapters need to send members to them. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Cindy announced that two members of our Organization were the recipient of two major awards at the Meeting of the Mines. They were Crystal Maney of the Buncombe Chapter, she received the Young Activist award, and Vinny Neuman of the Chatham Chapter who was recognized for all the work he has done for the MRF and fighting for our freedoms. Cindy will follow-up with a full report.

3. NCOM: Cotton Tedder

The NCOM Convention will be held in Nashville, Tenn. In 2005. We will be hosting the convention in 2006.

4. Products: Gwen Nichols Gwen now has all the products and has add some new items like baseball caps. Please contact her if you need products.

5. N.C. Confederation of Clubs: Doc Ski Doc was not present. No report.

6. PR/Newsletter: Deb Knox Deb's report can be found in this newsletter.

7. Membership: Jan Tedder
No meeting has been held. No report.

8. Constitution: Charlie Boone
No changes at this time.

9. State Events: Randy Norris (Not Present due to death in family)

Cotton announced that the Events Committee will meet on Nov. 6th at 1:00 pm at the Columbus County Lodge in Whiteville.

10. Safety, Education and Awareness: Jim Burns
There has been no SMART Committee meetings. Jim went over our new Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Program (MSAP) that is now in progress. He has already started classes that teaches members to become instructors. These instructors will then be going in the school systems and teaching motorcycle awareness in the Drivers Education class. The first class was held at the Columbus County Lodge in Whiteville in which the Brunswick and Columbus County Chapters participated in. After taking

the class, a mock Driver Ed class was set up with live kids in Brunswick Counties Lodge to give these instructors a hands on experience of facing a real Drivers Ed class. The mock class turned out to every interesting with the kids having a lot of input as well. Jim has already had met with the Carteret/Craven Chapter with getting the program started in their area.

On Oct. 17th Jim will be in the Asheville area and meet with the Buncombe and Macon Chapter to teach the instructors course there. The next area will be in the Central District. The program needs to be uniform and he will strive to get this program as a mandatory part of Driver Education. The next big program that is already in the works is drinking and riding. This is an issue that is becoming more and more apparent to government agents that needs to be addressed. He what's to get this project up and going before we are forced into a situation we do not what to be in. Both of these programs are all about saving lives. Anyone interested in becoming part of these programs please contact him. Please take the time to read Jims full report in this newsletter.

11. Comments: Cotton Tedder

The movements that are being made by the Organization have become recognized throughout the Country. The Awareness program will surely prove to be one of the crown jewels of our organization. We have great plans for continuing this wild and furious ride into our future. Chapter involvement is the key.

District Coordinators Reports:

1. Central District: Buddy Granger
There will be a meeting of the Central District at the Charlotte Swap Meet on Nov. 14th. Nov 7th the Randolph Chapter will be holding the Randolph Showdown. There are many toy runs coming up so please check the Chapters website.

2. Eastern District: Charlie Boone
The Eastern District will hold a Swap Meet in Wilson on Feb. 12th & 13th. There will be a Eastern District meeting on Oct. 23rd At the Wilson Fair Grounds at 1:00pm. Brunswick County Chapter will be having their Bike Show on Oct. 30th. Please check Chapter website for up and coming Events.

3. Western District: James Buckner
There is a toy run planned in the Western District please contact him for information.

Closing Comment:

Sunday Oct. 23rd is the deadline for the State Calendar please get your information to Charlie Boone. PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOV. 2ND. YOUR VOTE MATTERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Next State Meet will be hosted by the Charlotte Chapter on January 8th at 1:00 pm.
Closing Prayer given by Vince Mahaffey
Motion made to adjourn, motion seconded
Meeting adjourned at 4pm.

Peggy Burns,
State Secretary

Safety Education & Awareness

About 50% of my available time has been spent on gathering information. I, along with a handful of other CBA members, attended the SMSA Conference in Charlotte on 8/21/04. This conference was vastly informative. Many safety issues were shared with us from all points in our Nation. There was a lot of rider training information shared. New ideas, new techniques, new solutions as well as results. Rider Coaches or Rider Instructors were the largest number of attendees for sure, but, there was also a lot of discussion about Awareness Programs, Drivers Education Presentations, Billboard Programs, Posters and many other methods to get the word out to non-riders that Share the Road with us.

There was one fact that was made crystal clear to me during this conference. It was driven home over and over again. Despite all our efforts to teach riders to ride safely and teach non-riders to share the road with us, we still are not doing enough, because our fatality rate nationwide is still going up faster than our motorcycle registration rate. What this all boils down to is that we need to work harder. We need to get more new riders into Rider Safety Courses. We need to make the courses more available to riders. We must encourage more experienced riders to take a refresher course every couple of years to keep their skills finely tuned. We must become more aggressive with our Awareness Program. We must get into more schools to reach the young people before they hit the roads. We must come up with funding to get billboards up, get Safety Posters out into the public and get some radio or TV advertising out. Anything that would let the general public know we are here and to please not run over us.

Our movement has begun to acknowledge a new, perhaps less popular battle front, that must be confronted in order to start bringing the fatality numbers down. That front is the impaired driver or rider. The fact of the matter is that alcohol and/or drugs are involved far too often in accidents involving motorcyclists. More and more states are realizing this and coming up with programs to deal with the battle to reduce the number of riders as well as drivers from using our roads while impaired. We must come up with a program that will get the message across to everyone that alcohol, drugs and the highway never ever mix. This was the overwhelming message I received from attending the SMSA Conference. I always felt this problem was something that we as a voice in the motorcycle world needed to confront. After attending the SMSA Conference and the MRF Conference I realized I was not alone with this concern. Although I never realized it was as big a problem as it is, I do now. With the help of Cotton, Deb, Peggy and others as they come forward, we will be putting together an Impaired Riders Program. Because of the large numbers associated with this problem, I can assure you that someone will be putting together a program that will deal directly with this problem. I just feel it is better to handle this among ourselves instead of waiting for the government to come in and do it for us. I really like our program better already. Don't You?

The next major blast of knowledge for me came from attending the MRF Convention in St. Louis. When you go to a Convention and surround yourself with 450 totally committed Freedom Fighters what happens is you advance your personal commitment to the cause many, many times over. I know it will take me at least until the next Convention to use up all the knowledge and energy I gained from this long weekend. This was my first MRF

Convention so I really didn't know just what to expect. I did think it would be leaning toward legislative work and I was ok with this even though my job is in the Safety, Education and Awareness area. I still know that we are a Rights Organization and I know how important our legislative work is, but much to my surprise, the Convention was totally full of information involving Safety, Education and Awareness Programs. Every time I turned a corner, walked in a room, sat down or stood up, somebody was there to share what programs they have in their States. What works for them, what failures they had as well as what successes they had. They were eager to share it all with me. I never realized our Rights Movement was so strongly into Safety, Education and Awareness. I left St. Louis with an over all message. Our Rights Organization isn't totally about keeping our lifestyles alive, it is about keeping us a live as well.

Enough of my rambling on about my personal adventures. Let me bring you up to date on our Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Program (MSAP). We had our first MSAP workshop in Whiteville on Sept. 19 at the Columbus County Lodge. This workshop is designed to develop MSAP Instructors. It takes from 2 to 3 hours. The whole purpose of the workshop is to get our new Instructors familiar with the presentation, comfortable with putting it on and confident enough to get up in front of a group of young people and put it on. As always I was very nervous about the workshop. I was wondering if anyone would show and if anyone would get anything out of it? Well much to my delight, 24 CBA members showed up for the workshop. I would have been happy if 5 members showed, I would have been delighted if 10 showed up, but 24, I was blown away. Thank you Brunswick County and thank you Columbus County. I felt everyone received this program very well. We did a few things wrong, but we learned from that. After all this is truly a work in progress for us. This workshop is in two basic parts. The first is to become familiar with the presentation by going over the manual section by section. The second part is to practice the presentation itself. For this group, it will be done on Oct. 13th at the Brunswick County Lodge in front of a mock Drivers Education Class using young volunteers as students. After this little adventure is under our belt we hope everyone will feel they are ready to teach in front of a real Drivers Ed Class. When everyone feels they are ready to teach in front of a real Driver Ed Class, we will go to work on convincing the Board of Education how necessary and rewarding this program truly is.

Our next workshop is set for Oct. 17th in the Asheville area. Roger Williams and Larry Blankenship have made all the arrangements out there. I'm sure we will have the same success there as we had with Brunswick and Columbus Counties. I'm looking forward to that workshop. Hell, I'm looking forward to going back to the mountains.

We plan on getting a workshop set up in the Central District around the Charlotte area for our third workshop. We have some interest there already. Hopefully more will come forward. I went to Carteret/ Craven Chapter to talk with them about our program and of course get some members to step up and become MSAP Instructors. I saw some interest in this group. Mark Seiler did step up and agreed to coordinate our efforts in that part of the State for us. I'm sure he will do a great job. We will be setting up a workshop in that area soon. Thank You Carteret/Craven. Thank You Mark Seiler.

After spending a lot of time in St. Louis with others that are setting up or have set up Awareness Programs in their respective states, one fact came out loud and strong. It is that the success of the program is dependent on the number of dedicated Instructors you have in your program. All efforts must be made toward developing a strong, large network of Instructors. This will be where all my available energy will be channeled now and into the future.

Jim Burns

Director of Safety, Education and Awareness

State of PR/Marketing

Disappointingly the PR/Marketing Committee did not have money to offer many of the promotional items that are currently in development. It is our goal and intent to provide membership recruitment materials, promotional materials for the organization and the continuing development of the web-site and newsletter as an information tool. Additionally, plans are underway for posters and literature to be used in an Impaired Rider program that aligns itself with the national agenda for motorcycle safety.

During one of the budgeting sessions, it was decided to decrease newsletter publication to quarterly so that we will be more closely aligned to the organizational structure of CBA/ABATE. Monies saved will be applied to costs of producing promotional materials.

By necessity the PR/Marketing Committee is closely aligned to Membership Services however I would like to redefine our original intent. While building membership in the organization is of primary importance, it is the responsibility of the PR/Marketing Committee to develop materials to assist organization programs and goals, not to be responsible for the development and implementation of these programs.

The strategic plan defined in February 2004 had some successes and some failures. This is what caused me to think about and redefine this committee's purpose. That being said here is my proposed program for the next quarter and into 2005.

PRIMARY GOALS FOR 2005

- Develop new tri-fold that is professional and has curbside appeal
- Develop products for promotional purposes which includes the development and availability of chapter resources
- Develop a consistent appearance for all organization materials
- Develop materials to include in membership packets
- Build a package of member benefits such as corporate hotel discounts, insurance benefits etc.
- Develop promotions/incentives to increase attendance at events
- Develop information packets to generate interest for new chapter start ups

TRI-FOLD

We are currently out of tri-folds. After conversation with many chapter members and non-members it has become apparent that we need to revamp our materials and programs. Our recruitment *Cont. on Page 13*



The first annual Southern Cross Conference of SMRO's will be held October 29, 2005 in Charleston South Carolina. This conference will be hosted by a different Southern SMRO each year.

Why a Southern Cross Conference of State Motorcycle Rights Organizations?

The southern states hold 131 seats in the US House of Representatives and 22 seats in the US Senate. Southern states control 30% of the house and 22% of the senate. Southern states have a tendency to retain the representatives and senators much longer than other states; many of our representatives and senators hold senior positions and sit on most important committees and subcommittees. The chairmen of many important committees are southern. Our southern

Southern Cross Conference

Organized for and by the State Motorcycle Rights Organizations of the South

states are not receiving a fair share of federal highway funds taken at our gas pumps. Southern roads are poorly maintained due to the unfair funding formulas used by the federal government. Federal mandates are creating more work for our SMRO's fighting seat belt and helmet mandates.

A need is seen for southern states and SMRO's to form a legislative coalition and effect change in Washington. We can be much more effective by working and visiting Washington together.

Mission Statement:

The Southern Cross Conference will provide an effective means of promoting discussion and direct communication among participating southern motorcycle rights organizations in an informal educational environment. Recognizing the importance of southern influence at the federal level, this leadership conference will encourage the development of skills and knowledge necessary to become a strong political voice in Washington.

Proposed Workshops:

- 1) Southern Political Power Base: Who Are They and What Can They Do For Us?
- 2) Mr. Biker Goes To Washington: Planning a Successful Trip
- 3) Federal Government 101: How The Big Guys Get Things Done
- 4) Herding Cats: Organizing Effective Lobby Teams

Currently Involved Southern SMROs:

Kentucky: KMA/KBA
Mississippi: ABATE of MS
North Carolina: CBA/ABATE of NC
South Carolina: ABATE of SC
Texas: TMRA2
Virginia: VFR & ABATE of VA

State of PR (cont.)

materials need to be more in line with the groups that are out there such as MRF, AMA, NRA and other membership based organizations. I recognize that we do not have the same levels of funding available but also believe that we must appeal to a different group of potential members by upgrading look, content and quality. We are an organization that is 30 years old and we need to start looking like one.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

What works? What would appeal to general population and help get the word out? Most motorcyclists have never heard of us. We need to increase visibility! What components of an information booth are important? What will people carry away and actually look out or talk about? I will be looking for input about this. We need to focus on low cost, desirability and portability. All materials to prominently display CBA identity.

CONSISTENT APPEARANCE

We need to develop a consistent appearance for all organizational materials. These include labels, letterhead and envelopes. We need to offer a more professional appearance with our correspondence, renewals, membership packets etc. The PR/Marketing Committee will work closely with Membership Services

PROMOTE EVENTS/INCREASE ATTENDANCE

What makes you attend an event? Convenience? Attractions? Price? Activities? Prizes? Entertainment? Timing? It is imperative to the health of our organization that we build our two events into money makers. We start with attracting our own membership. The Events Committee will be exploring these questions as well.

INFORMATION PACKETS FOR CHAPTER START UPS

We need to develop a handy package to give parties interested in forming chapters. Again, it is important to the health of our organization to grow membership. We have one hundred counties in North Carolina. There are many, many counties where we have no presence. PR/Marketing Committee will assist any program developed by District Coordinators and Membership Services. What would such a package consist of?

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NEXT QUARTER

Develop tri-fold. By January state meeting, new tri-folds will be in place.

Beginning January 1, the newsletter schedule will change to March, June, September and December. We are going to a quarterly publication schedule as it is more closely aligned to the way the organization does business. The extra monies will be budgeted to develop materials. Updates on legislative activities, committee meetings, events and other pertinent information will be posted to web-site. It has been determined that most of our news is outdated and the newsletter will be used for general information, commentary, state meeting minutes, committee reports for those that do not have access to the Internet and chapter reports. It will become the responsibility of chapter officers to disseminate information from the web-site. Items of interest to be handed out will be posted in a format that is accessible by downloading it and printing it out.

Choose and order promotional pieces with available funds by March 1 for use in information booths statewide. PR/Marketing Committee will be begging for more money as it becomes available!

In the interim, the PR/Marketing Committee will continue to work on the following:

Benefits of Membership package

Information Package for New Chapter Start Up

Assistance to Safety Education Awareness Director with promotional materials

Assistance to Membership Services to develop materials for recruitment programs and to upgrade and improve the quality and professional appearance of materials

Impaired Rider Program materials

Respectfully submitted
Deb Knox, PR/Marketing Chair

JOIN MRF
WWW.MRF.COM

Legislative Report

October 16, 2004 State Meeting

Sam was unable to attend due to recent surgery. He had hoped to recover enough to make the trip but, as of late yesterday, realized that it would not be possible.

Thanks to the efforts of NC BikePAC, Full Throttle Magazine and Dixie Rider National Motorcycle News along with the gracious donations of BikePAC members, we will be hosting a "Feed The Legislators" Day on Opening Day, January 26th. Sam worked quickly and behind the scenes to secure the coveted grassy mall position between the two buildings. You need to show up in Raleigh to meet and greet your legislators and let them know we are back on the job. We would like to thank in particular Mark and Molly Infield for being the leaders in money donated to the BikePAC and also for stepping up to the plate "no pun intended" to help host the opening day luncheon. Mark has already paid for the tent rental. Mark Infield and Scott Cochran working together in North Carolina will help to make this a special event. Special thanks to members of the Raleigh chapter who are helping Sam coordinate these efforts.

There has been many phone calls and emails with regard to HB 1517. It did not pass into law on October 1 as many assume and both Sam and I would appreciate the help of the membership in getting the word out. I had a long conversation with the lead man for the Traffic Safety Engineering

Division on Thursday. He was concerned about our people getting tickets because of the erroneous belief that the helmet bill had, in fact, passed. Believe it or not, he is not opposed to the helmet bill as such BUT cautions that until we can improve our statistics, it may be a battle hard fought. He feels very strongly that now is not the time. He also acknowledges, however, that he will be meeting us in the trenches again this year. The DOT is appreciative of our efforts on behalf of right of way violation adjudication and will support our continued efforts to increase penalties. They are undertaking a study of their own right now to determine the effects of legal action outcomes on highway safety. It is thought that stiffer penalties such as those imposed on drunk drivers would have a much bigger impact on distracted drivers and those who continually exceed the speed limit. The whole transportation industry is beside themselves because of the dramatic increase in highway fatalities.

I did not miss the opportunity to point out that the increase of fatalities has occurred with the helmet law in place and that he should keep that in mind when issuing his reports and continuing his studies. I believe that the DOT, above all other agencies concerning themselves with our safety are most sincere when questioning us and determining policies and procedures in highway safety development. We have worked long and hard to develop the beneficial relationships we now have with state and federal authorities here in North Carolina and they will continue to bear fruit. Jim

Burns has graciously agreed to replace Darlene Kimsey. I thought it an appropriate fit due to the safety oriented nature of the NC Motorcycle Safety Work Team.

Please take the opportunity to educate fellow motorcyclists about the helmet bill when given the opportunity. It is a good time to get a plug in for CBA and potential membership.

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND OPENING DAY, January 26th



All roads lead to Raleigh
on January 26th
Opening Day

LAST BREAKING NEWS!

Cindy Hodges won the MRF Election. Thanks to everyone who voted.
If you are not a MRF member...what are you waiting for?

In Memory Of...

Johnny "Blue" Wilson
Dennis Jackson
Bruce Vogle (Klean)
Mark Fisher (Fish)
Jane Janosko
Joann Stroud (JoJo)
Mike Daniels
Bear Allred
Ken Barentine
Edward Lawson Whitton (Easy)
Malachi Stanley
Tom Weaver
Tommy "DJ Crazyhorse" Clendenin

January 21, 1996
August 24, 1999
April 29, 1999
September 25, 1999
May 15, 1999
January 4, 2000
March 23, 2000
May 23, 2000
May 20, 2001
Dec. 25, 2001
Feb. 16, 2002
June 1, 2002
June 22, 2002

Joe "Ugly" Sidley
Alan Baker
John Cowdrick
James "Pickle" Deal
Clyde Starnes
Carl "Paul" Johnson
Gary Barba
Richard "Cigar Man" Burnett
Sheila Boone
Sandy Lee
Mark "Rat Daddy" Ratliff
Julie Jenrette
Howard Coltrane

June 30, 2002
August 4, 2002
August 6, 2002
August 20, 2002
September 7, 2002
November 16, 2002
January 7, 2003
January 7, 2003
May 30, 2003
August 1, 2003
August 23, 2003
February 10, 2004
March 26, 2004
October 6, 2004

Take Advantage of This!

Sandy Lee....
We Remember!

"Happy Birthday
to Cat Mohan"

Everyone PLEASE
sign up
a new member
this month.
It will double the
size of CBA!

**Give to BIKER
charities
this season!**



New
Low Cost
Advertising Opportunities!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thanks to the generosity of Animal of Carteret Craven chapter, there are now some very low cost advertising opportunities available in the State Newsletter.

Tired of being accused of being a drain on the organization because he is a lifetime member, Animal paid up one year's worth of full page ads in the State Newsletter at the whopping cost of \$1,000 donated!

Tributes, birthday, memory and anniversary wishes will be available free of charge and are limited to fifteen words.

Business ads are available for \$5.00 each and if you want to send your logo along... the ad cost rises to \$10.00. These ads are limited to 25 words. We will pack in as many as we can on a full page. If no one sends anything in... the page will be empty for the entire year.

Thank you to Animal for his generosity and support of the State.

Please pass this information along to your chapter members.

Submissions should be sent to Deb Knox, State Information Director at stateinfo@atmc.net or 469 Red Fox Street, NW, Shallotte, NC 28470



Concerned Bikers Association/ABATE
PO Box 2215 • Monroe, NC 28111
www.cba-abatenc.org

Please check your mailing label
for correct address and expiration date.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



CONCERNED BIKERS ASSOCIATION ABATE OF N.C. INC.

PO Box 2215
Monroe, NC 28111-2215

New
 Renewal

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Age: _____

Occupation: _____

Make/Size of Cycle: _____

Avg. Miles/Year: _____

Any other motorcycle affiliations: _____

I can help CBA/ABATE by: _____

Are you a registered voter? Yes No

I understand that by signing my name to this application, I am seeking membership into a political organization. Toward that end, I will follow the meaning of that word.

Signed: _____

Recruited By: _____

YEARLY DUES: Single: \$25.00 (New) \$20.00 (Renewal)
 Couple: \$35.00 (New) \$30.00 (Renewal)

FOR CBA USE ONLY

Chapter: _____
Card #: _____
Expires: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Rcvd. Date: _____
Sent Date: _____