

March 2025

Motorcycle Day at the Dome

Volume 35 Issue 03

On February 13th, ABATE of Arizona and the Arizona Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs hosted the annual "Motorcycle Day at the Dome". MDATD is an opportunity for motorcyclists to stand united for safer roads, fair treatment, and stronger motorcycle rights. It is an opportunity to urge our lawmakers to take action on issues critical to Arizona's riders. It was held at the Wesley Bolin Plaza across the street from the State Capitol. I had a great ride with a couple of members from Southern Arizona.

Many of the riders who were in attendance were in the gallery of the Senate Chamber when Senator Shawnna LM Bolick recognized us and welcomed us from the Senate floor. I also wish to thank Senator Bolick for all she does for the motorcycling community here in Arizona, and for supporting the Motorcycle Safety Fund bill. This year's event had better attendance than last year, but I wish that many more members of ABATE of Arizona would have been there. Please make a point about attending next year.

I also would like to thank the members of all the ACMC member clubs who sent representatives to the event. The visual of many different clubs gathering together to support this event shows that we are working together to protect our rights.

This year's event had many vendors and organizations in the Plaza showing support for the Motorcycle community along with a food truck caterer "Pick Six BBQ" who provide an excellent lunch for those who signed in for the event. Vendor Lance Dempsey of Patriot Printing was there with a wide selection of products.

There were representatives from ABATE of Arizona - One T and One Y;

Governor's Office of Highway Safety - Lisette Morgan; MRF - Dale "Animal" Dedrick;

**ACMC** - Billy Brackin,

AMSAF - Mick Degn & Joeta Brozosky,

Husband & Wife Law Team - Rosi Khazoom & Jen Pitts, Accident Scene Management –

Teresa "Trama Mama" Martinez;

Law Tigers - Jay Conner.

Special thanks to the members of the Spartan Riders MC, Glendale for manning the sign-in booth.

Thank you all for supporting this event.

RIDE FREE! RIDE ENDORSED! RIDE SOBER!

Jim Butsback

President, ABATE of Arizona



#### **Board of Directors for 2025**

Coyote Pass BoD Rep	Eric Spurr
East Valley BoD Rep	Jeff Gorall
Mohave BoD Rep	Donna Arnold-Post
High Country BoD Rep	Open
Phoenix BoD Rep	Scot Williamson
Southern AZ BoD Rep	Lou Vanden Plas
Yavapai BoD Rep	Dennis Banners
Yuma BoD Rep	Open

Board of Director meetings are held via Zoom on the 1st Saturday of Jan, Apr, Jul, & Oct after the State Officers meeting. Members are Welcome.

ABATE of Arizona State Office is located at: AZ American-Italian Club 7509 N. 12th Street, Suite #200 Phoenix, AZ 85020



#### ABATE of Arizona

# Board of Directors and State Officers

#### **Board Appointed Officers**

Legislative Director	Michael Infanzon
Designated Lobbyist	EPIC Policy Group
M.A.P	Jim Silk
Treasurer	Cliff Prentice
Membership System Adm	nin Forrest Phillips

#### Contact the MasterLink Editor

By-Laws Committee Michael Infanzon Betsy Newkirk

#### **State Officers For 2025**

President	
Vice President	Paula Beall
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Cliff Prentice
Sergeant-at-Arms	Gary Crawford
Membership	Cynde Aydt
Run/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator	Matthew Reemelin
PAC	Anissa Huntington
Communications	Joe Silk
Merchandise	Open
TBFS Chair	Sandra Tavares

State Officer meetings are held the 1st Saturday of every month, 11:00 am via Zoom. Members are Welcome.

#### Contact:

Jim Butsback, jimbutsback@yahoo.com
Cell phone, call or text 520-247-3051
I DO NOT USE MESSENGER

# Every level of member is important to the survival of our organization.

#### **Supporter:**

#### Joins a SMRO.

Believes that it's important to be a part of it.

Goes to a meeting occasionally.

#### Advocate:

Goes to every meeting but just doesn't want to take that next step and be an officer.

Volunteers only after being asked.

#### **Activist:**

Goes to every meeting.

Holds office.

Volunteers for every event.

Recruits new members.

Goes to MRO events on their own dime.

#### Radical:

Goes to every meeting and event.

Does everything to support the SMRO. Holds chapter and state offices.

Joins other chapters.

Volunteers for anything needed that promotes the SMRO.

Actively recruits their friends, family members, and co-workers.

#### Which one are you?

You get more back when you put more in.
Camaraderie, riding buddies, a sense of purpose, feeling of accomplishment

#### **READY to CHANGE LEVELS?**

Your Chapter & State Officers welcome your interest & enthusiasm Talk to them about how YOU can help grow & strengthen ABATE of Arizona

#### **President's Report**

Hello to all my fellow ABATE of Arizona members. As I am writing this it is the middle of February and the weather here in Arizona has changed since last month. The temps here in Tucson are in the 70's and near 80's. I know that I have enjoy riding as much as I can. Remember that this is the weather that attracts all the winter visitors and college students to our state. These folks are not always the most attentive and may not be familiar with our streets and how our traffic patterns are set up. Please be careful and remember that you are invisible to the folks in cages.

This past week the annual "Motorcycle Day at the Dome" took place, on February 13th. You can read about it elsewhere in this edition of the *MasterLink*. Thank you to all who supported this important event.

As we enter the month of March the calendar sems to fill up quickly with rides and events of all types. It can be a challenge to make the rounds of events you wish to support. There is Arizona Bike Week coming up in April at West World. Many of the various organizations also are planning bike nights, open houses and various rides. As al-

ways please try and wear your ABATE gear when attending these events. This not only lets others know you are an ABATE member but also helps our image as an organization and lets others know we are supporting the motorcycle community. This helps us in recruiting new members because people tend to want to join organizations that are active and support the same things that they support.

The Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation (AMSAF) will once again be hosting their "RIDING FOR THE LONG HAUL" Fundraiser. This year's event is Saturday, May 17, 2025, starting at 5:30 PM. Location is the Marriott Phoenix Chandler, 1600 South Price Road, Chandler, AZ 85286. This year there is a tropical theme of island vibes and fun! Dress in your best Hawaiian or Caribbean attire and come have fun. For more information and tickets go to www. amsaf.org/rftlh.

The Motorcycle Riders Foun-



Jim Butsback
Email:
jimbutsback@yahoo.com
Cell Phone, call or text
520-247-3051
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dation (MRF) is hosting the 16th Annual Michael "BOZ" Kerr "Bikers Inside the Beltway" National Motorcyclists' Lobby Day on May 19 & 20, 2025. Since 1987, the MRF has been the only namotorcyclists' tional organization rights dedicated to on-street riders with full-time representation in Washinton, DC. I encourage all ABATE members to join MRF and support

them. For more information and to register for this event please go to www.mrf.org.

I also wish to encourage every ABATE member to actively help plan and to participate in events to promote May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Ask your local governments to issue a proclamation or plan a local gathering to support motorcycle awareness.

As Always, until next month!

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RIDE ENDORSED!

RIDE SOBER!

JIM



# Annual dues support our lobbying and safety programs across the state

- Individual Membership: \$30 annually
- Joint Membership: \$45 annually
- Individual Sustaining Member: \$50 annually
- Joint Sustaining Membership: \$100 annually
- Business Membership: \$150 annually
- Club or Organization: \$150 annually
- Individual Lifetime Membership: \$350
- Joint Lifetime Membership: \$700

All Bikes, All Riders





# Local ABATE Chapters High Country Chapter

#### **Coyote Pass Chapter**

Coordinator	Eric Spurr
V. Coord	Mike Degrood
Secretary	Jeri Wise
Treasurer	Denise Green
Sgt at Arms	Tom Love
Membership	Open
Runs/Events	Mike Degrood
Safety Coordinator	Roger Green
PAC	Open
Communications	Rick Wise
Merchandise	Open
BOD Rep	Eric Spurr

Contact: Mike 661-332-2308, way2coolwheels@yahoo.com

https://www.facebook.com/groups/4808599665893759

The Coyote Pass Chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Calico's Restaurant, 928-753-5005 418 W. Beale St.; Kingman, AZ 86401 ###

#### **East Valley Chapter**

Coordinator	Joe Silk
V. Coord	Jeff Gorall
Secretary	Brett Doyen
Treasurer	Laura Hershey
Sgt at Arms	Jeff Gorall
Membership	Joe Silk
Runs/Events	Ky Sisson
Safety Coordinator	Matthew Reemelin
PAC	Gary Crawford
Communications	Joe Silk
Merchandise	Gary Crawford
BOD Rep	Jeff Gorall

Contact: Joe Silk, 480-628-8598 miterangers@msn.com

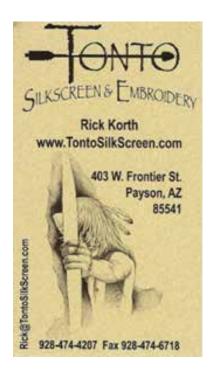
The East Valley Chapter meets at 10AM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at the American Legion Post 138 1264 W University Dr, Mesa NE Corner of Alma School & University ###

# Coordinator.......Open V. Coord.....Open Secretary.....Thomas Stocks Treasurer....Open Sgt at Arms...Roy Whiting Membership....Open Runs/Events...Jacque 'Daisi' Whiting Safety Coordinator.Roy 'Fatboy' Whiting PAC...Open Communications...Marty Bernal Merchandise...Gail Howard Media...Marty Bernal BOD Rep...Open

#### Contact:

https://www.facebook.com/ AbateHighCountryChapter

HCC meets 3rd Saturdays @ 10:30a, b'fast 9am @ Stanford Store, 928-537-7755 4 Apache County Rd 8235 (Stanford Rd), Vernon, AZ ###



#### **Mohave Chapter**

Coordinator	Tom Aydt
V. Coord	Open
Secretary	Cynde Aydt
Treasurer	Donna Arnold-Post
Sgt at Arms	Emmette Tucker
Membership	Cynde Aydt
Runs/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator	Terry Campbell
PAC	Denny Lange
Communications	Tom Aydt
Merchandise	Open
Media	Open
BOD Rep	Donna Arnold-Post

Contact: Tom Aydt, 715-651-0770 tamedic1969@yahoo.com

https://www.facebook.com/groups/263121160987524/

Mohave County Chapter meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month 6:00 PM at: VFW Golden Valley Post 2555 6068 Supai Dr. ; Golden Valley, AZ 86413 ###

#### **Phoenix Chapter**

. Scot 'One T' Williamson
Jay 'One Y' Williamson
Debby Miller
Lyn Peterson
Gavin Granmo
John Marshall
Cliff Prentice
Ernie Lizarraga
Mike Priebe
Kelly Marshall
Tiffany Granmo
. Scot 'One T' Williamson

Contact: One T (text only) 480-768-8747 <u>Ldmaau56a@gmail.com</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> groups/1640745202851394

Phoenix/Shadow Mountain meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 12:30pm at VFW Post-1433

7618 N 63rd Ave ; Glendale, AZ 85301 ###





## Local ABATE Chapters Yavapai Chapter

#### **Southern Arizona Chapter**

Coordinator	Jeremy Krauss
V. Coord	Open
Secretary	Monica Byrne
Treasurer	Monica Byrne
Sgt at Arms	Rob Rogers
Membership	Jim Butsback
Runs/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator	Open
PAC	Open
Communications	Judi Miller
Merchandise	Open
Media	Open
BOD Rep	Lou Vanden Plas

Contact: Jeremy Krauss, 520-305-0231 jeremykrauss@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/ groups/240701943485586

The Southern Arizona Chapter meets the third Saturday of the month at 10AM at the Northwest Tucson Moose Lodge 2660 W. Ruthrauff Rd., Tucson, AZ 85705 ###

Coordinator	Timothy Thomas
V. Coord	Dan Tumey
Secretary	Dixie Gray
Treasurer	Open
Sgt at Arms	Lori Kludt
Membership	Holli Woosley
Runs/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator	Andrew 'AJ' Killian
PAC	Open
Communications	Open
Merchandise	Dennis Banners
Media	Open
BOD Rep	Dennis Banners

Contact: Timothy, 360-720-3465 tntblaster@netzero.net https://www.facebook.com/groups/ ycabateaz

Meet us at 6:30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month VFW Bucky O'Neill Post 541 202 N Arizona Ave ; Prescott 86301 ###

#### Yuma Chapter

Coordinator	Open
V. Coord	Frank White
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Douglas Kreag
Sgt at Arms	Open
Membership	Douglas Kreag
Runs/Events	Open
Safety Coordinator	Open
PAC	Open
Communications	Open
Merchandise	Open
Media	
BOD Rep	Frank White

Contact Frank 'Hound' White, 209-327-0814 for meetings details, etc ###

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The Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation Financial Assistance Helmet Program

## How it works

- AMSAF Vouchers are valid towards the purchase of a \$200,00 or higher DOT Certified Full Face or Modular Street Helmet.
- Vouchers are only valid to those dealers approved by AMSAF and listed on the AMSAF website.
- Vouchers are not valid for discounted, special order or discontinued helmets.
- Purchased heimet is non-returnable if warning tag is cut off. Heimets may be returnable at the discretion of the dealer.
- Voucher is valid for a \$125.00 credit soward qualified helmet due to grant received from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.
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- \$50.00 tax deductible donation is required to AMSAF at time of application.
- Voucher and promo code is only valid toward one (1) Helmet purchase.
- Dealer will credit individual up front at time of purchase and invoice AMSAF.





For more information or to apply - Click in this presentation

For more information or to apply go to AMSAF.org/Helmeta

Motorcycle Day at the Dome ~ February 13, 2025







James Witkowski American Legion Post 138 Meeting host for ABATE's East Valley Chapter

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#### **Chapter Reports**

#### **Coyote Pass Chapter**

We held our Chapter's February meeting on February 11th and welcomed two guests, "Chop" and Dwight. Hopefully they have joined ABATE since then.

The weather has been unseasonably nice, and we are taking advantage of it. Many members of our chapter make frequent rides in the area with another group called the Brunch Bunch. It's a great way to ride together without it being an official ABATE ride. We are looking forward to Route 66 Bike Week in April, and will promote ABATE at that event.

Mike "Foil Hat" Degrood

Contact: Mike Degrood, Coyote Pass Vice Coordinator 661-332-2308, <u>way2coolwheels@yahoo.com</u>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/4808599665893759

The Coyote Pass Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Calico's Restaurant, 928-753-5005 418 W. Beale St.; Kingman, AZ 86401 ###

#### **East Valley Chapter**

Welcome to our new members: Alex Gorall, Colleen and Mark Johnson and the Arizona Trail Riders! Also, welcome back to the chapter: Michelle Theis, Joe Method, Tim Rankin, and Ron Lamson!

While going through our membership list we came across several members who don't have either an email, valid address, or phone number. Thanks to member Don Randolph for helping to update Judy Silva's (now Smith) information. If you can help out, there are a few other members that we have no contact information for: Russ Abshire, Lynn Baxter, Tim Carney, Sonny Eldredge, Dorothy German, Arlene Hamilton, Robin Munn, and Linda Teunissen.

We presented Gypsy's Roadhouse (owners Bill and Liz Voss) their 18-year busines membership certificate. Thanks

Bill and Liz for your support of our right to ride free! At 18 years, Gypsy's Roadhouse is one of the longest outstanding ABATE business members. They originally signed up at a past Too Broke for Sturgis rally/fundraiser.

We have been encouraging members to submit articles for the *MasterLink*. Chapter member Mark Healy submitted an article about a real life situation in which he helped save a car driver who had a cardiac arrest. Check out his article in the February edition – a great story!

Jeff Gorall has stepped up to be our Board of Directors representative. Jeff has previously been on the Board of Directors and we wish him well as he resumes this role.

After our chapter meeting on 2/16 we were supposed to meet up with new business members Jeff & Mandy of Starfish Ranch, at the Riverbottom Grill. They couldn't make it but we still ended up taking a ride out there with several members. It was a great day for riding. We were joined at the Riverbottom by 33-year lifetime member, Michele Peltier. It was good to see one of the original East Valley members in attendance. For all of the other "retired" East Valley members, it would be great to see you at the next meeting/ride!

The membership booth schedule has been busy with booths at Scorpion HD, Scottsdale HD, and GO-AZ. It's been interesting to meet with the general riding public to inform them about ABATE and the lane filtering law. Among the visitors to our booth have been members from ABATE organizations in other states.

We are also scheduled to present information on lane filtering and about ABATE to the Scottsdale, Scorpion, and Roadrunner HOG Chapters.

Joe Silk



Contact: Joe Silk, EV Chapter Coordinator 480-628-8598, miterangers@ msn.com

The East Valley
Chapter meets at
10AM on the 3<sup>rd</sup>
Sunday of every
month at
American Legion
Post 138
1264 W University
Dr, Mesa
NE Corner of
University & Alma
School
###

#### **Chapter Reports**

#### **High Country Chapter**

https://www.facebook.com/ AbateHighCountryChapter

HCC meets 3rd Saturdays @ 10:30a, b'fast 9am @ Stanford Store, (928) 537-7755 4 Apache County Rd 8235; (Stanford Rd), Vernon, AZ ###

#### **Mohave Chapter**

Our last Chapter meeting was January 20th. and our upcoming Chapter meeting is Monday, February 17th. They are held at the VFW in Golden Valley.

Motorcycle Day at the Dome was Thursday, February 13th. You'll read about that in this issue of the *Master-Link*.

The weather is warming up here in Mohave County and more motorcycles are coming out and also a few motorcycle events.

The other day I was at our local Walmart, and happened to be wearing my ABATE hoodie. A lady asked me what Chapter I belonged to and the conversation began. She and her husband just moved down here from Utah about 8 or 9 months ago. We chatted for about 10 minutes. I told them I was the Mohave Chapter Coordinator and talked about our Chapter. Before we parted I gave them one of my cards that has my info and the chapter info and invited them to our next meeting.

That is all I have for now. Until next month stay safe and ride safe.

Tom Aydt

Contact: Tom Aydt
Mohave Chapter Coordinator
@ 15-651-0770,
tamedic1969@yahoo.com
https://www.facebook.com/
groups/263121160987524/

Mohave County Chapter meetings are held at 6pm on the 3rd Monday of the month at:

VFW Golden Valley Post 2555 ~ 6068 Supai Dr. ; Golden Valley, AZ 86413 ###

#### **Phoenix Chapter**

Contact: One T (text only)
at 480-768-8747,
Ldmaau56a@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/
groups/1640745202851394

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 12:30pm at VFW 1433,
7618 N 63rd Ave.; Glendale, AZ 85301
###

#### Southern AZ Chapter

Contact: Jeremy Krauss 520-305-0231
or jeremykrauss@gmail.com
The Southern Arizona Chapter meets
the third Saturday of the month at
10am at the
Northwest Tucson Moose Lodge,
2660 W. Ruthrauff Rd
Tucson, AZ 85705
https://www.facebook.com/
groups/240701943485586
####

#### Yavapai Chapter

Contact: Timothy 360-720-3465 or tntblaster@netzero.net

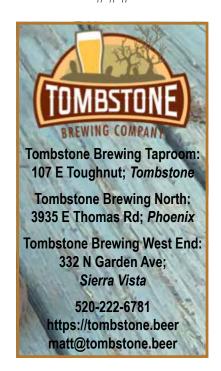
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ ycabateaz

Meet us at 6:30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month at VFW Bucky O'Neill Post 541, 202 N Arizona Ave; Prescott 86301 ###

#### Yuma Chapter

is reorganizing.
Want to help share the
message of Motorcyclists Rights,
Safety, & Awareness in the Yuma area?

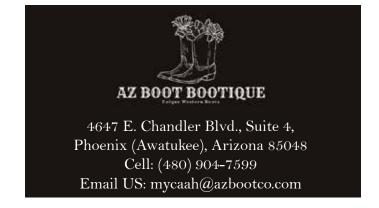
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1264 W University Dr, Mesa

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# AZ Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs

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Mark DeSimone: 480-731-9003

mark@discountmc.com
617 S McClintock Dr. Suite 5
Tempe, AZ 85281

Dirty Dogg Saloon
Jack & Nikki Estes: 480-368-8095
dirtydoggsaloon@yahoo.com
10409 N Scottsdale Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Dobson Lakes Family Chiropractic Anthony Bozicevic: 480-820-1818 anthony@azfamilychiropractors. com 2058 S Dobson Rd. Suite 4 Mesa, AZ 85203

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NW Moose Lodge 2543 Gene Wheelock: 520-406-5565 lodge2543@mooseunits.org 2660 W. Ruthrauff Tucson, AZ 85705 O'Kelley's Sports Bar & Grill 480-756-6069 info@okelleysbar.com 2120 W Guadalupe Rd #16, Mesa, AZ 85202

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tim@peacockgrafix.com
Kingman, AZ

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#### Reflective Gear May Impair Crash Prevention Systems: What Riders Need to Know

A new study from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) has raised concerns about an unintended consequence of reflective clothing—a staple in motorcycle safety. While reflective gear is commonly used to make riders more visible to drivers, the study suggests that automatic crash prevention systems in some vehicles may struggle to detect motorcyclists and bicyclists when such clothing is worn.

The study tested the automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems of three 2023 car models: the Honda CR-V, Mazda CX-5, and Subaru Forester. The results were alarming:

- The Honda CR-V and Mazda CX-5 failed to slow down or stop in 84% and 88% of trials, respectively, when approaching a motorcycle dummy wearing reflective strips on its limbs.
- The Subaru Forester performed significantly better, avoiding a collision in all but one trial.

Researchers tested various clothing combinations, including a black outfit, a reflective jacket, a black outfit with reflective strips, and a white outfit. The test was conducted in low-light conditions, ranging from total darkness to 20 lux illumination (roughly equivalent to urban street lighting).

#### Why This Matters for Riders

The results suggest that certain AEB systems may not recognize motorcyclists as effectively when reflective materials are in motion, potentially due to how sensors interpret light and contrast. This presents a troubling dilemma: while reflective gear may increase visibility to human drivers, it may reduce visibility to automated safety systems, which are becoming increasingly prevalent in new vehicles.

For years, the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has warned that AEB systems need stronger requirements to ensure they reliably detect motorcyclists. As a response to these concerns, the AMA has endorsed H.R. 10347, the Magnus White Cyclist Safety Act of 2024, which calls for higher detection standards for motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians in all vehicles equipped with AEB.

#### Regulatory Delays and What Comes Next

Further complicating matters, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently delayed the implementation of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 127, which mandates that all new light vehicles must be equipped with:

- Automatic emergency braking (AEB)
- Pedestrian automatic emergency braking (PAEB)
- Forward collision warning systems (FCW)

Originally set to take effect by September 2029, this regulation has been postponed pending a legal review, with the next decision expected by March 20.

#### What Can Riders Do?

- 1. **Stay Informed** Follow advocacy efforts on AEB regulations and support initiatives like **H.R. 10347**, which seek to ensure motorcyclist safety.
- 2. Advocate for Testing Standards The IIHS study highlights the urgent need for federal agencies to improve motorcycle-specific testing for AEB systems.
- 3. Adjust Visibility Strategies While reflective clothing remains important for human visibility, riders should also consider high-contrast color schemes and lighting enhancements to improve detection by automated systems.
- 4. **Engage with Legislators** ABATE and other advocacy groups must **pressure policymakers** to address these shortcomings in emerging vehicle technologies.

#### **Final Thoughts**

While technological advancements in crash prevention aim to reduce roadway fatalities, they must not come at the expense of motorcyclist safety. The IIHS study underscores the importance of ensuring that AEB systems are tested and calibrated to detect motorcyclists in real-world scenarios.

ABATE encourages all members to stay active in legislative advocacy and to continue promoting rider safety as new technologies emerge. We will monitor developments on H.R. 10347 and the NHTSA's safety standards and keep our community informed on how to protect our rights—and our lives—on the road.

Stay safe, stay visible, and stay engaged!

#### ABATE's 'E' is for EDUCATION.

Learn about our state legislature's Request to Speak system & help our Lobbyists protect motorcyclists' rights. *Click here*.



January 29, 2025 ... Sean Duffy was confirmed on Tuesday as U.S. Secretary of Transportation by a bipartisan 77-22 vote in the Senate. Before resigning his seat in 2019, Representative Duffy was elected five (5) times to represent the 7th congressional district of Wisconsin.

Mr. Duffy will head a department that oversees agencies of critical importance to motorcyclists, including the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHA).

In the next two years, Congress must consider a new surface transportation authorization (AKA



# MRF News: Duffy Confirmed By Senate

Highway Bill). Additionally, there remains the need for policymakers to balance new construction and maintenance priorities with the ever-dwindling dollars allocated for transportation projects.

Among the goals stated during his confirmation will be to create a national set of rules for automated vehicles instead of a patchwork of regulations that vary from state to state. While some are concerned this will take investigatory heat off Tesla, Duffy stated, "I will let NHTSA do its investigation," referring to several ongoing investigations regarding Tesla's safety record.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation has high hopes for Transportation under Duffy's leadership but vows to remain vigilant in Washington D.C., on behalf of our nation's street motorcyclists.

About Motorcycle Riders Foundation

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\*In Memoriam

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Jason Cartwright

**Rusty Childress** 

Flo Catone

Bill Cherry

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Mark B Hamilton
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Michael Infanzon
AJ Killian
Dan Leeper

Jeff Hennie

Gilbert Hernandez

Judith Miller Timothy Miller George Moses Cliff Prentice Mike Priebe Brian Rudd

Melissa Sidoti Richard Sidoti James A. Sivigny Johnny Sullivan Dan Tumey Holli Woosley

#### Club / Organization Members

Old Koots on Scoots Rob Thomas: 480-220-4551 rob\_thomas@yahoo.com





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## **ABATE Legislative Update:**

#### Tracking Key Bills, Motorcycle Day at the Dome, and SB1107 Victory

shared by ABATE-AZ Legislative Director Michael Infanzon, mike@abateofaz.org

As the legislative session marches forward, ABATE of Arizona remains vigilant in tracking bills that affect motorcyclists and advocating for policies that protect our rights on the road. With "Crossover Week" approaching, it's crucial to stay informed about key legislative developments. Here's what you need to know:

#### Legislative Tracking: Key Bills for Motorcyclists

ABATE continues to monitor and engage on several transportation-related bills that impact riders. Below are some of the most notable pieces of legislation currently under consideration:

#### HB2235 - Signs; Lane Use; Civil Penalty

- **Sponsor:** Rep. Teresa Martinez (R)
- **Summary:** Requires ADOT and local authorities to place signs instructing slower traffic to keep out of the farthest left lane. Adds a \$500 civil penalty for violations.
- Position: Support
- **Comments:** This bill promotes safer traffic flow, benefiting motorcyclists by reducing erratic lane changes and improving visibility. ABATE supports the bill to ensure motorcycle-specific safety considerations.
- **Status:** Awaiting Third Reading

#### SB1019 - Photo Enforcement Systems; Prohibition

- **Sponsor:** Sen. Wendy Rogers (R)
- **Summary:** Bans the use of photo enforcement cameras for traffic law enforcement statewide.
- **Position:** Support
- Status: Passed Senate Minority Caucus

#### SB1092 - Vehicle Mileage; Tracking; Tax; Prohibitions

- **Sponsor:** Sen. Jake Hoffman (R)
- **Summary:** Prohibits local governments from tracking vehicle mileage or imposing a mileage-based tax
- **Position:** Support
- Comments: This bill aligns with ABATE's values of privacy, fairness, and freedom, preventing burdensome tracking measures that disproportionately affect motorcyclists.
- **Status:** To Committee of the Whole / Consent

#### SB1107 - Motorcycle Safety Fund Continuation

- **Sponsor:** Sen. Shawnna Bolick (R)
- **Summary:** Ensures continued funding for motorcycle safety programs by repealing the termination

continues on page 15







### **ABATE Legislative Update:**

#### Tracking Key Bills, Motorcycle Day at the Dome, and SB1107 Victory

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continues from page 14

date for the \$1 per registration fee that supports rider education and awareness efforts and not allowing funds to be used for anything but what it is intended for.

- Position: Support
- **Status:** PASSED the Senate Now Heads to the House!

This is a huge win for the motorcycle community. Keeping the Motorcycle Safety Fund intact and protected ensures resources for training programs and public awareness campaigns that save lives. ABATE will push hard to secure final passage in the House and the Governor's signature.

#### Motorcycle Day at the Dome 2025: Event Recap

Motorcycle Day at the Dome has come and gone, and while attendance was lower than expected, we still saw an increase over last year—so we count that as a win! A special highlight was being introduced as "guests in the gallery" by Senator Shawnna Bolick from the floor of the Senate, a recognition of our growing presence and influence at the Capitol.

ABC15 covered the Motorcycle Safety Fund bill, further amplifying the importance of SB1107. A huge thank you to **Trauma Mama** for stepping up and doing the on-camera interview! Your voice helped push our message out to the public.

#### Mark Your Calendar for 2026!

We will begin planning for Motorcycle Day at the Dome 2026 this summer! If you'd like to be a part of the planning team, let me know.

#### What to Expect Next Year:

- **Legislator Meet & Greet:** Discuss key issues with elected officials and committee members.
- **Safety & Awareness Initiatives:** Push for greater recognition of motorcycle safety and awareness in Arizona's transportation policy.

• **Community Engagement:** Network with fellow riders, industry partners, and advocacy groups.

We need YOU to show up and make our voices heard! Lawmakers take notice when constituents show up in force, so bring your bike, your passion, and your commitment to motorcycle rights.

#### Legislative Deadlines & Crossover Week

As we head into **Crossover Week**, here's a quick reminder of where we are in the legislative timeline:

- **February 21, 2025** Last day for bills to be heard in committees of their originating chamber.
- **February 24-28, 2025** Crossover Week: House bills must pass to the Senate and vice versa.
- March 28, 2025 Final deadline for bills to be heard in the opposite chamber.

What does this mean? If a bill hasn't made it through its first chamber by Crossover Week, it's effectively dead for this session. This is our last major push to ensure important motorcycle legislation moves forward!

#### **Get Involved!**

Now is the time to take action! Contact your legislators, attend hearings, and stay informed. **ABATE of Arizona** will continue fighting for riders' rights, but we can't do it without your support.

- Call or email your State Representatives and let them know you support SB1107 and other motorcycle-friendly bills.
- Plan to join us at Motorcycle Day at the Dome next year to advocate in person.
- Follow ABATE's legislative updates to stay up to speed.

Together, we can ensure Arizona remains a safe and welcoming place for motorcyclists.

Stay safe and ride free,

**ABATE of Arizona Legislative Team** 

ABATE's E stands for EDUCATION.

Learn how you may be able to help Save A Life
by taking the Accident Scene Management classes.

#### **Motorcycle Awareness Program {MAP}**

#### Motorcycle Awareness Program Learning Opportunities

Before deciding that you don't want to participate in the MAP, why not check it out yourself? There are classes on March 3rd, 24th, and 31st. Possibly another date in March/April.

There is a class on June 9th in Flagstaff.

If someone wants to view the class in action, they need to contact Joe Silk in advance due to school security policies. No drop-in visitors.

Perhaps once you see the class, you'll decide that it IS something you'd like to get involved in.

#### Goals for the 2025 Motorcycle Awareness Program include

Broadening the program's reach beyond the current five schools and student groups.

Reaching out to other organizations & businesses that can be presented to

Increasing the number of certified instructors (ABATE members or others).

YOUR participation can help with each of these goals!

To VOLUNTEER for the MAP Program, for more information about the MAP, or to become an instructor, contact either Joe Silk at 480-628-8598, miterangers@msn.com or MAP Coordinator Jim Silk at 602-312-1927, Jpsilk2264@gmail.com

#### Call for MAP Instructors ~ Motorcycle Awareness Program

from the ABATE-AZ webpage, http://www.abateofaz.org/map-reports

For those who might be interested in becoming a MAP instructor, please read on.

The Motorcycle Awareness Program (M.A.P.) is an educational program aimed at the target audience of high school students in drivers education classes. There has been a small group of instructors who have volunteered to present the M.A.P. to students throughout the state, but we need more instructors.

Remember that ABATE's E stands for EDUCATION. Our purpose is to spread the word about safe motorcycling and promote a positive image of motorcyclists. What better way than to speak to the future drivers of our state? The students, hopefully, will not only be better equipped car and truck drivers but will also be more aware and watch out for us.

To become an instructor you must:

- 1. Be available during the day: The presentations in driver's education classes last about an hour during the school day. There may as many as 5 classes in one day.
- 2. Be willing to stand up in front of a group of about 30 high school students and speak. That sounds easier than it can be. You need to be able to gently maintain control of the group.
- 3. Know the material being presented. There is an outline for all presenters to follow so there is uniformity in the material presented.
- 4. Commit to teaching at least two classes per school year. We hope to have at least one volunteer instructor in each ABATE chapter. That person will attend an instructor class (about 4 hours), attend a M.A.P. with an experienced instructor, and teach a class with an experienced instructor in attendance. When the new instructor is comfortable and the experienced instructor assesses him/her to be ready, the new instructor may begin teaching alone. The mentor program assures that everyone is teaching the same material and everyone has support.
- 5. Provide record of teaching to M.A.P. Coordinator on a consistent basis.

This is your opportunity to get the word out to new drivers about the importance of sharing the road with motorcyclists. This is your opportunity to support the mission and vision of ABATE in your community.

#### **Project 35 Report**

How do we promote motorcyclist safety through ABATE of ARIZONA? Any ideas? Let's take a moment to think about how we promote Motorcyclist safety. We need to spread the word that Safety is important and our Rights are important. Thus spreading the word of safety opens the doors to adding to our membership.

We have a great person watching after our Rights and a great team that teaches Motorcycle Awareness to the high schools. Ask yourself this question. Do you like your freedoms? Do you like your motorcycle? Well, if the answer is yes to either question then you have something to talk about to potential new members. We could be a very strong and successful organization with a little effort by the membership to share within our sphere of influence. Stop and look for opportunities. They are out there. There are ways to promote safety and membership, but it takes a little effort.

Talk to your friends and fellow riders. Ask them why they aren't already members. Maybe those answers will lead

Contact: Matthew Reemelin at chap911rn@gmail.com Project 35 Lead, State Safety Officer, ABATE of Arizona



to something constructive.

Any Questions reach out to me. Any ideas reach out to me.

Freedom is not free. It takes work.

Matthew Reemelin AZ State Safety Officer and Project 35 Lead



#### LANE FILTERING IS LEGAL

ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES 28-903 F The operator of a two-wheeled motorcycle may overtake and pass

another vehicle that is stopped in the same direction of travel and in the same lane as the operator and may operate the motorcycle between lanes of traffic if the movement may be made safely and if the operator does both of the following:

- 1. Operates the motorcycle on a street that both:
- (a) Is divided into at least two adjacent traffic lanes in the same direction of travel.
- (b) Has a speed limit that does not exceed forty-five miles per
- Travels at a speed that does not exceed fifteen miles per hour.

#### **SECURE YOUR LOAD LAW** WENT INTO EFFECT September 19, 2024!!!

On ALL Arizona roads not just highways. Thanks to Senator Shawnna Bolick for sponsoring this important legislation and championing safety on the roads!

Ch. 183, Laws 2024 (SB1376 - Vehicle loads; restrictions) Extends vehicle load restrictions from highways to streets and roadways, applied uniformly throughout Arizona and in all its political subdivisions. Exempts vehicles being used for agricultural purposes on a farm.

If you have questions about the new law, please contact ABATE's Legislative Director,

Mike Infanzon at mike@abateofaz.org





February 26, 2025 - Washington DC ...

Tuesday, Congressman Neal Dunn of Florida announced the introduction of the Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair Act or the "REPAIR Act", a bill that would ensure vehicle owners have access to important repair and diagnostic data. Congressman Dunn introduced a previous version of this bill during the 118th Congress that garnered the support of 56 bipartisan cosponsors.

With this introduction, Congressman Dun said, "American consumers deserve full control over their vehicle repair and maintenance data to ensure they can find the best service for their vehicle at a reasonable price. Unfortunately, vehicle manufacturers are standing in the way of American consumers accessing their own data to use the repair shop of their choosing, limiting consumer choice."

He further added "Your vehicle belongs to you, not the manufacturer. I am introducing the REPAIR Act to provide a binding, workable solution to anti-competitive behavior in the auto repair industry to reaffirm consumer control over their vehicle maintenance data and empower them to work with repair shops big and small."

The right to repair and modify your motorcycle is an important part of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) 2025 Legislative Agenda. The MRF looks forward to seeing the text of this latest bill. As we review this bill



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#### **MRF News:**

## Dunn Reintroducing REPAIR Act

and others that may impact the Right to Repair, we will be mindful that this is a priority for bikers. Access to the parts, tools and technical information required to work on products you own is something all bikers should support. Our partners in the aftermarket and independent shop industries are key parts of the entire motorcycle ecosystem and their survival is

crucial.

Stay tuned for potential calls to action at the federal level on the Right to Repair/Modify. Stay engaged back home, as state legislatures begin to examine Right to Repair/Modify laws across the country.

Stay vigilant!
Ride Safe and Ride Free

[ Join the MRF ]

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# MRF News: Friday From DC Congressional Motorcycle Caucus

February 14, 2025 ... This week, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation participated in a reception for the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus. The event

played host to several lawmakers, including the Co-Chairs of the House Motorcycle Caucus: Rep. Tim Walberg (Michigan), Rep. Troy Balderson (Ohio) and Rep. Derrick Van Orden (Wisconsin). The Chair of the Senate Motorcycle Caucus, Senator Gary Peters (Michigan) also attended. Additional legislators present included newly elected Representatives Dave Taylor (Ohio) and John McGuire (Virginia).

These two caucuses are made of legislators from both parties who have an interest in supporting motorcyclists and the motorcycling lifestyle. The event also included several Capitol Hill staffers and other motorcycling groups, including the American Motorcyclist Association, Harley-Davidson Motor Company and the Motorcycle Industry Council.

Growing these motorcycle-focused organizations is a priority for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation. Events like this one and the annual "Ride to Work Day" on Capitol Hill are great ways to connect with elected officials and their staff in a less formal setting and build relationships that can help impact our legislative agenda. With your help, we can continue to grow these groups and spread the word about motorcycling priorities to the folks in our nation's capital.

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#### **CALENDAR - Upcoming ABATE-AZ / Business Members / MRO Events**

Mar 29 {Sat} Bikers With Purpose 2nd annual Dustin's Ride. Sign-in @ Superstition HD, 2910 W Apache Tyrail, Apache Junction. Last bike out 11am. Last bike in @ On the Green, 801 S Power Rd, Mesa by 3pm. \$25/sgl, \$30/cpl. {EV members Alan & Crystal Benjamin }

Apr 12 {Sat}: Old Koots on Scoots {OKOS} is hosting their 8th year Anniversary Party at On The Green Bar {OTG – 801 S Power Rd, Mesa} from noon – 4pm. Vendors, music, raffles, auction, & more. Swag bag for \$20 donation. 50% proceeds benefit Hospice of the Valley. FMI: oldkootsonscoots@gmail.com

Apr 12: 16th Annual Waylon Run, hosted by Gypsy's Roadhouse, 5122 E McDowell Rd,



Phoenix. Waylon Jennings Memorial Run & Party. FMI: 602-286-9251

Apr 13 {Sun}: ACMC – AZ Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs is hosting a Member Appreciation Party at Roosters Bar, 3731 E Main Street, Mesa starting at noon. Live music, food, & more. FMI: 480-985-4088

Apr 13: Motorcycle Advisory Council Organizing Meeting #2; working to reduce fatalities & accidents in the Pima County and Tucson areas. Starts 10:30a at Northwest Tucson Moose Lodge, 2660 W Ruthrauff Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705. Breakfast will be available for purchase. FMI: jimbutsback@yahoo.com, call or text 520-247-3051, https://www.facebook.com/events/3922089478078546

May 17, 2025 {Sat}: AMSAF's Riding For the Long Haul event, 5:30 to 9:30pm at Marriott Phoenix Chandler - 1600 South Price Rd., Chandler, AZ 85286. Join AMSAF for an evening of tropical fun, island vibes, and fundraising! Dress in your best Hawaiian attire and get ready for: Delicious Cuisine; Live Entertainment; Silent Auction; and much more! FMI: https://www.amsaf.org/rftlh/

May 19-20 {Mon-Tues}: Bikers Inside The Beltway, hosted by the Motorcycle Riders Foundation in Washington DC. FM!: https://www.mrf.org/events, 202-546-0983

Sept 25-28 {Th-Sun}: MRF's 41st Annual Meeting of the Minds, being held in Shreveport, Louisiana at Sam's Town Hotel & Casino. FMI: https://www.mrf.org/events | 202-546-0983, email mrfoffice@mrf.org or Fred@mrf.org

