

May 2017

Greetings from Southern Arizona. It's been a busy Spring 2017 thus far. Motorcycle Day at the Dome, Spring Break, runs and events. It seems like it gets more difficult to decide how to spend our time and money once winter is over.

At our March chapter meeting we were reminded by our Grease, our Safety Officer that now is the time to do maintenance on our bikes. Yeah, we may be blessed enough to be able to ride year-round here in sunny Arizona, but winter is a little slower and the weather has changed. So, give the sled a good once over; tires, brakes, lights, oil, the whole works. Safety first, and no one, I repeat NO ONE wants to be stuck on the side of the road.

Speaking of sitting on the side of the road...got that white ABATE bandana, just in case? Why not grab a couple of extras and hand them out to riders you meet who don't have one? It's a great way to open up a conversation about ABATE, and what we do. Along with those bandanas throw a couple of membership applications in your saddlebag too. We can always use more members and it the responsibility of all of us to be active in recruiting members.

Last month I had the great opportunity to participate in the Accident Scene Management classes taught by Teresa "Trauma Mama" McClelland, our State Safety Officer and her husband Ben. Her lovely daughters helped as well, and they are great fun. Let me say this, Teresa is a dynamo! Jim Butsback, our State President and Southern Arizona Chapter Coordinator and I took the Basic Class on Saturday, and I took the Advanced Class on Sunday. It was an awesome opportunity to learn how to deal with the unforeseen and unplanned events that all too often happen. I have been riding for 30 years and have been around motorcycles my entire life. I have been in an accident and witnessed more than one. Nothing compares with being prepared for the unforeseen. And being prepared on some level gives a sense of confidence when you are out and about on 2 wheels. Not only is the training great, it's also FUN and not intimidating at all. Breyer Law underwrites some of the cost, and provided morning coffee, donuts and bagels, a great lunch and snacks. Such a deal for \$50 a class. I highly encourage everyone to take at least the Basic Class. Whether you are a rider or a passenger it's extremely valuable.

Ride safe, Ride Endorsed and have some fun!

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Southern Arizona Chapter