

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE ! GET INVOLVED !

A.B.A.T.E. OF NORTHERN NEVADA



John Bland, President

Freedom Isn't Free
Join A.B.A.T.E of Northern Nevada Today

August 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our number #1 mission at this time is to develop a mass contact list of all freedom fighters in Nevada. It is apparent to me that this will be our most powerful weapon in fighting for freedom of choice. Our legislators react to three things; mass opinion, votes, and money. We started developing a mass contact list last year that will be made up of individuals that are passionate enough about amending our present helmet law that they will e-mail, write, call, or fill the halls of the legislative building in Carson City during the hearings next year. We are not asking these individuals to join ABATE, only to let us contact them when their voice's need to be heard. The legislators must be made aware that there is a large number of motorcyclists and registered voters in Nevada that

want the helmet law changed to allow an adult the freedom of choice.

Bob Beers has told us he will introduce our Nevada Volunteer Helmet bill in 2007. Everything we do and all our efforts for the next year will be in preparation for this upcoming legislative session. Dale and I are scheduled to visit with the Confederation of Clubs motorcyclists the second week of August. We will inform them of ABATE of NV's recent accomplishments, our strategies, and request their involvement. We are going to ask their members support freedom of choice and to forward their individual member contact information to us so that we can include them in our mass contact list.

We have secured a

booth at the Las Vegas Bike Fest for September 14-17. This will be our first physical presence in the southern part of our state. It is critical that we get the southern motorcyclists involved; most of our legislators are from the southern counties. We must link with the motorcyclists in Vegas to be successful in changing our helmet law, they are the constituents for the majority of our legislators. The primary purpose of our booth will be to meet the southern motorcyclists, share with them our goals, and get their contact information for our mass contact list.

Our letter to the Free Press editor was a great success. It did everything I hoped it would do. The letter informed the reader about ABATE of N.V. and

informed our community and outlying areas about the truths regarding motorcycle helmet effectiveness. The reader learned why the motorcycle helmet law is a controversial issue. I was prepared for a rebuttal back to the editor but it didn't happen. I am pleased and will assume they accepted the letter as fact. Our letter was not meant to be argumentative; we just wanted to inform the reader about helmet facts.

One of Florida's T.V. stations started a poll this week asking people to e-mail their station a vote in support of making motorcycle helmet use mandatory again in Florida or leaving it a freedom of choice. They have received a massive response in support of leaving it a freedom of choice. I had the idea of doing the same thing in Nevada, what an easy way to show the majority in the state how many people support freedom of choice. What a great time to do this since it's an election year. I will e-mail our local T.V. per-

Message from the President Continued.

son Terry Hritz and see if he would be willing to do a poll in our area.

We will continue to hammer AAA Insurance and any other insurance company that has actively lobbied against freedom of choice in the past. Our goal is to make them realize that doing this may not be in their best interest and hopefully stop them from opposing our helmet bill in 2007.

Please make the effort to express your appreciation to those ABATE members that are carrying the load of our organization. Just tell them thank you, it will go a long way in keeping them pushing for us. Without them, our organization would struggle to survive.

You will be hearing more about our “mass contact list” from me. I truly believe this tool is our weapon of choice. Everything we do and all our effort should be to develop the largest list possible. The list will compile the contacts of every freedom-loving voter in Nevada that has a passion for changing Nevada’s helmet law. It is not appropriate to sign this list if you are not committed and willing to e-mail or write a legislator. This will be a list of those who are passionate and will call or write. Those signing the contact list will not be asked to join ABATE of course it would be great if they did. Those on the list will only be contacted at critical times during our helmet bill legislative process to notify them that an e-mail, telephone call or letter is needed or when the hearing date is announced for the bill. Our newly elected secretary, Lesli Andrus is doing a fabulous job and is actively compiling the mass contact list. I will ask Bud to develop a signup page on our website for the mass contact.

Watch for Nevada’s Recruiting List for Nevada’s 2007 Freedom Fighters!

John Bland, President- ABATE of Northern Nevada

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Personal: historicleenv@frontiernet.net

ABATE of NV Website: www.abatennv.org



Vicky Andrus and John Bland Holding
our Support Voluntary Helmet Use Banner
at the Taylor Canyon Run 2006



Dale Andrus and John Bland with
Bob Beers, Candidate for Governor

*Living on the Edge**By CJ*

I love summer. I'm not much of a sun worshiper and I don't tan well but I love the activities that the warm weather allows us. I especially enjoy ABATE's Taylor Canyon Run and Rodeo every July. For those of you that have never attended the event you have definitely missed out. Some of us even took Friday off from work to get a head start on the weekend. John Bland especially needed a head start as he took the flathead trike on its first road trip. John packed a lunch and took an ice chest full of drinks and snacks that fit rather nicely in its large trunk. John says its one thing to be broke down beside the road but it's a lot more bearable with the right equipment. Personally I would rather just get to my destination without all the mystery and intrigue of sitting beside the road. Most of you know I have had my share of road sitting with John Bland and his various quirky old motorcycles. Anyway on Friday of Taylor Canyon I gave him a two hour head start. I figured he would either arrive before me or be along the road somewhere. As it turns out I caught up to him just a mile or so before Lone Mountain Station, although he was clipping along at about 45 miles per hour, which is about as fast as the trike will go. Yes, it had two break downs along the way but John was able to make the necessary repairs and arrived in Taylor Canyon shortly after I did.

We were able to get a jump start on the set up for Saturday's activities and enjoyed a great dinner and a few cocktails. John B. and Bill B. seemed to have more than a few cocktails that night but were up and about and in good shape by Saturday morning. The rodeo games on Saturday were a lot of fun as always. We tried a new game called "Jousting" on motorcycles. A driver and a passenger face off going opposite directions with the passengers on each bike trying to hit the other team with water balloons. I teamed up with a fellow named Duke as his passenger. We were able to eliminate everyone but the team of Bud and Susan. Susan had quite a left hook with a water balloon. We had the usual rodeo games consisting of the Weenie bite, the Barrel roll, the Slow race, Honey I'm Home, the Plunger Race and the Water Balloon toss. My team mate Duke from the Jousting game ended up with the nickname "crash" after the Honey I'm Home game, nothing serious though. These are the winners from each game they received \$20.00 in cash as their prize.

Slow race: Kevin Sur

Weenie Bite: Connie Campbell

Barrell Roll: Todd Turville

Balloon Toss: Deb & Bill Bonetti

Plunger Race: Connie Campbell

Honey I'm Home: Dale Hopper

Jousting: Bud Jacobsen and Susan Bradley

We had a silent auction as well as a live auction this year. Van Dack a professional auctioneer did the live auction for us with the proceeds from both auctions exceeding our expectations, thank you Van for a job well done. *Continued on Page 5*

Taylor Canyon 2006



DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT
YOUR RIGHTS
JOIN A.B.A.T.E. TODAY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Jr. Membership (16 & Under) \$5.00

Name: _____

NEW/RENEWAL

SINGLE

1 Year \$20.00

COUPLE

1 Year \$30.00

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

(SINGLE) \$250.00 / (COUPLE) \$375.00

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

I understand that all benefits become effective upon receipt of my membership card. I agree to hold harmless A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada for any accident that may occur at A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada sanctioned events.

Signed _____

Date _____

Comments, Suggestions, Problems or any way you can help A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada

Mail Applications to:
A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada
P. O. Box 1566
Elko, NV 89803
abatennv.org

Office Use Only
Date _____ Rcvd\$ _____ By _____

Living on the Edge, by CJ Continued from Page 3.

thank you Van for a job well done. Dale Andrus and John Bland served as Vanna White's for the auction. That pink corset purse looked good on you John!

We had a great meal of b-b-q ribs on Saturday night and the live band was wonderful. We danced and sang to a variety of tunes way after midnight. Vicky Andrus turned into a band "groupie" sometime that evening. How is the auto-graphed fleece jacket, Vicky? You never know what fun we have at ABATE events including learning how to spin beer bottle caps on a table. There is always an endless supply and we have concluded women are good at this activity. I think it's our steady hands and complete concentration that puts us ahead in the game.

On Sunday for the trip home John was not as lucky with the trike. It broke down on Adobe Summit. Now John knows what he needs to fix on it, the whole top end. Thanks to Dale and Vicky Andrus and their motorcycle trailer we were able to get it home to Lee.

I'm sure most of you are wondering how the cricket situation was over the weekend. Well they weren't bad during the heat of the day but in the morning and evening they were pretty sticky in patches along the road. I kept thinking about the story Louie from the Wild Bunch told about the motorcyclist riding through the cricket hordes up at Wild Horse and how the biker had to stop along the road and use a piece of sagebrush to wipe the cricket carcasses and juice off his pant legs. Yuk Anyway on my way home I decided to try bobbing and weaving to avoid crickets on the road, which mostly worked out fine but when I encountered quite a thick patch of them I set a new record for getting my knees up on the gas tank, I didn't know I was so flexible! At least I didn't have the misfortune of hitting a buck deer outside Taylor Canyon such as Kevin Sur and Derrick did on Sunday morning. Luckily for the two of them neither were injured and both motorcycles were able to be ridden. The two of them were able to keep their bikes upright during and after impact. Glad you guys are ok! Thank you to the ABATE members that attended the Taylor Canyon Run and also those of you that donated auction items. Thank you also goes out to Tom Young, for some great food and drink! For those of you that missed out, I guess there is always next year.

ABATE of Northern Nevada will be having a booth in September at the Las Vegas Bike Fest. It will be inside the Cashman Center. If any of you are planning to attend the Bike Fest, please stop by the booth. This will be a great opportunity to make contact with motorcyclists in Southern Nevada as we prepare for the 2007 Legislature. We believe this will be very beneficial to our cause and will also help promote the Best of the West Conference in 2007. Our next meeting is August 10, 2006 just prior to primary elections. We will have a discussion about candidates at this meeting along with regular business.

I hope you all are enjoying summer riding as much as I am.

Check Out these Websites:

www.mrf.org

www.bikernation.us

www.ldrlongdistancerider.com

www.lets-ride.com

www.nevadagop.org

www.thereidworld.com

www.damnbikers.com (good jokes)

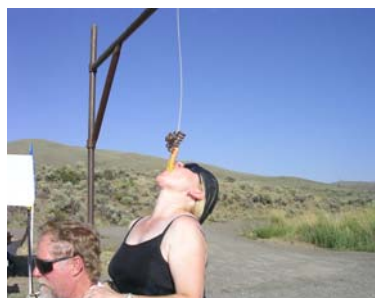
www.harleylovers.proboards56.com

www.CycleQuest.com

www.AMAdirectlink.com

If you have a favorite website, send it to me and I'll post it. Thanks, Deb

*Here She Is, Connie Campbell, The 2006 Weenie Bite Queen In Action
and with her Winning Weenie. Way to Go Connie.*



http://www.ldrlongdistancerider.com/motorcyclists_rights/bikersrights0608.php

By Bruce Arnold

FIGHT SMARTER ... NOT HARDER
Riding and Racing Mean Nothing Without Rights
August 2006

Even before the Big Ben Incident and the veto of Michigan's helmet law repeal, the number of media-sponsored online polls regarding helmet laws and other motorcycle issues was steadily increasing. You can expect that trend to continue, but don't think for a moment that the media's motivation is to inspire democratic debate or express altruistic concern for the greater good. It's not about *the cause*, my brothers and sisters, it's about *the cash*.

Television producers give us free infotainment programming because advertisers pay them big bucks to run their ads during commercial breaks. How big those bucks are depends on how many *viewers* those shows get (which is what the Nielsen ratings are all about). A similar business model is maturing on the Web: Most TV, radio, newspaper, magazine and other media operations offer free access to some or all of their online content, and sell ad space on their web pages to generate revenues. How much they can charge for those ads is a function of how many *visitors* they can attract to their site.

When a talking head at KRAP TV invites you to log onto their website to participate in a motorcycle safety survey, or a DJ at KRUD FM tells you to surf on over to their opinion poll page and vote on a proposed helmet law, understand that what they are really doing is herding sheeple to their website to increase visitor counts and profit potential. **YOU ARE BEING USED.** But don't let that bother you too much. After all, they are providing you with free information and entertainment, and everybody's gotta make a living, right? Besides, it is important that our votes be counted and voices be heard in all motorcycle-related online polls and surveys. Why? Because if the vote goes against us, rest assured that the results will come back to bite us. If we flip the script, however, we turn that potential liability into a political asset.

So whenever you get the call to vote for our interests in some online poll or survey, please click through as soon as you can. BUT, don't sit there and click away once you do. Every time I read some email or posting where someone boasts about clicking YES or NO hundreds or thousands of times in order to turn the tide of some poll, I cringe at the waste of effort. *Why is that a waste?* Because most--not all, but most--website survey and poll software can easily detect and block or delete duplicate votes. All they need to do is assign a *cookie* to your session, or monitor your IP address. It may appear that your repeated clicks are changing the numbers, but it is likely that any changes you see are coming from activity elsewhere, and that in the end your redundancies will be deleted from the tally.

FIGHT SMARTER ... NOT HARDER. If you're going to work up a good case of carpal tunnel syndrome anyway, why not make it count for something?!? Log onto the online survey or poll page, and place your vote. **Once.** Then email the survey link (web page address or URL) to every biker-friendly address in your Contacts list, asking them to not only go there and vote, but also to forward your call-to-action to every biker in *their* Contacts list. Next, email your call to every state, regional and local officer and director of your SMRO, asking them to do the same thing. Then, there are four very special people to whom you should email your call-to-action:

- **Dal Smilie** (dsmilie@mt.gov)
Chairman of the Board, American Motorcyclist Association
- **Robert Rasor** (rrasor@ama-cycle.org)
President, American Motorcyclist Association
- **Ed Moreland** (emoreland@ama-cycle.org)
VP for Government Relations, American Motorcyclist Association

Continued on Page 9.

Taylor Canyon 2006



**For Sale \$50.00
ATV / Motorcycle Lift
Call Bill and Diane Hartsock
777-2260**

**We Forgot to Have the Cricket
Race!!!!
WHASSSSSUP??
(Place Cricket Race Photo Here)
(We had too much fun throwing
balloons, I guess**

<http://www.politics1.com/nv.htm>

WHO'S RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR?

GOVERNOR:

[Kenny Guinn (R)* - Not Eligible to Seek Re-Election in 2006.]

Bob Beers (R) - State Sen. & Accountant

Melody "Mimi Miyagi" Damayo (R) - Adult Movie Actress & Erotic Dancer

Jim Gibbons (R) - Congressman, Ex-State Assemblyman, Attorney, USAF

Veteran & '94 Nominee

Lorraine Hunt (R) - Lt. Governor, Ex-Clark County Commissioner & Banker

Stan Lusak (R) - Retired Janitor, Ex-Postal Worker & Frequent Candidate

Jim Gibson (D) - Henderson Mayor

Leola McConnell (D) - Art Dealer & Liberal Activist

Dina Titus (D) - State Senate Minority Leader, College Professor & Author

Craig Bergland (Green) - Environmental Activist & '98 Reno Mayor Candidate

Christopher Hansen (IAP) - State Party Chair, Computer Consultant & Frequent Candidate



For Sale

See Ad Below

1971 Harley Davidson XLCH Sportster, 900cc, aka an Ironhead. Customized tank, paint, chrome, carb, mustang seat and electric start. New battery, wiring harness, coil and handgrips. Has been loved and ridden and as it enters the prime of its antiqued custom years, needs a "tinkerer" at its side. Comes with two manuals as well. \$5,000.00 or most decent offer. 738-3377 or 397-5937.

Fighting Discrimination. Health Care Denied

Earlier this year, we told you how motorcyclists who work at the Amercian Coal Company mine in Galatia, Illinois, lost their health-care coverage for motorcycle-related injuries.

That means if a worker is injured riding a legally licensed motorcycle on the street, he has no coverage and could face hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills. Even if the injury is caused by another driver, the rider could lose, because the costs of medical treatment often exceed minimum-liability coverage purchased by drivers.

Over the years, the AMA has fought this kind of discrimination against motorcyclists, even getting legislation passed in Washington to forbid employers from excluding legal recreation activities like motorcycling from their employee health-insurance plans.

But when that act was implemented by federal agencies, they left an enormous loophole that allows companies like American Coal to discriminate against its employees who ride. We need your help to close that loophole.

Does your employer provide you with coverage while you're on your bike? Are you sure? Have you checked with your plan administrator?

If you find your employer-provided health coverage excludes injuries related to motorcycle crashes or other recreational activities, we need to know.

We need to concrete examples to take to Congress to show lawmakers that insurance discrimination against motorcyclists is real, and potentially devastating.

Send information to Legal Affairs Editor Bill Kresnak at: bkresnak@ama-cycle.org, or by mail at: AMA 13515 Yarmouth Dr., Pickerington, OH 43147. (*AMA American Motorcyclist July 2006, Page 28.*)

Continued from Page 6.

- **Terry Lee Cook** (tcook@ama-cycle.org)

Grassroots Manager, American Motorcyclist Association

RIGHTS. RIDING. RACING. The **American Motorcyclist Association ("AMA")** is certainly the largest and potentially the most influential motorcyclists' rights organization in the country. Here is a quote from page 59 of the July 2006 issue of AMA's American Motorcyclist magazine:

"When our government relations staff members sit down to talk to the sponsor of some anti-motorcycling bill, they can casually point out that they're speaking for 273,000 enthusiasts who care very much about this issue. And that makes a big difference."

Perhaps that last sentence should read "And that *could* make a big difference." Why do I say that? Because the AMA didn't do much to check the flood of misdirected media spin from the Big Ben Incident ... and if they're doing anything at all to counter the American Automobile Association's aggressive helmet law lobby--that recently won in Michigan and is threatening to reinstate lid laws in Pennsylvania and elsewhere--I haven't seen much evidence of it.

The AMA *says* they are in favor of voluntary helmet usage and consequently oppose mandatory helmet laws. The fact that the statistics in their official helmet usage position statement have not been updated since 2001, however, suggests that this issue may not be the ball that Dal Smilie and company are keeping their eyes on:

<http://www.amadirectlink.com/legisltn/positions/helmet.asp>

It *might* be that the AMA is merely giving lip service to the helmet law issue in order to keep membership dues rolling in from those of you who are concerned about bikers' rights. If that is the case, then **YOU ARE BEING USED**. But note that I say "*might*," so let's find out the truth before we let it bother us too much. Here is one way to do that:

When you email your online survey call-to-action to Dal, Robert, Ed and Terry, explain to them why it is important that we prevail on the issue, and ask them to leverage their formidable political resources to assure that we do. Specifically, ask them to forward your call-to-action to all of their 273,000+ members. Granted, many of them won't respond, but a small percentage of a large number is still a large number. And sure, they may not all live in the state where the issue is being raised ... but AAA is crossing state lines, and so must we ... and most online survey and poll software is NOT capable of filtering out-of-state "voters."

If the AMA responds to your request, then we are almost certain to prevail on the poll or survey. If they do not, then don't bother sending them a nasty email expressing your disappointment. If you do, they'll probably just filter you out. Instead, when you get your next AMA dues reminder, break out your notepad instead of your checkbook ... and let them know that RIDING and RACING mean nothing without RIGHTS.

Until Next Time ... Ride Long, Ride Free!

Bruce: Many thanks for giving me permission to reprint this article for

A.B.A.T.E. of Northern Nevada. Debo

BIKER PARTY PLANS POLITICAL IMPACT Steven Erato earned the nickname "Mad" in the 1970s after writing about the mistreatment of American veterans returning from Vietnam. Thirty years later, he says he's still mad.

It's that indignation toward the system that led Erato to help found the Wisconsin-based American Biker Party — a year-old political party whose first convention recently drew national interest.

"We have made it very clear that even though it's called the American Biker Party and it was started by a group of bikers, this is not a biker organization," said Erato, party co-chairman and co-owner of Eagle Nation Cycle in Neenah, WI. "Everybody's welcome."

He said the average American's disgust with special-interest politics has voters searching for an alternative to the status quo, and he believes the American Biker Party has potential to fill that void. The party, hoping to mobilize in all 50 states, plans to someday run its own candidates for elected office, but for now plans to encourage its members to vote for candidates it supports.

Nationwide, about 50 third parties exist in name, but fewer than a dozen are active and viable in more than one or two states, said Austin Cassidy, who runs a Florida-based Web site that tracks third-party politics in America.

"If people realized there's enough of us to form a block on a vote, things could change," said 75-year-old Bob "Bandit" Barbiaux of Green Bay. "I probably won't see it advance too much in my time, but you have to start with a strong foundation before you can put a house on it. I think this is the right direction, and it's a start."

The American Biker Party recently held an organizational and strategic planning meeting in Louisville, Kentucky during the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) annual Convention. **NCOM NEWS BYTES** compiled and edited by Bill Bish

National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

Idaho Gets Friendly Traffic Signal Law. Beginning July 1, Idaho motorcyclists will be able to proceed through intersections as soon as it's safe when traffic signals don't recognize their presence. Idaho motorcyclists, led by Tim Herzog and the other members of ABATE of North Idaho, won near-unanimous support for the red-light bill in the Idaho Legislature, and it was signed into law by Gov. Dick Kempthorne. Kempthorne, an enthusiastic motorcyclist himself, was recently nominated by President Bush to be interior secretary. . . . The law allows riders to proceed through the intersection with caution when that happens. Similar laws have been passed in Minnesota, Tennessee, and Arkansas. (July 2006 AMA American Motorcyclist, Pages 27 and 28.)

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 www.house.gove/gibbons/
 contactjim.htm

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John Ellison
 738-6284

Mike Nannini
 752-3748 or 738-4078

Warren Russell
 753-4723

2006 Elko County Election Dates

May 1 First day to file declaration of candidacy
 May 12 Last day to file declaration of candidacy
 May 23 Last day candidate can withdraw name from ballot
 July 15 Last day to register to vote by mail or at an agency
 July 25 Last day to register to vote in county clerk's office
 July 29 Early voting for primary election begins
 Aug 11 Last day of early voting for primary
 Aug 15 Primary election
 Oct 7 Last day to register by mail or at an agency
 Oct 17 Last day to register in the County Clerk's Office
 Oct 21 Early voting begins
 Oct 27 Nevada Day, no early voting
 Nov 3 Last day of early voting
 Nov 7 GENERAL ELECTION

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE ! GET INVOLVED !

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Membership Coordinator: Trudy Whetton
Newsletter Editor: Debbie Bonetti
debodyna@frontiernet.net

A.B.A.T.E.'s Website: www.abatennv.org

Christmas for Kids, Inc.

Vicky Andrus – President 777-7955
Jacque Orr – Vice President
Trudy Whetton – Secretary
Jenn Hobbs – Treasurer

**Freedom Isn't Free
Join A.B.A.T.E. Today**

**ABATE of Northern Nevada
will have a Booth at
Las Vegas Bike Fest
September 14 – 17**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- A.B.A.T.E. Meeting August 10, 7:00 P.M. Round Table by Raleys
(A.B.A.T.E. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the Round Table by Raley's.)
- Bike Nite is Every Non-ABATE meeting Thursday at 6:00 P.M. Everyone is Welcome.
Unless you receive an e-mail otherwise, we will be at the Elko City Park by the Museum.
Bring your own food.
- August 7 – 13, 66th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
- September 1, 2, 3, and 4 Banbury's Hot Springs Hagerman, ID
- September 3 – 7 International Motorcycle Speed Trials –
Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah
- September 15 – 16 Middlegate Run
- September 14 – 17 Las Vegas Bike Fest
- September 20-24 Street Vibrations
-