

## MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

### What all Drivers Should Know about Motorcycles:

- Motorcyclists often slow by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light. Allow more following distance, say 3 or 4 seconds. At intersections, predict a motorcyclist may slow down without visual warning.
- Turn signals on a motorcycle usually are not self-canceling, thus some riders, (especially beginners) sometimes forget to turn them off after a turn or lane change. Make sure a motorcycle's signal is for real.
- Motorcyclists often adjust position within a lane to be seen more easily and to minimize the effects of wind, road debris, and passing vehicles. Understand that motorcyclists adjust lane position for a purpose, not to be reckless or show off.
- Because of its small size a motorcycle seems to be moving faster than it really is. Don't think motorcyclists are speed demons.
- Because of its small size, a motorcycle may look farther away than it is. When checking traffic to turn at an intersection, predict a motorcycle is closer than it looks.
- Because of its small size, a motorcycle can easily be hidden by objects inside or outside of a car, such as: door posts, mirrors, passengers, bushes, fences, bridges, blind spots, etc. Take an extra moment to thoroughly check traffic, whether you're changing lanes or turning at intersections.
- Stopping distance for motorcycles is nearly the same as for cars, but slippery pavement makes quick stopping difficult. Allow a motorcyclist more following distance because it can't always stop "on a dime".  
Maneuverability is one of a motorcycle's better characteristics, but only at slower speeds and with good road conditions. Don't expect a motorcyclist to always be able to dodge out of the way.

- Carrying a passenger complicates a motorcyclist's task. Balance is more difficult. Stopping distance is increased. Maneuverability is reduced. Predict more problems when you see two on a motorcycle, especially near intersections.
- Mirrors are smaller on a motorcycle and are usually convex, thus giving a motorcyclist a smaller image of you and making you seem farther back than you really are. Keep at least a three or four second space cushion when following a motorcyclist.
- There are a lot more cars and trucks than motorcycles on the road, and some drivers don't "recognize" a motorcycle and ignore it (usually unintentionally). Look for motorcycles, especially when checking traffic at an intersection.
- At night, single headlights and taillights of motorcycles can blend into the lights of other traffic. Those "odd" lights could be a motorcycle.
- When a motorcycle is in motion, don't think of it as motorcycle; think of it as a person.



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Like us on Facebook at local on 45

Located on  
North Rte. 45 Mattoon, IL

### Activities-

#### April 25, 2015- Postponed due to weather!

Blessing of the bikes and shakedown ride we will meet at Lytle Park at 11 am with kickstands up by 11:30 am. We will meet on the south side of the park. There will be food served at the end of the Shake Down Ride. This is the time to get your bike ready for the riding season!

**May 3, 2015-** Backwoods Biker Bash Planning Committee **WILL MEET** at 11 am at The Local on 45! The Committee members need to attend!

**May 9, 2015-** Membership drive at Peterson Park during the car show.

**May 17, 2015-** Windshield Wash – meet at Lytle Park (on the south side) at 11 am for officer’s meeting (all members welcome)! Leave at noon to head to the southbound rest stop to wash windshields on I-57.

Non-ABATE Sponsored Activities-

**May 23, 2015-** Quad Cities Motorcycle Rally and City Tour. This is a free event but you must register. It will be at Hillcrest Event Center from 9 am – 7 pm.

<http://www.awarenessride.com/>

**July 11, 2015-** Debbie (Harley Peach) Ponder and Tim Crawford wedding at 4 pm at Peterson Park. It will be a motorcycle wedding. Reception to follow at 5 pm at Spanky’s. Harley Peach and Tim are going to provide a DJ for karaoke. Covered dishes welcomed. Liberty ABATE is invited. Come out and celebrate the union between these two bikers.

Make sure to check out our website. If you haven't visited the website it can be found at:

<http://libertyabate.org/>

We can be found on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/liberty.abate>

**Merchandise-**

- Safety Green Shirts \$13
- 2015 Anniv. Party Long Sleeves \$12
- 2015 Anniv. Party Short Sleeves \$11
- 2014 Anniv. Party Shirt \$5
- Ladies of Liberty Shirts \$5
- Fleece Headbands \$8
- Patches \$3
- Koozies \$2
- Yard Sign \$5

**Photos-**

I received a suggestion from a member – send in your photos. Examples are first bike and current bike, first rally, kids/grandkids wearing

liberty clothing, etc..... I will try to get them into our newsletter.



**They Say It Is Your Birthday....**

Jeff Hill	6/4
Julie Jenkins	6/6
Leann Chupp	6/8
Mike Grigg	6/9
Heidi Kiper	6/16
Diana Fearday	6/19

**Memberships due in June-**

- Diane Dow
- Don Dow
- Jeff Hill
- Heidi Kiper
- Chris Lindsay
- David Myers
- Paula Neatherly
- Tom Simpson
- Twila Simpson
- Steve Snider
- Angie Snider

If you have an email address please let me know at [onfire@consolidated.net](mailto:onfire@consolidated.net) so I may email the newsletter to you. Let me know if there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter or anything you need posted.

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**NEXT MEETING**

**May 17, 2015 on the south side of Lytle Park in Mattoon, IL. This is our windshield wash. We will meet at 11 am and have a**

quick officer's meeting (all members welcome to attend). We will leave at NOON to wash windshields of motorists at the I-57 rest stop for motorcycle awareness. Share the road!



**WITT'S**  
smokehouse

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