

May is motorcycle awareness month!



Pictured left to right Bonnie Brunson, Glenn Brunson, Mattoon Mayor Timothy Gover, Dennis Arnold, and Honey Durbin



Pictured left to right Bonnie Brunson, Glenn Brunson, Charleston Mayor Brandon Combs, Dennis Arnold, and Honey Durbin

We Proclaim for the month of May 2016 is Motorcycle awareness in the city of Mattoon & Charleston, Illinois. The Mayors urge all motorists to join in an effort to improve safety and awareness on all roadways. sharing the roads with over 650,000 registered motorcycles state wide.

Vice President -

I thank those who came out to help with our Membership Drive. Thanks to Bonnie Brunson and Gary Reynolds who setup Liberty's display tent and tables. Joel and Carol Wannemacher who brought membership forms. Henry Magee, Nichol Scott, Dennis Arnold, and Honey Durbin.

Your participation makes everything go so much smoother.

Liberty has four new members and one renewal who signed up during our membership drive Sat 5/7/16. New members are Basil Daughy, Larry Trotter Jr, Melinda Jarvis, Daniel Hines Toby Heaton renewed. Thanks to each for being part of Liberty Abate to help make a difference keeping motorcycle laws on our side, laws with choice. Each member gets free Insurance, free lawyer advice and lawyer at request, and so much more. See photos of Liberty Abate membership drive on photo page Liberty Abate - Mattoon Charleston Area

By Glenn Brunson

Legislative/State Board –

I attended the Abate State Board meeting on April 30th, here are some of the highlights.

Hunter John, who is our off road representative, reported on the off road sticker issue. If you remember, this was to be a use tax on off road vehicle like dirt bikes and 4X4 to ride on public land. However, its implementation was tied into a riding park on state lands. Well the park never happened and so no park no tax. A meeting has been scheduled with the Department of Natural Resources to discuss this issue. I also personally met with IDNR director Wayne Rosenthal in February and was told that the park is in the works. This is one issue that has been hanging around for far too long and would be nice to get it resolved. The Governor is expected to release a statement on the park.

The MRF stated that there is a delegation from Illinois of ten bikes traveling on May 12th to Washington D.C. for Bikers in the Beltway. Wishing them a safe journey.

We voted to continue the Ride Smart program, with Paulette Korte as Department of Transportation contact and as program coordinator. If you are unfamiliar with it, this program was run by Mike Meyers with initial funding coming from a donation by Bruce Rauner. All motorcycle fatalities in the state are analyzed in a case by case study, the results are compiled on the root cause of the crash. There is a presentation on the findings which is available for Chapter meetings at the chapter's request. The results of the study are very enlightening.

Legislative News-Here are few of the bills we are watching:

State bills -

HB 3378 SB 1948 we oppose - gas ethanol tax bill, giving tax incentives to E-15.

HB 4105 we support - blue dot tail light lens. This bill has passed the Senate and will be voted on.

HB 4315 we support - Route 66 motorcycle plate

SB 2841 we oppose - ATV regulation and safety. Would require helmets under 14 riding on public land.

SB 3412 we oppose - this is a fund sweeps bill which puts the funds in Cycle Rider Training program in jeopardy. There is about 13 million in the fund.

Federal bills -

H.R. 1861 S.127 we support - stop motorcycle checkpoint funding.

H.R. 2526 S.766 we support - Black box privacy act/driver privacy act

H.R. 21 we support - testing of E-15

H.R. 4673 we oppose - the Refuel Act - which would provide federal grants for dispensing equipment for E-15. This bill would fund the equipment that is key to expanding availability of E-15. As a note on ethanol Abate is not against its use, we are against having no choice

in what fuel is available for our bikes, and boats and lawn mowers and other small engines these bills are intended to push out E-10 in favor of E-15, a fuel that we cannot use.

D.C. trip - Abate had a contingent of 7 on the latest trip to Washington to meet with our representatives. All 20 offices were contacted with good results. A meeting was held with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and they were very surprised at how quickly we were able to change the Illinois Vehicle Accident reports to reflect the addition of the autocycle category. Also attending was MRF president Kirk Willard.

Till next time - Ride Safe and Ride Smart.

By Joel Wannemacher

Activities -

May 22 – Windshield Wash on I-57 – leave from Lytle Park at 11:30 am

May 28 – Spring Fling Run for Camp New Hope by Scott Tucker – sign up at noon at The Local on 45



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June 4 - Sunset Ride – sign in 2-3 PM at The Oasis

June 11 - Family Day – details TBD

June 12 – Officers' meeting at 1 pm and membership meeting at 1:30 pm at The Local on 45

June 23-26 - State Party at Menard County Fairgrounds

June 25 - Bar Stool Golf at The Local on 45 details TBD

June 26 - Highway on 45 cleanup meet at The Local on 45 at 12 PM

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-

Hoodies	\$25
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Sleeveless Shirts	\$15
Safety Green Shirts	\$13
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2015 Anniv. Party Shirt	\$10
2014 Anniv. Party Shirt	\$5
Ladies of Liberty Shirts	\$10
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Yard Sign	\$5

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They Say It Is Your Birthday.....

Jeff Hill	6/4
Julie Jenkins	6/6
Leann Chupp	6/8
Mike Grigg	6/9
Kitty Rollins	6/13
Heidi Kiper	6/16
Diana Fearday	6/19

Memberships due in June-

- James Davee
- Diane Dow
- Don Dow
- Chris Lindsay
- Paula Neatherly
- Tom Simpson
- Twila Simpson

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NEXT MEETING

May 22, 2016 at Lytle Park Mattoon, IL. Officers meet at 11 AM (all members welcome) and leave for Windshield Wash on I-57 at 11:30 AM.