

ABATE of Florida, Inc

On Monday, April 13th, 2009 along with many freedom fighters from around the State of Florida we got together in Monticello, Florida for the Annual Freedom Ride to the capitol

The day started out early with bikes lining up at the KOA campground in Monticello, starting their engines at 9am with a police escorted ride. Upon parking on the capitol steps everyone gathered together at the old capitol building. With many flags in hand they began their ceremony and recognition of the many lost members. After which bikers attended meetings with legislators their aids and staff to review old laws and new laws that effect motorcyclists thru out this state. We also had on display in the rotunda area, May Motorcycle Proclamations and our Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Program for our bikers to review.

What is ABATE of Florida, INC.? American Bikers Aiming Toward Education a non profit organization.

ABATE of Florida, Inc., with its MSAP program, aggress with the United States Department of Transportation that motorcycle safety courses have been the single most important factor in significantly reducing motorcycle injuries and fatalities.

THE ISSUE

Most of your elected officials do not ride a motorcycle, have never ridden a motorcycle, and probably don't intend to ride. Yet, they are asked to vote on the bills that affect your riding experiences. We are the only Motorcycle Rights Organization (MRO) in Florida that has a lobbyist for our states motorcycle rights.

THE PROBLEM

Elected officials count on you to educate and inform them of your riding needs. They don't know -- and won't ever know the issues -- unless you contact them and communicate your views and reasons. We must tell them why motorcyclists are concerned about an issue and ask for their support on these issues.

THE PROCESS

We help to educate the motorcyclist on how to contact their elected officials and ask them where they stand on the important issues like SB 968 and HB 1161 – these are the two most significant bills we are working on at this time. We originally called them “Stiffer Penalties for motorcyclists”, to bring to light the inconsistencies of the court system. Both of these bills are attempting to correct and hold persons responsible for causing severe inquiry and death. People are often charged for their actions such as Right of Way violations, but too often they are not held responsible

for the results of those actions, like the death of a motorcyclist. We hope these two bills correct these problems.

This event is one that will not be forgotten by all the attendees.

Thank you to those that came out to the Leesburg Bikefest and supported our campgrounds. Lake County, Nature Coast and Seminole County all did an outstanding job on putting on a great place to stay during this event.

May is motorcycle safety and awareness month; we received a 2009 Proclamation from our Governor Charlie Crist while in Tallahassee. Many of our chapters have also received these proclamations from their local government. We will be attending many events and motorcycle dealerships during this month promoting the importance of Watch Out For Motorcycles. Please look for us and stop by and say hello.

We also have the following events if you would like to join us.

May 3rd – Treasure Coast Chapter “Blessing of the Bikes” contact Gail for more information at 772-589-4498, abatetreasurecoast@yahoo.com.

**May 9th - Public Safety Showdown a Hero's Challenge at Stormy Hill Harley-Davidson
2480 S Hwy 27, Clermont, FL 34711 352-243-7111 come and visit our booth.**

May 15th – 17th Peace River Chapter – “Run Muck” will be held at the Peace River Campground 2998 Hwy 70 in Arcadia, Florida 34266. Vendors, Music, kid's activities, Safety and Membership booth, etc. \$8 for a day pass \$15 for one night of camping, \$25 for the weekend. Contact Kermit at 941-408-3355 or go to www.peaceriver.abate.com for more information.

May 24th – Southernmost Chapter in the Keys – “Memorial Day Run” 9AM IHOP in Key West, 3420 N. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West, FL 33040. For further information, please contact Martina at 305-289-5442

May 31st – Daytona Beach Chapter – Memorial Run in memory of Kimberly Searles and a Blessing of the Bikes. Meet at Boot Hill Saloon at 11am. For more information contact Ken Holland at 386-673-8893.

Legislative update House bill 1161 passed the house on Tuesday April 14th.

Next State meeting is being held by the Lake County Chapter on June 13th State Board Meeting starts at 12 noon Delegates Meeting at 2:00 **LOCATION:** University of FL

Extension Office ** AG Center 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778. Contact For
more info: Griz Prez: 352-742-7754 PM
Kevin Todd: 352- 267-0298 or 352-267-0298
Casey Chapter PR/ 407-469-2455
More Maps and Info is on our chapter website <http://lake.abateflorida.com>

Ride Safe Ride Free,
Until next time.

BG Lyman
PR-Communications Trustee
ABATE of Florida, Inc.