



Help ABATE educate public on sharing the road

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The good, the bad and the ugly for bikers | Jan Glidewell column, April 18

Help educate on sharing the road

Although I found the article interesting, it appears your update needs an update.

ABATE is the largest motorcycle rights organization in the state of Florida and has been incorporated since 1981. ABATE consists of a state board of directors, 32 chapters statewide, 7,500-plus members and the services of a full-time lobbyist.

Originally ABATE stood for A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments, but it has also come to mean American Bikers Aimed Toward Education to better portray our mission.

As for the columnist's comments about helmets, I know he meant well, but he has been misinformed about the fatality figures concerning helmets. According to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, every year since 2004, there have been more fatalities among the helmet-wearing riders than the ones who choose not to. In short, a helmet is no more of a guarantee of safety than a seat belt is to the driver of a four-wheel vehicle.

Between the years 2000 and 2008, motorcycle registrations were up 124 percent, yet the fatality rate in relation to registration is down 12.91 percent. So if we at ABATE can get the support of the media to help us educate the public on how to safely share the road, it will be a tremendous boost to making the roads safer for everyone.

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