



A BROTHERHOOD AGAINST TOTALITARIAN ENACTMENTS

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September 2021 Updates

State Coordinator's Report

MEMBERS,

The events with Covid continue to affect our lives. At this time we appear to be falling back into the dark days of mask requirements and more restrictions on our personnel liberties and freedom to live our lives. The state of Washington has a different look at the way to handle the situation than a lot of other states. Right or wrong only time will tell. ABATE OF WASHINGTON will survive this difficult period in time just so you know our membership is at 1435 that is good considering all the events we have canceled and how hard it has been to just hold meetings in the past year. This speaks well of our Chapter Coordinators who continue to find ways to get the job done. Thank you all.

In regards to Chapters we are doing well we managed to rescue Spokane and Grays Harbor a lot of effort by our Chapter reps and others who made that happen. We have a new Chapter Foothills welcome aboard.

So many new people have stepped up this year it would be a long list to put all the names here and of course I would leave someone out which would be unforgivable. With that, I will say thanks to all the new committee members and E board folks. This is a volunteer job that should be part-time but becomes full-time, you folks are the best.

The swap meet is in order, vendors are signing up it will be nice to hold an event again.

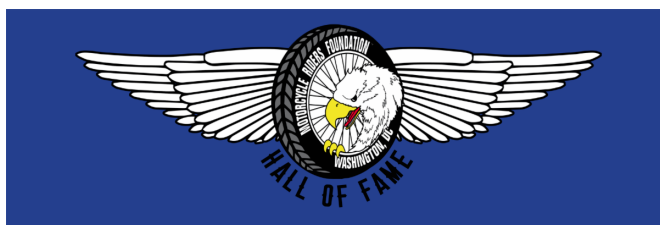
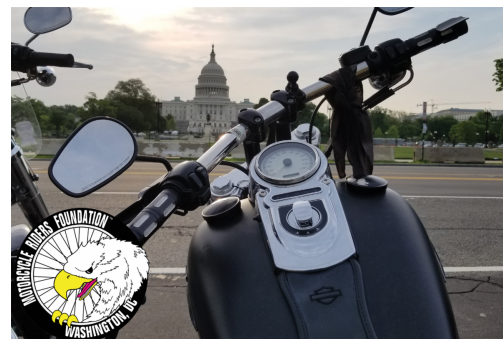
SCOTT ROBINSON
STATE COORDINATOR
ABATE OF WASHINGTON
509-250-2001

Motorcycle Riders Foundation

FACT OR FICTION - HELMET USE:

On a nearly annual basis, the media in this country is inspired to report stories about motorcycle fatalities on our nation's roadways. Invariably, these stories paint motorcycle rider deaths as a product of irresponsible riders who live in states that have some level of helmet choice. Frequently they report statistics that prove their narrative but fail to paint a full and complete picture. The lens with which these stories are reported often takes the naïve view that crashes can be made "safer" if only bikers somehow followed government helmet mandates.

The only true solution to motorcycle safety and reducing fatalities are proactive measures, which prevent a collision from occurring at all, rather than reactive steps that may or may not offer some level of injury mitigation only after a crash has already taken place. [Keep Reading>>>](#)



MRF 2021 HOF Inductee Announcement

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation announces the 2021 Freedom Fighter Hall of Fame Inductees.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) is pleased to release the names of the 2021 class of Inductees to the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Freedom Fighters Hall of Fame (MRF HOF). These will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Minds conference on September 23-26, in Atlanta, Georgia.

This year's MRF HOF Class of 2021 - Freedom Fighter Inductees are:

- Butch Brown
- Deb Butitta
- Jim Dahling
- Carol Downs

Past Motorcycle Riders Foundation Hall of Fame inductees are: Keith "Bandit" Ball, Mark Buckner, Wayne Curtin, Michael "Balls" Farabaugh, "Still" Ray Fitzgerald, Richard Gray, Bob Illingworth, Nathan "Buck" Kittredge, Ed Netterberg, Sherman Packard, Todd Vandermyde, Paul Vestal, Penny Walker, Ed Youngblood, Vince Consiglio, Fredric Harrell, Rodney Roberts, Simon Milward, JoAnne Packard, Karen Bolin, Lee Richardson,



Deborah Butitta Inducted into the Sturgis Motorcycle Hall of Fame

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation would like to congratulate board member and ex-officio Deborah Butitta, on her induction into the Sturgis Motorcycle Hall of Fame during the 81st Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Butitta was the recipient of the "Freedom Fighter Award" which recognizes individuals who have made a long-term, positive impact on the motorcycle rights community! The Freedom Fighter Award recognizes the sacrifices individuals across the nation, and the world, have made to protect the rights of motorcyclists through their efforts in the political arena and in grass-roots motorcyclists' rights organizations.

Deborah Butitta was born and raised in Rockford, IL. To a modest family. As a young girl Deborah was around motorcycles and by high school could be seen riding on the back of her boyfriend's motorcycle. In the early 90's Deborah was introduced to ABATE of AZ, in 1994 Deborah joined the Motorcycle Riders Foundation. During her tenure with the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Deborah held 3 different positions, including Corporate Secretary for 8 years. Currently, Deborah is on the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Board of Directors, and

Jerry "JT" Thomas, and Teresa Hepker, Dick "Slider" Gilmore, Charles Umbenhauer, Wanda Hummel-Shultz, "Biker" Jim Rhoades, Lee Ryan, Marc Falsetti, Gary Klinker, Charlie Williams, Dave Dwyer, "Radio" Bob Letourneau, "Farmer" John Eggers and Michael "Boz" Kerr.

Congratulations to all from the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Board of Directors.

she is the Chairman for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation Awareness and Education Board of Directors.

Congratulations Deb!

About Motorcycle Riders Foundation

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond.

Public Relations

Hope everyone has been able to enjoy all the sun we have been getting this summer. With this said, I know everyone will still be having Chapter events and again we ask that all flyers get sent to PR1@Abate-WA.org and I will send them to the newsletter, webmaster, communications and all social media platforms. We want your event to get the publicity that it deserves. This is also a great time to reach out to possible new members. Due to Covid our numbers have declined some. If you need your member list to make sure everyone is renewing contact

membership@Abate-wa.org. I would like to Congratulate Foothills Chapter on their approval! They are growing fast and are reaching many people regarding ABATE. GREAT JOB!!

Susan "Star" Carson
ABATE of Washington Public Relations



September Safety & Education - By Texas Larry Walker

"Texas" Larry Walker is a nationally certified Rider Coach for the novice, intermediate, and advanced training. He is the Senior Instructor for Navy Region Northwest, a long-time motorcyclist rights advocate, with well over 40 years of riding experience.

September is upon us, and soon the leaves are going to start changing colors, and the daylight is going to decrease. With that the weather is going to get colder, and eventually damper.

Yep, campers, fall is coming, and with it more challenges in your riding. Getting ready for that is a lot more than just digging out that heavy jacket and all the other layers that you were glad to toss into the back of the closet in exchange for the summer weight stuff. It's getting the gear ready for the elements,



whether you rock the leather or textiles. That stuff could most likely use a good cleaning and retreatment so that the “liquid sunshine” stays on the outside. The same thing goes with your boots. If you are rolling around with cold wet feet then the only thing on your mind is the fact that your feet are cold and wet. While you are at it, don’t neglect the trusty scooter.

Are all of the lights up to snuff? When it’s dark out I want to have my lighting systems working at maximum potential. We disappear into the visual cacophony easily enough in the best conditions, but when visibility goes down we are at even more risk.

What do your brakes look like? In wet conditions, brake performance decreases (news flash), and older pads lose their grip. Maybe it’s time to swap them out for some grippier ones so that they will actually do their job.

Finally, how are the tires? Older tires tend to lose their grip just due to age, and tires that have been pushed through repeated heat cycles (Translation: Ride it like you stole it) will also harden up. Just when you need it your traction is diminished. Even if there is a ton of tread left to move the water out of the contact patch if the contact patch cannot get a good grip on the cold road you are limiting what you can safely do.

If you’re ready for it the foul weather months don’t have to be a total misery. As a side note, I have a new Gore-Tex riding suit and boots that I need to check out, so bring on the waterworks.

“Texas” Larry Walker
Safety and Education
360-271-9285

Greetings From Products

Another month has passed and here we are rolling toward Fall. I haven’t done as much riding as I had planned on doing this summer. I think we are just so busy making up for lost time with all the camping and traveling and events we missed out on this past year of Covid.

As far as products we have two new styles of shirts and a new sweatshirt.

The new sweatshirts are pullovers but with the large colored logo on the back instead of the front as requested by some, the smaller white logo on the front right chest and they again have ABATE written down the sleeves. These new hoodies come in both Black and Grey, are in all sizes up to 4XLTall and are \$55.

The new t-shirts are white with the large colored logo on the front and a saying on the back. The men’s are standard crew neck short sleeve and the women’s are scoop-necked short sleeve. I tried one of the women’s on and honestly, I think they run a size small so if you wear an L you may want to look at an XL. The white t-shirts for both men and women are \$20.

I wanted to get tank tops but the supplier couldn’t get them. I guess everyone in the country is trying to get cooler. That combined with a shortage of material, etc. it was a no-go so a white regular T was the next best thing. Maybe next year.



I ordered t-shirt packing mailers so it's going to make mailing shirts out easier. I need one of those mailing label software products so I can weigh the item and print the label before going to the post office. Something to think about down the road (I know, along with an online catalog).

I finally carved out the time to make a spreadsheet of all the products we currently have. I attached it here but if you would like one emailed let me know.

We are looking forward to having our booth again at the big Swap Meet on October 3rd in Monroe and Ken and Kim Nyland have graciously offered to run the booth for State Products this year. We are very thankful to them for stepping up and volunteering their time. I know they are very busy people and they are very much appreciated for accepting the request for help. It takes a village.

As always, let me know if you would like me to come to one of your Chapter meetings with a sampling of product and if I'm not working I will try to make it. I work out of town a lot and have an inconsistent schedule but I try and get to other chapter meetings when I can. I say 'I' but my husband Chad is great about coming with me and helping out. It is a lot easier with two sets of hands and he is also very much appreciated.

That's all I have for this month.
Take care and ride safe!
Cheryl Holtquist
State Products Coordinator

[See Pricing Sheet](#)

Events and Runs

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events. *(click image to see larger)*



TACOMA CHAPTER
ABATE OF WASHINGTON

LOST BROTHERS & SISTERS

MEMORIAL RIDE

SATURDAY
September 18
2021



START PRIVATE RESIDENCE
11108 59th Ave E
Puyallup WA 98373

END PRIVATE RESIDENCE
2901 40th St E
Tacoma WA 98404

KSU 10am
\$10 Individual
\$15 Couple

Potluck Dinner

WWW.TACOMAABATE.ORG

A.B.A.T.E of Washington
Pacific County Chapter

20th ANNUAL FALL RUN

SEPTEMBER 11th, 2021
STARTING AT HUNTERS INN
NASELLE, WA

Sign in from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.
Noonish at Pastime Tavern—Castle Rock
Ends at Chester Tavern - South Bend
\$10.00 Donation

Contact: John 360-484-3114
Art 206-412-3624

ALL RIDERS/BIKES WELCOME

ABATE OF WASHINGTON STAR LAKE CHAPTER PRESENTS

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
11TH

2021
24TH ANNUAL

Run for the Hills

Benefit Ride HopeSparks

SCAVENGER HUNT
HIGH/LOW PRIZES
SILENT AUCTION
DOOR PRIZES

REGISTRATION
9am LOOSE WHEEL PUYALLUP
10:30am KICK STANDS UP

STOPS
GREENWATER
PACKWOOD
ELBE
CARONADO

\$10
RIDER
\$5 PAS-SENGER

CONTACT KEN (253) 592-3183 FOR MORE INFO

ABATE of Washington

Sky Valley

24th Annual MOTORCYCLE SHOW



SUNDAY SEPT 12 2021

Snohomish, Washington
1st Street Historic Downtown
Live Music * The Seattle Cossacks

Ride-In Motorcycle Show Registration \$15.00 9:00 am—Noon

Advertise your Business with a Sponsorship!

Vendor Registration \$150.00 10 x 10 Spaces—1st Come!

Information (360) 926-4265 • www.skyvalleybikeshow.com

Proceeds Benefit Food Bank and Senior Center

ABATE of Washington



Mason County 14th Annual Charter Run

September 11, 2021

A 5-Stop Motorcycle Run Through The Gorgeous Countryside of Mason & Grays Harbor Counties

Starts at Spencer Lake Bar & Grill
1180 E Pickering Rd, Shelton, WA 98584
Ends at Taylor Station Restaurant
62 SE Lynch Rd, Shelton, WA 98584

Registration @ 9:00 AM / KSU @ 10:30 AM

Route & information will be handed out at registration
\$15 per bike / \$20 per couple / \$5 for additional hands

Proceeds to benefit Mason County Chapter ABATE of Washington

Contact Information:
Robert Ward
bharleyrlv@aol.com

Dave Childers
childers723@comcast.net

ABATE OF WASHINGTON

MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET

EVERYONE WELCOME!

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 3
2021
9AM-3PM

BUY ★ SELL ★ TRADE

MOTORCYCLES ★ PARTS ★ DOMESTIC & FOREIGN
ACCESSORIES ★ GEAR ★ LEATHER ★ JEWELRY ★
APPAREL ★ PATCHES ★ FOOD & FAMILY FUN

ADMISSION
\$5 ABATE MEMBERS (SHOW CARD)
\$10 NON-MEMBERS
AGE 16 & UNDER FREE

EVERGREEN STATE FAIRGROUNDS
HWY 522 & HWY 2
14405 179TH AVE SE
MONROE, WA 98272

INDOORS - 2 BUILDINGS
EVENT CENTER & PAVILION

fb.me/ABATEMotorcycleSwapMeet

EPCC FALL CLOSER

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH 2021 @ 6 PM
4208 162nd Ave E. Sumner, WA 98391

LIVE MUSIC BY STELLA RYDERZ
RAFFLE PRIZES! SILENT AUCTION!

\$10 COVER
POTLUCK / BYOB
OVERNIGHT CAMPING AVAILABLE
LIMITED RV SPOTS - BY RESERVATION ONLY

(253) 677-6439







ABATE OF WASHINGTON

Spanaway Chapter

First Annual Billy De Casino Poker Run

September 18, 2021 KSU 10:30 AM, Rumors 16003 Pacific Ave S Tacoma WA

Prize for High Hand
Prize for Low Hand
\$ 10.00 per rider

Ride safe, ride at your own risk.

Chapter Reports



Grant County Chapter Report

We are excited for our event August 27-29, Run to the Desert. We have over 25 vendors, live music and many events. Going to be a great time!! Hope we will see you all there! We are having monthly Chapter social rides. We hope to do our Fill the Ruck event that we normally have in the spring, this fall. We will keep everyone updated.

Safe travels,
Susan "Star" Carson
Grant County Coordinator Grant County Abate

We are excited for our event August 27-29, Run to the Desert. We have over 25 vendors, live music and many events. Going to be a great time!! Hope we will see you all there! We are having monthly Chapter social rides. We hope to do our Fill the Ruck event that we normally have in the spring, this fall. We will keep everyone updated.

Safe travels,
Susan "Star" Carson
Grant County Coordinator

East Pierce County Chapter Report

It's been quite the roller coaster in the East Pierce County Chapter, but we are still here! Our



Gray's Harbor Chapter Report

Coordinator's Ramblings

(We've all run out of quarters, but the guy keeps talking!)

It was a fun day Saturday, other than the traffic at the bluff, which made me late. Thanks for your patience everyone. That's the fastest I've sped through Aberdeen and Hoquiam without being chased! Got tired of sitting at the bluff for 20 mins so..... uhhuh! Lane splitting, shoulder riding, blasting reds, back streets, etc, etc,

Thanks to the Old Hippy MC for their participation and support. We had a turnout and fun run. Would like our chapter to pull together and participate at their poker run and return the support and respect they have given us. Please email ugrunberg@gmail.com or call/text me at 360-310-0791 if you can join us.

Elections are next month, so please get involved.

Fatpat

More from Grays Harbor - **Keep Reading**

Spanaway Chapter Report

Well, a few things going on in Spanaway. We had to cancel our Meat house run this year due to a number

condolences go out to the family of Michelle Gilbertson and the Foothills Chapter. Our Board elections are coming up on September 12, and our Fall Closer Event on Saturday, September 18th (look for the flyer in this newsletter, Facebook, and our website). Please come on out to Sumner and party with us! Live music, silent auction, and prizes. It's going to start getting colder and wetter, which means some will be putting away the bikes for the season. For those that will continue to ride, please be safe. Keep the rubber side down, and never ride faster than your guardian angel can fly. Looking forward to seeing you at STEAM!

Joe Cain
Acting Coordinator
EPCC

of events that conflicted with the run. Look forward to next year we will make that happen.

Elections for Spanaway will take place this month. By the time you read this, new officers should be elected and seated in October. I encourage any of you in this chapter or others that are interested in serving to attend ABATE of Washington STEAM Training in September in Ellensburg. The training is designed to educate people that are or want to be an officer in the future. Great way to learn what is expected before you take on new responsibility.

Spanaway has lost two members in the past month. One to a motorcycle accident and one to complications with COVID. Sad to lose great people. When riding please ride safe and make wise decisions. I have not been authorized to release names so that will not happen here. Gone but not forgotten, Ride on.

September 18, 2021 Spanaway will be holding a run for Billy De. Billy always wanted to do a casino ride. Well, it's going to happen flyer to follow soon. Kick Stands up 10:30 am September 18 Rumors. Breakfast served at 9AM for a small fee. First Annual Billy Dee Casino Ride, come out and have some fun.

With our Governors' new mandates and its far-reaching effect. Please try and respect and others points of view. Agree to disagree, America is still the greatest country in the world. Remember the changes made good and bad and get out and VOTE that's how we can make change or stop negative change. Let your voice be heard and VOTE

Stay safe out there take care of each other.

Andy McAfee
Deputy Coordinator



Key Peninsula Chapter Report

Greetings from the 'Pen!

I trust your summer is going well. We had at least one chapter member make the trek east for the big Sturgis adventure and I personally enjoyed watching from home on the socials folks that were having fun and sharing. Good on ya!! One day it will be a priority for me to go back.

We have been enjoying the hot, sunny weather here at home lately. Kruzin for the Kidz happened here in Kitsap county this weekend and was well attended. They raised \$11,000! The folks at the Bethel Tavern and Hi Tides know how to throw a good run! I counted no less than 10 Key Pen chapter members taking part. I wanted to get a group photo but there was booze involved and I ain't very good at herdin' cats!

Our chapter took nominations for new chapter officers and we will seat one new officer next month. James Patterson will be taking over as chapter deputy coordinator. Chad jr has done a great job trying to keep things going smooth and getting us up to date with local goings-on. Thank you buddy for stepping up when we needed you and bringing some of the next generation youth to the organization. Ya done good and I trust James will do outstanding in the position and will one day make an outstanding coordinator. Thank you James for stepping up!

That's about it for now. Ride safe, ride often and always, ALWAYS, Stay Cool!!



Star Lake Chapter Report

Greetings to all from Star Lake Chapter

We had our monthly chapter meeting August 1, 2021, at Purdy's Public House in Sumner. We welcome four new members to the Star Lake chapter family which means our membership has climbed to a new high of 35. We discussed old business, upcoming rides, future chapter events and new business.

The chapter discussed the upcoming chapter charity benefit ride in September. The chapter decided on ride patch and T-shirt for the event. We nominated chapter members for



the four officers' positions. We did our final full route pre-ride August 15th for the upcoming benefit ride Sep 11th. We are now making our big push to acquire some good swag for give away and items for the silent auction. We expect to have a great turn out for the ride. Please get the word out and come join us on a great ride and great day out with Star Lake Chapter. Our next meeting will be a Purdy's Public House Sep 8 at 6pm.

Star Lake Chapter 2021 events and participation:

Chapter members participated in the Everett Mana Souls MC benefit ride July 31 (see photo1-3)

Chapter charity pre-ride August 15 (see photos 4-6)

Participate in the 'Run to the Desert' at Soap Lake (August 27-29)

3rd year Hope Sparks charity 'Run for the Hills' event (September 11) Participate in other chapter-sponsored rides.

Now for this month's safety note. We have been experiencing higher than usual summer temperatures this year and it ain't over yet. Some things to remember that may be obvious but a reminder is always a good idea. The bike engine gets very hot, the air is hot possibly humid, and the sun is beaming down. Very important to be aware how first stage heat exhaustion can affect the rider and passenger. Fair on the side of caution. Take regular short stops to cool down, drink water as often as possible and rest yourself and the bike. As always, the road may be the same, but the journey is always different. Be safe out there. See you down the road.

Ken Nyland
Star Lake Chapter, Road Captain



South King County Chapter Report

Howdy



We are very happy to be out riding as a chapter. We had a run up to Chinook Pass. It was a great day. We had a great time fellowshiping with others. Met some new friends and even gained a new member. We have three more rides before Fall.

Our Poker Run is taking us all the way to the ocean. Watch for the flyer. Election are coming up. It'll be fun to see who will be sitting in the seats come October.

SKCC went to Foothill chapter social and had a great time.

We are going to run over the hills to Grant County Chapter Run to the Desert Run.

Have a great day. Ride skillfully

Adalinda Lundt

Turbo

SOUTH KING COUNTY CHAPTER



Foothills Chapter Report

Greetings from Foothills! A handful of us went to Sturgis for the first time this year, it was a great trip. We joined ABATE of South Dakota for their social, that was a nice turnout. Summer sure seems to have gotten away from us. Time flies when you're having fun! Next up is Run To The Desert with Grant County Aug 27-29th. Then EPCCs Fall Closer on Sept 18th. Be sure to support and join our brothers and sisters of ABATE on their runs, socials, & events. I would like to thank Steve Carlsberg for joining us and presenting Foothills our Charter, thank you very much!

I'd like to express much love, loyalty, and respect to our ABATE sister Michelle Gilbertson who tragically lost her life on 8/14, Gone But Never Forgotten.

Keep the rubber side down and your chin up.

Billi Bowen, Coordinator



Tacoma Chapter Report

HelloHello from T- Town

Wow If you like hot temps you are a happy camper right now. For those that dont I hope you found relief.



Spokane Chapter Report

Spokane Chapter

Progress and Momentum – New leadership and members attending at the new meeting room, 2 nd Tuesday at 6:30pm at Shari's Café and Pies 320 N. Sullivan rd. Spokane Valley 99037.

Coordinator Robb Hatfield is steadily making the rounds with other organizations and riders spreading the word of ABATE of Washington. Along with members Ben and Anne participating in local group rides.

Spokane Chapter is getting involved and there is a new culture of participation from all the members old and new.

By Kempton ,
chapter secretary



Need to reach a specific Chapter? Get their contact information here:

I like the weather but this heat is hard on the motor, especially in heavy traffic. I prefer temps so that I can wear my leathers.

Back in June after the release of the June newsletter Luke (current Deputy Coordinator), Jack (current Treasurer), Leon (past Coordinator) and myself attended the Grays Harbor Chapter Business meeting. I saw State officers and several other chapters who showed up to give support. We at the Tacoma Chapter wish them all the best in getting the chapter back on track. From what I saw they have good and experienced people to do the job.

Many of us Tacoma members were in attendance at the family campout / Raffle event.

It was awesome to be with and see my ABATE family and friends, good times. Even though I didn't win anything, I had a great time. Now that we have put the 2020/2021 Raffle and campout behind us I'm looking forward to the 2022 Spring Opener. Looks like a great location, can't wait to hear more details. Rumor is State is planning a campout at the new location. Tacoma Chapter planning committee working on a taco feed in the fall. Also planning a "Lost Brothers and Sisters Campout".

This month's thank you goes out to all those volunteers that were at the family campout and spent more time counting money and ticket stubs than they did camping and partying like the rest of us. They worked hard to keep everything on the up and up. Every ticket sold or not had to be accounted for. All the stubs had to be logged in numerically, I thought you just had to count the stubs then count the money to make sure they match. Any way get out ther ride often and when you can support other chapter events. Hope I see you out and about.

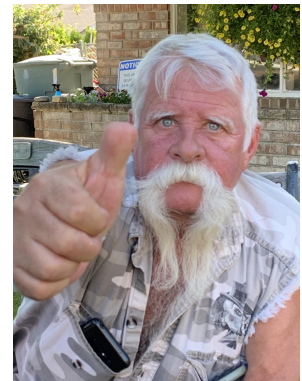
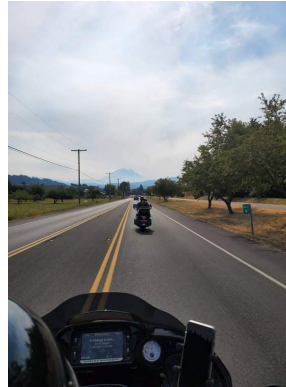
I don't know about you but this has been a very busy summer. It's been hard to choose what and where to go. A few tacoma members are planning to attend the "Kick back camp out". Which will have come and gone by the time you read this report. As for us in the Tacoma chapter we plan to have our "Lost Brothers & Sisters Ride" on September 18th. We will start the ride at Senior Road Captain Little Tony's (11108 59th Ave. E. Puyallup 98373) KSU at 10:00am. The ride will end at our home (2901 40th St. E. Tacoma 98404). We plan to have a big potluck meal, Terry and I have plenty of space for dry camping. You can stay 9/17 and 9/18 or set up your stuff on 9/17 and

CHAPTER CONTACTS

stay 9/18. Any Questions txt me (Dan) at 425-785-1597. Hopefully, we have our flyer with more info in this month's letter. Next meeting VFW on Mckinley St. Tacoma 9/1/2021. Next social 9/15/2021

Ride often & Ride safe
ABATE Tacoma Chapter Coordinator
Dan Barker

In The Wind





What is an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang? And who is an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Member?

Law enforcement is pretty casual about referring to clubs (or even groups of riders) as OMGs (outlaw motorcycle gangs).

But what is an "outlaw motorcycle gang" under Washington law?

A gang is a group of three or more people with a common name, sign or symbol that have the commission of criminal acts as one of the primary activities. RCW 9.94.030(13).

Even though law enforcement uses the term OMG as liberally as Bobby Knight uses profanity, we think that law enforcement would be hard-pressed to establish that any motorcycle club engages in criminal acts as one of its primary activities.

Do motorcycle clubs engage in criminal activities? No question. So does every other group with three or more members that uses a common name, sign or symbol. Churches? Check. Corporations? Check. Government agencies and subdivisions? Check.

[An interesting exception: bona fide non-profits are definitionally not gangs.]

How is primary used in the law? Is your primary residence the one at which you spend the most time? So if time is the unit of measure, do clubs spend the majority of their time riding or doing something else?

There's also the question of whether an individual is a "gang member" if they belong to a club that engages in criminal behavior. Can the actions of a few be used to define an entire group?

Here's the legal definition:

A member (or associate) is any person who actively participates in any criminal street gang and who intentionally promotes, furthers or assists in any criminal act by the criminal street gang. RCW 9.94.030(13).

It's pretty clear that just because you're a member of an organization that you can't be considered a gang member (without some other form of involvement).

So what's the solution? We think these issues are ripe for a lawsuit. Probably the best "test" case would be where law enforcement refers to a club that clearly isn't a gang as an OMG or a law-abiding brother as a gang member.



Mike Myers
mmyers@myers-company.com



Samantha Lin
slin@myers-company.com

MYERS-COMPANY.COM SEATTLE OFFICE: (206) 398-1188 SPOKANE OFFICE: (509) 398-8466

Failing to Yield and Finding Coverage for Injured Riders

Washington State Patrol's PSA

Washington State Patrol recently issued a reminder to drivers to be aware of motorcyclists following an uptick in recent motorcycle crashes.

WSP explained that an overwhelming majority of motorcycle wrecks involve drivers failing to see motorcycles.

WSP's reminder was a nice PSA but we've known for a long time that drivers often fail to notice motorcycles.

Drivers Failing to Yield to Motorcycles

A lot of motorcycle wrecks are caused by the other driver failing to yield. Frequently these drivers are entering the highway from a private road or driveway.

Here's the law:

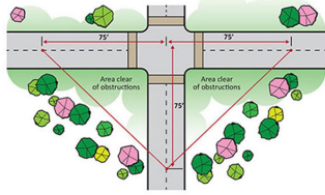
The driver of a vehicle about to enter or cross a highway from a private road or driveway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles lawfully approaching on said highway.

Some of these wrecks are entirely the result of driver inattention. But most are the result of several factors.

The Sight Triangle and Finding Coverage for Injured Riders

Unless the at-fault driver has millions of dollars of insurance, it usually makes sense to investigate whether there were other factors (besides driver error) involved and other sources of coverage (besides the at-fault driver's liability insurance) available.

There's something called the "sight triangle" that refers to a driver's ability to see oncoming traffic. Clear sight triangles are areas next to intersections and driveways where a driver needs to be able to see when turning. Areas within clear sight triangles must be kept free from obstructions. If the sight triangle is blocked or obstructed there are going to be wrecks.



We've recovered on behalf of riders from homeowners who have let their landscaping grow too high and businesses that haven't maintained safe driveways for their customers.

If you know someone who's been in a bad wreck have them give us a call. We're going to be able to package their claim in a way that maximizes value and identify all potential sources of insurance coverage to make sure they get paid for what they have lost.



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DID YOU KNOW?

- We also represent people hurt in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
- We're really selective about medical malpractice cases because the out-of-pocket costs are huge (it's not uncommon for them to push \$250,000) and it's important to us that our clients end up net-positive at the end of their case.
- We've recovered over \$50 million for our clients.

MIKE MYERS



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SAMANTHA LIN



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- Mike has been helping injured bikers for over 25 years.
- Mike has changed the way personal injury cases are presented in Washington. One of the main (and most enjoyable) parts of his job is figuring out how to use images (rather than words) to explain how clients have been hurt and what they have lost.
- Mike has broken his hand, both wrists, great toe, coccyx and pelvis. He's had his hip and aorta replaced.
- Mike knows what it's like to deal with injuries and physical limitations and how they impact the whole family.

- Sam has been helping injured bikers for over 10 years.
- Sam grew up in Spokane. She opened our Spokane office in 2020 because it's important to her to provide full coverage for riders in Eastern Washington.
- Sam has held almost every possible title at Myers & Company including intern, summer associate, paralegal and attorney.



MYERS & COMPANY
MOTORCYCLE ATTORNEYS

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Insurance Rundown

Maybe not a fun fact. But an important one:

More than 70 percent of drivers in Washington are underinsured. Some don't have any insurance. Many don't have enough.

The minimum liability limits in Washington are \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident. They haven't been raised since the 1980s.

Knowledge is power. It allows you to make the right decisions for you and your family. (Knowledge is a cornerstone of self-determination...the polar opposite of totalitarian enactments.)

Here's some basic but important information about the main types of insurance coverage.

Liability Insurance

In the last couple years Washington law changed. Liability insurance is now required for motorcycle riders.

Your auto policy won't provide coverage for you when you're riding your motorcycle. You need to purchase a motorcycle-specific policy.

The law only requires \$25,000 in coverage. But that's grossly inadequate. The minimum you need is \$1,000,000.

That's what you need to protect your assets. That's what you need to make sure that there's enough money to pay for someone else's care. That's what you need for yourself if you get hit by an underinsured driver.

Purpose/Benefits of Motorcycle Liability Coverage

It's pretty rare that collisions with motorcycles cause injuries to occupants of cars or trucks.

But passengers and pedestrians are vulnerable.

(If you get into a wreck that's your fault, passengers and pedestrians can make claims against you.)

Buying liability insurance puts you on the right side of the law. It also has several other benefits.

- Liability coverage provides asset protection. (But you have to buy enough coverage. More on that below.)
- Liability coverage provides money for friends and family who get hurt because you made a mistake. Everyone makes mistakes. Who are we most likely to hurt? The people we care most about: passengers riding on the back of the motorcycle, friends riding next to us in the pack, etc.
- Liability coverage is kind of like the golden ticket: It allows you to purchase uninsured motorist (UM) and underinsured motorist (UIM) coverage. In Washington you can only purchase UM/UIM coverage if you have liability insurance and can only purchase UM/UIM up to the same amount of your liability coverage. If you're riding a motorcycle, UM/UIM is the most important kind of coverage to have.

Personal Umbrella Protection

A lot of people want more coverage than they can buy through a standard motorcycle policy. So they buy what's called a Personal Umbrella Policy (PUP).

(continued on next page)

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