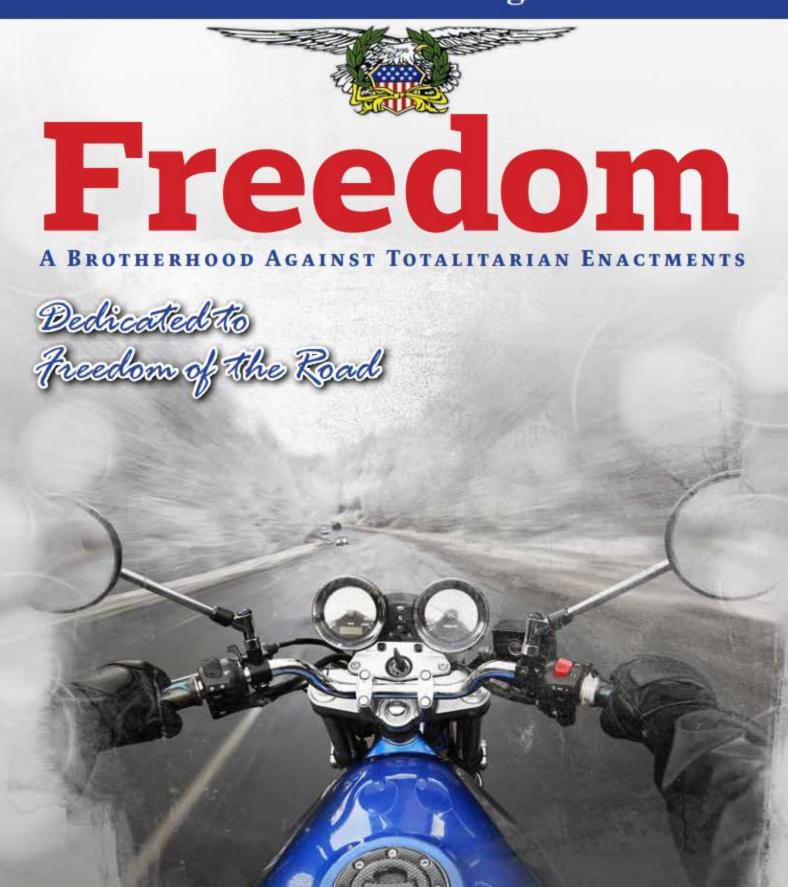
## **ABATE of Washington**



## **STATE** DIRECTORY/Membership form

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	Spring Opener	Jimmy George	253-678-1713	
	State Audit	Open		
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## **CHAPTER** DIRECTORY

CHAPTER REP	CHAPTER	CONTACT	BUSINESS MEETING	SOCIAL MEETING
	Columbia Gorge PO Box 357 Goldendale, WA 98620	Micki Robinson 509-250-2245 mickij_robinson@yahoo.com	2nd Monday 7:00 PM American Legion 108 North Grant, Goldendale, WA 98620	
REP 1.SETH MCINTOSH 509-991.5400 CHAPREP1@ABATE-WA.ORG	Columbia River 148 N James Ave East Wenatchee, WA 98802	Keith Parkison 509-760-3199 mhdragger@gmail.com	1st Thursday 7:00 PM Abby's Pizza 702 Grant Rd, East Wenatchee WA 98802	6:00 PM social prior to business meeting
	Inland Empire PO Box 40474 Spokane, WA 99220	Seth McIntosh 509-991-5400 sethmc@hotmail.com	2nd Tuesday 6:00 PM Sweet Old Bob's 3243 E Trent Avenue, Spokane, WA	
	Kittitas County P.O. Box 1724 Ellensburg, WA 98926	Joe Hill 509-929-0729 papahill.66@gmail.com	1st Tuesday 6:00 PM Business meeting Buzz Inn Steakhouse 2202 South Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA	5:30 PM social prior to business meeting
0	Tri-Cities Chapter 112 W 21st Ave Kennewick, WA 99337	Kat Bolton (509) 430-9688 kathi_young@msn.com	2nd Thursday 6:30 PM Clover Island Inn, 4th FI next to Crow's Nest 435 Clover Island Dr., Kennewick, WA 99336	
36	Elk Country PO Box 1835	Brian Lange 253-209-2439	1st Sunday at 12:00 noon Moose Lodge	
E O	Morton, WA 98356	elkcountryabate@yahoo.com	102 Main Ave., Morton, WA 98356	
F 44	Grays Harbor PO Box 1032	Don Florek 360-533-7900	2nd Wednesday 6:30 PM 40 et 8	
REP 2 TERRY BUTLER 360-269-0041 CHAPREP2@ABATE-WA.ORG	Aberdeen, WA 98520	gutterguy67@yahoo.com	2313 Simpson Ave., Aberdeen, WA 98520	
RR 269	Lewis County	Pat Payne	2nd & 4th Wed 7:00 PM	
20-20	P.O. Box 1108	360-269-5570	Moose Lodge	
36 36 REF	Centralia, WA 98531	lewiscountyabate@yahoo.com	Centralia, WA	
REP	Pacific County	Lenny Pletsch	1st Sunday 10:00 AM	
S	P.O. Box 203	360-484-7226	Hunter's Inn	
	Naselle, WA 98638	lenny@wwest.net	1060 State Route 4, Naselle, WA 98638	8
	East Pierce County	Nick Conklin	1st Sunday 10:00 AM	
	PO Box 1348	253-545-1876	Buckley Eagles	
Ö	Sumner, WA 98390	nick.f.conklin@gmail.com Tim McCall	29021 SR 410 E, Buckley, WA 98321	C-00 PM social soles to business
3 BILLY DE HUNTER 253-223-5393 REP3@ABATE-WA.OR	Rat City PO Box 46033 Seattle, WA 98146	704-400-0556 tcmccall@comcast.net	2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM Business meeting The White Center Pizza & Spaghetti House 10231 16th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98146	6:00 PM social prior to business meeting
E.H. 539	South King County	John Lawson	1st Monday 7:00 PM	
3 BILLY DE HUN 253-223-5393 EP3@ABATE-W	P.O. Box 1931 Auburn, WA 98071-1931	253-887-7666 99fatboy@comcast.net	The Longhorn BBQ 635 C St SW, Auburn, WA 98001	
BIL 533-3				
REP 3 BILLY DE HUNTER 253-223-5393 CHAPREP3@ABATE-WA.ORG	Spanaway PO Box 154 Spanaway, WA 98387	Billy De Hunter 253-223-5393 wcfango3@hotmail.com	1st Tuesday 7:00 PM Uncle Sam's American Bar & Grill 16003 Pacific Ave. S, Spanaway, WA 98387	10:00 AM agenda planning mtg Sunday prior to business mtg
0	Tacoma	Steve Carlsberg	1st Wednesday 7:00 PM	
	PO Box 98178	360-402-5044	VFW Post #969	
	Lakewood, WA 98498	redngold1@msn.com	3510 McKinley Ave East, Tacoma, WA 98404	
1 1 1	North Snohomish County	Jason McCarter	3rd Sunday 11:00 AM	
POSITION VACANT	P.O. Box 1288	425-343-2554	Everett Eagles (F.O.E. #13)	
CATE	Marysville, WA 98270	jaybrdm@yahoo.com	1216 Broadway, Everett, WA	
A SO A	Sky Valley P.O. Box 784	Rod Hobelman 360-563-9763	2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM Eagles FOE #195	
	Snohomish, WA 98291	hdreddog92@aol.com	606 Maple Ave, Snohomish, WA 98290	
	Key Peninsula	Jay Jackson	2nd Thursday 7:00 PM	3rd Thursday 7:00 PM
	P.O. Box 602	253-884-1909	Floatation Device Pub & Grill	Location varies (determined at bu
24	Burley, WA 98322	jayj1251@gmail.com	14511 Sherman Dr. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332	ness meeting)
PRG	Mason County	Greg Hansen	2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM Business meeting	6:00 PM social prior to business
REP 5 JAY JACKSON 253-884-1909 CHAPREP5@ABATE-WA.ORG	PO Box 213 Shelton, WA 98584	360-229-6653 greg@stationfiftyone.com	Lucky Dog Casino 19330 US-101, Skokomish, WA 98584	meeting
	North Kitsap PO Box 5831	Chris Varner 360-440-1344	1st Wed 7:00 PM Silverdale All Star Lanes & Restaurant Atrium)	
88 88 88	Bremerton, WA 98312	buellboybynight@aol.com	10710 Silverdale Way, Silverdale, WA 98383	
P53	North Olympic	Neil Eckerson	3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM	
PRE 2	P.O. Box 3745	360-683-8598	Las Palomas	
T A	Sequim, WA 98382	eckersonc@olypen.com	1085 E. Washington St., Sequim, WA 98382	
Ö	Olympia P.O. Box 7129	Ron Crowe 505-716-1073	1st Thurs 6PM Social hour, 7pm Business Mtg Tea Leaf II	3rd Thurs Time/Place TBD

## **INSIDE FEBRUARY 2016**





ABATE is an organization dedicated to Freedom of the Road, raising public awareness through education, political and community action and charitable deeds. Membership is open to anyone, 18 years or older, interested in promoting freedom, whether or not you own or ride a motorcycle.

## Freedom

Vol 38 Issue 2, February 2016

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> ABATE State Coordinator Lyle Coyle

> > Editor Tina Lawson

Contributing Writers and Photographers As named

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Photo: North Kitsap Chapter 23rd Annual Toy Run, Harrison Medical Silverdale submitted by Lisa Butler

## UPFRONT by TINA LAWSON, EDITOR

Welcome to the February issue. Many of you are probably wondering about the outcome of nominations for State Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator and Ambassador at Large positions at the January Board of Directors' meeting. Scott provides the run down for you in his article, page 7. Congratulations to reelected officers and to those running for office, all the best.

Inside you'll also find details of the upcoming Swap Meet in Monroe, March 20, and Spring Opener, the blockbuster-party held June 23-26 this year. Committee members are working tirelessly to ensure these events will be the best to date. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend both.

We extend a welcome to a new Spring Opener sponsor – The Loose Wheel Bar & Grill and the Summit Pub. Check out their locations listed in the ad (page 9) for hours and menu. Drop by for pool, darts and games and enjoy a full sports bar atmosphere. The Puyallup Loose Wheel is family friendly serving a kid's menu until

Look for the full Black Thursday wrap-up reports in the March issue.  $\mathcal{IL}$ 

## ABATE OF WASHINGTON ONLINE



Visit abate-wa.org/chapters/ChaptersList for links to ABATE Chapter sites



Search for the "Abate of Washington" Facebook group to join discussions, post comments and share photos

## CONTACT US

ADDRESS CHANGES Email membership@abate-wa.org or call Greg at (360) 229-6653 or complete form on back cover

CONTACT THE EDITOR Email newsletter@abate-wa.org Call (253) 887-7666

### FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you. Do you have ideas how we might improve this newsletter? Is there something you would like to see here that isn't here now? Send comments and suggestions to newsletter@abate-wa.org

SUBMIT A LETTER, ARTICLE, PHOTO OR FLYER See submission guidelines, page 31

ADVERTISE IN FREEDOM Email newsletter@abate-wa.org Call (253) 887-7666 See advertising rates, page 31

## CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

8 ECOM Meeting, 11am Johnny's at Fife

## MARCH

ABATE of Washington Motorcycle Swap Meet Evergreen St. Fairgrounds Monroe, WA

## OFFICER REPORTS



## Hi Everyone,

Well as I sit here the beginning of January I'm wishing I could tell you that Black Thursday was a tremendous success. I am praying it is and I know it should be because of all the work and preparation that has gone into it. With all of the work that has been done in years past by everyone and the work that is being done now, I feel we are oh so close. But I am fearful of the drama, particularly the Facebook drama that seems to happen every legislative session. People that either disagree with something we are doing or the way we are going about it go on Facebook with complaints that are counterproductive to the direction that ABATE of Washington has chosen. One thing that needs to be understood is when we try to create a bill to put before the legislature, one of the things that we want to make sure of

## From the State Coordinator Lyle Coyle

is that they do not infringe on the rights of motorcyclists. In other words, if we were to repeal the helmet law, it doesn't mean you would no longer be able to wear your helmet, it means that you would now have the choice to wear or not to. The same with the lane filtering. If it were to pass, it doesn't mean you have to but you have the choice. So all I ask of you is to fight for our bills like you believe in them or keep your mouth shut and your fingers off the keyboard.

Our next event will be the ABATE of Washington Swap Meet to be held at the Monroe fairgrounds in the new building. If you would like to be a vendor or know someone who wants to be a vendor, contact Rona and ask for a vendor application and if you are not a vendor please show up to support ABATE of Washington.

Also we going a million miles an hour trying to get everything in order to have one of the best Spring Openers ever. The price of admission is staying the same as is most of the event with the exception of the date which will be the weekend after Father's Day weekend. Other differences will be the bike and gun raffle. This year there will be two bikes. There is a 2016 Street Glide and a 2016 Sportster. The Street Glide is a "need not be present to win" and the Sportster is a "must be present to win."

We also have more gun certificates this year. There are two .45 Ruger 1911 pistols that are "need not be present to win," a 10 mm Glock model 20 and a Charter Arms Tiffany 38 Special+P that are a "need to be present to win." Bike raffle, gun raffle, and Spring Opener tickets will be with your chapter coordinator who will be able to sign them out to individual members. Spring Opener tickets will also be available on the state web site along with all info regarding this and other events. Speaking of the web site if you have an event that you want posted on the state site you have to send it into the webmaster, otherwise it can't get posted.

"The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems." \( \rightarrow \)

## Eastside Deputy Coordinator Scott Robinson

January B.O.D. was one of the more interesting meetings we have had in some time. Lyle continues to bring the Board into the decision making process, we may not always agree but we are speaking our minds and this is very healthy for the Board.

Glad to see Lyle step up for another two years as State Coordinator. His leadership is paying off according to our bank account and the status of our events.

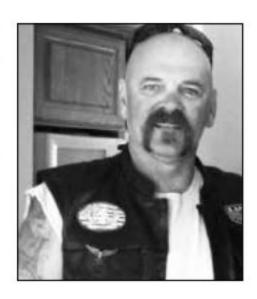
We are having an election for the State Deputy Coordinator: Chris Varner Jr. from North Kitsap will be running against Ron Crowe from Olympia. These two both are currently Chapter Coordinators and have all the experience necessary to fill the position. We should all look forward to voting in the future. Watch for your ballots in the mail.

There was a lot of discussion about how much money we spend on our legislative efforts. This would be very difficult to put an exact number on. ABATE OF WASHINGTON supports NCOM, MRF, and COC with either reps or funding in many different forms. Each Chapter spends funds for their LAO. At the state level, we have voted and approved budgets and then there is all the volunteers who work to achieve our goals. We continue to work to find new ways to be effective. What would you suggest?

March brings the Spring Swap Meet

— this is another fund raiser for us. We
need members to attend this event.

There is always a great party the
night before, so come out and see the
members and support the organization
with your attendance. ◊



## ABATE of Washington Board of Directors & Executive Committee Meetings

### BOD:

(starts at 12pm, except Oct 10am)

April 23, 2016 (Tacoma hosts)

July 23, 2016 (Columbia River hosts)

October 22-23, 2016 (Kittitas hosts)

## ECOM:

(starts at 11am, held at Johnny's at Fife)

February 28, 2016 June 5, 2016 August 28, 2016



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## **LEGISLATIVE** NEWS



## Legislative Affairs Officer **Brian Lange**

Tere we are, in the midst of the 1"short session" of the legislative bi-ennium (two year cycle). By the time you read this, Black Thursday has come and gone, and hopefully we made some progress in bringing our message to the legislators. There is only a couple of months left in the session to get our bills to the Governor for his signature so they can become law. If that doesn't happen, it is back to the starting line all over again for the next legislative bi-ennium. Then we'll have up to two sessions to get things passed. It may seem like we aren't accomplishing anything, but we are making headway. We have actually gotten farther trying to pass our own helmet amendment bill than has ever happened before in ABATE.

Our lane filtering bill is a new idea to many in government who think it is some radical concept that will result in mass carnage on our highways without really even looking at the concept with an open mind. We are dealing with bureaucrats, and that is a breed that does not generally like anything new that they think might cause them to lose control of their little kingdoms. But when they have had a few years to realize the concept isn't really something out of Mad Max, and has been shown to actually work towards their own goals, that they suddenly adopt the concept for themselves and begin promoting the concept like it was their own baby. Such is politics.

"Lane Filtering" is one of those ideas that ABATE of Washington is again on the leading edge of national motorcycle thinking, with several states attempting to pass similar legislation in 2015. While virtually the rest of the developed nations in the world not only allow it, but expect motorcyclists to perform the technique to filter forward through congested traffic. Decades of experience from around the world has shown this technique to be safe and effective. It has also been shown to benefit motorists in reducing their commute times as well. It is really a simple concept; the smaller motorcycle left in the mainstream of traffic flow takes up the space of a much larger full size vehicle, wasting the rest of the lane with empty space that could be filled by a larger vehicle if the motorcycle was allowed to filter forward through the slow congested traffic. Now multiply that wasted space several hundred to a thousand times (or more) over for all the motorcycles traveling along that congested highway artery corridor. Allowing motorcyclists to filter forward between the lanes of traffic now opens up all that space that each individual motorcycle had been occupying for the use of larger vehicles. Studies in Europe have shown that lane filtering can reduce congestion and commute times by an average of nearly 25 minutes. Studies done in California have shown that when motorcyclists participate in lane filtering, it also reduces commute times. As well as reducing the risk and severity of injury to motorcyclists. Those same studies, also show that those participating in lane filtering tend to be the more experienced, better equipped riders. Also, that when an accident does occur, it is of a greatly reduced speed difference and glancing force than occurs when a motorcyclist remains in the mainstream traffic flow. That would explain the reduction in severity of injuries.

During the Senate Committee hearing for ABATE's lane filtering bill, SB5623, the bureaucrats from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission showed two YouTube videos of people splitting the lanes at high speed as part of their testimony against the bill. They also showed a video taken by a rider that was performing the technique properly.

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

However it also showed a motorcyclist on a bagger try to fit between two large trucks when there wasn't enough room. The clip ended when the rider crashed, and high-sided off the bike, out of camera view. However, that was not the end of the original YouTube video. It actually showed the bagger rider with his bike parked on the hard shoulder, standing there (with no visible injuries) being given a ticket by a law enforcement officer. That part of the video would have actually gone a long way to show how safe lane filtering actually is. But the bureaucracies weren't quite ready to think outside of the box yet, and refused to look at the decades of evidence from California and around the world. To them, it was a new idea, and new ideas are frightening things. Even a member of the House Transportation Committee said it might take two to three years before the idea really took root. Well, ABATE has planted the seed here in Washington.

While in Boise, Idaho for the National Coalition of Motorcyclist regional meeting, I found out that the Idaho legislature would be looking at a lane filtering bill based on the language of the Washington model. So it seems the seed planted in Washington is spreading across the region, and beyond. Let's keep working in Olympia, and keep the legislature moving forward with our bills. The motor-cycling community in Washington State is a strong one, and is looked to across the nation for leadership. Many of you reading this have been directly involved in the reasons for that leadership position in the national community. Thank you all for coming out, and putting in the effort to keep us on the leading edge of the wave.

Catch you on the road sometime ... ◊



## **CHAPTER** REPORTS

## Chapter Rep Region 5

From JAY JACKSON, CHAPTER REP 5

Next week will find us all, hopefully, in Olympia making sure that our Legislators here in Washington know and recognize ABATE of Washington members as engaged constituents. Some of us visit with our Legislators on a regular basis at Town Hall meetings, by phone, by email, or in person. Some of the Legislators recognize our faces even if our names aren't familiar. We have always made it a point to become familiar with the Legislators where we live as all of us grass roots political activist should. That is the Key to effective political action—awareness and action.

Awareness and Action are two simple words that are the key factors in the purpose of ABATE of Washington along with every ABATE organization across the United States. Do we Members channel our energy, time, and resources to making our purpose reality? Do we focus on Freedom, Awareness, and Action in our activities? Unfortunately, it seems another "A" word has taken over.

Apathy. My twenty year-old Miriam Webster
Dictionary says, "1: lack of emotion 2: lack of interest:
INDIFFERENCE...". It seems that many people of today's
population have fallen into this way of life. You know the
score to this tune—there are 50 members in your chapter
but 5 do all the work, less than one third of the population
turns out to vote, and of the 1,200+ ABATE of Washington
members less than that return their ballots—IF there is
enough interest in an election to have one!

Come on Guys! This is our Motorcycle Rights
Organization! We HAVE to CARE. If we don't fight
for our Rights we will lose them. ABATE has been a
strong voice in protecting and preserving our chosen life
style as Motorcycle Riders. Why is ABATE dwindling
and blowing away on the breeze? For our very survival
we MUST re-light that fire in the belly that makes us
FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

Call me, get me on Facebook, send me an email, talk to me face-to-face. Show me you CARE !!! Ride safe, Ride FREE, RIDE!

J.J.

(R.I.P. my Inspiration, Irish & John) ◊

## Tacoma Chapter

From STEVE "BOXMAN" CARLSBERG, COORDINATOR

Tacoma Chapter started 2016 with a fun run on January 1st that we call Start The Year Off Right ride. We didn't have a ride fee or a charitable cause, it was just a ride to get everyone together and ride. In my mind we couldn't have started 2016 any better than with friends who love to ride and fellowship even if the temperature is 32 degrees and we couldn't feel the tips of our fingers or toes!

As we look to recent events, Black Thursday was on January 21st and our Anniversary & Valentines Party will be on Saturday, February 13th. We are excited about our new LAO Louise Bentley and the potential for more chapter involvement in the ABATE legislative agenda. Tacoma Chapter was well represented and our meetings with legislators was productive.

Our Anniversary & Valentines Party at the VFW in Tacoma will once again be an event to celebrate the history of our chapter and to anticipate what our 37th year will bring. We will have our road cleanup and host the BOD in April, our Roll 'Em Out ride in May, Spring Opener in June and possibly our first campout in a number of years during our Lost Brothers & Sisters Memorial Ride late in the summer. Have a great 2016 everyone! ♦

## Pacific County Chapter

From LENNY PLETSCH, COORDINATOR

Well, Black Thursday is a little down the road but you will not get this 'til it is over. Still have one more contact to make but with past talks with our folks, they are on board.

Back in December we played Santa for some folks in an assisted living home. Thank you Santa (Geno).

We are working out some details for our summer events and getting our calendars in order. A storm blew a tree across our party place and we need to rebuild this spring. This is where we have our outside events, games and fun. Last year was super wet and we almost didn't get out, some fine riding skills came in handy. Next year there will be new rock to drive on.

Looking back it was a good riding season with tons of dry weather. Well, till next time, hope I saw you in Oly. ◊

## Spanaway Chapter

From BILLY DE HUNTER, COORDINATOR

Well the snow is falling and it's down right cold out there. We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Years. Most of us in the Spanaway Chapter celebrated the New Year's Eve at Uncle Sam's and were entertained by the SOB band with The Steppenwolf Band. There were plenty of friends to party with and lots of great food from the new owners of Uncle Sam's.

Lots of people went on the first ride of the year with one of the many organized rides set for that day. I only heard of one rider going down but I heard there was no damage.

For our Christmas party we had about 60 members come out and celebrate Christmas with us. Some of the white elephant gifts I have seen more then once and a few I have seen for the last three years. I love the white elephant parties.

Our chapter hosted the BOD on January 16th at Anahauc Mexican restaurant. I hope everyone was pleased with our selection of the place. We also will of had our annual Patty Nelson memorial chili cook off. I hope everyone had a good time at it. We will of had our Black Thursday also. I hope everyone took the day off to help our dedicated men and women who put countless hours into our cause.

On February 7th we will hold our Football meet and greet for the Super Bowl. Our chapter buys the beer and pizza for our chapter. It's a great opportunity for new and not so new members to come sit, talk football or just get to know one another.

February 20 is our chapter's Soup Challenge and auction. This is one of our chapters money makers. We take the profit from this event and buy food and drink for our chapter at Spring Opener. We try to provide enough food that no one has to buy breakfast or dinners at Spring Opener.

Our Sock drive did really good this year. Lots of people that come to BASH for help will be getting a new pair of socks for a few months. Thank you to all the members who helped. And everyone who donated, it was appreciated.

Our chapter also adopted 15 children this year from two clean and sober houses. We got them lots of toys. We want to thank Porch Monkey and his beautiful wife for doing Santa and Mrs. Santa for us. And one of our members bought the houses full Christmas dinners: four turkeys and all the trimmings. Thank you Heidi, you are the best.

Our prayers for a fast recovery are with Noel from EPCC who was in an accident. And with Warrant from Spanaway chapter who is fighting cancer. Please keep these Brothers in your prayers.

Please be safe out there, it is slick. Watch for the painted parts of the road, they are the worst.  $\Diamond$ 

## Sky Valley Chapter

From HIGHWAYMAN (ROGER HANSON), DEPUTY COORDINATOR

Well it's hard to believe the Spring Swap Meet in Monroe is just around the corner, and so is spring! Our Shakin' the Winter Blues party will be held the night before the swap meet on March 19th at the newly remodeled JR Phinickey's just behind the Buzz Inn in Monroe. Make sure you mark your calendar for both as it's always a great time.

Our holiday families were very appreciative for our chapter making their Thanksgiving and Christmas with food and presents for the family that otherwise wouldn't have happened. I have included a few pictures of Santa and the gang. We received a beautiful letter of thanks from them that made us feel our efforts were more than worth the trouble. Other than that, our chapter is already working on the big Bike Show on the 3rd Sunday in May in Snohomish. We can use all the help we can get so feel free to come to one of our bike show planning meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Eagles club at 606 Maple Ave. in Snohomish at 7pm. Not much else to report at this time so... "see you in the wind"





## **CHAPTER REPORTS**

## Key Peninsula Chapter

From JAY JACKSON, COORDINATOR



What a way to start the New Year! At least one Key Peninsula Chapter member had the balls to take the plunge at Olalla January 1, 2016. Think maybe his brain has been frozen ever since then. (All in fun, Chad.)

Now that February is here, Happy Valentine's Day to You. Let's take the Saint's message to heart and spread LOVE everywhere we go.

The Chapter has started 2016 with plans for Black
Thursday, which are now done for this time around, the
Swap Meet, and the Chapter Run. Since we haven't gone to
Olympia yet details will be in the next report. Appointments
have been made for District 26 Legislators and we are ready
to help visit with others during the day. We look forward to
seeing everyone there since our riding rights are the prime
reason for our organization. The Key Peninsula Chapter
focus is on preserving and protecting our right to choose our
method of transportation and how we do that, including what
we wear and what we ride.

The Chapter Run has a new Chairman this year so we will see how he improves this event. It will be Saturday, May 7. Hopefully he has an "in" with the Weather Man because usually we get rain that day. Ha ha

The Key Peninsula Chapter Swap Meet will be Saturday, April 16. The same format as last year so if you didn't find what you were looking for at the State Swap Meet in Monroe, it may be one of the treasures we have out here.

Get your motorcycle all tuned up in shape for Spring Rides. Make sure to check tires, gasoline (unless you buy all nonethanol fuel), oil levels and quality, and the brakes for wear and adjustment. The battery may also need attention. Check your fitness too. Has the winter slowed your reactions? Is your riding knowledge current? Has TV time weakened your legs? Our body is the most important part of The Riding Machine. Ride safe, Ride Free.  $\Diamond$ 

## **Tri-Cities Chapter**

From KAT BOLTON, COORDINATOR

Brothers and Sisters.

So, this is the time for planning those road trips, rallies, and runs. Here in Eastern Washington and Oregon, I publish an all motorcycle event calendar. I'm up to 60 events now. I think the reason I started it was to have a choice in participating in those events I believed in. If I had to choose between 2 events, it'll be the one I believe in. With some planning on our part, we can fill that calendar every weekend. We truly do contribute a lot for the unfortunate. I'm sure we've all been on the cancer, coats for kids, wounded warrior, canned food drive, toy run, patriotic and constitutional rights runs.

So here's question? Where does one right/cause end and another begin? Don't most us ride for all the above, if our time allows. Whether, it's because you want to feel your knees in the breeze, see old friends you haven't seen in awhile, or the cause is important to you.

So how many of us believe in a choice of wearing a helmet, right to bear arms, non-discrimination of what we wear, or to gather peacefully. All of these are constitutionally given rights.

Keep planning for those sunny rides. MLH&R ◊

## South King County Chapter

From "JOHNNY LOVE" LAWSON, COORDINATOR

At this writing, it's the week before Black Thursday. Appointments are made and several in our chapter have plans to attend. Looking forward to a good turnout of Freedom fighters.

I want to thank our chapter for organizing and running the Outta Control Night held the Saturday after Black Thursday. Hopefully you joined us and enjoyed some great music and visited with friends old and new. Thanks to all who participated.

We are still in need of a couple of folks to fill open positions: Secretary, Lead Road Captain, supporting Road Captains and Products Chair. We also need volunteers to help with events if we're to continue to make them successful. Please consider lending a hand at any level.

Traditionally, around St. Patrick's Day every year we hold our Dart Run aka Luck of the Biker Run. This year, we're combining resources with our sister chapter EPCC and looking forward to a benefit event, "Cuddy's Run," to be held March 12. See the flyer in this newsletter.

Our meetings are the first Monday of the month, 7pm, at Longhorn BBQ, near Hwy 18, I-5 and SR 167. All are welcome to attend.

Continued prayers go out to Noel for a speedy recovery. Ride safe out there. ◊

## CHAPTER REPORTS

## Olympia Chapter

From RON "CROWBAR" CROWE, COORDINATOR

Greetings from Olympia,

Less than 60 days till spring arrives, and I know most of can't wait. Our legislators are in session and working hard to protect our rights, rides for 2016 are getting put on peoples schedules, and 2016 is shaping up to be a fantastic year for ABATE of Washington.

Another successful Toy Run was held in Olympia, and I had the great opportunity to meet with some of our legislators during the Rally 4 UR Rights / Rally to UR Reps and Black Thursday events. I was especially glad to see other chapter members at both of these events. Turning my focus now to our chapter event, our 18th Annual Bike Blessing will be held on April 9th. Then there is my personal favorite which I'm already looking forward to, Spring Opener!

Although I am now in my 2nd year as Chapter Coordinator, I am still getting schooled by the challenges of the position and truly appreciate all of the support I receive from chapter officers/members, former coordinators, and coordinators from other chapters. I want to take a moment and recognize some of the people that have paved the way and helped make the Olympia Chapter what is today: "Santa" Joe Sullivan, Swede Matzek, Merle Jornlin, and Walt Isaackson. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for ABATE of Washington and the motorcycle community.

At January's meeting, we formed a bylaws committee and the chapter officers will start having an agenda meeting prior to all future business meetings. All ABATE members are welcome to attend these meetings, and I highly encourage chapter members to attend this meeting if there is something you want added to the agenda. The day, time, and location has yet to be set at this time and will probably vary until a permanent place for these meetings is set. Please contact myself or any of the other chapter officers for details.

Be safe out there, ride with due diligence, and don't forget to continue working on those personal relationships with your legislators.

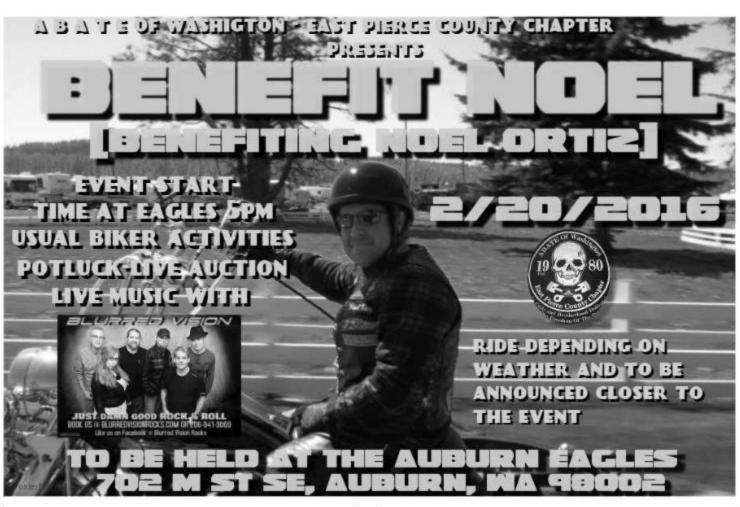
Until we meet again. ◊















Daley's Cheap Shots February 19th 6-10pm 6412 E Trent Ave Spokane Valley, WA







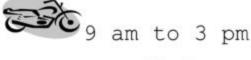






## SWAP MEET

SATURDAY, April 16, 2016



Everyone Welcome

Peninsula Motorcycle Store 3450 SW SR 16, Port Orchard, WA 98367

### VENDOR SPACES

10' x 10" space -- \$10 10' X 20' space -- \$20 Come early to set up. Bring EVERYTHING you need.

Facebook: Key Peninsula ABATE FOR MORE INFO: CONTACT—Randy—360-689-3593 OR Jay 253-884-1909



## **CHAPTER** REPORTS

## Rat City Chapter

From TIM MCCALL, COORDINATOR

As we start 2016, I want to thank the many that came out to make Chicken Friday Christmas a resounding success. Together, we raised more than \$15,000 for the White Center Food Bank. We definitely helped feed some people. I want to personally thank the ADG MC, Christian Crusaders, the staff from Elmer's and the many others for their assistance putting on the event (especially T Vineyard, Kristy Freeman and Loren Cook).

On March 6th, we will hold our annual Freeze Your Butt Off Run. With the closure of the Barrel, we are in the works to add another bar to the list. Once the list is finalized, we'll keep you posted via our Rat City ABATE Facebook Group. We hope to see you there. No tollways will be used. Ride well!  $\Diamond$ 

## North Kitsap Chapter

From LISA BUTLER, CHAPTER PR/NEWSLETTER

It seems as soon as we finish one event, committees are being formed to start planning the next ones. The final drop for our Toy Run was January 10th and we dropped off about a dozen bags of toys at Harrison Medical Center in Silverdale. Next up is Black Thursday! Hopefully all goes well in Olympia and the powers that be are listening with open ears and minds.

I hope everyone had a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at our Scavenger Hunt and Rodeo later on this year. ◊



## Inland Empire Chapter

From SHAWN WEST, CHAPTER SECRETARY

During January the topic of border states like Washington losing our riders and tourism money to the environs next door who are without a mandatory helmet law was discussed at length. Spokane being one of the chapters next to that legislative invisible line, we feel those effects at every meeting and event. Want to meet riders from Washington? Go on a run in Idaho. As much as we love cruising through the Panhandle with our brothers and sisters on that side of the helmet debate, we'd really like to see more of those faces on the roads over here. All riding season long we see that line of bikes heading east out of Spokane just to enjoy one single thing.

The drink specials at Cruisers.

Why? Because we all know while we're there we'll also experience the freedom of choice. Experience. Not enjoy the right. Not secure in our freedoms. Or just plain not even think about it because an everyday freedom of choice is just how it is. We can only experience because we don't have those freedoms here.

Black Thursday may be over but the effort to move our Bills forward this legislative session is not. When our helmet bill gets a hearing contact those legislators we spoke with let them know. If the filtering bill has passed through committee contact them again. It's a simple and helpful way to keep the conversation going with your legislators while letting them know support for these bills isn't going away. Aside from building that relationship it's also another way those of us who didn't make it to Black Thursday can still help out.

In other news our chapter has three upcoming events. First, our meeting this month will be on Tuesday, Feb. 9th at 6 pm located at Sweet Old Bob's. Next, we are holding a spaghetti feed social at Daleys Cheap Shots on Feb. 19th also starting at 6pm. And finally next month is the Spokane Motorcycle Show starting March 11th and through the 13th. Wearing a helmet is optional at all three of our events!

For members who can help run our chapter booth at the motorcycle show come on down to our business meeting this month and sign up. New chapter products were voted on and passed last month so expect a better selection this year which looks like it will include a chapter hat. And since last year most of our chapter shirts ended up being given to girlfriends or spouses we expect our new design this year to be a hit with everyone who's still wanting one for themselves.

In closing a big thank you goes out to Keith from the Columbia River Chapter who attended our meeting last month for his helpful information and advice. It's appreciated. Not just the ideas but also the personal perspective from our fellow chapter members outside of a quarterly BOD report.

As always, give a wave when we see you on the road! \( \rightarrow

## Mason County Chapter

From GREG HANSEN, COORDINATOR

December 2015 was a pretty fun month here in Mason County!! We started off the month with the annual Olympia Toy Run, helping park bikes at the start and at the end. A great time as usual! As anyone who braved the ride in that morning knows, the weather was not the best for those who had to be there early, but then it cleared for a great ride down through town. I would like to thank Santa Joe, and the Olympia Chapter, as well as all the volunteers who take the time out of their busy schedules to attend meetings and put forth all the effort to put on such a great event. The Olympia Toy Run has become a great place to check out bikes, socialize, visit old friends, make new friends, but most importantly, help the Salvation Army give the kids who need it, a Christmas that they otherwise would not have. Thank you! Please be sure to attend next year, and remember, "It's for the Kids!"

We also have our traditional Christmas families, this year we helped 2 different families celebrate Christmas, one family who is also part of the ABATE family as well as another local low income family. These poor kids don't have anything and it warms our hearts to help those in need, which we all need on these chilly winter days.

Then there is our annual Chapter Christmas party, which is ALWAYS a great time! We get together with the chapter members and families for a great dinner, later, we send the kids home, and the adults enjoy a white elephant gift exchange and have a few choice drinks to unwind before the holidays hit.

I hope you all had a special Christmas and a fun/safe New Year's. Now let's all make 2016 a year to remember! Ride Safe, Ride On. ◊

## Columbia Gorge Chapter

From MICKI ROBINSON, COORDINATOR

Hello from over here. We just got back from the January BOD which went very well. Thank you Billy De and your chapter for hosting.

Now we are getting ready for BLACK THURSDAY. Hope to see ya'll there... Then it's the Spring Swap Meet. When do we get to slow down ?? ☺

We now have tickets available for Spring Opener, the guns and the bike raffles. If you are planning on going to S.O., contact your Coordinator for tickets in advance.

The bike tickets are \$10.00 each, one need not be present to win and the other one you have to be in the crowd to win SATURDAY night...

I'm not sure if this is my place to say but here goes: I can understand a lil' bit why some of the Treasurers have a hard time with the Quarterly Reports. The format is not that great, but GOOD NEWS, I talked to Lyle and Leon this weekend and Leon is going to update the form on the ABATE web site so it should be more user friendly.

I hope everyone can get it downloaded and saved to their desktop. I hope this helps all the Secretaries to keep updated. Thank you Leon...

We (CGC) are still planning for our annual Festival of Wheels in August. This year should be bigger and better. We had a lot of the East side Coordinators show up last year, it would be great if more from the West side could show up and support the East side's events...

Well it's time for the SEAHAWKS to start, gotta go. Until next time, ride safe & stay cool ◊

## **CHAPTER** REPORTS

## **Lewis County Chapter**

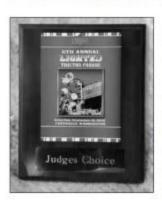
From PAT PAYNE, COORDINATOR



The new year has begun with many new hopes and aspirations. As Coordinator, mine is to do a better job of getting a piece written for the Freedom Newsletter each month.

Our Chapter is running really well right now. Most of the committee chair positions are filled and we have accomplished a lot in the past year, with an eye on the future.

The chapter entered a float in the Centralia Lighted Tractor Parade for the fourth year now. We won "Best Business" float the first year and have won "Judges Choice" for the last three years running. For the last two years, the parade committee has ask us to host their Santa on our float and it has



been our honor to do so. There is nothing like watching the kids, when they spot Santa in his sleigh being pulled by a team of motorcycles. This year we even added trucker smoke stacks, with flames shooting out of them, to the back of the sleigh. Before the float is entered into the parade, we take it on a tour through both Centralia and Chehalis and then out to "Safe House Ministries," a place

for women and children. We usually have an escort of bikes to lead the way and this year's turnout was great. Thank to all the guys and gals doing the escort in the cold rain. The chapter provides presents for the women and children staying at Safe House Ministries with Santa (Scotty Barker) doing the honor of passing out the presents. Thanks Lowrider for chairing the parade committee.

This past year, we have also met our "Two Ton" food drive goal, to the benefit of the Lewis County Food Bank Coalition. This event goes on all year long, with the collection of food and toys. Thanks Bud for chairing the Food Drive and Erin for chairing the Toy Drive.

As most of you may know, we have a great new location for the Kickback Campout, and will be having it there again this year. There are enough trees on the lot that allows for all tent campers to be in the shade and a field large enough (50 acres) for RV campers. This event funds our Scholarship program, where we have given scholarships to each of the 11 high schools in Lewis County. Elk County Chapter has stepped up and taken on three of the high schools this past year, so now we are doing eight of them.

Flyers will be coming out soon. If you want to be a vendor this year, contact Terry Butler 360-269-0041 (the committee chair).

Our next chapter event is the Triathlon, held on March 19th. It is a fun day of screwing off. The event is made up of teams of four people playing rounds of putt putt golf, bowling and pool. We even have a short bus to move the teams in a rotation from location to location. It is designed so there is usually a tie, with a play off event that I can only describe as interesting.

The chapter has decided to bring back the Pedals and Piston Vintage Motorcycle Show. It will be the first weekend in August this year on the 5th through 7th. The bikes for the show must be at least 30 years old. If you want to be a vendor or enter a bike in the show, contact Lowrider at 360-736-7138.

We also have a ride on the second Sunday of every month, that leaves the Limit Tavern, Centralia, WA at noon, for a ride to somewhere.

Lots to do, and a busy year in the making Live for the moment Forgive the past Prepare for the future



## **East Pierce County Chapter**

From NICK "NICO" CONKLIN, COORDINATOR

Hi everyone,

We want to thank you so much for all involved with giving their time to help build this ramp at Noel's on January 6th. Brent, Nick, Bob, Mitch, Ray, Mark, Tracy, Sweet Tooth from C.O.B.B, Jenny, Cathy, Ron, Kate. Hope I didn't miss anyone. Also a very big thank you goes out to those who gave a money donation to making this ramp happen. Thank you to Friends for a Greater Cause (non profit), SKCC, Arrow Lumber, Mic Cain, Cathy Leasure, Rocky, Bob Howard, Ron and Kate for the donations. That was so heartfelt along with a lot of fun to see everyone having a great time. Please everyone remember that there is a benefit for Noel on February 20 @ the Auburn Eagles. We are in need of Donations for raffle and auction. As some know, Noel was moved from his last place at Harborview, to the VA on Beacon Hill. We hope all can visit him soon.

We also have a joint ride with SKCC for our beloved brother Cuddy. This will roll on March 12th starting at the Spot Sports Bar & Grill in Renton.

Let's also not forget we have the Bunny Run coming very soon as well. ◊





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## MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET

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IN THE NEW EVENT CENTER

Admission: \$3.00 - ABATE Members with Membership Card \$6.00 - Non-Members

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## Spring Swap Meet Registration Form

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Evergreen State Fairgrounds
Hwys 2 & 522, Monroe, WA
in the New Event Center

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Non-member 10'x10'	vendor space	@ \$35.00 =
ABATE member #	10'x10' vendor space	@ \$30.00 =
Wall space or Electric	ity is extra per space (circle preference)	@ \$5.00 =
Tables	<u> </u>	@ \$15.00 =
Chairs		@ \$5.00 =
RV Spaces	With Power/Water	@ \$28.00 =
	Without hookup	@ \$25.00 =
Type of merchandise		TOTAL

Please fill out form completely and return with check or money order payable to ABATE of Washington, 2816 Taylor Street East, Milton, WA 98354

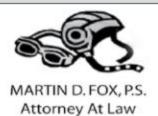
### CANCELLATION POLICY IS 15 DAYS NOTICE FOR A FULL REFUND

Refer to your canceled check to confirm your space until the day of the event at check-in Setup will be Saturday, March 19 from 12pm - 6pm and Sunday, March 20 from 6am - 8:30am You will be given 2 wristbands per space; extra wristbands will be available for purchase at check-in Vendors are required to comply with ABATE rules and remain open for business from 9am-3pm



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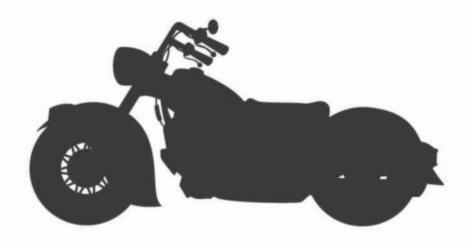
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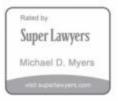


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## **RIDES** & EVENTS



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5 22nd Annual Freeze Your Butt Off Run, Rat City Chp (pg 18)

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BLX.

R.R.

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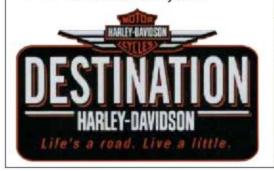
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