

FREEDOM'S VOICE

NOVEMBER 2007

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THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!

Once again it's the time of year for hunters to go into the woods and return home with venison. Hunters sometime use dogs help hunt deer. While the dogs are chasing the deer, neither deer nor dog know to stop and look before crossing a hi-way. Be cautious while riding, just as motorcycles, deer & dogs are everywhere!



NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

6 - 8:00 Chapter Meeting

10 - MSAP West Brunswick & Brunswick Community College

17 - Officer Training & Awards Banquet

(reservation required for banquet wkimsey@mindspring.com)

20 - 8:00 Chapter Meeting

North Carolina Helmet Citation Defense Project

Doc Ski

On 19 July 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified HB 563 which included a section requiring all riders and passengers on motorcycles to wear USDOT FMVSS 218 safety helmets as standard safety equipment. The Governor signed the bill into law and it becomes enforceable in January 2008.

This law was passed through political partisan maneuvers. Political partisanship nullified the reasoned decisions of informed committee members. Back-room political manipulations, designed to support special interests, were used to force party members to vote along "party-lines" regardless of the facts of the issue.

During bill consideration, the Judiciary Committee of the NC Senate reviewed the arguments and facts presented by both sides of this issue. The committee deliberated and determined that this was a bad law. The majority of the members of the committee voted to remove the section pertaining to FMVSS 218 compliance. The section pertaining to FMVSS 218 compliance was placed back in the bill on the floor of the Senate Chamber with little debate and, no discussion of the facts presented by representatives of the affected citizens. In other words... this law is a **Totalitarian Act** being imposed on the citizens of North Carolina without our consent and in direct conflict with our expressed interests!

CBA/ABATE is not anti-helmet... we are pro-rider-choice. However, CBA/ABATE is adamantly opposed to any totalitarian act, and believes that it is important to continue this fight in the courts. In order to help citizens defend themselves against this abomination, CBA/ABATE of NC has formed the "Helmet Citation Defense Committee".

The purpose of this committee is to develop and disseminate information and materials to be used by individuals, in the legal battle in court against the increasingly more oppressive helmet laws of North Carolina. A special financial fund has also been established, to assist with organizational costs for legal counsel, materials, and procedures that may be involved in CBA sanctioned legal defense activities.

The state of North Carolina has established that the cost of a helmet violation is \$100. The fine is \$25 and the court costs are \$75. The fine for a helmet violation for a passenger is \$10... there are no court costs for passenger helmet-violations. If you appear in court to defend against the citation, and are found guilty, it still costs the same... However, if you challenge the citation and win, it costs you nothing.

The recently formed NC Helmet Citation Defense Project (HCDP) has leaped forward under the dynamic leadership of Chairperson "Super-Susan" of the Hickory Chapter of the CBA/ABATE. HCDP Team members are well prepared to assist and support fellow riders who receive a helmet citation and wish to present their own defense in court. Bear in mind... Team members are not lawyers, nor legal professionals; they are simply concerned bikers, preparing their own defense, who are willing to share their materials, knowledge, and experience with others of like mind.

Contact a member of your local CBA/ABATE chapter, or attend a local chapter meeting to share in the free information and see what CBA is doing for all bikers in NC. We hope your visit will help to encourage you to fight the citation in court.

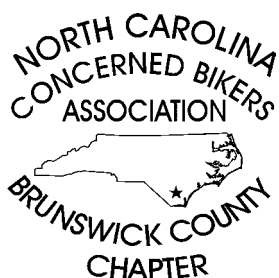
IN THE TRENCHES WITH DOC SKI

Keep informed on what's happening with legislation, read Doc's legislative blog at:
<http://docskivnv.bravejournal.com/>



Join NC Bike PAC
Put your money where
your mouth is!

For information
contact Deb Knox
stateinfo@atmc.net
754-2304



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NEW
PO BOX #

Freedom's Voice is published monthly, deadline for submission is the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Bring your photo's articles and advertisements to the meeting or e-mail wmooney@atmc.net.

BIKERS BLOCK BIKE BAN

Scores of angry bikers packed into city council chambers October 16th to protest a proposed ban on motorcycles in a fashionable section of downtown Delray Beach in southern Florida, and in the end most of them came away happy.

After hearing testimony and acrimony from the crowd of leather-clad activists, city officials instead voted unanimously to amend a noise abatement law already in place that would place stiff fines on noisy motorcycles. They also decided to commission a study to find out how much of the noise on Atlantic Avenue can be blamed on motorcycles and hope to have results in 90 days.

The proposed ordinance would have prohibited motorcycles from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on five blocks of shops and restaurants along Atlantic Avenue, in response to numerous complaints about noisy motorcycles cruising the cafe-lined corridor.

Mayor Rita Ellis had said the ban was necessary because the city's noise control ordinance was unenforceable downtown, where officers on foot patrol can't easily chase after violators, but the measure drew outrage from the motorcycle community both locally and across the country.

"I feel Delray Beach is infringing on my rights," said Jimbo Sherrow of the motorcycle rights group ABATE of Florida, Inc. "There is a state statute that says they cannot do this."

After some deliberation, City Commissioners put a call out to motorcycle clubs and associations for help in trying to figure out a solution without resorting to an outright ban on motorcycles.

Membership Notes

Membership renewals DUE in November : Steven & Barbra Woods, and Grant & Cheryl Kemp

Renewals due in December : Ronald Knight, Jim & Kay Knot, Bill Pfeffer & Sue Moriarty, and Wayne Smith

Please remember to renew in your renewal month to renew with the \$5 discounted rate.

Memberships who lapse over into the month past renewal month will have to re-join at the new member (single or couple) rate as well as lose their continuous membership status. Lapses in membership can affect your eligibility to serve as local and state officers as well as eligibility to become a lifetime member.

WEIRD NEWS:

PORK OR HOG, THIEVES CHOOSE THE OTHER WHITE MEAT

Thieves in China are stealing pork because the staple meat has become so expensive. A Shenzhen newspaper reported that a pork seller was knocked off his motorcycle by robbers who stole his load of over 200 pounds of pork, but left his motorcycle in the road.

He was on his way to a market in Shenzhen, just over the border from Hong Kong, when four men jumped from a mini-bus and threatened him with knives.

The pork was worth 2000 yuan more than the motorcycle.



DO YOU KNOW: WHO IT IS?

The first person to tell Becky who the person on this bike is will receive a prize.

Hint, back to school.

Answer to Octobers quiz Who Is The Author : Cleve Gore