

St. Clair County A.B.A.T.E. Chapter

January 2011



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St. Clair County A.B.A.T.E. Chapter

Meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:00PM
At the Elks Lodge in Fairview Heights.

January 13th

State Website: <http://www.abate-il.org/>

Chapter Website: <http://www.abate-il.org/StClairCo/index.htm>

2010 Chapter Officers

President

Ron Carter
rcarter1947@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Tina Carter
tinakcarter@charter.net

Secretary

Sue Starko
suziestarko10@yahoo.com

Sgt At Arms

Roger (Ramjet) Johnson
Just Yell

State Board Rep

Rich & Renie KinKade
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rkrk143@ameritech.net

Alt State Board Rep

Alex Cortez & Mike Gallagher
acortez_2@yahoo.com
yankeemike1@sbcglobal.net

Region Rep

Alex E Cortez
acortez_2@yahoo.com

Activities

Alex Cortez & Company
acortez_2@yahoo.com

Vice President

Al Yung
yungajy@yahoo.com

Membership

Sheila Gallagher
gallaghersgetaway@sbcglobal.net

Public Relations

Katherine Gallagher
ktgallagher518@yahoo.com

Newsletter

TJ Miles
tj7miles@hotmail.com

Safety & Education

Kelly Silvey
Just Yell

Legislative

Mike Gallagher
yankeemike1@sbcglobal.net

Honorary Chaplain

Pastor Doug White
pastorwhite@edgemontbiblechurch.org

Treasurer Report:

Beginning Balance.....	\$ 2,743.34
Credits.....	\$ 325.00
Debits.....	\$ 964.50
Ending Balance.....	\$ 2,103.84

Tina Carter

From The Prez-

Happy New Year to all...

We've got a pretty good start on 2011. The chapter officers who wanted to stay in are returning, one or two have changed jobs, and we have a few new officers. Alex is planning more than a few events for us this year (please be sure to support them), TJ will be putting out a SUPERB newsletter, Tina will be keeping the money where it belongs, Mike will be on top of all things legislative, Sue will be keeping accurate notes on the meetings and helping out with Katie who is doing the PR stuff. Things should run like a clock. All we need are the chapter members to support their local ABATE organization, those who have always been there and, importantly, participation by those who have been holding back.

We did a pretty good job last year in keeping the Safety Nazis at bay but they are already gearing up for another assault on your liberties...I.E., the NTSB. If you missed it, early-December they issued a statement pushing the passage of helmet laws in ALL states nation-wide. Now while they don't have any direct legislative power at the state level, they do have strong influence and their endorsement of nation-wide helmet laws acts as cannon fodder for those who salivate at the thought of cutting your freedoms off at the knees. As usual they trotted out skewed stats, worn-out illogical reasoning and manipulated numbers. These are their best weapons. The best defense is education, truth, actual logic and a dedicated membership. Let us not allow last year's wins go to our heads and think the fight is over...these people, these elected officials, these beaurecratic parasites are as tenacious and dangerous to your rights and freedoms as a busload of Islamic Jihadists running loose in a weapons factory. Their tactics may be different but their goals are the same: eliminate freedom and end an American way of life...to live your lives under their thumbs.

Let's all stay involved with ABATE...it's important if you feel freedom is important!

On a lighter note: We actually have a little money left over from last year after paying off various bills and the Christmas party (pretty cheap actually...hear about it at the meeting). Thank you Elk's Lodge #664, Mike Erwin and Little George. There are no large outstanding debts hanging over our heads. In other words...the chapter is sound (can't say the same for some of those running it but I'm trying to get better).

We have our 20th anniversary party coming up in May(?) and would like all to support it when the time comes. We welcome ideas for this party at the meeting but time is getting short before we have to commit to something, so speak up!

That is about it, except...just the same ol' rant: Show up to meetings once and awhile! It helps those involved know that their efforts to protect your rights as motorcyclists are appreciated.

Ron Carter

President / St. Clair County Chapter of ABATE

Legislative Report:

Amusing tidbit, seems the EPA is looking into noise restrictions on these new electric cars. It seems they are too quiet and pedestrians may not hear them coming. It seems it proves a theory that loud pipes saves lives if anybody asks me, which won't happen I'm sure. I know what will happen within the next month or two and that is the onslaught of helmet bills. We had seven bills introduced last year and we can expect the same this year. Motorcycle registration have increased in the last year as miles traveled has gone up also, yet motorcycle deaths have declined in this state. We know it's from our long efforts of safety & education training in high schools and Cycle Rider Training Courses. Butt, IDOT and the State Police are claiming it's from the Nazi style road side check points we have had to endure the last couple of years. Why? M endorsement on your license. One of the biggest things we can do is police ourselves and make sure everyone, you/we/I ride with has the M endorsement on their license. A huge majority of bikers killed out there don't have the correct endorsement class on their license. Shame on us if we let this continue, especially within our own membership.

Mike Gallagher

BOD Report

I hope everyone had a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and I wish you all much happiness in the NEW YEAR!!!

BOD Meeting was held December 18, 2010. All officers were voted in as nominated.

There was discussion on the purchase of a new or used trailer to haul products. One of the chapters volunteered to check prices and will report back at the next meeting.

Motion made and passed to increase the State Office Administrator's salary .50/hour and increase part-time wages by .25/hour.

Renewed contracts for Webmaster Ernie Steel and Lobbyist Todd Vandermeide. The State Seminar will be held January 21 & 22 at the Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL. The seminar is open to ALL members and is a great time to meet members from other chapters. It is also a good opportunity to enhance the operation of the organization and become further educated on what ABATE is all about. The agenda will soon be posted on the state website and information can also be found in the State newsletter, pg 13. Each chapter has been asked to make a small donation for the hospitality room. Guest speaker will be Hardtail from MRF. Regions will have meetings on Sat morning.

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As ABATE supporters, each chapter can receive further recognition by sponsoring the State Seminar and Awards Banquet. Last year our chapter was a Gold sponsor (\$250), which included a business card size ad in the seminar program and a banner with our chapter name printed on it as a "Proud Supporter". To save cost the same banners will be used this year and will include a star with the year printed on it. The banners will be used for 4 years before a new one will be purchased. Sponsor donations need to be received by December 31, 2010 at the State Office to ensure chapters are included in the program and banners/stars are printed/provided. However, donations may be accepted at any time prior to the seminar.

126 motorcyclists were killed in Illinois so far this year, 136 last year. Statistics show there were more bike registrations and miles traveled this year compared to last year. We must push class M license endorsements for all riders. If you have an accident and don't have an endorsement your insurance carrier may refuse to cover you and your bike. We need to get more riders into the motorcycle riding training courses. They seem to be making a difference. There has been an increase in radio and newspaper attack against us on our helmet issue stand. NEW Class M endorsement restrictions are being put into force: J11 you can only ride a 3-wheeler, J17 you can only ride a 4 wheel motorcycle. Certain restrictions apply to each category.

Membership: We lost 3,400 members this year. State is researching a way to establish an automatic membership renewal plan.

There was discussion on ABATE purchasing the Belleville Swap Meet. Need to get chapters vote and bring back to the next BOD meeting for feedback.

Westgate Chapter closed and membership will be spread to other chapters.

Public Relations (PR) is asking for a \$375 donation from each chapter for the bill board campaign. The State Office will determine placement of bill boards based on highest level of traffic.

Treasurer Information - 990s will no longer be mailed to home addresses. Beginning in 2011, 990s will be sent to each chapter's mailing address on file with the state.

State is seeking donations from the chapters for the Legal Fund. Looking for each chapter to donate \$50 toward the fund.

Rich, Renie, Mike & Alex
BOD Representatives

The Biking Life



ON THE WEB

Geo's Wings & More

George & Karen Smith

Owner / Operators

4307 West Main Street
Belleville, Illinois 62226

618-233-WING



618-233-9464

CHASERS

Formerly H's



BELLEVILLE, IL

Under New Management

BEEER
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January 15 – Chili Cookoff

Turn Chili in at 4 pm with Tasting to begin at 5 pm

Music to be provided by Miranda daughter of Sarina from Lost Souls from 4-8 pm

ABATE 20th Anniversary Party date to be announced!

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Safety and Education

Well everyone, it's cold outside! So, for all you die hard riders, this is for you. It's easy to forget about how fast windburn and frostbite can occur this time of year. This is a reminder to bundle up and cover all exposed skin when riding. At a temperature of 32F and 45 mph, the wind chill factor is 13-15F. Brrrrr! Frostbite can occur quickly at that temperature. Frostbite has 3 stages; Redness and skin irritation, blistering and then permanent tissue damage. So be safe and cover all exposed skin when riding in cold weather.

Kelly Silvey



St. Clair A.B.A.T.E. 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off

**Feb 26, 2011 (Sat)
Noon - 4pm**

Driftwood Inn

4439 State RT177

Okawville, IL 618-243-5218

**Sign-up 11am-Noon
{ mild, medium, hot }**

Auction 4pm

Chili Winner Announced & Awards at 5pm

All proceeds go to ABATE FED PAC



Public Relations

Hey everyone, we survived the crazy holiday season and are ready to hit the ground running! In hopes of not sounding repetitive, Sue and I have our heads together coming up with lots of ways to get the word out about ABATE. What I would like to stress is no matter how hard we work as your chapter officers, we cannot possibly do it without our membership representing us, wearing the ABATE name on their clothes, and just spreading the word. One of the many things that I would like to work on this year is spreading the word, having a presence at more functions (bike nights, poker runs, etc), and getting more members involved. Our chapter is around 200 strong and we need you to be our eyes and ears. Let us know of runs and events happening around the area so we can arrange to set up an information booth/table. Help us fight the never ending battle to preserve our right to ride unrestricted.

I have also created a new facebook page designed so it will show up in the news feed instead of always having to check the fan page! Search St-Clair Abate, Fairview Heights IL. Keep in mind, this is a place to keep up to date with what's going on within the chapter without waiting for the monthly newsletter and for sharing ideas on ways to improve our chapter. Please help keep it free of clutter that will take away from its real focus-ABATE. Have fun and ride safe...

“Katie Rose” Gallagher

Secretary

Happy New Year to All and your families!

I am the new Secretary and co-Public Relations (PR) officer. I am excited about these new positions and hoping to make it a year that I meet and see you at the monthly meetings. Katie and I have some great ideas for PR this year and we are going to need the involvement of the members to help get the word out about St. Clair Co. ABATE. The State has lost a tremendous amount of members in the last three years, though our Chapter has maintained our membership, yesss!!!! But, we need to get the word out to increase membership. We will need your assistance and hope that you will be able to help.

We have a terrific group of officers as well as a committee or two. Alex and TJ are doing a great job with products to wear and I think you will be very happy with the design they are developing for our 20th anniversary shirt. St. Clair County has made the 20 year mark!

Please contact me if you have an idea, suggestion or if you need anything. I hope to meet you all soon. May 2011 be the finest St. Clair Co. and A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois has ever seen, are you ready? Ride safe and free!

Sue Starko (Redneck Woman)



FAYE INN BAR & GRILL



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Fayetteville, IL
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