



# October 2011

## Chapter Newsletter

***"A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education"***

The mission of the members of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois is to preserve the universal right to a safe, unrestricted motorcycling environment, and to propose and advocate actions that can be taken by elected and appointed officials to protect and conserve the natural resources of the State of Illinois, and ensure through professional management that sustainable use, recreational opportunities and enjoyment of these new resources are available for this and future generations.

**Next meeting date is  
Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011**

At the Elk's Lodge #664 located at the intersection of  
HWY 161 and Old Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL.  
Meetings start promptly at 7:00pm.

**1991**



**2011**



# Chapter Officers

<b>President:</b> <b>Ron Carter</b> rcarter1947@hotmail.com	<b>V. President:</b> <b>Al Yung</b> yungajy@yahoo.com	<b>Secretary:</b> <b>Sue Starko</b> sstarko@charter.net	<b>Activities:</b> <b>Alex Cortez</b> acortez_2@yahoo.com
<b>Sgt at Arms:</b> <b>Roger Johnston</b> Rramjet52@yahoo.com	<b>State Board Rep:</b> <b>Renie KinKade</b> rkrk143@ameritech.net	<b>Membership:</b> <b>Mike Gallagher</b> yankeemike1@sbcglobal.net	<b>Newsletter</b> <b>Tom Clark:</b> squirtsbikerpage@yahoo.com
<b>Alt State Board Rep:</b> <b>Mike Gallagher</b> yankeemike1@sbcglobal.net	<b>Region Rep:</b> <b>Alex Cortez</b> acortez_2@yahoo.com	<b>Public Relations:</b> <b>Katie Gallagher</b> irishrose@yahoo.com	<b>Alt State Board Rep:</b> <b>Alex Cortez</b> acortez_2@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer:</b> <b>Tina Carter</b> tinacarter08@yahoo.com	<b>Safety &amp; Education:</b> <b>Kelly Silvey</b> kgsilvey@live.com	<b>Legislative:</b> <b>Mike Gallagher</b> yankeemike1@sbcglobal.net	<b>Honorary Chaplain:</b> <b>Pastor Doug White</b> pastorwhite@edgemontbiblechurch.org

**Treasurer's**



Beginning Balance: \$2814.85

Credits: \$217.00

Debits: \$344.40

Ending Balance: \$2687.45

**Report**

# CHASERS



# BELLEVILLE, IL

**OCTOBER 22 - HALLOWEEN PARTY!!!!!!**

*"Lost Souls" 8 - 12*

Halloween Costume Contest, Bonfire, Food and Fun

**OCTOBER 29**

*"Tempered" 8 - 12*



## Legislative Report

By:  
Mike Gallagher

Our most pressing issue we have to date is HB2860, our Dead Red Light Bill. This bill would allow you to proceed with caution when a red light does not sense your motorcycle. Most of you know it breezed through the Illinois house and senate and the Governor Quinn sent it back with an amendatory veto. They want to water it down some more so we are going for a veto override. All of our legislators in this area are on our side on this. We will see what happens about mid-October.

On the federal level we have HR229 which is a blackmail bill for states to enact vehicle safety checks or lose hi-way funds. Congressman Costello's office said this bill is going nowhere as it hasn't even got a cosponsor and has been nowhere all year. The Right To Repair Bill is still out there, HR1449. I urge you all to read the Legislative Report in the state ABATE newspaper. Bob Myers gives a very detailed and informative report every month.

Jerry Costello II is the new State Representative for the 116<sup>th</sup> Dist. He replaced a long time friend of ours, Danny Reitz. If Jerry votes in our favor in the veto session ABATE will endorse him in his re-election bid next year. We stick with our friends that vote for bikers rights regardless of political affiliation.

Mike Gallagher

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## From da' Prez

By: Ron Carter

### From the Prez...

**I** want to thank all who helped out at the swap meet in manning the membership table on the 25<sup>th</sup> of last month and special thanks to Kelly Silvey (the only member to respond to my request) who helped with the membership table at the BET races the night before.

**As** of last month, we are down to 180 & some odd members; about two dozen less than earlier this year. We are down thousands across the state from what we once were. It is important to renew your membership...it is important to remind those who have let their memberships lapse, to rejoin...it is important to talk up ABATE to those who have never been members. Important, that is, if having the government off your ass in being able to do what you choose to do as a motorcyclist means anything to you.

**If** it doesn't...if you don't give a damn about your rights and freedoms...it's OK. **Nobody else gives a damn about YOUR rights and freedom either!**

**I** mean, let's face it...I care about my rights and freedoms (which is why I do what I do in ABATE) and I care about yours, only in so far as you having yours protected, protects me. Beyond that...I couldn't give a rat's ass if the other gal/guy spends his/her life in a hole.

**S**ounds a little self-serving - a little callous - I know, but anyone that doesn't give a damn about their own rights, about the freedom simply handed to them on a plate...handed to them by those who have actually earned it, by others who have fought for those freedoms and rights and for whom some even died for...well then all I can say is to hell with those people. Freedom means too much to me to be so cavalier about it...to just...well, to just let it expire...kind of like letting something so simple but still so important as an ABATE membership expire. For myself, I am tired of standing up for the rights of people that don't give a diddly-god-damn about their own (as long as American Idol comes on, they can watch reruns of Dr. Drew's Celebrity Rehab, and shop online without sales tax imposed: they are content)...but since I am stubborn as a Missouri mule and am extremely concerned about my rights as a motorcyclist and citizen, I'll still continue to do what I can...I just ask you all to do the same - do it for yourself.

**B**y the way, the weekend of the swap meet/BET races/subsequent bike nights: nearly a dozen concerned St. Clair CO. ABATE members talked to several hundred people, worked at least a total of 40 hours trying to sign up new members...to my knowledge we didn't sign a single one. In this fight there is only strength in numbers...and numbers are dwindling.

**W**e need help.

Ron Carter – Prez O' St. Clair CO ABATE

**P.S.** – We have officer nominations this meeting and next...we are also getting tired.

Get Yer  
**“M”!**



Get  
**Involved!**



## Safety & Education

By: Kelly Silvey

**W**ell everyone, it's almost that time of year again. It's getting colder out... So a few reminders:

**N**ow that it's chilly out, when you fire up your ride, let it warm up a bit.

**C**heck your battery; if you don't have a tender, I highly suggest investing in one.

**S**omething else a lot of people forget about, watch your tire pressure, in this weather (warm all day and cold at night) the air will contract and expand, causing your tires to become low and wear wrong, or give you trouble riding.

**J**ust a few things to think about as it gets colder out. **Ride hard and ride safe!!!**

Kelly Silvey



## Membership Report

By: Mike Gallagher

**O**ur membership is dropping after about 4 years of staying right at 200 members. Last month we dropped to 183 members.

**S**heila and I have been sending out membership forms in the chapter newsletter for 3 months before the member expires and then we carry them for another month. I actually had one ex-member tell me we don't make it easy enough to re-up and others tell me via phone call (that I made to them) that they would re-up and we never see it.

**W**e are getting some re-up's but I have not received one new member signup in over two months. I'm sorry to say that the biggest membership getter for the chapter was Gallagher's Getaway in Freeburg and it is no longer there. The chapter has to start doing membership tables at some of these events other than the swap meets.

**I** have been told that ABATE has done such a good job over the years that we have become our own worst enemy. That might be so but I also see it as a lack of effort by the majority of the membership.

**I** am guilty of that lately also and the way to fix that is to get off your ass and **SIGN YOUR FRIENDS UP!**

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# **St. Clair County Chapter A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois White Lightning Run**

**Saturday, October 15, 2011**

**St Clair ABATE 4th Annual  
White Lightning Run  
Sign-up 11-Noon at Chaser's  
Dutch Hollow Road, Belleville, IL  
Ride south 33 miles to  
(location to be announced)  
then to the Freeburg Chili Cook-off  
For More information contact Alex at  
618-443-8920**

**BIKE SHOW SPONSORED BY APMC  
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**Sign up is from Noon - 3:00 pm**

**There will be multiple classes**

**Trophies will be awarded at 4:00 pm**

**For more information contact Tony at 618-222-2945**

**For More Information on the Chili Cook Off, contact Sheila Gallagher  
at 618-977-9378**



# Tha' Last Word

By: Pastor Doug White

## “WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

**D**emocrat, Republican, Conservative, Liberal, Libertarian, Progressive, Right-winger, Left-winger, chicken-winger...good grief it does get confusing! About the time I get used to a name someone comes along and changes it someway. I used to know what a liberal was (I think) but that was before “progressive” became popular! Some modern conservatives might be shocked to know that the founding fathers they love to venerate were classical liberals by definition.

**W**e use names to express love and appreciation. We name our children, our pets, our favorite vehicles, etc. Everybody enjoys having a conversation even with a new acquaintance who remembers and uses their personal name. We realize how little we mean to someone if they use the wrong name when addressing us or they have to keep asking what our name is. We have “pet names” we nick-name those special ones in our lives, like “sweetie”, “honey”. We have special names for our grandparents, children, grandchildren or other relatives.

**W**e use names to hurt others or express our disdain of them. We will use a name to conquer our fear of a thing. Once named, I sense the fear of it is not as bad as I once thought. We use ethnic and racial slurs in this manner. We use the term to demean them. It aids in our prejudice. I don't have to know them after I have named them!

**W**e also use names to classify or identify ourselves and others in a positive way.

**A**ll of this brings me to my point: “biker” What does that mean? The term seems to carry the meaning of rowdy, ear-bustin', free-wheelin', booze-guzzlin', leathered-up, babe-gawkers as a positive whereas to another group the same term and definition does not have a positive meaning. Some people just ride motorcycles for fun, on weekends or when it is convenient. Others practically live on their motorcycle as their primary transportation. They do not think of themselves as “bikers”.

**W**hen ABATE classifies itself as a “biker rights” organization does that include “motorcyclists”? It looks like the attendance at the chapter meetings I attend, most are “bikers”. I was reading the mission statement of the Motorcycle Rights Foundation and in part it reads that they are a “...national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle...” Being a contrary, ignorant soul I pondered this statement long enough to send an email to the leadership of MRF to ask them which “associated lifestyle” they meant: biker lifestyle, dirt bike rider, sport bike rider, tour rider, racer, moto-cross? There is even some question as to the definition of a “motorcycle.”

**M**y enjoyable time with my first Meeting of the Minds found me in the presence of a number of leathered, vested, cruiser-riding “bikers” (who all seemed to be about my age give or take 15 years either way) but not many “motorcyclists”. Our own ABATE of Illinois says, in part, that our mission is “...to preserve the universal right to a safe, unrestricted motorcycling environment” the mention of “bikers” is not in the mission statement; just motorcycling. But from what I have seen in Springfield, they are mostly “bikers” or at least, dressing the part, working for the benefit of all motorcyclists.

**I** am thinking that as long as we keep thinking of ourselves as a “bikers” organization that with our hard-work benefits the other poor souls who ride two-wheeled, three-wheeled and seat-straddling, open cock-pitted 4-wheeled vehicles, we will not be seeing much membership enrollment among those who see themselves as “motorcyclists” and not “bikers”. Membership and perhaps even interest is declining state-wide.

**B**y the way, I haven't heard back from the MRF leadership yet. Maybe they are having the same problem or perhaps it seems too obvious. Ride hard and live free.

Pastor Doug White



*Racing Time Schedule*

*MX and TT Scrambles:*

**Gate Opens 9:00am**

<b>Youth Practice</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Youth Racing</b>	<b>NOON</b>
<b>Big Bike Practice</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>
<b>Big Bike Racing</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>

*Hare Scrambles:*

**Gate Opens 8:00am**

<b>Youth Racing</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Big Bike Racing</b>	<b>11:30am</b>

**Call before you Haul  
618-277-3478  
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<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>
2 Apr	Motocross [D18 Pts]
7 May	Motocross
4 Jun	TT/Scrambles [D18 Pts]
11 Jun	TT/Scrambles [D18 Pts]
25 Jun	Motocross [D18 Pts]
10 Sep	TT/Scrambles [D18 Pts]
24 Sep	TT/Scrambles [D18 Pts]
9 Oct	Hare Scramble [D17 Bonus Pts]
6 Nov	Buddy Hare Scramble [Toys for Tots]

**Anyone Under 18 Must Have Parents At Race To Sign Walver or Notarized Consent Giving a Guardian Permission to Sign Walver**

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**NUMBER PLATES MUST BE DISPLAYED ACCORDING TO AMA RULES**

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