July 1987 Newsletter



#### State Board Report

The June State Board Meeting was held on the 13th, at the Sundown Station in Creswell, Oregon. The meeting was called to Order at 1:20pm by Deacon. Minutes were read by Mike with one correction made. There were 23 voting reps. present & all but two State Board Officers were present.

Inputs from Emerald Valley & West Portland Chapters; they both turned in their Chapter's Charters due to the lack of interest from their membership. We are now down to 12 chapters from 15 chapters.

Vote on Motion #6 from April 11th, State Board meeting. The motion reads, "That State & Chapter Officers retain their positions until Dec. or a 6 month term, due to revision of Rules of Operation & changing our year to match the fiscal year." A Roll Call Vote was taken and the motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT was given by Deacon, ask your State Reps. for more info. Patty reported that a complete Fossil report will be given at the July State Board meeting. As stated in the May minutes that Fossil was covered for insurance and any difference for insuring the rest of the runs, they will send us a bill. They billed us another \$1.69 to cover the rest of the runs except for the Toy Run in Dec. which we will pay for later. Patty has moved to Newberg, Oregon and her new phone number is 1-538-7917. And send all mail to her through the State Post Office Box.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Carolyn stated that as of June 1st we have 763 members, up 2 from 1ast month. We signed up 14 new members at Fossil and 10 new members at the last Swap Meet in Portland. Jackson Co. Chapter is still the largest with 124 members.

LEGISLATIVE: Deacon; he had a list of names of people who are on the Transportation Committee who we should be sending letters to. Deacon still isn't receiving phone calls from some chapters to find out what is going on in the Legislature in Salem. Deacon said that nobody mention in the House that they are spending \$19,400 to refer the measure for a vote of the people. It is a cost that the tax payers will have to pay.

STATE BOARD MEETING PLACE: Deacon; our old meeting place at the Gatehouse Pizza lost his lease on the building so we made arrangements to meet at the Sundown Station in Creswell, Oregon. We decided to meet in the future at the Sundown Station.

50-50 Drawing; \$18.50 to State and \$18.50 to Art Fisher of Lincoln Co. Chapter.

ADJOURN: 4:19pm.

Ride Defensively - Ride Free - Mike Rosu.

\*\* A.B.A.T.E. - A BROTHERHOOD AGAINST TOTALITARIAN ENACTMENTS \*\*

A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon Inc. P.O. Box 4504 Portland, Oregon 97208

# LEGISLATIVE up-date: THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

OUR Helmet Protest Rally in Salem on June 14th was a huge success. 454 motorcycles with a little more than one thousand people, stated that WE, not them want to keep OUR Freedom of Choice on this ISSUE (helmets).



About 450 motorcycle riders rallied at the Capitol on Sunday in opposition to HB2581, which would require riders of motorcycles and mopeds to wear helmets. John Edwards, a lobbyist for a Portland motorcycle group

Statesman-Journal photo by Liz Kelly-Koepfler called A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments, said rider education, not helmet laws, is the answer to preventing rider deaths. The bill has passed the House, and is in the Senate Transportation Committee.

# With-Out YOU - WE (ABATE) are nothing.

On 6-25-87 the Senate Transportation Committee passed HB-2581 out of Committee on a 4/3 vote around Noon. At 4:55pm the Senate passed HB-2581 on a vote of 17/13.

WE (you & I) will get a chance to vote on HB-2581 on November 4th, 1988. Between now and then WE must convence every person that is going to vote on Nov. 4th, 1988 to let those who ride decide.

Next month I will list how the Senator's voted and the one's that WE need to get out of office before they can hurt US again.

If you feel WE lost, YOU lost not US (ABATE), WE shall overcome.

Ride Free...DEACON

State Coordinator, Legislative Dir. and Lobbyist

# HELMETED Helmet Use vs. Injury Distribution By Body Area HEAD 25% ARMS 21% TORSO 19% LEGS

HEAD

13%

ARMS -

24%

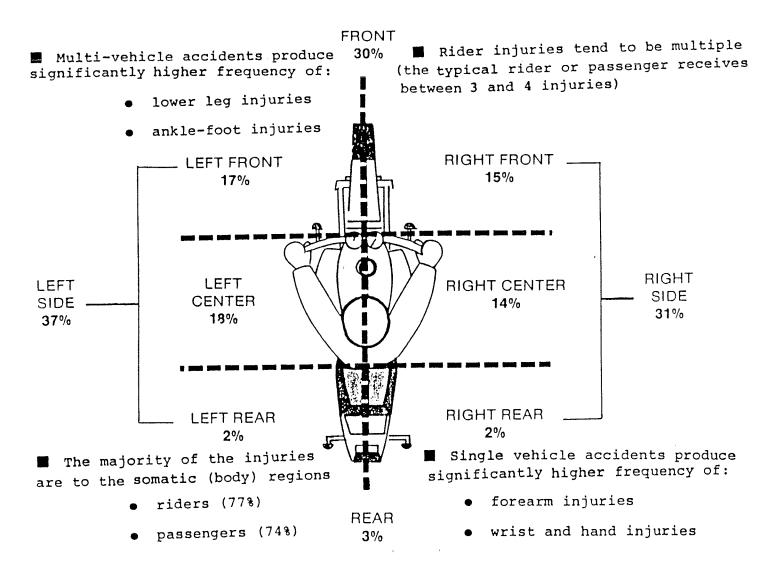
**TORSO** 

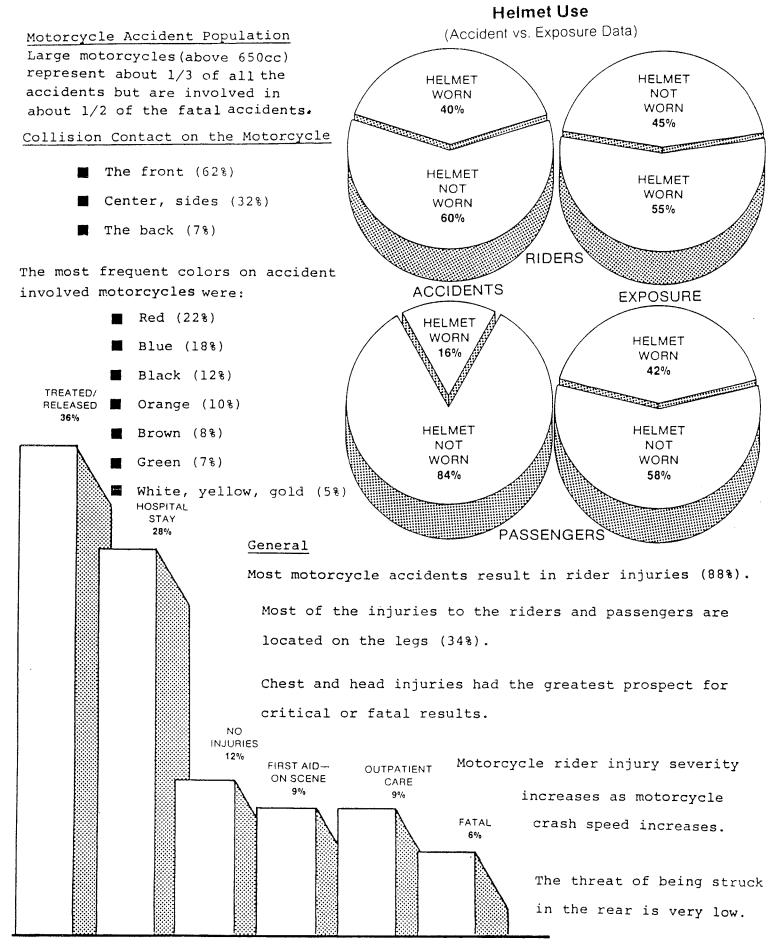
20%

LEGS **42**%

### **Motorcycle Collision Contact Areas**

35%





Motorcycle Rider Medical Treatment

State Treasurer Input for July Newsletter

I realize we all have personal lives but when someone tells me they are going to do something, I'm offended when they don't.

Dr. Dave--Where is the financial report you stated in Dec. '86 you would have to me by Jan. '87???

Butch-- Where is your financial report you stated you

would turn in when you quit as lobbyist May 26, '87???

Vicki— Where is your phone bill you stated you would return to me after you came home from the NCOM Conference???

I would like to clear up these money matters up before Aug.'87. Your chapter reps. will receive a financial report at the July State Board for Fossil '87. If you wish a copy—ask your reps. for a copy or call me at 538-7917.

"Chapter Treasurers" please use the State PO Box for mailing. My new phone number is 538-7917. Ride Free...Patty.

#### STATE PARAPHERNALIA

GIVIE LUMBITHMINATION	
T-shirts	ABATE Courtesy cards 100 \$ 6.50
XXL SALE 7.00	Year Pins 2 to 10 2.00
LONGSLEEVE T'S	ABATE logo pins, gold, silv, pew. 5.00
M,L,XL 9.00	ABATE Eagle Pins gold, silver 5.00
, ,	ABATE wing pin silver 5.00
SWEATSHIRTS	ABATE wing pin uplifted 5.00
L,XL 13.00	ABATE oval pin black, gold 3.00
XXL 15.00	ABATE wing pin uplifted 5.00 ABATE oval pin black,gold 3.00 ABATE #1 sm.pin 3 color 3.00
Chapter Officers Rockers \$2.75	ABATE pewter belt buckle
·	Freedom of the Road 15.00
Fossil Pins 1.50	ABATE Leather belt, silv goncho15.00
10th Anniv Pins SALE 1.00 Year Bars 83 - 86 1.00	ABATE uplifted wing hat ABATE glass beer mug 5 color 5.00
Year Bars 83 - 86 1.00 orders of 10 or more .55	
	Helmet laws suck sticker sm50 Helmet laws still suck sm50
Indian Creek Rockers 2.75 State Para.Officer	Let those who ride decide sm. 1.00
Barbara Gallaher	Tet mose with life decide am
D O Boss Justoli	K.Falls Chapter
	2521 Link Street
. 01 020	Klamath Falls, Ore. 97601
	,
T's Beaver Creek \$ 8.00	
Lincoln Co. 8.00	Independence Run Patches \$ 3.00
Tanks Beaver Creek 6.00	Wash.Cu Toy Run Patches 3.00
Long sleeve T's B.C. 9.00	washined toy null ratches 5.00
Sweatshirts Hooded 16.50	Lloyd Harris Washington County
Sweatshirts Crewneck 11.50	2416 15th Ave
T'S Harley Wine Cooler 7.00	Forest Grove, Oregon 97116
Harley Cooler Hats 5.00	, -
7.4 . 3 C C1	Beer Can Wrappers \$4.00
Lincoln Co. Chapter	ABATE scarfs 4.00
Rick Vester	Liscense plate brackets 5.00
SRS Box 5XA Depoe Bay, Oregon 97341	Jackson Co.
pehoe palt onegon 3/341	Marvin Eastman
	2789 AVA. A.
	White City, Oregon 97503

You Chapters that aren't sending your Inputs to this  $\underline{YOUR}$  newsletter, come on do you want  $\underline{ALL}$  of us to have to wear helmets,  $\underline{WE}$  must keep our members inform on what is going on or  $\underline{WE}$  just might...... $\underline{DEACON}$ .

#### Jackson County

This will be my last report. Our new newsletter editor will be Judi Hiatt in Jackson County. Jackson County run is going to be in Mooney Meadows this year. Hope to see you there. We really enjoyed Fossil this time and we even had biscuits left over to serve at Jackson County Run. They should be real hard by then! Hope to see ya next month. Patty.



#### Klamath Falls

Hello again! Chapter members it is time again to put on a local motorcycle run. Lets do it this year, come out & show your enthusiasm for this once a year party. Please forgive us those of you who went to a non-existant run. Some Albany OMA of Oregon members and everyone else who felt cheated (we did the best we could). These people will forgive so let's not disappoint them Klamath Falls, it takes a # of people to go out & take care of all the details of a fun successful party. Why did we cancel last year? The factors were numerous. Please take information that is at Linkville or call 882-7070.

Time for our meetings has been moved up to 6pm, 1st & 3rd Mondays, hope to see you there.

Contest is still on for \$250 dead "HB 2581" when the issue is solved one way or the other someone is going to win \$250. Wow so write please & submit yours this legislative session letters '87 to your State Representatives. See You Soon Marge.

#### Lane County

Greetings. Summer has finally come. with many good runs ahead. Lets all hope we can still continue to ride"FREE". Freedom is something that we all have to fight for. It doesn't come easily but can be taken away fast. Ride Free and Safe - Honda Bob.

#### Mt. Hood

Greetings from Mt. Hood. A big applaud of appreciation for Jerry & Barbra Calkum for the great job as Coordinator and Secretary. Good Luck to both. Looking forward to Mt. Hood Run and MDA Run also. Ride Safely.

#### N.E. Portland

Hello everyone! Sorry about the past two months, I failed in "meeting deadlines" in school, so what can you expect! Just to catch-up...Fossil went well with our booth. Our Summer Run is soon to come (August) and for a mellow weekend, Paugchos Run is where you want to be. Our meetings have shown some good participation, keep it on your calendars, 1st & 3rd Weds. of each month at Gino's Pizza on NE Halsey at 7:30pm. Drop in and visit. For those in NE, if you'd like to help the secretary sometime, offer to write a newsletter of your own, but don't forget that deadline! Wishes for the new secretary. It's "siesta time" for this beaner. See ya at the meetings. Start without me, I'll probably be late! Lola.

#### St. Johns

Hope you all enjoyed Fossil! We did. The Jazz Fest is on Aug. 8-9 under the St. Johns bridge. We will have a baked potatoe stand, come on by and enjoy the music & spuds. REMEMBER WRITE YOUR LETTERS TO SALEM!!! Preserve Freedom of Choice Vicky.

#### Washington County

Hi Everyone. Well it has been a very busy time this last month, but now Fossil is over again for another year. It was a good turn out and fun was had by all. Talk about a great turn out, the Rally to Salem on June 14th was really something to see. I was there, we're you? If not, I hope you were home writing letters.

We are busy gearing up for our Independence Day Run, July 4th & 5th at Jones Creek Park. We hope to see all of you out there.

A Sister Lost, but not forgotten. Peggy Glass. On May 17,1987 there was a wake for her and we would like to give a special thanks to all that came and shared their memories with us. Thats all for now, Ride Free - Debbie.

This motion was made by Marv of Jackson Co. Chapter and it must appear in the newsletter for one month before it can be voted on at the next State Board meeting. Marv of Jackson Co. moves, "to change the Rules of Operation to read - Article #3 line #1 changed to read each chapter to have 2 State Reps, 1-vote for each state reps which equals 2 votes 1st 50 members, plus any chapter having additional members shall have 1 extra vote for each additional 25 members on chapter rolls as of date of vote. Chapters must have full count of 25 additional members above original 50 to qualify for additional votes."



# LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Deacon & Butch,

I am a registered Oregon voter and also a member of Lincoln County A.B.A.T.E. I am very much opposed to the Mandatory Helmet Bill # 2581. I just wanted to write to you both and thank you for the great job you both are doing. I don't think theres enough Thank Yous going around.

We attended the Rally Sunday at the Capitol. It was a big success. I came home and wrote over 50 letters to the Senators and have more to write. But thought I'd take a moment to Thank You all for the support and modivation you gave us. I've wrote these letters in one day and hope to write the same amount by Friday the 19th! Thanks again guys for the good work! Remember, its not what ON your head, but whats IN your head that saves lives! Thanks! Diana Thomas S.R.N. Box 257, Newport, Oregon 97365.

#### " A Dream Unfolds"

Rotten Rogers, Teresa Hepker, Brian Stovall, Terry Humphreys had some brain storming evening trying to recount and perhaps recapture moments and events that the dream of A.B.A.T.E. had given them.

Freedom has a price and that is our personal time for involvement. Those who took the time, labored for our freedom of choice. B.C. Choppers on 82nd, which is no longer there, was the first site for the first Salem Run. Brother Speed, Choosy Beggars, Devil Disciples, Free Souls, Friends of the Highway, Gyspy Joker, Outsiders, Societys Saints, Screaming Eagles, the Shifters were all part of that run. Having a voice in the State Capitol was the dream of Luke Met calfe.

# N.E. Portland (continued)

Well its sure hard to tell sometimes if summer is here or if its just going to play games with us until fall, but hopefully you all are making the most out of each sunny day that comes our way. Fossil was a great success and our general store worked out well, a big thanks to all who helped mold it all together. The Sunday run to the State Capitol was one heck of a kick in the butt for more than just myself, its great to see that we do have the backing that we all had hoped for. Channel 8 news was covering the "Ride In" in which I understand more than 800 participants took part in, thanks to all who was there. Also a thank you to all who have been busting your fingertips writing those letters to our State Reps, keep them coming, every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated.

Paucho's Run is creeping upon us, July 11 & 12th, Lola is working on most of the details and should be filling us in at the next A.B.A.T.E. Meeting. Of course by the time you read this it will be over. There has been a lot of work done to his property especially to the road, it does look great. I haven't heard of anything new as far as the Summer Run. so I'll just include a reminder that it has been moved, all new directions will be on the flier so don't be spazzing out, you'll find it. Another reminder of a pair of ladies prescription glasses that were found last year at the Jokers Toy Run Benefit Party, they are in a green vinyl case, please call 255-8565 to claim them. Until we submit next month, ride safe..Lorri T.

#### Salem

I want to start out by saying a Big Thank You to 3 new officers in the Salem Chapter. Our new Membership Secretary is Rich, our new Historian officer is Cyndi andour new Paraphernalia officer is Jack. Good luck to all of you!! The chapter would like to thank our ex-officers for the jobs they performed so well. Membership - Lee, Historian - Bill and Paraphernalia - John.

Fossil once again turned out to be successful for Salem again. We sold out of all of our food again this year and had to go into Fossil to buy more to feed everybody. Thanks to all the Salem members who helped out in the trailer, getting things prepared, loaning money and especially putting together all 400 steak-k-bobs. It was a real bitch but they paid off. Next year we'll hire the work out! We are gearing up for our 3rd Annual Fox Creek Run in Detroit. We will be having a good band, good fun and lots of fun. Its a beautiful ride so lets all plan on sharing a wonderful weekend together again. We have a flier somewhere in this issue so check it out. So much for now. Take care and Ride Free, Vicki & the Chapter.

Early Sunday morning June 7th a good friend and good person crashed his bike and was killed. I wish I had the time to get to know him better. Mike Weaver was a real person and he will be missed by a lot of friends. Ride on Mike and may your scooter parts be free. Your Bro - Lee.

#### S.E. Portland

Hi All! We're working with N.E. on the (McNeil) Summer Run - August 15th & 16th. The Run sight has been moved to a sight 3 miles East of Government Camp on Highway 35. Laurie Barringer has taken the position of Run Coordinator for S.E. Thanks Laurie. A huge Thank You to all of you who made the Benefit on June 13th. Benefit #2 is being scheduled for mid September. All the proceeds from these Benefits go to the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children. Due to my pregnancy it has become necessary for me to resign my position as Recording Secretary. This will become effective as our last July Chapter meeting. For those of you interested, permanent elections for next year will be in December. I would like to extend my personal Thank You to all of you for your help and support in the last year. Ride Safe and Stay Free - Carla.

## Letter to the Editor (continued)

Seven hundred people rode to Salem to voice their opposition of the helmet law in 1975. Gov. Straub signed the repel law. No helmets for us was the end result.

Today 1987, Doc. Dave and Butch, who were our State Leg. Reps., were trying to keep the unity of our voices for freedom within ear shat of our city and county Govt. from local districts to State Legislative meetings. Without people like these that freedom vaporizes in the rising sun. Which is now a reality. Alone no one rides free. Brother and Sisters of A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon have been here for twelve years diverse in many ways yet united through the events which they have lived in hopes that those who will ride along side them will find insight, wisedom and a workable solution for our freedom. Without your voice and help we will be trapped in helmets and the word "mandatory" will be used in more laws. Leaving us with no "Freedom of Choice". "Stay Free, Ride free, a sister in the Wind" Sharon Hanson.

#### To the Editor:

Let us examine the word "representation". "One that represents"; specifically, one elected and paid by us to represent us in the State Legislature. In an enlightening conversation May 28th in Salem our representative, Bob Pickard, told me that regardless of the input he had received on the mandatory Helmet Bill (House Bill 2581) he was going to support it. This is representing his constituents?

A representative from another district, Mary Alice Ford, who is sponsoring the Helmet Bill and supporting the mandatory Seat Bill Law stated publicly that she was pushing these bills because "the average Oregonian does not have the intelligence to make these choices for themselves". She also stated that these laws were to protect us from "our own folly". I strenuously object to being sold down the river by someone whose wages I pay. I even more strenuously object to being called stupid. And I will fight to the last breath anyone that calls my personal freedoms of choice "follies". These people are dangerous. Patrick W. Cunningham, Journyman Millwright, My Nickles Worth, Bend Bulletin, Bend, Ore. 97701.

#### AN OPEN LETTER FROM RIVER CITY PART 2

A LIST OF GRIEVANCES which have resulted in the decision by River City Chapter members to dissolve the Chapter and return the Charter to the State Board.

ABATE of Oregon, Inc. is a volunteer organization. Members join in order to enjoy certain benefits and goals:

- 1. Legislative efforts
- 2. Communication through an accurate, timely newsletter
- 3. Affordable, safe, and fun runs/events

#### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

THE ORGANIZATION IS LOSING TRACK OF PRIORITIES. Money, time, and effort must all be managed and balanced in order to meet goals. Admittedly, computers, answering machines, offices in Salem, and trips back East all help to make goal #1 easier, but it has been done with less. These are luxuries, acquired at the expense of goals #2 and 3, which are necessities!

THE CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHOOSES TO ENFORCE 'THE LETTER OF THE LAW' WITH TOTALITARIAN MEANS. No longer does it require vote of the Board to impose sanctions on a non-complying Chapter. There have even been motions to impose fines for every offense of non-compliance, and crucial actions taken by the Board without consent of the Chapters.

THE MORE BUREAUCRATIC HOOPS WE HAVE TO JUMP THROUGH, THE LESS ENERGY WE HAVE FOR THE IMPORTANT STUFF. The "doers" are done in. We don't need threats of probation, fines, and bullshit from a structure that demands more of us, and delivers less.

CENTRALIZING OF MEETING PLACE IGNORES THE NEEDS OF SMALLER CHAPTERS, AND REDUCES CHANCES OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ORGANIZATION BY THE EASTERN HALF OF THE STATE. The practice of rotating meeting places during summer months, even coordinating the meetings with runs, would reduce the demands of time, money and effort instead of increasing them. This method has worked well in the past.

THIS AD SPACE WAS PURCHASED BY THE MEMBERS OF RIVER CITY CHAPTER, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFORMING ALL MEMBERS OF ABATE OF OREGON, INC. ABOUT OUR ACTIONS AND THE REASONS BEHIND THEM.

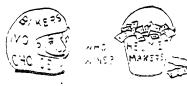
THIS LIST OF THE GRIEVANCES WILL CONTINUE IN THIS AD SPACE NEXT MONTH.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO CONTACT US REGARDING THIS MATTER, SHOULD WRITE C/O 5224 CHERRY HEIGHTS RD THE DALLES, OR 97058



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# \$250 REWARD



THE KLAMATH FALLS CHAPTER WILL REWARD & 250.00 TO THE A.B.A.T.E. MEMBER WHO Recieves the MOST LETTERS in Response, From Oregon's Levislative Members and Governor; To the Members Letters in Organishon to any Mancatory Helmet Bill Introduced During the 1987 Leves lative Session.

To APPLY FOR thin Reward Members Must Submit there Letters of Reply to Preston Shaw, viz, the ABATE of Oreson Board of Directors. All Letters will be Returned to the Member.

The ReciPient of the REWARD will be Aureunced at the Board of Directors Meeting Following the Defeat of Mandatory Heimet Bills in Both the House and Senate, A Veta by the Governor on These Bills, or at the End of the 1987 Legislative Session.

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#### A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon, Inc.

P. O. Box 4504 Portland, Oregon 97208

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road.

#### 1987 STATE RUN CALENDAR

- 1. FOSSIL May 22nd, 23rd, 24th & 25th. The States RUN of the year.
- 2. MT. HOOD RUN June 29th & 21st, Mt. Hood Chapter.
- 3. M.D.A. FREEDOM RUN June 27th & 28th to Sisters, Oregon.
- 4. INDEPENDENCE DAY RUN July 4th & 5th. Washington County Chapter.
- 5. WINDY CREEK RUN July 11th & 12th, Douglas County Chapter.
- 6. BEAVER CREEK RUN July 18th & 19th. Lincoln County Chapter.
- 7. JACKSON COUNTY RUN July 25th & 26th. Jackson County Chapter.
- 8. KLAMATH FALLS RUN August 1st & 2nd. Klamath Falls Chapter.
- 9. FOX CREEK RUN August 8th & 9th. Salem Chapter.
- 10. SUMMER RUN August 15th & 16th. N.E. & S.E. Portland Chapters.
- 11. HOOD CREEK RUN September 5th & 6th, Chapter for the Deaf.
- 12. SILVER FALLS RUN September 25th, 26th & 27th, St. Johns Chapter.
- 13. TOY RUN December 5th. East Portland Chapter.



#### A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon, Inc.

P. O. Box 4504 Portland, Oregon 97208

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road.

#### \* \* WHY SHOULD I ADVERTISE IN THE A.B.A.T.E. NEWSLETTER? \* \*

A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon has over 650 members across the state to which newsletters are mailed the first week of each month. In addition, many members have family memberships, which means that the majority of newsletters are read by more than one person.

Our advertiseing rates are set to allow you the maximum amount of flexibility in purchasing advertising space in our newsletter, and we sell space on a quarterly, half-yearly or yearly basis. Our rates are listed below:

BUSINESS CARD SIZE:	\$ 25.00 - 3 months \$ 45.00 6 months \$ 75.00 - 12 months	1/4 PACE: \$ 44,00 - 3 months \$ 80,00 - 6 months \$133.00 -12 months
1/2 PAGE:	\$ 67.00 - 3 months \$127.00 - 6 months \$200.00 - 12 months	FULL PAGE: \$113.00 - 3 months \$213.00 - 6 months \$333.00 -12 months

To allow even more flexibility, your advertisement may be changed each month for the duration of your purchased time. For example, if you run a business card size ad for three months, you can submit three business cards offering month long or limited time specials. Should you purchase ad space for a year, you could change your ad 12 times! Advertising copy must be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the following month's newsletter and must be camera ready. To order your ad in our widely read newsletter, please submit the following information; Firm's Name, Address, Telephone Number, City, Zip code, Size of Advertisement, Time to Run, state whether you want the same ad or a different ad copy each month and Name & Title of person placing ad. Send it and your first month's ad copy, pre-paid, to A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon Inc., P.O. Box 4504, Portland, Oregon 97208. (Please make checks payable to: A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon Inc.)

\* \* THANK YOU \* \*

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JIM DODSON - Publisher/Editor

NOTICE: Copies of chapter minutes are to be sent to the State Coordinator with in one (1) week of the meeting. This is your Chapter's monthly communication.

Please send to <u>DEACON</u> P.O. Box 88, Cornelius, Oregon 97113.

This Newsletter is a publication of A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon Inc. P.O. Box 4504 Portland, Oregon 97208.

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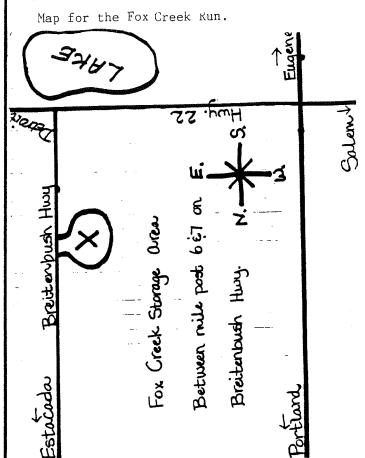
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Yes we Do Hove Hogs! and no this is Not The 4H!

# This article appeared in t

# Back on road, an hour of freedom

#### By BARBARA T. ROESSNER

MOTORCYCLES HOLD a potent romantic allure for me. My high school boyfriend had one, a Triumph, 500-cc, purple gas tank. In the years I have known my husband, he has had many. He wooed me with one in particular, a Suzuki, 750-cc, black with a regal blue stripe on the tank. Some women save letters or poems or shriveled bridal bouquets as mementos of love's exuberance. I keep a snapshot of a machine named Blackie.

Blackie was sold a long time ago and replaced with a newer, sleeker model (white with a royal blue stripe), which was sold off for a down payment on our house. For several years thereafter, we lived sans motorcycle. Blackie's would-be successors were summarily sacrificed to a mortgage, a roof, a dishwasher and a baby. That was not an unromantic time, although it was a decidedly responsible one. We often wondered whether our biking days were gone for good, done in by debts and diapers.

But now interest rates are down, the baby is a toilet-trained toddler, and we have a new bike, red and white.

My husband rides it regularly. I am afraid to. Even he—despite having argued so often and so vociferously that if the riders wear protective clothing and helmets and the operator is experienced and defensive, motorcycles are safe—is apprehensive about taking me on as a passenger.

Since the mercury began spiking into the 70s and above, the obituary page once again is peppered with short items about motorcycle accidents that proved fatal to the riders.

We — I especially — are haunted by the image of our orphaned child attending his parents' double funeral. The relatives and friends and co-workers are shocked by the selfishness of the deceased, the immaturity, the gross irresponsibility, the reckless pursuit of some elusive adolescent escapism. The child is left to wonder why his parents forsook him for their own private remake of "The Wild One."

But I am haunted by another image as well, that of a staid

Barbara Roessner is a columnist for The Hartford (Conn.) Courant. and boring and woefully married couple, a staid and boring and woefully married life. Two sober and conscientious parents, their child securely tucked into bed, staring blankly at a flickering television screen — and only occasionally at each other. Everything tranquil and safe, ordered and risk-free.

No fun, no freedom, no romance.

No motorcycle.

In both scenarios, I have concluded that the child loses. Although in the latter his loss may be more subtle, it seems to me that when parents, for the sake of their children, sacrifice the special things that bind them together as a couple, they may well sacrifice the very reason they begot the children in the first place. What is the point of that? Will the children benefit from parents who are alive, yet lifeless? And how long can a lifeless marriage last?

So, in my mind, it comes down to a virtual toss-up. And that is why, on a recent Saturday, when the air turned heavy and hot — tropical by New England standards — and the child slept and the baby sitter switched on the VCR and we stepped out into the dusk, the red-and-white bike beckoned and we succumbed.

At first, I was stiffened by the prospect of danger. We seemed so small and vulnerable, racing down the interstate amid the tractor-trailers. I began calculating the odds of survival, hoping that fate would be kind. But my fear was quickly eclipsed by the old, familiar feel of the wind and the whir and the delicious sense that I — we — were in a world apart.

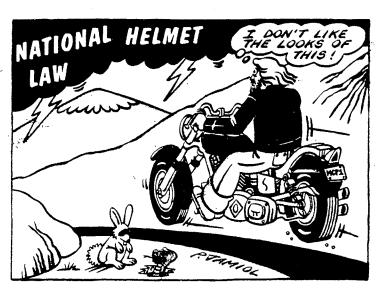
The sun set behind us, illuminating the city skyline with a hazy, reddish glow. There was no opportunity for conversation. Motorcycle riding is a form of forced meditation. And the communion between operator and passenger is mercifully non-verbal. There can be no bickering over who neglected to empty the trash, no semantic go-round over who offended whom first and how and why.

We both felt young and free and, for that small window of time, deliriously undomesticated.

A few hours later, we returned to the homestead — all limbs intact, thank goodness — feeling a bit guilty perhaps, but happier, and closer, too.

And for that, the sleeping child was all the more safe.

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"And I thought anti-bike legislation was bad in Britain!"

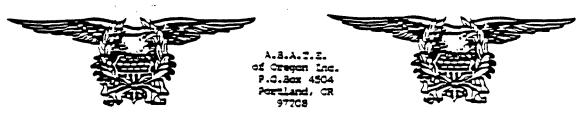


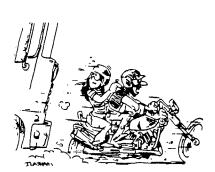
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FOR SALE - '78 Dodge Dart, slant 6, auto trans, low miles, new radials. \$425.00. Call Lee of Salem at 588-2290. (9-87)





"Speak up! I can't hear you 'cause of this damned heimet."





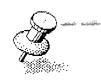
'The gals said ya was gonna name yer bike after me."

94 Easyriders

"How do you suppose he gets the bugs off that shit-eating grin?"

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1st & 3rd SUNDAYS

- ST. JOHNS meets 12 noon at Prefetto's Pizza: 4857 N. Lombard.

1st & 3rd SUNDAYS

- JACKSON CO. meets llam at J.D.E.'s in Phoenix.

1st & 3rd MONDAYS 1st & 3rd MONDAYS - S.E. PORTLAND meets 8pm at The Pizza Baron; 122 & Division.

2nd & 4th MONDAYS

- KLAMATH FALLS: call Preston at 887-7070 or Mike Cutler at 884-0479. - SALEM: call Butch at 363-6106 or Vicki at 585-1639 for more info.

2nd TUES. & 4th SUN.

- WASHINGTON CO. meets 8pm at sunshine Pizza; in Forest Grove.

1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS

- N.E. PORTLAND meets 7:30pm at Gino's Pizza; on N.E. Halsey at 108th.

1st & 3rd THURSDAYS

- MT. HOOD meets 7:30pm at Payloas Pizza; in Sandy on Hwy. 26th.

- LINCOLN CO. meets 7:30pm at Moby Dick's Restaurant in Newport.

1st & 3rd FRIDAYS

1st SATURDAY

- CHAPTER FOR THE DEAF: call George for Info at 1-761-3649.

The July State Board meeting is on the 11th. At the Sundown Station, 2135 Front Street in Creswell, Oregon. Phone number is 1-895-4708.

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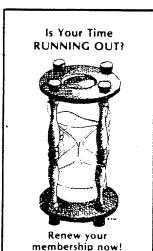
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