



**A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments
American Bikers Aiming Toward Education**

Basketcase

February – April 2020

State meeting-Southwest Chapter/Naples 3/12

***General Meetings
held the 4th Sunday of the month
10 am
American Legion Post #186
12091 Cortez Blvd.***

The Board & those who make our Chapter work

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Road Captain

*Chapter Facebook–
Freedom Chapter
Abate*

DISCLAIMER—The “Basketcase is the official publication of Freedom Chapter and accepts no responsibility for the comments in this publication. Donations made to Abate of Florida Inc. Freedom Chapter are Not deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes. Freedom Chapter does not condone drinking and driving.

The Presidents Page

Ratt Report

Thanks to everyone who has been helping out with the rally. We made money this time and could give back to the cause. Looking forward to the next one.

Speaking of the rally, I will not be able to haul the stuff to the May 16th rally. My youngest son David is going in for back surgery and he has to be on bed rest for at least 6 to 8 weeks. I will need someone to step up. Please contact me and let me know who can help out.

Thanks to everyone who went to the state meeting. Lots of good information, and a few things that worry me. We are still in the middle of the lawsuit and Doc is going to litigation in May. IF we lose it could mean the end of the organization. I have talked to Doc and he said that what he said at the state meeting is the worst scenario. He will call me as soon as he finds out more, so cross your fingers and pray.

April 11th is the BIKERS C.A.R.E pinwheel run and we have been invited to set up at Crystal Harley. I think it's also the April state meeting. I will be able to get to the event, but we need someone to go to the meeting. Also June is state elections. We HAVE to have someone there or we lose our vote. Contact me or Roberta if you are interested.

That's all for now. Remember we need your help with the rally March 28th so PLEASE show up. Ride safe and free. RATT

ABATE Freedom Chapter December 22nd 2019 Meeting
Ratt opened the meeting at 10:15 with Bob leading the Pledge and Pat saying the prayer. Ratt then introduced James Terry who is running for Sheriff. He answered questions for over a half hour.

Ratt proceeded the meeting with:

Secretary- Roberta excused

Vice Pres.- Website is up to date.

Treasurer- Dan excused

Sgt at Arms-Bob stated he went to the State Meeting and found it very informative

Newsletter- Pat would like any help with motorcycle pics, jokes articles etc.

Pr- Still needing someone

Facebook- Roberta excused.

Membership- Roberta excused

Products- Terry said hats he ordered should be done this week.

Legislative- Doc said at State Meeting we need funds and talked of a State party. State Secretary would like all minutes sent to her. Doc also said you may not use the Abate name in any connection to a ride unless you have insurance. The next State Meeting is in Tallahassee on Feb. 9th. The State safety money and the vulnerable rider bills are working their way through the process. Masterlink is being reorganized.

Old Business-Next year Brooksville Biker Rally will be held on Saturdays from 11am to 4pm.

New business- none

Good of the Order- Christmas party at Steve and Rachel's Meeting adjourned at 11:16

Submitted by Patrick Herbert

January 2020 Freedom Chapter Minutes

President- Ratt welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Roberta to introduce Gene Roberts of Spring hill who was one of the 3 original founders of Abate which was formed in Pinellas County in 1972. Gene tells how he and his 2 buddies decided that they would have a ride without helmets to protest the Florida helmet law. In 1980 Abate was formed and became incorporated. Gene became a life member in the Citrus county group which is no longer in existence. Gene has requested to transfer to Freedom Chapter. Our second guest were members from Bikers We Care Pinwheel Ride that is coming up on April 11th.

The guest spoke about the ride and that their organization is about fighting domestic violence towards children. Flyers were handed out and will be available at the Biker Rally. Ratt asked for volunteers to represent our Chapter at the next State Meeting feb.9th in Monticello. There were no volunteers but some members will discuss it and let Ratt know before the deadline.

Vp-Ron discussed the new 131 cubic inch motorcycle Harley just came out with. There was much discussion of bike and its faults. Ron also mentioned that there was a bikeday at Bayport Inn that afternoon.

Secretary- Roberta made a motion to accept Decembers Minutes taken by Pat as Roberta was not at the December meeting. Motion was accepted by Vp-Ron and Ratt stated the motion carried.

Treasurer- Dan was excused

Membership-Roberta stated we have 111 members' current members with 4 delinquent who have been emailed about re-newing.

Pr/Comm-vacant

Newsletter- Pat excused.

Facebook-Roberta mentions that there are 642 likes on our facebook page which is up 18 from December many posts are getting high reactions, with lots of shares. Roberta also said anyone can invite or join our page it is open to the public.

Safety-Ralph excused

Products- Terry brought the 15 hats he had made up to sell. A check is being mailed for him.

Legislation- Ratt mentioned how the legislation in the state is going over gun laws but no helmet laws at this time.

Old business- Ratt explains that the Brooksville Biker Rally is being held on Saturday now and to look at the schedule as it may be on different Saturdays each month. Roberta motioned to have the chapter buy a picnic table for \$175 at the Biker Rally which is 24x6 feet promoting Freedom Chapter. There were questions which Roberta could not answer, she will get hold of Mike Defelice to get answers and the chapter will table it for discussion at a later date. Ratt asked if Roberta got the info she could email it so we could vote on it so we could purchase it before the Biker Rally on Feb. 15th.

New business-Vp Ron mentions the court date for a local biker in our community Kevin Fair who was a hit and run victim in October 2019. His court date is March 11th and we would like to have chapter support to be there for the hearing. Ratt is going to send out an email asking members if they would like to ride to the Pasco Court house.

Good of the order-nothing

Sergeant at Arms Bob motioned⁶ to adjourn the meeting at 11:31am seconded by Bear Ratt then adjourned the meeting.

February 23rd 2020 Freedom Chapter of Abate Minutes Meeting was called to order by Ratt at 10:10 am and all stood for the Pledge and prayer by Roberta.

President Ratt-Thanked everyone for helping at the February Brooksville Rally. We have Gun raffle tickets for sale at \$5 each. Bear picked them up at the state Meeting. We just received our tax id number.

Vp Ron-Nothing to report

Secretary Roberta-Motion was made by Roberta to accept the January minutes, Bob approved and Pat 2nd. Roberta told how well we did at the Rally in February. Several products were sold and \$60 was made on the 50/50. Freedom donated \$30 to the Rally and Ron won the 50/50 and donated \$20 to the Chapter.

Treasurer Dan- excused.

Membership Roberta-111 members, we had one new member from the Rally.

Pr/Comm-vacant

Website Ron- Up to date with 3 new flyers to be added today.

Facebook Roberta-650 likes up 8 from last month. Rolling thunder received 166 likes, wind chart post got 441 likes, Biker Rally 2009 posts with Pic of Gene Roberts 209 likes.

Safety Ralph- Stay safe.

Newsletter Pat-Pat asked members to email him content for the newsletter. Ratt and Roberta will email him articles and minutes.

Products Terry-New price list from the State was given to Terry. We now have the new hats available for \$15.

Legislative- Ratt read the notes Bear took at the State Meeting.

Seminole Chapter is closing. We are pushing the bill for vulnerable users act. Get in touch with your Representative to

Continued next page—

support it. The state products will be coming out with a 20th anniversary patch and coin which will have to be pre-ordered. Lake county Abate will be running the campground for the Leesburg Bike fest April 23rd 24th and 25th. April 11th will be the state Meeting in Naples we need a volunteer. The Pinwheel ride in Citrus County ending at the Harley dealer, is that date also which we were invited to setup at. June 13th State Meeting is in St. Augustine We will need 2 members to attend as delegates to vote. The Lawsuit is going to arbitration in Palm Beach, Doc will attend these hearings. Doc stated if we lose we will be out of business. Abate was asked to support the anti profiling bill but we feel this is not a priority for Abate as only a few have been profiled.

Old Business- The Pinwheel ride is April 11th we will setup between 11:00 and 11:30 at Crystal River Harley. The motion that Roberta requested at the January Meeting to buy a picnic table for \$175. The questions brought up were answered and Pat made the motion to buy a table to donate to the Rally. Bob seconded it and all were in favor which is a form of advertising for the Chapter as well as sponsorship.

New Business- Roberta was given info about Bikers for Boobies inc. Which has a run in September which we were invited to setup at. Roberta will get hold of Diane who is in charge of the event to get more info to the chapter when it becomes available.

Good of the Order- nothing

Ratt motioned to end the meeting at 11:17 am, Terry 2nd and all were in favor.

Roberta Oldread

Freedom Chapter Secretary and Membership

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Motorman's Tips, Tricks, and Techniques – Riding with a Passenger

Sometimes what seems to me to be a very easy thing, others find to be the exact opposite and that's only because some people overthink such things and believe it can't be that simple.

I'm talking about riding a motorcycle with a passenger. You wouldn't believe all the questions I get on this subject. I'm going to lay it out right here in the easiest way possible.

Let's start with how the passenger should mount the bike. The simplest way I find is for the passenger to get on the bike first. Here's how it works. The passenger mounts from the high side, while the bike is on the kickstand. The passenger puts their right foot on the floorboard, swings the left leg over the tour pack and first sits on the rider's seat. Then, simply scoots up onto the passenger seat. The rider mounts the same way. Once both the rider and the passenger are seated on the bike, the passenger leans forward, close to the rider. The rider then turns the handlebars full lock right, and pushes the bike straight up and puts the kickstand up.

I use this method at my class as I often put students on their own bike and ride them through an exercise to show them what the bike feels like as it leans through the turns. Most of these riders are men in their fifty's and sixties and not very flexible. This method works perfect for me, try it.

I also get a lot of questions about what a passenger should and shouldn't do while on the bike. Again, I'll simplify it. When making tight, low speed turns, the passenger should scoot up close to the rider. This puts most of the weight in the center of the bike and makes maneuvering much easier. This also works well on winding roads even at higher speeds.

The passenger should NOT lean in the opposite direction of the rider. It's also a good idea for the passenger to inform the rider if they must adjust their position on the seat. (No sudden moves).

On the same subject for the rider, if you buy a new heavyweight touring bike like an HD Ultra, you may be tempted to put the wife on the back and take her for a ride as soon as you get home from the dealer. DON'T do it. Get used to the new bike on your own. Pull into a parking lot and practice your low speed skills before allowing a passenger on the bike. Practice your braking, then swerving and leaning and U-turns for at least an hour on your new ride. If you can't do any of these maneuvers by yourself, putting a passenger on the bike will only make things worse.

A little common sense goes a long way. Till next month, get out there and practice your skills.

Jerry "Motorman" Palladino

Therapy is
Expensive



Wind is
Free

I HATE BEING
SEXY
BUT I'M A
BIKER
SO I CAN'T HELP IT

ABATE OF FLORIDA, Inc.

FIGHTING FOR ALL BIKERS' RIGHTS



Abate & Freedom Chapter
Products
Chapter Patch.....\$ 12.00

T-shirts & Tank tops (mens
and Womens)..... \$20.00
Logo Stickers: Large...\$5.00
Medium....\$4.00
Small.....\$2.00
X-small.....\$1.00

Visit the state website at
abateflorida.com or call Ratt 352-584-
1278 for information or to purchase a product.

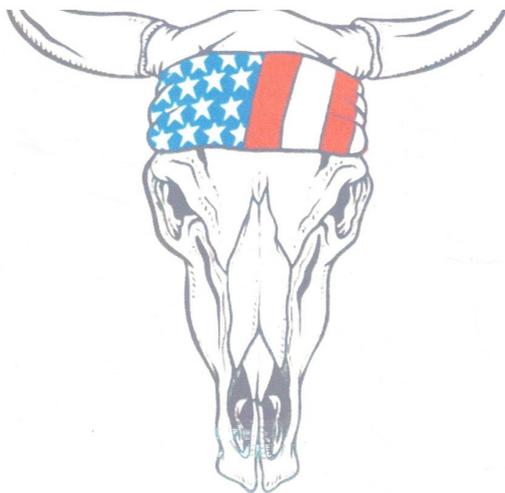


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Marker 48 2nd Wednesday 6-9pm

Brooksville Biker Rally

March 28th

April 18th

May 16th



3RD ANNUAL BIKERS C.A.R.E. PINWHEEL RUN



CHILDREN CAN'T STOP ABUSE - BUT TOGETHER, WE CAN!

SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2020

ESCORTED RIDE BY CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

REGISTRATION: 9AM – KSU 11:30AM

\$15 PER RIDER - \$10 PER PASSENGER



CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Some of ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s Accomplishments

- On July 1, 2000, we had the 30 year old Florida Helmet law repealed; July 1, 2010 was our 10th Anniversary of Freedom of Choice.
- We've become the 4th largest State Motorcycle Rights Organization (MRO) in the country (IN & IL are 1&2, we regularly switch for 3rd & 4th with PA).
- We got the handlebar heights law modified.
- We successfully fought a bill that would forbid our children from riding on our bikes.
- We successfully fought the bill that would confiscate motorcycles for going 30MPH over the speed limit.
- We developed an effective MSAP program that has raised motorist's perceptions and awareness of motorcycles, and have received funding from the State of FL totaling over \$750,000 to promote motorcycle safety and awareness.
- We successfully fought the bill against vertical tags that had over \$1,100 in fines for a first offense.
- Supported and fought for a texting-while-driving ban for the last few years.
- Our 2009-2010 Stiffer Penalties Bill made it through five of the FL House & Senate's committees; this is the farthest it has gone in the number of years we have tried. On the last day of session, a committee member strenuously attempted to attach a revival of the helmet law to our Bill. To avoid a new helmet law in Florida, we had to kill the Bill.
- We publish monthly Press Releases and/or Articles of Interest in many online & print publications, including Florida Full Throttle.
- The President of ABATE of Florida, Inc. has been asked to be on and currently sits as a member of The Motorcyclist Advisory Council (MAC) to the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, D.C. The Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation may appoint a representative from only two State MROs throughout the entire U.S.A. to be on this council.
- The President of ABATE of Florida, Inc. sits as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Collation of Motorcyclists (NCOM). NCOM has over 1000 member organizations.



Brooksville Biker Rally

How does ABATE accomplish it's goals—

ABATE OF FLORIDA INC is a non-profit grassroots political corporation composed of local chapters that have been organized by motorcyclists to promote a positive image through local, civic, charitable and benevolent causes, pooling resources for the common benefit of the members and promoting political awareness. ABATE exists to monitor legislation and testifies in your behalf during Senate and House hearings. ABATE collects, processes and exchanges information that may concern you or substantiate our views and places it in your hands through a newsletter or by other means of communication.

Who can Join ABATE and why?

Any individual 18 years or older interested in motorcycle rights, regardless of race sex or club affiliations. It doesn't matter what you ride or if you ride. To join ABATE ensures YOUR opinion on motorcycle laws will be heard.

Membership Benefits

As a member of ABATE you may receive discounts on products such as:

1. Motorcycle parts and accessories (from participating Dealers)
2. ABATE runs, events and functions.
3. Motorcycle safety school for endorsements on your Florida license.
4. You also receive a State and Chapter newsletter.
5. A \$4,000.00 Accidental Death and dismemberment Insurance Policy.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sponsored By: _____

Name (please print legibly): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Email Address: _____

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL AND NOT ELECTRONICALLY:

_____ YES _____ NO. SIGNATURE: _____

If member of more than one Chapter, please declare your home Chapter - _____

Check the box that applies to you:

- New Annual Membership (\$29.00)
- Life Membership ~~(\$29.00)~~ \$600.00
- Transfer Membership from _____
- Change of Membership Information
- Renewal Prime Member (\$20.00)

Ma

Mail completed form with payment
Freedom Chapter
Po Box 10013
Brooksville, Fla. 34603

All members receive with their paid membership card, our bi-monthly newsletter, the State ABATE bi-monthly Masterlink magazine, chapter voting privileges, and personal involvement in Statewide legislative actions and their freedom to ride.

Signature: _____

CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM

Old Information	
Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City:	_____ ST _____ ZIP _____
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New Information	
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The Goals & Purposes of ABATE—

To Print a newsletter to keep all bikers informed with regard to legislative actions and events around the State and Country—

To become a powerful and viable political force in legislative matters concerning all motorcyclists rights—

To provide a lobbyist to represent ABATE OF FLORIDA INC. on the State and national level—

To promote voter registration and motivate members to write their legislators—

To promote safe riding habits without infringing on individuals rights—

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To educate the public about motorcycle awareness—

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