



ABATE of North Idaho, Inc.



Eagle

Dedicated to Education, Awareness and Freedom of the Road

June/July 2006

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www.abateofnorthidaho.org

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Reminders!

- *State and Chapter meeting minutes can be downloaded and printed from our web site!*
- *Next State meeting is at noon, July 9th, 2006 in Moscow at the Sandpiper Grill.*



www.mrf.org

A Message from the Deputy Coordinator...

I know it has been quite some time since our last publication to the membership and I apologize. Things have been very hectic and until an official newsletter committee is formerly in place, this media might not be a regular scheduled item as we would like it to be. The internet has made the transmission of current, important and up to date information available to the members easier, but unfortunately everyone does not have access. For those that don't have the benefit of the *net*, it is important to stay in touch at the chapter level for all the latest information updates.

This newsletter article was nearing completion when I received news of the tragic and untimely death of one of members. *Marc (Mopar) Rogers* died after being hit by a logging truck while testing a motorcycle. Ironically, it happened right in front of his residence. I knew Marc since the inception of ANI as he was a charter member. We are all saddened by this tragedy and know that he is now in a better place. The memorial held in St. Maries on Sunday, June 25th was a fitting tribute to his passing and the procession through town had about 200 motorcycles participating in it. *Mopar* will be missed but never forgotten. Another member we lost within the last year was *Sue Linehan*, also from a tragic motorcycle accident. I met Sue when I traveled to Orofino, but never got the opportu-

nity to know her. She also will be missed and never forgotten by those that knew and loved her.

Two members lost in less than a year is just too much. As motorcyclists, we all know the dangers we face every time we ride. Increasing traffic and drivers that are less attentive while driving their vehicles are turning our roads into an obstacle course. One thing that has impacted our safety on the road is the use of cell phones. I experience drivers on cell phones every time I ride and in the last year have had 3 or 4 close calls

“We all need to get involved in promoting Motorcycle Awareness to the public and a good place to start is with the driver's education classes.”

with cars because drivers are yakking away and not paying attention to driving. Coming back from St. Maries to Post Falls last Sunday on I-90, I was tailgated in the fast lane at 75 mph by a driver on his cell phone. When I finally had a chance to move to the right, the driver gave me a sign, which I also returned. Immediately behind that car, a young gal, also going 75 was on her cell phone. I would love the opportunity to *educate* one of these drivers on the side of the road sometime! We all need to get involved in promoting *Motorcycle Awareness* to the public and a good place to start is with the driver's education classes.

Legislative Update—continued page 3



**Please...
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For information on ABATE of North Idaho, Inc. Run/Events please go to the *Run Calendar* on our web site at: www.abateofnorthidaho.org

In Memory of...

Before 11:00 on Sunday June 25 bikes started to arrive on the outskirts of St. Maries. By noon there were over 200 bikes, many of them carrying American flags, and a few cars were waiting to begin the parade in Mopar's honor. There were local police, sheriff and the State Trooper who was at the accident scene just a few days before. They all volunteered to be there. The cruiser in front sounded his siren and lights right at noon. The bikes roared to life. Mopar's bike lead the way followed by bikes, four a breast, as the entire main street of St Maries had been closed down in memory of Mopar. Moose (ANI State Coordinator) was in the first row with Mopar's Ole'lady Karen Bradis on the back of his bike, as was Les Burton (River Riders Chapter coordinator) packing Mary and Greg Lounsbury (River Riders Deputy Coordinator) packing Cindy. In the second row was Mopar's youngest daughter in a side car. The remaining officers of the *St. Joe Chapter River Riders Chapter* lead the pack.

As we proceeded down Main there were people lining both sides of the street. Some with chairs and there were lots of children waving. When the front of the pack reached the Loggers Memorial at the other end of town some of the bikes had just begun to move (according to the Starter at the start). The Loggers Memorial is an area which has been designated to honor the loggers killed in

the woods with all of their names listed. The town has spent a lot of volunteer hours so this can be a beautiful, special and spiritual place.

Pastor Norman Burch led a prayer and spoke about Mopar. There was a card hand delivered by townspeople to Karen and Amazing Grace was lead by three singers who invited everyone to join in. Les read a prayer reminding Mopar to get his bike shop started in heaven as we will need him when we get there. There was a family gathering at Cherry Bend Park, a BBQ and wake at Cindy and Greg Lounsbury's house up Cherry Creek. We aren't

“Mopar was and is our Brother and will be missed and loved forever.”

sure how many people came but Cindy said we went through 80 pounds of hamburger plus hotdogs and all of the dishes donated. Tears were shared by all, on the ride, at the memorial and in our

hearts. Mopar was and is our Brother and will be missed and loved forever. The local people I talked to were moved by the showing of love in our Biker/Chapter community. They said the windows on the Main Street businesses rattled even though I thought we were being pretty quiet considering how slow we were going and everyone was working on keeping their bikes alive. I only heard of two bikes that shut down. The local paper covered it and I will send more info today

Mary Burton

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Winter (Nov 1-May1)
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Everyone by now is aware of the passage of S1367, sponsored by Senator Mike Jorgenson (3) of Hayden Lake. This bill addressed the problem in our state and many across the nation, with stoplight signalization as it applies to motorcyclists. Everyone one of us has experienced waiting at a stoplight that doesn't change because the sensors in the pavement don't always detect the motorcycle. The problem seems most prevalent in light traffic situations, and after one or two cycles of the traffic signals, we usually proceed on through, hoping that the police are not *lying in wait* for motorcyclists running the red light.

Effective July 1, 2006 the new law will be implemented and will allow a motorcyclist to proceed with caution after one cycle of the signal failing to change. The language of the bill was drafted by Legislative Services in Boise and written to conform to the present code. This bill was also patterned after several other states that have already implemented such legislation.

Two Senators on the *Senate Transportation Committee* and two House Representatives on the *House Transportation and Defense Committee...all from North Idaho*, helped make this possible. *This was the right bill...at the right time...with the right legislators.* All that added up to a great success. The Senate passed S1367 28-2 and the House passed it

66-1. Idaho is officially only the 4th state in the nation to pass this type of legislation. The other states that preceded us with similar type legislation are Minnesota in 2002, Tennessee in 2003 and Arkansas in 2005. Wisconsin passed a similar bill shortly after Idaho. Ironically, Washington State has failed to get their stoplight bill through the complete process for the last two years, even though it passed their transportation committees.

A very important thing about passage of S1367 is that for the first time since ANI's existence, we have participated *hands on* in the legislative process in Idaho in *initiating, supporting and passing* positive legislation that affects all riders in this state. This was a true grass roots effort by all that participated and a good practice drill for our membership in dealing with legislation in our *Great State*.

I met with an Idaho Transportation Department Engineer about 12-13 years ago concerning this signalization problem for motorcyclists. Sensors in the pavement don't always recognize a motorcycle because we lack the mass of a larger vehicle. If the sensors are adjusted to recognize the motorcycle, then traffic in the corresponding lane may falsely trigger the sensor, causing problems in the flow of traffic. This new law simply makes it legal for us to do what we have been doing all along.

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Classifieds/Personals Free to members

For a limited time each paid advertisers business will be listed on our web site as an **ABATE of North Idaho, Inc. Business Supporter!**

To our advertisers:

Thank you!

The next scheduled ABATE of North Idaho, Inc. Motorcycle Awareness Program (MAP) class is:

July 20th, 6PM at the Harding Family Center 411 N 15th St. in CDA. This class will be presented by Dewain Hendren and River City Chapter.

All Occasion Bar-B-Q Catering.
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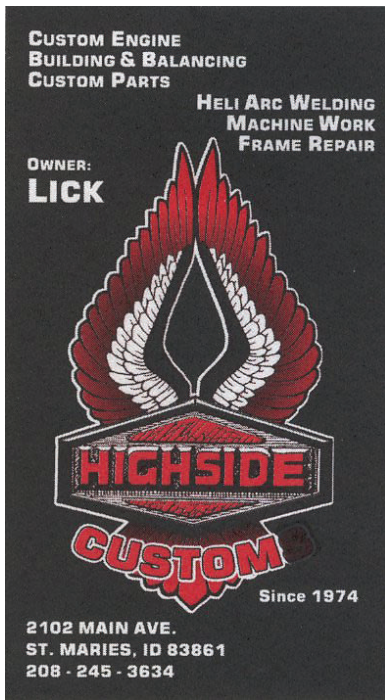
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A new system being implemented, those little cameras atop the poles, are supposed to correct problems with the in-ground sensors but many of us have also experienced instances where they are not 100% effective.

The local paper recently interviewed me regarding S1367 and also Senator Keough from Sandpoint who voted against this bill and a traffic engineer from the ITD that had some interesting comments. I submitted an article one week later to address their ridiculous comments about the new law and motorcyclists. We don't have the space here, but those articles are posted on the website and *you all need to go there and read it*. You will find it very interesting to read what *expert opinions* non-motorcyclists have!

UPCOMING NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

With State Officer nominations and elections not far away, everyone needs to be involved in this organization. According to our bylaws, nominees are required to submit their *resume* to the membership so all can read about their *qualifications and experience* which will further the goals of this organization. This information will be published both in a newsletter to the membership as well as being available on the website. I encourage all members to not only vote but to *feel free* to question the candidates about anything that may concern them. These people, once elected, will guide ANI for the next year and should be held accountable for its success as an SMRO.

TJ

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