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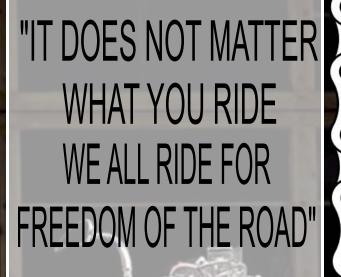
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The mission statement of ABATE of Ohio is to promote and defend motorcyclist's freedom, safety and awareness through education and legislation to make Ohio the best place to ride.

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ABATE of OHIO encourages all members to submit letters, articles or cartoons they feel may be of interest to fellow members.

ABATE of OHIO supports the rights of ALL motorcyclists,

ABATE of OHIO does not endorse any products or services other than its own.

# DISCIFILMED

The thoughts and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ABATE of OHIO board and it's members.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Ed Schetter

It is with a heavy heart that I'm writing this month. We lost Mike Stock. He was a Husband, Father, Grand-Father, Veteran, Freedom Fighter, Biker, Leader, Friend, Bourbon Drinker and many other things I could continue to list.

When I first met Mike he was active in Region 7 (Half of my home town is in Region 7 and half in Region 14.) I was able to serve with him on this Board of Dirctors for 20+ years. Mike and I shared many a conversation, discussion, argument or laugh depending on the situation. Many a time I got to hear that I was way over thinking something and to just keep it simple. You will be missed my friend.

We are all going to need to step up just a little to make up for the void left behind. Mike helped lead us though many of the changes that were needed for ABATE of Ohio. And now adjusting to ABATE without Mike's leadership is a change we need to make also.

I ask for your patience as we do this. Officer elections are in December and are most important. We have lost a lot of experience and for the record that is not an old joke.

Words are coming hard for me this month so I'll save the full on rambling for November when we can discuss Meeting of the Minds. That sounds like the recharge I need right now.

Ed Schetter Executive Director ABATE of Ohio, Inc.





Hi all,

Well we had a few obstacles in the road on the way to this year's Harley Giveaway but thanks to hard workers on the Foundation board we were able to pull off another successful raffle. I want to thank everyone in ABATE that bought and sold tickets throughout the great state of Ohio and beyond, without all of your hard work and efforts we wouldn't be able to pull this off every year.

A huge shout out and thank you to Carl and the crew at the Barrel House Saloon for letting us hold this year's raffle there after things fell apart at our original place.

Congratulations to Vince Carter from Dellroy, Ohio on winning this year's raffle bike, enjoy. Vince is an ABATE member from Region 8 and plans on keeping the bike. He bought the 6 tickets that were mailed to him and one of them was the winner.

The Foundation board has a lot to figure out over the next few months as to if we are going to keep the raffle going and if so where will we hold the drawing, we are open for suggestions so let us know A.S.A.P.

Once again thank you, one and all for all you've done to make this year's raffle the success it was. We will notify all of you about our plan next year right here and make all the big announcements at the Seminar in February.

Thank you again, Tim Cordray









# MRF Says Protect the Right to Repair

Congress has been on vacation for seven (7) weeks, but the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) never takes a vacation; we will not stop fighting for the rights of bikers.

In Sept., Kirk "Hardtail" Willard, President of the MRF, sent a letter to the Chairwoman of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce regarding "Right to Repair." In the letter, the MRF requested that H.R. 906, known as the REPAIR ACT, move out of committee and be considered by the full House of Representatives (letter below).

In November 2023, the Subcommittee on Innovation, Data and Commerce advanced the bill, yet eleven (11) months later, the bill remains stuck in limbo. Our freedom to repair, modify and work on our bikes is a fundamental part of who we are as bikers. The MRF will not stop fighting for bikers, aftermarket parts dealers and the independent shops that support our lifestyles. It is time Congress takes action!

# MRF Responds to NHTSA Survey

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) submitted comments to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on a proposed survey of biker's thoughts on motorcycle avoidance technology. The MRF submitted comments highlighting two areas of a proposed survey that we feel should not be ignored. First, we pointed out that any survey should be designed in a way that does not skew the questions or responses in a way that favors one outcome over another. The way a question is phrased can shape the nature of the response. The MRF and our members want true and unbiased results from any federally funded study. Secondly, the motorcycling community is not monolithic. As all members of the MRF

know, we represent a diverse set of viewpoints, demographics, riding history and several other factors that make us unique! Creating a survey incorporating as many perspectives as possible is the best way to understand what the millions of bikers in this country believe.

As a reminder, these comments only pertain to the proposed survey. However, we know that any survey results will likely be used to promote future policies that impact all of us.

The MRF will stay vigilant here in D.C.

Thank you for empowering us to remain the voice of our nation's street riders. Ride Safe and Ride Free.

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# **Motorcycle Riders Foundation**

P.O. Box 250, Highland, IL 62249 (202) 546-0983 / mrfoffice@mrf.org / www.mrf.org

September 5, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers Chairwoman, Energy and Commerce Committee United States House of Representatives 2188 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers:

On behalf of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), we urge you to use the few remaining legislative days in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to hold a markup hearing on H.R. 906, the REPAIR ACT.

The MRF provides leadership at the federal level for state motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington D.C. and beyond.

Last November we were encouraged by your leadership in supporting a markup of H.R. 906, held by the Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce. A legislative fix is vital to the motorcycling community, because motorcycles were not included in the previous industry negotiated memorandum of understanding.

Access to parts, tools and information needed to work on our motorcycles is a critical part of the motorcycling lifestyle. The nearly 10 million bikers in this country support countless shops, aftermarket suppliers and mechanics who make up the ecosystem of motorcycling in this country. Restrictions on who and how we can repair, modify and maintain our motorcycles cuts at the fabric of this uniquely American tradition.

We are pleased H.R. 906 has garnered support from 56 bipartisan cosponsors representing 29 different states and territories. This demonstrates the REPAIR ACT has wide political and geographic support and deserves to advance through the legislative process.





# **Motorcycle Riders Foundation**

P.O. Box 250, Highland, IL 62249 (202) 546-0983 / mrfoffice@mrf.org / www.mrf.org

We understand that the window for action in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress is rapidly closing. However, any action taken now will help build on the foundation of work accomplished over the last 20 months.

Thank you for your leadership on the Energy and Commerce Committee and your support for the motorcyclists of this country.

Sincerely,

Kirk R. Willard

July L. Wills

President, Chairman of the Board

Motorcycle Riders Foundation



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# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY CHECKLIST



# MAINTAINANCE

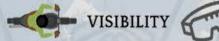
Always keep up with regular motorcycle maintenance. Change your gas, check your breaks, and inspect your tires, headlights, and turn signals before riding.



# RIDING SAFETY



Make sure to follow the speed limit and take caution when driving between lanes. Always anticipate drivers' next moves and avoid riding in the blind spots of vehicles around you.





Motorcycles themselves can be more difficult to spot while on the road. Wearing bright and reflective clothing and having the proper lights on your bike help drivers see you at all times.





Wearing a helmet is also one of the best ways to prevent fatal motorcycle accidents. Gloves and leather clothing can also prevent road rash in the event of an accident.











BIG NEWS: After a year and a half of work our ROW Bill......... HAS BEEN INTRODUCED in the Ohio House of Representatives. This has been a long time coming. ABATE of Ohio Inc. has been working on this for over 25 years. Legislation can move slowly sometimes. But we have to persevere if we want to enact change to support and protect our life style! you want to see or read more you can search for HB 653!

There are a couple of issues I have with the bill, but they are getting worked out. One problem is that the bill is listed as being sponsored by Representative Lorenz, which he did and was the lead on it. But Representative Lauren McNally had agreed to jointly sponsor this bill, and she wasn't listed. Just before writing this, I was informed there is a way they can add Rep. McNally as a joint sponsor and that is in the process. Now you may wonder why this is important. With politics being so partisan I believe it is important to show both sides of the aisle are for this bill right from the beginning.

Now I will be contacting representatives to get as many co-signers as possible.

# Write, call or e-mail your Ohio House Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor this bill.

I have already reached out to an Ohio State Senator to begin laying the groundwork for concurrent legislation in both chambers of the general assembly.

Now that this bill has been introduced, I have sent Representative Lorenz the proposal I prepared for consideration for an anti-profiling bill. I was informed today that the proposal is on his desk for him to look at.

With next year looming right around the corner and the new 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly session starting we will have to start all over again. It will be a lot easier to reintroduce HB 653, and we will still have to get the anti-profiling bill introduced. I will also be looking into starting work on a lane splitting bill. I was recently on the Ohio Turnpike and due to a very bad accident the turnpike was completely shut down. All traffic had to get off at one exit, causing a long traffic jam. I was forced to ride up thee shoulder to avoid overheating, which is completely illegal. Many other states have already passed such legislation and it is time for Ohio to do the same.

Your ABATE organization is working hard for you. Come find out what you can do to help.

Lion Man





# **Hello MRF Members & Future Members!**

It is an honor to be your MRF State Representative for Ohio. As you are reading this the MOTM or 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Minds (St. Louis) is in the books, and we are looking forward to Shreveport in 2025. I'll report to you in the November issue if I get Ohio in the top 10 New Members. Last year we were 9<sup>th</sup>, so I want to strive to do better. Need your help with that. We really need current members to renew as well. If you have any questions or issues regarding that <u>please</u> contact me. I will help you anyway I can. We don't want to lose you.

I worked really hard this year to change things up but I did not get out to all the Regions and I hope I can change that with what is remaining of this year and beginning of 2025. I really enjoy getting to the Region meetings to talk about the MRF and see what is going on in your region. Remember if you want me to speak at your meeting let me know. Just ask! Maybe if there is something specific that your members are concerned about, I can give a PowerPoint presentation. If you are a member of a Club or Organization I can speak there as well.

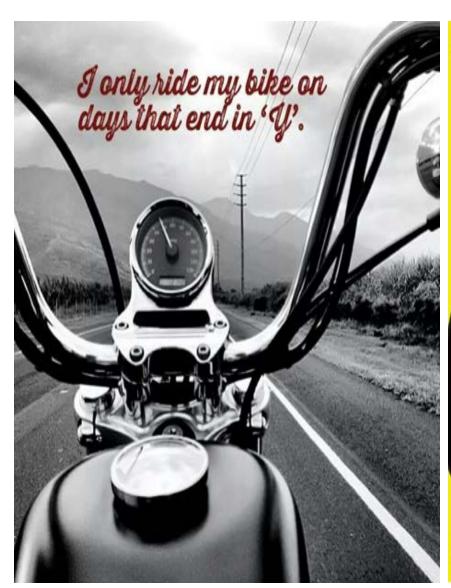
It was great to see the Vice President of the MRF, Jay Jackson who road all the way from his home in Indiana to Mike's Farewell get together. Abate of Michigan attended as well. If you don't get it that is what we are all about. We are all about caring for each motorcyclist across this great nation. Fighting for everyone's rights to ride what they want, where they want, when they want and what gear to wear. Abate and the MRF stand together on this platform.

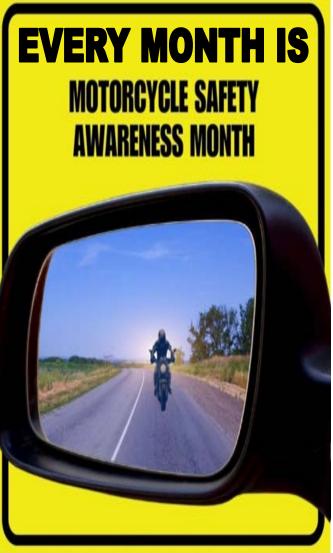
This is a short one this time as we all still are missing Mike Stock. He completely believed in the MRF and what we stand for. A past MRF Rep as well, he had a passion for our rights and fought hard for them. We will miss you!!!!!!

Please take the time to follow my MRF page on Facebook, I post all the latest news from the MRF as well as articles I think are pertinent to what is going on in the world today relating to all of us bikers. I'm also trying to post more on X, Instagram, and YouTube as well. So, follow me on those social media channels!

I urge you to join the MRF, just call me, email me, text me and we will get you all set up. It is worth your time and money!! If you sign up online, please write my name in "referred by".

In closing, be safe & educated!!!
Till November.....
Sherry Hill, Ohio MRF Rep
330-415-6272
shill.ohiomrf@gmail.com





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# GT GALLON, TAKACS



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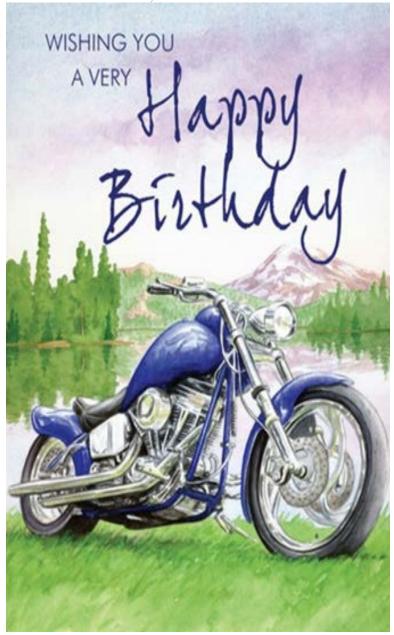
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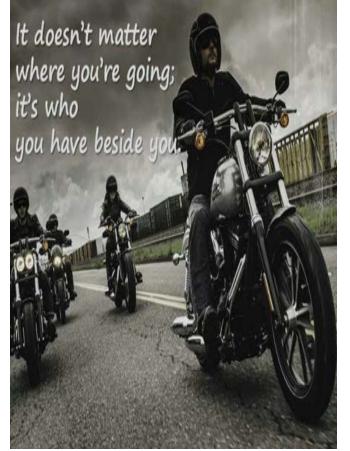






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# **Ask Our Lawyer**



by Rod Taylor - ABATE Legal Services

# SOMMER AWNING - THE ABATE AWNING COMPANY OF CHOICE

Here is the story. The awning at ABATE headquarters in Bargersville needed some freshening up. That is an exaggeration - the awning looked like hell. A simple call to Steve Sommer, owner of Sommer Awnings based in Indianapolis and a national awning company, was all it took to put that company to work for ABATE at no charge. Steve is a supporter of the MC course and a rider for many decades. He and his company wanted to

pitch in and make a difference. See the good work of Sommer Awning below. Thank you Steve and Sommer Awning.

# RIP MIKE STOCK

It is with great sorrow I report that long time mover and shaker, Mike Stock, has passed away. Mike was an avid motorcyclist and one of motorcycles' biggest advocates. Mike was not only Chairman of the Board to ABATE of Ohio, but he was also a member of the AMA, MRF, ABATE of Michigan, ABATE of Colorado, ABATE of Minnesota and ABATE of Wisconsin. To know Mike was an honor and he will truly be missed. Rest easy big guy.

### ALLEN FOUGHT THE LAW AND WON - HERE IS HOW

**Q.** Hello Rod. I have been an ABATE member for several years.

I just finished making a hazard report at Roadhazard.org of a condition I encountered for which I received a ticket. I was stopped at a stop sign and looked to the east, looked to west, and looked again to the east. It appeared to be clear, so I proceeded. This was a mistake, I should have stopped again 10-15 feet beyond the stop sign. From the East there is a fence, and tree overgrowth obstructing my view. Posted speed limit 25 MPH. The cop gave me a ticket for "failed to Yield / Stop intersection." My insurance person says no one will represent me because of the citation. Can you guide me?

- **A**. My response was along the lines of a previous article "How to deal with a traffic ticket that is wrong" which is about representing yourself regarding a traffic ticket. That advice is set out below and I am mindful of what Lincoln said about being your own lawyer:
- 1. List your facts chronologically.
- 2. Bring photos of the area and copies for the other side. Tell your story to the Judge as it happened and then push the quit button.

Armed with that information and direction to take several photos to show the court the obstruction blocking his view Allen presented himself on trial date before the court. When the court heard the evidence, the judge dismissed all charges against Allen. The point is: good guys with good facts, fairly presented, win.

# BEEN BITTEN BY A TAR SNAKE? CRACK SEALERS - LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY AND A REVISIT OF IMRE SZAUTER'S PAST EFFORTS

Q. "What's the legality of the use of tar strips used to seal cracks in asphalt? I'm curious because it seems that once it hits about 85 or 90 degrees, those strips become slick as ice and I've seen roads where little asphalt is left bare while the rest of the road is covered in those strips. I almost lost my bike on a corner with such." Submitted by ABATE Ohio Member

**A.** I remember it just like yesterday. It was hotter than hell as I turned onto U.S. 40 on my way to Ohio. New crack sealer everywhere. A state trooper was stopped in the opposite lane I was turning into, and I was heading right at him in my turn. Then it happened. I hit the gooey black stuff as I turned and went down hard. I remember putting my steel toed boots down and as I did that my foot plate hit the steel toe so hard that it bounced my bike upright. The image of the wide eyes of the cop are still with me and I felt like Evel Knievel. I had just dodged a mess that would have put me underneath a state trooper's car because of crack sealer. And now for an answer to Ed's question.

Years ago, Imre Szauter of the AMA did a yeoman's job in steering reason and good engineering in the right direction. I have included parts of his letter to the New York State Department of Transportation and its response.

### Mr. Szauter's letter to the State of New York:

"The American Motorcyclist Association is a 265,000-member-plus organization with an unparalleled history of pursuing, protecting, and promoting the interest of the world's largest and most dedicated group of motorcycle enthusiasts. Founded in 1924, the AMA exists to further the interests of American motorcyclists, while serving the needs of its members.

Our association was contacted recently by a member living in New York State. He indicated that "tar snakes", areas of road surface repaired with crack filler, have once again become a severe problem in parts of New York. He wrote that his wife was involved in a motorcycle crash as a result of losing traction on a series of tar snakes in a curve. Several of his friends have also reported traction problems this year.

In the past, investigations uncovered cases of misapplication or improper materials used on many state roads. Previous reminders to road crew supervisors and contractors that application of these materials present a hazard when not used according to the specifications have been effective in reducing dangerous areas for motorcyclists.

The New York Department of Transportation Assistant Commissioner & Chief Engineer, Michael J. Cuddy, P.I., wrote to our association in response to a letter from Sean Maher, AMA legislative affairs specialist, on this topic. I have enclosed a copy of Mr. Cuddy's letter for your reference.

I seek your assistance to bring this problem once again to the attention of all New York Department of Transportation Regional Directors. Stressing the importance of applying the correct materials per established engineering practices will reduce the danger to residents and visitors motorcycling in New York.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, I would be happy to address them."

# **New York Department of Transportation Response:**

"I am replying to your letter to Commissioner Boardman. Have significantly changed our crack sealing specifications due to the problems that we experienced around that time. Our new specifications only allow a two-inch wide, one to three millimeters thick overband of material centered over a crack. Additionally, no sealing of secondary or tertiary cracks is allowed. All crack sealing done by state forces or by Department contractors have conformed to these specifications.

The New York State Department of Transportation does not have jurisdiction over all the roads in New York State. Other jurisdictions include counties, towns, cities, villages, and certain authorities. We have done the best we can to inform all jurisdictions of the possible ramifications of sealing cracks using the traditional overband method (two inches wide and a maximum of one to three millimeters thick at the center, tapering to the edges), (emphasis added) but there may be a few that either didn't get the message or haven't implemented the new sealing guidelines. The Department made two presentations on the new sealing guidelines to the Town Highway Superintendents of New York at their annual meeting in Ithaca, NY.

We conducted crack sealing training sessions for all Department employees involved in crack sealing, both project selection and project inspection. Since that time, the proper procedure for crack sealing has been routinely included in training programs for newly appointed Department maintenance managers. We conducted formal training sessions at locations around the state concerning several pavement preventive maintenance techniques. Crack sealing was one of the treatments covered. At all these training sessions, we emphasize the importance of adhering to the current crack sealing specifications as both a safety issue and a performance requirement.

FROM ABATE LEGAL: As you can see Imre had been our watchdog on this issue for a long time. He has since retired, and we need to pick up where he left off. So, in this column, we will cover everything you ever wanted to know about cracks; to fill or not to fill; to seal or not to seal, so to speak.

# Remember- no more than 1-3 millimeters deep tapered to no more than 2 inches wide.

Anything beyond that is dangerous, so get out your measuring sticks, take cell phone photos --and report it to ROADHAZARD.ORG. Our mantra is, "MORE THAN THAT CAN KILL A BIKER".

# JUST A CURRENT REMINDER - NO WAITING ALL DAY FOR A RED LIGHT IN ILLINOIS

Just reminding you that Illinois provides motorcyclists relief from red lights that won't change. With this law, a biker can go through a red light after 2 minutes of waiting. Now, aggressive Barney Fife's in small town Illinois are out of business waiting on bikers to go through red lights that won't change. They will need to look elsewhere for revenues.

### AM I COVERED?

- **Q.** If an ABATE member donates the use of his/her property for an ABATE function and ABATE covers the property with a Certificate of Insurance, what if someone leaves the party intoxicated (adult or unknown minor) and is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death, is that homeowner covered? ABATE of Indiana member
- A. The ABATE policy should provide coverage for allegations of negligence and other coverages provided in the policy. Additionally, the ABATE member could have coverage under his homeowner policy for personal social events but check with your agent. The standard ABATE INSURANCE coverage for ABATE events will provide coverage for the ABATE member. The ABATE policy is needed because the homeowner insurance company may make an argument that the event is a business enterprise (not true) which may not be covered. The ABATE member should confirm with his agent that there is additional coverage under his homeowner's policy for the event. There are specific provisions for charitable events and volunteer activities, so we should tread carefully and confirm coverage. We know some insurance companies try to pull a fast one with fine print, and we do not want our members' assets and homes exposed to liability. Call me if in doubt. Rod

Ride Safe.

**Rod Taylor** 

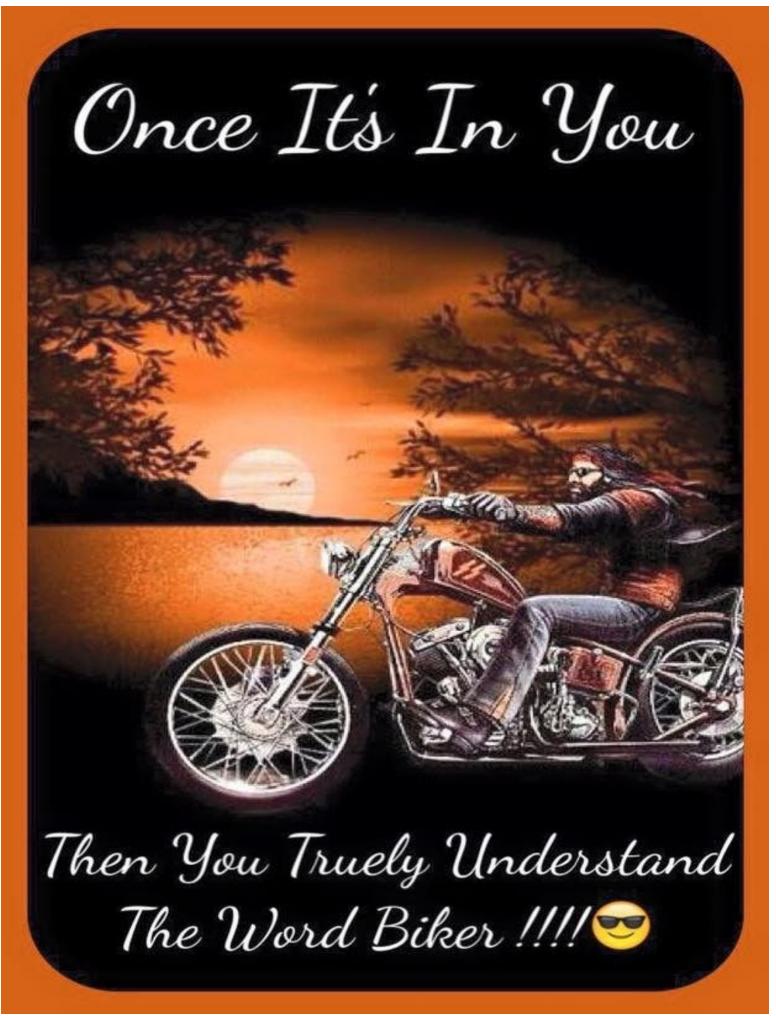
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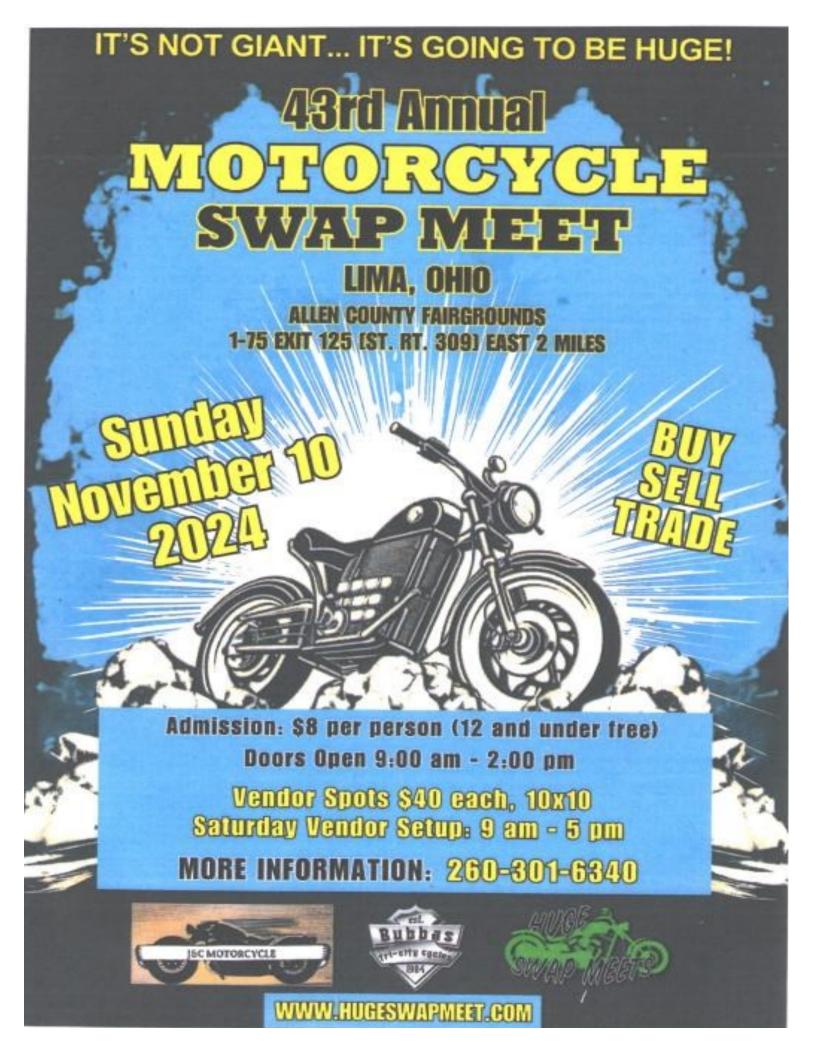
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- 1)... To initiate, endorse and sponsor educational programs such as rider safety, public awareness, legislative and affirmative action and, individual freedoms and rights.
- 2)... To create and promote a positive public image of motorcyclists and motorcycle groups and to dispel and disprove media hype, unfounded propaganda and the "Hollywood" image.
- 3)... To encourage goodwill and mutual understanding among motorcyclists, law enforcement personnel and the general public.
- 4)... To serve as an information source on matters pertaining to current laws, pending legislation, personal rights, political inclinations of elected officials and their constituents, and voter awareness.
- 5)... To act as a central responsive agency to devise and coordinate recreational, legislative, educational, and charitable activities



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### The MRF's primary goals include:

- Monitoring and influencing federal legislation for any impact on the motorcycling community at large
- Representing street motorcyclists by participating in federal research and advisory committees
- Protecting street motorcyclists from unfair or burden some federal agency restrictions and regulations
- Ending discrimination against street motorcyclists
- Providing all street motorcyclists with direction and information to protect their motorcycling rights
- Promoting motorcycling safety, training, education, licensing and public awareness on American roads



### WHO WE ARE

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation is the Nation's premiere motorcyclists' rights organization that is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. We are also committed to educating rights advocates to improve effectiveness at the state and local levels. The MRF works together with street motorcyclists, State Motorcyclists' Rights Organizations (SMROs), the motorcycle industry, the media and other organizations, assisting them with state and local agendas as well as working with them to influence action and policy in Washington, DC - from the Congress to government departments and agencies to the Office of the President of the United States. We also work with allies in Canada, Europe and Asia to influence talks on vehicle globalizationand harmonization that are proceeding under the United Nations and the World Health Organization.



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