

Greetings, Riding Friends! I hope all of you were able to spend an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family. As everyone is preparing for the Holidays, I encourage you to take part in the different Toy Runs being organized for those in need, including the Naysayers MC Toy Parade December 7, and the Tulsa and COD Toy Runs, both to be held December 14. I would like to express my thanks to those that attended our 18th Annual Veterans' Day Run to the Capitol November 11 and the NCOM Region 2 Conference in Austin TX November 14-16. Hopefully, all who took part had a great time socializing with fellow Motorcyclists and Trikers, as well as taking time to both honor our Military and expand your knowledge to defend Riding Liberty! I look forward to providing more detailed information and pictures regarding these two worthwhile and educational events in the next Biker Journal issue. The NCOM Conference is helping to lay the groundwork for the Thirtieth Annual NCOM Convention to be held in Denver, CO May 7-10, 2015. Obtain more information at: www.onabike.com and make plans to join riders from all over the Nation!

October 17-19 marked the 23rd Annual Mid-South Motorcyclists Improving Legislative Effectiveness (M.I.L.E.) Seminars. They were held this year in Wichita KS, with ABATE of Kansas being the host for this Five-State regional event. Representatives from the MRF, AMA, NCOM, and MAG-Belgium gave seminars. Almost two hundred riders got together to fellowship and attend informative presentations on such diverse topics as Federal and State Legislative issues, Women in Motorcycling, Veterans Rights and Benefits, Communications and Leadership Skills, Media Relations, and a host of other educational areas. The area's Harley dealership provided lunch, and Saturday's festivities concluded with a Banquet and Auction. Oklahoma's basket of locally made products fetched over 300 dollars. A number of folks from all over the state attended--there were even more Oklahomans than Texans this year! Next year will probably be a different story, since the 24th MILE will take place in the Lone Star State. Periodically log onto www.midsouthmile.org for information, and make plans to attend!

COD ABATE held its annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday, October 25 at the Tailgate Grill, amid unseasonably warm weather. We had ten contestants participate for trophies and cash prizes. Everyone showed up to cook their best submissions, and their wasn't a bad bowl in the bunch! Third Place went to Scott "Grill" Schulz for his Smoked Pork Chili; Josh Schulz took Second Place with a Chili crammed with Baby Back Ribs and Venison Sausage; and Jimmi Norman once again took First Prize with his amazing Chili Verde. With admission being five dollars for all you could eat, nobody left the event hungry! We had a sizable number of Door Prizes to give out, including some nice Saddle Bags, and Tuck from our Chapter won the 50/50. Oh yeah--Andy Hooper who owns the Tailgate submitted Jalapeño Cornbread Waffles to accompany his chili--they were AWESOME!! I can hardly wait for our Crock Pot Cookoff which we'll be hosting in April!

Tiger's Tip O' The Month: Since a significant percentage of our Community rides year-round, we need to adjust to a Winter-Riding mind-set. Double-check aspects of your bike more severely impacted by cold weather, such as your battery and tire pressure, and make sure your leathers are in good shape. Dress in layers, since Hypothermia can sneak up on you and slow down your reflexes when you need them most. Lastly, be sure to increase your margin of safety if the roads are slick, and your awareness of traffic that's certainly not expecting motorcycles out compared to warmer times of year!

As we bring 2014 to a close, I look forward to the New Year with a mixture of apprehension and anticipation. Our Riding Community has been faced with significant challenges this year, and a future lies ahead which will demand our creativity, resources and energies if we are to continue to enjoy Free Motorcycling as we know it. It's not right that Motorcyclists are treated as Second-Class Citizens, whether it involves Motorcycle-Only Checkpoints, inequities regarding Equal Access, or continued reinforcement of the Negative Biker Stereotype. so, we're going to have to redouble our efforts, and work together in an environment of Unity, Cooperation and Mutual Respect. I look forward to working closely with you as we embrace those challenges that confront us in 2015, as we prepare for the beginning of Oklahoma's Legislative Session and beyond. Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas, and for a bright and prosperous New Year! Take care of each other, continue to Ride Safely, Sober and Aware, and I'll see you down the Road!

Keep It On The Black Strip Between The Trees,
Tiger Mike