

# **TIGER TALES - JANUARY, 2014**

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I want to take this opportunity to wish a very Happy New Year to all my friends in the Riding Community. 2014 looks like it'll be shaping up to be an exciting year as ABATE seeks to improve Motorcycling Quality of Life! We'll be pursuing legislation which will hold irresponsible motorists who hurt or kill others more to account, as well as penalizing those uncaring drivers who don't carry Vehicle Insurance. I'm excited to see how our legislative strategy is going to shape up in advance of the Oklahoma SMILE and Biker Legislative Day scheduled for March!

Hopefully, all of you celebrated a joyous Holiday Season with family and friends, and that you took time out of your busy schedules to remember those less fortunate among us. It was great to see Motorcyclists of all backgrounds reaching out and collecting toys and food for underprivileged families, despite the long bout of extremely cold and icy weather in Oklahoma during late November and a good chunk of December! Our 22nd Annual COD Toy Parade was cancelled due to freezing rain in OKC, but around 40 still turned out to donate toys to Feed the Children and enjoy Biker Fellowship, good food and tasty beverages. It was also great to see so many of our ABATE Chapters and other Biker Groups hosting festive, Community-oriented events all throughout the late Fall, and it looked like they were successful in both helping others and advancing the Positive Image of Motorcycling.

Two worthwhile events took place in November which enhanced our Biker Community Outreach. Over 200 bikes participated in COD ABATE's 17th Annual Veterans' Day Run to the State Capitol, which has a new home. The American Legion Post #73 in Del City hosted breakfast before the Bike Parade, and put on a hot dog cookout afterward. Many thanks to Bus for organizing the parade route, to the OKC VA Medical Center for again allowing the bikes to cruise through their parking lot for the patients' benefit, and to all who turned out to support our Veterans! COD is looking forward to working with Post #73 on our Memorial Day Run in May. Around 200 attendees braved an assault of freezing rain, ice and snow Nov. 23 to attend the NCOM Region 2 Conference at the Biltmore Hotel in OKC. I'm very thankful to have Paul Landers of TMRA-II in Texas working together with me to represent Region 2 now, and we chaired the Rights Forum along with leaders from the different Confederations of Clubs present. Guest Speakers also included Double-D and Twitch of the Washington COC, who were significant in getting Anti-Profiling Legislation passed in their state; Sharon Cancel from Georgia who discussed Sport Bike Community issues; and NCOM Attorneys Bill Smith and Joey Lester who spoke on Constitutional Rights topics. It was also good to see Tony Shepherd, lobbyist for ABATE for Missouri there, where the campaign continues to obtain Biker Freedom of Choice. The stage is now set for the 29th Annual NCOM Convention May 8-11 in Dallas, where Oklahoma Biker Magazine will receive the Silver Spoke Award in Media and the OK US Defenders and COIR are receiving a Special Award for Six Months of Tornado Disaster Relief Efforts. Stand by for more information!

Tiger's Tip O' The Month: Some of you who are putting your bikes up for a long winter's nap should take advantage of the time to evaluate parts that need replacing, like tires and batteries, in

advance of your spring bike trip plans. Getting a Battery Tender to keep your current battery on trickle charge can be cost-effective compared to routinely spending big bucks for a new one every year. The winter is always a great time to start planning your next road adventure, so start checking out sites like the American Motorcyclist Association's at: [www.ama-cycle.org](http://www.ama-cycle.org). It also might be a good idea to make an early reservation for the Experienced Rider Course and hone your skills if you haven't done so in awhile.

As I bring this to a close for another month, I want to thank all of you in COD and all the ABATE Chapters who worked so hard last year to advance the cause of Riding Freedom in our State and Nationwide. I'm confident that ABATE's spirit and diligence is going to carry over into the New Year. In that vein, I want to congratulate our COD Officers for 2014: Vice President Scott Schulz, Secretary Adam Skinner, Treasurer Amos Tallbear, Sgts-at-Arms Jim Allison, Jerry Church and Mark Buskirk, and Chapter Reps "Bus" and Steve Antel. Since our membership re-elected me President, I very much look forward to us working together to make our Motorcyclists Rights Organization even better as we continue to serve riders of all backgrounds!

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