

TIGER TALES - JULY, 2014

Greetings to all of our Riding Community, in the Sooner State and everywhere! I hope all of you are getting ready to enjoy a Happy Independence Day, and are staying safe amid the 101 Critical Days of Summer, which extend to Labor Day Weekend. As I write this, our area has thankfully put the colder weather behind us, and Oklahoma is finally getting some rain after experiencing a stretch of hot, dry weather which has generated a high risk for Wildfires. Unfortunately, several areas in our state, including Logan County just north of Oklahoma City, experienced a serious brushfire that ended up burning down several homes, killing one person. One of our COD ABATE Members lost part of her property, including her motorcycle. Fortunately, she's safe--we can replace stuff, but we can't replace good people. Hang in there, Vicky--we're glad everything's going to be okay!

It was great to see a number of our Oklahoma Motorcycling Community, including ABATE Members, at the 29th Annual NCOM Convention in Dallas TX May 8-11. Over a thousand riders attended, representing most major and minor motorcycling clubs and organizations. Participants took part in a wide array of educational, informative seminars addressing a number of important topics. Ironically, the representative from the Veterans' Administration didn't show up for our Veterans Affairs session, sparking a lot of response from upset Bikers who have had problems securing their benefits and had questions. The Convention was held just when the latest VA Scandal broke, so attendees' concerns were timely! Oklahoma was well-represented at the Silver Spoke Awards Banquet, where Darrell and Cheryl Briggs received the award in Media for Oklahoma Biker Magazine, and Monte "Stick" Keiner accepted a Special Award on behalf of the Oklahoma Confederation of Clubs member groups for Tornado Disaster Relief efforts conducted from May-December, 2013, particularly at Camp Iron Horse near Bethel Acres. Anyone interested in taking part in next year's Convention is cordially invited to Denver, CO May 7-10, 2015 for the Thirtieth Annual!

Heartfelt thanks to all who participated in COD ABATE's 22nd Annual War Memorial Run to the Oklahoma State Capitol on Memorial Day, May 26. With America remembering the Seventieth Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy June 6, it was especially fitting that we pause to honor our Military who have made the Supreme Sacrifice for our Freedom. The American Legion Post #73 in Del City started things off with a delicious, reasonably priced breakfast, and over 200 bikes braved threatening weather to turn out and join them. Members of Del City's Finest, Oklahoma City's Finest, and Oklahoma County's Finest supported the Bike Parade with a Police Escort, and more riders attended the Memorial Day Services than any other group, as the names were read of thousands of Oklahoma War Dead throughout history. Vice-Admiral McLain was the Keynote Speaker, and he stood in Dress Whites saluting the entire Biker Contingent. VADM McClain is a Native Oklahoman and a Naval Aviator who flew with the Blue Angels. After the Ceremonies, riders headed back to the Legion Post for a Hot Dog Cookout and fellowship. I hope all who can will join us again November 11 for our annual Veterans' Day Run to the Capitol, where we'll again pay tribute to all in America's Armed Forces!

TIGER'S TIP O' THE MONTH: I saw a bumper sticker recently which said: "YES, THIS IS MY PICKUP TRUCK; NO, I WON'T HELP YOU MOVE!" Saturday is moving day in Oklahoma, especially in Summer, and riders have to routinely Share the Road with Distracted Drivers hauling unsecured loads. One of our Confederation of Clubs Members, Loner Shiner, was a fatality victim of just

such a situation in Oklahoma City last month. Be especially aware of lost household items or furniture in the roadways as you enjoy your weekend riding, and be prepared for motorists so preoccupied with moving that they can't stay in their lane or check their mirrors for other vehicles!

As I wrap this up and get ready for another Birthday on July 15 (another year older and deeper in debt!), I want to thank everyone who participated in our Memorial Poker Run held for Danny "Bulldog" Vires May 17. The family was unable to purchase Danny's Headstone yet, so our Riding Community decided to lend a hand. Our target goal was 900 dollars, but we ended up raising over 1,300, and a nice Headstone was purchased. The Vires Family extends their gratitude, and motorcyclists are planning to get together with them at Danny's graveside soon. Ride Free Forever, Bulldog! Before I close, I'd like to ask everyone to remember "Stick" Keiner in your thoughts and prayers. He developed a Bone Infection while working at Camp Iron Horse, and had surgery in June to remove part of his left foot. He's still recovering, so we in ABATE look forward to seeing him back on the Road in the near future. Enjoy your Fourth of July, and remember the powerful words of our Declaration of Independence--our Liberty was bought with a Price! Ride Safely, Sober and Aware, and I'll cross paths with you again during the August Heat Wave!

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