

## TIGER TALES - NOVEMBER 2014

Howdy, Motorcycling Friends! I hope all of you enjoyed a Happy Halloween, dodged all those Ghosts and Goblins, and got your Sweet Tooth satisfied. I can't believe that Christmas decorations have been on sale for so long already, but that's the "Business Plan" I guess. Let's just not forget the Reason for the Season! So many festive and important occasions have taken place in our Riding Community already, and I'll have more detailed information to provide you next month. For now, I want to express my gratitude for those who joined us at the 23rd Annual Mid-South MILE Seminars October 17-19 in Wichita, KS, and to those that are planning to attend our COD ABATE Veterans' Day Run to the State Capitol November 11, and the NCOM Region 2 Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Austin, TX November 14-16. These events greatly enhance our political effectiveness with our elected officials, and educate us as to issues which could impact the future of Free Motorcycling as we know it. TWO members of the Texas State Legislature have signed on to open the Conference as Keynote Speakers, so PLEASE make plans to attend!

I need to profusely thank all those ABATE Members, led by Mike Scholten, who put in so much effort to make our Freedom Fighter Rally September 19-21 in Perkins/Stillwater such a success. I couldn't show up until late Friday Night due to my work schedule, but everything was going full blast by the time I got there. I'm glad I got one of those VIP Passes, which turned out to be a really great deal considering what you got (including a Rally T-Shirt!) The Tree House Tavern property is excellent for camping, and the owners are very hospitable folks! We enjoyed one of our best Friday Night crowds ever, and I was amazed at the quality of the live music all weekend-every one of the bands played high-quality music that was perfect for the event, in my opinion. The VIP areas by the Tavern and alongside the Main Stage were awesome places to relax, enjoy a frosty beverage, and take in the music and the crowd. There were lots of vendors (including our own Pinkie, who was busy sewing patches the entire time), and the games and activities were lots of fun. I really appreciated the able assistance of "EVO" Steve and Bus with the People Games-there were a bunch of attendees who stepped up and took part in the enthusiastic competition for award plaques in six different games. If it got too hot, there were plenty of shade trees, and you could hang out in the air-conditioned Tavern and watch some College Football! Everyone seemed to have a great time, and lots of us I know are very much looking forward to taking part next year. I'd like also to convey COD's appreciation for dedicating this year's Rally to the Memory of "Ripper" Bailey-that was Righteous. He always enjoyed having a great time at ABATE events, and would've had a ball at this one!

Tiger's Tip O' The Month: "Chill November brings the Blast; sends the Leaves go whirling past!" That rhyme should remind us of the fact that severe crosswinds can make it tough to stay in a traffic lane, especially if large vehicles are passing you. Be prepared to respond, and don't lose control. Also, rainy weather will be increasing, and the combination of wet roads and Autumn Leaves can be treacherous, especially at low speed when you're headed around corners. Stay aware!

In closing, I want to recognize the passing of Paul Revere from his band The Raiders, who left us October 5 at the age of 76. I used to take a lot of ribbing from my elementary school classmates in the 60s, being a Revere and growing up amid the heyday of The Raiders' monster hits. While on active duty in the Philippines in the mid-80s, I got to see him playing his '65 Mustang keyboard while on a USO Tour, and years later, while ABATE State Coordinator, I was able to get Bryan Harley-Davidson to host him and his band on one of his periodic Rides Across America to raise money for national Veterans Support Centers. Paul appreciated the things Americans hold dear, including our Military, Motorcycles and Rock n' Roll, and I'll miss him very much. Ride Free Forever, Paul Revere! I'd like to wish every one of our Military a Happy Veterans' Day, and I hope all of you out there enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving with family, friends and loved ones. Remember to give thanks for those in our Armed Forces that place themselves in harm's way around the world to safeguard our Freedom. Take care of each other, Ride Safely, Sober and Aware, and I'll check in with you again as we get ready for the Christmas Holidays-Ho, Ho, Ho!!

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