

Hello, Friends--I hope this finds all of you having a good week. I have a little catching up to do, so here is my April Tiger Tales I forgot to send out, and I'm attaching a copy of our COD ABATE War Memorial Run Flyer for the Memorial Day Bike Parade coming up May 28. Stay safe out there during Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month, and I look forward to seeing anybody who's headed to the NCOM Convention this week. In Freedom, Tiger Mike

TIGER TALES – APRIL, 2012

Greetings to all my riding friends out there! Let's celebrate jumping whole-hog, so to speak, into the Spring Riding Season. This season started much earlier than expected with us experiencing one of the warmest Oklahoma winters on record! Sadly, the unseasonable weather was accompanied by numerous Severe Storms and tornadoes across the country, with numerous deaths and injuries. My heart and prayers go out to the victims and their families. That said, Severe Weather Season will be in full force here in the Sooner State, so make sure your precautions are in place. It might even be a good idea to have a Full-Face Helmet to wear in your bathtub or Safe Room! As I write this, we are experiencing some high velocity straight line winds in Oklahoma, which can cause damage all by themselves. Be careful out there!

I want to pause briefly to remember John "Houndog" McLaughlin and his family in thought and prayer. Houndog died recently of Liver Cancer, and is sorely missed by his many friends among Oklahoma's Riding Community. He and his wife Tracey were editors and publishers of Thunder Roads Oklahoma Magazine, and I was privileged to submit ABATE Updates to them for many years. John was a fun-loving guy who was passionate about Motorcycling Liberty, and Thunder Roads then as now was firmly behind ABATE and its Charter Goals. I was proud to count him as my friend-Ride Free Forever, Houndog!

Those ABATE Members working on their Freedom Fighter Spur Award will be in for a treat when they plan to attend an Oklahoma Confederation of Clubs Meeting these days. The March 4 OK COC Meeting held in Del City was highlighted by the admission of FOURTEEN new clubs and organizations, and over 400 motorcyclists and trikers attended the standing-room only event at American Legion Post #73. Another high point of the meeting included presentation of 500 dollars in cash and a large amount of non-perishable food to the OKC and Tulsa Food Banks, both of which work very hard to ensure that Sooner State kids don't go hungry. We in ABATE are very lucky to be part of the Confederation, and I'm honored to have served on the OK COC Board for as long as I have. Like ABATE, the OK COC is committed to enhancing the Positive Image of Motorcycling in our state, and safeguarding Biker Liberty Nationwide. The next Confederation meeting is planned for Sunday, May 6, starting 1:00PM at the American Legion Post on Admiral Pl. of Garnett Rd. in Tulsa. Check out www.okcoc.net and make plans to attend!

Many thanks to all who attended the 21st Annual ABATE Biker Legislative Day Monday, March 5 at the State Capitol. You'll find further coverage of this key event in the Biker Journal. Sadly, I was unable to attend for the first time other than when I was deployed with the USAF for Desert Storm and when I was assigned to Korea, but it was great to see that so many turned out to interact with their legislators. A number of bills ABATE is interested in will be explained by Legislative Coordinator John Pierce, so keep abreast of developments by checking out the ABATE Website at: www.abateofoklahoma.org I'm especially interested in a proposal to add

Grossly Negligent Homicide to Oklahoma State Law. This evolved out of a Policeman's being killed on his motorcycle in Southeast Oklahoma by a Negligent Driver. With no alcohol or drugs being involved, he could only be charged with a misdemeanor, whereupon he skipped bail and fled to Texas. Under this bill, Felony Grossly Negligent Homicide could be charged which would increase the penalties FIVEFOLD, and allow Law Enforcement to pursue the offender across state lines. This could represent significant legislation for those who believe in the adage: "KILL A BIKER; GO TO JAIL!" ABATE will provide an update on this and other legislative issues when possible.

On the National Scene, LB52, Nebraska's Freedom of Choice Bill regarding Helmet Wear for adult riders, was coming up for discussion by their unicameral State Senate. ABATE of Nebraska, which is in NCOM Region 2 as we are, issued a Nationwide Call To Action to contact the Transportation Committee by March 7, so it could be voted out of committee and presented to the entire Legislature. We haven't heard any results yet, so stand by for news here, and on the ABATE of Nebraska website at www.abateofne.com.

It would be fantastic if we could celebrate Nebraska Helmet Freedom at the upcoming 27th Annual National Coalition of Motorcyclists Convention May 10-13 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, IN. We'll be enjoying four full days of educational, informative seminars with riders from all backgrounds interacting together in an atmosphere of Unity, Cooperation and Respect. If you believe in Riding Liberty, you need to be there! You can download and print a Pre-Registration form and event flyer at the NCOM Website, www.aimncom.com Over 1,500 motorcyclists from all over the world will be planning to attend, so register early and commit to being part of Biker History! Speaking of NCOM, I'm very interested in pursuing a Veterans' Outreach Program both in the OK COC and with NCOM on a National Scale. With so many returnees from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars (many of whom are Bikers) suffering from numerous maladies and needing VA assistance, it's critical that we help take care of our own. Dave Zien, former Wisconsin State Senator, Vietnam Vet and member of the NCOM Legislative Task Force, has expressed an interest to get involved. This type of "Vets helping Vets" approach has tremendous potential for good, so I'll make sure to keep you updated!

TIGER'S TIP O' THE MONTH: With Severe Weather season approaching, Oklahoma's infamous crosswinds can wreak havoc on motorcyclists who don't Ride Aware. Be sure to check the weather advisories before you head out, and anticipate where you might encounter crosswinds, as on Interstates in open country. Lean appropriately to avoid crossing into another lane when hit by strong gusts, and watch out for four-wheelers that aren't paying attention and could cross into yours, especially high-profile vehicles like Big-Rigs!

Well, it's time to wrap this submission up for now, folks. I'm cordially inviting all who can to attend ABATE Central OK District's 21st Annual War Memorial Run to the State Capitol Veterans' Memorial Park on Monday, May 28, 2012. As usual, the Bike Parade will be leaving out of the Skyline Restaurant parking lot promptly at 10:20AM. We'll publish a detailed event flyer next month, so please make plans to honor our Military who made the Supreme Sacrifice for our Freedom! As I close, I want to mention that the NCOM Convention features the ringing of the Memorial Bell to pay tribute to the passing of members of our Motorcycling Family since Mid-May of last year. If you have the name of a departed loved one that you'd like to have

honored at the NCOM Convention, please contact me at: tigermike7@cox.net and I'll make sure to have it included, as I've been faithful to do in the past. You can bet that Hounddog is one of the first names I'll bring forward! Take care of each other, Ride Free and Safely, and I look forward to visiting with you next month!

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