

TIGER TALES – AUGUST, 2012

Greetings, Motorcycling Friends! I'm sure everyone is coping with the Dog Days of Summer by now, since we've experienced a LOT of 100-Degree Days since June! As you're getting ready for the Sturgis Bike Rally, be sure to stay hydrated and eat Potassium-rich foods to avoid muscle cramps. Remember also if you're headed through Nebraska that various Law Enforcement agencies are going to set up Helmet Enforcement Checkpoints to make sure riders are wearing DOT-Compliant Helmets. If you're not, you can be held up until you get one, and your bike could even be towed. Forewarned is Forearmed!

If you're looking to stop by a COD Meeting sometime, we have a new gathering place: at Denny's Restaurant on I-240 Service Rd. just east of S. Penn. We meet the second Thursday of every month at 7:00PM. I'm pleased to announce that after many years of intending to achieve this goal, ABATE Central OK District is now incorporated, and we're pursuing 501(c-3) status. Many thanks to our COD Members, especially Ruby Doo our Treasurer, for coordinating on getting this process completed. I'm confident these developments will help improve both our Chapter's Community Outreach and Political Effectiveness. Tallbear, our Chapter Webmaster, has been doing a great job with our Chapter Website, so keep informed as to what we're planning by checking out: www.codabate.org <<http://www.codabate.org/>> and our ABATE COD Inc. Facebook Page.

One of our events that went very well was COD's 4th of July Bike Show and Bikini Contest held at Margarita Island in Oklahoma City. Despite the oppressive heat, a sizeable number of beautiful motorcycles and trikes were entered, and a goodly number of beautiful ladies took part as well. Everyone had lots of fun, and all twelve pages of the upcoming ABATE COD 2013 Calendar will be filled with both pictures and sponsor advertising. The Calendar is scheduled for release in October, so I'll keep you updated as to further developments. We also signed up a few more new ABATE Members, which I always feel makes for a successful event. For now, I want to give my heartfelt thanks to our COD Members who helped with logistics, to Margarita Island for their hospitality, and especially to our Riding Community and the lovely ladies for their participation! It was also a good opportunity to remember the sacrifice of those heroic Americans who helped us get through 236 Birthdays, from our Founding Fathers to our Armed Forces.

I headed up to the OK Confederation of Clubs General Meeting at the Elks Lodge in beautiful downtown Miami, OK July 8, and well over 200 riders braved a very hot day to show up. It was a relatively short meeting for a change, but a lot of valuable information was covered, particularly regarding the passage of the Federal Highway Funding Bill by Congress, which is going to authorize more SAFETEA-LU money for our state's Rider Safety and Share the Road Programs. You can log onto www.mrf.org <<http://www.mrf.org/>> to read more detailed information on the bill. Unfortunately, Freedom of Choice bills are officially dead in Nebraska and Missouri for this year, but Rights Activists in both those states are going to give it another go in 2013. ABATE of Oklahoma is starting to formulate legislative strategy for the 2013 Session, so interact with your Chapter Reps on what you'd like to see brought forward! We're also going to focus on Biker Political Effectiveness at two key upcoming events: the Mid-South M.I.L.E. Motorcycling Rights Seminars October 26-28 in Fayetteville Arkansas; and the NCOM Region 2 Conference in Dallas, TX November 16-17. Both of these occasions will include a sizeable number of educational and informative sessions, as well as affording the opportunity to socialize with like-minded Freedom Fighters from across the Country. Check out www.midsouthmile.org

<<http://www.midsouthmile.org/>> and www.aimncom.com <<http://www.aimncom.com/>> to download and print event flyers and Pre-Registration forms, and Meeting Agendas will be published shortly.

TIGER'S TIP O' THE MONTH: Motorcycle Profiling continues to plague our Riding Community throughout the Nation, in fact if not by law. Either way, that doesn't make it right. A motorcycle or trike is a legitimate alternative means of transportation, and riding one doesn't give Law Enforcement the right to harass or intimidate you, and trample upon your Constitutional Freedom as an American. So, remember these three important points: First, NEVER allow search of your vehicle with no probable cause. Second, if you're not under arrest, politely request that you'd like to depart immediately. Third, if you ARE under arrest, IMMEDIATELY exercise your Right to Remain Silent and request an Attorney! These are your established Constitutional Rights, and riding a Motorcycle or trike does NOT make you a Second-Class Citizen!

Hopefully, everyone was able to get out and vote in the June Oklahoma Primaries. Remember the adage: When you Vote, the Choice is Yours; If you Don't, the Choice is THEIRS! In closing, I want to mention that I attended Betty Lankford's funeral last month in Del City after she passed away at age 78. Miss Betty was owner of the Skyline restaurant for many years, having purchased it after working her way up from being a waitress there. She was an astute businesswoman, and always was nice and friendly to the Motorcycling Community. The Skyline served as home to both the ABATE Central OK District and ABATE of Oklahoma's State Board for many years. She leaves behind many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and I wish for her family the Lord's Peace which passes all Understanding. Have a good rest of the Summer, continue to Ride Safely, Sober and Aware, and I'll look forward to us ushering in Autumn as we close out the 101 Critical Days of Summer with a festive Labor Day Weekend. See you in September!

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