

Greetings to my Riding friends! I hope all of you are staying warm in the middle of some of the coldest weather we have experienced in Oklahoma in quite a while. One can always hope that we will again enjoy spring like temperatures in the near future, since everyone knows that if you do not like Oklahoma Weather, just wait a few minutes and it'll change! This time of year is a great time for Chili, and ABATE's Central Oklahoma District is hosting a Super Bowl Chili Cook-off Sunday, February 2 at Margarita Island on NW 10th west of Council Rd. In OKC. We will start serving at 3PM, and it is only five bucks for all you can eat. We have some outstanding chili cooks in our neck of the woods, so come on out and join us. Oh yeah--there will be some Football to watch as well!

I headed to Tulsa January 5 in the middle of blistering cold and right after more snow and ice to attend the Oklahoma Confederation of Clubs Meeting. It was gratifying to see over 250 attendees brave the bad driving conditions to get together at the Hall Of Fame Bar on Admiral Pl., which is a very hospitable, Biker-Friendly establishment. We were joined again by NCOM Attorney Joey Lester, who briefed us on plans to advance a Civil Rights Lawsuit regarding Bikers being harassed at the Oklahoma State Fair, where a non-advertised No Colors policy was enforced. We also reinforced the importance of attending ABATE's Biker Legislative Day at the State House in March, where we'll again pursue reduced Turnpike Tolls for Motorcycles, further legislation penalizing those driving without Vehicle Insurance, and the need to strengthen Juggers' Law holding drivers who hurt or kill others to account. It's also important not to forget Calls to Action on HR1861 prohibiting Federal Funding for Motorcycle-Only Checkpoints, and Federal Legislation regarding use of E15 Ethanol and Black Box Data employment from Motor Vehicles. Periodically check www.mrf.org for news releases!

We were also joined by several law partners from Foshee and Yaffe in OKC, which the OKCOC is going to interact with regarding local legal issues such as Workman's Comp and Criminal Law. One of their partners, Chris Kannady, is a Marine still serving in the Reserves. He's also a Motorcyclist, and is a candidate for State Representative from Southwest OKC. They are excited about working more closely with our Riding Community. I was able to pass out Oklahoma SMILE flyers, and talk to our upcoming event now that it's been rescheduled for March. There is a lot of Biker interest among the OKCOC Groups in attending the seminars conducted by SMRO guests from across the Nation. I'm definitely excited about a lot of educational and informative information being shared! Be sure to print a flyer at www.abateofoklahoma.org

TIGER'S TIP O' THE MONTH: We are currently in the grip of some record-setting cold weather, in our state and Nationwide. It is easy sometimes to consider yourself indestructible, but wind chill and hypothermia are the biggest challenges in motorcycling this time of year. Exposed skin can freeze in a matter of minutes, and frostbite can damage the extremities as the body tries to preserve core temperature. So, dress in layers, use leather to maximum advantage as a wind-cutter, and consider such high-tech options as Polar-Tech gloves and headgear and even heating elements. It is also a great time of year for hot food and drinks, but remember that alcohol will not keep your body warm but will impart a false sense of security--and NEVER Drink and Ride!

As I wrap this up for another month, I want to mention that the AWACS Wing at Tinker just dedicated its Main Auditorium in honor of SSgt Daniel Fannin, one of our AWACS surveillance crew members who re-trained into Intelligence and was killed in Afghanistan last year. He was a fine young man who I was honored to know, and was a credit to his family, unit and Country. He's one of many that our Motorcycling Community will pay tribute to at our annual ABATE Memorial Day Run to the State Capitol this coming May 26. Please make plans to attend! Before I close, I want to mention that COD is giving away an installed below the ground Storm Shelter for your home, worth over \$5,000. The winner will be announced the middle of April and you DON'T have to be present to win! Tickets are only Five Bucks and can be obtained from any Chapter Officer. Take care of each other, hold your Sweetheart close this Valentine's Day, and continue to Ride Safely, Sober and Aware. I'll look forward to seeing you at the Oklahoma SMILE this coming March 7-9!

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