

TIGER TALES – JUNE, 2012

Howdy to all my Riding Family in Oklahoma and elsewhere! I hope all of you were able to take some time out of your busy schedules to do something to promote Motorcycling Safety and Awareness in your area. Remember the old adage: “All Politics is Local”! We need to do what we can in our immediate areas to get the motoring public to Look Twice for Bikes- especially when, statistically, the most dangerous part of every ride is within five minutes of your destination! I’d like to enthusiastically thank Governor Mary Fallin’s office for again issuing its Proclamation designating May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in Oklahoma. Among other promotional activities, you might have noticed those “Share the Road-Watch Out for Motorcyclists” electronic billboards around our busiest metropolitan areas. It sure was nice to see those billboards displayed in Oklahoma City on the way to the OK Confederation of Clubs Meeting May 6, and to see the same type billboards lit up in Tulsa on the way back in the afternoon! As those Billboards make Bikers feel welcome, so also do Biker-Friendly Establishments like Margarita Island, where COD has supported several Poker Runs, and the Tailgate Grill, where we host a “Coffee Break” Biker get-together the third Sunday of every month. We’re soon going to print up ABATE-Supporting Business window stickers for establishments to display. That way, our Riding Community can patronize those businesses that support our lifestyle!

Many thanks to everybody who was able to attend the 27th Annual NCOM Convention held May 10-13 at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in Indianapolis, IN. I’ll have more definitive information to provide on how the Convention went in the July issue, but it’s gratifying to see these events continue to get larger and better! Many thanks to ABATE of Indiana and the Indiana Confederation of Clubs for being such gracious hosts. This year’s event was a celebration of Michigan’s passing their bill repealing the Mandatory Universal Helmet Law on April 13. You have to carry a minimum of \$10,000 Personal Injury Protection, but Michigan’s adult riders now have Freedom of Choice! Sadly, it looks like Missouri’s bill is going to die in their House Transportation Committee, but LB52 repealing the Helmet Law is still alive in Nebraska. Let’s keep our fingers crossed for our fellow Freedom Fighters in the Cornhusker State!

Close to 400 Bikers joined in at May’s OK COC Meeting, and a lot of valuable information was exchanged. We are truly blessed to have so many folks in the Sooner State passionately involved in defending Motorcyclists’ Rights and Lifestyles. I’ve been honored to serve as Confederation Liaison for almost 15 years, and all the Board Members are dedicated to the cause of Riding Liberty. John Pierce, our Legislative Coordinator, provided an update on the Governor’s signing the Patriot Guard Riders Procession Act making it illegal to cut into Military Funeral Processions. He also addressed the bills providing reduced Turnpike Fees for Motorcycles and allowing MSF Course Completion for license “M” Endorsements, as well as defeat of a bill requiring \$10,000 to ride Helmet-Free in our state. Malvado Bob, our U.S. Defenders Commander, gave us an update on National Issues, which you can read about at: www.usdefenders.org Incidentally, Bob and a couple of ABATE folks toured the OK Fusion Center Office in OKC in March, who assured us that they don’t collect data on private citizens. Workers were busily updating

their computerized database while interacting with visiting Bikers, so I'm not convinced- especially after seeing what's going on in other states!

Here are a couple of important events to put on your calendars. The 21st Annual Mid-South M.I.L.E. Political Effectiveness Seminars will be held October 26-28 at the Clarion Hotel in Fayetteville, AR, an absolutely beautiful part of the Country to ride in! A number of ABATE Folks will be presenting, including John Pierce and yours truly. You can obtain more information and download a Pre-Registration form at: www.midsouthmile.org I also just got word that the NCOM Region 2 Conference is scheduled for November 17 in DeSoto TX., and will be hosted by the combined Texas Confederations of Clubs. This 6-State Regional event is going to be educational and informative, as well as a fun time, and I'll provide more information as I get it. PLEASE make plans to attend both occasions!

Tiger's Tip O' The Month: One of the burdens Bikers cope with in our state involves encountering far too much ROAD DEBRIS! A study by the AAA Foundation has determined that junk on America's roadways causes at least 25,000 wrecks and more than 80 deaths a year. Accidents resulting from the debris averages out to about 68 per day. Oklahoma, which probably won't surprise anyone, ranks FIFTH in the Nation for fatal crashes caused by road debris! Be especially careful out there, particularly on weekends when everyone is moving their stuff!

Before I wrap this up, I want to thank everybody who was able to attend COD ABATE's Twentieth Annual War Memorial Run to the State Capitol on May 28. I'll come up with more details next month, but it's hard to believe that this Bike Parade featuring hundreds of attendees evolved out of just a few riders looking for a way to honor our Military that made the Supreme Sacrifice, simply because it was the right thing to do! It certainly emphasizes the need for our Biker Community to get more involved in defending the Rights and Benefits of America's Veterans. You can expect more action in that regard from NCOM and our Confederations of Clubs, that's for sure! I'd like to pass along best wishes to everyone for a Happy Independence Day this July 4 as we pause to remember how our Founding Fathers pledged their "Lives, Fortunes and Sacred Honor" to establish this Nation conceived in Liberty. I also hope there'll be someone around to help me celebrate my 60th Birthday on the 15th! Where does the time go? I'm sure glad I have such special folks in our Riding Community to spend time with-it helps keep me young at heart! Take care of each other, and continue to Ride Safely, Sober and Aware. Motorcycling Safety and Awareness is a Way of Life-an aspect of our culture that we emphasize every day, and not just in May! I'll look forward to visiting with you next month!

Keep It On The Black Strip Between The Trees,

Tiger Mike