

TIGER TALES - MAY, 2014

Greetings to all my Riding Friends! As I write this, I'm feeling very inspired by a large number of my fellow Oklahomans, including many from our Riding Community, who turned out April 5-5 to counter demonstrators from the Westboro Baptist Cult when they turned their hateful attention to the Plaza Towers School in Moore, which lost seven students killed in the May 20, 2013 tornado. The loss of their spiritual leader Fred Phelps has only served to escalate their insane attempts to disrupt and divide, but Oklahoma City area riders refused to tolerate their antics, and basically ran them off! Many thanks to all those who stepped forward to make an emphatic Oklahoma Values statement for Community, Honor, and Respect--you proved that God really does love Oklahoma!

It was great to have a good turnout of Motorcyclists of all backgrounds take part in ABATE's annual Biker Legislative Day March 18. The twenty-second annual event afforded us the opportunity to schedule some time to network with our elected officials on issues meaningful to us, especially those concerns which will enhance Motorcycling Quality of Life. Our bill which could reduce Turnpike Tolls for Motorcyclists is still alive, so hopefully we'll have something to celebrate next month after the 2014 Legislative Session concludes. Many thanks to all those ABATE Members who donated their time to plan, organize and volunteer at the event, and to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to attend--your efforts directly contribute to making Oklahoma the BEST State in which to Ride!

We'll have opportunity to celebrate Quality Motorcycling on a National Scale as we gather May 8-11 for the 29th Annual National Coalition Of Motorcyclists Convention at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dallas, TX. Over a thousand riders from all over the Nation will be assembling to take part in educational and informative seminars and presentations designed to expand our rider knowledge base on legislative and judicial, and cultural affairs. I'm particularly excited about attending the Veterans Affairs Seminar dealing with items affecting Military and Veteran members of our Riding Community. The NCOM Convention topics will directly impact how effectively we defend Free Motorcycling in the future, so PLEASE make plans to attend! The Worldwide Patch Holders Meeting on Friday is a dramatic get-together of the many different clubs and organizations to discuss issues affecting all motorcyclists in an environment of Unity, Cooperation and Respect. Saturday Night's Silver Spoke Awards Banquet will honor, among others, Darrell and Cheryl Briggs of Oklahoma Biker Magazine for Media, and the Oklahoma US Defenders and C.O.I.R. are receiving a Special Award for Oklahoma Disaster Relief efforts conducted May-December, 2013. There are still hotel rooms available, so check out www.aimncom.com for a Pre-Registration Form. See you there!

Tiger's Tip O' The Month: I hope a number of you were able to secure May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month Proclamations in your individual municipalities. The importance of focusing on the primary task of driving your vehicle was emphatically driven home recently in Midwest City with dash-cam footage of a Midwest City Police Officer barely escaping with his life as his cruiser was crushed by a motorist talking on her cell phone. Distracted Drivers put us all at risk, even in the Spring when we expect more drivers to look out for Motorcyclists as more of us take to the Road. We as Motorcyclists cannot afford to ride distracted either. ALL motorists need to be more attentive, during Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month and throughout the year!

As I get ready to close out this article for another month, I want to remind all of you that May 26 is Memorial Day, and we as Americans will have another opportunity to honor the memory of our American Military who gave their All for Freedom. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that we went through the entire month of March without a single Combat Death, even though our hearts and prayers go out to those who lost loved ones during the Ft. Hood shootings. Whether you are able to head to Washington DC for Rolling Thunder or you're spending a relaxing weekend with family, remember that so many of our Armed Forces "Gave of their Tomorrows, so we might enjoy

Liberty Today"! In that vein, ABATE's Central Oklahoma District is hosting its 22nd Annual War Memorial Run to the State Capitol May 26, leaving 10:20AM from American Legion Post #73 in Del City with a Police-escorted Bike Parade. All are welcome to attend, and the Legion Post is hosting a free Hot Dog Cookout for attendees after the Memorial Day ceremonies. If you can, take some time to read the names of the thousands of Oklahomans who gave their lives, from the Spanish-American War to Afghanistan. Take care of each other, Ride Safely, Sober and Aware, and I'll touch base with you again as we get ready for Summer!

Keep It On The Black Strip Between The Trees

Tiger Mike