

Tiger Tales – September, 2012

Hello to our Riding Community as we get ready to close out the 101 Critical Days Of Summer with the Labor Day Weekend! Over the last month, we've experienced a number of serious Oklahoma Wildfires which have killed and injured people, and burned thousands of acres. Some of them have been suspected to have been started on purpose. I hope none of our ABATE Family has been affected by this tragedy, and I pray daily for the welfare of the victimized families and for our heroic firefighters. Hopefully, we'll have cooler and wetter weather arriving soon to lower the wildfire threat in our state. You folks who got the chance to make it to Sturgis for the Black Hills Rally probably experienced better weather, as well as some of the best motorcycling in the Country! Me, I had to work, so I spent time watching the Good Ol' USA kick butt in the Olympics after getting back from my Tennessee trip to visit the parents. Boy, they sure have some fine roads to ride over there! I was able to head up to Tahlequah the day after I got back for the ABATE of Oklahoma Presidents' Conference, where our Chapter Presidents got together to discuss issues critical to the future of our Motorcycling Rights Organization. With the level of dedication, leadership and commitment exhibited by your Chapter Presidents, I'm confident that our overall Organization is in good hands, and will continue to progress for the betterment of everyone!

For those not aware, Oklahoma Confederation of Clubs Presidents Meeting alternates every other month with the Confederation's General Meeting. Outlaw Butch 1%er has been doing a terrific job working with club and association presidents and other leaders to foster an atmosphere of unity, cooperation and respect to make things better for all riders regardless of background. Butch is also a Veteran, and our Confederation is working on Veterans' Outreach issues to support our Motorcycling Community with Armed Forces backgrounds. We'd like to function as an information clearinghouse and assistance network for Military Bikers. After advocating that the National Coalition of Motorcyclists address this topic on the National level, I've been asked to serve as Chairman of an NCOM Veterans' Outreach Committee, which I've humbly agreed to do. I'm very much aware that I can't accomplish much on my own, and that we need to work together to make things better for our Military and Veteran Bikers. I look forward to working closely with anybody out there who can provide assistance and advice. We'll be talking more about this issue at COC Meetings and upcoming NCOM Conferences in preparation for the 2013 NCOM Convention, so stand by for news! You can obtain more information on our OK Confederation and on NCOM by checking out www.okcoc.net and www.aimncom.com

If you're casting about for something fun and educational to do this month, you might consider attending the MRF's annual Meeting of the Minds Motorcycling Rights Conference taking place September 20-23 in Durham, North Carolina. This worthwhile event brings together freedom Fighters from all over the country, and ABATE of Oklahoma has been well-represented in the past. The Host Organization, CBA/ABATE NC, are a fine bunch of folks that includes some of my dearest friends, and of course there's some of the best riding to be had anywhere, including Taming the Dragon! Go to www.mrf.org for more information.

Closer to home, ABATE of Oklahoma's annual Party on the Plains will take place in Enid, OK October 5-7, and is one of the most fun Bike Rallies in the state. It'll feature Bike Games, People Games (which COD is sponsoring), a Bike Show, Tattoo Contest, Observation Poker Run, 50/50 Drawings, Door Prizes, Vendors of all types and Live Music featuring the Stinnett Brothers and the Zen Okies. It's always been a fantastic opportunity to get together with your ABATE Brothers and Sisters for the weekend in a relaxed, Freedom-loving atmosphere with no attitudes. Make plans to attend, and tell your friends-I'll be looking for you! You can download and print an event flyer on the State Website at:

www.abateofoklahoma.org On the political front, I'm getting ready to attend the final planning session for the 21st annual Mid-South Motorcyclists Improving Legislative Effectiveness (M.I.L.E.) Seminars scheduled for October 26-28 at the Clarion Inn in Fayetteville, Arkansas. This is going to be a terrific weekend for sharing valuable information and educating ourselves on a multitude of varied topics, featuring representatives from Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas, as well as the MRF, NCOM and AMA. South Dakota State Senator Jim Putnam will host a seminar, with yours truly giving a presentation as well. You can print out a Pre-Registration Form at: www.midsouthmile.org Come on out to the beautiful Western Arkansas Mountains and join us! I can't forget to mention the NCOM Region 2 Conference taking place November 17 in Dallas, TX. This six-state regional event will feature a number of informative seminars, as well as a multi-state Confederation of Clubs get-together. Over a thousand Bikers attended this one two years ago, so it's definitely an event you won't want to miss. Check out: www.aimncom.com and www.dfwrally.com for event flyers and more information. We'll also be posting a Conference Agenda as soon as it's finalized.

As you can see, we have a number of educational and fun things to do as we slide into Autumn, both in Oklahoma and elsewhere! Something else that our Central OK District hosts every third Sunday of the month is a "Coffee Break" where folks can get together and have a few laughs at the Tailgate Sports Grill on North MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. Andy, the owner who's one of our Chapter Members, is very Biker-Friendly, and makes a pretty tasty Philly Cheese Steak or Reuben Sandwich. Anyone is cordially invited, so make plans to join us sometime. Also, get ready for COD's release of our 2013 Bikes and Babes Calendar in October-I think you'll get a real kick out of it! Before closing, I want to wish a fond farewell to Mark "Bus" Buskirk and his better half, Ruby-Doo, who are relocating to Pennsylvania. They've diligently served ABATE and the Central OK District in a number of valuable positions. Heartfelt thanks for your many contributions, and for your vigorous defense of Riding Liberty. You'll be sorely missed, and we'll always consider you part of the family! Well, it's time to run-thanks for listening, continue to Ride Free and Safely, and we'll cross paths again as we get ready for Halloween!

Keep It On The Black Strip Between The Trees,

Tiger Mike