

# DIXIE ABATE OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #2 FOR 2011

OCTOBER 17, 2011

## DIXIE ABATE SPLITS INTO TWO REGIONS

We have been blessed with energetic and passionate riders in the south part of the state, so we are pleased to announce the birth of Dixie ABATE South!

Most states' ABATE organizations are split into several regions, chapters, or even counties, but that takes several years to organize, and Alabama's ABATE is only a couple of years old, so we've simply been state-wide since our inception.

We can be more visible now, and as our numbers grow, we can better understand what riders in Alabama want for themselves.

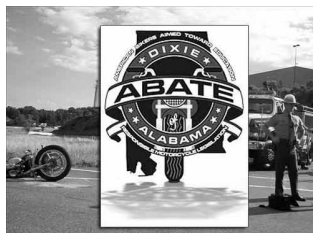
We've been working on our by-laws (see article elsewhere in this issue), to

make them suit our specific organization better. Alabama has lagged behind most other states in getting its own ABATE going, which is both good and bad. Good, because we don't have to reinvent the wheel. The leadership in other states is generally very willing to help us out and give us pointers. Bad, because ABATE has been started a couple of other times in the past, but hasn't succeeded. Plenty of riders in the state remember that, and just turn their head and walk past our table with a sneer when we're set up at a rally.

The only way to win those skeptics is to keep on pushing, and show them it's for

real this time. We have a great head of steam going into 2012!

We meet at Burnout's, 7151 AL 158, Eight-Mile, AL, 36613-4503, at 2 PM on November 19th.



Membership forms are available on our website at <http://www.dixieabate.org/memOnline.html>.

Riders lined up at Mt. Cheaha HD, at the start of the Cheaha Scenic Ride, before the Rumble on Noble



## PASSENGER TICKETED IN NORTHPORT

A member's wife got a ticket late this summer in Northport, Alabama, for wearing a novelty helmet.

Alabama's law does not specifically state the necessity for a DOT sticker on your helmet, but the judge sided with the officer who issued the ticket, and the passenger paid the fine

and court costs, which was more than she would have had to pay if she would have just pled guilty at the outset.

The upshot of this is: a judge can interpret the law and make his interpretation stick.

There has been much discussion of this situation on our Facebook page. Look us up.

## DIXIE ABATE'S PRIORITIES NOW:

- *Officer elections are coming up for 2012 officers of both regions.*
- *Work on securing federal and private grants to fund our awareness campaigns.*
- *Establish two-way communication with our legislators well in advance of the 2012 legislative session.*
- *Bring our organizational documents up to date.*
- *Keep Dixie ABATE's name in front of riders and drivers everywhere.*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NEW REGIONS	1
HELMET TICKET	1
PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES	2
RUMBLE'S RESEARCH	2
DIXIE ABATE IN MOBILE NOV. 19	2
TAGS FOR DISABLED VETS	2

**COME TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DIXIE ABATE IF YOU ARE IN THE MOBILE AREA ON NOVEMBER 19, 2011.**

**IT'S AT THE RALLY FOR R4R AT BURN-OUTS, AT 2 PM**

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**Single membership is \$20.00 per year; \$30.00 for a couple.**

**PLAN NOW TO RIDE TO THE CAPITOL WITH DIXIE ABATE ON APRIL 28, 2012**



**TAKE A SKILLS CLASS. IT WON'T KILL YOU.**

**IN FACT, IT MIGHT SAVE YOUR LIFE.**

## PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES FOR DISCUSSION

The board had an impromptu meeting at the Dixie ABATE table at the Barbers Vintage Festival on October 8th. We discussed several changes to the by-laws that we needed to make.

1. Remove the requirement to post proposed bylaws changes in Full Throttle magazine. The reason for this change is that all readers of Full Throttle are not necessarily Dixie ABATE members, and information

related to our organizational documents is only the business of paid members.

2. Re-write Regions / Counties to read Regions / Chapters. This is simply a change in semantics to match the way Dixie ABATE is structured in Alabama.
3. Take the webmaster off the state board of directors, since he does not live in Alabama.

4. Re-write the rules for the handling of funds between the statewide organization and the regional organizations.
5. Eliminate the offices of Executive Director and Deputy State Director and replace them with State Director and Assistant State Director.



## RESEARCH DONE BY VICKIE RUMBLE, SUPER SLEUTH

Vickie Rumble has been sifting through reams of data, regulations, and requirements, trying to crunch numbers enough to get us a good cabinet of statistics that we can use to apply for grant funding. There is a long list of requirements to meet before we can qualify for any money. It is a long range program, and she has already begun it.

She has teased impaired rider statistics out of the DOT for the years 2008, 2009, and 2010. She's working on a proposal for Governor Robert Bentley to establish a Motorcycle Safety Council. She has begun a dialog with ABATE leaders in other states to see how they are structured to best qualify for available money.

Grant packages have to be submitted by August of each year for the following year.

Vickie's findings will be detailed in future newsletters, and will add links to them on the main website as well.

**\*\*\*\*DIXIE ABATE\*\*\*\***

**COVERING DIXIE LIKE THE DEW**

## MOTORCYCLE TAGS FOR DISABLED VETS

Disabled tags for motorcycles are available now, but you can't buy a tag that says "Disabled Veteran" like you can for a car.

According to Dave Reid, Vice Charirman of the Confederation of Clubs, "We've gotten handicap tags and antique tags without having to go through the legislature, and I'm working on getting disabled vet tags the same way ..but it's through the back door. It took hard work to get the personalized tags through the

legislature - and some bending of the truth.....we convinced the committees that "at least half of the motorcycle owners would get personalized tags", which equated to several million extra dollars.....and they passed the legislation. Only 400+ got them the first year. "

Reid continued, "1. DV tags for motorcycles are NOT available this year.

2. When they are (hopefully next year), Disabled Veterans will be able to obtain them by either:

a. being 50% or more VA disabled and paying \$5 for each and every one they get OR

b. being under 50% VA disabled, getting the first one for free, and by paying the regular fee for any additional ones they want.

They will all say Disabled Veteran, just as they do now, but will be motorcycle sized."

Reid is a frequent contributor to our Facebook group discussions. If you have a Facebook account, join us. Look for Dixie ABATE of Alabama.