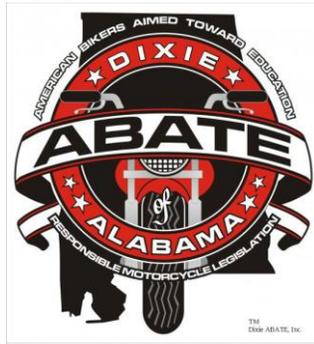


DIXIE ABATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Matthew Schroeder: State Director
Shane Coker: Assistant State Director
Larry Lindsey: Education Director
Gene Powell: Legislative Director
Kris Cook: Secretary/Treasurer

Address:
612 32nd Street South, #206
Birmingham, AL 35233
For information: 205-617-9944



www.dixieabate.org

NORTHEAST REGION, NOCCALULA
FALLS CHAPTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

James "Ghost" Johnson, Director
Shane Coker, Secretary/Treasurer
Garland Medlock, Assistant Chapter Director

EAST CENTRAL REGION, TRI-COUNTY
CHAPTER (Montgomery area)

Steve Barclay, Director
Ashley Tolson, Assistant Director
Myrtle Livingston, Treasurer
Larry Holton, Sergeant-at-Arms

MEETING NOTES: 12/10/2016: Original Oyster House, Spanish Fort, Alabama

In attendance:

Kris Cook
Matthew Schroeder
Shane Coker
Rodney Green
Gee Jay Jones
Momma Kat Zimmer
Larry Lindsey
Neil Bruyn
Fran Bruyn

Matt opened the meeting at 3:20.

We discussed the legislation situation on Alabama, and reminded everyone that our first organized legislative day is March 8, 2017, which is on a Wednesday. But we need to be in Montgomery as much as we can, separately and together.

We won't have a Ride to the Capitol this year.

Gene's friend Randy Wood is Homeland Security chair this year.

We discussed the federal anti-profiling resolution.

We discussed E-15, referencing a 12/1/16 release by Megan Ekstrom, of the MRF, which is copied here:

December 1, 2016

EPA Finalizes 2017 Volume Requirements for Ethanol

WASHINGTON, DC – Last week, the EPA quietly published the 2017 volume requirements and associated percentage standards under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program passed into law by Congress several years ago. The law requires oil companies to blend increasing volumes of renewable fuels like ethanol with gasoline and diesel. Under the law, the EPA has the authority to designate volume requirements, which according to the 2007 law passed by Congress must reach 36 billion gallons by the year 2022. However, the law does provide the EPA with some authority to lower the annual volumes as circumstances warrant.

The 2017 requirements were published just days before the Thanksgiving holiday. Every year, the EPA adjusts the amount of renewable fuel it requires oil refiners to pump into the nation's gas supply. After initially signaling lower renewable fuel goals, the agency reversed course. According to the EPA Press Release, total renewable fuel volumes grew by 1.2 billion gallons from 2016 to 2017, a 6 percent increase. Ethanol enthusiasts were quick to praise the EPA. Senator Joni Ernst, a Republican from the corn-producing state of Iowa, released a statement saying this:

"I am pleased the EPA has finally listened to the American people as well as the comments my colleagues and I have pushed forward, and set the final volume requirements for conventional biofuels for 2017 at appropriate and congressionally approved levels. The RFS

is critical in reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and provides consumers with choices at the pump. Most importantly, it spurs investment and research in renewable fuels and supports our rural economy in Iowa.”

Critics of the RFS program were not shy to voice their opinion on the EPA announcement. The American Petroleum Institute called the increase “irresponsible” and a bad deal for the American consumer and again called for repeal or significant reform. The American Petroleum Institute represents the oil and natural gas industry in Washington,DC.

The U.S. Congressional Energy and Commerce Committee which has jurisdiction over the issue released a statement signed by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), Energy and Power Subcommittee Vice Chairman Pete Olson (R-TX), and Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Chairman John Shimkus (R-IL). The statement indicated that they still believed the “right balance” needed to found on the issue of ethanol, but they praised EPA for meeting its statutory deadlines set forth in the 2007 law and vowed to continue to monitor the issue going forward.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF)and other consumers of small-engine motors continue to have concerns about the effects of higher blends of ethanol in gasoline and the potential to cause severe damage to their bikes. The MRF is working with stakeholders on both sides of the ethanol debate to negotiate common sense alternatives that would allow the RFS program to continue while keeping in mind the interests of the American street biker.

The EPA press release can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/renewable-fuel-standard-program/final-renewable-fuel-standards-2017-and-biomass-based-diesel-volume>

About Motorcycle Riders Foundation

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states’ motorcyclists’ rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond.

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Rodney reminded us that E-10 causes the plastic tanks with nylon to expand and break off the bike. It also eats up hoses, seals, gaskets, and the primer bulb on your small gas engines. It turns into green jelly when it sits.

We talked about talking to Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby and Mo Brooks about the anti-profiling resolution.

We discussed the council on autonomous vehicles, which has Ric Mellon on it. Ric is an authority on transportation systems and a member of the MRF. Information from the MRF below:

November 3, 2016

Motorcycle Riders Foundation Nominates Ric Mellon to Serve on Recently Formed Advisory Committee on Self-Driving Vehicles

WASHINGTON, DC - In October, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced a new federal Advisory Committee on Automation in Transportation. The primary purpose of the Committee, known as ACAT, will be to assess DoT’s current research, policy and regulatory abilities to advance the safe and effective use of autonomous vehicles. More specifically, the Committee will gather information and present recommendations to the Secretary on automated transit vehicle technologies, and other advanced technology deployment in the area of surface transportation.

Ric Mellon, an active member of both the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) and ABATE of Wisconsin, has been nominated to serve on the Advisory Committee given his expertise in the area of motorcycle safety and information technology. Kirk ‘Hardtail’ Willard, President of the MRF, had this to say in his letter of endorsement, “[Ric] has a record of reliability in being able to speak to the impact that Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and autonomous vehicles will have on the almost 10 million registered motorcyclists on our nation’s roadways... Mellon can provide critical information, advice and recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation on the safety, societal, ethical and real-life impacts this emerging class of vehicles may impose on motorcyclists.”

Both federal and state lawmakers quickly followed suit drafting their own letters of recommendation for Mr. Mellon. Federal lawmaker Reid Ribble has drafted a letter of support along with Wisconsin State Senator Kathleen Vinehout. Senator Vinehout touted Mr. Mellon's "depth of knowledge" and "leadership skills as Executive Director and Board Member of ABATE of Wisconsin".

The MRF has been active in the ongoing discussions regarding autonomous vehicles and recently issued DoT guidelines. The organization is filing official comments with the agency by the November 21 deadline and also plans to participate in upcoming public meetings the Agency is holding on the issue. The MRF is focusing its comments around four key areas that may affect bikers; (1) the unique attributes of a motorcycle in relationship to autonomous vehicles, (2) the need for rigorous standards when it comes to cyber security, (3) the importance of establishing clear liability in future crashes involving driverless cars and lastly, (4) general concerns over the scope and enforceability of the recently issued DoT guidelines.

Nominations to the ACAT committee close this week and announcements of appointments should be determined in early 2017.

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The Noccalula Falls chapter won first place in the Albertville parade with the Dixie ABATE sleigh! Congratulations to this very active and creative chapter. They also made some money by raffling off a 3-day, 2-night stay at a Florida beach condo.

Larry gave the education report: Ed "Juj" Lessard has taken over the Baldwin County high schools. He's a veteran, and a leader in the Patriot Guard. He covered all the Baldwin County high schools this past semester.

Larry presented our Share the Road with Motorcycles module to the whole high school at Andalusia this year. He has gotten into one school in Montgomery, and will try to get into all 7 as soon as possible.

In 2018 the state will review its drivers ed course of study, and they are probably going to include our module. Larry always polls the drivers ed teachers how they like the module. If they do, they can write letters recommending it be included in the course of study. The committee includes teachers from across the state. Our module is free, and well-liked.

Ingles Ship Building in Pascagoula, Mississippi is interested in helping us keep a billboard down in their area. This sounds good. Kris will try to get hold of Mississippi ABATE to make sure we don't step on any toes there. Larry hopes Lamar Outdoors serves that area and is willing to give us the same deal we get on our Alabama billboards. We discussed whether it would be ok to put "sponsored by Ingles Ship Building on our board in that area. Matt mentioned that Harley Davidson was going to do the same thing, but wanted the Harley Davidson logo on the board, and we didn't do it. Shane will check with a lawyer.

Larry said that most of our motorcycle fatalities happen in the big cities, so we need to advertise on city buses.

Matt sent application instructions for charitable grant money from Goodyear to Kris. Kris will process.

On the subject of lawyers, Matt reminded us about Bill Swatek in Pelham, and NCOM.

We discussed HB1: As of this year, if there is an accident, an officer can now write a ticket. Previously, the only way a LEO could write a ticket was if he or she witnessed the accident. This bill was signed into law by the governor on 5/3/2016.

The law: BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 32-5-171, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§32-5-171.

"(a) A ~~uniformed police officer, state trooper, county sheriff, or his or her deputy or member of a municipal police force~~ law enforcement officer as defined in Section 36-21-40, may arrest, ~~at the scene of~~ subsequent to a traffic accident, any driver of a vehicle involved in the accident if upon personal investigation, including information from eyewitnesses, the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person by violating Section 32-5A-191 contributed to the accident. He or she may arrest such a person without a warrant although he or she did not personally see the violation.

"(b) A law enforcement officer as defined in Section 36-21-40, subsequent to a traffic accident, may issue a traffic citation to a driver of a vehicle involved in the accident when, based on personal investigation, the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person has committed any offense under ~~this title~~. Chapters 5, 5A, 6, 7, or 7A of Title 32."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

This law is so new, that all LEO's may not be aware of it.

Kris recognized Michael Stieber, whose employer, Mullinax Ford, of Mobile, donated to the A&E. She also recognized Freddy Wheeler in his absence, thanking him for his donation and company match from Shell, Chris Muscolino, of HRA Risk Services, and Steve Hendricks, of Culotta, Scroggins, Hendricks and Gillespie, P.C., for their respective company's donations also. We heartily encourage donations to the A&E, because that is the only way the A&E gets money. All donations to the A&E are fully tax-deductible.

Larry made a motion that we promote rider education by sponsoring riders to take a class from the MRF. Shane seconded, and the motion passed. Now we have to come up with a program. This is contingent on Freddy's donation coming through. We discussed how to choose which riders we would help. Larry said the Rider Academy course, that is given at Harley Davidson dealerships, is really booming. They are under the state umbrella, so they are counted as state-trained students. Some Harley dealerships do several a month.

Right now, the MRF gives the following classes: BRC, BRC II, Basic Bike Bonding, Advanced Rider Class, and Ultimate Bike Bonding. They will add a trike class next year.

Fran wondered if we have certificates of appreciation that we can send to people who help us teach drivers ed students. Perhaps a complimentary membership and a letter of thanks can be sent, as well. (Note: This has been done, for Juju Lessard.)

The next ALCOC meeting is in Beulah, AL on 2/4/17. We will try to be at the table there.

We still need to reach out to the sport bike clubs. BNB Rockets, in Bay Minette, was mentioned.

Matt told us about a good patch maker in Ozark, Missouri. We talked about ordering "In memory of" small banners. Larry would like to see a special patch recognizing Dixie ABATE Share the Road module presenters. The idea was tabled until the next meeting.

We talked about where and when to meet next year. The next meeting was set back in Clanton, for 2 PM February 18, 2017, probably at the Shoney's. We will notify everyone as soon as the location is nailed down.