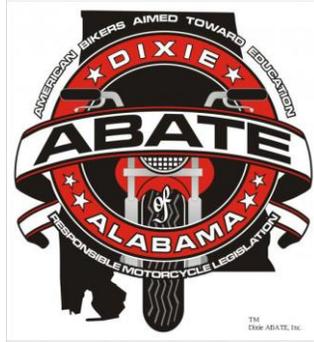


DIXIE ABATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Matthew Schroeder: State Director
Shane Coker: Assistant State Director
Larry Lindsey: Education Director
Freddy Wheeler: Acting Legislative Director
Kris Cook: Secretary/Treasurer

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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)

Ira "Cowboy" Jones, Organizer
Jeffrey Meck, Assistant Organizer

MEETING NOTES: 6/15/19 Cheaha State Park, Bigfoot Pavilion 2:45 PM to 4 PM

In attendance:

Kris Cook
Matthew Schroeder
Shane Coker
Ghost Johnson
Garland Medlock
Wayne "Wolf" Littrell
Rodney Green
Jered Rabren
David Neal
Freddy Wheeler

Kris passed out notes from the last meeting and a treasurer's report. No exceptions were noted. The above documents are now on record.

Kris gave an overview of our financial standing. If we plan to renew all four billboards, we don't have the money to do it. We need to learn to write grants, or align with someone who can. Freddy said Rick Randolph's daughter does it. David noted that Skinny Bob, direct of Georgia ABATE, is a grant writer, who has experience working with Habitat for Humanity and Wounded Warriors. Matt will call Skinny Bob to see if he can help us.

Freddy said we need to remember what our acronym stands for and really bear down on education. In Mobile, we've had a horrendous start to the riding season. Maybe we could start sponsoring riding classes at the ATSC. Not just the BRC, but any class. This could encourage our members to take continuing training. Maybe we could pick a date in early spring or late fall and get 12 members to show up for class. Us sponsoring the class fee could be an enticement to membership. We'd have to get two instructors willing to work that day, as their insurance requires two instructors on the range at any given time. Shane made the motion to pursue this idea, Kris seconded. Kris will talk to Rick.

Freddy also suggested we design a "Can you see me now?" billboard. KC told the group that Riders 4 Riders, in Mobile, want to split the cost of a billboard with us. This might be the time, especially because we do not have the bank balance to fund four billboards this year. Rider training might be a better use for some of our money this year, so we may think about dropping one or two of the billboards.

David said ABATE of Georgia gives "The Intersection" kits ("The Intersection" is a training video produced several years ago by the MSF) to drivers ed classes. They also got a billboard free.

We are pleased to note that there are finally motorcycle safety notices in the rotation of messages on Birmingham's electronic overhead signs over the highway. We have worked on this for a long time.

Freddy reported on the legislative session this year. He said it was an eye-opening experience, and definitely a mixed bag. It was much more fast-paced than he'd anticipated. It was disappointing that the Dead Red bill didn't go through again, but it did get our name out in front of legislators. David said ABATE of Georgia hosts a chili lunch for legislators. We probably can't get anywhere with a Dead Red bill as long as Connie Rowe (R-Jasper, a former Jasper chief of police) is on the Public Safety/Homeland Security committee. We were also able to let our legislators know that we supported the hands-free bill. (HB6 2019 Regular Session)

For next year, we need something we can win. We should push for a skills test in Alabama. Safety is a recurring theme and one that we could get some momentum with. Freddy noted that government is headed in the “payer-based” direction with everything. The state government is not willing to take on any more expense, so if it passes, the rider will have to pay a fee to take the test. We checked with David about the skills test in Georgia. He said they were also talking about making it mandatory for each rider to take the BRC (Basic Rider Course, given by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.)

We envision each community college being a place where a rider could go to take the test, as there is often parking lot space available at community colleges, and there are 61 colleges and universities in Alabama. So, lots of potential test sites.

Shane made the motion we go ahead and write up the rider skills test bill and pre-file it. The motion was seconded and the motion passed. Kris to gather statistics for the other 49 states.

We discussed a 14-year-old who recently crashed in Citronelle, exploring what motorcycles would actually be legal for a 14-year-old to ride on the road.

Matt discussed House Resolution 255 – the Motorcycle Profiling Resolution, which has been introduced in the House. Its sponsor is Rep. Tim Walberg, R-MI-7. Matt has contacted Robert Aderholt, asking him to support it.

Matt discussed the AMA's press release reporting on the growth of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus. The latest members of this important caucus are Tim Walberg (R-MI), Tim Griffin (R-AR), Reid Ribble (R-WI), and Jeff Denham (R-CA). This is a bipartisan group formed to promote the sport of motorcycling. Reps. Michael Burgess (R-Texas) and Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.) serve as co-chairs of the caucus. Other members include Reps. G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.), Michael Conaway (R-Texas), John Duncan (R-Tenn.), Bob Filner (D-Calif.), Randy Forbes (R-Va.), Walter Jones (R-N.C.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Allen West (R-Fla.) and Tim Walz (D-Minn.).

Matt reported on the MRF's “Bikers Inside the Beltway” event this year. They had 150 bikes and met 300 congressmen. He also reported on the NCOM convention that was held in Orlando over Mother's Day weekend this year. The theme was unity and it was well attended by clubs. David “Double D” Devereaux was a featured speaker. Other topics included Save the Patch and the RICO act and how it affects your organization. Next year's convention will be in Indianapolis. Details should be up on their website soon: www.onabike.com.

Freddy talked about WKRG's Amber Gregory, who did a newscast about motorcycling in conjunction with a recent R4R event. He also mentioned the WKRG reporter who goes by Biker Dad. He often posts news related to motorcycling. Freddy said to always emphasize the good side of motorcycling, to enhance our public image. Riders are known for their dedication to charitable causes. R4R helps the families of downed riders.

Matt showed us a flash drive we can load with our information that we can put on our keychain and have on the bike. In case of a crash, law enforcement can access the device, which could provide for a better response time.

Matt remembered Tommy Hazelrig, who lost his battle with cancer this month. Tommy was the artist who designed our logo. He passed away on 5/25/19, at the age of 62.

Dixie ABATE will set up at the Cave Spring Rally on 7/26 and 27. You can find information at cavespringmotorcyclerrally.com. We were invited by ABATE of Georgia. There is primitive camping – first come, first serve. David said it is a good rally, and typically has a lot of people from Alabama in attendance.

Wolf mentioned the Halloween HAVOC rally in Savannah, GA on October 25, 26, and 27 this year. He also told us about a program out of North Carolina called Bikesafe NC. This is a good program – it takes around 8 or 9 hours on a Friday or Saturday. Unlike our MSF courses in Alabama, they actually take you on the road and observe your riding style, then offer corrections. You can find information at bikesafenc.com. THIS PROGRAM IS FREE. It is sponsored by the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program, and is funded in part by NHTSA. They may have to start charging a fee at some point in the future. Wolf said, “The money's out there.” He will talk to Rick Randolph about funding for our efforts toward rider training.

Our next meeting is at 2 PM on Saturday, August 24, 2019, at The Secret Bed and Breakfast, 2356 AL-68, Leesburg, AL. Call them and make a reservation and make a weekend of it! They have a rooftop pool and the site overlooks Weiss Lake. It is a beautiful place. Call them at 256-523-3825.