



JUNEAU ABATE

NEWSLETTER

December 2008

President's Report – Dan McCrummen

What a summer! Where was it? Did you get much riding time in? I certainly didn't. Fortunately the weather held in June for our Ken Brewer Memorial Ride, we had a great turnout for that event. Looking to the future we have officer elections in January and our MAY Rally the first Saturday of May. Please consider filling one of the many positions and help keep Juneau ABATE doing good things. I believe motorcycling in Juneau is a safer activity because of our efforts, join us in keeping it that way. We really need someone to step up and volunteer to be our Secretary/Treasurer.

Thank you all to those who helped with our motorcycle rider education classes this summer. With three coaches we get pretty busy, so those of you who stepped up and helped out, whether with maintenance on the bikes or assisting with the coaching, I thank you.

Are you familiar with the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF)? They are a membership-based national motorcyclists' rights organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. The MRF monitors and when necessary, sways federal legislation and regulatory action that pertains to street riders. The MRF concerns itself with what is going on in the arena of motorcycling safety education, training, licensing, and public awareness. The MRF provides members and state motorcyclists' rights organizations with direction and information to protect motorcyclists' rights and motorcycling. The MRF sponsors annual regional and national educational seminars for motorcyclists' rights activists and publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, The MRF Reports.



Check out their website at www.mrf.org and consider becoming a member. As an organization we are a sustaining member and many of us are members ourselves.

Christmas Party!

On Friday, December 12, Juneau ABATE and Southeast Alaska HOG will hold a Christmas party at the Coast Guard Buoy Deck. Please join us for a wonderful time. Doors open at 6:00, dinner at 7:00. Dinner will be prime rib, baked potato, steamed veggies, salad and roll. No host bar will be open through the evening. Bring a gift valued at \$20 if you want to participate in the Dirty Hog gift exchange. There will also be a number of door prizes. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$40 for a couple and can be purchased at our monthly meeting Monday night. You must purchase your ticket by December 2nd if you want to be assured a prime rib dinner. After that date tickets will need to be purchased at the door and dinner might consist of a burger and fries!

2008 Rider Ed Recap – Bob Heflin

What a year!

We conducted an Experienced Rider class in early May followed by Basic Rider classes through the remainder of the training season and each class was filled to capacity. Our final class of the year was held in early September but we were still receiving inquires well into October.

Here's some information regarding this training year;

- 10 students successfully completed the ERC.
- 55 students successfully completed the BRC.
- 1 Experienced Rider Course
- 8 Basic Rider Courses, each filled to capacity.
- 3 MSF certified coaches and 2 coaches in training.
- We had students from several of the outlying communities, Yakutat to Ketchikan.

I mentioned coaches in the above bullets. I want to thank Pam Johntson and Larry White for all their help as coaches in training and look forward to them achieving their certification as MSF Rider Coaches. Pam has arranged to attend training early next year and we hope that Larry can do the same. We could still use another 1 or 2 coaches – so if you have an interest – we'll do what we can to help. The more coaches we have, the more courses we can offer, the demand was certainly there this year.

We added 5 new motorcycles to our inventory this year, 2 Nighthawks and 1 Suzuki GZ were planned to provide us with a seat height between the Rebels



and the Enduros. The remaining 2 were an unexpected opportunity to obtain new Rebels. We will be putting a few of our older bikes up for sale next spring. We are exploring ideas to improve our course registration process, making it easier for both students and staff. We are also working with the Alaska Motorcycle Safety Advisory Council to find ways to “fix-up” our training range. It takes a lot of effort to get the range and the bikes ready each year and then to maintain the readiness status of both. Thanks to all of have helped us throughout the year!

Traffic Lights – Dan McCrummen

Here’s a new fix for traffic lights with under-pavement sensors – cameras! There several of these in Fairbanks, now we have one in Juneau. Reports so far say they work much better than the under-pavement sensors.

Video detector installed at Valley intersection (KINY Radio)

It's an experiment, according to Carolyn Morehouse who is the Traffic and Reconnaissance Engineering Manager for the Southeast Region of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

She says the experiment will last through the winter. If it works there, they'll look at using video at new traffic lights and consider using it at intersections where wire loops fail.

Morehouse says video detectors have worked well in the Northern Region including Fairbanks where they are installed at all new traffic signals.

She says it's easier to replace a failed camera than a failed loop detector located under pavement.

Another reason for using video rather than wire loops is the fact that many motorcycles and bicycles don't have enough metal for a wire loop to trigger a call.

One thing it isn't, is big brother at work.

Morehouse says the video is not recorded and there is no red light running or speeding ticket component to the detectors.

Report from the MRF Meeting of the Minds – Bob Heflin

I guess that I should start this article out by explaining a few things about the MRF. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) is a national organization that grew from the many state motorcycle rights organizations. It is the first motorcyclists’ rights advocacy organization with a full-time political presence in



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Washington DC and the only voice devoted exclusively to the street rider. Their goals are to:

- Preserve rider access to America's roadways.
- Make roadways safer.
- Safeguard your right to individualize your motorcycle.
- Continue to monitor the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and hold them accountable.

Dan McCrummen and I attended the MRF Meeting of the Minds in Denver this past September. It is a great opportunity to meet with people from ABATEs and other motorcycle organizations from across the country. To share ideas, discuss problems (safety, awareness, legislative, etc), and to brainstorm viable solutions. Here's a short list of some of the breakout sessions that were offered this year:

- Conflict resolution
- Holding Effective Lobby Days
- NHTSA Assessment – What It Can Do For You
- Working with Law Enforcement
- Gaining & Retaining Members
- Impaired Riding
- State Legislative Updates
- International Transport Forum on Motorcycle Safety with a representative of the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations (FEMA)

There was a lot of information passed during these sessions, too much to cover here. But you can go to the following site to read up on all of the above sessions. <http://www.mrf.org/MOTM2008.php>.

December meeting reminder

Come join us for the December membership meeting. We're meeting at Mi Casa restaurant at 6:00 pm, starting the meeting after everyone orders their dinner. The meeting will be brief, we'll just discuss our upcoming Christmas party. Remember, if you don't have tickets, come to the meeting and pick them up.



Notice of Annual Business Meeting

We will be holding our annual business meeting on January 5, 2009. We will meet at 6:00 pm at Mi Casa restaurant. At this meeting we'll be hearing the 2008 financial report and elect officers. If you are interested in helping out by filling an officer seat, please put your name forward. We are especially in need of a Secretary and Treasurer, which can be the same person. If you have 2-4 hours a month that you can spare, we could certainly use your help. We hope to see you there!

Sponsor Advertisement (paid ad)

Come see Henry Wilson at Taku Harley-Davidson and check out the motorcycles, accessories, and motor clothes in our expanded store. Currently there are several items on sale, including parts. Make this one of your stops when you're out Christmas shopping, we're open Tuesday through Saturday!

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