



TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

GETTING IT DONE IN THE HALLS OF CONGRESS



On May 14th & 15th motorcycle riders, representing 30 different states (including Texas), traveled to Washington, D.C. to connect with their elected officials—asking for support on important issues affecting the motorcycle community. “Bikers Inside the Beltway” is hosted by the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), and is the only national motorcycle rights advocacy day at our nation’s Capital!

The anti-profiling measures in the House & Senate, along with the ethanol concern & lack of consumer education at the pumps, were among the major issues discussed. Other issues included bringing the RPM Act & SELF-DRIVE Act to the floor for a vote (autonomous vehicles need to have strong standards—which include motorcycles). Rep. Ratcliffe (House Judiciary, Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations committee) was personally asked to bring House Resolution 318 to the floor for a vote! On May 15th, in conjunction with Bikers Inside the Beltway, was the first Congressional Motorcycle Caucus Event (featuring rider education & training). The MRF setup a virtual reality (VR) simulator in the Rayburn House Office Building, which allowed attendees to experience a motorcycle ride via VR technology; several elected officials participated, along with dozens of staffers! Texas Rep. Michael Burgess was presented a Certificate of Appreciation, during this caucus event—for being a champion for motorcycle rights.



The MRF went all out for this 10th annual event & this year we saw a 60% increase in participation from bikers across the nation! “This year’s Bikers Inside the Beltway was our most successful yet,” said Kirk “Hardtail” Willard, Chairman/President of the MRF. “Attendance, preparation & participation were phenomenal.... we were welcomed as a key stakeholder on issues that affect transportation, the environment & the entire rider community. The impact of this day is felt long after the bikes roll out of town.” Ride safe – Ride free, *Skeedaddy*

ROAD TO ZERO REPORT

Courtesy of Motorcycle Riders Foundation (www.MRF.org)

WASHINGTON, DC – Today (5/9/18), the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) released the following statement in response to a report issued by the Road to Zero Coalition which is managed by the National Safety Council. The report, A Road to Zero:

UPCOMING EVENTS

STATE:

- 06/09/18 State Rally Meeting 5pm, Dad's Place
- 06/30/18 State Meeting VFW Post 6111, Arlington
- 09/07-09/09/18 State Rally, Bells
- 09/08/18 General Membership Meeting

ARLINGTON:

- 3rd Sunday at 12 noon VFW Post 6111 1200 W Harris Street Arlington 76018
- 06/17/18 Bike Blessing
- 07/14/18 Bikers Giving Back Arlington Life Shelter
- 09/14-09/16/18 Chapter Get Away

DENTON:

- 4th Sunday at 2:00 pm Mr. Porky's 8430 W University Drive Denton 76207
- 06/01 – 06/03/18 Not Rot
- 09/15/18 Teddy Bear Run
- 10/27/18 Dinner Run & Costume Party
- 11/17/18 Toy Run
- 12/15/18 Christmas Party

LAKE CITIES:

- 3rd Sunday at 2:00 pm American Legion Post 88 105 Gotcher Avenue Lake Dallas 75065

TEXOMA:

- 3rd Sunday at 1:00 pm American Legion Post 62 419 W Crawford Street Denison 75020
- 06/22-6/24/18 Old Fashion Rally
- 07/21/18 Hotter 'n Hell Pepper Cookoff
- 08/03-08/05/18 Chapter Get Away
- 10/5-10/7/18 Real Fun Poker Run

INDEPENDENTS:

- 6/17/18 East Side Classic

A vision for achieving zero roadway deaths by 2050, was released in April and identifies policies and practices to achieve the very notable and worthy objective of attaining zero deaths in the United States in 30 years:

Motorcycling and the safety of riders who engage in this growing mode of transportation remains a key priority of the MRF, its Board of Directors and its network of 220,000 riders across the U.S. In fact, the MRF, either directly or through our member networks, have numerous initiatives geared towards rider safety touching on issues such as motorcycle awareness, rider education and training, impairment, as well as technological advancements for motorcycle and equipment manufacturers. Because the safety of the motorcycle community is so paramount to our organization, we commend the objective behind Road to Zero. As such, we have been present and an active participant in almost every Road to Zero Coalition meeting since the unveiling of the program in 2016. During these workshops we've offered the motorcyclist's perspective on key issue areas, making recommendations and playing a proactive role in the dialogue.

Therefore, it is discouraging that the recently issued report reflects none of this input, instead emphasizing only one countermeasure in which to mitigate motorcycle fatalities. Consequently, the report fails to mention the presence and participation of our organization as well as other key motorcycle organizations, which collectively represent over half-a-million motorcyclists in the United States.

Within the report, the assessment on motorcycle fatalities again and again points to helmet laws as a proven countermeasure. However, there is the notable absence of mention of proactive measures, which prevent a collision from occurring at all. Reactive steps may or may not offer some level of injury mitigation only after a crash has already taken place. If the goal is to eliminate all traffic deaths by 2050, there should be an emphasis on crash prevention and not simply safer crashing. These potential steps can manifest in a variety of ways including initiatives on rider education and training for new and returning riders, motorcycle awareness education for other roadway users and a variety of others. In reviewing the report, the only proactive measures mentioned regarding motorcycle fatalities are automatic emergency braking, self-balancing control mechanisms for motorcycles and a connected vehicle system. However, each of these presents its own set of concerns; a motorcycle coming to a halt could result in throwing an unprepared rider, the self-balancing technology is not yet available and there are numerous studies which indicate that motorcycles are not consistently identified by lane assist, collision warning, and emergency breaking systems as a part of a

DO YOU KNOW...

Where to find Texas Abate Confederation State Meeting Minutes???

As required, we must provide you an opportunity to review the minutes from our state meetings. Although some information from these meetings can be found in the newsletter, you are welcome to read the official minutes by clicking http://texasabate.com/newsletters/newsletter_archives.html. Scroll down to "State Meeting Minutes" and click on the date you wish to review. Should you have any questions please contact your chapter or independent representative at the link provided on the [Texas Chapters](#) page of our state website (<http://texasabate.com/>)

connected roadway system. While these are certainly areas that should be reviewed, discussed and improved, they are not yet tangible solutions and there is uncertainty that they may even come to fruition by 2050.

Instead, the MRF, despite not being recognized in the report, have communicated, collaborated and participated in the various meetings and workshops that have taken place over the last two years, highlighting and advocating for tangible and practical initiatives that can be deployed immediately to include proactive countermeasures to reduce or eliminate motorcycle fatalities.

The absence of any acknowledgement of these ideas and lack of recognition of participating motorcycle organizations that represent our nation's riders have unfortunately contributed to a flawed report that is neither practical nor inclusive when it comes to motorcycle safety. If the objective of Road to Zero is to truly achieve zero roadway deaths by 2050, we encourage leadership behind the program to be inclusive of input and ideas from all roadway users and to consider discussing practical proactive measures for motorcyclists. *All Information contained in this release is copyrighted. Reproduction permitted with attribution. Motorcycle Riders Foundation. All rights reserved. Ride With The Leaders™ by joining the MRF at <http://mrf.org/> or call (202) 546-0983*

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Texas Abate Confederation, Inc. is a motorcycle rights organization that is dedicated to freedom of the road for all motorcyclists, promotes rider education for all motorcycle riders, motorcycle awareness for all automobile drivers, and fights discriminatory legislation aimed towards the motorcycling community.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road in Hope of Promoting a Better Relationship with the Public for Motorcycle Awareness.