



TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

Edition II, Volume VI
November - December 2019

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Upcoming Events

STATE:

- **02/01/20 MEETING**, 1 pm
VFW Post 10460, Lake Dallas

ARLINGTON:

- **3rd Sunday at 12 noon**
VFW Post 6111
1200 W Harris Street
Arlington 76018
- **12/07/19 [Christmas Party & Raffle](#)**

DENTON:

- **4th Sunday at 2:00 pm**
Mr. Porky's
8430 W University Drive
Denton 76207
- All 2019 Events Cancelled

LAKE CITIES:

- **2nd Sunday at 1:00 pm**
VFW Post 10460
501 Thompson Drive
Lake Dallas 75065
- **12/08/19 [Raffle](#)**

TEXOMA:

- **3rd Sunday at 1:00 pm**
American Legion Post 62
419 Crawford Street
Denison 75020
- **12/06/19 [Christmas Party](#)**

current topics >>>

MRF News Release November 20, 2019

Senate Hearing - Highly Automated Vehicles: Federal Perspectives on the Deployment of Safety Technology

Today the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing entitled Highly Automated Vehicles: Federal Perspectives on the Deployment of Safety Technology. This hearing comes on the heels of a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) board meeting yesterday regarding the investigation of a March 2018 crash of an Uber Autonomous Vehicle (AV) that resulted in the death of a pedestrian in Tempe, Arizona.

The NTSB released some startling revelations in their investigation of the 2018 deadly crash. Among those that the software did not properly identify the victim as a pedestrian, it did not adequately assess safety risks and the operator of the vehicle was watching a TV show on her phone and was not watching the road. Additionally, the NTSB cited an "inadequate safety culture" at Uber.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) applauds the NTSB and the U.S. Senate for holding public hearings on AV technology and safety concerns. The MRF is committed to fighting for the safety of motorcyclists as this new technology is deployed on our nation's roadways. While we are hopeful that this technology can reduce accidents on our nation's roads, we agree with the statement of Chairman Roger Wicker (R-MS) when he said of AV technology "I think a healthy degree of skepticism is a good thing."

During the Senate hearing, it was especially important that two U.S. Senators specifically addressed the concerns of motorcyclists during the hearing. In a question directed to Joel Szabat, Acting Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation Senator John Thune (R-SD) asked, "In developing a regulatory framework for AVs can you speak to how other roadway users such as motorcycles are considered?" The Assistant Secretary responded by saying "Motorcyclists are well incorporated in the development of policy in the department."

Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) echoed Senator Thune's interest in motorcycles when he said, "I am avid motorcyclist. The number one reason for accidents is a car hitting a motorcyclist or a car pulling out in front of a motorcyclist."

Other Senators include Sen. Cantwell (D-WA) raised concerns about the current deployment of AVs without minimum standards from the federal government, "We need some standards." In response, Robert Sumwalt, Chairman of the NTSB agreed by saying that "Whatever is working now is not working as well as it should."

(continued on page 3)

Taste of Texoma Tina Dodson

Texoma ABATE had our Freedom Run on Saturday, Nov. 16th at the Denison Legion. We hit the Pottsboro Lakeside Legion Post 231 & Pottsboro VFW...the Denison Eagles, then back to the Denison Legion, where we served sub sandwiches & chips. Also had a "Spin-It-To-Win-It" Dessert Table that raised \$135.00....all-in-all we raised over \$600 for our Texas Legislative Day!!! Check out the video https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10218586861856314&id=1639758906



It's time for our ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY! Friday, Dec. 6th, at the Best Western Plus in Denison. We've booked a block of rooms for a special rate of \$69.95 (mention ABATE) & a gathering room. Let us know if you're planning to attend. Texoma ABATE will provide the meats. Bring a side dish or dessert....and YES!!! It's BYOB ~ You can bring your bottle or cooler into the group gathering room! [Click here](#) for official flyer.

*Drink responsibly



Legislative Report Skee Dodson, State Legislative Officer, Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.

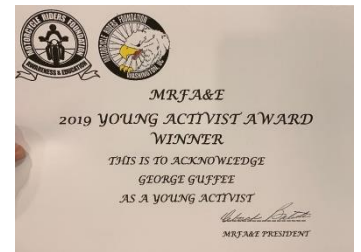
Texas is #2 in the nation for reported motorcycle profiling (2018 MPP survey). Many legislators tend to agree that profiling is going on in our State, and several would agree that profiling is unconstitutional; however, more lawmakers are concerned that bringing awareness to motorcycle profiling would take away some of the “tools” that law enforcement have available to them (wait, what?). We are long overdue for different mindset in our great state of Texas, and it is time for legislative relief! The 86th legislative session may be over, but Texas freedom fighters are already looking forward to the 87th session in 2021!

It appears that the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) wanted to contribute something to the Texas gang database by issuing a statement in their October 2019 (No 1) “General Orders 2019-2020”. Their statement, which further perpetuated motorcycle profiling in Texas, was: **“Gangs, including any motorcycle groups/units/gangs not officially affiliated with the VFW or other Veterans Service Organization, are not allowed to wear or display their vests or “colors” at any Texas VFW Post or business operation operated by, or on the behalf of the Post unless voted upon by the Post membership at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose...Specifically, any gang including a motorcycle group/unit/gang or its individual members that is identified as a 1% organization...”**. From the emails that I have received from various sources, I was informed that this statement appeared to be issued only by the Texas VFW. The VFW does have the right to discriminate against any group of people at their establishment; however, disenfranchising a large group of members for what they (or their friends) are wearing doesn’t make for very good business (or Constitutional) sense! Texas ABATE wrote a letter to the Texas Adjutant/Quartermaster asking for an explanation of this statement, and for their obvious disregard for our 1st Amendment Constitutional rights. A response was not received prior to a resolution of this matter. It was awesome to read the following statement on the Texas Council of Clubs & Independents (TCOC&I) facebook page:

“On October 12, 2019, TCOC&I representatives were able to highlight the negative impact wholesale bans on the motorcycle community would have on VFW Posts across the State while also perpetuating the stigma contributing to the negative profiling of the Veteran and motorcycling community statewide.” The post then went on to say: “During this meeting, Texas State Commander King agreed to amend the October 2019 General Orders in a fashion that would NOT exclude MCs and 1% clubs from VFW Posts”. Thank you to everyone involved in getting this issue resolved; great news from Commander King! Read the complete post on the Texas Council of Clubs and Independents Facebook page. We urge all bikers to report any violations and motorcycle profiling that you may encounter. **Ride, Record, Report!**



In October I was honored to attend the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) 35th Annual Meeting of the Minds, in Bloomington, MN. What an exhaustive, yet productive weekend! From the opening remarks to the 2020 strategy session, and the “game nite” fundraiser for the MRF A&E - this Meeting of the Minds was one of the best that I’ve attended! George Guffee (Texoma ABATE Life member) received one of the two



Young Activist Awards given at the event. I received the MRF *Thomas Payne Award*, which is probably the most rewarding award that I have ever received! What an honor it was! The Thomas Payne quote on my plaque says: “I offer nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense”.

| Motorcyclist Fatalities | Total (C-7) | 429 | 420 | 478 | 454 | 493 | 451 | 452 | 495 | 490 | 416 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Helmeted | 147 | 171 | 213 | 181 | 188 | 201 | 205 | 216 | 235 | 205 | |
| Unhelmeted (C-8) | 278 | 246 | 255 | 264 | 280 | 234 | 236 | 267 | 242 | 194 | |
| Unknown | 4 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 25 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 17 | |

And finally, I am almost “giddy” in sharing the latest 2018 motorcycle statistics that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Governor’s Safety Association (GHSa) have issued for 2018. On average, the US had a 5% reduction in total mc fatalities, which is great news! Texas (drum roll) enjoyed a 15% reduction in motorcycle fatalities! Total 2018 mc fatalities in Texas (416) was doing something right (and I bet it has something to do with education)! Note: 64% of motorcyclists in Texas wear a helmet.

Link for Richard M. Lester: <http://onabike.com/>

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday! Ride safe, ride free. *Skeedaddy*

MRF News Release (continued)

We at the MRF agree that minimum standards should be in place as this new technology becomes more and more prevalent on the roads we all share.

Chairman Sumwalt of the NTSB closed the hearing with this statement, "I think that AV technology holds great promise to improve safety, but it has to be done properly." We at the MRF could not agree more.

MRF President Kirk "Hardtail" Willard stated, "As a motorcyclist it offends me when bureaucrats are discussing various inevitable, emerging vehicle and advanced roadway technologies they default to classifying us as vulnerable and in need some sort of protection. I would rather and especially in the specific case of Autonomous Vehicles we be thoroughly considered and fully recognizable and therefore not needing extra protection. As with anything affecting motorcyclists this is another example where the Motorcycle Riders Foundation will demand we remain a significant part of the strategy for roadway users."

You can read the opening statements or watch the hearing by clicking the link below:

[Highly Automated Vehicles: Federal Perspectives on the Deployment of Safety Technology](#)

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. 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



Texoma ABATE Christmas Party

Friday December 6, 2019

Best Western Plus - Denison, Texas
810 N Hwy 75 (behind Brauma @ Morton St.)

FREE \$ FREE \$ FREE Starts at 6 pm
BYOB Dinner served at 7 pm

Biker Games
MEAT provided by Texoma ABATE
Christmas Gift Exchange \$20 limit
Side dishes appreciated
Apple Pie after dinner

UGLY Christmas Sweater contest

SPECIAL: Hotel Rate of \$65.99 (plus tax) with Full Breakfast.
Call the hotel at 903-827-8883 and mention Texoma ABATE by November 22nd.
For more hotel info, please call Angela 903-647-5515

For more Christmas Party info, please call Dad 903-513-6528 or Dino 903-624-1938 **Adults ONLY NO Children PLEASE**

Lake Cities is Growing Rober Crowdis

Our Lake Cities chapter took advantage of a Meet & Greet at Rider's Bike Supply, in Lewisville, to boost awareness of Texas Abate and membership. We welcomed two (2) new Independent members and handed out quite a few trifolds, in addition to selling a few raffle tickets for the December 8th drawing. All-in-all it was a great day!



Bikers Give Back

Arlington really showed up! 25 riders, along with a few cages, turned out to deliver "Community Unity Bears" (C.U.B.s) donned in Arlington Abate t-shirts & vacuum-sealed for storage, to the Arlington Fire Department. Looking forward to making this an annual event!

*final*thoughts...

Do you know what is going on in your community? How do you find out? Volunteer. Talk to leaders in your community. What are the “hot” topics of conversation? Do your leaders roll up their sleeves and get in the trenches? Or do they like their “suit and tie” along with their corner office? Ask questions! Give them your input. Let them know where you stand on certain agendas. Will they support what you believe is important? They represent YOU! **Find out who they are...**

<https://fyi.capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx>



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www.texasabate.com/chapters



Texas Abate Confederation, Inc.

900 Fish Creek Drive

Arlington, TX 76018

Texas Abate Confederation, Inc, is a not-for-profit, motorcycle rights organization. An alliance dedicated to the protection of the individual rights of motorcyclists through political change and awareness, charitable works, public education and the promotion of motorcycling.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

In Hope of Promoting a Better Relationship with the Public for Motorcycle Awareness.