

June 2009
Monthly Newsletter

WILL COUNTY CHAPTER

ABATE OF ILLINOIS

A BROTHERHOOD AIMED TOWARDS EDUCATION



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Will County Chapter and A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois is to preserve the universal right to a safe, unrestricted motorcycling environment.

**Dedicated to Freedom of the Road
Let Those Who Ride Decide!**

Will County ABATE, P.O. Box 928, Plainfield, IL 60544
www.willcoabate.org

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This Month's Highlights

- Riding season is upon us. Have you given your bike the upkeep and maintenance that it needs before hitting the open roads? Be safe out there brothers & sisters!
- The new Will County ABATE website is up and running (www.willcoabate.org). Check it out and bring your comments and suggestions to the next general meeting.

Next General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, June 10 – 7:30pm
at Harwood Post

President: Jay

Hello, everyone.

I hope everyone is enjoying riding in this beautiful weather. Just remember to be careful out there.

It is with great regret to report that on April 20, 2009, "Boz" passed away. Boz was the current VP of the MRF and a member of the Chicago Chapter, ABATE of IL,

Inc. May he rest in peace.

At the April 5th membership meeting, we were honored to have Boz as a guest speaker, and he shared his knowledge with us as a **true** MRO freedom fighter.

Always be courteous to others on the road.

Ride Safe,
Jay

Vice President: Sylvia

Hi, Brothers & Sisters of Will County!

Hope all enjoyed the pizza at our 6th anniversary party. It was good to see so many of you come out to celebrate with us. I get it! Free food equals a huge attendance! Seriously, though, thanks for coming.

Thanks, Pam, for a great presentation. Thanks to all the web committee members for a great job on launching the new

website. We appreciate all your hard work.

Mark your calendars for June 8th to have a meal at Hero's West. Bring your neighbors, friends, and relatives - anyone you can think of and just mention Will County ABATE. Your Chapter will receive 10% of the purchases and a chance to win \$1,000.

Enjoy the spring weather.

Ride Smart
Sylvia



NORTHEAST REGION 2009 FLAG EVENTS*



JUNE 7TH (SUN)	SOUTHERN DUPAGE CHAPTER TOPLESS TOUR 10AM—4:30PM
JUNE 13TH (SAT)	ARROWHEAD VALLEY CHAPTER HAWAIIAN RUN
JULY 17TH – 19TH (FRI – SUN)	SOUTH SUBURBAN CHAPTER HELMET ROAST \$20 ADVANCE/\$25 GATE GLENWOOD RV RESORT – MARSEILLES, IL GATES OPEN AT 11AM – PARTY STARTS AT NOON
JULY 25TH – 26TH (SAT – SUN)	DUKANE CHAPTER PORKY PIG RUN MAPLE PARK, IL
AUG 22ND (SAT)	WESTGATE CHAPTER 2ND ANNUAL ELLEN MITCHELL MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR
SEPT 12TH (SAT)	WILL COUNTY CHAPTER HOOTERS & SCOOTERS HARWOOD POST – JOLIET, IL
OCT 24TH (SAT)	NE REGION PACTOBER FEST LEO'S—ROMEOWILLE, IL 7PM

* Events are subject to change.
Please check county chapter websites for updates.

Legislative: Brian

Greetings, WillCo ABATE!

The death of motorcyclist, Anita Zaffke, caused by a driver who was painting her nails, has caused an uproar and demands for stricter laws concerning distracted driving. People are asking about the status of HB073, the Negligent Driving Bill, so here's the latest update: Sponsor Will Black is still trying to move the bill forward, but it's already been watered down. As introduced, it would have created the offense of "negligent driving", and made it a Class A Misdemeanor. It would have also created the offense of "negligent vehicular homicide", and made it a Class 4 Felony. It was amended to make negligent vehicular homicide just a Class A Misdemeanor. It has since been sent back to committee because of questions (from lawyers, naturally) about the meaning of the term "negligent". It seems to me that if you operate your vehicle with total disregard to your surroundings, that's "negligent". But I guess that's too simple, huh?

On a positive note, HB071, which would prohibit

composing, sending or reading text messages while driving (even if stopped at a red light), passed the IL House 89-27. But drivers could still enter information into their GPS units, including GPS-equipped cell phones, and emergency and commercial drivers could still read from systems permanently installed in their vehicles. The chief Senate sponsor, Martin Sandoval, is working to "clarify" the bill to alleviate opponents' concerns, so we'll have to wait to see what kind of bill we end up with--if any. As for the other bills we're watching, virtually all have been sent back to the Rules Committee, due to lack of action in the time allowed.

In Washington, we got a taste of what's in store for us these next four years. In February, the House defeated the Omnibus Public Land Bill, which would have closed 2.1 million acres of public land to motorized off-road vehicles. Notice, that's PUBLIC land, owned by you, me and the other citizens of this country--in theory, anyway. Well, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid wasn't about to give up. So, when a two-page bill called the Revolutionary

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Battlefield Bill passed the House with no debate and was sent to the Senate, Sen. Reid attached the 170-bill, 1300-page Omnibus Public Land Bill to it, as an amendment! Since the Battlefield Bill had passed the House with no debate, it was granted preferential status--meaning when the Senate voted on it and sent it back to the House, it would take a two-thirds majority to remove Reid's underhanded amendment. That didn't happen, so the bill was sent to President Obama, who signed it into law five days later. So now, 2.1 million acres of OUR land has been closed to OHV enthusiasts, and those who are disabled, for that matter, since the only way to access them is to hike in.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has decided not to exclude youth motorcycles and ATVs from the Consumer Product Improvement Act - meaning it's still illegal to sell them (and parts for them). But they did decide to postpone enforcement of the ban for two years. This brings up questions: Do they have the legal authority to issue a stay of enforcement? Will State Attorney Generals, whose job it is to enforce the

ban, go along with the stay? Will manufacturers let dealers sell them? However, there have been bills introduced in both Houses that would exempt youth bikes and ATVs from the ban. Call or write your Congressperson and ask them to support HR1587 (Debbie Halvorson is already on our side), and urge Senators Durbin and Burris to support SB608. Need help with contact information? Go to our spiffy new website, go to the Legislative page, and click on "who is my gov't representative."

I'd like to thank Keith for organizing the ride to the Freedom Rally in Springfield, and thanks to Jeff, John and his daughter Brittany, Mad Maxx, and Randy for representing Will County. I wish I could have gone. It really bites not to be able to ride 50 miles or so without being in severe pain. Anyhow, Senator Bomke, from the Springfield area, addressed the crowd, as did Senator Forby. If you watched the debate on SB1351, you know Senator Forby gave a speech that ranks right up there with the Gettysburg Address! Senator Syverson received the Senate Vest and Rep. D'Amico

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received the House Vest.

Finally, thanks to the web team for taking on the monumental task of updating our website. You guys devoted a huge amount of time and effort to the job, and it shows. In a group as large as ours, it's impossible to please everyone, but you were able to come up with a product that shows Will County

Activities: Sharyl & Brenda

Lots going on this month. First up, on June 7th, we have Southern DuPage's Topless Tour Run. This is a Flag Event. On Monday-June 8th, it's Will County ABATE day at Hero's West Bar & Grill on Houbolt Rd. in Joliet. Go there and eat with your friends and family. Tell them you're doing it for ABATE and 10% of the tab (food only) goes to our organization. If we get the most on our day out of any other non-profits that participate, we get a check for \$1,000. Tell everyone to go! The following weekend

Chapter as the dedicated, professional organization it is!

Stay vigilant,
Brian
Legislative Curmudgeon

Origin of the word Politics---
Poly: Greek word for "many."
Ticks: little bastards that suck the blood out of you.

we have Arrowhead Valley's Hawaiian Run on June 13th. This is also a Flag Event. National Ride to Work Day is Monday-June 15th. ABATE State Party is June 26th & 27th. The Book Run is going great. If you hear that anyone is out of books, please let us know. We do still have people buying them. The weather is finally breaking and summer will be underway, so let's all go riding!!!!

Brenda and Sharyl
Co-Activities

State Rep: Monty

Below is a synopsis of the BOD Meeting held on 04/18/09:

Safety & Ed nominations were closed due to no new nominations. Motion to bypass election of Safety & Education officer since we only had one nomination – Laura. Motion passed. Laura was appointed to the position.

The E-Board made an Executive VETO on “RAZOR” being reseat on the State PAC Board. The original motion was to reseat the whole board. A lot of discussion occurred about this because the BOD told the E-Board that they cannot cherry pick and VETO part of a motion.

Motion to override the Executive VETO and reseat the entire State PAC with the exception of Ray. Motion passed.

Motion to nominate John as Chair for State PAC. Motion passed as long as Madd Maxx will be co-chair or assistant.

Motion to reseat Bob as State PAC trustee. Motion passed.

By Law Review Proposals:

- ◆ Officer Elections (Article 4

Section 6) – reject proposal and keep bylaw as is.

- ◆ Taxes and 990s (Article 5 Section 7) – Reject proposal and keep bylaw as is.
- ◆ Bylaw review committee duties (Article 8 Section 1, 2, 3 – Motion passed to change the bylaws.
- ◆ Secretary duties (Article 4 Section 9) – Reject proposal and keep by laws as is.

Recommendation for Bob to join the Bylaw Review Committee – Accepted.

Michael, trustee, presented letter of resignation from FEDPAC. Accepted letter of resignation.

“RO” submitted letter to fill FEDPAC trustee position. Accepted Rick as Trustee for FEDPAC.

Treasurer’s report. Brothers of Grundy are no more. They no longer exist. There was a recommendation to pull the charter of Brothers of Grundy for failing to follow previous sanctions regarding the state 990 forms. Motion passed 37 – 13. (50 chapters present). Brothers of Grundy are no

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longer a chapter. This will allow some of their members to join Will County.

Report about the internal audit performed on March 7, 2009. Those present: Linda, Southern DuPage; Kat, Twin Rivers; Donna, Ford County; Pam, Fulton County; Anne, Will County; Julie, State Treasurer; Paula, State Office Manager. The

consensus was that there were no discrepancies found. This also saved the state a considerable amount of money.

That's all I have until next BOD meeting.

Monty

Safety & Ed: MJ

I'm keeping this short. Hopefully, the weather is cooperating and riding time is FINALLY here. High School presentations wind down for the summer but Monty will be speaking to new Driver's Education instructors at Olivet Nazarene College on June 22nd. These are our future customers, so this is a great chance to sell the program.

As you plan your trips this summer, please be sure to think about that first aid kit in your bike. Replace expired items. Update your emergency contact information card in your wallet. (Do you even have one?) Let people know where you plan to

be and when. Keep your cell phone charged. Make sure the bike is running right. And watch out for those vacationers. More people are doing the "stay at home" vacations or road trips. That puts more cars on the road and more for us to watch for. Make yourself **VISIBLE!** Get reflective vests, florescent colored shirts, whatever you can to get you noticed.

As always,
Don't ride faster than your Guardian Angel can fly.
MJ

And of course, Don't Ride Faster Than Your Guardian Angel Can Fly.



Public Relations: Ken

Hello, from your PR guy.

Happy 6th Birthday Will Co. ABATE! Wow, so young. First, I would like to personally thank everyone who helped me with the proclamations. It was a team effort. We even got a mayor who stopped a run through his town to sign onto motorcycle awareness this year. Great job! Speaking of motorcycle awareness, May is coming to an end but let's make the whole summer motorcycle awareness and have a safe and fun summer.

We have "STATE SEEING MOTORCYCLES" signs for **only** \$4! Please display them proudly at every location. See a Board member for your new sign.

Please support the businesses on our Book Run, the ads in the newsletter and the Ruben Brown Run (biker bucks): Papa Joe's - Rt. 53 Crest Hill, Sheps Tavern - Rockdale. I will have more in the next newsletter. I would like to thank these and all the other businesses that support us. It is



because of their help that we can get our message out.

One parting shot about the black finger nail polish lady, let us all take a deep breath and think before we judge and convict. I believe, at one time or another, we are all guilty of doing something distracting behind the wheel. Let us all try for a day to not do anything except pay attention to the road. The National Insurance Institute says 80% of accidents are caused by distracted drivers! 80% - don't let a sister biker's death go for naught...let us lead by example. Keep your eyes on the road. Stay safe.

Kenny

Membership: Helen

Hi, everyone. We had a great anniversary meeting. There were lots of members there and the pizza was great, as always. It was a nice treat. We are at a whopping 442 members. May and June are pretty big months for renewals. Remember, that if you give out any applications to put your name on it so you can get credit for sponsoring a new member. You will also get credit for someone that renews if they have been expired for a year or more. So, carry those applications with you. There is usually a stack at the Post and I keep it filled and I usually have plenty of extras with me. Have a great month and I will see you in June.

hln

MOST WANTED

**PLEASE SEE PRINTED NEWSLETTER FOR COMPLETE LISTING
OF RENEWALS OR CONTACT HELEN!**

UPCOMING EVENTS*



June 2009

- 3 Board Meeting: 7:00pm @ Harwood (*Wed*)
- 7 Southern DuPage Topless Tour: 10-4:30pm (*Sun*) 
- 8 Will Co ABATE Day at Hero's West: All Day (*Mon*)
- 10 General Membership Meeting: 7:30pm @ Harwood (*Wed*)
- 13 Arrowhead Valley Hawaiian Run (*Sat*) 
- 14 Flag Day
- 15 National Ride to Work Day
- 20 ABATE of IL e-Board & BOD Meetings (*Sat*)
- 20 Illinois Freedom Run: Line up at 6am, Bikes Out at 10:30am @ Grundy County Fairgrounds (*Sat*) \$10
- 21 Father's Day 
- 26-28 ABATE of IL State Rally @ Altamont



July 2009

- 1 Board Meeting: 7:00pm @ Harwood (*Wed*)
- 12 General Membership Meeting: 12noon @ Harwood (*Sun*)
Cookout—Bring a dish to pass.
- 12 Peotone Swap Meet: 10-4pm (*Sun*)
- 17-19 South Suburban's Helmet Roast @ Glenwood RV Resort: 
\$20 advance/\$25 gate (*Fri-Sun*)
- 18 ABATE of IL e-Board Meeting (*Sat*)
- 25-26 Dukane Porky Pig Run (*Sat-Sun*) 

August 2009



- 5 Board Meeting: 7:00pm @ Harwood (*Wed*)
- 3-9 Sturgis Week
- 12 General Membership Meeting: 7:30pm @ Harwood (*Wed*)
- 15 ABATE of IL e-Board & BOD Meetings (*Sat*)
- 22 Westgate Chapter: Magical Mystery Tour (*Sat*) 

*Check relevant websites for updates to the calendar.

www.willcoabate.org