

COLUMBIA COUNTY ABATE
Thursday, February 4, 2010
Secretary's Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm at the Whitestone Café by President Karen Kittle. The pledge was recited, and members were asked to remain standing for a moment of silence for Tony Quirino who passed away, and whose wife is a member of ABATE. There were 36 members in attendance. Karen asked if there were any new members to be welcomed and recognized; there were none.

MOTION #06-2010 made by Prospector, with second, to waive the reading of the January minutes, with all in favor.

TREASURER: The report is as follows: Beginning balance was \$5,131.69, with income of \$663.00 and expenses of \$751.00, leaving a balance of \$5043.69; savings account for '200 Club' is \$241.08.

MEMBERSHIP report from Jen

Members Past Due

Rich Blass
Marie Ciminello
Adriana Delaney
Jim Fay
Marcia Fuchs
Ken Kasper
Bonnie Kelleher
Don Krapf
Jeff Merchant
Gus Pappaeliou
Melissa Payton
Diane Pratt
Marcia Curran
Ed Keyes

Members Due in Feb.

Tony Brahm
Dawn Evans
James Farina
John Klugo
Marc Martino
Matt Shook
Cindy Tracy
Rick Tracy Sr.
Member Dues in March
Don Blasko
Mike Burch
Don Coe
Judy Coe
Nola DalGallo

Joel Dyslin
Melissa Finn
Joe Finn
Tim Folmsbee
John Hogan
Tom Law
Fred Leicht
Pat Mayo
Nicole McCagg
Scott McCagg
Jill Pelletier
Christopher Rice
Robert Schell
Pete Shufelt
Robert Smith

LEGISLATION: Prospector said he was in contact with a guy from New Hampshire who was ticketed in New York State and drove 3 hours to fight his tickets in court. He was trying to catch up with the guy who agreed to be a plaintiff in the on-going lawsuit (bike stops). Prospector's meeting with Sheldon Silver was short; and he will try again to get some time in to meet with him. He attended an Owen Johnson fundraiser which cost \$500 for a ticket, paid for by AMA PAC funds. Prospector said there is another event on Monday with Lombardo, \$300 ticket which will be paid by local PAC funds. A meeting will be set up with DMV for Tuesday, February 9. He also said that Jim Fay had part of his foot amputated, and that we should send him a get well card.

Prospector also spoke with Mr. Dutcher about Americade; who stated he will not get involved with the roadblock issues, however, Mr. Dutcher will prepare letters in support of the confiscation bill and other lawsuit issues.

NEWSLETTER: Karen said that we still need a volunteer to step up and help out with the newsletter, and work on the website. Any ideas to add to our website please let her know. She will be posting the state board and chapter minutes on the website.

PRODUCTS: Paula did not bring any products to the meeting tonight; but they are available to anyone who wants them, and she will have them at the next meeting; and to the Cabin Fever Party in March.

SGT/ARMS given by Bob M.: Ready for a ride, when the roads are dry and the salt is gone. Denise asked if Bob DiRuzzio got in touch with BlueStores in Livingston about future ABATE runs/stops; he said yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cabin Fever Party: There was discussion as to where to have the party with the Meadowgreens burning down and no longer available. Paula spoke with Carmen (owner) who told her that he is working on a temporary structure, i.e. tent to carry on, business as usual, and could still host the Cabin Fever Party. Karen said we need to find out what type of structure will be in place, and if it can be done for the same prices--\$10 per person cover charge, with usual food (pizza, wings, buffet, salad bar, etc.)

MOTION #07-2010 made by Denise to wait for further info from Carmen. Discussion followed, motion was withdrawn.

MOTION #08-2010 made by Robin V. and seconded to have the party this year at the Whitestone Café, with 27 in favor, 3 opposed.

Spring Fun Run: No Report at this time; still have time to finalize plans.

Freedom Run: There was discussion about the venue, and changing it. Place suggested by Denise was the VFW in Stuyvesant Falls – they would provide beer, we do the food and games; runs have been held there in the past. Joe talked with the Spencertown Firehouse – need to get price information, food supplied; last year's event was \$800; they can handle 75 people with space for bike games. Gary suggested the Polish club, in Hudson. Karen asked all to think about it and come back next month.

Regional meetings: The Long Island chapter is having a Chapter run on July 24 with the run to end at Nick's Waterfall's House; Jim Barr Jr., chapter president will let us know more information when available.

200 Club: Frank said initial letters were sent out to Columbia ABATE members with a ticket; and he's waiting to get responses back with money. He said he will have tickets available for purchase next month.

Bozo Run: Reported by Jen Ross, who said the Greene County Chapter wants to participate in this run as it supports Columbia and Greene Counties and the CG Humane Society, along with AnimalKind. This date is set for September 12, which would conflict with Catskill Mountain Thunder. A possible change to Saturday, August 28 was suggested.

Christmas Party: The party has been booked and will be held at Kozel's again this year on December 4. We will have the same menu food available; plenty of time yet to plan this event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice President Nick Emanuele, stated that his wife Sue has stepped up to be our safety officer. Sue was congratulated, and had some handouts to pass around about group riding and proper use of hand signals.

Karen will be setting up a presentation (DVD) of a Wayne Wierson Share the Road for next month's meeting. This program is used in Iowa schools, incorporating motorcycle awareness and education with their driver education classes. She is also going to be in touch with our DMV Columbia County Clerk, Holly Tanner, about viewing the program and to see if can be introduced into schools in our area, with the hopes of adopting the program all around New York State. She stated that motorcycle awareness is mandatory in driver education classes in New York State, but is not done that well.

Prospector said that a bill was passed about this but never enforced. He was given phone numbers to contact someone, but nobody ever answers the line. He's also in touch with a woman, Christine Greenberg, with the oversight committee, who also rides, and may be a better supporter, who is also interested in getting something done—researching bills passed, but not enforced for bikers' rights. He urged everyone at the meeting to support the MRF by becoming members. The MRF is our voice in Washington, helps to keep the office open and people lobbying for bikers' rights. Ms. Greenberg will be invited to a future meeting, and will be joining both ABATE and the MRF.

Karen said that she would like to have another accident scene course. Barbara of Total Control, is not prepared to do an advanced course, but can cover a basic course of 20 per class; a tentative date scheduled is March 6. There are not a lot of dates available as the program also hosts the rider education courses at HVCC.

Karen also said because winter is slow time, she spoke with American Red Cross who is having a blood drive at the Chatham Firehouse on Friday, February 19, starting at 3:00 pm. Karen asked if anybody was interested in donating to please sign up in advance. All bike groups welcome—American Legion riders, and Red Knights, etc.

She also has list of events for the Greene County ABATE—they are having a cabin fever party at Brennans; a pig roast in July with a campout; she will put information on the website.

Paula said that she will have another quilt made for a raffle at the Columbia County Fair again this year. She needs to have 16 t-shirts donated, and would like some colors; not all black, please. We have left-over tickets

which we can use again this year to sell chances. Again, it was mentioned that Price Chopper will donate 500 free tickets.

Sue Emanuele asked if an event could be done to benefit children who are grieving from family death. There is a camp program at a cost of \$500 per child with limited tickets available for children to attend through Hospice. After discussion and comments, because a previous suggestion of doing a run for Camp Sundown was shot down last year Bob M. suggested we donate the money from the Spring Fun Run to this cause; creates good publicity, and positive media attention.

MOTION #09-2010 was made by Sue Emanuele and seconded, with all favor, to sponsor a child in the amount of \$500 to attend the Hospice Camp. Pete stood up and said he would donate the first \$100 of the free, as Hospice is a wonderful cause; Jim Williams also stood up and said he would donate \$100 (joined ABATE in October 2009); Karen also acknowledged \$100 donation from Mark and Jerry Sigler, leaving only the sum of \$200 to be raised by the Spring Fun Run for this cause.

Karen went on to read from the Jan. 2010 State board minutes—she said that ‘Roadkill’ was impeached and she feels elections were done incorrectly. Karen reported that there has been a great deal of in-fighting, and feels the organization can go down-hill without unity. We are a legislative group and should be working for that by following the rules that were made by our organization (bylaws). She encourages all members to read them.

Karen also read from the minutes, regarding the state incentive program eight chapters will not get any incentive money; as the chapters needed to attend at least 3 out of 4 meetings according to our current bylaws.

She said there was further discussion about not hosting the Freedom Rally meeting as she noted that the date has been made to be May 22nd—the date cannot be changed arbitrarily, it is set in the Bylaws and shouldn’t be changed without going back to the chapters for a vote. She will bring this up at the next state chapters meeting. Karen said that state board and chapter meetings are open to all ABATE members who want to attend, and she urged participation. She also said that next year she will not be running for a position in the chapter, but will do so for a state board seat. She continued to state that we have great chapters who get along well, with good people. We are all in this group together and are the same family—a bigger army gets more done. Our biggest strength is being together and being strong. Karen said to stay informed and be involved as much as possible.

To wrap things up, a story was read by Jim Williams, from the MRF newsletter about memorial patches worn on bikers’ vests—what they mean and what story they all tell. Every vest is different no two are exactly the same. The point of the story Mr. Williams wanted to make was that the vest is an extension of who and what we are. Bob DiRuzzio also spoke up and said that we are very lucky to have Pete and Prospector to carry the “message” to the state level about the issues we care about. Karen acknowledged this also.

MOTION #09-2010 made by Denise with second with to adjourn the meeting. Vote-All in Favor. The PAC hat had a donation of \$72.

Respectfully submitted by Zandra Boice, Secretary

"Check Twice" rights transferred (Amesbury, MA) Bob Doiron, originator and worldwide promoter of the famous "Check Twice - Save a Life, MOTORCYCLES ARE EVERYWHERE" motorcycle safety and awareness bumper stickers, has transferred and assigned his copyright and trademark to his longtime associate, Paul W. Cote. Mr. Cote claims he will continue to sell stickers in the customized stickers in 250 and 500 lots, as well as the lawn and roadside signs. He intends to add "Check Twice" patches, pins, and t-shirts also, for riders to wear and display the motorcycle safely message. Those interested in these products can order securely on line at www.CheckTwiceSigns.com or send a self addressed stamped return envelope to Check Twice Signs, P.O. Box 516, Amesbury, MA 01913.

NEW LAWS FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

As of February 22, 2010, the following changes to New York Licensing Law’s will affect young drivers

- Reduce from two to one the number of non-family passengers under age 21 riding in a motor vehicle operated by a junior license holder when not accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian.
- Elimination of the limited use junior license and require that a junior permit be held for at least six months before a junior or senior license may be issued.
- Increase the number of supervised driving hours before scheduling a road test from 20 to 50 hours that includes 15 hours of driving after sunset.