



Columbia County Chapter Newsletter January / February 2011



Your New 2011 Officers

Left to right, Mark Sigler- Treasurer
Joel Dyslin –President
Pete Shufelt – V.President
Zandra Boice- Secretary

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THE 25th ANNUAL

TATTOO EXPO

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Artists - Check for booth availability!!



Get some new ink or Show off what you have!

2011 Columbia County ABATE Chapter Officers

President: Joel Dyslin
Vice President: Pete Shufelt
Treasurer: Mark Sigler
Membership: Jenn Ross
Secretary: Zandra Boice
Legislative Coordinator: Prospector 239-4560
Products: Paula Palleschi & Jack Wrigley 828-1524
Road Captains:
Public Relations:
Sgt. @ Arms: Jack Wrigley 828-1524
Newsletter: Karen Blake-Kittle 392-7354 kbk84@msn.com
Web: Karen Blake-Kittle 392-7354 kbk84@msn.com
e-mail Coordinator: Karen Blake-Kittle kbk84@msn.com
Recruiting Officer & Safety Officer: Open
Regional Coordinator: Matt Grossman

**A previous chapter donation
Was made

In Memory

Hobo
Fatman
Big
John



TENTATIVE 2010/2011 Events
All must be verified By your new President, Joel Dyslin

FEBRUARY	4		Sat 19 State chapter meeting
MARCH	4	Cabin Fever	
APRIL	1	Spring Fun Run	19-21 MRF "Beast of the East" SC Regional meeting
MAY	6	Chapter Memorial Run	Sat 21 State chapter meeting Mon 16 NY State Freedom Rally
JUNE	3	Chapter Freedom Run Flag Day Parade	6-11 Americade Lake George, NY 12-20 Laconia, NH 24-26 Harley Rendezvous
JULY	1		Regional meeting
AUGUST	5	Mountain Run	Sat 20 State chapter meeting
SEPTEMBER	9	31-5 Columbia County Fair chapter booth	11-14 Catskill, Mountain Thunder 24-26 MRF Meeting Of The Minds in Illinois
OCTOBER	7	Sun 2 Toy Run	Regional meeting
NOVEMBER	4		Sat 19 State chapter meeting
DECEMBER	??	Holiday party & meeting	

What is ABATE?

AMERICAN BIKERS AIMED TOWARD EDUCATION is a non-profit corporation formed to promote and protect the interests of New York Motorcyclists. **ABATE** monitors and interacts with the legislative process, enhancing the image of the sport, and providing educational and social opportunities for members as well as non-members. **ABATE** will continue to strive to become acquainted with both the issues and people of the motorcycling community.

We encourage all our members to be informed registered voters. "New Rider" education classes with certified safety instructors are currently being offered by some Chapters throughout the state. We welcome interested persons to any of our activities and to join our organization.

ABATE does not discriminate - all makes of motorcycles are WELCOME.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

Chapter Address: ABATE of Columbia County, P.O. Box 227, Hudson, NY 12534

Chapter e-mail: columbiaabate@yahoo.com

Chapter website: <http://www.columbiaabate.org>

ABATE of NY State website: <http://www.abateny.org>

*Anything for publication in the newsletter can be
Passed along at a Chapter Meeting or e-mailed
to:*

columbiaabate@yahoo.com or mail to:
CL NL c/o Karen Kittle 1575 Co. Rt. 22
Ghent, NY 12075-2713

*Newsletter submissions for the March issue
Must be received by Thursday, Feb.16, 2011*

Chapter meetings on first
Thursday of the month
Next meeting
February 3rd, 7pm
at the Whitestone Café'

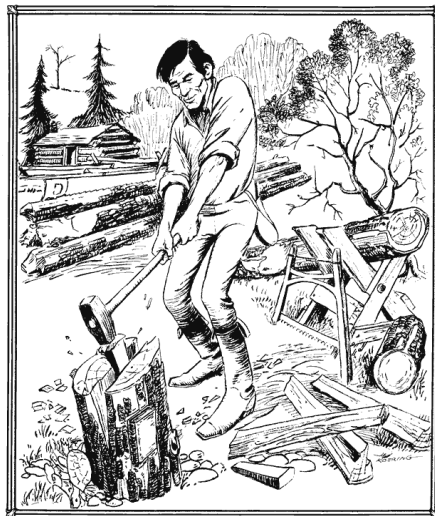
Musings From The Woodpile

A new year, it seems, is always filled with optimism. A chance to begin again with the hope of “getting it right this time around”. After a few months though, we tend to drift back to the old ways and we find ourselves too busy to do much about it. Well, all that’s about to change. Change?..... anybody ready for a change?..... Where have we heard that before?..... Let’s be honest; we’re not going to change or why should we?

Looking back over the past few years we can see quite a few things have been done right. There is much to be proud of as an ABATE Chapter. Membership has increased, funds have been raised and most of all we stand tall in our community. In many ways we have helped our community and the people who live here. Thanks to each of you who have put your shoulders to the wheel and advanced our cause.

Let’s begin this year by setting some realistic goals. On the ABATE Chapter agenda we should concentrate on identifying something that we all agree needs our attention such as; highway safety, safety check points, noise regulations, etc. Fund raising needs to be addressed and plans made to schedule events in order to raise funds. Community involvement projects such as Flag Day, Charity Rides and the Edith Casey Toy Run all have to be planned and put on the calendar. Along the way, let’s also support East Coast Riders, Red Knights and Greene County ABATE and their activities. If we do all we set out to do and at the same time ride a lot and have lots of fun we should have a really good year.

In conclusion, you may wonder where the title of this article comes from.... I do some of my best thinking while out splitting and stacking firewood. If you care to reread this article you will notice nowhere is there the single word “I” but a lot of “we’s”. I cannot accomplish much of anything but working together; we can accomplish almost anything we set out to do and therein lies my message. Thank you for electing me your president. I am pleased to represent you and I will do my best to make you proud.



Respectfully submitted
Joel E. Dyslin
President

ABATE of New York, Inc.
Columbia County Chapter
Secretary's Minutes Thursday, January 6, 2011

The meeting called to order at 7:10 pm at Whitestone Café by newly elected President Joel Dyslin. The Pledge was recited. Joel thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting opening with a short story and joke, and stated that this is a new year with new officers. There were 27 members in attendance including four officers.

SECRETARY Report –**MOTION #01-2011** made by Jack Wrigley, to waive the minutes of the December 2010 meeting, which was seconded with all in favor.

TREASURER Report -- New Treasurer Mark Sigler gave his report as follows: Beginning balance: \$4,771.52 with Income of \$460.00, and Expenses of \$1,434.50, leaving an ending balance of \$3,979.02; savings balance for 200 Club is \$241.49.

MEMBERSHIP Report -- The report was given by membership chair Jenn Ross as follows:

Outstanding Past Dues

Tracy Daniels
Kathy Eldridge
James Fay
Marilee Kellard
Chris Peters
Angelo Salvatore
Mark Sawicky
Tricia Thibeault
Kyle Witko
Candy Witko

January 2011 Dues

Marcia Curran
J. Ron Dillon
Ed Keyes

February 2011 Dues

Michele Amoroso
Anthony Brahm
Dawn Evans
Ben Gansowski
Julie Sutherland
Cindy & Rick Tracey

-
LEGISLATIVE— Prospector reported that sessions started this week with the State of the State speeches. They are all settling in and running behind. Assembly has 26 new members; there are 13 new Senators. His main agenda for the year is the Confiscation Bill, which is being sponsored by Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo and Senate sponsor Mike Nozzillio.

He has two appointments lined up for Tuesday and hopes to make more. On Tues. he has 200 packages to hand out, and asked if anyone had free time to help out in getting packages to the legislators, he would appreciate it.

Prospector has heard rumors about a new bill, similar to last year's wheelie bill, re: motorcycle maneuvers; he doesn't know the language, but will be meeting with Assemblyman Bill Colton todiscuss it..

The Helmet Bill is still on the agenda. Assemblyman Bill Parment has retired, Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo is now sponsoring. No Senate sponsor as yet. Prospector stated there is bad new, two Senators are in poor health, Senator Owen Johnson and Senator Bill Larkin. Both have been favorable to the motorcycling community and our issues. He urged everyone to be aware of our motorcycle freedoms and rights; to read, and be aware of what's going on.

The MRF in Washington is working hard on fighting the Federal helmet law, and he said that all ABATE members should make a phone call to their local Congressman and asked that they support House Resolution 1498. ***Important note, it is NOT called HRI489, it does not yet have a bill number.** Congressman Chris Gibson's Kinderhook office can be reached at 518.610.8133.

Pete Shufelt also mentioned that Prospector, was elected as the new State Legislative coordinator and he was given a round of applause.

NEWSLETTER -- Karen said that the next newsletter will be out as soon as the minutes from tonight's meeting have been prepared and submitted. There were questions regarding the newsletter by Bob DiRuzzio, asking about it going back to a monthly basis. Karen said she would work on it as soon as she could, stating that she had more time now to do so.

PRODUCTS -- Paula stated that she did not bring products to the meeting tonight, but there are plenty of long-sleeve shirts and sweatshirts, and if members are looking for something specific, to please contact her and she will get to them. She stated again that t-shirt donations for the quilt will be taken at any time; 16 t-shirts are needed for the quilt raffle again this year.

SGT. of ARMS -- Jack reported everything is secure.

ROAD CAPTAIN -- Bob Mayo asked that someone else be appointed this year as road captain. He said he reviewed all of his maps and "has run out of roads and routes in the area and Columbia County to ride", and has other commitments. He suggested that Allan Archer be appointed road captain, and Allan accepted the appointment. Bob also stated that he would continue to assist.

Bob also stated that he felt the poker runs needed a "new set of eyes", that they should be routed to go from the large group we usually form, to smaller, broken up groups, with each group leaving the checkpoint at staggered times with maps to follow. This will overall be safer, eliminate traffic problems and the necessity of road guards. We would still need to have people at checkpoint stops, to punch cards. We have had great cooperation from local/Hudson law enforcement and other towns for the runs.

There was further discussion about watching other riders who are not members of ABATE, who don't follow the general rules, crack pipes, weave in/out traffic, use of drugs/alcohol, etc. as we don't want a negative image to form of ABATE. We will still continue to ride as a large group for the annual benefits runs – Bozo Run and Toy Run.

VICE PRESIDENT – Pete reported that elections were held at the State level, and Beth Gorman was defeated for position of President by Tom Alton. There is a new state office manager in place. He met with Topaz in Brooklyn and picked up a number of boxes and files of material. They want to go through the boxes and input information on computer disks for better storage.

Pete feels that Tom Alton will be a good President, but also stated that the State has lost some ABATE members. There is work to be done in revising the Bylaws, which need updating. Need review by lawyers and then sent to chapters for review and approval. He also stated that one of the major goals is to get finances in order, and a handle on the cost of the State newsletter; and there is a new address for all State correspondence: **ABATE of NY, Inc. P O Box 340094 Brooklyn, NY 11234**

President/Joel interjected here, stating his thanks to Pete for serving as our chapter's new Vice President; he also thanked Karen and Tricia again for their past service as President and Treasurer respectively; and thanked Mark for taking on the treasurer position, and Zandra for continuing to serve as secretary.

NEW BUSINESS – Paula stated that she learned that Albany is possibly forming a new chapter of ABATE and wondered if anyone else had heard about this or knew of this. Karen said that there is no Albany chapter formed yet, but had heard that someone was trying to do so. Pete said that six members are needed for a new chapter with five officers and a new bank account. He would most likely hear of a new chapter at the State level first.

President/Joel brought up the Patriot Guards/Riders and their duties in guarding military funerals. He also said there is a military service/courtesy room known as the John McKenna Room at Albany Airport, staffed by volunteers with donations made for food, phone cards, etc. It's a place for military personnel to rest and relax as they are coming in and going out of the Albany Airport. He also said there is an artist- painter who paints soldiers' portraits from a photograph and has done one for the support room. He asked about ABATE helping with the efforts being made in support of the John McKenna Room.

Bob DiRuzzio stated that the Patriot Guards are there for the family when requested, and it's quite an honor to lead the hearse to a soldier's final resting place. He's a Vietnam vet who was not welcomed home like soldiers are today. He confirmed that the courtesy room is very nice, and asked about making a money donation; this would show ABATE in a positive and favorable light with the

public and press. **MOTION #02-2011** made by Bob D. to donate the sum of \$500 to the John McKenna courtesy room, which was seconded by Al Archer.

With the motion on the floor, there was further discussion regarding the donation amount. Karen suggested that the first run of the season (Spring fun run) be used to raise the money for the courtesy room. Bob did not disagree on this, but said that our group makes donations all year round, i.e. money donated to sponsor child to attend Camp Erin. We need more positive exposure and coverage, and this is a good opportunity. Joel said that maybe the first run could be made to travel to Albany to visit the courtesy room and present the donation check. We would have to get clearance from airport security which Bob said he could handle, and get parking passes. We wouldn't have to make the donation right now, it could be done in April, so that the event could be coordinated with the press. After discussion about raising the money over and above the Spring fun run, the motion was voted on with all in favor.

Karen said that she will meet and discuss with Joel dates to be set down for this year's runs, and to coordinate with outside events like the State Freedom Rally/Ride and weekend, Laconia, Americade, Beast of the East (which is being held down south in April), so there is little or no conflicts. There was discussion as to what date to have the Cabin Fever party in March; the 12th is one date suggested by Joel; this is usually held as close as possible to the first day of spring. Joel asked if this date was good for everyone.

The 200 club party event was also discussed. As everyone knows, we did not have the event last summer. Pete stated that we need to have the event, and need to sell tickets; it helped to establish our chapter. We should maybe have the event in July instead of August. A new location will be needed (possibly Polish Sportsmen Club), and Frank Sabo is open to the idea of having it again at his farm.

Joel stated that he will put out sign-up sheets to have committees formed for both the Cabin Fever party and the 200 Club event (members interested: Paula, Jack, Pete, Jenn). A committee will also be needed for Flag Day Parade. Even though not at tonight's meeting, Frank Sabo will again be taking names of members interested in attending Rolling Thunder; members will get first chance at discounted rooms for this event.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, **MOTION #03-2011** was made by Jack, seconded by Roddy, to adjourn the meeting with all in favor; meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The PAC hat collected \$30.

Respectfully submitted,
Zandra Boice, Secretary



****Newsletter Editor Note:**

I have checked on the issue regarding the monthly/bi-monthly printing and mailing of the chapter newsletter. In 2009 the NL was printed bi-monthly/monthly. I tried to find the specific motion and when it was made by looking through the archived minutes on the chapters website. However, I could not directly find it, although I do recall it being discussed.

With that stated, I realize and acknowledge that my duties as Newsletter Editor have laxed. The March issue will be the last issue I produce, as well, I no longer wish to over-see the chapter's website.

I will need the information regarding the March Cabin Fever Party A.S.A.P. as it will be used for the cover of the March NL. Thank you, and best of wishes in the upcoming year. KBK



<http://www.mrf.org>

Do something more to protect your rights! Register, vote, write and ride!

JOIN AND SUPPORT **Motorcycle Riders Foundation** Freedom Fighter Donation _____

Annual Individual Membership \$30 3-Year Individual Membership \$80 Annual Sustaining Membership \$100

Annual Joint Membership \$50 3-Year Joint Membership \$130 New Renewal Mbr #

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR INFORMATION

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

1) Have you ever been a member of MRF? Yes No

2) Are you a member of a state motorcyclists' rights organization Yes No If yes, name: _____

Mail with remittance to: Motorcycle Riders Foundation, Inc. PO Box 1808, Washington, DC 20013-1808
(202) 546-0983 FAX (202) 546-0986 <http://www.mrf.org> MRFWash@aol.com

CHARGE IT! VISA Master Card Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

American Express Signature _____ Date _____

MRF Washington Update January 6, 2011 Motorcycle Riders Foundation

236 Massachusetts Ave. NE | Suite 510 | Washington, DC 20002-4980
202-546-0983 (voice) | 202-546-0986 (fax) | <http://www.mrf.org>

Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs, Jeff Hennie

Washington, D.C. was flush with newbies yesterday, as both the House and Senate swore in the newest Members of Congress. With smiles on everyones faces, you know someone had to be up to no good. This time it was the House Republican Conference. They held their closed door meeting to discuss the new rules changes for the 112th Congress, something the majority does every two years.

The House Republican leadership proposed a key change to the way the Highway Trust Fund is protected from borrowing or spending any money on non-transportation projects. This protection makes perfect sense because the fund is generated from a federal fuel tax, so it is money generated by road users, for road users.

Republicans defeated an amendment to the rules package offered by Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-OH), which would have preserved the linkage between incoming trust fund revenues and future federal investments. Under the LaTourette proposal the existing "point of order" protection against legislation that reduced investment below the supportable levels would have been retained, but any member would be allowed the opportunity to cut highway and transit investment through an amendment on the House floor. The LaTourette Amendment was voted on by secret ballot. As such, the votes of each Republican will not be made public and it is unclear at this time if the final vote tally will be released.

While today's developments are an obvious setback for the entire transportation community, the new rules package does not determine the outcome of subsequent legislation, nor does it require investment cuts. The new rule, however, certainly strengthens the hand of the House Appropriations Committee in setting highway and transit investment levels, irrespective of Highway Trust Fund revenues. House Republicans have been clear that they will be pursuing significant cuts in domestic discretionary spending and the defeat of the LaTourette Amendment signals that this could include highway and public transportation investment.

Despite the outcome of today's vote, Rep. LaTourette deserves the sincere appreciation of the entire transportation construction industry. Attempting to change a largely internal and leadership-driven process to protect the Highway Trust Fund shows his great leadership and support for federal transportation investment. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Mica (R-Fla.) also deserves our thanks as he supported and helped defend the LaTourette Amendment.

Special thanks goes out to MRF members and state motorcycle rights groups who aggressively weighed in on this issue over the last few days. While the outcome was not what we wanted, you can be certain your voice was heard, as many members of the House reported being inundated with calls from constituents. If anything, this situation reinforces the need to continue communicating with Congress

We have faced these challenges before and rest assured, we will continue to fight for the motorcyclists. Thank you again.

NTSB

The NTSB has been quiet about motorcycles since adding the call for state helmet law to their "top ten most wanted list". The NTSB has no regulatory or enforcement abilities. Just the powers to make lists and try to recommend that the recipients of their advice, take it. The MRF will keep you updated on the NTSB and all actions affecting the motorcyclists of America.

ABATE OF NEW YORK, INC.
CL CHAPTER
P.O. Box 227, Hudson, NY 12534

LET THOSE WHO RIDE DECIDE
NEWSLETTER – Jan. /Feb. 2011

FIRST CLASS MAIL



TO:

Postmaster: Please deliver promptly as this contains dated material. Thank You

NEXT MEETING – February 3rd, 2011 - 7:00 P.M. - WHITE STONE CAFÉ, RT. 66, GHENT
Social Hour begins @ 6pm

American Bikers Aimed Toward Education

<http://www.abateny.org>

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

www.geocities.com/columbiaabate

A Motorcycle Rights Organization helping to defend your right to ride in freedom

Remember! Every time an ABATE member signs a new member, it counts towards your membership incentive...

if you sign up 5 new members, your next year's membership is free!

Just make sure your membership number appears on the new member application as "Signed by: _____."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: ABATE of New York, Inc., State Office, P O Box 340094 Brooklyn, NY 11234

- Full Member: \$25. p/yr - includes membership packet, newsletter and all benefits in accordance with state by-laws.
- Associate Member: \$20. p/yr - includes same benefits except newsletter, must reside in same household as Full Member.
- Lifetime Member - \$400. single payment - Benefits same as full member.

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Patch Due
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	Mem. # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Pin Due	Year _____

NAME: _____ DOB: _____ CHAPTER: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ County: _____
 PhoneNo: _____ e-mail: _____

I agree to comply with ABATE of NY's by-laws and promote motorcycle education, legislation and activities in accordance with ABATE OF NEW YORK, INC.

Date: _____ Applicant Signature: _____

Signed by ABATE Member #: _____	Method of Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	DO NOT MAIL CASH!	Exp. Date
		<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Card	Visa/Master Card Number	_____ _____ _____ _____
					_____ _____ _____ _____