

BIKER CIVIL WRITES

SOUTHERN TIER ABATE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I know I have said this before, but I can't express this enough. When riding your bike out there be careful, and be courteous. When you're riding and someone gives you the right of way, even if it is your right anyway, let them know you appreciate their action. I know it sounds a little hokey, but a wave or a nod goes a long way. People have a natural tendency to pay closer attention to people who are courteous, and despise the rude. Try it; you'll see what I mean. I know many of us like loud pipes. Use discretion when rapping on them. Coming home late at night is a good time to use that discretion. Respect the neighborhoods. Remember that when one biker does something wrong, the people see it as all bikers.

Those of you who have registered your motorcycles already for this season have discovered that it's going to cost more. With over 500,000 MCs on the road, the Vampire State stands to net an additional million off us. When they meet little resistance with that, there will be more to come.

Tioga County will not be blacktopping any roads this year. Due to budget cuts, they will only use oil and stone to repave. Previous experiences with the oil and stone systems show that they are cheaper, but fail to last as long as blacktop. The loose stone makes it more hazardous to all drivers and damage to the vehicles from the loose stone

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

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APRIL 2010

Upcoming Events:

- * Southern Tier ABATE Chapter Meeting
May 13th
American Legion Post 1194
- * ABATE State Chapters Meeting
1:00pm
May 16th
- * State Freedom Rally
May 17th

Check out our online calendar!

IN MEMORIAM

We were recently notified that Tom Fleming of Chenango Forks, a former Southern Tier ABATE member, passed away on March 17, 2010.

He is survived by his mother,

Mary Ellen Fleming and four brothers.

[View his obituary and see his guest book](#)

Do you know of any other lost brothers or sisters you'd like remembered? Send us any information you have and we will remember them here.

**SOUTHERN TIER
ABATE
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***American Bikers
Aimed
Towards Education***

We're on the Web!
abateofstny.org

WHAT IS A.B.A.T.E.

ABATE is an acronym for **American Bikers Aimed Towards Education**. We are a non-profit organization formed to promote and protect the interests of motorcyclists. We are a grassroots organization which provides information on federal, state, and local legislation affecting motorcyclists as well as providing social events for riders.

If you would like more information on **ABATE** you may write to:

Southern Tier ABATE
PO Box 2441
Binghamton, NY 13902

CHAPTER MEETINGS

The Southern Tier Chapter of ABATE of NY meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at:

J. P. Mangan American Legion Post 1194
363 West Service Road
Hillcrest, NY 13901

Meetings start at 7:00pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

more costly to all. They will clearly mark all roads and broom them once the system has been setup. As of today, I have yet to find out what the Broome County's intention is for this year, but I wouldn't be surprised if their intention is similar. So please be aware of the road conditions when you are traveling them.

I will also be going to the State Freedom Rally on Saturday because the State Chapters' meeting will be at 1:00 pm, Sunday the 16th. They have a hotel that the State has for us

this year, anyone wanting to go on Saturday with me please let me know. If you read the flyer they sent me, you'll see the details. It should be a good time.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Unfortunately we lost a true brother Tom Fleming due to a heart attack. Tom was a current 6 year member. He will be truly missed but always remembered. RIP Tom.

Currently we have 70 Members.

Welcome Aboard New Member!

1. Don Lantz Jr

Thanks to April Renewals!

1. Mick Brown
2. Bob Bullock
3. Andy Ellis
4. Cathy Freeman
5. Steven Kizis
6. Patrick Nannery
7. Dana Woodruff
8. Tom Finch
9. 9- John Crossman
10. TJ Giannicchi
11. Mark Giannicchi
12. Walt Huber

If you know any of the following folks, gently remind them it's time to renew!

Past Due Members

1. Meggan Hobart [Jan]
2. Lisa Swislosky [Jan]

Members due in April 2010

1. Mark Callahan
2. George Kilpatrick

Members due in May 2010

1. John Day Jr
2. Christopher Eggelston
3. Steve Faughnan
4. Jim Fizzesimmons
5. Mike Murray

6. Candy Spacek

Members due in June 2010

1. Ron Aton
2. 2- James (Packrat) Bates
3. 3- Mark Beebe
4. 4- Kenny Gardner
5. 5- Sid Gyles
6. 6- Shelly Hinton
7. 7- Debora Moochler
8. 8- Edward J Vandermark

Please keep your membership current. Your membership is crucial to fight for our aims and purposes.

The state will only keep you on for 2 months after your membership card expiration date.

I would like to see our membership grow. I would like to ask every member to try to get at least one person signed up. Bring them to a meeting or party to see what we are all about. I always have tri-folds at the meeting or you can contact me to get some.

That is all I have for this month. Hope to see you all at the meeting. The weather is starting to break so remember to ride safely and be aware of the gravel that is still on most roads.

LIFE TERM MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The Life Membership program consists on a one time payment based on the number of years the member has in the organization. Beginning with their 25th year they are automatically a Charter Life Member and dues are waived.

0-5 yrs Membership is \$400.00

6-10 yrs Membership is \$300.00

11-15 yrs Membership is \$200.00

In addition to all benefits of a full member the Life Member will receive: A Life Member patch, A distinctive Life Member card, and yearly pins.

I am considering this option myself being a 10 year member already. I ask that you also consider this option if financially possible.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

I hope that all of you have had the chance to ride again this year. We've had some incredible weather already. If you remember last year, the summer was terrible, so get out and ride now just in case this year ends up like the last.

The State Legislature still hasn't passed a budget. NY has a huge budget deficit and the Legislature and the Governor don't seem to be able to reach any compromise on how to close the gap. They're all working hard on the problem but seem unable to look at the problems in a realistic way. The solution is simple; STOP SPENDING SO MUCH MONEY!! It's what all of us do when faced with personal money problems but special interest groups still rule in Albany. I don't anticipate any resolution and we may be facing another year where the Legislature just approves temporary spending measures throughout the year instead of doing the hard work and representing the people of NYS. Yep, we still have the most dysfunctional state government in the US.

On a brighter note, MOA Lupardo and Crouch have graciously granted us time to visit with them in their local offices to discuss our issues. If you don't know what we're working on this year, visit the website or come to a meeting and make your voice heard. By coming to the meetings you can express your views of what we should be doing to improve safety and make your ride more enjoyable.

In addition to the legislation being proposed this year, I received a couple of ideas from the membership on what they would like included this year, specifically, untarped or unsecured loads and Yield Right of Way enforcement. We will discuss these issues with our elected representatives when we meet with them.

Also, I have not received any phone calls or e-mails from members who would like to join me when we meet with our reps. Let me know if you can come. There is strength in numbers and it makes my job much easier.

Meeting dates and times:

- * Lupardo 4/29 at 1:30 pm in her office at the State Office Building
- * Crouch 4/30 at 9:00 am in his office in Chenango Bridge

We live in a representative democracy. You have no voice unless you register to vote and then go to the polls to cast your ballot. REGISTER NOW! It only takes a few minutes and is the only way, beside our lobbying efforts, to effect real change in NY.

WEB SITE NEWS (ABATEOFSTNY.ORG)

Added legislative meeting information and updated most of the legislative page.

Check out the motorcycle safety videos.

I've been updating the Favorite Links. Use the Feedback Form to provide links or send me an email. Folks have already started.

Do you have an event you'd like to see on the Calendar? Send me the event, date/time, place, and contact info. I'll make sure it gets posted.

Sorry about the sample pictures! I needed to set up the page and that's what was provided. You can email me separate photos or (for the more computer savvy) you put a bunch in a Zip file and send that to me.

What would you like to see? Under *About & Contact Southern Tier ABATE*, I've provided a form to send feedback to me.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Would you like to see the full-color version, save a tree, and save the Chapter postage in the process?

Then go to the Web site and tell me you don't need a paper copy any more! Under *About & Contact Southern Tier ABATE*, you can order the electronic version! I'll send you a colorful, fully interactive PDF version instead.

Associate Members in good standing are eligible for email delivery.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES INTRODUCTION LETTER

Stephen Faughnan
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
City, NY XXXXXX

April ##, 2010

Addressee

Addressee Address

City, NY #####

Dear Addressee,

On behalf of the members of the Southern Tier Chapter of ABATE of NY, I am pleased to present you with a copy of our 2010 Legislative Issues Book. Motorcycles are an increasingly popular method of transportation in New York State. For 2009, there were 336,359 registered motorcycles in NY with 5,871 in Broome County. (Source: DMV 2009 registration statistics) With rising fuel costs, it is anticipated that this number will increase for 2010.

Motorcycles are currently the ultimate “green” vehicle with most having ratings in excess of 50 mpg. Unfortunately, due to their small size, motorcycles are nearly invisible to many other drivers. This has led to multiple, tragic accidents resulting in injury, dismemberment and death. The main purpose of ABATE is to prevent such accidents through education and safety courses for motorcyclists as well as all other drivers.

On May 17, 2010, members of ABATE from all over NYS will come to Albany to attend the NYS Freedom Rally and meet with their elected officials. I hope that you will have the time to meet with your motorcycling constituents to discuss the issues described herein, and that you will continue to seek their perspective on motorcycle related issues.

I thank you in advance for consideration of our views. We stand ready to assist you and your staff throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of assistance on motorcycle related issues.

Sincerely,

Steve Faughnan
Legislative Coordinator
Southern Tier Chapter
ABATE of NY

**It doesn't take long to create a letter of your own. Use this as a guide.
A “snail-mail” letter shows our officials the level of commitment we have to our cause!**

MINUTES FROM APRIL MEETING

April 8, 2010 – Start 7:11pm—20 attendees including officers.

Moment of silence for Tom Fleming.

Waive reading of March minutes. Motion to accept (mta) Corky, 2nd Chrissy

Corky reads Treasury Report. Thanks to Chrissy & Eric for the great dinner. As you know, we do not report our balances in the newsletter to keep them from prying eyes. However, if any member wants information they may call Corky at 770 - 7098. The books are also available for any member to look over. mta The Kid (Ron), 2nd Ron

Eric reads Membership Report: 69 members, 1 new member, 9 renewals, 2 past due, 5 due this month, 6 due in May. Ask people, talk to people, bring friends & family to the meeting. See updated report in *Membership Report* section. mta Ron, 2nd Jerry

Shelly reads Newsletter/Website Report. She got the newsletter out while Mick was out of town. She added several new pages and made other updates to the Web site. Check it out! She's heard from Penny who is doing better & has started riding again. mta Chrissy, 2nd Tom

Eric made a motion to set up a remembrance page for lost ABATE members

Mick made a motion to have those ABATE members who passed listed in the May newsletter for those without a computer

Steve reads Legislative Report. Donna Lupardo, April 29th, 1:00pm. Called Cliff Crouse and Tom Libous and waiting to make appointments. He decided to change the format of letters sent out. Contact Steve for copies. Took the bills we're interested in and categorized them. He welcomes any comments on the new letter. If you don't have a computer, contact Steve to get a copy. See *Legislative Report* section for more info. mta Mark, 2nd The Kid (Ron)

Kenney "I want to say how much I was saddened by Tom's death." He's been out on the road. Watch out for other people & vehicles. Need to call the state & county representatives about safety & road conditions. Get license plate number of dangerous vehicle. mta Nicloe, 2nd Dan)

Mick reads President's Report (See *President's Report* section). mta Ron, 2nd Don

New business:

1. Freedom Rally May 17th in Albany

2. State Chapters Meeting May 16th near Albany

3. Who wants to ride up Sunday & stay until Monday?

Mick is riding up Saturday. Contact Mick if interested.

4. Corky made a motion that Chapter pays 1/3 of room on Sunday night only. President's room gets 1/2 paid on Saturday night. mta Corky, 2nd ?, Motion passed

5. Had a lot of people asking for signs

6. Eric made a motion to get more signs. mta Eric, 2nd Steve

7. Eric suggested we have patches made for Tom. He was an ABATE member.

We will be taking orders for people who want patches. Name & money first.

Eric wants to thank Spick Mike (donated all food) & all people who showed up. Donated over \$300 for family. Thank you

Old business:

1. Cabin Fever Party: Was a great time! Thank you Corky & Toni.

2. Ron asked about gas cards to raffle. Mick will make them up & present them at the next meeting. Wording done by Mick 50/50—\$31 counted by ?. Corky won & donated \$21 back to ABATE.

Attending ABATE of New York's



14th Annual Freedom Rally??

Don't miss the pre-rally Weekend Party at
The Weldon House/Blackthorn Resort, in East Durham, NY, home to
Catskill Mountain Thunder!!!!

The Weldon House is ABATE's exclusive retreat for the entire weekend—*no other guests allowed!!*

State Chapters Meeting starts 1:00 p.m., Sunday, May 16, 2010

Friday - Monday Rooms \$60.00/night for 2 adults including continental breakfast the following morning.

Book at least one night, sleep over Monday night no charge!!

Camp/RV sites available

Great food - Great booze - cheap prices, bands Friday & Saturday

Shuttle van service all night n/c - party without worry

HUGE bonfire party Sunday night

Ride out together Monday morning to the meet at the Wholly Cow
for the **14th Annual Freedom Rally Ride to the Capital**

For bookings or more info:

Call: (518) 634-2541

e-mail Roy Handel: royhandelwithcmt@yahoo.com

The Handels' resorts are biker/ABATE member owned and operated

Weldon House, Inc.
2119 State Route 145
East Durham, NY

March 18, 2010

Dear fellow ABATE members,

We invite you to join us and our ABATE brothers and sisters for the pre-Freedom Rally – Ride to the Capital Weekend Party, Friday, May 14, 2010 through Monday, May 17, 2010! Show up when you want, stay as long as you want. Details are on the fliers included with this mailing.

East Durham, NY is a biker's paradise, surrounded by a unique choice of twisty rides through the mountains, between famous rock cliffs and waterfalls or easy valley highway cruising. So, in the "down time," there are plenty of great riding opportunities, whatever your style is.

ALL bikes and bikers are welcome. If we don't want to continue losing our freedom, we have to stick together!

The Weldon House was purchased last year by the Handel family, ABATE members and owners of Blackthorne Resort, home to Motorcycle Spring Run, June 11 – 13, 2010, and the **13th Annual Catskill Mountain Thunder**, September 16 – 19, 2010, upstate NY's wildest motorcycle festival.

The Weldon House will be devoted exclusively to ABATE members and their guests for the entire weekend – no other guests allowed!! This is expected to be a party like ABATE has never had before, with plenty of food, drink, music, and riding, culminating in a **HUGE** bonfire party Sunday night, to get in the spirit for our **Freedom Rally – Ride to the Capital** Monday morning.

Don't miss this event – book early!!

Ride safe-ride free,

Jim Karkheck
Cell: (518) 965-1678

For bookings or more info:

Call: (518) 634-2541

e-mail Roy Handel: royhandelwithcmt@yahoo.com

The Handels' resorts are biker/ABATE member owned and operated

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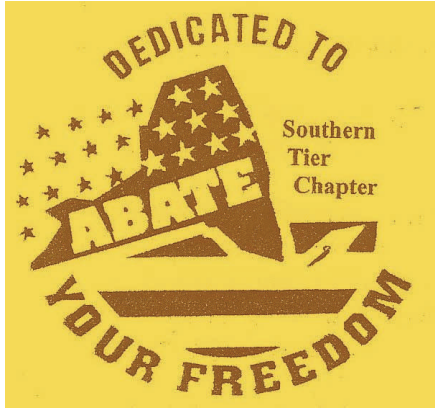
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SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!



SOUTHERN TIER ABATE

PO Box 2441
Binghamton, NY 13902

*American Bikers Aimed
Towards Education*

We're on the Web!
abateofstny.org

Next Meeting: May 13th

MAIL TO:

**ABATE OF NEW YORK, INC.
PO BOX 300
WALKER VALLEY, NY 12588-0300**

_____ Full Membership—\$25 per year—includes Membership Packet, Newsletter, all benefits in accordance with state by-laws

_____ Associate Membership—\$20 per year—available only to additional members of a full member's household (no newsletter), all benefits in accordance with state by-laws

_____ Member-at-Large—\$25 per year—same benefits as full member only you elect not to affiliate with a local chapter

Name _____ DOB _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Chapter selected _____ or _____ Member-at-Large

I agree to comply with ABATE of New York's by-laws and promote motorcycle education, legislation, and activities in accordance with ABATE of New York, Inc.

Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____ (VISA or MC only)

Signature _____ Date _____

Membership appl. taken by: # _____ Name: _____

Patch Due: _____ Pin Due: _____ New: _____ Year: _____ New Member's No.: # _____

ABATE of New York, Inc. Member's Receipt

Date: _____ Received from: _____ Membership # _____

Southern Tier Chapter 1 Year Membership accepted by: _____