

# BIKER CIVIL WRITES

ABATE OF NYS, INC., SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER

## PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The month of March has been a less than desirable in many ways. We have seen a full spectrum of weather. Some warm enough for us to go for a ride on the bike and get into the groove again. It’s a shame that other people on the road do not feel same about sharpening their driving skills too.

The only thing you and I can do to protect ourselves is to drive defensively, and be aware of your surroundings.

Prospector has been doing his part as legislative coordinator by meeting with Albany officials and talking about our issues. Educating these folks can be very difficult because many of them do not know bikers as well as our representatives. By meeting with them he is putting a face with the issues. You can do the same in local government. Going with Steve on one of his many meetings, shows them another face to remember. If you have the time to do this I encourage you to do this.

It was a big disappointment when we discovered there was a scheduling error concerning the band for the Cabin Fever Party, and we had to cancel. Hopefully we can learn from our mistakes and this won’t happen again.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

### APRIL 2011

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#### Upcoming Events:

- \* April 14<sup>th</sup>: Southern Tier ABATE Chapter Meeting  
American Legion Post 1194, Hillcrest
- \* May 12<sup>th</sup>: Southern Tier ABATE Chapter Meeting  
American Legion Post 1194, Hillcrest
- \* May 16<sup>th</sup>: State Freedom Rally, Albany

**Check out our online calendar for bike runs, benefits, and more!**

## IN MEMORIAM

No names submitted.

**ABATE OF NYS, INC.,  
SOUTHERN TIER  
CHAPTER**

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

Mick Brown  
(607) 217-5669  
[dadspar@yahoo.com](mailto:dadspar@yahoo.com)

VICE PRESIDENT

Corky Edwards  
(607) 770-7098  
[newyorkabate@aol.com](mailto:newyorkabate@aol.com)

LEGISLATIVE

Steve Faughnan  
(607) 692-3809  
[sfaughnan2@stny.rr.com](mailto:sfaughnan2@stny.rr.com)

SECRETARY

T. J. Giannicchi  
(607) 242-7923  
[giannicchi@aol.com](mailto:giannicchi@aol.com)

TREASURER

Toni Jamison  
(607) 768-0082  
[caretaker48sls@aol.com](mailto:caretaker48sls@aol.com)

MEMBERSHIP

Eric Lenga  
(607) 729-1350  
[hippiedude67@yahoo.com](mailto:hippiedude67@yahoo.com)

NEWSLETTER  
WEB MASTER

Shelly Hinton  
(607) 761-4411  
[DrWhoToo@gmail.com](mailto:DrWhoToo@gmail.com)

***American Bikers  
Aimed  
Towards Education***

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We're on the Web!  
[abateofstny.org](http://abateofstny.org)

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**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)*

We will be going to Albany in May for the State Lid Run, and there is a lot planned for that weekend and the Blackthorne Resort. If you can make it, you won't be disappointed. Let us know at the April meeting so we can reserve a room for you.

The yellow ABATE signs will be available in a couple of weeks, stay tuned.

Mick Brown, Prez

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Currently we have 89 Members, that's down 1 from last month.

We had 2 new Members join us.

1. Paul Salvo Thorn
2. Todd Woodburn

Welcome aboard Todd & Paul!

We had 3 renewals since last newsletter:

1. Regina Excell {2 yrs}
2. Annette Goodwin {2 yrs}
3. Steve Medovich {3 yrs}

We thank you for your continued support.

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

### *Members Past Due*

1. Meggan Hobart {Jan}
2. Walt Huber {Jan}
3. Steven Kizis {Jan}
4. Mark Paugh {Jan}
5. Andy Ellis {Feb}
6. John Grosso {Feb}

### *Members due in March 2011*

1. Bob Bullock
2. Mark Giannicchi
3. TJ Giannicchi
4. Patrick Nannery

### *Members due in April 2011*

1. Mark Callahan
2. John Crossman
3. Tom Finch
4. Cathy Freeman
5. George Kilpatrick
6. Don Lantz Jr
7. Dana Woodruff

### *Members due in May 2011*

1. John H Day, Jr
2. Jim Fitzsimmons
3. Mike Murray
4. Candy Spacek

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.

Hello, I would like to thank the Members that donated money for Tom Fleming's "Forever Membership" card. I just received the proper paperwork from the state so I will be sending it in soon. That is all I have. Spring is here so Ride Safe.

Hippie

## 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.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report submitted.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There's not much happening in Albany right now because of the budget negotiations. We're still working on our bills for this year and we should be getting numbers for them soon. Prospector has been meeting with as many new members of the NYS Legislature as possible. He is emphasizing contacting your federal representative, (in our case either Maurice Hinchey or Richard Hanna) in regards to HR 904. This resolution would prohibit the feds from funding motorcycle only stops. The resolution is sponsored by Rep. J. Sensenbrenner. Call, write or e-mail your rep letting them know that as a motorcycle rider, you are tired of being singled out by this outrageous program. The State Police call this program "Trooper 5060" in memory of a trooper killed in the line of duty pursuing a motorcycle. If we can cut off the federal funding, the program will disappear! So contact them now!! I've attached a copy of the letter that I sent and Hopefully, Shelly will be able to post it in the legislative section of our web page.

On a final note, yesterday, St. Patrick's day, I got on the bike (filthy dirty) and rode most of the afternoon. What a great day, riding in the middle of March! I hope that all of you got a chance to ride, too. The warm weather is coming and the legislative session is also heating up. Stay involved and bring your friends.

Steve

## NEWSLETTER/WEB SITE NEWS ([ABATEOFSTNY.ORG](http://ABATEOFSTNY.ORG))

Missed our February meeting with Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo? Check out the pictures sent in by Jerry Coletti.

We want your email address! The latest version of the Chapter's Membership Form now has a box to indicate whether you want an electronic version of the newsletter. Even if you don't, send us your email address. It may be useful in the future.

### 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.

## MINUTES FROM MARCH MEETING

March 10, 2011 – Start 7:15pm—21 members (including officers) attended.

TJ's report: Motion to waive reading of the minutes. Motion to accept (mta) Chrissy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike, motion passed

Toni reads Treasury Report. 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 Toni at (607) 768-0082. The books are also available for any member to look over. mta Kenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy, motion passed

Eric reads Membership Report: 90 members (up from last month). At the beginning of 2010 we had 67 members and had 87 at the end of the year so we're doing okay. See *Membership Report* section. mta Jerry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy, motion passed

Shelly reads Newsletter/Website Report. Folks are checking us out. She updated the Membership Form to capture email data and whether the member wanted an electronic version of the newsletter. See *Web Site News* for more details. mta Kenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony, motion passed

⇒ Mick asked if she could change the address on the form to our address. Kenney asks if Eric realizes that it's more work for him. Eric says it isn't a problem.

⇒ Cathy let Shelly know that her newsletter was shredded by the Post Office. She gave the shredded version to Shelly with the note from the Post Office concerning damaged mail. Cathy got a replacement newsletter.

Steve reads Legislative Report. Please contact Richard Hanna and Maurice Hinchey concerning House Resolution 904. This is a resolution, not a bill, to Stop funding motorcycle-only checkpoints. Send them a letter (see *Page 8 for sample letter*), email or phone call. mta John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Don, motion passed

⇒ Kenney attended a party where Donna Lupardo was speaking. She is really helping us out on the Motorcycle Confiscation Bill. He also spoke with Barbaa Fiala about giving her more information about motorcycle bills, especially the Confiscation Bill. Steve concurs that Donna really is supporting us and that we can get at least one bill passed, hopefully more.

Corky reads Vice President's Report. Corky got a letter from the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) that our membership is up for renewal (\$100). The MRF is a national organization for motorcyclists rights. Georgia accepted funding and is planning on having motorcycle checkpoints on the way to Daytona. We are getting more lawn signs. We had a scheduling problem with the Cabin Fever Party band (see *Old Business* below). Toni, our Treasurer, is having her birthday tomorrow. Happy Birthday Toni! mta Jerry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chrissy, motion passed

⇒ Chrissy made a motion that the Southern Tier Chapter of ABATE of NY renew our annual membership at \$100. 2<sup>nd</sup> not recorded, motion passed

Mick reads President's Report. Discussed band snafu (see *Old Business* below). The State didn't want to send us last year's reimbursement check for new members. They claimed we didn't attend enough meetings. Mick proved we did. Shelly supplied December's Membership spreadsheet to State at their request. Regional Chapters Meeting is on Saturday. See *President's Report* section. mta John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark, motion passed

⇒ Kenney made a motion that the Southern Tier Chapter of ABATE of NY provide up to \$35 for lunch at the regional meeting. Corky says, "Bring back receipts!" 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy, motion passed

### *New business:*

1. We need to come up with ways to cut spending and keep ABATE going.
2. We are trying to have dues raised to \$32 if you want a mailed newsletter and \$25 if you want an electronic version.
3. Cars in the Park is on July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Maybe we can come up with something to raise money there such as a game or sell the gas raffle tickets. \$20 for table.
4. Our Lid Run is the second weekend in August
5. Read State newsletter. Now listing a *Forever Membership* (\$100) to keep members that passed on as members for life. Eric is asking for donations to make Tom Fleming a Forever Member.

### *Old business:*

1. Cabin Fever Party: The band had one date; we had another. Stoney and Eric made phone calls for a last minute replacement. While no motion was recorded, we voted to cancel the party and possibly use the money for a band at the Summer Campout. Cancel-8; Continue-5; Undecided-6
2. We're not allowed to have a fundraiser anymore.
3. State Freedom Rally is May 16<sup>th</sup>. Despite the fire last year, the Blackthorne Resort is open. It's a good ride. It used to start at the Holy Cow which is now closed. Unsure where will start now. Anyone who intends on going should contact Steve. We are leaving the day before.

Motion to Adjourn. mta John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Louie, motion passed—Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

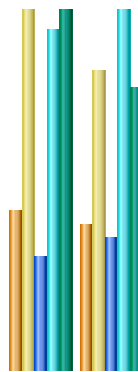
## WEB SITE USAGE STATISTICS

### SUMMARY

Reported period	Month Feb 2011				
First visit	01 Feb 2011 - 08:04				
Last visit	28 Feb 2011 - 17:51				
	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	110	227 (2.06 visits/visitor)	1620 (7.13 Pages/Visit)	4381 (19.29 Hits/Visit)	170.81 MB (770.54 KB/Visit)
Not viewed traffic *			3064	3876	89.06 MB

\* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

### MONTHLY HISTORY



Jan Feb  
2011 2011

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2011	121	274	1370	4153	217.39 MB
Feb 2011	110	227	1620	4381	170.81 MB
Total	231	501	2990	8534	388.20 MB

### CALENDAR VIEWS

37 views by **public visitors** (667 all time views).

## LEGISLATION WE SUPPORT

BILL NO S01338 [No same as]  
SPONSOR DILAN  
COSPNSR DIAZ, HASSELL-THOMPSON

Amd S423-a, V & T L

Provides that ownership of unidentifiable part in identifiable motorcycle, other than a stolen motorcycle shall be returned to such owner, provided that department has made findings such owner had no knowledge part was unidentifiable and that owner wasn't responsible nor acted in concert to render such part unidentifiable; provides that a department investigation shall take place within thirty days after seizure of motorcycle; and requires commissioner to establish criteria to determine whether motorcycle shall be confiscated, seized or impounded and also to establish a system to ensure return of motorcycles to owners in undamaged condition.

Status: 01/06/2011 REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION

Bill Text:

Text not available

BILL NO S01184 [No same as]  
SPONSOR PARKER  
COSPNSR MAZIARZ

Amd S502, V & T L

Requires five hour pre-licensing course to include a motorcycle awareness and safety component, and the driver's license examination to include two questions concerning motorcycle awareness and safety.

Status:

01/05/2011 REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION

Bill Text:

Text not available

Information provided by:

<http://www.newyorkfreedomriders.com>

New York Freedom Riders

Riders Against Constitutional Erosion

"Freedom Is NOT A Spectator Sport"

Stephen Faughnan  
363 South St.  
Chenango Forks, NY 13746

March 16, 2011

Hon. Richard Hanna  
319 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Sir,

I am writing you today in support of HR 904 introduced by Rep. Sensenbrenner. This resolution would prohibit Federal funds from being used to conduct motorcycle only road stops. First, a little history. The NYS Police in conjunction with the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles began conducting motorcycle only stops in NY two years ago. They called the program "Trooper 5060" in reference to the badge number of a State Police officer who was tragically killed in the line of duty pursuing a criminal who happened to be riding a motorcycle.

The program seemed innocent enough at the time. The stated purpose was to perform safety checks on motorcycles to insure that the riders were operating a vehicle that was in compliance with NYS DMV regulations. Unfortunately, this is not what actually occurred.

The supposed "safety stops" became a tool to generate money for NYS and to issue tickets for non-compliant helmets. The NYS Police set up roadblocks in areas where they knew a large volume of motorcycle traffic would be because of annual motorcycle rallies. They post a sign on the highway indicating that all motorcycles must turn into a State rest area. They place the motorcycles in an area that can best be described as a holding pen, complete with fences and armed troopers and sheriff's deputies. They then look at helmets or anything on the motorcycle that they feel may not be in compliance. The riders who are pulled over have been detained for as long as 45 minutes, many with no tickets issued. Many of the tickets issued are overturned in a court because of non-specificity of the charges or even non-compliance with the NYS Police policy statement on motorcycle only stops. In fact, there is so much vague language in the policy, as well as discretion for the officers that the policy is not being enforced in anything resembling a consistent manner. I'm not even sure if the Troopers themselves understand their own procedure.

Every motorcycle registered in NYS has to be inspected by a licensed motorcycle inspection station each year. These trained professionals are qualified to perform the inspections, as certified by NYS. They are the ones who should be making the determination if a motorcycle is safe to operate, not the New York State Police who have no special knowledge of the factors that affect the safety of the riders. Additionally, if the NYS Police are truly concerned for the safety of the riding public, they would be far better off checking the operators of other motor vehicles that seem to cause most of the non-alcohol related accidents involving motorcycles. It is well established that the best way to prevent motorcycle accidents is through education of all people who use the roads.

It is my understanding that a police officer is supposed to have reasonable suspicion or cause to detain anyone who is legally using our public roadways. This is guaranteed by the Constitution of the US. The "Trooper 5060" program denies this right for anyone riding a motorcycle in the area of these stops.

I have special knowledge of these facts because I am the legislative coordinator of the Southern Tier Chapter of ABATE of NY (American Bikers Aimed Towards Education) and have been riding motorcycles since 1971. I am also an Assistant Chief with the City of Binghamton Fire Department and have been to my share of accidents over the years. I am a registered Republican who voted for you in the last election (not that this should influence your decision) and am passionate about protecting the safety and rights of motorcycle riders.

I urge you or your staff to talk with Rep. Sensenbrenner about HR 904 and sign on as a co-sponsor of this resolution. I would also appreciate any feedback or comments that you may have in regards to this situation. Please feel free to contact me by mail or phone (607) 760-4594.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Faughnan



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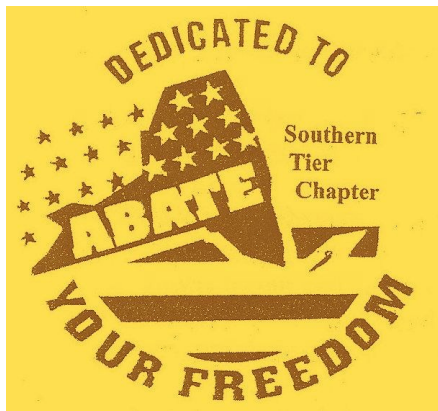
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Towards Education*

We're on the Web!  
[abateofstny.org](http://abateofstny.org)



**Next Meeting: April 14<sup>th</sup>**



**MAIL TO:**

**ABATE OF NEW YORK, INC.  
PO BOX 2441  
BINGHAMTON, NY 13902**

\_\_\_\_\_ 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

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Chapter selected Southern Tier Chapter or \_\_\_\_\_ Member-at-Large

Email newsletter      Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_