

LET THEM WHO WIDE
DECIDE

LEGAL LATEST

\$5.5 million claim was brought against an Ill. helmet manufacturer in favor of Greg Stead, a rider from Miami. This claim was awarded because the helmet had left him permanently paralyzed after an accident. You know that it is quite possible that, in the near future, the states that require you to wear a helmet will also be named defendants in these court actions against helmet manufacturers. And listen to this!!! Insurance companies are backing down from the cyclist vs helmet manufacturers (and state) court actions. They don't want to write insurance coverage for the "safety" helmet industry. Now we all know that the insurance industry is a BIG American business and when insurance companies don't want to take chances on a business (helmet manufacturers), then we should strongly suspect that there is really something wrong with helmets and helmet laws.

We would like to hear from anyone with info on accidents and injuries that can be attributed to the wearing of a helmet. Give as many details as possible and don't waste your time and ours if the incident cannot be substantiated please.

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helmets: help or hindrance?

(the article below, furnished by the Rhode Island Hospital, Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Fractures was part of a report presented by Drs. A. A. Savastano and Daniel N. Kulund).

A helmet not fastened properly can lead to more problems than it prevents! one of our victims was traveling 40 mph, made a turn and skidded into a sign. He flew into the air and landed hands first, fracturing both wrists in almost identically bad fashion such that pins had to be used to fix them. He had snapped his helmet on improperly and the chin strap was loose. The helmet went off his head and tugged at his neck cutting off his breathing. Fortunately a passerby loosened it.

One of our neurosurgeons has commented that he has never before seen such head trauma without evidence of external injury as in recent motorcycle accidents. At times a fractured skull is of benefit in a head injury since it permits the brain to swell. If the brain is severely concussed and swells and the skull does not allow for the swelling tremendous pressure can develop and the victim can DIE!

A recent case demonstrated this problem. The boy had no external signs of head injury other than fixed dilated pupils, no reflexes and an electroencephalogram test that showed a flat line. There were no marks on his head to show that he had been injured; yet he had received the severest of brain injuries.

Though the helmet protects against abrasions and other open wounds and absorbs shocks at low speeds, at higher speeds it may actually contribute to the severity of the injury. The headgear in fact can limit visibility and worse give the operator a false sense of security on his motorcycle. —Motorcyclist Post—

EASYRIDERS FEATURES ABATE OF OREGON HELMET PROTEST

Did you notice? In the November issue Easyriders featured our last helmet law protest run in place of "IN THE WIND". Good show and a big thanks to at least Wino Joe and Keith Ball.

NEW ABATE ADDRESS

ABATE OF OREGON
P.O. BOX 4504
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

THANKS

Again our thanks to some of the other interested groups around the country who supply us with some of the material in this newsletter. This information helps us to inform our Brothers and Sisters, to arm them with facts and figures so they may write their Senators and Legislators from a position of knowledge. If you're not writing them, you're not on your job and we're wasting our time. Those letters are your most valuable tool right now, so, use it! It's been somewhat discouraging talking to some of our elected officials to learn they haven't been hearing from you. There isn't much hope of repealing the helmet law or initiating safety and education programs if we don't get off our duffs. In next months newsletter we'll be publishing another list of our lawmakers complete with up-coming changes. At that time we are going to push for a GIANT letter writing campaign - we have the best chance ever of repealing the helmet law this next legislative session - if we're willing to WORK for it. We can't do it for you - we can't do it without you. Luke

SELL THOSE ADS

Four of the six ads we run were obtained by one person and those have just about run out. Seems we should have enough members to do better than this. These ads really help defray the cost of your newsletter and, they're cheap -- only \$2.00 a month for a business card size-- or \$20.00 per year, \$3.00 mo./\$30.00 yr. for half a page, and \$5.00 mo./\$50.00 yr. for a full page ad - your art or ours.

Copy of the U.S. Constitution \$1.00

ABATE patches - red, white and blue \$2.00
Send to: ABATE of Oregon
P.O. Box 4504
Portland, Ore. 97208

Book-Kicking The Helmet Habit \$3.00
Send to: ABATE of Kansas
2530 So. 37th St.
Kansas City, Kansas 66106

Stickers 6" vinyl - stick anywhere
Helmet Laws Suck.....100/\$10
Let Those Who Ride Decide.....100/\$10
55MPH Be Dammed (9" staicker)....4/\$1.00

ABATE T-Shirts - white w/logo.....\$4.00
State size when ordering.
Send to: ABATE of New York
Box 5172
Albany, N.Y. 12205

MEMBERS ADS

These ads placed for members at no charge- this is YOUR newsletter - use it.....please keep ads to 25 words or less...

* 156 Ariel Sq. Four Chopped, moulded frame, tank, 21", 15" rear, fresh motor. \$3,000/offer 659-4633 Before 7am - after 9pm.

SAYING OF THE MONTH

I don't know where it came from but dig it - "Helmet laws are great - sorta like the great food we ate yesterday. The little handle on the right side of the tank makes it all go away.

MEETING PLACE

The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month -8pm
215 S.E 9th Ave., Portland, Ore.

LOST ADDRESS DEPT.

Can any one put us in touch with Adele Hall, Klamath Falls, please?

LIABILITY INSURANCE PLAGUES HELMET MAKERS

What could spell disaster to a state-enforced helmet law, is a new monster now creeping upon them.

Known as "Product Liability Insurance" more than 50-million dollars in claims are now being pursued by 33 different individuals against manufacturers, including three National helmet distributors.

And the states where these suits are filed, could also be named as liable in these lawsuits, since it was their laws that forced injured persons to wear these 'so-called' safety devices on their heads.

And that could also be the very (quiet) reason why Federal regulations were dropped and hidden inside the Federal Highway Act that President Ford signed May 5th.

This product liability lawsuit 'business' started when a well-known National Football hero was severely injured in a game, claiming a faulty helmet.

It has also been reported that it is now impossible for helmet manufacturers to obtain any liability insurance for their products.

As long as motorcycles are ridden on the road and trails, injuries will occur, and 'mandatory helmet laws' are not going to prevent deaths where accidents happen at any speed over 10 mph.

California has already proven their record (as has Illinois) that more deaths and severe injuries have been related directly to helmet wearing, and accidents have happened because the rider didn't hear, or see the use of his headgear.

It's just another argument on the right for the rider to decide for himself whether he wants or doesn't want to wear the 'headgear.'

It should be his decision, not others.

POLICE OFFICERS WANT CHOICE TOO

South Egremont, Mass.

July 12th-16th The Blue Knights Motorcycle club comprised of law enforcement personnel held their 2nd annual International convention. More than 600 members of the law enforcement group attended. The Blue Knights have over 4,000 members nation wide. Thirty-six States were represented, in addition to three Canadian provinces. The New York City chapter has over 200 members, New York Chapter three had the largest number of motorcycles in attendance. The Blue Knights, as a National body, agreed to support Legislation to REPEAL both the MANDATORY HELMET LAW and the LIGHTS ON bills that are still enforced in many States.

This is done to help with the childrens camp the YWCA maintains on the coast. This is one way we can repay the "Y" for using their printing facilities. So, here's the deal: We meet at the Downtown YWCA lobby at 9:30 am December 4th. This is located at 1111 S.W. 10th Ave. Portland. We need at least 10 people and any trucks we can come up with - I'll be there with mine. The "Y" will pay for your gas. We also need some help selling the trees. The tree sale goes on daily from Sunday, Dec. 5th through Wednesday, Dec. 22nd. 10am-8pm. We can use lots of people on this - can you spare 3 hrs of you time one of these listed days? For more info call Luke: 223-0428.

This word from the YWCA:

"Thank you so much for your interest in organizing help for Westwinds projects. Camp is not rented in January or February and if ABATE is interested in a special work/fun party for just them, that can be arranged."

Regards,
Vi Martin
Camp Administrator

Remember the fun we had last time?
Let's do it again

WE MUST LEARN TO
LIVE TOGETHER AS
BROTHERS - OR
PERISH TOGETHER
AS FOOLS

ABATE MOTORCYCLE SWAP-MEET

We're getting everything set up here on our end - are you doing YOUR part? - putting out the flyers, getting shop owners support, telling your friends, making the applications available? - all the good things that it takes to make OUR show a success? Perhaps you can approach your local radio station about a plug for a non-profit organization, maybe a couple of you can spare some beer money this month to put an ad in your local newspaper. It takes all of us working together to make these things a success.

Something we forgot to mention in the last newsletter was the availability of Swap-Meet spaces to members at a reduced rate - \$7.50 for a 5x10 and \$15.00 for a 10x10 ft. space.

Keep in mind the man power that will be needed Nov. 14th. Help will be needed to lay out the spaces, with traffic control, at the back door assigning spaces, and at the entrance taking the money, stamping passes etc. Be there at 8.00 a.m. that Sunday to help!

GREAT NEWS ! OUR FIRST NEW ABATE CHAPTER !

This should encourage the few of you doing most of the work. There's help on the way!

WELCOME TO ABATE OF "RIVER CITY" otherwise known as The Dalles, Oregon. And a big hand to Brian Stoval for laying the ground work. Brian visited here recently - went home with a hand full of material and a head full of ideas, found some help and put together a meeting. They enlisted 8 new members and held an election that saw Brian elected along with Terry Humpherys as co-Chairmen and Curtis Elliott Sec/Treas.

For more info call Brian; 298-1317 in The Dalles.

WHO'S NEXT? SALEM? EUGENE? STAND UP

MOTORCYCLE DEATHS IN PERSPECTIVE

U.S. Deaths per 1,000,000
Population

<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
heart disease	3610
cancer	1620
stroke	1000
* autos	256
cirrhosis of the liver	160
home accidents	124
suicide	117
homicide	84
war-U.S. average 1941-73	80
workers at work	71
pedestrians by all vehicles	52
peptic ulcers	46
drowned	40
hypertension	37
poison by gas	26
septicemia (blood poisoning)	19
surgical & medical misadventures & complications	18
anemias	15
construction workers at work	15
* MOTORCYCLES	15 *
firearms accidents	8
electrocution & lightning	6
syphilis & other venereal diseases.	2
pedestrians by motorcycles	0.7
nuclear power operation (for 100 plants at year 2000)	0.000,015

Conclusion: The millions of dollars spent on forcing motorcyclist to protect themselves, should logically be transferred to hazards far more deserving and far more a threat to life.



ABATE



(of Oregon)

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THE BIGGEST MOTORCYCLE SWAP-MEET IN THE NORTHWEST



WHEN? November 14th, 1976 Noon Sunday 'til 8p.m.

WHERE? ASSEMBLY HALL, Memorial Coliseum, Portland, Oregon

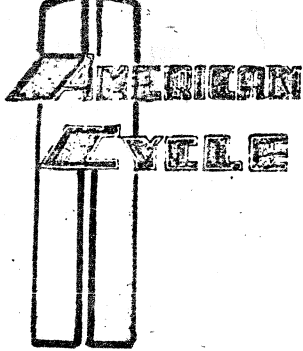
GENERAL ADMISSION: \$1.00 - FAMILYS WELCOME - CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE

For the second time in the Northwest - all under one roof - a treasure of wonderous motorcycle "Goodies", a sight sure to stir the heart of every enthusiast!!!! Over one hundred spaces filled with all the hard to find parts, antiques, custom parts, motorcycles, and motorcycle related items you've been looking for!!!!

Exhibitor spaces available. For information, write or call:

ABATE Motorcycle Swap-Meet 1-503-223-0428
2424 S.W. Jefferson Rd. Portland, Oregon 97201

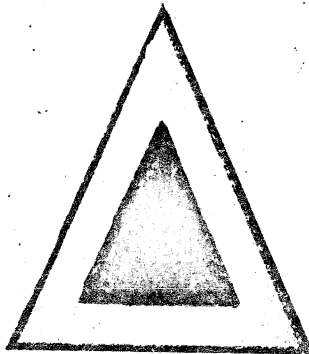
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TOM BRAY

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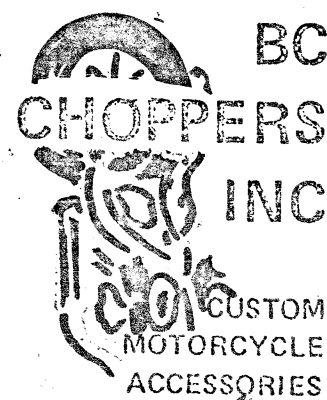
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