

ABATE of Oregon, Inc. Annual Report 2002



A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon, Inc.
promotes motorcycle awareness,
education, safety and liberty
through community involvement
and legislative action.

Ted Tracy's Coordinator Report

2002 was a great year for ABATE of Oregon. The State Officers started out the year all fired up. STEAM was a great success, and Simon Milward wowed the crowd with his worldly tales. The seminars were well received and everyone had a good time.

That was followed by quite a successful Swap Meet. The gang did such a great job, we decided to do two more.

Fossil 2002 was the 25th Anniversary, and it turned out to be quite a remarkable campout. The entertainment was top-notch, and the dedication of Angie's bench in downtown Fossil was memorable. The Mayor closed the street through town on Sunday, so that Lincoln County could host the bike show right downtown! The Fossil display was also unveiled at the museum that weekend, and brought many locals to town, giving everyone a chance to meet and mingle. The 25th Anniversary Fossil run is one that will be remembered.

The By-laws were revised, and officer descriptions added and updated, and membership hit the 2,000 mark for the first time. All chapters seem to be operating smoothly, with many events to keep things interesting.

The planning session was a great success with many good ideas, I hope that many of them come to pass.

Next year we have some challenges ahead. We have insurance and tax issues, not to mention dealing with our State legislators in Salem, and nationally in Washington, D.C.

Ted Tracy
State Coordinator
ABATE of Oregon



A Legislative Overview

Since this was a legislative "off-year" or election year, the Oregon State Legislature did not meet in general session. However, as we know, they did have five special sessions. These were aimed at finance and tax issues and didn't really affect the motorcycle riding community specifically. It did affect the state's citizens, overall.

In June, 2002, there was a planning session held to help BikePAC plan for the next legislative session. Input from many people and groups, including ABATE, was provided and for their participation, many thanks.

Early in the spring, several people from ABATE participated in the Democratic Party Platform Convention, and helped to guide the construction of the Democratic Transportation Plank to include the modification of the wording, allowing individual freedom of choice in "appropriate safety equipment". This was a wider reaching item than just motorcycles. It could also include skiers, bicycle riders, etc. Watch for this issue to rear its ugly head next year.

The Republican members of ABATE also participated in their counterpart Convention and maintained a similar plank within the Republican platform. Remember, the Republicans did it first and the Democrats followed suit the next year around.

In 2003, there will be more legislative briefings on the ABATE and BikePAC agenda, so watch your newsletter, for updates.

One last thing, mark your calendar for the return of *Biker Days*. January 13, 2003 is opening day of the State Legislature. We will not be sponsoring any lobbying activities that day, however we will be returning on January 27, 2003 for our first session. February 4 and February 19, 2003 will be the other scheduled dates (so far).

Note that they are similar to other years, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. We know that not everyone can come for every session, but it would help for you to attend one, if not more. Also, if you volunteer to be your chapter "designated representative" on a given Biker's Day, you will be reimbursed for some of your expenses. Talk with your chapter officers about how to participate in this. There will be two reps per day. You might want to be one of them.

See ya at the Capitol.

Randy Phipps
Legislative Director
NE Portland Chapter
ABATE of Oregon



Geoff White's Education Report

Greetings from Nora Rohde and Geoff White. The education programs in A.B.A.T.E. are going strong, and our outreach regarding Motorcycle Awareness in the driver's education process is still receiving positive recognition throughout the schools of Oregon and Southwest Washington. Thanks to the support of our dedicated and hard - working instructors, our ability to attend any school that has requested to have our presentation delivered to their driver's education classes has been completely possible.

The 2001 / 2002 school year was a very successful year for our Motorcycle Awareness Program. We were able to deliver our message of motorcycle/automobile safety and coexistence to over forty - two individual driver's education classes. Our message reached more than 1400 students in these driver's education classes this year. Congratulations and thank you very much to the people that worked this year to ensure that motorcyclists safety is a definite factor in safe automobile operation.

We have had a strong start to the 2002 / 2003 school year, and we anticipate an ever - expanding demand for our presentation in the driver's education program. Any and all motorcyclists that feel that our safety is something worth protecting are encouraged to look into the program. Become a Motorcycle Awareness Program Certified Instructor, and be a valuable spokesperson in the area of motorcycle safety and awareness. Our ability to meet the increasing demand for our presentations rests in the hands of our dedicated instructors.

Remember that the S.T.E.A.M.. (Seminar To Educate And Motivate) is coming soon. New officers are strongly encouraged to attend this one day conference to gain some of the knowledge and useful skills that are beneficial in performing their jobs and duties more effectively. The date for the conference is Saturday, February 15th, 2003. The sign up will open at 8:00 AM. and the opening session will begin at 9:00 AM. The conference will again be held at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. Watch for information in upcoming newsletters.

The skills and talents of our membership will always be our most valuable asset. Come to S.T.E.A.M.. and see what our organization has to offer you or what you may have to help us become stronger.

Have a great year of safe and pleasurable riding. Remember that motorcycle awareness is a responsibility of all of us who wish to share a safe and friendly road. We provide a visual message to the public whenever we travel on our ultimate "Single Occupancy Vehicles" (S. O. V.'s). Show that motorcycles are truly a public asset. Spread The Awareness, Ya'll.

Geoff White
Education Director
ABATE of Oregon



Wendy Vaughn's Treasurer Report

Greetings from your state treasurer. As I finish my first year, my respect for Clark Brooker and the job he did for so many years has increased ten fold. The job has been challenging, rewarding, and frustrating all at the same time (kind of like real life!) I would not have been able to do my job without the help of all the state officers and

especially Rotten Roger, and Jill and Ted Tracy. A big thank-you to you all for your support, patience, and understanding as I learn more and more each day. OK, enough of this. Let's get on to better things.....

ABATE of Oregon is financially stronger than ever before. We had well over 1500 people at Fossil in May, and the Roseburg and Portland Swap Meets were a huge success. Our membership remains high, and donations from chapters around the state have helped us reach out to more and more organizations in our support for bikers rights and education. The following are just a few of the organizations who have benefited from ABATE of Oregon:

1. Team Oregon
2. BikePAC of Oregon
3. MRF (Motorcycle Riders Foundation)
4. NCOM (National Coalition of Motorcyclists)
5. Shriner's Hospital for Children

Along with the above mentioned groups, we continue to invest in bikers rights and education by sending members to conferences around the country.

We also invest in our education program run so well by Geoff White and Nora Rohde. Melinda McCrossen does an excellent job as Public Relations Director. (I can tell by the amount of advertising bills we pay!)

Going forward, we need to increase our ability to support these programs and reach out to even more people. Please, continue to support our state run functions and renew your membership. If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me:-)

Wendy Lee Vaughn
State Treasurer
ABATE of Oregon

Jill Tracy's Membership Report

My name is Jill Tracy, the current Membership Secretary and I have just completed my second term in the position. I am currently seeking a third term. I have also served ABATE of Oregon in other capacities, such as the Recording Secretary from 3/97 to 12/00. I also have served my chapter in various duties, from Recording Secretary and State Representative to Public Relations Director, since joining ABATE in 1994.

I have been a rider since my early teens, first on a Honda 90, then upgrading to a Yamaha 125 enduro. I didn't ride for a span of years, due to financial constraints and the birth of our children, but was reintroduced to the sport by my husband Ted, when he acquired a basket-case Harley. After a few years, I realized that I really wanted my own bike, and started saving to order that brand-new Electra-Glide, "Large Marge the Freeway Barge" and we have enjoyed many miles together.

Membership in ABATE of Oregon has enjoyed a steady increase over the last few years, reaching the milestone of 2,000 members twice in the last year. I believe the reason for these increases is due to the interest of people attending the Swap Meets that we have been producing. I have been working to improve service, by reducing the response time for new members and renewals, and much of the credit for that goes to the chapter Membership Secretaries getting the paperwork into the mail as rapidly as possible.

We were approached by the American Income Life insurance company, offering a Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit policy of \$1,000 at no cost to the membership. After a positive response by the Board of Directors, I handled the mailing of an information packet to each member.

My goals for membership are to continue the growth of our organization, and find ways to reach the other segments of the motorcycling community, including the off-road groups and sport riders.

I anticipate serving in this capacity for several more years, at the desire of the Board, and to help ABATE of Oregon become a even more potent force in the world of motorcycle rights for Oregon.

Jill Tracy
Membership Secretary
ABATE of Oregon



Ron Bloker's Sanctioning Report

As December looms, so does the coming of the New Year. Twelve months and 53 runs later, plus or minus. After a complete year under my belt I would like to reflect on some of my experiences over the past year. I would also like to thank the folks who made my job possible, and most time, thoroughly enjoyable.

Beginning in December of 2001, the search for insurance began. Dozens of phone calls and four LONG applications later ABATE found insurance not from my efforts, but through the efforts of Rotten Roger and Lee Austin. Thanks fellas! Many members offered leads and the search was truly nation wide. Thank you to all who made calls and contacts, especially Roger who spent

many hours on the phone with me and insurance agents throughout the nation. I just wish everyone knew how much time you really dedicate to our organization and our rights. I would also like to thank Lisa Gurnsey with Gurnsey and Associates. Lisa has definitely been good for our organization. Without Lisa's willingness to be flexible, many last minute issues and changes could not have been resolved. I encourage any member to consider Gurnsey and Associates for their insurance needs.

The newsletter also changed hands shortly after the New Year. Rot Path has done a stellar job with our monthly publication. He gave the newsletter a new look, which takes a LOT of time! Talk about Mr. Flexible. Rot Path spent time adding last minute fliers for late submissions. If you haven't told Rot Path "Thank You", please do, and tell him often. The newsletter is not really a Job; it's more like a life event [*read nightmare*] that reappears on the tenth of every month. Thank You, Rot Path, for your flexibility and the countless hours receiving large downloads.

The best part of my position is the people I get to meet and talk with. These are the individual chapter members that make fliers, plan events and call with great questions. When I meet these folks at various events, it's just icing on the cake. If you haven't acknowledged these folks on the chapter level, DO IT!

I would like to thank the folks for their submissions to the newsletter. Time is precious, these people spend hours making fliers and distributing them. Where would our events be with out promotion? I do want to add that I have dropped the ball a few times this year. To those affected, please accept my apology. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Looking toward the New Year, I see another year filled with great events and great people. I have already started adding events to next year's calendar. There are a few areas where I would like

to see a little improvement. The first is the sanctioning process. Although changes to the sanctioning form are being considered, I have included some non-form specific ideas to improve the process. I realize that schedules are busy. The last thing we all want is to spend time on an event, organizing the location, coordinating the details, only to have it get minimal advertising. There are a few steps that we all can take to help ensure your event gets maximum exposure.

I would like to discuss insurance. For those of you that haven't heard, insurance costs are on the rise. We received one quote that started with a \$15,000 base price, and that was just the beginning. Our insurance primarily covers our campouts. I am told that many Eastern states gave up all campouts and are limited to poker runs and toy runs. Our insurance is something we all need to PROTECT! We all need to be responsible at our runs, and hold non-members to the same standards we have for ourselves. This doesn't mean we need to all become Joe Officer, but it does mean we need to stop problems before they start, not that problems are prevalent at our events. We just need to be aware, now more than ever, of the consequences to our behavior, and the behavior of others. Please, have a good time, but let's make sure we all can have a good time, now and in the future.

Please call if you have any questions regarding insurance. I look forward to many events you all are planning and organizing for the 2003 riding season. Ride when you can, dream about riding when you can't!

Have a great Holiday Season, and a terrific New Year!

Ron Bloker (FNG)
Sanctioning Director
ABATE of Oregon

Melinda McCrossen's Media Team Report

Your Media Team members are Rot Path, our Newsletter Editor and Mad Dog, our Web Master, and I'm your Public Relations Director. I thought I should let you know how busy we've been this year.

Rot Path took over the newsletter last year and he's done a terrific job. He hit the ground running and has made amazing personal gains. Gordon was a hard act to follow and Rot Path did it. Some of the improvements he's made include the addition of lots of photos, new biker fiction and more biker opinion. Many state officers were strongly encouraged to write monthly reports, even me, and it makes for great reading!

Mad Dog has continued to add to and improve our state web site this year. Whatever flyers he gets, he posts nearly immediately. We continue to gain members and supporters through this valuable public relations tool. ABATE also continues to get comments and concerns voiced through the web site that we don't get through the regular mail. Both of these officers have volunteered to continue their work next year.



As for myself, it's been a very busy year. In addition to writing and sending out two press releases per state event (three Swap Meets and Fossil): I created flyers for all the Swap Meets; got our events into regional and national publications; was a guest speaker on a Portland radio station; rewrote the trifold; produced this Annual Report and worked with Jim Niece on rewriting and publishing the Membership Handbook. I was also able to work the Info Booth at Fossil and the gate at the Portland Swap Meets.

The three of us know how important our jobs are and we can't possibly do everything that needs to be done. That's where you come in. Every ABATE member is a public relations person. When you speak to your friends or neighbors about the work we do in our community, you change the public's perception of bikers. Be a part of the team by contributing. We can be very proud of the work we do together.



Melinda McCrossen
Public Relations Director
ABATE of Oregon

Check Out the
ABATE of Oregon
Web Site at:

<http://www.abateoforegon.org>

Rot Path's Newsletter Editor Report

Greetings y'all. It's been eleven months since Rot Path took on the role of crusty ol' editor for the A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon newsletter. Will he be writing an eleventh annual report in ten years? Who knows? Let's see how it goes.

The jacket of responsibilities and duties has settled firmly into place on Rot Path's shoulders and now feels like a comfortable fit. But that never would have happened without all the effort that went into making the garment he now wears proudly. And for that, Rot Path gives his gratitude.

First and foremost, thank you Gordon Hieronimus. (My immediate predecessor.) With your help and patience (especially during some desperate last-minute phone calls), the newsletter transitioned smoothly between editors. Gordon and all the editors before him laid out the patterns and cut the material that went into this coat of words that is our newsletter. You are in Rot Path's thoughts every time another issue is being assembled. (Only rarely is the thought: "Why can't they be doing this?!")

Ted and Jill Tracy have been excellent in helping tailor the editorship to fit its new wearer. Via e-mails and phone calls, reassurances and advice has been freely given. ("Do these extra pages make me look too fat?" -- "Yes, but it's okay.") Thanks go to both of you. You are a wonderful team and help make A.B.A.T.E. of Oregon a welcoming, safe destination for those looking to make motorcycling safer for all riders.

This last year has been an opportunity to work closer with Rotten Roger and has served to create an attitude of quiet awe for this man's consistent work and contributions behind the scenes year around. One thing Roger does is to collect A.B.A.T.E. mail and forward material for the

newsletter. Once or twice a week, every week of the year, an envelope arrives from Roger. Thank you, Roger, for all that you do. Not only for the newsletter, but for A.B.A.T.E. and every single member.

Thanks goes to Ron Bloker for sanctioning run and event fliers. This has to be one of the more challenging state jobs we have and Ron persists in getting it done. Some day we may even agree on how to spell flyers. Ron Bloker, Maddog, and Rot Path have been trying to work closely to share information between the web page and newsletter so that people have consistent content.

Sharon and Cliff at Oregon Litho Print have been some of the most patient people on the planet while Rot Path was making alterations for a more comfortable fit. Thank you to all the A.B.A.T.E. state officers for year 2002. Now that Rot Path is able to make the meetings, you have all been very supportive, helpful, and full of constructive criticism. (Not such a bad thing to be full of.)

Thanks too to all the chapter secretaries who send in their monthly reports for publication in the newsletter. (Rot Path was the secretary for Salem chapter for five years, so he knows what it's like.) Those reports help cement our chapters together by letting each other know what's going on around the state.

Thank you to all members of A.B.A.T.E. who have been very supportive (and mostly forgiving when things got botched or left out.) Your positive feedback means a lot to yer c.o.e. And thanks to life, whose experience gave Rot Path the skills necessary to take on this job and succeed. The "perfect newsletter" continues to elude yer crusty ol' editor, but the quest continues.

Rot Path
Newsletter Editor
ABATE of Oregon

Jim Niece's Vice-Coordinator North Report

The year 2002 has been a productive period of time for me. The variety of the projects that I've been involved with have been beneficial for the organization and for me as well. As it is, I enjoy doing things that make ABATE an improved organization, hence my willingness to fulfill the responsibilities of the vice coordinator position and volunteer to be on committees.

After the Bylaws were ratified in 2001 I reviewed all of the ABATE documents, looking at the content and format of each. This process produced two new documents: the Chapter Guidelines and the State Officer Guidelines. Subsequently, Melinda McCrossen (State PR Director) and I revised the ABATE Members Handbook.

As it is, a person could look at the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, the Chapter Guidelines, the State Officer Guidelines, the Financial Policies and Procedures and the Media Guidelines and would have an exact idea of our name, our purpose, our structure, our officer requirements and how we operate.

I was a member of the Fossil Museum Display committee, which was formed in 2001 and continued thru May of 2002. The goal of this committee was to have an ABATE display that summarized the Fossil Campout mounted in the Fossil City Museum. The handsome finished display was installed on 23 May 2002.

Currently, I am a member of the Annual Meeting committee along with Brian Stovall and Melinda McCrossen. This committee was formed in October of 2001 and will culminate in a successful Annual Meeting on December 14, 2002. This is the first annual meeting of ABATE of Oregon and is a product of the revised Bylaws.



The December State Board Meeting will be the last day of my tenure as Vice Coordinator North. I have held this position for the last five years and now wish to move on.

Highest Regards,

Jim Niece
Vice-Coordinator North
ABATE of Oregon

Joseph Laurance's Vice-Coordinator South Report

What a great year this has been, with opportunities every weekend for miles and smiles. Now that the weather is cooling down, we can all catch our breath, do the maintenance some have been putting off, dig out the rain gear and heavy gloves, and perhaps reflect a little on where we've been and what we've done.

Beyond any doubt, the high point of my year was the "Meeting of the Minds" conference in Lansing, Michigan. Picture hundreds of the best and brightest from each state in the union as well as other nations, bound together by their passion for motorcycling and the determination to fight those who hate us for the freedom we enjoy. This kind of enthusiasm rubs off on you in a big way and makes you want to work a little longer and a little harder in your own motorcycle rights organization or MRO as they are called. This gathering was organized by the Motorcyclist Rights Organization (MRF) and hosted by ABATE of Michigan. As you know, each state ABATE is a self-governing, autonomous organization. However, if there was such a thing as a national leadership of these SMROs, it would be MRF who acts as both watchdogs over, and lobbyists to, our national government in Washington, D.C..

A few reflections and observations:

I thank the board for electing me to the position of Vice-Coordinator South. It has enabled me to become more knowledgeable and effective in our fight and opened doors to great and gifted people.

STEAM: This is the starting place for those who want to become motorcyclists rights activists-consider this basic training and be there next February.

"Best of the West": This event was amazing to me. So many people to meet and so much information to learn. Its an absolute must for those who intend to go to "Meeting of the Minds". "Best of the West" will take place in Denver next June and many of us are making plans to ride there. Join us.

Runs and Rallies: I enjoyed all those I attended this year and have learned how vitally important these are to ABATE. Most everyone who makes up ABATE joined after attending a run or rally. As important as fun is to this organization it's important that each of us help with some of the

chores like gate duty, security, set up or clean up at the events you go to. It's the best way I know of to get to know bikers outside your local chapter, and you'll be surprised at how much fun you'll have.

SOS Run: This has got to be one of the best runs in the state. Forest fires and a slow economy meant that we overspent in relation to gate receipts so help us out by attending next year. You'll be glad that you did.

9-11 anniversary: Four out of five Americans are now willing to surrender personal rights for the hope of increased personal security. While the government can easily take away rights, it CANNOT assure this security. We who have chosen a free life-style at some increased personal risk are embarrassed by you. Each person in this country is now a combatant, so "Be all that you can be!". Don't surrender your pride or your freedom.

Elections: It isn't up to those other people to run ABATE anymore, it's up to you. Nominate-accept nomination-and serve.

Planning session: This event, held in Cottage Grove each October, sets our agenda for the coming year. Get involved and some amazing things will be happening next year.

God go with you,

Joseph Laurance
Vice-Coordinator South
ABATE of Oregon

Annual Report Photo Credits

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A Point of View from a Chapter Representative to the Board

I am not a State Officer but a Representative to the Board for the Salem Chapter. While being a State Rep, I have grown as a person. Learning the proper ways to work through discussion when there are differing view points has been invaluable for both Chapter and personal life. Before I would not speak up and now I have to stand up in front of people and give a report once a month. From Best of the West, I learned what a person who wants to be a leader can do to reach that goal. So far it's working.

Crowlady
Salem Chapter Representative to the Board
ABATE of Oregon

Watch for these upcoming
2003
ABATE of Oregon events:

STEAM
February 15

Portland Swap Meet
March 30

Roseburg Swap Meet
April 13

Fossil Campout
May 23 - 26

Portland Swap Meet
October 26

Roseburg Swap Meet
November 16

For more information call
Rotten Roger at:
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