

Minutes of Dixie ABATE meeting, July 25, 2010

Members in attendance:

Geoff Tuggle
Rodney Pitts
Kris Cook
Shane Coker
Randall Green

New Members in attendance: Welcome!!

Bill Woddail

At a regular meeting of Dixie ABATE, held at Road King Leather, in Childersburg, Alabama, on July 25, 2010, the Executive Director, Geoff Tuggle, called the meeting to order at 2 PM. Minutes from the last meeting were read and a treasurer's report was read. Our bank balance is \$2,734.13.

Geoff kicked off the meeting reiterating what we stand for, since we had a new member. He explained how many motorcycle wrecks are because of a lack of riding skills on the part of the rider. He is in favor of twenty-five cents being added to the cost of every motorcycle tag, to go toward payment for rider education. He is also for stronger penalties than for "failure to yield" when a car pulls out in front of a motorcyclist, resulting in a crash. He explained that the attitude in Montgomery seems to be "well, you were on a motorcycle, so you were knowingly taking that risk."

He said in Wisconsin, prospective riders have to take a motorcycle driving test. They wear a helmet with a headset inside, so the testing officer can give instructions to the rider during the exam.

Geoff said ABATE needs a list of all motorcycle training courses available on our website. We have a page with links to the MSF and R.I.D.E. Motor School. Please let Kris know of other websites and she will have them added to the link page. <http://www.dixieabate.org/links.html>

We read and discussed existing helmet laws, freedom of choice, and the problem of some riders mistakenly thinking if Alabama repealed or modified its helmet laws, that they would no longer be allowed to wear a helmet.

We discussed whether we would want existing licensed riders "grandfathered in" if/when Alabama passes a law to require anyone wanting a motorcycle endorsement to take both a written and a driving test.

Our focus this year is still on membership and organization. We will then get input from all active members about the issues we should tackle.

Kris is to try to find out how to get information regarding the kind and number of tickets that motorcycle riders get in Alabama per year.

We discussed vertical tags being unlawful, and Rodney also told us if a rider is from a non-helmet-law state, and they are just passing through Alabama, they don't have to wear a helmet.

ABATE will set up a tent at Rumble on Noble, Saturday, August 28th, in Anniston, Alabama.
<http://www.rumbleonnoble.com/>

The meeting was adjourned by Geoff at 2:50 PM.

Next meeting: 10:00 AM, Biker Shack 411, Saturday, August 21, 2010. Note earlier time. We will meet before the Biker Shack's Wet and Wild ride, which has a KSU time of 12 noon. This ride will be from Centre, to northwest Georgia and back again, stopping for swims at several "water holes", then back to the Biker Shack for bbq. Dixie ABATE will have a bug run in conjunction with this ride. The Biker Shack ride is free (and will probably run to 8 PM), but it will cost \$10.00 to enter the bug run. We'll give you a round sticker to put in the middle of your headlight, and when everyone gets back, the person with a bug the closest to dead center wins bragging rights. Our ride is a fundraiser for our treasury.