

DIXIE ABATE JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

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IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Send in your dues! Membership is still priced very affordably at \$20.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a couple. That gets you a laminated membership card and a patch, if you don't have a patch already. We are also considering getting little patches to sew over and under your round patch, that say "Charter Member" and some that say "Two Years" or "Three Years".

What did we use your money for in 2011?

- Rent for our mailbox. It costs \$190.00 per year. Box rent is paid through 3/9/12.
- Our billboard. It cost \$2,000, and that gets

us a huge sign out on major interstates until 8/31/12. Lamar has the right to move it to any sign they don't have a regular contract on, but they have promised us they will keep it in high-traffic areas.

- Patches. They cost \$2.00 each plus shipping. The first order cost \$2.25 ea. We sell them for \$5.00 and we give them to new members.
- T-shirts. They cost \$8.50 and we sell them for \$20.00.

Future newsletters will discuss 2012 expenditures. Thank you for your support!



Top picture, New members Doyle and Elizabeth Barber, of the SCRC.
Bottom: Deb Chatham and Ken Behr, of the Dixie ABATE Southern Region chapter. Welcome to Dixie ABATE!

SOUTHERN REGION MEETING

The Southern Region chapter of Dixie ABATE met at Hooter's in Daphne on December 11, 2011. They voted for officers, resulting in the installation of Stanley "Scrapiron" Vardas as Regional Director, Michael Stieber as Assistant Regional Director, and Deb Chatham as Secretary. The position of Treasurer is

unfilled. They had twelve members at their inaugural meeting, and are well underway with their planning of initiatives in their area to advance Dixie ABATE's stated goals of supporting rider and non-rider education and sane and rider-aware legislation. We look forward to meeting them in Montgomery in April.

Stanley Vardas, Southern Region Director, Dixie ABATE



DIXIE ABATE'S PRIORITIES NOW:

- Plan the Ride to the Capitol
- Work on securing federal and private grants to fund our awareness campaigns.
- Establish two-way communication with our legislators well in advance of the 2012 legislative session.
- Work on wording for Dead Red bill
- Update our web presence.
- Set up a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RENEWALS	1
SOUTHERN REGION	1
MORBIDITY STATISTICS	2
AIR EVAC LIFETEAM	2
JANUARY MEETING	2
RIDE TO CAPITOL IN APRIL	2

FROM OUR FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE

CAN YOU DISTRIBUTE FLYERS IN THE BIKE SHOPS IN YOUR AREA? IF SO, CONTACT KRIS FOR SUPPLIES. MEMBERSHIP FLYERS, MEETING NOTICES, AND RIDE TO THE CAPITOL FLYERS CAN BE DISTRIBUTED.

Contact Information:
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Single membership is
\$20.00 per year; \$30.00
for a couple.

**PLAN NOW
TO RIDE TO
THE CAPITOL
WITH DIXIE
ABATE ON
APRIL 28,
2012**

Victoria Rumble

I have some stats I compiled from the memorials I've put together. I do not pretend to claim I have them all, unfortunately based on statistics from recent years I probably only have about half of them. If anyone contributes to the list after it goes up I'll track the particulars and we'll add them to the list. These are all for 2011. I did not look for anything farther back than Jan. 2011. More details available when the list is up.

Youngest killed age 7. Oldest killed age 76.
As of 12-30-11 the ages of the deceased are:
... 7, 9, 17, 17, 22, 22, 24, 25, 25, 25, 27, 28, 28, 30, 31, 31, 33, 34, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 42, 42, 43, 45, 45, 46, 49, 50, 53, 54, 57, 59, 64, 73, and 76.

Not every account gave a TIME OF DAY the accident occurred, but of the ones that are known 14 happened during the day, 4 during the evening hours, and 9 at night.

CAUSES OF CRASH (when known)
Motorcycle struck from the rear 2
Single vehicle, left roadway 16
Struck head-on 3
Struck by drunk driver 1
Two-vehicle collision 8
Car turned left across the path of the oncoming bike 1

Rider traveling on a roadway closed for construction, struck fixed object 1

Two vehicle, rider crossed into on-coming traffic 1

3 vehicle collision, motorcycle hit by car, then rider hit by oncoming car as he lay in the road 1

Two dirt bikes collided 1 (7 year old killed)

School bus failed to yield roadway, struck the motorcycle 1

Teen killed when a wheel came off as he landed from a jump in a race 1

Rider drove into the path of an on-coming 18-wheeler 1
All fatalities were male, none were female.

[James Munsey](#) I guess I am missing the point of all these morbid stats!? Life in general carries risks...riding a motorcycle also carries inherent risks...there is something they used to teach at the MSF course years ago called risk acceptance. If you desire to mount and ride a bike you have to accept those risks. So maybe my muddled mind is just missing the point in all this. My bad if so!

[Fredrick Wheeler](#) We still teach risk acceptance, but with that we also teach risk management, case in point is riding with or without a helmet. Studies have shown a substantial reduction in serious head injuries for those who decide to ride with a helmet. Common sense should prevail but it's not as common as most would like to believe.

[David Walker](#) Driver education is OBVIOUSLY lacking. Inherent risk has to be appreciated by all drivers/riders, but we're experiencing an age of unnecessary risks, IMHO.

Way too many careless and/or distracted four-wheelers. There will always be wrecks and mishaps no matter how careful those involved, but it's time for some changes.

[Victoria Rumble](#) I work with this information on a daily basis for dozens of reasons, not the least of which is the hope of getting grant money to pay for billboards, materials to use in educating high school students, a whole host of needs. We cannot get grant money without having all these stats and without having them for a required number of years so we can chart the behavior of a certain factor. If we cannot show with the numbers that we meet the requirements we remain one of the few states that does not get that money every year and one of the states with the worst driving records in the country.

I'm writing magazine articles which will go out to various non-rider magazines to educate the four-wheelers on safety and awareness and those magazines will not take an article unless it is substantiated with facts and with the sources for those facts.

If I contact a legislator to garner his support for a safety/awareness campaign and he wants a comparison of what it would cost to help us versus what it costs for the average motorcycle injury case multiplied by the number of crashes per year for a total of X amount of dollars spent annually to put us back together, I need to have that information.

Yes, it is at times morbid work and there are days when I get a little bummed out with it, but when I get bummed out I look on the positive side and think how good it will feel if those numbers start to show a decrease because of work we've done.

AIR EVAC LIFETEAM



JANUARY MEETING:
2 PM 1/21/12

ROCKET HARLEY
DAVIDSON,
MADISON, ALABAMA

Don't forget that Dixie ABATE members get discounted memberships in America's largest air medical membership network, serving 24 states.

It's called the Golden Hour—the time from a traumatic injury until you reach definitive care, which can improve your outcome.

Air Evac Lifeteam works in co-

operation with local 911 responders. If the 911 dispatcher determines you would benefit from air medical transport, they dispatch air and ground ambulances to your emergency. If you are far from a specialized care facility, it might save your life.

Check the website or contact Kris Cook for information and an enrollment form.

**AVOID THE SMIDSY!
WHAT IS THE SMIDSY?
Do you know?**