

ABATE of FL, Inc
Lake Cnty Chapter
PO Box 492
Astatula, FL 34705
<http://lake.abateflorida.com/>

ABATE of Florida, Inc Lake County Chapter

Volume 21 Issue #6-- **June 2021**

**American Bikers Aiming
Towards Education**

**A Brotherhood Against
Totalitarian Enactments**

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1st Sun ea month General Mtg-- Eagles 27150 Haywood Worm Farm Rd @ noon.

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WHY ARE WE HERE? The purpose of this Corporation shall be: A) Promote motorcycle safety through education. B) Elimination of unfair motorcycle-related legislation. C) Protection of personal rights of all motorcyclists. D) Improve the image of motorcyclists to the general public. E) To provide for a Lobbyist to represent ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC., and to work with Legislators in the interest and protection of all motorcyclist rights on the State and National levels.

You must abide by CDC Guidelines to attend meeting & follow local county mask mandates.

RENEW on time to keep your \$4,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Ins



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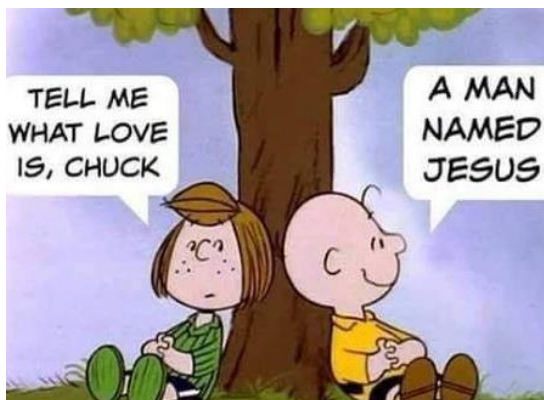
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One Nation Under GOD" Only 2 defining
forces have ever offered
to die for you, Jesus Christ & the
American G.I. One died for your
soul, the other for your freedom. ~ If you
do not stand behind our troops, please
feel free to stand in front of them.

ABATE of FL, Inc Lake Cnty Chapter--PO Box 492 -- Astatula, FL 34705 <http://lake.abateflorida.com/>
"Freedom of Choice" July 1, 2000

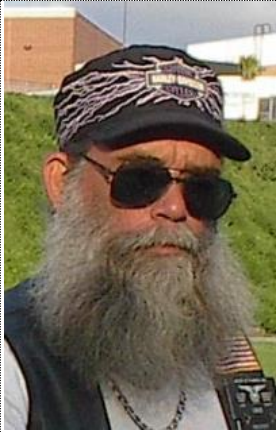


The Antichrist comes before the Rapture. It comes down to this. We have heard about the second coming of Christ & the events unfolding. The "Mark of the Beast", micro chips, no cash/just plastic, Martial Law, TOTAL Government dependency/control. When we are raising a family, working long hours, some 2 jobs, lots of things go unnoticed or just get ignored. No one can comprehend how bad it will be til it is. We have NEVER been told to stay home, quit work & rely on the Government. We are seeing a lot of "firsts" since Jan. Can we handle what's coming? Not without God - While the devil is preparing people for the Anti Christ, God is preparing people for the Rapture. I don't know when the Rapture will take place but I do believe it could be soon, I KNOW that I won't be left

behind when that trumpet sounds! I believe right now that God is giving us a chance to repent. Until the Good Lord calls us away from this world to go home, I want to make it clear that I believe in Jesus Christ as the one & only True Lord & Savior. I believe that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins & that He rose from the dead on the 3rd day & He is in Heaven preparing a place for all those who believe & trust Him as their Savior. He loves us all dearly & forgives our sins when we repent. His Word says John 3:16 "whosoever believeth in Me, shall not perish but have ever lasting life." The Bible also says Matthew 10:33 "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which art in heaven".

Our Stuff

President & Vice President Reports



Hey all: Great turn out for our Can You See Me Now event. The weather was perfect. I want to thank everyone that worked, participated, & support it. This is one of our most important events of the year & we couldn't make it happen without you. Special thanks goes out to all our sponsors & the Moose for the use of the lodge. It was a great event & I'm looking forward to next year. June brings our chapter elections & the state meeting in St Augustine. As of now Vera

& I are riding on Fri, June 11. If you want to go with us let us know. Speaking of state meetings, we are hosting the Aug meeting. This is also our chapter's birthday, 34 years. Will need help for this, sign-up sheets will be at our mtgs. Please sign up to help. 'Ride Safe, Ride Free', stay healthy -Griz
See you at our next mtg. P.S. looking for sponsors for the Lake County United Motorcycle Association Toy Run, ask me.

There was an old man, a boy & a donkey. They were going to town & the boy was riding the donkey, the old man walking alongside. As they rambled along, they passed some women sitting in the shade. One of the women said, "Shame on you, a great lump of a boy, riding while your father is walking." The man & boy thought maybe the critics were right so they changed positions. Later they walked by a group of women by the river. One said, "How could you make your little boy walk in the hot sun while you ride!" So they decided that maybe they both should walk. Next they met some men on the road. "How stupid you are to walk when you have a perfectly good donkey to ride!" one said.

So both father & son clambered onto the donkey, deciding they both should ride. They were soon settled & underway when they encountered some children, one girl shouted, "How mean to put such a load on a poor little animal." The moral ---you cannot please all the people all the time.

Why are frogs always so happy? They eat what ever bugs them.

Steven E Johnson
General Manager

Melissa Tillis
Restaurant/Catering

Rainbow Restaurant

Division of Johnson Rood Services, Inc
Cobblers01@aol.com www.Johnson-Food.com

Rainbow Family Restaurant

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Theresa Wright
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT FOR

PAMPERED CHEF
LIFE Chapter Mbr

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Griz called the meeting to order at 12:00, DR lead the Pledge/moment of silence & Pilgrim prayed.

PRESIDENT: Will "Griz" Deaver: We have "house" keys for sale. Leesburg Bikefest will be Nov. 12 – 14. Our CUCMN Event is 5/22. Leaving Rainbow Restaurant at 11 to be at Leesburg Moose by 2 pm, still need of auction items. Gun tickets (2 Henry Rifles) for sale. We are hosting the August St Mtg at the Day's Inn in Clermont. We need lots of volunteers. We'll do a Meet & Greet on Fri & have a party time on Sat. On 5/16 there is a Nationwide MC Run.

VP: TBD:

SECRETARY: Jane "ShortCake" Smith: Please sign-in; Tate & Yvonne made the motion to approve the minutes. Our Boat Day is 8/28. There is a sign-up sheet in the back for those interested in attending this fun event.

TREASURER: Charlotte "Hotcakes" Meyer: Gave her report.

SGT AT ARMS: Roy "DR" Stanard: I will need help at the Aug St Mtg & at Leesburg Bikefest.

MEMBERSHIP: Ron "RonJon" Knab: Please remember that you need to complete a new application form when renewing. We are the 3rd highest in members in the State. We have a total of 305 at this time. Don't forget we are offering a 5-year / get 1 free membership incentive. This must be done during the month that you expire.

PRODUCTS: Mike "Landfill Mike" Our NEW line is in. Purchase a key for the house & it will be at the Leesburg Moose.

NEWSLETTER: Vera Deaver: Nothing to report. Newsletter was emailed.

LEGISLATIVE: Joyce Sharpe: Absent Griz gave a report the happenings of the Legislative session that ended 4/30. Please remember to watch Scribe's video. They are very informative.

STATE REPS: Griz & V: Last St Mtg was in Ocala. There was a lot of discussion on Abates money. We'll be passing the hat each month to be given to the State. All reports are to be sent to the St Office. Our Safety money only passed one committee. The Law suit is over. NCOM will be 7/25 in IN. The next St Mtg will be in St. Augustine 6/12. Reservations need to be made by 5/13. Griz will leave from the Circle K at 448 & 561 at 11 am. We'll be doing the bell ringing at that mtg. Yvonne has offered to do the Meet & Greet in Aug.

WEBMASTR: Don Breckenridge: Forgot to put up the Newsletter; will do that this evening. It seems our old State Abate Website is still up with wrong information. It needs to be deleted. I'll make sure our new application & the information on the 6 year membership is on the website.

COMM/SAFETY: Tracy "Brat" Whitehurst. They are just now getting started up again.

SAFETY DIRECTOR: Mickey "Pilgrim" Meyer: Please remember all Safety items are free. I have some new items & if you have any ideas for safety items, please let me know. May is MC Safety Month & we need to get proclamations from our towns. I will be getting one from Sumter County Commissioners on 5/11 at 7pm if anyone would like to come.

RD CAPTAIN: Mike "Painter" Enko: I will be riding to the Warehouse after the meeting. Word of the day **Chagrin**.

BILLING: Sheryl "Cancun" Mertz: Thanks to all that joined us at Franks last month. We had a great time. I have letters for anyone that knows someone who would like to advertise.

HOSP: Jan DeLancy: No cards sent this month.

OLD BUSINESS: Pilgrim has gun tickets. Nominations were gone over again with the final results: Pres – Griz; VP – Tate; Sec – Marie; Treasurer – Hotcakes -Sgt at Arms – DR & Big Smo (who was nominated by Clicket).

NEW BUSINESS: Cleaned out the shed that held all the State supplies. We will keep them in storage in Lake Pan.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: We have a vest that will be filled with all the memorial patches from our chapter's deceased members. Polk County's Rodeo is 5/8 & Griz will be leaving the Race Trac at 33 & 50 at noon for anyone that would like to join him. It is held in Lakeland at Boondockers. Cruisers is holding their Spring Fling on 5/8. Our 50/50 was won by Angie & Ray's key opened the House. Pilgrim prayed; mtg closed at 1:40. 39 members, 1 guests present.

State Meetings 2021

FEB. Polk Cnty ABATE

APRIL: ~~Tallahassee~~ Forest

JUNE: Vintage – St Augustine

AUG: Lake (We are Hosting)

OCT: Pensacola

DEC: Peace River (Pt Charlotte)

These minutes have been summarized by your secretary, ShortCake

All Starz Cleaning Services -- Campers Corner RV -- Carlino Real Estate Group, Inc --- Central Florida Forklift Supply --- Chandler Electric LLC --- Full Throttle Works Bike Shop --- Paquette Company --- South Lake Moose Riders -- The Village Moose-Leesburg --- WHDeaver Trucking

Thank you to our 'CYSMN' Sponors - May 22nd

FEBRUARY: Carpenter Dave/Susan

MARCH: Stemelc/Wieser Coach & 7 -- Raun Peter & BEAR -- Gray Earl & Linda -- Orourke DENNIS Ryan --Stovenson/ Dunbar Marie-Steve - Berdelle Bill--Brain Dumas -- -Helmick David--Roberts Dee

APRIL: TATE--Nave John--LIL BIT & Judd--Jeff & JIN --McCabe Connie --Morrison Mike

MAY: Johnson Renee--Parker Nancy/John--Turner TP--Christian Joseph--Palmer & DARYL --Ivey Gordy--LaRosa Brianna Link/Nancy-Syroid Charlie

JUNE: Cancun--HOPKINS --Kim Benmark --Conley Dennis -- -Walker Joe "

JULY: "APE"--- RonJon -- Carpentar Wayne--Wade Karen --Young Richard & Janet

AUG: Nazario Brenda & Jose--Call Larry--McGrath Michael--Barber/Keller Charles & Donna--Burkle Michelle --Russell William ---Flynn & Delay Kristin & Jonathan--Fletcher Edwin--Tener Thomas--Finch & Sikes Steve & Roger

SEPT: Scienze Ian--Rudoi Mudder & Sharon--Spyker Yvonne & Bill--Crazy T

OCT: Thomas "Pops" Grubbs Tim --**Campbell ex**

NOV: Cline Yvonne

Please mail ck or MO to PO Box 492 – Astatula, FL 34705

keep your mbrship in good standings Mbrship contest sign up 15 new mbrs get \$75 worth of chapter products, 10 mbrs, get \$50 in products.



EXPIRED

ABATE of Florida Inc.



1st Prize



\$5 donation

Drawing Dec. 11, 2021

Just in time for Christmas

Please visit www.abatefloridainc.com

for chapter near you to purchase tickets

2nd Prize



**Need not to be present to win
ONLY 1500 Tickets Printed**

*Full name must be listed on the ticket stub for awards drawing purposes! Winner has 30 days after being notified to pick up prize. Winner will be notified and must qualify for ownership with a Florida Firearms Dealer. MUST BE 18 OR OLDER to purchase ticket.

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May 11, 2021 – Tate, Pilgrim, & Hotcakes were presented a proclamation from Board of County Commissioners for Sumter.



PROCLAMATION

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Florida's climate and scenery make motorcycle riding an attraction in the Sunshine State, and riders consider our roadways to be some of the nation's best for riding; and

WHEREAS, motorcycles are increasingly used as a regular means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, a motorcycle is an important form of transportation for commuting, touring, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, as a matter of safety, it is necessary to develop appropriate driving habits to handle these vehicles on Florida roadways; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,200,000 drivers in Florida have a motorcycle endorsement on their driver license; and

WHEREAS, to prevent injuries and deaths on Florida's roadways, motorcyclists and motorists must be vigilant in their efforts to share the road and ensure the safety of everyone; and

WHEREAS, Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month raises public awareness for a lifetime of safe motorcycle riding;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County, Florida hereby proclaims:

The Month of May 2021, as

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

DONE AND PROCLAIMED this 11th day of May 2021, Sumter County, Florida.

Attest:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SUMTER COUNTY

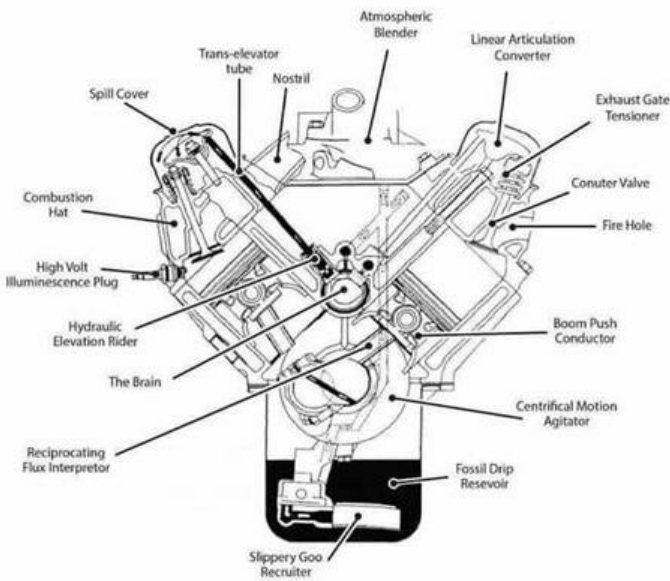


Caroline Abertinaw
President

Garry Breiden
President



THE GRETA REPORT--The fact that Greta Thunberg is barking orders to the UN and to the US Congress is not the problem. The problem is that the inhabitants of the UN and the US Congress are listening to her for guidance. Which means they actually consider her smarter than themselves. And that's the problem. Because driftwood is smarter than her. --J.J. Solari Chief Climate



Know Your Motor

neck down, rolled the dice & with an Irish brogue yelled, "Come on, baby, Mama needs new clothes!" As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up & down & squealed. "Yes! Yes! I won, I won!" She hugged each of the dealers, picked up her winnings & her clothes & quickly departed. The dealers stared at each other dumbfounded. Finally, one of them asked, "What did she roll?" The other answered, "I don't know - I thought you were watching." MORAL OF THE STORY Not all Irish are drunks, not all blondes are dumb, BUT, all men... are men!

-----An 80 yr old man went to the doc for a check-up--the doctor was amazed at what good shape the guy was in.... He asked, "To what do you attribute your good health?"..The old timer said, "I'm a biker & that's why I'm in such good shape".. "I'm up well before daylight on Suns & out sliding around corners, "shootin" sand washes & riding up & down the steepest, mountains I can find".... The doc said, "Well, I'm sure that helps, but there's got to be more to it. How old was your dad when he died?".... The biker said, "Who said my dad's dead?"..The doc said, "You mean you're 80 yrs old & your dad's still alive? How old is he?".... The biker said, "He's 99 yrs old &, in fact, he went riding with me this Sun, & that's why he's still alive... he's a biker too"...The doc said, "Well, that's great, but I'm sure there's more to it"... How about your dad's dad?....How old was he when he died?.... The old biker said, "Who said my grandpa's dead?".... The doc said, "You mean you're 80 years old & your grandfather's still living!".... "How old is he?".... The biker replied, "He's 117 yrs old"...The doc was getting frustrated at this point & said, "I guess he went riding with you this Sun too?"...The old timer said, "No.. Grandpa couldn't go this week because he got married".... The Doc said in amazement, "Got married!! Good Lord!!!"... "Why would a 117-year-old guy want to get married?".. To this the biker smiled & answered, "Who said he wanted to?"--Dickie Towers--El Waggs

-----Why Italian Fathers & Grandfathers pass their handguns down through the family. An old Italian man is dying. He calls his grandson to his bedside, Guido, I wan' you lissina me. I wan' you to take-a my chrome plated .. 38 revolver so you will always remember me." "But grandpa, I really don't like guns.. How about you leave me your Rolex watch instead?" "You lissina me, boy. Somma day you gonna be runna da business, you gonna have a beautiful wife, lotsa money, a big-a home & maybe a couple of bambinos." "Somma day you gonna come-a home & maybe finda you wife inna bed with another man. "Whatta you gonna do then? Pointa to you watch & say, 'times up' "?

----- Irish Blonde... An attractive blonde from Cork, Ireland arrived at the casino. She seemed a little intoxicated & bet \$20,000. in a single roll of the dice. She said, "I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely nude." With that, she stripped from the





May 22, 2021 Lake Cnty ABATE
'Can You See Me Now' ride



"Scribe" State VP & Legislative
Trustee, ABATE of FL, Inc

Scribe's Corner

--- **TEN BIG ISSUES FROM THE 2021 SESSION** May 1, 2021 Jim Saunders TALLAHASSEE

The 2021 legislative session has ended. Here are 10 big issues from the session:

BUDGET: Lawmakers passed a record \$101.5 billion budget for the upcoming year. The budget includes bonuses for first responders, providing services to more people with developmental & intellectual disabilities & addressing effects of rising sea levels. Lawmakers scrapped proposed cuts in Medicaid funding for hospitals & nursing homes.

COVID-19: Passed: A measure aimed at shielding businesses & health-care providers from lawsuits related to people getting sick or dying from COVID-19, & a permanent ban on COVID vaccine "passports."

EDUCATION: Passed an overhaul of school-voucher programs. In part, the plan would increase an income threshold so that a family of 4 making nearly \$100,000 a year could qualify for vouchers.

ELECTIONS: Legislature elections bill that includes placing new restrictions on voting by mail.

INSURANCE: After years of debating the issue, lawmakers approved ending no-fault auto ins system. Under the bill, motorists would no longer be required to carry PIP, coverage. They would have to carry bodily-injury coverage.

PROTESTS: DeSantis signed a controversial law-&-order measure that was sparked by nationwide protests last year after the death of George Floyd. The law creates a new crime of "mob intimidation," enhances riot-related penalties & makes it harder for local officials to reduce spending on law enforcement.

SOCIAL MEDIA: After former President Trump was blocked from Twitter & FB, Republican lawmakers passed a plan to crack down on social-media companies. The plan includes barring social-media companies from removing political candidates from the companies' platforms & threatens hefty fines. **TAXES:** Lawmakers passed a plan that will require out-of-state online retailers to collect sales taxes on purchases made by Floridians. The roughly \$1 billion a yr generated by the change will be used to replenish a depleted unemployment trust fund. Later, it will be used to offset a cut in a commercial rent tax. **TOLL ROADS:**

Lawmakers nixed the idea of building a toll road from Collier Cnty to Polk Cnty, however, they decided to move forward with extending FL's Turnpike west from Wildwood to connect with the Suncoast Parkway.

TRANSGENDER ATHLETES: Lawmakers passed a bill that would ban transgender female athletes from competing on high-school girls' & college women's sports teams.

WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENT TO RETURN May 5, 2021 Gov DeSantis expects this month to reinstate a requirement that people in the unemployment system submit weekly "work search" updates. Referring to some businesses saying they are unable to find new employees as they regroup from the COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment claimants will likely have to start showing how they looked for work once an executive order waiving a work-search requirement ends May 29. "We suspended that last year at this time because, quite frankly, there weren't jobs". Florida's unemployment rate stood at 4.7% in March, representing 475,000 people out of work from a workforce of 10.17 million. The rate was 13.8% in April 2020. "I think now we're in just a different situation, you have a surplus of jobs, particularly in restaurant, lodging, hospitality, that people want to hire. You see the signs all over the place, that's a good problem to have. Making sure that you're doing your due diligence to look for work, & making sure those incentives align, better."

Darrin "Scribe" Brooks State Vice President State Legislative Trustee, ABATE of Florida, Inc. abatefloridainc.com

DESANTIS SIGNS BILL ON GUN REGULATIONS May 10, TALLAHASSEE --- DeSantis signed the bill SB 1884, the bill, which will take effect July 1. Under the 2011 law, local governments can be forced to pay up to \$100,000 in damages & attorney fees if they are found to have violated the 1987 preemption on gun regulations. Also, local officials can face \$5,000 fines & potential removal from office for passing gun regulations. Florida since 1987 has barred cities & counties from passing regulations that are stricter than state firearms laws, & the penalties in the 2011 law were designed to strengthen that "preemption." Democrats argued that cities & counties should not be punished for trying to curb gun violence & recounted incidents such as the 2016 mass shooting at Pulse nightclub. The signed bill will broaden the law in 2 ways: It will allow lawsuits for "unwritten" local policies that violate the gun-regulation preemption. Also, local governments could still be forced to pay damages & attorney fees if they change gun-related ordinances or policies after lawsuits are filed --- a change that could block arguments about the mootness of lawsuits. DeSantis signed the measure along with 14 other bills & did not issue a statement. *Darrin "Scribe" Brooks-State VP & Legislative Trustee- ABATE of Florida, Inc.* abatefloridainc.com (NEW WEBSITE)

Political & More



The National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) is a nationwide motorcyclists rights organization serving over 2,000 NCOM Member Groups throughout the US, with all services fully-funded through Aid to Injured Motorcyclist (AIM) Attorneys available in each state who donate a portion of their legal fees from motorcycle accidents back into the NCOM Network of Biker Services (www.ON-A-BIKE.com / 800-ON-A-BIKE). https://www.bikernet.com/pages/NCOM_Biker_Newsbytes_for_2021.aspx

NCOM CONVENTION IN DES MOINES WELCOMES RIDERS NATIONWIDE The 36th annual NCOM Convention to be held JULY 23-25, 2021 at the Holiday Inn Des Moines - Airport, located at 6111 Fleur Dr in Des Moines, Iowa (515-287-2400), will draw hundreds of concerned motorcyclists to America's Heartland to address topics of concern to all riders. All motorcyclists are welcomed & encouraged to participate in the many meetings, seminars & group discussions that focus on legislative efforts & litigation techniques to protect our riders' rights & preserve Freedom of the Road. Agenda items will cover legal & legislative issues, with Special Meetings for Veterans Affairs, Women in Motorcycling, Clean & Sober Roundtable & World of Sport Bikes, as well as the Christian Unity Conference & Confederation of Clubs Patch Holders Meeting. For more info, or to pre-register, call the National Coalition of Motorcyclists at (800) 525-5355 or visit www.ON-A-BIKE.com.



HUMAN RIGHTS

IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH ABOUT CHINA'S MUSLIM CAMPS

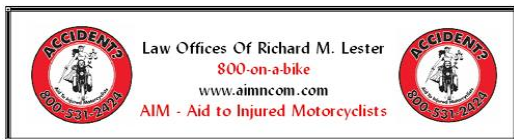
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FEDERAL HIGHWAY BILL PRIORITIES In recent years, our nationwide biker community has worked diligently with Congress to include several key motorcycle-friendly provisions in the federal highway bill that died last session; H.R.2 "Moving Forward Act," including further prohibitions against motorcycle-only checkpoints, expanding anti-biker profiling restrictions based on mode of transportation or style of dress, & furthering riders' future advisory role with Congress to ensure our voices are heard when determining traffic & transportation laws, as well as advancing safety funding & autonomous vehicles protections. Because H.R. 2 failed to pass, our lobbying efforts will need to be redoubled in the U.S. House & Senate once a new transportation measure is introduced in the 117th US Congress, which now has an extended deadline of Sept 2021. The Biden Admin may utilize a new highway reauthorization bill to pass a massive infrastructure spending plan, hoping to authorize some \$2.25 trillion on such items as road construction, mass transit, passenger & freight rail, airports & electric vehicles, with more than a trillion-&-a-half going toward expanding broadband, improving the electric grid, & a growing wish list of additional items. As Congress begins deliberations on the package of transportation & infrastructure spending, it will once again fall on motorcyclists to ensure that riders' priorities are included in the "Wish List" as this 2021 version of the highway bill develops. You can contact your federal legislators by calling the Congressional Switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or contact their local office & set up a meeting to discuss these issues of importance to all motorcyclists!

MOTORCYCLIST ADVISORY COUNCIL BILL IN CONGRESS A bipartisan group of U.S. Reps has introduced a bill to reauthorize the Motorcyclist Advisory Council, a committee comprised largely of motorcycle riders established to advise Congress & the DOT on matters involving motorcycle safety, & make recommendations regarding infrastructure issues such as road design, traffic issues, & intelligent transportation systems. H.R. 2141, introduced March 23, 2021 by Rep Gallagher (R-WI), would reauthorize the MAC for 6 years; require biennial reports; clarify that specific seats on the 12-member board would be occupied by motorcycle riders & advocates. If Congress doesn't take action prior to the Sept 30, 21 deadline, the MAC is set to expire & will be disbanded, contact your Congressional reps & ask them to cosponsor & support H.R. 2141.

RPM ACT NEEDED TO SAVE MOTORSPORTS If you have made modifications to your car or motorcycle, or have an interest in motorsports & racing, you could be impacted by the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act, which was first drafted up after the EPA's Clean Air Act in 2015 sought to make the conversion of production vehicles for "dedicated racing" illegal. Despite bipartisan support in Congress, the RPM Act has failed to pass, but because of the EPA's renewed push to restrict any vehicle modifications for motorsports purposes, the RPM Act is more important now than ever before. Concerned about emissions, street vehicles -- cars, trucks, & motorcycles -- can no longer be converted into racecars, according to the EPA, which recently announced that enforcement against high performance parts -- including superchargers, tuners, & exhaust systems -- is a top priority. According to the automotive trade association SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association), the sale, manufacture & installation of performance parts for racing would also be a violation of the EPA's ruling. The RPM Act would protect the racing culture in America by reversing the EPA's interpretation that the CAA prohibits the conversion of a motor vehicle into a racecar, & also safeguards the motorsports-parts industry's ability to sell products that enable racers to compete. The measure would clarify that it is legal to make emissions-related changes to a street vehicle for the purpose of transforming it into a racecar used exclusively in competition, & confirm that it is legal to produce, market & install performance equipment.



OREGON LANE SPLITTING BILL GOES TO THE GOVERNOR After years of legislative attempts, Oregon may soon join with neighboring CA & a host of other states that have approved of lane splitting for motorcyclists. The state House of Reps gave its blessing to Senate Bill 574, a bipartisan proposal that allows

motorcyclists to operate in between lanes of traffic under certain circumstances. After a 42-14 vote in the House, preceded by an 18-6 vote in the Senate, the bill now heads to the desk of Gov Brown (D) for her consideration. According to one news source, SB 574 has received more testimony than nearly any other piece of legislation this session, as proponents flooded legislators' inboxes clamoring for the idea. Their argument: That allowing motorcyclists to bend the normal rules during traffic jams would be good for both safety & improving congestion. State rep Noble who is himself a rider & who also carried the bill in the House said, "It will provide me personally with another option to ride safe." As described in a Legislative staff report: "Lane Filtering" is "meant to allow motorcycles to continue moving when the general flow of traffic is slowed or stopped, & is meant to prevent overheating of motorcycle engines, rider fatigue, & protect the safety of riders by preventing them from being rear-ended in areas with high levels of traffic congestion."

Under SB 574, motorcyclists are allowed to split lanes only on multi-lane highways with a speed limit of at least 50 mph. When traffic slows to 10 mph or less on those roads, motorcyclists are permitted to ride between cars, at no more than 10 mph faster than the flow of traffic. The law does not apply in school zones or work zones. CA has long allowed lane splitting, under different circumstances than Oregon's bill, & Montana recently passed a law of its own. Utah allows lane filtering when traffic is stopped at an intersection. Hawaii permits motorcyclists to utilize the shoulder when traffic is congested.

US MOTORCYCLE SALES WAY UP New-model motorcycle sales among leading brands increased more than 37.2% in the 1st quarter of 2021. The Q1 sales, compared to the same period last year, were up by double digits in every category: on-highway, off-hwy, dual-purpose, & scooter. "This is the 4th straight quarter of strong sales numbers, indicating continued & growing interest in riding among new & returning riders. Combine the new-motorcycle sales performance with the pace of tire sales & we know that more riders are putting on more miles." Yr-to-date sales of dual-purpose motorcycles were up the most, by 47%. Off-hwy sales were up 45.4%. Scooter sales rose 34.6%, & on-hwy motorcycle sales increased 31.4%.

After I drink coffee I like to show the empty mug to the IT guy to tell him that I've successfully installed Java. He hates me.

SURVEY SHOWS FEW DRIVERS TRUST 'SMART MOTORWAYS' A smart motorway, also known as an Intelligent Transport System, is a section of roadway that employs active traffic management methods to increase capacity & reduce congestion using traffic cameras & variable speed limits to control the flow of traffic, occasionally utilizing hard-shoulder running & ramp metering at busy times. IAM RoadSmart conducted an online poll about smart motorways in England, their safety, & whether or not road users really find them any better than traditional motorway systems. Not surprisingly, out of 4,500 people who answered the web poll, 81% felt less safe travelling on a smart motorway compared to a standard motorway; 84% have little faith in the safety systems spotting them if they break down in a running lane; 40% of drivers found no noticeable improvement in their journey time while only 4% found a

very noticeable improvement; & 85% want construction halted until the safety is fully proven. "Our members include many high mileage, experienced & confident motorway users," said Neil Greig, a researcher at IAM RoadSmart, "but the results of this survey are clear to see, with the vast majority having very little, or no confidence, in the safety of smart motorways."

NEW BIOMETRIC MOTORCYCLE PARKING SYSTEM PREVENTS BIKE THEFT A tech co has developed a motorcycle 'parking solution' that scans your face & license plate before opening the gate & letting you roll in, as biometrics co 'Unioncommunity' has decided to integrate a biometric identification process into motorcycle parking machines, for now, dubbed Ubio-X MPass. Biometrics is the use of biological data to authenticate identity, just like using your fingerprint or face to unlock your phone. The parking management system is being developed primarily for the South Asian market. It's noted as a means of preventing motorcycle theft by associating the vehicle with its driver.

SKUNKLOCK FIGHTS BACK AGAINST THIEVES With motorcycle thefts increasing yearly along with ridership going up, motorcycle security technology is constantly developing ways to stay ahead of ever-more ardent bike thieves. From ear-splitting alarms to high-tech tracking systems, security devices have become more creative -- & now, it seems, even more devious! Now, the SkunkLock motorcycle lock, a fairly conventional-looking D-lock device, actually fights back against crooks by releasing odious pressurized gas when cut, spraying the thief with "vomit-inducing chemicals" that hopefully stop the would-be thief in their tracks in the process. "When a thief tries to grind or break a SkunkLock, a very potent, though non-toxic & legally compliant formula escapes from the lock exposing itself to the thief. Once the compound is airborne, sight may be compromised, breathing becomes difficult, & a lot of time vomiting is induced." Crime Fighters = 1; Evil Doers = 0

QUOTABLE QUOTE "He that cannot reason is a fool. He that will not is a bigot. He that dare not is a slave." ~ Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) Scottish-American industrialist & philanthropist

CT HELMET LAW UPDATE-- Editors Note: This just sent to me about Connecticut Bikers make sure the Mandatory Helmet Law that we Beat back in 1976.—Rogue We finally did it made sure that Ct stays the way it is-- let those who ride still decide if they want to wear a helmet. The helmet law was repealed in 1976 in Connecticut, & they tried to bring it back this year & it was voted against thank you for keeping part of Connecticut free & thank you to John Rogue. For info on the Original Helmet law repeal (in the best year in the world) 1976 in Connecticut back when Rogue was part of a legendary mc along with pappy & a whole lot of what I like to refer to as legendary & original men. My father was also one of these men as well as my wife's father so thank you to all of you who helped out with this the original helmet repeal & the 2021 vote out that is giving us some freedom in a state/world that we slowly lose more of everyday. Jr. Paul http://www.bikerogue.com/Articles/Biker_Rights/Meet_Pappy.htm

Misc:

NMA ALERT--Richardson, TX Police Dept Traffic Division Under Review after Some Officers Say They were forced into an ongoing Ticket-Writing Competition. If officers did not participate, they would face disciplinary action or low evaluations. The officers decided to speak out since ticket quotas violate state law. A retired officer stated, "It's almost a little bit more dangerous than having a quota because you are constantly competing to be better than everyone else." Another veteran officer added that citizens are paying the price, "...Not everyone needs to go to jail, not everyone needs a ticket, you should be able to function as a police officer & treat every situation & person different." Apparently, this has been going on for years. Officers are ranked for tickets & arrest on a board each week. The city council is looking into the situation, & the officers have also contacted the Texas Rangers & the Dallas District Attorney's office to investigate. --NMA

GUN NUT REPORT--3 Things to Know About 2nd Amendment's Return to Supreme Court --- But last week, the Supreme Court agreed to hear *NY State Rifle & Pistol v. Corlett*, a case that could have much broader implications for the future of strict gun control than its mooted predecessor. Here are 3 things to know about the high court's latest 2nd Amendment case.

1. *This case is about the right to carry firearms in public.* *NY State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Corlett* provides the Supreme Court with the opportunity to address a very important question it so far has declined to answer: When the 2nd Amendment protects the right to bear arms, does it mean a right to bear a handgun in public for purposes of self-defense? According to NY & a handful of other gun control-friendly states, the answer has been a resounding no. In these states, the right to "bear" arms has been effectively restricted to a right to possess & handle a gun in your home, & nothing more. If you want to protect yourself with a firearm in public, the state considers it a privilege you can exercise only after showing "good cause" above & beyond a desire to protect yourself from crime in general. In essence, law-abiding citizens in these states have no right to "bear" arms outside their homes. The petitioners in the new case include 2 NY residents who have extensive experience & training with firearms. Both applied for & were denied carry permits for their firearms because they did not "face any special or unique danger to [their] life." It appears the Supreme Court finally has five justices willing to vindicate the rights of these petitioners. We know that Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, & Brett Kavanaugh have publicly decried the court's reluctance to take up cases involving similar "good cause" laws & affirmed that there is, indeed, a right to bear arms. Meanwhile, Justices Alito & Amy Barrett have evidenced a faithful adherence to the text, history, & tradition of the 2nd Amendment in different types of gun control cases. They would seem unlikely candidates to side with NY's interpretation that the right to bear arms is only a privilege for the select few determined to meet arbitrary "good cause" requirements.

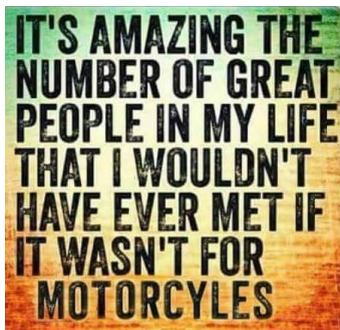
2. *'Good cause' & 'may issue' requirements have racist roots.* For the first 70 or so years after the Constitution was ratified, Americans undeniably maintained a general right to bear arms in public, with perhaps some state authority to regulate the mode of carry. A minority of states eventually prohibited or heavily regulated the act of carrying a concealed firearm in public. But no state completely eradicated an ordinary citizen's ability to carry some type of firearm in public in some manner without first having to seek permission from the gov. Well, all white Americans enjoyed a right to bear arms in public. Laws heavily regulating the public carry of firearms were, like all early forms of restrictive gun control, reserved for the subjugation of slaves & other individuals who were, at the time, legally considered as falling outside of "the People" of the United States. Even after slavery was abolished & the 14th Amendment forbade race-based gun restrictions, many southern states looked to racially neutral but highly discretionary gun control laws to effectively disarm black citizens. A FL Supreme Court case in 1941 provides insight into just how blatantly & openly states used discretionary permit systems to deprive black Americans of their rights. The court overturned a white man's conviction for carrying a handgun in public without a permit, in apparent violation of state law. Justice Buford nonchalantly explained the racist origins & enforcement of the law in his concurring opinion: The original Act of 1893 was passed when there was a great influx of negro laborers in this State. ... The Act was passed for the purpose of disarming the negro laborers ... & to give the white citizens in sparsely populated areas a better feeling of security. The statute was never intended to be applied to the white population & in practice has never been so applied. The reality is that today's "good cause" requirements may not be overtly racist, but in practice they serve to disproportionately exclude people of color from the ability to protect themselves in public with firearms. Constitutional implications aside, this makes discretionary licensing poor public policy. Who ends up getting concealed carry permits in the most restrictive "good cause" jurisdictions? Overwhelmingly, the permits go to wealthy white men—especially those who are well connected to whatever public official happens to have sole discretion over granting permit applications. It's also little wonder that such incredibly discretionary schemes lend themselves to rampant corruption.

3. *Public carry will not turn us into the 'Wild West.* Many gun control advocates insist that if the Supreme Court strikes down "good cause" requirements then the nation will be turned into a "Wild West" of gun violence. In other words, the 2nd Amendment shouldn't protect a right of ordinary citizens to bear arms in their own defense, because ordinary citizens largely are incapable of acting in a reasonable manner when armed in public. Decades of plain data show just the opposite. Between 1990 & 2000, 16 states changed their concealed carry laws from either "no issue" or "may issue" to "shall issue" permitting. During that time, national rates for violent crime, homicide by gun, & other gun crime plummeted. Since 2000, the trend toward more permissible public carry laws not only continued (42 states & the District of Columbia are either "shall issue" or "permitless carry"), but public interest in obtaining permits skyrocketed. Over 19 million American adults now possess a concealed carry permit, up from roughly 3 million adults in 2000. If gun control advocates were correct about their Wild West hypothesis, surely the last two decades would have been an increasingly violent mess. But the data clearly do not bear that out. Violent crime rates continued a general downward trend while gun homicide & other gun crime rates remained consistently low after plateauing around 2011. It turns out that ordinary, law-abiding citizens absolutely can be trusted to "bear" arms in public, just like the plain text of the Constitution envisions. Hopefully, the Supreme Court soon will vindicate the tens of millions of American citizens currently deemed to have "insufficient cause" to exercise their constitutional rights. This commentary was corrected May 6 to accurately report the status in 42 states & the District. --Amy Swearer, Daily Signal

Have an opinion about this article? To sound off, please email letters@DailySignal.com

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/animal-shelter-releases-1-000-feral-cats-onto-chicago-streets-to-solve-rat-problem/ar-BB1gCi08#:~:text=Chicago%E2%80%99s%20problem%20with%20rats%20stretches%20to%201977%2C%20when.and%20sightings%2C%20warns%20people%20not%20to%20pet%20them>

Animal shelter releases 1,000 feral cats onto Chicago streets to solve rat problem. One Chicago animal shelter thinks it has an answer to the city's rat problem — 1,000 feral cats. Since 2012, the Tree House Humane Society has released 1,000 cats onto Chicago's streets as a part of their "Cats at Work" program. In pairs of 2 or 3, the feral cats are placed into residential or commercial settings to provide "environmentally friendly rodent control." In exchange, property & business owners provide the furry pest-controllers with food, water & shelter. "In most cases, our Cats at Work become beloved members of the family or team & some even have their own Instagram pages," the shelter's website says. Chicago's problem with rats stretches to 1977, when the city offered a \$1 bounty for each rat killed by residents, in a so-called "war on rats." Within 2 weeks, *The NY Times* reported that about 550 rats had been killed, with 1 family killing more than 40 in their own backyard. In this century, Chicago topped Orkin's list of "rattiest" US cities for the 6th consecutive time in Oct. According to the pest control co, Chicago had the highest nu of rodent treatments performed in a year, followed by LA & NY. Tree House Humane Society first started the Cats at Work program as an alternative to poisoning rats, reports WGN. "We've had a lot of our clients tell us that before they had cats, they would step outside their house & rats would actually run across their feet," The cats involved in the program are feral, meaning they aren't able to thrive in a home or animal shelter. Usually, the shelter safely traps such outdoor cats & spays & neuters them, before returning them to one of their over 1,000 "feral cat colonies." However, sometimes the cats cannot be re-integrated into a feral cat colony, like when an abandoned building housing them is demolished. So, they're put to work. The cats, a part of the program, don't typically eat a lot of rats, but they will kill some rats when they first arrive at a new location. Over time, much less effort is required on the cat's part. "They are actually deterring them with their pheromones. That's enough to keep the rats away," Liss said to WGN.



https://www.bikernet.com/pages/NCOM_BIKER_NEWSBYTES_for_May_2021.aspx **Laonia City Council approves 100% parking, traffic** capacity for Motorcycle Week--Council considers lifting all COVID-19 restrictions on vendors, beer tents The Laonia City Council voted Monday night to return to pre-pandemic parking and traffic flow for this summer's Motorcycle Week. Last year, the event was scaled down and pushed to August. There were no vendor tents or big scheduled events as organizers and state officials hoped to cut down on the potential spread of COVID-19. With Monday night's vote, the council opened the door to having full capacity at this year's event, which is scheduled for June 12-20. Some council members also want to do away with COVID-19 restrictions when it comes to vendors and beer tents. "Everything is going 100% — restaurants, bars — everything," said Councilor Tony Felch. "There's no reason why we shouldn't open things up for this event." Others argued there should be some restrictions to limit risk as the pandemic continues. "We're really asking people here who have health concerns to be totally not considered, and I do think we have some responsibility," said Councilor Henry Lipman. "Above all else is safety."

shouldn't open things up for this event." Others argued there should be some restrictions to limit risk as the pandemic continues. "We're really asking people here who have health concerns to be totally not considered, and I do think we have some responsibility," said Councilor Henry Lipman. "Above all else is safety."

----- **INDIA COVID REPORT-** Covid cases have increased much higher than last year. People need to work & they can't stay home & die of hunger & homelessness instead. Religious ceremonies, marriages, funerals all have restricted attendance since last year. Like only 50 people in a marriage & only 20 people in last rites (burial / cremation). Small shops, small businesses, daily wage laborers, office going employees with small salaries - they can't just live on meagre savings for over 12 months. So, with increased outdoor movement & 12 new strains of Covid the daily new cases has blown to record numbers. There is shortage of vaccines, oxygen cylinders, ICU beds & now shortage of just any bed in hospitals. From 1st May anyone above 18 years of age is eligible for vaccines. I am unable to get my Mom her 2nd dose of vaccine due to unavailability. Also, Government increased the minimum gap mandatory for 2nd dose from 28 days to 40 days - strange. – Wayfarer Senior Investigator Bikernet News Bureau Mumbai, India



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS--Happy Birthday Ann-Margret! The life-long motorcyclist & entertainer kicks up her heels & celebrates her 80th birthday. She was introduced to motorcycles by her Uncle Carl in her home country of Sweden & she was hooked. You can see her riding a Honda with Elvis in Viva Las Vegas (1964) & a Triumph in The Swinger (1966) as well as in some Triumph ads of the era. --Dealernews

GUN NUT REPORT OF THE WEEK-- We are supposed to be grateful that they have humbly agreed to give us their esteemed opinion on whether you & I have a 2nd Amendment right. We've already lost the most important issue here: the myth that we don't have a right unless a couple of un-elected elites in robes decree that we do. That's exactly opposite the way the US Constitution works, folks. We The People make these decisions, on the local level. The Supremes are not the last word on the Constitution. The US Supreme Court loves to make national moral judgments. They used to think black folks were not people - blacks could not even go to court, that white people could be rewarded for capturing blacks - presuming they were slaves, that Asians could

be jailed because of how they look, that "imbeciles" could be sterilized & removed from the population, that neighborhoods cannot restrict pornography, that States must honor homosexual unions, that cities can condemn your land in order to build a shopping center...etc etc. We weren't even allowed a vote; they just "ruled." Whether they are "right" or "wrong" to you is not the point. The point is that the US Constitution does not give them that authority. They have no business going there. But there is a remedy! And here's the problem with the radio heads, the podcasters, the digital pundits & media, even the conservative sources that just want to talk about how bad it all is....the US Founders anticipated the Supremes would do exactly what they're doing - assuming they have a role in everything & establishing moral standards for the entire nation. So, they wrote a Constitution which says the Supremes can be & should be...ignored. They were given no enforcement power. They are not above any other branch. They are certainly not above any State. States delegated 18 powers to the Feds, but that's it. The remedy is to ignore them. It's even fully Constitutional for States to treat Federal agents trying to limit our Constitutional rights as criminals, obstructing justice, interfering with State law, & other things.

This is not rebellion or bloodshed - if you think that then they've tricked you again. Citizens of a Constitutional Republic have an obligation to keep our representatives within their delegated authority. We have a right to expect our state & local reps, representing us as their "One Job," to stand up to them, as we would expect our lawyer to do when a neighbor keeps trying to put a fence on our property. Having said that, please note that the Supremes already ruled, in 1943, that gun permits & licensing fees are unconstitutional. They are racist tools for keeping minorities defenseless, as was expressly noted at the time. It'll be interesting to see if their Exalted Holinesses, the Supreme Beings, stay consistent.

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2021/04/us_supreme_court_gun_licensing_fees_are_unconstitutional.html --from Geno -

https://www.bikernet.com/pages/MAY_MOTORCYCLE_BIKERNET_WEEKLY_NEWS_for_May_6_2021.aspx -- **OUR PETS ARE DOOMED**-- Climate activists now trying to cancel pets! Pet Police have arrived: 'Expert suggested reducing rate of dog & cat ownership in favor of other animals' to reduce 'pets' carbon footprint' – Equal to emissions of 13 million cars! VOX mag goes full pet police, asks: "Are our pets gobbling up the planet?": Okin, a Professor in the Depts of Geography & the Institute of the Environment & Sustainability: "Reducing the rate of dog & cat ownership, perhaps in favor of other pets that offer similar health & emotional benefits, would considerably reduce these impacts." "Proper poop disposal is important. Okin found that pet poop is equivalent to the annual trash of 6.6 million humans." That's more trash than Maryland produces! --Climate Depot

STREET ALERT--Court Says Snapchat Can be Sued for Deaths of Trio Using App During Fatal Crash. The US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled Section 230 does not apply. Parents of 3 young people killed in a 2017 car crash can now sue the social media site Snapchat. 21-old Landen Brown opened Snapchat & pulled up the app's speed filter, which video broadcasts how fast a user is going. This happened right before Brown hit a tree while going approximately 113 miles per hour. Two teenagers in the vehicle were also killed. Until now, Section 230 of the federal communications law has protected digital services from some liability for the speech & action of users. The case will have strong implications for both traffic safety & freedom of speech.

International: https://www.bikernet.com/pages/NCOM_Biker_Newsbytes_for_2021.aspx
BRITISH GOV INTENDS TO SCRAP EU 'VNUK' LAW The Dept for Transport (DfT) has announced plans to scrap the controversial 'Vnuk' motor ins law, which was introduced across the European Union following a ruling by the European Court of Justice in 2014. The case involved a Slovenian farm worker (Mr. Vnuk) who was injured when he fell from a ladder that was struck by a farm tractor. As the tractor was used entirely off-road, it was not required to have ins. The case was referred to the ECJ, which extended the requirements for vehicular insurance to cover a vehicle's "normal function," & not just use on a public road. The far-reaching implications of the legal ruling were huge, according to MotorcycleNews.com; "For a start it meant that all vehicles, even those not registered for road use such as track bikes or motocross bikes (or even forklift trucks & golf buggies), would have to be insured at all times. It also meant that any collision involving 2 vehicles, even if the collision didn't take place on a public road, would have to have been treated as a regular road traffic accident for ins purposes. So a bump in BSB between 2 riders would have gone through ins. Calculations by the DfT suggested the ins industry would have been on the hook for roughly £458 million (\$641 million USD) per year, which would likely have been passed straight onto the general public with estimates of £50 (\$70) per person per year." Although the ruling was already passed into law when England was a member of the EU, since Brexit, now that the U.K. has exited the EU, the government can remove the costly & cumbersome legality from British law.

UK POLICE CALL FOR MONITORING ALL MOTORCYCLES It appears that the reckless riding problem in the UK has reached a fever pitch, as Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner McGuinness has proposed the use of mandatory trackers "fitted to all motorbikes so their whereabouts & speed can be monitored." The commissioner has proposed this rather drastic mandate in a bid to locate & check the speed of all motorcycles at all times, as law enforcement's effort to fight the rising nu of cases of speeding, & what the commissioner is calling "anti-social behavior." As has been the case for decades now, trackers are often used as forms of punishment for convicted lawbreakers, & implementing this proposal would effectively tag all motorcyclists as criminals. "The mandatory use of a tracker is usually a sentence imposed by the courts after due process has been followed, but this would be tantamount to a collective punishment that sweeps hundreds of thousands of innocents up along with the tiny minority of the guilty without an investigation, trial or verdict."

SPAIN MAKES MOTORCYCLE GLOVE USE MANDATORY Spain has now made the use of motorcycle gloves while riding mandatory, in a 'safety'-trend that appears to be trending in Europe. Some countries already have rulings around gloves, with approved motorcycle mitts being the norm in France since 2017. There, motorcyclists & their passengers must wear gloves & according to RideApart.com, now Spain's DGT is enforcing a similar law. A DGT working group initially met to discuss the mandatory use of airbag vests for motorcyclists, but the airbag requirement was dropped, & the group moved towards mandatory glove use. Ultimately, Working Group 52 on Motorcycles & Road Safety devised a new law requiring their use, effective early 2021, which "must have thick leather, imitation leather, Kevlar, or a similar material highly resistant to abrasion & heat to be compliant."

EUROPE SEES DOUBLE-DIGIT MOTORCYCLE SALES GROWTH Both here & abroad, new motorcycle sales are booming, with Europe experiencing Q1 year-on-year increase in the double-digits. Despite a tough year for riders & non-riders alike, the European Asso of Motorcycle Manufacturers reports that things are looking up for the 5 largest European motorcycle markets -- France (+15.1%), Germany, Italy (+47.3%), Spain, & the UK-- showing a 10.3% overall increase in the nu of bikes sold over the same period in 2020. OEMs have so far been reporting good news, as well, with Ducati announcing a 33% rise, Polaris talking about 30% more sales, & Harley-Davidson seeing a 9% increase for the same time period. If the past 3/4 give any indication, this trend should hopefully continue.

--- **AMERICAN MOTORCYCLE-MAKERS FACING MASSIVE 56% EU IMPORT TARIFF** HD & others could face a devastating situation in Europe in less than 2 months' time after being slapped with a whopping 833% increase in tariffs. The rise in duty is the latest fallout from an escalating trade war between the old sparring partners of the US & the European Union. In June 2018, the EU placed a 25% incremental tariff (31% total) on motorcycles imported into the EU from the US. The tariff is scheduled to increase to 50% incremental (56% total) on June 1. Since June 2019, Harley has avoided most of the tariff due to Binding Origin Info (BOI) credentials, with certain Harleys produced at their international manufacturing facilities being subject to just 6% tariffs. However, Harley has since been told by the EU that after a decision by the European Commission their BOI credentials have been revoked, with the full 56% tariffs to be implemented on all products, regardless of origin, effective in June. "This is an unprecedented situation & underscores the very real harm of an escalating trade war to our stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic. The potential impact of this decision on our manufacturing, operations & overall ability to compete in Europe is significant. Imposing an import tariff on all HD motorcycles goes against all notions of free trade &, if implemented, these increased tariffs will pose a targeted competitive disadvantage for our products, against those of our European competitors." As it stands, European bikes imported into the US are subject to tariffs ranging from 1.2% to 2.4% depending on displacement.

---**SINGAPORE MOVES TO BAN OLDER MOTORCYCLES** Singapore has made a massive statement of intent to curb emissions in the island nation, by completely banning old motorcycles (registered pre-2003) from their roads in 2028. Until that date, & beginning April 1, 2023, stricter noise standards (equivalent to Euro 4) will be adopted, in line with United Nations emissions & exhaust noise levels, levels which are much stricter than those currently in place in the small island nation in Southeast Asia. Those who run older motorcycles will be forced to comply with the new regulations, or face hefty fines, starting in 2023 up until 2028, at which time they will be forced off the road for good. During this time, the Singapore government will offer an incentive to de-register old motorcycles before the 5th April 2023, to the tune of S\$3,500 (\$2,628 USD), not to buy or scrap affected vehicles, it's just to de-register them.

---**ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES PROTECT ENDANGERED AFRICAN WILDLIFE** Solar powered electric bikes have been adapted to sneak up on poachers in Africa to help park rangers working to protect endangered wildlife. Swedish firm Cake has built the super-light 80kg Kalk AP (Anti-Poaching) bike for a project that aims to help officials combat the devastating effects of poaching on the continent's most precious species. The bike isn't just for use in Africa, & if you buy one (@\$28,375 USD), the Kalk co will supply a second 'twin' machine as part of a 'buy-one-give-one' charity initiative to be delivered to an anti-poaching unit, complete with a solar panel & power station kit that enables the twin bike to operate in the African bush independent from the electric power grid.

-- **It's pretty crazy** - UK police wants tagging & tracking of all motorcycles the way convicted criminals are tracked - gloves mandatory in Spain & is already mandatory in France since 2017 even for pillion rider. In India, tolls on roads since last year cannot be paid without a prepaid sticker which is mandatory for all cars (to stop corruption by contracted road infrastructure companies) - & now government wants to eliminate the digital prepaid sticker with a GPS tag also prepaid which will track & record all the toll roads accessed by a car. You can pay cash to get the sticker or the proposed GPS tag - & yes it can track income of toll plazas to eliminate corruption - but someone who doesn't travel through tolls regularly will have to pay in advance without utilizing the amount in a month or more. & the mandatory GPS for automated toll collection just sounds like CIA type surveillance of your own citizens. EU & UK laws on emissions, EVs, safety, security influence India's laws as well. So don't know what motorcyclists can expect here - helmets are mandatory all over India for rider & pillion for many years.

--Wayfarer Senior Investigator Bikernet News Bureau Mumbai, India

The founder of Dubai, Sheikh Rashid, was asked about the future of his country, he replied, "My grandfather rode a camel, my father rode a camel, I ride a Mercedes, my son rides a Land Rover, & my grandson is going to ride a Land Rover, but my great-grandson is going to have to ride a camel again." Why is that? His reply was, "Hard times create strong men, strong men create easy times. Easy times create weak men, weak men create difficult times. Many will not understand it, but you have to raise warriors, not parasites. Add to that the historical reality that all great "empires"... the Persians, Trojans, Egyptians, the Greeks, the Romans & in later years the British ... all rose & perished within 240 years. Each "rotted from within". America has now passed that 240 year mark & the "rot" is visible all around us & now accelerating quickly. We are past the Mercedes & Land Rover Years & the camels are in our yards.

---NEWS FROM THE NOISE MINISTER---German Federal Transport minister On Noise: 'Road Closures Are No Option' Noise annoyance is a big problem in Germany that has caused many protests from civilians & action groups. Road authorities often react by closing roads completely or during specific times. In 2020 the German federal meeting of governments of state adopted far reaching proposals to limit the sound emission of motorcycles. Although the Bundesrat has no direct legislative power & the federal government opposed the proposals, the tone was set. The German motorcycle community of riders & industry developed a strategy paper in a try to contribute to the solution from their side. FEMA members Biker Union (BU) & Bundesverband der Motorradfahrer (BVDM) had a 2nd meeting with the Bundesverkehrsminister on 6 May 2021. During this round table conference, the new strategy paper of the Federal Motorcycle Working Group (BAGMO) was officially handed over to the minister. During the meeting with the delegation of motorcyclists & motorcycle industry, the minister repeated that road closures are not an option for him, & that "Freiheit, Vernunft und Regeln" (freedom, reason, & rules) must be kept intact. In view of the ongoing discussions about powered 2-wheelers, the strategy paper came just in time. BU-president said: "With the handover of our strategy paper, which is led by the BU & the Institute for Motorcycle Safety (IfZ) as the coordination office of the BAGMO & on which intensive work was done in several voting rounds of the 'Berliner Runde' & the BAGMO, we have taken a big step forward. The two aspects of sustainable & socially acceptable mobility with motorized two-wheelers are comprehensively dealt with & placed in the right context, on just 19 pages. In addition, many claims, which have been circulating for months, but are sometimes rather nonsensical, are corrected. For us as asso however, the document also contains a commitment to take the escalating conflicts seriously. Lack of consideration for the residents on busy motorcycle routes is not, in our view, a cavalier offence either. The conflict resolution approaches we have described must now be implemented to achieve a fair & mutually acceptable balance of interests." --FEMA

H ILLBILLY MOMS LETTER

Dear Son, I'm writing this slow 'cause I know you can't read fast. We don't live where we did when you left. Your dad read in the paper that most accidents happen within 20 miles of home, so we moved. Won't be able to send you the address as the last Arkansas family that lived here took the numbers with them for their house, so they wouldn't have to change their address. This place has a washing machine. The first day I put 4 shirts in it, pulled the chain & haven't seen 'em since. It only rained twice this week, 3 days the first time & 4 days the second time. The coat you wanted me to send to you, Aunt Sue said it would be a little too heavy to send in the mail with them heavy buttons, so we cut them off & put them in the pockets. We got a bill from the funeral home, & it said if we didn't make the final payment on Grandma's funeral bill, up she comes. About your sister, she had a baby this morning. I haven't found out whether if it is a boy or girl so don't know if you are an Aunt or Uncle??? Your Uncle John fell in the whiskey vat. Some men tried to get him out, but he fought them off playfully, so he drowned. We cremated him & he burned for 3 days. Three of your friends went off the bridge in a pickup. One was driving & the other 2 were in the back. The driver got out. He rolled down the window & swam to safety. The other 2 drowned. They couldn't get the tailgate down. Not much more news this time. Nothing much happened. If you don't get this letter, please let me know & I will send another one. Love, Mom



DAY IN HISTORY—1873 Levi Strauss & Jacob Davis receive patent for blue jeans On May 20, 1873, San Francisco businessman Levi Strauss & Reno, Nevada, tailor Jacob Davis are given a patent to create work pants reinforced with metal rivets, marking the birth of one of the world's most famous garments: blue jeans. In San Francisco, Strauss established a wholesale dry goods business under his own name & worked as the West Coast representative of his family's firm. His new business imported clothing, fabric & other dry goods to sell in the small stores opening all over CA & other Western states to supply the rapidly expanding communities of gold miners & other settlers. By 1866, Strauss had moved his co to expanded headquarters & was a well-known businessman & supporter of the Jewish community in San Francisco. Jacob Davis, a tailor in Reno, was one of Levi Strauss' regular customers. In 1872, he wrote a letter to Strauss about his method of making work pants with metal rivets on the stress points—at the corners of the pockets & the base of the button fly—to make them stronger. As Davis didn't have the money for the necessary paperwork, he suggested that Strauss provide the funds & that the 2 men get the patent together. Strauss agreed enthusiastically, & the patent for "Improvement in Fastening Pocket-Openings"—the innovation that would produce blue jeans as we know them—was granted to both men on May 20, 1873.

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