

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS FOUNDATION MEETING OF THE MINDS

22nd – 25TH SEPTEMBER

ATTENDEES REPORT

This conference was presented by the Motorcycle Riders Foundation in conjunction with the MRF Awareness & Education and was hosted by ABATE of Michigan.

First General Session:

This was an opportunity to meet the board members of the MRF and each State Motorcycle Rights Organization (SMRO) had an opportunity to speak on accomplishments, intentions, and problems that were pertinent to them. Representatives from 35 states and 5 countries were present and there many issues that were common among the attendees. These included;

- Motorcycle Awareness/Share the Road programs presented in high schools
- Rider Awareness for Out of State Riders campaigns
- Rider Education programs, finding space to conduct courses, mandatory vs voluntary
- Impaired driving, don't ride fried
- Developing legislation to ban the discriminatory motorcycle only roadside stops
- Red Light bills; allowing motorcycles to make left turns at lights that don't sense motorcycles
- Right of Way legislation; increasing penalties for violations
- Defining what is a motorcycle
- Right to Repair motorcycles; OEMs need to make codes & manuals available to shops
- Road Hazards; rumble strips and painted road surfaces
- Mandatory Helmet laws; what about riders rights to freedom of choice
- Graduated licensing proposals/problems
- Noise ordinances and rider responsibilities
- Sportbike riders and how to get them involved

Second General Session:

This session consisted of a State of the MRF, presentation of Federal & State Legislative awards, presentation of the Youth Advocate Scholarship award, and an update on the MRF Awareness & Education program, financial report, and legislative update from the lobbyist in WashDC.

Third General Session:

While the majority of this session was dedicated to the recognizing individuals for their outstanding efforts it also included presentations on the state of motorcycling by CMC (or MCC) which is the Canadian Motorcycle Conference and by FEMA (Federation of European Motorcycle Assn). These organizations have encountered and continue to campaign many of the same issues that are now facing the US motorcycling community. There are a lot of scary initiatives that being proposed in their

communities that may someday impact US riders.

Breakout Sessions attended by Juneau ABATE representatives:

- Legislative Planning; group discussion to help form the 2011-12 legislative agenda for the MRF.
- Accessing Public TV; presentation regarding the use of local cable TV and radio media to get the message out.
- DIRT, What in the!!!; combining the efforts of different advocacy groups (street & off-road) to improve the growth and efficiency of each.
- “Town Hall” Meeting; Q&A session regarding the MRF and the support it provides to the State Motorcycle Rights Organizations (SMROs).
- Getting More “Bang” for Your Buck; stressed the importance of social networking to grow the local organizations.
- MRF Awareness & Education 3 R’s; Alcohol awareness and putting the responsibility of NOT riding impaired on the individual because only they can decide to Be Responsible, Ride Responsible, and Take Responsibility for their own actions.
- Proper Braking Techniques; demonstration of braking techniques presented by ABATE of Colorado.
- MRF State Reps; roundtable discussions to promote the MRF, administrative update from the WashDC office, and election of rep board members.
- Blessings of Liberty, Bikers View of the Constitution; history of the S Constitution from 1787 to present and how it has impacted our lives and continues to impact our lives.
- Overview of Advanced Rider Course; review of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Advanced Rider Course, where did it come from, what does it teach, and how it is designed.
- Sportbike Riders, Bridging the Gap; Q&A session with a panel of sportbike riders.
- Safety Officers and Road Captains, Fullfilling the Role; open discussion about what folks are doing to help improve the safety of their members. Topics included group riding, alcohol, skills practice, and riding gear.
- Magic Members & Toxic Members; in with the good and dealing with the bad.