

ROAD DOG REVIEW

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST, 2014

We are back from Sturgis and had a great time. Here is Newsletter #2 for the Kootenai Chapter. I have found a few things of interest to pass along. If you ever have anything you want included, please email me and let me know. I am happy to include it.

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 4TH AT 7:00 PM – THE FEDORA. BE THERE AND BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE DRAWING OF THE ITEMS I BROUGHT BACK FROM STURGIS. ONE OF THE ITEMS IS RELATED TO BURT MUNRO OF THE “WORLDS FASTEST INDIAN”.

FREE WEATHER APP FOR SMART PHONES – Several of us were in Hill City South Dakota heading back to Sturgis. One of the members of our group had an App on her phone that showed weather patterns. Luckily she looked at it and we opted to stop, eat dinner and wait out the storm. When we left it was drizzling, so we all donned rain gear and headed for Sturgis. On the pass we found hail piled in the ditches like snow and saw emergency vehicles and a motorcycle that had gone down. Unfortunately the 43 year old man that was caught in the horrific hail storm lost his life. If you have a smart phone and are traveling you might want to download the free App called **RAINDAR**. It could really make a difference.

AMERICAN INCOME LIFE REP – Daniel Ball and you may contact him at 208-570-5828 or email him at dball297@gmail.com.

SPRING OPENER 2015 – Bob Merkel – Chairman, ANI Spring Opener 2015 is looking for people to serve on subcommittees. If you would like to be more involved in the upcoming Spring Opener, please let him know, or you can send me an email at memberskootenaichapter@yahoo.com and I will forward your information. This is a super fun committee to be on and he is going to start monthly meetings soon.



**ANI MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE AT
31ST ANNUAL
ABATE SOCIAL HOUR
WHITEWOOD, SD**

Had a great time in Sturgis, SD as usual and as you can see by the picture several people from Idaho attended the A.B.A.T.E. Social Hour in Whitewood, SD. I spoke with Kirk "Hardtail" Willard before the speakers started and asked him if he had any ideas on how to boost our membership here in Idaho. I also asked him about membership nationally. He said the average has been flat for the last ten years. Some organizations are up and some are down... numbers haven't increased, or decreased. His suggestion was to have each member sign up a new member. So I am sending out a challenge to all members to sign up one new member before year end. Our numbers are down, and since the average is flat... someone has replaced our lack with an abundance ... let's see if we can tip the scales a bit.

The first speaker was Carol (I didn't catch the last name ... sorry) She is the Conference Director for MRF. She spoke about the Meeting of the Minds coming up in Kansas City starting September 25, 2014. She said there are General Sessions and Workshops. The focus is Awareness, Education, Legislation to name a few. (Dan Ertz and Dave Cazal will be attending. If you are interested connect with them ... they plan to ride.) Don't delay ... the deadline for the Group Rate is August 25th.

Next Hardtail spoke and he mentioned that last May, Obama came out with the Grow America Act which, for motorcyclists, involved the mandatory helmet law. Coincidentally 200 bikers came to Washington DC to visit with Legislators on the same day the Grow America Act was announced. The law fell through the next week. Hardtail said 200 bikers in leather walking the halls definitely gets attention.

Right now the focus is on the Highway Bill. Funding has run out and the Government is several hundred thousand dollars short. For bikers, this lack of funding affects rider's education programs and removes the ban on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). This ban currently restricts NHTSA from forcing States to create laws dictated by the Federal Government. The Government also wants to move issues involving motorcycles over to the responsibility of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). MRF is opposed to having the CDC oversee motorcycles as they feel the money would be better spent by the CDC in funding what they are there for, diseases.

The goal is to have the new Highway Bill include all items that concern motorcyclists to prevent the necessity of writing other Bills. The new Bill already has included a ban on motorcycle only roadside checks and also includes funding for rider education. To fund this Bill it will take raising gas prices .25 to .35 per gallon. Hardtail mentioned other options for funding this bill.

The other item discussed was Ethanol. Hardtail said he doesn't really care if Ethanol is in the gas, but he does want to know what the fuels do to our vehicles BEFORE we are mandated to use them. They have pushed for research on Ethanol and to date the word is still out on E-15, so that is illegal to put in motorcycles.

He touched on members and said unfortunately the ones that work hard are going to have to work harder to make sure those on the "fringe" are ready when Motorcyclists Rights Organizations need them. In talking about membership to the MRF, he said get a membership in your State (ABATE) first, then join the MRF.

I apologize if this is a bit confusing ... I took notes, but Legislation is confusing and if anyone has clarification for any point I touched on, let me know and I will put that information in the next newsletter. Thank You.



WHAT I LEARNED AT WOUNDED KNEE, SD

Tom McLaughlin a supporter of ANI who resides in Billings, MT invited several members of the Kootenai Chapter to participate in the Wounded Knee Memorial Ride that leaves Prairie Knights Casino in North Dakota and over the period of two days makes it way to Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Four members decided to make the ride, Tom and Susan Taylor and Dan and Belinda Ertz. The ride was put together to honor the Lakota Ancestors that were killed at Wounded Knee and for those yet unborn to make sure something like this will never happen again. The ride had many facets and was an awesome experience that we all will take with us. I will try to encapsulate the highlights and what I learned.

Sitting Bull was a compassionate man who grew up living his life a certain way. His way had worked for him and those that had lived before and when he was told how to wear his hair, how to dress, what to eat and where to live it was not easy on him or his people. He continued his life as he always had until it was time to move to a different location to gather food, as they had always done. Upon leaving he broke the law and was caught and killed December 15, 1890 by the Indian Police. His people (mostly women, children, elders), in the bitter cold of winter, escaped and traveled for two weeks before being captured and taken to Wounded Knee. They were camped in an area surrounded by four hills, each hill had howitzer type gun that was pointed directly on the camp. During a misunderstanding with a deaf Indian and a rifle, the rifle went off and the Army members on the hills mistakenly took the gun shot as a signal to begin firing. The camp exploded and the Lakota Sioux left standing scrambled to the ravine, only to be shot down. Because it was bitter cold the bodies froze to the ground and it was three days before their relatives could remove the bodies to be buried.



There were a little over 200 people who left Prairie Knights Casino on Thursday, July 31, 2014, more to join later. We traveled in two tight long lines escorted by Tribal Police. ALL along the way during that two days young and old were pulled off to the shoulder in cars between towns, or lining the streets in town waiting for us. As we passed they honked, they cheered, they waived. It was hot and tiring as the speed ebbed and flowed for the two days we traveled. We were provided with water, food and a place to pitch our tents, we were treated with great respect and appreciation. There were Tribes from many Nations flying their flags. Their flags were flying under the Stars and Stripes which encompassed us all. The first night, at the Eagle Butte Fairgrounds, all the Veterans were invited down to take hold of a large American Flag that had flown over the Twin Towers and march the flag around the parade grounds. We were all reminded of our country and how we have to be wary of those who would threaten our freedom. There were no barriers, there were no differences, we were all Americans on a mission to remember those who had fallen before and to keep in mind those not yet born, so that we can remain free.



During the ride and listening to the events that took place I couldn't help but identify with those people long ago. They were given laws by a Government that didn't understand what they stood for, or why they did the things they did. Isn't that why we try to educate the Legislators as to who we are and why it is important that we have a say in the laws that effect us? I don't think we will have anything happen to us as riders that can even come close to what those people suffered at Wounded Knee, but I think it is important to remember that we need to keep vigilant. What will our descendents ride to honor us when the "Iron Horse" as we now know it, is no more?

KOOTENAI ROAD DOGS MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Laura Ingalls at 7:01 p.m. at Fedora's Pub and Grill.

Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 11 members and no guests present. A Quorum was met based on the number of paid members on the books. There are 59 members.

GUEST SPEAKERS: There were no guest speakers.

AGENDA: The agenda was approved as there was a Quorum.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Cindy Bessey) The secretary's report was accepted, and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Susan Riess) Susan Riess was not in attendance; however a written report was submitted, and read by Laura Ingalls.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT: (Belinda Wright-Ertz) Belinda was not attendance.

Make sure you send or give your memberships and renewals to Chapter First, Kootenai Chapter, P.O. Box 2511, Hayden, ID 83835

DEPUTY COORDINATOR REPORT: (Belinda Carson) The ALS Ride had a good turnout of riders. The Booze Fighters were there and made a donation. The donations go to help cover expenses that the patients insurance does not cover.

SAFETY, EDUCATION, AND AWARENESS: (Karen Stewart) there was no report as Karen was not in attendance.

LEGISLATIVE: (Dave Cazel) Dave reported that nothing was determined with the extension of the National Transportation Bill. He reported 14 Senators are not in favor of motorcycle check points.

AMBASSADOR AT LARGE: (Duane Justice) there was no report as Duane was not in attendance.

RUNS AND EVENTS: August 9th the Ride for Stacey sponsored by Country Chapel. Jersey's daughter needs a liver transplant. The ride starts at Lawrence's at 10 am and ends at North Country Chapel. The church is donating hamburgers and hot dogs.

August 9th FARTS ride hosted by Pigman will meet at Sally's at 10AM

August 12th ABATE of Washington meeting at Sweet old Bob's at 3243 E. Trent Ave, Spokane

August 23rd FARTS ride hosted by Kerry will meet at Sally's with the ride to begin at 9:30

September 4th Kootenai ABATE Chapter Meeting. New meeting place: Donut Dugout Seltice Way, Post Falls. Same time 7:00pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE: (Laura Ingalls) 661-1289. Laura Ingalls and Belinda Carson were the Chapter representatives at the State Meeting. There was not a quorum. Laura announced that if you are unable to attend the State meeting send a replacement. The question was asked "What do you say when Someone asks you about what ABATE is all about?"

OLD BUSINESS:

Those wanting to be on the committee for next year please contact Laura.

Chris Benson presented a greeting card with the logo on it. It was a great job. It was decided that we have postcard size cards printed up for about 50 cards to start with. Pigman made the motion the Chapter spend \$20 for the postcards. Motion carried.