

## Did You Know?

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## Call To Action

How time flies when you're having fun. Since my last article so much has happened in the motorcycling world. Personally I have been busy with riding, legislation, and organizing for the Shriner's Ride on November 4.

The Shriner's ride was very successful, and for those of you that participated, I want to thank you, and the kids that you help, appreciate you. For those that don't know about the Phoenix Shriner's, we help kids and parents with transportation to one of our 22 hospitals. There is never any charge and the Shriner's exist totally on donations through events like we put on November 4. So if you ever know of a child that needs help, call me, or the El Zaribah Shrine. The Shrine hospitals specialize in orthopedic and burns. You never know what they can do to help a kid.

On a Personal note; I rode to Sturgis again this year, and had a great time. It is good to be water proof, because I did experience rain in both directions. I took the long way around through the Rockies on the way home and even though it rained a little here and there, it was quite an enjoyable ride.

After my trip home from Sturgis, I had to get to work on legislation that the lobbyists are going to attempt in the next legislative session. Last session we were not successful in legislation to remove the cap from our Motorcycle Safety Fund, which will be a priority in the next session. Also in the works will be legislation that will make it a little tougher on people that violate right of way laws. That would be the ones that turn left in front of our vehicles, cross over the yellow lines, and a few other violations that injure motorcyclists, and drivers alike. Yes this legislation will be comprehensive to cover 4 wheelers and motorcyclists alike. The current fines and punishment for the habitual bad drivers do not have any teeth in them. Our goals are to make the bad drivers walk or take the bus. We will need to have the help of all the motorcyclists and four wheelers alike to get this legislation passed. Get on our Call to Action list, let your voice be heard at the copper dome, and help the lobbyists.

For those of you that have to emission test your motorcycles, keep it up

for another year or two. Now the riders in Pima County will need to pay attention for the next few months, we may have some good news for you by the end of March. Stay tuned for that information. Maricopa County will be testing through 2008 the way it looks right now. The lobbyists may be able to introduce legislation to repeal emissions testing in 2008, and from there it takes more time. Stay tuned for that in our future as well, just be patient for the time being.

The HOV debacle has come and gone, and I am sure that most of you know that some riders were cited for riding solo on the 60 a couple of months back. Do not stop riding the HOV lane at anytime, it is the safest place to ride. The situation was alleviated by putting a temporary bandage on it, and the riders that were cited had the citations dismissed. The DPS lobbyists will be assisting all of us in the next legislative session by adding motorcycles to the statute. Yes that is right, motorcycles are not in the statute to ride solo in the HOV lane. That is ok, keep riding there; you will probably not be cited. If you do, call me to find out about getting it fixed. Many of you know that there are signs allowing motorcycles on the 202 and I-17, if there are signs in any other place, let me know, but I haven't seen them. Ride the HOV anytime solo, it is ok. Join our Call to Action list to help us with our legislation.

Some of you may know that there is a push on for all states to take away our right to choose whether to wear a helmet or not. How do you feel about this? This could get serious in the coming months, or maybe next year. Join our Call to Action list, and join an MRO to be part of keeping our rights as motorcyclists. There are approximately 125,000 motorcyclists in Arizona, and only about 2,000 belong to either the MMA, or ABATE. What is it worth to you to keep the freedom to choose? I lived in California when the helmet law was shoved up the bikers butt there, and you should have seen all of the bikers cry. Don't let this happen here in Arizona. Join an MRO.

Skills enhancement classes are available all over Arizona. Become a better rider, and ride safe.

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