

Did You Know?

by Ray Huston
Lobbyist
Modified Motorcycle Assn.
NCOM Board Member
602-402-8026



Sport Bike Riders

Sport bikes and metrics are everywhere in Arizona, and I am impressed by the skills that I see some of the riders exhibit. I sometime wish I could get my Harley to perform like some of these scooters. Now before you go off and think that I am totally impressed, wait a minute. Many of the sport bike riders that I have conversed with, don't have a clue about what is going on in the motorcycle world. For those of you that do know what is going on, I commend you. When I talk about sport bikes, I also want to include the other metrics as well.

Many don't know about legislation, and are not aware of classes to become better riders. They are not aware of any of the organizations that are designed for the benefit of motorcyclists and specifically sport bike organizations. I think it is time for the sport bike riders to step up and take part in the other world of motorcycling. If you are a sport bike or metric rider in Arizona, you have the freedom to choose if you wear a helmet or not if you are of age. You are able to ride the HOV lanes without being cited, at least for now. You pay an extra \$1.00 on your registration and I am sure that most do not know where this money goes and what it goes for.

There is a sport bike arm of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists, and these sport bike riders do not have much participation. There are places that the sport bike riders could go for more information on laws that affect them. There is legal representation for these riders as well. They have not begun taking advantage of it. What are they waiting for? The name of this organization is the National Sport Bike Association. You can reach the national office by calling 1-800 on a bike. Let them know that you are interested in the NSBA. Or you can call me at the number below. There is no cost, and there is a patch among other things that members receive when they join up. If you do have a group of people that ride either sport bikes or metric, call me for more information on getting your

group to be a part of this organization.

So while I have your attention, I will tell you that the Arizona Motorcycle lobbyists are working on legislation that will benefit you. Some of it I cannot talk about quite yet, but by the time this article is out I will be able to talk about it. Call me, or tune in to the next issue. We are working on legislation now that will make it tougher on four wheelers that violate our right of way. That would be the ones that turn left in front of us, run red lights, cross double yellow lines among some of the violations that endanger our lives. For those of you that live in the Pima County area, stay tuned about the repeal of emissions testing in your future.

The HOV lanes are a perfect example of how the lobbyists represent the sport bike riders and the others as well. Three riders were cited in the HOV lanes a couple of months back, because they were riding solo. The short story of it is that we were able to get the citations dismissed so that we are able to ride the HOV lanes. Now the lobbyists are working at legislation to add motorcyclists to the statute. There are signs on the 202 and I-17, but not on the 51, 10, or the 60. Don't let this stop you from riding the HOV lanes 24-7, you probably won't get cited. If you do, call me.

So the moral of my story is that most of you sport bike riders are younger than most of us Harley riders and we need your participation. Even if it is in a small way would be beneficial to all of us. We have a "Call to Action" list that when we need our legislators called, we put out the information on the "Call to Action" list. The only time you hear from us is when we need you to call or email your representatives. You do not need to belong to the organizations to be on the "Call to Action" list.

We have two organizations in Arizona right now that represent all motorcyclists at the Capital. The two are the; Modified Motorcycle Association, and ABATE of Arizona. Call me and I will clue you into what is happening with the two organizations.

Ride well trained and safe.
Ray Huston
Lobbyist
Modified Motorcycle Assn.
602-402-8026