

## Did You Know?

by Ray Huston

Lobbyist

Modified Motorcycle Assn.

NCOM Board Member

rayofaz@cox.net

602-402-8026



Now that it is getting real hot, it is time to get out of town on a road trip. I have been in California for much of the summer except for several side jaunts from time to time. The riding in the cool pines of the San Bernardino Mountains is nice this time of year. While riding in California, I have been talking to some of the local California motorcyclists about the helmet law they have owned now for about 16 years. Many of them tell me that they like the helmet law. Many stated that if there wasn't a helmet law, they would wear one anyway. Now this attitude is great except they don't realize what they lost 16 years ago. Most of these characters wear helmets that are step down in protection from a DOT helmet, but they look cool. They have lost sight of the fact that they have had a freedom taken away by their state government. They don't know it, but they have lost the freedom of choice. I hope the Arizona riders will stay awake and preserve this freedom. We are able to wear a helmet if we choose, but at least we have the choice whether we do or not.

In the next legislative session expect the lobbyists to introduce legislation on removing the emissions testing in Maricopa County. We had meetings last year with the stakeholders that can make or break this legislation. We assured them that we would be running this legislation in the next session. I am sure that most of you realize that Maricopa County is the only county in the country that emission tests motorcycles. Pima county was repealed a couple of years ago, and the repeal went into effect in the spring of this year. For this to work in Maricopa County, we are going to need help from the motorcyclists that care. Join the Call to Action list, and if you don't belong to either of the MRO's join MMA or ABATE. The time is here for you to help us by becoming a member. I belong to both.

We will be looking at Right of Way Violation legislation again for the 2008 legislative session. There is a member of ABATE that is tracking the statistics of as many of these ROW crashes as possible. Many people are turning left in front of us, crossing over into our lanes, running red lights and some are even getting small fines, but not all

of them. We had a tough time with this legislation for the past couple of years, but we will not give up until we put more bite into the laws. These laws affect all of us whether we are a pedestrian, bicyclist, four wheeler, or motorcyclist. If you have any ideas in this realm, send me an email on what we can do different and better. If you have ideas on any other legislation affecting motorcyclists, email me.

The Arizona Motorcycle Safety Advisory Council, met in early August. To bring you up to speed with what is happening with the dollar that all of you contribute every time you register your motorcycle, I have news. This council would like to raise the amount that you contribute by five times. Now I am not sure that the members of this council realize that they are most likely going to need legislation to make this happen. Let me know what you think about paying more money. The reasoning for the money is simple; NHTSA recommended they have 2 employees at the Governors Office of Highway Safety that administers the safety and awareness programs in Arizona. My opinion is that they haven't been diligent with the dollar that they have at their disposal, why would I want to give them more? FYI, there is about \$193,000 in the fund as of May 31. The motorcycle lobbyists were successful at removing the cap that affected this fund. At the same time we changed the name to what I wrote at the beginning of the paragraph. Stay tuned for more information coming soon. Check out the Arizona Governors Office of Highway Safety website.

I have four spaces open for the experienced rider class in November that I am organizing. I have written about this Experienced Rider Class several times, but I do not get much response. Are all of you that good at riding your motorcycle that you couldn't improve with a 5 hour class? Maybe you are that good, but here is a way to test yourself. Mark out a twenty foot wide box and do figure eights inside the box. It doesn't matter how long the box is, it just matters that you stay within the twenty feet. If you can stay within the box, email me. If you cannot stay within the box, email me and you can take the class with me in November. By the way, I can do the box, but I can improve. Not only will you get better at your turns, you will learn some crash avoidance skills in this class. The class will remind you that you need to practice your skills and get rid of bad habits. My insurance company gives me a discount for taking the class as well. The class is about a hundred bucks, will take place on a weekend, and just think about all the money you will save by not going to the bar. You may improve enough that the class could save your ass/butt. I have seen riders in this class that have been riding a long time, improve their skills tremendously.

Ride Safe, Informed, and well trained.  
Ray Huston  
Lobbyist  
602-402-8026