

Did You Know?

by Ray Huston

Lobbyist

Modified Motorcycle Assn.

NCOM Board Member

rayofaz@cox.net

602-402-8026



What is happening at the Copper Dome?

Like I say, "I am glad that you asked" This legislative session is both gratifying and frustrating. So you say what else is new? The good news is that the emissions testing repeal bill is going well. For those of you that have read my articles in the past you can look it up and check out the progress of HB2280. To bring you up to speed, this bill has passed all of the committees unanimously so far this legislative session. DEQ and MAG are behind us and helping us move this legislation forward. If you need clarification on this, email me. Call your legislators and ask them to support this legislation. If you need help with this, email me, I will help you.

The Right of Way legislation that we have been working on for the past three years is dead in the road, and that is meant to be a pun. This bill was designed to make it tougher on repeat offenders that turned left, ran red lights, or just plain violated right of way statutes. There is more to it than that, but I would like to keep it simple for the time being, as it doesn't matter at this point. Email me if you want to know more.

So here is what I need to do for the future concerning ROW violations. I need volunteers that are interested in helping me contact legislators before the next legislative session in January 2009. This would take place preferably during the time that our state legislators are all running for office. Yes this is an election year for all ninety of our legislators. I am asking you to contact me soon so that the lobbyists can get this organized. It will be simple, all that you need to do is to contact your three representatives and talk to them about proposing some legislation. I need one hundred or more people from all over the state and I need them by May 2008. We will help you, or go

to a meeting with you. Call me or email me if you are interested in making a difference. If I don't get any calls, I will know that you don't care if drivers turn left in front of you and run red lights killing, or seriously injuring motorcyclists. I will know that I do not need to spend any time on this subject in my future. For those that contact me later and wonder what we are doing in this realm, I will let them know that the motorcyclists of Arizona do not care.

For you regular readers you know that we have a motorcycle safety fund in Arizona. That fund has about \$400,000 to spend toward motorcycle safety and awareness this year. Great you say and I agree, but with that we have to fight off the demons that want their clenched fists on your money. Look up HB2676 and HB2287 and let me know what you think. If you are a first time reader, you can search this at www.azleg.gov Check out the bill search up in the right hand top of the page. I am sure that if you are reading this, you can figure out the rest. If you don't bother to look them up, then you will just be in the dark as to what the government is doing to you. Apathy is ugly and you might be one of the victims of someone running a red light. If the person is killed or seriously injured, the fine is about one hundred dollars, unless the assailant has been drinking, or is drunk.

The five members, Arizona Motorcycle Safety Advisory Council, aren't five members, but only three until the legislative session is over. Again, another way our officials are cheating us. Well, I am thinking that this might be a good thing as we don't have as many personalities and agendas trying do a good job at spending the motorcyclist's money intelligently. There are several opinions on this one and I am waiting to make final judgment in the near future.

I am looking for some retired person that wants to spend time at the Copper Dome with me and the other lobbyists. If you want to get involved, get in touch with me. For your information the lobbyists for motorcyclists in Arizona, are all volunteers and do not get paid. I have actually had people that thought I was getting some kind of big paycheck for this, from somewhere. Wrong!!!

Ride Safe, Informed, and well trained.

Ray Huston, Lobbyist