

ABATE News By Jim Page



I know that there aren't many riders reading this that hasn't laid a brother or sister to rest because of a stupid cager violating their right of way.

I know that I have been to too many of these services and have way too many memorial patches.

One of the things I am always being asked is, what can we do to reduce this travesty?

The sad truth is until the motoring public in general realizes that we as human beings weren't made to be chatting on the phone, putting on makeup, watching TV, reading, texting or whatever while they are driving a Mk. IV Sherman tank through traffic, we will keep burying our brother and sisters at this unacceptable rate.

The other side of this coin is, yes, we are hard to see. If you aren't familiar with motorcycles, it is hard to gage how fast we are moving or how fast we can stop. At night, our headlights get lost in the sea of headlights of the cages around us. As do our taillights.

So, back to what we can do about this problem.

I can tell you that the lobbyists from ABATE, the MMA and the Arizona Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs will be working with this upcoming legislative session to increase penalties for right of way violations that cause death or grievous injuries.

We will also be working closely with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to produce add campaigns that promote motorcycle awareness.

ABATE of Arizona administers a Motorcycle Awareness Program where Volunteers from ABATE, MMA and the AZCMC travel to different high schools around the state, teaching driving age kids how to share the road with motorcycles. The kids we have presented the class to, really like it. But we are just scratching the surface. We could sure use more volunteers for that.

Will this help? Hopefully we can make a dent and save a few lives. But we could make a much bigger dent if all of you reading this would help. Join a MRO today, Heck, Join them all. If you have time to teach the Map classes, please don't hesitate to call me.

Jim Page

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