

# ABATE News By Jim Page



I don't know how many times that I've told someone that I'm from ABATE, and they would say. "Oh, the helmet people."

Of course you all should know by now that we are working on a lot more than that.

I'll tell ya what really chaps my .....Ahem.... about the whole helmet debate.

We are constantly bombarded with "facts" and figures about how everything will be alright if we just get a universal helmet law.

They will state that according to NHTSA, 42 percent of the riders killed last year weren't wearing helmets. Of course they don't make the conclusion that 58 percent were wearing helmets when they were killed. Out of the 42 percent that weren't wearing helmets, NHTSA determined that if there were a universal helmet law that 750 lives might have been saved.

So I'm thinking to myself, "These people are going through a lot of trouble to push a product that is less than 17 percent effective in preventing deaths."

I have to ask myself why they are going through all of this time and expense to save the lives of 750 bikers a year. I mean, most of them don't even like us.

If they're so concerned about saving lives, they would pass a law that all occupants of all vehicles had to wear helmets. That alone would save somewhere around 20 to 30 THOUSAND lives a year. (I don't have exact figures on that. Sorry) BUT Nooooooooo. They wouldn't even consider that.

NHTSA has also reported that 80 percent of all collisions are caused by distracted driving. All of these people pushing for a helmet law would, again, save tens of thousands of lives if they just came up with a law saying something like "Put down the damn phone and pay a-(Explicative deleted)-ttention."

Nope you won't see that one either.

Don't think I'm against helmets. If you are more comfortable wearing one, by all means, please do.

To me, it's like Chuck Berry said in his immortal classic 'My Ding-A-Ling.'" Live the way you want to live, Baby. It's a free country."

My own personal feeling is, that isn't about safety. It's about control. It's the government saying "We'll let you ride, but only our way". This is about Freedom; this is about you making your own decision.

And that, my friends is what we are all about.

So the next time you meet a MRO member, think "Oh the freedom people."

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