

Let me start out this issue by thanking the people who came to Laughlin River Run just to ride in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Freedom Ride held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April to commemorate the start of the civil war and the shot herd around the world. ABATE of Northern Nevada, Sober Riders M.C, Women in The Wind M.C, Marine Riders M.C, Skoners M.C, ABATE of Southern Nevada, and the independent riders that turned out in support of your rights. Special thanks goes out to James Kimsey and his wife Mary Anne for their continued efforts in promoting ABATE of Southern Nevada and getting us the vendors spot at no charge. I would also like to thank Miles, Karen, George, Jeannie, Dawn, Bill, Snooch from the Skoners M.C. and of course my new right hand, Stormy, who manned the booth to give others a chance to rest. To all of you who were a part of making this Freedom Ride happen, I thank you, and if I missed anyone let me know and I will make mention of it again.

When we arrived in Laughlin on Thursday the wind was blowing and it was raining off and on and it didn't look like we would have anyone stopping by our booth. We did however have several people ask some questions and many take the key chain / bottle openers that we got from Attorney's Hupy and Abraham in Wisconsin. It's amazing how many folks you see when you have free stuff to give away. Fortunately, Thursday was the only day for bad weather and the rest of the time we spent there was warm and sunny.

Saturday morning, the day of the ride, we only had 20 to 25 bikes to go, but it still made a nice pack. Some of the riders choose to wear helmets and those that chose not to, rode in the front of the pack. Due to waiting for everyone to get his or her ducks in a row, we didn't leave the AVI until about 11:00 a.m., which is about the time I figured on anyway. We rode down through Laughlin and saw a ton of cops and they saw us, but they never pulled anyone over so no one got a ticket. What does that tell you about the efforts that we have been making?

When you have knowledge of the law and how it pertains to motorcycles in Nevada you have power. We have tried for years to beat this helmet law on merit and have failed; now we are beating the law with the law and it is working. There are a few of us that wear the new style of helmet, designed by Mark Temple of BOLT, dubbed," The Skinny". This is the helmet that is about three inches around and weighs about that many ounces. The one that I wear fits up under my ball cap perfectly and feels like you aren't wearin' nothin' at all.

The reason that we wear this type of helmet is because the local law enforcement cannot describe what, according to the State Statute NRS 486.231, are STANDARDS that shall be adopted by the State, and 'Protective Headgear' is. I could bore you with a lot of legalese and give you the long version, but the short and simple truth of the matter is, that without proper definition and the ability to determine that what you have on your head is NOT protective headgear, the cops are without probable cause. No probable cause, no ticket. On that note, I will pass along a juicy, little tidbit that they are using in California and also works here. The only way for a cop or a judge to make a determination about your helmet being legal or not is with one of these three ways: 1. Your helmet can be determined non-compliant with a written recall notice from the manufacturer of the helmet. 2. If the cop has the test results for that particular size, make and model of helmet from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. 3. A letter of non-compliance written by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration stating non-compliance, which to date, has never been written.

Now you have all the information that you need to ride around with your own “skinny” on, you also know that you become a sub-manufacturer when you remanufacture the helmet, and you then are allowed to apply your own DOT sticker if you like. Some of you remember when the helmet law came to Nevada and everyone was wearing those huge helmets I like to call Mr. Kazoo helmets. For you youngsters out there, Mr. Kazoo was a space alien that was a friend to Fred Flintstone and his friend Barney Rubble. If you don’t recognize those names, you’re too young to be riding a motorcycle. Anyway, everyone was wearing those big ass helmets because that’s all there was. Then along came the beanie helmet and the cops started writing tickets for them, and instead of bikers standing up for your rights, the bikers of the day just paid the fine and took the reduced charge. They never knew that the cops couldn’t prosecute anyone on the charge, but those that decided to fight got the ticket dismissed completely. This is where we are now with the “skinny” helmets. If we educate law enforcement to the fact, that not only are we going to file a complaint with internal affairs for discriminatory harassment, but that we will also take the ticket to the judge and have them make a determination that by current wording of the statute is not possible. We may not be able to beat the helmet law in Nevada, but if we all get on the same page we will be able to point out to the lawmakers just how stupid enforcement of a law like this is. It is a waste of the courts time and the states money to prosecute a law that has no merit, and if we continue our battle in this way, and by the time we get to Carson City this next session, we will have a good chance of ending it once and for all. We have many candidates running for office this year that are on our side and all you have to do is remember the people that refused to stand up for our causes. Those people have voting records that reflect their opinions and the voting records are public information. With the exception of Sen. Dennis Nolan, Assemblyman John Ocegüera, Jerry Claborn, Marilyn Loop, and Kathy McClain, (from the district that I live in) I will tell you all to make up your own mind when casting that ballot. These people that I mentioned were the most outspoken about the helmet issue and thought that the helmet law was a great idea and fought tooth and nail against repeal. I hope that if you live in any of the areas, and that these people represent you, you will do everything in your power to see that they never get re-elected to any office.

**OCTOBER 30, 2010 at 12:00 noon** we will be having our **Second Annual Las Vegas Freedom Ride**. We will be going up Las Vegas Blvd. same as last year’s event but with better planning and more time it should go off without a hitch. For those of you that didn’t make it last year it was a pretty good time and I promise that this year’s event will be much better. We are starting to work on the details now and I will make the information available to you as soon as possible, so start telling all your friends to set aside the date on your calendar as your support is important and we need you there. If anyone that has the time to volunteer to help out with the planning and the running of the party please contact anyone of the officers on the board.

The meeting will be on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of May and I hope to see everyone there.

**WHEN INJUSTICE BECOMES LAW,**

**RESISTANCE BECOES DUTY.**

**BONES**