



CBA / ABATE of NC, GASTON COUNTY

NC Chapter of the Year: 2007, 2010, 2012 & 2013

February 2016

PO Box 22, Lowell, NC 28098 / www.gastoncountycba.com

President's Message—

First of all I want to thank all our members and friends that came out to support our 10th Annual Polar Bear Run. It was a beautiful day and we had a pretty good turnout. Even after 10 years, we find things we need to improve or change. I think we have finally realized that a winter run needs to end earlier (because it gets dark and cold quicker). So next year we have decided that all bikes need to be in by 3 and everything over by 4:30. Makes sense to me because I don't like to do cold weather much anymore.

The money from this run will be used to help continue our work in protecting your rights as bikers. It is especially important in this election year when we are planning to be very active in getting our message and legislative agenda out to the candidates. We want you to be an informed voter in your decision as to who gets your vote, so please do your homework and do not rely on ads or hearsay. And to help you do your homework, we are planning an Open House for the Candidates at the Homestead on February 27th from 1-4 pm (see flyer). You will probably yell when I tell you this but it's ok if you cross party lines, if the other party has the best candidate. You do know you don't have to vote a straight ticket – right? Check the facts on each candidate. Are they biker friendly? If not, they are NOT going to help us achieve our agenda for 2016 or in the years to come. It's easier to get them when they are first elected then to ask them later to be our friend. Remember today's county commissioner could be our next State or Federal Representative, so we want to make sure they are on our side before they ascend the political road. Be an informed voter.

Our state meeting in January had a very positive atmosphere. Our new President James Buckner has some good ideas and wants us to be the best we can be. Thanks to our officers that attended the meeting – Gabby, Pete, Donna, Dale, Jeff and Jason. I think we all came away with a renewed sense of positive energy in getting things done in our own chapter. And I hope this positive energy will trickle down to our members.

The other day someone told me something that really hurt my heart (so to speak). I was told that there are CBA members that are acting like "Sons of Anarchy" wannabees when they are out in the public! I wonder if other organizations have this problem. We represent an organization that fights for biker's rights, so we should wear our patch out in public with pride and not show disrespect with it on like the MC's that we have been called. And don't smirk and say I'm acting like your mother because I'm not (even though I'm probably old enough to be). I'm just a concerned member and officer of this organization who wants us to put our best foot forward when we have our patch on. Be respectful, be courteous, be kind and most of all – don't show your butt with that patch on. And if you are going into an establishment hell bent on being a "party animal" —leave your vest in your saddlebag.

Had another friend say that personalities conflict at CBA and that's why we have lost some of our older members. Let's really try to leave that at home when we attend a meeting or event. We are all here for one purpose and only one purpose – preserving motorcyclist rights and freedoms and to encourage other bikers to do the same.

We still need volunteers to help us with Events & Products. These are not hard jobs, but they are very important ones. There is also a real need for a Homestead manager and a Homestead Events Chairperson. If you are interested in one of these jobs, please get in touch with Gabby, Donna or myself. I really don't understand why we (with so many members) can't get members to volunteer to help our CBA. This is the only organization that fights for you in NC. Of course it takes a long time to get anything done in our General Assembly and in Congress but anything worthwhile is worth the time and effort we put in. And that just reminded me. Do you belong to the Motorcycle Riders Foundation? They do what the CBA does on the State level but they do all their work on the Federal level. If they don't prevent bad laws on the federal level then it doesn't matter what we do on the state level because the federal laws overrule the state laws. If you are interested in joining (and we suggest you do), go to www.mrf.org and join.

If you are a lapsed member and receiving this newsletter, it's because we truly miss you and want you to come back. CBA is still alive in Gaston County and we want and need your help. We are here for you—the bikers of NC and we hope you will support us.

Hope to see to see you at the Valentine's Party and at our Open House. Invite your family, co-workers and friends to attend both events. If they are as concerned about this country as I am - then we should have a big attendance on the very special day when we "meet the candidates." Do you and your CBA a favor. Copy the Legislative Open House flyer and put it up at work, in bars & grills and in stores you frequent. We hope to make this one the best ever.

Have a good and safe month. And when you go riding, please be careful. Watch out for the people that don't see or don't like us on our bikes. There is a story entitled Letting Go of the Rage by Cindy Hodges in this issue, so check it out.

Meeting was held at the Gaston County Homestead with the Meeting being called to order by Jill Stillwell. Dale Carroll and Pete McGinnis led us with the opening prayer followed by Jill leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

President (Jill Stillwell) – Jill thanked everyone who helped with dinner tonight. Jill discussed the CBA State Meeting which was held in Greensboro January 9th and 10th. She talked about how well the meeting went and is excited to see what this year brings. Jill also talked about the membership contest that is being sponsored by Buncombe CBA and will continue until the end of the year. Volunteers are also needed for the homestead, CBA events, and products.

Membership contest – Buncombe county CBA has contributed \$500 for the contest. The contest will run from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The member who recruits the most new members and can get members to rejoin who have been lapsed for at least one year will win \$250. For every 10 members that sign up, your name goes into a drawing for another \$250. There is a place on the membership applications for the recruiter to place their name.

Legislation (Dale Carroll) - Dale discussed the details from the state meeting for this year. The legislative focus for this year will include the following: Modifications to the "Autocycle" policy, Anti-discrimination, Anti-profiling, Access to public facilities such as parking decks and parks, and Driver's Education becoming part of the core curriculum.

1st Vice-President & Western District Coordinator (Gabby Mintz) – Gabby also discussed the CBA State Meeting. She stated that the state has a new website and Facebook page. Gabby also gave dates for area events. Sponsors for the newsletter are always welcome. Please contact Gabby for details on obtaining sponsors. Our spring swap meet will be April 16th at the Homestead.

CBA, Homestead and Other Area Events –

- 1/16/2016 – Buncombe CBA 30th Anniversary Party
- 1/19/2016 – MSAP Informational meeting at 6 pm, Granny's Kitchen, Icard NC. (Hickory CBA)
- 2/1/2016 – Events Committee and Officer's Meeting at the Homestead at 6:30 pm
- 2/6/2016 – Charlotte CBA Machine Gun "Fun"raiser at Shooter's Express in Belmont
- 2/11/2016 – General Meeting at the Homestead (Food available about 6:15 pm, meeting at 7)
- 2/13/2016 – Valentine's Day Party at the Homestead with "Iron Bottom" playing
- 2/27/2016 – Legislative Open House at the Homestead from 1 pm – 4 pm
- 5/11/2016 – Lobby Day in Raleigh

(The homestead is open on Friday and Saturday's at 6:30 pm – Volunteers are always wanted)

Please use common courtesy when tagging photos with the CBA and the Homestead. Please return borrowed koozies to the homestead or drop some off if you have extras that can be donated.

Newsletter – Anyone can submit articles of motorcycle interest for the newsletter. Just remember to site your source and include a link if possible. Items for the newsletter are due to Jill Stillwell by the 20th of each month (jillstillwell@bellsouth.net).

Secretary (Donna Barnett) – There was not a meeting in December. We have 252 members (224 renewals, 28 Life, and 23 juniors). Please sign in each time you come to the homestead. Please remember to contact Donna if you have changes to your contact information (address, phone, or email) (deb2334@yahoo.com). You can save the chapter up to \$25/year by receiving the newsletter online. New member packets are available – please see/contact Donna if you need one. Renewals are included in the weekly emails, the monthly newsletter and are posted at the homestead. Memberships: single - \$20, couple - \$30

Treasurer (Pete McGinnis) – Pete read the treasurer's report in the newsletter. Motion made and approved to accept the reports. Please contact Pete if you have any questions about the reports or would like to see them.

Master Sergeant at Arms (Jason Beck) – Jason was absent due to working at the fire department.

MSAP (Robert Ham) – Robert was absent so Jeff Reif discussed the statistical information that was shared at the state meeting earlier in the month and the importance of MSAP in the Driver's Ed program.

Products – New shirts are in and cost \$15 each (There are both men's and women's shirts). Please see an officer if you are interested in helping with products.

Old Business – Proposals that were voted on at the November general meeting were voted on at the state meeting. Both proposals passed and are now in effect. Members may only accept nomination and run for one state position if they are nominated for more than one. Members may show their membership card or a valid photo ID when voting in elections.

New Business –

Mr. Mills (homestead landlord has had the septic system pumped. Thank you. It has made a huge difference.

The newsletter will be mailed to all members (current and lapsed – back to 2014) over a period of time. Dale made a motion to go back to 2007. After discussing the cost involved it was voted to go back to 2014 and then to discuss going back further at a later date.

Gabby asked Pete to check on the price of bumper stickers similar to what Buncombe CBA has

Motion to Adjourn – Made and Passed

Pete led us in closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Barnett, Secretary

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VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER -

Well, hello everyone. I think winter has finally arrived ,!! Brrrrrr..... I guess with age comes those freezing moment's and of course those god awful HOT flashes! (Women only!) Hey, do MEN have hot flashes? Never happy, but as a seasoned citizen (notice I didn't say- senior), I personally have earned the right to grumble... In aging that's something you can look forward to among a lot of other things.

Things change.. You can either go with the flow or just remain the same. Some don't like change, so getting to my point.. I've been with the CBA for 5 yrs. I've seen members come and go. Heard various reasons -mostly drama, drama, drama. The only way to get over drama is stay at home and never leave your house. But, I bet all of you have some sort of drama in your own home. If drama was to knock on your own door, you have the option to choose to open it, or not go to the door! Personally, I'm not answering the door. So, there you have it. Refuse to participate! We all have issues, and we all have different personalities. And yes some clash. You don't have to sleep in the same house with this person, or people, but you can be cordial. Most Biker's are the friendliest, giving and caring people you could ever meet. We all have a love of bikes. I like to ride and hate the government telling us what we can do and can't do. And for that reason, I will continue to be a member of the CBA.

Yeah we didn't get the helmet law passed. Ok, but there's still more unfriendly bills out there. Model language on the "auto cycle" bill, funding for Safety Education & Awareness (SEA), distractive driving and share the road signs, just to name a few. We need each and every member to renew to help change things. Did you know that your tax dollars are spent on parking decks and there's a State Park called Tanglewood, that you're not allowed to park or enter on your motorcycle? Some restaurants don't allow you to enter because of how you are dressed. Now, there's not much we can do if the place of business is privately owned except not to spend your dollar's there. It's called discrimination. There's so much we can do, but sitting at home not getting involved, not exercising your rights to vote isn't it. You can't say much about what's going on around you when you sit at home and don't get involved. This is an election year. Come on down to our Open House and meet some of the candidates. If they are not motorcycle friendly we don't want them in office. CBA as a whole can not endorse any candidate. But you as an individual can. While at the State meeting, I learned of an app you can put in your cell phone *VOTE SPOTTER* and go online to VOTE SMART.ORG. put in your zip code to track legislative representatives. These apps would be helpful since we are a political organization.

Recently, I heard that I wasn't very well liked, as an officer of the CBA. Naturally, I asked why. A good friend said it's because you're a woman in a man's world. Hmm made sense to me. It reminded me of a time starting out as a young girl in the auto parts industry, working as a inventory clerk and then to a parts clerk (Oh, and back then there was no computers - just books) before having my own parts route and then managing a repair shop. I know how hard it was to be accepted and later to be appreciated and the quote "A man's world." I finally earned their respect. So it kinda makes sense to me. Now back to the old, I'm too old to care whether you like me or not. But I'm gonna continue doing what I love! So, why not join together and help fight all the unjust that motorcycle riders endure. Get involved!

I do hope you will come to our meetings, an event or volunteer to help because we really need you now. Do you remember why you joined? Yes things have changed since 2007-2008 til now. I'm sure some are just like me, old age is catching up with you, and you can't do all that you did in the beginning. Once a month to come to a CBA event or the Homestead isn't a lot. It will give you a chance to see friends, catch up on the latest, and share a cold beverage with an old friend or a new one. You might find that you truly miss it.

Something to ponder. .We are not promised tomorrow. Time's a ticking, don't let it slip away.

Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated. The CBA is not going anywhere. The state meeting was awesome. I truly enjoyed it and I'm looking forward to a great year. Check out the new and improved website www.cba-abatenc.org and the state Facebook page (CBA/Abate of NC). Crystal Buckner has done a fabulous job. The state newsletter will be printed and coming out soon. If you'd like to advertise get in touch with one of us.

Our Valentines Party is Feb.13th. Iron Bottom, catchy name featuring Wayne McCoig of Rock Bottom band and Steve Greene from Iron Horse band will be rocking. So grab your sweetie, and YES singles are welcome to attend, bring a friend. Bring a snack food to share with other and come on down.

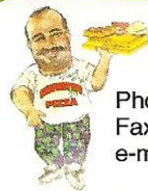
I am looking forward also to our 9th annual Old time Swap Meet on April 16th. Prices are still the same, only \$10.00 /a 10x10 space to sell your goods. Get in touch with me if you'd like to reserve your spot.

Hope you all have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Ride safe!

Gabby, VP& CBA Events Coordinator
Western District Coordinator
Sponsor Chairperson

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR GASTON COUNTY CBA,
GASTON COUNTY HOMESTEAD AND AREA EVENTS**

2/1—6:30 pm: CBA Events meeting. Start work on Gaston Swap Meet
 2/1—7:30 pm: Officers meeting
 2/6—Charlotte CBA Machine Gun "Fun"raiser at Shooter's Express, Belmont
 2/11— 8 pm: **CBA GENERAL MEETING**
 2/12— Game night at the Homestead
 2/13— 8 pm: **GASTON CBA VALENTINE'S PARTY** (see flyer).
 2/14— **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**
 2/26— Game Night at the Homestead
 2/27—1-4 pm—Legislative Open House (see flyer)
 4/16—9th Annual Gaston CBA Swap Meet

Gaston County Homestead is open on
Friday & Saturday Nights
 All area events welcome on our online newsletter...
 please send to jillstillwell@bellsouth.net

We need volunteers for the following position:

CBA EVENTS CHAIRPERSON:

Responsible for CBA Events: Polar Bear Run, Swap Meet, Fund Run, Christmas Party & any other event we have at the Homestead.

HOMESTEAD EVENTS CHAIR:

Responsible for entertainment at the Homestead.

PRODUCTS CHAIRPERSON:

Responsible for inventory and making sure products get to any event we set up at plus select any new products to the Officers that may be of interest to our members.

HOMESTEAD CHAIRPERSON:

Responsible for overseeing the Homestead and maintaining cleaning, supplies and list of volunteers workers when Homestead is open on Friday & Saturday.

COMING TO OUR GENERAL MEETING IN MARCH:

Liz Sorrell, a NC Attorney and Shannon Rights, a member of the North Central CBA and an employee of the Motorcycle Law Firm will be giving a presentation on insurance. They will go over the NC insurance laws and how to protect you BEFORE an accident happens. They will look over your insurance declaration pages if you bring them to the meeting. Ms. Sorrell rides a HD 1200XL Sportster and Shannon rides a Honda Rebel 450.

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LEGISLATION -

The most important thing happening legislatively for us as CBA members/North Carolina residents/American Citizens is the Primary Election on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. I had made a list of all the candidates running for offices from President to County commissioner. I spent several hours compiling this information. After finishing it, I sat back and perused all the names and the offices and the parties. And then I thought "What a crock!" You see, throwing a bunch of names on a cold sheet of paper at you is accomplishing nothing. I can't tell you about these people. I can't tell you what they stand for, or won't stand for. It is up to you to understand who these people are. All I can tell you is, it is important that you vote and vote intelligently.

In order to give you an opportunity to meet them, we are having our Legislative Open House on Saturday February 27th from 1 to 4 pm at The Homestead, 267 Stowe Road, Gastonia. All the NC and Local candidates have been invited. We will have food and soft drinks for all attendees. I hope to see you there.

Dale Carroll, Legislative Coordinator

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

- Martin Luther King Jr

If you have a printer, print the Legislative Open House flyer and put it up at work and at the stores you frequent. Let's have a FULL HOUSE this year!

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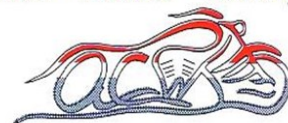
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Saturday February 27th

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Dale Carroll 704-6897436 / dale8489@gmail.com

The View Past the Handlebars

A Voice in the Darkness

On the evening of April 18, 1775, the Internet was born. I'm not talking about the electronic virtual world that sends messages about upcoming events, winkie faces, the latest conspiracy theory or saccharine-sweet kitten videos to all your friends. Rather, it was an Internet of horses and men, spreading word of eminent attacks against freedom, rousing the populace from their dreams to the reality of soon-to-come British musket fire.

That dark night in April, Paul Revere galloped out of Boston to warn Sam Adams and John Hancock that British troops were marching to arrest them. While in Charlestown, he made sure that the local "Sons of Liberty" committee had seen his pre-arranged signals—two lanterns in the bell tower of Christ Church in Boston, signifying that troops were rowing "by sea" across the Charles River to Cambridge.

After delivering his message, Revere was joined by a second rider, William Dawes, who had been sent on the same errand by a different route. Deciding on their own to continue on to Concord where weapons and supplies were hidden, Revere and Dawes were joined by a third rider, Dr. Samuel Prescott. These three men, like the Internet of today, spread the word to all their friends, neighbors and fellow countrymen that they were under attack. As a result, the weapons cache in Concord was saved. Colonial militia held their ground, driving the British from Concord and Lexington, and they proved to the British that Americans were a threat to be reckoned with.

By spreading the word across the countryside, freedom-loving men and women were able to mobilize and defend their rights, and we could learn from that example. Each of us needs to be the modern equivalent of Paul Revere, spreading the word when our freedoms are under attack. There are thousands upon thousands of sleepy people out there that need to be awoken, and it is our job to be the voice in the darkness, even when we're told to be quiet.

We must take to our horses now and ride as fast as we can. Whether through electronic means or by physically riding through the countryside shouting with passion and conviction to anyone who will listen, it is our responsibility to wake the masses and let them know that, like in 1775, their freedoms are under attack, and if they sit and do nothing, they will lose everything. It is a sacred duty entrusted to us by the Minute Men of old, and I for one will not disappoint.

In his poem, "Paul Revere's Ride," Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote of Revere's message,

"A cry of defiance, and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo for evermore!"

What poems will be written about us, and will we be worthy of them?

The Ghost rider

This article appeared in the MRF Newsletter— Jan/Feb 2016

OUR SPONSORS: When you visit one of our sponsors—please be sure to say that you are a member of Gaston CBA and that you appreciate their sponsorship of our chapter. We have cards at the Homestead that you can carry and give out when you visit our sponsors. Just ask for a few cards the next time you are at the Homestead.

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Gaston CBA VALENTINE PARTY

Saturday—February 13th @ 8:30pm
The Gaston County Homestead, 267 Stowe Rd, Gastonia

Membership
Drive—\$10 for
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Only at Party!

Live Music Provided by-

IRON BOTTOM

Featuring -

Wayne McCoig
& Steve Greene



Please bring a snack or finger
food to share with your CBA
Members and guests.



NEW STATE WEBSITE

Please check out the new state website at www.cba-abatenc.org. On the website now is a really good history of the CBA/ABATE in North Carolina. One of those founding members was also a charter member of Gaston County—Bob Trimnal. Bob died this past summer.

2016 Membership Contest sponsored by Buncombe County CBA is announced. Membership Contest—Win \$250 or even \$500!!!

Buncombe County Chapter is donating \$500 for two recruitment prizes.

The person who recruits the most new members in 2016 wins \$250!

Another \$250 prize goes to the winner of a drawing. To be entered in the drawing, you must recruit 10 new or lapsed members. Members must have been lapsed for 1 year. For every 10 names recruited, you get another chance to win.

Rules:

- The contest will begin January 1, 2016 and end December 31, 2016.
- Recruitment will be tracked by the state membership director.
- The contestant's name must be written on the "Recruited by:" line of the application before membership services receives it. If you forget, she will not fill it in for you.
- Free memberships do not count. Renewals do not count. Members must be NEW or LAPSED for at least a year.

The drawing will take place and the winners will be announced at the January 2017 state meeting.

The winner need not be present to win.


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*Old Fashion
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GASTON CBA / ABATE

9th Annual Spring Thaw Swap Meet & Dice Roll Sat—April 16, 2016 10 am—5 pm

FREE ADMISSION

FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE

Directions:

267 Stowe Rd
Gastonia NC 28056
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Homestead is .8 mile
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DICE ROLL—Registration starts @ 10am-3pm

Roll Dice @ Vendors on site!

You do not have to be present to win

Hands: 1 for \$10 / 3 for \$20 ~ 50/50 Raffle / Door Prizes

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Contact: Gabby Mintz @ 704 868-4688 or at
ncharleygurl@yahoo.com

LETTING GO of the RAGE by Cynthia Hodges (CBA/ABATE of NC Representative to MRF)

- Reprinted from the MRF Newsletter—Jan/Feb 2016

Let's talk about rage. The seasons are changing and so are so many things in our lives. Sometimes, we can lose ourselves in our reactions.

I recently had an experience that was different. Sure over the decades people have run me off the road, almost hit me, stopped in front of me, moved over on me in traffic; but I've never experienced anything like I did about six weeks ago. I lost my mind.

It had been a long weekend wherein my husband and I had been attending our ABATE quarterly meeting some 150 miles away from home. Sunday afternoon riding home the weather was gorgeous. It'd been a very long time since we had such a nice day and even longer since we've ridden together. I elected to lead us through a different way home adding another 40 or so miles to our trip home. It would mean riding in the dark for the last 30 minutes or so but that was alright. That's deer-thirty around here but I was gonna be extra careful.

And I was. To a point.

We rode past fields and farmland, crossing hills, going through woods, riding over swamps and rivers and lakes. The leaves painted such a glorious picture in reds, yellows, burgundies, purples, greens, and golds. It was exhilarating. It was also peaceful and soothing at the same time. It was Sunday and this was my church.

We kept to the blue roads the whole time until the last 20 miles of the ride. I moved us over across Hwy 64 to I-440, the I-40 loop that encircled inner Raleigh, NC. It had grown dark. There was but a sliver of moon.

Approaching the bridge that would bring us back to Hwy 64, I led us off the beltline via a tight, ascending exit. You know the type... decreasing radius, single lane. Several things happened at once. It's been weeks and I can still replay it. I heard Mike's horn sounding, tires squealing, and there were headlights bopping around all over the place. In such a tight curve, my mirrors weren't much use but I managed to tighten it further just in the nick of time as a car blew by me on my left, fish-tailing out off the road and correcting back on to the road, accelerating on through the curve. As he blew by me, he'd missed me by well less than a foot. My heart was pounding and I didn't know if Mike was still upright but couldn't pull over safely where I was.

As I hit the road off the exit, Mike's headlamps came into my mirrors and then, my friends, is when I lost all reason; I'd ascertained that he was ok.

The assailant was running cars out of their lanes and weaving through traffic and I was quickly catching up with him. Crazy thoughts ran calmly through my mind as I evaluated all around me constantly, putting that Kawasaki closer to the fool who nearly treated me to the sight of my husband being injured, or worse, and damn near hit me as well. I was following this person home, yes I was. Unless he stopped somewhere first long enough for me to get off my bike and yank his door open. All sense of self-preservation regarding "I could get shot" was vacationing SOMEWHERE else. Four lights ahead, he got penned in by traffic at a light neither of us were gonna make. He stopped. I did too, after my front tire introduced itself to his bumper.... and a bit of the trunk. My throttle screamed as he stuck one arm out the window and the other one at shoulder height across to his passenger side.. he was flinging me the universal sign indicating I was "number one" in his book while yelling \$@!#! Bikers!!!! Mike caught up with me. "Pull over, Cindy!" He sez. "I'm following him!" I replied. "PULL OVER" he said, more forcefully. It was like a veil lifted. He never tries to tell me what to do, and in 15 years, I don't think he's ever raised his voice. (That's generally my job). I led us off the road into a parking lot as our assailant boogied off, free and clear.

"Call the Police," sez the hub. So ok, I did. That was an exercise in futility, but while it did add to my frustration, (he was getting away), I did calm down a good bit. My adrenaline was through the roof.

Mike told me what I had not seen. Our assailant had approached the exit ramp over speed, came right up on Mike's tail, PASSED HIM ON THE RIGHT, fish-tailed out into the sloping grass inside the exit, jetted back onto the road, barreling in between Mike and I, PASSED me on the left, and, well, you know the rest.

Over the next few days I pondered my reaction. The man's description, car color, make, model, and tag number were (and still are) tattooed on my brain. I had to find him.

I wasn't out of control any longer. I didn't want to harm him. I didn't want to threaten him. I wanted to know if he'd been drunk, if he just hated bikers, or what. I wanted him to see me as a person. I really felt a strong desire to know what in the hell he'd been thinking.

I have friends who are in law enforcement but I wouldn't ask them. That's just not the thing to do. I thought. I put his description out there via social media. I asked the Universe to give me the chance to speak with this man.

Three weeks later on a Monday morning, 35 miles away from where it all happened, while on my drive in to work, I pulled up at an intersection and HE WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME. Grin. Huge grin. I was gonna be late to work.

He pulled into a parking lot, and I did too. I rolled up to him and said "Good Morning!" He smiled, warily. I told him that I had noticed him in traffic and wanted to ask him something. When he said, "Sure, what?" I said; "Three weeks ago you nearly killed my husband and I when you..." and proceeded to calmly remind him of what he'd done. He told me that I was wrong, that those motorcycles were parked in the road and he simply went around them.

Friends, I never lost my temper. Didn't swear. But I made my point and in the end, he had to have the last word. "Well, you shouldn't ride motorcycles," he declared. "No one should!" And there you have it.

Someone told me I was lucky that he didn't shoot me for stalking him. I wasn't stalking him, he showed up for an appointment.

I realize now after conversing with the man that he was "not quite right in the head". Certainly he shouldn't be driving.

So how many times does someone who "ain't quite right" yet functions in our society end up being the key to us losing our equilibrium? How many folks out there, do ya reckon, simply don't like us and for reasons we just don't get to know? How many?

Continued on the next page

Letting Go of the Rage continued

And like all of us, these sorts of folks have opinions. Unlike you and I, they may feel entitled, certain they are right, and comfortable meting out their own justice.

Losing our tempers serves nothing and I do know I'm lucky to be alive. It's been years since I've "seen red" and reacted viscerally. And heck, women aren't supposed to want to pull men outta cars and pound on them, right?

I don't want to put it to the test, but I suspect if I get a shocking jolt like that again, I will react differently. It's sure made me think.

Within our own groups, there are people who have opinions about what we do, how we do, and they can get ugly. They can react viscerally, and it has a huge ripple effect. They LOVE that fighting adrenaline.

I'm a meditating sort of person. My reaction came from a place I left behind decades ago. It brought a lesson. Even when we have control of our movements, we still must exercise restraint if we wish to come through what we are facing - in a way in which we can live with the results.

For many of us, our SMRO lives are making lane changes, taking an exit to move forward to a better position. Some people aren't going to like it. Don't like change, don't like you, don't like the way you are moving things along.

If you lose your reason, you might miss a great appointment with Destiny. Sometimes you gotta let cooler heads prevail and live to fight another day.

We've come too far to let someone who doesn't truly see the whole picture hijack our ride. I'm resolved to "let go" and listen more to the quieter voices in times of strife. I love riding and I love life. That's why I'm still in the motorcyclists'



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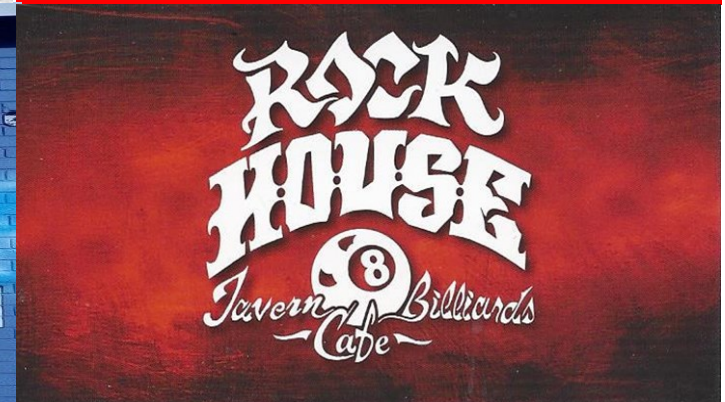
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Renewals for September 2015-February 2016

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Duane & Ginger Tompkins
Brian Keith Campbell
Lindsey Dudley
Meleah Sipes
Timothy "Red" Justice
Billy & Angie Starnes
Jeff "Hoss" Moller
Dwynn Greene
Don Mason
Claudette Lanning
Shane Mathis
Greg Daly
Scott Denlinger
Joe McFarland
Chris & Bambe Ealey
Richard Mintz
Adam Nicoletti
Kevin "Chappy" Pitts
Aaron "Blaze" Chapman
Blake-Marie Farris
Jared Tenney

October

Sherry Littlejohn
Andrew Johnson
Douglas Scott Wilson
Dorene Reubelt
Blake McLean
Melissa White
Barry Dean Scruggs Jr.
Ed & Jeanette Solt
Travis "Justin" Dale
Teddy & Donna Blanton
Richard McLean
Jean Burdsal
Lindsay "P-DAB" Miller
Jim Auten
James & Debra Carpenter
Ilana Cunningham
Katie Dixon
Amanda Helms
Denise Peeler
Randy Smith
Robin Potts
Steven Lee McGinnis
Calvin & Kathy Stewart
Steven Mark "Dawg" Knox
Tina Long
Taryn Starnes

Bo & Lynn Conner
Rod Breissinger
Carol McConaughy
Phillip D. Middleton
Logan Wells
Brian Ledford
Erica Glaczinski

November

Jerry Christopher
Cindy Denton
Larry "Augie" Ensley
Jerry Francis Teeter
Christopher Dixon
Amber Stikeleather

December

Richard & Donna Lay
Frank LeBeau
Ginny Gaydon
Billy & Geraldine Orrell
Jimmy "Redman" Rushing
Lynn Howson
Tammy Faucette
David Laws
David "Nick" Smith
Keri Hunt
Blair & Lisa Sutton

Wendy Johnson
Johnnie & Lisa Beegle
Sherry McKinnish

January 2016

Dayna Wilson-Burris
Keith Costner
Rick Jenkins
Ronnie Jenkins
Danny & Vickie Plemmons
Rob Robinson
Miles Hamrick, Sr.

February 2016

Jon Pendleton
Guy & Carla Zeuner
Roy "Pete" & Jennifer McGinnis
Lewis & Kathy Cox
Haylle Black
Tim Poarch
C. Scott Stacy Jr.
Mike & Paula Cole
Holden Russell
Charlie & Pashia Evans
John C. Revels
Mike & Karen Slininger

Memberships can be renewed via PayPal using our website: www.gastoncountycba.com; by mailing it to Gaston County CBA, PO Box 22, Lowell, NC 28098, at any event where the CBA is set up or in person at the Gaston County Homestead (267 Stowe Rd., Gastonia, NC 28056).

MAIL APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT TO:
CBA/ABATE OF NC MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
Jill C. Stilwell
341 Coit Thornburg Rd., Dallas NC 28034
704 922-5437 or 704 913-7284
cba.abateofncmembershipservic@gmail.com



GASTON CHAPTER
DATE: _____

CONCERNED BIKERS ASSOCIATION/ABATE OF NC, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION NEW RENEWAL

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR INFORMATION

☐ "AT LARGE MEMBER"

NAME _____ NAME _____

AGE _____ DOB _____ AGE _____ DOB _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ State _____ ZIP CODE+4 _____

PHONE () _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION _____

Other MOTORCYCLE AFFILIATIONS: _____

DATE: _____ ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER? Yes _____ No _____

Your continuing membership is valued. As a member of CBA, your ideas, suggestions and comments are important to our organization. Your comments will be used anonymously to implement and improve current and future programs within the organization.

How would you like to receive your copy of your local & State Newsletter _____ Electronic _____ US POSTAL?
I UNDERSTAND BY SIGNING MY NAME TO THIS APPLICATION THAT I AM RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP IN A
GRASSROOTS POLITICAL ORGANIZATION FORMED TO PROTECT MOTORCYCLISTS RIGHTS.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Dues: Individual _____ 1 year \$20.00 _____ 3 year \$60.00 _____ 5 year \$100.00 _____ Lifetime \$100.00*
Couple _____ 1 year \$30.00 _____ 3 year \$90.00 _____ 5 year \$150.00 _____ Lifetime \$150.00*
*Lifetime is available after 5 consecutive years of membership
_____ Junior (under the age of 16, free) _____ Young adult (16-29, free for first year of membership)

Please submit payment as soon as possible to your local chapter or the membership services director to prevent a lapse in membership. Thank you for your membership.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES ONLY:

Postmarked: _____ Received: _____ by Email - Fax - Mail Sent to State - Chapter: _____
Print Method: _____ Amt: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Renewal Card Mailed: _____

RECRUITED BY: _____

Gaston CBA Treasurer's Report December 2015

Beginning Balance : (\$198.79)

Income:

\$ 140.00 New & Renewals Membership
\$ 2,139.98 Debit Dispute
\$ 150.00 Donation

Total Income: \$2,429.98

Expenses:

\$ 78.70 2015 Christmas Party
\$ 199.08 Advantage Waste
\$ 211.56 Newsletter

Total Expenses: \$ 489.34

Ending Balance (12/31/2015) - \$1,741.85

Respectfully submitted by: Pete McGinnis
If you have any questions, please contact Pete at
the information listed below.

Homestead Treasurer's Report December 2015

Beginning Balance: \$405.00

Income:

\$ 1,155.00 Concession stand
donations
\$ 6.00 Donation
\$ 80.00 Power

Total Income: \$1,241.00

Expenses:

\$ 274.00 Concession
\$ 245.00 Power Bill
\$ 700.00 Rent
\$ 98.00 Event

Total Expenses: \$1,318.00

Ending Balance (12/31/2015) - \$328.00

As you can see reflected in our ending balance,
we need your help if we are going to continue
having the Homestead as our CBA home.

2016 GASTON CBA OFFICERS

If you have any questions, suggestions or complaints concerning YOUR Chapter in the CBA Organization —

Please feel free to call or email your officers.



PRESIDENT & NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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704 922-5437 / 704 913-7281
jillstillwell@bellsouth.net



LEGISLATION:

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dale8489@att.net



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SPONSOR CHAIRPERSON**

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deb2334@yahoo.com

SERGEANTS AT ARMS:

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TREASURER:

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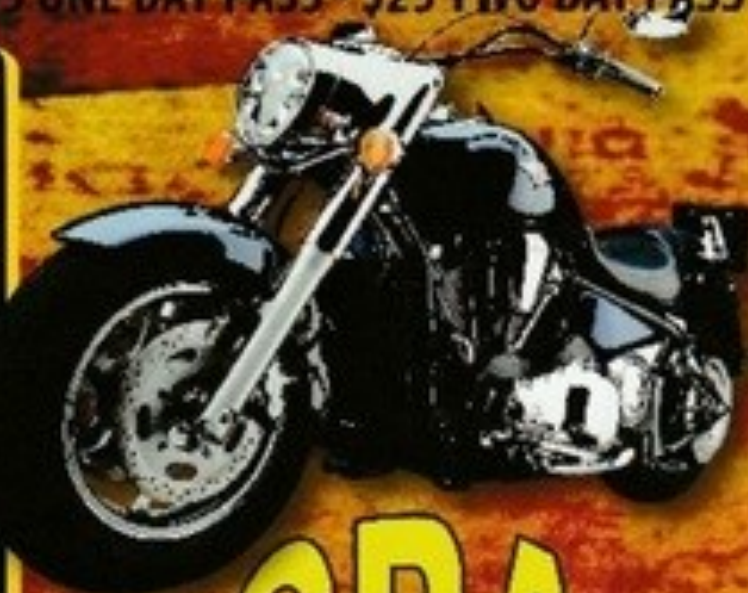
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**WET T-SHIRT CONTEST
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