

RIDERS FOR JUSTICE

VOLUME 20

ISSUE 8

<http://www.ridersforjustice.com/>

SUMMER 2006



Patriot Guard Riders Mission Statement

The Patriot Guard Riders is a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation. We have one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security. If you share this respect, please join us.

We don't care what you ride, what your political views are, or whether you're a "hawk" or a "dove". It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn't matter where you're from or what your income is. You don't even have to ride. The only prerequisite is Respect.

Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Each mission we undertake has two basic objectives.

1. Show our sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities.
2. Shield the mourning family and friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors.

We accomplish the latter through strictly legal and non-violent means.

(See Page 3 for more information)

RFJ maintains a lobbyist's services not only for our officers, but for you as members as well. On Kathy Oatis' website, www.cololegislativeinfo.com. under RFJ, you can find the latest action taken on a number of bills that were passed or postponed indefinitely last year. The 2006 Colorado Legislature is in recess and Kathy, our lobbyist, has kept track of actions taken. See inside this issue on pages 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 to find out the results of legislative action on the bills we have been carefully watching. We will begin in the Fall Issue to let you know what the issues are being considered for the 2006/2007 session. With our form of government, it's important that we keep informed and let our wishes be known and possibly acted upon.

RIDERS FOR JUSTICE MEETINGS

EASTERN SLOPE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2006

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2006

12:00 NOON

AMERICAN LEGION

WINDSOR, COLORADO

WESTERN SLOPE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006

7:00 P.M.

EAGLES LODGE, ORCHARD MESA,

GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO

DENVER METRO

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2006

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2005

7:00 P.M.

THIS MEETING IS PRESENTLY BEING

REORGANIZED. FOR INFORMATION,

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Riders For Justice Bylaws

1. The organizations's purpose is to defend the rights of bikers, as well as, to associate for social reasons.
2. Persons speaking on behalf of RFJ must be the elected officers of a representative designated by the membership or officers.
3. All officers must be a registered voter and have a valid motorcycle license.
4. The membership can by a 3/4 majority, effect an election of officers at any regular meeting.
5. The membership can by a 3/4 majority vote, deny new membership, if any member questions the new membership.
6. In order for anyone to vote at the meetings, they must be a paid member.
7. Renewal of membership dues are from October to October.
8. Should this organization be dissolved, all funds shall be donated to a similar organization.

Purpose of Riders For Justice

1. We intend to support our current Constitution and keep as much of it intact as we can.
2. We also advise our membership of the best candidates for which to vote. When they are sometimes equally good or bad, we do not make a recommendation.
3. We DO NOT and WILL NOT receive money from any government entity.
4. Our officers are available through email and/or direct telephone.
5. None of our officers are paid for their work or reimbursed for food, travel or lodging.
6. We hire a lobbying firm to represent us at the state capitol.
7. The officers also lobby at the capitol and at town meetings with state and federal congressmen.
8. We ARE NOT and DO NOT intend to be politically correct.
9. We print in our newsletter, articles of political and social interest for members, as well as, keeping them abreast of current and potential bills.
10. If a very adverse bill appears, we make every attempt to contact our members by phone and with an immediate news bulletin.

RIDERS FOR JUSTICE

Western CO
P.O. Box 1192
Clifton, CO 81520-1192
970-434-4644

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Will Ensign	Webmaster	Denver	303-430-4053	zipperwill@ridersforjustice.com

FROM THE PRES

Summer is coming up quick and so is the end of the legislative session. As of the 28th of April, HB06-1125 is in the House and laid over for hearings on the Senate amendments. SB06-072, the bill introduced by Abate/ Bike Pak on the increase of penalties for careless driving, is amended by the House Committee on Transportation & Energy. It is referred to the Appropriations Committee. By the time you read this, hopefully, both bills will be dead.

Gateway is coming up (See page 4) and I am expecting a large turnout. Rain or shine, come and play. I am concerned about the level of participation from members on the East Slope. No one is attending the meetings, and there is not any kind of fundraising going on there. We need more people attending meetings and trying to figure out how to get a fundraiser going over there. We are a doomed organization if only half of the group participates.

This is food for thought. October is our election of officers. Due to circumstances and events in my life, I will not be able to run for office again. We need some one who can devote the time and has the energy it takes to carry on and move RFJ in the direction it needs to go. It has been a pleasure to represent RFJ, meet and talk with the people who are dedicated to our freedoms. Have a good summer.

Jay Rademacher

President RFJ

ALERT FROM THE EDITORS

As this issue was going to press, there was a surprise e-mail announcement by MRF that required the immediate attention of our members. For months now we have been hearing that the **Right to Repair Bill HR 2048** was stalled in our **Federal Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection**. I don't know if our efforts had an impact on this surprise hearing, but this morning (May 15, 2006) we received notice that a hearing on this Bill would be held on May 17th. It was imperative that people who support this Bill be mobilized, and quickly, so that we could make our opinions known. In an effort to accomplish that, we took on the daunting task of sending e-mails to ALL those on our mailing list who had given us e-mail addresses so that we could notify them if their action was needed. **QUITE A FEW OF THOSE E-MAILS WERE RETURNED BECAUSE OF OUTDATED E-MAIL ADDRESSES**, so if you did not get any notification of this alert, we do not have a current e-mail address for you. Please do your editors a favor and post an e-mail to **gwen@ridersforjustice.com** and tell me your name in the message so we can update our records. What we believe in as a group is far too important to **not** do these kinds of alerts. Your editors will continue to do this, but we need your help.

Ron & Gwen Campbell

GATEWAY SUMMER BIKER PARTY

Celebrating 29 years of helmet-free riding

WHEN: June 3rd (Starting at noon) and June 4th, 2006

WHERE: Gateway, Colorado

WHO: RFJ members and guests only
(If not a member, join now!)

HOW MUCH: \$25.00 donation per person
(Children are free, but donation is appreciated)

BRING: Your own food, water and supplies.
RFJ will provide beer and cooking supplies.

DIRECTIONS:

From Grand Junction, take Hwy 50 South to State Hwy 141. Drive Hwy 141 to Gateway. On the South side of Gateway cross the Delores River. Immediately turn right on Rural Road 4.1. Continue for 4.5 miles and you will be there.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS:

This is primitive camping. We urge all partiers to stay overnight. Porta-potties will be provided by RFJ.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO:

Contact Joe Tavarone at (970)523-6300 (days) at Enginuity Enterprises



MRF E-MAIL NEWS

Motorcycle Riders Foundation
236 Massachusetts Ave. NE
Suite 510

Washington, DC 20002-4980

202-546-0983 (voice)

202-546-0986 (fax)

<http://www.mrf.org/> (website)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Hennie,

MRF Vice-President of Gov. Relations

jeff@mrf.org (e-mail)

May 15, 2006

#06NR11 - URGENT CALL TO ACTION

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) reports the United States House of Representatives will hold a legislative hearing on HR 2048, the "Right to Repair Act". The hearing will be held by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection in the Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2123 at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 17th 2006 and is open to the public.

This legislation is important to all

motorcyclists who want the right to choose where to have their motorcycle repaired. HR 2048 would make the same computer diagnostic information, tools and training available to the owners of every type of vehicle including motorcycles that currently is only afforded to those under the dealership umbrella. The deliberate withholding of pertinent information compels independent repair facilities to turn business away forcing vehicle owners to return to the dealership when any kind of computer diagnostics is necessary.

The MRF believes every American has the right to choose who performs the diagnostics on their motorcycle or automobile. Furthermore, consumers should have the right to choose where, how and who will ultimately repair their vehicles and also have the right to do the necessary work themselves. Automakers should not be making service decisions for consumers.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation needs your help to move this legislation through the House committee. Please take a look at the list of Representatives currently sitting on the subcommittee. These members will be hearing **HR 2048** on this Wednesday, May 17th and are NOT already supporting the bill. If your state is listed below, call your Representative's office as soon as you can. The key to the bill's success is hearing that their constituents at home support HR2048.

If your state is shown below, call your member of Congress and tell them the following:

1. Identify yourself as a resident of the state of _____
2. Let them know you are calling on behalf of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation
3. Tell them you support HR 2048, the motor vehicle "Right to Repair Act"
4. Ask them to co sponsor HR 2048
5. Tell them HR 2048 is being heard Wednesday, the 17th in the Energy and Commerce committee and you would like the congressperson to support it.
6. Ask them to vote for the bill
7. Let them know that this will be scored as a "key vote" by the Motorcycle Riders Foundation.

FLORIDA Rep. Jim Davis (D-FL) Tampa, St. Petersburg area.
Washington Phone: 202-225-3376 Washington Fax: 202-225-5652
Tampa Phone: 813-354-9217

Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-FL) Ocala, Gainesville, Orange Park area.
Washington Phone: 202-225-5744 Washington Fax: 202-225-3973
Ocala Phone: 352-351-8777

PENNSYLVANIA Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA) Lancaster, Unionville, Kennett Square area. Washington Phone: 202-225-2411 Washington Fax: 202-225-2013 Lancaster Phone: 717-393-0667

Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) Westmoreland, Pittsburgh area.
Washington Phone: 202-225-2301 Washington Fax: 202-225-1844
Pittsburgh Phone: 412-344-5583

ARKANSAS Rep. Mike ROSS (D-AR) Hot Springs, Pine Bluff, Prescott area. Washington Phone: 202-225-3773 Washington Fax: 202-225-1314
Pine Bluff Phone: 870-536-3376

TEXAS Rep. Charles Gonzalez (D-TX) San Antonio area Washington Phone 202-225-3236 Washington Fax 202-225-1915 San Antonio Phone 210-472-6195

OHIO Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) Akron, Lorain area.



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NCOM NEWS BYTES (Edited)

Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish,

National Coalition of Motorcyclists

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION The highway death rate increased in 2005 for the first time in about 20 years, and a new federal report suggests that driving distracted may be responsible for nearly 8 in 10 crashes.

Preliminary figures from the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that despite increased usage of safety belts and attention to drunken driving, 43,200 people died in car crashes last year, up from 42,636 in 2004.

In a separate report issued the same day, NHTSA and

Virginia Tech's Transportation Institute released research findings that driving distracted is a more serious problem than previously known, and indicated nearly 80% of crashes and near-crashes involve driver inattention up to three seconds before the incident. The most common causes of distraction were cellphone use and drowsiness.

The research, which NHTSA called "break-through," tracked the drivers of 100 vehicles equipped with video and sensor devices for more than one year, providing more than 43,300 hours of data. In nearly 2 million miles of driving, 241 drivers of the cars were involved in 82 crashes and 761 near-crashes.

Connecticut, New York and New Jersey ban drivers from using handheld cellphones. Washington, D.C., bans use of handheld cellphones or any other electronic device. New Hampshire bans all driver distractions.

A government report last year found that about 10 percent of drivers are using cell phones.

Automakers are refining technologies that sense when a vehicle is about to crash and apply brakes and steer the car out of trouble.

WISCONSIN ENACTS ROADWAY USERS RESPONSIBILITY ACT The Roadway Users Responsibility Act contains numerous pro-motorcycle provisions and represents a huge victory for Wisconsin bikers.

Senator Dave Zien, longtime motorcycle rights activist and member of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists Legislative Task Force, was one of the chief authors and sponsors of the legislation.

Among its provisions, AB 964 / S 528 increases penalties for motorists who cause injury or the death of other roadway users. If the victim of the crash is a motorcyclist, bicyclist or pedestrian, the violator must attend an Awareness Class to learn how to Share the Road.

Also under the measure, all Driver Education classes will be required to include Share the Road with Motorcycles portion. In another section, a paperwork reduction portion will allow a Motorcycle Rider Education graduate to bypass the Learners Permit requirement prior to obtaining their motorcycle endorsement.

Lastly, the bill will allow a motorcycle, moped or bicycle to proceed through a red vehicle actuated traffic signal that does not recognize their vehicle when the path is clear and after waiting 45 seconds.

DR. PHIL, MOTORCYCLE SAFETY ADVOCATE Motorcycling fans have found a new friend in the mass media: Dr. Phil McGraw of the popular Dr. Phil television show. And thanks to Helmet House and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, millions of viewers on Tuesday, April 18 tuned in as the good doctor helped a young Marine from Bay St. Louis, Miss., discover the right way to ride a motorcycle.

The producers of the Ask Dr. Phil and Robin segment needed our help with some riding apparel, said Richard Kimes, national marketing manager for Helmet House. They were filming a segment about a Marine, George Goetz, who had just returned home after a tour of duty in Iraq. Anxious to experience the thrill of motorcycling, he decided to spend some of his savings on a sport bike. Goetz began riding without any training or a motorcycle license. And, although he had a helmet, he lacked any other protective riding apparel. His mother was so concerned that she hid his keys. That's when Dr. Phil got involved, said Kimes.

With Dr. Phil as the referee, the story unfolded in front of a national audience.

Dr. Phil is an avid motorcyclist who frequently rode a dirt bike in the past, said Kimes, who

(Continued on Page 10)



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FINAL MESSAGE SENT BY E-MAIL TO ALL ON MY MEMBER E-MAIL LIST

(IF YOU DIDN'T GET ONE, SEND ME AN E-MAIL AND I WILL PUT YOU ON MY LIST)

This is a second e-mail regarding the Repair Act- we now have more work to do.

The **Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection** had a meeting on May 17th to gather information on the Right to Repair Act, H.R. 2048. My information says that in attendance were representatives of the FTC, the Auto Manufacturer's Industry and the Repair Shop Industry. (I apologize if I do not have the proper names, but you get the drift).

The next step is to do a mark up of the Bill. In layman's terms I think that means to look at the bill in light of the information gotten at the meeting, make changes the committee feels appropriate, add any amendments if they feel they are needed and send the bill to the full committee for hearing.

My information says that a hearing is likely by Wednesday or Thursday, May 24th or 25th. So those are the times we have to let people know what our wishes are. Actually that is the DEADLINE that we have. Committee members need to hear our feelings ASAP and it probably will be most effective if done the beginning of next week.

Who to tell? Below you will find a list of the Committee Members who are involved in the hearing. You can write them, fax them, call them or send them e-mails. It would help if you were one of their constituents (Politicians tend to listen more to people who can vote for or against them!) so be sure you let everyone you know who would be in favor of passing this bill what is going on. I don't care if you forward this e-mail to the motorcycling world, print it off, make copies and pass them out or whatever. Let's just get this message out. Any independent mechanic or personal garage fixer on his own bike is depending on this because if it doesn't pass and the government decides to enforce it, we could all be standing in line at the dealers because we couldn't get the specifications, parts, equipment or knowledge to fix our own bikes. Only when this information gets passed out to the general motorcycling world (or anyone that wishes to preserve their freedom of fixing ANY of their vehicles) will we do all that we could do.

Those Representatives on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, of which the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection is part are:

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- [Ralph M. Hall, Texas](#)
- [Michael Bilirakis, Florida](#)
- [Vice Chairman Fred Upton, Michigan](#)
- [Cliff Stearns, Florida](#)
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To find your local Federal congressional representative's telephone number, etc., call (202)224-3121 or (202)225-3121, tell whoever answers the area you live in and they will provide you with telephone numbers to call, etc.or log on to Congress.org.

Once this bill is approved in the committee (and if we work hard it can be) then start on your local Representatives who will have to vote when the bill arrives on the floor of the Congress. Look at the March RFJ Newspaper to find suggestions as to how to best do this.

Our sources tell me that the Chairman, Joe Barton is the originator of this bill and is very much behind it. They also tell us that John D. Dingell from Michigan (Detroit, to be exact - the home of the automakers - what a suprise!) is very much against it. That lets you know where your attention should be.

This paper is going to press before we can get any further information. Call your Federal Congressman and see what further action has been taken.



WORDS OF MOTORCYCLE WISDOM

Remember to pay as much attention to your partner as you do your carburetor

From the book: "Sit Down, Shut Up & Hang On!"

Written by Penny Powers and Chuck Hays

NCOM NEWS BYTES (Edited) (Continued from Page 7)
attended the taping of the show. Dr. Phil brokered a deal between Goetz and his mother: if the young man would take training, get licensed and wear the proper gear, his mom would return his motorcycle keys.

Dr. Phil then introduced Rob Gladden from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, who presented Goetz with a new set of safety gear and explained that the MSF had arranged a special Basic Rider Course for Goetz and 11 of his buddies.

A young hero and his mother got a helping hand from Dr. Phil. It's just another example of how motorcyclists really do help one another.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD: DEAF WOMAN SUES RIDER ED FOR NOT PROVIDING SIGNER A deaf Tampa-area woman who wanted to take an adult education class on motorcycle riding is suing the Hillsborough County school district for not providing a sign language interpreter.

"They are discriminating against me, which I felt is not right," Merrie Carol Paul said in an interview conducted through a telephone relay system. "One of my dreams is that I wanted to ride my own motorcycle. ... I love to ride motorcycles because I can do it. It doesn't matter if I am deaf or not. I love to feel the spirit. It is me."

Paul, 46, claims in a federal lawsuit that the district violated the Americans With Disabilities Act when officials refused to provide the interpreter when she signed up to take the class last year.

Paul said she was told the \$175 class fee would not cover the cost of an
(Continued on Page 11)

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