

Crossroads HOG
Safety Thought
March 2011

SO you really enjoy your motorcycle!

Ridin' it - cleanin' it- messin' with it – meeting others who enjoy motorcycles

And who knows better than you what a motorcycle is; how it should be ridden; what restrictions are appropriate for its use; and who should be allowed to ride one?

Are you aware that there are people who DISAGREE with you? And that some of those people are very influential in legislative bodies throughout our country? Yes - it is so. And many of them believe that you need to be protected, restricted, and singled-out as 'lesser' motorists.

There are 3 organizations in the United States of America that have as their sole purpose "watching out for the motorcyclists' rights." They are ABATE (American Bikers Aimed toward Education), the MRF (Motorcyclists Rights Foundation), and the AMA (American Motorcyclists Association).

If you are not currently a member of one of these organizations I want to strongly encourage you to change that. All three are capable and effective. At this time, I want to talk to you about the AMA.

As you know, HOG is (by charter) non-political. HOG does not get involved in legislative influencing activities. HOG does, however, encourage its members to be part of the AMA. Harley Davidson supports the AMA and its efforts to preserve and protect motorcycling in the United States.

If you join the AMA, you will have access to information on legislative activities that affect motorcycling in the U.S.A. You will receive the AMA Journal with well-written articles on such efforts. If you choose, you can receive on-line alerts to activities that affect your enjoyment of the sport of motorcycling. You will be encouraged to get involved as you see yourself capable. They will even provide coaching to help you contact your representatives if you are so inclined. **Then YOU can make sure your expertise, knowledge, and preferences are heard.**

In addition, the AMA will provide you with information on motorcycling events throughout the country - events from touring to racing to rallies and some good safety tips too. They offer some discounts on travel and insurance and they maintain a great Motorcycle History Museum and Hall of Fame. It is AMA that organizes the VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE DAYS event in Ohio in July – you'll see it on our calendar of events.

But, most importantly, they are an active, respected lobbyist for the Motorcyclists of the United States. Go to AmericanMotorcyclist.com on line or call **1-800-262-5646** for more information or to join. I urge you – DON'T BE A VICTIM, BE INVOLVED.

This Safety Minute is the solely the opinion of the author and should not be interpreted as the official policy of Crossroads HOG, its' officers, the Brighton HD Dealership, or the national HOG.

Mike "the Safety Guy" Hoffman