

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – Feb 2009

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State Issues:

- **CBA State Lobby Day** - Our State CBA Lobby Day is this Wednesday, February 11, 2009. Please plan to attend if you can. The more people who lobby their state legislators, the more power bikers have in shaping the laws that affect us.

- **New Helmet Law Repeal Bill** - The CBA State Legislative Committee voted at the January 17th LC meeting, that we would only submit a "clean" helmet bill for sponsorship this legislative session. A "clean" bill meaning that we require a total repeal of the law with no concessions. It will be difficult to get a serious sponsor for this type of bill and it will be even harder to get it passed. We will be looking to all members who support the repeal to lobby your House Reps and Senators on this issue.

- **New Bill: HB 67** – This bill mandates that license tags be displayed horizontally. Some choppers have them vertically. This will result in a class 2 misdemeanor offense if passed (NC G.S. 14-3.1 = \$100 fine). They want to make sure that traffic cameras get a good pic of the offender's plate. Any covering or alteration of a license plate will fall under this new bill.

- **New Bill SB 64** - Motorcycle learner's permit changes (similar as last session's bill) – Change the duration from 18 months to 6 months lessening the time someone has to learn to ride. It also limits it to one renewal. It also requires someone have a car drivers permit or license to get a motorcycle permit. (discriminates against motorcycle riders)

Federal Issues (Reported by the MRF www.MRF.org)

News Items:

South Carolina - New Myrtle Beach Bike Week website: The city of Myrtle Beach and the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce are collaborating on a Web-and-print campaign to make visitors aware of the city's new rules about bike rallies. **Myrtlebeachbikerinfo.com** and brochures are due out this week. "We have new laws, and we'd rather not surprise visitors," city spokesman Mark Kruea said. "We'd rather they have some idea of what to expect when they come here." What people should expect: stricter noise and muffler rules, a local helmet law, no parties in parking lots, a juvenile curfew and more. The Web site bears a message from Mayor John Rhodes, a list of the 15 ordinances and amendments the city approved last fall to target the two May motorcycle rallies it says have grown too large and too difficult to control, and a section of questions and answers. The top of the site says **"effective 2009, Myrtle Beach, SC will no longer host motorcycle rallies."** Even though the city never officially hosted the rallies, "Myrtle Beach doesn't want to be the center of the motorcycle universe in May anymore," Kruea said. The Harley-Davidson and Atlantic Beach Bikefest have drawn nearly half a million visitors over about three weeks, and prompt locals to complain loudly each year. But in 2008, after a Coastal Carolina University student was shot to death in a dispute over a parking space during Bikefest, even though the shooting didn't involve bikers, the city said it would take steps to end the rallies.

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.

Please read DocSki's latest blog entry at least once a week:

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and federal issues that threaten your lifestyle.

The Greatest Enemy of All Free People

I am your enemy, your nightmare and your destruction. I hide in unseen places and go about my work silently. I never sleep and I am everywhere you are. You cannot hide & I will give you nothing. I will take everything you have and seek more. I spare no one. My victims are rich and poor, young and old, strong and weak. I massacre millions each and every generation. I destroy more people than all wars combined. Children shall know me to their eternal sorrow. I have brought you great misery by replacing freedom loving government with tyrants. I played a major role in the downfall of great civilizations. The Prince of Darkness alone sends me into your life. Once allowed inside, seldom am I asked to leave. You have been warned of my presence. But you do not care. Allow me to introduce myself. My Name Is APATHY. Have YOU been visited by me?