

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – Sept 2008

Vinny Neuman – Legislative Coordinator – NCRider@att.net (919) 522-4922 www.NCRider.com

State Issues:

The NC General Assembly is closed until January.

- The most important legislative issues I see in the coming months are:

NC Elections – November is election time. Please research your candidates' position on the issues that are important to you and then if you want to consider their position on bikers' rights, please consider the table in the August legislative update which shows your incumbents and how they voted on the DOT helmet bill. You can also contact me for info. (919) 522-4922

Federal Issues:

- **Bikers for McCain** - If you are a McCain voter, you may want to sign up for "Bikers for McCain" as it is a coalition of bikers who support McCain. <http://www.johnmccain.com/ste/eventsvp.aspx?guid=5570b1e2-0ca9-4759-9251-4a998e730aa3> or Google search for "Bikers for McCain"

- **Bikers For Obama** – This is a web site not sanctioned by the Obama campaign, but may be of interest to Obama supporters. <http://bikers4obama.com>

- **Washington, DC** - Drunken-driving deaths fell in 32 states in 2007, the government reported Thursday, but alcohol-related fatalities increased among motorcycle riders in half the states. Nearly 13,000 people were killed in crashes in which the driver had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08, the legal limit in the United States, or at higher levels. Overall, alcohol deaths were down nearly 4 percent compared with 2006, when nearly 13,500 people died on the highway. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters said she was disappointed by the increase in deaths involving drunk motorcycle riders. A total of 1,621 motorcyclists were killed in alcohol-impaired crashes in 2007, an increase of 7.5 percent. Motorcycle riders have been featured in the government's \$13 million advertising campaign surrounding the Labor Day holiday. Law enforcement agencies are increasing their enforcement against drunken driving during the end of the summer. Among the states, California had 117 fewer alcohol-impaired driving deaths last year, the largest decrease in the nation. Texas had 108 fewer deaths and Arizona's fatalities dropped by 63 deaths. North Carolina had 66 more deaths, the most among states, followed by South Carolina with 44 fatalities. In addition to North Carolina and South Carolina, alcohol-impaired deaths increased in Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia. **Vin Note: I would think that we will be seeing more sobriety checkpoints in the coming year since NC and motorcycle alcohol-related fatalities are up.**

News Items:

- **Myrtle Beach to revise noise ordinance.** Horry County officials said Monday they plan to revise the county's noise ordinance after county police get a chance to test noise meters that could help them better enforce noise requirements. Whitten said there has been an increase in noise complaints recently as the county grows. "I'm not saying we're targeting motorcycles with large mufflers," Grabowski said. "I'm not saying we're targeting this bar because they run a band late at night." Still, Whitten said he plans to use the fall motorcycle rally in October as the main testing ground for the noise meters. The county's current ordinance prohibits yelling in public streets that disturbs the quiet of the area. It also prohibits the use of musical instruments that can be audible from 50 feet away between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

- **Maryland - Federal Court Rules Driving with Air Fresheners is Suspicious** - Federal appeals court rules that motorists can be stopped for 30 minutes and searched if they are nervous, use an air freshener, and are suspected of possessing drugs. <http://www.thenewspaper.com/rlc/docs/2008/us-branch.pdf>

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.

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

<http://docskivnv.bravejournal.com/>

You can also subscribe to the email alerts and receive an email every time Doc posts a message.



Why I Ride

by Iris Hindle

To see the morning sky go from gray to purple
to yellow to blue
That's why I ride

To see the eagle soar on the wind or see the
deer grazing in the meadow
That's why I ride

To feel the sun on my face or taste the
sweet rain on my lips
That's why I ride

To replace the shrill ring of the phone, computer, fax machine and computer
with the roar of a chrome engine
That's why I ride

To experience the respect and love of my extended family in the biker community
That's why I ride

To decide where I go, when I go and how I go
That's why I ride

To show the politicians that I am responsible enough to make my
own decisions about what I wear when I ride
That's why I ride.

Why do you?

