



Greetings My Fellow WaCos!!

Well Helliiooooo there, friends. Lookie here, we have a new edition of 'The Greasy Rag'. In this edition you'll find the much anticipated follow up article from our own chapter secretary, Margo Virchow. Thank you Margo for submitting a piece to the chapter newsletter. I have to admit, I really enjoyed reading your side of 'The Great American Roadtrip' It was a treat indeed.

Also in this edition we'll read about Alan Nichol's experience at the 'Meeting of the Minds' conference in Peoria Illinois. Alan definitely has a knack for writing and we are all fortunate to have him sharing the information from this important conference that we all obviously couldn't attend. Alan was space conscience and broke is article into a couple of pieces. Thank you Alan for sharing your experience and we look forward to part two in the next edition of 'The Greasy Rag'.

The End of Summer Rally, at it's new location, was a success. While the Columbia County Fairgrounds proved to be a very new experience in the motorcycle rally/campout realm...it certainly didn't disappoint. I jotted some highlights of the rally on page 6. I was hoping for a couple choice pictures but got none. So, you'll have to deal with words on paper...err...screen... whichever way you are enjoying 'The Greasy Rag' today.

Chapter Elections! The next couple of meetings will be open for nominations. I know I have heard of several officers who can no longer hold their 2010 positions into 2011. The only way this organization works is by volunteers stepping up to the plate and filling small roles within each chapter. Most do not take much time and there is always help available if you need some.. So, please, consider holding a position in the 2011 Washington County ABATE chapter and support this great organization with a little bit of your time and efforts.

Speaking of meetings... Washington County member (and state coordinator) Ted Tracy won the membership drawing at the September 27th meeting...just for being there. He went home with \$159.25 in his pocket. Remember folks, sometimes it can pay to come to your chapter's ABATE meeting. Of course, that isn't the ONLY reason you should come, but it sure would make a nice bonus, huh?

The last thing I want to mention here is... we miss you. If you are a current member please come out to a meeting and say HI! If you are an expired member...come out and say HI anyway (and renew). Our meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday at the Prime Time Sports Bar & Restaurant - 4202 Pacific Ave, Forest Grove. If you can't make a meeting and would like to renew, call our Membership Secretary, Connie Kintz @ 503.431.0897.



Stan Johnston Memorial Toy Run

The 'Stan Johnston Memorial Toy Run' falls on November 20th this year. This is our annual toy run and fundraiser that benefits the Hillsboro Fire Department's Toy & Joy Program. 100% of the donated toys go straight to the Toy & Joy Program. Not only the toys, but 100% of all raffle ticket sales also go straight to the Toy & Joy Program. This is one of those events that you just can't help but feel GREAT about being a part of. Mark your calendars and plan on coming out, even if you don't/can't ride... come out and help us brighten the holidays for families in need.



Stan Johnston Memorial

TOY RUN

Washington County

WIN \$500 TO PARADISE H-D

WIN \$250 TO PARADISE H-D

ABATE of Oregon

NOVEMBER 20TH, 2010

Proceeds benefit the Hillsboro Fire Department's
TOY & JOY PROGRAM

\$\$ - Cash Donations Accepted - \$\$

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Begins @ Hillsboro Fire Dept. - Station #3, 4455 NW 229th
(corner of 229th & Evergreen Rd, Hillsboro)

Group Ride - Leaves @ 12 Noon Sharp!

Ends @ Hillsboro Elks Lodge, 21865 NW Quatama Rd

For more information - Jim Henderson: 503.750.6047

ABATE of Oregon, Inc. promotes motorcycle awareness, education, safety and liberty through community involvement and legislative action.

This event is sanctioned by ABATE of Oregon Inc.
Contributions or gifts to ABATE of Oregon, Inc. are NOT deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

The Great American Road Trip.... Or... "What he said, What I heard"

By Margo Virchow

For those of you who caught my husband's article in the last WaCo newsletter, you know that we had an adventurous trip in July that took us through 7 states in 11 days. Rich did a great job of journaling the highlights of our trip, along with good reviews of the places we stayed and ate. I was asked to give a report from the woman's perspective. What follows is the "What he said, what I heard" version of our trip.

When Rich first broached the subject of a road trip with me, I cringed inside as my mind relived his stories of road tripping with the guys and doing 700 mile days with stops only for gas, Gatorade, and beef jerky along the way. I'm not an adrenaline junkie, so that kind of pace doesn't appeal to me. At all.

What he said: "Don't worry, Honey, I'll keep it to no more than 350 miles/day and we'll avoid freeways for almost all of it." What I heard: "Easy rides, not too much time on the bikes each day, plenty of time to enjoy the little towns along the way." And so, we were off.

Our first day was 400 miles. Beautiful scenery, including the only live deer we saw in the first 4 days of our trip. We stopped for a leisurely breakfast and at several overlooks for photo ops during the first half of the day. The problem with dinking around the first part of the day is that you still have a lot of miles to do in the last half of the day, which is about when we hit the ground out, gravel roads that were about to be (or recently had been) chip sealed. Despite Rich's demonstration (read: dramatic weaving and leaning) to let me know the roads could be ridden at speed, my hand just wouldn't crank any further on the throttle. We had several of these "teaching moments" throughout the trip. J

We actually hit a fair amount of road construction and newly-chip sealed roads on this trip, which, in my naivety, hadn't occurred to me before we left. It's July in the Pacific Northwest. When else are they going to do it? All in all, I got a lot more comfortable with gravel by the end.

The next big challenge in our trip was Beartooth Pass. This is a legendary pass that has been on Rich's bucket list since he did some filming of the rebuilding of it a few years ago for work. At the chapter meeting prior to our departure, Ted Tracy approached me.

What he (Ted) said: "Please be very careful on this road. I mean, REALLY careful. Just keep your head in the game, and don't get distracted by the view. You'll be fine, but seriously, BE CAREFUL," What I heard: "You'll be lucky to make it over this pass."

What he (Rich) said: "Beartooth is our biggest challenge. Once we get through that, we can relax for the rest of the day." What I heard: "Our campsite is on the other side of Beartooth Pass."

I was appropriately nervous about Beartooth Pass. It was every bit as daunting as Rich described in his article. The people at the Harley store in Red Lodge had told us it would take 2 ½ - 3 hours to do the 65 miles, which is how you know we're not exaggerating about the challenge. I will tell you that I spent most of that day praying, with a few moments of choice thoughts for my husband. I liken it to a woman's feelings when she's in labor. I had occasional flashes of "YOU did this to me!" running in my head most of the way up to the summit. With every mile, the temperature dropped dramatically, and by the time we reached the top my face was too numb to smile for the photo. Definitely a case of being under-dressed for the ride, which was really stupid and avoidable. Silly me, I had thought we'd be almost to our campsite once we got through the pass. Nope, another 140 miles to go ~ that's Yellowstone Park miles, folks. Speed limit 45 mph, and traffic slowed it to ½ that at several points along the way. Initially I cursed those miles, but they ended up helping me relax after the earlier excitement and I know I slept like a rock that night. Looking back now, I've forgotten the "labor pains" of the moment, and retain only the sense of accomplishment and bragging rights about having ridden that pass.

Now that we've been back a couple of months, that's really the feeling I have about our whole vacation. The trip included several other challenges, including a corkscrew descent off a newly-chip sealed butte with no guardrails (again with the chip seal!), and a heart stopping moment watching Rich barely miss a doe and her spotted fawn. But we also had a lot of fun, saw some wildlife up close and personal (too close at times), and rode through some of the most awesome country I've seen in my life. All in all, I came home realizing that I'm capable of a lot more than I'd given myself credit for.

What he said: "Next time, we'll ride to a destination and stay there, not try to cover so many miles." What I heard: "He's already planning next year's trip." Stay tuned. :-)

Margo Virchow
Chapter Secretary

2010 Meeting of the Minds Report

By Allan Nichols

The first thing I would like to do is thank my A.B.A.T.E. chapter (Washington County) for sending me to The Meeting of the Minds conference sponsored by the MRF and giving me the opportunity to bring back this information to everyone.

The trip to Peoria was almost as good as the conference itselfok, not even close, but traveling by plane all day gives one a chance to think. So rather than daydream about summer runs along the coast or a ride thru the mountains, I decided to focus on the coming weekend and get myself prepared for the conference. I asked myself "what is it that makes us different?" We are individuals and not one of us is the same, we have different beliefs, different likes and dislikes, we even have different ways to dress ourselves and our bikes. But as I thought about all of our differences, I tried to think of one thing we all could agree on. CHOCOLATE! Everyone loves chocolate right? Nope, I know a couple of people who can't stand chocolate. So here I am thinking of all these incredible things that make us happy and realizing that not everyone enjoys the same things as I do, and as I look around the plane and see people doing little things to pass the time, it hits me like a ton of bricks..... FREEDOM! No matter who you are or what your beliefs, we as humans love freedom and have from the beginning of time fought for it. From simply writing a letter, to protesting, and in extreme cases actually giving up our lives. Freedom is probably the most cherished and quite possibly the most expensive thing we have because "Freedom is not Free", and the more I thought about it, the more I realized how much we take it for granted.

As much as we enjoy our freedom, there are people out there who think it is their job to take away those freedoms because of something they believe in. In the first day of the seminars, it became very clear just how far some of these individuals will go to control our freedom. Now I don't know about anyone else, but when someone takes away my right to make a choice, and tells me what I have to do, that isn't freedom anymore. For example, there are laws being drafted that will make it illegal to upgrade the pipes on our bikes, all exhaust systems will have an EPA federal stamp on them from the factory, and if it is not *visible*, they can impound our bikes. Some of you are thinking well that's not going to happen here in my state, why should I care about that? Well, we all ride and enjoy road trips, and if a road trip takes us through a state that passes this law, (a version of it is on the California governors desk as we speak) guess what we are on the side of the road wondering what the heck just happened. Another thing that will happen is that someone in our own state will use the other states law as ammunition to get the ball rolling here at home, we all remember the helmet law right?.....that started as someone's idea to control one of our choices, one of our FREEDOMS. There are people in Washington and in *our own* state capitol that hate motorcycles so much they will stop at nothing to outlaw them and put us all on bicycles.

As the conference went on I found out there are vehicle manufacturers who absolutely love motorcycles. They have figured out it is cheaper to manufacture a three wheeled vehicle and classify it as a motorcycle instead of a vehicle. Think about that for a minute, motorcycles do not have to go thru all the safety tests, there are no crash ratings, no airbags, and no seat belts. And if that isn't enough, one of these manufacturers has lobbied in Canada (and won) to make it legal to operate these vehicles without a motorcycle endorsement. Again, some of you are thinking, "so what, that's another country and that doesn't effect me." I was one of these people, but as I listened to the speakers at the conference, they started to make a lot of sense. With the ammunition of having a law passed in one country, these companies can come to our legislators and tell them how good it will be for the economy, how well it is working in their country and all kinds of nice to hear stuff. We all know what the motivating force in Washington is.....money..... so when they put all this in a package along with a piece of paper that says "pay to the order of : " it gets attention. Next thing we know bills are being drafted and laws are being passed that will make it legal for people without the proper motorcycle endorsement, and who have never completed a motorcycle safety course, to ride amongst us and potentially create a deadly situation. That should really concern us not just because of the chance we will be around one of these people when that happens, but for what it will do to us financially. Remember these are "motorcyclists" and any accident they have will be classified as such, and we all know what happens then. Insurance companies don't see it as a three wheeled vehicle accident, they see it as a motorcycle accident and a chance to get more money from us because "motorcycles are dangerous," and in some cases will not cover us if we are involved in an accident. Right now there is a bill that passed unanimously in the house (hb1253) that makes it mandatory that insurance companies disclose what they will not cover, it passed unanimously in 2009 but as of yet there is no senate bill. People, until this law is passed we are playing Russian roulette and our insurance policies are the loaded revolvers.

Another seminar that was very eye opening was how non motorcycle bills and laws can morph into something that can affect us all. The ideas can be started in good conscience, but sometimes they have implications that no one intended. For example, we all remember the recall awhile back on the toys from china that contained lead. Well the recall wasn't enough, someone had to make it a law that any item that is sold for the use of children cannot contain any lead if any portion of it can be put in a child's mouth or be chewed on. Here is where it becomes our problem as well. The foot pegs on the little motorcycles that we see the kids riding, the wheel weights, and the valve stems, that are also used

on our bikes, all have lead in them and will be illegal. Pretty funny huh? The manufacturers have very little time left to find a different way of producing these parts or to come up with a good reason why they can't. My question is who decides what will be a good reason? Wouldn't it have been easier to make a law saying that all the toy manufacturers disclose the materials used and we as responsible adults decide what is safe and acceptable for our children? Freedom. We do have a say in these issues.

Did you know that there are laws in some states that says it's illegal to sell motorcycles on a Sunday? Yes, Wisconsin and New Jersey. A.B.A.T.E. and other state motorcycle rights organizations have worked hard all across the country to repeal silly laws like this and have made great progress. There is now a bill in New Jersey to allow the sale of motorcycles on Sunday thanks to some of these groups. Helmet laws have been repealed in numerous states, again thanks to the S.M.R.O.'s and too many noise ordinances to count that have been fought and shot down. Do you honestly think the legislators in these districts did this out of the kindness of their hearts? I don't. I think its conferences like this that provide us with ammunition and resources to fight this war and prevail. The Dodd bill (livability and communities act) says that urban sprawl has made us too dependent on vehicles and we should limit the urban growth boundaries. The right to repair bill ensures that the person who bought the car and not the car company, can decide where that vehicle is repaired and maintained. There are bills saying what the appropriate ride along passenger age will be, bills about distracted driving that focus mainly on texting without saying anything about other forms of distractions (i.e., reading , applying makeup in the rear view mirror, or shaving to mention just a few. All of which I have witnessed). On top of all the bills out there I hear that the EPA is considering going to a 15 % ethanol blend. All of these issues we have a say in, it is still a freedom that hasn't been taken awayyet. We need to not only keep an eye on the bills that are being drawn up, but also which legislators are endorsing them.

As I am listening to people talk about all the bills that are out there that are designed to take more of our freedoms away, I come to realize that there is some goof ball that thinks it is his responsibility to make our choices, and get richer by the day with no consequences. I find that the word freedom is being replaced by another word COMPLACENCY! We as riders and individuals have become complacent. We do not see, or seem to care how the world around us has not changed. There are still people that have made it their mission to take away our freedoms, and although there is no one dying for these issues, do not think for a moment that this is not a war, one that we must fight everyday. There are enough riders in this state to make a difference. We can be heard. We can yell loud enough to these people in office and tell them that they were elected by us the people, and although bikers may not be a majority we can and WILL make a difference. As much as I don't like using quotes , a congressman from Illinois gave a speech at the conference and used a quote from Ronald Reagan that I believe hit the nail right on the head....."***Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.***"

Unless I am wrong and we are incapable of making sound choices for ourselves and our families, and that we need to give that responsibility to someone who makes good speeches, we need to send a message to these people and let them know respect our freedoms or be replaced!

Unfortunately I have a limited space here and there is so much information to be passed on. So look for more next month and I will close for now by saying don't be complacent, be a part of the decisions, cherish your freedoms and enjoy them, especially the ones that lets us enjoy the summer cruises on the coast or the rides thru the mountains. And lastly, be safe, and be aware.

See you on the road,

Allan Nichols
State Vice Coordinator North
Washington County Board Rep.

“Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed - else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die. ~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

End of Summer Run—2010

By Goat

End of Summer Run 2010 was held in St Helens, Oregon at the Columbia County Event Complex... better known as fair grounds. In my 10 years of attending the End of Summer Run (EOS), this one will stand out in memory for years to come for many reasons. Those are 10 consecutive years I must add. While the weather wasn't perfect and disagreed with our run coordinators plans on a couple of occasions, it wasn't a hindrance that drowned the good time that was to be had. And, a good time WAS indeed had.

By Friday at dinner time the place was hoppin'. All the vendors set up and vending away. The tattoo booth was never without a customer, that I saw. And, the BBQ place with their prime location behind the covered dining area was quite popular also. Friday night's band started after dinner time....INDOORS. That's right. The musical entertainment along with all the adult entertainment was held inside the pavilion. While this was mostly a PRO, there was a CON also. Because the music was indoors, it took quite awhile for folks to filter in from their campsites to enjoy the bands. My belief is that you just couldn't hear the band playing from your campsite and therefore didn't know they had started. Once folks started to catch on that there was live musical entertainment happening in the pavilion, it was on. The place was hoppin'. While the major benefit of having entertainment indoors wasn't apparent Friday night...it was very welcomed Saturday night when the rain gods decided to attend EOS 2010.

Saturday was choked full of activities. First off with the bike show... and then the bike games. Saw some new bike games at EOS this year. I think everyone got a kick out of the rubber chicken game. "Rubber Chicken Game?" you say; come next year and you'll understand. It wasn't until the rain gods made their way through the gate that the bike games came to an end. The weenie bite got cut short on account of their presence.

From the bike games we run head long into a true biker wedding. Leather top hats and roaring V-Twins. WaCo members and chapter/state officers Trace and Connie Ceccacci took the long walk down the aisle of motorcycles to say their "I Dos". With the wedding being held in the pavilion we couldn't rev up the bikes and blow the horns until all the bikes had been rolled back outdoors. We invited the newlyweds into marital bliss with the sound of a dozen or two motorcycles revving to their lil pistons content as the couple entered their reception all. And what a feast the reception was. Two kegs of beer and I don't know how many farm animals were served on paper plates in the hours that followed. But it was an impressive amount of food.

Saturday nights entertainment was nothing short of amazing. The weather outside was quite damp, but there were plenty of dry bikers shakin' what their momma gave them inside the pavilion. The Sinner's Club band played classic rock all night. The Strong Man Competition, Men's Butt Contest and Women's TaTa show were all held in front of the stage in the pavilion. Each one of the girls in the TaTa show received an official EOS 2010 Adult Entertainment t-Shirt.

So, in closing... while the Columbia County Fair Complex was a new and different venue than what we are used to for a motorcycle campout, it really worked well. The indoor stage for the music and adult entertainment, the indoor FLUSHING restrooms and the ample space proved to be a great combination of amenities for EOS. In fact, we are hoping to get a good draw for next year just based on these three things. But, in addition to those things, we ALWAYS have a good time. The people are friendly and everyone is there to have a weekend vacation of fun and laughs with friends. You have to try REALLY hard to NOT have a good time when you have Washington County hosting the best party in Oregon!

PS—Calling all Washington County members... in order for EOS to reach it's full potential after a venue change, we need EVERYONE to do their part in spreading the word and marketing the event. One of our goals for next year should be to start spreading the word about EOS as soon as possible. If I am your Public Relations Director for 2011, you can bet your backsides I'll do my best to accomplish that goal. If I'm not, I'll be certain I am involved and helping do my part.

GOAT



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Adopt-A-Road WaCo ABATE Road Clean-Up

October 16th was the fall Road cleanup organized by the Washington County Chapter of ABATE of Oregon. Its been about 7 years now since we initially adopted that stretch of Roy Rogers Road between Scholls Ferry and Beef Bend. We go out and clean it up 2 times a year. Generally once in the spring and once in the fall. The spring clean up this year was actually filmed by Washington County's Land Use and Transportation Department. The posted the video on YouTube and intend to use the video for informing the public about their Adopt-A-Road program. You can find video on YouTube by searching for 'Washington County Adopt-A-Road' or use this URL <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjSuB8WKZ2E>. Let's give it up to our WaCo volunteers for getting their hands dirty in effort to make Washington County LESS dirty. Thank you!



We're on FaceBook!

Did you know that Washington County Chapter, ABATE of Oregon has a FaceBook.com profile? We do, and if you do also, we should be friends! It sure would be an easy way to get information out to our members. You wouldn't have to go searching for dates and updated info on chapter happenings. We could just make announcements that would appear on your profile newsfeed. You'd get an email alert from FaceBook that there has been a comment on your page or you would just see it next time you popped into your FaceBook account. Go on, check it out! Search for 'Washington County ABATE' the next time you are on. I can imagine quite a few of you don't already have a FaceBook profile set up. So, now is it a good time to join and create your own FaceBook page. It's pretty straight forward and is a great way to keep in touch with family, friends and ABATE!


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RMLS  REALTOR

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Have an idea for a newsletter article? What about some information you'd like to pass on to your fellow Washington County Chapter members? Perhaps just an announcement? Heck, even if you just want to call to tell me the newsletter stinks, I want to hear from you. Reach out and say howdy.

Goat - 503.502.4229
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2010 Notable Dates

ABATE Swap Meet	April 25 th
BikePAC May Awareness	May 1 st
Spring Road Clean-Up	June 6 th
Roll-n-Ride	June 13 th
Mid-Summer Poker Run	July 31 st
End of Summer Run	September 17 th -19 th
WaCo Toy Run	November 20 th

If you need any information on these runs or others
feel free to contact your WaCo Run Coordinator
Jim Henderson, at (503) 750-6047