

# **TEXAS TIDBITS** Volume 3, Issue 2 March – April 2021

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# **2021 BIKER LEGISLATIVE WEEKEND**



Senator Drew Springer & Mandy Trapp

The meetings scheduled on Sunday were really informative as to what is happening, how we can help and on the process in order to get things completed. It was enjoyable to see all the different organizations participating. We even got support from other states & national organizations, like MRF. To top that off, we had а visit from the newly elected Senator Springer. He was very interested in what we are doing & took notes about bills that were being submitted. Nothing like having a congress person paying attention to you! ~Elmer, Denton Abate

One of the hottest topics of discussion this Legislative weekend was Motorcycle Profiling. "The Motorcycle Profiling Project is dedicated to the grassroots effort to pass laws addressing profiling and discrimination across America." **Please**, take a minute to complete the 2021 MPP survey: <u>https://www.motorcycleprofilingproj</u> <u>ect.com/2021-national-motorcycleprofiling-survey/</u>

TEXAS ABATE

Our "champion for motorcycle rights", Senator Drew Springer, was at the Veterans Collective and made it a point to chat with quite a few of us about the growing number of riders affected by profiling. *"Bearpup, Editor* 



March – April 2021

State and Chapter Info

(Click <u>underlined</u> text for links)

STATE: www.texasabate.com www.facebook.com/groups/texasabate State Meeting

**NEW DATE** 4/10/21 at 1:00 pm,

VFW Post 10460 501 Thompson Drive Lake Dallas, TX 75065

#### **ARLINGTON:**

www.arlingtonabate.com www.facebook.com/ArlingtonABATE Chapter Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12 noon VFW Post 6111

1200 W Harris Street Arlington, TX 76001

## **DENTON:**

www.facebook.com/DentonChapterABATE Chapter Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 2:00 pm Horny Toad Café & Bar 5812 Interstate 35 Denton, TX 76207

## LAKE CITIES:

www.facebook.com/Lake-Cities-ABATE-2021-454543498728107

Chapter Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 1:00 pm VFW Post 10460 501 Thompson Drive Lake Dallas, TX 75065

## TEXOMA:

www.facebook.com/texomaabate Chapter Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 1:00 pm American Legion Post 62 419 Crawford Street Denison, TX 75020 DUE TO COVID-19, BE SURE TO CHECK INDIVIDUAL CHAPTER WEBSITES/FACEBOOK PAGES FOR EVENT CHANGES/CANCELLATIONS

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https://www.lawtigers.com/dallas-motorcycle-lawyers-lp/

#### Dallas Motorcycle Lawyers - Law Tigers

Law Tigers is a national association of independent law firms in various states that represent motorcycle riders. This is a paid advertisement for a network (national association) of independent law firms in various states who are members of the American Association of Motorcycle Injury Lawyers. <u>www.lawtigers.com</u>

# **MAINTENANCE MATTERS**

#### **A TIRESOME TIRADE**

Have you ever looked at the sidewall of your tires and wondered what you are looking at? For some it may as well be Egyptian hieroglyphics. Well, wonder no more. Today we are going to explain a few things to help you understand your tires, and maybe even comment on why these things are important.

You will see several markings on the sidewall. The most noticeable will usually be the tire size. This is typically something like 180/60B16. This is read left to right and, in this example, 180 indicates 180 millimeters (mm) through the tire tread, from side to side (see diagram on pg. 4).

Reference: One-inch equals 25.4 mm or 2.54 cm so 180 mm is roughly 7.086 inches (180÷25.4). You may also see sizes like 2.75–16. In that case, 2.75 is the measurement in inches (or 69.85 mm).

So, now that we know how wide the tire is, we move on to the next

number, 60. This is the aspect ratio of the tire. This is the ratio of a tire's width to its height. Put another way, it is how wide the tire is compared to how tall it is. In this example the tire is 60% as tall as it is wide. Doing a little math (180 x 60%), the tire is 108 mm tall from the inside of the bead (area that touches the rim) to the top of the tread (area that meets the road).

The B in the sidewall marking tells us the speed rating and/or the type of construction. Here the B tells us that the tire is a **bias belted** tire. An R in this position would tell us it is a radial tire. NOTE: If only one letter or a dash (-) is shown after the aspect ratio (180/60-16), the type of construction and speed rating will appear in the service description. The service description is a combination of the load index (81) and the speed rating (H). The service information is a rectangle cast into the side of the tire that has inflation information as well as the load index. (continued on pg. 4)



## **INDEPENDENT CORNER**

Remember, your Independent Representative is to keep the line of communication open between the ABATE Board of Directors and our Independent Members, to bring the Independent Members all information regarding Legislative issues and actions, and to bring your concerns, suggestions, ideas, and such, to the Board.

However, if you've moved, changed your phone number or email address, and think that we may not have current contact information for you, please inform your new rep, **Kirsten Scheideman**, via email **mimashivers2002@yahoo.com**.

# **Legislative Report**

It's a new year and we are at the beginning of the (US) 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. What was most dissappointing from the 116<sup>th</sup> legislative session is that the House could not move our federal motorcycle profiling resolution - H. Res. 255; the Senate, however, had no problem unanimously passing an identical profiling resolution in 2018 (S. Res. 154). Last session, H. Res. 255 (with138 co-sponsors) did not make it out of the Judiciary Committee! We will have another House Resolution introduced this session and, hopefully, it will make it to the floor for an up or down vote. But,

it will take all of us to make this happen!

It seems like every event last year (that had not been cancelled), was still somehow affected by Covid - so far, 2021 has picked up where 2020 left off. The COC&I had planned for the Motorcycle Legislative Weekend, at the Capitol, to take place January 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Of course, this was one event that was not going to get cancelled - after all, Texas Bikers participate in Legislative Day every biennial session. Also, we were very confident that this 87<sup>th</sup> legislative session would take place - laws have to be passed, right?! However, we quickly learned that this session was going to be very different from any other before. Organizers were informed that all events on the Capitol grounds were cancelled – and of course that included our guest speakers on the steps of the Capitol; and reserved parking for 100+ motorcycles. Also, during this pandemic, no groups larger than 5 people are permitted inside the Capitol. We were optimistic that we would still have an opportunity to talk motorcycle legislation with our representatives - until we found out that the House Reps were not due to report at the Capitol until the following week (due to Covid)! ABATE members (and I'm sure others, too) were caught off guard by this notice, and had to change plans quickly. Many of us contacted our Reps and asked for a Zoom meeting instead, or to re-schedule our meeting for a later date. At the Capitol, we found out that anyone



David Dennis, Senator Drew Springer & Skee Dodson entering the building would have to take the Covid "Fast Test". A Fast Test means that you get your nose swabbed and get the test results in 20 minutes; the Fast test is 90% accurate, and everyone in our group tested negative!

Overall, Texas ABATE rescheduled a few appointments, held a Zoom meeting with Representative Turner (HD-101), and met with Senator Birdwell's Chief Legislative Director in his office. We also met with Representative Stucky (D-64) to discuss a malfunctioning red-light bill and changing the Autocycle classification. Before leaving the Capitol, we managed to sign a couple of our other Rep's guest logs, even though they weren't due in until the following week. I believe we made a favorable impression, we asked for much-needed motorcycle legislation, and we got some good feedback. Our elected officials can count on bikers showing up for Biker Legislative Day that's for sure!

Texas ABATE spoke with Drew Springer when he was running for the vacant Senate seat in District 30. We had previously invited him to our Texoma ABATE chapter meeting and discussed common-sense motorcycle legislation. He agreed with everything we discussed, and I believe we will see a few motorcycle bills originate from his office.



Springer was also our guest on Sunday, at the Veterans Collective facility in Hutto, Texas, for Legislative Day. Senator Springer's motorcycle advocacy was extremely positive and enlightening to hear. Throughout the weekend, we heard discussion on Motorcycle Profiling; Texas Gang Database reform; re- classification and registration for Autocycles (they are not motorcycles); Lane Sharing/ Filtering in stopped traffic (signals); and Malfunctioning Red-Lights (over 37 States have Red-Light laws, but not TX). During the weekend events, we were joined by freedom fighters from California, Illinois, New Mexico, Long Island, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Spending time in Austin, trading ideas with like-minded brothers and sisters, and discussing motorcycle legislation with your elected officials is the epitome of being a freedom fighter in Texas! Covid restrictions and all, I would say that this Legislative Weekend was surprisingly productive!

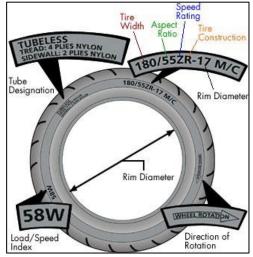
We have less than a month left this legislative session for open bill filing, and with no bill numbers as of yet, indicates we need to shift into a higher gear. This session will require ALL OF US to do our part; it is essential that you know what district you are in, and who your Representative and Senator is. Find out if your rep sits on a committee - and how that seat could possibly help us with motorcycle legislation. Then, contact your Rep and/or your Senator and make an appointment with the office scheduler. At the Capitol, as well as on

## **MAINTENANCE MATTERS** <u>A TIRESOM TIRADE</u> (continued from pg. 2)

Finally, we come to 16. This is the diameter, in inches, of the rim that the tire is designed to fit. Just for fun, this is 46.54 mm. It may be obvious, but if the tire is the wrong diameter it is NOT going to fit on your rim.

The manufacture date is normally in a pill-shaped indentation on the sidewall. An example would be 4520. This tire was manufactured in the 45<sup>th</sup> week of 2020. Like many things, if a tire is stored improperly or is too old you should probably avoid it.

One final marking to discuss is the direction of rotation. On some tires, the direction of rotation does not matter. These days, most of the tires that we mount have a tread pattern that is designed for a specific rotation **direction**. These tires are designed to flow water out of the contact patch (area which maintains contact with the road as it rolls) or for specific grip patterns. There are also tires designed for front or rear installation. Even though your tires on the front and rear of your motorcycle may be the same size they undergo different stresses. Broadly speaking, the front tire is designed for the stresses of steering and braking while the rear is designed for applying power. It is normally a bad idea to put a tire on in the wrong position.



Now, a few comments on the width, aspect ratio, and load index of your tires. Changing the width of your tires typically is not too much of an issue, within reason. The manufacturer of your bike designed it with a multitude of factors considered with regard to the tire width. Most often, folks want to go wider for cosmetic reasons. This is not a problem, but you should consider the changes to the handling of your bike. The other considerations are clearance with fenders and drive systems.

Altering the aspect ratio will also change the handling and will affect the speedometer readings. Handling is tainted because the height of the tire can change the rake angle. If you are into math, you can calculate the speed changes from the engine RPM (revolutions per minute – a measure of rotation frequency), but that is a discussion for another time. For now, let's leave it at this: A taller aspect ratio will make your speedometer read slower than actual travel, while a shorter aspect ratio will read faster. Think of this in terms of more or fewer revolutions of your wheel for a given RPM.

The load index is probably the most important rating for your tire. Load index indicates how much weight and speed your tire can handle. Because we only have two tires the last thing you want is an under-rated tire on your bike. A blowout is NOT a pleasant experience at any speed. The best-case scenario is you have to replace a tire. For anyone who has experienced it, a front-end blowout at any speed is something you would not wish on anyone!

This just scratches the surface of our tire talks. In the future, we will talk about tire pressure, ratings, construction, and wear patterns. For now, ride safe, ride aware, and have fun out there. Blue skies and tailwinds.

Bio: H.B. Wise operates Two Wheel World of Texas in Pantego, TX. He has been a gearhead his whole life and enjoys everything that has a motor and a few things that move but don't have motors.

# MEMBERSHIP

| Total Number of New Members<br>by Chapter & Independents |      |      |  |  |  |
|--|------|------|--|--|--|
| CHAPTER  | DEC  | JAN  |  |  |  |
|  | 2020 | 2021 |  |  |  |
| ARLINGTON  | 0    | 0    |  |  |  |
| DENTON   | 0    | 0    |  |  |  |
| LAKE CITIES  | 1    | 3    |  |  |  |
| TEXOMA   | 2    | 0    |  |  |  |
| INDEPENDENTS   | 0    | 3    |  |  |  |

**2021 American Income Life (AIL) Insurance** mass mailing was sent to all ABATE members on 1/19/21 (envelope notes "Beneficiary Card Enclosed"). **If you have NOT received this mailing, please contact your Chapter Membership Officer** or State Membership Officer (membership@texasabate.com) so a replacement can be sent. It may be that the mailing label came off during transit or maybe you moved and forgot to provide your chapter with a new address.

Chapter Membership Officers – please forward any information received to the State Membership Officer at membership@texasabate.com

## BILL & MANDY'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

There was a real nice group of Texas ABATE who attended this year. Saturday was a nice meet-n-greet with the clubs that sponsored the event. Sunday was the general meeting along with workshops. Although it was a little damp, we learned a lot!

Legislative Day and information obtained only matters if you do something with it!

We met Rachel Malone of Gun Owners of America (GOA) – Defend your right to bear arms – and became members. They are looking to pass a Constitutional Carry Bill.

The Gang Database was discussed and Profiling – we were asked to fill out the profiling survey online.

Drew Springer was also in attendance at the meeting Sunday afternoon. Monday was our first Covid test, we passed!

Meeting with Lynn Stucky – hoping he is on the Transportation Committee. Signed in at Drew Springer's office. A good weekend & Legislative Day!

MANDY TRAPP & BILL KNOX Lake Cities Abate

## TEXAS GANG INTELLIGENCE INDEX (TXGANG)

There are currently seven people throughout the state of Texas that should not be listed, yet they are. Are you included in the Texas Gang Intelligence Index (TXGANG)? If you have been pulled over and had photos taken of your tattoos, your bike, your

clothing: or know of someone who has, please reach out via the TXCOC&I website and complete an incident report <u>https://txcoci.com/incident-report/</u>. They may be able help. Follow this step-by-step guide to request information to find out if you are in

the database. (COC&I has confirmed this request will NOT get you entered into database) 1. Visit: https://www.dps.texas.gov/GeneralCounsel/contact/index.htm

- 2. This takes you to a very simple page, "Public Information Request", with a drop-down box for "Type of Request", scroll to the bottom, and choose "Other"
- 3. Enter name & other contact information, as well as the following description of requested information: *"This request is to determine whether I am listed on the TX Gang or Criminal Intelligence database. If I am listed in the database, I would like to know which agency submitted my name to the database and when it was submitted."*
- 4. Someone from DPS will contact you to confirm your identity as the information cannot be release to anyone but you:
  - a. Complete Name
  - b. Date of Birth
  - c. Race/Sex
  - d. Driver License Number or ID Number
  - e. Relationship to the subject of the record (if not self)
- 5. The response will read one of two ways:
  - "Based on the personal descriptors provided, the Department conducted a search of the TX Gang database on [Date] and found a record matching the identifiers provided in your request below
    OR
  - b. "In response to your request below, the Department conducted a search on the personal descriptors provided within that request. As of [Date], there were no records found within the TX Gang database matching the information provided."

IF YOU HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AS INCLUDED IN THE DATABASE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO <u>TEXASDEFENDERS@TXCOCI.COM</u> Courtesy of TXCOC&I

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## Legislative (continued from pg. 3)

a Zoom call, only one constituent is necessary to make the appointment - and to start a dialog on common-sense motorcycle legislation! It's just that easy. Please contact me if you need help, or if you secure an appointment; together we will develop a game plan. Remember, our motorcycle rights come with responsibilities!

Check your tire pressure often in cold weather, as they will lose pressure - and are dangerous to ride

on! Ride safe – ride free. *&keedaddy* 



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| Medium   | \$ 15.0   |  |   | lexasabate.com  | texasabate.com  |
| Large  | \$ 15.0   |  | Red (R)   | Black (B)   | Royal Blue (RB)   |
| X-Large  | \$ 15.0   |  | FRONT   | BACK  | BACK  |
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| 4-XL   | \$ 20.0   | 200 Distance - 100                             | QUESTIONS   | ??? Call Tina Dodson, Prod  | ucts Officer  |
| 5-XL   | \$ 20.0   | 0 \$ -   | (903)815-029  | 99, and Leave Message or  | Text with your  |
| Add <b>\$5</b> per shirt for   | r postage   | \$ -   | name & pho  | ne # - she will return calls  | as she does not   |
|  | irand Total   | \$ -   | answer calls  | from unrecognized numbe   | ers   |
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| Contact Tina Doo<br>to make pick up<br>Please mail to ac<br>Name:<br>Address:<br>City:<br>State:<br>Phone: ()<br>Email:  | arrangements  |  | irt ) Click<br>In box<br>tinad<br>Enter<br>Click<br>color<br>Perso<br>Make  | p account & login to PayPal.c<br>"Send & Request" (in top blu<br>x below "Send Money", type<br>odson@sbcglobal.net & click<br>"Amount" from "Grand Tota<br>"Add Note" & type TX Abate<br>. quantity AND delivery infor<br>onal Check:<br>e check payable to: Texas Ab-<br>with THIS FORM to: Tina Doo<br>P.O. Bo<br>Pottsbo | ie bar)<br>:<br>k "Next"<br>al" from above<br>Shirt; Include size,<br>mation<br>ate Confederation<br>dson |
| UPCOMING EVENTS<br>03/12-03/14 2021 Oklahoma S.M.I.L.E.<br>04/17 Arlington Bluebonnet Run<br>04/17 Texoma Bean & Taco Run<br>05/01 Arlington Bikers Ball<br>05/08 Lake Cities Poker Tournament   |   |  | Protecting<br>Motorcyclists<br>Rights for<br>over<br>30 Yearsi<br>BLUEBONNI   | h.  |   |
| 05/17-05/18 Biker<br>10/16 22 Ki<br>10/22-10/24 MID-<br>EVERY SUNDAY, 8-10   | s Inside the Be<br>Il Event at Mav<br>SOUTH M.I.L.E | ltwa <u>y</u>                                  | THIS IS A<br>FREE EVENT   | <b>TRAIL RUN</b><br>Saturday, April 17 <sup>th</sup> 2021 at 9<br>Join us for Coffee and Doughnuts<br>VFW 6111, 1200 West Harris RD, An<br>Kickstands up at 10:30AM   | at CYCLISTS   |
| BIKES & COFFEE<br>110 W HICKORY STREET<br>DENTON, TX 76201   |   | The Bluebonnet<br>Enjoy the                    | Please join us as we take a scenic Spring day ride to Ennis,<br>The Bluebonnet Capital of Texas, where we will follow the Bluebonnet Trail.<br>Enjoy the company of old friends and new while riding through<br>picturesque fields of Bluebonnets and Wild Flowers. |   |   |
| News from the Motorcycle<br>Riders Foundation (MRF)  |   | Don't Forge<br>Finish the day<br>For More Info | Don't Forget Your Camera we <u>will</u> stop along the way for Photo's!!<br>Finish the day at with a gathering in Arlington. Maps will be provided.<br>For More Info see <u>www.arlingtonabate.com</u> or call Nick at 817-688-5120<br>cles)                        |   |   |

Late last year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced a rulemaking process for developing a "Framework for Automated Driving System (ADS) Safety." As part of the process, public comments were solicited by NHTSA. The MRF submitted a 6-page formal letter outlining our thoughts on the development, testing, and deployment of ADS.

Building on past submissions to both Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation, the MRF laid out important priorities that NHTSA should consider. Some of the main topics the MRF highlights include the need to account for the unique attributes and characteristics of motorcycles, cyber security concerns, liability provisions, the role of individual *(continued on pg. 7)* 

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| Is this a new membership? Yes No<br>Sponsor's Name:<br>(optional)<br>Sponsor's member number:<br>Do you prefer to be a chapter member?<br>Yes Which chapter?<br>No I would like to be an independent member.<br>Type of Membership:<br>Single-\$20.00 (per person)<br>Life-\$200.00 (per person)<br>Make your check or money order (do not send cash<br>through the mail) payable to Texas ABATE<br>Confederation, Inc. and mail to:<br>Texas ABATE Membership Office<br>P. O. Box 416<br>Lake Dallas, TX 75065   | Texas ABATE Membership Application     Name (1):                                  |
|---|---|
| <b>News from the MRF</b> (continued from pg. 6)   | FOR THE LOVE OF BIKES, BIKERS AND BROTHERHOOD                                     |
| states, the need for public transparency, threats to the<br>protected communication spectrum, and the challenges of<br>of regulations keeping pace with this technology. While ADS<br>has promising potential, the devil will be in the details. How<br>this technology is developed, tested, and deployed will<br>impact all Americans. We at the MRF will continue to fight<br>to ensure motorcyclists are included in these discussions.<br><b>New Members and Committees</b><br>With the election of nearly 70 new lawmakers in the<br>Senate and House, congressional committee membership is<br>directly impacted. While numerous committees can impact<br>our work in Washington, a few specific ones are always at<br>the forefront. Below is a list of lawmakers that will be<br>added to these important committees. Take a look and see<br>if your Representative or Senator is a new member of these<br>committees (now is the time to get involved).<br><b>House Energy and Commerce Committee</b> – Jurisdiction<br>over issues including autonomous vehicles and ethanol:<br>Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX)<br>Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX)<br><b>House Judiciary Committee</b> – Jurisdiction over motorcyclist<br>profiling resolution and potential police reform legislation:<br>Rep. Chip Roy (TX) | <section-header></section-header>   |
| House Transportation and Infrastructure<br>Committee – Jurisdiction over the 2021 highway bill:<br>Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX)<br>Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX)<br>Check Legislative Issues in your state at:<br><u>https://mrf.org/state-legislative-issues-bystate/</u>   | QUOTE OF THE<br>DAY:<br>Socializing all<br>weekend with<br>like-minded<br>Freedom |

Fighters...

**PRICELESS!** 

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#### TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC.

900 Fish Creek Drive Arlington, Texas 76018

Texas Abate Confederation, Inc, is a not-for-profit, motorcycle rights organization. An alliance dedicated to the protection of the individual rights of motorcyclists through political change and awareness, charitable works, public education, and the promotion of motorcycling.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road In Hope of Promoting a Better Relationship with the Public for Motorcycle Awareness.

# **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR "OUT OF TOWNERS"**

California, Illinois, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania



FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN AUSTIN