



NCOM – National Coalition Of Motorcyclists / AIM - Aid for Injured Motorcyclists

AIM / NCOM - Free Legal And Legislative Consultation

Free All Brothers Behind Bars...

Editor: Mike SOS MC Retired...

Gov'ts view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it. - Ronald Reagan (1986)

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Welcome **Phillip** from **North Dakota** to the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter Mailing List...

Happy Birthday (60 years young) **Mongol Grub** on April 26<sup>th</sup>...

Happy Birthday (61 years young) **Warlock Pa Bobby Nauss** on May 10<sup>th</sup>...

Happy Birthday **Devils Dicile Holiday** on May 20<sup>th</sup>...

Happy Birthday **Devils Dicile Fat Dog** on May 22<sup>nd</sup>...



THINGS TO REMEMBER ON MEMORIAL DAY



**Editor's Note:** I would like to Thank **Sons Of Silence Bear** from **Iowa** for his \$ 25.00 donation to this Newsletter...

**Special note:** SOS Bear received this newsletter for many years and is out and doing good... Thank you Brother...

**Editor's Note:** I would like to Thank **Sons Of Silence EZ** from **Iowa** for his donation to this Newsletter...

I just received a \$ 120.00 check from him for \$ 20.00 per month... Thank you Brother....

**Editor's Correction:** Congratulations to **Iron Mustang Irish** on your upcoming release on June 19th...

**Editor's Note:** Currently we are sending over 365 copies of this newsletter to members of **73 Motorcycle Clubs**...

**Editor's Note:** For **March** there were 2 issues, For **April** there was 1 issue, For **May** this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue ...

**Editor's Note:** I would like to Thank my Wife "Kari" for getting these Newsletters ready to be mail...

**Disclaimer:** The News Media does NOT always tell the Whole Truth... It tends to sensationalize the News to Sell Newspapers...

*In Fact, Many Times the News Media gets the Facts Wrong!!!*

**Editor's Note:** It is too hard to keep up with counts, But for your info here are the Clubs that are getting the Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter (**73 Clubs**) in Prison: Avengers, Bandidos, Banshees, Barons, Black Pistons, Boozefighters, BPM, Breed, Brother Speed, Brotherhood Nomads, Brothers Of Wheels, Damned Deacon, D.C. Eagles, Death Squad, Derelicts, Devils Diciples, Diablos, El Forastero, Finks, Fly-In-Wheels, Forsaken Few, Free Souls, Galloping Goose, Ghost Riders, Grim Reapers, Gypsy Joker, Hells Angels, Hells Lovers, Hells Outcasts, Hermanos, Hessians, Hidalgo's, Highwaymen, In Country Vietnam, Iron Coffins, Iron Horsemen, Invaders, Iron Wings, Iron Mustangs, Legion Of Doom, Liberty Riders, Long Riders, Marauder's, Misfits, Mohawk Valley Riders, Mongols, Motopsychoz, Nomads, Outlaws, Pagan's, Peckerwood, Phantom's, Pharoahs, Reapers, Renegades, Sadistics, Satans Soldiers, Scorpions, Set Free Soldiers, Sin City Deciples, Sons of Legion, Sons Of Silence, Sovereign, Sundowners, Thunderbirds, Unforegiven, Vagos, Vietnam Vets / Legacy Vets, Y-Rohirrin, Warlocks Pa, Warlocks, Winos Crew And Wheels Of Soul... With newsletters going to Australia, Canada, England, France, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, & Wales...

**Editor's Note:** In the interest of cost savings, If you can share One copy of this newsletter where I am sending multiple copies to the same institution, please let me know... Thanks, Mike

**Editor's Note:** I produce this National Coalition of Motorcyclists Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter which is a non-partisan newsletter for Bikers by Bikers. Information from the Newsletter contains News Articles & other information that may be of interest to a biker behind bars. Financial support for this Newsletter comes mainly from NCOM, Motorcycle Clubs, And Confederations Of Clubs...

**Editor's Note (For BBB Only):** Being a Patch holder in Good Standings does have it privileges... And this is one of them... If you are a Patch Holder in Good Standings & contact me, include your Chapter too... If you are Not a patch holder of a MC in Good Standings, Don't write me & request that I add you to the mailing list. You will only get rejected, as I only make very few special exceptions.

**News Article Sources:** All News Articles contained in this NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter, unless source is specified, are obtained from the following 3 Web Sites: **Road Scholars**(Wolf From Atlanta), Outlaw Biker World, White Trash News & Becky Cakes...

**Editor's Note (New):** I would like to Thank all of the contacts from all of the Motorcycle Clubs that verify if requesting member is in Good Standing with their Club; & all of the other assistance that you give me, such as address changes, being released, & soliciting donations...

**Inmate Visits Cancelled Till Further Notice...** - May 9, 2013 - **New Jersey** - By Pagan Strube 13 - It has become patently clear that the Military Police & Prison Officials at FCI Ft. Dix, New Jersey continue to be unable to secure the prison from attempts to introduce contraband & the successful introduction of contraband into the prison. As a result of the incompetence & inability of the Military Police to secure the Military Base that surrounds the prison & incompetence & inability of Prison Officials to secure the prison within the base, Prison Officials have resorted to punishing the inmate population by taking away inmate visits, locking down units, reducing recreation times, & denying inmates commissary & other privileges for a problem that the individual

inmates themselves have no control over what-so-ever. Clearly, inmates are being arbitrarily & capriciously punished because of the incompetency of both the Military Police & BOP staff to secure the prison.

Security at FCI Fort Dix is clearly an issue that must be controlled by The Military Police & BOP Security Personnel & not the inmates. What makes this issue even more important to the public is the fact that FCI Ft. Dix is situated inside the United States MDL Joint Military Base with several layers of security fence around the base itself & at least 4 layers security fence with razor wire around the prison. Military Police & BOP Security Personnel patrol the roads & perimeter of the prison 24/7 & have been unable to stop the flow of contraband such as cell phone, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes & who knows what other contraband that has been coming over the fences for several years now. Over the past several years FCI Ft. Dix which is designated as a low security prison has installed at least 4 layers of razor wire laced security fences which has done little to secure the prison from the introduction of contraband.

It is difficult to imagine if the Military Police & BOP Security Personnel are unable to secure the prison, what Prison Officials think arbitrarily & capriciously punishing the entire inmate population will accomplish. How does taking away visits & other privileges from the entire inmate population accomplish anything? What are the expected results of this arbitrary & capricious group punishment for which the majority of the inmate population have no knowledge of & have not participated in what-so ever? What is happening here at FCI Ft. Dix is clearly not the fault of the majority of the inmate population who are being arbitrarily & capriciously punished for the incompetence of the Military Police & BOP Security Personnel who are unable to secure an active Military Base or the Prison within, from the introduction of contraband.

I urge all of you to contact your Congressmen & Senators & tell them that inmates at FCI Ft. Dix are being arbitrarily & capriciously punished because of the total incompetence of the Military Police to secure the United States MDL Joint Base at Fort Dix New Jersey & further, that Prison Officials are unable to secure FCI Ft. Dix, a United States Prison that is inside the Joint Military Base itself. If the Military Police & the Fed Bureau of Prisons is that incompetent that they cannot secure the base from trespassers or the prison from contraband being thrown over the fences, then how safe are we from dedicated terrorists that might breach the Military Base or the Prison itself?

It is my opinion that inmates should not be arbitrarily punished for the incompetence of the Military Police & BOP Security Staff & that those responsible for allowing the Military Base & Fed Prison to be breached should be the ones held accountable for allowing the introduction of contraband onto the Base & into the prison, not the inmates. I am asking all of you to contact your Congressmen, Senators & Local State Representatives & ask them why the Military Police & the Fed Bureau of Prisons are unable to secure FCI Ft. Dix, New Jersey from contraband & why those who continue to allow these serious breaches of security aren't being held accountable. Thank You!

**While shopping** for vacation clothes, my husband & I passed a display of bathing suits. It had been at least ten years & twenty pounds since I had even considered buying a bathing suit, so I sought my husband's advice. 'What do you think?' I asked. 'Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?' 'Better get a bikini,' he replied. 'You'd never get it all in one!

**Some riders prefer to be ‘educated not legislated’** – May 4, 2013 – *Wisconsin* – By Suzanne Weiss; [www.GreenBayPressGazette.com](http://www.GreenBayPressGazette.com) - Two Manitowoc County men belong to the same MC. They don't agree about wearing a motorcycle helmet, but they do agree that it should be a personal choice, not a law. "I'm one of the few member who does wear a helmet more frequently," said Tom Grotegut of Newton, a member of the Ant Hill Mob, which boasts more than 100 members. "I think everybody should have a choice. I don't think the Gov't should mandate what we do or do not do. My personal choice is to wear a helmet for safety & comfort." Grotegut finds the helmet cuts down on wind noise & makes it easier for him to hear. "And I have Bluetooth in my helmet so I can answer my phone while I'm on the road," he said with a laugh. "I do occasionally ride without a helmet but it's on an extremely warm day & usually on a short ride," said Grotegut, who put on more than 14,000 miles on his motorcycle last year. "I believe it should be your choice," said Jerry "Fuzzy" Bellin of Whitelaw, vice president of the Ant Mill Mob MC, who chooses not to wear a helmet. "Driving down the road with the wind in your hair is nice." He added, "We have members who wear helmets & we don't harass them or anything. It's your choice." Bellin also is a member of a motorcycle rights group called ABATE, short for A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments. "I've been a member of that for a long, long time. We pretty much believe that you should be educated & not legislated," he said. Bellin did say he thought it was a good idea for people who are learning or for minors to wear helmets.

**Helmets offer protection:** Manitowoc County Coroner Curtis Green has seen firsthand what happens to the human head when not protected by a helmet. "I'm 100 percent for motorcycle helmets. Helmets save lives, there's no doubt about that .... We need helmet laws for motorcyclists," he said. He was basing his opinion on his 3 decades of experience as an emergency medical technician & paramedic & his 7 years as coroner. "There are too many people who die of just head injuries. I've just seen too many motorcycle accidents, four-wheeler accidents, snowmobile accidents & bicycle accidents where they weren't wearing helmets," Green said. "If they would have been wearing a helmet, they likely wouldn't have had the head injuries."

**Not all accidents result in death:** "For everyone who dies of a head injury in a motorcycle accident, there are going to be 8 to 10 people who have long-term effects from head injuries from not wearing helmets," Green said. He compared helmets to safety devices such as seat belts & children's car seats. Green said that not only do helmets save lives, but they can save the community money in insurance premiums & long-term medical care. "I see accidents of all sort all of the time, including motorcycle accidents," Dr. Todd Nelson, medical director for emergency & trauma services at Holy Family Memorial & a flight physician for the University of Wisconsin Hospital & Clinics. "My opinion is that helmets do protect people ... protecting from even the most minor of falls." But does he think helmets should be mandatory? "My opinion is, that in America, we all have our own right to decide," he said. "I'm all about giving people freedom of choice but they have to be responsible. If people want to have the choice, they also have to accept the responsibility to bear the cost of the medical care that's associated with a bad head injury following an accident where a helmet wasn't used." "I'm a motorcycle rider," said Lt. Mark Schroeder, in charge of motorcycle patrol for the Manitowoc P.D. "I ride to work every day. I wear a helmet. I think it's safer. All our guys wear helmets. We are not allowed to operate our motorcycles without helmets."

Of all the accidents he has responded to, some of the minor motorcycle accidents "turned out to be more severe than they had to be because of the lack of a helmet," he said. While the Dept does not have an official stance on this politicized issue, said Police Chief Oscar "Tony" Dick, he encourages every motorcyclist to wear a helmet. "Defensive driving isn't enough. You have to protect your most important organ," he said.

**BB&K Police Chief Bulletin: "Two-Step" Interrogation - Intentionally Delayed Miranda Warnings Yield Inadmissible Evidence** – May 6, 2013 – U.S.A. – By Paul A. Cappitelli & G. Ross Trindle III; [www.JDSupra.com](http://www.JDSupra.com) - *Overview:* The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently reversed a drug conviction in a case where FBI agents deliberately delayed Miranda warnings to induce the defendant's confession. The court found that the agents had engaged in a custodial interrogation, intentionally delaying Miranda warnings to induce the defendant's cooperation in the investigation. Using a "two-step" tactic, the agent purposely gave "mid-stream" warnings after the defendant incriminated himself. The court concluded that the line of inquiry inevitably led to a harmful admission that was central to the conviction & should have been suppressed because of the lack of Miranda warnings.

*Training Points:* This case illustrates the importance of prompt issuance of Miranda warnings prior to conducting a custodial interrogation. Despite several rulings over the years with various interpretations of Miranda, one element has remained consistent: the interrogation environment. The location & setting where an interrogation takes place has a significant impact on whether a reasonable person in the same situation would believe that he/she is free to leave, and, therefore, whether they are in custody for purposes of Miranda. Since courts can take into consideration a number of factors to make a custodial interrogation determination, it usually is best to give the Miranda warnings at the start of questioning to protect the integrity of any information provided by the suspect without concern for whether that information may be used later. The use of false pretenses is risky as the information obtained may be subject to suppression down the road if the court determines that Miranda warnings should have been given.

*Summary Analysis:* In U.S. v. Barnes, FBI agents were investigating an alleged drug trafficker. In a recorded phone call, an informant arranged to obtain illegal drugs from Michael D. Barnes. The FBI agents did not witness the deal, but the informant gave them a package allegedly received from Barnes & Barnes was indicted on drug charges. A few months later, the agents had Barnes' parole officer schedule a meeting at which Barnes was required to appear. Rather than the routine check in the lobby, Barnes was searched & escorted through a locked door into the building. There, the agents questioned Barnes for 2 hours. Before reading his Miranda rights, the agents played the recorded phone call with the informant & said they knew of his role in a larger drug distribution chain. The court found that this closed-door meeting with 3 officers created a custodial interrogation in which a reasonable person would not have felt free to leave. Further, the agents deliberately waited to give Barnes warnings so that he would "continue talking" about his role in the trafficking. The court said that Miranda warnings were required before, not after, Barnes admitted guilt. The "two steps" yielded evidence necessary to charge another suspect, but should not have been used against Barnes at trial.

**The ultimate result** of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools... - Herbert Spencer, English Philosopher (1820-1903)

## **Are all telephone calls recorded & accessible to the US Gov't?**

– May 4, 2013 – U.S.A. – By Glenn Greenwald; [www.Guardian.co.uk](http://www.Guardian.co.uk) - A former FBI counterterrorism agent claims on CNN that this is the case... The real capabilities & behavior of the US surveillance state are almost entirely unknown to the American public because, like most things of significance done by the US Gov't, it operates behind an impenetrable wall of secrecy. But a seemingly spontaneous admission this week by a former FBI counterterrorism agent provides a rather startling acknowledgment of just how vast & invasive these surveillance activities are. Over the past couple days, cable news tabloid shows such as CNN's Out Front with Erin Burnett have been excitingly focused on the possible involvement in the Boston Marathon attack of Katherine Russell, the 24-year-old American widow of the deceased suspect, Tamerlan Tsarnaev. As part of their relentless stream of leaks uncritically disseminated by our Adversarial Press Corps, anonymous Gov't officials are claiming that they are now focused on telephone calls between Russell & Tsarnaev that took place both before & after the attack to determine if she had prior knowledge of the plot or participated in any way. On Wed night, Burnett interviewed Tim Clemente, a former FBI counterterrorism agent, about whether the FBI would be able to discover the contents of past telephone conversations between the two. He quite clearly insisted that they could:

*Burnett:* Tim, is there any way, obviously, there is a voice mail they can try to get the phone companies to give that up at this point. It's not a voice mail. It's just a conversation. There's no way they actually can find out what happened, right, unless she tells them? *Clemente:* "No, there is a way. We certainly have ways in Nat'l security investigations to find out exactly what was said in that conversation. It's not necessarily something that the FBI is going to want to present in court, but it may help lead the investigation and/or lead to questioning of her. We certainly can find that out." *Burnett:* "So they can actually get that? People are saying, look, that is incredible." *Clemente:* "No, welcome to America. All of that stuff is being captured as we speak whether we know it or like it or not." "All of that stuff" - meaning every telephone conversation Americans have with one another on US soil, with or without a search warrant - "is being captured as we speak". On Thu night, Clemente again appeared on CNN, this time with host Carol Costello, & she asked him about those remarks. He reiterated what he said the night before but added expressly that "all digital communications in the past" are recorded & stored: Let's repeat that last part: "no digital communication is secure", by which he means not that any communication is susceptible to Gov't interception as it happens (although that is true), but far beyond that: all digital communications - meaning telephone calls, emails, online chats & the like - are automatically recorded & stored & accessible to the Gov't after the fact. To describe that is to define what a ubiquitous, limitless Surveillance State is.

*There have been some previous indications* that this is true. Former AT&T engineer Mark Klein revealed that AT&T & other telecoms had built a special network that allowed the Nat'l Security Agency full & unfettered access to data about the telephone calls & the content of email communications for all of their customers. Specifically, Klein explained "that the NSA set up a system that vacuumed up Internet & phone-call data from ordinary Americans with the cooperation of AT&T" & that "contrary to the Gov't's depiction of its surveillance program as aimed at overseas terrorists . . . much of the data sent through AT&T to the NSA was purely domestic." But his amazing revelations were mostly ignored and, when Congress retroactively

immunized the nation's telecom giants for their participation in the illegal Bush spying programs, Klein's claims (by design) were prevented from being adjudicated in court.

*That every single telephone call is recorded & stored* would also explain this extraordinary revelation by the Washington Post in 2010: Every day, collection systems at the Nat'l Security Agency intercept & store 1.7 billion e-mails, phone calls & other types of communications. It would also help explain the revelations of former NSA official William Binney, who resigned from the agency in protest over its systemic spying on the domestic communications of US citizens, that the US Gov't has "assembled on the order of 20 trillion transactions about US citizens with other US citizens" (which counts only communications transactions & not financial & other transactions), & that "the data that's being assembled is about everybody. And from that data, then they can target anyone they want." Despite the extreme secrecy behind which these surveillance programs operate, there have been periodic reports of serious abuse. Two Democratic Senators, Ron Wyden & Mark Udall, have been warning for years that Americans would be "stunned" to learn what the US Gov't is doing in terms of secret surveillance.

*Strangely, back in 2002* - when hysteria over the 9/11 attacks (and thus acquiescence to Gov't power) was at its peak - the Pentagon's attempt to implement what it called the "Total Information Awareness" program (TIA) sparked so much public controversy that it had to be official scrapped. But it has been incrementally re-instituted - without the creepy (though honest) name & all-seeing-eye logo - with little controversy or even notice. Back in 2010, worldwide controversy erupted when the Gov'ts of Saudi Arabia & the United Arab Emirates banned the use of Blackberries because some communications were inaccessible to Gov't intelligence agencies, & that could not be tolerated. The Obama administration condemned this move on the ground that it threatened core freedoms, only to turn around 6 weeks later & demand that all forms of digital communications allow the US Gov't backdoor access to intercept them. Put another way, the US Gov't embraced exactly the same rationale invoked by the UAE & Saudi agencies: that no communications can be off limits. Indeed, the UAE, when responding to condemnations from the Obama administration, noted that it was simply doing exactly that which the US Gov't does: "In fact, the UAE is exercising its sovereign right & is asking for exactly the same regulatory compliance - & with the same principles of judicial & regulatory oversight - that Blackberry grants the US & other Gov'ts & nothing more," [UAE Ambassador to the US Yusef Al] Otaiba said. 'Importantly, the UAE requires the same compliance as the US for the very same reasons: to protect national security & to assist in law enforcement.'

*That no human communications* can be allowed to take place without the scrutinizing eye of the US Gov't is indeed the animating principle of the US Surveillance State. Still, this revelation, made in passing on CNN, that every single telephone call made by & among Americans is recorded & stored is something which most people undoubtedly do not know, even if the small group of people who focus on surveillance issues believed it to be true (clearly, both Burnett & Costello were shocked to hear this). Some new polling suggests that Americans, even after the Boston attack, are growing increasingly concerned about erosions of civil liberties in the name of Terrorism. Even those people who claim it does not matter instinctively understand the value of personal privacy: they put locks on their bedroom doors & vigilantly safeguard their email

passwords. That's why the US Gov't so desperately maintains a wall of secrecy around their surveillance capabilities: because they fear that people will find their behavior unacceptably intrusive & threatening, as they did even back in 2002 when John Poindexter's TIA was unveiled. Mass surveillance is the hallmark of a tyrannical political culture. But whatever one's views on that, the more that is known about what the US Gov't & its surveillance agencies are doing, the better. This admission by this former FBI agent on CNN gives a very good sense for just how limitless these activities are.

**DOJ Validates FAMM Criticism of Compassionate Release Program** – May 6, 2013 - U.S.A. - By FAMM; [www.famm.org](http://www.famm.org) - Our unwavering effort to put compassion back in the Bureau of Prisons' compassionate release program is gaining steam. Last Nov, we worked with Human Rights Watch to expose the failure of the BOP to administer the compassionate release program as Congress intended. Our investigative report, The Answer is No: Too Little Compassionate Release in US Fed Prisons, revealed that the BOP only recommends 2 dozen cases for early release a year. We heard from many prisoners about the struggles they had with compassionate release & some of their stories made it into our report. Last week, we received confirmation that none other than the Inspector General of Justice Dept, who oversees the BOP, shares our concerns. On Thursday, this independent watchdog released its own investigative report. It concluded that the BOP "does not properly manage" the program, "resulting in inmates who may be eligible candidates for release not being considered." Citing "multiple failures" that lead to "ad-hoc" decision-making, the report echoes many of the criticisms first raised by FAMM & HRW. Of all the report's disturbing findings, perhaps the most stunning & sickening was the discovery that "approximately 13 percent (28 of 208) of the inmates whose release requests had been approved by a Warden & Regional Director died before their requests were decided by the BOP Director." We know countless more, wrongfully denied by prison staff, die trying to make someone listen. "Countless" because, as the IG & FAMM pointed out, the BOP does not keep track of all compassionate release requests. The Associated Press (AP) looked to FAMM Vice President & General Counsel Mary Price, co-author of the FAMM-HRW report, for her reaction to the new investigation. Mary didn't mince words. She said the compassionate release program, as currently run, "is both cruel & inefficient" & that the DOJ watchdog's report "should be a wake-up call" for the BOP. Today, the editors of The New York Times joined the call for reform. In an editorial titled "In Place of Compassion, Cruelty," the editors cited the FAMM-HRW report as they urged Congress to "conduct a hearing that would put the Dept & the bureau on public record about what they are doing to properly fulfill their duty under the law & to hold them accountable." Rest assured FAMM will keep fighting for improvements to the compassionate release program. As always, we are grateful to the FAMM members who shared their stories with us. We will stay in touch as the battle for simple compassion continues. Sincerely, Julie Stewart; Pres

**Local Cops Worry Biker Turf War Is Heating Up** – May 6, 2013 – Ohio – By [www.Local12.com](http://www.Local12.com) - For the last few years Cincinnati has been at the center of a simmering turf war between at least 2 rival MCs. The Iron Horsemen have been here since the mid 1960's but about 2 years ago another club-the Detroit Highwaymen-came into the area & set up shop. There have been a number of skirmishes between the 2 groups & Local News 12 has learned the latest came this past weekend in Norwood. Reporter Rich Jaffe says that in the biker world there are some

things you just don't do...and there are places that have always been considered neutral turf...places where families & kids could get hurt. One of those events is a biker funeral, another one is an event the picnic like Spring Fling at a Harley dealer. A lot of people are concerned because Sat a group of Horsemen crossed the line. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the parking lot at Harley of Cincinnati was full of families & bikers. There were drinks, food, t-shirts & motorcycles. Police say a group of about a dozen Iron Horsemen rolled up & quickly attacked their rivals the Detroit Highwaymen. "The suspect that got arrested, Mr Lawhorn came up from behind the victim...kicked him, knocked him down & the fight was on. He took him down to the ground. Several of the other horsemen jumped on top of him & as the officers approached they started scattering & the other subject Jesse Carter was arrested for obstructing & resisting arrest." Two Cincinnati men, Greg Lawhorn & Jesse Carter were arrested by Norwood police. The worry is these 2 men may have just lit a long smoldering fuse. In Sept of 2010 an Iron Horseman named Harold Seavey was killed at a Westside bar during a gunfight with Cincinnati Police. That bar was in the Detroit Highwaymen's backyard. A month later 9 Highwaymen were arrested after attacking 2 Horsemen in a Clermont County bar. While there have been minor retaliation issues since, this is the first major assault. Since the attack on Sat, verbal challenges & threats have been growing on some local "chat" websites. Law enforcement is attempting to keep a close eye on the groups but the real concern is that growing tensions could draw additional biker reinforcements into the community & the violence could be getting ready to spread. "Any time you see a group of 15 or 20 motorcycles coming through & they're wearing colors you're gonna be aware, watching, seeing what they're doing." According to law enforcement members of these 2 groups have been knocking each other off their bikes in the area for the last few weeks. The real warning flag will come if we start seeing a bunch of bikers from other cities riding around on these streets. Harley of Cincinnati routinely has off duty police officers working at their events & they did this weekend. But even with that, the attack happened so quickly they were unable to prevent it.

**Ghost Rider Nomad Nazi John** – May 7, 2013 – Washington – By Amy Clancy; [www.KIRO7News.com](http://www.KIRO7News.com) - An argument over a motorcycle turned to murder, & 9 years later, detectives thought they might have finally solved the mystery of where the body was hidden after photos of a human skeleton were sent to a prison inmate. John Price is in a Washington state prison serving time for murder. Last month, he was mailed a letter with pictures of a skeleton investigators thought might have been the remains of his long-gone victim. After years of legal wrangling, Price, known as "Nazi John" to his fellow Ghost Rider motorcycle gang members, pleaded guilty in 2012 to murdering Donald Jessup, the former president of the Gypsy Jokers motorcycle gang in Dec of 2004. According to documents, the conviction was a "no body homicide" case because Jessup's remains were never found. And Price told investigators he "got rid of the body & nobody was going to find it." Then, just last month, workers at the Stafford Creek prison in Aberdeen intercepted an envelope sent to Price. Inside it was a letter & photos. The first photo depicted an upright skeleton in a wooden coffin. The second was a close-up of the skull, with damage to the teeth "consistent with a handgun gunshot wound to the mouth," documents said. Price admitted years ago that he shot Jessup in the mouth, so investigators with the King County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant at a Port Orchard home because its address was on the envelope sent to the prison. The home belongs to convicted felon, Anthony Flinn. Inside the home, investigators found skeletal remains, a handgun,

a camera & photos, but on Wed investigators said the skeleton is not Jessup's, but the remains are human. Police said they don't know why Flinn sent the pictures to Price. KIRO 7 Eyewitness News reporter Amy Clancy tried to find out, too, but no one answered the door at Flinn's home, nor picked up the phone when she called. The King County Sheriff's Office said it might investigate Flinn for the unlawful disposal of human remains, depending on what the Medical Examiner's Office finds when it examines the skeleton. Meanwhile, it's still a mystery what happened to the body of Donald Jessup.

**FBI may be reading emails without a warrant** – May 8, 2013 – U.S.A. – By Suzanne Choney; [www.NBCnews.com](http://www.NBCnews.com) - The FBI & some U.S. Attorneys' offices around the country may be reading emails without a warrant, according to documents obtained by the ACLU & made public Wed. The documents "paint a troubling picture of the Gov't's email surveillance practices," wrote Nathan Freed Wessler, attorney with the ACLU's Speech, Privacy & Technology Project, in a blog posting. "Not only does the FBI claim it can read emails & other electronic communications without a warrant — even after a Fed appeals court ruled that doing so violates the Fourth Amendment — but the documents strongly suggest that different U.S. Attorneys' offices around the country are applying conflicting standards to access communications content," he wrote. The Fourth Amendment protects citizens against unreasonable searches & seizures. "The documents we received from the FBI don't flat out tell us whether FBI agents always get warrants, but they strongly suggest that they don't." The ACLU obtained documents from the FBI & U.S. Attorneys' offices via Fed Freedom of Information Act requests. The FBI told NBC News, via an emailed statement, that in "all investigations, the FBI obtains evidence in accordance with the laws & Constitution of the United States, & consistent with Attorney General guidelines." The bureau's field offices "work closely with U.S. Attorney's Office to adhere to the legal requirements of their particular districts as set forth in case law or court decisions/precedent." NBC News also contacted the Dept of Justice for comment, & will update this post when we hear back. Last month, the ACLU shared IRS Criminal Tax Division memos & manuals which indicated the agency is not always following a 2010 appellate court ruling that the Gov't must obtain a warrant before ordering email providers to turn over messages. That information also was obtained through a FOIA request. In a statement to NBC News then, the IRS did not directly address the ACLU's concerns, but did say "Respecting taxpayer rights & taxpayer privacy are cornerstone principles for the IRS. Our job is to administer the nation's tax laws, & we do so in a way that follows the law & treats taxpayers with respect." The ACLU said the FBI & U.S. Attorneys' Office documents show "if nothing else" that "Fed policy around access to the contents of our electronic communications is in a state of chaos. The FBI, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, & DOJ Criminal Division should clarify whether they believe warrants are required across the board when accessing people's email." The civil liberties organization is also pushing for passage of amendments to the Fed Electronics Communication Privacy Act. The act was passed in 1986, before email & the Internet became part of everyday life. The law, as now written, does not require the Gov't to have a search warrant when requesting access to emails & messages more than 180 days old that are stored online. Such information can be gathered by obtaining a subpoena, which is easier to get than a warrant. A bill by Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont — who authored the original ECPA bill 27 years ago — would update the law by requiring a search warrant if the Gov't wants to read emails stored with third-party providers, such as Google or

Yahoo. It would also eliminate the 180-day rule & require the Gov't to notify a person whose emails or other electronic communications have been disclosed, within 10 days of obtaining a search warrant. The bill is making its way through the Senate. "When ECPA was enacted, email was primarily a means of communicating information, not storing it," Leahy said in a statement. "Today, we use our email accounts as digital filing cabinets, where we store many of the personal documents & sensitive information that the Fourth Amendment was meant to protect. This bill takes an essential step toward ensuring that the private life of Americans remains private."

**Ten Indicted in Operation Black Widow** - May 9, 2013 – *South Dakota* – By Ace Crawford; [www.ATF.gov](http://www.ATF.gov) - United States Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced today that ten individuals have been arrested & indicted in Fed court as a result of an investigation by the ATF. Operation Black Widow has been a multi-year investigation & has resulted in the following indictments: Sean Jason Romanjenko, 39, of Deadwood: Charged with Felon in Possession of Firearm. If convicted, Romanjenko could face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. Tracy Kay Voss, 31, of Watertown: Charged with Making False Statements in the Acquisition of Firearms. If convicted, Voss could face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. Todd Karl Bramer, 46, of Watertown: Charged with Possession of Firearms by a Prohibited Person. If convicted, Bramer could face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. Robert Gray Graham, 72, of Watertown: Charged with Wire Fraud. If convicted, Graham could face a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison, a \$1 million fine, or both. Eric Allen Block, 37, of Watertown: Charged with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. Patricio Rodriguez Pena, 55, of Sioux Falls: Charged with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. Robin Lee Engel, 41, of Watertown: Charged with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. Christopher McDaniel Schmidt, 39, of Watertown: Charged with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. Richard Donald Ruml, 42, of Watertown: Charged with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. Chad Everic Haight, 40, of Watertown: Charged with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. If convicted, Block, Pena, Engel, Schmidt, Ruml, & Haight could face a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison, maximum life, a \$10 million fine, or both. "Operation Black Widow is an extensive criminal investigation into a wide variety of alleged criminal activity, including illegal gun & drug trafficking. The Operation is led by the ATF with significant assistance from other law enforcement agencies including the Watertown Police Department, the Codington County Sheriff, the SD Division of Criminal Investigation, & the Drug Enforcement Administration," said U.S. Attorney Johnson. Special Agent in Charge Scott Sweetow of the ATF St. Paul Field Division added, "This ongoing proactive investigation has resulted in the arrest of several individuals who have allegedly violated numerous Fed & state laws, including violent crimes, in the state of South Dakota. ATF will continue to pursue those who pose a danger to our community." The charges contained in the indictments are merely accusations, & all of the individuals named are presumed innocent unless & until they are proven guilty. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Haak. Pena, Block, Haight, & Romanjenko were detained. All other defendants were released on conditions.

**When Life Becomes Too Hard To Stand... K !**

**Camp Friendship Bike Show** – May 8, 2013 – *Minnesota* – By ABATE of Minnesota; [www.AbateMN.org](http://www.AbateMN.org) - Lots of things to do & plan this summer; but the Lake Chapter Camp Friendship Bike Show is something not to be missed. This event does not cost the chapter anything, nor is there a cost to participate; but the benefits are priceless. Please join us on Tuesday, June 18th; as we proudly display our bikes at Camp Friendship in Annandale for the campers. We offer them a chance to be up close & personal with our mystique. The campers love this event & look forward to it. If you have been there before or this is your first time, it's something you will never forget. A group ride will leave Strugis Park in Buffalo at 5:30, or you can meet us at the camp.

**Motorcycle Only Checkpoint Bill Introduced in the US House of Representatives** – May 9, 2013 – *USA* – By MRF on ABATE of Minnesota; [www.AbateMN.org](http://www.AbateMN.org) - The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) reports that Congressman James Sensenbrenner (Wisconsin) filed a bill on Tuesday, May 7th to prohibit the Fed funding of motorcycle only roadside checkpoints. The bill, H.R. 1861, has 9 original co-sponsors however, we need many more to pass this landmark legislation. Sensenbrenner had this to say in a 'Dear Colleague letter' that is circulating in the House of Representatives; 'In the 112th Congress, I introduced H.R. 904, a bill to prohibit the Dept of Transportation from providing funds to state & local authorities for the purpose of creating motorcycle only checkpoints. Section one of the Stop Motorcycle Checkpoint Funding Act contains the same language as H.R. 904. However, this bill also contains language to force the DOT to focus motorcycle safety efforts on crash prevention programs, not national helmet mandates.' The bill was officially introduced on May 7th. It's important to contact your sitting member of the House of Representatives & ask them to be a co-sponsor of this important legislation. Ask them to contact Congressman James Sensenbrenner & lend their support as co-sponsor of H.R. 1861.

**The State Should Apologize** - May 9, 2013 – *South Carolina* - By The Aging Rebel; [www.AgingRebel.com](http://www.AgingRebel.com) - A news story published yesterday in the Columbia, South Carolina State raises ethical questions about the incestuous relationship between journalists & official sources. You can read that story, written by Andrew Dys here. Essentially, journalism has 2 components, one artistic & the other mundane. The mundane component involves collecting & brokering information obtained from public documents & human sources. Ideally, a reporter will find a story to tell in the information he has collected & then tell it cogently. Dys is a cogent writer but his statements are often so wrong that the State does a disservice to the people of South Carolina by publishing them.

**The State's Story:** Dys & the State newspaper have lied to their readers & the lies are so careless & misleading that at least some of them must be answered. In his lead, or as journalists usually write it "lede," Dys states that 5 "bikers connected to the Rock Hill Hells Angels" will be sentenced today. In fact, 2 people were to be sentenced today & one of them was a woman accused of delivering 50 legally obtained Percocet pills to a paid FBI informant & agent provocateur named Joseph Dillulio. The transaction was illegal & the woman, named Johanna Looper, would never have profited from it except by subterfuge. Dillulio engaged Looper in conversation after she made the delivery. He asked how she was. Looper who was indigent & desperate replied honestly & Dillulio presented her with a gift of \$40. On that basis, Looper was charged with narcotics conspiracy, a crime which carries a penalty of 20 years in prison. In January, Looper threw

herself at the mercy of the court & pled guilty. Fed justice is so blatantly unfair that about 92% of all Fed prisoners plead guilty to something whether they are factually innocent or not. Looper pled guilty because the United States no longer has an adversarial system of justice but rather an administrative system of justice in which the key question is not about guilt or innocence but about how to speed accused persons to prison in the most efficient manner. Cooperative defendants always fare better in the Fed courts that uncooperative defendants who insist on their innocence. In the words of David O. Carter, a former Marine & a U.S. District judge in Orange County, California, "If the people knew what goes on here (in Fed court) they would burn the courthouse down." The State couldn't find news in that. Dys then wrote, "The Hells Angels were a gang, Fed prosecutors proved at trial earlier this year in U.S. District Court in Columbia. A gang that was no different than black or Hispanic street gangs, the Mafia gangs of Italian whites, that police & courts in America repeatedly prove maim & kill & sell drugs & intimidate those who try to stop them, prosecutors argued." In fact, no such thing was proven even after 5 of the defendants insisted on a trial.

**Plyler:** After a month-long trial, one of the defendants, named Thomas Plyler, was found not guilty. Plyler beat the odds. About 90 percent of all Fed defendants who insist on a trial are convicted anyway. The conviction rate in Fed court exceeds 99 percent for 3 reasons. First, prosecutors play pernicious games in Fed court including the hiding of evidence of actual innocence & strategies that include "evidence dumps." A legal scholar named Bennett L. Gershman writing in the Case Western Reserve Law Review probably coined the term "Games Prosecutors Play" to describe the entrapments, "sentence entrapments" & discovery strategies that prosecutors usually describe as "stings." One Fed prosecutor in Los Angeles in another MC case memorialized the term "guerilla street theater" as an alternative to sting. An attorney named Andrew Carlon writing in the Virginia Law Review described what goes on in Fed courts as a manifestation of "The Sadistic State." It is, Carlon wrote, "a system where...incentives & motives have short circuited: The emergence, irreducible to its individual components, of a state run amok. It is a state that has decided that, since its unique function is the power to punish, it must pursue punishment as an intrinsic good, independent of desert (or, indeed, of the other, more consequentialist aims of punishment), transforming itself into a 'punishment machine.' But as we have seen, punishment without desert reduces to sadism. We get the 'sadistic state,' which wields power, most fully realized through the infliction of pain, as an end in itself, the human beings in its power merely means to that awful end." One of the most sadistic facets of this case, which was originally titled U.S. versus Daniel Bifield et al., was a strategy of blackmailing defendants into plea deals by criminally charging their significant others. Two wives (Somying Anderson & Lisa Bifield) & one girlfriend (Looper) were charged with participating in what Dys thinks was a Hells Angel conspiracy. Charges were dropped against Anderson just before the beginning of trial because the case against her was always nonexistent. After the prosecution rested in the trial, Judge Cameron McGowan Currie dismissed all charges against Looper's boyfriend, Donald Boersma. But the strategy did work on the lead defendant, Daniel Bifield, who pled guilty last December 27th in order to spare the woman who is clearly the love of his life. "I fell on my sword & did the right thing" the romantic Bifield said. It did not work. Mrs. Bifield still faces at least 7 years & up to life in prison. Dan Bifield thought he had been double-crossed & attempted to renounce his plea agreement. He failed because it is a particularly decadent agreement. In that document Bifield waived "the right to contest

either the conviction or the sentence in any direct appeal or other post-conviction action.” It was, in short, a pact with the devil signed in blood. Bifield also “agreed” to frustrate the sort of work Dys should be doing. He waived “all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any Dept or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including without limitation any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act....”

**RICO:** Dys also misrepresents the Fed statue that allows defendants accused of state crimes to be charged with Fed crimes that carry penalties that are ten to twenty times more severe than those in state court – RICO. The Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations law was the centerpiece of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970. It was written by a Senatorial aide named G. Robert Blakey, who is now the William & Dorothy O’Neill Professor of Law at Notre Dame. And, it is named for the fictional character Rico “Little Caesar” Bandello who was inhabited on film by Edward G. Robinson. Robinson’s Rico character, in turn, was a parody of Alphonse Gabriel “Scarface” Capone. Shortly before he went to jail for tax evasion, Capone tried to get out of rum running & into the milk business. RICO was intended to prevent future gangsters from using criminal funds to infiltrate legitimate “enterprises.” The original intent of RICO was lost when the Supreme Court redefined the meaning of the term “criminal enterprise” in a case titled United States versus Turkette. After Turkette, enterprise no longer meant a bar, bowling alley or dairy that had been corrupted by a “mob.” Turkette changed the meaning of ‘criminal enterprise’ to any group of 3 or more people who among them committed 2 or more crimes in the previous decade. The Columbia Law Review excoriated the decision for creating “the crime of being a criminal.” Practically, the redefined RICO allowed Fed prosecutors to Fedize any crime. Dys tells the State’s readers that RICO is “used to prosecute the worst criminals. Sentences for RICO require the razing of forests of trees to print all the pages of numbers of years in a prison” & he quotes a former prosecutor named Miller Shealy who says, “RICO is what people remember is used in Mafia trials. RICO is the huge hammer for the prosecution. RICO is about the worst punishment there is.” Dys’ recounting of whatever Shealy actually said is both dissembling & perjorative. Dys goes on to claim that “prosecutors proved the case against 15 of 20 Hells Angels members & associates” which is also inaccurate. What prosecutor Julius Richardson did was convince a majority of the defendants to sign plea & sentencing agreements which is entirely different than proving guilt. Coerced confessions in plea deals are considered heresy.

**Journalism And Propaganda:** Dys work on this case represents the seedy underside of reporting in the autumn of print journalism. Fed cases like Bifield are increasingly secretive. Prosecutors hide great chunks of cases in order to gain a competitive advantage over defendants & to frustrate the press from telling citizens “what goes on here” lest citizens “burn the courthouse down.” Consequently reporters often depend on police & court house sources to tell them what the story is. There is no getting around that for most of what is still left of the working press. Unscrupulous prosecutors can simply refuse to talk to reporters who don’t cooperate. So gutless reporters, as opposed to Woodward & Bernstein, cooperate & keep their jobs. The State should not be condemned because it is gutless. Nobody expects the State to be the Washington Post. However, even gutless reporters can remain cynical & skeptical in their hearts. Even today, there is a bright & clear line between collaborating with

injustice & cheerleading for it. That is the line Dys & the State have crossed. Twice in the last month Dys has vilified defendants in this case. On April 15th Dys wrote: “The Hells Angels must have forgotten the page in the codebook that says the United States Gov’t does not allow selling methamphetamine, cocaine & assault rifles to be used in crimes, money laundering & ongoing criminal enterprise kept alive by intimidation & fear.” Dys seems to assume that “the Hells Angels” MC was on trial because, he also seems to assume, members of that club are all soulless thugs rather than fellow passengers on the sinking American boat. The prosecution tried to promote that fiction but that was not what the Bifield case was about. The case was about spending millions of dollars to entice innocent people to break the law on hidden camera – like Candid Camera in hell. About the lead defendant, Dys wrote: “He did not say whether he approved of himself, his associates & other outlaw bikers selling narcotics & guns that end up in the hands of school kids who get shot or turn into junkies or go to prison later as dope dealers.” It is completely untrue that the Hells Angels as a group or the defendants in this case are responsible for the death or corruption of school children & it is irresponsible to say so. Dys also says: “It was proved in court: Rock Hill Hells Angels & associates sold drugs & guns & laundered money as part of a crime ring that reached as far as New England, with leadership of the group getting kickbacks from all the criminal activity.” None of that was proven at trial. The “crime ring” to which Dys refers was a fairy tale. In yesterday’s story Dys claims “the final outcome” of the case was what “the public demanded & prosecutors delivered.” The final outcome of this corrupt & completely invented case was that people still don’t know what goes on in Fed court. Dys is not a journalist. He is a propagandist. The State should apologize to its readers & reconsider its coverage of the case.

**8 arrested for drug, gun trafficking in Watertown** - May 10, 2013 - *South Dakota* - By KSFY News; [www.KSFY.com](http://www.KSFY.com) - Ten South Dakotans are facing Fed charges after their arrest in a Fed drug & gun ring. It’s called Operation: Black Widow & it’s led by the ATF. Codington County authorities tell KSFY the 8 arrests were made Thursday morning. It was a joint effort by the South Dakota Highway Patrol SWAT team, Codington County & Watertown Police SWAT team & the Department of Criminal Investigation. U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says Operation: Black Widow is an investigation lasting several years & the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives will continue pursuing anyone who poses a danger to the community. One arrest happened in Sioux Falls, another in Deadwood but 8 of the 10 were arrested in Watertown. This type of operation doesn’t happen often in South Dakota, let alone a smaller community. As you can imagine, a lot of people were surprised by the news. Others are relieved the local, state & Fed law enforcement personnel are doing what they can to keep the community safe. With just under 22,000 people, many say Watertown is a comfortable place... which is why they call it home. But, when 8 of the 10 Fed arrests made in the state came from neighborhoods here, it changed things a bit. “I was pretty surprised to hear the arrests were in Watertown. not a whole lot happens here, pretty quiet pretty safe, pretty surprised to see that in the paper,” Resident Don Armstrong said. “I had no idea that was going on around here.” The arrests are part of an ongoing investigation to stop illegal activity statewide, from insurance fraud, to gun & drug trafficking. “There is no community in South Dakota that is immune to this. So our office is going to be very aggressive, in terms of working with various agencies, to crack down on individuals that will make our communities less safe,” U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson said. For those who live in

Watertown, they know if it can happen there, it can happen anywhere. “We’re on the outskirts of town. There’s not a whole lot of traffic around here, some kids, I’d be surprised if someone lived around here,” Armstrong said. Codington County Sheriff Toby Wishard tells KSFY over the phone that he’s proud of the efforts made to arrests the individuals, without incident, though he knows this operation is not over yet. Four of the ten individuals are being detained in a Fed jail while the rest were released on various conditions. They will review the evidence, investigation & are expected to make their plea.

**Motorcycle group ABATE of Wisconsin wields power in motorcycle helmet debate** – May 10, 2013 – *Wisconsin* – By Ben Jones; [www.fdlreporter.com](http://www.fdlreporter.com) - Motorcycle group wields power in motorcycle helmet debate - ABATE of Wisconsin calls itself a motorcycle rights & safety organization. It is a powerful, politically connected group that devotes considerable effort to increasing motorcycle safety, including rider training. But at the same time, it works to oppose what other safety advocates say is a key, life-saving measure: making it mandatory that adults wear a helmet. Wisconsin hasn’t required adult motorcyclists to wear a helmet in decades, thanks in large part to ABATE’s robust lobby. On Feb. 28, ABATE’s annual lobby day, hundreds of motorcycle advocates descended on the Capitol, even though there was no helmet law pending in the Legislature. “We don’t have any helmet issues on the table, but we want to make sure we are clear on that,” Jeff Egler of Janesville, a member of the group, told one state lawmaker that day. Wisconsin is coming off its deadliest year for motorcyclists in a generation. Three in 4 of those riders who were killed did not wear a helmet. Yet, lawmakers are considering no new helmet laws. The size & scope of ABATE’s anti-helmet lobby makes the motorcycle helmet debate in Wisconsin largely one-sided. “There really isn’t an organization on the other side of the issue that has been very effective at promoting helmet laws, despite the overwhelming research & experience that they are effective,” said Jonathan Adkins, deputy director of the national Governors Highway Safety Association. Jackie Gillan, president of Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety, a national group that lobbies for helmet laws, said Wisconsin is giving motorcycle riders a pass on the issue. She said groups like ABATE have gotten lawmakers to buy into the notion of “let those who ride decide,” that it’s a freedom issue. But she said taxpayers ultimately pay the costly & lifelong price of un-helmeted riders’ brain injuries. “Let those who pay have a say,” she said. “It sounds trite, but there is no free ride.”

**Meet ABATE:** ABATE’s mission, & its history, is alluded to in its full name, “A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments.” That phrase dates to the 1970s when ABATE of Wisconsin & other state chapters were founded to oppose restrictions on motorcycles. “We all love our freedoms of the road, & we want to keep the freedoms that we have,” said Dean Bartosh of La Crosse, ABATE’s public relations director. “We believe people should all have their personal choice as to what they wear when they ride.” ABATE of Wisconsin is organized as a private, non-stock corporation headed by an elected board of directors & state officers. Its headquarters is in Black River Falls. According to its leaders, membership fluctuates between 7,000 & 10,000. ABATE operates with 3 part-time staff members. It also has a nonprofit wing, ABATE of Wisconsin Safe Rider Inc., a foundation that provides motorcycle safety training. Its school is licensed by the state Dept of Transportation. The group owns ABATE Acres, 80 acres in the Clark County Town of Mead. The land, assessed at \$188,800, is used for the group’s annual “Summer Hummer” gathering, a four-day event in June that features live bands,

camping & games, including “helmet toss.” The group’s activities are partially paid for through donations & membership dues, according to Dave Charlebois, executive director. Dues range from \$25 a year for a single membership to \$675 for lifetime couples. “Our membership is the cheapest thing there is, 7 cents a day,” Charlebois said. ABATE also gets financial backing from law firms that represent injured motorcycle riders. A recent group newsletter featured ads published by Carlson, Blau & Clemens of Milwaukee & Hupy & Abraham of Milwaukee. Online videos featuring ABATE leaders give some details of the law firms’ support. Hupy last summer made Two \$10,000 donations to ABATE to help pay off the ABATE Acres mortgage & donated thousands more for the land in 2011. Also, in 2011, the law firm paid for buses to transport ABATE members to Madison for the group’s lobby day, helped the group with legislative drafting & paid for ABATE officer meals. There are more than 2 dozen national ABATE groups, but Charlebois said each operates independently. Wisconsin’s group works closely with the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, a national motorcycle rights organization that also works against motorcycle helmet laws. In the past, “bikers had no say,” Charlebois said. “As we’ve grown, you can see that this state for sure is not totalitarian. That’s why we are here. We are against totalitarian enactments. “We will have a voice in this state.”

**Helmet history:** In 1966, the Fed Highway Safety Act pushed states to pass mandatory helmet laws. States that refused lost Fed highway safety grants & 10 percent of Fed highway construction dollars. Wisconsin passed a mandatory helmet law in 1968. The Fed act, & Wisconsin’s law, did not last. Congress repealed the helmet provisions in 1976. And, in 1978, Wisconsin repealed its mandatory helmet law, instead only requiring riders under the age of 18 & those operating under an instruction permit to wear a helmet. Then-Gov. Martin Schreiber, a Democrat, vetoed the helmet law repeal, but lawmakers overrode the veto. Lawmakers introduced bills to reinstate the mandatory helmet law in 1979, 1981, 1987 & 1991. All of those bills died in committee without a vote by the full Legislature. No mandatory motorcycle helmet bills have been introduced in Wisconsin in recent years.

**Undisclosed influence:** According to state lobbying records, 641 registered lobbying groups exist in Wisconsin. These groups represent interests as diverse as dog breeding, cigar smoking & gasoline taxes. Last session, groups reported lobbying expenses as small as \$41. But you won’t find ABATE anywhere in those reports because the group is not a registered lobbying organization with the state Gov’t Accountability Board. So what does ABATE primarily do? According to the annual report it filed in October with the state Dept of Financial Institutions, its business is “legislative lobbying.” So why doesn’t ABATE register as a lobbying group? While ABATE sends a monthly advocacy newspaper to all 132 members of the Legislature — & on one recent lobby day it rented a conference center, chartered buses & set up lobbying appointments for hundreds of members — it doesn’t employ a registered lobbyist. That exempts the group from any lobbying disclosure. “What ABATE of Wisconsin seems to be doing is what is often called grass-roots lobbying. That does not trigger registration requirements,” Jonathan Becker, Ethics & Accountability Division administrator for the G.A.B., explained in an e-mail to Gannett Wisconsin Media. “However, if those same activities are conducted by a lobbying principal, the expenses would need to be reported.” ABATE also doesn’t show up in campaign finance reports. While it invites political candidates to speak at regional meetings, there’s no way to track the influence of the group’s members because state law only

requires donors to disclose their employers, not what special interests they might represent, said Mike McCabe, executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

**People power:** ABATE does not have to file lobbying reports, but on Feb. 28 hundreds of Wisconsin members openly lobbied lawmakers all over the Capitol. The lobby day was officially about safety issues; members asked lawmakers to increase motorcycle safety funds & improve emergency responder training. ABATE received a warm reception that day from Democrats & Republicans alike. While the state Assembly was in session with a full calendar, some took time to pose for photos with ABATE members, like they do with other visiting groups. State Sen. Neal Kedzie, R-Elkhorn, heard some of the members' concerns, such as helmet laws, in one hearing room. "I don't see any problems coming up in the current session at all," Kedzie told them. "Not with the current makeup." Adkins of the Governors Highway Safety Association, said ABATE members are effective lobbyists. He said they pack hearings, are visible & are persistent, holding regular lobby days. And they vote. ABATE has a long history of success in holding off mandatory helmet laws in Wisconsin & rolling back ones in other states, even though motorcycle deaths have increased nationally during 14 of the past 15 years, according to data compiled by Adkins' group. No state has passed a mandatory helmet law since 1994; in 1997 there were 26 states with mandatory helmet laws, now there are less than 20, according to the Governor's Highway Safety Association. Lawmakers in at least 8 states have recently proposed laws to repeal helmet laws. ABATE members from Wisconsin participated in a letter-writing campaign to support a repeal in Michigan that took effect last year. "The strategy of motorcycle groups like ABATE is to keep chipping away," Adkins said. "They keep coming back, year after year, & eventually the law is repealed." Bartosh, ABATE's public relations liaison, said the fact ABATE uses its members to lobby "holds a lot of water" in the Capitol. "We are all here on our own time & our own dime," he said. "We get a lot of comments about how organized ABATE of Wisconsin is for a volunteer organization." Bartosh said that in the 1970s, motorcycle rights rallies drew crowds as large as 50,000 to Madison. He said if a Wisconsin lawmaker introduced a mandatory helmet bill, they could expect even larger numbers. "People believe very strongly in their personal freedom," he said.

**Legislation faces steep odds:** State Rep. Eric Genrich, D-Green Bay, is doubtful a mandatory helmet law would get traction. "There hasn't been a huge outcry in favor of a mandatory helmet law in the state of Wisconsin & part of that, I think, is ABATE has a pretty developed grassroots organization that is in place with members across the state who are advocates for motorcycling," Genrich said. "This has always been a priority of theirs, to not implement that kind of legislation." Rep. Chad Weininger, R-Green Bay, hasn't heard much of a public call for helmet laws, either. But, "I have had a lot of motorcycle groups come in & say, 'We want to have the right to choose whether or not to wear a helmet,'" he said. "I've heard more of that." State Sen. Fred Risser, D-Madison, who has served in the Legislature since 1957, remembers when motorcyclists encircled the Capitol in the 1970s, demanding lawmakers repeal the state's helmet law. "They intimidated the Legislature into repealing it," Risser said. "A couple of us fought against the repeal, & the only time I've been hung in effigy at the Capitol was at that (anti-helmet) event." Risser supports helmet laws but is skeptical any such proposed law can get enough support to pass in Madison today. "I think that the current legislature is not prepared to reinstate it," he said.

"I think the Legislature should reinstate it. A number of countries require it, a number of states require it, (and) it's foolish that people ride motorcycles without helmets, but it's current law, unfortunately." And, that won't change, if ABATE has anything to say about it. Said Risser: "The motorcycle lobby is noisy, in many ways."

**Officer quits after probe into motorcycle gang ties** – May 10, 2013 – *New Mexico* – By Nico Roesler; [www.SantaFeNewMexican.com](http://www.SantaFeNewMexican.com) - A Santa Fe police officer investigated for possible affiliation with a motorcycle gang resigned from the police Dept Friday. Officer Ben Chavarria, a 13-year-veteran of the Dept, became the focus of an internal investigation in Feb for his alleged affiliation with the Bandidos MC. Chavarria, assigned to the Dept's Community Relations Division, was investigated once before due to similar allegations but has denied any affiliation with the gang. Chief Ray Real said that on Wed, he reassigned Chavarria to "non-police" duties, meaning Chavarria would only be able to perform clerical & administrative duties. "The investigation was completed," the chief said. "I reviewed the findings & reassigned him." Rael said he couldn't address specific findings because it was a "personnel matter." Chavarria, after being reassigned, submitted his resignation, effective at noon Monday. Chavarria said Friday in a telephone interview that the allegations that sparked the investigation in November 2012 were "wrong" & said he had no association with members of biker gangs. In Nov 2012, a paid obituary for Stevan Roybal appeared in The New Mexican, listing Roybal as "a PROUD member of the Bandidos MC" & Chavarria as an honorary pallbearer. The Bandidos MC is considered by Fed authorities to be a worldwide criminal organization. Designated by the FBI as one of the "Big Four" outlaw motorcycle gangs in the United States, the Bandidos are listed along with Hell's Angels, the Pagans & the Outlaws. KRQE-TV reported in February that Chavarria posted something about Roybal on Facebook that said Roybal was his "best friend," & that "I spent many a night riding Harleys with him. He made me the biker I am." Chavarria said Friday that Roybal was a childhood friend & that he only went to the funeral to pay respects to the family. Chavarria said he has ridden motorcycles most of his life but has never been affiliated with a biker gang, & that he wouldn't even join law-enforcement biking clubs. "Steve was my friend years before he became a member of the Bandidos," Chavarria said. "We had no association after that." Chavarria also claims that 3 other Santa Fe police officers were at the funeral, but none of them were targeted in the internal investigation. Because of that claim, Chavarria said, he has filed a Fed U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaint against Rael, charging racial discrimination. "This is an unfair administration that unfairly targets certain individuals," Chavarria said. Rael said Chavarria was only investigated because of external allegations of his involvement with the gang. "It was a fair, unbiased investigation," Rael said. Chavarria helped begin the Santa Fe Police Dept's Shop with a Cop program, which helps families in need during the holiday season, & has served on the regional board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico. He recently completed his second term as Pres of the Santa Fe Hispanic Chamber of Commerce & was a key figure in Santa Fe's Neighborhood Watch organization. "The entire time I was with the P.D., my goal was to help people," Chavarria said. "I did everything because I wanted to do good for our community."

**The missus asked me,** "When you're on a boys-only trip away, do you think about me?" Apparently, "Only to stop myself from coming too quickly" wasn't the right answer...

**Sex Offenders Arrested In Operation Black Widow** - May 10, 2013 – *South Dakota* - By Ben Dunsmoor; [www.KeloLand.com](http://www.KeloLand.com) - Two of them are registered sex offenders & another claims to be part of the Bandidos MC. Those are just 3 of the ten people arrested Thursday as part of Operation Black Widow carried out by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives. Those arrested in Operation Black Widow are charged with various crimes including illegal possession of guns & conspiracy to distribute large amounts of meth. Eight of the people arrested are from Watertown & that is why ATF was assisted by the Watertown Police, Codington County Sheriff's Office & the Drug Enforcement Administration during the operation. Sean Romanjenko, 39, of Deadwood is facing Fed firearms charges because of the operation. On his Facebook page he says he is a member of the Bandidos MC. U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says the multi-year operation resulted in gun & drug arrests. "Those are 2 areas that our office is very interested in terms of making sure individuals who are prohibited from having firearms that they aren't able to obtain those firearms," Johnson said. South Dakota Sex Offender Todd Bramer, 46, of Watertown is also charged with illegal possession of firearms. Another sex offender 72-year-old Robert Graham of Watertown is on the registry for raping a 21-year-old woman, but now he's facing Fed wire fraud charges & 30 years in prison. And 37-year-old Eric Block, 41-year-old Robin Engel, 39-year-old Christopher Schmidt, 42-year-old Richard Ruml, & 40-year-old Chad Haight all of Watertown are charged with conspiring to sell more than 50 grams of meth. They were also arrested as part of the operation. The Fed drug charges carry a mandatory minimum of ten years in prison & a maximum of life. "When the quantities reach a certain threshold, in this case 50 grams or more, then our office does look at taking those cases because the potential penalties become significantly stiffer & more harsh on the Fed level than they do on the state & local level," Johnson said. ATF says it will continue to pursue those who pose a danger to the community. A message Johnson also echoes. "I believe when we are able to bring this sort of case it can have a big impact on communities & really make those communities safer places & that's what we want to see," Johnson said. Tracy Voss, 31, of Watertown was also arrested for making false statements to acquire firearms, & 55-year-old Patricio Pena of Sioux Falls is still in custody charged with conspiring to sell meth.

**Sacramento trial part of nationwide prosecution of motorcycle gang** – May 11, 2013 – *California* - By Andy Furillo; [www.SacBee.com](http://www.SacBee.com) - A remnant of a Fed investigation into a Philadelphia motorcycle gang with a national reach has washed up at the Sacramento County courthouse. The subject of the investigation was a group called the Wheels of Soul, which is now running a little flatter after a Fed prosecution in St. Louis wiped out most of its top leadership. Sacramento became involved through the arrest of a man who flashed a North American Arms mini-revolver to an undercover Fed agent 2 years ago & was arrested 3 months later in possession of the same gun. Sherone Bradley, 31, is awaiting trial next week in Sacramento Superior Court for possession of the gun at a July 22, 2011, barbecue at which the ATF played host. The undercover operation, videotaped by ATF agents, took place at a tobacco shop on Power Inn Road as part of a weapons-trafficking investigation into outlaw biker groups. The convergence of the investigations has provided a glimpse into the world of the "1%ers." That's the term biker gangs use to separate themselves from the country's law-abiding MCs. In a hearing this week before Sacramento Superior Court Judge Peter Mering, Bradley admitted under oath that he showed the gun at the barbecue to ATF agent Erik Crowder, who was

posing as a member of a New York City outlaw biker gang called the Ching-a-lings. Bradley testified that he was originally from Philadelphia but now lives in Northern Calif. He said he had once been a member of Wheels of Soul, but he dropped out – along with his father – when a friend came under threat for refusing to carry out "a hit" for the club. Once the 3 dropped out, & when they made moves to join the Ching-a-lings, all were threatened with death, Bradley said in a sworn declaration. "You're not allowed to leave a 1%er club & join another one," he testified this week at a pretrial hearing. The case out of St. Louis suggests Bradley's fear may not have been unfounded. In a 40-page indictment, Fed officials charged 22 Wheels of Soul members from 7 states with a variety of crimes – racketeering conspiracy, murder, attempted murder, discharge of a firearm, evidence tampering, sale of a firearm to a felon, kidnapping & conspiracy to distribute drugs. In most instances, their victims were members of other biker organizations. A spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in St. Louis said the defendants all have been convicted or pleaded guilty. One of them, Anthony Robinson, 26, of Chicago, murdered 4 people & was sentenced to 2 life terms. Fed law enforcement officials say Wheels of Soul is the largest mixed-race outlaw motorcycle club in the country, with about 400 members riding out of 25 states, including a handful of members who wear the group's colors in Calif & OR. Besides Robinson, the St. Louis prosecution obtained convictions against club Pres James Smith of Philadelphia & regional vice presidents Allan Hunter of Chicago, Frederick Morgan of Youngstown, Ohio, & Dominic Henley of St. Louis. In Sacramento, Bradley identified a Wheels of Soul official nicknamed "Low Rider" as the person who threatened him & his father as well as the third gang dropout. The St. Louis indictment identified defendant Morgan as having the moniker of "Low Rider." His St. Louis attorney, Peter Cohen, said he knew nothing about Bradley's allegations. The club's violence, according to the Fed complaints, almost exclusively was directed at rival MCs, the atty said. "Maybe a gang had a beef with them, or they had a beef with a gang over different things," Cohen said. Sacramento's ATF office got a piece of the national case during a weapons-trafficking investigation that focused on the Ching-a-lings. At the July 2011 ATF barbecue, Bradley rode up with his father. According to the prosecution's statement of the case, Bradley showed the .22-caliber gun to the ATF undercover agent. Bradley also showed the agent his parolee identification card & prosecutors learned he had been "convicted of numerous felonies, making it unlawful for him to carry a firearm," according to the statement filed by Deputy District Attorney Patrick Foster. The same gun turned up again when Walnut Creek PD stopped Bradley on Oct. 18, 2011, prosecutors said. A year ago in April – 6 months after the Walnut Creek arrest – Sacramento prosecutors filed a single-count complaint against Bradley on charges of being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm. The complaint listed only one prior adult felony conviction for petty theft with a prior in Solano County. Bradley's case was assigned to Judge Mering on Tuesday & jury selection was supposed to begin Wed. The process was delayed, however, when defense attorney Robert D. Byers of Oakland filed a motion to force the prosecution to identify an ATF informant who attended the barbecue. Byers argued that the informant is a material witness & said he wants to call him to testify about a possible entrapment defense. The defense lawyer said in court papers that the informant also knew about the threats Bradley faced from Wheels of Soul. Deputy DA Foster opposed identifying "a valuable confidential informant." It would put the operative at risk & also jeopardize a nationwide investigation into outlaw motorcycle gangs, Foster told the judge. Pretrial skirmishing is expected to continue Mon.

**4 injured after shooting at a local motorcycle clubhouse** – May 12, 2013 – *Arizona* – By [www.ABC15.com](http://www.ABC15.com) - Authorities are looking for possible suspects in an overnight shooting that injured 4 in Apache Junction. Police believe the shooting could be gang-related. One victim received a gunshot wound to the head, one to the stomach, & one to the shoulder after gun fire erupted at the Loose Cannons MC clubhouse near Apache Trail & Mountain View early Sunday morning, said the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. Authorities said the clubhouse was posting a party when members of the rival gang Devil's Disciples showed up, according to PSCO. A fight occurred & shots were fired. Police previously said 3 people were injured. While conducting interviews, they discovered a fourth victim had been shot with non-life threatening injuries. All victims were transported to local area hospitals. One male who was shot in the shoulder & stomach is in critical condition, a male who was shot in the head is in stable condition & a female victim was treated & released, said PCSO. Authorities are investigating the shooting, but witnesses at the party are not cooperating with detectives at this time.

**Loose Cannons Clubhouse Shootings** - May 13, 2013 – *Arizona* – By The Aging Rebel; [www.AgingRebel.com](http://www.AgingRebel.com) - There was a gunfight early Sunday morning between members of the Loose Cannons & the Devils Diciples MC s. The fight erupted about 1:30 a.m. during a party at the Loose Cannons' clubhouse on North Apache Trail near North Safari Place in Apache Junction. Apache Junction is east of Phoenix. According to Tamra Ingersoll of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, about 75 people were inside the clubhouse & one of them called 911.

**Three Hospitalized:** "When deputies arrived on scene, there were signs of a shootout, with spent casings littering the ground," Ingersoll told Tucson News Now. Two men remain hospitalized in Phoenix. A man shot in the head is listed in stable condition. Another man shot in the shoulder & stomach is in critical condition. A woman grazed in the back was treated & released. Police kept potential witnesses at the scene for hours for what Ingersoll called "forensic interviews." During those interviews a fourth gunshot victim was discovered to have been shot in the buttocks. He was treated at the scene by paramedics & released.

**Police Stumped:** Ingersoll said the fight started after an unknown number of Devils Diciples arrived at the party after one a.m. She said police do not know whether the Devils Diciples had been invited to the party or who fired first because "At this time, witnesses at the party are not cooperating with detectives as they investigate this crime." As of 1:30 p.m. local time Monday, no arrests or further developments in the case had been announced.

**Fink to face court after Bandido's knife claim** – May 13, 2013 – *Australia* – By Leah Fineran; [www.GoldCoast.com.au](http://www.GoldCoast.com.au) - A Finks bkie charged over a shooting at Robina Town Centre is to face court in July amid claims the Bandido victim pulled a knife on him first. Lawyers for alleged shooter Mark Graham are expected to explore the issue of self-defense in a committal hearing on July 3. Graham, 27, is behind bars on charges of attempted murder & unlawful wounding. Yesterday the case took a new twist when the alleged victim, Bandidos bkie Jacques Teamo, faced court. The colorful tattooist, with a pistol inked on his right temple & the words "MOB", "search & destroy" & "bandit" on his face & neck, admitted he was the first to pull out a weapon after a verbal confrontation near the food court escalated into violence on April 28 last year. He pleaded guilty in the Southport Magistrates Court to possessing a knife in a public place & was convicted & fined \$1250. Teamo claimed he took

the folding knife from his bumbag after Graham made death threats to him in front of his 2 children, aged 10 & five. CCTV footage from the shopping centre showed the other man retaliated by pulling out a gun & firing 2 shots. One hit an innocent female shopper & the second wounded Teamo in the arm. The court was told a bloodied Teamo ran from the area & hid his knife in a hoodie. Paramedics discovered the knife in the hoodie after they rushed him to hospital for surgery. In court, lawyer Chris Hannay said Teamo was the true victim. "My client was simply going about his business, shopping with 2 of his children when he was threatened with his life," he said. "They were significant threats by the other person that my client took them to be real, & rightly so. (The gunman) took aim at him clearly with intent to kill him or cause him grievous bodily harm or maim him. "Nothing would have happened had he not been approached". Hannay said Teamo was still struggling to cope with the blatant public attack & was continuing to receive psychological counseling. Magistrate Michael O'Driscoll said guns in public places would not be tolerated by the courts or the community. "It's a concern for yourself, your family & everyone on the Gold Coast," he said. "But having a knife in a public place is also unacceptable." Hannay said his client's "facial adornments" were a part of his work & he was a committed father to 4 children. "It's his advertising, so to speak," he said. Hannay said Teamo was pleased with the court's fine.

**Adios Whiskey Row Chapter** - May 14, 2013 – *Arizona* – By The Aging Rebel; [www.AgingRebel.com](http://www.AgingRebel.com) - Back in Feb, Mike Koepke, the V.P. of the Hells Angels Arizona Nomads charter, sent an open letter to the local Iron Brotherhood MC's Whiskey Row chapter in Prescott. Koepke's letter began: "I am very concerned with the recent events pertaining to the Iron Brotherhood Motorcycle Gang. I am very displeased with the 'bully' nature of said law enforcement officers. I belong to a real MC that holds events in Yavapai County periodically. Most notably, the 'Chino Valley Shootout Boxing Smoker.'" Koepke went on to invite any member of Whiskey Row chapter to go 3 rounds in a boxing ring with him on March 31st. Koepke promised to "donate \$1,000.00 to a charity of their choosing. If I win, the Iron Brotherhood Motorcycle Gang will officially disband in the state of Arizona." To no one's surprise the Iron Brotherhood ignored the challenge although every member of the club knew about it. Arizona Dept of Public Safety detectives who were investigating the Whiskey Row chapter knew about it. As it turned out, Koepke didn't have to thump anybody.

**Mother Speaks:** After the results of Arizona DPS were made public late last month, the Nat'l Iron Brotherhood website issued the following statement on its front page: "The Iron Brotherhood Nation is a professional Law Enforcement MC, who's (sic) members are dedicated to our profession & our Brotherhood. The IBMC does not condone or promote any behavior by its members that would reflect negatively on our club or our profession as Law Enforcement Officers. Should members of our club be involved in any incident that would put them in bad standing with their respected Law Enforcement Agency or this club that member will be terminated as a member of this club. While recent reports in the Arizona news media report on a (sic) incident involving members of our club, not all the facts surrounding this incident have been covered by the media. A number of reports from the media include inaccurate (sic) info which include info about our members & their reported involvement in this incident. All the while the media failed to report on the background & associations on the other party involved in this incident. The recently released Arizona DPS report covers this information. "The Whiskey Row

Chapter of the Iron Brotherhood Nation from this point on no longer exist. (sic) "Iron Brotherhood National Board"

**Out Bad:** The 2196 page DPS report says a Phoenix cop named Eric "Guido" Amato & an Ajo, Arizona paramedic named Greg "Top Gun" Kaufmann assaulted Justin Stafford of Glendale, AZ at a club party in downtown Prescott last Dec so presumably Amato & Kaufmann no longer wear a patch. The report also says that former Prescott Valley Police Chief Bill "Tarzan" Fessler & former Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Sgt Bill "Mongo" Suttle obstructed justice so presumably they are also out of the club. The report also said that Yavapai County Sheriff's Captain Marc "Loki" Schmidt was "deceitful" & that his integrity was questionable. Schmidt told detectives he never saw the fight & doubted that a fight had actually occurred. He also said: "...we understand that being a club that flies – flies a 3 piece patch there's always suspicion of our behavior. And we've always talked about that from the time I joined the – initially joined the club. I mean when your – your agency, um, in – in gang classes – our guys go down to gang classes – & we get lumped into, you know, uh, outlaw motorcycle groups. So we understand that & that's why we try to police up & we try not to cause any problems. Um, so, um, that would surprise me if it happened. And I would say that it's probably a fabrication. But, um, that's my opinion. I don't see anybody doing that that's in our club." It's anybody's guess whether Schmidt still flies a patch or not.

**The Victim:** The IBMC National Board's innuendo that "the media failed to report on the background & associations on the other party involved in this incident" apparently refers to an incident in Nov 2009 when Stafford was cited for underage drinking. At the time he was accompanied by a man named Andrew Goodall who was arrested for having an "improvised explosive device" in his car. The report does not state whether the "improvised explosive device" was a homemade cherry bomb or a homemade anti-tank mine. The use of the term "improvised explosive device" instead of, say, "homemade bomb" is apparently intended, like virtually every other official police statement, to obfuscate the truth & dramatically equate civilian cops with soldiers in a foreign war. According to official reports, Fessler was there when Goodall was arrested & Stafford was cited. Although The Aging Rebel has not previously reported this incident it was reported in the Prescott Daily Courier. And, the following is buried in the very long DPS report. "Stafford described when he was arrested in 2009 for the alcohol violation. He had just met (Andrew Goodall) that night & used his car to take another person home. Stafford said following the incident he saw (Goodall) one time about a year later but did not keep in touch with him & did not want anything to do with him after that. Stafford said he was out at the scene (of the vehicle with the IED) for approximately ten minutes before he was taken to the PVPD. Stafford said there were "three or four" officers who came into the PVPD to ask him questions; some were in uniform, some were not. Stafford said he did not recognize anyone from the IBMC as having been involved in his arrest in 2009. Stafford said he had never encountered any of the IBMC members before."

**Employee fired for husband's biker ties sues city of Kingman** – May 14, 2013 – *Arizona* – By Doug McMurdo; [www.KingmanDailyMiner.com](http://www.KingmanDailyMiner.com) - Melissa Summerson, the former city employee who was let go from her job because her husband is a member of a purported outlaw motorcycle gang, has dropped her appeal to the city's personnel board. Instead, her atty filed a lawsuit in Fed court alleging the city violated her right to freedom of association when it terminated her in late Dec. "She withdrew

her appeal because the city manager would make the decision," said Phoenix atty David Kresin. "Since he made the first decision she saw little point in going forward." Summerson worked in the city's Human Resources Dept. Employees with the Kingman P.D. & court system expressed concern that she had access to sensitive employee information, such as home addresses. Mayor John Salem said city officials cannot comment on the issue because it is pending litigation. The lawsuit was filed in Fed court on Thu, the same day Summerson dropped her appeal. Her personnel hearing was scheduled for this Wed. The 18-page complaint alleges the city deprived Summerson of her freedom of association under the First & 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Her husband, William "Bill" Summerson, is a member of the Desert Road Riders MC, which law enforcement characterizes as a documented outlaw motorcycle gang (OMG) & a support club of the Hell's Angels, a documented criminal street gang. Summerson was terminated solely because of her husband's affiliation with the Desert Road Riders, Kresin alleged. According to a letter written to Summerson by Human Resource Director Jackie Walker, Summerson was fired because certain city employees were worried about Summerson having access to their information. "My decision is supported by the fact that employees of the city's law enforcement, legal, dispatch & court system are apprehensive in continuing their work relationship with the human resources/risk management department," wrote Walker in an email sent to Summerson & copied to City Manager Jack Kramer & Police Capt. Rusty Cooper. "The association with a documented OMG severely jeopardizes the security of confidential employee information & the safety of this large segment of our workforce. The loss of a close & trusting relationship with these employees is a significant disruption to the efficiency of the services human resources/risk management provides." Neither the Summersons nor the Desert Road Riders face allegations of wrongdoing regarding her employment, Kresin noted. However, a law enforcement report published in 2009 indicated the Desert Road Riders met the criteria to be labeled a criminal street gang. In 2002, the club voted to support the Hell's Angels, according to the report. The report also stated the Desert Road Riders "pulled away from the original friendly relationship that was once established with law enforcement & have taken on a 'One Percent Club' mentality." The report also referenced a brawl that same year between members of the Hell's Angels & the Desert Road Riders against the Vagos MC. Two Desert Road Riders members were arrested, but the charges were later dropped. A jury acquitted those who went to trial. The lone conviction was handed down when one member of the Hell's Angels entered into a plea agreement. The Desert Road Riders also protested a ban against wearing "colors" at area businesses, but Kresin said that rule, too, violated the club's right to engage in lawful assembly. Kresin in the lawsuit argues the vote to support the Hell's Angels was supported under the First Amendment as protected expression. Summerson was hired in 1996 as a dispatcher with the Kingman P.D. While there, she received glowing performance evaluations & would continue to be formally praised until she received her last evaluation about 8 months before she was fired. "She is focused, committed, honest, loyal & highly principled," read one. "She is destined for great things." The following year she transferred to the city's Financial Services Dept. The year after that, she was promoted. She married Bill Summerson in 1999 & in 2002 she applied for & was hired as the administrator of Human Resources, the second highest position in the Dept. Bill Summerson joined the Desert Road Riders in 2004, at which time Melissa Summerson "regularly & openly showed her support" for the club at work. At the time, the Desert Road Riders were considered to be a

family MC, separate from the One Percent Clubs. Members of those clubs, said Kresin in the lawsuit, wear a 1 percent patch, indicating they are outlaws who are not committed to society's rules & laws. Summerson resigned from the city in 2006 to care for her terminally ill father in Pennsylvania until his death in 2011. She applied in August of that year as a technician in Walker's Dept. Kresin points out in the lawsuit she was never asked if she associated with any MCs, outlaw or otherwise, & returned to work in Sept 2011. Ironically, in Feb 2012, Walker, Kramer & Police Chief Robert DeVries offered to appoint Summerson the interim director of Communications & Dispatch. She declined because she was studying for her Human Resources certification. The lawsuit does not specify a dollar amount. It asks only for an "award of economic damages in an amount sufficient to make (Summerson) whole..." The lawsuit alleges she suffered & continues to suffer lost income, lost retirement benefits, other lost benefits, mental anguish, emotional distress, pain & suffering, humiliation, inconvenience, harm to reputation & loss of enjoyment of life. Summerson demanded a jury trial.

**Police undercover drug sting snares Bandidos** – May 14, 2013 – *Australia* – By Grace Uhr; [www.PerthNow.com.au](http://www.PerthNow.com.au) - An undercover police officer allegedly infiltrated the Cairns Bandidos gang & bought illicit drugs from a member as part of a sting which led to 14 people being charged with a range of offences yesterday. A live military rocket, other weapons & drugs were allegedly found when raids were carried out on the Bandidos' Bungalow clubhouse & more than 20 homes in Cairns & Innisfail yesterday. Police have laid 45 charges & expect more to follow as they wrap up a 10-month investigation into the trafficking of dangerous drugs by the outlaw gang. Two of the men arrested, the club's 28-year-old sergeant-at-arms & a 23-year-old associate, will appear in Cairns Magistrates Court this morning. Among the drugs allegedly seized were 90g of methylamphetamine, one ecstasy tablet & a quantity of steroids but police would not confirm the total quantity seized during the operation, codenamed Kilo Madrid. The investigation was spearheaded by Brisbane-based outlaw motorcycle gang specialists in Task Force Hydra. Officer-in-charge, Detective-Inspector Garry Watts, said an undercover officer had allegedly managed to buy amphetamines from the Cairns club's sergeant-at-arms. "It's just another example that we will go to anywhere in Queensland where outlaw motorcycle gangs commit criminal offences," Det-Insp Watts said. "We'll investigate those offences & where sufficient evidence exists, we'll put those people before the courts." Acting Far Northern regional crime co-ordinator Det-Insp Peter Mansfield said police had been "actively targeting" outlaw gangs with successful results. "We'll do our utmost to bring any unlawful behaviour before the courts, particularly by outlaw motorcycle gangs & any other organised activity again using the resources of State Crime Operations Command to assist us in that endeavour," he said. Kilo Madrid involved officers from Task Force Hydra, Far Northern Region Drug Squad, Cairns Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), Mareeba CIB, Smithfield CIB, Mossman CIB, Innisfail CIB & Cairns Tactical Crime Squad with assistance from Australian Customs & Border Protection Service drug detection dogs. Yesterday's arrests come just over 3 months after Bandidos president Maxwell Patrick Geary & former sergeant-at-arms Robert William Wilkins were arrested & charged over a range of fraud, drug & property offences, with both men's matters still before the courts. Their arrests prompted police to re-open several cold cases including one where a firebomb was thrown into a Freshwater (in Cairns) unit in 2009 & another involving a family being threatened in their Bungalow (in Cairns) home by 2 men carrying a shotgun & a knife early last year.

**Horry County Solicitor's office drops 100+ charges against Hells Angels** – May 15, 2013 – *South Carolina* – By Kelsey Riggs; [www.WBTW.com](http://www.WBTW.com) - Close to half of the 226 original charges filed against the Hells Angels have been dismissed. In May of last year, Horry County Police & others raided multiple locations looking for 34 Hells Angels members. A grand jury handed down 226 indictment & 15 different charges against the suspects. On Wed, Horry County Solicitor Jimmy Richardson said many of those charges were dropped 2 months ago. "What we did was we went through, we looked at each charge individually, & the stuff that we couldn't prove, we dismissed it," Richardson said. 103 charges, in all, were dismissed. Richardson said the bulk of those charges stemmed from a fight. He said members of the Hells Angels barbecued in their backyard, while their neighbor, an off-duty police officer, cooked out in his. Richardson said a fight broke out between the 2, where the Hells Angels member assaulted the neighbor. According to Richardson, the suspect was charged with simple assault. He said authorities later charged the members of the group who were present during the fight with criminal conspiracy. The suspect pled guilty to simple assault, but Richardson said he felt the other charges would not hold up. "We can't prove that anybody told him to be involved in that fight. There was certainly enough for them to arrest for that, but that ended up probably 60-70 charges," Richardson said. In all, 62 criminal conspiracy charges were dropped. Some of the other dropped charges, included kidnapping, tattooing, & assault & battery. In the tattooing & kidnapping cases, the prosecution said their case was dependent on witnesses. Richardson said there were 2 different incidents involving victims having their Hells Angels tattoos removed, where they originally claimed member of the group took them & removed the tattoos for them. "We talked with that person, he gave one statement to police, changed his statement later & it was a recanting witness," Richardson said. He said witnesses that change their stories often don't hold up in front of a jury. With so many charges dropped, many people question why the charges happened in the first place. Richardson said it's simple: in order to make an arrest, authorities only need probable cause. Richardson said in this case, they had it. "All they need for an arrest is 51% to 49%, just tipping the scales," he explained. But that percentage isn't enough, when it comes to prosecution. Richardson explained they must prove beyond a reasonable doubt, the incident happened. "We've got a different standard, its 90-10, it has to be overwhelming," Richardson said. Hells Angels' atty John Hilliard said for his clients, the process is far from over. "We're certainly happy that those cases are dismissed, but we still have the other cases to deal with & we're moving through that process. We're certainly anxious to have it done because the negative impact on their lives has been enormous," Hilliard explained. Solicitor Richardson said his office will review the pending charges in depth, in the future. Count on News 13 to bring you any new updates to this story.

**Idiot Sighting:** I handed the teller @ my bank a withdrawal slip for \$400.00 I said "May I have large bills, please." She looked at me & said "I'm sorry sir, all the bills are the same size." When I got up off the floor I explained it to her....

**Idiot Sighting:** At a good-bye luncheon for an old & dear coworker who was leaving the company due to 'downsizing,' our manager commented cheerfully, 'This is fun. We should do this more often.' Not another word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare. This was a lunch at Texas Instruments.

**The Kingman Civil Rights Suit** - May 15, 2013 – *Arizona* – By The Aging Rebel; [www.AgingRebel.com](http://www.AgingRebel.com) - Melissa Summerson, a long-time employee of Kingman, Arizona who was fired 3 days after Christmas in 2012 because her husband belonged to the Desert Road Riders MC filed a Fed civil rights suit against the city last week alleging that she was wrongly terminated. The 16-page suit presents a compelling description of a loony witch hunt instigated by Arizona's new Gestapo, the Gang And Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission State Gang Task Force. This new Gestapo prefers to be known by the ridiculous acronym "GIITEM" – which is supposed to be pronounced "Git 'em." GIITEM rolled into Kingman after an overblown fist fight between members of the Hells Angels & Vagos in June 2009 & encouraged local police to harass every motorcyclist they saw including members of the Patriot Guard Riders & HOG. Summerson may be the most innocent victim of the Arizona crusade against the biker menace so far.

**The Faithful Employee:** Summerson went to work for Kingman as a police dispatcher in 1996. She excelled & transferred to another city job in October 1998. When she married her husband William in December 1999 the City Manager & the boss who eventually fired her came to her wedding. She became Human Resources Administrator in April 2002. Two years later her husband joined the Desert Road Riders. According to the suit, "From that point forward, Summerson regularly & openly showed her support for the DRRMC by wearing DRRMC colors & apparel to work & openly discussing her participating in DRRMC events with her co-workers." She moved to Pennsylvania in June 2006 to be closer to her terminally ill father-in-law but she stayed in touch with her former boss, Human Resources Director Jackie Walker & other Kingman employees. After William Summerson's father died in 2011, Walker recruited Melissa Summerson to come back to work for Kingman. When the Summersons moved back west, members of the Desert Road Riders helped them move & gave them a temporary place to live. Summerson did such a good job that the City manager & the Police Chief offered her the job of Dispatch Director in February 2012 but she turned the promotion down because she wanted to stay in Human Resources. The next month she got another glowing performance evaluation.

**No Colors In Kingman:** At the instigation of GIITEM, Kingman had begun to enforce a "no colors policy" wherever possible throughout the city. According to the suit, "In Oct 2012, Summerson told another City employee that her husband would not be welcome to ride in a law enforcement-sponsored toy run due to his membership in the DRRMC because the sponsors did not allow "colors" on their run. Subsequently, on Oct 25, 2012, Police Chief DeVries emailed Captain Scott Wright a copy of a webpage from the APMC (Arizona Confederation of Clubs) website, indicating the member clubs, associates, & friends/guests/supporters. On Nov 17, 2012, Summerson, her husband & another member of the DRRMC were pulled over by Kingman Police Officer Joe Weber for allegedly speeding on their motorcycles while returning from a funeral. After discussing the incident with the 3 of them, Officer Weber gave them each a warning for excessive speed." "After the Nov 17, 2012 incident, Sergeant Shay Weber sent a memo to Captain Rusty Cooper regarding the traffic stop & regarding Summerson's association with her husband & the DRRMC & her husband's membership in the DRRMC."

**Memo:** On Nov 19, a Kingman cop named Donald A. Doughty sent another memo to a police lieutenant named Mark Chastain.

Doughty had done an "investigation" of Summerson for Kingman Police Captain Scott Wright. The long memo reported that William Summerson was friends with members of the Desert Low Riders, that Doughty had "witnessed Summerson selling DRRMC raffle tickets," & stating that William Summerson had not ridden in the police toy run because of his association with his club. Doughty's memo also alleged that "outlaw motorcycle gang members" have "their wives, girlfriends, sisters, or other acquaintances obtain employment in positions where sensitive information may be found." Doughty also "checked with the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Access Integrity Unit & determined that Summerson did not have a Terminal Operator Certification & therefore was limited in her access to sensitive information." But, Doughty warned, Summerson "may...have access to background & criminal history information if her position involves the hiring of new employees." Doughty also told Chastain that "there is no known DPS Policy which restricts the employment of family members related to members of motorcycle and/or street gangs..." & he had been "advised that in some situations, the activity of employees has been monitored to check for possible privacy violations." Doughty also wrote that Summerson had been seen wearing DRRMC support clothing on the DRRMC website & on the social media site Facebook.

**Dealing With The Outlaw Problem:** On Nov 27, Summerson's friend & boss, Jackie Walker, met with the Kingman Police Chief about Summerson & her associations. According to the suit, the chief then sent Walker "an email indicating that Captain Wright obtained information from the GIITEM Task Force. On December 3, 2012, Walker discussed Summerson with City Attorney Carl Cooper. On December 13, 2012, Walker emailed herself draft language stating 'You are an associate of a documented Criminal Street Gang, Desert Road Riders a documented support club of the Hell's (sic) Angels, under A.R.S. 13-105. As such, your association with Criminal Street Gangs causes us great concern. Because Criminal Street Gangs are known to have strict rules which controls (sic) the behavior & functions of its members, your access to confidential information is in direct conflict with the role of Human Resources.'" The day after Christmas, Summerson was placed on paid administrative leave until December 28. The same day Walker gave Summerson Notice of Intent to Terminate effective December 28. The sole reason for the termination was that Summerson was associated with the Desert Road Riders which was a "documented criminal Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG)" & "a support club of the Hell's (sic) Angels, which is a criminal street gang as defined by ARS 13-105." The suit states, "Summerson asked Walker if Summerson could keep her job if her husband resigned from the DRRMC. Walker said no." The next day Walker, who had known William Summerson was a Desert Road Rider for 8 years & who had recruited Summerson to move back to Kingman, "emailed (City Attorney) Cooper an attachment from the FBI's website regarding gang sophistication & gang infiltration of corrections, law enforcement, & Gov't in various parts of the country. The attachment reported that gang members in at least 57 jurisdictions have applied for or gained employment within judicial, police or correctional agencies. Likewise, the attachment reported that gang members in at least 75 jurisdictions have compromised or corrupted judicial, law enforcement, or correctional staff within the past 3 years." According to the suit, "Nothing in the report implicated Summerson, her husband, the DRRMC or anyone in Arizona of any of the alleged conduct. At 5:35 p.m. on December 27, 2012, Walker emailed Summerson a letter notifying her that the City was upholding the decision to terminate Summerson's employment effective at 5:00 p.m. on Dec 28, 2012. Walker

copied Kramer & Cooper on the letter.” “In that letter, Walker stated that ‘My decision is supported by the fact that employees of the City’s law enforcement, legal, dispatch, & court system are apprehensive in continuing their work relationship with the human resources/risk management department. The association with a documented OMG severely jeopardizes the security of confidential employee information & the safety of this large segment of our workforce. The loss of a close & trusting relationship with these employees is a significant disruption to the efficiency of the services human resources/risk management provides.’” The suit asks for a jury trial & does not specify damages sought. Summerson is represented by Attorney David C. Kresin of Phoenix.

**Biker charged in Upper Darby shooting** – May 15, 2013 – *Pennsylvania* – By Linda Reilly; <http://DelcoTimes.com> - A township man, who police identified as a member of the Warlocks motorcycle gang, is in custody for allegedly shooting a 19-year-old woman Tuesday night in the apartment they shared. Michael DeLuca, of the 7400 block of West Chester Pike, will be arraigned today on charges of criminal attempt homicide, aggravated assault & additional offenses. Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood says the woman suffered a gunshot wound to the head 8:45 p.m. Tuesday & was transported to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, where she is listed in extremely critical condition. “The investigation is very, very preliminary,” Chitwood said. “We received a radio call of a shooting & he gave conflicting statements that forensic evidence shows otherwise. We believe it was possibly domestic violence.” DeLuca is held on \$2.5 million cash bail..

**Police seize drugs, cash & alcohol at bikie gang clubhouse** - May 15, 2013 - *Australia* - By [www.IpswichAdvertiser.com.au](http://www.IpswichAdvertiser.com.au) - Drugs, cash & alcohol has been seized & 4 people arrested during a raid on the Sunshine Coast clubhouse of the Rebels MC on Tue night. Officers from the Tactical Crime Squad & Criminal Investigation Branch issued club members with a warrant at 8pm for the unlicensed sale of alcohol at the clubhouse. During the search, a large amount of cash, alcohol & drugs were found. Four people, including members of the Rebels MC, have been arrested & charged. Investigations are continuing.

**Bikie accused of shooting 11yo** - May 15, 2013 – *Australia* - By Loukas Founten; [www.ABC.net.au](http://www.ABC.net.au) - The Adelaide District Court has been told the 11-year-old son of a member of the Finks MC was shot in the leg as part of an escalating war between gangs. Arron Cluse, 23, is on trial charged with aggravated serious criminal trespass & 2 aggravated counts of endangering life. He is accused of storming into the Semaphore home of Finks gang member Mark Sandery in Oct 2011, shooting Sandery's son twice in the leg & narrowly missing the boy's brother with 2 other shots. Prosecutor Sandi McDonald SC told the court Cluse was a nominee of the Hells Angels, a group effectively at war with the Finks. "The evidence will be that the accused, at the time of this offending, was a nominee or on the verge of being a nominee for a motorcycle gang that was effectively at war with the gang of which the father of the children was a senior member," she said. "The boys' father is affiliated with the Finks Motorcycle Gang & the accused with the Hells Angels." The court was told glass fragments allegedly from the Semaphore home were found in Cluse's car & on a balaclava found in Cluse's bedroom that allegedly also had his DNA on it. Ms. McDonald said Sandery had not been at his home at the time of the attack but there had been a clear plan to terrorize his family. "It will be the prosecution submission that to consider circumstantial evidence

like DNA & glass fragments, absent that connection between these 2 men, will be completely artificial. It's relevant to motive," she told the hearing. "It's relevant to explain why someone would engage in what must be seen, to your right-minded person, as completely violent & antisocial behaviour & the evidence that the status of a nominee & the requirement to do whatever they were told were particularly relevant on that topic. Effectively, once someone involves themselves in a gang like this, they are subordinate to the codes & rules of that gang as opposed to wider social moral values. "There was clearly some sort of plan to terrorise the occupants of that house."

**Finks bikies threaten legal action over Herald Sun stories** – May 16, 2013 – *Australia* - By Andrew Rule; [www.TheAustralian.com.au](http://www.TheAustralian.com.au) - Outraged Finks MC members have threatened legal action over Herald Sun stories alleging links between corrupt police & a Goulburn Valley motorcycle gang. A concerned Finks sergeant said he had received "heaps of calls" from members incensed by what they saw as a suggestion that they co-operated with police. This was a reaction to a line in one story which said: "It seems the finks are in bed with the fuzz." Despite assurances that "finks" did not refer to the Finks MC but was a general reference to members of another club, The Outlaws, "Frank" demanded "clarification" & threatened legal action. "This is serious, mate," Frank said. "Guys are running to lawyers (because) we pride ourselves on not having anything to do with police. "It comes across that you mean us & it's put us in an awkward position." He said aggrieved Finks had contacted him from prison to say they were concerned other prisoners would conclude they were "in bed with police" & that would put them on the "no-good list". To be on the "no-good list" could be bad for their health & social standing in jail, he said. Finks friends & family members were also concerned about the slur on their the characters of their loved ones. Finks were tough but they have feelings, he said. "Things like this can turn to s... inside (jail). It doesn't take much in there. "The Finks stand apart. We are not some 'Two-Minute' club. We've been around since 1969. We pride ourselves on following our rules & one is that we don't make any statements to police - we just don't speak to them." What other clubs did was up to them, he said. "There are 2 meanings to the word. A Fink is completely different to a rat. "I am not making threats & I am not trying to play the heavy but you better fix it." Sergeant "Frank" said it was difficult to explain the difference in meaning between "finks" & "Finks" to some members. Grammar & spelling was not their strongest subject. At the time of writing no lawsuits had been lodged by the Finks' lawyers - or fink lawyers

**Idiot Sighting:** I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, ‘Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?’ To which I replied, ‘If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?’ He smiled knowingly & nodded, ‘That’s why we ask.’ Happened in Birmingham, AL.

#### U.S. Defenders:

- We don't accept applications. We accept commitments...
- If we all do a little bit, Then no one has to do a lot...
- There can be no "I", there has to be "We"...
- One heart, One Voice...

National Coalition of Motorcyclists...  
An Idea Whose Time Has Come...