



# WEST COAST ABATE NEWSLETTER

SERVING SARASOTA & MANATEE COUNTIES  
MARCH 2011

**A** American  
**B** Bikers  
**A** Aiming  
**T** Toward  
**E** Education

## GOALS & PURPOSE

- To fight for freedom of the road and freedom of choice for motorcyclist riders of Florida
- To become a powerful and viable political force in Florida by encouraging riders to register to vote and to communicate with their legislators.
- To promote safe riding habits and to promote driver awareness without infringing on the rights of individuals.
- To work towards educating legislators on motorcycle issues so they may be able to make the right decisions regarding Florida motorcycle laws.
- To publish a newsletter to keep members of **ABATE of Florida Inc.** informed.

Donations to ABATE of Florida, Inc. are not deductible for income tax purposes

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, if you were not at the meeting on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, I resigned as President of West Coast Abate. I have appointed Jim Gladstone as President and asked for a vote of confidence -- first from the Board of Directors and then from the Chapter on Sunday. All were in favor. My work schedule has gotten to the point that I just don't have time to do justice as President. After 3 years and much enjoyment as our President, it is time to pass the torch to Jim, who will be an excellent President. Jim will have my total support and has already taken over at full speed. We have been invited to join the 5 Star Run this year and put on the Rodeo for the event. Jim is spearheading this union as well.

I thank each and every one of you for your help and support over the last few years. I will remain as active as possible and hope to see you at events or just out riding.  
Mark Willett

## NEW PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to start out by expressing my thanks to Mark Willett for the great job he has done as President of this chapter over the past few years. Mark, Thank You.

Now, let's get down to business. For a lot of you, this is the first time you have heard of me while others have known me for a while now. I thought about trying to be politically correct while writing this article, but decided to just be me instead. So, here it goes. I challenge each and every member of this Chapter to get involved again. Look back and remember why you joined the West Coast Chapter of ABATE. Look back at all the the good times you had and people you met because of your involvement with ABATE. Come back -- Stand with us -- Ride with us -- and most of all, remember why we are here. People need to remember what ABATE is made of -- its members. That means it is all of us. WE ARE ABATE. It is what we make it.

It is the volunteers at our events parking bikes, handing out bumper stickers, signing up new members and helping set stuff up... it's the board members who volunteer their free time to put together events and handle all the paper work. It is the Chapter members that attend the events -- whether it's a Bike Night, Poker Run, Rodeo or any other event. These are the people that make up our Chapters and our organization. Without you, these events just don't happen.

We have a unique opportunity to make a difference in our community with safety awareness and political activism. But, just as important is by letting people see you out there. Letting them know that we count too. That we cannot and will not

be dismissed as a bunch of reckless, society hating motorcycle riders, but a force that has the ability as a whole to stand up and say “ Hey! I’m here and I count too.”

Now it’s up to you what you decide to do. Stand on your soapbox and tell the world what’s wrong with it, or get involved with your Brothers and Sisters and make a difference. You may find a lot of new friends in the process and actually have a little fun. Gee, what a concept. Look for me at any of our Bike Nights or upcoming events. I would be glad to sign you up as a new member or renewal and, if you like, talk your ear off or just listen to your input.

Ride safe out there and hope to meet you soon,  
Jim Gladstone

**Membership – Carol Hart:** We are continuing to hand out the membership anniversary pins at our chapter monthly meeting. You must be present to receive your pin, so I am contacting members prior to their anniversary date. If we do not have the pin for your anniversary in stock, you can obtain them from the state products person at their web site for a nominal fee.

**Products – Carol Hart:** A BIG THANKS to everyone who helped with the Pre Daytona Party. I believe this was our biggest event yet with 1100+ in attendance!! Membership table sold 2010 Rodeo t-shirts and chapter t-shirts with great success. If you didn't get one yet, they will be showing up at Hooters bike night and other upcoming events, or you may contact Jim Gladstone, our new President to get one before they are all gone. Speaking of our new President, thanks to Jim for stepping in and thanks to Mark for all he has done in the past to keep our chapter in great shape!!

## **NEWSLETTER BOOSTERS: Thank You!**

The newsletter booster program helps offset the cost of producing our newsletter. \$5.00 helps provide information, news, fun and legislative updates to motorcycle enthusiasts in our community for six months. Please consider helping today....it’s the same as purchasing that fast food lunch!

Daniel Kennedy	A.J. Pawelkap	Georgie Alfano	Robert Joseph
James Frederick	Pat McCarthy	Donna Greene	Barbara Maraj
Andi Lagassee	Carol Bonella	Matt Solloway	Pat Bernius
Val Bernius	Cyndi Willett	Eric Thompson	Tere Roberts

## **SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Minutes of Meeting held on February 20, 2011

Attendance: 40	Pledge of Allegiance
Members: 33	Moment of Silence
Guests: 7	Prayer by Chapter Chaplain Dwayne Geib
Call to Order 11:01am	

**President/Mark Willett:** Resigned as chapter president due to work commitments. Jim Gladstone was appointed during the last board meeting and agreed to accept contingent upon vote during monthly chapter meeting. Vote taken; all approved, none opposed. Jim took over meeting at this point.

**New President/Jim Gladstone:** Spoke about the annual Pre-Daytona Party to be held today with our sister chapter Peace River at Snook Haven. We could use all the volunteers we can get! Please come out and enjoy the event!

**Vice-President – Mike Gesell:** Nothing at this time except please help out at the Snook event.

**Secretary - Lauren Truran:** Thank you Cyndi Willett for taking the minutes last month. Lauren Truran presented the January 20, 2011 minutes for approval. Carol Hart, Membership, made a motion to amend the minutes to include her January membership report, whereupon the motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, the minutes were approved as amended.

**Membership – Carol Hart:** Several ‘year’ pins were handed out at this meeting. Please continue to renew your membership by the expiration date listed on your newsletter. The following members are due for renewal:

**FEBRUARY RENEWALS**

Blount, Wesley	Cochran, Larry	Farmer, William	Halas, Julius
Roberts, Malcolm	Rockafellow, Rick	Silsby, Elvin II	

**MARCH RENEWALS**

Colella, Devins O.	Fread, Linda	Gesell, Mike	Roesler, Susan
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**APRIL RENEWALS**

Berte', Denise	Berte', Mark	Gladstone, Jim	Gladstone, Margie
Jenkins, Ken	Sevigny, Ray	Thiem, Troy	

Membership is important to all of us who are working hard to keep ABATE in the news for all bikers. Please renew your membership on time and keep involved with your biker friends. Ride safe!!  
Carol Hart, Membership Director

**Legislative -Dwayne Geib: Per Jim:** The “vertical” license tag is now allowed, but has stipulations: you must purchase a transponder and have an active Sun Pass (attached) account.

**Chaplain - Dwayne Geib:** Told the members he will need to step down in some of his duties, but will have an assistant step in when he cannot attend.

**Treasurers Report – Susan Brzostowski:** West Coast ABATE Chapter bank account has been reconciled. Anyone who would like to examine the account may call the Treasurer for an appointment. Respectfully submitted the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011.

**PR - Susan Brzostowski:** Nothing at this time.

**Safety Director - Jim Gladstone:** Advised all at meeting to be aware of gravel along the exit ramp of I-75 at the Snook Haven/River Road exit.

**Event Coordinator - Per Jim:** There will be 19-21 vendors at the event today. It’s only three dollars to attend. Let’s have a good chapter representation!!

**Products – Per Jim:** Donna has stepped down. We will sell the rest of the 2010 Rodeo shirts at a discount at the meeting and at Snook. We need a volunteer to handle products!

**Newsletter - Per Jim:** Kimme has had to step down from this position. We need a volunteer to step up!

**Sgt-at-Arms - Scott Richards:** absent. Bob Bonilla has been appointed as the Assistant Sgt-at-Arms. He was absent today due to the fact that he was at Snook getting set up for today’s event.

**Webmaster - Jim Gladstone:** Our website is updated almost daily – please check it out. Also send any photo’s and/or stories!

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS -** Norm said the bike nite at The Banana Factory in Bradenton would be changed from two times/month to just the last Tuesday of each month. Jim thanked Norm for all of her hard work and dedication!

**50-50/Deana:** won by Doc Fox

Adjournment at 11:20am

DON'T FORGET.... ABOUT THE PROPOSED ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LINK TO THE STATE WEBSITE WHERE YOU WILL FIND THE PROPOSED BYLAWS. WE ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO TAKE THE TIME TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED CHANGES. WE WILL BE VOTING ON THESE AT OUR NEXT CHAPTER MEETING. THE STATE MEETING ON APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> IS WHERE THE CHAPTER DELEGATES WILL VOTE ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

West Coast Chapter Monthly Meeting: Sunday, March 20, 2011. Wittmer | Linehan (see advertiser spotlight below) will be guest speakers at our March Chapter meeting.

**Bike Week!** Friday, March 4 – Sunday, March 13. The event flyer is located at:

[http://www.abateflorida.com/event\\_files/2011bikeweekcolor.pdf](http://www.abateflorida.com/event_files/2011bikeweekcolor.pdf)

The ABATE Campground will be located at the Volusia County Fair Grounds, State Route 44 in Daytona, Florida.

<http://www.abateflorida.com/bikeweek.php>

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Rights Rally!** April 8-11, 2011. Ride to the Capitol on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found on our website at:

[http://westcoast.abateflorida.com/West\\_Coast\\_ABATE/Calendar\\_of\\_Events\\_files/2011FreedomRightsRally.pdf](http://westcoast.abateflorida.com/West_Coast_ABATE/Calendar_of_Events_files/2011FreedomRightsRally.pdf)

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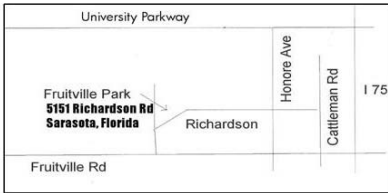
### **ADVERTISER SPOTLIGHT**

Wittmer | Linehan was formed in 2007 as a partnership between two well established local attorneys, Steve Wittmer and Greg Linehan. Steve Wittmer is a native Floridian and has been practicing law in Florida since 1989. He moved his practice from Miami to Sarasota in 1998. Greg Linehan was born and raised in Sarasota and went to Law School in Miami before returning to Sarasota to begin his law practice in 1996. Our Firm concentrates its practice in the area of serious injuries, death and violations of insurance laws (bad faith).

Steve and Greg have used their over 35 years of combined experience to secure settlements for severely injured people, including those injured in motorcycle accidents. In 2005, Mr. Wittmer secured a one million dollar settlement for a father and son who were injured when a car ran a stop sign and hit both of them on their motorcycles. The policy limits in that case were only \$200,000.00. In addition, the firm recovered \$1.5 million in policy limits in a 2008 motorcycle accident. Last month, our Firm obtained a \$7.0 million dollar judgment for a passenger riding on a motorcycle which was hit by a drunk driver. **This was the largest recorded motorcycle injury judgment in Manatee or Sarasota County.**

In these settlements, Steve and Greg worked with seasoned experts and were able to draw upon their experience and knowledge of the laws and statutes of the state of Florida in order to ensure significant recoveries for their clients. However, this is not always the case in situations where there is little to no insurance available. In Florida, drivers are not required to have bodily injury coverage and motorcycle riders are not required to have insurance at all. This creates situations in which there is no insurance available when there is an accident, even a minor one. Since motorcyclists are more likely to be severely injured when they are involved in accidents, it is imperative that the motorcycle rider have their own insurance.

If you, a family member or friend should need our assistance please allow us the privilege of putting our experience and knowledge of motorcycle accidents and insurance laws to work for you so you can maximize your recovery. Your case “Results Matter” to us! ([www.resultsmatterfl.com](http://www.resultsmatterfl.com)). [Disclaimer: Any views or opinions presented in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of ABATE of Florida, Inc. or West Coast Chapter of ABATE.]



**MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION/DIRECTIONS**

From I-75 -- Exit Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, Turn Right On Richardson Rd., Just Ahead on Left; From U.S. 41 or 301 -- East on Fruitville Road, Turn Left On Richardson Rd., Ahead on Left; From University -- South on Honore Ave To Richardson Rd, Turn Right, Ahead on Right

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*Sarasota Chrome Divas*  
 Our Chapter includes women from Sarasota and Manatee.  
 Our Divas are a diverse group of women.  
 One thing that bonds us together is our love for motorcycles.

Although we are all very unique individuals,  
 when we get together we are a close sisterhood!

**Sarasotachromedivas.com or .net**  
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DANIEL S. POLYAK  
 President

*Safety doesn't happen by accident. ~ Author Unknown*

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**BIKE NIGHT**  
**Every Thursday Night 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**  
**Designated Parking, Free Giveaways, 20% Off All Food and 50/50 Each Week**  
**Gulf Gate Mall @ Stickney Point Road/U.S. 41 in Sarasota**  
**Sarasota's "Bikes Bike Night"**



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 Membership Carol Hart 952-1907  
 Sgt. At Arms Scott Richards 822-1989  
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 Safety Jim Gladstone 704-4336  
 Events Mike Gesell 356-4127  
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 Chaplin Dwayne Geib 341-0121  
 Legislative Dwayne Geib 341-0121  
 State Rep. 1 Mike Gesell 356-4127  
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½ Page	\$187.25	\$176.55
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*All prices above include applicable sales tax*

~~~~~  
 Four wheels move the body.  
 Two wheels move the soul.  
 ~ Author Unknown  
 ~~~~~

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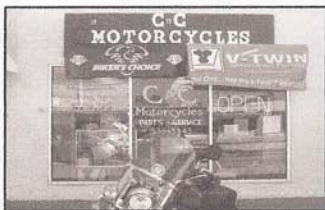
**All bikes / riders welcome!**



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☺ If you haven't been there recently, you haven't been to Cabana! ☺

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ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.  
West Coast Chapter  
P.O. Box 50937  
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**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING**  
March 20, 2011 @ 11 a.m.  
Fruitville Park, Sarasota, FL

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Either Mail This Application In With Your Payment, or Bring to Monthly Meeting (see schedule)

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