

# BikePAC of Oregon Inc.

## Meeting minutes for April and May 2009 And MAY Awareness Rally

As I was unable to attend the April meeting of BikePAC of Oregon, The minutes of that meeting are to be found elsewhere.

In May, the Awareness Rally serves as our regular meeting. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, there was the annual gathering of motorcycles to declare the beginning of the riding season. The intent of this gathering is to promote public awareness of the fact that motorcycles will be using the roads in increasing numbers for the summer months. We are trying to make auto drivers aware and to look out for motorcycles. Approximately 250 bikes showed up at the rally. Not all were there the entire time.

Nic Oliver opened the rally at noon with his introduction and was followed by Mark Kemper, State President of the Christian Motorcyclists Association. The CMA also provided free refreshments for the rally as they have done many times in the past. We thank them.

Security and parking was done by long standing, dependable, Walt Allegar of the OVMA. Thanks, Walt.

At the rally, we had a fun bike show which garnered a few bucks, and the winners were awarded the fun prizes that they won for the secret categories determined beforehand. "Brand", a band from Tangent played music for us when we weren't using their mike for announcements and speakers. The music was good, and of the type enjoyed by our group.

The proclamation from Governor Kulongoski was read by David Peterson, Vice Chair of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety. He was followed by TEAM OREGON representative, Bob Reichenberg, who spoke on the several years of TEAM OREGON training students and the consequent results of declining accidents and deaths in Oregon compared to other states and the national average.

Our political speakers were Andy Olson from the Albany area who spoke on the hard work by BikePAC and the changing attitude within the Capitol concerning the "right to choose". He also brought us up to date on the progress of some bills of interest to us that are going through the legislative process.

The next speaker was Jim Thompson, from the West Benton County area. His talk was on the need to make sure that we bikers are responsible to do what is necessary to insure our own safety by wearing the proper riding gear and obeying the laws. We shouldn't depend on others to always watch out for us. We have to protect ourselves by riding defensively.

Tim Freeman from the Medford area was next to speak. He rode his Harley right up to the microphone aka Jay Leno. It was impressive. He told us that he was a biker long before he was a politician and would continue to work within the system to see that biker's rights were upheld. He has co-sponsored some of the bills that are being worked right now and stated that HB 2554 passed by a vote of 58 to 2. He wonders why the other two Reps were opposed to a sensible bill. He said to listen carefully to what politicians say to you and watch what they do during the legislative session.

Rep Wingard from the Salem area then read to us something he found on the internet—"The Joys of motorcycling" This is a tongue-in-cheek story of why the writer doesn't wave at other bikers he sees on the road, and why he hates them. It was hilarious. I remember reading it in the distant past. It was good then, too.

Last of the elected officials to speak was Senator Atkinson who brought the gas tank from his first motorcycle. It was the motorcycle he got married on. He was having it painted to show that old motorcycles are also valuable to someone. He also stated that he would throw his hat in the ring to be elected next Governor of Oregon. Let's see how this winds up in the future. He promised his support for our issues and asked for our support in the run for Governor.

Last item of the day was the 50/50 drawing won by Jimmie of the CMA.

Mel Yeager  
Secretary/treasurer  
BikePAC of Oregon