

**Hoo-Doo Hippies
ABATE of N. Idaho
Coordinators Comments
December 2021**

At the December meeting, we had officer elections, and Hutch will be assuming the Coordinator position. All other positions will remain the same. After four years, I felt that it was time for someone else to take the job of Coordinator, with fresh ideas, enthusiasm and a different path forward. All this is making me remember how idealistic and full of vinegar I was when I was first involved with ABATE as Field Coordinator for North Idaho in 1974. I still have letters that I wrote to the editor of the CDA Press back then; some related to mandatory helmet laws, some were related to profiling of bikers- I was pissed off because one of their writers had written a well-intended article featuring the club I belonged to then, but the article came off all wrong....at least to me.....I also wrote letters to our Congressmen at the time about mandatory helmet laws and the unfairness of the Federal government withholding transportation funds unless states enacted helmet laws.....how young and naive I was then. They all wrote back to me, full of smooth politician bullshit, but it made me feel like I was doing something. We're still fighting the same battles today, a little different maybe, but still fighting the heavy hand of legislation that's not even written by the people we elect, but instead is written by career "Deep State" bureaucrats that have their own agendas. Back then, we were fighting for the right to modify our motorcycles and cars. Now we're still fighting for very similar things. I would hate to think of where we'd be now if it wasn't for organizations like ABATE. There was a reason that the founders called it A BROTHERHOOD AGAINST TOTALITARIAN ENACTMENTS. Because that's what the government was doing then, and is still doing now. Or trying to.

The first State Coordinator for Idaho was an attorney by the name of S. David Swayne, in Moscow, ID. He became an attorney after being injured in a construction-job accident. He was a biker, I wish I knew where he was now. A few years ago I tried to find out if he still living, with no luck. He recruited me as Field Coordinator, but I didn't do a very good job of it back then.....too many personal and marital problems I guess.

Ranting over.....! There are a lot of people out there who are hurting right now. One of our Hoo-Doo members is in the hospital, out of intensive care as I write this but still very vulnerable. I know we all hope that he recovers and gets up to full speed again. I also want to express gratitude to the Kootenai Road Dogs for sharing with us an over abundance of food they had. The Spirit Lake food bank was very appreciative! We also donated money to the Spirit Lake VFW for their program that sends packages to service members overseas. Thanks everyone for being members, selling raffle tickets, and buying 50/50 tickets that makes it possible to do those things.

Everyone have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Riding off into the sunset, keeping my powder dry and the shiny side up....

Tim Closson
Coordinator