

VIRGINIA FREEDOM RIDERS
RIDERS AGAINST CONSTITUTIONAL EROSION

FREEDOM PRESS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2005

FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND PATRIOTS,

We've been keeping busy this summer. As you know, this is an election year. We've been active in campaigns, riding in parades and meeting with candidates across the state. Our goal as always is to get biker friendly candidates elected. We have only one focus and that is bikers' rights.

We supported Delegate Chap Peterson in his effort to win the primary for his district. It is a blow for the bikers in Virginia that he lost the race. Chap was a friend of the bikers and will be missed in Richmond.

The parade in Dale City for Delegate Lingemfelter was a great success. We had over 20 bikes in the parade and the crowd loved it! The Delegate was extremely happy to have us all there. I would like to thank the members of VFR, VCOM, and ABATE who turned out for this function. Between the trikers and Boil hot doggin' the crowd was on their feet! This show of support is so critical for our supporters. It draws a lot of attention and makes the candidates known in the community. If you have an opportunity to participate in an event like this I encourage you to do it. I know it's hard on the bike but you have to compare the cost of a clutch to the cost of freedom.

As we get closer to elections we will be getting commitments from our Delegates. When we

have those commitments, we will make formal announcements of our support. In our October newsletter we will have the names of candidates that we support and ask for volunteers to support their campaigns. The election is in November, we will need to act fast and work hard. Also, check the web site www.vfr-race.com for updates. The web site is updated daily.

Lastly, I would like to welcome our newest region representative. Jeanne Placone has volunteered for Region I Representative. Region I includes Northern Virginia and North-western Virginia. She can be contacted at trike4me@earthlink.net. Jeanne has demonstrated her commitment to bikers' rights in the Commonwealth and has stepped up to a tremendous challenge. The VFR is proud to welcome her and we look forward to working with her and all of Region I.

We're getting down to the wire, Freedom Fighters and Patriots. You are doing great work and should be proud. With your continued support and help we will make a difference in the Commonwealth. Our lifestyle will endure with people like you in the fight for freedom!

Faceman
Bernie Adams
faceman@vfr-race.com
President, Virginia Freedom Riders

NEW PRODUCTS!

I am pleased to announce that we now have some products to sell.

We have commissioned some "Supporter" patches. They have the same VFR logo that our member patches have. Under the logo we have the word "Supporter". The patches sell for \$5.00 each.

We also have some motorcycle "coasters". The coasters are designed to be placed under the kickstand of your bike. These come in handy on grass, hot blacktop, mud, etc. It will double as a drink coaster! They are 4" decagon, black, with VIRGINIA FREEDOM RIDERS WWW.VFR-RACE.COM in silver lettering. The coasters will sell for \$5.00 each.

Finally, we have some VFR hats. The hats are black with the VFR logo embroidered in full color. These hats are awesome. It's a one-size-fits-all hat. The hats are cool, something you can wear year around. They will sell for \$17.00. To purchase any of these items see a VFR board member, region rep. or check us out online at www.vfr-race.com.

FREEDOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

This is my first crack at the newsletter and I think it has turned out pretty good.

The VFR Newsletter, FREEDOM PRESS, will be published every other month on even number months. The deadline will be the 10th of each publishing month and I hope to have them in the mail by the 20th.

We are looking for your articles. If you have something you would like to have included in the newsletter please send it to me at herseyc@vfr-race.com or mail it to VFR-RACE, PO BOX 1387, SUFFOLK, VA 23439-1387.

Take Care - Ride FREE
Hersey Cartwright

SOUTHERN CROSS CONFERENCE

Have you registered for the Southern Cross Conference yet? No? Well you need to get on that!

This is the first annual conference held for bikers of Southern States. The conference will be held October 29, 2005 in Charleston, South Carolina. Free patches will be sent to the first 100 who register.

Why a Southern Cross Conference of State Motorcycle Rights Organizations?

The southern states hold 131 seats in the US House of Representatives and 22 seats in the US Senate. Southern states control 30% of the house and 22% of the senate. Southern states have a tendency to retain the representatives and senators much longer than other states; many of our representatives and senators hold senior positions and sit on most important committees and subcommittees. The chairmen of many important committees are southern.

Our southern states are not receiving a fair share of federal highway funds taken at our gas pumps. Southern roads are poorly maintained due to the unfair funding formulas used by the federal government. Federal mandates are creating more work for our SMROs fighting seat belt and helmet mandates.

A need is seen for southern states and SMROs to form a legislative coalition and effect change in Washington. We can be much more effective by working and visiting Washington together.

"Government is too big and too important to be left to the politicians."
Chester Bowles (1901 - 1986)

IMPORTANT WEB LINKS

VFR-RACE WEBSITE
<http://www.vfr-race.com/>

VIRGINIA COALITION OF MOTORCYCLISTS (VCOM)
<http://www.vcomonline.org/>

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS FOUNDATION
<http://www.mrf.org/>

SONS OF LIBERTY RIDERS
<http://www.solriders.com/>

Mission Statement:

The Southern Cross Conference will provide an effective means of promoting discussion and direct communication among participating southern motorcycle rights organizations in an informal educational environment. Recognizing the importance of southern influence at the federal level, this leadership conference will encourage the development of skills and knowledge necessary to become a strong political voice in Washington.

Proposed Workshops:

- 1) Southern Political Powerbase: Who Are They and What Can They Do For Us?
- 2) Mr. Biker Goes To Washington: Planning a Successful Trip
- 3) Federal Government 101: How The Big Guys Get Things Done
- 4) Herding Cats: Organizing Effective Lobby Teams

Become part of the solution by joining with us to protect your liberties.

This is an annual conference and Virginia will be hosting it in the future. Reserve your place in history and register to attend this event! Go to

<http://www.southerncrossconference.com/SCC-Registration.pdf>
or contact me (misspenny@vfr-race.com 540-539-9300).

Penny Adams
Legislative Officer, Virginia Freedom Riders

THE FREEDOM PRESS

THE VFR NEWSLETTER WILL BE
PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY, APRIL,
JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER, AND
DECEMBER

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
LET US KNOW AT

[HTTP://WWW.VFR-RACE.COM/](http://www.vfr-race.com/)
OR

EMAIL HERSEYC@VFR-RACE.COM

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH

VCOM NEWS

Tom McGrath, VFR Freedom Fighter and Richmond attorney, has been appointed by Governor Mark Warner to represent motorcyclists on the Commonwealth Transportation Safety Board (CTSB). Tom will be the first member to represent motorcyclists as his primary function. Motorcyclists were previously represented by John Mazaa, who held the aviation seat and took on the role of representing motorcycles as a secondary function. We owe John our thanks for the work he has done for us, as well as setting the groundwork for a full-time representation on the Board.

Tom has spent many years in Richmond specializing in the needs of motorcyclists. His dedication to motorcycling brought him to the Capitol where he recognized a need to have full time-political representation and founded the Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists (VCOM) in 1992. We've had a strong voice at the legislature ever since. Tom has also been very involved in other areas of motorcycling: working with VDOT to open the HOV lanes to motorcyclists, developing signs to alert motorcyclists of hazards like edge traps, milled pavement, and open joints. Tom is currently working with VDOT on toll booth safety issues, and is always working with DMV and the Virginia Rider Training

Program to meet the needs of new riders.

Tom's appointment is the result of persistence on the part of Bob Crouch, the Governor's Counsel and former Chief Deputy Secretary of Public Safety. The CTSB is in charge of reviewing and awarding federal grants for highway safety projects and ongoing programs. For example, the Virginia Rider Training program gets some money for awareness programs and equipment needs. Some monies go to VCU for motorcycle accident investigation training. The list goes on. With a motorcyclist on the Board, we now know our voice will be heard, and our needs will not go unnoticed.

Jim Cannon
Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists
<http://www.vcomonline.org/>

BIKER RUNS FOR 95TH DISTRICT DELEGATE SEAT

Sean Devlin is a BIKER and he is running for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates. Several of us from the VFR were there to support him when he officially announced his campaign back in June.

To get elected Sean is going to need some help from us. The 95th District covers Hampton and Newport News, even if you do not live in these areas you can help. Contact the Devlin Campaign through their website at <http://www.devlin95th.com/> or any VFR Board Member/Officer to find out how you can help get this biker elected.

FINISHED WITH THE
NEWSLETTER?
PASS IT ALONG TO A
FRIEND!

FREEDOM FIGHTERS :: LEADING THE FIGHT

I have been riding on the front seat since 1996, and back then I was clueless that my new found passion was in jeopardy. I was fully engrossed in mastering the skills of riding, and learning all I could, without ever imagining it could come to a grinding halt one day. I was exposed to a few events sponsored then by the only SMRO I had ever heard of, but during those events, I was never enlightened to what their purpose was. The events were bar hopper poker runs and it seemed the main objective was to drink a few beers, get a winning poker hand, and have a good time. Maybe it was their lack of PR, or maybe it was just me wrapped up in my own little world. But I just didn't get the message.

As my personal life finally went from turmoil to relative tranquility, I began to take notice of the world around me, and began finding information on the internet about detrimental legislation that would effect me as a motorcyclist. I believe one of the defining moments was when I saw an article about the proposed idea of requiring motorcycles to be equipped with airbags, of all things. So, as any righteous Libra would do, I decided that I had to do something to put a stop to such nonsense, and put the scales back in a balanced position. At that moment in time, I revisited the website of the Virginia Free-

dom Riders R.A.C.E and read each page with interest. I joined the forum, and read up on the latest happenings, and the issues at hand. I recall being most impressed with the fact that every day, often several times a day, the forum had new posts.

I had seen my share of stale sites that never had any new information or discussion, and I knew right away that this organization was different...they were active! I saw a passion in the members driven by a specific purpose, iced with consistent vigilance and level headed professionalism. These are the type of people that Patrick Henry spoke of. These are Patriots that get things done, and I'm honored to be one of them.

Beth Liles
VFR RACE Freedom Fighter

"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave..."
Patrick Henry

WELL SEASONED

My mother makes the best fried chicken in the world. Honest. No one makes better fried chicken than my mother. When I was a kid, I took it for granted. We had fried chicken pretty regular, and I always loved it, but it never occurred to me that it was a gift to know how to make fried chicken perfectly crisp on the outside, and tender on the inside.

When I became an adult and married and discovered the "joy" of cooking, I thought I'd make fried chicken for my new husband. I called my mother and she told me exactly how much flour to use to coat the chicken and exactly how to fry it. I did everything she said. My fried chicken sucked! I attempted to fry chicken many times – and my chicken sucked many times.

Over the course of many years of being away from home and many years of trying to fry chicken, I've come to the realization that I can not fry chicken like my mother. I just can't. I've watched and I've tried to emulate her, but I just can not do it. I've probably spent way more time thinking on this than any normal person would, but it occurs to me why my mom can fry such good chicken.

My mom uses a well seasoned cast iron

frying pan to fry chicken. I bought a cast iron frying pan, many years ago during one of her visits, so she could fry chicken for me. When we got it home, she told me we needed to "season" it. We needed to put grease all over it and expose it to some very high temperatures for a great long while. I was convinced this was the secret, so I did exactly what she told me to do. That night she fried the most wonderful fried chicken I have ever eaten.

A few weeks later, I took that well seasoned cast iron pan out again, certain that I could now make fried chicken. My fried chicken sucked! I had just been convinced the secret was the well seasoned pan. Why can't I make fried chicken????

Recently my mother visited and, of course, cooked me the most wonderful fried chicken on the face of the entire planet. As I think about why she can do what I simply can not, I realize that the key is indeed in the seasoning – not only in a seasoned pan, but in a seasoned cook. My mother has made fried chicken on a countless number of days. Not only is her pan well seasoned, but my mother is well seasoned.

"Seasoning" can not be accomplished without exposure to some high heat – without exposure to a difficult, and somewhat uncomfortable, time. When I think of bikers that I know and respect as successful in our fight for liberty, I

realize they are "well seasoned". And I know the only way I can ever expect to understand how to work well in the bikers' rights arena is to become well seasoned myself - to take the plunge and do my very best and learn from my mistakes. I need to arm myself with as much information as I possibly can and make appointments to speak with my representatives on behalf of bikers' rights. I need to sacrifice a few hours a week to dedicate to fighting for the liberties I know are worth dieing for. I need to expose myself to the fire and know that I will only be stronger for it.

I'd love to end this by saying I now know how to fry chicken, but to be perfectly honest, I still suck at it. But I will keep trying. I have the well seasoned pan, now I just need to work on seasoning myself.

Penny Adams
misspenny@vfr-race.com
Legislative Officer,
Virginia Freedom Riders

VISIT THE
FREEDOM FORUMS
WWW.VFR-RACE.COM

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW REGION I REP

My name is Jeanne Placon and I am your Region I representative.

I started riding my own bike in 1994 when a co-worker encouraged me to take the MSF course. Just about the time that I was becoming active with an SMRO I was involved in a motorcycle wreck that left me seriously and permanently injured.

During the last 5 years I have spent most of my time trying to recover and get back on the road, but I have also stayed in touch with legislative issues concerning bikers. I am amazed at the apathetic attitude of many riders when it comes to protecting their rights and realized that I cannot sit back and hope that others will fight for me.

I look forward to meeting and working with the members of Virginia Freedom Riders – R.A.C.E. Your comments and suggestions on how I can better serve this organization are most welcome. Please feel free to contact me at trike4me@earthlink.net.

Jeanne Placon
trike4me@earthlink.net
VFR-RACE Region I Representative

SHIFTING GEARS :: A COUPLE OF TIPS FOR THE RIDING SEASON

Well into the riding season, and it has been hotter than usual over much of the country. Most of us are pretty good with the upkeep of our machines: tune-ups, fluids, etc. I'd just like to remind everyone not to forget the "biological machine". When riding on a hot day you are probably still perspiring, although you may not feel it due to the wind evaporating it immediately. Please remember to drink plenty of water, even mild dehydration can cause shorter attention span and increased reaction times. We want to keep everyone around for many more seasons!

Many of us have a lot of great skin art that we are very proud of and represents a lot of time under the needle, not to mention a serious monetary investment. It's a good idea to protect your skin with a good sunscreen (SPF 30 or more) applied frequently. Overexposure to sun and wind can seriously dry and damage skin, resulting in premature aging. While the pigments in a tattoo don't degrade much over the years, as the canvass (skin) deteriorates, the artwork degrades. Healthier skin = longer lasting artwork!

Ride Safe!

Tex Sylvester aka "choppertrike"

VFR-RACE Treasurer

ABATE NEWS FROM CULPEPER

Election Day is fast approaching! In the Culpeper area we are all set for now, with Ed Scott running unopposed. We need to carefully review the races in our neighboring regions to see who can use our phone help and sign-pounding skills.

The governor's race has been interesting to follow. One day a poll will say that Kaine is in the lead, the next one will report that Kilgore is ahead. It sure is shaping up to be a close competition.

On August 20th, ABATE's helmet law reform coordinator has planned a ride from Leesburg to Gettysburg to meet up with ABATE of PA and take a group photo. The purpose is to draw attention to Virginia motorcyclists' tax dollars leaving the state for freedom of choice. If you can participate, please contact Bob at 540-832-7447 for more details.

I think our helmet law reform efforts will meet an up-hill battle in Richmond next year. Weekly it seems, there are articles printed quoting increases in motorcycle accident fatalities nationwide. Every article seems to mention the decrease in mandatory helmet laws. These reports will be difficult to counteract when we are working Virginia's reform bill. I hope we will be prepared.

The Culpeper ABATE chapter is hosting a poker run and party on October 1st, beginning and ending in Brandy Station. We will draw the winner of our money raffle – only 300 tickets sold for \$5 each. First prize is \$500, second \$250, third \$100 and more prizes too. Contact me at culpepersharon@earthlink.net if you'd like to buy some tickets or for more information about the poker run. Proceeds to benefit our helmet law reform efforts.

Hope to see you all out on 2 wheels! (or three)

Sharon Keaton, Amissville, VA
culpepersharon@earthlink.net

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.VFR-RACE.COM](http://WWW.VFR-RACE.COM)

VIRGINIA FREEDOM RIDERS
RIDERS AGAINST CONSTITUTIONAL
EROSION

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Suffolk, VA 23439-1387

E-mail: newsletter@vfr-race.com

CHECK US OUT ONLINE AT:
[HTTP://WWW.VFR-RACE.COM/](http://www.vfr-race.com/)

OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE,
BY THE PEOPLE
WE ARE THE PEOPLE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Dues are \$15.00. Please make check payable to VFR-RACE.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #1: _____ Phone #2: _____

Email: _____ Fax #: _____

Are you a registered voter? YES NO (Circle One)

Do you have a motorcycle license? YES NO (Circle One)

What motorcyclists' issues would you like to see VFR-RACE address?

Please mail this completed application along with your \$15 check or money order to:
VFR-RACE, PO BOX 1387, Suffolk, VA 23439-1387



Virginia
Freedom Riders
R.A.C.E.

Riders Against Constitutional Erosion

HELP PROTECT THE
RIGHT TO RIDE

JOIN THE R.A.C.E.

**VIRGINIA
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RIDERS**