

Having failed to convince State legislatures to adopt laws mandating helmet or specific apparel use by motorcyclists, the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has potentially found another body to advance mandatory-use laws: The United Nations.**

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) has learned that, in total defiance of legislation passed by Congress, NHTSA has moved its efforts to the United Nations, specifically the world body's "Inland Transport Committee: Working Party on Road



Sculpture Stolen

"The Ride," an original bronze sculpture commissioned by Helmet House to grace the outside of the its Calabasas Hills, CA headquarters' entrance, was stolen on Thursday night, October 9.

Weighing 400 pounds and mounted on a custom-made, four-foot tall concrete and granite pedestal, the sculpture itself was over three feet high. "It's not something the thieves could have slipped into their pocket," said Bob Miller, Helmet House president. "They needed torches, a truck, and a pre-determined plan. They had to heat or cut the steel rods that connected the sculpture to the base. It's very upsetting that somebody went to all this trouble to steal it."

That sentiment was echoed by a number of Helmet House staffers. Administrative Assistant Tiffany Tadeo said, "Discovering it was missing caught me by surprise when I got to work early Friday morning. I was shocked. It's so upsetting, like somebody violated us."

"The Ride" was among the first projects of the "Art In Public Places" program of the city of Calabasas. It is the work of sculptor Steve Posson and art director Liselotte Bjorck-Posson. Steve is most famous to motorcyclists as the creator of "Glory Days," the highly-regarded theme sculpture that is the centerpiece of the American Motorcyclist Association Museum in Westerville, Ohio.

Anyone with information on the missing sculpture is asked to please contact Joanne Golden or Mark Gandy at Helmet House, (818) 880-0000.

Hall of Fame Sellout



As the youngest-ever Motorcycle Hall of Fame inductee, Jeremy McGrath had a great reason to flash his award-winning smile (left, with fellow Hall-of-Fame member and motocross racing great Donnie Hansen looking on in the background). This year's Motorcycle Hall of Fame weekend at the Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum in Pickerington, OH was a sell-out success. Over 500 industry people and enthusiasts attended the Saturday, October 4th evening Hall of Fame reception, and many more enjoyed the Sunday, October 5th Concours d'Elegance and official Induction Ceremony. Blue skies and warm fall temperatures greeted hundreds of motorcycle enthusiasts, including special guests like Willie G. and Nancy Davidson and friends and family members in town to support new inductees.

The weekend's festivities also included a special by-invitation motorcycle ride with new Hall of Fame members including Scott Parker (on the right, with his son) with actor and moto-enthusiast Perry King, who served as master of ceremonies for the weekend.

Traffic Safety (WP.1)." In a document dated July 15, 2003, and during meetings held by WP.1 in Geneva, Sept. 22-25, 2003, NHTSA presented the following recommendations for WP.1:

Action: "To start a discussion and exchange of information among WP.1 member nations and key non-governmental organizations on motorcycle safety programs." As part of NHTSA's proposed action plan, it urges a questionnaire be circulated among member states. Among the questions NHTSA requests for inclusion on the questionnaire: "Fatality and injury rates due to motorcyclists not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash;" "Laws governing helmet use;" "Amount of penalty for not wearing a helmet;" and, "Are there any repercussions, other than fines, if riders do not wear a helmet?"

The Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations (FEMA) disclosed the NHTSA strategy at the September MRF Meeting Of The Minds. FEMA is a partner with the MRF, AMA and FIM in ensuring the voice of riders is heard at "Working Party 29" (WP.29), the global vehicles harmonization talks being held in Geneva under the auspices of the U.N. The NHTSA document surfaced in Geneva.

"This extraordinary move is a violation of Congressional action and intent," said Karen Bolin, President of the MRF. "Con-

gress has directed that motorcyclist apparel issues are matters to be decided by the states—not the Congress, not a federal regulatory agency, and certainly not the United Nations. This calls for a vigorous, sustained response from the Motorcyclists' Rights Movement in the United States. The MRF will pursue every option available to halt NHTSA's regulatory power grab."

NHTSA represents the United States in the global talks. As a signatory to the international agreement to establish WP.29, the U.S. is obligated to initiate a federal rule-making whenever WP.29 agrees to a Global Technical Regulation (GTR).

"If NHTSA initiates a rulemaking on mandatory apparel of any kind, the regulation usurps State legislative prerogatives," said Tom Wyld, MRF VP-Government Relations. "We would view that as a violation of the Tenth Amendment, and the MRF will use every avenue available to fight such infringement."

The MRF urges all motorcyclists and riding organizations to do the following:

1. Contact your Congressman and U.S. Senators (202-224-3121) (www.house.gov) (www.senate.gov).

2. Explain the situation, let them know your views, and ask for their help in pressuring NHTSA to abandon its bid to regulate American motorcyclist attire through the United Nations.

3. Ask your Congressman and Senators to follow-up with you on this issue.

4. Follow up with them.

5. Please e-mail Tom Wyld with any feedback you receive from your Congressman or Senators (mrf-news@mrf.org).

World Motorcycle Tours is offering new **Alpine tours designed especially for seniors** by owners Warren and Flori Goodman. Warren says that unlike most other organized tours of the Alps, his allows you to enjoy the scenery "without busting your butt," and includes shipping your own motorcycle to Europe. For information, call: (800) 443-7519 or see the website at www.motorcycletours.com.

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has endorsed legislation in Congress to **get tough on individuals who cause willful damage to federal lands.**

The Trail Responsibility and Accountability for the Improvement of Lands Act (TRAIL Act), introduced by U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colorado), provides for consistent enforcement of land use, protection and management regulations by the Federal Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service. Currently, those agencies impose different penalties on recreational users who damage public land.

In addition, the bill substantially increases the penalties on individuals who willfully cause damage to designated trails. Any fines collected would be used for rehabilitation and trail awareness programs.

AMA Washington Representative Patrick Holtz said he sees the proposal as a common-sense approach to law enforcement on public land because it doesn't make a distinction between people who enjoy motorized recreation and those who enjoy other forms of recreation.

"Unfortunately, the issue of law enforcement has been used as a political football to demonize and deny access to the motorized community," Holtz said. "Bad actors, regardless of their mode of recreation, should be punished appropriately."

The AMA decided to endorse the Tancredo legislation, in part, because another measure, H.R. 751, commonly called "ROVER," targets *only* motorized vehicle users, and doesn't provide for consistent penalties among the various agencies.

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has announced that Margaret Wilson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is the latest recipient of the **AMA Bessie Stringfield Memorial Award for Superior Achievement by a Female Motorcyclist.** The pre-

Win a MC Tour of Brazil

ActionStations, Inc., North American Distributors of Bohn Body Protection, Scottollers and Acumen Electronics, is offering an incentive to arrive at the Cycle World International Motorcycle Show in your area early—and to visit their booth first.

Paul English, President of Actionstations, says that at each of the dozen shows this winter, the first 25 people who show up at his booth each day will be allowed to enter a contest in which they finish the sentence, "I like to ride protected...."

One winner will be chosen from each show, and will automatically be awarded a year's free subscription to MCN, and be entered in the Grand Prize contest.

At the end of the show season, the Editors of MCN will choose the Grand Prize winner from the 12 show winners, and that person will receive a free motorcycle tour of Brazil, including flight, hotel, bikes, etc.

Overall odds of winning the Grand Prize are 1 in 750, and the contest is not officially affiliated with Motorcycle Consumer News or its parent or affiliate companies in any way, but is administered by Actionstations, Inc. (888) 922-9269; outside the USA call (530) 898-9269; www.ActionStation.com; www.RiderStation.com

sensation took place on Saturday, October 4, during ceremonies connected with the 2003 Motorcycle Hall of Fame inductions.

The award, presented to Margaret for more than 50 years of active involvement, leadership and excellence in motorcycling, recognizes individual women who have been instrumental in showing other women they can be active participants in the world of motorcycling. Created in 2000, the AMA Bessie Stringfield Award is presented to those acknowledged by their peers as true leaders in the sport, women who have had a significant positive impact on the role and image of women in motorcycling over a sustained period of time.

Margaret's love of motorcycling began in 1946, when her husband, Mike, gave her a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Beginning in 1950 and for the next 25 years, Margaret and Mike also were business partners in Wilson's Motorcycle Sales of Cedar Rapids. She's a Golden Life Member of the Motor Maids, having joined this renowned national women's motorcycle organization in 1951, and she helped form the Corn State Riders Motorcycle Club in the early 1950s. Over the years she has assisted with many

AMA Reacts to CBS Program

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), reacting to a CBS News report on so-called "extreme street riding," points out that this illegal and dangerous conduct represents only a small percentage of the American motorcycling community.

The CBS News "Eye on America" report, which aired during the September 25th broadcast of "The CBS Evening News with Dan Rather," documented groups of motorcyclists who ride at high speeds and perform stunts on public streets and highways. A CBS News producer, conducting research for the report, had contacted the AMA in mid-August.

"For the most part, the CBS News segment correctly portrayed extreme street riding as an isolated phenomenon," said Tom Lindsay, AMA Public Information Director. "It's unfortunate, however, that the irresponsible conduct of such a small number of motorcyclists gets national attention, while the overwhelming majority of American motorcyclists are responsible and law-abiding."

The AMA believes that stunt riding, like that portrayed in the CBS News report, has no place on public streets and highways, where it endangers both motorcyclists and other motorists.

motorcycle races and events, and has logged more than 555,000 miles throughout the United States and Canada. Margaret and Mike currently both serve on the Board of Directors of the Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum and are among the Museum's principal benefactors.

Nominations for the AMA Bessie Stringfield Award for Superior Achievement by a Female Motorcyclist may be submitted by any member of the Association. It is bestowed from time to time at the pleasure of the AMA Board of Directors. Past recipients of the award include (MCN's own) Patti Carpenter, and Rita Coombs.

News from Gilroy, California, has it that one of **Indian Motorcycles'** founders, Rey Sotelo, is preparing a bid to buy out the company's assets and begin building the marque once again. On board with him are said to be many of the original investors that started Indian in 1998, but were later bought out by the Audax Group.

In related news, former CEO Frank O'Connell (second-largest stockholder in Indian) is also said to be preparing a bid. Can Indian be revived? Stay tuned.