

## Do you want to get better?

Who thinks that they are the best riders that they can be?

C'mon, show of hands.

If your hand is in the air, you, my friend, are an idiot. Your obedient servant here is an object lesson that everyone needs to get recalibrated periodically. 45 years (+) in the saddle was all for naught when I took myself for granted last summer. (If you don't know the story, search the newsletter archives. 😊)

Periodic training is a wonderful recalibration tool, and ABATE of WA is working on a pilot project to get folks some advanced training. I have RFQs (request for quote for the non-bureaucratic folks) out to two of the top training companies in the state, looking to book a training class exclusively for ABATE of WA personnel. This will be no cost to our members (\$200.00-\$300.00 value) for the training, only your travel to the training site. The RFQ is targeting the July-September time frame, but that is a negotiable item.

Although the training will be done on a range, it is not the make the figure 8 in the box, friction zone stuff. This is advanced quick braking work, body position to minimize lean angle (If you have floorboards, you want that skill.), advanced swerving skills, more complex braking skills for cornering, and self introspection to name a few. These classes require that the student arrive on a well maintained motorcycle, wearing good gear.

We are still fleshing out how members can qualify for the class but I want everyone to consider tossing your hat into the ring. We may only have the ability to comp 12-16 members this year, but this program can build. Also, if you are interested in some advanced training but cannot get into the ABATE of WA subsidized class, do some math. Pass on the daily latte 3 times a week and after 10-12 weeks a class will be paid in full. What is more important to you, the \$300.00 (or more) farkle for the bike that you want to make it look "kewl," or protecting your own hide?

It's your call.

Until next time, ride it safely, and bring you and the bike home with the same number of scratches with which you started.

R/Texas