



GENE DANA, SHERIFF
KITTITAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

307 W. Umptanum Rd ♦ Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 962-7525 ♦ (509) 674-2584
FAX (509) 962-7599

March 28, 2011

Board of County Commissioners
Kittitas County Courthouse
205 West 5th Ave., Suite 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: Special Event Application- ABATE Spring Opener

Dear Commissioners:

I have reviewed the special event application for the ABATE Spring Opener. ABATE (American Bikers Armed Towards Education) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the Freedom of Choice. Membership is open to anyone interested in promoting freedom of the roads. I believe the organization has sincere intentions and I welcome small groups of motorcycles to visit our county. Unfortunately, the ABATE Spring Opener has had a history of problems at their events across the state and especially in Kittitas County.

ABATE held meets near Ronald for 13 years. The last time was the 1991 spring opener which attracted 4,000 bikers. I worked the area as a trooper and recall that inside was uncontrolled with incidents of assaults, rape, underage drinking, lewdness and intoxication. Outside the event included several bar issues with threats to police.

Sheriff McBride met with local law enforcement after the event. His opinion was "we are sitting on a powder keg (with the event) waiting for it to blow." He stated the situations with rival motorcycle gangs last weekend was the worst in the last five years. He estimated 34 ABATE members appointed to provide "internal" security was not adequate for the 3 to 4,000 people. He felt that there was a high likelihood of rival MC gangs being armed in the area as the event attracted separate encampments of outlaw motorcycle groups. There were reports of gunfire from the ABATE encampments and reports of detonations of some kind of explosive device. There was a report that 49 Gypsy Jokers crashed the gate refusing to pay. There were reports that "snipers" were deployed around the perimeter of the encampment. There was a serious intimidation of a Roslyn police officer along with public drinking in streets and parking motorcycles on the sidewalks in Roslyn. EMS responded to two possible heart attacks, one assault and two non-injury accidents related to the event.

Large amounts of overtime were required by all agencies to handle the event and McBride recommended that the BOCC no longer sanction the event. Kittitas County forced ABATE to move by denying liquor and food permits.

Since that time ABATE has moved around the State including Okanogan, Yakima and Klickitat County. At Toppenish, the ABATE security blocked Sheriff's deputies from entering the event area to stop a fight. At the Zillah event (2000) there was a fatal shooting involving motorcycle gang rivalry. The Sheriff worked with the organizers to boost security the following couple of

State Accredited 1997

MAR 30 2011

1st 2nd 3rd

years, but ABATE refused to ban the Outlaw Groups from entering the event and complained that intense policing may have decreased attendance. The Yakima County Sheriff subsequently opposed future events in Yakima County. ABATE eventually moved to the Klickitat County Fairgrounds in 2010 and was required to have extra private security along with pre-event planning meetings with the Sheriff. They promised the Commissioners that there would be no nudity. Subsequently T-shirts came off during the "wet t-shirt" contest. (This was not good at the fairgrounds.) The Commissioners were not pleased when the nude photos were posted on the ABATE website stating they were from Klickitat County.

The location on private property near Easton has some concerns. It has no fencing to restrict access by the underage or to protect adjacent landowners. They will not have a beer garden which tells me it will be uncontrolled tailgate party or large groups congregating or caravanning to local bars in Easton, Roslyn and Cle Elum. Local law enforcement cannot handle large intoxicated groups at several locations at the same time. ABATE has not contracted with private security for this event and I am not confident their own untrained security will be effective.

This event near Easton will have very little positive impact other than the two bars and grocery store nearby. It will have a negative impact on the local residents and our regular weekend visitors to the area. It will most likely create extra calls for service and extra costs for local law enforcement.

In summary, this event will provide no benefit to the citizens of Kittitas County, it is not the image we want for our county and will create an environment for problems to occur that we don't need. My recommendation is to deny the special permit as submitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Dana".

Gene Dana,
Sheriff

Attachments

Biker gather to be investigated

By MIKE JOHNSTON
City Editor

Killbuck County commissioners, in the Elum Tuesday, said they wanted to investigate problems arising from the annual ABATE motorcycle group gathering near Jewell, which last weekend attracted an estimated 4,000 motorcycles and thousands from around the state.

Commissioners, meeting at the Upper County District Courtroom, also decided to delay action on a

grant to aid economically strapped Upper County timber workers in an effort to determine whether a worker hired through the grant would be a county employee.

John Perre, county commission chairman, said County Sheriff Bob McBride will be meeting soon with representatives of other law enforcement agencies operating in the county to gain their perspective on the growing ABATE gathering and to assess what possible areas of improvement should be addressed in

regard to the event.

Gathering information and comments on the event will help commissioners make decisions on how the county will respond to plans for next year's gathering, Perre said.

In earlier talks with commissioners, McBride said he wanted to gain more accurate numbers on attendance at the ABATE function and to assess law enforcement's response to the event. He also wanted to find out what specific concerns other agencies might have

in regard to the gathering. Although there are no specific numbers, McBride estimated 4,000 to 5,000 people took part in the weekend activity.

McBride said he will submit the information he gathers to county commissioners with possible recommendations on changes that might be pursued.

Commissioner Ray Owens, in an earlier study session, said he has heard concerns about the large event from both sides — those who

encourage the annual gathering and want to better control or monitor some aspects of it, and those who are against it entirely. He stressed the event attracts all kinds of people, from those who are members of well-known motorcycle clubs to those who are professionals — doctors and lawyers — who are ABATE members and look forward to the annual gathering. He said it is recognized as a multi-weekend event by many local business people who do a brisk business that weekend

with all the visitors, but he also realized the event is an attraction to motorcycle gangs.

Owens said one concern he would like to see examined is the location of the camping area of ABATE members, if being near the main lake of domestic water for the City of Elum. He said he would like to gather information and comments from other nearby landowners about the event — including from the U.S. Forest Service and

(Continued on page 7)

Biker gathering eyed

(Continued from Page 1)
Plum Creek Timber Co.

After Tuesday's commissioners meeting in Cle Elum, Pertie said review of the ABATE event is for the purpose of seeing if there are any concerns that need to be addressed. After all comments are gathered, discussion about the findings will be rescheduled for a future commissioners meeting.

Speaking only for himself, Pertie said he would be reluctant to recommend approval of the event's liquor license next year if any problems surfacing from the review are not solved.

Jim Hathaway, Roslyn city councilman, said he was speaking only for himself yesterday when he told commissioners he has had growing concerns with the event for the past five years. He said his comments on Tuesday were made not in light of any past ill behavior by event participants, but due to what appears to be a growing law enforcement burden to keep the different motorcycle groups in check. He said it was his understanding that many hours of law enforcement time and effort, at taxpayer expense, occurred on Sunday in an effort to contain potential problems between motorcycle groups.

Hathaway said he recognizes the

economic importance of the event to Upper County businesses, but also must recognize valid concerns voiced by local residents. He said many of those who have expressed concerns about the event, or who are against it, are reluctant to "step forward publicly" to make their concerns known for a variety of reasons. He said he attempted a signature drive last year, but many didn't want to identify themselves.

He said many residents complain about the noise from motorcycles and he suggested the site of the event be moved south of Roslyn so traffic wouldn't have to go through town.

"I've said in the past I'd rather not have the event here," Hathaway said after the meeting. "This just isn't the image we want for our community."

Don May, owner of The Last Resort, said he told commissioners to urge all those involved in the event — ABATE members, law enforcement, local government officials, citizens and business people — to work together to solve any concerns.

ABATE members at the session indicated they will continue to work closely with local officials, business people and citizens to organize the annual event and said they were

considering restricting the event to only those 21 years of age or older.

In other business Tuesday, commissioners agreed to delay action on a state grant that would allow the hiring of a person to identify county residents hard hit by the downturn in the local timber industry. The person also would help coordinate projects to employ out-of-work loggers and seek funding for the projects.

Pertie said signing to receive the \$15,000 pilot program grant will be delayed until the commissioners' next meeting. This will give commissioners time to determine whether the employee will be under the jurisdiction and authority of county government or whether he or she can be under the authority of a Kittitas County Resource Development group.

Commissioner Owens said he would rather have the employee hired under the authority of the group and not be a county employee. But he said the issue must be researched in light of the fact that the grant funds would have to be administered by county government.

Commissioners also ratified a labor contract with members of the courthouse clerical union granting them a 4 percent wage increase.

Sheriff to urge halt to bikers' event

By MIKE JOHNSTON

City Editor
County Sheriff Bob
Kittitas said he, soon will recom-
mend to county commissioners that
they not sanction the annual
ABATE motorcycle event near
Ronald next year.

McBride said he came to this con-
clusion after meeting with other law
enforcement agency officials in Cle-
Elum Thursday morning to review
the events of June 15-16, the ABATE

group's 1991 "spring opener" gal-
lery that attracted an estimated
4,000.

He said he received information
from representatives of the Roan
and Cle Elum police departments
and from other county sheriff depa-
rtments, Washington State Patrol
troopers and state wildlife agents.

"I'll give a written report to the
commissioners on the details of
what I learned," McBride said,
"but the bottom line is that it's my

option we are sitting on a powder
keg (with the event), waiting for it
to blow."

He said the situation between
rival motorcycle gangs last
weekend came the closest to "blow-
ing up" that he's experienced in the
past five years as the event has
grown in size.

In recommending the cancellation
not sanction the event, McBride
said this would mean not recom-
mending approval of a state liquor
license and a county festival per-
mit.

"The ultimate decision will be
made by the county commissioners,
but this is my recommendation at
this time in light of what occurred
last weekend," McBride said.

He said the estimated 34 ABATE
members appointed to provide "in-
ternal" security last weekend was
not an adequate number and their
ability to handle the serious situa-
tions seemed "diminished" in com-
parison with the activities of some
of the estimated 3,500 to 4,000 people
during the weekend.

Some of the most serious reports

coming from last weekend's
ABATE gathering were noted as the
following, according to McBride:

"There was a 'high likelihood'
that confrontation between rival
motorcycle gangs would occur and
it appears that a high percentage of
these gang members are armed in
some way. He said a strong showing
of law enforcement officers up and
down Highway 503 on Sunday
prevented a confrontation.

"There were reports of gunfire
coming from the ABATE encamp-
ment near Ronald and reports of
detonations of some kind of ex-
plosive devices.

McBride said about 40 members
of the Gypsy Jokers motorcycle
gang allegedly "crashed the gate"
and refused to pay the event's en-
trance fee on Saturday.

He said there were reports that
"snipers" had been deployed
around the perimeter of the en-
campment.

"There was a 'very serious' in-
undation of a Roan officer on
Saturday night by a large number
of 'bikers,' a situation that

McBride said will not be tolerated.
There also were reports of the
drinking of alcoholic beverages in
streets and roadways and the park-
ing of motorcycles on Roan side-
walks.

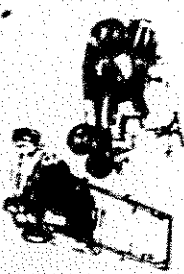
"Emergency medical personnel
responded to two possible heart at-
tacks and lawmen responded to one
DWI arrest, one assault and two
non-injury accidents during the
weekend. Officers also said two il-
legal drug transactions were

reported to them.

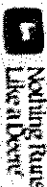
"Complaints were received ab-
nole from a helicopter that was
firing sight-seeing rides to those
the ABATE event.

McBride said the large amount
overtime spent by several il-
agencies to handle the event is qu-
a burden to local government. I
also said officers expressed conc-
that people under the age of 21 we
admitted to the event where the
was access to liquor.

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and
Walk-Behind
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City of Ellensburg

The City of Ellensburg is currently accepting ap-
plications for volunteer positions on the Arts Com-
mission, Downtown Task Force, Housing and Com-
munity Development Commission, and Planning
Commission.

Contact Judy Hawley, 2nd floor, City Hall, 420 North
Pearl Street, 962-7222, for an application, and/or
more information. Applications must be returned to
the City Manager's Office by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday,
June 26, 1991.

contested

✓ Kittitas Valley: Chance of more rain

Biker gathering backed

By PAT WOODILL
Contributing Writer

The 13th annual ABATE spring opener, held the weekend of June 16, attracted "bikers" to Upper Kittitas County and brought much-needed revenue to the communities there, say business people. The event also brought, according to local government officials, a potential for trouble and, say some local residents, "a lot of noise" and "a negative aspect."

As a revenue source, ABATE is the biggest weekend of the year for some of those businesses which depend on summer trade to carry them through the winter, according to Michele Zeller, owner of Old No. 3, a tavern in Ronald.

With ABATE's future in the balance, some Upper County business people are taking action to tip the scales in their favor. Last week, Kittitas County Sheriff Bob McBride said he will recommend to county commissioners that they not sanction the ABATE event next year.

"We are writing letters to the commissioners and to the city because we see nothing wrong with ABATE and I think most of the businessmen in Upper County feel about the same way," said Ms. Zeller.

Don May, owner of The Last Resort, agrees.

"Check around town on 'the ABATE weekend and you'll find most of the motels booked and the restaurants, service stations and grocery stores all busy," he said. "I personally feel ABATE is a big help dollarwise to the community."

According to Jim Bower, of Roslyn, chairman of the ABATE spring opener, not just the bars and restaurants get the club's business.

"We try to keep as much money in the area as possible, renting generators and cords and things from T-and-C Rental, opening an account with Harper's Lumber for at least \$400 to \$500 worth of hardware and camping gear, and buying all of our campsite fuel from Storeys."

ABATE has a reputation for policing its own and leaving a clean campsite.

This year ABATE members hauled 43 sacks of trash out of the campsite — before the weekend. They set up more portable toilets than required, worked hand-in-hand with the county board of health, and left the area in better shape than

before, according to Bower.

What then are the problems?

Concerns expressed by Roslyn residents range from the comment of Russell Brodine, who says, "they may be slightly annoying but we're not ready to take up arms over it" to the action of the Robert Brouitts, who leaves town for the weekend to escape the noise.

"Personally, I have no problem with them," said Bob Harper. "It was noisy and it blocked the street a bit. But the biggest problems were up there at the site, and that was all hearsay."

How much is hearsay? How much is fact?

"At least ABATE has an organization you can go to to get the facts and they will try to cooperate with the community," said Dave Divebias, former mayor of Roslyn, who then related that a Memorial Day picnic at Jungle Creek had been spoiled by target practicing nearby.

"If that had happened at ABATE,

one word and it would have stopped," he said.

Bower, representing the organization in Kittitas County, responded to allegations arising over the weekend.

"The attendance was not 4,000 to 5,000 bikers," he said. "By verifiable count, there were less than 3,000. We didn't find any shell casings, but we did find a lot of firecracker wrappers. And concerning the gate crashers, our state officers will contact the club and send them a bill. We can't tell people to stay away."

The report that Sunset Restaurant in Cle Elum refused to serve ABATE members is unfounded, according to Bonnie Snowden, owner.

"We are here to serve the public and we never pick and choose our customers," she said. "On the day in question, we were serving Father's Day brunch and, for a short time, travelers and ABATE members alike were turned away for lack of space."

Gary Berritt, mayor of Cle Elum, made a cautious evaluation of the situation.

"We're dealing with an incomplete hand," he said, indicating all the facts are not in. "A thorough investigation needs to be done. All the communities need to get together and discuss it with ABATE."

Outsiders

✓ Kittitas Valley: Showery again

✓ Temperatures, forecasts on page 13

28  www.springopener.com

By: Dragon1. Pictures by
Dragon1, Flagman and Tony R

The little town of Goldendale, WA will always remember the Spring Opener 2009 as they watched over 200 motorcycles roll through its city streets that Saturday morning.



ABATE OF WASHINGTON

Spring Opener 2009

IN GOLDENDALE, WA

It was the 31st annual ABATE of Washington Spring Opener Parade. The lengthy parade included a Police escort and was very well received by the local residents.

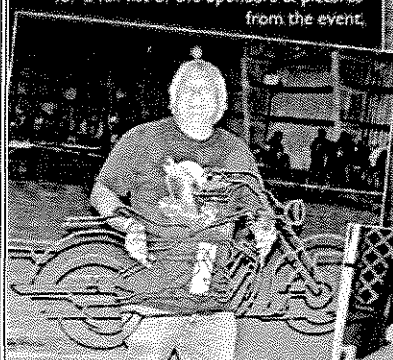
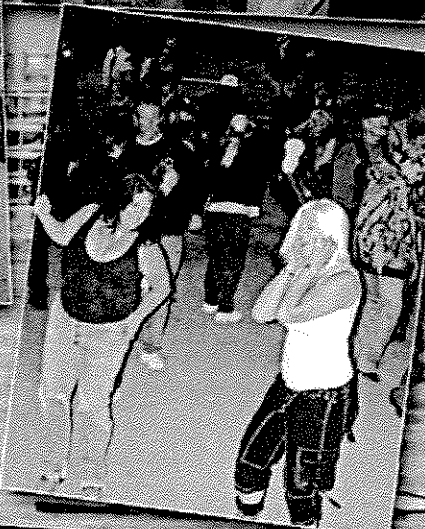
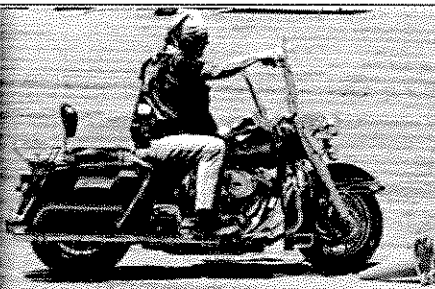
This Year's **Spring Opener** had over 1200 attendees, plus 21 Vendors at the event. The secure 80 acre fairgrounds had nice bathrooms with clean showers, covered grandstands and lots of tent camping areas, plus RV hook ups available for the people to enjoy.

The biggest Problem they faced was the unexpected winds from a storm front that moved in from the West. My own 10x10 Canopy was reported as a UFO when it flew away from the campsite! Several other tents and canopies became airborne in a freak Friday morning wind storm. By Saturday morning the wind had calmed down some, but it still blew 30 to 40 miles per hour. But that's Goldendale. The Spring Opener events went on as scheduled. Friday night **The Jet City Players Band** rocked the huge indoor Arena as the people danced.

The bike games this year were held inside a large rodeo arena with covered grand stands. You could sit back in the shade in the grand stands and drink a cold beer as you watched the games. This year ABATE of WA actually sold beer at the event in a large beer garden. Saturday night the band **Kick Start** started the evening's entertainment. At the band's second break the girls walked up on the stage for the 31st Spring Openers wet T-shirt contest. Okay, here we go, twenty screaming excited half naked young ladies with cops everywhere. The show was fantastic. Once again ABATE got it done. No problems and a little "adult" fun never hurt anyone.

All in all, The Spring Opener 2009 in Goldendale, WA was a fun event. Most of the people I spoke with said they had a good time and would come back to the Spring Opener if it was in Goldendale, WA again. ABATE of Washington pulled it off one more time thanks to all of the advertising and sponsorships which resulted in a successful event. We provided Goldendale with a much needed economic shot in the arm and will be welcomed back over the Father's Day weekend in June, 2010.

ABATE of Washington says thank you to all of the 31st Spring Opener Sponsors. Log on to www.Springopener.com for a full list of the Sponsors & pictures from the event.



Julie Kjorsvik

From: julie.kjorsvik@co.kittitas.wa.us
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:40 PM
To: Neil Caulkins
Cc: Julie Kjorsvik; Angela Bugni; Carolyn Denton
Subject: 14070 | Updated Neil Caulkins prSR | Our office received an applica...

Special Event Application

From: Julie Kjorsvik
For: Neil Caulkins
Needed: Date 3/30/2011 12:00pm
Task: Our office received an application from ABATE of Washington to hold the Spring Opener from June 16 19, 2011. Their payment to process the application came in this afternoon. We were waiting on their payment before processing their application. The Prosecutor's office needs to review the insurance information.

I would like to place this special event application on the April 5th Agenda, if possible. If you have specific questions about their event I would suggest you contact the applicant directly.

Please have your written recommendation for approval or list any concerns you have with the application to our office no later than March 30, 2011.

**Sheriffs Dept. please note the applicant is requesting a waiver to the noise ordinance to have hours of operation beginning at 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. indicate if you recommend the Board approve this or not.

Thank you!
Julie Kjorsvik CO 3/2/2011 2:57:36 PM
Carolyn Denton reassigned TT to Neil Caulkins.
Category was set to Commissioners.
Carolyn Denton 3/2/2011 3:16:47 PM

Resolution: They do not list Kittitas County as an Additional Insured on the certificate of insurance. This is not acceptable.
Neil Caulkins 3/30/2011 1:39:37 PM

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KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Office (509) 962-7657 Fax (509) 962-7682

March 30, 2011

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
205 W. Fifth Ave.
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: ABATE Special Event Permit

Dear Ms. Kjorsvik:

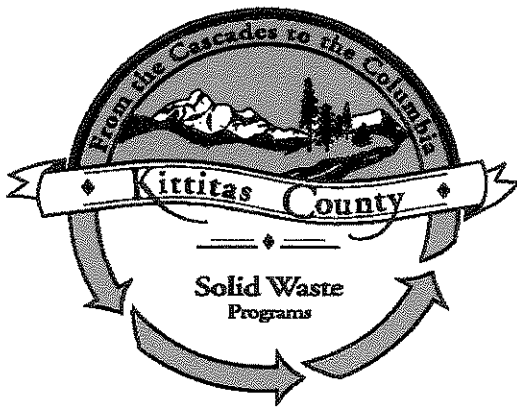
Upon review of the above permit application, I have the following comments/requirements;

- A separate Event Permit along with an appropriate site plan is required for this event. A fee of \$130.00 shall be submitted with the Fire Marshal's Office Event Permit application.
- All tents shall require a separate permit, with a floor plan showing seating areas, open assembly areas, serving areas, etc., for all tents/membrane structures. The tent/membrane structure material shall comply with the International Fire Code and NFPA 701 for flame propagation performance, or shall be treated with a flame retardant that complies with NFPA 701.
- All vendors shall have a minimum of 2A-10B:C fire extinguishers readily available for use.
- Any stage greater than 200 square feet or higher than 3 feet that is erected for performances shall be permitted and inspected prior to use.
- Parking shall be such that fire apparatus access is maintained.
- Please ensure that all required permits have been issued at least 14 days prior to the event.

The intent of the International Fire Code is to provide a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions. The requirements listed above offer a reasonable level of fire and life safety protection for this project. Any questions or concerns regarding fire service features or the comments listed above may be directed to the Kittitas County Fire Marshal's Office at (509) 962-7000.

Sincerely,

Brenda Larsen
Fire Marshal



Kittitas County Solid Waste Programs

925 Industrial Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Telephone: (509) 962-7070

Fax: (509) 962-7087

March 8, 2011

Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 W 5th Ave Suite 103
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Subject: Special Event Application

Dear Board of County Commissioners,

Kittitas County Solid Waste has reviewed the Special Event application, and spoken with the staff, for the "ABATE Spring Opener". The event staff has a recycling and garbage plan that meets our satisfaction.

Please contact me at [509] 962-7577 if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Reno L. Allphin
Solid Waste Specialist
Kittitas County Solid Waste

RECEIVED

MAR 8 2011

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____
KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Julie Kjorsvik

From: Jerry V. Pettit
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 9:10 AM
To: Julie Kjorsvik
Subject: RE: Special Event - ABATE Spring Opener

Ok with me.

From: Julie Kjorsvik
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 2:55 PM
To: Brenda Larsen; Gene Dana; Clayton Myers; Ryan Berge; Chuck Reed; Kirk Holmes; Kelly Carlson; Patti Johnson; Reno Allphin; Linda Navarre; James Rivard; Jerry V. Pettit; Deanna J. Panattoni
Cc: Mandy Robinson; Catherine Dunn
Subject: Special Event - ABATE Spring Opener

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**Sheriff's Dept. please note the applicant is requesting a waiver to the noise ordinance to have hours of operation beginning at 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. – indicate if you recommend the Board approve this or not.

Thank you!

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
509-962-7508
509-962-7679 Fax
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/>

Notice: All email sent to this address will be received by the Kittitas County email system and may be subject to public disclosure under Chapter 42.56 RCW and to archiving and review.

From: bocc@co.kittitas.wa.us [mailto:bocc@co.kittitas.wa.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 7:43 AM
To: Julie Kjorsvik
Subject: Message from 60BW-1

Notice: All email sent to this address will be received by the Kittitas County email system and may be subject to public disclosure under Chapter 42.56 RCW and to archiving and review.

Julie Kjorsvik

From: Chuck Reed
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:50 PM
To: Julie Kjorsvik
Subject: RE: Special Event - ABATE Spring Opener

Hi Julie,

After consideration of this event being on private property and a short distance from I-90, I don't anticipate any interference with county roads or the traveling public. I don't believe any special provision will be necessary from county roads.

Thanks

Chuck Reed

Road Foreman

1009 e 3rd street

Cle Elum wa 98922

Cell (509-856-7077)

chuck.reed@co.kittitas.wa.us

From: Julie Kjorsvik
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 2:55 PM
To: Brenda Larsen; Gene Dana; Clayton Myers; Ryan Berge; Chuck Reed; Kirk Holmes; Kelly Carlson; Patti Johnson; Reno Allphin; Linda Navarre; James Rivard; Jerry V. Pettit; Deanna J. Panattoni
Cc: Mandy Robinson; Catherine Dunn
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Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
509-962-7508
509-962-7679 Fax
<https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/>