

Helmet Law Support Rally
ABATE of South Carolina Nov/Dec 1984 Newsletter

ABATE of SC held the nation's 1st "Helmet Law Support Rally" Oct. 14, 1984 in Columbia. The weather was perfect, sunny and hot, and the parade seemed to stretch forever. We did run into a few snags though.

Our biggest problem was with assembling on the State House steps. Groups cannot assemble on the steps without a permit at least 30 days in advance. This came about after we won our freedom so we weren't aware of it. But fortunately SLED Lt. Cook saw that there could be a real problem trying to keep so many bikers off the grounds so he allowed us to use the area by the street parking. He didn't have to but he did. The reason he did was that "We've never had any problems from your people." He did say that of all the groups that meet at the State House we were the most respectful. Besides, we pack the best looking women ever to walk around the State House.

Why a helmet law support rally? Simple, we wanted to show our support for South Carolina's current helmet law. We feel that adults in South Carolina are capable of making responsible decisions for themselves. We make these decisions every day. We decide if we want to consume alcohol or tobacco products, which we know can be harmful, and we want to continue deciding for ourselves whether or not we want to wear helmets. We like our law the way it is and we plan to continue fighting to keep it. Adult freedom of choice!

If you were there; thanks. But you probably had a good time anyway. If you missed it, too bad, you missed a good one. I'd also like to thank the Libertarian candidates that spoke; they took the time to address us, which is unusual but appreciated.

Remember, South Carolina did not repeal its helmet law. We simply modified it to allow adults, 21 years of age and older, the option of deciding for themselves, free from the threat of arrest and incarceration. So now we, bikers, are helmet law supporter's while the socialists and anti-motorcyclists are against our helmet law. Funny how a little good ole fashioned American Freedom can change your outlook. Sure is nice to be on the right side of the law for a change.

Jesse