

## **SULTAN CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

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**ITEM NO:** D-5  
**DATE:** February 12, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** ABATE Motorcycle Show  
**CONTACT PERSON:** Deborah Knight, City Administrator

### **ISSUE:**

The issue for the City Council is to discuss and provide direction to staff regarding hosting the Old Snohomish Antique and Classic Motorcycle Show (Show) on May 17, 2009 or a future year.

ABATE, the event organizer, is seeking a decision from the City by March 1, 2009. This will ensure enough time to organize the event in Sultan.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is neutral on the issue. There are pros and cons related to hosting the show in either 2009 or a future year. Staff is seeking Council direction on how to proceed.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The City Council may consider the following alternatives:

1. Do not host the event in 2009. Consider but do not commit to hosting the event in future years.

This alternative will give the City and community time to consider the costs and benefits of hosting a large number of visitors to Sultan on a single day. The City does not currently have a special events permit process. The first meeting to discuss special events is scheduled for February 24, 2009. Giving staff and the community time to think through the event impacts could provide for a better organized event that doesn't negatively impact the community.

2. Do not host the event in 2009. Commit to hosting the event in 2010 or future years.

This alternative would allow the city and community to plan for the event in 2010 and budget for any event costs the Council would want to support. It would also provide ABATE time to sufficiently advertise the new event location.

3. Host the event in 2009. Commit to hosting the event in future years.

This alternative would ensure the event would be in Sultan in 2009. The event attracts thousands of visitors and potential customers for Sultan business owners. The City will need to quickly determine the hard dollar costs for police support, staff overtime and impacts to the surrounding business owners and residents. The Council may need to amend the 2009 budget to cover direct costs.

4. Host the event in 2009. Do not commit to hosting the event in future years.

This alternative provides a location for the event in 2009, but reserves the Council's decision for future events. This would allow the Council to judge the impact of the event on business and community members before committing to future support.

5. Direct a subcommittee of the Council to meet with ABATE event organizers to discuss details of the event and return to the City Council at the February 26, 2009 meeting with a recommendation.

6. Do not make a decision at this time and direct staff to areas of concern.

## **SUMMARY:**

### Background

The City of Snohomish has hosted the Motorcycle Show for the last 12 years. In the past, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office has donated staff time for public safety. The City of Snohomish has notified ABATE, the event organizer, of its intent to charge the actual cost for police and public safety staff needed to support the event. Snohomish estimates the public safety cost at approximately \$25,000.

ABATE is seeking a new venue for the event. Members of the ABATE organization met with the Mayor, Councilmember Flower and the police chief to discuss the event and Sultan's potential interest in hosting the event in 2009.

### Proposal

The Motorcycle Show is held on the third Sunday in May (May 17, 2009) from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Event set up begins at 6:00AM. Clean-up is usually complete by 6:00PM. The event requires closing several city blocks. ABATE organizers would be looking to host the event in River Park on the west end of Sultan between US 2 on the south and Birch Avenue on the north and between Fourth Street and First Street. Parking for event visitors is likely to spill over into residential and business neighborhoods adjacent to the event.

The Show in Snohomish attracts between 12,000 and 20,000 visitors. Visitors include motorcycle enthusiasts, club members and the general public. The event is known to attract motorcycle "gangs". There are no specific accounts of violent activity in Snohomish the day of the event as a result of the Show.

In the past there have been approximately 200 “show” bikes competing for trophies and prizes. ABATE members estimate the number of visitors will decrease if the event is moved to Sultan in 2009.

ABATE invites vendors selling food, gift and event related items (the City of Snohomish requires a one-day business license for event vendors). ABATE hires a live band to play in the afternoon and invites the Snohomish high school band to participate.

ABATE provides all event support (set-up, clean-up, road closures, garbage collection, porta-potties, hand washing stations, etc.). ABATE has not compensated Snohomish or the Sheriff’s Office for public safety services. Chief Brand estimates the \$25,000 cost for police services is a ball park figure based on 1.75 officers per 1,000 visitors for 8 hours at an overtime rate of \$68/hour.

ABATE members indicate the event earns about \$25,000 in profit. The money is used to support local charities (food bank, Boys and Girls Club, etc), give scholarships to high school students and provide seed money for the following year’s event.

#### Policy questions

In considering a decision to host the Motorcycle Show the City Council may want to consider the following questions:

1. Does the City have an interest and staff capacity to host the event in 2009 or a future year?
2. Is the necessary infrastructure in place to adequately host the event?
3. Are the necessary policies in place to ensure a successful event?
4. What costs and benefits need to be considered and recouped?
5. What are the costs and benefits to local business owners?
6. What are the costs and benefits to Sultan residents?
7. Is the event consistent with the image the Sultan community wants to project to the general public?
8. Are there concerns about safety, event organization and support that have not been adequately addressed?

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact depends on the City Council’s desire to underwrite the event. It is unlikely that proceeds from the event in either the form of sales tax or event permit fees will cover the cost of public safety services. A decision to host the event in 2009 may require a budget amendment. Staff may need to postpone other activities and focus on developing policies and a permit process for special events to meet the May deadline.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff is neutral on the issue. There are pros and cons related to hosting the show in either 2009 or a future year. Staff is seeking Council direction on how to proceed.

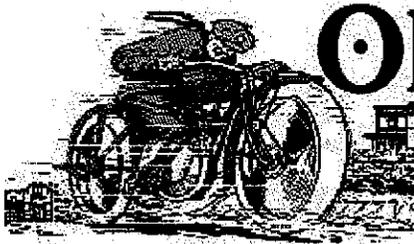
## **ATTACHMENTS**

A – Event background materials from ABATE website [www.snohomishbikeshow.org](http://www.snohomishbikeshow.org)

# Old Snohomish Antique & Classic Motorcycle Show Home Page

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## 2008 Bike Show



# Old Snohomish Antique & Classic Motorcycle Show

# Sunday, May 17, 2009 13TH

ON FIRST STREET IN DOWNTOWN OLD SNOHOMISH  
Between Avenue D and Cedar Street

Live Performance by Motorcycle Stunt Drill Team

Bike Show Competition Fee \$10

Registration Begins at 9 am

Show Voting Begins at Noon

## Seattle Cossacks



**Bikes   Food   Vendors   Museum   Music   Trophies**

**Chapter Meeting will be at the The new Red Lotus starting on  
December 11th at 7pm**

**215 Cypress Avenue Snohomish WA,**

**The first Tuesday of the month is the Bike show meeting at  
7pm**

**The 2nd Tuesday of the month is the Chapter meeting at 7pm**

**At The new Red Lotus**

**Hope to see you all there,**

**We could use some help this year,**

**On Sunday May 18, 2008**

**Thank you !!**

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**We are pleased once again to sponsor the PNMOM photography display during the 2006 show. Location and hours to be announced later.**

**A big thanks to our sponsors and to all our guests at the 2006 show!**

**.Spike O'Neill, morning show host on Seattle radio station, was the emcee again this year. We had 3 bands playing through out the day, , and the Seattle Cossacks provided the entertainment, while Sky Valley ABATE provided the manpower.**

**The 2006 winner's list and show photos are available.**

## **Here's a brief history review of the show:**

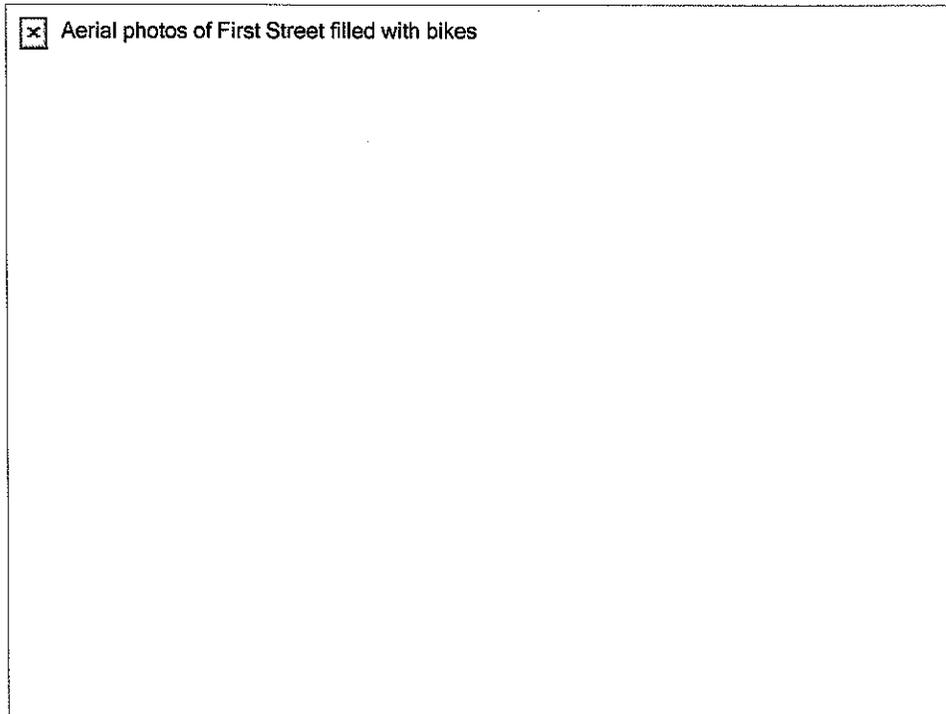
**2006 Snohomish Motorcycle Show was a huge success. The weather certainly helped, but is mostly thanks to your sponsorship and support of this event that we had the best year ever! We began in 1997 with 500 motorcycles and 1200 people. Estimates for 2006 indicate there were over 9,000 motorcycles and 24,000 people attending the show. We are the largest ride-in motorcycle show in the Pacific Northwest. Joined us to celebrate Motorcycle Awareness Month and kick off the riding season.**

- Over 9,000 people and 3000 motorcycles came to town on a wet, rainy day in 2005. The rain kept some people home all day, but we had a good time anyway.**
- Over 15,000 people and 6300 motorcycles came to town on a gray, cool, cloudy day in 2004. Our best show yet, in spite of the weather!**
- Over 15,000 people and 6200 motorcycles came to town on a beautiful sunny day in 2003.**
- Over 12,000 people and 2000 motorcycles came to town on a cloudy Sunday in 2002.**
- Over 8200 people and 1600 motorcycles came to town on a beautiful sunny Sunday in 2001.**
- Over 6000 people and 1500 motorcycles came to town in partly sunny weather in 2000.**
- Over 3000 people and 800 motorcycles came to Snohomish in a light rain for the 1999 Bike Show.**

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- **Over 2,500 people and 600 motorcycles came for the 1998 show (also in a light rain).**

**We've grown each year, and everyone seems to have a good time.**



View of Downtown Snohomish from a helicopter facing east about 1:20pm at the 2002 show.

**Snohomish is a small town about 45 minutes north of Seattle. Snohomish was founded in 1859, and the historic district features many homes and businesses from the early years of our town.**

**The historic business district is an excellent setting for the Antique & Classic Motorcycle Show. Motorcycles of all makes and ages fill First Street during the show, and the Seattle Cossacks perform amazing stunts on vintage motorcycles in the shadow of historic architecture. Browse through our photo gallery, or try these links for a quick view:**  
**Downtown      Seattle Cossacks**

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**In memory of Jeff Rasmussen, founding coordinator of Sky Valley Chapter ABATE and founding force behind the first Snohomish Bike Show in 1997. 1953-2004. We will never forget.**

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## About the organizers of the Old Snohomish Antique & Classic Motorcycle Show

**The Bike Show is run by ABATE on behalf of the citizens of Snohomish and the motorcyclists of Snohomish County. This is a community event. All are encouraged to partipate. Membership in the Bike Show Committee is open to all. [Click here for a list of the 2005 committee members.](#)**

**In 1996, a tavern owner and several members of Sky Valley Chapter, ABATE of Washington, got together and discussed having a motorcycle show on First Street to bring people to town. Snohomish already has 2 car shows a year, it has blocks of historic store fronts, and it seemed like a good idea.**

### **Our goal has always been to:**

- Publicly raise awareness of motorcycles and motorcycle safety
- During Motorcycle Awareness Month (May)
- By parking motorcycles downtown for one day
- While involving members of our community
- And supporting local community organizations

### **Along with this major goal, other minor goals have followed and intermingled:**

- To express our rights of free speech and assembly
- To promote tourism in Snohomish
- To promote local businesses
- To give back to our community
- To keep free admission for all visitors
- To express the history of our region through the history of our machines

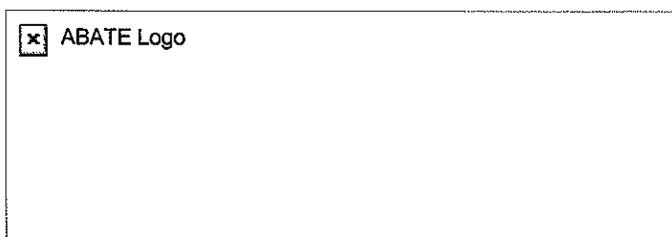
**The Bike Show Committee oversees all details of putting on the show. Admission to the committee is open to any volunteer who is willing to offer time and support. The committee is composed of people from ABATE and people from the community. The committee's main responsibility is to provide an enjoyable show each year, tackling any obstacles that may come up. It takes a lot of people to make the show happen, but we have a lot of fun.**

**Now, a little more info on ABATE and our show.**

## **Sky Valley Chapter ABATE of Washington**

**Sky Valley Chapter organizes, coordinates, and runs the Annual Old Snohomish Antique Motorcycle Show. We are a group of volunteers that work to promote awareness in our community. Sky Valley Chapter covers Snohomish county from east Everett to Index.**

[chapter web site](#)



### **Who Is Sky Valley Chapter, ABATE of Washington?**

**ABATE of Washington is**

- **A nonprofit organization with 23 chapters in our state.**
- **Composed of motorcycle enthusiasts.**
- **Dedicated to promoting freedom.**
- **Concerned with motorcycle legislation and education.**

#### **ABATE**

- **Promotes safety education, public awareness, and rider training programs.**
- **Supports community involvement and charitable deeds.**

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## **Sky Valley Chapter**

- **Is active in the State Legislature at a grass roots level.**
  - **Annual Freedom Run to Olympia each January to meet with members of legislature.**
  - **Motorcycle ride and escort for Representative John Koster from a town meeting in Snohomish to a town meeting in Monroe.**
  - **Senator Val Stevens' first motorcycle ride.**
- **Provides donations and services for the entire Sky Valley community.**
  - **Donates to the Snohomish Historical Society, Snohomish Drug and Alcohol Committee, Snohomish Food Bank, the Snohomish Senior Center, and the Snohomish Youth Acticity Center.**
  - **Adopts two needy families for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and provides a motorcycle escort for Santa to deliver donated toys.**
  - **Collects canned food and cash for local area FOod Banks, including Snohmish and Sultan. Over \$7000 donated through various fund-raising events since 1996.**
  - **Participates in the annual Show and Tell Run at Delta Rehabilitation Center in Snohomish.**
  - **Participates in the annual Christmas Toy Run from Arlington to Everett Eagles.**
  - **Provided traffic control assistance for the 1998 Kla Ha Ya Parade in Snohomish.**
- **Participates in fund raising activities for injured motorcyclists.**
- **Provides vendor booth space for local charities at the annual bike show. Charities include:**
  - **Diabetes on the Cure in Seattle (DOCS Ride)**
  - **Muscular Dystrophy Association (Sun and Surf Run)**
  - **Childrens Ride benefit for Children's Hospital Foundation**
  - **Valley General Hospital Foundation**
  - **Lion's Club**
  - **Pacific Northwest Museum of Motorcycling**

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- **Indian Jeff Benefit**
- **Is the host chapter for ABATE's annual Spring and Fall Motorcycle Swap Meets at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds.**

## **What Is the Antique & Classic Motorcycle Show?**

### **The Antique & Classic Motorcycle Show**

- **Celebrates the history of motorcycling in America.**
- **Educates the public about motorcycle safety issues.**
- **Is one of many motorcycling events scheduled throughout the state. May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, as proclaimed by the governor.**
- **Draws tourists to our town from all over the state, BC, Oregon, and Idaho.**
- **Enhances Snohomish's reputation for antique-related activities.**
- **Provides a positive image of the motorcycling community.**
- **Encourages family discussions about riding experiences and historical events.**
  - **1903 was the Wright Brother's first flight and the first year that Harley-Davidson manufactured and sold motorcycles from a 10x10 shed in Milwaukee, WI.**
  - **From 1901 through 1936 more than 200 motorcycle brands were made in the US.**
- **Is a community event run by ABATE on behalf of the citizens of Snohomish and the motorcyclists of Snohomish County.**

### **The Show Bikes**

- **Are often mechanical marvels that still perform decades after their first ride.**
- **Provide a working history of transportation modes.**
- **Demonstrate an environmental alternative to automobiles.**
- **Demonstrate the quality workmanship available in the Puget Sound region.**

- **Creativity and artistic skill**
- **Industrial design**
- **Engineering developments, such as CNC aluminum billet work and engine performance enhancements**
- **State-of-the-art paint and finish technology**
- **Celebrate individual expression.**
- **Stimulate commerce among local motorcycle-related businesses.**

## **How Does the Motorcycle Show Benefit Our Community**

### **Snohomish benefits from**

- **Tourism**
  - **The 1997 show brought over 2500 people and over 500 motorcycles to town on a sunny day.**
  - **The 1998 show brought over 2500 people and over 600 motorcycles to town in a light rain.**
  - **The 1999 show brought over 3200 people and over 800 motorcycles to town in a light rain.**
  - **The 200 show brought over 5000 people and over 1500 motorcycles to town on a sunny day.**
  - **The 2001 show brought over 8000 people and over 1600 motorcycles to town on a sunny day.**
- **Positive news coverage**
  - **Announcements of the 2001, 200, and 1999 show were printed in The Herald Calendar and Key and were posted on The Herald's web page.**
  - **KISW radio in Seattle mentioned the bike show in their on-air events calendar the weekend of the 1999 show.**
  - **The Herald covered the 1998 show on the front page of the Local section.**
  - **KING-5 news ran a 2.5 minute feature on the 1997 show during their Sunday evening broadcast.**
  - **Photos from past shows are available on the web, advertising our**

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**community 24 hours every day.**

## **Why Does First Street Need to Be Closed?**

### **Closing the bike show area to auto traffic**

- **Provides a safe arena for pedestrians and the motorcycles. People are free to move about and explore the many specialty shops without worrying about traffic concerns.**
- **Concentrates more vehicles in fewer parking spaces, with less chance of property damage.**
- **Provides space for a safe performance by the Seattle Cossacks stunt team. First Street from Avenue D to Union Ave is the best location**
- **Level street for safely parking motorcycles.**
- **Wide street for access by emergency vehicles.**
- **Concentrates people and vehicles in the historic business and shopping district.**
- **Minimizes traffic congestion as compared to the Classic Car Show and Kla Ha Ya Days.**
- **Side streets remain open for auto use.**

## **What Will Sky Valley Do to Help Local Business?**

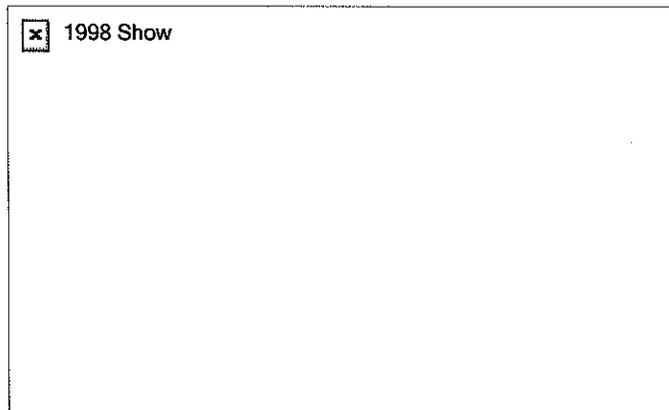
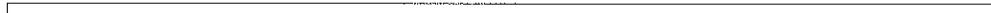
### **Sky Valley will**

- **Include notices in promotional materials requesting support for local shops and businesses.**
- **Promote local businesses through paid sponsorships.**
  - **PA announcements throughout day naming sponsors.**
  - **Sponsor names on T-shirts (deadline is 4/15).**
  - **Sponsor names on flyers and web page.**
  - **Ad or coupon included in handouts for registered bike show contestants.**
  - **Vendor and banner space available for sponsors.**

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- **Provide flyers for local businesses.**
  - **Bike Show flyers.**
  - **Store signs for Bike Show Specials, Ask About Delivery, and Ask About Lay-away. See samples in the Appendix.**
- **Provide this web page for the show flyer and sponsor names.**
- **Provide extra garbage cans and ash cans during the show.**
- **Help local merchants with customer loading.**
- **Assist local police in traffic and crowd control during the show and at other community events.**

**For more information, visit the [Chapter web pages](#), or leave a message with the bike show hotline: 360-568-7820.**



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## Ride-in Motorcycle Show Rules 2007



2002 Best of Show Winner, Trey Coley

### **11 th Annual Old Snohomish Antique & Classic Motorcycle Show**

**May 20, 2007      First Street  
Snohomish, Washington**

**This is a ride-in Bike Show. Anyone can enter any number of bikes (at \$10 each), provided you ride each bike into the show registration area. Everyone at the show can vote for their favorite bike for People's Choice Best of Show, but please only vote one ballot slip!**

**The bike ridden to the show from the farthest verifiable address will win the Furthest Ridden-In Entry award. Too many of us tie for shortest ridden-in entry. The decision of the show judges is final.**

**Sky Valley Chapter, ABATE of Washington, is the show sponsor and runs the registration, ballots, and prize distribution.**

- **Entry registration is from 9 am until 12 noon.**
- **Showing and balloting is from 12 noon until 1:30 pm.**
- **Trophies are awarded at 3:00 pm.**
- **Photo session is immediately after trophy presentation.**
- **Ride-outs start after trophy presentation. No fire-ups during presentation. Roll it out if you need to leave early.**
- **During registration, each rider will pay the \$10 entry fee.**

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- **Registered riders receive an entry number.**
- **Registration information includes name, address, city, state, zip, year of bike, model of bike, license number, and category. We need this info to contact the award winners.**
- **Qualification - Each entry must be ridden into the registration area and show area to qualify. Even if you only ride it a few blocks, we want to see working bikes. There is a Rat category for puddle-lovers and muddy commute bikes.**
  - **Exception: Exceptions may be made at the descretion of the judges for bikes in the Antique, Vintage, and Classic categories. We want to see old bikes!**
  - **Any Trailer Queen that slips past the judges is not eligible for a First Place trophy. This is a RIDE IN SHOW.**
- **Safety - No fuel leaks allowed.**
- **Fuel must be shut off while parked in show area.**
- **No fire ups during show. Roll it out of the Show arena.**
- **Categories may change from one year to the next, especially the dates for Antique, Vintage and Classic bikes. Suggestions for new categories are always welcome. (We do not offer brand-specific categories.)**
- **New categories for 2005: Manufactured Custom, Mild Custom, and Radical Custom. The Manufactured Custom category has been broken into 3 categories to sort bikes by the number of modifications. See the category descriptions.**

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## 2007 Show Categories

<p><u>250cc and under</u></p> <p><u>Antique (pre-1933)</u></p> <p><u>Bicycle</u></p> <p><u>British</u></p> <p><u>Classic (1955-1975)</u></p> <p><u>Dresser</u></p> <p><u>European</u></p> <p><u>Furthest Ridden In Entry</u></p> <p><u>Japanese</u></p> <p><u>Manufactured Custom</u></p>	<p><u>Mild Custom</u></p> <p><u>Old School Chopper</u></p> <p><u>Radical Custom</u></p> <p><u>Rat</u></p> <p><u>Sidecar</u></p> <p><u>Sport Bike</u></p> <p><u>Stock</u></p> <p><u>Trike</u></p> <p><u>Vintage (1934-1954)</u></p> <p><u>Woman Rider</u></p>
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**People's Choice Best of Show**

## **Awards, Ballots, and Judging**

**Beginning in 2005, most categories have changed to judged competition.**

- **Best of Show is determined by ballot count.**
- **Furthest Ridden Entry is based on distance, not votes.**
  - **All other categories are judged.**
- **Sky Valley Chapter ABATE selects the panel of impartial judges based on knowledge of workmanship, knowledge of paint and finish techniques, knowledge of styles and periods of history, and integrity.**
  - **To assist in proper judging, assistants will be on hand during registration to ensure that each bike is entered in the appropriate category. [Click here for category descriptions.](#)**

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## Old Snohomish Antique & Classic Motorcycle Show

Please fill out the form completely. Return as soon as possible, with check or money order, payable to  
**Sky Valley Chapter, ABATE of Washington**  
**P.O. Box 2111**  
**Snohomish, WA 98291**  
**(360) 568-7820**

### Vendor Registration Form for May 18, 2008 Type or print legibly.

Your Name:			
Company Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City, State:		ZIPCODE:	
Phone: Day:		Evening	

### Vendor Application Form

How many spaces?	Spaces are 10x10 All spaces are outside.	Type of	
	Price per space:	Merchandise:	
Price each: x	\$150 Pre-registration until 3/31/07 \$250 Registration 4/1 until 4/30/07 \$500 Late Registration 5/1/07 & after	Comments, Special requests:	
\$	Total enclosed		
Do you need electricity?			
Do you have parking needs? Car, truck, RV, bus, trailer, etc???			
Your 10x10 space does not include room for your vehicle. Vendor vehicles must park in designated areas only.			

**Please follow instructions and procedures when applying for vendor space. When we receive your completed application, a confirmation will be mailed.**

**PLEASE READ the RULES on BACK of FORM**

**⌘ Sponsorship Packages Available ⌘**

Let us promote your business as a Bike Show Sponsor.

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Please request a sponsorship package for more information, or visit our web site for details.

### 2008 Registration and Vendor Rules

Call us if you have a question. Leave a detailed message at 360-568-7820.

**Registration deadlines: NO Exceptions.**

**Pre-registration: until 3/31/08. Registration: 4/1/08 until 4/30/08.**

**Late Registration: 5/1/08 and after. Prices for space depend on the postmark date of your application.**

A City of Snohomish Business License is required. You will receive the application form with your Vendor Confirmation Letter. Return it to the Bike Show Committee with the \$5 'Special Event Vendor' fee ASAP. License must be posted in your space day of the show.

Charity raffles must comply with State of Washington Gambling regulations. See [www.wsgc.wa.gov/Newsletters/5-164.pdf](http://www.wsgc.wa.gov/Newsletters/5-164.pdf).

Vendors are required to comply with City of Snohomish regulations and shall be open for business during posted hours of the show. Check the City web page for info: [www.ci.snohomish.wa.us](http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us)

No Vendor vehicles permitted in road closure area after 8 am. Vendors may set up from 6 am until 8 am. A vendor vehicle access pass is required, and one will be sent with your confirmation. Trailers, fifth-wheels, buses, motor homes, etc. require prior notice to park. Park only in designated areas.

Food vendors need a Snohomish County Health permit and fire extinguishers.

Generator use or cooking requires fire extinguishers.

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[Click here for Sponsorship Package descriptions and prices.](#)

Please fill out the form completely. Return as soon as possible, with check or money order, payable to: Sky Valley Chapter, ABATE of WA.

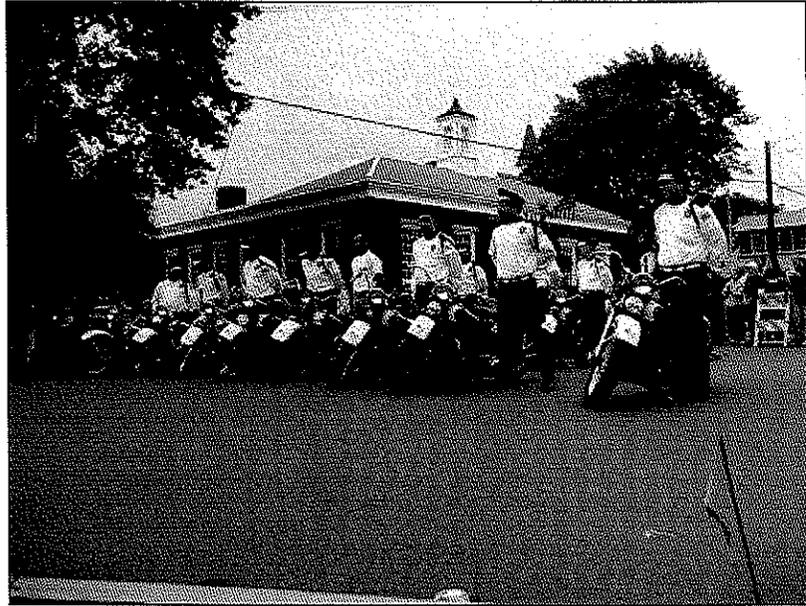


**2004 Seattle Cossacks**

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Seattle Cossacks

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**2004 Snohomish Bike Show**  
May 16, 2004

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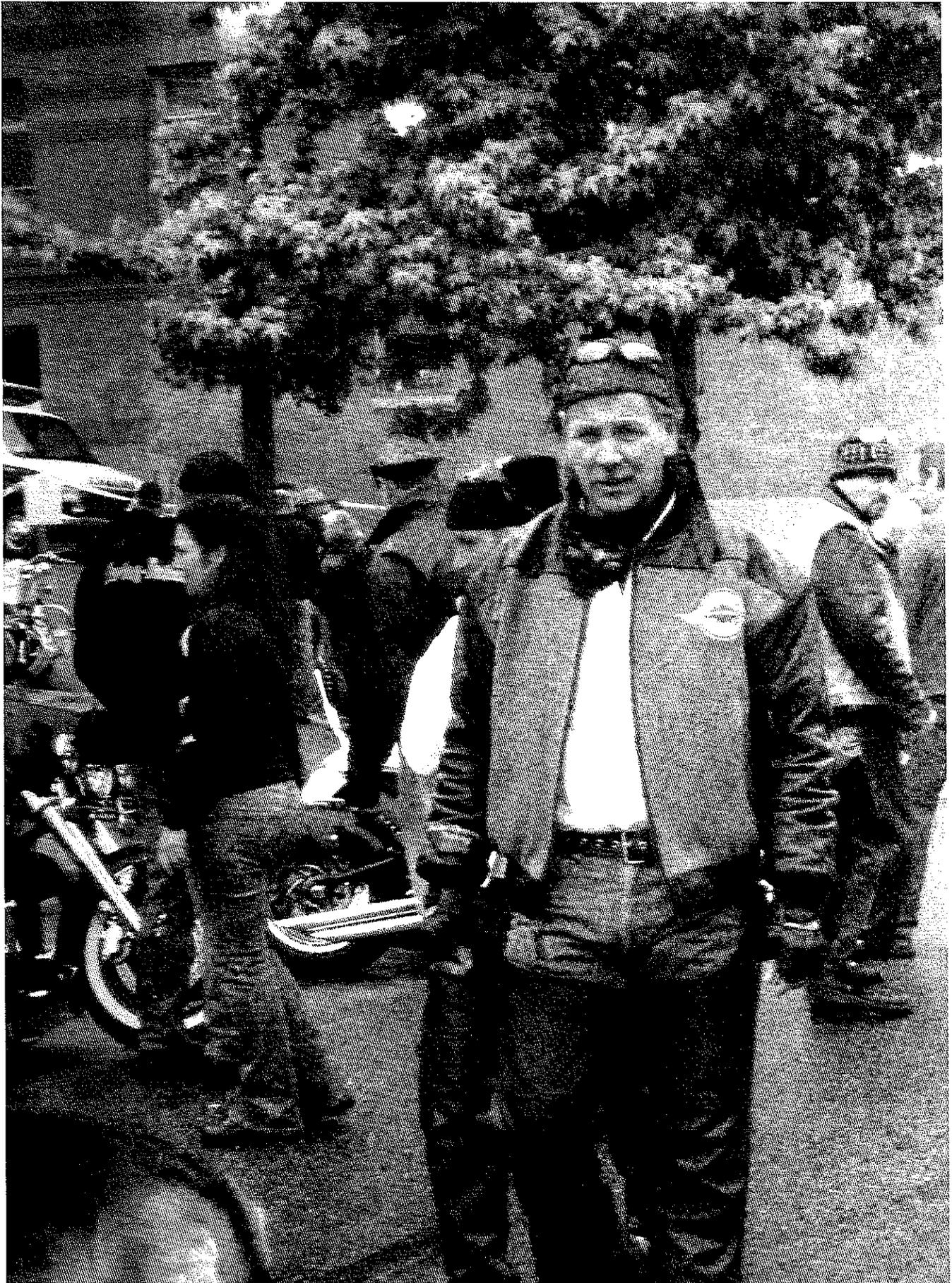


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Arts of Snohomish is in the Carnegie Building

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# HeraldNet

Everett, Wash.

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Published: Monday, May 19, 2008

## 15,000 motorcycles at Snohomish spectacle

By Krista J. Kapralos  
Herald Writer

Nina Alexander rode behind her husband on his motorcycle for 16 years before she grew tired of being a passenger.

In 1992, he built her a steel horse of her own, from a 650 Suzuki.

By then, Alexander, now 49, was comfortable in the bike crowd, even though she's always been one of the few women present, and one of an even smaller group of women who actually ride on their own.

"I'm on my own," she said. "I don't have anybody saying anything to me. It's just me. I love that."

Though the men far outnumbered them Sunday at the 12th annual Old Snohomish Antique & Classic Motorcycle Show in Snohomish, the spectacle of 15,000 motorcycles was heaven for the women who have taken their own reins.

It was the largest turnout ever for the show, which is organized by the Sky Valley chapter of ABATE, an acronym for American Bikers Aimed Toward Education.

Total numbers for last year's event aren't available, but Sky Valley ABATE members say the show drew 9,000 motorcycles in 2006. A rainy 2005 event lured 3,000 motorcycles.

Nearly 200 motorcycles were entered into the competition Sunday, which offered trophies as prizes for best vintage, best classic, customized and other categories. Last year, there were only 124 bike entries, said Kristine "Pickles" Sidewell, who helped organize the event.

Every year, more women enter their own bikes, said Sidewell, who rides a Volkswagen Trike she named "Skeletor."

"I've been riding 13 years, and I see more women out," she said. "They want the freedom, they don't want to wait until someone can take them out. And the guys are more encouraging now."

Motorcycle culture may always be about leather vests, intricate tattoos and bike club patches, but forget the big, bushy beards and men's-only biker gangs. Today, nearly one in 10 bike owners is female, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council. Many more -- an estimated 4 million women -- know how to ride.

That's a path Michelle Buckle, 49, began blazing 33 years ago. She started riding on her own when she was just 16 years old.

"You have to be a very competent person," she said. "You need to be a Type-A personality."

It takes a high level of confidence -- and brawn to match -- to steer behemoth Harley-Davidson motorcycles, many of which are built for a man's taller body.

Buckle, of Shoreline, rides a Yamaha V Star customized with wood trim and paint to resemble a pirate ship. The bike replaced one she totaled last year in an accident that broke her pelvis in five places and severely dislocated her clavicle, she said.

After three weeks in the hospital and more than five months of rest, Buckle was back on the road.

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