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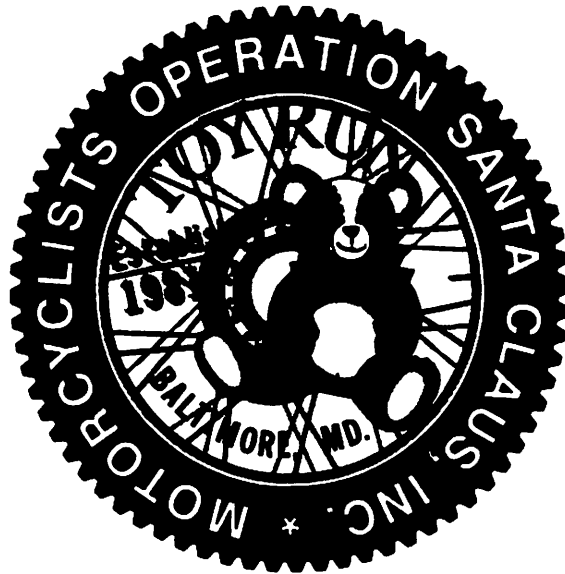
ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.  
Dedicated To Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

1-301-263-9185  
Out of State

## **ABATE OF MARYLAND NEWSLETTER**

*September/October 1992*

# The '92 Toy Run Is On!



*(Details on Pages 10 and 11)*

## ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

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**October 1 is the cutoff date for the November/December 1992 newsletter. All information (articles, classified ads, letters to the editor, whatever) must be received by this date. Send information to:**

**John Oscanyan  
4502 Avondale Street, #1  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
or Call (301) 654-2214  
(Leave a Message)**

## FROM THE EDITOR

Brothers and Sisters:

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to you. My name is John Oscanyan, and I was recently selected as the new Newsletter Editor.

As you may have already noticed, the format of the newsletter has changed. I hope this proves to be an effective, eye-catching way of getting the information to you that you need to know. If anybody has any thoughts on this, please feel free to drop me a line.

There will be a couple of new additions to the newsletter. First, we will have a classified section, as soon as someone lets me (or their chapter director, or Dale) know they have something to sell or trade. Second, I thought I would try my hand at responding to any questions or suggestions you might have by introducing a "Readers' Writes" section. Any comments you have about the newsletter, Schaefer, Bush, the weather, whatever, send them in and we'll let everybody know what you think. Do not hesitate to write to me to let me know what you think of the new format, sections, etc. Even if you do not want your letter published (tell me so, and I won't), I would like your feedback, so I know what to change, what to keep, when to hide, etc.

Another thing you may have noticed is that you did not receive your August newsletter, and this one came out a bit

late. Well, the reason for this is the changing of the guard, as it were, and the status of the Toy Run. Taking over the Editor's position meant going through old newsletters to get a feel for how they were put together, not to mention the stacks of stuff to read to find articles to include and whatnot. It might take an issue or two, but I hope to be on track soon. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. However, remember that your newsletter is primarily designed to keep you informed of events from outside your own area. If you want to know what is going on in your own back yard, attend your chapter's monthly meeting. That is the best way to keep up to date on the things that hit closest to home. This issue will cover September/October. This is a change from the previous set up. This is so we end on December and start our year off with January/February.

Well, that's about all for now. Read your newsletter, enjoy it, and don't forget to let me know what you think. Talk at you in November, and I'll see you at the protest run and party September 26!

Ride Safe,



John Oscanyan

*Someone has said that there are four kinds of "Bones" in every organization. There are the "Wishbones" who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work. There are the "Jawbones" who do all the talking but very little else. Next, there are the "Knucklebones" who knock everything everyone ever tries to do. And finally there are the "Backbones" who get under the load and do the work.*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

To some, having a female as Director of ABATE of Maryland may make them somehow uncomfortable. Let me put this notion into perspective. How could something so monumental happen? Over the past several years, ABATE of Maryland has seen increasing numbers of females accepting and experiencing staff positions. For example, back in the late '80s there was one female, Faith Crosby, who was a superb leader representing the St. Mary's Chapter. While of course there had been other females in more "traditional roles" in the organization for many years, usually in the positions of membership secretary and correspondence secretary, things were changing slightly. As I reflect back onto the history of persons involved with ABATE of Maryland, one dynamic female, the one who I personally attribute to the emergence of the number of females on the ABATE scene in Maryland now, is Debbie Lough. Debbie was the first female in what was a traditional male role for ABATE of Maryland: Legislative Representative. We currently have seven females on the board of directors for ABATE of Maryland. The main reason why I am emphasizing this topic is to give you some insight into how this organization has evolved in the past five years or so. The point I want to make is this - if you have hesitated to get more involved in ABATE of Maryland, don't. We welcome anybody, regardless of anything.

Where is this organization headed? The next two years are critical to ABATE of Maryland. It is in this time that we must be strong and united, we must be focused to be the best that we can be. It is this type of keen motivation that is needed to lay the foundation for the repeal of the helmet law, again. It will take relentless energy. Are you ready to fight to win back your rights?

To become strong and united we need to work together, for the common cause. On Saturday September 26th, the last Saturday that you will be able to legally ride free in Maryland for quite a while, there will be a protest run of monumental size. We will meet at the Anne Arundel Fairgrounds and ride around the State Circle, past Willie Don's Crib, so we can pay our respects (yeyha right). Common cause - we need to rally and we need to show our numbers. After the political run, we will cruise back to the Anne Arundel Fairgrounds and party for a good cause. The admission to this event is free to current card carrying members and \$5 for all others. The Nighthawks will be in concert at the party - it's sure gonna be a happenin' time.

Now, about my agenda. Simple. I want us to grow in numbers and I want us to be sharply focused on the goal. To obtain that goal, we need to keep politically informed, we need to speak out to our legislative representatives, we need to support the legislators who support motorcycle rights, and we need to vote out the ones who don't.

The update on the here and now is this: October 1 the helmet law goes into effect. The penalty for riding without a helmet will be \$50 (subject to change - depends on the judge and whatever else you might be charged with) but no points. I have been reading ABATE of California's Newsletter and since their helmet law went into effect (Jan. '92) people are being pulled over for not having DOT stickers on their lids. Not to mention the other hassles that go along with this. Unfortunately, this will be our fate in Maryland sooner than I care to imagine. If you are hassled, fined, or worse after October 1, we need to know about it. Starting October 1, ABATE of Maryland will begin to compile all information that you care to share with us. We will do what we can for you as an individual, but in the long run it will

help everyone if we can identify patterns of harassment or abuse. As the law stands now, the motorcycle safety program will be operating until March 1993. A coalition has been formed to draft legislation that will restore and protect the program. ABATE of Maryland is playing an integral role in the coalition; as we should, because we helped establish the program. The coalition has finally meshed together all groups of motorcyclists throughout Maryland and the Dealer's Association is playing an active role as well. It would be a welcome experience to have this type of conglomeration for all the motorcycle rights issues, particularly the Catastrophic Insurance issue. I believe that now that we have a helmet law, the advocates for the Cat Bill will be pushing even harder.

The next state staff meeting is Sunday, September 20 at noon at the office at 8 West Street in Annapolis. Anyone is welcome to attend, and as usual chapter directors and executive board members are expected to attend.

Until then-  
Enjoy your freedom,

  
Sally Bruce,  
Director - ABATE of Maryland

**Renew your  
membership  
today. The ride  
you save could  
be your own!!!**

## Legislative Alert

# 1992 Congressional Elections - Your Input Requested, Your Vote Required

by Lynn Oldenburg

This congressional election offers an excellent opportunity to be an active part of our democratic process here in Maryland.

When I read of the involvement of other MROs and their successes in maintaining their freedom of choice, I see that we have not been as deeply aware of and committed to the process whereby we may preserve our heritage here in what used to be known as the FREE STATE of Maryland.

There are many ways to participate. First, make sure you are registered to vote. Call 1-800-222-VOTE to have a voter registration form sent to you. This number is for the state board of elections; you may call after hours to leave your name and address, or you may call between 9:00 and 5:00 for a real person! Next, you might call your county board of elections or your affiliated party office for a list of candidates, or call a candidate's campaign headquarters and volunteer a couple hours of your time to stuff envelopes, run errands, or whatever, if you know who you support. As an example of the effectiveness of one's involvement, you need only look to California or Minnesota.

As ABATE of California found out, those detrimental to motorcycling can be removed from office. Dick Floyd lost in his bid for re-election to Juanita McDonald, due in large part to the very

active role ABATE members took in the election process. Campaign contributions were raised, new voters were registered, and lots of other tasks were carried out by those bikers committed to regaining a voice in their government. Thanks to that commitment, we can say goodbye to Floyd. Thanks go out to all those dedicated motorcyclists of California for showing us all that is can happen!

In Minnesota, it only took 35 motorcyclists as delegates (out of a total 2,500) to their Democratic State Convention to effectively overturn the state party platform resolution calling for mandatory adult helmet laws. Had these dedicated motorcyclists not taken the time to be involved, the likelihood is great that there would be a bill calling for mandatory adult helmet laws in the Minnesota legislature next session. Hats off to Minnesota!

This brings us to the Unfree State. Maryland's eight Representatives and our two Senators have refused to sign on as co-sponsors of H.R.4207 and S.2205. This leads me to believe that the voiced opinions of the motorcyclists of Maryland haven't been heard or hold no weight with those elected to represent us. Time to change that folks! We have an opportunity to get behind candidates like Tom Hattery. He's been supportive of motorcyclists and is running for the 6th District

Congressional Seat in the United States House of Representatives. He won the primary over the incumbent, Beverly Byron, who was unsympathetic to us.

Find out who the candidates are in your district and what their opinions are on the issues you care about. Share your information with those running for office, educate them on the subject to which you're more the expert than they - motorcycling and awareness.

Call the ABATE office at 1-800-843-0252 and leave a message either on the machine or with Dale, or call Lynn at 301-942-7239. Let us know how you are treated and the responses you get from the campaign staff. Start planning now to get as many voters out to the polls as possible on election day, as well as being certain to cast your own ballots. Let's show the rest of the country that Maryland's motorcyclists do value the sacrifices of our forefathers and foremothers and are willing to sacrifice at least as much for our children's posterity.

Let me end this with a quote by a wise man from our early history: "I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." (James Madison, June 16, 1788)

# VOTE



**ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.**

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1992 AT 11:30 AM**

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National Recording Artists

**THE NIGHTHAWKS**



*Helmets should be worn by choice, not by force.*

## Coalition Formed to Preserve Rider Education

by Lynn Oldenburg

On June 23, 1992, the first meeting of Coalition Advocating Rider Education for Maryland (CARE 4 MD) was held at Harford County Community College. CARE 4 MD is comprised of motorcyclists and riding clubs from all over the state, joined in the common goal of saving the Maryland Motorcycle Safety Program from its scheduled death in 1993.

We are fortunate to have some elected officials who truly care about motorcycle safety and are willing to

work with Maryland motorcyclists on this.

It is the goal of CARE 4 MD to contact all graduates of the safety program, asking that they and their family and friends write or call their Senators and Delegates, urging them to do what they can to preserve an effective program that has been instrumental in reducing accidents and fatalities on Maryland's highways. If you or someone you know has taken a beginner or experienced rider course, do your part

and call and tell your representatives how the program has helped you.

Legislation is being drafted to reinstate the Safety Program while the coalition is working on getting the work out to all of the more than 10,000 people who have taken rider education courses.

CARE 4 MD meets at Honda of Annapolis, 1740 West Street.. Call Lynn for details.

## Counties' Corner

*The Kent County Chapter of ABATE of Maryland, Inc., is saddened to announce that on December 17, 1991, we lost member Christopher Scott Leager to a diving accident. He was a good man and a good brother. He will be missed.*

### Harford

Meetings are held at Harvey's Place on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Contact Joyce or Dwayne Kennison at (410) 457-5415 for more information. All are welcome!

We are looking for a place to hold an open house/covered dish social. If you

have any suggestions, please call the Kennison's at the above number.

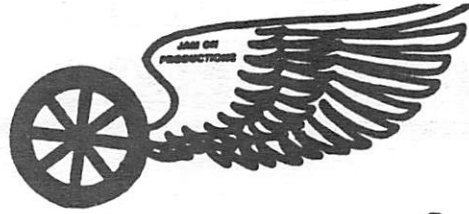
### Tri-County Eastern Shore

Talbot, Caroline & Queen Anne's Counties' Chapter has changed its meeting place from Centreville library to Sidetracks Saloon in Easton, Maryland, on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Editor's Note: Sorry for not including more county chapter information. I'm new at this!

**Witnesses needed to a motorcycle accident which occurred October 12, 1991, at approximately 7:15 p.m., on a small road between Fort Smallwood Road just before the exit onto Route 10. An ABATE member was severely injured in this accident. Please contact his attorney, Van Powers at (301) 277-3311 with any information you can provide.**





# Motorcycle SWAPMEET & Vintage Motorcycle Show



**Sunday  
October 18, 1992**

Jam-On Productions presents a Motorcycle Swapmeet at the Anne Arundel Co. Fairgrounds (Crownsville, Maryland)

**BUY...SELL...TRADE  
PARTS, BIKES, ACCESSORIES,  
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**ALL ARE WELCOME!  
RAIN OR SHINE!**

**ADMISSION: \$7.00 — CHILDREN FREE!  
STARTS 10:00 a.m. — MUSIC ALL DAY  
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USED PARTS ONLY \$25.00  
\$100.00 DOOR PRIZE**

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FOOD ON PREMISES!**

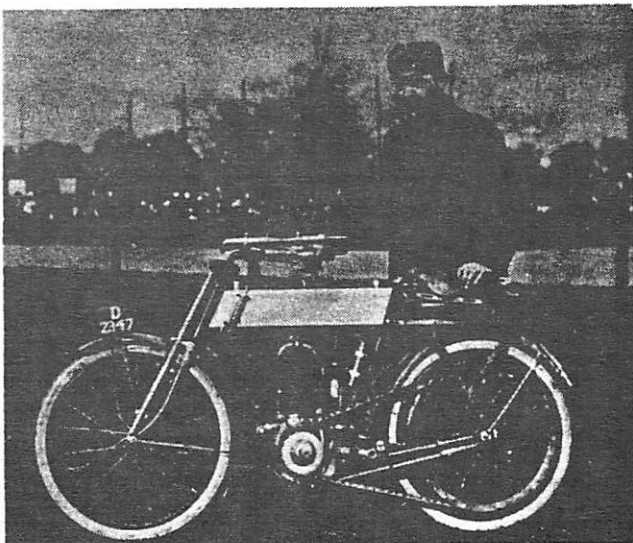
**Directions**

From Washington: Rt. 50 E. to 450 to Crownsville Exit.  
Right at light, follow to Fairgrounds on Right.

From Baltimore - Rt. 3 to 97. 97 to Crownsville  
Right at light, follow to Fairgrounds on Right.

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# government relations news

AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 1992

## Motorcyclists Make A Difference In California Assembly Election

WESTERVILLE, OHIO -- Motorcyclist rights groups are being credited for ending California Assemblyman Dick Floyd's bid for re-election in the state's June 2 primary election, reports the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA).

Floyd, who had held the Assembly seat for 12 years, was the leading proponent of a mandatory helmet law that was passed in the state in 1991. The AMA revealed that Floyd has presented falsified information in support of that measure, and that issue became a target of a voter information campaign designed to unseat the Democratic incumbent. The campaign, promoted by ABATE of California, also included endorsements of candidates sensitive to the views of motorcyclists.

One such endorsement went to Juanita McDonald, who, thanks largely to the ABATE group's efforts, was selected to replace Floyd as the Democratic candidate in the state's 55th Assembly District. McDonald, mayor pro tem of Carson, California, won the group's endorsement based on her stand on a variety of motorcycle issues, including freedom of choice in the area of helmet use. Local riders also made donations and contributed their time to McDonald's election campaign.

ABATE of California officer Paul Lax said that Floyd's defeat represents a major victory for motorcyclists, adding

that it pays to get involved in the election process.

"This victory was the direct result of a united effort by California's motorcyclist rights movement," said Lax. "Not only did we make a difference, but we picked up a good friend for motorcycling in the process."

June 18, 1992

## AMA Announces 1992 Voter Campaign

WESTERVILLE, OHIO -- On election day, November 3, motorcyclists across the country will be sending a simple message to their elected officials: Motorcycle riders are voters, too.

That message will be communicated through a set of distinctive buttons being offered by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) as part of its "Rider Vote" campaign.

The buttons, which riders are urged to wear to the polls, are available in two colors, with a white version displaying the message: "Motorcyclists Vote Too," and the black versions saying: "I'm a Motorcyclist Registered to Vote."

AMA Vice President of Government Relations Robert Rasor said that the buttons are designed to be a reminder to candidates that motorcyclists are an important political force, while encouraging riders to become registered for the election.

CONTACT: STU LAWSON  
(614) 891-2425

The campaign buttons are available for \$2 each and can be ordered by writing to: AMA Rider Vote!, P. O. Box 6114, Westerville, OH 43081-6114. Each order also includes a free AMA "Freedom Rider" decal.

## Curry Resigns NHTSA Post

WESTERVILLE, OHIO -- Jerry R. Curry has resigned from his position as administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the federal agency that oversees highway safety.

Curry, who had served as the chief administrator for the NHTSA since 1989, was expected to be confirmed as the new director of the Federal Aviation Administration. But that confirmation fell through primarily due to opposition from consumer advocacy groups.

During his tenure at the NHTSA, Curry promoted motorcycle rider education programs and the NHTSA-funded PRO-RIDER program, a motorcycle safety awareness campaign administered by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA). He also participated in a rider-training course in Virginia, where he got firsthand experience in two-wheeled transportation.

Several months prior to his resignation, Curry met in a final meeting with safety analysts in Washington. At that time, he commended motorcyclists for their role in helping to reduce the nation's traffic fatality toll in 1991 to its lowest level in nearly 30 years.





# government relations news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 1992

## Novelty Helmets Lead to Legal Confusion

WESTERVILLE, OHIO -- When is a helmet not a helmet? That's the question some motorcyclists are asking these days in response to rumors that police in some states with mandatory helmet laws are cracking down on motorcyclists for wearing helmets that don't carry federal inspection stickers.

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) heard about these rumors from its members in several states, and investigated with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). According to Chris Kallfelz, AMA legislative affairs specialist, the agency has begun a crackdown on so-called "novelty" helmets being sold in some areas.

"These products look like motorcycle helmets, but they offer almost no protection in an accident," Kallfelz noted. "While a motorcycle helmet has a 'crush zone' of Styrofoam-like material inside a hard shell, these novelty helmets consist of nothing more than a shell with a layer of foam rubber inside. In an accident, they are not much better than wearing no helmet at all. We have seen them in the marketplace particularly in states like California and Maryland that have recently passed laws making helmet use mandatory for motorcycle riders."

Officials with the California Highway Patrol recently vowed to ticket motorcyclists riding with these novelty helmets under the terms of the state's helmet law, which went into effect January 1. That has led to concern

about how policemen can tell the two types of helmets apart.

One of the ways to tell a legitimate motorcycle helmet from one of these look-alikes has always been to look for a D.O.T. sticker on the back, indicating that the helmet meets a set of standards established by the federal Department of Transportation. Only manufacturers of helmets that meet the standards are allowed to put D.O.T. stickers on their helmets.

However, those stickers may fall off after a period of time, or may be removed when a helmet is repainted. And the AMA has received reports of motorcyclists wearing approved helmets being stopped by policemen for helmet checks because their headgear did not carry a sticker.

"There is no requirement that a motorcyclist leave the D.O.T. sticker on his helmet after purchase," said Kallfelz, "but some policemen may look at stickers as one indication that a helmet meets federal standards. Officials at the California Highway Patrol have told us that they have no policy of stopping motorcyclists if they don't see a sticker on the helmet, but that could be one factor a patrolman might use in determining whether to make a traffic stop.

"Our advice is that if your helmet still has a D.O.T. stick on it, you might save yourself some trouble by leaving it on."

Confusing the issue further is the fact that NHTSA officials recently charged one maker of novelty helmets, E & R Fiberglass of Tacoma, Washington, with putting D.O.T. stickers on its products even though they do not meet federal standards. The California Highway Patrol has specifically

GRD 92-17

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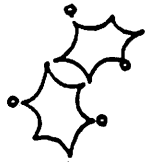
targeted that company's products in its crackdown against illegal helmets.

The NHTSA may help clear up the confusion with a videotape it is producing for distribution to police departments. The tape is designed to help policy identify novelty helmets more quickly.

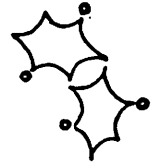
"Even without a D.O.T. sticker, the differences between a novelty helmet and one that provides some protection to a motorcyclist are pretty obvious," noted Kallfelz. "Inside the helmet, there may be additional certification stickers from the Snell Memorial Foundation and the American National Standards Institute. More importantly, though, police can easily check for a crushable liner of Styrofoam or similar material."

He added that the style of the helmet isn't a good indication of its effectiveness. Approved helmets come in a variety of styles, from half-helmets to full-face models. Unfortunately, many of the novelty helmets mimic the same designs.

Kallfelz added that regardless of the legal issues surrounding helmet standards, motorcyclists are the real victims of badly designed and fraudulently marketed helmets. "As an association, we oppose mandatory helmet laws for adult riders like the ones recently passed in California and Maryland," Kallfelz said. "But we support the voluntary use of motorcycle protective gear, including helmets. If you're going to buy a helmet, whether because of safety concerns or to meet the legal requirements in your state, you should have some assurance that the one you buy offers a high level of protection."



# MOTORCYCLISTS'!!!

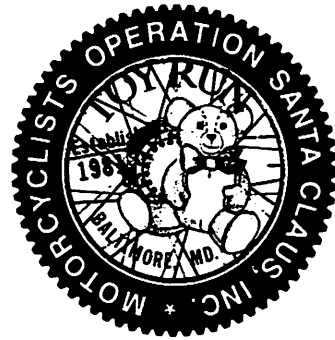


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AT THE END OF FORT SMALLWOOD ROAD

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**10 AM TO 6 PM**

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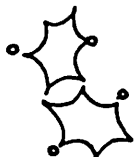
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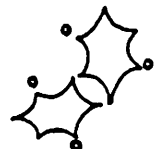
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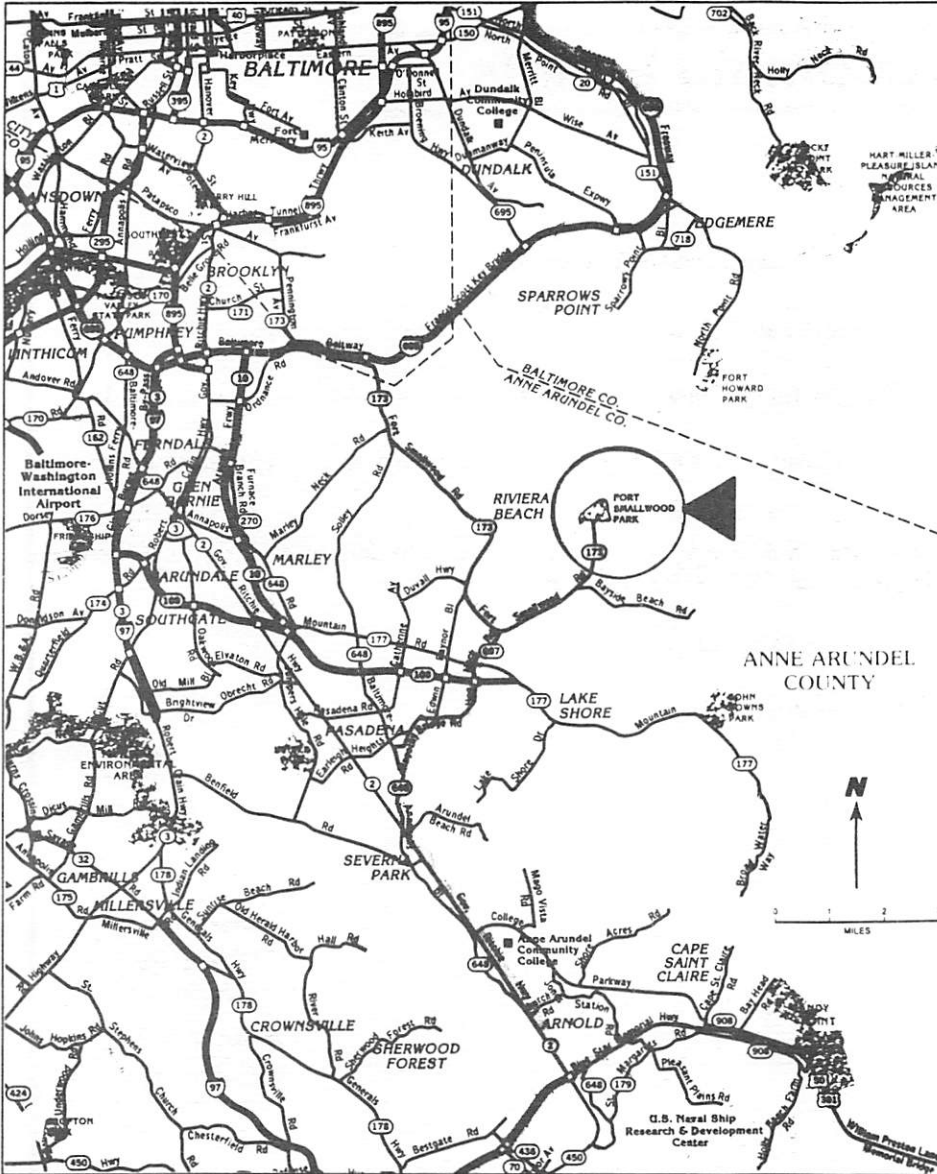
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THE SALVATION ARMY 410-889-4025

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## DIRECTIONS

### From the North

Approach from either the east or west side of I-695.

From the east, exit I-695 at Cove Rd. to Hawkins Point Rd., turn left and follow into Fort Smallwood Rd., which runs into the Park.

OR Exit I-695 onto Rte. 10 to Rte. 100 east to Magogy Bridge Rd., turn left, this will turn into Hog Neck Rd., follow to Fort Smallwood Rd.

OR Approaching from the west, exit I-695 onto either Rte. 3 south or Rte. 10 to Rte. 100 east to Magogy Bridge Rd., turn left, this will turn into Hog Neck Rd., follow to Fort Smallwood Rd., turn right and follow to the Park.

### From the South

You can come north on I-95 to I-695 and follow the above approach from the west.

OR Take MD Route 3 north to the Quarterfield Rd., exit, turn right, follow to Rte. 100 east, go right, follow to Magogy Bridge Rd., turn left, this will turn into Hog Neck Rd., follow to Fort Smallwood Rd., turn right and follow to the Park.

OR Take Rte. 2 north (Governor Ritchie Hwy.) to Magogy Bridge Rd., turn right, follow through where it becomes Hog Neck Rd. to Fort Smallwood Rd., turn right and follow to the Park.

**"IT ALL ENDS WITH HELPING CHILDREN"**

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Be sure to advise us of any address changes or corrections.

Returned mail costs ABATE money!

Please fill out this form and return it to:

ABATE of Maryland, Inc., P. O. Box 1733, Annapolis, MD 21404

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming Events

- September 26** Protest Ride and Party, 11:30 a.m., Anne Arundel Fairgrounds.  
Veteran's Toy Run, Elk's Lodge, Route 925, Waldorf, Maryland. Contact Roger Winn at 705-7470.
- October 4** 4th Annual 125/500 Pro-National, Budds Creek, Maryland. Call (301) 475-2000 for more information.
- October 10** Motorcyclists' Operation Santa Claus, Inc., 1992 Toy Run, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Fort Smallwood Park, Baltimore, Maryland.
- October 17** Freedoms Few MC of Maryland, Cycle Santas' 4th Annual Toy Drive, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Cherryvale Plaza, Reisterstown, Maryland. Call (410) 833-9584 for more information.
- October 18** Swap Meet, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds.
- October 31** Montgomery County Halloween Party.

### ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

P. O. Box 1733  
Annapolis, MD 21404



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