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Dedicated to Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

This issue is dedicated to the hard work our Chapters have done this year and the fun they had doing it!

Highlights include:

-  **Legislative Summary**
-  **Chapter Event Pictures**
-  **Chapter Recaps**
-  **State Event Pictures**
-  **Tales From The Road**

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GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR!
GARY "PAPPY" BOWARD

HI FOLKS!

By the next newsletter the Maryland Legislative session will be starting. The 1st day of the session is January 12, 2000. You can see how close and how fast things will happen. If you haven't done so, start contacting your legislators now..with the holidays coming I know everyone's time is tight, but take a few minutes and call or write. If you are not sure what to do, call your Director or the ABATE office and we will try to help. We need everyone to get busy. This could be the year that you make a difference.

I recently attended a meeting of the newly reformed Northeast Chapter which is made up of Cecil, Hartford, & Kent counties. I have to tell you they have their s - - t together. They are already in contact with all their legislators and continuing to keep contact to get answers to the questions they have asked. This is much needed in that part of the State, so I want to applaud all those organizing and to urge members in that area to start attending meetings and functions. I think you will be impressed.

All across the State, the Chapters are all starting to work hard. I still feel someone out there knows someone or something that can make a difference for our cause so please join in the fight. Remember we are all trying to regain a stolen freedom so that everyone can ride free.

I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season for you and your family. I will be looking forward to seeing everyone in Annapolis for Monday night lobbying.

RIDE SAFE
PAPPY

**Montgomery County Chapter of
ABATE OF MARYLAND**

Would like to send a huge thanks to the following companies who donated prizes to their Halloween Party.

Rockville Harley Davidson/Battley's Cycle - \$100.00 worth of prizes

Backstreet Cafe - \$45.00 gift certificate and letting us use the facility for the party.

Layhill Cafe - \$25.00 gift certificate.

It is businesses like these and others that help keep ABATE going strong by helping our chapters out with their events!

I DON'T CARE
JAY IRWIN BLOCK

"I don't care!"

"What?"

"I don't care!"

"What do you mean?"

I ride a motorcycle and I want the freedom to enjoy it. I am tired of having to argue the (lack of) safety features of a helmet. I am tired of justifying my existence.

Suppose I just give in? Suppose I was to concede, for argument's sake, that helmets did provide some form of "safety" and "protection" in their usage. I STILL DON'T CARE!

Skiers have been injured on the slopes. The speeds that they are able to generate are comparable to those of a motorcyclist but with less control. That is why they hit trees and die. They are not required to wear helmets. Equestrians ride. When they sit on a horse they are typically much further from the ground than motorcyclists. When they fall off or are thrown, they can hit their head and die. Yet they are not required to wear helmets. Bicycles can also reach the same speeds as motorcyclist's under regular speed conditions and adults are not required to wear helmets.

I suspect that the number of skiers, snowboards, equestrians, and bicyclists exceed the number of motorcyclists and, therefore, by numbers alone, suffer greater head injuries than do we. Yet no legislation has been passed requiring them to wear helmets.

So as to all of the safety arguments that do not seem to apply to any other activity then motorcycling, even if all of your arguments and concerns were valid, I STILL DON'T CARE. All I want is the freedom to ride my motorcycle on an even par with those other activities.

So here is the real problem. I DO CARE! I care about my rights as a motorcyclist. I care about my freedom to enjoy the activity. I care about being allowed to be treated as an adult and the respect that should be rendered as such. Thus I am a member of ABATE I will continue to dedicate my time, my efforts and, yes my money in the form of dues and attendance at social events.

It would be nice if you felt the same way to!

Hey Chapters!

Let us know of the businesses that helped support your events and we will gladly list them in our Newsletter!!

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHAPTER

Director	Patrick (Pat) Corcoran rebel rider69@hotmail.com	410-766-6497
Legislative	Bill Gawthrop	410-451-2610
Events	Phil Lung	410-923-6996
Treasurer	Sally Lung	410-923-6996

Glen Burnie: BREWSTERS 1st Wednesday at 7:30 PM
Gambrills/Crofton: 3rd Wednesday at the COYOTE CAFE at 7:30 PM.

The beautiful weather, many volunteers and Brewsters always friendly and cooperative staff combined to make this a very successful event. I don't have room to name them all, but more than a dozen businesses donated in excess of 30 items that were given away as prizes. There were 100 participants. Not bad for our first November poker run. We also signed up seven new members this day.

Scott D. Dressel took home \$100.00 for having the top hand. Will Schroeder won \$50.00 for second place and Stuart Porter \$25.00 for third place. Norman Fry also won a prize for the lowest hand.

Our November Poker Run will become an annual event along with our Easter Poker Run, held on the Sat. before Easter, and our Liberty Poker Run which is held on the Sat. after July 4th weekend. So Mark your Calendars now and we will see you at our events.

BALTIMORE COUNTY CHAPTER

Director	Wil Crum	410-780-9342
Asst. Director	Alisa Hoffman	410-662-1266
Events	Bill Bruneau	410-574-3943
Legislative	Lee Dix	410 547-5340
Secretary	Michelle Anderson michellea@primeretail.com	410 780-9342

Meets 2nd Tuesday each month, 7:30pm at Rosedale Inn, Corner of Philadelphia Rd. & Chesaco Ave.

I am the Secretary for the Baltimore Chapter, and have just completed my first "official" term and looking back, we had a pretty good year. Not overly exciting...but we're working on that.

First of all, I'm riding my own now! And the best feeling in the world (it is truly indescribable) is being on those country, windy roads riding next to Wil. I still find the experience of being on my own bike a little scary. You never know what that other driver is going to do. But the pleasure (and release of stress) I get doing something that I've always wanted to do, no matter what anybody else says, is pure and wonderful.

All told, we held 2 Bike Shows and 3...no wait, 2...hold on a second, that was ONE Poker Run that kept getting rained out! We're the Chapter that just won't give up on a really great ride! Wil Crum (Director) set forth to lie out the Poker Run of all Poker Runs. Originally scheduled as a Father's Day Poker Run for June 20th, it got rained out, so we re-scheduled for August 8th. We were a little bummed, but hey, we were experiencing a drought and could definitely use the rain. On August 8th we tried it again...to no avail. It rained again, but ya know, we're now in the middle of a serious drought situation, so who could really complain...we'll just reschedule. FINALLY, on October 3rd, we had our Fall Foliage Poker Run! It was an incredible day for and awesome Run.

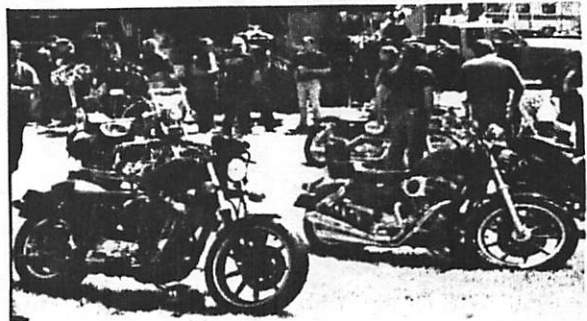
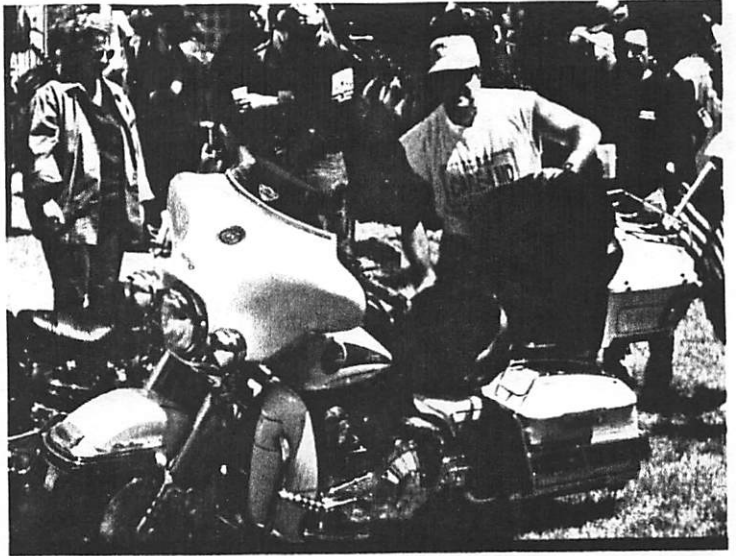
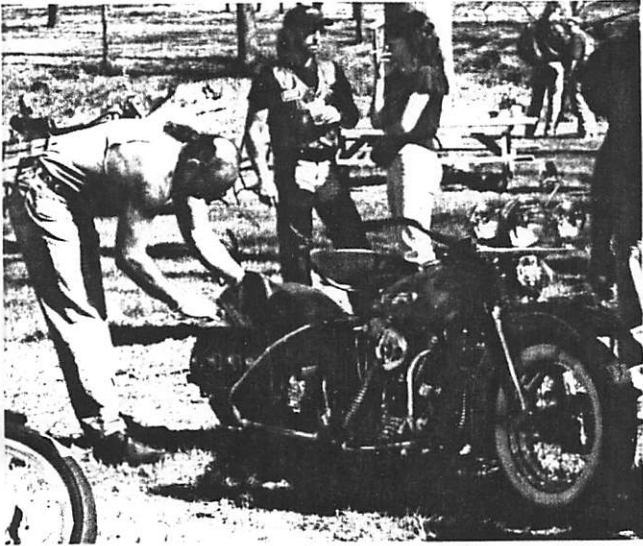
As for the Bike Shows, these were held in conjunction with the Essex Motorcycle Club Field Meets. The first one (held June 6th) was more of a success than the second (held September 19th) was. Although September is the bigger field meet of the year, we noticed people didn't want to enter their bikes in the show if they were in the field events. Consequently, we didn't cover the cost of the plaques! So, it was decided, for future field meets, we would just have a table to sign up new members, renew members and give out some information.

And State Events, Pappy is always saying he needs people to work this and people to work that. My question is "Work? What work?" The International Bike Show was a blast (especially since...I GOT ENGAGED!). The Spring Bike Show was fantastic (I've figured out Pappy's logic...stick the exhibitionist at the front gate!) and the State Rodeo, awesome (Block's Babe's rule in tug-o-war!) And then there's Cumberland, which is held every June. If you have not had the opportunity to make this event, go in 2000. This is the best place to meet 'n greet.

In wrapping up, I'd like to say that while we only held 3 events on a Chapter level, it seemed like we were always doing something. Whether it was going to an open house, a State Rodeo, or getting together for the March of Dimes~Ride For Healthier Babies, we're doing more as a chapter, and I think this is important. We are working on a couple of events for 2000 - Several Poker Runs laid out by Wil (if you've ever been on one of his poker runs, you know what I'm saying!), and a Valentine's Dance with the Northeast Chapter (to be held in Cecil County). Oh, and scheduled for September 2001 is the wedding of Michelle and Will! Have a great holiday season, and a fantabulous New Year!

Michelle ("Chew") Anderson, Baltimore Chapter-Secretary, michellea@primeretail.com

**STATE
SPRING BIKE SHOW**



MID SHORE CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

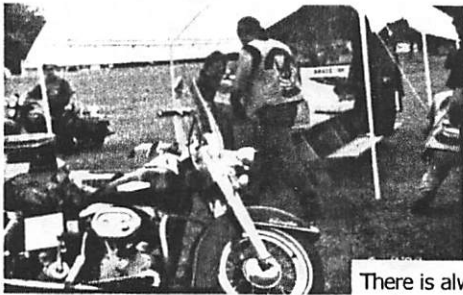
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	Director	Bill "Wrench" Kuykendall	410-758-2234
	Co-Director	Dave "Waterboy" Labelle	410-820-5071
	Director	Marty "Wires" Schultz	410-745-5135
	Co-Director	Steve "Dozer" Prentice	410-822-4434
	Treasurer	Carol Carson	410-758-4751
	Secretary	Darlene "Jellybean" Prentice	410-822-4434
	Events	"FEATHER"	410-822-6208
	Legislative	"UNCLE RAY"	410-820-8045

hddozer@hotmail.com

All meet 2nd Thursday each month,
7:30pm at the Easton FWW Easton MD

Hurricane Floyd tried to put a damper on our Labor Day party but Bikers and ABATE supporters traveled from all over just to hang out, have fun, and support ABATE. Friday evening was kicked off by Margot's Band. They really rocked the place and had everyone in a real party mood. Saturday afternoon we did have the rodeo events...in between rain drops. Rain doesn't stop real bikers right! Later that afternoon, the Bremen Band Entertained us in their up beat way. In the evening hours Mason Sheehan's Band took over rockin' us into the night. While the band took a break it gave us the opportunity for our Wet Tee Shirt Contest. The crowd's choice..Holly Hill (sorry no pictures of Holly). Sunday saw a real threat from Floyd and alot of people cleared out early but the die-hards stayed on. All and all everyone had a killer time. Thanks to all the vendors and food people for sticking it out with us. Also a big thanks to all the volunteers for the set up and clean up of the park, sitting at the gate, and all the thankless jobs we have to do months prior to the event.

So...next year, come one come all, We will be here rain, shine, and now, even hurricane!



There is always a starting point



Feather & Friend



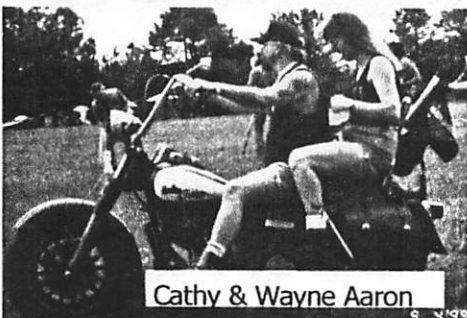
Dozer, Jellybean & Uncle Ray



Dave LaBelle & Family



Marty "Wires" Schultz



Cathy & Wayne Aaron



Jay & Lisa



Joanna, Dozer & Jellybean

MID SHORE HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Our Fall Poker Run & Party was held on October 9th. It was a beautiful fall day and we had a good crowd riding the run. The stops were fun and the ride was just long enough. The last stop was at our host's house for the party. Thanks to Dave and Nancy LaBelle For all the hospitality, warm food, cold beer and the Black Bottom Band! What could be better. We want to thank everyone who helped make this Poker Run a success. Our Winner was Patty Hicks from St. Michaels.



Event Greeter



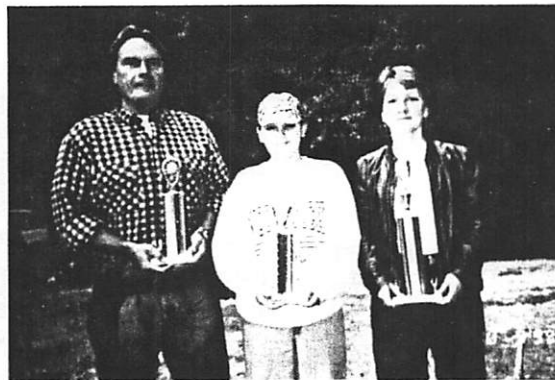
Stop at a floating dock bar



Marty "Wires" Schultz & Steve "Dozer" Prentice find a clue for the run!



Dave & Nancy LaBelle & friend



Our top three hands Patty, our winner is on the right

On Oct 23rd, we had our Halloween Party & also surprise Birthday Party for Wrench. The turnout was big & was glad to see so many make the trip across the Bay Bridge to help in the celebration. Good food, Drinks & lots of fellowship was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who helped out.



A group of the party'ers

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TALES FROM THE ROAD

CHRIS HODGE

Being a teacher is a rewarding experience. You teach and mold young minds but then you have the opportunity to also learn from these minds you have been tasked to teach. I am always open to their comments. When I told them of a trip that my father and I were planning they begged me to pursue our adventure.

My father and I have discussed traveling across country for many years with the students encouragement, this past Summer that trip became a wonderful reality.

My father rides a K12-100 BMW and I have a 99 Harley Road Glide. Here is the kicker...my Dad lives in Seattle..The worst part of planning this trip was what to do about getting to Seattle then back. It was decided that I would ship the bike out there, fly out then we would ride back here. With that part settled, I was off.

We travelled the Oregon Trail, visited many Indian Reservations, stopped off at the International Jazz Festival in Montreal.

Our trip took 13 days with only one minor mechanical glitch, my Dad's tail light. We tried to average between 500-550 miles a day, and stopping at

countless hotels. When we got back to the East Coast we stayed with our relatives that are in Ohio and New York. While in Canada, we also stayed with friends and family.

My Dad and I were concerned about how we would be received and that was really our only concern. Let me tell you that there are many more friendly people in the US than what you may think. Not sure if it is because we were on our motorcycles or if it was because we were father and son, but rest assured friendly people exist!

With a trip like this you not only get to see the country side you also get to meet the people in the towns that make up the US. All I can say is that if you have an opportunity to make this type of trip DO IT! You get a true appreciation of what makes up the country and you also get to meet wonderful people.

When we got back to my home in Lusby, it was Dad's turn to ship his bike back out West. I just wonder as he was flying back home if he had wished he was on his bike instead.

Of course when school started up again, I had multitude of pictures ready to show my kids. They were really impressed. I told them all if they ever get the opportunity to take a trip across this country to do it and don't think twice about it. I told them that this was a once in a lifetime trip for me but then again...I do have a son..



Gary (left) and Chris (right) in New York

I would like to do another trip this Summer, but not as long. Anyone Interested?

See ya on the road!

HEY MEMBERS! Don't forget to send me your tales from the road.

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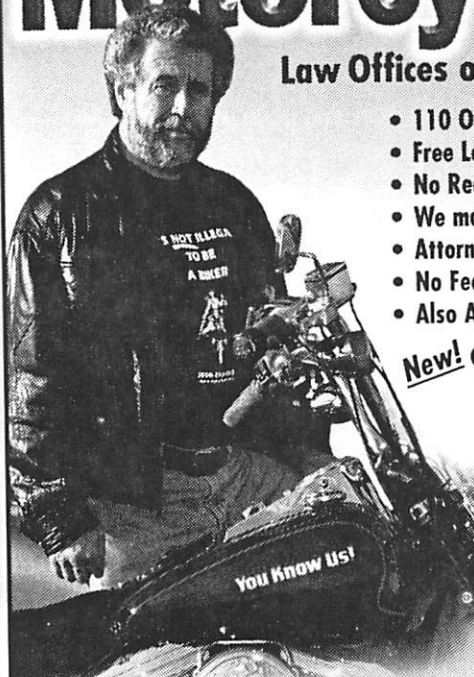
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ST. MARY'S COUNTY CHAPTER 1999 HIGHLIGHTS

PO Box 317, California, MD 20619-0317

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Assistant Director	Mary McMaster	301-373-6414
Events	Tiny Traub	301-994-9186
Legislative	John Wise	301-475-1974
Membership/ Products	Ronnie Bryan	301-994-0109
Treasurer	Matt McMaster	301-373-6414

We kicked off the year with our Pool Tournament that was held at Pennies Bar in Leonardtown

The weather was perfect for riding to the tournament



Steve Berge (back) played & ran the ladders. Winners (left to right) (sharks) Scott Bassett Jim Mead (scratchers) Tiew Mead Rick DeFelice

We tried our hand at a new get together this year, a Biker's Reunion. It was a great time to meet with friends that we hadn't seen in a while and send those off who were going to Daytona for Bike week.

Our major event of the year was our 5th Annual Blessing of the Bikes. Once Again Wendy and Karen put together a wonderful day that was complimented with beautiful sunshine, warm breezes off the water and LOTS AND LOTS of bikers.



Plaque Presentations were made to Susan for Officer of the Year and Greg for his 7 years as membership Coordinator



Wendy Anderson stands by while Father Bob speaks. To his right stands Senator Roy Dyson, Delegate George Owings, Sherrif Richard J. Voorhaar, Delegate Tony O'Donnell.

Steve Hewett and Mendell Thompson sing for the crowd while Karen Thompson looks on with our other guests.



Steve Berge sang the National Anthem and Amazing Grace for our Blessing of the Bikes. All I can say was wow! Steve has some pipes and not just on his Harley either!



Special thanks to the hundreds of people that came out for this event. We will be here next year and hope to see all of you back again.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED



Another notable event was our Observation Run. We started out at Lenny's Restaurant, headed over to Virginia's Northern Neck and ended back up at Fitzies in Compton, MD. It was a great ride of over 300 miles. As you can see we also had a great turn out!



Delegate Tony O'Donnell came to help us out With our Safety Awareness Day. (O'Donnell is an awesome supporter of ABATE)



Officer Ted Bellevoine gave an excellent exhibition ride during the Safety Awareness Day.



The most prestigious event we did was to nominate Susan Lindsey (center) for the St. Mary's County Commission for Women, Woman of the Year Award. Now how often to you get to dress up like this. Even though Susan didn't win, we were very proud to have entered her for this award.



Each year St. Mary's County holds a parade for Veteran's Day. The planners have always asked that ABATE members lead the parade. Vader and to his right Tiny Traub ride in the Parade. Other ABATE members were there including Steve Berge, Dave Scheible, and Rick DeFelice (Picture was sent in by Paul Thorne, former member of ABATE.)

**CALVERT COUNTY CHAPTER
1999 HIGHLIGHTS**

We held our first meeting In September. Alot of goals were set right from the start. Our first newsletter went out to our 19 members in November. To all of you that are supporting us we thank you! We are still trying to nail down a meeting time that will be central to those who are interested so stay tuned for our final time. We have settled on Wednesday's as our night of choice.

Currently we are collecting toy donations to support the NAWC-PAXRIVER Public Works sponsored Tri-County Angel Tree program. Toys be need to be new unwrapped item. The age group this program supports is 2-12. You can contact Rick or Elaine to arrange for pick up!

We also supported the St. Mary's County Vetrans Day parade along with members of the St. Mary's Chapter. The ceremonies were truly outstanding and a good time was had by all who attended.

Director Rick DeFelice 410-394-0663
 Asst. Director Elaine DeFelice 410-394-0663
 e-mail tinkerbell@olg.com
 Newsletter Paul Rogers
 Staff Chris Hodge
 401 East Range Road, Lusby MD 20657



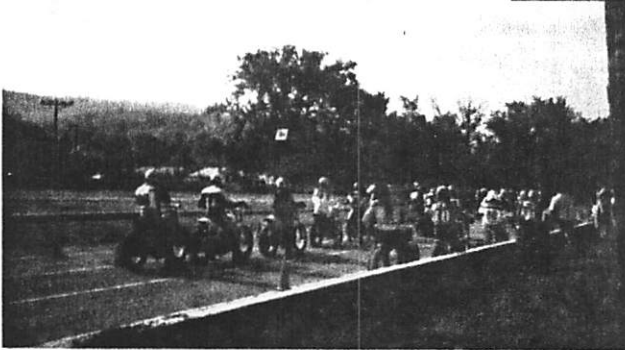
our first meeting turnout

Keep in checking with us, we have plans for some events, and will list them on the State Calendar and in our Newsletter!

CUMBERLAND PARTY



Friday night races are always a hit!



Our bike winner David Martinez and his kids pose with Pappy and RHD salesman Bernie Keller, in front of Rockville Harley Davidson. Congratulations!



Members from St. Mary's County Chapter kept those bottomless beer mugs full! Pictured are Rick (from the back) and Jim. Thanks Guys!



There were enough vendors on hand so no one went hungry!

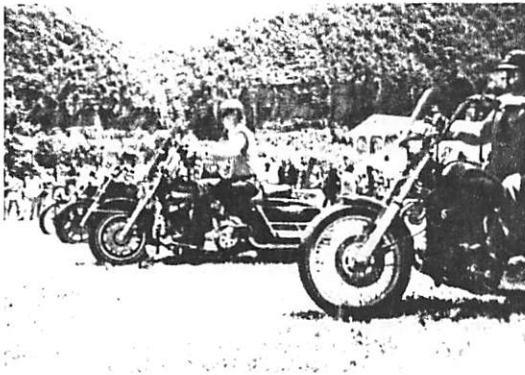


Four beers to go please!



What a beautiful back drop for the Party!

CUMBERLAND PARTY CONTINUED



STATE PRODUCTS REPRESENTATIVES JEFF AND MARIE BOWERS



Jeff and Marie came to St. Mary's For their Freeze Your Buns Poker Run but ended up being a soak your buns poker run. They also came to our Blessing of The Bikes. Below they pose at the International Bike Show.

Jeff and Marie hit the ground running when they took over the product responsibilities! They have been to a lot of events that all the chapters have held. They even missed some of their Chapter's events to bring their trailer to other Chapter events. They have set up at every major event that ABATE has put on and volunteered their time at other Events such as the International Bike Show. They deserve a round of thanks for their efforts to keep the products moving and their initiative to get new products for the members. You can reach Jeff and Marie at 410-429-4842. They will work with you for any event that your chapter is going to hold so you will have ABATE of MARYLAND, Inc. products on hand. They are always looking for suggestions for new products so give them a call. They really are a great couple!



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1999 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

KATHLEEN LOERICH

Bill Filed

The 413th Session of the Maryland General Assembly started on January 13, 1999 and adjourned April 12, 1999.

During the legislative session ABATE of Maryland introduced Senate Bill 239 with Senator Hafer as the primary sponsor. The bill's intent was to modify the current all-rider helmet law in Maryland to apply only to minors. Cosponsors who signed on to the bill include Senators Astle, Colburn, Haines, Mooney, Munson, and Stoltzfus.

ABATE of Maryland members contacted Senators and Delegates via letter writing, phone calls, personal visits, e-mail, faxes, and contacts made during Monday Night Lobbying.

Committee Hearing Scheduled

SB239 was assigned to the Judicial Proceedings committee in the Senate. The committee hearing for SB239 was scheduled for February 23, 1999. At that hearing three ABATE of Maryland members testified in favor of the bill and a gaggle of 'safetycrats' testified to oppose the bill.

ABATE of Maryland concentrated on the overwhelming improvements in the motorcycle safety record in the last 10 years, both pre-helmet law and post-helmet law. ABATE's testimony emphasized the personal freedom issue at hand, how a number of other safety devices met with difficulties when imposed on the public with a 'one-size-fits-all' policy approach, and how the State's own Fiscal Note indicated that the financial impact of changing the law would be minimal or none.

ABATE of Maryland recommended the following:

- ◆ Continue the admirable job done by the Motor Vehicle Administration in providing training to both new riders and experienced riders via the Motorcycle Safety Program. The Motorcycle Safety Program started in 1985. Accident information provided early suggests that the safety program has been instrumental in reducing accidents and subsequent injuries and fatalities.
- ◆ Raise awareness of all members of the motoring public that they share the road with both large and small vehicles. Encourage them to understand the limitations of not only their own vehicle, but of the vehicles around them.
- ◆ Encourage educational programs that educate drivers and riders regarding alcohol awareness.
- ◆ Provide information about safety techniques and equipment that allow motorcyclists to make informed riding decisions and appropriate consumer decisions.
- ◆ Continue the downward trend in the number of accidents that occur.

Conclusions drawn in ABATE's testimony and presented to committee members were:

- ◆ Motorcycle helmets do not prevent accidents. Motorcycle accident rates have decreased dramatically and subsequently so

have injuries and fatalities. If you don't have an accident you won't get hurt.

- ◆ Riding and driving on public roads is a privilege given to the people of Maryland by their government. Serving on the legislature is a privilege given to legislators by the people of Maryland. In the spirit of this reciprocal relationship and as your riding constituents we request that you recognize us as the defenders of our own rights and safety.
- ◆ We have taken your challenge to decrease accidents, injuries, and fatalities. We as motorcyclists in Maryland, nation-wide, and possibly worldwide have demonstrated with tangible and obvious results that we heard you. In Maryland the number of accidents declined from over 3000 in 1985 to less than 900 in 1996 in response to this message.

ABATE testimony was followed by those opposed to the bill. Those who opposed the bill included several government agencies such as Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Howard County Police, Maryland State Police, Baltimore County Police, Montgomery County Police, State of Maryland Executive Department, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland State Department of Education, Baltimore Mayor's Office of State Relations, and of course NHTSA. One notable non-government organization who provided written testimony was Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO).

Most of the opposing testimony was redundant and relied upon the argument that motorcyclists are a public burden. Those who notably stood out from the rest were GEICO and NHTSA.

The GEICO written testimony read like pages from the NHTSA script until the summarizing paragraph where GEICO's representative Janice Golec stated, "Some Rights Are Not Worth Having." This inflammatory remark raised the ire of folks all over the country. Many people from ABATE of Maryland contacted GEICO with letters and phone calls objecting to these remarks. Others went straight to the top. GEICO is a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. whose CEO is Warren Buffett. Several people including our own newsletter editor Toni Robinson and Mike Osborn from California contacted Warren Buffett's office directly to express their displeasure with GEICO's statement.

NHTSA stepped in to the fray by sending Dr. Elizabeth Baker to testify on their behalf. Her testimony was from the NHTSA script. But she couldn't resist an attempt at crystal ball prediction at the end. She predicted that if SB239 were enacted, the number of motorcycle fatalities would increase 20 percent. Dr. Baker provided the most controversy that lasted into the summer months.

Those who lobbied for and testified for the bill were nearly always individual constituents representing his or her individual interests and desires. However, those who opposed the bill represented large well-funded organizations and government entities. What we have here appears to be government by the government and not government by

the people.

Committee Vote

The Judicial Proceedings committee vote occurred on Friday

Senator	Yeas	Nays
Baker-Chairman	X	
Green-Vice Chairman	Absent	Absent
Haines	X	
Colburn	X	
Ferguson	X	
Jimeno		X
Mitchell	X	
Hughes		X
Forehand		X
Mooney	X	
Stone	X	
Total	7	3

Favorable Committee Report 7 Yeas and 3 Nays

An emergency meeting was held at the ABATE of Maryland office on Sunday, March 7, 1999. During this meeting we prepared an emergency mailing informing members of the committee vote and to engage in full force lobbying of Senators to assure a successful vote in the Senate. When normal procedures are followed there are three readings of a bill. A reading is when a bill's title and purpose are read aloud on the Senate floor. SB239 would get its second reading on March 9, 1999. Ordinarily, this would simply be a procedural step that takes seconds to occur. The third and final reading is usually when a bill is debated on the floor and voted. The debate and vote for SB239 occurred during the second reading on Tuesday, March 9, 1999 instead of during a subsequent third reading. This all but negated the effect of our emergency mailing. By the time the mailing reached most hands, the vote was done.

Senate Vote

In spite of the heavy-handed opposition to the bill and the surprise turn of events with the vote schedule, SB239 missed passing the Senate by four votes.



This isn't the best picture of our Legislative Representative but it works! For those of you who don't know Kathleen, Members meet Kathleen Loerich! This is what happens to you after you have been sitting listening to speakers all day long! Picture was taken at the MRF,

Meeting of the Minds in Colorado!

Senator	Yeas
Astle	X
Baker	X
Colburn	X
DeGrange	X
Della	X
Dyson	X
Exum	X
Ferguson	X
Hafer	X
Haines	X
Harris	X
Hopper	X
Jacobs	X
Madden	X
Mitchell	X
Mooney	X
Munson	X
Sfikas	X
Stoltzfus	X
Stone	X
Total	20

Senator	Nays
Mr. President	X
Blount	X
Bromwell	X
Collins	X
Conway	X
Currie	X
Dorman	X
Forehand	X
Frosh	X
Green	X
Hoffman	X
Hogan	X
Hollinger	X
Hughes	X
Jimeno	X
Kasemeyer	X
Kelley	X
Lawlah	X
McCabe	X
McFadden	X
Middleton	X
Neall	X
Pinsky	X
Rossier	X
Ruben	X
Teitelbaum	X
VanHollen	X
Total	27

Unfavorable Senate Vote 20 Yeas and 27

Four more votes making the vote 24 to 23 will achieve success for our helmet bill. This may be a 'year-in-review' article. But I can't resist asking everyone to start working on those 27 Nays now to see how many can be changed to Yeas.

NHTSA Investigation

NHTSA testimony didn't start and end on February 23, 1999. It took on a life of its own for the next several months.

On March 23, 1999 I attended an Introduction to Washington seminar hosted by AMA. Participants were assisted with the process of contacting US Senators and Representatives directly by going to their offices. A contingent from Maryland contacted every Senator and Representative for Maryland. Each one was asked to apply pressure on NHTSA to prevent them from lobbying state legislators and attempting to persuade local legislators to favor or oppose a particular piece of legislation. In fact, According to the latest version of the Federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), NHTSA is prohibited from lobbying in state and local legislatures. TEA-21 states:

"...prohibits the use of funds appropriated to NHTSA for the purpose of urging a State or local legislator to

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

favor or oppose the adoption of any specific legislative proposal..."

At least three times during her testimony Dr. Baker urged legislators to oppose SB 239. US Representative Roscoe Bartlett who represents the 6th Congressional District decided to ask the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation to initiate an investigation of NHTSA's actions. The US Department of Transportation investigation was initiated on April 14, 1999.

On June 11, 1999 the Department of Transportation responded to Representative Bartlett's request. They concluded that NHTSA complied with 'both the letter and the spirit of the law as intended by Congress'. Obviously, I am unhappy with their conclusion. In a ten page letter the Inspector General described why he believed this was so. There is a Section A in the NHTSA lobbying provision that states that NHTSA representatives may not lobby state legislators. There is a Section B that states NHTSA may testify if they are invited. The Inspector General relied solely on the invitation clause and indicated that Dr. Baker had been invited to testify. The Inspector General discarded any consideration of Section A because of the invitation.

On July 25, 1999 I contacted the Inspector General directly and requested copies of all documents, tapes, and minutes pertaining to the investigation. I also requested a copy of the letter of invitation. To-date, I have not received any of this information or a response. So, it still isn't over.

MRF and AMA Working With Representative Bartlett

Because of the door to Representative Bartlett's office being opened by ABATE of Maryland members, MRF and AMA were able to contact Bartlett about attempting an amendment to the DOT appropriations bill that would strengthen the NHTSA lobbying provision and prevent NHTSA from lobbying and testifying in Maryland and other states in the future. The amendment approach did not work so now MRF and AMA are working on other approaches for next year.

Summary

Sometimes I wonder about 'life-the-universe-and-everything'. This entire article is the result of trying to change one word in one law in the State of Maryland. The change proposed by SB239 would change the word INDIVIDUAL to MINOR. Thus, making the helmet law apply only to those under 18 and not to adults. I have said many times before and I will say it again. Changing the helmet law is crucial, but it's a small part of the legislative and regulatory environment that we are forced to deal with. This one word change is evidence that this is true. The helmet law is the focal point, but assuring that large, uncaring, unwieldy government and private agencies do not slight motorcyclists is essential.

Cycle Event
"The Motorcycle
Calendar of Events"
www.cycleevent.com
EVENTS
Local, Regional & National
LINKS
Businesses, Insurance
Parts & Accessories
Legal Counsel & More!
Trivia Contests
Reader Feedback
List your Events
FREE!



Lynn and Tom take a moment to pose for the camera while at the MRF Meeting of the Minds. Lynn is a member of ABATE and the MRF Products Rep. Tom is the Director of the Howard County Chapter of ABATE of Maryland. I would say they had fun!



Pappy, Kathleen, Jay, Alisa along with friends of Tom and Lynn, pause for a photo at the MRF Meeting of the Minds.

NORTHEASTERN CHAPTER

The Northeastern chapter has a lot to be proud of our local membership has doubled in the past 3 months and continues to grow. This is because of the great team work that everyone has moved forward with. We have several great events in the future that will gain a lot of press and force awareness to the public. With that in mind, everyone deserves a pat on the back.

Current goals:

- * Stay informed: How? Local meetings
- * Plan for the future: How? Stay informed
- * Gain public awareness: How / Local meetings once informed tell the world!
- * Talk to your Local Reps: get contact info at your local meetings.
- * Prepare for the upcoming Legislative session: How? Attend local meetings

Wow! There is a lot to learn; maybe we should go to a local meeting to get some of this knowledge. "Don't want to be left out of this". See you there

The Northeastern chapter has moved their meetings to the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 in the evening. We will be serving food at the 12/2/99 meeting. All are welcome.

In addition, we would like to thank and welcome Paul Wiseman to our team. He will be assisting with all legislative issue pertaining to Harford County and helping to build that area back up. Paul can be reached at 410-836-0961" it is encouraged that everyone in Harford County welcome him aboard. Paul has been very active in the political arena and will be an asset to helping us reach our goals of gaining our freedom back..

In addition, lets not forget all the hard work that Al Conrad has been doing in the Cecil / Kent counties with contacting all the delegates and gaining their support. Al has been helping us from the beginning of our startup of the NORTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF ABATE.

Now in case you are not aware Bobby Grier is the Coordinator for the Northeastern Chapter and has been actively pursuing ways to keep us organized and focused on the task at hand "Gaining our freedom back". With out his help we would not be where we are today. So come to the next meeting, get informed, help to get our freedom back .

I would like to personally thank all members who have been helping us this year, we have came along way, but let us not forget we have along way to go and we will get there. Also, remember that we are strong in numbers.

I have a vision, that we will get our freedom back and that we will all continue to work together as a team and build networks that will be unstoppable. I encourage everyone to gather all your friends and make the local meetings; it is very important to stay informed and to pass the word around that we are not going to stand for our freedom being taken away and that the politicians will either

NORTH EASTERN CHAPTER

(Cecil, Harford & Kent Counties)

Meets 1st Sunday each month at the North East, VFW, North East, MD

Director	Bob Grier	410-287-6970
Asstistant Director	Guy Parent	410-287-0443
	gparent@dpnet.net	
Events Coordinator	Scott Trowbridge	
& Newsletter	strowbridge@dpnet.net	302-540-2494
Legislative Cecil/Kent	Al Conrad	410-378-2198
Legislative Harford	Paul Wiseman	410-836-0961
Secretary	Shelly Osborne	410-392-2724
Treasurer	Dave Kinney	410-658-3151

climb aboard and fight with us or we will elect the ones that will...

At the next meeting

- * We will be discussing our plans for the upcoming legislative session
- * A Valentine's dance on 2/12/99
- * Dates for the drop-off points of the food and clothing drive
- * A Membership drive - With prizes for the most sign-ups of new/renewals members

Remember that you can contact anyone of us to get your questions answered AND YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Please contact your local reps and start getting their support for the upcoming session.

REMEMBER STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

See ya at the next meeting....

NORTH EASTERN CHAPTER OF ABATE

Valentine's Day Dance February 12th from 7 - 12



All you can Eat and Drink
Food will be served from 7 - 9
Band will Play from 9 - 12
Advance ticket sales \$15
Location: North East VFW, RT.
272 North East MD

For Advanced Ticket Sales
and Directions Contact

Jim Hamilton - 410-287-3132
Guy Parent - 410-287-0443
Paul Wiseman Harford city - 410-836-0961
Bobby Grier - 410-287-6970
Al Conrad - 410-378-2198
Dave Kinney 410-658-3151



Blow Out Blast

Upcoming ABATE Chapter Events

January 16, 2000

St Mary's County Chapter Pool Tournament Pennies Bar, Leonardtown, MD 1:00pm sign-up Two Tables: Sharks and Scratchers \$5.00 registration, prizes will be awarded, 50/50 raffle Come on out and start the new year off right!

January 23, 2000

Frederick County Pool Tournament. Mels' Airport Inn. Starts at Noon. Date for this event is tentative and may change.

February 12, 2000

Northeastern Chapter Valentines Day Dance See page 15 for Details.

February 19, 2000

Frederick County Sweetheart Dance. Mount Pleasant Ruritan Hall. Date for this event is tentative and may change.

March 2000

St Mary's County Membership Recognition Banquet This is in the planning stages..stay tuned

April 16 or 30, 2000

Frederick County Blessing of the Bikes and Poker Run. Carole and Dale Carty will lead.

April 22, 2000

Anne Arundel County Easter Poker Run

April 30, 2000

Carroll County Blessing of the Bikes. Details to follow.

June 25, 2000

Frederick County Poker Run.

July 8, 2000

Anne Arundel County Liberty Poker Run

August 6, 2000

Frederick County Family Picnic.

August 27, 2000

Frederick County Farewell to Officers Poker Run.

November 4, 2000

Anne Arundel County November Poker Run

Non-ABATE Events:

NON ABATE EVENTS

January 28-30, 2000

Baltimore International Motorcycle Show at the Baltimore Convention Center. Fri 5-11 pm, Sat 10 am ? 10 pm, Sun. 10 am ? 6 pm. Dealer displays, stock and custom accessories, show discounts, custom bike show (13 classes), biggest antique and vintage show on the east coast, on and off road displays. \$1 off admission for ABATE and AMA members. Advance discount tickets available for groups of 10 or more. Call 301-808-2233.

Feb. 18-20, 2000.

MRF Best of the East 2000 sponsored by Freedom of the Road, VT. Call the MRF at 202-546-0983 for more info.

April 28-30, 2000.

MRF Best of the West hosted by ABATE of Oregon, Portland, OR. Call the MRF at 202-546-0983 for more info.

May 14, 2000*

Law Ride 2000 - Sponsored by National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) Noon - Motorcycle procession from RFK Stadium to Memorial located at Judiciary Square.

Contact: Gary Lyons, NLEOMF representative, at 703/241-5050 For more information on this event check out the NLEOMF website <http://www.1nleomf.com/index1.html>

*The **12th Annual Candlelight Vigil** will be held at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on **Saturday, May 13, 2000**. Sponsored by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), the event will begin at 8:00 p.m at the Memorial grounds, located at Judiciary Square, on the 400 block of E Street, NW, Washington, DC. A reading of the names newly engraved on the Memorial immediately follows the ceremony. Everyone is welcome to attend; no tickets are required. For additional information, see the website or call 202/737-3400.

September 20-24, 2000.

MRF Meeting of the Minds 2000 hosted by ABATE of Illinois. Call the MRF at 202-546-0983 for details.

ABATE OF MARYLAND INC.

**Is for all who ride..
No matter what you ride..
If you ride at all...
If you are interested in
motorcycle legislation
ABATE is where
you need to be!
Become a member TODAY!**



As a reminder: Effective September 20, 1998 any flyers, programs, newsletters, etc. that is for an ABATE function will have the ABATE LOGO on the flyer. We need to be seen and the logo is our identifier. If you need a copy contact Dale at the State office or Toni. Or you can copy from the web page! The old standard cut and paste works

DEFINITION OF A BIKER

WARD GLASS, DIRECTOR

Now this is a topic that I've heard discussion after discussion about, and it seems to me that for every person out there that has interest in the subject, there is a different answer. You'll get one definition from a Vespa owner, and you'll get a very different definition from the man that carries a One Percent patch. Who's right? Here's where I get to offer my humble

opinion.

First of all, it might help all of us who put two wheels between our legs and go down the road to look at this issue from the outside in - from the point of view of the average cage driver. Now that may seem stupid, but have any of you seen a lawmaker riding a Motorcycle lately? (OK, other than Ben Nighthorse Cambell) Bet you haven't, and even if you did, you probably wouldn't know it. But they see you. Some of those legislators see just another motorist on the road when they see you, and some see a *thing* that needs to be *removed* from our society. There is very little grey area with these people, and to show you how they think, look at it from this perspective:

Have you ever gone out on a Saturday night to hear a band play? Were they good, or did they suck? Now, if they suck, and you aren't a musician, could you make a judgement as to what the problem is? Probably not, all you know is they SUCK! Now being a musician myself, I have played in bands where there are four good musicians and one real stinker, and it's the same thing every time; no one recognizes the stinker, they just know the band sucks! Now you can either throw that guy out of the band, or you can stick together and make the whole thing work so that people will think you have it together. That takes time, understanding, dedication and cooperation.

What all of this means is that it doesn't matter if someone rides a scooter, a moped, Jap bike, Harley, Moto Guzzi, Boss Hoss, or a BMW. It doesn't matter if they ride it five miles a year or 55,000 miles a year. It doesn't matter if they ride a moped, and cover themselves with leather and chains (I swear to you I saw it in Eldersburg) or belong to a Goldwing Club or have the strength to carry the weight of a One Percent patch. It doesn't matter if you ride it, polish it, love it, restore it, put it together, buy it new, customize it, trailer it, carry it (pocket bikes), drag it, road race it, run it in the dirt 'till the sprockets fall off, flat track it, show it, borrow it, ride it like you stole it, sit in the garage and look at it, ride it to HOG meetings once a month, ride it to Alaska on the ALCAN, IT JUST DOESN'T MATTER!

We, the people who have some kind of relationship with the two wheeled thingie in our possession, or have the desire to get one, need right now to stick together more so than any time in History, as there are some people out there who think we suck; they think we need fixing, and these people have the power to do it. Unfortunately for us, if they get their way, it will be the end of us. ALL OF US. So the next time you hear someone say "that guy/gal ain't no biker because of..." don't let them say it! Let them know how important it is that we all stick together for our common good; let them know how much the opponents of motorcycle ownership want us GONE! Let them know how much they want to see division in our ranks, because that is the most powerful tool they have to achieve their goal of seeing motorcycles relegated to museums and garages, stripped of the right to travel the road freely. We MUST be united, or the totalitarian politicians *will break us!*

We know that some of us will never agree on the definition of what a biker is, or even what a motorcycle is, but lets all agree to be supportive of each other, because that is what ABATE is all about. The next time you see someone on two wheels, wave at them. Thank them for being a participant in the world's greatest sport. You will be glad you did.

Editor's note: By being the editor, I get a copy each chapter's newsletter. I look forward to getting the Carroll County Chapter newsletter for the articles that Ward has been writing. I thought this one was really good and wanted to share it with you. Look for his articles here in the State Newsletter. They are worth the re-print. HEY SHERRI Keep 'sending them!

CHAPTER ROLL CALL

CARROLL COUNTY CHAPTER (NEW OFFICERS!)

PO Box 202 Sykesville, MD 21784-0202

Coordinator	Ward Glass	410-239-4102
Asst. Coordinator	Mike Tisdale	410-876-2175
Events Coordinator	Chuck Bardoff	
Asst. Events	Sandi Saltzman	410-239-0584
Legislative Rep	Jay Block	800-875-6554
Asst. Legislative	Sandi Saltzman	410-239-0584
Membership	Marie Bowers	410-429-4842
Public Relations	Kricket Gensen	
Secretary	Kim Bowers	1-717-630-1101
Treasurer	Tina Shipton	410-466-7556
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jeff Bowers	410-429-4842
	Tina Keith	410-857-5846
	Jim Lippy	410-848-4061

Chapter Meeting: 1st Wednesday of the Month, 7:30pm
Officer's and Events Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of the Month, 7:30pm
 All meetings are held at the Colonial Inn on Route 30 in Reisterstown Road (near the intersection of Rt. 91)

CARROLL Highlights: We had two really good fund raisers for October with a total of \$498 deposited in the State account. Our membership is up to 217! We are rolling right along and ready to face the year 2000 with a heck of a great bunch of members of ABATE of Maryland! Beginning January 5th we will be starting another Joe Corbi Pizza Sale! Anyone hungry yet?

Charles County

www.wvldboar.com/abate.html

PO Box 6456, Waldorf, MD 20603

Director	Micky Edwards	301-609-7895
Asst. Director	Chris Morgan	703-644-1100
Treasurer	Deb Flick	301-843-6998
Sec./Newsletter	Pam Worshal	301-870-8856
Activities Dir.	Steve Sanner	301-888-2568
Legislative Dir.	John Schupay	301-362-4315
Membership	Angel Morgan	703-644-1100

Meets 2nd Tuesday each month at Legends located on 301 South across from the St. Charles Town Center, Waldorf, MD 20601

Chapter Highlights:
 Our Poker run in September was cancelled those that showed up turned it into a Pizza Run to Family Pizzeria located in Fredericksburg, Va.

Our Chapter members showed their support for the Veteran's Home in Charlotte Hall, Md, by helping to build booths for the Veteran's Home annual Carnival. This year the Charles County Chapter set up a booth and held a bike show. We had a Bull Chip Toss at the booth for the residents and awarded them prizes. We are very proud of the fact that for our first time participating in the Carnival we took 2nd place for their booth judging contest. We selected a spanish theme for the booth (to go along with the Bull Chip toss of course!)

Also, like many other Chapters, joined up to support the March of Dimes, Bikers for Babies annual ride. Our membership alone raised over \$1,300 for the event. Thanks to the following members: Scott and Vicki Bassett, Cruiser Boling; Micky Edwards, Deb & Dave Flick, Pam & Dennis Guy, Angel and Chris Guy; Helen & Gary Reick; and Vicky and Walt Truesdell. Thanks so much for your efforts!

FREDERICK COUNTY

PO Box 686, Walkersville, MD 21793

Director	John Croghan	
Asst. Director	Violet Korrell	
Treasurer	Linda Croghan	
Secretary	Lori Kidwiler	
Membership	Gail Plemmons	
Legislative	Jean Morris	
Events	Tommy Lamb	
	Larry Roberts	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Tommy Crum	
	Dale Carty	
	Dale Grimm	
	Donnie Morris	
	Tim Wilson	

Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00pm at Mel's Airport Inn, Rt. 15 North of Frederick

Howard County

Director	Tom Greenbank	301-854-0228
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Meets 1st Wednesday at 7:30pm at Tom Greenbanks Farm
 Call for directions!

LOWER EASTERN SHORE CHAPTERS

Both meet 1st Sunday each month at (new place) Tony's Pizza on Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD (across from the Holly Center)

Summerset County

Director	Mike Gillikin
Assistant Director	Mark Coleman
Events Coordinator	John Cappell
Director	Linda Wainer
Assistant Director	Dino Brittingham
Treasurer (both)	Shannon Brady

Wicomico County

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Director	Dave Sherman dshearn@erols.com	301-460-7141	Meets twice a month: 1st Tuesday each month, 7:30pm, Lone Star Cafe, Gaithersburg, MD 3rd Tuesday each month, The Layhill Cafe, Bel Pre & Layhill Rd. Silver Spring, MD
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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Director	John Limbaugh pgabate98@aol.com	301-773-6170	Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at Remington's
Assistant Director	Bill Isenock		
Events	Carl Buhner Linda Halbritter		
Legislative	Jay Wagner		
Treasurer	Charles & Pat Bckley		

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Director	Lance Baker	301-665-1173	Meets 2nd Sunday each month 4:00pm at Dog Patch Tavern, Rt. 40, East of Hagerstown, From Green Briar State Park
Assistant Director	Scott MacMichael	301-824-5104	
Legislative	John Smith	717-762-8795	
Membership	Millie Von Sternberg	301-842-3094	
Newsletter	Millie & Dana		
Products	Scott & Suzie Snow	301-824-3339	
Secretary	Barbie MacMichael	301-824-5104	
Treasurer	Duane Schlosser	304-274-3420	
Sergeant-At-Arms	J C Rice	301-293-1788	
	Dana Schafer	301-733-5536	
	Tuck Koontz	301-733-5536	
	Jeff Christopher	301-416-0071	
	Mike Kincaid		
	Burgerman Large	304-258-5048	

WORCHESTER COUNTY

Director	Dave "Prez" Presley prez95ocmd@webtv.com	410-213-1237 fax 410-213-7072	Meets 1st Thursday following the 2nd Sunday of each month at the 707 Shop call any of the officers for directions
Assistant Director	Kerry "dog" Mendenhal	410-208-0775	
Events	Cookie Lolars		
Legislative	Barry Chenkin		
Products	Russ Henry	410-208-0775	
Treasurer	Sue Hirschfeld	410-641-1161	

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Phone 301-884-0267 fax: 301-884-5551 (call first)
e-mail: toni2000r@yahoo.com
mail: 29786 Adams Road, Mechanicsville MD 20659

Issue for 2000	Deadline to Editor	To Printer	Mailout
January/February	December 30, 1999	January 3, 2000	January 10, 2000
March/April	February 4, 2000	February 14, 2000	February 20, 2000
May/June	April 7, 2000	April 17, 2000	April 23, 2000
July/August	June 9, 2000	June 19, 2000	June 25, 2000
September/October	August 11, 2000	August 21, 2000	August 27, 2000
November/December	October 13, 2000	October 23, 2000	October 29, 2000
January/February 2001	December 8, 2000	December 18, 2000	December 22, 2000

Thanks to all those who sent items in for this special year end issue! I had a lot of fun putting it together and hope you all enjoy the pictures and stories that were sent in. I hope to make this a yearly special issue. A lot of times we get so wrapped up in what we are doing we don't get a chance to share with the rest of the state. So start saving those stories and pictures for next year!

I would like to have more input from the chapter's on what has been going on. The more input I get from you the more information we share with others. We need to let our readers know that we are an active organization, not only for legislative issues but also our community activities. I know there are many chapters who are active in runs for charities. WE need to let everyone know! So please make an effort to send me your information. Remember you can reach me by any means possible!

**2000 MARYLAND
LEGISLATIVE SESSION
KATHLEEN LOERICH**

The 2000 Session of the Maryland's General Assembly is nearly upon us. The General Assembly Convenes on Wednesday, January 12, 2000 at noon.

ABATE of Maryland will begin Monday Night Lobbying the first Monday of the session which is January 17, 2000. Visit the ABATE of Maryland office on 8 West Street in Annapolis anytime after 5:30 pm

and sign in. Then proceed to the legislative offices of your Delegates and Senators.

The legislative agenda for the upcoming session includes two key components. They are to introduce legislation that will place a cap on Motorcycle Safety Program course fees to prevent unreasonable increases in course fees and to introduce legislation that will eliminate mandatory use of motorcycle helmets by adult riders.

Legislation to cap Motorcycle Safety Program course fees came about as a result of the Motor Vehicle Administration arbitrarily increasing course fees for the beginner's safety course from \$50 to \$100 for in-state riders and from \$100 to \$150 for out-of-state riders. This increase doubles the amount that an in-state student must pay to take the course. Such a drastic increase in fees could discourage many prospective students from taking motorcycle safety courses.

Legislation to amend the all-rider helmet law to eliminate mandatory helmet use by adult riders will be filed in the House of Delegates. It will be assigned to the Commerce and Government Matters (CGM) Committee. Contact members of the committee now and ask them if they support voluntary helmet use by adult riders.

Members of the committee are:

John Arnick (D) – Baltimore County, Ext. 3458, Room 426
Joanne Benson (D) – Prince George's County, Ext. 3065, Room 204
Elizabeth Bobo (D) – Howard County, Ext. 3205, Room 209
David Brinkley (D) – Frederick County, Ext. 3107, Room 323
William Bronrott (D) – Montgomery County, Ext. 3019, Room 221C
Virginia Clagett (D) – Anne Arundel County, Ext. 3211, Room 212
Diane DeCarlo (D) – Baltimore County, Harford County, Ext. 3384, Room 303
Michael Dobson (D) – Baltimore City – Ext. 3521, Room 314A
Cornell Dypski (D) – Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Ext. 3303, Room 316
Barry Glassman (R) – Harford County, Ext. 3289, Room 326B
Robert Kittleman (R) - Howard County, Montgomery County, Ext. 3401, Room 411
James Malone (D) – Baltimore County, Howard County, Ext. 3378, Room 306
Adrienne Mandel (D) Montgomery County, Ext. 3045, Room 220
Maggie McIntosh (D) Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Ext. 3297, Room 141B (Vice-Chair)
Jeffrey Paige (D) Baltimore City, Ext. 3263, Room 315C
Joanne Parrott (R) – Harford County, Ext. 3289, Room 326C
B. Daniel Riley (D) – Harford County, Ext. 3289, Room 326D
Christopher Shank (R) - Washington County, Ext. 3447, Room 321C
Louise Snodgrass (R) – Frederick County, Washington County, Ext. 3240, Room 324
Theodore Sophocleus (D) - Anne Arundel County, Ext. 3233, Room 214B
Darren Swain (D) – Prince George's County, Ext. 3065, Room 204A
John Wood (D) – St. Mary's County, Ext. 3502, Room 141 (Chair)

To phone a legislator dial 1 (800) 492-7122 and ask for the extension. Dial direct using (401) 841-xxxx or (301) 858-xxxx (xxxx is the phone extension listed for each legislator).

To write to a legislator, send mail to:

Lowe House Office Building, Room xxx
84 College Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991

Replace xxx with the appropriate room number.

"Twas the night before
Christmas,
he lived all alone
in a one bedroom house
made of plaster & stone.

I had come down the
chimney
With presents to give
& to see just who in
this home did live.

I looked all about
A strange sight did I see
no tinsel, no presents,
not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle
just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures
of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
awards of all kinds,
a sober thought
came through my mind.

For this house was different,
It was dark & dreary
I found the home of a sol-
dier

once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping,
silent, alone
curled up on the floor
in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured
a United States soldier.

Was this the hero
of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
the floor for a bed?

I realized the families
that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these sol-
diers
who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate
a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom
each month of the year,
because of the soldiers,
like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas eve
in a land far from home.

the very thought
brought a tear to my eye;
I dropped to my knees
and started to cry.

The soldier awakened
and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
my life is my God,
my Country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over
and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
so silent and still
and we both shivered
from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave

on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor
so willing to fight.

then the soldier rolled over,
with a voice soft and pure,
whispered, "carry on Santa,
it's Christmas day, all is se-
cure."

One look at my watch,
and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend,
and to all a good night."

Originator Unknown

This article was sent to me by
several members of ABATE.
When I received it the first time I
knew I wanted to share it with
each of you.

Please take a moment out of your
holiday season to think about
those who have taken the oath to
serve and protect and to defend
our Country. We owe each of them
our sincere thanks and respect.

Toni



JIM BALDWIN, ESQUIRE

Attorney at Law

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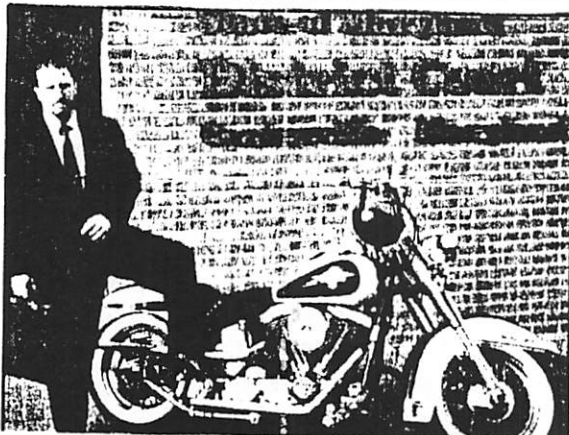
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- You are wearing a leather jacket.
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