



Dedicated to Freedom of the Road and Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

# A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments

## ROLLIN' FOR YOUR RIGHTS

Spring is finally here and each day brings more and more daylight! I hope everyone is taking advantage of the good days when they roll around. Check the air in your tires, get your bike serviced if you haven't already, and do some riding! Maryland has always been known as America in miniature, so get out there and visit all corners. We have the mountains of western Maryland to the coastal plains in the Eastern Shore and everything in between. Call a friend or two and get out there and see what is going on in the Ole Line State.

Legislatively speaking, the membership had opportunities on 12 Monday nights and 3 separate bill hearings to be a part of the process in person. We sincerely hope that in future years, we have a better participation level. However, since the legislative session is basically over, soon it would be good to check in with your District Senators and Delegates. Invite them to an event, go to one of their fundraisers, or just send them an email saying hello. They want to hear from their constituents, so let that voice be yours.

Our chapters have events all over. Make it a point this year to go and visit another chapter and take part in one of their events. We are all one big happy family, so go and visit a bit. You will probably see some old faces and even meet few new ones.

### YOU are ABATE

#### ABATE Raffle Bike & Products



The 2023 Raffle Bike is here and we are selling tickets! Get yours soon! They are available from chapter directors and online at:

<https://abateofmd.org/raffle-bikeinfo/>

Look for **Live Appearances** of the raffle bike here:

<https://abateofmd.org/raffle-bike-calendar-2/>

And yes, there are still t-shirts left over from our sales at OC Bike Week. Find Shelli at one of our Raffle Bike Live Appearances and pickup another shirt. They are a stone blue and have a great graphic on the back with the saying "Living Life Behind Bars" & ABATE of Maryland, Inc. The State logo is on the front left chest. We did a limited screen print to see how it would be received. We got a pretty good response, so we are looking forward to increasing our products line.

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## State Director's Corner—Ken Eaton

### **ABATE of Maryland, Inc.**

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410-263-9185

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<https://www.facebook.com/ABATEofMarylandInc>



Ok folks, I have been at this since September and it has been an enjoyable ride so far. We are fortunate to have the knowledge and experience of some that have come before me, still being involved. I have reached out to neighboring MRO's, went to the ABATE of PA L&L, had lengthy discussions with MRF reps, AMA staff, NCOM, and our membership. Don't worry, if I have not had a chance to talk with you yet, I hope that change that soon. Our membership is why we exist. I would like to hear from all of you! Legislative session has eaten up a lot of my time recently, so now I plan on visiting chapter meetings & hopefully a few events from time to time. I did manage to make it out to the Washington County Winter Bash. All I can tell you is if you were there and left hungry or didn't have a great time, shame on you! There was a plenty of fabulous food, drink and good times to be had! Congrats to the Washington County Chapter for a great event! I was able to chat with a few of the politicians from their Districts. That's is the way to do it. Invite them to your events. Talk with them and let them know that YOU are ABATE and YOU have a VOICE!

I also wanted to take a minute to recognize one of our members. Paul Miller, a Washington County Chapter Life member since at least 2005. Paul has been working diligently behind the scenes all throughout the 2023 legislative session, watching / reading legislation, reading MRF reports, and preparing a weekly report for me. This has been extremely valuable and we really appreciate all of Paul's efforts. Thank you Paul for all of your work!

Now for the business side of things. As an organization, we have to figure out how to activate our membership. This year, attendance at Monday night lobbying was disappointing to say the least. There were a few of the regulars that we always can depend on, and we had support from some clubs, but overall ABATE attendance was pretty low. I don't want to be an alarmist, but our very way of life is being challenged every day, little by little. It comes in the form of noise abatement bills, stop sign cameras, autonomous vehicles, electric vehicle mandates,..... the list goes on. One day, in the near future, motorcycling may look nothing like what we are used to enjoying. And one of the reasons it will happen is the lack of involvement. We need more boots on the ground! We get asked a lot about when is the helmet bill going to be passed. If you want my honest opinion, it will only happen when more members get involved. Senators and Delegates need to see your faces and know that you are the VOICE of ABATE. This also goes for events, meetings, etc. Many hands make light work.

Don't get me wrong, we still have a very strong presence in Annapolis. They know us and they will take the time to talk with us. Many of our best conversations are as we pass in the hall. Some ask us what we are supporting or opposing this year, and then ask us to come sit in their office for a few minutes. We have great relationships with the Eastern Shore Delegation, the Southern Maryland Delegation and Western Maryland Delegation. Where we need the most work is the central part of the state. We have some friends there, but we really need to work on more. When you say ABATE, they know we are here and we are not going away. But more is better. When we go into a legislators office, if we do not have a constituent of theirs with us, it just does not mean quite as much to them. They know we represent the whole state, but they want to talk with someone that they represent directly. I know it is tough to carve time out of your schedule, but some of us make time EVERY MONDAY NIGHT. It would be fantastic if each chapter could send one or more people every Monday night. Session lasts for 90 days, that 12 weeks. Protecting your rights as a motorcyclist should be worth at least one Monday night during that time period. Don't be bashful or scared. One of us that has been roaming the halls for years will take the lead and show you around. You will get a chance to see the legislators in action and probably even get to talk with one from your District!

So lets all renew our commitment to ABATE and make a promise to dedicate a little more time next year to the lobbying effort and to our chapters. Even if you only make it out once or just attend a bill hearing, your voice counts! We also need you to pitch in and help with events, take a leadership position or just sell raffle tickets or 50/50's. It takes a village. We need you all to **BE ABATE!**

# Words from the Chairman of the Board

Greetings,

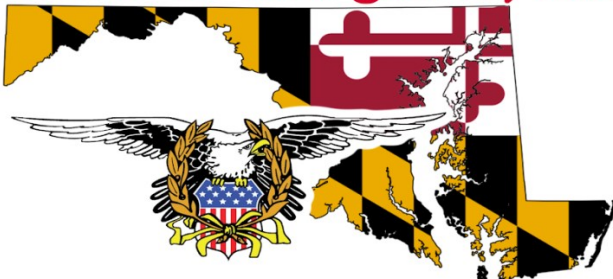
Well folks, the 445th legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly comes to a close on Monday April 10th. Although it is more difficult to move legislation in the session immediately following an election we forged along undaunted. Our agenda contained our helmet modification bill (SB933) sponsored by Sen. Mike McKay, who named the bill in honor of our own Pappy Boward. The bill did not receive a hearing before the crossover date, so live testimony was confined to the sponsor only. Several ABATE members, myself included, submitted written testimony. The American Motorcycle Association and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation submitted favorable testimony as well. The bill died in committee.

Thanks go out to all who attended the hearing on March 21st. We had our "Must Appear" - Death of Another bill cross-filed in the House (HB360) and Senate (SB252). We had a House hearing on Feb. 8th at which both Ken Eaton and I testified but the House version stalled in Committee. The Senate version had a hearing on March 8th and I testified once again. The Senate hearing yielded somewhat more positive results. It was voted on within the week and passed the full Senate unanimously not long thereafter. The Senate version crossed over to the House and had a hearing on March 29th. As of this writing results are still pending. In the event that it runs out of time we will re-introduce the bills again next year. Our turnout for Monday Night Lobbying was rather disappointing this year. I would like to thank Shelli McClain of Carroll Co. and her family members and Doug Thorne (Attitude) of Calvert Co. From Tribes Motorcycle Club for their frequent attendance. We also received help from Rick Dixon and his fiancé of Mid-Shore Chapter, Dean Howes (Calvert Co.), members of Tribes M/C, Kings of Mayhem M/C and Hells Angels M/C for their attendance. I'd also like to extend a heart-felt Thank You to Attitude for painting our office @ 71 Franklin St. on his own donated time. It looks great! Apologies to anyone I missed. Although the Legislative Session lasts only 90 days, these Senators and Delegates represent you all year long. Get to know them and let them hear from you. We will continue to lobby for "Freedom of the Road" and for our God-given Constitutional Rights.

C You in Annapolis.

Bob Spanburgh Jr.  
Chairman of the Board  
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

**ABATE of Maryland, Inc.**



**Dedicated to Freedom of the Road**

## **ABATE of Maryland, Inc.**

### **Board of Directors**

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Check out our website for  
more chapter info: [https://  
abateofmd.org/chapter-info/](https://abateofmd.org/chapter-info/)



**Legislative Tidbits**  
**7 Years ago (2016)**

**PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS:**  
ABATE fought hard against a bill that set an age limit on passengers on motorcycles. ABATE does not believe it is the state's responsibility to be the parent and that the decision of when to allow your child to ride, as long as it is safe for them to do so, should rest with the parent. ABATE lobbied strongly against this bill and saw it receive an unfavorable report in committee which stopped the bill.

**AUTOCYCLES:** This vehicle is built to motorcycle safety standards but in reality is the front half of a car without the car safety features. We did not want the crash statistics to negatively impact motorcycling and our ability to lobby on behalf of motorcyclists. ABATE representatives worked with the bill sponsors, the MVA, and the representatives of Polaris, who produce the most well known Autocycle and were leading the drive to legalize them, to find the most acceptable language to all concerned.

**MOTORCYCLE PROFILING:** This bill was requested by the Coalition of Clubs with ABATE's endorsement and support. The bill requires all police agencies in Maryland to receive training at both the entry level and in-service to understand what constitutes profiling of motorcyclists and how to avoid profiling of individuals based on the fact that they wear motorcycle related clothing or paraphernalia and/or ride a motorcycle. This bill passed and was signed into law with only one no vote.



## Anne Arundel County Chapter News

Anne Arundel County Chapter  
Meeting dates & time: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 7:00 pm  
Location: Ellie's Place  
8421 Veterans Highway  
Millersville, MD 21108

## Baltimore County/City Chapter News

Director: Jay Block  
Meetings: Bullwinkles  
1660 Ingleside Avenue  
Gwynn Oak, MD 21207

We have a director and a meeting location. Lets see if we can get things going! We held a meet & greet and the great folks at Bullwinkles were awesome hosts. Lets show them the love and continue to have meetings and events, and support the places that support us!

## Calvert County Chapter News

Over the winter our chapter continued to meet and some of our members attended Monday Night lobbying.

In January we had our After Holidays party at the American Legion Post 206 where about 25 of our members came and partied. Some of our members got out to ride in Abate of St. Mary's County's Blue Balls and Boobs Poker Run.

On March 31st we held our third Friday Night Dinner Fundraiser. We had a fish fry and sold out of all the meals that we had (~80). Our members helped cook, serve and clean up. It was a lot of fun.



Spring is in the air and the Calvert chapter is gearing up for some riding.

(Cont'd)

## Calvert County Chapter (Continued)

Our annual Scrabble Run is coming up on April 29th. This is always a fun event as everyone is excited to get out and start the riding season. Please come out and join us for a day of riding through Calvert County to St. Mary's County and back up to southern Anne Arundel County on April 29th. For details, see the event flyer inside in this issue.

We are also looking forward to attending the Calvert County Board of County Commissioner's meeting on May 2nd to receive a Proclamation that May will be designated Motorcycle Safety and Awareness month in Calvert County.

We have ideas for upcoming chapter rides and trips and look forward to more members joining us and sharing their ideas. We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at the American Legion Post 206 in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland at 7 P.M



The flyer features a background of a beach scene with a large, stylized 'M' in the foreground. At the top, the word 'SCRABBLERUN' is written using wooden Scrabble tiles. Below the tiles, the text 'ABATE of Calvert County' is written in a red, curved font, accompanied by a logo of an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield with the American flag colors. The event details are listed in a clear, sans-serif font. The date 'APR 29' is prominently displayed in large, bold, black letters. At the bottom, there is a contact box for Ken Sawyer and a footer with website information.

Registration begins at 10:00 AM

**Chesapeake Grille & Market**  
7150 Lake Shore Drive, Rosehaven,  
MD

Last bike out at 11:00 AM

Ends at **Happy Harbor**  
533 Deale Road, Deale, MD

Last bike in 5 PM

Registration fee \$15  
Collect scrabble tiles at each stop.

**Highest word score wins \$\$**  
**50/50 drawing**

Contact Ken Sawyer for  
more information  
kvsawyer@yahoo.com  
410.474.9276

For other ABATE of Maryland events  
Join us at [www.abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md](http://www.abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md)

### Update your Information

Have you moved, changed phone numbers, got a new email address, etc.? We need to know so we can stay in touch. Please contact Joel Jones or your Chapter Director and give them any new updates.

Joel Jones

State Membership Secretary

[abatemembership1@verizon.net](mailto:abatemembership1@verizon.net)

Find your Chapter Director [here](#):

Not a member>

Join here:

<https://abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md/>

OR

Fill out our online form to update your info:

[https://abateofmd.org/membership\\_changes/](https://abateofmd.org/membership_changes/)



# Carroll County Chapter News

## In Memory

### Mid-Shore Chapter

Martin L. Schultz

Jan Lenore Kinnamon

Martin A. Pierson

M. Lee Hall

Diane Hoover

William "Wrench" Kuykendall

Charles "Eddie" Hubbard

William "Bill" Hoover

Benda "Feather" Harris

Martha Blackistone Godfrey

Rome Olszewski

Wayne McCarty

John Darrow, Jr.

Brian Kent Adams

Elizabeth Naomi Bromwell

Wendell "Smitty" Woodland

Diane Marsh

Paul Hays

Paul T. Ewing, Jr.

Wayne Jones

## Memorials

If your chapter has a list of members that have gone on to ride with the angels, please forward to us at

[Info@abateofmd.org](mailto:Info@abateofmd.org)



Meeting dates & time: Open to suggestions

Location: Open to suggestions

We are calling out to all Carroll County members. We would love to see your smiling faces! Contact Shelli if you have any ideas for a meeting location or even if a different day / time would be better for most. Your voice can't be heard if we don't speak up. Let's get together and plan a few things for the new year!

## Hey Peeps. Just Slow Down!

Enjoy being in the wind? What about being with your family and friends? Enjoy doing stuff? Going places? Meeting new and old friends? Well, if you do, I have a solution for you ...just slow down. You might get there, wherever there is, intact and be able to enjoy your "there's"!

Reason I just said all that....my daughter and I were helping a friend of hers move from one place to another. As all of y'all know, moving is a multi-step process. We all had just finished removing, to storage, quite a few of this young lady's items.

Heading home finally...my daughter and I in the truck, the friend, a car length and a half behind in her vehicle, were driving back to our place in a posted 40 mph zone. Lo and behold, a person came up behind us and attempted to pass both of the vehicles we were all in on a double yellow line. A vehicle coming towards us from the other direction stopped this idiot from completing his illegal passing, but then the person whipped behind me and proceeded to try to pass me on a very shallow berm, thus hitting my truck on the passenger side and doing between 3 and 4 thousand dollars of damage to the passenger side. Hit the bed of the truck, both doors, fender and his mirror plastics even gouged the grille. Additional consequences were he also wiped out his driver's side and did way more damage to his SUV.

Luckily this didn't end tragically. Nobody was physically hurt. Just shook up.

This 72 yo man made a very piss poor decision that is gonna cost his insurance co a lot of money, but is costing me money too since I have to pay my deductible of 500.00. and I will be without the truck when it goes in for repairs. As most people involved in Abate know, I tow the raffle bike and trailer around to different events around the state, to be able to sell raffle tickets for our yearly raffle bike. Proceeds which help Abate of MD, inc. keep the lights on in the office in Annapolis and pay Bill filing fees so we can continue the fight for ALL MOTORCYCLISTS' RIGHTS.

Luckily, I have the means of other vehicles capable of towing. If not, this little scuffle would have farther reaching consequences that would affect a cause I firmly believe in.

To sum all this up. Just SLOW DOWN! That way you may live to enjoy another day with your peeps and allow others to enjoy their peeps. The "there's" of all our lives!

Shelli McLane  
Carroll County



**Abate of Maryland, Inc.**  
**Washington County Chapter**  
**2023 Annual Ride-In Bike Show**

*Hosted at:*

Cascade American Legion Post #239  
 14418 MacAfee Hill Road, Cascade, MD

**Saturday, August 13, 2023**

Sign starts at 11:00 a.m., \$10 per entry  
 1:00—3:00 p.m., People’s Choice Voting

1st Place Trophy, 2nd Place Certificate in each Category

**People’s Choice Best in Show—\$100 and Trophy**

Food and Beverages can be purchased at the Legion—Pulled Pork and Pit Beef  
 Questions or Information, call Scott and Susie Snow  
 Cell—301-491-3390 / Home—301-824-3339

**EVERYONE WELCOME!!!**

Come out and support your local ABATE CHAPTER and have some fun, meet fellow riders!!!!

HELD RAIN or SHINE

**Past Executive Directors**

We are compiling a Past Executive Directors List. We have some confirmed, but we need to fill in the blanks & there are a lot of them. If you have any information to share, please contact us at [director@abateofmd.org](mailto:director@abateofmd.org)

- Chuck Blankenship
- Sally Bruce
- Gary “Pappy” Boward
- Marty Schultz
- Neal Ackerson
- Shelli Holcomb
- John Robinson
- Bob Spanburgh, Jr.
- Ken Sawyer

**The Maryland Legislative Process**

**Original Chamber**

- 1st Reading
- Referral to Committee
- 2nd Reading
- 3rd Reading

**Opposite Chamber**

- 1st Reading
- Referral to Committee
- 2nd Reading
- 3rd Reading
- Review in Original chamber
- Conference Committee (if necessary)

**Governor’s Desk**



**The 2023 Maryland General Assembly Fun Facts!**

- Session lasted 90 days
- 974 Senate bills & 1301 House Bills (2275 total)
- 386 Senate & 394 House Legislative Bond Issues
- Numerous gubernatorial appointments were heard in committees
- Each bill goes thru 9 steps before it can be considered by the Governor
- There were 11 ABATE Monday Night Lobbying Sessions
- There were 4 committee hearings that ABATE attended
- ABATE supported, opposed, and monitored over 18 different bills this year

**How many times did the Senators and Delegates get to see YOUR smiling face?**

## Charles County Chapter News

Hello from Charles County. We are a small group of folks dedicated to the freedom of the road. Our numbers have dwindled lately but we are looking to build our membership back up so please stop by. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 6PM at Grill 13 Restaurant in Waldorf. If anything, you will at least have a great meal and good conversation.

Respectfully,

Joel Jones  
Charles County Director

## Frederick County Chapter News

Meeting dates & time: 4th Wednesday of each month @ 7:00 pm

Location: The Frederick Moose Lodge 371  
828 E. Patrick Street  
Frederick Md. 21701

### Upcoming ABATE Events

#### St. Mary's County Chapter Blessing of the Bikes

April 23, 2023

See flyer in this newsletter for more info.

#### Calvert County Chapter Scrabble Run

April 29, 2023

See flyer in this newsletter for more info.

#### Mid-Shore Chapter Motorcycle Rodeo

At the Harrison's Custom Cycles Spring Fling Kickoff

May 6, 2023

See flyer in this newsletter for more info.

#### Washington County Chapter Annual Ride-In Bike Show

August 13, 2033

See flyer in this newsletter for more info.

**Don't see your ABATE event listed here?** [Send us a flyer](#) or event info and we will get it listed on our website & FB pages. The next newsletter deadline will be June 30, 2023. If you have events for the Fall, get the details to us ASAP so we can publish the flyers and info.



**ABATE of Maryland, Inc.**  
**St. Mary's County Chapter**  
**Invites you to our 27th Annual**

**BLESSING**  
**of the**  
**BIKES**

**Sunday, 23 April 2023**  
**Seabreeze Restaurant & Tiki Bar**  
**Mechanicsville, MD**

**Free Admission**  
**Start Assemble at: 12:00 PM**  
**Service Begins at: 2:00 PM**

**Service Presided by:**  
**Father Bob Kosty**

**Live Music by:**  
**Copper Pennies**  
**play from 3-7 PM**

**Year Pin:**  
**(available for purchase)**

For more information contact: Brandi "Kupcak" Trexler - [abate.somd.events@gmail.com](mailto:abate.somd.events@gmail.com)



## Mid-Shore Chapter News

Spring has sprung. We all got together in March and had a great chili cook-off. Awesome chili recipes were enjoyed by all & Catherine was the winner and Grand Champion! We also got together and attended the American Legion Post 70 Blessing of the Bikes in April. Rev. Fred Bahr blessed each and every bike and rider individually! All of this was started by a fabulous breakfast at Post 70.

We are still planning the Eastern Shore—DelMarVa version of a Marble Run. We hope to have to books available sometime in May if everything works out. We are looking for approximately 25 stops and any other businesses that may want to be just sponsors. We will be drafting a booklet and getting more information out soon. We are hoping to include stops from the top of the bay / Cecil County area, down to the Eastern Shore of Virginia, all of Delaware, as well as all of the Eastern Shore Counties in Maryland (sorry, but PA has strange gaming laws and we just can't make that work). Let us know your favorite places. Restaurants, bars, bike shops, knife shops, leather stores, any place that might be able to work with us on being a stop along the way. We will provide the shaker, a few brief instructions, and a format for the ad in the book. This works for everyone. The business gets a little more traffic through their door, ABATE gets their name out there a little bit more, and our members get a few more excuses to get together and ride!

Once again, the Harrison's Custom Cycles folks have invited ABATE to be a part of their Spring Open House. It looks like e the Raffle Bike may be making a LIVE appearance. Stop by, get your ticket and listen a bit to Hot Dog Gravy!

# HARRISON'S Custom Cycles

## SPRING FLING KICKOFF

**10am to 6pm** Saturday May 6

LIVE MUSIC  
BY HOT DOG  
GRAVY BAND



BIKE RODEO by  
ABATE OF  
MARYLAND, INC.



### AWARDS FOR:

- \*BEST PAINT JOB
- \*BEST ENGINE
- \*LOUDEST STEREO
- \*BIGGEST FRONT WHEEL
- \*FURTHEST ATTENDEE
- \*BEST BURNOUT
- \*SHOPS CHOICE



DOOR PRIZES \* FOOD VENDORS  
PIT BEEF \* PULLED PORK  
50/50 RAFFLE \* BIKINI BEER  
GIRLS

Drop off  
your bike  
the day of  
event for  
service or  
detail &  
get 10%  
off

**DON'T MISS THIS ONE!**

8977 Mistletoe Drive, Easton, MD 21601

[www.harrisonscustomcycles.com](http://www.harrisonscustomcycles.com)

410.822.4253



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<https://abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md/>



## **Favorite Rides**

Do you have a favorite ride or route? Is there a road that you just love. It can be a short stretch or a long haul.

How about a great place to stop and stretch your legs, get some grub or relax for a few minutes?

Lets compile a list of favorite spots, routes, etc.

# **NOT ALL WHO WANDER ARE LOST**



## **Prince George's County Chapter News**

Meeting dates & time: 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm  
Location: American Legion Post 227  
13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road  
Brandywine, MD 20613

## **St. Mary's County Chapter News**

Meeting dates & time: 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm  
Location: Contact Melvin—locations vary

## **Washington County Chapter News**

Meeting dates & time: 3rd Sunday of the month @ 4:00 pm  
Location: North American Rod & Gun Club  
12108 Belvedere Rd  
Hagerstown, MD

## **Don't See Your County?**

We have members throughout the state. If you don't see your County or specific area of the state listed here, please visit a chapter nearby. If you have a few friends that would like to start a chapter, please contact us to discuss getting started. We are always looking for people to help spread the ABATE message.

## **Membership Secretary Report**

Greetings from your membership secretary. Well Spring has finally sprung and it's time to get out there and ride. Hope you all are getting your bikes ready for the season. Let's keep each other safe and sound. ABATE has some good opportunities in the next few months to show who we are and what we are about. Seems like I see the same faces every year at our routine events which is great--almost like a family of sorts, but our family is shrinking. We need new blood in the form of members. So, while you are out there enjoying the open road with our family, talk to some strangers about ABATE. As motorcyclist we all have at least one thing in common: riding our motorcycles which most take for granted. Believe it or not, there are people out there that do not want to see us on the roads and if they had their way, we would need be so protected against ourselves we wouldn't want to ride. When the people that make the rules about things, they have never experienced, in the name of misinformation, then the people who enjoy those activities lose if they do not have a voice. Well, we do have a voice and it is us---everyone of us who ride a motorcycle. As of 2021 the state of Maryland had an estimated 113,716 registered motorcycles with only a fraction of their owners being ABATE members. With that kind of voice, we could not help but be heard. I'm sure it would get louder if some of the ideas that are brought forth by the state legislation would get through, but because ABATE is in the trenches and fighting for your rights no one hears a thing until it's taken away then the only ones, we can blame will be ourselves. Thank you for your time and keep the shiny side up.

Respectfully,

# MMR-PAC News



What is PAC? Well, the MMR-PAC is the Maryland Motorcycle Riders Political Action Committee. PAC helps by supporting state legislators that support our legislative goals. PAC has been successful in the past in opening new doors and strengthening our relationships. By supporting PAC, you become an active participant in the political process. PAC helps our voice to be heard in the halls of the Maryland General Assembly.

To make a donation to MMR-PAC, please make a check (no cash donations please) payable to "MMR-PAC" and send it directly to:

Jay Block – MMR-PAC Treasurer  
Law Office of Jay Irwin Block, LLC  
10451 Mill Run Cir – Suite 400  
Owings Mills, MD 21117

Phone (410) 356-6555, (410) 363-0770  
Fax (410) 356-1439  
Email jblock@jayirwinblock.com

## ABATE of Maryland, Inc. Membership Application / Renewal

Please print or type your information clearly

New  Renewal  Address Change

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:

Annual Individual: \$25 Annual Couple: \$45 Annual Junior: \$15  
Lifetime Individual: \$250 Lifetime Couple: \$450  
Sustaining: \$100

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Name (Couple): \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Voter:  Election District: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation or skills that may assist ABATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to comply with ABATE rules for sanctioned motorcycle activities

Please complete and take to a Chapter Director or contact Joel Jones, State Membership Secretary at [abatemembership1@verizon.net](mailto:abatemembership1@verizon.net)

### Tidbits

1937: Sally Robinson became the first woman to ever receive her motorcycle license.

### Chapter Submittals

Did you know that your chapter can submit treasurer reports, event pictures, event flyers, meeting minutes, etc., thru the website? Visit this link for more info: <https://abateofmd.org/chapter-submittals/>

### Maryland Legislative Info

Do you need a little assistance with legislative stuff? We have a few resources on our website that may help answer some questions. Take a look: <https://abateofmd.org/md-legislative-help/>

### Roadway Hazards

Put this number in your phone: **800-543-2515**—Maryland Statewide Operations Center. ABATE of Maryland, Inc. is committed to helping the biker community keep our roads safe for ALL vehicles, not just motorcycles. Please feel free to use this contact information for the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration to report ALL highway emergencies in Maryland (state, county and local roads) that do not require police assistance. State Highway has agreed to take the calls and pass them on to the appropriate personnel.



# Tommy Crockett—Tans Cycles

By: Bob Spanburgh, Jr.

The first time I travelled to North Beach, Md. I noticed a little shack and a yard down in a little swampy area. What caught my attention was the large amount of motorcycles in the yard behind the fence. I also noted the really big dogs behind that fence. There was no sign in front of this lot, so I was left to wonder what or who lived there. Not long thereafter my wife and I moved to the neighboring town of Chesapeake Beach. By then we had come to find out that the yard in question was actually TANS Cycles of North Beach. The owner was a seemingly gruff long-haired, bearded man who worked on Motorcycles (of which the town had many), sold parts and was actually a certified "La Verda" dealer. La Verda was an Italian motorcycle brand known for its racing bikes. I would later learn that he raced motorcycles in the early 1960's at local dirt tracks. Being a biker myself I soon met the owner, Tom Crockett. Tom had a huge selection of parts contained in the little shack that was TANS. I quickly realized why the yard was filled with bikes. He would have to drag them out in the yard every day to clear a spot for working on them in the shop. If you needed a part, it was amazing to watch Tom navigate the labyrinth of parts, frames, motors, dogs and assorted firearms and ammo which he sold with his Federal Firearms Dealer License, to the exact spot where he knew the part would be.

After getting over the initial intimidation created by his appearance, Tommy became a trusted friend of mine. My wife Janis would work there part time when he and his parts girl/assistant Barbara would have a falling out. He would freely share his knowledge and time to help any motorcyclist that reached out to him. If you needed a part @ 2 AM to complete a repair job at your own house so you could make the 7 AM departure time for a bike run...Tommy would meet you at the shop and provide the seal, gasket, part or whatever, so you could make the run. Don't worry about paying him now. You can catch him when you get back.

Tom also served on North Beach's Town Council. He always stood up for the Bikers in town and was not one to be pushed around. Somewhere in the mid-1990's he decided to build a new shop on the corner of 5th Street and Chesapeake Avenue. He presented his plans and drawings to the Town Council and was told "We'll bring it up at the next meeting" Somehow it would never make the itinerary until one day Tom rented a bulldozer and began knocking down trees. A council member came by the lot and asked Tom what he was doing. "Building a damn Motorcycle Shop! What's it look like?" Shortly thereafter the Town Council "approved" his plans and the new shop was soon a reality. With a brand new facility Tom was able to work on motorcycles, have a nice display area where he could sell parts, T-shirts, oil and filters, jackets, helmets and other peoples' products that he would graciously provide space for. He continued as a firearms dealer and UPS drop-off site while Barbara continued her notary business.

About this time Mr. Crockett decided to pursue his interest in model trains. His Christmas and Easter Train Displays became the stuff of legend. People who would normally never enter a motorcycle shop would flock to TANS to view Tom's elaborate displays, complete with towns, an airport, waterfalls, tunnels, highways, etc. He travelled to Anatolian Shepherd (the big dogs) Conventions and in the early 2000's he went to Milwaukee to work with S&S Cycles to build a Drag Bike. As a result of the collaboration on May 6, 2005 S&S and TANS creation broke the World's Record for fastest gasoline-powered motorcycle by going over 201 MPH.



9032A Chesapeake Ave.  
North Beach, MD 20714

301-855-8337  
410-257-6619  
Fax: 410-257-9090

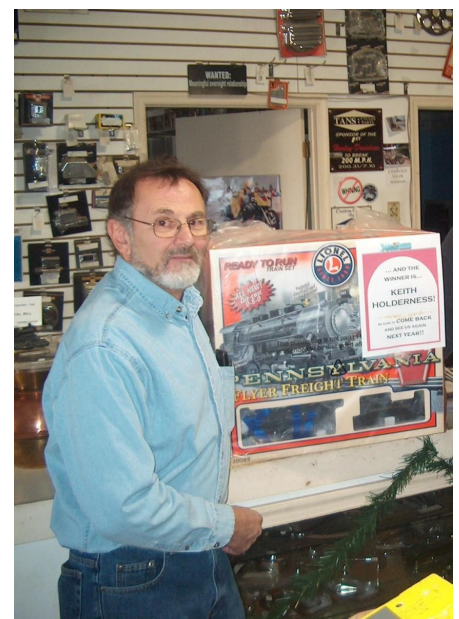
**ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE  
AND BLESSING OF  
THE BIKES**

**SUNDAY MAY 06, 2012  
TIME: 11-5**

**Music by: Snakebite & Hawkeye  
Music, Food, Beer,  
and Bike Show!**



North Beach Mayor Mark Frazier hatched a plan to host an Annual Blessing of the Bikes sponsored by the town on the boardwalk in 2000. After 2 years on the boardwalk, local and state law enforcement, along with a couple of council members decided to bring a halt to the Blessing, intimidated by the large preponderance of Motorcycle Clubs (peacefully) attending the festivities. Undaunted, Tommy decided to move the Bike Blessing to his own parking lot despite contentious public hearings attempting to thwart him. In 2002 the 1st Annual TANS North Beach Blessing of the Bikes took place, augmented by TANS Fall Bike Show which occurred very September. The Blessings lasted for 17 years and were greatly enjoyed by Bikers, Townsfolk and visitors from all over. By 2018 Tommy had been fighting a number of ailments that made it all but impossible to continue running TANS. He sold the shop and moved to neighboring Rosehaven, Maryland where would eventually pass away on February 26, 2023. We have lost a true Motorcycling Advocate, Legend and Friend of Liberty and the Motorcycling Community.

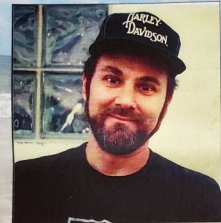


# Tommy Crockett—Tans Cycles



Thomas F. Crockett  
April 16, 1945—February 26, 2023

*Receive His Soul and  
Present Him to God the Most High!*



Funeral Mass  
St. Anthony's Catholic Church  
North Beach, MD  
March 3, 2023



## A Tribute to a Friend

I would be truly amazed if any of you actually knew a friend of mine named John Rodgers, but maybe some of our PA ABATE friends have made the connection. He was from Cooperstown, Pennsylvania and had a barber shop in Franklin PA for many, many years. My mothers family & his family lived in a very small borough , located in Venango County, Pennsylvania. I did not get to know him as well as I would have liked as I met him late in his life. However, we both share a love for motorcycles. I have included a portion of his obituary below:

*John C. Rodgers, Sr., 95, a lifelong resident of Second Street in Cooperstown; and a prominent and beloved former barber for many years along Liberty Street in Franklin, was called home by the Lord on Saturday afternoon, August 27 2022 at Sugarcreek Station. He was born November 12, 1926 in Oil City, a beloved son of the late: Guy M. and Alice R. Rodgers. One of John's greatest memories was traveling between Mexico and Canada, highlighting much of The United States on his Indian motorcycle. John was very proud to have served his country as a member of the U.S. Army during World War II. John married the former Patricia A. Brink on October 19, 1954. She preceded him in death on February 18, 2008. John owned and operated Rodgers Barber Shop on Liberty Street in Franklin. He was a barber by trade for more than 50 years. He also traveled to several area nursing homes weekly to cut the resident's hair. At the age of 92, sadly, John was forced to close his barber shop due to failing eyesight. John was an avid photographer, and local historian. He had put together many binders with news articles and photos from years gone by.*

What this didn't say was John was a longtime member of the [Franklin Ramblers Motorcycle Club](#) and the Indian Four Cylinder Club. Motorcycles were a very large part of Johns life. In 1983, John celebrated 25 years (or more according to the certificate) of being a Charter Life member of the AMA. Do the quick math. That means that when he passed, he had been a Charter Life AMA member for at least 64 years! I actually have a copy of that certificate, along with assorted pictures and tidbits that he sent my mother, all because he knew I understood and appreciated the stories. I was humbled to be invited into his barber shop, listen to the stories and see the pictures. I wish I had been able to spend more time in that barbershop. It was a walk back in time and there were always great stories!

## Ride On Mr. John Rodgers!

### MLLH&R

Ken Eaton (son of one of the King girls from Cooperstown)



# Motorcycle Riders Foundation

**What they are:** The **Motorcycle Riders Foundation** is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. We are also committed to educating rights advocates to improve effectiveness at the state and local levels. The MRF works together with State Motorcyclists' Rights Organizations (SMROs), assisting them with state and local agendas as well as working with them to influence Washington, DC – from the Congress to government departments and agencies to the Office of the President of the United States. We also work with allies in Europe and Asia to influence talks on vehicle globalization and harmonization that are proceeding under the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO). We have an historic partnership with the American Motorcyclist Association and work with the AMA on a host of issues.

Recently, Andy from the MRF came down out of Pennsylvania for our Baltimore County Meet & Greet. It was good to see him and discuss a few things that we had touched on during the ABATE of Pennsylvania L&L seminar in January.

## Upcoming MRF Events:

### Bikers Inside the Beltway 2023

May 15 & 16, 2023

### 39th Annual Meeting of the Minds

September 21–24, 2023

Harrisburg, PA



## American Motorcyclist Association

And the AMA is always there to help as well. Tiffany Cipoletti is the head of Governmental Relations for the AMA & she is always available to discuss bills, hearings and provide testimony. It was very reassuring to hear from both the AMA & MRF reps that they do not worry as much about Maryland because ABATE, is usually on top of things and has a lot of great connections. So, our efforts do not go unnoticed.

## Upcoming AMA Events in Maryland:

Event	Start Date	Type	Designation	Location	Charter
Capitol Cup MX Series	4/16/2023	Competition	Motocross	Mechanicsville, MD	Pro Ready Racing LLC
Wild Bill Memorial Ride 2023	5/7/2023	Recreation	Dual Sport	Little Orleans, MD	Western Maryland Motorcycle Association
Spring Fling Rally	5/19/2023	Recreation	Road Ride/Run	Cumberland, MD	Concours Owners Group
Budds Creek Northeast Amateur Regional Championship	6/10/2023	Competition	Motocross	Mechanicsville, MD	Pro Ready Racing LLC
AMA ATV Motocross National Championship Series	6/17/2023	Competition	Motocross	Mechanicsville, MD	Pro Ready Racing LLC
Norrisville Short Track	7/15/2023	Competition	Flat Track - Short Track	Whitehall, MD	Heart and Soul Racing
MAMA MX Series	7/29/2023	Competition	Motocross	Oldtown, MD	Middle Atlantic Motocross Association, Inc.
Nostalgia Run 2023	9/10/2023	Recreation	Road Ride/Run	Thurmont, MD	Western Maryland Motorcycle Association



## Member Spotlight

Do you have a member that is always there, volunteering, working events, leading rides, or just being that ABATE Ambassador? Let us know! We want to shine a little light on them!

## ABATE Tags:

Would you like to show the world your support? Get an ABATE tag! Visit the website for more info.

<https://abateofmd.org/abate-of-maryland-inc-tags/>

## JOIN ABATE!



If you happen to be reading this newsletter, and you are not an ABATE member, please join! We need all the voices we can get from all over! It's only \$25 per year per individual. Couples are only \$45 per year! It's easy to join through our website:

<https://abateofmd.org/join-abate-of-md/>



# Sponsors

## Become a SPONSOR

Our sponsorship options are changing. Please call the State Office at 410-263-9185 for details.



The ABATE trailer has a fresh look! Be sure to visit one of the LIVE APEARANCES of the 2023 Raffle Bike to get a look at it. Many thanks to Rick Dixon who donated many hours of prep work to get ready for the wrap, designed and installed by Mid Shore Graphics in Cambridge, Maryland.

We will be starting to fill sponsor spaces on the trailer soon! For this first year, there will be deals to be had! Contact Ken Eaton about signing up a sponsor today!

The image features a photograph of a man on a motorcycle on the left. To the right is a red box containing the text: 'Law Offices of Jay Irwin Block, LLC Your Maryland Motorcycle Attorney 10451 Mill Run Circle, Ste 400 Owings Mills, MD 21117 Office: 410-356-6555 Fax: 410-356-1439 WWW.JAYIRWINBLOCK.COM We are a Full Service Law Practice'.



## ABATE of Maryland, In.

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E-mail: info@abateofmd.org

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

