



ABATE of Maryland, Inc.



Dedicated to Freedom of the Road
and Responsible Motorcycle
Legislation

ROLLIN' FOR YOUR RIGHTS

Looking Back on 2023

2023 was a year full of great things!

- We published five (5) editions of the newsletter in 2023 and helped get the ABATE word out to our members and friends.
- We freshened up the products trailer with a new graphic wrap, giving ABATE a fresh new look!
- We obtained a beautiful 2023 Harley Davidson Street Glide Special for our 2023 raffle bike and held a successful raffle
- Our state office got a fresh coat of paint (Thanks Attitude!)
- ABATE had representatives attend the PA ABATE Legislative & Leadership Seminar and the MRF Meeting of the Minds
- We researched over 2000 bills and were able to help stop a few bad ones:
 - **HB304: Motor Vehicles – Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices.** This bill would have established a “Sound Measuring Equipment Grant Program” that would establish a maximum sound level of a motor vehicle.
 - **HB312: Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program – Not Subject to Inspection – Fee.** This bill would have established an emissions fee to be imposed on ALL vehicles that are currently exempt from emissions testing in Maryland.
- ABATE was able to get a new sponsor for the Helmet Exception bill
- ABATE met with new senators and delegates after the recent election, forging new relationships and reinforcing the old ones.
- ABATE assisted Del. Szeliga & Senator Carozza with **HB360 & SB252: Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must-Appear Violation (Sherry's and Christian's Law) HB360 & SB252.** ABATE was able to assist in getting 27 cosponsors to sign on to the House bill.
- Our chapters throughout the state held great events, helping to spread the ABATE word: Blessing of the Bikes, Blue Balls and Boobs Poker Run, Winter Bash, Chili cook-Offs, May is Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Declarations & Events, Spooktacular, Ride-In Bike Shows, Family Picnics, Scenic Tour / Poker Runs, Bike Nights, open houses, Cruise Ins, and many more!
- ABATE held a Legislative Seminar (after a brief hiatus)

All of these things and more happen because of our membership being ABATE! People put in the work and we appreciate each and every one of you!

~ THANK YOU! ~

A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments

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State Director's Corner—Ken Eaton

GRASSROOTS LOBBYING:

The Power of GRASSROOTS Lobbying: Recently, I had a front row seat to a local GRASSROOTS lobbying effort. A client of mine had purchased a piece of property and was working towards developing a commercial project. This project would provide valuable commercial space for a number of businesses that would ultimately be for new businesses or businesses looking to move and expand. Bottom line, it would provide jobs, from entry level all the way to management and small business start-ups. Right zoning, great location and one of the nicest pieces of property I have had the opportunity to be a part of working on in my 30+ years in the business. Well, after a year into the process, we ran across an obscure, county regulation that would severely impact the development potential of the project. Quite disheartening for all of us. After all the time and money already spent, this pops up and puts a real dent in things. After the initial shock wears off and we assess the damage, we start talking with other people that may have been affected by this regulation in the past, present and potentially the future. Very few people were aware that the regulation actually existed, and due to very loose language in the code, it had been inconsistently applied over the years. As we dug deeper, we found that another county resident had requested a text amendment to the zoning code over a year and a half ago to rectify this situation. There had been good discussion at the County Commissioner level, a public hearing was held, but the decision was deferred and sent back to a county agency to re-write the code. Great choice, but it lacked execution.

So, what was left to do? Keep waiting? No, my client hit the pavement and talked to everyone. Residents, developers, farmers, engineers, realtors, property appraisers, you name it. He also talked to the County Commissioners and got their ear. At this point, residents of the County were being affected and the County was noticing. The field was set, the connections had been made and all that was left was a public plea to change the regulation based upon a proposed text amendment that was introduced over a year and a half ago and let go inactive. Time for the Hail Mary. After having worked in the engineering field for all of my adult life, I was skeptical, but willing to participate. I attended the Commissioners meeting not only as a design professional, but this was in the County I live in, and this could affect me personally as well. It was time to put boots on the ground.

We attended a County Commissioners meeting and spoke at the public comments portion of the meeting. A father, son, a design professional, and a realtor (*wow, kinda sounds like a joke!*) all spoke in favor of passing the text amendment that had been introduced previously. All of us are residents of the County as well. We had no idea how this would turn out. We presented it and it seemed to go well. For those not familiar with these types of processes, this is really just a speak out portion of the meeting where the public can make comment. You never know what will happen afterwards. Well, low and behold, later in the meeting, this text amendment was brought up for a vote. Resurrected from the dead, 19 months after it was introduced, it was now in front of the Commissioners again. It was voted in favor of, and the regulation that was overly restrictive, vague, and inconsistently applied over the years has been repealed!

A GRASSROOTS WIN!

Bottom line:
Do the work, Get Involved.
BE ABATE!
Make your voice heard!

ABATE of Maryland, Inc,



Wants YOU to get involved!

2023 Legislative Seminar

We heard from the members that they would like to bring back the legislative seminar, so after a few years of kicking that can down the road, we had one on November 4, 2023 at the American Legion—Cummings-Behlke Post 226 in Edgewater, MD.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Post 226 and the Legion Riders for hosting the event. They donated the use of the facility, coffee in the morning and a lunch for our attendees. It was fantastic and we really appreciate their support!

We managed to get a pretty impressive panel of speakers from the motorcycling world and some state politicians to be a part of the seminar. I have provided a list of speakers so that we could share it with those that were not able to attend:

- ◆ Ken Eaton, Executive Director, ABATE of Maryland, Inc.
 - ◆ What is ABATE
 - ◆ Monday Night Lobbying
 - ◆ The Maryland General Assembly
- ◆ Bob Spanburgh, Jr., Chairman of the Board, ABATE of Maryland, Inc.
 - ◆ Monday Night Lobbying
 - ◆ MMR-PAC
- ◆ Linda Wainer, Recording Secretary, ABATE of Maryland, Inc.
 - ◆ How A Bill Becomes A Law
- ◆ Andy Kelly, Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF)
 - ◆ Federal level motorcycle related issues and what MRF does
- ◆ Rocky Fox, MRF lobbyist, Husch Blackwell Strategies
 - ◆ Lobbying discussion
- ◆ Marianne Jackson, ABATE/MRF Asst. state rep
 - ◆ Why ABATE members need to support the MRF
- ◆ Zach Farmer, American Motorcyclist Association—Govt. Relations Division
 - ◆ What the AMA does at the state and federal levels
- ◆ John Bilotta, National Coalition of Motorcyclists, Region VII Rep
 - ◆ A communication network between bikers across the country
- ◆ Senator Mike McKay, District 1
- ◆ Delegate Kathy Szeliga, District 7A
- ◆ Delegate Matt Morgan, District 29A
- ◆ Dan Smith, Chief of Staff for Delegate Kevin Hornberger, District 35B

We had a wide range of topics ranging from what is ABATE to a great panel discussion, and everything in-between:

- ◆ How do laws like right to repair / modify affect me directly?
- ◆ What can I do to make a difference in any legislation?
- ◆ How do the AMA, MRF, NCOM & ABATE work together?
- ◆ What do legislators want from their constituents?
- ◆ What is a typical day in the life of a lobbyist?
- ◆ Would paid lobbyists help or hurt a grassroots effort?
- ◆ How much does the AMA get involved in state issues?

Many thanks to all those that attended and took part in the seminar. A big THANK YOU to Marianne Jackson for manning the ABATE table, selling t-shirts, handing out ABATE info and helping out where necessary. We also had many hands helping set-up and breakdown which is always FANTASTIC. Our speakers were great, and we really appreciate those that travelled from near and far to be a part of this event. THANK YOU, THANK, THANK YOU!

We hope to continue and expand this seminar. If you were not able to attend, you missed a very informative and lively discussion. We would love to see more smiling faces the next time we hold this event.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

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Check out our website for more chapter info: <https://abateofmd.org/chapter-info/>



Legislative Tidbits

Vehicle Laws - Motorcycles - Passenger Footrests (HB 739—2001): ABATE worked to obtain clarification on this bill to make sure that young passengers would not be prohibited from riding on the passenger seat safely. Ultimately, the Commerce and Govt Matters committee returned an unfavorable report on this bill due to insufficient information from the bill sponsor.

Vehicle Laws - Special Registration Plates for Motorcycles - Veterans and Recipients of Combat-Related Medals (SB120—2002): ABATE worked with Senator Water Baker to add motorcycles to fit the classes for which special registration plates may be obtained by honorably discharged veterans of the US Armed Forces or by recipients of combat related medals. This bill was passed.

Public Facilities - Refusal of Services - Prohibition (SB762-2001): ABATE supported this bill as it would have prohibited the owners or operators of a bar, hotel, motel, restaurant, or tavern from refusing to serve an individual on the basis of the individual's mode of personal transportation, hair-style, or specified style of dress; providing that the Act does not prohibit the owners or operators from refusing to serve an individual on the basis of the individual's clothing under specified circumstances; making owners or operators who violate the Act liable in a civil action to specified monetary penalties; etc. The JPR committee voted unfavorably.

~
GET INVOLVED
~



Anne Arundel County Chapter News

Anne Arundel County Chapter
Director: Stuart "13" MacKellar
Meeting dates & time: 3rd 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
Please contact Jay to discuss meeting dates and times!

Calvert County Chapter News

Director: Ken Sawyer
Meeting date: 4th Tuesdays, 7pm
Location: American Legion Stallings-Williams Post 206
3330 Chesapeake Beach Rd
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732, USA

Thank you to all of the ABATE Members that manned a booth, sold raffle tickets, went on rides, or just came to meetings in 2023. Without you we would not be as successful as we are. I look forward to another year with you all and the great things we do together as a group.

2024 is going to be an exciting year. I look forward to the 50th anniversary and all the fun that will bring. All of the people reading this spend a small amount of time spreading the word about ABATE, inviting friends to meeting, rides, or our other events.

Ride safe, and I will
see you on the
road.

Ken
(410) 474-9276



Carroll County Chapter News

Director: Shelli McClane

Meeting dates & time: Open to suggestions

Location: Open to suggestions

Charles County Chapter News

Director: Joel Jones

Meeting time: 1st Thursday of each month @ 6:00pm

Location: - **Please note the meeting location change**

Hooters

3600 Crain Highway

Waldorf, Maryland, MD 20603

Frederick County Chapter News

Are you a Frederick county member and have a few friends that would be interested in reviving the chapter? Please contact Ken Eaton at 410-924-3374 to discuss. In the interim, check out a nearby meeting in Washington County!

Howard County Chapter News

Are you a Howard county member and have a few friends that would be interested in starting a chapter? Please contact Ken Eaton at 410-924-3374 to discuss.

Lower Shore Chapter News

Are you a Wicomico, Worcester or Somerset county member and have a few friends that would be interested in starting a chapter? There has also been some interest to include bikers and friends in the Eastern Shore of Virginia area. We have coordinated with ABATE of Virginia and are good to go. Lets get this party re-started down in the Lower Shore!

Please contact Ken Eaton at 410-924-3374 to discuss.

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/>

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.



Upcoming ABATE Events

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 **March 31, 2024** (If you have events for the late spring / summer, get the details to us ASAP so we can publish the flyers and info.

January 15th thru April 1, 2024 (every Monday Night) - Regional Monday Night Lobbying

Jan. 27, 2024: St. Mary's County Chapter Blue Balls and Boob Run

February 3, 2024: Friends of ABATE of Washington County Chapter—Benefit for Mike Tinsley

February 17, 2024: Washington County Chapter: - Winter Bash 2024

June 7—9, 2024: ABATE of Maryland, Inc.—50th Anniversary Party

See flyers in this newsletter, on the FB Events Group and on our website: [Event Flyers](#)

Ziggy Update:

Mid-Shore Chapter member Ziggy was in a motorcycle accident on Memorial Day. He is still struggling. Everyone is still holding on to hope and we keep praying for a miracle from God.

Please keep Ziggy and his friends in your prayers.



Mid-Shore Chapter News

Director: Ken Eaton

Meeting date & time: 2nd Thursdays, 7:00 PM

Meeting location:

Easton VFW Post 5118
355 Glebe Road
Easton, MD 21601

The Mid-Shore folks have been busy! A few of our members attended the local Kingsman 44th Annual Toy Run. It was a great ride for a great cause. We also got together at the VFW for a little Christmas sheet on December 1st. There was good food, good drinks, and great people!

We have been reviewing our 2024 calendar and still have a few dates to verify, but it looks like we have great lineup for 2024! We are also hoping to have a few County bike night type of events, stay tuned for more details.

On a special note, Mid-Shore has been discussing a Memorial Ride to remember our chapter members that have gone on to ride with the angels. It has been kicked around for a while and while we are going to try and move forward with our chapter plans, some of us are thinking that maybe we could make this a statewide event. Each chapter could have their own ride on the same day and have small celebration of the lives of our members at the end. Maybe the celebration could be centrally located and we could all get together. Just a thought, and one to think about a bit. Our state stretches out quite a bit, but I think we could make something happen,

Monday Night Lobbying: Ken Eaton will be leaving from the Lowes of Easton parking lot at approx. 4:15pm on Monday evening to go to Annapolis starting on January 15, 2024, thru April 1, 2024. You can meet there and catch a ride, or anywhere between there and the bridge. Just let me know (410-924-3374).

Eastern Shore Regional Lobby Nights: (Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester & Somerset Counties): The Eastern Shore Region Monday Night Lobbying Events are as follows:

- February 5, 2024
- March 4, 2024
- April 1, 2024

We need your boots on the ground in Annapolis! Please try and attend at least one of these dates or all three. Also, if these dates do not work for you, ANY Monday night is OK. We will try and setup meetings with our Eastern Shore Delegation members on the Eastern Shore Region Nights. Come and meet your representatives, and be a part of the ABATE VOICE! See you there!

Questions?

Call Ken Eaton—410-924-3374

Or email: abatemidshore@gmail.com

Montgomery County Chapter News

Are you a Montgomery county member and have a few friends that would be interested in starting a chapter? Please contact Ken Eaton at 410-924-3374 to discuss.

Mountain Chapter News

Are you a Garrett or Allegany county member and have a few friends that would be interested in starting a chapter? Please contact Ken Eaton at 410-924-3374 to discuss.

Northeast Chapter News

Are you a Kent, Cecil or Harford county member and have a few friends that would be interested in starting a chapter? Please contact Ken Eaton at 410-924-3374 to discuss.

Prince George's County Chapter News

Director: Gregg Hunter

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

Director: Melvin Yost

Meeting dates & time: 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm

Location: Contact Melvin—locations vary

ABATE of Maryland, Inc.



Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

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



Washington County Chapter News

Director: Dan Tracey

Meeting dates & time: 3rd Sunday of the month @ 4:00 pm

Location: North American Rod & Gun Club

12108 Belvedere Rd

Hagerstown, MD

[Washington County Chapter website](#)

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2024

21 Washington County ABATE Monthly Meeting – 4:00 p.m. @ North American Rod & Gun Club

FEBRUARY 2024

17 Winter Bash at North American Rod and Gun Club, Music provided by Gryphyn

18 Washington County ABATE Monthly Meeting – 4:00 p.m. @ North American Rod & Gun Club

MARCH 2024

17 Washington County ABATE Monthly Meeting – 4:00 p.m. @ North American Rod & Gun Club



National Coalition of Motorcyclists

What is NCOM?

The National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) was born on January 27th, 1986, when motorcycle groups and leaders from around the nation met in Las Vegas, spurred by the need for a powerful, unified voice to stand up for the rights of bikers everywhere. Since that time, NCOM has continued to provide riders and motorcycle organizations with legal guidance, legislative backing, public awareness programs, and anti-discrimination services, among other resources.

NCOM is more than just a single organization; it is comprised of numerous motorcycle rights groups, clubs, and associations, all working together for the greater good of the biker community. Today, the coalition has expanded to include hundreds of thousands of riders and more than 2,000 member organizations from all over the United States.

At its core, NCOM is an association built and run by bikers for bikers. Its National Council, designed to facilitate effective communications nationwide, is comprised of one member from each participating organization. Motorcycle rights leaders representing 11 regions make up its Board of Advisors. The group also contains a Legislative Task Force that includes state legislators, advocates, and a United States Senator.

Unlike with other organizations, groups can join NCOM at no cost, gaining access to its tools and resources. NCOM does not impose membership fees or ask its members for funding. Instead, 100% of the organization's monetary backing is provided by the Aid to Injured Motorcycles (A.I.M.) program and its associated network of motorcycle injury lawyers. Each A.I.M. attorney gives a significant percentage of their legal fees from motorcycle accident cases to NCOM, ensuring that the coalition can continue in its work.

No matter what type of bike you ride or what patch you wear, all motorcycle groups are encouraged to join the National Coalition of Motorcyclists. If your group would like more information on becoming part of NCOM, call 1-(800) 662-2453 or contact us online at <https://onabike.com/national-coalition-of-motorcyclists/>

Motorcycle Riders Foundation

Marianne Jackson, Asst. Maryland Rep

Happy New Year!

We had a good 2023. Here are just a few highlights:

Autonomous Vehicles (AV) - MRF Leadership met with officials at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to discuss our concerns about the deployment of AVs and their interactions with motorcycles. This fall, NHTSA issued a recall of Tesla vehicles following the investigations, including one focused on fatal crashes involving motorcyclists. We remain engaged on this critical issue in 2024.

Bikers Inside the Beltway (BITB) – The 2023 BITB had the largest attendance in the 14-year history of the event! Motorcyclists from thirty-four (34) states traveled to Washington, D.C. and advocated for issues that matter to street riders. In just one day, all 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 Senators received an informational packet from the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) explaining who we are, what we have done and what we want.

Internal Combustion Engine – Two separate bills, H.R. 1435 and H.R. 4468 passed the U.S. House this year. Both bills would limit the power of state and federal officials to restrict the purchase of vehicles with internal combustion engines. Each bill has a companion in the U.S. Senate. S. 2090 would limit states from setting their own regulations, while S. 3094 would stop the federal government from mandating the manufacture of electric vehicles. We will continue to press Senators to join these bills as cosponsors and seek final passage.

Right to Repair Act – we now have almost 50 co-sponsors of this House Bill, and we are hoping the Committee on Energy and Commerce will consider this bill in the first half of 2024.

We also continue to seek allies from diverse groups to push back against increasing **ethanol mandates**, continue to educate lawmakers about the out-of-date federal **definition of a motorcycle**, and continue to fight to put an end to **profiling** across the Country.

We've got our work cut out for us again in 2024 and could use your help! If you would like more information about Motorcycle Riders Foundation and what you can do to help further the cause in Maryland, contact Marianne Jackson at 410-829-2321.

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!

- ☐ Annual Individual Membership \$35
- ☐ Annual Joint Membership \$60
- ☐ Annual Sustaining Membership \$100
- ☐ Annual Industry Council Membership \$100



- ☐ 3-Year Individual Membership \$95
- ☐ 3-Year Joint Membership \$140
- ☐ Sustaining Membership Club \$100
- ☐ Freedom Fighter Donation \$10 \$25 \$_____

Motorcycle Riders Foundation
PO Box 9090, Peoria, IL 61612

Phone: 202.546.0983
www.mrf.org

mrffice@mrf.org

It's time you did something more to protect your rights!
Join and Support Motorcycle Riders Foundation

- ☐ New
- ☐ Renewal

Referred by *Marianne Jackson*

- ☐ Please Check if you are a US Citizen
- ☐ Check here to NOT receive Patches and Pins
- ☐ Check here to NOT receive MRF Email Alerts
- ☐ Check here to receive MRF Newsletter electronically (email)



Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____ CVV _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Regional

Monday Night Lobbying Events

We are trying something new with Monday Night Lobbying this year. We have divided the state into 4 separate regions. Each region will have three opportunities to get some members and friends together to go to Annapolis, BE ABATE and MAKEM YOUR VOICES HEARD! Of course, if these dates do not work for your schedule, you can attend ANY Monday Night Lobby Session. On Region Nights, we will setup appointments with a few of the Senators and Delegates from that regions of the state so they can see your smiling faces. This is important for them to see you there and to know that you care about what happens in Annapolis & how it could affect motorcyclists.

The Region dates are as follows:

Western Region (Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick & Carroll counties):

- ♦ January 15, 2024
- ♦ February 12, 2024
- ♦ March 11, 2024

Central Region (Baltimore, Harford, Howard & Anne Arundel counties):

- ♦ January 22, 2024
- ♦ February 19, 2024
- ♦ March 18, 2024

Southern Region (Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert & St. Mary's counties):

- ♦ January 29, 2024
- ♦ February 26, 2024
- ♦ March 25, 2024

Eastern Shore Region (Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Carline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester & Somerset counties):


- ♦ February 5, 2024
- ♦ March 4, 2024
- ♦ April 1, 2024

Drive, carpool, jump on your bike, take a bus, whatever it takes to get to the ABATE state office by 5:30pm. We will gather there, discuss our plans for the evening, and head over to the Senate & House of Delegates office buildings to do a little grass-roots lobbying.



Find your county on the map and see what region you are in!


ABATE of Maryland, Inc.



Western
Garrett
Allegany
Washington
Frederick
Carroll

Central
Baltimore
Harford
Howard
Anne Arundel

Eastern Shore
Upper Shore:
Cecil
Kent
Mid-Shore
Queen Anne's
Caroline
Talbot
Dorchester
Lower Shore
Wicomico
Worcester
Somerset



Southern
Montgomery
Prince George's
Charles
Calvert
St. Mary's

Monday Night Lobbying Regional Nights in Annapolis

Western: 1/15/2024	
Central: 1/22/2024	
Southern: 1/29/2024	
Eastern Shore: 2/5/2024	
Western: 2/12/2024	
Central: 2/19/2024	
Southern: 2/26/2024	
Eastern Shore: 3/4/2024	
Western: 3/11/2024	
Central: 3/18/2024	
Southern: 3/25/2024	
Eastern Shore: 4/1/2024	

ABATE of Maryland, Inc,



Wants **YOU** to get involved!





Is Green the New Gray Area?

By Mark Buckner

Executive Director – Motorcycle Riders Foundation

For as long as I can remember – which is getting to be a LONG time! – those of us who love riding motorcycles and have devoted a large part of our lives to preserving and protecting our way of life have been telling anyone who would listen that the enemies of motorcycling don't just want to pass more and more restrictive laws where we're concerned. Their ultimate goal is to get us off the road entirely. A prime example of this is the recent push to outlaw internal combustion engines, just one of the issues the Motorcycle Riders Foundation and our partners in the state motorcyclists' rights organizations and the motorcycle aftermarket are fighting head on.

So why are internal combustion engines under attack? The Biden administration is calling for one in two new cars sold in the 2030s to be fully electric. Federal incentives intended to prop up 'green' proposals have been pushed through Congress. In some states, these initiatives have become all the rage, calling for the elimination of all internal combustion engines and the end of fossil fuels as an energy source. California's plan to ban all internal combustion engines by 2035 is the most obvious of these, while similar plans have been launched around the country and the world. On the surface, that might sound bleak for those of us who love our gasoline-powered bikes, cars, trucks, and boats, but there may be good news on the horizon. As more research is coming to light from a feasibility, a financial, and an environmental perspective, initiatives targeting zero greenhouse gas emissions are being reexamined.

The Connecticut state legislature, like their counterparts in California, initially targeted the elimination of internal combustion engines by 2035, but has now decided to pump the brakes, killing Senate Bill 1145 which would have set unattainable greenhouse gas emission goals. Part of that bill would have penalized non-compliant parties up to \$25,000 PER DAY for not meeting stated objectives, labeling the penalties as a 'tax'. Other uncoordinated decarbonization 'roadmap bills' are still being considered in Connecticut, but the all-out push to join states like Massachusetts, California, and others is on the decline.

Ohio is pushing back as well. Their state legislature recently passed House Bill 201, signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine. HB 201 prohibits state agencies, counties, or townships in Ohio "from restricting the sale or use of a motor vehicle based on the energy source used to power the motor vehicle." It also specifically prohibits a state agency from adopting the California emissions standards for motor vehicles. ABATE of Ohio played a major role in getting this law on the books. In northern Europe, Norway, which had targeted zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, is likewise backing off on its plan as its feasibility becomes less certain.

None of this is to say that we shouldn't be concerned about pollution. We absolutely need to address these issues, especially in our major cities. But the outright elimination of vehicles powered by fossil fuels is not the answer.



Regarding the general public's opinion on an all-electric solution, many people are less than enthusiastic about moving away from gasoline-powered alternatives. According to the Sierra Club, in 2022 66% of car dealerships did not have an electric vehicle for sale. We can only assume that's because there was no market for them. Today, thousands of car dealerships around the country are pushing back on the Biden plan, saying they can't sell the electric vehicles they already have in stock. Car manufacturers are backing off as well, curtailing production of new EVs. Why is that?

First and foremost, electric vehicles are expensive. Some studies suggest that people who can afford to buy all-electric cars represent a finite group, and that many of those consumers have already purchased an EV car or truck, meaning the available pool of buyers is shrinking. Also problematic is that due in large part to the high cost of battery replacement, there is a very small market for used electric vehicles. Basically, no one wants to buy them knowing that a big repair bill is headed their way. While battery technology will likely improve in coming years, as of today that technology and questions about the cost of building a sufficient charging infrastructure are major concerns for consumers.

Finally, we should never forget that for the 'nanny state' crowd, going all the way back to Ralph Nader and the original safety-crats of the 1960s, the mantra has remained the same. That being, where safety is concerned, the public can't be trusted to make their own decisions or manage their own risks. In other words, these fine folks think they're smarter and better equipped to make policy decisions than us mere citizens. In their delusionary 'Road to Zero' world - where there will be zero accidents and zero fatalities - the best way to get there is to get rid of what they consider to be dangerous activities - like riding motorcycles. Eliminating internal combustion engines could go a long way towards achieving that goal.

Just as we have since the 1980s, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation is standing up for motorcycling, fighting against issues like the elimination of internal combustion engines, and we need every concerned rider to join us in our mission. If you're not already a member of the MRF, my only question to you would be 'why not?'

The answer: <https://mrf.org/join>

For independent aftermarket motorcycle shops: <https://mrf.org/join-mrf-imac>





ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

ST. MARY'S CHAPTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH MEAN OLE MUTHA NATURE

Presents Their 2024

Blue Balls and Boobs Poker Run

Saturday, 27 January 2024

\$20.00 per Hand

12:00 NOON

from

TOOTS

23971 MERVELL DEAN RD

HOLLYWOOD, MD 20636

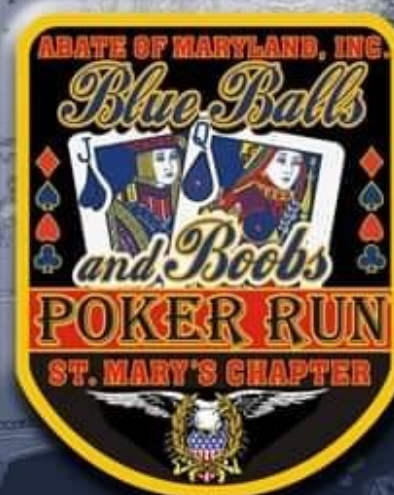
301.373.2955

Last Hand Out:

1 PM

Last hand In:

4 PM



Year Patches will be available for those that have done the ride before.

New Frosty Riders will receive the Year Patch and the Blue Balls and Boobs Patch.

Patches are given to those on the ride ONLY.

Final Stop: Extra Card Draw and 50/50 Winner Announcement

For more information, please contact

Brandi "Kupcak" Trexler

Email: abate.somd.events@gmail.com



Benefit Fund Raiser for Mike Tinsley



**Mike Tinsley is recovering from a tragic motorcycle accident.
He will need our ongoing support.
Please come & participate.**

**Baskets, Raffles, 50/50's
Don't need to be present to win**

**Wolfe's Den
Smithsburg MD
February 3rd, 2024 12:00 till 8:00PM**

For more information contact: Lory Miller (240) 451-7252 and/or Karen Metz (301) 573-9301



HELP



Abate of Maryland, Inc.
Washington County Chapter

Winter Bash 2024

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Tickets

\$15 in advance

\$20 at the door

Doors open 5:00 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Band—Gryphyn 8:00—11:00



North American Rod and Gun Club

12108 Belvedere Road

Hagerstown, MD

301-739-4400

Buffet Style Meal

Side dish and desserts requested

CASH BAR all night

50/50s

Raffles

Door Prizes

For more information, please call

Bobby Sager at 301-331-8950, Dan Tracey at 301-676-5763, or

Shelley Funk at 240-439-5785

PUBLIC WELCOME!

<http://sites.google.com/site/wccabate/>

Thank you for supporting ABATE; the ONLY Motorcyclists Rights Organization in Maryland that promotes safety & education, in addition to protecting YOUR RIGHT TO RIDE!

"We Want to educate, not alienate" www.abateofmd.org

ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.



50th Anniversary Party!

June 7th thru 9th, 2024

1974

**Queen Anne's County 4-H Park
100 Dulin Clark Road
Centreville, MD 21617**

2024

Gate / Admission

Weekend Pass:

\$40 per person (18 & older)

Ages 10 thru 17: \$10 each

Under age 10: FREE

Daily Pass:

\$25 per person

Band only Pass:

\$10 per person per day

Friday: 6pm to midnight

Saturday: 6pm to midnight

Camping Available

RV's & Campers

\$50 per night (electric & water)

Tent Camping: FREE

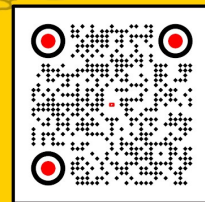
Bathhouses on site

Motorcycle & Car Parking: FREE

Open to the Public

Gates open at 12 noon Friday

All animals must be on a leash



SCAN ME

- * Live Music * Cash Bar *
- * Vendors * Food Trucks *
- * Biker Games & More!

TRANZFUSION

Motorcycles For Sale:



2005 UTRA CLASSIC HD MOTORCYCLE for sale \$8,500: it has 2,053 miles garage kept very Nice and Good condition. It's Black Cherry color. My phone number is 410-253-5724 if I don't answer please leave a message and I will get back to you or my husband Carl.

Kathy & Carl Wooters — Easton, MD



This space is provided as a courtesy to our members and friends. ABATE of Maryland, Inc. does not warranty or guarantee any information provided here. Please contact the sellers directly as we do not have any additional information, nor are we involved in any portions of the sale.



Tales from the Road:

Eye Opener: Kim Vallejo

I was shopping with my two kids, and I saw her. I wasn't sure it was her at first. Boots, cuffed pants, leather jacket with skeleton bones and a skull helmet.

She walked in the store with too much confidence after dismounting an evil looking, loud, black and silver motorcycle. It was enough to make me fearful as I clutched my kids close to me.

Other people murmured as she passed. She walked, back straight, head up, like she owned the place.

I did not know what I would do if this hooligan suddenly went crazy. You know those people, you see them in the news all the time, suddenly answering their base instincts. I was looking around for the closest exit.

My kids, however, were totally fascinated. They excitedly commented on her clothes, that she rode a bike, "Don't look, don't make eye contact" I harshly whispered. They thought I was crazy, and I added some more mom authority to my voice, "I SAID, don't look!"

She walked past me, a bandana covering some of her long, wild salt and pepper hair.

Something caught her eye, and she stopped, just past the endcap on the aisle just out of my line of sight.

A shriek of joy, "O MY GOD!", escaped her, as I carefully looked around and saw her at the Hello Kitty display. She had pushed her helmet back on her head, like a baseball cap, and had picked up a Hello Kitty plush, that was in a cute summer dress with polka dots. The little bow on the stuffed animal was also polka dotted.

I loosened the grip on my kids a little and incredulously saw this person, right out of a Mad Max movie, happy at the Hello Kitty display, acting like a little girl.

I watched her examine all the stuffed cute kitties and pick 4 of them. She turned to me and gave me the brightest, toothiest smile, graced with a bug or two.

She spoke in almost a little girl timbre, "Ain't she SO DAMNED CUTE?!" She looked at them again, "I don't have these ones!"

Her grammar made me cringe.

She made her way to the registers and smiled and waved at me and my kids as she walked past.

My kids looked up at me, with a "Really?" look on their face, as they worked their way out of my needless protection.

I felt exceedingly ashamed and silly.





DONATE to the Maryland Motorcycle Riders PAC TODAY!

**Maryland Motorcycle Riders PAC (MMR-PAC)
pools money to support those candidates whose
views align with those of the MMR-PAC and its
sponsoring organization.**



DONATE TODAY!



Maryland Motorcycle Riders PAC (MMR-PAC)



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.

MMR-PAC NEEDS YOU! The political fundraisers are starting up and we need to send ABATE members to them! We cannot do that without donations!

These fundraisers cost money and ALL funds raised by MMR-PAC go towards fundraisers for political campaigns.

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

It is political fundraiser time! ABATE needs to be going to many of these! Your contributions to MMR-PAC allows us to attend these events. If you see a local fundraiser, let us know & we will see what we can do to get some people there. Our funds are always stretched thin so talk to the people running the fundraiser, offer to help with parking, serving food & drinks, cleaning up, etc. This may get you in for free or a reduced cost.



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: _____

2nd 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



Questions or you would like to join online :

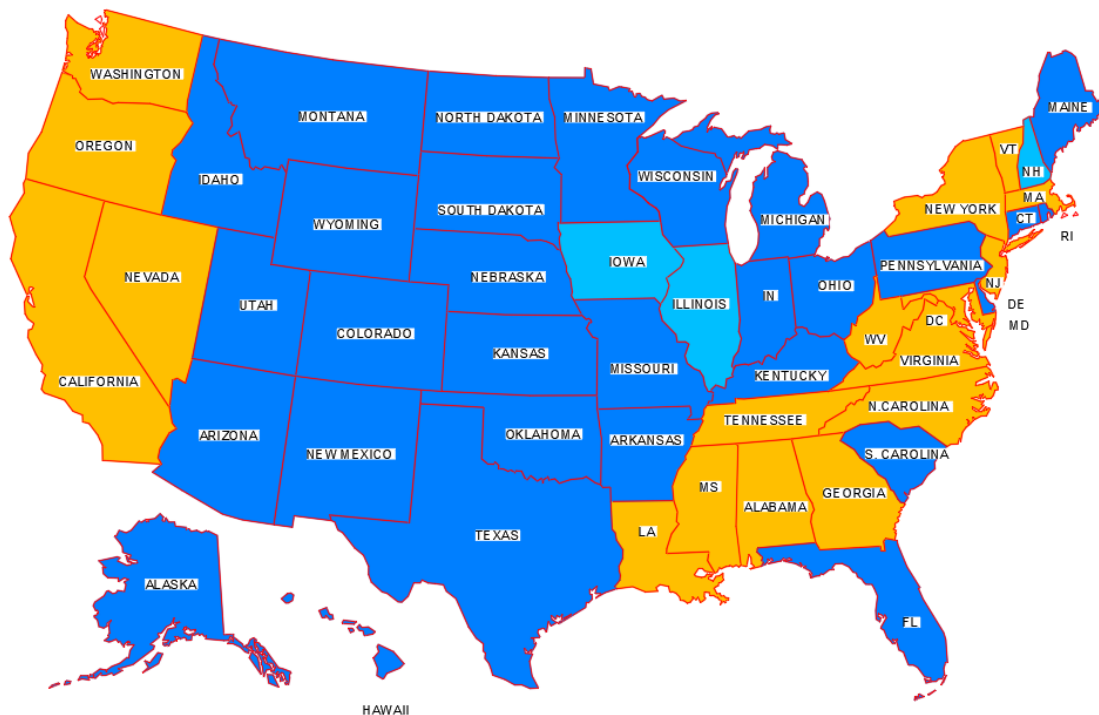
<http://abateofmd.org/why-you-should-join-abate/>

Freedom of Choice Updates:

ABATE of Nebraska: *Nebraska becomes 33rd state to repeal mandatory helmet law!* The governor has signed the bill and it will become law in January 2024!

Helmet laws in the US:

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming



33 states either have no helmet or allow Freedom of Choice for adult / experienced riders

Only 18 states are helmet mandated (including the District of Columbia)

**IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER, TALK TO OUR LEGISLATORS,
SHOW UP IN ANNAPOLIS, AND PUT IN THE WORK,
WE HAVE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF MAKING MARYLAND
A FREEDOM OF CHOICE STATE.**



Please THANK our ABATE of Maryland, Inc. Sponsors

LAW OFFICES OF JAY IRWIN BLOCK

YOUR MARYLAND MOTORCYCLE ATTORNEY

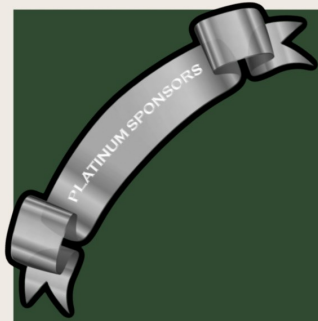
Legal Counsel for ABATE of Maryland, Inc. Since 1984



10451 Mill Run Circle * Owings Mills, MD 21117
Office: 410-356-6555 * Fax: 410-365-1439

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chesapeakemushrooms@gmail.com
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www.freshmushroomstoday.com

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LOCAL
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MUSHROOMS**



A-Fordable Tree Service, LLC is a full-service tree company based in Maryland serving the Eastern Shore, Annapolis, and Delaware. A-Fordable Tree Service uses state-of-the-art equipment and prides itself by using the most skilled tree removal technicians in the industry while providing an affordable cost to the customer



A photograph of several green roll-off containers in a yard. One container in the foreground has "YARD WORKS PLUS" and the phone number "410 820 6414" printed on it. Overlaid on the image is a large yellow banner with a green border. On the left side of the banner is a logo consisting of the letters "Y" and "W" stacked vertically within a green square with horizontal lines. To the right of the logo, the text "Yard Works Plus" is written in large green letters, followed by "—LLC" in smaller green letters. Below this, the text "Roll-Off Containers" is written in large green letters. At the bottom of the banner is a yellow box with a black border containing the following text in black: "28769 Llandaff Road", "Easton, Maryland, 21601", "Tel: 410-820-6414", "Contact: Gary Gerhardt", and "www.yardworksplus.com".

Paperwork & artwork pending on these sponsors:

- ♦ Retallack & Sons, Inc.: Utility & Site Contracting, Easton, MD
- ♦ Spring & Associates, Inc.: Horizontal Directional Drilling, Easton, MD
- ♦ Knox Builders, LLC: Building Contractor, Cambridge, MD
- ♦ Albright Lawn Service, Inc.: Landscape Company, St. Michaels, MD
- ♦ Harrison's Custom Cycles: Easton, MD



Become a SPONSOR

We are always looking for sponsors for events, raffles, etc. Please contact our office at 410-263-9185 or email Ken Eaton at director@abateofmd.org

[**JOIN ABATE!**](#)

Raffles & Special Events

As a group, we have decided to not raffle off a motorcycle this year. We have done that for many, many years, and it seems like it is time for a change. We will be holding various raffles throughout the year for some different items. Stay tuned for more information. Our [webpage](#) will be updated as we get more information.

ABATE of Western Maryland

Once again, we are put in the position of explaining the difference between **ABATE of Maryland, Inc.** and ABATE of Western Maryland. To our knowledge, **ABATE of Maryland, Inc.** is the only one of the two organizations that is registered as a legal corporation in the State of Maryland, and with the IRS (as it relates to not for profit / tax exempt organizations). In addition, **ABATE of Maryland, Inc.** is the only organization in Maryland that fights for your rights in Annapolis, year after year. In our 50 years of working the halls in Annapolis, we have never encountered a member from ABATE of Western Maryland, Inc. fighting for any motorcyclists' rights.

Although the ABATE of Western Maryland, Inc. membership cards seem to say "A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments", we are not aware of any involvement with any political grassroots movements locally or statewide.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. has no affiliation with ABATE of Western Maryland.

ABATE of Maryland, In.

71 Franklin Street
Annapolis, MD 21404

Phone: 410-263-9185
E-mail: info@abateofmd.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

