

# Don't miss a single issue of the Free Riders Press SUBSCRIBE TODAY!!!



Just about everyone that I know has heard about and been to Kokesh! They have been around since 1971. The last 7 years they have resided in Spring Lake Park – right off Highway 65. Elvis bought the shop a year ago in March. Yep...he does look like Elvis – the "Young" Elvis. He has been with the shop for 7 years. His favorite thing about being a shop owner is the people he comes in contact with

– from every walk of life, from the baddest, oldest, do it yourselfers, millionaires, to the newest riders out there. Kokesh specializes in restorations. They have even gotten restoration jobs from Hawaii and Florida this past year. Their reputation precedes them. Elmer (pictured) is the old skool restoration guru at the shop. The shop really does have the edge on the old bikes for parts and service. Well, there is A LOT of experience at Kokesh. The service dept. - Bug, Elmer, Jason, Scott, and Gil– have over 65 years of combined service experience! In Parts you have Casey, the Kid and Elvis – Elvis is the youngest parts guy there – and he's been doing it for 7 years! They try to be as competitive as they can on parts pricing – they'll beat anyone's price! Labor rates are the best value around - \$60.00/hour – he



feels their service is second to none. They have the ability to do high performance bikes as well; they now have a Dyno room built. With the new fuel injection bikes out there today – you just have to have it Dyno tuned in order for everything to run correctly.

The new EPA standards may be making it a bit tough on the small bike shops in the coming year, nation wide and industry wide. Kokesh does focus on the older bikes, and hopefully the new standards won't affect his shop as much as other places. It will be interesting to see how this all unfolds. Hang on to those old bikes.

Please folks! Talk to your representative, the laws they are pushing down our throats are going to make it tough on the shop owners, as well everyone who rides! Kokesh builds a lot of custom bikes there as well. From wild 40' long choppers to your typical Pro Street Bike. Jason is an excellent metal fabricator and frame builder, and Bug is the premiere engine & tranny builder in all of the Midwest.

A fun thing they are doing... Jason is heavily campaigning a Buell Drag Bike that Kokesh is sponsoring – every weekend he is racing that, it has been a lot of fun. Also, in September – Labor Day weekend – an All Harley Drag Race will be happening in Grove Creek. All you guys out there with fast bikes – you will have to come to the ABATE of MN State Rally in Litchfield, and then go on a short little putt to Grove Creek – very close by, and race against others! Oh...am I going to that! There will be some exhibition bikes there as well. Jason says it's Mandatory if you have a Harley to be there! Come out to the race track and show your stuff!



A couple of custom bikes are being built right now...one is for Wishes and More (used to be Make a Wish). Over a million dollars has been raised by Kokesh over the last 21 years for Wishes and More...that is pretty amazing! My hats off to you! This year, they are building a Twin Cam FXR Custom with lots of bells and whistles that will be raffled off - \$5.00 tickets. (See photo of bike in progress – in front of the guys) They are really excited about that! The Kokesh SRO party is where the Wishes and More party is – that will be on July 29th this year. Be there!! Please... Wishes and More grants wishes to children with life threatening disabilities.



Kokesh will have 2 new Custom Bikes at the Donnie Smith show. I asked Elvis if he's a drag bar or Ape Hanger guy...he likes Apes the best. Elvis's favorite bike right now is a 1942 Knuckle Head, with crazy ape hangers on it, absolutely beefed up! They love the horse power there!

Kokesh has been involved with The 911 Memorial run. On September 11th they ride in Brooklyn, New York. They hang out with Brooklyn HD, and the Firefighters there. A group rides to Detroit where the run actually starts, and then they leave as a bigger group to Brooklyn. They will be building a custom bike (red white and blue) for the year 2007 911 Memorial run that will be raffled off.



I asked him if a bike stands out in his mind that he's recently worked on. He said last summer he built a wild chopper for Greg – one of the owners of Fat Boys Bar & Grill, It is silver – no paint - that built a really good relationship between the whole crew there and since then they have done a lot of fun fundraising things with Fat Boys. So look for that bike when you go there. June 24th is the Poker Run that ends Fat Boys. More info to come... also July 29th is the Wishes and More Party at SRO – look for future info on that too!

The shop is always changing, every week they are doing something new – when I was there they had a very shiny newly glossed up floor! I've had quite a bit of work done at Kokesh on my bike. Bug put all my chrome on...he kept calling me "Since we are doing this piece...why not do that one too...I would ask the price – and then agree...and it went on and on – I'll bet he called me four or five times...then he asked about the master cylinder – and I said no. I just had to draw the line somewhere! That bothers me to this day – everything is chromed but that little square box – oh well, it will happen. He liked doing it because my bike was very clean, and it was a fun job for him, and Elvis bought my stock parts so life was good. I know Chrome don't get you home...but it sure felt good to ride out of that shop all new and shiny!!! Well, these men aren't just sitting around twiddling their thumbs now are they...These guys are involved, and have really made a difference for a very good cause. If you haven't been there yet...please go check them out. Thank you Kokesh for all that you do. p.s. Every month I will be visiting someone, some shop out there and doing a story on them, so if you think you are doing something unique, want to be featured...please let me know. laurathepotter@hotmail.com or 320-963-3823 is my studio number. Take Care, Laura the Potter

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