

From Chubby of ABATE of Wisconsin

Brotherhood: n. the state of being a brother; a group or society of people united by a common interest; a fraternity. Every once and a while I like to see if Webster defines things the same as I do. Sometimes I think that one of us should just write a dictionary for bikers. In the biker dictionary this word alone could have a few pages dedicated to it. Now, I'm not saying that I disagree with the way Webster defined this word. I just think it means so much more. Take a little time out and think what it means to you. Brotherhood is what keeps us going. It is the essence of a bikers' soul. In a volunteer organization like ABATE of Wisconsin, it's the glue that binds us and the fuel that keeps us going. No matter what you ride, or what gender you are, brotherhood is always there for you. Bikers truly define brotherhood.

I spend a good amount of my free time attending meetings and events all over the state. When I'm not riding or spending time with my family, you'll most often find me reading something motorcycle related keeping up to speed with current legislation and public views about motorcyclists. Sometimes this can get pretty overwhelming because it seems all too often there's something to be pissed about. There is always somebody with a half-baked theory on how they can keep us all safe, happy and alive. Unfortunately, all of these theories seem to take away my freedoms. Thanks, but no thanks. So, just when I'm ready to go postal on everyone, I remember that I'm not alone. There are almost seven thousand like minded individuals that have the same fears as me. And that's just the ones that pony up the twenty five bucks a year to stay informed as bikers. Who knows how many bikers are out there unaware that there is an organization, a brotherhood, that is already fighting for there freedoms every day. I'm proud to be an ABATE of WI member. That is enough to keep my sanity. Just knowing that I'm not alone and that someone's got my back.

Never am I reminded of brotherhood more than at an ABATE event. Whether it's a chili cook-off, poker run, brat fry or just a good party, there is always a feeling of belonging. I've never felt unwelcome, and I always have a good time. The amount of effort members put into an event expecting nothing in return except a good time is amazing. Our state rally, the Summer Hummer, was no exception this year. The amount of effort and time it takes to run an event like that is substantial and it seemed to go off without a hitch. I'd like to commend everyone that worked so hard to make it a success. I met a lot of new people and caught up with a lot of old friends. It was nice to be able to relax and enjoy such great music and conversation. We can only hope that next year will be even better.

As the summer comes into full swing and there is more to do than you can ever possibly make time for, try to take some time to visit an ABATE event. Take a few friends along and enjoy the ride. Whether it's for a party or a meeting, take the time to introduce yourself to someone new. If you'd like to find out more about ABATE of WI or would

like to join, please go to our website at www.abatewis.org or call 800-386-4442. Find out what brotherhood is all about. Hope you enjoy your Fourth of July weekend. Try to remember those that fought so hard to build this nation and give us the freedoms that we too often take for granted. And, resolve to hold onto the freedoms we still enjoy. Until next month...Ride Free

Kustom Corner

A Monthly Column by Mark Prosser

What can I expect to pay for a custom paint job? This is a question with ten different answers. People ask constantly, how much do you charge for a flame job? It is a legitimate question, but one that can be frustrating for a painter. First, we have to ask what kind of flame job are you looking for. Maybe traditional hot rod flames, tribal flames, seaweed flames, layered flame, candy flames, different color faded flames and is this flame job on a bike or a hot rod or a 40 foot boat? And will the flames be drop shadowed and pinstriped and we can go on and on and on. Just the type of vehicle can make a big difference in price. Hot Rods are expensive because there is not a flat panel anywhere. They are simply much harder to paint. I tell people it's hard to make something so round, straight. Painting panels with a lot of shape is a bit different than a flat panel. People see really wicked paint jobs at shows or in the magazines and want that on their bike or rod. You can have it but cool stuff is expensive. Let's take years of experience and the art aspect out of it for a moment and just look at the simple fact that a sprayable gallon of top shelf clear is around \$300.00 and the last bike I painted had almost 15 hours of polishing time alone. So that being said, a straight color paint job with very little body work should cost about 20 to 30 hours labor and around \$200.00 for materials. If the shop rate is \$50.00 an hour that's \$1700.00, sounds like a lot huh? There are also specialty products we can get into that cost \$100.00 an ounce and more. I recently had new tires changed on my van and the shop rate was \$72.87 per hr. My accountant was paid \$125.00 for 30 minutes to plug numbers in the program? So is high end paint (art) work really expensive? I mean gas is \$4.00 a gallon. ALSA Company makes a color shifting heat reactive paint that is \$1500.00 a quart. So sometimes you can't get what you see at the shows unless you want to pay for what it's worth. Another common question is "will my paint job be show quality?" Painters do different levels of paint jobs, At PROSSERPAINT we only know one way to do paint work and that is the best I can possibly do every time. If "show" quality is what you are after be ready to pay for it. Sometimes I find it insulting when someone asks if I can do it cheaper because it's not a show piece and I can't afford that. I just don't know how to do "cheap" work? I always try very hard to work within client's budgets, but the bottom line is time is time and some of the paint jobs you see and want require lots of time. I grew up hearing "the guy over there will do it cheaper" I have no problem with that he knows exactly what his work is worth. I feel I'm priced according to the level of the work. In one of my meetings with the famous Vegas stripper Bob Spina (who was mentored by Von Dutch and Ed Roth) I watched him striped a ranchers new truck from head to toe and when he was done the price was over \$400.00. and the customer said he would gladly pay because it was amazing to watch but "you've only worked on it an hour and a half" And Spina quickly replied "you are not paying me for the hour and a half it took, your paying me for the 50 years of experience it took to get that fast and clean" you have to pay for the experience of the artist

as with any craft or trade. I know airbrush artist the charge \$100.00 an hour and one recently finished a job that he had 150 hours of work into it. Yes you can spend thousands and thousands of dollars on mural work. Paint work can be very expensive, but don't let that deter you from getting art work on your piece. As a business owner and artist I feel it is my responsibility

to be creative enough to get you something different with in your budget. There are a lot of cool options to separate your bike or rod from the rest of them. We will figure out something that makes you happy. Please feel free to call to discuss your project.

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