

**Conversation with Preacher**

By Kenn Hartmann

"I'd like this to be an old-school thinking paper, one that says what it says without worrying what other people might think," said Preacher.

"Preachy, ain't FRP a non-conformist rag from the get? Like what Alfred E. Neuman used to say in Mad. And what the hell does 'old-school' mean anyway?" I asked.

"Oh, I got you wondering, huh?"

Only about the spelling, is it 'old-skool' with a 'k' or strictly Webster's?

"Well, I won't beat up on HOG members," said Preacher, "but I'm tired of being looked down on as the little paper that might-a been."

Yeah, I've heard a few hardcore clubs bitch that some HOG members espouse a sense of entitlement. "They're posers who've purchased a lifestyle and a cheap thrill mail-order patch," said one gangster clubber. "They're totally clueless to the brotherhood that patch holders foster." It can't be worse than prospecting for Sons of Anarchy like Jax tweets for a cup of midnight coffee and the prospect makes a Starbutts run. "Fuck Sons of Anarchy," he said, "I'd like to beat the shit out of anyone wearing those stupid shirts." Tell us how you really feel. He mellowed a bit but still bitched about posers "needing a road captain to go to an ice cream social."

"I'm not welcome at many dealerships because I ride an old bike," said Preacher. "I feel I don't fit in. But 'old-skool' riders like you feel comfortable with the paper."

"Cause it's a cool rag. Look, dealerships are corporate, brother." I said. "They're not going to inventory old parts; all they got are bean counters tabulating the bottom line. But think of those old-school guys working on bikes in garages keeping up the tradition."

Sitting around outside the old Harley Shop on Harlem, having a few Saturday Night bourbon-club cocktails, a dear friend Edgar Orellana read my story, "Tied to the Whipping Post" (FRP July 2011) and was astounded, immediately realizing the ardent significance. It's true that Edgar is a Packer fan in the Land of Lincoln, but that doesn't



Edgar

necessarily impair his judgment. Edgar is a Service Writer at Illinois Harley, plays a wicked shark guitar, rides a Sporty and is a serious fan of FRP, the crumpled rag you now hold in ink-stained fingers. Although the Mayan Apocalypse didn't pan out, Edgar can read my tattered Velikovsky books on world cataclysm anytime to prepare for the next end-of-the-world scenario.

An editor once told me, "Kenn, you write over the head of most bikers." Well, I don't pander, if that's what you mean. "See you use words like 'pander' and who knows what that means?" Well, the dictionary defines pander as sucking some corporate editor's dick and I don't do that.

"I'm not going to worry about hurting any feelings this time around," said Preacher.

I think we should all be considerate of

everyone, but when someone jacks you around, all bets are off. So here's to the nefarious printer who makes this rag possible, not outsourced to China, but produced right here in the Heartland on one of the last remaining underground printing presses from the 60's, imagine the old bearded pressman in apron and beanie cap, knifing ink, twisting fountain keys, tinkering to get the register right. As I hold this last bastion of freedom, this precious rag called Free Riders Press in my trembling hand, as always dedicated to the Brothers and Sisters of the Open Road, sipping my coffee out of a cup artistically crafted by Laura the Potter, another FRP writer, all I can say is, "speak your mind, nobody else will."

Kenn Hartmann  
www.chicagobikerbars.com  
bikerbars@yahoo.com

January 15, 2013 - The Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame will be a recipient of the coveted 2013 Silver Spoke Award presented by the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM). The Award is in the "Special Recognition" category and honors the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame for its work in improving the image of motorcycling. The award will be presented at the NCOM annual convention located in Reno, Nevada in May 2013.

"We are extremely honored to be receiving this recognition from NCOM," said Christine Paige Diers, Executive Director of the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame. "We will join a number of exceptional individuals who have received this award in the past." This is the first time in its history that NCOM has awarded the Silver Spoke for Special Recognition to an organization rather than an individual. Previous winners of the award include a number of notable ABATE members from various states, a long-time NCOM Board member, the AIM Chief of Staff, an author and a publisher.

The National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) is solely sponsored by the Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) nationwide legal services program and serves as an umbrella organization for more than 2,000 NCOM Member clubs, organizations and associations worldwide, representing well over a quarter of a million politically active motorcyclists.

The goal and purpose of NCOM is to assist all motorcycle organizations and individual riders with legal, legislative and other motorcycling issues. The Coalition provides numerous FREE services including legislative assistance, nationwide information network, public awareness programs, safety projects, loan program, biker anti-discrimination legal and legislative assistance, etc.

The mission of the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of motorcycling, honor those who have made a positive and significant impact on the sport and lifestyle, and pay tribute to the heritage of the Sturgis Rally. Established in 2001, the museum is home to an ever-growing variety of motorcycles dating back to 1907. On display are a huge selection of American and metric bikes that are on loan from private individuals, along with a wide variety of exhibits, photographs, memorabilia and Sturgis Motorcycle Rally history. Museum memberships are available on the museum's website at [www.sturgismuseum.com](http://www.sturgismuseum.com).

For more information, contact Christine Paige Diers, Executive Director, Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame at 605-347-2001.

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