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by Vanlage


Lisa Bilogan
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54548



NORTHWOODS PUB



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Downtown Tomahawk! 212 W. Wisconsin Ave 715-453-0797

ABATE Family Reunion

By the time you read this, the Summer Hummer will be nothing but fond memories for most of us. Or depending on how much you drank, some of you may have fewer memories than others. But never let it be said that we don't know how to have a good time.

First off, I have to apologize to those of you who caught me walking to the coffee vendor in the morning in my neon tie-dye boxer shorts. I hope I haven't psychologically scarred any of you for life. But if you're a caffeine addict like I am, you know about the sacrifices you'll make in order to get that morning fix. But in truth, I was in good company that weekend. Between the topless ladies, folks dressed like hippies and the midget stripper, I was just one of the many side-show attractions that help make the Summer Hummer the great party that it is.

It's exactly these kinds of crazy antics that make the party so popular. Where else could a guy wear a grass skirt and coconut bra without being looked down upon? Only within their own crazy family. And that's exactly what we should be to each other - family. The bond that links your true family is not necessarily one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other. These times of fun together are almost as important as all the work we do. We form strong bonds and friendships that help enhance not only our own personal lives but the organization that we all feel so passionately about. It's a time for us to let our hair down with our brothers and sisters so we can refresh our souls and get ready for the next battle. It's like the old proverb that says, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". How true!

Family members always have each others' backs and things at the Hummer this year were no exception. We had a shortage of workers at the front gate this year because of some family emergencies. But like a true family, my ABATE brothers and sisters were there to pitch in and cover the shifts. Sure, not everything is always rainbows and butterflies. There's plenty of squabbling just like with your blood siblings. Fun gatherings such as the Hummer can help strengthen your bonds with others though so that your petty differences aren't destructive to your relationship or to the organization. We need to remember - Like branches on the ABATE tree, our lives and beliefs may grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one. And as long as we keep our roots firmly planted, our tree will continue to grow strong.


I work a few shifts at the front gate every year for a couple of reasons. It gives me

the opportunity to see everyone who comes and goes as well as touching base with a lot of folks who I might miss running into during the craziness of the weekend. But I also enjoy meeting folks who are new. The opportunity for brotherhood and adding another person to the family presents itself every time you meet a human being. How often do you reach out to a potential new family member? Despite how wet and muddy it was this year, the fun went on as planned and I still heard a lot of positive comments from folks who attended. If you've never gone to the Summer Hummer before, it's definitely an event to put on your calendar for next year.

We must remain vigilant against those who seek to take away our freedoms but we have to remember to stop and smell the roses. Or enjoy a Hummer now and then.

Dean "D-Day" Bartosh
Director of Public Relations
ABATE of Wisconsin

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