

A buddy of mine was at my house the other day. While we were shooting the breeze I said, "You ever get your bike up and running?" He says, "Not yet, but I wanted to ask you something. I told my co-worker that I was thinking of joining your club, and he said, 'You want to join that gang? You'd always be on call; you'd have to sell drugs; you'd have to get up in the middle of the night; you'd have to ....'

"I stopped him right there and I told him that it's not like that. However," He said, "You'd be a better person to explain it than me. So I was wondering, could you explain it?"

Well, let me see if I can put some of his worries and fears to rest, while explaining to the rest of youse, who also may not know any better, a little bit about my Club. I could prolly tell you that this is true for most clubs, but it is not my place to discuss other clubs. If you have questions for them, ask them. And I guess that's where I'll start.

If you have a question for someone, ask. Don't let it fester or make up the answer; and don't believe what you see on television. Just because the guy you want to ask looks a little scruffy, doesn't mean that he's nasty. Don't get me wrong - there will always be some member of any group, be it the VFW, your Church, or your wife's co-ed Soccer League, that's mean and nasty. But just like in those places, someone who acts like that, is not the norm for that group; nor is it the norm for the people in my Club.

If the guy you want to talk to is already talking to someone, be polite and wait your turn. Outright rudeness or disrespect isn't appreciated on your golf course, so why would you think it's acceptable among my brothers? But if you wait your turn and politely ask your question, you will more than likely get an answer. You may not like the answer. The answer might be that they cannot tell you the answer. The answer might be that the person you asked doesn't know the answer, and it might be that he might tell you that he needs to point you in the direction of someone who does know. But if you're polite, so too will be the reply, in most cases.

While I'm at it, the cube on my back, to the right of my Center Patch, clearly says, "MC". That stands for 'Motorcycle Club'. I'm not in a gang. I'm a proud member of a motorcycle club. If the pretext for calling a group, "Gang" is that the members all wear the same insignias; that would mean that your bowling team, the Oakland Raiders football team, and the city's sanitation department were all gangs.

Similarly, if saying that an entire group is an organized criminal enterprise because 2 or 3 members of that group, without permission, on their own, may have done something illegal, that would mean that the Florida Seminoles football team, the City of Los Angeles Police Department, and the New York Yankees major league baseball team were also criminal enterprises.

You wanna know what we do? Last year we helped three needy families at the Holidays by delivering food and gifts to their homes; we helped raise money for two different children, at two different times, who were uninsured or underinsured, and had incredibly high medical costs and were still in need of treatment; we supported other clubs, such as Bikers Against Child Abuse, Guardians of the Children, and others, at their fundraisers, with donations of our own, as well as money we collected on their behalf; we threw a birthday party for a leader of the motorcycle community; we attended the Texas State Legislature's Open House; we received Proclamations on motorcycle safety from three different local

mayors; we attended a memorial gathering on behalf of a girl who was killed by a hit and run driver; we joined in asking the city to make that intersection safer and to add a cross walk; we attended a number of charity bingo games; and we raised money for the JW Rock Charity Foundation, among other things.

Additionally, through it all, I was never called at 3 o'clock in the morning; I was never approached by anyone about drugs; no one ever asked me to do anything that even remotely sounded illegal; I never had to neglect my wife or children to attend a club function; and I was never forced to miss a day of school or work.

So, maybe you'd like to see for yourself; or meet some of my brothers? Maybe you'd like to hang around my club and see what other things are misrepresented by people who don't know, don't care or are trying to make their movie more interesting or dramatic? Hopefully you've learned something about my Club and what we're about. Please don't believe everything you see on TV. And feel free to talk to me - even when I'm looking kind of scruffy.

Latin Steel Fire Bam