BAT Motorcycle Protocol

October 16, 2020

As a part of Bikers Against Trafficking you will interact with other motorcyclists, riding clubs and motorcycle clubs. The information in this document will serve to provide some guidance as to what to expect and also how we should act. One member of BAT reflects all the members of BAT so we aim for consistency as much as possible.

1. All who ride are unique individuals who have good and bad days. Attempt to show grace in all you do. Also understand that not all bikers are good nor are all bad. There is a combination of good and bad just like in all walks of life.
2. Respect and protocol are important rules when dealing with another motorcycle club patch holder. When formally introduced to a patch holder, make sure either the person doing the introduction (or you) make sure they know what club you belong to and if you are an officer, what position you hold. Under no circumstances do you interrupt to correct a mistake while that person is introducing you or while they are talking. Wait till the introduction is done and politely introduce yourself correctly. Ie… Bikers Against Trafficking, Patrick “Doc” Nave, International President.
3. Greet them as anyone else and wait until the offer is made to shake hands. Do not interrupt, wait for them to recognize you. Do not be offended or make a big deal if they do not offer to shake your hand. They might be hesitant until they get to know you.
4. If you are invited to meet with a local support club or 1% club in the area to show respect please be aware that we wear our cuts (vests) IF we ride to the meeting on our bikes. If you are driving a car/truck then do not wear your cut (in the biker community when you are sitting in a seat in a vehicle where your cut is on you are showing disrespect to your patch). Keep your cut folded if you are in a vehicle and then put it on once you arrive (this applies to anywhere you go with your cut). Even though we do not work directly with clubs we want to show a respect to ourselves so that others will respect us as well. Also, greet the President first and then the other officers and finally members. DO NOT volunteer information in the meeting. Just let them ask questions and only answer the questions asked.
5. Never Lie. You can always redirect by saying that would be a good question for a different officer. Be as polite as possible. Some of the answers you might give to various questions.
6. We are an association and not an Motorcycle Club (MC).
7. Our patch is bought and not earned. We do suggest a 3 month “get acquainted” window before giving someone a patch however.
8. Members pay yearly dues (this will start in 2021).
9. All makes and models of motorcycles are welcomed.
10. We are a non-territorial association.
11. We are a neutral association and do not wear any MC support patches.
12. Women riders are welcomed and in many cases are club officers.
13. Information about us can be found at BikersAgainstTrafficking.org
14. Do not brag about the size of the chapter or BAT as a whole.
15. Do not volunteer information about the local BAT chapter or BAT as whole. If they have a question about the local chapter answer if you can. If they start asking questions about the number of members, or the International organization please refer them to an officer.
16. Remember that women in leadership is still unusual in many clubs. Most motorcycle clubs would also rather deal with a man if there is business to conduct. We have women as Presidents and so we need to be polite and just inform them that this is the case. Many clubs do not care to deal with the National Officers. They would prefer to deal with the local or State representatives. (if an international officer is present with you then the President of the Chapter will do the talking and the International officer is only there for support)
17. If anyone knows a patch holder, do not let him/her throw the name of the patch holder (or their nickname) around like you know them or that they are a buddy (even if they are). Many clubs consider this a major disrespect to the entire club.
18. Watch where you are when you speak about any motorcycle club. Never say anything about them in public because you never know when that woman, man or kid in regular clothes near you might be one of them, or a “support member.” Patch holders do not always wear their colors (patch).
19. Anything said about another club is BAT business only and is not to be shared outside of a BAT meeting. Even joking comments can be the beginning of something less than positive. If for some reason you need to say something in public, please take a BAT member aside and talk quietly and get your point across as quickly as possible.
20. Watch where you wear your patch (we don’t wear colors as colors are earned, not bought) and its just common sense to stay in numbers when wearing the patch, if possible.
21. Show other clubs RESPECT.
22. If you already know a patch holder of a club, or get to know one in the future, don’t just walk up to him/her and interrupt when they are with other members. Wait till they acknowledge you first and never touch them or put your arm around them like a buddy. Don’t put your hand out to shake theirs; wait for them to extend their hand first. If for some reason, you’re not acknowledged at all, then just keep walking. If you need to talk to an officer of a motorcycle club the proper way is to go through the Sgt of Arms or one of the patch holders.
23. You have to decide whether or not you want to show respect by going to any of their functions or if you want to avoid them all together. If you do choose to show respect and go, you can do this in a way that may make you feel more at ease by going to one of their support club’s functions instead of the top club function (if they have a support patch you are indirectly showing the top club respect). But if you do that, then you also need to go to rival club’s functions or you’ll be telling everyone that you are not neutral.
24. A better way to support is to only attend OPEN to the public functions. Remember, if you are wearing a BAT patch you are representing your chapter, never just yourself.
25. No Chapter location bars, territory rockers or anything giving the appearance of a rocker should be worn with a BAT patch. State flags, state logo’s can be worn in some areas and not others. Be careful.
26. If someone from a motorcycle club requests that you remove your patch/vest, don’t argue. The best reply is “No problem” and politely take it off and let your chapter officers know what motorcycle club it was so that they can deal with any potential problems. You will only be asked once.
27. If an establishment has a sign indicating “no colors,” even though your patch is not considered “colors,” the best should be removed out of respect to the other clubs and the policy of the establishment. Be aware of the local motorcycle club hangouts and its best not to wear your patch into them without an invitation.
28. Do not wear your patch into a motorcycle club clubhouse unless you have asked if it is ok to do so or have been invited to a sit down with the officers of the motorcycle club OR have been invited as a member of BAT to attend a function there.
29. In regard to women who are with a MC club but not in the club: Old Lady is not a negative or derogatory term, it’s just a slang term commonly used. “Property of” patches are their way of showing support for their man and the club they are in. (even if we don’t agree just understand how they are using the terms and don’t disrespect the terms)
30. A patch holder may not, and many times will not, acknowledge your wife or girlfriend, especially upon a first meeting.
31. Do not touch or sit upon a patch holder’s bike unless invited to do so. Do not expect the invitation.
32. A prospect can usually be identified by the back patch they are wearing. There are many different ways motorcycle clubs identify prospects. They can have the rockers without the main patch. They can actually have a patch that says “prospect.” Some do not wear any patch because all the patch holders know who the prospects are. You want to treat a prospect or even someone you suspect to be a prospect the same way you would treat a patch holder—with respect and courtesy.
33. Have absolutely no doubt that a motorcycle club is serious and many have been known to physically educate a person who shows disrespect or displays a bad attitude.
34. Be on your best behavior when wearing your patch.
35. Be aware that problems created in one part of the country or world by any BAT member impact all BAT members everywhere. One represents all.
36. The term brother or bro has special meaning to a patch holder. Do not refer to them in that manner.
37. Don’t ever touch any part of another club member’s colors, which include the vest or jacket it’s sewn on. That is considered serious disrespect.

Remember, if you are riding with a patch on your world may cross with others who are from the motorcycle clubs. Stay calm, be respectful and keep in mind that they do not know who you are (usually). We represent an international association that fights to eradicate human sex trafficking. All clubs will respect what we do.