

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © California VI



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 2 About the Club
- 3 Officers & Staff
- 4 President's message
- 5 Secretary's message
- 7 Safety Message
- 8 Beyond the Call of Duty
- 9 Rolling Thunder picture page
- 10 Road Wisdom - Desert Riding
- 11 Remembering Ed Morris
- 13 Christmas Party
- 14 Charity page
- 15 Up coming Rides



MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

July 9, 2022

Inside this
edition



Poker Chip drawing was held. Cynthia Wharton's name was drawn. Since Cynthia was not present, she did not win the \$5.

By being present at the monthly Blue Knight Chapter meeting you become eligible for the drawing. If you are present, you win the amount in the pot. If you are not present \$5 is added to the pot. Currently the amount is \$10.



ABOUT THE CLUB

THE BLUE KNIGHTS



The Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc., is an International fraternal organization comprised of law enforcement officers and their families who are also motorcycle enthusiasts.

Headquartered in Bangor, Maine, the Blue Knights® operates under an international constitution and bylaws within an organizational structure of an international board of directors and eleven regional conferences, each conference including a number of local chapters. The Blue Knights® promotes safe and responsible motorcycling and sponsors fund raising in support of numerous charities.

The inception of the Blue Knights® came in April 1974 when a Bangor Maine, police officer had the idea of forming a motorcycle club for people in law enforcement. Since then, the club has grown to become the foremost and largest international law enforcement motorcycle club. Today, there are over twenty thousand Blue Knights® worldwide in six hundred in six hundred chapters in the twenty-nine countries and one commonwealth.



OUR CHAPTER IN SAN DIEGO

CALIFORNIA VI



Chapter California VI was formed in 1987 by a group of seventeen San Diego area law enforcement officers, some retired and some on active duty. We have been chartered since January 1988, making us one of the oldest currently existing Blue Knights® chapters in California. Our members are full-time, part-time and retired law enforcement officers from local, county, state and federal levels.

We are presently the largest chapter in the Southwest Conference, with over 40 members on our rolls. Chapter California VI members strive to promote a positive image both of law enforcement and motorcycling. We are active in community service projects, and each year we donate to local charities.

Chapter meetings are held at 0900 on the second Saturday of the month at the Broken Yolk Restaurant, 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, CA. (Unless that is a holiday weekend) After the breakfast and one hour meeting, we go for a ride.

Persons interested in becoming a member may contact Vice President Ken Smith by email at: vice_president@bk-cavi.org



CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



PRESIDENT

[John Lopotosky](#)

VICE-PRESIDENT

[Ken Smith](#)

SECRETARY

[Shari Stegall](#)

TREASURER

[Chuck Belletti](#)

DIRECTORS

[Richard Bennett](#)

[Mike Harrison](#)

[Ray Juanengo](#)

[Alan Wheeler](#)

MORALE & WELFARE

[Tina Lopotosky](#)

[Michelle Juanengo](#)

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

[Grant Frye \(Heaven 1\)](#)

WEBMASTER

[Larry Hansen](#)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

[Richard Bennett](#)

RIDE COORDINATOR

[Alan Wheeler](#)

SAFETY OFFICER

[Richard Bennett](#)

QUARTERMASTER

PLEDGE: As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights®



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Lopotosky, President



"THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN ONLY LEARN IN A STORM"

I returned to my original Blue Knights Home, California VI, in August of 2019. The chapter was in flux. The Chapter President, Grant Frey, was in the midst of transferring to Fort Leonard Wood (Missouri) as the superintendent of the Marine Corps MP Academy.

I was asked by the chapter to run for the position of president due to my past experience holding that position. I was elected at our September 2019 meeting. I was to assume the position on January 1, 2020, along with the other board members.

Little did we know that a storm was about to hit. As the world began to understand the depths of the oncoming pandemic, we as a chapter, suffered terrible losses. Grant Frey, Thomas Capers, Genaro Guerrero, and Gary McLaughlin were all taken from us in a matter of months. None of us anticipated the loss of one member, let alone four in such a brief period of time.

The loss of Grant dictated that I step in and assume the duties of chapter president earlier than anticipated. The chapter could have crumbled before our eyes. I can honestly and humbly say, that without the help of the chapter executive board, board members, staff officers, and the members, I'm not sure we could have weathered this storm. But weather it we did!

In the months since, we have seen an increase in the number of members, spouses, and friends attending our monthly meetings. We have seen new members join our chapter and few of the old guard move away, joining our sister chapters around the United States. There has been greater participation in our after-meeting rides as well as representation at outside events that support our community, law enforcement and the military. We have successfully raised funds to support charities near and dear to us.

I am so proud that I have been allowed to lead our chapter in some small way. I say to each and every one of you, **YOU ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF THIS CHAPTER**. The fraternal spirit is strong within each of you and each of you is responsible for every bit of success we've achieved.

I am an old wolf in this pack. I see the young wolves who are hungry to continue the legacy of the Blue Knights International Motorcycle Club. As the days go by, I am confident that there are those of you who will step up fill the gaps as the older wolves decide it's time to rest.

My advice: Watch and learn from the old wolves. It won't be long until you are leading the hunt.

Ride with Pride



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Shari Stegall, Secretary



Meeting Minutes June 11, 2022

Call to Order: Chapter President John Lopotosky at 0900 Hours

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for Members of Heaven I
Recognition of Fallen Chapter Members

Introductions/Guests: Vulcan Riders, Clothing printing guy, Brian's niece Kayla

Induction of New Member: Miguel Martinez (not present)

Blue Knights Pledge

"As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights."

President John Lopotosky

1. 2022 ID Cards
2. Small Claims Action
 - Start doing reimbursements
3. Upcoming Events
 - A. November Knights/Glendale AZ – November 18-20, 2022
 - Email sent with details
 - B. 2023 SWC – Las Vegas May 7-11, 2023
 - Sign-up now. It's going to be big!
4. BK baseball jerseys for sale- let John know if you want one. \$35

Vice President Ken Smith

1. Christmas Party Update
 - A. Sign Up Sheet
 - December 3rd
 - Sign-up if plan to go
 - Rooms available at Embassy Suites

Treasurer Chuck Belletti

1. Financial Status

Secretary Shari Stegall

- Getting list ready for those that purchased hoodies/jerseys to reimburse

Chapter Directors:

Ray Juanengo

- Introduced Vulcan Riders

Alan Wheeler (Ride Coordinator)

- Update on Betsy- recent surgery but doing well

Richard Bennett (Safety Officer)

1. Newsletter- looking for ideas-submit to him via email
2. Asked if anyone would be willing to do mid-week ride (Wed)
3. July after meeting ride will be to Antique Tractor and Steam Engine Museum

Mike Harrison

1. ALR Poker Run next Saturday 6/18-money goes to veteran service dogs and final honor- please join

Quarter Master Nick Legodais (Safety Officer)- not present- Richard Bennett (back-up)

1. Will be writing an article/safety briefing on encountering wild animals while riding
2. Arturo brought up encountering 1%ers while riding-best to let them ride on and avoid crossing through their formations even if they are taking up the entire roadway/freeway
3. Vic brings up staying off of road marker lines during high condensation times (early AM)

Morale and Welfare (Sunshine) Coordinator Michelle Juanengo/Tina Lopotosky

1. Please notify Tina and Michelle if anyone is sick/ill/ hospitalized/in need of assistance
 - Thank you to those who attended May Ride- it raised about \$16k for vets.
 - Wife/Sig Others group- email Michelle if interested in forming

Good of the order

- Nick will be moving to Georgia for new job- Quartermaster job will be available
- BP Agent/Marine/Printing guy-pay when you get your stuff-get him ideas of what we are looking for-tees, hats, hoodies, sweatshirts, stickers, etc...
- Arturo interested in Quartermaster
- Arturo and Marcus bringing overalls back 😊
- After meeting ride led by Marcus-explained route to Opry BBQ
- Alan gave Ride Leader pin to Marcus

Poker Chip Drawing

- Cynthia Wharton-lives out of state-goes up to \$10 next month

Raffle Prizes

- Shari and John won 25/25/50 raffle

Motion to Adjourn by: Bill

Seconded by: Alex

Meeting Adjourned at: 0946

Next Meeting: 0900 Hours, July 9, 2022
Broken York



SAFETY MESSAGE

Richard Bennett, Safety Officer



I like your attitude

It happens every time; when I get on my motorcycle and head out from home, I feel my attitude shift toward the happy end of the scale. As I accelerate onto the freeway, it makes me happy to see other riders already on the road. Although the other riders are strangers, I know we share a common bond - the joy of motorcycling. It is a feeling that non-riders have never known.

I believe that no matter what we ride, or how we ride it, every motorcyclist satisfies an inner desire for personal enjoyment. It may take the form of an adrenaline rush from pushing the limits, or the serenity of rolling through the back country. It could be the attention demanded by "look at me" behavior, or the satisfaction of being a uniformed member of a special group. No matter what the motivation, the common denominator is always the special feeling we get on a motorcycle. It is good for our souls, and it feeds our egos.

In order to truly enjoy the motorcycling experience, riders must recognize and accept the risks along with the pleasure. That acceptance, and what the rider does about it, is called "attitude".

Managing risk begins with taking responsibility for yourself, and for any passengers you take with you. Every rider makes decisions about acceptable levels of risk with each ride. The level of aggressiveness and the amount of protective clothing are examples of managing risk. Looking back to my younger days, ignorance, or the feeling of immortality, often found me riding with minimal protective gear. A baseball cap, tee shirt, glove-less hands and tennis shoes were often my riding uniform. My risk-to-pleasure ratio was out of balance.

Subsequent years of investigating traffic collisions, taking motorcycle riding classes and watching the mistakes of others led me to change my attitude about acceptable risk. While I still enjoy my rides, I have stopped taking unnecessary risks.

I know image is important to many of you. I, too, have taken unnecessary risks in the name of "image." I cringe now when I think back to my envelope-pushing police pursuits through heavy traffic because I didn't want to let a traffic offender elude me. Not good for the police image, don't you know? How I survived was just a matter of luck.

In order to really enjoy your style of motorcycling, I encourage you to examine your attitude towards acceptable risk. My personal image has changed over time from the devil-may-care risk taker to the seasoned rider who strives to be an example for others. Some may say that I have grown up.

No matter what your self-image is, you will benefit from managing and minimizing your risks.

Beyond the Call of Duty: End of Watch Ride

Rolling Memorial

Ray Juanengo, Director



On Sunday June 6th, 2022, the rolling memorial known as the End of Watch Ride Rolling Memorial rode into San Diego County after having just paid respects at the Garden Grove Police Department earlier that day. The memorial is a trailer over forty feet long and carries the names and photos of 608 officers that fell in the line of duty the year prior.

In San Diego, the EOW Ride arrived at the Juvenile Justice Center near the now defunct Juvenile Hall to honor fallen probation officers, Ralph Serrano and Rodrigues Delgado. The arrival of the trailer was preceded by a motorcycle escort and met by the fallen officers' families and personnel from the San Diego County Probation Department. Also attending were members of Blue Knights CA VI, Arturo Romero, Victor Slater, Alan Wheeler, Shari Stegal and Ray Juanengo.

It was impressive enough that the organization had coordinated visits to several law enforcement agencies already, but knowing that the undertaking will encompass over eighty days of travel and motorcycle riding to numerous police agencies to honor the fallen throughout the nation is truly astounding.

The ceremony was touching and offered some ease to the officers' family members. The tribute given to these two officers was a testament to their service and legacy. As for me, I am glad that the Blue Knights were able to attend this ceremony. We continue to show that we take interest in law enforcement events and that we are invested in our community.

It should be noted that one of our own, Genaro "G-man" Guerrero was one of the fallen honored with his photo on the rolling memorial wall. If you'd like to know more about the End of Watch Ride, please use the link below.

<https://endofwatchride.com>

Ray Juanengo
Director
Blue Knights California VI

Blue Knights, CA VI attend Rolling Thunder Memorial Display

June 6, 2022

Photos by Ray Juanengo, Director



Rolling Thunder Memorial

Blue Knight Genero "G-Man" Guerrero

Motorcycle escorts



Looking over Rolling Memorial



BK's Art Romero, Alan Wheeler, Ray Juanengo, Victor Slater



Sr. P.O Brandi Babcock, Michelle Juanengo, P.O. Div. Chief Christine Andrews



Motors forming for escort



BK Shari Stegal, Jennifer Baumann



BKs Art Romero, Alan Wheeler



ROAD WISDOM DESERT RIDING

By Richard Bennett



Thomas Edward Lawrence knew what to wear in the desert, even in 1917. Known as Lawrence of Arabia, Colonel T.E. Lawrence was a liaison between British troops and Arab leaders in the second decade of the 1900's. He spent a lot of time in the desert, mostly on horseback, and occasionally on a motorcycle. He never wore tee shirts or sunscreen.



I don't remember the first time I crossed the desert on a motorcycle, but I remember wearing a tee shirt and sun screen to look cool and be cool. It wasn't until some years later that I learned the best way to dress for riding a motorcycle across the desert. I will share with you some things I have learned about riding through the desert; you can thank me later.

Pick your own route. Do this selfishly; By that I mean look for a route that *you* are comfortable with, not just the route picked by the ride leader. Once you are committed to a route, it is difficult to change your mind. I once charted a route home from a Blue Knights event that avoided Phoenix because I heard the temperatures there were 115 degrees during the time I would be passing through. At the last minute I changed my mind and followed a group leader because some of my friends were going in that group. We went

through Phoenix at the hottest time of the day. The heat took its' toll, and one passenger had to be helped from a motorcycle because of heat stroke. It took immersion in cold water and plenty of hydration to get her back to normal by the next morning. Do what is best for you, and plan to avoid the hottest areas if you can.

Stay Covered. Whether you ride solo or with a group, you should dress to minimize sun exposure. Look at how the Arabs have dealt with the desert for hundreds of years; They stay covered with loose-fitting clothes. Since we ride motorcycles, our clothing can't be too loose, but we can open air passages to let the wind flow through. All skin should be covered with clothing, which means wearing sweaty gloves, long pants, long sleeve shirt, or better yet, a riding jacket. A full-face helmet will protect your head and face, but I recommend sunscreen on your face anyway. You will notice the cooler feel to your face immediately after applying sunscreen. Use other cooling tricks: A wet bandana, wet head scarf or commercially available "cool vest". (These things dry quickly; see "Stop often" below.)



Stay hydrated. You will need to drink water more often, and in greater quantities. I often freeze some bottles of water before I leave, and the water stays cold enough to help cool my core temperature after I am a couple hundred miles down the road. After that, buy and drink cold water at each of your frequent stops. There are also several products on the market that help deliver drinking water. Camelback systems are used by hikers, bicycle riders and yes, motorcyclists. The water supply is carried backpack style, or inside a special jacket pocket, with a drinking tube that is easily accessible to the wearer. You can drink and ride; Just be sure it is water.

Stop often. I know the impulse will be to ride hard and fast to get to the other side of this hot, forsaken desert hell, but make time for a break each hour. You will get to your destination a little later than a bonsai run, but you won't need to be helped from your motorcycle when you get there. On your stops, go inside the air-conditioned buildings. Car drivers don't need to do this, so there won't be a crowd inside the Stop & Gas truck stops. Use the time to drink and visit, then move on after about 15 minutes; Ride, stop, and repeat.

If you lead a group of riders, here are some ideas to help get the flock across the desert.

Watch individual riding ability. Look for wandering or lagging back or any other unusual behavior when there is a group formation in place. Heat and dehydration often cause a lapse in concentration. Use your communication (as the leader, you have communication, don't you?) Ask riders by name to respond to you. Common questions should be along the lines of "How are you holding up?" or "How is your passenger?" or "Are you ready for a stop/drink/rest?" If you don't have communication, make personal contact with each rider at your stops and ask the same questions.

At your (frequent) stops, encourage all riders to drink cold water, even if they are "not thirsty". Caffeine drinks may temporarily perk up a rider, but are diuretics which speed up dehydration once you are back on the road.

Lawrence of Arabia rode a Brough Superior SS100. He was known to ride hard and fast until he died in a motorcycle crash in May of 1935 in the County of Dorset, England. At least he survived crossing the desert all those years in Arabia.

Appreciate each other, and enjoy the ride.



Blue Knights CA VI Chapter History

Remembering a CA VI Founding Father



Lt. Col. Ed Morris, USMC (ret.)

Perhaps the greatest time in Ed Morris' life was his tenure in the U.S. Marine Corps. He proudly wore a "Semper Fi" hat, had a Marine Corps Anchor emblem on his motorcycle and was quick to point out other former Marines at any gathering.

But Ed was best known for his community involvement and love of motorcycles. His wife Zelda said Ed bought his first motorcycle just after moving into their Escondido home. At the time they had two cars, and Ed convinced her to replace one car with a motorcycle. She agreed, on the condition that he takes her with him; and he always did

One day Zelda heard a rumble in the driveway, and discovered Ed on a Honda Goldwing. Later, at a parade in Escondido, Ed saw several riders on Goldwings doing drill movements. Ed learned they were members of Chapter "N" Goldwing Riders, and he joined the group. In 1986, while a member of that group, Ed approached the Marine Corps to suggest their Toys For Tots Christmas program be expanded to include an annual motorcycle event. The Marines agreed, and the event has grown each year.

Hal Crosby was also a member of the GWRRA, and recruited Ed to join him in founding the San Diego Chapter of the Blue Knights in 1987. Ed was a Blue Knight member and the Area

Representative (President) of his GWRRA Chapter in 1989 and 1990. Ed's first leadership role in the Blue Knights was significant. In 1993 Hal Crosby moved to the Blue Knights Secretary position, and Ed replaced him as President. Ed would serve as Blue Knights President on two different occasions and as Director for several years. His terms as President were predicated on unexpected chapter vacancies. Ed's prompt leadership maintained stability and restored morale of the Chapter. He was also the Vice President West of Blue Knights Southwestern Conference, which covers six U. S. states.

Ed's biggest challenge came in 1998 when the San Diego Chapter of the Blue Knights hosted the annual Southwest Conference. With little advanced notice, and the departure of a key person, Ed was faced with producing the event in only five months. Ed recruited talented Blue Knight members, and worked with his friend Hal Crosby to host 300 visiting Blue Knights that year. The event was an outstanding success.

For those of us who rode with Ed, we remember him with Zelda, leading the way on his Goldwing. His CB radio communications were calm and clear, and he could lead us down mysterious roads, only to re-emerge in familiar surroundings. He never seemed to be lost.

Ed rode long distances too. In 1988 he and Zelda

rode to Birmingham, Iowa to visit family. While there, a Christmas parade was being held. Without Zelda's knowledge, Ed sought permission to ride his motorcycle in the parade. It was the only motorcycle in the event. When Zelda was asked to ride with Ed, she bought a stuffed animal to carry and show the Christmas spirit. Ed took the Goldwing through several maneuvers, much to the delight of the crowd. As they pulled to the curb at the end of the parade, a small boy with wide eyes approached the motorcycle. Zelda reached down and handed the delighted child the stuffed animal.

For several years, Ed and Zelda put on an annual "Sweetheart Ride" to celebrate Valentine's Day. Ed would plan the route and advertise the event. Zelda bought heart-shaped candy to give to the riders. Ed and Zelda would then lead the group on a scenic ride in San Diego County that often included little known back roads.

As late as 2002 Ed rode to the Southwest Conference in Colorado with his son, Jerry. While most of us took two days for the ride, Ed did it non-stop. It wasn't until 2003 that Ed quit riding his Goldwing. Health and ear surgery kept him side-lined, but he always planned on riding again.

Ed joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1946, and married Zelda in 1949. He spent 26 years in the Marines and 54 years married to Zelda. They had two sons, Jerry and Thomas. When Zelda

was asked how they endured so long, she replied "Well, Ed was gone a lot during the early years..." That changed when Ed retired in 1973. They bought their home in Escondido and spent the rest of their lives doing things together.

Ed spent his life accomplishing remarkable tasks. As a young Marine, Ed endured and survived the battle of the Chosin Reservoir in Korea in the winter of 1950. He was proud to be a member of the "Frozen Chosin", and Zelda said he co-authored a book about his experience.

Ed was given a medical discharge from the Marines after spending a year recovering from illness caused by Korea. He was determined to return to the Marines, and worked hard to regain his health and pass the rigorous physical. Ed was successful and was reinstated to active duty. Ed went on to serve two tours of duty in Viet Nam before retiring in as Lieutenant Colonel 1973. His service awards included the Silver Star along with numerous commendations and medals.

Ed lived a long and prosperous life. He served his country valiantly; he was a leader and organizer, inspiring others to do their best. He had credibility and charisma, causing people to seek him out for advice. In the end, Ed left this world peacefully, sitting next to the woman he loved for 55 years. He is now in Blue Knights Heaven I, and is missed by all who knew him.

Submit your Blue Knight articles to the Knightly News

The Knightly News is published monthly by Blue Knights California VI. All members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles deemed appropriate include but are not limited to: articles regarding motorcycle oriented stories, personal travel, police functions or informational / technical topics.

As a reminder, any submissions of re-printed articles must clearly give credit to the original author. Copyrighted material must have permission of the author to be eligible. This can be remedied by writing up an outline of the article and by referencing the original author.

Articles that are deemed inappropriate for publication include and are not limited to: articles regarding controversial, personal choices, religious positions or advocacy for questionable action. Questions about material that does not fall clearly within the guidelines will be brought to the attention of the Chapter President by the Editor, for a decision of appropriateness. If necessary, the Board may review the article and make a decision to publish or not to publish.

**Submit articles to Editor: electrotalk2610@outlook.com
DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES
SUNDAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Blue Knights, California VI

Christmas Party & Officer Installment

Saturday, December 3, 2022

Embassy Suites, 4550 La Jolla Village Dr., San Diego



It's official! Our Chapter has secured an outstanding Christmas Party venue. Mark your calendars now for the event. The Embassy Suites will host our members, and will provide over-night accommodations for those who wish to stay.

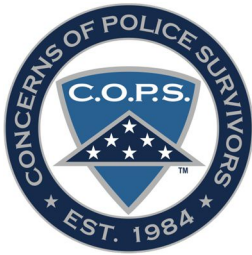
The Embassy Suites is easily accessed by highway 805 or I-5. On-site parking is available.

- This year we will elect Board of Director positions, and do an installment of Officers ceremony.
- We will also present recognition for member achievement in 2022.
- There will be dinner and libation with members and families from our Chapter.
- This is a great opportunity to dress up a little, and celebrate the holiday season.
- A gift exchange is planned for those who wish to participate.

This is the biggest event of the year for our chapter. The Chapter will underwrite a portion of your dinner cost. Details to follow.

Vice President Ken Smith, Michelle Juanengo and Janice Bennett worked hard to make this the best event possible. We think you will agree.

The members of Blue Knights California VI - San Diego, are honored to support the following charities. Donations are encouraged.



<https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/>



<https://nextstepservicedogs.org/>



<https://thewishesgrantedfoundation.com/>



FINAL HONOR
*Horse-Drawn Funeral Carriage
At Miramar National Cemetery*

<https://www.finalhonor.net/>

UPCOMING RIDES



July 9, 2022

1000 hours

BK CA VI

After-meeting Ride

Antique Tractor / Steam Engines

Vista, CA

July 2, 2022

0900 hours

Vulcan Riders M.C.

After-meeting Ride

Idyllwild, CA

Breakfast @ Harry's Sport Bar, Fallbrook

Ride to follow

November 18, 2022

6th Annual November Knights

Glendale, Arizona

Aloft Glendale at Westgate Hotel

602-883-3500 for reservations

Mention "BLUE KNIGHTS" for discount price