

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © California VI



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DECEMBER 2023



Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip. (Will Rogers)

**MEMBERSHIP
MEETING DATE**
January 13, 2024

Featured in
this edition



**Poker Chip drawing was held. Vic Slater's name was drawn.
Since Vic was not present he did not win the \$10.**

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 \$15.



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 one of the largest chapters 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 Ray Juanengo by email at: BlueKnightsCAVI.VP@gmail.com



CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



PRESIDENT

Ken Smith

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ray Juanengo

SECRETARY

Mike Wagner

TREASURER

Chuck Belletti

DIRECTORS

Richard Bennett

Bill Crow

Mike Harrison

MORALE & WELFARE

Michelle Juanengo

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

John Lopotosky

WEBMASTER

Stephen Roche

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard Bennett

RIDE COORDINATOR

Marcus Sanchez

SAFETY OFFICER

Mike Manen

QUARTERMASTER

Arturo Romero

GREETER

Tina Lopotosky

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

Ken Smith President

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



Well BK CAVI, we did it! We made it through another year, and what a year it's been. Most recently we had our annual holiday party and judging by all the positive comments I received, and the happy looks on folks' faces, I'd say it was a great success. The food was outstanding, the room was wonderful and the gift exchange was a blast. We even had a few fun rounds of the left, right, center game and we closed the room down with fun.

I had the honor of swearing in our two latest members, **Alan Cutsinger** and **Michael Belluso**. Michael won the "best dressed" at the party award by a mile! Welcome them and their wonderful wives to our family.



Leading up to the end of the year we had a couple of health scares with a couple of our members and thank goodness the prayers were answered, because both are home. THANK YOU for all your love and good thoughts.

I know 2024 has the potential to be a great year for us, and with the continued addition of new and motivated members, and our existing members stepping it up when asked, our chapter can only move forward. Our little group has a lot to be thankful for and I am so glad to see everyone enjoying it, and each other. SO proud to be your representative for BK CAVI wherever I travel. I value your trust, and promise to keep working hard to protect it.

As we close out the year, and as many of you will gather with friends and family, I ask that you hold them tight, let them know how you feel all year long, and cherish each moment because they only come once.

From me and my lovely bride (and #1 supporter!), we send many prayers and blessings, to you and yours. Have a Merry Christmas, and a joyous New Years!

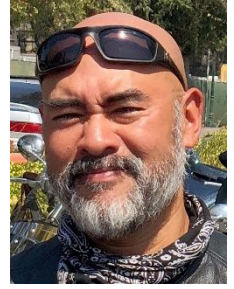
RWP

Ken



VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ray Juanengo, Vice President



Blue Knights ride with the San Diego Indian Motorcycle Riders Group

On 12/2/23, the Indian Motorcycle Riders Group (IMRG), out of the San Diego Indian motorcycle dealership, hosted a ride from the dealership to Double Peak Park in San Marcos. Members of Blue Knights CA VI, Mike Wagner and I met and rode down to the dealership from the north county area of San Diego to participate.

If you are looking for a good group of people to ride with, you'd be hard pressed to find better than the crew that coordinated the ride we attended. The IMRG president, Dave Timmons gave a briefing on the route and relayed to the riders the different hand signals that would be used during the ride. Further, Tim Shepherd, the group's VP gave us a quick safety brief. Due the large group of motorcycles participating (32 motorcycles!) the IMRG also had a ride leader riding mid formation for when the group was split between traffic lights and other vehicles on the road.



The ride itself encompassed 110 miles of scenic riding with our halfway point at Double Peak Park. There, we stretched out, took obligatory photos and traded small talk about motorcycles.

After, we rode out to the Valley Center area for more scenic riding and ended up at STP Bar and Grill in Clairemont Mesa for lunch.

Mike and I met some great people that share our love of the two wheeled lifestyle. We broke bread with them and even better, we were actively engaging with fellow riders while also representing the Blue Knights and Riding with Pride while wearing our colors.

If you get the opportunity, I'd encourage you to ride with this great group of riders. They meet the first Saturday of each month at the San Diego Indian dealership and go riding. All makes of motorcycles are welcome to join them.

As always, take care, be safe and Ride with Pride.





SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Mike Wagner, Secretary



**December 9, 2023
MINUTES**

Call to Order: Chapter President Ken Smith at 1920 Hours

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jorge Ortiz

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

Introductions/Guests:

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 Ken Smith

1. Mentioned about the medical condition of John Lopotosky. Keep him in our thoughts and prayers. A video is going to be sent to John and Tina.
2. Swore in two new members: Alan Cutsinger and Michael Belluso

Vice President Ray Juanengo

1. Wanted to thank Alan for his trust in him and his new position as Vice President.

Alan Wheeler Past Vice President

1. Mentioned he and Betsy moved to Arizona.
2. Talked about the change in leadership and Ray's new position as Vice President.

Treasurer Chuck Belletti

1. The fiscal status of CA VI given to the board members.

Secretary Mike Wagner

1. Updated chapter roster for BK VI
2. Chapter roster sent to board members

Past President John Lopotosky

1. (excused)

Chapter Directors:

Richard Bennett - Newsletter Editor

Mike Harrison

Bill Crow

1. Wanted to wish all club members a Merry Christmas

Staff:

Safety Officer– Mike Manen

1. Mentioned to everyone while riding a motorcycle be responsible and use good judgement.

Webmaster – Stephen Roche

Arturo Romero - (Quarter Master)

Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator and Chairperson of the Christmas Party)

1. Thanked everyone for attending the Christmas Party and hoped everyone enjoyed the buffet.

Jorge Ortiz – SWC International Rep

1. Mentioned there were 14 conferences within the Blue Knight Motorcycle Club and the SWC was the smallest.
2. Need to recruit more members because of older members with over 25 years of service retiring.
3. Continue meeting and establishing new friends within the Blue Knight family.

Good of the order:

1. Glen Carpenter, prior President of Blue Knight CA VI and currently the Secretary of BK NV 1 Encouraged all members to log onto international website and update all of their personal information.

Poker Chip Drawing: Rick Slater was not present and the Poker Chip Drawing increased to \$15.00

50 – 25/25 Winners: 2 winners for \$80.00 each. Jack Knish was the first winner and donated the \$80.00 back to the club. Alan Cutsinger was the second winner.

Motion to Adjourn by:

Seconded by:

Meeting Adjourned at: PM

Next Meeting: January 13, 2024



SAFETY MESSAGE

Mike Manen, Safety Officer



Standardized thinking

Standards, who doesn't like them? I know I do. A perfect example is the Blue Knight Safety Standards.

In November I had the opportunity to attend the annual November Knights in Glendale, AZ. It was put on by BK AZ VI; a lot of fun to say the least. Met a lot of Blue Knights from all the over the country. There were even a few from Canada.

But I digress: Safety. The same standards our chapter uses for group rides were the same in Arizona. Everyone was familiar with how to ride per Blue Knight Standards. As a result, a lot of strangers went on a huge group ride with no incidents, and the ride was in the rain with no issues.

All in all, it was a great weekend, I was able to ride back with BK CA X; again, no issues. Standards-you got to love them.

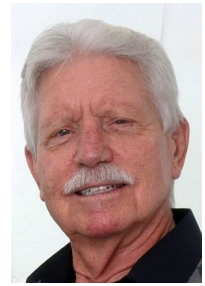


Safely in Glendale with two officers and BK AZ VI President Chet Parker



Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge.
Noah Webster



Riding in Traffic

I haven't been everywhere, but it is on my list. (Susan Sontag)

Traffic was heavy on northbound highway 215, and I was riding two-up on my way to a Blue Knights meeting. The two lanes were filled with cars, trucks and buses, each one jockeying for position. There were some aggressive drivers and a few on their way home to Sun City. The mix and pace was typical of a week end drive in sunny California. I found myself thinking several moves ahead as I planned to work my way past lumbering trucks, slow cars and distracted SUV drivers. I have done this so often that I don't think about it; but this is not unlike a game of chess. Using strategy in heavy traffic is a key to safety.



When I was first learning to ride a motorcycle, I concentrated on working the controls and gaining coordination with my moves. I looked at my hands and feet a lot, and I counted the gears so I would know where neutral was when I stopped. My mind was more focused on the machine than the surrounding traffic. Sure, I was aware of other vehicles, but that was secondary to working the controls.

As my motorcycle experience progressed, I became more aware of my surroundings and spent less time thinking about operating the machinery. Riding the same motorcycle day after day led to a familiarity that made riding a natural act. It is true even today, where my motorcycle seems like an old friend when we get together for a ride.

My first real lesson in multi-tasking on a motorcycle was my Police training in 1968. I was taught how to ride a full-size Harley Davidson police motorcycle, look for traffic violators, and then operate the radio, emergency lights and siren all at the same time. No time for looking at my hands and feet, either.

Shortly after being assigned to the Motor Squad, I chased a Honda 305 Scrambler rider through heavy summer traffic in Pacific Beach. It was a scary time for me; dodging traffic, staying close to the Honda rider and working

the lights and mechanical siren the whole time. There were many close calls for him and me before he dumped his motorcycle in an alley and I was able to make the arrest. Surviving that chase was a lesson that made me a safer rider.

Over the years I have reviewed or investigated motorcycle collisions and learned many were caused by rider error. The sad truth is that many of them could have been prevented if the rider was savvier and had planned ahead for hazards that were encountered.

Proficient riders have mastered the mechanics of the motorcycle and now spend most of their time dealing with surrounding traffic. Safely navigating through traffic requires an awareness of immediate hazards, and formulating plans for maneuvering in a herd of semi-conscious car drivers. Picture the “worst case scenario” and plan for your survival. Much like a game of chess, a savvy rider plans vehicle passes, lane changes, speed adjustments and timing of all these things well in advance.



Also, riding with a group magnifies the importance of riding strategy. If you are the leader, you must think of your fellow riders as the tail of a long snake you will be leading through traffic. Strategic planning and timing are critical to the safety of your group. Our Blue Knight chapter covers this in our Procedures Manual.

Riding in traffic is something that is not often discussed, but is really a key component of motorcycle safety. Older, “experienced” riders have survived and learned to anticipate hazards. Riding in heavy traffic brings the epiphany that car drivers are unpredictable, requiring a strategy for reducing risk.

If you are a chess player, you know what I mean.

Appreciate each other, and ride safely.

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 WEEK AFTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Brotherhood runs strong!

By Ken Smith, President CA VI



I had the pleasure of meeting a brother Blue Knight from SC VIII recently.

Dave Williams is a retired LEO from Maryland and currently working for DoD. He was in San Diego for business for a week and reached out to us via our website. Fortunately, I was able to carve out an evening and meet up at BJ's Brewhouse in Escondido and represent BK CAVI.

We shared a meal and some drinks, some great stories, and some challenge coins and other great items. This is at the core of what Blue Knights is about, the worldwide brotherhood.

I wholly encourage all of you who travel to reach out to the local BK Chapter in the area, and see if you can meet a member or two. Always a good time, always a good thing.

There are no strangers in Blue Knights, only brothers and sisters you haven't met yet! Stay safe and as always RWP!

2023 CA VI Blue Knight Christmas Party

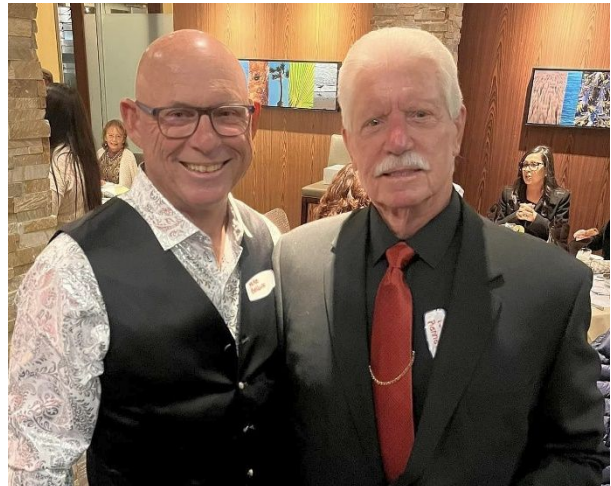
Embassy Suites, La Jolla California



Former VP Alan Wheeler addresses the crowd



Happiest table in the room



New member Michael Belluso with Richard Bennett



Michelle Juanengo with the Brashers



President's table

Photos by Ray Juanengo



BK Twins, Glenn Carpenter and Ray Juanengo



Safety Officer Mike Manen and wife Janet



Patti Smith, Mike Manen, President Ken Smith, Christmas Party coordinator Michelle Juanengo

President Smith doing Santa duties



Newsletter Highlights

2023

There's only one thing more precious than our time, and that's who we spend it on." —Leo Christopher



What a great year we had! So many events, and so much participation by our members.

As the Newsletter Editor, I had the pleasure to memorialize our events in the Knightly News. Listed here are some highlights of events for 2023. For full details, go to our website <https://bk-cavi.org> and click on "Newsletters".

February 2023

John Lopotosky was awarded the Hammer of Thor for his leadership as CA VI President.

Alan Wheeler was recognized as CA VI Blue Knight of the Year.

Betsy Wheeler was recognized as CA VI Lady Knight of the Year.

Isaac Hill was recognized as a new member.

A recap of the Winter Gathering at Lake Havasu by Vice President **Alan Wheeler**.



President Ken Smith, John Lopotosky, Jorge Ortiz

March 2023

A recap of California 10 Poker Run in El Centro by Vice President **Alan Wheeler**. Gun raffle ended and replaced by cash and non-firearm prizes.

April 2023

First Knightly News Spotlight article featured **Michael Wagner**

May 2023

Southwest Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Recaps of SWC with photos.



Southwest Conference Board of Directors

June 2023

Knightly News Spotlight article featured President **Ken Smith**.

Director **Ray Juanengo** attended and wrote about attending the 21st Annual May Ride.

July 2023

Knighly News Spotlight article featured **Chris Hoyer**.

August 2023

Grant Frey Memorial Ride and Poker Run was held. Recap of the Memorial Ride by **Alan Wheeler**.

Story of riding Route 66 by **Alan and Betsy Wheeler**.



Riders at the Grant Frey Memorial Ride and Poker Run

October 2023

BK CA VI Christmas Party reservation forms included.

Vice President **Alan Wheeler** attended and wrote about the BK CA IV Sam Walls Annual Ride.



Riders at the BK CA IV Sam Walls Annual Ride

November 2023

Ray Juanengo becomes BK CA VI Vice President.

We visited the Veterans Home in Chula Vista. Recap and story by **Ray Juanengo**.

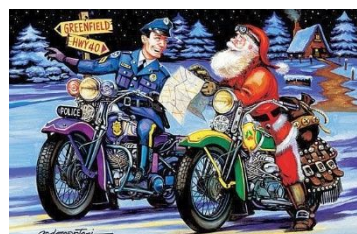


Ken Smith with Veterans

December 2023

Vice President **Ray Juanengo** rode with SD Indian Motorcycle Group, and wrote an article.

Christmas Party held at Embassy Suites; Coordinated by **Michelle Juanengo**.



UPCOMING RIDES



WINTER GATHERING Feb. 2 – 4, 2024

Lake Havasu, Arizona

Details: www.bk-swc.org

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE June 16-20, 2024

Hosted by Colorado VI

The Academy Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO.

Reservations: <http://www.theacademyhotel.com/>

For details visit www.bk-swc.org



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



<https://thewishesgrantedfoundation.com/>



<https://nextstepservicedogs.org/>



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At Miramar National Cemetery*

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