THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights

California VI





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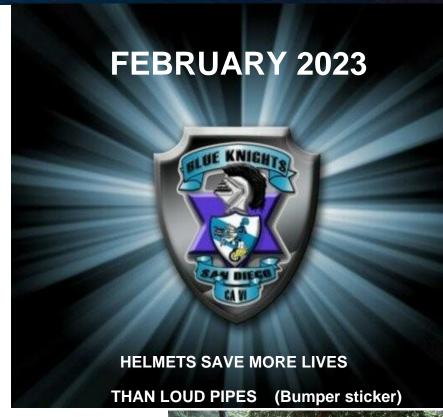
2023 SWC WINTER GATHERING

FOR SALE ITEMS

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UPCOMING RIDES

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE March 11, 2023



Featured in this edition







Poker Chip drawing was held. Bill Key's name was drawn. Since Bill was not present he did not win the \$30.

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 \$35.



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 Alan Wheeler by email at: vice_president@bk-cavi.org



CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



PRESIDENT

Ken Smith

VICE-PRESIDENT

Alan Wheeler

SECRETARY

Shari Stegall

TREASURER

Chuck Belletti

DIRECTORS

Richard Bennett

Mike Harrison

Ray Juanengo

MORALE & WELFARE

Michelle Juanengo

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

John Lopotosky

WEBMASTER

Stephen Roche

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard Bennett

RIDE COORDINATOR

Marcus Sanchez

SAFETY OFFICER

Richard Bennett

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 Compass Headings



Greetings my fellow Blue Knights,

I hope this new month finds you all well and warming up with the weather! Since taking over as your new President, I've been asked by several people to either write or talk about "my vision" for the Chapter. At our most recent Board of Directors and General Membership Meetings, I told everyone I am most focused on keeping the Chapter running in the current manner which seems to be working for most. I am considering running an online type of survey to all the members to find out what everyone likes about the Chapter, and what they'd like to improve upon.

Our compass heading has always been true, and that is not going to change. I want every member to have the Blue Knights experience they are accustomed to, and that they have rightfully earned. This is OUR Chapter, and WE are going to make it work the way WE want. I want to make sure folks know that occasionally we might tweak things to fit our schedule and that's OK.

As for me, I definitely support Vice President Alan Wheeler's efforts to get BK CAVI on the map again with an annual event of some kind, be it a benefit ride or poker run. I think our Chapter does a lot for this community, and I want the community to know about! I would also like to see our Chapter in a possible position to host a Southwest Conference in the future.

San Diego is probably one of THE best places in the country to hold a motorcycle conference. The two big hurdles for us have been; shrinking volunteers to run a Conference, and the biggest hurdle, COST. Blue Knights seem to be very conscientious about money and the cost of hotels in SD are far higher than other cities who have been hosting. I believe our Chapter now has enough boots on the ground to run a Conference, and now all we need is to find a venue at a price point that doesn't keep people from coming. As an incentive, I'd like to say the SWC is a BIG money maker for the host Chapter. With our ability to have an annual gun raffle (the mainstay of our income) being stifled, we need to look at other ways to generate income. Hosting a SWC is just one. I am not saying we will be bidding on hosting in the next year or two, but within that time I wouldn't mind us being ready to do so.

Those are just some of my musings, I am chock full of them and will continue to bore you to tears with them here in the Newsletter. There's an old joke about a kind of person who cannot help themselves even with two hands and a compass (apparently it was directed at me on occasion lol).

I'm happy to say that with our hard-working Board members, and our membership who always has that "can do" attitude, our compass heading is going to lead us to great things. Stay safe and RWP Blue Knights!

BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI General Membership Meeting



February 11, 2023 MINUTES

Call to Order: Chapter President Ken Smith at 0902 Hours

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for Members of Heaven I Recognition of Fallen Chapter Members JIM KERN – Former Quartermaster

Introductions/Guests: Mary Pittman, Friend of Blue Knights

Dave Devore, former BK CAVI member now member of Tennessee 4 Tom St Martin, retired Fire Deputy Chief, member SDFD Fire Hogs Dave Delong, guest of Mike Harrison, retired SD Sheriff prospective member

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. Putting in order for name tags let Ken know if you want one
- 2. Recap Winter Gathering
- 3. Chapter Direction Survey Monkey
- 4. SWC Reminder
- 5. Raffle Tix options being worked on by Board
- 6. Member Spotlight for Newsletter
- 7. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER ISSAC HILL
- 8. Awarded John Lopotosky a Thank You memento for taking care of us as President (see newsletter for pics of HAMMER)

Vice President Alan Wheeler

- 1. 2023 Christmas Party still hunting for venues, trying to reduce costs
 - a. Some discussion held, a couple of new suggestions offered
- 2. Creation of an Annual Event/Ride trying to pick date without conflicts
- 3. Vacant Ride Coordinator Position FILLED by Marcus Sanchez
 - Also, 2 vacancies for ride leaders explanation/discussion on duties
 - Read Chapter Ride Protocols
- 4. AZ X has new date for their poker run- March 18th

BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI General Membership Meeting

Vice President Alan Wheeler (continued)

- 5. New website is slick, all members should check it out and promote it
- **6.** Jim Kern passed away Jan 17th, survived by wife Lori his 2005 FJR Yamaha is for sale, contact Alan

Treasurer Chuck Belletti

1. Financial Update was given to the membership

Secretary Shari Stegall

1. Absent

Chapter Directors:

Immediate Past President John Lopotosky

- 1. 2023 calendar dates
 - Need to shift some meeting dates due to [near] holiday conflicts
 - Possibly April 15th due to Easter and Nov for Veterans Day
- 2. BK election year
 - Members need to make sure addresses are correct due to international elections

Director Ray Juanengo

1. Excused, gave his time for Mary Pittman to speak

Director Richard Bennett (Safety Officer)

- 1. Newsletter
 - Get out as early as possible.
 - This is your newsletter- want to hear stories from you; anything motorcycle oriented would be great
 - Discussed difference between Membership vs Recruitment
 - Introduced sample business cards useful for recruitment and directing people to our website
 - Discussed the new Sales Section in our newsletter

Director Mike Harrison

- 1. Introduced guest Dave Delong
- 2. Said the Am Legion Post facility he belongs to agreed to let us use it for a stop on our poker run, not beginning or end.

Staff:

Arturo Romero (Quarter Master)

1. Hats ready to order

Stephen Roche (Webmaster)

1. Excused

BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI General Membership Meeting

Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator)

1. Absent

Ride Coordinator Marcus Sanchez

1. Today's ride will be a Coastal Run to Carlsbad

Director Emeritus Bill Craw

1. Next weekend is Veteran's Ride - Vietnam Vets Chapter #472, info on website

Good of the order:

- Mary Pittman spoke to chapter for 10 minutes about Run to the Wall, different segments, many ways to participate, low cost. HUGE benefits/satisfaction to riding
 - i. Also is willing to assist with our Poker Run coordination
 - ii. Contact for Run for the Wall is Facebook.com/RFTW/Sandbox or Facebook.com/RFTW /Midway
 - iii. Also reminded everyone of Fire Hogs ride on Friday March 10, flyer going up on website
- 2. Dave Devore suggested Elks Lodge Escondido for Xmas party, has direct contact, can get a better price than they already quoted Alan
- 3. Bill Moss Suggested American Legion Post for Xmas Party
 - iv. Also mentioned Law Enforcement March 11 event with the Emerald Society

Poker Chip Drawing: Bill Keys, not present, pot going to \$35

1. Poker chips for members who live out of state are being taken out of drawing bag to allow local members who are at meetings a better chance of winning

50 - 25/25 Winners: done

Raffle Prizes: done

Motion to Adjourn by: Jorge Seconded by: Mike Wagner

Meeting Adjourned at: 1000 Hours

Next Meeting:

0900 Hours – Broken Yolk March 11, 2023



NOTEWORTHY KNIGHTS

California VI

Photos by Vic Slater





President Ken Smith, John Lopotosky, Jorge Ortiz, BK SWC Int. Rep



VP Alan Wheeler, Past President John Lopotosky



Betsy Wheeler, Past President John Lopotosky



Treasurer Chuck Belletti, Alan Wheeler, Isaac Hill, Jorge Ortiz

At our February 2023 General Membership meeting, four Blue Knights were recognized by our Chapter. In attendance was Southwest Conference Blue Knight International Representative Jorge Ortiz.

Top left: Past President John Lopotosky receives a "Hammer of Thor" trophy for his leadership as CA VI president.

Top right: Vice President Alan Wheeler receiving his plaque for CA VI Blue Knight of the Year 2022.

Bottom left: Betsy Wheeler receiving her plaque for CA VI Lady Knight of the Year 2022.

Bottom right: New member Isaac Hill receiving his Blue Knight Membership Certificate 2022.



SAFETY MESSAGE

Talk to Me

The Evolution of Communication

By Richard Bennett



I was renewing my driver license, and taking the written supplemental for motorcycle operator, or "M" designation. Having been a long-time motorcycle rider, I was expecting to ace the written exam. I tried to not be smug when I submitted my completed test papers to the official at the DMV.

Imagine my surprise when I missed one question; the only question marked "wrong". The question was this: "When riding in a group, who controls the group?" There were four multiple answers to choose from, including "The lead rider" and "The rider from the back".

Having participated in group riding from Police motorcycle squads to leading dozens of civilian riders, I chose "The lead rider". Keep in mind that the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, MSF, teaches this, and I have never seen anything to the contrary, I was flummoxed when the "correct" DMV answer was "From the back".

My appeal to the DMV employee was fruitless. The test "key" was marked "from the back", so that was the correct answer. No discussion, and no wiggle room.

So, I struggled to understand how that could be the correct answer, when the riders from the back often could not even see the leader. My suspicion is that the question-writer assumed there is always radio contact with the leader.

Back in the day, group ride leaders used hand signals. Then Citizen Band radios became popular. Several motorcycle manufacturers even included CB radios as an option from the dealer. After market CBs were popular additions too. There were also 49mhz personal radios that attached to the rider's helmet, if the rider were to wear a helmet. So, to be fair, if the group was within range, the rear riders *could* advise the lead rider and to some extent "control from behind".

Today's reality is that motorcycle groups have little, if any, communication with the front and rear riders. Consider this: there are two different styles of group riding. One is staggered formation with a leader, the other is follow-and-post with the leader often separated from the main group. The practice is for the rider ahead of you to stop and "post" any corner or turn until you come into sight, and then continue on.

The follow-and-post method is common in Europe, where radio communication is rarely used. Hand and foot signals are used by all groups to point out hazards to other riders.

What about the traditional MSF group riding? That is where we are expected to rely on hand signals and CBs to facilitate unity and safety. With CBs popularity rapidly diminishing, what is on the horizon?

CBs are very versatile. There are 40 channels to choose from, and you can monitor an "emergency" channel as well as truckers who are a good source of highway information. Today's motorcycle manufacturers rarely offer CBs as an option on new bikes. J&M Radios Company still make CBs for Honda and Harley Davidson, but no other brands are offered.

Citizen Band radios offer simplicity and versatility, but they are limited to radio contact between CBs, and nothing more. Other forms of communicators offer more, and that is their appeal. Consider today's electronic communications.

The most prevalent motorcycle communicators are helmet-mounted Bluetooth units. These units attach to the outside of a helmet, and include a microphone with helmet-mounted speakers. The units quickly detach for recharging the

battery, which has a life of about 12 hours between charges. While there are about a dozen brands available, the two most popular are Sena and Cardo.

Here is what they can do: Bluetooth connection to your cell phone, with all the features it has. Listen to music, make and receive telephone calls, listen to turn-by-turn GPS directions, talk to passengers and talk to numerous other riders. All without cords connecting you to your motorcycle.

If you already have a CB on your motorcycle, it will not interfere with that. If you don't have a CB, but would like to add one, you can Bluetooth connect a portable unit to your helmet communicator. More on that later.







Sena mounted on helmet

Helmet mounted units are constantly evolving. New features, more simplicity and compatibility with other products make buying the most recent model appealing. Some older models have limited connectivity with other versions.

When you shop for your helmet mounted communicator, be sure it can connect to the "Open Mesh" system. This is the common frequency that will allow you to talk with dozens of other riders. Cardo and Sena claim to be compatible on the open Mesh frequency.

My personal communicator is the Sena 30k. I also have a Bluetooth Sena connector that allows me to use my Sena to operate a portable CB radio, mounted on the fairing with Velcro. The portable CB radio is removeable when not needed.



Fairing without CB radio



Fairing with CB Radio and Bluetooth connector

Using a modern Bluetooth helmet communicator gives you many more ways to stay in touch. If you add a CB radio, all of this is cordless, meaning you are not tethered to your ride. The best of both worlds.

Maybe you can even be at the back of your group, and be in control.



Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge. (Noah Webster)



Looking for Adventure

And Whatever Comes My Way

OK, you have developed a confidence level riding your motorcycle; Now, are you ready for adventure?

I spent last year highlighting various riding conditions and how to cope with them in my Road Wisdom articles. This year I would like encourage you to use those lessons and expand your horizons.

By now you have become comfortable doing day-rides and overnighters. You may have even ridden with a group to a Southwest Conference. Riding with friends and sharing adventures makes great motorcycling memories.

Here are some of my favorite motorcycle adventures. If you are considering trying them, I recommend starting with:

MOTORCYCLE CAMPING

By "camping", I don't mean riding from motel to motel. I mean the sitting-around-the-campfire kind. Maybe with a cigar. And an adult beverage. Here are some details to get you started.

You will enjoy the experience more if you share it with friends, but you can also do it solo. At minimum you will need a tent, ground cover for the tent, sleeping bag, mattress and chair. Firewood, cigars and adult beverages complete the list.



May through September are the best travelling and camping months. Many motorcycling events happen during those dates, with tent camping available. You can attend the event and spend nights around the campfire. I will be publishing an article about motorcycle camping in coming issues. Watch for it.



TOURING EUROPE

This may sound scary if you haven't done it, but I will demystify it for you. It is so simple a Lieutenant could do it; I am proof. (One hint: Practice your riding on curves. See Road Wisdom, August 2022)

There are touring companies that specialize in motorcycle touring of western Europe, Eastern Europe and the Alps. Of course, you could do it on your own if you have the confidence. Many of my friends have done that.

These companies rent motorcycles of various brands and models. Some provide Harleys, some don't. Their websites will disclose the bikes and rental prices.

Motorcycling touring companies take most of the worry out of foreign travel. They will meet you at the airport, and transport you to the hotel at the starting point, where you will meet other travelers like yourself. The daily riding routes and hotels at the end of the day will be published in advance. You will have the choice to ride by yourself or follow a guide. The guides don't get lost, and can speak the local language, so consider that. I will be publishing an article about touring the Alps in coming issues. Watch for that too.

TOURING NEW ZEALAND

This is a lot like touring Europe, only you get to ride on the wrong side of the road the whole time. Also, since they are below the equator, the touring months are reversed. Best months to tour are September to May.

No worries, Mate. New Zealanders speak English, and there are only two islands on the tour. Striking out on your own is easier than touring Europe, but still give the guides consideration.



Accommodations, meals and routes are done in the same way as other motorcycle touring companies do in Europe, so Bob's your Uncle.

I have toured Western and Eastern Europe as well as both islands of New Zealand. My wife went with me as a passenger on the motorcycles and we had a wonderful time. The beauty of the Alps and the lifestyle of New Zealanders are unforgettable. We met fascinating people in our riding groups, and spent time exploring towns and cities with them during the tours.

Motorcycle camping, Europe and New Zealand tours are wonderful ways to enjoy the motorcycling lifestyle. You are a motorcyclist, so why not make the most of it?

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: <u>electrotalk2610@outlook.com</u>

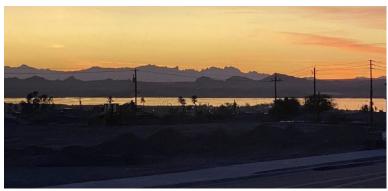
<u>DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES</u>

SUNDAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2023 SWC Winter Gathering in Lake Havasu City February 3-5

Story and photos by Alan Wheeler, Vice President







Active and retired Blue Knight members applauded this new gathering location of Lake Havasu City, AZ. A first ever, and by all accounts, this gathering was a roaring success. The Hampton Inn was a welcome refuge from the sometimes-sketchy hotels of Palm Springs.

With more than 35 members registering and 60 plus total people in attendance, this was one of the largest Winter Gathers to date. Chapters in attendance: Arizona II, VI, and X. California VI, X, and XVII. New Mexico I and VI. Nevada I. Texas III (forgive me if I failed to include your attending Chapter).

While some drove their cages, many rode due to the glorious Winter weather in LHC and surrounding areas. The daily temperatures ranged from 45 to 74 degrees. Not bad for a Winter get-a-way! One rider, our very own SWC Vice Chair East, Larry Kunard, road 620 miles to attend (one-way folks).

The one scheduled ride was to Oatman AZ, a former gold rush boomtown of 1915-1917. Located in Mohave County, this town is now primarily known for its Wild West feel, staged shootouts and semi-domesticated, free-ranging burros. Lunch was had at the old Oatman Hotel Restaurant & Saloon. An eclectic place with great Americana fare and legal US dollar bill currency, used as wall paper.

Cigars, spirits and mutual camaraderie filled each of the two nights. Havasu Lake with her rugged mountains, offered epic picturesque sunsets not to be missed. And no visit would be complete without the obligatory visit to the London Bridge, a true tourist destination with historical significance. RWP Knights.



Our President (on the right)



Southwest Conference members (Photo by Chet Parker)



Bonding of Brothers



Main street Oatman, Arizona



Visiting former BK CA VI Member Soto family



FOR SALE

Treasures and Bargains From our Members



This is a new feature of the Knightly News. Personal ads placed here will be visible via our webpage posting. The postings are free to BK CA VI members.

YOUR AD HERE:

Ads submitted to the "For Sale" page of the Knightly News are intended for the exclusive use of Blue Knights California 6 members.

Guidelines for submitting Ads to the For Sale page of the Knightly News.

- 1. Name the item with a brief description. (Men's riding jacket, size XL)
- 2. State the price. (\$75 or best offer)
- 3. Give details. (Deerskin leather with insulated collar. Like new)
- 4. Provide at least one photo, but no more than three.
- 5. List contact information. (Email, text or telephone)
- 6. State any restrictions. (No trades, text only, etc.)

Instructions:

Compose an email to <u>electrotalk2610@outlook.com</u> Give description of item(s) as listed above. Attach photo(s) to the email. JPG photos are preferred.

Literary license:

Ads may be edited for clarity and space.

Photos may be cropped or enhanced for best use of space.

Questionable ads will be referred to the Board of Directors for decision.

Ads will run for three months, or less if sold. Ad renewal required after three months.

LE MC

FOR SALE

Treasures and Bargains From our Members



2005 Yamaha FJR 1300 — \$4600 obo







This sport tour bike has low milage and was owned by a former BK. Garaged since 2018—with a battery tender attached. Very good condition and since its recent tune-up, is running tip-top. Recent maintenance included all major fluids exchanged—including the gasoline, all filters, four new spark plugs, rebuilt fuel pump. Only item which is inoperable, is the adjustable height windshield. Not registered since 2018. May need a title replacement. Tires are only fair condition. Bike located in Alpine, CA.

Milage: 28,200

VIN: JYARP07Y85A000565

Call 619-890-7273 for more info.

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/



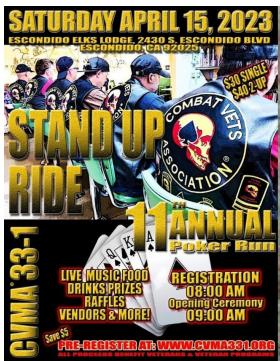
https://thewishesgrantedfoundation.com/



https://www.finalhonor.net/

UPCOMING RIDES









Not the actual route

<-Scan for HD Map

BLUE KNIGHTS ARIZONA X



CHARITY POKER RUN Saturday March 18, 2023

Best hand: \$200.00 worst hand: \$50.00 Registration: 0900 -1000 hours at:



2550 E. Gila ridge rd. Yuma, AZ (928)782-1931

Single rider: \$30.00 Passenger: \$10.00 (meal ticket included with every registration) Great Food, raffles and amazing ride with great people

Proceeds go TOWARDS THE Yuma fallen officers memorial

Blue Knights Southwest Conference

Las Vegas, Nevada Hosted by Nevada I

May 7 - 11, 2023 Tuscany Inn and Suites 255 East Flamingo Rd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 (877) 887-2261

Room rates: \$69 + tax Info: bknv1.vegas