THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER Blue Knights © California VI

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APRIL 2023

Don't wait. The time will never be just right. Mark Twain

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE May 13, 2023







Poker Chip drawing was held. Bill Craw's name was drawn. Since Bill was present he won 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 \$5.



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®



VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Alan Wheeler, Vice-President

Blue Knights Arizona X, Charity Poker Run March 18, 2023



Where do you go when the atmospheric river continues to douse copious amounts of rain on the Southland? Yuma of course! The Blue Knights of Arizona X hosted a fantastic charity poker run in support of the Yuma fallen Officers memorial—a worthy charity indeed.

It was the honor of California VI to support our sister chapter in their poker run and charity event. Beautiful local mountains and lush farmland surrounded this ride route. The starting & end point: Bobby's Territorial Harley-Davidson dealership lent an air of optimistic desire for a legendary run. And, a glorious Yuma Spring Day, did not disappoint. Ride route and mid 70's temperatures conspired to produce a magical day.

San Diego, CA VI, lent considerable support with five members and four wives. Marcus won one of the coveted raffle prizes consisting of cigars, cutters, lighters and bottles of whiskey (a Man's delight). He later shared his spoils of war, with his compadres at a cigar bar named "Sun of a Gun cigar and tobacco hub". And least I forget, Lorena Martinez, wife of Miguel, scored the day's high poker hand with an Acehigh spade flush (a \$200 cash prize). Arturo and Monica won Best Dressed with Marcus and Xochi landing a honorable mention.

The Blue Knights have supported so many worthy charities and law enforcement events, it's really hard to keep track of them all. Poker runs are just an excuse for a fun-filled day of riding, fellowship and charity for worthy causes—such as Yuma's fallen LEO Memorial. And with Juan Arvizu (aka Wolfman) at the helm of this chapter, you always know who has your back. One for all, and all for one. Ride with pride Knights



Cal 6 members with Chet Parker



Arturo and Monica: Best Dressed

Blue Knights CA VI General Membership Meeting



April 8, 2023

Call to order by President Ken Smith at 0901 hours

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence for members of Heaven I Recognition of fallen Chapter members

Introduction of guests

Blue Knight 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 motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights."

President Ken Smith

The Gun Raffle is going away. Suggestions needed for another fund-raising event. The Board of Directors will be pursuing options.

The 2023 Christmas party will again be at the Embassy Suites. Mark your calendars for December 9, 2023. Costs will be slightly up from last year. Final numbers are expected soon.

Southwest Conference in Las Vegas was discussed. Members are encouraged to attend. The Tuscany Resort has been remodeled. Host Chapter, Nevada I, welcomes any adult beverages that members would like to donate to the Hospitality Room.

Mentioned he would be riding to the SWC, and his wife Patti would be driving. Suggested calling him if a member or spouse would like to ride with her.

Vice President Alan Wheeler

Discussed CA VI upcoming Poker Run. Imperial Beach VFW will be the start / end of the event. He is still working out food options. He is looking for volunteers to man check points and main table at VFW. He needs two for stops and three for the start / end. The poker run route is mapped out on the "Footpath" App. Approximately 65 miles, and two-hour riding time. Alan is looking for "swag" items for ride participants. A 4 X 6 flyer is coming out to advertise the event.

Additional rides have been added to our website calendar.

Mentioned upcoming events, and encouraged participation: First Responders appreciation ride, Lake Elsinore. See the website. CVMA Ride coming. It's big, usually 200 – 300 riders. Starts at 0900; flyer in Newsletter.

Treasurer Chuck Belletti

(Excused) Treasurer report given by President Smith.

Refund checks were mailed to Arturo and Marcus from shirt order.

Chapter Directors

Past-president John Lopotosky

Purchasing five sets of reflective patches as stock for Quartermaster. Cost \$70 or total of \$350. The additional "LE" and "MC" patches are \$20, so a total of five complete sets would be \$450. Can be ordered online or from Quartermaster. Motion by Ellis to allow purchase. Seconded by Martinez. Motion passed.

John will be compiling a list of members who want the custom metal name tags with the Blue Knight logo. Will also order Chapter Officer / Staff name tags. The Chapter will provide "Title" name tags, and members can order their personal name tags. John will compile one big order. Can also order Chapter badges. Bring your order form to John at the next meeting, or email completed form to him. His email is available on the "Members Only" section of the CA VI website.

John purchased the Fallen Knight patches from the previous ride, and donated the rest to the Chapter. They are available for \$10.

Ray Juanengo

Michelle is handling the space and vendor assignments for Clint August's May ride upcoming on May 20th. Clint has told Michelle we could have a space free of charge for info/outreach/recruiting if we want. He just asks for a few of us to help out during the event. Mike Wagner and Ray ran the poker stop at Bates Nut farm last year. Board meeting discussed return on investment issues and suggestions to make the booth better.

Mary Pitman gave us the heads-up date for the CVMA SUR coming up on April 15th.

Gave thanks to Alan Wheeler for attending the fallen rider event.

Richard Bennett Safety Officer

April Safety Message is hidden in western-themed story. See if you can find it.

Discussed Newsletter items. New Quartermaster page, featuring Arturo Romero makes its debut. Items listed are for CA VI members only, not available to other BK's or the public.

Member spotlight is on Mike Wagner.

Mike Harrison

Sent him a copy of donation letter ALR to all Board members. Recommends we need a similar one completed for our Chapter.

Secretary Shari Stegall (Excused)

<u>Staff</u>

Safety / Risk Management – Richard Bennett

Items discussed under "Directors"

Webmaster – Stephen Roche

Added rides discussed to the event calendar.

Sent out email with visit stats to Chapter website. Number of "hits" increasing.

Removed all old data from the website at the request of Vice President Wheeler.

Director Emeritus Bill Craw

Wished everyone a Happy Easter

Arturo Romero (Quartermaster)

Marcus Sanchez (Ride Coordinator)

Discussed the After Meeting Ride to Chula Vista

Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator)

Please notify Michelle if anyone is sick/ill/hospitalized or in need of assistance.

Poker Chip Drawing

Won by Bill Craw, who was present.

Meeting adjourned at 0955

Next meeting May 13, 2023



SAFETY MESSAGE

Richard Bennett, Safety Officer

Cowboy Logic Old Fashioned Safety



Wyatt Earp never admitted to dropping his gun. Every account of his life focuses on his bravery and success in dealing with danger. But historians all agree, even Wyatt Earp dropped his gun; he just never talked about it.

I have spent a good portion of my adult life riding motorcycles. I talk about the places I have been, and the motorcycles I have ridden. While I don't purposely avoid telling of the times I have dropped my motorcycle, I just don't talk about it.

But it happens. It has probably happened to you, but you don't talk about it. Odds are that it will happen to all motorcycle riders at some time, and at varying degrees. When it does, a number of factors will determine the consequences.

Wyatt Earp always had a good steed to ride. He never went after the bad guys on a nag. He kept his horses fed and watered, and when available, he stabled them in a barn. His horses took him through the Bad Lands, and held steady in a gun fight. Wyatt knew the value of a good horse.

Our motorcycles have a bearing on our safety. What we ride, how new it is, and how well we keep it mechanically sound play a factor in staying upright. Properly inflated tires with good tread and good brakes are the most obvious. If we can keep a good contact patch on the pavement, the entire motorcycle will respond with maximum acceleration, turning and stopping. Veteran riders know to keep their motorcycles in top mechanical condition.

And, it has been my experience that the less a motorcycle is modified, the more reliable it is on long trips. Many of the break-downs and delays have happened to friends who have modified their motorcycles; the stock bikes go for help. Whether you ride a modified, customized or stock motorcycle, you should know the value of a good bike.

Wyatt, his brothers and Doc Holiday walked to the OK Corral wearing dusters, hats and boots. The dusters concealed firearms, and served to make them look like larger targets than they actually were. Hats shaded their faces, keeping the sun from affecting their aim. And the boots were customary western wear, providing protection from manure to sage brush.

What we wear as motorcyclists is another factor that will reduce fall-down injuries. Since 1992 California has had a mandatory helmet law. While I originally objected to a state mandated helmet use, I have always worn a helmet. A good helmet is probably the single most effective life saver for motorcyclists. Protesters will still wear the smallest novelty helmets they can get away with, but when the time comes, the consequences will be worse.

Boots and gloves give obvious protection, but take a look at the motorcyclists on the road, especially in the warmer months. Many of them wear street shoes and still more wear no gloves. Boots protect the ankles and shins, while gloves protect the first part of your body to hit the pavement; your hands.

For most of my riding years, I have succumbed to fashion. Square-toed Harley boots looked cool, just like my Levi pants and jacket. When it rained, I stopped at the first shelter to pull on a flimsy rain suit and booties to cover my Harley boots. By then I was usually pretty wet, sometimes through to my socks. It wasn't until later that I considered function over fashion.

On a ride to Yellowstone Park, I was riding through Utah with my friend Bruce following on his Harley. We

had been expecting rain since our departure from our last camp site, and now it was starting to sprinkle. Bruce was wearing a good-looking Harley jacket, jeans and Harley boots. I wore a First Gear Kilimanjaro jacket and matching pants. Both have padding in all the right places, and are completely rain proof.

My boots were Sidi brand water proof leather; comfortable for riding or walking. While I was warm and dry, I knew Bruce could use some shelter to don his rain gear. Since we were in open country, he chose to keep riding without rain gear to the next town. Wyatt would have appreciated his grit.

If the First Gear riding suit and Sidi boots were available at the time, I think Wyatt would have worn them.

As I get older, I like to think I am becoming a little wiser. Harley sells a fine line of leather jackets and rain suits. If image is important, spend the money and plan to stop in remote places to change riding gear. But if function seems like a good idea, I recommend you look at riding suits and water proof leather boots. They look stylish, cost the same, and will protect you better from weather elements and road rash.

And this applies to your passengers, too. Bikini clad girls look good on calendars, and in "Girls Gone Wild" videos, but not on the back of your bike. One slide down the asphalt, and she won't let you near her until the scabs heal. And she will always remember who gave her the scars. Dress your passengers with the same care as you dress yourself.

Just so you know, today's protective motorcycle gear is very stylish. Kevlar jeans and riding shirts with protective padding are available. These items don't provide rain protection, however.

OK, here are some dropped-bike events that made me wiser. While I was a motor officer for San Diego Police, I was going home after riding all day. As I turned off Highway 5 onto Balboa Avenue, I hit a patch of transmission fluid. My police bike went down on the right side, and I slid to a stop next to it. My gloves, boots and riding pants saved me from injury.

Then there was the time I was on a ride to Yosemite with some police friends. We were in a tight group, winding through the mountain roads. The rider ahead of me went too wide in a turn, and onto the shoulder. I braked nearly to a stop, but the turn was banked, and I did a slow speed fall to the left. Gloves and boots saved me from injury.

And there were several U-turns that were never completed. Something happened, and I ended up dropping the motorcycle instead of riding off in the opposite direction.

So far, I have avoided any serious get-offs. But I always make sure my steed is in good shape and my duds give me the best protection, just in case.

There, I talked about it.



Not the real Wyatt Earp



Modern gear



Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge Noah Webster

The Road is Calling



Are you ready?

In the past year I have filled these pages with riding tips and safety reminders. With all that as a foundation, I encourage you to put those gems to use by going on the road with your motorcycle.

Here are some categories for road adventures: Day rides Over-night rides Multi-day rides, either camping or motels Destination rides European rides



Bruce at end of California Highway 1 road trip

Day rides

These are the easiest and most common rides. They can be done solo or with friends. Solo riding has the advantage of setting your own pace, stopping when you want and changing your route along the way. Group riding has the advantage of having friends along to share the experience, and the comfort of knowing there will be someone with you in the case of need.

We do day rides with the Blue Knight CA VI After-Meeting Rides. Ride Guides take us to interesting destinations while we are riding with friends. Other day rides are available with other motorcycle groups, often during the week when traffic is lighter than on weekends. Some clubs hold "New Members" rides, or theme rides like "Veterans Memorials". Whatever the inspiration, these are opportunities to practice riding and applying good riding techniques.

Over-night rides

Like day rides, these can be done solo or with friends. If you have a significant other who likes to ride pillion, these are great ways to share an adventure. Sharing the riding experience with a passenger is also a great way to bond.

Over-night rides can be campouts or motels. When I have a passenger, these rides are always to a motel.

Multi-day rides

These are like over-night rides, only longer. Multi-day rides are truly adventures. Choosing the route with points of interest along the way make the adventure. Often you will encounter new discoveries that would have otherwise been missed. Multi-day rides can be camping or motels. Camping allows around-the-fire evenings; motels allow laundry and real beds. Photos and stories when you get back home will keep the adventure alive.

Examples of multi-day rides are road trips that feature a designated route such as riding California highways 49 or 1, and riding across country.

Destination rides

Much like multi-day rides, destination rides often require more than one day to achieve. Examples of destination rides include HOG rallies, Sturgis, Three Flags Classic and Ruidoso. Planning your route to and from are part of the adventure.

European rides



As the name implies, these rides take place in Europe. Also, in the same category are rides to New Zealand and Australia. These are intended for skilled riders, so if you are interested, practice your skills on mountain roads. These rides are offered as group tours by motorcycle touring companies, which provide the motorcycle, lodging and tour guides. Most meals are included.

In future issues of the Knightly News, I will publish accounts of each type of ride. I hope they will inspire you to expand your motorcycling

Left: Riding the Alps in Europe



Not many people can say they have retired from two full careers after 50 years of service, but Mike Wagner can.

Mike was a U.S. Marine for 20 years, and then spent 30 years as a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer.

The oldest of four siblings, Mike grew up in Columbus, Georgia. His dad was a career Army First Sergeant with tours in Korea and Viet Nam. In June, 1971, when Mike graduated high school, he surprised his dad and mom by joining the Marine Corps. Mike says it was one of the best decisions of his life.

Mike Wagner retired from the Marines in 1991 as a First Lieutenant. He had served in Okinawa, Japan, and was a recruiting officer in Chicago, Illinois. He was also stationed at the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado, California, Camp Pendleton, and Saudi Arabia. He earned 12 awards and medals during his career with the Marines.

Looking back on his career, Mike says it is hard to believe all that he has completed. He spent 11 years in the enlisted rank, and nine years in the officer corps. He received meritorious promotions to Lance Corporal, and to Gunnery Sergeant. After completing the Warrant Officer Basic Course in Quantico, Virginia he rose through the ranks to Chief

Warrant Officer 3.



Saudi Arabia



Mike with Brigadier Gen Stackpole

Nearing the end of his Marine Corps career, Mike was stationed at Camp Pendleton. He had the opportunity to work with the Customs Service when Marines were deploying overseas. The Customs Officers he dealt with were very professional and responsible.

deployed on ship when his daughter Rebecca was born.



After his retirement from the Marine Corps, Mike became a Customs Inspector in 1992. He was assigned to the San Ysidro Port of Entry. At that time there were only about 375 Officers. Today there are more than 1200 U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers there.

Mike says his proudest moments were being promoted meritoriously to Gunnery Sergeant while on recruiting duty, and then later being recognized as "Recruiter of the Year". Mike says the only thing he regretted in his military career was being

Mike was promoted to Senior Inspector in 1994, then six years later to Supervisory Inspector. Mike returned to the San Ysidro Port of Entry in 2009 as a Customs and

Customs Inspector Wagner

Border Protection Officer. He was assigned to Cross Border Xpress in 2015 where he stayed until his retirement in 2022.



Greg, Rio, Mike Wagner and Kazuko Wagner

Mike Wagner has been married to his wife Kazuko for 50 years. Together they have three daughters and four grandchildren. He holds AA and BA degrees (with honors) from National University. He has been a member of Blue Knights California 6 for nine years.

Now fully retired after 50 years of Federal service, Mike says he is free to do what he wants. He makes his own schedule, which includes riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle. He also likes to read, play golf and spend time with his family.

Mike says after being a law enforcement officer for over 30 years, he gets to help in fostering a positive law enforcement image in the community and at the same time help demonstrate good motorcycle safety. He enjoys helping the club with local community service projects and the various charities the club is involved with. He especially enjoys the comradery shared with team members each second Saturday of each month. The meetings are very informative and, on most occasions, there is a chapter ride after the meeting. Last year he rode to Carlsbad with his daughter Rebecca and enjoyed all the flowers on display.

Mike says he enjoys the opportunities to participate in various rides scheduled by the club during the calendar year. He and his wife also enjoy the Christmas parties and annual picnics. Mike says as a result of a Chapter drawing last year he and his wife were "comped" for their hotel room at the Christmas party.



Blue Knight Michael Wagner



FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF BK CA VI MEMBERS





ARTURO ROMERO



The above items are immediately available from the Quarter Master. Contact Arturo at the monthly meetings or by email.

In the pipeline: Past President Lopotosky is ordering five sets of reflective vest patches at \$70 per set. Additionally, five sets of "LE" and "MC" patches are being ordered at \$20 per set. These will be available from the Quarter Master when they arrive.

Also, John is compiling a list of members who want custom Blue Knight name tags. Contact him by email if you would like to make an order.



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.



FOR SALE

Treasures and Bargains From our Members



2005 Yamaha FJR 1300 — \$4100 obo



This luxury sport tour bike has low mileage and was owned by a former Blue Knight. Bike has been garaged since 2018 (on a battery tender). Very good condition. Running in tip-top condition after recent maintenance, which included: all major fluids exchange—including gasoline, all filters, four new spark plugs, rebuilt fuel pump. Adjustable height electric windscreen, aftermarket speed control, and battery tender ready. Not registered since 2018. Title may need replacement (DMV form Reg 227). Tires in fair to poor condition. Located in Alpine, CA. Test rides authorized. All offers considered.

Mileage : 28,200 VIN : JYARP07Y85A000565

Call 619-890-7273 mobile

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> DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES SUNDAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP MEETING 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

Back in the saddle again; out where a friend is a friend. (Gene Autry)









