

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

*Blue Knights © California VI*



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## NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

**July 8, 2023**

**JUNE, 2023**



Life is short. There is no time to leave important words unsaid. (Unknown)

**FEATURED IN THIS EDITION**



**Poker Chip drawing was held. Shari Stegall's name was drawn. Since Shari 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



# 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 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: [BlueKnightsCAVI.VP@gmail.com](mailto:BlueKnightsCAVI.VP@gmail.com)



# 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](#)

**Fun fact. Four past-presidents of CA VI are still chapter members: Jay Ellis, Cameron Nouriani, Richard Bennett and John 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**

**June 2023**



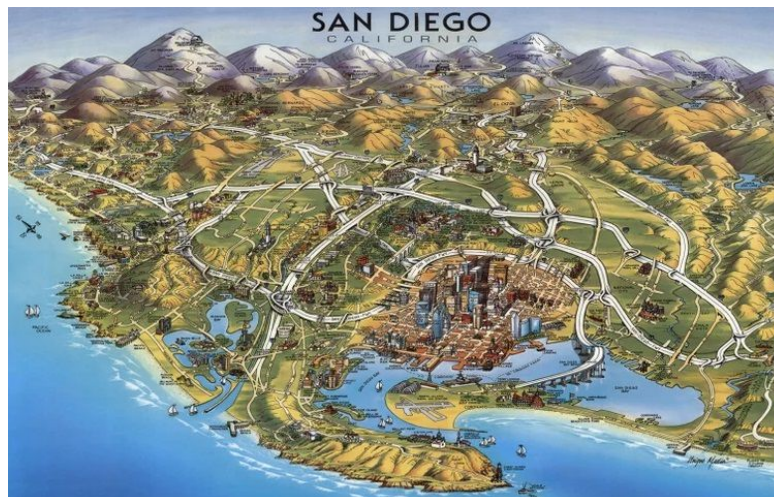
Greetings everyone! I hope you are all getting ready for summer and the famous Del Mar Fair! I know it's now the county fair, but to me it will always be the Del Mar Fair.

We're getting geared up for our poker run on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. I hope many of you can make it. You don't have to ride or even volunteer to work (although that would help!). It would be great just to see some of you show up wearing the colors and hanging out with the rest of us.

Some of you may not know, but our Ride Coordinator Marcus Sanchez is out for a couple of months getting his shoulder worked on. I know he will have a speedy and successful recovery! We've been asking members at our monthly meetings to help out with After Meeting Ride plans (AMRs). Although Marcus is the coordinator, creating all the rides himself is not what the true job is. His main function is to get ride ideas and ride leaders from ALL members of BK CAVI, not just the board, or other Ride Leaders.

The coordinator job is to make sure the ride plans are in good order, organized, and meet all safety concerns. So, although it's important to help Marcus while he's out of commission for a bit, we should be assisting all year long. Our VP, Alan Wheeler, has done an outstanding job filling in and handling the rides until Marcus became coordinator, but Alan, too, needs help. So let's come up with some great ideas and suggestions for AMRs for the members. I KNOW there are places everyone would love to ride to. The usual coastal rides are always good in warmer weather, as is a run to Josie's Hideout now and again. San Diego County is 4200 square miles of some of the best riding on the planet, let's go see it!

Stay safe as always, and Ride with Pride!



**BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI  
General Membership Meeting**



**June 10, 2023  
MEETING MINUTES**

Call to Order: Chapter Vice President Alan Wheeler at 0900 Hours

Pledge of Allegiance (By members)

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

Introductions/Guests: Christy Beltran

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 - Excused**

1. Raffle Tix – Final prize list per Board (See John Lopotosky section)
2. Carpenters donated a check to our poker run since they cannot make it! THANK YOU!
3. Ken working on Donation Form letter so businesses can donate to us

**Vice President Alan Wheeler**

1. Update on current health issue.
2. Contact with Manager of VFW in Imperial Beach. She is sourcing foods at Costco and will have final contract price for Poker Run Meals within the week. Need one more rolling BBQ for the event.
  - a. She also made an inquiry regarding weapons at the event, we will abide by whatever rules if they ask, so far, they have not asked.
3. Betsy has acquired an Auxiliary membership with VFW which will allow us to have our Poker Run there since BK CAVI does not qualify, but as a member, Betsy does qualify.
4. Had Webmaster put the Final Honors Fundraising Ride on our website, hosted by VFW on Chambers Street, El Cajon. It is June 25, 2023 the day after the American Legion Ride.
5. Ask for board members and chapter members to step up and create the next several months' worth of After Meeting Rides for us, since our Ride Coordinator is recovering from surgery, and is out of state. Richard will take July. August is the practice route for Poker Run and we need rides for Sept/Oct.
6. Checks to our 3x charities will go out soon. Previously agreed amount of \$650 each.
7. We need raffle prizes ASAP for our August Poker Run! Grant Frey's brother will be here for this event.

**BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI**  
**General Membership Meeting**

**Treasurer Chuck Belletti**

1. Fiscal status given to members.

**Secretary Shari Stegall**

(Absent)

**Chapter Directors:**

**Immediate Past President John Lopotosky**

1. Regarding donations, each recipient organization needs to be contacted. John will contact Greg for the Wishes GRANTED. Mike will handle Next Step Service Dogs and try to get them to come to the July Gen Member Meeting.

a. Alan suggested we make our donation to Final Honors at their fundraiser ride at VFW later in in June. Alan has made donations at prior events and will contact VFW to make sure we can do it.

2. Organized final the three prizes for the raffle.

a. Three prizes agreed to: FIRST Prize \$750 Cash, Second - \$500 5.11 Gift Card and Third – Yeti Cooler.

b. Will contact Mike DePompeo's brother the printer to get the tix started.

**Ray Juanengo - Excused**

**Richard Bennett (Director and Safety Officer and Newsletter Editor)**

1. Website still has COPS logo on it but since we are no longer donating suggest we remove it (Already done)
2. Safety officer Duties – happy to keep doing it but would prefer we get some other talented members involved to assist our chapter in getting the Safety word out. Already the newsletter editor, and feels all the info should not come solely from him.
3. Ride Coordinator – Suggested President's message include outline of Ride Coordinator duties, and request for monthly ride leaders in newsletter. The coordinator should be soliciting ride ideas and routes from other members and organizing them, not writing up all the rides himself. Putting it in the newsletter will solicit from others as well as take the load off Marcus.
4. Monies available from the SWC and from International regarding recruitment. International Rep Jorge Ortiz explained there is generally \$500 per year available to all chapters in the SWC, deadline for submissions Dec 31. If no one requests the funds they are lost until next year and do not carry over. Last year only 2 chapters requested it. This year so far only 1.
  - a. Discussion: using that money to assist with recruiting
  - b. Suggest we use Chapter funds to run ads in the local LE Magazines and Union websites/publishings. We cannot stop recruiting!

**Mike Harrison - Excused**

1. Update on his current health. Ok now, hopefully will be back to 100% after procedures.
2. American Legion Poker Run for ALR Post#460 on Armor St. June 24, flyer is on our website.

**BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI**  
**General Membership Meeting**

**Staff:**

**Safety/Risk Management – Richard Bennett**

1. Already covered in previous notes

**Webmaster – Stephen Roche - Excused**

**Director Emeritus – Bill Crow**

Nothing to add.

**Arturo Romero (Quarter Master) – Excused**

1. Hats available upon request. Should we order a few as raffle prizes at monthly meetings as they are very popular?

**Marcus Sanchez - Excused**

1. AMR Help!

**Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator)**

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

**Jorge Ortiz – SWC International Rep**

1. He and Mike Wagner and Miguel Martinez attended the Memorial Day Ride to Ft Rosecrans. Very nice service and the park is normally closed but they allowed the motorcycles all the way in while other vehicles were not. Good that BK CAVI was there.
2. International 50<sup>th</sup> Conf for 2024 in Bangor Maine – event still being worked on, more info to be released.
3. Suggested members log into Blue Knights International website. Use BK ID#, with last name in ALL CAPS.

**Good of the order:**

**Poker Chip Drawing:** Shari Stegall's name was drawn. Since she was not present, she did not win the \$5.

**50 – 25/25 Winners:** Mike Mannen and Richard Bennett

Motion to Adjourn by: Bill Crow    Seconded by: Mike Mannen

Meeting Adjourned at: 1000 hours

Next Meeting: July 8, 2023 0900 Hours – Broken Yolk

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Ken Smith**



Ken Smith has packed a lot of experience into his life, but if anyone had told Ken that in 2023 he'd be the President of one of the most premier chapters of Blue Knights at this stage of his life, he never would have believed you!

Ken grew up on the South Shore of Boston as the oldest of three boys. Although his family did not have much, they still managed to expose him to hobbies like deep sea fishing, boating, swimming, HAM radio, shooting, drums, and, motorcycles. Ken's first bike was a Honda K50 and he has kept bikes as a mainstay his whole life.

Ken's dad had been in the Navy, and served on three carriers. He married Ken's mother while stationed in San Diego and took her back to his home town of Boston. Unfortunately, Ken's parents divorced when he was 10. At the age of 15, Ken took his brother Eric with him as they ran away to San Diego to be with their mother in Mira Mesa.

Ken always wanted to be a pilot, but when he was old enough to apply, his non 20/20 eyesight kept him out of all military and civilian programs.

While in high school, Ken played drums and was in a band with friends.

After graduating from Mira Mesa High with a 4.0 grade point average, he set his sights on an aerospace engineering degree at San Diego State University. Within a year, most all of the aviation jobs in San Diego vanished.



Recording studio 1986



US Army Rockenhausen, Germany

Ken then enlisted in the US Army in 1983 as a radio/electronics tech. Ken qualified as expert in almost every weapon the Army had to offer, which kept him very much into firearms. While in the Army Ken got a "travel bug" and went to several states in the US including Hawaii. He also went to Germany, France, Korea, and Japan.

While stationed in Germany, Ken was in a band that toured around the area, and he got hooked on playing drums for live audiences. After three years, Ken missed his family in San Diego and came home. Back home, Ken worked in a machine shop and sold machine tools for a year before getting accepted into the San Diego Sheriff's Academy in 1987. He graduated winning the Top Gun Award, which made his uncle Frank Canson on San Diego PD very proud.

As a Sheriff's Deputy, Ken worked Detentions, Patrol, Investigations and Court Services during a storied 28-year career. He was able to acquire many different skill sets, including firearms and rifle instructor, Force Options Instructor and Force Options Simulator Expert, In Service Training Instructor, Field Training Officer, Judicial Protection Detail, Computer based report writing instructor and many other fun assignments.

There are so many funny cop stories to tell, but one occurred when he arrested a midget for being drunk and disorderly. The "10-16" (prisoner) was a handful and Ken managed to calm him down by the time they reached





Deputy Smith 2003

the station. As Ken escorted him into the station, the patrol Sergeant leaned out of the doorway of his office, took a look, and then said “Hey Smitty, where’s the rest of your 10-16?” Needless to say, the fight was on.

Ken retired from the San Diego Sheriff’s Department in July 2015 as a Fugitive Extraditions Detective, and is on his 4<sup>th</sup> job since retiring. He worked for PERT (Psychiatric Emergency Response Team) for three years as a training coordinator, teaching mental health deescalation tactics to officers and dispatchers.

He then went to The Marine Corps Police Academy at Miramar Air Station as an Academy Instructor. Ken loved the cadre and the job, but the academy was moved out of state and he and 11 other instructors had to find new work.



On duty, San Diego 2004



Entry training 2015

Ken found a job as a federal contractor, teaching Navy personnel firearms instruction in 9mm, M4, .240 Cal and .50 Cal platforms, using high tech simulators. Ken is very proud he has had the opportunity to work with and for three different military branches.

One of Ken’s closest friends, and also a retired cop, called out of the blue and offered him a job. Ken is now the Safety and Security Manager on the retired Aircraft Carrier USS Midway. The Midway and her volunteer crew are both heroes to Ken, and he has found the job both rewarding and filled with honor and respect for all those who have served.

In 2006, Ken’s life was forever changed when he met his wife, Patti. The two were inseparable since day one and have been married over 14 years.

During his life, Ken managed to acquire a SCUBA certification, helicopter pilot license, Ham radio license and a BS degree in Criminal Justice. He also stayed active in music, playing in many bands over the years. Currently, he plays in two bands, *The Nineteen 90’s* and *Relay*. Occasionally he will get asked to do lead vocals or drums in a friend’s band whenever their singer or drummer can’t make a show.

Ken’s proudest moment came in the form of words from his younger brother Eric, who suddenly passed in 2022. Eric was only 11 months younger than Ken, who had donated a kidney to him in 1993. It was one of those out of the blue moments at a family holiday with Eric’s three kids. Eric simply told Ken he could think of no finer person to be an uncle to his kids.

Ken loves his Blue Knights family and always will put “family first”. RWP!!!

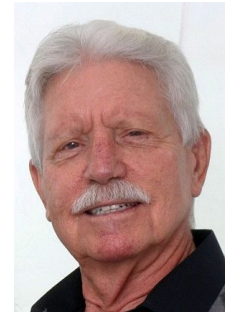


**Blue Knight Ken Smith**



## SAFETY MESSAGE

Richard Bennett, Safety Officer



### HEAD SHOT

I saw it coming; it looked like one of Saturn's moons. Even though it seemed like slow motion, I didn't have time to duck. A jagged rock, the size of a large marble hit my face shield directly in front of my left eye. The impact sounded like a gunshot inside my helmet, and I felt my head involuntarily ratchet to the left.

I was in commuter traffic, surrounded by cars and trucks. Going with the flow, I was doing somewhat over the speed limit. If I had gone down, I would just be a grease stain in lane number two. A direct hit in my left eye with that rock would have almost certainly caused a momentary loss of control. Sometimes that is all it takes to have a catastrophe.

I wear a full-face helmet. It hasn't always been that way for me. In my "younger" days, I wore the minimum helmet in hot weather, and an open-face helmet the rest of the year. Before the California helmet law took effect in 1992, I sometimes wore just a bandanna. In the 1980's I wore a full-face helmet to compensate for the tiny windshield on my Harley FXRS. Once I moved on to touring bikes, the full-face went onto the shelf.

Helmet use is arguably one of the most controversial topics among motorcyclists. In the 1990's the U.S. and State governments mandated helmet use for motorcycle riders. Early laws were pretty straight forward: all motorcyclists and their passengers must wear D.O.T. approved helmets on public roads. Like the first anti-smoking laws, this one had a lot of outspoken critics.

The "biker" types hated the new law, and argued that helmets actually made their riding *more* dangerous. They cited the extra weight, and reduced visibility and hearing as diminishing their ability to perceive and react to danger.

The Highway Patrol enforced the new law, citing riders with non-D.O.T. helmets. Riders began putting D.O.T. stickers on "novelty" helmets; the beanie, head-hugging plastic kind that are less effective than little league hats. Sympathetic courts didn't back the Highway Patrol enforcement, so they and the local cops looked the other way.

Today, many helmet-law states have repealed or amended their laws. Some don't require any conditions, while others have set age or insurance qualifications.

Wearing a helmet has always been an option for motorcycle riders. There were plenty of good helmets available when I began riding in the early 1960's. I most often wore a helmet, but sometimes I just wanted to be a "biker" and let the wind blow through my hair. I'll admit that I was against the original helmet law, since I didn't want to be told I *had* to wear one. Now, I support it.

During my research as the Blue Knight Southwest Conference Safety Officer, I discovered some interesting facts. Since states have modified or repealed helmet laws, fewer riders have worn helmets. Each year for the last ten years, motorcycle fatalities have increased in the United States, especially among states without helmet laws. Now, I am not saying that head injuries were the only cause of fatalities, but I am convinced that helmet-less riders made a significant difference. Many of them chose to *not* wear a helmet; they chose wrong, and now their loved ones miss them.

As for me, I have seen the value of wearing a full-face helmet. Modern helmets are lighter, stronger and more comfortable than earlier models. In heavy rain, my face stays dry. The fully tinted face shield means I don't have to wear sun glasses when I ride. Bugs, bees and rocks don't hit my face, either. There is no loss of peripheral vision; I am warmer in cold weather and comfortable in hot weather. And if I ever have a serious get-off, the helmet will do it's best to protect my noggin.

And that will make my family happy.



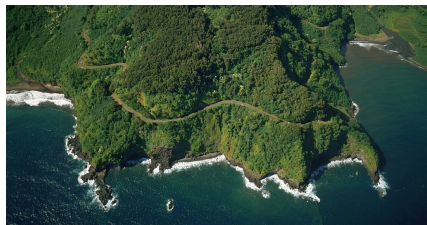
Give it some thought



# Road Wisdom



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



**Foreword:** Day rides can add a new perspective to many otherwise ordinary experiences. On a vacation in Hawaii in 2008, visitors like us were driving “The Road to Hana” on the island of Maui. It is a popular drive with the island town of Hana as the destination. The road has countless turns along the 37-mile drive. So, just for fun we did a day ride to Hana on a motorcycle. I share the adventure with you now in hopes that it will inspire you to enjoy day rides of your own.

## **Hana by Harley**

by Richard Bennett

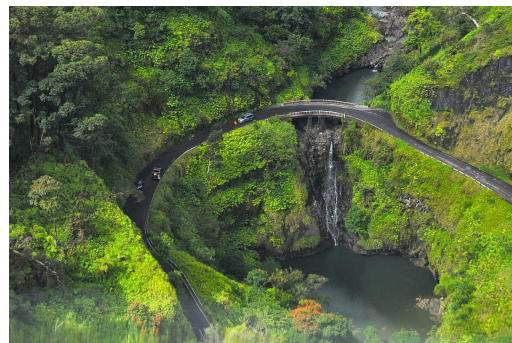
My hat was already on backwards and we were a mile out of Lahaina when the first hard gust of wind hit. With a little effort I was able to remain in my lane on highway 30 heading south on the island of Maui. When the second strong gust hit, the windshield blew off.

Not completely off, but off the “quick mount” brackets that allow a choice of windshield or not. Without the windshield, the Road King would look like Schwartzneggers’ ride in the “Terminator”. At the moment I was close to losing it into the Pacific Ocean, fifty feet away. With Janice as my passenger, we made it to the side of the road and balanced the motorcycle against the wind while re-attaching the windshield. We were on our way to the road to Hana on a rented motorcycle.

The island of Maui is just north of Hawaii, the “big island”. It is shaped somewhat like the number 8, with the larger part on the bottom. The narrow middle is only about 10 miles wide, and links two dormant volcanoes to form the island. The island is known mostly for the beaches and Mount Haleakala, which means “House of the Sun”. Haleakala is 10,023 feet high, and worth the drive to the top. There are also bicycle tours down the mountain, but that’s another story.

The Hana Coast drive has been called “The world’s most beautiful drive”, and is the most popular visitor activity on Maui. We have driven it in a rented car, but the road is best experienced by motorcycle.

Several places offer motorcycles for rent on Maui. Everything from 50cc scooters to big twin Harleys are available. We had rented a Harley on Hawaii before, touring the perimeter of the big island in 1993. This time we wanted to take the road to Hana on a Harley.



At Island Riders we selected a well ridden, but reliable Road King. For about \$140 we had it for 24 hours. The lot attendant offered to install a windshield, which he attached to the quick release brackets. Wind on Maui had

been exceptionally strong, even by Hawaii standards, and we wanted the protection of the windshield. Besides, I didn't want people mistaking me for Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Hawaii doesn't require motorcyclists to wear helmets, and the highest speed limit is 50 mph anywhere on the island. So, after turning my hat around backwards we were on our way.

In order to reach the beginning of the Hana Coast, a drive south to the middle of the island was necessary; along the ocean, and next to cane fields, where the wind was the strongest.

On the previous day, wind blew over a large truck, several trees and some power lines. I was just thinking of that when a gust of wind loosened the windshield. After securing the windshield properly, we had no other problems with it. The wind buffeted us around pretty well until we reached highway 360, known as the Hana Highway.



The road to Hana follows the bottom part of Maui along the north eastern ridge. The views to the ocean overlook lush foliage, fertile fields and green valleys. Roof tops can be seen peeking from the carpet of green. It is said that pakalolo (marijuana) is often grown among the natural vegetation, and Hawaiian authorities have waged a multi-year effort to eradicate it. We never saw any, but I don't doubt that it's still out there.

The real close-up views of natural beauty begin just past Twin Falls, which is near a fruit stand that is used by locals as a land mark. The 37 miles to Hana traverse many one lane bridges that require motorists to yield to on-coming traffic. The road rises and falls as it follows the mountain side from sea level to about 500 feet and back down again. The journey normally takes from five to seven hours to make the trip and back, so we planned the entire day on this adventure.

The Harley was making that reassuring purr on the open road, with slight burbling as the throttle as cut into the turns. Then the hearty rumble as we accelerated from the apex to the next turn. The wide handle bars required some muscle in the hair pins, but were otherwise comfortable. This was a cruiser bike on a sport bike road, and we were enjoying the experience.

About ten miles south of the fruit stand we encountered another group of tourists at the side of the road. We were used to seeing cars stopped at random while visitors photographed the natural beauty. But on this occasion, we were surprised to find a pickup truck had gone off the road, over the side, and down a ravine that was about 100 feet deep. While the incident appeared recent, the truck was unoccupied and a tow truck had arrived at the top of the ravine to retrieve what was left of the vehicle. It caused me to think of a tee shirt I had seen in Lahaina Town that read "I survived the road to Hana".



We stopped occasionally too. At each stop it was common for people to approach, look over the motorcycle and envy us for the ride. Some told of following us through the switch backs and hair pins, wishing they were on a Harley instead of their rented car. We knew the feeling.

Hana is a small town in the middle of paradise. It sits on the hillside overlooking Hana Bay. If you want to overdose on this part of heaven, the Hotel Hana Maui provides luxury in the jungle. The Wai Napanapa State

Park at Pa'iloa Bay (Don't you love these Hawaiian names?) is a near-by attraction that includes the Seven Sacred Pools. The pools are formed by water falls fed by rain in the higher elevations. They eventually flow into the sea, but visitors are free to swim in the fresh water above a beach that Robert Louis Stevenson considered the best he had ever seen.

In the same vicinity is the final resting site of the famous aviator Charles A. Lindberg, who died on Maui in 1974.

We parked the Harley under the shade of a tree and enjoyed lunch from a take-out stand nearby. Horse back riding stables had horses grazing lazily, waiting for the next trip to the beach. If we had time, the horses would have been a great addition to the trip. But it was time to return.

The ride back consisted of less sight-seeing and more riding. The weather was warm enough for tee shirts, and was a mixture of sun and shade. We often talk of the rhythm of the road, but this was the real thing. Set to music, the ride would have been a waltz, with acceleration, deceleration, shifting, braking, leaning all to a tempo that was metered in my mind. It flowed; it followed the winding road up and down. The sound of the engine, the wind and the nature blended together to make the long ride seem over too soon.



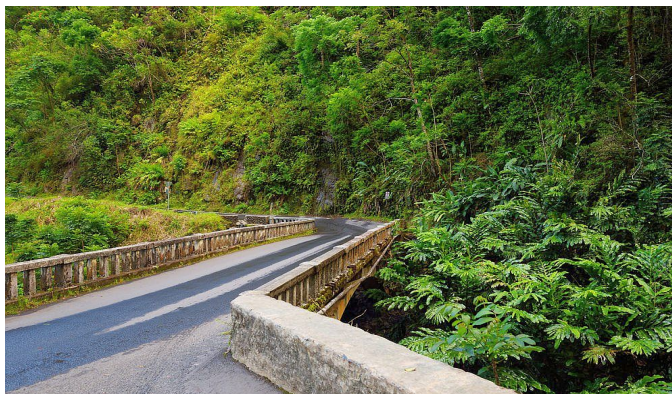
Once we passed the fruit stand, we were aware that civilization was ahead. More cars, trucks, and buses. More people, more houses. And more wind.

Highway 360 took us to downtown Kahului, where the airport is, then linked us to 380 and back to highway 30 north. Highway 380, called Kahului by the locals, crosses the narrow middle of the island. The windy part.

The wind was constant and hard. Gusts were causing traffic to noticeably swerve, then correct. On the Harley we felt each gust, especially at slow speed or at a stop light. Dust and dirt from near-by fields filled the air on certain stretches, and branches were being blown from trees. For the first time I felt vulnerable without a helmet.

Lahaina was a welcome sight. The wind doesn't impact Lahaina because of the mountains to the east, so cruising the town was a perfect ending to a day of Harley riding. We could have kept the Harley until 9am the next day, but we caught the Island Riders just before they closed for the day, and returned the bike.

The trip to Hawaii was fun, but as we have done before, we added to the enjoyment of the island by seeing it on a motorcycle. It's an adventure within an adventure.



Stuff that Day Rides were meant for



## Blue Knights CA VI attend the 21st Annual May Ride

Ray Juanengo, Director



On May 20th at Biggs Harley Davidson in the north county of San Diego, the May Ride took place encompassing a short poker run and after party. Local radio personality Clint August (101.5KGB) created the event and in its 21st year, 100% of the event proceeds still go towards the Armed Services YMCA in honor of military personnel, past and present and their families.

This year, our very own Morale and Welfare Coordinator **Michelle** helped Clint with the placement and designation of vendor booths as well as coordinating volunteers to assist with parking for the event attendees.

The poker run route was a short 35-mile loop into the interior of North County and included stops at two locations, one of which was Bates Nuts Farm, manned by BK CA VI members **Mike Wagner** and myself. During the interim we saw many riders pass through and offered friendly encouragement to the poker run participants, including those CA VI members who attended the benefit event: **Ken Smith, Alan and Betsy Wheeler, and Mike Manen.**



Photos by Ray Juanengo



# After Meeting Ride

Old Mission Dam - Mission Trails Regional Park

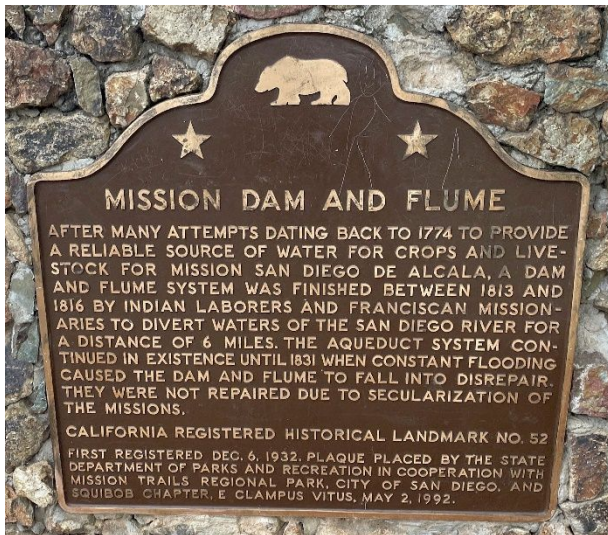
By Alan Wheeler, Vice President

Photos by Christy Beltran and Alan Wheeler



We all become busy sometimes, consumed with work and family responsibilities; Medical appointments and weekend soccer tournaments. That's life. So, when CAVI monthly meeting only manages to muster 12 members—an all-time low attendance—we make lemonade.

Chapter business was executed. Breakfast was had. Stories told. And we even welcomed a new attendee—Christy Beltran. Christy along with three other riders performed an after-meeting ride to a little-known San Diego historical gem: The Old Mission Dam, located within the Mission Trails Regional Park.



This six-foot-tall dam holds back The San Diego River water and dates back to 1813 and the Franciscan missionaries which settled nearby. Perhaps giving San Diego its name. The Old Mission Dam can be accessed via Father Junipero Serra Trail, a small roadway which is utilized both by hikers and vehicles alike.

Never let it be said that CAVI had no after meeting ride. Even with the limited, modest and meager (did I say small) after meeting riders; we rode!

RWP

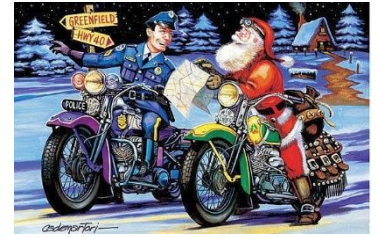




# Blue Knights, California VI

## Christmas Party

Saturday, December 9, 2023



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



Brothers and sisters, mark your calendars! It's not too early!  
Back by popular demand: The Embassy Suites in San Diego!

Voted "Best BK Christmas Party Location", your Board of Directors has once again booked our reservation. Dinner, libations and white elephant gift exchange planned. Overnight accommodations are available too. Don't miss out!



More information to follow in future editions.

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

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

# UPCOMING RIDES



**American Legion Riders Chapter 460**

## 12th ANNUAL POKER RUN!

**SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023**

Ride starts & ends at: American Legion Post 460, 7815 Armour St., San Diego, Ca. 92111

**Riders- \$25**  
**Passengers- \$20**  
 Includes meal ticket and one raffle ticket.

**Contact:** Margie Johnson  
 858.278.8478  
 shamrock50@hotmail.com

High Hand, Low Hand, Chapter Challenge, 50/50 Drawing, Raffle, Prizes  
 LUNCH: BBQ Pulled Pork and Kahlua Pork Sandwiches w/ Mac n' Cheese and Cowboy Beans

**8:30am- 4:00pm**  
**Registration: 8:30-9:30, KSU: 10:00, Last card: 1:00pm**

PROCEEDS SUPPORT ALR 460's LOCAL VETERAN CHARITIES.

**BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI SAN DIEGO**

**2023**  
**LtCol Grant V. Frey, USMC (Ret.)**  
**MEMORIAL POKER RUN**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH**  
 REGISTRATION 0830-0930 hrs | KSU at 0930 hrs

**START & END**  
**VFW IMPERIAL BEACH** BBQ LUNCH INCLUDED  
 123 Palm Ave  
 Imperial Beach, CA 91932  
 \$30/rider | \$10/passenger

Raffle prizes & 50/50 | High Hand \$200 | Low Hand \$75

**BLUE KNIGHTS**

**SGT. MAJOR SAM WALLS USMC (RET)**

## ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE BENEFIT RUN

**Venue At :** Quaid  
 25160 Redlands Blvd.  
 Loma Linda. CA 92354

**Date & Time :** 23 September, 2023 | 8 AM  
**Grand Prizes :** Tickets \$10 A-Glock or Shotgun

**SINGLE RIDER \$30**  
**DOUBLE RIDER \$40**

FIRST RIDERS LEAVE AT 10AM

**FUN FOOD RAFFLE**

www.BlueKnightsCA-iv.org

## NOVEMBER KNIGHTS

**November 16 - 19 2023**

**BLUE KNIGHTS ARIZONA VI**

**\*\* No meeting, No agenda, - Just Brotherhood**  
**\*\* Guided ride with lunch Saturday**  
**\*\* Multiple restaurants, bars and shopping all walkable from the hotel**

**THU, NOV 16 - NOV 19**  
**7th Annual November Knights Gathering**

**Going**