# THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER Blue Knights © California VI

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# Featured in this edition





# MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

**August 12, 2023** 



Poker Chip drawing was held. Steve Walkers name was drawn. Since Steve 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 Alan Wheeler by email at: BlueKnightsCAVI.VP@gmail.com



## CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



**PRESIDENT** 

**Ken Smith** 

VICE-PRESIDENT

**Alan Wheeler** 

**SECRETARY** 

**Mike Wagner** 

**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

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 JULY 2023



Happy Summer Blue Knights!

I hope you are all doing all the things you love to do this time of year. For our Chapter, there is a TON of fun going on! If you're not a regular meeting goer, that's OK! These events are planned out far enough in advance and truly special, giving you time to MAKE plans to BE THERE! We had a member come to our Christmas party last year that had not been to any meetings or events in some time, and he and his spouse BOTH could not get enough of the fun! Please try to come to at least one of these great events, WE MISS YOU!

First, our First Annual Grant Frey Memorial Poker Run. Mark your calendars! This is shaping up to be one of the best poker runs in the county, and that's saying something. Great cause, great ride and great people coming out to support our very important fundraiser. This is one of the ways, in addition to our raffle, that we raise monies to give to our three selected charities; Wishes GRANTed, Final Honor, and Next Step Service Dogs. The date is **August 19th**, be there!

Next, our annual picnic in September! ALWAYS great. Good times, good food, good vibes! Save the date, **September 9th** for THE picnic! I heard we might have a couple of party crashers from out of state and I know they would love to see you all.

And lastly, Christmas in July! Yes, I know it's July but our incredible Christmas Party will be here before you know it. Saturday **December 9th**, Embassy Suites. Truly an amazing "knight".

But of course, I can't just tell you all about these great events involving ALL the incredible members of our chapter. Not so sure? Read the monthly member spotlight articles so masterfully put together by our editor, Richard Bennett. Do you know we're the only chapter in the SWC (24 chapters!) that has a published newsletter on the Southwest Conference website? HOLY MOLY! If you read the bios of our membership, you will see we have true heroes among us. I'm grateful for all of you!

Wanna be a current hero of the Chapter? We need your help! We need extra staff for the Poker run and the picnic and the Xmas party. The Poker Run is most mission-critical as it is next month and we still need folks to man the poker stops, the recruiting booth, administrative tasks, supplies, ride captains...you name it, we need it! PLEASE consider coming to help out and make these events even more special than they are. Many others are counting on us!

Hope to see a few more faces soon, and until then, stay safe, stay vigilant, and Ride with Pride!



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



### 2023 Lt Col Grant V Frey USMC (Ret) Memorial Poker Run

August 19, 2023

The time is near for the San Diego Blue Knights annual public riding event, The 2023 LtCol Grant V Frey USMC (R) Memorial Poker Run. Even though this years' poker run has a primarily military theme, remember many Blue Knights have honorably served before their law enforcement careers. It has been my honor to coordinate this event and pay tribute to our past President whom all of us admired and held in the highest regard. Grant led a storied life and the Knights wish to offer tribute where it's due.

However, we still have a need for more members AND FAMILY, to volunteer to either work a poker run stop or sell raffle tickets or even become a road captain—leading a group of ride participants. All positions are important to making this a fulfilling and pleasurable event.

Our venue, the Imperial Beach VFW will be the start and end location. The VFW will have an available bar and will also provide a BBQ lunch to all registered riders. CA VI will provide opening ceremonies to include the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance and the USMC Hymn.

Raffle prize gifts and/or gift baskets are currently needed. Please volunteer to bring a raffle prize, as this is how the chapter makes some of its income. You may call me at 619-890-7273 to either offer to bring a raffle prize or work this event. All is appreciated. Signup sheets will also be available at the August general membership meeting.

Blue Knights CA VI is a premier LEMC club. Let's show the ride participants just how capable and fun we can be, culminating in a most memorable poker run. Please visit https://bk-cavi.org/2023-gvfum-poker-run



# SECRETARY'S MESSAGE Mike Wagner, Secretary

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July 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Chapter VI President Ken Smith at 0903 Hours

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introductions/Guests:

Guests Included: Next Step Service Dogs, VFW Riders, Oakland Riders and Patriot Guard Riders

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. Member Spotlights
- 2. Donation Letters see sample and can have electronically.
- 3. Introduction of New Secretary Mike Wagner and New Safety Officer Mike Manen
- 4. PICNIC SIGN UPS!!!! September 9, 2023 at the Wheeler Mansion!

### Vice President Alan Wheeler

- 1. We need raffle prizes ASAP for our August Poker Run honoring Grant Frey. Grant's twin brother Greg will attend.
- 2. Still need Ride Captains and BBQ Cook
- 3. On June 25, 2023 a check for \$650.00 was presented to Final Honors a non-profit organization.

### **Treasurer Chuck Belletti**

1. Treasurer Report: Discussed finances.

\$650.00 check donated to Step for Service Dogs

Secretary Mike Wagner

Safety Officer Mike Manen

### **Chapter Directors:**

### **Immediate Past President John Lopotosky**

1. Discussed the free insurance offered to members by Blue Knights International.

### Ray Juanengo

1. Made Positive comments about member participation at meetings and comradery within the club.

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

- 1. Mentioned about the Christmas Party and how successful it was last year.
- 2. Mentioned about the News Letter and information members can obtain.
- 3. Members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter.

### Mike Harrison -

1. ALR Poker Run Review. Introduced the Next Step Service Dogs Program Director.

### Staff:

Safety/Risk Management - Richard Bennett

Webmaster - Stephen Roche

### **Director Emeritus - Bill Craw**

 Encouraged members to submit their ballots for the selection of International Board of Directors

### **Arturo Romero (Quarter Master)**

1. Mentioned he has patches and coins members can buy.

Marcus Sanchez – (Ride Coordinator) Excused still recovering from shoulder surgery.

### Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator)

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

Jorge Ortiz – SWC International Rep

Good of the order:

### **Poker Chip Drawing:**

50 - 25/25 Winners: \$30.00 to Richard Bennett and \$30.00 to Al Cross

\$10.00 Poker Chip winner was Steve Walker who was not present.

Motion to Adjourn by: Jack Knish Seconded by: Bill Craw

Meeting Adjourned at: 0951 Hours

**Next Meeting:** 

0900 Hours – Broken Yolk August 12, 2023

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT







Chris Hoyer spent his career as a real policeman; the kind you see on the TV show "Cops". While the experience was unlike anything he imagined, he was a "natural" and did exceedingly well in his profession. Being a modest man, he doesn't often mention receiving 500 commendations, six medals of life saving, medal of merit, medal of valor and recognition letters from four "outside" police chiefs.

During his time on the Phoenix Police Department Chris spent 16 of his 20 years with the NET Unit,



an elite squad of seasoned officers doing pro-active duties. Using riot, SWAT, bicycle, ATV, undercover, and counter assault techniques, the squad did a combination of patrol, plain clothes undercover operations.

As much as he enjoyed being an officer, Chris also faced the worst horrors imaginable, including three separate shootings and one career-ending gun fight. His tenure also saw 16 line-ofduty deaths, many of whom were his close friends.

NET Unit

Chris was involved in a gunfight with a suicidal suspect who ambushed and killed Chris' good friend. That incident was by far the most difficult for Chris to navigate. Losing an officer, combined with survivors' guilt, caused Chris to lose two years of his life trying to find his feet — emotionally, mentally and physically. His determination to learn from the experience allowed him to successfully recover.

Chris has succeeded in life with his determination to always move forward. He spent his boyhood in New Hampshire, where he got his first dirt bike at age eight, and has had motorcycles his entire life. As a young man, he had aspirations to become a professional motorcycle racer, a rock and roll drummer, a fighter pilot or a police officer. While he still plays drums, his true calling was in being a police officer.

After his retirement, and before meeting the love of his life, Natalie, he started writing his book "When That Day Comes". Chris says Natalie started as his book editor, and became a love story of love stories. He and Natalie moved to the beach, and he is living the life he always wanted. His book is now in its second printing, and has been praised as one of the most enlightening realworld police publications.



Natalie and Chris

In 2019 Chris was offered a job with the Marine Corps Police Academy. While there, he met several extremely interesting people. Two, in particular were the late, great Lt. Col. Grant Frey and the newly-elected president of the San Diego chapter of the Blue Knights, Ken Smith. Chris now spends

much of his time teaching other law enforcement officers how to manage their critical incident survival journey.

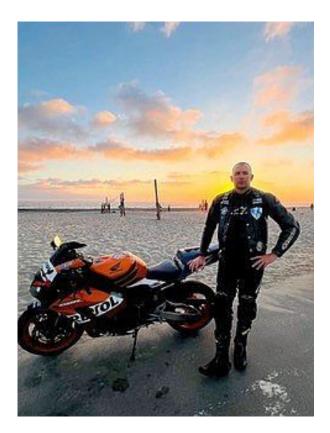
Ken and Grant recruited Chris into the Blue Knights. The moment he heard of the brother and sisterhood within this organization he knew it was for him. Chris says the love and compassion he has witnessed takes him back to his days on the streets of Phoenix during his time as an officer. The unity, comradery and "never-alone" mentality is absolutely special.



Chris donates a copy of his book for the raffle at each Blue Knight membership meeting. More importantly, he donated a Blue Line American flag to the chapter for each member to sign. The flag has also been to the 2023 Blue Knights Southwest Conference in Las Vegas, where Blue Knights from all over the country have also signed it.

Blue Knights California 6 Flag

In Chris' words: "I cannot express my honor enough to join the ranks of such special folks."



Chris Hoyer, Blue Knight



# **SAFETY MESSAGE**Richard Bennett, Safety Officer

### **BE THE EXAMPLE**



Brothers and Sisters,

This is my last Safety Message as your BK CA VI Safety Officer. I was extremely pleased to have **Mike Manen** become the Safety Officer for our Chapter. Mike is a well-respected member of our Chapter, who brings experience and credibility to the position. We are lucky to have him.

A word about our **Poker Run** which is coming up August 19, 2023. As you know, this is our annual fund raiser, which allows us to contribute to our selected charities each year. This year the ride is dedicated to our late CA VI president, **Grant Frey**. Grant was a decorated Marine, and our ride has a semi-military theme, with our poker stops at VFW and American Legion halls.

Vice President **Alan Wheeler** has worked to make this a high-quality event. In addition to securing the start / stop location and three poker stops along the way, Alan put together a great ride route. He worked with personnel at the VFW in Imperial Beach to assure a great meal and family-friendly ending to our ride.

Now is the time to step up and support this event. All the "heavy lifting" has been done by Alan, and now he needs volunteers (like you) to fill in support positions. Here are some needs:

- **Door prizes**. Bring something from home, or spend a little cash and buy items at Target or Walmart.
- On-site help. From sign-in to clean-up, people are needed. Many hands make light work.
- **Ride Leaders**. If you have led a group ride before, we need you. Important info to know beforehand:

The Blue Knights pride themselves on being a good example and promoting motorcycling safety by being an example to others. It is part of our Blue Knight pledge. To that end, Ride Leaders must *complete this simple task before taking a group out* on our Poker Run: Read and follow the Blue Knight International Group Riding Handbook. Don't have a copy? I will make it easy. Use your cell phone and scan the QR Code, or go to the Southwest Conference website at: <a href="https://bk-swc.org">https://bk-swc.org</a> and click on "more" and "safety corner".

The "Handbook" is only 13 pages long, and easy to read. Much of the info should already be familiar to you.

Riders may also go solo, following a map and directions, or choose to follow a Ride Leader.

Please call, text or email Alan to add your name to the volunteer roster.

YOU are needed, and appreciated for all you do.

You may reach Alan at: 619-890-7273

-or-

https://bk-cavi.org/2023-gvfum-poker-run

Thank you in advance.

Richard



Scan for Group Riding Handbook



### **Road Wisdom**

There is a difference between knowledge and wisdom.

Noah Webster





We were hundreds of miles from home, and had just crossed into Washington State. Three of us were on our way to Vancouver Island in Canada and had set up a campsite for the night. After a long day in the saddle, the fireside ritual had been a perfect ending to the day.



We were in our tents when the rain started; Washington State kind of rain. I awoke with an upset stomach somewhere in the middle of the night. The feeling was getting worse, and I knew I had to get to the restroom immediately. Being in a campground meant walking about 150 feet to the facilities. In the rain, and a hard rain at that.

I was unable to reach the door before vomiting along the dark, wet pathway. Now thoroughly wet, I entered the restroom and found a toilet stall.

Immediately the diarrhea started. My body was shaking from the cold and retching from voiding at both ends. It was the kind of misery that would have welcomed death over suffering. I lost track of how long I was in the restroom, but suffice it to say I didn't feel I could make it back to my tent without help.

Feeling very weak and light-headed I returned to my tent, vomiting again along the path back. Both of my companions were snug and dry in their tents, so I let them sleep rather than alert them to my condition.

All too soon, morning arrived. Thankfully the rain had stopped, along with the vomiting and diarrhea. Despite the weather clearing, I was too weak to get up and break camp. My friends were suspicious of my slow start, and checked on me. From this point on, I relied entirely on them for my welfare.

They took down my tent and packed my camping gear while I lingered on a near-by picnic bench. Our original plan was to continue on to the Canadian border, but now priorities had changed. A map check indicated we were near Bremerton, Washington where we could find a motel and, if necessary, medical care.

After assuring my companions I could operate my motorcycle, we started for Bremerton. We had to stop a couple of times, but I was able to make it to a motel. At check-in we were told the only room available was an upstairs unit. With no elevator, I had to be carried up the stairs.

It was just after mid-day when we settled in. I immediately went to bed, sleeping until dawn the next day. I was told I had slept a little over 13 hours. I was able to eat a small breakfast and keep it down, much to my relief.

We continued on our trip, and with each day I felt stronger and healthier. We decided I had eaten a contaminated salad during lunch at a truck stop on the day I was sick. I was the only one who had eaten a salad there, allowing my friends to stay healthy.

Without my companions, I would have been unable to care for myself. Most likely I would have needed transportation to an Emergency Room somewhere. Who would I have summoned to make that happen? And while I was gone, my motorcycle and all my camping gear would be left unattended. I saw no Park Ranger at the site, so security is questionable.

Events like this contribute to my ever-growing Road Wisdom experiences. Going on multi-day motorcycle trips most certainly will take you miles, and days, from home. We don't often focus on medical incidents that cause disruptions. We anticipate running out of gas or getting flat tires and have a plan to address these common problems. If you are concerned about your health and ability to get the care you need, here are some suggestions.

Ride with companions. I know this is not always possible, or desirable, but consider the total ride. On any ride over two days from home, a companion is good insurance.

Good companions are hard to find. I know I am picky about who is my sidekick, but the search is worth the effort. Good companions provide company on the road, and someone to share new discoveries with. They can share expenses for motels and other costs relating to travel. Companions provide a level of security for each other. They can go for help in the event of a highway breakdown, and most importantly, they can care for your welfare in the event of injury or illness.

Certainly, riding alone is possible; maybe even desirable. I have done it many times. If you ride alone, have a contingency plan for medical emergencies. In this case my contingency was having reliable companions. (By the way, I have also helped one of my companions who was afflicted with food poisoning on a cross-country trip.)

So, plan those multi-day motorcycle adventures. When you make your plans, decide if you will have companions or not. If not, make plans for the unexpected medical emergencies. Then travel with confidence, and share your stories of adventure when you return.

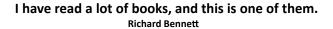


Companions Rod and Bruce



### **Book Review**

### When That Day Comes





First of all, what it isn't: "When That Day Comes / Training for the Fight" is not a novel. It is not strictly a training manual, either. And that is what makes it so interesting.

Most "Cop Books" talk about retired cops and their stories from the streets. They usually don't offer advice or critique the events. This book is different.

This book is not just for Cops. It is an all-encompassing book about one man's journey from civilian to decorated Police Officer with 20 years of service. Everyone should read about these true events that make up a Police Officer's work day.

Written in 53 individual chapters, Chris Hoyer takes us from civilian to police recruit; from police recruit to fully competent officer; from officer to fully competent tactical specialist and finally to a gut-wrenching career-ending shoot-out. The individual chapters make it easy to read in segments, and it has small words, for the benefit of lieutenants. (I read it twice.)

The book contains Chris Hoyer's personal stories about policing on the streets, from funny to heart-breaking. Chris makes us recognize the difference between a "shooting" and a "gun fight". And he speaks from experience.

The final chapters have deeply personal revelations on how Chris experienced, and overcame, the emotional toll of losing a close friend in a gunfight with a suicidal shooter. It is this experience that is the basis for the "training" part of the book.

Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, a well-known author about police tactics, endorses this book in his foreword. Col. Grossman calls this book "The best book for law enforcement professional development reading".

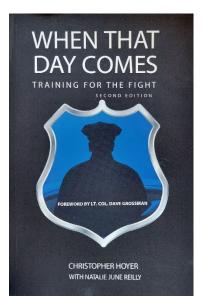
Now in its second printing, When That Day Comes is available at Walmart and on-line at eBay and Amazon. It is an amazing book by one of our Blue Knights. If you are a member of California 6 Blue Knights, you may ask Chris to autograph your copy at a general membership meeting.

Buy the book and pass it around.

- Richard Bennett



**Christopher Hoyer** 





### 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.

### 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>



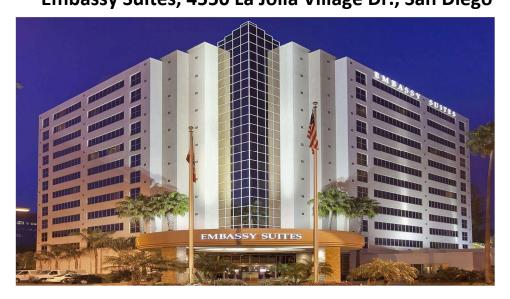
### Blue Knights, California VI

### 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. Over night accommodations are available too. Don't miss out!



More information to follow in future editions.



### **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.

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/



https://www.finalhonor.net/

### **UPCOMING RIDES**







