

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

*Blue Knights © California VI*



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## SEPTEMBER 2023

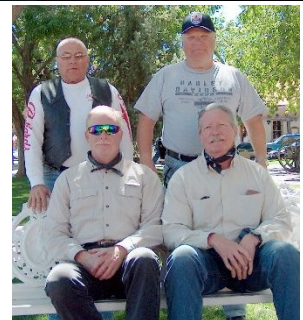


Time management is about life management.

(Idowu Koyenikan)

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING DATE:  
October 14, 2023**

Featured in  
this edition



**Poker Chip drawing was not held. Five dollars added to account.**

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 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](mailto: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**

**Good People, Good Times**



Well folks, we did it! We had a successful 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lt Col Grant V. Frey Memorial Poker Run. A huge shout out to **Alan Wheeler** who did most of the heavy lifting, and to all the members and their die-hard spouses who helped make this event a good one. We even had a new potential honorary boosting raffle ticket sales! I hope next year the weather won't scare folks or worse, cause them damage (so sorry for the Cal X members who tried to come but instead took flood damage). Cal X did support us with a check for all their rider fees so THANK YOU!

We also had a grand time at our annual picnic, once again hosted at the Wheeler's Resort Package Estate. I know a few folks had some conflicts and could not attend, but we pressed on, had a great turn out for raffle prizes, great food, and a more than splendid time was had by all. We had some honored guests from Cal X as well as our SWC Chairman **Martin Cuesta**, as well as our former quartermaster Lego, who is now a regular member of Georgia 12 (yep, he went back to work as a part time Deputy!).

We have several rides and events to support coming up in the next few months, including the November Knights and our fabulous Christmas Party. I hope all members will make an effort to come out and support these events, even if you don't ride a motorcycle. It's always fun to have members at all areas of an event, not just on the ride.

I have emailed everyone about the upcoming potential hoodie and shirt order. I am getting final prices and will hopefully have a prototype of each for the next meeting to show everyone. I really need more folks to come forward and order more items so as to drive down the cost. As it stands, we are looking at an order of only 36 each of the items for a chapter of 39 people. The items will cost a lot more than if we were ordering 50 to 60 of each. I'll keep you all in the loop as I get the info.

Chapter renewals are coming soon, be ready to plunk down your \$45 (\$50 if you're using SQUARE).

And yes, being a Blue Knight is being part of a motorcycle club, and yes, riding is a big part of the experience. The comradery, support, fellowship, service and FAMILY is what I think is just as big if not the bigger part of what it means to be a Blue Knight. I hope all members know that, especially our own CAVI members who don't come to meetings or our chapter events as often as they'd like (or as we'd like!). Every member is missed at every event. Good people make up Blue Knights, and that is a recipe for a good time, every time.

Stay safe and RWP!

**BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI  
General Membership Meeting**



**SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

**Mike Wagner, Secretary**



**September 9, 2023**

**AGENDA – CHAPTER PICNIC (Wheeler’s Residence)**

Call to Order: Chapter President Ken Smith at 1:27 Hours

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introductions/Guests: Marteen Cuesta, President Chapter 10 and Nick Diaz

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 Spotlight! More members need to participate
2. Raffle Tix – need to continue selling tickets
3. Check calendar for events on the Website and Newsletter
4. Mentioned about our two charities: Next Step Service Dogs and The Wishes GRANTED Foundation

**Vice President Alan Wheeler**

1. Promoted Richard Bennett’s suggested events
2. The San Diego County Motor Officers Association has asked for help in conducting their annual training and competition of motorcycle officers. It will be held in Oceanside, and will be attended by active-duty motorcycle officers from San Diego County and other areas. This will be the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual “Terry Bennett Memorial” Police Motorcycle Training and Competition. The event takes place on September 29 – 30, 2023 at the east parking lot of the Oceanside Harbor Village located at 401 Riverside Drive, Oceanside, CA. 92054.
3. I am planning to meet with the SDCMOA president, Jerry Kriebel, in person. I will brief him on the Blue Knights and our Chapter in particular. I hope to develop a long-standing relationship and hopefully recruit more Blue Knight members.
4. **Please contact our members and encourage their participation in the SDCMOA event**

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

5. I would like to remind CAVI members that the SD VVA will host yet another “Tom Slaughter Memorial Ride” and gun raffle. This coming Saturday, September 16, 2023. Start and end is at EL Patron H-D in El Cajon. 0800 registration and 0930 KSU. Flyer forth coming. Betsy and I will attend.
6. Our sister Chapter CAIV is hosting their – Sgt. Major Sam Walls USMC (Ret) Annual Benefit Run. September 23, 2023 in Redlands CA. Indian Motorcycle dealership located at: 215 E Redlands Blvd. Redlands, CA. 92373. This ride is on CAVI website.
7. October 28, 2023. CAX is hosting their annual Poker Run – this year’s theme is Casino Night. New start location: Coyne Powersports 2351 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, El Centro CA. this event is also posted on CAVI website.
8. November Knights: This annual event, hosted by AZVI, is posted on our website as well. There is no registration fee, meeting or agenda. Just Brotherhood. Only cost is the Glendale Hotel. Holiday Inn Express Sports District. November 16 -19, 2023.
9. A big thank you to all the CAVI members which participated and worked our August 19, 2023 LtCol Grant V Frey USMC (R) Memorial Poker Run. We had decent participation considering “Hurricane Hilary” was threatening Southern Calif. We grossed \$XXXXX. Greg Frey – Grant’s twin brother – was so gracious and wonderful. He not only flew from his home in Hawaii to attend, but he also brought gifts for each CAVI member. Distribution took place today Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer Chuck Belletti**

1. Treasurer report given to the membership

**Secretary Mike Wagner**

1. Wanted the membership to know Kaz and I will be making a big sacrifice for the club when they travel to Oahu, Hawaii and Kauai from September 15, 2023 to October 1, 2023. Toasts will be made nightly to CAVI!

**Chapter Directors:**

**Immediate Past President John Lopotosky – Excused**

1. We need to start collecting dues for 2024 chapter renewals at our October meeting. \$25.00 International and \$20.00 chapter dues. There will be an additional \$5.00 for members renewing via SQUARE.

**Ray Juanengo - Excused**

**Richard Bennett (Director and Safety Officer and Newsletter Editor) – Excused – see VP Message**

**Mike Harrison**

1. ALR Coastal Ride September 16, 2023

**BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI  
General Membership Meeting**

**Staff:**

**Safety/Risk Management – Mike Manen**

1. Coronado Safety Ride on October 21, 2023 will be at the Strand and will demonstrate slow speed maneuvers

**Webmaster – Stephen Roche**

1. Out of State

**Director Emeritus – Bill Crow**

1. N/A

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

**Marcus Sanchez -**

1. N/A

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

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

**Jorge Ortiz – SWC International Rep - Excused**

**Good of the order:** Blue Knight raffle tickets can be obtained by contacting Miguel Martinez. Members are encouraged to sell as many raffle tickets as possible.

President Chapter 10, Marteen Cuesta spoke about the relationship he had with Grant Frey. He also mentioned about the management at Chapter VI and its members.

**Poker Chip Drawing: None held; \$5 added to account**

**50 – 25/25 Winners:** The winners of \$60.00 each were Alan Cutsinger and Marcus Sanchez

Motion to Adjourn by: Miguel Martinez

Seconded by: Mike Wagner

Meeting Adjourned at: 2:12 P.M.

Next Meeting:

0900 Hours – Broken Yolk on October 14, 2023



## SAFETY MESSAGE

### Mike Manen, Safety Officer



Well folks this is my first article as the new Safety Officer. One thing I know is I am not a writer, but I will do my best. Most of you, if not all, have vast more riding experience than I, so I'm going to start with the basics, mainly for my own benefit. I took the following out of the Blue Knights Safety Manual.

THE SIMPLE STUFF a) Check your bike beforehand. Proper maintenance is a pre-requisite for a day of safe riding. Check oil and tire pressures before you leave home. Check electrical systems to ensure all signal lights are working.

b) Have what you will need for the ride with you. Remember water or fruit juices, proper clothing to encompass any inclement weather changes and a cell phone if you have one. Don't forget tools and a first aid kit.

c) Have a full gas tank and empty bladder!

d) Show up for rides 15-30 minutes before the pre-ride briefing so you don't miss important information or keep others waiting.

e) Ride Safe, Be Courteous, Have Fun.

PRE-RIDE BRIEFING Fifteen minutes prior to departure, the Lead Road/Ride Captain will give a pre-ride briefing to go over the route and review group riding communications and safety topics. Be patient and give your full attention. Group riding communications and safety topics must be covered at the beginning of each group ride. This may not be your first group ride, but it could be for the person riding in front of or behind you! This pre-ride briefing is for safety. Ask questions, don't be bashful and make certain you have all the information you need regarding the ride. If you're a new rider or new to the group this may be a good time to inform the Road Captains what they need to know about you and your riding limitations. They will be happy to accommodate you e.g. If you prefer to ride up front or in the rear of the group.

I usually spend the evening prior to the ride doing a little cleaning on my bike, which also gives me a chance to do an inspection. Occasionally I'll find small items that left unchecked could turn into larger items on the road. In closing I guess the part of the boy scout motto fits here "Be Prepared".

One more thing I noticed, and I think its kind of ironic. The author of the Safety Manuals Road name is "Crash".





# Road Wisdom

**There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge.**

Noah Webster



## Picking a Riding Partner

No one in any motorcycle training session I took ever mentioned riding with a partner. It is one of those things you can do without and still be a good rider. If you like riding with someone else to keep you company and share the adventure of the open road, I will caution you that the wrong partner can ruin a good trip.

### Types of partners

For the sake of clarification, I would like to divide “partners” into two categories: **Pillion** and fellow **Riders**. Pillion partners ride on your motorcycle on the passenger seat. The rider and passenger are in close contact all the time.

Fellow Riders are on a separate motorcycle and accompany you on the road. Riders may lead or follow, but travel as a team.

### Pillion Partners

If you have a spouse or “significant other”, that person would be the logical choice to be your Pillion partner. Before you decide to take him or her on a long trip, I recommend you determine if your partner will enjoy the adventure with you. I was once on a “day ride” where a spouse jumped off her husband’s motorcycle at a lunch stop and berated him in front of his friends. She didn’t like the passenger seat comfort, or the wind or group riding. It was an embarrassing way to find out she was not a good Pillion partner.

If your prospective Pillion partner has never ridden on a motorcycle before, a short introductory ride will help decide if this is “fun”. I recommend you resist the temptation to show the maximum performance of the motorcycle, and keep the ride low key. A pleasant, smooth ride will go a long way to gaining confidence.

If your partner likes local rides, suggest an over-night ride to a destination around 100 -200 miles. Pick two days that sunny, mild and calm. Figure an average of 50 miles of travel for each hour of riding time. So, a 100-mile ride would take two hours, a 200-mile ride would take four hours, etc. This is a comfortable pace that allows for breaks and meals along the way.

When you return, your Pillion partner will either be ready for longer rides, or decide that motorcycle adventures are not for him/her.

### Fellow Riders

Fellow riders are another category. The right riding partner can really enhance your motorcycle trips. Conversely, they can ruin the best of trips, so choose wisely, Grasshopper.

Something to consider: you and your riding partner should share common interests. You both should be considerate of the other person’s ideas and suggestions about the trip. Plan on being patient during stressful

times, and expect your riding partner to do the same. Being friends goes a long way toward being riding partners.

Having said that, I will confess to being picky about who rides with me. Here are some *disqualifiers* that I look for on an initial day ride.

- He takes unnecessary risks (unsafe passing, aggressive riding)
- Poor safety habits (novelty helmet, minimal safety apparel)
- Inflexible (insists on favorite gas station, restaurant, photo stops)
- Unreliable; doesn't show for the ride, cancels at the last minute or leaves unexpectedly during the ride.
- Drug or alcohol use (uses either and still rides)

And some *qualifiers* that get an invitation to ride with me again.

- Plans ride route together (destination, stops along the way)
- Is reliable; shows up on time, ready to ride.
- Keeps motorcycle in good condition (no loud exhaust, good tire tread, etc.)
- Doesn't make me worry about riding ability (I don't have to watch him in my mirrors)
- Saves libation until after the ride is done for the day.

Once you find good riding partners, your motorcycle adventures can begin. On my rides all over America and much of Europe, my partners have helped me with mechanical problems and physical illness. I have done the same for them. Having someone trustworthy with you when you break down or get too sick to ride is invaluable. After you find the partner(s) that are a good fit, enjoy the horizons...

Richard Bennett, Director  
BK CA VI

## Riding Partners



Janice Bennett



Bud



Donnie



"Radar"



Bruce



Rod



# San Diego County Motor Officers' Association 21<sup>st</sup> Annual "Terry Bennett Memorial" Police Motorcycle Training and Competition



## September 29-30, 2023

Proceeds to benefit

### **North San Diego County Promise**

**(AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF OUR GREATER NORTH SAN DIEGO  
SERVICE REGION'S STUDENTS AND FAMILIES)**

Come watch highly skilled Police Motorcycle Officers from throughout the southwestern United States as they test their skills in a spirited competition. Officers, families and friends, and the general public are invited and encouraged to attend.

*The location for this years' event is the east parking lot of the Oceanside Harbor Village located at 401 Riverside Drive, Oceanside, CA 92054*

For more information, or to make a donation, visit [www.sandiegocountymotors.org](http://www.sandiegocountymotors.org)  
or e-mail [sandiegocmoa@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegocmoa@gmail.com)

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/>

# Blue Knights, California VI

## Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 9, 2023**

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



**Same great location as last year!  
Easy access by Interstates 5 and 805  
Convenient indoor parking  
Overnight accommodations on site  
Breakfast included in hotel rate  
Chapter will underwrite part of dinner cost**

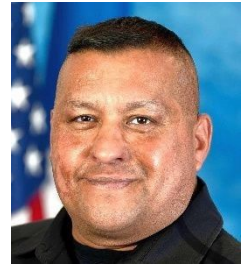
**This is the premier annual event for our Chapter  
Wrap up the year with friends  
Enjoy the holiday season; dress in your finest attire**

**December membership meeting included  
Gift exchange with White Elephant fun  
Adult beverages on site  
Group photo for great memories**

**Mark your calendars now  
Less than three months away!**



**FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF BK CA VI MEMBERS**



**ARTURO ROMERO**



\$45



\$10



\$45



\$10



\$10



\$10



\$5



\$10



\$10

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.

# UPCOMING RIDES



**NEW LOCATION**

**Blue Knights**  
California IV

SGT. MAJOR SAM WALLS  
USMC (RET)

**ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE BENEFIT RUN**

Venue At :  
Indian Motorcycle  
Redlands  
215 E Redlands Blvd.  
Redland, CA 92373

Date & Time :  
23 September, 2023 | 8 AM

Grand Prizes : Tickets \$10  
A-Glock 19 or Mosberg Shotgun

SINGLE RIDER \$30  
DOUBLE RIDER \$40

FIRST RIDERS LEAVE AT 10AM

FUN FOOD RAFFLE

www.BlueKnightsCA-iv.org

**BLUE KNIGHTS**  
CALIFORNIA X

**POKER RUN**  
SATURDAY OCT. 28 2023

Best Hand \$200.00 Worst Hand \$100.00  
Registration 0800-1000 at the:

**COYNE POWERSPORTS**  
2351 SOUTH 4TH STREET 92243

Single Rider \$30, Doubled Up \$40, Extra Poker Hand \$10

The first 100 riders will receive a pin

Good Food, Raffles and Good Times with Friends. Everyone is welcome.

**RIDE WITH PRIDE !**

Proceeds will benefit local charities and scholarships. If you are unable to attend and still would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please mail check to:  
Blue Knights CA X, P.O. Box 646, El Centro, Ca. 92244  
Donations can also be made thru our website at: [blueknightsca-x.org](http://blueknightsca-x.org)

For information contact: [Bk\\_ca\\_x@yahoo.com](mailto:Bk_ca_x@yahoo.com)

**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