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NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

March 9, 2024



Featured in this edition







Poker Chip drawing was held. Vic Slater's name was drawn. Since Vic was not present he did not win \$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 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 Ray Juanengo by email at: BlueKnightsCAVI.VP@gmail.com



CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



PRESIDENT

Ken Smith

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ray Juanengo

SECRETARY

Mike Wagner

TREASURER

Chuck Belletti

DIRECTORS

Richard Bennett

Bill Craw

Mike Harrison

MORALE & WELFARE

Michelle Juanengo

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

John Lopotosky

WEBMASTER

Stephen Roche

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard Bennett

RIDE COORDINATOR

Vacant

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

March Madness!



Hello my brothers and sisters and welcome to pre-March Madness! No, I'm not talking basketball, I'm talking about all the busy things our members and chapter will be doing once spring gets here.

As the weather gets nicer, there will be more rides, more activities and generally more going on for everyone. We will be gearing up for our Poker Run, yearly raffle, SWC, and many things in between.

We now have hoodies and wick away shirts and t shirts all with high fashion in mind, on sale now! If you haven't been to a meeting to see me modeling this stuff, I promise you won't need to avert your eyes too much!

If you've got a wish or a great idea for an after-meeting ride, please share it! SD County is 4200 square miles of great riding, there are lots of places and events we can ride to and experience and explore. I've heard a rumor we have someone stepping up to be Ride Coordinator, let's hope this happens sooner than later. The Chapter has so much fun on our rides, having someone to keep them going is a tremendous asset.

The last couple of months have had lower than hoped for turnout at our monthly meetings, I'm hoping as the weather gets better we see more of your smiling faces, and your bikes! Your Board of Directors has been doing a lot of heavy lifting and if you aren't able to pitch in that's ok, I know they hope you can show up and enjoy the fruits of their labors (give them our thanks!). Brotherhood is what it's all about, well, and maybe a good breakfast once a month lol.

Blue Knights is truly a wonderful organization for two reasons. One, for what we stand for, and two, more importantly, ALL OF YOU. Good people make good things happen.

Looking forward to seeing you at next month's meeting, and making it happen Until then, RWP!



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE Mike Wagner, Secretary



February 10,, 2024 Minutes

Call to Order: Chapter President Ken Smith at 0908 hours

Pledge of Allegiance led by Arturo Romero

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

Introductions/Guests: Ken introduced Michael and Tracy Brashars as Honoraries Mike Manen introduced his wife Janet Arturo Romero introduced his daughter Rosenda

Blue Knights Pledge Arturo Romero

"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. Xmas Party Committee is underway. Possibility of a different venue being used instead of Embassy Suites. Need to look at the rising costs of everything.
- 2. Poker Run Committee. The Poker Run was a great success last year. Alan Wheeler did an awesome job in organizing everything. So far this year no one has stepped forward to take the lead. It was mentioned in the future members within the club will be asked to work and be on the various committees.
- 3. Honoraries. Based on the number of members belonging to BK CA VI the club is entitled to three Honorary members. This will max out the number of Honoraries for the club.
- 4. After Meeting Ride/Possibilities/Survey of Members. Assist the Ride Coordinator, members will be asked to provide locations for future AMR's.
- 5. The transfer of Hoodies/Shirts to the Quarter Master.

Vice President Ray Juanengo

- 1. Participant in the next AMR.
- 2. Will participate on February 17, 2024 in the Vietnam Veterans Charity Ride. Will be honoring Tom Slaughter. The ride will include a scenic ride to Dudley's and ending at Motorcycle Monkey Coffee. KSU at 09:30. Raffle prizes include a hand gun, shotgun and more. Registration for riders \$25.00 and passengers \$10.00

Treasurer Chuck Belletti

1. The fiscal status of the club given to club members.

Secretary Mike Wagner

- 1. Update of BK CA VI roster
- 2 As a member of American Legion Post 146, Mike will be participating in a Joint Volunteer Day for two disabled Marines. Sergeant Dominic Esquibel and PFC Jesse Williamson. Volunteers will be landscaping the future homes of the two Marines. The event will take place on February 17, 2024. Registration will start at 09:30 and the landscaping project will start at 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The Shuttle location is Fallbrook Union High School. The address is 2285 Stage Coach Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028.

On February 24, 2024, Homes For Our Troops, will present the keys to Marine Sergeant Dominic Esquibel to his new specially adapted custom home located in Fallbrook, CA. Check In time 09:30 and the Ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. Shuttle location is James E. Potter Junior High School, 1743 Reche Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028.

Homes For Our Troops is a non-profit organization that donates specially adapted custom homes nation wide to post 9/11 severely disabled Veterans.

Past President John Lopotosky

- **1.** Renewals for the club has been completed.
- 2. Waiting for the club's 2024 cards which includes a sticker.

Chapter Directors:

Richard Bennett - Newsletter Editor

- 1. Status of Procedures Manuel. In the process of finalizing the document. The document will then go to the Board Of Directors and then to the general membership for approval.
- 2. Selection of 2024 Charities. Need to identify what charities the club will be sponsoring in fiscal year 2024.

Mike Harrison – Present at the meeting and no comments to make.

Emeritus Bill Craw

1. Status of donation for Border Patrol/CBP Officer. The club donated \$250.00 to assist the Customs and Border Protection Officer. Club members made donations to Go Fund Me account created by Arturo Romero.

Staff:

Safety Officer- Mike Manen

1. Coronado P.D. on February 20, 2024 will be hosting a Motorcycle Safety Course.

Webmaster - Stephen Roche - Not Present

1. President Ken Smith submitted a flyer to be posted on our website for a charity ride event on March 15, 2024. Information for the ride was given by a friend, a retired Fire Captain. The ride will be 180 mile ride.

Arturo Romero - (Quarter Master)

- 1. Bringing T Shirts to meeting. Hoodies and shirts will also be available.
- 2. Thanked members of the club for their donations to the GoFundMe account he created to financially assist a Customs and Border Protection Officer.

Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator and Chairperson of the Christmas Party) – No comments to make.

Jorge Ortiz – SWC International Rep – Not present at the meeting

1. Attended Quarterly SWC Meeting last Saturday. Conference members working on (1) Application for becoming a Blue Knight member and (2) State Permit Renewals.

Good of the order: John Lopotosky thanked Chuck Belletti for the chapters AMA renewals. 12 members of the club are AMA members.

Poker Chip Drawing: \$5.00 Vic Slater – not present Will increase to \$10.00

50 – 50 Winners: 1st: Janice Bennett \$30. 2nd: Wendy Cross \$30.00

Motion to Adjourn by: First by: Alex Cross Seconded by: Bill Craw

Meeting Adjourned at: 0951 hours

Next Meeting: March 9, 2024

Submit your Blue Knight articles to the Knightly News

The Knightly News is published monthly by Blue Knights California VI. All members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles deemed appropriate include but are not limited to: articles regarding motorcycle-oriented stories, personal travel, police functions or informational / technical topics.

As a reminder, any submissions of re-printed articles must clearly give credit to the original author. Copyrighted material must have permission of the author to be eligible. This can be remedied by writing up an outline of the article and by referencing the original author.

Articles that are deemed inappropriate for publication include and are not limited to: articles regarding controversial, personal choices, religious positions or advocacy for questionable action. Questions about material that does not fall clearly within the guidelines will be brought to the attention of the Chapter President by the Editor, for a decision of appropriateness. If necessary, the Board may review the article and make a decision to publish or not to publish.

Submit articles to Editor: <u>electrotalk2610@outlook.com</u>

<u>DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES</u>

SUNDAY WEEK AFTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING



SAFETY MESSAGE

Mike Manen, Safety Officer



I never really thought about writing an article about riding in the rain, why would I? We live in sunny Southern California, we don't need to know about this, we are not third world savages! But recent storms and more on the horizon have me looking into it. I've done it a few times, but I'm not a fan, but with the right gear and a properly maintained motorcycle you can mitigate a lot of potential problems. I've found a few articles on the internet that are worth reading.

Driving is more challenging and more dangerous in the rain. According to the <u>Federal Highway Administration</u>, 75% of weather-related crashes occur on wet pavement. <u>The North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies</u> also noted that fatal car crashes increase by 34% when it's raining. Motorcycle riders are already much more likely to suffer serious consequences in a crash, according to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration. Learning to ride safely as possible is always important for motorcyclists. If you're riding your motorcycle in the rain, safe driving habits are essential.

Before you take your bike riding in the rain, make sure you're prepared and informed about how to do so. In addition to the dangers of riding a motorcycle in the rain, it's also uncomfortable because you are exposed to the elements. Fortunately, the right gear helps keep you comfortable and safe. Before you head out, consider wearing a rainsuit, gloves and boots, and a helmet.

Safe driving habits when motorcycling in rain

Ride slower

Precipitation reduces visibility and increases reaction times. Ride slower so that you have time to react calmly to anything that happens. It also helps other drivers have time to respond to you safely. Learn more about driving in fog.

Lean less

While some leaning into a turn is necessary while riding, leaning can be a problem when you don't know how much traction you have. The United
States Army recommends that riders "keep the bike in as upright a position as possible until conditions improve."

Avoid sudden changes

Swerving, sudden braking, and sudden acceleration all make it harder to keep control of your bike, especially when riding in the rain. Whatever maneuver you make, be gradual and smooth. It also helps make you predictable for other drivers so that they can avoid hitting you.

Scan the road

Keep an eye out for puddles, oil spots, and any change in the pavement's texture. Anything other than the typical road surface may offer less traction. Standing water is a risk. Like cars, motorcycles can easily hydroplane, but the consequences are usually more severe for bikers than for motorists.

Look out for lightning

Lightning makes a storm more dangerous, especially for motorcyclists. Get off the road as soon as possible and wait it out.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT





Rick Carlson knew from a young age that he wanted to be a policeman. What he didn't know is where that career would take him.

Born in Ontario, Canada, he was cared for in his early years by his Swedish grandmother who taught him to speak Swedish. The winters were cold in Canada, and when Rick was nine years old, his family moved to San Diego. The warm, mild climate of southern California was a welcome change.

In his pre-teen years Rick sold newspapers on the corner of 30th and El Cajon Boulevard. It was there that he saw policemen dining at Rudford's Restaurant near-by. Those policemen never knew how much they influenced Rick Carlson's desire to be one of them.

His grade school had a program of student volunteers being designated as "Safety's". Students were selected by teachers to be peer-level ambassadors of safe behavior on campus. He became a "Safety", and that fueled Ricks interest in law enforcement.

While attending Hoover High School in 1963, President John Kennedy visited San Diego. Rick and his classmates were let out of school, and they watched President Kennedy pass by; a moment that was special to him. Rudford's Restaurant has a photo on the wall of the president passing in front of the restaurant.

After graduation from high school, Rick was too young to apply for the police department, but he prepared himself by working for Hartson's Ambulance service and taking "police science" classes at San Diego City College. When he turned 18, he had the choice of becoming an American citizen or retaining he Canadian citizenship. He chose America, which subjected him to the military draft.

Rick was inducted into the Army, training at Fort Ord, California. He returned home after his enlistment and continued his pursuit of becoming a San Diego Police Officer.

Recruit Officer Richard Carlson was hired in 1969, and attended the first Police Academy held at Miramar College. The 60th Police Academy attended classes for two weeks, and then alternated with two weeks of field training. The Academy lasted nine weeks, and graduates were then assigned to patrol duties with a senior officer.



July 11, 1969

Rick clearly remembers his first day as a Patrol Officer. He was assigned to the day shift, which started at 6 AM. At 2 AM Rick was in his new uniform with his equipment box and was standing in the patio of 801 West Market Street ready to go. So began his 35-year adventure as a San Diego Police Officer.

Reminiscing on his police career, Rick worked Patrol, Community Relations, Child Abuse, Homicide, Missing Persons and retired from the Violent Crimes Task Force. He remembers his first police car being a 1967 Chevrolet; roll up windows, no power steering or power brakes, and no air conditioning.



The time Rick spent in the Community Relations unit exposed him to all aspects of society while he represented the San Diego Police Department. He produced crime prevention videos, and worked with the Navy to give at-sea presentations to sailors enroute to San Diego. He would be sent to board a ship at sea, giving lectures to the crew before arriving in San Diego. He developed a great relationship with the crew, and on one occasion was allowed to shoot an M60 machine gun from the deck of the USS Tarawa.

At sea with M60

Rick remembers one of his challenging assignments was as Negotiator, dealing with barricaded suspects and hostages. It was satisfying to defuse a life-threatening incident, actually dealing with suspects to relieve the situation and bring it to a peaceful conclusion.

During this assignment, Rick negotiated with a suspect for several hours while his house was surrounded by police. Rick talked the suspect into coming out of the house, and after several minutes the man said he was out on his front porch. Rick asked him again to come out, and the suspect said "I am out". When Rick asked to confirm the address, he was standing on a porch two blocks away. Officers had surrounded the wrong house for hours. Rick told the suspect to stay put, and sent officers to the new address. The suspect was standing there with the telephone to his ear.

In addition to his police assignments, Rick has interesting talents and hobbies. He is a skilled wood worker, and for a time had a job making caskets for a pet cemetery. Rick has also taught firearms training for 40 years.

He is a published author; his book "I am in the tub, gone" includes real suicide letters. He also did paintings of murder scenes he investigated. Perhaps a little macabre, but no one else has done it.

After retiring from the San Diego Police Department, Rick volunteered to be a member of the San Diego County Grand Jury. During the 2010 – 2011 term, Rick was selected to be the Foreman of the Grand Jury.

Rick has a real interest in custom cars too. He is a long-time president of the San Diego Police Museum, and has facilitated a collection of real and replica police cars from past eras. These cars are available for display, and give a handson aspect to police history. Each October the Police Museum collection is displayed at Sea Port Village in the "Cops & Rodders" car show.

In Rick's personal collection is a replica "Joker" trike, named The Jester. He has displayed and driven this trike in various events, including Newport Beach, Las Vegas and Blue Knight events. On one occasion Rick wore a "Joker" costume and drove his replica trike in the Star Cars Parade in Las Vegas, Nevada. His passenger was Las Vegas Mayor, Oscar Goodman.

Rick says on one occasion he talked to Blue Knights California VI chapter members about the history of the police museum. After the presentation he was motivated to become a Blue Knight himself.



Star Cars Parade with Mayor Oscar Goodman

Rick says he is proud to be a member of the Blue Knights, and his love and respect for Law Enforcement is stronger than ever. He likes the involvement with current and retired officers, and participating in the events when he can. The Blue Knights are friends you can count on, and are like family.



Richard J. Carlson, Blue Knight



Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge. Noah Webster

Dancin' On the Rain Grooves

Be ready when the clouds come



Think back for a moment about all the times you have ridden your motorcycle in the rain. My examples go back for decades. I suspect my experiences are much like yours.

With some long rides ahead of us, and spring weather coming, I offer some suggestions as a matter of practicality, and not as an expert on the subject. It has been my experience that we enjoy our rides more if we dress for, and deal with weather rather than let it defeat us.

There was a time when I was a Motorcycle Officer. Rain-riding officers were pretty much divided between the young, eager Motor Cops and the older, wiser riders. We always have choices; Young Cops would put on the yellow "duck suit" and continue to ride, hoping the rain would pass. Older Cops pulled into a friendly service station and waited awhile. If the rain didn't pass, they called for a beat car, riding as second officer until the rain subsided. I liked being a second officer on rainy days.

Most riders who have traveled any distance by motorcycle have learned to read the skies. Rain can come up suddenly, so anticipating rain can help choose between seeking shelter or riding in the rain.

On a trip to Europe, my wife and I rode with Beach's Motorcycle Tours for two weeks. We were Harley riders with Harley clothes and had never been across the Alps. We sought advice from Rob Beach on riding gear, helmets, etc. His suggestion was to buy a riding suit, water-proof boots and a full-face helmet. All the things Harley riders usually don't have.

For the first time we spent money on quality riding suits; The kind that have removable liners, protection points on arms, shoulders and legs and are water-proof. Zippers allow for air flow in warm weather, with adjustable wrist and neck openings. We found boots that were completely water-proof, but were comfortable for riding and walking. These were a big improvement over the square-toe, harness boots that look so good on a Harley, but are painful to walk around in. The full-face helmets that we had not worn since my days on my 85 FXRS Harley were dusted off and used.



Get the gear and enjoy the ride

Throughout the extreme altitude and weather changes of Europe, we remained warm, or cool, and dry. The full-face helmets kept rain drops from hitting our face like bullets, and we never had to stop at the side of the road to get into or out of rain gear. Every other motorcycle rider we saw on the road in those two weeks were dressed the same as us. Function over fashion.

When we returned home, I hung up my trendy Harley jacket, and switched to my riding suit jacket. I almost exclusively use the riding suit now. The pants are in the saddle bag, if I should need them. And the Sidi riding boots are the only ones I use. Lesson learned: spend the money and get functional riding clothes.

So, pack up the saddle bags, check the weather, and get on the road. I'll see you when you return.



BLUE KNIGHTS SWC WINTER GATHERING

Lake Havasu City, AZ

Story by Michael Belluso
Photos by Betsy Wheeler and Sistiana



After serious contemplation and almost constant weather analysis on our not so smart phones, we decided to risk the rain and left for the SWC Winter Gathering on Friday morning. During a brief rain interlude we hit the road at 10:40am, heading north on I-15.

Repeated rain squalls dumped on us from Poway to Temecula where we decided to detour off the Freeway taking Winchester Road heading towards Hemet, hoping the rain would lessen the farther east we traveled. Unfortunately, the rain squalls followed us from Temecula until we stopped for a break at the Cabazon Outlet Mall to warm up and get lunch.

Fortunately, the Brighton outlet had hot coffee and a warm interior which allowed us some respite from the cold and rain. Following a short shopping spree at Brighton, we left the bike under covered parking at the Morongo Casino parking garage and lunched at the Cafe. Resuming our travels East thankfully resulted in dry but cold riding conditions.

Traveling into AZ netted us a loss of one hour due to the time change. We arrived at the host hotel, Hampton Inn, after sunset at about 6:40pm making for an eight hour day.



View from passenger seat

Having never attended a Blue Knight gathering before, we didn't know what to expect as far as an agenda. While pulling into the hotel we passed the pool area and witnessed the Blue Knights in full revelry! We knew we were in the right place!



After checking in at the hotel and shedding our rain gear, we headed over to the party. There we were welcomed with open arms, we reacquainted with some friends, met and made some new ones, and had a wonderful time partying that night.

The next morning following a complimentary breakfast at the hotel, one group of the Blue Knights rode north on AZ-95 stopping at the Topock 66 Spa and Resort. The other group rode to Oatman, AZ, and reportedly were treated to a view of the

Sistiana and Blue Knights

local wild burros. The weather was spectacular with full sun making for a great riding day.

The majority of the group had a meal and beverage while watching the sports feeds. Sistiana and I had a drink and decided to ride back to Havasu and check out the street fair on McCulloch Boulevard.

Saturday evening, Art Soto and his lovely wife Teresa were gracious enough to host a Barbecue at their home. The tri-tip meal and all the fixings were outstanding.



Bikes at Soto barbecue

After the barbecue the Blue Knights met back at the pool area for another bonding session. At the party the 50/50 raffle winner was a very deserving Teresa Soto!

The next morning Sistiana and I said our goodbyes at the breakfast and got on the road home around 9:00am AZ time. After fuel stops, we arrived home at 1:30 SD time, tired but happy after a great meeting at the SWC Winter Gathering. Rumors are next year's gathering will be in the same location, slated for Friday, January 31-Sunday, February 2, 2025.

Alan & Betsy Wheeler, Mike & Sistiana

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





