

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © California VI



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MARCH 2024



A good friend is like a four leaf clover; hard to find and lucky to have. (Irish proverb)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

April 13, 2024

Featured in this edition



Poker Chip drawing was held. Chris Medvigny's name was drawn. Since he 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 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 Crow

Mike Harrison

MORALE & WELFARE

Michelle Juanengo

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

John Lopotosky

WEBMASTER

Stephen Roche

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard Bennett

RIDE COORDINATOR

Michael Belluso

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**



The Year Ahead

Hello there BK CAVI! Well, here we are, another month down and we are doing swimmingly well! We have the date of our Christmas Party, December 14th (second Saturday). It was announced at the last general meeting it was the 7th but has since been changed. Same place, Embassy Suites. Hope many more of you can make it this year, we ALWAYS have a good time!

We are putting together the committee for our poker run, but we still need more help. This is a big fundraiser for our Chapter to allow us to have a party as well as donate to our selected charities. If you don't have time for a committee then please consider being one of the "all hands on deck" on the actual day!

We have several charities we are looking at to donate to this year and have had a presentation on one by Secretary Mike Wagner, who brought in a person from the actual Charity to talk to the board via Zoom. The Charities we are looking at are Wishes Granted, Next Step Service Dogs and Homes for Troops. If you can't come to a Board Meeting via Zoom (ALWAYS open to all members) or to a general meeting, feel free to reach out to any Board member and have your preferences known!

Now that the weather is getting nicer there will be rides all the time and everywhere for just about every cause you can think of. Blue Knights always try to support many of these rides when they support the community. We do our best to make sure they are on the website but if you are aware of a ride you think BK CAVI can or should support, please forward the info to any Board member and we can get it to the webmaster after approval.

We have a great thing going, I can't thank you all enough for letting me be part of it, and trusting me and your Board to make the best of it for all of us.

See you at the next ride and as always, stay safe, stay vigilant, and RWP!!!



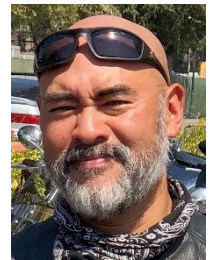
VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ray Juanengo, Vice President

Vietnam Veterans of America

Memorial Ride honoring Tom Slaughter

February 2024



On February 17th members of Blue Knights California VI participated in a memorial ride conducted by riders of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter 472. The Vietnam Veteran being honored was Tom Slaughter, also a much-missed member of BK CA VI.



The brisk morning opened with registration at Coffee Corner in Santee, CA. There, I met with BK CA VI Director and Vietnam Vet of America rider, Bill Crow. Throughout the morning registration five other BK CA VI members showed up, totaling seven members riding to honor one of our own.

Kick stands up took place promptly at 0930 and the group rode from Santee out to Lakeside up twisty Wild Cat Canyon Rd. From there, we headed towards Ramona wine and farm country eventually ending up at Dudley's Bakery. The group took a quick respite from the road, buying specialty breads from the

bakery and talking motorcycles with fellow riders. Afterwards, we took a more direct route back to Santee to end the ride for lunch and fellowship at Motorcycle Monkey.



At the end of the ride all the riders congregated to break bread and just enjoy each other's company. We were fed by Chuck Abney with King Accident Attorneys and local radio personality, Clint August (owner of Motorcycle Monkey) brewed his craft coffee for anyone needing the caffeine.

Besides BK CA VI in attendance, Combat Vets Motorcycle Association 33-1 was present in large numbers and was advertising their upcoming Stand Up Ride. I took a flier and was told that their organization always appreciates the Blue Knights supporting their annual ride. It reminded me that when our chapter rides and represents in good numbers, people take notice. I certainly did, and do.

Blue Knights Ride with Pride.



Photos by Ray Juanengo



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Mike Wagner, Secretary



**MEETIN MINUTES
March 9, 2024**

Call to Order: Chapter President Ken Smith at 0900 hours

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Wagner

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

Introductions/Guests: Ken introduced Mary Pittman who talked to the membership about a couple of upcoming rides. She informed the membership the ride events are on her Facebook account.

Ken swore in Walter MCDANIEL prior Blue Knight member

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. On March 4, 2024 (Via Zoom) Bill Ivey, Executive Director for Homes For Our Troops (HFOT) organization gave the board members a short presentation about the specially adapted custom-made homes his organization builds for disabled Veterans.
2. Christmas Party Location – A mass email was sent out to all members and no one replied. The decision was made by board members to have the Christmas Party again this year at Embassy Suites. Everyone needs to understand the price could go up from last year.
3. Poker Run Committee – Since no club member has stepped forward to take charge; Director Richard Bennett suggested Alan Wheeler co-chair this committee with a club member. Alan Wheeler has stated he is interested in taking part in this committee.
4. Ken turned over to Quarter Master Arturo Romero the remainder of the Wick-A-Ways, T-Shirts and Hoodies.

Vice President Ray Juanengo

1. On May 1, 2024 there will be an event at The Annual Law Enforcement Memorial located at the County Building. The County will honor First Responders.
2. Introduced Elizabeth Honey a Deputy with SDSO Transportation Unit. She addressed the membership on an upcoming tribute ride for Dewayne Duggs, a fellow deputy who retired in 2017 and passed away in 2018 from a heart attack.
The event will take place on May 4, 2024 at the Indian Dealership at 10:00 a.m. KSU at 10:30 a.m. Cost \$40.00 per Rider and \$50.00 w/passenger.

Treasurer Chuck Belletti

Gave a report to membership.

Secretary Mike Wagner

1. Addressed the membership on sponsoring the Homes For Our Troops (HFOT) non-profit organization which builds custom adapted homes for disabled Veterans.

2. On March 30, 2024 there will be a Key Ceremony at Fallbrook, CA. for PFC Jesse Williamson and his family. The website for HFOT is hfotusa.org. Most events have to be RSVP via the website. Ken Smith mentioned a consensus from the membership will include the HFOT as a future charity.

Past President John Lopotosky

1. Informed the membership San Diego County Sheriff Dept. Robert Vaughn had a heart attack and was not doing too well.
2. Informed members to join the AMA if not already a member.

Chapter Directors:

Richard Bennett - Newsletter Editor

1. Requires assistance from SWC on new articles that are beneficial to club members.
2. AMR – Richard Bennett talked about the ride to the San Diego Police Museum. He also wanted to thank Michael Bulluso, Ride Coordinator for his assistance.
3. Informed membership to look at the Procedures Manual on changes made so it could be ratified and approved by the membership.

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

Emeritus Bill Crow - Present at the meeting and had no comments to make.

Staff:

Safety Officer– Mike Manen

1. Informed the membership with all the rain the County has had; there is a lot of gravel on the roadways and riders need to be careful when riding their motorcycles.

Webmaster – Stephen Roche – Not Present at the meeting.

Arturo Romero - (Quarter Master) - Present at the meeting and had no comments to make.

Ride Coordinator – Ken Smith introduced Michael Belluso as the new Ride Coordinator.

Michelle Juanengo (Morale/Welfare Coordinator) - Not present at the meeting.

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

Good of the order: - Ken Smith informed the membership, Gus Kalupus a retired Sheriff Deputy passed away at the age of 64.

Poker Chip Drawing:

50 – 50 Winners: 1st: Alan Cutsinger won \$40.00 2nd: Mike/Wendy Bulluso donated \$40 back to the club Alex/Wendy Cross won \$40.00

Motion to Adjourn by: First by: John Lopotosky Seconded by: Mike Manen

Meeting Adjourned at: 0952 hours

Next Meeting: April 13, 2024



BK News You Can Use

The Town Crier

by Martin Cuesta SWC Chairman



On Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 04:02:56 PM PDT, Salvador Quezada <chavasq@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Everyone,

*Please ensure all your Chapter Members get this email forwarded.

1. The **BK CO State Meeting** is scheduled from **Friday, June 14 to Sunday, June 16, 2024**, in Gunnison, CO. The President of BK CO III, Jim Jackson, will be hosting this meeting. It is an excellent opportunity for members to come together and share their experiences and insights. If you plan to attend the BK CO State Meeting, you should know a few things. First, the host hotel for the event is **The Alpine Inn, located at [1011 Rio Grande Ave, Gunnison, CO](#)**. It is best to make your reservations early, and when you do, please mention Blue Knights Colorado. This will ensure that you receive the best rates and amenities.

Additionally, please inform Colorado III at 16usc1 @ gmail.com of your Saturday dinner attendance. This will help us ensure an accurate headcount for the event.

Finally, I would like to inform you that a group of attendees will leave Gunnison on Sunday morning, June 16, 2024, to attend the SWC in Colorado Springs. This is an excellent opportunity to network with other organization members and learn from their experiences.

2. I am also sharing the details and registration form regarding **the 2024 Blue Knights Int., LEMC, Southwest Conference in Colorado Springs, CO**, hosted by CO-VI, which will be held from **Sunday Morning, June 16, to 20, 2024**. If you need assistance with the Southwest Conference, please get in touch with Scott (Scooter) Deeds at enforcer040@hotmail.com.

We will say our goodbyes on Thursday morning and hope to see everyone again at next year's Southwest Conference in New Mexico, sponsored by NM-VI.

Please make your reservation at:

Academy Hotel

- - Queen: \$135/night
- - King: \$145/night
- - King Spa: \$235/night

Please Call the Academy Hotel for Reservations. Mention you are with the "Blue Knights!"
[8110 N. Academy Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 90920](#)

Academy Hotel (719) 598-5770

Please let me know if there is anything else I can help you with.

Salvador Quezada
SWC Secretary
Blue Knights CA-X

Blue Knights

INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLE CLUB

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 2024

JUNE 16 - 20, 2024

HOSTED BY COLORADO VI, COLORADO SPRINGS



BLUE KNIGHTS MEMBER REGISTRATION COST:

****PENDING****

REGISTRATION PACKET

SHIRT

GUIDED AND SELF-GUIDED RIDES WITH HANDOUTS/ROUTES THROUGHOUT THE
ROCKIES OF COLORADO

2024 CONVENTION POKER CHIP

50/50 RAFFLES WILL BE OFFERED DAILY AND THROUGHOUT THE CONVENTION

CHANCE AUCTION

BUFFET DINNER

HOSPITALITY ROOM DAILY

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:
SCOTT (SCOOTER) DEEDS ENFORCER040@HOTMAIL.COM

DAILY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH

REGISTRATION OPEN

HOSPITALITY ROOM 6:00PM - 11:00PM

MONDAY, JUNE 17TH

REGISTRATION OPEN 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

PRESIDENTS/SAFETY MEETING 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

HOSPITALITY ROOM 6:00PM - 11:00PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH

A. RIDING THE ROCKIES

B. GARDEN OF THE GODS

C. PIKES PEAK SUMMIT

D. RIDE THE ROYAL GORGE

HOSPITALITY ROOM 6:00PM - 11:00PM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 9:00AM - 12:00AM

FREE TIME

SOCIAL HOUR 5:00PM - 6:00PM

BANQUET/PRESENTATIONS 7:00PM - 9:00PM

HOSPITALITY ROOM 9:00PM - 11:00PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH

CONFERENCE ROOM/ FAREWELLS



SAFETY MESSAGE

Mike Manen, Safety Officer



Advice from Florida

With all the rain we have the last month or so in my neighborhood I've had to be extra cautious concerning debris in the road. The rain has washed a lot of sand and gravel onto the roadway; Which started me thinking about other road hazards. I found this article out of Florida:

Seven Common Road Hazards Florida Motorcyclists Should Avoid

When driving through the tropical state of Florida, a motorcycle offers you a scenic and exciting way to make your commute. While you may be a safe and responsible driver, an accident may still occur. Road hazards can cause an accident for any motor vehicle. Still, being that motorcycles operate on only two wheels, motorcyclists face even more danger if a road hazard causes an accident. The following are seven common road hazards Florida motorcyclists should avoid:

Railroad Crossings

Going over railroad tracks may be nothing more than a few bumps in the road in a car. However, on a motorcycle, the wheels may get stuck, causing the driver to be thrown or fall off. If you can avoid going over railroad tracks by taking a different route to your destination, it is advised that you do so to avoid injury.



Edge Breaks

An edge break between lanes is when one side of the road is higher or lower than the one the motorcyclist is currently driving on. Edge breaks are dangerous to motorcyclists, especially on highways when traveling at high speeds, because the break may cause the driver to lose control or fall off their motorcycle. Drivers should look out for these and approach them as slowly as possible to avoid an accident.

Expansion and Bridge Joints

Expansion joints connect pieces of the road, while bridges do the same thing for bridge ways, and allow for cement to expand without cracking. While these joints are crucial to driver safety, they may create large gaps that can catch a motorcycle's wheel. Drivers should try to avoid driving over these, but if that is not possible, they should avoid significant fluctuations in speed.



Gravel



For larger, four-wheeled vehicles, gravel may not be an issue. Gravel may cause the wheels to lose traction for motorcycles, causing the bike to slide out from beneath you. When driving over gravel, motorcyclists should try not to lean and should avoid making any sudden stops.

Wet Surfaces

After rain or flooding, the roads may become wet and slippery, which can be treacherous for a motorcyclist to drive on. Drivers should try to go at a slower pace and brake gradually to avoid losing control of the bike.



Debris in the Road



Debris in the road can range from pieces of tires, rocks, or broken glass. Debris can cause an accident or fly up and hit the driver, causing an injury, and should be avoided if possible.

Animals

When an animal like a deer or raccoon is on the road, a motorcyclist should slow down and try to avoid them. Unfortunately, if it is not safe to avoid the animal, a motorcyclist may cause damage driving into oncoming traffic to avoid the animal.



Blue Knights join Home for our Troops to help disabled Marines & Blue Knights attend Key Ceremony for disabled Veteran

Story by Michael Wagner

Photos by Michael Wagner and Niqui LaViolette

On February 17, 2024 Blue Knight Alex Cross and I volunteered to help landscape the future homes of two disabled Marines.



PFC Williamson home

Most of these Veterans have sustained injuries, including multiple limb amputations, partial or full paralysis, and/or severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). These homes help restore some of the freedom and independence our Veterans sacrificed while defending our country, and enables them to focus on their family, recovery and rebuilding their lives.

The homes were being donated by Homes For Our Troops (HFOT), a publicly funded 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. They build and donate specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post 9/11 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives.



Sgt. Esquibel home



Volunteers at work

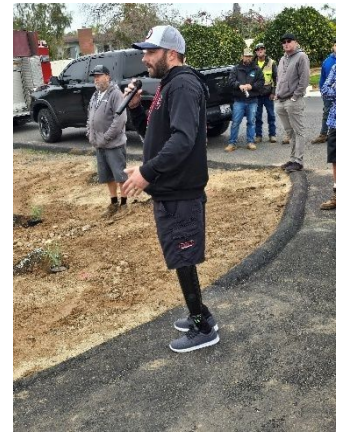
During this event there were over 150 volunteers; 75 volunteers landscaped Private First Class (PFC) Jesse Williamson's home and the other 75 volunteers landscaped Sergeant Dominic Esquibel's home. The event started around 10:00 a.m. and ended around 12:45 p.m. and was coordinated by Niqui La Violette, Community Engagement Coordinator for Homes For Our Troops.

I have participated in numerous charity events throughout my lifetime; but this was one of the most fulfilling and heartwarming. Being able to help these two disabled Marines made all the difference. We are taking care of our disabled Veterans for all the sacrifices they have made.



PFC Williamson and Niqui LaViolette

When the 150 volunteers stood at each home for the raising of the Home For Our Troops flag, it was so electrifying and exciting. It brought back memories of my 20 years in the United States Marine Corps where I had participated in numerous parades and ceremonies.



PFC Williamson addressing volunteers

Note: There is no picture of Sgt. Dominic Esquibel because he is a private person and wishes to remain so. When the volunteers stood in line at his home waiting to eat lunch he walked by and personally shook the hand of each volunteer.



Flag raising ceremony at the end of the project

Key Ceremony for Sgt. Esquibel

On February 24, 2024 Blue Knight Alex Cross and I, along with George Christensen joined again with Home For Our Troops to attend a Key Ceremony at the home for disabled Veteran Dominic Esquibel in Fallbrook, California. George Christensen is the Commander of American Legion Post 146 located in Oceanside, California. Mike Wagner is a member of this Veteran organization too.

The Key Ceremony is where the keys to a new home are given to the home owners so they can move in. Bill Ivey from HFOT presented an electronic key fob to Sergeant Esquibel and his wife.



Alex Cross, Ms. Goroshko & Mike

This event was coordinated by Krystina Goroshko who is a Community Engagement Coordinator for Home For Our Troops Organization. According to Krystina, Homes For Our Troops has completed building 374 custom adapted homes for disabled Veterans in 45 States. Forty seven homes have been completed in California and 8 homes are currently being built in the State. Eighty two homes are in the process of being built throughout the United States.

This event was just as fulfilling and heartwarming as the landscaping event which occurred on February 17, 2024 at the homes of both Marines homes: SGT. Dominic Esquibel and PFC Jesse Williamson.



BK Cross, Cmdr. Christensen, BK Wagner

Numerous volunteers who participated in the landscaping event were present. Additionally, other disabled Veterans who live in the same neighborhood were at this key ceremony along with their families.

There were numerous guest speakers. One of the guest speakers was Bill Ivey, Executive Director for Homes For Our Troops Organization. He gave a very touching and emotional speech. He not only talked about his personal relationship with Sergeant Dominic Esquibel and his wife, Joanna who is from Poland and has a PHD in Linguistics, but also explained how the organization (HFOT) considers each disabled Veteran a member of the organization's family and keeps in touch with each disabled Veteran family to ensure all their needs are taken care of.

The last speaker was Sergeant Dominic Esquibel. He gave a very personal and touching speech.

Here is a little bio on Sergeant Dominic Esquibel.

He has always been driven by a life of service. This guiding principle motivated him to enlist in the United States Marine Corps as an Infantryman to defend his country after the attack of 9/11.

He first deployed to Iraq in 2004 with 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, serving in Anbar Province. After training his Marines of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines for operations in Afghanistan, he deployed with them to that theater. On March 25, 2011 while leading his squad in Sangin District, Helmand Province, Sergeant Esquibel stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), sustaining severe damage to his right leg, a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and injuries to his shoulder and back.

After eight years of limb salvage to his right leg and re-injuring it again in 2012, Esquibel agreed to have doctors amputate his leg below his knee. Medically retired Esquibel wears his prosthetic most of the time but is finding it progressively more challenging to move around his non-accessible home.

Receiving a 2800 square foot home on an acre + of land specially adapted custom home from Homes For Our Troops (HFOT) with an open floor plan, pull down shelves, and other safety features mitigates the issues mentioned above.

It was a pleasure and honor to represent the Blue Knights and the American Legion Post 146 at these events.



Respectfully Submitted
Michael Wagner, CA VI Secretary

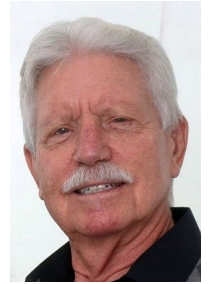


Road Wisdom

by Richard Bennett

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge.

(Noah Webster)



It is spring, and the season brings new challenges to motorcyclists. This article is a reprint from the Knightly News two years ago. It is a good reminder about bee encounters, and what to do about them.

BEE AWARE



Every year during my Motor Officer assignment I could count on getting stung by a bee at least once, and sometimes twice. It usually happened while I was riding my police motorcycle, wearing my short-sleeved uniform shirt and my open-faced helmet. With attire like that, it was inevitable that a bee would find its way into my clothes or helmet.

Although I am no expert on bee behavior, I have learned some things about bees that a motorcyclist should know. Some things were learned the “hard way”, but most of my info came from curiosity and research. I share these words of “wisdom” with you now.

Almost all of my bee encounters were the result of riding through a swarm of bees that were impossible to miss. When I suddenly got pelted with some kind of flying bugs, the epiphany that it was bees usually occurred at the same time one got into my clothes, or helmet.

If you sit around with your buddies and talk of motorcycle rides, sooner or later someone usually mentions an encounter with bees. They often tell of getting bees inside their jackets, or sleeves. The sensation of bees inside clothing, and the stings at highway speed are never forgotten.

Each story starts the same way; the windshield usually gets coated with bee strikes, and the expectation of an imminent bee sting at freeway speeds crowds most logical thinking from their minds. The typical reaction is to try and get rid of the bee before it stings, no matter what.

Riders who panic will dive for the curb, brake aggressively and try to strip off clothing or helmet. In the rush to get stopped, traffic hazards are often forgotten, making the situation worse. Most bee-encounter stories end the same way, whether the rider gets safely stopped or takes a spill; one or more bee stings happen before the bee is evicted.

Here are some things to know about bees that may help you reduce your sting quotient. Swarming is a natural process for bees. They do it to expand to additional hives, and rarely to aggressively attack. There is a swarming season, usually from mid-April through mid-June, which corresponds with spring and the blooming flowers. This season may be expanded in warmer, moister climates in the southern states, so keep that in mind if you are planning a ride to that area.



You are more likely to encounter bees on rural roads, where apiaries (commercial bee hives) are located. Keep an eye out for the wooden boxes that are usually stacked in a field near the roadway. This is their home, and bees will be commuting to and from the hive with pollen. These are not “swarms”, just working gals--most are females, don't you know? You may encounter a stray bee, but nothing like riding through a swarm.

Honey bees that are swarming are usually looking for a new hive location. These bees are not aggressive because their mission is to find a new neighborhood, not attack innocent motorcycle riders. They will be as surprised as you when the two of you collide. Depending upon what you are wearing (or not wearing), one or more bees may get inside your clothing. The key here is to remain calm. Swatting bees will only piss them off, and bees with an attitude will sting more quickly.

Tell yourself you will probably get stung, so the priority will be to get safely off the road and remove your helmet or clothing. It is far better to be stung than to be stung *and* crash.

Bees are sensitive to odors. Even though I can't point to a bee nose in a close-up photo, I know this because of bee behavior. Entomologists (bee experts) tell us bees use pheromones to find food sources and keep colonies together, among other things. They also like bright colors. Odors and bright colors are keys to bees finding flowers, which are essential to their survival.

As a motorcycle officer, I kept my equipment clean and shiny. Every day I would wipe and shine the motorcycle, getting it ready for the next day. I discovered Lemon Pledge, a furniture polish that worked well on the motorcycle and my boots. It was quick and easy. But in the spring time, I discovered bees would fly around me and my motorcycle at every traffic stop, making it hard to maintain my professional demeanor.

So here are some suggestions for minimizing unpleasant bee encounters. Be aware of "bee season", when bees are most likely to swarm to new locations. Watch for apiaries in fields near roads and highways. Awareness helps.

Wear protective clothing. I know, we should do this all the time, but consider protection beyond contact with the pavement. Wearing a full-faced helmet and zipped-up jacket can keep those stingers on the outside where they belong.



If you hit a swarm, hunker down behind your windshield. Get close to your gas tank and pull your elbows in. Be a smaller target. The bees will soon be in your rear-view mirrors.

And finally, if you ever get a bee on the inside of your gear, don't panic. Tell yourself you will probably get stung, so man-up and accept it. Then safely and quickly stop off the road and evict the bee. Maybe you (and the bee) will get lucky and part company without a sting.

Now go enjoy the riding season, but be aware...





Blue Knights CA VI
After Meeting Ride March 9th, 2024
By Michael Belluso
Ride Coordinator BK CA VI
Photos by Mike Belluso and Sistiana Chestnut



The first BK CA VI After Meeting Ride of 2024 occurred on a beautiful March San Diego Saturday morning! CA VI Newsletter Editor Richard Bennett created the ride which toured a portion of the southern San Diego Coastline, Shelter Island and Harbor Island, then turned inland with a short tour through historic Balboa Park, finally terminating at the San Diego Police Museum on College Avenue.

Richard Bennett and newly minted Ride Coordinator Michael Belluso pre-rode the planned route on the Thursday preceding the meeting to check road conditions and make note of any other possible safety issues.

Following the general meeting and after a short safety briefing by Richard Bennett, KSU at approximately 10:30am at the gas station adjacent to the Broken Yolk.



After turning south on the coastline, the group rode past Sunset Cliffs.



Harbor Island with San Diego Skyline

Turning inland, ride leader Richard Bennett lead us onto both Shelter Island and Harbor Island for a quick tour. The group stopped for a bathroom break and photo opportunity on Harbor Island.



The ride came to a slow crawl through Balboa Park.



Arriving at the San Diego Police Museum

Ride Leader Richard Bennett is a volunteer at the museum and was able to provide us with an outstanding tour of this beautiful museum. If you have not attended, it is a must see!



Wall of badges and Law Enforcement shoulder patches



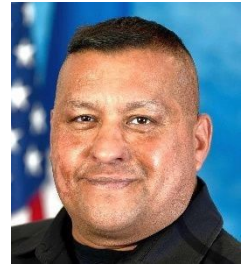
Kawasaki Police motorcycle

The San Diego Police Museum is located at 4710 College Ave., San Diego.

For hours and directions, visit www.sdpolicemuseum.com



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.

Tee shirts and Wick-away Hoodies are also available (No Photo)

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/>



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

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

UPCOMING RIDES



SDFD FIRE HOGS MC

Charity Chip Run - 3rd Annual Heroes Ride
Benefiting the San Diego Fire Relief Assoc



Friday 15 MAR 2024
Ride ends & Winner
Drawn @ Heroes
Wood-fired Pizza

Open To All Riders/Groups
180 Miles of Scenic East County
0830 Registration
0930 KSU from Amici Park
260 W Date st SD 92101

Registration is
\$35 per person
Carlee's in Borrego for
Lunch & Opportunity
Drawings (1200-1330)



The FIRE HOGS M/C goal is to promote a brotherhood amongst our fellow firefighters. Develop a relationship with the community to which we serve. Provide assistance for all our fallen brothers and loved ones left behind. Promote an organization based on trust, respect, fellowship, freedom and unity.

CVMA CA 33-1
PROUDLY PRESENTS

AUXILIARY COMBAT VETS SUPPORTER ASSOCIATION AT VETS

12 ANNUAL Poker Run

SAT. APRIL 20, 2024

ESCONDIDO ELKS LODGE, 2430 S. ESCONDIDO BLVD
ESCONDIDO, CA 92025

**LIVE MUSIC
FOOD
DRINKS
PRIZES
RAFFLES
VENDORS
& MORE!**

REGISTRATION
08:00 AM
Opening Ceremony
09:00 AM

Save \$5
\$30 SINGLE
\$40 2-UP

PRE-REGISTER AT: WWW.CVMA331.ORG
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT VETERANS & VETERAN PROGRAMS

STANDUP RIDE

THE WALL THAT HEALS
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER
A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL



From the Editor

This is your Newsletter. It is intended to communicate with our members, and show others what we are doing. Your contributions are needed.

Blue Knights come from a tradition of public service, and we are family-oriented. We share a love of motorcycle riding and family inclusiveness. We are proud of our club and the members that are in it. That is why I am asking for your contributions.

In the Newsletter there will always be designated pages for your elected Board of Directors. These are instruments designed to inform and to archive our achievements.

But there is unlimited space for *your* contributions. As the Editor I would like to someday have so many articles that I have to pick and choose because of volume.

So, give it some thought. You don't need to be a professional writer; just one who can share some interesting stories. Did you do a day ride to an interesting place? Go riding with Blue Knights at an event? Participate in a community event? Do you have some sage riding advice? Safety tips? All those, and more, are the basis for interesting stories.

And pictures! Lots of pictures make the story come alive. Photos can be sent to me in jpg format. Stories are best received in Word format. If you don't have Word, I will work with you to get it in a format I can use.

So, dust off the computer, check the "pictures" file, and write me a story. The Newsletter is what you make it. Let's make it great!

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: electrotalk2610@outlook.com

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

SUNDAY WEEK AFTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING