

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © California VI



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November 2022



A man never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child. (James Dobson)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

December 3, 2022

Featured in
this edition



Poker Chip drawing was held. Richard Bennett's name was drawn. Since Richard was not present he did not win the \$5.

By being present at the monthly Blue Knight Chapter meeting you become eligible for the drawing. If you are present, you win the amount in the pot. If you are not present \$5 is added to the pot. Currently the amount is \$10.



THE BLUE KNIGHTS



The Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc., is an International fraternal organization comprised of law enforcement officers and their families who are also motorcycle enthusiasts.

Headquartered in Bangor, Maine, the Blue Knights® operates under an international constitution and bylaws within an organizational structure of an international board of directors and eleven regional conferences, each conference including a number of local chapters. The Blue Knights® promotes safe and responsible motorcycling and sponsors fund raising in support of numerous charities.

The inception of the Blue Knights® came in April 1974 when a Bangor Maine, police officer had the idea of forming a motorcycle club for people in law enforcement. Since then, the club has grown to become the foremost and largest international law enforcement motorcycle club. Today, there are over twenty thousand Blue Knights® worldwide in six hundred in 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 Ken Smith by email at: vice_president@bk-cavi.org



CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



PRESIDENT

[John Lopotosky](#)

VICE-PRESIDENT

[Ken Smith](#)

SECRETARY

[Shari Stegall](#)

TREASURER

[Chuck Belletti](#)

DIRECTORS

[Richard Bennett](#)

[Mike Harrison](#)

[Ray Juanengo](#)

[Alan Wheeler](#)

MORALE & WELFARE

[Tina Lopotosky](#)

[Michelle Juanengo](#)

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

[Grant Frye \(Heaven 1\)](#)

WEBMASTER

[Stephen Roche](#)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

[Richard Bennett](#)

RIDE COORDINATOR

[Alan Wheeler](#)

SAFETY OFFICER

[Richard Bennett](#)

QUARTERMASTER

[Arturo Romero](#)

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

John Lopotosky, President



Am I Thankful?

Greetings fellow Blue Knights. It's time, once again, to sit and write a monthly president's message. At times I struggle on what I want to impart to you. I've been so honored to serve as chapter president for the past two years. Through all the travails and troubles, I sometimes had doubts that I was up to the task. This made me think; am I thankful?

As I mulled this question over in my mind I came to the resounding conclusion that I am truly thankful for my association with the Blue Knights LEMC and all of you. The friendships I've made throughout the years, within the chapter, the conference, and globally have all made my life better. I have met some truly wonderful people and benefited from knowing them.

With an organization the size of the Blue Knights there are a lot of things to celebrate and sadly, there are times when we join together to grieve. I've had the pleasure of congratulating members on the births of children and grandchildren. Experienced the joy of attending weddings and anniversary parties. I have shared in the sadness seeing my friends fall ill or go through hard times. Worst of all I have attended funerals and said goodbye.

For over twenty years I have attended chapter meetings and rides. I attended as many conferences and conventions as I could, some in countries foreign to me. I met so many brother and sister Blue Knights that I now call friend. I have called on these friends for help and have answered their calls when needed. I learned early on, that the common Blue Knights phrase "There are no strangers in the Blue Knights, only friends you have not met yet" was a truth that permeates this great organization. I can't help but think that our common experiences in law enforcement acts as the glue that binds us as a club.

So, to answer my own question; Am I thankful? The answer is yes. I'm thankful that I was blessed to join the largest, strongest, and oldest law enforcement motorcycle in the world. I'm thankful for having the opportunity to travel the country and world, sharing a love of motorcycles with like-minded brothers and sisters. Above all I'm thankful for each of you. Though we may disagree from time to time, the bonds of the badge, the club, and motorcycling are something we all have in common.

I want to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving. You have blessed me in ways that you may never know. After all, aren't the unexpected blessings the best kind?

**NOVEMBER 12, 2022
Minutes**



Call to Order: Chapter President John Lopotosky at 0905 Hours

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for Members of Heaven I and Recognition of Fallen Chapter Members Introductions/Guests:

Raheem Halstead introduced himself. He is an NCIS Agent interested in membership.

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 John Lopotosky

1. Elections for 2023/2024 Chapter Officers
 - A. The slate of candidates for 2023/2024 were elected by acclamation.
 - a. President Ken Smith
 - b. Vice-President Alan Wheeler
 - c. Secretary Shari Stegall
 - d. Treasurer Chuck Belletti
 - e. Immediate Past President John Lopotosky
 - f. Director Ray Juanengo
 - g. Director Richard Bennett
 - h. Director Mike Harrison
2. 2023 Membership Renewals. Please pay your dues ASAP
3. Nominations for Blue Knights and Lady/Lord of the Year Needed ASAP
4. Upcoming Events
 - A. November Knights/Glendale AZ – November 18-20, 2022
 - B. 2023 SWC – Las Vegas May 7-11, 2023

Vice President Ken Smith

1. Small Claims Update
 - A. Mr. Lee elected to settle. All chapter funds were recovered, and the small claims case has been dismissed.
2. Christmas Party Update
 - A. Please pay ASAP. As of today, we have twenty-eight attending.

Treasurer Chuck Belletti

1. Financial Status

Secretary: Shari Stegall (Absent)

Chapter Directors:

Ray Juanengo (Excused)

Alan Wheeler (Ride Coordinator)

1. Briefed on today's AMR

Richard Bennett (Safety Officer) (Excused)

Mike Harrison

Arturo Romero - Quarter Master

Morale and Welfare (Sunshine) Coordinator Michelle Juanengo

1. Please notify Tina and Michelle if anyone is sick/ill/ hospitalized/in need of assistance Good of the order

Poker Chip Drawing: Richard Bennett – Not Present 50 – 25/25 Winners: Mike

Wagner and Alex Cross Raffle Prizes

Motion to Adjourn by: Alex Cross

Meeting Adjourned at: 0954

Next Meeting: Chapter Christmas Party 1700 Hours
December 3, 2022 Embassy Suites La Jolla
4550 La Jolla Village Dr, San Diego, CA 92122

CA VI Has a new Webmaster

Meet Stephen Roche

If you haven't visited our Chapter Website recently, you should give it a look; It is updated and back on line.

Having our own Chapter Website means we are visible world-wide. This kind of exposure helps showcase the Blue Knights and our fraternal activities.

Our Chapter Webmaster is Stephen Roche, who retired as a Special Agent (CW3) in the Criminal Investigations Division of the U. S. Army after 20 years of service.




The Man; The Master

He served at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and was the Special Agent in Charge of the Regional Digital Forensics Lab, which covered the east coast.

He was a member of the North Carolina I.C.A.C (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force, and is currently employed as a computer engineer at a local tech company. We could not ask for a better qualified Webmaster than Stephen.

Stephen says our website is operational, but it is still a work in progress. He has solicited suggestions from the membership and is continually doing updates. Send your suggestions to Stephen at: bkcaviwebmaster@gmail.com

On the CA VI Website, you can find Knightly News Newsletters, including back issues, events, Officers and Staff, photo gallery, rides, "Contact Us", a Members Only section and list of charities our Chapter donates to.

Sign in to the website at: <https://bk-cavi.org> Access the various sections by selecting the icon in the upper left corner: 

Having such a professional website is a big step for California VI, and a positive step toward promoting our family-oriented Blue Knights organization.

Thank you, Stephen.



Safety Message

Hidden Dangers

They are not what you think

By Richard Bennett, Safety Officer CA VI



While riding alone or with your friends, there are few things that create that “Oh, Shit” feeling more than realizing you or someone else is going to crash.

We can never predict when collisions will happen; Your skills and experience can only take you so far.

Because motorcycle riding is purely recreational, we seldom think of the issues that become important *after* a crash. We don’t think in advance about how much a crash will cost, and how the bills will get paid.

And that is the hidden danger.

So here is a checklist of how to prepare for what happens *after* the crash.

Vehicle insurance. What kind of coverage do you have?

Buying insurance is often confusing. Dollar amounts for coverage in different categories lead to compromises. Should you pay more for something that may never be needed, or pay less and gamble that you will have a safe year? Most of us are frugal, and pay the least we can for the coverage we think we need. The test comes after a crash.



Read your vehicle insurance policy carefully.

Pay attention to personal liability and property damage. An investigation will determine who was mostly at fault in a collision, and if it is you, the coverage needs to protect your assets. In a single-vehicle collision, it will most likely be you, so invest accordingly.

Most vehicle insurance includes some medical coverage, mainly for passengers or other drivers. Check your policy to determine exactly what and who is covered. Make adjustments if necessary.

Towing and storage costs can add up. We all like to ride to scenic locations. That often means to rural or remote areas. Do you have towing coverage, and if so, for how many miles?



Towing from those areas can be costly, and if your scooter needs to be stored until you can retrieve it, daily charges can add up. Are you adequately covered?

Health insurance.

Most of us use our health insurance for checkups, minor injuries or illness. If you haven’t closely read your policy, do it right after you finish reading this article. Find out what you can expect for out-of-pocket expenses. Pay attention to types of coverage, deductibles and co-pays. Older riders often

have Medicare, which has its own coverage descriptions, so break out the book and read it. You may want to contact your insurance providers for details. If you have umbrella insurance, check to see if it covers your motorcycle. Many do not.

Things to look for are ambulance transportation, Medivac (air ambulance) and Emergency Room costs. It is much better to know these things in advance rather than discover a lack of coverage when you need it. If you don't have adequate insurance coverage, fix it now before you need it.

Motorcycle riding is risky; we all know that, and we accept the risks. We usually think of risks in terms of personal injury, not in terms of financial risk. By knowing what coverage you need, and providing the coverage in advance, you cover all the bases and minimize your financial risk.

Good riders acknowledge the risks, and minimize them. Often the hidden risk is inadequate insurance coverage. Once your emergency care is provided after a collision, the bills will start coming in. Like developing defensive riding skills, I urge you to develop your financial coverage and protect yourself.

Consider it a pre-ride check.



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 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Road Wisdom

Fearless U-Turns

Ride like a Motorcycle Officer

By Richard Bennett



If you have been riding for any length of time, you have been faced with making U-Turns in traffic. Depending upon your level of confidence, it was a chance to show your slow-riding skills or a nervous exercise to prevent a tip over. Although it is one of the drills taught in Motorcycle Riding 101, it still an under-developed skill for many of us. Maybe it is time to revisit the technique and gain some much needed confidence.

You may find yourself in many different circumstances where you need to go in the opposite direction; on a two lane road, at an intersection or in a parking lot. Watching skilled riders make U-Turns and smoothly accelerate away in the opposite direction is impressive, but in my riding experience, these tight U-Turns are the exception, rather than the rule.

Most riders in my group go wider than necessary; some actually turn onto a side road or driveway and re-enter the highway. Some dog-paddle, steering with handlebars rather than using the motorcycle dynamics to make the turn. The fear of a slow-speed fall down overcomes the use of proper techniques, especially on larger, heavier motorcycles. If this sounds familiar, you don't need to be that guy.

Most Motorcycle Officers go to quarterly training to maintain their skills. They practice emergency drills, but just as importantly they practice low-speed operation. One of the recurring drills is the U-turn.

Motorcycle Officers often travel in formation. Formation riding is one of the practiced skills, and includes how to stay in formation when making a U-turn. Using and practicing the basics of U-turning results in an impressive maneuver at an intersection, and maintains the integrity of the group. You, and any group you regularly ride with, can do the same.

The secret to fearless U-Turns is really no secret: learn the proper techniques, and then practice, practice, practice. I will share with you the techniques that make Motorcycle Officers so confident and impressive when they make U-Turns, both individually and as a group.



The basics: No matter what size motorcycle you ride, the techniques for making a U-Turn are the same. Sit comfortably upright in the saddle. Slow to about a walking speed as you approach the turn. Pull in the clutch and rev the engine to about 2500 RPM. Slip the clutch, but don't fully engage it. Use the clutch to keep your momentum up and your speed smooth. At the same time, lightly engage the *rear* brake. This is where practice is important; you must coordinate the throttle, clutch and rear brake to make the smooth arc in the turn. Now for the MOST IMPORTANT component: ***Turn your head and look in the direction you want to go.***

Turning your head, and "eye placement" are the key to making the motorcycle go where you want. Motorcycle Officers use the head turn and easily transition from lane number one to lane number one in the opposite direction.

Most traffic lanes are 10 to 12 feet wide; some are wider. At intersections, there is often extra width provided by a raised or painted island. This gives you 20 to 30 feet of space to make your turn.

Your objective is to smoothly turn from the inside lane (lane one) to the inside lane in the opposite direction. Initially it will seem impossible, but with some parking lot practice you will be confidently making U-Turns at busy intersections to the envy of your fellow riders.

Practice method: During my Motorcycle Officer training, the instructor used painted parking spaces in a vacant lot as a guide. The objective was to make figure eight turns within four stalls. Individual parking spaces are eight to ten feet wide, and there is no penalty for going outside the lines. This is a very effective and simple exercise that doesn't require cones or chalk.

Locate an empty parking lot area and select four connecting parking spaces. Start slowly, and don't worry about staying inside the lines until later. The first objective is to practice the basics of the U-turn.

I know the fear of "dropping" your 'sickle will be in your head, and that is normal. Rest assured that every Motorcycle Officer has dropped his motorcycle at one time or another, so if it happens to you, know that you are in good company. If cosmetic damage is a concern, remove any bags, and tape the edges of your fairing or any other surfaces that may contact the tarmac. Then practice with confidence.

Start your figure eight at the outside edge of one parking space. Use the four spaces as a reference, but concentrate on the basics. The **HEAD TURN** is the most often forgotten part of the basics. Don't forget the **HEAD TURN**. Look where you want to go, and make U-turns at the end of each set of parking spaces. It is OK to go wide, but your objective is to eventually stay within the lines: practice, practice, practice!!

No one ever became proficient at playing the piano just by knowing the basics. Practice is necessary to develop the skills for piano playing and motorcycle riding. Motivate yourself to finally make figure eight turns within the four parking stalls.

The next time you go riding with your friends, you will have the confidence you need at intersections. Make your U-turns like a Motorcycle Officer; you will enjoy your ride and you will get some envious looks from those around you.

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DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

SUNDAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Blue Knight, CA X Poker Run

Story and photos by Alan Wheeler, Director



On October 29, 2022 California Chapter Ten (CA X) hosted their 26th annual Poker Run in Imperial County at the beautiful Desert Trails RV Park and Golf Course. Much like years past, CA X, and their family members outdid themselves with clubhouse cocktails, free Mexican style breakfast, included BBQ-rib lunch, a pleasant 60-mile Poker Run route, and three different raffle drawings.



California VI members

The San Diego Chapter (CA VI) was well represented with 11 members and a total of 16 participants. And, CA VI members were BIG winners: Marcus Sanchez took home the first-place raffle prize of a Yeti Tundra Haul—a premium cooler on wheels. Director Mike Harrison, scored a \$220 cash prize for winning the end-of-day 50/50 drawing. And, Director Alan Wheeler picked up the Poker Run’s high-hand winnings of \$200, with a flush. A very productive day for CA VI. Many of the CA VI members turned the event into a getaway weekend with overnight stays on Friday or Saturday nights.

Of course, the Blue Knights are known for their family friendly riding events and charitable fundraisers. And today was no exception. This year’s Poker Run was represented by 13 different clubs, including three from Mexico, and a total of 77 participants.

The weather was perfect with a good ride route. One of the poker hand stops presented a challenging dart board throw with playing cards attached—ask Marcus. Another stop resembled a beer pong throw—alas, without the beer. And perhaps due to the pre-ride Chaplain blessing, all riders arrived at the end-point without incident.



High hand winner

Many thanks to all of CA X Lady Knights for their delicious cooking skills and work behind the scenes. Also, to the Imperial County Sheriff’s Office Explorers Color Guard. The Blue Knights exemplify what a family-friendly fraternal charitable organization is all about. Ride with Pride.



Thank you, California X



Blue Knights CA VI Attend Blue Knights CA X Poker Run

Story and photos by Ray Juanengo, Director CA VI



On 10/28/22 Blue Knights members from California VI rode out to El Centro to attend Blue Knights CA X's annual Poker Run benefit. The night before the ride has historically been hosted by members of CA X along with their spouses. This year was no exception. There was food, adult beverages and most importantly, the breaking of bread among Brothers and Sisters.

In attendance from our chapter were Jorge Ortiz, Arturo and Monica Romero, Marcos and Xochitl Sanchez, Miguel and Lorena Martinez, Mike Harrison, Brian Sutliff, and I. In addition, Blue Knights from CA IV as well as Arizona VI we're in attendance.

The day of the ride, additional CA VI members, Alan and Betsy Wheeler, Stephen and Jill Roache and Chuck Biletti arrived to lend their support. Everyone in attendance was treated to freshly made breakfast burritos, coffee and donuts, all provided by our terrific hosts, BK CA X.

The ride itself was a sixty-mile loop consisting of four stops into parts of nearby Brawley and Seeley. The ride ended back where it started, the Desert Trails RV Park in El Centro. The high hand winner was none other than our own Blue Knights CA VI Director, Alan Wheeler!

Blue Knights California X always knows how to put a good time together. Those in attendance had a great time reveling in fraternal brotherhood and breaking bread. More importantly, we got to Ride with Pride!

Ray Juanengo
Director, BK CA VI



Blue Knights and Knight's Ladies in attendance



VP West "J.T." (far right) giving advice to Bill Crow



BK News You Can Use

The Town Crier
by Martin Cuesta SWC
Chairman



The BOG Awards for Distinguished or Meritorious Service or Life Savings have been in place since the 1990s and are solicited via Member Nominations.

To date, a Certificate and Pin have been presented along with the Member's Recognition at the Annual International Convention Banquet.

The introduction of this new Award Patch had to begin somewhere, and after discussion, it was decided to start with the 2020 recipients.

This is the date the current BOG Executive Board took office.

However, thanks to great Member feedback and further discussion, the BOG Executive Board unanimously agreed there was a way to distribute the new Award Patch to Past Recipients who wanted one.

Any Blue Knight Member who has received one of these Board of Governors Awards in the past can send a clear photo of your certificate to BOG Secretary (Glen Wheat) along with your mailing address.

One of the new patches will be mailed to you at no cost to you. Glen's e-mail address is:
indiana.blue.knight@gmail.com.

You will only get 1 patch no matter how many times you have or receive a BOG Award.

We appreciate any input from our Members and are glad we could make this work. Remember, We Are Here For You!!

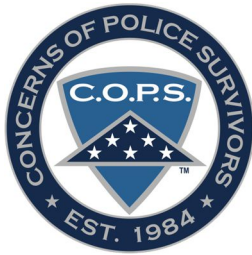
As always, "Ride With Pride"

Dominic Squillace, BOG Chairman BKBIGTIME1@comcast.net 1-610-888-7877

Thank you for all you do for the Blue Knights.

Salvador Quezada
SWC Secretary
Blue Knights CA-X

The members of Blue Knights California VI - San Diego, are honored to support the following charities. Donations are encouraged.



<https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/>



<https://nextstepservicedogs.org/>



<https://thewishesgrantedfoundation.com/>



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

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

UPCOMING RIDES



Toys for Tots November 20, 2022

El Cajon HOG & San Diego Jeep Club
Info: www.sandiegotoysfortotsevent.com/

Winter Gathering Lake Havasu AZ February 3-5, 2023

2023 SWC – Las Vegas May 7-11, 2023

Hosted by Las Vegas I
Tuscany Suites and Casino
Info: Terry Sundberg www.vicepresident@bknvi.vegas;

9th Annual San Diego Toys for Tots Event
20 November 2022
"It's for the kids"

TOYS FOR TOTS

The El Cajon Harley Owners Group & San Diego Jeep Club partnering with Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, plus host and sponsor El Cajon Harley-Davidson, present the 9th San Diego Annual Toys for Tots Event.

Destination Del Mar Racetrack. Gates open 11:30 AM
<https://www.sandiegotoysfortotsevent.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoToysforTotsEvent/>

2023 Southwest Conference Vegas Style!

Come join your fellow Blue Knights in Las Vegas
May 7-11, 2023

Register online here -
<https://www.bknvi.vegas/swc2023.html>

Tuscany Suites & Casino - Room Rates: \$89 (per room) plus tax. For reservations call (877) 887-2261 and mention group code Blue Knights Southwest Conference.