

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © California VI



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October 2022



Life is a dance you learn as you go. (John Michael Montgomery)

MEMBERSHIP
MEETING DATE
November 12, 2022

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edition



Poker Chip drawing was held. Steve Wagner's name was drawn. Since Steve 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



**President Lopotosky is on a road trip this month.
He will return next month.**

BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI

General Membership Meeting



October 8, 2022
MINUTES

Call to Order: Chapter Vice President at 9:01 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance by Ken Smith, Vice President

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

Introductions/Guests

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 (Excused)

1. We need more members to step up and sell raffle tickets. (Contact Bill Crow)
2. Elections for 2023/2024 Officers at November Meeting.
2023 Membership Renewals coming.
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
 - C. CA X Poker Run October 29, 2022
 - D. Toys for Tots November 20, 2022
 - E. Winter Gathering Lake Havasu AZ February 3-5, 2023

Treasurer Chuck Belletti

Gave report of financial status.

Secretary Shari Stegall (Excused)

Chapter Directors:

Ray Juanengo (Excused)

Alan Wheeler (Excused)

1. Ride Leader needed for After Meeting Ride
2. Possible AMR ride route provided

Richard Bennett (Safety Officer)

Asked members for personal articles to include in the Knightly News

Mike Harrison

Told membership about American Legion Post 460 Riders recent "Pig Roast" ride.

Arturo Romero – Quarter Master

Looking for a riding partner to go with him to CA X Poker Run October 29, 2022.

Morale and Welfare (Sunshine) Coordinators Michelle Juanengo / Tina Lopotosky

Please notify Tina and Michelle if anyone is sick/hospitalized/in need of assistance.

Good of the order:

Stephen Roche is our new Webmaster. Steve has been working with Larry Hansen on the transition.

Poker Chip drawing:

Steve Walker's name was drawn. Since Steve was not present, he did not win the \$5. The Poker Chip amount is now \$10.

50/25/25 Winners: Mike Wagner won both 25/25 prizes.

Motion to Adjourn by: Alex Cross, Seconded by Charlie Ruiz.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:37 A.M.

Next Meeting: 0900 November 12, 2022
Broken Yolk Restaurant

Submitted by Richard Bennett, Director



SAFETY MESSAGE

ATGATT

By Richard Bennett
BK CA VI Safety Officer



It was a warm summer morning; perfect for riding in Southern California. I was in a restaurant, sitting at a window table, having breakfast. A young man rode into the parking lot on a large American twin. He was wearing a beanie helmet, tank top shirt, shorts and flip-flop sandals. He had granny style sun glasses and was gloveless. He struggled to back into a parking space, slipping out of his flip flops a couple of times before getting his bike positioned. I suspect he enjoyed the gaze of diners such as me. If he thought we envied him, he was wrong.

As Recruits in the police academy, we were told police work is inherently dangerous, so don't do anything to make a hazardous occupation even more dangerous. Minimize danger with safe actions and protective clothing.

In the turbulent 60's, many police departments required officers to wear helmets as a part of their daily uniform, and woe be to the patrolman on my department if the sergeant caught him with his helmet strap unfastened! Helmets were unpopular, but they reduced head injuries to officers who were often exposed to hostile citizens. We wore all the gear, all the time.

In the 1990's many police chiefs mandated that all uniformed officers must wear protective vests while on duty, uncomfortable or not. While the vests were not needed to stop bullets 99 percent of the time, it was that one percent when it was *really* needed. We wore all the gear, all the time.

The same logic applies to motorcycle riders. Motorcycle riding is inherently dangerous. We should wear all the gear all the time. I know there is a segment of riders who like to conform to popular images, and express their individuality like the guy in the restaurant parking lot. They know the personal risk, but flaunt the odds of being injured, much like the circus trapeze artists who perform without a net. They won't wear all the gear, all the time.

In my Traffic Officer days, I investigated many motorcycle collisions. I have seen first-hand the difference protective gear can make. This was the pre-helmet law era in Southern California where the

"Easy Rider" culture thrived. (By the way, in subsequent interviews, both Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper said they rode BMWs; and with full protective gear. Sorry, guys.)

I'll admit, in my younger days I enjoyed an occasional un-helmeted ride. I was lucky; I never needed the protective clothing that I didn't wear. Somehow, I survived those reckless days, but I know the odds can catch me at any time.

My current riding partners know I am serious about protective clothing now, although I try not to nag them. I prefer to use myself as an example of A.T.G.A.T.T. (All the Gear, All the Time).

I know there will always be riders who minimize protective gear. I can only hope that at some time, they will realize they should do more to protect themselves because they have friends and families that love them, and will miss them if they are gone.

In our Blue Knights Pledge, the organization expects all members to promote motorcycle safety, and be a good example to others. We should be showing the public how to minimize the danger of motorcycle riding with safe habits, including protective clothing. Minimizing danger is one of the first things recruit officers learn, so the concept should be familiar to us.

I encourage you to be a good example, and live up to the Blue Knights Pledge. Wear all the gear all the time; you are important to your family and friends.

Appreciate each other, and ride safely.



OLD RIDER

ROAD WISDOM

Old Riders, Bold Riders

by Richard Bennett, CA VI Safety Officer



BOLD RIDER

You know the adage: “There are Old Riders, and Bold Riders, but there are no Old, Bold Riders.” There are reasons for the adage.

We have all been “Rookies” at everything we learned to do; play an instrument, drive a car, or any number of other skills. As police Rookies we went through an Academy, and most of us who ride motorcycles had some basic instruction to start us on our riding adventures. There is a beginning to everything, and a learning curve that follows.

I am no spring chicken, but I have been riding motorcycles under all conditions for more than 60 years. I was a Municipal Motorcycle Officer, a “dirt” rider, a commuter, and long-distance tourer. I have ridden a variety of two-wheeled vehicles from a 50cc moped to the largest Harley Davidson motorcycles. In all those years, and under all those adverse conditions, I am proud to say I have never had a serious collision. Sure, some parking lot tip-overs, but you know the kind of collision I mean: The “Oh My God, this is going to hurt” kind.

I know there is a tendency to cite good luck or “Karma”, which I admit is part of the equation. But safely surviving a long history of eclectic motorcycle riding is more than that.

In my early years I rode 60’s and 70’s style motorcycles. If you never experienced these machines, suffice it to say they were substandard in every way to modern motorcycles of today. Engines were unreliable, flats and broken chains were common. Drum brakes were hard to apply and inefficient in emergency stops. Today’s motorcycles give you more safety and reliability, but they still need your attention. Part of rider survival is to know your machine’s limitations.

California didn’t mandate motorcycle helmets until 1992. Before then I wore a helmet to keep cold and rain off my face, but otherwise nothing more than a backward ball cap. Sure, I wore a helmet during my Motor Officer days, but on my own time my protective gear was lacking. Karma and good luck was on my side, but I wouldn’t depend upon that today. Another part of survival is to try and avoid crashes and start wearing protective gear.

As the years passed, I gained experience. Some of the experience came from investigating collisions of other motorcycle riders. My Traffic Officer days were an education in the cause of collisions, and I applied those lessons to my own riding habits.

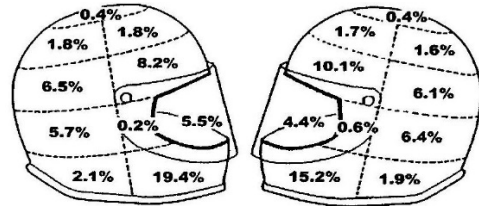
Some of my experience was from “close calls”. You know the kind; the unexpected hazard that you somehow survived without serious consequences.

Years of safe riding experience is like a college education in the motorcycling world. The trick is to survive long enough to get your “Old Rider” degree. To that end, I offer these suggestions to the less experienced riders who want to grow old enjoying the joy of motorcycling.

- **Recognize and manage risk.** Don't take unnecessary chances. There are already plenty of risks to avoid, so don't add to the list. If you want to drink, either drink *or* ride, but don't do both. Insurance companies tell us a large percentage of motorcycle collisions are single-vehicle.



- **Wear a helmet.** Not the plastic beanie helmet, but quality head protection. Studies show the most often impacted part of the head is the chin, followed by the forehead. If you are going to wear a helmet, wear a good one.



Distribution of impact locations on motorcycle helmets, all collisions based on information collected by Dietmar Otte, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Abteilung Verkehrsunfallforschung, Germany



- **Dress for the crash.** You can be stylish, but understand Karma may toss you onto the pavement without notice. (If we had notice, we could change clothes before we hit the ground.) Invest in a good jacket, protective pants and ankle-covering boots. You are worth it.



Bad Example



Good Example

- **Be Defensive.** I always picture the “worst case scenario”, and adjust accordingly. That means staying alert, and not distracted. While it is nice to have modern electronic entertainment and communications, maintaining a defensive riding attitude is a priority.



- **Keep your skills current.** We all start as Rookies, but moving to Intermediate and Advanced training will help you survive and enjoy riding. Take the time, and invest the money, if necessary, to learn and maintain new skills.



While there are many more lessons you will learn as you survive the streets, this should be a good start. Your goal should be to become an Old Rider, and then you can tell the Rookies how you got there.

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



Thanks, Larry

California VI Webmaster Retires

Success has a simple formula:
Do your best and people may like it (Sam Ewing)



Larry Hansen retired from a career as a U. S. Customs Officer. He joined our Blue Knight Chapter and was immediately an active member. Larry participated in many Chapter activities, and was instrumental in making our Knightly News a well-respected newsletter.

He was the Newsletter Editor for several years, and once received an award from the Southwest Conference for his excellent publication.

In addition, Larry used his computer skills and his design talents to create our CA VI Website. He also created the Southwest Conference Website. All of these mediums showcase the Blue Knights and are frequently the public's first impression of our organization. We have had many new members say they were inspired to attend a meeting and join the Blue Knights because of the Internet website.

Larry was an enthusiastic volunteer for several years at the Redlands Bicycle Classic. He is a former bicycle racer, and has an uncanny ability to predict race winners by watching their racing style. In addition to traffic direction, he escorted vehicle traffic on the closed courses, and protected bicycle riders from hazards on the course.

Larry transferred to an Arizona Blue Knight Chapter, but kept his role as Webmaster; both for the CA VI Chapter and the Southwest Conference sites. When his Chapter hosted the Southwest Conference in Prescott Arizona, Larry was a reliable volunteer for any assignment.

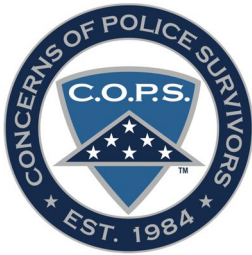
Larry learned to play the flute, and is now an accomplished Native American musician. He has produced several C.D.s. and regularly gives live-audience performances. Check him out at lhmusic.us

Larry recently moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma to pursue higher education. With his studies and musical performances, Larry is extremely busy. After all these years as a Webmaster, Larry reluctantly resigned this position.

Larry is a humble man, and would be content to go quietly into the night. But his contributions to the Blue Knights and California VI in particular need to be recognized.

So, on behalf of your Blue Knight brothers and sisters, I say: Thank you, Larry.

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



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



<https://nextstepservice dogs.org/>



<https://thewishesgrantedfoundation.com/>



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

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

Blue Knights, California VI

Christmas Party & Officer Installment

Saturday, December 3, 2022

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



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Submit articles to Editor: electrotalk2610@outlook.com

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

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Memory Lane

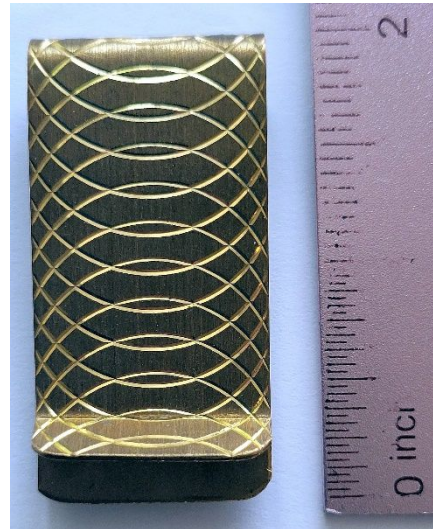
Those were the days...
(We thought they'd never end)



TEST YOUR MEMORY, OLD GUYS



Front



Back

The above photos show a Blue Knight CA VI souvenir money clip from our Benefit Ride in 2001. It was found in a donation to the San Diego Police Historical Association Museum. We don't know who the donor was, but the item was given to me as a member of CA VI.

In 2001 our Chapter held our annual Benefit Ride. The ride was our primary fund raiser, which added to our treasury, and allowed us to support local charities.

The ride began at a motorcycle shop on El Cajon Blvd in San Diego. The route was a little different each year, and Ride Guides were available for groups to follow. The ride ended at the San Diego Police Pistol Range, where a full spaghetti lunch was provided. A 50-50 drawing and a host of door prizes were given out.

The event was well attended, with over 100 riders participating. Many riders returned for several years. The event funded our contribution to local charities, and allowed us to underwrite the cost of the annual Christmas Dinner for our members.

CHALLENGE: Who can tell me the origin or nature of the money clip ride souvenir? Contact me at: Electrotalk2610@outlook.com I will publish the answer in a future Knightly News.

UPCOMING RIDES



CA X Poker Run October 29, 2022

Desert Trails RV Park & Golf Course
225 Wake Ave., El Centro, CA
Info: Bk_ca_x@yahoo.com

November Knights/Glendale AZ – November 18-20, 2022

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;

BLUE KNIGHTS
BLUE KNIGHTS
CALIFORNIA X
POKER RUN
SATURDAY OCT. 29 2022
Best Hand \$200.00 Worst Hand \$100.00
Registration 0800-1000 at the:
DESERT TRAILS RV PARK AND GOLF COURSE
225 Wake Avenue, El Centro, Ca. 92243
Single Rider \$30, Doubled Up \$40, Extra Poker Hand \$10
The first 100 riders will receive a pin
Good Food, Raftles and Good Times with Friends. Everyone is welcome.
RIDE WITH PRIDE !
Members will benefit from insurance and rebates. If you are unable to attend and still wish to take a tax-deductible contribution please mail check to Blue Knights CA X, P.O. Box 416, El Centro, Ca. 92244
Questions and more info visit our website at www.bknvi.com
For information contact: Bk_ca_x@yahoo.com

9th Annual San Diego Toys for Tots Event
20 November 2022
"It's for the kids"
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: \$69 (per room) plus tax. For reservations call (877) 887-2201 and mention group code Blue Knights-Southwest Conference.