

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © California VI



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JULY 2024



You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know
how soon will be too late. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

**MEMBERSHIP
MEETING DATE
August 10, 2024**

Featured in
this edition



**Poker Chip drawing was held. Jack Knish's name was drawn.
Since Jack 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 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

All Hands on Deck!



Greetings my fellow Blue Knights and welcome to summer in San Diego! Lots of things happening, almost too many to recount!

We had a great showing and great time at the SWC in Colorado Springs. Seeing so many Blue Knights in one place, and getting to meet and talk with them is truly an amazing opportunity. Sitting in the President's Meeting and hearing from so many talented and wonderful people running their chapters is one of the great things about being president. Sitting in our monthly Chapter meetings instills the same motivation.

The camaraderie of Blue Knights is infectious. I get it from fellow Blue Knights while making our way through 110-degree heat; while sharing a meal with others outside our Chapter, and seeing new members come into our Chapter with a sense of awe as they get deeper and deeper into what makes Blue Knights, and our Chapter in particular, so great.

Besides the SWC, there have been several other charity events, rides and parties we've attended. We are also deep into the planning of our annual picnic/pool party and Christmas party. Most importantly, we are almost at the kickoff of our annual Chapter event, The Lt Col Grant V Frey Memorial Poker Run.

And while the camaraderie and fellowship of Blue Knights is second to none, there is a small bit of effort required by members to make it happen. While I appreciate that we have members who don't reside in the county, or have busy lives, or don't ride anymore, there are others who partake in everything we have to offer. And many others who fall in between. And that's what makes Blue Knights a great fit for everyone; it's up to the individual as to how they want to experience and enjoy the Blue Knights. You've earned it, it's yours.

For those of us more on the max participation scale, the work we put in comes back to us directly in the form of making opportunities for us to enjoy said camaraderie and fellowship. Our Chapter always has a great turnout and a great core of members and their spouses who show up and put in work. As a Chapter, we never want to pressure any member into going beyond what they prefer their membership experience to be.

There are a few times a year where we do need to ask your help. The Christmas and picnic parties for certain, but most impactfully, is our Poker Run. Without a minimum number of members helping out with poker stops, registration, ride captains, gift basket raffle ticket sales, basket donations, set up and tear down and everything in between, the event would never work.

So, with all the exceptions I listed above, I still would like to ask any and all members step up just a little bit to help make our Poker Run a success. The Chapter is able to raise good money to give to our even better charities, and, it helps subsidize our Christmas party. We need all hands on deck so we don't overload our handful of regulars who show up for every job asked of them. Every job is important so please, show up and have a good time and lend a hand on an oar!

Lastly, our annual raffle tickets. The books are going out now and we have until our Christmas party when we do the drawing. Plenty of time to reach out to anyone and everyone you meet in your daily travels and sell a ticket! It's all CASH prizes this year, and I have yet to ever meet anyone who didn't want cash (well, except the bus driver on the Express bus).

So, there you have it, all the fun and shenanigans you can handle, and a great group of people to do it with. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting and the Poker Run! Stay safe, stay vigilant, and RWP!!



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Mike Wagner Secretary

July 13, 2024
MINUTES



Call to Order: Chapter President Ken Smith at 0902 hours

Pledge of Allegiance led by Richard Bennett

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

Introductions/Guests: Mike Belluso introduced Jennifer Wade to the chapter. She teaches nursing students.

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 - Present

Will contact a new manager at Embassy Suites about hosting the Christmas Party.

Informed the membership about this being the election year for the chapter. All positions will be available. If interested in a specific position contact a board member.

We might be a little behind schedule on the Poker Run. We need maximum participation. All members need to work together to make this event successful.

Pertaining to sponsoring the 2026 SW Convention; he informed the membership a location, conference and hospitality room to include a block of 250 hotel accommodations need to be looked at.

Vice President Ray Juanengo – Not Present

Treasurer Chuck Belletti - Present

The fiscal status of the club given to club members.

Reinforced the membership about 100% participation to make the Poker Run a success.

Secretary Mike Wagner - Present

On July 27, 2024 Homes For Our Troops will landscape the home of Navy HM3 Randell Leoncio's specially adapted custom home in Escondido, CA 92026. Check In Time: 08:30 am, landscaping from 0900 am -11:00 am. Shuttle Location: 32520 Mesa Lilac Road, Escondido, CA 92026. Event Volunteers needed. All volunteers will receive an HFOT T-shirt and lunch. Link to be provided.

Informed the membership Corey Cross is the Judo Champion of the 2024 Pan AM Adaptive Judo Games held in Riverside, California.

Past President John Lopotosky - Present

Looking at creating a new patch for the club. Current patch is 25 years old.

Tina sold raffle tickets at the SWC. Betsy Wheeler sold three books.

Someone needs to be put in charge and coordinate the selling of raffle tickets. Miquel Martinez volunteered for the 2nd year in a row to be the raffle chairman.

Need to take a preliminary look at the chapter sponsoring the 2026 SW Convention. He mentioned in 2005 members traveled from Canada and Germany.

Once a new patch is created, the club can look at creating a Blue Knight coin.

Chapter Directors:

Richard Bennett - Newsletter Editor - Present

Looking for information about Amos Elliott. Needs the history and especially a photo. He died in 2004 and the SWC created an award in his name.

Has no stories about the SWC in Colorado. Ken Smith and Mike Belluso will be providing articles.

Is the chapter ready to host the 2026 SWC? San Diego hosted conventions in 1998 and 2005.

San Diego could offer a lot if the convention was here. There are a lot of issues that need to be discussed. Some include: Activities Chairman, would need to be looked at: Dates, Hotel, Committees, Activities, Hospitality Room, Finance Chairman, Banquet Chairman, Activities Chairman. Awards could be given to the oldest and youngest riders. Award to which club drove the longest distance.

Articles for the newsletter need to be submitted to him by July 14, 2024 to assure publication in July edition of the newsletter. Send to: electrotalk2610@outlook.com

Mike Harrison - Present

Thanked everyone who participated in the Poker Run ride by American Legion Post 460. It was very successful event.

Emeritus Bill Crow - Present. No comments.

Alan Wheeler - Present

Pushing for San Diego to host the 2026 convention.

Will use our August 17, 2024 Memorial Poker Run ride route for today's AMR. Will help to acclimate our road captains to the ride route. Detailed turn-by-turns and route maps to be provided.

Mentioned there is only one more meeting until the Poker Run. He identified the Start and Stopping Points throughout the ride.

Identified the working parties for the Poker Run.

Ken Smith to be the Master of Ceremonies.

Needs to verify that Chuck from Attorney King will provide the meats etc. for the Poker Run. Miguel Martinez volunteered to be the coffee/donut coordinator.

Informed everyone September 14, 2024 is the date of the Summer Picnic in Alpine.

Staff:

Safety Officer– Mike Manen - Not Present

Webmaster – Stephen Roche – Not Present

Quarter Master - Arturo Romero – Present, No Comments.

Ride Coordinator - Michael Belluso - Present

Likes the idea of Pre-Riding the Poker Run for the AMR this Saturday.

Sistiana mentioned about possibly getting other chapters involved in sponsoring the 2026 SW Convention. Could help create recruitment opportunities.

(Morale/Welfare Coordinator) Michelle Juanengo - Not Present

(Morale/Welfare Coordinator) Tina Lopotosky – Present

Welcomed everyone at the meeting.

Jorge Ortiz – SWC International Rep Jorge Ortiz - Not Present

Good of the order: Ken thanked Alan and Betsy for all their help with the Poker Run and hosting the Summer BK Picnic at their "Party Home" in Alpine. Even though they live in California for 6 months and Arizona the other 6 months of the year; they have set the standard on how to support this chapter 100%.

Ken Smith mentioned he has a sponsor who makes Blue Knight and Law Enforcement Chargers for \$30.00 each. Contact him if interested.

Miguel Martinez wanted to remind everyone if anyone needs raffle tickets contact him. He also mentioned do not wait until the last moment to sell their tickets.

Poker Chip Drawing: Jack Knish's name drawn. Not present. Poker Chip Drawing now worth \$10

25/25 Winners: First: Randy Aldredge - \$40.00 Second: Richard Bennett - \$40.00

Motion to Adjourn by: First by: Bill Crow Seconded by: Miguel Martinez

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:03 hours

Next Meeting: August 10, 2024 at 0900 hours



SAFETY MESSAGE

Mike Manen, Safety Officer



Riding in hot weather

With all this hot weather we have been experiencing as of late, now seems like a good time to talk about hot weather riding. The last extremely hot weather I rode in was 118 degrees in Baker, CA. It was miserable. Recently a group of riders were in Death Valley where one of the group died from the heat, the rest needed medical attention. Recently I purchased a cooling vest; I haven't had a chance to try it, but I've heard good things. So, after doing some research I found this interesting article from Petersons H-D Group.

Tips for Enjoyable Motorcycle Riding in Hot Weather

Motorcycle riding is an exhilarating experience, but when the sun is scorching, it can become challenging to stay comfortable and safe on the road. As summer arrives and temperatures soar, it's essential to equip yourself with the right knowledge and gear to ensure a pleasant and safe ride. In this blog, we'll explore some essential tips for motorcycle enthusiasts to beat the heat and enjoy their two-wheeled adventures during hot weather.

Dress for Success

Wearing the appropriate gear is crucial when riding in hot weather. Opt for lightweight, breathable, and moisture-wicking materials that allow air circulation. Invest in a quality mesh or perforated motorcycle jacket to protect yourself from the wind and potential road hazards while still allowing ventilation. Similarly, choose ventilated gloves and pants that offer ample airflow to keep your body cool and sweat-free.

Stay Hydrated

Staying hydrated is paramount during scorching weather. Before you embark on your journey, ensure you are well-hydrated and bring along a refillable water bottle to drink from during stops. Dehydration can lead to dizziness, fatigue, and impaired concentration, which can be hazardous on the road. Remember to take regular breaks in shaded areas and consume water or hydrating drinks to maintain your energy levels and focus.

Wear Sun Protection

Sunscreen is your best friend when riding in hot weather. Apply a high SPF sunscreen to all exposed areas of your skin to protect yourself from harmful UV rays. Don't forget to wear sunglasses with UV protection to safeguard your eyes from the intense sunlight. Additionally, a wide-brimmed hat or a bandana under your helmet can help shield your face from the sun and keep you cooler.

Time Your Rides Wisely

When possible, plan your rides during the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late evening. The sun is less intense during these times, and the temperatures are generally more comfortable. Riding during peak heat hours can be physically exhausting and might increase the risk of heat-related illnesses.

Invest in Cooling Gear

Technology has come a long way, and there are various cooling accessories available for motorcyclists. Consider investing in a cooling vest that you can wear beneath your motorcycle jacket. These vests use evaporative cooling technology to keep your body temperature down. Alternatively, you can buy cooling neck wraps or headbands that can provide instant relief during stops.

Avoid Overexertion

Riding in hot weather can be demanding on your body, so it's crucial to avoid overexertion. Ride at a pace that's comfortable and safe for you. Excessive physical exertion and heat stress can impair your reflexes and decision-making ability, making you more susceptible to accidents. Listen to your body and take breaks whenever you feel fatigued or overheated.

Check Your Motorcycle

Before heading out, inspect your motorcycle thoroughly to ensure it's ready for the hot weather ride. Check the tire pressure, coolant levels, and engine oil. Overheating can be a concern during hot days, so be sure that your bike's cooling system is in good condition.

Conclusion

Riding a motorcycle in hot weather can be an enjoyable and memorable experience with the right preparation and gear. By dressing appropriately, staying hydrated, and protecting yourself from the sun, you can make your journey safer and more comfortable. Remember to time your rides wisely, invest in cooling gear, and avoid overexertion to ensure that you have a fantastic time on the road, even when the temperatures are soaring. Embrace the freedom of motorcycle riding while staying safe and cool during the hot summer months. Happy riding!





Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge.

(Noah Webster)

Being a Motor Officer in the 60's

The true-life adventure of Badge 825



Part Three

Last month covered encounters with the public and continuing riding skills. Hippies and hostile encounters are dealt with in part 3.

World's Oldest Hippie

A familiar sight at the Love-ins was a 55-year-old man that I called "The Oldest Hippie in the World". He got that name because of his long gray hair, long gray beard and Hippie attire. He drove an old Cadillac convertible, and distributed the "Free Press", a subversive newspaper type publication that advocated anarchy and drug usage. He had a real name, but I have long since forgotten it. In any event, local cops began calling him the Oldest Hippie in the World and we all knew who we were talking about.

One of my police friends was working a traffic car in Mission Hills when I saw the Oldest Hippie in the World drive past my location. As was my habit, I followed OHIW, hoping to see him commit a traffic violation. He drove to an address in Mission Hills and parked out front. I parked near-by and waited for him.

As I was sitting on my motorcycle, my friend drove past. He saw me and stopped to chat. When he found out I was waiting for OHIW, he elected to stay and help. As we talked, I told him of visiting a local car parts store where I got an STP sticker for my car. STP was an oil additive that was popular at the time, and I neglected to tell him the sticker was 14" x 16" in size. I asked my friend if I could put my STP sticker on his police car, and he agreed.

I put the very large, bright red STP sticker on the right rear door of his police car. When he saw the size of it we both had a big laugh. Then we found it was not easy to remove. He was agitated, saying he would get into trouble if his sergeant saw the sticker. We decided to say it was on a door that was opposite the driver's side, and he had no idea it was there. (The sticker stayed on the car for two days before the garage crew took it off.)

Pretty soon the Oldest Hippie in the World returned to his car. He backed the car into a residential intersection without looking for cross traffic. My friend sprinted to his car, and I jumped onto my motorcycle; the first officer to get to the OHIW got to write the ticket. I beat my friend by just a few seconds, and had the pleasure of watching the OHIW stew while I cited him.

Although love-ins continued in San Diego, none became more orderly than those at Cosoy Way, and eventually the area was abandoned for Ocean Beach where the Hippies combined fun and sun.

Ocean Beach Sea wall

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, Ocean Beach was the center of radicals in San Diego. More self-proclaimed radicals lived in Ocean Beach than anywhere else in the city. Hippies and the Hippie lifestyle was crowding out the more conservative residents. Police contact with bums, Hippies and radicals was frequent and newsworthy. More often than not, the contacts involved drug usage or sales. A radical newspaper, the O.B. Rag, was quick to photograph police action and to write embarrassing stories about the encounters.

The sea wall in Ocean Beach was a gathering place for Hippies, dopers and other rowdies. The crowd would begin to gather in late morning, drinking and smoking dope until dusk. Located at Newport and Abbott streets, the sea wall was five feet high. Traffic travelling on the streets made a 90-degree turn, coming within 20 feet of the sea wall. On one side of the wall was the business area of Ocean Beach; on the other side were sand and the Pacific Ocean.

It was common for drug transactions and drinking to occur on the beach side of the sea wall. As the summer day wore on the crowds got more bellicose and bolder. Occasionally someone would throw something at a passing police car and duck behind the sea wall to blend into the crowd. Sometimes the target would be a police motorcycle. Any officer who stopped to investigate was confronted by an inebriated mob.

One summer day a motorcycle sergeant was passing the sea wall. He spotted someone in the crowd that he wanted to talk with. He stopped his motorcycle, and called to the guy, who immediately walked into the crowd. The sergeant called for "cover" on his radio, and the nearest motor officers responded, including me.

When we saw what was happening, we could not believe how stupid the sergeant had been. He was deep inside a hostile crowd, and trying to arrest a suspect for a misdemeanor. Two of us went into the crowd to get the sergeant. We were showered with spit and hit with beer cans. We brought the sergeant and his "prisoner" to the street, where we found our motorcycles covered with spit and dirt. Fortunately, the crowd did not attack us with anything to cause real injury.

After that confrontation, we formed a group of officers and cleared the beach with riot control tactics. It was during these "sweeps" that I was most involved in riot control as a motorcycle officer. Supervisors would target an area to be cleared, give the declaration of "unlawful assembly" and send in officers on foot. Motorcycle officers were often used as tactical units, moving ahead or behind foot officers.

I never realized how difficult it was to walk in sand with motorcycle boots before. In any event, several arrests were made and pressure was put on those who gathered at the seawall until the city cut the wall down to three feet to prevent hiding.

Dignitary Escort

Escorting Dignitaries is pretty much the exclusive domain of Motorcycle Officers the world over. The public sees motorcycle escorts ahead of, around and behind official vehicles. The purpose of motorcycle escorts is to keep the caravan moving.

The "Dignitary" is often called the "Package" by Secret Service personnel. Once the Package starts to move, stopping is not an option. The motorcade is to move from point "A" to the final destination at point "B" without stopping. An exception would be parades, but my experience has mostly been from an airport to a hotel or public building and back.

The logistics of keeping a motorcade moving with a handful of Motorcycle Officers makes the assignment dangerous. Occasionally a Motorcycle Officer is injured or killed in the course of motorcade duties. Ironically, we were never specifically trained for escort duty when going through the initial motorcycle training. We learned on the job. However, the process is pretty universal, and goes like this:

The route of the motorcade is announced to officers in advance. Motorcycle supervisors determine which intersections require a fixed post, and which intersections can be handled with leap-frogging maneuvers by Motorcycle Officers. A briefing is held in advance and assignments are made. Once the motorcade begins, flexibility may be necessary to keep intersections secure. In some cases, Motorcycle Officers start on a fixed post, and join in the motorcade after the "Package" passes. Modifications to the plan are often made on the fly.



U.S. Astronaut after being escorted

The most dangerous activity is the leap-frog. Leap-frog maneuvers require an officer to stay on post until the motorcade passes, then ride as fast as possible to the next un-manned post. This requires passing the motorcade at high speed, often inches from official cars. The motorcade is often moving at high speed also. The high speed and the sudden passing of motorcade cars often causes increased danger for the Motorcycle Officer. Official vehicles often move left or right to get a better look ahead. If a Motorcycle Officer is passing at that exact time, contact between the two is possible. Of all the assignments I did as a Motorcycle Officer, I think this was often the scariest riding I did.

At the end of the escort, it was often protocol for the escorted dignitary to personally thank the Motorcycle Officers. We would line up, and the dignitary would go down the line and give us a handshake and “thank you”. It made all the risk seem worthwhile.

Funerals of Strangers

Occasionally at our line-ups, the Sergeant would assign one or two of us to attend a funeral. The request usually came from the Chief’s office, and involved someone who was a “friend of the police” or a personal friend of the Chief. The purpose was to provide a uniformed presence at the funeral service, fulfilling some social protocol by the Chief.

I attended around five or six funerals of people I didn’t know. The routine was to arrive a little ahead of schedule, park the motorcycle in front of the building, but out of the way of the hearse. I was never required to provide an actual escort to the cemetery, but I am sure the visual presence of a police motorcycle gave the impression of official participation.

I would introduce myself at the door, and tell the family I was representing the Chief of Police, who was unable to attend. They always seemed grateful, and I was always seated in the front row across the aisle from the grieving family.

I went through the usual ceremonies; standing, sitting, singing from the hymn book and walking past the casket. I usually waited until the loved one was loaded into the hearse, and the family was in the limo ready to go. On occasion I would stop traffic for the procession to get onto the street, and then drop off. I was never expected to follow the family to the cemetery, and I never did.

Of the “anonymous” funerals that I attended, most were forgettable. There was one that has stuck in my mind after all these years, probably because it was a little bizarre. A local radio personality lost two young children in some kind of accident. The children were elementary school age, and had somehow died together.

The funeral service provided an ante room off to the side of the casket for immediate family. The family could view the services, but were cordoned by sheer curtains. Most of the mourners in the main room could not see or hear the family, but since I was in the front row I was near them and their room. I could even see through the sheer curtains.

All during the services, I could see the mother and father of the children continually talking while prayers, songs and eulogies were delivered. They seemed disconnected from the events taking place. The preacher told the audience that the children were not dead, but alive and watching from above. He told us he could hear them laughing, but all I heard was the inattentive parents chatting it up in the side room. I don't know what their faith or beliefs were but I felt the parents were uncaring and rude throughout the entire ceremony. The experience made me reluctant to represent the Chief at these anonymous funerals.

Typical Fourth of July

The fourth of July was the busiest day of the year for the Police Department, and especially the motor officers. We came to work early, and went to parade locations where we did traffic and crowd control. Sometimes we finished one parade, and went to a second location to do the same thing for another parade.

After the parades were finished, all motorcycle officers were sent to the beach area where the fireworks shows drew big crowds. People from all over San Diego County came to the beach, arriving early to get a parking place. By early afternoon all parking places were full, and we had to re-route traffic around full lots. When darkness fell, the boardwalk area of Mission Beach was filled with pedestrians who were packed shoulder-to-shoulder. Many had been drinking at near-by bars or on the beach around the fire rings.



Badge 825 on patrol in Ocean Beach

After the fireworks shows were over, we had to get all these questionably sober people back to their cars, out of the parking lots and onto streets leading from the beach. It took some patience to endure honking horns, squealing tires and traffic violators who couldn't be pursued.

On one fourth of July event the motorcycle officers had been on the job for over 16 hours, and we were all tired. We were happy to get word that we could secure for the day, and we quickly headed home. I was about five miles from Mission Beach when someone pulled a fire alarm at the south end of Mission Boulevard. The Fire Department responded with large trucks, and were quickly stuck in traffic and surrounded by drunken pedestrians. Someone threw a beer can at one of the fire trucks, causing a re-call of all the motor units.

I turned around, but many others did not. When I arrived I had to make my way through the crowd to clear traffic ahead of the fire trucks. After all that, it was a false alarm. Patrol units were called to clear the streets of the drunken crowd, and I once again headed home. Total hours worked that day: 20.

Next month: Disaster and routines

Riding with Dad to the Southwestern Conference

Photos and story by Mariana Duran



My dad has asked me about attending the conference with him back in January, even though I had only been on the back of a bike for no more than 30 minutes. It was an incredible experience I'll never forget!



We rode through extreme heat, cold, and rain I was completely unprepared for.



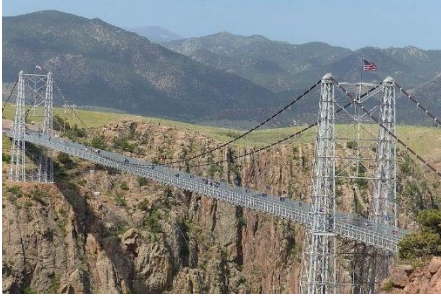
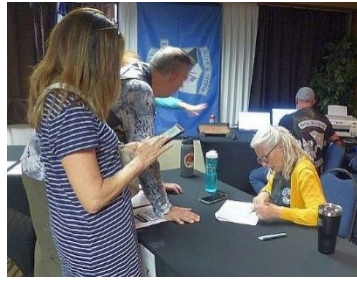
Needless to say, that after those 2,600 miles, I definitely want my own bike!"

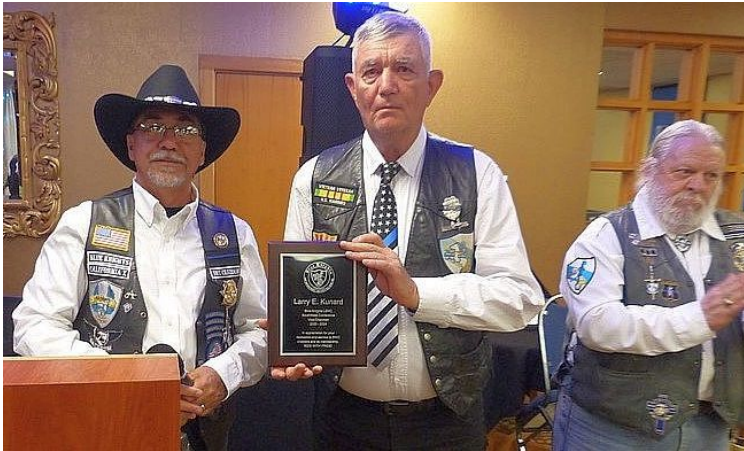
Mariana Duran is the daughter of Enrique Duran, Chapter President of CA IV. This was her first long distance motorcycle ride.

Reflections from 2024 Southwestern Conference

Colorado Springs, Colorado

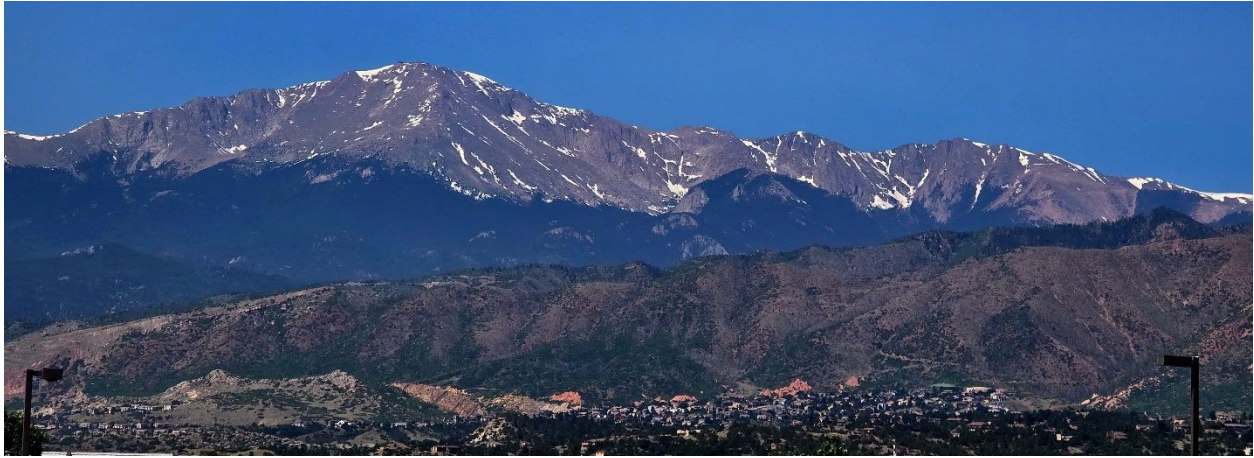
Photos by Ron Friend





Colorado Springs: It's a Contender!

By Ken Smith, President CAVI



Hello my fellow Blue Knights. I wanted to share the experiences your president, and his lovely and supportive wife Patti lol, shared while at the SWC in Colorado Springs.

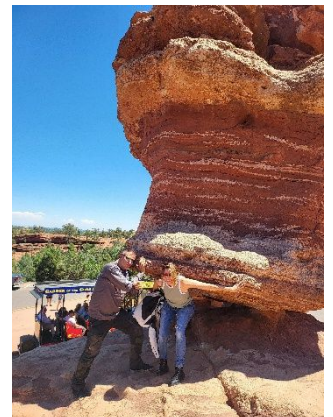
While we're both adventurous travelers, the last few years we have found ourselves looking at places we visit, not only for how much fun we might have, but would it be a place to actually move to and live? Not to worry, we have no plans to move in the near future, but like many of you noticing the California experience isn't what it used to be, we're keeping an open mind for any "backup plans" we might need in the future.

What's funny about this trip is that neither of us have ever been, nor do we know anyone that has, so we had no idea what to expect. We never even thought about this place being a backup option if we ever left CA. Boy were we surprised! I have a basic rule I follow that if I'm going to ever leave San Diego, I have to live near an ocean or close enough to a large lake to enjoy it. If I'm going to live totally land locked, there has to be some other concessions making it worth my while. I have always lived next to the Pacific or Atlantic Ocean, sometimes actually right on the coast.

Well, I must say, Colorado Springs does have a lot going for it. First, the people. Now granted, the other Blue Knights from the sponsor Chapter at the SWC of course are special and extra welcoming. What we found in interacting with folks working and living locally is that they were all very friendly and VERY POLITE. I can't remember when I heard so many please and thank-yous, and if anyone even remotely seemed to bump into me or pass in front of me, I always got a polite "I'm so sorry, excuse me" with a smile. Not that San Diego is an unfriendly town, it's just something we noticed.

Second, THE VIEWS. Everywhere we went, from personal errands to organized rides, the views were spectacular. Even from the Walmart parking lot! The air was fresh, the tap water tasted good, and everything seemed to be a little more peaceful, especially compared to the hustle and bustle of Southern CA.

Let's talk about the views and the people a little bit. I think almost everyone at the conference went to The Garden of the Gods. Of course we went, rode thru it twice, stopped and checked all the little turnouts, and got some spectacular pictures. The history of how this place was found and made into a sanctuary is awesome. The Carpenters (NV1 members now, former BK CAVI President and Secretary), unbeknownst to us, were passing by in a tour bus while we were under a ginormous boulder pretending to hold it up. Funny when they texted the pics they took from the bus. You never know when another Blue Knight is gonna show up and have a laugh to share! Looking at



the expensive homes scattered among the mountain faces and hilltops tells me we aren't the only ones willing to live here to enjoy the view.

We found a brewery at the base of one of the smaller mountains not far from the hotel, called the Red Leg Brewery. Here's a link <https://redlegbrewing.com/> We passed it twice going to and from the Garden of the Gods and it just looked "cool". Very reminiscent of some fun breweries here in San Diego. Go to the website and look at the aerial view. You will see a large tent structure on the second story of the building. It's a covered patio and the view from up there while we ate, drank and made merry was outstanding. Even on Monday and Tuesday nights this place was alive with cornhole tournaments, gourmet food and desserts, and good beer. Several people we talked to were all locals and again, all friendly, and seemed to be having a good time. A few were expats from Minnesota! This place needs another location here in San Diego for sure!



The largest block of time we spent, aside from the conference, was in Manitou Springs. <https://manitousprings.org/> Based on all the activities and eateries and shops and history, we needed a couple more days to see it all! A very historic town with *live well* springs that folks 100 years ago were using for health benefits. You can still drink from them today! The entire town is like being in a time capsule from the 1800's and it is by God's good graces, the town has avoided any major fires or other disasters and many of the original buildings still stand. Each one has a placard describing who built it and for what purpose and how it has changed over the years. If you're into history, you'll like this town.

We even spoke with one of the local store owners who was an expat from Orange County CA. He set up shop here 10 years ago and has never looked back. His business is strong and he loves the people and the region. We talked to him at length about the adjustments needed to be here vs Southern CA and he was very positive and critically honest about it. We had great food and service and decided if we ever came back to Colorado Springs, we would stay in Manitou Springs to see more of the action! Great shopping to be had here as well. Several shopkeepers we spoke to said they were doing well and love the tourism.



Lastly, we visited the Manito Cliff Dwelling Museum just outside town. Apparently, the dwellings here were not original, it was all imported brick by brick from another part of the state. The bricks were individually numbered! The museum itself has an entire history to it, in addition to the history and culture of the peoples who built the dwellings themselves. Again, more history and culture and if you like that stuff, you'll be happy here as well.



Well, there you have it, just some of the stuff those crazy Smiths do when we're out and about. We did of course see what houses cost and the average price seemed to be in the 400ks. With that you get land as well. Utilities seemed cheap too. Not too shabby! Looking forward to the next adventure!

RWP -Ken



Arizona VI Blue Knights Visit WCC



Story and photos by Chet Parker

Hello everyone,

We all just returned from the West Coast Conference hosted by Wyoming 1 in Cody, Wyoming. I'm happy to say there were 14 of us from our chapter and all returned home safely. It was nice to see a good representation from AZ VI for a BK event outside of our own Conference!!

It was also nice to escape the AZ heat for a bit... although, we rode in the rain a bit for a few days. I personally trailered my motorcycle to the conference, but I still got just under 1,000 miles on my bike riding throughout Wyoming and Montana, including quite a bit of Yellowstone National Park.

It was a busy week - we celebrated Canada Day, Independence Day (with a parade and Fireworks show), had a great cowboy dinner with a live country music show, went to the Cody Rodeo, got in some white-water rafting on the Shoshone River, and still put plenty of miles on the bikes.

As you start to travel outside of the Southwest BK events, you will find that each Conference is a bit different. That is why it is so good to try to attend other Blue Knight Conferences. Each will have its own vibe, schedule, and events. You will experience great scenery with different rides all around this beautiful country (and world if you get over to Europe). One thing all Blue Knight events will have in common.... the great comradery and friendship you will find with Blue Knights throughout this great organization.

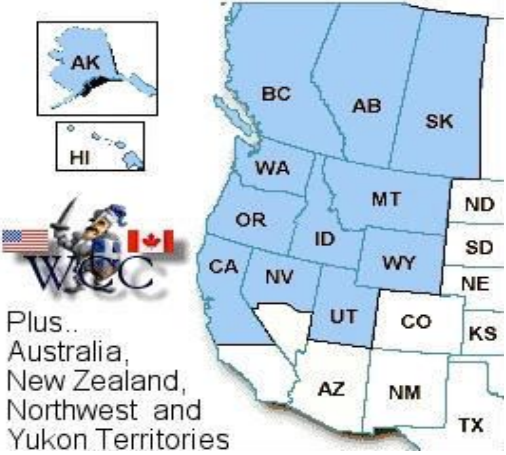
*I am also attaching a collage of pics from the conference for those who do not have social media.

Hope everyone in the chapter is doing well. See you all soon... Next up - The 50th International Convention in Maine!

P.S. as of today, July 11th, we now have 40 rooms booked for our November Knights event... Please book your rooms now while we still have rooms available!!!

** Link to go directly to the Hampton Inn in Carefree to book your room
- <https://group.hamptoninn.com/tqzals>

*** and here is the link to our Event Page on our chapter website - [Events - BLUE KNIGHTS® \(bkaz6.org\)](https://www.bkaz6.org/Events-BLUE-KNIGHTS)



Just a little info. for those who are not aware:

The West Coast Conference has about 50 chapters throughout the Northwest of our country as well as a few other territories. (See map for the conference.)

- Chet Parker

Blue Knights, California VI

Christmas Party



Saturday, December 14, 2024

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

Brothers and sisters, mark your calendars! It's not too early! Back again by popular demand: The Embassy Suites in San Diego!

Voted "Best BK Christmas Party Location", your Board of Directors has once again booked our reservation. Dinner, libations and white elephant gift exchange planned. Overnight accommodations are available too. Don't miss out!



More information to follow in future editions.



FOR SALE

**Treasures and Bargains
From our Members**

Offered by Alan Wheeler



I am selling my 2013 Wing due to my purchase of a 2021 Wing.

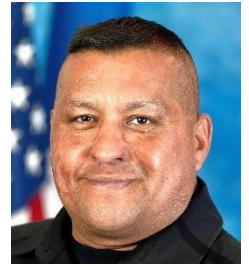


2013 Honda Goldwing F6B Deluxe (The Dark Knight). 35,939 miles. Well maintained and 100% garage stored. Full power and ultra clean! 100% OEM with one exception—throttle lock or speed control. Selling due to purchase of a newer Goldwing. Original owner. Read RIDER MAGAZINE: 2013 HONDA F6B ROAD TEST REVIEW, May 3, 2013 for more info and specs. Bike is located in Alpine CA. \$9,500 or best offer. 619-890-7273 mobile.





FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF BK CA VI MEMBERS



ARTURO ROMERO



\$45



\$10



\$45



\$10



\$10



\$10



\$5



\$10



\$10

The above items are immediately available from the Quarter Master. Contact Arturo at the monthly meetings or by email.

In the pipeline: Past President Lopotosky is ordering five sets of reflective vest patches at \$70 per set. Additionally, five sets of "LE" and "MC" patches are being ordered at \$20 per set. These will be available from the Quarter Master when they arrive.

Also, John is compiling a list of members who want custom Blue Knight name tags. Contact him by email if you would like to make an order.

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



**BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI
SAN DIEGO**

2024

LtCol Grant V. Frey, USMC (Ret.)

MEMORIAL POKER RUN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH
REGISTRATION 0830-0930 hrs | KSU at 0930 hrs

START & END **AMERICAN LEGION POST 225**
35 E 18th ST,
National City, CA 91950

Opportunity Drawings | High Hand & Low Hand | Music

\$30/rider | \$15/passenger
BBQ LUNCH INCLUDED

**BMW MOTORCYCLES
ESCONDIDO**

So Cal Slow Cones Riding Seminar!

**Hosted by BMW Motorcycles of Escondido and
BMW Owners Club of San Diego**

August 31st 2024 9am to 3pm

This will be an event you DO NOT want to miss! Food, vendors, and more! Please contact socalslowcones@gmail.com with any questions and vendor inquiries.

Guest rider Quinn Redeker will be providing a demo, seminar, and answer questions at the event. There will be a limited opportunity for attendees to ride and receive live feedback from Quinn.

“The current National BMW Brand Ambassador for Authority motors, Quinn Redeker has riding and racing experience that spans over 40 years in the disciplines of Motocross, Trials, Dirt track, Road Racing and Law enforcement. Quinn has participated in and won over 100 police motorcycle competitions throughout the United States, including multiple events in the 2024 season. Quinn currently teaches adventure-bike clinics, advanced track clinics, and provides motor skills training to officers from around the world. Quinn continues to be an expert commentator on motorcycle-specific podcasts and can be seen each month in his Rider Magazine article titled “Motor School with Quinn Redeker.”

June 8 – 12, 2025

Southwest Conference 2025

Red River, New Mexico

Host Hotel: Red River Lodge

201 E. Main St., Red River, N.M. 87558

Mailing: P.O. Box 568, Red River, N.M.

Email: hello@riversidelodgeandcabins.com

Telephone: 575-754-2252

Must call to make reservation. Cannot be made on line.

Ask for “Blue Knights Rate”

They require a 50% deposit; Not refundable unless they resell the room, if you cancel.

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