

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

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bk-cavi.org



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

- About the Club
- Officers & Staff
- President's message
- Secretary's message
- Safety Officer's message
- Road Wisdom: Road Hazards
- News You Can Use: SWC Update
- Chaplain's Corner
- Blue Knight Farewell
- For Sale: 2022 Harley Davidson
- Upcoming Rides

APRIL 2026



Every old person you meet used to be "Somebody". Appreciate that.

Anonamous

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

**MAY 9, 2026**

Featured in  
this edition



**Poker Chip drawing was held. Chris Medvigy's name was drawn. Since Chris 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.



# CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



## **PRESIDENT**

**Ken Smith**

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Ray Juanengo**

## **SECRETARY**

**Mike Wagner**

## **TREASURER**

**Michael Belluso**

## **DIRECTORS**

**Richard Bennett**

**Randy Alldredge**

**Arturo Romero**

## **MORALE & WELFARE**

**Michelle Juanengo**

## **IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT**

**John Lopotosky**

## **WEBMASTER**

**Ken Smith (temp)**

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Richard Bennett**

## **RIDE COORDINATOR**

**Michael Belluso**

## **SAFETY OFFICER**

**Mike Manen**

## **QUARTERMASTER**

**Alex Cross**

## **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**

**April 2026**



Hello Blue Knights and welcome to late spring break!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter Holiday with those they care about most, and enjoyed the fewer cars on the road during commuting hours while school was out.

I recently attended a memorial service for a former Blue Knight. Although he did not renew last year for health reasons, he was a member for about 25 years. He was a great man and a better human being. By all accounts, he did it right. From his career, to raising a son, and his marriage of almost 30 years to his wife. One of his wishes was that his Blue Knights brothers and sisters be present at his final send off. A small contingent of us from CAL 6 and CAL 4 made the trip and paid our respects. (See photo on his memorial page)

During the service, his wife thanked him for many things. What struck me was how grateful she was for the time they shared, and the journey they took together. As many of us are retired or close to that, we become reflective of our own journey. I am grateful to have found this organization to spend part of my own life's journey. I have fond memories of all the adventures I've had in Blue Knights, and definitely look forward to much, much more! I want to do all the rides and adventures I can, play all the band gigs I can (Yes, I play in band!), before I am unable to do so. I want to be able to look back on my life and think of all the adventures I took, and to the good people I took them with. I don't want any additional regrets about what ones I didn't do, or the missed opportunities to be with good people that make life better.

Blue Knights, as an organization, offers this and so much more. It's an easy pitch as a recruiting tool: come make memories with great people and make part of your two-wheeled journeys all they can be.

Our South West Conference is coming up soon, and I look forward to seeing all of you. For those on the fence, please don't pass up this opportunity to make your life's journey a little more fun, if only for 5 days. For years I have attended past SWC's, and at each one when the talk comes up as to which Chapter is going to host next, there are ALWAYS mentions and whispers and chanting for "San Diego" to be the host. We haven't hosted in 20 years and now that we are finally hosting again, I feel some members are missing an opportunity, missing out on the chance to fill your life's journey with one more ride, one more gathering of friends, one more feeling of brotherhood. One fun trip to San Diego!

The CAL 6 SWC Committee has negotiated so much value, prepared so many activities, and have provided so much to offer the entire Conference. Just check out the links to the Conference and see what is planned. All this, and all of us, are waiting for you. We hope you all make the trip (Safely!) and share this small part of your life's journey; your Blue Knights adventure, here with us in June.

Until next month and next adventure, Ride With Pride!

Best, Ken



# SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

**Mike Wagner, Secretary**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 11, 2026**

Minutes taken by Richard Bennett



Call to Order: Ken Smith called the meeting to order at 0903 hours.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Richard Carlson

Moment of silence for Members of Heaven 1, members of the military and first responders. Recognition of fallen Chapter members.

**Introductions / Guests:** (Around the room)

**Blue Knights Pledge:**

"As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride, to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights."

**President Ken Smith**

1. Asked members to submit potential ride routes for the Southwest Conference committee.
2. Announced the signing of the 2026 Christmas Party contract. Will again be at Embassy Suites, La Jolla. Expect a price adjustment this year. Asked members to submit suggestions if they had other venues to recommend.
3. Discussed purchase of 2026 Raffle tickets. 500 tickets ordered for \$182.
4. Discussed Handlery Hotel room reservations. More "room nights" need to be booked to reach our contract. Asked members to book at least one night at the Hotel, and recommended the Banquet night on Friday.
5. Director Mike Harrison stepped down, and Randy Alldredge was nominated to fill the remainder of the term. Vote of membership to confirm was unanimous.
6. Announced that Jennifer Wade was confirmed as an Honorary Member by the CA VI Board of Directors.
7. Updated membership on an issue with California X and some of their members not registering for our SWC. He drafted and sent a letter to CA X members encouraging them to participate despite the issues.

**Vice President Ray Juanengo** - Excused

**Secretary Michael Wagner** - Excused

**Treasurer Mike Belluso**

Gave update to membership regarding finances.

**Immediate Past President John Lopotosky**

1. This is an election year for Blue Knights. Announced two vacancies anticipated on the SWC Board of Directors.
2. Brought Chapter ties and patches to the meeting. Gave to Quartermaster Alex Cross.
3. Discussed Cop's Run badges. Liz Cook in New Jersey handling purchase. Buyers get badge number that stays with them each year. Proceeds go to COPS charity.
4. Mentioned that our Board of Directors need to ratify the revised Procedures Manual before it can be ratified by the membership.

**Chapter Directors**

**Director and Newsletter Editor Richard Bennett**

1. Asked for membership to identify a Chapter photographer for candid pictures at the Southwest Conference. Director Arturo Romero volunteered.
2. Reiterated this was a Blue Knight election year. Encouraged members to step up and become a member of the Board of Directors.

**Director and Chaplain Randy Alldredge**

1. Reminded members of the Bruce Pfefferkorn ride/memorial on Friday, April 17, 2026. Fourteen riders so far; more are welcome to participate.

**Director Arturo Romero**

Nothing

**Director Emeritus Bill Crow**

Nothing

**STAFF**

**Quartermaster Alex Cross**

1. Has Chapter 6 Blue Knight ties for \$10. Ties are part of formal attire for members.
2. Also has Blue Knight patches.

**Webmaster Ken Smith**

1. Will update our website with General membership info.

**Webmaster SWC 2026 Betsy Wheeler**

Absent

**Ride Coordinator Mike Belluso (Randy Alldredge temporarily filling in for Mike Belluso)**

1. Had an after-meeting ride planned for today's meeting.
2. Randy is handling details for participating in Bruce Pfefferkorn services.

**Safety Officer Mike Manen**

1. Suggested contacting Border Patrol Honor guard.

**Morale/Welfare Coordinator Michelle Juanengo**

Absent

**Greeter/Raffle Sales/Welfare Coordinator Tina Lopotosky**

1. Sent a sympathy card to Cynthia Wharton, who lost her mother-in-law.

**SWC International Rep Jorge Ortiz**

1. International President arriving on Monday the week of our Southwest Conference.
2. International is tracking the California X issue.

**SWC Committee chair Mike Belluso**

1. Said we have 126 SWC registrations, but need 60 more "room nights" to meet our obligation.
2. Encouraged members to book at least one room; perhaps for the Banquet night on Friday June 5th.
3. Will be rescinding the \$50 "late registration fee" all together. However, late registrations will not be guaranteed a shirt or name tag.

**Good of the order:**

1. Honorary member Jen Wade announced the 24th annual May Ride, benefiting military families in San Diego. Ride will be on Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2026. Look for details on "Upcoming Rides" page of this newsletter.

**Poker Chip Drawing:** Chris Medvigy's name was drawn. Chris was not present, and did not win the \$5.

**50/25/25 Drawing winners:** 1st: Richard Carlson 2nd: Aaron Roberts

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by Bill Crow. Second by Jack Knish

**Meeting adjourned at:** 1011 hours.

**Next General Member meeting:** 0900 hours May 9, 2026 at Broken Yolk Restaurant, 1800 Garnet Av., San Diego, CA



# SAFETY MESSAGE

## Mike Manen, Safety Officer



### A Speedy Lesson

Recently at work there was this guy I always talked to due to our shared interest in riding motorcycles. He would frequently tell me how much fun it was to ride over 100 mph on the freeway. He would often explain he would split lanes at 110 mph. During our discussions I would try to explain the danger of his actions. At least once a week I would say he was going to die if he kept this up. Unfortunately, I was right, it is believed he rear ended a vehicle in excess of 100 mph and passed at the scene. I know we all sometimes ride well above the speed limit, but I have a few factors I have found as reminder why this is a bad idea. Riding a motorcycle is already dangerous enough, but you can control your actions to help mitigate the danger.

#### Impact of Speed on Accidents

- **Reduced Reaction Time:** Higher speeds decrease the time a motorcyclist has to react to unexpected hazards, such as vehicles turning, road debris, or traffic congestion.
- **Longer Stopping Distances:** As speed increases, the distance required to stop the motorcycle increases, leading to higher collision risks.
- **Increased Fatality Risk:** For every 10 mph of increased speed, the risk of dying in a crash can double.
- **Loss of Control:** Speeding often leads to a higher probability of losing control of the motorcycle.
- **Greater Impact Force:** Crashes at higher speeds result in greater kinetic energy, translating to more severe injuries or death.

#### Fatal Speeding Stats

- In 2017, 32% of motorcyclists in fatal crashes were speeding.
- Speed is a factor in 33% of fatal motorcycle accidents, according to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#).
- Motorcycle riders aged 20 to 39 are more likely to be involved in fatal speeding accidents.

#### Causes and Effects

- **Excessive Speeding:** Often defined as exceeding the speed limit or driving too fast for conditions.
- **Common Causes:** Traffic congestion, running behind schedule, and anonymous driving conditions.
- **Consequences:** Beyond injuries (fractures, traumatic brain injuries, spinal damage), speeding leads to higher economic costs.
- **Speed Differential:** The risk of a crash is heavily influenced by the "speed differential"—how fast a rider is moving compared to other vehicles and elements on the road.





# Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge

Noah Webster

## Roadway Debris

...and other hazards



I am always amazed to see motorcycle riders going down the road with one hand on the throttle and the other hand in their lap. Often, they are changing lanes or lane-splitting. Looks cool; effortlessly speeding along with confidence to ride with only one hand. It is also naïve. Roadway emergencies happen suddenly and unexpectedly. If you have been riding for a while, you know what I mean.

In every motorcycle class I ever attended, including my police training, there was never an endorsement to ride with one hand off the controls. In fact, keeping both hand on the controls was emphasized. There is no benefit from riding one-handed; quite the opposite.

But this is not just about one-handed riding. It is about responding to unexpected road hazards.

While on a cross-country road trip, the last thing I expected was to be dodging fresh tire debris. At highway speed on a busy freeway, I smelled burning rubber, then small pieces of tire flying past me and immediately afterward, large chunks of a tire. I was able to dodge the debris, but traffic behind me was hitting it head-on.

A large semi-truck ahead of me had suffered a major tire failure. The smell of burning rubber was evidence of impending disintegration of the tire. It happened so quickly that I was barely able to avoid impact with the large main tire tread. I gained some wisdom from the experience.

But this was not my first encounter with roadway debris while riding my motorcycle; Roadway debris is a significant cause of collisions.

Road debris accidents are a significant concern in the United States, with over 50,000 accidents and more than 500 fatalities annually. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reports that road debris was a factor in an average of 53,000 police-reported crashes from 2018 through 2023, resulting in 5,467 injuries and 72 deaths. This data highlights the critical need for awareness and action to reduce the risk of accidents involving road debris.

Think for a moment about the ladder you saw on the road, most likely from a tradesman's truck. Or the spilled loads that are often found on freeway ramps. (My closest call was spilled nails covering two lanes of highway. Several cars with flat tires on the shoulder caught my attention before I hit the nails.) Mattresses and furniture from personal vehicles are also common. The list goes on...

Unlike car drivers, motorcyclists face the possibility of serious injury from encountering roadway debris and road hazards. These hazards often appear unexpectedly, causing unsuspecting riders to become statistics in traffic reports. I share some wisdom now, so you won't be "that Guy".

- **Understand speed and braking.**

Speed and braking distances vary depending upon vehicles and road conditions. A man's gotta know his limitations, and the limitations of his motorcycle. So, with that in mind, get to know some basics about speed. The following data are only a general estimate.

- **Speed and feet per second.**

Traffic Officers know about this dynamic, and now so will you. Velocity in the U.S. is measured in miles per hour, which can also be understood as feet per second. Feet per second is a more valuable measurement when dealing with roadway encounters. For example:

<b>MPH</b>	=	<b>FPS</b>
20		30
30		44
60		88
75		110

Put into another context, miles per hour can be understood as "car lengths per second". The average car in America (longest and shortest averaged in length) is 15 feet.

<b>MPH</b>	=	<b>CAR LENGTHS</b> (Rounded to nearest number)
20		2
30		3
60		6
75		7

While not exactly accurate, this is a better way to judge how much distance you will travel in one second at the speed you are going. This will be important when:

- **Deciding how to react to debris or other unexpected hazards.**

"Unexpected hazard" usually means a sudden recognition of an "Oh shit!" danger. When that moment happens, riders typically go through a rapid sequence of recognition, panic, and instant reaction choice of braking, swerving or hitting the hazard. If you have been paying attention, and cognizant of your speed / distance at the time, your chances of safely dealing with the hazard are better.

- **Types of hazards**

There are so many different types of road hazards for motorcyclists, it would be impossible to list them all. Some of the most common road hazards are:

- Sand/gravel, water, black ice, oil, etc.
- Vehicle failures; stalled in traffic, engine oil/parts, tire debris.
- Spilled loads; ladders, furniture, boxes, etc.
- Rocks, landslides, tree branches, large pot holes.
- Animals; running in path, standing in road around curves.



- **Types of reactions**

In general, riders have only three options: braking, swerving or hitting the object. These could reactions could happen individually or in combination. In my experience, I could usually swerve and/or brake to avoid the hazard. Occasionally I had no choice but to hit the object; Thankfully, I survived them all.

- **What to do**

Think about the above listed hazards in advance. Think about how you would react to each one. Being mentally prepared will help when that split-second confrontation happens. And if all else fails, don't be afraid to hit the object. Braking and keeping firm control will see you through more often than not.

Unless you are riding one-handed.





## BK News You Can Use

The Town Crier

### SWC Update



Registration costs for the 2026 Southwest Conference in San Diego will not be increased. The "late fee" of April 10th has been rescinded. Blue Knight members can still register at the original price without the \$50 late fee.

Members registering after April 10, 2026 will get full benefits, but will not have a guarantee of a conference shirt or name tag. All participants who are not staying at the hotel will be required to pay a daily parking fee. Any hotel reservations made after May 2, 2026 will be subject to room availability.

This adjustment was made to benefit our Blue Knight guests coming to San Diego. In the spirit of Blue Knight brotherhood, we are striving to keep expenses affordable while providing the very best Southwest Conference experiences. It is our hope you will not miss this SWC because of financial concern.

Here is a recap of the SWC highlights -

Our SWC Committee has planned for daily activities, outings and events that has something for everyone. We have a professional motorcycle trainer who will give a classroom presentation followed by a skills course in the parking lot. Usually costing participants for this training, we are providing it *free* for Blue Knights.

We have guided and self-guided rides to interesting areas in San Diego County. A *free* visit to the U.S. Midway is also planned. A special area called "Handcuff Alley" has been set aside, just for Blue Knights. And there are other activities and events on site, including 50-50 drawings, hospitality room, raffles and more.

All of this includes the Southwest Conference annual meeting with installation of new Board of Director officers and the annual membership meeting. Capping off the event will be a wonderful banquet meal with presentation of awards. (Wear your fancy duds.)

We hope to see you; All of your friends will be here. And who knows, it may be another 20 years before San Diego hosts the Southwest Conference again.



## CHAPLAINS CORNER

by Randy Alldredge

### Good Friday and Easter



“April.” Such an important month to recognize Jesus our Lord Savior. My message this month is about the celebration of Good Friday and Easter.

On Good Friday, Jesus was crucified on the cross so we, all of us, could have ever lasting life! Think about that...Everlasting life? What does that mean? Of course, some of us will pass before Judgment Day comes, and those of us who have accepted our Lord Jesus into our hearts will be rewarded with that Everlasting Life, we talk about. We will live forever in the Promised Land, without pain, without sorrow, without worries!

Jesus died on the cross to wash our sins clean. God knew Jesus; His only Son’s sacrifice was the only way to have Everlasting Life. Many betrayed Jesus before his crucifixion. Jesus was tried and convicted for claiming he is the Son of God. Matthew, chapters 26 and 27 detail the account of the betrayal, trials, and crucifixion. Jesus died on Good Friday. He was placed in a tomb, and a large rock was rolled into place to prevent Jesus from ever coming out.

After three days of death, on Sunday, yes Easter Sunday, Jesus, as promised was resurrected from the grave providing victory over sin and eternal death. It is “Validation Day.” Resurrection Day serves as the ultimate proof that God’s plan to save humanity, “*Proving that Jesus’ sacrifice is accepted,*” by you and me to inherit our Everlasting life. We must confess our sins and accept Jesus into our hearts to be rewarded with Everlasting Life. Have you? I have!!!

Do not waste another week, day or minute thinking there is time to understand the simple way to ask Jesus into your heart. He hears and sees everything. Jesus is waiting for you!!! Need help... I’m here for you.

Together, we can ensure your rewards in Jesus are secure, and your Everlasting life has been etched in with the list of all believers!!!

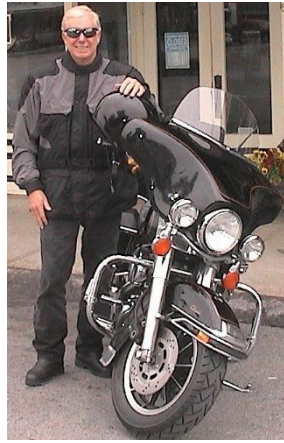
Luke 24:6-7 *He is not here; He has Risen!*

God Bless!

Note: *If anyone needs special prayer, please email me at [ran5150@yahoo.com](mailto:ran5150@yahoo.com) so I can add you to my prayer list. All prayer requests are confidential.*

# Farewell to our friend

## 25-year Blue Knight



Retired San Diego Police Captain and long-time Blue Knight Bruce Pfefferkorn was laid to rest Friday April 17, 2026. He was 74.

Bruce was a 25-year member of Blue Knights, beginning with California 6 in San Diego. He attended many Southwest Conferences and participated in chapter activities, even while he was still an active-duty police captain. For ten years he was a participating member of California 4, before returning to California 6 in 2022.

Last year Bruce did not renew his membership with California 6. He kept his serious illness confidential, and said "I just don't ride much anymore." It was a surprise to learn Bruce had lost a battle with cancer when he died on March 1, 2026.

In 1999 Bruce bought a new Harley Davidson, which he rode before transitioning to a BMW in 2009. He rode those motorcycles all over the United States, with the longest ride being a coast-to-coast ride to the Florida Keys and back. Annual camping rides with a small group of friends happened for 20 years, always with interesting destinations. These rides were the envy of his friends, and were often memorialized with a story and photos.

Bruce did not attend many Blue Knight meetings during the last seven years of his life. His battle with cancer was not known to his Blue Knight brothers and sisters, but now the reason for his absence is obvious. Those of us who attended his services at El Camino Memorial were reminded of his incredible life as a police officer, Blue Knight, world-traveler, husband, father and grandfather.

As a Blue Knight and personal friend of 52 years I am grateful for having Bruce Pfefferkorn in my life. We shared life experiences on and off the job, both serious and fun; I have lots of stories.

He will be missed.

Richard Bennett April 18, 2026



Mike Wagner, Ken Smith, Richard Bennett, David Navarro CA IV, Randy Alldredge, Bill Crow, Jen Wade, Marcos Perez CA IV



**FOR SALE**

**Treasures and Bargains  
From our Members**



**2022 HD Road Glide ST FLTRXST in vivid black**

This 2022 HD Road Glide ST (FLTRXST) is well maintained and in perfect running order. She has had a recent 3-hole oil change and front tire replacement. She now sports Metzler Cruise Tec front and rear. Under 21,200 miles on the odometer. She's has had a few upgrades.

1. 15-inch handlebars
2. Comfortable aftermarket seat
3. SCREAMIN' EAGLE AIR CLEANER - EXTREME WEDGE
4. TRASK Assault 2 into 1, performance short pipe
5. A performance electronic tuner installed and dyno tested by TRASK PERFORMANCE
6. TRASK CheckM8 vented transmission top cover
7. 10-inch smoked windshield
8. Upgraded 2-way stereo speakers (Focal brand)

This ST is a torque beast. Her 117 CID engine dose not disappoint. 6 gears forward—no reverse. AZ title in hand. Bike is located in Carefree, AZ. Owner is a 64 y/o with a gentle right wrist. I can provide more info if interested. Please TEXT MESSAGE your interest to:

**Alan Wheeler**

**619-890-7273 iPhone**

**Asking \$19,000**



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/>



[www.sdpolicemuseum.com](http://www.sdpolicemuseum.com)



San Diego Police Widows and Orphans Fund

[www.sdpoa.org](http://www.sdpoa.org)

# UPCOMING RIDES




GARY SINISE  
FOUNDATION

Cordially invites you to the

## HOME DEDICATION CEREMONY

for wounded hero

### U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Jason Pacheco



Join us as we celebrate an American hero and welcome him to his new custom, smart-technology home that is built for his needs.

**Event Date & Time:**

Thursday, April 16, 2026  
10:00 AM PT

**Parking Location:**

Monserate Vineyards & Winery  
2757 Gird Rd.  
Fallbrook, CA 92028

**\*\* Please note:** Parking is not permitted at the house.

You must park at this location listed and take a shuttle to the ceremony.\*\*

Shuttles will start at 8:30 AM with the last ride at 9:45 AM to ensure we start the ceremony on time. Plan for a 5-minute ride to the event site. Shuttles will be available immediately following the ceremony until 12:15 PM.

# Like what you see in our Newsletter?



[bk-cavi.org](http://bk-cavi.org)

Learn more about our Blue Knight Chapter, and find past Newsletter editions by visiting our Chapter Website. Click on "Newsletters" for a complete list and access to past Knightly News editions.

## **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](mailto:electrotalk2610@outlook.com)**

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES**

FRIDAY, WEEK AFTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING