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MEMBERSHIP
MEETING DATE
August 9, 2025



Featured in this edition







Poker Chip drawing was held. Rick Carlson's name was drawn. Since Rick was present he won the \$25.

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 \$5.



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

Mike Harrison

Arturo Romero

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

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



Commitments vs Goals

An interesting story. A paid speaker went to an NFL Team. He had each player write down their goals on a piece of paper. After a few minutes he had them rip up the paper they had just written on. You could feel their anger and frustration while they ripped up the papers they had just spent time and energy writing on. He then asked, "How many of you wrote down win a Super Bowl?"

All the hands went up. He told them that every person in every NFL meeting room has the same goal but only one team wins a championship. So, it's not your goals that will take you to where you want to go.

It's your **commitments** that will lead you to your goals.

Then he had them write down their goals once again, but also had them write down their commitments, and had a few guys share them out loud. Guys shared how they were going to commit to eating heathier and take care of their bodies so they don't break down during the season. Other guys committed to watching more film and preparing more for games. I realized after reading this I need to change my direction about goals.

We focus so much on goals but we need to spend more time and energy focusing on our commitments. Goals are great but it's your commitments that lead to greatness. Commitments are greater than goals. So, the next time you write down your goals I want to encourage you to also write down your commitments. What will you commit to in order to achieve your goals? Then focus on your commitments each day, each week, and over time, you will be more likely to achieve your goals.

I am happy and proud and GRATEFUL for the commitments being made by every member of this Chapter. It is truly humbling to see so many of you in action, organizing for the Poker Run, prepping and landing us a Southwest Conference next year, setting up our annual picnic, winning 2 out of the last 3 SWC Blue Knights of the Year, and so many other good works. There is no shortage of commitment in Blue Knights, and CAVI is chock full!

Looking forward to our Poker run, picnic and all the camaraderie. It's an absolute honor to be part of this Chapter.

See you soon and Ride With Pride!

Ken



VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ray Juanengo, Vice President



1st Annual Rev & Rally

Photos by Ray Juanengo



Law Enforcement agencies throughout the nation participate in escorting the Special Olympics torch and its athletes every year.

This year, besides our Law Enforcement brothers and sisters supporting the event with a torch run, our sister and friend of Blue Knights California VI, Honey EA (active SDSO Deputy), coordinated a motorcycle ride to further benefit the athletes.

On 06/21/25, twenty-two riders started at Indian Motorcycle El Cajon and were greeted by representatives from San Diego PD as well as El Cajon PD. The group rode through scenic Sunrise Highway for a stop and photograph with Grand Marshals of the event, Little Chopper the Biker Dog and Mark Shaffer. We also took a quick stop at Dudley's Bakery in Santa Ysabel prior to our last leg.

Several of the Special Olympics athletes joined us on the ride and greeted us at the end destination at Josie's Hideout. A wholly worthwhile event and huge kudos to Honey EA for putting it all together!



I am already looking forward to next year's Rev & Rally.



California 6 members and friends



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Mike Wagner, Secretary

July 12, 2025 MINUTES



Call to Order: Chapter President Ken Smith at 0906 hours

Pledge of Allegiance given by Rick Carlson

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

Introductions/Guests: Larry Kunard, President Texas III

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

- 1. Delivered raffle tickets. Each member will take one book of raffle tickets. Michelle Juanengo volunteered to be Raffle Ticket Coordinator. 1st Prize: \$1000.00 2nd Prize: \$500.00 3rd Prize: 250.00
- 2. Showed all members the BK Trophy which was passed from New Mexico VI to our chapter.
- 3. Our chapter created a SWC Box which contained a flag, banner and challenge coin. This box will be given to Arizona X who will host the 2027 SWC.
- 4. Richard Bennett accepted the plague for Blue Knight of the Year for 2025.
- 5. Flyers for the Poker Run distributed to club members.

Vice President Ray Juanengo – Present

- 1. He mentioned about our club hosting the 2026 SWC and how great it will be!
- 2. July 2, 2025, Randy Aldridge and Ray assisted Jason Gung from Arizona 10 in escorting his friends remains (Fallen Marine) to Riverside National Cemetery. To show his appreciating; Jason donated a \$500.00 check towards our benefit ride and gave Randy and Ray each a \$50.00 gas card from Costco.

Secretary Mike Wagner - Present

Treasurer Chuck Belletti - Present

1. Fiscal Status given to the general membership

Immediate Past President - John Lopotosky - Present

- 1. International Election Results. Russ Harper elected as President. The Alberta V Chapter of the Blue Knights are the hosts for WCC 2026. Registration will be available during July 2025.
- 2. He mentioned about the 9th Annual November Knights Gathering at Glendale, AZ from Nov 13-16, 2025.

3. Informed members about the new application to become a Blue Knight. This should be the only application used. It can be found on the BK International Website.

Chapter Directors:

Director and News Editor Richard Bennett - Present

- 1. Requesting more articles for the monthly newsletter. The sooner he receives them the better it is.
- 2. Thanked Mike Manen our Safety Officer for all of his wonderful articles.

Director Mike Harrison – Present

1. He thanked the riders who participated in the Poker Run for American Legion Post 460 on June 21, 2025. There were over 110 riders and passengers. Fifty-six raffle baskets were passed out.

Director Emeritus Bill Craw - Present

Director Arturo Romero - Present

1. Santiago, the race car driver will update the club on his accomplishments. Unfortunately, Santiago was participating in a race and could not make it. He will be present at the Poker Run.

Staff:

Quarter Master Alex Cross - Present

1. He mentioned there are patches, shirts and jackets for sale.

Webmaster - Stephen Roche - Not Present

Ride Coordinator Michael Belluso - Present

- 1. He said he will send out an email to all members for SWC ideas.
- 2. He mentioned challenge coins were given out to riders at the SWC in New River, NM.
- 3. He and Sistiana will be gone on vacation for 8 weeks.
- 4. Alan will lead the After Meeting Ride.

Safety Officer Mike Manen - Present

Alan Wheeler - Present

- 1. August 2, 2025 3rd annual Grant Frey Memorial Poker Run.
- 2. He went over a variety of positions and duties club members will fill during the Poker Run.
- 3. He provided a Sign-Up Sheet for the 2025 Chapter Picnic
- 4. He provided a Sign-Up Sheet listing what members will bring to the picnic
- 5. He has 1000 flyers for the Poker Run which were donated by Attorney King. Flyers were distributed to club members
- 6. Ken Smith will be the Master of Ceremonies at the Poker Run. 0830 event opens up at San Diego Harley Davidson. 0900 sales start. Tahar Davis, CBP Officer will sing the National Anthem. 0930 opening ceremonies. 1000 Kick Stands Up. Ken Smith mentioned to members about raffle baskets and donation letters.

Morale/Welfare Coordinator Michelle Juanengo - Present

1. She mentioned to members about providing raffle baskets, gift cards and alcohol.

(Greeter/Raffle Sales/Welfare Coordinator) Tina Lopotosky - Not Present

SWC International Rep Jorge Ortiz - Not Present

Poker Chip Drawing: Richard Carlson \$25.00

50-25-25 Winners First: Mike Manen \$41.00 Second: Randy Aldridge \$41.00

Good of the Order: Ken thanked SWC committee members for their outstanding work they have done in preparation for the 2026 SWC. Betsy Wheeler thanked Stephen Roche, our website coordinator for all his hard work in preparation for the 2026 SWC. A \$250.00 gift card was given to Stephen Roche. Ken mentioned about the possibility of sending out a survey after the SWC on what people liked and disliked.

Motion to Adjourn by: First by: Bill Craw Seconded by: Mike Wagner

Meeting Adjourned at: 1007 hours

Next General Meeting Meeting: On August 9, 2025 at the Broken Yolk Café located at 1851 Garnet Avenue. The meeting starts at 0900.

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: <u>electrotalk2610@outlook.com</u>

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

FRIDAY WEEK AFTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING



BK News You Can Use

The Town Crier





Reported by SWC Chair Martin Cuesta and Vice Chair West John "JT" Tenuta

Blue Knights International just completed their world-wide election of Board Officers for 2025. Voting was done by using the internet.

Final results were announced to our Southwest Conference Board of Directors. New International Board of Directors is official.

International President:	Russ Harper	(1559 votes)
Runners up:	Jim Trachta	(1508 votes)
	John Bull	(937 votes)
Vice President North America:	Cal Ennals	(1772 votes)
Runner up:	Jerry Zollo	(1022 votes)
Vice President Europe:	Leonie Tromans	(703 votes)
Runner up:	Tom Elliott	(531 votes)
International Secretary:	Glen Wheat	(3897 votes)
International Treasurer:	Brian Arnold	(3850 votes)



SAFETY MESSAGE Mike Manen, Safety Officer Safe Strategies



Something I often think about when riding is lane position. Specifically, where in the lane should I be to be visible. The answer is, it depends. It depends on all kinds of factors, for instance, the type of vehicles around you, the amount of traffic, time of day, weather.

After a little research I came found the following:

Motorcycle safety, particularly when dealing with blind spots, is critical to avoiding accidents. Blind spots are areas around vehicles where a driver's visibility is limited, and motorcyclists are especially vulnerable due to their smaller size. Here's a concise guide to managing blind spots effectively:

Key Strategies for Motorcyclists

Position Yourself Wisely:

Stay out of other vehicles' blind spots, typically located behind and to the sides of cars, trucks, and buses. Position yourself where you can see the driver's face in their side mirrors—if you can see them, they're more likely to see you.

Ride in the outer third of a lane (left or right) to maximize visibility, depending on traffic flow and road conditions.

Increase Visibility:

Wear bright, reflective gear (helmet, jacket, or vest) to stand out.

Use headlights, even during the day, and consider adding auxiliary lights.

Use turn signals early and supplement with clear hand signals.

Anticipate and Monitor:

Constantly scan for vehicles merging, changing lanes, or turning, as these are common scenarios for blind-spot-related crashes.

Check your own mirrors frequently and perform quick head checks to cover your own blind spots, especially before changing lanes or passing.

Maintain Safe Following Distance:

Keep a buffer zone (at least 2-3 seconds of following distance) to give yourself time to react if a vehicle doesn't see you.

Avoid lingering in a vehicle's blind spot; pass quickly and safely when necessary.

Use Defensive Riding Techniques:

Assume drivers don't see you. Be prepared for sudden lane changes or merges.

Watch for indicators like a vehicle's wheels turning, driver head movements, or drifting within a lane, which may signal an imminent move.

Dealing with Specific Blind Spot Scenarios

Cars and SUVs: Their blind spots are typically over the rear quarters. Avoid riding directly beside them, especially in adjacent lanes.

Large Trucks and Buses: These have massive blind spots, often called "No-Zones," on all sides—front, rear, and both sides. Stay well back or pass swiftly, ensuring you're visible in the driver's mirrors.

Intersections: Be cautious of vehicles turning left or right, as drivers may not check blind spots thoroughly. Slow down and be ready to evade.

Additional Tips

Lane Splitting (Where Legal): When filtering through traffic, move slowly and predictably to avoid surprising drivers who may not check their blind spots.

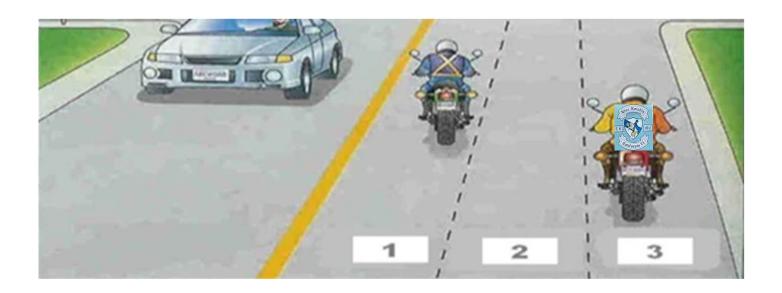
Technology Aids: Consider motorcycles with blind-spot detection systems or aftermarket mirrors with wider fields of view.

Training: Enroll in advanced rider training courses (e.g., MSF Advanced RiderCourse) to hone situational awareness and defensive riding skills.

Data Point

According to the NHTSA, approximately 40% of motorcycle crashes involve a vehicle turning or changing lanes into a motorcyclist, often due to blind spot issues. Staying proactive and visible significantly reduces this risk.

By positioning yourself strategically, enhancing visibility, and riding defensively, you can minimize the dangers of blind spots and ride safer.





Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge Noah Webster

Achilles Heel*



Imagine yourself fully dressed in your riding gear with a passenger on the pillion, ready to ride on a sunny morning. When the ignition is turned on all the gauges light up, but the starter button only gives a "click".

This scenario happened to me on the morning of a monthly chapter meeting of the Blue Knights. My first thought was that the motorcycle battery was only two years old; how could it suddenly fail? But it did; Even though it had been on a battery tender.

Old timers remember when motorcycles came with kick starters. They also had electric starters, but the kick starter got you going when the battery was low. There were many cold mornings when I had to kick start my Police Harley so I could get to work. Batteries have been around longer than kick starters, but kick starters were phased out over time in favor of electric starters. Evolution forced dependence on batteries, and therefore a renewed awareness of battery limitations.

When batteries are working, we often take them for granted. Many times they are tucked away and out of sight on our motorcycles. When was the last time you checked yours? Unfortunately, batteries often don't give a warning they are failing. If you are fortunate, a slow-cranking starter or dim lights will alert you to visit your local battery vendor. But I have been blindsided more than once, and each time it caused me to miss an important event or be stuck at the side of the road.

Modern batteries are still much like they have been for decades. There are more types to choose from, but they all still require maintenance and attention to be reliable. My battery failures have left me on the side of the road outside Beaumont Texas on a cross-country ride. Also, in the parking lot of a Southwest Conference in El Centro. And I already told you about the failure in my driveway on Blue Knight meeting day.

Today's motorcycles have more electrical demands than the simpler models they have replaced. It follows that battery maintainece is more important than ever. Here are some suggestions to make the Achilles Heal of your ride last longer.

Buy the best battery you can find. Yes, it will be expensive, but it will be more reliable and for a longer time. If you don't patronize your local dealer, top of the line batteries can be found in many stores. Prices vary for the same model battery so it pays to shop.

Buy and use a battery tender. Battery tenders are better than Trickle Chargers. Tenders are designed to charge to a level, and then hold the charge at that level, ergo the name. Trickle

chargers provide a constant low-voltage charge that remains constant, despite the battery level. Make it a routine to attach the charger when you park your scooter at the end of the day.

Don't blindly trust your battery charging device. These have silently failed, or were not correctly connected. Check your battery tender or trickle charger when you attach it. Look for confirmation lights that indicate it is working properly. Green lights are good lights. Make random checks to assure it is still working properly.

Get a "Weego" or similar battery to carry with you. These portable batteries are strong enough to jump-start a car engine, but small enough to tuck inside your saddlebag. You will also be able to help fellow riders who have battery issues.

Our motorcycles allow us to check the oil, see when tires need inflation and watch the fuel gauge. What we often don't know is the overall condition of our batteries. Despite the alternator gauge on the dash showing "charging", we don't know anything more.

Make friends with your battery and enjoy uninterrupted riding.



Bad Battery Symptoms

- · Difficulty Starting
- Dim Lights
- Slow Cranking
- Swollen Battery Case
- Frequent Need for Jump Starts
- Holding Charge Issues
- Age

^{*}The term 'Achilles' heel' comes from the myth of Achilles, who was said to have been dipped into the river Styx by his mother Thetis in order to make him invulnerable. His heel wasn't covered by the water and he was later killed by an arrow wound to his heel.

BLUE KNIGHTS SPONSOR TEEN RACER

Story by Santiago Lopez Submitted by Art Romero, CA VI Director



My name is Santiago Lopez, and I'm a 16-year-old Mexican-American, first-generation race car driver.

My journey in motorsports began at just 8 years old, when I discovered a love for racing at K1 Speed. What started as a hobby quickly grew into a passion. By the age of 11, I was competing in K1's Teen Cup, regularly racing against older, more experienced drivers and still securing podium finishes.

At 13, my commitment to racing intensified. I persuaded my parents to let me transition to quarter midgets, but after the local track shut down, my father discovered an opportunity to rent an IMCA Sport Compact.

In my very first race, I started 16th and worked my way up to 9th before a tire failure ended my run early. Determined to keep racing, my family and I purchased a 1994 Honda Civic. To fund my racing efforts, I attended car shows and sold Hot Wheels, learning the value of hard work and dedication. After a season, I upgraded to a 2004 Pontiac Sunfire.

In my debut with the new car, I started 10th and finished 4th which was my best finish to date in that class. Over the course of the season, I earned 3 main event wins, 6 heat race victories, 8 top-five finishes, and 3 top-tens.

In 2024, I made the leap to asphalt, competing in the Jr. Spec Late Model division at Irwindale Speedway. In just six starts, I earned 3 wins and 3 podium finishes, showcasing my adaptability across different surfaces and race formats.

My racing career has also gained media attention, with coverage on KUSI News, interviews on 96.1 FM's Racer Radio, and a steadily growing presence on social media. In 2025, I stepped up to the IMCA Northern Sport Mod division. As the season progresses, I continue to grow as a driver already scoring a top-five finish in the IMCA Summer Shootout at

Barona Speedway.

My goals for this season are ambitious: to become California Rookie of the Year, California State Champion, Barona Speedway Rookie of the Year, and Barona Speedway Track Champion. I also aim to capture at least one feature win by the end of my rookie year in the division.

With every lap, I gain more experience, and I remain focused on improving, competing, and representing my heritage and community with pride. My journey is still unfolding and I'm just getting started.



Santiago Lopez with Blue Knight sponsored racer (Note the CA VI Blue Knight logo on the back fender)



Ya' Feelin' Lucky?

(Did I count five tickets, or six?)



NOTICE: CORRECT DRAWING DATE IS DECEMBER 13, 2025







Tickets are on sale <u>now</u> for our annual fund raiser. Money from the raffle will support local charities.

Only 500 tickets will be sold. Tickets sell for \$10 each. There is no limit to the amount of tickets you can buy.

Be generous; Increase your chances, and support our Chapter and local charities at the same time.

Tickets may be purchased from CA VI members, or by contacting the Knightly News at: electrotalk2610@outlook.com

Wininng tickets will be drawn at the December 13, 2025 Blue Knight meeting. Winners will be notified by telephone. 2025 Raffle winners will be listed in the January 2026 edition of the Knightly News.



2026 SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE **SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA**





COME FOR THE MEETING, STAY FOR THE MEMORIES



JON HANDLERY, THIRD GENERATION OWNER AND PRESIDENT OF HANDLERY HOTELS HAS THE SAME PHILOSOPHY AS HIS GRANDFATHER HARRY HANDLERY, "TO HAVE EVERY GUEST NOT QUESTION WHY THEY STAYED HERE, BUT TO QUESTION WHY THEY DIDN'T STAY HERE BEFORE,"

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FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF BK CA VI MEMBERS





ALEX CROSS



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

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



San Diego Police Widows and Orphans Fund www.sdpoa.org

UPCOMING RIDES



Volunteer positions still open. Contact any Director.