

THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Blue Knights © California VI



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OCTOBER 2024



A problem is a chance for you to do your best.
Duke Ellington

MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

NOVEMBER 9, 2024

Featured in
this edition



Poker Chip drawing was held. Alan Cutsinger's name was drawn. Since Alan 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

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

Hope and Family



Greetings my fellow Blue Knights and welcome to Fall!

If any of you have been into places like Walmart and Home Depot you would think Christmas is next week. Not sure how families with young kids handle the stress of seeing a 15 ft tall inflatable Santa next to a 20 ft tall crypt-keeper, laughing maniacally at them in the store, and keeping kids on track for which holiday is actually coming next.

In these uncertain times of election issues, worldwide conflict issues and all the ones closer to home, I know everyone is holding onto a little hope and trying to be positive for ourselves and our loved ones. But fear not, there is something more important than some of those issues, and, is the glue to make us able to weather through anything that comes our way. That something is family.

I made some observations recently that not only gave me hope, but made me smile each time I made them. As you know, I work on the USS Midway where we have almost 1000 volunteers, and receive over 1 million guests per year. These guests are largely not San Diegans but mainly folks from all around the US, with a large smattering of international tourists.

Over 220 of those volunteers comprise my Team, the Safety Team. Whenever there is something happening on the ship, or a mission at hand, everyone from paid staff to the new volunteer pulls together as a family to keep things going. This is what has kept Midway in business to our 20th Anniversary this year, and made the ship the #1 attraction in San Diego, and the #1 shop museum in the country, if not the world.

When I walk around the ship, I see parents and kids everywhere. We also get between 35k and 50k students onboard each year. Know what I don't see? Kids playing cell phones and tablets! I'm sure everyone is as annoyed as me when you see a family sitting at a dinner table and all of them are on their phones instead talking to each other.

I was out at a restaurant in Coronado recently, and there seemed to be a high number of kids at the restaurant with their parents. Some were even seated at large tables of 12 or more. Know what I didn't see? Not one cell phone out at the table.

Seeing these examples tells me there are many people out there teaching their kids a valuable lesson: being present with those you love and being in the moment with your family. In life, everyone comes to the same conclusion that there is nothing more important or stronger than family.

At our Blue Knights meetings and events, no one is zoned out on the cell phones, everyone is engaged with each other. The Blue Knights as an organization operates and pulls together as a family, and by example, we show that to our communities and the world.

Things might be a little unsettling in our country and on the world stage right now, but I know, that as a family, we will overcome all obstacles, and continue to come together as a family.

I rest easy because I have high hopes for us, and all families that are "doing it right". So please continue to participate, let's keep going to events and rides, (including Cal X's next week!), and get ready for our annual Christmas Party. Keep checking the website and our newsletter for all the goings on.

Take hope knowing we are stronger and all in this together.

As always, be safe and Ride With Pride!

Best, Ken



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Mike Wagner, Secretary

Membership Meeting

October 12, 2024



Call to Order: President Ken Smith 0901 hours

Pledge of Allegiance led by Alex Cross

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

Introductions/Guests: Bill Crow introduced Dixie Perigo, Larry Kanard - Texas 3 and John Tenuta - Arizona VI, Vice Chair West, SWC

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. Xmas Party. The BOD approved a motion to keep the price of the Xmas Party the same as last year. \$50.00 for a member and \$50.00 a quest for a total of \$100.00. An additional quest would cost \$85.00 or a cost TBD.
2. Membership Renewals. Collect renewal fees by the November General meeting. It would be nice having 100% renewals.
3. Raffle Tix. There are still an outstanding number of raffle tickets. Miguel Martinez still has 120 tickets, 20 books left to sell. If anyone has extra tickets and money to turn in bring to the November meeting.
4. More Events on Website. Someone mentioned there were not enough rides for the club. If someone has an idea for a ride contact a board member. Director's need to get involved too. John Lopotosky will publish any events on clubs Facebook Website.
5. BK of the Year. There are a couple submissions. He has no female nominations yet.
6. Veterans Home Ride. Sending out an email to Ray and Mike Brashars. Thinks the ride is in November. Would the Veterans Home still want Wal Mart Gift cards provided by the club? This will be the November AMR.
7. Jersey Hooded T-Shirt Custom Sublimated – Santa – Holiday Time. A company could produce the hooded jersey T-Shirts. Need to find out if club members would be interested.

Vice President Ray Juanengo - Not Present

Secretary Mike Wagner - Present

1. Update of International Blue Knights data. The International Blue Knights Convention has renewed their \$4,000.00 AD/D insurance. Members need to go to the International Blue Knight website and fill out the disability insurance card. No cost to club members. It covers all members in good standing in the US and Canada.
2. Who to take over Quarter Master Duties? A volunteer from the membership to take over Quarter Master Duties. Alex Cross volunteered to take over the Quarter Master Duties.

Treasurer Chuck Belletti - Present

1. The fiscal status of the club given to club members.

Past President John Lopotosky - Present

Chapter Directors:

Richard Bennett - Newsletter Editor – Not Present/Excused

(Topics discussed at October Board of Directors Meeting)

1. Get the newsletter published after the General Membership Meeting.
2. Talked about the Terry Bennett, Memorial Ride (two-day event) held in Carlsbad, California.
3. Has a decision had been made on which charities the club would support in addition to Wishes Granted and Next Step Service Dogs. He mentioned about the club supporting the San Diego Police Museum. Alan Wheeler mentioned about the club supporting the Wounded Blue Charity. John Lopotosky mentioned a decision will be made in January what charities the club will support.

Mike Harrison - Present, No Comments

Emeritus Bill Crow – Present, No comments

Alan Wheeler - Present

1. Talked about the great event held on September 22, 2024, Cops and Robbers. There were so many spectacular vehicles to look at. Thanked Richard for mentioning about this event.
2. Betsy and Sistiana wanted to give a quick brief about the possibility of hosting the 2026 SWC here in San Diego. The last time the club hosted a SWC was in 2005.
3. Betsy and Sistiana gave a presentation on the Handlery Hotel located in San Diego, California and what they could offer if our club hosted the 2026 SWC Conference. John Lopotosky mentioned there will be a discussion on hosting the 2026 Convention.

Staff:

Safety Officer - Mike Manen - Present

Webmaster - Stephen Roche - Not Present

Quarter Master - Arturo Romero - Present

1. Asked the club to support a co-worker and his son. His son races in races at the Ramona track. A motion was made by the BOD for the club to make a \$250.00 contribution. The BOD approved the motion. To be ratified at the General Meeting. Danny Lopez and his son addressed the membership. Motion made by Bill Crow and Mike Manen for the club to sponsor Danny Lopez and his son Santiago. \$250.00 donation.

Ride Coordinator - Michael Belluso - Present

1. Christmas Toy Drive and then possibly having a Coastal Ride. Alan Wheeler to lead the AMR.

(Morale/Welfare Coordinator) Michelle Juanengo - Not Present

(Morale/Welfare Coordinator) Tina Lopotosky - Present, No Comments

Jorge Ortiz – SWC International Rep Jorge Ortiz - Not Present

Good of the order: Revisiting the club sponsoring the 2026 SWC. Need to get a good count of how many members will be attending the Christmas Party.

Poker Chip Drawing: Alan Cutsinger, Not Present \$5 to be added

25/25 Winners: First: Mike Wagner \$25.00 Second: Mike Manen \$25.00

Motion to Adjourn by: First by: Bill Crow Seconded by: Mike Harrison

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:05 hours

Next Meeting: November 9, 2024 at the Broken Yoke at 0900 hours



SAFETY MESSAGE

Mike Manen, Safety Officer



Foggy Notion

Until a few days ago I didn't have the foggiest idea what to write this month. A few days later I'm on a ride and it hits me, the fog! We are at the time of year where we will have to deal with it.

A few days prior I was driving at 0400, in the fog and I came face to face with Bambi. Quite the surprise! So, with a little research I found this article from Harley Davidson Insurance:

As thrilling as it can be to ride a motorcycle, navigating through a thick blanket of foggy weather presents a unique set of challenges that demand respect, preparation, and a proactive approach. The best option, if you do not need to ride in the fog, is to wait until clears.

Regardless, whether you're a seasoned rider or just starting out, understanding these challenges is the first step towards ensuring your journey remains memorable for all the right reasons.

Discover everything you need to know about what makes riding a motorcycle through fog a task that requires your undivided attention and why it's crucial to be well-prepared before you rev up your engine.

FOGGY WEATHER CHALLENGES TO PREPARE FOR

Riding a motorcycle in fog not only blankets your immediate surroundings in a mysterious mist but also brings many different challenges to the table. This includes:

1. **Reduced visibility** - Poor visibility is the most obvious, yet dangerous challenge! Dense fog drastically reduces your ability to see and be seen by others, shrinking your reaction time.
2. **Moisture on visors and windshields** - Fog brings moisture, creating wet roads and the challenge of keeping your visor or windshield clear. This can further impair your visibility, making it difficult to navigate safely.
3. **Unexpected road conditions** - Fog can hide potholes, debris, and other hazards until it's too late. These hidden dangers require you to be extra vigilant and anticipate the unexpected using the S.E.E. method.*
4. **Other road users** - Unfortunately, it's not all about you on the roads. Not all road users adjust their driving or riding behavior in foggy weather, and this is something you cannot control. This can lead to dangerous situations where others may not see or react appropriately to your presence on the road.
5. **Navigation difficulties** - Landmarks and road signs can become nearly invisible in dense fog, making it easy to get lost or miss important turns.

Understanding these risk factors is the first step toward preparing for a safe ride through the fog. Now, let's look at strategies that can help you deal with them.

STRATEGIES FOR RIDING A MOTORCYCLE AMID FOG

If you're heading outside to tackle the fog, you need more than caution. Like riding at night, you need a strategic approach for yourself and those around you.

Here are some strategies that can help you ride in these tricky conditions:

Add To The Visibility

Increase your visibility by wearing high-visibility or reflective gear and ensuring your motorcycle's lights are clean and functioning. Bright colors can make a significant difference in how well you're seen by others.

Slow Down

Reducing your speed is crucial in fog. It can provide more ample reaction time to road conditions and obstacles that become visible at the last moment.

Check The Road

Stay vigilant and keep your eyes on the road, looking for any hazards obscured by the fog. This includes paying attention to lane markings and watching for hazard signals from other road users.

Attempt To Ride In The Right Lane

When riding in foggy conditions, choosing the right lane is ideal, also known as the slow or travel lane, allowing you to travel at a speed that matches the slower pace often required in foggy conditions.

Riding in the right lane allows you to stay closer to the edge of the road or the right-hand side, which can provide better visibility. This is because oncoming traffic and vehicles in the opposite lanes are farther away from you, reducing the chances of sudden surprises.

Being in the right lane also provides an escape route if you encounter a hazard, obstruction, or another vehicle behaving unpredictably.

Preserve Your Lane

Once you choose a lane, stick to it, and avoid sudden lane changes. With visibility reduced, it's harder for other drivers to anticipate your movements.

Keep Communicating When Riding In A Group

If riding in a group, maintain a communication method, whether through hand signals or intercoms. This helps ensure everyone stays aware of each other's positions and intentions.

Use Your Reduced Light Beams

High beams can reflect off the fog and impair visibility even further. Switch to low beams to improve your view of the road ahead.

Clean The Visor

Keep your helmet's visor or goggles clean and consider using an anti-fog treatment. This will help maintain clear vision, vital for identifying obstacles and navigating safely.

Check The Fuel Tank

Ensure you have enough fuel for your journey. Getting stranded in foggy conditions can be dangerous and uncomfortable.

Maintain Distance

Increase your following distance from the vehicle in front of you. This extra space ensures you have more time to react to sudden stops or changes in speed.

Use Brake Lights

Use your brake lights early and often to alert drivers behind you that you're slowing down. This can help prevent rear-end collisions, especially when visibility is severely reduced.

WHAT NOT TO DO WHEN RIDING IN FOG

Riding in fog requires not only adopting specific strategies but also knowing what actions to avoid. Understanding these "don'ts" is essential for you and the others around you.

Here's a rundown of what not to do when riding in fog:

- **Don't overlook gear preparation** - Skipping the step of wearing appropriate gear, especially reflective or high-visibility clothing, can make you nearly invisible to other road users in foggy conditions.
- **Don't speed** - Increasing your speed in fog is a recipe for disaster. It reduces your reaction time and increases the likelihood of accidents due to decreased visibility.

- **Don't rely solely on high beams** - Using high beams in fog can actually worsen visibility for you and others. The light reflects off the fog, creating a glare that can blind you and oncoming drivers.
- **Don't follow too closely** - Tailgating becomes even more dangerous in foggy conditions. Without adequate space between you and the vehicle ahead, you risk a collision if they stop suddenly.
- **Don't rely on other vehicles as guides** - Following the vehicle's tail light in front of you too closely can lead you off course or into dangerous situations, as they might not be navigating safely.
- **Don't stop on the roadway** - Perhaps common sense but avoid stopping on the road at all costs. If you must stop due to gas or mechanical issues, turn on your emergency flashers and move off the road to prevent becoming a hazard to other drivers.
- **Don't forget to use signals early** - Failing to signal your intentions early can catch other road users off guard, especially in reduced visibility conditions where reaction times are already compromised.
- **Don't ignore your motorcycle's maintenance** - Neglecting your motorcycle's lights, brakes, or tires can be particularly perilous in foggy conditions, where optimal functioning of all bike components is crucial.
- **Don't ride without a clear visor** - Riding with a fogged-up or dirty visor severely impairs your visibility. Not taking the time to clean your visor or apply anti-fog treatment can put you at significant risk.
- **Don't be impatient** - Trying to rush through foggy conditions can lead to mistakes and accidents. Patience is key to navigating through reduced visibility, so give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination.
- **Don't overtake other vehicles** - Refrain from overtaking other vehicles in heavy fog. It's difficult for you and other drivers to see approaching traffic or vehicles merging onto the road. Stay in your lane and wait for improved visibility.
- **Don't be overconfident** - Avoid overestimating your skills or your motorcycle's capabilities in foggy conditions. Even experienced riders need to exercise caution and adapt to the reduced visibility.

BOTTOM LINE ON RIDING IN FOG

Riding in fog presents a unique set of challenges that demand high awareness, preparation, and caution.

It's an environment where the margin for error is significantly reduced, and the consequences of mistakes can be severe. However, navigating these conditions effectively is possible with the right approach and mindset.

SEE stands for Search, Evaluate, and Execute. It is a defensive driving strategy that is designed to help you avoid collisions by effectively managing a safe space cushion around your vehicle as you drive. You can think of SEE as the continuous 3-step process for scanning and adjusting as you drive.



Who was Amos Elliott

And why do we have an award named for him?

By Richard Bennett



Twenty years has passed since Amos Elliott died in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was noteworthy at the time because Amos was a long-time Blue Knight with Nevada One. But being a Blue Knight was only one of Amos Elliott's virtues.

His obituary was published by the Las Vegas Review-Journal on Mar. 24, 2004. The obituary read:

"Amos A. Elliott Jr., 75, of Las Vegas, passed away March 21, 2004. He was born Feb. 27, 1929 in Abeline, Texas and was a resident of Las Vegas since 1954. Amos retired as department chief of police for Metro after 30 years. He was also a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S Army with 30 years of service. He also served in the U.S. Air Force. Amos was a member of the Reserve Officers Association of America, Okinawa Masonic Lodge #118 F&AM, Knights of Columbus, Las Vegas Protective Association, Military Police Association, Nevada Peace Officers Association, NRA, American Legion Police Post #55, Zelzah Shrine, Scottish Rite Lodge, El Bekel Police Shrine Club, Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, FBI National Academy, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #1 and Gold Wing Riders Association.

Amos is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jeannette Elliott; daughters, Linda Elliott of Las Vegas, Carol Elliott of Seattle, Nanette Shelton (Tony) of Las Vegas, Kathryn Elliott of Seattle and Laura Elliott of Seattle; son, Allen Elliott of Tonopah; brother, John Elliott of St. Hedgewig, Texas; and four grandchildren.

Viewing will be from 4-7 p.m., Wednesday, March 24. Services will be at 1 p.m., Thursday, March 25, both at Bunkers Mortuary, 925 Las Vegas Blvd. North. Interment will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery, 7251 W. Lone Mountain Road. Donations can be made to the Shriner's Children Cancer Research Clinic. Arrangements were handled by Bunkers Mortuary. To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#)."

The passing of time has dimmed the achievements of Mr. Elliott, and many of those who knew him personally have also disappeared. I was one of the Blue Knights who met Amos Elliott in Las Vegas when my wife and I attended the 2000 Southwest Conference / International Conference. Amos saw our motorcycle parked outside our Motel room and stopped to introduce himself. He welcomed us to Las Vegas and touted the virtues of a combined Southwest / International Conference.

We saw him everywhere during the conference. Amos even had Las Vegas Blvd. shut down for the Blue Knights parade; That was the first time that ever happened. We didn't know his background or achievements at the time, but we saw an enthusiastic Blue Knight who was totally involved in the experience.

Shortly after Amos Elliott passed, the "Amos Elliott Ambassador of the Year" Award was created. At the time, everyone knew Amos or knew of his enthusiasm with Blue Knight membership. The award was crafted after that enthusiasm:

The winner of the Amos Elliott Ambassador of the Year is a Blue Knight who not only has a high participation level with home chapter but, encourages chapter members to support other family-oriented motorcycle club rides and events to promote the blue Knights. This Blue Knight often recruits other law enforcement officers with an interest of motorcycling into becoming Blue Knights or helps them in starting a new chapter. Member is willing to ride several miles to support Blue Knight activities of home chapter, other local chapters of the SWC and international. Promotes Blue Knights wherever the motor stops.

This award is unique to the Southwest Conference of Blue Knights. Each chapter may give the award to a chapter member, and the Southwest Conference Board of Directors may also award it to any Blue Knight in the Southwest Conference.

Twenty years ago, the SWC Board of Directors set the achievement bar high for this award, in recognition of Amos Elliott's legacy. The Blue Knights who received the award were good examples of the criteria required. Indeed, there have been some years where no candidate was identified as meeting the criteria, and the award was not presented.

The passing of time has diminished the memory and recognition of Amos Elliott's achievements and his enthusiastic recruitment of new Blue Knights. (I was told he always had five Blue Knight membership applications with him.)

The Southwest Conference Board of Directors who were active in 2004 are long gone, replaced by another generation of Blue Knight members. Few Blue Knight members are left who remember Amos Elliott. Point in case: While researching this article, I could not find a photo of Amos Elliott. Local newspapers, internet searches and inquiries with Nevada I members all came up empty.

At a recent Southwest Conference, the Amos Elliott Ambassador award was presented with no mention of who Amos Elliott was, or why the award was created in his name. It seems time has faded the recognition of Amos Elliott and his achievements. Amos Elliott is worthy of remembering, and I hope this reminder will enlighten Blue Knights who never knew him.

When I attend future Chapter awards and Southwest Conferences, I look forward to seeing the Amos Elliott Ambassador award presented with a preamble about the qualifications. For those receiving award, recognizing their ambassador and recruiting efforts, the honor is truly special.

Amos Elliott was an outstanding man. He lived a life of service to his nation and his community. He had an infectious enthusiasm for whatever he did, and was the quintessential role model for Blue Knights. We should never forget Amos Elliott and his achievements.



Amos Elliott, Blue Knight



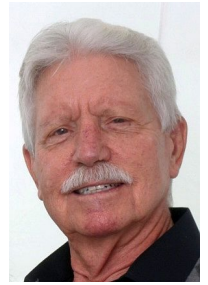
Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge.
(Noah Webster)

Being a Motor Officer in the 60's

The true-life adventures of Badge 825

Final Chapter



Civilian motorcycle training

If there is such a thing as a “legacy” in my police career, it would most likely be my contribution to motorcycle training. It happened by accident (no pun intended).



Officer Bennett with Explorer

The San Diego County Safety Council was looking for someone to train members of a new Exploring Post which was motorcycle-oriented. It was the first “Motorcycle Exploring Post” in the San Diego County Boy Scouts of America.

Exploring Posts were designed by the Boy Scouts of America to be co-ed groups of 15 to 20-year-olds that “explored” sports, employment careers, and specialty talents. An active-duty USMC Sergeant was the Explorer Advisor and BSA liaison. He asked Walter de Felice, CEO of the San Diego County Safety Council to find someone to teach his Explorers how to ride motorcycles. The Marine Corps sergeant also helped the San Diego County Safety Council recruit several motorcycle dealerships to provide motorcycles for training. The San Diego County Yamaha Dealers Association was the main sponsor, providing lightweight motorcycles for the program.

I was asked by one of the Traffic lieutenants if I would be interested in teaching teens to ride motorcycles. After hearing the details, I agreed to give it a try. I was sent to the San Diego County Safety Council headquarters on Rosecrans Street where I met Sam Manheimer, the assistant to Walt De Felice. Sam and I hit it off immediately. He was a former police officer from Upper Sandusky, Ohio and he had recently moved to San Diego for his wife's health. He had a lot of police stories, and we spent time sharing the things we had in common.

One of the first things we needed was an outline of instruction. At the time there was no public motorcycle instruction; everything I could find was designed for police motorcycle training. Using Los Angeles PD materials, and my recent police motorcycle training as a basis, I was able to put together basic training for the Motorcycle Exploring Post.

When we had a training program completed, we gathered members of the Exploring Post for an orientation, and then went outside to the waiting Yamaha motorcycles. Our first training session was held in the parking lot of the San Diego County Safety Council, which was next door to the Loma (movie) Theater. The Explorers consisted of boys and girls from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. As with any instruction, there were some who excelled and some who needed remediation.

Military motorcycle training

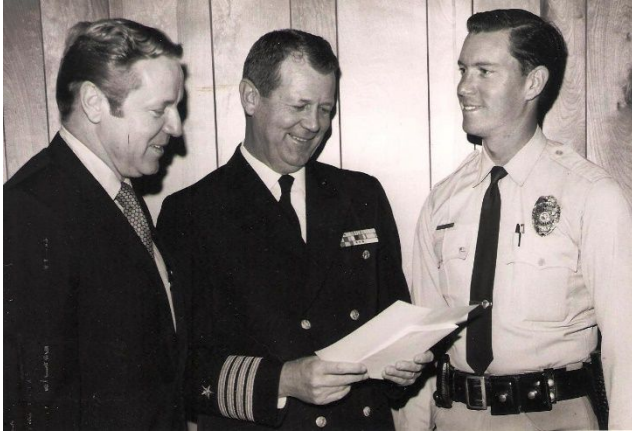
The Explorer motorcycle training was so successful that Sam Manheimer suggested we make some modifications and expand it to adult motorcycle riders. He and I agreed that we would approach the Eleventh

District of the U.S. Navy with our training program. I had seen several returning service men bring new motorcycles home with them, only to crash from lack of riding skills.

We developed a slide series using an enlisted navy man and myself as models. We went all over San Diego and Coronado to film scenarios that matched our written outline. When the program was complete, we presented it to Navy officials.

We met with the Commanding Officer of the Eleventh Naval District (I don't remember his name), and showed him what we had. He was impressed, and authorized our program. He arranged for us to have access to naval facilities for our classes.

We started at the 32nd Street Naval Base, giving classes on Saturdays. The classes consisted of a courtesy safety check of the motorcycles brought by the riders, followed by three hours of multi-media classroom lecture. After a lunch break, we finished the day with riding drills in the parking lot and a certificate of completion to each rider.



Walt De Felice, Navy Commander, Officer Bennett

On one occasion I gave a class at the Naval Air Station on Coronado Island. The students were up-beat, and positive. At the end of the class I went out to get on my motorcycle and leave, only to find a very large decal of a naval squadron on one of my saddle bags. It was so large that it took up the entire side of the saddle bag. Being a decal, it took me a long time to peel it off; Sailor humor.

The classes were very popular. Before long we had a waiting list of riders who wanted training. It was only natural that we shifted our focus to training experienced riders to take over the beginning rider instruction. We developed the Train-the-Trainers version of our riding class.

With the expansion of the classes, we needed a larger venue. Walt de Felice and Sam Manheimer arranged a meeting with Miramar Naval Air Station Captain "Hap" Chandler. Captain Chandler was a Naval Aviator who had seen military combat, and was a well-liked Commanding Officer.

We gave him our presentation in his office, and he was impressed. His approval of our training meant we would have a centrally located venue and a larger training area. Captain Chandler remarked "You can give your training as long as I don't have to ride one of those dangerous machines". Being a smart-ass, I remarked "I feel the same way about riding in one of your fighter planes". We both enjoyed a laugh and a hand shake.

Training at Miramar Air Station was a big improvement over the 32nd Street location. We had a larger class room, and could accommodate larger classes. We still did courtesy checks of motorcycles and multi-media classroom presentations, but the focus was on techniques of teaching new riders the necessary skills.

After lunch we did the usual riding drills, but the "big finish" was to form up in a group and go riding in the surrounding countryside. It was on one of these rides that the San Diego newspaper, the Evening Tribune, photographed our group from a high vantage point. It was the central photograph of a story about the San Diego County Safety Council and the motorcycle training we did for the Navy. I still have that photo in my collection.



After participating in this program for a year and a half, I was transferred to a Detective assignment. The San Diego Police Department chose not to continue the program with an SDPD motorcycle officer, and the San Diego County Safety Council turned to the California Highway Patrol for support. I heard the CHP used the training as a model for state-wide motorcycle instruction, and I suspect it was also the catalyst for the modern Motorcycle Safety Foundation classes that are in use today.

Post Script: The Offer I Couldn't Refuse

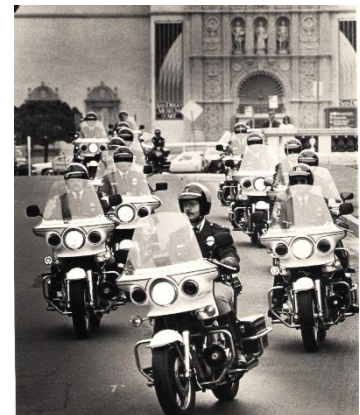
After three years as a Motorcycle Officer, I was called into the captain's office in the Traffic Division. The captain told me I could continue to ride a police motorcycle for the rest of my career if I chose, but he thought I had more to offer than just writing tickets and directing traffic. Besides, other officers were waiting for a chance to ride a police motorcycle, and everyone would benefit if I transferred to an investigations assignment.

That was it; I had seen other motorcycle officers get transferred to Vice Division and Burglary Division, and now it was my turn to be a Detective! Although I would be giving up additional "hazardous duty" pay, and I would not have the motorcycle to ride to and from work, I was flattered to be offered a Detective assignment at age 28. Most officers had to work in Patrol for ten years before getting a chance to become a detective. I thought of the suit and tie I could wear instead of a uniform. I thought of the daylight hours and weekends off instead of the shift work with middle of the week days off. How could I refuse? I said yes!

Two weeks later I was called into the captain's office again. I was given an assignment in the Juvenile Division as a Detective. Like the Traffic Division, Juvenile Division was composed of veteran officers and once again I was the youngest person in the unit.

Eighteen years later I returned to Traffic Division, and was assigned as the "Motorcycle Lieutenant". Ironically, my duties included selecting new Motorcycle Officers, over-seeing Motor Officer training and transferring veteran Motorcycle Officers to other assignments.

During all of my police career, no assignment was more fun and satisfying than my motorcycle officer duties.



**Leading San Diego Motor
Officers 1971**



Ya' Feelin' Lucky?

(Did I count five tickets, or six?)

**TAKE YOUR CHANCES, YOU MIGHT
GET LUCKY!**



BLUE KNIGHTS CA VI			
ONLY 500 TICKETS TO BE SOLD			
\$10.00 DONATION			
	1ST PLACE WINNER	2ND PLACE WINNER	3RD PLACE WINNER
	\$1000.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
	CASH	CASH	CASH
			
Drawing will be held Dec. 14, 2024 Winners need not be present			
			Name: <input type="text"/>
			Phone: <input type="text"/>

**Tickets are on sale now 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 number 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 president
Ken Smith at: kenstah@gmail.com**

**Winning tickets will be drawn at the December 14, 2024 Blue Knight meeting. Winners will be notified
by telephone. 2024 Raffle winners will be listed in the January 2025 edition of the Knightly News.**



FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF BK CA VI MEMBERS



ALEX CROSS



\$45



\$10



\$45



\$10



\$10



\$10



\$5



\$10



\$10

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

Blue Knights, California VI

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14, 2024

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



Not just a Christmas Party; The biggest, best membership meeting of the year!

Dress fancy, bring your partners; gift exchange, good food, libation and fun!

Overnight accommodations available

Abbreviated business agenda

Installation of Officers for 2025 - 2026

50-25/25 Drawing

White Elephant gift exchange

Group Photo of Chapter members

All of this for \$50

Submit your reservation form today.





News You Can Use

Christmas Party Payments

by John Lopotosky, Past President



Season's greetings fellow Blue Knights. We need those attending this year's Christmas Party (details below) to submit their payments. You can do so in one of three ways. You can bring a check or cash to the November meeting. You can also click on the link below and pay via our chapter SQUARE account. There is a small processing fee added if you pay via SQUARE.

We had 30+ members/guests sign up to attend. Based on this we signed a contract and invested chapter funds so please make your payment and we'll see you there!

This year the fee is \$50.00 per person for a member and one guest. If you have an additional guest, the cost is \$85.00 per person. Contact the chapter president if you have an additional guest.

If you choose to pay via SQUARE there will be a \$5.00 service charge. If you are paying by cash or check at the next meeting, you can complete the form provided in the newsletter and give it to us.

SQUARE LINK: <https://square.link/u/q0UdwQuL>

Christmas Party Details

Location:

Embassy Suites 4550 La Jolla Village Dr, San Diego, CA 92122

Time: 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Traditionally this event has been sort of dressy so please wear your holiday finest! This is not only our year end event so let's show how festive we can be.

White Elephant Gift Exchange: See forms provided in the newsletter for details.

Reservation Form

Blue Knights, California VI

2024 Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14, 2024

5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Embassy Suites

4550 La Jolla Village Dr, San Diego, CA

The event will be held in the **Indulge East Room**. Attire is "Holiday Festive" but no weapons or "colors." A short business meeting will be conducted, and we will be announcing the awards for the 2024 Chapter CA VI Blue Knight and Lord/Lady Knight of the Year.

The Christmas Party will include a voluntary gift exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a "male" or "female" gift to exchange. The suggested gift price is around \$25. **Please, no gag gifts.** (See the included page for gift exchange procedures.)

Parking fees and gratuity are included in the meal price. CA VI is underwriting a portion of the cost for our Blue Knight members

Members are free to book rooms, and can negotiate individually for better rates (AAA, AARP, govt, or other group rates)

Meals this year will be Buffet style.

Blue Knight member: _____	\$50	_____
Name of Guest: _____	\$50	_____
Additional Guests: _____	@\$85 each \$	_____
	Total:	\$ _____

Make your check to: Blue Knights California VI

Mail your check and this reservation form to:

Blue Knights CA VI c/o Ken Smith
1080 Jessica Ln.
Escondido, CA 92027

Deadline for payment is November 30, 2024. Late reservations cannot be guaranteed.



2024 Blue Knights CA VI Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Embassy Suites
4550 La Jolla Village Dr, San Diego, CA 92122
5 P.M. to 10 P.M.

Meals and Gift Exchange Info

This year's meal will be Buffet style.

Gift Exchange

Gift Exchange procedures for Members & guests who wish to participate in this traditional event.

- Bring a wrapped gift in the \$25 range.
- Please no "gag" gifts.
- Be sure the gift is clearly **marked** for a "male" or "female". (Unisex gifts should be marked the same sex as the giver.)
- Present your gift at the sign-in table.
- Print your name on a card (provided).





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. \$8,600 or best offer. 619-890-7273 mobile.



Classic Thurlow Leathercraft Genuine Deerskin Motorcycle jacket

Excellent condition
Highest quality, Timeless design

Men's all-deerskin black motorcycle jacket. Custom made by Thurlow Leathercraft

Cold weather is coming! Be the leader of the pack by styling with this one-of-a-kind jacket!

Features include:

26" sleeves. Designed to cover arms while riding motorcycle.
Zippers in cuffs. Allows for air flow when needed.
20" chest; 21" shoulder measurement. No "standard sizing" on custom jacket.
42" waist. Adjustable + or – with side lanyards.
Sheepskin collar. Removeable.
Epaulet shoulders.
Padded elbows.
Front pockets with top and side entry. Warms hands, and stores items.
Full heavy duty front zipper.
Two interior pockets, one on each side. 8 inches deep.
Silk fabric liner.



Amateur model

Deerskin leather stays soft after getting wet. Dries soft!

Cost \$500 new

Appraised at \$400

Make an offer

Cell: 619 972 3104



(Fancy hanger included!)



From the Editor



This is your Newsletter. It is intended to communicate with our members, and show others what we are doing. Your contributions are needed.

Blue Knights come from a tradition of public service, and are family-oriented. We share a love of motorcycle riding and family inclusiveness. We are proud of our club and the members that are in it. That is why I am asking for your contributions.

There will always be designated pages for your elected Board of Directors. These are instruments designed to inform and archive our achievements.

But there is almost unlimited space for your contributions. As the Editor I would like to someday have so many articles that I have to pick and choose because of volume.

So, give it some thought. You don't need to be a professional writer; just one who can share some interesting stories. Did you do a day ride to an interesting place? Go riding with Blue Knights at an event? Participate in a community event? Have some safety tips? All those, and more, are the basis for interesting stories.

And pictures! Lots of pictures make the story come alive. Photos can be sent to me in jpg format. Stories are best received in Word format. If you don't have Word, I will work with you to get it in a format I can use.

So, dust off the computer, check the "pictures" file, and write me a story. The Newsletter is what you make it. Let's make it great!

Send contributions to: www.electrotalk2610@outlook.com

Editorial Policy

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 of material that does not fall clearly within the guidelines will be brought to the attention of the Chapter President by the Editor and the decision of appropriateness. If necessary, the Board may review the article and make a decision to publish or not to publish.

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/>