

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

*Blue Knights* © *California VI*

bk-cavi.org



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## MARCH 2026



The Only Thing Necessary for the Triumph of Evil is that Good Men Do Nothing (Anonymous)

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

APRIL 11, 2026

Featured in  
this edition



**Poker Chip drawing was held. Mike Manen's name was drawn. Since Mike was present he won the \$30.**

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](mailto:BlueKnightsCAVI.VP@gmail.com)



# CALIFORNIA VI OFFICERS AND STAFF



## **PRESIDENT**

**Ken Smith**

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Ray Juanengo**

## **SECRETARY**

**Mike Wagner**

## **TREASURER**

**Michael Belluso**

## **DIRECTORS**

**Richard Bennett**

**Mike Harrison**

**Arturo Romero**

## **MORALE & WELFARE**

**Michelle Juanengo**

## **CHAPLAIN**

**Randy Alldredge**

## **IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT**

**John Lopotosky**

## **WEBMASTER**

**Betsy Wheeler (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**

**MARCH 2026**



Hello all Blue Knights far and wide, and welcome to spring! I always have to remind myself that some of our brothers and sisters have to bring their bikes out of hibernation while those of us here in San Diego are spoiled rotten. Sorry gang! Still, great time of year to make sure you're up to date on all your maintenance and safety checks on your favorite bike. Tons of past articles in our newsletter on that, and if not, "the Google" is your friend!

So much to be excited about! Our Southwest Conference will be here before you know it and BAM!!!! Time to get busy! We've had a good response of members stepping up to help out but we will need more, especially during the conference. We still need folks to do bartender shifts (tips appreciated!) as well as other odds and ends. Be ready to do your part!

Based on the amount of activities and details about the SWC, this will be one for the record books. Your Southwest Conference committee has been working overtime at making sure every detail is covered, and is a force multiplier for everyone to have a great time. For any of you still worried about the cost, let me help put your mind at ease.

The rates negotiated for the hotel are lower than comparable resorts similar in size in San Diego. It's not a shock we are at the top of the curve as far as living and tourist expenses, but, for the quality of this resort, with included breakfasts, and beating out June tourist pricing of other resorts, this is a no brainer. No matter where you travel these days, everything has gone up. Our Southwest Conference committee has worked hard to minimize this. Staying at the Handlery resort puts you at the conference, and means spending a lot less time commuting back and forth.

Plus, you get all the value-added amenities. Shirts, goodies, full open Hospitality room during the entire conference, Handcuff Alley for camaraderie after hours, a free tour of the USS Midway (a \$41 value), a motorcycle skills course, a less-lethal shooting FAM course and contest, exceptional motorcycle rides covering all 4200 square miles of beautiful San Diego County, AND, the most important thing: You get to see all your brothers and sisters in Blue Knights at a fantastic conference; and it's only once a year. SURELY you can figure out finances to make this happen. It's our country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, and what better way to celebrate that than with Blue Knights from all over the globe. And yes, we have them coming from International HQ and from far and wide. We will see who came the farthest on banquet night!

Recently, our Chapter as well as a sister Chapter have suffered family losses. Others in our Chapter have had life altering medical issues. I ask you please keep those Blue Knights and their families in your prayers. The conference is another opportunity for all of us to come together and show our love and support for them.

With all that's currently going on in the world, there is no better time, and no better place than a huge military town like San Diego, for all Blue Knights to gather, commiserate, celebrate, reach out and support, and become reinvested and reinvigorated in our great club, and our great country. Our first responders and military have our backs, and we have theirs, and each other. Let's bring it all together in June at the SWC. I look forward to breaking bread and riding with every one of you!

Until then and as always, Ride With Pride!

Ken



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

**Mike Wagner, Secretary**

March 14, 2026  
MEETING MINUTES



**Call to Order:** Chapter President Ken Smith called the meeting to order at 0902 hours

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by Tina Lopotosky

**Moment of Silence for Members of Heaven I**

Recognition of Fallen Chapter Members

**Introductions/Guests:** Ken Smith introduced Martin Cuesta, the Southwest Conference Chairman.

The other two guests were Pedro Rios and his wife Letty. Pedro is the Southwest Conference Web Master and Salvador Quezada is the Southwest Conference Secretary.

**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. Southwest Conference. Asked membership if anyone had any tasks or issues need addressing? Ken informed everyone the Southwest Conference Committee is having both weekly and bi-weekly meetings and is taking care of last-minute items.
2. Raffle tickets. Mentioned that if we are not doing guns and are continuing with cash, he thought we should have the tickets on hand in time to sell at the SWC. Asked if we zeroed in on a new printer? He said he is working with Alan Wheeler who has two contacts for possibly obtaining a new printer to print the raffle tickets.
3. Morale and welfare. Need updates on Bruce Pfefferkorn and Alex Leyva's son. Richard mentioned Bruce's wife sent out an email mentioning there would be a memorial service on April 17, 2026, for Bruce. Ken mentioned Bruce had been a member of Chapters 4 and 6 and had been a Blue Knight member for over twenty years. Anyone who knew Bruce and would like to send condolences to Kathleen Meehan-Pfefferkorn her address is 1638 Greenwood Place, Escondido, California 92029. John Lopotosky mentioned Bruce was a great individual; but very private. He encouraged all members to attend the funeral service. John also passed his condolences to Mike Harrison in the passing of his Son-In-Law. Randy Alldredge mentioned there will be a Celebration of Life for Alex Leyva's son this Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at 1415 South, First Avenue, Yuma, Arizona.
4. After Meeting Ride – checking ride routes for the SWC. Julian or Josie's Hide-Out.

**Vice President Ray Juanengo - Not Present**

**Secretary Mike Wagner - Present**

1. Reinforced what John mentioned to all members in his email message for today's meeting. It is really important that we have maximum participation from our chapter members for the upcoming Southwest Conference. Currently, 12 members have registered for the Southwest Conference. We need as many worker bees as possible to make this event a big success. Remember, after April 2, 2026, the registration fee goes up \$50.00.

**Treasurer Mike Belluso - Present**

1. Financial status of the club given to the General Membership  
(Listed in "Members Only" section of CA VI Website.)
2. He informed the membership on some of the activities to take place during the SWC:  
Meeting next week with the coordinator at the Handlery Hotel  
Motorcycle Training Course - Classroom and riding course  
Ride to the Midway  
Ride to Mount Soledad and Rosecrans National Cemetery  
Ken Smith is going to provide a pepper ball demonstration/shooting competition  
Live Entertainment  
Banquet

**Immediate Past President John Lopotosky - Present**

**Chapter Directors:**

**Director and News Editor Richard Bennett - Present**

1. Commented on some SWC Committee update details. SWC plans to use handheld radios (Retevis FRS) during the conference. Great way to communicate during the Conference and the radios can be used by the club afterward for future events.
2. President Smith has invited San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl to be the guest speaker during the banquet.
3. The SWC Committee plans to place another ad in the Sword and Shield Magazine. Richard has also been in contact with SWC Safety Officer Jim Jackson about our excellent motorcycle training instructor, Kyle Fitchhorn.
4. Informed everyone to get articles to him for the Newsletter, whether motorcycle related or not.
5. Praised Betsy and Alan Wheeler along with Mike and Sistiana Belluso for the outstanding job they are doing in the preparation for the 2026 SWC. He mentioned there are more events scheduled during this conference than all the conferences he has attended in the past.

**Director Mike Harrison - Present**

**Director Emeritus Bill Crow - Present**

1. He talked about Retention. In the Procedures Manual, once a member has 20 years of continual service in our chapter the member is not required to pay chapter dues.

**Director Arturo Romero - Present**

1. He mentioned Santiago; one of the two Race Car Drivers sponsored by our club will be racing this evening at 6 pm at Barona Race Track.

**Staff:**

**Quarter Master Alex Cross** - Present

**Chapter VI Web Master Ken Smith** - Present

**SWC 2026 Web Master Betsy Wheeler** - Not Present

**Ride Coordinator Michael Belluso** - (Randy Alldredge temporarily filling this position)

1. The After Meeting Ride will be to either Julian or Josie's Hide-Out. These are two of our planned rides for the SWC.

**Safety Officer Mike Manen** - Present

1. He informed everyone to stay hydrated.

**Chaplain Randy Alldredge** - (Excused)

**Alan Wheeler** – Not Present; notes from Board of Directors meeting.

1. He has three bottles of whiskey/ bourbon which Fred Hawkins NM1 engraved with our 2026 SWC logo. Donated these three bottles to CAVI for some type of sale/giveaway. Asked to have Board of Directors decide how they would like to handle this - as there may be some concern to an alcohol sale/giveaway at our SWC. He will get with our secretary about a donation letter later - after conference is complete. Randy Alldredge has previously mentioned we could not have a silent auction or drawing. We would need to purchase a one-day alcohol permit. Cost \$100.00. Still being researched by Randy.

**(Morale Welfare Coordinator) Michelle Juanengo** - Not Present

**(Greeter/Raffle Sales/Welfare Coordinator) Tina Lopotosky** - Present

**SWC International Rep Jorge Ortiz** - Not Present

1. Have we received the renewal membership cards with decals? Deferred to president Smith.

**Poker Chip Drawing:** Mike Manen \$30.00

**50-25-25 Winners:** \$55.00 each. 1st: Mike Manen 2nd: Pete Rios (donated winnings back to club)

**Good of the Order:** Jennifer Wade informed the membership the Spring Harp Fest (celebrating harmonica music) will take place on April 4, 2026, at Harry Griffen Park, 9550 Mildred St. La Mesa, CA from 11 am to 6:30 pm. Donations help support music education and helps cover Harp Fest Costs. SHF is a 501(c)(3) charity.

**Motion to Adjourn by:** First: John Lopotosky Second: Bill Crow

**Meeting Adjourned** at 0950 hours

**Next General Meeting:** April 11, 2026, at the Broken Yolk Café located at 1851 Garnet Avenue. The meeting starts at 0900.



## SAFETY MESSAGE

### Mike Manen, Safety Officer



## Against the Wind

Recently we travelled to Yuma, to give the grandson some highway driving experience. What I hadn't planned was the Santa Ana Winds. He was not having a good time driving at all. I've ridden in high winds but never Santa Ana style winds. So, a little internet search gave me the answer I was looking for. I learned a few things that I've been doing wrong, so without further delay....

### Tips for Riding in Santa Ana Winds

- **Check Forecasts:** Avoid riding if high wind warnings or watches are issued.
- **Body Position:** Keep your body, particularly your arms and shoulders, relaxed. A "death grip" on the handlebars amplifies the bike's movements.
- **Lane Position:** Ride in the center of the lane to allow space to react to sudden gusts.
- **Speed:** Reduce your speed to improve stability, as winds between 20 and 30 mph can make handling difficult.
- **Avoid High-Profile Vehicles:** Steer clear of trucks, trailers, and SUVs, which can create dangerous wind turbulence and are prone to swaying.
- **Handle Gusts:** When hit by a gust, do not try to fight it with sudden, sharp movements. Use subtle, smooth inputs.

### Safety Considerations

- **Debris:** Santa Ana winds often blow sand, tree branches, and other objects onto roads.
- **Visibility:** Dust storms can drastically reduce visibility.
- **Gear:** Ensure your helmet fits tightly to prevent it from catching the wind.
- **If Too Windy:** If conditions become unsafe, pull over immediately, preferably away from trees, power lines, and high-profile vehicles





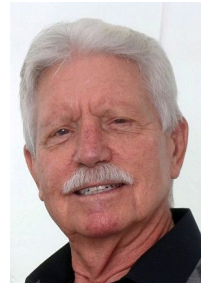
# Road Wisdom

There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge

Noah Webster

## Motorcycle Coverage

...A different kind of Insurance



When I travel with a group, or attend a motorcycle event, I am always surprised by how few motorcycles are covered in the parking lot. Many of the events have hundreds of participants who leave their rides uncovered and exposed, even overnight.

I know modern motorcycles have sophisticated alarms; some even alert the owner remotely. While this may give the riders a feeling of security, uncovered motorcycles are far more at risk of tampering and weather exposure than their covered brethren. Here are some things to think about if you are not a motorcycle-coverer.

If you are like me, you have invested hard-earned money in a motorcycle of your choice. After buying your scooter, you probably outfitted it with accessories to make it uniquely yours. You are a proud owner and rider, who keeps his motorcycle clean and shiny. You probably enjoy discussing your motorcycle details with other riders.

Like me, you may get nervous if someone parks too close to your bike in a parking lot. It is almost like one of the family, and you are quick to protect it. With all that time, money and pride, why leave it unattended and unprotected when you are on the road?

Early in my riding days I learned to carry and use a motorcycle cover. It takes a little time to cover and uncover my bike, but I have never suffered from theft or tampering, even in remote areas.

After decades, and thousands of travel miles, I made observations that convince me a motorcycle cover is necessary for protection of your bike, and not just for inclement weather. Here are some personal experiences to illustrate.



Traveling by motorcycle often means stopping at Motels. These are almost always in neighborhoods that you know nothing about. Motel parking lots are easy targets for thieves. Even parking outside your Motel room does not guarantee your bike is safe. Locks and alarms can give some protection from vehicle theft, but luggage and accessories are vulnerable.

On a border-to-border trip to Canada, my fellow riders and I accepted the invitation of a hotel clerk to park in an underground parking area. It was a gated garage, and protected from the Canadian weather. It was also the only time I ever skipped covering my motorcycle.

In the morning our bikes had been picked over by thieves. Tied-on accessories had been stolen during the night. None of us ever skipped covering our motorcycles again.

In Laughlin, Nevada my group parked in an unsecured Casino / Hotel parking lot; It was one of the early "Laughlin Rides". In the morning several riders complained of tampering and theft, but my covered motorcycle was untouched.

No one has ever told me a negative thing about covering a motorcycle.

I share this advice with you after decades, and thousands of miles, on a motorcycle.

- Buy and use a full-cover motorcycle cover. Out of sight, out of mind.
- Money spent on a motorcycle cover is motorcycle insurance. Don't go "bare".
- Don't rush the covering process. Cable lock your cover; wind and mopes won't take it.
- Stencil your license number on the outside of your cover. Authorities will thank you.
- Stencil your cell phone number on the outside, too. Allow important messages.



On the road in Utah. Notice the motorcycle on the right...

Professional competitor and National City Motorcycle Officer  
**Kyle Fitchhorn**



**RIDE LIKE A MOTOR OFFICER**

**The 2026 Blue Knights Southwest Conference in San Diego, California is pleased to have acquired Kyle Fitchhorn as a presenter and motorcycle riding coach at our event.**

Officer Fitchhorn is the founder of Southern California Slo Cones Motorcycle Training. Kyle is a highly experienced motorcycle instructor, Police Motor Officer, and certified accident reconstructionist with decades of real-world riding and traffic collision investigation experience. His background combines advanced law enforcement motor training, competitive precision riding, and crash analysis, allowing him to teach riders not just how to maneuver a motorcycle—but why techniques work in real-world environments.

As the founder of So Cal Slow Cones Motorcycle Training, Kyle developed a structured training program focused on motorcycle control, risk management, braking performance, and low-speed precision skills applicable to street riders, advanced enthusiasts, and professional motor officers alike. His instruction emphasizes fundamentals, repeatable technique, and confidence-building in a supportive learning environment.

So Cal Slow Cones provides training ranging from road-riding essentials to expert-level competition patterns, helping riders improve safety, control, and decision-making through proven motor officer methodologies adapted for civilian riders.

Kyle Fitchhorn is endorsed by Southwest Conference and International Safety Officer Jim Jackson. Please plan to attend and participate in this year's SWC Safety Seminar. *Sign up at the SWC registration desk.*

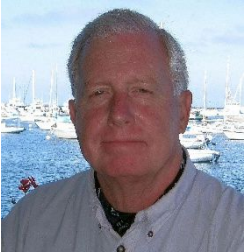


# CHAPLAINS CORNER

By Randy Alldredge  
**April 2026**



This month starts out with heavy hearts. March 2026 was a hard month for our local Blue Knight chapters.



A longtime BK VI member (over 20 years), Bruce Pfefferkorn arrived in Heaven One in March. I remember Bruce as a San Diego Police Department Lieutenant. Although I never worked directly for Bruce during the years we both were with SDPD, I remember him as a bigger-than-life LT with a soft-spoken leadership approach. I took some of the classes he taught and as a new police officer was impressed with his organizational knowledge. Bruce retired from the police department in 2006 at the rank of Captain.

Also in March, BK X member Mikey Leyva was chosen to eternally ride with BK Chapter "Heaven One." I am sure many of our chapter members have great memories riding with Mikey. I met him briefly and was instantly impressed with him as a fellow BK brother. I can't imagine the pain Alex and Martiza must endure during this very sad and trying time. Alex and Martiza, being Christians, are holding to the Lord's promises and know someday they will reunite with Mikey. "Praise the Lord!"

March has also been trying times for many of our members, enduring medical issues. Just know I pray for each of you every night! May my prayers reach your heart and fill it with hope and encouragement for better health.

I hope April 2026 brings each of us new hope, healing, and some sort of understanding of why things happen. I struggle with words to say to parents that have to bury their children. In my perfect world, parents should never be tasked with that sad experience.

My message this month are to those that need to accept Our Lord Jesus into their hearts, ask for forgiveness of sins, and worship Christ as your Savior. It is such a simple thing to do and has mighty consequences for those that don't.

John 3:16 spells it out! It's never too late! I am always available to help you make this very important commitment to Our Lord!

Philippians 4:13... "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." We need the strength Our Lord's promises in sad and unimaginable times to get us through to the other side. Believe me when I say His strength helps me each and every day!!!

Today, let us all say a prayer for our loved ones, hold them a little tighter, and know tomorrow is not promised. Today and every day is the best opportunity to pause for a moment, be thankful for where we are in life, with the ones we are with, and acknowledge God provides us these moments to say Thank You Lord Jesus for all you have provided for me.

God, please bless each one of us in April 2026!!!

Note: *If anyone needs a 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.*



**FOR SALE**

**Treasures and Bargains  
From our Members**



**2022 Harley Davidson Road Glide ST Vivid Black Located in Carefree, Arizona**

This well maintained and perfect running ST is ready to ride. She has had a recent 3-hole oil change and front tire replacement. She now sports Metzeler Cuisetec's. Under 21,000 miles on the odometer. She's has had a few upgrades.

1. 15 inch handlebars
2. Aftermarket seat
3. SCREAMIN' EAGLE AIR CLEANER - EXTREME WEDGE
4. TRASK Assault 2-1 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

This ST is a torque beast. Her 117 CID engine does 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, CA VI

619-890-7273 iPhone

**Asking \$20,000** Less to a Blue Knight member



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)

# 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