



# BLUE KNIGHTS West Virginia II



## July 2015 Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 7

### ***PRESIDENT'S NOTES:***

Also this fall our chapter will be having elections for the next two years (2016-2017). If you are thinking or wanting to run for office please let us know so we can get the information out to all the members. Also if you absolutely do not want to run for an office please let us know. We must have at least six (6) officers. The office of Secretary and Treasurer can be held by one person. If we have separate officers for those offices then we will have seven (7). Remember this is your chapter so please help keep it moving forward. I want to take the time to thank Gene, Lou, Becky, Ethel, Fred, Cherry Pie, Rene, Spot, Rick, Marty, Tammy and Rexann for coming out and helping with the Harrison County Special Olympics Dice Run today. It was a good turnout for the event and we had a good turnout for our chapter.

For those planning on attending next month's Chapter picnic in Shinnston, please email Rick Eve and let him know about your plans. It would be nice to let him know who all you are bring to the picnic and what covered dish you plan on bringing. The chapter will be providing the hot dogs, hamburgers and buns, but we need a count of how many will be there. You may bring your family and grandchildren as well. (Yes most of us are old and have grandchildren that we are around more than our children).

Just please let Rick Eve know as soon as you know. We don't want to be short on things.

Rick's email is [rickeve31@gmail.com](mailto:rickeve31@gmail.com)

I am talking with Canaan Valley Resort in reference to 2016 Wild Wonderful Knights Weekend. I hope to have some information at the next meeting for you. I may also be putting out emails to update everyone and/or get feedback from you.

**\*\*\***Just saw that the 2016 Blue Knights International Convention will be June 17 thru the 24, 2016 at Harrisburg/Hershey, PA and it is something we need to think about for having our event next year. If they are having the International Convention just a week after our event I think we may not get very many people. The registration for International Convention is \$110 per person. Room rates \$150 per night. Just can't see people paying for our event and then the international event price back to back.

I just don't think we can move ours to another date because of all the other annual events put on by the other chapters.

I would figure the month of June would be out of the question due to the International Convention being in June and in Harrisburg/Hershey, PA. The members that attend our event are just too close to that area. That means that the event is only about 4 hours from us. I would like some feedback and/or ideas.

Ride With Pride

**Ed & Rexann Martin**

304-622-0135 [bkww2@aol.com](mailto:bkww2@aol.com)

### ***VICE PRESIDENTS NOTES:***

**Our next meeting will be Saturday afternoon, August 15th, 2015, at 17:00 hours Ferguson Memorial Park, 10 North Street, Shinnston, WV. This will be just before the Chapter Picnic.**

Remember that if a couple of you are just going to do a ride for a couple hours or a group ride to work please call or email one of the board members so we can get you listed as a group/chapter ride event. You need to have at least one event attended in the year to keep you status for membership under the new bylaws. That means any Blue Knight event anywhere, a chapter group ride like two or more members riding their bikes to work and back, taking a short ride for an hour or so. If you have time to call several members that is great if not and it is just a couple of you that is fine. You must notify one of the board members to get it noted as an official ride. President Martin has advised me that there are still several members that have not made a meeting or attended any type of event this year so now would be the time to call another member and make that ride and get your event in for 2015. There are 35 members that

have not attended any event and 42 members that have not attend a meeting this year. Please get one of the events in soon. Don't want until the last of the year and have to try and get it in.

**Catch the fever.**

Ride With Pride

**Richard & Bridget Swisher**

***SECRETARY'S/TREASURER'S NOTES:***

**Our next meeting will be Saturday afternoon, August 15th, 2015, at 17:00 hours Ferguson Memorial Park, 10 North Street, Shinnston, WV. This will be just before the Chapter Picnic.** We need all of our members to let others know when you go for a ride. We should be riding as much as possible.

All bills are paid and chapter doing well.

***Ride Safe, Ride Smart and Ride with Pride. You are the faces of West Virginia II.***

**Marty McNulty, Secretary/Treasurer**

**ROLL CALL**

Members at July meeting: Fred LePera & Cherry Pie, DW & Cathy Conners, , Lou Stevens & Rebecca Green, Marty McNulty, Richard & Bridget Swisher, Randy Biggins, Del Parris, and Rexann & Ed Martin.

**Chapter Safety Officer**

Ride With Pride

**Walter Knight**

**MDC Safety Officer**

**CHAPTER GROUP RIDING**

This article is like all others that I've wrote in the past, everything that I write are only suggestions.

I've done articles on group riding before but this one should have some new ideas for you to think about. Here are a few things you should do before going on any ride. You and your co-rider should be well rested. You should perform a T-Clock on your motorcycle before any ride. If you don't know what a T-Clock is at the next meeting I'll show you what it is. A picture is worth a thousand words. Nothing can be more embarrassing than be on a ride and your motorcycle lets you down. I know this because I've been there. Make sure that you have items on your bike that you might need (rain gear, first aid kit, medicine, snacks/drinks, etc.). I even carry a spare helmet on mine in case somebody steals mine. It's only a half helmet because it takes up less room. I always wear a full face when I ride. This half helmet would get me somewhere so I could buy a full face.

One other thing concerning your motorcycle you might want to think about. That would be do you trust the person that works on your Baby. Some of us ride more than others do. Some of us ride faster than others do. Do you want to be in a curve sending sparks out the back of your bike from your foot pegs and something happens to your motorcycle, which cause you to wreck? Don't get me wrong, you are on a machine with moving parts that can break. The point I'm trying to make is a good reliable mechanic that you trust could save your life. My suggestion is find you a person that you do trust with your motorcycle and your life because when you have somebody that works on your Baby that is what you're doing, putting your life in their hands. This is why I go 600 miles round trip to have my Babies worked on. And the shooting sparks out behind your bike is just an example because you know none of us would ever do that.

One of my golden rules is you should always arrive at a ride with an empty bladder and a full gas tank. Be on time so you won't miss the ride. I always try to get there a little early to talk with the other riders. If by some chance you are leading the ride please know the route you are going. If this is just a chapter nowhere ride try and have a little pre-ride talk about safety and the route you're going.

Explain the three tracks in the lane your riding, inside-center-outside track. Remember the center track is where most of the oil and trash is. If you're going to be on some narrow roads go over some hand signals for single file, staggered, trash on road, space cushion, etc. If you're out riding on country roads with not much traffic you can also be a little farther apart. Out in the country you don't have to worry about on and off ramps, or cars coming across two lanes cutting you off. But you do have to worry about several other dangers. If a deer, bear, or dog runs out in front of you and you're not ready means disaster. Remember one thing if you don't anything else, when you least expect it you better "EXPECT IT".

I just found something I didn't know and we have a lot of this in certain parts of our state, coal dust. If you ever ride on a road with coal dust on it, be careful. It's like riding on ICE.

If you go on a ride with your chapter one more Golden Rule, always thank the people that planned it or led it. If you go to a poker run or any other event always thank the folks that put it on. If you haven't assisted on one of these you have no idea what is involved in making them a success. Now we'll discuss going on an event {conference, poker run, etc.} where you'll be riding your motorcycle. Here are a few things to remember. You most likely don't know the area, probably most of the other riders you have never rode with and you don't know how they ride or how good of a rider they are. You should do the follow already but this is one time you must do it. Please keep a good space cushion, watch 360 degrees around you. If the rider in front of you is all over the lane or speeds up-slows down all the time then try and keep a little more space between you and that rider in case they do something really stupid. If you have a rider behind you that keeps getting right up on the back of your bike you need to do something before that rider runs into you. You have several oppositions you can do, wave rider pass you when it's safe, signal for them to back off your bike or when you pull over at the next stop make sure that person is not right behind you. Remember if you do this you are rolling the dices. The next person behind you might be worse. I know some of you have seen or bought a motorcycle that might be five to ten years old with maybe five to ten thousand miles on it. You tell me what that means to you.

In the Biking World there is a saying that is so true. A \$30,000 plus bike and a set of leathers on does not make you a good bike rider. Proper training and a lot of practice does, and it's very important you have both. I tell everybody riding a motorcycle is just like life, you are always learning. If you think you are a good rider and nobody can teach you anything you should take the keys out of your bike and hang them up because your days are numbered. Anytime you get a chance to practice, take a riding course or read material about riding you should because it might just save your life. I've never been to a work-shop or roundtable conference that I haven't come away without new information and ideas that are helpful.

Remember, you never forget how to ride a bicycle and the same goes for a motorcycle. If you don't ride a lot and practice your riding skills how good of a rider are "YOU"? The other thing I can't stress enough is that we're not getting any younger and you don't really know if you'll be here tomorrow so I only have one more thing to say. Please get on your "BABY" as much as you can and ride it because we have a great big country to see and life is too short.

D.W. Conners, Blue Knights, West Virginia II, BK-WV II Quartermaster  
Mason Dixon Safety Officer  
Email BKMDC@frontier.com

## **Road Captains**

### **Side-stands**

### **What could possibly be said about these?**

By: James R. Davis

Like an airplane, it is my opinion that motorcycles should have a 'walk around' performed before every ride. During these quick checks you will see the obvious: low tire pressure, damaged tires, dripping oil, open luggage, and the like. (You might also get in the habit of checking your oil level.)

Depending on how frequently you ride, I suggest that a 'touch *everything*' (literally) check should also be done regularly where such things as loose windscreens, loose spark plug wires, loose antennas, loose mirrors, etc. are discovered before they become problems.

But one part of our machines tends to get overlooked by most during our casual checks - our side stands.

First, let's look at what can go wrong with them.

The most obvious is a weak or broken lock spring. With either you can end up dragging the stand as you ride, or it will fail to 'lock' the stand into place when you lower it leaving your bike on its left side when you dismount.

Newer bikes have an interlock switch that kills the ignition if you put the bike into gear while the stand is down. That switch can fail. If you rely on it and don't bother to check that the stand is up before you drive away, that first left turn can easily send you bouncing over to the right and result in total loss of control.

Older bikes have a rubber 'finger' extension at the tip of the stand that will wear over time. The purpose of that little 'finger' is to grab the pavement before the metal part of the stand itself does and ATTEMPT to pull the stand out of its locked position before it hits. There is a wear marker on these rubber extensions and when yours gets worn to that point it should be replaced because it no longer reaches the ground before the metal part of the side stand.

If when parked on a level surface your bike is not leaning heavily on the side stand you should adjust the side stand, if possible, so that it does. If it is not possible for you to adjust the side stand sufficiently, any welder can easily do so in a matter of minutes.

Assuming that your side stand is fully functional, there are things you should *not* do in order to keep them from turning dangerous.

- You should never take a bike down from its center stand while the side stand is down. To do so risks potential damage to the frame and engine mounts (from shock) and can easily result in tossing your bike over onto its right side. Situations that increase the risk include your shocks being low, heavy luggage, a road slope to the right, or coming down slightly off center.
- You should never simply kick the stand down at your destination and climb off your bike without *visually* checking that it is extended all the way and 'locked' into place.
- You should never have your shocks so low, or luggage so heavy, or stop on an incline to the right so great that you have to lean the bike to the right in order to get the side stand all the way down. If you have to do so, the bike will not be leaning heavily on that side stand when you leave it and you cannot, as a result, trust that your bike will remain standing when you return to it.
- You should never allow a passenger to mount or dismount your bike while the side stand is down (or you are off the bike, or you do not have both feet on the ground, or you are not in neutral). Compressing/decompressing shocks can result in the side stand pushing the bike over onto its right side.
- You should never rely on the side stand to support your bike by itself unless you are parked on a solid surface. While sand and grassy areas are obviously not 'solid', neither is asphalt when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees. Placing a 'foot' under that side stand is usually all that is required to keep your stand from punching a hole under it and sending your bike onto its left side.
- You should never leave your bike unattended in neutral gear with the side stand down if you are parked facing down (OR up) a hill. Putting the bike in gear (especially reverse) will 'lock' the rear wheel and your bike will still be standing when you return to it. Being 'in-gear' is the closest thing on your scooter to having a parking brake!

**Rene Noe, Walter Knight, Rex Talkington, and John "Spot" McCloud**

## Chaplain's Corner

**Del Parris, Chaplain, Blue Knights WVII**

## State Rep's Report

RIDE WITH PRIDE, RIDE SAFE,

**MARSHALL PARKER, WEST VIRGINIA STATE REP/ MEMBER WV II**

## From Membership

For those planning on attending next month's Chapter picnic in Shinnston, please email Rick Eve and let him know about your plans. It would be nice to let him know who all you are bring to the picnic and what covered dish you plan on bringing.

The chapter will be providing the hot dogs, hamburgers and buns, but we need a count of how many will be there.

You may bring your family and grandchildren as well. (Yes most of us are old and have grandchildren that we are around more than our children).

Just please let Rick Eve know as soon as you know. We don't want to be short on things.  
Rick's email is [rickeve31@gmail.com](mailto:rickeve31@gmail.com)

**Eugene D Botting  
Troy, West Virginia  
US Customs, Retired**

**Welcome ALL members and Guests  
to the  
Blue Knights West Virginia II  
Halloween Party**

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 6:00PM - Dinner @ 7:00PM

Days Inn and Suites, 112 Tolley Drive, Bridgeport, West Virginia 304-842-3904

#### **AGENDA**

All members and guests are cordially invited to the annual BKII Halloween Party. Please RSVP by 1 October with your menu choices. There will be plenty of food, as seconds are a given with this bunch, but the chef just wants to know how much of each entrée and sides to prepare. There will be three choices. Also, there will be beer, coffee and water available, but please tell us what you would like as soft drinks or set ups, etc., as everyone can be easily accommodated if we know ahead of time. Days Inn doesn't have a bar, but please feel free to bring a wee dram of your personal poison if you'd like. They do ask that any adult beverages be consumed in the room, and not in the hallway, parking lot, etc.

It's still WAY early, and we have plenty of time for adjustments. Any suggestions, hints, ideas, etc., that you may have PLEASE send them on. It's not our biggest event, but it's going to be a good 'un! Updates will be provided as new ideas may be adopted.

We currently have a 50 person room reserved. However, we have been offered a reduced rate on a 150 person room for that evening. We will be looking at it next week, and if more suitable to our needs, may well take it. More elbow room, etc.

please note - ALL members are welcome, RSVP or not - however, if you don't, you may well have to go over to the burger joint to eat. This is a HUNGRY crew! Thou hast been warned!

#### **MENU**

Jamaican Jerk Chicken, Cheesy Chili beans, Steamed Corn

Smoked Venison Roast, Sautéed red potatoes w/onions, Green Beans

Baked Salmon, Rice Pilaf, Steamed mixed vegetables (Broccoli, carrots & cauliflower)

Breads, assorted desserts (She's still making her mind up about those)

#### **RSVP Contact**

Gene Botting, Committee Chair, 304-873-1014 or [eugenebotting@gmail.com](mailto:eugenebotting@gmail.com), or There's always Facebook!

From Fred LePera:

Going to Moundsville soon, temple thing, what a great ride and a beautiful place visit, also Ohio Pyle in PA, very nice ride and nice state park, and if someone was just to take a ride, I need ten minutes notice and I am ready to go.

## **UP COMING EVENTS**

**2015 Blue Ride, Hosted by PA XVI:** *The ride will be held on Sunday, July 26, 2015, Rain or Shine. Registration will be at North Strabane Twp. Volunteer Fire Department on Rt19 Canonsburg PA from 9am to 11 am, and we will depart promptly at 11:30. The cost for the ride is \$25.00 single, and \$35.00 double. Pre-Registration preferred by July 20, 2015. The cost for Pre-Registered riders is \$20.00 single and \$30.00 double.*

**2015 MARYLAND – I, Warren T. Holmes Crab Feast & Family Weekend, July 31 - August 2, 2015. Crab Feast: SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2015!! Knights of Columbus, 6111 Columbian Way, Bowie, MD 20715**

*Come and join us in the shadow of the Nation's Capital. The food is good. The cost is reasonable. The HOSPITALITY is next to none! Activities: Friday: Hospitality Room with free beer, dinner and snacks Bus trip to the Marine Corps Evening Parade.*

**Saturday: CRAB FEAST (Doors open at 11:30 AM Crabs served at noon.)**

*Door Prizes, 50/50, Individual Awards, and a Special Door Prize for one weekend guest!*

**Sat Evening:** *Hospitality Room with free beer and snacks*

*Bus Tour of Washington, DC and visit to Old Town Alexandria, Va.*

**Hotel: Comfort Inn, Bowie, Md. (301) 464-0089 Rate \$121.50 + tax, Incl. Sat & Sun Hot**

**Breakfast**

*"Be sure to mention Blue Knights when registering."*

**Weekend Registration: \$85** *includes hospitality room Friday and Saturday, Marine Corps Parade, Tours and Crab Feast, (Children under 12- \$55)*

**NOTE: \$5.00 late fee applied to all weekend registrations postmarked after July 1, 2015**

**Saturday Crab Feast Only: Pre-registration Only: Adults: \$60 (Children under 12- \$35)**

**Registration Form: [www.md1blueknights.org](http://www.md1blueknights.org)**

**Tables at the Crab Feast may be reserved with pre-registrations for groups of eight.**

**MORE INFO: Visit [www.md1blueknights.org](http://www.md1blueknights.org) E-Mail [motor1@aceweb.com](mailto:motor1@aceweb.com) Phone 301-809-4380**

**2015 West Virginia II Summer Picnic,** Ferguson Memorial Park, 10 North Street, Shinnston, WV, Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Starts at 6 PM until 9 PM. Covered dish.

**2015 Martinsburg Bike Night,** August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015; Martinsburg, WV, hosted by West Virginia V. More info to come.

**2015 MDC Fall Conference,** Culpeper, VA, September 4 - 7, 2015. Hosted by VA II, Best Western Culpeper Inn, Event includes breakfast buffet, (540) 825-1253; Blue Knights Virginia – II; P.O. Box 2264, Merrifield, VA 22116-2264. 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Ridge Rally, theme is "Western Knights". Price is \$95.00 per person. Contact Keith Chase (Secretary) 703-893-1823.

**2015 NAFBI Run,** hosted by NAFBI and WV 5. Ron See (WV V VP) and I again will be helping host the **FBINA** ride at Camp Dawson. It's beautiful country and a nice ride. This year we are looking to do a poker run format and checking with Triple S Harley to help support and promote. Chuck Porter is looking into that. Lot of undetermined items at this point but please "save the date" of 19 September (Saturday) in your calendars. There will be cheap room rates for Friday and Saturday night available at Camp Dawson and we will have a feed of some sort. K.C. Boher, President, WV V Blue Knights, [wv5pres@gmail.com](mailto:wv5pres@gmail.com), Captain (retired) WV Deputy Sheriff, FBI National Academy 182<sup>nd</sup>, Investigator, Frederick Co, VA. 540-771-0111

**2015 West Virginia II Halloween Party,** Days Inn & Suites, , 112 Tolley Drive, Bridgeport, West Virginia, Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 6:00PM - Dinner @ 7:00PM. Contact person is Brother Gene Botting. 304-873-1014 or [eugenebotting@gmail.com](mailto:eugenebotting@gmail.com)

**Sick - Ill or in Distress:** Steve Richards and Richard Swisher, both are healing up fine.

## **Drawing**

Drawing at July 2015 meeting was for \$5.00. Brother Walter Knight's name was drawn and he was not present so the August meeting drawing will worth \$10.00.

## **August Meeting Locations**

**Our next meeting will be Saturday afternoon, August 15th, 2015, at 17:00 hours Ferguson Memorial Park, 10 North Street, Shinnston, WV. This will be just before the Chapter Picnic.**