



BLUE KNIGHTS West Virginia II



June 2015 Newsletter

Volume 19

Issue 6

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 would like to take this time to thank everyone that attended the 2015 WWK and also for the help that you may have done to make this event a big success. I have heard from several members of other chapters how much fun they had and they even enjoyed the place we held the banquet on Saturday night.

I would like for everyone that attended the 2015 Wild Wonderful Knights Weekend at Canaan Valley Resort to give me your feedback. Please let me know of anything that you think was wrong or bad in your opinion. Also want to know what you think was good and went well. Also any idea that you might have that could improve the event for members from other chapters.

Is there any changes you think we need to make. Is there anything that Canaan Valley Resort could change and or improve?

Remember this is your chapter and any input will help. We have tried a lot of things to get where we are today. We have been having this event since 1996. We have had it every year except 2002 and 2003.

Ride With Pride

Ed & Rexann Martin

304-622-0135 bkww2@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENTS NOTES:

Our next meeting will be Thursday evening, July 9th, 2015, at 19:00 hours, Gino's Pizza, 16 Davis Ave, Elkins, WV 26241.

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.

DW and I, accompanied by 3 friends, went to Martinsburg WV on Saturday June 20th to the Make A Wish / Blue Knight Poker Run & Concert to benefit the Make A Wish Foundation. Had a great time and great weather for the ride down and Poker Run. The way back was another story. Got into some severe wet weather on the way home. Took our time, was safe and received some hospitality at a gas station where we sought refuge for a while. Overall it was a good time, especially for me since I will be down for a while after surgery. We put approximately 430 miles on the bikes that day. Blue Knights WV 5 chapter sent a special thanks to our chapter for coming down and making the event. I just wanted to share the trip with everyone.

Catch the fever.

Ride With Pride

Richard & Bridget Swisher

SECRETARY'S/TREASURER'S NOTES:

Our next meeting will be Thursday evening, July 9th, 2015, at 19:00 hours, Gino's Pizza, 16 Davis Ave, Elkins, WV 26241.

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 Canaan Valley for 2015 Wild Wonderful Knights Event: Fred LePera & Cherry Pie, Marshall & Linda Parker, DW & Cathy Conners, Rex & Zadah Talkington, Bobby & Becky Ryan, Lou Stevens & Rebecca Green, Mark & Ginger Bennett, Greg & Tiffany Hoskins, Rene Noe, Ethel Tyler & Arlie Ewing, Marty McNulty, Gene & Tsula Botting, Walter & Brandi Knight, John "Spot" McCloud, Richard & Bridget Swisher, Andy & Bernetta Kolb, and Rexann & Ed Martin.

Chapter Safety Officer

How Old Is "Too Old" To Ride A Motorcycle?



HE SAID HE WAS TOO OLD TO RIDE. So, now, he and his wife were traveling on a trike. We met at a gas station and talked for a while, before we each headed back out on the road in different directions as part of our separate multi-day rides and they sure looked like they were having just as much fun as I.

As a result of our conversation, that was the first time I considered the notion that there could be a day when I'm too old to ride. That moment was also the first time I entertained the possibility of a three-wheel vehicle. Personally, I found myself contemplating a motorcycle with a sidecar more than a trike. Of course, since I haven't ridden with a sidecar or on a trike, I have no basis to judge which I might prefer. Having said that, I have ridden a Can Am Spyder, with two wheels in the front and one wheel in the back. Although that machine didn't inspire me, I think it's good that there are options for three-wheeled vehicles.

So, how old is too old to ride?

Heck, for that matter, at what age does this concept of "old" begin?

For me, I know I ride smarter (and slower) than when I was a kid. But I can't say I have the same reflexes. Nor do I have the same endurance. I don't know how many thousand-plus miles per day I have ahead of me, but factually, there is very little reason I need to put on those miles in a day anymore, anyway.

So, at what point would I say that I'm too old?

I imagine if I start trying to figure out how to replace a motorcycle seat with a rocking chair, while allowing the handlebars to sway up and down at the same time as the rocker, then I may have passed the point of being sensible. (Actually, I might have passed that point a long time ago, if I was ever sensible at any time).

Back to the point of which I have no answer: how old is too old to ride a motorcycle?

If you have any guidance or thoughts, I'm interested....

Ride With Pride

Walter Knight

MDC Safety Officer

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

Road Captains

Pre-ride Briefing For Your New Passenger

S/he is the BOSS, but you set the rules

By: James R. Davis

Before I let a passenger onto my bike I host a briefing with them. I explain that so long as they are on my bike THEY are the boss - that if they want to slow down, or to stop, for any reason, we will do so. In other words, **the rider controls the bike while the passenger controls the rider!** I explain that it is not my intention to scare them, ever, while they are on the bike, but to help them enjoy the experience. In exchange for this there is a price: They have four jobs while riding as passenger, and they must agree to get on and off the bike only with the permission of the driver.

I explain the 'passenger twist' where they connect their helmet cord while facing the bike, then do a full turn clockwise so that the cord wraps behind them before they get on the bike. That they get on and off only while I am on the bike, which is in neutral, and have both feet down and the side stand up (this, because if the side stand is down and they plump themselves on the saddle they will compress the shocks and that will lever the bike to the right - possibly all the way over onto its side!) I nod and tell them it is OK to get on the bike when I'm ready for them. I do the same when I'm ready for them to leave the bike. Finally, I ask that when they mount and dismount the bike they try to keep their weight centered on the bike - that they not pull the bike towards them but, rather, push themselves towards the bike.

I explain that while we are moving they can talk to me if they want, and that they may use the PTT button near their left hand to talk on the CB, but as to moving around, I'd prefer that they pretended to be a sack of potatoes (actually, I tell them they can move about, just not suddenly) - that they NOT try to help me through the turns - that they not lean in anticipation or when we are in a turn.

I tell them that I have never had an accident, but that no matter what happens while we are moving, they are to keep their feet on the passenger floorboards and never, ever, try to touch the ground with their feet to try to hold up the motorcycle. I show them the saddlebag guard rails and point out that they are heavy steel, like 'roll bars', and will protect their legs only so long as their feet remain on those floorboards.

Oh, as to those 'jobs' they have:

- They are to wave at all motorcyclists approaching us in the opposite direction
- They are to wave at all policemen who are on their feet
- They are to wave at all children that show any interest whatever
- They are to demonstrate to the world that they are enjoying themselves, particularly at all rest stops.!

Failing any of those jobs, I declare, will result in them having a new job when the ride is over - the spokes. (There are no spokes on my Wing, of course.)

As to my own personal rules while riding with a passenger:

- The only thing I want to 'show off' is that riding a motorcycle can be safe and enjoyable
- I wish to challenge myself with the task of trying to shift gears without the passenger being aware of the activity (no head snaps in either direction.)

- I want to start and stop with the passenger never quite sure that we have started to move or that we have come to a full stop - i.e., smoothness all around.

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<http://www.msgroup.org>

(James R. Davis is a recognized [expert witness](#) in the fields of Motorcycle Safety/Dynamics.)

Rene Noe, Walter Knight, Rex Talkington, and John “Spot” McCloud

Chaplain’s Corner

In his “Book of the Hours” Rainer Maria Rilke includes these words in a poem about death, “But fearful, we wither before the harvest.” In other words we die before our death. A cartoon I recently saw pictured a young lady standing before St. Peter who was looking at a book. St. Peter says, “It appears you had a very good life, but you missed it because you were on the phone.”

Both Rilke’s poem and the cartoon remind me that life can easily slip by while I am too busy to notice or too afraid to live it. To live our life fully does not translate into the “laugh, drink and be merry for tomorrow you may die” attitude, which is a fatalistic philosophy. On the other hand, we should fully participate in and enjoy our lives. No need to let fear keep us from living. I am often surprised at how many people never leave their homes or home county because of some vague fear of what is out there.

When I decided to bike to Seattle to see my youngest son and his family I was taunted by friends who thought it was too dangerous to bike across country alone. There are always dangers with biking, but there are more dangers sitting on the couch eating chips and drinking beer. I have always felt that when I die I do not want to regret that I “withered before the harvest.”

Jesus said, “I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” Often we live in fear of God or fear of making a mistake or doing the wrong thing, so we do nothing. I doubt that is how God intended for us to live. I end my morning prayer with, “Lord, no matter what happens today help me to live it in joy and thanksgiving.” I pray you can do the same.

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

This is a letter I never expected to write, as abhorrent as I find politics. A bit of background. I was speaking with Ed a couple of days ago, after Canaan, volunteering to help in any way I could. It was then that he revealed what some of you may already know – we’re going to have some vacancies in the upcoming election. Brother Swisher is having health issues, and DW has had the law laid down by Cathy that he hasn’t time as he has remodeling to do. For the same reasons, Cathy is also resigning from the board. So there’s LOTS of things upcoming to do. My problem is, I don’t know which way to turn. I have a background as a Supply Sergeant in the Army, and an Intellectual Property Rights guru in Customs, so the Quartermaster job would be a good fit. I know inventory.

I am also quite interested in actively garnering new Knights. I had thought it would be beneficial to get some interviews with local Chief Deputies, Police Lieutenants, etc. to see if we could get a bit of time at muster, etc., to let the folks know what we are. Not the sheriff or chief – those are political positions and getting them to bend one way or the other just isn’t politic. It’s always bothered me that we haven’t that many active duty police officers on board. I know that some of them bike. Ed tells me that this is the main concern of the VP slot. I guess I could do that as well, being retired and fairly soon to have that flipping barn done and a good bit of free time.

So, I guess I’m running for something. I just haven’t a clue what yet. I CAN tell you that whatever happens, I’ll be treating the office like a business. As I said I abhor politics, and just won’t involve myself in any he said she said bull squash. Yeah I know, I’m also short on tact.

As I am SURE that there will be plenty of volunteers for these positions, please know that I am throwing my name out there just in case. If anyone with a better perspective wishes to run, I'll step aside.

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

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

October 24th, 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

or There's always Facebook!

UP COMING EVENTS

2015 International Convention, July 19-24, 2015. Reno, Nevada. Hosted by Nevada II. Host Hotel: El Dorado Resort Casino, 345 N. Virginia St, Reno, NV 89501. Telephone 1-775-786-5700. More Info to come.

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

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

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, Captain (retired) WV Deputy Sheriff, FBI National Academy 182nd, Investigator, Frederick Co, VA. 540-771-0111

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

Sick - Ill or in Distress: Steve Richards and Richard Swisher.

Drawing

No Drawing in June. That means that the July 2015 meeting will be worth \$5.00.

JULY Meeting Locations

Our next meeting will be Thursday evening, July 9th, 2015, at 19:00 hours, Gino's Pizza, 16 Davis Ave, Elkins, WV 26241.