



BLUE KNIGHTS West Virginia II



February 2021 Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

The annual Board meeting was postponed until Saturday, February 27, 2021, at 13:00 hours at the Blue Knights West Virginia II Clubhouse.

Information from the 2021 Winter MDC meeting. The MDC board is giving all chapters a chance to put in a bid for the 2022 Spring MDC which has to be turned in by March 31, 2021. If no other chapter puts in a bid then West Virginia II will be the host for the 2022 MDC weekend.

As of right now it appears that the 2022 Winter MDC will be February 11-13, 2022 hosted by DE I. It appears that it might be at the Dover Downs, in Dover, DE. More information to come.

Ride with Pride
Ed Martin, President
West Virginia II

Ride with Pride
Ed & Rexann Martin
304-622-0135 bkwv2@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENTS NOTES:

I am looking forward to doing a flight #93 run this summer. I am planning on inviting Pa. Blue Knights 16 to ride with us. They rode with us in the back the blue parade. We can discuss a possible date at our next meeting.

I would also urge you to encourage anyone you know to get the shot for the virus when they can. I know this sounds like common sense; however, I know several people that said they are not taking it. This virus is real and can kill you, yet some people refuse to take the shot. The more people that take the shot the faster all of us can return to some type of normal life. We still have to wear masks and be careful of our contacts but at least we now have some type of protection.

Catch the fever.
Ride with Pride
35oldsrodder@gmail.com

Jim Enoch

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 11th, 2021 at 7 PM.

Respectfully,
George D. "Robby" Robinson
Blue Knights WVII Secretary
robinsonusmc77@gmail.com
Hone 304-527-0757 Cell 775-781-1993

TREASURER'S NOTES:

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.e.mcnulty@gmail.com

Marty McNulty

Chapter Safety Officer

Ride with Pride,
Walter Knight

Road Captains

Rene Noe, Walter Knight, Andy Kolb, and John “Spot” McCloud

Chaplain's Corner

**Del Parris, Chaplain
Blue Knights WVII**

Quartermaster

Rene Noe

Joke for the Day

Theatre Guest

A man lay sprawled across three entire seats in the posh theater. When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the man, “Sorry, sir, but you’re only allowed one seat.”

The man groaned but didn’t budge. The usher became impatient. “Sir, if you don’t get up from there I’m going to have to call the manager.” Again, the man just groaned, which infuriated the usher who turned and marched briskly back up the aisle in search of his manager.

In a few moments, both the usher and the manager returned and stood over the man. Together the two of them tried repeatedly to make him move, but with no success. Finally, they summoned the police.

The cop surveyed the situation briefly then asked, “All right buddy, what’s your name?” “Sam,” the man moaned. “Where ya from, Sam?” With pain in his voice Sam replied “The balcony.”

MDC Safety Officer

All the Best Tricks and Tips to Riding a Motorcycle with a Passenger

Riding a motorcycle solo requires balance and control. Riding a motorcycle with a passenger means you’ll need twice those skills. Generally, as a woman motorcycle or scooter rider your passenger’s weight will be greater than your own. If you’re already operating a heavier motorcycle such as the Harley or Gold Wings you’ll need to be entirely confident in your abilities before taking a passenger. Nevertheless, hosting friends or family members on the back of your motorcycle makes for fun rides or tours and is totally rewarding! When you take along a passenger you’re giving them a firsthand experience of the enjoyment you have for motorcycling as well as a sample of the fun they’d experience if they decide to learn to ride!

There’s much negativity from riders where passengers are concerned. Many riders refuse to take a passenger because of the manner in which they change the bikes handling. But riding with a passenger can certainly be a shared fun. Some motorcycles such as small bikes or sport bikes are not comfortable or designed well to carry passengers. And then, many motorcyclists just never bother to develop the good skills needed to host a passenger. But if you know what you are doing and have the right passenger, riding can be rewarding and a great method of advancing your skills and confidence.

These Guidelines Will Help You Ride With a Passenger

First Time Passenger Must be a Motorcycle Rider: It is the best practice to ensure your first passenger is an experienced motorcycle rider. So ask your motorcycle friend to meet you in a large parking (don’t head out on a busy city street with your first time passenger) to help you practice. Your first miles with a new passenger will likely be sloppy as you try to balance the added weight and steering inputs at slow speeds.

An experienced motorcycle rider as passenger can anticipate your moves and knows already about the protocol of a good passenger.

Prepare Your Motorcycle – Make the Adjustments: The extra weight will affect how a motorcycle handles. And you may need to adjust your motorcycle shocks or suspension. Equally important is adjusting your [tire](#)

[pressure](#) for the load. This is the same as when you would be carrying extra cargo. Refer to your motorcycle owner's manual and make the necessary changes.

First Step Pre Ride Passenger Briefing: Before your passenger climbs onto your motorcycle, host a pre-ride briefing with them. Of course you've already either provided or insured they have full riding gear just as you do. A certified full face helmet (or helmet with visor) which fits; sturdy jacket made of leather; gloves, sturdy pants/ thick jeans; sturdy boots covering the ankle and protective eye wear against the sun. Ensure passengers are geared up and dressed for comfort no matter what conditions you'll be riding in. Do not take a passenger without the aforementioned [GEAR](#) – their safety is in your hands.

Pre Ride Passenger Briefing Points:

- While they are on your motorcycle, they're the person in charge, so to speak. If they want to slow down or stop for any reason, you'll do so. Devise a signal such as a tap on your right shoulder in the case you might not hear them. As the pilot, you control the bike and your passenger controls you. Explain that you have no intention to frighten them while riding with you but in fact you want them to have the best experience possible.
- Climbing on or off. Ensure your passenger agrees to the following:
 - They agree to get on and off the bike only at your permission
 - They get on and off only while you are on the bike, and when you say "ready" or give the "ok" nod. The same is practiced when you are ready for them to dismount.
 - When they mount and dismount the bike they do their best to keep their weight centered on the bike – that they not pull the bike towards them but, rather, push themselves towards the bike.
- When riding/underway explain that they can talk to you if they want (if you have a communication system instruct its use), but ideally when moving have them pretend to be a sack of potatoes-relaxed. They can move about just not suddenly.
- They need not help you through the turns such as not leaning in anticipation or when you're in a turn.
- Assure your passenger you are careful, cautious and safe (not had an accident) – and that no matter what happens while moving, their feet stay on the passenger foot pegs (or floorboards). Also inform them they are never to try to touch the ground with their feet to try and hold up the motorcycle.
- Inform them that in an emergency situation where you may need to brake harder than normal, their weight will come into yours and that's totally okay and normal. Explain that you are prepared for that occurrence.
- Instruct them to sit close to you and that this is best for the motorcycle too. If a heavy passenger sits too far back on the rear seat this can affect steering negatively in the front and create lift to the front wheel.
- Inform your passenger that a motorcycle leans to turn and that it works best if they lean with you. If they're confused about this or often scared, just have them focus their eyes at the center back of your helmet. This will keep their body position upright and in line with yours.
- Inform them they can also use their knees to hang on to you by squeezing them or their thighs against yours (if applicable depending on your motorcycle style/model).
- Instruct them where to hang on to you- initially and at all times. When they become more comfortable and get a sense of acceleration, turning and stopping effects on the bike, they can hang on to seat grips or rails.
- Inform your passenger that they are welcome to wave to oncoming motorcyclists but may not signal such as when turning or changing lanes.

Follow These Good Passenger Riding Practices

- Deploy the usually hidden passenger footrests/pegs; show the passenger this is where their feet are positioned.
- Get on your motorcycle and raise the side stand (if the side stand is down, when the passenger mounts, their weight will compress the shocks causing the side stand to possibly dig into the ground and/or may push the bike to the right causing upset in balance). But if on unstable ground and if possible you can keep the side-stand down for additional weight back up as the passenger climbs aboard.
- Do not turn the motorcycle on (added safety) until you and your passenger are ready to go. You can keep your bike in gear to keep it stable, especially when on a hill. but again, not running.
- Ensure both your feet are on the ground and you have a good grasp on the handlebars.
- Pull in the front brake and keep it applied as the passenger climbs on to ensure the bike doesn't move or shift.
- Once the passenger is on, check/adjust their sitting position to ensure not too far to the back of the bike; closer to you will optimize your balance/control.
- Once underway, expect that while slowing / riding slow your passenger will take this time to shift and move around. Passengers tend to sit very still at speed but are more relaxed when slowing. just at the time when you need to control the slowing weight of the bike.

Your Job as Passenger Host:

Many motorcyclists take a passenger out for the ‘ride of their life’, frightening them and entirely turning them off from motorcycling. Maybe your passenger has had such an experience. So really, your task is to be responsible and ensure that your passenger and your motorcycle is as safe and as pleasing as possible.

Rider Challenges

- Aim to ensure your gear shifts are smooth to the point the passenger doesn't even sense the shift has occurred. If your passenger helmet is knocking into the back of yours, you're not smooth enough yet.
- When you move off from a stop, aim for a smooth kick off to the ride. The same for coming to a stop.
- You can try practicing all this in a confined area free of traffic, such as a parking lot.

Ensure the following areas are practiced and you’re comfortable before you take out your real first time non-motorcycle experienced passenger.

During the practice you will likely experience awkward jerky movements including balancing wobbles – don’t sweat it – it’s all part of developing the skill.

- Passenger mounting and dismounting
- Moving off. Here is where riding the clutch at the friction zone pays off again!
- Stopping the motorcycle both normal and emergency / [quick-stop](#)
- Backing (engine off) – important practice required in parking situations.
- Slow speed turns especially right turns.

Although riding with a passenger will change your solo riding experience, it is something you will truly enjoy sharing with a friend.

Have fun and remember, don't take a passenger on your motorcycle unless you feel that you are ready.



A quick shout out to Lisa (top) for always being the perfect passenger and to Tommy (bottom) for giving me a 35 mile ride in W. Virginia when my Harley crapped out on me. We were both a little nervous but I waved at all the truckers and Tommy got us there safe!

Committee Reports/From Membership

NONE

UP COMING EVENTS

2021 GLRC Spring Meeting: March 19 -21, 2021, hosted by OH XVII & OH XXV. Holiday Inn®, 4520 Everhard Road NW, Canton, OH 44718; Room Rate: \$109 or a Studio Suite for \$129 (Includes breakfast for two) (330) 494-2770. Ask for "Blue Knights" block of rooms. We have a 50-roomblock. Must be booked by February 25, 2021. Home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It is only \$65 per person for those registering before March 1st, you will receive an event pin. \$70 for those registering late and no guarantee of an event pin. Children under age 12 attend at no cost but if they are to attend the banquet a kid's meal ticket must be purchased for \$14. Hotel rate applies to Thursday March 18th as well. T-Shirts available on pre-order basis by March 1stonly. P.S.: You're almost guaranteed a door prize!100+

SRC Spring 2021 Conference: April 22 – 24, 2021; Hosted by LAXV, Shreveport - Bossier City, LA. SRC Rumble on the Red Tour. Conference Registration: \$75 per person/\$150 per couple, \$85/\$170 after March 25, 2021. Conference Hotel: Sam's Town Casino and Hotel, 315 Clyde Fant Memorial Pkwy, Shreveport, LA 71101. Host Chapter Contact Information: Blue Knights LAXV, P.O. Box 52491, Shreveport, LA 71135.
Chapter Email: blueknightslaxv@yahoo.com. President: Duane Farquhar - 318-510-0122 or Secretary: Bill Vincent: - 318-773-4707

****2021 Spring MDC & Wild & Wonderful Knights,** Hosted by West Virginia II. **CANCELED** on January 14, 2021.

Heaven I Ride: Saturday, June 12th, 2021. The ride will start at the Blue Knights West Virginia 2 Clubhouse, 245 Emily Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301. We will ride to visit most of our members that have transferred to Heaven I. This will be a daylong event lasting for about 7 hours or more depending on the stops. Basically, it will start at the Blue Knights Clubhouse and travel to at least 4 cemeteries and then back to the Blue Knights Clubhouse. It looks like about 240 miles and about 5 hours driving time. With putting flags on the graves and gas stops plus food stops, it will be about 7 hours. With doing it in mid-June there should not be a problem with daylight.

2021 MDC Fall Conference, Culpeper, VA, Sept 3 - 6, 2021. Hosted by VA II, Best Western Culpeper Inn, Event includes breakfast buffet, (540) 825-1253, room rate is \$90.00 per night; Blue Knights Virginia – II, P.O. Box 2264, Merrifield, VA 22116-2264. This will be the 44st Annual Blue Ridge Rally. Price is \$95.00 per person. Contact Keith Chase (Secretary) 703-893-1823 or VA2@blueknights.org.

SRC Fall 2021 Conference: September 30 - October 3, 2021, hosted by GA XI. Unicoi State Park & Lodge, 1788 Highway 356, Helen, GA 30545. Conference registrations made after **September 1st, 2020** will be \$80 per member/\$150 per couple.

Group room rates start at **\$109** per night plus tax and fees. There are also special rates for Barrels and Cabins located nearby. The group rate is available two days before and after the event dates. To book by phone, call **800-573-9659**. You must mention the **Blue Knights** and use the new 2021 **Group Code 09594**.

Harrison County Toy Run: November 28, 2021 at South Harrison High School, Lost Creek, WV. Lineup before 12:30 pm. Kickstands up at 1 PM.

2021 West Virginia II, Friday, December 10th, 2021, West Virginia II - chapter Christmas meeting/party Village Square Conference Center, Clarksburg. Social Hour 6 pm and Dinner about 7 pm. Ballroom A.

Sick - Ill or in Distress:

Drawing: Drawing February 2021 was be \$10.00. No meeting so the March drawing will be \$10.00. Must be present at the clubhouse to be eligible for the drawing.

Members in attendance: No Meeting

Next Meeting Location

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 11th, 2021 at 7 PM.

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Each time you use your Blue Knights® VISA Rewards Credit Card, we'll **GIVE BACK** to the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.



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