



BLUE KNIGHTS West Virginia II



May 2024 Newsletter

Volume 28 Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

Donna is starting up the monthly drawing to help get our guest to keep coming back to support us. Monthly drawing is worth \$100.00. We need members to get their door prizes and auction ideas turned in for the Spring MDC. Please drop off the items at the clubhouse no later than noon on May 20th, 2024.

This year Pipestem will be setting up and providing all food and drinks (mostly) and it will be in two different rooms. Hospitality in one room and dinner and breakfast in another. We will need help with setting up the registration and welcome area. This area is very close to the Hospitality and Dining Rooms. We will need help working the sell t-shirts, 50/50 tickets, help with the door prize table, help setup and sell the auction tickets and registration itself. Of course, we need a member or two that will help with the trash cans. We don't want them to over flow and making a mess. The lodge staff will watch it also but when we see it getting full, we need to change them out. This helps both Pipestem and makes our chapter look good. If members could work in pairs and do about 2 hours each, I think we can have everything covered and still allow our members time to socialize. So, when you arrive at Pipestem please come and sign up. Remember this is like first come, first serve. We will be arriving on Thursday afternoon and hopefully we can unload the trailer that evening and get most of the stuff set up. Then we can put things on the tables around 1 PM Friday so we can open at 2 pm.

I would like for some members to contact our Road Captains and get a few rides set up. Also, road captains you should be setting up a few chapter rides soon.

Please keep sending in your articles or stories so other can read about them. Most of the members that I have talked to about this newsletter says they enjoy reading about other members travels.

Ride with Pride

Ed & Rexann Martin

304-622-0135 bkvw2@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENTS' NOTES:

The picnic will be Sunday at noon on June 9th, 2024. It will be at the Westover City Park. The committee is working on a few games for the adults and children to play. We are working on the food items for the picnic. BBQ, cowboy beans, potato salad, coleslaw, and deserts. Caterer is John White. If you have not gotten registered, do it now. Contact President Martin ASAP

We will be picking up the trailer from City Neon on May 16th, 2024.

We will have the new banners for different events. We will have the trailer done before the Spring MDC.

Please try and attend the Dream Machines Car Club's "Children's Heart Camp Car Show" on Saturday, June 1st, 2024 at the Morgantown Mall. Why not put your motorcycle in the show.

We will need a few members their to pick out the Blue Knights Choice trophy. Registration is at 11 am and show starts at 1 pm.

Catch the fever.

Ride with Pride

35oldsrodder@gmail.com

Jim Enoch

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

Just want to inform the chapter that we donated to the following organization at the May meeting:
The Mikey Hart Scholarship Fund, The Stonewood Fire Dept Festival, and GFWC Woman's Club of America of Bridgeport.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday evening, June 13th, 2024.

Respectfully,

Lewis "Lou" Stevens

Blue Knights WVII Secretary

awsstevens@yahoo.com

Cell 304-203-3185

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

Tips for Riding a Motorcycle in the Rain

To a novice motorcyclist, riding in the rain can be a very scary thought.

Can you ride a motorcycle in the rain?

Isn't it dangerous?

Won't I get soaked?

But to an experienced rider, being on the road when the weather turns wet can seem like no big deal. It's all about understanding the adjustments you need to make to keep the fun going.

1. Dress for Success with the Right Rain Gear

Let's start the discussion by acknowledging a simple fact: If you're not [dressed properly](#), riding in the rain can be a miserable experience.

Getting soaked on your motorcycle can make you cold and uncomfortable, which not only dampens the fun but can also distract you from [staying safe](#) — at a time when being sharp is extra important.

Motorcycle Rain Gear

To help you remain dry and alert, a good rain suit (rain pants and a jacket) and waterproof gloves will provide basic protection from the elements for your upper and lower body.

Nowadays, you can choose from various styles and materials — bearing a wide range of price tags. A one-piece suit provides better coverage because there’s no “seam” between your pants and jacket. But a two-piece suit offers excellent flexibility.

You’ll often find that just your jacket or your pants is all the coverage you need. Higher-priced [rain gear](#) will often offer greater breathability, which can make a big difference when it’s wet and warm.

Be Visible

Visibility is diminished for all drivers during rainy weather. As a result, [high visibility](#) clothing is especially important in the rain, and most rain suits are designed with that in mind, with bright colors or reflective highlights.

Throwing on your rain jacket is an excellent way to enhance visibility at night, in any weather conditions.

Weatherproof Footwear

Waterproof, all-weather riding boots are a great option any time, as they eliminate the need to stop and change your boots when it gets wet.

Waterproof gaiters, which slip over your boots, are also great to keep on hand. In a pinch, slipping a plastic bag over your sock, inside your boot, is a great way to keep your feet dry, if not your boots! [Another hack](#): stuff your boots with newspaper overnight to help dry them out from the inside.

Again, staying comfortable is the key. How far you go in “rainproofing” yourself may depend on the circumstances. If you’re on your way home and it starts raining, you may not mind your jeans getting a little wet if it’s warm out.

In that sense, a little water never hurt anybody, and you can always change into dry clothes when you get home.

2. Take It Slow on Wet Pavement

Once you’re appropriately outfitted and focused on the road, the first rule of riding in the rain is to [slow down](#). Assume that your braking distance and ability to maneuver will be compromised, and adjust your speed accordingly.

Also, increase your following distance and ensure you have space around you for evasive maneuvers if necessary.

Steering, Throttle, Braking

Make all of your steering, throttle, and braking inputs more gradual. Ease on and off the throttle. Apply the brake more gently.

Slow down more when approaching a corner and [take the turn gradually](#), decreasing your lean angle and keeping the bike more upright than usual.

Don’t Do Anything Suddenly

Accelerate slowly and steadily, stop as gradually as possible, and [turn your motorcycle with extra care](#) at a slower speed than usual. Doing all of this will help you keep your tires in contact with the road surface.

3. Stick to the Road

Remember, the key to motorcycle riding in the rain is maintaining traction to avoid hydroplaning.

Wet, slippery roads cause more potential problems for a two-wheeled vehicle than they do for a four-wheeled one.

The good news is that today’s motorcycle tires are modern marvels regarding traction. They’re much better at maintaining a good grip on the road than their older counterparts were. With a few common-sense precautions, they’ll keep you upright in the rain.

Rubber vs. Tire Tread

Keep in mind that it’s the rubber, not the tread, that provides the grip. The tread’s job is to channel water away from the rubber, giving it a better opportunity to stick to the road.

When you skid on a wet surface, it’s because a thin layer of water has come between your tire and the road.

Hydroplaning on Wet Pavement

One way this can happen is through hydroplaning. When you ride through standing water and puddles, your tire can ride up on the water’s surface like a water ski, losing contact with the pavement. This is much more likely to happen with worn tires.

If you see standing water on the road ahead, avoid it if you can. Otherwise, roll gently off the throttle, safely reduce your speed, keep your bike as upright as possible, and avoid making any throttle or brake inputs as you ride through the puddles.

4. Search, Evaluate, Execute

After that, it's all about paying extra attention to the basics. Sharpen your focus on "S.E.E." – [Search, Evaluate, Execute](#).

Your ability to react swiftly to potential obstacles diminishes in the rain, so anticipating them becomes even more important. In the end, it just comes down to being extra careful. And in the rain, that means paying close attention to a few specific situations.

5. What are Surfaces that Become Slippery When Wet?

Not all road surfaces are created equal – especially in the rain. As you ride, keep your eyes open for surfaces that can become ultra-slick when wet, such as:

- railroad tracks
- a manhole covers
- crosswalk lines
- bridge gratings
- steel construction plates

When riding on these or any [other slick surfaces](#), keep the bike as upright as possible and avoid making any steering, throttle, or braking inputs. At railroad crossings, make a point of crossing the tracks at as close to 90 degrees as possible.

Stop Lights and Stop Signs

Another potential trouble spot is at a stop light or stop sign. Any spot where cars stop and wait is more likely to have oil on the ground, especially in the center of the lane.

Keep this in mind as you come to a stop, and be careful where you put your foot down, making sure it's not going to slip. Again, keep your bike as upright as possible.

The First Few Minutes of Wet Weather

Remember that the worst time to ride a motorcycle in the rain is during the first few minutes of a rainstorm. Oil and dirt that accumulate on the roadway while it's dry tend to "float away" when the rain starts, making the road especially slick for a short time.

It's never a bad idea to take a little break when a rainstorm first hits or delay your departure to avoid being on the road at its slipperiest.

6. Ride Smarter, Not Harder

Finally, when it comes to riding in the rain, know your limits (and comfort level) and always put safety ahead of your pride.

It's always okay to wait, and don't be pressured into thinking otherwise. A smart rider builds a little extra time into the ride schedule to account for possible bad weather. Don't plan on covering the maximum number of miles every day unless you're also planning to ride on in bad weather.

Build in some flexibility, as it's always better to have a Plan B available if necessary. If you feel uncomfortable or nervous at any time during your ride, pull over so that your anxiety doesn't get the best of you or cause an insurance incident.

What to do After Riding a Motorcycle in the Rain

You can do some simple things to make your motorcycle run smoothly after riding in the rain.

Once you've finished riding, it's important to give your bike a thorough cleaning.

1. The first step is to check the bike over for any external damage. You don't want to find out later that your chain is slipping or that your brakes need replacing after a major downpour.
2. Use a clean rag or paper towel to wipe away any dirt or mud from your bike's engine and frame, but be careful not to scratch or dent them with your fingernails or other tools.
3. While the bike is still wet from being out in the rain, check the tire pressure and top up as needed before heading out again. If there are any signs of water bubbles, it may help identify air escaping from tires through holes in the treads caused by potholes, etc.

Bottom Line on Riding a Motorcycle in the Rain

At the end of the day, riding a motorcycle in the rain is all about preparation and knowing what to do. If you understand how the elements affect your motorcycle and ride accordingly, the open road can be incredibly fun.

We hope these tips keep your passion for two-wheeled fun alive and well all year round

Ride with Pride,

Walter Knight

Road Captains

Just to let everyone know that as Road Captains we do not make every ride that members take. So, we want to pass on a little information to everyone. Remember before you pull out as a group and start riding down the highway, please take the time to call everyone together and inform them where the ride will be going and the routes that will be used. The leader should ask about the skill level of the members so the leader will know what pace to set on the ride. The leader should make sure all bikes are topped off with fuel and that the members understand the route. Take a few minutes and go over the hand signals so everyone will know what you are doing with your hands. Also advise the other members to pass the signal on back to the other riders. The tail gunner is responsible to make sure that if someone goes off the road for a break down that he stops for support. If the leader and tail gunner have communication with each other that is even better. Be careful and Ride with Pride.

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

Chaplain’s Corner

**Del Parris, Chaplain
Blue Knights WVII**

Quartermaster

Are you wearing your Blue Knights shirts or hoodies? If not why not?

Chapter items are at the clubhouse. If you need something contact me or one of the staff at the clubhouse. We have a lot of items on sale, please purchase something today.

If there is an item you think we should reorder or make a new item please contact me or Donna.

Rene Noe

Joke for the Day

A salesperson came into an office one day and said, “This computer will cut your workload by 50%!” The office manager replied, “Great, I’ll take two of them!”

Our computers went down at the office today, so we had to do everything manually. It took me 15 minutes to shuffle the cards for Solitaire.

From Membership

None

UP COMING EVENTS

2024 EVENTS

2024 West Virginia II Summer Picnic, will be Sunday, June 9th, 2024 at the Westover City Park, 500 DuPont Rd, Westover, WV 26501. Picnic starts at NOON until 3 PM. Brothers Enock and Luzader has set this up. Food is going to be catered.

2024 50th International Convention: Hosted by Hosted by a committee for the Blue Knights International, host hotel is Sugarloaf Mountain in Carrabassett Valley, Maine. July 21-July 26, 2024. All rooms at resort are booked but there are many condos still available. The registration for the event is \$225.00 per person. Convention Information: The web site for the 2023 event has been activated for Blue Knights around the world. You can visit the web site by clicking on/going to www.bki2024international.com or check it out of the Blue Knights International website, www.blueknights.org. Host hotel is fully booked. Call Sugarloaf Resort Hotel at 1-800-843-5623, Mon-Fri 8am-4pm to reserve your condo.

2024 MDC Fall Conference/48th Annual Blue Ridge Rally (Nighty Knights Theme); Culpeper, VA, Aug 30 - Sept 2, 2024. Hosted by VA II, Baymont Hotel, 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 46st Annual Blue Ridge Rally. Price is \$105.00 per person. Contact Dan Rivard 703-314-1012 or VA2@blueknights.org.

Sick, Ill, or in Distress: No members notified me of anything for here.

Report on a retired Clarksburg Officer that had a motorcycle accident on Emily drive. John Sedlock wrecked near Chic fila and is in Ruby Hospital in Morgantown. Broken scapula, collar bone 7 broken ribs. They suspect he has a hip labrum tear and internal joint bruise but hip is not broken. They stabilized lung pressure, kept an eye on scapular, jugular and carotid blood flow over the night to ensure brain was getting good blood flow.

Drawing: May drawing is \$25.00. Brother Enoch name was drawn and he was present. Must be present at the clubhouse to be eligible for the drawing. The June drawing will be \$5.00.

Members in Attendance: Don Wikert, Randu Biggins, Doug Baker, Ron Watson, Ronnie Watson, Fred LePera, Ed Martin, Rexann Martin, Jim Enoch, Robert Davis II, Charles Luzader, Bill, Kacinec, Mike Neely, Marshall Parker, Del Parris, Zach Kesling and Ethel Tyler.

Guess: Linda Parker.

Facebook: Pamela Poisson, Jane Watson, Rich Springer, Johnny John, Steve Smith, and Carlos Vazquez.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday evening, June 13th, 2024 at 7 PM.

Hey, just to let you know that if you are a Blue Knight member you can join the Justice Federal Credit Union for just \$5.00 and also get one of their credit cards.

VISA® REWARDS CREDIT CARD

 **GIVE BACK**

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.



Receive a \$50 VISA Statement Credit when you open a new card.**



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