



# BLUE KNIGHTS West Virginia II



## September 2016 Newsletter

Volume 20

Issue 7

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

This year's Halloween Party has been cancelled. We are hopeful to have one in 2017.

At the MDC Meeting we were advised that there are 18,301 members, with 626 Chapters. MDC has 2,399 members and 71 Chapters. Only 25 % of the chapters were at the MDC meeting.

The 2017 Fall MDC Conference/meeting will be September 1 thru 4, 2017, at Best Western Culpeper Inn, 791 Madison Road, Culpeper, VA 22701, Phone # 540-825-1253. Rooms are \$90.00 per night. Hosted by Virginia II, P.O. Box 2264, Merrifield, VA 22116-2264. (202-409-1165)

Ride With Pride

**Ed & Rexann Martin**

304-622-0135 bkww2@aol.com

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

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 13, 2016** will be at the 19:00 Hours (7 PM) at the [Meagher's Irish Pub](#) 26 Betten Court #101, Bridgeport, West Virginia 26330.

Membership dues are going to be collected starting in October through December. Dues are still \$25.00.

Also I would encourage you to talk to someone that would be a great addition to our BK WV II membership that meet the requirements and plant a seed with them about becoming a BLUE KNIGHT.

If you need a poster or other information about the Blue Knights let us know and we will get it to you. You can put it up at work or another agency.

#### **Catch the fever.**

Ride With Pride

**Greg & Tiffany Hoskins**

[huntdeer79@aol.com](mailto:huntdeer79@aol.com)

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

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 13, 2016** will be at the 19:00 Hours (7 PM) at the [Meagher's Irish Pub](#) 26 Betten Court #101, Bridgeport, West Virginia 26330.

Remember that next month (October) we will be starting to collect the membership dues for 2017. I ask all of you to please send in your dues early, they are still only \$25.00 per year.

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

September Meeting: Doug Baker, Randy Biggins, Fred LePera, Don Wikert, Gen Botting, Russ Swiger, Lou Stevens, Ethel Tyler, Greg Hoskins, Dan Loughrie, Rexann Martin and Ed Martin.

Guest: Michelle McCracken, Donna Loughrie, Becca Green, and Tsula Botting

## Chapter Safety Officer

Read this article and it says the same thing I have been telling everyone for years. Wanted to share it with all of you.

### **Dress For The Fall, Not The Ride (Comfort is just as important)**

By: James R. Davis

Having just completed a 1,400 mile tour from Houston, Texas to Tupolo, Mississippi in order to explore the Natchez Trace, it seems a good time to reflect on what was learned during that trip.

Let me describe the environment first. Cash and I packed our bikes and began our tour at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, 1998. It was 34 degrees when we left - COLD! We traveled all day and reached Vicksburg, Mississippi before stopping for the night. The next day we made it to Tupolo, Mississippi ending our travel away from home. The temperature fell to 22 degrees that night. On the return trip the temperatures steadily rose both days reaching the mid 60's before we arrived back in Houston on Sunday afternoon. While there were storms all around us, not one drop of water fell on us during those four days.

Neither Cash nor I will ride our bikes 20 feet without first donning a helmet. Similarly, we invariably wear leather chaps to protect our legs. Until this year we would wear our leather jackets in any weather up to a temperature of about 90 degrees. When it got that hot we would either wear lighter leather or some form of synthetic jacket. And, of course, we wear boots and gloves. Obviously, our primary intention in wearing this PROTECTIVE GEAR is to protect us from a potential fall from the bikes, not because it is stylish nor even because in the case of the helmet, it is often the law.

However, on this trip neither of us had any trouble whatever. We did not dump our bikes. We did not fall from them. We had no mechanical trouble. But I can assure you that we did not feel that we had overdressed! (Indeed, we had not put enough layers of clothes on for the first two days.)

What we discovered early the very first day was that without dressing as we had we could not have driven our bikes more than about 50 miles, let alone 1,400 miles. That is, our PROTECTIVE GEAR was a requirement for COMFORT!!! The oft denigrated helmet was absolutely essential from that point of view. Our faces and our eyes could not have handled sub-freezing temperatures without those helmets. Our hands could not have handled the controls for longer than about five minutes without the gloves (and liners) we were wearing. Our feet could not have handled the wind chill effects of traveling at 70 MPH without high topped boots and the protection of our chaps.

In fact, as I said earlier, our PROTECTIVE GEAR was inadequate to keep us as comfortable as we needed to be without adding more layers of clothing under them than we normally wear.

But there are limits. I, for example, wore long johns, sweatpants, and loose pants under my chaps. The sweatpants were too bulky and tended to bind my knees when I bent them. Off went the sweats and the loose pants and they were replaced with a pair of jeans. That combination worked just fine.

Similarly, both Cash and I wear glove liners under our leather gloves when the temperature drops. For the first two days we found that was not enough. So, we resorted to an old trick we learned on an earlier tour - we placed a pair of latex gloves on over the liners, then put the leather gloves on top of both. Cash found that if she wore her tighter leather gloves over the latex gloves there was insufficient protection. She switched to a larger set of leather gloves and found that the additional layer of air made all the difference in the world. In my case, after about an hour of wearing those latex gloves I found my hands were so wet from sweat that I was getting colder each time we stopped than had I not worn them at all. But they made the difference that was required while we were on the rode and my

hands were too cold to control my bike properly.

And now about leather jackets - this year both Cash and I purchased new jackets for our riding COMFORT and PROTECTION. We selected the Kilimanjaro style jacket made by FirstGear. These are made of a wonderful fabric called Hypertex rather than leather. We believe that we would not have been able to complete this latest tour had we not worn these jackets.

The jackets are long - coming six or eight inches below our waist lines. All zippers are covered and sealed from direct exposure to the wind. There are MANY, MANY pockets in these jackets, many of which are easily accessible with gloved hands, all are protected from the wind, and some are deep enough to easily hold my MSF range cards while instructing my classes. The jackets are waterproof and very, very important, the arm cuffs are designed to overlap a pair of gloves and easily seal, via Velcro straps, around them. There are many ingeniously located air flow control vents that are zipper sealed when you want to 'bundle up'. The shoulders have light reflective material on them and there is a long light reflective strip on the back that you can hide or show at will. There is a removable jacket liner that can be worn by itself if you wish. Finally, these jackets have built-in soft armor at the shoulders, elbows, upper and lower back. Retail price of these jackets is about \$270.

Do I think that a leather jacket provides more protection than these jackets? Yep! From slides. But nothing I have ever worn provides as much PROTECTION and COMFORT in as widely diverse weather as these jackets provide. And, one can always add hard armor in place of the soft armor for even more protection.

So, while I absolutely believe that you should dress for the fall, not just for the ride, COMFORT is just as important most of the time.

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## Ride With Pride

# Walter Knight

## MDC Safety Officer

**D.W. Conners**

**Mason Dixon Safety Officer**

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## Road Captains

### Dangers of Motorcycle Group Riding

The fun and camaraderie of group riding is, for many, one of the top draws of having a motorcycle. However, it comes with a slew of risks all its own: Covering too much road, mixing riders of various skill levels, and general chaos were just a few of the group-riding concerns one biker mentioned in a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study.

Clearly, some rules are needed to help limit the unpredictability of what can be a fun and stress-relieving experience.

### Rules for your motorcycle group rides

#### 1. Hold a meeting before you ride

It helps to get together with all your riders beforehand to talk strategy (where you'll stop, how long you'll ride, where to go if you get lost, etc.) and ask questions. Trust us, it'll be easier to sort out concerns in a quiet room than over the crackle of the throttle.

#### 2. Decide a riding order

First choose a lead rider (the one in front) and a sweep rider (the one in back). The lead rider is in charge of telling the group what's coming, be it a traffic jam, rainstorm, or stampeding horse. And the sweep rider sets the pace for the group. Everyone else should have a place in the formation, too. The least experienced of your bunch should be behind the leader, letting the pros line up behind them and lend a watchful eye.

You might be wondering, "How many riders should be in my group?" It depends on the situation. In the NHTSA study, though, several riders said they felt best in groups of 10 or fewer.

#### 3. Come prepared

This includes simple things that everyone should do, like arriving with a full tank of gas and bringing a cell phone. It also means deciding who will bring a first-aid kit, bike tools, and other necessities.

#### **4. Don't go rogue**

In group motorcycling, there's no room for showboats or renegades (despite all that leather). Avoid competitions with your group mates, tailgating, or passing other riders.

#### **5. Stagger your riding formation**

Perhaps the trickiest part of group riding is perfecting the formation. That's because while you want to keep your group relatively tight (so you're easy to spot), you also want to maintain a space cushion within the ranks.

How on earth do you do that? The best way is to stagger: the leader rides on the left side of the lane, the second rider stays one second back and on the right side. The third rider stays one second behind the second rider and on the left side, and so on. You don't want to ride side-by-side since this will limit your maneuvering space if you need to swerve quickly.

Keep in mind that you may want to go single-file on very curvy or deteriorated roads, when entering the highway, when turning at intersections, or in bad weather.

#### **6. Pass in formation**

When it comes to passing other vehicles on the highway, group members should do so one at a time and then return to their spot in formation. So the leader would pass and return to the left side of the lane, then the next rider would pass and return to the right side, and so on.

#### **7. Take plenty of breaks**

If all these group riding rules seem a bit exhausting, that's because they are. In order to keep your concentration and energy (and avoid sucking the fun out of the experience), take frequent rests and just savor the moment.

#### **8. Keep your least experienced rider in mind**

Not sure how far to ride? How fast? How often to take a break? The answer is always to figure out what your least-experienced rider is capable of and comfortable with and use that as your benchmark.

Article from Esurance

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

## **Chaplain's Corner**

**Del Parris  
Chaplain, Blue Knights WWII**

## **State Rep's Report**

RIDE WITH PRIDE, RIDE SAFE,  
**MARSHALL PARKER**  
WEST VIRGINIA STATE REP.

## **Committee Reports**

Ed Martin, 2017 WWK Committee Chairman: Walter and I talking with all parties in Elkins involved with our event and everything is looking good for another event next year. Since this was the first year working with all these people everyone now knows what to expect and we are keeping our fingers crossed that all of them will be on board with help again next year.

At the July meeting it was the consciences of the members that we have the 2017 Wild Wonderful Knights Weekend back at the same hotel in Elkins. Brother Knight and Brother Martin are working with the Elkins Holiday Inn Express, will have not signed any contracts yet but it appears that will be able to get the hotel again next year like we did this year. The room rate will be up a little but

not much. As it stands right now the room rate is \$104.00 per night plus taxes. The next thing is to get the American Legion taken care of for the dinner and we will be good. As of last month they were still interested and willing to do everything like this year. The menu will be changed a little but still a good meal.

## From Membership

NONE

## UP COMING EVENTS

**2016 West Virginia II, Friday, December 16th, 2016.** West Virginia II chapter Christmas meeting/party Village Square Conference Center, Clarksburg. Meeting at 5:30 PM and Party right after the meeting. Ballroom A.

**2017 Winter MDC Conference,** Atlantic Beach, NC, February 10 - 12, 2017. Hosted by NC XVIII, Double Tree by Hilton, 2717 West Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512, rooms \$69.00 per night, phone # 252-240-1155; Blue Knights North Carolina XVIII, 206 Ridge Crest Dr, Peletier, NC 28584. Price is \$75.00 per person. Contact John Elder 252-342-1807.

**2017 Spring MDC Conference,** Memphis, TN, May 26 - 29, 2017. Hosted by TN I. More information to come.

**2017 MDC Fall Conference,** Culpeper, VA, September 1 - 4, 2017. 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 41st Annual Blue Ridge Rally. Price is \$95.00 per person. Contact Keith Chase (Secretary) 703-893-1823.

**Sick - Ill or in Distress:** Jim Boreing and his wife, Magistrate Keith Marples' wife and Rex and Zadah Talkington. Also prays for a PA II Brother William Doucette that was involved in a motorcycle wreck with a deer while at MDC conference.

### **Drawing**

Drawing at September 8, 2016 meeting was for \$5.00. Brother Del Parris was not present so at the next meeting which will be October 14, 2016 the prize will be \$10.00.

### **October Meeting Locations**

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 13, 2016** will be at 19:00 Hours (7 PM) at the [Meagher's Irish Pub](#), 26 Betten Court #101, Bridgeport, West Virginia 26330.