



September 2023 Newsletter

Volume 27 Issue 7

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

We will be hosting a Cash Bash on Saturday, September 30, 2023. We need members to come out and help with the event. Signing people in and help clean up tables and sell some raffle tickets.

At the Fall MDC event West Virginia II received the plaque for the largest MDC chapter represented. We were present with 13 people from our chapter. I would like to thank the following for attending 2023 Fall MDC, Blue Ridge Rally. Thanks to Steve and Carmen Hamling, Robby and Kelli Robinson and their guest, Marshall and Linda Parker, Lou Stevens and Becky Green, Tina Benda, Zadah Talkington, Rexann Martin and myself. This is the second time our chapter has received this award at this event. Hopefully next year we will have more members and guest attending it and bring home the plaque once again. The plaque will be on display at the clubhouse. We would have had more members but several had to cancel due to illness or work. Hopefully next year we can have nearly 20 members attending.

If you can, you should try and schedule your calendar to go to the 2024 Winter MDC in Rehoboth Beach, DE. February 9-11, 2024. Maybe we could get enough members to attend and get the award for the largest chapter in attendance there. Remember members will get reimbursed for their event registration when you return.

Please let us know if you are going to take a ride so we can maybe get a few members to ride along. Call one of the new younger members and let them know you are riding; they might want to go. Remember it is not what you ride, it is that you ride.

Ride with Pride

Ed & Rexann Martin

304-622-0135 bkww2@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENTS' NOTES:

I would encourage all of 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. I know everyone has contacts with other law enforcement officer either at your department or another department that ride motorcycles. Please talk with these officers and tell them about the Blue Knights and what we are about. 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

35oldsrodder@gmail.com

Jim Enoch

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

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

Bounding Bimbi's

"In Deer Country, a Smart Rider Is Prepared for a Quick Stop"

You're out for an early ride in the country, away from the hassles of traffic. The narrow backroad on which you travel passes farms and curves through a shady forest. You're aware of the hazards of backroads, such as loose gravel and wet leaves, so for this ride you're wearing your most protective riding gear: leathers, gloves and full-coverage helmet. And you plan to keep the gear on even when the sun begins to warm the air.

You settle into a comfortably aggressive ride, slowing only for locations where there are narrow bridges and many hidden driveways. When you enter a deer migration area, you maintain speed, but watch carefully for wild deer alongside the road.

Suddenly, as you round a tight turn, you see a brown shape in the left ditch-perhaps a log or a soggy cardboard box. But a second later, the brown shape raises its head, and you instantly recognize the tall ears of a deer. But the deer just continues to stand there munching, so you assume you can cruise by without any evasive action.

But a second or two before you pass, the deer springs into action, scrambling onto the pavement directly in front of you. You attempt to brake and swerve, but the deer darts one way and then the other, and you can't avoid a collision that knocks both you and the deer to the pavement. Fortunately, neither of you is seriously hurt. The deer clatters away, leaving you to survey the damage to your bike. You silently congratulate yourself for wearing your leathers today.

****** The reason for deer signs is that there is a history of numerous deer strikes in that area. So, when you enter a deer zone, you should expect to encounter wild deer grazing alongside or leaping across the road. Deer typically springs into action as a vehicle gets close. The best tactic for avoiding a deer strike is to be prepared for a quick stop. If you see a deer next to the road you should immediately brake, especially if the deer is facing the road and, therefore, most likely to leap in your direction.

//From Motorcycle Consumer News "Street Strategies" by David L. Hough.
"A Survival Guide for Motorcyclists"

Ride with Pride,
Walter Knight

Road Captains

As we are merging into the Fall season, we would like to remind the public of the dangers of slick roads due to leaves from the trees. When the leaves get wet, it produces the equal of “**black ice**” and creates hazardous road conditions. Please be mindful of changing road conditions, and also look out for other drivers.

What are motorcycle group rides?

One of the great joys of riding a motorcycle is enjoying beautiful weather and the open road — but even better is sharing that joy with friends. However, group riding can be dangerous if you don’t know how to do it.

Motorcycle group rides are safest and most fun when everyone is comfortable riding a motorcycle, knows the rules of the road, and is familiar with group motorcycle riding etiquette.

Group motorcycle riding rules

Safe group motorcycle riding starts with basic rules that govern the ride and help all participants stay safe and have fun. Start by deciding on a leader for the ride — usually the most experienced rider in the group — and a secondary captain, called “the sweep,” to bring up the rear. Then, consider the following rules and tips for a safe and enjoyable group motorcycle ride.

Communication starts before the ride

Communication is key for motorcycle group riding. Start by holding a pre-ride meeting with all the participants. The leader you’ve selected will conduct the pre-ride meeting. The meeting should outline the destination, any stops along the way, and explain any tolls along the route, says the Motorcycle Legal Foundation. Discussing the route in advance can help riders focus on riding safely.

Communication continues until the ride is over

Once you set off, the leader will ride at the front of the pack, using hand signals to let other riders know of any irregularities, dangers, or other unexpected events on the road. While you could create hand signals for your group, it’s better to use universal hand signals like those set by bicycle traffic laws. Signals specific to group motorcycle riding are used to indicate the following:

- Speed up
- Slow down
- Follow me
- You lead
- Hazard in road
- Single file
- Double file
- Comfort stops
- Refreshment stops
- Pull off
- Cops ahead
- Fuel up

Know your place

A key part of group motorcycle riding etiquette is formation. The Motorcycle Legal Foundation recommends a staggered formation where the leader rides in front to the left side of the lane. The next rider is about one second behind the leader but on the right side of the lane. The third rider is directly behind the leader, with about two seconds distance between them. This formation gives everyone space to maneuver — even laterally.

Not everyone has the same reaction time, so allow more following distance in front of and behind less experienced riders or if the rider in front seems unsure or slow to react. It's not a race, so avoid sporty driving and enjoy your company and surroundings.

Prepare for variations or the unexpected

If something unexpected happens or someone leaves the group motorcycle ride, all the riders involved should know what to do. That can mean establishing protocols for these situations in the pre-ride meeting (especially if you know someone will be leaving early). It also means having a rule in place in case of something unforeseen. Generally, if a rider gets separated, the group should slow down to let them catch up. If someone is leaving early (and expected), other riders should tighten up and adjust their staggered formation after the departure. Each rider should move up to the next position without passing each other.

Pack for the trip

Before you set out for your group motorcycle ride, check the weather. Be prepared for driving in fog or wet weather with a change of clothes and waterproof riding gear. According to the Insurance Information Institute, motorcycle accidents can quickly become serious, so every rider should have a cell phone to call for help if something happens. At least one rider should pack a first aid kit adequate for the group.

Rene Noe, Walter Knight, Andy Kolb, and John "Spot" McCloud

Chaplain's Corner

**Del Parris, Chaplain
Blue Knights WVII**

Quartermaster

Brother Noe says 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.

Rene Noe

Joke for the Day

A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken-down shanty-style house: 'Talking Dog For Sale.' He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard. The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice-looking Labrador Retriever sitting there. "You talk?" he asks. "Yep" the Lab replies.

After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says, "So, what's your story?" The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running... but the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog. "Ten dollars" the guy says. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on Earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He's never been out of the yard."

From Membership

On August 19, 2023, Blue Knights WV II Members, Terry Queen, Ethan Kesling, and Myself participated in the “Bikers for a Cure” Dice Run to benefit cancer. We had a great day of riding and for a great cause. Hopefully next year we can have more of our members join us for this ride.



Hey all..... these are pictures taken of the 4 of us who attended the 9-11 Flight Memorial Ceremony in Pennsylvania. That is Jerry Hebb, a veteran from Lost Creek, and your 3 Blue Knights, Don, Ron and Ronnie. We left Clarksburg at 7:00 am in order to make the 9:50 am program. Lots of people and media coverage. The foaling of the bells and the reading of the names truly made one realize how precious life is and that freedom is not free. There was a lot of family members of the deceased there who read the names of there loved ones...let me know if you need any additional information....Ron



Don Wikert at the Lost Creek Fall Festival.



Up Coming Events: Not read out loud to save time.

November

2023 Veterans Day Parade hosted by Clarksburg VFW Post 573. We need to be in place at 10:15 AM at the corner of West Main Street and 6th Street, Clarksburg (next to the Clarksburg Senior Center). Parade starts at **noon** on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

2023 Harrison County Area Annual Toy Run; Sunday, November 26, 2023, bikers will meet at South Harrison High School parking lot at **noon** and kickstands up at 1:00 pm.

December

2023 West Virginia II, Friday, December 8th, 2023, West Virginia II - chapter Christmas meeting/party Village Square Conference Center, Clarksburg. Social Hour 6 pm and Dinner about 7 pm.

2024 EVENTS

2024 Winter Mason Dixon Conference, February 9th – 11th, 2024. Delaware I is hosting the Winter MDC at the Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center, 1 Baltimore Ave, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971. (On the Boardwalk) Room Rate is \$85.00 plus taxes. Call hotel at 800-422-0600, ask for Blue Knights Group #10. Registration for the event is \$105.00 per person.

2024 Spring Mason Dixon Conference/Wild & Wonderful Knights, Hosted by West Virginia II. Host hotel is the Pipestem Resort State Park, 3405 Pipestem Dr, Pipestem, WV. May 24th – 26th, 2024. **FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS CALL: Pipestem Resort State Park, 304-466-1800; TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE BLUE KNIGHTS GROUP.** Rooms \$98.00 per night for standard room. Event registration is \$100.00 per person, and \$125.00 after April 15th.

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

Committee Reports: At the October meeting we need to discuss and find out membership opinion as to charging our members and/or significant other to attend the 2024 Spring Mason Dixon Conference/Wild Wonderful Knights weekend? The price for attending is \$100.00. Then it is \$98.00 per night per room. If we have 15 members plus significant other, that will be \$3,000.00 the chapter will be paying. Does the chapter pay full price for all, half price for all, etc. This was tabled until next meeting.
Also, now is the time to make your room reservations before the rooms are gone

Sick, Ill, or in Distress: None

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Thursday evening, October 12th, 2023 at 7 PM.

Drawing: September drawing is \$15.00. Brother Mike Neely's name was drawn. He was present and won the \$15.00. October drawing will be \$5.00. Must be present at the clubhouse to be eligible for the drawing.

Members in Attendance: Marty McNulty, Jim Enoch, Ronnie Watson Jr, Marshall Parker, Don Wikert, Mike Neely, Fred LePera, Rexann Martin, and Ed Martin.

Guest: None

Facebook: Scott Hunt, John PT Gordon, Zach Kesling, Johnny John, and Pam Poisson.

Zoom: None

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday evening, October 12th, 2023 at 19:00 hours.

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.**

 **JUSTICE**
Federal Credit Union
Federally Insured by NCUA.