



Thursday, November 28th



# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Knights,

What a month October was. After hurricane Helene making a mess the end of September we had old Milton to deal with in October. I have received reports from FL XVI, FL XVII, and our chapter that we all made it out fairly ok. We did have a few who had flooding and a bunch of screens and shingles need to be fixed.

One thing I notice during times like this is the outpouring of brother and sisterhood with plenty of prayers and well wishes. Offers to help physically and financially. Offers to transport supplies to any members who need it. This is why it is important to let someone know in the chapter if you need help. Its the difficult times just like this that make me proud to be a Blue Knight. When I see just how much not just our chapter but the surrounding chapters are willing to help each other it defines what brotherhood and sisterhood is all about.

We are finally starting to dry out and the weather has been beautiful so get the bikes ready to ride another season.

If you don't see something on the ride list you are always welcomed to make your own ride. You lead and set it up I will post it for you, its that simple!

*Ride with Pride*  
*Patrick Gibbons*  
*President, FLXVIII*



## November Ride and Event Schedule

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNERS WILL TAKE PLACE  
RAIN OR SHINE RIDES ARE SUBJECT TO  
MOTHER NATURE'S APPROVAL

### Saturday 11/2

Arcadia Bike Fest. 9:30 AM meet up at the Wawa  
14510 SR70 E / Lorraine Rd.  
Lakwood ranch KSU 9:45 AM

### Tuesday 11/5

5:30PM Dinner at the Hot Sands Tiki Bar  
600 N Beneva road

### Tuesday 11/5

7:00 PM Monthly Membership Meeting  
2nd floor of the Shrine  
600 N Beneva RD Sarasota

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOU 2025 CHAPTER DUES RENEWAL.**

### Friday, 11/8

"Shootout with Bobby G."

9:00 AM at the Knight Trail Park 3445  
Rustic Rd, Nokomis 34275. We can grab  
lunch afterwards. If you are interested  
please email [bgrotz2@yahoo.com](mailto:bgrotz2@yahoo.com) and if  
you would please copy President Gibbons  
at [PJGIBBY1969@comcast.net](mailto:PJGIBBY1969@comcast.net)



### Saturday 11/9

FL XVI Bike Blessing. 9:30 AM Meet up at WAWA 26415 Indi-  
an trail dr. Punta Gorda 33950.

Northern meeting spot TBD. Lunch at Beef O'Bardy's

### Sunday 11/10

Bert's Black Widow Run 4 Veterans. 7:00 AM Laisley Park  
100 Nesbit St PuntaGorda 33950. We will be working with BK  
FL XVI at a booth handing out water to the runners in the  
race. After the Run we will be attending the after party at  
Berts Black Widow.

### Monday 11/11

11:30 AM Veterans Day Lunch at Mission BBQ 5231 Universi-  
ty PKY SRQ. Take a ride after lunch.

### Saturday 11/16

9:00 AM Breakfast at Skilletts 8635 S Tamiami Trail SRQ. Take  
a ride after breakfast.

### Saturday 11/23

Blue Knights FL XVI Diner Dance. Contact President Gibbons  
ASAP for details.



### OUR PLEDGE

“AS A BLUE KNIGHT I PLEDGE TO ACT WITH HONOR AND PRIDE TO PROMOTE MOTORCYCLING AND MOTORCYCLE SAFETY BY BEING AN EXAMPLE OF THE SAFE USE, OPERATION AND ENJOYMENT OF MOTORCYCLES. I WILL WORK AT ALL TIMES TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLING COMMUNITY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.THE FRATERNAL SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS GUIDE ME IN RELATING TO OTHER BLUE KNIGHTS”

# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

**PRESIDENT .....** PATRICK GIBBONS  
**VICE PRESIDENT .....** JAMES THOMAS  
**TREASURER .....** JOHN EMRICK  
**SECRETARY .....** DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO  
**SERGEANT AT ARMS ....** JAMES RYAN

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SID JONES / PAST PRESIDENT**  
**TRACY DUNN**  
**CHRISTOPHER SCARDINO**

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**JAMES KIRKPATRICK / CHAPLAIN**  
**DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / WEBMASTER**  
**BRIAN MACCONNELL / QUARTERMASTER**  
**VACANT / SAFETY OFFICER**  
**DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / NEWSLETTER**

## In the Chapter Market

Jim Ryan — Woodworking made to order.  
Tell me what you want, size, and specific wood (if requested) and I will make it. Very reasonable prices.  
941-313-1363 or [jryanretired@aol.com](mailto:jryanretired@aol.com)



2016 Harley Davidson FLSTFBS “Fatboy” All Black,  
25645 Miles. Price - \$ 17,000.00. Purchased from Rossiter’s  
HD August 15, 2022 and has been garage kept everyday.  
Price includes a brand new windshield still in the box, never  
opened. Contact John Emrick at 410-991-8161 (okay to



George Anderson has a set of  
custom ladies brown half leather  
chaps for sale.

He paid \$160 from a craftsman  
in Colorado! Shortly after pur-  
chasing them his wife decided  
to stop riding, so these are in  
near new condition

Please let George know if you  
are interested.

[gande1942@gmail.com](mailto:gande1942@gmail.com)



## We need and want your input .....

Send your letters, suggestions, or  
any special event you would like to  
share to:

**Patrick Gibbons**  
[pigibby1969@comcast.net](mailto:pigibby1969@comcast.net)

**Jim Thomas**  
[alexandjay1988@gmail.com](mailto:alexandjay1988@gmail.com)

**Dom Ceccanecchio**  
[dcc444@comcast.net](mailto:dcc444@comcast.net)



**SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET**



**BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER**

**NOVEMBER 2024**

**Blue Knights  
Florida XVIII**

# Christmas Party

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH  
6PM TO 10:30PM**

**PALM AIRE COUNTRY CLUB  
5601 COUNTRY CLUB WAY  
SARASOTA, FL 34243**

**TICKETS \$30 PER PERSON**

**R.S.V.P BY 12/1 TO [PJGIBBY1969@COMCAST.NET](mailto:PJGIBBY1969@COMCAST.NET) BY 12/1**

## November Chapter Meeting



**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS  
7:00PM ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2024  
2ND FLOOR OF THE SAHIB SHRINE  
600N BENEVA RD SARASOTA.**

**COME OUT EARLY, HAVE DINNER AND CHAT WITH YOUR BROTHER KNIGHTS**



# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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## Possible Job Opportunity

The School District of Manatee County - School Guardian Program will probably expand next school year. So, what is a School Guardian? Armed security that protects students and staff at an assigned school. The main function of a guardian is to stop and abate an active shooter situation. The program looks for experienced security personnel usually retired law enforcement / military background as a priority. The schedule follows that same as teacher, 196 workdays a year, with summers off, Thanksgiving week off, two week Christmas break and One week for Spring Break.

If the expansion is approved by the School Board, we can expect to see the positions posted and interviews some time around April. The program participants in the Florida (FRS) Retirement System, where you are vested after 8 years of service.

If this interest anyone , you can contact Jimmy Kirkpatrick for more Information.



**Blue Knights® International  
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.**



(Office Hours 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST)

38 Alden Street

Bangor, ME, USA 04401

Tel: +1 (207) 947-4600

General E-Mail

[hq@blueknights.org](mailto:hq@blueknights.org)

Sales E-Mail

[sales@blueknights.org](mailto:sales@blueknights.org)

Membership E-Mail

[membership@blueknights.org](mailto:membership@blueknights.org)

[renewals@blueknights.org](mailto:renewals@blueknights.org)

Public Relations Dept. E-Mail

[publicrelations@blueknights.org](mailto:publicrelations@blueknights.org)

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION IS ALL MEMBERS JOB.... ALWAYS WEAR YOU COLORS AND PROMOTE OUR ORGANIZATION

# Chapter Events

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

Lets Go Shooting



WITH BOBBY G

## “Shootout with Bobby G.”

9:00 AM, Friday, October 18th

at the Knight Trail Park 3445 Rustic Rd, Nokomis 34275. WE CAN GRAB LUNCH AFTERWARDS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL [BGROTZ2@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BGROTZ2@YAHOO.COM) AND IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COPY PRESIDENT GIBBONS AT



## October 27th Breakfast Ride





# October Chapter Meeting Highlights

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

**Meeting Call to Order:** [by](#) President Gibbons @ 7:00PM

In attendance: Executive officers: 5 Officers: 1 Members: 7 Guests: 1

**Pledge of Allegiance:** [led](#) by President Gibbons

**Invocation:** by Ray Giampino

**Welcoming Remarks:** by [President Gibbons](#)

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** VP Jim Thomas (for President Gibbons)

- FL XVI Dinner Buffet and Dance, the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association at 2001 Schreve St, Punta Gorda. Saturday 11/23,2004. Doors open at 5:00PM. Dinner by Carrabba's at 6:00PM, Dance and prizes at 7:00PM. \$30.00PP. Only 75 tickets sold. Contact President Gibbons for tickets. Proceeds to Charlotte Park Civic Association in Punta Gorda.
- Chapter Christmas Party: Saturday 12/7, 6pm to 10:30pm at the Palm Aire Country Club. DJ, dancing reindeer games. \$30 pp. RSVP to President Gibbons by 12/1. Payment due by 12/3. Friends and family welcome – the more the merrier.
- There was a motion by Jim Thomas to spend \$1,000 for the Chapter Children's Christmas Event. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian MacConnell, unanimous approval. To benefit Manatee County Child Protective Services.
- The general feeling for the Thunder by the Bay raffle is leaning towards a handgun. Motion to limit purchase to \$500 maximum made by Brian MacConnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Thomas, unanimous approval. More to follow.

**VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JAMES THOMAS**

- Membership Update: holding steady at 53.
- New shirts will be available by order only. Color pallet and prices to be determined.

**TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK**

- Motion to accept the September report by Dan Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Thomas, unanimous approval.
- Financial Position: All of the specific financial numbers will be available by request to our Treasurer.

**SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO**

- Motion to accept the September report by Jim Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Thompson, Unanimous approval.
- Minutes, updated roster, monthly ride schedule and newsletter are available on the website.

**SAFETY OFFICER: N/A** - looking for someone to fill vacancy

**CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: N/A**

**SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:**

See SRC website at

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Chapter assets have been stored in John Emrick's personal storage facility and will be moved to the chapter trailer. Motion to rent a storage locker was made by Ralph Smith and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Klein, unanimous approval.

**NEW BUSINESS : N/A**

**SICK AND DISTRESSED:**

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK AND DISTRESSED MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

Jeffrey Longwell Geri Buscemi

**50-50 DRAWING:** \$72 collected Winner: Brian MacConnell \$36

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Time: 8:10PM, Motion: Brian MacConnell, 2nd: John Chiusano, Unanimous Approval

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2024**

**Submitted By: Domenic Ceccanecchio, Secretary BK XVIII**



# Berts Harley Run 4 Veterans Sunday November 10th.

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 AT 7:30AM**  
LAISHLEY PARK - PUNTA GORDA, FL

**5K - OVER THE BRIDGE & THROUGH LAISHLEY PARK**

**10K - OVER THE BRIDGE - TO THE HERITAGE MUSEUM - BACK TO LAISHLEY PARK**



- ★ FREE SHIRT WITH EARLY REGISTRATION
- ★ FINISHER BGC TAGS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS
- ★ AWARDS IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**5K - \$35 \* 10K - \$45**



PRESENTED BY:



Girls on the Run has fun, evidence-based programs that inspire participants to recognize their inner strength, increase their level of physical activity, imagine their possibilities, and confidently stand up for themselves and others.

BENEFITING:



"To empower, educate, and improve the health and standard of living for those veterans and first responders who've saved the lives of others"

Both FL XVI and FL XVIII were asked to help and donate to this cause. With both chapters donating \$500 we will make a total donation of \$1000 in the name of the Blue Knights. This \$500 donation from FL XVIII was approved last night.

This combined donation gives the Blue Knights recognition in promotional material and media releases, A table/Booth at the event ( we agreed to help hand out water to the runners.) Our logo will appear on the shirts and event signage, the logo will be on Berts website and social media. This is for a good cause and it gives both chapters some exposure to the public and hopefully some recruitment opportunities.

So if you want to come out and join forces with FL XVI and hand out water and go to a party..... it will be on November the 10th very early 7:00 AM to set up in Punta Gorda on the harbor.

Save the date.

# Chaplains Message



BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

### Greeting Fellow Blue Knights,

Our Blue Knight Chapter members, family, friends and neighbors had to endure to back-to-back natural disasters with Hurricane Helene and Milton in October. These storms had brought mix emotions of fear, worry and traumatic stress to our lives. In contrast, sense of community is strong where “Strength is born in adversity”, neighbors helping neighbor, our Christian Faith always shine in time of need.

Hope is our Anchor, together we can rebuild and start tomorrow as a new beginning of brighter days. The Lord built us to be resilient and believes in us, so believe in the power of community.

The Bible recognizes storms and destructive natural events as part of God’s creation and under His sovereign control. At times, storms are seen as judgments from God or symbols of coming judgment, but the Bible also offers hope and comfort for those enduring storms. The Bible often uses storms and hurricanes as powerful metaphors, providing insight into resilience and faith. But He also uses storms and trials to strengthen our faith and teach us perseverance (Romans 5:3-5).

Let’s embrace the opportunity for change, lets learn from this event, and adapt to new changes. Hope always blooms amidst destruction, strength through solidarity provides endless possibilities for our southwest Florida community, through our faith in the Lord all things are possible.



*Chaplain Jimmy Kirkpatrick*



## SICK AND DISTRESSED

**PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK AND DISTRESSED MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.**

**JEFFREY LONGWELL    GERI BUSCEMI**



*Ride with Pride!*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Mike Shockley - Chairman  
Randy Hoagland - Vice-Chairman  
Bob Awtrey - International Rep  
Justin Hartley - Secretary  
Al Fryer - Treasurer

**THE SRC REGION INCLUDES:**

Alabama  
Florida  
Georgia  
Louisiana  
Mississippi  
South Carolina  
Bahamas  
Bermuda  
Puerto Rico  
Virgin Islands

SRC WEBSITE— <https://srcknights.org/>  
NEWSLETTER: <https://srcknights.org/>

**BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER**

NOVEMBER 2024



Blue Knights® Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.  
SRC HERALD

October 2024

**SRC Chairman Mike Shockley**



Greetings,

Now that we are entering the last quarter of 2024 I wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season. Our warmer climate will allow most of us to continue riding throughout the Fall and Winter and enjoying the camaraderie of being a Blue Knight. In 2025 we have the Spring SRC Conference in Baton Rouge coming up. Also in the works, we have a full SRC Conference for Fall 2025 in the North Georgia mountains.

Post-pandemic the membership in the SRC and the Blue Knights in general is recovering and beginning to grow. In this past year as SRC Chairman I have certainly seen improvements in morale and brotherhood. The SRC Board has functioned together well, and our President's meetings have been hospitable and less confrontational.

It appears we are on the downside towards ending a frivolous lawsuit that has taken a toll on our resources and finances. Overall, I think it was a good call to stand our ground in the face of a situation where the SRC had no liability whatsoever.

This being the last edition of the SRC Herald for the year, I want to thank everyone that submitted articles and photographs.

Let's keep up the good work, and as always, Ride with Pride!

Mike Shockley  
SRC Chairman  
[msshockley@gmail.com](mailto:msshockley@gmail.com)



To view the SRC Herald in it's entirety go to <https://srcknights.org/newsletter/>



*Ride with Pride!*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Mike Shockley - Chairman  
Randy Hoagland - Vice-Chairman  
Bob Awtry - International Rep  
Justin Hartley - Secretary  
Al Fryer - Treasurer

**THE SRC REGION INCLUDES:**

Alabama  
Florida  
Georgia  
Louisiana  
Mississippi  
South Carolina  
Bahamas  
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SRC WEBSITE— <https://srcknights.org/>  
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NOVEMBER 2024



**SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
HOSTED BY**



**2025  
APRIL 10TH-13TH  
\$100 PER PERSON**

Includes 2025 SRC Tumbler W/ Lid

Add ons Available:  
SRC T-Shirt \$30  
Sizes S-3XL

For More Information  
<https://BKlouisiana16.org>

Pres. David Whittenberg (225) 385-5313  
[la16@blueknights.org](mailto:la16@blueknights.org)



**Venue At :**

Holiday Inn Baton Rouge - South  
9990 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA  
\$120/Night w/ Breakfast Buffett  
(225)924-7021 (ALL EVENTS)

Additional Lodging  
Quality Inn  
9970 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA  
\$99/night w/Breakfast Buffett  
(225)800-1040

**Events:**

Nightly Hospitality Room  
Daily Rides  
Presidents Meeting  
Vendor / Chapter Sales  
Saturday Evening Banquet  
Brotherhood and FUN!

**RIDE WITH PRIDE**

# On The Lighter Side



## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

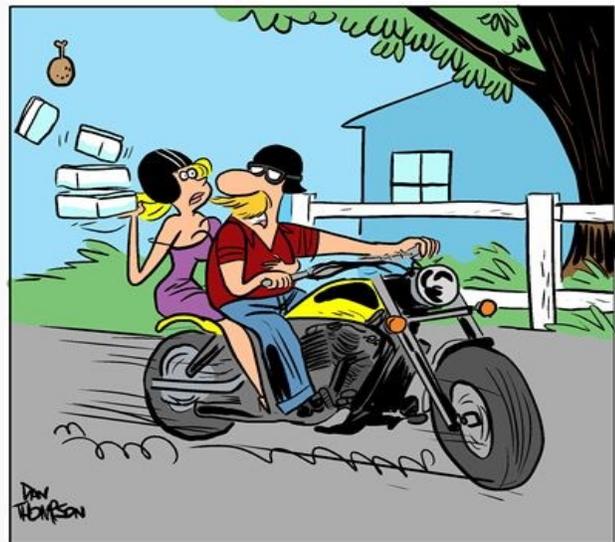
### Not even HIM

A biker was riding along a California beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The biker pulled over and said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want."

The Lord said, "Your request is materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that would honor and glorify me."

The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand my wife. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make a woman truly happy."

The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"



"THE DOWN SIDE TO BEING A BIKER ON THANKSGIVING IS TAKING HOME THE LEFTOVERS."

## Happy Thanksgiving



**MAY YOUR STUFFING BE TASY  
MAY YOUR TURKEY BE PLUMP,  
MAY YOUR POTATOES AND  
GRAVY HAVE A LUMP.  
MAY YOUR YAMS BE  
DELICIOUS  
AND YOUR PIES TAKE THE  
PRIZE.  
AND MAY YOUR  
THANKSGIVING  
DINNER NOT MAKE YOUR  
LEATHERS TIGHT**



A ten year-old boy was walking down the street when a big man on a black motorcycle, pulls up beside him and asks, "Hey kid, wanna go for a ride?"

"No!", said the boy, and he kept on walking. The motorcyclist pulls up to him again and says, "Hey kid,, I'll give you \$10 if you hop on the back"

"NO!" said the boy and proceeded down the street a little quicker.

The motorcyclist pulls up to the boy again and says, "Ok kid, I'll give you \$20 and a BIG bag of candy if you hop on the back for a ride."

At this point the boy turns around to him and screams angrily, "Look Dad, YOU bought the Honda, so YOU ride it!!



# Support our Sponsors

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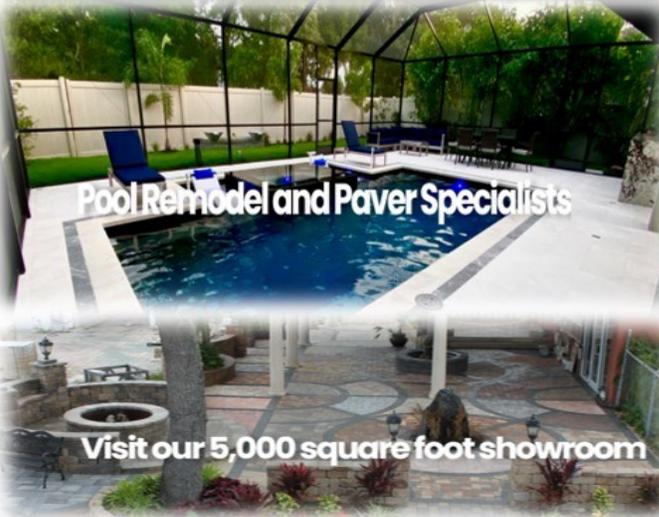
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Greg and Cynthia Brock  
Broker/Owners



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Kristen

Owner / Groomer

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Sarasota FL 34231