



HAPPY Halloween 2025



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Knights,

Finally some cooler dry weather has come our way. The license plates are changing colors Autumn is upon us. I look forward to seeing our snowbird brothers and sisters back for another winter and some great rides and brotherhood.

I was out riding the other day and started to think of all the people that have become friends also all the people that I had conversations with just because of a motorcycle. Two wheels, wind in the face, and the feeling that only someone who rides can understand.

I made lifelong friendships with people I would have never met if not for the love of motorcycles. I joined the Blue knights because of people who not only love motorcycles but they also come from a law enforcement background. It amazes me how we all come from all different levels of law enforcement from all over the world yet when ever I meet a Blue Knight for the first time it is like I always have known them. The club motto " Friends you haven't met yet" sure is spot on.

I have witnessed in our chapter friendships and camaraderie at its finest. Brothers and sisters helping each other, checking up on each other, telling war stories over breakfast, laughing and cutting up all the time. All this and some great motorcycle journeys exploring new roads and restaurants. The best dam law enforcement motorcycle club in the world.

This October is also the start of our elections for executive officers. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant at Arms all open. Any member interested in any of the positions need to send an email to our Secretary before the November 4th general membership meeting with the position you would like to run for. You will have all November to campaign if more than one member is interested in the same position. At the December 2nd meeting we will vote and finalize the election and install the new officers.

Now is the time to step up and make a difference. Try it you might like it. If anyone has any questions on any of the positions or election process please feel free to contact me.

Patrick Gibbons
President, FLXVIII



October Ride and Event Schedule

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

**Tuesday 10/7
5:30 PM**

Dinner at the Shrine
Hot Sands Tiki Bar
600 N Beneva RD, Sarasota

**Tuesday 10/7
7:00 PM**

Monthly Chapter Meeting
2nd floor of the Shrine
600 N Beneva RD, Sarasota

**Saturday 10/11
10:30 AM**

Lunch ride to Pop's Sunset Grill 112 Circuit Rd Nokomis 34275..... Meet up at the Dunkin Donuts,
5641 Clark Road at 10:30 Am.

**Thursday 10/19
9:00 AM**

Breakfast at Bob Evens
5903 Brookhill Blvd / Fruitville Rd.
Ride after??

**Saturday 10/25
10:00 AM**

Cape Coral's Octoberfest Chapter Ride
10:00 AM Meet up at the Speedway gas station 8604 SR70E Bradenton. VP Jim Thomas will be leading this ride KSU 10:20 AM... Second meet up spot 10:45 AM WaWa 2970 Executive Dr/ Jacaranda Blvd Venice 34292.

1 hr 20 min ride from the Speedway. 78 miles one way..

Bring cash. ATM's are available at the sight. This is a huge festival. \$10.00 at the gate to enter. To eat and drink you will need to purchase tickets available in each food and drink area.

Come by Car if you like all are welcome.



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"

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OCTOBER 2025

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
BOBBY GROTZ

OPERATIONS

JAMES KIRKPATRICK / CHAPLAIN
DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / WEBMASTER
BRIAN MACCONNELL / QUARTERMASTER
JIM KELLY / SAFETY OFFICER
DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / NEWSLETTER

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

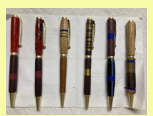
Jim Thomas
alexandjay1988@gmail.com

Dom Ceccanecchio
dcc444@comcast.net



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



PRICE REDUCED

2016 Harley Davidson FLSTFBS "Fatboy" All Black, 25645 Miles. Price - ~~\$12,000~~ **NOW \$11,000**.
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 leave a message) or mddre3077@aol.com



2014 FLHTK Harley Davidson Ultra Limited
Color- Daytona Blue Mileage- 17500
Includes headsets for rider and passenger
Price- \$12,200 FIRM

John Emrick Mddre3077@aol.com



Michael Klein is selling a DeWalt Drill Driver 12V 3/8".
Cost new \$100 asking \$50.

Comes with two batteries, a charger and carrying bag.

Michael Klein 941-809-9986

msk0217@gmail.com



SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET



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OCTOBER 2025

VOL. 40. NO. 1
OCTOBER 2025



*Munich in
Cape Coral!*

Oct. 17, 18, 19 & Oct. 24, 25, 26
German American Social Club in Cape Coral



**WIN A TRIP
TO GERMANY!**
page 29

FESTIVAL HOURS:
Fri 4pm to Midnight
Sat Noon to Midnight
Sun Noon to 8pm

2101 SW Pine Island Road, Cape Coral, FL 33991
Rt. 78 – 7 Miles West of US 41
239.283.1400

www.capecoraloktoberfest.com

BLUE KNIGHTS FLORIDA XVIII

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING -MINUTES September 2nd, 2024

7:00PM - 2nd floor Sahib Shriners, 600 N Beneva Rd, Sarasota FL

President: Patrick Gibbons - Vice President: James Thomas - Treasurer: John Emrick - Secretary/Webmaster: Dom Ceccanecchio
Sergeant At Arms: James Ryan - Past President: Sid Jones - Director: Bob Grotz - Director: Tracy Dunn



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

Meeting Call to Order: by [President Gibbons](#) @ 7:02PM

In attendance: Executive officers: 3 Officers: 2 Members: 18 Guests: 2

Pledge of Allegiance: led by President Gibbons

Invocation: by President Gibbons

Welcoming Remarks: by President Gibbons.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

- The Spring SRC 2025 will be held in Ocala. Details in the chapter newsletter. Email was sent by President Gibbons.

SRC 2026 Spring Conference

Hosted by: Blue Knights Florida III

Dates: April 12 - 15, 2026 (Sunday - Wednesday)

Location: Holiday Inn Conference Center

Address: 3600 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL

- The members voted to forgo chapter meetings each month during the summer months in favor of deciding when to hold meetings on a month-to-month basis.
- The 9/11 memorial ride will not occur this year due to organizational issues in the 9/11 committee. The scheduled 9/11 ride from Mission Barbecue will take place as an alternative.
- Chapter Elections: the nomination process will begin in October.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JIM THOMAS

- Need to keep up recruiting efforts.

TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK

- General financial position presented: Specific financial numbers are available by request to our Treasurer.

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO

- Call for material (articles, stories, jokes, things for sale, etc.) for the newsletter.

SAFETY OFFICER: JIM KELLY/ N/A

- Check your helmets for age, defects etc. Helmets should be replaced per manufacturer and FDOT recommendations.

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: N/A

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:

- See Newsletter for details.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Michael Klein has setup a group text for ride information/notifications. Send Michael a text if you are interested in being included to the group.
- Jim Ryan is working with UTC on a November 25th Cornhole Tournament

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

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

Geri Buscemi

Melinda Parker

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$50 Winner: \$25

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 7:45PM, Motion: Bob G. 2nd: Dom C., all approved

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

Submitted By: Domenic Ceccanecchio, Secretary BK XVIII





Chapter News

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



“SHOOTOUT WITH BOBBY G.”

9:00 AM , Friday October 10th

Knight Trail Park 3445 Rustic Rd., Nokomis 34275.

WE CAN GRAB LUNCH AFTERWARDS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL BGROTZ2@YAHOO.COM AND PLEASE COPY PRESIDENT GIBBONS AT PJGIBBY1969@COMCAST.NET



H. R. 218

The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), often referred to as HR 218, allows qualified Law Enforcement officers (LEOs) and qualified retired LEOs (RLEOs) to concealed carry in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of state or local laws, with some exceptions.



Sarasota County residents go to:

www.sarasotasheriff.org/programs_and_services/hr_218_qualification/index.php.

This qualification is limited to Sarasota County residents only and takes place at their range located at Knight Trail Park, 3445 Rustic Road, in Nokomis.

There is a nominal fee to participate in the HR218 shoot. It is paid at the time of registration.

Manatee County residents go to:

www.manateesheriff.com/services/hr_218_qualification.php
or call the Training Section at 941-747-3011 Extension 2707.



SOLUTIONS TO STRESS FROM TRAUMATIC INCIDENTS

By RODNEY STEARNS



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

While we rarely question physical injuries or even a diagnosis on medical ailments, the disabling effects of former job-related trauma or something recently experienced are not readily visible. Having a traumatic reaction, or the fear of even acknowledging a traumatic reaction, is somehow seen as weakness. We need to accept that a reaction may occur and seek the necessary help when it does. It is not uncommon for former protective service personnel to have sleep disorders. Typically, most people are at a loss for words after something a person they know is experiencing in reference to trauma. We tend to say the wrong things or become too intrusive in our comments. Unfortunately, the person subjected to such trauma may avoid talking about it simply for fear that others will become annoyed, so they abstain from revealing their true pain. Routinely, those affected may lean on someone too much while repeatedly expressing their pain or the side effects of misery. This generally can force a person from wanting to talk with them at all.

Post-Traumatic Stress

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is defined by the diagnostic and statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as the development of specific characteristics after being exposed to a traumatic stressor. It is not designed to be a self-diagnosis used as an excuse for poor behavior. It was often referred to as 'shell shock' in the world wars and the mechanisms for treatment were less sensitive than today. PTSD occurs from direct exposure to an event that involves actually or threatened death or serious injury, or witnessing such an egregious event with another. Symptoms develop due to an inability to adapt to the event and the event, regardless of the type of severity, overwhelms an individual's ability to cope. Without proper preventative measures and post incident intervention or support, the risks of worsening increase exponentially. Following traumatic incidents there are likely noticeable issues such as the inability to sleep, triggers that induce anger, disturbing memories that create anxiety, inability to concentrate, and emotional numbing. Without proper support, those affected will often turn to maladaptive coping mechanisms such as alcohol, drugs, or disengage from reality.

Positive Preventative Steps

Essentially, we should be caring for each other as a group especially with our consistent titled term of family as a motto. If we know that someone was exposed to a critical incident or currently is diagnosed with PTSD exposure to a critical incident, we need to develop a system to check on them. Most of the time we think we know what PTSD consists of because we read the definition. Trust me, there is more to this than just what you read.

Maybe we need to be more proactive and implement preventative techniques to minimize the potential for long-term stress disorders and develop procedures within Blue Knights internationally that are consistent.

Periodic articles or training will allow for more accurate assessments to understand the signs displayed or to understand proper vocabulary and proper words of comfort. To avoid trigger phrases or making incorrect evaluations. One of the biggest issues for those finding a support person is that the person they choose often believes they have been ordained to give advice. Sometimes the advice given is not from someone with an educational understanding but just from their perspective and may worsen the situation. It is perfectly acceptable that when someone talks to you about trauma, they are just looking for a way to vent and your advice is unnecessary.

External scars are still more accepted than those deep within.

This is a mere excerpt from an article I wrote for an international law enforcement magazine in December 2012.

My dissertation for my master's degree was on PTSD.



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OCTOBER 2025

Chapter Christmas Party

Good Afternoon Knights,



President Gibbons has been working with the Hotel Venezia in Venice to get a room rate for our Christmas party on 12/20/25. We have a block of rooms @ \$129.00 a night. This is good for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The number is listed below. Please make sure to tell them this is for the Blue Knights Christmas Party.

October Chapter Meeting



**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS
7:00PM ON TUESDAY, October 7th, 2025
2ND FLOOR OF THE SAHIB SHRINE
600N BENEVA RD SARASOTA.**

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



SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

GERI BUSCEMI

RICK DEAL

MELINDA PARKER



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



In June, I had the pleasure of traveling to Belgium with my grandson for the Blue Knights International Convention. While the forecast called for temps in the 70-80s, a heatwave made it even warmer—but we still had a wonderful time!

One highlight was a day trip to Amsterdam, which was simply unforgettable.

Now that our Florida weather should be cooling down a bit, Lydia Grotz and I are excited to get back to our Queen Bees lunches. Our first gathering will be at The Deep Lagoon in Lakewood Ranch on Saturday, September 27 at 12:00 PM. Please RSVP by September 25 so we can confirm our reservation.

Looking ahead, our October lunch will be in the Trattoria da Mino in Venice

on Saturday, October 18 at 12:00 PM. Mark your calendars—we'd love to see you there!

Ride With Pride
Jenn Mac Connell
Jmacconnell@live.com
(941)270-0570



Biketoberfest is an annual, four-day motorcycle rally held in Daytona Beach, Florida, from October 16-19, 2025. The event draws hundreds of thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts to the city, featuring motorcycle-related events, live music, scenic rides, vendors, and a vibrant nightlife scene. It is often described as the "little brother" to the larger Daytona Beach Bike Week event in the spring.



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

OCTOBER 2025



SPRING 2026

Blue knights® International Southern Regional Conference

*Tour Horse Farms
in Ocala*



Hosted by FLORIDA III

April 12th — 15th 2026

Ocala, Florida

Horse capital of the world

Come join us for the SPRING 2026 Southern Regional Conference in Beautiful Ocala, Florida

We are in the heart of Florida. We have scenic winding backroads, beautiful horse farms, coastline, theme parks, the best natural springs in the world and much, much more!



Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Conference Center, 3600 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL 34474 (352) 629-9500

Overflow Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, 3580 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL 34474 ((352) 390-6999

RV CAMPING: Near the Hotel

Registration: \$130 per person

Includes: **Goodie Bag** and **Banquet**

Pre-registration cutoff: March 1st 2026 to guarantee banquet attendance. **Registration Opening Soon**

AGENDA & ACTIVITIES

Sunday: 3pm—7pm Check in /Registration

Sunday -Tuesday: Hospitality room for Networking; 50/50 raffles every night

Monday: 7am—8am Presidents Meeting

2 x Guided rides; Self Guided options to local venues and adventures.

Tuesday: 2 x Guided rides; Self Guided Options

Tuesday night: Banquet; Silent Auction

Wednesday: Check out or think about extending your stay in Florida!



Vendor & Chapter Sales available:

Contact: **FL III VP/President TEL # EMAIL**





Ride with Pride!

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

THE SRC REGION INCLUDES:

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

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

BLUE KNIGHTS[®] FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

Greetings:

I am happy to officially announce that the 2026 SRC Spring Conference will be hosted by Blue Knights Florida III in Ocala, Florida.

As you may know, there were no bids for a conference at the last business meeting.

The SRC Board worked with several Chapters after the fact to procure a meeting venue.

The outcome is that Florida III will host the Spring Conference in Ocala.

From the Host Chapter, below are some basic details and an initial Flyer for the conference.

Registration is not open yet, but you can make room reservations.

SRC 2026 Spring Conference

Hosted by: Blue Knights Florida III

Dates: April 12 - 15, 2026 (Sunday - Wednesday)

Location: Holiday Inn Conference Center

Address: 3600 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL

Registration: \$130 per person.

Reservation Information & Booking Links:

Host Hotel:

Holiday Inn & Suites Ocala Conference Center

352-629-9500

<https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI...>

Overflow Hotel:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

352-390-6999

<https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=EX...>

All Standard Rooms are \$144 plus tax.

All Suites will be \$169 plus tax.

There is also a Campground about 250 yards from the host hotel called Ocala RV Camp Resort.

The location is 45 minutes from the Gulf Coast and 90 minutes from the Atlantic Coast.

More information and registration details will be coming soon.

Question specific to the event should be directed to Florida III President, **Joe Nazario** -

joenazario1959@gmail.com

Notice: You are one of many recipients of this group email because you are listed as a current SRC President, SRC State Rep, or Executive Board Member.

Ride with Pride!

Brotherhood before Politics!

Mike Shockley

Blue Knights International

SRC Chairman

706-338-1742

msshockley@gmail.com

On The Lighter Side



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



"The bike can stay. You, on the other hand, aren't on the list"



RIDDLES



- ___ WRAP MUSIC
- ___ LAZY BONES
- ___ THE DEAD END
- ___ SANDWICH
- ___ BOO-BERRIES
- ___ SHERLOCK BONES
- ___ "HOW DO YOU BOO?"
- ___ IN YOUR CLAWS-IT
- ___ MAS-SCARE-A 
- ___ THE LIVING ROOM
- ___ WITCH-HIKERS
- ___ WITH A PUMPKIN PATCH
- ___ BROOM SERVICE
- ___ RHYTHM AND BOOS
- ___ HE TOOK BATTING LESSONS
- ___ THE TROMBONE
- ___ I-SCREAM
- ___ WHEN YOU'RE A MOUSE
- ___ PUTS ON HIS SHEET BELT
- ___ HE WANTED A LIGHT SNACK

1. WHAT ROOM DO GHOSTS AVOID?
2. WHAT'S A LITTLE GHOST'S FAVORITE DESSERT?
3. WHAT DO WITCHES CALL FOR IN A HOTEL ROOM?
4. WHY DID THE VAMPIRE EAT A LIGHT BULB?
5. HOW DID THE BAT LEARN TO FLY?
6. WHAT DOES A GHOST DO TO STAY SAFE IN A CAR?
7. WHAT IS A MUMMY'S FAVORITE TYPE OF MUSIC?
8. HOW DO YOU FIX A JACK-O-LANTERN?
9. WHICH PART OF A ROAD DO GHOSTS LOVE TO TRAVEL THE MOST?
10. WHO WAS THE MOST FAMOUS SKELETON DETECTIVE?
11. WHEN IS IT BAD LUCK TO SEE A BLACK CAT?
12. WHERE DOES A WEREWOLF LIKE TO HIDE?
13. WHAT INSTRUMENT DOES A SKELETON PLAY?
14. WHAT KIND OF MAKE UP IS A GHOST'S FAVORITE TO WEAR?
15. WHAT IS A GHOST'S FAVORITE FRUIT? 
16. WHAT DO GOBLINS SING IN THE SHOWER?
17. WHAT DO YOU SAY WHEN YOU MEET A GHOST?
18. WHAT DO YOU CALL A SKELETON WHO DOESN'T WORK?
19. WHO DO WITCHES STOP FOR ON THE HIGHWAY?
20. WHAT DO YOU CALL A WITCH THAT LIVES ON THE BEACH?

Harley Davidson for sale, mint condition, not a single scratch on it, used as my weekend bike. Very low mileage and I am very flexible on the price... I originally bought this without consulting my wife.

Apparently "Do whatever the fuck you want" doesn't mean what I thought it did.

**MY BIGGEST FEAR
IS WHEN I DIE
MY WIFE WILL SELL
MY MOTORCYCLE
FOR WHAT I TOLD
HER IT COST**



Blue Knights FXVIII Marketplace

Support our Sponsors

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



*Elevate your
outdoor experience*

Say goodbye to sun-damaged
surfaces and endless maintenance.
Choose from durable, beautiful
hardscape options.

Trusted professionals,
budget-friendly, and fully licensed.



concrete pavers | natural stones | pool decks | driveways | custom patios | clean & seal | repairs



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& NATURAL STONES
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941-306-3418
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For tiny, small and medium sized dogs
2030 Bispham Road Sarasota 34231

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CONCIERGE OVERNIGHT CARE AVAILABLE

<https://www.dogdog.org/pet-boarding-service/beverly-hills-dog-sarasota>

ARE YOU LIVING VOGUE

LIVING VOGUE
— REAL ESTATE —

CHARLES RATLIFF - REALTOR

1540 MAIN ST, SARASOTA, FL 34236

732-735-0738

CHARLES@LIVINGVOGUE.COM



RETIRED LEO & MEMBER OF BK FL XVIII

WHERE LIFE MEETS STYLE



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TRANSPARENCY MEANS TRUST.

**South West Florida's
Dealer of Choice!**

At **Adrenaline Harley-Davidson**,
our team offers honest pricing and genuine
service to help you find the perfect ride.

No gimmicks,
just real support for fellow riders like you.



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ADRENALINE H-D NOW!**

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OCTOBER 2025

Mission BBQ



118 Reviews

Hours: 11am - 9pm

5231 University Pkwy , Sarasota

(941) 841-9279



WEBSITE: <https://mission-bbq.com>



Gulf Sands Realty is your home for buying and selling in Sarasota and Manatee Counties

Contact Us

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Sarasota, FL 34231

📞 (941) 400-6237

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Greg and Cynthia Brock
Broker/Owners