



## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Seasons Greetings Fellow Knights,

Welcome to December, and just like that the year end is closing in on us fast. December is a busy month for our chapter. We shop for our charity children, start our raffle, finish up chapter elections, collect dues and start our chapter renewal, we make our toy delivery, and celebrate the holidays at our chapter Christmas party. I encourage you all to get involved in our chapter activities. You get what you give so get the most out of your membership and help out along the way.

I have the raffle tickets for our charity raffle. I will distribute the tickets at the December meeting or catch me at one on our functions for books to sell,

A Glock 43 (9MM) pistol and custom wood box will be the prize this year. Please help us by selling some tickets. If you can't or won't sell any tickets how about buying one it's for the kids and Vet's.

Don't forget to RSVP for the chapter Christmas party. This year we are going back to Venice to the Hotel Venezia. \$30 per person delicious food, live entertainment, dancing, and reindeer games. Rooms are available \$129 per night for Blue Knights. This party is always a great time come out and have some fun and enjoy the holiday spirit.

I am collecting the 2026 dues please come out to the December 2nd meeting and square up. If you can't make the meeting please mail your dues to our PO Box, give it to someone who is going to the meeting, or give me a call, shoot me a text, drop me an email, and we will set something up.

We are all very busy this time of the year, I understand believe me so am I. I would really appreciate it if you could please help me by sending in the dues as soon as possible this saves me from having to make calls and hunt down people like some loan shark.

I look forward to 2026 and all the future rides, meals and camaraderie with my Blue Knights family. Merry Christmas and may God bless all of you and your family may it be marry and bright.

*Patrick Gibbons*  
President, FLXVIII



### December Ride and Event Schedule

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

**Tuesday 12/2 5:30 PM**

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

**Tuesday 12/2 7:00 PM**

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

\*\*\*\* Collecting Dues for 2026\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*RSVP for Christmas Party\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*Conclusion of Chapter elections\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 12/13 2:00 PM**

Late Afternoon ride to dinner at  
Sandra's German Restaurant  
Punta Gorda.

2:00 PM Speedway Gas station  
8604 RT 70E Bradenton. KSU 2:15 PM

3:00 PM Stop at Wawa 2970 Executive Dr  
Venice for the southern riders.

We will take a ride down to Punta Gorda for dinner and after we will tour Fisherman's Village. The Village is all decked out for Christmas. We can also do a Christmas light Ride and check out the sights.

**Saturday 12/20**

5:00 till 9:00 PM

*Chapter Christmas Party*



**Saturday 12/27 9:00 AM**

9:00 AM Breakfast at Skillet's  
8635 S Tamiami Trail unit 4 Sarasota.  
Ride after.

Be on the lookout for for our Sid' Kids  
Christmas Shopping Day / lunch. Also the  
Gift delivery day, To be determined.



## 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® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 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  
[pgibby1969@comcast.net](mailto:pgibby1969@comcast.net)

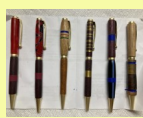
Jim Thomas  
[alexandjay1988@gmail.com](mailto:alexandjay1988@gmail.com)

Dom Ceccanecchio  
[dcc444@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:msk0217@gmail.com)



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



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Christmas is Coming !**

**BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2025**

**Blue Knights  
Florida XVIII**



# *Christmas Party*

**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 till 9:00 PM**

**Venice (Venezia) Ramada Hotel  
425 U.S. 41 Bypass N, Venice, FL 34285  
Special Room rate \$129 per night**

**Tickets \$30 per person**

**Buffet Dinner**

**Dancing**

**Live Entertainment**

*Friends and Family welcome*

*Contact President Gibbons for tickets*

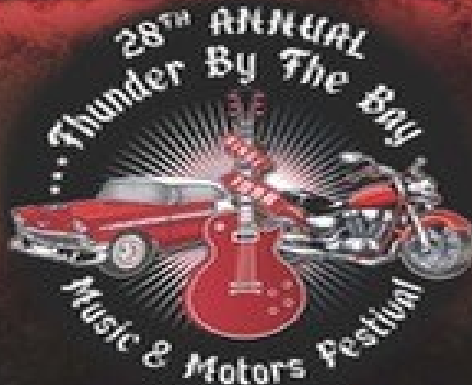


# Thunder by the Bay

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

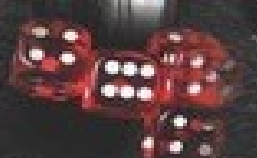
## RIDE IN. ROCK OUT. GIVE BACK.



“Ride So Children Can Thrive”



# DICE RUN



SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 14 | MOTORCYCLES & CARS ARE WELCOME

**\$30 IN ADVANCE**

**\$35 DAY OF EVENT**

COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE & MUFFINS

CASH BREAKFAST BUFFET AVAILABLE



**REGISTRATION**

**SARASOTA SAHIB SHRINE**

(600 N. BENEVA ROAD)

**9:30 AM TIL 11:30 AM**

**REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES ADMISSION INTO MYAKKA STATE PARK  
AND THUNDER BY THE BAY MUSIC & MOTORS FESTIVAL**



SCAN TO  
PRE-  
REGISTER

PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
**Suncoast  
Charities  
FOR CHILDREN**  
[suncoastcharitiesforchildren.org](http://suncoastcharitiesforchildren.org)

**CASH PRIZES TOP THREE HANDS**

**\$500 - \$250 - \$100**



1ST ROLL – SARASOTA SAHIB SHRINE

2ND ROLL – ADRENALINE HARLEY-DAVIDSON

3RD ROLL – MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK

4TH ROLL – THE HAVEN

5TH ROLL – FIRE & IRON TENT INSIDE THE FESTIVAL

(FESTIVAL GATES OPEN AT NOON - ALL HANDS MUST BE TURNED IN BY 2:00 PM)

**FESTIVAL  
FEATURED HEADLINER**



**SUPPORT ACTS  
GIVEN TO FLY  
BOBBY FRISS**

## THUNDERBYTHEBAY.ORG



A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA OR ONLINE AT [www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION # CH4531

# BLUE KNIGHTS FLORIDA XVIII

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MINUTES

November 4th, 2025



7:00PM - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
Quartermaster: Brian MacConnell - Chaplin: James Kirkpatrick - Safety Officer: Jim Kelly

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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

In attendance: Executive officers: 5 Officers: 2 Members: 19 Guests: 4

**Pledge of Allegiance:** led by President Gibbons

**Invocation:** by Jim Kirkpatrick, Chaplin

**Welcoming Remarks:** by President Gibbons.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS**

**TBB Gun Raffle.** We purchased the gun (Glock 43). See ticket details in newsletter.

### **Yearly Christmas shopping for Kids. Manatee County Sheriff's Office CPS**

- It was put to the members to increase the amount of funding from \$1000 to \$1500? Prices have gone up on everything. Last year we had members coming out of pocket to fulfill the kids list. Vote will be held at the December meeting to decide.
- We will set a shopping day at the December meeting. Please think about coming out to shop and participate on delivery day. We do not have a count on the number of kids yet.
- Sid Jones is the point of contact.

### **Thunder ByThe Bay - Dice Run update. Saturday 2/14**

- We need volunteers to help. Specific hours will be announced. We are covering the Myakka River State Park station. We will be running a sweep of the route at the end of registration at the shrine to make sure all riders are ok and to close down the roll stations. Also, we will have the both open at the fairgrounds.

### **Chapter Elections** --- All Executive board positions will be voted on and finalized at the December meeting.

The following nominations have been submitted:

President	Patrick Gibbons	*** (No other members applied)
Vice President	Jim Thomas	*** (Other candidate: <a href="#">Ralph Smith</a> )
Secretary	Dom Ceccanecchio	*** (No other members applied)
Treasurer	Tracy Dunn	*** (No other members applied)
Sgt, at Arms	Jim Ryan	*** (No other members applied)

### **Dues and chapter renewal**

- Dues are due by December 31st. We started collecting at the November meeting. Cash or check. If you are not coming to the November or December meeting please mail the dues in to our PO Box or send in with a brother.

**Christmas Party:** December 20th Venice Ramada (Venezia) Room rate \$129. Tickets \$30 per person.

**Pre party:** 6.00 PM 11/19 at the Venice Hotel for prime rib dinner. RSVP by 11/12 to President Gibbons..

**Cornhole for the Kids update** --- 11/25 UTC Mal, 6:00PM, \$10entry fee. Jim Ryan contact

### **VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JIM THOMAS**

We are currently at 53 members.

### **TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK**

Motion to accept October financial report Brian MacConnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Ryan, Unanimous Approval

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

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

Motion to accept October. minutes Briam MacConnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Emrick, Unanimous Approval

Repeated call for material (articles, stories, jokes, things for sale, etc.) for the newsletter.

### **SAFETY OFFICER: JIM KELLY**

### **CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK**

**SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:** See Newsletter for Spring 2026 Conference details.

**NEW BUSINESS:** N/A

### **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: \$105 Winner: Michael Kline \$53

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Time: 7:40PM Motion: Jim Kirkpatrick, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Brian MacConnell, all approved

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND**

*Prepared and submitted by Patrick Gibbons, Chapter President and Domenic Ceccanecchio, Secretary BK XVIII*





# Oktoberfest

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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# Chapter News

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## Chapter Christmas Party

## RESERVE NOW



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.

## December Chapter Meeting



**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS  
7:00PM ON TUESDAY, December 2nd, 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



Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
Department of Commerce

By

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



### THE NOAA CORPS

Tracy Dunn

#### Part 2 of 3: HISTORY

In part 1 of this series, I introduced the NOAA Corps and the fact I was unaware of its existence. When I first heard of the NOAA Corps, I was baffled that I had not heard of the service. I was only familiar with the military services and the Public Health Service. As I discovered, there was a reason for its lack of notoriety.

The NOAA Corps has technically only been around since 1970. It was part of the merger of several environmental agencies under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). However, the work of the newly formed NOAA was not new. Its predecessor agencies had their own long histories. One of them, the US Coast and Geodetic Survey (USC&GS), had roots going back to 1807 under Thomas Jefferson's Administration. [NOAA History Shea 2012].

The uniformed service under NOAA came from the USC&GS. However, the agency did not start off with uniformed officers. It was formed as a civilian service and remained so through various name changes as is common in Government. That is, until the beginning of WWI.

At the onset of WWI, the military was in desperate need of trained surveyors. The military looked to the USC&GS to fill that need. However, it was problematic to use civilian surveyors in a war zone in that if captured by the enemy they could be considered spies. I gather this was an issue during the Civil War. So, the decision was made to create a dedicated commissioned corps of surveyors to avoid this problem.

The USC&GS Commissioned Corp proved its worth during the Great War and was maintained as a separate non-military, uniformed corps in the event their expertise was required in the future, and it was. The call to serve came again in WWII.

Over 1000 civilian members and more than half of the USC&GS's commissioned officers served in WWII as hydrographers, artillery surveyors, cartographers, army engineers, intelligence officers, and geophysicists in both the European and the Pacific theaters. [History of Coast Survey-NOAA.Gov]. Eleven members lost their lives during the war.

Modern day NOAA Corps officers are still subject to transfer to the armed forces through a Presidential order (33 USC § 3061).

After WWII, the responsibilities of the USC&GS expanded to include conducting oceanographic studies worldwide [https://www.oma.noaa.gov/noaa-corps/our-history]. Thus, the agency transformed from pre-dominantly surveying into a scientific agency. This mission expanded over the years and was ultimately placed under the control of NOAA, along with the corps of officers created at the beginning of WWI.

Although the NOAA Corp's main mission is to support NOAA's scientific work, ships have been utilized for other purposes as the need arose. NOAA ships took part in the Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon oil spill responses as well as nautical surveys post-Gulf War in the Persian Gulf. Survey ships were also assigned to help in several major at-sea aircraft wreckage search operations employing side scan sonar capabilities (TWA Flight 800, John F. Kennedy, Jr's plane, EgyptAir Flight 990)

If anyone is interested, there is a great YouTube video which covers a 2021 presentation on the NOAA Corps, [NOAA Corps 101]. It is an excellent summary for any younger men and women who are looking for a unique way to serve the country.

Next Month: Part 3 — The Real NOAA Corps

\*\*\* Thanks go to Rodney Stearns and Randall Jarvis for taking time to review the articles and provide edits.





*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  
Bermuda  
Puerto Rico  
Virgin Islands

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

# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 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**

Mike Shockley - Chairman  
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**

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto:msshockley@gmail.com)



# On The Lighter Side



## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

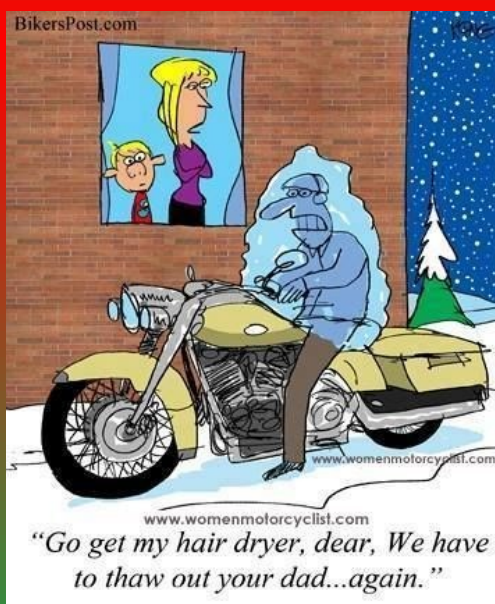
DECEMBER 2025

### Christmas Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to find words which have to do with Christmas.  
Some of the words have religious meanings, others are secular in nature.

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Groceos _____   | 11. Limesotte _____ |
| 2. Naclorig _____  | 12. Vaniyitt _____  |
| 3. Rats _____      | 13. Gotscknk _____  |
| 4. Scunttshe _____ | 14. Virasou _____   |
| 5. Porduhl _____   | 15. Traweh _____    |
| 6. Naast _____     | 16. Gisehl _____    |
| 7. Skagceap _____  | 17. Wamsonn _____   |
| 8. Dressephh _____ | 18. Ejuss _____     |
| 9. Gramen _____    | 19. Stranneom _____ |
| 10. Galen _____    | 20. Scamsthir _____ |

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# Blue Knights FXVIII Marketplace

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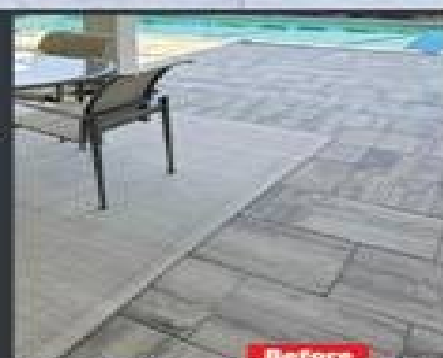
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outdoor experience*

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## LIVING VOGUE

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[CHARLES@LIVINGVOGUE.COM](mailto:CHARLES@LIVINGVOGUE.COM)



RETIRED LEO & MEMBER OF BK FL XVIII

WHERE LIFE MEETS STYLE





# Blue Knights FXVIII Marketplace

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# Blue Knights FXVIII Marketplace

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### Mission BBQ



118 Reviews

**Hours:** 11am - 9pm

**5231 University Pkwy , Sarasota**

**(941) 841-9279**




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



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Greg and Cynthia Brock  
Broker/Owners

