



# Happy Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 23rd



## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

**Greetings Brother and Sisters,**

The season is upon us! Cooler temperatures with dryer weather and plenty of what the Suncoast is famous for. With this beautiful weather it brings more traffic and congestion the blessing and the curse of living in paradise, so let's be safe out on the roads.

Look for more activities and rides on our schedule. As always if you want to set up a ride let me know and we can make it happen. Some feature activities coming up will be a cornhole tournament, Veterans Day Ride, FL XVI annual holiday party, Wreaths Across America, our chapter Christmas party and many more to finish up 2023. I'm looking forward to a busy season.

November also starts our membership renewal and the collection of dues please renew by turning in your annual dues at the November meeting or you can mail them to our PO BOX.

Every November we celebrate Thanksgiving that time to reflect on what you are thankful for. I have many things to be thankful for and one of them is the brotherhood and sisterhood that the Blue Knights gives me. I truly have been blessed to have a chapter that I call family and I have enjoyed all our work and activities together. Through life's journey with ups and downs to have such friends to navigate all of it is definitely something to be thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving all and may the good Lord bless each and everyone of you.

*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 11/4

9:00 AM Breakfast at Perkins Restaurant, 5921 Fruitville RD off of Cattlemen Rd

#### Saturday 11/4

After Breakfast or around 10:30 AM we will take a ride to the Arcadia Bike Fest. If you would like to skip breakfast and just do the ride or vice versa skip the ride it's all good!

#### Tuesday 11/7

5:30 PM Dinner at the Hot sands tiki bar 600 N Beneva Rd SRQ

#### Tuesday 11/7

7:00 PM Monthly Chapter Meeting. ( 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Sahib Shriners) 600 N Beneva Road

#### Saturday 11/11

9:00 AM Coffee and Donuts at Dunkin Donuts 5641 Clark Rd SRQ.

#### Saturday 11/11

10:00 KSU from Dunkin Donuts. Ride to Patriots Park 800 Venetia Bay Blvd Venice, 34285. We will be attending the Veterans Day Ceremony 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Lunch and ride afterwards is an option.

#### Saturday 11/18

Hap's Honda 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bash. 10:00 AM Meet up at the Shrine Tiki Bar 600 North Beneva Rd KSU 10:15 AM.

#### Saturday 11/18

FL XVI's Annual Diner Dance. 5:30 PM. Must have done an RSVP President Gibbons. Pay at the Door \$30 PP. The Charlotte Park Civic Center 420 Pompano Terrace Punta Gorda FL 33950

#### Tuesday 11/21

Lunch at Fords Garage University. 295 N Cattlemen Rd Unit 1, 34243



**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING  
TIME INFO**

*Fall Back*  
November 5, 2023  
at 2:00 am

- Set your clocks back one hour.
- Check and replace smoke detector batteries.



## 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

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## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TRACY DUNN  
CHRISTOPHER SCARDINO  
RORY MACCONNELL / PAST PRESIDENT

## OPERATIONS

JAMES KIRKPATRICK / CHAPLAIN  
DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / WEBMASTER  
TIMOTHY VAN SCHULTZ / QUARTERMASTER  
VACANT / 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  
[pgibbv1969@comcast.net](mailto:pgibbv1969@comcast.net)  
Jim Thomas  
[alexandjay1988@gmail.com](mailto:alexandjay1988@gmail.com)  
Dom Ceccanecchio  
[dcc444@comcast.net](mailto:dcc444@comcast.net)



## In the Chapter Market

Woodworking made to order. Tell me what you want, size, and specific wood (if requested) and I will make it.

Very reasonable prices.

Jim Ryan - 941-313-1363 [jryanretired@aol.com](mailto:jryanretired@aol.com) BK Florida XVIII



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 leave a message) or [mddre3077@aol.com](mailto:mddre3077@aol.com)



Wood chipper purchased from Northern Tool & Equipment. Purchased on February 8, 2022 and used for ONE HOUR

Purchased price - \$705.11

Will sell it for \$350.00

Contact John Emrick at 410-991-8161 (okay to leave a message) or [mddre3077@aol.com](mailto:mddre3077@aol.com)



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





# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

## NOVEMBER

## ZODIAC SIGNS



### Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Scorpios are known for their **loyalty and devotion** — and also their **passion**. In fact, they are known to have such intense personalities that they are often confused with vibrant fire signs. Alas, they just have deep feelings and emotions.



### (November 22 – December 21)

A Sagittarius values independence and the ability to do what they want, when they want, above all else. They are adventurers, risk-takers, and have a sharp business and sports mentality. Sagittarius natives are known for their emotional intelligence, which helps them to connect with others.



### VP Message ..... Jim Thomas

**Hello Brother and Sister Knights,**

**And good day to all,**

So here we are heading into November. It's time to get started on locking in our "Dimes for Dante's" ride. I need to schedule a meeting to get this started. So if I can get the QBs and any other volunteers to come in on next Monday that would be great. We can meet at the shrine and hash out a plan over dinner. Let's do this at 6pm. I would like to make a good show. This is going to be our first charity from scratch ride in a very long time. It's gonna reflect greatly on our ability to put a good show together.

I need a rep from the Bees to call me and let me know if they can make it. Lots of ideas and looking for more. I need time to make sure the Dante's rep can be there.

Other than that, we have had a slow start to the cold season. Hope to get more people out to enjoy this weather. Shine em up y'all. It's time. It seems as though our winter months have arrived as I sit in Siesta Keys with the cold ocean breeze hitting me over the handlebars tonight.

Quick note\* the support this board has received over the past year has been phenomenal. We really appreciate our membership getting involved and making this chapter a huge success throughout the SRC. We have a great reputation and that's because of all of you and the hard work you put into this chapter. Your board is very grateful.

I look forward to our next meeting and wish y'all a safe and happy month. God bles!!!!

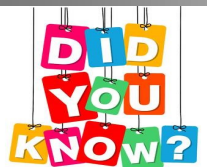
Jim



BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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### Compliments of Rodney Stearns



Did you know, that until a few years ago it was illegal in Florida to use your hazards while the vehicle was in motion. The only exception was if you were part of a funeral procession.

Thankfully, rational minds changed this illegal act and since July 1, 2021 drivers are allowed to use their hazards when visibility is extremely low. This not only applies to rain,

## Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club

### 50th Anniversary

**Date:** July 21st – 26th, 2024

**Location:** Sugarloaf Mountain Hotel & Conference Center  
5092 Access Road  
Carrabassett Valley, Maine 04947

**Phone:** 1-800-843-5623

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS ARE FULL. Condos are available. Go to the Sugarloaf web page and go to the lodging link; you can then scroll through the various condo photos and descriptions and choose what type you would like with the bed configuration you want. You will then need to call and they will take your information to make your reservation. Tell them what you want... If they do not have one available right away, they will take your info (type of condo, etc.) and put you on a wait list and call you when one is added to their inventory.



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**38 ALDEN STREET  
BANGOR, ME, USA 04401**

**Tel: +1 (207) 947-4600  
(Office Hours 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST)**



# Important Chapter Business

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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## Treasurers Report

- ✦ Because of the efforts of everyone in this Chapter we had a very good year financially. All current expenses have been paid and the expected expenses for the Chapter Christmas party and our charity
- ✦ As we head into the end of the year it is now the time to start our annual dues collection and chapter renewal. The dues are \$40.00 and can be delivered to the treasurer at the next two meetings in cash or check. You can also mail in your dues to our PoBox.

Please make checks payable to Blue Knights FL XVIII.

Our address is:

Blue Knights FL XVIII

PO Box 2031

Sarasota FL 34230

If you have any questions please contact  
President Gibbons or me, John Emrick.

John Emerick  
Chapter Treasurer



## ELECTION NOTICE

### FL XVIII CHAPTER ELECTIONS

**Fellow Knight's,**

**October opens up our Election process. If anyone is interested in running for one of the Chapter Officer positions (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary or Sergeant at Arms) email Domenic Ceccanecchio [dc444@comcast.net](mailto:dc444@comcast.net) ASAP. At the November 7th meeting we will review nominations that have been submitted. If anyone is running against another member you will still have up until the December meeting to campaign.**

**Next October 2024 elections will be conducted for our Director positions. Any questions please call President Gibbons.**

# CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023

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## Blue Knights FLXVIII Christmas Party

*When: Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

*Time: 4:00pm Cocktails (cash bar)  
5:00 pm Dinner Buffet*

*Where: Venezia (Ramada by Wyndham)  
425 U.S.41 Bypass North, Venice 34285af  
941-315-8474*

*Cost: \$ 30.00 per person*

R.S.V.P. by December 10, 2023

To: Patrick Gibbons Pres. [Pjgibby1969@comcast.net](mailto:Pjgibby1969@comcast.net)

Checks made payable and sent to:

Blue Knights FLXVIII

PO BOX 2031, Sarasota Florida 34230

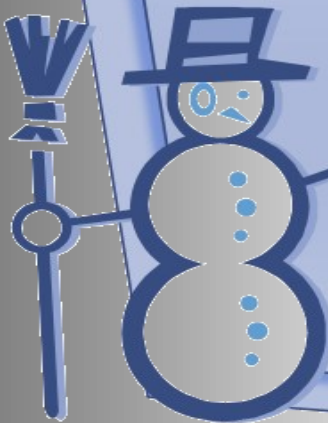
A fun evening is planned with live entertainment, great food, dancing, holiday gifts, games and prizes.

Come join your fellow Blue Knights Family for a memorable holiday good time.

*Spend the night option:*

Discounted Hotel Accommodations are available.

Contact the hotel directly and ask for the Blue Knights rate.





# Chaplains Message



BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

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## A Hero's Welcome

By Robert Longley

Time to come home dear brother  
Your tour of duty through  
You've given as much as anyone  
Could be expected to do

Just a few steps further  
The smoke will start to clear  
Others here will guide you  
You have no need of fear

You have not failed your brothers  
You clearly gave it all  
And through your selfless actions  
Others will hear the call

So take your place of honor  
Among those who have gone before  
And know you will be remembered  
For now and evermore



*Chaplain Jimmy Kirkpatrick*



# October Chapter Meeting Highlights

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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**Meeting Call to Order:** by President Gibbons @ 7:00PM

In attendance: Executive officers: Officers: Members: Guests:

**Pledge of Allegiance:** by President Gibbons

**Invocation:** by Chaplain Jim Kirkpatrick

**Welcoming Remarks:** by President Gibbons addressed the members about Rory MacConnell's medical condition. Rory's daughter, Stephanie, also spoke to the member about his status. He is receiving medications for his infections and is being treated for a newly found tumor that has put him in hospice. The meeting was briefly paused in consideration for the family.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT: VP JIM THOMAS FOR PATRICK GIBBONS**

Chapter Elections for Officers (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Sargeant at Arms) are starting now. Nominations need to be received by November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested, email your nomination to Secretary Domenic Ceccanecchio ([dc444@comcast.net](mailto:dc444@comcast.net)). Finalize discussions and vote will take place at the December meeting. Elections for Board of Directors will take place in 2024 as per our bylaws.

- Brother Knight Vinny Spadaro recommends Sarasota DCF for our Christmas Charity. There are also recommendations for Suncoast Charities and Sarasota County Sheriffs Charitable Association.
- Chapter Christmas Party 12/17 Sunday from 4:00PM to 8:00PM at the Venice Sarasota Hotel. Cost will be \$30 per person we will need to have all the money and Head count by 12/5 at the December meeting. Bobby Grotz is point of contact. Special Room Rate at the hotel of \$104
- Thunder by the Bay – Rory MacConnell volunteered a shotgun. Ticket books need to be printed.
- Bikers for Boobies poker run Saturday 10/28. Meeting on 10/14 2:00 PM with the ride organizers at Adrenaline HD for anyone who would like to work (not ride) the poker run. We will be handing out cards at one of the stops TBD. Everyone is encouraged to please ride (bring a friend or two)
- Saturday 10/7 "Blue Knights Appreciation Day" at Bert's Black widow HD 12:00 PM. 15% off for Members. Twisted fork and Q&A with techs.
- Everything from the chapter has been removed from the FOP hall and is being stored in a locker in the Shrine. Vests are available. Meetings will be scheduled at the Shrine for as long as they will have us.

### **VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JAMES THOMAS**

Membership Update

Update on the Dante's Den Animal Sanctuary and Hospital Ride, March 2024

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

- Motion to accept October Treasurers Report: Motion: Jim Kirkpatrick, 2nd: Jim Thomas Unanimous Approval

### **SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECHIO N/A**

Motion to accept October Minutes: Motion: Jim Kirkpatrick, 2nd: John Chiusano, Unanimous Approval

REMINDER: Visit our website BLUEKNIGHTSFLXVIII.COM password is password 1234680.

### **SAFETY OFFICER: Need volunteer to fill position.**

### **CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK:**

**SICK AND DISTRESSED:** Keep our sick and distressed members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Rory MacConnell, CeCe MacConnell, Geri Buscemi, Jeffrey Longwell, Paul Fieber, Jack Ovadia

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Jim Ryan proposal to host a fundraiser "Corn Hole Tournament" at the Shrine. Taken under advisement and Jim will provide specifics.

### **NEW BUSINESS :**

Brother Rick Deal has two vests for sale.

Motion by Jim Ryan for \$250 donation for Widow Sons Ride for ALS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Kirkpatrick, Approved

6<sup>th</sup> Annual 100 Mile Bay Run, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, more to come.

Queen Bees requested \$250 support. 1<sup>st</sup>, Chris Scardino, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian MacConnell Approved

### **50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$\$35**

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 8:00pm Unanimous Approval**

**Minutes By VP Jim Thomas for Secretary Dom Ceccanecchio**

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 2023**



# October Event Photos

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***RIDE WITH PRIDE***

**but do so safely!**

*BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC*

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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### Safety Tips.

Now that the weather is cooling off a bit I will assume more of our members will be participating in Chapter rides.

Question, how many of us perform a “safety check” before starting out on a ride?

You know, gas – check, headlights working both low and high beam – check, Aux. lights – check, turn signals – check, stop lights – check, seat adjustment – check. But how many riders check your tires? How many inspect our tires ourselves for cracks and thread wear instead of waiting for the scheduled service work to be performed? For 5 bonus points, how many check the tire pressure before we head out. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and the National Highway Safety Administration along with Harley Davidson, motorcycle tires can lose 1 -2 psi per week of riding. Over time, the lost of tire pressure can and will affect the handling of your motorcycle and may result in a crash. Don't forget, “attention to details” will keep us riding safe for a long time.

RWP

John Emrick



### ***SICK AND DISTRESSED***

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

RORY MACCONNELL

CECE MACCONNELL

GERI BUSCEMI

JEFFREY LONGWELL PAUL FIEBER

ROBIN GRUTERS





*Ride with Pride!*

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

# BLUE KNIGHTS® SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Mike Shockley, Chairman  
msshockley@gmail.com

Randy Hoagland, Vice Chairman  
rhoagland@bkgaxvi.com



Justin Hartley, Secretary  
justinhartley175@gmail.com

Al Fryer, Treasurer  
Afryer63@yahoo.com

International Representative Bob Awtrey  
awtreypob@gmail.com

### Bulletin 2023-04

The elections results were announced at the Fall 2023 SRC in Biloxi, MS. The elections committee chairman, Wayland Mann, announced the results. 62 of 79 chapters participated in the online voting for SRC Board Offices. That is a 78.48% participation rate, almost double what we have seen in the past.

The results are as follows:

Chairman:	Mike Shockley	41
	Bruce Verrette	20
	Abstain	1
Vice-Chairman:	Randy Hoagland	32
	Larry Dunn	30
	Abstain	0
Secretary:	Justin Hartley	44
	Jim Borza	18
	Abstain	0
Treasurer:	Al Fryer	61
	Abstain	1
International Rep:	Bob Awtrey	40
	Chuckie Diaz	22
	Abstain	0

The board looks forward to serving the membership for years to come.



BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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## Blue Knights International Fall 2023 Southern Regional Conference Hosted by Mississippi II



### Schedule

#### Thursday, Oct 19

- Hotel Check in after 4 pm
- Registration (at Ballroom 2 Foyer on 2nd Floor) 4-7 pm
- Hospitality Suite 4 pm - midnight

#### Friday, Oct 20

- Registration 8am-6pm
- Vendor Room 12:00 pm-8:00 pm
- President's meeting 8:15 am-9:45 am
- Organized Ride from Biloxi to Dauphin Island and return- 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
- Meet and Greet BBQ with Beer and Band at Coast Harley Davidson 4:30 pm-8:30 pm
- Hospitality Suite 7:00 pm - midnight

#### Saturday, Oct 21

- Registration 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Organized Ride along the beach and back country-Breakfast at Boogies 9:00 am - 10:30 am, KSU 10:30, Ride from 10:30 am until 3:00 pm
- Vendor Room Available 11:00 am-4:30 pm
- Cocktail Hour in Ballroom 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm
- Banquet 7:30 PM until 10:30 PM
- Hospitality Suite available following banquet until ???

#### Sunday, Oct 22

- Conference ends/Check out

### For More Information

Go to [BKMSII.com](http://BKMSII.com) for online registration

Or contact

Chapter President Mark Jenkins @ [bkms2president@yahoo.com](mailto:bkms2president@yahoo.com)  
(228) 238-1312

Chapter Secretary Patrick Davis @ [bkms2secretary@yahoo.com](mailto:bkms2secretary@yahoo.com)  
(228) 243-4477





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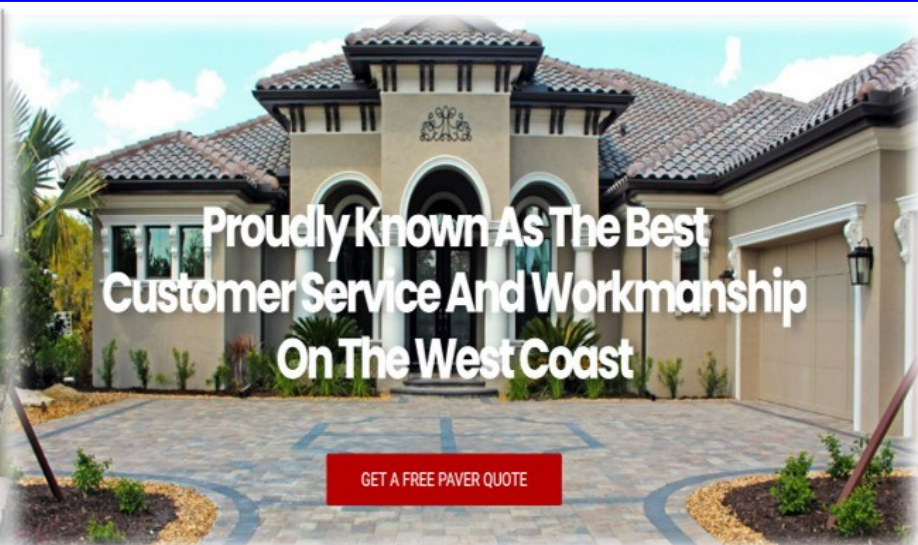
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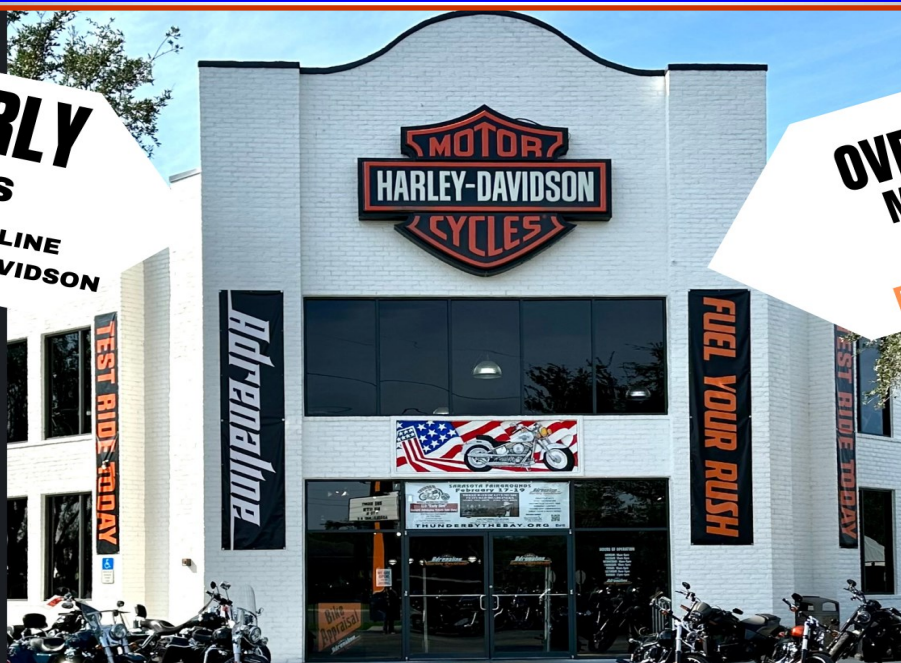
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