



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Knights,

As the rest of the country gets ready for summer and the full blown riding season us Floridians get to take a little break from all the action and bike festivals. Our summer rides are usually early morning or late afternoon into the evening hours after the downpours cool things off a bit.

This is a good time for our chapter to do some other activities. We have our first shoot out with Bobby G this month. This looks like it will be a fun morning practicing on the range and grabbing lunch after. Maybe we can start a sporting clay team and sign up for the Thunder By The Bay Charity tournament. I'm looking forward to our first bowling night. Jimmy Kirkpatrick is looking into starting a chapter league. We will still have our breakfast and lunch's and a few dinner nights as well. Friend's and family brother and sisterhood that's what it's all about.

Ride with Pride
Patrick Gibbons
President, FLXVIII



June Ride and Event Schedule

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



Friday 6/2

It's the Bobby G Shootout!! Come on out to the range and put some holes in the target. 9:00 AM Knights trail gun range 3445 Rustic RD Nokomis 34275

Tuesday 6/6

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

Tuesday 6/6

7:00 PM The Monthly Meeting (Up stairs at the the Shrine / Hot Sands Tiki Bar) 600 N Beneva Rd Sarasota

Saturday 6/10

9:00 AM Breakfast at Skillet's 8635 S Tamiami trail unit 4 Sarasota. We can take a ride after breakfast.

Monday 6/19

Lunch 11:00AM Mission BBQ 5231 University Parkway Sarasota

Friday 6/30

6:00 PM Dinner/ Bike Night at the Twisted fork 2208 El-Jobean Rd Port Charlotte. Meet up at the Wawa exit 193 RT 75 Jacaranda Blvd. 19289 Times Cir Venice 34292 at (5:15 PM) and we can ride in.

SAVE THE DATE

We have set the date for the chapter BBQ picnic. The BBQ will be Saturday August the 12th from 3:00 PM till 8:00 PM at the Mote Ranch HOA Pool in Bradenton. You must RSVP by August first by email to PJGIB-BY1969@comcast.net or call 856-305-3814.

Could you provide a covered dish of sides, dessert, snacks. We will provide the protein's. BYOC (Cans) NO BOTTLES permitted at the pool. We also must be discreet with any alcohol. We will provide soda and water. More information will be provided closer to the date.



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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CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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TIMOTHY VAN SCHULTZ / QUARTERMASTER
MICHAEL KLEIN / SAFETY OFFICER
DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / NEWSLETTER

Lets Go Shooting

BOBBY GROTZ HAS OFFERED AN INVITATION TO GO SHOOTING AT THE KNIGHTS TRAIL PARK RANGE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND AT 9:00 AM. WE CAN GRAB LUNCH AFTERWARDS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL BGROTZ2@YAHOO.COM AND IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COPY PRESIDENT GIBBONS AT PJGIBBY1969@COMCAST.NET THIS IS SOMETHING NEW THAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER.

(Pistol & Rifle Range Rules Continued)

10. Rapid fire is not allowed on the range. Limit fire to one round per second. NOTE: See Range Officer for Special Shooting Activity exception.
11. Firearms may be loaded only on the firing line and only at the command of a range officer. Once on the firing range, muzzles of firearms must always be pointed straight down range.
12. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE FORBIDDEN ON THE RANGE GROUNDS. If a shooter has been drinking and, in the range officer's judgment, poses a safety hazard, that shooter will be removed from the range.
13. Drawing firearms from ANY type of holster is not permitted.
14. NO SMOKING or EATING on the firing line.
15. Unless otherwise authorized by law, customers are NOT ALLOWED to carry CONCEALED FIREARMS on the firing line.
16. ALL JUNIOR SHOOTERS (under 18 and at least 48 inches tall) must shoot under DIRECT supervision of a PARENT. ADULTS other than a PARENT must bring a SIGNED county permission form signed by the parent/guardian granting permission to the NAMED ADULT to bring the junior shooter to the range on EACH VISIT to the facility.
17. SPECTATORS are not permitted on the firing line.
18. When you are finished shooting and are ready to leave, please police your area. Place used cardboard in the receptacles provided, throw away any unwanted targets and litter in the trash cans and give any modified ammo to a range officer for proper disposal.

Our range officers are glad to answer any additional questions you might have.
Your suggestions and comments

Directions To Knight Trail Park
Take I-75 to Exit 195 or U.S. 41 to Laurel Road. Head east to Knights Trail Road, located just across the I-75 overpass. Turn left on Knights Trail Road and head north to Rustic Road. Turn left on Rustic Road. Park entrance is on the right one-half mile down Rustic Road.

Sarasota County
It Starts in Parks®
Sarasota County Parks and Recreation
Knight Trail Park
3445 Rustic Road, Nokomis, FL 34275
941-486-2351 or 941-486-2733
www.scparks.net

Knight Trail Park Shooting Range
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Pistol & Rifle Range Hours of Operation
Wednesday - Sunday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

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 iryanretired@aol.com BK Florida XVIII



FOR SALE (Free for FLXVIII Chapter Members): SunHeater Solar Pool Heating System. Two 2'x10' solar panels, diverter valve, instructions and complete mounting kit to mount panels on roof, ground or fence. Works on either above ground or inground pools. 2 years old. Sells for \$400+ new for just the panels, asking \$150 or B/O for everything. Call Don 585-739-3465. Leave message for call back or email: dapnyiv@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: 2017 Harley Davidson Road King. It has the 107 engine, 4K miles, \$14,500.00. To many options to list.
Call Vinny Spadaro cell phone 941-704-7241.



SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET



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JUNE

ZODIAC SIGNS

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Gemini is constantly juggling a variety of passions, hobbies, careers, and friend groups. They are the social butterflies of the zodiac: These quick-witted twins can talk to anyone about anything. Find them buzzing between happy hours, dinner parties, and dance floors.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Nurturing and loyal, Cancers are also protective of their loved ones. While reserved, they stand on a foundation of strength – and aren't afraid to act when they feel it's necessary. The symbol of the crab offers a key to understanding Cancers' preternatural ability to know things without knowing how they know them



Due Diligance ...

A by-laws committee has been formed to ensure that we are in compliance with Blue Knight International standards.

The committee consists of John Emerick, Dom Ceccanecchio, Jimmy Kirkpatrick, Jim Thomas and Patrick Gibbons. Results of the committees findings will be presented to the membership for approval.

Treasurers Report

Fellow Knights

- SRC receipts are currently being processed. Thanks to Clair for processing the guests.
- We Made a \$1500 donation to the COPS RUN Foundation at the SRC. We also collected over \$700 by passing the hat at the conference. This will also go the COPS RUN Foundation.
- John Emerick is preparing an after action report for the SRC conference. Send concerns, pluses to John.

John Emerick
Chapter Treasurer



INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT RORY MACCONNELL

International Convention 2023

Dates: July 16 - July 21, 2023

Chapter: PA V - Harrisburg, PA

Convention Information: The web site for the 2023 event has been activated for Blue Knights around the world.

Visit the web site at www.BKI2023International.com

Blue Knights® International
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.



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

Chaplains Message



BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

As a Blue Knight MC organization, we send our members to Heaven 1 after their time on earth. This month I decided to explore what heaven is like according to the Bible and near-death experiences. First of all, many surveys suggest that nearly 80% of all Americans believe there is a place called heaven. I find that statistic encouraging because it tells me that even in this skeptical age there is something deep inside the human heart that cries out, "There's got to be something more. Something more than the pain and suffering of this life. Something more than 70 or 80 years on planet earth. Something more than being born, living, dying, and then being buried in the ground."

Bible references: Just, listen to the words of Jesus on the night before he was crucified:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am" (John 14:1-3).

The place called heaven is just as real as the place you call home. It's a real place filled with real people, which is why the Bible sometimes compares heaven to a mansion with many rooms (John 14:1-3) and sometimes to an enormous city teeming with people (Revelation 21).

Here are seven biblical facts about heaven. It is ...

God's dwelling place (Psalms 33:13).

Where Christ is today (Acts 1:11).

Where Christians go when they die (Philippians 1:21-23).

The Father's house (John 14:2).

A city designed and built by God (Hebrews 11:10).

A better country (Hebrews 11:16).

Paradise (Luke 23:43).



James Kirkpatrick, Chaplain

Near-Death Experiences – what the Afterlife Is Like:

One woman describes large angelic soldier surrounded by millions of butterflies. Feeling incredible peace, no more earthly emotional holes in my spirit. I was completely whole. It was an incredible feeling.

One gentleman, was clinically dead after a car crash in 1989, said he traveled to heaven. After paramedics pulled his lifeless body from a four-car pile-up, he found himself "standing at some magnificent gates surrounded by people I had known and loved in life. So, when I saw them, I knew where I was, because I knew where they were. "But enough about the gates - does heaven have awesome architecture? The gentlemen told Bill O'Reilly, "There really are a lot of magnificent structures inside the gate. And at the pinnacle of a great hill beyond them is a bright light."

These are just a few example of near death experiences, and as a person of faith we know we will be reunited with our love ones and friends in Heaven.

SICK AND DISTRESSED

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



RORY MACCONNELL

CECE MACCONNELL

GERI BUSCEMI

JOSEPH FANCIULLI

JEFFREY LONGWELL

PAUL FIEBER

VERONICA ANDERSON

JIMMY KIRKPATRICK

ROBIN GRUTERS



May Chapter Meeting Highlights

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

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PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

- President Gibbons led a toast recognizing everyone that contributed to making the SRC conference a great success with a wine gift from Glen Wheat our SRC Board of Governors Secretary. It was a great team effort.
- President Gibbons paid special tribute to the Lady Knights of FLXVIII for the amazing planning and all the work they did, as he put it “our Lady Knights Rock!!” Everyone loved the cast of characters full of spirit and energy with songs and limericks and games and gifts truly making people happy. Countless hours making beautiful centerpieces and baskets. All the decorations and tables set just right. President Gibbons also thanked the Dungeons crew, Mistress CeCe and her bar back Brian MacConnell for keeping everyone hydrated and entertained along with the Mr. Beer truck Guys for keeping the suds flowing.
- President Gibbons thanked the Road Captains for keeping us safe and getting us to our destination.
- President Gibbons thanked James Ryan for saving the chapter a ton of money and helped us make money with his donations of the beautiful woodwork.
- A special thanks to Tom Yacca and Laura Shade who worked so very hard on our successful beach BBQ and Banquet . Laura has been plotting and planning diligently and everything was perfect.
- President Gibbons acknowledged SRC 2023 Chairman Rory MacConnell for his hard work and following through on his commitment to make this SRC Conference a success. Rory thanked the Board for their extraordinary leadership.
- President Gibbons presented awards to:
 - Richard Dick DelRossi - 30 years of service to the Blue Knights
 - Sidney Sid Jones - 20 years of service to the Blue Knights
 - John C Chiusano – 20 years as an Honorary member and 20 years as a tenured member of the Blue Knights
- President Gibbons asked for a volunteer to replace Tim Van Schultz (retiring) as quartermaster. Brian MacConnell and Charles Ratcliff have shown interest in filling the position.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JAMES THOMAS

Memberships: We currently have 51 members in the chapter and expect another soon.

TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK

Motion to accept APRIL Treasurers Report: Motion: Jim Ryan, 2nd: Jim Thomas, Unanimous [Approval](#)

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO

- Motion to accept APRIL Minutes: Motion: Jim Thomas, 2nd: George Alec, [Unanimous Approval](#)
- The APRIL Minutes have been posted on the website.
- Members were informed that the SRC conference photos are now available on the website.
- Email me (Domenic) OR Patrick Gibbons your letters, feedback, items for sale, special events etc. for inclusion in the Newsletter
- We can generate revenue for the Chapter with minimal work by simply selling sponsorships. Contact anyone on the Executive Board if you find a potential sponsor.

SAFETY OFFICER: MICHAEL KLEIN

From President Gibbons , May is “Motorcycle Safety Month”

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: Remember our sick and distressed

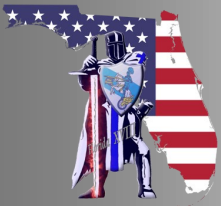
SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT: President Gibbons will provide details from the SRC Presidents Meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

- Committee volunteers needed for the following events.
- Chapter BBQ Committee: We want to have a special BBQ to celebrate Chapter FL XVIII’s members and all their hard work and dedication to our community and the Blue Knights. President Gibbons is taking the lead as committee chair and August 13th has been tentatively proposed. More to come.
- Chapter Christmas Party Committee: It was suggested that we look into having the event at the Palm Aire Country Club: Bob and Lydia Grotz are leading the effort.
- Christmas Charity Committee: Vinny and Kathy Spadaro will take the lead.
- Bob Grotz asked if there was any interest in starting a shooters group. Keep a lookout for details.
- Honor Guard: We have several volunteers and need backups. Anyone interested contact Patrick Gibbons, Dom Ceccanecchio or Rodney Stearns.
- The ladies of our chapter are in the process of creating a social group “THE QUEEN BEES”. Stay tuned for more.
- John Emrick proposed a chapter “Halloween Party” in October. John is taking the lead, more to come.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 6th, 2023

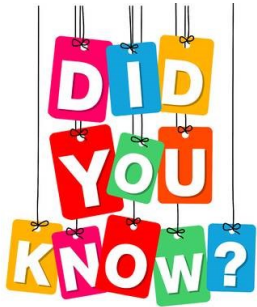
Submitted By: Secretary Domenic Ceccanecchio



RIDE WITH PRIDE

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Did you know...

There are a couple of different ways that the military will drape a United States flag on the casket of a deceased serviceman or service woman. This includes Closed Casket, Half Couch (open), and Full Couch (open). The standard protocol is the blue field is placed at the head and over the left shoulder.

Did you know...

FLORIDA STATUTE 316.209(3)(4) DEFINES STRICT REGULATIONS ON WHERE HOW AND WHERE MOTORCYCLISTS CAN OPERATE WHILE RIDING ON LANED ROADWAYS. ACCORDING TO THE STATUTE:

"Operating motorcycles on roadways laned for traffic – no person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles; Motorcycles shall not operate more than two abreast in a single lane."

Rodney Stearns



THE SAFETY ZONE



Greeting Follow Blue Knights,

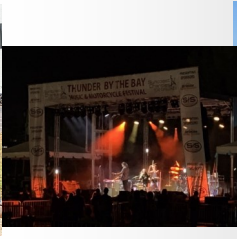
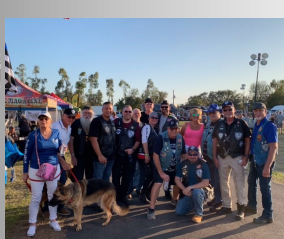
We are in search of Road Captains for the chapter that can help with the rides for the upcoming SRC Conference in April. What makes a go Road Captain? A person with leadership qualities the provides for the safety and welfare of a group of rides. Someone who is well organized, disciplined and avoids creating exacerbating hazardous situations. So, please consider stepping up to take on this role. I can provide the Road Captain Manuel for your review.

The manual consists of the following sections.



OBJECTIVES	THE LEADER	THE CHASE RIDER
Qualifications	Responsibilities	Safety Equipment
Road Captain Briefing	Pre-Ride Briefing	Riding Formations
Traffic Lanes	Lane Changes	Passing
Mentors	Practical Exercises	Final Approval
Maintaining Qualifications	Large Group Staging	

**Anyone can learn to be a Road Captain help keep our members safe!
We still plan to have an informal class and fun riding times sometime in early 2023.**



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VP Message Jim Thomas

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Good afternoon all, we've had a busy quarter and it's time to dial it back. We want to keep the fellowship to continue to grow. Maybe some evening rides or the bowling or gun shows or ranges. The point is to continue to bond as a chapter. Cohesion by definition is to bring multiple entities together to be a whole. This is what we should be striving for every day. It's a solid chapter when the members are close enough to know when help is needed without the asking.

So we have gun ranges, lunches, bowling leagues and what else. How bout all hands evenings out. Bikes, cars whatever. The membership is growing slowly but I could always use ambassadors out talking up the chapter to bring new applicants in. We need to start looking to the younger generations because let's face it, we're not getting any younger. There has to be a next wave. Any assistance getting them to meetings would be appreciated.

Overall I think the chapter is gelling together well and is growing closer. AND PLEASE, remember the people on our list who are in need of checking on.

I will see some of you at the next lunch and the rest of you at the next meeting.

Have a good month and be safe.



IS IT GOOD TO STRETCH RIGHT BEFORE A WORKOUT?

The answer is "YES", stretching before a workout will loosen muscles and warm up the body. However, stretching afterwards also has benefits, like increased blood flow which helps muscle recovery. The most important time to stretch is after a workout, whether you the workout is intense or just a light workout.

I personally was not a big fan of stretching either before or after a workout. Because like most people I wanted to jump right into the workout, or I was just too tired after the workout to do the stretching. I can tell you from personal experience that was one of my biggest mistakes. The muscle exhaustion, soreness, and flexibility were non-existent

After talking with another personal trainer, she educated me on the importance of taking that 5 to 10 minutes after a workout to stretch was the best advice I could have received. Though years of experience, I can attest that taking the time to stretch before and after workouts did wonders for me as it can for you. The wonders of the modern internet have numerous stretching exercise videos, platforms like Google and YouTube would be a good starting point.

Just remember that everyone is a little different, age, injuries old and new, physical conditioning, etc., you know your own body. Listen to what your body is telling you and avoid unnecessary injuries. Go slow at first, any pain or discomfort stop immediately what you are doing and consult your family physician. Also, drink plenty of water and stay hydrated.

Let's keep moving towards a healthier lifestyle!

Director Chris Scardino
Fitness Advocate and Trainer





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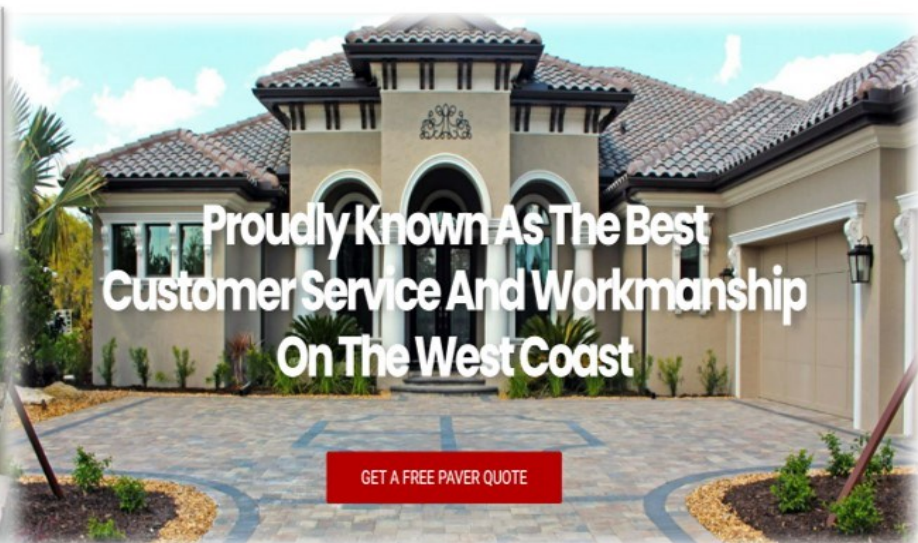
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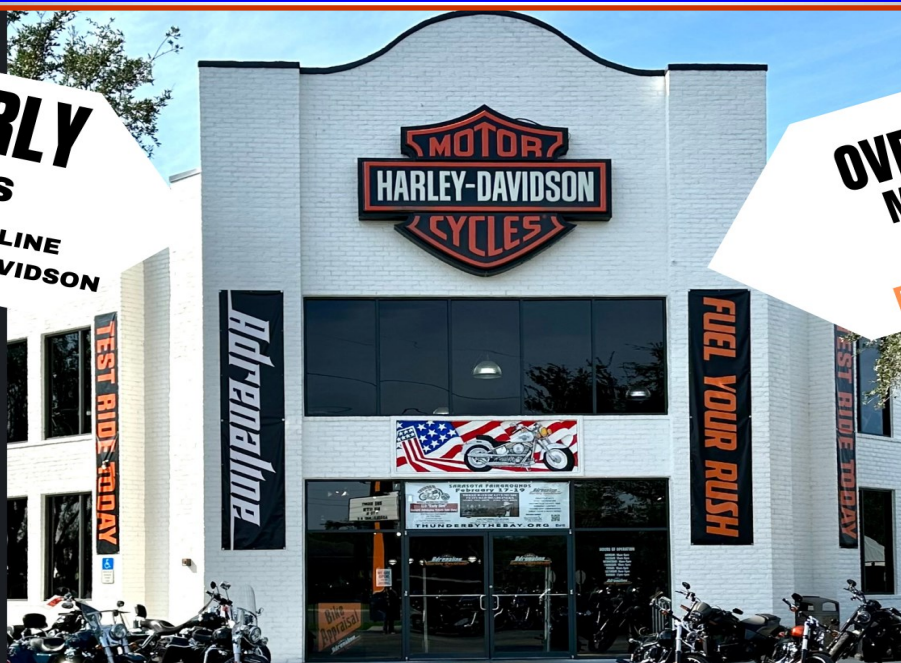
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Beverly Hills Dog Premier Doggy Daycare

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941-822-0888

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