



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Seasons Greetings fellow knights and friends,

The past few years I have learned to love a Southwest Florida Christmas. Plenty of sunshine during the day and Christmas lights to enjoy at night on a beautiful motorcycle ride. Bounds of Christmas activity but in shorts and tee shirts what's not to love. With the holidays upon us and being away from family and friends back in the frozen states is nice having our Blue Knights family to enjoy the season with. I'm look forward to our Christmas Party. We have a delicious dinner, live music, dancing, and festive games planned. It's going to be a great time with great people.

We close out 2023 after a very busy chapter year. We hosted a successful SRC, we raised money for our charities, we made new friends and members and said goodbye to a few who transferred to Heaven one. We went on a few rides, ran a few big rides, and enjoyed many meals, had a few shootouts and a lot of laughs. We have held up our brothers and sisters when they have been sick and built bonds that will last a lifetime.

Thank you FL XVIII for all the work that was done with all the events and activities that were attended that made 2023 a successful year. Look out 2024!

Ride with Pride
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

Saturday 12/2

9:00 AM - FL XVI Bike Blessing, Jones Loop Wawa 26415 Indian Trail Dr Punta Gorda 33550, Exit 161 75S. Look out for a northern meet up spot and time coming soon.

Tuesday 12/5

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

Tuesday 12/5

7:00 PM Monthly Chapter Meeting 2nd floor Sahib Shriners 600 N Beneva RD. Please, if you haven't paid your dues please bring them to the meeting or drop them in the mail. We will also be collecting for the Christmas party. Tickets are \$30 per person.

Saturday 12/16

Wreaths Across America Sarasota National Cemetery. This year the wreaths will not be escorted due to the road construction just a salute in the parking lot and the unloading the trucks. Meet up at Dunkin Donuts 5641 Clark Road SRQ 6:15 AM KSU 6:30 AM. Come by car or bike.

Chapter Christmas Party SUNDAY 12/17



4:00 PM Cocktail hour Dinner, Dance, entertainment 5pm to 9pm. Rooms available \$104 a night. Hotel Venezia Ramada 425 us41 bypass North Venice 34285. RSVP BY 12/10 \$30.00 per person.

NOTE: We will be doing a shop and drop for our charities look for the announcements of dates and times.



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023

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Blue Knights FLXVIII Christmas Party

When: Sunday, December 17th, 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

Checks made payable and sent to:

Blue Knights FLXVIII

PO BOX 2031, Sarasota Florida 34230

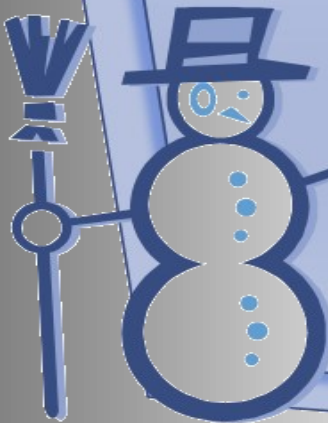
A fun evening is planned with live entertainment, great food, dancing, holiday gifts, games and prizes.

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.



Special Event

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CORNHOLE FOR THE KIDS

MONDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 11TH

**By: The Blue Knights
& Haolenaut Sports**



- **CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**
- **50/50**
- **RAFFLE PRIZES**

***CLICK IN EVENT
FOR FULL DETAILS**

**SARASOTA EVENT CENTER
600 N BENEVA RD
SARASOTA, FL 34233**



**HAOLENAUT
CORNHOLE**





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

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
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 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



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



SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET



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DECEMBER

ZODIAC SIGNS



Sagittarius (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.



Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Capricorns are overachievers, persistent, practical, and sensitive. They're known for their hardworking habits, and they're overachievers who make success look effortless — even though they put a lot of time and care into their careers and relationships.

VP Message Jim Thomas

Brother and Sister Knights,

Happy holidays, brothers, and sisters. I hope this finds you well.

Another season of family joy is upon us. A group of us went down to Fort Myers and really enjoyed the shindig that our sister chapter put on. Thank you to Chuck in his crew for inviting us. as a chapter is great if we support our surrounding chapters. It's very nice if we go out and make an appearance at their events because they are doing that for us. Our Fort Myer compatriots always show up for our events. So please if you also have time to do so , please remember them when they have their events. I believe 13 of us showed up which is awesome.

By the time you get this, we will have had a meeting about dollars for Dantes. Thanksgiving will have passed and we will be moving onto the Christmas celebrations. If anybody needs anything or has a reason to need an ear or a shoulder, please let us know. Patrick and I are available for anybody who may need an empathetic here. I will keep this short, but I want to wish you all a very happy holiday and the best of New Year's. Merry Christmas to all and to all good night!

And good day to all,

Jim



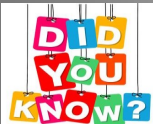


Merry Christmas



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Compliments of Rodney Stearns



This law was enacted in Sarasota. Accordingly, it is against the law to sing in public while dressed in a swimsuit. Sometimes laws are executed and never repealed or removed from the law books... although we know they likely will never be enforced either. This bizarre regulation was possibly enacted to prevent indecency in public, but it remains unclear why the specific garment of a swimsuit was targeted. Frankly, there is really no one wanting to see our VP trying his karaoke out in a swimsuit anyway.

The laws intent was probably implemented to maintain a certain level of decorum in public spaces, especially in beach areas and public pools where swimwear is commonly worn. The combination of singing, which naturally attracts attention, with the relative lack of clothing that a swimsuit provides could have been seen as overly disruptive or indecent behavior, hence the establishment of this law.

Blue Knights® International
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.



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.

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

Important Chapter Business



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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
- ✦ 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 ELECTION RESULTS FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS

Fellow Knight's,

Nominations for Chapter Officer positions (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary or Sergeant at Arms) were received and presented to the members in attendance at the November 7th chapter meeting. There were only five (5) nominations received by the posted deadline and they are as follows:

President - Patrick Gibbons

Vice President - James Thomas

Secretary - Domenic Ceccanecchio

Treasurer - John Emrick

Sergeant at Arms - James Ryan

In so far as these knights, who currently serve in these positions were unopposed, they will continue in the respective offices for the next two years as per Blue Knight bylaws.

The next elections will take place on October, 2024 for Director positions. Any questions please call President Gibbons.

Chaplains Message



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My Brothers and Sisters

The True Meaning Of Christmas



Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

When fall has given way to winter and snow covers the ground while lights twinkle from house to house, you know Christmas is coming. Decorated Christmas trees are everywhere you look. Presents crowd for space under the tree and families come together for a feast. Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas?

The Christmas Story in the Bible

The Christmas story is recorded in Luke 2:4-19.

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, while in the city of Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son named Jesus, she wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.

True Meaning of Christmas: Celebrating the Savior

Jesus was born in order to pay the price for the things we have done wrong: sin. God sent his only son to be the atonement for all our sins so that we would not be separated from God.

Most Christmas traditions vary in significance and symbolic meaning. For example, we exchange gifts because God sent us the most precious gift: his only Son. Also, three Wisemen visited Jesus and brought gifts as well. A poem titled *A Visit from St. Nicholas* penned in 1822 popularized the tradition of exchanging gifts too.

Although people worldwide celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th, it was likely that he was born on a different month and date. The church in the 4th century chose December 25th as it coordinated with the Solstice on the Roman Calendar.

Wishing everyone and beautiful and safe holiday, remember to praise our Lord in thanks for what we have been given. Remember those less fortunate and give to others in the spirit of celebrating our savior. As former law enforcement and current Blue Knights we all witnessed those in need. As pillars of our community we can make a difference in the life of someone else this Christmas season.

May God bless each and every one of you!



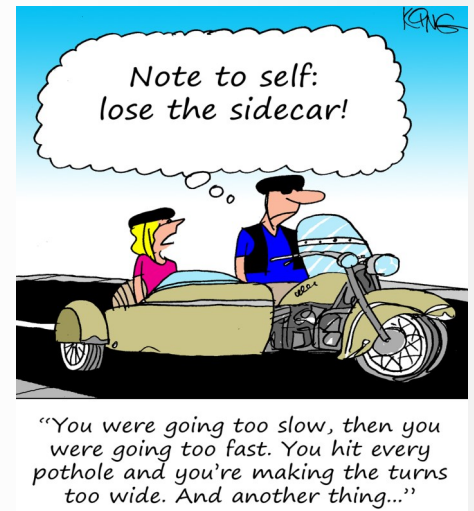
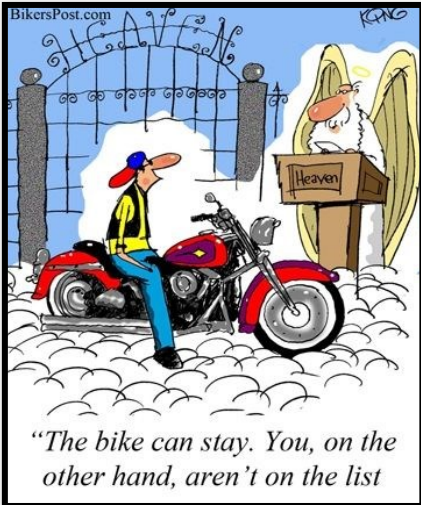
Chaplain Jimmy Kirkpatrick

Punch it,
Fat Boy!

on the LIGHTER SIDE

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October Chapter Meeting Highlights



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Meeting Call to Order: by [President Gibbons](#) @ 7:05PM

In attendance: Executive officers: 4 Officers: 6 Members: 15 Guests: 4

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

Invocation: by Tom Ruhbart

Welcoming Remarks: President Gibbons introduced new member Brian Bender who transferred from NY10

PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

- Chapter Officer Election: **See Secretary report.** We will finish the election process at the December 5th meeting.
- Chapter Christmas Party. RSVP By 12/10. \$30.00 Per person you can mail your check to our PO BOX but please note what the money is for because we are also collecting yearly dues at this time. You can also pay at the next meeting on December 5th. The members of the 10-13 club have also been invited.
- Christmas charities. Vinny checked with the Sarasota Sheriff Charity the address they provided is a questionable residence and has been rejected for our donation. We will move back to the Manatee County Sheriff's Department Child Protection Services. Sid Jones did receive contact from Manatee County and they asked for help. The board approved \$500 and Sid Jones and his wife donated \$500 for a total of \$1000. We also approved the State CPS. Jim Thomas / Jimmy Kirkpatrick are working on this.
- Irving Medina contacted President Gibbons regarding the FDVA (Veterans) they have a place in Port Charlotte that could use some assistance with personal goods. If you would like to donate we will collect the items at the next meeting. President Gibbons will set up a ride Breakfast and we can make the delivery of the items or you bring your donations personally at the time of the ride. that is ok me.
- Thunder By the Bay. Rory MacConnell has donated a new American Tactical, 12 gauge, 5 shot clip and 100 rounds of ammo for our raffle. President Gibbons is having ticket books printed. Tickets will be \$15 each or 5 for \$40.
- Wreaths Across America (December 16th). Due to the road construction on (SR 72 – I-75) we will not be escorting the wreaths this year. They asked if (only Motorcycles) could assemble by 7:00 AM at the Cemetery to salute the truck and drivers. They will also need help to unload the trucks at that time. Our members wanted to stick with the Sarasota Memorial only.
- ANNUAL DUES: Please have your yearly dues turned in by the next meeting on December 5th. We will take cash or checks in the amount of \$40.00. If you mail it in to our PO Box please make a notation that it is for your dues. President Gibbons will start calling members in mid-December to remind you that you are in arrears. It's a very busy time of year we truly would appreciate not having to call anyone.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JAMES THOMAS

- Membership Update: We have 3 new members bringing our membership to 54 total.
- Dantes Den – Volunteers are needed to support the event. Tentative date March 2024. More to follow.

TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK

- Motion to accept October Treasurers Report: Motion: Brian MacConnell, 2nd: Jim Ryan, Unanimous Approval
- Current Financial Position is good.

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO N/A

Motion to accept October Minutes: Motion: Don Porter, 2nd: Jim Ryan, Unanimous Approval

Only five (5) submissions/nominations have been received for the following chapter positions:

President: Patrick Gibbons is the only person that responded for the position

Vice-President: Jim Thomas is the only person that responded for the position

Secretary: Dom Ceccanecchio is the only person that responded for the position

Treasurer: John Emrick is the only person that responded for the position

Sergeant at Arms: Jim Ryan is the only person that responded for the position

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

The NOVEMBER newsletter has been posted on the website

SAFETY OFFICER: We need volunteer to fill this position.

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: N/A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

“Corn Hole Tournament”, Monday night December 11th at the Shrine. \$10 buy-in. Prizes and raffle.

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

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

RORY MACCONNELL, GERI BUSCEMI, JEFFREY LONGWELL, PAUL FIEBER, JACK OVADIA

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$80

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 7:55PM Motion: Brian MacConnell, 2nd: Jim Thomas, Unanimous Approval

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 2023



Party Time

BLUE KNIGHTS® LEMC

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



FL XVI's Annual Diner Dance



RIDE WITH PRIDE **but do so safely!**

BLUE KNIGHTS



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NOVEMBER 2023

Safety Tips.

Group riding.

All motorcycle clubs no matter how large or how small will at some point ride together in a group. Whether it is 20 motorcycles or 1000 motorcycles, safety for everyone should be a concern for all participants.

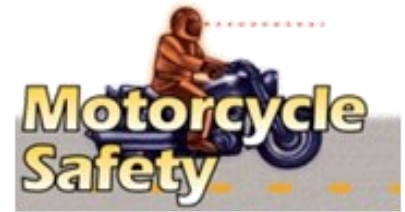
Every rider should be aware of not only their surroundings but, the riders in front of them. Riding in a group in an urban area is very different than riding out on the open road.

Perception/reaction at low speed, perception/reaction at high speed. The average perception/reaction for someone in good health and no distractions is 1.5 seconds. Add increased age and distractions and this time/distance increases.

At 35 miles per hour (urban riding), your vehicle is traveling at 51.31 feet per second so the time you perceive an event and react to it, you have traveled 76.96 feet.

At 60 miles per hour (highway riding), your vehicle is traveling at 87.96 feet per second so the time you perceive an event and react to it, you have traveled 131.94 feet.

We all want to enjoy the ride so let's make sure we all get to our destinations safely.



RWP

John Emrick



SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

RORY MACCONNELL

GERI BUSCEMI

JEFFREY LONGWELL

PAUL FIEBER

ROBIN GRUTERS



Support our Sponsors

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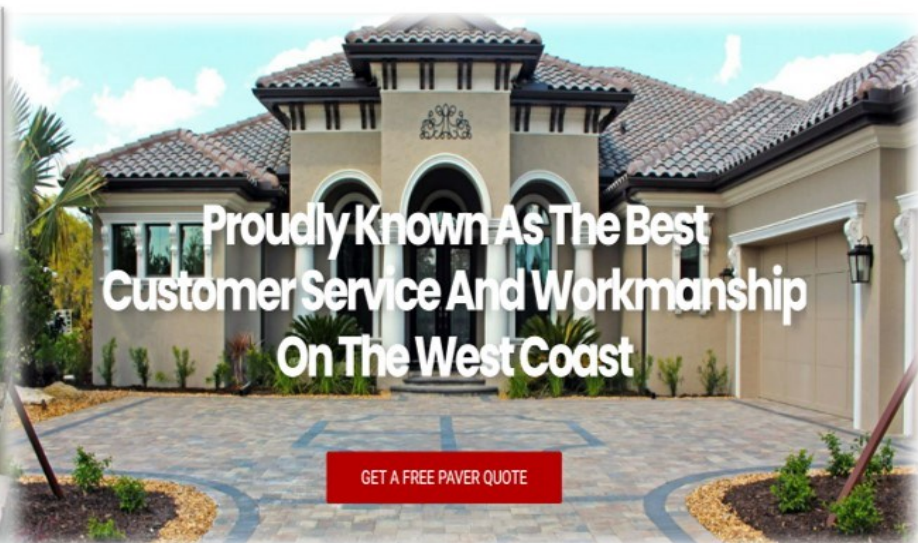
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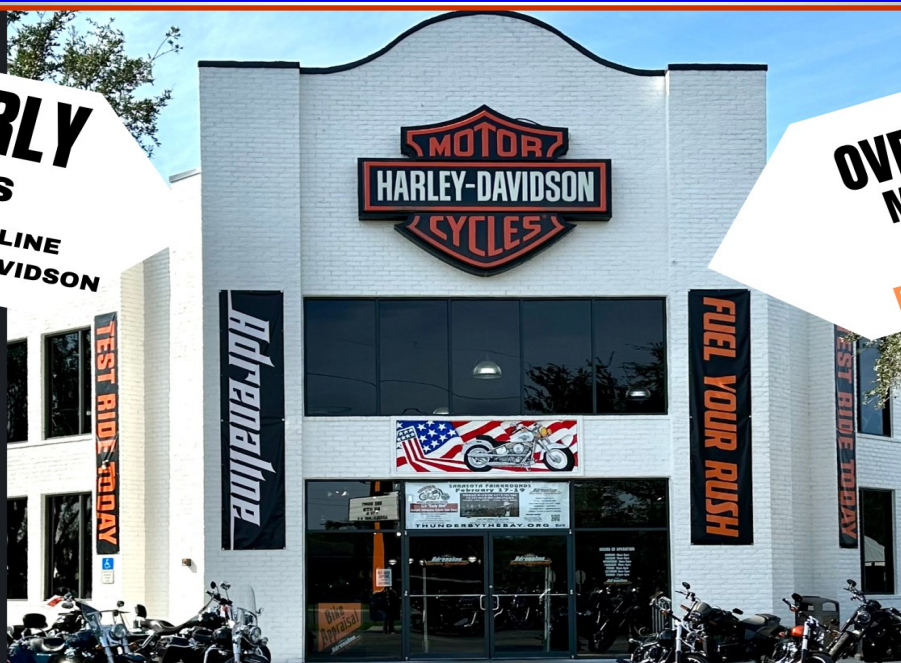
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Beverly Hills Dog Premier Doggy Daycare

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Kristen

Owner / Groomer

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