



# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

February is upon us and in a few weeks we will be working at the Thunder by The Bay Music and Motorcycle Festival, February 16th through the 18th. This years big headliner band is The Grand Funk Railroad.

The Chapter will have our booth set up and we will be selling the last of the shotgun raffle tickets. We will have our hospitality trailer open come on out and enjoy the music and festivities.

On Sunday February the 18th we will be leading the "Ride So Children Can Thrive" motorcycle charity ride. This years ride is extra special for the Blue Knights. The Suncoast Charities for Children has dedicated this years ride in loving memory of Rory MacConnell.

Rory was always passionate about this ride and event. He always had a knack to help raise more money for the charity. A few years ago Rory kidnaped the Fire and Iron MC's prop dummy from the Fire and Iron booth. Rory had the Fire and Iron MC walk the crowd with firefighters boots and collect the ransom money for Mr.

Dummy. The dummy was returned after almost \$1000 was collected. So this year we ride for Rory and celebrate all the good work and his dedication over the years helping with this event.

So lets get the bikes ready and cleaned up and put on the best ride we can for a true "Blue Knights Honor Ride."

*Ride with Pride*  
*Patrick Gibbons*  
President, FLXVIII



## February Ride and Event Schedule

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

### Saturday 2/3

George and Sue Alec have invited us to attend a Hope Riders ride. This ride includes a mens breakfast (donation) and a ride after. If you are coming for breakfast be at the Church at 8:00 AM Church Of Hope 2300 Lakewood Ranch Blvd Sarasota. KSU 10:00 AM for the ride. Ladies will be having breakfast at 7:45 AM at the Bob Evans on Fruitville.

### 2/6 Tuesday

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

### 2/6 Tuesday

7:00 PM— Monthly General Membership Meeting. 2nd floor of the Sahib Shrine 600N Beneva RD Sarasota.

### 2/11 Sunday

9:00 AM— Breakfast at Skilletts. 8635 S Tamiami Trail unit 4 Sarasota. ( Ride after breakfast TBB route )



### Thursday 2/15 thru SUNDAY 2/18

Thunder By The Bay  
3000 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34237

**2/15 Thursday—** Booth set up Sarasota Fairgrounds  
Check emails for additional details

**2/16 Friday:** Thunder By The Bay

**2/17 Saturday:** Thunder By The Bay

**2/18 Sunday:** Thunder By The Bay  
"Ride So Children Can Thrive"



### 2/24 Saturday

8:00 AM Ride For Life. Berts Black Widow 2224 El Jobean RD Port Charlotte 33948. Breakfast at 8:00 AM KSU 9:00 AM. \$20 per rider \$10 for passenger. Stop 1 will be Adrenaline HD. Final stop will be Berts Barracuda St Pete. Lunch at end of ride.



## 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

**SID JONES / PAST PRESIDENT**  
**TRACY DUNN**  
**CHRISTOPHER SCARDINO**

## OPERATIONS

**JAMES KIRKPATRICK / CHAPLAIN**  
**DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / WEBMASTER**  
**BRIAN MACCONNELL / QUARTERMASTER**  
**VACANT / SAFETY OFFICER**  
**DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / NEWSLETTER**

## 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)

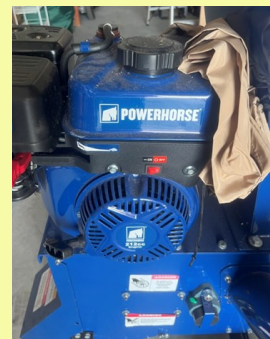


Wood chipper purchased from Northern Tool & Equipment. Purchased on February 8, 2022 and used for ONE HOUR

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

## We need and want your input .....

Send your birthdays, anniversaries, letters, suggestions, items for sale, complaints or any special event you would like to share to:

**Patrick Gibbons**

[PJGIBBY1969@COMCAST.NET](mailto:PJGIBBY1969@COMCAST.NET)

**Jim Thomas**

[ALEXANDJAY1988@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALEXANDJAY1988@GMAIL.COM)

**Dom Ceccanecchio**

[DCC444@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DCC444@COMCAST.NET)





# Special Event



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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## "TASTE OF THUNDER"

CRAFT BEER TASTING EXPERIENCE

**Sarasota  
Sahib Shrine  
Event Center**

600 N. BENEVA RD. | SARASOTA

**FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 2 – 6 PM TIL 9 PM**

**Discounted Early Bird Tickets - \$30 Per Person**  
(100% Tax Deductible)

**Tickets Purchased After January 28 - \$35 Per Person**  
(100% Tax Deductible)

**Cash Bar and Food Available**



SCAN ME  
FOR TICKETS

### PRESENTING SPONSOR



### PROCEEDS BENEFIT

Suncoast  
Charities  
FOR CHILDREN

### MEDIA SPONSORS



Herald-Tribune

LOCALiQ

**92.1 CTQ**  
AND 103.1 IN BRADENTON



**\*107.9**  
WWSB

**Z105**  
SUNCOAST CLASSIC ROCK

**ENJOY SAMPLINGS FROM THESE LOCAL BREWERIES**



**BIG TOP  
BREWING CO.**



**INFO: THUNDERBYTHEBAY.ORG**   
**TEXT THUNDER TO 941-205-7223 TO RECEIVE FESTIVAL UPDATES**



# Special Event



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## "Ride So Children Can Thrive" Motorcycle Charity Ride Sunday – February 18

### PRESENTING FESTIVAL SPONSORS



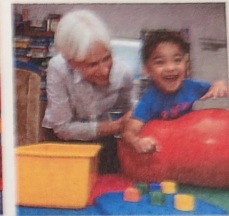
SCAN TO  
PRE-REGISTER  
OR DONATE



### PROCEEDS BENEFIT

Suncoast  
Charities  
FOR CHILDREN

A fundraiser to help support critical therapy services for children with special needs.



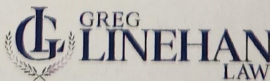
**Registration At Adrenaline Harley-Davidson**  
**\$20 Per Person - 9:30 am til 11:00 am – Ride Departs 11:15 am**



- ★ Includes FREE pancake breakfast!
- ★ Includes FREE admission into the Festival & preferred parking!
- ★ Stops include three local non-profits who receive funding support from Suncoast Charities for Children!



### MAJOR FESTIVAL SPONSORS



### CHARITY RIDE PARTNERS



**INFO: THUNDERBYTHEBAY.ORG**   
**TEXT THUNDER TO 941-205-7223 TO RECEIVE FESTIVAL UPDATES**

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





# Chaplains Message



## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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Many of us that served our community as first responders, still stay connected with fellow co-workers through the various organizations. As a retiree from the Baltimore Police Department, I stay connected with former colleagues through "The Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association".



This brings me to the point of my article this month and the inspiration that comes to be through connection with my law enforcement family. While the connection is great, there is also the pain of being notified that a former colleague has passed away, way too young. I can personally say that over the last few years, I have lost colleagues that were in their 50's and early 60's. The work of the first responders seemed to have a direct impact on our longevity time on this earth. I saw this post from Officer Brad Philip that fits most of your careers as law enforcement officers.

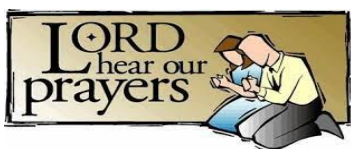
"My head hurts from being pummeled repeatedly with rocks. My arms and torso ache from taking direct hits from water bottles flung at us. My shin

hurts from a tear gas canister that someone threw back at us. My back hurts from having to wear riot gear for 7 hours on top of my normal 30 extra pounds of gear. I vomited for 10 minutes into a toilet when I got home this morning. My sense of dignity is hurt by the unspeakable things that were said to my brothers and sisters in blue who happen to be black. My sense of family is hurt by the unspeakable things that were said to us about our own children, parents, and siblings. And my heart breaks for the city that I love. I know my city is hurting right now. I know people are angry and want answers. But there's only one way we can move forward together, right now: love. Lots and lots of love. Connect. Respect. Protect. And Love. Time to go keep the peace." – Ofc. Brad Philip, Public Facebook Post, 9/21/16

As first responders your faithful service helped create peace in the world and now it is time to create peace within yourself. Studies have shown that there is a **positive association** between religious participation and **happiness** and **civic engagement**. The relationship between religion and health is very complex. Some studies have found positive associations between religion and health, such as how Americans who regularly attend religious services tend to live longer. I believe that the positive impact of religious beliefs can be associated with better mental health, including lower rates of depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, and suicidal behavior. If you haven't already, I strongly encourage our Blue Knight membership to seek that personal relationship with our Lord. Attending a local church and feeling the spirit of worship grow within you can bring the peace and harmony you deserve at this juncture of your life. May peace be with you always.



*Chaplain Jimmy Kirkpatrick*



## |SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

GERI BUSCEMI

JEFFREY LONGWELL

ROBIN GRUTERS





# Chapter Event

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Cowpoke's  
**W**atering  
**H**ole







*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

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## SRC Spring Meeting

Statesboro, GA

April 5-6, 2024

Hosts: The SRC Executive Board & Georgia Chapter II  
(There is NO Registration Fee)



### Location / Host Hotel

Comfort Inn & Suites Statesboro - University Area  
17870 GA-67, Statesboro, GA 30458

Rooms rates are \$99 plus tax.

The rate is available for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Make reservations by calling 912-681-2400

**Ask for, or choose, the Front Desk. Do not choose the Reservations option.**

Mention group code - Blue Knights SRC.

**Reservations MUST BE MADE by MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>.**

### Schedule

#### Friday, April 5th

3:00 PM - Hotel Check-in and Dinner (Dinner is on your own)

7:30 PM - Hospitality Room Open

#### Saturday, April 6th

8:30 AM - SRC Business Meeting

10:30 AM – Ride to the **National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force**

The ride is approximately 50 miles. After the museum visit riders will have the opportunity to visit and explore nearby Savannah, GA, and/or visit Savannah Harley-Davidson. - For those not going on the museum ride there will be the option to visit the nearby Blue Knights GA II Clubhouse.

6:00 PM – Southern BBQ Dinner (compliments of GA II at the host hotel)

8:00 PM - Hospitality Room Open

#### Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

8:30 AM - Church Service / Devotional

Check-out and Safe Travels



NATIONAL  
MUSEUM OF THE  
MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE

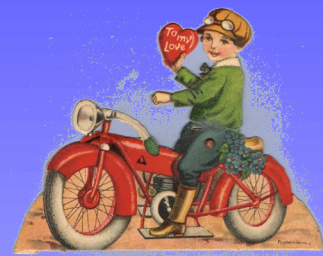


(The schedule is tentative and may be subject to change.)

For Information contact:

Mike Shockley (SRC Chairman) - [msshockley@gmail.com](mailto:msshockley@gmail.com)  
Bobby Durden (GA II President) - [bobbydurden16@hotmail.com](mailto:bobbydurden16@hotmail.com)





# BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

## FEBRUARY

## ZODIAC SIGNS



### Aquarius (January 20 to February 18)

Aquarians are clever, analytical, technical, truthful, assertive, confident, progressive and innovative. They like to solve problems, improve what's already working well, and push boundaries. They are activists, campaigners and progressors of the causes they think will make a difference to the world.



### Pisces (February 19 to March 20)

Happy Birthday, Pisces! The Pisces astrological symbol shows two fish swimming in opposite directions, representing the duality within the Piscean nature. This zodiac sign symbolizes intuition, empathy, and adaptability. People born under Pisces are compassionate, artistic, and imaginative, often driven by deep emotional understanding and creativity. Learn more about Pisces' personality and compatibility.

## January Chapter Meeting Highlights

**THERE WAS NO CHAPTER MEETING IN JANUARY**



**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS  
7:00PM ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 2024  
2ND FLOOR OF THE SAHIB SHRINE  
600N BENEVA RD SARASOTA.**

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

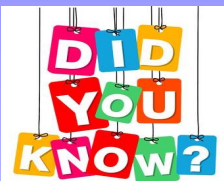




*Happy  
Valentine's Day*

**BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2024**



If you have one of those motorcycle helmets with the built-in headset for your phone, Florida law says you can use it for communication while riding. Legally you cannot use headphones to listen to music while riding your motorcycle. Keep in mind that the headset should only provide sound through one ear. Two-ear helmet headsets are forbidden. Listening devices that prevent you from hearing surrounding noise cannot be worn while riding a motorcycle in Florida. Wearing an earpiece connected to your cell phone would not violate the law as long as one ear is available to hear other sounds around you.

**Compliments of Rodney Stearns**



**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 YOUR COLORS AND PROMOTE OUR ORGANIZATION**

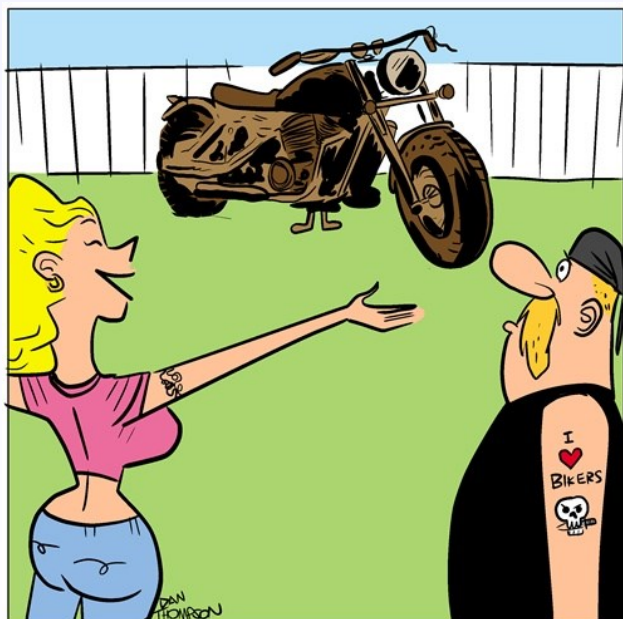




# On the LIGHTER SIDE

## BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024



"HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! IT'S THE BIKE YOU ALWAYS DREAMED OF...MADE ENTIRELY OF CHOCOLATE!"



## Bumper Stickers for Seniors



Shiell





# Support our Sponsors

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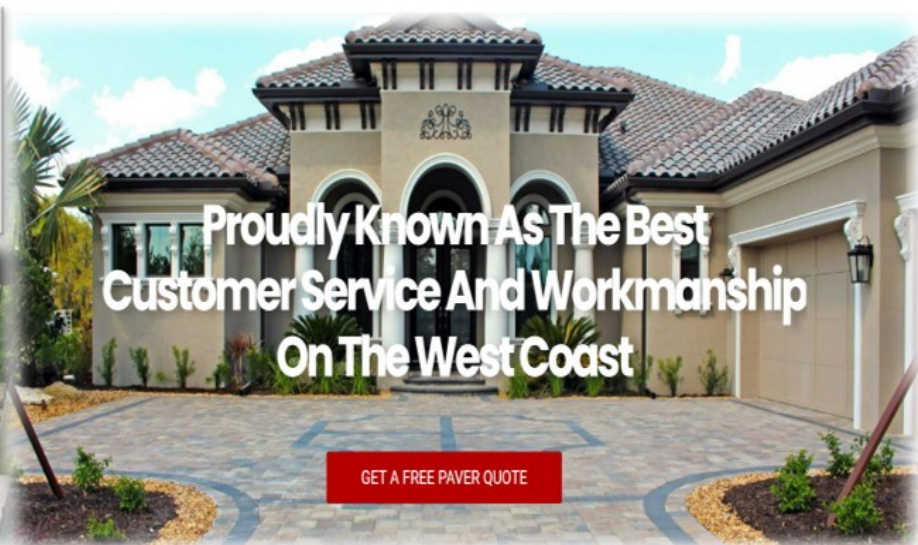
FEBRUARY 2024

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### Beverly Hills Dog Premier Doggy Daycare

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2030 Bispham Road Sarasota 34231

941-822-0888

<http://www.beverlyhillsdog.net>

CONCIERGE OVERNIGHT CARE AVAILABLE



ARE YOU LIVING VOGUE

## LIVING VOGUE

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REALTOR - Charles Ratliff

1540 Main St, Sarasota, FL 34236

732-735-0738

[charles@livingvogue.com](mailto:charles@livingvogue.com)

WHERE LIFE MEETS STYLE



## Gulf Sands Realty

Gulf Sands Realty is your home for  
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Manatee Counties

### Contact Us

📍 7061 S Tamiami Trail, Suite #109  
Sarasota, FL 34231

📞 (941) 400-6237

@ [hello@gulfsandsrealty.com](mailto:hello@gulfsandsrealty.com)



Greg and Cynthia Brock  
Broker/Owners

### Mission BBQ



118 Reviews

Hours: 11am - 9pm

5231 University Pkwy, Sarasota

(941) 841-9279



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



## Rodeo Drive Pet Spa

941-210-3495

Kristen

Owner / Groomer

2030 Bispham Road

Unit 4

Sarasota FL 34231