

Sunday, Mar 17, 2024



BLUE KNIGHTS®FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

Message from your President

March Ride and Event Schedule

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Happy March!!

Things are heating up and the days are getting longer in beautiful South West Florida. We have some great upcoming events and rides planned for you as well as a multi chapter BBQ in Sebring April 8th. I will need your RSVP for this event as soon as possible. It should be a great time meting fellow Knights from around the state.

Unfortunately our Thunder By The Bay charity ride was canceled this year due to rain. This ride was dedicated to Rory MacConnell. We are working on a makeup ride and event with the Suncoast Charities for Children stay tuned for details.

I would like to thank everyone who came out and helped with this years Thunder By The Bay. This is a huge event for us. Its very time consuming and takes some manpower but we usually are able to make a nice amount of our yearly donation money for our kids and charities.

This year we have donated \$1000.00 to the Suncoast Charities for Children. We helped with the Taste of Thunder raising funds by having fun and we volunteered with security work in the VIP area during the Thunder By The Bay event. All of this directly impacts all the children who benefit from the Suncoast Charities.

I am so very proud of our chapter for all the work and time dedicated to everything we do for our community and the kids who need it.

Ride with Pride

Patrick Gibbons

President, FLXVIII



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

Saturday 3/2 10:00AM

Lunch ride to "The Hot Tomato", 2702 E college Ave Ruskin 33570 Meet up at the Wawa 14510 Rt70E / Lorraine Rd) KSU 10:15AM

Tuesday 3/5 5:30PM

Dine at the Shrine. Hot Sands Tiki Bar 600 N Beneva RD Sarasota.

Tuesday 3/5 7:00PM

Monthly membership meeting. 2nd fl Sahib Shriners 600 N Beneva RD Sarasota.



Friday 3/8, 9:00AM

"Shootout with Bobby G." 9:00 AM, at the Knight Trail Park 3445 Rustic Rd Nokomis 34275. We can grab lunch afterwards. If you are interested please email bgrot-z2@yahoo.com and if you would please copy President Gibbons at PJGIB-BY1969@comcast.net Rain date Friday March 15th

Saturday 3/9 11:30AM

Blue Knights appreciation day at Berts Black Widow Harley Davidson and the Twisted Fork restaurant. 2224 El Jobeen RD Port Charlotte. 10:30AM Meet at the Wawa Exit 193 75S (2970 Executive Dr Venice 34292) KSU 10:45AM.

Lunch is being provided free of charge in the VIP area. Discounts on shopping and Service. Blue Knights Banner signing. Buy a bike and we get a \$500 donation to our charity. This special day is just like what Bert did for us back in October.. This is for our snowbirds and our members who couldn't make it. Come out and enjoy a great event and great food! Please RSVP to me by 3/1.

Friday 3/15 11:00AM

Lunch at Mission BBQ 5231 University PKWY Sarasota

Monday 3/18 6:00PM

Dinner at Der Dutchman 3713 Bahia Vista ST Sarasota

Sunday 3/24 9:00AM

Breakfast at Bob Evans (Fruitville RD) 5903 Brookhill Blvd Sarasota ***RIDE AFTER BREAKFAST***



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

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BRIAN MACCONNELL / QUARTERMASTER

VACANT / SAFETY OFFICER

DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / NEWSLETTER

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

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 <u>iryanretired@aol.com</u> 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





Sale 2008 Harley Softail 31K miles, asking \$6,700





IF INTERESTED EMAIL BGROTZ2@YAHOO.COM



.223 Cal, Stainless Steel, Synthetic Butler Creek Folding Stock, Top GG&G Custom Picatinny Rail Mount, Lower Picatinny Mount, Ultralux 4x20 Custom Mount Scope, 6 Rugar Factory 30 rd. mags,1 Rugar Factory 5 rd. mag, Rugar Factory Sight Adjustment Tool, 196 Series. Excellent Condition. Approx 500 - 600 rds. of use but cleaned each time.

\$850 Contact Don dapnyiv@yahoo.com or 585-739-3465 and leave message.

VP Jim Thomas is getting rid of a motorcycle sliding stand for \$50. Fits everything from an electric glide and smaller. Makes fitting the bike into tight spaces easy.



Give him a call if you want it. 941-334-3338



May you make more of friends, and no enemies!

May you make more money, and lose none.

May you get blessed on St. Patrick's Day

with Good Luck galore

TBYLLOVE KANNIGHTISO IBENAC

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Treasurers Report

Because of the hard work and dedication of our members under the leadership of President Gibbons, we ended the year with a surplus of funds. The SRC, Thunder by the Bay, our raffles and others provided enough income to fund our many charitable causes. This surplus has now been transferred to our Charity Bank Account for use to fund future events. Don't forget, our 50/50 raffle at the monthly meetings is used to fund our annual Christmas party so be sure and see Jim to purchase a ticket or two before each meeting.

John Emrick Treasurer



Every rider who participates in any type of group riding event should be aware of the hand signals the "Safety Officer" or "Road Captains" use. But it's not enough to know the signals and their meanings, all should be aware of when to use them. It is a safe practice for the following riders to see the signal, copy the signal so following riders are aware and then put both hands back on the handlebars. By "passing" the signal down the group everyone is aware of what the lead riders are seeing.



Ride with Pride

"Safely"

John Emerick Chapter Treasurer

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VP Message Jim Thomas

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The right hand of service.

I have spoken to several Knights over the past few weeks, and some have shared the same views as I. A few weeks ago, our chapter was devastated by the passing of two brothers. As it stands, we have seen the troops rally, but I noticed that while one did work for the Knights, the other did God's work. Not much has been said about this brother. No great big parade has been awarded for his passing. No banners, no acknowledgement other than to say his passing was tragic. We sat and listened to stories about how this brother always made sure his friends knew he was thinking of them. He was always available to the call of his church but to some, his call went much deeper with his faith behind the wheel. His life was dedicated to doing for others. If he thought you needed shirts, he went into his closet and got them for you. If he thought you needed to talk to someone, he called you relentlessly to come break bread with him. I have talked to people who shared his pew and heard tales of him finding homeless people, bringing them home, giving them a place to bathe, a meal and a good night's sleep. I have heard tales of a man who would give shelter to those in need because he felt it was God's work. Never an unkind word to be spoken of anyone, regardless of if they were before him or not. Always words of support. He was a pillar of his church. He did for those who were incapable of doing for themselves. His goal was to help his fellow man, never himself. His thoughts were always of others. His kindness and his smile was always warm and brought others smiles to the surface. If there were a physical definition of a good man, I feel this man would embody the very definition. He will be missed and I feel the surrounding chaos of his departure left thoughts of his contributions to this world unmentioned. He will be sorely missed and I hope that he has finally found his end to his pain in his transition to Heaven one. Rest well Paul Feiber. As we lose brothers, we need to remember them all with the same elegance and respect. This man certainly earned it. Ride with Pride. Go with God and may peace reign in all hearts. When our brothers fall, they should all be held in high honor. It's always man's worst fear that they die alone and unmentioned. It's our job to ensure that never happens.

In other news, The TBTB weekend was a blow but we all had fun and got some good vittles. Thanks to all who braved the oddly unique weather I look forward to seeing what happens next year.





Chaplains Message

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Did You Know?

Exploring Red Cardinal Biblical Meaning and Symbolism

Some of the traditions about the meaning of the presence of a cardinal

- The red cardinal is a spiritual messenger from God.
- The red cardinal is representative of one of departed loved ones attempting contact.
- When a red cardinal hits a window, it is a bad sign representing death.
- The red cardinal represents the blood of Christ.
- Symbolizing combating difficulties with hope in God, the red cardinal appears in times of stress and despair to encourage hope and persistence.



Is that the presence of a red cardinal represents God or a messenger from God? The word cardinal is not specifically used in the Bible. Cardinals are not native to the Mediterranean area, the setting for most of the books of Scripture.

There is no question that God has used animals and birds throughout the Bible as signs of His presence or to draw attention to His message. God used eagles, doves, sparrows, ravens and other birds to demonstrate His love and care for humans.

Some theologians see the cardinal symbolizing the Holy Spirit, combining the fire element of the Spirit's work with the energy and life found in the Spirit. Tied with the blood of Christ, the cardinal represent the eternal life-giving nature of Jesus and His ministry.

The red color of the cardinal has been associated with the living blood of Christ. Cardinals have been seen as a symbol of vitality. In the Christian context, the blood of Christ is the heart of its message, and the vitality is everlasting. "Christ sacrificed his life's blood to set us free, which means that our sins are now forgiven" (Ephesians 1:7 CEV)

Connection With Ancestors

Other Native Americans believe that cardinals are messengers from the spirits of the dead. As such, the cardinal has a strong connection with ancestors. Its appearance stirs the importance of staying connected within the family. Some cultures adopt the cardinal as a totem animal. Rather than migrating, the cardinal stays at home during the difficult winter months.

Messages from the Heavens

God has a history of sending messages to His people. Birds are often believed to be symbols of spiritual messages connecting heaven and earth. While the red cardinal biblical meaning may be spurious, the presence of the cardinal stirs people to feelings of life, restoration, communication and hope. The tradition surrounding the cardinal is rich and respected in history, pointing to the meeting point between the physical and spiritual worlds. You will not be alone if you ponder and contemplate a message from beyond when you sight a cardinal.

Information extracted from "Exploring Red Cardinal Biblical Meaning and Symbolism", By Tom May, Published 10/14/2020.



Jimmy Kirkpatrick, Chaplain



February Chapter Meeting Highlights



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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MINUTES

February 6th, 2024

7:00PM - 2nd 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: Chris Scardino - Director: Tracy Dunn

Quartermaster: Brian MacConnell - Chaplin: James Kirkpatrick - Safety Officer: Vacant

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance: led by President Gibbons

Invocation: by Susan Alec

Welcoming Remarks: by President Gibbons.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

1. Thunder by the Bay:

2/15 Thursday Set Up

2/16 Friday Opening night. 4:00PM to close Booth / VIP Tent (VIP security)

2/17 Saturday 10:00 AM Booth open. VIP Tent 5:00 PM (VIP security)

2/18 Sunday 9:30 AM Ride set up at Adrenaline / Booth at Fairgrounds open at 11:00AM

Ride route: will encompass stopping at three centers and end at the Fairgrounds for the National Anthem. Individual tickets are \$15. A book of 5 cost \$40. This year we have 750 tickets to sell and we have an extra month to sell them. Please help us by selling or buying a ticket or book. The ride this year will be dedicated to Rory MacConnell. Motion to give Suncoast Charities \$1000 was made by James Ryan and 2nd by Jim Thomas, the motion passed with unanimous approval.

2. Ride for life. Starting at BERTS BLACK WIDOW on February 24th

- 3. Save the date! FL 16, 17, and 18 have been working on a multi chapter BBQ in the center of the state for us all to enjoy. RSVP President Gibbons by 4/1. Food catered by Sonny's BBQ. \$20 per head covers the food the air conditioned hall and the parking fee. Come on out and enjoy some brother and sisterhood hopefully we will have chapters from all over the state and SRC. Come by car come by bike we will be working on a group ride over to the park.
- 4. Ordering of new T shirts? Only order shirts for who wants a shirt. We will keep an inventory of shirts in stock.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: JAMES THOMAS

Membership Update: 53 and 1 pending.

TREASURERS REPORT: JOHN EMRICK

- Financial Position: End of year report was presented to the members.
- Approached banks re: club debit/credit cards and are not feasible. Other options being explored.

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

SAFETY OFFICER: Need volunteer to fill position.

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK: N/A

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:

50th Anniversary approaching. See Newsletter for details.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: See above.

NEW BUSINESS:

"Shoot with Bobby" will be held on March 8th at 9:00AM at the Knight Trail Park Pistol and Rifle Range, 3445 Rustic Road, Nokomis, FL 34275

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

Please keep our sick and distressed members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Jeffrey Longwell Jim Kirkpatrick John Chiusano

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$84 Winner: Lauro Perez (\$42)

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 8:00PM, Motion: Pres Gibbons, 2nd: Brian MacConnell, Unanimous Approval

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 5th, 2024

Submitted By: Domenic Ceccanecchio

Secretary BK XVIII

Mark Your Calendars



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"Shootout with Bobby G." 9:00 AM, Friday March 8th at the Knight Trail Park 3445 Rustic Rd Nokomis 34275. WE CAN GRAB LUNCH AFTER-WARDS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL BGROTZ2@YAHOO.COM AND IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COPY PRESIDENT GIBBONS AT PJGIB-BY1969@COMCAST.NET

RAIN DATE Friday March 15th

BULOVE KANNIGHTISO LEENAC

















Jeff Scholl was the lucky winner of our "Thunder by The Bay" charity raffle.

Jeff took away an American Tactical "Bulldog", 12 gauge semi-automatic shotgun and 150 rounds of ammunition.

The winning ticket was sold by brother Knight Bobby G.

Let's not forget that the shotgun was contributed to the chapter by former Chapter President and International VP, Rory MacConnell who continues to look down on our chapter from Heaven 1





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/

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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 1ST.

Schedule

Friday, April 5th

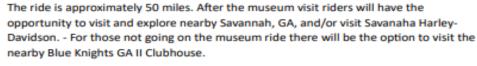
3:00 PM - Hotel Check-in and Dinner (Dinner is on your own)

7:30 PM - Hospitality Room Open



8:30 AM - SRC Business Meeting





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

8:00 PM - Hospitality Room Open

Sunday, April 7th

8:30 AM - Church Service / Devotional

Check-out and Safe Travels

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

For Information contact:

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











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ZODIEC SIGNS



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.



Aries (March 21 - April 19)

The first sign of the zodiac, Aries loves to be number one. Naturally, this dynamic fire sign is no stranger to competition. Bold and ambitious, Aries dives head-first into even the most challenging situations—and they'll make sure they always come out on top!

March Chapter Meeting



THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS
7:00PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5th, 2024
2ND FLOOR OF THE SAHIB SHRINE
600N BENEVA RD SARASOTA.

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



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SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

JEFFREY LONGWELL JIM KIRKPATRICK JOHN CHIUSANO



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

on the LIGHTER SIDE

kiss me, Jush

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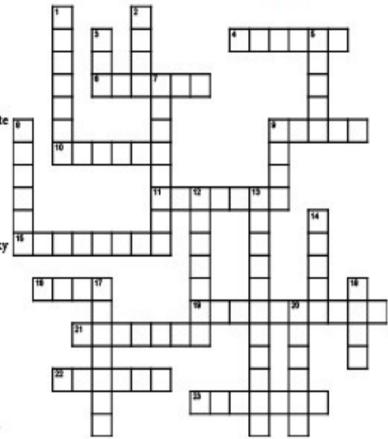
Saint Patrick's Day

ACROSS

- Historically important vegetable in Ireland.
- 6. Native language of Ireland.
- What color are the hills of Ireland?
- 10. The Irish flag is green, white
- 11. St. Patrick is the patron saint of which country?
- 15. Used by St. Patrick to represent the Christian Holy Trinity.
- 16. Number of leaves on a lucky piece of clover.
- A trickster with a pot of gold.
- 21. If you don't wear green on March 17th, you might get . . .
- 22. Capital city of Ireland.
- 23. Saint Patrick's birthplace.

DOWN

- This city dyes its river green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
- 2. Color originally associated with St. Patrick's Day.
- 3. Name for the leprechaun's dance.
- 5. Number of leaves on a shamrock.
- 7. A funny poem with five lines.
- According to legend, St. Patrick chased these out of Ireland.
- 9. It is the pot at the end of a rainbows
- 12. Ireland nickname: The ____ Isle.
- 13. Saint Patrick's Cathedral location.
- Month in which we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.
- 17. Arch of colors in the sky.



- 18. Good fortune.
- 20. Ancient culture of Ireland.



Blue	Leprechaun
Britain	Umerick
Celtic	Luck
Chicago	March
Dublin	New York City
Emerald	Orange
Four	Pinched
Gaelic	Potato
Gold	Rainbow
Green	Shamrock
Ireland	Snekes
Jig	Three









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NEW OWNERSHIP

Adrenaline Harley-Davidson

NEW MANAGEMENT

330 Cattlemen Rd. Sarasota, FL 34232 Fuel Your Rush

941.951.6103 www.adrenalinehd.com



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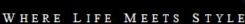
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Greg and Cynthia Brock Broker/Owners



Rodeo Drive Pet Spaw

941-210-3495 Kristen Owner / Groomer 2030 Bispham Road Unit 4 Sarasota FL 34231