Ride with Pride

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

Message from your President

Greetings Fellow Knights,

At the March meeting the membership voted on a few of our charitable donations, $1500.00 to the Suncoast Charities For Children and $750.00 To the Bert's Chrome & Courage Ride befitting local Veterans and first responders.

I am so proud of our chapter always working and earning the funds needed to support our local charities and Leo's in need. All of the above mentioned and our children's Christmas shopping comes from every raffle ticket that is sold. We are also blessed that our Sgt at Arms Jim Ryan created a charity Cornhole event that is held each December. Jim has brought in a lot of funds over the past three years. It's the extra funds that make it possible to give more at Christmas to kids who really need it. Thank you Knights for all your hard work and dedication it helps and makes a huge difference for a lot of people in our community.

We also discussed our future meeting schedule. The membership voted on taking off June, July and August for Summer break. We will resume regular meetings in September. We will still have all regular scheduled rides and events during the summer.

Patrick Gibbons
President, FLXVIII

April Ride and Event Schedule

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

Saturday 4/4 10:00AM
Lunch Ride to the Hitchin Post Cafe 10903 Lithia Pinecrest Rd Letha 33547
Meet up at the Wawa Rt 70E and Lorraine Bradenton 10:00 AM

Tuesday 4/7 5:30PM
Dinner at the Shrine
Hot Sands Tiki Bar
600 N Beneva RD, Sarasota

Tuesday 4/7 7:00 PM
Monthly Chapter Meeting
2nd floor of the Shrine
600 N Beneva RD, Sarasota

Friday 4/10 9:00 AM
Shootout with Bobby G."
Knight Trail Park
3445 Rustic Rd Nokomis 34275.
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

Sunday 4/12 9:00AM
Breakfast at Skillets
8635 S Tamiami Trail Sarasota

Saturday 4/25 10:00AM
Lunch Ride to Woody's BBQ
902 S Sixth AVE Wauchula 33873
10:00 AM meet up at the WAWA RT 70E and Lorraine Bradenton

Remember, if anyone wants to head up a ride or event throughout the month on open days, please let President Gibbons know and he will put it out for you.

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

APRIL 2026

Chapter Executive Board

President ..... Patrick Gibbons
Vice President ..... Ralph Smith
Treasurer ..... Tracy Dunn
Secretary ..... Domenic Ceccanecchio
Sergeant at Arms .... James Ryan

Board of Directors

Sid Jones / Past President
Mike Klein
Bobby Grotz

Operations

James Kirkpatrick / Chaplain
Domenic Ceccanecchio / Webmaster
Brian MacConnell / Quartermaster
Jim Kelly / 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
pjgibby1969@comcast.net

OR

Dom Ceccanecchio
dcc444@comcast.net

In the Chapter Market

Jim Ryan — Woodworking made to order.
Tell me what you want, size, and specific wood (if requested) and I will make it. Very reasonable prices.
941-313-1363 or jryanretired@aol.com

PRICE REDUCED

2016 Harley Davidson FLSTFBS "Fatboy" All Black, 25645 Miles. Price - ~~$12,000.~~ NOW $11,000. 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

2014 FLHTK Harley Davidson Ultra Limited
Color- Daytona Blue Mileage- 17500
Includes headsets for rider and passenger
Price- $12,200 FIRM
John Emrick Mddre3077@aol.com

SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET

BLUE KNIGHTS FLORIDA XVIII

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MINUTES March 3rd, 2025

7:00PM - 2nd floor Sahib Shriners, 600 N Beneva Rd, Sarasota FL

President: Patrick Gibbons - Vice President: Ralph Smith - Treasurer: Tracy Dunn - Secretary/Webmaster: Dom Ceccanecchio
Sergeant At Arms: James Ryan - Past President: Sid Jones - Director: Bob Grotz - Director: Mike Klein
Quartermaster: Brian MacConnell - Chaplin: James Kirkpatrick - Safety Officer : Jim Kelly

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

Meeting Call to Order: by President Gibbons @ 7:04PM
Pledge of Allegiance: led by President Gibbons
Invocation: by Ralph Smith
Welcoming Remarks: President Gibbons introduced guests and three BK state reps who were visiting.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

- ☒ President Gibbons requested approve for donation of $750 for the Harley Black Widow **Bert"s Chrome and Courage Ride on** 4/11/2026 to benefit First Responders and Veterans. We are partnering with FL XVI to make a donation of $1500 together in the name of Blue Knights International. Motion by Brian MacConnell, 2nd by Jim Ryan, all approved.
- ☒ **Shirts**. President Gibbons previously emailed information about the shirts. He needed your order ASAP to complete the order. Cash/check upon delivery of shirts. He will let you know when they are delivered.
- ☒ **Thunder by the Bay** was a good time and our gun raffle generated $3531.00. We need to decide on an amount for our donation to the Suncoast Charities for Children. $1500, $2000?? Motion to donate $1500 by Brian MacConnell, 2nd Jim Thomas, all voted their approval.
- ☒ **Chapter Christmas Party** Sunday, December the 6th from 4pm till 8pm at the Venice, Venezia Hotel. The DJ and Hotel have been booked.
- ☒ Saturday March 28th **MS Bike-a-thon**. We have been asked to help escort and provide blocking for the bicycle riders. Starts on Main St in downtown Lakewood Ranch. Looking for volunteer to ride as escorts. It was agreed that more information was needed.
- ☒ We need full **rocker sets for vests**. The International office has the full set with front crest for $60. Members voted to order 5 sets $300. Motion was made by Tracy Dunn, 2nd Ralph Smith.
- ☒ **Monthly chapter meeting schedule:** It was decided to forego chapter meetings in June, July and August. Motion by Brian MacConnell, 2nd by Jim Thomas, all members voted their approval. All other chapter activities and ride will continue.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: RALPH SMITH

- ☒ Thanked everyone who volunteered and worked at the Thunder by the Bay event.
- ☒ Announced that he will inspect the chapter trailer and make needed repairs.

TREASURERS REPORT: TRACY DUNN

- ☒ Motion to accept February financial report Brian MacConnell, 2nd Michael Klien, all approved.
- ☒ Reported $4000* income was generated for the month. General financial position was presented. Specific financial numbers are available by request to our Treasurer.

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO

- ☒ Motion to accept February minutes by Michael Klien, 2nd Lauro Perez, all approved
- ☒ Website and Newsletter with ride schedule have been updated
- ☒ The revised/approved chapter **BYLAWS** updates have been submitted to the International for approved.

SAFETY OFFICER: JIM KELLY:

- ☒ Presents statistics regarding motorcycle facilities and that most occur at intersections.

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK / N/A

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT:

- ☒ See Newsletter for details. State rep spoke about the spring conference.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ☒ Brian MacConnell is selling bike shades for $30 each.

NEW BUSINESS :

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

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

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: $50 Winner: Brian MacConnell $25

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 7:50PM Motion: Jim Thomas 2nd Michael Klien, all approved

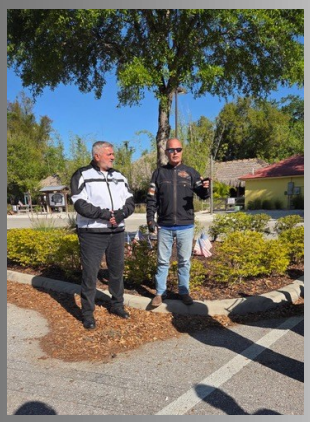
NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY APRIL 7th

Prepared and submitted by Patrick Gibbons, Chapter President and Domenic Ceccanecchio, Secretary BK XVIII

Johnny Longshots Ride

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



Chapter News

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

"Shootout with Bobby G." 9:00 AM , Friday, April 10th at the Knight Trail Park 3445 Rustic Rd Nokomis 34275.
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

April Chapter Meeting

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS
7:00PM ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7th, 2026
2ND FLOOR OF THE SAHIB SHRINE
600N BENEVA RD SARASOTA

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

SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

GERI BUSCEMI

ARE YOU PROTECTED?

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

Do Loud Pipes Really Help?

If there ever was a topic which evoked all manner of opinions, it is whether loud motorcycle exhaust pipes really help with safety. The answer is a definite….. maybe.

Researchers on the subject will tell you no, there are too many variables to definitely say they ARE a benefit. For example, increased speed of traffic and the noise level in the cabin of other drivers can deminish, if not cancel, the overall effectiveness of loud exhaust as a safety measure.

On the other hand, there are many riders with anicdotal stories of how being heard before being seen was a factor in accident avoidance, given slower speeds when cars and trucks had more time to react to the sound. That cannot be discounted.

There was another area where loud pipes were highly rated by several posts, and that was in wildlife avoidance. Several commenters who owned motorcycles with varying degrees of loudness said they noted when they rode their loud bike, they saw less deer then when they rode their quiter bikes, all in the same area and time of year. Again, anicdotal, but something notable. Having had an up close and personal near miss with a deer out where I live while riding my Harley with stock pipes, I think louder exhaust may be a wise investment.

Tracy Dunn
Director

What is a 3% biker?

A "3%er" (Three Percenter) biker typically refers to someone affiliated with a "patriot" movement or motorcycle club that vows to resist U.S. government restrictions on constitutional rights, named after the belief that only 3% of American colonists fought the British. They are often distinct from "1%er"

Monthly Devotion – March 2026
SRC Chaplain Marty Duncan (FL/GA/SC/PR)

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

"Steady in the Saddle"

I had this thought… If the world were a group ride, it would be the kind where half the guys forgot to gas up, someone's GPS is lying, and the weather app betrayed us again. But even when everything around us feels unpredictable, God's still leading the pack—and He never takes a wrong turn.

The world has always had its rough roads—political tension, economic shake□ups, disasters, and cultural chaos. What feels different today is how fast it all hits us. One minute you're cruising smooth, the next you're dodging potholes the size of a Volkswagen.

But Scripture reminds us of something solid:

Uncertainty may surprise us, but it has never surprised God.

Noah and the Flood — Genesis 6–9

The whole world had gone off the rails—violence, corruption, and immorality everywhere. Yet God wasn't white□knuckling the handlebars. Psalm 29:10 says: *"The LORD sits enthroned over the flood… as King forever."* Even when the world was underwater, God was still in control.

Israel and Egypt — Exodus 1–14

Egypt was the superpower of its day—you might say it was the biggest, baddest bike gang on the road. But when God stepped in, the engine of that empire stalled fast—just like a Harley when that tiny key□fob battery dies and the bike turns into a 900□pound garage ornament. **Exodus 12:12** says *"For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night… and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD."* God said, *"I will…"* and He did. Every event, every plague, and every movement—God was in control steering the whole thing.

So, let's bring it home. The world may feel like it's fishtailing—news, politics, global tension, and uncertainty everywhere. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* God doesn't change. He doesn't wobble. He doesn't lose control of the handlebars. God is always steady in the saddle.

- Isaiah 46:10: *"My purpose will stand."*
- Malachi 3:6*: "I the Lord do not change*."

The world may shake, but our God never does. And that's the kind of truth you can lean into—like a solid curve on a good bike, steady and sure. So, let's keep our eyes up, our grip steady, and our trust in the One who never loses control of the ride.

Ride hard, ride safe, and may the wind always be at your back.

Dr. Marty Duncan, SRC Chaplain
Blue Knights XXII *(Director)*
Blue Knights Southern Regional Conference Chaplain (FL/GA/SC/PR)
State of Florida Law Enforcement - (Retired Major)
Blueprint for Life Radio Ministry (Faith & Imani Radio Network)
Ministry Info - www.pastormartyduncan.com
Contact - martyvd@msn.com or 850.445.5487

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

APRIL 2026

SPRING 2026

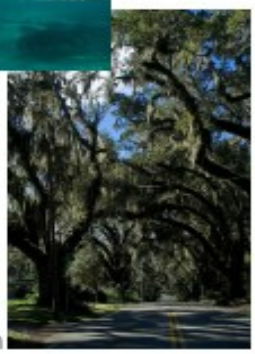
Blue knights® International Southern Regional Conference

Hosted by FLORIDA III

April 12th—15th 2026

Ocala, Florida

Horse capital of the world



Come join us for the SPRING 2026 Southern Regional Conference in Beautiful Ocala, Florida

We are in the heart of Florida. We have scenic winding backroads, beautiful horse farms, coastline, theme parks, the best natural springs in the world and much, much more!

Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Conference Center, 3600 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL 34474 (352) 629-9500)

Overflow Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, 3580 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL 34474 ((352) 390-6999

RV CAMPING: Near the Hotel

Registration: $130 per person

Includes: Goodie Bag and Banquet

Pre–registration cutoff: **March 1st 2026** to guarantee banquet attendance. Registration Opening Soon

AGENDA & ACTIVITIES

Sunday: 3pm—7pm Check in /Registration

Sunday -Tuesday: Hospitality room for Networking; 50/50 raffles every night

Monday: 7am—8am Presidents Meeting
2 x Guided rides; Self Guided options to local venues and adventures.

Tuesday: 2 x Guided rides; Self Guided Options

Tuesday night: Banquet; Silent Auction

Wednesday: Check out or think about extending your stay in Florida!

Vendor & Chapter Sales available:
Contact: FL III VP/President TEL # EMAIL

Ride with Pride !

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

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

APRIL 2026

Greetings:

I am happy to officially announce that the 2026 SRC Spring Conference will be hosted by Blue Knights Florida III in Ocala, Florida.
As you may know, there were no bids for a conference at the last business meeting.
The SRC Board worked with several Chapters after the fact to procure a meeting venue.
The outcome is that Florida III will host the Spring Conference in Ocala.
From the Host Chapter, below are some basic details and an initial Flyer for the conference.
Registration is not open yet, but you can make room reservations.

SRC 2026 Spring Conference
Hosted by: Blue Knights Florida III
Dates: April 12 - 15, 2026 (Sunday - Wednesday)
Location: Holiday Inn Conference Center
Address: 3600 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL
Registration: $130 per person.
Reservation Information & Booking Links:
Host Hotel:
Holiday Inn & Suites Ocala Conference Center
352-629-9500
https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI...
Overflow Hotel:
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
352-390-6999
https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=EX...
All Standard Rooms are $144 plus tax.
All Suites will be $169 plus tax.

There is also a Campground about 250 yards from the host hotel called Ocala RV Camp Resort.

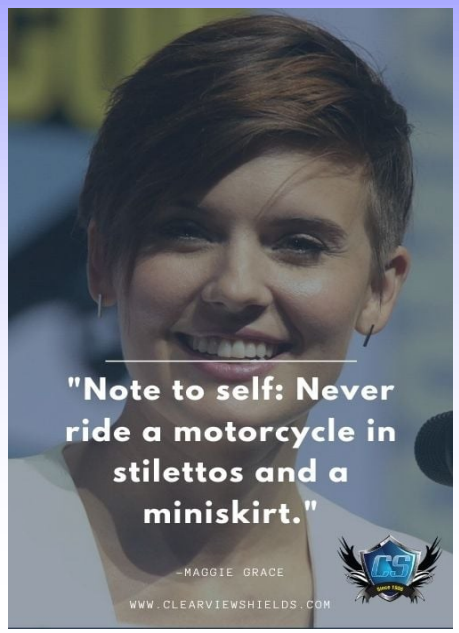
The location is 45 minutes from the Gulf Coast and 90 minutes from the Atlantic Coast.
More information and registration details will be coming soon.
Question specific to the event should be directed to Florida III President, **Joe Nazario** - joenazario1959@gmail.com
Notice: You are one of many recipients of this group email because you are listed as a current SRC President, SRC State Rep, or Executive Board Member.

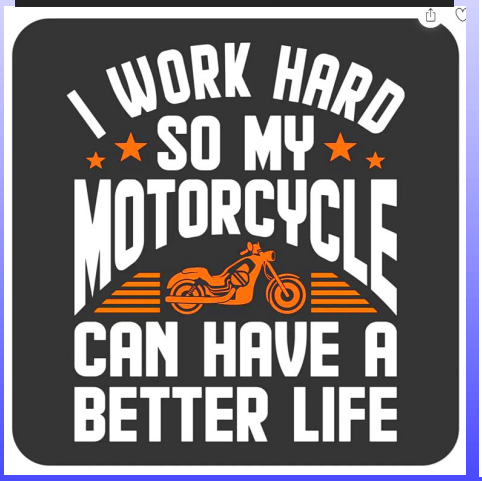
Ride with Pride!
Brotherhood before Politics!

Mike Shockley
Blue Knights International
SRC Chairman
706-338-1742
msshockley@gmail.com

On The Lighter Side

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026





Motorbikes Word Search

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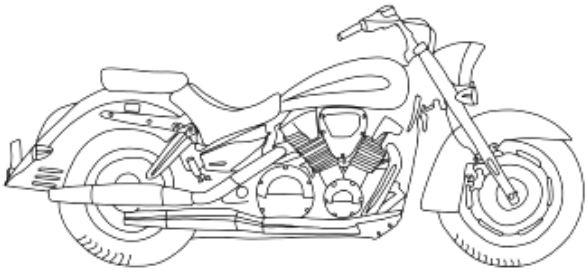

Motorbike	Speed
Wheels	Fast
Leathers	Helmet
Yamaha	Handlebar
Noise	Off Road
Dirt Bike	Skid
Kawasaki	Honda
Harley Davidson	

Blue Knights FXVIII Marketplace

Support our Sponsors

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

Beverly Hills Dog

Premier Doggy Daycare

For tiny, small and medium sized dogs
2030 Bispham Road Sarasota 34231

941-822-0888

CONCIERGE OVERNIGHT CARE AVAILABLE

https://www.dogdog.org/pet-boarding-service/beverly-hills-dog-sarasota

OLIVER "OG" GIESSER

SALES

941.883.8000 | CELL 941.356.4818 | TEXT BBWHD 57780
O.GIESSER@BERTSBLACKWIDOW.COM
BERTSBLACKWIDOWHD BERTSBLACKWIDOW

2224 EL JOBEAN ROAD
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33948
WWW.BERTSBLACKWIDOW.COM

BERTS BLACK WIDOW HARLEY-DAVIDSON
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

Blue Knights FXVIII Marketplace
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Gulf Sands Realty

Gulf Sands Realty is your home for buying and selling in Sarasota and Manatee Counties

Contact Us

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

(941) 400-6237

hello@gulfsandsrealty.com

Greg and Cynthia Brock
Broker/Owners

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