



BLUE KNIGHTS West Virginia II



January 2026 Newsletter

Volume 30 Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

Election for chapter officers were held at the November meeting. The following are the new officers.

2026/2027 CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President: Brother Ray Ed Martin.

Vice President: Brother James Enoch.

Secretary: Brother Lewis Stevens.

Treasurer: Brother Martin McNulty.

Three (3) directors: Brother Andy Kolb, Brother Bill Bradley, and Brother Terry Queen.

Requesting Brother Zach Kesling to be our Sergeant at Arms, and the following appointed to Road Captains: Terry Queen, Walter Knight, Andy Kolb, and Zach Kesling.

Report on the 2026 Wild Wonderful Knights Weekend Rally. The 31st WWK we will be charging the standard rate of about \$100.00 per person and that should cover everything. Room rates are \$130.00 per night plus taxes. Requesting our road captains to work on at least 3 different rides for Saturday to lead the others to travel for the day.

Ride with Pride

Ed & Rexann Martin

304-622-0135 bkwv2@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENTS' NOTES:

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 12th, 2026 it will be at the 19:00 Hours (7 PM) at Blue Knights West Virginia 2 Clubhouse, 245 Emily Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301. We will have pizza before the meeting. Thank you for voting for me to stay as your Vice-President for 2026/2027.

It is now time for international 2026 membership dues. The international has increased the membership dues to \$30.00 a year now. The membership voted for the chapter to pay for the 2026 dues.

Also, I would encourage you to talk to someone that would be a great addition to our BK WV II membership that meet the requirements and plant a seed with them about becoming a BLUE KNIGHT. If you need a poster

or other information about the Blue Knights let us know and we will get it to you. You can put it up at work or another agency.

Catch the fever.

Ride with Pride

35oldsrodder@gmail.com

Jim Enoch

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

Greetings brother Knights, I hope you all are doing well. I know we have some that are under the weather due to the flu, etc. You will be in my prayers especially those that are fighting lingering illnesses. I pray the good Lord will restore your health. On another note, don't forget our next meeting will be February 12, 2026 at 7 PM at the clubhouse on Emily Drive, Clarksburg, WV. Hope to see you then.

If you need me feel free to call or contact me anytime. If I don't know the answer I will contact someone to get the answer.

Be safe out there.

Respectfully,

Lewis "Lou" Stevens

Blue Knights WVII Secretary

awsstevens@yahoo.com

Cell 304-203-3185

TREASURER'S NOTES:

All bills are paid and chapter doing well.

Ride Safe, Ride Smart and Ride with Pride. You are the faces of West Virginia II.

marty.e.mcnulty@gmail.com

Marty McNulty

Chapter Safety Officer

Jump Starting Your Motorcycle

You can't kill a dead battery

By: James R. Davis

Assuming that you have, or can get, a set of jumper cables when you find that your motorcycle battery is dead, getting the bike started is no big deal. But you can cause harm if you do it wrong.

Connecting batteries in series is what you do when you pop a couple of cells into your flashlight. That is, you put the positive terminal of one battery into contact with the negative terminal of another. The result is that the voltage provided is the sum of the voltages of both batteries. This is NOT THE WAY to connect motorcycle batteries!!!

When you connect batteries in parallel, by placing the positive terminal of one into contact with the positive terminal of the other and the same with the negative terminals, then the voltage that results remains the same, but the amount of current that can be produced is raised. You need current to power your starter.

- Always be sure that the batteries you will be connecting together are of the **same voltage**.

- Always connect the same polarity terminals together when jumping a battery.
- If you connect the opposite polarity terminals together your battery can EXPLODE!
- Always wear eye protection when jumping a battery!
- Batteries can explode from another cause as well: a charging battery creates hydrogen gas.
- Make sure the vent tube on your battery is connected properly.
- Make sure you are in a well-ventilated environment - preferably outside.
- Do NOT SMOKE while charging or jumping a battery.

Lay out your jumper cable so that the connectors are not touching each other. Then, connect the positive (red) lead of the cable closest to your dead battery to the positive terminal on that battery followed by connecting the negative lead (black) to your negative battery terminal. Be sure that these connections are firm - wiggle them a little in order to let the teeth (if any) on the jumper leads cut into the terminal metal posts.

- Always start by making the connections on your dead battery.

Why? Because you cannot kill a dead battery! (If the loose ends of the jumper cable were to touch each other.)

(It might be better if you connected the negative lead to some part of your bike frame rather than to the negative battery terminal in order to keep any potential sparks away from generated hydrogen gas. However, there cannot be a spark from a dead battery, connecting the leads to the dead battery does not yet create a circuit, and in the next step you will take pains to avoid a spark with the live battery.)

Next, connect the positive (red) lead of the other end of the jumper cable to the functional battery's positive terminal. Again, wiggle the connection to encourage a good 'bite' of metal to metal. [If you are unable to gain access to the battery terminals on the donor vehicle, (many are very inconveniently located), you can connect the positive jumper lead to the starter solenoid lead closest to the battery.]

Finally, connect the remaining (black) lead to some part of the frame of the donor vehicle. Since the negative terminal of all modern vehicles have their negative battery terminal connected to the frame of the vehicle (called a 'ground'), this is the same as connecting to the negative terminal of the battery. However, since this last connection establishes a live circuit, it is possible for there to be a spark when the connection is made. You want any spark that might occur to be as far away from the battery as is reasonably possible.

- Though MOST vehicles today use a negative ground, you must check to be sure that is the case before you connect the jumper cables to the donor battery. You can still use it even if that vehicle uses a positive ground, but you must remember to connect positive to positive and negative to negative.

Generally speaking, it does not matter if the vehicle engine is running or not when you do this, but you should avoid doing so as cooked motorcycle stators are expensive repair jobs. The battery will be producing the proper voltage and current to do the job, and usually, but not always, not so much that you might do harm. However,

- If your battery is dead because it has developed an internal short, you can easily kill the donor battery when connecting it if the donor vehicle is not running at the time, but
- If it is running and your battery is shorted you can damage the donor vehicle's voltage regulator system when you connect the jumper cables.

If the donor vehicle is not running when you connect the jumper cables,

- DO NOT START THE DONOR VEHICLE while it is connected to your motorcycle battery.

While the starting current drain is not going to be a problem, the subsequent charging current to replenish the battery could be more than your motorcycle battery can handle.

You do not have to be in a hurry while the jumper cables are connected. Indeed, so long as those cables are connected the donor battery is charging your motorcycle battery. After a couple of minutes, the charge might be sufficient for you to be able to start your bike using just your own battery. In any event, it is now time to start your motorcycle. It is usually best to simply leave the jumper cable in place when you start the motorcycle.

Let your motorcycle run about 15 seconds while the jumper cable remains in place. Then, remove the negative (black) lead from the

donor vehicle's frame (assuming it was a normal negative-ground system). Again, this step could cause a spark, but because the connection is away from the battery, it poses no danger.

Now disconnect the positive (red) lead from the donor battery terminal. **You must be very careful not to let the jumper cable leads touch each other at this time.** To do so WILL KILL YOUR MOTORCYCLE BATTERY, possibly permanently!

Disconnect the jumper leads from your motorcycle battery (in any order - there cannot be a spark from doing so.)

Let the motorcycle idle (high - over 1,000 RPM) for a few minutes before you attempt to ride off into the sunset to give its charging system a chance to restore your battery.

Thank the person who donated the use of their battery to get you going again. (You could have killed *HIS* battery if you had done it wrong, so he took some risk for you as well as provided his courtesy.)

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Ride with Pride,
Walter Knight
Chapter Safety Officer

Road Captains

You don't have to be the Road Captain to Plan a Ride.
Here are a few tips.

Planning the Ride

A road captain is a fundamental part of any ride planning. Especially where riders may number in the dozens or even hundreds, he/she has to be well versed in the route. He/she must know about potential hazards, road conditions and any special events that are happening at the time of the ride. A road captain will ride the route a few days in advance to make sure that nothing has changed, will keep an eye on the weather, and will also be present at ride planning meetings.

Educating and Informing Riders

The road captain is expected to brief the group before the ride. He/she will inform riders about the pace of the ride, tell them about staggered formation, and will explain what the rules are. Some rides require the participants to ride together in tight formation, while others have a more loose, "at your own pace" style. The road captain will also answer questions and educate new riders in hand signals and other riding etiquette. Finally, the road captain will let riders know what to do should they break down or have a mishap, and might have a tactful word in the ear of a rider whose behavior is causing problems.

Leading the Ride

The road captain leads the ride. Riders are expected to keep an eye on him/her for cues as to where to go next. Working in conjunction with blockers or sweepers, the captain will also help to block off intersections to allow riders to pass without worrying about traffic. He/she will then pass back to the front. Sometimes the road captain stays in front and only the blockers do the intersection work, and sometimes he/she works with the blockers. When a lane change is performed, the leader signals the change and the rear guard initiates it. This prevents lane-changing bikes from crashing into one another and also provides a safer block to traffic. Indicators are seen from the rear and a large column of bikes changing is less likely to be cut off.

Stop Coordination

At gas and fuel stops, the road captain will set up in a staging area he has previously chosen so that the line of bikes can assemble. After leaving, the road captain will wait until the rear-guard signals that everyone is ready to go before accelerating to highway speed.

Other Duties of the Road Captain

Other duties of the road captain including dealing with the police and other unexpected surprises, and making sure everybody has a fun, safe ride. The road captain is part of a team that includes the sweepers and rear guard, and is, by definition, an experienced rider.

Terry Queen, Walter Knight, Andy Kolb, and Zach Kesling

Chaplain's Corner

**Del Parris, Chaplain
Blue Knights WVII**

Quartermaster

Chapter items are at the clubhouse. If you need something contact me or one of the staff at the clubhouse. We have a lot of items on sale, please purchase something today. Remember if there is an item that you think the chapter should purchase and have on sale, please bring it up at a meeting so we can vote on it.

The new shirt you ordered should be in any day. Call the clubhouse at 304-566-7539 and see if yours has arrived.

**Rene Noe
Quartermaster**

Committee Report

The 31st Annual Wild Wonderful Knights Rally, June 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2026. Registration will be \$100.00. Host hotel will be Holiday Inn Express in Elkins; rooms will be \$130.00 plus taxes. You can make room reservations at any time.

The 2026 Christmas Party will be held at the Harrison County Parks and Recreation building near Clarksburg on December 11th, 2026. That is where we held the pasta dinner for Brother Menendez. We are working on a caterer now. Looking at four (4) different one at this time.

Joke for the Day

A worldwide survey was conducted by the UN. The only question asked was: "Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?" The survey was a huge failure. In Africa they didn't know what "food" meant. In Eastern Europe they didn't know what "honest" meant. In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant. In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant. In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant. In South America they didn't know what "please" meant. And in the U.S.A., they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

From Membership

UP COMING EVENTS

2026 EVENTS

May

2026 Spring MDC in Rocky Mount, NC: May 1-3, 2026. Host hotel is the Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, 672 English Rd.,

Rocky Mount, NC 27804. Call 252-4231-3850. Room rate is \$139.00 per night plus tax, tell them Blue Knights Conference. Information on registration is not out yet.

June

2026 31st Wild & Wonderful Knights Weekend Rally: Hosted by West Virginia II. Host hotel is the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. Elkins, WV. June 12th – 14th, 2026. FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS CALL: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 50 Martin St, Elkins, WV, call 304-630-2266; TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE BLUE KNIGHTS GROUP, Rooms \$130.00 per night plus tax. Event registration is \$100.00 per person before May 25th, 2026, and \$125.00 after May 15th.

August

2026 Martland I Crab Feast: The dates will be August 7-9, 2026 and the host hotel will be the Holiday Inn in Greenbelt, MD. Crab Feast will August 8th, 2 PM to 6 PM at the Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenbelt Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Hotel is the Holiday Inn Greenbelt, 7200 Hanover Drive Building 1, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Room rate is \$119.00 per night plus tax. Call 1-800-465-4329 tell them you are with Blue Knights Crab Feast. Contact persons, Byron Hope 202-904-4892 or mpdcleo124@aol.com.

September

2026 MDC Fall Conference/49th Annual Blue Ridge Rally: Culpeper, VA, Sept 4 to 7, 2026. Hosted by VA II, Baymont Hotel, Culpeper Inn, Event includes breakfast buffet, (540) 825-1253, Blue Knights Virginia – II, P.O. Box 2264, Merrifield, VA 22116-2264. Contact Dan Rivard 703-314-1012 or VA2@blueknights.org.

November

2026 Veterans Day Parade hosted by Clarksburg VFW Post 573. We need to be in place at 10:15 AM at the corner of West Main Street and 6th Street, Clarksburg (next to the Clarksburg Senior Center). Parade starts at noon on Wednesday, November 11, 2026.

2026 Harrison County Area Annual Toy Run; Sunday, November 29, 2026, bikers will meet at South Harrison High School parking lot at noon and kickstands up at 1:00 pm.

December

2026 West Virginia II, Saturday, December 11th, 2026, West Virginia II - chapter Christmas party will be at the Harrison County Parks and Recreation building, 43 Recreation Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301. That is on U.S. Rt 19 across from Sunny Croft Country Club which is located at 1102 Good Hope Pike, Clarksburg. Social Hour 6 pm and Dinner about 7 pm.

Sick, Ill, or in Distress: Brother Swiger has a broken knee cap. Brother Wikert still getting chemo. Becky Green is also sick. Please keep them in your prayers.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be February 12th, 2026 at the Blue Knights West Virginia II Clubhouse, 245 Emily Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301.

Drawing: January drawing was \$5.00. Brother Ron Watson's name was drawn and he was not present. Must be present at the clubhouse to be eligible for the drawing. February 2026 drawing will be \$10.00.

Members in Attendance: Don Wikert, Bill Bradley, Mike Neely, Jim Enoch, Chuck Luzader, Lewis Stevens, Ed Martin, Rexann Martin, Andy Kolb, Marty McNulty, and Zach Kesling.

Guest: None

Facebook: Chuck Diaz, Pam Poisson, Fred Mason, Donna Belcastro, Debra Scott Blair, Zach Kesling, Rich Springer, Ron Watson, Terry Queen, Ruth Medith Stone, Charles Luzader, Jennifer Prince, Larry Bailey, and Russ Harper.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be February 12th, 2026 at 7 PM at the Blue Knights West Virginia 2 Clubhouse, 245 Emily Drive, Clarksburg, WV.

ARE YOU A MEMBER YET?

Hey, just to let you know that if you are a Blue Knight member you can join the Justice Federal Credit Union for just \$5.00 and also get one of their credit cards. It would be great to get as many chapter members as possible to join up.

