



BLUE KNIGHTS West Virginia II



July 2026 Newsletter

Volume 30 Issue 5

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

We had 58 registrations with 73 people attending the 31st WWK.

Full page ad was in two of the Sword and Shield which you should have just received, I believed help us get members from Florida, Louisiana, and Ontario. We sold all 48 T-shirts this year. I believe that if we do the 32nd Annual Wild Wonderful Knights weekend that we will get over a hundred people since the Blue Knights International Convent will be held June 13 to 18, 2027 in Europe. So, I think we could get people to come to our event to enjoy the mountains of West Virginia.

The chapter picnic was Sunday, July 12th, 2026 at the Freedom Shelter at the Veteran's Memorial Park, Clarksburg. The caterer will be Blue Bird, in Clarksburg. We had 107 people attending the picnic.

We the chapter sponsored the Rick Barnhart Golf Tournament we also were able to get a golf to in the event. Our team shot a 12 under but still did not win the event. Thank you, team captain Andy Kolb.

Brother Kesling was asking for a sponsorship, see email below.

Brother Zach Kesling is requesting that the chapter sponsor him for the 2026 American 911 Ride.

The registration is \$200.00 and the hotel rooms on this ride is about \$300.00 each.

The total cost is about \$1,100.00.

He is hoping that the chapter would want a representative in this ride.

Please look it up on your computer at americas911ride.org

I think it would be great to have one of members representing our chapter on this national ride.

So, do you think this is a good thing or not?

If so, I need someone to make a motion and a second and for you to vote.

This email is going out to over 42 members we should have at least 30 members that are going to read it.

Make your vote.

The following was the results.

The results of the vote on sponsoring Brother Zach Kesling on the Americas 911 Ride are as follows:

Yes 8

No 11

There were a few suggestions that we pass a hat and each members give their support that way.

Several members advised that since it was not a Blue Knights event that it would be setting a precedent that could open a can of worms down the road.

Rexann and I are willing to put some money in the hat to help him out.

As of 2 pm, Saturday, July 18, 2026 There are four members that said they would donate \$100.00 each to Brother Kesling if he wants it. Brother Stevens asked if there was anyone else wanting to donate any amount?

Ride with Pride

Ed & Rexann Martin

304-622-0135 bkvv2@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENTS' NOTES:

Mark your calendar for Saturday July 18th, 2026. Chapter ride. Meet at the Burger King at the Cheat Lake (exit 10) off of Interstate -68 before 10:45 am. Kickstands up at 11am. Going to ride to a restaurant in PA for lunch. Total trip time about 4 hours. Most of the time at the restaurant eating. From the clubhouse to the restaurant is about 1 hour and 15 minutes. From Burger King is about 40 minutes.

Catch the fever.

Ride with Pride

35oldsrodger@gmail.com

Jim Enoch

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

Hello Brothers, hope your day is going well. As of this writing it's been too hot for me to do any riding. I hope you all be careful and watch out for motorists while riding. We had a biker rear ended this week on a side street that put him in the hospital. On another note, I'm counting the days until Crab fest on Aug 7. If you've never been there, it's an experience you'll never forget. This one is supposedly to be better than the rest. Hope to see you there. Be safe out there.

Next meeting will be August 13th, 2026 at the Blue Knights West Virginia II Clubhouse, 245 Emily Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301.

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.

Soon we will be presenting a check to the WVU Medicine Children's Hospital for \$9,600.00.

We will let you the date and time of the presentation. I am sure it will be at our clubhouse.

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

Accident Management

Help your fellow riders by thinking ahead, being prepared

By: Cash Anthony

After an accident, the people you ride with want to be useful. They will feel helpless enough if they aren't medical professionals with adequate gear to start making a difference, for in serious accidents, first aid seems superficially valuable or is even impossible to render. If they have access to communications and to important information, however, they can still help save your life. In light of Karen Miller's accident last November, here are some tips I gleaned from dealing with an emergency situation. The first four are offered to enable your fellow riders to help you immediately, the rest over the longer term.

- Carry a cellular phone when you ride, if possible. If you don't have one, ask who in the group has one and where on the bike it is kept.
- Carry legible ID and keep it current. If you've moved since your driver's license was issued, you can get a ticket for failing to update it -- as well as cause confusion about such basics as "where does she live?" Check or sign the organ donor box on it, if you would want to donate in a worst-case scenario.
- Carry a list of medications you take routinely and keep it current. List allergies or medical conditions that EMS techs/doctors need to know about to treat you.
- Carry a list of persons to contact and their current telephone numbers, including area codes. If those living with you are likely to be hard to reach, or you live alone, friends who ride with you should be able to figure out easily who to call from information on your bike or your person. (Even if they can gain access to your home by taking your keys from the scene, it doesn't mean they can find your address book.) Karen had thought to carry names and telephone numbers of relatives and friends with her, which saved her fellow riders a lot of stress after Life Flight left, when they started the notification process.

Hospital and emergency personnel will presume that an unconscious person has given them consent to save his or her life. But even when a rider has a close family member who can legally take over subsequent medical decisions (as far as the hospital's lawyers are concerned), your fellow LSL members may still be uncertain about which family member should be given your valuables, your keys, your jewelry, and access to your home -- especially if the family members argue about it when they get together to meet the witnesses and pick these items up.

It is unfortunately only a cheerful fiction that all of a downed rider's brothers and sisters and in-laws will be getting along splendidly the week that an accident happens -- not to mention the new lover and the ex-spouse. Would you want your cousin who's on parole rummaging through your mail while you're laid up? If you have no skeletons in your closet of relatives, you can ignore these suggestions. But for many of us, there are some troublesome realities among our relatives. So, for the longer term...

- Have a durable Power of Attorney prepared appointing someone close to you to be in charge of your business and legal affairs, in writing. "Durable" means the person designated can act for you even if you could not act for yourself (i.e., if you were unconscious, or sedated for a long time). This is not a "form" document that you can buy, but it is usually inexpensive to have it prepared. "Close" means living in your area as well as close by relationship: if someone is making decisions critical to your well-being, he or she will be better informed after talking to your doctor's face to face, if possible.

- If you have given someone verbal authority to act for you in an emergency, do not leave written authority appointing someone else. Revoke conflicting Powers of Attorney and have a correct one prepared. Then tell someone who rides with you whom you designated! If you don't want to discuss this every time you go out, put a copy of the durable Power of Attorney with the list of phone numbers on your bike, or leave it with someone who is on that list of persons to notify in case of an accident.

If you're riding with someone who goes down and are helping at an accident scene, get the name of the investigating officer in charge and find out where the vehicles are going and where the accident report will be. Take photos if you can. Retrieve the rider's ID, insurance card and personal items from the bike and protect them. Find the lists of phone numbers and medications as soon as possible.

Riders who witness a serious accident will be somewhat in shock even if they were uninjured. If you are managing an accident scene where a friend has been hurt, let bystanders help you as well as your friend, if they can. Don't rush to get to the hospital once your injured friend has been removed. Take time to collect yourself before riding again. Have a drink of water (shock can make you dry-mouthed), and try to remember to thank the emergency personnel and any bystanders who helped you, before you leave.

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**Ride with Pride,
Walter Knight**

Road Captains Steering

Your REAR wheel does it more often than not

By: James R. Davis

"Steer" - To direct the course of.

When your motorcycle is stable in any course, *whether in a straight line or in a curve*, it is your rear wheel that is primarily responsible for maintaining that course and stability. Indeed, it's the job of your front wheel to DESTABILIZE the bike in order to change course. That is, your front wheel changes course, your rear wheel maintains it.

How is that possible? Well, I suppose it is easiest to think of in terms of influence. The rear wheel attempts to keep the bike moving in the same direction it is pointed toward because it is directly connected via its axle/swing-arm to the frame of the motorcycle - it does not have motion freedom analogous to a steering head. The front-end provides steering input used to change the path of travel.

[Rather a lot of attention has been given to this article in recent days because certain readers have maintained that if rear-wheel gyroscopic forces are so great it **should** be virtually impossible to 'flick' a fast-moving bike into a lean as you enter a turn. Well, what the gyroscopic forces generated by a spinning rear wheel does is to try to maintain the direction of travel of the bike - and, just as with the front wheel, when a change in direction happens the wheel responds with 'precession' and leans at a 90-degree vector to that change. When you use counter-steering on the front of the bike to go, for example, to the right, you press the right grip forward. That causes the direction of travel of the bike to momentarily change to the LEFT which, in turn, is felt in both the front and rear wheels and the result is that both of them lean towards the RIGHT. The harder/faster the counter-steer effort is, the greater/faster that lean will occur. And THAT is why you can 'flick' the bike over onto a significant lean. (i.e., you are using gyroscopic precession.) Actually, that is only a small part of it - it's centrifugal force that accounts for the vast majority of counter-steering functionality.]

When a motorcycle is stable it will maintain its current course until an outside influence or steering input to the front-end results in destabilizing it and a new course is sought that will once again result in a stable motorcycle.

Proof that the rear wheel is directing the course of your motorcycle is easy to come by. Watch any motorcycle that is performing a 'wheelie'. Whether it is going in a straight line or it is in a curve, the motorcycle will continue that course even while the front wheel is off the ground.

The significance of this otherwise esoteric bit of insight should be to cause you to rethink about locking your brakes. For example, it should now no longer be a surprise that if (while going straight) you lock your rear brake and cause a skid that the motorcycle does not simply drag the rear tire along in a straight line - the majority of the motorcycle is deprived of the stabilizing effect of a spinning rear tire and it will try to fall over to one side or the other. On the other hand, if you lock your front brake (while going straight) and cause the front tire to begin to skid, there is every reason to believe that (so long as the rear wheel continues to spin with some speed and you leave the front wheel pointing straight ahead) the bike will continue to stand tall and track straight while you correct the problem (by releasing the front brake lever.)

Indeed, so long as there is meaningful speed and you are moving in a straight line, locking the front brake (for a brief time) is less dangerous than locking the rear brake. Obviously, you do not want to lock either brake, ever, but it will happen. Further, we all know that we should not aggressively use either brake while the bike is leaned over in a curve. But now you should know that **it is NEVER reasonable to aggressively use the rear brake,** and why.

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

Chaplain's Corner

**Del Parris, Chaplain
Blue Knights WVII**

Quartermaster

The chapter shirts have arrived and you can contact me or one of the staff members to get you shirts. 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**

West Virginia State Rep.

Conference Chaplain Barry Clark 804-824-4127 expressed to contact him with members sick, injured, or pass, please provide as much information as you can: name, family contact, phone number, addresses to send card.

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

Committee Report

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.

The chapter voted at the July meeting for the chapter to host the 32nd Wild Wonderful Knights Weekend Rally in June 2027. The event will be held at the Elkins Holiday Inn Express located at 50 Martin Street, Elkins, WV. Dates will be June 11, 12 & 13, 2027. I believe tis will be a little larger event since the Blue Knights International Convention will be in Europe starting on Sunday June 13th, 2027. I believe that members that can not afford to go to Europe might come and enjoy the mountains with us. Membership voted to have ads in two of the Sword & Shield magazines. I have contacted the hotel and gotten the dates set and the room cost are the same as this year. Now to work with the American Legion and the Visitors Bureau. I request that the road captains contact me so we can get a few rides set up for next year early.

Joke for the Day*

One day a lady went into a fishing shop to buy her husband a fishing pole for his birthday. She picked up a really nice looking pole and asked the salesman how much it was.

The salesman said, "I am blind but if you give me the pole I can tell how much it is by the weight."

So the lady gave him the pole and he said, "That pole is worth \$45." She was amazed at how cheap that was so she picked up another really nice pole, handed it to the man and he said, "This pole is worth \$55." She decided that was still less than she wanted to spend so she picked up the nicest looking pole in the place and handed it to the man. "This pole is our best and it is \$70." The woman was happy with his response and said she was taking it.

As she was getting the fishing pole rung up, she had to fart really really badly. She thought about it and decided, since the man was blind, there was no way he would know if it was her, or another customer, so she let it all out.

All of a sudden, the man says, "It all comes up to \$80."

Confused the lady says to him, "But you said the fishing pole was only \$70."

He said, "It is. Its \$70 for the fishing pole and \$10 for the duck call."

From Membership

On Tuesday, July 15th, brother Wikert, myself and our friend Bob did a spur of the moment ride to Amish Country Ohio. Although our intent was that this would be an overnight ride, we ended up making it a one day 450-mile ride. We left Clarksburg at 8:00am took exit 65 off of interstate 77 then north on 93 to start our Amish experience. We traveled to Sugar Creek, Walnut Creek, stop at Lemans Hardware and lunch.... then on to Berlin, Millersburg and then headed home. Not bad for 3 old men...

Ron Watson

UP COMING EVENTS

2026 EVENTS

July

Mark your calendar for Saturday July 18th, 2026. Chapter ride. Meet at the Burger King at the Cheat Lake (exit 10) off of Interstate - 68 before 10:45 am. Kickstands up at 11am. Going to ride to a restaurant in PA for lunch.

Total trip time about 4 hours. Most of the time at the restaurant eating.

From the clubhouse to the restaurant is about 1 hour and 15 minutes. From Burger King is about 40 minutes.

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, ND 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.

2027

June

2027 32nd Annual Wild & Wonderful Knights Weekend Rally; Hosted by West Virginia II. Host hotel is the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Elkins, WV. **June 11th – 13th, 2027.** 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 15th, 2027, and \$125.00 after May 15th, 2027. No refunds after May 30th, 2027.

Sick, Ill, or in Distress: Brother Luzader still taking treatments. Brother Hamling still under doctor's care, he had back problems and rib problems at our Wild Wonderful Knights event. Brother Wikert still taken cancer treatments. Brother McNulty sick. Becky Green is in a wheelchair now.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be August 13th, 2026 at the Blue Knights West Virginia II Clubhouse, 245 Emily Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301.

Drawing: July drawing is \$10.00. Brother Ethan Kesling's name was drawn, but he was not present. Must be present at the clubhouse to be eligible for the drawing. August drawing will be \$15.00.

Members in Attendance: Don Wikert, Lewis Stevens, Ed Martin, Rexann Martin, Bill Bradley, Jim Enoch, Mike Neely, Andy Kolb, Ron Watson, Del Parris and Zach Kesling.

Guest: None

Facebook: Calvin Ennal and Chuck Luzader.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be August 13th, 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.