



Blue Knights Wisconsin VI

July 2011 Chapter Newsletter

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From Your Chapter Secretary

Hot enough for you? Well, the old saying goes “if you can’t stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen.” And as long as you’re out of the kitchen, fire up the bike and go for a ride! And that’s exactly what several members of WI VI did in when they attended the 2011 Wisconsin State Convention in Manitowoc and the 2011 International Convention in Chesapeake VA.

Let’s start out with a recap of the State Convention. WI IX hosted their first convention, and let me tell you it was fantastic. The campground was first rate, with private cabins for rent so I didn’t need to pack a tent and was able to ride my Dynaglide instead of bringing the bagger. The Kubicek’s and I shared one, blasting Doni with stereophonic snoring for two days. There were plenty of adult libations Friday night, topped off by a kick ass band with a lead singer who did a spot on Janis Joplin (both voice wise and alcohol consumption wise). 12 of the 16 chapters in Wisconsin were represented at the annual business meeting Saturday evening, which was handled with aplomb by our State Rep Dane Nelsen. After the brief meeting it was fiesta time, with a full blown Mexican feast featuring fajitas, rice and beans, a full taco bar and lots of Corona and Negro Modelo to wash it all down. Kevin Kubicek and Dane Nelsen treated all to an often hazardous and frequently interactive evening fireworks display, and 10 intrepid (read stupid) individual including yours truly took the SNORT Team to a whole new level of madness when we snorted the Everclear the Scary Cherries were marinating in. If you want to know what it was like, imagine snorting cherry flavored kerosene and you’ll get the idea. The weekend was very laid back and incredibly inexpensive given all that WI IX had to offer. And there was the added benefit of the Wisconsin HOG rally in downtown Manitowoc. Mark you calendars for June 15-17 of 2012, when WI X (Green Bay) hosts the convention. It’ll be a great time.

July 17-22 was the 37th Annual International Convention, hosted by VA V in Chesapeake. 26 chapter members and their better halves made the trip in various groups (see roll call for names) and in a sign of the apocalypse Joe, Tiny and I for once did not ride together!

Joe and Doni had left early Wednesday morning, heading for Tennessee and some real estate shopping. Tiny and Patti took off late Thursday night, riding well into Indiana. Well, neither worked for Laura and me, so we decided to get a very early start Friday morning, with Charleston WV and 600 miles of riding as our goals for the day. It turned out to be a great ride for us, NO traffic issues in Chicago, riding along the Ohio River in southern Ohio, and enjoying some scenic state highways in West Virginia. Friday had us 408 miles from our ultimate destination, the host hotel for the convention. It was again a great ride through the Allegheny Mountains and across Virginia until we hit the Chesapeake Bay Tunnel. It was here that the curse of Chicago came back to haunt us, with temps in the upper 90's and traffic backed up five miles from the tunnel which took us an hour to get through. But, it was all worth it when we arrived. Tiny and Patti had already checked in, and after many hellos to all our friends it was off to an excellent seafood restaurant a scant three miles from the hotel. And wouldn't you know it, my GPS had a snit and locked up en route back to the hotel, causing me to get "misplaced" for the first time on the entire 1050 mile trip to Virginia. No justice!

Sunday was a day of getting caught up with everyone as they arrived, and enjoying the free flowing amber beverages in the hospitality suite in an effort to beat the heat. Did I mention that it was convection oven hot all week, with heat indexes in excess of 100? Moderation was not the watch word, knowing I'd be stuck in meetings all day Monday. And of course Monday came all too soon. At the Board of Governors meeting the only highlight was the selection of the site for the 2013 International Convention. Both Arkansas IV (Hot Springs) and Tennessee I (Memphis) had packages similar in price, and after a close vote the membership voted to go to Arkansas. Tyler Texas, the site of the 2012 International, gave a quick update and passed out registration forms, and European International Rep Koen Hutse gave a brief presentation regarding the 2014 European Convention in Waidring Austria. It's Europe's intention to bid this convention as the site of the 2014 International next year in Texas. More info about the long meeting day can be found in the report submitted by BOG Chairman Bob Seelye which is included in this month's newsletter. But Monday night we all got a chance to partake in a fish fry, just one of four meals the host chapter had prepared for all attending.

Tuesday Joe/Doni, Tiny/Patti, Carl/Janis and Laura and me joined our brother Knights from IL X for a day trip. Gil Farrow of IL X originally came from the Chesapeake area, and he was eager to show the area off. 13 bikes took off for a great ride (except for the heat and humidity) to Jamestown for a tour of the historic settlement, the first colony in America. Afterwards it was another scenic ride to Yorktown for lunch, followed by another ride to Gil's son's house for a southern style BBQ with all the fixings and lots of cold beer. Laura and Joe decided to beat the heat with an impromptu water/beer fight, leaving many innocent bystanders soggy.

Wednesday was more riding, albeit limited due to the heat. The day ended with meal #3, a southern style BBQ. At the BBQ Director Chuck Homa had the honor of accepting the 100% Retention Award from International VP DJ Alvarez for our chapter. It's the first time anyone can remember that we retained all of our members from the prior year. I'll have the award at the September meeting so all can admire it.

Thursday was decidedly laid back. Joe/Doni and Laura and I got to hob knob with the upper management of the club at the President's Cocktail Reception that evening before heading over for the banquet. The banquet was highlighted by the presentation of the meritorious service awards. These awards are given to Blue Knights who have gone "above and beyond", and are presented by the Board of Governors. This year Director Sandy Santoro received this high honor; this was for her heroic rescue of a jumper on the Hoan Bridge. I couldn't tell if she was flushed by the honor given her, or relieved that no mention of "pole dancing" was made during the reading of her award. Congrats Sandy; you deserved it!!!

Friday came around bright and early for Laura and me (5AM to be exact). It was time to head home. We were not riding back with Bob Barr's Meandering Back Roads Tour; instead, we'd decided to ride as far as we could before heat or fatigue forced us to call it a day. Well, we were motivated, and after a 10 minute downpour in Ohio also sufficiently soaked and cooled off to boot. 14 hours after we started Laura and I called it a night, having ridden 750 miles from Chesapeake Virginia to Indianapolis Indiana, leaving us a short 280 mile ride home Saturday morning. But it wouldn't be a cakewalk, as the Curse of Chicago would rear its ugly head and cause us to sit in bumper to bumper traffic through the city. F*cking Chicago!

All told we put 2233 miles on the bagger in 8 days and had a blast. Next up for me is the Summer GLRC in Canton Ohio August 19-21, where I get to change hats (or should that be vests?) and fulfill my duties as your GLRC Vice Chairman. It'll also be unique for me, as I'll be riding solo for the first time since I joined the club (the other Two Horsemen will be coming from NYC and the annual Suicide Run). Sounds like another road tale in the making.

"Lost in America,"

"Wrongway" Dennis

PETE SIMET'S JUNE DINNER RIDE REPORT

I forgot to send in the June dinner ride report which consisted of Pete Simet and Mike Zivicki who did not ride a circuitous route to the Texas Road House on Moorland and I-43 due to impending weather. They have a Tuesday night special steak that was scrumptious but the best part was when the manager stopped over and asked how our food was and he noticed we were wearing colors. He asked where the rest of our group was. When Mike told him how we felt ostracized by our fellow riders who apparently didn't want to ride with us, he took pity on us and our meal was free; we only had to pay for the drinks. I tried calling some folks that I know like to save a buck but no one answered their phones.

The weather impended itself elsewhere and we had a dry ride home.

Pete





Happy Birthday

Herman Kremkau-July 3rd
Sandy Santoro-July 5th
Wendy Schoessow-July 9th
Gary Davey-July 12th
Brian Bortmess-July 16
Jessica Stanmeyer-July 21st
Mark Stanmeyer-July 29th
Raymond Teriaca-July 31st

Chapter Rides

Brunch rides are held the
Second Sunday (10:00 AM)

AND

Dinner rides are held the
Fourth Wednesday (6:00 PM)

Rides begin in March and run
through November

Meeting location is the park and
ride lot adjacent to the Milwaukee
Children's Center
HWY 45 and W. Watertown
Plank Road

Locations TBD

2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

2011 Summer GLRC **August 19-21**
Canton OH www.angelfire.com/oh5/blueknightsohxxv

2011 Fall MWRC **September 16-18**
Okoboji IA www.blueknightsmwrc.com



State Convention Roll Call

Joe and Doni Kubicek, Kevin "Half Sack" Kubicek, Dennis Hafeman, Ed Kunicki & Sue, Carl Karwacki & Janis, Chuck Homa, Scott Wysocki, Al Schoessow, Mike Zivicki, Jim & Patti Kindt.



International Convention Roll Call

Dennis Hafeman & Laura, Joe & Doni Kubicek, Jim & Patti Kindt, Mike Zivicki, Sandy Santoro, Chuck & Kathy Homa, Scott Wysocki, Kevin Porter & Chris, Carl Karwacki & Janis, Randy & Peggy Winkler, Herman & Diane Kremkau, Ed Kunicki, Steve Schultz, Bob Barr, Ted & Pat Engelbart, Mike and Cindy Stroessner.

Hello – Finally home from a very great International Convention hosted by the ever-capable Virginia V chapter in Chesapeake, VA. The weather was hot with temps close to 100 everyday. I saw 107 in New Jersey the day I left. Glad to be back home in the Mtns of WA state.

A brief recap of the meetings:

Board of Governors: Voted to go to Hot Springs, AK in 2013. We appreciate the presentation from TN 1 in Memphis and hope to have this option again. Koen Hutse, European Rep announced their plans for a bid to host International in Austria in 2014. Start saving up those air miles!

A proposal to have the Special Fund include other family members got a majority, but not the required 2/3's vote for a by-law change. The main hang-up was that some prefer language that would include children.

We had an excellent presentation regarding the 2012 Int'l Convention in Tyler TX hosted by the TX XXXIV chapter, July 22-27, 2012. The host hotel is filling fast. The Info is on the Int'l website.

A vote was taken at the General Membership meeting regarding a proposal to hold future Int'l Elections/vote counting at the Int'l Convention instead of in Bangor in January. Must discussion was about changing the method of counting the ballots and having this handled by a private company. (This is still being researched and finalized). After a vote, this proposal stands and is now in effect.

At the Board of Directors Meeting, a proposal was passed that will have the Conference in charge of "Members at Large", instead of the Int'l Office. The Election Committee gave a report and they are getting close to a proposal that would have a private company handle of future Int'l Elections. A draft Sexual Harassment Policy was presented and will be forwarded to our attorneys for review. A proposal was passed that will allow Conferences to opt out of receiving mailed copies of minutes; a big cost savings.

BOG Awards: Roger Farris Award for best represented chapter (formula: number attending, divided by total chapter members, times miles via direct route) was the Edmonton Chapter with 5 of 29 members riding 2574 miles! The Horst Maier Award (same for UK and Europe) was the England IX chapter with 4 members present. The Frank Gillespie Long Distance award went to Bruce from Edmonton Metro with 4,475 miles, 2nd place Mike Cate, WA II Pres with 4,420 miles. The John Bartholomew award for the most (per member) donated to the Special Fund went to the FLA XVII Chapter.

We had many Distinguished Service and Life Saving Awards. Those present received their awards. All will be sent to the BK news to be published. BOG Vice-Chairman Lon Strayer held a raffle for a Motorcycle Communication set (value \$300) that was donated with proceeds going to the Special Fund. \$731 was raised. Thank you Lon.

That's a brief recap until the complete minutes are published. Those traveling home had extreme heat and some heavy rain. So far, no accident reported. Was a great week; good seeing everyone. Thank you VA V....RWP

Bob Seelye, Chairman
Board of Governors

Fellow Blue Knights;

As a member of New York VII (Brooklyn '77-80), the riding season was short, so I moved to Miami, Florida. I learned Florida Chapters don't list rides because they can ride all year. *An event is coming to **Gettysburg, Penn. that I want to you share with you.***

The **Knights of the Round Table Tournament** will be in Gettysburg, Penn. this October. This is the ONLY annual **fun** motorcycle tournament challenging the **Blue (Police)**, **Red (Firefighters)** and **Green (Military)** Knights motorcycle clubs to name the BEST Knight and give one club the bragging rights for one year. The Grand Winner takes his own plaque, and his club wins the Scepter with an impressive wall hanger to proudly display at a place of honor until next year. The winning club also has the honor of hosting next year's event at a location of their choice.

The 1st event was hosted by the **Blue Knights** in Titusville, Florida, which was won by the **Green Knights**. The Green Knights hosted the 2nd tournament in Harrison, Arkansas, and the **Red Knights** won the Scepter. The Red Knights scheduled the 3rd tournament for Gettysburg, Penn. opening the door for the Tri-State, Northeast, Great lakes, or Mason Dixon Conferences to make their mark and bring the Blue Knights the Scepter and the pleasure of hosting next year's event. Statistically, the Blue Knights are favored to win, but we need the members to compete and make your Conference history.

Take a few minutes to review the 4 page website detailing the History, the competition, the hotel, and the Fun. Of course hotel and location information is also included at: www.gotkt.org

Pass the word and forward to BLUE KNIGHTS in your Conference, LET'S GET THE SCEPTER BACK THIS YEAR!

P.S. The Red Knights have announced that to encourage more participants, they're reducing the costs for members or guest that may prefer "a-la-cart" pricing to not buy a t-shirt or coin, so check the website www.gotkt.org for the reduced announcement.

Ride With Pride
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