



Blue Knights Wisconsin VI

October 2011 Chapter Newsletter

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From Your Chapter Secretary

As I begin this month's column the weather is, well, crappy. It's overcast, cold and rainy, and I swear I saw several southbound geese fly by wearing rain suits. Hopefully everyone had a chance to take in some of Mother Nature's fall majesty before it's time to drag out the bike covers and Stabil.

But the coming of fall heralds another great Blue Knights tradition; the Crying Towel Classic! The 15th Annual Crying Towel Classic was Sunday, September 25th, hosted by Illinois X at Jesters in Waukegan. Due to "liquid sunshine" I had to leave the bike at home and take four wheels to this event. In the past I've always said this event keeps getting bigger each year, and this year was no exception. Several new chapters joined in the fun, with members from as far away as Indiana and the St. Louis area making the trek. This year we had WI VI and WI X representing the Green and Gold, and IL X, IL XII, IL XIV, IL XIX, and IL XXIII representing Da Bears. The WI VI crew were: Bob Barr, Brian Bortmess (in Vikings regalia) and Joanne, Joe Kubicek, Kevin "Half Sack" Kubicek, Jim "Tiny" Kindt and his son Nick, Julian Gonzalez, Chuck Homa, Al Miller, Mike Zivicki, Tom Listinsky, Carl "Wacko" Karwacki and Janis, and me. A couple of other notables present were Past International President Mike Ripsch, Wisconsin State Rep Dane Nelsen, Illinois State Rep Gayle Murnane (a Crying Towel virgin), GLRC Treasurer Joe Kubicek and GLRC Vice Chairman Dennis Hafeman (okay, so Joe and I were pulling double duty). Jesters hosted an all you can eat pig roast prior to kickoff, so we all had a full belly just in time to watch the Vikings lose their game to the Lions! Sorry Brian; it's not too late to burn that Vikings jersey. In spite of a few shaky moments it was Green and Gold all the way, with the Packers pounding the Bears 27-17. Illinois X President Jim "Mac" McCarthy once again had to don Packers gear and endure another round of incriminating photos. While most of the members called it a day after the Packers game, a few die hard veterans stuck around to catch the Steelers/Colts matchup, close the bar and continue the party in the Super 8 parking lot. I'm proud to say I was one of them.

Saturday, October 1 started out unusually. How, you ask? Well, it was the first time in over a week that it wasn't raining! That was fortuitous, as this was the day for the First Annual Ryder's Ride. Unfortunately this ride would have to compete against the Brewers game and the local HOG poker run party. The kickoff and terminus was Milwaukee HD on Silver Spring Rd. WI VI was represented by Joe Kubicek, returning member Danny O'Toole, Kenn Ziebell, and me. Due to everything going on it was a small turnout, with 30 bikes in total taking part in the ride. It was almost 29; as Kenn was pulling into the lot his bike started to experience electrical issues, and his "check engine" light came on. Milwaukee HD's manager Paul and owner Chaz conferred with Joe, and moments later Kenn was astride a 2010 dresser to use for the ride while service worked on his bike. Now *that's* good service. The ride wasn't circuitous (nod to Chuck) by any stretch, but was a very enjoyable route through the Holy Hill area, with stops at Tally Ho and Madam Belle's. Back at Milwaukee HD Chairwoman Jean Davidson made a point of flagging Joe down and thanking the Blue Knights for supporting her cause. The day didn't just end there. Joe and I hung out with the dealership staff quaffing a few when it was mentioned to us that the party was continuing at Bottom's Up Tavern. So being uber responsible club members, Joe and I decided to ride to the bar and partake in the hijinks. And let me tell you there were plenty to be partaken in. The best feature was two lovely ladies strolling atop the bar pouring shots of Apple and Cherry Pie into your pie hole every time a certain song it played.

On October 15 Joe and I rode up to Waupun for WI XII's chapter picnic. A pleasant ride except for the gale force winds, which may have explained the low turnout. On the plus side fewer attendees meant a better chance at scoring raffle items. For a mere \$40 investment I managed to snag a rifle scope, two bottles of wine, and a lap top computer. Yes, you read that right. I had so many items in my tour pack Joe had to transport something home for me for once.

The next day Joe and I took a leisurely ride to the VFW Post in Jefferson to partake in a little chili and football. WI II (Watertown) was holding their ninth annual color ride/chili feed/Packer game fund raiser. A pretty decent turnout, with President "Tiny", Carl "Wacko" and Janis, and Jim and Debbie Bagurdes adding to WI VI's numbers. Members from WI I (Madison) were present, which gave me the opportunity to present them with the 2010 GLRC Traveling Recruitment plaque that I've been safekeeping for them since August. WI II President Bruce "Duke" Gondert ran an excellent event, with at least four different chilies (and hot dogs) and a ton of raffle prizes, capped off with a Packers win over the Rams. Joe and I hung out with the WI II Crew and a few guests for the late game, and would have been there for the long haul had the VFW's owner not showed up at 6:15 to throw us all out. In hind sight that was probably a good thing!

On a different subject, Mark Stanmeyer is looking to sell his BMW. Seems owning lake front property has awakened his inner seaman, and he's looking to purchase a party barge for the family. If you know of anyone looking for a gently used bike, give them this link to check out: <http://milwaukee.craigslist.org/mcy/2639452059.html>

In closing, have a Happy Halloween; may you get all the tricks and treats you deserve!



"Wrongway" Dennis

The Rest of the Story

By Joe Kubicek

In the September issue of the WS VS monthly newsletter, Dennis made reference to an “interesting road tale” which occurred on the Tiny/Patti, Joe/Doni journey to the 2011 MWR in Spirit Lake, IA. Dennis further stated that he was not at liberty to disclose the adventure due to a “secrecy pact” he had made with Tiny.

Well friends, having entered in to no such pact myself, I submit the following . . .

Thursday morning, September 8th, was unseasonably chilly and Doni & I had made arrangements to meet Tiny & Patti at Wisconsin Harley-Davidson in Oconomowoc at 8:30AM. On arrival the first topic of conversation was, of course, the weather. I commented that our home outdoor thermometer read 42° when we left home and Tiny said it was only 32° in Mukwonago. Being seasoned riders from Wisconsin, though, surely we all know how to dress for these cool fall mornings, right? Or do we?

Just over an hour into the ride Tiny pulled alongside us, pointed forward and took off like a shot, exiting the Interstate in Lake Delton. Doni & I looked at each other and shrugged, clueless as to why. Tiny continued on into a Wal-Mart lot, got off his bike and said, “Call me a p_ _ _ , but I need to buy some long johns”! With that, he & Patti were on their way into the store while Doni & I waited out by the bikes.

A few minutes later I decided to heed my father’s good advice (“Son, never pass up an opportunity to pee.”) and went inside. When I exited the men’s room I heard Tiny yell, “Joe”! I scanned the store and finally saw him bolting toward the front of the store. He hollered, “Some %&\$#@ just stole my leather jacket” and then directed me to watch the exit. I alerted Doni and we went on reverse greeter duty while, we assumed, Tiny notified management and a Wal-Mart “Code Adam” was put into effect.

After about 15 minutes of our checking the bags of the less-than-thrilled departing customers, Doni went to check for an update from Tiny and she found him in the men’s department looking at clothes. She queried him as to what was going on and he said, “Oh, I found it; I just forgot where I had laid it down”.

And now you know “The rest of the story”!

Minutes of the Chapter Meeting

- 1) The chapter meeting was called to order by President Kindt on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 7:02 PM.
- 2) President Kindt led the membership in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for our brothers in need. President Kindt also added a moment of silence for Founding Father Wayne Labree who recently passed away. Vice President Karwacki informed the membership that cards for members Steve Schultz and Pete Simet were being passed around for members to sign. Both are recovering from medical issues (more information later under announcements).
- 3) **Introduction of new members/guests.** Ted Engelbart introduced guest Jim Shutes.
- 4) **Reading of the minutes** (September 20, 2011): Secretary Hafeman stated that Joe Kubicek indicated an error in the last meeting minutes. Under old business-2012 Sweetheart's Dance it was reported that "Debut Printing" handled the booze raffle tickets. The correct company name is Bay View Printing. No other corrections to the minutes were indicated. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published with this correction by Bob McDermott and seconded by Mike Stroessner. Motion passed.
- 5) **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Bortmess read his October 2011 report. Final numbers will not be published in this forum. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Bob McDermott and seconded by Sandy Santoro. Motion passed.
- 6) **Old Business:**
 - A) **2012 Sweethearts Dance.** Co-Chairperson Santoro stated that Kim was home sick. The hall for the dance has been booked, and the date will be Saturday, April 28, 2012. The dance will be held at the Knights of Columbus, 3200 S. 103 St. (Greenfield). There was discussion relative to the name, as the event is not being held in conjunction to Valentine's Day. It was suggested being named "Blue Knights Annual Fund Raiser." There is no theme in mind for the event, so President Kindt directed the Dance Committee to pick an appropriate name. Members are strongly encouraged to begin getting raffle items and door prizes. Co-Chairperson Santoro stated that she would work on getting tickets. President Kindt informed her that Treasurer Bortmess still has the raffle license number. Booze Raffle Coordinator Jim Bagurdes stated he would get booze raffle tickets printed and would also check into having admission tickets printed. Joe Kubicek stated that in the past Kevin Porter had been able to get the admission tickets printed for the chapter. There was discussion relative to the cost of admission, and it was decided that the cost would remain \$10.00 for advance tickets and \$12.00 for tickets at the door. President Kindt asked that **all members** donate at least three bottles of quality liquor for the booze raffle. Joe Kubicek also stated that in the future we should consider asking restaurants we patronize for brunch and dinner rides for booze donations. Co-Chairperson Santoro stated she will e-mail donation letters out very soon.
 - B) **Blue Knight of the Year:** Current BK of the Year Sandy Santoro asked the board when she should return the traveling plaque. Secretary Hafeman asked her to return the plaque to him by December so it could be engraved with the next recipient's name. President Kindt stated that nominations for the 2011 BK of the Year should be e-mailed

to any executive board member, along with a brief explanation why that member should be awarded. The presentation will take place at the annual chapter Christmas party.

- C) **Crying Towel Classic II:** Joe Kubicek stated that round two of the Packers/Bears game takes place Christmas Day at 7:30 PM. He stated that while most members have family obligations that night, there is still interest in getting together for the game. He stated that he and Doni as well as some members of IL X are planning to watch the game. Joe asked that anyone interested in getting together for the game contact him. There was some discussion about meeting with IL X on a different date.

There was no further old business discussed.

7) New business:

- A) **International/GLRC updates:** Secretary Hafeman stated that the only update he had was relative to the death of Founding Father and Second International President Wayne Labree. He passed away at 5:00 PM on October 11 in Florida.
- B) **WI VI Christmas Party:** Secretary Hafeman asked the membership if the membership wanted a Christmas party; the answer was a resounding yes. Secretary Hafeman stated that he wanted to begin working on this due to the fact that Packers playoffs last year prevented the rental of the MPSO Union Hall. A venue for the party was discussed, and it was decided to rent the MPSO Union Hall again, with possible dates of January 7 or 14, 2012. Secretary Hafeman stated he would handle this, and would have a firm date for the party by the November meeting. He would also contact George Markopoulos about food. It was suggested inviting the members of IL X.

There was no further new business discussed.

- 8) **Announcements/Good of the order:** President Kindt stated that he had received an e-mail from the Vice President of Belgium XI. This member was interested in patches; the e-mail asked for donations, not trading. President Kindt stated that if anyone was interested in this they contact him for the information.

President Kindt spoke about the upcoming 2012 Spring GLRC. The event will be held in Niagara Falls, NY from March 30-April 1, 2012. The host hotel is on the American side of the falls; you will need your passport if you want to go to the casino on the Canadian side.

Secretary Hafeman stated that at the last meeting he had announced that the 2012 Fall Midwest Regional Conference was tentatively being held in Olathe, Kansas again. He stated that on the MWRC web site it was announced that the 2012 Fall MWRC will be held in Omaha, Nebraska (hosted by NE II) on September 7-9. There was no further information. Secretary Hafeman stated that Janis Smolinski had requested the dates of 2012 BK events, and due to that request he would publish the dates and information for these events starting with the October chapter newsletter.

Joe Kubicek spoke about the 2012 Spring MWRC, which will be in Winona, Minnesota from June 8-10. Winona is approximately 4 hours away (Lacrosse area). Joe stated that the host chapter (MN I) will be opening the hospitality suite on Thursday night for anyone arriving a day early; this is included in the registration fee as well. He further stated that early arrivals are becoming more common for BK conventions. He encouraged members to attend these conventions, stating they are as much fun as events in the GLRC.

Chuck Homa gave an update on Pete Simet. Pete had recently undergone surgery and unfortunately experienced complications. Bob Barr stated that “Big” Steve Schultz had also undergone recent surgery and like Pete experienced complications. Currently both are at home recovering. **Out of respect for their privacy I will not publish the details of their illnesses** Get well soon cards were passed around the membership for signature, and Secretary Hafeman stated he would mail them.

Vice President Karwacki stated that he ran into past member John Karlovich at the Bay View Library. John’s health is improving, although he is still undergoing treatment. He had sold his motorcycle, and is looking into purchasing a trike and returning to the club.

Bob Barr spoke about the recent fall colors ride. He stated that about 40 people and 30 bikes showed up for the ride. The weather was excellent. He further stated that Gary Davey’s trike broke down, and Sandy Santoro had experienced problems with her bike. Bob stated that he will be unavailable for leading a brunch ride on November 13, and asked that someone else step up to lead it.

President Kindt stated that anyone with photos of BK events get those to him on a flash drive or CD. He wants to put together a slide show to display at chapter events such as the Christmas party or our GLRC.

There were no further announcements.

- 9) Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:00 PM at Alioto’s.
- 10) The 50/50 was drawn, with \$50 going to winner Bob Barr and \$50 going to the chapter.
- 11) A motion to close the meeting was made by Chuck Homa, and seconded by Ted Engelbart. President Kindt closed the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis H. Hafeman

Secretary, Blue Knights WI VI



In Memoriam

It is with the deepest sadness that I report the transfer to Heaven I of Jimmy Schneider, BOG Secretary and Tri State International Rep. Jimmy passed away on Sunday, October 23 following surgery after suffering a heart attack. Jimmy was a very dear friend and will always be remembered as a true Blue Knight. He will be terribly missed by all who had the honor of knowing him. Rest in peace my friend.



ROLL CALL

Dennis Hafeman, Joe Kubicek,
Chuck Homa, Mike and Cindy
Stroessner, Ted and Pat Engelbart,
Jim "Big Bird" Shutes (guest),
Paul Serdynski, Jim Bagurdes,
Joanne Cook, Carl Karwacki,
Gary and Mary Davey, Bob
McDermott, Peggy Paddock,
Steve Lesniewski, Sandy Santoro,
Julian Gonzalez Jr., Scott
Wysocki, Steve Bzdusek, Robert
Barr, Jim Kindt, and Brian
Bortmess



Happy Birthday!

Mark Meyer-October 11th
Paul Serdynski-October 12th
Leane Teriaca-October 12th
Jon Kopecky-October 20th

2012 UPCOMING EVENTS

2012 Spring GLRC Niagara Falls, NY (NY V)	March 30-April 1 www.bkglrc.com/bkevents
2012 Spring MWRC Winona, MN (MN I)	June 8-10 www.blueknightsmwrc.com
2012 Wisconsin State Convention Green Bay, WI (WI X)	June 15-17 NO INFO AVAILABLE
2012 International Convention Tyler, TX (TX XXXIV)	July 22-27 www.blueknightstx34.org/convention2012.html
2012 Summer GLRC Collingwood, Ontario, Canada (ON VIII)	August 17-19 www.bkglrc.com/bkevents
2012 Fall MWRC Omaha, NE (NE II)	September 7-9 NO INFO AVAILABLE

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