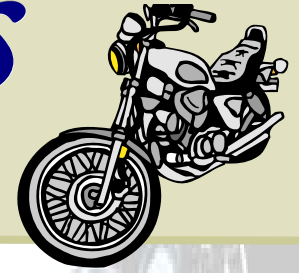




Blues News

Volume 1, Issue 1

Blue Knights ® Texas XXXI Newsletter
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club



'Blessing' of the Bikes in Blessing, Texas

Forty-six people participated in the Blessing ride to Blessing, Texas on Jan. 15.

Some of the Clubs represented were Blue Knights Texas XXXI, Blue Knights Texas VII, Arch Angels, BayArea V-Twins, HOGS, and Lighthouse Christian Ministries.

There were also about 10 other folks from various clubs.

The round-trip mileage was approximately 200 miles. The ride went smoothly, even though the group was broken somewhere around Bay City. Everyone arrived at the Hotel within 10 minutes of

each other. A special thanks to Brother Harry for leading the ride (most of the way) and for his spiritual leadership, and "blessing" of the bikes.

Also to "Two Burgers" (BK TX 31) and "El Gato" (Arch Angels) for assisting in ensuring that all intersections were safely transversed by the group.



D.J. Alvarez (BK TX 31 President), Mike Gingrich (BK TX 7 Vice President) and "Crash" (BK TX 31 Road Captain)

A Special Message from the President



D.J. Alvarez

On behalf of the Blue Knights International, Blue Knights Rio Grande Conference, I would like to thank

every member of Texas 31 for making our Chapter the biggest and best chapter in the great state of Texas. Another great year has passed, and this

year will be even better! As being one of the founders of our Chapter, and 1st Chapter President, I am proud of our great club and organization. Blue Knights has 565 chapters and over 19,000 members in 28 countries, and the numbers grow every day. Our chapter has grown to be one of the most highly recognized and respected motorcycle clubs in our area. Since forming in

June 2004, our chapter has raised and donated more than \$19,000 to various fundraisers and charitable organizations. This does not include the man hours donated to make it possible to do this. Also, keep in mind our club is always open for new members to join. Anyone interested in joining may contact me by phone or email. Right now we can only take Regular and Associate members.

January & February 2006

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Hill Country ride to Leakey, Texas	2
Skilled Rider course at Stubbs	2
Biker Insider news briefs	2
Riding tips by Ken 'Slims' Sims	3
BK gives to good causes	3
Attorney General: Poker Runs Illegal	3
Rio Grande Conference	3
Newsletter submissions; BK sales	4

Chapter Meeting:

DATE:

Wednesday, Feb. 15

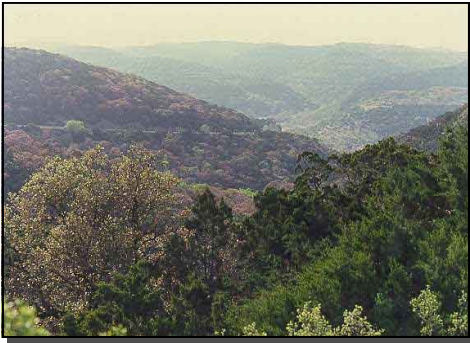
LOCATION:

Los Patrones Restaurant, 4901 Broadway, Galveston

TIME:

7:30 p.m.

Hill Country ride to Leakey, Texas April 28-May 1



Our Chapter is hosting a scenic Hill Country ride to Leakey, Texas from April 28 to May 1. The CAL-TEX spring ride will be in

Uvalde that weekend, so the Blue Knights will meet up with them that Saturday.

The cabins are now booked; however, anyone needing a room at a nearby hotel can contact Deb at D’Rose at (830) 232-5246 for assistance. About 33 people so far are participating. For those participants who cannot stay until Monday, a group will be returning home on Sunday, April 30.

For more information, contact Chapter President D.J. Alvarez at (281) 642-8716.



From Galveston to Leakey:
Estimated time 5 hrs, 51 mins.
344.39 miles



Molly Lynch gave Chelsey Campbell a Support the BK shirt at her benefit Jan. 21

“Skilled Rider” Safety Course at Stubbs

A one day “Skilled Rider” course (6-8 hrs) exclusively for Blue Knights members will be on Sunday, Feb. 5 at Stubbs Harley Davidson in Houston. The course is \$100 per participant. If you are also a Harley Owners Group (HOG) member, you may submit a copy of your certificate to Harley Davidson and receive a \$50 gift certificate. This course qualifies you for insurance discounts through many companies.

motorcycle, valid driver’s license & insurance, DOT approved helmet, full finger gloves, eye protection, boots or leather shoes (covering ankles), long sleeve shirt or jacket, long pants, appropriate rain gear (if raining).



You will need: your personal

If you are interested, contact Roger “Crash” Byars at (281) 309-0453 or v8ford77539@yahoo.com

Biker Insider news briefs



Cancer Benefit: Our Chapter donated \$100 during a cancer benefit for 15-year-old Chelsey Campbell, daughter of J.L. & Sandy of Santa Fe, on Jan. 21. Further contributions can be made to Moody Bank.

Update on Tommy: Tommy Farrell of San Leon had a 4-way bypass heart surgery in Nov. 2005. He was in the hospital for a week and the day before he left, he was surprised to learn a Blue Knight VII member was admitted

into his room. They had a lot to talk about! Tommy is in Cardiac Rehab but expects to be riding again soon. We all wish him & his family well.

Retirement: Don Lounds is retiring Jan. 31 from the Galveston Police Dept. after 22 years of service. He has accepted an investigator’s position with the Galveston County Criminal District Attorney’s Office. He began his career in law enforcement in 1975 in Michigan.



Happy Birthday, Rose! Feb. 19th

Rose & Roger “Crash” Byars pictured at the Topwater Grill in San Leon

Safety tips for group riding



By Ken "Slims" Sims

The techniques the Chapter use are simple with a little practice. 1) The Road Captain leads the group, initiates all driving signals and makes all lane changes and directional decisions. 2) When the Road Captain initiates a signal, each person passes the signal to the rider behind them. 3) The Tail Gunner (last bike) serves as eyes of the Road Captain and assists with lane changes. He watches the formation

and informs the Road Captain of any potential problems with the group. He also assists with lane changes by blocking the new lane to allow the group to move over safely. The Tail Gunner is the first to move into the lane and block traffic from advancing into the group. 4) The Road Captain makes the change and everyone follows.

The **Staggered Formation** is the most common used method for group riding. The bikes form two columns, with the Road Captain at the head of the left column. The second bike will head the right column and will ride approximately 1

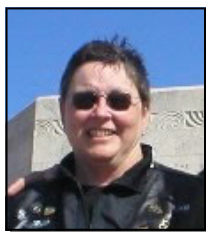
second behind the leader in a diagonal. The other riders will position their bikes 2 seconds behind the bike directly in front of them, or 1 second behind the diagonal bike to give the rider sufficient space and discourage other vehicles from cutting in.

Riding in a group involves being an ACTIVE participant. Importantly, none of us would allow a lead bike to enter danger without trying to prevent it. Ride at your own pace, and there is nothing wrong with telling the lead bike to slow down if you are uncomfortable.

The Blue Knights group gives to good causes

The Chapter has made \$19,868.89 in cash donations to various causes including Greater Houston Area Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), Toys for Tots, Special Olympics, Child Advocacy Center, Blue Santa programs and the Blue Knights International Special Fund. Nearly \$3,000 was spent in supplies for relief efforts for Law Enforcement victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and up to \$4,000 worth of donations were raised in the relief effort including donations of clothing, and

medical, cleaning, weapon and K-9 supplies.

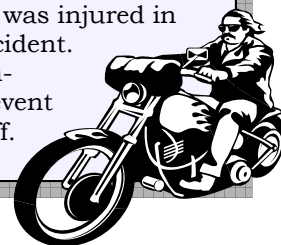


By Laura Sims "Mama Bear"
Treasurer

"I would like to express my appreciation to the Chapter for having the confidence in me to serve as the group's Treasurer."

Attorney General: 'Poker Runs' are illegal under TX law

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott in December ruled that motorcycle club fundraisers such as 'poker runs' constitute as illegal gambling under Texas law. The decision was prompted following a poker run from our Chapter to raise money for Galveston County Deputy Michael Roy, who was injured in an automobile accident. An individual complained, and the event was then called off.



Rio Grande Conference May 18-20



2006 Rio Grande Conference

May 18-20

Nassau Bay Hilton
3000 Nasa Rd. 1
Clear Lake, Texas

Rio Grande Conference, which will be May 18-20 at the Nassau Bay Hilton in Clear Lake.

The registration fee has been reduced to \$50 per person before April 15, which includes a free T-shirt. After April 15, the registration fee will increase to \$60 (no free T-shirt). Registration packets include a cookout Friday night, banquet Saturday night, door prize tickets, T-shirt & assorted coupons. The event will include various activities, an On-Bike Contest and

more. Transportation to events will be available for non bike riders.

Registration forms are available on the Blue Knights Texas VII Website at www.texasblueknightsvii.org.

For more information about the event, contact Randy Marshall at Rmarshall@rice.edu or call (281) 435-7117.

The Rio Grande Conference is comprised of all Blue Knights members from the Texas, Arkansas and Mexico region.

The Blue Knights Texas VII Chapter is hosting this year's

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Submit to the
Blues News newsletter

Article submissions should be about three paragraphs in length (limited space) in a Word document or rich text format. Photographs should be sent in a JPEG, TIFF, GIFF or BMP format with a resolution of at least 150.

Submission suggestions:

Awards you've won, special events or rides you've experienced, Blue Knights events coming up, showcase on your bike, unique or funny stories involving motorcycles, personal news (i.e. promotions, retirement, etc.) Please submit birthdays & anniversaries as well. Ideas are welcome.

Submit articles and photos to Molly Lynch via email (listed at right). You may also provide a printed Word file in person. Submissions are subject to editing and will be used based on space availability.

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Shirts & Patches available for sale



Support T-shirts: \$10.00 (gray short sleeve only)

Blue Knights T-shirts: \$12.00 (short sleeve); \$15.00 (long sleeve)

Available in white & black

Individual Patches: \$5.00 each (pictured right)

Vest set patches: \$65.00 (set pictured center)

For size information & availability or to order, contact Quartermaster Robert Elliott at (409) 948-6528 or email at regoodtimes@aol.com.