



## SRC Chairman Mike Shockley



Greetings:

With Winter behind us, and the weather warming up in the SRC its time ride!

This edition of the SRC Herald covers the first quarter of 2024, as well as future events. I want to thank you for your submission to the Herald, and I encourage everyone to continue the good work.

Chapter membership renewals have been good this year. Fewer Chapters have appeared on the late renewal report. I want to thank SRC Board members Randy Hoagland and Bob Awtrey that helped save a few Chapters that were on the verge of folding. Also, the recent change in the Blue Knights International by-laws that allow Chapters to operate with fewer members (8) has contributed to some chapters staying chartered, and some new Chapters getting started.

In April the "SRC Meeting" is happening in Statesboro, GA, hosted by GA II and the SRC. It will be a two-day event that will include our Spring Business Meeting. There will be rides, hospitality and comradery. This is an abbreviated version of a traditional SRC Conference because there were no bids for a full conference. On the upside we can offer this event without a registration fee, and it will include a free Saturday evening meal. This may serve as a model of the way some of our conferences are held in the future. I will certainly be interested in everyone's comments and feedback after the event.

We are expecting a bid to be presented at the upcoming meeting for a full Spring 2025 conference. However, there is no indication of bids for Fall of 2024 or Fall of 2025. In talking with other Conference representatives, it seems this is the new normal, whereas they are having problems finding Chapters willing to host large events as well. If any Chapter is interested in hosting an SRC Conference or SRC Meeting, please contact us.

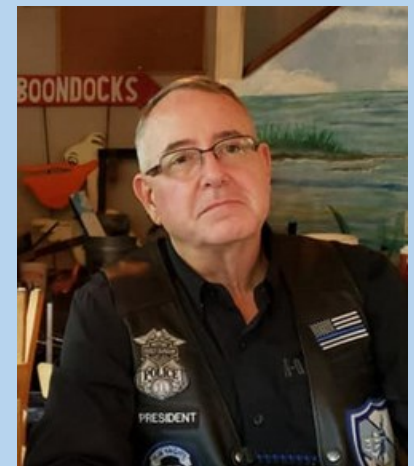
I encourage everyone to continue to work diligently to make 2024 a great year for the SRC.

Let's ride with pride and put brotherhood before politics!

**Mike Shockley**

SRC Chairman

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Good Morning members of the best conference around. The Southern Regional Conference.

I am looking forward to seeing everybody in Statesboro for the Spring SRC Presidents meeting. A big shout out to Bobby Durden and GA II for their hospitality they will be providing while hosting this conference. They have some great activities set for everyone that comes in.

The SRC is looking really good for our 2024 membership Renewals. We are looking to grow more and more over the next number of years.

I especially want to express my appreciation to the members from ALA IV for working with me over the past couple of months in getting their chapter renewed. I will be working with them to get things moving forward for their members.

As I brought up in the Oct. SRC, I would be working on new guidelines for the Band-Aid fund. Those guidelines have been posted on the SRC website and are in place for the Band-Aid fund. We still need chapter donations and I ask all chapters to participate. This fund is for you in the SRC if something should occur. We have had some participation from chapters, but we need a lot more. So please talk to your chapters and make the donations.

I also completed the guidelines for hosting an SRC conference meeting. These have been posted on the SRC website as well. Look them over and let's see more chapters get involved in hosting our Spring and Fall conferences. The board is working on a fall conference and a bid is going to be presented at the SRC in Statesboro for the Spring SRC of 2025.

I am looking forward in the months to come, visiting, working, and seeing members and chapters. If you need anything from me, I'm only a phone call away.

Thank You,

Randy "PAPA SMURF" Hoagland

SRC Vice Chairman





**Hello to all of our Fellow Blue Knights!**

As of this report all of our accounts are up to date! I will be submitting my Treasures Report to the conference along with the totals for the Checking, Money Market, Disaster Relief Fund and SRC Band-Aid fund Accounts at our next SRC Presidents Meeting in Georgia. As I have stated in the past if anyone ever has any questions regarding any of these accounts please feel free to contact me by phone or email. I have records of all transactions that deal with the SRC Account.

I'm looking forward to seeing y'all at the SRC President's Meeting in Statesboro, GA. Some of us will also be attending the Multi-Chapter Picnic in Sebring, FL. Safe travels!

Reminder to file your annual 990N and for those in Florida your Florida Non for Profit

My wife and I will continue to Pray for our Brothers and Sisters who protect us every day along with our Military and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders!

Al Fryer II

SRC Treasurer







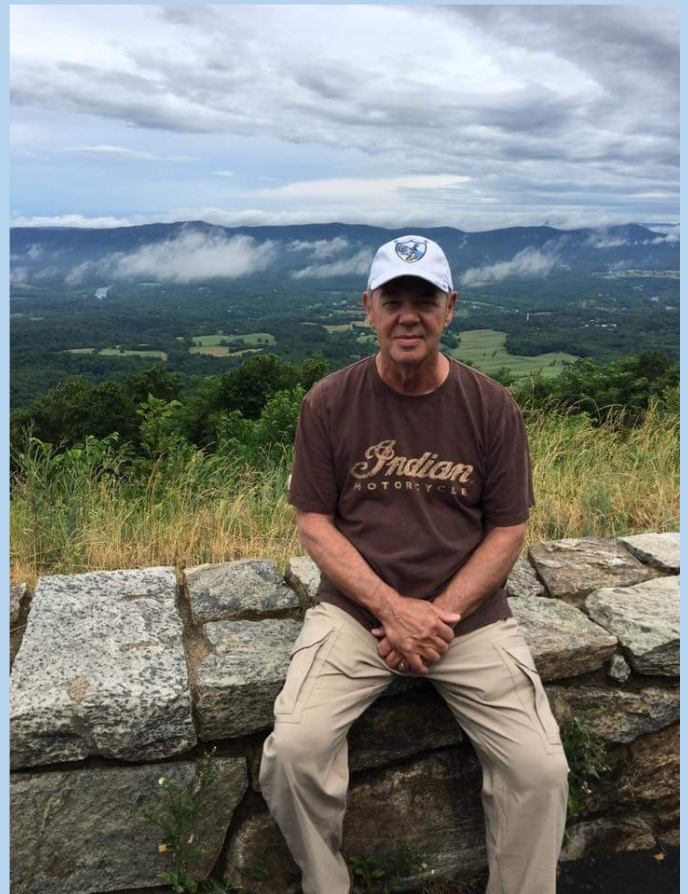
Greetings to the SRC from your International Representative. We hope this is a great year for Blue Knights and our SRC Chapters. Things have been pretty quiet in our Conference. But as I look at Facebook and all of the flyers that are there for events and rides, I know that everyone is probably busy preparing and scheduling their Chapter rides and events.

I am looking forward to our spring meeting in Statesboro, hosted by GA II. From what I have seen and heard, there is a “good time” to be had that weekend. On that subject, remember that if your Chapter wants to host a meeting or Conference event, you must submit it to the Presidents at least one year prior at their meeting.

A change to note, all of our International BOD meetings and minutes are now available on our International website. We will no longer email them to the Presidents. Also, the meeting minutes are audio recorded and you can find them on the website and listen to them if you would rather.

Ride safely, ride proudly and ride often.

Bob Awtrey, SRC IR







## SRC Secretary Justin Hartley



I hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather we are having. I've been lucky enough to get a few miles in, but I've spent way too much time working somewhere. Its great to see so many of you enjoying your time together. I'm jealous of what I see on social media. So many are getting together on multi chapter rides, weekly breakfast or lunch rides, and large turn outs for meetings.





## SRC Safety Officer Sal Anicito



### Six Techniques to Avoid a Motorcycle Accident

Did you know that motorcyclists account for around 3% of all traffic injuries? While this is one of the most enjoyable pastimes around, it's important to stay safe any time you get on your bike. In addition to all the normal obstacles that all drivers face, from bad weather to heavy traffic, motorcyclists are even more at risk on the road due to their exposed nature. They're more difficult to see, which increases the likelihood of a collision. Thankfully, there are measures you can take to help prevent a motorcycle accident from occurring.

#### 1. Take It Slow

The faster you're traveling on your motorcycle, the harder it is to react to an obstacle in the road. It's also more challenging to navigate around other vehicles or maneuver around sharp turns. If it's raining or weather conditions impede your visibility in any way, reduce your speed even more. This environment already puts you at a higher risk of a crash, and it's smart to practice extra caution.

#### 2. Use the Right Gear

Another element of motorcycle safety is properly gearing up every time you set out on a ride. When it comes to your helmet, quality matters. Yours should be specifically designed for motorcyclists and in sturdy condition. If it's more than five years old or been in a crash, it's time to upgrade it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cites that wearing a motorcycle helmet can reduce your risk of a head injury by 69%!

#### 3. Stay Visible

Both day and night, it's vital to stay as visible as possible when riding a motorcycle. In addition to wearing bright and reflective colors, you can also add reflective tape to your bike and all accessories, such as your motorcycle gloves. Don't assume that other drivers will notice you. Take these precautions to ensure you're as easy to spot as possible on the road.

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## SRC Safety Officer Sal Anicito



### 4. Take Intersections Carefully

Intersections can be particularly dangerous for motorcyclists. First, there's the concern that a vehicle can come up behind you and rear-end you because they don't see you. Then, there's the inherent risk of someone turning in front of you or making another surprise motion. As you approach an intersection, slow down, look around you, and make sure adjacent traffic can clearly see you. It's also important to use turn/hand signals so other drivers know where you're going, which allows them to adjust their positions and give you plenty of space for your next move.

### 5. Be Vigilant

The second you hit the open road, you want to release your cares and enjoy the views around you. While this is one of the best parts of riding a motorcycle, you must also stay alert as you drive. Motorists can be drowsy or distracted by their smartphones. They might make sudden moves, such as a lane change or a swerve, that you weren't expecting. There could also be roadway obstacles, such as potholes or fallen limbs, requiring you to make a quick maneuver.

Any time you ride, you should expect that there's something around every turn waiting to surprise you. Drive defensively and stay attuned to the traffic around you. The more vigilant you can be, the more prepared you'll become.

### 6. Don't Drink and Drive

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that about 37 people die in the U.S. every day because of a drunk-driving crash. That's one person every 39 minutes. Alcohol slows your response and reaction times. It can also impair your judgment and lead you to make poor decisions, such as driving over the speed limit or faster than conditions allow. This is why it's never a good idea to drink before driving your motorcycle.

Ride Safe!





## From a Chaplain's Point of View

As a club member, I serve as Chaplain. Therefore, I serve at the will of God and the club members. As the Chaplain, I am able to serve God and share the Gospel while sharing in the hurts and celebrating the joys of the member's lives.

As SRC Chaplain, I hope to get to know the leadership of the Blue Knights chapters and encourage the Chaplains. It is with joy that we are able to assist in any way. I would like to encourage the chaplains and presidents of each chapter to have a devotion and a prayer list to share at each meeting and prayer for safety before each ride. As a chaplain, it is very rewarding.

I am not sure if each chapter has a chaplain, but if they do not, please pray for one. We have the task of praying for members who went down and visiting with members that had a loss in their immediate family. We need each other.

As a chaplain, I have had chapter support while my wife was in the hospital for 42 days with a very serious illness and as I started an online church. The support I received from my chapter was above what any would expect. Chaplains have hurts and needs also, share with your chapter, and contact me, that I may pray or advise you and your chapter.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.





## Florida I



It's been a mostly quiet couple of months but here are some of the happenings from Florida's oldest BK chapter.

Our long-time meeting location has decided to close their doors on our meeting night and are unable to accommodate us any longer with a private room - even on a different evening. As such we are trying out a few different places and are hoping to find one that is a good fit for us and a reasonable distance from our members who are fairly well spread out.

At our February meeting we had a guest speaker from Delta Defense who spoke to us about the benefits of the USCCA self-defense insurance program. A few of our members were already participating in this program and more signed up that night. They are not the only company to offer insurance such as this and many feel it is a worthwhile expense. Although the rep was not a LEO, he is an avid motorcyclist and shooter and it was great to swap stories prior to his presentation.

Lastly, on the morning of 01/20/2024, while enroute to a motorcycle safety course hosted by the Gainesville PD, I was badly injured in a motorcycle vs deer accident. The impact totaled my Ultra Limited and although I was wearing a full-face modular helmet, leather jacket, gloves, chaps and boots, the crash put me in the hospital for 6 days with many broken bones and other injuries. As of this writing it's been 2 months since the incident and my recovery is going well. With any luck I'll be back on a wheel by the end of April. Our immediate past president notified the SRC of the accident to see if I might be eligible for the Band-Aid fund. After they considered the circumstances, they decided I was and sent me a check to help cover some of my medical expenses. This is a great resource for our members and I hope you consider having your chapter donate to it as ours did.

I am grateful for the visits and to all who reached out to me, not only from our chapter but from others throughout the SRC. At our February meeting, members of our board presented me with a few gifts which were happily received and definitely raised my spirits. Brotherhood....

Ride With Pride  
Sean Balsamello  
President Florida I





# Florida I







## Alabama VIII

Alabama VII will be hosting a Motorcycle Refresher Training on Saturday, 30 March 2024 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Chapter member Coby Templeton, a certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructor, will conduct the class. Alabama VII invites all chapter members, family members and guests to come out and hone your riding skills as a new riding season is here. We will also be conducting T-CLOCS inspections of motorcycles and providing a comprehensive inspection list to all participants. Riders of all skill levels are welcome to attend as Alabama VII honors the By-Laws of Blue Knights International:

- To promote and advance the sport of motorcycling and the safety of motorcycling.
- To serve the interest of motorcycle owners and users.
- To promote by example and any other acceptable means the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles.
- To develop a fraternal spirit between law enforcement personnel and the general public.

The training session will be held in the north parking lot of The Rock Church, 2626 Huntsville Highway, Fayetteville, TN 37334. Again, riders of all skill levels and all types motorcycles are welcome to attend. Ride With Pride Alabama VII.

## Florida V Donation to the Polk county SPCA animal shelter





## Florida IV

Blue Knights Florida XXXII and visiting Blue Knights North Carolina XXIII watching the SpaceX launch from Titusville. Great time and brotherhood! Sean Aaron and Brandon Pless.

Blue Knights Florida XXXII and Blue Knights North Carolina XXIII rode to Goodrich's for a seafood festival. Great food and time had by all. Titusville, Florida to Oak Hill, Florida

AGAIN: Blue Knights Florida IX, Daytona beach Chapter continued with being the perfect host for their City during Bike Week! A barbecue dinner and an auction this afternoon/evening. Great items auctioned at even better prices. A great fun for all the visiting Blue Knights from all over the country. Our Chapter, Blue Knights Florida XXXII really enjoyed ourselves. Also, this morning they fed everyone a breakfast of Biscuits and sausage gravy with Chic filet breakfast morsels. Then a great ride through the area and adjoining counties for all to enjoy.

WELCOME MIKE ODLE!

Blue Knights Florida XXXII, Space Coast Chapter had their monthly meeting and then a ride to

Lunch. As usual we had guests from Blue Knights XII and Ontario II. A great time was had by all. We welcomed new member Mike Odle to our ranks. We are pleased he decided to join our little band of Brothers and Sisters

BBQ for veterans at Veterans Memorial Park in Merritt Island. Blue Knights Florida XXXII along with guests International Chaplain Dan and Felicia. Completed the ride along with local Rolling Thunder. Chaplain Dan Walls blessed the Bikes prior to the ride. Upon finishing the ride and barbecue we rode through the south end of Kennedy Space Center before returning back to Titusville.

Gerald Pierce





# Florida IV





Florida IV





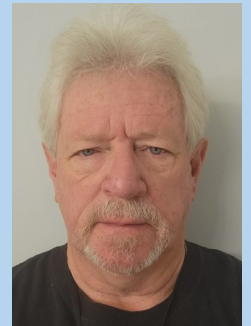


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