



SRC Herald Newsletter

2026
2nd Edition
January - April 2025
Published May 2026

Upcoming SRC Conferences

**BLUE KNIGHTS SRC
2026 FALL CONFERENCE
MYRTLE BEACH, SC
October 6, 7, 8, 2026**

Hosted by: SC V
www.bkscv.com/2026-src



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The SRC Herald is the newsletter of the Blue Knights Southern Regional Conference. The SRC Herald is published Quarterly.

Editor / Publisher:
Mike Shockley



SRC Executive Board:

- Randy Hoagland**
Chairman
- Eddie Henderson**
Vice-Chairman
- Mike Shockley**
International Rep
- Sal Anicito**
Secretary
- Al Fryer**
Treasurer

Message from the Chairman

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the SRC,

I hope all is well with everybody and you all have survived the winter and are ready for some great riding and enjoying the fantastic miles to be put on the roads and enjoying the camaraderie of your fellow Blue Knights. Make sure you get those scooters dusted off and all the cobwebs cleaned out. Ride safe and enjoy.

Kudos to Fla III for hosting such a great SRC Conference last week. We had a great time and the hospitality was outstanding. The accommodations of the hotel and staff was exceptional, and we were all made to feel right at home. We were greeted with a cookout of BBQ Chicken and side dishes on Sunday afternoon. There were escorted rides, non-escorted rides, and a ride taken to the Equestrian center on Tuesday morning. We had good food, good rides, and great fellowship throughout the week. Again, thank you Mike and the members of Fla III for taking care of us in such a way.

As you all have heard, Jerry Pierce and his wife were involved in a serious accident while attending Fla IX get together during Daytona Bike week. They are both recovering and still need our prayers and support. The SRC sent Jerry a check for \$1,000.00 from the Band Aid fund to help with any finances he might need for his hospital expenses.

During the SRC Banquet, the hat was passed around by BK NA VP Cal Ennals for both Jerry Pierce FLA XXXII and Brian Turner FLA XXXVI. A collection of \$1,550.00 was collected and \$775.00 was sent to both for well-needed support for both members.

We are moving along with our conference with some additions to our State Reps, Safety Officers, and Chaplains. They will be reaching out to the membership as time goes on. We've added several new State Reps to include adding a State Rep for Puerto Rico. We've also added a second SRC Chaplain Please give them your support and feel free to always reach out to them at anytime if you need anything.

In closing, I am looking forward to working for you as members of the best conference in the Blue Knights organization, as well as your SRC Board. I am always here for any help you may need and my door is always open. Looking forward to seeing everybody in Oct. up in Myrtle Beach for our Fall SRC Conference being hosted by SC V.

Ride with Pride

Randy "PAPA SMURF" Hoagland
SRC Chairman



SRC Vice-Chairman - Eddie Henderson

Greetings fellow Blue Knights,

I just returned from the Spring SRC Conference in Ocala. A huge “thank you” to President Grizz Broman and all the Florida III chapter members for a great conference. Along with GA II President Bobby Durden, the SRC Board led 22 bikes from chapters GA II, GA III, GA XI, GA XVI and GA XXII from Statesboro, GA to Ocala, FL. It was impressive having that many of our brothers and sister rolling in at one time.

The SRC State Reps, SRC Chaplains and SRC Safety Officer were sworn in at the SRC President’s meeting in Ocala. Thank you to all who volunteer their time to support the chapters and members in these roles.

This year we held the first Zoom call for all the State Reps. This was an information sharing call with time for questions and answers. I plan to hold this call prior to each Spring and Fall Conference. It is another way of staying in touch with six states and Puerto Rico.

The recruitment poker chips were provided to your respective State Rep at the Spring SRC President’s meeting. If you have not heard from your State Rep, reach out to them. If I get positive feedback on this initiative we will order more for the chapters.

I have formed a SRC Conference Committee to work on solicitation of conference bids from chapters and an overall look at the process for our conferences. The committee consists of individuals who have experience hosting conferences both within the Blue Knights and with outside organizations. The members are: Roy Weiland President FL VIII, David Whittenberg President LA XVI, Tom Oster President LA XV and myself. Reach out to any member of the committee if you have suggestions on improving our process. It would be great to have more chapters stepping up to host our conferences. These events build relationships and networking across the SRC. We need chapters to place bids at the Fall 2026 conference for the Fall 2027 Conference. This will give the Presidents the opportunity to vote on the location. We also need a Spring 2027 Conference if a chapter is in a position to make this happen. Give me a call if you have questions.

During the SRC Spring Conference, International President Russ Harper told us there is a survey on the international website for the membership to complete reference the future of the Sword and Shield magazine. Please let your voice be heard by going to the Blue Knights International website and login on the righthand side for member. The username is your member number; password is your last name in all capital letters. The survey is at the top of the page.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Myrtle Beach Conference this Fall. Don’t forget to get your hotel reservations made and conference registrations submitted.

Ride with Pride!

Eddie Henderson SRC Vice Chairman 404-276-4705



SRC International Representative – Mike Shockley

Greetings:

First and foremost, I wish to thank Florida III for their diligence and hard work in putting on an excellent SRC Conference in Ocala. My trip to Ocala started with a ride to Statesboro, Ga for an overnight stay and camaraderie with other Blue Knights from various chapters. The next day I was part of a 200 + mile group ride from Statesboro to Ocala. There were 22 motorcycles and several chapters represented. I want to thank Bobby Durden and his chapter (GA II) for planning and organizing the ride.

Welcome to our newest SRC chapter! As I mentioned in the Ocala business meeting, a new SRC chapter was in the works. Please welcome our newest chapter, Mississippi I (MS I). MS I is based in Hattiesburg, MS. The MS I President is Toby Schwartz.

I want to touch on the subject of bids for upcoming SRC Conferences. From my experience on the International Board of Directors, I can tell you the SRC is not the only Conference struggling to find hosts for events. When I was SRC Chairman, one of the most daunting tasks was to procure chapters to host conferences. I found that some of the factors preventing chapters from stepping up to host includes an inflated economy with a substantial increase in the general price level of goods and services, a declining and aging membership, and fear of liability, both financial and personal. For the past few years there has been a pattern of no, or few bids received on time. When no bids are received this puts the SRC Board in a predicament to procure a chapter to host or decide to have an abbreviated version of a conference. It also eliminates the opportunity for Presidents to vote on the upcoming conferences bids. Although the by-laws are clear that the SRC Board must procure a host, when they do, sometimes their decision is met with discontent. This said, I urge Chapters to get bids in on time so the Presidents can vote as prescribed in the By-laws. Any chapter considering hosting a conference is welcome to contact me or any SRC Board members for information and assistance.

On the International level I am working hard as your International Representative. I have participated in several BOD meetings, Article X hearings, a budget meeting and voted or commented on a number of issues. The meetings, usually on-line via Zoom, have proven to be lengthy, lasting between 4 and 10 hours. There is some new leadership on the BOD and we are continually learning to work efficiently as a team. Currently in works are organization-**wide ride and event waivers** that will be available to chapters that wish to use them.

On a personal note, riding season has started here in North Georgia. Although we have been in a drought, the weather has been nearly perfect for motorcycling. My next long-distance adventure may include riding to Alberta for the International Convention.

If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Be safe and Ride with Pride!

Mike Shockley
SRC International Rep
msshockley@gmail.com



SRC Secretary – Sal Anicito

Hello to all my Brothers and Sister's of the S.R.C.,

I first want to say THANK YOU once again to all of you who voted for me to elect me as your SRC Secretary. The Ocala Conference was my first "official" Presidents meeting and although I was very nervous, I want to tell you how honored I felt to be part of the SRC Board. The meeting was great and all went well.

I also want to give a big KUDOS to Blue Knights FL III for putting on a great Conference. The key note speaker at the Conference Banquet was Sheriff Billy Woods of the Marion County Sheriff's Office. For those who were not at the Conference you missed an awesome presentation by the Sheriff. His key point in his presentation was all of us sitting in that room and the impact we all had on this profession. Often times, after we all retire, we feel that we have been put aside. The new officers coming in have no idea what we all accomplished in our careers and we are kind of put out in the shadows.

The Sheriff mentioned that even though he is now the Sheriff, he still wears his Motor Cop wings on his uniform every day because he worked hard to earn them and he will not put aside his tenure as a Motor Cop. The Sheriff spoke about the amount of experience, knowledge and bravery we had sitting in that room. He spoke about the camaraderie that we have now through the Blue Knights organization and spoke highly of the fact that we have not forgotten what we went through each and every day of our career. He mentioned that his agency just went to black cowboy hats and he was happy to see so many Blue Knights at the Banquet wearing cowboy hats!

It was a very meaningful presentation for everyone who was in that room and made us all feel that no matter what, we are not forgotten. Each and every one of us has had an impact on somebody, somewhere during our careers and those people will never forget us. Don't ever feel that that your career and all that you did was in vain. We have all left our mark. We should all feel proud of a job well done.

The fellowship and camaraderie I feel when I am together with my Blue Knights Family is always an inspiration to me and I cherish our time together.

That's about it for now. See y'all in Myrtle Beach in October. Until then Stay Safe and RIDE WITH PRIDE.

SAL

Sal Anicito, SRC Secretary



SRC Treasurer - Al Fryer

Hello to all our Fellow Blue Knights!

As of this report all our accounts are up to date! I will be submitting my next Treasures Report along with the totals for the Checking, Money Market, Disaster Relief Fund and SRC Band-Aid fund Accounts at our Fall SRC Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC.

If any member ever has 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 want to say thank you to all the Blue Knight Chapters that have donated and continue to donate to the SRC Band Aid Fund.

Great Job Florida Chapter III for a Great SRC Spring Blue Knight Conference in Ocala, Florida. I didn't realize there were so much beautiful riding around Ocala. I'm looking forward to the upcoming Fall SRC Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC!

Reminder to all our chapters to file your 990N and Florida chapters your Florida for Non Profit which both can be completed online.

My wife and I will continue to Pray for our Brother's and Sister's who protect us every day along with our Military and 1st Responders!

Good Luck to those members who are running for SRC Positions!

Al Fryer II
SRC Treasurer



SRC State Representatives

SRC State Representatives were sworn-in at the President's Meeting in Ocala.



Alabama (North)

Ernie Morgan
Alabama VII
erniemorgan5@gmail.com



Alabama (South)

Richard "Bubba" Ballard
Alabama XV
bubba35405@gmail.com



Florida (North)

Al Riccio
Florida III
funwithal@yahoo.com



Florida (South)

Juan "Del" Castillo
Florida IV
Juan.delcastillo@yahoo.com



Florida (West)

Wayland Mann
Florida XXVI
waylandmann@gmail.com



Mississippi

David Ervin
Mississippi IX
dervin1@bellsouth.net



Georgia (North)

Sharon Coker
Georgia XI
sharonrwatkins@gmail.com



Georgia (South)

Bobby Durden
Georgia VIII
bobbydurdan16@hotmail.com



Louisiana

Duane Farquhar
Louisiana XV
dfarq366@yahoo.com



Louisiana

Gerald Cormier
Louisiana XII
gcornier@ppso.net



South Carolina (East)

Rob Lampitelli
South Carolina XIV
R19017L@gmail.com



South Carolina (West)

Chuck Runion
South Carolina VIII
fuzz_biker@yahoo.com



Puerto Rico

Jose "Chirilo" Martinez
Puerto Rico II
chi-ri-lo@hotmail.com

SRC State Rep information can be found on the SRC Website - www.srcknights.org

Mississippi I

Welcome to our newest chapter, Mississippi I, chartered in Hattiesburg, MS.
Congratulations to Toby Schwartz the founder and first President of Mississippi I





Florida I

Greetings from the Sunshine State,

In January, Florida I attended the "Taco Takeover" in Gainesville along with members of FL XXXVI, FL VIII, NC XVII, NY I and International President Russ Harper. Good food, music and fellowship made for a great day. Thank you to Michael Romero, President of FL XXXVI for putting the ride together for those who came from the east coast.

Also in January, 6 members and a guest of Florida I had lunch with Blue Knights from FL VIII and FL XXXVI at Renegades on the River in Crescent City. 200+ beautiful miles in January really couldn't be beat. Good food, good riding, great fellowship and a car show made for an excellent day. Thank you, Roy Weiland, President of Florida VIII, for the invite.

On March 5, approx 70 Blue Knights from MANY different chapters enjoyed a great Bike Week lunch and camaraderie courtesy of Florida IX. Approx 30 of those Knights enjoyed an 80 mile or so backroads ride from Bob Evans in Port Orange to the FOP Lodge in New Smyrna Beach. Thank you to Victor Ramos, President of Florida IX for a great ride and to all of their members for a great day. Christine and I wound up with 298.5 miles for the day, temps on the dash were reading as high as 95°. Not too shabby for early March.

Still during Bike Week, on March 7, Christine, Bill and Sean rode to the east coast once again to check out Main St. and have lunch at Joe's Crab Shack on the pier. Gorgeous weather, good food and some amazing bikes made the 5+ hr round trip worth it. Chris and Sean also rode the Ormond loop for a beautiful change of scenery. If you're ever in the area, "The Loop" is worth your time.

March 14 saw 3 members of Florida I along with 13 other motorcyclists meet at the Kirkpatrick Criminal Justice Training Center in Gainesville, FL. We were there to attend the SMART Motorcycle Safety Course hosted by the Gainesville PD. We were split into 2 groups with ours being coached by Retired Lt and Florida I charter member Don D. Don is a former Motor Man, a great instructor and has been a Blue Knight for 51 years. We did a short warmup ride and then moved into the exercises. After class, the four of us rode to the original Sonny's BBQ for a good lunch and some more laughs. It was a great day of training and fellowship. If you live in Florida - you owe it to yourself and your loved ones to take this FREE course to become a better rider. They are given by multiple PD's throughout the state.

03/29/2026, Dan, Don B. and Sean left Trenton, FL at 0800 and rode to the National Prisoner of War Museum/Andersonville Prison in Andersonville, Ga. Dan worked out a route keeping us off the interstate and on the 2 lane. Using US129 for most of the ride up was not disappointing. It's a somber place, not only for the museum which explains how our Service Members were treated as POW's throughout multiple conflicts - but also for the tremendous loss of life suffered by Americans, at the hands of Americans during the Civil War at Andersonville. If you've never been there- and have any interest in history, the trip will be worth your time.

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Florida I

Continued from previous page . . .

We stayed in the Historic Windsor Hotel (built in 1892) in Americus just 15 minutes or so down the road. A very cool place that's loaded with character. The trip back to Florida on Monday found us rolling south on US41 with warm temps and sunny skies. Mileage for the roundtrip ran from 525-556 door to door for our members. It was an excellent way to spend a couple of days.

We had 5 members attend the Spring SRC hosted by Florida III in Ocala. Bob, Ron, Jim, Christine and I enjoyed good food, good rides and great fellowship. Christine and I were lucky enough to meet up with friends of ours from GA VI (our former chapter) and ride over to Crystal Harley together for the BBQ.

Lastly, Florida I has found a new home for our monthly business meeting and dinner. We now meet at New York Pizza Plus in Alachua on the second Thursday of the month. Dinner is prior to our 6 pm meeting. The food is terrific and the response from our members has been very positive. Come join us if you are in the area

Ride With Pride
Sean Bassamello
President



Florida I



Florida I



Florida IX

On March 5th 2026 Blue Knights FL IX held our annual Bike Week event. There were 58 Blue Knights from 10 different chapter's present for breakfast at Bob Evans, including International President Russ Harper & International North American VP Calvin Ennals. After breakfast 30 bikes participated in an 80 miles guided ride through Southeast & Southwest Volusia County ending up at Jim White FOP Lodge #40 in New Smyrna Beach for BBQ, There were over 70 Blue Knights in attendance. Thank you to all that supported our event and look forward to seeing you at our next event Biktoberfest 2026.

RWP
Victor Ramos
President BK FL IX



Florida IX



Georgia I

Greetings from GA I - Atlanta



Georgia I



Georgia XXII

Hello my fellow Blue Knights of the S.R.C.,

GA XXII has been pretty busy these past few months. Our weather is changing with each day, the green leaves are filling our trees once again and it's getting better and better to ride our motorcycles. During the winter months we usually only see each other for our monthly meetings since it's a little too chilly to ride, so in February I decided to put together a lunch where we could all meet for some good ol' fellowship. The Chapter met at Jim's Smokin Barbeque in Blairsville Ga. We really enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie not to mention some awesome food! Despite the very cold temperature, one of our members actually rode his motorcycle to the luncheon. I don't want to mention any names but his initials are Joe Daum. Joe, I gotta say, you're a trooper when it comes to riding in the cold!

In mid February we got some better weather so we rode to Bryson City N.C. to a place called the Barbeque Wagon (we must really like Barbeque!) for lunch. It was a little on the Chilly side when we left but got a little warmer as the day went on. Other rides included a ride to Topoco Lodge in Robinsville N.C (about 3 miles from the Tail of The Dragon). It's a pretty cool place on the banks of the Cheoah River. Very scenic and they even provide covered parking for motorcycles! After lunch our Treasurer/ Rode Captain Larry Jarkovsky led us on a beautiful ride through the mountains. Other rides included a lunch ride to Big Daddy's in Helen Ga. and a ride for the best Smash Burgers you've ever eaten at The Mountainside Market in Epworth Ga.

Thirteen of our chapter members attended the S.R.C. Conference in Ocala. The first day (Apr.11) Five of us rode from Blairsville Ga., to Statesboro Ga. We spent the night in Statesboro. We met up with Ga. II, Ga.III, Ga. XI, Ga. XVI and Ga. XXII. We left Statesboro on Apr.12 with 22 motorcycles and we were escorted out of town by Bulloch County Motor Units. It was awesome! We rode from Statesboro to Ocala. It was a great ride and everything went very smoothly. It was pretty impressive rolling in to the Hotel in Ocala with 22 roaring motorcycles!

Members of our Chapter will be participating in a Memorial Ride for a young man who was tragically killed in a head on motorcycle crash on top of Blood Mountain when a car traveling in the opposite direction went across the centerline of the roadway and hit him head on. The Memorial Ride is called "Rollin for Nolin" and our Chapter will be making a donation to the young man's family. Please be careful riding. That's about it for now. Until next time, shinny side up and rubber side down, "RIDE WITH PRIDE"

Sal Anicito, GX XXII Secretary



Georgia XXII





South Carolina V

Host of the Fall 2026 SRC Conference



**BLUE KNIGHTS
SOUTHERN REGIONAL
CONFERENCE**

RIDE WITH PRIDE

**2026 FALL CONFERENCE
MYRTLE BEACH SOUTH CAROLINA
October 6, 7, 8, 2026
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**

RIDE WITH PRIDE ON THE GRAND STRAND

The Grand Strand is a 60-mile stretch of beautiful sandy beaches located along the Atlantic Ocean in South Carolina, primarily in Horry and Georgetown Counties. It is a popular tourist destination known for its attractions, golf resorts, and family-friendly activities, with Myrtle Beach being the main city in the area.

HOST HOTEL: The Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, Tapestry by Hilton

Address: 3200 South Ocean Boulevard Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577

Group Room Rate: \$199 per night plus tax

Parking: Reserved and secure parking for motorcycle, trailer and vehicles.

Hotel Rate Cutoff: September 7, 2026

Link To Book Hotel: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/blue-knights-motorcycle-2026/>

Call to Book Hotel: 1-800-774-1500 (Group Code 91N)

Check In/Registration: Tuesday 3:00pm to 7:00pm

Guided Rides: Wednesday & Thursday with self guided options

President's Meeting: Thursday 8:00am to 9:00am

Banquet: Thursday 7:00pm at DoubleTree Resort Carolina Ballroom

Hospitality Room: Every Night- (Attending Presidents asked to bring a minimum of one (1) bottle of liquor of choice to help stock the bar.)

Raffle: 50/50 Raffle Every Night

Sales: Vendor and Chapter Sale Space Available. \$25 a table.

Contact: SC V President John Flynn 910-367-6500 or fuzzyoflynn1@gmail.com.
Any difficulties registering online, contact John.

REGISTRATION: \$140 per person. Includes daily breakfast, banquet, hospitality beverages with a bag, patch and pin with 2026 Fall SRC logo. Pre-registration cutoff July 15, 2026 to guarantee banquet attendance.

LATE REGISTRATION July 16, 2026 to September 29, 2026 is \$160 per person. No refunds after September 21, 2026.

INFO: 2026 Myrtle Beach Fall Bike Week will be September 27, 2026 to October 4, 2026.

Register Online at: <https://bkscv.com/2026-src>



South Carolina XIV

The Tour of Honor (“The Tour”) is a nationwide journey dedicated to honoring America’s fallen heroes. Participants visit memorials recognizing veterans, first responders, and other heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice, documenting their travels and sharing their experiences with a community united by a common purpose. Through these journeys riders pay tribute to those who served while raising awareness and support for charitable causes. The tour runs annually for seven months from April 1 through October 31.

Founded in 2010 by Steve Brooks the Tour was created to give motorcycle enthusiasts and patriots a way to honor those who have given their lives in service to the Nation. What began as a grassroots effort has grown into a nationwide event bringing together riders from across the United States.

Each year, participants set out to visit memorials across the country – lasting tributes to the sacrifices made by our military personnel, police officers, firefighters, and other first responders. By stopping at these sites, riders help ensure that the legacy of our fallen heroes lives on.

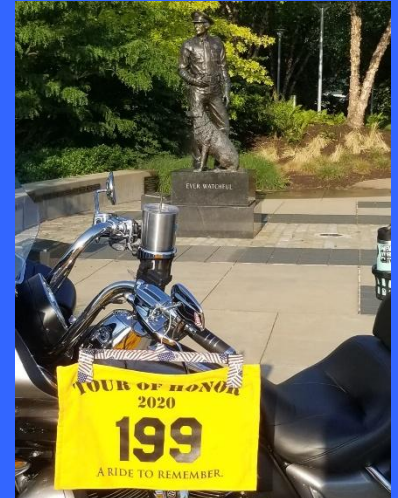
Scott Shane, a member of the Blue Knights, South Carolina (SC) Chapter 14/XIV, is an active participant in the Tour. This year he has already completed the 7 newly released memorials of South Carolina this year as well as two from Georgia and North Carolina:

- Allendale County: A traditional courthouse lawn monument, valued not for its design but for its role in honoring local individuals who gave their lives in service. The location reflects the courthouse’s long-standing importance as a community hub.
- Belton SC: Belton Veterans Park, opened in May 1997, honors all U.S. Armed Forces veterans. Its centerpiece is a black granite monument listing those lost in World Wars I and II, and Vietnam, flanked by wings engraved with the emblems of the six major military branches.
- Columbia SC: Known as "Discovery," this mural portrays human progress and the history of Columbia from its indigenous roots through European settlement and wartime periods to the present day.
- Conway SC: A newer downtown memorial dedicated to all veterans, regardless of branch, service type, or whether they served in wartime or peacetime – honoring both the living and the fallen.
- Dillon SC: This monument commemorates those who fought and sacrificed for the nation, emphasizing remembrance of past, present, and future generations who defend liberty.
- Gaffney SC: This site highlights the significance of the Battle of Cowpens during the American Revolution, where strategic leadership and unconventional tactics led to a decisive American victory.
- Paxville, SC: A mural depicting General Francis Marion’s pursuit by Colonel Banastre Tarleton through the swamps during the Revolutionary War, illustrating the use of terrain and strategy to outmaneuver British forces.

In 2025, Scott rode 18,330 miles for the Tour and other related rides and received several certificates. Way to go, Scott, and thank you!



South Carolina XIV



SRC Safety Officer – Norm Miller

I spoke briefly at the Spring SRC about seasonal allergies and motorcycle riding. This article expands on that presentation.

Riding a motorcycle can present many dangers during any time of the year, whether a motorcyclist encounters ice on the road during the colder months or congested traffic during a summer festival or popular event. However, many motorcyclists struggle with seasonal allergies (aka hay fever) during the spring, and these symptoms can make a crash more probable for a variety of reasons. If you struggle with allergies, it may be necessary to avoid riding your motorcycle until your symptoms improve.

Researchers said that of the 39 million Americans who suffer from hay fever and allergies, only 4.8 million take prescription medications. The remainder of these folks go without treatment or take over-the-counter medications. Common over the counter (OTC) medications include antihistamines and decongestants.

Antihistamines: Non-sedating, long-acting oral antihistamine medications (loratadine [Claritin], fexofenadine [Allegra], and cetirizine [Zyrtec]) are the mainstay of seasonal allergy treatment. These medications have minimal side effects and are taken once or twice daily. Avoid first-generation antihistamines like diphenhydramine (Benadryl) and chlorpheniramine (Chlor-Trimeton) as they can cause significant drowsiness and impair driving ability.

Decongestant medications: Decongestant medications (pseudoephedrine and phenylephrine) reduce mucous secretion of the nasal passages. These medications are taken every 4 to 6 hours. If you are taking medication for high blood pressure, check with your healthcare provider/cardiologist before taking decongestants.

Even though many antihistamines are available OTC, they can still cause significant problems if you don't use them correctly.

Side effects of first-generation antihistamines (Benadryl/ Chlor-Trimeton) can include:

- Drowsiness and reduced coordination, reaction speed and judgment.
- Dry mouth and dry eyes.
- Blurred or double vision.
- Dizziness.
- Headaches.
- Difficulty urinating and constipation.
- Low blood pressure.
- Mucous thickening in your airways.

Side effects of second-generation antihistamines (Claritin/Allegra/Zyrtec) can include:

- Headaches.
- Cough.
- Sore throat.
- Abdominal pain or discomfort.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Drowsiness (in high doses).

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SRC Safety Officer – Norm Miller

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In addition, some antihistamines can make certain health conditions worse. If you have any of the following conditions, you should talk to your healthcare provider first before taking antihistamines:

- Diabetes.
- Enlarged prostate or urinary difficulty/retention.
- Epilepsy.
- Heart disease.
- High blood pressure.
- Increased pressure in your eye (glaucoma).
- Hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid).

Always check how your body reacts to any medication before driving, as individual sensitivity can vary. Test your response at home by taking a single dose and wait 30–60 minutes to gauge sedation before venturing out.

Drowsy driving is responsible for an estimated 100,000 traffic crashes and about 1,500 deaths yearly, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Riding a motorcycle is hazardous enough without any type of impairment. It's better to postpone the ride than to end up in a crash or be arrested for DUI.

Ride Safe!

Norm Miller
SRC Safety Officer



SRC Safety Officer – Ken Serpan



Greetings fellow Blue Knights. I am disappointed that I could not attend the recent Conference in Ocala. I was all packed up a ready to go when some last-minute issues arose that prevented my attendance. Congratulations to Florida III as I understand that it was a great event. I am looking forward to the Fall Conference in Myrtle Beach hosted by South Carolina V. I am looking forward to meeting many of the Chapter Safety Officers as well as Blue Knights members.

I want to pass on information I have received regarding recalls on certain 2024 – 2026 model Harley Davidson motorcycles. The recalls are in regards to issues that can lead to brake failure or crankcase pressurization. If you have a Harley of these year models, check with your dealership to see if your bike is affected.

I peruse many articles and news stories to source my submissions for each SRC newsletter. For my article in this edition, I came across a very informative and common-sense article that I hope will help make your long-distance rides more pleasurable and most of all, safer.

10 Motorcycle Habits Only Long-Distance Riders Truly Understand - Story by TJ Hinton

Around-towners, commuters, and other short-trip riders typically spend about an hour at a time in the motorcycle saddle. That usually isn't long enough for the road to really take its toll. Tackling a genuinely long trip is another matter entirely, as you start to ache and stiffen in new and interesting places, and trust me, that process doesn't get easier with age.

Over time, long-distance riders develop certain habits that help them cope with the physical and mental demands of extended stints in the saddle. These aren't things you learn on short rides or quick commutes, but behaviors that only start to make sense once the miles really add up. Below are ten motorcycle habits that experienced long-distance riders understand instinctively, small, practical adjustments that help extend saddle stamina and make it possible to arrive feeling far more human than road weary.

Check the Weather Three Ways

Some of the most important long-distance riding habits happen before you ever light the fire. Seasoned riders don't rely on a single forecast; they check the weather from multiple angles. Start with local radar, which gives you real-time insight into current conditions and shows how weather systems are moving and developing. Next, look at the hourly wind forecast. Strong or inconsistent winds dramatically increase both mental and physical fatigue, even if the sky stays clear.

Finally, check temperature swings along your route. They're usually predictable for the region but knowing when and where the mercury will drop helps you dress appropriately and decide whether **extra layers or heated gear are worth packing**. Just as importantly, be sure to **check all of this for where you're riding to, not just where you're starting**.

Fuel Stops Planned Before Hunger

Long-distance riders often cross what are effectively "fuel deserts," where gas stations are few and far between. On bikes with smaller tanks, that can even mean carrying extra fuel just to make the next leg. Because of this, keeping the bike fueled always takes priority over feeding the rider when deciding where and when to stop.

For efficiency, it makes sense to **eat when you stop for fuel rather than wait until hunger sets in**. Letting your blood sugar crash can be surprisingly dangerous, impairing focus and coordination more than many riders realize. A small, balanced intake of **carbs, protein, and fat goes a long way toward staying sharp**. Energy drinks may seem convenient, but they often lead to a hard comedown that can leave you feeling worse, not better.

Packing By Frequency, Not Size

Long rides demand a wide range of gear to stay comfortable through changing conditions. Rain gear, extra layers, tools, and odds and ends all must fit into a limited amount of cargo space, most of it stacked vertically in saddlebags. Because of that, experienced riders **pack based on how often something is likely to be needed**, not how big it is.

Items like **rain gear and thermal layers should live near the top**, while tools you'll rarely touch (like a spark plug socket) can sink to the bottom. Trust me, digging through your luggage in low light while a storm rolls in is *no bueno*. A little **planning up front makes every stop faster and far less stressful**.

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SRC Safety Officer – Ken Serpan



Stop Early to Avoid Fatigue Debt

Fatigue debt is a common but often overlooked challenge on long trips. It sneaks up as exhaustion accumulates from a mix of long hours, poor diet, dehydration, overestimating your abilities, and the constant demands of riding. You might feel heroic pushing through on day one, but by day three, the effects add up, and only proper rest can reset you.

The older you are, the more noticeable the impact, so know your limits and don't try to be a hero. While not as dangerous as sleep deprivation, fatigue debt can still reduce situational awareness and cloud judgment, things you can't afford on the road.

Hydrate Constantly

Proper hydration is critical on long rides. Dehydration is a silent enemy that creeps up faster when you're blasted by wind and sweating under your gear. Waiting until fuel or food stops to drink isn't enough. **Hydrating on the move helps prevent early fatigue and maintains focus.**

Water alone works, but **adding an electrolyte drink like Gatorade improves absorption and keeps your body balanced.** There are also a variety of products designed to make hydration easier than shoving a bottle into a pocket. It's worth considering if you want to stay sharp and comfortable mile after mile.

Choose Comfort Over Style

On long rides, function beats form. Accessories like windshields, deflectors, lower fairings, and wide saddles may not look flashy, but they make a huge difference in comfort for both rider and passenger. A wide saddle with a matching pillion pad, plus a top case with a backrest, can prevent fatigue and soreness over extended miles.

Heated seats are worth considering, too. Even in mild climates, they break the chill of early mornings or night riding, keeping your ride enjoyable rather than draining. **Prioritizing comfort over style ensures that you arrive feeling fresh** rather than sore.

Adjust Your Riding Position

On short rides, foot and hand positions are often dictated by traffic and the need for quick control. On long-haul trips, however, there's more flexibility, and small adjustments can make a big difference in comfort. Moving your feet fore and aft on the footboards, or using highway pegs at different heights, helps relieve pressure and ease aches.

With knee pain, I personally use multiple peg positions on a bike, switching between them to alleviate discomfort over long miles. As you get older, you'll learn which pains are "normal" and which signal it's time to stop, sometimes soon, sometimes immediately. Listening to your body keeps you safe and more comfortable on the road.

Trust Daylight More Than Distance

On long rides, thinking in "energy-miles" shows that daytime riding is far less demanding than riding at night. You can see farther, spot potential hazards earlier, and respond without stress. You're also far more visible to other drivers; headlights help, but they can easily blend into the backdrop of traffic.

Riding at speed in the dark adds extra fatigue and strains reflexes at the worst possible moments. For maximum safety and stamina, plan to cover your miles during daylight and use nighttime to rest and recover.

Perform Bike Checks at Stops

Just because everything seems fine doesn't mean problems haven't started developing. At every stop -- fuel, food, or bathroom -- take a few minutes for a quick bike check. Pull the engine oil dipstick to confirm levels, but other areas like the transmission can usually wait for overnight inspections unless you know of a specific issue.

If your bike lacks a TPMS, check tire pressure every chance you get, as it directly affects handling and fuel efficiency. Look for loose fasteners, heat-shield clamps, or fairing damage, and tighten or address issues as needed. Catching a problem early is far safer than discovering it at speed on the highway.

Pace Your Ride

Mental tricks can make long-distance riding more manageable. Instead of thinking of an 800-mile trip as one enormous stretch, **break it into smaller segments** -- say 100 miles at a time -- with breaks in between. This makes the journey feel far less daunting. Sprinting at high speed early on only increases fatigue and prolongs recovery.

Maintaining a **steady pace, ideally moving with traffic, reduces strain**, keeps you safer, and prevents you from becoming a hazard to others. **Stick to a constant speed and eat during fuel stops**, and the miles will pass more smoothly without unnecessary risk.

SRC Chaplain – Marty Duncan

Wow! What a blessing it was to be at our Spring Southern Regional Conference in Ocala, Florida enjoying the fellowship with so many of our Blue Knights. At the Chaplain's table, I left behind some personal cards, cross lapel pins, and Proverbs 3:5-6 bracelets. If you didn't get a chance to grab one, I still have a few left—they are free! It's just my personal way of introducing myself as one of your SRC Chaplains.

If you're like me, you live for the ride—that unique time of connection. I wanted to share a few thoughts on why fellowship is so vital, both as a Blue Knight and as a follower of Christ.

There is a unique roar that happens when a pack of motorcycles fires up in unison. It's more than just noise; it's a vibration you feel in your chest. It signals that a group of individuals has decided to become a single unit with a shared destination. In the New Testament, the Greek word for this is **Koinonia**. We translate it as "fellowship," but its roots go much deeper—into partnership, joint participation, companion, and a shared life.

- **Hebrews 10:24-25**- *And let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

Every great ride depends on a Lead Road Captain. Their job isn't just to set the pace; it's to watch the road for everyone behind them. They point out the gravel, the potholes, and the sudden turns. In Christian fellowship, we are all "road captains" for each other. We aren't meant to navigate the hazards of life alone. When we "meet together," we are essentially briefing the pack—sharing where the road is rough so the brother or sister behind us doesn't have to learn the hard way. We also encourage each other; remember that old cliché - "one for all and all for one".

- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor; for if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up!*

New riders often wonder why we don't ride in a single file line. We ride staggered because it provides the perfect balance of proximity and protection. If we ride too far apart, we're just solo travelers; if we ride too close, one mistake takes down the whole line. We stay in sync—ahead, to the side, and behind—to protect the journey.

Christian fellowship is our "staggered formation." It provides a buffer of grace. It means being close enough to see when a friend is "wobbling" under the weight of a heavy season in life. Whether it's a "blown tire"—a job loss, a health crisis, or a spiritual struggle—fellowship ensures someone is exactly where they need to be to help that rider pull over and recover. Real fellowship requires intentionality. It means checking your mirrors to ensure no one falls behind and being willing to adjust your pace for the sake of the group.

As you head out on your next ride, remember that you aren't just a solo rider; you are part of a formation. Keep your eyes on the Lead Rider (Christ), stay safe in your lane, and don't let another brother or sister fade out of your mirrors to be left behind on the shoulder. Let's ride with the confidence that comes from knowing we don't travel this road alone. Whether the sun is at our backs or we're leaning into a headwind, we are bound together by a shared mission and a Savior who has already cleared the path ahead.

As your SRC Chaplain representing Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico, please know that I am available to pray with you or a family member, to encourage you, and to offer words of wisdom and truth from the "Blueprint for Life", the Bible. You can contact me via email at martyvd@msn.com or text at 850.445.5487. If interested, you can tune in to my daily radio ministry, the "Blueprint for Life" which airs at 5:05pm (est) on www.faithradio.us.

May your chrome stay bright, your tires stay grounded, and your heart stay connected to the pack. I look forward to seeing you all at the next stop.

Keep the shiny side up and your faith moving forward, Marty

Marty Duncan
SRC Chaplain
(FL, GA, SC, PR)



SRC Chaplain – Mike Vosbrink

We had a great time in Ocala during the Spring SRC. I was able to meet new friends and reminisce about the old days in my previous years as an FHP Trooper. At the President's meeting on Monday, I and other new leadership were sworn in during a formal ceremony. Additionally, I had the honor to lead the invocation at our Tuesday banquet. Thank you to the leadership for the privilege. It was also really good to catch up with Chaplain Marty Duncan, my SRC Chaplain counterpart. I'm looking forward to serving alongside him as we work to encourage and strengthen our Chaplain corps in the SRC.

We (my wife Pam and I) were able to spend some long overdue time with our siblings who live just south of Ocala. It was good to see all of them. We laughed and enjoyed conversation and did some catching up on everything going on in our lives. We also enjoyed backroad travel on the Trike there and back. There is still some beautiful undeveloped land in central Florida!

One of my goals as your SRC Chaplain is to make chapter visits and rides, as time allows. Many of the area leadership have provided the meeting details. Lord willing, I can make that happen. Regardless, please know I am available to serve you any way I can. I'm a phone call, text or email away.

I've gained greater appreciation for the LEO motorcycle community, having been a Blue Knight for the past ten years. You are a tight knit bunch, regardless of your agency background. We all have the common bond of policing, where we had each other's backs wherever we were. In my tenure as an FHP Trooper, there were many, many shifts where the only backup was a neighboring PD or SO. This was also true in my city police days. Turf was not an issue; we all wore the badge and were sworn to uphold the law and look out for one another. I was always grateful whenever another agency rolled up. Our MC should be the same way. No matter where we are or what shield we wear, we are brothers (and sisters) of law enforcement, and the Blue Knights family.

In Romans, Chapter 14, the Apostle Paul writes these simple words: *"So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another."* Make this the anthem of your chapters this year. Make the goal of your meetings and rides reflect these simple truths. You will be better for it and it will promote the organization in an attractive way. Stay safe, shiny side up. Until our paths cross again...

Ride With Pride!

Chaplain Michael Vosbrink

MS XI Chaplain

SRC Chaplain (LA, MS, AL)

chaplainvosbrink@gmail.com

850-276-7469





**BLUE KNIGHTS
SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
2026 SPRING CONFERENCE
OCALA, FL
April 12-15, 2026
Hosted by: Florida III**

Comments from Chairman Hoagland & The SRC Board:

Our 2026 SRC Spring conference has come and gone, and a great time was had by all. Our congratulations go out to Mike Broman and the folks from FLA III for hosting the SRC in beautiful Ocala Fla. The conference was from April 12th through April 15th and was a huge success.

The Host Hotel, Holiday Inn and Suites were a perfect place to host our conference. The hotel was very nice and the staff, especially Ms. Stacy, took care of us and made our stay very pleasant. The registration was set up in the lobby of the hotel where we came in and met with Pam Poisson and the boss lady Dawnie Hulce getting us all signed in and directing us wherever we needed to go. As I approached the registration desk, Pam immediately broke out with singing me happy birthday. Made my birthday extra special.

From 1600 to 1800 a BBQ was set up outside to welcome everyone in and to feed us BBQ Chicken and vegetables and drink. The BBQ was amazing. It was a nice treat for dinner for those who stayed and joined in. As the night drew in, many members met with both old and new friends and were able to reminisce from the ride and other events that have been shared together. Some folks hung out in the lobby while others wandered in to the hospitality room.

Monday morning the Presidents meeting was held in the banquet room where conference business was addressed and then we were released for some great riding for the day. One ride was escorted and was taken to the Lucky U restaurant for some lunch. The other ride was taken around Ocala's beautiful horse country and ended up at Crystal Harley Davidson where we treated to a great lunch there as well. After the rides were over, everyone returned to the hotel and enjoyed the camaraderie with other SRC members.

Tuesday there was another escorted ride to the World Equestrian center for a day of relaxation and lunch. Some folks just branched out on their own and rode in different directions for the day.

Tuesday we were treated to a banquet fit for a king, okay fit for a knight. Our guest speaker was Sheriff Richard Wood from Marion County S.O. as the evening progressed, awards were given out. At the end of the banquet B.K. N.A. V.P. Cal Ennals took up a collection by passing the hat to raise funds to help Jerry Pierce from FLA XXXII and Brian Turner from FLA XXXVI. \$1550.00 dollars was collected and \$775.00 dollars was given to each member. The evening came to an end and the SRC Spring Conference went down in the history books of Blue Knights Southern Regional Conference. Again, Thank You to the members of SRC Chapter FLA III for such a great and memorable conference you gave to the members of the Southern Regional Conference.

Ride with Pride!

2026 Spring SRC Conference Pictures



The next pages contain pictures from the Spring SRC Conference in Ocala, FL.

More pictures can be found at the following link:

<https://slideshow.pixelparty.site/C7GPW6P6>

Enjoy!





















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