



SRC Herald Newsletter

2026
3rd Edition
May-July 2026
Published August 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



There is still time to register!

In this Edition

Letters from the SRC Board.

International News – IR Mike Shockley

Messages from SRC State Reps, Safety Officers & Chaplains.

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FL IV
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Rides & Events

Announcements:

Bids Needed for 2027 SRC Conferences.

FL IX will host the 2028 International Convention.

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

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 SRC members from your SRC Chairman,

I hope everyone is doing great and has been out enjoying the opportunities of putting lots of miles on those bikes. I know I have seen a lot of pictures of rides and events that our members have been attending and putting on as well. I know I have. That's what we do is ride.

It has been an eventful year for me. I have been busy with conference business since day one. I've loved every minute of it. I have been blessed to serve as your conference chairman. I have worked with many chapters and members with different things involving our conference. All for the betterment of our conference and organization.

We are growing with new members and chapters. It's fantastic seeing more members getting brought into the chapters. The Presidents and members are working hard and are showing the pride of Blue Knights in everything they do.

We are coming up on our Fall SRC being hosted by SC V in October and John Flynn guarantees that this is going to be a great conference. His members have been working hard to put together a conference for us all to come and enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship that we all get to do at our conferences. So clean your bikes up, load them up and come on to Myrtle Beach for some days of good food, good riding, and a great conference.

We are still looking for a chapter to host our 2027 Spring Conference and our 2027 Fall conference. I make it a challenge to you all to put together a conference for our members to really enjoy. Ask the Presidents from the chapters that have hosted conferences. It's very rewarding and brings our members together in many ways. I speak from experience on hosting these events as our chapter GA XVI hosted a joint SRC Conference and International convention in Stone Mountain, Ga.

In closing again, I want to thank the SRC Members for their support while being your SRC Chairman, as well as thank our SRC Board who has supported me as well and have done a great job behind the scenes for your conference. So, when you see one of the board members, give them a shoutout for the hard work they do for you. As we all close out let's go out there and have a good time and always remember "RIDE WITH PRIDE".

Thank you,

Randy "PAPA SMURF" Hoagland
SRC Chairman



SRC Vice-Chairman - Eddie Henderson

Greetings fellow Blue Knights,

I trust your summer is going well for your chapters, your chapter events and your recruitment/retention efforts.



The SRC Conference Review Committee, consisting of Roy Weiland President FL VIII, David Whittenberg President LA XVI, Tom Oster President LA XV and I, have updated the Suggested Guidelines for Hosting a SRC Conference. This updated document is posted on the SRC website. A proposal to update the SRC Bylaws for minor changes to the SRC Conference process has been submitted for approval by the presidents at the SRC Fall 2026 President's meeting.

We need chapters to consider hosting our conferences. These events build relationships and networking across the SRC. Bids for the 2027 Fall Conference can be presented during the Fall 2026 conference President's meeting. This gives the Presidents the opportunity to vote and select the location. We also have the Spring 2028 Conference bidding opportunity coming up Spring of 2027. Give me a call if you have questions.

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.

We had the opportunity to honor and remember our Blue Knights MS XI sister Andretta English in Hattiesburg, MS on August 12th. It was an honor to represent the SRC along with Chairman Randy Hoagland.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Myrtle Beach Conference in October. Ride With Pride!

Eddie Henderson SRC Vice Chairman 404-276-4705



SRC International Representative – Mike Shockley

Greetings:

I hope this finds everyone well, and hope that everyone is enduring the incredibly hot weather we are having here in the South.

In July I attended the Blue Knights International Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. At the convention I was busy representing the SRC. I attended three (3) meetings, that included the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting, the General Membership meeting and the Board of Directors meeting.

The General Membership meeting, where all members in attendance can vote, resulted in the ratification of two by-laws changes.

- 1) Dues Increase - Dues will increase by \$5 to \$30 in 2027 and a subsequent \$1 increase per year until 2032. This is necessary to address inflation now and in upcoming years. The last dues increase was a decade ago (2016).
- 2) You Must Own a Motorcycle to Join - The clause that allows new members to join without owning a motorcycle for the first six (6) months of membership was deleted, and now new members must own a motorcycle at the time he or she joins. This does not impact those that are already members.

The Board of Directors (BOD), of which I am a member representing the SRC, was tasked at its meeting with procuring a host and venue for the 2028 International Convention. This is normally a task for the Board of Governors, but no bids were submitted within the required time-frame, therefore under the by-laws the task falls on the BOD. Thankfully, Florida IX stepped up with a proposal for holding the convention in Daytona Beach, FL. It was a unanimous vote by the BOD to accept the FL IX proposal. The International Convention will be held in Daytona Beach in the summer of 2028 (June or July). Exact details cannot be announced until after the 2027 International Convention. This is a great opportunity for SRC members to attend an International Convention.

As I have said before, I appreciate the opportunity to represent the SRC on the International level and serve on the SRC Board. Thank you for your continued support.

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

Hi my Brothers and Sister's,

I hope this finds everyone well. I just want to say that this Blue Knights organization is awesome and we should all be proud to be part a part of it.

As we go through this life of ours, sometimes we run into various obstacles. As we sometimes say, "Life gets in the way" but one thing I know is that no matter what we are going through, we always can rely on our fellow Blue Knights getting us through. It may be a broken down motorcycle in an unknown place, it may be a sick member that needs assistance, it may be a family that needs help after a storm, it may be a member needing a prayer, it may even be a tragedy that occurred but no matter the situation you can always count on fellow Blue Knights to help get you through. That's why they call us a "Family".

Each and every one of us should be proud to be part of this organization and we should all do our fair share of making the Blue Knights the best it can be. We do that by working together as a team. We all have a lot in common and we've all been through a lot in our careers and we all have a lot to offer. Let's all relax and enjoy the fellowship, Camaraderie and Honor of being members of the best motorcycle club in the world.

The SRC in Myrtle Beach is coming up in October and I hope to see a lot of you there. SC V has been working hard to make this an awesome Conference for all of us. If your Chapter is interested in hosting an SRC Conference please let us know. We are always here to help you and you will find that although there is a lot of work involved in hosting a Conference, it is a very exciting and rewarding experience for your Chapter. Once again, we are not only an "Organization" called "The Blue Knights", we are a "Family" called "The Blue Knights".

Hope to see you in October. Until then, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Be Blessed and "RIDE WITH PRIDE"...

SAL

Sal "Sonny" Anicito
SRC Secretary



Meritorious Service and Life-Saving Award Presented to Mississippi XI Member Andretta English

Reported by SRC Chairman, Randy Hoagland

On Aug 12th, members of the SRC Board, Chairman Randy “PAPA SMURF” Hoagland and Vice Chairman Eddie Henderson, along with BKI Past President D.J. Alvarez, were graciously invited to a ceremony hosted by MS XI honoring Andretta English. Andretta, who lost her own life on her way home from a Charity Ride when she was hit by another vehicle while she was travelling on her motorcycle on June 27th, 2026.

On June 27th, 2026, while attending a charity ride for an officer that was critically injured in the line of duty, an accident occurred during the ride. Members from Blue Knights MS I Sterling Blackman and his partner Bonnie Rhodes were involved in accident with Richland PD Officer James Alford. Andretta observed the accident and immediately responded to the three victims giving trained medical attention to all three. It was strongly instrumental for these three for receiving the necessary life saving attention that was needed. After all of this had occurred, Andretta was on her way home when she was struck by a vehicle and later succumbed to her injuries at the hospital.

She was presented by Blue Knights International with the Meritorious Service Life-Saving award at the international Convention in Alberta Canada as well as at the ceremony. She was also presented with the Meritorious Award and Life-Saving award from the SRC Conference at the ceremony Posthumously. Plaques for Meritorious Service Award and Life-Saving Award were presented to her husband, Daniel English while honoring Andretta. And a Proclamation was issued by the Governor of Mississippi. Blue Knights Members from Ga XVI, TX XXXI, MS I, II and XI, Family and Friends, and Co-Workers from Forrest County S.O. attended the ceremony.

The International Meritorious Service Award was presented to Andretta by BKI Past President D.J. Alvarez posthumously to Daniel and SRC Chairman Randy Hoagland and SRC Vice Chairman Eddie Henderson presented plaques to Daniel for Life-Saving Award and Meritorious Award at the ceremony as well.

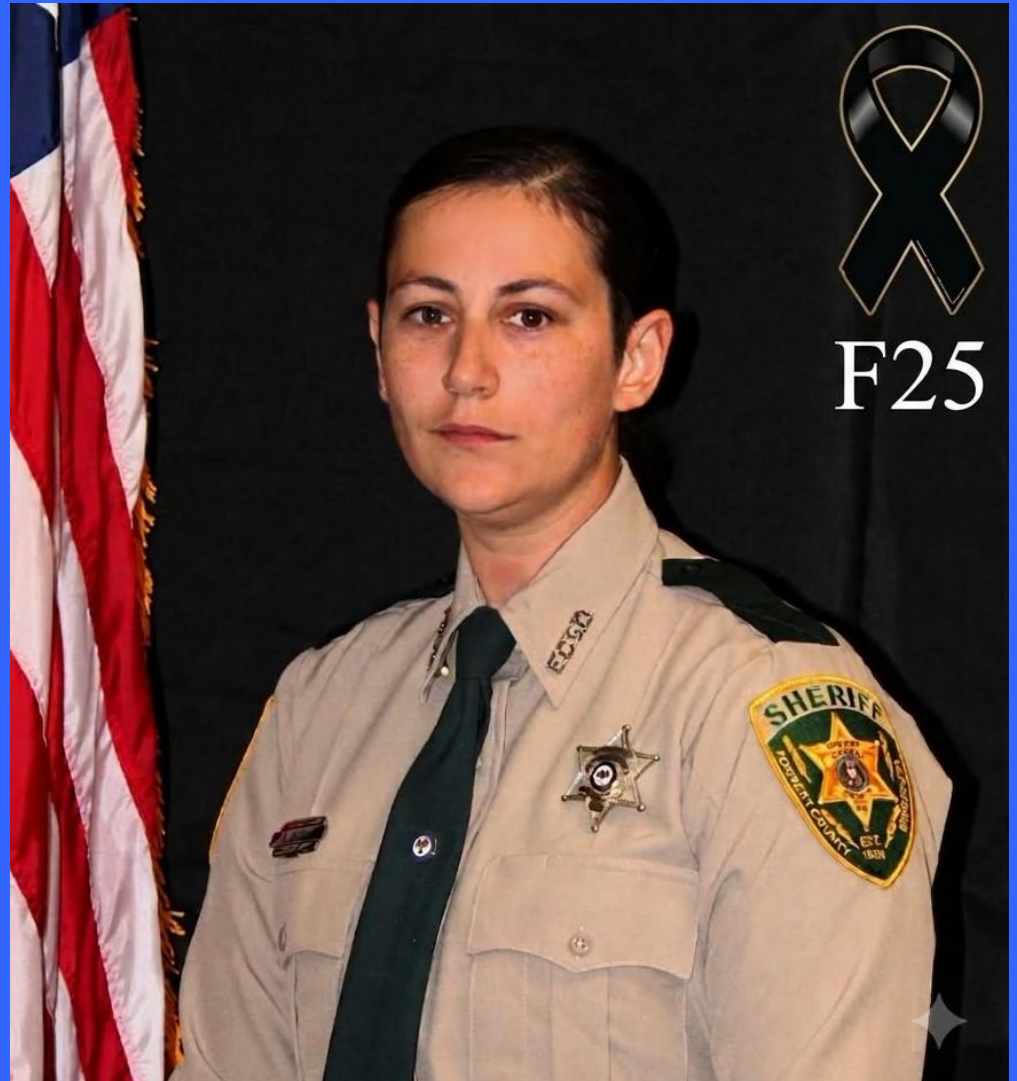
MS XI President Ben Ford was the emcee for the ceremony. The honorable Mississippi State Senator Joey Fillingame presented the proclamation to Daniel. Other members that spoke were Forrest County S.O. Major Jamie Humphrey, Forrest County S.O. Chaplain Scott Murphy, and SRC Chaplain Mike Vosbrink.

Please keep Andretta English, Daniel and their sons, and the family in your thoughts and prayers. Blue Knights International Heaven I truly gained a true hero with Andretta English. May she rest in peace and Andretta know we all have your Six and will cover your watch from this day forward.

We got you Andretta.

SRC Chairman Randy “PAPA SMURF” Hoagland

Pictures on next two pages . . .





SRC State Representatives

Your SRC State Representatives



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

SRC Chairman Visits Puerto Chapters

By SRC Chairman Randy Hoagland

Earlier this year I was invited by the Presidents of Puerto Rico Chapters 1, 2, and 3 to come and visit their island and meet the members from all three chapters. So, I took them up on their invitation and flew to Puerto Rico from June 4th through June 9th of this year. As the SRC Chairman, I was greeted with such great hospitality and brotherhood. I was picked up at the airport in San Juan by PR III President Silfredo Rivera and his lovely wife Rachel and his mother-in-law Margie. I spent from Thursday through Monday at their home.

On Thursday evening we ate dinner at one of the local restaurants. The next day, Silfredo allowed me to ride one of his motorcycles while being with him and on Friday Morning, we rode around the area of Lares PR for several hours. It was a beautiful ride through the mountains and countryside of Lares.

I was picked up by Frank Torres for the afternoon and taken around more sites. We went to a store that has been open on the Island for decades. Later that evening, Frank took me over to their clubhouse where I was able to have great fellowship meeting members and their wives and families from all three chapters. It was an honor to hang out with such great people. They made me feel right at home and so welcomed to be a part of these folks.

Saturday Silfredo and his family took me to the Beach of Arecibo, where we had lunch at one of the local restaurants in Arecibo. We went downtown for some ice cream, and I had Maiz flavored ice cream. Aka corn flavored ice cream. That ice cream was out of this world as well. Later that afternoon we returned to Silfredo's house and spent the evening having dinner and preparing for a day of riding during the day of Sunday.

Sunday morning, we ventured out on the bikes with members from PR III to meet up with folks from PR I and PR II. We rode out to a local beach bar and restaurant and broke bread with everybody there, again great fellowship and hospitality extended to me by everybody. All this was on the northern part of the Island.

Rachel's hospitality and cooking breakfast every morning got me so spoiled. Every morning I woke up to eggs, ham and cheese sandwiches or French Toast. She wouldn't let me help, so I snuck and washed dishes.

On Monday we all drove over to meet up with Chirillo, our PR State Rep. I spent the next few days in Sabana Grande at his house where I met his lovely and gracious wife Haydee. On my first night there, Haydee made dinner and all I can say is WOW!!

The next day, Chirillo allowed me to use one of his motorcycles. We met several members from his chapter at their clubhouse and spent the rest of the day riding around on the south end of the Island. We stopped for a break and had pizza and refreshments. Then we set out for some more riding around on that end of the island. We headed back to Chirillo's house and took a little break. Then set out for dinner with Chirillo and Haydee at a great restaurant downtown called Mikes and had a fantastic steak dinner. Well, the night had to end and we went back to their house. It was a sad return there because I had to start packing for my trip home the next morning. The next morning Chirillo and Haydee took me to the airport where I flew back home.

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SRC Chairman Visits Puerto Chapters

By SRC Chairman Randy Hoagland

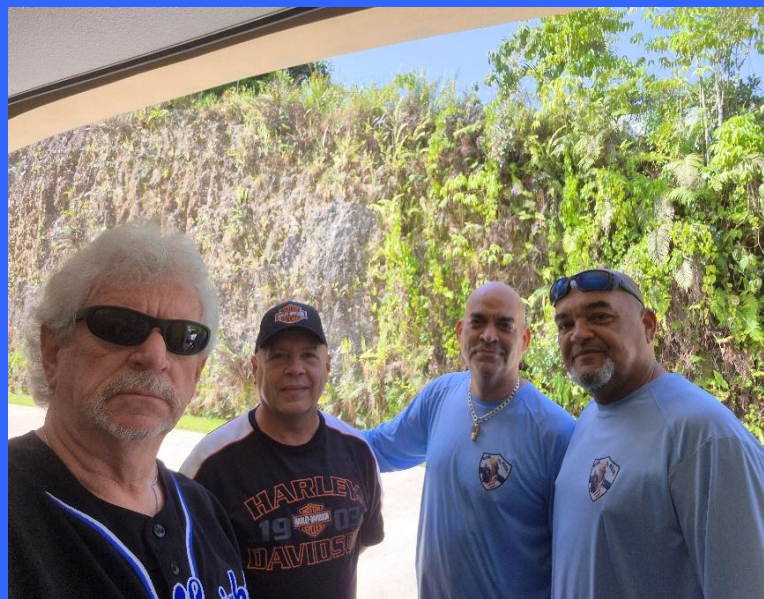
I spent months talking to PR I President Ruben Gomez, Silfredo Rivera PR III, and Jose “Chirillo” Martinez over the phone. As the SRC Chairman, I was honored to meet these three individuals in their home in person and their members treated me with such great hospitality, friendship, and like I was family. I have been adopted by Rachel and Margie so that does make me family. We didn’t spend time in the touristy areas of Puerto Rico, we were in the real peoples Puerto Rico, and it was such a great area to see the real Island and it’s people.

I can’t wait to go back and will be going back again. As the SRC Chairman, I was blessed to be able to go and meet more of our brothers and sisters in our organization. Thank you to my new extended family from PR I, PR II, and PR III. Along with all your members that treated me so well. I was given the ROYAL TREATMENT by everyone. They know what brotherhood and sisterhood is all about.

Pictures below and next two pages . . .









Blue Knights® Florida I

Hello from the Sunshine State,

On May 09, two members of Florida I rode 300 miles round trip to attend the Brevard Law Ride to honor our Fallen Brothers and Sisters. We met and rode with other Blue Knights from Florida IX and Florida XXXII as well as our International President, Russ Harper.

May 23rd saw Ron, Mike, Christine and Sean assist with the flagging of the graves at the Historic Evergreen Cemetery in Gainesville for Memorial Day. Florida I assist with flagging the graves twice per year and it's always an honor to remember our veterans.

We were given the privilege of flagging Marine Corporal Milton Lewis' final resting place as well as those of many other veterans. Corporal Lewis was killed during the Battle of Tulagi in 1942. He was the first WWII casualty from Alachua County and was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions in battle.

June 13th through the 20th, Sean and Christine rode from the Ocala area to do an end-to-end Blue Ridge Parkway trip. After completing the parkway, they visited the New River Gorge Bridge in West Virginia and then stopped in Gatlinburg for two nights before riding home. Lots of great roads and spectacular views along with seeing many deer, some elk and even a bear along the BRP.

We had a great turnout at our August meeting with 19 in attendance. 51 year Blue Knight and charter member of Florida I, Don D, won the 50/50 drawing for the second month in a row and for the second month in a row he donated his winnings back to the chapter, thank you, Don!

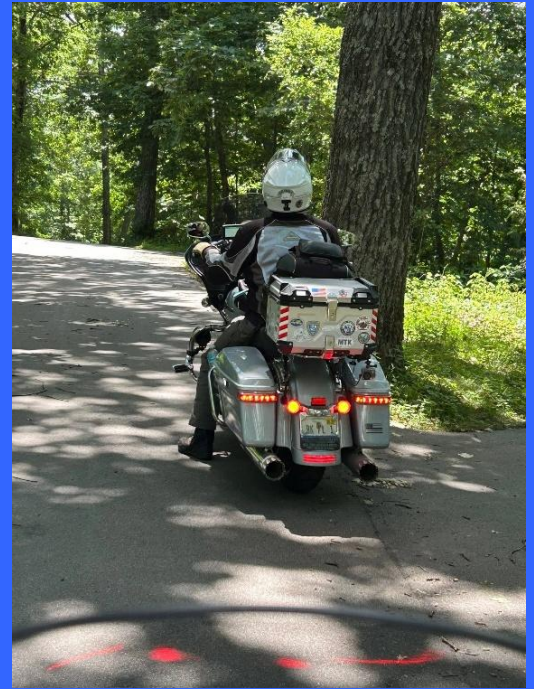
Our Chaplain, Bob M. has returned safely from his nearly 4-week round-trip ride to the BK International Convention in Calgary and shared some great photos and stories with us. Having ridden nearly 6,800 miles for his journey, he is happy to be home and is looking forward to the next trip.

If any of you are in the area and are interested in attending our next dinner and meeting, it will be September 10th, 1800 hrs at New York Pizza Plus, 15202 NW 147th Dr in Alachua. Members start arriving around 5 o'clock to enjoy some great food and excellent camaraderie."

Ride With Pride
Sean Bassamello
President

Pictures on next two pages . . .

Florida I



Florida I





Blue Knights® Florida IV Community, Camaraderie & Service

One of the greatest strengths of Blue Knights® Florida IV is that we understand being a chapter is about much more than riding motorcycles. It is about supporting our communities, honoring those who served before us, strengthening friendships, and representing the Blue Knights with pride wherever we go.

During the months of May through July, our members participated in a variety of activities that reflected our commitment to both community service and building chapter camaraderie.

May – Friends, Family & Community

45th Miami-Dade Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony

Members attended the 45th Miami-Dade Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to their communities. The ceremony serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers and reinforces our commitment to never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

A Night at the Ballpark

Not every chapter event needs two wheels. Members gathered for an evening of baseball as the Atlanta Braves and later the Arizona Diamondbacks took on the Miami Marlins at Loan Depot Park. These "Friends Night Out" events gave members and their families an opportunity to relax, enjoy America's pastime, grab a hot dog, and simply spend time together outside of our motorcycles. Building friendships away from the road strengthens the bonds we share when we ride together.

Running in Blue

Florida IV proudly supported the Running in Blue event hosted at the DCFCU Main Branch in Sweetwater. Members didn't have to run the race to make a difference. Simply showing up in our Blue Knights colors demonstrated our support for local law enforcement while increasing the visibility of our chapter within the community. The event featured a walk and run, live entertainment, food, local law enforcement leaders, and numerous community organizations, making it another outstanding opportunity to represent Blue Knights Florida IV.

Chapter Picnic & May Meeting

One of the highlights of the season was our annual chapter picnic at Markham Park. Our May chapter meeting was combined with a family-friendly afternoon where members, spouses, and friends gathered to reconnect, share stories, and welcome newer members into the Blue Knights family. Special thanks go to Brothers Eric and Dios, who kept everyone well fed with their outstanding grilling skills. Good food, great conversation, and plenty of laughs reminded us that the friendships we build are every bit as important as the miles we ride.

Continued on next page . . .



Blue Knights® Florida IV Community, Camaraderie & Service

July – Honoring a Brother in Blue - Escort Ride for Retired Sgt. Dennis McGroarty

One of the most meaningful events of the summer was participating in the escort ride honoring Retired Sgt. Dennis McGroarty. A highly respected Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Motorcycle Officer, U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran, and father-in-law of our Blue Knights brother Lupo, Sgt. McGroarty dedicated his life to serving his country and community. Florida IV members proudly rode alongside the funeral motorcade from Woodlawn Cemetery to South Florida National Cemetery, helping provide a respectful and dignified final escort. Participating in memorial rides such as these reflects the very heart of the Blue Knights mission—never forgetting those who dedicated their lives to public service.

July Chapter Meeting

Members gathered once again at American Legion Post 142 in Pompano Beach for our July chapter meeting. During the meeting our newest member Scott Lowen was sworn in. Welcome Scott!

Harley South Customer Appreciation Day

Summer temperatures didn't stop Florida IV from getting out and enjoying the motorcycle community. Members attended Harley South's Customer Appreciation Day, spending time with fellow riders, checking out custom motorcycles and classic vehicles, making new friends, and enjoying the fun atmosphere. Events like these give our chapter additional visibility while helping us build relationships throughout the local motorcycle community.

More Than a Motorcycle Club

Whether supporting law enforcement charities, honoring fallen officers, attending community events, enjoying baseball games, or simply sharing a meal together, Blue Knights Florida IV continues to demonstrate what our organization is all about. Every event strengthens our chapter, builds lasting friendships, and reinforces our commitment to service. As we move into the remainder of the year, we look forward to many more opportunities to ride together, serve our communities, and proudly represent the Blue Knights motto:

"Ride With Pride."

Pictures on next two pages . . .

Florida IV



Florida IV





Blue Knights® Florida IX

Journey to the Great White North: Our Epic 7,000-Mile Ride to Calgary

There are motorcycle trips, and then there are journeys that redefine the open road. On July 9th, Darlene and I, alongside our dear friends Dave and Ruth Hinshaw, set off on what would become the ride of a lifetime: an over 7,000-mile round-trip adventure from Florida all the way to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, for the International Convention.

For over 20 years, I have proudly been a Blue Knight, yet remarkably, this was my very first International Convention. Sharing this milestone and this incredible expanse of North America with Darlene made every single mile unforgettable.

The Route: Across Borders and Badlands

Our path took us through a staggering 15 U.S. states and 4 Canadian provinces, painting a moving picture of changing landscapes, towering peaks, and endless horizons.

We traded coastal humidity for the majestic, geothermal wonders of Yellowstone National Park, carved our way past the stunning alpine vistas of Glacier National Park, and paid homage to history at Mount Rushmore National Park. Our adventure also led us through the rugged beauty of Badlands National Park and the winding, wildlife-filled scenic drives of Custer State Park.

By the time we pulled into Calgary for the Convention, our odometers showed we had logged over 3,300 miles just on the journey north.

A Friendly Rivalry and a Milestone Moment

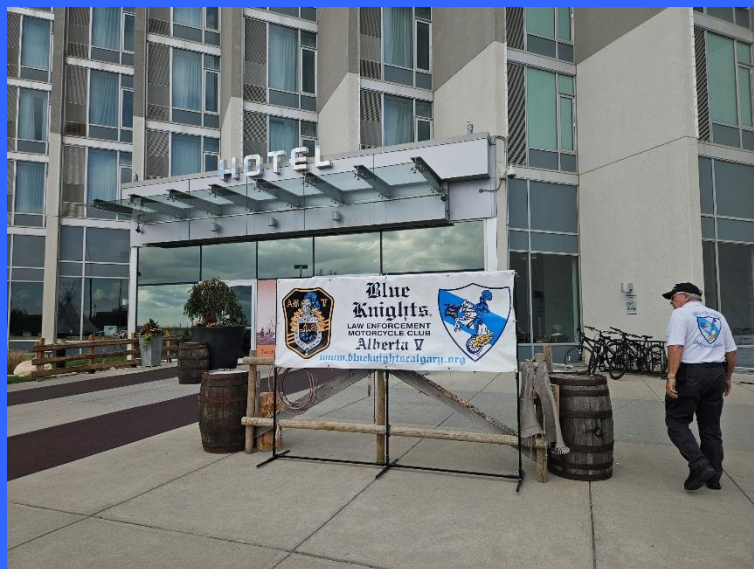
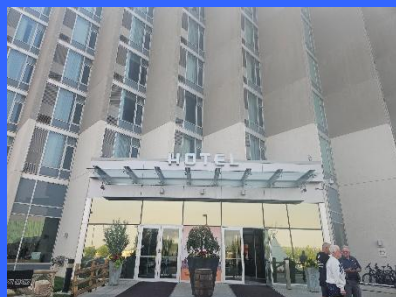
The miles in the saddle brought plenty of laughs, great camaraderie with Dave and Ruth, and a fun bit of friendly competition. When all the calculations were done, Darlene and I were fortunate to win the award for the longest distance traveled to the Convention—just barely edging out our wonderful travel companions and road partners, Dave and Ruth!

Looking back on the thousands of miles, the shifting weather, the incredible national parks, and the warm welcome in Calgary, it is hard to put into words just how special this trip was. It truly was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I am endlessly grateful for the memories made and thrilled that I got to share every mile of it with Darlene.

RWP Victor Ramos\
President BK FL IX

Pictures on next two pages . . .

Florida IX



Florida IX



Blue Knights® Florida XXIX

For many years, the members of Blue Knights Florida XXIX have embraced a simple but powerful mission: supporting those who dedicate their lives to serving and protecting others. Through the commitment of our members, the generosity of our supporters, and the success of our fundraising initiatives, our chapter has been able to make a meaningful impact on our law enforcement and military communities throughout the region.

One of the most successful efforts in our chapter's history was the Law Ride, an event that brought together riders, community members, sponsors, and public safety professionals for a common cause. While the ride itself created lasting memories and strengthened relationships among participants, its greatest legacy has been the charitable contributions it helped make possible.

Thanks to the proceeds generated through the Law Ride and other fundraising activities conducted by Blue Knights Florida XXIX over the years, our chapter was proud to provide donations to ten different law enforcement and military charities. These organizations represent a wide range of causes, including support for injured officers, assistance for military veterans, aid for the families of fallen heroes, mental health and wellness programs, and other critical services that help those who have sacrificed so much for our communities and our nation.

The success of these charitable efforts was not the result of any one individual. It was made possible through the dedication of our members who volunteered countless hours of planning events, securing sponsorships, organizing rides, selling raffle tickets, and promoting our causes. Equally important were the riders, local businesses, community partners, and supporters who believed in our mission and chose to contribute to these important efforts.

As a law enforcement motorcycle club, Blue Knights Florida XXIX has always recognized the importance of service beyond the badge. Our charitable work reflects the values that unite us: integrity, commitment, camaraderie, and a genuine desire to help others. Every dollar raised represented an opportunity to support organizations that provide hope, healing, and assistance to law enforcement officers, military service members, veterans, and their families.

Although the Law Ride is now part of our chapter's history, its impact continues to be felt through the organizations that benefited from its success. The legacy of the event serves as a reminder of what can be accomplished when people come together for a worthy cause. The donations made possible by these fundraising efforts stand as a testament to the generosity of our club and the communities that supported us along the way.

Blue Knights Florida XXIX is extremely proud of the role we have played in supporting ten deserving law enforcement and military charities. These contributions reflect our ongoing commitment to giving back and honoring those who serve. As we look toward the future, we remain dedicated to finding new opportunities to support our public safety and military communities while continuing the proud tradition of service that has defined our chapter for so many years.

"We ride together, we serve together, and together we make a difference."

Ride with Pride,
Stan Knutowicz
President, Florida XXIX



Blue Knights® Georgia XXII

Hello fellow Blue Knights. Hope this finds everyone in good health and having fun. GA XXII has been having a great summer with a lot of riding and fellowship. Our monthly meetings have been very well attended and the camaraderie of this Chapter is awesome! There is always something special about riding a motorcycle through the North Georgia Mountains!

In May we rode to The Farmhouse Market Restaurant in Etowah Tn. for lunch. It was an awesome ride and a great lunch. We were scheduled to be in the Blairsville Memorial Day Parade but due to the weather not cooperating, unfortunately the Parade was cancelled.

In June a few of us rode to Lynchburg Tn. and did the Jack Daniels Distillery tour. Also in June, our Union County Sheriff, Shawn Dyer sponsored a First Responder's Dinner at our local Civic Center. All First Responder's, both active and retired Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Rescue and Dispatchers were honored that evening. The event was well attended by about 200 people. The Sheriff plans to make this an annual event. It's always nice to be recognized for your service.

In July we attended a meet and greet at the Camp 64 Pit Stop in Hayesville NC. Various L.E.M.C's gathered for a "Meet and Greet" and we met some great folks there.

We also did a Chapter ride to Epsworth Ga. to a place called Mountainside Market. This place is well known for their famous Smash Burgers. Once you eat one of their Smash Burgers you'll know why they are well known for their Smash Burgers, They are fabulous! We really enjoyed them.

Well folks, until next time, Stay well, Stay healthy, Stay safe and RIDE WITH PRIDE. God Bless..... SAL





Blue Knights® Mississippi I

On April 21, 2026, Blue Knights Mississippi I (MS-I) was officially established with a charter. This was done with the assistance of State Representative David Ervin and Former International President DJ Alvarez. Located in the Mississippi Pine Belt Region, MS-I is chartered in Hattiesburg between the Gulf Coast and Jackson, MS on Hwy. 49. Our centralized location provides nearby riding regions of the piney woods, scenic coastal beach boulevard, the Red Bluffs (Little Grand Canyon), and the Natchez Trace Parkway that runs through MS, AL, TN with no commercial traffic or traffic lights.

MS-I membership has the distinction of most of its members being in active law enforcement. Only 2 of our 16 members are currently retired and only 3 of its members are over the age of 60. Half of our members have served in the United States Armed Forces. We are a young and growing chapter! Our second phase of recruitment will continue with reaching out to our retired LE brothers who ride a steel horse. A glimpse at our members:

President Toby Schwartz – DEA retired/former cop
Vice President Rafael Bailey – Wiggins PD/US Army
Secretary Steven Smith- Forrest County SO/Motors Unit
Treasurer Nate Robertson – Lamar County Investigator/US Airforce Veteran
Director Jared Hagan – Forrest County SO/Motors Unit
Director Bob Saenz – Grand Rapids PD (MI) retired/US Army Veteran
Director Jeff Hair – Coroner/Waveland PD/Motors Unit
Harold Watson – DEA retired/former Sheriff's Deputy
Tim Hartfield – Forrest County SO/Motors Unit/US Army
Kenny Johnson – Hattiesburg PD/US Army Veteran
Kevin Burnett – Mississippi Highway Patrol/USMC Veteran
Sterling Blackham – Stone County SO/US Navy Veteran
Mike Allen – Stone County Constable
Rick Monday – Forrest County SO
Jeff Thomas – Wiggins PD
Austin Super – Forrest County SO/US Navy Veteran

Our chapter would like to express our appreciation to David Ervin, DJ Alvarez, and the SRC Board for their support in our recent establishment.

Ride with pride.

Pictures on next page. . .

Mississippi I



Blue Knights® Mississippi XII

Central Mississippi Chapter XII and Laurel Chapter XI hosted a “Burger Burn” for the Mississippi Veterans' Home in Collins, Mississippi on June 13, 2026. The Blue Knights cooked 160 burgers and 48 hot dogs, along with chips, soft drinks, cookies, and cake, and served the residents, staff, and visitors in the facility’s outdoor pavilion. We parked our bikes next to the pavilion so the residents could tour the line. A wonderful time was had by all of the residents and staff, and we had a great time socializing with our fellow Blue Knights and our honored veterans.



SRC Safety Officer – Norm Miller

To people who see motorcycle riding as purely an adrenaline rush for thrill-seekers, the idea of riding for your mental health can seem confusing. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Experienced motorcycle riders have long understood motorcycle riding yields benefits like reduced stress and anxiety.

Since the earliest days of riding, you only needed to talk with a motorcyclist to understand its health benefits. But now, thanks to modern technology, we have proven results from a scientific study sponsored by Harley-Davidson® and conducted by UCLA's Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. The study documents measurable mental health reasons to ride a motorcycle. Before we dive into the results, let's look at the knowledge American riders themselves have accumulated over the past 120 years.

Long before roads were paved or mental health was a topic of concern, riders were practicing motorcycle therapy. While life in earlier times may have been simpler, people still had stress—even if the term hadn't reached common use. Upon return from their escape, they were refreshed, having gained clarity and sometimes even a greater understanding of themselves. The ride made them feel better and helped them cope with life's struggles.

Nowadays, the downtime needed to decompress from the pressures of work and daily tasks is harder to come by. For some of us, the boundary between work hours and free time grows fuzzier with each passing year. Motorcycle riding offers a healthy way to take a break, find a personal place to be at peace, and reflect on life.

Motorcycle riding, even with a group, is a solitary experience that offers us mental room to let our thoughts expand and come back into focus. Additionally, you may be happily surprised to find that the act of riding a motorcycle provides some of the benefits of light/moderate exercise. This is knowledge that motorcycle riders have long understood, and science has just confirmed.

Led by neuroscientist Dr. Don Vaughn and his research team, 50 experienced motorcyclists were instructed to ride a preselected semi-rural route for a 20-minute duration using first their own vehicle, and then their own motorcycle.

Using advanced mobile electroencephalogram (EEG) and lab tests, the participants' responses to these real-world conditions were collected and compared to their bodies' stimulation responses at rest. The results showed how riding benefits the mind and body. Here are some insights from the study:

- Riding a motorcycle increases alertness, like the positive effects of caffeine on brain activity
- Motorcycle riding enhances a rider's senses more than driving a car
- A 20-minute motorcycle ride increases the heart rate up to 11 percent and boosts adrenaline up to 27 percent, which is comparable to light exercise
- Riding a motorcycle decreases the levels of the stress hormone cortisol up to 28 percent
- Motorcycle riders experience increases in their ability to readily recover from distractions while riding compared to driving a car

Additionally, fresh air and sunshine are two abundant and important health benefits of riding that can also lift your spirit.

Ride Safe!
Norm



SRC Safety Officer – Ken Serpan Highway Pegs Should be Standard Equipment



Highway pegs can be dangerous - just like your throttle.
On the other hand, used appropriately, they can be viewed as a safety device.

I know, if your feet are up on highway pegs, they are not on your foot controls. How in the world could that be thought in any way to be safer than leaving your feet on your regular pegs and covering those controls?

It is NOT safer to have your feet on the highway pegs than on your regular pegs.

It is, however, a safety feature to be able to stretch your legs for brief periods of time by being able to place your feet on firmly mounted surfaces forward of their normal positions. Some people, over extended rides, dangle their feet towards the ground. Others try to put their feet on engine guards or on their passenger pegs. All these alternatives are dangerous by comparison to using highway pegs.

Isn't it safer to just leave your feet on the regular pegs all the time? Nope! You need circulation in your legs and leaving them on the regular pegs over extended riding time tends to restrict that circulation. You could, of course, simply stand on those pegs for a while as you tool down the road, and if you don't have highway pegs that might be just the thing to do for you. But highway pegs are especially important add-ons for the tourer because they allow you to stretch your legs without having to unbalance the bike or raise its center of gravity markedly.

There are appropriate times to consider using them, and times when you should not.

- If you are in traffic of any kind, your feet belong on your regular pegs.
- If you are riding on an unfamiliar road surface that might have potholes in it, your feet belong on your regular pegs.
- If there is the possibility that an animal (deer) might jump into the lane you are riding in, your feet belong on your regular pegs.
- If you are riding downhill, your feet belong on the regular pegs.
- If you are moving slowly, your feet belong on your regular pegs.

On the other hand:

- If you have been riding for a while and your legs begin to tingle, and it is safe to do so, that is the time to use those highway pegs.
- If you are getting bored and want to change 'something' to get your attention back to the task of controlling your bike, use your highway pegs.
- If you experience a cramp in your leg or hip, use one or both of your highway pegs.

Some things you should consider:

- Mount those highway pegs securely
- Make sure that you do not have to over-reach with your feet to get on them. (There should still be a modest bend in your knees when you are on those pegs.)
- Make sure that your legs do not get too close to a hot engine part when your feet are on the pegs.
- Do not mount the pegs so high that you must take all the bumps you hit on an off-vertical spine.

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SRC Chaplain – Marty Duncan

You are a custom design by God. In **Ephesians 2:10** it says: *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Every rider knows the difference between a stock bike and a custom build. A stock motorcycle comes off the assembly line looking like a million others. But a master builder takes a bike, strips away the junk, and redesigns it with purpose. They choose every chrome detail, adjust the stance, and tune the engine for a specific type of road.

God did the exact same thing with you. You are not a mass-produced product. The Bible says you are His *"handiwork"*—which means you are a unique work of art. In Christ, that Master Builder tears down our old, broken frame, washes away the grease of our past, and rebuilds us from the inside out.

A custom bike isn't built just to sit in a pristine garage and look pretty. It is built to ride.

God didn't redesign your life just so you could idle in the driveway. He engineered you for *"good works."* The most incredible part of this scripture is that God already mapped out the journey. He *"prepared in advance"* the specific roads you are meant to travel and the people you are meant to impact.

When you look at your life through this lens, every ride has a deeper purpose:

- Your bike is a tool for connection.
- Your throttle carries you to places of service.
- Your exhaust echoes the freedom you found in Christ.

The next time you swing your leg over the saddle, remember your design. You are handcrafted by the Creator of the universe. You are finely tuned for a purpose. Hit the highway today looking for the divine pit stops and those open roads of freedom God has placed along your map.

As always, feel free to contact me to chat or just to drop a note: martyvd@msn.com.

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

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



SRC Chaplain – Mike Vosbrink

It's been a hot summer in Mississippi! I've tried to get some seat time since our last publication, but this heat has been brutal. Cooler days are just beyond the horizon, and I'm looking forward to getting back on the road.

Recently, Mississippi XI experienced a heartbreaking loss with the passing of Investigator Andretta English. She succumbed to injuries sustained in a traffic accident while returning home from a LEO benefit ride. Earlier that same day, she had stopped to assist crash victims who were part of the ride. She was simply doing what came naturally—serving others.

On August 12, members of the SRC Board, BK International, and surrounding chapters gathered with Forrest County, MS S.O. for a memorial service honoring Andretta. It was a beautiful tribute to a dear sister who made a lasting impact on so many. I was honored to offer the closing prayer, and it is a day I will cherish for years to come.

Serving as Chaplain for Mississippi XI and as one of your SRC Chaplains is a tremendous honor. My desire is to be a resource and encouragement to our chapters across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Please know that I am always ready to serve in any way I can.

I'm especially grateful for the support of the SRC Board and for the brotherhood we share as Blue Knights. Their presence at Andretta's memorial was a powerful reminder of what makes this organization special.

I'm also thankful for the journey that brought me here. More than ten years ago, a friend invited me to a Florida XXIV chapter meeting in Panama City. That invitation began a wonderful journey in the Blue Knights. Thank you to Florida XXIV for welcoming my wife and me and for trusting me to serve as your Chaplain. And thank you to Mississippi XI for welcoming this Florida transplant and appointing me as your Chaplain. New friends, new family—one brotherhood and sisterhood.

As we move forward, make every effort to stay involved in your chapter. The second issue of *Sword and Shield* 2026 offers some great ideas for club involvement. Paul reminds us in Romans 14:19, "So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another."

Let's carry that spirit with us as we ride, fellowship, recruit, and encourage one another. My prayer is that we will continue to grow our chapters, strengthen our membership, and retain the members we have.

Our best days are in front of us!

Until next time,

Chaplain Michael Vosbrink
MS XI Chaplain
SRC Chaplain (LA, MS, AL)
chaplainvosbrink@gmail.com



Blue Knights® South Carolina XIV



Operation Patriots Forward Operating Base (OPFOB) has created a place for veterans, active-duty military, first responders, and their families to come together, relax, and have a good time with their brothers and sisters. It is a space where they feel accepted and can open up and regain a connection to the people who will understand the most and ask the least.



OPFOB is hosting its now-yearly, 4th. Annual First Responders Appreciation Day on Saturday, September 19, 2026 at OPFOB, 328 Lakeview Drive, Ridgeland, SCV. This event is a celebration of the men and women who run towards danger so the rest of us don't have to. The day includes open range time, Police and Fire Department static displays, K9 Demonstrations, live music, kids' activities, yard games, raffles, and delicious food and beverages on OPFOB. In addition, join us for the Blue Knights Motorcycle Ride (started by South Carolina Chapters VIII and XIV), a benefit ride with Randy Couture in honor of our Lowcountry veterans & first responders! Rev your engine. Stand for our heroes. Ride with purpose. Join OPFOB, the Xtreme Couture GI Foundation, and the Blue Knights for a powerful 75-mile scenic motorcycle ride, escorted by the Blue Knights, through the Lowcountry of South Carolina and Georgia — featuring special guest rider Randy Couture, and ending at OPFOB. This is your opportunity to ride alongside a 6x UFC Champion, U.S. Army Veteran, and founder of XCGIF, and support two nonprofits serving combat veterans, injured service members, first responders, and their families. All bikes are welcome.

This year carries special significance as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. Together, we will honor the first responders who answered the call during our nation's darkest day, remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and recognize the courage, selflessness, and unwavering commitment that continue to define the first responder community today.

Start Location: Savannah Harley-Davidson, 1 Fort Argyle Rd. Savannah, GA 31419

Event Schedule: Registration: 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM with fresh donuts and coffee (while supplies last)

National Anthem & Opening Remarks: 10:15 AM

Kickstands Up: 10:30 AM

Arrive at OPFOB: 12:00 PM

Donation is \$25 Per Bike / \$10 Per Passenger

Ride Entry Includes: ✓ Commemorative Event Ride Pin

✓ Coffee & Donuts at Registration

✓ First 200 Pre-Registrations receive an official Event T-Shirt (Sizes are limited — arrive early for best selection)

Once at the FOB, stay to enjoy First Responders Appreciation Day! Riders have the option to stay at OPFOB and attend the 4th Annual First Responders Appreciation Day, at no cost! That event will include a ceremony starting at 12:30 in the OPFOB barn, followed by lunch and live music from Exit 8 and Brett Hatter. We will have a variety of activities, raffle and silent auction items, and static displays.

You must register for the ride and First Responders Appreciation Day:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/operation-ride-for-the-heroes-lowcountry-opfob-xcgif-blue-knights-tickets-1992650247531>

<https://opfob.org/first-responders-appreciation-day-2026/>



**BLUE KNIGHTS
SOUTHERN REGIONAL
CONFERENCE**

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

RIDE WITH PRIDE

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 coin with 2026 Fall SRC logo. **Registration cutoff** September 21, 2026 to guarantee banquet attendance. **No refunds** after September 21, 2026.

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

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

