

“OKIE ONE’S KNIGHTLY KNOTES FIRST NEWSLETTER-2005

It has been said, “OUT of SIGHT, OUT of MIND”... It does lead one to ponder ... Was I OUT OF my MIND??! Why did I volunteer to write the club’s newsletter? Although it has been OUT of SIGHT for quite awhile; thankfully most of you didn’t seem to MIND that the newsletter has been sporadic, and a long time coming (Should I be offended?) Well --FINALLY—I am sending out a newsletter. (Bear with me, as I am obviously out of practice.)

AND NOW A FEW WORDS FROM OUR EMINENT PRESIDENT

Well, it is riding season again, and David has a good schedule of rides planned. He still needs your input on rides you would like to take, and is more than willing to let you lead a ride of your own if you wish. Recently at our club meeting we reviewed our by-laws and found several that we felt needed changing. The Board of Directors have discussed them, and the majority approved the recommended changes. These changes will be voted on by the membership at our June meeting. If you are interested and want a vote in our new by-laws, this is the meeting to attend. After the June meeting, our by-laws will be submitted to International for approval. Most of the changes were made to comply with what we are actually doing, or to correct typographical errors. Come to the June meeting, and voice your opinion. We are celebrating our 30th year as an official Blue Knights Chapter, and have a pennant made to recognize that. They are available as either a pennant, or as a flag, it is your choice, and either one is thirty-five dollars each. The attach to an antenna or flag pole by Velcro fastener. Email me, and let me know if you want one, and which type you prefer. I will submit the order after the June meeting, this will give everyone time to get their order in. YES, as a note, even if you ordered already (and some had), you need to do it again. Due to PDA crash and replacement, the order was lost, and therefore, not submitted. I apologize for that, but believe me, I lost a lot more information than that. Hope to see you on a ride, or at a convention soon. Ride with Pride,

Ron

TRANSFERS TO HEAVEN ONE

One of the most daunting tasks of a newsletter editor is to write about members who have transferred to Heaven One. I admit, this may be the reason, that it has taken me so long to get this edition out. Last December we lost two very special men.

TRIBUTE TO BEN:



Ben Houchin started riding with us last year, and attended many club functions. As a new member, he was looking forward to joining us on more rides; and we all felt he would be a great asset to our Blue Knight family. He was a member of the Tulsa Police Reserve Motorcycle Unit. When I first met Ben, I couldn't help thinking... "Gentle Ben." Quiet at first, he had a gentle smile that would turn into a full-blown grin when the subject of motorcycles came up. It was obvious that he loved to ride. I also understand he was an excellent motorcycle technician; and an accomplished competition rider. Sadly, he suffered a brain aneurysm while on his motorcycle. That weekend was the Annual Christmas Toy Run. We decided to dedicate this ride to Ben. Ron Taylor had invited his trike-riding friends to join us. Even though they had never met Ben, they too taped his picture to their windshields, and wore arm-bands in his honor. It was a touching tribute.

On a side note, The Ben Houchin Memorial Ride was held on April 24, 2005. We were in Peoria, Ill. at the Great Lakes Conference, and were unable to attend. Over 200 motorcycles participated in this event, including other B.K. Chapters. In attendance was a special guest. A lady who had received one of Ben's kidneys flew in to be a part of his Memorial. I guess his gentle smile is still with us.

SO LONG ARLEY:



This is a really tough one. We had known Arley Buckmaster (far right) and his wonderful wife Ester since the 1984, Intl. Convention in Maine. Arley had a way of looking at you that if you didn't know him, could be kinda scary. This was a man you looked up to... literally. A mountain of a man, who had a heart to match his stature. When he and Ester attended our Chapter's first conference, he looked around the room and spotted Fred Morrow, Lee Walker, Jerry Bryan, Terry Reed, and David Stone (the petite one of the group), and said, "look Ester, these are my bodyguards from Oklahoma One." Over the years the Buckmasters would continue to visit Oklahoma. At one conference, after the parade left to go to "Discoveryland"; we realized that we had driven off and left our International President. It seems someone had neglected to wake Arley from his nap. Probably my fondest memory of Arley was when he and Ester came to stay with us. He was out walking in our backyard, the next thing I see are my Pine trees shaking. Arley had decided that our trees were in dire need of pruning, and he proceeded to get the job done. That was the kind of guy Arley was. He was quick to get the job done, quick with a joke and a slap on the back, and quick with a grin that ingratiated you to him immediately. We were fortunate to be able to spend time with the Buckmasters at the International Convention in French Lick, Indiana. On December 13, 2004 a heart attack claimed his life. He will be sorely, sorely missed. Ester, you are in our prayers.

RIDE UPDATES

Your inimitable Ride Captain reports that overall, ride attendance has been good. Once again we thank those of you who let us know, one way or another, if you will be attending a ride.

This info. is really helpful if we have to call ahead for reservations. We have had to change the meeting place from UDE to the Qwik-Trip at 51st and Mingo due to the construction around 11th Street. Sorry for the inconvenience. Remember, if for any reason you cannot attend a ride on your bike; we promise not to chastise you if you show up in your car. Your presence is more important! Please do not hesitate to call David @ 261-4144 if there are any questions or changes.



MARCH TOMFOOLERY

One ride that comes to mind, was the March 11th ride. After gormandizing ourselves at the Silver Dollar Café in Collinsville some, of the group headed to the F.O.P. Lodge #93. Newly re-newed member Tim Stendel invited the Knights to the F.O.P.'S St. Patrick's Day Party. At the bar, we were greeted by Blue Knights, Tim Stendel and Steve Malone. Also at the bar was former Blue Knight Doug Cash, who introduced us to his new bride, Marita. Dispensing beverages behind the bar was Tulsa Police Librarian, Tom Rink, who has been known to attend a BK function on occasion. Free beer, free food, dancin' feet, "Round Ball" on the screen, and fun folks ... What more could a body want? Thanx Tim—for the invite!



GREAT TIME WAS HAD AT THE GLRC

You may ask, why would you want to go to Peoria, Ill.? The answer is, so that we can see many of our BK friends. It was great to hook up with friends from, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Ontario, Wisconsin, and Maryland. Many we had not seen in a while, because they couldn't attend the Intl. Convention in Quebec. The host chapter, (Illinois One) went out of their way to make everyone feel welcome. Kudos to their web-master who did an excellent job of keeping us up-dated on any changes. The "Boyz from Illinois" were in rare form. In John G.'s defense, he was NOT table-dancing, --- that's all I'm going to say! (Rumor has it that his chapter has been purported to be involved in a zebra-napping.) The guys in the band were impressed, they said that this was the first time they had ever played a toilet paper- throwing gig.



PHIL'S FILLED OUR GREATEST EXPECTATIONS

The last time the group went to Phil's Steakhouse in Westville, we were out town. So many people requested that we put it back on the ride schedule; we couldn't wait to try it. We were not disappointed. Certainly one of the highlights, was a little stretch of road on the other side of Tahlequah. It was a beautiful, lush, tree-lined road that ran along the river; with just the right amount of curves, for those inclined to like that kind of stuff. "Cap'n " Paul Kroutter enjoyed it so much, he went home that way, so that he could take the run again. (Jan, is this what happens when they let the boy out of school?) Meanwhile back at the Steakhouse. One glance at the menu, and I

knew I was in trouble... all things dear to my heart. So many choices like steak, of course, chicken-fried steak, burgers, and fried chicken. I decided on the latter. OOOH-baby. As my friend from Indiana says, "food so good, it would make you wanna go home and slap yo' Mamma! (Sorry Mom.) This was by far, the best fried chicken I have had in a very long time. I stole some chicken-fried steak and it was equally as good. This will definitely warrant a return visit. Maybe next time Larry will be able to find it. What would we do without cell phones?



BITCHIN' SISTERS OF THE SPIRIT "BITCHIN'BIKER BASH"

Stephanie Hatter invited the Knights to a ride she and Evelyn were hosting in Inola. It was a great place for a party. (A two-story house, with a covered patio on a grassy bit of acreage.) The Bitchin' Biker Bash was sponsored by the Sisters of the Spirit. They choose one needy family, and furnish them with bicycles, gifts, and food at Christmas. When we arrived, there was enough food to feed a third-world country. Evelyn and Stephanie out-did themselves. There were burgers, hot dogs, hot links, beef brisket, potato salad, fruit salad, beans, chips, and much, much more. The Sisterhood and their guests made Ron T., David and I feel welcome. This is a great group; and a laugh a minute. You would not believe the auction items up for grabs. Some of the items up for bids were: Harley T shirts, gloves, goggles, Harley leather skull caps, acrylic fleece throws, ash trays made from license plates at the prison, stained glass, jewelry for your various piercings, boots, chaps, vests, panties, and others too numerous to mention. Everything went for a song. It was well worth the trip. Thanks gals for a bitchin' and entertaining time!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



New member John Bryant and his wife Brenda accompanied us on the ride to the Dutch Pantry in Chouteau. John is a Tulsa Police Reserve Cycle Officer. Steve Bell who sponsored John, showed up in his car because earlier in the day, he was rear-ended on his bike by a little old lady. Most people would use this as an excuse not to attend. Despite the fact that his bike was incapacitated, he and Carolyn got in their car and came anyway; now that's Blue Knight dedication! There are two versions of how John B. became a Blue Knight. I'm going with this version, because it's the ONLY one I remember. John attended Ben's Memorial Ride, and was admiring the new bikes at the dealership. Steve just happened to mention to John that if he were to buy a bike, he could join the Blue Knights. Now that he has a new bike, we hope to see more of John and Brenda. A hearty welcome to the Bryants, we're glad we had a chance to get to know you a little better.



WE FINALLY CLICK'D

Click's Restaurant in Pawnee had been requested last year, and it got rained out when we put it on the schedule earlier this year; so we were determined to give this place a shot. We were glad we did. The portions were "gi-normous" and the food was tasty. This ride was made even better because we were joined by another new member, Steve Gifford and his wife Judy. Steve is also a member of the Tulsa Police Reserve Motorcycle Unit. It is official the ENTIRE Tulsa Police Reserve Unit now belongs to Oklahoma One. This was Judy's first ride outside of the Tulsa area. We truly enjoyed visiting with the Giffords and hope they will ride with us again soon.

MINUTE MEETING MINUTES

Your Officers for 2005:

President – Ron Taylor

Vice President – Linda Cott

Secretary/Treasurer – Ron Pike

Ride Captain – David Stone

Directors:

Steve Bell, Jim Gullane, and Paul Kroutter

Past President: Terry Reed

Other Discussions:

>Jerry thanked all the members for their support in his re-election campaign.

>It was voted to send Ben Houchin's membership check to his children's trust fund, the club will pay his dues.

>Ron Taylor volunteered to oversee the making of pennants to commemorate Oklahoma One's 30th Anniversary. They will run \$35.00. (Even if you placed an order at the meeting, Ron asks that you re-submit your order.)

>An All Oklahoma week – end was proposed. The object is to get together with all the other chapters in Oklahoma for a "meet and greet." John Stephenson suggested that instead of trying to plan a separate week - end; we designate the MWRC conference in Oklahoma City the All Oklahoma get together. This will give some of the newer chapters the opportunity to meet Blue Knights from other states and provinces.

>Jerry also reported that the International Board has decided to table the, much- disputed question of membership eligibility, for a year.

>We now have new chapters in Kroatia {2}, Slovenia, and Australia.

>Last month's meeting was devoted mainly to revamping the Chapter's by-laws (Re: Ron's letter) Be sure to attend the June Meeting to vote on these changes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHANIE HATTER AND JUDY WOOD ON THEIR PROMOTIONS TO SARGEANT WITH THE TULSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

******* RIDE SAFE AND, AS ALWAYS, WITH BLUE KNIGHT PRIDE *******