

Blue Knights®



Great Lakes Regional Conference Newsletter

Chairman

Bill Drees
WI XVIII

BillDrees@BlueKnights.org

Vice Chairman

Bill Haylett
NY V

Bill6111@roadrunner.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Dennis Hafeman
WI VI

bkwrongway1@aol.com

GLRC Intl. Representative

John Gordon
OH XVIII

BKOH18JPTG24@aol.com

**Illinois State Rep**

Gayle Murnane-IL XIX
bkbwsil9@comcast.net

Indiana State Rep

Glen Wheat-IN XIII
Indiana.blue.knight@gmail.com

Michigan State Rep

Mike Scarborough-MI II
bones1@tds.net

Ohio State Rep

Rich Labis-OH II
drumincop@centurytel.net

Ontario/NY V Rep

GLRC Web Master
Paul Croteau-ON VI
pdroteau@rogers.com

Wisconsin State Rep

Dane Nelsen-WI X
danenelsen@msn.com

Conference Reporter

Nancy Erickson-OH XII
mrsomeric@bigfoot.com

GLRC Safety Officer

Thurlow Tee Haskell-IL IX
glrcsafety@comcast.net

GLRC Chaplain

Rev Richard Bartley-OH XII
richbartley@roadrunner.com

Chairman's Comments

I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to all and if you don't celebrate Christmas, Happy Holidays. 2009 left a bit to be desired for some of us; hopefully 2010 will be more pleasant.

Thank you for all the prayers, get well cards and phone calls. They made a big difference and I am on the mend. I feel a little bit like George Bailey from It's a Wonderful life. It is a good feeling to know so many care but then what else would expect from a group like the Blue Knights.

The doctor told me all of the infection is gone so I should concentrate on building myself back up for the heart surgery. Until then I am still on oxygen. That surgery is scheduled for January 7th. The doctor also told me the operation will be a piece of cake compared to what I have been through. He also told me I would feel twenty years younger after surgery.

So I am looking forward to the 2110 riding season and seeing my friends again. Maybe if I'm twenty years younger, my hair might grow back and not be so grey. See you in Green Bay

Bill



*Random thoughts and deep musings
From the Mind of Wrongway*

From *Your* Secretary/Treasurer
December 2009

This month, I have to start off this newsletter with an editor's correction (this is the point where you all collectively gasp and say it can't be true). Yes, it seems in my haste to get last month's issue out, I forgot to list the charter date for WI I (Madison). For the record, they were officially chartered on October 22, 2009. There, all better.

And what better way to slide into our next (and related) topic. The conference continues to grow with two new chapters, both chartered on November 13, 2009. Welcome OH IV (Bellefontaine) and IN VIII (Elkhart) to the club.

The end (of the year) is nigh, and there are still a handful of chapters who have not paid their 2009 GLRC dues. Folks, the pittance your chapter contributes helps to keep this great conference running. Take a gander at the list of paid chapters and if your chapter is still in arrears PLEASE send me your dues! Remember, they are a mere **\$20.00**. Incidentally, I've started collecting 2010 conference dues, so beat the spring rush and send them in.

The new GLRC conference patches are selling like hotcakes! For the ridiculously low price of \$3.00 you too can own one. Show your conference pride and order yours today. Did I mention that they make great stocking stuffers?

And finally, with the holiday season looming on the horizon, take a moment to remember those of us who've transferred to Heaven I, and keep our officers on the streets and our soldiers in harm's way in your thoughts and prayers. On behalf of the entire GLRC Executive Board, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the joy and love of the season bless each and every one of you and your families.

Ride with Pride,
"Wrongway" Dennis Hafeman

Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs (Part II)

Here's the scenario: you're attending one of the bigger motorcycle expos, and while admiring all the bikes and accessories that you can't afford a couple of full patch members of the local outlaw MC walk by. As they pass, you see (because you're a trained observer after all) a number of patches and emblems you've never seen before. You find yourself wondering "what in the hell do those things mean?" Well, wonder no more Partner, 'cause this month we're going to go into "the cut" and explain what some of those things signify, and why it's important for you to know what they mean. My source materials for this article are: *The Rebels* by Daniel R. Wolf, *Hell's Angels* by Yves Lavigne, *The Brotherhoods* by Arthur Venio, and our old friend the internet.

If the eyes are the windows to the soul, a biker's vest, also known as "colors," a "cut" or "cutoff" (a term derived from the practice of cutting the sleeves and collar off a leather or denim jacket) can be characterized as a roadmap of his life within a club. All of us are familiar with the back patch and its significance, so I won't spend a lot of time writing about it with one exception: the "prospect" bottom rocker. In the outlaw MC world, a potential member (prospect or striker) is given a bottom rocker identifying him as working toward full membership in the club. After a period of time has elapsed (sometimes as long as two years), during which the prospect acts as a "gofer" for the club, he is voted on by the full members of the club. If the vote is unanimous, the prospect becomes a member, and is given the complete set of the club's colors. Why is this important? Well, many of the outlaw clubs require a prospect to commit a felony in the presence of at least two full patch members prior to being voted in. This practice is done to prevent undercover cops from infiltrating an outlaw club, and gives them something to hold over the prospect's head in the event he decides to turn informant. The last time I checked assaulting a police officer was still a felony, and if a prospect want to make a name for himself what better way than to attack a cop. This is something to keep in mind when conducting that traffic stop, or walking around a non Blue Knight rally wearing anything that identifies you as a cop (like your BK vest).

Let's move to the front of the vest, and examine some of the patches you may see. The most prevalent is the "1%er" patch. This patch was born out of the infamous Hollister riot of 1947, when the AMA stated that 99% of all motorcyclists were decent, law abiding folks. Rather than being insulted, the outlaw bikers adopted the 1% patch as a badge of honor, denoting the wearer as a "righteous outlaw." Many outlaw bikers have gone so far as to have themselves tattooed with this emblem. This one usually goes hand in hand with the "FTW" patch/pin, standing for "F*ck the World."

Nazi paraphernalia: Outlaw bikers wear swastikas and other Nazi emblems to shock the public. Wearing these items does not mean that the wearer is a member of the Nazi Party, or even a supporter. This practice started after WW II, when the most hated group worldwide was the Nazis. The purpose of wearing these items is to create outrage amongst the "citizens." The possible exception to this is the "SS" lightning bolts, frequently associated with the Outlaws MC (more on that later).

Colored wings: These patches are purportedly used to denote sexual achievements by the wearer (namely the performing of oral sex), with the specific color denoting the particular

woman's race or her physical condition. Bear in mind that these acts are allegedly witnessed by at least two members. The purpose of the wings is two fold; first to show the biker's low regard for women, and secondly to screen out undercover officers, as sometimes these wings are earned without the consent of the woman involved. Some of the most frequently seen colors are: White (for Caucasian), Black (African-American), Yellow (Asian or possible for drinking urine), Green (woman with VD), Brown (for analingus), Red (menstruating), Blue (woman is a police officer), and Purple (deceased). One source even cited Golden wings for participating in a "gang bang" with more than 15 men, and "wooly" wings for sex with sheep!

Eight Ball: supposedly for engaging in homosexual sodomy.

Red Cross: supposedly for engaging in homosexual fellatio.

White Cross: supposedly for digging open a grave, stealing an item from the corpse and wearing it on their colors.

Please note that many of the sources stated that the significance of the wings and the crosses mentioned above is NOT what I've listed here. These sources stated that the colors have no significance, and that deviations such as bestiality and homosexuality are abhorred in the outlaw biker world and would not be encouraged with patches. They further state that the urban legend of the wings started several decades ago, and that outlaw bikers keep it alive because it "shows class" and separates them from the average citizen. Draw your own conclusions about these patches; I prefer to err on the side of caution.

The number "13": This one has two meanings. The first is that the number signifies the letter "M", standing for marijuana or methamphetamine, denoting that the wearer is a seller/user of the drug. The second meaning may also stand for "12 jurors and 1 judge", meaning the wearer is his own judge and jury.

Upside down patch: This is a sign of disrespect. An example would be seeing a badge upside down, meaning a disrespect of police. Frequently, when the colors from a rival club are obtained they are displayed upside down in the club house.

The next patches I want to cover are those supposedly denoting members who have killed for the club. Again, some of my sources disagreed on the validity of this, so draw your own conclusions about its accuracy. The Hells Angels have the "Filthy Few," the Outlaws the "SS Death Squad"; the Pagans have the "Black T-shirt Squad", and the Bandidos the "Nomad" chapter. Another indicator may be the pin/patch "TCB", meaning "Taking Care of Business." (For you fans of *Sons of Anarchy*, the club killers wear a "Men of Mayhem" patch.) Of course the outlaws deny these allegations, saying that these patches indicate the hard partiers; the first to arrive at a party and the last to leave.

One of the most dangerous patches a Hells Angel can wear as far as law enforcement is concerned is "Deguello", which means "no quarter". This was the Moorish march General Santa Anna's regimental band played during the storming of The Alamo. Members who wear this patch have violently resisted arrest, and dates back to the early 1960s. Like most Hells Angels colors, this patch is white with red lettering.

Back in the day, when a prospect was voted in to a club, his colors were subjected to various degradations, with being urinated on the most frequent initiation. These practices have supposedly stopped, as members now view this as desecrating the club colors. If you spot an outlaw biker with heavily soiled colors, chances are he's been in the club for a very long time. Most members maintain spotless sets of colors, and view them as their most prized possessions. How prized you ask? Let's look at the Hells Angels for that answer. Touching an Angel's colors will earn you (at the very least) a severe beating. Stealing their colors or dragging them on the ground is a killing offense. An Angel who loses his colors can be thrown out of the club, usually after being beaten nearly to death. Still not convinced? In the 1970's, members of the Hells Angels Cleveland chapter went to Memphis Tennessee to establish a new charter. They got into a fracas with the local cops, who gave them a sound beat down. The Angels threatened to sue for infringement of their civil rights. However, the cops had also confiscated their colors, without which the members couldn't return to Cleveland. The law suit was dropped in exchange for the return of their colors. That's the power of the patch.

Several of my sources claim that many of the "Big Four" no longer sport many of these patches or symbols on their vests, "cleaning up their act" as it were. Is that truly the case, or is it an effort to keep law enforcement in the dark? Only you can be the judge of that. Personally speaking, I tend to believe that there is some degree of validity given to each of my sources, whether they support or refute the meanings of these patches. Now when I see an outlaw biker, I like to think I'm a little more savvy about who he may be when I see what he wears on his vest.

Ride Safe, Ride Smart, and always Ride with Pride,

"Wrongway" Dennis

Still haven't whetted your whistle on outlaw bikers? Well, take a gander at the following officer safety bulletin sent to me by the one and only Illinois State Rep Gayle Murnane.

On November 24, 2009, the Kanawha County WV Sheriffs Office was called to assist with processing a crime scene. The occupant of the residence had shot his wife with a pistol. During the search of the residence, photographs were obtained displaying a group of people. Certain people were circled with a black colored permanent marker. These people that were circled were Law Enforcement Officers, who did not realize they were being photographed. One of the officers circled was involved in the investigation of PAGAN motorcycle club members. Information was obtained that the

photographs were taken a week prior to the photographs being discovered. All officers should note their surroundings and be aware that there is a possibility that gangs may be conducting counter surveillance on law enforcement officers.

Counter surveillance against law enforcement has always been a concern. An example dated July of 2009, identified members of the American Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education (A.B.A.T.E.), performing counter surveillance against law enforcement personnel who were observing a biker event.

Furthermore, members of A.B.A.T.E were observed pointing out undercover law enforcement officers to members of the American Outlaws Association AKA: AOA or Outlaws (who were attending the event). A.B.A.T.E is a coalition dedicated to preserving the rights of all motorcyclists and educating drivers, seniors, legislators, and motorcyclists about motorcycling and safety. A.B.A.T.E is not considered a one-percent biker gang. This does not preclude the fact that some members may be affiliated with a one-percent biker gang(s).

In the words of the immortal Sgt. Phil Esterhaus, "Let's be careful out there." You never know who's watching the watchmen. Info like this should remind us that some of these so called biker's rights organizations are loosely affiliated with outlaw gangs, and they have no qualms about identifying us to the bad guys. So keep your eyes peeled, your guard up, and watch who you choose to associate with in the biker community.



**GET
WELL!**

**Ron Grist-ON XI
Jake Schaefer-OH III**



IN MEMORIUM

Jerry Plunk-OH XVII

2009 GLRC DUES—PAID CHAPTERS

Illinois	Indiana	Michigan	New York	Ohio	Ontario	Wisconsin
I - pd	I - pd	I - pd	V - pd	II - pd	I - pd	II - pd
II - pd	II - pd	II - pd		III - pd	IV - pd	III - pd
IV - pd	III - pd	III - pd		V - pd	V - pd	IV - pd
V - pd	IV - pd	V		VI - pd	VI - pd	V - pd
VI - pd	V	VI - pd		VIII - pd	VIII - pd	VI - pd
VII - pd	VI - pd	VII		IX	IX	VII - pd
IX - pd	VII - pd	X - pd		X - pd	X - pd	VIII - pd
X - pd	X	XI - pd		XI - pd	XI - pd	IX - pd
XI - pd	XI - pd			XII - pd	XIII - pd	X - pd
XII - pd	XII - pd			XIII - pd	XIV - pd	XI - pd
XIII - pd	XIII - pd			XIV	XV - pd	XIII - pd
XIV - pd				XV - pd	XVI - pd	XV - pd
XV - pd				XVI - pd		XVII - pd
XIX - pd				XVII - pd		XVIII - pd
XX - pd				XVIII - pd		
XXI - pd				XIX - pd		
XXII - pd				XX		
XXIII - pd				XXI - pd		
XXV - pd				XXII - pd		
XXVI - pd				XXV - pd		
				XXVI		
				XXVII		
				XXVIII - pd		

EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!!



Have you ever fancied yourself the next Mickey Spillaine or Joseph Waumbaugh? Do you ever find yourself reading the newsletter and saying "I could write like that?" Well, you can! This newsletter is yours. Become a contributing editor today. I'm always on the hunt for articles and information to share, so send me your Pulitzer Prize winning submission. Please keep in mind that the newsletter is sent out to the state reps by the 10th of each month, so send your submissions well in advance of the deadline.

If you found the article about outlaw bikers interesting, and would like to see other law enforcement or motorcycling related topics in future issues, drop me a line with your suggestions. I want to keep the newsletter informative and entertaining, and feedback is always appreciated.

Has illness or injury downed a brother or sister Knight? Let me know about it. I can't send them a bowl of chicken soup, but I can give them a get well shout out. Please let me know if a member transfers to Heaven I. We need to be there for the member's family during those difficult times. By keeping the conference informed, we can all help the family ease the burden the loss creates.

Got any flyers for upcoming events? Send them to me and GLRC Web Master Paul Croteau. I'll make sure they get published for all to see. It's never too early to start advertising your event. Besides, for those of us who are still manning the Thin Blue Line, it'll make submitting those comp day requests a little easier if they know well in advance when your chapter event will be happening.

"Wrongway" Dennis

2009 CRYING TOWEL CLASSIC - II



**ROUND TWO OF THE 2009
CRYING TOWEL CLASSIC®
WILL TAKE PLACE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, AT**

**NEW ENTERTAINER'S PUB
5321 W. GREEN TREE ROAD
MILWAUKEE, WI**

**BAR OPENS @ 10:00AM
KICK-OFF SCHEDULED FOR 12:00PM**

**FOOD, SODA & GREEN 'N GOLD BEER
\$5.00/PERSON**

**COME AND SEE THE CRYING TOWEL FIRST HAND AS IT MAKES ITS BRIEF,
SEMI-ANNUAL VISIT NORTH OF THE CHEDDAR CURTAIN**

**AS AN ADDED BONUS YOU WILL GET TO SEE IL X HIGH COMMANDER
JIM "MAC" MCCARTHY SPORTING HIS FAVORITE GREEN BAY PACKER
JERSEY FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, OUTSIDE OF THE PRIVACY OF HIS OWN
HOME!**

DIRECTIONS:

**FROM I-43; EXIT AT W. GOOD HOPE RD. AND GO WEST TO N. 55TH ST. GO SOUTH (L) FOUR
BLOCKS TO W. GREEN TREE RD. GO EAST (L) 1 BLOCK – NEW ENTERTAINER'S IS ON THE RIGHT.**

**FROM US 41/45; EXIT AT W. GOOD HOPE RD. AND GO EAST TO N. 60TH ST. GO SOUTH (R)
FOUR BLOCKS TO W. GREEN TREE RD. GO EAST (L) TO 54TH ST. – NEW ENTERTAINER'S IS ON
THE RIGHT.**