

MASON DIXON DISPATCH

THE OFFICIAL MDC NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Conference Meetings

- Spring Conference-2011 will be hosted by NC-XXI in Rocky Mount, NC 27-29 May 2011
- Fall Conference-2011 will be in Hosted by VA-II in Culpeper, VA 2-5 September 2011
- Winter Conference-2012 will be hosted by VA-III in Richmond, VA 18-20 February 2012

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International President Makes Inaugural Appearance

Bob Flanagan, our newly elected International President, makes his first official appearance, as President, at the Mason Dixon Winter Conference in Wilmington, NC, over President's Day Weekend.

President Flanagan and his wife Connie (Past International President) appeared to enjoy the warm weather that Wilmington offered for the weekend, with the temperatures soaring in the 70's.

President Flanagan stated at the Conference Meeting that he was looking forward

to the next two years serving as the International President and "learning again".

President Flanagan congratulated the MDC for

being the largest Conference in the organization and that it was a "great honor to be attending the largest Conference's event for his first visit of the year".

GOOD LUCK BOB!



North Carolina-XVII hosts "Knights on the Cape Fear"

North Carolina-XVII was host of the Winter Conference Meeting in Wilmington, over President's Day Weekend. The Chapter hosted the event at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside which is located in the historical district, along the

Cape Fear River. From the hotel, there was a wonderful view of the USS North Carolina. We are still trying to figure out how our southern brothers and sisters convinced "Mother Nature" and "Old Man Winter" to cooperate but the weather

was fantastic. The bike parking area was overflowing...a first in recent history at a Winter Conference meeting.

Thanks to NC-XVII for providing that "old down home country" welcome.

Chairman's Message

I would like to congratulate NC-XVII on hosting the Winter Conference. Darlene and I had a fantastic time. You could not have asked for better weather for the weekend. In my fifteen years in the Blue Knights, this was the first time I was able to ride to the Winter Conference. I hope this is a sign of how much riding I will get to do this year.

Since our last meeting the International elections have occurred and we have a new International Board. On behalf of the Mason Dixon, I would like to congratulate our new International Board.

During the election process, several of our members reported not receiving ballots for the election. I began to look into this to see how extensive the missing ballot issue was. At first glance, it appeared to be isolated to North Carolina, with a few members from other states. The initial count of missing ballots appeared to be close to 250. One of the first things I did was to request the mailing list used to mail the ballots out to our Conference members. After the request was made, some of the ballots were received late in the mail.

Once I received the list, it was broken down by state and with the assistance of our State Rep's, each chapter was given the list for their respective chapters. Each chapter was asked to verify the information on the list and make any changes. They were also asked to verify which member did or did not receive a ballot.

With the responses back, I was able to attribute the issue to three main issues. (1) Bad addresses. When we move, one of the first things we do is notify the Post Office and our friends of the new address. Mail forwarding, unfortunately, does not last forever. If you do not notify International of your new address, they have no way of knowing where to send the ballot. (2) Misspellings in streets and cities along with incorrect abbreviations the post office would not accept. (3) Zip codes. It appeared that numbers were transposed when entered into the membership database at the international.

We did have one chapter where a majority of the members did not receive ballots. When all the ballots were delivered to the Post Office they were rubber banded together in stacks. It is speculated that one of the bands of ballots was lost by the Post Office after being dropped off.

Prior to each election, the International office sends a ballot verification list to each chapter. It is important that each chapter verify whether the information is correct. This list is not only used to mail the ballots, but also, to make sure the International has the correct addresses on file for each member.

Now for a more positive subject....Challenge Coins. More and more organizations are having them made as either a collectable or a fundraiser. That got me thinking. Why do we not have one? I contacted Symbol Arts, the company my department used for their coin and sent them a concept drawing. They returned a fantastic design. After presenting the idea at our meeting along with the drawings, the coin was approved



by our membership. We now have a sales permit for the coin, and, by the time you read this, the coin will be in production. See the coin article and order form in this newsletter edition.

Finally, If you have any changes to your Chapter's contact information, please remember to send them to our Secretary, Keith Chase. Also include Bessie at the International Office in your notice.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Rocky Mount, NC for the Spring Conference.

RIDE WITH PRIDE!

John Bull, Chairman

Front Side



Reverse Side



New Mason Dixon Coin for Sale

The Mason Dixon Conference now has its own COIN.

Members of the U.S. military have a long-standing tradition of carrying a special coin symbolizing unit identity and esprit de corps. Known to generations of American military personnel as challenge coins, they are a vital part of military life today and are revered by troops in every branch of service.

While the history of coins derives from the military; police, fire and other organizations/groups have also become interested in the challenge coins over the years as well. Coins now come in all shapes, sizes, colors...with each being unique to the organization and its logo.

While the history of carrying challenge coins is still present, there are plenty of

individuals that just enjoying collecting and or displaying the coins.

With the number of members the MDC now has, we felt it was time to display our pride.

Now you can add the Mason Dixon Conference coin to your collection. Contact the Quartermaster or see the flyer and order form that accompanies the newsletter.

MDC Conference Officers

Executive Board

Chairman

John Bull (MD-III)

jbullbkmd3@verizon.net

410-804-2192

Vice Chairman

Mike Pollinger (DE-I)

mpbkde1@comcast.net

302-838-7278

Secretary

Keith Chase (VA-II)

Keith.a.chase@comcast.net

703-893-1823

Treasurer

Rick Clark (NC-XVI)

rclark@bknc16.org

704-473-3579

International Representative

Dan Moeser (TN-VI)

bikerman@chartertn.net

423-232-8825

***“Among the Blue Knights members, “There are no
strangers, only friends you haven’t met”***

MDC Appointments

Delaware State Representative: Bert Littleton (DE-I)

awl2029@verizon.net - 302-378-1587

Kentucky State Representative: Ruben Gardner (KY-II)

rubenbk2@comcast.net - 270-769-2806

Maryland State Representative: Steve Smith (MD-I)

smitty440@aol.com - 202-262-7468

North Carolina State Representative: JJ Lightner (NC-XVII)

jjl500@bellsouth.net - 910-371-1164

Tennessee State Representative: T.C. Hicks (TN-III)

TCZones@aol.com - 865-661-2811

Virginia State Representative: Mike Hart (VA-III)

retiredrg@yahoo.com - 804-350-1071

West Virginia State Representative: Carl Pace (WV-II)

Carl.pace@yahoo.com - 304-983-2737

Chaplin: Mike Williams (MD-I)

mikemamie@verizon.net - 301-627-6731

Quartermaster: Pat Moeser (TN-VI)

bikerman@chartertn.net - 423-232-8825

Safety Officer: D.W. Conners (VA-V)

blueknightsva5@msn.com - 304-227-3669

Sergeant-at-Arms: Paul Domingoes (VA-II)

homwiz@verizon.net - 571-237-1203

Webmaster: Stefan Hellersperk (NC-XVIII)

Stefan@acsit.biz - 252-240-3399



State Reports

The Mason Dixon Foot Print



Delaware	- 1 Chapter -	• DE I - Bear		
Kentucky -15 Chapters-	• KY I - Owensboro	• KY V - Paducah	• KY IX - Henderson	• KY XVI - Bowling Green
	• KY II - Elizabethtown	• KY VI - Columbia	• KY XI - Stanford	• KY XVII - Mt. Sterling
	• KY III - Lexington	• KY VII - Louisville	• KY XII - Villa Hills	• KY XVIII - London
	• KY IV - Lagrange	• KY VIII - Ashland	• KY XV - W. Liberty	
Maryland -8 Chapters-	• MD-I - Bladensburg	• MD-III - Glen Burnie	• MD-V - Berlin	• MD-VIII - Rockville
	• MD-II - Smithsburg	• MD-IV - LaPlata	• MD-VI - Rising Sun	• MD-IX - Sykesville
N. Carolina -23 Chapters-	• NC I - New Bern	• NC VII - Jacksonville	• NC XIV - Gastonia	• NC XX - Hamlet
	• NC II - Raleigh	• NC VIII - Greenville	• NC XV - Elizabeth City	• NC XXI - Rocky Mount
	• NC III - Charlotte	• NC IX - Goldsboro	• NC XVI - Monroe	• NC XXII - Windsor
	• NC IV - Brown Summit	• NC XI - Claremont	• NC XVII - Wilmington	• NC XXIII - Morganton
	• NC V - Southport	• NC XII - Clayton	• NC XVIII - Morehead	• NC XXIV - Lenoir
	• NC VI - Butner	• NC XIII - Fayetteville	• NC XIX - Winston-Salem	
Tennessee -9 Chapters-	• TN-I - Memphis	• TN-V - Nashville	• TN-VII - Cleveland	• TN-IX - Monterey
	• TN-III - Knoxville	• TN-VI - Johnson City	• TN-VIII - Clarksville	• TN-XI - Madisonville
	• TN-IV - Columbia			
Virginia -16 Chapters-	• VA I - Woodbridge	• VA V - Chesapeake	• VA X - Yorktown	• VA XVI - Woodstock
	• VA II - Merrifield	• VA VI - Roanoke	• VA XI - Lynchburg	• VA XVII - Colonial Heights
	• VA III - Richmond	• VA VII - Suffolk	• VA XIII - Danville	• VA XVIII - Rocky Mount
	• VA IV - South Hill	• VA VIII - New Kent	• VA XIV - Wise	• VA XIX - Lancaster
W. Virginia -5 Chapters-	• WV-I - S. Charleston	• WV-IV - Wellsburg	• WV-III - Huntington	• WV-V - Martinsburg
	• WV-II - Anmoore			

**Make plans to attend a
Conference Meeting**

Spring Conference 2011: Hosted by NC-XXI. More info at www.bkncxxi.org

Fall Conference 2011: Hosted by VA-II. More info www.bkva-ii.org

Winter Conference 2012: Hosted by VA-III. More info at www.blueknightsva3iii.org

MDC Safety Officer Speaks Blocking Exits & Stopping Traffic on Rides

The following is general information and only suggestions to improve your riding ability. The warm weather is approaching and it's time to refresh our motorcycle driving skills. Some of us that live in ice and snow areas don't have the opportunity to ride year round, like some of our brothers and sisters in the warmer areas. We really need to check our bikes before we take it out on the road if it has been parked for several weeks/months.

In regards to our riding skills it is the same. Before we go on any major ride we should refresh ourselves with our bikes. I know what you're about to say, I've been riding for years. That's not it, some of us aren't as sharp as we use to be. Our brain doesn't work as quick as it use to. Young riders have faster reflexes but not always a lot of riding experience and

tend to ride beyond their capabilities. Older riders usually have several years of riding miles under their belt unless they're recycled teenagers. If you don't know what that is, next time you see me I'll explain it. Some problems with being older riders is your reaction time slows down with age, you might be hurting from an old injury sitting on the bike for several hours and you're distracted from dangers around you, or your mind is thinking about the "Honey Do List" you've got to do when you get home. Don't get me wrong, I'm there with you.

I taught myself how to ride with some help from other riders several years ago and picked up several bad habits from that and other riders. Since then I've taken several motorcycle courses and found out you can teach an

old dog new tricks. Sometimes some of the old habits come back but with the training I get the habits are corrected quickly.

We in the MDC have been working on a program to make our members some of the safest riders in the Blue Knight Organization. The program will work like this. Any chapter can contact me and I will assist them in improving their riding skills. The chapter will advise me what their members want to practice on and I'll make up exercises for them and will come to them and assist them. This is the time to improve your riding skills and stay alive. I already have some chapters on my schedule, Delaware will be the first. I'll be there on April 9, if they don't have snow.

My recommendation for any member is that if you have never taken or it has been several years since you've taken a safety course...find a MSF course in your area and take it. They have several courses that will fit about any need you have. The courses are:

- BRC (Beginner Rider).
- ERC (Experience Rider).
- Trike Course, Sidecar Course.
- Sport Bike Course. which is mainly for the military.

If you have any questions about anything that I can help you with feel free to contact me. Email- Blueknightsva5@msn.com

D.W. Conners
MDC Safety Officer

From the Quartermaster

HOT CAKES!

The first batch of coins have already sold out. We are looking to order some more...but I still have MDC Conference pins and patches. MDC pins and patches are for \$5.00. Ensure you stop and see me at the Spring Conference in Rocky Mount, NC...I am sure to have just the item you NEED!

You can either contact me by email:

bikerman@chartern.net

- or give me a call at 423-232-8825.

Pat Moeser
MDC Quartermaster

Editors quote that he thinks the Quartermaster really believes...

"Buying is a profound pleasure"



REMINDER

Check the International website for participating business that provide discounts to the Blue Knights. While you are there, report your charitable contributions with the on-line reporting form. Don't remember your login?? It is your membership number and then your last name in all CAPS.

Blue Knights Mason Dixon Conference

Send Flyers and Stories to the Secretary
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We're on the Web!
www.bkmdc.org

The Mason Dixon Conference is comprised of the states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Our conference is home to 77 chapters and 3051 members.

“Ride With Pride”

Virginia-V to Host the 2011 International Convention

Virginia-V extends a warm southern welcome, for all Blue Knights to join them in celebrating the 37th International Convention in the Greater Hampton Roads area. The immediate area offers fun for the whole family, (i.e. miles of beaches, water parks, tours of military installations and children's museums). Just a short ride away are the historical areas, such as the battlefields of Yorktown, Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown. As proud hosts of one of the largest conventions to date, VA-V will do their best to uphold the VA-V reputation, of knowing how to have fun and put on a PARTY!

While the host hotel will be the brand new Marriott located in the Greenbrier area, there are more than a dozen other properties offering an additional 700 rooms that are either adjacent to or within minutes of the host hotel.

Rates will range from \$79.99 to \$129.00 a night, for up to 4 people, with the host hotel offering a Blue Knight rate of \$99.00. There are also several Extended Stay and Suites properties that offer complete kitchens, appliances, cooking utensils and a free internet workplace that are within a short 3 minute ride.

The Chesapeake Conference Center has over 20,000 square feet of meeting space, with more than one acre of parking and plenty of room for vendors!

See the flyer attached.

VA-V looks forward to seeing you in Hampton Roads in 2011!

