

Richard Bennet

Fifty-two years ago, at age 15, I bought a Sears moped. Shortly afterward I convinced my parents to let me buy a Harley-Davidson 165cc. Since that time I have always owned or had access to motorcycles. I have owned and ridden BSA, Triumph, Yamaha, Honda, several new Harleys, and now have a 2006 BMW R1200RT. Along the way I was a motorcycle officer for the San Diego Police Department, riding Harley and



Kawasaki motorcycles. I have ridden coast-to-coast twice, and border-to-border several times, including two Three Flags events. I have ridden throughout southern Canada, parts of Mexico, and five countries in Europe. My wife of 33 years, Janice, has been my passenger on many of these adven-

tures.

After 25 years of Harley ownership, I switched to BMW. Now, after four years and 41,000 miles on the RT, I don't miss the Harley.

On a personal note, I grew up in Pacific Beach, California, graduated from Mission Bay High, spent 40 years with the San Diego Police Department, and retired as a lieutenant eight years ago. At the time I retired, I held the record for the longest tenured police employee in San Diego history.

Among my police duties, I spent five years in the Traffic Division,

investigating collisions, and enforcing traffic laws. I helped develop the first civilian motorcycle training program in San Diego County in 1970, and saw that program adopted by the 11th Naval District before I left my motorcycle assignment. At the Lieutenant level, I returned to Traffic Division, where I managed the D.U.I. squad, the Motorcycle squad and the parking control officers. I was a "riding lieutenant," which meant I took part in quarterly riding refresher classes alongside working motorcycle officers.

I was an instructor at

the San Diego Police Academy for 30 years, and assigned as a full-time Academy Coordinator as a Sergeant for three of those years. My areas of expertise were handling disputes, police report writing and training new supervisors. I am currently on the Training Committee for "Promises 2 Kids," where I assist with quarterly training classes consisting of law enforcement, child welfare workers and probation department employees.

I am a Commissioner with the San Diego Police Historical Association, which

means I am a non-voting member of the Board of Directors, a Museum guide and I often dress in period-specific attire to ride a police motorcycle or drive an old police car at public events.

I am a 20-year member of the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club and currently a member of California IV, which covers Riverside and Orange counties. I am a past-president of California VI in San Diego County where I also served as a Director and Vice-president. I am currently in my fourth year as Safety Officer for the Southwest Conference of

Blue Knights, which covers five states. At the 2010 Blue Knights annual conference, I received the “Outstanding Conference Safety Officer Award” from Blue Knights International.

I have been a “recreational writer” since high school. I have written articles for the San Diego Police newsletter and travelogues about my touring and “advice” columns for Blue Knights publications. Many of my articles have been about motorcycle safety, and most have a police connection or perspective. Until now, most of

my articles have been published in monthly newsletters, and posted on Chapter websites.

I enjoy annual motorcycle rides throughout the U.S., and often seek a rental motorcycle when I travel outside the 48 states. In addition to the Blue Knights, I am a member of the BMW Owners of San Diego, BMW Owners of America, lifetime HOG member and 24-year AMA member.

I have an A.S. degree in Criminal Justice, and a BSBA degree in Business Administration.

-- Richard