

Redlands Bicycle Classic

A perfect fit for Blue Knights



By Richard Bennett, SWC Safety Officer



Imagine yourself on a cold, foggy morning riding your motorcycle in City traffic. Visibility is limited to about 200 feet. There is cross-traffic, left-turning traffic, and vehicles coming up from behind you. Then imagine following a paraplegic on a hard to see, low-slung tricycle, racing hard against others like him while cars and trucks share the road with him. Your motorcycle lights are the only thing that drivers see until he comes out of the fog. This rider is dependent upon your protection, and grateful for your presence.

This is only one example of how Blue Knights help at the Annual Redlands Bicycle Classic in the Redlands, California area.

Redlands has hosted the International Bicycle Classic for 29 years, where professional bicycle racers compete for points. The best may go on to compete in the Tour de France in Europe; this is a serious bicycle race.

This year our Blue Knights from California IV were joined by members of California VI, Arizona II and a Brother Blue Knight from Tennessee V. We were also pleased to have International Secretary Jack Kaylor with us again for his 10th year.



The Blue Knights are recognized by the RBC officials as confident motorcycle riders who are experienced at dealing with the public while protecting bicycle riders from vehicle traffic. We work alongside Motorcycle Officers and motorcycle-riding Race Officials. Hundreds of civilian volunteers man fixed posts as “Marshals”, and coordinate with us to escort riders and residents.

The RBC has three categories of racers; Para-cyclists, women riders and men riders. There are also some public racers, just for fun. They all race on public roads, often sharing the roads with non-racing motorists. A total of about 350 racers compete in the RBC, racing at four race locations in and around Redlands.

Para-cyclists are very low to the ground; sometimes only about two feet high. They are hard to see because of their low profile. Two-wheeled bicycle racers are surprisingly fast and very quiet, requiring escorts to be very watchful while on the course. In some cases Blue Knight escorts had to alert traffic controllers that bicycle racers were coming, since the racers are compact, silent and fast.

Because of our unique career experiences, and years of assisting at the RBC, Blue Knights at the Redlands bicycle races have discovered and corrected numerous hazardous situations. Blue Knights are recognized as team players by local law enforcement agencies, Race officials and residents of the Redlands area. We are pleased to participate in the Redlands Bicycle Classic each year. Our participation at Redlands goes beyond charity rides, poker runs and week end rides. It helps to demonstrate that Blue Knights are truly community-oriented.

