



# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — Fall/Holiday '04

<http://www.rk-mass2.org>

*Loyal to Our Duty*

### From the President's Desk

One summer day I was on my way home from work (in my truck) and I passed by a lone motorcycle parked on the side of the road. The young man had an uncomfortable look about him so I pulled off the road and walked back to see if he was OK.

He told me that he had been riding all day and that coming down the long hill his bike started sputtering and died and now he could not get it to start again. He and I tinkered for a while and we were able to get the bike running again. We shook hands — and then he said something that surprised me, “quite a few bikes passed me mister, thanks for stopping to help.” I was saddened a bit to hear that other riders had passed him by. I know as firefighters we routinely help others who need a hand, and I could picture any of our members stopping to help this fellow rider. We may take that act for granted but my guess is this fellow did not.

Remember to keep an eye out for each other and be willing to take that extra step to lend a hand — it helps make life a little better. You never know when you'll be on the receiving end of someone's help. Just think of the places different members of our chapter have traveled this summer – from Maine, down the eastern seaboard and all the way west to the Dakotas, Washington State, Alberta for the convention, and everywhere in between!

I heard one story from Bob and Donna's trip to Sturgis that they used their copy of the Help-a-Knight program to look up Red Knights during their trip. They were even offered a place to stay and enjoyed a nice meal with one RK member and his family after making that “*information request*” telephone call. If anyone would like a current copy of the Help-a-Knight program, contact me.

While thinking of “enjoying life,” I hear that our rafting trip down the Kennebec River was rather *lively!* Look for the whole story inside. And thank you to our newsletter spy who gives us a great perspective of the ride down the river!

I was asked by the president of the new chapter in Portland, Oregon, “what do you suggest to keep the club fun and the members interested?” I told him to keep busy. I think that is part of our success; that we have plans to get together every month – even if it is not on the bikes. This is how our friendships have developed and how we seem to have a great time no matter what we do. It may be with just a few members or dozens of members but it's always fun!

We're approaching that time of year where the days to ride are getting fewer and fewer. I hope that you can all make it out to any of our events that we hold throughout the cold weather. This includes our breakfast clubs (in November we're going gambling after), our Christmas party, and our pot-luck gatherings. Because even in the dead of winter it feels good to at least *talk* about riding!

One final note is my personal congratulations to Cliff, Kevin, and Tim on their re-election as officers to serve the chapter. All the officers put in many hours to make our chapter what it is. I must express my true appreciation for all that they do. My thanks to them, at the conclusion of my first year as president, for all their work and dedication to our fine club!

### Mass-2 Christmas Party

- Sunday, December 12
- 1:00 p.m.
- Apple Hill Farm, 143 Joslin Street in Leominster

Come join us for a **great** catered dinner and our annual Yankee Gift Swap.

Bring a wrapped gift with a value of no more than \$10 for the gift swap.

**The cost is \$20 per person** (including tip) and if you were with us last year you'll agree that the food is fantastic!

...and the company is pretty good too.

We **must** have a head count by Sunday, December 5 to give to the caterer. Please contact Bob Laford with your RSVP. (978) 724-3270

Cliff has ordered some new style vest patches to have in stock. We had to order 30 bottom rockers that say “Mass Chapter 2.” So don't be shy if you were thinking about buying some new patches for your red vest!

Also available are the chapter Red Knights Decals.

## 2004 Mass-2 Raffle will be upon us before we know it!

We are going to try something new in regards to our raffle in 2005 in an attempt to get more members involved. We are raffling off scratch tickets... 200 scratch tickets for first place and 100 scratch tickets for second place!

The cost of each ticket will be \$5 (which should be easier selling than the \$20 120 Club tickets). The chapter will be selling only 300 tickets. We will be contacting each of you to ask you to buy and sell tickets after the new year.

Our chairperson for the raffle will be **Marty Eldridge** again this year. And thank you to everyone who has helped make our raffles a success for the club in the past.



The officers of Mass Chapter-2 and their spouses wish each of you a very joyous holiday season. We all look forward to another great New Year to share with all of you.

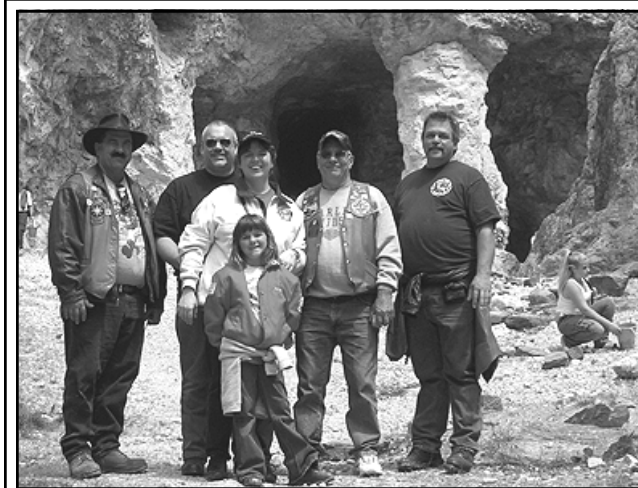
August 7 was a beautiful summer day in New England. We seemed to have members of the chapter all over the continent from Westminster to Mohegan Sun, to Canada, and the Dakotas! But there were a few of us (4 bikes) who met up for a ride into the White Mountains to visit the Ruggles Mine in Grafton, NH.

Our timing could not have been better when we met and then left WFD. Within 3 minutes of us leaving, Ashburnham was responding to a working fire and Westminster was called to the scene. We joked with Clay Sweynor, before we left, that he had to work hard all day at WFD while we were riding. I imagine that he was not thinking fond thoughts of us after the call came in! We did not learn of the fire until our first stop about an hour later. So it was too late for Kevin to turn back... and of course wouldn't you rather be riding on a great day than fighting a fire?

While on the road we saw this great covered bridge on a side road. So we diverted from our intended route and crossed "NH Covered Bridge number 9" off Route 127. Then we did a U-turn back over the bridge and back on course. We used the excuse that in case we did not execute another U-turn, that one would cover us and make it *an official* ride. But it was not necessary as we had another unintentional U-turn later in the day!

The Ruggles Mine was spectacular and this one picture does not do it justice. We walked through a cave-like entrance into the catacombs of the mine and were able to do some prospecting and spelunking of our own in and out of the manmade caves and caverns. It was much cooler inside the mine and the walls of the quarry glistened with their mica and crystal compounds and reached several hundred feet towards the sky above us. The main entrance to the mine, where we enjoyed a picnic lunch and the nearby vistas, was on top of a mountain overlooking the White Mountains and the valleys below. (By the way... Our entrance ticket to the mine listed a number of rules that we were supposed to follow during our visit. And even without Shaky and Steve with us we still violated just about every one of them!)

Of course ice cream was our reward on the way home. It was a great day for a ride and we logged over 250 miles. Sorry that we did not have more of our members with us — but maybe next time!



At the Ruggles Mine in Grafton, NH

**R**ed Knights Dues are "due" at this time. Enclosed is an invoice for your 2005 dues. Please forward your dues before the end of December to our club treasurer Cliff Eldridge.

**Cliff Eldridge**  
856 Main Street – Leominster, MA 01453

Please remember that we must have our roster complete and mailed in to the International before the end of February. Help us make that deadline (so we are not charged a service fee) by having your dues to Cliff before the beginning of the New Year. *Thank you!*

### Bills in the Massachusetts Legislature:

- House bill 804: An Act to Authorize Firefighter License Plates. [The Registrar] shall furnish to members of any municipal fire department a special distinctive firefighter license plate for use on private motor vehicles owned and operated by such firefighter.
- House bill 1245: An act relative to fines and penalties for motorists violating rights of way laws concerning motorcyclists, bicyclists or pedestrians who suffer serious bodily injury or death.

- House bill 289: An act that the Port Authority and the Turnpike Authority be directed to reduce tolls for motorcycles for the use of facilities of said authorities.
- House bill 290: An act that cities and towns be prohibited from adopting rules or regulations banning the use of motorcycles on public ways.

## On the road with our friends

- Our ice cream rides have passed by for another season but we had a good time on the rides we shared on our Thursday evening excursions. In July we had nine bikes from Mass-2 that met up with as many riders from Vermont-2 and New Hampshire-4 at Kimball's in Jaffrey, NH. Our visiting was cut short when the rumbling thunder got closer and closer. Some of our members made it home dry (heading east) but those of us heading west and south-west to get home ran right into the storm! The next month I think the forecast of rain and thunder scared people away as did the rain in September. The few bikes that did show up in August stayed dry and talked about everyone else who chickened out!
- We had 16 members join us at Donna and Shaky's in July for our summer BBQ. The weather was great... and the food was plentiful! Thanks to them for allowing us into the garden.
- 2004 seemed to be the summer for charity rides. You could find at least one a weekend to attend and many weekends there were more! We had members at the Mass-12 Scavenger Hunt, the Dakin Animal Shelter Ride for the Animals, Harley's Ride in Westfield, the Ride for Kids, the Alzheimer's Ride, and that's just the few that I can think of off the top of my head. We actually had nine RK bikes at the Alzheimer's Ride at the end of July. It was great weather and they had a nice ride around the Quabbin. Look for this ride again next year! Thank you to all the riders that were able to attend the motorcycle procession for Aaron Creamer's funeral. There were over 200 bikes that escorted this young man and his family on his last ride throughout Leominster on a hot August Day.
- Speaking of charity rides... the Ride for Kids is always a ride that Red Knights help support. This year's ride, on August 15, was the same day that hurricane Charlie's winds and rains passed through Massachusetts. (And also the day that 10 members flew out of Logan Airport enroute to Edmonton). The Red Knights donated over \$2,000 to the New England Ride for Kids and despite the rain, \$67,000 was collected for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.
- We had a great time at the Kilhart's camp in Royalston on Labor Day weekend! It was a cool and cloudy day but we had twenty people and enough food to feed three times that many people! Thank you to Tim, Darlene, and Krystal for being great hosts.
- And thanks go out to Cliff and Marty for opening their camper to us again this year. 2004 saw 10 Red Knights enjoy the hospitality and fun of the Eldridge's up in Wells, Maine. Despite the arrival of Hurricane Ivan and lots of rain for about 20 hours, the RKMC took over the campground's "rec room" and still had loads of fun!

It's never too early to begin planning for the 2005 RK Convention – to be held in Toronto next August 11– 14

## Rides for '05

This chapter and all our events are for you, the members. This is the time of year that we begin planning rides and gatherings for the next riding season. Please share with us any ride ideas (and specific dates if necessary) that you may have for next year.

The Chapter Officers will be meeting after the first of the year (by ourselves and then with other Mass Chapters) to put together a proposed itinerary for the 2005 ride schedule.

Then we will have the schedule ready for our February Pot-Luck.

Please let us know your ideas so we can plan a fun season, (as well as pre-season and post-season), of events that everyone will enjoy. Thank you.

### Officer Contact Info:

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**Steve Mickle (Secretary)**  
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Steve@rk-mass2.org

**Cliff Eldridge (Treasurer)**  
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Leominster, MA 01453  
(978) 534-6252

**Tim Kilhart (Road Captain)**  
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(978) 249-2983  
tdkilkhart@rcn.com



We need to know if you are coming

to the RK Mass-2 Christmas Party so reservations can be made with the caterer.

**Have you called Bob yet to tell him?**

Congratulations to Tim Kilhart who was recently promoted to Captain with the Orange Fire Department and to Steve Boudreau who was recently promoted to Acting Superintendent of the Orange Water Department.

We usually schedule three pot-luck get-togethers a year. One in February, one in April, and one in July (which is usually a BBQ). **If you would like to be our host for the any of these**, please contact Bob Laford so we can schedule the date, time, and place... and even though February is the dead of winter, that is where we will have the 2005 ride schedule ready for you!

DRAMA ON THE KENNEBEC: The Estrogen Raft or The Good and the BAD

Whish. Swish. Splash.  
Whoa, whoa, whoa. This is it. Here we go.  
Whatever you do, DO NOT let go of the t-bar on your paddle.  
Uh oh, uh oh, get ready, here it comes.  
Wow, how cool was that?  
Oh no, Oh no, not another one.  
Hold on tight. Don't fall out. Woohoo.  
Steve, will you stay in your own boat for cryin' out loud.  
Look out behind you. Splash.  
Can somebody help me get back in the raft?  
Paddle forward. Paddle back. Paddle forward, NO back. Sorry.  
Hey Cliff, there's a guy floating face down beside you.  
If you fall out, close your mouth, hold your breath, and whatever you do, don't panic.  
Here we go! Here we go? Hang on. Fwump! Whush! Splash!  
Help! I'm floating away.  
Close you mouth. DON'T Panic. WE WILL SAVE YOU!!!!  
Paddle hard through the rapids. Ok here it comes. A CLASS 4!!! Paddle HARD everybody.  
FWUMP! CRASH! SPLASH!  
Whoa!!!!  
AAAACK!!!!!! WOOOO-HOOOO!  
YIKES - This is a killer!!! UH OH! Where'd Cathy go?  
Oh My God! Is that her head bobbing in and out of the rapids?  
Look, she's still holding her t-bar.  
Don't worry, Cathy, we'll save you.  
Wow, look at her go.  
Do you think she's all right? She looks all right.  
Steve, if you don't stay in your own boat, someone's going to hurt you.  
Boy, am I glad I'm not on the testosterone boat.  
Poor Jordan.  
Watch out!!!! Splash.

Can someone pull Bobby out of the water? Splash.  
Can someone else help pull Peg AND Bobby out of the water?  
How ya doin' back there, Deb?  
Good. What's Steve doing now?  
It looks like he's trying to dump a guide out of the boat.  
Cliff, if you knock me out one more time, I'm going to hurt you.  
Gee, Bob & Diona and Kevin & Lori and everyone else whose not here don't know what they're missing.  
Whoa, uh oh, that boat's coming right for my head! Hey stop that thing.  
Aaaack. Whish.  
Wow, how did I end up on the other side of the boat?  
Hey Jordan, how come your hair is still dry? Splash  
Can someone pull Jordan out of the river?  
Oh, by the way, Marty, I saved you back there at the class 4.  
Thanks, Walter. But I really wanted to get tossed in and ride the rapid!  
Hey, Magic John, it looks like we're going to hit that rock.  
Paddleforwardpaddleforwardpaddleforwardnowbacknowbacknowback  
Crash. Oops. Sorry Guys.  
Remember. Do NOT pee in the wet suit. It makes them smell.  
Uh, Oh. Too late.  
Ouch! My head. Hey, who let go of their t-bar?  
There's an injured person on board. Back off. BACK OFF NOW cretins from the other boat!  
Wow, that looks bad. A real egg.  
I'll live.  
Are you still with us Marsha?  
Ride the raft like a horse? What?  
Yeah! Just straddle the rubber and ride the rapids.  
Hey, you're right. That IS fun.  
Yipeeeeeee, let's go through that rapid again.

Wow, can I do it too?  
Don't look now Deb, but it looks like a blond just fell on top of Steve.  
Wonderful.  
Busted.  
Lunch break. Go for the beef and the sun.  
Anybody got any sun block, my heads getting burned.  
Did you see the way they washed those dishes?  
Ok, let's do it. Paddle forward, paddle forward.  
Hey, look at that kid on that nerdy raft over there splashing us. Let's get him.  
Splash! Splash. SPLASH. Hey, Steve, get that raft!!!  
Hahaha! That'll teach the little creep.  
How's the bump on my head look?  
You'll live.  
OK, you guys can relax now!  
What? No more paddling? Is that it for the rapids?  
That's it.  
That's it? No more?  
No more.  
You mean it's over?  
Yep! It's over.  
RATS! Well, you can bet we'll be back next year.

EPILOGUE: Hey Peg, got any Vioxx?

I heard that a number of the guys needed help getting their legs up and over the saddles on their bikes when it was time to head home at the end of the weekend!

Was it from the rapids or the volleyball game with the river guides?

## Red Knights Jackets, "Station" Shirts, and more!

**Have you ordered your Red Knights  
baseball jacket or job shirt yet?  
They look great and would make  
great holiday gifts!**

Joe Guarnera, a member of Mass-2, has started an embroidery business and he has given us some good deals on Jackets and Job Shirts. Many of us have "baseball" style jackets left over from years past, but we have not had an available vendor to keep the orders going — so Joe is stepping up to the plate — to offer our members quality jackets and sweatshirts with Red Knights embroidery and our new chapter emblem.

### Available now are:

- **Snap front, machine washable jackets** with the Mass 2 patch on front and writing on the back will be as follows:

Red body, Gold trim, Gold Buttons

Nap Lined = \$90.00

Quilted Lined = \$95.00

Same Jacket without writing on back:

Nap Lined = \$65.00

Quilt Lined = \$70.00

- **Firefighter Work Shirts**

Grey with Denim collar and Denim elbow patches with embroidered Mass 2 Logo = \$50.00

Personal Name on any item = \$5.00

- Red Knights Mass 2 **Embroidered hats** = \$12.00  
(Color - Red w/Gold embroidery)
- Red Knights Mass 2 **embroidered Polo Shirts** (Color - White or Blue)
- **Winter Nylon Water Resistant Riding Jackets** with Red Knights Mass 2 Logo = \$90.00  
(Color Blue with Black or Red with Black)

Contact Joe directly to place an order with him. His email is [joegua@comcast.net](mailto:joegua@comcast.net) and his home phone is 978-455-1022 .

## Mass-Chapter-2 had the 2nd most registered members in Edmonton, Alberta for the 2004 Convention

On July 31 Ed Brouillet left Massachusetts enroute first to Ontario to pick up International Treasurer Leo Patry and then to the convention in Edmonton via the Sturgis Rally. That took them almost to the time when the rest of our traveling chapter boarded a plane at Logan Airport to fly out to the convention on August 15. (One additional member flew to Texas to ride from there with a friend from Texas-Chapter-2 for a total of 12 Mass-2 members).

There is always one person who either when passing through customs or through a security check gets tagged as a potential threat. But why does it always have to be Phil Jordan?!? Poor Phil had to remove his belt, shoes, and other sorted bits of clothing and paraphernalia before they realized he was not a terrorist.

At their first lay-over in Toronto the flying group was informed that Air Canada had misplaced Steve's luggage. In between flights he was given paperwork to fill out so that his luggage had the chance to find him. Before landing in Edmonton the rest of the entourage was greeted with the same paperwork as the airline realized that none of their luggage had made it to the second plane! The guy at Edmonton's lost baggage area said that our group was the happiest people he had ever seen who lost their luggage.

Transportation was provided from the airport to the convention hotel by the Edmonton chapter. Ed was waiting for everyone (but was happiest to see Peg... hmmm, I wonder why). Sunday and Monday were "settling in" days. Although Monday included shopping at a mall with nearly 2,000 stores.

Tuesday began the pre-convention bus tour of the Canadian Rockies and everyone said that they were just breath-taking. The group even stopped at the glacial ice fields and took the "ice bus" onto one of the glaciers. It was awesome. The tour's guide, Jaci, had a great sense of humor and was a great historical guide for the 42 Red Knights aboard for the trip. The weather was spectacular and the bus had huge windows, a bathroom, and a monstrous cooler full of refreshments.

This convention was a very social event. It seemed people were never in their rooms, but always in the hospitality suite or in the lobby of the hotel enjoying each other's company. Steve won an award at the end of the convention – something about "member most to abuse the hospitality room."

On Friday night the group rode to Fort Edmonton on their bikes with a police escort. Those who were not able to ride either took the fire engines or the vans. Just before entering the fort, the police had gotten in a line at attention and saluted as we went by. It was a very nice tribute to the firefighters. Upon entering the fort we boarded a steam train that took us past the buildings of the fort. After wandering around the area we were treated to a great picnic with steaks, potatoes, corn on the cob, salads of all kinds, and much, much more!

Saturday morning brought us together for the annual meeting – and that went quite smoothly. There were 25 voting chapters and 155 members registered for the convention. Details on the business will be in the International's fall newsletter.

The Saturday evening banquet was a great buffet. Many awards were given out including two honorary memberships to the two youngest participants, Krystal Kilhart and Niki Jordan from Mass-2! (They also received stuffed panda bears for being so well behaved on the bus trip).

In spite of the beautiful weather all week, Sunday morning was cold and rainy. Some of the members boarded their two-wheeled steeds fitted in leather and rain gear and others boarded the vans bound for the airport. It had turned out to be one of the best conventions and it is always sad to say goodbye.

It was very late Sunday night when the flying (and tired) members made it home to Massachusetts. But it wasn't until five days later, Friday, August 27, at 8:30 pm that Ed drove in the driveway some 7,700 miles and 27 days after heading west. We are already looking forward to next year's convention that will be held in Toronto!

## Mass-2 Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, October 10, prior to our Apple Pie Ride to Dummerston. Thank you to everyone who attended. We had a beautiful day and 19 bikes along for the ride!

Congratulations to our Treasurer Cliff Eldridge on re-election and being the longest serving treasurer in the Red Knights and one of the longest serving officers in all the Red Knights. Also congratulations to VP Kevin Martin and Road Captain Tim Kilhart on their re-elections.

We voted on a few minor bylaw provisions as well. One is to add the category "Compassionate Member" to the group and the other to give "Sunshine Fund" benefits to the chapter officers. If you would like to receive a revised copy of the bylaws contact Chapter Secretary Steve Mickle.

### **LAST CALL FOR MSF RIDER COURSE SCHOLARSHIPS...**

All applications must be in to the committee for review by Nov. 1.

Our chapter website has its own URL at [www.rk-mass2.org](http://www.rk-mass2.org)

Visit it to check on rides and to look at pictures and get other info about our club.

Also online is the International's new message board. You can read what other Red Knights are talking about and post questions, responses, and your opinion about anything and everything you can think of! [www.redknightsmc.com/forum](http://www.redknightsmc.com/forum)

## TIRES TIRES TIRES

(reprinted from another club's newsletter)

*Your bike may be either in or nearing hibernation, but it is always important to think about safety.*

### **Question: When was the last time you checked the pressure in your tires?**

Tires that are excessively worn or improperly inflated can cause a crash in which you and your co-rider can be seriously injured or killed. It is recommended that you visually check your tires before every ride and use a pressure gauge to measure the air pressure at least once a month or any time you think the pressure might be low. (Better if you do it even more often).

Remember: even tires that are in good condition may lose 1, 2, or even 3 PSI per month if not checked and adjusted regularly. Check your owner's manual for recommended pressure. Always check the air pressure when tires are cold, or after your bike has been parked for at least 3 hours.

Whenever you check the tire pressure you should also look for:

- Bumps or bulges in the side and tread (replace any tire that may have either of these)
- Cuts, slits, or cracks – Fabric or cord (replace any tire if fabric or cord is present)
- Nails or other objects embedded in the side or tread
- Excessive tread wear (if the wear indicators are visible), replace the tire immediately, because the tire is no longer safe to ride on

BE SAFE. Go check your tires now before you forget.

## Red Knights Breakfast Club

We started our breakfast rides again – unofficially – with the Jaffrey Fire Department annual breakfast celebrating Fire Prevention Week. Twelve bikes met up to head to NH for a great buffet hosted by JFD and members of RKNH-4.

The true Breakfast Club has started again as well. It may be that time of year that we cannot get together on our bikes – so from October through April we will meet (in four wheels) for breakfast.

Join us each 3rd Saturday, 8:00 a.m. at the Westminster Fire Station and we'll choose a different breakfast haunt each time. That's November 13, December 18, January 15, February 12, March 12, and April 16.

**\*\*On November 13 we will head for Mohegan Sun after breakfast to try our luck and pay our occasional tax to the Native Americans in Connecticut!\*\***

## *Auto Driver Students to get Motorcycle Exposure*

Beginning in September, students learning how to drive automobiles in one of the 400 licensed auto driver training schools in Massachusetts will get at least one hour of 'awareness' of motorcycles on the road, as "Nelly's bill," signed by Governor Romney takes affect.

An 8-minute video, "Cars, Motorcycles, and the Common Road," developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation will show students the common causes of accidents. Group discussion then follows hoping to expose students to prevent motorcycle accidents, injuries and fatalities.

"It was a four year project but its finally here," said Joe "Sarge" Komola of Tewksbury, the Safety & Education Director of the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association (MMA), whose members lobbied for its enactment.

The bill, known as "Nelly's Bill," was a rallying cry for the motorcycle activists after Nelson Selig of Essex was killed in May 2000 by a 19-year old driver on Route 133 in Ipswich. "We have been able to turn that tragedy into something that will hopefully prevent other deaths," Komola said.

The Registry reports over 170,000 licensed operators under the age of 20. Most attended driving schools where no motorcycle awareness was taught during the 30-hour curriculum. Since 2000, an average of 44 motorcyclists are killed in Massachusetts accidents each year.

The cost of course materials has been paid from the State's Motorcycle Safety Program, funded in part from \$2 of each annual motorcycle registration fee. This bill was submitted and passed because the involvement of motorcyclists like yourselves from around the state.

Our chapter dues for 2005 are due!

Please look inside for your Red Knights Dues Invoice.

Please send payment to Cliff Eldridge before December 15.

Here are some pictures from this past year to make you smile!







## RK Halloween Party

Join us for a Halloween  
Party - Pot Luck Dinner  
— Costume Party for  
the Red Knights...

It will be on Saturday,  
October 30, at Kevin  
and Lori's house in  
Gardner at 5:00 p.m.

982 Pearl Street —  
Route 101 at the  
Gardner - Ashburnham  
town line

Come dressed as your  
favorite ?? ...well  
surprise us!

For questions,  
directions, and to

### **RSVP**

please call Lori at 978-  
632-2677 or email her  
at [lorily7@hotmail.com](mailto:lorily7@hotmail.com)

See you there!

## EDUCATION CORNER

The time of year that we all dread, has arrived again and it won't be long before we'll be putting our bikes away for the winter. So we thought that we would take the opportunity to remind everyone of the procedure to store your bike and have it in good operating condition in the spring.

### PREPARATION FOR STORAGE

This procedure requires a means for draining and disposing of drained fuel.

- 1) Change the engine oil and filter.
- 2) Make sure the cooling system is filled with a 50/50 antifreeze solution.
- 3) Fill the fuel tank. Make sure the fuel cap is properly installed.
- 4) To prevent rusting in the cylinders, perform the following:
  - Remove the spark plug caps from the spark plugs. Using tape or string, secure the caps to any convenient plastic body part so that they are positioned away from the spark plugs.
  - Remove the spark plugs from the engine and store them in a safe place. Do not connect the spark plugs to the spark plug caps.
  - Pour a tablespoon of clean engine oil into each cylinder and cover the spark plug holes with a piece of cloth.
  - With the engine stop switch in the RUN position, press the start button several times to crank the engine and distribute the oil.
  - Reinstall the spark plugs and spark plug caps.
- 5) Remove the battery and charge it fully. Store it in an area protected from freezing temperatures and direct sunlight. Slow charge the battery once a month.
- 6) Wash and dry your motorcycle. Wax all painted surfaces. Apply rust-inhibiting oil to the chrome pieces.
- 7) Inflate the tires to their recommended pressures.
- 8) Store your motorcycle in an unheated area, free of dampness, away from sunlight, with a minimum of daily temperature variation.
- 9) Cover your motorcycle with a porous material. Avoid using plastic or similar non-breathing, coated materials that restrict air flow and allow heat and moisture to accumulate.