



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Fall/Holiday '05

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

Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's Desk

Hello everyone,

2007 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Red Knights and the anniversary convention will be held in Massachusetts. With that in mind a call went out to all the Massachusetts chapters to help in planning that year's convention. A core of chapter officers from around the state has begun meeting and planning and I am very pleased and proud that members of our chapter have taken a leadership role in this endeavor to help ensure that the convention will be top-notch.

It also got me thinking about our chapter's role in the International organization. Mass Chapter 2 was chartered in 1983 – the same year that the Red Knights became the Red Knights International. From the beginning, members of our chapter have been involved in the International's activities and the molding of our organization into what it is today and leading it into what it will become. There have always been Mass-2 members in leadership roles in the International from the very beginning, and I am not sure there are other chapters that can make that claim.

Just recently Ed Brouillet was re-elected as International President, and we all congratulate him on that fete. He has served on the International Board since 1991. From the beginning, along with Ed, we have had the leadership of such people as Phil & Bea Jordan, Charlie Clarkson, Peg Brouillet, and Wayne Stacy who have either served as officers on the board or as committee members with important tasks like writing bylaws, auditing committees, and special fundraisers. Even today Steve Mickle, Tim Kilhart, and I each serve as advisors to the board in differing roles and planning teams. (I apologize if I have missed naming anyone). Our chapter has also taken on hosting and co-hosting past conventions, drawing members from around the continent into our home state.

As another year of riding draws to a close we all can look at the pictures taken and the memories that we have gained from the fun times together in this year and in year's past. It is also important to recognize that there has been much work and commitment over the past two decades that has helped produce the organization that we enjoy today. If you are someone who has not participated in the chapter – let's hear from you. How can you help us make the Red Knights and our chapter even better? If you have never considered working at the International level, the 2007 convention is your chance. What talents and time do you have to make that an extraordinary event?

The convention that just concluded had 120 members and 30 chapters in attendance. In early discussions with people from around the northeast and those that routinely attend conventions, there is a potential that the Massachusetts convention will draw more than three times that number – being one of the largest attended events in our history. But again, it takes that talent, time, and commitment from every member – especially you.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Marty and Cliff Eldridge in this newsletter. I know that Marty is comfortable in their new home outside Ft. Lauderdale and that Cliff is working out his last few shifts before retirement. We owe them both a tip-of-the-hat and a very big thank you for all that they have done for our club over the past 25 years. We wish them both well and know that we will see these snowbirds when the warm weather returns and the bikes are back on the road. Also best wishes and congratulation to our recently elected officers of the Chapter, Tim Kilhart as our new treasurer and Bob Shakarian as our new Road Captain. Thank you both for offering yourselves in service to the club.

Mass-2 Christmas Party

- Sunday, December 11
- 1:00 p.m.
- Apple Hill Farm, 143 Joslin Street in Leominster

Come join us for a **great** catered (ham) 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 (plus a tip) and if you were with us last year you'll agree that the food is fantastic!

...and the company is pretty good too.

Last year we were able to donate over 30 gifts to the **Loaves and Fishes** program in Ayer. This program provides Christmas gifts to children that may not have a holiday without your help.

Please bring a new unwrapped children's gift to our holiday party so we can make another donation to the program.

We must have a head count by Sunday, December 4 to give to the caterer. Please

contact Bob Laford with your RSVP.

(978) 724-3270

(If you tell us you're coming but then can't make it we will still need your money to cover costs).



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.

Ice Cream for Breakfast??

Our ice cream rides were a mixed bag of weather during the summer months... a few were cold and/or wet and at least as many were great evening rides with a dozen or more friends out for a ride and some good ice cream! We stopped at Kay's in Westminster, Kimball's in Jaffrey, Sterling Ice Cream on Route 62, and a stop at Friendly's for hot chocolate and coffee to round out the season on our last ride (brrrr).

Now that the ice cream stands are closing up for the season it is time to begin our "Breakfast Club" again. We meet *every third Saturday* at the Westminster FD at 8:00 a.m. to find a different restaurant to gather for breakfast and some fellowship.

**Please join us on our next Breakfast Club meeting...
November 19.**

Breakfast Club Dates:

November 19 - December 17 - January 21
February 18 - March 18 - April 15

Red Knights Dues are "due" at this time. Enclosed is an invoice for your 2006 dues. Please forward your dues before the end of December to our club treasurer Tim Kilhart. (If your address or phone has changed, please tell us).

Tim Kilhart
56 Adams Drive, Athol, MA 01331

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 Tim before the beginning of the New Year. *Thank you!*

Remember to give your ride some TLC before storing her away for the winter. A little time spent now will help your bike be ready for its first ride in the spring.

Things to do include changing your oil and fill your gas tank adding a fuel additive like "Sta-bil" in the tank. Keep the battery cared for all winter. Put a coat of wax on the bike for protection. Check your coolant level and condition, and also take some precautions against any mice that may try to find a winter home in your ride

Don't let your mind-set for riding go stale in the winter either. We all go through PMS (Parked Motorcycle Syndrome), so keep your mind sharp by reading about bikes... where to ride, rider education tips, what's new in accessories, etc.

Membership notes

Welcome to our new members, Larry and Nancy Robinson of Petersham and congratulations to Fred and Lisa Leblanc on their new Anniversary Edition Goldwing and their new condo in Leominster.

Best wishes to Donna Morreau on her new teaching position at the North Central Charter Essential School in Fitchburg and to Ed Matthews on his pending retirement as Deputy Chief of the Warwick FD.



Dawn on Sunday, August 21 broke with rain and forecast for morning showers for the annual Ride for Kids. But that was still better than the 2004 ride's weather of Hurricane Charley! The 2005 new England Ride for Kids brought in just over \$61,000 from 200 bikes. One GWRRR chapter from Rhode Island brought in over \$20,000 - WOW! Our friend David Odess, who has spoken to the Red Knights several times about the Ride for Kids, was the top fund raiser. He brought in over \$6,000 this year. He also won the drawing for the new Honda at the end of the ride. Good job David!



Of course... if Red Knight "A" jumped off the bridge, then Red Knight "B" is sure to follow. Some one has to be there to rescue Red Knight "A"!

Congratulations to Marty and Cliff Eldridge on their retirements (Marty's in the summer and Cliff's coming up soon).

Below is their new contact information:

978-855-7558 (Cliff)
978-855-7559 (Marty)
11370 SW 12th Court
Davie, FL 33325

On the road with our friends

- When the Ashburnham Fire Department celebrated its 150th anniversary this summer, the Red Knights were there! Twenty-six Red Knights Bikes led the apparatus parade — and it looked great! Thanks to everyone who participated and special recognition goes to Kevin Martin and all the Ashburnham members for all their hard work in planning and running the celebration.



- A tip of the hat to the Kilhart's for being such gracious hosts for our Labor Day cookout. It was a wonderful afternoon lounging at their camp and relaxing under the canopy of pines along the shores of Long Lake. The added bonus was that the Labor Day weekend weather could not have been more perfect!
- Our Apple Pie Ride was a rainy bust this year. With the passing of a tropical storm over the Columbus Day weekend, more than seven inches of rain fell in our area and caused lots of problems that weekend. Many departments were pumping cellars and New Hampshire declared a state-of-emergency because of washed out roads and flooding. We still had a dozen people show up (all in four wheels) to help us with the business of the club in the fall meeting. Guess we'll have to wait until next year to get some Dummerston Apple Pie.
- They tell us that October '05 was one of the rainiest on record... all you have to do is look at our ride schedule. Even our ride to Salem was washed out (after our first Breakfast Club). *In Athol, my dad had over 14" from 10/7 to 10/15!*
- After a rainy and cold October, November has begun with some great fall riding weather. The day before our Polar Bear ride was 70 degrees... and although the weatherman lied and it only got to 50 degrees for our ride we still had six bikes and a four-wheeler come along for our ride and a stop at Theresa's in Ware for lunch... and had birthday cake in honor of Ed's birthday!

Hopefully our fall riding will be extended further into November so we can enjoy more time on the road before the bikes are put away for the winter. I can even remember one of our Christmas parties not too long ago where the weather was so nice that a number of bikes showed up for the December date.

Rides for '06

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 2006 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:

Bob Laford (**President**)
276 West Road
Petersham, MA 01366
978-724-3270
rlaford@tiac.net

Kevin Martin (**Vice-president**)
982 Pearl Street
Gardner, MA 01440
(978) 632-2677
kmartin812@hotmail.com

Steve Mickle (**Secretary**)
14 Vernon Street
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-6224
Steve@rk-mass2.org

Tim Kilhart (**Treasurer**)
56 Adams Drive
Athol, MA 01331
(978) 249-2983
tdkilkhart@rcn.com

Bob Shakarian (**Road Captain**)
326 North Street
Leominster, MA 01453
(978) 665-9805
Sharkey625@aol.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?

"Boys' Day Out In Boston" Saturday, Feb. 4, 2006

For the Northeast Motorcycle Expo at the World Trade Center in Boston... this year we'll do a better job at staying "un-lost."

Meet at the Leominster Train Station by 9:15 am and we'll pick up the train as it passes... and pick up more members as we head east.

It's never too early to begin planning for the 2006 RK Convention – to be held in New York City on August 10-13, '06

If you would be interested in taking a bus or other '*alternative transportation*' to NYC instead of your bike contact Deb Mickle so we can work up some options and prices!

2005 Convention – Toronto – A recap of RK Affairs!

The Mass 2 representatives left for the convention on Aug. 5 after having a farewell breakfast with other members. The first day of riding was very hot, but we made it as far as Watertown N.Y. on secondary roads. We arrived in Niagara Falls Sunday afternoon in very heavy traffic. After pathfinder Ed navigated us there we settled in to a beautiful hotel with a great view of the falls. Monday the boys went on the jet boat ride up the rapids on the river. In the afternoon the Mickles and the Kilharts took a ride on the Maid of the Mist. They especially enjoyed getting misted because it was 90 degrees. The evening brought a ride to go miniature golfing, followed by ice cream at Dairy Queen.

Tuesday was another hot day. We took the people elevator down to the Falls and some of the group took the tour through the tunnel under the Falls. We then mounted up for Toronto with Tim in the lead. We ran into a parking lot on the super slab and the garmin saved us again. The next exit took us on the scenic route along the edge of Lake Ontario.

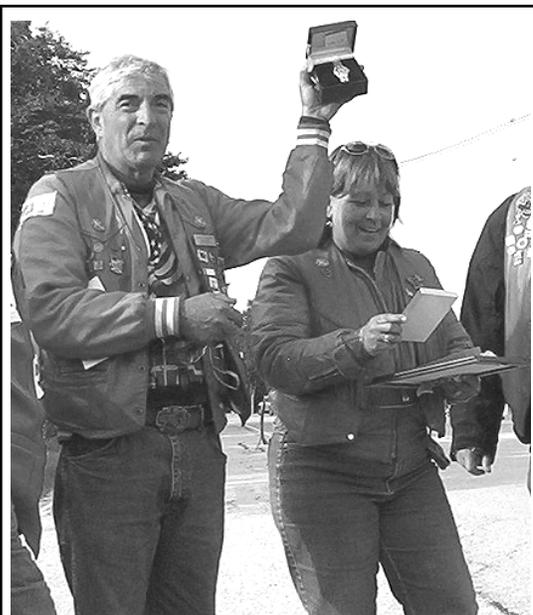
Tim was in charge of the women for the day on Wednesday since it was an all-day meeting for the Board.

Thursday the Brouillets and Mickles went for a ride around the area while the Kilharts went to the Zoo. All returned in time to take the ride to the BBQ and later socialized in the hospitality room.

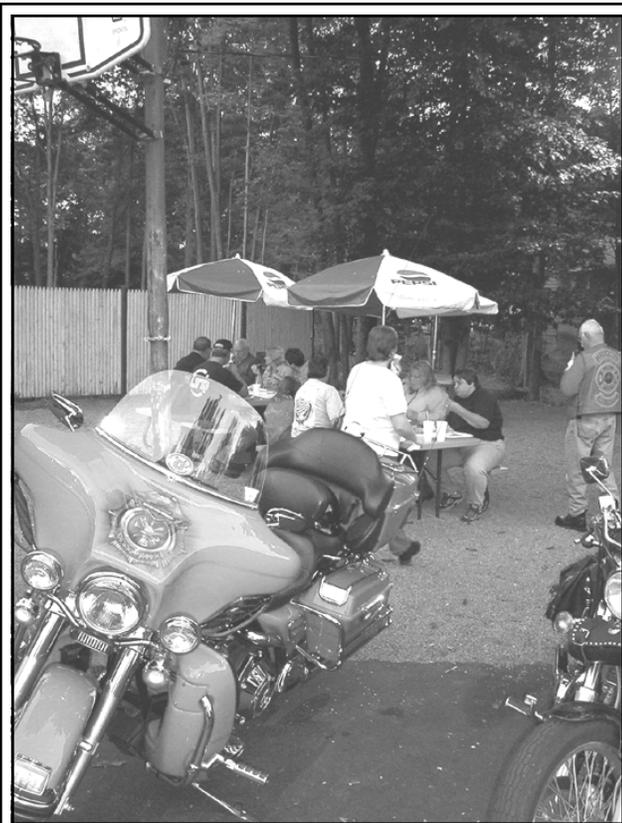
Friday was the bus tour to the CNN Tower that provided a great view of the city. This was followed by a boat tour of the harbor with a special presentation by the Toronto Fire Boat.

Saturday began with the annual business meeting and election of officers. All open positions were unopposed. It was voted to give the host chapter the usual donation to the charity of it's choice. They opted to give half of the money to the Memorial Fund.

The meeting went smoothly and was adjourned before noon. We then took a short ride and watched the impressive State Police Motorcycle Drill Team. They rode in formation and saluted the International president and during the exhibition, the First Lady was escorted to the middle of the demonstration area to video the bikes coming directly at her and they criss-crossed just in front of her. What an adrenaline rush.



Cliff and Marty at Killington when we presented them with their thank you gifts for the



Sixteen bikes and nearly 30 people showed up for our August Ice Cream Ride to Sterling Ice Cream!

Steve Mickle's HD Firefighter Special won the top prize with "best in show" in the bike show.

Sunday morning was the send-off breakfast with plans already being made for the 2006 convention hosted by New York City, 2007 in Massachusetts, and 2008 in Sandusky, Ohio.

Not far out of Toronto our travelers stopped to don their rain gear as the skies began to drizzle. Most of the Mass-2 contingent decided to take a two-day course back home before having to return to the jobs that awaited them at home.

February Pot-Luck

Join us at our February Pot-luck on **Sunday, February 19** and we'll have our 2006 Ride Schedule ready for you!

Our Ashby winter home... at the farm where we have had our sledding party and February pot-lucks the last few winters at 1:00 and if the weather cooperates bring your *sledding attire*. The farm is on Bennett Road in Ashby and if you need directions, call our hosts Wayne or Linda at (978) 386-7915.

Do you ride when the weather is *cold*? Well, first we probably need to define cold since it is a relative term. Some people may think that temperatures below 70 degrees are cold while others may scoff at near freezing temperatures. When I had my first bike, it had to be at least 50 degrees and absolutely no chance of rain – but now, a little rain and a little cold never hurt anyone! Here are some excerpts from a couple of pertinent articles that were in American Motorcyclist Magazine this year.

Any Weather, Any Time – Nov. 2005

It doesn't get much better than fall riding – colorful leaves, clear air, and a kind of scenery that you'll remember all winter.

Done right a fall ride can be just about perfect. But this time of year brings a few challenges you need to take into account when you head out on your bike.

In many parts of the country (ours included), it's not uncommon to see temperature swings of 20 degrees or more from morning to afternoon. That may not matter much when the highs and lows are 80 and 60, but it can make an enormous difference when the numbers are 60 and 40.

A little planning is all you need to continue enjoying the season. Here's a simple, three-step program that will help you get the most out of fall.

STEP ONE Preserve Body Heat.

Remember that the human body is a pretty good source of heat. So as the temperature drops, your first priority should be to preserve as much of that heat as possible.

Think Layers. It's not just the clothes you wear that keeps you warm, it's the air trapped inside too. That's one reason to wear a few layers rather than one heavy one. Layering also lets you "fine tune" your comfort level in variable temperatures.

Build a Base. The stuff you wear next to your skin is the base. Synthetics like polyester wick away perspiration to give you more warmth than cotton which may stay damp from your perspiration.

Get Fleeced. You need a light insulating layer that fits comfortably inside your riding jacket.

Get dressed inside. If it's chilly in your garage or the parking lot, be sure to put on most of your gear indoors to retain some of the indoor heat.

Have a glove strategy. Your hands are the most important interface between you and your bike. When they get cold, your ability to operate the bike safely is compromised.

Cover your head. Consider wearing a balacava – a thin head-and-face covering that allows only your eyes to

Crash Course – February 2005

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Returning to Virginia from Bike Week about a dozen years ago, I got into the Carolinas and noticed the temperature dropping. Outside of Fayetteville, North Carolina, I stopped for gas.

Signing the gas receipt, my scribble was even more illegible than normal. When I tried to explain this aberration to the attendant, I could hardly think what to say, and my words were barely understandable.

Way back in the recesses of my brain,

The temperatures do not have to be excessively cold to cause hypothermia. Wind helps reduce the body temperature more quickly as does moisture — two conditions that we see while riding. Some of the warning signs of hypothermia include:

- shivering/exhaustion
- confusion/fumbling hands
- memory loss/slurred speech
- drowsiness / reduced energy

show. Sure you look funny, but you'll be warmer.

Wear a full-face helmet. A full-face will keep you warmer than an open-faced lid.

**STEP TWO Block the Wind.** You need to prevent the wind from getting in.

Stop it cold. Make sure that your outer layer is wind proof. Leather is good for this as is some of the high-tech fabrics – and so is your rain suit.

Don't stick your neck out. Even a simple bandana can help keep the heat loss down at your neck.

Don't forget the bike. A fearing, even a small one, can make a tremendous difference in cooler weather. No fearing? Even a well-packed tank bag can help in blocking the wind.

**STEP THREE Add Heat.** Electric clothing, hand warmers, and heated bikes (like BMW's heated hand grips or a after market heated seat) all offer additional warmth for the rider.

So there you have it: A strategy to help deal with fall's variable weather. These tips could even extend your fall

one not-yet-numb cell yelled out, "HYPOTHERMIA!"

After a bowl of chili and many cups of hot chocolate, I stuffed the Fayetteville Gazette between my jacket and chest and rode to the first available motel.

Three tubs of hot water later, life returned to normal, and I remained in the gene pool.

The lesson is simple: When the warning signs show up, heed them.

#### Medical Motorcycling – September 2005

In a recent MCN article on first aid "Flash Gordon, MD" gave his opinions on what you should carry for First Aid supplies on your bike. Here's a cut down version:

Gas Station Bathroom. Wash your injuries out (with soap when possible) to sanitize them.

Band-Aids. Consider buying flexible and waterproof *adhesive bandages*.

Butterfly Closures. ...to hold your wounds together.

Benzoil Swabs. Helps the adhesive bandages stick to the skin.

Disinfectant. Carry a small bottle of Betadine.

Elastic Bandage. Ace bandage is one brand, and they are useful for wrapping sprains, holding ice packs in place, etc.

Bandaging Material. Including 4 X 4's, Combine Dressings, Non-stick Gauze, and roller gauze (Tape too).

Goop. Antibiotic ointment.

Cold Packs.

Miscellaneous items. Tweezers, Wire\_Splint, Triangular Bandages, and a Space Blanket.

*What do you carry?*

**WIN A ONE-WEEK VACATION AT  
CAPE WINDS RESORT ON CAPE COD**

All proceeds will be donated to the  
**PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR FOUNDATION OF THE U.S.**

The following two weeks are being raffled:

**JULY 28 – AUGUST 4, 2006 &  
OCTOBER 13 – OCTOBER 20, 2006**

One winner will be drawn for each of the two weeks listed above.

If you would like to support my fund raising efforts by participating in this raffle, or if you would like to make a donation, please fill out the bottom of this form and mail it, along with your check, to me at this address:

**David S. Odess 5 Macauley Way Randolph, MA 02368**

Tickets are \$10.00 each. Please make your check payable to "Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the U.S." or "PBTUFUS." The PBTUFUS is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, so your donation is tax deductible. I will send all of the checks that I receive to the Foundation on a weekly basis.

One winning ticket for each of the two weeks will be drawn on June 1, 2006 by Paul Mitchell, general manager of Weymouth Honda, and the winners will be notified by telephone. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (781) 961-4684, or e-mail me at: hblad1@comcast.net.

Your contact information will be held in strict confidence, and will not be shared, given or sold to anyone.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS INFO WITH  
YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ TICKET(S) FOR JULY 28 – AUGUST 4, 2006

@ \$10.00 EACH = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ TICKET(S) FOR OCT. 13 – OCT. 20, 2006

@ \$10.00 EACH = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Red Knights in the Green Mountains at the  
Killington Classic**

If you could have picked the most perfect weather for being on your bike in the Green Mountains of Vermont it could not have been any better than the weather we enjoyed for the Killington Classic celebration in September!

For the third year the folks at the Killington Classic gave us a fun time for the weekend after Labor Day. Great riding roads, good weather, and great friends all made the *Classic* worth the time.

The Red Knights took over more than half of the 103 rooms at the Inn at Six Mountains. Mass-2 had fifteen members and a handful of friends that bunked with us. Our chapter also hosted the hospitality room and adopted any RK orphans from other chapters.

The Grand Hotel on the mountain was the host hotel for the event. The vendors, fire works, shows, awards, and bands were all located on the grounds there at the base of Killington Mountain.

There were rides available including guided tours, self-guided tours, and charity poker runs. The nearby RK Chapter hosted a memorial ride in memory of one of their members as well.

Prior to the Killington parade all the Red Knights met at the Rutland Fire Station and we were escorted to the beginning of the parade route where our colors and members had front row billing of the 2,000 (+) motorcycles that swelled the ranks of the parade.

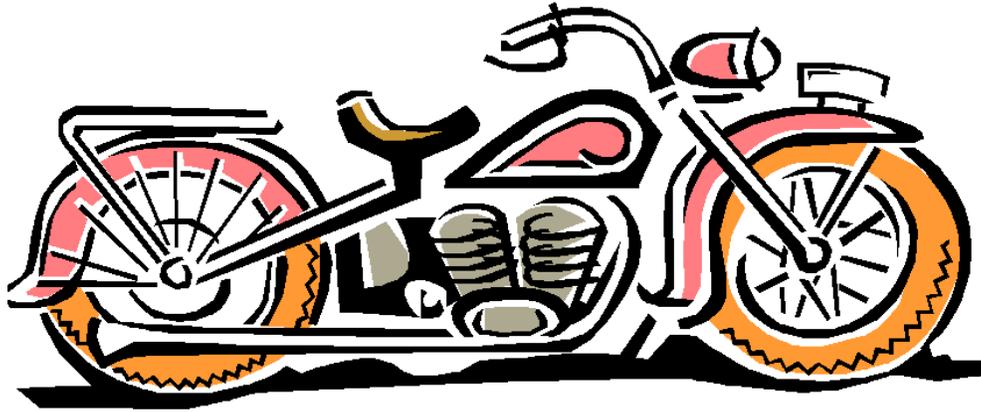
When the parade entered the city limits, the community had prepared for our arrival and had closed off the core of Rutland and turned their Main Street into motorcycle alley. There they had food vendors waiting for us and a great band to entertain us for the evening.

To take advantage of one afternoon's weather, a group of us climbed Killington Mountain via the Gondola to take into view the far-reaching mountain ranges that can be seen from atop. Then as the sun began to set we all re-adjourned to the Grand Hotel to watch the fireworks and enjoy another band at the base of the mountain.

Even when we were checking out of the hotel to head home the weather and the Vermont Roads were so inviting that between our chapter members we took four different routes home to take in as much of the riding day as possible.

Take a look at your calendar for next year and mark off the weekend after Labor Day and consider joining us for the 4th annual Killington Classic in Killington, Vermont.

**RED KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB  
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER 2  
6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BUS TRIP TO THE**



**NEW YORK CITY  
INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOW  
SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2006  
\$35.00 PER PERSON  
INCLUDES BUS AND SHOW TIX**

**7AM Departs Enfield Bobs/Olive Garden**

**7:30 Departs East Hartford Sheraton**

**7:45 Departs Cromwell Commuter Lot**

**10:00 AM Arrive at Javitt Center**

**Time for shopping, sights and lunch**

**6:30PM DEPARTS NYC**

**For Tickets: Diane O'Hagan 860-871-0725 or John O'Hagan 860-749-0222**