



From the  
President's Desk

# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — Fall '06

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

*Loyal to Our Duty*

I await awhile as storms go past and leave the air so clean,  
Then ride into a wonderland of hills and curves serene.  
What first is just a breeziness that bends each supple tree,  
Becomes horrific in its strength and tries to topple me.

Gary Younglove  
Phantom Memories

Hi Everyone!

Our spring and early summer were definitely on the wet side this year and Gary Younglove's words could have been for any of us! For those of us who purchased new rain gear this year, our riding season has given us ample opportunity to try it out. I can honestly say that when I first started riding, many years ago, if it wasn't blue sky with no chance of rain, I would not venture out on the bike. But riding in the rain is just another experience in riding and we can all take precautions that help keep us safe and comfortable when riding in poor weather. As the old adage says, "*Bad weather always looks worse through a window.*" So get out there and ride!

Even with the amount of wet weather that we saw, there were many days of fine weather that could find riders out on the bikes with big grins on their faces enjoying the roads on two wheels. We had some fantastic weather in Killington this year – well, except for that little bit of hail and a late day thunderstorm! And I understand that some riders at the convention in NYC had some similar downpour-style experiences!

It is that time of year when we take a breath and look back over the past few months that flew by so fast. I want to take a moment to thank all of you, the members, for your support of the Red Knights and our chapter. I would especially like to thank the officers, their spouses, and the different committee members that worked so hard for our chapter throughout the year. As with any successful organization it takes a lot of effort in the background to have the events and organization run smoothly. We hope that the chapter's operation appears as a calm lake on the surface even though there may be an undercurrent of activity.

I urge each and every member to become a part of that undercurrent. It is the worker-bees that give of themselves that keep the chapter afloat and the organization vibrant and alive. Please join us in all our activities – not only the rides and events, but in the planning and operation of the club as well.

Just because the riding season is closing and the cold weather is knocking on the door, does not mean that we go into hibernation for the next handful of months. Mass-2 keeps active throughout the year and we hope to see each of you during the winter. We have breakfast rides, bike shows to attend, our Christmas Party, and our Winter Pot-luck. I can even remember bikes being ridden to one of the Christmas parties!

On behalf of Diona and I and all the chapter officers, we wish you a joyous and safe holiday season. And before you know it, we will be dusting the bikes off and heading down the road in 2007.

Be safe!

It's hard to believe that the summer and the riding season is rushing past us. It will not be long before we will be celebrating the holidays, so please mark your calendar for this year's Red Knights Christmas party.

### Mass-2 Christmas Party



- Sunday,  
December 10
- 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 \$15 per person** (the chapter is picking up part of the cost) and if you were with us last year you'll agree that the food is fantastic!

...and the company is pretty good too.

The last few years we were able to donate a couple of dozen gifts to the **Loaves and Fishes** program in Ayer because of your generosity. 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 3 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 need to collect \$20 to cover chapter costs).

## *On the road with our friends...*

- Back on Father's Day we had five bikes meet up for our picnic ride. It was a perfect summer's day and we put on over 150 miles with lunch at Moore State Park by the water falls in Paxton. Ice cream in western Massachusetts was next, and then a late afternoon stop in Orange for a classic car show on the way back. It was a good day!
- On the 4th of July, 23 people ventured to the wilds of Petersham to enjoy of holiday BBQ at the Laford's. There was a lot of food! Thanks to all who participated. And thanks too for the help with the fourth of July concert in Fitchburg. Eleven Red Knights escorted our own, Maestro Francis Wada into the ring for the beginning of the Thayer Symphony's holiday concert. Then we got to enjoy the concert while reclining on St. Bernard's field. A fun time for all!
- Four couples spent a July weekend at Cliff and Marty's in Wells, Maine. As the summer has gone, there was some rain... but we still had a great time with seafood, ice cream, an evening ride on the coast and a morning ride to Old Orchard Beach before the showers started. Then we enjoyed the hospitality of the Eldridges and played cards and dice... ate some more, and even did a big roast in a dutch oven over the fire. Thanks Marty and Cliff it was a great weekend!
- It was a picture-perfect summer's day for a ball game when a few members were able to make it out to Holy Cross Campus and the Worcester Tornadoes game back in July. What a great time! (Even though the score did not favor the home team). We'll have to schedule again for next year and convince more members how much fun it was!
- August blessed us with a perfect day for a ride to the sea shore to visit the Hammond Castle in Gloucester along with some great views, roads, and seafood. We had eleven bikes wind their way through eastern Massachusetts along some wonderful roads and limited traffic under our Road Captain's guidance. Of course ice cream – at Kimball's in Westford – was a stop on the way home.
- Thanks go out to the hosts of our Labor Day Weekend BBQ – The Mickles! Even though "Ernesto" threatened us with rain and winds, the rain did hold off until after our festivities. Fifteen members and friends journeyed to Nashua (all via four wheels) to enjoy the Mickle's hospitality, and as always, a wide assortment of good things to eat!
- Boy the Davis Corn Maze was a challenge! We spent a little over two hours working our way around the maze... in circles... before we made our way out of the complex. PHEW! Then of course it was a stop for lunch and a stop for ice cream before we headed home.

## **Ice Cream**



It looked like our June ice cream ride (and raffle drawing) was going to be great evening weather for both. We had twelve bikes show up for the ride and we headed off to the Murdock Farm in Winchendon for some fantastic home-made ice cream. But the Thunderstorms started to build with the approaching cold front. A number of us were wet before we made it home!

Congratulations to Craig Reed, a Captain with Barre FD and our own Clay Sweynor on winning this year's chapter drawing.

July's ice cream ride again saw a dozen bikes (and 2 cars for 21 people total) and although it was HOT HOT HOT all day long with temperatures in the 90's and severe T-storms in the forecast, it never rained on us and was a beautiful night for a ride. We rode down to Flo's Country Farmstand in Rutland, and for the second ice cream ride in a row our president had us on a dirt road! For August your president kept off the dirt roads and we had a perfect summer's night with 14 bikes and two four-wheelers for our trip to Kimball's in Jaffrey.

Our final ice cream (in September) was similar to the first. 3 four-wheelers (from the west where it was already raining) and three bikes from the east (where the rain had not started yet) met in Westminster just as it started raining there. The bikes headed home and the 4 wheelers went to Kay's for tall tales, ice cream and visiting with friends. See you next summer!

July 5, 2006

Hi Fellow RK Mass 2 Riders,

Thank you very much for your appearance for the 4th of July Concert Grand Entrance with so many riders and their spouses this year.

I am greatly honored to have your support for this event which has grown tremendously from several years ago when RK Mass 2 first escorted me in. I was really surprised to see many bikes and people waiting outside of the Bowl.

Thank you very much again to all of you who responded to my request. It's great to know that you are always willing to help other RK members. I look forward to riding with you one of these days.

With much appreciation,  
Francis Wada, Artistic Director  
Thayer Symphony Orchestra



## 13 Ways to reduce your chances of hitting an animal

**Identify High-Risk Situations.** “DEER X-ING” signs are posted on roads where deer are common – usually after a number of deer-vehicle collisions.

**Scan Continuously.** Watch in wooded areas, especially if water is near.

**Be Dawn/Dusk Aware.** Animals are particularly active in the evening and early morning.

**Note “Open Animal Avenues.”** Openings in fences, open gates, cattle guards, etc., create animal opportunities.

**Let Larger Vehicles “Run Offense.”** Hang back farther than usually from any vehicle ahead of you. If they take avoidance actions, you should have time to react.

**Favor the Center of the Road.** This gives you a clearer view of both road edges and allows a split second more time for maneuvering.

**Avoid Tunnel Vision.** Scan the edges of the road, to the limits of your headlights and back. Don't fixate on where your headlights meet the darkness.

**Flick from High Beams to Low.** Changing the lighted area before you prevents your tunnel vision and may reduce the “frozen-in-your-headlights” hypnotic effect lights have on animals.

**Trust your Peripheral Vision.** The “corners” of your eye are more sensitive to motion than straight-on vision. If you sense something moving at the edge of the road, react immediately.

**Predict Multiples.** If one deer appears, assume others are nearby, about to bound across the road ahead of you.

**Slow Down.** Any collision at 60 mph will hurt more than one at 45 mph.

**Be careful With Avoidance Maneuvers.** Don't swerve into an on-coming truck to avoid a chipmunk.

**Avoid Big Animals if Possible.** Employ your best braking or swerving skills. You do practice them don't you?



Excerpts from “The Rest of the Story” by Bob Edwards in American Motorcyclist

Rest stops is where I collect some of the most interesting memories of a trip.

At a restaurant where my wife and I stopped for lunch in Iowa a young woman asked my wife, Annette “What kind of bike do you ride?”

“I ride on the back with him,” Annette answered.

The girl's face showed her disappointment. “Oh, you need to get out and learn to ride your own bike. Girl power! Freedom of the wind! There's nothing like it!”

“You ride, do you?” I asked.

“Oh, yes, I've been riding for years, and I ride every day. I've been to Sturgis, and I'd like to go to Daytona someday. I even rebuilt my engine after 17,000 miles.” “That's great,” I said. “I hope you get a chance to go to Bike Week someday.”

Back on our bike we rounded the back of the building and spotted her bike, a little Yamaha Riva scooter! Suddenly, I was much more impressed with her 17,000 miles and her trip to Sturgis!

We pay so much attention to the ride that the downtime is often overlooked. Make the best of the rest!

## 2006 Killington Classic

What a great time we had in Vermont at the Killington Classic in September! Mass-2 was represented by 19 members and friends all staying at the Inn at Six Mountains.

Your president took seven hours and over 220 miles to drive from Petersham to Killington (not a very direct route) and enjoyed every mile of the ride! Bob even had the opportunity to ride every inch of Vermont Route 100 from the Massachusetts border near North Adams to the Canadian Border in Newport. It was just a great weekend with many great roads whether you rode solo, or with others. One day Bob and Ed were on separate rides, heading out for 100 miles or so each with different routes planned and came across each other twice!

The Classic included vendors, a motorcycle tractor pull, bike shows, and fire works. The big event was the parade from the mountain down into Rutland for a street fair. There were 1,500 bikes in the parade and another 2,500 people waiting for us at the end. The governor of Vermont rode on a Wing and had his picture taken with the RKMC crowd before the parade began.

In downtown Rutland there were food vendors from all the restaurants, the band Beatlemania, and thousands of bikes to view! Vermont Chapter 3, based in Rutland, prepared a Roast Beef dinner and dance for interested Red Knights and everyone had a great time.

Join us next year, the weekend after Labor Day for a great time, with great roads, and great friends in Vermont!

Think about some of your favorite ride memories. Some of the best thoughts that come to mind are the people, sites, events, and places that we took time to see during our stops and rest breaks!

*Scrambled eggs and apple pie* were on the menu for October 8

Can you believe that twenty bikes (with 25 members and friends) were on hand at the Westminster FD for the Apple Pie Ride.

At 8:00 it was not far from the freezing mark and on our way to the Jaffrey Fire Stations and their FANTASTIC buffet breakfast (celebrating Fire Prevention Week) we saw more than one field that was frost covered!

At JFD we met up with a handful of folks from Vermont-2. Then we were off again heading through Keene and on to Dummerston for their Apple Pie Festival. There was not a cloud in the sky and the day continued to warm making our afternoon ride just wonderful with the sunny skies, 70 degree temperatures, and peak fall colors around every corner.

Mass-2 made a donation to the Jaffrey Firefighters' Association as a thank you for their hospitality each year.

*Red Knights trivia...*

Who in the club has run over a Texas Jack-rabbit??

### 2007 Dues and Hold-Harmless waiver

Included with this mailing is your invoice for the 2007 dues. As with any organization there are expenses that we incur and your dues help us cover those costs. A portion of your dues also go to the International for our charter dues.

Also included in the mailing is a Red Knights Hold-Harmless agreement that we are asking each member to sign. As discussed at an earlier meeting, this was a recommendation to help protect the organization.

Please have your dues and waiver in to Treasurer Tim Kilhart by **December 15, 2006**. Thanks.

Tim Kilhart  
52 Adams Drive – Athol, MA 01331

What has 16 wheels, 24 legs, and 42 clues? It was the **Red Knight Scavenger Hunt** planned by our Vice President. A hot day in July was the back drop when a dozen Red Knights and friends had a great time traveling the 90 miles looking for clues and gathering pieces of our scavenger puzzle!

We had a great lunch at the Villa Restaurant in Cochituate, and of course ice cream before we ended the adventure with a round of mini-golf in Sterling.

Scavenging the stops along the way we searched

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Maple Leaf               | An orange        |
| Banana                   | A daisy          |
| 2006 Dime                | Lady Bug         |
| Red Socks                | Marble           |
| Business card            | Black-eyed susan |
| Push pin                 | Swedish fish     |
| Massachusetts Quarter    | Floppy discs     |
| A dark chocolate truffle | 2006 penny       |
| Acorn                    | Paper clips      |
| Apple                    | Magnet           |
| White out                |                  |



What are Swedish fish anyway??

### *Membership News Briefs...*

Welcome back to one of our original charter members, Maury Lizotte and to his better-half Marcia Marjomaa. Maury picked up a 1200 Goldwing this summer and rejoined the chapter — then he realized that he was having so much fun that he upgraded to a GL1500! Also former member Dean Atwood has moved back to the area and rejoined us as well. Welcome to Caitlin Barclay (daughter to Jim) as a new social member – and congratulations to Caitlin on completing her MSF basic course AND more impressive was her *save* this summer during her job as a life guard! Welcome to Karen Roach as a new member too. Karen is Walter's daughter and has ridden with us a number of times. We hope you each get to join us at our events and have a good time with the club!

Congratulations to Marty and Cliff Eldridge on the arrival of their newest grandson! Best wishes to Jim Barclay on his summer acquisition, a 2004 1100 Honda Shadow, to Terry Atwood on his new addition of a Honda Valkrie, and to Donna Moreau on placing an order for her new HD Electra Glide. Congratulations also go out to Mike Hanson. Mike is a Lieutenant with the Lancaster FD and was recently appointed as their first full-time firefighter.

A special thank you goes out to Mary Barclay of Royalston. Mary is Jim's wife and mom to Heather and Caitlin and is a news correspondent for several newspapers. Since we have corrupted her family she has adopted our causes and has been very generous with articles, pictures, and stories about the Red Knights and what we have been doing this year. Thanks Mary!

One of our rides while at Americade and our ride while on the Cape were also written up and appeared (with pictures) in Backroads Magazine this year. So we have been getting some press about what is going on!

### *What is the chapter planning??*

Sunday, November 5.

**Polar Bear Ride and Annual Meeting with Election of Officers** – Meet at WFD at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 18. **Monthly Breakfast Club and then head to the CASINO** – After our monthly breakfast gathering we'll regroup and head to Connecticut and Mohegan Sun Casino to try our luck. Meet at WFD at 10:00 a.m. for a late breakfast.

Our **Breakfast Clubs** have started up again! The riding season may be winding down, but that does not mean that the fun is going to stop.

**Every third Saturday** from October through April we will gather for breakfast and fellowship. Meet at the Westminster FD for 8:00 a.m. and we will discover a different breakfast haunt for the month.

November 18 (10:00 a.m.), December 16, January 20,  
February 17, March 17, and April 21

## 25th Anniversary Convention August 16-19, 2007

As most of you know, next year is the 25th anniversary of the Red Knights and the anniversary convention is being held in Worcester. There were over 250 people at the convention in NYC and we are expecting more to come to Massachusetts since the RKMC was started in nearby Boylston.

Your chapter officers have been participating in planning meetings over the last year or so with other reps from around Mass. At a recent meeting the call has gone out to develop a list of Massachusetts Red Knights who would be willing to be on the "staff list" for the convention.

We want to develop a list of members who plan to attend the convention and would be willing to help with support tasks as reps from Massachusetts. If you have been to other conventions and know of certain tasks that your skills and time would be suited for - that is great. If you don't know what you would like to help with but are willing to donate your time - that is great too.

If you are interested, please let Bob Laford know your interest and he will put you down. If you have specific ideas on how best you can help, let him know that too. Tim Kilhart and Bob are co-chairing the registration portion of the convention and will need help both before and during the convention with tasks related to registration. Any help is appreciated.

The host hotel for the convention is the Crown Plaza in Worcester (\$95 per night) and they began accepting reservations as of August 31. (800-628-4240) Make your reservations early because feedback is that this will be a very well-attended convention! Mention you are with the Red Knights International to receive the discounted convention rate.

### Chapter MSF Scholarship

Central Mass Safety Council recognized the chapter at their spring awards dinner for our work with motorcycle safety through the MSF Scholarship program.

Thanks go out to our Scholarship Committee; Donna Moreau, Bob Shakarian, and Don Hurme for their continued work on the committee. And thanks too, to Walter Roach for his work with the Safety Council and his efforts to keep our name in the Safety Council's mind.

If you know of a new rider who would benefit from the Beginner's Rider Course, or if you would like to file for a scholarship for either the Beginner or Advanced Course, please get an application in to the committee for consideration.

## Rides for '07

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.

Was there a ride or event that we did in years past that you would like us to revisit? Did you read about a fun destination in a travel magazine or the travel section of the newspaper? Or did someone tell you about this great ride, weekend, or place that they went and you should go? TELL US! It would probably be a great place for the Red Knights to venture off to as a group.

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 2007 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:

#### Winter Potluck

- Sunday, February 11
- 1:00 pm

We'll be meeting at the Farm in Ashby, on Bennett Road again this year, thanks to the hospitality of our hosts Wayne and Linda Stacy.

Bring a dish to share and something to wet your whistle and we will share stories from the past and look ahead to the new riding year.

We will have the **ride schedule for 2007** printed and ready for distribution - so don't miss it!

Give Linda a call to let her know that you will be coming, and to ask for directions if you are unfamiliar with where the farm is. 978-386-7915

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## New York Convention – 2006

Mass-2 was well represented with the Kilharts, Jordan's, Brouillet's, Mickle's, and Stacy's all in attendance at the convention. Some arrived in New York via four wheels, some by two, and some by 6 (with the trailer in tow). Even Krystal Kilhart and Nikki Jordan got to see the big city. They were very busy all week seeing the sights.

While Ed was in his executive meeting, several of the executive's wives went into the city by subway with their trusty guide, Daniel Waldspurger our MAL from Switzerland. New York is an "interesting" place, especially the subway. On each trip Mass-2 seems to adopt someone who would otherwise be alone and this time we adopted both Steve Chappel from Wisconsin and Daniel. Some of the group went to visit Miss Liberty on the Ferry, some took the Staten Island Ferry and others took a walking trip to Ground Zero. We all met back at Battery Park just before a huge rain storm hit that day.

Friday was a great day with an awesome bus tour of New York. We went to beautiful Cathedrals, had a walking tour of Central park, had lunch and shopping in Little Italy all with an incredible tour guide who gave us lots of history of the city. We got back in the late afternoon, just in time to get ready to go to the Cookout at Killarney's Bar. It was a real social event, but it was cut short by darkening skies and heavy rains. Not everyone made it back to the hotel dry! (Ask Peggy about that!) She stopped to talk to someone in the lobby and they had to find a towel to mop up the puddle that she left on the floor!

Saturday morning brought the usual general meeting.

After the meeting, we were off on a motorcycle ride to ground zero, a very sobering place. While visiting the Fire Station across the street we all thought back and spoke of that day in our country's history and had a moment of silence for those who lost their lives that day.

Saturday evening brought good food, good friends and great music with the celebration banquet.

As usual the Sunday morning Adios Breakfast was a bittersweet event. We remember the great week that we had, but have to say goodbye to friends that we may not see for another year. A good time was had by all.

Plan for 2007 – where our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention will be in Worcester!



### Guy's Day out in Boston 2007

The Boston Motorcycle Show is the weekend of February 3-4, 2007 at the Bayside Expo in Boston (A new location!)

It is always a great time looking at all the bikes, vendors, and wares at this show. Come join us on **Saturday, February 3**. We will meet at the Leominster train station about 9:00 a.m. for the ride into Boston and see if we can get lost — and always with a smile and a laugh!

Then there are the cultural stops like Wings at our favorite restaurant... or is it the legs!

Other 2007 Show dates and locations are:

Hartford, CT on January 6-7  
Wilmington, MA on January 13-14  
Salem, NH on January 27-28

Check out [www.kevmarv.com](http://www.kevmarv.com) for more information

How many times has someone made mention to you that they think motorcycles are *dangerous* when they learn that you ride? I liked Clement Salvadori's response to this statement in a recent editorial:

*I consider riding a bike to be a lot safer than having a cheeseburger and a beer in front of the television set (I guess we could add spinach salad to that menu too). [When I ride] I presume that every car and truck driver on the road with me has a cup of coffee in one hand, a cell phone in the other, is steering with his knees, and is legally blind.*

Hmm, I think I've seen that person - more than once! I think his perception is pretty good! Ride safe.

Some pictures  
from 2006



FLORIDA?!?!

Red Knights Motorcycle Club  
Massachusetts Chapter 2  
P.O. Box 316  
Westminster, MA 01473

Meeting Reminder!

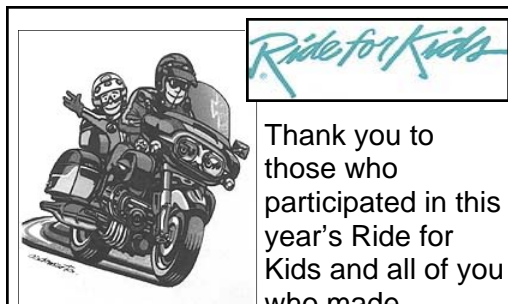
Annual fall meeting and election of officers will be at the Polar Bear Ride on Sunday, November 5, at 10:00 a.m. at the Westminster FD.

Officer positions up for election and/or re-election are Vice-president, Treasurer, and Road Captain. Any Active Member interested in running for a position should contact Chapter Secretary Steve Mickle.

We will also vote on the minor bylaw change recommended to bring our dues payment schedule inline with the International's schedule to avoid any late payment penalties.

Come join us for another fun evening with a Halloween bash at Kevin and Lori's in Gardner.  
What will the winning costume be this year?

- Saturday, Oct. 28  
6 p.m.
- 982 Pearl Street
- 978-632-2677



Thank you to those who participated in this year's Ride for Kids and all of you who made

donations.

In spite of the rain (the third year in a row), there were over 300 riders that raised \$62,400 for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Red Knight members brought over \$1,400 in donations!

RK Ideas for Christmas!

Red Knights' apparel and *stuff* are always a great gift for the rider on your Christmas list!

For RKMC embroidered clothing (shirts, coats, hats, etc.) contact Joe Guarnera at [joegua@comcast.net](mailto:joegua@comcast.net) or his home phone at 978-455-1022.

For screened T-shirts and Golf shirts, contact Vice-president Kevin Martin (978) 632-2677

Chapter Treasurer Tim Kilhart (978) 249-2983 has a number of items too: Chapter Decals (4 inch and 8 inch), RKMC Decals,

Red Knights Shoulder Patches w/rockers, and Red Knights Back Patches & Rockers (for vests)

On the International Web Page you can buy merchandise from other chapters ranging from doo-rags to collar brass and license plate frames and everything in between!

