



From the
President's Desk

Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Fall '12

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

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Loyal to Our Duty



Mass-2

Christmas Party

- Sunday, December 9, 2012
- 1:00 p.m.
- The Glen Caffé
63 Glenallen Street, Winchendon

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

Bring a wrapped gift with a value of no more than \$15 for the gift swap.

This year's menu tentatively is a buffet that includes Chicken & Broccoli, Baked Haddock, and Sliced Prime Rib with appetizer, potato, vegetables, salad, and dessert.

The cost is \$20 per person (the chapter is picking up the remainder of the cost). A special thank you goes out to Maury Lizotte for his leg work on this year's party planning.

...hope to see you all there!

We will again be accepting donations for Sherry's House at our Christmas party.

Please consider purchasing and donating gift cards for **Wal-Mart, Target, K-Mart, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, CVS, etc. or Gas Cards, Phone Cards, VISA and American Express** gift cards. Visit www.whyme.org for more information about Sherry's House. We will be bringing all of those collected to Sherry's House in Worcester to assist them in their mission for the kids this holiday season.

As always, thank you for your generosity — the children and families at the home thank you as well.

What is your favorite type of motorcycle ride? Is it when you are all alone on the road with just you, your bike, and your thoughts? Is it when you are on a ride along with that special someone — whether they are riding as pillion or riding with you on their motorcycle? Or is your favorite ride when you are with a group of friends, sharing the special bond that motorcycles bring between comrades?

For me, it is all three! Those rides when Diona and I are alone together for a ride are very special and I enjoy that time very much. Similarly, the times that we spend together as friends, be it for ice cream or for weekends, is always a lot of fun. And those times that I am able to break away for a solo ride are also experiences that I enjoy very much. And that ability to blend variety into the riding component of our lives helps makes motorcycling one of those passions that we can enjoy for years.

And whether it is that annual September *sabbatical* I take for a few days riding with just my thoughts, or on my daily commute, time on my bike always offers me moments of quiet reflection on the day's events or things happening in my life. Even a long day of riding where I am tired and ready for rest has given me some mental *recharging* and helped prepare me to face the world again tomorrow.

As we pass through fall and our summer is behind us, it reminds me of the comment about, "what did you do on your summer vacation." With the response, "I don't know, but I have the pictures to prove I did something!" We are fortunate that our chapter has the availability of a full calendar for the year.

2013 is our 30th anniversary as a chapter. I had the chance to look at some "first year" pictures thanks to Charlie and Phil. In that first year or two the chapter members were on the road and busy having fun. I guess they started the habit that we continue today. Keep busy and have fun!

Some chapters do not have the participation that we enjoy — and I have been asked many times, *how do you do it?* I always respond that you need to have stuff planned and people will come. Do we sometimes have a small turn out? Sure! But two or three members on a ride still have fun.

So it is that time of year to begin thinking about what will appear on the 2013 calendar. The officers will be gathering and planning during the winter months to get you a 2013 calendar full of fun. Let us know of anything special you would like to see on that schedule.

And just because we are headed towards the non-riding part of our year does not mean that the Red Knights go into hibernation. We have gatherings throughout the winter to keep the fun going. Mark up your calendar and come out for our breakfasts, pot lucks, Christmas Party, and those other events that will keep us primed for the Spring and next year's riding season.

— Ride safe!

Bob

*P.S. Just a reminder that dues are due to the Treasurer by December 1.
Thanks for your cooperation.*

We must have a RSVPs and pre-paid dinners by Sunday, November 25 to give to the caterer.

Contact Tim Kilhart with your meal payment as soon as you can.

On the road with our friends...

- RK Vermont-2 11th annual Paul's Ride. We had ten of our members head across the border to support Vermont 2's endeavors. It was a beautiful summer's day for a ride, which brought out over 70 riders for a very successful ride to raise money to supply cancer patients with gas cards. The ride is in memory of Dave Emery's brother Paul. We had a successful day too... Tim won the 50/50 raffle and each one of our members took home at least one door prize (19 total). Dave started off the raffle saying that Mass-2 should just come up and take the prizes we wanted! Always a great time, and we even skirted an afternoon shower during our detour to Bernardston for ice cream after the event.
- It was HOT (97 degrees) on July 14 when we headed to Springfield, Vermont to visit the Moving Vietnam Wall while it was touring the northeast. We had eleven in our contingent that headed to the Green Mountain State. We passed a marshalling point for a large group of riders just south of the city. When we arrived to the site where The Wall was on display we learned that group of riders were part of the procession and ceremony for the event. We were asked if we wished to ride in the procession, but we decided to be spectators instead.
- A dozen riders came out for the all-day ride into the White Mountains with a stop at the Castle-in-the-Clouds. Our summer was hot with the chance of showers pretty much every day and this day was no different. The group made most of the 260 miles dry with *dampness* beginning only after crossing back into Massachusetts.
- Mother Nature was scowling at us again on a day we had planned to ride to Quechee, Vermont, so we opted for "Plan B" when 12 of us went for a local ride that stopped at Parker's Sugar House in Brookline, NH. With full tummies we were back home by noon with the bikes tucked away before the day's thunderstorm started rumbling.
- We had a *great* August ride into Rhode Island to find their only covered bridge — which happens also to be the smallest one in the country! We were on the road with 19 members and friends, stopped for lunch at Wright's Chicken Farm, and ice cream back in Sterling. It was a fun day!
- 90% sunshine, 10% rain (on the ride up) on another great Labor Day weekend BBQ at the Mickles. About 30 family, friends, and Red Knights had a great afternoon full of food and fun!
- A weekend ride into Sommerville, MA for chocolate was the original plan — but a last minute change pushed the direction of travel into southern Vermont for a Sunday ride in September for our RK group... complete with some chocolates at the VT country store!

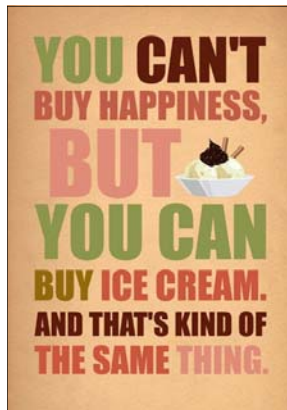


Our monthly ice cream rides have drawn to a close—as most of the ice cream stands have closed for the season.

But throughout the summer we continued to have great turn outs for ice cream! In July we had 19 people come out and we made our way to Still-4-Corners in Rutland on a picture-perfect summer's evening for some great ice cream.

In August, the chapter bought the ice cream and we met at Larry and Nancy's to "top" the ice cream — all 27 of us — and play some bocce!

Our final ice cream ride was on a damp and cool evening, but we still had nine members come out for a brief ride to Phillipston for our treat!



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 Dunkin Donuts for 9:00 a.m. and we will discover a different breakfast haunt for each month.

November 17, December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16, and April 20



Mark the third Sunday of August on your calendar for the
2013 Ride for Kids.

We had a spectacular day for this year's Ride for Kids. As always we had a good turn out of our chapter with eleven members coming out for the ride and post-ride events.

This year our chapter brought in \$3,656 and the ride total was \$55,881. WOW on both accounts! Mass-2 was recognized as the third highest club figure — thank you everyone! They told us that since 1984 \$67 million in donations have been brought in by motorcyclists to the Ride for Kids.

We were greeted by the Sturbridge FD ladder flying Old Glory as we pulled into the marshalling point, and our route was guided by officers from five police departments from Central Mass. As we passed through each town there were fire engines and firefighters outside the stations as we passed. That was a great sight to see as well!

Dr. Peter Manly of Dana-Farber spoke to us after the ride on how important our contributions are to the ongoing research efforts. He stated that one in every 600 adults is a pediatric cancer survivor and that is a direct relation to the research being done. He stated that when someone is now diagnosed with a pediatric brain tumor their prognosis is now we ARE going to beat this.

Speaking of survivors, we got to see Ryan again this year. We first met him in 1999 when he was just a few months old and diagnosed with a brain tumor. His prognosis was very poor. But this fall he enters seventh grade and the doctors say that his maturing body is actually suffocating his tumor!



That is why we support this ride each year. Start asking for donations now for next year and we will be part of the difference that the research is making. See you in 2013!

A big THANK YOU goes out to the Olivers and the New Salem General Store for their donation of the Jack Daniels barrel and coordinating a Ride for Kids raffle for us.

This year the tickets sold for the signed JD Barrel added over \$600 to our total donations for the Ride for Kids!

Peter Mitchell of Wendell was the winner.



We had twenty-two members and friends that came out to Larry and Nancy's in Petersham for our Summer BBQ in July. And what a great time we had!

Along with the food (and of course there was lots of it), there was bocce on the court that Larry made in his yard — and that was an adjustment playing on a smooth, flat regulation-style court — horse shoes (did you know that you need a metal detector to find a horse shoe after it is thrown?), and a couple of us even tried the trampoline!

The officers made arrangements for a local massage therapist to spend the afternoon with us. She ran constant with her chair working on Red Knight backs for three and a half hours! She was pleased that everyone who wanted to have some time in her chair got the opportunity. We also raffled off a full hour massage with Jen to benefit the Ride for Kids. How was the massage Shaky?

Our crowd hung around too and enjoyed the summer afternoon and the hospitality of the Robinsons until almost 6:00 p.m. It was a great day!



Here is some data from the annual report from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation:

Forty Ride for Kids events across the United States brought in over \$4.4 million in donations. There were 15,500 ride participants and 312 patient families. The rides are managed by a group of 2,500 volunteers.

Financially, the Ride for Kids brought in over 80% of the funds used by the PBTFUS for their efforts. 85 cents of every dollar donated goes to the direct mission of research and support done by the PBTFUS.

153 college scholarships were awarded to survivors of pediatric brain tumors last year—bringing the total scholarship awards to over 1,000 in the past ten years. (A remarkable number when you think that when the Ride for Kids was founded a diagnosis of a brain tumor was a near-certain death sentence for a child).

THE PBTFUS continues to be the largest non-governmental funding source for the research into a cure for pediatric brain tumors.

2013 Dues

We have been sending out electronic reminders about your 2013 dues. If you have not paid them yet, PLEASE get your dues (still a deal at \$20 per person) to our Treasurer.

As with any organization there are expenses that we incur and your dues help us cover those costs. A portion of your dues also goes to the International for our charter dues. (We must have all International dues paid in January or we incur a \$50 penalty).

Please have your dues in to Treasurer Tim Kilhart before **December 1, 2012**. Thanks.

Tim Kilhart
56 Adams Drive
Athol, MA 01331

Rider education
is a gift to yourself!
Consider taking a class
in 2013

Don't forget to take a few basic steps this fall to prep your bike for its hibernation:

- Stabilize the Fuel,
- Change the oil,
- Attach a battery tender,
- Clean and Lubricate,
- Cover your bike

Membership News Briefs...

Welcome to Mark and Cynthia Dunbar, two new members from Princeton who have been enjoying some riding time with us this summer and welcome also to Wayne Patnaude, a member of the Ashby FD, Bill Carr of the Wakefield FD (who lives in Petersham), and Chris & Amy Conrad of Ashburnham, all recently voted into our chapter!

Congratulations to Ed and Peg & Maury and Marcia on the deliveries of their new 2012 Goldwings this summer. Thank you to Kevin Martin for his thirty years of emergency services as he begins his retirement from the Ashburnham Fire Department (and begins his career as a *rookie* on Lunenburg FD!)

Welcome to Lou Merigard — an exchange student from Paris, spending the next year with the Kilharts. We look forward to seeing you at some of our events! The Red Knights are known world-wide, as Lou's mom had heard of the group and granted permission for her to spend some time in the pillion seat on Tim's bike!

Here are some comments we have received from recent MSF Scholarship recipients. All those that we have heard from since we started the program have been very grateful for the opportunity to take the training. (We have given out over 40 scholarships total!)

- The class provided review of nice-to-have skills as well as potentially life-saving skills. The nice-to-haves included U-turns within a defined area and travelling at a slow speed, among others. The life-saving skills included cornering, swerving and quick stops.
- The quick stops exercise highlighted the criticality of using both brakes with gradual but firm grasp of the front brake. This was proven first hand when a class mate lost control of his bike applying too much front brake during a quick stop on a damp course. I took away a better understanding of what my vulnerabilities are and what I can and should work on.
- We started off the day riding in the rain. At the very least when we arrived the rain had stopped and then we were on our way. The course was a lot of fun but far from easy with the bigger bikes. I can say I am glad we have done training in the past with MA 2 which helped.
- The class provided me the opportunity to work on skills that we do not use every day and that can be quite beneficial to our road safety, as well as improved riding awareness. In particular for me I identified that in coming to quick hard stops in a corner; I was leaning the bike as opposed to getting it up straight prior to attempting a stop, and thus could have been prone to high siding. In my opinion the class helped identify those weaknesses we each carry and provide an independent feedback and opportunity to improve.
- I feel I learned a lot of useful information on how to safely operate my motorcycle and feel more confident in my operating skills. Thank you again and look forward to seeing you on the road.
- The drills that we ran through were fast paced and interesting. The crotch rockets all had larger turning a radius than the others. The rookie with the 1000 ninja had trouble in the turns it just wanted to go. Finally our instructor told us there would be a test. He said it was nothing more than what we had been practicing. First part everyone did well. Some people lost points for going out of the marked lines but not enough for anyone to be in trouble. The course was lots of fun and I learned quite a bit.
- Although I have not decided to be a solo rider, completing the BRC gave me great insight in what it takes to maneuver the motorcycle, the searching and evaluation that is constant when riding, which will certainly be beneficial as a passenger or driver. On the way home from the class, I also noticed that my perspective has changed - awareness of motorcycles and their challenges have increase.

Winter Potluck

- Sunday, February 3
- Westminster American Legion
- 1:00 p.m.

Plan to bring some food to share and stories to tell, and we will have a grand time as always!

We will have the **ride schedule for 2013** printed and ready for distribution – so don't miss it!

(and you'll be home in time for the Superbowl too)

The Legion is at
127 Main Street
(Route 2A)
Westminster

Chapter MSF Scholarship

The Central Mass Safety Council continues to be our partner with motorcycle safety through our MSF Scholarship program. We will be giving out rider scholarships again in 2013 thanks to our fundraising efforts, assistance from the safety council, and the work of our scholarship committee.

2013 scholarship information is available on-line and more info will be out after the new year. 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 Experienced Course, please get an application to the committee for consideration.

We can all benefit from more training and improved skills on our bikes. Consider taking an Experienced Rider course to make you a better rider — for you!

The 2013 Red Knights International Convention is coming to Rutland Vermont!

August 15th to the 18th 2013

Hosted By: Vermont State Association

The host hotel is Holiday Inn in Rutland (476 US Route 7 South). Just a few scenic miles from Killington and some of the best riding New England has to offer—throughout Central Vermont

Hotel Front Desk: 1-802-775-1911 — 151 rooms, with swimming pool, bar and restaurant. (You can register at the hotel and for the convention now!)

Rooms cost is \$109.00 per room per night for a 3-day stay, booked prior to 05/01/2013 and \$119.00 per room per night, booked after 05/01/13

Convention registration cost : \$65.00, and includes BBQ, Banquet & Breakfast, plus "goodie bag."



Just a small turnout for our ride to the Scottish games, but we still enjoyed the ride, watching the competitions, and of course the ice cream!

SUPPORT FOR SHERRY'S HOUSE

What a GREAT day we had for a late summer ride into New Hampshire in our efforts to offer some support to Sherry's House (www.whyme.org) in Worcester. There were 13 members and friends that came out as we followed our treasurer on a 120 mile route.

Our day's participants brought with them \$325 in donations and gift cards that Tim brought down to Sherry's House the following week.

We played a game of poker as we made our way around the route. Our last stop was at Kimball's Ice Cream in Jaffrey (of course we had to have some ice cream). When the last card was drawn, Peg Brouillet topped the list with three Aces. Kevin was second place with "Aces over nines."

For our upcoming Christmas Party, we will again be asking that if anyone wishes to donate, we will be collecting gift cards to be brought to Sherry's House for their use before Christmas.

(From www.whyme.org) recommended gift cards include: Gas Cards, VISA and American Express gift cards - Gift cards for Wal-Mart, Target, K-Mart, Price Chopper, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, CVS, etc. - Gift cards to take-out food chains such as Friendly's, Burger King, McDonald's, etc. - Gift cards to food chain restaurants such as Applebee's, Fridays, Unos, 99 Restaurant, Olive Garden, Texas Roadhouse, etc. We know that every dollar that they receive in help is appreciated ten fold by the families that rely on the assistance given. Please consider making a donation with us.

Thank you to Tim Kilhart for planning our ride. Our treasurer tells me that he already has a 2013 Sherry's Ride route churning around in his brain. Plan to come join us!



2012 RKMC Convention! — Gettysburg, PA

This year's convention was a well-orchestrated event with events ranging from historical review in the battlefields, to modern-day preparedness with a visit and luncheon at the National Fire Academy and FEMA Headquarters in Emmitsburg.

We had ten members from Mass-2 head into Pennsylvania to participate in the festivities. Steve Mickle and Cliff Eldridge came via Sturgis; Marty Eldridge and Deb Mickle came via Nashville. Charlie Clarkson and Phil Jordan left early and took their time in both directions, camping along the way. And Ed & Peg Brouillet and Maury Lizotte and Marcia Marjomaa traveled the route together (leaving after a torrential Thunderstorm greeted their departure date).

The weather was more cooperative once everyone was in PA. There were 429 registered Red Knights in attendance with representatives from as far away as Belgium, Switzerland and Australia.

Thursday was a beautiful day and some of us took the ride to the Harley plant in the morning and then many of us

took the 3 hour Battleground tour with our motorcycle tour guide, who was amazing. In the evening was the BBQ. Good food and good company. This was followed by a friendly competition at the go cart track. Then it was off to the hospitality room to renew old friendships and meet new members from 5 different countries. *(Our friend Daniel was there and he is now in the military and will be leaving for Kosovo in 3 weeks. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers that he return safely home).*



On Friday it was an amazing day. Some of our Mass-2 members were out riding and found the Westminster Fire Department... complete with Routes 140 and 31 passing through town! Then we participated in a 58 mile, police escorted ride through Pennsylvania and Maryland. The line of 250 bikes seemed to stretch on for miles on our way to the National Fire Academy for a tour and meal. As always, we had the opportunity to pay our respects at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial and the nearby 9-11 Memorial. The keynote speaker was a woman who

works for the foundation and lost her son, a firefighter. She explained what the foundation does for families of fallen firefighters and also how she felt losing her son. We were also able to locate the section of bricks on the memorial walkway that were dedicated by members of the Red Knights.

Saturday morning was the annual business meeting of the Red Knights. This is the first year that the election of officers was done through electronic voting, so there were no "nominations from the floor," helping to keep the meeting brief and to the point. There were no controversial votes this year and the questions and issues that were on the floor were handled quickly.

Saturday evening's dinner and ceremonies were a great success and held a big surprise for Mass-2. After the meal all the members of Mass-2 were called to the stage. Then it was announced that Ed Brouillet was recipient of the 2012 Perry Carter Award. It was a very emotional announcement!

Everyone was up early Sunday AM. Goodbyes were said at the adios breakfast and everyone returned home, already looking forward to next year.



Future Conventions:

- 2013 — Vermont (Rutland)
- 2014 — Prince Edward Island
- 2015 — San Antonio, TX
- 2016 — Wisconsin
- 2017 — Syracuse, NY

Thanks to Marcia M. and Peg B.
for the convention notes

RKMC Perry Carter Award

Congratulations to Ed Brouillet for being recognized for his thirty years of dedicated service to the Red Knights with his reception of the Perry Carter Award at this year's convention.

Those who remember "Cute as a Button" Perry Carter will remember that the long-serving Chairman to the International Board of Directors was a fixture at conventions and other RKMC events. After Perry's passing the Red Knights put in place the award in his name to recognize individuals who have given similar service to our club.

We all know that Ed is a fitting recipient of this award. Those of us with a few years under our belt in Mass-2 know that Ed is a charter member and has served as VP and President.

Beyond our chapter he has served on the International's bylaws committee and served as both VP and President for the International's Executive Board.

He admits that one of his proudest moments as a Red Knight was the anniversary Convention held in Boylston when the Red Knights Memorial was dedicated. Ed placed many hours into the planning and construction of the memorial. That work was always an act of love with many private tears for the memories of those Red Knight friends who have passed.

With thirty years in Mass-2 and 20 years of service at the International level, Ed continues to be an active member of our chapter. There are not too many chapter events that he misses. We all pass on our congratulations for an honor well deserved.



Since we are into the fall months and enjoying the changing colors of the leaves, it is a good time to remind ourselves to keep the **"Three Leaves"** on our mind when we are riding:

- **Leave yourself an "out."**
Stop within view of the driver's rear-view mirror in front of you — but stop towards the side of the stopped vehicle so you have an escape route.
- **Leave your bike in first gear** with the clutch pulled in so you can make a quick escape (via your planned escape route) if needed.
- **Leave your eyes on your mirror as much as you feel safe in doing so, so that you have the opportunity to see a hazard approaching from the rear.**

Day dreaming, in neutral, while parked tight to the middle of the car stopped in front of you is how a rider can quickly become sandwich meat because of a driver's inattention.

Thank you to those who came out for our October meeting and election of officers. Congratulations to Kevin Martin, Tim Kilhart, Bob Shakarian, and Larry Robinson on their re-election/re-appointment to the chapter board. All those who serve our chapter deserve our thanks and recognition for the time and effort they each make in helping our Red Knights chapter be what it is.

Officers for 2013 are:

Bob Laford, President
978-724-3270
rflafor@tiac.net

Kevin Martin, Vice-president
978-827-4297
kmartin812@hotmail.com

Maury Lizotte, Secretary
(978) 410-5553
lizotteme@comcast.net

Tim Kilhart, Treasurer
978-249-2983
kilhart@verizon.net

Bob Shakarian, Road Captain
978-807-0817
Sharkey625@aol.com

Larry Robinson, Assistant Road Captain
978-724-3321

George Colby, State Rep (Mass-3)
380 Main St.- Plympton, MA
781-585-8817
gcolby@comcast.net

Don Moore, Region 1 Rep (Vermont-3)
12 Howard Ave.
Rutland, VT 05701
802-747-0630
region1@redknightsmc.com

Bike Shows abound during the Winter

We looked into a Bus Trip into New York City to attend the International Motorcycle Show and found it would be \$60-\$80 per person, so we are passing on that idea as a chapter. But RK Connecticut-2 has had a bus trip each year and we will share their details with you when we hear what they are in case anyone would like to go to New York with our neighbors to the south.

The Javits Center hosts one of the largest motorcycle shows in the country!
January 18-20 - <http://www.motorcycleshows.com/>

The Springfield Motorcycle Show is also the same weekend—and it is the weekend that we have our January Breakfast Club. So if you would like to go to a show this winter, I bet we can come up with a caravan after the January Breakfast down to the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield! Watch for email details when we get closer.

Other 2013 Show dates and locations are:

Boston, MA - January 12-13
Salem, NH - January 26-27
Wilmington, MA - March 9-10
Check out
www.kevmarv.com
for more information

OUR NEXT BREAKFAST CLUB RIDE OF THE FALL IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17—MEET AT WESTMINSTER DUNKIN DONUTS AT 9:00 A.M. AND WE WILL HEAD OUT FOR BREAKFAST AND WHO KNOWS... A RIDE IF THE WEATHER IS OK

Is it because it was breakfast or because it was Smokey Bear? As always, our ride to Jaffrey FD for breakfast was cold (39 degrees at the start), and it was popular (with 23 members and friends joining us for a GREAT breakfast). Then a dozen riders held on for dessert in Dummerston and some Apple Pie!



RK Ideas for Christmas!

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

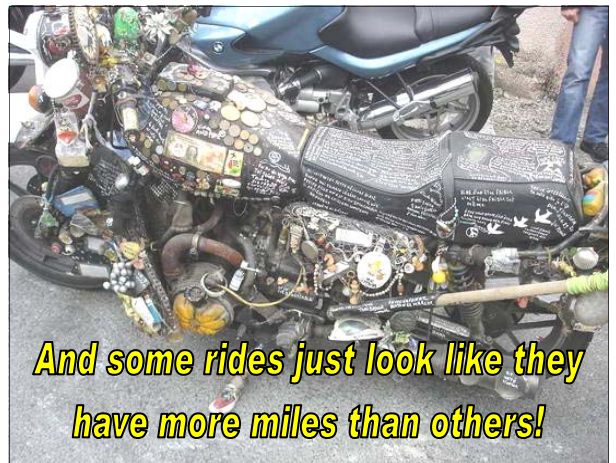
For RKMC embroidered clothing (shirts, coats, hats, etc.) contact Joe Guarnera at joegua@comcast.net or his home phone at 978-455-1022.

For screened T-shirts and Golf shirts, contact Vice-president Kevin Martin (978) 502-8310.

Chapter Treasurer Tim Kilhart (978) 249-2983 has a number of items too: Chapter Decals (4 inch, 8 inch, and custom size if needed), RKMC Decals, Red Knights Shoulder Patches w/ rockers, and Red Knights Back Patches & Rockers (for vests). AND the chapter motorcycle flags too!

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!

After our Polar Bear Ride in November, get your bike's mileage to Kevin Martin... then at the Christmas Party we will have some fun with the "data" and see how many miles our chapter rode this year!



And some rides just look like they have more miles than others!

What is the chapter planning for 2013??

— It's up to you!

And it is our chapter's 30th Anniversary Year!!

It is time to start thinking about what, when, where and how for 2013. The officers will be meeting in January to plan for next year's ride schedule—but it is a schedule that belongs to everyone! So if you know of a place that would be a good ride (or a good food place), or if we have been somewhere in the past that you would like to go again, let an officer know and we will sort through all the ideas and come up with another fun year of rides!



WOW, what a surprise we had at our business meeting in October! New England Ride for Kids Task Force Leader David Odess attended our meeting and presented us with a 2012 plaque for being the #3 group fundraiser for the 2012 New England Ride. The big surprise that he shared with us was that we were the top Red Knights fundraiser for the Ride for Kids in 2011 for all the rides around the country! He presented the chapter with a certificate from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. When I accepted the certificate I told David I was very proud of our members, and that we are always honored to participate in the ride.

[I believe that] motorcyclists are happier and more well-adjusted than the average non-motorcyclist.

Fred Rau

A major insurance company conducted a demographic study on motorcyclists and found that:

- Motorcyclists are four times more likely to buy flowers than non-motorcyclists.
- Motorcyclists prefer romantic movies three times more than non-motorcyclists.
- Motorcyclists travel more than eight times as much as non-motorcyclists.
- In the population of licensed pilots, there are ten times more licensed motorcyclists than in the average population.
- For married couples that ride together, the divorce rate is 70% lower than the national average.

As Fred said in his October column, we motorcyclists do not just exist, we "live life!"



Whether the Weather cooperates late into the fall or not, we will still be getting together as a chapter so come join us!