

The Red Knights Motorcycle Club — Massachusetts Chapter 2

and Rev. David Purdy
of the Orthodox Congregational Church of Petersham

Invite you to a **Blessing of the Bikes and Ice Cream Social**

Saturday, May 23, 2020, 1:00 pm
At the Petersham Orthodox Congregational Church
21 North Main Street (Route 32) Petersham

A free-will donation of \$5 per bike is asked, and all proceeds will be donated to Home Base, a Massachusetts-based Veterans Support Service



Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program, is dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for Veterans of all eras, Service Members, Military Families and Families of the Fallen through world-class clinical care, wellness, education and research. Home Base operates the nation's foremost private-sector clinic devoted to treating the invisible wounds associated with military service. Since its inception, it has provided excellent complimentary care to over 24,000 veterans and family members.

For more information on Home Base visit www.homebase.org



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Winter-Spring 2020

www.rk-mass2.org

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Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's Desk

Greetings Everyone,

Here's another copy of the latest news letter and a big thank you to Bob Laford who continues to bring us this valuable read and share so much information with the chapter.

It's already the middle of February and I have to say it's been a fairly decent winter so far. A bit cold at times, but the snow fall has been tolerable at least and we're getting closer to full time riding season. With that being said, it's time to "Think" about taking a look at your ride and see if there's anything that's changed since you put it up. Are the tires inflated properly? Do you see any rust developing that can be fixed now before you take it out?

What are those accessories or changes that you want to make before riding season comes? If you're like the rest of us, once riding season comes and you don't check these things out, or add stuff to your ride, it won't happen until maybe next winter! Just saying.

We have a lot of scheduled events this year on the schedule and I'll be asking for some help with some of the JAR rides. If you'd like to help out and lead the chapter on a little adventure, let me know. If you can fill in one of the dates and take us for a ride, myself or any of the officers will be happy to help you plan it.

Take a look at the schedule and make a note on you home calendars of all the rides and events we've posted so you can see what's coming up every month. I'm going to try to give you enough time or a heads-up to plan the chapter rides by sending out destinations and time frames for each of the scheduled events. But as we've mentioned before if there's something you'd like to share with all of us and it's not on the schedule, let me know and we can always add rides and send out notices. Even if there's something on the schedule that you'd like to change and take lead on, like going somewhere different, just let us know. It's your schedule and we are always looking to ride.

Americade is fast approaching and we will be having a planning meeting next month. This has always been the biggest chapter event with anywhere from 25-30 members (or more) converging on our Bayfront cottages in June. Peggy has been doing a fantastic job of maintaining the list of cabins and who is in them. Don't forget to let her know if you're planning on going and if you have any preferences or changes in your accommodation requests that she needs to be made aware of for the week. There will be a few changes made this year and we'll let you know what they are at the planning meeting or shortly after.

If anyone wants to help out at Americade as a volunteer, talk to Bob or Diona Laford and they can give you information on how to go about helping. You could possibly receive a discount on your registration, a t-shirt or some other nice perk, just for helping a day or two. Besides it helps build your network and meet other event planners and hear about other rides and events once you're in the inner circle.

For now take care, watch out for each other and stay safe.

Thank you for all you do.

For the 2020 International Board elections we will be voting for Vice-President, and Secretary.

Later in the spring we will get together to discuss candidates and issues so all members will have a chance to voice their opinions before the chapter casts a ballot.

President Martin

Ride Schedule is posted!

There are a lot of potential miles waiting for you if you take a look at the 2020 Mass-2 ride schedule. Whether you want a short ride, one with specific destinations, overnight rides, or something with "Flavor" we can tempt your taste buds with Red Knight fun! Come and join us.

And if you want to join us in four wheels (instead of on two or three), that is OK too!

MA-2 Chapter statistics for 2020

73 Total Members

Active (Firefighter) - 45, Social — 22, Associate - 3, Junior - 3

Of the above, 16 are Life Members, and 7 of those are "International" Life members, recognized by the RKMC-I Board for past service to the International Board.

There are 14 Charter members who have been with the club since its Charter year in 1983. We appreciate their forethought and leadership to start this great club!

With calendars in hand the officers worked to schedule another fun year's worth of Red Knight events. There are RKMC events for everyone to enjoy! Thank you to our planners.

Sunday, March 8. Red

Knight Bowling. Meet at the French King Bowling Alley in Erving for some Candlepins at 1:00 and we'll see how straight we can shoot down the alleys!

Saturday, March 14.

Monadnock Harley Chili Fest. Meet at the Winchendon McDonalds at 11:00 and we will head up Route 12 to kick some tires and taste some chili!

Sunday, April 26. Red Knight

JAR. Shake off the winter dust with our first JAR of the year. Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 1:00 pm. Afternoon ride with maybe some ice cream!

Saturday, May 2. Red Knight

JAR. Let's venture westerly from our starting point, for another early spring ride. Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 10:00 am and we'll hit the road — and have a stop for lunch before we are done.

Sunday, May 17. Red Knight JAR. Time to Shake up the meeting place! Meet at the Dunkin's by Huhtala's, Route 2A, in Templeton for 11:00 am and it will give us a new direction to head! (Exit 21)

Sunday, June 21. Father's Day JAR Ride. Meet at 2/202 Shell in Orange for 10:00 a.m.



2020 Chapter 50/50



You too can be a winner!

We will continue the tradition of holding 50/50 drawings when we get together during the riding season. Our Treasurer will keep track of the funds brought in, and at our annual business meeting we will decide what worthy local charity will receive the donation.

For 2019 we were able to send a donation of \$350 to the Worcester Food Bank. They help provide food to different food distribution programs throughout our area. We all know people who have benefited from the services made available through these programs.

Do you have a favorite local charity you would like to have considered next fall? Get the information to President Martin.

2019 Ride Statistics

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will be able to review the miles that our members put on their bikes... as we get closer to that collective two-million mile mark!

Overall last year we averaged 16.53 people per event for our 36 held events. There were some like our Christmas party, Americade, and the European Pot-luck with 46, 43 and 40 people, respectively. And there were also some small turnouts, like a few ice cream rides with 4 or 5 people. Both those extremes brought us to the average number. But whoever shows for rides, we all come out for fun.

Over the past few years, our weeknight ice cream rides have been dwindling in attendance. We sent out a survey about the ice cream rides, and with the ride numbers and the survey info in hand, the officers decided not to schedule weeknight ice cream rides this year.

That does not mean we are not going to stop for ice cream. (Heavens NO!) We are just planning for those stops with some of our rides. You'll see one of our destinations on the calendar is to UConn. We did not make it to Storrs last year, but we aim to this year — along with some other staple ice cream stops!

And if it looks like a great evening and you want to send out an email or text... there can be impromptu local ice cream rides too. *Just take the lead!*



A number of our members received anniversary pins during our Christmas party in December. Pictured here in the 15 year "Plus" club are Judy Perla, Bob Shakarian, Mary Barclay, Tim Kilhart, Jim Barclay, John Loiselle and Don Hurme. Not pictured are Darlene Kilhart, Deb Mickle, Fred LeBlanc, Gerry Baldini, Hal Billiard (25), and Allan Averso (30).

TOYS FOR TOTS

It was a windy and cold day, but we were dry and we collected a lot of toys to help the Marine Corps League with their 2019 Toys for Tots Drive in December! Thank you all who came and helped during the day.



Knowing the challenges that many families have in the Athol and Orange area (two of the poorest towns with the highest

unemployment in the state) it is always amazing to see the generosity of those that cross our paths. The few extra dollars they find to put in the bucket or the toys they purchase to help out another neighbor.

Write a reminder in your December 2020 calendar and come give us a hand. It's one of those *internal reward* feelings that is worth every minute of your time.



For many years our chapter members have been going to Mountain Leather in Chester, Vermont to purchase Red Vests. (Our chapter SOGs have maintained that our back crest only be on a red vest). The owners of Mountain Leather have retired and closed their shop.

Deb Kyler-Landry, a Red Knight with NY-12 also makes custom **Red Vests** for RKMC members, and is a good asset to the club, if you are looking for a vest.

Contact Deb at dkyler162@gmail.com or 518-330-6681

Friday, June 5 is a Full Moon — while we are in Lake George. Come join the President for a Midnight Full Moon Ride!



It's hard to believe that we are already coming around to another Americade week in Lake George. It's something that has been part of the RKMC since its inception... way back when Americade was first called Aspencade East!

With the Yankee Rally in Plattsburgh, NY there will be some members coming from the north to our cabins this year, as well as our regular Saturday, Sunday and weekday travelers.

It has been a tradition for many of us, but it is also a different type of week's vacation for each of us. You may use it to relax and enjoy the lake, take part in the Americade events and vendors... and others are there to Ride, Ride, Ride!

If you see a ride idea on the board and like it, talk to the organizer. If you have a ride idea, take the lead and put your name and idea on the board and see who wants to join. But if you see a rider or a couple of riders suiting up to head out and they have no ride posted on the board— that is OK too. They may want to have a quiet, personal ride and not have a large group tag-along. We are a big family, but that does not mean we have to do everything together throughout the entire week. Just do what makes you enjoy the week.

The Americade survey we shared had some common points and a few of them involved the food planning. Later in the spring we will call a food planning meeting. One of the outcomes is to let everyone know food plans and scheduling for the week. Other parts of the plan are who can help with a meal... and definitely cleanup!

Whatever the weather brings, we will all have a great time. It is a great week and a lot of good friends.

We will share details when we learn what our NY Red Knight hosts in Lake George are planning for the group ride for us at Americade this year.

Americade Planning Meeting. Come to Jeff and Faith Hamberg's (in Orange) for our monthly **Breakfast Club** in March and we'll look at this year's details about our annual trek to Lake George.



After being closed for four years, the Buffalo Head restaurant started hiring new staff for their reopening on the New Year. This iconic Forestport restaurant was a staple-ride for many years while in Americade, and at the news of it's reopening I bet Tim has started planning his route so he can get another piece of their six-inch-high pie!

Don't forget that our **Breakfast Clubs** have another two months to go!

Every third Saturday from November through April we gather for breakfast and fellowship. Pot-Luck Breakfasts begin at 9:00 a.m.

Would you like to be a Breakfast Club host for the next round beginning in the fall? Contact President Martin to be put on the schedule.

Thank you to Rick & Lori, and Chris & Ellen for being hosts so far this season! Come join us for a fun morning (and food) with a big turnout of RK friends.



March is at the Hamberg's in Orange and April is at Larry and Nancy's in Petersham.

On the road with our friends...

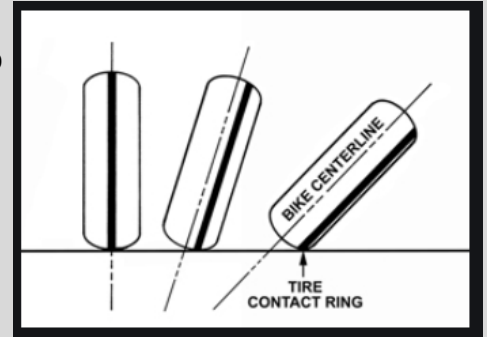
- Our 2019 Polar Bear Ride was actually a perfect fall day. Daybreak was below freezing, but 10 members met up under sunny 50 degree conditions for our lunch ride to Emma's in Rindge. Our Florida contingent was riding at the same time too, saying they were joining us in spirit on the Polar Bear Ride — but with palm trees and 77 degree weather it must be difficult to be in the Polar Bear frame of mind!



- We had 22 people show up for our Winter Meeting / Brunch at the Glen Caffe at the end of January. Everyone left with full bellies and schedules in hand, looking forward to the riding season.

Do you give your tires much thought?

We expect a lot from those little bands of rubber to keep us safe. Cornering, braking, remaining upright all rely on properly fitted, filled, and well conditioned tires. At any given time we are relying on a very small contact patch of rubber touching the ground to keep our bike mobile and us on a safe ride.



We know from our T-CLOCK inspections that our tires should be looked at and their internal PSI checked frequently. (T = Tires, C = Controls, L = Lights, O = Oils, C = Chassis and chain, and K = Kickstand). At least weekly, and definitely if you are headed out for a long ride.

Some of us may go through a set of tires each year. Some (we know) go through several sets a year because of the miles they put on. But there are still others that may have the same set of tires on their bike for several, and maybe even *many* years. How old is too old for a tire?

I spoke with Peter Geary of Pete's Tire Barns one day about a shop that had a never-used set of tires on their shelf that were over ten years old. Without a doubt he said those tires are unsafe. The age of a tire does make a difference whether it is for our car, motorcycle or trailer. Even if it is never used, that tire is deteriorating, drying out, and losing its safety factor.

How do you know how old your tires are? Look at the tire's born-on-date, commonly known as a Date Code. It is a standardized 4 digit number indicating the Week of and the Year of tire manufacture. In the case of the tire pictured here, it was manufactured in Week 3 of 2008. Making this in excess of ten years old.

Even if the treads look good (remember the trick with a penny and looking at a Lincoln's head?), if your tires are 5, 7, 10 years old or older, consider giving your bike a new lease on life with a new set of skins. And it will be a present for you as well, because it will not only provide you with safer riding conditions, a new tire will give you a much better ride!

Michelin does not even recommend mounting a tire, even if never used, if it is passed the five year mark.

And for those of us that have pull-behind trailers, go out and take a look at the dates on those babies too. You may be surprised at their age — and nothing will sour your next long distance trip than a blow out on your trailer.





Do you proudly carry a Mass-2 coin in your pocket? Have you shared a Mass-2 coin with anyone special?

Many people collect challenge coins and a number of our members have collections of challenge coins they have collected by swapping challenge coins and sharing our love for the Red Knights with others.

Our coins also serve as special "thank-you's" for those individuals, organizations and businesses that have gone the extra mile to help chapter members, the chapter, or the Red Knights. People around the world have received our coins as a thanks from members of our chapter.

Make sure you carry a coin — as an ambassador for and to show your dedication and membership to our chapter — but also purchase a few more to have on hand to thank those people who have lent you a hand or helped the chapter. Pretty soon you will have a collection of your own — and each coin will have a story.

John Caparella of Mother Anna's in Boston's North End (actually, he is Mother Anna's grandson) proudly shows off his Mass-2 coin. John is always in the restaurant with a smile, and has been our friend for over 25 years!



Sally Morin has been supporting the chapter with brunches and Christmas party dinners at the Glen Caffe for nearly a decade. She is one of many merchants who have become friends, and here she is smiling with her Mass-2 coin in-hand.



Here is Ken Kaplin, Jr. (son of Ken Kaplin, founder of the New England

Motorcycle Museum) with his dad's Mass-2 coin at the museum, in Rockville, CT.

The Exits — they are a-changing'

During 2020, Massachusetts will begin to change exit numbers on highways across the state. The Federal Government implemented the rule that exits should be based on mile marker and not sequential numbering. The new regulation has been in place for a number of years, but of course Massachusetts is slow to respond!

Many of us have traveled around the country and Canada and this system works very well. If you are at exit 100 and you are going to exit 30, you know it is 70 miles.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation said it is making the changes to comply with federal mandate; if it does not fall in line, it could risk federal funds. Federal funds in this case will pay for 90 percent of the cost of changing sign numbers.

The changes will come "route-by-route," MassDOT said. They will begin in Western Mass. and move east.

The old exit signs will remain up for two years after the replacement signs are installed, allowing for people to get used to the change.

Below is a list of some of the Route 2 changes:

Old Exit	New Exit	
14	67	West River Street – Orange Center
15	70	Route 122 – Orange, Worcester, Amherst
16	71	US 202 south – Athol, Belchertown
17	75	Route 32 – Athol, Petersham
18	77	Route 2A – Athol, Phillipston
19	79	US 202 north / Route 2A – Phillipston, Winchendon
20	82	Baldwinville Road – Templeton, Baldwinville
21	83	Route 2A / Route 101 – Templeton, East Templeton
22	86	Route 68 – Gardner, Hubbardston
23	87	Pearson Boulevard – South Gardner
24	90	Route 140 N / West Main Str – Winchendon, Westminster
25		Route 2A / Route 140 south – Westminster
26	93	Willard Road / Village Inn Road
27	94	Narrows Road / Depot Road
28	95	Route 31 – Fitchburg, Princeton
29	—	Mount Elam Road
30		Merriam Avenue / South Street
31	99	Route 12 south – Leominster
32	100	Route 13 – Leominster, Lunenburg
33	101	I-190 south – Worcester/Mechanic St, Leominster
34	102	Mechanic Street / Harvard Street
35	103	Route 70 south – Lancaster, Lunenburg
36	105	Shirley Road – Lancaster, Shirley
37	106	Jackson Road – Devens, Reserve Forces Training Area
38	109	Route 110 / Route 111 – Harvard, Ayer

2020 YANKEE RALLY

May 28-31 in Plattsburgh, NY (Almost to the Canadian border on NY's eastern border with Vermont and Lake Champlain.

Search for the event on Facebook for more information. The primary host hotel is full, but there are still rooms available in other hotels identified on the Rally Page. Similar to last year, the Rally ends and Americade begins!

If you pass a Chapter Challenge Coin onto someone special, send us a photo and tell us the story behind that coin!

RK VT-2's Paul's Ride Saturday, June 20.

We'll be supporting a nearby chapter's efforts to help those with cancer. Meet at the 2/202 Shell in Orange at 8:00 a.m. and we will head to southern Vermont.

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Sunday, August 23: **New England Ride for Kids.** BOSE plant, Framingham.

Sunday, October 11: **Dummerston's Apple Pie Festival.**

### **RK Mass-1's Spaghetti Supper**

Saturday, April 18 Is the RK MA-1 annual dinner. Plan to meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 5:00 p.m. to head to Boylston for a *Superb Spaghetti Supper!* ***It's one of those events you don't want to miss!***



### **What do you worry about when you ride your motorcycle?**

Thoughts from Dr. Lewis Kaplan, a Trauma Surgeon who rides. (Excerpts from Revzilla's on-line Blog "Common Thread")

Distracted drivers. You know them, you avoid them — except when you can't. Distracted driving is on the rise despite laws that seek to prohibit specific behaviors, including handheld phone use and texting. Distractions can be visual, manual or cognitive in nature. All result in attention being diverted from driving.

It's not just use of electronic devices, either. There are drivers applying cosmetics, shaving, eating, or listening to music so loud that everyone can: a) hear it, and b) have their windows and their innards rattttttle from the righteous bass.

Roadway disasters. It would appear that our roads are crafted to hew to the planned obsolescence built into Keurig coffeemakers. The roads are worse, keeping to a yearly cycle of asphalt death. Lane-spanning, car-swallowing potholes appear around curves in the dark recesses between functional street lamps during the dark, early-morning commute. Of course, there is the crash over the crest of the hill, and the road debris from the seemingly constant road work that leaves piles of gravel in the most unexpected and dangerous places.

Cut grass, wet leaves, and dinner (I mean deer). All cut grass seems to be blown by the lawn services directly into the street as if it will be magically teleported somewhere else. Wet leaves are the fall version of summer grass. And then there are the deer.

Preventable injury. Surprise! Motorcycling is potentially dangerous. Some get injured, and some die from their injuries. Like you, I have chosen to embrace that risk.

Risk reduction using (the right) riding gear is a personal decision. Mine is towards more, yours might be even more (I do not have an inflatable vest, yet), or it could be a little or much less. We each decide what is right for us.

Becoming a meat popsicle. We have covered this in a variety of formats, but hypothermia is life-threatening! Reaction time is reduced, your brain works less well.

Renegade drivers. People routinely go the wrong way along a clearly posted one-way street or up the off ramp onto a major highway. Yes, there is usually an intoxicant involved, but these events are unpredictable.

You have undoubtedly seen the coverage of the groups of riders on off-road motorcycles and ATVs causing chaos on city streets. Car crashes, cars on sidewalks, and cars in oncoming traffic lanes are not uncommon. I would like to avoid being involved in any of that — but it occurs along all of the routes I might take to get to work or come home in the evening.

Are my worries reasonable? What worries you?

### **Membership news...**

Our condolences go out to the family of Tom Chaplin. Tom was one of our Charter/Life Members. He retired from the Burlington FD in 1987 and lived in Townsend for many years. He passed away a few days before Christmas at the age of 88. Over the last few years Tom joined us on a couple of our events.

Congratulations to Ian Hurley on passing his Paramedic and to Jeff Hamberg on completing his officer certification for his promotion to Captain!

Congratulations to Larry Robinson on his official retirement from the Petersham Fire Department. (Over 55 years' service!)

If you have not received your 2020 membership card or a copy of our chapter 2020 Ride Schedule, please contact Treasurer Laford. If you would like an updated copy of our roster/member contact info and you have not yet received one, also contact Bob.

Thank you to all our Red Knight family on the condolences, thoughtfulness and kindness you shared after Diona's dad's passing. Your friendship is very much appreciated.

Diona and Bob (and Dawn & their mom, too)

### **Spring State Meeting.**

Mass-3 is hosting the Spring State Meeting on APRIL 25, 2020, at the Berkley Fire Department Station # 1. (5 North Main Street).

Meet & Greet at 09:00, Meeting at 10:00 — Coffee & donuts will be available. (NO LUNCH)

Wouldn't it be nice to think we can take the bikes down to the meeting!

Let President Martin know if you are planning to attend.

**Our Motorcycle Registrations Expired on Dec. 31.**



Don't wait until that first unexpected warm day with clear roads to realize that you have not renewed your registration! (Inspections are due by the end of May).

## Ice Cream and God's Blessings

Rev. David Purdy, the minister at the Orthodox Congregational Church in Petersham has become reacquainted with riding himself and has approached the Red Knights to offer his participation — and will lead a Blessing of the Bikes for us this spring!

This is open to other chapters and other riders too. So if you have riding friends you would like to invite, please do so.

AND, we are making it a Blessing of the Bikes and Ice Cream Social — because God is Good!

### WHEN? — Saturday, May 23, 2020

Eastern members, meet at the Westminster Dunkins for 12:30 pm to ride to Petersham. Western division riders, meet us at the church (21 North Main Street—Route 32 — in Petersham for 1:00 pm)

It is Memorial Day weekend. We will be accepting a \$5 donation, per bike, that will go to a Veteran's support services charity.

We'll enjoy each others' company, some ice cream, and think about the blessings in each of our lives. One of them is Motorcycles and another are Motorcycle friends.

## 2020 RKMC International Convention

Saturday, August 8, we have a group of chapter members heading off to Europe for the first ever International Convention on another continent. They have a two week jaunt scheduled with rented bikes and guided routes with our Switzerland friends waiting for them! They will be in the Alps riding miles above the clouds, and then head off to Paris for the convention. While at the convention they are even staying in a castle!

I would say our Labor Day Cookout is going to be full of stories (and smiles) about their adventure!



*Just looking over the maps to see what Dutchy and crew have planned for our members when they head to Europe!*



**CHAPTER CLOTHING:** Along with T-Shirts that you can order through Kevin, and embroidered pieces with the traditional RK logo through Joe Guarnera (978-866-2933), Amber at Orange Graphix has our Minuteman logo digitized for embroidery, and thermal full color logos that can be placed on apparel as needed (no minimums).

Orange Graphix  
(978) 248-0009 — [amber@orangegraphix.com](mailto:amber@orangegraphix.com)  
90 New Athol Road (Route 2A)  
Orange, MA 01364  
[www.orangegraphix.com](http://www.orangegraphix.com)



**RK CHRISTMAS 2019.** It was cold on the morning of our Christmas party, with some people in our circle seeing temperatures in the negative numbers. (The next day we were pushing 60 degrees and rain!).

Including our late drop-ins from Mass-1 (Norm and Kathy) we had 46 people on board to warm up the day with Red Knight hospitality.

The room was busy as the socializing took flight and the appetizers were consumed. The big picture board was on display and everyone was looking over the memories of past events and finding their cameo in the display.

The junior members on hand were spying over all the gifts that were left under the tree, because Jolly St. Nick had left a few with specific names on them that would be given out shortly.

Sally's team was busy in the kitchen preparing our meals, and the activity in the dining room quickly settled down once the meals started coming out of the kitchen!

Thank you to all who brought gas cards and gift cards to our Christmas party in December.  
We collected over \$350 in cards to share with Sherry's House!  
What a wonderful testament of the generosity of our members.

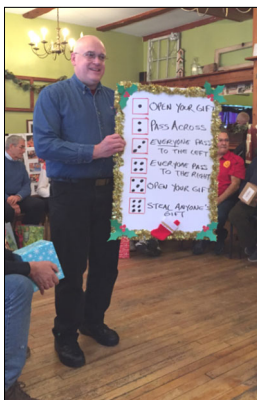
After the meal our president took the floor to recognize some of our members and thank all who were in attendance. A group of those present received their anniversary pins.

Our executive, Kevin Martin presented the Oliver's with the President's Citation in recognition for their overwhelming hospitality to Red Knights. The Oliver's are first to offer their home to not only chapter members and other Red Knights from



around the area, but were also the keystone for welcoming visiting Red Knights from Belgium and Switzerland this past summer. The festivities hosted out in New Salem are outdone by no one! Rick was also a behind the scene worker that made Norm's Jack Daniels bottle drive a super success! Congratulations to Rick and Lori for the well-deserved kudo's.

The Yankee Swap this year had a different flare with the dice deciding what would happen with the gift you were holding. Just something different to change up the routine for the day!



## 2019 Chapter Mileage

We have been keeping track of Chapter Member mileage for 12 years now, and our total of documented miles for those dozen years is 1,777,025 with the addition of this year's 148,281 miles!

Thank you to VP Lizotte for keeping track of the figures the past year.

Congratulations to Jeff Hamberg as our big mileage king in 2019, with **20,366**. Records show that he is the first person to break the 20K mark since we have kept records! Good that he knows a good mechanic to keep his rides in tip-top shape and do those tire changes! Our top female rider was Michelle Shepard with 4,131 miles.

Top three male riders were Secretary Hamberg, Tim Kilhart with 14,361 and Bob Laford with 11,210 miles. Our top female mileage-getters for 2019 were Michelle, Marcia Marjomaa with 2,451 and Diona Laford with 2,024 miles.

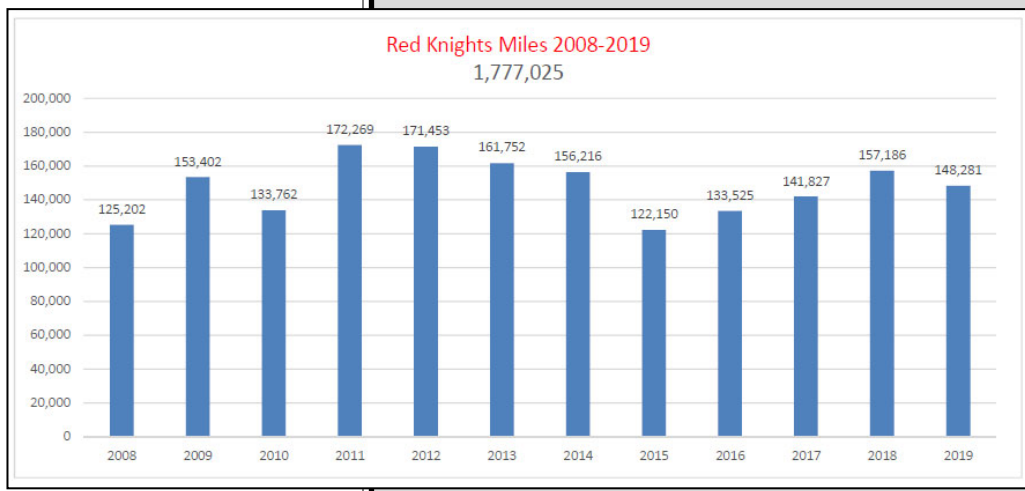
Looking at totals for the 12 years of record keeping, our top pavement pounders have been:

- Bob Laford — 173,811 miles
- Armand Guilmette — 155,474 miles
- Maury Lizotte — 148,479 miles
- Tim Kilhart — 136,340 miles
- Rick Oliver — 97,091 miles
- Ed Brouillet — 96,818 miles

If Jeff keeps up his pace (16K average since he joined) he will be in the top multi-year pack soon!

Please get Maury your 2020 start mileage so he can focus on it (*get it focus in 2020*) if you did not give him your end mileage in 2019.

With the track we are on we should break two million miles about the time of Americade in 2021! There are a lot of smiles and friendships in those miles. Ride safe.





## Thinking of our friends "Down Under!"

Many of you remember Paul and Barbara Duffie who were members of the chapter for a while. Paul was from Australia and Barbara from New Salem. They returned to Australia a few years ago and with the fires there, now, we reached out to them to see if they were OK.

Thank you so much for thinking of us.

We live in a small town called Lakewood about 4 hours north of Sydney on the coast. We had our big fire scare back in September. One Friday night with the sky glowing at midnight we had been told to evacuate but our small neighborhood decided to stay steady. So we packed up the car and boat and waited for the first embers. Thank goodness, that never happened and the rural fire service was able to get the fire under control along with many other fires in our area. We went for weeks with smoke filled days.

Then the fires spread south of us destroying a good portion of the southeast coastal towns of New South Wales, then into the state of Victoria south of us and then into South Australia. Yesterday a friend of ours said he had heard that around 200 people had been arrested for lighting fires. Some of the fires were caused by dry lightening. But the drought and high winds have obviously just reeked havoc on our country.

The latest stats out today...over 12 millions acres have burned here in NSW. That's an area larger than the size of Denmark. In Aus all together almost 21 million acres are gone. That's comparable in size larger than Scotland. There have been at least 25 deaths...3 of those volunteer firefighters. One was a dad to 2 little kids and one was waiting to be a father in May. A fire tornado picked up his truck and crushed him. Thousands of homes have been lost. It's estimated that half a billion domestic animals and wildlife have been killed.

The rural fire service in these states have done a fantastic job but the summer is not over yet. We had a bit of rain with cooler temps but today the mercury went back up into the 90's and 100's. It's predicted that this coming Saturday could once again bring catastrophic conditions. WE NEED RAIN!!! A lot of rain. A couple of cyclones have formed in the north so hopefully our monsoon season has begun and we will get some much needed rain.

Thanks for the prayers from those fantastic Red Knights. Our best to all of you.

Take care,  
Barbara & Paul

Walter asked us to remind anyone interested that his Royal Star Venture Trike is for sale. If you know anyone that may be interested, contact Walter at home: 508-853-1333.



A couple of us rode (4 wheels) down to "Mom's South" in Foxboro for their annual winter bash. If you never have stopped at this dealership, their used bike collection covers their lower level and is about the size of a football field! We'll have to see if we can get a bigger group to go down and look at the vendors and bikes next year!



Come join us... for a **Red Knights JAR** all through the 2020 season, when we venture out for "**Just A Ride.**"

- April 26    • May 17    • Aug. 2    • Sept. 19
- May 2    • June 21    • Aug. 15

**The Wall That Heals**, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along is coming to Townsend August 20-23.

The exhibit will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public. Operation Service and Townsend VFW Post 6538 are leading the effort that will bring the exhibit to Townsend. The Wall That Heals honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,276 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.