

**Red Knights
International Firefighters
Motorcycle Club, Inc.**

From Boylston, MA., to the Future...

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Bob Laford
Newsletter Editor

*The Red Knight Rider
Newsletter of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club*

Fall 2000

Proud to be in Indiana #1

In Indiana-1's September newsletter, President Perry Carter said that the word "proud" just isn't strong enough. And all those people that attended the 2000 convention in Indianapolis would have to agree with him. All Indy's hard work paid off with a convention that went off without a hitch. — Great job Indiana!

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Approximately two years ago, while at the 1998 Convention in New York City, members of Indiana-1 said, "Damn - how are we going to top this one?" Then last October, while in Daytona Beach they said again, "Damn jack, now how are we going to top this one?"

I cannot say that we were able to top either of those great conventions, but we did think we gave it one hell of a try!

Unless you have been a host of an RKMC International Convention, you don't really know how much planning and work goes into pulling off a successful convention. The success of the convention is not attributed to just one or two people either! A lot of workers have to commit to get the job done the right way, and for that I am thankful to many people within Indiana-1.

Indiana-1 is somewhat different than a lot of chapters, as our members come together from all over the state of Indiana. Some live as far north as the Michigan line and others live westward towards Chicago. There are still others that live as far in the opposite direction. Then there is Perry and Pat and Judy and I who live within the city of Indianapolis.

We hope that you all had a great visit to Indiana and the Brickyard Resort Hotel. Looking forward to seeing you all next year in Winnipeg, Manitoba -- Canada! Ride safe.

Clayton Thomas,  
Indiana-Chapter-1

*Indiana-1 did it again  
in the Millennium!*

Dear Fellow Knights:

Summer is at its end and the bikes are being put away up North but not necessarily in the south. I am envious of those that can still ride throughout the winter! The past summer has brought many accomplishments; the Americade open-house, the Four Corners tour of Ed, and Steve, the Convention at Indiana, and our Web Page — all these were great success stories.

The newsletter has been a great way to inform our members of what has gone on and what is planned for the future. Thanks to Bob as our editor. The time he spends on editing and developing the newsletter is much appreciated.

I wish to welcome those elected to the Executive Board and the Board of Director positions this year. We have a lot of work ahead of us. With the increase of inquiries, and the possibility of having chapters starting abroad, the information highway will need to become more efficient. How can we achieve this? This was one of the items discussed at the Executive meeting in November along with financing of the newsletters, proposals for the next convention, and the future of the Club.

I am happy to say that since our convention in Daytona (10/99) we have 16 new Chapters and I believe by the time our next Convention in Winnipeg arrives we will be well over the 100 Chapters within North America and hopefully a few outside our continent.

The future of the Red Knights is very promising. We are becoming well known throughout Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Although we do not have chapters in these area's yet, we do have Members-at-Large. Many members of fire departments in different countries are constantly contacting us for travel information and points of interest.

The Red Knights' growth has caused an increase in the costs of newsletter publishing and mailing, office supplies, telephone and postage. This needs to be addressed soon. The 50-50 draw only does so much. Without the raffle we would not have been able to send out a newsletter. The cost of a newsletter can run as high as \$4.00 for photocopying and mailing per person. What we receive for dues, \$4.00 for active and associate, and \$2.00 per social member, means that to supply a newsletter biannually we will be in the red, even with the money we raise from the 50-50. To ensure we give a top notch service to our membership, the Executive Board is going to have to come up with a cure to our financial future.

What I ask each of you to do is come up with some suggestions on how we can reach our goals. After all, hundreds of people coming up with ideas gets things done a lot faster that just 3 or 4 people coming in with suggestions.

As Christmas and New Years approaches, from my family and on behalf of the Executive of the Red Knights International, We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Respectfully Yours:

**More on the 2000  
Convention inside!**

Gary Nelson, International President

[www.redknightsmc.org](http://www.redknightsmc.org)

**C**ongratulations to Ed Brouillet on his re-election as International Vice-president, Perry Carter and Jack Downs for their re-elections to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Secretary to the Board respectively, and to Mike LeBlanc of RI-1 on his election as International Executive Secretary.



A special *Thank you* goes out to John Gulotta for his tenure as International Secretary for the Red Knights.

Accolades also go out to Charlie Clarkson. Charlie has served as Massachusetts State Rep for most of the years since the Red Knights inception in the early 1980's. Charlie chose not to run again this year because of extra duties at the Westminster Fire Department. We tip our hat to Charlie for all the hard work, dedication, and time given to the Red Knights over the past two decades. Also best wishes to Charlie's replacement, Steve Mickle of Massachusetts-2.

**C**ongratulations to Clayton Thomas of Indiana-1 on his recent retirement from the Indianapolis Airport Fire Department after 31 years in the fire service for . Now, if I'm told right (from all those retired people I know), you will be busier now than ever before! A great big THANKS to Clayton for putting together the information on the convention "happenings" for this newsletter.

### You can't keep a Red Knight off their bike!

Phil Lair of Florida-7 wrote to say that he liked the picture of Gary Nelson's bike pulling his boat in the last newsletter — and wanted to share information on the trailer he and Nancy, his wife, use.

Phil wrote that his wife Nancy was injured in an MVA in '96 when she hit a dog while riding her sporty. She spent 8-1/2 months in the hospital and now must use an electric chair for mobility.

She insisted that she wanted to "ride again," but unfortunately she couldn't get around once they reached their destination. Several of their "biker" friends got together and modified a jet-ski trailer so it would carry her electric chair.

Phil says since then they have ridden the mountains of Georgia and North Carolina and have traveled through the blue bonnets of Texas. Phil and Nancy said, "Where there is a will there is a way, thanks to our biker brothers."

## MAKE THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM A MEMORABLE ONE **COME TO WINNIPEG**

The Annual Red Knights Convention for 2001 is being hosted by Manitoba-1 on August 16-19, 2001. Detailed planning is underway and events for everyone are being finalized. Visit the Red Knights International website to stay posted. The **International Inn** in Winnipeg has blocked rooms at a rate of \$81 (Canadian) either single or double occupancy. Reservations can be made by at (800) 928-4067 or by email at [reservations@internationalinn.mb.ca](mailto:reservations@internationalinn.mb.ca). You can also visit the hotel's website at <http://www.internationalinn.mb.ca>.

If you can, I invite you to arrive early and enjoy some of what Winnipeg has to offer:

- Explore Canada's Cultural Celebration with *Folklorama* on August 5-18. Volunteers from Winnipeg's large ethnic community let you explore unfamiliar cultures, taste exotic foods, learn historic folklore and experience an entirely new way to be entertained. Join us as we celebrate diversity and promote cultural understanding. There are 40 cultural venues over fourteen summer evenings;
- If you appreciate the performing arts - we have interactive dinner theatre at Celebrations, or outdoor summer theatre at Rainbow stage;
- If you savour dining out, we have the highest per-capita ratio of restaurants in North America;
- If you love fishing there are two locations, Morris and Selkirk -- both within 30 minutes -- that claim the title "*Catfish Capital of Canada*". Selkirk also houses a Marine Museum;
- If you appreciate racing, (we can't compete with the Indianapolis 500), we have sprint cars, motorcycle moto-cross and road racing (and lawnmower racing as well) within 30 minutes;
- If you enjoy golfing, we have over 40 courses within 30 minutes, to test your golfing skills.

There is much more information available through Tourism Winnipeg at (800) 665-0204 or visit their website at [www.tourismwinnipeg.mb.ca](http://www.tourismwinnipeg.mb.ca).

Start making your plans to come and enjoy Manitoba hospitality in 2001.

Bob Hunter,  
President, Manitoba 1

A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to each one of you who helped sell raffle tickets for the convention. It was the best year ever for our raffle — and that helps keep the cost of per capita dues down while supporting the activities of the Red Knights at the International level.



The Indianapolis Firefighter's Emerald Society Bagpipe bag

It seems back in June at Americade a member of the Massachusetts delegation brought his teenage daughter and her friend to Lake George.

Being ingenious teenagers, while they were out scoping the town they ran short on cash... and when they saw a red vest they proceeded to tell the unknowing member that their dad was a Red Knight, and they were a little short to by something and could they borrow a dollar??

The girl's dad said he hopes no one finds out who they were or he's going to owe quite the bar tab next year!

Back in April at a District AMA Dinner, John Rucinski of the Red Knights NY Chapter 12 was recognized as the AMA *Man of the Year*. John was cited for his work with the AMA, the area Harley Owners Groups, and for forming Chapter XII of the Red Knights in New York.



Sounds like it was a well deserved recognition.

We received a letter from Mass Chapter 11 President Tom Bogart during the Summer. Mass-11 organized for firefighters on the North-shore of

(www.indypipes.org ) left Indy on Monday, July 31 bound for Glasgow, Scotland and a parade. They were invited two years ago to be part of this celebration. For the last two years, while Clayton Thomas was working on the preparations for the 2000 Red Knights Convention, he has also been the travel person for the bagpipe band.

The hard work paid off for both organizations! The bagpipe band arrived in Scotland on August 1st and returned back in Indy on August 8th (just a few days prior to the Red Knights convention). The parade in Scotland was Saturday, August 5th. Their band was only a small

portion of the 10,000 bagpiper/drummer/drum majors that marched in this once in a lifetime parade.

There are two organization that owe Clayton a pat on the back for a job well done in recent months!



Massachusetts in June. At their charter meeting 22 members signed up to start their chapter. Tom tells us that he expects those numbers to double by the time this newsletter comes out. Having worked with Tom as an instructor at the Mass Fire Academy I have no doubt that his enthusiasm, and that of his chapter officers will lead this group to fulfilling this goal!

In their letter, Mass-11 wishes to thank International Vice-president Ed Brouillet and Mass State Rep Steve Mickle for their help and time helping the chapter get off the ground and running. Their letter states that, "Brouillet and Mickle drove nearly 100 miles each way in the driving rain to help [at the organizational meeting]." The letter went on to say between Ed & Steve's four corner run and what they do every day for the Red Knights should make the International proud. (And we are proud).

Welcome Mass-11 and all our new chapters and M.A.L.'s!

The Red Knights in Edmonton (Red Knights Alberta 1) held a fundraiser for the Firefighters Burn Unit at the University of Alberta Hospital recently and raised \$3100,00 for the unit. They had a night with Wayne Lee the Hypnotist and it was a huge success! A couple of major food chains came on board and supplied food for the event. From the printing of tickets to the hall rental — everything was donated. The Red Knight members did all the food preparation for the event and people were calling the next day and asking if Alberta-1 would be putting on another event.

Alberta-1 also says that another chapter in Alberta has started in Medicine Hat as Alberta 2 and they are looking forward to meeting those guys and gals for rides next summer.

Congratulations Alberta-1 and Welcome Alberta-2!

Have you checked out **The Ride for Kids** in your area?

15 members from Mass 2, 4, & 8 rode in the New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 20, on a beautiful, crisp, New England day and contributed nearly \$2,000 of the \$101,000 raised by the 600 riders that day.

It's a great cause. Consider supporting the ride in your area.

**Another RKMC Pot-luck favorite — the Cherry Angel Truffle:**

Who can resist a light fluffy desert with lots of tart cherry flavor? Ask Norma and some ladies of the Ontario 7 how good it really is. Here we go.

1 package of .3 oz. Sugar-free cherry gelatin.

1 cup of boiling water.

1 prepared angle food cake [10 inches], cut into 1 inch cubes.

1 can [20 oz, ] light cherry pie filling.

1 carton [8 oz.] frozen nonfat whipped topping, thawed.

Dissolve the gelatin in water; refrigerate for 15 minutes. Place half of the cake cubes in a 3- qt, trifle or serving bowl; top with half of the gelatin and the pie filling. Repeat layers. Top with whipped topping. Refrigerate for at least 1 hr. before serving.

YIELD; 16 SERVINGS .

NUTRITION ANALYSIS; ONE SERVING EQUALS 150 CALORIES. 219 mg. SODIUM,

0 CHOLESTEROL, 33 gm CARBS, 3 gm PROTEIN, TRACE OF FAT.

DIABETIC EXCHANGES: 1.5 STARCH, 1 FRUIT.



0 As members of the Fire Service, most if not all of us have had training in some level of First Aid and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Part of that training is in statistics — statistics that tell us that without bystander intervention and CPR a person without a heart beat has basically no chance of survival. Those statistics also say that most people who perform CPR will end up using it on a family member or loved one.

Have we taken an active part in promoting CPR instruction to our family and friends? Although many people in the Red Knights already know these life saving basic principles, I bet there are still members (Social? Associate?) who would like the opportunity to learn CPR and basic first aid.

Consider hosting a CPR or First Aid class at a Chapter meeting for those members who would like the information.  
The life they save may be yours!

### RKMC on T.V.

“Our wives, God Bless them, are the backbone of our organization. Without the support and hard work of our spouses and families the Red Knights would not be as successful as it is.” A quote from Ed Brouillet during the television interview.

One day back in April, the Red Knights were approached by a producer of a Worcester (Mass) based television show called “Insight.” The program, primarily for the inner city surrounding Worcester, looks at different facets of society that many people would not have any contact with under normal circumstances.

The show’s *talent* is Al Toney, a Sergeant with the Massachusetts State Police and a member of the Blue Knights. A local Gold Wing Riders Chapter suggested that Al do a show with the Red Knights because of the good that we do and that we promote motorcycling well and in a positive light.

International Vice President Ed Brouillet, Massachusetts State Red Steve Mickle and Newsletter Editor Bob Laford were part of the half-hour round table discussion with Sergeant Toney. Included in the topic were the Red Knights history, membership, mission, and charitable functions. Also included in the talk were some basic ideas on motorcycle training and the MSF Training as well as the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Tour that Steve and Ed were in the process of planning.

The program aired on the greater Worcester Cable system and was made available to other cable affiliates throughout Massachusetts.

While the convention was in session, the city of Indianapolis was in mourning for the loss of one of their own with the LOD death of Firefighter Warren Smith. Firefighter Smith died during a dive rescue training exercise on Sunday, August 13.

May he and all those who answer  
their last call rest in peace.

The Lodgian and Bass Hotel Corporation have proven to be good friends to the Red Knights. Through Mary O’Leary and Dave Hamilton (of Mass-1), both of whom are executives with the Crown Plaza in Worcester, the hotel chain became sponsors of the Red Knights Fallen Firefighters Memorial Tour. The time, effort, and support received from this organization and their people from around the country helped make the Red Knights efforts towards raising funds for a permanent memorial to fallen firefighters a grand success.

Please consider using the hotels owned and managed by the Lodgian and the Bass Corporation (Holiday Inn, Crown Royal, Inter-Continental Hotels, and Staybridge Suites) for your lodging needs when traveling in the future. They are truly the friend of the Red Knights and a friend to firefighters everywhere.

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From Your International V.P.  
Edward Brouillet

To all members, first I would like to say **thank you** for electing me for another two years as your International V.P. This past year was a busy year for me. As many of you know, the State Rep. from Mass (Steve Mickle) and I road the four-corners of the U.S. this past summer for a total of 12,080 miles. We did this as a fundraiser for the memorial to be built in memory of the six brothers we lost in Worcester. It is hard to believe a year has almost passed as we approach that dreadful day of December 3. At 18:13 hours, Box 1438 was struck for a structure fire. Little did anyone know this would turn out to be one of the most devastating events in our history. It brought FF's from all over the country to unite in brotherhood and help our brothers from Worcester mourn their loss. It was the first L.O.D.D. of a Brother Red Knight, Tim Jackson of Mass-4. I ask you that on December 3 at 18:13, you say a prayer in their memory.



**(On a good note)** On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the members MA-Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 8, along with families and friends gathered at the Worcester Crown Plaza to present to the I.A.F.F. Worcester Local with a check for the amount of \$8800.00 for the memorial they are going to build. **(Thank you to all Red Knights family and friends for all your help, support, and donations). A Special Thank You to Ind.-1 Perry, Clayton, the others members of Indiana-1, and all the Red Knights that came out to meet and escort us into the RK 2000 Convention.**

This past year we have seen a lot of new faces in our organization. You may or may not know, but this has been a year of great growth for the Red Knights with several new chapters and over thirty- five new Members at Large. As we continue to grow, we will have more and more work to do to keep this one of the most elite organizations of which to be a member. We will need the help and support of every member as we continue to grow into the new millennium. Remember our only fundraiser to support this organization is our 50/50 drawing at the annual convention. The Conventions continue to be the highlight of the year. The next few years we are on the move to Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2001, then North Scituate, RI in 2002 and then back to Canada with Montreal, Quebec in 2003. If you have never been to a convention, you should give it a try. We would like to see everyone come and enjoy the fun.

Ride Safe... *Ed*

### Red Knights Help-a-Knight Program

The Help-a-Knight program is a database that is available to members throughout the U.S. and Canada to offer help to traveling Red Knights. Bill Hollick of Mass Chapter 1 has maintained this information over the years. Categories of "help" listed in the program include: taking calls for info about the area, overnight lodging, allowing a tent or camper on property, allowing a bike to be left at property, pick up a broken bike by truck or trailer, have metric tools to help in a break down, someone near home speaks French. If you think about being on the road and experiencing difficulty on the road, this information can be invaluable.

The most current version of this program (6th edition – June 2000) has been mailed to the Chapter Presidents. Chapter presidents, please copy this information and share it with your members. If you have access to Microsoft Word 97 you can also receive a copy electronically. To request your own electronic copy, email the editor (rflaford@tiac.net) and request a copy of the Help-a-Knight program and one will be sent to you.

The program also has a form if you would like to be listed as a resource for Red Knights on the road.

Our Red Knights Web page now has an on-line message board (thanks to M.A.L. Mike Dickenson). While on-line visit the page and communicate with your

fellow Red Knights! at  
[www.redknightsmc.org](http://www.redknightsmc.org)



I heard that some of our members have **Cue-ball envy**. Seems that a group of riding partners out of Rhode Island (and they picked up a Massachusetts traveling buddy) decided to shave their heads while enroute to the convention back in August. Now, remember, the President of RI-1, Mike Leblanc, sports the nickname "Cueball" because of his classic haircut... must be he's quite the dynamic leader to have his fellow members want to be just like him!

I also heard that at least one of the newly "shined" heads didn't fare too well under the Indianapolis sunshine!

## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

I am thankful for the teenager who is not doing dishes but is watching T.V., because that means he is at home & not on the streets.

For the taxes that I pay, because it means that I am employed.

For the mess to clean after a party because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.

For the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.

For my shadow that watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.

For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because it means I have a home.

For all the complaining I hear about the government, because it means that we have freedom of speech.

For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.

For my huge heating bill, because it means I am warm.

For the lady behind me in church that sings off key, because it means that I can hear.

For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.

For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means I have been capable of working hard.

And finally..... For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means that I am alive.

## What is hydration?

Each time you work to quench your thirst, you are hydrating, or replacing fluids lost through the daily process of sweating, exhaling, and elimination. You become dehydrated when you haven't replaced enough of the fluids you have lost.

In a normal, moderately active day, the average person loses 2-3 liters of water per day. Increase your level of activity, or spend some time in an extremely hot climate, and that liquid loss rises to 4-6 liters per day.

Most people don't realize how much fluid they lose in a day through respiration, perspiration, and elimination. If you aren't adequately hydrated when you are out enjoying your favorite outdoor activities, you can experience headaches, nausea, heat exhaustion, a reduction in stamina or performance, and even disorientation (all bad news on a motorcycle).

You can't drink just when you're thirsty. By the time you realize that you're thirsty, you've already become dehydrated. It takes a while for your body to communicate to you that you are low on fluids. Plus, you are probably having too much fun to think about stopping for a drink at the first sign of thirst. To compound this situation, once you start dehydrating, your body often signals that it is sated when you actually

replaced only about 2/3 of what it needs. Low fluid levels can have serious consequences to your bodily functions.

Too much fluid can cause stomach distress, a bloated feeling, and stitches in your side. Too little and you're running a deficit. There is no one answer for everyone in all conditions. The key is to take small amounts of water frequently, not gulp an entire quart of water once an hour. Experts surmise that during days of moderate activity or exposure, a person's fluid intake should be at least 4-5 quarts per day.

Heat, cold, illness, and even your own level of fitness can multiply your body's fluid requirements. Extreme conditions can up your body's requirements to several gallons a day.

Great days for motorcycle riding are also great conditions for becoming dehydrated. Take the time to prepare for your ride including adequate hydration before the ride. At every stop make it a point to drink some water. It doesn't matter if the stop is for gas, food, directions, or just a stretch. Take the time to keep hydrated, keep healthy, and enjoy the ride.

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## *From the Secretary to the Board of Directors*

I have to begin my article with some sad news. I lost my Dad October 6 and since then things have been tough for my family and me. I tried to notify everyone in my Red Knight International family, however I know everybody didn't get the word. For those who sent flowers and cards, my family and I thank you. Those who knew my Dad liked him a lot. He was a lot of fun to be with and talk to. I'm going to miss him.

I would like to congratulate Michael LeBlanc on his election. Congratulations also to, Chairman Carter, and Vice President Brouillet on their reelection. The thought of me returning to the Board of Directors is overwhelming. I am so proud to be working for you again. I thank everyone for your support. I promise that I will do the best job possible while serving you. The Executive Board members and Board of Directors work very close together to shape the Red Knights International Organization, with of course your help. One of those Executive members I enjoyed talking to, working with and listening to is John Gulotta. I enjoyed working with John and I wish him the best of luck.

We had a good convention in Indiana. I know I had a good time. There is a lot of work that goes into hosting a convention especially now that we have grown in size. Personally the best part for me is seeing and doing things that I would not ordinarily be able to do and see, especially on a motorcycle. Every convention I have been to has been different and exciting. Seeing old friends and making ones is always fun. Thank you Indiana 1 for a "great convention".

There were several resolution changes addressed at our convention in Indiana. Growth will cause organizational change. We are growing rapidly in size and in a way that is good. I see the pace getting faster as time goes on. The test will be for the Executive Board and the Board of Directors to keep up with the growth, The wishes of the members and the pace. The strength of our organization is in its membership. We need to keep the lines of communication open. The newsletter is a very good tool for this reason. If there is anything I can do to help any member where ever you are please let me know. We have several important issues still in front of us to be addressed. This organization belongs to all members so make your voice heard. While I am in office I will need your advice, your opinion and I would like to hear your questions.

Perry keep the faith buddy. Our prayers are with you and Pat. Love all of you guys. Everybody have a great Holiday. In closing I thank Bob Laford for his hard work and dedication. I wish everybody a great Holiday.

And remember the door is always open at our house. Come and see us!

Jack C. Downs  
Secretary  
Board of Directors

# The Red Knights Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Tour

## As experienced by Ed Brouillet and Steve Mickle

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Planning a journey is half the fun of going on one. Sometimes more. If the journey is one of liberation, of freedom from the expected and normal, then the simple act of deciding to go accomplishes most of your objectives. A journey of a thousand miles doesn't begin with a single step. It begins with a decision. From the moment you choose to go, it can dominate your thoughts in a very pleasant way for days, even years. Studying maps, planning routes, gathering equipment, talking to others, are all part of the journey. A wonderful part. The dreaming, the worrying, the planning — once you've decided to go, you're on the way.

From the book Journey Home by Jim Willis

And that planning began. Began in earnest shortly after Ed Brouillet and Steve Mickle returned from the 1999 Red Knights convention in Daytona Beach. Planning that had them gaining support and supporters to raise money for the permanent memorial to the lost Worcester Firefighters and supporters that would back them in spirit as they readied, packed, and began their 9,000 mile trip around the perimeter of the continental United States and to the Red Knights Convention in Indianapolis.

Once the two men were on the road they soon discovered that the biggest planning obstacle they didn't remember is how important their wives are on the back of the motorcycles. Without them they had to navigate, make reservations, handle the hotel keys (I understand that one of them was misplacing the key at least daily). Peg and Deb also lend much moral support as well as making sure everything is packed so that the bikes would not have to return to the previous night's motel looking for what they forgot! (Did that REALLY happen!?)

- July 13: Ed and Steve had a send off in style from two dozen bikes representing Red Knights chapters from throughout Massachusetts, the Blue Knights, the local Harley Owners Group, GWRRA Members, riders from the Worcester Fire Department, and a contingent of firefighters from the Westminster Fire Department all wishing them well as Ed and Steve headed off to Maine for the night with their first "corner" planned for Saturday morning. The entire group rode with the duo for the first few miles with a news crew from Boston's Channel 5 in tow.
- July 14: About an hour from Madawaska (and their first corner) Steve had mechanical problems and had to be towed (always good to have that Honda Riders Club towing benefit) to a local bike shop for some quick service. Thanks go out to K & K Honda of Caribou, Maine for having the bike ready to go by 6 p.m! The guys also had dinner with the Madawaska Fire Chief on Friday evening at a restaurant over the border into Canada. So the four-corners tribute is truly an international event!
- July 15: Checked in for corner #1 in Madawaska, Maine and on the road at 6:45 a.m. for a 641 mile, 11 hour 15 minute day to Fishkill, NY. "Had a great start until the Massachusetts Turnpike. Light rain there and then heavy, heavy, really heavy rain outside of Danbury, CT." (DAY #1)
- July 16: Cool and Cloudy in Fishkill, NY when the

guys hit the road at 6:45 a.m. Ran into a little rain and the temperature made it to 85 degrees before they made their destination of Jonesville, NC some 10-1/2 hours and 630 miles later. Ed said that "we started in the morning with rain gear -- took it off a ways down the road (no rain). Shortly after that it started to rain again -- so out came the rain gear again!" That was the end of the rain as the sun came out and heated up our rain suit clad riders. Filled up the tanks with 5.8 gallons of gas at one point... doesn't leave a lot of "reserve!" (DAY #2)

- July 17: Up before dawn and on the road by 4:00 a.m. Nice weather during the morning but HOT-HOT-HOT as they crossed into Florida (101 degrees on the highway). Had a little surprise as an F-17 buzzed I-95 where they were riding. Monday's mileage was 563 in a little over 9 hours before they stopped in Daytona for some spicy wings at Hooters. (DAY #3)
- July 18: A short day on the road, just 254 miles from Daytona Beach to Davie, Florida and a visit with Florida State Rep Jack Downs and his wife Judy. Started off with a sunny morning but ran into some thunder storms -- not a big deal because they landed in Davie by 11:30 a.m. (DAY #4)
- July 19: Rode from Davie to Key West (with some bikes from RK Florida-1 along for the ride) and back to Davie again for corner #2! Miles for the day were 363 in 11-1/2 hours total with temperatures between 94 and 100 degrees. (DAY #5)
- July 20: Tried to beat the heat by leaving Davie early in the a.m. (4:30 a.m. to be exact). But it didn't work, it was already 82 degrees then and while on the road the temperature ranged from 97 to 110 degrees! Did an extra 200 miles beyond our planned run for the day and traveled beyond Tallahassee all the way into Pensacola, Florida for a total of 667 miles in a little under 11 hours. Hopefully this extra 200 miles will help tomorrow be a shorter day on the road. (DAY #6)
- July 21: Out of the hotel room early (4:00 a.m.) and on the road for Lafayette, LA. Ed and Steve met up with representatives from the Red Knights Chapter out of New Orleans for breakfast and hospitality. The day's ride was 324 miles long and the guys were off the road around noon. They had some time for oil changes in both the Wings and Steve had to have a new

speedometer cable installed at Honda of Lafayette. (Ed informed Steve, that Steve's bike was not to have any further problems unless there is prior approval from Ed.) Special thanks go out to the Lafayette Fire Department and to Harry and Brenda Waterman. The members of LFD welcomed the guys into the city with presentations of patches and hats and had arranged a television news crew from their Channel 3 for some P.R. for our wandering troubadours as well as a donation from the Firefighters for the Memorial Fund. Harry and Brenda were the hosts of the evening and accompanied the guys to a local watering hole for some great Cajun food at Prejeans Restaurant. (Steve had the alligator). (DAY #7)

- July 22: Another early rise (4:30 a.m.) to get ahead of the heat (almost 100 degrees when they pulled off the road for the day). Put on 435 miles from Louisiana to San Antonio, Texas in 8 hours. I'm told that our riders make stops nearly every 100 miles to get fuel, stretch their legs, and take care of other bodily necessities. Ed told me that he knows there are six guardian angels that are riding with them (and thoughts and prayers from many Red Knights members and friends as well). He said they came through Houston and San Antonio without any traffic, no wrong turns, and no problems on the myriad of highway interchanges and confusion through these two large cities. While relaxing in their air-conditioned hotel room in San Antonio they had an interview via telephone with the Bangor Daily News, way back in Maine! (DAY #8)
- July 23: Up and on the road at 4:00 a.m. Temperature at the start in San Antonio was 71 degrees (pretty good!). Riding was O.K. until about 11:00 a.m. when the temperatures started rising. 99 degrees when they pulled off for the day at 1:00 p.m. Put on some extra miles today for a total of 548 and made it to El Paso, Texas -- this should make tomorrow's planned ride into Tucson a little lighter for the day. The guys say that I-10 is one stretch of long, lonely road with nothing for miles. They say the heat has been the hardest part of their trip, (well aside from being away from their wives, families, and friends is what they actually said). (DAY #9)

(continued...)

## Red Knights tour Cape Cod!

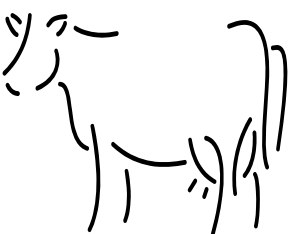
Members from throughout New England met in Hyannis on Cape Cod back in May for an annual gathering. Between 40-50 bikes braved the traffic to the Cape to enjoy a great weekend hosted by Mass-8 and newly elected Mass State Rep Steve Mickle.

There were rides around Cape Cod for food and ice cream, and nearly 30 bikes took the boat to Martha's Vineyard to put around 100 miles on their bikes as they toured one of Massachusetts' beautiful islands. Acting as tour guide was Bill Smith who lives on the island (and was also the 1999 Americade King at Lake George, NY). The members saw nearly every nook and cranny that the island has to show — thanks to Bill!

Sunday saw the mass of bikes all in red meet up with nearly 3,000 other bikes for the annual Blue Knights Blessing of the Bikes in Falmouth. The Blue Knights gave their Firefighting brethren a place of honor in the convergence of cycles. The Red Knights were the first group directly behind the police motorcycles leading the parade.

After that, Mass-8 President Chris Olsen opened his house to the visiting RK members for a BBQ. He told his wife, Carol that 20-25 people would show. She was a little surprised when she came out on the deck and found nearly 60 people in her back yard! She was a good sport and the Olsens were great hosts.

Join us next year the first Friday-Saturday-Sunday in May at the Heritage House in Hyannis. We look forward to seeing everyone there again.!



*This description of events was posted on a motorcycle listserv.*

We were tooling along the California coast on Highway 1 enjoying the scenery when I missed a turn to stay on Route 1. As we were making the u-turn, another bike made the turn and ended up in front of us. Not five minutes down the road a large pregnant dairy cow ran into the road and the other fellow hit her. He and the bike were thrown to the shoulder and they both landed in some raspberry bushes.

Let me tell you, there's nothing quite like the sight of a touring bike hitting a cow at 40 MPH to get your heart pounding.

The good news is that the gentleman and his



Police and Fire wear different badges but we all share the same hearts.

On Saturday, May 13, in a cold rain, 60-70 motorcycles left the city of Worcester, Massachusetts bound for South Berwick, Maine some 100 or so miles away. By the time that the cyclists reached their destination they were nearly 100 strong. In that contingent were members of Red Knights Chapters from Massachusetts 1, 2, 4, 10, Maine 1, New Hampshire 1, and Rhode Island 1.

What brought these members out in the wet riding weather for a trip through three states was the Blue Knights Blessing of the Bikes sponsored by BK Maine-5. They billed the blessing as a **Ride for Heroes** and the proceeds from the event were donated back to the Worcester riders to take back for the memorial fund for the six fallen firefighters.

members'



You may also see stickers on the back of some of our helmets and on bikes as well. The sticker is a "W" with a "6" in the center in memory of the Worcester 6 who perished on December 3, 1999 were distributed at the ride from members of the Scituate, Massachusetts Fire Department.

At one point, as the ride rounded a corner the CB's crackled that, "this is for you Red Knights" as the group passed under an American Flag that was hanging from the tips of two extended aerials. As Ed Brouillet said, "it brought us back to when we were marching in Worcester for our fallen brothers."

A special thank you goes out to our brothers and sisters in the law enforcement branch of public safety. They are there when we need them too.

For info on ordering the W-6 stickers and pins, to support their efforts, write to the Scituate Firefighters Local 1464 at P.O. Box 254 — Scituate, MA 01066 (\$5 per sticker or pin plus \$1 shipping)

### *The cow that didn't make it*

bike were both salvageable.

The moral of this story is:

- 1 Cows are quicker than they appear.
- 2 Cows are bigger than a Wing and are not very soft.
- 3 Cows may appear on the road at any time.
- 4 If you see an old truck parked on the side of the road with flashers on, there may be cows around.

Just before the newsletter went to print, our web page crashed and we lost all the files! (oh, no) Please bear with us as we rebuild.

You see things on a motorcycle in a way that is completely different from any other. In a car you're always in a compartment, and because you're used to it you don't realize that through that car window everything you see is just more TV. You're a passive observer and it is all moving by you boringly in a frame.

On a cycle the frame is gone. You're completely in contact with it all. You're in the scene, not just watching it anymore, and the sense of presence is overwhelming. That concrete whizzing by five inches below your feet is the real thing, the same stuff you walk on, it's right there, so blurred you can't focus on it, yet you can put your foot down and touch it anytime, and the whole thing, the whole experience, is never removed from the immediate consciousness.

*from Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*



## Truth is stranger than fiction

In the June edition of Rider Magazine there was an article that talked about the strange things motorcycle riders have come across waiting for them in the road and in their paths. Shortly after this appeared in the magazine the following article appeared across New England newspapers after a motorcycle crash happened on a Sunday afternoon:

ERVING, MASS. (AP) June 5, 2000. A Wareham (Mass) couple was injured yesterday afternoon when the motorcycle they were riding collided with a bear as it crossed Route 2.

The couple were headed west on Route 2 just before 3 p.m. when the black bear crossed over the guard rail and onto the highway, according to police.

The bear walked into the side of the motorcycle, throwing the couple onto the pavement. Both individuals were taken to a local hospital where the injuries were reported as not life-threatening.

Which proves again that anything can happen when you are on your bike. Ride Safe.

## A Blessing for Bikers

May good luck and good fortune always be near,  
And the roads that you travel be straight and clear,  
May the one at your back be faithful and true,  
And every bike trip you make be a good one for you.

May the sunrise of dawn shine on your face,  
And a cool breeze be a gentle embrace.  
If you should travel in the dark of night,  
May the glow of the Moon be your guiding light.

May the "beast" that you drive bring you pleasure and pride,  
May the tires hug the road all the miles that you ride.  
May your helmet protect you and your brakes ever true,  
Wherever you go, may God go with you.

May the road lead to "Home" and when your journey ends,  
And the Sun is setting on you and your friends,  
May God bless you and keep you in His constant care,  
And may His love and protection take you safely there.

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the Sun shine warm upon your face,  
May the rain fall soft upon your fields,  
May it always be dry under your wheels, and  
May God Bless you and hold you in the palm of His hand.

I found this while searching bike sites on the Internet. Although the author is unknown the web page said this prayer was contributed by past Americade King and Red Knight Bill Smith of Martha's Vineyard, with a quote from Bill, "This is something that I found in my tool box that I forgot I had."

**A**mericade is always a great time for all the thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts who tour into Lake George, NY every year, and June 2000 was no exception.

The Red Knights open house at the Lake George Fire Station is growing and growing each year and thanks must go out to New York Chapter 12 for their hard work in preparing that event. This year was the largest RKMC gathering at Americade with over 300 in members and friends in attendance on June 8.

We saw friends from as far away as Manitoba, Wisconsin, and Florida, as well as from Chapters in New England and New York. Our participation together is growing every year!

At the Americade parade on Saturday, 81 bikes and some 100 Red Knights members represented the club and helped take the largest group award for the third year in a row!

The International officers also met for an executive board meeting which included voting on a number of charters for new chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada.

*See you next year in  
Lake George!*

## Red Knights Catalog

The International Quartermaster as well as many of our individual chapters sell different Red Knights paraphernalia available through the RKMC Catalog.

We are trying to update the catalog with new pictures and get both a hard copy and an internet version available to our members. If your chapter has RKMC merchandise you want to market to all the Red Knights:

- Take a picture of the merchandise (either digital or hard copy)
- Send the picture, description, price, and information on how to order the products to Bob Laford of Mass-2.

When the new catalog is issued, a master copy will be shared with all the chapter presidents. It is the presidents' responsibility to copy and disseminate the catalogs to their members.

The **Ontario-7 Winter Frolic** is again on the books for Saturday, February 24 in Bellville, Ontario.

What a great time! Consider a road trip (but in four wheels, since February in Ontario can be temperamental!) Contact Ontario-7 President (and International President) Gary Nelson for more information.

**A big welcome** to our new chapters and new M.A.L.s who have come aboard since the Spring.

We have had an increase of ??? New Members-at-Large and 16 new chapters since our convention in Daytona. New Chapters since October 1999 include:

- Alberta 2
- Arkansas 1
- Connecticut 6
- Florida 7
- Florida 8
- Illinois 4
- Illinois 5
- Kentucky 1
- Louisiana 1
- Maine 4
- Mass 11
- Mass 12
- New York 3
- New York 4
- So. Carolina 1
- Virginia 1

In the September issue of Wing World, Ron Tolson of Apple Valley, California wrote an article about "Keeping Your Chapter Alive." What he had to say is not only good guidance for GWRRA Chapters but it also rings true for the Red Knights and any other organization that relies on its membership for momentum.

1. Seek new membership. Your chapter may be head and shoulders above everyone else's right now. Your meetings, rides, and events are attended by large numbers of your membership (and others). Wow! That's great, but there will come a time when these members' interests, priorities, and responsibility may change. If you think that your chapter is "big enough" and that the members you have right now are "what we want," you are falling into a trap that has led to the down fall of many organizations.

Continue to bring new members into your Red Knights chapter. Their new ideas and adding variety to your chapter's events will help the chapter continue to grow. This way, as the focus in some of your members' lives begin to change, the organization will not suffer. There will still be enthusiastic people, fresh off the street to help the club to continue to perform well into the future.

2. Satisfy your members' needs. As these new people come into your club, ask them what they expect from the Red Knights. What do all your members expect? Work to provide a variety of different events throughout your club year that will encourage everyone's active participation.

Not everyone will like every event that is planned by your chapter. But by providing a variety of different club events, each member will have the opportunity to join in something he or she really enjoys. Listen to your members — they will tell you what is working and what is not in your chapter.

3. Monitor your club's leadership. In his article, Mr. Tolson said that poor leadership is a distant third as a reason for club participation to fall. It does happen, though, and members of an organization have the responsibility to each other to work to ensure that the club's direction is "for the good of the club."

If an officer within the club is not being an active participant or is causing disruption to the club, discuss that issue with the person. There may be reasons (time commitments, other responsibilities, etc.) that may be contributing factors to the problem. Working together as an organization will help move towards correcting the problem and also help the club grow stronger in the process.

Mr. Tolson concluded his article with seven points to help keep your Chapter healthy. **1.**— Encourage everyone to participate in an active recruiting program. **2.** — Keep you hand on "the pulse of the chapter" and make program changes to encourage maximum participation. **3.** — Brainstorm with members and other chapters for new ideas. **4.** — Find a gimmick, something that makes your chapter different from the rest. **5.** — Share activities with other chapters. Find a "sister chapter" from outside your immediate area and arrange a visit. **6.** — Encourage participation in the Rider Education program

## Red Knights Grand Tour

The Board of Directors at their last meeting in Indianapolis decided to continue the Grand Tour program for another year. If there was enough interest in the program, the club will purchase new, undated pins, with bars to display the year awarded. Any member who has earned a (dated) pin may then exchange it for a new one.

### What is Grand Tour?

When the Red Knights was young, the easiest way to tell others about the club was by word of mouth. This meant that the members had to get out to visit other firefighters in their areas. One of the best ways to do that was to visit their Fire stations. The Grand Tour idea is to reward members who made a certain number of visits to area departments (in promotion of the club) with a certificate and a pin. Proof of these visits was needed and so the idea of Grand Tour was born.

In order to earn a pin a member has to supply a photo of him/herself and his/her motorcycle in front of Fire stations whose names' began with the first letters G R A N D T O U R and that is basically the way the Grand Tour Program works today.

### How do I earn a Grand Tour Pin?

In order to earn a Grand Tour Pin you must first get an application form from the G-T chairperson, then during the course of one (1) riding season you must visit nine (9) fire stations whose names begin with the letters G R A N D T O U R, or twelve Fire stations beginning with any letter of the alphabet (this is for members who live in some of the remoter areas and may not be able to come up with stations beginning with the letters g r a n d t o u r). You must have a picture of you and your motorcycle taken at each Station, with the name sign visible. Co-riders may also earn a pin and a rider and co-rider may have their picture taken together.

When you have completed your visits simply fill out the application form and return it with your pictures to the G-T chairperson and he/she will send you your certificate and pin.

Photo albums will be kept displaying pictures of everyone who has completed the Grand Tour and will be available at all future conventions.

Respectfully,  
Henry Heideman

This is an excerpt from "Sight Distance" by David Hough. The article appeared in the August 2000 issue of Motorcycle Consumer News.

I was following "Big Dawg Bob" who was cruising at what I perceived to be the edge of the speed/traction envelope. When I observed a blind corner ahead that appeared to be tighter than the others, I backed off. The turn looked really tight, and the road apex was at the top of a rise, perfect for punching through the traction envelope. I braked harder, thinking, "holy schnitzel! I can't believe Big Dawg can keep it on the road diving into such a tight turn at warp speed!" When I rounded the turn, Dawg had already disappeared. I was dumbfounded he had been able to make that tight turn and then accelerate fast enough to be gone around the next corner.

Then I saw a flash of color in the bushes as I rode by, and realized that Big Dawg hadn't been able to make the turn after all —

We have all been in those situations when riding with others — to keep up with them we have to go a little (or a lot) faster than we are personally comfortable with. When faced with that we need to evaluate the situation. We're on the bike to enjoy the ride and if we're uncomfortable with the speed, or any other facet of the ride, we're not enjoying the bike ride. Remember to put your safety, that of your co-rider, and the other riders in your group ahead of "keeping up." If the writer of this article had continued at "Big Dawg's" speed he too may have ended up in the bushes.

(...continued)

A story from the road goes... as Ed and Steve were riding along the highway in Texas a car started following them, and even followed them off the highway and into the parking lot at the hotel. The driver and his wife got out and said, "you're those two firefighters that are riding around the country! We've read about you." Seems this guy is a retired firefighter from El Paso and a motorcyclist as well (Gary Ephlin, soon to be a new M.A.L.) and when they saw our two comrades they figured out who they were (of course, two red goldwings from Massachusetts driving through Texas -- who else could it be!?) and they had to talk to them. Before Ed and Steve left the hotel this Jake and his wife had left them some patches from the area fire department.

- July 24: Today's ride was from El Paso, TX into Casa Grande, AZ. The weather forecast for the area was sunny with temperatures between 109 and 114 degrees. They rode from 4:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (which was actually 7-1/2 hours on the road because of the time change). The temperature at 10:30 in the morning was 108 degrees. Ed said he went out to his bike around 2:30 p.m. to see if it was melting and the parking lot temperature read 136 degrees! (DAY #10)
- July 25: Jack Rabbits on the highway - ZERO, Steve - ONE (You'll have to ask him yourself, but I think since he is Groton's animal control officer he was probably trying to tenderize it with his trailer wheels.) At 4:00 a.m. in Arizona it was already 89 degrees. When they hit the last mountain heading west (Vallecito Mountain ??) Ed says the air temperature was 112 degrees and it felt like a blast furnace climbing the mountain. When they went down the other side it was completely different weather. They said at one point today they were on the top of a mountain range and could see down into the valley and all the way across into the next mountain range some 40 miles away.

It was corner number 3 at San Ysidro, California at about 2:30 p.m. eastern time! 359 Miles. After stopping at corner number 3 they located the nearest fire house and found out that San Ysidro is covered by San Diego. The jakes on duty directed them to the Union Hall where the guys showed the clippings and pictures from Worcester and shared their travels with Captain Fiero who was at the hall. At 5:30 p.m. west coast time the guys were just heading out for some dinner -- and the temperature was 78 degrees and "just beautiful" in Chula Vista, California, about 25 miles south of San Diego. A far cry from some of the temperatures they've been hammering over the last few days. Tomorrow's forecast for them is overcast skies, but they said they really don't mind. (DAY #11)

- July 26: Better riding today temperature-wise, only

got up to 91 degrees! Left early again to get through San Diego before the commuter traffic started. Put on 411 miles into Oakhurst, California (about 30 miles south of Yosemite). Steve hit another speed bump, but this time the road kill was a pre-deceased raccoon. It's odd though that it's Ed that had to stop along the way and get new tires for his trailer as one went bad and he hasn't had any animal encounters! The guys have decided not to go into Las Vegas because of the heat there. (DAY #12)

- July 27: On the road for 6:30 a.m. --- must feel like sleeping in half the day compared to the 4 a.m. starts they did throughout the hot weather of the southwest! Started off wearing jackets because it was 61 degrees when they started and it dropped down to 47 degrees when they were in the mountains. What a difference a day and a few hundred miles make! We should call this "Steve's Wild Life Encounter Ride." Today, minding his own business, Steve and his bike were dive-bombed by an unhappy momma-bird. These animals must know about the non-bovine frozen steaks in his freezer back home! Put on 265 miles today and went to Yosemite National Park. Took several excursions to look out points in the park. Description from the guys is "unbelievable," "gorgeous," "most beautiful scenery so far." Took lots of pictures and videos -- still snow on the mountains at 9,000 feet. Pulled off into the hotel at 4:45 p.m. in Lake Tahoe had some dinner and then relaxed playing the one armed bandits for six hours. Rumor is that Steve recouped a little of his gaming expenditures -- just about the same figure that Ed lost. Tomorrow is a pseudo R & R day. They are going to ride the scenic route (Route 89 North) and when they get tired they will stop -- no strict plan, just to enjoy the ride. It's a much-deserved break for the guys. (DAY #13)
- July 28: On the road at 7:00 a.m. for a day total of 330 miles. Took a beautiful scenic ride around Lake Tahoe -- pleasant temperatures in the 60's and 70's until they descended from the mountains back into 105 degree heat! Worked their way north and stopped for the night in Weed, California. No animal or bird stories today. Plans for Saturday are to cross into Oregon and take a ride to Crater Lake National Park. They are ahead of schedule and may spend a day or so there enjoying the area before moving on to Washington State and corner number four. (DAY #14)
- July 29: On the road for about 6 hours beginning at 7:30 a.m. 231 miles for the day -- stopped about 150 miles shy of the Oregon-Washington border in Oakridge, OR. Rode the north rim of Crater Lake (a fantastic ride!). Temperatures ranged from 78 degrees in the mountains to 90 degrees elsewhere. Ed had a close call with the wild life today as a deer ran to the edge of the road as they were coming by but it decided not to venture across in the bikes' path and ran back into the woods. Still snow in the mountains and Steve

had to do a little body surfing on his backside in the snow (still clothed I hope).

- July 30: The last few days are leisurely rides and soaking up some of the sites -- but they are in Washington State now! Did 231 miles today and pulled off the road at the Timberland Motel near Castle Rock, Washington. Ed says that they will be here for two nights. They even took in a movie. Must be kind of funny feeling to sit still in a movie theater for two hours after all the miles they've put on over the last few weeks. (DAY #16)
- July 31: Put on 110 miles (round trip) to Mount St. Helens today. WOW what a view! The guys are back for a second night relaxing at the Timberland Motel. Tomorrow's plans are for Olympia, WA which puts them right on schedule and will arrive at the fourth corner in Blaine on Wednesday, August 2 with two days to spare. (DAY #17)
- August 1: Getting real close! Only rode 61 miles today so they can end the fourth corner on the day they said they would. Both the Goldwings and their riders must not know what to do with only 61 miles for the day! Received some cryptic e-mail messages today from the two of them. Seems they went out for some Mexican Food and now they are arguing over who is contributing to the methane level in their hotel room the most. I bet that it is pretty well an even match. (DAY #18)
- August 2: TODAY'S THE DAY! At 6:15 p.m. EST (3:15 PST) the post card to the Southern California Motorcycle Association was dropped in the mail at the Blaine, Washington post office to complete the requirements of the Four Corners Tour by our Red Knights representatives! Take a breather guys, you deserve a break and a big pat on the back. From the start it has been 18 days, 10 hours and over 7,500 miles. (DAY #19)

The Crown Plaza Hotel in Worcester hosted a reception for Ed and Steve on October 16 to recognize their efforts with the Four-corners Tour for Firefighters. Present were many Red Knights, our families and friends, members of the Worcester Fire Department, and a special honor with several of the wives of the lost firefighters in attendance. The reception was also the forum where members of the Worcester Fire Department received donations totaling \$8800.00 on behalf of all the Red Knights.

The donations will be used towards the memorial that Worcester is planning in memory of their lost firefighters. Every Red Knight should be proud to know that our organization played an important role in remembering our lost brothers.

## Convention 2000

For those of you who were unable to attend this year's Convention -- boy, did you miss it! Even though the Convention didn't open until Thursday, August 17, 2000, about 2/3's of the convention people were in Indy by Wednesday. Many members were at the hotel by noon and a group of riders rode out to meet Ed Brouillet and Steve Mickle (and their wives) as they were making their way into the convention area after their Four-corner Tour. The escort of Red Knights met them at Crawfordsville, Indiana, which is about 30 miles west from the Brickyard Resort Hotel.

All I can say is that you would have been proud of the group that went to meet Ed and Steve. The escort boasted some 30- 40 motorcycles, of all shapes and sizes, heading west on I-74 to meet our wandering brothers. Looking in my rear view mirror, all I could see was motorcycles behind me for over a half-mile. Wow! Our International President, Gary Nelson, and Indiana-1 President, Perry Carter, both lead the group into the hotel where our Massachusetts counterparts were waiting for us. It took about a half-hour there for just the Red Knights' hugging and congratulations!

A news crew from CBS's Channel 8 (WISH-TV -- Indianapolis) came and did a nice 10-15 minute interview with the guys on their Fallen Firefighters Memorial Tour.

On Thursday night at the Indianapolis Firefighter's - Local 416 Hall for a Hog Roast to welcome the Red Knights to Indianapolis. Indy-1 member "Dink" Miller, that's Betsy the Dog's master, was at the hall at 8 am starting to cook the two hogs. There was lots of hog, hot dogs, and sausages, baked potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, and buns. Make that a lot of buns!

Even though there was some rain during the roast, everyone did enjoy themselves and got enough to eat too. If anyone went away hungry, it was their own fault. There was a pretty bad T-storm that went through Indy on Thursday evening -- even had tornado warnings -- but everything came out O.K. at the convention as many of the members watched the storm from the hotel bar.

The convention had somber times as well. On the Sunday before the convention, the Indianapolis Fire Department lost a brother firefighter ( J.C. Smith) in a training exercise. It reminds us all how precious life is, and the dangers that each of us face as firefighters. There were several donations made during the week in memory of Firefighter Smith from Red Knights and Red Knights Chapters to the Survive Alive Program, ( a charity requested by the Smith family).

Friday, August 18th, was a full day for everyone. There was a sixty-mile ride to Little Nashville, Indiana, for a day of shopping in different little shops. There were 75 motorcycles that made the trip to Little Nashville. Then came the motorcycle trip around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Track!

We started lining up for the track ride around 4:30 p.m. The moment came that we had all been waiting for, "Wow, I'm riding my motorcycle on the 500 track!" International President Gary Nelson led the Red Knight contingent around the track following the Brickyard 400 Pace Car! Was that a video camera tied to Gary's rear seat during the ride? There was even one rider wearing a kilt -- was there a draft on that bike?

Friday evening ended with a board of directors meeting. Unfortunately, not many members attended this meeting. The directors meetings are open to all members and the executive officers and board of directors encourages all members of the club to attend these meetings in the future.

The General Meeting of the Red Knights membership started at 8:30 am. and lasted until noon. The meeting covered of a lot of RKMC business items for discussion and to be voted on as an organization. The largest discussion was on the issue of the color of the Red Knights vest. With this year's vote, "every chapter coming on board from August 19, 2000 forward must wear the red vest's only."

Elections were held as part of the meeting's business. Perry Carter and Ed Brouillet were unopposed and hold their positions as Chairman of the Board and International Vice-president respectively for two more years. The only position with multiple parties (Clayton Thomas and Mike LeBlanc) vying for the post was that of the International Secretary. A ballet was held and Mike won the election. Good luck, Mike!

During the meeting, some special recognition was given to Ed Brouillet and Steve Mickle for their Fallen Firefighters' Tour. They each received a special commendation from the United States Congress as well as proclamations from the Massachusetts House and Senate. A more light-hearted presentation was

## Nine ride to honor firefighters

Excerpt from the article by George B. Griffin that appeared in the Worcester Telegram on Saturday, September 9, 2000

WORCESTER-- Six firefighters, two police officers and a paramedic left the Fire Department's Grove Street headquarters yesterday for the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Colorado Springs, Colo. The nine from Worcester who are making the 4,400-mile, 13-day round trip represent all three of the city's emergency services. and will participate in the culmination of the national memorial observance for the country's fallen firefighters Sept. 16

Seven will ride motorcycles, while two are driving a truck and trailer that will provide support for the bikers on the six-day trip. The riders carried with them the good wishes and support of their friends and family, the blessings of clergy for a safe trip and the comradeship of their fellow police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel.

The names of Worcester's six fallen firefighters will be inscribed on the national memorial, along with the names of dozens of other U.S. and Canadian firefighters who died last year in the line of duty.

Nearly 200 onlookers crowded into the parking lot in front of the Grove Street Fire Station and applauded as the cavalcade set out.

Members of the Red Knights from around the U.S. served as the Worcester contingent's escorts as they made their way to Colorado Springs. When they left Worcester, representatives from several Massachusetts Chapters, along with state and city police escorted the riders to the Connecticut border. Red Knights from Connecticut, New York, and Indiana also participated in the escort during the trip. (I apologize if I missed any one.)

*Sincere thanks go out to our Indiana brothers for the special care that was given to the Worcester riders after a minor traffic mishap that occurred in a construction zone while passing through the area.*

from their fellow members out of Massachusetts; they each received a plaque -- one with a tube of Preparation-H and the other with a box of suppositories to commemorate their 12,000-mile journey!

Saturday afternoon was an open time for the members to do whatever they wanted after the general meeting. There were a few local fire departments that sent apparatus for display at the convention. Happy hour started at 6 p.m. prior to the night's banquet. Prior to dinner, a special parade was held with all International Officers and their wives, along with members of Indiana-1, entering the dinner building led by the Indianapolis Firefighter's Emerald Society Bagpipe Band. Clayton Thomas (IND-1) is the drum major for the bagpipe band. The band also had the honor of having another Red Knight (M.A.L. - Steve Chappell from Wisconsin) play his bagpipes in the band with us that night.

There was a fantastic dinner and everyone had a great time dancing the night away. Uncle Dick really showed us all how to do the chicken dance and we had three Red Knights from Indiana who had a ball with YMCA.

Sunday morning sported the farewell breakfast as we all said our good-byes to our many friends in attendance and waved to them as they left for all points of the continent. It was a great time with many great memories. All the members of Indiana-1 hope each of you enjoyed your time with us -- and that you will come back and visit again.

Your convention - 2000 reporter,  
Clayton Thomas

### Inside your Red Knights Newsletter—

- Info on the 2000 Convention just past (in Indy) and the 2001 Convention yet to be... in Winnipegi!
- Read about the Four-corners trip that two of our members made in honor of our Fallen Firefighters
- See tid-bits from our members' activities throughout North America
- Cheer on our Red Knights when you see how we've done up at Americade again this year

### 16 WAYS TO DESTROY AN ORGANIZATION

- 1 Don't attend meetings, but if you do, arrive late.
- 2 Be sure to leave before the meeting is over.
- 3 Never have anything to say at meetings; wait until you get outside.
- 4 When at meetings, vote to do everything, then go home and do nothing.
- 5 The next day find fault with your officers and fellow members.
- 6 Take no part in your organization's affairs.
- 7 Be sure to sit in the back so you can talk things over with other members. No body will notice.
- 8 Get all the organization will give, but give nothing in return.
- 9 Talk co-operation but never co-operate.
- 10 Never ask anyone to join the organization.
- 11 Threaten to resign at every opportunity; tell others they are standing for far too much.
- 12 If asked to help, always say you haven't time.
- 13 Never read anything pertaining to the organization; you might find out too much.
- 14 Never accept an office; it is much easier to criticize than to do things.
- 15 If appointed to a committee, never give any time to it; let the chairman do it all.
- 16 Don't do anything more than you have to, and when others willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help the cause, how loudly because the organizations run by a clique.

Make the Red Knights stronger with your participation and involvement in the club!

**Red Knights Motorcycle Club  
International Newsletter**  
c/o 276 West Road  
Petersham, MA 01366

[www.redknightsmc.org](http://www.redknightsmc.org)



Two roads diverged in a wood,  
And we took one, realized we made a mistake and did a U-turn.



**Red Knights Internastional  
Firefighters Motorcycle Club Inc.  
Treasurer's Report**

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**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2000**

This report will be the third of four quarterly reports that I will be presenting this year.

The third quarter from July 1, 2000 till September 30, 2000

**GENERAL ACCOUNT**

|                     |                        |                    |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>July 1, 2000</b> | <b>Opening balance</b> | <b>\$ 8,831.38</b> |
|                     | Deposits               | \$ 798.63          |
|                     | Expenditures           | \$ 2,230.70        |
| September 30, 2000  | Closing Balance        | \$ 7,399.31        |

**PUBLICITY ACCOUNT**

|                     |                        |                  |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>July 1, 2000</b> | <b>Opening balance</b> | <b>\$ 507.33</b> |
|                     | Deposits               | \$ 3,988.57      |
|                     | Expenditures           | \$ 2,666.83      |
| September 30, 2000  | Closing Balance        | \$ 1,829.07      |

**MEMBERSHIP  
CHAPTERS IN GOOD STANDING**

70 of 73 Chapters paid 2000 dues as of September 30, 2000

**M.A.L.'s  
IN GOOD STANDING**

133 Paid up M.A.L.'s as of September 30, 2000

# What's your excuse for not participating in a Motorcycle Rider Education Program? Too expensive? Don't have the time? Too far to travel for the class? Been riding too long to break your old habits or learn anything new? I have used most, if not all, those excuses myself. But I figured if I recommended Rider Education for my Chapter members, I should bite the bullet and take the course myself!

So I signed up to take the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Experienced Riders Course on April 9, 2000. In Massachusetts the training is handled by Ironstone Ventures through the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau.

As luck would have it the weather on Sunday, April 9 in central Massachusetts was torrential downpours when I woke up. But being the frugal New England native that I am, I was damned if I was going to forfeit my fee just because of a little rain. So at 5:30 in the blessed dark, damp morning I bundled up and headed out for the one and one-half hour ride from Petersham to Bedford, Mass where the course was held at the Hanscom Air Base. Along with the rain, the temperature was 45 degrees-F with pea-soup fog. I lucked out though, because the fog broke about 40 miles into my trip thanks to the 30 mph winds!

The rains continued throughout our training as the temperatures got colder, and colder, and colder. And to my pleasant surprise about half-way home later in the day the rain turned into snow.

I'm sharing this adventure with you because even with these trials and tribulations I believe that day was one of the best spent days I've had on the bike. I learned a lot about my bike's capabilities and how I to improve my capabilities as a rider. That makes me safer, my co-rider safer, and all my friends (whom I ride with) safer.

In the fire service we are always considering our "Incident Priorities" during an emergency, and the Life Safety of ourselves and our fellow emergency responders is always our utmost concern. Our time on two wheels should be no different. Consider taking a motorcycle rider safety course in your area — to improve the life safety of you and your friends on the road. It is well worth your time and money well spent.

...and if you are one of the many Red Knights who has taken rider education programs in the past, talk it up

**For information on Motorcycle  
Rider Education near you call  
(800) 446-9227**

among the members in your area. Tell them how much you learned, how it helped make you a better, safer rider, and get more of our members into this important training. # # #

# # # # **Bob**



