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

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

Dear Brother & Sister Red Knights

I hope this newsletter finds all of you well. With all that has gone on since September 11, it is still hard to understand how such a horrific thing could have happened. We now have many things that make our jobs a lot different than they used to be, but as true professionals we will go on. To all of our Brother and Sister Firefighters and especially to the members of NYC Chapter, you will always be on our minds and in our prayers. Thank you for the job that you do.

For some of you, your bike is still on the road, but for most of us in the cold and snowy areas of the country, it's resting in our garage or some other place all covered up and just waiting for spring. As I write this, we are about half way through our winter and the days are getting longer, so it won't be long before we can start riding again! This year the Red Knights will be celebrating their twentieth anniversary. The members and friends of our Rhode Island-1 Chapter will be our hosts this year for the International Convention. I know they are working very hard to give us a great convention. I expect there will be a big turn out, so make sure you get your reservations in early.

We are still getting a lot of inquires for information on the Red Knights and we are continuing to see growth in all areas of North America and overseas. We are a young club in comparison to some. We just got our first chapter overseas with the new charter in New Zealand. A very big Red Knights welcome to them! I know they are working very hard to get things going there and we wish them the very best.

Your executive board has been working hard. There are going to be some by-law issues this year that will have to be addressed at the convention. Some of these will require us to look to the future and try to do what is the safest and best thing for the majority of our members. Please take these thoughts into consideration before deciding your vote. I strongly urge all Chapters to go over all the by-laws changes when you get them and talk to your membership about them openly. Try to have a delegate at the convention to represent your chapter when it comes time to vote. As we continue to grow and expand into new areas in the U.S., Canada, and overseas, we are going to have to deal with other issues that arise. Some of them may be easy to resolve and other issues will be more difficult. Some of these problems may require us to change some of our by-laws to protect our members and the future of the Red Knights. A lot of you may not know this, but the Blue Knights have had some of the same problems in their club that we are now experiencing in the Red Knights. If we do not deal with these issues properly, it can destroy a club. That's why I am asking each and every member to look to protect our future and do what is right for all our members, not just a few.

Americade is just around the corner. We will be having our open house on Thursday night at the Lake George Fire Station. I hope to see you there. I will have more information about the Parade that night. I hope to enter us in the best-dressed club category this year, so bring your shirt and ties, and your fire department helmet to wear in the parade (if your department policies allow that). If you have any questions feel free to contact me anytime.

In closing, I would like to thank our International Quartermaster, Joe Conroy for all the work he has done in getting

that job in order. To all of our other board members, I would like to say that no one knows more than I do all of the hard work and countless hours you put in for the Red Knights. There has never been a more dedicated bunch of people working then all of you. For that I say thank you and I salute each and every one of you.

Respectfully Yours:

Ed Brouillet

Ed Brouillet,
International President

"Good days, bad days, but never a boring day on this job.
You do what God called you to do.
You show up, you put one foot in front of the other,
and you do your job, which is a mystery and a surprise.
You have no idea, when you get in the rig, what God is calling you to do.
But he needs you..... so keep going.
Keep supporting each other.
Be kind to each other.
Love each other.
Work together.
You love the job.
We all do.
What a blessing that is."

Father Mychal Judge
1933-2001

Look inside for information on:

- * The Convention in Rhode Island
- * The RKMC at Americade
- * News from the Chapters
- * RK Help-A-Knight
- * The 50/50 Raffle
- ...and much, much more!

*The Red Knight Rider
Newsletter of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club
Spring 2002*

50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 Raffle needs your support! Each year the Red Knights run a 50/50 raffle with a drawing at the convention. The raffle supports publicity of the Red Knights, including newsletter publishing and mailing costs. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to the club and fifty percent to the winner!

Each member has two books of tickets to sell and each chapter is asked to buy five books. Tickets are being sent to each member with this mailing. With over 2000 members the potential to help the Red Knights through this drawing is BIG! Think of the 50/50 prize that will be drawn at the convention if everyone sells two books (10 tickets).

Actually, each book contains 6 tickets. As a thank you for selling tickets, for every five tickets you sell, one is a freebie for the seller! That's a chance to win some big money on a free ticket!

The 50/50 raffle is a fund raising event which subsidizes postage for the newsletter, ads in magazines & bike related news papers, and the International's web page. Without a successful 50/50 raffle the International would have to look to the members for additional financial support.

Please help by buying and selling the 50/50 tickets enclosed, two books per member plus five books per chapter. If you have any questions, or would like more tickets, contact Peg Brouillet of Mass-2. Sold tickets and money (checks only to RKMC-International, please don't mail cash) should also be sent to Peg by **August 14** (or brought to the convention)

Peg Brouillet
326 Minot Road
Westminster, MA 01473 (USA)
(978) 632-8230

RKMA2@net1plus.com

Thanks to your support, last year's raffle was a huge success with over \$3,500 raised. Keep up the good work. Forward ticket sales and stubs to Peg prior to August 14 so the Club can track Chapter activity in this effort. ...Thanks for your help and see you in Rhode Island!

(You don't have to be present in Rhode Island to win)

Books for chapters to buy will be sent out in the Presidents' mailing in a few weeks.

Convention 2002!

OK Folks, we are getting down to the nitty-gritty here in Rhode Island as we prepare for the RKMC Convention! Rooms are going fast, so everyone is encouraged to get their lodging registrations in quickly. 2002 is the International's 20th Anniversary convention. R.I. hopes to make this convention the biggest yet.

Rhode Island-1 is the host chapter for the 2002 celebration (August 22-25, 2002). Rooms are blocked at the Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island (401-738-4000) and more rooms at the Comfort Inn Hotel (401-732-0470), just a stone's throw away from the convention hotel if overflow space is needed. Ask for the "Red Knights Motorcycle Club" rate at both hotels.

The Red Knights have what they call the "Run of the House" from August 22 - 24, 2001 at the Sheraton. We have reserved 70 rooms for Thursday (8/22) and 130 rooms for Friday and Saturday (8/23-24). The price for the rooms will be \$119.00 a night. (Just a side note that this hotel's group rates for this time of year are usually \$125 to \$159 a night).

The registration fee for this year's convention has gone up to \$80.00 per person. With your registration fee you get the following amenities:

Saturday Night Functions include the annual Banquet Dinner with choice of either ROASTED CHICKEN, LONDON BROIL STEAK, or BOSTON BAKED SCROD.

Saturday evening also includes the awards ceremony and dancing, (with music provided by a member of our chapter, who is a professional DJ). Sunday morning features a farewell executive breakfast buffet

Other activities include a "REAL" New England style clam bake on Thursday. Price for this is \$25.00 per-person. This includes your choice of Lobster, Steak or Chicken with Red Clam Chowder and Clam Cakes, Steamed Clams (or as we call them here in R.I. "Steamers"), Steamed Mussels, and Corn on the Cob.

There will be a bike show on Saturday as well as several ride options during the convention. All rides for the convention will be posted upon check-in. If there is any location that you would like to visit in RI, feel free to drop me a line.

Thanks again for all your support and hope to see you in August. If you have any questions please e-mail them to me at riedknight@cox.net or call me at (401) 567-0664. Thank you and hope to see you here in the "*Biggest Little State in the Union*"

Ken Biron, Chairman — R.I. 2002 Convention

Red Knight Memorial



2002 is the twentieth anniversary of the Red Knights. There has been some talk about building a permanent memorial to the Red Knights. This memorial would be something supported by the chapters to remind us of the people who have worked to make our organization what it is today — and what it will be in the future.

The International President is looking for any members who would be interested in helping with the memorial project. This idea is still in its infancy and ideas on the design, layout, and location are still needed.

If you are interested in helping with this project or have any ideas on how to make the Red Knights permanent memorial a wonderful project, please contact Don Parker of Massachusetts-1. Don is one of the club's founding members back in 1982. He can be contacted at (508) 869-2026.

Welcome to all our new M.A.L.'s and new chapters. The Red Knights now have over 188 members-at-large (including members in Europe) and 97 chapters. We are now a truly global organization with the addition of M-A-L's in France, England, and Switzerland, and a chapter in New Zealand! Other new chapters are:

Northland New Zealand-1, Alabama-1, Ontario-5, Tennessee 1, Georgia-1, New York-5, Ontario-4, Ontario-10, Georgia-2, Virginia-3, Connecticut-4, Texas-1, New York 12, Ontario-3, New York 14, Alabama-2, and New Jersey-10

Welcome everyone!

Helps Us Help You

Any chapter that has hosted a convention knows of the hidden expenses that pop up. We the members of Rhode Island 1 want to provide you with a convention equal to or better than any convention in the past.

The main source of funds for running the convention comes from the convention program and advertisement book.

If you run a business or know of a business that would like to advertise in our booklet, or if your chapter would like to support Rhode Island 1. Or if you cannot make the convention and would like to help us show your brothers and sisters a great convention.

The cost of advertising:

Inside front or back cover or outside back \$150
a full page ad — \$100.00
a half page — \$75.00
a quarter page — \$50.00
business card — \$25.00
and an honorable mention — \$10.00.

(The first three received for the cover will be accepted).

All prices are figured at American rates. Please make checks and money orders payable to:

Red Knights RI-1, c/o Michael A. LeBlanc
15 Cove Road, Coventry, RI USA 02816-4324

Advertisements must be received no later than July 1st.

Camera-ready artwork necessary. RI-1 accepts no responsibility for poor quality reproduction. Info needed includes Advertisers name, Address, Phone Number and Signature.

Thank you, in advance and see you in August!

Convention Committee 2002

One book that should be in every rider's library is Proficient Motorcycling by David Hough. This down-to-earth read gives even a veteran motorcyclist things to think about when it comes to handling your bike. David does a great job in giving us brief reports on many subjects that can improve our riding skills.

Below is an excerpt from that book:

Back in the good old days, a lot of people got killed in motorcar and motorcycle accidents exacerbated by weak brakes. Lawrence (of Arabia) didn't die falling off a camel; he died crashing his Brough Superior into a stone wall as an alternative to plowing into some children who popped into view on the narrow English road. In the U.S., the standard quick-stop technique for yesteryear's motor officers was to throw the black and white on its side and hope it would grind to a stop on the axle nuts and crashbars. Many police academies still teach the technique of laying it down, even though officers may be riding machines with sticky rubber and ABS brakes, which can stop a lot quicker on the rubber than on the chrome. Frankly, I've always considered laying it down to be a crash.

Improving our riding habits and making our riding safer for us and our passenger involves practicing our skills. But it can also include improving our mental skills by reading books and magazines with ideas on how to better ourselves. **Ride safe!**

2002 Ride for Kids Schedule

March 17
San Bernardino, CA

April 28
Houston, TX

May 5
Washington, GA

May 5
Pittsburgh, PA

May 19
Torrance, CA

June 2
Atlanta, GA

June 22
Knoxville, TN

July 21
Northbrook, IL

July 21
Utica, NY

July 27
Marysville, OH

July 28
St. Paul, MN

August 4
Hudson Valley, NY

August 18
New England

August 25
Ann Arbor, MI

August 25
Asheville, NC

September 8
Enumclaw, WA

September 15
Columbia, MD

September 22
St. Louis, MO

September 29
Birmingham, AL

October 6
Sacramento, CA

October 20
Phoenix, AZ

November 3
Dunnellon, FL

RKMC Supports the Ride for Kids!

It's not often a two-hour ride lasts a lifetime.

Talk to most motorcyclists, and they'll tell you how one ride can get inside you, and stay with you forever. This same phenomenon happens on another level at every *Ride for Kids*® event. Each ride works to improve the lives of kids who have been diagnosed with childhood brain tumors by raising funds for medical research.

Our progress is encouraging. In 1984, a child diagnosed with a brain tumor was expected to live only five more months. Today, medical advancements allow that child to live another three years.

With Honda's support, more than 10,000 motorcyclists devote their time, money and energy to the *Ride for Kids*® program every year. Yet, everyone's goal of finding the cause of childhood brain tumors, and discovering a cure, remains many rides away. Which is why Honda continues to nurture this program. Because, while the ride lasts only a day, it leaves us with hope that lasts a lifetime.

Reprinted with permission from American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

Pictured: Juston Smart and his dad Jeff. Juston is a brain-tumor survivor and supporter of the Ride for Kids program. For more information, please call the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the United States at 1-800-253-6530, or visit pbtfus.org.



February 3, 2002

I am very happy to report that the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club Inc. has continued to grow and prosper. We currently have 97 chapters, 80 in the United States, 16 in Canada and 1 in New Zealand, with an additional 188 Members at Large. This is a growth of 23 Chapters since the end of December 2000 and an increase in Members at Large as well.

Our financial position continues to be sound; we had a year-end net worth of \$15,688.81 an increase of \$6,237.30 from year-end 2000

Of course with growth also comes addition and expanded operating expenses. We still rely very much on revenue from the sale of our 50-50 draw at the Annual Convention to help offset the cost of our twice a year newsletter. We also face additional costs with increasing insurance rates, postage, phone service, photocopying and printing as well as a multitude of other costs associated with running a non-profit social fraternal organization.

The cost of running our organization for 2001 was \$13,623.01 a reduction in cost from 2000 of \$582.96. This was a result of the Executive watching every expenditure and also the donation of time and services that we have in the past paid for. It is great to get free time, services and goods donated to the organization by the directors and various members of the club, but this is not something that can be or should be relied upon. For the organization to grow and prosper it must be able to financially support itself by having the ability to pay for whatever is required to operate. We are well on our way to reaching this level and I am sure we will, with the continued hard work and dedication of the International Executive, Chapter Presidents and Members we will achieve it.

Rest assured that your Executive Board and Board of Directors will continue to give a very hard look at any item that has a cost associated with it and weigh the benefits to the organization and membership before the expenditure is made. With this kind of hard work and dedication from your directors I am positive that the club will continue on its current growth trend.

Fraternally yours,
Leo Patry – International treasurer

rkmcch1@mindspring.com.

Part of the job description of Vice-President is to oversee the MAL program. President Brouillet shipped everything to me including instructions. With him on one side of me and Treasurer Patry on the other it is very hard to make a mistake. Leo updates the MAL list about every 7 to 10 days. So really all I have to do is order patches from our Quartermaster Joe Conroy, send out some letters and forward the checks to Leo. We added 13 new members to our MAL list so far since convention. This will bring us to a total of 168 MAL members if everyone renews from last year. I'm sure the number will be even higher after we go to print and you receive the newsletter.

I thank the Executive Board members and the Board of Directors for helping me with my new job. Everyone has had to pull together very hard these last eight months because of the personal changes we had to make. We miss Perry. These have been very trying times for the leadership of our club and our nation. I am proud of both and I know you are too. I cannot stress enough how much it means to me to be part of this team. This club has become an important part of my life. I hope we never lose sight of the fact that it is all in the presentation. When we are out there two by two in our red and white or red and gold we deliver a damn good presence.

You will see raffle tickets enclosed with the newsletter again this year. The profit goes to help offset the cost of our publication. We need your support with the sale of these tickets. Remember, some lucky person will win half of what is collected. Last year Rob Nelson's friend Dave Allsopp won over \$1700.00.

Before I close I want to offer condolences to Secretary Gil Rekken who lost his Dad this past December. Our hearts go out to him and his wife Heather.

Also our prayers go out to Debra Mickle who lost her Mother. Our thoughts are with her and Steve. Please let Bob Laford know about any member who has been sick or injured so we can post the information.

See you at Americade!

Fraternally Yours,
Jack C. Downs — International Vice-President

As everybody knows "time stops for no one". Here we are in 2002 and happily so. I am a person that likes to look forward, that's why you may have heard me say from time to time, "let's press on." As I look into the future of our club, I like what I see. President Brouillet wasted no time bringing the Executive Board together after convention. We met at his house in November to hear his thoughts about restructuring, and the short and long-range plans he would like us to think about. We were introduced to Dave Emery who was appointed to our Board of Directors in the Vice-Chair position. Dave is President of Vermont 1. Congratulations to Dave for the appointment and we thank him for stepping up to the plate to help us at a very critical time. This all came about when Joe Conroy was asked to move to Chairman of the Board after Perry passed, we needed a person to fill the Vice-Chair position. The meeting at President Brouillet's house lasted two full days. Everyone was present. I don't know how Ed and Peg put up with us that long but I'm glad they did. They make perfect hosts.

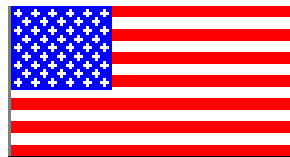
So we finished our meeting and everyone went home filled with thoughts. My first thought was there is no way we are going to accomplish everything we talked about. So I concentrated on Christmas and the New Year. Well, I no more than turn around and here come the E-Mail from the Board members. There was E-Mail flying from everyone. I looked at the time posted when some of the E-Mail were sent and realized, some of our Executive Board members never sleep. Leo, you are a prime example of what I am talking about. I have come to the conclusion that you sleep with your computer. Your keyboard has been smoking. I believe people who live in snowy areas should not have computers, because they have too much time on their hands.

All kidding aside, this Executive Board and Board of Directors are a very dedicated group of men with good ideas. The theme for 2002 and the focus of these two Boards are on "our future" and where we are going. Within the next four months you, the members, will be asked to make some very interesting, challenging, difficult, and important decisions. I say this because some of these decisions will change history and give the Red Knights a new face. I am not talking for or against any Constitution and By-Laws proposed at this time. There is a lot of time before convention and I would like to hear from you, the members of this organization, about the proposals we will be dealing with. This newsletter has several of the proposed changes listed. If you have any comments you would like to share with me, I can be reached by E-Mail at

What is your chapter up to?



Let us know what your chapter does throughout the year that may be of interest to your brother and sister Red Knights. Brag a little (in the newsletter and on the web page). Send our newsletter editor info and pictures on your chapter events!



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We shall never forget



Santa's bike at the 2001 Red Knights (NY 12) Toy Run.

NEWS FROM ALBERTA 1

Back on October 20, 2001, Alberta-1 hosted a night full of *laughter and fun!* Hypnotist Wayne Lee provided the entertainment by hypnotizing members of the audience and kept everyone in joyful tears for two hours.

The chapter hosted this event as a fund raiser for the Firefighters Burn Treatment Society in Edmonton. Alberta-1 raised a whopping \$3,000

during the evening's activities.

Needless to say, everyone had a great time!

A great job was done by all our members — and a big pat on the back for a job well done for a worthy cause.

Don't forget to stop by and sign the Alberta Guestbook on their web page at www.redknightsalberta1.com.

The hero is commonly the simplest and obscurest of men



Are you looking for a fun book to read? I try to keep a book going next to my recliner for the times when the television shows aren't very good (been reading more lately).

I Found a really fun motorcycle story to read called Purple Mountains — America from a Motorcycle by Notch Miyake. This guy sold his business and took three months off to tour the United States on his BMW GS. It was an easy read in the middle of winter and made me wish I was riding with him! Found my copy online at www.bn.com (Barnes and Noble) for under \$20.

The 2001 Toy Run, held in October brought out 201 people to participate, and there was a total of 607 kids who woke up on Christmas with gifts because of the Run.

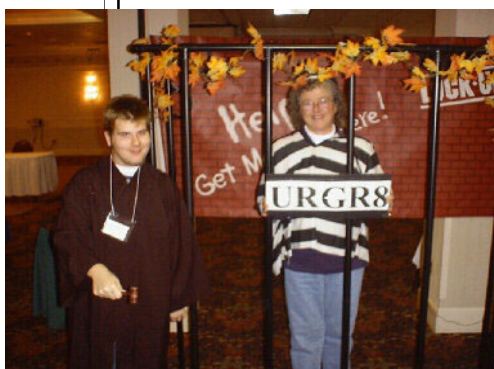
The run is a fun time (and 2001 was the second annual for NY-12). They have games at the State Park in Saratoga Springs followed by a motorcycle and classic car run to the City Hall where they presented the Mayor with the toys collected, and then go back to the park for a dinner put on by the club.

Illinois Chapter-2 also helped out Santa again this year by riding in the South Side Chicago Toys for Tots in October, and then in the Greater Chicago Toys for Tots in December with 2,000 other riders!

**Great job guys,
you make us proud!**

Bill Osting of Illinois-2 is working with a place called *Bourbon Street* and members of the Chicago Fire Department making a patch collection and gathering donations for our brothers and sisters in NYC.

Must be that M.A.L. Ellen Adams of Pennsylvania has a lot of friends that think she should be locked away! She was *locked up* on November 14 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and raised over \$800 in the process.



She said the officers making the "arrest" came to her house, handcuffed her and took her to the pokey until her fine was paid.

The Red Helmet Ride

Each year nearly 500 motorcyclists -- primarily police officers, fire and rescue personnel -- ride in a convoy to the service for the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend during Fire Prevention week in October. (The Memorial Service weekend is on October 4-7, 2002).

The Red Helmet Ride is to pay honor to the fallen firefighters, show support for their families and bring their supreme sacrifice to the public's attention.

This year's memorial service and motorcycle tribute will be held in Washington, DC rather than at the Emmitsburg campus.

Americade founder Bill Dutcher sent us an e-mail thanking the Red Knights for their participation and all the pictures we have of Americade on our

Thanks for the nice pictures [of Americade]. Your club is always very welcome here, as you know.

FYI and that of your membership, please check out
www.tourexpo.com/liberty.htm

At our Sept 14-16 Fall Festival, we collected about \$2000 from attendees (most of whom who had already donated at work) and "matched" it with \$3000 of our money and sent it down to IAFF in a check for \$5000. Granted, money will never offset the loss and grief, but at least it was a token of our concern.

Best,
Bill Dutcher
Founder, Americade



A lot has happened between the 2001 Americade and the upcoming 2002 celebration. Our world has changed

and we have lost some friends. All around the country people have been saying Thank You to emergency services workers.

Let's show our pride as members of the fire service when we visit Lake George this year.

Please bring your fire department helmet with you to Americade

and we will wear our FD helmets in the parade to show the crowds that the Red Knights and the Fire Service are still ready to serve.

The Red Knights will not be competing to win the Largest Club in the Americade parade this year. Instead we are beginning a new tradition to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Red Knights and Americade and will be presenting

"The Red Knights Award" to the largest group participating in the parade.

AMERICADE! 2002 is a very special year for both the Red Knights and for Americade. Each organization is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. As always, the festivities are held the first week in June at Lake George and this year the Red Knights play a prominent role in the Americade celebration.

- Have you checked out the Americade Web page (www.tourexpo.com) or your registration form for Americade? The Red Knights are sponsors of the three-course dinner being held at Roaring Brook Ranch on Wednesday evening. Those people registering for the "full package" at Americade get to choose one of four meals/events for the week. The Red Knights were asked to host one of these events. This is the first time that an "organization" has been asked to be a host.
- New York Chapter 12 are again our hosts at the Lake George Fire Station for the Red Knights open house and meeting on Thursday evening, June 6. We hope to see everyone there! It is a great opportunity to see Red Knight friends and meet new ones.
- The Red Knights are participating in the Saturday Americade parade again this year. This year we are hoping to compete for the *best dressed* club. Bring your white shirts (ties) and red vests and join us in the parade.
- We are not competing for the largest club in the parade this year. We have taken that award for four years in a row and since it is our 20th anniversary we have worked with the Americade folks to institute the Red Knights Award for the largest club in the parade. The RKMC will present this award to the club who has the largest participation. This is something that we will do each year.

Americade 2001 was one of the best weeks ever at Lake George. The weather was just unbelievably **FANTASTIC**, the twisting and turning roads through the Adirondack Mountains make for some of the best riding in the States, hundreds of vendors make browsing the tents super, and the people are just the greatest!

There was an article in the November issue of *Motorcycle Tour and Cruiser* that really said it well when it came to talking about Americade. "What could be more All-American than 50,000 enthusiastic motorcyclists and motorcycle enthusiasts gathered at the beginning of summer, on the shores of a great lake, amidst the Adirondack Mountains? For we who attend this grand touring event every year, the name "Americade" evokes a Pavlovian sense of anticipation and afterwards, a case of year-long nostalgia for this week long immersion in motorcycling."

*We'll see you all in Lake George,
June 3-8, 2002 — Come join us!*

New York Chapter 12 is looking forward to seeing everyone at Americade 2002. As you know, this will be a combined 20th anniversary for Americade and the Red Knights. NY 12 has always been about the Brother/Sisterhood of the largest fraternity in the world. Being a Red Knight in New York 12 is a source of pride. Right from it's beginning in 1998 our attitude has been, what can we do to help our Brother/Sisterhood and our community.

When we were asked to take over the feeding of the masses at the Americade convention in Lake George every year, we jumped at the chance to help, and in the process make a positive impression within the club. This will be our third year feeding the gang. From set up to clean up, we pretty much have it down to a science by now. Most of the salads are now made from scratch, the meats and cheeses are fresh and sliced the night before. This year we will be selling a 20th anniversary Americade/RKMC commemorative Tee Shirt and Pin, designed by our Charter member Steve Smith. Look for details on our web site: www.amadist3.com/rkmc12

See you all in Lake George, until then enjoy the ride and stay safe.

John Rucinski, President – New York 12



Red Knights Merchandise

The Red Knights International has some club paraphernalia that is for sale to members of the organization — and many chapters produce RKMC “stuff” to sell to members as a form of fundraising for their chapters.

Information on all these products is available through the RKMC Web Page and the International Quartermaster’s Catalog. On the Web Page, visit www.redknightsmc.org and click on the “Merchandise” button to access the on-line catalog. Chapter presidents should have a copy of the Quartermaster’s Catalog to share with their members.

Some of the Red Knights Merchandise that is available includes:

- Red Knights Shoulder Patches & Rockers
- RKMC Vest Patches
- RK International Flag
- Motorcycle Antenna Flags
- RK Collar Brass
- Club Window Decals
- T-shirts
- RKMC Emblem Embroidery
- Firefighter Angel Pins
- RK License Plates
- RKMC Badges

If your chapter has any merchandise that they would like to market through the Red Knights, or you would like to purchase RKMC wares, contact Quartermaster Joe Conroy for more information.

If your chapter president does not have a copy of the Red Knights Catalog, he or she should contact an International Officer to get a copy or visit our web page to download a copy. MAL’s contact V.P. Jack Downs for a copy.

There will be a mailing going out to the Chapter Presidents next month. Included in that package will be an updated version of the Red Knights Merchandise Catalogue, an updated version of the Help -A-Knight program, and 50/50 tickets for each Chapter to purchase.

We urge all chapter presidents to copy this information and distributed it to your members.

RK Ohio Chapter 5 were participants in the first annual **Maryland Fallen Firefighters Memorial Motorcycle Ride** held recently to honor all the firefighters and EMTs who have answered their Last Alarm. This ride was held on Sunday, April 28, 2002.

The ride is sponsored by the Maryland State Firemen’s Association and the monies raised are earmarked for the Maryland Fire/Rescue Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation.

Tom Baker of Ohio-5 invites all Red Knights to participate in next year’s Memorial Ride, and also invites everyone to attend the “Red Helmet Ride” held each year in Emmitsburg, Maryland in October. Any questions about the rides, please contact Tom 301-262-9060 Conyank@ix.netcom.com or Kathy Evans mountainviewarchery@juno.com. For more information on the Memorial Foundation visit www.MSFA.org online.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON INTRODUCES FIREFIGHTER SPECIAL EDITION

MILWAUKEE, WI (January 15, 2002) - Cast from the strong and reliable reputation of Harley-Davidson’s Touring line, the new for 2002 Harley-Davidson Firefighter Special Edition salutes the heroes who risk their lives everyday.

Sporting a solid Scarlet Red paint scheme with double gold pinstripes and the renowned characteristic Harley chrome treatment, the Firefighter Special Edition FLHTC Classic Electra Glide, FLHRI Road King and FLHTCUI Ultra Classic Electra Glide are signature red fire trucks on two wheels. Powered by Harley-Davidson’s Twin Cam 88 engine, the Firefighter Special rolls with smooth, supple power. Rubber isolation mounts keep vibrations to the rider at a minimum, while the plush suspension makes the ride into the station comfortable.

Kin to the Peace Officer Special Edition models, the Firefighter Special Editions come with a decal to fit on the bike’s console describing the model as the “H-D Firefighter Special Edition”, while cast wheels finish up an aesthetic treatment that complements the touring model’s classic lines.

The honor of being a firefighter has its rewards, and the only way to order a Firefighter Special Edition is by submitting a copy of an official firefighter identification card when ordering the model through your local dealer.

For more information, visit Harley-Davidson’s web site at www.harley-davidson.com.

Cycle World magazine and Norton America have donated a Norton VR 880 to be raffled off in benefit of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the U.S. You can enter in the Cycle World Magazine motorcycle raffle and could become the proud new owner of a Norton VR 880 Sprint Special!

This exquisite motorcycle was created by Kenny Dreer of Vintage Rebuilds. One-hundred percent of the proceeds from this raffle are being donated to the PBTFUS.

Raffle tickets will be on sale at the Cycle World booth at each of the Cycle World National Show sites. If you are unable to attend one of the Cycle World Shows, but would like to purchase raffle tickets, you may do so by sending your funds of \$5 per ticket, or \$20 for 5 tickets to:

PBTFUS, Attention: Norton Motorcycle Raffle
302 Ridgefield Court, Asheville, NC 28806

How to contact the International Officers:

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Some words of wisdom by Andy Rooney

I've learned....

- That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.
- That being kind is more important than being right.
- That you should never say no to a gift from a child.
- That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
- That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
- That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.
- That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
- That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?
- That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

- That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.
- That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- That there's nothing sweeter than sleeping with your babies and feeling their breath on your cheeks.
- That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.
- That life is tough, but I'm tougher.
- That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
- That I wish I could have told my Dad that I love him one more time before he passed away.
- That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
- That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
- That it is best to give advice in only two circumstances; when it is requested and when it is a life threatening situation.
- ...and I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

Red Vests, Black Vests, Blue Denim Too I'm Sick of this Issue, How About You?

I was given the task of doing a survey to find out who was wearing what for a vest and why. It did not take long to realize that although the RED vest does symbolize the tradition of the Red Knights it is time for a change.

From our brothers and sisters in Alabama "The Desperadoes M/C has stated emphatically we are not to wear RED." From our members in California "The Crypts and the Bloods will wage war on anyone wearing their colors" (RED). And finally from our Brothers in Blue "Good luck getting all your members to wear the same color vest. The Blue Knights gave up on that issue and just ask that their members all wear the same Crest on the back."

A vest is worn by a motorcyclist to advertise, promote, or just show pride in the organization to which he or she belongs. What does it matter the color as long as it promotes the organization in good taste?

On Friday & Saturday August 23 & 24, 2002 at the International convention in RI, this will come before the body for discussion and a vote. Hopefully a final vote.

The By-Law committee will put before the body a change to address this issue. There are **TWO (2)** suggestions to be discussed. Each chapter in attendance has **(1)** vote at the annual meeting. If your chapter feels strongly about this issue, it is in your chapter's best interest to have someone at the meeting expressing your vote. (See the By-Law Proposals in another section of this mailing)

Fraternally,
Michael (CUE) LeBlanc,
Int. Secretary, Pres. RI 1

Who's Packing Your Parachute?

Charles Plumb was a U.S. Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a Navy fighter pilot and he was just another sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory; he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.

As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachute. I am sending you this as my way of thanking you for your part in packing my parachute !!! And I hope you will send it

We are currently working on the 8th edition of the Red Knights Help-a-Knight program. It should be in the mail to all the chapter presidents during the month of June.

There are only a few weeks left to change any information or to add or delete yourself before the new version is ready!

A call to all Chapters:

Please cross reference the Help-a-Knight program against your chapter rosters. Send any corrections to the RK Editor so our program is as up-to-date as it can be. *Thanks!*

**Chairman, Board of Directors
International Quartermaster**

In the months since the 2001 convention, I must admit, I have been busier than I thought possible. Due to the unfortunate passing of our long time friend Perry Carter in September, I was appointed to the position of Chairman to the Board of Directors, which includes the responsibility of International Quartermaster. This was shortly after being elected as Vice Chairman to the Board.

It took a little time to get things running smoothly and my thanks goes out to Pat and Clayton for helping me to get things organized and to all the members for their patience while waiting longer than usual for flags and patches. I can tell you first hand the club is growing in leaps and bounds. Orders for both vest and shoulder patches seem to show up in my mailbox at least once a week, and I receive emails on a regular basis from the chapters, both old and new, with questions about placing orders.

The International Catalog is being converted into a full color computerized version and soon will be available to all members via the international web page. I have made my best effort to contact all chapter presidents and/or quartermasters. Any chapter that has items they would like listed in the International Catalog please contact me. At this time, approximately eight chapters have items listed in the new catalog. The catalog is being created from scratch. Chapters that have items in the old catalog will still need to contact me to have their items included in the new edition. Descriptions of the product along with a digital image (JPEG or GIF digital file, not a printed copy. PLEASE ATTACH THE PICTURE FILE DIRECTLY TO THE E-MAIL DESCRIPTION- DO NOT SEND IT INBEDDED IN ANY TYPE OF DOCUMENT) as well as prices, shipping fees and addresses need to be included. After the information is forwarded to me, a chapter page will be created and sent back to your chapter for approval before it is included in the catalog. The new catalog can have items added, deleted or edited at any time by contacting me with the changes.

The new shoulder patches have been well received. Many thanks to Mass Chapter 2 for spearheading the new design. In order to make the patches affordable to our members; patches need to be ordered in bulk. The upper rockers and Maltese crosses are in stock and available now. Any chapter that is interested in custom bottom rockers must have their order in to me no later than Americade (or in my mailbox by June 8, 2002) so that they will be ready for the annual convention.

On other fronts, I would like to address the Friday night Board of Directors meeting that occurs at convention. I have made it a point to speak with many of the older members and I keep hearing one recurring theme. "The Friday night meetings are not what they used to be" and "the Saturday morning meeting is nothing but a repeat of Friday night because no one shows up on Friday (...and Saturday takes way too long!)". In the past many members have not attended the Friday meeting because only the State Reps have a vote; this may be true, but all members are able to voice an opinion. It is hoped that we can discuss all the topics and come to an understanding on each issue so that on Saturday morning we can go in, vote on each issue and get out in a timely fashion without having to repeat Friday night all over again!

This year, as many of you are aware, the "vest" issue will be put to rest. No doubt many will have questions and opinions on this and other subjects. I urge all chapters to discuss these issues before coming to Rhode Island this summer. Chapters that will not be able to attend convention contact your state representative to let your chapter's opinion known. To the chapters that will be attending, if you have something to say on this or other issues you are urged to attend the Friday night Board of Directors meeting. Friday night is the time and place for debates to take place, not Saturday.

Hope you all have a safe riding season. See you in "Little Rhody" this August.

Joseph P. Conroy
Red Knights Int.: Chairman, Board of Directors
Red Knights RI Ch. 1: Road Captain

RKMC Help-A-Knight Registration Form

Please Print Information and Check All Statements That Apply

Name _____ Chapter _____
Street _____
City _____ St./Prov. _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ - _____ - _____

☐ This is New information

☐ This is a Change to my information

To Help-A-Knight I will: (circle appropriate numbers)

1. Take calls for information about my area. No Collect Calls.
2. Allow a Red Knight to stay overnight in my home
3. Allow a Red Knight to put up a tent on my property
4. Allow a Red Knight to leave a bike on my property
5. Bring my SAE tools to a Help-A-Knight who has broken down
6. Pick up a Red Knight's bike with my pick-up truck or trailer
7. Bring my Metric tools to Help-A-Knight who has broken down
8. Someone in my home speaks French

MAIL TO:
Bob LaFord
276 West Road
Petersham, MA 01366
CALL: 978-724-3270
FAX: 978-724-0201
E-MAIL:
rflaford@tiac.net

**1982-2002
Red Knights 20th
Anniversary T-Shirts**
\$20.00 each



\$22.00 XXL & larger

Send checks or money orders
payable to:

Michael A. LeBlanc
15 Cove Road — Coventry,
RI USA 02816-4324

For full color version go to
Red Knights RI 1 web page:
www.geocities.com/rkmcri1

Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Washington, D.C.

Four Days of Events in Nation's Capital to Remember, Honor those who have fallen.
(from www.firehouse.com March 1, 2002)

Over 400 firefighters, who died in the line of duty in 2001 in the United States, will be honored in Washington, D.C. October 4-7 drawing thousands to the 21st observance of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend.

Venues in the nation's capital will include the MCI Center, a 20,000-seat sports and concert arena. Plans for other areas of activities are still being formulated.

The service brings together the victim's families, fire and emergency services leaders and federal, state, and local government officials for a weekend of honoring and remembering these Bravest.

Usually the event is held at the U.S. Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD where the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is headquartered. But this year's service will be necessarily different in scope.

"The unprecedented number of firefighters being honored this year will necessitate our moving the memorial service from the site of the National Fallen Firefighters Monument in Emmitsburg," stated Foundation Chairman Hal Bruno. "The loss of every firefighter is a national tragedy, and this year's service will honor those who died at the World Trade Center along with those who made the ultimate sacrifice across the country."

The events for the weekend include a Saturday motorcycle procession and Saturday night candlelight ceremony. One day will be set aside just for families and coworkers of fallen firefighters. Through a variety of activities they share experiences, and begin lasting friendships. Members of the Survivor Support Network are available to give information and support to families attending for the first time. Experienced grief specialists lead small group sessions that allow survivors to meet with others in similar situations.

Sunday will feature a procession of fire fighting apparatus, an honor guard march, remembrances of the lost heroes, and special tributes during the public memorial service. Twenty thousand are expected to join in America's day of tribute to the fallen fire heroes at the MCI Center.

Although the service is over seven months away, Siarnicki said President George W. Bush has been invited and officials are 'hopeful' he will attend as he did last year in Emmitsburg.

January 15, 2002

This report is the fourth of four quarterly reports that I will be presenting to the board this year.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
1/1/01-3/31/01	4/1/01-6/30/01	7/1/01-9/30/01	10/1/01-12/31/01
Opening Balance	Opening Balance	Opening Balance	Opening Balance
\$ 5,308.39	\$ 8,591.39	\$ 9,754.36	\$12,063.79
Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits
\$ 4,954.11	\$ 3,547.75	\$ 5,365.24	\$ 1,872.68
Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures
\$ 1,671.11	\$ 2,384.78	\$ 3,055.81	\$ 3,658.95
Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance
\$ 8,591.39	\$ 9,754.36	\$12,063.79	\$ 10,277.52

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
1/1/01-3/31/01	4/1/01-6/30/01	7/1/01-9/30/01	10/1/01-12/31/01
Opening Balance	Opening Balance	Opening Balance	Opening Balance
\$ 1,542.33	\$ 1,542.33	\$ 1,222.48	\$ 0.00 Account Closed
Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits
\$ 0.00	\$ 1,003.98	\$ 306.05	\$ 0.00
Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures
\$ 0.00	\$ 1,323.83	\$ 1,528.53	\$ 0.00
Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance
\$ 1,542.33	\$ 1,222.48	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

The Publicity account was closed down on August 24, 2001 and the funds were transferred into the General account.

Quebec III, in Laval, to host the
20th Convention in 2003!

Hello fellow Red Knights,

Just a few lines to let you know that we are working hard on the convention here in Quebec for 2003. Everything is moving forward; lodging, events, etc. We will let you know the progression, as time goes (near) by.

Look for our web site, to be up soon.

We would like you to drop us a line to see if there is something particular attracting you here in Quebec. We are asking, just in case there is something you would like to do or see in Quebec, that we could possibly arrange for you.

We hope that many of you will be attending next summer. We will also see you in Rhode Island this summer as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Red Knights! Until then, watch carefully when you are on the road.

The Red Knights Quebec 3 family...

Andre Giguere, Sec.-Tres.
RKQuebec III -
Rkquebec3@yahoo.ca

Report from the International Secretary
Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

This has been the busiest year for the organization ever. With the events following 9-11 and some aggressive advertising, the Red Knights have been growing in leaps and bounds.

We now have a very active chapter overseas. Welcome New Zealand 1. We now have chapters coast to coast, welcome California 1. And welcome to at least twelve other chapters around the United States and Canada. That is so far.

I have been working with the International President and the executive board to make the secretary's position the communications link to everyone. That does not mean you can't contact any other member of the board> It just means that any membership questions will be filtered down to me. It has given us a handle on recruitment and rebuilding chapters.

I have been busy with the vest issue. This issue as many of you know has plagued the very heart of our existence for some time. You will find it mentioned many times in this newsletter.

I have spoken to most chapters and sent out a survey letter on the vest issue to all chapter presidents. Those that did not respond got a phone call.

There are pros and cons to the vest issue. Yes, Red is the traditional color of the Red Knights vest. As Blue WAS the traditional color of the Blue Knights vest.

The word color is the key to this whole issue. In the beginning the Red Knights were small and not overly widespread. Well our membership is expanding to areas where gangs are more prevalent. Do we as a group promoting safety really want to rile these people?

I have heard members say, "No one is going to tell me what color vest I can wear. If I want to wear a Red vest I will." But that same member will tell you that you have to wear red. Is he or she going to be there when the Desperados and the Crypts or Bloods are tearing the Red vest off our brothers and sisters.

As the Chairman of the By-law Committee, President of my chapter, and Secretary to the International Executive Board, I would like to see the color restriction dropped all together and just hold true to our crest. This by the way is the solution the Blue Knights used.

Please read the bylaw proposals and come to RI and vote.

Ride safe

Michael (CUE) LeBlanc

Executive Secretary Red Knights International

President Red Knights Rhode Island 1

Reminder...

Anyone who intends to run for International Office at the convention in August should announce their intentions at the Red Knights meeting held at Americade in Lake George.

Anyone planning to run for office that will not be at Americade should forward relevant information to a member of the International Executive Board or the Board of Directors before Americade.

At this year's convention, the offices of International Vice-president, International Executive Secretary, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Secretary to the Board will be up for election.



WASHINGTON, DC - At a recent White House ceremony, President George W. Bush and Postmaster General John E. Potter unveiled a new "semipostal" stamp that will raise funds to provide assistance to families of emergency relief personnel killed or permanently disabled in connection with the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The stamp is expected to be available in post offices nationwide starting in late spring.

"The Postal Service is proud to honor the men and women who gave their all in the rescue efforts following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11," said Potter. "Sadly, many of these true American heroes paid the ultimate sacrifice. We hope this stamp will be a lasting tribute to them and a testimony to the spirit and resolve of our great country."

One of my contributors from Ontario sent me a list of 60 items that started off "**You might be a true biker if you believe that....**" I won't reprint the entire list but there are a few that are very true — and I enjoyed the humor as well.

- Saddlebags can never hold everything you want, but they can hold everything you need.
- It takes more love to share the saddle than it does to share the bed.
- It is not cowardly to slow down.
- Only bikers fully understand why dogs love to stick their heads out car windows.
- Sometimes it takes a whole tank full of gas before you can think straight.
- Riding faster than everyone else only guarantees you'll ride alone.
- Young riders pick a destination and go. . . Old riders pick a direction and go.
- Winter is Natures way of telling you to polish.
- When you're riding lead--don't spit.
- A friend is someone who'll get out of bed at 2 am to drive his pickup to the middle of nowhere to get you when you're broken down.
- You should never be ashamed to unlearn an old bad habit.
- Gray-haired bikers don't get that way from pure luck.
- You can forget what you do for a living when your knees are in the breeze.
- No matter what you ride, it's all the same wind.

Share the Road

A Tip from the Massachusetts Governors Highway Safety Bureau

How Can I Increase the Driver's Awareness of My Presence?

- Make yourself visible: Choose protective gear that will increase your visibility in addition to providing protection in the event of a crash. A motorcycle helmet is your most valuable piece of protective gear and should be most visible to the driver.
- Ride where you can be seen: Remember that there is no one safe place to ride. Use lane positioning to your advantage to be seen and to provide extra space for emergency braking situations or avoidance maneuvers. Avoid the driver's blind spots. Make your lane moves gradually, and always use appropriate signaling.
- Never share a lane with a car: A driver may not expect you to be there and may not be aware of your presence. Remember most drivers are looking for other, bigger vehicles.
- Clearly signal your intentions to the driver: Signal before changing lanes and never weave between lanes.

Blanket Insurance Policy

The International has again purchased a blanket insurance policy to help chapters in defraying insurance expenses for their individual chapter sponsored events.

Anytime your chapter sponsors an event you should purchase insurance. Insurance not only to protect your chapter and members, but also to protect The Red Knights International from a lawsuit brought on by an accident or incident at or traveling to your function and not covered by the individual's insurance policy.

Any chapter having purchased insurance to cover them in the past knows the cost and time involved in obtaining coverage. As your secretary I will assume the duties of getting your event covered with \$1,000,000.00 individual participant legal liability coverage.

The International has again purchased a bank type insurance policy. Let me put this in terms we as firefighters can understand. The International has purchased \$1,143.00 worth of insurance. Think of this as a bank account. As each event is insured the amount of the coverage is deducted from this amount.

For example if the convention coverage costs \$400.00 it would leave us with \$743.00 of purchasable coverage. Each event would be covered for the entirety of the event for one fee. For example if you held a three-day weekend or a one-night dance they would both be the same fee. The number of participants expected for the event steps up the fee.

Below is the current fee schedule for the events and the basic attendance ranges.

Any and all questions should be forwarded to the International Secretary. I will handle all monies and forms. Each individual policy shall be written to cover the host chapter as well as the International.

Here is the fee schedule for events.

1-250 participants	\$100.00
251-500 participants	\$130.00

(These fees include all postage and handling.)

If you have an event with more than 500 contact me for the information. Thank you and ride safe.

Michael (CUE) LeBlanc
Secretary Red Knights International
rkri1cue@aol.com — (401) 823-0193



Have you seen the Red Knights' new shoulder patch and rockers?

The International Quartermaster now has new, 100% embroidered

uniform patches and member rockers. Chapter rockers are a special order item that require a certain minimum.

The patches look great and are high quality. Contact Quartermaster, Joe Conroy, if you would like to place an order.

Grand Tour

The Board of Directors at the convention in Winnipeg has decided to continue the Grand Tour program for another year even though little interest was shown during the 2001 riding season (35 applications were sent out and to date 6 have been returned). It was decided that if there was enough interest we would purchase new, undated pins (the pins we now have are dated 1992), with bars to display the year under the pin. This would then allow a member to ride the Grand Tour as often as he/she wanted and the Club would not have to buy new pins every year. Any member who has earned a (dated) pin may then exchange it for a new one.

What is Grand Tour

A lot of our members still do not know what Grand Tour is so I will try to explain it. When the club was young, the easiest way to tell others about it was by word of mouth. This meant that the members had to get out to visit other firefighters in their areas, and one of the best ways to do that was to visit Fire Stations. Someone came up with the idea of rewarding members who made a certain number of visits 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 had 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 it 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. So if you would like to see this program continue please get out there and support it.

Respectfully,
Henry Heideman, Grand Tour Chairperson



Sdvvlgj Sdq lf

It's an outstanding day and you have been enjoying an old highway at a comfortable pace on your bike. You find yourself behind a delivery truck that keeps speeding up and then brakes and slows. You would like to pass but the truck blocks your view.

Finally, you hang over the centerline just enough to see straight ahead for a clear pass. You downshift, signal and head past the truck. Just as you are even with the back of the truck, you realize that it is turning left into a driveway. You brake to the limits of traction, and manage to stop the bike before colliding with the left-turning truck.

You should always be thinking ahead about "what if" when you are on your bike. The erratic driving by the delivery truck should have been a clue that the driver may be looking for an address and not necessarily paying attention to the traffic around him, including you. Having good quick-stop skills are important to help a rider avoid a collision, but improving your predicting skills could help avoid the hazard all together.

July 17, 2002

11th Annual Ride to Work Day

Ride your motorcycle on Wednesday, July 17 with several million other riders from across the world.

Together we can demonstrate:

- The number of motorcyclists there are to public politicians the general and to the
- That motorcyclists are from all occupations and all walks of life.
- That motorcyclists can reduce traffic congestion in larger cities.
- That motorcycles are for transportation as well as recreation.
- That motorcycling is a social good.