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Ed Brouillet
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Mike LeBlanc
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Board of Directors

Bob Laford
Newsletter Editor



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

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I hope this letter finds all of our members doing well. It has been a long and hard winter for most of us in the northeast. We started with snow in late October and here it is six months later and still snowing! Just part of the joys of living in this part of the country. It will be two years this August since I took the helm of this great club and the time has flown by serving as your President. I would like to thank you, the members, for giving me the chance to serve. Most of all I would like to thank my officers. ***They are the best and the most hard working bunch of guys that I have had the pleasure of working with as a board member.*** To Jack, Leo, Mike, Joe, Dave, Clayton – Thank You – for all the hard work you have done and continue to do for this club.

I look forward to working with you in the future. Every one of the officers has worked very hard to see that the needs and requests of every member and chapter are met. The Red Knights are growing at an incredible rate. There are requests for information coming in every day, including informational requests from the northwest areas of the U.S. Our brothers in Alberta have been working very hard to get more chapters in the western regions of Canada also. I think that we have a chance of getting close to the 200-chapter mark by the end of this year!

With our 25th anniversary coming up in a few years we may reach well over the 250 mark. It takes the membership to keep us going and to get the word out to new members. In the next few years we will have a lot going on. It is my hope to see that we build and dedicate a memorial in Boylston, Massachusetts on or before our 25th anniversary for all of our past and present members.

Being a member of the Red Knights occasionally presents you with special opportunities. Just ask two of our members from Connecticut-2, John Riel and Diane O'Hagen. They had the pleasure of going down under to New Zealand on business. They made it a pleasure trip also and rented a couple of bikes. They made contact with our New Zealand RK Chapter President Russell Rawiri. He and his wife met them and showed them around New Zealand. It's things like this that makes the Red Knights a great brotherhood to be a part of - to be able to open your doors and help out a fellow brother or sister and show them a good time. I would like to express a very special *Thank You* to the members of our New Zealand chapter, and to their chapter president, Russell Rawiri and his wife, for all the hospitality and help you gave to John and Diane. Our doors will always be open when ever you can come up our way.

Peg and I are looking forward to our convention in Quebec this year. Over the past twenty years we have made many good friends that we get to see at our annual convention. We hope to see you all in Laval!

In closing I only have one more thing to say. This year I will be coming up for re-election. I will be running for that position again! I hope you the membership will give me an opportunity to continue serving as your International President for another two years. Thank you so much for allowing me to serve this past term and I will be looking forward to the future.

Ride Safe, and God Speed

Respectfully Yours,
Ed Brouillet, International President

Begin planning today for the
20th Annual RK Convention
AUGUST 7-10, 2003

***"Le Rendez-Vous"
in Laval, Quebec***

[http://redknightsquebec3.tripod.com/
convention.htm](http://redknightsquebec3.tripod.com/convention.htm)

Here are a few web links from the area
Sheraton Laval: www.sheraton-laval.com/
Ville de Laval: www.ville.laval.qc.ca
Tourisme Laval: www.tourismelaval.com/

**More information is inside this
newsletter.**

Andre Giguere, Convention Chairman
Sec.-Tres. RKQuebec III
rkquebec3@yahoo.ca

Never too young, never too old

Never too young, never too old
just old enough to know
Never too young, never too old
to know love and
devotion

Never too young, never too old
to know what a gentle
kiss of a loving grandfather,
father, brother or uncle
will feel like again

Never too young, never too old
to know what it was
like on that tragic
day for so many

Never too young, never too old
just old enough to know
that America to such
a blow

Never too young, never too old
to get down on your knees
to pray for those who are
never coming home

Never too young, never too old
to pray for those that
did come home

Never too young, never too old
to know what it takes
to be a true hero

Ginger Perkins
RK Virginia-5

Our thoughts and prayers are with
those from our fire houses,
communities, and our families who
are serving their country in the
military. May God keep them safe.

The Red Knight Rider
Newsletter of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club
Spring 2003

HOW DID WE SURVIVE?

Looking back, it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have:

- As children we would ride in cars with no car seats, seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.
- Our baby cribs were painted with bright colored, lead based paint that we often ingested when we chewed on the bars.
- We didn't wear Pampers, the diapers were cloth that needed to be washed and were attached with safety pins.
- We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets.
- We wore roller skates with 4 metal wheels that we would strap-on over our Keds and tighten with a skate key that hung around our neck on a shoelace, with no helmet, knee or elbow pads.
- When we came home with a scraped knee it was met with a spray of Bactine, and out we would go again.
- We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.
- We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then rode down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem.
- We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day.
- We played dodgeball and sometimes the ball would really hurt.
- We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, wax lips and drank sugar soda, but we were never overweight - we were always outside playing.
- Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.
- Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. We brought home a few schoolbooks, not backpacks that weigh 25 pounds.
- We were taught manners, proper grammar, and respect for authority, elders and country.
- Our parents took us to church and Sunday school, raised us with a sense of patriotism, and disciplined us regularly - often with a belt!"
- Hardly any of our classmates were on Ritalin or in therapy, and there was no such thing as a "time out" to think about what we had done wrong - bad behavior was clearly defined, the consequences were known and enforced swiftly.
- The majority of us returned home from school to mom (there were no daycare centers or latchkey programs) with an afternoon snack ready and a homemade dinner being prepared - nothing instant, frozen or microwaveable!
- There was a solid triangle made up of home, church and school that was a consistent force in our everyday lives, with any of them individually reinforcing the teachings of the other.
- Our 45rpm records lasted under 3 minutes and did not have parental advisory warnings. There was no MTV or VH-1, the whole family gathered around the one TV in the house.

That generation produced some of the greatest risk-takers and problem solvers in history. We had the freedom, failure, successes and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all whether we liked it or not.

Welcome to all our new M.A.L.'s and new chapters. The Red Knights now have over 200 members-at-large (including members in Europe) and 132 chapters. Our new chapters since the last newsletter are:

New York-13, Maryland-3, Missouri-2, Virginia-5, Pennsylvania-10, Virginia-6, Mississippi-2, and Maryland-4



Thanks to over 16,000 touring riders, cruisers, sport bikers, dual-sporters and off-road riders across the country, the motorcycling community once again demonstrated its support for children battling brain tumors by raising more than \$3.1 million in 2002 for the Ride for Kids® program... **and**

the Red Knights were there!

Consider participating in a Ride for Kids event near your home in 2003. Here is the schedule of rides:

March 16	Bernardino, California	August 17	New England
April 27	Houston, TX	August 24	Arbor, MI
May 4	Washington, Georgia	August 24	Asheville, NC
		September 7	Puget Sound
May 4	Pittsburgh, PA	September 14	Columbia, Maryland
May 18	Torrance, CA	September 21	St. Louis, MO
June 1	Atlanta, GA	September 28	Birmingham, Alabama
June 1	Richmond, Virginia	October 5	Sacramento, California
June 21	Knoxville, TN	October 12	Dallas-Ft. Worth
July 13	Indianapolis, Indiana	October 19	Louisiana
July 20	Chicagoland	October 19	Phoenix, AZ
July 20	Utica, NY	November 2	Dunnellon, FL
July 26	Marysville, Ohio		
July 27	Minnesota		
August 3	Hudson Valley, NY		

For further details visit www.ride4kids.org

Ohio Association

A statewide meeting of the RKMC chapters and MAL's of Ohio was held back in November. As a result of that meeting, a State Association of Red Knights was formed in Ohio. The purpose of the Association will be to guide new Chapters, gain new members, and keep members in the state informed on issues and upcoming events and to develop new Chapters.

The RKMC would like to thank Dick Morse ("Uncle Dick") and his wife for their years of service as the State Representative in Ohio. Dick has served as our State Representative since 1986. Although he decided to step down as State Rep, Dick is still going to be involved in both his Chapter and the new statewide association.

Congratulations to Bill Snodgrass the new State Representative for Ohio and Dan Miller, the State Association Secretary/Treasurer. Other officers of the association include: Dick Morse, Jim Langan, Terry Lucas, and John Duber, all members of the Board of Directors. Best wishes on your new venture with the Ohio State Association of the Red Knights!

Good old beat-up gloves. They are so stiff now from the cold I can hardly straighten my hand out.

I care about these moldy old riding gloves. I smile at them flying through the breeze beside me because they have been there for so many years and are so old and so tired and so rotten there is something kind of humorous about them.

They have become filled with oil and sweat and dirt and spattered bugs and now when I set them down flat on a table, even when they are not cold, they won't stay flat. They've got a memory of their own. They cost only three dollars and have been restitched so many times it is getting impossible to repair them, yet I take a

lot of time and pains to do it anyway because I can't imagine any new pair taking their place. That is impractical, but practicality isn't the whole thing with gloves or with anything else.

From Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.

How to contact your International Officers:

• **President:**

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978-632-8230 – RKMA2@net1plus.com

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Jack Downs
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rkmcch1@mindspring.com

• **Executive Secretary:**

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• **Vice Chairman, Board of Directors:**

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978-724-3270 – rflaford@tiac.net

Have you ever considered being an Americade Volunteer?

Americade is the fun and the success it is because motorcycle enthusiasts like yourselves are willing to volunteer time to make it a great week. However, the Americade Staff is always looking for "new blood" to help keep the Americade machine a vibrant functioning group of people.

Some volunteers are busy all week long, while others have specific events and times that they are willing to lend a hand. Any contribution of time is appreciated. Duties can be tailored to fit in with other activities. Without these people, and new ones each year, Americade would cease to exist.

From check-in to the traffic guides, to ride escorts, and a gazillion other tasks, the Americade volunteers are everywhere.

Let's show them that the Red Knights appreciate the Americade Spirit, and lend a hand. If you have an interest in helping out as a volunteer at Americade, send an email to Staff@tourexp.com or drop a note to **Christi Dutcher at Americade, PO Box 512, Jericho VT 05465**

See you in Lake George

Red Knights were everywhere at the 2002 Americade. From the opening festivities on Canada Street, the Wednesday evening dinner hosted by the RKMC, the Open House at the LGFD, the special ceremony on Friday night, to the parade on Saturday morning – the Red Knights played a prominent role at Americade.

2003 (June 2-7) looks like it will be another great year for Americade and as before the Red Knights will be there to help celebrate, have a good time, and be a prominent and active club in and around Lake George, New York.

Each year, over 50,000 motorcyclists gather in Lake George for Americade in June. Many come to ride the wonderful winding roads and to spruce up their steel steeds. But one of the top reasons to attend Americade is getting together with friends you've met here previous years.

This grand touring rally has often been described as "a large family reunion." Bonded by a shared passion for anything motorcycling-related, "family members" gather in clusters to meet riding brothers and sisters. They bench race, talk of trips taken and to be taken, and compare the virtues of their metal mounts against those of their "relatives." It's the one family reunion where you get to choose your family members.

Americade has certainly evolved over the years. You can see the increasing diversity in the attendees and motorcycles as being a change that aptly reflects shifts in the motorcycle market. You meet a good mix of seasoned and newer riders, and all feel there was plenty going on that suited their experience and interests.

Put Americade on your calendar this year, and forever more you'll have a yearning to return each June!

(This article contains excerpts from the November 2002 issue of Roadbike Magazine).

Join your Red Knight brothers and sisters for some special events at Americade:

- **Three-course Dinner** hosted by the Red Knights on Wednesday evening. This is one of the events you can choose to attend on your registration form. Last year we hosted nearly 500 people for the dinner. PLEASE help us with door prizes. **Each chapter is asked to donate a door prize** (and get it to the President before June).
- **RKMC Open House and Meeting** at the Lake George FD Thursday evening, June 5. Come break bread with several hundred other Red Knights with Thursday's hosts, RK NY-12.

We know that the Red Knights in Quebec are working tirelessly to give us another great convention in August, but beyond 2003, the hosts of the 2004 convention, Alberta 1, are already in full gear working hard on their convention that is still some 15 months away. During the winter they held a raffle to raise funds for the convention by raffling off a snow blower.

Our Alberta brethren say the convention for 2004 is coming together nicely and all of their members are excited to host such a wonderful event. One tentative plan for the visiting Red Knights is a pre-convention bus trip to the Rocky Mountains, and up to the ice fields. We hear that the Canadian Rockies are just magnificent and will include some riding that will be in your mind for the rest of your life.

Wow! Looking forward to another great time!

the Chapters

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

NY12· Toy Run

On Saturday October 13th 84 riders showed up for the Toy Run, and RK New York-12 raised \$1012.00 for the kids!

Added up with the \$4000.00 raised from the coin drop in September, the chapter raised over \$5000.00 for "Give a Child a Christmas" Foundation.

The City of Saratoga Springs were also great hosts with the local Police Department escorting the bikes through the city so the Commissioner of Finance Stephen E Towne and Commissioner of Safety Thomas Curley could meet us at the steps of city hall to accept the donation.

RED KNIGHTS Grand Tour

Help Keep the RKMC Grand Tour alive! Participate by yourself, with a few friends, or with your chapter and help spread the word about the Red Knights to fire departments around your area

What is the Grand Tour

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.

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 more remote 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 GT 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.

Henry Heideman,
Grand Tour Chairperson
hmheideman@sympatico.ca
905-372-6073

If you have pictures from your GRAND TOUR that you would like posted on the web page, get them to our editor and they will be posted at www.redknightsmc.org/GT.HTM

Shivering Sierra!



It is not every day that a Red Knight President makes the paper. Dean Krupa, president of Alberta-3 (with the Calgary FD) appeared in the local papers when he rescued a dog from a river in Calgary.

Good job Dean!

RIDE TO WORK DAY

12th Annual

Wednesday
July 16th
2003



Representatives from all the active chapters in Massachusetts got together in Boylston, Mass (where the Red Knights began) in January to meet with State Rep Steve Mickle.

The group spent the afternoon discussing local and international issues including the annual "New England Dutch-Treat Weekend" on Cape Cod, the New England Fire Chief's show and parade, and the future Red Knights' Memorial that will be built at the Boylston site.

Florida-1 supports the drive to raise funds for the Red Knights Memorial

Florida Chapter 1 is selling RKMC ball hats to raise money for the Red Knights International Memorial. The price of the hat is \$15.00. All of the profit goes to the Memorial Fund. Shipping is free.

Anyone interested in making a purchase please contact Jack Downs at 12040 S.W. 26 Court. Davie, Florida 33330, telephone (954) 474-1644 or E-Mail Jack at rkmch1@mindspring.com



Some members from Virginia 5 are planning to participate in the "Rolling Thunder" on Memorial Day weekend in Washington, DC. They will be leaving from Dublin, Virginia on May the 24th and are planning to stop in or around Roanoke.

If there are other Red Knights that are heading to the Rolling Thunder, touch base with VA-5 Secretary Ginger Perkins at Gingerzkids@aol.com or (540) 674-0791

Vice President's Report
April 6, 2003

Dear members and friends,

As you may know, the first order of business when I was elected as Vice-president was to get familiar with my job. In my case there was computer information that had to be loaded before anything else could happen. I am hoping that the first year of being Vice-president was the toughest. It was frustrating for me because I was not prepared as well as I would have liked to been when it came time to contact all of the MAL's. The data I needed to load into my computer was in a program that was not compatible to my PC. I also underestimated the time it took to process all of the accounts. I struggled through this first year and hope my second year will have more success.

Now into my second year I have a game plan. I promised myself I would not let the MAL's or the International down by repeating the mistakes I had made my first year in office. My intent while in office is to give the MAL's my full attention, keeping them well informed on the affairs of the International and listening to their suggestions and concerns. I am sure this goes along the same line as this administration and members would expect of me. After creating a new dues form and sending it to all MAL's on the roster, I have learned a lot about our MAL's. I now have a better feel for what the MAL's want and what we can do for them. With the help of President Brouillet and Treasurer Patry I was able to clear up most, if not all, of the credit and debit problems we have been plagued with in the past.

The roster has been updated to reflect only the members who are interested in continuing their membership. The clean up included the members who have transferred into chapters, a couple who elected to terminate their membership, and one who I learned has passed away. I received several pieces of undeliverable mail and there is a small number of members who have not responded to the second request for dues. I will continue to reach out to them. They may be traveling or just slow in responding.

If there is anything you can think of to help me better serve the MAL's of the International please let me know. It is my job to offer full service to the Members-at-Large as well as all members. This was my pledge when I took office and that promise will not be broken. See you at Americade, travel safe and may God Bless America.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jack Downs

2003 First Quarter Report
From Treasurer Leo J. Patry

April 2, 2003

This report will be the first of four quarterly reports that I will be presenting this year. The first quarter from January 1, 2003 till March 31, 2003

GENERAL ACCOUNT

January 1, 2003
Opening balance \$ 16,373.33
Deposits \$ 12,475.50
Expenditures \$ 4,604.32
March 31, 2001
Closing Balance \$ 24,244.51

MEMBERSHIP CHAPTERS IN GOOD STANDING

76 Paid up Chapters as of March 31,
2003

M.A.L.'s IN GOOD STANDING

137 Paid up M.A.L.'s as of March 31,
2003

CHAPTERS IN ARREARS

56 CHAPTERS ARE IN ARREARS
FOR THE YEAR OF 2003 AS OF
APRIL 1,

From the International Executive Secretary

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The last few months have been very busy for the Red Knights Motorcycle Club. Since the vest color issue has been put to rest, many of the areas not involved in the Red Knights have come forward to start a chapter or get information on starting a chapter. We have grown from roughly 80 chapters in 2001 to 132 at this time.

There are still a few chapters that are in arrears with their dues. I have tried to contact the members in those chapters to see if we cannot help to keep them active and save the chapter. We are having great success so far.

We as an International Board are working with several states in setting up State Associations and guidelines for such. We want to remind the chapters that the state associations are just another means to get chapters in each state together and help each other stay active and informed. The by-laws for these associations are the same as the International's there is no reason to try to rewrite the book.

We as a board realize that some states may have safety concerns and issues and we will try to assist in any way we can to alleviate these issues within the bylaws as they are written.

We are also reviewing the job descriptions as written in the bylaws for each of the board members to better reflect the jobs and functions we each perform.

There is a proposed bylaw wording change asking that only the office of the International Secretary send out chapter applications. We have tried this for the last year and it has given the board a better handle on new chapter locations.

It also helps me as the International Secretary to know which areas we need to advertise more to get the Red Knights known.

I want to stress, as always my computer and phone are always available 24/7, I will answer or get you an answer to any and all of your questions.

As always STAY SAFE and I hope we meet on the road.

Thank You,
Michael A. LeBlanc
Secretary Red Knights International

**Come join us for a great time at the
Red Knights' 20th Annual
International Convention**

You'll have a chance to meet up with friends from the past and meet new ones as well! The members of Quebec-3 have been working hard to make sure that we all have a great time in their beautiful province.

Some of the scheduled events include:

- Ride to Mechoui for a BBQ
- Bike ride and visit to Mont-Tremblant
- Bus Tour of Montreal
- Motorcycle ride into Montreal
- Show and Shine Competition
- Saturday night Banquet and Show

The hospitality suite will be open for socializing throughout the convention, and the local countryside also offers some wonderful riding if your adventurous for unguided touring.

For more information you can visit the RK Q-3 website at <http://redknightsquebec3.tripod.com/convention.htm>

The International Board of Directors encourage all members, not just those who are members of the board, to attend the Friday evening Board of Directors meeting. (Each State Representative, a representative of the Members-at-large, the Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Secretary to the Board are the official members of the Board of Directors).

The issues discussed in these meetings are important to the club and every member has a right to participate in the discussions involving RKMC policy. The General Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday morning.



Members of Ohio-5 were hosts last fall to brothers from the New York City Fire Riders as they passed through Ohio on their way to

Reminder...

Vote

At this year's convention, the positions of International President, International Treasurer, and the Vice-Chairman to the Board of Directors are up for election/reelection. 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. (Any bylaw change submissions must be also into the board within the designated time frame [90 days prior to the convention] as stipulated in the bylaws).

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.

**RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE CLUB
2003 CONVENTION – LAVAL, QUEBEC**

**Support our brothers and sisters in Quebec-3 and purchase
ad space in the convention booklet!**

For any Chapter that has hosted one of the annual conventions you know that Quebec-3 has been working hard. This work began before last year's convention ended in preparation for the arrival of the Red Knights in Quebec this August.

Along with the work are some costs to the club. The primary way for them to raise funds to pay for the club's convention expenses is through their convention program and ad book.

If you run a business or know of a business that would like to advertise in the booklet OR if your chapter would like to take out an ad to support Q-3 OR for those of you who cannot make the convention and would like to support our hosts with an ad in their books...

Advertising rates (listed as Canadian/U.S. funds) for Souvenir Journal

Covers (3 available) \$ 150/\$110

Full page \$ 100/\$75

Half page \$ 75/\$60

Quarter Page \$ 50/\$40

Business card size \$ 25/\$20

Honorable Mention: \$ 10/\$8

Camera ready art work necessary. We accept no responsibility for poor quality reproduction artwork

Quebec-3 thanks any and all
supporters (businesses, chapters,
and individuals) for help
promoting the Red Knights and
the 2003 Convention.

Advertiser's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

Signature

Make money orders or cheques payable to RKMC Quebec-3, attach ad copy and/or artwork as it is to be published and forward by July 1 st to :

RKQ3
c/o Claudette C.
1 Chemin des Moqueurs
Ste-Anne-des-Lacs
Quebec Canada JOR-1B0

I want to express my thanks to my proofreader Donna Moreau of RK Mass-2 for her help on our newsletters. It didn't take her long to realize that this firefighter is not an English major!

Also, thanks go out to Doug Downs of Florida-1 for his help with fixing some problems that popped up with our web page.

The Red Knights are a strong, active, and vital organization because of the participation of its members. Thanks to all of you.

RED KNIGHTS' 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!

This year we are trying something new to help save the RKMC printing costs and to actually ask you to sell *fewer tickets*.

This newsletter (and every newsletter) has two \$5 tickets printed on the side of this page. Every member is being asked to buy or sell these two tickets (Chapters are being asked to buy six tickets each and those will be in a separate mailing). With over 3,000 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 tickets. *You do not have to be present to win at the convention.*

If you want to sell more tickets (to your friends, family, and co-workers) so they can have a chance to win cash too, just photo copy the tickets and **SELL! SELL! SELL!**

The 50/50 raffle is a fund raising event that subsidizes postage for the newsletter, ads in magazines & bike related newspapers, 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 printed on the side of this page, that's just two tickets per member plus six tickets per chapter. If you have any questions 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 **July 27** (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 July 27 so the Club can track Chapter activity in this effort. Thanks for your help and see you in Quebec!

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

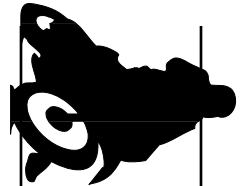
Tickets for chapters to buy will be sent
in the President's mailing soon

The Red Knights needs your support!

Please cut out these two 50/50 tickets (\$5 each) and buy or sell them. 50% of the proceeds from our 3,000 (+) members will go to the winner to be drawn at our August convention.

Return the ticket stubs and checks (made out to RKMC) to Peg Brouillet

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/ST or PR _____
TEL _____
RK Chapter _____



RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL
Firefighters Motorcycle Club, Inc.

Annual Raffle

Drawing at "Convention"

\$5.00 each

CUT

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/ST or PR _____
TEL _____
RK Chapter _____



RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL
Firefighters Motorcycle Club, Inc.

Annual Raffle

Drawing at "Convention"

\$5.00 each

Dear friends,

I have been thinking about doing the Four-Corners Tour since Ed and Steve did it in memory of our lost brothers in Worcester. At last year's convention it was then that I decided that I was going to do something to really get this Memorial Fund started. I thought about it for some time after our convention and have decided to do that run for our Red Knights Memorial.

At this point I have a few members that are thinking about doing the ride with me.

The mileage will be approx. 10,400 miles. I am going to leave Indianapolis and head to San Ysidro, California to start the trip (first corner). Then it is Blaine, Washington – Madawaska, Maine, and then finish in Key West, Florida.

That's a lot of miles to travel in 21 days, but there is a good cause for doing it! I am also hoping that as I travel along the route I will be having Firefighter's from all different cities join in and ride with me for a while.

I hope to be collecting donations along the way to raise money for our Red Knights Memorial. I have set a goal of twenty thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars to be raised. The donations that are collected through this ride will be presented by Indiana Chapter-1 at our next Red Knight's convention (in Quebec during August 2003). Again, this memorial is our memorial; it's for our friends who are no longer with us. Our fellow Red Knights who have served their communities and served the Red Knights.

I am excited about this huge opportunity. I look at it as an honor to ride the Four-Corners of the United States and have Red Knight's from all over the Country (and beyond) join me and be part of this ride – and support this fundraising effort in memory of our members!

I look forward to see you all. Thank you for your support.

Clayton Thomas, Indiana-Chapter-One
317-894-3096 – cfr6@juno.com

Visit the RKMC Web Page for more info on 2003 Memorial Journey:

www.redknightsmc.org/MRIDE.HTM



Yes,

I want to support the efforts of Clayton on behalf of the Red Knights, on his Four-Corners Memorial Tour to raise money for the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Memorial.



Name: _____ Chapter: _____ (If applicable)

Address: _____

Pledge/Donation: _____

☐ Personal ☐ Club
Please check appropriate Box

Please make checks payable to:
Red Knights Memorial M/C Ride – 2003 (Acct # 9163634)

GREATER INDIANAPOLIS
FIREFIGHTERS CREDIT UNION
501 No. New Jersey Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204



10,500 miles for the Red Knights

During May of 2003 Clayton Thomas of Indiana-1 will be running the Four-corners Tour around the United States. He (and a few riding partners) is leaving Indianapolis on May 4 and heading for Blaine, Washington. From there he will go to San Ysidro, California, Key West, Florida, and Madawaska, Maine. All within the twenty-one day time limit.

Clayton is doing this trip as a fund raising endeavor for the Red Knights Memorial that will be built in Boylston in remembrance of members gone.

International President Ed Brouillet did a similar trek with Mass State Rep Steve Mickel in 2000. They both have told us all how special it was for members and firefighters to meet them and ride with them during their Memorial Tour for the Worcester 6.

If you are interested in meeting up with Clayton and supporting him in person during his mission, below is his basic itinerary. As individuals and as chapters, please consider supporting Clayton's endeavor and the Red Knights Memorial Fund.

May 4 Indianapolis to Carthage, MO
May 5 to Hays, KS
May 6 to Denver, CO
May 7 to Salt Lake City
May 8 to Boise, ID
May 9 to Yakima, WA
May 10 to Seattle, WA
May 11 to Blaine, WA (First Corner)
May 12 Rest Day
May 13 to Roseburg, OR
May 14 to Oakland, CA
May 15 to San Ysidro, CA (2nd corner)
May 16 to Tucson, AZ
May 17 to Van Horn, TX
May 18 to San Antonio, TX
May 19 to Lake Charles, LA
May 20 to Mobile, AL
May 21 to Ocala, FL

May 22 to Miami, FL
May 23 to Key West, FL (3rd corner)
May 24 to Jacksonville, FL
May 25 to St. George, SC
May 26 to Rocky Mount, NC
May 27 to Philadelphia, PA
May 28 to New London, CT
May 29 to Boston, MA
May 30 to Houlton, ME
May 31 to Madawaska, ME (Final Corner)
June 1 Rest Day
June 2 to Newport, ME
June 3 to Lake George, NY
June 3-7 Americade in Lake George
June 8 to Erie, PA
June 9 Home again to Indianapolis

A Memorial Ride T-Shirt is being produced to help raise funds for the Memorial (through Clayton's ride). The shirts are available in XL, XXL, and XXXL sizes all for \$20 each. They look great and will help build our memorial. Contact Clayton for more information. (317-894-3096 – cfr6@juno.com)

Red Knights Convention 2003, August 7 to 10 Laval, Québec			
2003 Convention Registration Form		Registration Deadline Date:	
		June 21, 2003	
Chapter:			
Name :		Costs are \$115 Canadian/ \$80 U.S.\$	
Address:			
City, State, Country:			
Area Code-Phone (Country code if nec.):		_____ - _____ - _____	
Thursday Mechoui (BBQ) :		Not Attending [] Attending []	\$25 CN/ \$20 U.S. \$
Choice of Saturday Dinner:		Chicken Breast [] or Prime Rib (beef) []	
Extra Convention pin(s): (1 included):		\$ 5.00 CN/\$4.00 U.S. each X [] =	\$
Convention T-Shirt:			
(the one included)		S [] M [] L [] XL [] XXL [] XXXL []	
Extra Conv.T-shirt: \$ 15 CN/ \$12 U.S.each:		S [] M [] L [] XL [] XXL [] XXXL []	\$
Friday Bus Tour to Montreal		Not Attending [] Attending []	\$35 CN/ \$25 U.S.: \$
Signature:			\$ _____
_____ Sub Total:			
Chapter:			
Name :		Costs are \$115 Canadian/ \$80 U.S.\$	
Address:			
City, State, Country:			
Area Code-Phone (Country code if nec.):		_____ - _____ - _____	
Thursday Mechoui (BBQ) :		Not Attending [] Attending []	\$25 CN/ \$20 U.S. \$
Choice of Saturday Dinner:		Chicken Breast [] or Prime Rib (beef) []	
Extra Convention pin(s): (1 included):		\$ 5.00 CN/\$4.00 U.S. each X [] =	\$
Convention T-Shirt:			
(the one included)		S [] M [] L [] XL [] XXL [] XXXL []	
Extra Conv.T-shirt: \$ 15 CN/ \$12 U.S.each:		S [] M [] L [] XL [] XXL [] XXXL []	\$
Friday Bus Tour to Montreal		Not Attending [] Attending []	\$35 CN/ \$25 U.S.: \$
Signature:			\$ _____
_____ Sub Total:			
GRAND TOTAL (Specify CANADIAN or U.S. Currency) -----> TOTAL:			_____
Email to confirm your Form has been received:		_____	

Send to:			
Red Knights Convention Quebec 3			
1 des Moqueurs			
Ste-Anne-des-Lacs			
Quebec			
Canada, J0R-1B0			
Registration Deadline Date: June 21, 2003			

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL QUARTERMASTER

Inventory as of December 31, 2002

STOCK ON HAND

ITEM	QUANTITY	VALUE
Red & Gold		
Shoulder Patches		\$ 124.00
Top Rockers		\$ 773.00
MAL (bottom)		\$ 219.00
Misc.		\$ 0.00

Red & White		
Shoulder Patches		\$ 43.40
Value of Shoulder Patches:		\$1,159.40

Vest Patches

Red & Gold		
Chenille Cross		\$ 430.50
Top Rockers		\$1,069.50
MAL (bottom)		\$ 87.50
Misc.		\$ 25.00

Red & White		
Chenille Cross		\$ 22.50
Top Rockers		\$ 137.50
Misc.		\$ 12.50
Value of Chenille Patches:		\$1,784.50

International Flag		\$ 660.80
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Total Value of Stock on Hand \$3,604.70

Cash on Hand \$ 2.78

Checking Account \$5,332.16

**Total Summary of Quartermaster accounts at
December 31, 2001** \$5,334.94

**Total value of RKIFMC International
Quartermaster** \$8,939.64

Position of International treasurer

To all the membership of the Red
Knights,

I would like to take this
opportunity to thank you all for your
support and words of encouragement
in my position as International
Treasurer since 1998. I would at this
time like to announce my intentions
to again seek their support for the
position of International treasurer
that comes up for election at the
2003 convention in Laval Quebec.

Fraternally yours Leo Patry

Red Knights Memorial

The Red Knights were born in Boylston,
Mass, and recently through the help of
Don Parker of Mass Chapter-1 the Red
Knights have received permission from
the town to construct a memorial on an
area of land at the Boylston Fire Station.

A committee has been established to
make plans for the funding and the
designing of the memorial. The

Report from the International Treasurer YEAR END REPORT FOR 2002

January 16, 2003 — This report is the fourth of four quarterly reports that I will be presenting to the board this year 2002.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

1st Quarter (Jan 1 2002-Mar 31)	2nd Quarter (Apr 1 2002-June 30)	3rd Quarter (July 1 2002-Sept 30)	4th Quarter (Oct 1 -Dec 31)
Opening Balance	Opening Balance	Opening Balance	Opening Balance
\$ 10,277.52	\$ 16,175.21	\$ 16,481.64	\$ 20,694.98
Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits
\$ 8,114.01	\$ 7,466.76	\$ 9,395.50	\$ 2,317.41
Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures
\$ 2,216.32	\$ 7,160.33	\$ 5,182.16	\$ 6,639.06
Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance
\$ 16,175.21	\$ 16,481.64	\$ 20,694.98	\$ 16,373.33

MEMBERSHIP

CHAPTERS IN GOOD STANDING

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
66 of 94	89 of 109	113 of 121	120 of 128

M.A.L.'s IN GOOD STANDING

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
55	118	118	170

CHAPTERS IN ARREARS

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
28 of 94	20 of 109	9 of 121	8 of 128

Eight chapters in arrears for the year 2002

#1- Colorado 3	#2- Connecticut 6	
#3- Florida 5	#4- Louisiana 3	#5- Maine 4
#6- Mass 10	#7- New Jersey 9	#8- Virginia 2

BREAK DOWN OF EXPENDITURES

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quartet
Telephone	\$ 61.15	\$ 592.78	\$ 27.33	\$ 40.09
Postage	\$ 66.29	\$1,956.04	\$1533.07	\$1,377.62
Photo-Copies	\$.45	\$1,100.50	\$ 827.43	\$1,644.62
Office Supplies	\$ 18.68	\$ 165.66	\$ 87.58	\$ 46.67
Insurance	\$1,143.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Fee's	\$ 1.75	\$ 5.25	\$ 27.75	\$2,466.06
Regalia	\$ 580.00	\$ 839.67	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00
Donations	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.00
Publicity	\$ 345.00	\$1,607.48	\$ 100.00	\$ 935.00
50-50 Draw	\$ 0.00	\$ 892.50	\$2150.00	\$ 0.00
Rebates	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.45	\$ 129.00	\$ 129.00
Per Deim	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total	\$2,216.32	\$7,160.33	\$5,182.16	\$6,639.06

Year to date Expenditures \$ 21,197.87

SUMMARY OF TOTAL WORTH

General Account	\$ 16,373.33
Quartermaster (stock)	\$ 2,943.90
Quartermaster (cash)	\$ 2.78
Quartermaster Checking	\$ 5,332.16
TOTAL WORTH	\$24,652.17

Record of gross receipts for the period 1998 – 2002

1998	
Gross Income	\$ 11,332.53
Balance in bank December 31, 1998	\$ 5,750.57
1999	
Gross Income	\$ 10,373.41
Balance in bank December 31, 1999	\$ 7,226.60
2000	
Gross Income	\$ 13,630.68
Balance in bank December 31, 2000	\$ 6,660.71
2001	
Gross Income	\$ 12,958.04
Balance in bank December 31, 2001	\$ 10,277.50
2002	
Net Income	\$ 27,293.68 (General account)
Net from Quartermaster account	\$2,607.90 (Quartermaster)
Gross Income	\$ 29,901.58
Balance in bank December 31, 2002	\$16,373.33

December 31, 2002

Leo J. Patry
International Treasurer

committee is being headed by Don Parker,
one of our founding members, and other
members from Massachusetts Chapter 1.

Plans are to complete the memorial for
dedication at the 25th Anniversary
Convention for the RKM in 2007. If you
have ideas on a memorial for the Red
Knights, or would like to serve on the
Memorial Planning Committee, please
share your thoughts with one of the
International Officers.

Proposed By-Law Changes

Proposed by the Executive Board and the International Board of Directors

If approved the changes would be in the following:

Article 3 Section 3:17 President Executive Board of Directors — Delete line (6) He/She if requested shall give out applications for both Chapters and Members- at- Large

Article 3 Section 3:18 Chairman International Board of Directors — Delete line (5) He/She if requested shall give out applications for both Chapters and Members - at- Large

Article 3 Section 3:19 Vice President Executive Board of Directors — Delete line (4) He/She if requested shall give out applications for both Chapters and Members - at- Large

Article 3 Section 3:20 Vice –Chairman International Board of Directors — Delete line (3) He/She if requested shall give out applications for both Chapters and Members - at- Large

Article 3 Section 3:21 Treasurer Executive Board of Directors — Delete line (4) He/She if requested shall give out applications for both Chapters and Members- at- Large

Article 3 Section 3:23 Secretary International Board of Directors — Delete line (4) He/She if requested shall give out applications for both Chapters and Members - at- Large

Article 3 Section 3:23A State and Provincial Representatives — Delete line (2) If requested he/she shall give out applications for both Chapters and Members- at- Large

These changes will leave the Executive Secretary as the sole contact for applications

thereby eliminating the start up of piggyback chapters. We have tried this for the last year or so with great success.

Proposed by Bill Snodgrass
President Ohio 5 and Ohio State Representative:

If approved this Bylaw change would reflect changes in 2:01, Section 4:05 and Section 5:01

The proposal is not worded as of yet it needs to come forward for discussion at the Annual Meeting in August.

The basis of the request is that members of multiple chapters pay dues to International for each chapter that they belong to. Most members who belong to dual or even more chapters belong to help keep the chapters solvent therefore they are registered members of the chapter. There have been several suggestions presented by the proposing member.

After long discussion on this matter it is the opinion of the Executive Board that this be brought to the floor for discussion at the Annual meeting. Anyone with opinions or input on this or any of the bylaw proposals please contact the International Secretary.



9-11 Bike

FDNY Firefighter Gerald Batiste purchased this bike. He went against the advice of his firefighter brothers who thought the bike was in too poor of shape to be of any value.

Gerald had a vision. It was his dream to restore the bike and ride with his buddies on the streets of NYC. Gerald never got to fulfill his dream because shortly afterwards, he responded to the WTC on September 11.

His sad, beat up old '79 Honda lay against the firehouse wall where the other men ignored it for months. It made them too sad to think of what it meant.

One day a writer for Backroads Motorcycle Touring magazine saw the bike and asked about it. When he was told the story, he reported back to the editors of Backroads who published a small article about it in their newspaper. It was suggested the bike be restored and sold somehow with any money raised going to the firefighters' memorial fund and the deceased's family.

The bike was sent to Cycle Service and Accessories in Newton, NJ where they worked for seven months on the project. People donated many hours of labor and manufacturers and dealers contributed parts and skills to the project. Everything was given to the project: tires, battery, springs, windshield, chrome plating, paint, graphics, American Honda stock parts and more. It was a wonderful joint effort to fulfill a hero's dream.

The dream became a reality when the bike was returned home to NY City to go on display at the motorcycle show held at the Jacob Javitz Center in January. After the show, the bike was moved back to its home at Ladder Company 9 on Great Jones Street. The men in the company were speechless when they saw the bike. They only knew it as the old beat up looking bike lying against the wall months before. It now stood before them in fire engine red and white colors, complete with their company tattoo, logo, and FDNY shield.

It is the goal of the restorers to put the bike up for auction with all proceeds going to the memorial fund and Gerald's family. It is not confirmed yet but they are thinking of setting the opening date for bidding on eBay as 9/11/03. The promoters of the restoration project, Carol Lee Spages and Steve Lovas of Cycle Service and Accessories hope to have the bike on display in both Bike Week in Daytona and Americade in Lake George.

Please look for this wonderful work of love in your travels.

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 its 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 \$1,200.00 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 \$800.00 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. If you have an event with more than 500 contact me for the information. These fees include all postage and handling.

Thank you and ride safe.

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

Red Knights Motorcycle Club

c/o 276 West Road
Petersham, MA 01366
USA

www.redknightsmc.org



Look inside for information on the Quebec Convention, Americade, Chapter Events, and much, much more!



See Rider

Too many crashes happen because drivers just don't see motorcycles. So always double-check your mirrors and don't be blind to motorcycles. And if you're a rider, stay out of blind spots and never weave through traffic. Drive and ride responsibly so every trip can end on a safe note.

I mount up early Sunday morning. I am off on a small sabbatical. I have no particular goal or destination in mind, no tangible result to be calibrated by contracts, numbers, dates or deliverables. Rather, I head down a grey ribbon of random road and let what will come, come to me.

The wind whisks over the windshield, into my face, up my nostrils and into my brain, blowing away a week's worth of mind clutter. The rising sun lingers over lush, green forest, sparkling corn and black fields lying fallow in the cool air. My machine and I dance through curves, over hillsides and in and out of tree shadows dappled by sunlight. I am not riding the bike as much as wearing it.

In this age of global positioning satellite systems, veteran sailors sometimes use an obsolete sextant to confirm their place in the world and to draw comfort from belonging where they are.

GPS tells them their physical location within a few feet of anywhere in the world. But the sextant triangulates their position in history and among the stars, not geography. It is a reminder of the relative size and age of things and of the need for humility, regardless of the depth of their keel or breadth of their beam.

Riding, then, is a positional fix for the soul. Like a farmer on a Sunday drive tasting his fields or a sailor on the deck with a sextant sniffing the cosmos, I'm riding music and bike in search of spiritual bearings in a warp-speed world.

From Ray Uloth's article "Small Sabbatical" in the
December 2002 issue of Motorcycle Consumer News
www.mcnews.com

The Red Knights encourage all riders to take a Motorcycle Safety Foundation riders' course. No matter how little or how long you have been riding — You will learn something to help improve your riding skills through rider education!

See the Red Knights at the New England Fire/Rescue/EMS Show

sponsored by the New England Fire Chief's Assoc.

The RKMC will be at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) in West Springfield, Mass. on Friday, June 20, 2001 through Sunday, June 22, 2003 during the New England Fire/Rescue/EMS Show.

Again this year, the RKMC has been offered booth space to promote our organization. If you have some free time to help man the booth or you would like to participate with fellow Red Knights leading Sunday's parade, contact Massachusetts State Rep Steve Mickle at 978-772-6224 or email him at rknight54@net1plus.com for more information.

Thousands of firefighters from throughout the Northeast visit this show each year. Our presence at the show over the last few years has helped our organization grow by sharing information about the Red Knights with other firefighters. This is a great opportunity to share information about our organization with other firefighters and the public.

Have you ever been traveling and thought, "Gee I don't know anyone around here. Where is the best place to eat, stay, or get my bike worked on?" That's what the Help-A-Knight program is for – to maintain a database of Red Knights who are willing to accept telephone calls and help fellow Red Knights. Some of the help may be for information, or other options you may help on is if a RK member can stay overnight, pitch a tent in your yard, or leave their bike at your house.

Instead of distributing a hard copy of the newest version of the document again this year, we have updated the information that is available online.

The **Red Knights Help-a-Knight** program available on line at www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf

(You need Adobe Acrobat to read the file).

We will continually update the version that is available on our web page. Below is the registration form to add or update your information in the H-A-K program.

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 a New registration
☒ 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*

Spring 2003

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

Crossing the Border

As we all know, the world has changed since 9-11-01. As you are traveling this summer think ahead before arriving at the boarder crossing from country to country. Have at least one photo I.D. and carry your birth certificate with you.

Important Insurance Information

For those of you (U.S. Members) who are planning to travel to Canada for the convention (or anytime), just a reminder that Insurance Regulations in Canada require that you have a **Canadian Insurance Card** from you U.S. insurance carrier.

You do not need to get additional insurance, but whether you are traveling on two wheels or by four, you need to visit your insurance agent and get a Canadian Insurance Card.

From the International Quartermaster

Hi all, it's been a BUSY winter here in the Quartermaster's Shack. With all the new chapters, patch orders seem to show up every day in the mailbox. I have been working as hard as possible to get them processed and shipped out as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience. I'm working as fast as I can (honest, I really am).

As some of you may have heard the new 4" shoulder patch that was introduced about 2 years ago will soon be available in a 10" version for the back of your club vest. This will be an alternative to the chenille, not in place of chenille. Those of you that wish to stay with the older patches will still be able to purchase them. The pricing is still being worked out but it looks like the embroidered 10" patch and rockers will cost less than the 10" chenille (and it looks sharp). We have a sample set of patches on order and they will be on display at Americade for all to see. If the membership shows an interest then I hope to have the first orders in for convention. Feel free to drop me a line if your chapter is getting ready to place an order so you can get all the information you need to help decide what patches you want and when to order them. For those of you that are wondering, no by-laws change is needed. The by-

laws simply describe the design of the patch and what rockers and arches can be worn on the back of the club vest, not the material from which they are made. Please check the Quartermaster section of the International's web page for more information and pricing (as it becomes available)

On other fronts, we are currently working on a set of guidelines to help chapters in getting their items listed in the catalog. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. If the chapters could please try to place their orders as a group it would help to make my life a little less chaotic, I have had many instances of several members from the same chapter(s) place individual orders at the same time. When ordering items from the International Quartermaster PLEASE check the web page to make sure you have the most current order form. I am still getting order forms that have the old prices and/or are being sent to my old address.

Springtime is here (except at my house, it's April 7th and its snowing. 4-8 inches are expected). Please remember to be care full this spring, I can't speak for the rest of the world but here in New England the roads are covered in sand. And lastly, don't forget to take a moment to remember all those that are in harms way and their loved ones.

Ride safe and let me know if I can be of any help
Joe Conroy, International Quartermaster