

Ed Brouillet
President



www.redknightsmc.com

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Downs
Vice President

Bill Snodgrass
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Leo Patry
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John Rucinski
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Graham Clark
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Bob Laford
Newsletter Editor

The Red Knight Rider
Newsletter of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club
Spring 2006

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I hope this letter finds all members doing well. Spring is now upon us. It has been a long winter, but aren't they all long once you put the bike away. At least in the Northeast the winter was not as cold or snowy as last year.

Last August I was re-elected as President and have decided this will be my last term. I believe it is time for some new blood with new ideas and a different outlook for the club. I would like to say "Thank You" to all the members for giving me the opportunity to serve such a fine organization for the past 16 years. I hope you feel I've done the very best in representing each and every one of you.

To all the past international officers I have served with over the years, I extend my gratitude. The Red Knights could not have developed as we know it without your tireless efforts and support. To the present officers of the board, **THANK YOU! You are the best and hardest working bunch that I have had the pleasure of working with as a board member.**

I will be looking forward to working with you until the end of my term. I know the amount of work and time it takes to do your jobs. Every officer of this board has been working hard to see the needs and requests of every member and chapter are met for the betterment of our organization.

The Red Knights are still growing at a good rate. There are requests for information coming in every day. Information is now headed to every corner of the United States and Canada as well as overseas. Many of our members are working very hard to get more chapters started. A media blitz sponsored by the International will assist in getting information to even more areas. I can only see the club growing more and more in the future.

Our 25th anniversary is approaching in 2007. Who knows how many chapters we will have at that point in our history. It takes the membership to support the chapters and that is what keeps us going. A strong club is only as good as the officers that run it and the members who support those local efforts. The officers and members at the chapter level need to have a hand on what is going on at the international level as well as participation at home. You can only do that by making sure you have a delegate attend international conventions.

In the next few years we will have a lot going on. It is my hope to see us build and dedicate a memorial at our founding location in Boylston, Massachusetts. This will pay respect to all past and present members. Massachusetts – 1 is leading the effort with other members from Massachusetts in hopes it is ready for our 25th anniversary. They can't do it alone however so every chapter is asked to lend help and support.

Peg and I are looking forward to the convention as we do every year. We've made so many good friends and look forward to meeting more of you. God bless and stay safe as we hope to see many of you in New York City.

Sincerely,
Eddie B.

Make your plans
today and join us in
NYC
...for another great
Red Knights
Convention!
August 10-13 , 2006

**Please support the
Memorial Fund!**

Fundraisers and help from all the chapters and members are needed to make the **RKMC Memorial** come true.

As Red Knights we each have two opportunities this spring through the International this year to support your Red Knight Memorial.

The International Board has designated that the proceeds of this year's 50/50 raffle will go towards the RKMC Memorial. The International is also running a motorcycle raffle to help raise funds for our memorial.

Information on both these fundraisers is available in this newsletter.

The chapter that sells the winning bike raffle ticket will receive a \$250 bonus from the International!

Donations and contributions to the Red Knights Memorial can be made to:

**Red Knights International
Memorial Fund**

Shrewsbury Municipal Employees
Federal Credit Union
PO Box 227, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 —
(508)845-6755

*Please help make the memorial a
success with your donation!*

Welcome to all our new MAL.'s and new chapters. The Red Knights now have over 250 members-at-large (including members in Europe) and over 6,600 members in 238 chapters. New chapters since the last newsletter are:

Pennsylvania 21 & 22, South Carolina 3, North Carolina 7, 8 & 9, Illinois 12, New Jersey 20, Alabama-7 & 8, New York-28, Georgia-14, Florida-12, Prince Edward Island-1, and West Virginia-3!

Welcome everyone!

Excerpts from the TREASURERS YEAR END REPORT FOR 2005

2005 was the busiest year ever for the office of the International Treasurer. With our growth to over 225 chapters and 253 Members at Large comes the expanded book keeping and reports that go with that growth.

Quarterly financial reports have been made to the Board of Directors at the end of each quarter. This report contains excerpts from the treasurer's quarterly reports, year-end summary, and report information from the Quartermaster.

All reporting and accounting issues that the treasurer is responsible for have been met, those being: (1) The filing with the I.R.S of the 2004 tax report Filed on April 1, 2005 and (2) The annual report on our articles of Incorporation with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was filed on the 16th day of August 2005

Due to an error in communications the office of the International Treasurer has issued to various chapters the International's Employer Identification Number under the belief that the number was a group exemption number. Upon learning of this mistake the International treasurer has contacted the IRS and is in the process of having the chapters apply for their own EIN. Once a reasonable number of chapters are in compliance with this the International Treasurer will proceed with an application for a group letter of determination. What this letter does is have the I.R.S recognize all listed chapters along with the International as a Non-Profit social organization.

I wish at this time to thank all the chapter Presidents and Treasurers along with all the members of the executive Board for all their help and cooperation in the past year.

GENERAL ACCOUNT -Jan 1 2005 to December 31, 2005

Opening Balance	Deposits	Expenditures	Closing Balance
\$ 38,564.24	\$ 85,457.83	\$ 56,948.93	\$ 67,073.14

FINANCIAL STATEMENT INTERNATIONAL QUARTERMASTER

Quartermaster (stock on hand)	\$ 22,479.95
Quartermaster (cash)	\$ 0.00

CHAPTERS IN GOOD STANDING

<u>1ST Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>
103 of 211	163 of 220	200 of 221	204 of 224

MEMBERS AT LARGE IN GOOD STANDING

<u>1ST Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>
58	172	210	253

CHAPTERS IN ARREARS For 2005

Arizona 1, British Columbia 2, Colorado 1, Delaware 1, Florida 9, Georgia 8, Georgia 9, Indiana 3, Maryland 5, Massachusetts 6, Massachusetts 9, Nebraska 1, New Hampshire 2, New Mexico 1, New York 20, North Carolina 2, Pennsylvania 14, Tennessee 3, Virginia 5, Virginia 8

Quartermaster Checking	\$ 17,854.38
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TOTAL WORTH for RKIMC – \$ 107,407.47 as of December 31, 2005

A detailed quarterly report with specific expenditures is available for review upon request.

The American Motorcycle Association is about us – motorcyclists. One way the AMA represents motorcyclists is in working to enact laws to help us be safe on the highways.

The AMA's **JUSTICE FOR ALL** campaign is aimed to reinforce and stiffen laws that are not equal for us – as motorcyclists. The intent of this drive is to change present laws to make motorists responsible by changing accidents from misdemeanors to felony charges when involving negligence that lead to a rider's injury or death.

The AMA needs our support . For more information on the AMA's **JUSTICE FOR ALL** campaign or how you can become an active member of the AMA, contact Northeast Regional Director John Rucinski at easterndirector@redknightsmc.com.

The Red Knights Memorial is getting closer and closer to being a reality. Members of the Memorial Committee and others have begun with some site preparation at the Boylston (Massachusetts) Fire Station.

Efforts in raising funds for the memorial continue with programs sponsored by the International Board, Chapters throughout our organization, and individuals.

With several ideas and submissions for the layout and design of our memorial in, the Committee is reviewing the options and hope to have the decision made shortly on the final design so quotes and bids can be made for the memorial itself and necessary site work.

Please support the memorial efforts by making a donation or by sponsoring a fund raising activity in your chapter.

**Red Knights International
Memorial Fund**

Shrewsbury Municipal Employees
Federal Credit Union
PO Box 227, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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Hello fellow Red Knights, **Gettysburg Bike Week** is fast approaching (July 6-9th). Pennsylvania Chapter 12 is hosting the Red Knights at Gettysburg – *come join us!*

Visit our web site (www.redknightspa12.org) and follow the link for **Gettysburg Bike Week** for all the up-to-date information. EVERYONE MUST PRE-REGISTER.

We are offering motorcycle guided battlefield tours on Friday for \$5 per person and a ride to the National Firefighter Memorial on Saturday with an outdoor lunch at the National Fire Academy. Saturday night is a buffet dinner at with live entertainment to follow.

We plan to have three of the International's officers in attendance (President, Treasurer, and Secretary).

The deadline for registration is June 4th.

If you have any questions contact president@redknightspa12.org.

It looks like there will be a good turnout with members from a number of states and provinces. Remember YOU MUST BE REGISTERED or you will not be allowed to attend the ride to the NFA Memorial or Saturday's dinner. Hope to see you there!

GETTYSBURG

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 info and pictures on your chapter

Kathy Bedard, the wife of Fred Bedard, Treasurer of New Jersey-14, recently wrote a book about her experiences in Ground Zero after the attacks of 911.

The book, Compassion and Courage in the Aftermath of Traumatic Loss – Stones in My Heart Forever, was published in February. It has received good reviews from fellow emergency responders who spent time at Ground Zero.

The book presents a moving glimpse into the mind and heart of a mental health clinician who volunteered after the World Trade Center attacks. Written at "Ground Zero" during the time of greatest need, this memoir gives a behind-the-scenes view of disaster response, including the mechanics of developing a plan, setting up systems to address the needs of survivors and victims' families, and the responses to those who suddenly found themselves in the midst of one of the most traumatic events in recent history. The author illustrates through this very personal journal the family reactions, the stages of grief, the stages of compassion fatigue, coping with trauma exposure, the effects of the disaster on every aspect of a survivor's life, and ultimately, the touching lessons learned of compassion, strength, hope, and courage.

It provides a stirring look at disaster response and the overwhelming emotions that result, and is vital reading for human services professionals, medical professionals, clinicians, early responders, disaster workers, educators, students, families of victims and survivors, and anyone interested in the day-to-day trials and tribulations of this horrific historic event.

Look for Kathy's book in your local bookstores or on line.

Did you know that the Red Knights now have a Junior Red Knight Membership?

Approved at the Americade Board meeting in 2005, Junior membership is available for all dependent children of active members under the age of sixteen (16) years of age. A small crest may be worn on the front of a vest with a small rocker that says "Junior Membership" over the crest. The crest and rocker is available from the International Quartermaster.

The adult active member shall accept full responsibility for the safety and actions of the Junior Member while on a chapter event.

Please notify the International Executive Board on the event of the passing of any members so proper condolences can be paid on behalf of the Red Knights. Thank you.

I hope she doesn't live on your street!

Headline: WOMAN PASSES DRIVING EXAM ON 40TH TRY. The 40th time's the charm, it seems. A British woman took 33 years, 40 attempts and spent tens of thousands of pounds (\$31,000) to pass her driving test, according to the BBC.

Now finally at the age of 50, Venida Crabtree, of Cowley, Oxford, passed the exam in July and recently bought her first car after starting driving lessons in 1972 at age 17. "It's fantastic. I'm very pleased," Crabtree told the BBC.

Congratulations and best wishes to brother Red Knight and Firefighter Jerry Bowling of Georgia Chapter 11. Jerry was recently awarded the Bronze Star for actions while he was in Iraq with his National Guard Unit. We are very proud of you Jerry, and of all our servicemen and service women!

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL TO STAFF SERGEANT JERRY BOWLING

For valorous service during Operation Iraqi Freedom III, on 8 Jun 05 with C Co 1-121 IN. Your intense dedication to duty, strong technical and tactical knowledge and personal integrity directly lead to the preservation of the lives of two of your fellow soldiers trapped in a submerged vehicle in a combat zone. Despite your own injuries, you ensured that your Platoon Leader and his gunner were extracted and that medical aid was provided to those soldiers under your command. Your actions reflect great credit upon yourself, your unit, and the Georgia Army National Guard.

ATTENTION GOLFERS! - THE 2006 EMERGENCY RESPONDERS BURN FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT at MYRTLE BEACH SC

Will be held October 15 – 19 at the Sea Mist Ocean Front Resort. Monday's practice round will be held at **Wicked Stick** (John Daly's Signature Course). Tuesday begins the tournament at the **Tradition Club** (one of Myrtle Beach's top rated golf clubs). Wednesday's round will be held at **Indigo Creek** (another top rated course). Thursday's round will be held back at **Wicked Stick**.

For reservations and information options call 1-800-222-5413.

Congratulations to New York 12's Vice President William Wicks and to NY Chapter 12 for receiving recognition from the AMA in New York recently. William took the "Volunteer of the Year" honors and the chapter was recognized as "Chapter Of the Year" for making **Give A Child Christmas** an enormous success last year.

Correct (and legible) mailing addresses are very important when you submit chapter rosters to the International Treasurer each year. Some rosters are hand written and difficult to read. Others have missing information. Each addition of the newsletter has dozens of undeliverable addresses.

To ensure that all our members receive their newsletter, please make sure that your mailing information is correct with your chapter — and chapter officers, please double check the addresses with your members before submitting the rosters to the International. Thanks.

Meet us in Lake George for Americade!

Gather 40,000 riders in one area for a week-long rally, riding and eating and attending events, and it's tough to summarize the experience.

Americade, the annual touring event held each June around Lake George in upstate New York, has grown to become a major experience for riders. The town sits on the shores of Lake George, a generally placid blue expanse framed by mountains. It's already a vacation spot – even for those poor souls who don't ride motorcycles. From town, we riders enjoy those tree-lined roads that spill into the Adirondacks and Vermont.

Bill Stermer, Rider Magazine

Mr. Sterner concluded his article as well as he began it, enticing us back to Americade with, "What a week! It was a whirl of riding, eating, buying, riding, going, door prizes, polishing, parading, riding, eating. Did I mention riding and eating?" Yes, you did Bill, but we must agree it is a great time! Come join us and several hundred other Red Knights and thousands of

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 300 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).
- **Wednesday afternoon seminar on "Planning for a long distance trip"** presented by International President Ed Brouillet and Editor Bob Laford, at Roaring Brook Ranch.
- **RKMC Open House and Meeting** at the Lake George FD Thursday evening, June 8. Come break bread with several hundred other Red Knights with Thursday's hosts, NY-12. (4:00 p.m.)
- **Saturday's parade usually boasts nearly 100 Red Knights.** Join us this year in a fun motorcycle-only parade that winds through Lake George Village to the top of Prospect Mountain.

Don't forget to show your Fire Service Pride and bring your **FIRE HELMET** to wear in the Saturday

There will be a ride to the memorial with a motorcycle escort for The Wall. The ride is on Wednesday June 7th, 2006. Interested Red Knights are to meet at Crossgates Mall (On the Northway – Route I-87 – south of Exit 2) between 10:00 & noon. The ride will be lead by the NY State Police and is expected to draw over 300 bikes. The entire ride will take about 1-2 hours.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Northeast Regional Director John Rucinski at easterndirector@redknightsmc.com.

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's (PBTF) National Ride for Kids program continued its record-setting pace in 2005 as the year's doubleheader weekend in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and Las Vegas on Sunday in October pushed the total funds raised to date to over \$3 million. Red Knights from around the country participated in their area Ride for Kids events and raise this money for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

The Ride for Kids is more than a great way to spend a weekend morning with hundreds of big-hearted motorcyclists. It's one fund-raiser that truly has benefited many people through the research and successes made available because of the millions of dollars raised through efforts of fellow bikers.

Each year, an increasing number of childhood brain tumor survivors participate in Ride for Kids events. Thanks to the generosity of the motorcycling community and the ever-present sponsorship of the Honda Riders Club of America, continued research funded by the PBTF is improving the chances that these children will enjoy happy, healthy, and productive lives. Visit www.ride4kids.org/ to learn more about the Ride for Kids or find an event near you for 2006.

Join one of the rides in your area this year!

Make Plans for the Killington Classic!

The weekend after Labor Day will never be the same! Just ask anyone who went to last year's Killington Classic in Vermont. It was a great time and the Red Knights were right in the front row.

Join us in 2006 for another great time. September 7-10 is this year's *Classic* in Killington, VT.

www.killingtonclassic.com

Elections at the International Convention

Any members seeking election at the August Convention for any of positions on the International Board should contact the Nominating Committee Chairman Steve Mickle. 978-772-6224

Positions to be voted on are: Vice-president, Secretary, Quartermaster, Southern Director, and Western Director

The Vietnam Moving Wall will be in New York State during Americade Week

- President, Edward Brouillet
326 Minott Road – Westminster, MA USA, 01473
978-632-8230 president@redknightsmc.com
- Vice President, Jack Downs
12040 S.W. 26 Court – Davie, FL USA, 33330
954-474-1644 vice_pres@redknightsmc.com
- Executive Secretary, Bill "Popeye" Snodgrass
1677 Jackson Road – Columbus, OH U.S.A. 43223
614-271-8577 – secretary@redknightsmc.com
- Treasurer, Leo Patry
6000 Battersea Rd. R.R. # 2 – Battersea, Ontario
Canada, K0H 1H0
613-353-1790 treasurer@redknightsmc.com
- International Quartermaster, Lynn Komandt
P.O. Box 552 – Parkman, OH U.S.A., 44080
401-741-5715 quartermaster@redknightsmc.com
- Director, Northeast Region, John Rucinski
50 Ernst Road – Gansevoort, NY, U.S.A. 12831
518-580-1013 easterndirector@redknightsmc.com
- Director, Southeastern Region, Gene Downs
1102 N.W. 81 Terrace – Plantation, FL U.S.A. 33322
954-916-9456 sedirector@redknightsmc.com
- Director, Western Region, Graham Clark
Hartell, AB – Site 3 Box 36 Okotoks Alberta
Canada - T1S 1A1
403-603-8408 west_director@redknightsmc.com
- Director, Central Region, Steve Chappell
474 McAuliffe Heights Trail – Green Bay, WI 54311
920-338-8738 central_director@redknightsmc.com

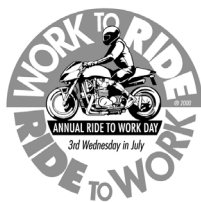
TOMA Foundation NASCAR Raffle

RK Ontario 14 is working on a fund drive to raise moneys for the **TOMA Foundation for Burned Children**. A local race team, Y-Not-Motorsports, is working with the Chapter to raffle off a NASCAR race style pick-up as a fundraiser. The raffle prizes are the actual race pick-up truck or \$3,500 cash as the first prize. Second prizes are one of two (2) NASCAR style jackets. Third prize is a quantity of several individual dinner vouchers; one to each winner.

All prizes will be awarded on the "TOMA Ride for Burned Kids" closing ceremonies which will take place at Bay Front Park in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada on September 24th, 2006.

Contact RK-Ontario-14 president Jim Friend via email redknights@cogeco.ca to get your tickets.

Insurance for Special Events. Just a reminder that Associations and Chapters can apply to the International to purchase insurance coverage for special events hosted by their organization. Contact the International Secretary for information on this program.



Motorcyclist's annual Ride to Work Day is Wednesday, July 19.

Ride to Work Day reveals that motorcyclists come from all walks of life, work in all occupations, and range in age from teenagers to grandparents. The American Motorcyclist Association and many other worldwide rider organizations actively encourage all motorcyclists to ride their cycles to work as a grassroots demonstration on the third Wednesday in July each year.

Each work day more than eighty million cars and light trucks commute on American roads, but only about 200,000 individuals regularly ride their cycles to work.

More information about Ride to Work Day is at <http://www.ridetowork.org>.

...and remember, The day after RTW Day is **'the heck with work, I'm going riding day'**...

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.

The **Red Knights Help-a-Knight** program available on line at www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf (You need Adobe Acrobat to read the file).

RKMC Help-A-Knight Registration Form

Please Print Information and Check All Statements That Apply

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

ÿ This is a **New** registration
 ÿ This is a **Change** to my info

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
 E-MAIL:
 rflaford@tiac.net

From the Central Regional Director

Spring is upon us and we, here in the northern states, are all anxious to get out and finally do some riding.

We have had quite a few new chapters added to our ranks in the Central division and I hope that the existing chapters will contact them and welcome them to our ranks. Our State Reps have all been elected and we can concentrate on riding and local events now that we have them in place.

We have also had many MALs join and are looking for events in which to participate. I ask the Chapters in Central and, in fact, all the International to reach out to these members and invite them to your events. Because we have had many new chapters formed, some MALs are pleasantly surprised to discover that they are actually closer to an existing chapter than they knew.

Many of the MALs view our web forum and this might be a good place to list your local chapter events so they can find them. I will be sending out a list of MALs to the Central State Reps. I will be asking them to send those lists on to you at the chapter level. Please make the MALs in your area feel welcome.

As always, if you have any joys or concerns or chapter events and news that you want to pass on to the rest of the division or the entire club, let your State Rep know. If you do not have a State Rep, as of yet, then let me know. Each of the officers are here to serve you and hope that we have the opportunity to do so if you call or write.

I have a request of you. Chapter Officers, please email me your correct email addresses and phone numbers. I can not keep in touch with you on RK information if I can't get through to you. If the president doesn't have an email address, please give me as many officer's information as you can. Thank you for making it possible to contact you.

Have a Great summer! See you at Convention?

Steve Chappell, Central Director

Friends of Red Knights (FORK)

The Red Knights International has started a program called *Friends of the Red Knights* to allow chapters to have a way to identify and reward special friends who support the local chapter in its activities and rides.

An official tee shirt may be worn by these non members **ONLY** on chapter rides, fund raisers and other chapter activities. Each chapter that wants to have Friends of Red Knights in their chapter shall apply for the official art work from the International Quartermaster. For information on the program, contact the International Quartermaster.

The International Board, under oversight of the Executive Secretary, maintains a collection of RKMC Banners that are available on loan. Chapter Presidents may request the loan of the banner(s) up to a period of three weeks. For further information, contact the International Secretary.

The International Executive Board maintains an SOP Manual. The content of this document serves as a guideline to the members of the Executive Board as it conducts its business, decision making, and in working with chapters. This document is available at the RKMC Web Page.

From Vice President Jack Downs

This year we have had good returns on dues from our Members-At-Large. 168 letters went out and by spring over half of our membership had responded. I expect everyone will be paid up very soon. Please notify us if you move. About 10% of the MAL mail gets returned to me for "no forwarding address." I know that a significant number of our members do not see our mailings because of address issues.

Our MAL ranks grow at about 10 per month. This year we are concentrating on having Members-At-Large join a chapter if one is in the area. Making this happen is something the Secretary "Popeye" and Treasurer Leo and I are working on together.

I was caught up on my VP duties until the spring board meeting in Syracuse in April. There was a list two pages long of stuff that the board needed accomplished and we all went home with additional duties and tasks to complete. (I tried to duck under the table and found two other members already there). Seriously, there is a lot going on in the club that needs support from the members and we all appreciate the time that many people already put into the organization.

Please support our current raffle by buying or selling some motorcycle raffle tickets. This money is for the memorial and your help would be great. That is our biggest worry at the moment. We have to sell 1500 tickets by the drawing at the convention and we have only sold about 800. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for more info on this raffle.

Another project we want to move forward on is the anniversary book. We would like to include the memorial ceremony in this publication as well as submissions from each chapter. Clayton Thomas is still our chairman and will be overseeing the project, but we need each member's and each chapter's support.

I want to recognize some of our team members. First, the Regional Directors; John Rucinski in New York, Graham Clark in Canada, Steve Chappell in Wisconsin, and Gene Downs in Florida. These gentlemen have been an asset to the board. By having the Regional Directors as a go to person it makes life easier for the chapters and the board. Second is the work on the by-laws that chapters prepare and send to the International. They are reviewed by Bylaw Chairman Uncle Dick Morse. He then forwards his recommendation to the board for action.

Another team member is our "Grand Tour Ride" committee Chairman Henry Heideman. Henry is working with the Regional Directors when and where he can. A big project on everyone's mind is the RKMC Memorial in Boylston. In talking to Chairman Don Parker it looks like the ground breaking is about to take place and we are on our way to building the memorial. What a good feeling that must be for him and the committee after all of the planning they have done. I am looking forward to seeing the memorial completed! All these events and committees show us that the Red Knights are on the move.

With my wife Judy's constant support for all that I do with the Red Knights, I have decided that I am going to run for Vice-president again at the convention.

Have a good summer and I'll see you all at the convention in NYC. Ride Safe! Jack

From the Office of the Executive Secretary

I want to take this time to thank the Executive Board and Committee members who spend hundreds of hours each month to keep this organization running and growing. I have been a member since 1994 and like most of you, I knew that work was being done on my behalf but never really gave it much thought. Yes, I attended the board meetings at Americade and the Convention; but never looked at the work behind the scenes. All of that changed in 2004 when I was elected as the Executive Secretary.

All of our board members put in many, many hours with at least two or three members AVERAGING 28 to 30 hours a week or more every week. I used to look for cheap hotels when I traveled, now I look for hotels that I can use my laptop. Think about all of the work that is being done by the By-Laws committee, reviewing and approving the chapter by-laws. Think about what it takes to put out this newsletter to our membership. As you can see, we have grown from a "good old boys" club in the northeast to a true International Motorcycle club. By our convention in NYC, I look for us to have 250 chapters and 7000 members. In 1995 we had 35 chapters and in 2000 we had 69 chapters.

At this years convention you are going to be asked to think about our future and how best to handle our growth. Keep an open mind and think about how other motorcycle clubs are set up (HOG, GWRRA, Blue Knights). We are fast getting to the point where we can no longer find members who are willing to spend the time that it takes on a volunteer basis.

In March we started advertising in the western states and have received applications for 5 new chapters in that area. We've had requests for 33 new chapters since the first of the year.

Beginning April 12, 2006 we were forced to place a \$50.00 wavier charge on all insurance requests. The \$ 50.00 will be returned to the chapter if the waivers are returned within 14 days after the date of the event.

It is a requirement of our insurance company that the waiver and release forms are used for all of our events. Once the event is finished, the forms should be kept for seven (7) years. The reason for this is because if and/or when an incident or claim occurs, the insurance company will need to get the original or a copy of the original waiver & release form used for that event.

We are forced to implement this charge because many of our chapters have failed to return the waivers over the past two years.

I want to thank the membership for allowing me to serve as your International Executive Secretary and would like to announce that I will be running for reelection in New York City at the convention.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill "Popeye" Snodgrass
International Executive Secretary

From AMA's "American Motorcyclist - Crash Course"

Returning to Virginia from Bike Week about a dozen years ago, I got into the Carolinas and noticed the temperature dropping. Outside of Fayetteville, North Carolina, I stopped for gas.

Signing the gas receipt, my scribble was even more illegible than normal. When I tried to explain this aberration to the attendant, I could hardly think what to say, and my words were barely understandable. Way back in the recesses of my brain, one not-yet-numb cell yelled out, "HYPOTHERMIA!"

After a bowl of chili and many cups of hot chocolate, I stuffed the Fayetteville Gazette between my jacket and chest and rode to the first available motel.

Three tubs of hot water later, life returned to normal, and I remained in the gene pool. The lesson is simple: When the warning signs show up, heed them.

The temperatures do not have to be excessively cold to cause hypothermia. Wind helps reduce the body temperature more quickly as does moisture — two conditions that we see while riding. Some of the warning signs of hypothermia include: shivering/exhaustion, confusion/fumbling hands, memory loss/slurred speech, and drowsiness / reduced energy.

Red Knights International By-Laws Committee Report.

There are only several By-Laws Changes at this time to be presented to the Membership present at the Annual International Meeting in New York City in August.

1. Section 3.25 A. Now reads: (Sentence) By-Laws and Rules and Regulations changes or additions within sixty (60) days prior to the International Annual Meeting. Changed to read: By-Laws and Rules and Regulations changes or additions within forty five (45) days prior to the International Annual Meeting.

This will allow last minute changes to be presented to the By-Laws Committee. Presented by the International Executive Board.

2. Section 3.18.- 6. Secretary, International Executive Board. Now reads: He/She shall produce a semi-annual newsletter to be sent to the Presidents of all Chapters - - - - and so on.

Changed to read: Elimination of the complete Section.

Reason; All the Information will be put into the International Newsletter so all members can read the activities of the Organization. Presented by the International Secretary and the Board.

3. Section 3.12 A. Executive Board Expenses. Now reads: (Sentence) with a total maximum budget of \$ 6,000,00 per year for the Corporation. Changed to read: Elimination of that sentence.

Reason; Does not compensate for inflation. Presented by the International Executive Board.

Deadline for this years bylaws changes or additions is June 12th. Submit them in writing to the International Secretary. They also must be approved by the International Executive Board.

The By-Laws Committee has been very active, reviewing bylaws being submitted by new and established Chapters. There are Chapter Generic bylaws are on the International Website. Just fill in the empty spaces, modify for what concerns your Chapter and you are ready to go. The International Executive Board has already accepted these Chapter bylaws. It makes it very easy so your Chapter can concentrate on other issues, like riding!

International By-Laws Chairman, Dick Morse.

Northeast Regional Director John Rucinski requests that **ALL NY Chapters** designate a representative to attend a meeting to discuss starting a State Association. Contact John at easterndirector@redknightsmc.com and he will notify you of details.

RED KNIGHTS Grand Tour

The Grand Tour is still growing! In 2005, 198 members completed a Tour. This is better than a 25% increase over 2004. Since 1999, 547 members have completed Grand Tours. We also have one member who has completed four Tours.

This year we are offering two new ways to earn your Grand Tour pin. You may do a

FIRE HOUSE ride or a RED KNIGHT ride. Just visit Fire Stations beginning with these letters and you can earn your Grand Tour pin that way as well as the traditional GRAND TOUR

Join the RKMC Grand Tour! 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.

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

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.

Henry Heideman
hmheideman@cogeco.ca – 905-372-6073
Grand Tour Chairman

*The Red Knights Executive would like to take this opportunity to thank the below listed members and chapters for their generous donations to the **Red Knights Katrina disaster relief fund** to help all our brother and sister Red Knights in the southern part of the United States that were affected by the Katrina & Rita storms.*

Alabama Chapter 2, Connecticut Chapter 2, Connecticut Chapter 4, Florida Chapter 7, Georgia Chapter 3, Illinois Chapter 2, Illinois Chapter 5, Illinois Chapter 9, Indiana Chapter 1, Maine Chapter 2, Massachusetts Chapter 2, Massachusetts Chapter 3, Massachusetts Chapter 11, New York Chapter 2, New York Chapter 12, New York Chapter 14, New York Chapter 21, Ohio Chapter 1, Ohio Chapter 5, Ohio Chapter 9, the Ohio Association, Ontario Chapter 1, Ontario Chapter 12, Pennsylvania Chapter 4, Vermont Chapter 2, Vermont Chapter 3

J. Demers NY 27, B. Snodgrass Ohio 5, J. Klink DE 2, D. Comers Ohio 5, J. Jorgenson MAL, S. Chappell MAL, V. Miller PA 2, R. Cummings NY 13, J. Duber MAL, R. Moon NY 8, R. Johnson TX 5, L. Komandt OH 1, L. Patry ONT 7, R. Weidig FL 11, J. Agosta NY 13, Benewiat MAL, R. Decker NY 8, R. Troxel IL 5, Wakefield ME 2, M. Gehri OH 11, J. Kysor, G. Bograkovs FL 11

Greetings From “DIXIE” — April 10, 2006

For y'all not having the pleasure of “southern living” it's a pleasant sunny 90 degrees today, I was able to turn OFF my AC for 3 days so far this year!!!

The Southern Region is expanding, with new RKMC Chapters every month. It is estimated that the Southern Region has had a 35% growth in new Chapters over the past 2 years. At the spring International Executive Board meeting the International Secretary reported that in the first quarter of 2006 about 30 applications for new chapters had been submitted. Seventeen of those requests came from the Southern Region! Much of this is because of the great riding weather we enjoy here in the south and all the activities and events that many of our members attend wearing their RKMC vest. Our members are the reason the word is getting out to other potential members.

Every member who displays RKMC logos are acting as an Ambassador of the International Red Knights Motorcycle Club, Inc. It is very important to remember the “public” is always watching so please conduct yourself as an Ambassador that reflects an image the RKMC deserves.

The “DIXIE”, CSC rally is just around the corner being hosted by Texas-1 and the Texas State Association. From the reports coming into my office we are expecting to have a tremendous turn out of members -- not only from the Southern Region, but from RKMC members from throughout our organization. I even heard that there are members riding in from Canada! All I can say is “BRING IT ON!” The information Texas has posted as events and things to do while there looks like we are going to have one heck of a “PARTY!” Knowing that Texas bunch, I would expect nothing less.

For those new RKMC members, the “DIXIE” Confederation of Southern Chapters is a regional association made up of all chapters in the Southern Region. The “DIXIE” CSC rally is held the first weekend after “Mother's Day”, in May each year. The locations of the hosting chapter are decided at the annual rally general meeting. In 2007 the host will be Maryland – 4 and the Maryland State Association. (I'm personally looking forward to “catching CRABS” at that rally).

I'm also looking forward to the annual International RKMC Convention in New York City this year in August. According to International By-Laws, the office of Southern Director is up for nomination and election at the '06 convention for the next 2 year term. Director guidelines for this office are listed in the International By-Laws with nominations submitted to the International nomination committee. This is my formal announcement that I will be running for a second 2-year term as Southern Regional Director.

Ride Safe, Gene Downs
Southern Regional Director

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 club raffle proceeds will go towards the Red Knight Memorial. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to the club and fifty percent to the winner!

This newsletter (and every newsletter) has two \$5 tickets attached to the center of the newsletter. Every member is being asked to buy or sell these two tickets. With over 6,000 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.*

Please help by buying and selling the 50/50 tickets with this newsletter, that's just two tickets per member. If you have any questions contact Peg Brouillet of Mass-2. Sold ticket stubs and money (checks only to RKMC-International, please don't mail cash) should be sent to Peg by **July 31** (or brought to the convention)

**Peg Brouillet, 326 Minot Road
Westminster, MA 01473 (USA)
(978) 632-8230 — RKMA2@net1plus.com**

Please support this fund drive by purchasing the two tickets included in this mailing. **Forward ticket sales and stubs to Peg by July 31.** Thanks for your help and see you in New York City!

(You need not be present in NYC to win)

Did you know that each year the International sets aside funds for chapters and or State/Provincial Associations to help them in the promotion of the Organization? The funds will be allotted on a matching dollar basis up to \$ 200.00 per application, until the yearly allowance is deleted.

The International also oversees a separate fund for the purpose of assisting in the providing a central gathering function for Red Knights members in different regions of North America. This is to assist promoting events in which more than one chapter will be attending. The Chapter, State/Province Association or Region can request the funding in writing to the International Treasurer.

RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE CLUB 2006 CONVENTION COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIR JOURNAL

Dear Friends,

The NYC Fire Riders Motorcycle Club has been selected by the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club to host the 24 Anniversary Convention in August 2006. The Fire Riders (FDNY) and the Red Knights are a group of active and retired firefighter motorcycle enthusiasts. The honor of hosting a convention comes along only every ten years or so. This will be the first one in New York City since September 11, 2001. It will be attended by many Firefighters from across the country and Canada as well as members from Europe.

To this end we are asking your support, by taking an ad in the Commemorative Souvenir Journal, to make the convention a huge success. The journal is distributed to every convention delegate, advertiser and guest of the convention.

In closing we, the Fire Riders of the NYC Fire Department, thank you for your support in making the 24th Anniversary Convention a memorable one.

Lt. Victor D'Aquino L-119,
President NYC Fire Riders

FULL PAGE \$250 QUARTER PAGE \$100
HALF PAGE \$150 BUSINESS CARD, \$75

NAME/COMPANY/ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Please make checks payable to:
N.Y.C. FIRE RIDERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB
and MAIL ADS AND CHECKS (BY JUNE 1, 2006) TO:

**ART LAKIOTES, JOURNAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
1776 WEST 10TH STREET BROOKLYN NY, 11223 (718) 372-3010**

Please attach Ad copy with your order

NYC Fire Riders
thank any and all
supporters
(businesses,
chapters, and
individuals) for
help promoting
the Red Knights
and the 2006
Convention.

Directions to the Convention: From North, West or South: I-87, I-80 or I-95 to Triborough Bridge to Queens. Cars and motorcycles may stay on Grand Central Parkway to 94th Street exit, (Exit 6). Follow Ditmars Blvd. for 0.6 miles (1.0 km) through traffic circle (stay on Ditmars) to hotel on the right side. Vehicles with trailers must exit immediately after crossing bridge at Astoria Blvd. (Trailers are not permitted on the Grand Central Parkway. Highway signs that state "Passenger Cars Only" do allow motorcycles but no trailers.) Follow Astoria Blvd. for 2.2 miles (3.6 km) to 94th Street, turn left. Go 0.5 miles (0.8 km) to Ditmars Blvd. Turn right, then through traffic circle as above. From Northeast: Bronx-Whitestone Bridge to Whitestone Expressway to Astoria Blvd. exit, (Exit 13). Once on Astoria Boulevard, take first right onto Ditmars Blvd. Go 0.6 miles (1.0 km) to hotel on left.

(For travelers with electronic maps or who are GPS equipped, hotel coordinates are:
N 40° 46' 03", W 73° 52' 00").

Red Knights International Firefighters MOTORCYCLE CLUB
2006 Twenty-Third Annual Convention Information
August 10-11-12-13, 2006 New York City

Convention Center: Crowne Plaza Hotel at LaGuardia Airport,

104-04 Ditmars Boulevard, East Elmhurst, NY 11369 tel. (718) 457-6300 www.crowneplaza.com

Amenities Include: Irons, Coffee Makers, Phones with Data Ports, Voicemail, Heated Indoor Swimming Pool, Whirlpool, Sauna, Sundeck, Exercise Center, Free Shuttle Service to/from LaGuardia Airport, Free In-Room Movies, Gift Shop, Fax Machine, Car Rental Desk, Limousine Desk, ATM Machine, Currency Exchange, Full-service Restaurant and light menu Bar/Lounge on site.

Location: Ditmars Boulevard between 24th and 25th Avenues, across the Grand Central Parkway from LaGuardia Airport in New York City's Borough of Queens. Located minutes from Midtown Manhattan, Shea and Yankee Stadiums, National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadow Park, Belmont Racetrack.

Room Rate: Convention Rate: US\$ 95.00 plus taxes / per night for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. (Mention Red Knights/Fire Riders for convention rate.) We may be able to arrange this rate for extended stays, Wednesday and Sunday nights based on guaranteed participation. Inquire at hotel when checking-in.

Parking: Secure parking available at hotel for cars and motorcycles for US\$ 5.00 per day, unlimited access in and out. You park yourself.

Convention Registration: US\$ 130.00 per person includes: Registration; Program; Welcome Bag; Pin; Hospitality Room; Group Tours; Saturday Night Cocktail Reception with walking servers offering hors d'oeuvres and self-serve chafing dish selections, followed by sit-down Dinner-Dance with appetizer, salad, choice of a beef, chicken or fish entree and dessert with five-hour Open Bar featuring brand-name liquor; Sunday Farewell Breakfast Buffet; Raffle Ticket for Free Weekend Stay at Crowne Plaza.

Convention Shirts:	Tee Shirts	US\$ 20.00
	Golf/Polo Shirts	US\$ 35.00
	Pocket Shirts	US\$ 25.00
	Ladies Tee Shirts	US\$ 25.00
	* * * *	

Please make Money or Postal Order payable in US funds to:
N.Y.C. Fire Riders Motorcycle Club

Mail Registration Form and Fees by July 1, 2006 to:

Edward M. Olszewski,

54-67 82nd Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373-4719

Inquiries, Phone (after 7:00 PM Eastern please): (718) 426-1922

E-Mail (preferred): emolszewski@nycfireriders.com

Arrangements have been made to accept registrations on-line by credit card through our website: nycfireriders.com . Also check this site for updated convention information.

Additional Activities:

Thursday Early Arrival Bar-B-Que: Current plans are for a ride to "Killarney's Cottage" in Rego Park, Queens. (Additional US\$ 10.00 includes food.)

Friday Bus Tour and Lunch: Limited to 47 persons. (Number may be increased depending upon increased demand.) Professionally guided six-hour tour starting in Uptown Manhattan includes visit to Cathedral of St John the Divine that houses a memorial to the 12 firefighters lost in the 23rd Street five alarm building collapse of October 17, 1966; ride through "museum row". Opportunity to disembark at Central Park at 72nd Street. See "Conservatory Water", better known as the Model Boat Pond; Alice in Wonderland sculpture; the John Lennon "Strawberry Fields" and the "Dakota". Continue to Chinatown for shopping tour; lunch in Little Italy at Umberto's, visit "Ground Zero" site. We are also trying to arrange a group visit to a nearby firehouse. (Additional US\$ 65.00 includes tour and family-style luncheon with salad, selected choice of entrees and dessert.) (S O L D O U T)

Friday Five Borough Memorial Tour: Visit all five 9-11 borough memorials; have a 2 hour lunch with a live band at the famous Peggy O'Neill's in Coney Island's Keyspan Park, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones. One ride on the Famous Cyclone Roller Coaster is included. Rendezvous with the Shopping Bus Tour at the World Trade Center for a group tour and prayer. Verrazano Bridge toll to complete the Five Borough Tour is not included. May be left out if time is short. (Additional US\$ 25.00)

Saturday Afternoon Fireboat Tour: Ride to Marine Company 1, Fireboat *John D. McKean*, limited to the first 100 to sign-up. See Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Governors Island and New York Harbor. (Additional cost, if any, depending upon whether or not a box lunch will be included.) (TOUR IS FULL)

Red Knights Motorcycle Club

c/o 276 West Road
Petersham, MA 01366
USA

www.redknightsmc.com

Look inside for information on the Convention in New York City, Americade in Lake George, Gettysburg Bike Week happenings around the chapters, and much, much more!

Have you visited the **Red Knights Message Board** on line? It is a great place to visit with others that are members and friends of the Red Knights. Visit the site online at www.redknightsmc.com/forum.



YES, THE CUSTOM CHOPPER RAFFLE RUMOR IS TRUE!

The Red Knights International is offering a Custom Chopper Raffle to benefit the RKMC Memorial Fund.

Tickets are \$20 (US) and are available from Quartermaster Lynn Komandt at PO Box 552, Parkman OH 44080 USA (401-741-5715). Each chapter should send in its request for tickets and one check (in US funds) to cover the cost of all

tickets requested. They'll need to send a list of the names to put on the tickets. Lynn will fill out the tickets and send the large part back to the chapter.

There are **ONLY 1500 TICKETS** to be sold so you need to get your money and names into Lynn as soon as possible. The drawing is planned for the 2006 Convention in New York City, unless all the tickets are sold earlier. We'd like to sell all the tickets before Americade so the winner can order the bike and we can see it (or pictures of it) at the convention.

The bike is a soft tail frame (see the picture). It comes with a 96 CI S&S motor and 5-speed transmission. Rear tire is 200 mm wide. The bike has wire wheels, braided steel brake lines, chrome inner and outer primary, and Crane Ignition, to name just a few things. The winner will pick a single color. The bike will take 45-60 days to build, depending on availability of parts. And the winner may upgrade any parts they want at their cost. The winner has the choice of the bike or \$18,000 cash. If all 1500 tickets aren't sold, we'll hold a 50-50 raffle at the convention.

***Here's your chance to get a great bike
and benefit your RKMC Memorial too!***

Reminder to all Chapter Presidents – International Membership Dues

Membership dues payable to the International run from January 1 - December 31 of each year. A grace period for payment is granted from January 1st till March 31st. After that date dues are subject to a \$50.00 late payment fee.

2006 Dues Rates:

Active or Associate Member \$7 ea
Social or Honorary Member \$4 ea
Compassionate Member, no charge
New member any classification \$8

Dues for chapters are to be sent in U.S. funds to the International treasurer: Please be sure to include a current membership roster which has the members Name, Address, Zip or postal code, Phone number including area code, and Email address if they have one. And lastly their membership status Active, Associate, Social, Honorary, Life or Compassionate Honorary.

Mail dues to:
Leo Patry,
6000 Battersea Road
R.R. # 2
Battersea, Ontario
Canada K0H 1H0