

# Americade 2010



When Americade Founder Bill Dutcher (front row center) arrived amidst the pouring rain at the beginning of the Americade parade he had a big smile and said, “I knew that if anyone was going to show up in the rain for the parade it would be the Red Knights to lead us up Canada Street!”

And he was right! For many years the RKMC has been in the lead of the parade with our red crests displayed proudly along with our flags, fire helmets, and smiles. And 2010 was no different. We had about 35 bikes en-mass

Even with a “smaller” parade because of the rain, by the time the lead bikes had made a U-Turn and worked their way back down Canada Street, there were still bikes exiting Beach Road to head up Canada Street. Then as usual, the parade continued up Prospect Mountain for the week’s finale.

But it was not just the closing ceremonies where Red Knight members were prominent. Throughout the week you did not have to look far to find “Red” in the crowd. Walking up and down Canada Street, in the lines of bikes cruising through town or enjoying the many great Adirondack Park roadways, walking through the vendor tents or in the Lake George Forum, or at Roaring Brook Ranch. Red Knights were everywhere — all week long.

And one good thing about the occasional passing shower during the week—it kept the pollen count down!

And if you took some time to read the crests on the vest that you caught sight of, or the passing RK bikes, they were not just from New York state. There were Red Knights from many states and provinces. Many are retuning “Americaders” that

would not miss this week or seeing old friends, and others were new comers sure to go home with some great memories as they begin planning for next year’s visit to Lake George.



(somewhat smaller than the drier past-years) but the crowd that came out for the parade was very appreciative of our presence to help celebrate the week and draw Americade 2010 to a close.

# More on Americade 2010

Over 200 members and friends attended the 2010 Wednesday three-course dinner hosted by the Red Knights. Because of the generosity of all our members throughout the organization we were able to give away 180 door prizes! WOW! I think that tops anything we have done in the past and definitely anything that any corporate sponsor has done for dinner give-a-ways. Thank you all for sending (and bringing) your donations.

International President Dave Emery welcomed all in attendance. During his words (and Vermont humor) he asked for all the Red Knights to stand. About two-thirds of the crowd were Red Knights. He also asked if there were any firefighters present who were not Red Knights. Two tentatively raised lone hands arose from the crowd. Dave stated that we need to take care of that membership issue before the dinner was done!

Each year, Bill Dutcher slides in and out and



around the events throughout Americade to see how things are going. Most of the time he flies under the radar unnoticed. But with the Red Knights he usually spends more time and occasionally will address the crowd.

When he paid a visit to the dinner this year, the Red Knights had a surprise for him. The Red Knights and Americade have been around for the



same number of years and the two have been cooperative organization for many years. We, as an organization, can find our members in pictures throughout the Americade magazines and in its videos. There have even been three years that Red Knights have been the cover photo of the Americade Program or fall magazine.

For his long-serving support of the Red Knights, Bill was presented with a miniature Chief's helmet with a gold shield that read, "Americade CHIEF" with the RKMC logo.

He has since sent out an email of thanks that in part stated, "*Many thanks for the attention, the laughs, and the honor. I'm looking at it sitting on top of my office bookcase where it will remain. All the best, Bill.*"

On Thursday evening the traditional open house at the Lake George Fire Station was again a very popular spot for Red Knights and friends. There were spot showers around our meeting time, but as the clouds allowed for some dry time the members kept coming in. Eastern

Regional Director John Rucinski said that the hosts, RK NY 12 said that 275 people were fed including Red Knights, guests, and members of the Lake George Fire Department.

Many chapters set up to offer their wares for others to look at and purchase. Similar to chapter sales at the convention, with this number of Red Knights in attendance it is a great opportunity for

chapter merchandising and for members to see and buy Red Knights paraphernalia offered by other chapters.

Prior to feeding of the gang, time was spent in prayer to offer thanks for our gathering and to remember members and friends who have passed away. NY-12 had a great spread for us with meatball subs and plenty to go around.

Americade and Lake George has become a type of “Old Home Day” for the Red Knights. From the early years of our organization to recent times the call is, “Let’s meet in Lake George.” The hospitality and



camaraderie is obvious and ever present.

We must thank all those who help this event to be a fun, organized gathering for our members — and we must extend an invitation to all of you to join us in Lake George during Americade Week.

*Let’s meet in Lake George in 2011!*

LGFD location  
Pre-2007



LGFD location with NO fire station  
2008





### **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. 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 [volunteers@tourexpo.com](mailto:volunteers@tourexpo.com) or drop a note to **Margie Connelly** at Americade, P.O. Box 2205, Glens Falls, NY 12801.