



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — January 2010

<http://www.rk-mass2.org>

Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's
Desk

Happy New Year everyone! It's 2010 and another bright year is just at our finger tips and the riding season is just a few weeks away!

Whether you are a member who has been with the Red Knights for many years or you are one of our newer members you may have noticed that we are a very active and visible chapter. As one of your chapter officers I find that other Red Knights notice this too. I am frequently approached by officers in other chapters asking "how do you do it?"

They ask about our activities and our participation. My answer is usually along the lines of "keep it fun and get together often." And I'll throw in "food helps too!"

But last fall a president from another chapter sat down with me and he was rather despondent about the future of his chapter. He had been the chartering president, after a few years someone else took over, and a few years later the chapter was floundering and he agreed to take the president's reins again.

He told me that he wants to step down but no one wants to be part of the chapter leadership and commit to the responsibilities associated with the running of the chapter. He also said that the members' participation keeps going down and he is rather discouraged. He told me that he thought about letting the chapter fold and joining as an MAL to keep his membership, but it was breaking his heart to see the chapter head towards its' end.

What I also heard were a lot of "I" and "me." "I have planned rides." "I have gone to state and regional meetings." "I have tried to find people to become more active."

That is where the true success of our chapter lies. Yes, I am your elected president; but we have a very active executive board that works together to keep the chapter operating and the fun that we all have together moving forward. Each member of the board takes part of the load so that no one membership of the leadership team need ever feel overwhelmed.

Then there are you the members. You are also part of our chapter family and your participation in the club's business and the club's social activities are equally important. I am excited each time I ride down South Street towards the Westminster station — because we have anywhere from a handful to a couple of dozen bikes that meet up on nearly every ride. I think that means we are doing something right. THANK YOU to those people, whether in elected positions or those who are tapped to help in unofficial roles within the chapter, for the work you do that makes this organization the success and the fun it is. And THANK YOU to each of you, the individual members, for your part in making what we do fun and worthwhile as Red Knights.

Even now, in the midst of winter, there are "behind the scenes" work going on for the chapter. The officers have recently met and developed the ride schedule for 2010. We'll have it printed up and ready for you at the Winter Pot Luck at the end of the month. If you cannot wait until then, visit the web page for a sneak peak of the events planned for the year. The other ongoing project is the MSF Rider Education Scholarship. This is the sixth year that we will be offering rider education scholarships for both the beginner and experienced rider courses through the Central Mass Safety Council. PLEASE help us get the word out to new riders that you know would benefit from the training. There is a flyer enclosed in this mailing. If you want more to post at local bike shops and fire stations, please let me know and I will get you more. They are also available on our web page. And consider applying for the EXPERIENCED RIDER course yourself. No matter how long you have been riding or how many miles you have under your belt, the knowledge you gain is indispensable — and everyone can be a better rider! So consider applying for the Experienced Rider course scholarship that is only available to chapter members.

So as you look outside at the cold and snow, don't fret, the bikes will be back out in a few short weeks along with the green grass and blooming flowers! Keep Safe.

Mass Chapter 2 Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Education Scholarship

The chapter is again providing MSF Rider Scholarships for 2010. We will be giving out two basic rider course scholarships that are available to anyone and two experienced rider course scholarships that are available to our members.

Deadline for submission is **February 1, 2010** and the scholarships will be awarded in March. An application for the scholarship is enclosed and they are also available on the webpage.

Please share the scholarship info with someone who would benefit from the training program.

Please help us get the word out about the Red Knights and our scholarship program by posting the scholarship flyer (enclosed) at your local fire department and your favorite local bike shop!

Now is the time to start thinking about all those miles that we are going to ride in the New Year. In 2009 our chapter as a whole rode 179,401 documented miles — WOW! Let's set a goal of 200,000 FUN (and safe) miles for 2010! What a great thought it would be to boast that all our members joined us in a RKMC event during 2010. Whether it is on a bike or in four wheels, we hope that you can all join us at some time during the new year.

If you have not gotten your end '09/beginning '10 mileage in, drop Kevin Martin an email or call so he can log you in to this year's "race for the mileage." Bob Laford was the top mileage getter for 2009 with 18,052 miles in the saddle, with Maury Lizotte and Tim Kilhart with close second and third respectively.

Best wishes to all of you for a blessed and happy new year!

On the road with our friends...



For 2010 we are going to hold a 50/50 raffle every time we get together. Whether it is two bikes or 30 bikes (\$2 per ticket/3 for \$5) then in August all the proceeds from these regular raffles will be split between the Ride for Kids and Sherry's House.

- Some of our autumn riding was a bit on the frosty side. Our Apple Pie morning... and preceding breakfast at the Princeton FD saw temperatures in the low 30's.
- We had some extended riding in 2009 with a very mild November. The weatherman said that while usually the cloudiest month of the year, 2009 saw about 85% of the possible sunshine. At our November Breakfast Club we had temperatures around 40 degrees at 8:00 a.m. and 17 people turned out (9 bikes & 3 4-wheelers) for breakfast and a ride around the Quabbin.
- I have got to tell you that I laughed when I received this picture (below) that someone found online. It was December 3 and nearly 70 degrees hitting record highs in Massachusetts. November and December had been very kind and I was actually still taking the bike to work a couple of days a week. I called Caitlin in San Antonio because Houston was getting snow and she was enduring the unseasonable cold Texas weather. Boy what 48 hours difference can do in New England! By December 6 it was cold and SNOWING! (I think Caitlin pushed it north) and then it got COLD. We knew some of those pleasant November days were going to cost us!



- Mother Nature did finally have her way and drew a line in the sand and said, "Time to put the bikes away!" But even though our December Breakfast Club date was 7 degrees in the morning and all the bikes were away we still had 15 people show up at WFD to join us. Keep moving during the cold weather and get out with your Red Knight friends!
- You know that we have a great meal every time that we have our Christmas party at the Apple Hill Farm. Now they have opened the "Library Room" in the rear of the facility as a restaurant. Stop in (Thursday-Sunday) to enjoy their great menu and superb service! I think the Officers will have to hold a meeting there to sample the menu! Visit www.applehillcc.com for more information.

Winter Potluck

- Saturday, January 31
- 1:00 pm
- Marcia and Maury's
66 Brook Lane
Gardner, MA
(978) 410-5553

Bring some food to share and stories to tell, and we will have a grand time as always!

We will have the **ride schedule for 2010** printed and ready for distribution – so don't miss it!

Some excitement planned on Brooks Lane! The chapter has been contacted by the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Since we were one of the five top fundraising groups for the New England Ride for Kids, they have a recognition to present to us and have asked to come to our next event. State Ride for Kids coordinator David Odess will be our guest at the Winter Potluck and he will be bringing the PBTFUS citation with him to present to us. Please come and join us for this special occasion.

Membership news...

Welcome to John Bennett, a member of the Princeton Fire Department, as our newest member. And **congratulations** to Peg B. on her new job at Emerson hospital! Could weekends and holiday coverage be a thing of the past?

If you have not received your membership card yet it should be enclosed with this mailing. Thank you all for getting your dues in so we could pay our chapter dues on time.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE 2010 CONVENTION YET?!

The Empire State welcomes the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club Inc to their 28th Annual Convention August 18th-21st, 2010.

The Niagara Falls/Buffalo area of NY State is well known for all its attractions along with their numerous areas for scenic rides.

The Holiday Inn Grand Island Resort & Convention Center at 100 Whitehaven Rd, Grand Island will host the convention. It is Buffalo's only Island Resort, located on the upper banks of the Niagara River and is centrally located 15 minutes from downtown Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Ontario Canada. This 6 story hotel has newly renovated rooms and is located next to the marina. Across from the hotel is a beautiful golf course.

Early registration on or before March 15, 2010 (at \$65.00 per person) will be entered into a drawing for **three free nights** at the convention. One entry per paid person.

Registration Includes; Goody Bag, Convention Pin, Thursday BBQ, Convention Journal, Hospitality Room, Thursday or Friday Day cruise of the Niagara River, Bike Show, Saturday Evening Dinner & dancing, and Sunday's Farewell breakfast and possibly more!

Make hotel reservations direct starting now to the hotel at 716-773-1111 and mention you are reserving for the Red Knights convention. Rooms are river view \$149 per night or \$139 for golf course view.

A copy of the registration form is included in this mailing.

Visit the International Webpage for updated information.



Our Christmas party was again our most largely attended event with 34 members and friends joining us at the Apple Hill Farm this year. We started to worry a bit when the forecasted rain started as "white," but before the day's activities were under full steam the precipitation had changed back to rain.

We were all surprised and excited when Caitlin walked in the door too! Her mom had done a great job keeping the secret that she had flown home from San Antonio earlier in the week to visit for the holiday season (but especially to join us at the Red Knights Christmas party)! Mary looked like she was about to burst so it was good that the secret came to an end. (Caitlin actually called from the parking lot wishing everyone a Merry Christmas from "Texas" before she walked into the room!)

What great food we had to accompany the fun and friends that the afternoon always brings. We enjoyed the pasta bar for our appetizer before the entre was served, and there was a lot of laughing and gossip going on with the food as well! (We will be back at the Farm next December on Sunday, December 12, so mark your calendar!)

Along with all the fun gifts we shared with the Yankee Swap, Terry Atwood won the door prize, "Riding in the Zone," by Ken Condon, and Ed Brouillet won the 50/50. The generosity of our members came out again when 31 children's gifts were loaded into Deb's car to be taken to the Fishes and Loaves program.

Come join us next year — it's always a GREAT TIME!

The Ed & Kevin Ride Challenge for 2010 (from Ed B)

Kevin and I have been trying to do this for the last several years. Some years we have made it and others we haven't. I know that almost all of us put our bikes away for the cold weather. But — there are some die-hard people out there (and occasionally cooperative weather) — so I thought it shouldn't just be Kevin and I having fun so why don't we put this offer out to anyone that's up to the challenge

So for those of you with riding spirit and determination **here is your Riding Challenge for 2010.**

Who among us will be able to ride for all 12 Months next year?

At our Christmas party (in 2010) an award will be given out to the person / persons that complete this task. In the event there are no winners then the award will be carried over to the next year.

Requirements:

- (1) You must ride 2 miles or more
- (2) You will have to take a picture of the bike with or without the rider. That picture will have to show the date and time.
- (3) You will have to have all 12 Months worth of pictures (so remember to take one when its not cold)
- (4) Send the pictures to me (Ed B.) and I will keep track of them.
- (5) Only people that live in the Northeast for all 12 months are eligible (sorry Cliff & Marty)

So the Ride Challenge is on for 2010!

Guy's Day out in Boston 2010

The Boston Motorcycle Show is the weekend of February 13 & 14 at the World Trade Center in Boston.

It is always a great time looking at all the bikes, vendors, and wares at this show. Come join us on **Saturday, February 13**. We will meet at the Leominster train station about 9:00 a.m. for the ride into Boston and see if we can find our way — and always with a smile and a laugh!

Other 2010 Show dates & locations are:

*Hartford, CT on January 9-10
Salem, NH on January 23-24
Wilmington, MA on March 13-14*

Check out www.kevmarv.com for more information



We kicked off our **Breakfast Clubs** at the beginning of October with the Jaffrey FD Fire Prevention Breakfast where we had 15 Red Knights turn out for a great spread that is provided each year by our brethren in New Hampshire. After our bellies were full eight bikes took off for about 150 miles that included a stop at Barstow's Farm Store along the Connecticut River in South Hadley. Of course we were

hungry again and enjoyed some of their fresh pastries, coffee, and hot chocolate before heading home!

Our first "official" Breakfast Club had 14 members (7 on bikes) out in the 32 degree temperatures and a stop at the Country Mischief in Templeton, then a *refreshing* fall ride into central Worcester County.

The 2009 riding season may be but a memory, but that does not mean that the fun is going to stop.

Every third Saturday from October through April we will gather for breakfast and fellowship. Meet at the Westminster FD for 8:00 a.m. and we will discover a different breakfast haunt for the month.

January 16, February 20, March 20, and April 17

State Meeting of Chapter Officers

In October we met with other chapter officers from around the state. Our State Rep and Assistant State Rep held the meeting at the Cotuit Fire Department with the President of Mass-8 as our host.

There were 8 chapters represented with nearly 30 people in attendance. We discussed RKMC business, gave each other ideas on member involvement, and shared ride and event ideas.

One planned event for 2010 is having Massachusetts Red Knights participate in the "World's Largest Poker Run." This is scheduled for Saturday, May 1. In Mass we are planning that each chapter hold their own ride for their members and the last stop will be at the Red Knights Memorial in Boylston at the same time. That will give us an opportunity to have some social time together between the chapters.

Look for more details as it gets closer.

In December, Dr. Hurt, primary researcher/author of the Hurt Report passed away. For the past 30 years Dr. Hurt's research has been the bench mark in motorcycle crash statistics. Here is a re-print of an article that discussed some of his work.

In 1981, a report documenting Motorcycle Accident Cause Factors and Identification of Countermeasures was released; it is commonly known as the "Hurt" report or study. It is named for Hugh H. Hurt, a University of Southern California professor who headed the committee that investigated more than 900 motorcycle accidents and documented their findings. Although many years have passed since the Hurt report was published, it is still considered to be highly relevant to today's bikes and riders. Here are a few of the basic findings of the Hurt report:

- Approximately 75% of the motorcycle accidents involved collisions with other vehicles, usually a passenger automobile.
- Approximately 25% of the motorcycle accidents were single vehicle accidents and involved the motorcycle colliding with the roadway or some other fixed object in the environment.
- Roadway defects such as pavement ridges, potholes, etc. were the accident cause in 2% of the accidents and animals were involved in 1%.
- The most frequent accident configuration is when a motorcycle was traveling straight and an automobile made a left turn in front of the oncoming motorcycle.
- ***Intersections are the most likely place for a motorcycle accident.***
- Weather is **not** a factor in 98% of motorcycle accidents.
- Most motorcycle accidents occur during a short trip that is associated with shopping, errands, friends, entertainment or recreation and these accidents occur shortly after the trip originates.
- Lack of attention to driving is a common factor in motorcycle accidents.
- Almost 50% of the fatal motorcycle accidents show alcohol involvement.

The Hurt Report is lengthy and detailed (well over 400 pages). Some facts seem irrefutable and others may surprise you. You can purchase the complete report from the National Technical Information Service but this is not truly necessary since you can obtain the basic findings of the report online by searching for "Hurt Report".

Take some time to review the summaries of the Hurt Report; learning from the accidents of others makes us all safer riders.



A stop at the Red Knights Memorial was on the docket for the Chapter's Polar Bear Ride in November. Here Ed Brouillet and Larry Robinson lay a bouquet of flowers at the memorial on behalf of the chapter. The November sunshine allowed us a very pleasant day for our last official ride of the season. Thirteen bikes with 15 members took advantage of the pleasant weather for the ride.

Put your *Game Face* on!

OK, It's almost Superbowl time and it's really not the time of year that we are spinning hundreds of miles on our bikes. But in a recent article in Ride Magazine Eric Trow made a number of correlations between good gridiron management and safe riding. Below are some excerpts from his January "Riding Well" column.

Just like a quarterback, as riders we're trying to move ourselves forward towards a goal. And, just like the QB, we're surrounded by large, often aggressive opposition. And, if we're not making the right calls and reading plays as they develop, we're going to get ourselves sacked. So here are a few ideas blatantly pulled from yesterday's games that I think could lead to a winning season of motorcycle commuting.

Put on your game face. In a post-game interview a player on the losing team said that his head just wasn't in the game from the very beginning. As a result he played poorly. How many mornings do we truly have our heads in the game before we roll out of the garage? As on-road quarterbacks, we need to set aside distraction and take control of the game.

Look downfield. Quarterbacks (the

good ones) have a knack for being able to look downfield and accurately recognize what's developing while remaining aware of what's going on immediately around them. Similarly, when riding a motorcycle in traffic, it helps to look long, not just at that "I brake for gnomes" bumper sticker on the car directly ahead. The key is to recognize developing situations early enough to leave time to modify our game plan.

Stay in the pocket. When a quarterback leaves the pocket too early and begins to scramble he's leaving his protection and is heading into "no man's land." Out on the street, we are often able to create a safety bubble in traffic where we can establish a degree of protection from others. While we remain in that pocket, we buy time to read the field of traffic and to plan our next move. The moment we step out of that bubble by riding faster than traffic or changing lanes when there is less than sufficient space, we are scrambling [without protection].

Avoid the blindside tackle. Fortunately, as motorcyclists we do have one advantage over our NFL counterparts — we have eyes in the back of our heads. Well, mirrors anyway. We need to regularly use our mirrors to maintain full awareness of vehicles

approaching from behind.

Use your blockers. Just as a quarterback or running back relies on blockers to advance a running play, there are opportunities to use select vehicles on the road to be a buffer between us and other traffic.

Manage the play clock. In addition to other skills, the quarterback must also be the master of managing the clock. Likewise, it helps to recognize how much time we have to work within any given traffic situation. When is the best time to accelerate past a TT unit to avoid being stuck in a blind spot? How long can we be in a lane before that SUV closing in from our rear is uncomfortably close?

In traffic, our windows of opportunity and safety rapidly change. Being constantly aware of changing dynamics and how best to use our time can greatly improve our chance of gaining ground safely.

Review the game films. Once the side stand is down, consider taking a few moments to re-ride the trip in your mind before heading into work (or home). Think about the many "plays" that happened and speculate on how you might have ridden things differently if you had to do it again.



Red Knights Motorcycle Club – Mass. Chapter 2

Red Knights Merchandise

Are you looking for Red Knights “logo” merchandise? Our chapter has some available as do other chapters and a number of different vendors. If you have questions about merchandise that is not listed here, please contact a chapter officer.

The RKMC International maintains a catalog of merchandise offered through the International and through individual chapters. You can look on line to see what is offered for sale and download the catalog (or pieces of the catalog) at www.redknightsmc.com/merchandise.htm

Mass-2 sells a “Chapter Specific Red Knights Window Decal”

The chapter decal is available for any chapter to purchase from us with their chapter information — as well as for our members with Mass-2 in the bottom rocker. (\$5)

Much of the merchandise that we have available for our chapter members now uses this logo. Decals are also available in larger styles (for trailers) and smaller sizes (for helmets).

We also have “RK Thin Red Line Decals” in both window and helmet sizes.



Silk-screened Chapter Shirts are available through Vice-president Kevin Martin (978) 827-4297. Kmartin812@hotmail.com

These “T’s,” Golf Shirts, Sweatshirts, and long sleeve style shirts all use the chapter logo.

Items available from Mass-2 Chapter Treasurer Tim Kilhart (978) 249-2983:

- Chapter Decals (Helmet size, 4 inch, and 8 inch)
- RKMC Decals
- Red Knights Shoulder Patches w/rockers
- Red Knights Back Patches & Rockers (for vests)

On the International Web Page you can buy merchandise from other chapters ranging from doo-rags to collar brass and license plate frames and everything in between!

Mass-2 bylaws state that we only allow the RKMC crest and chapter rocker to be worn on a red vest. One vendor for Red Vests is Mountain Leather Design in Chester, Vermont

www.mtnleatherdesign.com

Embroidered Red Knights Clothing; Jackets, “Station” Shirts, Hats, and more!

Embroidered RK Clothing for our chapter is available through Joe Guarnera at joegua@comcast.net or his home phone at 978-455-1022 . (Check with Joe for current prices).

These all have the chapter logo embroidered on them.

Available are:

- Snap front, machine washable baseball jackets with the Mass 2 patch on front and writing on the back will be as follows:
Red body, Gold trim, Gold Buttons
Nap Lined ~ \$90.00 – Quilted Lined ~ \$95.00
Same Jacket without writing on back:
Nap Lined ~ \$65.00 – Quilt Lined ~ \$70.00
- Firefighter Work Shirts: Grey with Denim collar and Denim elbow patches with embroidered Mass 2 Logo ~ \$50.00
- Red Knights Mass 2 Embroidered hats ~ \$15.00 (Color - Red w/Gold embroidery)
- Red Knights Mass 2 embroidered Polo Shirts (Color - White or Blue)
- Red Knights Mass 2 embroidered Long-sleeve Henley 3-button shirts ~ \$20
- Winter Nylon Water Resistant Riding Jackets with Red Knights Mass 2 Logo ~ \$90.00 (Color Blue with Black or Red with Black)
Personal Name on any item ~ \$5.00

Check with Joe for current prices

(MA) Red Knights Motorcycle License Plates are available to Active Members and must be requested through the Massachusetts State Rep. If you would like to have an RK Plate for your bike, contact Steve Mickle. (978) 772-6224