



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — January 2011

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

Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's Desk

Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart.

Victor Hugo

Happy New Year everyone!

Although it may be cold and winter is upon us, the New Year also is the starting point to looking forward to a great new riding season. The officers will be meeting shortly to develop the 2011 ride schedule so please share your ideas with us. Then come our winter pot-luck we will share with the events and rides that will be part of our chapter for 2011.

During the winter months it is hard for us to keep our skills sharp because our time on the bike has vanished. But it is a good time to look at what you have done in the past to improve your skills and what you can do in the future to make yourself a better rider. The day before our Apple Pie Ride in October I was putting through Athol and came around a corner to find grandpa Jones in his Buick in my lane. I did not even have time to beep my horn, but I distinctly remember thinking, as I was swerving, "this is going to be expensive." I know there was not much room between me and him (before he woke up) but I was able to counter steer fast enough back and forth that he missed me. I have a feeling that the colorful language that quickly passed through my mind actually came out of my mouth because the kid on the side walk was staring at me with these saucer-like eyes and mouth wide open! (Phew, blood pressure up, heart pounding). Afterward I thought, "Hmm, that probably would have hurt AND I would have missed apple pie." We always talk about taking time in the spring to do some parking lot practice being a good thing to scrape some of the rust off our skills. But that type of practice is important to do continually throughout the riding year so when that other driver's inattention puts you on a direct path you do not have to think about how to "activate the avoidance procedures." That practice makes those reactions automatic — and it works.

Each year the chapter plans a skills day where we can spend some time together, improve our skills, learn something new, and become better riders. These events are not intended to point fingers or chuckle at other riders, they are to help us as individuals and as a group to be better riders AND to have some fun doing it. So come join us.

Another tried and true avenue to becoming a better rider is an MSF course. If you have not taken an Experienced Riders Course, consider applying for our scholarship and take the course. Even if you are not chosen to receive the scholarship, consider taking the course. You will be a better rider for it. Many of us have taken the course more than once. And I will be the first to admit that I learn something each time.

Thank you to all in our chapter that continue to work to make our group a fun and safe way to spend time together. We hope to see you all on the road this year, and look forward to the many fun miles that the new year will bring us. Ride safe.

The Chapter Officers will be meeting in the near future to plan events for 2011.

Let us know your ideas!

Mass Chapter 2 Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Education Scholarship

The chapter is again providing MSF Rider Scholarships for 2011. 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, 2011** 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!

The Motorcycle Rider Education Program officials analyzed ten years of information from the Massachusetts RMV and found that over 63% of those involved in fatal motorcycle accidents had never received any formal motorcycle rider training, and one-third of those fatalities were riders under 21 years old.

And miles to go before I sleep!

For the third year in a row our chapter has increased its "road miles" from the previous year. When the VP had tallied all his figures we were a bit short of our self-imposed goal of 200,000 but we did make it to 184,514. Not too shabby!

If you have not gotten your end '10/beginning '11 mileage in, drop Kevin Martin an email or call so he can log you in to this year's "race for the mileage." For 2010 our top three mileage getters were Bob Laford, Maury Lizotte, and Ed Brouillet with 18,289,

18,012, and 15,180 miles respectively. What is equally impressive are some of the miles a number of our bikes have on them: 50,873, 55,405, 63,100, 64,155, 65,535, 70,577, 78,910, 81,958, and 95,734. I hear that Phil Jordan's GL1200 has 99,000 on it too! So that means there should be two of us that top the 100,000 mark in 2011!

Best wishes to all of you for a blessed and happy new year! May all your miles be smooth and well-banked.

In 2010 we had 40 chapter events on our calendar. Over the course of the year we had an average attendance of 13.18 per ride. Our most attended event was the Christmas party (32) and Americade in second place with 30 members. Our "lightest attendance was five at the September ice cream ride.

Make note (inside): The Winter Pot Luck location has changed.

On the road with our friends...

- Late in October we had eight members show up for a Sunday ride that led us down to the Vanilla bean Café in Pomfret, Connecticut for lunch and then an autumn ice cream at UConn. Have you ever noticed that temperature tolerance is a very relative thing? It was between 38 and 44 degrees that day and we were remarking how cold it was throughout the day. Now, in January and February, 40 degrees would be a welcome temperature and if the roads were dry I know a few bikes would be out!
- Our Polar Bear Ride in November was a cool ~40 degrees or so, but we had a great turn out. With friends from Mass-13 along for the ride we had a dozen bikes and sixteen members and friends! Maury lead us on a back road tour up into Amherst, New Hampshire where we stopped at Joey's for lunch. Then we broke into groups and headed home via different routes before the early setting sun got ahead of us.
- We have been having good turnouts for our monthly breakfasts (moved to 9:00 a.m.) In November we had 11 people (three bikes still riding) with breakfast at the Kozy Kabin in Barre.
- Eleven members assembled and Maury and Marcia's (with food in hand) to view the Americade video and enjoy Walter and Lorry's pictures of their Alaskan vacation! What a good use of a cold night with snow flurries in the air.
- We had eight members come out for our December Breakfast Club. We had to search around for a diner that was not "standing room only" and finally found a small diner with good food and a short line in West Boylston!

Through the generosity of our members we were able to make a number of donations to causes and individuals who were in need of our support. Included in these were:

- Bill Hodges Memorial Run (RK-Mass-3 fundraiser for Shriner's Hospital)
- Central Mass Safety Council
- Disabled American Vets (In memory of Charles Shakarian)
- Fallen Firefighter Survivor Fund
- Health Alliance Home Hospice (In Memory of Mildred Stacey)
- Mass. Department of Children and Families (to assist with their Christmas celebration for the kids.
- Mitchell Family Fire Fund (Orange, Mass.)
- Paul's Ride (Vermont 2)
- PBTFS (Ride for Kids)
- A fellow Red Knight who suffered a fire and a fire related injury
- RK-Mass-15 (To help with an injured member)
- RKMC International (Heaven Patches) where funds go towards the upkeep of the Red Knights Memorial.
- Sherry's House
- Vermont Food Bank
- Worcester County Motorcyclists Survivor Fund

Mary Barclay was one of the recipients of the 2010 MSF Scholarship and she was gracious enough to share some thoughts about the course with us at the Christmas party. I wanted to share some of those comments with you — and I will take some editorial license since I have known Mary for over 30 years! She has definitely changed her opinions of bikes and bikers over the years.

- When Heather (her oldest) turned 16 and wanted to get her license is was, "over my dead body."
- Then after wearing Mary down the agreement was that she had to take the MSF class first—and Jim would take it with her.
- I remember the call one day from her, "Who is this Red Knights Motorcycle GANG that my husband and daughter want to join??"
- Then as Caitlin approached 16 Mary stressed, "Whether you want to ride or not you're going to take the MSF course because it will make you a better driver." And we know what happened with Caitlin's becoming a RKMC fixture!
- Before last year's scholarship applications went out Mary mentioned to me that she has been growing more intrigued about learning to ride... and she went for the class and got her license... and found out IT'S FUN!
- And since then she has remarked that she can understand that there are different kinds of riding and agrees that a rider could always have use for more than one kind of motorcycle in the garage.

Yup, we hooked another one!

Winter Potluck

- Saturday, February 13
- 1:00 pm

NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION!

- Athol Congregational Church Hall — On the common, (off Route 2A) in "uptown" Athol.

The street address for the church is 1225 Chestnut St. After the traffic signal at the CVS take a left at the common and the church is on the left.

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 2011** printed and ready for distribution

Membership news...

Congratulations to VP Kevin Martin on finding a new ride... a 2009 HD Ultra Classic—sweet!

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE 2011 CONVENTION YET!!

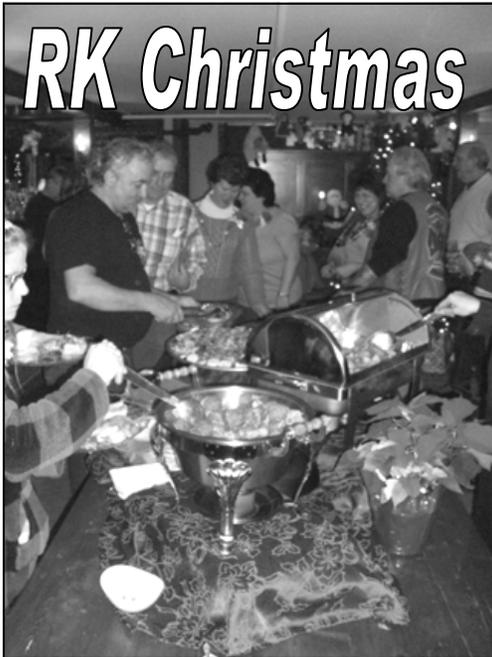
This year's convention is in Ocean City, Maryland—hosted by MD-3—on September 8, 9, 10 & 11, 2011.

The area is located on the Maryland's Eastern Shore with 10 miles of beaches, 17 golf courses, world-famous sport fishing, and restaurants featuring seafood specials, old fashioned down home cooking to fine dining. The boardwalk was voted one of the top ten boardwalks in the country.

Immediately following the convention, Ocean City will be hosting Delmarva Bike Week! This is one of the largest bike events on the coast. Thousands of bikers will visit OC. Vendors from across the country will be here to participate.

Visit the International's Web page at www.redknightsmc.com and click on "Conventions" for more information

There were 32 Red Knights and family that came out to enjoy our annual Christmas Party. It seems that more times than not the day's weather is questionable on the second Sunday in December, and 2010 was no different. The difference is that the morning brought us icy roads. By the time our gathering was scheduled the temperatures were near 50 degrees with a heavy rain. Phew! Better than snow! Had it been 50 degrees and warm I bet there would have been bikes on site – but not this year.



We enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and an Italian Dinner provided at the Apple Hill Farm along with some pictures on display from our past year. Of course there were lots of stories and laughs with our friends. The chefs helped with our sweet tooth with a fruit truffle, fresh (and warm) ginger bread, and ice cream to top off the day.

Our 2010 Yankee Swap saw a lot of fun gifts and a number of them made their way around the swap – whether it was the Stoney Creek T-Shirt, the Garden Nome, or a variety of Tool Package gifts. We received twenty-one gift cards and a number of other "needs" to bring to Sherry's House in Worcester.

Now it's time to start working on new memories that we can bring to the 2011 party.



Ride for Kids...

AMA honors PBTF's organizing efforts

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation® (PBTF) was awarded the Recreational Road Riding Organizer of the Year by the American Motorcycle Association because of its Ride for Kids efforts.

Ride for Kids® is the PBTF's signature event, taking place in 40 cities around the country. Proceeds benefit medical research and family support programs for children with brain tumors. Motorcyclists have contributed more than \$54 million to the cause since the program began in 1984.

"We are pleased that the AMA has recognized our efforts to mobilize motorcyclists behind a very special cause," said Kyle Clack, Ride for Kids® National Director. "Many of the riders who attend our events are AMA members, and they are helping us make a difference in children's lives."

Our chapter has been a participant in the New England Ride for Kids over the past since its first ride in the late 1990's. For the second year in a row, Mass-2 was called to the stage at the end of the ride to be recognized as one of the top fundraising clubs for the New England Ride. The 2010 New England ride raised over \$36,000 and combined with the 40 other RFK events nation-wide motorcyclists brought in over \$4,000,000 in 2010.

Shortly before our Christmas party we received a plaque celebrating our 2010 participation and assistance to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. At the Christmas party all those who participated in the August Ride for Kids had their names placed in a hat and XXXXXX gets the honor of proudly displaying this citation. We as a chapter have received this honor because of the work each of you has done in bringing donations to the ride. And we all know that the plaque is a nice gesture — but it is the kids, and what our donations do to help the kids that really matters. Thanks for all your help! See you at the August 2011 Ride for Kids!



Quebec-1 is hosting a Regional Red Knights Rally on the weekend of July 9 in Temblant, Quebec during the annual Blues Festival

Visit <http://rally.redknightsquebec.com> for more information

QC III (Qc chapter 3) is proud sponsor for the greatest North Eastern American RKMC International rally ever! The place is Mont-Tremblant resort in Quebec during the 18th Annual International Blues Festival on the week-end of July 9th 2011.

Chapters from regions 1, 2 and 3 of the international club will be invited to join us in this fantastic event.

There are preferred rates and events specifically for the Red Knights.

If any of your 2011 travel plans are across the boarder do not forget to get a Canadian Insurance Card from your insurance agent and make sure your passport is up-to-date. And ask Rick what happens at the border when the agent is a brand new young, aggressive agent trying to impress his bosses. (As Bob waited up the road for his riding partner to get through!)

In a recent article in Rider Magazine Eric Trow was comparing how dancing and riding a motorcycle are very related. Like him, my dancing skills with a real-life partner like my beautiful wife is limited. But when you have a chance to watch a couple who dance very well together you can see how natural they make it look! Here are some excerpts about how "**Dancing the Two Wheel Step**" is what we all strive for when on our bike.

Lead, don't follow. Every dance couple must establish who will lead and who will follow. Are you leading your bike or do you sometimes find yourself along for the ride? Assume the lead. That means staying at least one step ahead of your bike at all times by reading the road ahead and planning where to place the machine next. Grab your partner? Heck no! You wouldn't grab onto a dance partner's hand and squeeze it like a washrag, right? Yet many of us tense up and handle our motorcycles that way. Instead, rest your hands on the bike's' handlebars as you would take the delicate hand of a petite dance partner. All handlebar steering can be done with just a nudge.

Dance cheek-to-cheek. An effective way to lead the motorcycle is to roll your weight from one butt cheek to the other. As you approach a right bend, roll your weight onto your right hip and allow your body to lean inward toward the upcoming turn.

Pick the right dance. Some roads are a waltz while others are a fox trot. So naturally, it doesn't always make sense to dance a quick step for every road, right?

Learn some new steps. Just as I could stand to take a few dance lessons, most riders have room for additional learning. Taking just one training course of some kind every year will show in your riding as well.

FIRE—ICE—AND GARRETT



Crohn's Colitis Foundation on Saturday February 19, 2011 vs. the Smithfield.

This team has numerous Rhode Island Firefighters on it, (along with R.I. Chapter 1 President, Rick Waterman).

Face-off: 4:00pm — Rink: Smithfield Municipal Ice Rink — Address: 109 Pleasant Vie Ave, Smithfield.

If Garrett Ostiguy is medically cleared, he has been asked by both teams to participate.

This event is being supported by the Red Knights MA Chapter IV and is a Chapter event.

Guy's Day out in Boston 2011

The Boston Motorcycle Show is the weekend of January 29 & 30 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, January 29**. 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 2011 Show dates and locations are:

*Providence, RI on January 8-9
Salem, NH on January 15-16
Hartford, CT on February 26-27
Wilmington, MA on March 12-13*

Check out www.kevmarv.com for more information

The Springfield Motorcycle Show at the Eastern States Expo is scheduled for January 21-23

<http://www.osegmotorcycle.com/>

The International Motorcycle Show at the Javits Convention Center is scheduled for January 22-23

<http://www.motorcycleshows.com/>
NewYork

The City of Holyoke Fire Department is playing a charitable hockey game to benefit the

Thinking of any travel by motorcycle in 2011? You may want to check out **Best Western Hotels** along your route.

Best Western has been promoting their "Rider Friendly" Hotels and offer discounts to those riders who are part of HOG but also others if they contact Best Western for accommodations.

Visit www.bwrider.com for more information.