



From the  
President's  
Desk

# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — January 2014

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

*Loyal to Our Duty*

### Mass Chapter 2 Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Education Scholarship

The chapter is again providing MSF Rider Scholarships for 2014. 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, 2014** 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 at your local fire department and your favorite local bike shop!

Our chapter has been involved with the MSF courses since 2004, proudly assisting 46 riders improve their skills through the MSF Scholarships that we have awarded over the last nine years!

Greetings Red Knights,

As we go about our daily activities this time of the year, we all have some added stress on us, trying to juggle work, home life, Christmas Shopping, and family gatherings. Let us not forget those less fortunate, those that have lost a loved one, or suffered some type of crisis in their life and are also trying to cope with the events of this time of the year, Here's an idea – "Practice random acts of kindness" Offer to buy that cup of coffee for the person in line in front of you, or pick up the tab for their newspaper or some small random act that will make you feel good helping someone else.

Tis the season to give and today there are still a huge number of people out of work, struggling day to day, looking for that light at the end of the tunnel and if you can do just one thing to help make someone's day a little brighter why not!

Two months ago you elected me as your new president and I've been doing the best I can to keep my fingers on the pulse of the organization, and so far I have to say I'm enjoying it whole heartedly. I have a few ideas and looking at some changes over the next year, nothing drastic, but some things we should probably look at to keep us on top and moving forward.

In January the officers will be meeting to help plan your trips and events for the upcoming riding season, I'm asking all of you to send me your thoughts and ideas for what you'd like to do for rides, events you'd like to see us attend as a group or places you'd like to consider visiting.

We'll take your ideas to the planning meeting and pick some that may fit into the schedule, obviously we can't take everyone's ideas and cram them into the schedule, but I do know we will be doing a lot of different rides and events this year, so who knows we just might get a majority of them, but you have to share your ideas with us, don't hold them to yourselves and then get upset when we don't do something you were thinking about. Think about your ideas and get them into me by the end of the month.

We'll resume our monthly breakfast club in January, and if there is a particular place you'd like us to try, send me your suggestions and we'll put them on the list with the others.

Other events coming up during the winter months are the New Years celebrations in several areas, if you go have fun, be responsible and enjoy yourselves.

January 11 & 12 is the Northeast Motorcycle Show in Boston, <http://www.kevmarv.com/> we've attended quite a few of these shows in the past, but the last couple of years haven't been as exciting, I'm not planning on attending this year but if any of you are, please let me know and take some pictures while you're out.

January 11th the Officers will be meeting to plan our ride schedule, I'm sure it will be jammed with lots of exciting rides and adventures to help fill those weekends for you.

In closing I wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year.

*Kevin*

If you have not received your 2014 membership card yet, it should be included in this mailing.

An updated member roster is also included in this mailing.



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 in the last year totaling \$1,635. Included in these were:

- Blessing in a backpack
- American Cancer Society
- DCF Christmas Donation
- VT-2 Paul's Ride
- NEADS
- Sherry's House
- World Vision
- Family Support
- PBTJUS
- Boston Sparks Assoc.
- Goldstar Mothers
- Williams Children's Fund
- Paul's Ride
- RKMC Memorial Donation

Looking over the past five years, our Treasurer's reports show that we have donated nearly \$9,000. (And that does not include the individual fundraising and donations we do for the Ride for Kids or Sherry's House).

*(\$140 worth of gift cards were brought to our Christmas party to be donated to Sherry's House! - Thank you!)*

**Thank you for all your support!**

## Let no turn go unstoned

That play on words was in an article a few months ago that was talking about “expect the unexpected” while out on your bike. So especially as we look ahead to begin our riding season for 2014, remember that the roads will not be ready for your ride. There may be debris, potholes, sand, stones, and those shadows may even be a little water-ice-snow left over in the corner.

Your skills and the awareness that others have of you may also be a little lacking when the bike tires start rolling. Do your part and practice your skills — and take the extra step to help the other driver by being aware of what is going on, dress the part in full gear (hi-vis?), and always play the “what-if” game so you can do your best to predict what might go wrong and how to respond to what is happening around you.

### 2014 Motorcycle Show dates and locations are:

Boston, MA - January 11-12  
 Salem, NH - February 8-9  
 Wilmington, MA - March 8-9  
 Check out [www.kevmarv.com](http://www.kevmarv.com) for more information

**Our Motorcycle Registrations Expire on Dec. 31.**



**Don't wait until that first unexpected warm day with clear roads to realize that you have not renewed your registration!**



### On the road with our friends...

- President Martin was in the lead for our 2013 Polar Bear Ride with a fun
- 80 mile loop on a collection of secondary roads that included lunch at Bailey's Bar and Grill in Townsend. The ride lived up to its name (with a low temperature of 38 degrees on the route), the curvy roads were a lot of fun... the meal was great... and the friends (all 18 of them) had a wonderful time!

In 2013 our chapter members rode 161,568 miles. It is a bit less than what our totals were for 2012, but we got a late start to riding in the spring... and nearby Vermont was host to the convention for 2013.

Over 6 years of keeping track of the chapter's collective mileage we have documented over 900,000 miles!

The Federal Highway Transportation Administration says that Massachusetts has a total of 76,200 miles of road and for all of New England that total is 244,665. So for 2013 we still rode more than twice the road miles in all of Massachusetts!

Armand Guilmette was top mileage getter for '13 with over 18K, Bob Laford second, breaking 14K, and Jim Barclay was third with a bit over 12,000 miles. Make sure you are on the list for 2014... and get out and ride!

Our 2013 season had 43 different chapter events, rides, and gatherings. We had an average of 17.7 people that attended each event. The largest attendance was 41 at our Winter Potluck, and the smallest was five at the Bike Show in Springfield last January.

Let the officers know if you have some ride and/or event info that you would like put into the 2014 Chapter Schedule.

## Winter Potluck

- Sunday, February 2
- Templeton Fish and Game Club
- 1:00 p.m.

Plan to bring some food to share and stories to tell, and we will have a fun time together as always!

We will have the ride schedule for 2014 printed and ready for distribution – so don't miss it!

*(and you'll be home in time for the Superbowl too)*

The Fish and Game Club is at 200 Partridgeville Road (Off Route 2A) in East Templeton

### Membership news...

Congratulations to Tim Kilhart on his new position as DPW Superintendent with the town of Hubbardston and to Peg Brouillet and John Loisselle on their recent retirements!

Our condolences to the Fregeau family on George's passing. Although not a member for a number of years, George was one of our chapter's founding members and served as the first Vice-president of the chapter.

Welcome to new members Ernie and Linda Lee (Bob Laford's sister and brother-in-law). They spent part of Americade with us and have been hooked on the Red Knights!

Our **Breakfast Clubs** are up and running each month! **Every third Saturday** from November through April we will gather for breakfast and fellowship. Meet at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 8:30 a.m. and we will discover a different breakfast haunt for each month.

January 18, February 15, March 15, and April 19

*(We may take advantage of the Templeton Fish and Game Club's month Breakfast Buffet for one of our breakfasts... and that would be on a Sunday — but we'll get the word out if that gets scheduled!)*

Our first Breakfast Club was in November and it drew 21 people out for the morning. Drawing a restaurant out of the hat, Bob thought it was one establishment and others thought it was another... but we ended up at KP's in Rutland where they were able to seat us all when we arrived and we all had a good breakfast.



## RK-Mass2 Fire Tower Quest



Join us in a search for fire towers while out riding this

year.

Visit 6 fire towers (and document the visits with a picture of you and/or your bike with the fire tower) and win a cool pin.

## HOW ARE YOU DOING ON YOUR FIRE TOWER QUEST?

If you have some visits from 2013 you can use them towards your total and earn your pin in 2014!

## E Dixie Rally

Each year Region 4 of the Red Knights hosts the Dixie Rally. This rally of the Dixie regional Confederation of Southern States is open to Red Knights outside of the Region and there have been members of Mass-2 that have taken the spring ride down south to take part in this southern hospitality.

In 2013 there were over 120 registered members representing 20 chapters from the Southern Region states and visitors from Canada, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

The 2014 "Dixie Rally" is the 10th Annual Event and is being hosted by Virginia 6 at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center located on the beach of the Chesapeake Bay, situated 3 1/2 miles east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and 6 miles west of the Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

Net proceeds from this rally will go to Virginia 6 selected charity; Edmarc Hospice for Children.

If you would like more information on this rally, visit their webpage at <http://rkmcDixie.com>

Long-time chapter member Hal Billiard (from New Brunswick) is planning on heading to Prince Edward Island for this year's convention to meet up with Mass-2 friends he has not seen in a long time. **Have you thought about the 2014 convention yet??**

Here is info straight from the island!

This year's convention is being hosted by Prince Edward Island — JULY 17-20 (NOTE THE DATE!)

At the 2013 convention PEI reps briefed us on some of the events that were in the planning for the 2014 event being held at the Rodd Royalty Hotel in Charlottetown, approximately 650 miles from home!

Plans are underway for a ride and tour of the Cows Creamery, voted the best Ice Cream in Canada. Another ride and tour being planned is to a Moonshine Brewery. Several golf excursions and deep-sea fishing expeditions are also in the planning for a great convention week for everyone who ventures across the bridge.

The host hotel is FULL. Canada's Best Value and Comfort Inn have rooms blocked at a special rate for the RKMC and there are other hotels within a block or two as well. The banquet room will hold the first 350 delegates to register, they will have an on-site satellite location for the rest.

RKMC 2014 convention registration (\$65.00 CDN funds, per person) includes: Participant Bag, Convention Program, Pin, Hospitality Room, Thursday Evening BBQ, Saturday morning annual meeting, Saturday evening banquet with entertainment, Sunday morning send-off breakfast. Paid registration received by March 31 will be entered in a drawing for three free nights at the host hotel.

You can register on-line using PayPal or by printing out and mailing the registration form included in this newsletter.

## **Riding provides mental exercise that keeps your brain fit**

A recent article revealed two different research studies that proved that riding your motorcycle every day keeps your brain functioning at peak conditioning. Scientists believe that the extra concentration needed to successfully operate a motorcycle can contribute to higher levels of brain function.

The first study, conducted at the University of Tokyo, stated that riding a motorcycle turns the simplest journey into a challenge of the senses that sets the motorcyclist apart from the everyday commuter.

Dr. Ryuta Kawashima's experiments involved current riders who rode on a regular basis and ex-riders who once rode regularly but had not taken a ride for at least 10 years or more. The researchers asked the participants to ride on courses under different conditions while he recorded their brain activities.

After an analysis of the data, Kawashima found that current riders used their brain in radically different ways than ex-riders. When the current riders rode motorcycles, specific segments of their brains were activated and riders demonstrated a higher level of concentration.

The upshot was that the use of motorcycles in everyday life improved cognitive faculties, particularly those that relate to memory and spatial reasoning capacity. An added benefit was that participants revealed at the end of the study that their stress levels had been reduced and their mental state changed for the better.

So why motorcycles? Kawashima said a car doesn't provide the same effect as riding a motorcycle: "A car is a comfortable machine which does not activate our brains. By using motorcycles more in our life, we can have positive effects on our brains and minds."

Another research study conducted at the Harvard Medical School found that you may also get some mental and physical benefits from just thinking about going for a ride on your machine. Their 1996 study looked at brain activity both during specific activities and when the subjects were *thinking* about the activity.

So don't stop thinking about your bike! Whether it is parked, or you are out riding, help keep your brain active and your mental skills sharp and think **MOTORCYCLE!**

## **What are you planning for the spring time to get your skills back up to speed?**

Wingworld Magazine stated that if you have never taken a formal motorcycle training program, you won't know what you are missing that could make a difference in survival [on the street]. Not well known is the fact that skills begin to diminish in mere weeks of non-use.

That's why it seems like you learn something new even if you take the same [MSF] course every few years.

We again hope to have a chapter skills day in the spring so let us know if there are any special "set ups" you would like to see as we practice together. But don't forget to practice by yourself. Get some "parking lot practice" on your schedule to get the feel of your bike again... and consider taking an MSF course to learn what you did not know that you did not know!

## **The season of smiles (even if the bikes are away)...**

What a GREAT Christmas party we had in December. There were 30 Red Knights and guests at this year's gathering at the Glen Caffe in Winchendon. The weatherman cooperated this year and gave us a snow free day (holding off the bad weather until later in the night).

President Martin welcomed all as we enjoyed the picture display of the recent year's event along with the appetizers prior to our wonderful buffet that included Chicken, Prime Rib, and Strawberry Shortcake for dessert!

With the change in the members of the board, Past International President Ed Brouillet swore in the 2014 Chapter Executive Board and Laura Nelson proudly pinned the collar stars onto Kevin's shirt. Kevin had a surprise presentation for past president Bob Laford with a photo album of candid shots of him over the past decade.

President Martin also recognized out-going Treasurer Tim Kilhart for his years of service to the Chapter's Executive Board.

House Mother Peg presented Jim Skehan with a reminder of his first Americade... and a trio of riders who had a discussion with a Vermont Officer during Americade also received a memento from Peg.

Our annual Yankee Swap was also a lot of fun as many of the packages did not hold what the boxes said, so the mystery continued until all the unwrapping was done. The *prize* that seemed to make the most rounds was a basket full of Peg's homemade goodies including her "Hellish Relish," Spicy Tomato Juice, baked goods, and other delicacies that made those who lost the basket to the next gifter shed a tear.



## **RKMC International Annual Convention 2014**

Charlottetown, PEI - Hosted by PEI Chapter 1

**JULY 17 – 20, 2014 (\*\*note July date)**

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

#### **PERSONAL INFORMATION – PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSENGER LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP/POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER/MAL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOTEL: \_\_\_\_\_

**RKMC 2014 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE OF \$65.00 (CDN FUNDS) PER PERSON INCLUDES:**

- Participant Bag, Convention Program, Pin, Hospitality Room, Thursday Evening BBQ, Saturday morning annual meeting, Saturday evening banquet with entertainment, Sunday morning send-off breakfast.

**NOTE\*\* ONLY FIRST 350 REGISTRANTS WILL BE IN THE MAIN COURTYARD FOR THE BANQUET ALL OTHERS WILL BE IN A SATELLITE LOCATION.\*\***

**\*\*\*CONVENTION LANYARDS MUST BE WORN FOR ALL EVENTS\*\*\***

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! PAID REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BY MARCH 31, 2014 WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAW FOR THREE HOTEL NIGHTS DURING THE CONVENTION AT THE HOST HOTEL THE RODD ROYALTY INN.**

## CONVENTION FEE AND PRE-ORDERED OPTIONAL CONVENTION ITEMS

A) REGISTRATION (CDN FUNDS) \$65.00 PER PERSON X [ ] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B) PRE-ORDERED/PAID CONVENTION T-SHIRT:

SIZE SMALL \$15.00 PER PERSON X [ ] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE MEDIUM \$15.00 PER PERSON X [ ] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE LARGE \$15.00 PER PERSON X [ ] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE X-LARGE \$15.00 PER PERSON X [ ] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE XXL \$17.50 PER PERSON X [ ] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE XXXL \$17.50 PER PERSON X [ ] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL B (T-shirts) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C) PRE-PAID EVENTS:

**Lobster Supper** \$40.00 PER PERSON X [ ] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Price includes taxes and tip). Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. (MAX 500)*

*Please indicate if you want an alternate food choice – item TBD)*

*Price will be the same as for Lobster* [ ]

**Deep Sea Fishing** \$45.00 PER PERSON X [ ] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Price includes taxes) \*\*\*DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR FISHING IS May 30, 2014\*\*\**

Please select time:

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ or Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 1:15 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ or Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 1:15 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL C (PREPAID) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL (A+B+C) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Money order should be made payable to RKMC PEI 1 in Canadian Funds or you can submit your registration electronically and pay by PayPal.

MAILING ADDRESS: RKMC PEI 1, 45 TRAILVIEW DR. CHARLOTTETOWN, PE, C1E 2J6

\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*

ANY REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2014 DO NOT INCLUDE MEALS.

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TO COORDINATE THINGS EFFICIENTLY PLEASE INDICATE YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE FOLLOWING INCLUDED EVENTS:

- THURSDAY EVENING BBQ YES/NO [ ]
- SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET YES/NO [ ]
- SUNDAY MORNING SEND OFF BREAKFAST YES/NO [ ]

For more information or questions please email: [pei1@redknightsmc.com](mailto:pei1@redknightsmc.com)