



From the  
President's Desk

Hi Everyone,

In a recent editorial in Wing World, the author talked about an AP news release that discussed the statistics of military personnel's death and injuries on motorcycles. The report stated that more servicemen and women have died in motorcycle crashes since 2001 than have died in the line of duty in Afghanistan. The article also went on to tell of the steps that the military is taking to help their people become safer motorcyclists on the road.

While we do not expose ourselves to live combat like many of those serving our country, we do expose ourselves to the daily danger of riding on the road and interacting with other drivers, road conditions, animals, and weather. Larry Grodsky, the nationally known author and motorcycle safety expert, himself proved to be an unfortunate example of motorcycling risks when he was killed this spring when a deer collided with him and his bike.

In a column I recently read titled *Of Deer and Dogs* the writer tells of the history of American road development – from deer trails and the Native American Hunting parties, to the stage coach routes and cattle paths, up to what we have today to follow our way. As you spend time on your rides this summer, remember that every time you leave your driveway you will probably share the road with at least “one deer, three cats, the random dog, a couple of possums, and a raccoon or two.”

Please take extra precautions looking for those on four legs, as the author of that column reminds us all, the Native Americans and Stage Coaches are not following the trails any longer – but the deer still are. Look out for those in four wheels as well because most of them are preoccupied with thoughts and actions other than driving their vehicle.

Our club is very supportive of improved riding skills and our MSF Scholarship is one example. In speaking to one of the recipients of the Beginner's Course scholarship he told me that he had never ridden before the class – and that the practical portion of the class was in the rain for the entire weekend. He said the education and training he received were exceptional and the adverse weather helped him build his confidence and skills even more.

Have you noticed that the weather this spring has been a bit up and down? Early in the season Mother Nature kept flirting with us and we were not able to gather as a group for the River Rat Parade in Athol because of the forecast – but for our Cape Cod weekend we had near perfect weather for all four days. Then we paid for it! By the time our first ice cream ride came around we were into the seventh day of the “forty-days-and-forty-nights” deal. I thought that we were going to have to start gathering the bikes two-by-two!

Ride safe and see you on the Road!

# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — Summer '06

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

*Loyal to Our Duty*

Tuesday,  
4th of July  
Rain or  
Shine  
Join us for  
a Chapter



## Summer BBQ and Pot-luck

At Bob and Diona Laford's  
276 West Road in Petersham – 1:00 pm

*Bring something to throw on the  
grill and a dish to share and we'll  
enjoy an afternoon together*

For directions or to RSVP give Bob  
or Diona a call 978-724-3270

We'll have a brief business meeting at the  
BBQ if there is any business to bring before  
the membership.

At one of our spring rides we were touring the Higgins Museum in Worcester. We were in awe of the collection of full armor worn by the knights some 500 years ago. One of our entourage remarked about what the feeling was like having to wear all that extra weight. When we were putting on our coats, chaps, helmets and gloves in the parking lot I chuckled. We continue to wear a variation of that medieval armor!

Not even a week later I was reading Peter Egan's book "Leanings." One of his stories was about a motorcycle tour in Germany that he took.

As he and his wife were touring a castle his wife said, "Can you imagine what it was like for the knights to run up these stairs in full armor?"

Peter wrote, *I paused for a moment, sweating heavily, and looked down at my scuffed motorcycle boots and the creaking knee pads in my riding leathers. I hefted my black full-faced helmet with its shatterproof Lexan face shield and pondered the gauntlet-like riding gloves with reinforced palms I'd stuffed inside the helmet.* "Can't imagine," he responded.

### Mass-2 Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who bought and sold 2006 raffle tickets. Our drawing will be at our Ice Cream Ride on June 20. **(Get any stubs and money you have to Bob Laford ASAP!)**

The funds raised will help our chapter to provide continued support to area charities and others needing a hand.

At our annual business meeting for our chapter, scheduled for November, the officer positions of Vice-president, Treasurer, and Road Captain will be up for election/re-election. Any active member interested in running for the posts should contact this year's nomination chairman Steve Mickle.



**Come join us for the New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 20.**



We'll meet at the Petersham Common at 7:30 am and head to Oxford for the beginning of the RFK. If you cannot come with us, please consider making a donation that the riders will bring on behalf of the Red Knights.

Brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer deaths in children under 15 years old and for young adults up to the age of 34. Over 200,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with a brain tumor every year.

Since 1984, motorcyclists have raised over \$30 million through Ride for Kids events. Because of this effort, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the U.S. has become the largest funding agency in the world for childhood brain tumor research, outside of the U.S. government. The Foundation has also provided the grant that funds the Central Brain Tumor Registry as well as awarding over 100 college scholarships to brain tumor survivors.

When the first Ride for Kids event was held in 1984 the diagnosis of a pediatric brain tumor was a basically death sentence to a child. But today, because of the research and medical advances a child under the age of two who is diagnosed with a brain tumor has a 90% chance of survival.

I would like to invite you to join us for the 2006 New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 20. The Police escorted ride will go from Oxford to South Hadley.

On behalf of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and the thousands of kids who are afflicted with brain tumors, I would like to thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Odess  
Ride for Kids Task Force Leader

**A Ride for Kids flyer is included with this mailing.**

**Membership News Briefs...**

Best wishes to Fred (and Lisa) Leblanc on Fred's recent retirement. That means more time to spend on the bike Fred! Welcome to our newest members, Corey Feeley, Brett Collins, and Brian Feddersen. Corey is with the Westminster FD and was one of last year's recipients of the MSF Beginner's Rider Course, Brett is with the Lancaster FD, and Brian with the Shirley FD. Congratulations to Lori Hembrow on completing her graduate degree. That's quite an accomplishment Lori, we are all very proud of you!

An updated chapter roster is enclosed with this newsletter.

*On the road with our friends...*

- Our first "official" ride of the season was supposed to be to Athol to participate in the **River Rat Race** festivities. Even though the weather was not very good and that we had no official ride that day, Bill Curtis was still a participant in the parade and helped lead the fire apparatus contingent down the parade route. Hopefully we'll be back in Athol next spring for a warmer parade day!
- It was a different kind of trip to Boston for our annual excursion this year as we had several cars caravan down to the city for an evening dinner and a show at the Medieval Manner.

Meeting at Emerson Hospital in Concord our RKMC entourage to Boston included nine members of the club and a couple of friends all the way from Louisiana. With no truck to truck communications, Peg wrote notes in lipstick and put them out the sunroof to help direct Walter into the city.

The Medieval Manner looks like an old castle. Kevin had to visit the king and get our tokens that go to the wenches for our liquid refreshments. There is no silverware so everything is eaten with your hands. This included our soup, which was served with a foot and half loaf of bread to help soak it up! Next came the pizza which was a cinch to eat without utensils. To round out the entrée were huge ribs followed by mussels and shrimp. The main meal was half a chicken which was hard to find room for after all the different courses. Beer, wine, and lemonade flowed freely as long as we had tokens left to pay for the pitchers.

In between each course there was entertainment including the wenches, court jester, the court fool and the king. The entertainment included suggestive jokes, songs of all types, juggling and even 2 members of the audience had a joust, using the loaves of bread tucked between their legs used as swords. You were only allowed to go to the Canterbury (bathroom) when given permission by the King and you had to stand up in front of the audience to ask permission.

It was a great night and the meal and entertainment were enjoyed by all — especially our visitors from the south. They really had fun with our group and fit right in. They told us how lucky we were to have such good friends and we all agreed with them

- On a blustery *Armed Forces Day* in May we had a handful of bikes wander into Worcester for a tour of the **Higgins Armory** and then a visit to the Massachusetts **Vietnam Veterans' Memorial** in Green Hill Park. We also had a special ice cream stop (no kidding) at Hebert's Candy mansion in Shrewsbury. *That was some exceptional ice cream!*

### Rider Education Scholarships

Thank you to everyone who applied for our MSF Scholarships and congratulations to our two winners of the Experienced Rider Course scholarships that we made available to our members. This year's recipients are Larry Robinson and Ed Brouillet.

As a chapter we will be discussing how best to continue this program for next year. Let us know your thoughts on providing Beginner Course and Experienced Course Scholarships through the club.



On our Friday trip to the Cape we stopped at Turk's on Route 6 before heading across the bridge. At the table next to us, this lady was celebrating her 102nd birthday. Her friends told us that she is quite the pistol and sports a picture of her in some activity on each year's Christmas Card. They said last year's card was a top a horse. She jumped at the chance to have her picture taken in the saddle of one of our rides — and "jumped" is the right term as this lady needed no assistance and after donning her Red Knight's vest hopped right into the seat without a hand from anyone! ...suppose that this image will be on this year's Christmas Cards??

**I**ce Cream! It's that time of year again. Come join us for our monthly ice cream rides. This year we are meeting on the third Tuesday of the month (through September) and will ride for ice cream.

Meet us at the Westminster FD for 6:30 pm on June 20 (we'll have our raffle drawing), July 18, August 15, and September 19.



### *Walking through the sands of Cape Cod...*

What a great time (and great weather) we had for our annual trek to the Cape. As the week progressed towards our departure, the weather got better and better. By Thursday the sun was out and temperatures were near the 80's. Even Marty and Cliff had made it back north from Florida to join us on the Cape.

After meeting up with a couple of bikes from Mass-3 we had an entourage of twenty Red Knights. This year we had reservations at the Town Crier Motel on Route 6 n Eastham. This was a nice change and offered us many new roads to explore on the outer Cape.

On the way out on Friday we stopped at the Mattapoisett Lighthouse for a break before stopping for lunch at Turk's, where we have had our lunch break the last few years. As we meandered up Route 6 to the bridges we went past the remains of the restaurant where we used to have our lunch stop in Buzzards Bay. The building had been destroyed by fire during the winter. We took 6A instead of the Mid-Cape highway when we crossed the Bourne Bridge and enjoyed the timeless ride to our motel where we were met by Mass-8 president Bob Felt.

Bob was a great host and even provided four-wheel transportation to the nearby Elks Club Fish Fry and Karaoke at the Sea Dog restaurant on Friday evening.

Saturday was for riding and Bob led us up and down the back roads on the Cape's outer shores with stops at Race Point, Provincetown, and lunch at the Bookstore Restaurant on Wellfleet Harbor.

Saturday evening was our annual mini-golf tournament at a nearby course, and then we adjourned to the chairs in front of the motel for socializing, and of course, some bocce!

Some people stayed on to Monday, but even those heading home enjoyed more riding on Sunday. With Cliff in the lead we headed down to Chatham Light, D&L Leather in Hyannis, and the Christmas Tree Shop before those heading home broke off and were on their way. Those that stayed until Monday continued their riding with stops along the harbor side of the Cape including Rock Harbor in Orleans, and Sunken Beach in Eastham. We also visited the National Sea Shore with stops at Coast Guard Beach, Nauset Light (where we watched the surfers), and Marconi Station. It was just a great weekend, with wonderful friends, superior roads, and superb weather.

Have you bought or sold the 50/50 tickets you received with the International Newsletter? Please support the RKMC International. The 50/50 tickets help cover the costs of "doing business" as an organization and help keep the International dues down.

## *Cruising Lake George at Americade ...and the rains continued!*

It seems as if we have been skirting in and out of rain on most of our riding days this spring, and our trip to and from Lake George fit right into that pattern. A group of us left on Saturday, in the rain. A few more members rode up to Americade on Sunday, in the rain. We also had members come up on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday... all experiencing some rain or showers. One point we noticed was that every time it appeared to be getting lighter in the sky, it would rain harder.

Saturday's travelers had initially planned on a longer route which was to take a trip across Lake Champlain on the Ticonderoga Ferry, but the weather continued to deteriorate as the day wore on and the route was cut short. We didn't realize it until later in the week, but the weather had forced the ferry to stop running mid afternoon on Saturday.

The week was still full of fun, many miles, lots of food, and many friends. In the Bay Front Cabins we had twenty-one of our members and friends with several of our chapter members visiting and staying elsewhere in the area during their time in Lake George.

Monday morning's forecast was the best of the week. Early showers were to give way to sun for the afternoon. Instead of waiting in the morning lines to register at the Holiday Inn we grouped together for a ride north. Once beyond Ticonderoga the clouds broke and our group of Red Knights, including "King" Bill from Mass-7 wandered through the Adirondack Mountains to the Great Falls Gorge. With the spring's exceptionally wet weather the falls and the river running through the gorge gave us some spectacular views of the hydraulic forces as the Au Sable river made it's way through the mountains.

As it is with all our Red Knights events, we ate very well! On Sunday night we fired up the charcoal grills at the cabins and had hot dogs and hamburgers – Cajun seasoned burgers with Canadian pepper seasoning were available as well as hot Cajun baked beans. There was an aura of *internal warmth* in the air after dinner when we dug out the bocce balls for our first game on the lawn!

Sunday evening Marty prepared her famous spaghetti sauce with meatballs and sausage to simmer on the stove all night for our Monday evening spaghetti feast. There seemed to be a well-worn path to the kettle on the stove throughout the night as anonymous people sampled the sauce during the fourteen hours it was bubbling on the back of the stove! Tuesday was a steak BBQ on the grills before adjourning to the fire by the lake for s'mores. And of course there was one night (rain or no rain) that we all rode out to Stoney Creek for another great dinner.

On Tuesday, some of the group took an impromptu 290 mile ride out Route 28 and ended up in Forestport, NY at the Buffalo Head Restaurant. There is a picture floating around of the desert that Ed had after his meal. The size of the piece of pie was unbelievable and fed more than just Ed and Peg!

I think all of our members were part of promoting the economy of the area with visits to the Tents and the Lake George Forum to visit the Tour Expo Vendors and tents set up in Warrensburg.

Bob and Diona were Americade volunteers again this year and worked parking bikes at Roaring Brook Ranch for a day and worked

...a plug for a nearby Honda dealer.

On our way to Americade on Saturday, Cliff Eldridge had some mechanical difficulties and we limped into Keene Motorsports just outside of Keene, NH. On a Saturday morning they took Cliff right into the service bay to try and correct the problem and get us on our way.

They offered us all very pleasant hospitality with coffee and conversation in a dry atmosphere as we waited for the verdict on Cliff's bike. We were all grateful for their assistance and wanted to pass that information on to our members about how well we were treated.

on the Thursday Charity Poker Run. Steve spent time working on his bike during the week preparing to enter it in the competition for the HD class. That's a tough competition, as he was gigged because there was a dead bug in the space under the headlight – WOW!

Wednesday evening was the Red Knights sponsored dinner at Roaring Brook Ranch. Over 220 people braved the steady rain to attend the dinner. We gave out nearly 90 door prizes. Thank you to everyone who sent door prizes for the dinner. We receive remarks every year because of the number of prizes we give away. After the dinner, Americade founder Bill Dutcher even made it a point to stop by and speak with the Red Knights at the dinner, thanking us for all we do during the week.

Bob was one of the volunteers asked to model motorcycle apparel at the week's fashion show. With the fashion show right after the RKMC dinner there was a large (and vocal) entourage of Red Knights that came in to enjoy the show and cheer for Bob. When Bob came out on the runway a large Red Knights banner went in the air and everyone was cheering. The M.C. for the show enjoyed that and took advantage of the Red Knight's enthusiasm. Even the other "models" remarked that Bob had the most cheers.

This year's open house at the LGFD drew over 200 Red Knights in spite of the bad weather. The view from the fire house was a bit different this year as Lake George lost a block of stores on Canada Street to a fire in April. The stores, including Bob's Ice Cream, were right where we always park and "people watch" just around the corner from the fire station. The Saturday parade was not as big as it has been in the past because it was windy, cold, and damp that morning. The Red Knights led the parade with our own Ed Brouillet in the lead with a large number of HD firefighter specials following him in formation ahead of the remainder of the membership. We had about 75 Red Knight bikes in the parade.

The rain did not keep us from having a good time. We put on many miles either in planned, self-guided, or spur-of-the-moment rides, enjoyed our friends and the many bikes and riders we saw. Some time was spent at the cabins playing Yatzee and dice games and general rest and recreation. A few members even got to play a round of golf during the week and a couple others were seen throwing a line into the lake off our docks – although we never saw any fish. As always it was just a great time! Plan to join us at the next Americade – rain or shine!

Bylaw Changes to be voted on at the November meeting

Section 19: Any member with dues not paid by **February 1<sup>st</sup>** will be charged an additional \$5.00 administrative fee. If the dues are still not paid by **March 1<sup>st</sup>**, their membership will be terminated at the discretion of the executive board.

This change is needed to coincide with the requirements of the International. The way our current dues structure is worded, a member could be on time paying their dues to the chapter but the timing would make the chapter late in paying the International and have to pay a \$50 penalty.

Weekend of July 21-23  
**Down-east in Wells, Maine**

It is time to head back to Wells, Maine this year for some summertime fun. If you are interested in a weekend away on the bike up Route 1, contact Marty Eldridge so we can begin thinking about the lodging options for the weekend.

Our snow birds have returned for the summer and their welcome mat is out!

Killington Classic — September 6-10



(Hundreds of bikes make their way into Rutland for the Killington Parade and Block Party)

The place to be the weekend after Labor Day is the Killington Classic in Vermont. September 6-10 is a great new rally that is getting bigger and better each and every year.

Come join many of your Red Knight friends from around the northeast and beyond.

The Inn at Six Mountains, Killington, Vermont has a block of roomed set aside for the RKMC.

To RSVP, Call 1-800-228-4676 tell them you are with the Red Knights! (\$74 room rate {plus tax})

**Rides from other groups:**

**Molly's Ride for Missing Children**  
Sunday, June 25.

This charity ride is to raise money for the Molly Bish Foundation for missing and exploited children. Registration at Quaboag Regional High School. [www.mollybish.org/](http://www.mollybish.org/)

**Ride for the Children**  
Saturday, July 8.

The North-Quabbin Child and Family Services' annual charity ride in and around the towns of the Quabbin region with live entertainment, food, and fun.

The ride will start at "The Bedroom Factory" on West Main Street in Orange at 8:30 a.m.

**DAKIN Animal Shelter's**  
**Ride for the Animals**  
Saturday, July 22.

[www.dakinshelter.org](http://www.dakinshelter.org)

**Cruise for a Cause Poker Run**  
**To benefit children with Autism**  
Sunday, August 27.

Sponsored by the Easthampton HOG, the 100 mile Poker Run will start and end at Conant Park in Southamptn. Food and refreshments will follow.

Contact Tim Kilhart if you are interested in either the July 8 ride or the August 27 ride.

**Red Knights Annual Convention**  
**August 10-11-12-13, 2006 in ew York City**

Our chapter has an entourage of members headed to NYC for the annual convention. It is always a great time with old and new friends alike.

The New York City Fire Riders have been working hard with their planning and it sounds like a lot to do and a lot of fun awaits our members.

For those of us not heading to New York this year, we'll be waiting at home to hear of the stories about the convention and events like the BBQ at Killarney's Cottage, the Bus Tour of Manhattan, and the fire boat ride and memorial tours in the city.

Red Knights Motorcycle Club  
Massachusetts Chapter 2  
P.O. Box 316  
Westminster, MA 01473

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### Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

Saturday, July 15. Scavenger Hunt

Vice-president Kevin Martin has been toiling to prepare a scavenger hunt for our chapter to ride. Come see what surprises he has in store for us. Meet at WFD at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 30. Come watch the boys of summer as the Worcester Tornadoes take the field

Meet at WFD at 11:00 a.m. and we'll head south to watch Worcester's semi-pro baseball team.

Saturday, August 5. A ride to the North-Shore

Come join us for a ride to the seacoast in and around Gloucester... maybe even a stop at the Hammond Castle. Meet at Westminster FD at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 12. Breakfast Ride

Not heading to the convention? Then join us for a breakfast ride and we can celebrate the VP's birthday! Meet at WFD at 8:30 am

Saturday, August 26. Vermont Covered Bridges

We'll head out to the Covered Bridge Museum in Bennington and take a look at the bridges in the area. Meet at WFD at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 2. Labor Day Weekend Cookout at the Mickle's in Nashua

Meet at WFD at 10:00 a.m. and we'll have a ride into southern New Hampshire and enjoy Steve and Deb's hospitality. Bring a dish to share and something to throw on the grill.

Saturday, September 16. Find your way through the Maze at the Davis' Farm

What makes Sterling famous... it's the corn maze constructed on the Davis Farm each year. Join us at WFD at 9:00 a.m. and we'll see how well the Red Knights do when they are put to the (stress) test.

The next **Ice Cream Rides** are Tuesday, June 20 and Tuesday July 18

### ***RK International Bike Raffle***

The Red Knights International is running a Custom Chopper Raffle to benefit the RKMC Memorial Fund. The winner can choose between a Custom Chopper built on a soft tail frame or \$18,000 in cash! A maximum of 1500 tickets will be sold. (\$20 each). **Our Chapter has tickets to buy & sell.** Contact treasurer Tim Kilhart to buy your winning ticket. Please support this fund raising activity as it is raising funds for the RKMC Memorial.