



From the  
President's Desk

# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — Summer '09

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

*Loyal to Our Duty*

Road to Everywhere—The road is always there, just change the oil, fill up the gas tank, and head out. No plans needed, the road will take you there. The old Indian will be there and guide you along the way, one just has to listen. He speaks and sounds like a soft breeze as the sun comes up over the lakes and the trees.

*(Excerpt from a Motorcycle Consumer News Editorial)*

There was an editorial in Rider magazine earlier this year that talked about "Old, Bold Riders." Some of the writer's thoughts fit right in with mine - and yours too I suspect. *"Since turning 40 [several years back] the years have gone by in a blink despite all that has happened. Where did the time go? Suddenly I am creaky in spots, need reading glasses, and often find myself lusting after vintage machines. It's often said that once you hit 40 you are in your best years—old enough to know better yet young enough to still enjoy everything. What they don't tell you is that in exchange, when you hit 40 the throttle opens a smidge and life begins accelerating. That's OK, as long as you're on the ride and not standing by the side of the road watching it go by."*

When the weather broke this spring and we were finally able to ride instead of standing by the side of the road, all we saw were smiles. Our last breakfast club gathering saw temperatures break 80 degrees. After breakfast we put on a few miles and smiled and waved at dozens of other riders that we passed on that gorgeous April day. With the winter passed, boy did we deserve that five-star day on our bikes!

And we are very lucky and live in a wonderful part of our country to be a motorcyclist. Clement Salvadori recently wrote of a ride experience he had, to help us put our road opportunities into perspective. *"We took off across the flat land of southern Louisiana, rolled on for an hour or so, and then my riding partner stopped, sort of in the middle of nowhere."* *"Why are we stopping?"* I asked. *"I just want to prepare you,"* he answered, *"because we're about to go around the only curve we'll see all day."*

There are plenty more five-star days ahead — and in New England we have many five star roads at our beck and call as well.

Take a look at our ride schedule. We are making a good attempt at hitting some of those roads. We had a large representative group in Lake George that enjoyed the Adirondack miles, and we have even been east into Logan Airport and up to Revere Beach on one jaunt with Mass-11 and Mass-3. That shows the two ends of the road extremes—and they are all good miles. And all with good friends.

So folks, don't stand by the side of the road, take advantage of what our roads and our friendships have to offer. Jump on the ride that is waiting for your participation. I hope that you consider the friendships in the Red Knights part of that accelerated ride that brings a smile to your face and some spring into your step. Winter is well behind us and we are speeding into prime riding season. I hope that you can all come out and take part in some of our planned events this summer.

### **POST-Americade Pot-luck** Saturday, July 12.

**Americade's Picture Perfect Pot-luck.** Join us at Moe and Marcia's with your pictures and videos from Americade. Along with the pictures we'll share some food, laughs, and stories! Meet at M & M's (66 Brook Lane) in Gardner at 6:00 p.m.

Bring some food to share—and some stories to tell and we will have another great time!

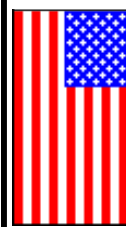
Get your pictures and videos to Maury before and he will get them into a format to play on the big screen television.

Friday, July 4.

### **4th of July Pot-luck BBQ.**



Come enjoy some time with friends at a holiday pot-luck. We'll be in Petersham at Bob and Diona's. Bring a dish to share and something to throw on the grill. See you around noon for the food.



If you want to come earlier, bring your flags and we'll participate in the **Petersham July 4th Parade** (only about a mile long) at 10:00 a.m. (Meet on the town common at 9:30). It's a fun country parade full of kids, home made floats, ATVs, and hopefully the Red Knights!

Then we'll fire up the grills on West Road at the conclusion of the parade.

Saturday, July 5.  
**Another parade...**

Bring you flags and your "red" and join us at another 4th of July Parade (actually on the 5th) in Ayer. Meet at Hannaford's Supermarket on Route 2A in Ayer at noon.



## Come join us for the New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 17.



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.

A Ride for Kids flyer is included with this mailing.

### Membership News Briefs...

Congratulations to Caitlin Barclay about her opportunity to work at Sea World in San Antonio. Swimming with the dolphins or spending the summer on two wheels in New England—now that is a tough choice! We'll miss seeing you on our rides this summer, but we know that you'll think of us occasionally.

Congratulations to Eric Jack and his wife Melinda on the birth of their son recently, and to Tim and Darlene Kilhart on the new addition to their family, a 2008 (Red) Yamaha Venture. Vroom, vroom, vroom!

Francis Wada says that if anyone is looking for a good and reasonably priced repair shop please pass on that there is a new place in Leominster that he has had luck with — Mike Burdett at 127 Mechanic Street in Leominster (978-840-0428 [www.mikesmotorcycleservice.com](http://www.mikesmotorcycleservice.com))

Congratulations to our good friend Chris Olson (Mass-8) on his appointment as Chief with the Cotuit Fire Department!

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

- Our monthly "Breakfast Clubs" might be over until cold weather returns — but they were a popular destination even if they were on four wheels! In March we had hopes of spring but on *breakfast day* we awoke to fresh snow and slow sledding along the roads... but we still had eleven people trudge through the snow to have breakfast together. Thanks to Larry Robinson we found an "all-you-can-eat" maple syrup breakfast (with stuffed omelet's) at the Masonic Lodge in Barre!
- A handful of bikes met up on Patriot's Day to enjoy the bright sunshine, blue skies and 75 degree weather. We ventured across southern Vermont and south into western Massachusetts before stopping on Route 9 in Williamsburg for lunch at Chef Wayne's Big Mamou Cajun Restaurant (very authentic and tasty Cajun chow too)! Before we were done we put on about 200 miles - and of course we stopped for ice cream.
- We had ten members meet up to wander through the back roads to Palmer and try the "Steaming Tender" restaurant. What a great find! A definite candidate for our *visit again list*. It is housed in a refurbished train station (where trains still pass close by) and the food was great. Then we were off further south to visit one of our favorite ice cream places — the UConn Dairy.
- I bet Cliff and Marty were surprised when a group of Saturday riders pulled into Wells and caught Cliff fishing! He said he knew something was up when Ed called his cell phone "just to say hello!"



Now we know where Peg B. gets her "adventuresome" spirit!

This picture is Peg's Mom, (Not too bad at the age of 87). She is riding in the sled of her nephew, at the ceremonial start of the Iditarod dogsled race in Anchorage, Alaska. She is now part of Iditarod history! [He finished 58 out of 95 entries in the race]



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

### Sunday, October 12 — Annual Chapter meeting followed by the Apple Pie Ride.

Chapter meeting (and election of officers) at 10:00 and then a ride to Dummerston for the Vermont Apple Pie Festival.

### Rider Education Scholarships

Thank you to everyone who applied for our MSF Scholarships and to our scholarship committee of Donna Moreau, Bob Shakarian, and Don Hurme — and congratulations to our 2008 MSF winners.

This year's recipients are Cory Bourque, a firefighter with the Petersham Fire Department and Marcia Marjomaa for the MSF Beginner's Course and Rick Oliver and Robert Connolly for the Experienced Course. (Congratulations to both our "beginners" for passing their course and receiving their motorcycle endorsement!)

We had ten applications for the four scholarships this year. Those of us who have taken either of the MSF courses know the value of the training programs.

If you applied for the scholarship but did not win one this year, please consider applying again in the future.



Our first ride briefing of 2008!

Our April breakfast ride was to the Phillipston Lions Club's pancake breakfast. It was a GREAT day that reached 80 degrees. You could tell by the smiles that we

deserved that kind of a day for the 9 bikes (and three four-wheelers) that joined us (19 people total)! After breakfast we took a ride around the Quabbin and saw a lot of other bikes on the road and we all shared the same smile.

**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 Friday of the month (through September) and will ride for ice cream. Meet us at the Westminster FD for 6:30 pm on June 20 & July 11.

Did you hear that Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream is 30 years old this year? And to celebrate their birthday they have a new flavor that came out called "Cake Batter."

It is a creamy mix of vanilla ice cream swirled with yellow cake batter and chocolate frosting! Now if that didn't get your taste buds going I don't know what will!



### *Cape Cod—the 2008 version...*

The weatherman was all dark and gloom as the weekend approached—but when we met up at WFD the skies were still dry. We had eight bikes and two four-wheelers from Mass-2 join us on the Cape and we kept dry about half way on our trip. But we were all prepared and had the rain gear on ahead of time. We met up with Chris Olsen from Mass-8 when we crossed the bridge onto the Cape and stopped for lunch in Sandwich.

We got to the Town Crier in Eastham before the heavy rains moved in and met up with members from Mass-3, 8, 13 and Connecticut 2 & 4. The afternoon saw everyone break out the dice, playing cards, and pool cues for the afternoon. (Along with all the snacks everyone had packed away).

Friday evening was the Elk's Club Fish Fry, just across the street, for dinner. With a number of 4-wheelers to chauffeur so we left the bikes covered at the motel. After dinner a number of members stayed at the Elk's to participate in the Karaoke. The crowd raised over \$150 for the Veteran's Support Fund to entice Bob Felt of Mass-8 to get up and sing "Like a Virgin!"

Our hosts at the Town Crier were great. Each morning we had a wonderful buffet breakfast ready for us and the pool house and restaurant area became our *games room* where we spent time playing cards and games and using their pool tables.

Saturday morning we had a leisurely few hours as we waited for the showers to pass. About noon we were off with cool and cloudy skies (44 degrees) under the guidance of the McGraths & Chris Olson for our Cape Cod *Grand Tour*. We visited twelve fire stations starting at Provincetown and then moving west on Route 6. We started taking helmets and gloves off at the first stop but quickly learned that efficiency was needed at the stops — especially with 20 bikes and 100 miles to go! I think our quickest stop was less than a minute to get the picture taken. It was a great ride and a lot of fun. At the end of the ride, the Olsen's and McGrath's had planned a spaghetti and meat ball (and venison sausage) dinner for us at the McGrath's—complete with outside fire to keep warm and make s'mores for dessert! (Then there was Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream after that).

Sunday morning saw us head in different directions when we left the Cape as there were multiple plans for the day. Sunday's weather finally saw a lot of sunshine which made the ride home a pleasant one.

### *Cape Cod in the Fall instead of the Spring?*

Our friends on the Cape have told us that the weather on Cape Cod in the spring is always a mixed bag. And we all know that we can get wet... and it can be cold and windy in May on the Cape. What do you think of moving the Cape Cod weekend to late September or early October for 2009? Let a chapter officer know your thoughts. The motel in Eastham said they would work with us if we wanted to come late in the season too.

If we go to the Cape in the fall, what are some ideas for a May weekend? Western Connecticut, the Berkshires, the Catskills? Please let us know what you think.

## *If it's Lake George it must be Americade*

It says something about the Red Knights and our reputation when I got a personal email from Americade Founder Bill Dutcher back in April. Bill wanted to tell me that the Wednesday evening RKMC dinner at Roaring Brook Ranch was running well above the pre-registrations that the dinner had in the previous year. Do you suppose that has anything to do with all the door prizes and participation that we have at the dinner from our members?

Bill also said in his email, "Guess what motorcycle club is going to be featured on the cover of the 2008 Americade Official Program?" Yup, the Red Knights. The cover is the RKMC leading the Saturday parade up Prospect Mountain in 2007 — AND it wasn't just "the Red Knights," it was Ed and Sparky (Peg) waving as they climbed the mountain in lead of the parade! Everywhere you look at Americade you can find a Red Knight. Big smiles, lots of laughing, and always having a good time seems to be the mantra of most people at Americade but it is especially present with the Red Knights — and the Americade leadership has noticed that too!

We had a group of ten that served as "advanced scouts" and headed to Lake George on Saturday. We stopped along the Lake Champlain canal at the Saratoga Park for a picnic and made it all but 20 miles until we ran into rain! We had to check out Stoney Creek and were surprised to find the place packed at 5:30 p.m. We were greeted by a bearded, shoeless, toothless "doorman" who welcomed us to a neighborhood wedding — complete with a Hillbilly Rock band! We also learned that "the Inn" almost did not re-open this year. Both owners had bouts with cancer and the building sustained some winter damage. But the village came together and fixed the building and was lending a hand to help John and Dot continue on! We had 25 members make another trip to Stoney Creek on Friday evening for another great meal.

By Sunday afternoon our Red Knight village had grown to 30 people — and more would come before the week was out. We also had a constant flow of visitors from all over including Florida, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, & New York.

On Monday we had one group take off for a 300 mile ride that included a pilgrimage to Ben & Jerry's in Vermont. The ride took a route up and over the Mad River Glen (Route 17) and also up the Champlain Islands stopping within site of the custom's station before heading back south to Lake George.

There were Red Knights at every turn around the village. Our chapter had three couples that were on "Americade Staff." We all helped the economy by spending time in the vendors. There were also members of our group on some of the cruises (I heard they may have been mooned when the boat passed by the Bay Front boat dock) and others who took part



As time passes after an event it is usually all the good times and fun memories that we remember. This year I would be remiss not to mention we had a few challenges that met us along the way during the week. Lake George's version of "Montezuma's Revenge" visited a half-dozen of our members, and many more Americade visitors during the week. We had a (previously) sprained ankle, a nearly sprained ankle on arrival, a recently operated on knee that wasn't cooperative, and one more serious back injury that required hospitalization.

I mention these things because what was evident in all of them is that we are a special type of group. Everyone was there to support each other. One of our newer members said they like being part of this "family." I have to say, "me too." Thanks to all for working so diligently to lend a hand throughout the week and turn our challenges into a memorable week.

in the Poker Runs, demo rides, seminars, and all that fun stuff that is available during the week. The evenings included several fire side visits by the water where there are always many stories and laughs available.

At the Wednesday 3-Course dinner at Roaring Brook the Red Knights again hosted a sold out crowd with a lot of door prizes (over 120) and a lot of smiles. The manager of the hall was getting concerned because they set the room for over 320 and only one open chair remained at the end of the setting. Bill Dutcher made an "under cover" visit to the dinner, and his videographers spent the meal time taking shots of all the Knights.

The Red Knight open house (at a church hall since the new fire station is just getting underway with forms being set) had over 260 RK members in attendance.

One chapter ride out around the Great Sacandaga Lake put Kevin's GPS to the test. At a four corner stop (without any signage) the GPS did not come up with directions. It took the group three directional tries before the electronic unit liked the choice they made!

We had some drizzle here and there but took advantage of the downtime for cards and dice, videos, reading, and NAPS! And we made sure we made time for people and bike watching on Canada Street during the week.

The Saturday parade was met with a hot and sunny day and the crowds were out in force to cheer all the parade riders along the route. As in the past, the Red Knights with flags flying were leading the parade. It was a great way to draw the week to a close.



Of course we ate well... BBQ's that included Hot Dogs, hamburgers, Steaks, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw... Marty's famous Spaghetti with Meatballs and Sausage... Waffles, omelets, bacon and all that available for breakfasts. And of course there were four sheet pans full of Mary B's chocolate chip squares (that had to be served with ice cream!)

### The passing of the Killington Classic

It appears that there will not be a Killington Classic this year. We have not been able to get any "official" word from Kev-Marv productions but there appears to be no corporate planning going on for this year's event. There is a rumor that the Chamber of Commerce is trying to keep it alive.

Whether there is an "official" Killington Classic or not, if you would be interested in some time in Vermont after Labor Day with the Red Knights, contact Tim Kilhart and we can see if there is interest in our own "Classic."

We had 19 people come out for our train ride into Boston in March. It was COLD! The wind was whipping around the streets of the city and Mother Anna's was a welcome warm haven when we showed up for lunch. John was waiting for us and had the table all ready to receive us!



We visited the State House and the Fallen Firefighters Memorial (thanks to the help of State Rep Anne Gobi). We found the names of several firefighters we knew at the memorial, including Red Knight Tim Jackson of Worcester FD, and John Cetrino of the Fitchburg FD. We also visited the nearby Law Enforcement memorial and found fellow public safety people that we remembered on that memorial too.

Our chapter was hoping to purchase a brick that would be placed in the walkway around the memorial. The Memorial Committee, however, told us that the club does not meet the criteria of being a Fire Department Association to be listed on a brick.

We have purchased more reflective helmet stickers for the chapter. Previously the stickers were the RKMC logo — now the stickers are the logo along with a bottom rocker that says "Mass 2" just like our larger window decals.

Contact Treasurer Tim Kilhart if you would like to purchase any.

We're in the midst of riding season and always looking forward to the next ride. Here are some thoughts from the AMA on 9 Things You May Not Have Thought to Pack.

#### Duct Tape

It'll fix almost anything. Just wrap a few feet of it around the handle of a tool in your kit.

#### Flashlight

A small source of light could be a lifesaver if your bike dies after sunset.

#### Extra key

Either give it to a friend on tour, or zip-tie it to a hidden location on your bike. Trust us. An ignition key is not something you want to be left without.

#### Ear Plugs

That ringing in your ears at the end of the day? That's the sound of hearing damage. Prevent it with earplugs. One option: Bulk buy at [earplugstore.com](http://earplugstore.com).

#### Sunblock

It should always be in your tank bag—and on the back of your

neck.

#### Dog Tag

It's a good idea to have another ID, just in case a debilitating crash separates you from your wallet.

#### Water

A backpack hydration system that allows you to drink while riding makes a huge difference to your mental sharpness on long days.

#### Weather-band Radios

These provide instant updates, any time, no matter where you are. Portable units can be purchased for under \$30.

#### GPS

A bit pricier than weather-band radios, a GPS unit would be no less a lifesaver when you inadvertently rode off the edge of your only map two hours ago.

I know that I have heard many stories about Hal, a former member of our chapter who lives in Canada. Seems the chapter had lost track of Hal over the years.

Just recently he contacted the Fitchburg FD to get Phil Jordan's number and made contact again with the chapter. For those of you who remember Hal and wish to touch base, his email is [swimming@netscape.ca](mailto:swimming@netscape.ca) and his mailing info is:

Hal Billiard  
1242 Rte. 715  
Lower Cambridge N.B.  
Canada E4C 4M3

The Red Knights have been invited to participate in the Open House and Dedication of the new Ashburnham Fire Station. Kevin says that they have been "homeless" for a long time and the new station is a very special milestone for his department and the community.

We have been asked to participate with our members, bikes, and flags to help celebrate this special event. We will get information out about the dates and times when it is available.

## Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

The next **Ice Cream Rides** are June 20 & July 11 (2nd Friday)

**\*\*DATE CHANGE!\*\*** Saturday, June 21. **Water and Fire Ride** — An afternoon and evening ride with a stop at **Wright's Chicken Farm** for dinner and then continue to Providence for their evening Water-Fire show along the river front. Meet at WFD at 2:30 p.m. Visit [www.waterfire.org](http://www.waterfire.org) for info.

Saturday, June 28. **RK Vermont-2's Paul's Ride.** Let's support a nearby chapter's efforts to help those with cancer. Meet at WFD at 8:00 a.m.

(Fri. to Sun.), July 18-20. **A weekend on Route 100.** We have a Vermont B&B to ourselves and will take advantage of Route 100 while we are there! Rooms are limited so make your reservation before they are all filled up! *The GWRRA New England Rally is also that weekend in Rutland if you are looking for vendors!*

Saturday, July 26. **Play your cards with the Chapter.** Our chapter treasurer will flip a coin and lead us where he wants. At each stop the riders will participate in some "card games" to see who ends up with the best hand. (*Don't worry I think there will be some ice cream "in the cards" as well*). Meet at Westminster FD at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 2. **A chapter Porker Run.** Come eat, umm, ride, with us. We'll plan each stop specifically to keep our bellies full! We'll stop for pastries and coffee in the morning, ice cream in the afternoon, and somewhere special before we are done for the day. At lunch time we'll be planning a picnic stop, so bring along something to your liking for lunch. Meet at WFD at 9:00 a.m. and we'll spend the day on the road.

Saturday, August 9. **Day ride to Wells, Maine to visit our snow birds.** We'll meet at WFD at 8:00 a.m. and take advantage of the long daylight hours for a ride to Wells, Maine to have lunch with Marty & Cliff! We'll also plan on a detour through Durham, NH to see how the UNH Dairy matches up to UCONN's ice cream!

Sunday, August 31. **Labor Day Weekend Cookout.** We have the pavilion and grills reserved at the Tully Lake Recreational area in Royalston. Meet at Westminster FD at 10:00 and we'll go for a ride that ends at the lake where we can spread out our pot-luck attributes and enjoy the afternoon. (The grills will be fired about noon).

### Four-Corners Memorial Dedication

in Madawaska, Maine 6/27/08

The host for the NE corner of the "4-corners tour" have built a motorcyclists memorial. Members of Mass-2 will be attending (Fri-Sun)  
Contact Ed Brouillet if interested in going!

The Moving Wall  
is coming to the  
Wilmington Common,  
Wilmington, MA  
Sept. 18 - 22, 2008.



### An invitation to ride From Mass-8

July 12 Ride to Falmouth—  
Departure at 9:00 a.m.  
from Exit 6 (Route 6)  
Burger King Parking Lot.

August 9 Ride to Plymouth  
- departure 9:00 a.m. from  
Exit 6 (Route 6) Burger  
King Parking Lot

September 13 Ride to  
Provincetown - departure  
at 9:00 a.m. from Exit 6  
(Route 6) Burger King  
Parking Lot

**Amherst FD MDA  
Ride**  
August 23, 2008



### 2008 Molly's Ride for Child Safety

Sunday, June 29  
(Rain Date Sunday, July  
13)

New location: Sturbridge  
Host Hotel  
Main Street, Sturbridge  
Registration 9:00—noon  
\$20 per bike

For more info contact  
[www.MollyBish.org](http://www.MollyBish.org)

100% of the proceeds and  
donations go to the Molly  
Bish Foundation supporting  
the funding to provide child  
identification, safety, and  
educational programs for  
families, schools, community  
groups, and law enforcement  
groups around New England

### Hatfield (Mass) Firefighters Association BBQ

(Proceeds to purchase a thermal imager)

Sunday, June 29 noon to 3 pm

Catered by the Holy Smokes BBQ

(No longer a restaurant because they burned down. Now 'where pigs fly'  
does BBQ catering)

Pulled Pork—\$12, BBQ Chicken—\$14, and 1/2 Rack of Ribs—\$16  
Pre-paid tickets are a must. Call Bob if you would like to ride to Hatfield for  
some Sunday afternoon BBQ!

(Thurs. to Sun.) August 20-24.

### Red Knights' annual convention.

Sandusky, Ohio. Plans look like the contingent will be  
leaving on Saturday, August 16 enroute to Ohio.

*How about those staying behind ride with them for  
a while and stop for breakfast along the way?*

In your recent International newsletter there was a listing of the proposed  
bylaw changes for the International. Look them over. If you have  
questions or would like to discuss them, bring it up at a ride and you can  
let your opinions be known with those going to the convention.

Safe riding is always good riding. Riding safely is mostly a matter of knowledge and attitude, and riding safely doesn't have to be boring. In fact, practicing safe techniques could add years of fun to your life.

Simply put, here are 10 habits to practice that will help keep you safe and make riding more enjoyable.



1. Be ready: mind, body, and bike.
2. Be smooth.
3. Know where you are.
4. Use your head (to look where you're going.)
5. When your line of sight or path of travel becomes restricted, reduce your speed and use great care.
6. Before proceeding through any intersection, check left, check front, check right, then check left again.
7. Whenever you slow, first check your rearview mirror.
8. Keep a 2-4 second following distance.
9. Ride with a great attitude.
10. Practice, practice, practice.

We had thirteen members show up to polish their skills with some parking lot practice time back in April. Thanks to Terry Atwood and his course assemblers (Bob Shakarian and Dean Atwood) — and thanks to Phoenix park for the use of their parking lot for a Saturday morning.

All those participating said that it was well worth the time spent on practicing and that we should do it again. It was a lot of fun and we all were challenged against our own skills to make us better riders. Hopefully everyone can join us when we try it again!

Rick Oliver, proprietor of the New Salem General Store took in a new micro brew called *"Hook and Ladder Brew."* Along with being a pretty good micro brew, the company's motto is "a penny in every pint." For every beer sold, the Hook and Ladder Brewing Company donates money to burn treatment centers around the country. If you are passing through New Salem, stop by and see Rick and pick up a cold six pack to take home.  
[www.hookandladderbeer.com](http://www.hookandladderbeer.com)

By now you have probably read in your International newsletter that I have stepped down as International Editor. I just want to thank you — my friends in Mass-2 — for all your help in making that task a success over the past decade.

My name may have been on the document each time it went in the mail but it always took work of a lot of people to get it written, proof-read, and printed. Early on in that endeavor it even took work parties (with pizza and beer) stuffing, stamping, and addressing hundreds of newsletters to go out. Cliff became quite an expert on spreading the little legs on the envelope clasp.

We have a chapter that we can ALWAYS be proud of!

Thanks, Bob

Have you taken the time with your ride for a little spring service and TLC to prepare it for the season?

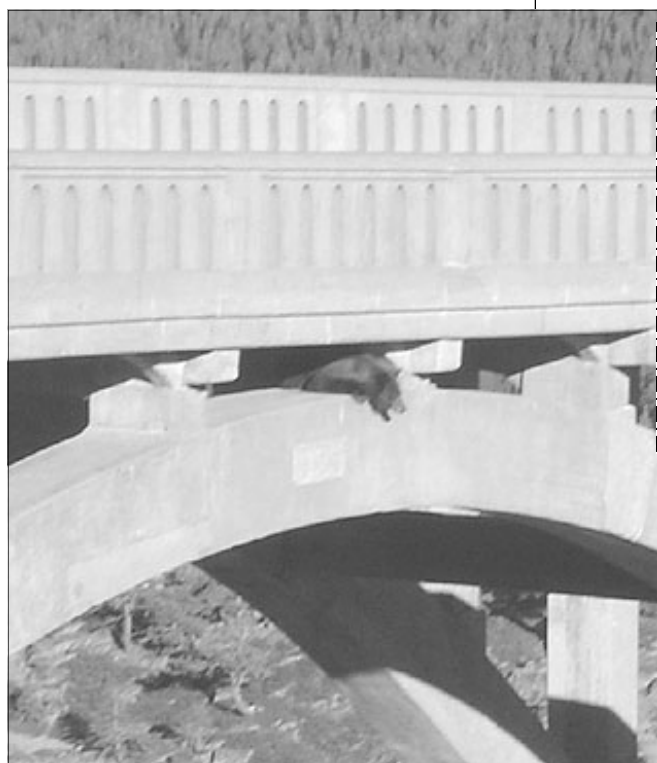
Caitlin has had some minor glitches in her spring mechanical fine-tuning this year. First her ride left her stranded with some phantom electrical issues when it would just coast to the side of the road. Then she had some fuse and "short-circuit" challenges and went through a handful of master fuses before that was diagnosed. And on our Cape Cod trip her brake light was always on.

Frustrated, as we all would be, she grumbled that her gremlin bell was not doing its job in protecting her ride... and guess what we found? Her gremlin bell was missing, so no wonder she was having all those issues! So make sure that an evaluation of your gremlin bell is part of your spring check up!



Our first ice cream "ride" was an ice cream social at the On Site Academy in Westminster. We were invited to visit their new (beautiful) facility and decided to bring some ice cream to share with their staff. There were 25 of us total between the two groups and we ate a lot of ice cream (and Mary Barclay's chocolate chip squares too!).

Thanks to Don Hurme for doing the leg work procuring our ten quarts of ice cream and associated fixings!



This bridge is on the Old Donner Pass Highway. It has a spectacular view of Donner Lake and Donner Pass.

A bear was walking across Rainbow Bridge when two cars also crossing the bridge scared the bear into jumping over the edge of the bridge. Somehow the bear caught the edge and was able to pull itself off to safety. Authorities decided that nothing could be done to help that night so they returned the next morning to find the bear sound asleep on the ledge.

After securing a net under the bridge the bear was tranquilized, fell into the net, lowered, then woke up and walked out of the net.

There is a moral to this story you know; this old bear made a wrong move and found he was hanging by his nails. Somehow he was able to pull himself up onto the ledge where he saw he was in a very bad, impossible situation. And what did he do? Yep, he took a nap and sure enough the situation took care of itself while he was asleep.

The moral is that when confronted with a bad situation sometimes the best solution is to take a nap.

*(I think there should be something in there about a motorcycle ride and/or ice cream as well as a nap!)*

I want to thank all those who participated in the calling hours and funeral of Skip Resseguie of Mass-1 last month. Skip was a long-time member of the Red Knights, joining as a charter member when the Red Knights began. Skip was killed in a car accident in Western Mass while out hunting.

Dave Hamilton, president of Mass-1, expressed his deep appreciation for all the Red Knights' condolences and support of Skip's family and the members of Mass-1 during this difficult time.

There were nearly 40 bikes leading Skip's final procession with riders representing Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and New York.

### *Motorcycle Safety at Monty-Tech*

Last year the Barclays donated Heather and Caitlin's old motorcycle to Monty-Tech as a project for the students to rebuild. The shop has been working on it and by the time you read this it will be complete.

On the last day of school, June 17, the bike is going to be raffled off to a member of the student body. One of the stipulations that the Barclays had is that the winner must take a Motorcycle Safety Course before they can take the bike.

The chapter voted to fund that course for the winner. We have been invited to the ceremonies at the school when the bike winner will be drawn.

A big thank you goes out to the Barclays for their commitment to Motorcycle Safety and to each member of the chapter for helping make the opportunity of an MSF class available to a young person who may not otherwise be able to take the class.



Thanks go out to Jim & Lori McGrath and Chris Olsen of Mass-8 for planning and leading our 2008 Cape Cod Grand Tour. We had twenty bikes that visited 12 stations all over the Cape... in less than four hours!