



# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 – Summer '10

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

*Loyal to Our Duty*

From the  
President's Desk  
Hello everyone,

We all know that riding with our Red Knight friends and meeting up for different events is a lot of fun. But solo rides are important to our riding psyche as well. I look forward to my work commutes when I am on the bike because it gives me time to plan the day or decompress from it. And those longer rides and trips where you are alone on the road with your thoughts can be emotionally therapeutic as well. I know that when it comes to a trip I have looked forward to, like Americade or last year's ride to Canada with Cliff, it usually takes about 50 miles to de-stress from the everyday weights — and each mile on the road helps with that stress relief!

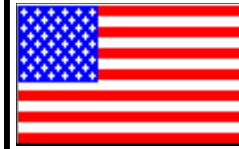
I was reading a road trip article in the AMA magazine recently and as the story unfolded it did not take the line I thought it was going to at the beginning. As the rider's vacation trip progressed he encountered some pretty serious troubles and even was injured before returning home. Throughout his journey and the article, he was using the trip to refocus his priorities after some difficult professional issues. A paraphrased clip of his closing remarks is below. And they were remarks that struck a chord with me and I wanted to share them with you as well.

*A great [motorcycle] trip can help you figure out a lot by yourself and a lot about what you are willing to put up with [in life]. There are limitations in this life. Limitations to what our bodies will do, limitations to our skills on a motorcycle, limitations to what we are willing to put up with in our personal and professional lives.*

*We can also move those limitations around, and to become as good a person as we each strive to be. There is no reason not to be the best person we can. The reasons are all around us; family, friends, colleagues, and [especially] our spouses.*

We know that we each have our own challenges and limitations in our lives, and there are times that those walls we find ourselves up against may seem insurmountable. But what is good about those challenges is there are special people available in our lives that understand and are willing to be part of our efforts around those walls and challenges. I look at my Red Knights friends (and family) as an important part of that community in my life, and I hope that you do as well.

Stay safe and we'll meet on the road soon!



Saturday, July 3.  
4th of July Pot-luck BBQ.

Come enjoy some time with friends at a holiday pot-luck.



We must change the location of the BBQ. It will be at Bob and Diona's, 276 West Road in Petersham. If you need to follow the group be at WFD for 11:30. (Or if you want to arrive on your own in Petersham, that's OK too).

Grills will be hot for noon...  
bring some food to share!

### **POST-Americade Pot-luck Saturday, July 17.**

We'll be at the Oliver's in New Salem (1:00 p.m.) to look at all the pictures from Americade!

Bring your CD's of pictures to view and we'll show them on the big screen and have some laughs (and food) together!

44 West Street in New Salem (The Hamilton Orchard road off Route 202—about a mile from Rick's store).

### **Not quite another World Record!**

Mass-2 was part of another WORLD RECORD attempt with the Guinness Book on May 1 when we participated with RK members from around the U.S. and Canada on the World's Largest Poker Run. Each poker run left their starting point at 10:00 EST. There were over 1,300 riders participating but unfortunately because of weather in different parts of the country we did not break the record set in 2009. (But the ride did raise 16,208.35!)

Mass-2 & Mass-13 grouped together with 25 members and Mass-1 & 4 and Rhode Island grouped up with 40 members. We ran a 75 mile route that ended at the Red Knights Memorial

A big thank you is owed to Maury Lizotte for his work in organizing our portion (and paperwork) for the ride.

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 these posts should contact this year's nomination chairman, Secretary Maury Lizotte.

### **Sunday, October 10 — Annual Chapter meeting followed by the Apple Pie Ride.**

Chapter meeting (and election of officers) at 9:00 and then a ride to Dummerston for the Vermont Apple Pie Festival.



## Come join us for the New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 15.



We'll meet at the Petersham Common at 7:30 am and head to Sturbridge 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...

Our condolences go out to Wayne and Linda Stacy on the recent passing of Wayne's mom, and to Bob Shakarian and Donna Moreau on the passing of Bob's dad.

Congratulations to chapter member Eric Jack and his wife Melinda on the birth of their daughter Kendy!! And congratulations to Tim Kilhart on his recent retirement from the Orange FD after 32 years.

Welcome to John Kobus, our newest member, and a firefighter with the Clinton FD.

### Worcester County Motorcyclists Survivors Fund

I received an invitation from the Mass Motorcycle Association to attend a meeting of the Blackstone Valley Motorcyclists Survivor's Fund in West Boylston. Maury and I went and listened to the board of directors of this organization talk about their mission "Helping Families of Those Who Ride." They have expanded to include assistance to all of Worcester County. Their web page is <http://www.wcmsfund.org>.

They started this organization to offer support (financial and other) to families of riders seriously hurt or killed in MC crashes. In doing so, they have a number of fundraisers throughout the year. They want to expand their network of people who will share information, keep the board informed of potential families that may need help, and be receptive to other riders helping them raise funds.

If you're looking for any information regarding WCMFSF, email is [info@wcmsfund.org](mailto:info@wcmsfund.org), web page is [www.wcmsfund.org](http://www.wcmsfund.org) and their new Facebook page is Worcestercounty (one word) Motorcyclist Survivors Fund.



We had a great time at our spring "Skills Day" last month. Sixteen people showed up and rode to Phoenix Park with us for a day to improve all our skills. I want to emphasize that we ALL benefit from practice and NO ONE is a perfect rider!

We hope to make this event a spring-time tradition because it is very worthwhile for everyone, and we hope that more people will come out and warm up their tires and their skills with us the next time.

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

• 2010's late winter and early spring saw our Breakfast Club with continued large turnouts that helped keep our Red Knight's friendships strong even if we were in four wheels rather than on two! In March we visited Michaels Diner in Clinton, rainy conditions in April kept the crowd small but our last breakfast still had four of us turn out.

• A number of our members ushered in Spring with some trips down south in an attempt to pull the warmth back up with them. We had two members scoot down during Daytona Bike Week to visit friends and watch the bikes. A pretty large contingent of members voyaged into the Caribbean in March, and two other couples used the April vacation for a reason to take a motorcycle vacation into Pennsylvania and western Maryland. A good start to a new year!

• *Way back in March* there was this perfect day that appeared towards the end of winter. It was also our Americade Planning Pot Luck, so a number of the attending members were itching to ride and got the bikes uncovered and batteries charged for an afternoon's fun at the Kilhart's in Athol. We ended up with 17 people (a lot of food)... and learned that the accommodation plan for the week was overflowing already!



• We had 18 members meet on the train for our ride to Boston in April. It was a sunny day and we had a lot of fun. Bob was drawn out of the crowd at Quincy Market to help a street performer with his act (it must have been the bright red jacket)! At Mother Anna's there was a conspiracy and the conspirators had the waitress tell Diona that they were out of the Chicken pasta & broccoli. We quickly learned that this could reek havoc on those who came up with the joke! But we did all have a great time. And of course there was pastries from Mike's and bags of fresh produce from the Haymarket vendors.

Ask anyone who came out, it was a lot of fun, and everyone learned something. We had several videos that we reviewed before hitting the drill yard and then once outside Terry & Dean Atwood and Bob Shakarian had set up several stations for us to hone our skills. (*Thanks guys*).

We had the opportunity to ride as a passenger if we wished, to get that perspective; the co-riders had a station where they could try the procedure shown in one of the films if something were to happen to the rider; and then there was the course. Thankfully we cannot be charged for "killing tennis balls" or we would all be locked up for sure!

## Red Knights Spring Weekend

### Saturday, September 18. 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. One of the stops will be at "Sherry's House" in Worcester for a visit with the kids (and drop off our care packages). Meet at Westminster FD at 9:00 a.m.

Why Me and Sherry's House are Worcester Based non-profit organizations created to help Central New England families cope with childhood cancer.

There are always "needs" in the house to support their programs. Those needs are listed on their web page "wish list" of material goods—but those needs include our time as well. We will be stopping to share both our time and some care packages that members are encouraged to bring with them on the ride.

Visit [www.whyme.org](http://www.whyme.org) for more information on Sherry's House and the "Why Me" program.



We were off to the Berkshires with seven members for our annual Spring weekend. Our Friday tour out was courtesy of Maury's GPS so the route was very scenic and took us all day along some western Mass secondary roads, including a stop at a winery that we found along the way.

The host hotel was the Yankee Inn in Lenox and had a very nice pool and spa that we used to relax both evenings we were there. The hotel staff was great and we even had overhead protection for the bikes, parking under an overhang near our rooms. Of course we broke out the cards for an evening of fun and even sampled into the wine that was purchased earlier in the day.

Friday night and Saturday morning found rain, but we kicked back and enjoyed the breakfast buffet provided by the hotel, and then utilized their dining room for another game of cards while the rain moved east.

We got on the road a bit after noon and headed to the NY State Firemen's museum in Hudson. While on the way we saw a big group of bikes in a parking lot and realized they were Red Knights so we stopped. It was NY 29 and they were headed to the NY State Firemen's Home (the same location we were headed), so they asked us to join them!

It was their annual "Run to the Home" and included a chicken BBQ, raffles, games, and prizes. They raise funds each year to donate to the FF's Retirement Home. It was a fun time and we even won "furthest traveled!"

While we were there they made arrangements with the facility's administrator and she gave us a private tour of the home. WOW! As an EMT I have never been in a care facility like that. After all the festivities with NY 29 we took some time to tour the Firemen's Museum, which also calls the grounds of the Firemen's Museum Home.

NY 29 does this ride each year. Maybe in 2011 we can plan for another weekend away and meet up with them for their entire ride!

Sunday's ride home was COLD! It dipped to 32 degrees when we came over the mountain in Windsor. The hot chocolate felt good in its warm cup when we stopped in Ashfield for a warm-up break, and then it was home again until the next ride.

### Are you headed to the convention?

We heard some rumors around Americade that the host hotel was going out of business — but it has been confirmed that all is OK and the convention is on as planned.

Are you head to Niagara for the annual convention? Some members are going the direct route and others are taking a leisurely tour through the Adirondack Mountains... but all are sure to have a good time!

You always wonder, *do people really win those things?* And the answer with the Red Knights is YES! Tim and Darlene won second prize on the Convention's "early-bird drawing" and won a free night at the host hotel! Congratulations Tim & Darlene!

### Cape Cod—the 2010 version...

The last weekend in September (9/24-9/26) is the weekend scheduled for the RK Massachusetts weekend on the Cape for 2010.

The organizers are still finalizing accommodations and other information and we will let you know the details when they are available.

**The** Spring State meeting was hosted by Mass-15 (Boston) at Florian Hall in Dorchester in May. Much of the business meeting discussed the pending International proposal to remove voting from the annual meeting and conduct elections via electronic ballot so each chapter has the opportunity to participate and not just those that attend the convention.

Thank you to Terry Atwood for representing Mass-2 at the meeting.

## Americade — our home away from home!

"Americade itself [can be] a bit overwhelming, more than once I thought I was going to seize up from sensory overload 'cause there's just so much to look at. I'm not sure how many Goldwings Honda has made, but apparently they all show up for the Americade, along with every trike, H-D Big Twin and damn near anything else you can think of, and every one of them more customized than the last.

In spite feeling a bit overwhelmed by the whole thing, I had a hell of a time, so much so in fact, that I've already made plans to return next year."

Mark Zimmerman  
Motorcycle Cruiser Magazine

Already planning to return in 2011? Yup, us too!

When we left for Lake George (on Saturday) we had several "pods" of travelers all heading north from different starting points, hoping to skirt the rain that was forecasted. We had the east group, west group, trailer group, the later departure group, and Cape Cod group — and all made it to the cabins without getting wet! (Although we cannot say that about our rides home).

Did you know that Brattleboro has the "Strolling of the Heifers?" We do now! One of our groups got through Brat about 15 minutes before the beginning of the Bovine Parade... but Deb, pulling the trailer, got stuck as the parade was just beginning. So, she & Lori made a detour around and altered their travel route. By the end of the week we had 30 different members and friends who had spent some time with us, and most were at the Bay Front with us for the duration of the week.

Sunday was our rainy day for the week so it was good that we all arrived on Saturday. Even with the showers we did get in some bocce on the lawn (and chased the ball into the pucker-brush) in the evening.

Monday morning broke as a beautiful day and we were all cleaning up the bikes and looking forward to rolling some miles within the Adirondack Park. We had a number of groups take off and each headed in a different direction to find adventure. One group headed to the Natural Stone Bridge via some nice back roads along the Schroon River. Another group headed out around the Great Sacandaga Lake. But we were all home in plenty of time for dinner, because it was Marty's Italian cuisine night!

While at Americade we learned that Armand and Michelle "tied the knot" last month and that Armand is looking forward to becoming a *retired* firefighter at the end of June. Congratulations to them on both lifetime milestones!

Tuesday was another nice weather day and there was a variety of plans including Americade volunteering, visiting the vendors, more riding, and even a round of golf! Darlene, our resident Physical Therapist, did such a great job fixing Steve's shoulder that he had low score for the 18 holes against Tim!

At Wednesday evenings RK Dinner at Roaring Brook Americade Founder Bill Dutcher was presented with a miniature chief's helmet that said "CHIEF Americade" with the RKMC logo. He was surprised and recently sent me an email of thanks saying he was honored at the presentation and has the helmet on his bookshelf in his office at the Americade office. Thanks to all the Red Knights we were able to give out 180 door prizes at the dinner! I think at least 50 of them were from Mass-2, THANKS!

Thursday's weather was a bit more unsettled and depending where you were and how far you rode you may have stayed dry or you may have gotten soaked! After the LGFD open house we spent some time on Canada Street watching the crowds and the bikes (as usual).

Friday was the pick day of the week. The weather was nearly perfect. One group headed southwest all the way to Cooperstown and the Baseball Hall of Fame. Others took to the roads enjoying the day before we all met at Stony Creek for dinner.

Saturday was another rainy day and with steady rain we only had 31 Red Knight bikes leading the parade. The parade and the crowd watching it were fewer in numbers because of the rain, but soaked or not we still had a good time!

As the weekend started to wind down it was time to think about

heading home. Some headed out on Saturday and the remainder on Sunday. But we all had smiles because it was a good week with good friends. See you in 2011.

*Look for Americade pictures on our web page!*

*And then at the end of Americade week, Kevin Martin packed his stuff, loaded his bike and headed west across the country to enjoy the USA and visit some friends and family. That is so cool!*

We fulfilled one of our major Red Knight objectives during Americade Week — we ate!

There was ice cream (almost) every day.

There were two nights at Stony Creek  
(and one couple made at least one more visit that we know of).

Marty made lasagna, spaghetti, meatballs, and sausages for us.

We had a big Chicken, Hamburg & Hot Dog BBQ.

There were Steaks on the grill another night.

The Red Knights dinner at Roaring Brook fed 203 people (about 2/3 of them Red Knights).

Blueberry pancakes, apple & strawberry waffles, eggs, bacon, sausage, and Marty's frittata were all choices for breakfast throughout the week.

There were 200 (or so) Red Knights who enjoyed the meatball subs at the LGFD on Thursday evening.

We had all sorts of goodies that kept us in packed lunches for the many miles of roads we did.

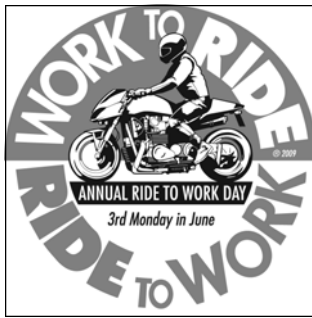
Then there were the desserts...

Pie at the Buffalo Head Restaurant in Forestport, Deb's Rocky Road & S'more pies, brownies, cookies, and other baked sweets.

And on the way home Bob found some hot sauce in Chester, Vermont that was *almost* too hot to eat!

So who has dared step on a scale yet at home to see how much we added to our waist lines during the week?!





The 19th annual Motorcycle Ride to Work Day is Monday, June 21st. Every year on this day, over a million workers commute via motorcycles and scooters to demonstrate the positive benefits of these efficient vehicles.

Studies have shown the public benefits of motorcycling include:

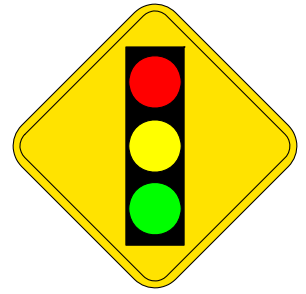
- Motorcycles and scooters share parking spaces, making more space for everyone else.

- Motorcycles and scooters consume significantly less resources per mile than automobiles.
- Motorcycles and scooters reduce traffic congestion and save travel time.

According to the United States Census Bureau and the Department of Transportation, over 80 million cars and light trucks are used for daily commuting on American roads, and only about 200,000 motorcycles and scooters are a regular part of this mix. On Ride to Work Day, the practical side of riding becomes more visible as a much larger number of America's 8,000,000 cycles are ridden to work.

## Seeing Red

Excerpts from Rider magazine's April "Riding Well" column



Remember the Red Light/Green Light game we played as kids? One kid was the "stop light" and the rest of the kids were the "cars." When the kid playing the stop light called out "Green Light" the cars would begin to move towards him. When he yelled "Red Light" the approaching kids had to come to a complete stop before he could catch anyone moving. Those caught were sent back to the start line. So, repeatedly and at different intervals the stoplight would call out, "Green Light, Yellow Light, Red Light," cuing the 'cars' to stop in their tracks.

Out on the *real* road things have changed: The new tenant seems to be "Green Light, Yellow Light, Red Light," HURRY UP AND GAS IT! Yesterday I watched four cars

run red lights along my way to work, entering busy intersections two seconds or more after the light turned red. Scary Stuff!

Intersections remain the most common sites for multiple vehicle crashes and are arguably the most dangerous places for motorcycles.

Try a new approach. Managing an intersection really begins long before we arrive. Try scoping out the intersection well in advance, scanning for activity and spotting any aggressive or odd behavior. Notice when a green light is getting "stale" and is due to change.

Slow the stampede. Check you mirrors well in advance of any potential red traffic light. Slow gradually from a distance (rather than carrying speed all the way to the intersection and then slowing rapidly). A distracted driver will respond to a gradual slowing more effectively than a sudden change in traffic speed.

Unlike the kids playing the Red Light/Green Light game, immediately jumping forward the moment the light turns green is risky for motorcyclists. Instead, when the light turns green, slowly count "Green... two... three... four" looking in all directions before releasing the clutch.

The Red Knights International is running a **vacation raffle** to raise funds for the Memorial.

**Grand Prize is \$10,000.00**  
Prize to use on a vacation  
**ANYWHERE in the World!**  
\$20.00 per Ticket — Only 1000 to be sold

- The tickets are \$20.00 a piece.
- The drawing will be held on August 21, 2010 at the convention banquet .
- Tickets may be purchased from the RKMC Quartermaster. Send a self addressed, stamped envelope and a check or money order to (payable to RKMC):

Kent Armstrong/Vacation Drawing  
9 North Orchard Road  
Grafton VT 05146

\* If the entire 1000 tickets are not sold, the prize will be one half of the money collected for the actual number of tickets that are sold.

\* The travel voucher is good for one year from the date of the drawing. August 21, 2010 to August 20, 2011

Detailed information is available on the International's web page at [www.redknightsmc.com/vacation.htm](http://www.redknightsmc.com/vacation.htm)



## Braintree July 4th Celebration.

The Red Knights International Board was contacted by the city of Braintree asking if we would like to participate in their 4th of July Celebration Parade Saturday on Saturday, June 26, 2010.

The International Secretary put him in contact with RK Mass-3 as a nearby chapter, and they are putting out the call for any interested RKMC members.

If you are interested, please contact George Colby of Mass-3 at [gcolby@comcast.net](mailto:gcolby@comcast.net)



We had a *perfect* first day of spring and a few of us got out together for a ride and ended up at the "Frog Bridge." Who knows where that is and what the story behind the frogs is?

“Old guys who ride have the best attitude. They might grumble and play the curmudgeon, but they’re laughing while they do it — dreaming about the next adventure, the new riding season, or another bike!” RoadBike Magazine

### Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

Sunday, June 20. **Father’s Day Ride and Picnic and golf**— Come join us for a Father’s Day Ride. Bring a picnic lunch, your mini-golf skills, and of course your appetite for ice cream! (WFD @ 10:00)

Saturday, June 26. **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.

Saturday, June 26. **Fitzy’s Ride for Alzheimer’s.** Ashby FD’s annual charity ride. Ride registration at 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Ashby Elementary School.

#### **RK-Mass-3’s 2nd Annual Bill Hodge Memorial Poker Run**

Sunday, July 11th.—Registration at Super Stop & Shop in Halifax with an end point at Upland Sportsman’s Club.

Proceeds benefit the Shriners’ Burn Center for Children in Boston.

Last year’s ride brought in \$1,200.00 in Bill’s honor.

Visit their web page at [www.rkma3.org/](http://www.rkma3.org/) for more information.

Sunday, July 25. **Indians and Huskies.** Our plans are to visit the newly renovated Springfield Museum of History and their collection of Indian Motorcycles and then it is just a hop-skip-and-a-jump across the border to visit the UConn Huskies, or at least their Ice Cream Dairy! Meet at WFD at 10:00.

Sunday, August 1. **Kevin and Ed’s Mystery Ride.** If these two buddies with decades of riding history together plan and lead a mystery ride — where might it take us?? They said you can almost bet on at least one dirt road! Meet at WFD at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 28. **Let’s scavenge around for some great roads!** Where will the Vice-president lead us for this year’s Scavenger Hunt... and what doodads should you bring for the scavenger hunt so you are well prepared to answer his intriguing questions? Meet at Westminster FD at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 4. **Labor Day Weekend Cookout.** We’ll be joining up with the Mickle’s in Nashua for this year’s Labor Day Cookout. Meet at Westminster FD at 10:00 and we’ll go for a ride that ends at our pot-luck. (*Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 5*).

Sunday, October 3: **Breakfast with Smokey Bear....** Breakfast first (to support our brethren at the Jaffrey FD) and then off to the roads of NH & VT for some fall sights! Leave WFD at 8:00 a.m.

#### **2010 Molly’s Ride for Child Safety**

The Molly Bish Foundation will be hosting their 11th Annual Molly’s Ride for Child Safety on Sunday, June 27, 2009 at Center at Hobbs Brook 100 Charlton Road (Rt. 20) in Sturbridge. This event is one of the largest police escorted charity motorcycle rides in New England that predominantly supports the organization by the proceeds it generates each and every year. Kickstands up at noon.

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

### **New England Fire Chief’s Show June 25-27 in West Springfield**

The RKMC will have an information booth at the Fire Chief’s Show.

Anyone interested in spending time in the booth contact State Rep Steve Mickle.

### **Amherst FF’s MDA Poker Run**

*Saturday, August 21,  
UMass Alumni Stadium  
(This is a date change from  
our posted schedule)  
[www.amherstfirefighters.org](http://www.amherstfirefighters.org)*

The next Ice Cream Rides are  
July 1 and August 5

**D**IDJA-EATYET? In the history of the world, food has always been linked to those important events in our lives; Births, Deaths, and everything in between takes place around our kitchen tables. The cavemen shared the day’s catch around the night’s fire. Native American’s celebrated a successful hunt with family and friends over a feast. And if you take a look in the bible, each time there is an event of significance, Jesus and his friends and family participated in sharing food to accompany what was happening.



So. As Red Knights, we are in good company because each time we gather there is food and friends involved!

**Ice Cream! It’s that time of year again.** Come join us for our monthly ice cream rides. This year we are meeting on the first Thursday of the month (through October) and will ride for ice cream.

Our first ice cream ride was on Thursday, May 6, on a windy (but sunny) spring evening. We had eight members join us (including one of our snowbirds) and we stopped at the Templeton Ice Cream Barn, where one of their new flavors was Cashew and Pecan Ice Cream, Mmmmm!

**Staggered Farmation** (From Rider Magazine’s “Riding Well.”) This is when a group of individual riders collectively adopts a herd mentality. While it’s been said there is safety in numbers, there is undoubtedly real danger there, too, when things go suddenly awry. When riding with friends, think of yourselves as individual riders who happen to be riding together. Before setting off on a group ride, agree that each rider is to have the freedom and space to independently respond to a continually changing environment.

**(Thurs. to Sun.) September 9-12.  
Killington Classic in Killington, VT.**

[www.killingtonclassic.com](http://www.killingtonclassic.com)