



Come join us in celebrating the  
4th of July (But on the 7th) at  
Larry and Nancy Robinson's in  
Petersham

The grill will be hot—so bring a dish  
to share and something to throw on  
the grill.



The Robinson's big yard is ready for some family fun, so bring  
your whole family—kids, grandkids, whoever you want to drag  
along for some Red Knight fun.

There will be yard games and fun for everyone!

As a special gift to all the members, the officers have arranged  
for a local massage therapist to join us for a few hours. She will  
be giving chair massages throughout the afternoon. We will  
also be raffling off a gift certificate for a complete (one hour)  
massage and the proceeds from the raffle will go to the Ride for  
Kids!

So join us on Saturday,  
July 7, at 1:00 p.m. at  
Larry and Nancy's, 355  
North Main Street (Route  
32) in Petersham. Just  
about a mile from the  
Athol town line.





From the  
President's Desk

# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — Summer '12

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



[facebook.com/RKMASS2](https://www.facebook.com/RKMASS2)

*Loyal to Our Duty*

Life is a multiple choice test. Rather prophetic isn't it? We've all taken those tests — and I have had to write some and grade some as well. You know the drill, you're reading and re-reading the question and the answers and the more you read the more your brain is telling you that *more than one of the answers could be right!* But we know that the person grading our test is only going to accept ONE answer as the right one. These other potential answers are there to draw your attention away from the right answer and and serve as a *distratction* to you.

Every motorcycle ride we go on is a multiple-choice test. From the time we begin to even think about rolling the bike out until we are safely tucked back into our home port, we are faced with routine and mundane — and sometimes not so routine — decisions that we have to make as we enjoy our motorcycles. In any of these multiple-choice decisions we face on our bike, there are right answers, and distractions. Distractions that draw us away from the best answer for us on our ride.

Decisions can come in all forms and they can be internal to us or external thrust upon us. The question may be as simple as, "Do I pack rain gear?" Or it may be more life-saving like, "What should I do in case that parked car with someone in the driver's seat pulls out?" Even our attitude or state-of-mind can be a distraction to us from making the most prudent decisions while on our bikes.

Those moments when your adrenaline surges and your inner-voice says, "uh-oh," or "that was a close one," are probably times when you may have chosen the wrong answer in your multiple-choice test, or because you were not focused, maybe you skipped over that question!

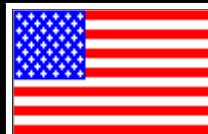
There are theories on taking multiple-choice tests that stress pointers like; never second-guessing your first answer, or going through the entire test answering the answers you are 100% confident of in your knowledge. But the biggest pointer on how to successfully take a multiple-choice test — or any other test is to be prepared! Those that prepare the most usually do the best on the test.

When I first earned my ham radio license as a 14 year old and started to prepare and take the exams to get higher licenses I remember fretting over the magnitude of the exam. Back then you had to go to Custom's House in Boston to take the exams, proctored by Federal Employees. I can clearly remember sitting to take an exam and having each answer jump right off the page at me. My preparation had made the exams a non-event.

That is the type of preparation we each need in riding our motorcycles. Our physical and mental skills need to be kept sharp. Then when that soccer mom on the cell phone throws the multiple-choice question at us (as in her 3 ton SUV) we can see that the right answer jumps right off the page at us and we can react quickly and properly with the right answer.

How do we keep that preparation level sharp? Practice. That could be MSF courses, that could be parking lot practice, that could be reading others' insight on motorcycle safety — or that could be "all of the above."

Ride safe, and see you on the road soon!



Sunday, July 7.  
4th of July Pot-luck BBQ.

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



We'll be guests of Nancy and Larry Robinson in Petersham (1:00 p.m.)  
[355 North Main Street—Route 32]

*Bring some food to share and enjoy the afternoon with your Red Knight family!*

*(Larry says to bring your whole family, kids, grandkids, everyone!)*

Saturday, June 23.

**RK Vermont-2's Paul's Ride.**

THIS IS A DIFFERENT DATE THAN WE HAD ORIGINALLY POSTED!

Let's support a nearby chapter's efforts to help those with cancer. Meet at the 2/202 Shell in Orange at 8:00 a.m.

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, President Bob Laford.

Saturday, October 20

— **Annual Chapter meeting followed by the October Breakfast Club (Brunch/Lunch).**

Meet at 2/202 Shell Station @ 9:00 a.m. — Ride to Amherst for meeting room.

\*\*\*\*CHANGE IN WESTMINSTER MEETING SPOT\*\*\*\*

South Street in Westminster is undergoing some serious infrastructure construction, so beginning immediately, any time our 2012 schedule says we are meeting at WFD, we will be meeting at the Dunkin Donuts at the Westminster Plaza, 97 Main Street (Route 2A) in Westminster. Plenty of parking, gas across the street, and of course donuts and coffee available!

## Membership News Briefs...

Welcome to Kellie Favreau (Shirley FD) and Ashley Reed (Petersham FD) our newest members.

Congratulations to Corey and Felicia Feeley on the birth of their baby girl, Octavia Rose. She was born on 3/1. And congratulations also to proud Grandma Pat and Grandpa Bob!

Congratulations to Caitlin Barclay on landing her "Dream Job" at Sea World.

Congratulations as well to Fred Leblanc on his recognition as Mt. Wachusett Community College's Alumnus of the year!

And we also wish Fred and Lisa Leblanc the best with their new home (back in Leominster).



The skills we display on the alleyway are just indescribable! But we all had fun with another night of Galactic Bowling! If you took the scores of the six bowlers, totaled them, and divided by two you would come up with a respectable score!

Seventy one percent of people between the ages of 18 and 49 admit they text or talk on their cell phones while driving.



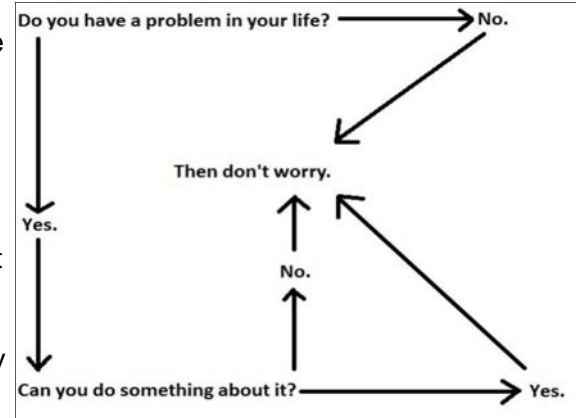
- Approximately 86% of drivers said they ate or drank while driving.
- Forty-one percent of adults have set or changed a GPS while driving.
- Thirty-six percent have read a map while driving.
- One in five have combed or styled his/her hair.
- Fourteen percent put on makeup.
- Thirteen percent surf the Internet.

## On the road with our friends...

*It is inevitable that the time will come when we play the last show, take the last hike, or ride the last ride. But thankfully that day is not today.*

*Neal Peart, Far and Away*

- We had eight members come to the Spring State Meeting held in Boylston. There was a good showing of Red Knights from around the state. International President Dave Emery was in attendance and spoke of the WTC Steel, the convention, and other RKMC business as questions from the group were answered. Our hosts were Mass-1 with some great tasting chili for lunch!
- Nineteen people met at Ed and Peg's in March with piles of food on hand to share as we discussed our plans for Americade and the convention.
- We had six bikes turn out for an impromptu ride (that ended at UConn for ice cream) on a 90 degree Patriot's Day in April.



Ice Cream! May started our monthly ice cream rides, and they are always well attended! This year's meetings will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month through September. May's ice cream ride found 12 riders ready for ice cream in Winchendon

The next **Ice Cream Rides** are June 27, July 25, Aug. 22



**Saturday, September 15.**

**Mass 2's annual ride for Sherry's House.** Our chapter treasurer will take the lead with our turn to "play some cards." At each stop the riders will participate in some "card games" to see who ends up with the best hand.

Donations and proceeds of the *gambling* will be left off at "Sherry's House" in Worcester (and we'll drop off our care packages too). Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts at 9:00 a.m. More info to come later. Check out [www.whyme.org](http://www.whyme.org) for their *needs list* requests.



### I'm Safe

By: Jackie Vaughan

Many people use a checklist to prepare for a trip. It might include gas, tire pressure, first aid kit, et cetera. One item often missing is the condition of the rider himself. Yet the rider's condition is at least as important as the condition of the bike.

There is a checklist which allows the rider to check out himself before every trip. Easy to remember, the list is called I'm Safe. It stands for illness, medication, stress, alcohol, fatigue and emotion. Let's take a look at how each of these factors affects us.

**Illness:** Many illnesses such as diarrhea, headache or fever can blunt our senses and affect our ability to scan aggressively for hazards or our ability to react to these hazards quickly. Recovering from an illness can do the same.

**Medication:** Medication such as sleeping pills, even taken the night before, or antihistamines can make us drowsy. Antibiotics do a good job of fighting infections but also leave us fatigued for several days.

**Stress:** Just before a trip is not the best time to air our problems. We will be in a much better mood after a good trip. Take time to relax before starting. Another thing to remember: don't bring the kids.

**Alcohol:** Alcohol can be summed up in a single word - DON'T! Make sure there is no alcohol in your system before you ride.

**Fatigue:** Working long hours at physical labor before a trip is a sure way to start the trip with fatigue.

**Emotion:** We are all aware that being angry or sad can keep our mind off our riding, but we should know that being very happy can do the same. We need to take time to think things out before we start.

### Red Knights Spring Weekend

Don't believe the weather channel—they always preach doom and gloom to get people to watch! That was confirmed with our Spring Weekend in the Berkshires and our numbers were kept low because the forecasters said rain, rain, rain.

When the five of us left our meeting spot it was cloudy. We stopped at the Runway Grill at Barnes Air Base in Westfield for lunch and then as we headed west the clouds started to break up. Other than some morning drizzle accompanying the early fog, our Saturday also turned out to be partly cloudy and temperatures near 70... and Sunday was a repeat of that!

What is great about getting out into the Berkshires is that there are so many GREAT roads that we have not touched. We were on 23, 41, 42, 215, 183 66 (in NY), 150, 9H, 278, 87, 295 — and those are just the ones we were not familiar with riding on in the past!

The Yankee Inn is a great host hotel with a pool and Jacuzzi. This year we walked to a nearby Chinese Restaurant for dinner before taking over the breakfast area for a evening of cards and refreshments. The Inn's staff is very accommodating and welcomes us every year we have been there.

Saturday's ride found us in Hudson for an unplanned stop at the NY Museum of Firefighting. We also had the Fire Station Grill on the plans for lunch in Hoosick Falls but they had closed up shop. But we did have lunch with huge portions at the Hoosick Falls Café.

We made our way to North Adams and started up Mount Greylock but found the "scenic road" blocked by a gate. We made our way south to the Lanesboro entrance to the south and again, found the road gated at the Visitor's Center. We'll have to go back later in the year for the "up and over" ride. We found a good mountain route in the Brodie Mountain Road and then circled back around through NY into Mass with a stop at the Hilltop Winery in Russell before making our way back to the Inn.

Saturday evening was the pool & Jacuzzi again before Pizza, Wings, Beer, and Wine with our card games to close off the night. The weekend seems to be a well-kept secret—

but we do have a bunch of fun, so come join us next year when Spring time rolls around again!



## Americade — Roads make you smile—Friends make you laugh!

There was an editorial in a recent magazine that the writer talked about his ambition to ride, ride, ride — and that he used to scoff at those people that went to rallies. He felt if you were not RIDING your motorcycle then you were not enjoying your motorcycle. Then one of his friends got him to attend a national rally . He did not say which rally he went to, but he said he took some tours, participated in seminars, & met people like Fred Rau and Clem Salvatori. So we can take a guess *which* rally he may have attended. He said it completely changed his attitude on “other” aspects of being a motorcyclist. He admitted that the friendships, learning, sharing, and laughing were all a great piece of his motorcycle experience while at the event.

That is nothing new to any of us that attend Americade each year. It is all like family. The social aspects of Americade, of the Red Knights, and each of us as friends is an important part of what makes motorcycling fun — along with the miles under our tires! Even with Americade years like 2012 was, with rain being the predominate forecast, we still always have a good time!

There were 32 Mass-2 members and friends strolling around Lake George before the week was done, but it took a number of days to get us all there. Mother Nature was not the least bit cooperative and we had small bands of members traveling from Friday on through the beginning of the week with different arrival plans. Each day (except the beautiful Sunday that most of us headed home on) saw some rain.

Only Monday was a wash-out. The winter project by Tom and Bev at the Cabins was to install a great patio on the front of the main building. Bev said that when they began thinking about the project, it was the Red Knights that came to mind and how well we would put it to use. We brought two large “EZ-up” tents to put over the picnic tables on the patio and that became home base for cards and dice. Along with all the room in the big house, even the rainy day was full of entertainment! (Look for pictures [and video] of the hoola-hoop contest. We have some who pledged to get it right before 2013). Unfortunately the unpredictability of the next shower kept us away from our routine “fires by the lake.” And the periodic showers gave us some refreshing “down time” as well. Whether it was watching TV, using the Wii game, reading, napping, or “grazing,” even those times were well-received!

Each day saw a passing shower at some point in the day, but that did not deter us from enjoying all the miles of great Adirondack Roads, or the fun of people and bike watching on Canada Street. As anyone knows who has been to Lake George, there may be showers, but then there is also some perfect weather to enjoy, and our week was no exception. You

just had to keep the rain gear handy and an eye to the sky. One day we had “pods” of Mass-2 riders head off in every direction to enjoy the sun that began the day. Yes, some of us had to don rain gear before returning, but I know that every group returned with smiles (and stories) ... and I think every group found ice cream too! One group did have to take some quick cover for them and their bikes as the hail started coming down. Another story was the pre-warning system that God gave them with the loud crack of nearby thunder shortly before the skies opened.

We had rides that went over the “Indian Lake Loop,” up to Blue Mountain Lake, to Howe’s Caverns, Ben & Jerry’s, Mad River Glen, the Natural Bridges, and countless twisty mountain roads in Vermont and New York. So if you hear people tell you they cancelled their trip to Americade because of the weather, tell them they missed out on many great miles.

And it should be no surprise that we ate pretty well too. There were two group trips to our favorite place at Stoney Creek. We got to see Dot’s big smile welcome us and she had extra Cajun shrimp waiting for our visit! At the cabins our faire ranged from hot dogs, hamburgers, and Sausage on the grill, to Marty’s Spaghetti and Meatballs, and Steaks & Chicken (some with Cajun seasoning) on the grill. Then there were those pilgrimages to Forestport for pie. That too has become a staple for much of our crowd!

The evening we had the hot dogs and hamburgers Rick O had a surprise waiting for us as he broke out a growler of “Lefty’s Scotch Ale” to share. Lefty’s Microbrewery acquired the Jack Daniels barrel that Rick received after selling the “Single Barrel” Jack Daniels. Lefty has used the barrel to brew this special blend and the second batch is ready for distribution and Rick packed away this special bottle for us!

And since we all expected to be eating frequently, there appeared an impromptu Red Knights walking club. Starting about 6:00 a.m. you could see members leaving the cabins for a two mile circle around the neighborhood. By the time you made the circle you would run into about a half-dozen RK friends hoofing up and down the hill.

You will also be happy to know that the Red Knights did our part in helping the economy. About eight years ago an economist estimated that Americade pumped between \$25 and \$40 million into the Lake George area. We did our part between the vendors and the local businesses. There were more vendors on Beach Road, Ft. William Henry, and the Forum than in recent years, and you could easily find the Red Knight crest on

shoppers strolling around the vendors and the bikes! Red Knights beyond our Massachusetts circle

### **Saturday, September 29. Americade Picture Perfect Potluck.**

Bring your pictures, your videos, some food to share, and your *opera glasses* to enjoy an afternoon of laughs reminiscing about our Americade week! 4:00 p.m. at M&M’s in Gardner.



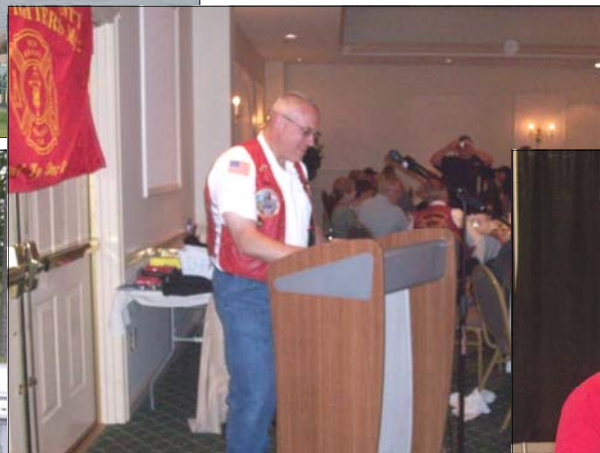
were everywhere you looked too!

During the (final) Red Knights sponsored dinner on Wednesday evening there were 206 people in attendance. That was the largest attendance of any dinner during the week — well over half of them were Red Knights. We gave away 84 door prizes which brought our eleven year total to 1,010 door prizes given away by the RKMC at Americade.

Thursday evening was the open house at the Lake George FD. RK NY 12 did another great job in getting us all fed. There were a number of chapters that were selling their wares and we sold ALL of our anniversary T-shirts that we had printed. NJ-22 had been raising money for the Keene, NY FD (who lost their station to hurricane Irene), and they hosted a ride from the LGFD to Keene to present all the funds raised.

The weather did keep the overall Americade numbers down, and the parade was smaller than usual too, but the Red Knights helped close out Americade 2012 by again leading the parade through Lake George and to this year's BBQ hot spot at the Wild West Ranch on Route 9.

Rain, sun, wind, or hail. It was a great week, and we have already made our reservations with Bev and Tom — because we will be back to Lake George in 2013! Will you?







## TIRES

Never underestimate the importance of having good, properly inflated tires on your motorcycle. The small contact patches provided by the front

and rear tires are the motorcycle's only source of traction. Deterioration of your tires' condition can jeopardize this contact patch and bring a good ride to a quick end. Safe riding depends on selecting the right tires, inspecting and maintaining them, and replacing them as necessary.

It's all about **inflation, inflation, inflation**. Proper air pressure is critical for tire performance and tire life. Under-inflation or overloading can cause sluggish handling, heavy steering, and internal damage due to over-flexing, and can cause the tire to separate from the rim. Over-inflation can reduce the contact area (and therefore available traction), and can make the motorcycle react harshly to bumps. Check the air pressure when the tires are cold (at least three hours since the last ride), as part of your pre-ride "T-CLOCS" inspection (TCLOCS means Tires and Wheels, Controls, Lights, Oil, Chassis and Stands; and adjust it according to your motorcycle's owner's manual or the tire information label on the chain guard, frame or swingarm. There may be two sets of recommendations for tire pressure (as well as suspension settings): one for solo riding and one for riding with a passenger and/or cargo. Do not exceed the maximum inflation pressure listed on the tire's sidewall. And never exceed the motorcycle's or tire's load limit (combined weight of operator, passenger, cargo, and accessories), since that can cause tire failure.

Regularly inspect the tire tread depth to ensure that adequate tread remains. Tires have small wear bars molded into the tread grooves. When the tread is worn down to the level of the wear bars (indicating 1/32 inches of tread remaining), the wear bars become exposed and the tire should be replaced. Some manufacturers recommend replacing the tire when there are 2/32 or 3/32 inches of tread remaining. Although it may look like there is a sufficient amount, it may not be enough to maintain traction in wet conditions. The deep grooves in fresh tires help channel water away from the contact patch, and worn tires are thinner and easier to puncture.

For a quick check, if you insert a penny into a groove in the center of your tire, 2/32 of an inch is right at the top of Lincoln's head. In addition to tread depth, glance over the tires' surface for any evidence of uneven wear, cuts, embedded objects, bulges, or sidewall cracking.

Every time you ride, the tires go through a "heat cycle" as they go from ambient to operating temperature and back down again. Each successive heat cycle slowly hardens the tire. Similarly, as tires age, chemical reactions cause the rubber to harden, even during nonuse.

Whether through heat cycles or aging, the tire's surface becomes less spongy and less able to interlock with the protrusions and pores in the road surface. (If you have an old tire and a new tire, you can press your fingernail into the surfaces of each to see the difference in how they react.) Tires can also absorb petroleum-based fluids from the road, which can further deteriorate the rubber. So, tires eventually have to be replaced, even if they have plenty of tread left. And don't take a chance on buying used tires; you don't know how many heat cycles they've gone through. This also means that when you buy a used motorcycle, you should thoroughly inspect the tires, and replace them if their condition is questionable.

## Boston Bound



Can you believe that 2012 marked the 17th year that we have headed into Boston to wander around (and eat)! We knew that it has become a serious tradition when the folks at Mother Anna's laughed when I asked if they remembered us — and the waitress even knew what some of us were to order.

We had a dozen members come out for our cloudy and cool trip into the city. This year we carpooled into Riverside Station and took the Green-line. Once back on the surface we hooked up with the harbor shuttle from the Aquarium over to Charlestown and then walked back through the North End. It is a unique view of the city from the water as we made our way, viewing the North End, the Coast Guard Station, the Garden and the Zakim Bridge, and Old Ironsides all from the harbor's vantage point.

Walking back into the North End we followed the Freedom Trail and stopped at the Old North Church and the burial ground where Paul Revere and others are resting. In the Church we found a pew reserved for the Roach family so Walter spent a few minutes in contemplative thought with his forefathers as he sat in their seat!

We remarked that if they were on the lookout for us there would have been two lights in the tower that day because we "came by sea" today!

We stopped at Mike's Pastry (of course) and another bakery, Marie's, before we made it to Mother Anna's to have another *GREAT* meal.

After we were filled to the brim we waddled back towards the MBTA but with a stop in the open air market for some fresh vegetables before we grabbed the "T" and headed home.

## Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

Saturday, July 14. The Moving Vietnam Wall. The Wall is coming to Springfield, Vermont. Join us for a ride to pay our respects to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Meet at Westminster DD for 9 a.m. [www.themovingwall.org/](http://www.themovingwall.org/)

Saturday, July 21. Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival. We'll take a ride down to Northampton's Look Park to take in the Highland Games. Meet at 2/202 at 9:00 a.m. (Ticket costs for event are \$16 per person). [www.glasgowlands.org/](http://www.glasgowlands.org/)

Saturday, July 28. Castle in the Clouds. A ride into the White Mountains of New Hampshire with lunch at the Castle in the Clouds in Moultonborough. Meet at Westminster DD at 8:00 a.m. [www.castleinthecLOUDS.org/](http://www.castleinthecLOUDS.org/)

Saturday, August 11. Glass blowing at the Mill—Quechee, VT. It's a ride north along both sides of the Connecticut River to Quechee. Meet at Westminster DD for 8:00 a.m. <http://www.simonpearce.com>

Saturday, August 25: It's the smallest state and the smallest covered bridge—and a good place to eat! Come join us for a ride into Rhode Island where we will find the smallest covered bridge in the country and have lunch at Wright's Chicken Farm. Meet at Westminster DD for 10:00. [www.wrightsfarm.com](http://www.wrightsfarm.com)

Saturday, September 1. 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 DD at noon and we'll go for a ride that ends at our pot-luck.

Sunday, September 9. Taza Chocolate Tour! We'll meet at Westminster DD at 9:00 a.m. for a ride towards Somerville for a visit to Taza Chocolates. [www.tazachocolate.com/](http://www.tazachocolate.com/)

Saturday, October 6. Chapter Officers' Meeting. Meet at the Café 57 in Ashburnham for lunch (at 11:30 a.m.), for an officers meeting... and a ride.

Sunday, October 7: Breakfast (and Apple Pie) with Smokey Bear.... Breakfast first (to support our brethren at the Jaffrey FD) and then off to the Dummerston Apple Pie Festival! Leave Westminster DD at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 13. RK Massachusetts State Meeting. Fall meeting hosted by Mass-13 at the Ayer F.D. Meet and greet in Ayer at 10:30 a.m. Mass-2 meet at Westminster DD for 9:30 a.m.

\*\*\*"Westminster DD" is the Dunkin Donuts at the Westminster Plaza, 97 Main Street (Route 2A) in Westminster\*\*

(Thurs. to Sun.) August 30—September 2.  
**Killington Classic in Killington, VT.**  
[www.killingtonclassic.com](http://www.killingtonclassic.com)

RK Mass-13 Poker Run — Saturday, September 29—Ayer FD  
Registration 9:00—10:00 and Departure at 10:30.



Whether it is Warp Drive or Warped Drive, I think I have been there...

...and with my Red Knight friends!

You can go there too, come join us!

More tire info from the  
Motorcycle Industry Council...

### **How old is that tire on your bike — or on your local shop's shelf??**

Every street-legal tire sold in the U.S. will have a Department of Transportation (DOT) serial number on the sidewall. The serial number begins with the letters "DOT" and ends with a four-digit date code (if there are only three numerals, the tire was made before 2000 and should be discarded). The four digits represent the week and year of production.

For example, a date code of "4510" in this photo means the tire was produced in the 45th week of 2010.



### **New England Fire Chief's Show** June 22-24 in West Springfield

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

### **Jaffrey Firefighters Co.** **First Annual Poker Run**

**Sunday, July 22—Jaffrey FD**  
Registration 8 to 10  
BBQ to follow at end of the ride

(\$25 for the Rider, \$15 for the passenger)  
This is a self-guided ride.

**Amherst Firefighters**  
**MDA Poker Run**  
**Sunday, July 29**

More details to come...





## Come join us for the New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 19.

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.



*Ride for Kids*

Our own Walter Roach was in the lead of the Newton Veteran's parade, with all his proud colors flying!



## RKMC Memorial—WTC Steel Dedication

On June 16 the Red Knights placed a piece of the World Trade Center, Tower-1 in a place of honor and reflection at our memorial in Boylston. The evening before, International President Dave Emery was reviewing details and making a final count of the RSVPs for the next day. He said he had to count it multiple times because each time he counted it he came up with 343 people responding that they would attend the 9-11 steel dedication ceremony.

Our chapter consisted on 26 of those 343 people in attendance, and the 343 firefighters lost were with us that day as it was a perfect summer's day.

Red Knight were in attendance from as far away as British Columbia. Our friends at Mass Chapter 1 did a wonderful job in their planning of the event — and we must thank the committee that did the planning for the placement of this special relic at our memorial. (Our own Ed Broulet and Maury Lizotte served on this committee). The process was a long effort as the initial application for the steel was made when Ed was still serving as International President!

One of the day's speakers was Don Chrisville, member of RK NYC. He gave us his personal view of 9-11-01. Had gone off duty shortly before the towers were struck, he returned to duty to first work with medical professionals from the area hospitals in providing care, and then moved to "the pile" where he and the other FDNY rescuers worked for weeks in locating those who were lost in the attack.

Also in attendance during the ceremony were members of the Worcester Fire Brigade pipers, adding even more emotion to our morning.

International President Dave Emery said in his remarks, that when he first saw the steel he wanted to touch it. And as he watched others were drawn to do the same. This artifact draws you back to your thoughts on that day almost 11 years ago — and connects you to the souls that were lost that day.

If you were not able to join us in Boylston, please make some time to visit and spend time at the memorial site.

## Skills Day 2012

We had a great turn out (16 people) at our Skills Day in May. The weather was perfect and we had a big open parking lot at our disposal to practice in for the morning.

Our officers and their assistants were busy with planning and set up and we each got to spend time seeing where we can improve our personal skills.

Then afterwards it was off to Bubb's BBQ for lunch... a few more miles and then a stop for ice cream (of course) at Serin-dipity's in Orange.



We also had a "traffic stop workshop" during our day courtesy of Sgt. Mark Jacques of the UMass Police Department. Mark gave us pointers that may help get the best outcome if stopped. Shut the bike off but keep the kickstand up. Stay on the bike and keep your hands in plain view. Explain where your license and registration is when asked for them, before reaching for them. Some police also prefer you leave your helmet on until asked to remove it as well.



## Photos from the WTC Steel Dedication in Boylston





Early Spring rides make me smile (actually it was late winter). We had five bikes show up to breakfast on St. Patrick's Day. And even though the weatherman lied and it hovered around 40 degrees, the breakfast was great at Michael's Bridge Café, the company was the best, and the ride was superb!



Our final breakfast club of the spring in April saw 14 members gather under off-and-on drizzle at the beginning of the ride. When we finished our (very good) breakfast at the Kozy Kabin in Barre the clouds had broken up and the day turned into a wonderful spring day to put some miles on the bikes!

## Are you headed to the convention?



PA Chapter 12 is the proud host for the 2012 convention of the Red Knights International Firefighters motor cycle club. They have plans to help the Red Knights enjoy historic Gettysburg and the surrounding area. There are exclusive events with Harley Davidson's York

Plant, the Harrisburg Fire Museum, the National Fire Academy and The National Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial. The host chapter will also be offering national park service guided motorcycle tours of the battle fields and so much more.

You can find itinerary details by clicking on the Schedule button on their web page. We have a number of our members heading down, so if you wish to make some last minute plans, let us know so you can travel with others who are headed to Pennsylvania in August.



## Qc III International rally

*It is a pleasure to inform you that there will be a second edition of the "Qc III international rally".*

*I am sure you already heard about the event that took place last July 2011 and you sure don't want to miss this second edition. The dates are settled and the registration will start during February.*

*The 2012 edition will be held from the 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2012*

*C'est avec plaisir que nous vous confirmons la tenue de la deuxième édition du « Rally international Qc III ».*

*Je suis certain que vous avez déjà entendu parler de l'événement qui s'est tenu en Juillet 2011 et je vous assure que vous ne voulez pas rater cette deuxième édition.*

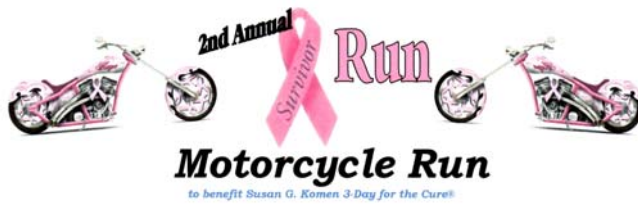
*Le processus d'enregistrement et de réservation débutera en Février. L'édition 2012 se tiendra du 5 au 8 juillet.*

<http://rally.redknightsquebec.com>

For 2012, the positions that we as a chapter are voting for are International Secretary, International Vice-president, and International Quartermaster. Our Regional Rep (Don Moore) is not up for re-election this year.

This is the first year of electronic voting for the positions on the International Board. After the close of nominations in May all the standing officers; Bill Snodgrass, Chris Gadway, and Kent Armstrong are running unopposed. Because of this, ballots will not be sent to chapters and one vote will be cast for the slate of officers at the convention.

To have the chapters vote on a slate of officers electronically that have no opposition would have cost the Red Knights the \$2,500 fee of the balloting company they have a contract with for the annual elections.



Sunday, June 24th — Registration Opens 9:00 a.m.  
At Cornerstones Restaurant in Leominster  
BBQ lunch with raffles and prizes at end of the Ride

\$20 donation for rider, \$10 for passenger  
Contact Heather at hamorse@comcast.net  
for more information

## Cape Cod — Mass. Weekend

It appears that there is not  
enough interest in holding a fall  
Red Knights weekend on the Cape  
this year.

Congratulations to one of our chapter  
founders and friends Phil Jordan on  
completing his book on the history of the  
Fitchburg Fire Department!

### A History of the Fitchburg Fire Department

"If These Walls Could Talk"



Central Fire Headquarters  
28 Oliver Street  
Fitchburg, Massachusetts  
1895 - 1999

Philip D. Jordan  
Front Cover Photo by Richard Jollimore

Do you have your tickets to  
win this finished and signed  
barrel from Jack Daniels?  
Donated from the New  
Salem General Store, all  
proceeds from the raffle will  
go to the Ride for Kids.  
Contact Bob L. or Rick O.  
for tickets.



### A quote from the MSF Quick Tips:

"Passengers should consider themselves a second operator and share responsibility for safety."

This simple statement should remind us of some of the things that co-pilots need to consider when it's time to saddle up.

The first key is trust in your rider. It must be absolute. If you don't trust the rider and their ability to manage the bike, don't climb on. In return, your rider needs to have trust in your ability to be a good passenger as well.

Rider and passenger have to be a great team and work together. Of course, basic riding techniques such as leaning into curves with the rider and looking into turns over the rider's shoulder, etc. are critical. But there are many other considerations for successful two-up riding that might not be more subtle or less-commonly taught in classes.

These are just a few that come to mind:

- When you are getting ready to ride, speak up if you notice something out of place (oil drip, low tire, loose bolt on your floorboard or handgrip, etc) Check the saddlebag latches/hinges to be certain they are secure. Your rider should be doing the pre-trip inspection, but a second set of eyes doesn't hurt.
- What mounting/dismounting techniques works best for the two of you? Everyone develops their own method and what works for one rider may not work for another. Ask your rider if they prefer to have the bike on or off the side stand, etc. and always ask them if they are 'ready' before you step up!
- Where does the rider prefer that you keep your hands? On their hips, around their waist, on the passenger grips?
- Do you have non-verbal signals for times that conversation is not possible or not advisable? (That doesn't mean slapping your rider up-side the helmet to tell them to slow down! )
- Know your limits and let your rider know well in advance when you need a break so that they can locate a safe and appropriate place to make a stop. Everyone's saddle time tolerance and bladder capacities are different, and may not coincide with the re-fueling needs of the bike!
- If you notice something that sounds or feels "not right" while you are on the road, communicate that to your rider. The passenger may feel a vibration or hear a sound at the rear of the machine before the rider notices or recognizes it. If you've spent enough time on that seat, you know when something is out of the ordinary.



- Be more than just along for the ride. Be aware of your surroundings and recognize potential hazards. Understand that being alert does not mean being an alarmist – communicate with your rider clearly without startling them. Have fun and enjoy the view - And do your part to make it a safe ride!