



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — March 2009

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

Loyal to Our Duty

From the
President's Desk

"Good friends, good roads, great motorcycles—There's not much more else I need."

That is a line in Daniel Meyer's book "Life is a Road, It's about the ride." Part of his text is the journal he wrote while on a twenty-two day trip zigzagging the country (from Texas to California via Wisconsin, Yosemite, and parts of Route 66) to "see friends in far away places." At one gas stop he befriends a local over a cup of coffee in central Iowa and as he hits the road again remarks that he now has another friend, in a far away place – and another reason for a future road trip to revisit that destination — and that friend.

What a great way to think about life, our friends, and riding. It's not that we don't know someone at a particular destination; it is just that there are friends there that we have not met yet. And that is how the Red Knights make you feel. You see that red crest on someone's vest and you know that they are a friend, a comrade. Just because you don't know their name does not change that! It's like 'the wave' we give to other riders, it's that sharing of a mutual, unspoken understanding.

Many years we have the opportunity to sneak out on the bikes as some of the frozen months pass. But this year I think that almost everyone's ride has remained in its place of hibernation. As the winter wanes and more and more warm weather approaches we know that the winter has been rather harsh and we all deserve some good riding weather to lift our spirits and put that Red Knight smile on our faces.

When you first venture out onto the road with your bike this year, remember that your skills are rusty. You have not been riding for a while and will need to bring those defensive skills back in tune. Also remember that those people in the "cages" are also rusty and have forgotten about us motorcyclists during the cold months — so they are not thinking AT ALL about us as they drive, with cell phone in hand, inside their protective shell. So be on extra alert as you begin your riding season.

There are a lot of planned opportunities to gather as friends in 2009. And we know there will be other impromptu get-togethers that we will have on two wheels throughout the coming months. I am especially looking forward to our spring weekend in May. This year we have moved our Cape Cod weekend to the fall and have a place in the "quiet corner" of Connecticut to enjoy the spring weather. It is a corner of New England that we do not visit much on our bikes, and I think we will all have a good time whether it is at one of the casinos, adrift in the Connecticut hills, or along their seashore.

So as we look forward to our 2009 riding season let's make plans to visit those "friends in far away places," whether we have met them yet or not. I hope that each of you come join us on that trek, because we always have fun together.

IN 2008 our ride calendar had 42 posted events... with the wet weather of last year we only cancelled 3 rides — so that meant we had 39 rides in total! We averaged 13.4 people at each ride—(the Christmas party had 39 in attendance).

What's planned for 2009 — and will you be there? (I think I counted 45 opportunities to gather together). Check out the schedule (enclosed), post it on your refrigerator, mark up your calendar, and put up the "gone riding" sign at work and come join us for many fun miles!



Saturday, April 11.

To Boston for a visit to the North End and Mother Anna's (& more).

We'll pick up the train at 9:25 a.m. in Leominster and provide "on the rail" entertainment inbound to Boston.

Enjoy the tastes of our favorite Italian restaurant... and dessert at *Mike's Pastries!* Plus we'll have a walking tour to take us around and see what kind of fun we can find!

Call Bob L. by Monday, April 6 if you plan to go so we can give John a heads-up at Mother Anna's and look for you at the train stops.

In a recent column in MC News, our friend Fred Rau talked about touring tips he's learned throughout the years.

See if they make as much sense to you as they did for me!

- (1) Never set off on a long trip with new gear or new untested accessories. Always test them out & break them in before the long ride!
- (2) Don't over pack. Take half as much stuff as you think you need (and twice as much money). Leave room for trip "expansion" and plan the *order* in which you pack your stuff for easy access on the road.
- (3) Alternative funding sources. Fred says to stash at least \$200 cash and a spare credit card in a waterproof baggie on the bike for emergencies.
- (4) Have a spare key to your bike. He says he learned this one the hard way as he watched his key go down the toilet in a restaurant 2,000 miles from home in the middle of no where!

I once heard that God Said that "Ice cream was good for the soul." That's good enough for me, make mine a double!



Membership news...

"It's about the sunrise; It's about another day; It's about living; It's about the ride!

On the road with our friends...

Do you remember the ice and snows — and power outages of December; or the cold and snows of January? It was cold, it was snowy, we were *enduring* a very long, motorcycle-less winter.

A note from Donna Moreau in Qatar (in the Middle-East) said: "I ride everyday - already have 1400 kilometers in 3 weeks. And when was the last time you ran into a herd of camels? - Woo hoo, looking forward to my return so I can ride with you all on my big bike."

- Surprise, surprise — it was cold and snowy (below zero and 6 inches of snow) for New Years Eve. We still had eight people show up at Moe and Marcia's for "card night" to welcome in 2009. Everyone arrived with loads of food, and we had a great time all evening. Even the Lford's stayed past midnight — now that really is beyond "Petersham Time!"
- We're still meeting for breakfast. In January it was nine below zero when we met, we had eight people come out and enjoy breakfast together. In February, it was still a cold morning but 15 members came out to join us at the Kozy Kabin for breakfast. There are still a few opportunities to gather before the *Breakfast Club* takes its warm weather hiatus, so come join us on March 21 and April 18.
- Our winter pot luck was well-attended in February at the Ashburnham Public Safety Complex. We had 27 members and friends join us for an afternoon of food and fun. We took advantage of the technology available in the AFD training room and watched a few videos to temper our "PMS" (parked motorcycle syndrome) and took a look at the 2009 ride schedule (which is included in this mailing). And of course there was more food than we could all eat!

Attitude is everything.

You can buy the best helmet, riding suit, boots and gloves — even the loudest horn on the planet — but the most important piece of safety gear you can use you already have... it sits inside your helmet. I'm talking about your mind. How you choose to use it can make or break you as a rider.

Brian Rathjen, Backroads Magazine

Congratulations to our Road Captain, Bob Shakarian, on his recent retirement from the Department of Corrections. I can see that HD FF Special getting many more miles this year! And welcome to Bill Bourque of Petersham. Bill is a Lieutenant on the Waltham FD and also a member of the Petersham department. And best wishes too, to our friend (and soon to be member) Lloyd Chadbourne from New Salem on his new Suzuki "trike."

Breakfast and Ice Cream

Don't forget that our **Breakfast Clubs** still have a few "gatherings"!

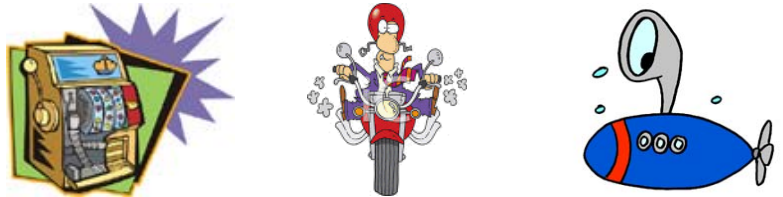
Every third Saturday from October through April we gather for breakfast and fellowship. Meet at the Westminster FD for 8:00 a.m. and we will discover a different breakfast haunt for the month.

Still to go are March 21, and April 18

Starting in May, join us for some Ice Cream

Each 3rd Friday of May through September meet up at the Westminster FD **ready to leave at 6:30 pm** and we'll try a different ice cream place each month.

Join your Red Knight friends & family for a Spring Weekend



of Slot Machines, Submarines, and Motorcycles

This year's RKMC Spring Weekend will be touring the "quiet corner" of Connecticut with the Holiday Inn Express in Plainfield, CT as the host hotel.

There are many options to ride and have other activities including the area casino's, the submarine museum in Groton, and Connecticut's coastal waters along Mystic.

When: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 8-10, 2009
Meet at Westminster FD at 10:00 a.m. on 5/8
Where: Holiday Inn Express — Plainfield, Connecticut

Accommodation Information:

\$79 per night (plus tax)

Contact hotel at 860-564-1010 and mention you are with the Red Knights to make your reservations.

Hotel located at 18 Pratt Road, Plainfield, CT 06374 adjacent to Routes 12 and 395... with Excalibur Powersports (www.excaliburpowersports.com) as one of their neighbors.

*Our annual RK weekend on Cape Cod is being planned for the fall instead of May. (September 25-27, 2009)
More information about that event will be out later in the year.*

Are any of your travels this summer taking you into the northland of Canada? If so remember to get a passport to get back in to the U.S. and also get a Canadian insurance card from your Insurance Company for your vehicle.

Red Knights Mass-3 has been working with promoters at the Brockton "Rox" baseball team for a "Motorcycle Day" at a Rox game in June.



The game is Sunday, June 28th at 1:05 pm. There will be a pre-game BBQ that would start at Noon along the third baseline.

Riders will get to ride their bikes out on the warning track for the National Anthem. There would also be local motorcycle vendors with tables with items and goods on display and a raffle.

Tickets are \$30 per person for the BBQ and access to the stadium. They are also offering a \$10 package which gets you a ticket to the game along with access to the vendor show/displays but no BBQ.

A portion of the proceeds from the day's event will be given to motorcycle related charity.

Contact George Colby of Mass-3
gcolby@comcast.net if you are interested.

**Fallen Firefighters Survivors' Foundation
2009 "WORLD'S LARGEST POKER RUN"
Saturday April 18, 2009**

The Foundation is raising money through promoting a poker run with participants from throughout the country — billed as the World's Largest Poker Run.

Guinness World Records will be here to authenticate this extraordinary event.

There are Red Knights chapters participating from more than 39 Chapters over 10 states. Although we do not have the time to raise the required "sponsors" to be an official host this year, our chapter has a "Breakfast Club" scheduled for that day and will plan a ride and a chapter donation to take part in the national event.

Come join us for breakfast and a ride to follow to honor the families left behind after our brothers and sisters have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

www.ffsfusa.org/events.htm

**2009 RKMC Convention where the Sunshine State Welcomes
The Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club, Inc.**

The Beautiful Bahia Mar Resort and Spa (www.bahiamarhotel.com) is the official location for the Red Knights Convention in Ft. Lauderdale. This destination offers 44 acres along the Intercoastal waterway where you can walk the docks of the oceanfront marina; stroll across our skywalk to Ft Lauderdale Beach; and enjoy countless water sports, ranging from sailing and sport fishing to jet skiing and diving.

Registration includes: Convention Journal, Convention Pin, Goody Bag, Hospitality Room, Continental Breakfast Every Morning, Thursday Lunch poolside BBQ between One Hour Air Boat Ride and Thursday Night Boat Cruise, Friday poolside BBQ, Friday Ice Cream Rides and RKMC License Plate Dedication, Bike Show, Saturday Banquet Supper and Entertainment, Sunday Breakfast.

MAKE PLANS TO COME EARLY AND STAY LATE!

Registration is \$65.00

Deadline Date For Convention Registration is August 10, 2009

Normal Registration \$65.00 per person

One Hour Air Boat Ride \$13.00 per person

Thursday Night Boat Cruise & Dinner \$ 37.00 per person

T-Shirts \$12.00 Each (S M L XL XXL XXXL)

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT IN U. S. FUNDS, Thank You

RKMC FL Chapter 1

Contact: Club House Phone (954) 474-7291

Whether you are taking the trip to Florida or not, consider supporting those who have been working hard to plan this year's convention with an ad in the Convention Program.

Florida-1 has not yet made the details and information available on the program ads for the convention. When this information is released we will share it with all of you.

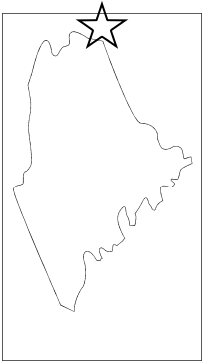
If you are thinking of heading to Florida for the convention, contact Ed Brouillet to see what he and the other travelers from the chapter are doing for the August Road trip.

~~~~~

We had ten members that joined us for the Boston Bike Show in February. The temperatures were pleasantly moderate for us when we rode the commuter train and the "T" - and used our pedestrian skills around Boston.

Plus, there was a stop at Mother Anna's so we could act as "scouts" for our April stop there!





## Road trip to Madawaska, Maine

Thursday, June 25 –  
Sunday, June 28.

It's time to head to Maine for the Acadia Festival—complete with bed races and all—and a visit to the Four Corners Memorial (to find the Mass-2 paver at the memorial site).

Planned stop enroute includes the Cole-Land Transport Museum outside of Bangor.

## Americade...

“Rallies are a lot like an excellent chili. There are a number of things that have to happen to get it right. A fine list of ingredients must be combined at the perfect time and correct amounts before the cook and the customers should be satisfied.”

Brian Rathjen  
Editor, Backroads Magazine

Are you planning on going to Americade in June? Then JOIN US AT KEVIN & LORI'S in Ashburnham for an **AMERICADE Planning Pot Luck.**

Give Kevin a call at 978-827-4297 to let him know if you are coming — or if you need directions. Saturday, March 14 – 4:00 p.m. at 67 Holt Road in Ashburnham.

It is easy to think of Americade when you read Brian's words. There is no doubt that some of his thought-provoking influences about motorcycle rallies are from his annual attendance at Americade. And for any of us who have been witness to Bill Dutcher's rally we know that there are a fine list of ingredients, choreographed

throughout the week to help us all have the best time while we are in the Adirondack Mountains!

*See you in Lake George!*

In 2008 we ended up seeing over 30 members from our chapter on the roads of Lake George during the week. For the Red Knights, and 50,000 other riders, Americade has become part of the “rights of spring.” Once you visit Lake George and participate in the best rally there is, Americade and Lake George call you back year after year.

*The Red Knights Ladies will be meeting at Peg's house on **Tuesday, May 19** at 6:30 to plan for our week's supplies and related logistical needs.*

There are varying departure times and staying times throughout the week. The largest group is leaving Sunday, May 31.

**If you are planning on attending, please let Peg know so she can fine-tune the accommodations. Space is always limited and we don't want to have challenges with last minute lodging surprises!**

The Red Knights are hosting the Wednesday evening three-course Dinner, the Red Knights open house Thursday evening — and as always we will be participating in the Parade on Saturday morning—so remember to bring your fire department helmet to wear in the parade!

Rumor is that the LGFD is complete and we will be guests there for the Thursday RKM open house!

Please think about door prizes to help the Red Knights International at the Wednesday evening dinner at Roaring Brook Ranch at Americade. We had over 100 door prizes to award dinner attendees again last year... and that has been far more than ANY of the corporate sponsors involved with Americade!



**C**ongratulations to this year's recipients of our **Motorcycle Safety Training Scholarships** through the Central Mass Safety Council.

We had an unprecedented number of applications for the beginner rider courses this year and the chapter voted to award an additional BRC for 2009.

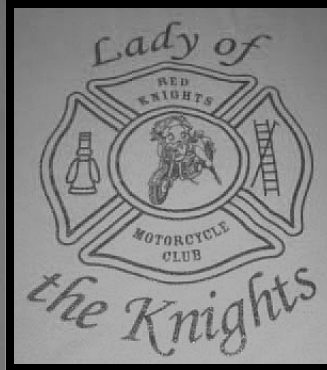
This year's recipients of the Beginner Rider's Course are: Alyson Addonizio of Leominster (whose grandfather is a retired firefighter), Nicholas Ostertag of Harvard (whose father is a Hudson firefighter), and Suzanne Douville of Orange. The ERC recipient is Bob Laford.

Thank you to our committee members (both near and far) for their efforts and to all those who applied for the scholarships this year.



# "Lady of the Knights" T-shirt

Do you have one of our "Lady of the Knights" T-shirts?.



If you would like to get a t-shirt contact Tim Kilhart.

You can also get RK Window and Helmet Decals from Tim.

An insert with info on our chapter merchandise is included with this mailing.

Looking ahead to August, we have a chapter "Poker Ride" scheduled. One of the stops is at "Sherry's House" in Worcester. 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.

Mothers for Daughters —  
Motorcyclists for Breast and Ovarian Cancer Research  
May 15-17—West Dover, Vermont  
[www.mothers-for-daughters.com](http://www.mothers-for-daughters.com)



## Upcoming Rides & Events for '09

Check out your (enclosed) 2009 ride schedule for the rides, events, and gatherings, that are planned for the year... and come join us!

Saturday, March 21.

**Massachusetts State Meeting of the Red Knights.** After the monthly "Breakfast Club" we'll head over to the Ashburnham FD for a meeting of officers from the Mass Chapters (11:00 a.m.)

Sunday, April 26.

**Spring Business (Dinner) Meeting —with an educational component.** Meet up at the Westminster FD at noon. We'll head off for a ride, lunch, a brief meeting, and the opportunity to review some information that will help each of us be better riders.

Saturday, May 16.

**Make sure you have your food groups.** Plans are to make stops to cover the basic food groups — (1) Coffee, (2) Hot Dogs, (3) Ice Cream, (4) Snacks. Meet at the Westminster FD at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 21.

**New Hampshire BBQ Competition** — Come join us for a Father's Day Ride to the Anheuser-Busch complex in Merrimack for the NH BBQ Cook-off. Meet at WFD at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 27.

**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.

Some people try to turn back their odometers in their lives. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.



We had 22 members and friends come out to the Petersham Curling Club in Petersham and “throw a few ends” on the ice. It was a great time AND Mary B. kept us fed with some wonderful homemade stuffed shells — and she brought a couple of pans of her chocolate chip squares to have with ice cream too!

### Memorial Benefit Ride in Memory of Nick Butler.

Sunday, April 19, 2009 — Staging starts at 9:30 a.m. — Ride leaves at noon.

All are invited, ride or drive to this family event (rain or shine event) Moose Lodge 67 Fitchburg, St. Marlborough, MA  
Live music by Fingercuff



Requested donation is \$15 per person in advance, includes meal Make donations & advance ticket purchases online at [www.MassMSF.org](http://www.MassMSF.org)

Sponsored by the Motorcyclists' Survivor's Fund  
[www.massmsf.org](http://www.massmsf.org)  
"Riders Helping Riders"

### Motorcycle Tire Recall

Recall notice from NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation

Pirelli Tire, LLC is recalling certain Metzeler ME880 Marathon motorcycle tires, sizes 13/90 B16 M/C TL 73H and 140/90 B16 M/C TL 77H, manufactured between June 22 and September 13, 2008. These tires were stamped with incorrect load range and inflation pressure information which fails to conform to the labeling requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 119, "New Pneumatic Tires for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of more than 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds) and Motorcycles." Metzeler will notify owners and replace the noncompliant tires free of charge. The recall began on November 18, 2008. Owners may contact Metzeler Consumer Affairs at 1-877-202-4993.

Bob Laford  
**(President)**  
276 West Road  
Petersham, MA 01366  
978-724-3270  
rflaford@tiac.net

Kevin Martin  
**(Vice-president)**  
67 Holt Road  
Asburnham, MA 01430  
(978) 827-4297  
kmartin812@hotmail.com

Maury Lizotte  
**(Secretary)**  
66 Brook Lane  
Gardner Mass 01440  
(978) 410-5553  
lizotte@comcast.net

Tim Kilhart  
**(Treasurer)**  
56 Adams Drive  
Athol, MA 01331  
(978) 249-2983  
kilhart@verizon.net

Here is the contact information for the chapter officers. An updated membership list for 2009 is also included.

Bob Shakarian  
**(Road Captain)**  
326 North Street  
Leominster, MA 01453  
(978) 665-9805  
Sharkey625@aol.com

Terry Atwood  
**(Assistant Road Captain)**  
2 Angard Lane  
Ayer, MA 01432  
(978) 772-7606  
TATWOOD000@aol.com

Larry Robinson  
**(Assistant Road Captain)**  
355 No. Main Street  
Petersham, MA 01366  
978-724-3321

*An excerpt from Motorcycle Consumer News'*

### Mental Motorcycling By Mark Barnes, Ph.D.

One of the best pieces of advice there is about riding on the road is, **“Pretend you are invisible.”** This means never assuming that other drivers have noticed our presence, anticipated our trajectory, or developed any interest in whether or not they hit us. When we ride as though we’re invisible, we see things differently, even if others don’t. It means we are actively scanning for threats and opportunities to avoid them. And, just as the lack of intention can blind us, deliberate intention can enhance our vision and allow us to notice problems and solutions we would have otherwise overlooked.

Sure, continue doing all the traditional things to be seen. Wear bright, reflective colors, use your high beam during the day, add a headlight modulator, use the left car tire track as your default lane position to place yourself squarely in front of the driver behind you, etc. But don’t let yourself lapse into complacency, thinking your work is done. We all need to ride as though we’re invisible, because, in reality, we may be exactly that.