



*From the  
President's  
Desk*

# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — Spring 2014

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



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*Loyal to Our Duty*

Hello My Good Knights,

I can hardly believe that's it's been already six months since I've taken over the reins of our chapter. I'm still enjoying every minute of it and will continue to keep moving forward.

What have we accomplished in short a short period? To date we have just about completed our breakfast club meetings (This month will be our final planned meet).

- We have given out MSF scholarships, congratulations to Jason Scott, and Thomas Wilson for the beginner ride applications, and to John Loisselle & Chris Conrad on the advanced rider applications.
- Had some interesting Chili at Monadnock Harley
- Spent the afternoon viewing a movie and enjoying pizza, (there will be more next time)
- We've met and started preliminary planning for a trip to PEI for our annual convention.
- We've spent the longest time ever, keeping our rides under cover due to the extended snow period... I think we're finally over that hump!
- We've already had our Americade pre-planning meeting, I'm sure we'll be finalizing the leave times and who's going at our May meeting stay tunes.
- All of your executive officers have been busy with a number of items on the table, Thank You for helping to keep things under control and in order.

There are a number of unscheduled rides coming up, including NH-4 tenth anniversary ride May 10th This is also our Fire tower Assistance ride, maybe we could go to NH instead , The Blessing of the bikes in Bennington VT on May 25, and a few others I'll be sending out as the dates get closer.

Remember your inspection stickers!:

Keep up the good work and Thank you for all you do.

Kevin

President Ma-2



## 2014 RK-Mass 2 Ride Schedule is posted!

If you are traveling by car it's like you are watching a movie. If you are traveling by motorcycle you are IN the movie!

Come be one of the players in the 2014 "filming season" by participating with the chapter this year.

Your ride schedule for the season is out. If you have not received a hard-copy, contact Bob Laford, or you can download it from our webpage.

Post it in a prominent place in your home, mark up your calendar with Red Knight events and come join us throughout the year!

Big events like Americade and the Convention, popular staples to our schedule like Ice Cream Rides, Picnic Rides, and tours around Massachusetts and neighboring states, and a host of other events are on the schedule.

And all of them are fun... and all of them are for you our Red Knights family!

Come join us this year for some chapter enjoyment and camaraderie!

We had a wrong date for the Vermont-2 Paul's Ride in June.

**The correct date is Saturday, June 21.**

That gives us an entire day to plan the "Strawberry Supper ride on the following Saturday!"







The *Red Knight Fire Tower Quest* is underway for 2014. We hope that you consider participating in this riding season adventure with us to earn your Fire Tower Pin.

***Absolutely the best motorcycling event possible—roads, restaurants, and friendly people—all in one package!***

Our **AMERICADE Planning Pot Luck** brought out 16 members to Ed and Peg's house for tables of good food and a lot of good stories about Americade. Americade newbies and veterans alike will be filling the cabins again this year. We have 28 committed to the Bayfront Cottages, a few more that may stop up for a day, and several others staying elsewhere in Lake George. So it looks like another year that will be full of "Red" and full of Mass-2 friends during the first week in June!



That is one of the hundred's of quotes that are listed in this year's "Americade Times" that was delivered in our mailboxes just before New Year's Day. And for any of us that have been part of Americade over the last one-third of a century, we must agree!

One of our best attended events as a chapter is Americade in Lake George (this year June 2-7). Some come to the Adirondacks just to ride. Others are there as Americade attendees, or Americade volunteers.

But whether you are a first timer or a Americade veteran, one who participates with a week-long wristband, a day pass to the vendor, or a Red Knight that just goes up for the bike and people-watching, it is all fun.

Settled into our Mass-2 headquarters at the Bay Front Cottages, it is home away from home.

If you are thinking of enjoying some time with us in Lake George this year, contact our House Mother Peg B. so you can be put on the list to see how the bunking availability plays out.

### **GOOD NEWS CONVENTION ATTENDEES!**

Tanya Mullally from PEI said that the Ferry will be running starting in May from Portland, Maine, to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Great news for the travelling masses!



The Americade Times magazine stated that, "The Dunlop Parade lined up early, and folks saddled up and got the procession started with **The Red Knights**, from chapters across the country, leading the way.



When packing for Americade, remember your fire helmet and come join in leading the parade on Saturday.

**New format at Americade this year** — the "Light Parade" that is normally held around the grounds after the light judging at FWH is going to take place up and down Canada Street this year. Since it is on Thursday evening, we will have front row seats at RK central in front of Bob's Ice Cream after the RKMCMC open house at LGFD. See you there!



**The Red Knights Ladies** will be meeting at Peg's house on **Tuesday, May 20** at 7:00 to plan for our week's supplies and related logistical needs.

**...since the ladies will be out of the house, the guys will meet at "Herrick's Tavern" on 202 in Orange at 6:00 for our annual burger dinner together!**



# It's time for KNIGHT SCHOOL!

## RED KNIGHTS SKILLS DAY 2014



Come join us on Saturday, May 17 for a day to help us each learn more about our riding abilities and our bikes. We will meet at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange at 9 and head off to our drill yard. Part of the day's activities will be a discussion on basic bike maintenance led by President Kevin Martin. Then we will have some skill exercises to start off the new riding season.

**A** long with improving our skills, another way to be more comfortable in your riding is with the proper gear.

One aspect of protective gear that many of us overlook is hearing protection. Along with protecting your hearing from the wind noise, ear plugs will let you enjoy the ride and reduce the amount of fatigue you feel at the end of the day's ride.



One of our members, Doug Dupell, runs Leonard Optician in Orange and he is a vendor for custom fit ear plugs — and he offers a discount to Red Knights. Curious about “off the shelf” or custom plugs? Ask Marcia M. or Bob L. what they think of wearing hearing protection (in general) or more specifically the custom ear plugs that Doug can make for you. They are comfortable, easy to wear, super efficient, and I would not ride without them!

Even though the ability to keep your motorcycle upright at parking lot speeds won't necessarily save your life, it may save you from a broken foot and expensive damage. Sure, you can try to balance your bike using your legs, but it's way better for your confidence and street cred if you rely more on proficient slow-speed maneuvering skill.

*How Not to Suck at Slow Speed Riding.* As speeds decrease, we lose the benefit of inertia and gyroscopic forces. The slower you go, the greater role you play in keeping gravity from pulling your motorcycle onto its side. This means keeping the Center of Gravity located directly above the tire contact patches (or keep the contact patches directly beneath the Center of Gravity).

To do this, you must constantly adjust the Center of Gravity / contact patch relationship. It's like trying to balance a broomstick on your palm. It takes continual adjustment to keep the broom's contact point vertically below the Center of Gravity so the broomstick remains upright—react too slowly and the broomstick falls to the floor. You must do the same thing when trying to stay upright on a slow moving motorcycle. The difference is that the motorcycle is the “broomstick” and you must move the tire's contact patch to keep in balance. This can be done by turning the handlebars left and right, causing the steering head—and the motorcycle's Center of Gravity – to shift from side-to-side.

*Body Positioning.* By shifting your bodyweight, you move the combined Center of Gravity of bike and rider over the contact patches. A limber torso and a loose grip on the handlebars helps maintain balance in this way.

When making tight turns, position your weight on the outside footpeg (the right peg for left turns) to let the motorcycle lean. Keep weight on your footpegs so you can lean the bike more-or-less independently of your body (and vice versa). This allows you to quickly shift body weight, turn the handlebars, or lean the bike to regain balance.

*Brake Control.* One other reason for keeping your feet on the footpegs is so your right foot can apply rear brake pressure if you need to slow.

The rear brake is also useful for increasing stability. Maintain steady drive while you drag the rear brake to control speed and also give the drivetrain a force to “pull against”. This “tension” steadies drive force and helps pivot the bike around when making tight U-turns.

*Drive Control.* One of the most critical controls to master when performing U-turns is throttle control. Forward drive must be delivered smoothly, otherwise you risk dropping your motorcycle. It's really difficult to make a tight U-turn with the motorcycle lurching abruptly from ham-fisted on-and-off application of the throttle.

Let's put all the parts together to perform a tight, slow speed turn:

- Slow to a suitable speed
- Once the motorcycle is slowed, release the brakes
- Lean the bike and turn the handlebars
- Turn your head like a barn owl
- Ease out the clutch about halfway
- Roll on the throttle slightly to pull the bike around the turn
- Drag the rear brake lightly and slip the clutch for speed control.

You may have to lean quite a bit, but that's okay as long as you maintain steady drive. Minimize throttle movement by keeping your wrist down and anchoring your thumb or index finger to your handlebar control pod.

Slow speed handling doesn't have to cause anxiety. A bit of knowledge and practice can increase confidence and decrease the likelihood of a slow speed tip-over and possible injury.





## Come out and join the fun in 2014!



Saturday, May 3.  
**Spring "Dust-Off" Ride.** Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts

for 10:00 a.m. for a ride to *who knows where* — just because we need a ride!

Saturday, May 10. **Fire Tower Assistance Ride.** Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 10:00 a.m. and we'll head out in search of a **Fire Tower** or two to help you add to your list for 2014!

Sunday, May 18. **Massachusetts State Meeting and Newton Veteran's Parade.** The spring State Meeting for Massachusetts will be in Newton in the morning, and Newton's Veterans' Parade kicks off at 1:00 and the Red Knights are invited to lead the parade. Let President Martin know if you are interested in either the meeting or the parade — or both!



Thinking about heading into Boston with your fellow Red Knights this year? How about a ride on the Duck Boats... and quack your way around Boston and then don your walking shoes and follow President Martin to enjoy a spring day in the city.

Let Kevin know your thoughts about a Duck Boat ride. Tours leaving the Aquarium are about \$32 per person. (Kevin is checking on a group rate). What would be on your "to do" list for this year's tour?

Meet at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, and we will carpool to Alewife Station and take the "T" into Boston.

It's (nearly) spring and with the return of the warm breezes and birds singing a young man's fancy turns to... RIDING! Well, we're not so "young" and the "riding fancy" is shared by the ladies we all know and love too! But along with spring time riding comes challenges associated with springtime road conditions. Below is an excerpt from a GWRRRA newsletter on that encounter with the dreaded POT HOLE!



"What To Do About Potholes When Riding A Motorcycle:"  
First try to avoid it, that would be my natural reaction and the safest course of action. Second (if the pothole is unavoidable), slow your speed. Stand up slightly on your pegs with your knees bent, they will act as shock absorbers. Upon overtaking the pothole, accelerate slightly and smoothly. Regain your normal riding posture and smoothly increase your speed after you ride over the pothole. If swerving is not an option, attack this and every obstacle in as straight an angle as possible. This will help you avoid a nasty loss of control if a wheel gets snagged. The point of accelerating is to transfer weight and, in turn, grip the rear wheel and lighten the load on the front wheel, thereby lifting it up slightly."

### Membership news...

Since our chapter's charter year in 1983 we have had 213 people join Red Knights Mass-2. With 74 people on this year's roster that means 139 people have fallen away from the chapter for one reason or another. Take a look at your copy of the 2014 roster. Is there someone you notice on the list that you have not seen on a ride or at an event, give them a call and a personal invitation to come out and have some fun with us.

Are you reading this as one of our members that we have not seen for a while? Take a look at the event calendar and pick one of our rides or events. Put it on YOUR calendar, circle it, and come have a good time with us.

Welcome to Jay Veasie of Ayer who was voted in as a new member recently!

Congratulations to Lori Oliver on her new position with the UMass Recreation Center and to Rick & Lori on the birth of their granddaughter Zoey — and to Bob Laford on his promotion to Assistant Director of Emergency Management at UMass.

We had more applications for the 2014 MSF Scholarship than we have had in the past, so our committee had their work cut out for them. Congratulations to this year's recipients. The Basic Rider Courses went to Jason Scott, a Junior Firefighter in Petersham, and (Laura's son) Thomas Wilson, of Lunenburg. The Experienced Rider Courses went to John Loiselle and Chris Conrad.

## ARE YOU HEADED TO THE 2014 CONVENTION ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN CANADA? JULY 17-20, 2014

We had 16 members come out for some Convention Planning at our March Breakfast Club and made use of the Thirsty Turtle's meeting space in Baldwinville to talk convention! A number of people going at different times and different routes.

Are you registered for convention? What are your travel plans? This looks to be another well attended convention with RK members from all over the globe. There is even a member from Switzerland who is stopping in New Salem before heading north to PEI.

There are two ways to get to Prince Edward Island: #1 – Take the Confederation Bridge from New Brunswick. This is the longest bridge in the world crossing water that freezes in the winter. The bridge is 8 miles in length and takes approximately 17 minutes to cross.

#2 – Travel with Northumberland Ferries from Nova Scotia. This is about a 50 minute crossing from Pictou Nova Scotia followed by about another 50 minute drive to the convention (they run throughout the day from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. each day).

The bridge is considerably faster and shorter. The ferry however, offers that true "going to an Island" feel. If you want to experience both options, take the ferry to PEI and take the bridge home. Either option is free to get on the Island. There is no fee charged coming on the Island but we do charge it as you leave. The Ferry is \$40 per bike to get back while the bridge is only \$17.75 per bike (2012 rates).

PEI is Canada's smallest Province in size, total population of about 145,000, but it is the most densely populated province in Canada. The Island is 224 km (140 mi) long and from 664 km (440 mi) wide.

No place in the province is more than 16 km (10 mi) from the sea and PEI boasts 2,845 km of coastline. The province is geographically approximately the size of the state of Delaware.

You can get anywhere you want to go on paved roads but there are several clay roads for short cuts. There are no divided highways on PEI and the highest speed limit is 90 kph (55 mph).

Once you get to PEI you can stop worrying about large animals on the roads at night, there are no deer or moose on the Island. Our largest of wild animals are coyotes but are shy of the roads.

As you plan, remember to get a "Canadian Insurance Card" from your Insurance Agent and you will need a passport to cross in and out of Canada.

An afternoon at the movies was a lot of fun with about 20 members showing up to view the recently released "Why We Ride" documentary (and have some pizza) at the Lunenburg Fire Station.

The movie had us telling our own stories of the first time we rode, our first bikes, and what makes us smile the most while on the bike — or even *thinking* about the bikes!

If you have not seen the movie yet, keep an eye out as other rider groups, and some select cinemas are showing it.

One of the riding message boards on the Internet asked for some ways that you can identify/observe when you know it is time for someone (even yourself) to partake of some good riding training — whether it is from lack of training, getting rusty from lack of practice, or not understanding the principle.

Here are a few of the responses received (in no particular order):

- Leaning into the curve with your shoulder rather than pressing on the handgrip in the direction you want to go.
  - No matter how hard you try, stopping smoothly, in control, is difficult.
  - You always use two feet to stop from falling over when you come to a stop.
  - Failing to do a head check on a lane change.
  - You 'have to push' off with your foot to get started.
  - Braking with only the rear brake all the time.
  - Not looking through a curve, or You don't look at all.
  - Unintentionally crossing the center line or the breakdown line while cornering.
  - Always riding in the same track of your lane (whether it be left, center, or right), and never adjusting for the road or traffic conditions.
  - Tunnel vision, "I have the green light" (or the right-of-way).
- Can you think of other times... when you think to yourself, "I know better than that!"



**HEY, THE POPE RIDES! WE'VE GOT THE POPE... IF WE CAN ONLY FIND A PRESIDENT THAT RIDES WE'LL BE DOING OK!**

Pope Francis blesses motorcyclists for Harley-Davidson's 110th anniversary

Leather-clad bikers lifted their arms to greet the pontiff as he was driven up the avenue leading to St Peter's Square to celebrate mass and give his Sunday angelus. Some had "Papa Francesco" (Pope Francis) flags fixed to their bikes, which were parked all the way down the Via della Conciliazione among the trinket shops and snack stands.

Later, after celebrating a mass attended by men and women in Harley vests among the faithful, Francis greeted the "numerous participants" of the anniversary festivities.

Marcel Taschenhofer, who had come from Rostock in northern Germany, said, "if the pope thinks it's good then all the better."