



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Holiday edition '02

<http://www.redknightsmc.org/mass2/>

Loyal to Our Duty

Begin planning today for the
20th Annual RK Convention
AUGUST 7-10, 2003

"Le Rendez-Vous" in Laval,
Quebec

[www.redknightsquebec3.tripod.com/
convention.htm](http://www.redknightsquebec3.tripod.com/convention.htm)

If you are interested in discussing a
longer trip to the 2003 Convention,
contact Bob Laford. As time moves forward
we will share information with those interested
about a possible trip to Nova Scotia and then
across to the convention in Quebec.

From the President's
Desk

November 04, 2002

Dear members of Mass. Chapter-2,

Our chapter had election of officers at the November 2 meeting and ride. I'm happy to say that our chapter leadership is the same old faces to for another two years. I thank you for all your support of this chapter and of those elected, Vice-president Bob Laford, Treasurer Cliff Eldridge and Road Captain Tim Kilhart.

There is one more chapter get-together scheduled for this year. It is our annual Christmas Party and is scheduled for December 15. I hope to see you there!

Now that the &%?^%\$# and cold (I hate to use that "S" word) are upon us, another great riding season has come to an end. Our Polar Bear ride was on November 2 and we started the day with a light coating of snow and the Laford's tell me that it was 5 below zero at their house that morning! (Editor's note: ...not quite that cold but cold enough!)

It was a short ride to Sterling for coffee and then home. I must be getting soft in my old age. I'm getting to like Florida more and more.

A very special Thank You goes out to all the officers and members that came to rides and showed their support of chapter events throughout 2002. It is you the membership that give the club direction on what to do and places to go. It was another stellar year for our chapter. We've seen more new members join this year than any other year. Our membership is up over 80 members strong — and is one of the largest chapters in the organization.

Last year at this time there were a lot of us that were just trying to come to grips with what happen on 9-11. As the year passed we were able to work things out and go on with our lives and responsibilities. That day will be on our minds for a long time to come.

This year we did a few different things as a group and it's time to look ahead and plan for next year. **If there are any rides, events, or destinations that you would like to see on our schedule in 2003 please contact any officer and let us know.** Your Officers will be getting together just after the first of the year to set up our rides for the 2003 riding season.

The new year should prove to be another fun season with all our friends in the RKMC. I hope that some of our new members will give us input on the schedule and come join us for some fun. New ideas are always welcome; just drop a post card, e-mail, or phone call to any officer.

As your Chapter and International President it is getting increasingly difficult to juggle the many issues that are brought to the Red Knights. I will do my best to see that Mass-2 continues to be one of the best chapters in the state. This is only possible through the continued support of each of you, the members and the chapter officers.

To you and all your Family, have a great Holiday Season and a Happy New Year

Sincerely, Ed & Peg

Mass-2 Christmas Party

We are trying something new this year. Our gatherings are getting larger and larger each time and can be a bit overwhelming for the hosts of a pot-luck. So instead of having a pot-luck party at someone's home this holiday season, we have made reservations at the Baldwin House for a buffet and Christmas Party.

The Baldwin House is no longer in Baldwinsville, they have taken over the former Too-Shea's building at Route 2/Exit 24 in Westminster. We have reserved a room and will have a catered buffet for our members.

Cost is \$14.00 per person.

We will have our Yankee Gift Swap, lots of fun, and lots of food! So bring a wrapped gift and come have fun with us at our Christmas party. **BUT you must RSVP no later than Sunday December 8** (to Peg Brouillet at 978-632-8230) so we can tell the restaurant how many people to expect.

- What: RKMC Christmas Party
- When: Sunday, December 15
- Time: 1:00 p.m. Price: \$14/ea.
- Where: The Baldwin House, Off Route 2 exit 24 in Westminster



2003 120-Club will be upon us before we know it!

We have run a 120 Club raffle as our yearly fund raiser as opposed to a Poker Run for the past few years and it has been very successful. It offers the club some funds to disperse to worthy organizations and people with relatively little work compared to the Poker Rides.

We are looking for some one to be chairperson for the 2003 raffle.

This would entail ensuring that all the tickets are passed out to members to be sold, tracking who has what tickets, and getting the information back on who bought the tickets.

The chairperson is responsible for collecting the money and collecting any unsold tickets before the troops head to Americade in June. Then as a club we draw the winning numbers!

If you would be willing to be the point person for the raffle, please contact Ed or Peg Brouillet.

And thank you to everyone who has



The officers of Mass Chapter-2 and their spouses wish each of you a very joyous holiday season. We all look forward to another great New Year to share with all of you.

Cavalcade – a procession of horses, by extension, with people riding those horses. So the suffix “-cade” implies a procession and riding. And “**Americade**” is a parade or procession of Americans, in our case, riding motorcycles. This is an excerpt for an article on Americade 2002 that appears in the November issue of *RoadBike* magazine.

Pick up a copy for yourself at your favorite magazine haunt and begin planning for your **Americade 2003** today! If you've never been you're missing THE BEST motorcycle rally in the country. If you're a seasoned visitor to Lake George you will have to agree. From the Monday night Main Street party, the seminars all week long, the Tour Expo filled with every gadget, gizmo, clothing, and anything else you need for the bike — to test rides, people watching, renewing friendships, the Fire Works, and the parade on Saturday, the first week in June is well spent at Americade.

And that list of events doesn't even mention the riding! One time to Americade and you will be hooked.

The 2002 Americade was even featured on *Ride On* a television show seen on speed TV and a number of Red Knights were interviewed including our own Eddie B.

As it is every year, we will have members leaving throughout the week to spend some time in Lake George. Whether you're planning on coming up for the entire week or just spending a day or two, Americade is a lot of fun with 65,000 of your best friends! Begin planning for your wonder-week soon.

Red Knights Dues are “due” at this time. Enclosed is an invoice. Please forward your dues before the end of December to our club treasurer Cliff Eldridge.

Cliff Eldridge
856 Main Street
Leominster, MA 01453

Have you filled out and sent in your emergency information form?

Our chapter initiated an emergency information data base for our members this summer. In the last newsletter we sent out a form for you to fill out listing emergency information and contact names/numbers to use in case you were to have an emergency while with members of the club.

The chapter officers are carrying this data base with them so if there is an emergency we can offer some assistance and notification. We hope to never need that type of contact information, but problems do occur and as emergency personnel we know how important it is to be prepared.

Please send your completed forms to Bob Laford. If you have a form included in this mailing that means we have not received one from you as of yet!.



Fred Rau, Senior Editor of Motorcycle Consumer News with Sparky at the Americade Parade

On the road with our friends

- **Ham and Beans**, what a great *treat* for firefighters – they keep us warm twice! A number of Mass-2 friends gathered (mostly on four wheels) in Shirley back in September one evening for a Ham and Bean Supper put on by the SFD. Great job!
- Eight bikes arrived under foreboding skies on September 22 for the **President's Ride**. Earlier thoughts had been to travel to Carver for King Richard's Faire or to West Springfield for the Big-E – but because of road construction that we knew about and the potential weather we didn't know about the Prez changed his mind but would not tell any one where we were going.

We ended up at the Bolton Fair, just a short **20** miles from Westminster. But with Ed leading it was an 85 mile round-a-bout ride through Central Massachusetts including Hubbardston, Barre, Oakham, Princeton, Rutland, Paxton, Worcester, Holden, Sterling, Leominster, Lancaster, and **then** Bolton! But we were no worse for wear and he and his first lady bought us all coffee at one stop along the way. Thanks Ed & Peg. (And of course, on the way home a group of us stopped for ice cream at Calico and Cream in Hubbardston).

- Sunday, October 6 was the beginning of the 2002 Fire Prevention Week. Eight bikes met up in the 40 degree sunshine for a breakfast ride to the Jaffrey Fire Station. Each year the JFD puts on a great breakfast buffet to kick off the week. Come join us next year and if the weather cooperates we'll head to Keene for the Fire Prevention parade.
- Sunday, October 13, five of our members headed off to Daytona Beach for Biketoberfest and then Key West for *Fantasyfest* but it was also our annual **Apple Pie Ride** to Dummerston, Vermont. Mother Nature didn't fully cooperate because it was a foggy, drizzly morning. With a number of Mass-2 folks headed south and the remnants of hurricane Kyle on our doorstep only a couple of our members showed in Westminster for a ride. Accompanied by a few friends, six bikes braved the wet weather and roads for some apple pie. (Your VP chickened out and headed home to be near the warm and dry wood stove!)

Rides for '03

Although the cold weather is bearing down upon us and we have completed our official riding season, the next season is only a few short weeks away!

Please share with us any ride ideas (and specific dates if necessary) that you may have for next year.

The Chapter Officers will be meeting after the first of the year (by ourselves and then with other Mass Chapters) to put together a proposed itinerary for the 2003 ride schedule.

Then we will have the schedule ready for our February Pot-Luck.

Please let us know your ideas so we can plan a fun season, (as well as pre-season and post-season), of events that everyone will enjoy. Thank you.

Officer Contact Info:

Ed Brouillet (**President**)
326 Minot Road
Westminster, MA 01473
(978) 632-8230
rkma2@net1plus.com

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

Steve Mickle (**Secretary**)
57 Groton School Road
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-6224
rknight54@net1plus.com

Cliff Eldridge (**Treasurer**)
856 Main Street
Leominster, MA 01453
(978) 534-6252

Tim Kilhart (**Road Captain**)
56 Adams Drive
Athol, MA 01331
(978) 249-2983
tdkkihart@rcn.com

Just because the bikes may be hibernating doesn't mean that we have to do the same!



Come join us for one of the famous **Mass-2 Pot-Luck Parties**

When: Saturday afternoon,
February 8

Where: We haven't decided where yet. Would you like to host the Pot Luck? If so contact Bob Laford or Ed Brouillet

Enclosed with this newsletter is an updated **member list** for our chapter. We've grown a lot in the past twenty years, and that is because of each and every one of you, the members, that keep our club enjoyable.

We need to know if you are coming to the RK Mass-2 Christmas Party so reservations can be made at the restaurant.

Have you called Peg yet to tell her?



The Story

I traveled west to Shelburne, Mass. one rainy Sunday afternoon in September to stand in line with 200 other uniformed Fire, Police, and EMS personnel to pay tribute to a wonderful man, Guy Manners. I met Guy when I was active in the Franklin County EMT Association and he was the type of man who always greeted you with a smile, asked how things were going, and was generally interested in the answer you gave him. Guy was the Shelburne Center Fire Chief for many years, sat on countless local boards, and was intimately involved in the improvement of the emergency services available to people throughout Franklin County.

For the last several years he battled cancer. And in September that battle ended. I'm telling you this because of "The Story."

The last person to speak before the final prayer at Guy's Memorial Service said he was there to tell "The Story." And we were to each take that story home with us and spread it around and let it become part of the Massachusetts Fire Service Folklore.

The Story: On Guy's final day, the hospice nurse and Guy's wife Betty were by his side as he battled through his last few hours. When the final few breaths came there was no fanfare, Guy just stopped, and was at peace.

Sitting there in silence for a few minutes after Guy passed away, maybe two, maybe three minutes, the nurse turned to Betty and said, "What's that?" Betty looked around and said, "That's Smoke!" As the house filled up with smoke, this good fire chief's wife knew this wasn't anything to ignore and called 9-1-1. Now remember, the Fire Chief is now in the other room having just passed away, when the tones go off for his house full of smoke.

The Fire Department arrived and found that the smoke was from a dryer fire. They removed the dryer and cleared the house of smoke.

After they left, Betty went back into the room where Guy lay, and she swears that he was laying there with a smirk on his face.

Some people may say it was all a coincidence, but I think it was Guy saying good bye to all his friends, like you and me, who remain here after him to provide service to our neighbors in need, just as he did for most of his life.

Le "Rendez-Vous" in Laval, Quebec — The Red Knights 20th Annual Convention — August 7-10, 2003

"Experience the International Quebec Flavor".

Where you can already smell and taste the flavour of all different dishes!

In 2003, Laval will be the Place to Be for our 20th annual convention.

- Room rate: \$129.00 Canadian
- Convention registration fees: \$ 115 Canadian

A (cold) Polar Bear Ride, Elections, and Bylaw updates

The day of our first ride of 2002 (May 18) it snowed and snowed and snowed. When I woke up on November 2 (our last scheduled ride) it was 19 degrees and the grass was covered with snow!

We still had seven bikes and nine people arrive for our meeting and *Polar Bear Ride*. By the time we headed out for our ride the temperature had made it up to a balmy 28 degrees.

Congratulations to Tim Kilhart, Cliff Eldridge, and Bob Laford on their re-elections as Road Captain, Treasurer, and Vice-president respectively.

The bylaw changes brought up at the meeting dealing with vest colors for the chapter has been tabled until our April 2003 meeting. At the International Convention, International Bylaws were altered to allow the chapters to decide if they would be a "Red Vest Only" chapter or if other colors would be allowed for vests that bear the RKMC Crest.

Those present thought that the vest color issue is one of significant importance and should not be decided at a meeting with only a few members present. Over the next few months please discuss among yourselves and with the chapter officers what you think about Red Knights vest colors. Should Mass-2 remain a Red Vest chapter or should that be changed so members can place the club crest on other colors or vest designs? We will vote on this proposed bylaw at the April chapter meeting.

It was off to the Sunshine State...

...at least it was for five members of Mass-2 when the Mickles, Brouillet's, and Kevin Martin ventured to sunny Florida to check out Biketoberfest in Daytona and Fantasy Fest in Key West. The entourage got together on Oct. 12th to load the bikes and get ready for an early morning departure at 4:30 am the next morning. Peg was thrilled since she didn't get home from work until 2:30 am!

After 2 days on the road the group arrived in Daytona. It was great weather and a great campground to set up our home base (our new bike toting travel trailer). Our neighbors (permanent residents) were from N.H. and they loved firefighters. Claire and Jim are in their 90's, but Steve took Claire for her first motorcycle ride. Enjoyed the sights and the weather for the week, went for a swim in 82 degree water, rode on the beach with the bikes, and people watched. Steve got flashed without even asking and Peg fell in love with a vibrating motorcycle seat.

Next stop was a two day visit with Jack and Judy Downs near Fort Lauderdale. They were great hosts as usual.

At the campground in Key West it was close quarters, but we did have a view of the harbor and were only two blocks from Duval Street — where the action was for Fantasy Fest (Mardi Gras in Key West). It was more than we ever could have imagined. There were costumes of all kinds, including nothing but body paint. The boys came prepared with several bags of beads to reward the women for their artistic endeavors. There were even a few men for Deb and Peg.

One of the week's highlights of the trip was the sunset cruise on a PT boat which escorted the schooner America into port.

To keep in the spirit of Firefighting, Ed and Peg dressed as firefighters during part of the celebration. Most days mid-day was spent in the trailer with the AC on since the temp hit the high nineties and low 100's. As we watched the news of snow back home, we felt really bad (NOT)! It was a great get away and we thought of all of you often!

Hôtel Sheraton Laval

2440 Autoroute des Laurentides, (this is Highway 15 North, exit 10), Laval, Québec, Canada, H7T-1X5 Phone: 450-687-2440

For reservation (Hotel Direct): 1-800-667-2440

Reservation: Please mention Red Knights Convention, upon reservation, at the above number only.

Sheraton Laval: <http://www.sheraton-laval.com/>