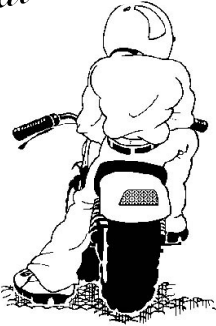


*Loyal to Our Duty*

rflaford@tiac.net



# Red Knights Mass Chapter 2 June 2001

Greetings from the President

To All Chapter Members,

I would like to thank you, the members and all my officers, for the support throughout the past year. We have seen our chapter continue to grow because of all the work that the officers have done in planning things for the chapter, and with the support of each and every one of you that are active in the chapter.

That's what makes Ma-2 the best of the best. People always ask me, "How do you keep a chapter alive?" I say, "Believe in the people that are there and do the best that you can for them. Always remember even if there are only a few of you, have fun in what you do. Always look to the future."

We have a lot of things going on this year with day rides, weekend get-aways, and ice cream rides for example. Remember to watch your newsletter because we do change things as other options come up from time to time.

I know it is a long way for some to travel to the International Convention this year in Manitoba, but the next two years it will be closer to home. I hope to see more of our Ma-2 members attending those Conventions in Rhode Island and Quebec.

The Red Knights are growing more and more each year. We are getting requests for info all the time from all over the world. It has been almost 19 years that have passed since 11 guys got together at a bike shop in Boylston to form the Red Knights. As I look back at the great times we have had and all the friends we have made, it is clear what makes this club so great. So don't sit on your porch and say I should go to one of those rides. Come and meet us and have fun. It is an experience you will remember for a long time to come.

See you soon. Ride safe.

*Ed*

### Let's go camping!

If you have never been to our Wells, Maine weekend you are missing out on a great club gathering. Think about joining us the weekend of July 13-15 at Cliff and Marty's trailer in Maine.

For everyone who is planning on the weekend, give Marty a call so she can make sure we have enough room and accommodations for everyone!



Mass-2 is selling Firefighter Angel Pins. This is a red Maltese Cross with a gold angel wearing a fire helmet on it. It is 1-1/4 inches in size and we are selling them for \$6. If you would like one contact Ed Brouillet.

## Upcoming Rides and Events!

**June 24:** Brunch Ride into Southern VT —  
Destination: Skyline Restaurant in  
Marlboro Vermont. Join us for the all-you  
-can-eat Buffet (\$12.95). The ride is  
approximately 65 miles from  
Westminster. — Meet at Westminster  
F.D. at 8:30 am.

**120 Club Prize Drawings after the ride!!!**

**July 13-15:** Annual Trip to Wells, Maine — Hosted by  
the Eldridge's — Leave Walmart at Routes 2A & 13  
in Lunenburg at 9:00 am Friday, July 15. Let Cliff  
know your plans so he can make housing (tent and  
sleeping bag) arrangements.

**August 26:** Pot Luck BBQ —  
At the Kilhart's camp in Royalston. Bring  
your bathing suits! Meet at WFD at 11:00 am,  
then re-group at Athol High School at 11:30...  
*'cause you'll never find it on your own!*

**Sept. 8:** Seafood Festival in Hampton, NH  
Meet at Wal-Mart in Lunenburg (Rt 2A & 13) at  
7:30 am

**Sept. 23:** Ride into N.H. Mountains  
Meet at WFD at 9:00 am

See the Red Knights at the New England  
Fire/Rescue/EMS Show

sponsored by the New England Fire Chief's Assoc.

The RKMC will be at the Eastern States Exposition  
(The Big E) in West Springfield, Mass. on Saturday, June 23,  
2001 through Monday, June 25, 2001 during the New  
England Fire/Rescue/EMS Show.

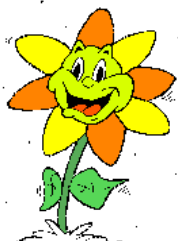
The Red Knights have been offered booth space to  
promote our organization. If you have some free time that  
weekend, contact Steve Mickle at 978-772-6224 or email him  
at rknight54@net1plus.com for info on manning the booth.

The Red Knights have also been asked to lead the  
annual parade of fire apparatus at the show on Sunday, June  
24. Anyone interested in participating in that give Steve a  
call for details.

Thousands of firefighters from throughout the  
Northeast visit this show each year. This is a great  
opportunity to share information about our organization with  
other firefighters and the public and help our club grow.

**Red Knights Motorcycle Club**  
**Mass Chapter-2**  
P.O. Box 316  
Westminster, MA 01473

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



Flowery banks, a-drone with bees, Dreaming cattle under trees:  
Song-birds pipe a merry tune — This is summer, This is June!

## Snow, snow, and more snow!



00-01 was a cold and snowy winter. And what do you do come February when you are sick of winter, and cold, and snow? You head off to Canada for the Ontario-7

Winter Frolic! And that's what we did.

Only a few people were able to make the trip up north this year, but it was still a grand time with our friends up in Belleville. Both directions of travel we were kept on our toes — passing by a number of weather related MVA's and also saw over twenty deer on the side of the road.

On Sunday and Monday we spent an extra day away by stopping in Lake Placid, NY where we met Ed and Peg. That gave us some ideas on sights to see when we are in Lake George this year.

We left on a Friday morning, with snow just ending in Massachusetts. When we exited the New York Thruway in Utica and started heading towards Route 81 the lake affects snow from Lake Ontario began. We stopped for lunch and fuel (and ended up fixing a flat tire too) in Rome NY.

After lunch, some of the now was "white-out" conditions up into Watertown, NY. After that it was a beautiful sunny day for the rest of our journey up into Canada. But mother nature continued to play tricks on us with snow on Saturday night during the dance, ice Sunday morning, and more snow on Monday morning when we woke up in Lake Placid.

While in Ontario, the guys ventured over to the Trenton Airbase to see how the Halifax restoration is coming. It's always exciting to see this restoration of the WW-II bomber each year. Then of course, it's a trip across the street to Carney's Pub for a few cold ones and some lunch. When we walked in and sat at the bar, the barmaid remarked that she remembered this crew. She even remembered Cliff's name! Clifford, what do you do to these women!!!!

The ladies took Saturday for a little shopping and even packed a picnic lunch. They sat in a pavilion along the bay and ate their sandwiches with gloves and mittens on. Now that must have been quite the site. But back at Stan and Lise's Stan had made pear schnapps that took care of whatever chill there was from being outside.

Ontario-7 did a great job (as always) on their dance. Over 100 people in attendance and brought in \$1300 in profit for the hospital's burn unit. Nice job!

Think of us next year — where else can you go in February!

Have you seen Don Hurme on the road this Spring on his new Harley or Gerry and Rosie Baldini or Dick and Elaine Clements on their Trikes, or Kevin Martin on his new Honda Shadow?

...I'm just *green with envy!*  
Ride safe everyone.

Did you know, that according to the registrar of motor vehicles, there are 4.5 million licensed drivers in Massachusetts. Of those, 2.5 million drivers hold the Motorcycle Endorsement. That means that more than half the licensed drivers in our State have driven a motorcycle at some point in their lives.

Also, the registrar said that his statistics show that of the 160,000 (or so) registered motorcycles on the road, the average owner is 43 years old and is in a household with an income in excess of \$60K a year. Doesn't match that 1950's illusion of the *bad biker* does it!

Below is a partial excerpt from the Springfield Union News from 5/22/01. Think about what much of the public perception of "bikers" is — and how wrong they are.

### Motorcycles vs. merchants

NORTHAMPTON — Some Main Street shop owners want to freeze out what have become known as the "ice cream bikers," but others contend that motorcyclists and merchants can coexist peacefully.

The brouhaha between motorcyclists who park on Main Street around Bart's Homemade Ice Cream and some store owners who worry that their business is being hurt by their presence has been mounting for several months.

In the past few weeks it has revved up, prompting the city to hire a professional mediator to help reach a resolution.

Some Main Street business owners' discontent centers on problems with customer parking, the [perceived] noise and exhaust, and the large crowds congregating around the bikes.

The city has a parking ordinance that allows only one vehicle per parking space.

Alan L. Scheinman, a lawyer who owns a Harley Davidson Low-Rider, says the law is on the side of the bikers. The state allows more than one motorcycle per parking space, and the machines must pass noise and pollution inspections in order to be on the road.

"We are not breaking the law," he said. Moreover, Scheinman points out that the "ice cream bikers" patronize the downtown businesses, particularly the coffee shops.

"We are all huge customers of these places," he said.



## Ice Cream Rides:

Every **2nd Thursday** of June-July-August-September (June 14, July 12, August 11, September 13) meet at the Westminster Fire Station at 6:30 to explore ice cream shops in the area.

Also, every Tuesday during June-July-August a group meets at Dick and Elaine Clements house at 82 West Main Street in Ayer. They gather at 6 pm and leave at 6:15 for a different ice cream shop every week.

What a nice idea for those hot summer evenings!



## Red Knights Patches and Rockers

Mass-2 has spearheaded a drive to upgrade the Red Knights shoulder patch. Everyone who has seen our "pre-production sample" thinks it looks great. Our efforts in redoing the patch came out so well that we have convinced the International to also do business with the vendor we found. (Thanks to Don Hurme for suggesting this dealer).

By the time you are reading this the patches and rockers should have arrived. The Chapter Officers have decided to give each member a patch and set of rockers. We will have enough on hand that if you want to purchase more they will be available for your shirts, jackets, etc. Check with Cliff on the prices.

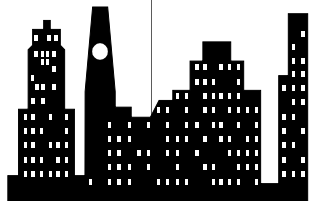
To receive your free patch, come to one of our scheduled rides or events — or if you cannot make one of the rides contact one of the chapter officers and they will see that you get your patch.

~~~~~  
Cliff also has an assortment of Window Decals (inside and outside) as well as large vest patches and rockers available. If your looking for additional club "paraphernalia" give him a call.

Together with our friends...

Another GREAT time in Boston!

**Planning for Americade.** The week we met to plan for our Americade adventures, we received in excess of 30 inches of snow around northern Massachusetts! Remember that? (Glad that the winter is OVER!!)



Twenty-two, yes 22, Red Knights members and friends made their way via the B&M trains into North Station and the annual Mass-2 walking tour of Boston.

**Our First Ice Cream Ride of the Season** was on Thursday, May 10. Fourteen people showed up with seven bikes and a four-wheeler. From WFD it was just a short ride to Calico and Creme Ice Cream Barn in Hubbardston. We had some really good home made ice cream and *enjoyed (?)* the black flies that were out! Fred and Lisa's son Jason joined us on his new Suzuki Intruder. See you in at the next ice cream ride —Thursday, June 14.

The weather could not have been better. When we arrived in Boston about 11:00 am, the sun was shining, the crowds were waiting to greet Ray Bourque for the afternoon Bruins game, and the city was just waiting for us.

**Picnic Ride to Marblehead.** Great weather and light traffic greeted the 12 people (6 bikes) that meandered to Castlerock in Marblehead and the North Shore for a picnic ride on May 20. Once along the shoreline for our picnic, the views were just spectacular! The surf rolling in, shoreline fishermen, and the sailboats in the water all helped make our lunch time very enjoyable.

As luck would have it, our conductor for the morning ride was the same gentleman as last year. He didn't say anything to our group until we arrived in Ayer. Steve got on board and announced, "All-aboard, next stop Littleton," and the conductor turned around and said, "I remember you!"

After lunch, Cliff continued his tour of the North Shore by leading us through Salem, Beverly, Ipswich, Danvers, Rowley, Newburyport, Salisbury, and eventually inland to Kingston, NH and back home via the Mass-NH border.

The group thought we would give Tim Kilhart a second chance at leading us around the city. (In a previous year, you would have thought he was in charge of our exercise program!) But Tim did a good job at getting us around the city this year. Our first stop in the city was the New England Aquarium. We had thought that would be a good place to wander and gain some knowledge, just as last year at the Science Center. Unfortunately, the line for tickets was about an hour long. The Mickles and company were the only smart ones to have bought tickets in advance. The rest of our entourage decided that the hour would be better spent enjoying the tastes, sights, and sounds of Quincy Market.

Tradition held true... we rode, then stopped for coffee and donuts. We rode some more, then stopped for our picnic. We rode again, and then stopped for ice cream. (Across from the ice cream stand, in Ipswich, some local kids had set up a lemonade stand to raise money for a local animal shelter. Mass-2 helped make that venture profitable for the afternoon as well).

Peg Brouillet was not among our group on the ride in. She was elsewhere in the city at the legal-nursing class that she had been taking all semester long. But rumor had it she was going to begin feeling ill in class as the day progressed so she could join us at Mother Anna's. She did not have to pull off the "Maine Flu" routine though, as her instructor asked the class if they would mind having a short day, and they were let out in the early afternoon.

**Off to Americade.** If you went to Americade, you are reading this when you returned home. If you didn't get a chance to go to Lake George this year you are reading it during Americade. We have members from Mass-2 headed to New York for the rally on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. So I think we got the week covered!

Our 22 comrades regrouped around 2:00 p.m. (reservations at Mother Anna's was for 3:00) and decided to take a few minutes and relax with a beverage at the Black Horse Tavern. I have to admit that a Sam Adams Ale has a special flavor when being drunk in the Historic District of Boston.

Steve and Renee Boudreau joined us for their first ride with the club. (He's the quiet Steve). After riding to Cape Cod on their new Honda Shadow Sport, Renee told Steve that he had to do something for her comfort before we headed back home.

The solution — a seat cushion from the local department store. Steve said the seat cushion from a local store was a lot cheaper than ordering a new Goldwing at the Honda dealership!

When we made our way to Mother Anna's we were greeted like old friends. And nothing beats the food that John and his family and workers provide for us each year that we visit the North End.

A special visitor made her way to our table. The old bag lady (played by Peg Brouillet) made a special stop to help acknowledge Steve Mickle's 50th birthday that had just passed by during the week. She gave him some of those appropriate gifts needed now that he had passed the half-century mark — viagra, vitamins, etc. What the "old lady" didn't know was that arrangements had been made with the restaurant and the nearby bakery to have a (wonderful) strawberry shortcake Birthday Cake for both her and Steve (because it was her birthday as well).

As our dinner drew to a close, it was getting closer to the time for our train to head back west. As we pulled out of North Station we had to make friends with a new conductor. So Steve had some jokes to share with him, and also helped him announce the stops as he does every year. When the last of us left the train in Fitchburg, he remarked that the car had gotten much quieter since the Ayer stop; but groups like us and people like Steve are what makes his job fun. See you next year!

Does this remind you of any one in our club??



## New England Ride for Kids

In the last Mass-2 newsletter, everyone received a flyer on the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's **Ride for Kids**.

We hope that those of you who are not going to the convention in Manitoba this year will consider joining us for this annual benefit ride on Sunday, August 19. Last year, the Red Knights were responsible for bringing in several thousand dollars in donations!

Supported by the **Ride for Kids** program around the country, the PBTF of the US seeks to:

- Find a cause and cure of childhood brain tumors through the support of medical research
- Increase public awareness about the severity and prevalence of childhood brain tumors
- Aid in early detection and treatment of childhood brain tumors support a national database on all primary brain tumors
- Build a national support program
- Provide hope for the thousands of children and families affected by this life threatening disease.

As someone who has had a family member benefit from the research that has happened in regards to brain tumor treatment — I know how valuable this type of support is for the medical community, those inflicted with brain tumors, and their families.

If you would like to join us — or if you would like more information on the **Ride for Kids**, please call Bob Laford, or visit the New England Ride for Kids Web Page at <http://go.to/nerfk>

## Massachusetts-2 120 Club Raffle.

Have you noticed that there is no Poker Run on this year's Ride Schedule?? We are trying a new fund raiser for the club this year. With the Poker Run, our success is very dependant on Mother Nature, so we are trying a raffle this year.

"120 Club" tickets were handed out beginning at the Spring Meeting in April and the Cape Cod weekend in May. The Chapter members have 120 tickets to buy and sell (this is only 2 tickets each, so we hope that everyone is participating). The drawing will be held at the conclusion of our Brunch Ride on Sunday, June 24. Prizes are \$500, \$200, \$100, two \$50 prizes, and twenty \$25 prizes.

This raffle guarantees us a modest benefit to our treasury if all the tickets are sold. If you have not been on a club ride yet this year to get your tickets, give Ed a call (978-632-8230) to be part of this effort.

**If you took tickets but have not sold them CALL ED A.S.A.P.** so we can get the left over tickets redistributed and sold. The only way we will make a profit is if all 120 tickets are sold!

See you on the drawing date!

## RKMC Connecticut-II 2nd Annual Summer Ride and Stay Weekend

When: July 27-29, 2001

Where: The Valley Inn at Waterville Valley, NH

- Kangamangus Highway Ride
  - Clarks Trading Post (\$9)
  - Delux Accomodations
  - Indoor/Outdoor Pool
  - RKMC Poolside BBQ (\$11)
  - Lounge with Entertainment
  - Free Continental Breakfast
  - MC Cleaning Kit
  - MC Washing Stations
- For RKMC Discount call by 6/1/2001
- Reservations  
1-800-343-0969  
Rooms are limited

Economy Rooms at \$61.20

Parlor Suites at \$88.20

Townhouse Suites at \$106.20 (sleeps four)

Ride with RKMC-CT-II or meet them there...

- Depart 9:00 am North T'ville FD, Route 5, Enfield, CT
- 1st Stop — I-91 MA/VT Boarder Rest Area
- 2nd Stop — Route 9, Keene, NH
- 3rd Stop — Weirs Beach — Lunch
- 4th Stop — Meredith Harley Davidson

For more information contact John O'Hagan of Connecticut-II at 860-749-0222 or email at [jgohagan@home.com](mailto:jgohagan@home.com).

## Congratulations!

Congratulations and best wishes to Wayne Stacy and Patrick Brock on their pending retirements from their respective departments.

Wayne, one of our club's charter members, is retiring after 39 years with the Ashby Fire Department. For the past year he has served as the department's Fire Chief, and prior to that nearly 20 years as the Assistant Chief.

Patrick is stepping down in Amherst after over 31 years with that organization having served as Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, and Assistant Chief.

This means more time on the bike gentlemen!

## Red Leather Vests

After a few of our members bought new red leather vests from the dealer in Peabody (and they look sharp) several people have asked for the information again...

I have to say they are the nicest quality red vests I've seen on our members.

If you are interested in more information, contact C&H Custom Leathers in Peabody (978) 531-0415 or contact MA-11 President Tom Bogart. They really did a nice job on the vests.



## Artie O'Leary Memorial Scholarship Benefit Ride

*(We received this information via email and were asked to share it with our members.)*

The 2nd Annual Artie O'Leary Memorial Scholarship Benefit will be held June 24, 2001. This fundraiser includes a Motorcycle Run and a gathering afterwards in memory of Artie O'Leary, a Boston Firefighter who passed away in June 1999.

This fundraiser benefits the child of a Boston Firefighter. The ride's organizers are looking for riders to help in this great cause.

The run begins at 1:00 p.m. at The Palace on Route 1 in Saugus, MA and concludes with a gathering at The Knights of Columbus Hall In Charlestown, MA. There will be entertainment, food and raffle prizes at the conclusion of the ride. For further information contact [Honestart@aol.com](mailto:Honestart@aol.com) or [Kagillen@aol.com](mailto:Kagillen@aol.com).

### Support Nelly's Bill

Steve Mickle and Bob Laford were invited to speak on behalf of the Red Knights at the District 4 meeting of the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association.

This group has a very aggressive lobbying effort and the meeting on May 22 was open to the public to garner support of Nelly's Bill.

Also in attendance at the meeting were State Senator Steve Brewer and Representative Reed Hilman.

"Nelly's Bill," currently in the Massachusetts Legislature, will require a motorcycle awareness component into the driver's education programs in high schools and commercial driving schools across the state. The bill was filed by State Representative Bradford Hill (R-Ipswich), a member of the Joint Committee on Public Safety. Several other Senators and Representatives have also signed on as co-sponsors of the Bill.

The Bill was filed in memory of Nelson Selig, Sr., of Essex, who was killed last April when a 19-year old operator crossed into his lane. Motorcyclists from around the state have banded together in support of this legislation. It is predicted that Nelly's Bill would begin a process of making new drivers aware of motorcycles on the road. A similar program is underway in Virginia. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation developed an 8-minute video and course instruction module that could be implemented immediately.

Join other motorcyclists and Red and Blue Knights from around the state by contacting your legislators to urge their support of Nelly's Bill.

### Our weekend at the Cape

We all owe Mother nature a big favor after the weather we enjoyed in Hyannis for our Cape Cod weekend. With the exception of a little overnight rain on Friday night, we couldn't have asked for better weather — or a better time! Leaving Fitchburg on Friday, we were in the midst of the first ever New England heat wave in May. Temperatures broke 90 degrees for the third straight day — great timing to be on the Cape.

Enroute to Cape Cod Cliff took us around the shoreline of the area where he grew up near Mattapoisett. We made a few stops to enjoy the shoreline and the beautiful weather. A stop for our traditional lunch in Buzzards Bay and off to the Cape to meet all our friends.

In attendance were Mass Chapters 1, 2, 3, 8, and 11; Connecticut 2 and Maine Chapter 2. All totaled about 75 Red Knights and friends were in in Hyannis for the weekend. It was such great weather, that when we held our meeting on Friday evening we took over the parking lot by just setting up a circle of chairs outside. One of the points of business was the election of the State Rep. Congratulations to Steve Mickle on his re-election.

After the meeting, most of the club took part in the hotel's Friday night entertainment. A "Rock and Roll" band was highlighted in the restaurant/dance hall. The band was, well, umm, entertaining. We all hoped they had taken their Geritol before getting on stage. The band and most of the crowd was, shall we say, older.

One woman, well past 70, and out for a good time had her sights set on Steve Mickle (must have been that brand new AARP card he was carrying). I'm not sure if it was her lime green dance dress or the look she kept giving him, but Steve wouldn't dance with her! Both Linda and Peg danced with a gentlemen that the group named Popeye (because of his outfit) — and after a dance or two he admitted he couldn't keep up with them.

We were all up bright and early and off to the Steam Ship Authority in Woods Hole to head over to Martha's Vineyard. Thirty seven bikes and sixty people made the voyage over from the mainland. We were greeted by Bill Smith and Richard Clark of Mass-8 for a tour of the island. At one point, with all the bikes in tow we made a surprise stop at Bill's house to share birthday cake with his family... as it was his birthday.

Sunday morning the chapters went in different directions. Some went off to the Blue Knights Blessing of the Bikes held at Otis Air Base this year, and others went to Cotuit to have a BBQ at Chris Olsen's house.

Mass-2 decided to head back over the bridge early to get a jump on the traffic that always greets us at the Borne Bridge. Once over the bridge Cliff again took us on a sight seeing detour. We stopped at the Hurricane Locks and Fort Phoenix in New Bedford. What a beautiful spot. We stopped for some fresh sea food at Gene's Seafood in New Bedford and then meandered home via Route 140.

It was just another fantastic weekend with the Knights. We would be remiss if we didn't thank our hosts and event planners — State Representative Steve Mickle, Mass-8 President Chris Olsen, and Mass-8 members Bill Smith and Richard Clark. See you next year!

### A personal Thank You.

On Saturday, May 19, Petersham had a house fire. Although the fire was confined to a couple of rooms, the remainder of the house, and all the occupants' belongings received severe heat and smoke damage.

The first two firefighters that arrived were the occupants of the house. Shawn and Becky Legare, and Shawn's brother Bob made the initial attack and kept the fire at bay.

At our Chapter Ride on May 20, the members present voted to send a donation to the fund set up for Shawn and Becky. I know that the help they are receiving from other firefighters means a lot to them, and the gesture by the Red Knights meant a lot to me. Thank you. Bob