

Loyal to Our Duty



Red Knights Mass Chapter 2 Winter '01

From the President's Desk

It is hard to believe that the Red Knights will be celebrating their twentieth anniversary in 2003. It was late summer in 1983, at the Water Street Fire Station in Fitchburg, that our chapter had its first meeting. That made Massachusetts Chapter 2 the second chapter to form in Mass and the third chapter to form throughout the organization. (Connecticut Chapter 1 received their charter between the time that Mass-1 and Mass-2 formed).

We still have nine of the original founding fathers as members of our chapter today. It is great to see that the Red Knights are now one of the most elite motorcycle clubs that you can join.

Spring is just around the corner and I hope that you are ready for another exciting and fun-filled year with Mass-2. Your officers are working hard to keep the chapter alive by planning events for us all throughout the entire year.

Show your support in the club by participating in the rides and helping the chapter out whenever you are able. One chapter president at the Mass State Rep's meeting remarked that while he sees other chapters growing, he is worried as his membership is declining. Mass-2 now has over sixty members! We hope that what we do as a club encourages our membership's participation and also encourages the continued growth in our membership. Not just to increase chapter numbers on "paper" but to see all our members on the road and at chapter events. You don't know what you are missing unless you come out and see!

It has been cold and snowy this winter, but it won't be long until we will all be out on the open road for a ride on two wheels. (Or three wheels, right Gerry!) There are a lot of *get-togethers* planned for this year. We have ice cream rides, the Cape weekend on May 4-6, Americade is June 4-9, and our annual weekend to Marty and Cliff's trailer in Wells, Maine on July 13-15. For those of you that are looking for a longer trip, this year's International Convention for the Red Knights is in Winnipeg, Manitoba — think about joining us! Those are just a few of the things that are planned for the year. Check out the scheduled enclosed in the newsletter for more details. And beyond that, if you have a day off and are looking for a riding partner, call around — there is always someone who is ready to ride!

To all of you that have paid your dues for 2001, thank you. For those of you that still owe, you need to contact Cliff ASAP. We must have a completed roster soon, as we must pay our International dues by March 31.

Steve and I are looking for fun things to do close to home this year, as I don't think that 40 days' riding and 12,000 (plus) miles are in the cards this year! But you always have to be on guard that some one doesn't say, "That sounds like a good idea to me. Let's do it!" The next thing you know, you're out in the middle of Texas and it's 110 degrees, and you're wondering, "what are we doing out here." (Editor's note: I don't think the guys ever came clean to whose idea the four-corners actually was to begin with).

Actually, those memories and all the new friends you meet along the way are what makes it worthwhile. There are plenty of videos and pictures to keep the memories alive as well!

Life is too short to let the world go by and say "I wish I had done that." Personally, I am planning to go for all the things that God will let me do. And when the day comes that I need an extra wheel under my butt, I'll still keep going! That pink energizer bunny has the right idea, he keeps going and going and going.

Enough for now. Peg and I will see you all soon. Thanks for all the memories up until now, and we hope you will be out to help us make some new ones.

Annual Meeting/Pot-Luck



Join us for our annual Spring Meeting and Pot-Luck Dinner.

Where: Bob and Diona's in Petersham

When: Sunday, April 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite dish to share and we will talk about the club and the 2001 riding season!

- For directions and to RSVP call

To Boston to Boston on our Yearly Train Ride and Walking Tour

Join us for a great time on Saturday,

"...And did he ever return? No, he never returned! And his fate is still unlearned... He may ride forever, 'neath the streets of Boston, he's the man...who never returned!

(Charlie and the MTA)

March 24 — and we'll see if our new Road Captain will turn us all into 'Charlie's on the MTA' as we venture around Boston.

Be at the Fitchburg Train Station at 9:00 (we'll pick up more members as we head East), and we will see how quickly Steve makes friends with the conductor this year.

As in year's past we'll visit Quincy Market, Fanuel Hall, and Mother Anna's. We need to make reservations at Mother Anna's Restaurant, so call Peg B. (632-8230) to let her know if you are going my Monday, March 19 so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

**Americade Planning Meeting
Sat. March 10, 6 pm
at Ed and Peg's.**

Ed

Welcome Aboard!

At our February Pot-luck, three new members were voted in to Mass-2. Welcome to Steve and Renee Boudreau from Orange and Mike Pierce from Erving. Hope to see you on the road this year.

Some Rides for '01

The riding season is quickly approaching. Make sure you give your two-wheeled partner a good check up this spring before we venture out onto the road. Some of our rides include:

- Annual Boston Train Ride into the city, March 24.
- Monthly ice cream rides (second Thursday of each month from May through September)
- Cape Cod Dutch-Treat Weekend, May 4-6
- Ride to Castlerock in Marblehead for a picnic ride on May 20. Meet at Wal-Mart in Lunenburg at 9:00 am. Bring some fixins for a picnic lunch and we will enjoy some great scenery on the sea shore.
- Americade in Lake George, NY - June 4-10th.

Look for the 2001 Ride Schedule for Red Knights – Mass-2 included with this newsletter

RIDING TIP FOR THE EARLY SPRING

Are you tempted? I know that you may be feeling some warmer sunny breaks and some of the snow has started to melt on the road (in some areas). Keep in mind that the sand & salt used to remove the snow is still on the roadway, just waiting for you to brake hard or lean into a turn. If you MUST ride, then ride like it is not yet spring (because it isn't yet) and be ready for the unexpected !

On the road with our friends — even in the winter!

- Everyone had a great time at the **Christmas Party** back in December. Twenty members gathered at the Brouillet's to share food and festivities as the cold weather was already upon us! The *gift of the night* was the talking fish that ended up with Steve Mickle by the time the night was complete.



- Thanks to all those people who helped us get the **International's Fall Newsletter** out to the members. Without Mass-2, the folding, stamping, and stuffing would be a formidable job for the 1800 piece mailing.
- The Officers met back in January to sort through your ride ideas for the fast approaching riding season. Thank you to all the people who mailed their post cards back in with ride ideas. Enclosed is a copy of 2001 ride schedule. We hope to see everyone on the road this year!
 - The State meeting of the Red Knights Officers was held in Westminster on February 3 with State Rep Steve Mickle and representatives of Mass Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, & 12. Lots of good discussions about the club and the year to come.
- Had a great group at the Eldridges on February 11 for our Winter Pot-luck.



The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) through Iron Horse Ventures is again offering experienced rider education programs in Massachusetts.

The Red Knights greatly support the rider education programs. If you have never had the opportunity to take a rider education course, it is well worth the money and your time. For more information on the availability of training in our area contact Iron Horse Ventures at (508)278-0172 or on-line at www.ironstoneventures.com.

The Annual **Red Knights Convention** for 2001 is being hosted by Manitoba-1 on August 16-19, 2001. The International Inn in Winnipeg has blocked rooms at a rate of \$81 (Canadian) either single or double occupancy. Reservations for the hotel can be made by calling the hotel at (800) 928-4067.



Rhode Island Chapter-1 is hosting their annual Spring Fling on Saturday, April 7.

The Dance will be held at the East Greenwich Veteran's Firefighters' Hall. For more information contact R.I.'s Joe Conroy at (401) 783-3818. Proceeds from the dance go to "The

Congratulations to Charlie Clarkson who was appointed Deputy Chief in Westminster and to Allen Lafrennie who was appointed to Chief in Winchendon recently.



Good luck Gentlemen!

Just a quick reminder that dues for our chapter were due by December 31. Any member who has not renewed their membership for 2001 as of yet, please forward your dues to club treasurer Cliff Eldridge.

Our bylaws state that any dues not paid by **March 1** will be charged a extra **\$5 administrative fee.**

Look for your membership cards in this envelope. If you have paid your 2001 dues and your card is not here (and you haven't received it yet in the mail), contact Cliff.

Mass-2 Fundraiser

As you may have noticed in the ride schedule, there is no Mass-2 Poker Run this year. The officers have decided to try a different approach for our yearly fundraiser for 2001.



The Poker Run is very weather dependant, and when we have bad weather (like we did last year) a lot of hard work makes very little money for the club.

This year we are going to run a 120 Club. Tickets will be available shortly for our members to buy and sell. A 120 Club is a raffle where 120 tickets are sold for \$20 each. There are a series of cash drawings. Some are for \$20, and the larger prizes are \$100, \$200, and \$500.

We need to push the sale of these tickets over the next few months to ourselves, and our family and friends. The big drawing will be made in June.

This type of a fund drive guarantees the club a profit of \$1,000 if all the tickets are sold. Everyone is asked to buy and sell some of these tickets. With over 60 members in the club, it should not be too difficult to sell all 120 tickets.

The International has had to raise the per capita dues for the Red Knights to meet expenses, and this type of fund drive, if successful, will help our club keep our dues down and keep our coffers in good shape so we can support the charities that we have helped throughout the

COPS join Bikers in Support of Motorcycle Safety

(Amesbury, MA) A labor union made up of over 90 Massachusetts city and town police departments announced it's support, joining with bikers for the passage "Nelly's Bill," to put motorcycle safety and awareness in the Driver's Education Programs.

"This is a welcomed endorsement," said Paul W. Cote of Amesbury, a motorcycle activist involved in promoting safety and awareness. "Nelly's Bill," will bring a motorcycle awareness component into the driver's education programs in high schools and commercial driving schools. It was filed by State Representative Bradford Hill (R-Ipswich), a member of the Joint Committee on Public Safety. Several other Senators and Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors of the Bill.

Ken Scanzio, Chairman of the Office of Legislative Affairs for the Massachusetts Coalition of Police, (Mass COP), a labor union made up of working police, said, "It makes sense." "We got a package in front Cote with the proposed Bill asking for our Organization's support and endorsement," said Scanzio. "I reviewed it and sent it out to several members, especially our officers who ride motorcycles." Scanzio said all of them came back saying, "Yes, support this 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. Area motorcyclists, including Cote, banded together and put on a "run" of motorcycles, raising over \$15,000 for a scholarship fund for the children of Selig. Cote reports they expect to do similar runs each year until his kids are out of college.

"We wanted something good to come out of this tragedy," said Cote. He claims over 177,000 people between the ages of 16-19 are driving in Massachusetts with little to no 'awareness' of motorcycles on the road.

Nelly's Bill would begin a process of making new drivers aware he predicts. 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.

Cote reported having Mass COP a supporter of Nelly's Bill adds a lot of credibility to the intent of the Bill. "The police deal with the accidents and tragedies. They know we need to make younger drivers aware of motorcycle presence on the ride."

"I appreciate Mass COP's coming out front and joining with the motorcycle community for passage of Nelly's Bill," Cote concluded.

The chapter officers present at the RKM State Rep's meeting on February 3rd voted to collectively support this initiative to improve the driver education program in Massachusetts. Please consider showing your support as an individual member of the Red Knights by contacting your elected officials in the state legislature and ask for their support of the bill as well.

Americade is quickly approaching!

An article in the October issue of Rider magazine begins "Lake George Village sits like a jewel along the shores of its namesake, a little upstate New York town with a wide, rolling, tree-lined main drag called Canada Street. And in early June each year it rattles and hums with the sound of about 45,000 people on dressers and cruisers, and sport bikes, and whatever." The article later says, "Daytona, Sturgis, and Laconia are many times larger, but Americade is the largest event aimed primarily at the mom-and-pop touring riders rather than the hardcore bikers. Instead of the all-day all-night blather of loud pipes at the better known events, the Americade scene is largely couples tootling along in matching gear on big quiet dressers."

2000 was the first year Diona and I went to Americade, and it was such a great time that we plan on making it an annual pilgrimage. From the vendors, the people watching, the bike watching, it's just a generally fantastic time. The Red Knights are part of the event each year as well. We meet for an open house and meeting at the Lake George Fire Department, thanks to the hospitality of RK-NY 12. We usually have a ride and meal out to the fanciest restaurant in the county (near the former Fred's Mall), and the Red Knights have taken awards in the Americade Parade for three years running.

If you're looking for a great time on and off your bike, plan on making it out to Lake George. There will be an "**Americade Planning Meeting**" at Ed and Peg Brouillet's on Saturday, March 10, at 6:00 pm to discuss who is going when, and other details.

One idea that came up through the *ride idea post cards* is a visit to the Troy, NY Fire Museum. Since we will only be a short ride from Troy while we are in Lake Gorge, let's plan to make our own day trip to the museum.

Miller-Tracey Scholarship Ride. Last summer a correctional officer, his wife, and their niece were killed in a terrible accident on Route 495. Friends and family of the couple have established a scholarship fund in their names.

The Blue Knights are participating in a benefit ride on May 20 to help the scholarship fund. The ride will go from the Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Shirley (beginning at 11:00 am) to the South Street Elementary School in Avon, Mass. Any motorcyclist is welcome to join the ride.

Registration is from 8-10 and the rider donation for the ride is \$20. Besides the ride, the stopping point will have raffles, food, entertainment, and a DJ.

For more information contact Marc Ellia at (978) 345-6494. If interested, donations may be made to the Miller-Tracey Scholarship Fund at the Fleet

New England Regional Dutch-Treat Weekend on Cape Cod! May 4, 5, & 6, 2001 At the Heritage House 259 Main Street in Hyannis (800) 352-7189

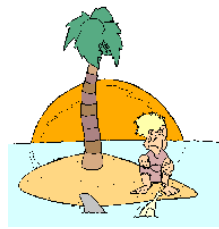
- Make reservations by April 1 to take advantage of the Red Knights special rate of \$48 per night — single and double occupancy!
- Bill Smith of Martha's Vineyard will again host a guided tour of the Vineyard. If you would like to ride on the island contact State Representative Steve Mickle (by April 1) so the RKMC can make reservations with the Steamship Authority to ride our bikes across the sound.
- Attend the annual Massachusetts State Meeting of the Red Knights
- Participate in guided and self-guided rides around Cape Cod.
- The Blue Knights will again be sponsoring the Blessing of the Bikes on Sunday morning.
- And maybe we can gather for a Sunday brunch before heading home.

Have you ever thought of some time away in **Bermuda in January?**

One of our newer members and a member of "Al's pals," Walter Roach, is a native of that warm island and he has suggested that we think about a January get-away in 2002.

The January lodging prices are reasonable and airfare is usually manageable as well.

Now that sounds like something to think about!



The annual HOG (Harley Owners Group) Rally will be held at the Worcester Centrum this year on May 31 – June 2. It is expected to bring in over 30,000 Harley enthusiasts to the city.

Worcester HOG is the host chapter and Sheldon's is the host dealer for the gathering.

The Worcester Convention and Visitors Bureau is looking for any Harley enthusiasts within Red Knights and Blue Knights organizations to help with the Host Advisory Committee. Some ideas for RK/BK roles would be guides into the city, and to provide information to people attending the rally. Any one interested in this should contact Ann Cruise of the Worcester Bureau at (508) 755-7400

YES!

I am planning on taking the boat across to Martha's Vineyard!

Last year's prices for the ride were \$27 per bike and \$10 for the rider.

Contact Steve Mickle for you boat reservation

(978) 772-6224

Are you considering buying a new leather vest this year? Is your old and faithful friend starting to look pretty tattered and worn, or might you yet to have purchased your first red leather vest?

Mass-Chapter-11 out of Lynn recently acquired some new vests from a supplier in Peabody. 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.

Safety on the Road

Our New England riding season is getting closer and closer. Whether you are new to riding & new to the club, or a rider who puts on thousands of miles a year for the past three decades, we all need reminders to get back into the habit of safe motorcycle riding. During our non-riding months, our safe riding skills become a little rusty and both our physical and mental skills need polishing. There are all kinds of tips an experienced motorcyclist can impart on a beginner, or even on another experienced rider.

One of the most important things to do while on your bike (and in your car) is to be aware of everything that's happening around you — **Situational Awareness**. Think of the rider who is paying attention to some young ladies walking along the edge of the road. He knows that there was a car in front of him when he looks towards the pedestrians, and when he looks back ahead, all he sees are brake lights. An embarrassing way to get someone's attention to say the least.

See and be seen. This is important as well. Scan all around you aggressively. Don't be complacent in your riding. When that happens, bad things most often happen soon thereafter. Many riders never do head checks when they change lanes. That's bad news waiting to be delivered. Also, many riders don't use visual directional control — Look where you want to go.

Make sure people around you know you're there. Don't ride in blind spots. John Q. Cardriver can hurt you. If he doesn't see you next to him, he's going to assume a lane change is safe. Flash your brake light when you're coming to a stop. John Q. Cardriver may only pay attention to what's in his little world inside his car. Windows rolled up means he's secure in his little environment and what happens around him is of no consequence. Other times not to be in blind spots? Have you ever seen, or even just heard, a semi trailer tire blow out?? Think about being right next to one when it blows. A tire carcass is pretty heavy. And the sound alone will probably send most people into cardiac arrest.

Make sure your bike is in good shape. It doesn't have to be clean and sparkly. But make sure you've got good brakes, your cables are adjusted properly, and tires and tire pressure are checked on a regular basis. Make sure the suspension is working the way it's supposed to. That is moves freely and is adjusted properly.

Visual directional control. That's something most people have never heard of. And it's something that really works and helps a motorcycle and rider turn. Looking through a turn will help you maintain a nice smooth line through the turn and also, it allows you to see things up ahead.

Braking is also an important skill to master. Any idiot can make a motorcycle travel at high speeds in a straight line. But ask them to stop quickly and they'll probably need an ambulance. The front brake on a motorcycle has at least 70% of the total stopping power. As you apply the brakes, properly, weight is transferred onto the front wheel giving it more traction. This traction can be used for, you guessed it, applying the front brake more. Squeeze the front brake lever, don't grab it. You want to progressively squeeze it more and more as that weight transfer happens. And use all four fingers.

No matter if you've never ridden, or have been riding for decades, consider taking an approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course. Either with the Basic or the Experienced Rider Courses, the things you'll learn will benefit you greatly. To learn the most from an MSF course, you have to go in with an open mind and be willing to learn. Taking the course is about learning to ride in a safer way. Learning to brake properly and effectively. Learning how to swerve and turn. If you have taken a course before, how long ago was it? Five years? Ten? Think about taking it again.

Talk to other experienced riders. **Read** magazines. (If the person down the street from you is nicknamed "Crash" "Roadrash," "Bentforks" or other names indicating they're prone to crashing a lot, is probably not the best person to take advice from for your safe riding.) Most motorcycling magazines will have a riding tips section in one of the first few issues each year. All the knowledge we can gain on improving our safety on two wheels is worthwhile! Ride Safe.

Another Ride for Kids Record

It was as if fall came early to New England on Sunday August 20, 2000 in North Oxford. As the sun rose, it was a perfect day for motorcycling with a brisk morning temperature in the 50s. It did not take long for the parking lot at the North Oxford, Wal-Mart to begin to fill with motorcycles of all types.

As the motorcyclists continued to file in one by one, and then two by two, it soon became apparent to the early arrivals that this might be a record day for the New England Ride for Kids. As the participants drained coffee pot after coffee pot and consumed donuts and bagels by the bushel, the Massachusetts State Police and local police officers began preparing to lead this ride, all volunteering their time.

At 10:00 am sharp there was a huge roar as hundreds of motorcycles were all cranked, seemingly simultaneously, as if they were all part of a special symphony. And then, as if they were all attached by an invisible string, they snaked their way out of the parking lot and on to the scenic ride to the commons of Amherst.

The arrival in Amherst created quite a stir as the local residents came out to see what it was all about. It took a few minutes to fill all the parking spaces around the commons and then they filled the surrounding lots. As the cyclists parked the motorcycles, they quickly moved towards the big top tent, where a light lunch and drinks awaited them.

Congratulations to champion fundraiser David Odess who brought \$7,000 to help fund badly needed research to find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. (David came and spoke to the Red Knights during the Cape Cod weekend last year). The Red Knights (including Mass-2) were present bringing in several thousand dollars for the cause.

All the participants were thrilled when the big check representing the funds raised was unfurled... to see that \$101,546 had been raised, in this the third year of the New England Ride for Kids. This represented an increase of more than \$40,000 over the funds raised in 1999 and the more than 625 participants represented more than a hundred percent increase over the 300 participants in 1999.

Help us continue that tradition of support for the children. Join us this year on Sunday, August 19, at the North Oxford

Enclosed in your newsletter is a flyer on the 2001 Ride for Kids. If you are not headed for Manitoba for the International Convention, consider joining us for a great ride and a wonderful cause.



Gold Wing Road Riders - Region B - Thanksgiving in July is scheduled for July 19-22 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center this year. GWRRA Region B encompasses 11 North-eastern States. The Rally will draw vendors and cyclists from throughout the Northeast and the eastern Canadian Provinces.

- March 10 — Americade Planning Meeting
- March 24 — Train Ride into Boston
- April 7 — Rhode Island's Spring Fling
- April 22 — Spring Pot Luck and Chapter Meeting

Enclosed is your 2001 Ride and Event Schedule for Mass-Chapter-2!



Ice cream rides, breakfast and brunch ride, Picnic Ride. Come join us for some great rides, great scenery, great friends and food... and lots of fun!



Gators on the Road



You've decided to spend a day on the bike. It's early Sunday morning, the bike is packed with cold soda, some snacks, and your fold-up camping chair. You've got your camera, a tube of sunscreen, your maps and cell phone. You're excited about such a great day, away from work, and on the bike!

You hop up on the highway to zip some miles behind you and get to the stretch of road where you planned to spend your ride. There are more trucks on the road than you expected for a Sunday. You know that truckers have a limited view of what's around them, especially to the rear of a long trailer. So you give them some room, and stay out of their 'blind spots.' Just as you are about to pass a truck, it changes lanes in front of you to pass a slower vehicle. You smell the odor of burning rubber, hear a thumping sound, and notice that one of the trailer tires is bouncing up and down.

Before you can change lanes to get out from behind the truck there is a hollow *whump*, and a large piece of something is flying through the air into your path. You swerve to miss it but it slams into your fearing, brushes by your boot and hits the rear of your bike. You barely get the bike under control and bring it to a stop on the shoulder. Your fender and fearing are shattered and a saddle bag is missing. Looking back on the highway you see the culprit — a huge section of truck tire tread.

The rider was smart to avoid riding near large trucks while on the highway. What the rider missed was observing the slower moving vehicle ahead, and predicting that the truck would be changing lanes. What motorcyclists need to be aware of is that truck tire tread separation is a common hazard on highways. Even a small section of tread can cause severe damage and injury to a bike and rider. If you see, smell, or hear the symptoms of a failing tire, react immediately and take evasive actions to move away from that vehicle. It is the rider who is constantly alert to everything and everyone around him or her that will be around to ride another day.

**Red Knights Motorcycle Club
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When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on — the riding season is almost here!