



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Winter '02

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

Loyal to Our Duty

From the
President's Desk



Annual Spring Meeting/Pot-Luck

Where: **Tim & Darlene Kilhart's**
56 Adams Drive, Athol

When: **Sunday, April 21, 1:00 p.m.**

Bring your favorite dish to share and we will talk about the club and the upcoming riding season and tell tales of rides past!

Look for the 2002 Ride Schedule for Red Knights – Mass-2 included with this newsletter as well as an updated roster of our members.

The Red Knights promotes a safe ride and a fun time when we are out on our bikes. Whether together as a group or on our own as a solo rider, rider safety should be a priority concern.

As we are beginning a new riding season consider taking a Motorcycle Safety Foundation experienced riders course. New riders and veterans alike will learn new skills for the road through one of these courses.

A friend of mine had his daughter's new boyfriend show up on a motorcycle at his house one day. Hal had ridden motorcycles himself for most of his adult life, so the conversation turned to rider training. His younger visitor scoffed at the idea, since he was "self taught, and had been riding for a few years already." Hal made the young man a bet. He would foot the money to pay for the course. If the young rider learned nothing, that was the end of the story. If he learned something worthwhile, he would pay the money back.

A few weeks later, the young man walked into my friend's kitchen put the money on the table and never said a word.

For more information on rider education courses in

Join us for our annual **Train Ride into Boston** on Saturday, March 23.

Meet at the Fitchburg Train Station at 9:00 a.m. We'll see how many friends Steve can make on the train, have some fantastic food at Mother Anna's, visit Quincy Market, and maybe take in what's viewing at the Science Center.

If you're interested let Peg know so she can book some reservations at the restaurant for us.

To All the members of Massachusetts Chapter 2,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well.

As I start into the second half of my first year as the International President, I would like to express a special *Thank You* to all the officers and members of Mass.-2 for your support. Soon we will start looking toward spring, but even during the winter your officers have been working hard to plan and put together one of the most aggressive ride schedules to date. There are over 20 events planned (not counting our Ice Cream rides) for you to participate in during 2002. Some of the rides are scheduled for Saturday and some for Sunday. We hope that by doing this we could give our members that have to work on one of the weekend days more chances to come along and have some fun with the club. We have over 70 members in our chapter, and I hope to see all of you on at least one ride this year.

Our friends from Rhode Island-1 are hosting the 20th Anniversary Red Knights International Convention. They have been working hard and will show us a good time. This will be a big convention so make your RSVP early. Even if you can only come down for the Saturday night party, please join us. We would like to make some type of arrangements (even if it means doubling up on rooms) to try to have as many members from our Chapter there as possible.

The Red Knights are continuing to grow and this chapter is no exception. It is my hope to appoint a Membership Chairman and to do a membership drive this spring. This is something that we have not done in this area since early in the club's history. I think it is time!!

As we continue to grow, so do our expenses. There was a dues increase to International this year, but this was not passed on to our membership because we had enough money in our treasury to cover that added cost, thanks to last years 120 Club Raffle.

We will be doing another 120 club drawing this spring. This is the only way we can have money to make donations and run the chapter. I hope you will support this activity.

As the years go by I have seen a lot of things change, some good and some not to good. However, the Brotherhood that we share as Firefighters is always a positive, as is the Brotherhood of the Red Knights. I hope you will continue to come along, have fun, and share things together with all the members of our chapter and with other Red Knights. As a family we will get to share a lot of fond memories. Memories from years and rides gone by, and for those things in the years to come. In closing may God bless each and every one of you, and have a safe and happy riding season.

For the most part it has been a while since any of us have had the chance to be on our bikes. When you do get the chance, remember that your riding skills are a little rusty. You need to take some time **practicing** the skills that *almost* become second nature by the end of the riding season. Take some time at the beginning of our riding season to practice your turning, braking, and other skills before you head off on a ride.

'Skill' is often no more than CONFIDENCE

By James R. Davis

Some time ago I was riding with a group down a back-country road when our group leader decided that we needed to perform our 'mandatory' U-turn. The road had two lanes (one in each direction) and there was no oncoming traffic.

With only one exception everybody made a 'three-point' maneuver. That is, we turned across the road and stopped when we could not keep going without running off the pavement, then backed up after turning the front wheel, stopped and turned the front wheel again and proceeded to complete the maneuver.

There was, as I said, one exception. This rider was on a relatively new GoldWing and he was carrying a passenger. Further, he is a BIG man - well over 6' tall and well over 300 pounds. This man simply aggressively leaned his bike over and drove his bike through the entire 180 degree turn without needing to stop or running out of pavement.

The chatter on the CB was filled with compliments relative to his profound skill with his bike. Those compliments started again at our next rest stop. They were well deserved compliments. But they were misdirected. That is, what should have been complimented, in my opinion, was the rider's CONFIDENCE rather than his skill. Don't get me wrong - the man demonstrated lots of skill. He had demonstrated a mastery of his clutch, his throttle, and his HEAD!

With even modest skill almost anyone can lean a bike far enough in a slow-speed turn to drag a peg - but very few of us want to or would even try to get close to that big a lean because we do not KNOW that we can do it successfully. Why? Because we lack confidence in either our machine or ourselves. So, we compromise and do what we KNOW we can do - we make a three-point U-turn on a narrow road.

And how is it that this BIG man developed the confidence to make that slow-speed hard lean needed to complete his smooth U-turn? He had lots of experience. Experience gained from lots of practice.

Whether you call it skill or confidence, this man handles his bike very well indeed. He deserves recognition and regard, and he certainly gets both from me. Further, his U-turn maneuver took substantially less time than mine did. In other words, he was at risk for far less time than I was. THAT aspect of the value of experience never occurred to me before - confidence can reduce time at risk.

So, schedule some time on a regular basis and go out and practice, practice, practice. Earn the respect and regard of your friends by increasing your confidence/skills. Potentially reduce your at-risk time while on the road.

Practice increases confidence. Confidence shows as 'skill.' Over-confidence, however, can kill. The difference between the two, of course, is that being confident means you know you can do something, being over-confident means you think you can.

Making a U-turn like my friend did may not be the most important thing you will ever have to do, but failing to negotiate a curve at high speed because you lack confidence enough to lean the bike just a bit more is simply unacceptable motorcycling. **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE**



YES! The rumors were true. Steve Mickle did rent a full dressed Harley for a weekend last fall to test the waters before he bought a new bike.

But the boss has the final say and Deb was more comfortable on a Wing... so Steve is riding a red 2000 Goldwing!

Some Rides for '02

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.
- Monthly ice cream rides (second Thursday of each month from May through September)
- Bromley Fun Park in Manchester, Vermont
- Cape Cod Dutch-Treat Weekend, May 3-5
- Americade in Lake George, NY - June 3-9th.
- Ride to Mohegan Sun (to try our luck)
- Mountains of N.H.
- Annual Weekend in Wells, Maine



Ride for Kids

The motorcycle community leaves footprints on your heart — or should I say tire tracks!

That is the quote from a parent of a child with brain tumors who attended the 2001 Ride for Kids. You will come away after a wonderful ride with a very special feeling after meeting some of the world's bravest children and caring families after participating in the **New England Ride for Kids**.

Last August riders from around New England raised \$96,000 and nationwide, the nineteen different Ride for Kids events raised over \$2 million for Pediatric Brain Tumor Research, and the Red Knights were part of that contribution.

Enclosed is a pledge sheet for the 2002 New England Ride for Kids to be held on Sunday, August 18. This year's RKMC Convention in Rhode Island does not conflict with the RFK event. Consider riding with us and being part of this very special event to help the children. The children and families you meet will leave tire tracks on your heart as well.

If you have paid your dues for 2002 and have not seen your membership card yet, it should be with this newsletter. If you have not paid your dues, this will probably be your last newsletter, because we have to have the updated rosters in to the International by March 1. If you have any questions, call Chapter Treasurer Cliff Eldridge.



I R U #VDOH

Spike got himself a new Harley Dresser last summer and has put his previous ride up for sale. Asking price is \$10,000 for Red Knights (and friends of Red Knights) and \$10,500 to the general public.

1989 Harley Davidson, FLHTCU Ultra Classic (Dresser)
72K (+) Miles, Black w/Silver and Red Trim
New Tires and New Starter

Rhode Island-1 is the host chapter for our next Annual **Red Knights Convention** for 2002 (August 22-25, 2002).

Rooms are blocked at the Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island (401- 738-4000) and more rooms at the Comfort Inn Hotel (401-732-0470), just a stone's throw away from the convention hotel if overflow space is needed. Ask for the "Red Knights Motorcycle Club" rate at both hotels.

The Red Knights have what they call the "Run of the House" from August 22 - 24, 2001 at the Sheraton. We have reserved 70 rooms for Thursday (8/22) and 130 rooms for Friday and Saturday (8/23-24). The price for the rooms will be \$119.00 a night. (Just a side note that this hotel's group rates for this time of year are usually \$125 to \$159 a night).

The registration fee for this year's convention is \$80.00 per-person. With your registration fee you get the following amenities;

- "Goodie Bag" and Program Journal,
- 2002 Convention Pin,
- Hospitality Room, (which will be open except during any scheduled meeting),

Saturday Night Functions include Dinner (with choices of Roasted Chicken, London Broil Steak, or Boston Baked Scrod) and the awards ceremony with dancing afterwards!

A Sunday morning farewell executive breakfast buffet rounds out the convention.

Rhode Island-1 is also going to have a "REAL" New England style clam bake on Thursday. Price for this is \$25.00 per-person. This includes your choice of Lobster, Steak or Chicken with Red Clam Chowder and Clam Cakes, Steamed Clams, Steamed Mussels, and more!

There will also be a bike show on Saturday.

All rides at the convention will be posted on the R.I. webpage and you will receive a copy of all rides and times upon check-in at the Hotel.

Together with our Friends!

Breakfast and Apple Pie. I can see why we keep scheduling the Apple Pie Ride in October for so many years. It brings out our members! On Sunday, October 7, it was 34 degrees at the start of the day but we met up with 14 bikes and 22 members of Mass-2 at the Westminster FD. Instead of our normal routine we opted for breakfast at the Jaffrey Fire Station, where they were kicking off Fire Prevention Week with a fantastic buffet breakfast.

Also enjoying breakfast were about ten members of Vermont Chapter-2 from Brattleboro. We all joined up for a twenty bike group to head across southern New Hampshire back to Dummerston, Vermont for some home made apple pie. (I didn't see anyone having their pie ala mode this year). We also met up with two more Mass-2 couples while at the Pie Fair and visited with some members who had traveled up from Rhode Island-1.

Polar Bear Ride. November 11 was our Polar Bear ride for the year. It lived up to its name when our riders were greeted with sunny but windy and cold skies. (Your editor chickened out and showed up in four wheels). Seven bikes braved the cold, after holding our election of officers and brief business meeting. (Congratulations to Ed Brouillet and Steve Mickle on their re-election as President and Secretary respectively). The group enjoyed the refreshing ride into Spencer where they had a lunch at the Black and White restaurant. Even Jack Downs, from Florida-1, was on hand to enjoy our balmy November weather.

Holiday Party. The weather was great for riding and we had one couple that showed up to Cliff & Marty's on their bike for our December 1st party. Twenty-three of our members came out for a fantastic time!

I have recently been diagnosed with AAADD....that's Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it goes...I decide to change the oil in the Wing, I started to the garage and noticed the mail on the table. OK, I'm going to work on the Wing....

BUT FIRST I'm going to go through the mail. So, I lay the bike keys down on the desk. After discarding the junk mail, I notice the waste can is full. OK, I'll just put the bills on the desk

BUT FIRST I'll take the trash out to the trash can, but since I'm going to be near the mailbox, I'll address a few bills....yes, now where is the checkbook?

Oops....there's only one check left. Where did I put the extra checks? Oh, there is my empty cup from last night on the desk. I'm going to look for those checks....

BUT FIRST I need to put the cup back in the kitchen. I head for the kitchen, look out the window, notice the flowers need a drink of water, I put the cup on the counter and there's my extra pair of glasses on the kitchen counter. What are they doing here? I'll just put them away....

BUT FIRST, I need to water those flowers. I head for the door and....Aaaagh! Someone left the TV remote in the wrong spot. OK, I'll put the remote away and water the flowers....

BUT FIRST, I need to find those checks....

BY THE END OF THE DAY: The oil in the bike has not been changed, the bills are still unpaid, the cup is still in the sink, the checkbook still has only one check left, I've LOST my bike keys....and, when I try to figure out how come nothing got done today, I'm baffled because.... I KNOW I WAS BUSY ALL DAY!! I realize this condition is serious....I'd get help....

BUT FIRST...

Americade is quickly approaching!



There was an article in the November issue of *Motorcycle Tour and Cruiser* that really hit the nail on the head when it came to talking about Americade. As Linda Stacy said in our last newsletter, **it was the best Americade ever!** The people, the bikes, and the weather were just superb. Here are a few excerpts from that article:

What could be more All-American than 50,000 enthusiastic motorcyclists and motorcycle enthusiasts gathered at the beginning of summer, on the shores of a great lake, amidst the Adirondack Mountains? For we who attend this grand touring event every year, the name "Americade" evokes a Pavlovian sense of anticipation and afterwards, a case of year-long nostalgia for this week long immersion in motorcycling.

Monday, June 4 was an overcast day. Glowering at the gloomy skies I [the author] thought back to Americade 2000 (also known as the Great Flood) and wondered if we were in for it again.

After that first dreary day, the weather was a dream come true. Despite predictions of rain, rain, and rain, it was like Americade was blessed. Blue skies accented with fluffy, white clouds, clear nights, and cool, transparent mornings. Even at mid day, it was comfortably toasty. Looking around, I kept feeling I should pinch myself to check if I was really awake. It was that good.

[Some of the week's events mentioned in the article included] the Blue-black waters, woods of deep-green pine forests, hospitable hotels, motels, and cottages of Lake George and the Lake George Village; Boat cruises on the lake; the Tour-Expo full of vendors with motorcycle wares, services, accessories for everyone, and food; Roaring Brook Ranch with its seminars, competitions, and demo rides; Guided tours, Self-guided tours, Poker Runs, and riding the roads through the magnificent Adirondack Mountains; but even better than the weather [and all the events], was the core of what makes a rally like this truly special: the people.

Although the material presented and the faces change, Americade follows much the same traditions and patterns each year. There's something to the familiarity that makes it feel like coming home.

This well-run rally continues to grow steadily. An estimated 50,000-plus came to play together beside Lake George. Hats off to the staff members and volunteers who put so much effort into making the 2001 event a safe, fun time. After such a beautiful week [in 2001], what can they do to top it in 2002? I can't wait to see!

If you're looking for a great time on and off your bike, plan on making it out to Americade at Lake George.



Red Knights Grand Tour

Have you ever heard of the Red Knights Grand Tour? Many of our members have not.

The Grand Tour is earned by visiting a number of fire stations (on your bike) to spell the words GRAND TOUR. In order to earn a pin a member has to supply a photo of him/herself and his/her motorcycle in front of Fire Stations whose names' began with the first letters G R A N D T O U R and that is basically the way it works.

During the course of one (1) riding season you must visit nine (9) fire Stations whose names begin with the letters G R A N D T O U R, or twelve Fire Stations beginning with any letter of the alphabet

Join Diona and I this riding season in running the Grand Tour as we travel on our bikes through New England and beyond (both with the club and as individuals) over the next several months. Drop a note to the Grand Tour Chairman, Henry Heideman (Ontario-7 at 905-372-6073) for the application packet — throw a disposable camera in the bike, and we will see how many of our chapter members can complete the G R A N D T O U R by the end of the season.

Don't forget to pack your Fire Department helmet when you go to Americade. This is the 20th anniversary of both Americade **and the Red Knights, and what a better way to show our FD pride than to wear our helmets in the 20th Anniversary Americade Parade.**

Mass-2 Fundraiser

Last year we decided to for-go our Poker Run (the Poker Run was always very weather dependant, and when we have bad weather a lot of hard work makes very little money for the club) and try a new fundraiser — our 120 Club.

The 120 Club was very successful and we are running it again this year. Tickets will be out and available to buy and sell beginning at our February Pot Luck. 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, after Americade.

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 70 members in the club, it should not be too difficult to sell all 120 tickets quickly.

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 years as well as support the International. The 2002 dues for us as chapter members were able to stay at \$10 this year because of the success of last year's raffle. Please support the club's efforts with the raffle.

All 120 Club Tickets not sold by May 31 must be turned in to an officer by that date!

This is so we can bring any and all unsold tickets to Americade to be sold.



Thank you to Marty and Cliff for hosting our annual Christmas soiree and to all the members and friends who made it such a fun time! It was a beautiful fall day, more like May than Christmas time with temperatures in the 60's and some riding time for a few of our members!

When we get together it is always a great time... and great food! Join us for our Spring meeting and Pot-luck at the Kilhart's on April 21

Vermont has some wonderful roads for motorcycling, in fact, Vermont Route 100 is rated as one of the country's *best* when it comes to bike rides.

It must be well known, because the Gold Wing Road Riders have picked Rutland, Vermont as the spot for their 2002 New England Rally. Many vendors, seminars, rides, and other events will be on hand as well as those pristine views and great roads to ride, for anyone who may be interested in meandering into Vermont.

July 25-27, 2002

Holiday Inn — Route 7 South in Rutland, Vermont

Congratulations Charlie!

Last Fall this information was forwarded to me: Question of the week: What does Amherst, Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Chemsford, Hudson, Mattapoisett, Millville, Southbridge and Westminster have in common?

Answer: All departments will be honored at the "Firefighter of the Year" Award Ceremony on December 4, 2001 at 11:00 AM at the Historic Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA.

Congratulations goes out to Westminster Deputy Chief Charles Clarkson on being recognized in the state's program. Fire Marshall Steve Coan recognized Charlie at this prestigious ceremony for his efforts associated with the Regional Firefighter Recruit Training that Westminster holds each year.

Westminster Fire Chief MacAloney stated that Charlie puts in hundreds of donated hours in creating, developing, running, and maintaining the program that benefits not just Westminster, but all area participating towns.



We're just full of excitement and energy!

You never know when a camera is around... and with Steve having a digital camera, well *you get the picture.*

Here's Kevin Martin relaxing at the Kilhart's camp last summer. If you remember, he bought a Honda Shadow last Spring and sold his 850 to our new member

Jim Barclay, then last fall he found a 1200 Goldwing. Since then he has sold that to member Clay Sweynor, and bought himself an illusion blue GL1800.

What's next Kev? I think Lori is a *good* influence on you!!

In December we still had opportunities to ride because the Fall was so mild. But winter and colder temperatures finally made it our way. But no fear, Spring is quickly approaching and we will be out on two wheels again!

Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here
Here comes the sun, here comes the sun
and I say it's all right

Little darling, the smiles returning to the faces
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been here
Here comes the sun, here comes the sun
and I say it's all right

Little darling, I feel that ice is slowly melting
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been clear
Here comes the sun, here comes the sun,
and I say it's all right
It's all right

Here comes the sun, here comes the sun,
and I say it's all right

George Harrison 1943-2001

I was reading a really fun motorcycle story called Purple Mountains – America from a Motorcycle by Notch Miyake during the winter. It is by this guy who sold his business and took three months off to tour the United States on his BMW GS.

There was one part of the story when he was traveling the Alaskan Highway that made me laugh out loud because it reminded me of Ed and Steve on their Four-corners excursion back in 2000.

He stopped at a rest area for a break by a mountain stream. He observed this woman come by and get a bucket of water from the stream. The third time she did this his curiosity got the better of him and he followed her to find that her husband was washing the Alaskan Highway mud off their motor home.

At that point he shook his head and turned to look at his motorcycle that had been on the road since leaving upper New York state some two months earlier. *"I looked at the front of my bike. It was a sticky-looking smear of dead bugs, asphalt, and gray mud. The wheels were caked in mud and there was junk caught in the cooling fins on the engine. Mud flaked off the exhaust pipes like peeling paint. It looked fine to me."*

We're starting to think about Spring and riding again, but just for a minute I want you to think about Winter. If you take a look at the 2002 Ride Schedule, we have not announced where our **Christmas Party** will be in December.

If you would like to open your home and host our **Holiday Party**, please let Ed B. or Bob L. know and we'll write you in!



Directions to Tim and Darlene's house (56 Adams Drive)
in Athol for the Spring Pot-luck:

- Route 2 to Exit 18 (Route 2A)
- Follow Route 2A towards Athol
- You will drive by the High School, AFD Station 2, the Hospital, and the uptown business district near the common.
- Shortly past the common you will going down hill around a sharp corner
- Right after this corner, Route 32 bears off to the RIGHT (across from Stan's auto). Follow Route 32.
- Route 32 will cross the river, bear left up a hill, and then turn RIGHT onto Silver Lake Street.
- Follow this road (Still Route 32) past the cemetery.
- Shortly after the cemetery, the residential area becomes less populated. Adams Drive will be on the RIGHT. (It is the 5th right after you turned onto Silver Lake Street and there is a fire alarm box at the corner).
- If you cross into Royalston, you've gone too far.

Lost? Call and we'll find you: 978-249-2983

A Weekend in Waterbury

We hope that you can join the Red Knights for a relaxing weekend in the hills of Vermont at our favorite Bed and Breakfast. Its name is the Grunberg Haus and it is located on Rt. 100 (which is a beautiful drive in itself) in Waterbury, Vermont. The ride and weekend are scheduled for June 28-30.

Step into the countryside and enjoy quiet relaxation in a mountainside Austrian chalet. Rooms are nicely decorated with antiques and conversation pieces. Awake to the savory smell of fresh baked breads and muffins. Wander along the trails through the maple and pine forest. Unwind in front of a crackling fire (if it's a cool evening) or under the stars in the bubbling warm water of the outdoor Jacuzzi. Mass-2 has rented the whole Inn, so it's Red Knights weekend!

This secluded area is centrally located and there are plenty of things to do including Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, dozens of restaurants, shopping at outlet stores and much, much more.

A full breakfast is included both Saturday and Sunday. Breakfast features homemade breads, fresh fruit, and hearty main dishes. You will overlook the mountains while you are enjoying pumpkin streusel muffins, maple poached pears and ricotta stuffed French toast. Or sample omelets are made with freshly gathered eggs with Vermont cheese, served with a fresh fruit sundae and lemon bread baked from an heirloom recipe.

Lemonade and iced tea are served in the afternoon in the summer in the self-service BYOB pub or outside on the deck. You can also help feed the Inn's chickens any time of the year. Board games are provided or bring your favorite.

Prices for the rooms range from \$81 per night with a shared bathroom to \$148 per night in a private cabin. Check with Peg on details, prices, and reserving space for this *sure to be great* weekend! The room rates are listed for 2 people in a room. For more than 2 people in a room, there will be a \$15 extra charge per person.

When setting this up we asked for the best deal they could give us. We were told that they usually don't give any discounts for less than 4 nights, but they would invent a special firefighter's discount of 10 per cent if we rent 10 rooms or more (the 10% off price is listed above). Also they normally only give out the "top secret" insider's guide to covered bridges and waterfalls to people who buy package deals, but they would be happy to make an exception in our case. The planned Saturday tour is about a three-hour drive (without stops) and makes a big loop around central Vermont. They told us it would be perfect for a motorcycle ride, plus they will let us know where to pick up the best sandwich fixings if we want to do a picnic. Sounds great but there is limited space so make your reservations early. Call Ed or Peg at 978-632-8230 or e-mail them to reserve your space. Let us know what type of room you prefer, but again it is first come, first serve.

Red Knights Connecticut Chapter 2
Bus Trip to New York City

Sunday, February 24, 2002

Sightseeing/Shopping/Lunch Included

- Costs: \$25.00
- Departs Enfield Commuter Lot in Enfield, CT at 7:00 a.m.
- Lunch is on your own but coffee and donuts are provided.
- Departs NYC for home at 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact
John O'Hagen at 860-749-0222 or
Diane O'Hagen at 860-871-0725

Come join us at the
Annual Red Knights
New England Regional Cape Cod
Weekend

on Friday, MAY 3 to Sunday, MAY 5, 2002

We will be staying at the HERITAGE HOUSE HOTEL in downtown Hyannis again this year. Both the back buildings have been reserved for the attending Red Knights! This year's prices are \$49.90 per room per night single or double occupancy and add \$10.00 per person for a triple or quad room.

Call the Heritage House *today* to reserve your room. Remember to mention you are with the **Red Knights**. Telephone: (508) 775-7000. All room reservations must be in by April 1, 2002. After that time, leftover rooms will be released for reservations to the general public. (Last year there was a golf outing staying at the hotel the same weekend, so book your room soon).

During the weekend, the RKMC will sponsor your choice of guided tours such as a Light House tour from Woods Hole to Provincetown (new this year), or another voyage to Martha's Vineyard via the boat for a tour of the island. As always, the byways of Cape Cod also offer riders great scenery and fantastic rides in "unguided fashion" if you chose. Those considering the ride to Martha's Vineyard please call Steve Mickle so he can have an idea on numbers for the boat.

The weekend will also host the Massachusetts meeting (the State Rep says brief), including raffles and give-aways.

If you have not been to the Heritage House, it is located at 259 Main Street in Hyannis. It is a 143-room facility and offers a heated indoor pool, saunas, whirlpool, and a restaurant. Non-smoking rooms are available. If you have any questions about the weekend, please contact State Rep Steve Mickle.



Ice Cream, Ice Cream, Ice Cream!

One of our more popular additions to our ride schedule over the last few years have been our monthly ice cream rides. The second Thursday of each month from May to September (May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 12) we

gather at the Westminster Fire Station at 6:30 p.m. Then our Road Captain directs us to another ice cream stop that he has discovered. If you know of any great ice cream places, let him know! Come have an ice cream with us. It's a great mid-week diversion and a nice time for a quick ride — rain or shine!

Remember that

- 1 Chocolate is a Vegetable: Chocolate is derived from cocoa beans. Bean = vegetable. Sugar is derived from either sugar CANE or sugar BEETS. Both are plants, which places them in the vegetable category. Thus, chocolate is a vegetable.
- 2 To go one step further, ice cream contains milk, which is dairy. So ice cream is a health food.
- 3 If you happen to have Strawberry Ice Cream you are then adding fruit into you diet!

So by going on an ice cream ride you are getting several of the four basic food groups! See, the Red Knights is always thinking of your health.

The problem: How to get 2 quarts of ice cream home from the store on a bike. The solution: Eat it in the parking lot. Diet tip: Eat a chocolate bar before each meal. It'll take the edge off your appetite, and you'll eat less. Chocolate has many preservatives. Preservatives make you look younger, so consider having *chocolate* ice cream.

Put "eat ice cream" at the top of your list of things to do today — then at the end of the day you will feel good that you got something accomplished.

New England Fire Chiefs' Show. Last June, under the direction of Mass State Rep Steve Mickle the Red Knights were given the opportunity to man a booth at the Fire/Rescue/EMS Show at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.

This event exposed the RKMC to thousands of firefighters over the four-day event.

Steve is currently exploring the option of doing this again. If you would like to volunteer to man the booth for a time during the Fire Chief's Show, or if you have any ideas on improving the booth, please give Steve a call.

Red Knights International

Sponsors of the Americade Wednesday Evening Three-course Dinner at Roaring Brook Ranch!

Join the RKMC at RBR for a great sit-down dinner and share the spirit of the Red Knights with other Americaders. Check out the registration form for Americade and choose the RKMC Dinner as your special night in Lake George.

RED KNIGHTS RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER 1 FIFTH ANNUAL SPRING FLING

Saturday, April 6, 2002

East Greenwich Veteran Firefighters Hall
80 Queen St. East Greenwich, Rhode Island

\$15.00 PER PERSON

Includes Choice of Prime Rib or Chicken
Dinner

Dancing & Door Prizes

Cocktails 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:30 PM

Advance ticket sales only please.

Please have money in no later than Wed. March 27, 2002

For ticket information please contact:

Joe or Catherine Conroy: (401) 783-3818 or ltjconroy@cox.net

or

Rick Waterman: (401) 934-2511 or mrba77@aol.com

Proceeds from this event to benefit

The Tomorrow Fund at The Hasbro Children's Hospital



Riding Time! It's been a long week at work and you have been looking forward to having a Saturday on the bike. But first, take a few minutes to inspect your trusty steed to make sure everything is a go.

One such *once-over* is the **T-CLOCK** inspection. The T-CLOCK inspection is a system to inspect the overall condition of your motorcycle. It is recommended that this be done during / after cleaning and at a minimum once per week. Here are a few highlights of the T-Clock.

T – Tires; Check Condition, Air Pressure, Spokes, Rims, Bearings, and Seals.

C – Controls; Check Levers, Pivots, Cables, Routing, Hoses, and Throttle.

L – Lights & Electric; Check Battery, Vent tube, Lenses, Reflectors, Wiring, Routing, Headlamps, and Aim.

O – Oil and Fluids ; Check Levels, Gear oil, Brake and Clutch reservoirs, Coolant and Radiator, Fuel, Oil, and any leaks.

C – Chassis and Chain ; Look over Frame, Steering Head Bearings, Swing Arm Bushings, Suspension, Shocks, Chain/Belts, Sprockets, Fasteners, Cotter pins and clips.

K – Kickstand /Center stand; Look over condition, Retention, and Side stand.

This is just a brief outline of the T-Clock inspection. If you would like a detailed copy contact Bob Laford, or search for "T-Clock" on the internet. It is good practice to get into a routine of inspecting your bike to keep it in top performance and maximum safety for you and your rider.

Group Riding

Prior to any ride we try to host a "rider's meeting" with all the participants for the day's ride. We haven't been out on a group ride since our Polar Bear Ride in November, so it's always a good idea to review some of our ride components.

During the riders' meeting we:

- Review where we are going and what route we will be taking
- Review our staggered riding formation
- Describe how we handle lane changing and what to do if the group splits apart
- Specify which channel on the CB we will be using and that we all will use
- Demonstrate and explain each hand-signal we use
- Determine the riding experience of everyone that is new to the group
- Invite all the riders to do a 'walk around' their bikes to insure all is in order and then to take a quick look at the bikes on either side of them for the same reason

As a result, there is no doubt who the Road Captain is and what his or her expectations are of the group. The "drag bike" or last bike in line is also identified.

If we have bikes without CB radios, we attempt to place them in between riders with radio communications. This is a way to ensure that communications from the lead bike can make it to all the riders.

This brief meeting helps make our group ride as safe as can be — because we are all talking the same language after the meeting.

U N #8 7 #
Massachusetts

Massachusetts State Meeting

Information from the Massachusetts
Motorcycle Association
(www.mma-of-ma.com)

Back in October, Governor Swift announced that the Registry of Motor Vehicles has assumed the activities surrounding the Massachusetts Motorcycle Rider Education Program formerly administered by the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. The program supports the availability of courses approved by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) for both novice and experienced riders and also conducts public information activities on general motorcycle safety.

"I'm very pleased to bring these activities under the RMV umbrella," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Daniel A. Grabauskas. "As we already conduct similar activities in a number of other programs, I am certain that we will have continued success in developing skilled riders and increasing the public's awareness of motorcycles on our roadways."

After the RMV took over this program, an audit of the **Motorcycle Safety Fund** books found more than \$285,000 in unspent money from previous years' collection from motorcyclists registration fees. \$2 from every bike registration in Massachusetts goes into this fund to be dedicated to motorcycle safety, awareness, and education programs.

Under the new auspices of the Registrar "check twice — motorcycles are everywhere"

Welcome to new members in our chapter. They include:

- Nick Ferri (Natick Fire) & Pam Field — Nick was an MAL but enjoyed riding with our chapter so much that he couldn't resist changing over.
- Ricci Ruschioni, Lieutenant and photographer with the Winchendon Fire Department
- Jason Leblanc, son of Fred and Lisa and owner of that really boss Suzuki Intruder that has been on a couple of rides with us.
- Chris Mahoney from Tyngsboro

Also, **congratulations** go out to Steve Boudreau on his recent promotion to Captain on the Orange Fire Dept.

posters and bumper stickers are in registry branches throughout the State. Also, the Registry has initiated taped messages on the Registry's telephone lines, motorcycle safety verbiage on the branch digital message boards, and is including motorcycle safety information in license renewals.

The Registry is also beginning a program this year proclaiming that "March is the beginning of Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Season."

These efforts, co-inspired by the MMA all help to keep motorcycles in the minds of drivers, helping to make motorcycling a safer mode of travel for everyone.

The Massachusetts Rider Education Program supports a statewide network of training sites that offer Motorcycle Safety Foundation-approved courses. These sites have served approximately 31,000 students from 1990 through 2000. There are approximately 250,000 licensed motorcyclists and 106,000 registered motorcycles in the Commonwealth.

As always, the Red Knights encourage all our members to participate in formal motorcycle rider education. It makes a difference!

Thank you to the Brouillet's and to everyone that made our February Pot-luck a success.

It's exciting to get together during the cold weather (when our bikes are bundled up) and talk about the rides that are just around the corner.

We had some time to talk about our Americade Plans as well during the afternoon. Take some time and look over our ride schedule. **Save the schedule and post it** somewhere where you will see it all year long. We hope to see everyone on the road this year!

About a dozen officers from around Massachusetts (and one from Connecticut) met in Westminster recently for the yearly Mass. State Rep's Meeting.

It is always good to get together and talk about ride planing, International issues, and see if we can help each other with any chapter administration ideas. We find that if one chapter has had to deal with an issue inside their club, another chapter has probably had similar challenges and may have a good idea to share. Thank you to State Rep Steve Mickle for giving us the opportunity to get together.

Participating were Mass Chapters 2, 4, 5, & 12 and CT Chapter 2.

Ladies' Choice

One of our rides later in the year is a Ladies Choice Ride. It's up to the ladies to decide where we should venture to on that day. Please think about some destinations that you would like and contact Peg Brouillet... your wish is our command!