



Red Knights Motorcycle Club Massachusetts — Home of the Founders

Fall 2012

<http://massredknights.org/>

The Spring 2013 meeting will be hosted by Massachusetts Chapter 15 and the Fall 2013 meeting will be hosted by Massachusetts Chapter 4. More details will be forthcoming when available.

From the desk of the State Rep

Greetings all Massachusetts Red Knights.

Here is the third edition of the Massachusetts State Red Knights Newsletter. Assistant State Rep. Bob Laford is the editor and publisher and we all owe him a resounding “Thank you” for his tireless work and dedication to the flow of information we have for our state Red Knights.

The number of emails I send out to you is legendary, but it was my promise to you, when I was voted into the position as your state representative, that I would keep you informed.

Voting for your Massachusetts State Representative took place at the 2012 fall state meeting in Ayer on Saturday, October 13th. Whereas no one ran against me and I chose to maintain my position as YOUR state representative, I was re-elected.

As I move forward these next two years, I reiterate my promise to you of maintaining a flow of information and will do all in my power to eliminate problems BEFORE they occur as well as do all in my power to resolve any challenges that may arise.

I am dedicated to this position, as well as all of you, and promise to continue keeping you informed, moving forward to maintain the Massachusetts State Red Knights as the best state organization in the International Red Knights community.

Both the International Red Knights President Dave Emery and our Region One Director Don Moore have stated in public that Massachusetts is tops of all the states, when it comes to cooperation between the chapters. That is quite a feather in our cap.

Your Assistant State Representative, MA-2 President Bob Laford, and I will continue to strive to keep Massachusetts on top.

This newsletter also contains other things of interest outside of the day-to-day business and changes within the Red Knights Motorcycle Club as a whole.

If you have something you would like to see added or included within future newsletters feel free to send it to us for publication.

It is our desire to maintain these newsletters and publish on a biannual schedule Spring and Fall.

I hope you enjoy the newest offering from your state representatives.

Regards to all,
George Colby

Fall 2012 State Meeting

RK Mass-13 hosted the Fall meeting at the Ayer Fire Department on October 13. There were seven chapters and 34 members in attendance.

Region-1 Director Don Moore was also in attendance and gave some insight to issues that the International Board has on going. He also told us that Massachusetts is a model for how chapters should work together within a state and if all his states operated as smoothly as Massachusetts, his job would be a lot easier. Don also stated that Facebook is becoming a bigger player in getting the Red Knight name out there—but that each chapter must have a business TMLA and the web page must be under control of the Chapter's Executive Board.

State Rep Colby reported that the RKMC booth at the New England Fire Chiefs show was a lot of fun and saw a lot of traffic. He thanked Steve

Mickle (and others) for making this a success each year. George said he is looking forward to next year and hopes to see others step forward who may wish to spend some time at the booth.

Mike Davis spoke on his experiences on what can happen when things go wrong on a ride and how actions before, during, and after the event can help during the ensuing investigations and litigation. Mike stressed that documentation including pictures of the ride (and before the ride) can become evidence in the case.

Several other members spoke on the necessity for pre-ride meetings and having good control of rider conduct.

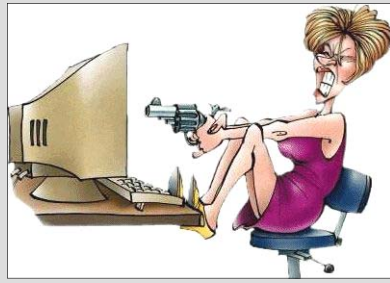
State Rep Colby reminded chapters that the International also has insurance policies available for purchase for events.



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Do you remember the world before the Internet, E-mail, Facebook, Cell Phones, and all the electronic gadgets that fill our world?



When you walk into mechanic bays, factory floors, and fire houses, computers have become the standard. And although there are still those who don't use or don't feel comfortable with computers, they are part of our lives and help immeasurably with things like "mass communication."

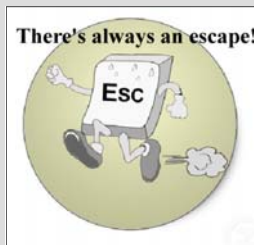
And the Red Knights are no different. When your newsletter editor took over the International Web Page in 1998 the Red Knights had about 700 members. Now, in this day of computers and communication we are well over 10,000 which means we have to find new ways to keep our members informed and involved with the processes that run our international business organization.

As discussed at the Fall State Meeting, it is necessary to access your chapter email account set up by the International and to change the password to something other than the default one sent to you by Web Liaison Steve Chappel.

This email is being used to communicate from the International Board to the Chapters — INCLUDING information on electronic balloting. Participating in the election process is very important for our chapters and our members. Without access to your chapter's email account, you **will not** have the ability to cast your ballot.

Having routine access to this email account is important for the current Chapter Presidents — and those that will follow you. Some chapters have chosen to give access to this account to more than one person within the Executive Board to ensure that the information is seen when it comes out of the International.

If you will not be your chapter president in 2013 please help your replacement with this process. If you have not *ever* accessed your account or you are having trouble with it, please contact State Rep George Colby for assistance.



2013 International Dues

- Membership dues payable to the International run from January 1st till December 31st of each year.
- A grace period for payment is granted from January 1st till February 15th. After that date dues are subject to a \$50.00 late payment fee.
- There are nine classifications of membership: Charter Member, Active Member, Associate Member, Social Member, Honorary Member, Member-at-Large, Life membership, Compassionate Honorary Member, and Junior Member. Refer to the International By-laws and SOGs if you have any questions about the different classifications.
- Dues for new members joining a chapter shall be \$16.00 per member in their first year of membership and will be pro-rated at the rate of 25% reduction in the third quarter and 50% reduction in the fourth quarter.
- Renewing member's dues shall be:
 - Charter, Active or Associate Member \$13.00 each
 - Social or Honorary Member \$7.00 each
 - Compassionate Honorary Member no charge
 - Junior Member no charge
- Dues for chapters are to be sent in U.S. funds to the International Treasurer. Please be sure to include a current membership roster which has the members Name, Address, Zip or postal code, phone number including area code, and Email address if they have one. And lastly their membership status/classification.
- Dues may also be paid on-line using a major credit card but can only be done after a current membership roster has been received by the Treasurer who will then send a link to the chapter President or Treasurer for payment of dues on-line.
- If you have any questions about what you owe please contact the International Treasurer Leo Patry by email or cell (613) 353-1790 - or email at treasurer@redknightsmc.com

2013 Edition of the RK-Massachusetts T-Shirts

Interest was raised at the Fall Meeting to investigate "High-visibility" T-shirts with the Massachusetts Red Knights design. We are working on prices for both long-sleeve and short sleeve shirts. We will soon be sending around a survey asking for numbers of how many members are interested in ordering for the 2013 riding season. Please take part in this questionnaire.

2013 Bike Show dates and locations are:

*Boston, MA - January 12-13 | Salem, NH - January 26-27
Wilmington, MA - March 9-10 — <http://www.kevmarv.com>*

*Springfield Motorcycle Show at the Big-E is
January 18-20 — <http://www.osegmotorcycle.com/>*



State Rep George Colby receives an engraved gavel for he and those State Reps to follow him as a gift from the Chapter Presidents. Presenting the gavel on behalf of the Mass Chapters is MA-3 president Doc Alvarez.

Region-1 Rep Don Moore attended the Fall Meeting of the Massachusetts Red Knights and below is a follow-up email he sent to the Massachusetts RK.



I want to thank you for inviting me and welcoming me to your fall State meeting. It was a great opportunity for us to exchange information and ideas. I took away some great suggestions and I look forward to continuing the dialogue.

As I said, you guys are the best at keeping the lines of communication open and good communication is of the utmost importance to the success of any organization.

Your members have been paving the way for all of us since day one ... after all Massachusetts is "Where it All Began".

Loyal to our Duty, Don Moore, Region 1 Director, RKIFMC Inc.

The 2013 Red Knights International Convention is coming to Rutland Vermont!

August 15th to the 18th 2013

Hosted By: Vermont State Association

Welcome to Rutland, Vermont, home of the 2013 Red Knights International Convention. Vermont is where you can enjoy some of the world's best motorcycle touring, great shopping and dining during your visit.

While at the convention take part in a great BBQ Night, visit the home of the Devil's Bowl Speedway and see NASCAR Displays.

Vermont holds interest for those who look for history while on their rides. Rutland is the birthplace of John Deere and nearby Middlebury is where John Deere Apprenticed. There are a number of Historic Sites that are within the area, including Vermont's only Revolutionary Battlefield in Hubbardton and VT is also home to President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site.

The Green Mountains offer pristine views and miles of wonderful motorcycle roads that are waiting for the twist of your wrist. The Blue Star Memorial Highway and the Crossroad of Vermont Byway are also waiting for your wheels to follow their routes across the state.

Convention Headquarters at the 2013 convention is the Holiday Inn, 476 US Rt. 7 South, in Rutland. Contact the Hotel Front Desk: 1-802-775-1911, or visit www.hivermont.com. There are 151 rooms blocked for the Red Knights and amenities include a swimming pool, bar, restaurant, and meeting rooms. Cost of Rooms: \$109.00 per room, per night for a 3-day stay, booked prior to 5/1/2013; \$119 per room, per night booked after 5/1/2013.

Convention registration cost is \$65 per person and includes the BBQ, Saturday evening's Banquet, Sunday morning's Farewell Breakfast — and your convention "goodie bag." Registration for the hotel and the convention can be made now!

Being so close to home, we are all aware of the great motorcycle opportunities that Vermont has to offer. We will be sure to have a large turnout from Massachusetts.

Please mention to your members that even if they are not registering or attending the full convention, all Red Knights are welcome to attend the Saturday business meeting of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club.

See you in Vermont!

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial
National Fire Academy,
Emmitsburg, MD



A line of 250 motorcycles stretched for miles along a 58 mile, police escorted ride through Pennsylvania and Maryland towards the National Fire Academy during this year's convention. All had the opportunity to pay our respects at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial and the nearby 9-11 Memorial once on site. The keynote speaker for the ceremony was a woman who works for the foundation who had lost her son, a firefighter. She explained how she felt losing her son and also what the foundation does for families of fallen firefighters.

The ceremony also included the unveiling of the section of bricks on the memorial walkway that were dedicated by members of the Red Knights. Many chapters and members have had bricks placed in the walkway as we also did as the Massachusetts Red Knights.



The Massachusetts Red Knights have a standing invitation to participate in the Newton Veteran's parade (usually weekend before Memorial Day) each year. Those who have participated agree that it is a great time. George will send more information as it becomes available.



What epic trips are you planning (or would you like to plan) for 2013?

State Rep Colby and buddy Al Holmes (MA-3) are in the planning stages of version 3 of their April "ride-about." This year they are talking about riding the California shore up to Washington, turning east, then south to ride through Yellowstone.

George will be posting a daily blog with commentary, photos and video on line as they do their trip . Stay tuned for the URL.

(Below are the states visited over the past 2 years)



What's up in 2013?

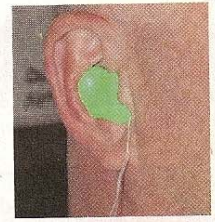


What are you planning for 2013 for your chapter? Do you have some *great* ride ideas that you would like to share? Do you have a charity event that you would like other chapters to come out and support?

It's time to blow your own horn and tell us all about them. Post any events of interest on the RKMC Massachusetts Ride Page.

Visit the state web page at <http://massredknights.org/> and click on "MA Red Knights Ride Calendar" or send them to George for publishing on our state web site.

Product Evaluation: Rider Gear E.A.R. Insta-Mold Plugs



Silicone material can't go past a small temporary foam plug that the technician sets in place with a length of thread draped out of your ear.

Eyeglasses, Contact Lenses, Hearing Aids, Eye Exams

LEONARD OPTICIAN, INC.

119 New Athol Rd.
Orange, Mass. 01364

DOUGLAS J. DUPELL

Optical Lic. # 4072

978-249-9033

Hearing Aid Lic. # 79
978-249-9020

While checking out the vendors at a major rally, I was introduced to the team from E.A.R. Inc. by a colleague. He insisted that E.A.R. products were the best earplugs he had ever tried. After introductions, I stood by and watched the technicians ply their trade while waiting my turn to go under the syringe.

E.A.R. Insta-Mold silicone earplugs are custom fitted to your ear by a technician who squeezes the right amount of color-coordinated goo into your ear. It is allowed to set before removal and detailing.

The custom-fit feature of Insta-Mold plugs offers better fit, comfort, maximum attenuation value and greater convenience. It provides a reliable "tissue-to-tissue" fit, duplicating every crevice and contour of the ear, which allows the user to wear these earplugs for extended periods of time without discomfort or irritation.

E.A.R. uses a medical-grade, hypoallergenic silicone that remains flexible and soft throughout the lifetime of the plugs, giving you several years of consis-

tent use. Insta-Mold ear protection is virtually unshrinkable and can be used in a variety of activities. Unlike imitations, Insta-Molds use a Seal-Kote to add luster and provide a skin to protect the mold against dirt and grime. The plugs are easily washable with soap and water and immediately ready for use. By obtaining the ultimate fit, Insta-Molds achieve the best attainable noise-reduction rating and provide the maximum in hearing protection. The fit of my plugs is so spot-on that the proper method of installing or removing them requires a corkscrew like rotating motion. These plugs don't just pop out.

The company is based in Boulder, Colorado, but it has properly trained techs at outlets all over the country. The price shown is an estimate. Contact your local provider for a quote. E.A.R.'s web site has a contact form to help you find your local outlet, or visit the E.A.R. booth at your next rally. —*Steve Lita*

hard data

E.A.R. Inc.

Insta-Mold Earplugs

@\$65, contact local provider for quote

800/525-2690

EARInc.com

Can you hear me now??

Probably a few years late, but this year I started to wear hearing protection when I am riding. My hearing has been diminishing a bit and as with any of us I have not been very kind to my hearing whether it was from concerts in the Centrum, music blaring in my car, 30 years of being a firefighter, or the wind noise from riding.

Even with a full face helmet, the experts say that the decibels created at highway speed excited what OSHA considers safe for us at work even in a very brief amount of time.

What I found when I started wearing the disposable plugs at the beginning of riding season was that I could still hear what was going on around me — actually even better. I can hear Diona in my headset, I can hear my engine, the horn, and the traffic around me. What the ear plugs cut out was the wind noise. And if I spent the day on the bike wearing ear pugs, I was not as mentally fatigued at the end of the day. Now that I have been riding with them for a while, something does not feel "right" if I ride off without putting them in. Just like any piece of protective equipment, from gloves, boots, or helmet. If we get into the habit of wearing them, it becomes part of our routine.

At Americade in June, there were several vendors for "custom" hearing protection. I kept going back to them asking questions and looking at their documentation, and I finally shelled out the money and sat to have a custom pair of ear plugs made. They use a polymer that forms to your

ear canal so that it fits your ear perfectly. That increases the amount of sound attenuation that is possible, makes them more comfortable to wear, and they won't fall out.

I endorse everyone investing in a pair of custom ear plugs. You will not regret it. Pricy? Not really. It was around \$55, and as the rep told me, "you'll lose one long before they wear out.

As Campus Safety Officer I go through about \$300 worth of disposable ear plugs for the people in my circle of responsibility each year. I am so impressed with these custom plugs that I have brought in a vendor to fit out a number of people as a "market trial" at the University.

Since there was no vendor in our area, I contacted my friend Doug Dupell at Leonard Opticians in Orange. Doug is a fellow rider, EMT, and retired firefighter as well. His company has been working in the hearing aid business for many years, and the way to make these ear plugs is very similar to how he makes ear casts for hearing aids. Doug has now taken on the E.A.R.inc brand of custom hearing protection in his store. (His business card is above).

Above is a review of the E.A.R.inc product from Road Bike Magazine. If you are interested in getting a set for yourself, stop by and see Doug on Route 2A, right on the Athol/Orange town line at Leonard Optician. And mention you are a Red Knight and he will give you a discounted price of \$45 for the custom molded hearing protection!