



Red Knights Motorcycle Club
Massachusetts — Home of the Founders

Fall 2014
<http://massredknights.org/>

The Spring 2015 State meeting is being hosted by Mass-2 .

From the desk of the State Rep

Greetings all Massachusetts Red Knights.

This is the seventh edition of the Massachusetts State Red Knights Newsletter. Assistant State Rep. MA-2 Bob Laford is the editor and publisher and we all owe him a resounding “Thank you” for his work and on this effort.

I was elected to this position at the 2011 fall meeting and at the fall state meeting this year was re-elected for another two years. I thank you for your support.

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

The ongoing “political” issues involving our state and my position as your representative quieted down this year and have been put to bed.

Those being the question of whether the Massachusetts State Representative would be treated as though he or she was the representative of a state association. This problem has been on going over the past few years and I believe it has finally been settled once and for all by the International Board of Directors. Going forward, any Massachusetts State Representative will be treated the same as the representative of a state association. The political wrangling has been brought to an end.

MA-1 Charter / life member Norm Beausoleil, our Region 1 Director, and I have a very good relationship and continue to work well together.

If you have any issue that you think should be brought up at any International Board meeting feel free to contact me and I will see that Norm is informed.

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

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

In closing I ask you all to take a moment and reflect on the loss of MA-2 & 13 member Steve Mickle. Without a doubt there is a hole in our lives with Steve’s passing.

In an effort to fix that, the membership present at the fall meeting unanimously supported the forming of a committee to devise a Red Knight award/recognition to be



We have lost a close friend with the passing of past State Rep Steve Mickle and wish to thank you to each of you who participated in Steve’s services and offered Deb and her family your support. We are truly a family, in good times and in bad.

presented in memory of Steve Mickle.

The following explanation of the award is from Bob Laford’s meeting minutes.

“This endeavor is with Deb Mickle’s knowledge and approval.

The award would be the premise of “Mr. Red Knight” for an individual that is a leader in the Red Knights in that they promote the organization in a positive manner above and beyond.”

I look forward to hearing from the committee and trust all of you will support their efforts.

Be safe out there people and stay alert. The season for bike riding is coming to a close, but that doesn’t mean it is any safer.

Regards to all,

MA-3 George Colby

MA15's ALPHABET GRAND TOUR/ WALSH & KENNEDY MEMORIAL RUN

Last fall, some members of MA15 decided to tackle the Alphabet portion of the Grand Tour. After trying to figure out the route we'd take, we chose to complete the entire tour completely outside of Massachusetts. After weeks of planning routes, stops and accommodations, we were prepared for the ride. On Wednesday March 26, 2014, Boston Fire and the entire fire service suffered a great loss. Fire Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy lost their lives while battling a 9 alarm blaze in Boston's Back Bay. MA15 took a vote and agreed to make the alphabet tour a fund raiser for the families of our two fallen brothers. Each firehouse that we included in our route was contacted and given information regarding our plan to visit and the purpose, lot's of them donated to the Walsh and Kennedy Memorial Fund.

On Monday June 2, 2014 at 0600hrs, MA15 met at the Dunkin' Donuts on Rt.138 in Canton, MA and headed toward Scranton, PA to start our tour. Dunmore Fire Department was our first stop, upon arrival we learned that the firefighters



on duty were at a working fire. No sooner than the covering companies arrived, they were immediately put to work when a gas tanker dumped over 25 gallons of fuel across the street at a gas station. During our stops we encountered a full length basketball court on the third floor of Pittston's firehouse and Kingston Fire provided a fire and police escort to the interstate. The hospitality was overwhelming and that didn't change at all during the entire tour. That day we rode over 440 miles and visited 6 firehouses, finally stopping in Mill Hall, PA for the night.

Day two started with the rain and a slow pace, we were expected to be in Pittsburgh at the Quail Volunteer Fire District by 0930hrs. We arrived at 1030hrs to a billboard display welcoming Red Knights MA15 along with coffee and donuts. We also witnessed a "Cold Water Challenge" that a Quail firefighter completed and donated the funds to the Walsh and Kennedy Memorial Fund. After the slow start we got a boost of energy from the support and kindness. We visited 6 firehouses on Tuesday, and finished our 500 mile day in Niagra Falls.

Wednesday was to be the busiest day yet, we had 14 firehouses to visit and still make it to Lake George before we could rest. We were invited to eat breakfast at the Eggertsville Hose Co. in Buffalo, NY. They fed us well and Blake Strom of NY 21 escorted us for 4 more stops. After leaving the Buffalo area we were off to the Rochester area. Brighton Fire was the first stop, a great bunch of guys over

there greeted us with patches and challenge coins. Ridge-Culver was next, at that station we met Chief Craig Akins who is the chief of West Webster. West Webster was the home of firefighters Mike Chiapperini and Tomasz Kaczowka, brothers that were gunned down while performing their duties on Christmas Eve 2012.



Chief Akins asked if we would like an escort to the next stop. He made a 2 minute phone call and asked if we were ready. Chief Akins' pick up truck had strobe lights so it seemed that he was our escort. As we merged onto the interstate I saw emergency vehicles pulled over to the right and I thought that it may have been an accident scene. We moved closer to the emergency vehicles and they started to pull in front of the bikes and take up the rear also. The rest of the escort had arrived. It was an awesome sight to see, especially without prior notice but what else should you expect from firefighters? At our final stop of the tour we visited Victor Fire Department. The station was not manned but the great guys at Fishers Fire Department had phoned Steve Lamarco, a Victor firefighter, to meet us there. Steve was also the department Chaplain, he asked could he pray for our safety before we hit the road to Lake George. So thanks to Jordan Kesel and Richard Loce of Fishers for making that call. Throughout that entire day we met some awesome brothers and sisters in the fire service. We finally arrived at Lake George on Wednesday night @ 2100hrs. After over 1400 miles in just 3 days we completed the Alphabet Tour/Walsh & Kennedy Memorial Ride.



IT WAS KIND OF A RED KNIGHTS FLASH MOB!

...but without the dancing!

We knew that Stefan Streif from Switzerland would be staying with Rick and Lori Oliver from Mass-2 overnight before they met up with others for their trip to the convention. As his arrival approached we were talking about how to best get him out of Boston on his rented bike and to the memorial in Boylston so he could visit the memorial before heading off to the convention. Mass-15 quickly stepped up and said they would help get Stefan situated in Boston and pointed off to Boylston on Saturday morning with his rented bike.

On Wednesday of that week Dave Emery from Vermont-2 sent an email to the Regional Director saying that “Tom Tom” Delboi, the European Director would be arriving with his family from Switzerland and staying in Brattleboro with the Emery’s. Their plans would be to bring the Delboi’s to the memorial on Saturday to visit. (Coincidentally at the same time Stefan would be there).



Stefan, Tom and his wife Silki and their children with RKMC Founders Roger Wentzell, Don Parker, Dave Hamilton, and Ed Wright that were on site for their visit Ed



State Rep George Colby shared Norm and Dave’s emails that if anyone was interested in meeting at the

memorial to greet our Swiss visitors, that would be great.

There were over 40 bikes and about 70 people who journeyed to the RKMC Memorial to meet and greet with our European members! There were Red Knights from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Mass-15 were a great help and escorted Stefan from Boston with about a dozen bikes too — and Mass-1, as always were great hosts to all who visited the memorial!

Thanks to everyone from all the chapters that made it a special day for our visitors. It became our version of a flash mob but instead of dancing, we had ice cream.

And it all started with a couple of emails two days prior.



First Annual Yankee Rally

At the convention in Prince Edward Island, the first ever Region 1 group meeting was held and a Region 1 gathering called Yankee Rally was the result.

As of now it is scheduled for May 29 – 31, 2015, in Clifton Park, NY, just south of Saratoga at the Comfort Suite Hotel (NY 12 hosting). That is the weekend following Memorial Day AND the weekend leading into Americade.

Planning is already underway and it would be great to see a good turnout of Red Knights from around the Region for our very first event!

Here are some points to remember

1. The purpose of the Rally is to bring the Region together, once a year, for fun and comradery
2. The timing of the Rally should be such that we, as a Region, can meet to discuss the issues and meet the candidates running at the next convention. It should be held before voting closes – I'd prefer before voting opens.
3. The date for 2015 was decided by the vote of those present at the convention this year. That same group agreed that the 2016 Rally will be somewhere in that other country (New Jersey). Obviously, the weekend before Americade would probably not work, so we can take the time in Saratoga to plan a more permanent weekend that will fill our needs. We need to remember that we have Americade in June, the Dixie Rally in early May and voting ends in early July.

Considerable research & work has been done by NY-12 already.

- Host hotel: Comfort Suites, Clifton Park, NY - \$ 129/night (BYOB) – Rooms have 2 beds & pull out couch, 75 available
- There is no restaurant at the hotel, (continental breakfast only) but more breakfast places are within easy walking distance. Plans underway to organize a Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Station next door
- Pig roast - \$10/pp
- Goodie bags – coins, t-shirt, ect. (any "goodie Bag donation by a chapter should consider 200 attendees)
- Registration: \$45/pp; children \$20/pp
- Web page with registration form will be made available and there will be an early registration incentive
- Hospitality room BYOB; can sell chapter merchandise, Chinese auction for charity
- Games: big wheel races (adult & child),
- NY State Memorial ride – Auburn, NY (911 exhibit)



REQUEST BY NY-12

NY-12 would like all chapters to send them a t-shirt (or patch) for a quilt they will be making to be raffled off at the Yankee Rally.

The deadline for mailing a chapter shirt / patch is Jan 1, 2015.

Please mail to: Bob Hollner, 10c Smith Road, Mechanicville, NY 12118
ny12@redknightsmc.com

The 2014 “Gathering” of Red Knights — Photos and dialog by MA-3 Sandi Colby

Getting to the convention site of Prince Edward Island was as much an adventure as the gathering itself. Rain, fog & sun danced around the coastline for many travelers. It was joked that summer would be Wednesday to Friday.

Many MA Red Knights extended their trip by starting out earlier in the week and making other stops along the way. One popular stop was the Clipper Shipp Beach Motel in Pocologan, NB.

After a pleasant ride up, 10 miles from the motel, our group entered a wall of fog and a 20 degree temperature drop! It was reminiscent of the old movie *The Fog*. Fog stayed, and rain started. In Shediac, NB the rain stopped long enough to visit “the world’s largest lobster”.

Rain and fog persisted and not much was seen crossing the Confederation Bridge into PEI. Directions were simple and soon we were arriving at our host hotel the Rodd Royalty. It was only Tuesday; the “official” start wasn’t until Thursday so that left plenty of time to explore the island. There are miles of fields along each road; potatoes, soy beans, canola and corn. Along the waterways there were mussel farms and fishing vessels. Fields run down to the shore of The Gulf of St Lawrence.

There are tourist places (the most famous Anne of Green Gables), wonderful ice cream & chocolates, distilleries and wineries, and so many lighthouses. Groups of friends headed out in many directions, covering the North Cape Coastal Drive, the Points East Coastal Drive and the Green Gables Shore. Each route having its own specialty. Scattered around each corner are hidden gems for lunch stops.

As the days moved on it was great to see old friends (and new) arrive. Most were weary from the trip but all were smiling. There were hugs, and hollers, and the front of the hotel became the place to gather and greet. You couldn’t miss the 2 fire trucks on the front lawn! Once the “gathering” began in earnest there were well organized rides and events.

Wednesday the registration desk opened.... The welcome “goodie bags” were 10# potato sacks! They were stuffed with wonderful gifts (pins, coins, brochures, maps)

Thursday some members headed out deep sea fishing while others took a moonshine tour! The Thursday BBQ was at PEI Brewing Co and was OUTSTANDING. Sadly the rain found us



again for the ride back. The smart members had come on the bus!

Friday there was more deep sea fishing and more moonshine tours (they had to add extra). Region 1 had their first group meeting and a Region 1 annual gathering.

There was a well attended dinner at New Glasgow Lobster Suppers followed by a wonderful Celtic group entertaining in the courtyard of the Rodd Royalty.

Saturday was the annual business meeting which actually finished on time. The minutes of the meeting are available on the International website.

Our banquet filled 2 large rooms! The larger attendance is certainly a challenge for the hosting chapters to find a location to hold us all.

Sunday was a sad day of heartfelt farewells at the breakfast. I finally got to see the Confederation Bridge as the weather was much nicer than the rain on the day of our arrival...



Excerpt from "Avoid Sensor Overload" by Chris McGaffin in *Iron Butt* magazine

A lot of riders give little or no thought to mental health during [riding].



Imagine we have a hamster in our heads operating the controls. Every rider has a hamster that performs at different levels. There are top riders who have experienced, well fed, rested and hydrated hamsters that perform with ease at high levels for long periods of time on exercise wheels with well-greased bearings. On the other hand, a lot of us start out with good hamsters but end up with a hamster that is suffering from overwork, dehydration, malnutrition, and lack of experience. The wheel is squeaky and stiff and the conditions aren't ideal due to owner incompetence.

Going the distance and improving your performance is best accomplished by taking better care of your hamster. Train it, feed it, hydrate it, and, above all, REST it!



State Rep George Colby and his wife Sandi at "the world's largest lobster" in Shediac, NB on the way to the Convention in PEI



Thank you to Mass-13 for hosting the Fall meeting at Shirley Fire Headquarters. We had 43 members representing nine Massachusetts Chapters. Thank you all for your participation!



A stop for ice cream at Kimball's Ice Cream after our Swiss visit to the Memorial

It is guaranteed that the Mass State Rep will soon be sending out *several* reminder emails about Chapter and MAL dues that need to be in to the International at the end of the year. Beat him to the gun. Have your dues in prior to his first email and you can say, "George, it is all taken care of!"