



Red Knights Motorcycle Club Massachusetts — Home of the Founders

Fall 2016

The Spring 2017 meeting is being hosted by RK Mass-12 on April 22, 2017. The meeting will be at the West Springfield FD, Station 4, at the Eastern States Expo grounds. (The Big E).

From the desk of the State Rep

Greetings all Massachusetts Red Knights.

This is the eleventh edition of the Massachusetts State Red Knights Newsletter. MA-2 Bob Laford has been the editor and publisher for many years and we all owe him a resounding "Thank you" for his tireless work and dedication to the flow of information we have for our MA State Red Knights.

Your Assistant State Rep. MA-15 Bob Binnall and I shall continue to strive to keep Massachusetts on top of all the Red Knight state organizations. If you have something you would like to see added or included within future newsletters feel free to send it to me for publication. If you have something you would like to discuss with either of us you should feel free to email or call.

NJ-31 Matt Mattera, our Region-1 Director, and I maintain a very good working and personal relationship and we are both very proud of the Massachusetts Red Knights. MA State Red Knights continues to be the benchmark for state Red Knight organizations.

I was originally elected as YOUR MA State Representative in 2010. I was reelected in 2012 and again in 2014. At the 2016 fall state meeting I was reelected for a fourth term. When I decided to run for this position I was told; "it could be for life so make sure you really want to do it."

From the beginning, I promised all of you that I would maintain a dedication to the position that you all can be proud of and to do all in my power to see to it that every member of The Red Knights in Massachusetts is kept informed.

I continue to work in front of, as well as behind, the scenes to keep our state on the forefront. We have been called "the ideal state organization within the Red Knights" and with your help and support I plan on keeping that statement alive.

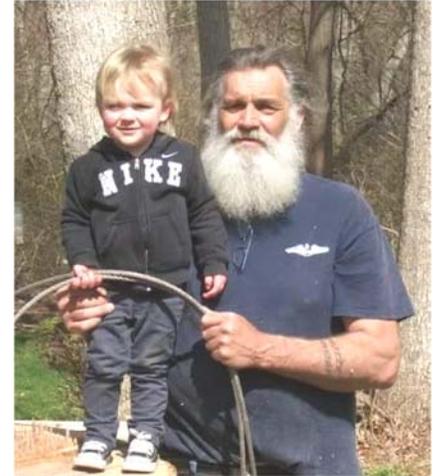
I love my job and thank you for your continued support.

We have a couple of irons in the fire for the future as is noted within this newsletter.

A state picnic and a seven day cruise to Bermuda. Keep your eyes open for email updates.

Be safe out there people.
Regards to all, MA-3 George Colby

Our sincere condolences to Don and Dot Parker and their family and all of Mass-1 on the passing of Don, Jr. earlier this summer.



CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL BY 12/31

After December you are not allowed to purchase regalia, vote, or function as a sanctioned chapter. Correspondence including your current roster that is on file were emailed from the International Treasurer to your "official" chapter email account. Please work with your chapter members for dues collection and have your 2017 dues submitted to the International by the end of the calendar year. After January 31 there is also a \$50 penalty.

Our state rep will put out 100% once he gets his "head wrapped around" an idea... even when that idea is using his head to compete in the Human Bowling Competition at the Yankee Rally.



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2016 International Elections – Congratulations to our new International Vice-President, Spike Ostiguy of Mass Chapter 4!

The race for the International VP was the only contested race to be voted on this year by the Chapters and the MALs. There were three people running and it is good to have a local Red Knight take on that leadership role on the board.

The electronic voting came at a cost of \$1,300 to the Red Knights as it is managed by an outside consultant. All the notices and balloting is done through your “official” chapter email. It is evident that not all chapters monitor their email or take the time to participate in this important effort in our club. Only 128 of the 375 chapters eligible (34%) cast ballots and only 25 of the 268 eligible MALs (16%) made their vote known. In Massachusetts our percentage was better with eight of the 12 chapters eligible to vote casting a ballot. But that means 1/3 of our state chapters were not represented in choosing our elected representative.

In 2017 we will be voting on the International President, Treasurer, and Region-1 Representative. If you are a chapter executive and you do not know how to access your official email contact the state rep for assistance. You can set up the email to forward to your personal account as well to make it easier. Do not leave your chapter unrepresented.

Congratulations to George Colby on his re-election as our State Rep. at the Fall State Meeting

Fall State Meeting

Thank you to Mass-3 for hosting our fall state meeting. Forty-seven members from ten chapters were in attendance at the Berkley FD.

Along with our business meeting and re-election of our State Rep we had a great spaghetti and meatball lunch as well!

Would your chapter like to host the Fall 2017 meeting? Contact George Colby or Bob Binnall for more info.



Turn in your motorcycle riding jacket for a Life Vest & join other Mass Red Knights for

a RED KNIGHT CRUISE TO BERMUDA

MEAN AGE OF MOTORCYCLISTS

Over the past decade, the mean age of motorcyclists has increased 0.83 year per calendar year, based on the information I've gleaned. The population of motorcyclists is not only growing older, but the rate is increasing, and we can estimate the 2016 mean age at 58.

YEAR	MOTORCYCLIST MEAN AGE
1980	24 YEARS OLD
1990	30 YEARS OLD
2000	38 YEARS OLD
2010	49 YEARS OLD
2016	58 YEARS OLD (Estimate)

There are a number of committee positions that serve the International Board that are in need of members. The participation of members is what helps keep fresh ideas and a positive outcome in our organization (both in the local chapter and throughout the organization).

The positions that are needed include Communications Chairperson, International Chaplain, By-Laws Chairperson and additional committee members for the By-Laws Committee and Grand Tour Chairperson.

Contact Matt Mattera at region1@redknightsmc.com if you are ready to stand up and lend a hand! (Deadline is prior to 11/4 board meeting).



Mark your calendar for October 26—November 2, 2018 (Friday to Friday) and be ready to board the Norwegian Dawn at Black Falcon Warf in Boston for a seven day cruise to Bermuda.

This 7-Day Bermuda, Round-trip from Boston aboard the extensively refurbished, Norwegian Dawn offers three days in port.

Sandi Colby has been doing the leg work and more information will be coming out as it is firmed up. But for every seven rooms booked there will be a reduction in the cost of the rooms. Double occupancy the cost vary from around \$1500-\$2700 depending on the accommodations you choose.

Enjoy pristine, pastel islands surrounded by historical sites and friendly people. Savor the year-round balmy breezes, clear waters colored by incredible coral reefs and lovely pink sands.

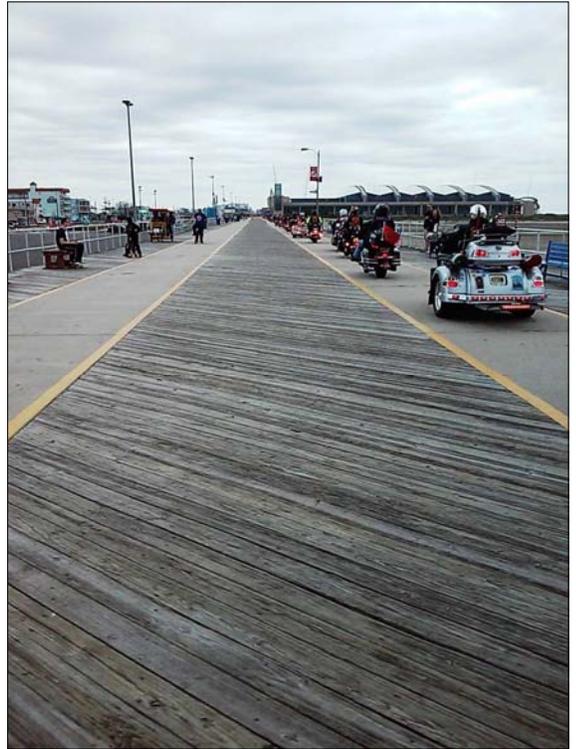
Keep an eye on your email for more details to start planning your 2018 ocean adventure.

2016 YANKEE RALLY

Massachusetts was well represented at the 2016 Yankee Rally in Wildwood, NJ in May. With 322 registered members in attendance, members from MA1, MA2, MA3, MA4, MA13, and MA15 were on hand with a total of over 50 chapters. There were even members from outside the region with Quebec, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and Florida on hand.

From arrival and registration through the four days of fun until the farewell breakfast, our New Jersey hosts made a fun time for all.

There were many opportunities to get together with other Red Knights, whether it be just a few old friends catching up, the boisterous crowd in the hospitality suite, or the activities on the boardwalk and the beach.



No matter when you ventured to the boardwalk there were other Red Knights that you would pass, because the walk from the hotel to the boardwalk and beach was only five minutes! Being before the summer crowds are on hand gave us a less crowded view of the boardwalk and the shops.

On Friday night there was a bonfire on the beach for all the Red Knights — and others who ventured out to the surf's edge to see what the celebrating was about.



Friday was a perfect day that had almost everyone on their bikes. The hosts had self-guided tours set up that included a 12-Station Tour — but there were plenty of other roads to investigate including an Aeronautics Museum, Craft Beer Brewery nearby, and several wineries.

Saturday, Mother Nature was fickle and the damp skies began to be a steadier rain just as the bike blessing and ride on the boardwalk got underway. There were riding competitions that still brought out a few competitors even if it was a wet morning. The life-size beer pong was moved inside, but the rains let up in time for the Human Bowling Competition to take place outside.



The main floor of the banquet hall and the second level mezzanine was full of red for the banquet, awards and raffle drawings, and post-dinner partying. Sunday morning the skies were still cloudy and damp, but most of us made it back the 400 miles to Massachusetts without running into steady rain. Sunshine even greeted us by the time we crossed back into our home state. It was definitely a less-trafficked ride north on the Garden State Parkway on Sunday than the southern ride during our arrivals!

Plan your calendar for 2017 as Vermont is the hosts in Rutland for June 2, 3, and 4.

Another Americade in the books!! Thanks to all that came. Was great to see so many Red Knights with so many smiles on.

Had a great showing on Wednesday for the cannonball "rainacade" ride!! I think about a 100 bikes!!

Also another great showing for Thursday's chapter sales and dinner at the fire house. With about 230 knights!!

Then Saturday morning's parade was a tribute to Dave Hamilton had a super showing!! Even with the rain.

Thanks again for all the help with every thing to make Americade/ Rainacade a great event for our organization!!!

Also any idea or thoughts for next year please contact me at americade@redknightsmc.com

Bob Hollner,
RKMC Americade Liaison



The Red Knight 2016 Cannonball Ride at Americade with a stop at the Saratoga battlefield.

What is your chapter planning for 2017?

Drop a note to George or Bob and let their email updates be about something you are doing with your chapter.

Red Knights are always looking for a reason to ride, and supporting other Red Knight chapters is always a great idea!

Have you ever heard of the **On-site Academy?**

Over 4,000 emergency services workers have been served in this Critical Incident Stress center in northern Worcester County.

They ensure that there is no charge for those who need it, and nothing goes into your personnel file from their interactions with you when they offer their peer support and professional care.

If you know a firefighter, EMS, corrections or police officer that needs help. Call them.

1/3 of state funding was cut this year and they had to almost close their doors. This program is there to support us. Let's look to support them. Can you chapter afford a donation?

For more information visit <http://onsiteacademy.org>

Americade 2016



Those Red Knights that head to Americade each year go for many reasons. The rally itself, the vendors, the miles and miles of great roads, and of course, to see other Red Knights.

2016 was special because our friend and founder Dave Hamilton was remembered as his photo led the Americade parade on Saturday courtesy of Assistant State Rep Bob Binnall. Riding along with Bob was Mass-1 President Peter Stone with Dave's fire engine trailer and the Red Knight contingent of members.

There has been quite a bit of road construction over the last several years in the Adirondacks, so there were ample miles of good pavement to explore over the week. Tracy Road, Sacandaga Lake, Schroon River Road, Tongue Mountain, Lake Placid, Champlain Islands, Prospect Mountain, Ticonderoga, Whiteface Mountain, Routes 9, 9N, 9L, 86, 3 74, 73... and oh so many miles on great tarmac of anonymous roads.

There were lots of things to do when we were off the bikes as well. The vendors were set up at Warrensburg, and Americade's Tent City (Tour Expo) filled the parking lot at Beach Road. There were even stunt shows throughout the day you could catch while perusing all the vendors and "Dirt Daze" for times you think of being off the smooth tarmac.

The local NY Chapters welcomed over 200 Red Knights for the annual open house at the Lake George Fire Station, and as mentioned above, even under Saturday showers, the Americade parade was special for the Red Knights.

Look at your 2017 calendar and block some time off from work because the Yankee Rally runs the weekend before Americade opens. It is a great opportunity to say "I'll be back after all the fun I am going to have in Vermont and the Adirondack Mountains!"



YANKEE Rally 2017

June 2-4
Rutland, Vermont



The Holiday Inn of Rutland will be the Host Hotel for the 2017 **Yankee Rally** in Rutland, VT. Our Green Mountain hosts are in the process of planning a fun weekend of our Regional Rally — and we know from past experiences in Vermont, it will be well-attended and a great time.

It's the weekend just before Americade. So put in for that extra time off work now and plan to spend an extra long week with your Red Knight brethren in the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks.

Room Rates:

Single Room \$110 per room, per night plus 10% Vermont Rooms & Meals Tax*

Double Room \$129 per room, per night plus 10% Vermont Rooms & Meals Tax*

*Full American Breakfast Buffet daily included in the room rates.

(802) 775-1911

Visit www.facebook.com/Yankee-Rally-2017 for more up-to-date information!

Time to send in your chapter t-shirts to be used in the creation of the 2017 **Yankee Rally Quilt**. This quilt gets raffled off each year at the Yankee Rally, helping the hosts toward their donation to their selected charity. Please send your chapter t-shirts to:

Deb Landy
162 Railroad Street
Mechanicville, NY 12118

What about a Massachusetts State Picnic?

Many of us have ventured to our neighbors to the south and attended the annual RK Connecticut State Picnic along the shores of the Connecticut River.

It is always a nice ride down, and a great time with friends. They usually plan a group ride and then we sit under the pavilion and enjoy some hot dogs and hamburgers together. No need to plan for T-shirts or pins, or anything extravagant, just a fun day.

Any interest in hosting one ourselves? Does anyone have access to a pavilion and BBQ pit? Maybe a sportsman club? Nothing big and fancy, just to kick back with friends. Let the State Rep know if you have any ideas.

When was the last time you thought about your riding skills and abilities? Have you ever taken the Experienced Riders' Course through the MSF? There are a number of locations throughout our state that offer the training.

Thank you to Fred Leblanc on his comments after taking the course this spring.

Experienced Rider Course

I had the opportunity to attend the Experienced Rider safety course thanks [this spring]. The course is now called Basic Rider 2 – Skills Practice. Having ridden for over 20 years, and taken this course before, I wasn't sure how I was going to react. I must report that we all can afford to return to the basics and review procedures as much as possible. The course tested my skills and humbled me almost immediately. A series of skills test are administered throughout the morning class. From weaving around cones, avoiding obstacles, executing figure 8 turns, emergency stopping, braking in a corner, and handling corners for proper entry and exit. I found weaving around cones using only one hand was a little unnerving but managed to accomplish the task. Same with figure eights. Gained a few tips from the instructor and managed to move through it. After completing each task several times it was the moment of truth when we all had to be tested on each maneuver and graded. I can report that I passed as well as the other 9 students in the class with me. Of course being on a Goldwing I had the biggest bike on the course and I was the old guy that showed up. Once underway however we were all on the same playing field and learned from each other. I am glad I was able to attend. Now I know the areas that need some attention and others that I was OK with. In fact I got to use the skills almost immediately after leaving the class when heading north on Route 12. Seems a van a few cars lengths in front of me decided to stop unexpectedly in the road and I had to do a panic stop. The procedure worked perfectly and the two bikers who also just left the class behind me had to do the same. We all yelled to each other that the class just paid off and I would agree.

If anyone gets the chance to attend this course, whether you have been riding for years or just starting, you should take advantage of the opportunity. I even sent a copy of my certificate to my insurance agent and a week later found an endorsement on my policy giving me money back on certain coverages.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION — WISCONSIN DELLS, WI



The big news out of the 2016 convention in Wisconsin is that congratulations go out to Mass-4 member Spike Ostiguy on his winning the election for International Vice-president! Congratulations brother. And also congratulations to Jack Jarvis of NC 6 on his election as International Secretary and to Jason Collins as the Region-8 director for the newly formed Asia-Pacific region to representing members in Australia, New Zealand, and that area of the world.

There were 10 foreign delegates representing 8 countries. There were 66 delegates present at the meeting. We now have just over 400 chapters and 600 MALs. For the first time in the history of the club we did a simulcast of the meeting to Bagdad to a Florida Red Knight Stationed there.



A Red Knight visit to the Pierce manufacturing plant

The hosts had many things planned for those who traveled out to the Dells for our convention.

The BBQ was well attended and because of the weather, was held in the bay of the Lake Delton Fire Dept. Great food and great friends made for an enjoyable evening.

Friday was an escorted ride with over 120 bikes to the Wisconsin Firefighters Memorial — a very moving experience. In the evening it was the Tommy Bartlett Water show to which tickets were provided free by the hotel.

The Saturday Banquet was held at the Kalahari. The food and the service were great. Next door a firefighter and his bride were having their wedding reception. They came over to have pictures taken on the fire-truck in our banquet room. The groom admitted that would be his favorite wedding pictures. Great convention. Can't wait for next year.

2017 — Syracuse

The next convention (August 16-20, 2017) is at the Holiday Inn in Syracuse (Liverpool), NY. The northeast is the most densely populated region of the Red Knights and this will be a large gathering.

Rooms at the host hotel are filling up fast, so make sure that you get your reservations made soon. It is just a short 300 miles or so from Massachusetts. You can do it in a few hours, or plan a day that takes many miles and a good day's ride through the New York countryside to get there.

2017 will see the election of our Regional Rep as well as the International President and Treasurer. Make sure your chapter's voice is heard — and have a great time by attending the convention.

Convention Hotel

Holiday Inn Liverpool
441 Electronic Parkway
Liverpool, New York 13088
315-457-1122

www.staysyracuse.com

Guest room rate \$134.00

It is time to start collecting chapter shirts and chapter patches for the **2017 Convention Quilt Auction** for the Syracuse convention! Even Red Knight pins could be used once the quilt is done!

The quilt will be hand made locally in the Adirondacks of New York! It will be auctioned off during the banquet dinner at convention!

If you or your chapter is interested in donating items for the quilt please contact me for more information! The more shirts and patches, the the better the quilt will be!

We will need all donations by June 1st 2017. Additional reminders will come out as time goes on.

You can simply mail your donation to:

Eric Jock
99 Rabideau Street
Cadyville, New York 12918

Future Conventions:

2018 — Pittsburg, PA
2019 — New Hampshire | 2020 — France!