



The Spring 2013 State meeting is being hosted by Mass-15 in Boston on Saturday, May 11.
The Fall 2013 meeting will be hosted by RK Mass-4 in Charlton .

From the desk of the State Rep

Greetings all Massachusetts Red Knights.

This is the fourth edition of the Massachusetts State Red Knights Newsletter. One of the goals that Assistant State Rep. Bob Laford and I have is to ensure the flow of information throughout our state Red Knights. This newsletter is another avenue to share RKMC information — and this means of communication and others (including our underutilized web calendar) is at your disposal to share information about *your* chapter with others in Massachusetts.

As you are aware, 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. I never want to hear a chapter president tell me, "I did not know." So as you are aware, even when I was on the road for April, and then Bob was also on the road the end of April, we still kept filling your email boxes!

There were a few "political" issues involving our state and my position as your representative that needed clarification and resolution last year but we managed to make our way through them.

I did have a bit of a scare with the registry concerning our Red Knight license plates. The registry changed all their phone numbers and I lost contact with the person I deal with for our plates.

I went after a resolution from two angles. One, by asking a local police officer to make contact with the registry via the police angle and a second by sending off an email to the registry in general asking for a phone number. Believe it or not I actually got a reply from the registry and was able to move forward obtaining plates for two members.

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 and tirelessly work toward the betterment of all.

This year we have the opportunity to vote in the international elections via chapter email.

We have three people running for International President and three running for the position of Region 1 Director. Their stump positions and platforms are available here: <http://www.redknightsmc.com/yearlyboardcandidates.py>

In addition, every candidate can post on the Red Knights Forum as well as answer questions sent to them via email.

If you have a question you would like a candidate to expound on feel free to send them an email and ask that they post your question and their reply on the forum. If you can't find an address let me know and I will get it for you.

It is very important that every chapter president makes sure they have access to their chapter email account. That is the only way your chapter vote will be handled. Remember; one chapter, one vote. If you have a problem with your chapter email account please contact me.

Every chapter email account will be sent a ballot / URL. As a chapter, you should decide who you wish to vote for and have your president (or his designate) post that vote.

There will be no candidate voting on the floor of the convention!!

Both the International Red Knights President Dave Emery and our current 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. Don went on to say Massachusetts is the easiest state he has to work with within the region.

That is quite a feather in our cap and I would like to hear the same from the new people who are to be elected this year.

I take this opportunity to thank Dave and Don for their work. I have had the chance on more than one occasion to talk over problems with them and have found both of these gentlemen more than willing to help in any way they could. They will be missed.

Your Assistant State Representative, MA-2 President Bob Laford, and I will 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.

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

Regards to all,
George Colby

Group Riding: 17 Tips To Ensure Everybody Has A Great Day (From the AMA)

The engine purrs beneath you as a string of motorcycles snakes through the hills in front of you. With a quick look in the mirror, you see your buddy following close behind with a smile on his face that matches yours. The camaraderie forms because, at just this moment, you're all on the same page.

That's what a group ride is all about. It's an opportunity to share the open road and wonderful scenery with other like-minded people.

But like most motorcycle experiences, this one is best enjoyed by following a few simple guidelines that keep everyone safe.

1. The first thing you want to do is organize the ride. This can be as informal as standing around in a parking lot, or as formal as a special meeting to hand out maps and cellphone numbers.

2. Remember that riding in a group does not mean you surrender any decision-making when it comes to your safety. Ride your own ride, and don't go any faster than you feel comfortable going.

3. When picking your route and the stops you'll make along it, consider the stamina of the group, the experience of all the riders, and the limits of the motorcycles in the group. Remember, these are your friends. If it's going to be a long ride, be sure to take a few breaks along the way.

4. You'll need to communicate while on the ride, so make sure everyone knows the signals you'll use.

5. When creating your formation, it's wise to have your experienced riders at the lead and running sweep. Consider positioning the less-experienced riders immediately behind the leader. This allows the front rider to adjust the pace if necessary.

6. Ideally, the sweep rider will have a cellphone to call for help if a motorcycle is disabled, or if there has been an accident.

7. If the goal of the ride is to keep the group together, the leader should only go at the pace of the least-experienced rider.

8. While riding, don't fixate on the motorcycle in front of you. Instead, remember your basic training. Look well through the turn

to where you want to go.

9. If the group is riding faster than you are comfortable with, let the sweep rider know you're dropping out and ride at your own pace. So you may reach your destination a few seconds behind the others, but you will get there. Keep in mind, it's all about fun.

10. All riders are also responsible for making sure their motorcycles are mechanically up to the task. Before you even meet up with the group, make sure you've got plenty of fuel in the tank, and that you've taken care of all those maintenance issues. You really don't want to be the reason for stopping the group for something mechanical you could have prevented.

11. If it's going to be a large group, consider establishing a buddy system among the riders, or divide the group into smaller five- or seven-rider packs.

12. On the road, motorcyclists should have at least a 2-second cushion in front and behind them. If you want to keep the group tight, consider a staggered formation. Leave enough room per lane so each rider can maneuver side-to-side if need be. Avoid side-by-side formations as they shrink your space cushion.

13. Trikes and sidecars should stay in the center of the lane, and should be given the same amount of cushion as if they were a car.

14. As turns get sharper, or as visibility decreases, move back to a single file formation. You'll also want to use single file when entering or exiting a highway, at toll booths, or when roads have a rough or questionable surface.

15. At intersections where you've come to a stop, tighten the formation to side-by-side to take up less space. As the light turns green, or when traffic opens up, the bike on the left proceeds through the intersection first.

16. Remember we share the road with many other vehicles, and it's against the law to block an intersection.

17. When parking, try to get the group off the roadway as quickly as possible. If you can, arrange in advance to have pull-through parking at your destination, or at the very least, make sure there is ample parking for your size group.



**Come join us
for the New
England
Ride for Kids
on**



**Sunday,
August 18.**

Not headed to the RK Convention? Consider joining us at Tantasqua High School for this year's Ride for Kids to help raise funds for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

If you cannot come with us, please consider making a donation that other riders can bring on your behalf and that of the Red Knights.

Contact Bob Laford
if you would like to donate.

Here's a T-CLOCK pre-ride check list that you can print out and keep handy.

Bike	
Front tire condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air pressure (PSI)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rear tire condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air pressure (PSI)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front rim (Check spokes, dents, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rear rim (Check spokes, dents, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Throttle operation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clutch operation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Front brake	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rear brake	<input type="checkbox"/>
High beam	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low beam	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taillight	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brake light	<input type="checkbox"/>
Left and right turn signal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suspension condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suspension-Solo setting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suspension-Passenger/Luggage setting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kickstand	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chapter email address and 2013 Voting – The International Board has set up RKMC email addresses for each chapter under “redknightsmc.com” If your chapter has not accessed this account and set up your individual password then this needs to be done.

The electronic voting will be ONE chapter ONE vote, and the information and ballot will be distributed via this email address. If there are no contests for the positions that Massachusetts will be voting for, there will be NO ballots. For 2013, the positions that we are voting for are International President, International Treasurer, and Region 1 Director. (Don Moore has announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election as our Regional Rep)

Nominations for any position will be open until May 20.

Tour of Honor

Looking for something different to do for your ride planning this year? How about the **Wounded Warriors Tour of Honor**? The Tour of Honor is an effort to raise money for the Wounded Warriors project.

As of April 1, there will be memorials listed on their web page throughout 35 states. The most basic goal is to visit seven of them between April 1 and October 31.

(There are also other variations, including incorporating stops in an Iron Butt, or visiting all the memorials in a given region if you are ambitious!)

Completing the seven visits and filing your registration and your donation garners you a Tour of Honor T-shirt.

www.tourofhonor.com

New England Fire Chief's Show

June 21-23 In West Springfield

The RKMC will have an information booth at the Fire Chiefs Show.

Contact Steve Mickle for more information

Motorcycle Sound

One of the leading causes of prejudice against the motorcycle community is excessive motorcycle noise. We all like to hear the rumble of the bikes, but excessive noise disturbs the community at-large and risks our rights as riders.



There are specific regulations on the books already that limit the noise level of motorcycle exhaust, and even your annual RMV inspection is suppose to check the noise level of the bike to receive a sticker.

To help with rider education in regards to motorcycle noise, the American Motorcycle Association posted an available grant for sound testing kits to be made available to rider organizations.

Our Assistant State Rep wrote a proposal for the device to be made available to Massachusetts Red Knight chapter and available at our Annual Convention in Vermont.

If you have a chapter event that you would like to have these tools available for your chapter members to learn how their bikes comply with the regulation, contact Bob Laford to schedule the time.

If Bob is unable to attend your event he will work with you to train someone in your chapter on the use of the equipment. Part of the grant requirements is that statistics are kept and shared with the AMA on how the kit was used at the end of the riding season.

2013 Convention in Rutland
<http://motorcycle-vermont.com/>

The host hotel for the convention is already FULLY BOOKED. If you have not booked a room yet, a nearby alternative hotel that may still have rooms available is the

The Holiday Inn, our host hotel has "sold out"! Red Knights have booked all 150 rooms.

Other recommended hotels close by:

*Hampton Inn
47 Farrell Rd. (Next to Holiday Inn)
Rutland, VT 05701
Ph: 802-773-9066
www.rutlandhampton.com*

*When booking online or by phone use
Group Code RKM
Fitness Room, Indoor Pool*

*Comfort Inn
19 Allen St.
Rutland, VT 05701
Ph: 802-775-2200
www.comfortinn.com/hotel-rutland-vermont-VT400*

*When booking by phone use
Group Code RKM
Indoor Pool, Whirlpool.
Restaurant Adjacent*

*Camping Close By:
Iroquois Land Family Camping
2334 East Clarendon Rd.
N. Clarendon, VT 05759*

*Ph: 802-773-2832 Email:
camping@irocamp.com
www.irocamp.com
30 & 50 Amp Hook Ups,
Inground Pool, Tent Sites,
Trailer Sites, Pull Thru
Motorhome Sites*

National Ride to Work Day

Monday, June 17, 2013
www.ridetowork.org/

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.

Ride and Event Information:

Sunday, May 19. Newton, Mass community parade. More information to come out about time and place.

Saturday, June 22. **Vermont-2 Paul's Ride.** Our brothers to the north host a charity ride each year to buy gas cards for families providing transportation for cancer treatments. Registration at the Vernon, VT. Recreation Area, 607 Pond Road beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 21. **Mass 2's annual ride for Sherry's House.** All are welcome to join Mass-2 and "play some cards." At each stop the riders will participate in some "card games" to see who ends up with the best hand. Donations and proceeds of the *gambling* will be left off at "Sherry's House" in Worcester. Meet at the Shell Station at Route 2, Exit 16 in Orange at 9:00 a.m. Donations and donated gift cards will be collected for Sherry's House. (Sherry's house provides lodging to families whose child is undergoing cancer treatments at area hospitals).

Sunday, October 13. **Dummerston Apple Pie Festival.** Ride to Vermont to see what thousands of pieces of Apple Pie look like!



Going to be in Rutland for the convention in August? Make a mental note and get out on your bike early one morning for breakfast at the **Swiss Farm Inn**.

About 8 miles north of Killington on Route 100 (in Pittsfield) you will see a sign on the left that says "World's Best Breakfast." The sign does not lie — and you will have a GREAT breakfast with wonderful hosts, all for a surprisingly reasonable price. Then you can head in any direction for some fantastic Vermont Roads!.

Don't you think you belong in the Motorcycle Hall of Fame?

The AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame is OUR hall of fame as riders—and it exists because of the generosity of motorcyclists from around the county.



There is a new way to show your support in a very visible way:
My Hall of Fame.

The idea is simple, a \$20 donation gets you a 3-inch-square space on the wall in the Hall of Fame entrance foyer that hangs during the campaign year.

Want a bigger space? A 6-inch square is an \$80 donation and a 9-inch square is a \$180 donation. You also get an official certificate noting that your picture is on display at the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame.

Hand your picture, your kid's picture, your company logo, almost anything. It's up to you how you want to get into the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame!

Visit www.motorcyclemuseum.org/myhalloffame or call 800-342-5464 for more information.

Prepping for the 2013 Riding Season Go Ride—Safely

(Excerpts from the April edition of American Motorcyclist)

Now is the time of year when the snow has melted and motorcyclists are clearing the cobwebs off their bikes and preparing for a new riding season. The AMA would like to offer some tips to help riders get back on the road safely.

Pre-Season Prep. BODY: Holidays and bad weather invite laziness into our lives. Motorcycling is more physically demanding than driving a car, so prepare for the riding season by getting back into a fitness routine. **MIND:** Riding is more a skill of eyes and mind than of hands and feet. [One way] you can sharpen your mind is to rehearse riding scenarios in your mind. **MOTORCYCLE:** Clean and inspect your motorcycle from end to end and top to bottom.

Start of the Season. PRACTICE: Use an empty parking lot and practice a few maneuvers to reacquaint yourself with your bike and its handling characteristics. **FORMAL TRAINING:** Consider taking a formal skills course like the MSF Experienced Rider Course. **WEATHER AND ROADS:** Expect roadway damage and surface debris. On wet roads, increase your following distance. **RIDING STRATEGIES:** Ride as if you are invisible. Most two-vehicle motorcycle crashes occur when a car or truck driver violates the motorcyclist's right-of-way, usually at an intersection.

Visit www.msf-usa.org for more information

Knights of the Round Table 2013

This year's event is hosted by the Green Knights of Chapter 37, Joint-Base Charleston, SC and will be held at Short Stay Naval Recreation Area in Moncks Corner, SC

Join brother Red Knights along with Blue Knights and Green Knights for the festivities, competition, and camaraderie. Which family of "Knights" will be the winners this year?

October 17-20
Registration is open now!

A portion of the \$25 participation fee will go to the Wounded Warrior Project

Thu 17 Oct: 6-10pm Greetings and Sign-in

Fri 18 Oct: 9 am Rides in the local area
7pm Opening Ceremony
and Club Challenges

Costume Party – "Renaissance Festival"
(Songs, Stories, Skits, etc.)

Sat 19 Oct: 7:30am Escorted ride to
Patriots Point for photo
3pm Club Games
8pm Awards and Presentations
Closing Ceremony

Sun 20 Oct: 9am Blessing of the Bikes

Club challenges will be held on Friday:
Costume contest – Renaissance Fair Theme
(Knights, kings, queens, jesters, pirates, mermaids, wizards, witches, warlocks, mistresses, maidens, etc.). Be creative!
Can even be animated characters.
Entertain us with a song, story, or skit. Anything goes!

All participants, including civilians, may make lodging reservations at Short Stay beginning in Feb 2013. Almost ALL lodging on-site is reserved for the KRT event. 3 BR villas are fully furnished townhouses and will accommodate 3 couples. Cabins do not have a bathroom.

Friday there will be rides to honor the Charleston 9 Firefighters and a wreath presentation at 11am at the memorial site. Saturday morning ride will be a police escorted ride to Chas' Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum for a group photo. Photographer will be set up later at Short Stay for knights to have photos taken of them with their bikes, for a fee.

Massachusetts Riding

Out for a cruise around the Quabbin Reservoir this year? Stop at the New Salem General Store on Route 2 to say hello to Rick.

If you are sporting Red Knights regalia (vest, shirt, patches, etc.) the coffee is on Rick.



Help paint Americade RED!

Each year several hundred Red Knights are among the thousands of riders enjoying the Adirondacks and Lake George during Americade. Whether you are a "registered Americader" or someone who rides up for a few days to just be part of the Motorcycle Nation, Americade and Lake George is a great time for everyone.



This year, for the first time, Americade's TourExpo Beach, will open three days early. TourExpo Beach will now be open June 1-8, from Saturday through the following Saturday. That means many of the vendors will be in place at tent city for two weekends.

Plans for TourExpo also includes additional entertainment within the tradeshow, like stunt shows and musical entertainment.

The rest of Americade Week will proceed on the traditional schedule with demo rides, mini-tours, boat cruises, bike judging, seminars and all the other dozens of Americade activities starting on Tuesday and ending Saturday afternoon.



Specific to the Red Knights will be the annual open house at the Lake George Fire Station courtesy of our New York State Association hosts. This is a great place to meet up with Red Knight friends and to set up your chapter wares for sale or to see what other chapters are offering for RKMC paraphernalia.

Then the end of the week brings another piece of RKMC participation with the Americade parade. Donned with fire helmets and flags the parade is led through Lake George by the Red Knights — finishing with the Rotary BBQ and entertainment.