



Red Knights Motorcycle Club Massachusetts — Home of the Founders

Spring 2015
<http://massredknights.org/>

The Fall 2015 State meeting is being hosted by Mass-4.
The Spring 2016 meeting will be hosted by Mass-15.

From the desk of the State Rep

Greetings all Massachusetts Red Knights,

The ongoing “political” issues involving our state, and my position as your representative, quieted down last year and with the exception of the two by-law proposals submitted by us being “misplaced” a couple of times, remain quiet.

The International Board of Directors will be reviewing those two by-law proposals at their meeting in April. The proposals will be voted on during the business meeting at the convention in August. I ask that any chapter representative there vote in favor of them and lobby for them while you are at the convention.

Anyone who wishes to have a copy of our proposals should contact me.

In addition to maintaining my position as the Red Knights forum moderator, I was appointed to the position of chairman of the newly formed “International Communications Committee” by the International Board of Directors last fall. The committee is comprised of the Red Knights International Newsletter Editor, Help-A-Knight Coordinator, FaceBook manager, web site liaison and data management developer. The data management developer is working on a computer program that will enable Red Knights to access help from Red Knight members anywhere in the world. Much the same as the current HAK program but accessible via a smart phone.

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

March 21st, Norm and I were in Millinocket, Maine and met with the Maine chapters at their state meeting regarding their thoughts of forming a state association. After the meeting the chapters voted to maintain a “non association” state and run their business as we do.

Norm is not running for the Region-1 directorship this year. Matt Matera, NJ-31 president and NJ state association president is running for the position, and at this time is unopposed.

Bob and I, as well as a number of MA members have met with Matt and find him to be a good fit for the position. Matt and I have developed a good relationship and I feel that we shall work well together should he be elected.

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

This is the eighth edition of the Massachusetts newsletter and 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.

Assistant MA State Representative elections will take place at the 2015 fall meeting. Anyone who wishes to have their name placed in nomination should have their letter of intent and biography to me no later than September 1, 2015.

In closing, I thank you for your continued support and promise to maintain my dedication to this position, as well as all of you. I shall 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 season for bike riding is upon us. Be safe out there people and stay alert.

Regards to all,
MA-3 George Colby

Editor's note: Having done newsletters for my chapter for almost 20 years and ten years as “International Editor” this edition of the Massachusetts State Newsletter marks the 101st newsletter edition I have done for the RKMC!

The focus is on people, passion, and a plan.

I see it every day. From my office, I can see [riders] having a beer after a ride, talking with their family or friends and smiling.

It's not about horsepower or the paint job, or accessories. It's all about the experience.

The guy riding across the Golden Gate Bridge is having an experience. He's not thinking about the performance specs or engineering. He's riding.

[People ride] because it is tied to *the experience*.

*Chris McIntyre, President
Eagle Rider Rentals*

What is your **plan** to fuel your **passion** and hit the road for your 2015 **experience**?



Our State Rep's off-riding season transportation

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Chapter email address and 2015 Voting – The International Board has set up RKMC email addresses for each chapter under “redknightsmc.com” If you need assistance with your official chapter e-mail contact your state rep for guidance.

For 2015, the positions that we are voting for are Region-1 Director, International President and International Treasurer. Norm Beausoleil is not running for reelection and Matt Matera from New Jersey is candidate for election.

Nominations will close on May 17 and that is when we will know if any contests must be decided by electronic ballot.

With the first electronic election that we participated in — in 2013 — there were some Mass Chapters that did not cast ballots. This is the only way we can voice our opinions on our representation. When was the last time that your chapter email account was checked for in-coming messages from the International or others?

The position of Assistant State Rep for Massachusetts will be up for election/reelection at our fall state meeting. Anyone interested in running must have their letter of intent and bio into State Rep George Colby by September 1.

As we approach the end of 2014 I want to pass along a sincere thank you for your very generous donations to the Memorial Fund. \$3,615 was received this year in Steve Mickle's memory. We all lost a great friend and a very proud brother this year. His love for our club was very apparent in the generosity of chapters, individuals, and businesses he touched. The Boylston memorial is a very important part of our club. We are very grateful that Deb recognized this and included the memorial as a worthy cause. These donations will help ensure Don Parker and his crew can maintain the memorial as a place fellow Red Knights can take pride in as they pay respect to our brothers and sisters who have joined Heaven 1.

*Sincerely
Scott Ryan, International Treasurer
Red Knights Motorcycle Club*

**New England Fire Chief's Show
June 19-21 In West Springfield**

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

Contact Connecticut State Rep Dana Robertson for more information

What is this life if full of care
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep, or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this, if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

William Henry Davies

RKMC Steve's Day

Mass-2 is working on plans for a Red Knight Day to bring our members and families together to celebrate the memory of our friend Steve Mickle.

Please save **Saturday, August 29** on your calendar and more information will be forthcoming.



What's up in 2015?

What are you planning for 2015 with 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:

RED KNIGHTS MC - MASS 1 SPAGHETTI FEED!

All-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday, April 18th, 5:00-8:00 (17:00-20:00) at the Red Knight Memorial / Boylston Meeting House

General Admittance \$10 - Senior Citizen & Children \$7

Tickets available from Mass-1 members

The menu includes Fresh Salad, Spaghetti with or without meatballs, Bread and butter, Water, Coffee, and Lemonade. Desserts available will be Chocolate cookies and Brownies.

Saturday, June 20.

RK Vermont-2's Paul's Ride.

How about supporting a nearby chapter's efforts to help those with cancer. Mass-2 will be meeting at the 2/202 Shell in Orange at 8:00 a.m. and to head to southern Vermont.

Is it Spring Yet? Get Ready!

From Ken Condon's Riding in the Zone on-line column (March 2014)

March has passed, and thankfully, the sun is noticeably higher in the sky and the days are longer, which points to the inevitable spring thaw. This means that it's almost time to ride!

But, wait. Before you thumb the starter there are a few things you need to take a look at before your first ride of the season. The first step is to make sure your bike is ready to roll. Next up is the importance of getting your mental and physical skills in shape for the new season.

Bike Prep

Here's a quick list of pre-season maintenance tasks. Most of these things are covered in your owner's manual. If you do not feel comfortable tackling these projects, find an experienced friend to help you with any of these jobs that you can't do yourself.

Do these things:

- Charge your battery
- Check your air filter
- Check your tire pressures and condition
- Check your brake pads and fluid
- Check your lights
- Put a wrench to all fasteners
- Lube cables
- Check your drive system
- Change your oil and filter
- Wipe her down, Start her up!

Mental Maintenance

After you've taken care of the motorcycle, then the next thing to give some attention to is your mental and physical skills.

With all the anxious anticipation of the first ride of the season, it's easy to forget that motorcycling is a challenging endeavor that requires you to be on top of your game. Starting your riding season without considering the consequences of rusty skills could end your season prematurely.

If you're like me, you've probably been spending the winter months getting around town behind the wheel of a car. It's easy to become oblivious to motorcycle issues like visibility or road surface hazards when you've been off the bike for a while.

It's likely that you haven't been too concerned about being seen by others the way you are when riding your bike, because. Now is the time to get that mental radar fired up so you can deal with all the distracted and complacent drivers. Remember that drivers haven't seen bikes on the road for several months or weeks and won't be looking for you.

Also, you probably haven't been too concerned about road surface hazards, because most surface conditions are of little concern when you have four wheels beneath you.

Thawing Your Skills

Formal training courses are a great way to sharpen your skills.

Some riders begin their season by taking a refresher course with their local motorcycle-training program, which usually offer the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) suite of courses. Others take some time on their own to brush up on their emergency skills in a parking lot, but most simply take it easy until the cobwebs blow away.

Whether you choose to attend a formal rider course or go it alone, I recommend that every rider practice critical skills by performing some cornering and braking drills.

Skills are perishable, which means you have to keep practicing whenever you can. Not just at the beginning of the season!

2015 YANKEE RALLY

The first ever Region-1 Rally is almost year. Being hosted by our friends in NY-12, the Rally is being held in the Saratoga, NY area on May 29-31, in nearby Clifton Park, NY.

The host chapter has been busy with registration, events, and plans to make everyone's stay a fun time. Kudo's to them as their planning window was a small one and they have done a lot of ground work to make this a great event!

There are already over 200 Red Knights that are registered for the Rally. Many from Mass will be headed to Saratoga as a prelude to time in Lake George... making it a great extended motorcycle vacation!

Others from outside the Region, including Red Knights from Nova Scotia and Maryland are expected to be on site with us as well.

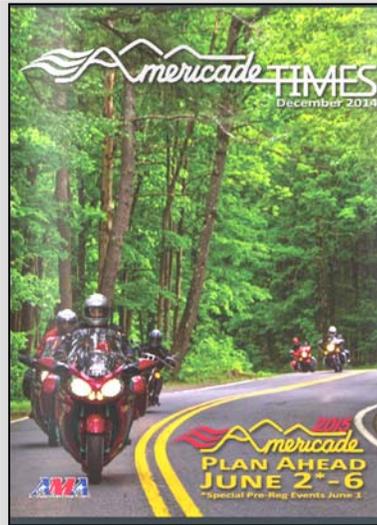
Chapters from throughout the region have donated T-shirts that are being made into a quilt that will be raffled off during the gathering.

A pig roast on Saturday and a farewell breakfast on Sunday are part of the package, as well as group rides and just time spent together on the grounds enjoying new and old friendships.

Keep up-to-date via the Yankee Rally Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/321226358053605/

Matt Mattera, candidate for Region-1 Rep will be on hand. This is a great opportunity for Massachusetts members to meet him and get to know his views on our club.

And... that other country of New Jersey will be the hosts of the 2016 Yankee Rally.



riders, and vendors, Americade and the Red Knights go hand-in-hand.

While in LG, don't forget to strap on your helmet and head for the hills. Some of the best riding you will ever find is just outside of the village limits as you roll into the Adirondack Park, one of the largest National Parks in America. Whether you are riding to Lake Placid, or the Adirondack "coast" along Lake Champlain, or the countless miles of mountain roads through the pristine forest, the Adirondacks is a gateway to endless outdoor recreation and enjoyable miles.

Along with the pre-Americade RK Rally, there will be another RKMC Ride on Wednesday, June 3, the open house at the Lake George FD on June 4, and as always a contingent of Red Knights will lead Saturday's parade... and YOU are invited!

There are many Red Knight members that make Lake George an annual trek, and a crowd of several hundred shows that at the LGFD. Our New York brethren do a great job in welcoming us onto Canada Street and beyond.

It does not matter if you have never been before, or this is your 33rd year at Americade — come join us!

Don't forget your Fire Helmet so you can be part of the RKMC team leading Saturday's parade!



Massachusetts Riding

Out for a cruise around the Quabbin Reservoir this year? Stop at the New Salem General Store on Route 202 to say hello to Rick.

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



Chapters from across the Red Knights inquire about visiting the memorial. If you are contacted by outside chapters that are planning rides into our area, please forward that information to the State Rep so the information can be passed on and we all can participate in welcoming fellow Knights to Massachusetts.



How many bikes does a biker really need?

If you are lucky enough to own a nice motorbike, no matter how nice, my guess is you've often daydreamed about one day owning another one ... and another ...

A while ago I was hanging out with a bunch of biking buddies when we got around to this exact subject. After much discussion and a few laughs we declared the answer to be one' for each day of the week, so here they are.

The Commuter Bike. This might be, or have been, your first bike. Every biker needs one of these. Cheap to buy and cheap to run, small and light, nippy through the traffic and so ordinary you can ride it around without also carrying an enormous padlock and chain.

The Classic. Maybe this is a 1940s Indian gifted to you by an old uncle, perhaps a Ducati you picked up cheaply as a "box of bits," or a 1960s Bonneville lovingly restored by a neighbor who needed the cash. It doesn't matter how you get your hands on one of these, hold onto it big time. Eventually it'll be worth more than your house, and by that time you might even have learned to start it with the first kick.

The Cafe Racer. You want to turn heads? If you do, and you can afford the insurance and are young enough to put up with the strain on your neck and wrists, then ride the street on one of these low-slung babies, but make sure the street isn't too long.

The Tourer. Maybe you've gotten sensible, or you have a significant other who wants to share the experience two-up. You need a big, comfortable, quiet tourer outfitted with a tank bag, a pair of huge panniers and lots of shiny accessories. A proper mile eater. Who knows when serious wanderlust will strike? You need one of these in your garage, ready to go, just in case.

The Off-Roader. Regular two-wheeled adventure not enough? You want to ride out into the forest, ford rivers and explore mountain tracks? You need one of those bouncy, compact, yet awesomely powerful machines that can go anywhere. In the right hands, they can scale cliffs, leap small buildings and jump over canyons.

The Ex-Military Sidecar Combination. OK, this is pretty far-fetched, but personally I'd love to own one of those ancient World War II camouflage-painted BMW twins with a shaft-driven sidecar. My outfit of choice would include a leather helmet, white silk scarf and flying goggles. I'd certainly remove the machine gun in the name of decency, and that would leave plenty of room for my German Shepherd, also looking cool wearing his own leather helmet and silk scarf.

The Track Bike. Oh boy, one of these beauties could be the stuff of anyone's dreams. Sleek as a wet porpoise, glossy as the front cover of this magazine, this bike is probably made by robots on another continent far, far away. It has a rear tire as wide as Wisconsin, sounds like an Atlas Rocket and is faster than a speeding bullet. Don't let the impossible purchase price and astronomical running costs put you off.

You are only dreaming.

Reprinted from Rider Magazine

Please Contact your Senators

Bipartisan Senate bill would ban federal funding for motorcycle-only checkpoints

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A bipartisan bill has been introduced by U.S. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) would prohibit the use of federal funds in establishing motorcycle-only checkpoints.

Specifically, the "Stop Motorcycle Checkpoint Funding Act" would restrict the Secretary of Transportation from granting funds to any government entity for a program to check helmet use or to create checkpoints for an operator of a motorcycle or a passenger on a motorcycle.

The American Motorcyclist Association and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation fully support the bill.

"Motorcycle-only checkpoints are discriminatory, forcing riders and their passengers to do something not asked of other citizens, simply because we choose to travel on two wheels, or three, instead of four," said Wayne Allard, AMA vice president for government relations. "The AMA believes the money used for these operations could be better spent supporting programs that conduct rider education, reduce distracted driving and encourage motorist awareness of motorcycles."

Motorcycle riders already are subject to state registration, inspection, licensing and helmet laws and must stop at sobriety check points like all other motorists.

The MRF and AMA have fought motorcycle-only checkpoints since the state of New York announced plans to set up 15 of them in 2008 to stop riders on their way summer motorcycling events. "Evidence suggests that motorcycle-only checkpoints do not effectively reduce motorcycle injuries or fatalities and do not address the factors that are the main contributors to motorcycle accidents," the senators wrote in a press release about the bill. "Accordingly, NHTSA does not list the practice in its own 2013 Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Offices, which details policies and activities that the agency considers effective at reducing crash injuries and fatalities."

States use funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to pay for the checkpoints, so federal legislation can halt the practice.

If passed, this federal bill will cut off NHTSA funding and ensure that riders across the country are safeguarded from these ineffective and discriminatory stops.

"Using motorcyclists tax dollars to discriminate and harass them with mandatory roadside checkpoints in the name of safety is offensive and just plain wrong. No one is more aware of the condition of the motorcycle than the person riding it," Hennie said.

"If the NHTSA truly is interested in motorcyclists' safety, it would fund proven programs that help prevent crashes, rather than these checkpoints," Allard said.

California, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Illinois, New Hampshire and Virginia have passed legislation curbing motorcycle-only checkpoints.



We have received correspondence from the members of NY-44 (Cooperstown area) that they are planning on an over-night road trip to see the RK Memorial on the weekend of July 11 & 12. Put it in your calendar and Massachusetts can be part of the contingent to give them a warm welcome to Boylston!

Motorcyclist fatalities/injuries decline in '13 Information from the AMA

PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says the number of motorcyclists killed in traffic crashes declined by 6.4 percent from 2012 to 2013, and the number injured dropped 5.4 percent, the American Motorcyclist Association reports.

In 2013, 4,668 motorcyclist fatalities were reported, down 318 from the 4,986 in 2012. Similarly, 88,000 "occupants" were reported to have been injured in motorcycle crashes in 2013, down from 93,000 the year before.

The NHTSA also reported that motor vehicle crash fatalities overall decreased by 3.1 percent in 2013 and injuries declined 2.1 percent.

"While one motorcycle fatality is one too many, we are pleased to see this number decline," said Rob Dingman, AMA president and CEO. "It also is good that motorcycle injuries and fatalities are falling at a greater rate than for motor vehicles overall. And we sincerely hope this trend continues."

One factor in the lower incidence of motorcycle crash fatalities was an 8.3 percent decrease in the number of motorcycle crashes in which the rider was impaired by alcohol, the NHTSA reported.

The NHTSA report also noted that there were 190 fewer fatalities in 2013 among motorcyclists aged 50 to 69 years. That decline represented 60 percent of the total decrease in motorcyclist fatalities.

"Motorcyclist safety is of utmost importance,"



At work we were watching a video of this stuff (NeverWet for Outdoor Fabrics) and thinking it would be good to treat our EMS bags. I picked up a bottle (\$14 at Home Depot) and sprayed the backs of an old pair of leather riding gloves. The

next day I put them on and held them under running water. Amazing. Repelled water and the backs of my hands remained dry. I did not treat the palms, so I flipped my hands over and the water soaked in.

Now it's time to treat the gloves I wear completely to see how it works for the riding season. No idea on how long treatment will last, but even if you have to retreat the gloves during the season, this is a great product for when you get caught in the rain!

(You can search for videos on how it works on YouTube)

Dingman said. "That is why the AMA is participating in the Motorcycle Crash Causation Study underway at Oklahoma State University. We hope that the information from this extensive examination of motorcycle crashes will lead to better strategies for making our roads safer for motorcyclists."

The Motorcycle Crash Causation Study is the first comprehensive examination since the 1981 Hurt Report on the factors contributing to motorcycle crashes in the United States.

When the project is completed in 2016, it will provide a large and unique data set derived from actual motorcycle crashes and riders with similar risk characteristics, with a focus on the unique circumstances that produce motorcycle crashes.

The Motorcycle Crash Causation Study will provide up-to-date information on the types of dangers modern motorcyclists face. The study is important, because it will provide new insights into which factors affect motorcyclist safety and how.

AMA members contributed money to help pay for the study, and the AMA encouraged states to redirect unused federal funds to the effort. Supporting the study are the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the states of Iowa, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin.

In an earlier newsletter there was an article about playing "What If" in your brain when you are riding to add safety to your ride through situational awareness and preparation. "What if" that kid's ball rolled out into the street, "What if" that dog ran out in front of me, "What if" that car turned left in front of me?

Funny, I never have thought, "What if" that Mig Fighter overhead loses a part of his aircraft?

Motorcyclist hit by parts from MiG-27 jet as pilot ejects safely

Riding a motorcycle requires constant vigilance of what's going on around you. At any moment, a car could pull out or change lanes, and without all of an automobile's safety features, bikers need to keep their head on a swivel. Although, one thing most riders aren't expecting is a military jet crashing into them. However, that happened to one very unlucky rider in Barmer, Rajasthan, India, recently.



Loon Singh was riding his motorcycle to a village to deliver wedding invitations when debris from a crashing MiG-27 hit him, according to India Today. Amazingly, Singh suffered just minor burns and a fractured hand, but only a flaming husk of his bike remained. The jet's pilot had already ejected to safety.

TRAVEL PLANS FOR 2015 I have been in many places, but I've never been in Kahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there.



National Ride to Work Day
Monday, June 15, 2015
www.ridetowork.org/

RKMC Memorial Spring Clean-up

Saturday, May 9 is the tentative date for the Spring Clean-up at the Memorial in Boylston. (Weather dependent!)

Details will be shared when the date is closer.



Our Texas hosts for the 2015 convention invite all chapters to purchase space in the convention ad book. The deadline for submitting your ad is June 1, 2015.

Ad Prices
Business Card.....\$25.00
Quarter Page.....\$50.00
Half Page.....\$75.00
Full Page.....\$150.00
Double Page.....\$250.00
Inside Cover.....\$300.00

The ad may be emailed to Debbie Cutbirth at debbie_cutbirth@yahoo.com.

Make checks payable to: Red Knights of Texas

Send payment to:
Red Knights of Texas
21020 Plaza Circle
Crosby, TX 77532

Let Debbie know if you have any questions.