



Red Knights Motorcycle Club Massachusetts — Home of the Founders

Spring 2018

From the desk of the State Rep

Greetings all Massachusetts Red Knights;

This is the fourteenth edition of the Massachusetts State Red Knights Newsletter.

Thank you editor in chief Bob Laford for all you do for the MA 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.

Relative to that, the position of MA State Rep. comes up for election at our 2018 fall meeting and I am taking this opportunity to notify all of you of my intention to run as YOUR Massachusetts State Representative again.

I was elected to this position October 16, 2010 and since that time have tried my best to keep the MA State Red Knights on top and I give you my word that my efforts shall not falter.

If one of you would care to run for this position you are most welcome to submit your intention and biography to MA Assistant State Rep. Bob Binnall by email. bbaudiovs@gmail.com

The MA State Red Knights continue to be the benchmark for state Red Knight organizations.

We have been called “the ideal state organization within the Red Knights” by more than one International President and three Region-1 Directors so we must be doing something right.

At the international convention last year, MA-15 / Bob Binnall won the vote and will be hosting the 2019 Yankee Rally. You are all asked to help support this effort so please keep that in mind. If everyone does a little no one will be overwhelmed.

I pledge my continued support to you people as YOUR Massachusetts State Representative for as long as you will have me or I am able to continue. Whichever comes first.

The 2018 riding season is upon us. Be safe out there brothers and sisters.

Regards to all,
MA-3 George Colby

Memorial Hall Dedication



It was a perfect day as scores of Red Knights descended upon Boylston for the re-dedication of our Memorial Park and dedication of our Memorial Hall.

The official count was that 343 Red Knights were on hand, with about 160 riding in to the ceremony. Over

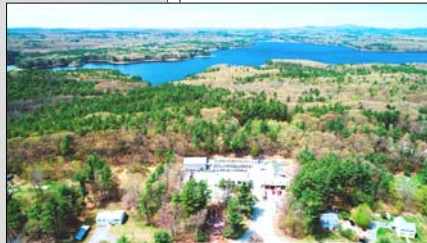
250 had traveled a distance and were staying in nearby hotels and elsewhere as guests of brother and sister Red Knights. It was truly an international event with all regions represented.

All those past members listed on our rolls at the memorial were with us, taking their place, and

helping us with the perfect weather.

Members of the Boylston Selectboard, our banker, realtor and lawyer, along with other non-RK guest who helped secure this day were on hand as well. It was a memorable day.

As President Chris Gadway said as you entered Memorial Hall, “Welcome Home.”



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Chapter email address and 2018 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 2018, the positions that we are voting for in Massachusetts are International Vice-president and International Secretary.

Nominations will close on May 20 and that is when we will know if any contests must be decided by electronic ballot for our chapters.

If you are an Active Member of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club, who have previously served a Chapter or Association as President or Vice President or as a State or Provincial Representative for a minimum of one term, you may serve on the International Executive Board.

To be placed on the ballot a qualified member must be nominated by the President or Vice President of two Chapters. A Member-at-Large may be nominated for any position on the International Executive Board having received a majority vote of the International Executive Board.

If you, or the person whom you are nominating, suit the requirements for nomination, you may fill out this form. The Nominee must complete the Nomination Profile prior to close of nominations and provide a photo. Form more information, refer to the International webpage at www.redknightsmc.com/electionInformation.htm

We know that there were some Mass Chapters that did not cast ballots in the most recent election that was held requiring Mass chapters to vote. Voting 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 State Rep for Massachusetts will be up for election/re-election at our fall state meeting. Anyone interested in running must have their letter of intent and bio in to Assistant State Rep Bob Binnall by August 31.

Other dates affiliated with the 2018 voting:

- Incumbents Intent 180 Days prior to convention by Feb. 19th
- Nominations Closed 90 Days prior to convention by May 20st
- Chapters Start Vote 60 Days prior to convention on June 19th
- Voting Closed 30 Days prior to convention on July 21st
- Vote Results Announced at Convention August 18th

Chapter preparation for voting:

- Chapters must be in Good Standing
 - * Dues current
 - * Roster up-to date
 - * Signed TMLA Agreement
- Members at Large must be in Good Standing
 - * Dues current
 - * Active email address provided prior to the closing of nominations
- Notification via Chapter RKMC Email Address
 - * One Chapter – One Vote!
(A simple majority of the individual MAL ballots cast will determine the candidate receiving the MAL vote to be cast with Chapter votes)
 - * Keep your password to RKMC email confidential – change it if necessary
 - * MAL’s will receive individual ballot via email
- Know the timeline
 - * Posted on International Webpage & above in this publication
- Review Nominee Profiles on line at International Webpage
- Ballot sent to Chapter email address and to individual MAL’s.
- Select Candidate
- Submit
- Print receipt confirming vote

Dates to remember:

- 2019 Convention (NH White Mountains)
- 2020 Convention (France)
- 2021 New Brunswick, Canada
- 2022 Johnstown, PA

Supporting the 2018 RKMC Convention

Whether you are planning to attend this year’s convention in Pennsylvania or not, consider being a part of it by supporting the planning committee by purchasing a chapter or personal sponsor ad in the Convention Program.

Having been involved in the planning and operation of several conventions in the past, Mass members know how much effort (and costs) go into a successful convention. All left over proceeds are donated on behalf of the Red Knights to a charity supported by the planning group.

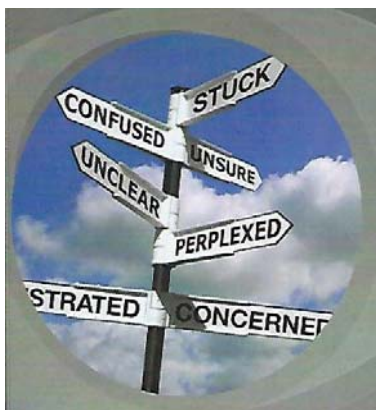
Ad prices are:

Full Page — \$100
Half Page — \$75
Quarter Page — \$50
Business Card — \$25

Contact Mail@RedKnights.org for more information.

The convention hosts are making a king size quilt for convention, please send shirts, flags and patches for the quilt to:

Please send to Trudy Rutkowski
2305 Lutz Ave.
Pittsburgh Pa 15210



Feeling out-of-sorts?

That is your body telling you it's time to go out and throw a leg over the saddle and go for a ride!



Do not forget to get your annual inspection completed before your 2017 sticker expires the end of May.

(Excerpt from the November issue of the AMA's American Motorcyclists magazine "Long Distance Riding Tips")

FOOD

Do not neglect your nutrition and hydration [when out riding].

Eating bad road food full of empty carbs, grease and sugar is really tough on your body, especially if these aren't in your normal diet. Heavy meals leave you tired and probably looking to caffeine or sugar to perk up, which leads to an inevitable (sugar) crash.

Relying on gas station food you will be simply chasing off one sugar crash after the next, which makes it difficult to listen to your body's actual fatigue cues.

It takes a little planning but bringing some healthy snacks to eat on the road can really help you feel better and maintain steady energy throughout your ride.

On shorter rides nutrition likely won't be a show stopped, but hydration will.

It's a critical element of a successful ride, but easy to overlook until you're dangerously dehydrated, so plan for how you will handle hydration on your ride.

It can be as simple as drinking a bottle of water at every gas stop or wearing a hydration pack. However you handle it, drink lots of water and avoid caffeinated or sugary drinks.

2018 RKMC International Convention – Pittsburgh, PA

PA Chapter 8 and surrounding Chapters, along with Region 3 Director Tim Reinard wish to welcome everyone to the Pittsburgh area where all the action will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton, August 16-18, for this year's International Convention!

Some of the planned itinerary includes:

- Self-Guided Sight Seeing with Suggestions & Addresses
- With over 200 fire stations (Self-guided with addresses provided) in the home county alone, a RK rider can venture into the country side for Rocker Rides to earn Grand Tour rockers for "Red Knight," "Fire House," "Grand Tour" and "Twelve Station"
- Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise
- Pool Party with Entertainment at the Hotel
- Flight 93 Memorial Ride to Shanksville with Wreath Laying by PA Chapter 13 Honor Guard
- Chapter and Outside Vendors
- Convention Barbeque Dinner
- Convention Banquet
- Farewell Breakfast

Bike rentals are available from
EagleRider Rentals of Pittsburgh.
(800) 979-3769
www.eagleriderpittsburgh.com/

The Green Tree area is just minutes from downtown — and exploring beyond the RKMC itinerary offers much to the visitor as well! And that does not even begin to cover the fun that Red Knights make for themselves with all of us together!

Convention Scavenger Hunt Winner receives a Free Night at the Host Hotel!

Dig through your convention bag when you arrive (the first part of the Scavenger Hunt). Instructions with hunting clues with pictures and places throughout the city will be included. Along with the free night, there are two mystery prizes that will be announced later.

Please Contact the Host Hotel – DoubleTree in Pittsburgh (Green Tree location) for your Room Reservation, Secured for only \$125/per night.
DoubleTree by Hilton, 500 Mansfield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(412) 922-8400 | (FAX 412-922-7854)

THE RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL REQUESTS THAT ALL RED KNIGHT MEMBERS CARRY THIS IN THEIR LEFT SADDLEBAG OR IN THE FRONT TOOL BAG SO THAT ALL RKMC MEMBERS WILL KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR IT IN AN EMERGENCY.

Red Knights Emergency Information Form

Rider Information

Name:		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
Date Of Birth:	Blood Type:	
Known Medical Allergies:		
Known Medical Conditions:		
Vehicle Insurance:		
Phone:	Policy #:	
Road Side Assistance Company:		
Phone:	Policy #:	
Health Insurance:		
Phone:	Policy #:	

Emergency Contact Information

Name:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:

Passenger Information

Name:		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
Date Of Birth:	Blood Type:	
Known Medical Allergies:		
Known Medical Conditions:		
Health Insurance:		
Phone:	Policy #:	

Emergency Contact Information

Name:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:

2018 YANKEE RALLY

Region-1 boast the most RK members — and that makes sense because we were where the Red Knights were born. If The Yankee Rallies have quickly become one of the largest attended regional rallies within the RKMC.

We are back in New York for another visit with Region-1 family — and others from outside the Region on June 1-3. The host hotel is Best Western — 518-371-1811 (\$99 per night if you tell them you are with the Red Knights.

Always a family event, this year's Yankee Rally includes Friday night "gathering under the tent," Saturday group ride and a Pig Roast and Sunday's Farewell Breakfast.

There are other nearby hotels as the host hotel is expected to be at overflow. There is also camping options in the area as well.

Any questions, please contact: rkmcyankee2018@gmail.com

Mass-15 has taken on the challenge to be the lead point for planning a Massachusetts-based Yankee Rally in 2019. Help and ideas from all chapters will be welcomed and appreciated.

Current plans are for multiple rides throughout our picturesque area, a skills competition and other staples that make Red Knight events memorable.

A few centrally located hotels are in consideration as the host. The planning team's intentions will be made known around this year's Yankee Rally. Stay tuned for more details.

We are in the emergency services business, but do we practice what we preach when it comes to "Best Practices" for our own personal preparedness?

One small way to add to the level of our own preparedness is by riding with an Emergency Information Form. Available in the "Downloadable" section of the RKMC Webpage, the RK Emergency Information Form gives basic information to responders and those that you ride with in case you become unable to respond.

Print-out, Fill-out and stow away this form, and ask others in your chapter if they have their form stowed away. We can't always be the rescuers — there may be times when we are the ones that need help too!

GEAR GEEK FAQ

from www.Revzilla.com

What does the shape of a helmet mean and how do I pick?

Human heads are weird, they don't always fit neatly into categories. The three (unscientific) types are long-oval (narrow), intermediate oval (in the middle/most common), round oval (wide).

How snugly should my helmet fit?

Annoyingly (but not painfully) tight. If a helmet feels nice and comfy when you take it out of the box, it's too big. Wear it while watching your favorite TV show. If you don't get a headache, chances are it's fine.

How do I wear a helmet with my glasses?

Getting a pair of glasses that work with your helmet is better than getting a helmet to work with your glasses. You do it for other sports, don't you?

What's the difference between SNELL vs ECE ratings?

SNELL is made for racing, it handles high speed impact best. ECE is more street friendly, it'll protect your noggin from multiple lower-speed impacts. Which one should you get? Tell us how you ride and we'll help you decide.



Americade is thrilled to partner with the Ride for Kids as the Americade Parade morphs into a large-scale fundraiser for children with pediatric brain tumors.

We know that many Red Knights annually participate in leading the Americade Parade (they retired the "largest contingent" award because we won it so many times), and there are Red Knights around the country that

participate in Ride for Kids events each year as well. Now you can do both at the same time! The Saturday parade is now a Ride for Kids event!

Enjoy a light breakfast at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls followed by a scenic, hour-long, police-escorted ride through Glens Falls to beautiful Lake George. The ride ends at the "Party on the Pier," where you'll be treated to a delicious lunch and entertainment as well as VIP Parking in Lake George.

AND the Red Knights have been asked to lead this very special inaugural ride! When? Saturday, June 9, 2018 with registration between 8-9:30 a.m. (I imagine the RK will come in together as we have done for the parade). Pre-registration preferred, but walk-ups welcome. Pre-registration guarantees lunch at the pier.

For those of you who normally pre-register for all the Americade festivities, Bob Holiner, the RK Americade Liaison, says "when registering, go to the RedKnights group and under code put "VIP." There is no charge for Red Knights who preregister this way.

During the open house at the Lake George FD on Thursday, there will be further information and also a chance for any and all to make a donation towards the Ride for Kids and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (whether you can make the ride or not). All those funds will be collected at the LGFD will be donated on behalf of the Red Knights!

Americade Founders, the Dutchers, are also making a pledge to donate \$5 to the PBTFUS for each bike that participates in the Americade Ride For Kids!

If you have any questions, reach out to Bob Holiner of RK NY -12 at americade@redknightsmc.com

Congratulations to our new International Quartermaster, Don Moore of Vermont-3. Don has served as a charter member of his Chapter, State Rep for Vermont, and Region-1 Rep for the International.

We are pleased to have him as a near-by resource to us and all wish him well in this undertaking!

Red Knights Connecticut State Picnic

Our RKMC family in Connecticut has again invited us to their State Picnic along the shores of the Connecticut River in Portland, CT.

Sunday, August 5 is the date. They will have a pre-cookout ride planned for 10:30 with lunch served at noon.

Always a great time, mark your calendars and join our CT friends for a great afternoon.



www.americade.com

Americade is as close to motorcycle paradise as you can get!

That quote appears in the Americade Times that came out a few months ago, and as we look forward to 2018, we can look back at the past 35 Americade celebrations and realize that the Red Knights and Americade have grown up together. Each year the streets and the events in Lake George have significant "Red" in them, and there is a good reason for that.

Americade and the Red Knights turned 35 in 2017 and both entities consistently focus on the love of riding and been committed to positive motorcycling, quality events, and a family friendly atmosphere.

2018 will be no different in Lake George! Plan ahead for June 4-9 (Just after the Yankee Rally and in the same neighborhood) and mark your calendars for the best motorcycle vacation destination there is!

Whether you want to get alone for some miles by yourself in the Adirondacks or follow a group or a self-guided ride, there are more miles to explore than you can ever cover in a lifetime.

More manufacturers come to Lake George and offer test rides than any other rally in the country! Need something for your bike? You'll find it at Tour Expo along with seminars at "Americade University" or enjoy the nationally recognized speakers when they take the stage.

Boat cruises, sponsored dinners, stunt shows and comedy shows, along with daily door prizes are available to attendees as well.

You can keep yourself as busy as you like, or park the bike and take a chair with your feet up, lake side. It is all up to you how you will best enjoy the week's events. Does not matter how, just come join us!

Some of the Red Knight planned events include:

- **Wednesday Red Knight ride** hosted by our New York hosts.
- **RKMC Open House and Meeting—Thursday, June 7.** Open House will be from 3pm-6pm on Americade Thursday. Come join several hundred of your Red Knights family courtesy of our NY hosts.).
- **Saturday's Americade Ride-for-Kids with the Red Knights honored to lead.** Join us as the Red Knights lead the roar of bikes that will wind through the views and vistas from Glens Falls to Lake George Village, supporting the efforts of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the U.S.

National Ride to Work Day Monday, June 18, 2018 www.ridetowork.org/

My favorite day of the year is not Christmas, not my birthday, not Halloween but Ride to Work day. Every year I hope that there will be several million fewer cars on the roads that day. I can list all the advantages of riding your motorcycle to the office or the factor, from changing your dreary commute to a pleasure trip, being able to park close to the entrance, bonding with your bike, dazzling your co-workers with the beauty of your machine, and, best of all, leaving our colleagues behind in the traffic jam when you all head for home.

We motorcyclists consume a lot less gas than the average sedan or pickup, and our light weight means we have virtually no effect of the roadways or bridges. And we can put four bikes in a parking slot intended for one car. Motorcycles are environmentally friendly. Ride your to work and tell your riding buddies to do the same
-from Rider Magazine

2 Wheels Driving the Economy

A landmark study by the U.S. Department of Commerce states that outdoor recreation contributed \$373.7 billion to the nation's Gross Domestic Product in 2016, accounting for 2 percent of the nation's GDP. Released in February, the study indicates that outdoor recreation's contribution is larger than mining and the extraction of oil and gas.

Motorized vehicles — including motorcycles and ATVs — accounted for \$59.4 billion of the output, with recreation vehicles accounting for \$30 billion of that total.

Boating and fishing came in second at \$38.2 billion. Hunting, shooting and trapping accounted for \$15.4 billion. The equestrian industry accounted for about \$12 billion. And backpacking, climbing and other activities made up \$10 billion.

Go support
the economy
Get out and
RIDE!



Looking to book some 2-Wheeled travel to the upper mid-west this year?

How about the Red Knight Western Regional Rally in Minnesota? June 21-24 is the date and Minnesota Red Knights are planning a great and unforgettable weekend that you will not want to miss.

Visit www.bigsandyldodgeandresort.com check out the facilities (All reservations will be on a first come - first serve basis). The "Rally Fee" of \$70 per person that will include dinner for Friday and Saturday evenings, breakfast on Sunday morning, a gift bag and other goodies.

A bunch of fun events, activities, organized rides and self-guided adventures are in the planning for the weekend.

Big Sandy has a full bar, restaurant and lots of summer activities on site. www.bigsandyldodgeandresort.com

Contact Joel "Hambone" Nelson (612-919-0791) -
joelshari67@gmail.com for more information.

Take a step back into history and put the New England Motorcycle Museum on your ride "to do" list this year!

After more than five years and over five million dollars in investments the owner of the New England Motorcycle Museum housed in the old mill building in Rockville, Connecticut had it's grand opening in April.

The Museum is one of the largest Brownfield projects in CT, known as the Restoration of the Hockanum Mill and is billed as the largest Motorcycle Museum on the East Coast. Visitors will find a vintage motorcycle restaurant, micro brewery, outdoor mini-bike track, showroom, cycle shop, campground, and live music.

The New England Motorcycle Museum's goal is to preserve and present their passion, through a unique world class exhibit built from a fine collection of motorcycles and historical objects from around the world. The 11 acre lot holds 10 buildings totaling over 150,000 square feet of indoor space; Visitors will find a world class exhibit with a diverse collection of over 100 vintage motorcycles and memorabilia, a motorcycle library, and the beautifully restored Hockanum Mill.





Greetings all:

As was discussed at the past several state meetings, plans have been arranged for a MA State Red Knights 2018 cruise from Boston to Bermuda on September 7-14, 2018.

Currently there are 8 Mass Red Knight couples with reservations made for the cruise. It was decided that the cruise will now be open to other Red Knights and friends and family.

The (fully-refundable) booking rate is \$250 per couple (but that is routinely dropped to \$50 per person at the end of each month. If you decide to cancel, you will receive your deposit back as long as you cancel no later than June 9, 2018.

For more information and if you have ANY questions about this your contact is our State Rep's first lady, Sandi. (She is spearheading this event).

Cell: 617-823-0062 (leave a message if no answer)

The flyer for this event is included in this newsletter.

Email: sjcolby@yahoo.com



How to be a good riding buddy

(From Revzilla's Common Thread)

Being' a good riding buddy ain't easy, but it's worth doing. Getting along [with the buddies you ride with] is not accidental; keeping everyone around you happy is a constant task. Here's some things you can do to be a good ride pal (and qualities you may want to look for in others.)



Be cool. Forget sunglasses or having lots of Instagram followers. Just chill out. Riding a motorcycle is supposed to be fun. If you break down, so what? If you miss your turn, maybe you'll find a place you'd rather be instead. Freaking out over things that are often well outside your control is literally no help at all. My friends have waited on me while I fixed bikes roadside, shared beers when I limped into camp, and puzzled out where the hell we were on the side of some gravel goat path. Don't forget that you're in the middle of a great story you'll tell for years.

Ride the same ride. We've all heard someone say, "Ride your own ride!" That's worthwhile advice, but when you're riding with someone, being on the same page is critical. You have to want to ride the same amount of miles at the same aggression level. You have to know if you're sleeping in a hotel or in the dirt. Are you gonna get Red Bull and peanut butter crackers at the gas station, or are you having a sit-down lunch?" This might be the most important tip in the article. Finding a like-minded riding pal prevents irking.

Another important point to cover is fuel stops. Even if you can burn 300 miles on a tank, if your buddy's peanut tank only gets 70 miles before he's running on sailboat fuel, guess what? You're not going 300 miles between fuel stops.

Watch out. Just as you watch your own six, look out for your buddy. My good friend Nate has pulled up alongside me plenty and motioned at me to follow him, only to pull up to a gas station where he informed me I was riding inconsistently and needed to treat myself to a Red Bull. Return the favor when possible.

Be predictable. Not everyone I ride with is a road angel, but I know without a doubt how they'll react to a given situation. It's not so much that they're super-skilled as they're a sure bet. I know what to expect with each of my friends, simply because they are reliable and measured in their actions.

Buy fuel. Multiple bikes can easily stack up at a fuel pump. Play Big Spender and buy your friends a round. (They'll appreciate it and get you back later, and you'll all save time.)

Wait at turns. I don't care how many riders you are with, how well you know the road, who has a GPS, or how short a hop it is. Hang back. Travel until you have to do something other than simply go straight. Not everyone has a smartphone or a map, and if someone breaks down, it's liable to be a long walk or push.

The best reason, though, is because you're supposed to be watching your buddy's back. If your pal drops off, pull over.

Help. Do you know how to plug a tire? Does your phone still have a few bars? Does your saddlebag still have some room for that night's beer? Just like in real life, life on the road is easier with some assistance. If you can do something nice when someone else is in need, it's often repaid when your buddy is in a better spot than you are. Having different skills, different spares, and different snacks in your bag and being willing to share all of them goes a long way.

Clear your calendar. The guys I ride with most often are the ones most willing to drop everything, pack a bike, and roll. Friendships take work and effort, they don't just happen. Find the time.

Ride motorcycles. Eat Gummi Bears. Have fun. Be the riding buddy you want to ride with.

Spring 2018 State Meeting

Over forty members were on hand for the Spring 2018 State Meeting in Boylston. Much of the morning's discussion was on the preparations for the Memorial Hall dedication. Peter Stone and Spike Ostiguy, members of the Memorial Board expressed his thanks to all who have donated towards and worked to prepare the Memorial Hall for the dedication and subsequent occupancy by the Red Knights.

The Red Knights International board held their first meeting at Memorial Hall just prior to the dedication. The facility will become available to chapters and traveling Red Knights on May 11, 2018.

The land transfer between the town of Boylston and the RKMC is moving along. A fall town meeting approved the transfer unanimously and the bill for the legislature's approval has moved through the House and is waiting Senate approval. By the time this newsletter is complete, that legal action may be finished.

If you have not received the detailed minutes of the Spring Meeting and would like to review them, contact your Chapter Executive.



A 9-11 remembrance painting that was given to the Red Knights by the Governor of Vermont was presented to members of the Memorial Board by Ed and Peg Brouillet. The painting will be on display in the Red Knight Memorial Hall

The Fall 2018 meeting is being hosted by Mass-4, in Ware
Any chapter wishing to host the Spring 2019 meeting, contact State Rep George Colby

Massachusetts Cape Cod Weekend

Mass Chapter 8 is currently working up details to host the Red Knights for a weekend excursion to the Cape later into September.

Last year's rejuvenation of the Cape Cod Weekend was a great success and we all look forward to returning again in 2018.

Keep a lookout for details soon to be in your email box from the State Rep.



What's up in 2018?

What are you planning for 2018 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.

If you have rides and events that you want other chapters to know about get the information to State Rep Colby (who is also the International's Communications Chairman) so he can use his vast collection of email addresses to get the information out to other Red Knights or post information on the Region-1 Facebook Page, International pages, and beyond!

RK Vermont-2's Paul's Ride

Saturday, June 17.

Ride begins at the Vernon Community Center, 607 Pond Road, Vernon, VT

Registration opens at 9 a.m.

Proceeds buy gas cards to help those undergoing Cancer treatments. The ride is in memory of VT-2 Dave Emery's brother Paul.

From the International Board:

Updating rosters has become a problem. In 2017, nearly 1 out of 5 of the members who passed away last year were not on the International Roster when they passed away. All were honored. This leads us to believe that possibly 1 out of 5 "members" are not actually members of the Red Knights; this would be a person joining a chapter but the chapter not sending in their information as required by the ByLaws.

The board has now adopted a practice and Chapters were informed last fall. All chapters must submit an email to the Treasurer quarterly with any or no roster changes. This is a quick and simple process. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Director or the Treasurer for clarification.

Failure to submit rosters quarterly may result in the Chapter not being able to order merchandise, not being able to vote amongst other negative actions.

Please update your rosters and check your Red Knights Chapter email accounts regularly.

We all lost a special friend when Mass-4 Charter Member Rich Powers passed away earlier this year. The members of the Powers family and the members of Mass-4 shared their thanks to all who reached out and offered support and condolences at Rich's passing.

Practice Always A good habit to get into as a rider, not only during the early part of the season but throughout the riding year is some parking lot practice. Alone or with others, time spent maneuvering some basic skills in a slow speed and controlled environment will help each of us become better riders.

In addition to the parking lot workouts, the below “Big Five” practice checklist focuses on the most important things that we all need to continue to practice each and every ride, with or without a passenger. (Just like lawyers and doctors, we are *practicing*” motorcyclists because we will never be perfect riders!

1. Eyes: Scan what is behind you (using mirrors), to the sides and in front of you, constantly looking for potential hazards.

Target fixation can be deadly, so practice avoiding it in turns or on straights by visually selecting something on the road (debris, dark/light patches, etc.) and immediately looking farther down the road. The brain retains a short-term map of what was just seen and the rider then guides the bike around the imagined hazard. With enough practice, you don’t even have to think about it, and your reactions kick in to steer you away from trouble.

2. Trail Braking: Aside from “Eyes” practice trail braking more often than anything else. Sometimes delaying your braking can be a useful tool, but it needs practice. Trail braking is a technique that is done by continuing to brake beyond the turn-in point. You then gradually “trail” off the brakes as you lean until there is no brake pressure by the time you are at full lean.

3. Emergency braking: You may go years without needing to make an emergency stop, but if you practice regularly and especially when you change bikes, you should be prepared for that day. Every biker knows that the surest way to fall off is with a front wheel skid from too much front brake. Practicing emergency braking techniques that maximizing braking force (with both wheels) helps you determine what is that point that the front wheel loses traction and locks up.

4. Body position: Watch professional riders set up their next turn. First, their rear ends shift off the seat in the new direction they will be going. Next, their heads lean toward that same direction to utilize body weight for steering. Having a turn already set up like this helps avoid big trouble while enhancing the experience of cornering.

5. Rolling on and off the throttle: While practicing, first, triple check that no vehicles are behind me. Next, put the bike in first gear and get to a pretty good clip so the torque is instant and pronounced. Then work on speeding up and slowing down smoothly. In emergency situations, the best outcomes are usually a result of the body immediately reacting to correct techniques that have been practiced ad nauseam. I need more work on this.

When you start feeling complacent and confident that’s when you’re most vulnerable to crashes and injury and we all need to go back to the basics often to ward off that complacency! So, every time you swing a leg over the bike, consider yourself a beginner. And beginners can always justify another ride to practice essential skills and techniques while enjoying the your next ride.

Earning your Stork Pin on wheels. Most, if not all, of us look to our bikes with special affection, but not necessarily an urgent life-or-death commodity in our lives, other than assisting with our mental health.

In the Punjab province in northern India, however, they have instituted a project to use “Motorcycle Ambulances” in an effort to combat childbirth mortality in the rural areas. That is one challenging way for an EMT to earn their stork pin!

The circumstances of the death of a woman from Kasur in Lahore’s Jinnah Hospital have resulted in efforts by the Punjab chief minister to improve ambulance response times. Narrow streets and traffic had made it difficult for regular ambulances to reach the patients quickly. Hence the provincial government came up with an innovative idea: motorcycle ambulances to be operated by the Punjab Emergency Service. Comprising a fleet of 900 motorbikes and trained paramedics, these two-wheeler ambulances are equipped with first-aid kits, burn kits, automated external defibrillators and other vital life-saving equipment to deal with emergencies. While this project has the potential to save lives in a congested city of dense alleyways and choked traffic lanes, it must work in conjunction with hospital ambulance services. First responders trained as paramedics must know when to call for ambulances when the emergency warrants hospital care. Given the Punjab chief minister’s penchant for innovation, his project would work successfully if female paramedics are also inducted. The move will prove useful in Punjab’s rural backwaters where tradition rules especially when it comes to pregnancy-related emergencies.

A similar program has been operating in the Sudan for several years. There, UNICEF and the Western Equatoria State government have partnered in providing motorcycles with side cars. The bikes are based at different health units and centers across the state and communities will be educated on how to call for its services. In that country, it is estimated that only 10% of women who give birth are attended to by trained people during childbirth.

One government official noted that “This is one big step for us to quickly respond to emergencies related to pregnancies and child illnesses.”



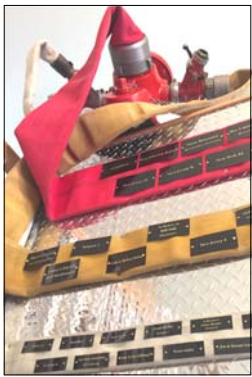
Were you one of the couple hundred people that were fed by Mass-1 during their annual Spaghetti feed in April? If you weren't there you missed out — and if you were there you did not leave hungry!

Red Knights from around Massachusetts and a few from Vermont were on hand to enjoy the meal mixing in with those Mass-1 “civilian” supporters from central Mass!

MASS-1 CHEFS EXTRAORDINAIRE!



There are countless photos from the dedication on-line from across the Red Knight Membership. Here are just a few.



Motorcycle Myth-busters from the AMA...

If you've been motorcycling long enough, you've heard a lot of so-called truths about motorcycling and motorcyclists. Here are 12 “facts” that, well, *aren't*.

“It was only ridden on the weekends.” Sellers love to use this line. The truth is, well, many bikes are ridden only on weekends, and many of those are ridden at the racetrack. And few street bikes are ridden as hard as any race machine.

More airflow means more power. You've likely been told that you should drill holes in your air box, or even remove it completely, for a quick and easy horsepower gain. Hacking chunks out of your air box won't necessarily get you any closer to that [perfect air ratio of] 14.7:1. It might even rob power.

Never jump-start a motorcycle. This is partly true. If you jump start a bike off another battery, or off a car or motorcycle that isn't running, you should be OK. However, in rare instances a running car motor can cause trouble.

A battery on a concrete floor will go dead more quickly. A battery not being constantly charged will go dead faster, but that doesn't have anything to do with the material of the surface it's sitting on.

Batteries are less powerful in the cold. Nope. A colder motor will require more power to start than a warm one, making the battery appear weaker. In fact, a hot battery, overheating its electrolyte and exhausting gas through the battery breather, will lose power more quickly than a cold one.

Don't brake leaned over. Modern motorcycles, and particularly sport bikes, are usually designed to work fine with mild braking through a corner. The technique is called “trail-braking.” The key is to reduce braking force the more you're leaned over.

Steve McQueen jumped a BMW in “The Great Escape.” Nope, on two counts. First, it wasn't Steve McQueen who did that iconic jump over barbed wire at the Swiss border, but stuntman Bud Ekins. Second, it was a Triumph, painted to look like the other German BMWs used in the movie.

Marlon Brando rode a Harley-Davidson in “The Wild One.” Not true. Marlon rode a Triumph. It was Lee Marvin's “Chino” character whose gang rode Harleys.