

## Red Knights Motorcycle Club

Massachusetts — Home of the Founders

*From the desk of the Massachusetts Red Knights State Representative*

This is the 21st Edition of the Massachusetts State Red Knights newsletter. All the thanks for this newsletter go to MA-2 Bob Laford.

This year we have a new Region-1 Director in Eric Jock, with his election last August.

He is working very closely with all the state Reps. / Association Presidents in our region. He has worked to correct any unresolved issues that may had been festering around the region.

For the first time in Region-1 history a meeting of all the State Reps. / Association Presidents took place at Memorial Hall. It was a very fruitful meeting. Read about the Region-1 “Mayday” program and Region-1 Coin elsewhere in this newsletter.

The “Mayday” fund is dependent upon the sale of the Region-1 coin for success. All the monies after expenses go into the “Mayday” fund to financially assist Region-1 members who are in need of our support.

The International Website is blazing with updates and additions. The 2022 Yankee is upon us and only 100 miles down (up) the road. Americade is back and rumor has it that Tracy road is back open.

The International Convention committee is sending updated information to the Communications Committee guy all the time. All the most current information can be found on the website under the EVENTS section on the home page. It has been a couple of years since either of these events was held — so get you room reserved and registration in ASAP! I am thinking the 2022 events are going to be wild.

The 2022 spring state meeting was fun as we had a MA-1 hosting. A special “thank you” goes out to the cooking and serving team. MA-13 is hosting the fall meeting.

Last fall the position of Assistant MA State Representative was up for election. Even though nominees were called for, no one threw in their hat for the position, which left Bob Binnall as the sole candidate, and he is still here working for us.

He and I love this job and promise to continue to do the best we can for you all.

I have said it before, and continue to say, that as long as you will have me I will continue to serve as your MA State Rep.

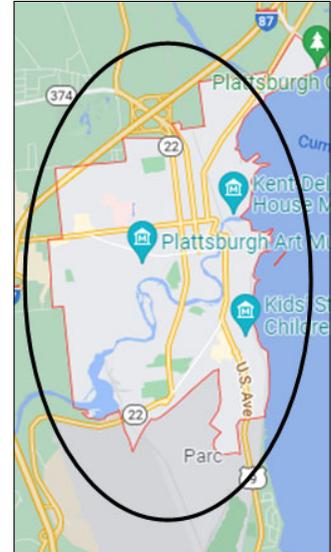
The riding season is here people so continue to be safe and watch out for the other guy.

Regards,  
George

## 2022 YANKEE RALLY

Do you have your reservations and registration in hand, yet? See you in Plattsburgh June 1-5 for “Take Two in 22!”

Plattsburgh sits on the NW coast of Lake Champlain and is considered a major player in the “Adirondack Coast.”



Aside from the festivities and comradery being planned by NY50 for the Yankee Rally, the region has a host of activities and sites for its visitors.

Having been to Americade over the decades we all know how wonderful the Adirondack Mountains are for riding. This corner of the park may be roads you have never ridden before!

Other amenities include: countless outdoor activities, breweries and distilleries, museums and forts, and parks and beaches to name a few.

And riding down the nearby Champlain Islands is also a great motorcycle road.

For more information visit the Yankee Rally Facebook Page or the North County Chamber of Commerce.



State Reps from NY, NJ, VT, NH, ME and MA attended the first-ever Region-1 meeting, hosted by Region 1 director Eric Jock and held at the Memorial House in Boylston, earlier this month.

Pictured here are Frank Nestro (NY), Colin Nelson (NH), George Colby (MA), Region 1 Director Eric Jock, Mike Chamberland (VT), Wayne Archie (ME), and Ken May (NJ).

International's spring board meeting Minutes from the board's most recent meeting are available online. Below are a few bullets from that meeting.

- All Perry Carter and OCA Award winners will be recognized at the 2022 banquet.
- Red Knights Regalia will be looking into the European production of regalia
- A By-Law proposal was created and will be added to this years ABM. This proposal will clear up the "in good taste" on the front as well as the back of the vest.
- There is a bylaw proposal to clear up the MAL late fee issue.

A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus spilled its load leaving NYC.

Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralyzed, dazed, bewildered, surprised, dumfounded, flabbergasted, confounded, astonished, and numbed.



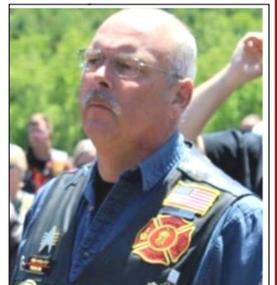
Thank you to all who assisted with the Memorial property spring clean up in April.

Lot's of raking, brush clearing, and more trees have been cut down for safety.

Clean up day was a huge success



This year we are very fortunate to have two very qualified candidates running for International Secretary. Michael Woods, State Rep from Indiana and Colin Nelson, State Rep from NH.



You are encouraged to review the biographies and platforms of each of the candidates and review them with your chapter membership, so your chapter as a whole can have a voice in their elected officials. Whomever wins the Secretary's position will be a positive voice for the RKMC and Massachusetts.

Cast your chapter ballot between 6/21-7/21.

2022 edits to the RKMC International SOGs  
(made during Spring Board Meeting)

- 12.06 (Restricted Service) #7 added: Will not be eligible for Heaven One protocols.
- 12:07 (Reinstatement to Good Standing) Sentence removed: *Outstanding dues may be paid by the Chapter or the individual to be decided at the Chapter level.*

Download an updated copy of the International SOGs on the "Downloadable Files" page on the International Webpage.

## State Reports from the Region-1 meeting

Vermont — Meets quarterly and across the state. Some members are looking to go up to Maine for a weekend ride. Six chapters total. Chapter 2 is hosting a Paul's Ride, this will be the final one on, June 18th. Chapter 5 has a Jazzy's Ride (Poker Run) on July 9th in Woodsville VT.

Maine —Each chapter has their own event and charity and is doing well for themselves. Maine has a great thing going within each chapter and are looking forward to keeping up the work they are doing. Maine 8 is doing a very large donation to the children's hospital in memory of a member who passed away. That will happen June 12th 2022. Rep will work with others to set up a bid for Yankee Rally.

New Jersey — Rep raised a question on the spring and fall board meetings. Question will be answered by Regional Rep, when he have an answer and will report back. Rep reported there is possibly a chapter looking to bid to host Yankee Rally, but could not confirm at the time.

New York —44 chapters. New York holds 3 meetings a year, Spring, Summer and Fall. They also move around the state and it is working well for the state over the past few years. Frank passed out NY Coins to the other reps as gifts. Americade rides and events are planed. Please see Facebook for additional details. A NY chapter is looking at hosting Yankee Rally and will bid to host for next year, asked reps to support the bid.

New Hampshire — Thanks all for first in person meeting. Seven Chapters in the state and they are trying to handle things in house before it blows up and goes up the line. It is working well within the state. NH is looking at the possibility of hosting a Rally, but nothing is confirmed. Talked about happenings in state as far as rides and events. NH is looking at making a website for the state more news on that will be sent out.

Massachusetts — Meets spring and fall, and it works well for them. A 50/50 raffle is held at each meeting and has worked for years that way to keep the state afloat with funds. Rep spoke about sending emails and importance of keeping email accounts cleaned up, as State Rep. He sends all emails with a CC or BCC to Region 1 Director and encourages all representatives to do the same. Mass 2 is hosting a blessing of the bikes, Saturday May 21 with an ICE Cream Social. Homebased (Veterans support service) is the beneficiary. Reminder cost for the Hall is \$20 per person per night.

### Yankee Rally (comments from the Regional Meeting)

- Chapters thinking of hosting that the start of a Yankee Rally should begin with a \$1,000 minimum bank account.
- Yankee brings in a new life in the state and chapters, giving each member a newly found life for the Club. It is an amazing thing to witness
- All reps supported Maine's plan to host a Yankee Rally. Also offered help if necessary.

One point of business at the meeting was the creation of the **Region One Mayday Fund**. This fund is to assist Region-1 members in times of need. It has been formed to support Red Knights members in good standing, who have been injured on duty, suffered personal injury accidents, or illness.

Funds will be raised by donations, sales of goods to chapters and members, raffles, or donations. Funds will be dispersed in pre-determined, set amounts of \$100 per application, to help and assist as many as possible whenever funds are available.

A committee will be formed, comprised of EACH Region-1 State President/ Representative with each state holding one vote with the Region One Director serving as Chairman and voting alternate in the case of a tie. (Details/information of the fund and application process is being shared).

This is the first such formal program and hope are that other regions will also begin this supportive measure.

## The FIRST fundraiser for the Region 1 Mayday Fund is a Regional Coin!



Region one Coin 343 will be auctioned off at Yankee, proceeds will benefit the Mayday fund of Region One.

Coins are \$10.00 USD EACH + Shipping. Currently only cash, checks and bank checks, made out to. RKMC REGION 1 are being accepted. Mailed to: Region-1 Coin C/O Eric Jock, PO BOX 156, Dannemora, New York, 12929

Shipping costs; up to 10 coins, \$10 shipping charge. Large orders will ship in flat rate boxes at \$20/each order

Online payment are currently NOT available. Coins may also be picked up and purchased in person at the upcoming 2022 Yankee Rally, as well as the convention in Johnstown PA.

600 coins were ordered (\$3750.00 total). The private loan will be paid off when the fund account reaches and maintains over \$1000.00 total. Proceeds of coin sales support the Mayday fund.

## Spring 2022 State Meeting

Mass-1 was host to the Spring State meeting, held at the Boylston Town House. Refer to the detailed minutes distributed to your Chapter president for more details than the bullets that appear below.



- Founding Fathers' patches are still available through the Assistant State Rep. All proceeds go towards the principle on the Memorial House mortgage.
- Thirteen people have registered for the Founding Father's ride. (Texas and Ohio participants, most recently). 6 have completed the trek, and one participant had to ship his bike home after mid-ride challenges. Patch and Coin designs have been sent for production.
- Memorial name plates for deceased members now have to be ordered as a group because of set up costs for the vendor—as opposed of single name plates.
- The Tri-state Firefighters Meet is being held at Webster Lake (#10 Memorial Beach Drive in Webster) on May 15. Mass-4 has secured a vendor table so that the Red Knights have a presence and can give out information to other firefighters. Anyone is welcome to join them and enjoy the show. The event is free to the public.
- Mass-2 thanked all who attended the wake for long-time member Walter Roach. The body voted a donation of \$100 to be sent to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of our friend, Walter.

**The 2022 fall MA State Red Knights meeting will be hosted by Mass-13 on September 17, 2022, at the Shirley Legion Hall, 8 Church St. — Shirley 9:00 am for coffee, 10:00 am meeting**

Congratulations to Bob Binnall on his recent election as president of Mass-15.

The State Rep position will be up for election/re-election at the fall state meeting. Anyone interested in running for the position should file their intent and bio with Assistant State Rep Bob Binnall by September 1.

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE AN OLD BIKER WHEN:

1. You're riding along and see a cop with radar. You look at the speedometer and realize you're under the speed limit.
2. Your only passengers these days are your grandkids.
3. Your trip planning includes the distances between restrooms.
4. The ride is more important than the destination, as you've forgotten the destination.
5. Instead of waving at younger sport bike riders you snarl at them and shake your head.
6. Most of your rides are to the doctor's office.
7. You can predict the weather by how your arthritis feels.
8. A pretty girl in a car is just another obstacle.
9. Getting lost is an adventure.
10. Just getting on and off your bike is a minor victory.

## Sharing a success story for member participation...



During the 2021 riding season Mass-2 had the idea to start doing rides mid-week. The thought was that with members working shifts, and the number of retirees that all our chapters have, that weekday rides might be popular — And they were!

These were booked "Let's Play Hooky" and they would be announced several days in advance, after watching the forecast. Rides were on different days of the week, different times of the day, different reasons and destinations, etc.

Emails would broadcast the intent and welcome anyone—retirees, those on shift, and even those that didn't want to go to work that day. Rides usually had between six and a dozen riders, mostly Red Knights, sometimes friends, and by the end of the season, MA2 had an email list that included RK family from other chapters, looking for the next announced planned hooky day.

That may also work for your chapter!

## Locations to remember for future conventions:

- 2023 Austria 4 will host in Fussach, Austria (September 7-10, 2023).
- 2024 to be hosted by Germany 18
- 2025 to be hosted by the Illinois State Association
- 2026 to be hosted by Australia 5

**Chapter email address and 2022 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.

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 For 2022, the positions that we are voting for in Massachusetts are International Vice-President and Secretary

Nominations will close on May 22 and that is when we will know what contests must be decided by electronic ballot for our chapters in Region 1.

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 the nomination. The Nominee must complete the Nomination Profile prior to close of nominations and provide a photo. For more information, refer to the International webpage at <https://www.redknightsmc.com/election-information>

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 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?

## How To Check For Signs Of Wear In Your Motorcycle Tires

[No matter what you are riding], you should always be wary of the condition of your tires.

Tires are made from a mixture of rubber and synthetic compounds, and friction causes them to wear.

There are signs that will tell you that your motorcycle tires are worn out. You’ll want to carefully examine them frequently to spot these signs.

### Check The Tread Wear Indicator

All motorcycle tires have tread wear indicators. Tread wear indicators are often marked with “TWT” or a triangle shape on the side of the tire.

The tread wear indicator is designed to become flush (or level) with the tire surface once the tire is nearing its serviceable life. Once the tread wear indicator is level with the tire surface it’s time to replace your tires with new ones.

### Check For Signs Of Unusual Wear

We always want the tread wear pattern of our motorcycle tires to be perfectly worn out around the entire tire, but that will only happen in a perfect world.

Check your tires for the following wear pattern issues: Additional wear on one or both edges or in the center of the tire; Front tire has increased wear as compared to the rear tire; There are tears; bulges, punctures, cuts, cupping or unusual indentations; or if there is wear on a single side only.

You also have to take note of the inflation of your tires. Keep in mind that underinflation can cause your tire to wear out quickly.

### Know The Age Of Your Tires

Most motorcycle tires have a lifespan of around five years. Look for a 4-digit code usually found on the sidewall of your tire. This will tell you the manufacturer date. The first two digits represent the week of the year the tire was made and the last two digits represent the year it was made.

Worn-out tires are more prone to failure. Learn how to spot the signs of wear in your tires and do your inspection on a regular basis, and you’ll increase your safety and riding enjoyment.

### 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

### Other dates affiliated with the 2022 voting:

- Incumbents Intent — 180 Days prior to convention by Feb. 21st
- Nominations Closed — 90 Days prior to convention by May 22nd
- Chapters Start Vote — 60 Days prior to convention on June 21st
- Voting Closed — 30 Days prior to convention on July 21st
- Vote Results Announced at Convention — August 20th

## 2022 RKMC International Convention Celebrating the RKMC's 40th Anniversary!

The **2022 Convention** is being hosted by PA22 in Johnstown, PA on **August 18-21, 2022**. Multiple hotels with 500 rooms are available with shuttle services to the host hotel.

It is expected to be one of the largest conventions in the history of the club. First because it is the 40th anniversary of the Red Knights, and second, it has been three long years since we gathered at a convention.

Dave "Moose" Rykala, Convention Chairperson for PA -22 states, "We're a small town, so we can't deliver the big town atmosphere. What we can and will do is provide everyone with small town hospitality and a memorable convention in the rolling hills and valleys of Western PA."

Johnstown is a walkable community, and there will also be shuttles to the arena where the Saturday banquet will be held. (The movie Slapshot was filmed in this arena and there is a display about the movie).

Four separate rides are scheduled to the Flight 93 Memorial in nearby Shanksville, PA. The "early bird" ride for those on Wednesday will also offer stops at the Shanksville FD, the first responding FD to the 9-11 crash and to the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel.

Separate rides will be offered to the:

- (1) Quecreek Mine rescue site, when nine miners were trapped underground for over 77 hours, from July 24 to 28, 2002. All nine miners were rescued; and
- (2) to the Johnstown Flood site, where over 2,200 people died when the Southfork Dam failed, flooding the valley downstream. This was the largest civilian loss of life disaster in the U.S. prior to 9-11.

Staples of the convention including Hospitality Room, Welcome BBQ, and Farewell Breakfast are also part of the itinerary.

Registration deadline to ensure receiving convention items is July 1, 2022. (Included with this newsletter)



[www.americade.com](http://www.americade.com)



**Americade 2022!** Let's get back to normal! Americade 2022 is back to its June schedule. The official dates are June 6-11, but if you are headed to Plattsburgh for the Yankee Rally, Lake George is just a short 100 miles south, after your farewell breakfast!

The vendors are ready to greet the motorcycle community and Americade is a great kick-off to their riding season shows with more factory demos and one of the largest vendor experiences in the country.

The Adirondacks host some fantastic riding — so if the vendors and rubbing elbows with other riders is not your style, you can get lost in the mountains every day of your time in and around Lake George.

But if you are looking to chill out in town, Americade offers guided and self-guided tours, entertainment, dinner cruises, comedy and stunt shows, and "Americade University" where you can sit in on talks about just about any motorcycle topic there is.

Aside from those "official" Americade events, Lake George, during Americade, is a great place to watch the motorcycles pass by on Canada Street, visit with thousands of other riders, and of course, meet up with Red Knight family.



The Red Knight open house at the Lake George FD and also a RKMC Founders' ride through the region are scheduled for Thursday, June 9.

Bob Binnall leading the 2021 Founders Ride at Lake George



- 10:00 am Open House and chapter wares at LGFD
- 1:00 pm Ride meeting and Founding Fathers Ride
- 3:00 pm Dinner at LGFD (after ride)

Along with the events planned at Americade by NY Chapter -12 (The Open House and the Founders' Ride on Thursday), NY Chapter 3 is also planning Red Knight events on Wednesday (June 8) and Saturday (June 11). Information below!



**RKMC NY III hosts the**  
**DREAMS RIDE**  
 "LEFTY" WRIGHT MEMORIAL RIDE



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022**



1784 Route 9  
 Lake George, New York

**200 MILE RIDE TO LAKE PLACID & BACK**

REGISTRATION: 08:00 AM  
 BIKE BLESSING: 08:30 AM  
 KICK STANDS UP: 09:00 AM

**BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROVIDED**



*"Dream with your eyes wide open..."*  
 Steve "Lefty" Wright 1955-2021  
 Wishes - Playin' With Fire Band

If you are interested in this BBQ, Message Larry Gates from NY3 to reserve your ticket. →



**RKMC NY III**  
**BBQ TICKET**  
**\$25.00 PER PERSON**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**

*Pulled Pork Sandwiches w/ 3 sauces, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cornbread Muffins w/ honey cinnamon butter, Cookies and Brownies, Soda / Water*

**WHIPPORWILL CAMPGROUND**



**FOOD STARTS @ 1PM**  
**BAND PLAYS @ 6PM**

*Must present ticket at event.  
 Ticket non-transferable/non-refundable.*

**TICKET # 001**

### RKMC 40th Anniversary Convention Ad Booklet

PA22 is currently working on putting together the convention booklet and invites all to place an ad.

Along with the ads, articles detailing local attractions will be scattered throughout the booklet with locations you may want to visit while in the 2022 convention's historic region.

Simply choose an ad size and complete the form provided on the International's webpage.

Mail the form, including payment to:

Red Knights-PA 22  
 104 Truman Boulevard  
 Johnstown, PA 15902

ATTN: AD

- Quarter Page: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$30)
- Half Page: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$75)
- Full Page: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$150)

The deadline to submit ads is June 30th . Should you have any questions, feel free to call Dave Rykala at 814-659-6555.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request and any support that you may be able to provide.

## What's up in 2022

What are you planning for during the latter half 2022 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 18.

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

Many of us have the tradition of attending VT-2's Paul's Ride. The 2020 and 2021 rides were cancelled, but Vermont-2 continued to support those needing assistance. Our neighbors to the north are planning to have their annual ride "in play" for 2022. **This may be the last "Paul's Ride."**

Let's have a big Massachusetts turn out to support their efforts!



**The Red Knights Motorcycle Club —  
Massachusetts Chapter 2  
and Rev. Mateus Souza  
of the North Quabbin Catholic  
Community**

**Invite you to a  
Blessing of the Bikes and Ice Cream Social**

Saturday, May 21, 2022, 11:00 am  
At Our Lady Immaculate Church  
192 School Street, Athol, MA

A free-will donation of \$5 per bike is asked, and all proceeds will be donated to Home Base, a Massachusetts-based Veterans Support Service

There was a *great* multi-chapter turn out for the MA-1 Spaghetti Dinner in April.

The meal was great and the service was good too with some of the founding fathers making sure we had enough to eat!



## International Ride to Work Day

Retired or not currently working? Maybe you are off-shift on June 20? Get out and ride!

We know how beneficial some fresh air is while we have our knees-in-the-breeze. And that ride definitely helps our mental outlook! Ride safe and keep well!  
[www.ridetowork.org](http://www.ridetowork.org)



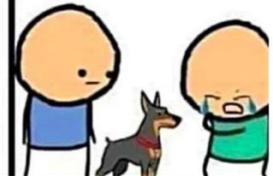
does he bite



no but he can hurt you in other ways



Your kickstand leans your bike farther than you do



One of our brothers Red Knights in Europe, Sven Coopman started a fundraiser to support firefighters in Kiev in the Ukraine. He designed and ordered



1,000 "Red Knights United for Ukraine" Patches. By the time these patches arrived in late March, 945 of the patches had already been ordered and paid for by fellow RKMCM members.

## HISTORY OF MOTORCYCLE HELMETS

The motorcycle helmet that we wear has its own rich history that started almost 80 years ago. The helmet is the most important gear that helps keep us alive. However, helmets have their own history, tracing back to the development from vintage leather skullcap era, to the modern-day carbon fiber and Kevlar masterpieces.

In the early 1900s when the first motorcycles came into the picture, they were merely “motorized bicycles”, built for convenient transport and the need for any head protection was unheard of. But soon enough, motorcycles became faster and were used in racing. As a result, many riders faced injuries. It was first in 1914, that a British physician Dr. Eric Gardner commissioned a shellacked canvas to protect a rider’s head. Dr. Gardner pushed for its use in the Isle of Man TT, the premier motorcycle race of the day. This introduction saw a dramatic decrease in head concussions amongst racers as well.

But even this success, did not make the civilians excited. They felt ‘odd’ to wear a shell on their head while riding. Even then, as it is now, people wanted to look good while riding and so, the most they would opt for is padded leather caps.



They made the riders look good and the riders felt it was enough protection. The maximum that a rider would choose to protect himself was a skullcap and goggles. But everything changed when the famous national hero of Britain, T.E. Lawrence, aka ‘Lawrence of Arabia’ died tragically, not in any war or military campaign but in a road accident some miles from his home. This tragic turn of events made the public realize the dangers of motorcycle riding and how to prevent further accidents.

Dr. Hugh Cairns, the British physician who attended Lawrence at the hospital, was deeply moved by this tragic event and began research about the correlation between motorcycle accidents and head injuries. He was the first doctor to publish a report on this subject at the British medical journal. His research helped him aggressively promote helmets for the British Army. As during those days, motorcycle mounted ‘dispatch riders’ were widely used for reconnaissance and communication. Dr. Cairns’ effort made the Army issue an order for all its military riders to wear helmets made of rubber and cork.

Over the next decades, as motorcycles became faster, still the civilians did not fondly adopt helmets. The basic helmets found in that time were simple half shells with

leather straps providing minimal protection. However, in 1953, a revolutionary invention propelled helmets into its importance today. But a big development came in 1953, when C.F. Lombard, a professor of USC, developed a helmet that actually absorbed impact. This innovative helmet had three layers, with a hard fiberglass outer shell, impact-absorbing foam in the middle layer and a padded inner liner for comfort.

Roy Richter, former race car driver and founder of Bell Helmets picked up Lombard’s design and created the Bell 500 model. He made sure he used the safety principles prescribed and based his designs on the aviation helmets of the day. As a result, Bell 500 was an instant success marking the beginning of an era of modern motorcycle helmets. It soon became a standard equipment for racing and slowly, by the 1960s, more and more civilians began to use helmets. In 1963, Bell revolutionized the market with its first full-face motorcycle helmets called the Bell Star. It was expensive but offered the maximum protection using the technology and materials found in the U.S. military’s and NASA’s astronaut’s flight helmets.



The Star was launched in the right time. The next year, at 1964, the USDOT created the first-ever safety standards by which motorcycle helmets must adhere to. Also in 1966, Congress passed the US Highway Safety Act which specified that states would be required to have helmet laws to get funds from the federal government for highway development. Slowly, the various states complied with 47 helmet laws in the next year. However, by 1968 many states repealed the law but helmets had become too popular and were common amongst riders. By 1970s and 1980s, full faced helmets came with even more modification with flip-up and tinted visors and the introduction of modular helmets that combined the convenience of an Open Face helmet with a Full face helmet.

As helmets developed, so did their style and designs. A good helmet is one that never compromises on its safety while ensuring the highest quality with designs.



## Paris Moves To Ban Motorcycles

Proposals [to ban motorcycles] have been floated in certain UK counties as well as parts of the European mainland and even some cities in the United States.

News has come out of Paris, France where there's a serious push to get all internal combustion engine motorcycles and scooters off the roads entirely. That's right, not just stop selling them but to make driving them anywhere in the city limits illegal.

This fight isn't about how much carbon spews out of the tailpipes of motorcycles, which is probably what you're assuming. Instead, it's all about noise pollution. That's right, Parisians are sick of their city being loud. Instead of realizing that's what you get by packing so many people into tight spaces, they've decided to blame motorcycles and scooters for their woes.

A noise plan for the City of Paris was presented last October, with 30 actions proposed by city administration. However, an initiative sought to collect ideas from regular citizens. One proposal which gained a lot of support was the banning of internal combustion engine motorcycles since all-electric models produce little to no noise.

The author of this proposal is quoted by the local news as saying, "Outright banning thermal PTWs is therefore a commonsense solution to solve the number 1 source of noise pollution in Paris." A total of 944 voted for this proposal and 307 voted against it.

Already, Paris authorities have been experimenting with sound radars as a way to fight excessive noise pollution in the city. Such devices allow police to pinpoint which motorcycle is emitting more decibels than is allowed, then fine the rider. The claim is that noise pollution is leading to serious health and economic consequences.

If you think the claim of health consequences is ridiculous, you're not the only one. The European Environment Agency says 16,600 "premature deaths" in Europe are caused by noise pollution as well as 72,000 hospitalizations. Yes, everything is a health crisis these days.

While all-electric motorcycles might make some noise, I have yet to hear one that duplicates the Screaming Eagle wail.

Reinforcing the argument for banning motorcycles and scooters from Paris is the supposedly inevitability of all internal combustion engine cars also being banned. This is, of course, to fight the health crisis known as noise pollution and not global warming, global cooling, climate change, or whatever the term is this week.

## Here are some of the RKMC 2022 rallies:

- The Dixie Rally (Region-4) for May 12-15 in Brunswick, GA.
- Yankee Rally (Region-1) for June 1-5, Plattsburgh, NY Rally locations for 2023 and 2024 will be decided during this year's rally.
- Western Rally (Region 5) scheduled for June 16-19 at Spirit Lake Casino on Devils Lake ND .
- Atlantic Rally for July 14-16 in Duck Pond, New Brunswick
- The Bootlegger Rally (Region 3) for September 1-4 in Duboise, PA.
- EuCon 2022 in September in Oosterbeek in the Netherlands, hosted by Netherlands-1

All these events have information on-line and through the "Red Knights All Chapters and MALs" Facebook group.

*Hopefully all our Red Knight events will go on as planned for 2022!*



Are all your members who come out and ride on bikes that are registered and inspected?

Wander around the parking lot at your first ride after May 31 and see how many are not!

Registrations expired in December and Inspections Expire in May for motorcycles in Massachusetts.



Looking for a road trip to the northern plains, for something other than the Sturgis Rally?

The Red Knights Western Rally is in North Dakota in June.

Registration information is posted later in this newsletter and is available via their Facebook Page as well.

## Do you trust your GPS?

Alternate routes offered by apps like Google Maps and Waze don't always take into account hazards to drivers.

The road once carried stagecoaches during the Gold Rush, twisting its way through what is now a national forest and an area of the Sierra Nevada known for snowmobiling. In the winter, the rugged passage, known as the Quincy-La Porte Road or County Road 511 in Plumas County, Calif., is closed.

But Wendy Becktold, an editor from the Bay Area who was on her way to visit an ailing relative in Reno, Nev., on the Monday after Christmas, when Google Maps guided her to that route because two major highways were closed because of heavy snow.

In Washoe County, Nev., which includes Reno, a family of five from Southern California was stranded for two hours on Monday night when their rented pickup truck got stuck in the snow on a two-lane dirt road, after the family sought an alternate route [via their map app] on the way to visit relatives for the holidays during the storm.

Record breaking snow in northern California dumped more than 17 feet of snow during December. The storm also closed Highway 50 for about 50 miles in the Sacramento Valley and the a portion of Route 81 because of the snow.



In a public warning, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office said that drivers had frequently taken the same detour when using GPS. From November 2020 to last February, emergency responders were called to 11 rescues, according to the sheriff.

Raquel Borrayo, a spokeswoman for Caltrans, California's state transportation department stated, "When people try to use mapping apps like Waze or Google Maps to avoid highway closures, they can sometimes be put in very precarious and dangerous situations with unplowed roads/dirt roads, heavy amounts of snow and zero cellphone service."

During the Christmas week's storm, several people posted screen shots on Twitter of Google Maps and Waze directions sending users to the Henness Pass Road, which the Sierra County Historical Society describes as a secluded and winding mountain road that rises to an elevation of 6,920 feet. The road, a primary emigrant trail from Virginia City, Nev., is "left off many maps,"

according to a description on the historical society's website.

The Donner Pass, named for the doomed snowbound pioneer family, some of whom resorted to cannibalism during the 1840s, is about 40 miles from the detour.

Crystal A. Kolden, a geographer and disaster scientist who teaches at the University of California, Merced, said [these alternate routes are] barely drivable in the summer."

The winning design for the RKMC 40th anniversary patch was submitted by Chad Robideau of NY50. The Founding Fathers stated that it was a very difficult decision to decide on which submission would become the anniversary patch.



The patch design was chosen and announced just prior to the new year and headed off to production shortly afterwards. Red Knight products with this logo, including the patch itself, is expected to be for sale online and at all the rallies and at the convention.

The rest of the story...

In August 2021 Norm Beausoleil mentioned on Facebook that as a club we were approaching 40 years (in 2022).

The question was asked if there was going to be an anniversary patch to mark the milestone.

With that thought, Norm approached the RKIFMC board and the Founding Fathers about the idea. That leadership decided to have a patch design contest, and information on how to submit entries was shared across social media to the members.

The contest concluded on November 30th, 2021. The entries were delivered to the Founding Fathers at their meeting in December to choose the winner.

## Did you know your motorcycle helmet has an expiration date?

*(Excerpts from Jonathan Klein's article in "The Drive" newsletter)*

Yep, like milk and cheese, your motorcycle helmet comes with an expiration date.

Yet while milk and cheese, outwardly show expressions of their expiration, your helmet does not. It's up to you to both know what to look for, how to check it, what can cause it to prematurely expire, and what to do when it expires.

While the outward appearance of a helmet is one of solid and sturdy and something that won't degrade over time, it's the inner portion that can. Specifically, I'm talking about the part that's under the outer carbon kevlar or plastic shell and over the plush liner: the expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam.

This piece of a helmet's construction is to provide impact absorption in the case of an accident, fall, or crash. However, because of its makeup, heat, sweat, time, and other factors, it can begin to degrade the foam's density and cause it to lose its effectiveness over time. There are other factors that can cause the EPS liner to expire, chief among them a crash, fall, or accident.

The Average Expiration Date of a Motorcycle Helmet is between five and seven years, which gives you a lot of use. And for comparison's sake, how many things in your house have a five- to seven-year lifespan? Not many, as we have chosen conspicuous consumption over lifetime service.

That said, expiration dates range from manufacturer to manufacturer. Here's a quick guide to most of the top manufacturers and each's respective expiration dates.

- Icon: 3-5 years
- Alpinestars: 5 years
- HJC: 3-5 years
- AGV: 7 years
- Schuberth: 5-7 years
- Shoei: 5 years
- Fox: 5 years
- Fly: 5 years
- Klim: 5 years
- Arai: 7 years
- Bell: 3 years

Where Do You Find the Date of Manufacture? Grab your nearest lid and turn it upside down so that the inner portion is facing you. On one of the chin straps or under the padding near your ears, should be a tag that tells you the date of manufacture. From there, peep the list above for the expiration duration and see if your helmet is still up to standards.



How old is YOUR helmet? If you cannot remember when you purchased it — or if you proudly boast that when you purchased your helmet you had different hair color (or had hair) it is probably time to replace that lid.

You wouldn't (or shouldn't) feel safe if you were running twenty year old tires on your motorcycle, then you are equally unsafe with leaving the protection of your head to a 20 year old helmet that has been baked in the sun and your grime and grit for 20 years.

And just think of the technological changes in helmet construction that has occurred since the last time you purchased a helmet!



It seems like it has been forever since the club came together for an International Convention. For many years, the host chapters would ask chapters and individuals to purchase ad space in the Convention Program. During the last few convention, this tradition had dropped by the wayside, but PA22 has resurrected that tradition and is asking for members and chapters to again support the convention by purchasing an ad for the booklet. We know not everyone can attend the convention — but this is a great way to support the convention and those who are working hard to make the 40th anniversary event a memorable one. Below is the information on purchasing an ad.



*“Loyal To Our Duty”*

We are currently working on putting together the convention booklet and invite all to place an ad. Along with the ads, articles detailing local attractions will be scattered throughout the booklet, locations you may want to visit while in our historic region.

Below is a breakdown of ad sizes and their costs. Simply choose an ad size and complete the form provided, attaching a copy of how you want your ad to look (including artwork). Mail the form, including payment to:  
 Red Knights-PA 22  
 104 Truman Boulevard  
 Johnstown, PA 15902  
 ATTN: AD

The deadline to submit ads is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Should you have any questions, feel free to call me at 814-659-6555. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request and any support that you may be able to provide.

With regards,  
 Dave Rykala  
 PA-22 Convention Chairperson

***Please return this page with payment***

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Check #

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address City State/Province Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person E-Mail Phone #

Quarter Page: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$30) Full Page: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$150)

Half Page: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$75)



# RKMC 2022 WESTERN RALLY

DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA

Hosted by North Dakota Chapter 2

**Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Check-in June 16<sup>th</sup> 4PM - 10PM

Registration cut-off date for merchandise: April 15<sup>th</sup> 2022

Host Hotel (80 rooms)  
**Spirit Lake Casino & Resort**  
 7889 ND-57, St. Michael, ND 58370  
 (800) 946-8238  
 Reservation deadline: 6/13/22  
 Rate: \$105.00 Ask for group rate "2022 Red Knights"

Overflow Hotel (30 Rooms)  
**Fireside Inn & Suites**  
 215 US-2 E, Devils Lake, ND 58301  
 (833) 502-1223  
 Reservation deadline: 6/2/22  
 Rate: \$94.00 Ask for group rate "Red Knights"

Additional hotel info on 2022 Western Rally Facebook page or contact Lance Solberg (701) 213-0708

## REGISTRATION FORM

Driver: \_\_\_\_\_ \$70 State/Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Passenger: \_\_\_\_\_ \$70 State/Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child 1: \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child 2: \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Peace Garden Run: Number attending by car (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending per person (\$10): \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION COST IS A T-SHIRT FOR DRIVER AND PASSENGER (Adult sizes only) *Add "T" if tall size desired (XL-3XL)							MUGS (\$15 each) AND RALLY CHALLENGE COINS (\$13 each)		
S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	XXXXL	MUGS	COINS	Total \$

	ADDITIONAL CLOTHING *Add "T" if tall size desired (XL-3XL)							Totals \$
	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	XXXXL	
T-SHIRTS (\$16)								
HOODIES (\$35)								

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks/MO to: "RKMC ND 2"

PayPal: [nd2@redknightsmc.com](mailto:nd2@redknightsmc.com)

Venmo: @RKMC\_ND-2

Send Checks/MO and reg. form to:

2022 Western Rally  
 C/O Lance Solberg  
 12633 Co Rd 9  
 Edinburg ND 58227

Use "Sending to a Friend"  
 Email registration form to:  
[nd2@redknightsmc.com](mailto:nd2@redknightsmc.com)  
 Note paid via PayPal 2022  
 Western Rally

Email registration form to:  
[nd2@redknightsmc.com](mailto:nd2@redknightsmc.com)  
 Note paid via Venmo 2022  
 Western Rally

Thank you for registering and we look forward to seeing you at the 2022 Western Rally!



*Red Knights International Firefighter  
Motorcycle Club*

**40th**

***Anniversary Convention***

August 18-21, 2022  
Johnstown, PA

**Schedule of Events**

**Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

Registration 9am to 8pm  
Early Bird Ride- KSU 0900

**Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

Registration-9am to 8pm  
Flight 93 Ride # 1- KSU 0900  
Flight 93 Ride # 2- KSU 1200  
Hospitality Room  
Cigar Bar-Hotel Parking Lot

**Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

Registration 9am to 7pm  
Flight 93 Ride # 3- KSU 0900  
National Flood Memorial Ride, KSU 1200 (Ice Cream Stop!!)  
Picnic- PNG Park – 6pm-10pm  
Inaugural RKMC Convention Corn Hole Tournament  
Shuttle Service begins 5pm, return service begins at 9pm

**Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

Registration 9am to 2pm  
Business Meeting, Grand Ballroom- 8am-4pm  
Banquet, 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Arena- 6pm-11pm  
Shuttle service begins at 4pm, return service begins at 10pm

**Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**

Getaway Breakfast, Grand Ballroom- 6am-10am

## Registration: Please complete separate form for each attendee

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*You'll receive an e-mail verification once your registration and payment are received.  
T-shirt included in registration.**

T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate sizing: Adult Child

**Early Bird Ride (Wednesday)** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch at Shanksville FD - \$5 per rider - donation to fire department

**Flight 93 Rides:** Due to anticipated large participation and possible limitations imposed by the National Park Service, we ask that you number the rides in order of your preference. Every attempt will be made to accommodate groups into the same ride.

Flight 93 # 1- Thursday 0900 \_\_\_\_\_ Flight 93 # 2- Thursday 1200 \_\_\_\_\_ Flight 93 #3 Friday 0900 \_\_\_\_\_

National Flood Memorial Ride: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\***(We know that you may want to change your mind for any of the rides-just trying to get a rough number for each ride to develop staffing plans and adequate lunch preparation. Late additions obviously welcomed too!!

**HOTELS:** *The hotels listed below have rooms blocked, **some** as early as Monday of convention week. **Mention "Red Knights" to ensure convention rates.** Every attempt will be made to open more rooms if blocked rooms are depleted. We can't guarantee convention rates after blocked rooms are depleted.*

Holiday Inn- Downtown (Host Hotel)  
250 Market Street  
Johnstown, PA 15901  
(814) 535-7777

Holiday Inn Express  
1440 Scalp Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15904  
(814) 266-8789

Hampton Inn  
129 Commerce Court  
Johnstown, PA 15904  
(814) 262-7700

Econolodge Johnstown  
430 Napoleon Street  
Johnstown, PA 15901  
(814) 536-5414

Quality Inn & Suites  
455 Theatre Drive  
Johnstown, PA 15904  
(814) 266-3678

Quality Inn- Ebensburg  
111 Cook Road  
Ebensburg, PA 15931  
(814) 472-6100

Sleep Inn- Johnstown  
453 Theatre Drive  
Johnstown, PA 15904  
(814) 262-9292

Super 8  
627 Solomon Run Road  
Johnstown, PA 15904  
(814) 535-5600

Ramada Inn by Wyndham  
216 W. Loyalhanna Street  
Ligonier, PA 15658  
(724) 238-9545

### **Camping:**

Mirror Lake  
122 Trout Run Drive  
New Florence, PA 15944  
(724) 235-9983

Quemahoning Family Recreation Area  
Quemahoning Dam Road  
Holsopple, PA 15935  
(814) 233-9512

Stackhouse Park  
998 Luzerne Street  
Johnstown, PA 15905  
(814) 536-1674

**Primitive Tenting Only**

## Fees & Costs:

Convention Registration \_\_\_\_\_ \$70.00

Wednesday "Early Bird Ride" Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 (donated to FD hosting lunch)

Challenge Coins: Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ @10.00/ea

Additional T-shirts (\$15):

	Child Sizes			Adult Sizes					
Sizes	S	M	L	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL (+\$3)
Quantity									

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

## Method of Payment:

If by check, Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Electronic payment can be made through PayPal(family and friends) to  
**pa22@redknightsmc.com**

***Mail Registrations To: Tammy Chappell-Rykala, RKMC PA 22  
104 Truman Blvd.  
Johnstown, PA 15902  
or  
E-Mail to: [tammy4256@gmail.com](mailto:tammy4256@gmail.com)***

E-mail verification will be sent after registration form **and** payment is received.

Registration deadline to ensure receiving convention items is July 1, 2022

## ***ALL YOU "EARLY BIRDS"-SPECIAL GIVEAWAY!!!!***

*All registrations received by May 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible for a registration refund (\$70). When registration opens up on Thursday morning, we'll draw a name from among those who registered by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The winner will have \$70 of spending money waiting for him/her at the registration table.*

*Watch for convention updates on the RKMC International Web page or on our  
Convention Facebook page - RKMC Convention 2020*

Because of the unforeseen sale of the host hotel and its subsequent renovation into an assisted living facility, the original hosts for the 2023 convention, in Maryland, had to withdraw from their commitment to host next year's convention.

We know how much work this chapter had already put into their planning and share their disappointment with this change.

The International Board has awarded the 2023 convention to Austria.



**Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club ® Inc.  
Office of the International President**

**Joey Powell**

**9013 Pageland Court**

**Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587**

[president@redknightsmc.com](mailto:president@redknightsmc.com)

Hello to all our Red Knight Brothers and Sisters,

I wanted to get an official notice out to everyone to let you know that we have some exciting news for you. With the opening of the 2023 Convention site due to a sale of the host hotel, we, as a board, were tasked with locating a site to host with VERY short notice. We actually had two applicants that stepped up to the plate for us all. Illinois volunteered to move their date up a couple years and Austria 4 stepped up ready as well. With that, and with a lot of discussion at our Spring Board Meeting, we have decided with a decision from your entire International Board to award the 2023 Convention to Austria 4.

Austria 4 was already hosting the European Conference which they run just like the International Convention. This means that they already had everything we needed in place, and we only had to make one small adjustment. As has been done in the past, we will have to move the date of the 2023 Convention to the week of September 7-10, 2023. Please plan to attend the first official International Convention (since France got cancelled due to you know what!). Thank you and feel free to reach out to your local Regional Director or Board Member if you have any questions.

Loyal to Our Duty

Joey Powell