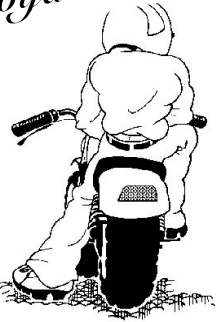


Loyal to Our Duty

Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2

September 2001

Greetings from the President

Dear members of Ma-2

It is hard for me to talk about all the fun we have had this year with all that is going on right now in our country. The most important one is the tragedy in N.Y.C. and other parts of the country. The loss of our brother and sister Firefighters hits close to home again. Such a short time after the tragedy in Worcester and now we are faced with yet the loss of more. I received an e-mail while I wrote this letter that told us that all of the R.K. Fire Riders in NYC have been accounted for at this time — and that is great news. Please take a moment to stop and say a pray for them and all our departed brothers and sisters and all who were affected by this horrendous act of violence.

As this year comes to a close I want to fill you in on some of the things that went on during the year. We have had a lot of nice rides and we have seen some new faces. Your officers worked very hard to plan all the things we do. Without your support and participation, all that work goes to waste. So we need you to come and show your support to the chapter by joining us for the rides and events.

To the people that purchased and sold tickets from our 120 club drawing, we thank you! This is how we raise funds to support the chapter and be able make donations to charities in our area. There will be an increase in the International dues next year. This change was passed at the Convention. It is my hope that our chapter can absorb the dues increase this year. This will be decided at our next officers meeting. We have a few more rides this year, so don't get left behind! Make sure you check out our list of events for the rest of the year.

Now on to some other news. At this year's convention I was elected as the new International President of the Red Knights. I would not have taken on this job if it had not been for the support of the officers of Mass-2. We have a great bunch of people that are very dedicated to this chapter and this makes my job a lot easier. So as I close, remember next year our convention is in RI. I hope to see all our Ma. -2 members there.

Ride Safe and thank you for the support you each give to our chapter. It is you, the members that made us what we are today!

Ed

Some minor changes have occurred in our Fall Ride Schedule:

Prior to heading to Vermont for Apple Pie on October 7, we will be heading to Belchertown, Mass. to support their Fire Department's pancake breakfast. We will leave Westminster at 8:30 to be in Belchertown for 9:30. Then it will be off to Vermont for Apple Pie.

Because of that change we also have to move our annual meeting and election of officers from before our October ride to before our November ride. Hope to see you on the road!

Look for more details on the International Convention held in Winnipeg in the Fall edition of the International Newsletter due out next month!

Upcoming Rides and Events!

September 23: Mass Chapter 4 Scavenger Hunt
Meet at WFD at 9:00 am (change from the ride to New Hampshire)

October 7: Pancake Breakfast & Apple Pie Ride
Leave Westminster FD at 8:30 am, Breakfast at Belchertown
FD and then ride to Vermont for Apple Pie.
This is a change in time and initial destination.

November 11: Polar Bear Ride
Chapter Meeting (with election of officers) at **10:00 am**,
Leave Westminster FD after meeting. **Note the Time Change**

December 1: Pot-luck Party and Yankee-gift Swap
Cliff and Marty's in Leominster 5 pm

Parade and Publicity

The Red Knights manned a booth (thanks to those who helped out and to State Rep Steve Mickle for his leadership) at the New England Fire Chief's show at the Eastern States Exposition in June. We had 3,000 informational flyers on the Red Knights to give out to the thousands of firefighters that visited the exhibit that weekend.

On Sunday, June 24, twenty-six Red Knight bikes led the apparatus parade from Springfield into the Exposition grounds in West Springfield. Ten of those were from Mass-2. We met on the Petersham Common and braved a little rain in the morning on the way into the city, but the sun came out to make it a sunny summer day for the parade.

Congratulations Ed!

Red Knights Mass Chapter 2 has another reason to be proud. Ed Brouillet is the new International President of the Red Knights!

Gary Nelson, president for the last six years and active with the board for a number of years before that, decided not to run for re-election.

Serving as International Vice-president under Gary has prepared Ed to lead the Red Knights in its continued growth into the new millennium. We know that Ed is the best choice for the leadership role, and the other Red Knights casting their ballots thought the same thing.

Congratulations Ed, Mass-2 is very proud of you and stand behind you to help keep the Red Knights growing and strong.

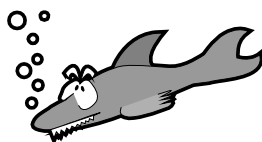
Chapter Elections are at the Annual Meeting 10:00 a.m. (before the Polar Bear Ride) on November 11 .

If you would like to run for office (President and Secretary are up this year), contact Kevin Martin — our nominating chair this year — at 978-837-6935

Steve and the Game Warden

Did you hear about Steve's run-in with a game warden recently? Seems he was stopped by a game-warden as he was carrying two buckets of fish. He was leaving a lake well known for its great fishing up around Groton.

The game warden asked him: "Do you have a license to catch those fish?" Steve replied to the game warden: "No sir. These are my 'pet' fish".



"Pet Fish?" the warden asked. "Yes sir. Every night I take these here fish down to the lake and let them swim around. After awhile, I whistle and they come and jump back into their buckets, and then I take them back home again!"

"That's a bunch of hooey! Fish can't do that!" was the wardens outburst. Steve looked at the game warden for a moment, and then said: "Here, I'll show you. It really works!!!"

"OK, I've got to see this," the warden replied.

Steve then poured the fish in to the river and stood and waited. After several minutes, the game warden turned to Steve and said: Well??"

"Well what!" Steve replied. "When are you going to call them back?" the game warden asked.

"Call who back?" Steve asked. "The FISH!!!!!!", the warden yelled.

"What fish?" Steve asked..... ;-)

I just wanted to say to all the Red Knights that were at Bay Front for the Americade that this was the best week we ever had in a long time. Everyone went with the flow. It was wonderful!!!!

Everyone got along so well with having fourteen people in a house! That is unheard of !! We are a great group and we have grown a lot in more ways than one. I felt that I had to say this to all of you, The Lafords, Mickles, Eldridges, Downs, Kevin, Don H, and especially the Brouillets. (Eddie, thank you so much). And oh yes, I can't forget Wayne, he was wonderful also.

The other people in the other cabin were great also.

Thank you all so much,
Love to all of you,
Linda Lee

On the road with our friends...

Hail to the weather man.
For with his inaccuracies, he presents Hope.
Hope that any day may be the perfect day for a ride.

- We ride for ice cream! June 14, flag day, but it was also our June Ice Cream Ride... and it was hot! We had 14 riders and 9 bikes show in the 90 degree heat. Our road captain took us north to Kimball Farm in Jaffrey, N.H. On July 12 it was eleven members and Meola's in Sterling for ice cream and eats. Our monthly ice cream rides seem to be a very popular event with our club. August 9 it was pushing 100 degrees, but our hunger for ice cream prevailed as four bikes made their way to the Route 202 Driving Range in Orange for some ice cream and then a stop at a classic car show in Athol. Our final planned ice cream ride, September 13, had 5 bikes and 7 riders and we went to Kimball Farm in Westford with a tour of Devens on the way. It was a nice night for a ride.

- Off for a Vermont Brunch. Ten bikes left Westminster only to meet up with six more (from Vermont-2) in Brattleboro before heading to the Skyview Restaurant in Marlboro, Vermont. What a great buffet! We broke in the new Vermont Chapter right — rode ten miles with them, then stopped to eat. On our way home Bob tried to scare up something for a snack when a partridge on a kamikaze mission ran into him... not into his bike, into him. Bob versus a bird... bird lost. Don said he new it was a partridge because he saw the *pear tree* it flew out of.

It was a hot Sunday afternoon, and we were able to stay ahead of the thunderstorms, so of course we needed to stop for some ice cream before calling a day as well. Great ride Mr. Road Captain Tim!

- Six bikes from Mass-2 were part of the 1,125 riders that participated in the second annual Molly Bish ride. The ride netted nearly \$20,000 in donation for the Molly Bish foundation for missing and exploited children. Most of our crew (and several from other chapters) went to Carmella's Kitchen in Brookfield for lunch after the ride — and it was a beautiful day for a ride too.
- There were six bikes among the 650 (or so) bikes participating at this year's New England **Ride for Kids**. It was a beautiful summer day for the fifty-mile ride. The Red Knights contributed about \$2,800 toward the cause and Chapter W of the GWRRA (out of Northbridge) was the top group with over \$21,000 (WOW!). At the end of the day, the tally report was that \$96,490 for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the U.S. Since 1984, the **Ride for Kids** has raised in excess of 13 million dollars for the PBTFFUS. Next year's date has already been set for Sunday, August 18, 2002.

Co-Rider's Handbook

by Robert Vaughan

So you're the co-rider this trip. What could you do to make the ride more pleasurable for both you and the rider?

The Look. No, The Look is not a style of clothing. It's even easier (and cheaper) than that. The Look is looking at the right place as the bike makes a turn. Why not take advantage of the same technique a trained rider uses to keep oriented in a turn? The place to look is over the rider's shoulder in the direction of the turn. As you look over the rider's right shoulder in a right turn, look all the way through the turn and keep your eyes level with the horizon. This means tilting your head away from the direction of the turn. If you're turning right, lean your body right but keep your head vertical. Using The Look keeps you leaning with the rider and keeps you oriented properly so you can enjoy the turns even more.

A Sense of Direction. Wouldn't you like your rider to pay more attention to the road and less

to the map? If you think it's hard to read a map while driving, it's even harder to read a map while riding a motorcycle. The rider is usually glad to have someone else navigate. As a co-rider you can concentrate on the navigation, allowing the rider to concentrate on riding.

Preparation. A very short checklist can make any ride a lot more pleasant. Do you have rain gear, sunscreen, a map and sunglasses? These items are often not in plain sight but will be sorely missed if they are needed and not there. Of course, there is much more that can be put on your checklist for the trip. You do have a checklist, don't you?

Not all preparation can be done just before the trip. Was the trip planned so the rider had a chance to get adequate sleep before starting? Working all day and riding all night is probably not the best plan for rider or co-rider.

Results. Investing a little time on preparation beforehand and a little effort on The Look and navigation during the ride can make it more pleasant for both the rider and the co-rider.

Street Strategy

(from July 2001 issue of
Motorcycle Consumer News)



You are on your way across town to meet some friends for a ride. You're running a little late, and it's been frustrating trying to make time through Saturday morning traffic. Now, on a narrow two-lane road, there's a dump truck ahead, creeping along at 40 MPH. Finally you have had enough of being held up, and you decide to be more aggressive about passing. You ease over the centerline for a better view, then signal, accelerate up close behind the truck, and swing into the opposing lane for a quick pass.

But just as you attempt to pass, you realize there is a car about to pull out of a driveway ahead, so you brake hard and pull back in line behind the truck. A couple of seconds later, the truck beeps its horn and swerves over toward the shoulder, exposing a large wooden timber lying in the road directly in your path. Your wheels are only a second from impact when you see the timber directly ahead, so there is no time to take any evasive action. Instantly, your wheels slam into the timber, jolting the bike upward, and almost knocking the bars out of your grasp. As the bike bounces down on the other side of the timber, steering goes mushy, and you are barely able to wobble the bike over to the grassy shoulder without dropping it. Both of your wheel rims are bent, and both tires deflated.

You were wise to be wary about passing on a road with multiple driveways. But you should never be so focused on making time that you aren't watching for surface hazards as well as traffic. It is not uncommon to encounter loading timbers, wooden blocks, and chain binders that have fallen off commercial trucks. By ticking back into line so closely behind the truck, you severely limited your ability to take evasive action, even when the driver attempted to warn you.

In this situation, you should have stayed farther behind the truck to allow time to react to whatever problems might appear, including turning vehicles, pedestrians, and loose objects on the road. Your minimum following distance behind any vehicle should be two seconds. When you can't avoid following behind a large vehicle such as a truck or a bus, for an extended period, consider increasing your following distance to four seconds.

Did you notice that around Americade time and Laconia time (in June) that Mass Highway Department put up signs flashing "*When changing lanes - watch for motorcycles.*"

A lot of work by the Mass Motorcycle Association (MMA), the Mass Highway Registrar of Motor Vehicles and the offices of State Senator James Jajuga, Representatives Brad Hill, Reed Hillman, and Paul Tirone got those signs in place to put us riders in the minds of the other drivers.

Looking forward to next year's train ride... The Boston Globe had a story recently that told of the opening of a new bar at Quincy Market. It is a replication of the bar from "*Cheers.*" Now all good people from Massachusetts know that the true "*Cheers*" Bar is the Bull and Finch a few blocks away near the Boston Common. But the B&F only looks like Cheers on the outside while this tourist attraction *is* the bar.

So let's plan on hoisting a brew to our friends from the seats frequented by Norm, Cliff (yes we have one too), Woody, Sam, and all the Cheers' regulars. With our resident comedian in tow (I'll let you figure out who that is) we should stage a greeting as he walks into the bar... **"STEVE!!"**

But the Red Knights only cost \$10 a year!

That seems to be our standing joke lately because as you all know, once you buy a bike and you're hooked, there is always *something else* that you must have to accessorize your bike!

My Good friend Mary Barclay, wife of our new member Jim and mom of our new member Heather sent me this email recently. I laughed so much reading it I had to share it with you:

I am now convinced motorcycle riding isn't a hobby, it's a psychological obsession. Jim talks of nothing else. He's got more excuses to go places now than Carter's got little liver pills! This supposed gas-saving device has consumed more fuel (when you consider the oil change that HAD to be done the morning after we returned from Florida, BEFORE we even were completely unpacked!) than our 30 mpg car!

Heather's bike came home yesterday. Jim called [Dealer's name] about the clutch problem (he had tried bleeding it, but it didn't fix the problem). It was about a 20 minute call and required Jim drop the bike off Sunday for repair and no promises on when it would be back and it might take a while to get parts. I told him to call the guy in Orange you suggested - it was about 30 seconds and the guy gave him a list of things to try and voila - bike working perfectly!

The bike Jim bought from Kevin Martin is a peach. It's quiet, nice looking and is more than adequate to handle Jim's 250ish pounds. Heather loves it, too, but says it's sort of a heavy bike - she doesn't think she could right it by herself. Heather's 550 Honda is quite a bit more zippy.

So now. Lets look at the cost of saving fuel: (because we bought a motorcycle)

MSF courses- \$400 (well worth it!), Two bikes: \$1,500, Insurance: \$450, Titles: \$100, Sales tax: \$75, registration: \$40, Two helmets: \$340, Leather jacket: \$200, Leather chaps: \$75, More chaps: \$130, leather gloves: (two sets) \$40. That's about \$3,350 - and that doesn't include parts and accessories (repair and now Jim NEEDS saddlebags and Heather NEEDS flame decals), plus the Cortech jacket we're planning to get for Heather, not to mention gas and oil. Now if I figure in hiring help at \$10/hour to do the work that's not getting done around the house while they're out father/daughter bonding...

I don't know if I can afford to save much more gas money!

Mary



Mass-2 is selling Firefighter Angel Pins. These were a popular item at Americade, and Ed still has a few available. The pin is a red Maltese Cross with a gold angel wearing a fire helmet on it. It is 1-1/4 inches in size and we are selling them for \$6. If you would like one contact Ed Brouillet.

Greatest Americade Ever!

That's what a lot of people said — and our members will agree! Members from RK Mass-2 were the biggest chapter at Americade. In the course of the week, our chapter boasted 23 members in Lake George.

As Americade grew closer and closer, we all started acting like kids on the last day of school — anticipating that last bell signaling the beginning of summer vacation.

Sunday's travelers were eight bikes strong (and a four-wheeler) and even had some new non-RKMC friends join us for the ride into NY after they saw Ed's notice on the

Home Page. Sunday was cloudy and cold when we left and it only got worse. One of our guest riders had his bike break down on the top of Bromley Mountain, just outside of Manchester, Vermont. Thank goodness for Darlene, who drove the van out, as those who waited for a tow could stay out of the driving rain and HAIL!

The Red Knights were formed by firefighters for firefighters and their families almost twenty years ago. But Mass-2 travels with a diverse group of professionals. Yes we have firefighters, but we also travel with a Physical Therapist and Nurses. That always is helpful to take care of our aches, pains, and booboos. I won't single anyone out who needed physical repair and re-adjustment, because we all used it at some point!

Monday the Sunday travelers were off to register after breakfast — and the line was almost back to Route 9 from the back door of the hotel! So it was off to the tents and wandering around Lake George until the registration line was shorter. The Tuesday travelers showed up in town and went right to register -- where they met the rest of the group, except for Kevin who didn't show up at the appointed time back home. Where in the world was Kevin? He didn't show up until a little later because he was on a rescue call in Ashburnham.

Don was having a really bad day on Monday, as the waitress where they had breakfast lost his order, and the registration tent had no record of him registering. When we all gathered for dinner at George's Steak House, Don was served first and we didn't even bribe the waiter — although Don figured it was a set up. At the end of the meal, Steve was presented with a bogus bill for \$1102.30. Boy was he surprised.

Monday evening sported the annual Block Party on Canada Street in downtown Lake George. The Mass-2 girls kept the party hopping, which they were noted for later in the week when some one approached one of our members and said that the Mass-2 women were famous.

One thing that makes the time at Americade fun is we can all go our own ways and keep busy and have a great time! Some were off to the tents for more shopping, while others demo rode the new Gold Wing 1800. Then there is people watching on the main street. Steve and Deb went off to win their fortune at the Saratoga Raceway, while about half of the group went on the Lake George boat ride and buffet. The rest kept the home fires burning, literally, when they had a great BBQ over the new open fire pit near the lake. Those on the water waved as our tour boats passed our shore bound counterparts. Several evening we were able to enjoy the fire on the lakefront. One night we even enjoyed the company of King Bill, who came for a visit and some laughs.

Steve Mickle tried out for Americade King, and made it into the finalists round. He was tied up with the competition most of Wednesday. The majority of our motley crew took a scenic ride to Lake Placid that day. Our first stop was the top of Whiteface Mountain. It was the clearest we've ever seen it. You could see forever. After working up an appetite mountain climbing, we stopped at Mel's Diner with 60's Rock and Roll motif and a jukebox.

Lake Placid also boasted a ride on the bobsled virtual reality machine. Cliff got a little motion sick, which may account for his run-in with the law later that day. He was stopped for pulling out in front of a police officer, but he let him go with a warning. Whew!

As in years past, we followed tradition and the winding road to Stoney Creek for an intimate dinner for 27. Members from Florida-1, Ontario 7, and Quebec joined us for the ride and meal. It was so good (per usual) that we were back on Saturday evening as well. ...*continued next page!*

September 11, 2001, a day each of us will remember for all our lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with the lost rescuers, their families, and all those that became victims of this senseless violence in a matter of seconds.

There are a number of relief funds that have been set up to help the victims and the rescuers. The FBI also says that there are already "relief fund scams" that are taking advantage of the concern and compassion of Americans as well.

When you give to any of these causes set up to help, please take the time to make sure it is a legitimate organization like the Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc. One such fund set up to help the emergency responders and the families of the lost firefighters, police officers, and EMS workers is the **The New York Firefighters 9-11 Relief Fund**. One hundred percent of this money will go directly of the families to the fallen rescue personnel in New York City. More information is available by visiting www.firehouse.com or by calling 877-863-4783.

Mother Nature helped us out when we spent the weekend in Wells, Maine in July. Fifteen members (and Mitzy the dog) gathered together for a relaxing few days with Cliff, Marty, and Angie Eldridge as hosts at their camper at the Ocean View Campground.

It seemed to be the ladies' lucky weekend as they seemed to overpower the guys in Miniature Golf and Bochi-ball almost every time any competition started. Both Marty and Deb were low scores for the day and had their names posted at the miniature golf course! There was just no beating them.

Steve got even with Deb, however. He made her do a laundry. Steve brought two pairs of pants. One got soaked because he tried to get Peg in the ocean when walking the beach, and the other had their own ice cream to wear.

The campground owner thought we were crazy when he stopped by on Friday night (and whose to argue?). We had a fire going, had all the chairs lined up, theater style, facing the porch of the camper, and were watching videos. We had an educational tape on slow speed riding that we watched — then everyone enjoyed looking over the video of Americade that Ed and Peg had taken! So the RKMC is not just about having a good time, we're there to broaden your mind and motorcycle skills as well!

Don Hurme is a very early riser (we learned that at Lake George). Up and out for breakfast at 5:30 am he pushed his bike through the campground and to the road so he wouldn't wake anyone (Nice guy!). He said it pushes real easy... Well Don, there is a reason Harley makes their bikes easy to push... *yuck, yuck, yuck.*

Saturday had a passing shower or two, but the only ones to really get wet were Kevin and Lori on their way up Saturday. They had to stop under a bridge on Route 95 until the shower passed. While under there another motorcycle did the same thing. That rider was from Gardner and was headed to Wells, too.

The group took a ride on Saturday and ended up stopping at the toy store in Gorham (Reynolds Honda).

As always it was a great weekend. Lot's of fun (and eating), visiting with our friends (and eating), relaxing (and eating), and fantastic sea food. Think about joining us next year.

It seems that Kevin Martin was on his way home from work and saw a gentleman putting a "For Sale" sign on an '87 Gold Wing on the side of the road. Kevin was somewhat late for his dinner plans that night with Lori because he had to bring his new Wing home and go back and get his car!

Thursday afternoon we headed for the Fire Station for the annual open house and buffet (it seems there is always food involved with our adventures, doesn't it). There were over 200 Red Knights and others in attendance. The gathering broke up and we proceeded to Canada Street to do some serious people and bike watching.

It seems that some of our members wandered into a local watering hole for a quick drink and Peg forgot her camera in the bar when they left. She didn't know until she trudged all the way back to the bar, but Don had picked it up for her, except her didn't tell her. Don had a great laugh over it!

Friday was a Mass-2 guided tour with breakfast at Rathbun's SugarHouse off the beaten path in North Granville, NY. There was one waitress and she approached the smaller of the two tables of Red Knights and said, "I'll be with you as soon as I can, but the people at other table seem a little cranky, so I need to serve them first." Our journey took us around the backside of Lake George with a stop Whitehall courtesy of Bob Laford. While in Whitehall we saw pleasure boats and a Tugboat pass through the locks, visited the local Fire Station, museum, and the Veteran's Memorial (Whitehall was the birthplace of the U.S. Navy back in the Revolutionary War).

Those who attended the awards ceremony and fireworks on Prospect Mountain left early to get in line Friday afternoon. The first timers were in awe at the amount of bikes that were in the parking lot. King Bill was selling raffle tickets for *The Ride for Kids*. \$5 and you get to kiss the King. And he wasn't fussy or discriminatory about who he kissed either!

We must live right. Out of the thousands of bikes on the mountain, we were parked on the end of the second row, directly under the fireworks, which were awesome. Able to make a quick exit, we returned home and enjoyed some more fireside tales and laughter.

Saturday was Parade day. The Red Knights were awarded the largest group award for the fourth year in a row. There were over 100 members of the RMC, including our mascot, Sparky the fire dog. The parade ended back on top of Prospect Mountain where we participated in creating a living logo for the cover of next year's Americade magazine. Look at the letter "d" in the 2002 magazine – it's all RED!

Ed, Kevin, Steve, and Tim stayed when the festivities were over to help with the break down of the stage. Some people will do anything for a T-shirt. They even got their pictures taken with the head of Americade, Bill Dutcher.

As mentioned before, we decided to return to Stoney Creek for another meal on Saturday. As we were ready to depart Jack and Judy were found to be napping. We couldn't go off and leave them. Ten members crept into their bedroom and Kevin did his rooster crowing imitation. We almost had to perform dual CPR. We felt awful to have scared them so badly, well at least a little bit bad.

Sunday was travel day back to Massachusetts. Again, it was the Greatest Americade ever. Can hardly wait for next year.

We have had five new members come aboard since our last newsletter. Welcome to Val Ramos, a firefighter with the Fitchburg Fire Department, Lori Hembrow, the better half of Kevin Martin, Bob Shakarian with the Shirley FD, and Jim Barclay of Royalston FD and his daughter Heather (who is a member with her own bike). Hope to see you all on two wheels with us soon!

Also in membership news, our Vice-president, Bob Laford, was recently promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in Petersham.

HELP-A-KNIGHT

The International has recently released the 7th edition of the Help-a-Knight booklet. The H-A-K program lists the locations of Red Knights throughout North America (and even a few in Europe now). The book also list what those RK Members can do for you if you are passing through their area. Information, tools to help during a break down, a place to stay, etc.



If anyone would like a copy of the new edition of the program contact Bob Laford. The Help-a-Knight book is available as a hard copy or online.

Red Knights Patches and Rockers

We have our new shoulder patches and rockers and they look great! The Chapter Officers have decided to give each member a patch and set of rockers. We also have enough on hand that if you want to purchase. Check with Cliff on the prices.

If you haven't received your free patch yet, come to one of our scheduled rides or events — or if you cannot make one of the rides contact one of the chapter officers and they will see that you get your patch.

Thanks for your help on the 120 Club.

It was a great success for our Chapter! All our tickets were sold which meant the chapter did well as a fundraiser. A special **Thank You** goes out to Steve & Deb Mickle and Tim & Darlene Kilhart for being our sales people extraordinaire. Each couple sold 25 tickets, and as our top sales people were awarded a ticket before the drawing.

Our winners were:

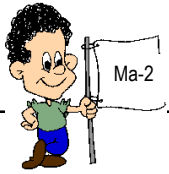
- \$500: Al Holmes (Mass-3)
- \$200: Rose Albee
- \$100: Jane Bellar
- \$50: Vickey Harwood and Francis Wada
- \$25: Bob Kendall, Sandy Smith, Leo Patry, Stephen Wakefield, Kathy Auvinen, Cliff Eldridge, Henry Hoten, Dick Clements, Steve Boudreau, Steve Mickle, Gary Washington, Anne Shattuck, Debby Ashley, Jim Pierce, Joe Conroy, Francis Wada, Linda Ead, Martha Gidney, Ed Mientka, Bill Morrison

This was a real boost for our club and we are planning on running another next Spring. Look for the tickets to go out sometime in January. Grab a hold of all those winners and make sure they are committed to another ticket and tell those ticket holders that didn't get on the winning roles this time that 2002 may be their year!

Fall is already upon us... and Winter is not far behind that. But luckily, Mass-2 keeps active together even when the cold wind blows and the bikes are covered away for the Winter. So...



A special **Thank you** goes out to Cliff and Marty, for opening their Camper to us and sharing a wonderful weekend with us in Wells, Maine.



You may gristle and grimace when you think about the 2001 riding season winding down and the colds of winter heading towards us — but that also means it is time to start planning for the 2002 Riding Season!

With that comes the all important maintenance thoughts before storing your bike. But what I want you all to think of is *where should we ride and what should we do next year??*

We have a number of rides and gatherings left in 2001, so please start thinking about rides and events for next year and let the officers know your thoughts. This is your club and we should be planning for the things everyone would like to do. The officers will be meeting in January to plan out the 2002 ride schedule and everyone's input is welcome.

Last year we sent postage paid postcards to everyone for ride ideas and only got **three** back. If you would like different rides to go on we need each of you to participate with your ride ideas during our planning!

PLEASE give us some ride ideas!

...Mark **December 1** on your calendar. That is our **Christmas Party and Yankee gift swap**. This year the party is at Marty and Cliff's house in Leominster (5:00 PM). Bring your favorite dish to share and a wrapped gift to exchange. It's a lot of fun and we hope to see you there!

Did you receive information on **The Red Knights 20th Anniversary History Book?**

Consider submitting personal profiles, stories and pictures from your history with the Red Knights.

As a chapter we are going to submit a chapter history (since we were there at the beginning) and a group

Chapter Photo.

We are going to take this picture after the pancake breakfast at the Belchertown Fire Station before we head to Vermont for Apple Pie.

Even if you can't make the ride to Vermont, please come for breakfast and join us in the picture. We are one of the largest and most active chapters in Massachusetts and we want to show our pride to everyone!

I always try to have a book going so when I have a few minutes to sit in my recliner I have something to accompany my time along with my remote control. A book I read recently, "The Leadership Lessons of Jesus," had a very poignant topic that is close to all us Red Knights. This book is not so much a book on religion but rather leadership. The one topic I wanted to share with my fellow Knights — FOOD.

"It is not just coincidence that Scripture so often uses food as a metaphor for knowledge and learning; bread, meat, fish, milk, and honey are all biblical synonyms for knowledge. The Bible reveals how often food and drink are the backdrops for so many of Jesus' most powerful and important lessons."

The book goes on to say, "Memos, manuals, and seminars are useful instructional tools, but they can never replace a quiet lunch or dinner as a means of teaching, learning, and growing together."

Think of how many important times in our lives are intertwined with sharing a meal with friends and family. Many times, those special events that include breaking bread together, involve the friendships found in the Red Knights.

We received a thank you from the Petersham Firemen's Association for the club's donation to the Legare Fire Fund.

If you remember, two Petersham Firefighters were burned out in May and we donated to their recovery fund. When we received the thank you back in July, the fire department had presented the Legare's with \$2500 in donations.

At the weekend in Maine, we also voted to send a donation to a single mom in Groton that was burned out as well.

August 26 was a great summer day for our ride out to the Kilhart's camp in Royalston for our summer pot-luck. And if you came looking for us, we were no where to be found — because to get there we had to be led past a locked gate and down a path/road that is used for access to their camp as well as a biking path along Tully Lake and Army Corps of Engineer property. What a pristine area. We were able to enjoy the waterfront, Cliff tried out the Kayak, and a boat load of our ladies went on a tour of the lake.

Of course, we ate too! Thanks Tim and Darlene.

The great weekends just keep coming! A group of 6 bikes headed out to Hampton Beach on September 8 for the Hampton Seafood Festival. The weather was hot and sunny and was only matched by the day's tastes and sights. Enjoyed a scenic ride home via the back roads thanks to Fred Leblanc in the lead.

The following day was another great late summer sunshiny day for the annual Rhode Island Fun run where 13 of our members met up with our counterparts in RI for a seaside tour with 23 bikes.

Because of a change in the International Dues structure, we are asking that our members have their chapter dues in to the Treasurer before November 30.

Enclosed is an invoice, \$10 per member for 2002. Thank you for your cooperation.