



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 – Summer '14

<http://www.rk-mass2.org>



facebook.com/RKMASS2

Loyal to Our Duty

Without any stress in our day our lives would be pretty boring. However, I think all of us will attest that with all that goes on in our lives from work, family, finances and all the details that go into each of those compartments, sometimes the stress gets a bit overwhelming! What do we have in our lives to combat all that stress? OUR BIKES!

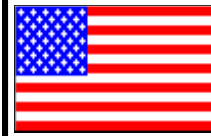


Sometimes it takes a longer time than others to get some of the day-to-day cobwebs out of your brain, but a good ride is a great antidote for stress. On the bike you get to focus on the ride, and your skills, and the scenery, and the feeling of exhilaration you get while you are throttling through the corners! Whether you use the bike every day and include it on your commute to and from work, or just take it out for those special rides, that two-wheeled machine has the ability to improve your mental health and help clear your head of all that pressure that today's world brings us.

And the Red Knights are right there beside you to help keep you pointed in that two-wheeled corrective direction. The rides and friendships we have all go hand-in-hand with how motorcycling is a positive influence on your life's outlook.

Have you looked at our 2014 ride schedule recently? We have flipped over from the front page to the back page. That means that a number of riding months have already passed by. We still have a number left to go and the Red Knights and the road are calling out to you! We hope to see each of you out on the road with us – whether it is for ice cream, our Labor Day BBQ, a weekend getaway, Sherry's Ride, or any of the other events that we have listed for this year. Each of those rides and gatherings will help you put your cell phone down, forget about the email, and disregard any deadlines that are looming at work. Because that are what friends are for, to redirect your focus to those things that are more important in your life – like friends and fun!

So make sure that some riding time is scheduled in your day planner and get out and make those tires go around before the season's end approaches!



Sunday, August 31.

**Labor Day
Weekend BBQ.**

We'll be heading to the Dunbar's in Princeton for this year's Labor Day Weekend Cookout.



You can meet the group at Mark and Cynthia's for 1:00 p.m., or if you would like a short ride, meet at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts for noon and we will take in a few miles before our arrival. [244 Sterling Road—Route 62]

At our annual business meeting for our chapter, scheduled for October, the officer positions of Vice-President, Treasurer, and Road Captain will be up for election/re-election.

If you are interested in running for office, please contact President Martin (new email: rkma2prez@gmail.com)

Saturday, October 18 — Annual Chapter meeting.

Plan to meet for breakfast before the meeting (more details to come). Then after breakfast we will head over to Petersham where we have made arrangements to have our meeting at the Fisher Museum at Harvard University's School of Forestry in Petersham.

After the meeting there will be time to tour the museum and its dioramas on how our New England landscape came to be.

(Psst... the Phillipston Fire Tower is also nearby if you are still in need of one for your pin!)

The red color on PEI!

We have received a lot of stories, notes, and pictures from the convention on Prince Edward Island. There are many pictures on-line via our webpage and our Facebook page.

We are weeding though all the great information and will have a bunch of stuff from those days over the border in our fall newsletter.

If you have more stories and pictures to share get them off to Bob Laford to be included!

Thank you Leo!

A tip of the hat and a big thank you goes out to our deserving International Treasurer Leo Patry.

Leo is a friend of the chapter and a personal friend to many of us and he has announced his retirement as Treasurer for the International.

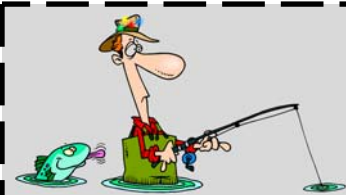
Leo stepped up and took the books over in the mid 1990's when they were in disarray and mismanaged. He has done a great job and his rest, away from the facts and figures, is well deserved!

50% of all motorcycle tires are underinflated. When was the last time you checked your tire pressure? Low tire pressure is dangerous!

Membership News Briefs...

Our condolences go out to Linda and Doug Dupell on the passing of Linda's mom and to Chris Conrad and John Loissele on the passing of their dads.

Welcome to new Social Member, June Cardone, wife of Joe. Congratulations to Bill & Pat Bourque and Ed & Peg Brouillet on becoming grand parents; to Katie Marjomaa on becoming "Dr. Marjomaa" and to Larry Robinson on the sharp looking trike conversion he had done on his bike and to Bill Curtis on his new Ultra Classic Firefighter's Special.



Many of you have been over to the Templeton Fish and Game Club on Partridgeville Pond in Templeton.

We have had a few events there and some of you have been over for club dinners, breakfast, raffles, etc.

Fellow Red Knight Doug Dupell is the Chairman of the F&G Club. He wanted to extend an invitation that if there are any Red Knights that would like to become members of the club to please see him, or see other Red Knights that are members (Linda & Ernie Lee or Bob Laford).

Similar to the RKMCC, the F&G Club is very family centered and offers events and gatherings throughout the year whether you are a sportsman or not.

The beach and pond are great spots for swimming and fishing, and the club hosts a shooting range as well. There are even photos floating around of when Doug & Linda and their camp neighbors cut open the pond on New Years and had a polar bear plunge!

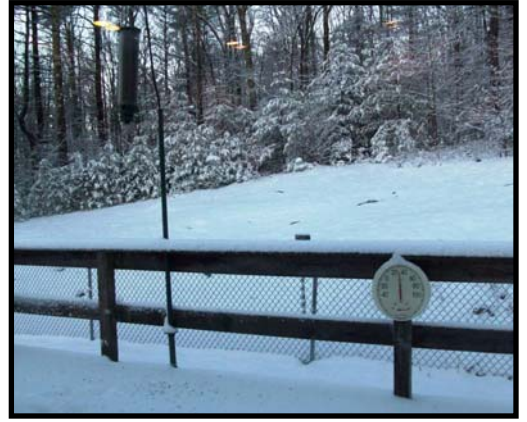
<http://www.templetonfishandgame.org/>



We had 15 members and friends along for the ride for Strawberry Shortcake in June! Mmmmm....

On the road with our friends...

- Remember... it is New England! Do you remember Monday, April 14? It was sunny and some towns reached 80 degrees. Then two days later we awoke to 21 degrees and 3 inches of fresh snow! It was a L-O-N-G winter, so enjoy the summer and get out and ride!



- A cool April morning had 22 people come out for breakfast. There were a couple of brave riders all bundled up and plugged in!
- A PERFECT day awaited us for our Father's Day Ride. We had 9 people come out and enjoy a picnic at the Knightville Dam in Huntington, and a stop at the Glendale Falls in Middlefield, MA.



Out for a ride and look... a fire station with a pavilion and picnic tables for our picnic lunch stop. But we DID NOT notice the alarm siren next to us... and they definitely test the siren at noon!

Saturday, August 23. Mass

2's annual ride for

Sherry's House. Tim K will take the lead once again as we "play some cards" through parts unknown. At each stop the riders will participate in some "card games" to see who ends up with the best hand. Donations and proceeds of the *gambling* will be delivered to "Sherry's House" in Worcester.

Meet at 2/202 Shell Station in Orange at 9:00 a.m. Check out www.whyme.org for information on Sherry's House.

We are asking for gift cards to places like Wal-Mart, Target, National Restaurants, gas cards, and the like that could be used at Sherry's House to help support the families who need to stay there as their children are receiving treatment at the area hospitals.



Are you READY?

Excerpts from the Riding Well column in the May edition of Rider Magazine by Eric Trow

[For all of us] the term "T-CLOCKS" should ring a bell. Even if you do not remember the exact terms for the acronym, chances are you remember that you should give your bike the once-over before you throttle out of the driveway.

Why not ask ourselves if we are R.E.A.D.Y. for the ride by performing our own mental checklist?

"R" is for RELAXED — Before starting and ride, let's make sure that we are relaxed as possible. That means our stress level is low, our temper is even, our mind and heart are not racing and we are focused on riding.

"E" is for EQUIPPED — Whether we are riding across the country or across town or just across the street, let's think twice about the gear we are wearing. It's easy to hop on the bike and pull away for a short ride. But trouble can —and does— happen close to home.

"A" means ANTICIPATE — Before any ride, take the time to think about what you may encounter while you are on your ride and identify factors that could affect your safety. What might be waiting for you just up the road this particular day and time?

"D" is for DRUG and ALCOHOL FREE.

"Y" Stands for YIELD — We should be ready to yield to other drivers. By deciding before you ride how you will respond to others will help you keep a cooler head should a situation [with another vehicle operator] arise.

By taking a couple minutes before hitting the start button, we can complete our personal pre-ride check. Then we can be **READY** for a fun and safer day of riding.

Our spring "Dust-Off" ride was a great success. We had eleven bikes show up and friends from VT-2 stopped in as we were gathering to say hello as they passed by too.

Our President was in the lead and had a central Mass route of about 75 miles planned for us, and the weather cooperated and even warmed with some spring sunshine as the ride continued.



Lunch was at Hot Dog Annie's on Route 56 in Paxton, and everyone had big smiles on their faces because of this well-deserved ride after a long, cold, snowy winter!

What do you carry on your bike for supplies? I know I have some extra tools, plug kit, small compressor, etc. But I bet that Jim Skehan has us all beat!

On the way to Americade one of the groups had to stop because Chris Conrad had a side cover come off his bike. Upon inspection they found he lost all his grommets. Never fear, Jim pulled out a bag full of assorted sized grommets and had Chris' repair done in short order!

A letter from one of our 2014
MSF Scholarship recipients:

Dear members of the Red Knights Group,

I would like to thank you so much for the scholarship to take the motorcycle training class.

I have always wanted to ride a motorcycle. The class was a great learning experience and lots of fun. It was also fun trying new bikes. Thank you again for the great opportunity to learn how to ride a bike safely.

Jason Scott

Americade at it's best -- Friends - Motorcycles - and Miles

WOW! What a great week we had in Lake George. It was the best weather we have seen during Americade Week for years! Sun, low humidity, cool nights, and warm days. We had two bouts of rain but they were both in the evening!

Leading up to our trip we knew that a number of our "regulars" could not make it this year, but with friends and fill-ins we had full beds every night and still housed 33 RK members and friends at the cabins — plus had a few more visit for the day or come by while staying elsewhere in Lake George.

We had our east and west groups head out on Saturday morning. One took a direct route arriving around lunch time and another group had a meandering route with everyone taking guesses on "where is Jim taking us?!"

Since the weather was more than cooperative we all got a lot of miles to familiar places like Lake Placid, Sacandaga Lake, Saratoga, Tracy Road, Ticonderoga, Blue Mountain Lake, Whiteface Mountain, Speculator, the Adirondack Museum, and all points north, south, east, and west!

We had pseudo Drive-in movies (without the drive-in part) thanks to Steve's screen and projection set up. We watched a number of first rate movies in the evenings. Other entertainment included an ongoing game of cards whether it was on the kitchen table, under the pop-up tents, or at the waterfront.

Speaking of waterfront, the weather was so nice (and warm) that a number of people actually swam! The legend of the iceberg passed this year (must be the global warming had the ice resting deeper in the lake). The water was cold, but with the temperatures in the 80's it felt good!

We also had a couple of nights with fires by the lake. S'mores, toasted marshmallows, and other snacks were readily available. And if we happened to have any empty bottles of distilled beverages that occurred while down



Thank you's are owed to...

Peg B. for all her Americade planning ALL YEAR LONG, to Walter for helping with grocery shopping at the PX, to Deb and Marty for their work in the kitchen and keeping us fed, to Steve for the use of his trailer... and to everyone who helped make this year's Mass-2 Americade a great time!

by the fire, Steve showed us how to dispel the remaining spirits from the bottle.

As could be expected, we never went hungry either. Sausages, bacon, eggs, waffles, and whatever else you could need for breakfast was there. Almost every day there was an assembly line making picnic lunches to take along for the day's ride. Dinner brought us burgers and dogs, spicy beans, pasta night with homemade meatballs, chicken and steak on the grill, and of course our obligatory dinner at Stoney Creek.

Of course, could any day be complete without ice cream. And our dessert cupboard seemed to never go empty. When Jim Barclay had to return to Mass for a day he returned with two packages of Mary's chocolate chip squares!

We all helped the area's economy as well with visits to the vendor areas on Million Dollar Beach, Route 9 south of town, and in Warrensburg.

Americade had many events for everyone to participate in for the week, including a Comedy Show, Seminars, Test Rides, and Fireworks. This year's fireworks were done from barges in Lake George itself. From the waterfront at the cabins we could see the high ones, but the shoreline trees kept us from seeing the entire show.

Saturday morning was perfect for the parade. It was smaller attendance both in the parade and for those watching the parade—everyone else

must have been out riding. The parade was dedicated to our Veterans. There was a 911 memorial at Tour Expo that raised money for wounded veterans that need homes. There were several reps from that organization in the parade and walking the route.

There were 22 Red Knight bikes lead by our own Walter (and George) with all his flags. Sparky was there of course, as well.

What are you doing next June? I bet there will be another big contingent of Mass-2 members heading to Lake George. Join us!

Saturday, November 8. Year-end Picture Perfect Potluck. *This year we are expanding out Picture Pot Luck beyond just Americade pictures. Bring your pictures, your videos, some food to share, and your opera glasses to enjoy an afternoon of laughs reminiscing about our past year! Instead of just Americade pictures, let's look at them all... Rides, pot-lucks, Convention, and of course... Americade! 1:00 p.m. at Rick and Lori Oliver's, West Street in New Salem.*

Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

Saturday, July 26. Fudge Factor Ride.

Meet at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 10:00 a.m. and we will explore some of Franklin County's scenic roads with a stop in Shelburne Falls... where we need to find a candy store called "Mo's Fudge Factor!" With a name like that we cannot pass it by!

Saturday, September 13. Wright's

Chicken Farm. Come join us for a ride into Rhode Island where we may see why the chicken crossed the road with lunch at Wright's Chicken Farm. Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 10:00. www.wrightsfarm.com

Saturday, September 20. Minuteman

Tour. Join us for a ride east to Lexington and Concord for a little local history on some roads that we do not get to very often. **Meet at the K-Mart Plaza** off the Merriam Avenue Exit, Route 2 in Fitchburg at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 5: Breakfast with

Smokey Bear.... Join us for Breakfast (to support our brethren at the Jaffrey FD) to kick off Fire Prevention Week! Leave Westminster Dunkin Donuts at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 12: Free-spirit Fall

Foliage Ride. Meet at the K-Mart Plaza off the Merriam Avenue Exit, Route 2 in Fitchburg at 10:00 a.m. and we will head north in search of New England Fall Foliage. We may even try to spell out some Grand Tour letters during the day!

Dummerston's Apple Pie Festival is also Sunday, October 12. We will not be hosting a formal chapter ride to Dummerston this year, but the pies will be there if anyone wishes to head into Vermont to scope them out and scoop them up!

Killington Classic in Killington, VT.

Thursday-Monday, August 28-31.

Looking for some time in Vermont? Maybe a stop at a rally with some vendors? The folks at Americade have been running the Killington Classic: www.killingtonclassic.com

Let's plan on a day trip into Central Vermont on Saturday, August 30.

And there may be others who are making plans to spend a few days at "The Classic." Let us know if you are and maybe our day-riders can meet up with those already in Vermont!

National Ride to Work Day

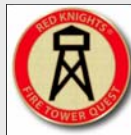
Was Monday, June 16, 2014 — www.ridetowork.org/

Did you ride yours?

Ice Cream! May started our monthly ice cream rides (but was rained out)! This year's meetings will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month through September.

The next **Ice Cream Rides** are Aug. 27, and Sept. 24

RK-Mass2 Fire Tower Quest



Join us in a search for fire towers while out riding this year.

Visit 6 fire towers (and document the visits with a picture of you and/or your bike with the fire tower) and win a cool pin at the end of the season.

How are you doing on your Fire Tower Quest?

Sunday, August 3. RKMC CT-2 Summer Picnic.

Scheduled for the Portland Fire Dept Picnic Grounds on the Conn River. Last year's costs were \$10.00 per person with a short ride before the cook out. More info will follow — or contact CT State Rep Dana Robertson if you need to know sooner!

Massachusetts Red Knights Fall State Meeting will be hosted by RK Mass-13 at the Ayer Fire Headquarters
Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 4.



On Boston Rock, atop Prospect Hill in Waltham with the Boston Skyline in the background. Bill Bourque guided us around Waltham and the neighboring communities after the State Meeting in May.

The state meeting had 33 members representing seven of the state's thirteen chapters.



The 2014 Ride for Kids does not appear as an official ride on our calendar this year.

But the New England Ride for Kids, supporting the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is still happening and any and all are still welcome to participate.

The ride is out of Framingham this year, at the Bose Corporation facility—Mountain Road, on Sunday, August 17. More information is available at www.rideforkids.org.

What is Mass-2's history with the Ride for Kids?

The New England Ride for Kids' first ride was in 1998. One of our members participated in the ride with a Goldwing Club they belonged to in 1999 and suggested that we put it on our 2000 schedule. 2013 was our 14th Ride for Kids that we participated in as a chapter.

In 2013 Red Knights Mass-2 brought in over \$2,800 in donations. 2011 was our most successful fundraising year when we brought in almost \$6,000 in donations, and that year the chapter was also recognized as the top Red Knights chapter in fundraising for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation for the entire United States. Since 2009 Mass-2 has been in the top 5 fundraising clubs for the New England Ride.

Over the 14 years of our participation Mass-2 has brought in over \$28,000 in donations to the Ride for Kids and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

Although we are not participating on the ride, our chapter continues to support the Ride for Kids and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

The first "Ride for Kids" event was held in Atlanta in 1984 after founders Mike and Dianne Traynor's friends had a child diagnosed with a brain tumor.

There are now around forty Ride for Kids motorcycle rides a year around the country bringing in over \$4 million annually, making the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation the largest non-governmental funding agent for Pediatric Brain Tumor research in the country.

When Ride for Kids began in 1984, the diagnosis of a child's brain tumor was a virtual death sentence. Because there was very little research being done into the disease, treatments were ineffective or harsh, and most children did not survive to adulthood.

Since then, motorcyclists have helped the PBTF change that reality. Their efforts have made us the world's largest non-governmental funder of pediatric brain tumor research. From developing improved treatment options to offering college scholarships to brain tumor survivors, Ride for Kids is dedicated to making a difference in children's lives.

Skills Day



Rain Rain go away, come again another day!

Oh boy, our early spring ride calendar has been taking a beating! There was still snow on the ground into April, and sand on the streets much later than that. Then as we started to see the light at the end of the tunnel our spring was wet and cold!

We have had a number of weather-related cancellations this year, one of them being our skills day! The Mass DOT has a grant to get out and visit clubs with their motorcycle simulator and do some training with us in the field. They were scheduled to come out to our skills day but we were rained out (even though the rain moved out earlier than expected)!

We hope to be able to schedule them, if not for a practical parking lot practice, hopefully for the simulator later in the year. (Maybe at our annual meeting).

Don't let our skills day being cancelled keep you from rolling into a vacant parking lot and practicing some low speed skills like U-turns, figure eights, swerving, and emergency stops. Any practice time you can make for yourself will make you a better rider!

Ride Safe!

Strange motorcycle news story...

BIKER LOOKS FOR FALSE TEETH ON BUSY SPAIN HIGHWAY. MADRID — A MOTORCYCLIST BROUGHT TRAFFIC TO A STANDSTILL ON ONE OF MADRID'S BUSIEST HIGHWAYS AFTER HE PULLED OVER TO LOOK FOR HIS FALSE TEETH, WHICH FLEW OUT OF HIS MOUTH WHEN HE SNEEZED, ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA REPORTS.

TWO MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS APPROACHED THE MOTORCYCLIST AND ORDERED HIM TO RESUME HIS JOURNEY. IT WASN'T KNOWN IF THE MAN FOUND HIS DENTURES.

Winnepesaukee Weekend.

Well it looks like the lake Winnepesaukee trip is still on, We have reserved 8 rooms at the Lakeshore Farm Inn, just an hour south of the lake. Kevin needs a definite head count of how many couples (singles) are actually planning on attending. Room rates are \$109 per night and

The group will meet at Walmart in Lunenburg for 8am on August 9th, we'll travel back roads and side streets towards the lake and take a tour of lake Winnepesaukee.

There is a tour on the lake cruise boat for \$30 a person if your interested , times are 10 and 12:30 Saturday. There will be other surprises in store for the group too!

Were you north of the border for the convention?



Hilltown Brewfest!

Saturday, September 6. Not a motorcycle ride, but for those who may enjoy sampling a selection of craft beer brewers, the New Salem General Store hosts the Hilltown Brewfest at Cooleyville Corner (Route 202 near the Shutesbury town line) on Saturday afternoon. Proceeds raised through the Brewfest are shared with the New Salem Fire Department and other neighboring departments. Come enjoy the afternoon (on four wheels). www.hilltownbrewfest.com/



Thursday-Sunday, July 17-20 was this year's Red Knights International's Annual Convention. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and we had a large contingent of 21 people from Mass-2 including Hal B from New Brunswick. It has been a number of years that we have been able to rub elbows with Hal as a chapter but it was great to get together with him and his wife Joanne.

As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter we were also host to some visitors from Switzerland again this year before we headed off to PEI!

This article was originally penned to talk about getting ready for the convention but since the newsletter did not go out until afterwards we'll just say that we are collecting stories and notes from all the week's events on Prince Edward Island and we will have more details and pictures in the October newsletter!

A special thank you to Secretary Rick Oliver for taking time from his vacation to serve our chapter by selling our decals at the convention.



Our friend Clayton Thomas from RK Indiana-1 was among a select few veterans that were welcomed aboard the U.S.S. Constitution today as it took to the waters for its annual "turn around cruise." The rains of the approaching Hurricane Arthur did not deter Old Ironsides, her Naval Crew, or the special guests on board!

Thank you to Bill Noonan, BFD, retired, for this great photo of the oldest commissioned warship in the world -- and the United States' "Ship of State!"



This is a picture of Clayton being welcomed to Madawaska, ME by members of Mass-2 and the Madawaska Fire Chief at the conclusion of his 10,000 mile Four-Corner ride in 2003.

What is your Rider Protection Factor?

We all know that the different "SPF" numbers on sunscreen gives us information on the amount of sun and ultraviolet protection a specific product gives us when we are planning to go outside. Think about the level of rider protection in the same way when you are going out for a ride.

Below is an excerpt from Eric Trow's July column in July's Rider magazine.

What is your **"Rider Protection Factor"** or **RPF** [when you go out for a ride on your motorcycle]? The higher the number, the better prepared the motorcyclist is to survive the harmful effects of environmental hazards, road rash, and impact. With a maximum protection equaling RPF 100 and no protection being RPF 0, what would your Rider Protection Factor be on any given day?

Let's start with the most vulnerable, life-sustaining body parts: the head and torso. If you're wearing a full-face helmet, give yourself 30 points for having protection in those areas most vulnerable in a crash or when debris flies. Drop it to 25 points for leaving your chin unprotected. If half-helmet is your style, give yourself just 15 points knowing that face, chin, and lower portion of your skull remain vulnerable. Got it? Okay, now it's time to protect the chest, spine, and all of the important stuff inside. Wearing a leather or textile motorcycle jacket with armor, including back protection? Congrats. That's worth a factor of 20. Tend to ride with a lightweight leather, denim or other material jacket and the number drops to 5 since they provide little abrasion protection and virtually no spine protection. Because our legs have major arteries and some large areas of flesh, let's give leather or textile riding pants with built in armor a score of 20. No armor? Make it 15. Abrasion resistant jeans? 10. Regular jeans? Sorry, that's only going to give you a 5. And, for extremities, if you're wearing full-finger leather gloves with armor, award yourself 10 points. No armor? Make it 5. If you've got sturdy over-the-ankle boots, rack up 10 more points. And finally, if you're making a habit of wearing high-viz colors, reward yourself with another 10 points.

Add it all up and you have your Rider Protection Factor. If you're like most riders, your RPF could be better. And trust me, whether you are sunbathing or riding a motorcycle, you don't want to get burned. Applying sufficient SPF protection in the sun and, if you're riding, wear the gear that gives you the highest RPF protection. Now, where the heck did I put that aloe gel?



Checking out the Glendale Falls on our Father's Day Ride



Home away from home!

Motorcycling is a great way to slow life down and enjoy your surroundings, both the beauty of the landscapes and the people. *(Taken from the July issue of the AMA American Motorcyclist magazine).*

How many of us can see ourselves in that quote? Our busy lives at work and at home are at a warp speed and it becomes our motorcycle and our motorcycle friends that put a stop sign up in our face reminding us to enjoy the time we have!

On Monday of Americade Week, 15 members of Mass-15 took off on an "Alphabet Ride" to hit stations starting with the 26 letters of the alphabet. 1,600 miles later they pulled into Lake George and had huge smiles on their faces at the RKMC open house at the LGFD.

During their ride they raised \$1,400 towards the Lt. Walsh/FF Kennedy Fund. As would be expected the members at the open house passed the hat and helped them pass the \$2K mark with donations over \$700 from the Red Knights!

Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so (making checks payable to the "Lt. Walsh/FF Kennedy Memorial Fund") and mail them to Robert Binnall (MA-15 Treasurer), 129 Rowe Street, Auburndale, MA 02466



Thinking of some unprecedented adventure?

Kent Armstrong of Vermont-2 is starting to plan for a "Sun-up to Sun-down **IRON BUTT** Ride" on the first day of summer 2015.

His beginning plans are to hit the road at Sunrise on the first day of summer... 5:07 am and head west on Route 90 for 1,000 miles, and end about 80 miles west of Chicago where the sunset will be about 8:30 pm.

Thinking about 1,000 miles in a day does not mean driving crazy or being unsafe. It is the routine; riding 100-130 miles, stop for gas, take a break, and if you are tired, take a snooze for 20 minutes. You have 24 hours to complete the 1,000 miles and there are 15.5 hours of daylight on the first day of summer.

Intrigued? Reach out to Kent and talk to him. His email is armstrong@vermontel.net

Interested in reading more about the Iron Butt Association and the different rides that will have you earn your Iron Butt certificate?
Visit <http://ironbutt.com>



**Thanks to Larry
and Nancy for
being such great
hosts for our
summer 2014
BBQ**

We had 29
members & friends

come out and enjoy a perfect post-hurricane afternoon in Petersham. As always there was plenty of food, a lot of story telling and visiting — and several games of Bocce on Larry's regulation court! I think Peg's team won both games!



IT WAS KIND OF A RED KNIGHTS FLASH MOB!

...but without the dancing!

We knew that Stefan Streif from Switzerland would be staying with Rick and Lori overnight before they met up with Marcia & Maury and Ed & Peg for their trip to the convention. As his arrival approached Bob and Rick were talking about how to best get him out of Boston on his rented bike and to the memorial in Boylston so he could visit the memorial before heading off to New Salem and then the convention.

We reached out to Mass-15 to see if they could help, and initially they already had chapter plans into New Hampshire that morning. But they said they would try to find a member that would be able to meet Stefan at the Eagle Rider Rentals and get him pointed in the right direction.

On Wednesday of that week Dave Emery from Vermont-2 sent an email to the Regional Director saying that "Tom Tom" Delboi, the European Director would be arriving with his family from Switzerland and staying in Brattleboro with the Emery's. Their plans would be to bring the Delboi's to the memorial on Saturday to visit. (Coincidentally at the same time Stefan would be there).



Stefan, Tom and his wife Silki and their children with past International Presidents Ed Bouillet, Dave Hamilton, and Dave Emery



State Rep George Colby shared Norm and Dave's emails that if anyone was interested in meeting at the memorial to greet our Swiss visitors, that would be great.

Mass-2 ended up with 16 members on hand... and there were over 40 bikes and about 70 people who journeyed to the RKMC Memorial to meet and greet with our European members! There were Red Knights from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Mass-15 was a great help and escorted Stefan from Boston with about a dozen bikes too! WOW!

Thanks to everyone from all the chapters that made it a special day for our visitors. It became our version of a flash mob but instead of dancing, we had ice cream.

And it all started with a couple of emails two days prior.

REGION-1 RALLY 2015! At the convention there was a meeting of Region-1 members and our Regional Director. There WILL be a Region-1 rally in 2015.

It will be called the **Yankee Rally** and will be hosted by NY-12 and probably held in Saratoga, NY. Plans are that it will be the week-end BEFORE Americade. That way, if you are planning on attending Americade you are only a short distance from Lake George.

People would start arriving Friday with events, rides and a BBQ etc. on Saturday and the event would end on Sunday.

RK Vermont-2's Paul's Ride. The first day of summer was PERFECT for a ride, and we had 17 members come out to participate in Paul's Ride hosted by VT-2.

About 100 people were on hand for a ride that took us along some great back roads that included the mountain roads of Lyden, up a portion of Route 100, and over Hogback Mountain to get back to Vernon.

It was a scavenger hunt this year having us looking for different fire hydrant colors and an Inn that was "Clothing Optional!" Back at the BBQ we kept our streak going by bringing home eight of the door prizes!

Lori-Jo even took home eight tickets to a Lake Champlain cruise! Kudos to VT-2 for their work in raising funds to buy gas cards to help those in cancer treatment.

