



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Summer 2016

www.rk-mass2.org



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Loyal to Our Duty

From the Desk of the President

Hello Red Knights,

How's everyone doing? Well here we are another holiday ahead of us. Whatever your plans for the Fourth of July are let's not forget it's about our freedom and independence and those that have served to give us the right to enjoy life in America — life to enjoy the freedom of riding our motorcycles anywhere. Life, with the right to own your own house and the freedom to move around to any job you choose.

We've had some very nice riding lately and we still have a lot of events coming up. Just remember your ride needs to be maintained and checked over even more in the summer or the more often you ride it. Don't forget to get an oil change at least once during riding season and before you put it up at the end of the season. Just the little things will make it last a lot longer. Remember we have a member that owns a motorcycle shop, Jeff Hamburg. He'd be happy to help you out. Speaking of Hamburg, welcome Jeff's wife Faith to the family she was voted in at the last ice cream ride and to Doug Dupell's wife Linda as well. Welcome we're glad to have you as part of the family.

We have elections coming up in October, if you'd like to join the executive team, the position of VP, Treasurer and Road Captain are up for election. I've heard from Treasurer Laford that he intends to re-run for office. Get your names submitted to me if you're interested.

We have a ride scheduled for the 16th up to Lake Sunapee I've heard from a few of you and if I haven't let me know one way or the other a couple of you may be staying over night (maybe Friday?) and coming back on Saturday or Sunday.

In closer please keep a couple of our members in your prayers and thoughts, Bill Bourque fell at home and is nursing a badly banged up knee. Chris Conrad is having some medical procedures and would very much like to hear from you from time to time.

I almost forgot, think about the 2017 Yankee Rally, it's in Rutland Vermont and rooms will fill up fast!

Stay safe, ride hard —
President Martin

4th of July Celebration Pot-luck BBQ. Saturday, July 2

Come enjoy some time with friends at a holiday pot-luck. We'll be guests of Nancy and Larry Robinson in Petersham (1:00 p.m.) [355 North Main Street, Petersham —Route 32]

Bring some food to share, and have your bocce arm and your horse shoe aim ready for action!



Saturday, August 27. **Life Member Day**

If it were not for our Charter members we would not have a chapter. They got the chapter going and we have a group of them that are still members.

Our plans are for a pot-luck picnic gathering to celebrate those people who have been with the chapter since it's beginning. We will have yard games and some early club story-telling. We hope you will all come out. (Two wheels, three wheels, or four wheels, but come join us!)

We will meet at the Westminster Dunkins at 11:00 a.m. and we'll head to our picnic spot for the afternoon. Please bring some food to share, and reach into the back of your memory for stories of our chapter!

I bet we can come up with some pictures when our members were some 33 years younger as well!

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 nominations chair, President Kevin Martin at rkma2prez@gmail.com (by September 15th).

Saturday, October 15 — Annual Chapter meeting.

Maury and Marcia will be hosts for the first fall Breakfast Club. But it is much more than a Red Knight family breakfast and brunch — it's also our Picture-perfect Pot Luck and Annual Meeting. We are combining our annual meeting with our review of the year's pictures and our October breakfast. Join us for the breakfast (9:00) followed by our annual meeting and election of officers and we will review the collection of the year's photographs!

Membership News Briefs...

Our condolences to Larry and Nancy Robinson (and Ashley) and family on the passing of their son Kevin.

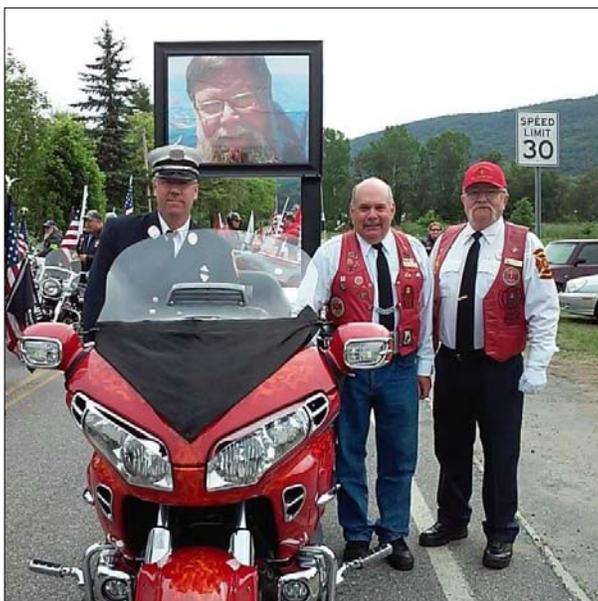


Congratulations to Bob Shakarian and Debbie Gyles on their engagement. Welcome to new members Linda Dupell, wife to Doug, and to Faith Hamberg, wife of Jeff — and for Marcia a big thumbs up on her recent retirement. I see more miles being planned! Congratulations to Jason Scott on his recent graduation and best wishes as he starts a new chapter in his life.

While on a spring ride, Rick and Bob passed through Puxatony, PA where that damned Ground Hog lives.



They found his burrow, with bullet-proof glass protecting him. They did have words with him about his truthfulness about an early spring and the late snows that followed his forecast on February 2.



Red Knight founder Dave Hamilton was remembered in the Americade parade with his picture leading the parade on Bob Binnall's bike and his fire engine trailer being drawn by Mass-1 president Peter Stone.

On the road with our friends...

- Brilliant blue skies met us when we gathered at Rick and Lori's for the March breakfast club and to talk about Americade. We had a lot of food, a good crowd and even a bottle of special scotch ale that was sent to us from our friends in Switzerland.

It was also Rick and Lori's anniversary so Rick opened up the European gift so we could all toast the pair.



- We had eleven members of Mass-2 participate in the spring state meeting in April. There was a good turn out of Red Knights from around the state who spent the morning in Boylston covering some Red Knight business.



- Perfect blue sky and sunshine with the temps near 60 were on hand for our Spring Dust-Off ride. Some great roads, a good group of friends (even a VT-2 member joined us) and a stop at Brady's Grill in Peterborough.

- A beautiful May day greeted us as we took a ride to the memorial in Boylston then through roads in Concord, Carlisle and beyond for about 140 miles led by the President. Lunch was at Fern's Country Store in Carlisle, and of course there was ice cream!



- Deli for lunch, looking for frogs along the way and a stop at UConn for dessert was the plan for one of the spring rides!



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

Can you believe that another Americade Week has come and gone? I believe that this is the 34th year that members of our chapter have been going to Lake George, and it must be close to 30 years at the Bay Front Cottages!

This year Mass-2 members and friends at the cottages numbered 31. There were over 100 Red Knights who rode the Cannonball Ride sponsored by NY-3 and NY-12 fed over 250 people at the RKMC open house at the Lake George Fire Department, with about a dozen Red Knight “vendors” on hand selling chapter wares.

This year at our cabins the “staff” has increased as Tom and Bev’s grandson is working for them this summer. As in years past, Bev was off celebrating with Elvis at the Forum when we arrived, but Tom was quick to ride down and welcome us home.

There has been quite a bit of road construction over the last several years, so we had ample miles of good pavement to explore over the week. Tracy Road, Sacandaga Lake, Schroom River Road, Tongue Mountain, Lake Placid, Champlain Islands, Prospect Mountain, Ticonderoga, Whiteface Mountain, Routes 9, 9N, 9L, 86, 3 74, 73... and oh so many miles on great tarmac of anonymous roads.

There were lot’s of things to do when we were off the bikes as well. The vendors were set up at Warrensburg, and Americade’s Tent City (Tour Expo) filled the parking lot at Beach Road. There were even stunt shows throughout the day you could catch while perusing all the vendors.

There were seminars at the Conference Center, a tent of antique motorcycles on display, and demo rides. A few of our crew had signed up for one of the dinner cruises on the lake. We waved at them when their boat passed by.

This year a sister-rally, Dirt-Daze, made it’s debut a few miles out of Lake George. Catering to the adventure-touring motorcycle crowd, this venue also offered seminars, training, vendors, and demos — but it was all geared for

*Whether the weather be fine
Or whether the weather be not
Whether the weather be cold
Or whether the weather be hot
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather
Whether we like it or not.*

Ah, yes — Spring weather in Lake George. We saw sun, humidity and temperatures touching the eighties. We saw clear mornings in the forties (with snow falling on top of Whiteface Mountain).

Sunday was a day of heavy rain, dropping nearly two inches over the course of the day. But that is OK, we were prepared with the tents and all sorts of activities to keep us busy inside.

And the rain may wash away the pollen — or that was the hope. But it’s that time of the year and EVERYTHING was green! Wipe your bike down before the ride, go inside for your helmet, and the bike is green again when you leave!

We had a number of PERFECT days. Sunshine, blue skies, no humidity. That is what helps the Adirondacks call us back every year. When we rode to Whiteface Mountain the sky was bright blue with a few puffy white clouds. We could even see a bit of the skyscrapers in Montreal. (The summit was 39 degrees, but the view was worth it!)

The summit was windy — and there were some windy times even along the lake shore. No swimming in Lake George for us this year, but we did enjoy watching all the boat traffic on the water.

There was the occasional pop-up shower and a few thunderstorms—but hey, it’s Lake George, we would not expect anything else. The rain is starting, we’re less that two miles from the cabins. How wet can we get in that short of a distance?!

It was dry, cloudy and cool when the troops left for the Americade parade. But by the time the parade started the showers were upon the Americaders in the parade and those watching the parade.

But no matter what Mother Nature brought us during the week, the smiles remain, and it was a week enjoyed by all!

those that like to get mud on their tires.

Mark and Cynthia Dunbar and their friend Ron signed up for a special rider program beyond what an Experienced Rider Course would offer. The exercises were extremely difficult and all participants were told that they would drop their bikes during the training. The instructor said that of the 1,000 hours he has put in preparing and doing this course he has dropped his bike over 500 times. Cynthia said it was worth the four hour commitment to stretch your skills in this format.

We did have a group venture to Stoney Creek and see Dot one evening late in the week. But we also saw that throughout the week we were dividing up into smaller lots and searching out other places — Moose Tooth Grill, the Hot Biscuit, Monte Cristo, Mario’s, the Boat House, Common Roots Brewery, and Adirondack Chocolates to name a few. And of course there were ice cream stops.

A number of nights had us sharing meals family style together. We had burgers and dogs, BBQ Chicken, and Pasta with Meatballs and Sausage. One overnight there was even a turkey cooking in the oven. That was stripped down and ready for sandwiches to be made and taken on rides during the day. (Thank you to the kitchen crew).

Showers were on hand for the parade, but it was still special for the Red Knights. Bob Binnall (MA-15) and Peter Stone (MA-1) helped lead the Saturday parade. Bob had a large picture of our friend and Red Knight founder Dave Hamilton on his bike, and Peter was towing Dave’s fire engine trailer as a tribute to Dave.

There was at least one “first timer” that made his way up to Lake George. Jeff Hamburg and his dad Charlie spent an overnight with us to take in the sights, sounds, food, and experience that Americade is when you are a Red Knight. I think I heard him say that he’ll work out more time in his schedule for 2017. What does your schedule look like for June 2017?

This year’s Year-end Picture Perfect Potluck is being planned to coincide with our annual business meeting and our first fall breakfast club on October 15. Come be part of the governing and planning for your chapter plus enjoy the afternoon together looking over our memories and sharing some food!

In life, one has a choice to take one of two paths: to wait for some special day — or to celebrate each special day.

Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

Sunday, July 24. New England Mill Ride. Our president will lead us in search of some of the mills that have helped our region grow. Some may be still operating and some just “the bones” and memories remain. Do you know what was made in the mills? If you know some stories and history, get Kevin’s ear and maybe your mill will be on the tour! Did you know that the Indian Motorcycle Museum in Springfield is housed in an old mill? Hmmm, do you think that is a coincidence? Meet at Westminster Dunkins for 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 20. Country Store Ride. We’ll head out on New England’s back roads to find some country stores to peruse their wares. Then later in the afternoon we will make a stop in Dummerston, VT for their annual peach supper. Meet at the Westminster Dunkins at noon.

Sunday, August 21. Ride of Your Life (For suicide prevention). Not going to the convention? The annual Ride for Your Life is a three hour ride through North Central Massachusetts with stops at local motorcycle shops along the way. Registration begins at 8 am at Monty Tech. (\$20 rider, \$15 co-rider) www.suicidepreventiontaskforce.org/

Saturday, September 3. Mohawk Trail Ride. Meet at the Orange Shell Station (Routes 2/202) at 9:00 a.m. and we will head out for a ride along the Cold River and over the Mohawk Trail for a picnic stop atop Mt. Greylock.

Sunday, September 11. 9-11 Ride to the Red Knights Memorial. Come join us for an afternoon ride that will include a visit to our memorial in Boylston. Meet at the Westminster Dunkins for 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 17. Tri-State Scavenger Hunt. Meet at the Westminster Dunkins for 10:00 a.m. and we will be off in search of clues and captures for this year’s scavenger hunt. What may you need to have stowed on your bike to be successful in *the hunt*? No one knows!

Sunday, October 9: Breakfast with Smokey Bear.... Join us for Breakfast (to support our brethren at the Jaffrey FD) to kick off Fire Prevention Week and a post-breakfast ride is planned to go look at the foliage! Leave Westminster Dunkin Donuts at 8:00 a.m.

Ice Cream! May started our monthly ice cream rides!

This year’s meetings will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month through September.

The next **Ice Cream Rides** are July 27, Aug. 24, and Sept. 28 (6:30 p.m.)



A contingent of Mass-2 members atop Whiteface Mountain on a brilliant June day during Americade.

RKMC CT Chapter 2 Summer Ride & BBQ

Invitation open to all RKMC REGION 1 MEMBERS/CHAPTERS
PORTLAND FIRE DEPT.ENGINE CO 2 PICNIC GROUNDS
Indian Hill Ave (off 17A) Portland, CT 06480

SUNDAY AUGUST 7, 2016 — \$10.00 Donation
RAIN OR SHINE (Covered Pavilion)

- 11AM - Meet at Picnic Grounds 12 Noon – Depart for 1 hour Scenic Area Ride
- 1PM – Picnic/BBQ

The hosts need a total headcount by July 25th, let President Martin know if you plan to attend.

Saturday/Sunday, July 16-17. Lake Sunapee Weekend

Kevin is searching for potential lodging for an overnight weekend in the White Mountains. PLEASE contact him if you are interested. Room availability is tight.

The other option is a White Mountain day-ride. Let the president know if that interests you as well. Even with an overnight, a day ride can be part of the Saturday schedule for those who cannot commit to the entire weekend.

Massachusetts Red Knights Fall State Meeting will be hosted by RK Mass-3 Location, date and time to be determined.

There is talk from the chapter on Cape Cod about a RKMC weekend for September 9-11 (Weekend after Labor Day).

There are no definite plans or details, but we wanted to give you a heads-up!



Annual RKMC International Convention Wisconsin Dells, WI

Please take the time to visit the webpage that lists the bylaw proposals and review them. If you have any questions, wish to discuss them or voice your opinion on them, contact President Martin.

<http://www.redknightsmc.com/proposedbylawschanges.py>

If you do not have Internet access and wish to review the bylaws, contact a chapter officer.

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In related news, at the fall Massachusetts State Meeting (date yet to be determined), the position of State Rep will be voted on. If you have an interest in this position or wish to discuss it further, contact State Rep George Colby at [gcolby@comcast.net](mailto:gcolby@comcast.net)

Sometimes by either choice or circumstance we end up on dirt roads. Some riders go into panic mode when they see dirt, but your street bike is more than capable to ride safely and surely on gravel roads. It is the rider that needs to grasp the skills to allow the bike to do its job! Below is from the June 2016 Rider magazine column "Staying Safe" by Eric Trow.

### The Dirt on Riding Unpaved Roads

IT'S THE END OF THE ROAD for many. But it's just the beginning for those who are comfortable and confident when the pavement ends and gravel or hard-packed dirt begins. Why is it we get so uptight when things get loose underfoot (or under tire, as it were)? Because things feel a little weird and unfamiliar on dirt. The motorcycle moves around more beneath us on unpaved surfaces, the front wheel seems to wander and the handlebars come alive in our sweaty palms. In reality, while things feel loose, there is typically more traction on hard-packed dirt than riders expect. All of that movement the machine is doing? It's just the bike's natural way of finding a suitable path forward. That said, there are a few techniques unique to riding unpaved roads vs. a hard, smooth road surface.

Stay loose. Avoid fighting the bike's natural tendency to meander on the uneven surface and, instead, loosen your grip and let the motorcycle find its way. Remember, the bike doesn't want to fall any more than you do; it wants to keep moving ahead and staying upright. Keep your eyes up, looking well ahead and the bike will follow. Shift your weight from your seat to your feet. With arches on the pegs (or boots flat on the floorboards) and knees against the tank, steer with your lower body and less with your hands. Unlike riding on pavement, you'll want to keep your body upright, allowing the bike to lean beneath you in corners to maximize traction. While all of this may feel a bit awkward at first, you'll soon become more comfortable and more confident as you discover just how well even a large motorcycle can navigate dry, unpaved surfaces. And the end of the pavement will be just the beginning of your next riding adventure.

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Another tip that I was given that always helps me on gravel is to keep one gear lower than you would be on pavement for your speed. This keeps the RPMs up and power to the rear wheel, both helping your bike to remain stable.



Thank you to the Dunbar's for hosting our final Breakfast Club in April. When we start back up on October 15 we will be guests to Marcia and Maury. That day will not only be breakfast, but we will have our Annual "Picture Review" and our annual business meeting that morning as well.

November's breakfast will be at Bob and Diona's in Petersham, and December's will be at Kevin and Laura's.



Whether it is Apple Pie in October, Peach Cobbler in August, or Ham and Beans with Strawberry Short Cake in June, the ladies in Dummerston, VT put on a great feed!

And June's ride under sunny skies was a great addition to the meal as well!

Here is a picture from Kimball Farms to remind us what April 2016 was like. Spring flowers, record cold, and snow!



I'm glad it is summer now.

Red Knights have many hidden skills. Take the pantyhose — ball challenge at Americade.

It's simple. Put a tennis ball in the toe of the hose, and put the waistband around your head. Now use it as a pendulum and knock down all the water bottles.

Mark Dunbar was our champion!



2016 Yankee Rally—Wildwood, NJ

Mass-2 had eight representatives that traveled down the Garden State Parkway in May to celebrate at the 2nd annual Yankee Rally. There were 322 RK members in attendance (ONE less than 2015). There were over 50 chapters represented including some from outside the Region (FL, WV, PA, MD, and Quebec).

Mass-2 met up with Vermont in Canaan, NY (at a great General Store) and then this New England group met up with Long Island Chapters about 100 miles from our destination. We were a formidable looking group headed down the Garden State Parkway.



The New Jersey hosts did a great job preparing and entertaining us all at the Bolero Resort. We were just a five minute walk to the nearby boardwalk and beach. Thursday and Friday were perfect weather days and we were able to enjoy the day and evenings along the beach.

Mass-2 members ventured down to the beach one evening under a full moon and enjoyed a walk on the beach. The next evening was a bonfire on the beach that we all enjoyed. All the boardwalk stores were open that evening so we got to people watch in a light crowd rather than the elbow-to-elbow room that the boardwalk becomes in the summer.



Lori on her way down the alley

We took advantage of the bright skies on Friday and toured around on our own, ending the day's ride with a stop at the Cape May Brewery just a short distance from the hotel.

Saturday was a damp day with rain increasing as the day went on. The planned bike blessing and ride on the boardwalk got in before the rain became steady. Some of the activities were moved inside,

like the life-sized beer pong (sans alcohol if you remember that game from your younger days) with basketballs and trash cans rather than ping-pong balls and solo cups. They did keep the Human Bowling outside as that was a little more of a contact sport!

Never heard of Human Bowling? Put on your motorcycle helmet, lay on a skateboard, and your "pusher" aims you at the plastic trash barrels set up like bowling pins. Our own Jeff Hamberg made it to the finals! Lori Oliver was also one of the contestants and made a strike on her first way down the "alley!"

We headed north on Sunday morning under "dampness" and an occasional shower, and the more miles we put on, the better the skies looked. By the time we crossed into western Massachusetts, the skies had blue showing, so we enjoyed the final leg of our ride home the best.

The 2017 Yankee Rally is hosted by Vermont, at the same hotel as the convention was in Rutland. It is June 2-4. There will also be discussion at the fall Massachusetts State Meeting about the Mass Chapters hosting the 2018 Yankee Rally. Please let your officers know your thoughts on hosting because it takes a lot of hands to make the show work! But we know if the Mass chapters do decide to be a host that it will be a great rally.

Even the 25 mile detours in Vermont are fine riding!



This year's Paul's Ride hosted by VT2 was *GREAT* weather. Our chapter arrived with 14 bikes and one four-wheeler with 20 members and friends along for the ride.

There was a large turnout from VT, NH, MA, and NY to support our friends in the Green Mountain State.

Our host had a 60 mile scavenger hunt laid out for us, but they were not aware of the parade in Springfield, VT so we added an additional 25 miles to the route. But that is OK, because no matter where you ride in Vermont it is a great route!

Of course ice cream was on the agenda after we enjoyed the BBQ and raffle held at the Putney FD. And of course, Mass-2 came away with a number of prizes, eight, I think was the final number!



YANKEE Rally 2017

June 2-4
Rutland, Vermont



Visit [facebook.com/Yankee-Rally-2017](https://www.facebook.com/Yankee-Rally-2017)
starting on May 22, 2016



You can already book your room in Rutland for the 2017 Yankee Rally!

The link for hotel registration is <https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect> and this will automatically give you the Red Knights Yankee Rally room rate.

Hotel phone number is (802) 775-1911 if you have questions regarding reservations.

Rutland's Only Full Service Hotel

- Greenfields Steak & Seafood Restaurant
- Seven South Tap Room
- Indoor Heated Pool, Two Whirlpool Hot Tubs
- Fitness Center – Treadmills, Elliptical, Circuit Training, Free Weights
- 150 Spacious Non-Smoking Guest Rooms Nightly
- Free WIFI & 37" Flat Screen TV – 50 Hi-Definition Satellite Stations with HBO Movies
- Refrigerator and Microwave
- Complimentary Hot Breakfast Buffet for two persons

Discounted Rate: \$110 Single plus 10% tax or Two Double Beds or King Bed with Sofa Bed Nightly Discounted Rate: \$129 Double plus 10% tax

Holiday Inn-Rutland/Killington — 476 Holiday Drive, Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 775-1911 www.hivermont.com

With sunset at 8:27 pm, clear skies, and temperatures in the 70's it was no wonder that we had 16 riders come out for ice cream at our June ice cream ride to Murdock Dairy Farm in Winchendon.

With the 2017 Yankee Rally scheduled for the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the pre-Americade weekend — thoughts are that we will probably NOT have a Saturday departure day for Lake George as many of our usual Americade attendees will be in Rutland, Vermont for the Yankee Rally.

Just as a year-away-heads-up, if you are not attending the Yankee Rally but still want to arrive in Lake George on Saturday, June 3, 2017, you will have to find lodging in town for that day.

Tentative plans are that the Mass-2 cabins and arriving contingent will be on Sunday, June 4 for next year.

Experienced Rider Course — submitted by Fred LeBlanc

I had the opportunity to attend the Experienced Rider safety course thanks to the gift certificate from the Chapter. The course is now called Basic Rider 2 – Skills Practice. Having ridden for over 20 years, and taken this course before, I wasn't sure how I was going to react. I must report that we all can afford to return to the basics and review procedures as much as possible. The course tested my skills and humbled me almost immediately. A series of skills test are administered throughout the morning class. From weaving around cones, avoiding obstacles, executing figure 8 turns, emergency stopping, braking in a corner, and handling corners for proper entry and exit. I found weaving around cones using only one hand was a little unnerving but managed to accomplish the task. Same with figure eights. Gained a few tips from the instructor and managed to move through it. After completing each task several times it was the moment of truth when we all had to be tested on each maneuver and graded. I can report that I passed as well as the other 9 students in the class with me. Of course being on a Goldwing I had the biggest bike on

the course and I was the old guy that showed up. Once underway however we were all on the same playing field and learned from each other. I am glad I was able to attend. Now I know the areas that need some attention and others that I was OK with. In fact I got to use the skills almost immediately after leaving the class when heading north on Route 12. Seems a van a few cars lengths in front of me decided to stop unexpectedly in the road and I had to do a panic stop. The procedure worked perfectly and the two bikers who also just left the class behind me had to do the same. We all yelled to each other that the class just paid off and I would agree.

If anyone gets the chance to attend this course, whether you have been riding for years or just starting, you should take advantage of the opportunity. I even sent a copy of my certificate to my insurance agent and a week later found an endorsement on my policy giving me money back on certain coverages. I want to thank MA Chapter 2 for sponsoring this program and hope others will take advantage in the future.