



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Summer 2018

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Loyal to Our Duty

From the Desk of the President

Hello Everyone,

Well here we are in July and the middle of the summer, yeah it's been hot and maybe too hot to ride for some of you. Maybe some of you enjoy riding in the heat. Whatever the reason, if you enjoy riding your motorcycle you should be out there and not necessarily alone. We all enjoy riding and sometimes it's good to have a riding partner. Sometimes we just want to ride alone and go for our own adventures — and maybe we'll share our experiences — or maybe not, but they are all memories in one form or another.

That being said, we are all part of the same chapter and we are by far the busiest and most socially active chapter then most of the other chapters. I'm so happy with this chapter and the way we all get along. There are times when some members team up and go for long rides together and times when we all get to ride together. We shouldn't feel like we're being avoided or left out because some members choose to do these things together. I think it's a great way for all of us to keep socially active and enjoy the camaraderie of others.

We have an event coming up in September that will probably need a few helping hands to setup. We are inviting other chapters to come out and play as well. Keep an eye on your email as the date get closer.

With this newsletter I'd like to start a members corner. Basically, I'll pick a member at random for the next article to tell us how they started riding or why. Just a little something about that member and their bike, along with a picture of their bike. This month I'm starting off with our House Mother Peg Brouillet. Who will be next?

Have you seen the new cool weather riding jackets some of our members are sporting, they look great, and are perfect for those early fall, spring days, See me for information if you're interested in getting one. price is \$45 fully screened front and back with our new patch design.

That's all for now, stay safe and ride often.

President Martin

Saturday, September 1.
RK Labor Day Celebration.



Our chapter is celebrating 35 years together in 2018! Can you believe that? To celebrate we are kicking our heals up during Labor Day Weekend.

As the president has mentioned, we will be spreading the word and inviting other Red Knights and other friends to celebrate with us.

Plans are the our celebration will include a lot of food — of course — and a Pig Roast is what is currently being planned to get us together and to provide sustenance.

Plan to kick off the Labor Day weekend out in Orange at the Hamberg's.

Mark your calendars... let's have a big crowd to celebrate the many years we have been together!

More info to follow.

Now the question...



How to prepare the pig?

Out spinning wheels with Peg

About 33 years ago I started dating Ed Brouillet and he introduced me to the Red Knights Motorcycle Club. One of the first things I told him was that I didn't do motorcycles, but I had no problem with him riding. I was an E.R. nurse at the time and saw what happened to motorcyclists after being in an accident. He said OK, but had a plan in mind. He came to my apartment one warm spring day with a picnic lunch and he talked me into a short ride to Trapp Falls in Ashby. I was scared at first and held on tight but he turned up the tunes and by the time we got there it wasn't so bad. That day turned into longer and longer rides. The friendship of the Knights made me feel welcome and I became part of the motorcycle community. Since then I have ridden many miles on the back of the bike seeing sights and doing things I never dreamed of doing.

About 10 years ago I thought it might be fun to learn to ride. When Ed heard that he surprised me by giving me a Honda shadow for Christmas. I practiced riding in a school yard and when I thought I was good enough to ride the bike home, I gave it a try with little success. I didn't realize the most important lesson in riding was look ahead at where you want to go, not straight ahead. Unfortunately, I drove into a telephone pole. It seemed like there was a magnet on it and I just couldn't turn the handlebars. Oh well, lesson learned.

Due to Ed's health, we switched to a Can-Am. I thought to myself, I could drive this and besides it would be good to have my license just in case Ed became ill while we were out riding. Last spring I went for my license. It was really easy since the instructor had never tested a Can-Am before, and he didn't know what to tell me to do. I had to do 3 figure-8s and 3 tight circles and, "here's your license". I love driving and took my first long drive to Lake George, N.Y. in June. I think my R.K. family was concerned about my driving that far alone for my first long drive so Tim Kilhart volunteered to come back home and escort us to Americade. Thanks so much Tim. I hope to continue riding for many years. Thanks to my Red Knight family for showing me the joy of the open road.



Mass-2 Cover Bike

Let's have some fun! Each newsletter we'll feature a ride or two. Do you want your current bike to be our "cover bike," or do you have a bike from your past that has special memories or is unique? Get a picture off to the editor (Treasurer Laford) with some info about the bike... and any special memories with it that you want to share!

And here are three cover bikes for this edition!



One the newest additions to our collective stable is Ian's new Indian that he picked up earlier this year!



Phil Jordan's '84 Goldwing is the longest standing in the club! As our first chapter president he and that bike led many rides, and have been around the U.S. together with its 123,000 miles!

Other rides? Well it is "Spyder-like" from 1967!

Send in your pictures too!



2018 is our 35th anniversary as a chapter within the Red Knights. This year we have 70 members on our roster with Ian Hurley being the newest addition to our family. Looking over our records, in 2006 we had 88 members on the roster — and that was the largest group that we had on board. But whether it is 70, 88, or the 49 original members who joined in that first year (83-84) there have been a lot of people that have passed through our history.

232 to be exact! Yes, that is right. We have had 232 different people that at one time or another have been members of Mass-2. Some were only members for a year or so, some left and then returned, and some have been with us throughout the club's history!

Below are those 49 people that appeared on the first year's roster. A tip of the hat to all of them, to those first leaders that took on an officers' role (Phil Jordan, President; George Fregeau, Vice-president; Maury Lizotte, Secretary; and Cliff Eldridge, Treasurer), and especially to those members that have chosen to stick with us and be an active part of our Mass-2 clan.

Eric Aaltonen	Kevin Curran	*Maury Lizotte
Stephen Amadon	*Cliff and Marty Eldridge	Marie Lizotte
John Batatis	Lisa Eldridge	Larry McNeill
Joe and Jodi Bergeron	*Robert Feeley	Michael Parent
James Blanchard	George Fregeau	Bruce and Sandra Peal
E.S. Bowers	Joe Gerante	David Pillsbury
Dense Bowman	Jeff Gillberg	Ray and Louise Rathier
*Ed Brouillet	Gary Girouard	Joe Shank
Andrew Brown	George Jordan	Gregg Shepard
Steven Castelli	*Phil and Bea Jordan	*James Skehan
*Tom Chaplin	Phil Jordan, Jr.	*Wayne Stacy
*John and Carole Collins	George Laitala	Daniel Taylor
Dennis Collings	James Laitala	*Richard Wheeler
*Charles and Joyce Clarkson	Michael Lammi	

**Denotes current member*

During Americade an International Officer asked me how many of our current members have served as Officers and Chief Officers for our departments. I counted 17 total and 10 who have served as Chief Officers. That means 40% of our "Active" members are or have served as fire department officers.

"The Wall That Heals" is in Fitchburg from July 12 to the 15th at Crocker Field.



It was escorted from Army National Guard Station in Worcester to Fitchburg on Wednesday morning, July 11.

Thank you to those who were able to be part of the escort.



At the 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 7 — Annual Chapter meeting.

Plans are to have a brief ride after the Smokey Bear Breakfast and to reconvene elsewhere for our annual business meeting. More info will be coming out about where and what time the actual meeting is.

Whether you are headed to have breakfast with Smokey or not, you are welcome to — and encouraged — to participate in the meeting.

Membership News Briefs...

Talking bikes at the Breakfast Club in March, and Tim got the itch and had a deposit down by the end of the day! Ian Hurley and Jon Loiselle both picked up new rides, bringing the first Indians to our club and Sandra Hurtubise and Kellie Shakarian are both boasting new bikes this Spring as well! Congratulations to all!



Summer started off well for the Hamberg's. Jeff took off the month of June from work and headed to Americade with us... then to Laconia, completed his Iron Butt from Massachusetts to Georgia with time on the Tail of the Dragon, and spun out some more miles to NY's Hawk's Nest and Finger Lakes for a few days with Rick, Bob L. and Jim S. Back home he packed up Matthew and headed to the Cape to top out at 6,000 miles on two wheels for the month of June — WOW!



How do you top that? On June 30 he stopped at Wagner's in Worcester with two bikes in tow and left with a new BMW Grand America!



Congratulations as well to Marcia and Maury on moving into their new winter home, officially making them snow birds earlier this year!

And congratulations to Diona Laford on a new part-time position with Harvard University at their Forestry School in Petersham. (She's still at the YMCA, too).

On the road with our friends...

- As always, Mass-1 put on a fantabulous spaghetti dinner for all. The weather was not cooperating for us to go on the bikes, but we still had a good turn out to enjoy the great faire!



- Seventeen Mass-2 members were part of the several dozen supporters that were part of this year's VT-2 Paul's Ride. This year it was a bug ride, complete with targets for your bike to see who could get the bug closest to the bulls-eye!



VT-2 has given out more than \$25,000 in gas cards to oncology patients since their first ride in 2002. The ride is named after Dave Emery's brother Paul.



Presidents of RK Mass-2

- We think the Memorial Dedication may have been the first time all four of our chapter presidents have been together for a picture!

AMERICADE 2018

The 2018 AMERICADE was probably some of the best riding weather that we have seen in the Adirondacks for many, many years! We rode up to Lake George dry and we rode home the following weekend dry as well.

Monday was a drizzly day, but even that petered out by dinner time and we got to go out riding in the evening. Then from there on the weather improved day after day with sunshine and temperatures in the 60's and 70's for the rest of the week.

Throughout the week Mass-2 had a members coming in and enjoying the cabins bringing our total attendance to about 30 at the cabins before we were through.



Road, you could park your bike once, see all the vendors, and visit Ft. William Henry and the seminars and dealers without having to leave and park your bike a second time. A number of the Mass-2 family were able to climb aboard demo rides during the week with Yamaha, Honda, BMW, Indian, and Motoguzzi to name a few.

The NY-3 chapter had a ride planned for

Italian, Burgers and Dogs, Chicken, and Steak.

Because of the weather there were Red Knights departing in every direction each day. Some had specific plans like Ausable Chasm, the Great Sacandaga Lake, the Natural Stone Bridge, Lake Placid, or other Adirondack high points — or it may have been a direction. No matter where you pointed the bike it was good riding!

There were changes to Americade as well. With the Expo being moved to the villages park along West Brook



Wednesday, the open house at LGFD was well attended with RK members from around the region (and beyond), and the Red Knights led the Ride For Kids celebration on Saturday.

The RFK ride from Glens Falls back to Beach Road replaced the Americade Parade, but in doing so helped raise over \$14,000 for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

Our cabins were full of fun with card games and laughter, time by the fire—lakeside, and of course the spring-time pollen was abundant and you could always find someone trying to keep their bike clean outside.

With memories of 2018 packed away we all start looking forward to next year's Americade and a visit back to Lake George.



There is no doubt that food is a highlight at the Red Knight cabins at Bay Front. Marty E. and Deb M. kept us fed... overfed... and if you were hungry it was your own fault! Breakfast sandwiches one day, blueberry pancakes another, lunch on the go with sandwiches to pack, and if your tummy was starting to growl later in the afternoon, there was always appetizers set on the picnic tables outside. Our big meals included



This year's Year-end Picture Perfect Potluck is being planned to coincide with our November breakfast club on November 17 at Bob and Diona's in Petersham. Plan to come enjoy the morning together looking over our memories and sharing some food!

Mass-2 was the largest chapter in attendance with 25 of our members for the Memorial Hall dedication. It was a perfect day with ~350 Red Knights and 160 motorcycles on hand.

A lot of work went into preparations and a number of our members spent countless hours working with the Memorial Hall committee over the past months — thank you all who helped!



Ice Cream! Spring started our monthly ice cream rides!

This year's meetings will be on the fourth Thursday of the month through September. Maury took lead on our May ice cream with five others and headed to Cherry Hill Too in Townsend. June was rained out, but there are more ice cream opportunities on the calendar, so come join us!

The next
Ice Cream Rides
are July 26, Aug.
23, and Sept. 27
(6:30 p.m.)



Gathering around the table at Jeff and Faith's for our March Breakfast Club. Would you like to be a host one Saturday? Let President Martin know! Thank you to the Hamburg's and the Robinson's for hosting the March and April gatherings.



It took until late April for it to feel like Spring. With bright blue skies and sun we moved to the porch for our breakfast at Larry and Nancy's — and oh! The sun felt so good!



We know that Mass-2 has snowbirds that head to warmer weather each winter, but Moonlight Ave in Fitchburg was host to a snow-mouse who took shelter in Phil's exhaust this past winter. That mouse must have thought a tornado was upon him when Phil first fired up his bike in April!



Massachusetts Red Knights Fall State Meeting will be hosted by RK Mass-4 in Ware. We'll share details on location and date when we know.

2019 Yankee Rally is being Spearheaded by Mass-15 and is being planned for in Marlborough for May 30—June 2, 2019. The current plans are that the host hotel will be the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center just off Route 495, on Route 20 in Marlborough.

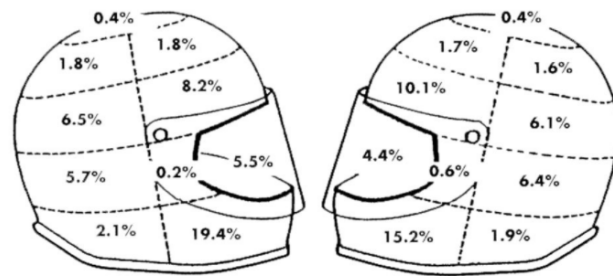
Updates will be coming out as they are made available by the planning committee.

We (Mass-2) were asked if we would be interested in running a variation of our Spring Skills Day as one of the available activities for the event. Watch your email and future newsletters for more info!



Did you know that studies have shown that over 60% of helmet impacts on rider crashes are to the chin bar and forehead regions of the helmet (and to the head inside the helmet)?

Your helmet should be replaced every five years (sooner if it has protected your coconut during an incident). Not only does the technology improve over time, but the sun's ultraviolet rays effect the glues, resins and other materials used in the making of the helmet. They can lose their effectiveness and the lining also deteriorates, creating wear and tear on the helmet so that it provides less and less protection for you as the years tick by. Frequent use, sweating in your helmet, having greasy hair or using a lot of "hair product" can all aid in compacting the foam and making the interior lining degenerate faster than normal use.



Distribution of Impact Locations on Motorcycle Helmets
Study by Dietmar Otte



Late winter kept dumping snow on us as we were wishing for spring, so what a better time to get out of the cold and onto the alleys!

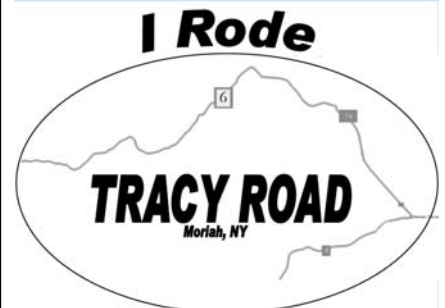
We had 17 come out and jump on a bunch of the lanes at the Gardner Ten Pins.

HOT! That is what it was for our July 4 (weekend) BBQ at Larry and Nancy's in Petersham. But the hot weather brought out a great group of Red Knight family (23) some in 4 wheels and some on 2 and 3.

The temperatures kept us on the porch and in the house, rather than in the back yard with Bocce and Horse Shoes as in years past, but we had a great afternoon of visiting, enjoying the company and the hospitality, and of course the food!



BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, NEED THE T-SHIRT!

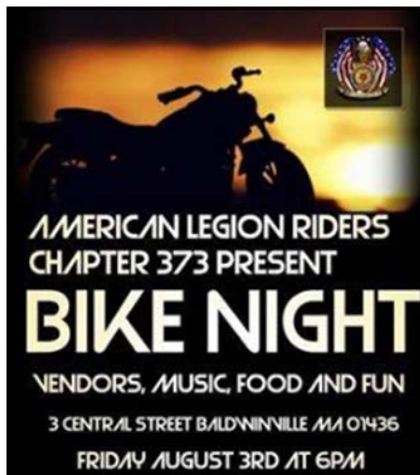


For any of us that have been up to Lake George for Americade, there is a pilgrimage about forty miles north through Moriah and onto Tracy Road.

Bob L. and Rick saw a rider wearing a Tracy Road T-Shirt when they were in Virginia in May. Upon investigation during this year's Americade they found that the Moriah Chamber of Commerce had produced the shirts a number of years ago.

Since the shirts are no longer in production, the chapter has taken on the production of a limited quantity as a fundraiser.

Need to add this T to your collection? Contact the treasurer at treasurer@rk-mass2.org



Saturday, October 20.
Breakfast Clubs begin again
— Maybe!

Depending on when the Fall State Meeting is scheduled, October 20 may be our first Breakfast Club Meeting of the fall, or it could be the Fall State Meeting. We'll have to wait to see what date Mass-4 chooses for the state meeting so that we can fit all our obligations into the schedule!.



RKMC on Cape Cod September 28-30

The return of the Red Knight Cape Cod weekend was a grand success last September, and our Cape Cod hosts are again putting out the welcome mat for us to return.

A little later in September this year, to accommodate those that are on the Red Knights cruise earlier in the month, the chosen date **IS NOT** the date we had tentatively put in our ride calendar for 2018.

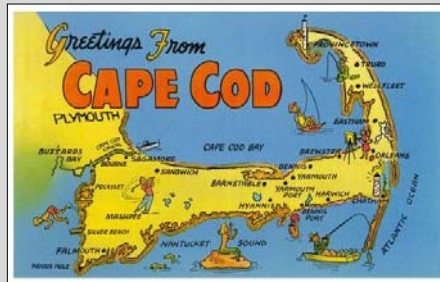
Make some edits to your riding calendar, and plan to join us for another fun weekend on the Cape. The Town Crier Hotel in Eastham((508) 255-4000, will be taking reservations for Friday September 28th.

The room rate is \$99 (plus tax) per night and the hotel will issue 2 breakfast vouchers per room as was last year.

ITINERARY: Friday: Check in, Meet & greet, fish fry at the Elks in Eastham. Back to the hotel for drinks and such.

Saturday: Breakfast and back to the hotel to meet for a ride of the scenic Cape Cod shoreline with a stop in Provincetown for a little sightseeing and shopping. Saturday night: A ride to Marconi's BBQ for dinner. followed by a campfire in Eastham. Sunday: Breakfast and back to the hotel for farewells.

Remember to mention the Red Knights when you make your reservations.



For those of us that enjoy riding places down south like the Tail of the Dragon, we may have to share some space with the Tennessee State Police! ☺



It's Just a Ride

Our first JAR of the year was on Memorial Day weekend. It was a hot (90's) day and we had a handful of riders join us for about 75 miles up through some back roads in Jaffrey and Wilton NH, with a stop at Kimballs for ice cream , of course!

Other planned "JARs" include:

Saturday, August 4.

Red Knight JAR.

Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 30.

Red Knight JAR.

Meet at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 27.

Red Knight JAR.

Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 1:00 p.m.



Congratulations to our newest Life Members, Jim Skehan and Maury Lizotte!

Both members are Charter members, joining in 1983 and helping to form our chapter. Both took a hiatus as members but "saw the light" and returned to the Red Knights fold.

Jim was presented with his Life Member at the open house at the Lake George FD and Maury received his at our July BBQ. Thank you to both for your participation in our chapter family.

Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

Saturday, July 14. **Oxford Fire Museum.** OFD has their own fire museum (in an old station) complete with all the "stuff" we'd like to look at! Meet at the Westminster Dunkins at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, July 27. **Ladies Ride and Lunch.** Our Ladies of the Knights who ride have a day of their own! Those interested, meet at the Westminster Dunkins at 11:00 am for a ride and some lunch.

Sunday, August 12. **President's Ride.** Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts at 10:00 a.m. The President will have some of his favorite roads ready to tour.

Sunday, October 7: **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.

Sunday, November 4. **Polar Bear Ride.** What will the weather bring in '18? Meet at DD at 11:00 a.m.

If you have made reservations for our Vermont overnight, please let Kevin know!

WILL YOU STOP YOUR MOTORCYCLE IN TIME?

by Ken Condon

Practicing emergency braking is critical. But, is it enough?

Getting your motorcycle stopped in time to avoid a collision is one of the most important skills you can have. But, simply being able to apply maximum brake force isn't enough (even if you have modern ABS).

You're riding along minding your own business when suddenly you are facing the bumper of a left turning sedan. Every cell commands you to get the motorcycle stopped ASAP to prevent your early demise. But, will your response be quick enough?

Perception Time. There are actually two components of reaction time: "perception time" and "activation time". Perception time is the time it takes to figure out what's going on and decide what action to take. Response time is the time it takes to reach for the brakes. You also have to account for the amount of time it takes to actually get the bike stopped.

Let's say you're traveling at 40 mph, which is about 59 feet per second. Recent research indicates the average rider will use about 1.5 seconds to recognize the situation and reach max braking rate, also known as perception-response time. That number can increase to over 2 seconds if you're daydreaming. That equates to between 88 and 117+ feet before any physical action is taken.

Stopping Distance. The actual time it takes to get the motorcycle stopped once the brakes are applied depends on speed, machine geometry/weight, available traction, and your ability to use your brakes fully without skidding (ABS helps in this regard). Recent research also shows that an average rider can only achieve a braking rate of 0.6 g's. That means from 40 mph you'll need 89 feet to complete the stop. The 1.5 seconds of perception-response time mentioned earlier adds another 88 feet for a total stopping distance of 177 feet.

With perception-response time adding nearly 50% to the total stopping distance, you can see why it's so important to remain alert. You also want to develop your ability to predict when bad things are about to happen before they unfold. Get



ahead of potentially hazardous situations by aggressively scanning for clues that indicate trouble. Be especially vigilant when approaching intersections where most collisions occur.

Stopping in a Corner. Hard braking when the bike is upright is tricky enough when facing an emergency. But, things get even more challenging when you have to stop quickly while leaned because of a hazard around a corner. Perception, response and braking times still apply, but now you also need more time to free up traction by reducing lean angle so you can brake hard with less chance of traction loss. This necessary action adds to total stopping distance.

Be Ready. You can reduce activation time by covering the front brake lever and rear brake pedal when approaching potential hot spots. Not only will this simple action reduce activation time, it also puts your whole system on alert.

Of course, the best way to reduce braking distances is to slow down. Trimming just 5 mph off your 40 mph travel speed requires about 32 less feet to stop. Add 5 mph and you'll need about 35 more feet to stop. Speed up to 60 mph and you're going to need an extra 155 feet to stop, for a total of 332 feet. Yikes.

Whether or not you avoid a crash is dependent on your ability to react quickly when an otherwise sublime day suddenly turns into a DEFCON 1 war zone. The best riders remain alert and ready for battle, wasting very little processing time before executing evasive action. The final step is to regularly practice emergency braking techniques. Can you stop your motorcycle in the shortest possible distance while maintaining in control? Too many riders cannot.