



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Summer 2020

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Loyal to Our Duty

From the Desk of the President

Hello Red Knights.

Hope you are all still doing good amidst these crazy and strange times. It certainly has been a different riding season for us all but I hope at least a few of you have been able to get out and do some riding. I've been riding as much as I can, but I do miss riding with the group and seeing your smiling faces.

This out from the registry, motorcycle inspections have been moved to July 31st instead of June 30th, so make sure you get your bike inspected before then.

Americade's rescheduled dates are fast approaching. If anyone is still interested in going up let me know. I'm still on the fence about going up but I'm not opposed to it. I'm not sure if our Americade adventures have come to an end as a large collective group, or if we'll be able to find a place to accommodate all of us together in the future. Stay tuned and we'll see what happens for next year.

The International Convention has been cancelled, but some RKMC event like the "EU" conference, the Bootlegger in Illinois and the New Jersey state Picnic are still planning to go as planned, if you're up for some long distance mingling. (Keeping socially distanced of course). The 2021 Yankee Rally (on Long Island) and Dixie Rally (in Virginia) planning are also well underway with hotel accommodations open for reservations (both for next May).

Welcome back from Florida Maury & Marcia and Cliff & Marty (Armand, too). We hope you had good snow bird time (for the most part) and will be riding here, with us, soon.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Oliver's on their recent purchase of a fifth-wheel and passing the New Salem General Store to new proprietors. Time to enjoy some freedom time and spend some time together. Congratulations! During the last week of June, there was a NSGS raffle and prize #1 was a finished Jack Daniels barrel like we raffled off a few years ago — and that prize went to Bob Laford. That barrel looks good on his front porch!

The 4th of July is just days away and this year will certainly be different for entertainment. We were scheduled to have our annual 4th of July picnic in New Salem. But with so many things going on in our world and the Oliver's days, this was taken off the calendar.

I've sent out a message pertaining to this earlier, How about a ride on either the 4th or the 5th of next weekend. I understand we have to still follow guidelines about social distancing but I'm willing to put something together if you'd like to go out for a group ride. Let me know thoughts, and depending on how many riders we get we can put 1 or 2 groups together and get a ride in and possibly some ice cream.

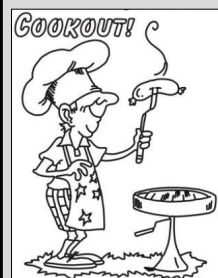
With any luck we're hoping to pick up the ride schedule hopefully by the middle of July although we will still have to do some kind of distancing (and face-coverings when off the bikes). We might see the guidelines letting up a little more by then.

Thank you all for being so patient and doing your part to stay safe and staying strong. Keep up the good work and keep an eye on each other.

President Martin

Saturday, September 5.

RK Labor Day Celebration.



Enjoy the last official weekend of summer with a chapter Cookout to celebrate the Labor Day weekend.

Plan to head out to our Secretary's home in Orange (at the Hamberg's ~1:00 pm) and we will have the grills ready!

Bring some food to share and enjoy the afternoon with us.

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**We're hoping that this event will be a go for our chapter.**

It has been a weird year and one cook out together would be great!

We need to think about all the precautions that we are living with in our society right now...

- 1. If you are not feeling well, STAY HOME!**
- 2. Take your temperature before you leave home**
- 3. Hygiene and Hand Sanitizer**
- 4. Social Distance**
- 5. Bring a Face Mask**

### **DID YOU REMEMBER TO GET YOUR MOTORCYCLE INSPECTED?**

All motorcycle inspection stickers originally set to expire on May 31 must be inspected by July 31. The extension was originally June 30, but on June 26, the RMV extended the motorcycle inspection deadline to July 31. If you are not yet inspected, **DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!** The later you wait, the longer the lines will be at the inspection station!

The chapter did restock our supply of chapter coins and patches (that boast our own minuteman logo).



We also have a good collection of decals in stock with both the new and the traditional logo.

If you need any Red Knight merchandise, contact the treasurer.

Honda passed quite the milestone in 2019. It was their 70th anniversary as a company — AND the 400 millionth bike rolled off their assembly line!



Currently Honda produces a variety of rides from 50cc to 1800cc models from 35 different facilities in 21 countries.

Other milestones that Mr. Honda's company has seen include:

- 1949 The Dream D-Type bike rolls out of the factory
- 1958 The first Super Cub C100 is produced
- 1963 Honda opens a factory in Belgium
- 1968 The 10 millionth bike is produced
- 1979 Honda opens a factory in the U.S.
- 1984 Production passes the 50 million mark
- 2004 Honda passes the 10 million annual production mark
- 2008 Production marks the 400 millionth bike
- 2018 Honda passes the 20 million annual production mark

Many of our chapter members have been part of those production miles in our riding history!

2020 Sturgis Rally is confirmed.

The 80th annual rally will go on August 7-16, but with "significant changes with the intention of safeguarding the community and residents."

The Sturgis city council approved the event with an 8-1 vote. The promoter and the city fathers have been reviewing the situation and guidelines for a safe event.



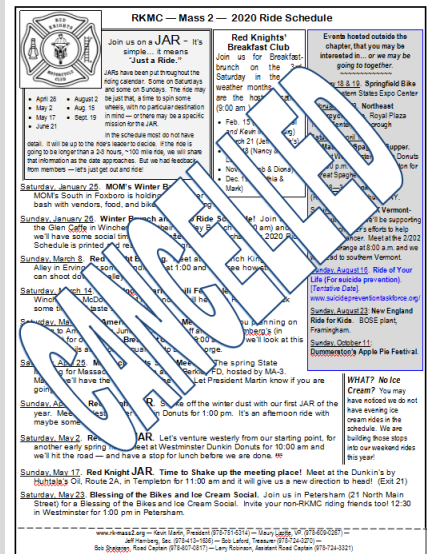
Boy, our world and our plans have been turned upside down haven't they. But when our stay-at-home and essential workforce only orders persisted I read a comment about "think of this as a blessing that has not been realized, yet."

Some of it is about perspective.

Hopefully, you all have health. But one writer compared what today's children will say about this time when they are adults with their own children and grandchildren — to the comments their parents are probably making.

They will probably talk about being home with their families, eating dinner together each day, playing in the yard together, going for daily walks and waving to the neighbors, playing board and card games with their families in the evening — and enjoying that special time they had with their parents and siblings — without all those interruptions and "things we must get done" that filled our lives before this situation came upon us.

Maybe the ordinary we return to needs to include some of the "extraordinary" that this time has brought us, and not include some of those past priorities in our lives that we thought were so important but have proven not to be.



Amber at Orange Graphix has re-opened post-COVID and is starting her business moving forward again. She does have our heat transfers in stock so that you can order clothing and have both breast and back logos on clothing — as well as a couple variations of embroidery for our chapter. Give her a call and check out the variety of clothing options she has — whether you are looking for shirts hats, or any thing else!



Orange Graphix  
(978) 248-0009 — [amber@orangegraphix.com](mailto:amber@orangegraphix.com)  
90 New Athol Road (Route 2A)  
Orange, MA 01364  
[www.orangegraphix.com](http://www.orangegraphix.com)

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 17 — Annual Chapter meeting.**

**Tentative** plans are to meet at Orange FD Station 2 in Tully, with lunch to follow. [More info on definitive details will be coming out as the date gets closer.](#)

Thank you to Jim and Anna Skehan for auditing our books earlier this year. They reported to the president that everything was in order.



**AGATT—All the Gear All the Time!**

Ask Maury and Marcia about the protective nature of gear — or not. They had a “get-off incident” in the spring. Fortunately it was at low speed. Marcia needed surgery for a broken ankle and Maury received road rash and an injured elbow and thumb. Could have been worse — but it could have been lessened as well with some gear.

They were good enough to share lessons learned. And the first one mentioned was GEAR. Maury admits that in the Florida heat, he became complacent with riding and he was riding in a T-shirt, sneakers and shorts. He says that had he had a jacket it probably would have reduced his pain. His fingerless gloves also allowed for more rash.

A good point was that his 6 week old helmet saved his noggin and paid for itself. No head injuries, but the helmet took the brunt of the impact and will be trashed.

They are both healing. Marcia had surgery for her right broken ankle and she now has a plate. No weight bearing for at least 6 weeks. Her road rash on her right knee is healing slowly. Maury’s road rash is coming along well. No broken bones but Doc is concerned about his left thumb, and his elbow is still real sore, with a suspected badly bruised funny bone. He continues to have a tingly pinky finger, probably all related to elbow.

Marcia had jeans and her jacket on and was wearing sneakers. Fortunately not a mark on her helmet, and her jacket shows where she contacted the road. Her orthopedic surgeon stated that had she been wearing (over-the-ankle) boots, she probably would not have broken her ankle.

As to probable cause, Maury shares a couple possibilities.

Approaching a traffic signal, he looked in his rear-view mirror and when he looked back he had to brake hard — and the front wheel locked and they were on the ground. **Under three seconds.**

Contributing factors? Maybe a lane marker/paint on the road, some brief inattention, and habits. Maury remarked that since 2008 his Wings have had ABS, but the one he has in Florida does not. Maybe the auto-braking engrained in his reflexes is used to the Anti-lock Brakes and the different technology reacted differently.

So the bottom line they want to pass on is:

- Wear your gear at all times. (Boots, Jacket, Full-fingered Gloves — and of course a Helmet)
- If you’re used to riding an ABS machine all the time and ride a Non-ABS, it will act differently and may lock up.
- In the 3 seconds it took for the incident, response has to be a learned reaction, and not one you think about just before acting. (Practice Practice Practice)

We’re all glad they are mending, and appreciate their willingness to share this information with us.

## Membership News Briefs...

Our condolences go out to Rick and Lori Oliver on the passing of Rick's step dad.

Congratulations, best-wishes and a tip-of-our-hat to Don Hurme on his retirement from the Mass Fire Academy earlier this year. Just think of the thousands of firefighters he has mentored in his career from Princeton, Lexington, Townsend, Maynard, Harvard and the Fire Academy. Well done, good and faithful servant. Now it's time to have fun-time.



Caitlin and her beau may not be on motorcycles, and they are way on the other side of the country, but we know that the Red Knights are still held tightly in her heart, as her golf bag shows!

You are still in ours as well Caitlin!

Congratulations to Charlie and Pam Hamberg on their new place in Athol. Just a mile or so from our 2/202 meeting place!

## On the road with our friends...

- Here we are in the midst of summer. Do you remember when we gathered at Chris and Ellen's for our February breakfast club and most of us had temperatures below zero?



- We had 18 members that made it out to the French King Bowling Center in Erving for a March bowling afternoon. The weather was such a pleasant surprise that we even had some bikes in the parking lot!
- And shortly after our bowling together our collective in-person comradery came to a halt! But that does not mean that you cannot get out on your own or a few riding buddies



## Mass-2 Cover Bike

*In this edition of our newsletter we thank Charlie Hamberg for sharing two-wheeled memories with us.*

### Why I Ride

I consider myself fortunate to have grown up during the 1960's and 1970's in Southwick Massachusetts, a small rural farming community located in the southwestern part of the state. The numerous dairy and tobacco farms, corn fields and trailed woodlands all offered off road riding access to the rapidly growing number of kids attracted to the thought of exploring these areas on two wheels.

During the 1960's many varieties of mini-bikes (small displacement, 2 wheel, off road vehicles, built for youth) emerged on the scene and they were immediately successful nationwide, and especially in Southwick. My older friends, neighbors and cousins intrigued me riding their Sears & Roebuck and Rupp dirt bikes. While most of the USA was following the "British Invasion" of The Beatles, The Kinks and the Rolling Stones during the 1960's, I was more interested in the "Japanese Invasion" of Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki and Suzuki which featured affordable mini-bikes and motorcycles. There were plenty of BMW's, BSA's, Harley Davidsons, Indians, Nortons and Triumphs on the roadways, but really no competent, dedicated entry level dirt bikes, before the Japanese flooded the American market with their offerings aimed at satisfying the growing demand for this new niche in the world of motorcycling.

I eventually borrowed my neighbor's Honda Z50 mini trail for a short ride through the woods and from then on I was hooked on dirt bike riding. Little did I know in 1968 that riding on 2 wheels would become a lifelong passion. When I noticed a Honda Cub 50 for sale at the Phillips 66 gas station on the corner of my street, I begged and pleaded with my parents until they finally let me drain my allowance savings account to purchase it. I would ride the area trails every day for the sheer enjoyment and to also meet up with other young "bikers" who were out exploring.



As I entered the 1970's, I saw a vastly increasing variety of dirt based motorcycles, with more displacement and 2 stroke engines becoming the standard. In 1972, Southwick created MX 338, a motocross track located on the grounds of American Legion Post # 338. In 1976, MX338 was added to the AMA Motocross Nationals schedule and it was dubbed "The Toughest Track in America". I had the privilege of kicking off that inaugural Southwick Nationals Motocross race by playing the National Anthem on my trumpet and then enjoying the festivities from the announcer's tower located on the track.

The European motorcycle manufacturers also saw the market potential in the USA and soon my group of riding buddies were saddling up on dirt bikes made by Bultaco, Hodaka, Husqvarna, Maico, Ossa and Puch to name a few. While I dreamed of acquiring a very desirable Can-Am or Penton motorcycle, I had to settle for an affordable rotary valve Kawasaki 125cc trail bike that I purchased with my sister using money we earned working on tobacco. It wasn't long before I realized my 125cc ride was woefully underpowered to keep up with my riding group, so I invested in my cousin's Honda XL 250 4 stroke thumper and immediately installed a 5 inch knobby tire on the rear to "rooster tail" any unsuspecting rider following too close. I became fully immersed in the motorcycle scene and bought every related magazine I could find as soon as it hit the newsstands. I realized early on that owning a motorcycle is also an expression of your individuality and I certainly appreciate to this day the personal uniqueness you can express through your bike.

It was 1975 when I started working after school at my uncle's supermarket along with several of my cousins and friends, many of whom were involved with the Southwick Fire Department. It was during this time of my life that I came to appreciate and respect the camaraderie and commitment that was required of a Firefighter/E.M.T. I also got my driver's license in 1975, and it wasn't long before I traded the joy of riding the trails for the exhilaration of cruising the streets on my Suzuki GT 380, two stroke, 3 cylinder "rice burner". I commuted to work on my Suzuki, portraying an image of fuel conservation, while I was also satisfying my inner hooligan personality.

The 1980's brought new responsibilities into my life. Marriage and then my children,

Jeffrey and Malarie, who occupied all my free time outside of work. I sold my road bike, but I never stopped following the evolving world of motorcycles. My son Jeffrey was born in 1985 and it became obvious early on that he shared my enthusiasm for riding on two wheels. Balance and coordination came easy for my son and he mastered riding two wheeled bicycles by age four. Before he was ten, he was tearing it up on mini-bikes and quads, earning a nickname of "No Fear". In 1994 I succumbed to the lure of getting "back in the saddle" and purchased my next motorcycle for the street, a 1982 Yamaha Virago 750. Eight months of the year the Virago was my main source of transportation and it took me to Americade, Laconia and beyond.



1997 was a pivotal year. It was when my twelve year old son bought his first motorcycle, an old 250cc Suzuki, he could ride in the dirt. I wouldn't allow Jeff to ride unescorted, so I picked up a 1982 Yamaha IT 465 for trail riding and to compliment my 1982 Yamaha Virago for the street. It was only about 16 months later when my son moved up to a newer Suzuki DR 350 and he began leaving his old man in the dust. Those early years of riding together with my teenage son are some of my most fond memories. Regulations closed and restricted many of our off-road riding areas so that chapter of my family riding history sadly closed prematurely.

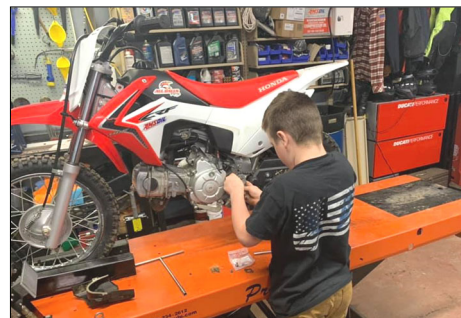
Once he turned fifteen and a half, Jeff got his motorcycle permit to ride on the street. Soon the DR 350 was gone and a Suzuki Bandit 600 road bike took its' place. I believe the adrenaline that helped fuel my son's lust for motorcycles must have rubbed off on me because I traded the old Yamaha Virago for a 1989 Yamaha V-Max muscle bike, and that brought my social riding to the next level. My son graduated high school and immediately enrolled in Motorcycle

Mechanic's Institute (MMI) in Florida, where he excelled in his studies for two years while finding time to enjoy his latest bike, a modified Suzuki SV 650. His knowledge and mechanical aptitude have served us both well over the last 15 years. Throughout our lives my son and I have embraced both ownership and maintenance of all our motorcycles. Many motorcycles have come and gone through the years and a great deal more have been repaired and sent on their way.

I have enjoyed attending rallies at Americade, Daytona Beach and Laconia and cherish the people and memories that come with a biker lifestyle. Being able to share many of these experiences with my son has truly been the icing on the cake for me. Jeff and I have been fortunate enough to accomplish many things on our two wheel bucket lists including an Iron Butt certification, a bike weekend to Niagara Falls and a two wheel tour to Birmingham, AL to see the Barber Motorcycle Museum and Racetrack to name a few. We have invested ourselves fully in the world of motorcycles and we both purchased new BMW touring bikes in 2018 to fulfill our need to put on the miles and smiles.

When my son became involved with the Fire Department in Orange, MA his mother and I were so proud of him, and it eventually led to membership in the Red Knights for his family and myself. Jeffrey's son, Matthew, has been bitten by the motorcycle bug and already has 6 years of riding experience under his belt, at the tender age of ten. We now have three generations of Hamberg men involved with the Red Knights MA 2 Chapter. Junior member, Matthew, has joined with us the last two years participating in our annual Skills Day. What a wonderful fit it has been, enjoying our passion for motorcycles with our Red Knights family. I hope you have enjoyed reading a little about my life and hope you can also appreciate my love of motorcycles.

*Charlie Hamberg*



# AMERICADE 2020

Year-end photos — let's fill this year's memory board with photos from throughout your time as a Red Knight.

Have some favorite pictures from your way-back machine? Scan them and get them to Bob... 80's, 90's, or right up to 2020. Let's have fun with the photos of the past.

Americade, Cook outs, Rides, parties and all the fun things we have done together over the years. Even if we will not have a big collection of photos from 2020, memories are memories!

We will plan to have this year's **Year-end Picture Perfect Potluck** with one of our fall breakfast clubs on (depending on locations and circumstance). If you have pictures you take during the year either of group or solo rides, get them to Bob, along with older memories, to be included on-line and in our year's memory review.

There are probably more than one person who would answer our house mother's pre-Americade inquiry about if you are coming back the way Jim Barclay did:

P: Do you plan to come [again this year]?

J: *Yes, I intend to attend. I've already registered with Americade*

P: What day do you plan on arriving?

J: *I'd arrive tomorrow if that were allowed so, instead, I will arrive the first day we have the cabins*

P: What day do you plan to leave?

J: *I'd move there for life if that were allowed so, instead, I will leave when they throw us out.*

Thank you to everyone who has made our Lake George pilgrimage so special. But especially to Peg Brouillet for all her work (long before the first week in June over the years) to make sure we all had places to lay our heads!

But as you know... times have changed, but we still have our Americade memories!

Did you notice that the first week of June was rain free and although cool in the mornings, was good weather. Of course!

**Americade did reschedule for July 21-25.** We imagine there are a few of the Mass-2 contingent that will be going up for a day or a few days (if you were able to find a room during the peak summer season).

There will be vendors, and monitored crowds at the tents — with everything a bit more spread out to support social distancing. All their rides are posted as self-guided to cut down on the number of bikes together.

There will still be bike demos on hand. Any plans for shows where you are “shoulder-to-shoulder” will not happen this year. Any seminars will be promoted virtually instead of in person.

Alonzo, the comedian, will be performing outside at the top of the mountain, with one bike per parking space. That is where a lot of the prizes will be given out for registered Americaders.

There is no in-person Americade Ride for Kids, but around the country there are virtual Ride for Kids events to still raise funds for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. A Red Knight group ride is under consideration for 7/22, but no info so far. The Red Knights are still holding an open house at the Lake George FD beginning with chapter wares at noon on 7/23, and of course there will be the availability of bike and people watching, albeit with their face coverings on!

So there are some “normal” and some not-so-normal events. And we know that with the closing of Bay Front for weekly rentals, our past normal will not be returning.

## Bayfront is Closed

Sad news to tell you. We have decided to close the Bayfront Cottages for good. With this COVID crisis and all the rules that we would have to follow, Tom and I decided that perhaps this was the time to make changes to the business. We have talked for years about how to lessen our summer work load as we age. We are both 80 yrs. old and have lost 3 good friends this last year. Another friend with a stroke. It sure makes you think about your own mortality.

The cottages will be rented on a long term basis, full summer or monthly, to former customers. The only other option would be to sell and move off the property and then it would not be the same anyway. Our family has lived on this property for almost 70 yrs. Tom and I, as we age, desire to stay where we are, at Bayfront.

We thank you for your friendship and the many, many years of business. We thank you too, for the dinners and drinks you served us after we returned from our Elvis Festival.

Once the word got out that this was happening, my phone and incoming emails were nonstop. By the end of the day, we were basically filled with long term rentals, all from our old customers. There were many tearful conversations and remembering good old times. Without exception, they all understood our decision. I suggested to Tom that we take down the Bayfront sign by the road. If you are driving by, stop in to say “Hi”, but the sign may not be there.

With much appreciation,

Love,  
Tom and Bev



## IT'S YOUR RIDE FOR KIDS WHY DO YOU RIDE?

Even **The Ride for Kids** is affected by the coronavirus and it's rides around the country are all going virtual this year.

They are promoting fundraising that includes you riding by yourself as you gather donations for Pediatric Brain Tumor Research.

If you would like to learn more on how you can help in this virtual ride for the kids, visit <https://team.curethekids.org/event/your-ride-for-kids/e284208>

So, get that kickstand up and show the world that nothing's going to stand in a rider's way of a world without childhood brain tumors!

### Spring RK Mass State Meeting

Our Spring State Meeting, scheduled for April, was cancelled as we were all stay-at-homes with gathering restrictions around the country and around the world because of COVID-19.

The International Board issued a directive that ALL Red Knight events — whether sponsored by the International, State or Regional, AND Chapters will be cancelled through June 1.

Although we can each get out for rides to get some wind therapy, we were not able to gather physically.

One reminder about our Massachusetts Red Knights is that the position of MA State Rep. comes up for vote this fall. If you are interested in running for the position please have your letter of intent and biography in to Assistant MA State Rep. Bob Binnall NO LATER than September 1, 2020. (bbaudiovs@gmail.com).

The 2020 fall MA State Red Knights meeting (tentatively) will be held during the Cape Cod Weekend, September 25-27

**The 2021 Yankee Rally is at the Hyatt Regency in Hauppauge (Long Island), NY on May 20-23, 2021.**

Their Facebook Page is up and running and the hotel is taking reservations.

Fingers Crossed for 2021!

## 2020 Yankee Rally

Brothers and Sisters,

Please make sure this email reaches ALL Region 1 Red Knight members. I hope you are staying healthy and safe, practicing social distancing and looking forward to getting back to "normal" life. If any of you need assistance due to this crisis, please remember you have a huge support system within your chapters, states, region and worldwide! Please reach out and ask for assistance, no matter how big or how small. We are family, after all.

Due to lots of uncertainty and conversations taking place, I thought I would reach out to you all to discuss some things in regards to the Yankee Rally. As you should be aware, the Yankee Rally 2020 has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This was a decision that was made by NY 50, with the support of the Red Knights International Executive Board. I have spoken with Eric Jock of NY 50 on numerous occasions about this situation. Thankfully, for the most part, he believes he will be able to work with all of his vendors to push his dates back to 2022. Of course, this involves NY 50 winning the bid to host for 2022. We already know that the Red Knights Long Island chapters will be hosting the Yankee Rally 2021, and they have been working on some great plans.

At the Yankee Rally 2019 in Boylston, MA, Where It All Began, we decided to vote for the hosts 3 years out to allow for easier planning. With that being said, this year we would have voted on 2022 and 2023 hosts. Obviously, that won't be able to happen since this year's Yankee Rally has been cancelled. So how do we fix our two problems? Those problems would be if NY 50 can host the Yankee Rally 2022 and who will host 2023. We have no official system to solve these problems, such as a Regional Association.

Please understand, I'm not suggesting an Association. However, since we have no system in place, I feel as though we must follow past practice. That practice has been voting on the Yankee Rally hosts at the rally. Therefore, I feel the only prudent and proper way to handle this unique issue would be to hold off deciding who will host 2022 and 2023 until we are all at the Yankee Rally 2021 on Long Island. This will allow face-to-face discussions that email will not.

I wish I could tell all of you not to put in a bid for 2022 so NY 50 would win and not lose any deposits, but obviously that wouldn't be very objective of me to do. I hope this puts many of your minds at ease. If anyone has any questions, please follow the chain of command and feel free to send your questions up the chain. Region 1 and the rest of the Red Knights around the world will prevail. We just need to keep calm, do our part to flatten the curve and stay healthy. If you are out riding, please be extra careful, now is not the time to be in a hospital from a crash. Again, stay safe, stay healthy and above all else, Red Knights Forever!

Fraternally,

Matthew J. Mattera  
(609)846-3648  
Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club  
International Executive Board – Region 1 Director  
Red Knights NJ Chapter 31  
South Jersey Trifecta

Saturday, November 21  
**Breakfast Clubs begin again this fall — HOPEFULLY!**

Third Saturdays of the month for our pot-luck breakfast starting at 9:00 am:

- November 21 at Bob and Diona's in Petersham
- December 19 at Cynthia and Mark's in Princeton

(January will be the Winter brunch at the Glen Caffe—date TBD)

- February 20
- March 20
- April 17

Would **YOU** like to host a month at your home? Let the president know which month is for you!

**(Tentative ) JARs  
 —It's Just a Ride**

JARs on our calendar are listed below. Keep an eye out for communications from President Martin about any future chapter rides, including these JARs.

Sunday, August 2. **Red Knight JAR.**  
 Meet at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 1:00 pm.

Saturday, August 15. **Red Knight JAR.** Meet at the Lunenburg Walmart for 11:00 am.

Saturday, September 19. **Red Knight JAR.** Meet at the Westminster Dunkins for 11:00 am.

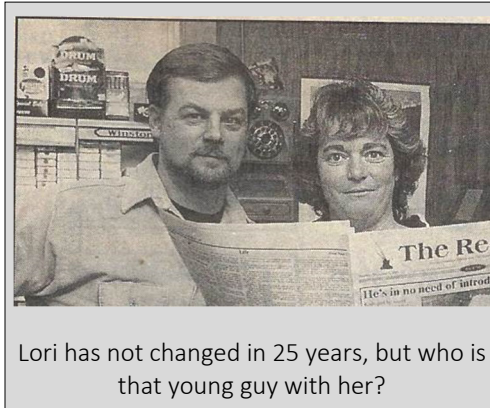
There were no contests in the RKMC International that our region would have to vote on.

We welcome our International VP Spike Ostiguy and our International Secretary Jack Jarvis back for another round of service to the club.

Since the convention itself will not occur this year, there will be no bylaw changes proposed or changed as proxy voting is not allowed by bylaw.

**Twenty-five years as the proprietors of the New Salem General Store** — that is quite the milestone! And with that anniversary at hand, the Olivers have passed ownership of the store on to a new set of owners to continue the home town tradition.

CONGRADULATIONS to Rick and Lori on this new direction, and thank you for all the NSGS has done to support the Red Knights over the years. There was free coffee if you showed up in Red Knight attire, always time for a chat under the tent if you were riding by — or a place for you and the bike to take cover if caught in the rain. Then there were the barrels. Raffles for the Ride for Kids and for the memorial... and when you visit the memorial house you will find a finished Jack Daniels barrel in the corner of the board room complete with the JD Fire Brigade logo emblazoned on the unit.



Lori has not changed in 25 years, but who is that young guy with her?

There were the Brewfests, ten of them, that brought people in from all over to sample beer and raise thousands of dollars for the area fire departments.

There are a lot of behind the scenes support that a community business like the NSGS and its people do to support the town, the townspeople and organizations like the Red Knights.

What will they do now? Well, there is a new toy that was recently added to the collection on West Street. Along with motorcycle miles, we think there are some RV miles in the future.



I think there may be some traveling in the future as Rick unwinds from the seven day weeks. (Even when he would be on motorcycle trips around the country—and in Europe too — there were frequent calls back to the store). Now they can have a good vacation where they can shut the phones off!

When he purchased barrel #7 of Jack Daniels this year the JD master distiller presented him with a special, signed, barrel top. Well deserved!

Congratulation to both of you. It's time to take a big breath and think — what's next!





### Upcoming Chapter Rides & Events:

Early in the spring the RKMC International directed that all RKMC events, including chapter events and rides be suspended until after June 1.

Pretty much the first page of our 2020 Chapter Calendar was cancelled.

Americade tentatively moved to late July, Laconia to late August.

The state meeting was cancelled. Mass-1's Spaghetti Supper was cancelled. The spring clean-up at the RK Memorial was cancelled. The Yankee Rally, Western Rally and the Dixie Rally were cancelled. Vermont 2 cancelled Paul's Ride in June.

UConn and their Dairy Bar are closed (that was a ride we had on the calendar).

And with the social distancing, limits on gatherings, take-out food only, wear your facemask if you are near anyone, and other restrictions — any rides we do gather for this summer need to be respectful of the guidance we are being given.

Our July 4 weekend BBQ was cancelled, and any rides that we do get together for, as the summer pushes on, will be communicated from President Martin. A guess is that instead of specific planned rides, anything we do together this summer will probably be under the "JAR" format where we meet up for a ride, maybe a picnic stop, and have a few hours of the wheels spinning under us.

Be safe and well!

The International Board, with consultation with government officials in France have cancelled the 2020 International Convention.

The travel restrictions from North America and into Europe would have made it impossible to host an event the size of this Red Knight program, as late in June the EU prolonged their ban on travel from the United States to Europe for the foreseeable future.

## SKILLS DAY - 2020

Needless to say we have not had a skills day this year... and our riding time, and probably that span of time since we have had much riding has been extended. That means we have to sharpen our minds, vision, emotion, and skills when we do take the bike out this year.

Keep your head in the books and look for those authors you can read that will make you think about improving your skills and safety when you do get out on the road.

Ken Condon, a nationally known author and rider coach (from western Massachusetts) is one of those people to search out and learn from... [www.ridinginthezone.com](http://www.ridinginthezone.com)

### **You may be a good rider if:**

**You rarely experience close calls.** Good riders are able to predict threats before they materialize and take appropriate action to "not let it happen to them".

**You have good visual habits.** You must be able to scan a scene and determine the likelihood of a problem developing

**You rarely have pucker moments when cornering.** Cornering mistakes account for about half of all fatalities. Anxiety when cornering is the first sign of trouble.

**You are an expert at reading the road.** Good riders consciously look for specific visual clues to create a snapshot of the radius, camber of a corner even before they can see around the bend.

**You have had professional training.** Like most endeavors that require some semblance of strong coordination, timing, visual acuity and foresight, high level of skill development comes from learning from professional instructors.

**You ride smart.** Good riders train for the threat, but ride smart enough to rarely need their superior training.

**You understand the risks.** Many riders jump on their bikes without thinking much about the true risk they are taking. Good riders understand that if they get seriously hurt, it's their family and friends that will also pay.

**You accept the risks.** Even with an accurate perception of risk you still choose to ride. Cool. But, don't let the thrill of adrenaline get the better of you. Good riders know when and where to wick it up.

**You wear protection.** This alone does not mean you're a good rider, but it does indicate that you respect the risks and strive to minimize serious skin abrasions, broken bones or head injuries. Just don't be fooled into thinking you can ride riskier because you're better protected.

**You have fun while also being safe.** If you're not having fun, you're doing it wrong. Yes, getting training and wearing protective gear is inconvenient and expensive, but it's time and money well spent. The satisfaction of riding well and with high confidence increases enjoyment. *Excerpts from Ken Condon's 10 Ways to Tell if You are a Good Rider*