



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Summer 2025

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Loyal to Our Duty

From the Desk of the President

To the membership of MA-2,

I write to you on this rainy June day, just after cancelling another scheduled ride due to inclement weather. I find myself trying to remember a weekend without rain or any other form of precipitation. It is discouraging, to say the least. In years past, this month would have been filled with laughs and miles at Americade and Laconia with many other side trips with our favorite riding buddies. But that memories past is no excuse to not be out creating new memories and adventures this year.

We have our annual 4th of July cookout quickly approaching at the Onsite Academy in Westminister, Massachusetts, where we will present a handmade Afghan and a small monetary donation to contribute towards the excellent work they are doing for all our first responders.

As our membership continues to age with grace and dignity, I cannot help but smile when I think of how blessed we are to have experienced so much as a chapter together over the last 40+ years and how proud I am of the work we continue to do today. I have much to be proud of as the president of this amazing chapter, including:

- The development and implementation of our Honor Guard program this year;
- MA-2 members stepping up to the state level to lead the chapters of our Massachusetts; and
- A MA-2 member stepping up to chair the historical committee - to understand where we came from and preserve our rich history as a club to share with future members and chapters.

I am proud of all the work our members continue to produce and thank all of you for all your selfless acts and generosity for our organization.

As we finish out our 2025 riding season, please continue to brainstorm and share ideas with all of us about ways to keep the chapter youthful, engaged, and enjoyable for all our members and potential new recruits. I appreciate all the continued support and confidence the chapter places in me to steer this mighty ship. I could not do it without the support and help of an amazing E-Board. As long as we stick together, we will continue to be a shining example for other chapters to look towards on how to sustain and thrive.

Here's to a great summer and prime motorcycle riding with our friends and family. Please continue to look out for one another and stay safe out there.

Fraternally,
President Jeff Hamberg
RKMC MA2



Join us for our
chapter Summer
Cookout!

Sunday, July 6
4th of July
Celebration

1:00 pm at the
On-Site Academy in
Westminster

~~~~~

Let's get together for  
some great company and  
good food!

The grills will be ready!  
Bring some food to share  
and enjoy the afternoon  
with us.

We will also be  
holding our  
**Summer Business**  
**Meeting**  
during our cookout  
(We'll talk about Convention  
business, as well )

Mark your calendar for  
Sunday, August 31  
for our  
**Labor Day Cookout,**  
as well.

Our host is Jason Scott  
and his family in  
Petersham.

More details will be  
shared as we get  
closer.

Watch your email for when  
we will be using our  
"targets" for a rescheduled  
**BUG RIDE**, where it was  
rained out (of course) at our  
June ice cream ride!

At the annual business meeting for our chapter, scheduled for October, the officer positions of President, Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms will be up for election/re-election.



If you are interested in running for office, please contact nominations chair Vice-President John Loiselle (by September 25th).

### **Saturday, October 25 — Annual Chapter meeting.**

We will be meeting at the Rec Center at the Millers Woods, on Daniel Shays Highway in Athol at 10:00 am.

Hopefully, you did not miss this deadline, but motorcycle inspections in Massachusetts were due by May 31.



Registrations expired in December and Inspections Expire in May for motorcycles in Massachusetts.

### *On the road with our friends...*

One rainy afternoon in March, a group of us ventured to the American Heritage Museum in Hudson. What a remarkable place to see with many armaments and displays from WW2.

(We've had 13 successive Saturdays with rain so far this year!)



Even though it was in the high 40's and very windy, we had 8 bikes and 9 people join our Road Captain for our Dust-Off ride in April. And of course we stopped for ice cream! We were at Station 16 Ice Cream in Jaffrey, where the RKMA2 decal is proudly displayed!



At the Red Knight tent, hosted by MA-IV at the Tri-State FF's Meet in Webster.



The Petersham Lions Club has asked our chapter if we would give them a hand with their first-ever poker run.



They are having a fundraiser billed as a "Motorcycle Poker Run and Family Fun Day" to benefit the local fire department.

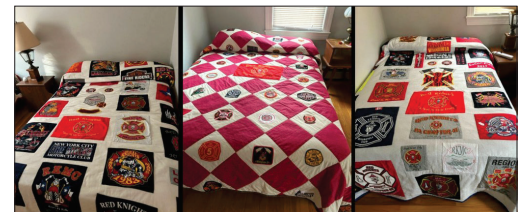
They have asked if we could help them in manning the stops along the route where riders will draw their cards.

The date is Saturday, August 16, with the event to be on the Petersham common, with the registration and end of the ride there.

A flyer for the event is on the next page. Please let Bob Laford know if you would like to participate.

AND, if you would rather participate in the ride and be one of the riders that stops at our chosen assignments, you are welcome to do that, too!

Did you know that there are handmade quilts on the six beds at the Memorial House, made from donated T-shirts from Red Knights around the world? And three of those have MA2 logos on them!



### **July 9 –11 Mid-week Overnight Away with Red Knight family.**

Prices for lodging in the White and Green Mountains are cheaper during the week, so your officers were thinking of something different with some time in the mountains mid-week.

Is this something that is of interest? Let President Hamberg know if you are interested and we will start making plans for those who wish to join us!





# SOUND THE ALARM!

## MOTORCYCLE POKER RUN And Family Fun Day

with proceeds to benefit the Petersham Fire Department's  
Personal Protective Equipment Fund

*Whether you join us for the ride through north central Massachusetts and  
southwestern New Hampshire or stay on the beautiful Petersham  
Common for the day, come join us for a fun-filled day with food, raffles,  
and games while supporting the local fire department!*

**DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025**

**LOCATION: On the Petersham (MA)  
Common (Route 32)**

**RIDE REGISTRATION 9:00 — 10:00 am**

(Self-guided ride at your own pace)

Lunch awaits the riders on their return!

**Prizes to be awarded at 1:30 pm**

(After riders return from Poker Run route)

\$25 per bike for ride

Donations accepted from non-riding attendees.

*Sponsored by the Petersham Lions Club*





Joe Hopkins has been appointed RKMC Historian (Chair of the RKMC History committee) for our club. At our March Breakfast Club, Joe spoke on the International's intention for this project as he (and Donna) and their committee work to gather historical information from the chapters throughout our organization.

If you visit our picture page on-line, there is a link that you can watch his discussion.



Along with breakfast and socializing in Boylston for our April Breakfast Club, President Hamberg brought along a bike from his stable and a collection of motorcycle parts to hold a "Tech Talk" on service and preparing your bike for another riding season. *Thank you Jeff!*



### Breakfast Clubs start up again this fall —

- November 15 — at ???
- **Would you like to host a Breakfast Club next winter? Let our President know!**

We had 14 members come out and enjoy the hospitality of the Kilhart's in Athol for our March Breakfast Club. As always, there was a lot of food, and many smiles as we looked forward to the riding season. It was in the 30's with some fog and drizzle, but our president and first lady were on two wheels to make us all jealous!



We tried something new for our April Breakfast Club by holding it at the RKMC Memorial Hall in Boylston. What a special morning it was with some founders joining us, as well as the Region-1 Director, and a RKMC brother traveling from Australia!

There were 17 members of MA-2 on hand, and 12 others from MA-1 with us.

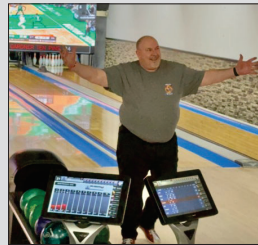


We were pleased to have had Region-8 Director Andy Young, from Australia 6, at our April Breakfast Club. He had flown in at 2:00 am that morning and this was his first visit to the RKMC memorial!





We had a great winter's afternoon back in February with 15 members hitting the lanes at the Gardner Ten Pins, and almost that many rooting us on from the peanut gallery!



The big news out of Americade 2025 was the weather! Other than one day, sunny and warm was the forecast for the week (unless you were there on Saturday). And even the day with an overcast sky had just a few sprinkles.

Americade may not be like it was pre-COVID with 30+ MA-2 members and many, many Red Knights throughout Lake George, but the area still gives many miles of great riding opportunities! Our Road Captain, Tim Kilhart, fine-tuned some riding on his bike with our friend Tom O'Connor with nearly 1,500 miles for his time in the Adirondacks — on many of those roads we all visited throughout the years.

We still had a good handful of chapter members enjoying the hospitality of Americade. Charlie Hamberg

participated in the Americade ride hosted by NY-3. Close to 70 riders participated in this guided covered bridge ride into Vermont.



The RKMC open house and lunch at the LGFD was sponsored by NY-11 this year was attended by about 50 Red Knights with chapters selling their chapter wares.



It was great to see many old friends, including John Rusinski, past Regional Director and good friend to MA-2.

Americade's Tour Expo was on Beach Road and in the park adjacent to Ft. William Henry. There were a variety of vendors, and even our friend Bill, from Bill's Trailer Sales was back in his tent serving Americade customers.

Even though it may not be the Americade that you remember at "the cabins," it is still a fun time with many great roads for riding and many great friends on hand. Mark your calendar for Memorial Day week for 2026 and join us!

## International Voting

Nominations for international positions closed in May. For 2025 there are no contests and there will be no ballots to cast. Running unopposed is President Spike Ostiguy, Treasurer Scott Ryan, and Region-1 Director Ken May, representing us in Region-1. Regional Reps for Region 3, 5, and 7 are also on the ballot for their regions.

Any proposed bylaw changes will be announced 45 days before the August annual meeting date. Once that list is released, if there are any controversial bylaws that will need to be voted on by our attending members, we will share information for input from our members.

We will have representation from our chapter at the convention in Illinois, as our chapter has each convention in the club's history.



Spring 2025  
MA State Red Knights meeting

The Spring State meeting on May 3 was the first meeting under the gavel of State Rep Kevin Martin and Assistant State Rep Joe Hopkins, and was hosted by MA-2 in Petersham. There were 30 members present from across 8 of the state's chapters. Twenty members of MA-2 were in attendance.

Peter Stone of MA-1 thanked those that helped with spring clean up. He also told us that the policy is now to have the flag of any international visitors staying at Memorial Hall to be flying while they are "in residence." Good form!

The State Rep presented a motion that the next two years would have the spring state meeting on the first Saturday of May, and the fall state meeting on the first Saturday in October. So mark your calendars, and we will coincide our 2026 Blessing of the Bikes with the 2026 spring meeting.

George Colby of MA-3 presented a motion to change a state SOG requiring that minutes from the meeting be distributed within 14 days of the meeting instead of the current month's time as noted in the SOGs. This will be voted on at the fall meeting.

Joe Hopkins announced that he will not be running for re-election as Assistant State Rep. Anyone interested in serving in this post at the state level should send your resume and letter of intent to State Rep Martin. This election will take place at the fall meeting.

**April Fool's Day Voyage to Martha's Vineyard!** Members of MA-2 ventured off to Martha's Vineyard to visit an old friend, "King" Bill Smith (Charter member of MA-7) who was crowned King of Americade in 1999 and was responsible for countless stories and memories enjoyed by many of our members. The weather was beautiful for our ferry ride and we enjoyed a great lunch at the Martha's Vineyard Airport before returning to the mainland.

Our friend, Bill, now holds one of our chapter Challenge coins, one of Ed Brouillet's international challenge coins, and an RKMC Founders patch, as well! Great to see you Bill!



**2025 Yankee Rally.** As our friends arrived in Bangor, ME for this year's rally, the mid-week arrivals and the early-bird ride were greeted with sun and warm! The early-bird ride on Thursday was to Fort Knox and the Penobscot Narrows observatory.

And as our spring weather has been in New England, the closer to the weekend, the higher the chance that dry was to turn into not dry, even up in Maine! The roads and the sky did dry out before everyone headed home on Sunday.

The rally was an interest, even beyond the Red Knights, as the local CBS affiliate had a news segment on their evening TV news about the Red Knights and our first ever rally hosted in the Pine Tree State.

One evening, a Parking Lot rodeo with skills challenge and bike show along with dinner "trackside" with food trucks was held at the nearby HD dealership for the "Red Knights Bike Night."



There were raffles and drawings on tap each day during the rally, including a T-shirt quilt, and a super 50/50 raffle drawn on Saturday and an auction, with nearly 100 prizes (with several MA2 names on the winners' list)! And it was not a raffle, but Deb Mickle was there with her cookies, keeping Red Knights happy!

Our Maine brothers and sisters supported a lot of riding to be available while at the rally, with many self-guided routes and sites available. Along with the early-bird ride on Thursday, Friday's scheduled ride was a choice to either Moosehead Lake or an Amish community. And on return an ice cream truck was waiting in the parking lot. Saturday's guided "Sea Wall Ride" included a lobster roll lunch at the ME-3 clubhouse.

Buses provided transportation from the hotels to the hall, where the Saturday banquet was held. Attendees were treated to their choice of a lobster or steak dinner!

Next year we will be back in the Finger Lakes at "41 Lakefront hotel" right on the lake in Geneva, NY from June 4—7. Information was also available for 2027 rally, planned for Mystic, Connecticut and it was voted that 2028 will be Jay Peak, Vermont.

Rally Statistics:

- 285 Registered Guests
- 12 States, 3 Canadian Provinces, 4 Regions, and 61 Chapters represented
- 2 Founding Fathers on hand



## Mass-2 Cover Bike

*This edition of the Mass-2 Cover Bike is from Caitlin Barclay (for all the Barclays!)*

*Editor's note: I remember when I was contacted by my friend Mary Barclay asking me, "What is this motorcycle gang that you are getting my husband into?!" And we now know that the Red Knights have become a family affair for the Barclays, and we are all glad of that!*

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"I don't want to ride a motorcycle" was my response to being told I **WOULD** be participating in the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic RiderCourse. Not the usual argument from a teenager to a parent while discussing motorcycles, but if you know the Barclays, you know that we do not do "usual".

I was seventeen, I had ZERO interest in hopping on a motorcycle, and thanks to my sister, Heather — I would at least be obtaining my motorcycle endorsement! Backtracking to Heather's teen years, she was adamant that she would be getting a motorcycle, so Mom required she take the rider course while under eighteen and still under full parental jurisdiction. If you know her, you know that skipping while chewing gum was an elusive skill, so to Mom's credit this was probably an excellent choice. Aside from bike handling skills, Heather learned a much better awareness of the road and drivers around her thanks to the defensive driving skills taught by the MSF. Fast forward to me at driving age, and these skills were the driving force of me also learning to ride. I was not required to ride after the course, but we had the Nighthawk purchased for Heather if the mood arose. Off I went, helmet in hand to West Boylston and through the terror of two wheels, managed to walk out as a card-carrying motorcycle rider.

Dad was far more excited about this new license endorsement than I was. He traveled for business while we were growing up so any Daddy-daughter time we could get was always cherished. But why does it have to be motorcycles? With the ink still wet on my license, the family made the trek down to our local restaurant with Dad

and I in the lead on our bikes. **I. Was. Terrified.** The bike felt too tall, too heavy, and too intimidating. I remember the pit in my stomach through dinner just knowing I had to ride home, and at dusk no less. I would wake up early to sneak off to school in the car, and head downstairs to find Dad all geared up in the kitchen, ready to ride with me to the local college. The joy on his face made me gear up, say a quiet little prayer, and swing a leg over that ol' girl. And as a few weeks passed, I had a day that I suddenly wasn't anxious! I could not tell what changed, but I was enjoying myself. The next thing I know, I am going out of my way **TO** ride, making sure to hit all the Red Knight Motorcycle Club rides, and taking the long way (you know, through other states) home. From late July to early November, I put around 5,000 miles on that bike. I learned to bleed the clutch on the side of the road, how to jump start, how to change spark plugs, and that anything below 40 degrees is just obscene to ride in with no wind screen. The following season I got



Mass-2 Cover Bike — continued

my Vulcan and put over 12,000 miles in that season. After moving to Texas, my sweet Vixie the Vulcan went on to teach Mom how to ride. (Seems that NO ONE can find a single picture of her on the bike!) And though I haven't had a bike



Caitlin and husband Kevin at their home in Arizona, on their Victory

of my own in many years, I still love to ride and have been known to borrow a bike or two for a little two wheeled therapy. The Red Knights are still a big part of my life, and I am so glad that when my husband bought his bike recently, his first order was to get accepted into the club so he too could be a Knight.



I can't even begin to put into words the memories and joy that motorcycling has brought to my life. Thanks to motorcycles and my Red Knights family, I have had so many amazing adventures. COUNTLESS rides with Dad that generally had an ice cream and chat stop; with how little one-on-one time was captured growing up with his travel work, I can't cherish those moments and memories enough. We rode to the Americade rally together and rode through the hardest rain I have ever seen in my life. I got to do the Cape Cod weekend solo (also through some rowdy rains) and later met a Chapter 8 Red Knight and fellow UMass student when he saw my RKMC sticker on the bike in a UMass parking lot and left me a note (we are STILL great friends to this day). I had the honor of showing some MA-2 Red Knights around Seaworld when the convention was in Texas, and my best friend got to meet some of my favorite "Dirty Old Men" and "Ladies of the Knights". I can't imagine my life without the joy of the ride, and camaraderie of the Red Knights, so thank you Mom and Dad for not giving me an option.

Keep the rubber side down my friends.

Caitlin Joy Renzaglia

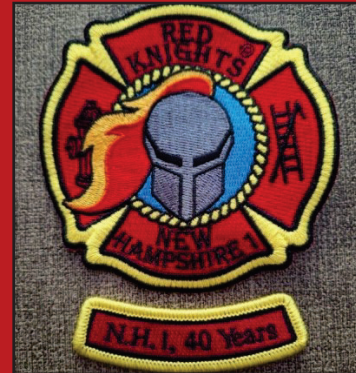
Reunion of Red Knight friends...



Members of MA2, MD3, and NC12 at Moosehead Lake, on a ride during the 2025 Yankee Rally. These Red Knight friends first met and became friends at EUCON 2018 in Ireland, and here they are together again in Maine!

RKMC NH Chapter 1 40th Anniversary Party

All are invited to join NH-1 as they celebrate their Chapter's 40th anniversary — Saturday, July 12
1:00 pm — 2 Laura Lane, Newton, NH



RSVP to Blue Kelloway — blue11m8@hotmail.com

**SOMETIMES I WONDER IF MY
MOTORCYCLE**



Upcoming Chapter Rides & Events:

Saturday, June 28: Vermont

Connecticut River Ride.

Plans are for a ride north into Vermont along the Connecticut River with stops at the Vermont Country Store and the Bellows Falls Firefighter Memorial. (We'll grab some lunch along the way). Meet at the 2/202 Shell Station for 10:00 am.

Saturday, July 26. New York

Firefighters Museum. It's a day ride to Hudson, New York to visit what is billed as the world's largest firefighting museum. We will be meeting at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange at 8:00 am. It is about 100 miles from Orange. <https://fasnyfiremuseum.com/>

Sunday, August 10. Wright's

Chicken Farm. We are heading into Rhode Island for a late lunch at Wright's Chicken Farm. Maybe we will have some other RKMC family join us from other chapters! Meet at the Westminster Dunkins for 1:00 pm. <https://www.wrightsfarm.com>

Sunday, September 7. New Hampshire Route 123 Ride.

We'll be headed north into New Hampshire to enjoy some of the great roads up Route 123. We may see the beginning of some New England's autumn colors as we take this great secondary road that meanders through forests and small NH villages. Meet at Westminster Dunkins for 9:00 am.

Saturday, September 20.

Vermont Mountain Ride.

Looking for more foliage we will be heading into Vermont over Hogback Mountain and up Mt. Equinox's Skyline Drive to the summit. <https://equinoxmountain.com/> Meet at the 2/202 Shell Station for 9:00 am.

Membership News Briefs...

Our condolences go out to Rick and Lori Oliver on the passing of Rick's dad, and condolences as well to Andrew Lombardo and Kellie & Bob Shakarian on the passing of Andrew's dad.

Congratulations to President Jeff Hamberg on his promotion to Lieutenant with the Charlton FD. Congratulations to Matthew Hamberg on his recognition at school for his work in the Landscape program!

Congratulations to Rick and Lori Oliver on their new Spyder! Time to start racking up mileage on three wheels!

Let's Play Hooky — After the April snow we saw it was finally great to see warm temperatures and sunshine! We had our first Hooky Ride in late April and enjoyed some ice cream at Janine's in Ware!

Neither May or June's weather was supportive for much riding, as we were the 4th wettest May on record and June has been about 50% rain! Hopefully we will see some weather improvements as the summer rolls on.



Evening Ice Cream Rides are on our calendar for 2025, come join us!
Meeting time is 6:00 pm.

- Thursday, July 17, at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange.
- Wednesday, August 27 at the Dunkins in East Templeton on Route 2A.
- Thursday, September 11 at the Dunkins in East Templeton on Route 2A.



The Mass-2 Honor Guard had it's inaugural appearance at the Spring State Meeting, as they presented the colors.

During the meeting, Chapter President Hamberg, and VP Loiselle shared the concept of the team to the body. Copies of our protocol, including the Family Assistance Form were distributed to the chapters present.

VP Loiselle, serving as the "Officer of the Honor Guard" presented members of the team who were present with Honor Guard pins for their vests. Thank you to all the team members for stepping up for this role: Peg Brouillet, Charlie Hamberg, Jeff Hamberg, Ian Hurley, Maury Lizotte, John Loiselle, Marcia Marjomaa, Kevin Martin, Judy Perla, and Matt Regnier.



Proceeds from our Blessing of the Bikes went to Home Base, a Red Sox foundation that serves our veterans and their families. Here is an excerpt from the thank you letter we received from Home Base.

Please accept Home Base's gratitude for your thoughtful Philanthropy. We appreciate your recognition of our efforts to make progress in research, education, medicine and community health. It is an honor to have your confidence in our mission.

Your generous support will transform the lives of patients for years to come. Thank you again for playing a key role in our ability to ensure a healthier world for all.

Leading up to our 2025 Blessing of the Bikes and Ice Cream Social, the weather pontificators kept spewing doom and gloom for that Saturday with forecasts of rain and thunderstorms.

Of course they were wrong and we had some blue skies, warm temperatures, and late-in-the-day rain! The forecast did keep our crowd down a little bit, but we still had 28 bikes and 35 people on hand to enjoy our afternoon on the Petersham Common. (21 from MA-2)

We had fellow Red Knights on hand from MA, CT and NY, and also others from the Spyder Ryders, CMA, Veteran's groups, and one of our friends from the 3 amigos (remember them from Americade?)

Because of the generosity of those who attended and those who made donations, we were able to send a donation of \$275 to Home Base! Thank you all who came and enjoyed the day with us!

Mark your calendars for the
2026 Blessing of the Bikes & Ice Cream Social
For Saturday, May 2
On the Petersham Common
(Following the Spring State Meeting)



Vermont-2 Ride to Remember

On our thirteenth spring Saturday of rain (with temperatures in the 50's) we had a hearty group head into Vermont to support our sister chapter to the north at their annual *Ride to Remember* to raise funds to support those battling cancer. Our friend Dave Emery ran the auction and raffle tables and it was a successful day for both VT-2 and for the MA-2 raffle winners!



Each year, RK Vermont-2 hosts a "coffee break" at the Guilford, VT rest stop on Route 91.

They always aim for the Friday of Columbus Day weekend, but it depends on what the VT-DOT offers them.

Make a mental note, and we will plan a ride up into Southern Vermont (on October 10 if that is the date) for a coffee and some baked goods with our Vermont family!



In one Pennsylvania town, traffic engineers came up with a unique way to implement "traffic calming." In an attempt to slow traffic down, they re-stripped a straight street to make an optical illusion that it was a curvy road to slow traffic down. As a motorcyclist, I think this becomes a challenge to *take on the twisties!*

WHO ARE YOU? We started with our chapter officers in the last newsletter, and we'd like to learn more about you? We know that you are a Red Knight and a member of our chapter — but what makes you tick, or rather makes your wheels spin? Just drop an email to our treasurer to answer a few questions about yourself!

WHO, WHO, WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

Larry and Nancy Robinson came into our chapter together, as many of our members do, joining in 2005. Larry served as an Assistant Road Captain with the chapter for 16 years.



Larry was a firefighter with the Petersham Fire Department, following his father to the fire meetings as a teenager and remaining there for 55 years, retiring as Deputy Chief.

When talking about their fondness for the Red Knights and the members of Mass-2 they mirrored each other on their comments about the friendships and comradery of the group. They both remarked about how our members care for each other and support those outside the club, as well — mentioning our visit to Sherry's House as a special visit they remember.

Nancy says that she always appreciates the hugs, kisses, and smiles that fill the air when we get together. Nancy also mentioned that the Breakfasts together at different homes is always special, and Larry, like many of us, said that Americade and the "Red Knight cabins" will always hold special memories for him.

They both have followed each other hand-in-hand in their service to others, as well, throughout their lives. From raising their family (everyone remembers their son Kevin!), to being active in their church, where Larry served as trustee and on the diaconate, Nancy serving as a Sunday School teacher and serving as co-chairs for the church fair; to the Lions Club, where the club they helped found is approaching their 50 year mark—and where Larry received the Melvin Jones Fellowship award.

Larry served in the Navy, assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Shangri-La in the late 1960's.

Larry and Nancy have also been very involved in the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary, where Larry is a Life Member and rose to County Commander and a position at the state level, and Nancy served both in local leadership positions and at the Worcester County level.

Being from a small town, Larry has worn many hats, including Veteran's Agent, Constable, and was Petersham's Highway Superintendent. He left that job for a position as Blacksmith at the Fernald School (Templeton Developmental Center). When he retired from there he was in charge of the farm's maintenance and grounds. Nancy also worked at the center, before retiring, and simply said she was an educator for the clients. But we all know there was a lot more to her involvement with the individuals in her care!

Nancy has been a showman, as well, performing in local minstrel shows and in a production of *My Fair Lady*!

You may remember that the Red Knights were invited to a surprise presentation when Larry was given the "Citizen of the Year" award in Petersham a few years back. And you can see why that was not a surprise to us, as much as it was a surprise for Larry when he walked in the door!

We know that health issues have kept them away from a lot of events, recently, but just as they have fond memories of the Red Knights, we all have fond memories of them, as well!

In the September 2024 issue of Rider magazine, one of the columnists interviewed a number of motor officers from different organizations asking them for some of their favorite rider safety wisdom to share. Here are some snippets from those interviews:

- Always assume other cars are going to steer into you - in alleys, out of bus-lane drop-offs, at all intersections. It's never if, but when.
- Be ready to stop your motorcycle at any moment.
- You know that intense focus your dog has while he waits for you to throw the stick? Be ready like that.
- While it takes practice and experience, try to anticipate the movements and actions of other drivers. Know what they are going to do before they do.
- Calm down and ride accordingly. No good decisions will arrive when your mind is spun up.
- Egos and motorcycles don't mix. You will lose the game with that mindset.
- In CHP motor school, instructors told us that when faced with the choice of either laying the bike down in an emergency or keeping it upright and trying to ride it out, keep riding the motor. And I can tell you firsthand this one was a lifesaver.
- Keep your head on a swivel. Threats come from all directions, not just from in front of you.
- Keep working through the problem - don't give up physically or mentally when things start to go bad on the bike. Maybe you can't avoid a situation entirely, but odds are you can mitigate it to some degree.
- Any time you find yourself angry at a driver who startled you by doing something that put you at risk, let that be a reminder that you didn't see it coming, weren't prepared, and didn't have a plan. Sure, it's the driver's fault, but in the end, it's the rider who loses.
- Try to keep eye contact with drivers when clearing intersections, changing lanes, or pulling into/out of



driveways. If they're looking at you, they probably see you.

- Visually clear every intersection no matter what color the traffic light is. Not some of them, not most of them, all of them.
- When stopped, make sure you're checking your mirrors. Crazy stuff can happen behind you!
- Have a ride routine: visual oil level check, quick air pressure check, start the bike and do a quick walk-around: check the headlight, turn signals, and brake lights. Once you're rolling, do three hard straight-line emergency braking runs from 25 mph. In all, you spent just two minutes to confirm your bike is set, your tires have some heat in them, and your body and mind are warmed up for the ride.
- One of the best tips I was taught when I first came to motors was to not outrun your headlight in the dark. In other words, don't speed at night!
- Always have an escape plan so you can get out of a bad situation when needed at a traffic light, on the highway, or on a canyon road.
- Ride like you are invisible and assume you will be cut off every time you cross an intersection. That way you won't be surprised when it happens, and you can get on with working through the problem.
- Always keep your bike in gear when at a stop so you can get moving immediately if necessary.

One of the comments listed is to make eye contact with other drivers. I have found that even if a driver is staring at you it does not mean they see you!

I like to keep an eye on the front tire of a car at an intersection perpendicular to me, and if I see that tire move it is a big clue to me that they are looking through me not at me, and I can take defensive action!

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club®



2025 CONVENTION

Hosted by the Illinois State Association



DATES

Executive Board: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 to Sunday, August 24, 2025

All Members: Thursday, August 21, 2025 to Sunday, August 24, 2025

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, August 19, 2025	♦ Red Knights Regalia Board Meeting	
Wednesday, August 20, 2025	♦ Red Knights Executive Board Meeting ♦ Registration Opens @ 3 pm	
Thursday August 21, 2025	♦ Breakfast (included w/each registered Host Hotel guest) ♦ Registration Opens at Host Hotel @ 7 am ♦ Starved Rock Kayak Tour @ 8:30 am (\$70 - transportation & lunch included) ♦ Group Ride (not escorted) - KSU @ 10 am	♦ On-Site Games / Self-Guided Rides ♦ Breakout Sessions ♦ Evening Reception @ 5 pm (2 free drinks & snacks for each registered Host Hotel guest) ♦ Chapter Merchandise Sales ♦ Hospitality Room
Friday August 22, 2025	♦ Breakfast (included w/each registered Host Hotel guest) ♦ Registration Opens @ 7 am ♦ Starved Rock Kayak Tour @ 8:30 am (\$70 - transportation & picnic lunch included) ♦ Firefighter Memorial Ride @ 10 am (\$10 - lunch included) ♦ On-Site Games / Self-Guided Rides	♦ Breakout Sessions ♦ On-Site Games / Self-Guided Rides ♦ Evening Reception @ 5 pm (2 free drinks & snacks for each registered Host Hotel guest) ♦ Social Gathering @ 6 pm ♦ Chapter Merchandise Sales ♦ Hospitality Room
Saturday August 23, 2025	♦ Breakfast (included w/each registered Host Hotel guest) ♦ Registration Opens @ 7 am ♦ Annual Business Meeting @ 8 am to 12 pm	♦ Evening Reception @ 5 pm (2 free drinks & snacks for each registered hotel guest) ♦ Banquet Dinner @ 6 pm ♦ Chapter Merchandise Sales
Sunday August 24, 2025	♦ Farewell Breakfast at Host Hotel - 6 am to 10 am	

Registration with Merchandise Pre-Orders Deadline: June 15, 2025

Mail or Email Registration Form To:

RKMC IL State Association

11023 West 72nd Street, Indian Head Park, IL 60525

rkmc2025convention@gmail.com

Make Checks Payable To:

RKMC Illinois State Association

Mail Checks to Address Provided Above.

All registrations must be paid by check/money order or
by PayPal to rkmc2025convention@gmail.com.

No Cash or Credit / Non-Refundable

Your registration will be confirmed by email upon receipt of payment.



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No Cash or Credit / Non-Refundable

ATTENDEE(S) INFORMATION

Arrival Date: ☐ Aug. 19, 2025 ☐ Aug. 20, 2025 ☐ Aug. 21, 2025 ☐ Aug. 22, 2025 ☐ Aug. 23, 2025

Attendee 1 Name: Country - State - Chapter:

Attendee 2 Name: Country - State - Chapter:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Primary Phone: Secondary Phone:

Email (needed for registration confirmation):

Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number:

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration Fee per Adult = \$100.00 Number of Adults Attending = 0 X \$100 \$0

PRE-ORDER MERCHANDISE

CONVENTION T-SHIRT (\$15 each) (only limited quantities will be available at Convention for purchase):

0 Small 0 Medium 0 Large 0 X-Large 0 2-XL 0 3-XL 0 4-XL 0 5-XL

TOTAL Convention T-Shirt(s) (0 of t-shirts X \$15): \$0

OTHER PRE-ORDER MERCHANDISE (only limited quantities will be available at Convention for purchase):

Challenge Coin (\$20 each) Quantity: 0 X \$20 \$0

Engraved Yeti Rambler 18 oz. w/Straw Cap (\$40 each) Quantity: 0 X \$40 \$0

TOTAL Other Pre-Order Merchandise: \$0

ADVENTURES

Thursday Starved Rock Kayak Tour @ 8:30 am (transportation & lunch included): Number of Adults Attending = 0 X \$70 \$0

Friday Group Ride (with lunch) @ 10 am Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial Number of Adults Attending = 0 X \$10 \$0

Friday Starved Rock Kayak Tour @ 8:30 am (transportation & lunch included): Number of Adults Attending = 0 X \$70 \$0

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE + T-SHIRT(S) + PRE-ORDERS + ADVENTURES = \$0

PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL GATHERING & BANQUET

Attendee Friday Social Event Saturday Banquet

Attendee 1 YES NO YES NO

Attendee 2 YES NO YES NO