



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Winter '05

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

Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's
Desk

Our final ride of '04 was back on November 7. It was a beautiful, sunny, fall day with temperatures in the 60's. It was not many days after that when the temperatures dropped into the teens and we all saw snow on the grass and slush on the roads! The temperatures and the weather have been all over the map this winter, and I hear that Vice-president Kevin Martin even went out for a stroll with his bike on January 2! Then the snows started!

The winter months do not stop our chapter as we have get-togethers scheduled often – right through the cold weather. There are our breakfast clubs each month, we went to Foxwoods in November, and our Christmas party rounded off the past year.

In the last International Newsletter, the International President (Ed) hinted at some of the issues that are brought to the International Board by chapters and members throughout the organization. A big one is membership retention and membership participation.

Unlike those chapters who are having troubles, we have a very successful and active chapter. I believe we are successful because we keep busy. Other chapters are not as fortunate. Some chapters struggle to keep their minimum required number of members on their rosters. Some chapters have members on the roster but no activity. And other chapters just fade away and disappear.

I feel that Mass-2's success over the past twenty-two years is because each member that participates keeps us alive. Our activities together as a group and our efforts to have a variety of events both on and off the bikes, throughout the year, all add up to something we all enjoy.

2005 is no different. Included in this newsletter is the 2005 Ride Schedule for our chapter. The officers met in January to put together these ride ideas for the year's schedule. We are always open to other ride ideas beyond what is on the schedule as well. Please post this schedule in a prominent place in your home — mark up your favorite calendar with what we are doing – and come join us!

One thing that needs everyone's help is our yearly fund-raiser. This year our raffle is a little different as we are selling \$5 raffle tickets to win blocks of scratch tickets. We hope everyone will buy and sell these tickets so our chapter has funds to donate and support the causes we have assisted in the past. Marty Eldridge is the chair for the raffle again this year. If you have not heard from her or one of the officers, please contact her to get your tickets and help the chapter.

I am ready to get the bike out again. I think we have all been hibernating long enough and a few miles on our two-wheeled friends will do wonders for any winter blues we might have. Remember to take some time to prepare your bike with a check-up — and also take some time to give your riding skills a check-up and spend some time practicing to help regain the skills that have gone dormant over the past few months.

Mass-2 is as active as it is and as successful (and fun) as it is because of each of you! Thank you for your support and your participation. See you on the road!

Spring Business Meeting and Pot-luck for Mass-Chapter-2

Join us in welcoming the new riding season and warmer days with a Pot-Luck meeting at the Eldridge's in Leominster.

WHEN: Sunday, April 17

WHERE: 856 Main Street in Leominster

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite dish to share and we'll begin as we always do with good friends, good food, and good fun!

Please RSVP (or to get directions) to Marty at 978-534-6252

Look for the 2005 Ride Schedule for Red Knights – Mass-2 included with this newsletter.

To the Thawing Wind

COME with rain, O loud Southwester!

Bring the singer, bring the nester;
Give the buried flower a dream;
Make the settled snow-bank steam;
Find the brown beneath the white;
But whate'er you do to-night,
Bathe my window, make it flow,
Melt it as the ices go;
Melt the glass and leave the sticks
Like a hermit's crucifix;
Burst into my narrow stall;
Swing the picture on the wall;
Run the rattling pages o'er;
Scatter poems on the floor;
Turn the poet out of door.

Robert Frost

2005 Chapter Raffle — Thank you to everyone who has helped make these raffles a success for the club.

The tickets are out for this year's chapter raffle and we are asking everyone to buy and sell some between now and the end of May. Our raffle is a new format this year. Instead of a 120 Raffle with \$20 tickets we are selling \$5 tickets and the prizes are 200 scratch tickets for first place and 100 scratch tickets for second place.

Our chapter is very generous each year with donations to many causes that help people in our area. We are able to do this because of our successful fundraising.

If you have not picked up some tickets to buy and sell, please call Marty Eldridge at 978-534-6252.

Thanks goes out to Marty for leading our raffle again this year, and to each of your for helping us sell the 300 tickets.

Americade ...a great time at a great place!

One thing about Americade and Lake George is – as you leave at the end of your stay there, you begin thinking about when you can return!

If you ever have the chance when you are surfing the web visit the Americade home page and their message boards. After a few minutes on line looking at the comments and subjects being discussed among the Americade "Cyber-caders" you'll see that there are thousands of others just like us who can't wait to return to Lake George.

I've heard Americade referred to as a Motorcycle Nation. And if you look over pictures from years past I don't think there is any doubt that at Americade, you are family. The Red Knights, and especially our chapter, takes on that roll! We seem to adopt people for the duration of the week, whether they are a solitary RK member traveling alone or someone traveling with our group for the first time. They get to know the hospitality and friendship that is so special in our group.

Most of the club will be traveling on Sunday, June 5th, but there will be others going up earlier and others going up throughout the week. Some of the special events that we participate in are the Street Party on Monday evening when they close down Canada Street, and waiting to register on Tuesday always becomes an event itself too. On Wednesday Bob and Ed are putting on a seminar about planning for a long trip (they had a full house at last year's talk) and Wednesday evening is the RKMC 3-course Dinner at Roaring Brook Ranch. *(Have any door prizes to donate?)* Thursday evening is the Red Knights open house at the Lake George Fire Station where nearly 300 Red Knights meet, greet, and eat! Saturday morning is the Americade

Come join us at the
Annual Red Knights New England Regional Cape Cod Weekend on May 6-8, 2005

This year we are back to the Heritage House, and the weekend will be as relaxed or as busy as you want it!

Meet at the **Westminster FD** at 9:00 (or the junction of Routes 140 and 12 at 9:30) on Friday, May 6 and we'll be off to the Cape. The room rates are \$59 per night. Their number is (800) 352-7189 – Call soon for your reservation!

As with last year, the hotel will hold the special price an extra night if you want to stay over until Monday. The extra day allows you to enjoy a leisurely ride home on Monday with very little traffic if the weather permits!

No special plans on the Cape this year, but on our trip down on Friday we will be heading to Fall River to visit Battleship Cove before heading across the canal to the Cape. It is a relaxed weekend with a ride if you want, type of get-away. Cape Cod is always a great beginning to our riding season before the roads beyond the canal fill with summertime traffic. Once we're on the Cape I know there will be "guided" and "self-guided" tours around the shoreline and beyond. We'll have our *roundtable* in the parking lot and celebrations in the hallways too!

If you have any questions about the weekend, please contact State Rep. Steve Mickle.

parade that the Red Knights have always been a big part of as it roars up and down Canada Street.

There is so much more beyond what is "planned." From the great roads around Lake George and beyond, the group rides, self-guided rides, and pick-up rides. We always go out at least once to our favorite restaurant, Stoney Creek, and the Tour Expo has every vendor, gadget, and accessory that you could ever want for your bike.

If you cannot come up for the entire week, think about taking a spin out to Lake George for a day or two. If you have been before, you know that Americade is drawing you back. If you have never been, we have a surprise for you – it's fantastic!



JOIN US AT THE BROUILLET'S in Westminster for an **AMERICADE Planning Pot Luck** on Sunday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m.

On the road with our friends

- **Who was that masked man??**

What a great time we had at our Halloween Party hosted by Lori and Kevin. There were some fantastic costumes, prizes, games, and lots of food and fun! Thanks to our hosts and all the participants. Mark your calendars for this October too!



- November 7 was our annual **Polar Bear Ride**. It was a nice sunny fall day and we took a short ride to the Apple Hill Farm for a late brunch. Some members then headed to Lancaster for a rally in support of the McNamara family and others headed off for other obligations. As always the last ride of the year has us looking back fondly on the past rides and looking forward to the next season to come!

Will they ever return, will they ever return, and their fate is still unknown...

On the **guy's day out** in February to the **Northeast Bike Show**, some of us were wondering if the next MBTA song would be written about us — and now I know what the Ground Hog feels like because we were popping out of the Boston Subway trying to figure out where we were and how to get to the World Trade Center!

It was a warm, sunny day and we had 13 people show up to take the train into the city for the bike show. Last year we took cabs from North Station to the show, but this year the tickets said "take the silver line." So we did. Our shields got us all our transportation for free, and that was good, because we spent four hours going from Fitchburg to the show!

At North Station we got directions to the Silver Line — and found it. But little did we know there were two separate pieces to the Silver Line. One went to the Waterfront and one went to China Town, Roxbury, and Dorchester. We added two unknowing people to our group as we boarded the bus, as they too were looking for the show. As we began our tour through the city's inner neighborhoods a lady on the bus told us we *shouldn't be there*. When the bus reached its final stop we were a long way from the Waterfront and the bus was out of service. The MBTA folks at the end of the line asked us "What are you doing down here?!?" They called another bus, one just for us, to get us back to downtown.

Then we were back on the common by the State House — still not at the WTC. We found an MBTA Cop and explained our story to him. He looked us over and decided he did not want us hanging with him all day and told us to follow him and back down in the subway we went! He told the woman at the gate that we were all firefighters and he opened the gate to let us in. The extra two people that had joined us said to me, "but we're not firefighters." We told them, "shh, just stay with the group."

Back on the subway and off to South Station this time where we picked up the correct end of the Silver Line that deposited us right at the World Trade Center!

At the WTC we talked with Kevin and Marv, the producers of the show and the producers of the Killington Classic, walked around the show and had a good time. Afterwards we re-grouped and back tracked through the subway to North Station and a stop at Hooters for something to eat before our train home. So we visited North and South Stations, the Boston Common, China Town, Dorchester, Roxbury, and the WTC — and rode on the Orange, Red, Silver, and Green Lines. All of this without misplacing a single Red Knight or without buying a single MBTA token! I think we did pretty well! See you next year?

Rides for '05

The chapter officers met in January and developed a ride schedule for 2005. We tried to have a variety of events from short rides, ice cream rides, longer rides, different fun things to do, and some weekend rides as well. And just because the ride schedule is printed doesn't mean we can't add something more!

We will not have another newsletter in the mail until around Americade — but of course we will be riding together between now and then even though the road and weather conditions don't look too favorable right now!

Here are some of our upcoming events in for 2005:

Saturday, April 30. **Flying Pigs and Butterflies.**

Meet at Westminster FD at 10:00. We'll take a ride out to Hampshire County where we'll have some great BBQ at "Holy Smokes" and stop off at the New England Butterfly Conservatory and Garden

Saturday, May 22.

Come Watch the Dogs Run.

Join us for an afternoon at the Hinsdale Raceway watching the Greyhounds. We'll also plan for a dinner stop on the way home. Leave WFD at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 19.

Father's Day Picnic Ride

We'll have leisurely day riding around the Quabbin with plans for a stop at the Hardwick Winery and a picnic lunch on the Quabbin Reservation and a post-lunch visit to the Swift River Valley Historical Society.

Meet at the Westminster FD for 10:00 a.m.

Membership News:

Welcome to new members Armand Guilmette of Andover FD and to Michelle Shepard. (We think Michelle went looking for a firefighter with a bike to date just so she could be an official member!)

Congratulations to Steve Mickle on his promotion to Lieutenant with the Rescue on the Groton Fire Department.

If you have paid your dues for 2005 and have not seen your membership card yet, it should be with this newsletter. If you have any questions, call Chapter Treasurer Cliff Eldridge.

Join us for our annual **Train Ride into Boston** on Saturday, March 19 (our March Breakfast Club was bumped back to March 12)

Along with our normal activities like lunch at Mother Anna's, we will be taking a tour of Boston via the Old Town Trolley Tours. This has many stops around the city and will give us the opportunity to make stops at places like Faneuil Hall, the North End, Charlestown Navy Yard, North Station, Boston Common (we can visit the new 911 memorial in the nearby Public Gardens), the State House, the Prudential Center, the Aquarium, and many other stops. Estimated cost of the Trolley Ride is \$25

We need to make reservations for dinner, so please call Bob Laford **by Monday, March 14** if you plan on going to Boston with us.

Assistant Road Captain

Road Captain Tim Kilhart has spoken about appointing an Assistant Road Captain to help the club out for the riding season.

If you are interested in serving the chapter and helping out as an Assistant Road Captain, contact Tim to talk about it.

Whitewater Rafting in Maine!

Everyone who went to ride the river last year said it was great and they are going again — and the stories we hear are exciting! Are you ready to head down the river this year?

The trip to the Kennebec is Friday, July 1 through Sunday July 3. A great ride up, fun on the water, and more New England roads to ride home on Sunday.

ALL RESERVATIONS AND DOWN PAYMENTS (\$81 per person) NEED TO BE IN TO TIM KILHART ASAP and the balance (\$81 per person) need to be into Tim by May 8.

Cost is \$162 per person and that includes Cabin Space, and the ride down the river. *Half that amount is the deposit that needs to get in to Tim ASAP so the cabin and river space can be reserved.*

The ride will be along the Kennebec River near Bingham, Maine. The North County Rivers guides will be our trip leaders. You can find them online at www.ncrivers.com

If you think you would like to go along for the bike ride and a stay in the cabins, but you don't want to head down the river that's OK too. Contact Tim with your interest and he can get you the cabins and no river ride price.

Tim Kilhart — tdkkilhart@rcn.com — 978-249-2983

Breakfast and Ice Cream

The last few years we have been having Ice Cream rides an evening each month from May through September and breakfast gatherings during the colder weather months instead of ice cream! Join us for some fun and camaraderie.

Join the Red Knights Breakfast Club

Each 3rd Saturday of October through April meet up at the **Westminster FD at 8:00 am** and we'll try a different breakfast place each month.

February 19 April 16 November 19
March 12 October 15 December 17

Join us for some Ice Cream

Each 4th Tuesday of May through September meet up at the **Westminster FD ready to leave at 6:30 pm** and we'll try a different ice cream place each month.

May 24 July 26 September 27
June 28 August 23

Note that March 12 is the 2nd Saturday not the 3rd!



Dear fellow motorcyclists,

Anyone who has lost a loved one from cancer knows what a horrible and devastating disease this is. Losing a loved one to cancer is a terrible thing, but imagine the terror a parent feels when one of their children is diagnosed with a brain tumor.

- Brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer deaths in children under 15 years of age, and for young adults up to the age of 34.
- Brain tumors are the second fastest growing cause of cancer deaths among those over age 65, and over 100,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a brain tumor every year.

Since 1984, motorcyclists have raised over 25 million dollars through Ride for Kids® events. And because of the fund-raising efforts and participation of motorcyclists, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the United States has become the largest funding agency in the world for childhood brain tumor research, outside of the U.S. government.

I hope that you will be able to join us for the 2005 New England Ride for Kids®, which will be held on Sunday, August 21. This police escorted event will start at the Wal-Mart on route 12 in North Oxford, Massachusetts (exit 10 off the Mass. Pike) and will end at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any more information, or if you would like me to mail some flyers for this event to you. Please visit our website at: www.ride4kids.org.

Sincerely,

David S. Odess
Task force leader
New England Ride for Kids®
hblad1@comcast.net

RI-1 Spring Fling — Dinner/ Dance — Sat. April 2, 2005

At the Coventry Elks Lodge, @ Exit 6 off I-95
...right near the Best Western

\$20 per person includes:

Choice of Prime Rib or Chicken - Dancing & Door Prizes

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. — Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Advanced Ticket Sales Only

Call Joe Conroy for tickets and info at (401) 439-6032

Proceeds to benefit The Tomorrow Fund At Children's Hospital

February's Winter Wonderland. We had about 20 people plus a half-dozen kids at our Winter Pot Luck that was held in Ashby recently. It was a fine late winter day and the weather was gorgeous!

The kids and a few adults enjoyed the snow covered hill next to the house for sliding and the rest of us basked in the warmth of the fire place in the beautiful home loaned to us by the Stacy's.

David Odess from the New England Ride for Kids stopped in to talk to us about this year's ride and the needed support for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation . Our 2005 Ride Schedule was also out along with Americade information for all those who were there.

And of course, we had enough food to feed half the town!

Who is headed to Toronto for the convention this year?

August 11-14 is this year's International Convention hosted by Ontario-1.

Just a few short hours away is where you will find a fun time planned by our neighbors to the North.

There is a pre-convention trip planned for Niagara Falls, a big BBQ to open the convention, a bus tour of Toronto, and much, much more.

More details will be in the International Newsletter in the Spring, but make your plans now!

You can download a convention registration form and more details from Ontario-1's web page at <http://ca.geocities.com/rkmcon1@rogers.com>

Red Knights Scholarship

Congratulations to our four scholarship recipients for the MSF Riders' Courses. Corey Feeley of Westminster, Lori Hembro, Bill Curtis, and Judy Perla all of our chapter.

We will be discussing the program at our April meeting to decide if the chapter wants to continue the program for 2005.

A big thank you goes out to the Scholarship committee for their work in developing the guidelines for the program and for reviewing this past year's applicants and to the Safety Council for their donation and to Walter for plugging us with the Safety Council! Members of the committee were Donna Moreau, Don Hurme, and Bob Shakarian.

Saturday, April 9. — Athol "River Rat Race Parade" and RK *Brunch* afterward

Weather permitting we'll have the Red Knights lead the Fire Engines down Athol's Main Street for their annual River Race Parade... and then head out for brunch afterward.

Meet in Westminster at 8:00 a.m. and we'll re-group at Athol High School at 8:30 a.m.

Congratulations to our own Donna Moreau on the release of her book “*Waiting Wives: The Story of Schilling Manor, Home Front to the Vietnam War.*” We are very proud of her and know how much work she put into this project! The book is due out May 1... look for it!

Waiting Wives: The Story of Schilling Manor, Home Front of the Vietnam War tells the story of the last generation of hat and glove military wives called upon by their country to pack without question, to follow without comment, and to wait quietly with a smile. The first book to focus on this other, hidden side of war, *Waiting Wives* is a narrative investigation of an extraordinary group of women living in an incomparable community during America’s most turbulent decade. A compelling memoir and domestic drama, *Waiting Wives* is also the story of a country in the midst of change, of a country at war with a war.

In 1964, as the first B-52s took flight in what would become America’s longest combat mission, an old Air Force base on the plains of Kansas became Schilling Manor—the only base in the history of the United States set aside for the wives and children of soldiers assigned to Vietnam. Author Donna Moreau was the daughter of one such waiting wife, and here she writes of growing up at a time when *The Flintstones* were interrupted with news of firefights, fraggings, protests, and assassinations, when the evening news announced death tolls along with the weather forecasts. The women and children of Schilling Manor fought on the emotional front of the war. It was not a front composed of battle plans and bullets. Their enemies were fear, loneliness, depression, isolation, destitution, lack of information, and the slow tick of time.

Praise for *Waiting Wives*

"In the Vietnam War men volunteered and were also drafted. Today we have an "all-volunteer"

military. One thing has not changed. When our soldiers go to war they still take the hearts of their families with them. In this moving book Donna Moreau illumines the soul of the American military family. As the father of a Marine who recently deployed to the Middle East I identify deeply with the brave women and children of Schilling Manor who lived through days that felt like lifetimes."

--Frank Schaeffer, author of *Faith Of Our Sons: A Father's Wartime Diary* and *Keeping Faith: A Father-son Story About Love and the United States Marine Corps*

"'Waiting Wives' casts lights on one of the most overlooked aspects of all wars—the anxiety, loneliness, and resilience of the military wives on the homefront. Donna Moreau, who knows this world from personal experience, illuminates this story with great candor, humanity, and humor. This is a timeless book, and, thanks to Moreau's gifts as a writer, an unforgettable one as well."

— Andrew Carroll, editor of the New

York Times bestseller *War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars*

"A tragically timely and overdue book. Moreau is more than a chronicler. Her fine writing and sense of tension leaves us with the indelible after-image of the wives of men fighting an unpopular war overseas herding their children into their rooms and holding their collective breaths as an official car moves slowly down the street past bicycles on the front lawn looking for the house at which it will stop with the words: "It is my duty to inform you..."

—Kate Webb, co-author of *War Torn: Stories of War from the Women Reporters who Covered Vietnam*

"Donna Moreau's lovely book carries us into a world defined by the exquisite longings of the heart, teaching us that a certain dignity and holiness attend those who wait bravely for the return of love."

--Don J. Snyder, author of *Of Time*



WOW! What a great party. Thanks to all of you who made it to our Christmas Party back in December. We had a full house with 34 people! A special Thanks goes to Donna M. and her sister for another fantastic holiday feed! (We already booked the Apple Hill Farm for December 11, 2005).

We did something new this time when we asked everyone to bring an unwrapped gift for a child to be dispersed through the **Fishes and Loaves** program. We were able to donate nearly 30 gifts for needy children to the program. Thanks everyone!

This picture (from our Christmas Party) and an article about our chapter appeared in the Athol Daily News thanks to Mary Barclay.

