



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Winter '06

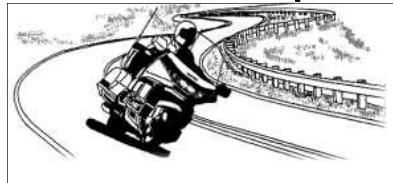
<http://www.rk-mass2.org>

Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's Desk

Have you had a good time with the Red Knights in the past? Maybe it was a breakfast ride or an ice cream ride... or a ride to the coast or mountains... or an overnight or weekend ride to Maine or the Cape... or maybe it was a longer ride and a week away at a Red Knights Convention. 2006 is another opportunity to join some great people and have fun on your bike – and our 2006 schedule will give you ample choices for how you like to ride – short distance, long distance, a quick bite to eat or a weekend away. We hope to see our many friends from the past join us again this year for some fun times on the road. But we would love to see those of you who have not been able to ride too much with us in the past too. We have fun, and you can make some wonderful friends.

I'll share a story about friends with you but it actually spans a couple of years time. Shortly after Steve, Kevin, and Shakey bought their firefighter specials I was looking over one of the bikes and asked if I could sit on it. Just as I started to throw my leg over the saddle, my loving bride yelled to me to "step away from the Harley!" That became a standing joke for the remainder of that riding year. Last summer the three HD's were parked side-by-side in a parking lot during a breakfast stop. Everyone joked that since Diona was not on the ride that I could safely sit on the bike. As I settled into the saddle I was worried that someone was going to hurt themselves as people were running and diving for cameras to ensure that my time on a Harley was memorialized in a photo.



This past December, as we were all enjoying ourselves at our Christmas party, a very nicely framed picture of me on the HD appeared on the center table for all to enjoy for the day. At the end of the party I announced for the picture's owner not to forget to take it. I was told that I was the owner and that the picture must be on display at our home in Petersham AND spies would be over to ensure that it was there! Diona then said that she had the perfect place to hang the picture. So the next time you come by the house you'll see that the picture is in a place of prominence... (you'll notice it when you're standing in the bathroom!)

As I said, 2006 is another opportunity to make some more fun memories with the club. But as you dust the bike off and roll her out for the first ride of the season make sure to do some maintenance. Maintenance and service on your ride; but just as important is maintenance for you. How are your skills? How is your riding mental sharpness?

Take some time and practice. Practice cornering and braking. Maybe in a parking lot somewhere. But practice your mental skills as well. Keeping aware of what is going on around you and planning for alternative reactions when others enter your path of travel takes practice too.

There was a recent editorial that talked about the two-second rule. We have all heard about following distances of two seconds as a safe distance, but this two-second rule was about what it takes in time for things to go wrong. The gist of the column was, *all it takes to go from a nice ride to a tragedy is two seconds of inattention*. That inattention can be the fault of another driver or rider or that two-seconds of regret might be our inattention. A look away and a look back and someone is stopped in front of us or turning in front of us. Two seconds is all it takes. So practice your mental skills as well as your riding skills this spring to give yourself some spring maintenance. And come enjoy the fun!

Take some time to look over our scheduled rides and events for 2006. Mark them on your calendar and post it on your refrigerator. We hope that each of you can make some of the rides – and enjoy the Red Knights friendships.

Look for the 2006 Ride Schedule for Red Knights – Mass-2 included with this newsletter.

Congratulations to Tim Chandler, a young man from Orange, and Kurt Graeff, a firefighter from Petersham, our two recipients for the MSF Scholarship. They both have the opportunity to take the Beginner Riders' Course at the Central Mass Safety Council this year.

Experienced Riders Course Scholarship

Our chapter voted to give out two Experienced Rider Course Scholarships to

members within our group. When we awarded the beginner courses at the Christmas Party there had been no applications for the experienced courses.

So we have extended the application time for members of our chapter who would like to take the experienced riders course through one of these scholarships. The deadline is April 1, 2006.

You can download an application on our web page, or call President Bob Laford and he will mail you one. Mail completed applications back to Bob at 276 West Road in Petersham.

We will award these early in the spring.

Our sincere condolences go out to Terry and Doreen Atwood and to Tom and Shari Lozier as both couples lost parents over the past few months.

2006 Chapter Raffle

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

The tickets will be out soon 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 the same format as last year. 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.

Bob Laford (978-724-3270) will be getting the tickets around over the next month. Please consider buying and selling some to support the chapter. We'll draw the winners at our Ice Cream Ride on Tuesday, June 20.

Americade... where the fun is!

When do you start thinking about Americade? If you are like me it begins as we are packing and heading home after the great week that Americade always is. During the cold winter months I rely on the Americade web page to help me through the bike withdrawal too. Have you visited their page at www.tourexpo.com? There is a lot of information about the rally in Lake George and the Red Knights always show up in their pictures and planning. This year the Red Knights are right on the web page's "front page" as we line up for the parade, and on the page that gives information about the three-course dinners is a picture of us at the Red Knights' sponsored dinner on Wednesday evening.

The Tour Expo web page also has an event schedule that can be downloaded as well as secure pages to register for Americade.

If you have never been to Americade ask anyone who goes what they think. Lake George and the Adirondack Mountains offer great riding and wonderful views. Bill Dutcher and his cast of volunteers work all year long to produce a family-friendly rally with more vendors, rides, events, and fun, than any other motorcycle event in the country.

I know I speak for many of our members when I say that I would not miss the time we spend at Lake George for anything! Beyond the fun and the 65,000 other riders in attendance it is one event that proves the Red Knights are a huge family.

It's a great time...are you going?

Are you planning on going to Americade in June? Then JOIN US AT THE KILHART'S in Athol for an **AMERICADE Planning Pot Luck**. Give Darlene a call at 978-249-2983 to let her know if you are coming — or if you need directions. Sunday, March 5 — 1:00 p.m. in Athol.

Come join us at the
Annual Red Knights New England Regional Cape Cod Weekend on May 5-7, 2006

We're heading further down the Cape this year with our host hotel being the Eastham. That will open up some different roads and restaurants for us and give us some new vistas to enjoy on our first big ride of the season.

As I finish this newsletter, the Cape Cod chapter and our State Rep are still negotiating with several hotels in Eastham. It looks like the price will be around \$59 per night. When the final info is ready we will get that out to you so you can make reservations!

Meet at **Westminster FD** at 9:00 am on Friday, **May 5** (we'll pick up more at the 140/12 intersection at 9:30).

Anyone want to hold over to Monday too? The secret to the Cape traffic is that on Monday morning there is no traffic and it is a wonderful ride off the Cape and back home on Monday morning!

Are you a member of the MMA?

The Massachusetts Motorcycle Association is a not-for-profit member organization of motorcyclists dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of motorcyclists' rights. This group of dedicated riders work tirelessly on legislation and regulation at all levels of government and through the implementation of safety, insurance, education, and public awareness policy and programs for the betterment of all motorcycling within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Each of us as riders should consider supporting the MMA by becoming a member. They are fighting for each of us and have done many good things for the motorcycling community through their contacts and activity on Beacon Hill.

Membership includes:

- Experienced representation at the State House and at the Registry of Motor Vehicles
- Discounts at Participating Gold Card Members' Dealers and Stores
- MMA Newsletters
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment Life Insurance
- MMA Care, Patch, and Bumper Sticker
- A network of dedicated riders from around the state

Visit their website at www.massmotorcycle.org for more information and to become a member.

Please think about door prizes to help our the Red Knights International at the Wednesday evening dinner at Roaring Brook Ranch. We have had around 100 door prizes to award dinner attendees the last few years... and that has been far more than ANY of the corporate sponsors involved with Americade!

Who is headed to New York City for the convention this year?

The International Convention is in New York City this summer from August 10-13. We have people going on two-wheels and four-wheels.

Consider joining the fun and meeting Red Knights from around the world as they gather in NYC. More info on the RKMC web page and coming out in the International's Spring Newsletter.

We didn't have any snow for our Winter Pot-luck (and sledding party) but we still had great scenery, lot's of food, wonderful company, and a lot of stories to tell and gabbing about the 2006 schedule!

Thank you to Linda and Wayne for their hospitality at our gathering point in Ashby.

From an AMA interview with moto-journalist Dave Despain:

If you could pick any motorcyclist from history to interview, who would it be?

Despain: "The interview I would most like to do springs from a story told by Skip Mascorro of MotoDiscovery Tours. He led a group of *manly men* on a ride to Tierra del Fuego, the southern most tip of South America. As they stood in torrential rains and gale-force winds, feeling the testosterone rush of a difficult mission accomplished, they heard another motorcycle approaching. Up rode a 22-year old Japanese woman on a 125cc Yamaha. It was her first bike and she had ridden there from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. I have a few questions I'd like to ask that lady!"

Upcoming Rides for '06

Saturday, April 8. **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 Rat Race Parade... and then head out for brunch afterward. **Bring your Fire Helmet!** Meet in WFD at 8:00 a.m. and we'll re-group at Athol High School at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 20. **A ride around central Mass and a stop or two in Worcester.**

Join us for a ride through Central Mass with stops planned for the Higgins Armory and the Massachusetts Vietnam Memorial in Worcester. We'll also be on the lookout for ice cream. Leave WFD at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 18. **Father's Day Picnic Ride**

We'll have a leisurely day of riding with plans for a picnic lunch on the way. Meet at the Westminster FD for 10:00 a.m.

June 23-25. **New England Fire Chief's Show**

The Red Knights will have an information booth at the Fire Chief's Show. Anyone interested in spending time in the booth contact State Rep Steve Mickle.

Tuesday, July 4. **4th of July Pot-luck BBQ.**

Come enjoy some time with friends at a holiday pot-luck. We'll be in Petersham at the Laford's. Bring a dish to share and something to throw on the grill. See you around 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 15. **Scavenger Hunt**

Vice-president Kevin Martin has been toiling to prepare a scavenger hunt for our chapter to ride. Come see what surprises he has in store for us. Meet at WFD at 9:00 a.m.

The Apple Hill Farm and its hard-working elves lived up to the tradition of a great Red Knights Christmas party back in December. We had 26 people with a lot of food, fun, laughs and stories PLUS we gave two-dozen gifts to the Fishes and Loaves program for under privileged kids. Thank you everyone! And thank you to Donna Moreau and her sister for all the work they put into the event to make it another stellar day.

We have already booked the barn for next year with our Christmas party scheduled for Sunday, December 10.



OK Marty and Cliff... it's time to think about heading back north...

Membership News:

Welcome to new member Ken Carrol of the Acton FD.

Congratulations to Tim Kilhart on his appointment as Highway Superintendent for the town of Warwick.

Congratulations to Steve Mickle on his success in the winter bike shows around New England – He took prizes in Hartford, Wilmington, Rockingham, and Boston while showing his firefighter special and playing with the kids! Also congratulations to Steve on his re-election as Mass State Rep for the Red Knights.

If you have paid your dues for 2006 and have not seen your membership card yet, it should be with this newsletter. If you have any questions, or have not paid your dues, call Chapter Treasurer Tim Kilhart.

Assistant Road Captain

If you are interested in serving the chapter and helping out as an Assistant Road Captain, contact Road Captain Bob Shakarian or one of the other officers to talk about it.

Steve was not the only Red Knight that had a good time in Boston at the bike show. Nine of us headed east on the train in perfect weather to enjoy our Boy's Day Out in the city.

It was a great time. Lot's of bikes and vendors and we even improved Charlie's cultural background when he visited his first Hooters Restaurant!

This year's **Trip to Boston** is a bit different with some **Medieval Flair...and fare.** We'll be traveling to Boston for an evening dinner and a show at the **Medieval Manor on Saturday, April 29.**

We're planning on attending the 5:00 p.m. dinner show where you'll meet the court jester, the king and his court, and have a six course dinner. Cost for the dinner show is \$47 per person. Since this is by reservation only, call Kevin Martin to RSVP.

We are investigating alternative means of transportation to get us in and out of Boston. This way we ride and someone else is our collective driver. The cost of the ride will also be divided up between those going. It sounds like a great time – **Come Join Us!**

RK International Bike Raffle

The Red Knights International is running a Custom Chopper Raffle to benefit the RKMC Memorial Fund. The winner can chose between a Custom Chopper built on a soft tail frame or \$18,000 in cash!

A maximum of 1500 tickets will be sold. (\$20 each)

Our Chapter has tickets to sell. Contact treasurer Tim Kilhart to buy your winning ticket. Please support this fund raising activity as it is raising funds for the RKMC Memorial.



A flyer about the RKMC Texas Convention is also included in the mailing in case anyone wants to head off to Texas in May!

Red Knights History Book

Have you ordered your copy of the Red Knights History Book yet? Enclosed is a copy of the flyer sent out by the International about this *once in a lifetime* book. The publisher needs 300 **PRE-ORDERED COPIES** before they can print the books.

The Red Knights are approaching their 25th anniversary and our chapter has been a participant in almost all of those years. Don't miss out on the opportunity to have your own copy of this very special book.

Breakfast and Ice Cream

The last few years we have been having Ice Cream rides on 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 18 April 15 November 18
March 18 October 14 December 16

Join us for some Ice Cream

Each 2nd 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 16 June 20 July 18 August 15 Sept. 19

(...and the president even bought breakfast one month!)

Rumor has it that one of our Goldwing-riding members was visiting our friends in Florida and borrowed someone's Harley so he could go for a ride... and he had a smile on his face while riding the HD!