

Massachusetts Chapter 2 Celebrates 40 YEARS

Chartered in October of 1983, Red Knights Massachusetts Chapter 2 is celebrating 40 years in 2023. From the start of the year, the chapter officers have been planning special events for the members, including multiple "Co-Rides" with other chapters, this riding season, and culminating in a large celebration on August 19.

A fortieth anniversary pin was designed based on the chapter's Minuteman logo, and anniversary T-shirts were unveiled at the August celebration.

Nearly 90 Red Knights and family gathered at the Templeton Fish and Game Club to enjoy an

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Here Come The Red Knights

by Patricia Forest



Officers of the Fitchburg chapter of the Red Knights are (l. to r.) Maurie Lizotte, secretary; Philip Jordan, president; George Fregeau, vice president; and Cliff Eldridge, treasurer.



Members from Massachusetts, throughout Region-1 and beyond attended the MA-2 40th anniversary celebration.

afternoon of memories together. Red Knights from MA-1, MA-2, MA-4 and MA-15, as well as from Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, and Florida made the trek to join in the fun. MA-2 was honored to have two Founding Fathers of the RKMC in attendance. The chapter even had a FaceTime call from Red Knights in Germany who were also having a summer gathering.

The afternoon was full of friends, fun, food, and many memories and stories. Chapter President Kevin Martin welcomed all. In a brief prayer, Assistant Road Captain Tim Kilhart reminded us of all our members who are now in the Heaven 1 chapter, and those who cannot be with the group because of health challenges.

Six tables of memorabilia was set up throughout the pavilion, as were several dozen T-shirts, jackets and vests hanging from the rafters. Each of these items brought more memories and more stories out about the past 40 years.

Only four presidents have served the chapter, and all four were in attendance. Charter member and president from 1983-1993, Phil Jordan took to the microphone to speak about the chapter's

founding. Having read about the inception of the Red Knights in nearby Boylston, Phil had reached out to those Founding Fathers together information and sent word to the fire departments around Fitchburg, MA about starting a chapter.



Forty years of Chapter Presidents – (Seated) Ed Brouillet (1993-2003), Bob Laford (2003-2013), Phil Jordan (1983-1993), Kevin Martin (2013-2023).

Over 30 people responded to that first meeting invitation and started the chapter. Phil remarked that he would have never imagined how large that club has grown and how far our membership reaches.

President Martin introduced his executive board, and also asked all those who have served as an officer over the past years to stand and be recognized.

Other parts of the program included the recognition of those Charter members that were present and awarding them a 40 year pin and certificate. Receiving this were Phil and Bea Jordan,

Ed Brouillet, Charlie Clarkson, Wayne Stacy, and Bob Feeley. Other charter members from that first year of the chapter that are still members are Marty and Cliff Eldridge, John and Carole Collins, Maurice Lizotte, Jim Skehan, and Richard Wheeler. Jordan, Brouillet and Clarkson have all served on the International Board, as well.

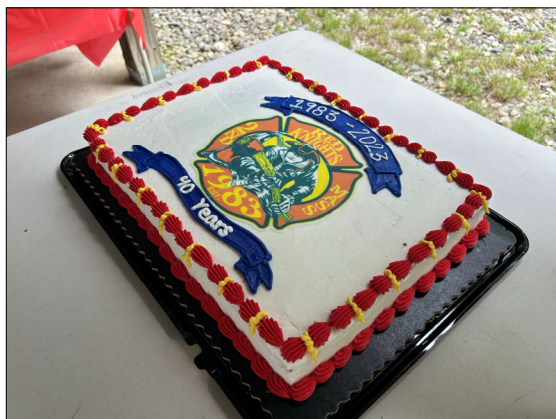
The newest members of the club, joining during this summer, Paul Woodcomb and Olivia Roberts, and Amanda Scott were also introduced. Founding Fathers Bob Bourassa and Norm Beausoleil from RK MA-1 were presented with the chapter's 40th anniversary pin.

During the program, Vice-president Rick Oliver took to the microphone and asked President Martin and Assistant Road Captain Time Kilhart to step forward and they were both honored with Life Memberships in the club. Martin has been a member for 30 years, and officer for 20, and chapter president for 10. Kilhart, a 25-year member has served the Executive Board in several different positions for over a dozen years.

It was a great time with great friends, and we look forward to the next decade together.



Chapter President Kevin Martin cuts the cake.



Tables of memorabilia were on hand for members to review.

