



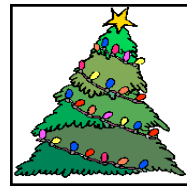
From the  
President's Desk

# Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Fall '10

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

*Loyal to Our Duty*



## Mass-2 Christmas Party

- Sunday, December 12, 2010
- 1:00 p.m.
- Apple Hill Farm, 143 Joslin Street in Leominster

Come join us for a our catered dinner and our annual Yankee Gift Swap.

Bring a wrapped gift with a value of no more than \$15 for the gift swap.

**The cost is \$15 per person** (the chapter is picking up the remainder of the cost) and if you were with us last year you'll agree that the food is fantastic!

*...and the company is pretty good too.*

The last few years we were able to donate a couple of dozen gifts to the **Loaves and Fishes** program. This year we are doing something a bit different.

Please consider purchasing and donating gift cards for **Wal-Mart, Target, K-Mart, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, CVS, etc. or Gas Cards, Phone Cards, VISA and American Express** gift cards. We will be bringing all of those collected to Sherry's House in Worcester to assist them in their mission for the kids this holiday season.

As always, thank you for your generosity.

**We must have a head count by Sunday, December 5 to give to the caterer.** Please contact Bob Laford with your RSVP. (978) 724-3270 (If you tell us you're coming but then can't make it we will need to collect \$25 to cover chapter costs).

*"Turn the quiet up, turn the noise down; Let this ol' world just spin around — I wanna feel it swing, wanna feel it sway, And put some feel good in my soul."* My guess is that the song writer that composed those words did not write them thinking of a motorcycle. But when I heard them (while I was in my car) it made me think of the "feel good in my soul" I have when I am on the bike. Even our friend Fred Rau's words in a recent column are right on the nose when it comes to those good time feelings: *"My motorcycles have been magic carpets, time machines, and Star Trek-type transporters for nearly my entire life. All of my memories are woven together, all brought to me by way of my travels, on my bikes. They are priceless, every one, and I would not trade them for all the money in the world."*

We all lead busy lives, and whether we work one job, multiple jobs, or are even busier because we are retired, there are always obligations and commitments that pull us in many different directions. Occasionally we will have a chapter ride or event that has a low turn out, and I know that it is not because people don't want to be there—but we understand there are other commitments drawing us away. That is few and far between though because most of our scheduled (and unscheduled) chapter events draw a fair number of our members. And I like to think that is because we have fun and we help build those priceless memories that will bring out the smile in us for years to come!

I am also very proud of our membership as a chapter because we are never at a loss for people to step up and help with a given cause or project. I have been approached many times by other chapter officers who are in despair over their chapter. No one shows up, no one runs for office, no one pays their dues. When I discuss this with them the reoccurring theme in their voice is "I." I do this for the chapter, I plan this for the chapter, I expect.... That is where we are blessed in Mass Chapter 2. It has never been a single "I" that has made our memories or made our chapter successful (and fun). It was not I when Phil or Ed was president, and it is not "I" during my tenure as the head of your executive board. It HAS always been "we." We are a family, we are a team, and we together make up a chapter that does a lot together and builds those memories.

Our members have always been active beyond the chapter too. From serving in advisory and elected positions within the International, to committees and other points of assistance within our state—Mass-2 members have always helped the larger organization. One such person is Steve Mickle and his work as State Rep over the last decade. Steve decided to step down from the State Rep position this fall and we thank him for all his efforts in helping each chapter and each member throughout the state during his time at the helm.

As we cruise into Fall and our annual meeting has come and gone, I must thank all the officers for their part in making our chapter what it is. It takes a team from the newest member to those that have been around since day-one in 1983 that make the chapter work. Our officers put in a lot of work and they deserve each of our thanks—and I can tell you they each have my deepest respect for the job they do and the commitment they have towards the Red Knights. And we cannot forget the understanding that their partners and spouses have as time is spent with chapter business (on the phone and the computer or at the meetings) instead of being at home!

And there is each of you who, as individuals, make our chapter special. So please come out and enjoy some time with your fellow Red Knights. That time can be on the bike, in a four-wheeler, during the riding season, or during the cold weather months. Come along and have some fun.

Ride safe!

*P.S. Just a reminder that dues are due to the Treasurer by December 1.  
Thanks for your cooperation.*

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

- Other than ten minutes of heavy rain as we exited Milford, NH, eleven of us had great weather for our Father's Day Picnic Ride. We ended up stopping at Greeley Park in Nashua for our lunch before we made a celebratory visit to Peg's mom's 90th birthday party! Then of course there was the obligatory stop for ice cream (at Kimball's).
- Vermont-2 were gracious hosts for their annual Paul's Ride the end of June. Our seven members made up about 10% of all the day's participants but we took over 50% of all the door prizes that day! We even joked that we should have thought about bringing our trailers along had we known we would do so well!
- We had a perfect day for our July 4th weekend BBQ and 24 members and friends were able to find their way out to Petersham for a great afternoon. Along with the 80 degrees and sunshine, there was more food than an army could devour (of course) and you could hear the clink of horse shoes during the day too!
- A beautiful summer's Sunday met the dozen members that came out to see where Ed and Kevin would lead them on their mystery ride... and the only others in on the *Mystery* were Cliff and Marty, because that's where the group was led — Wells, Maine to have a BBQ with the Eldridges!
- Our themed ride billed as a "Scavenger Ride" has been held off for another time — but we still had seven members get together on a sunny Saturday in August to enjoy some western Mass and SW NH roads along with a couple of stops for sustenance (go figure).
- It was 36 degrees with spotty frost for the Jaffrey breakfast but we still had a dozen smiling faces (dressed for the cold) and a great fall day for a wonderful breakfast by JFD and a good ride afterward.



**O**ur monthly ice cream rides have drawn to a close—and many of the ice cream stands have closed for the season. But you never know, Indian Summer may require a serious hunt for a stand that is still open.

Our ice cream evenings were always a popular venue. In July, Maury led a group of thirteen on a 40 mile ride around north Worcester County before ending up at the King Phillip in Phillipston at their Cruise night. August found another nine riders ready for their cool treats, this time it was at Flo's Farm Stand in Rutland where the goats, calves, kittens (and wild turkeys) were all interested in us too! We had a small turn out in September and made a spin over to the Carter Stevens Farm in Barre for their fresh ice cream, and for our final ice cream of the season in October it was a cool evening and with dusk approaching fast by 6:30 so six of us scooted over to Phillipston for a final ice cream at the King Phillip. They were starting to button up for the night (and the season) but we got our licks in for October!



Our **Breakfast Clubs** have started up again! The riding season may be winding down, but that does not mean that the fun is going to stop.

**Every third Saturday** from October through April we will gather for breakfast and fellowship. Meet at the Westminster FD for 8:00 a.m. and we will discover a different breakfast haunt for each month.

October 16, November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19, and April 16

## RED KNIGHTS COASTING THROUGH THE CORNERS AT THE RIDE FOR KIDS



What a great Sunday in August greeted us for this year's Ride for Kids. There were nearly 200 riders of which 14 were members of MA-2.

This year the New England Ride for Kids brought in over \$36,000 for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

Mass-2 should be very proud. We brought in double our 2009 contribution with over \$3,200 in donations. At the post-ride ceremony your president had the honor of being called up on stage to represent the chapter as we were recognized as one of the top *three* fund-raising clubs for the ride this year (GREAT JOB FOLKS!)

A special thanks go out to our Road Captain and his crew, as the Police Escort asked for additional road guard assistance and our RC and his two Assistants stepped right up to help.



Mark the third Sunday of August on your calendar for the 2011 RFK.

*See you then!*

Whether the Weather cooperates late into the fall or not, we will still be getting together as a chapter so come join us!

**Sunday, October 24: Time for Pumpkin Chuckin' (NOT).** The trebuchet is not operating this year! But we will still plan on a ride (somewhere). Meet at Westminster FD for 10:00.

**Sunday, November 7. Polar Bear Ride.** What will the weather bring in '10? Meet at WFD at 11:00.

## Cape Cod in the Fall!

There were a total of 8 Red Knights from Mass-2 who went on the Cape weekend this past September. It was a small turnout this year all around.

Six of the clan met for Breakfast in Westminster before the journey to the Cape (4 Bikes and 1 four-wheeler). It was great weather and an enjoyable back road ride down with lunch at the Bee Hive Tavern on 6A.

After check-in some ventured to the nearby Elks Club for a visit, some took the time to catch a snooze, and of course the cards came out to play a few hands — both before and after a quick spin for some ice cream.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, Bob Felt led the group on a ride and ended up going to the Atlantic Spice Company. Some of the group also headed further afield for a ride to Race Point via P-Town and some back roads along the shore. Included in this portion of the ride there were a few dead ends and U turns. While near Wellfleet harbor that part of the group saw other members of the chapter cruise by and hooked back up for the ride back to the hotel.

Sunday's plans were for an early departure but Jim McGrath, Bob Felt, and his son (All Mass-8) showed up and led the group along 6 and 6A to Bourne for breakfast. The place was I-Hoppin (*sorry folks I know that's really bad*) and we to split up to find seats. After breakfast it was on the road heading for different final destinations.

What would you like to see for weekend get-ways next year? Spring, summer, fall — the Cape, the Berkshires, the Mountains, the Ocean?

It's your club, your time, and your FUN—what would get you to come along with us? There have been years that our weekends have had nearly 30 people along for the ride, and it is a lot of fun! Do you have a special place that would intrigue others in the chapter? Let us know!

## LENDING A HAND TO ANOTHER CHAPTER...

Eleven members of Mass-2 (and 13) took a spin to the south shore earlier in the summer to participate in Mass-3's Bill Hodges Memorial Ride. Bill was a familiar face at RKMC functions and his chapter has dedicated their annual ride to Bill since his passing last year. Our riders logged about 245 (+) miles for the day.

There were 87 riders at the Poker Run netting over \$2,000 earmarked for the Shriner's Burn Fund in Boston.

Officers from Mass-3 expressed their thanks to all those from other chapters, that included Mass 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, and 13.

# 2011 Dues

Included with this mailing is your invoice for the 2011 dues. As with any organization there are expenses that we incur and your dues help us cover those costs. A portion of your dues also go to the International for our charter dues. (We must have all International dues paid in January or we incur a \$50 penalty).

Please have your dues in to Treasurer Tim Kilhart by **December 1, 2010**. Thanks.

Tim Kilhart  
56 Adams Drive – Athol, MA  
01331

At the annual meeting in October we passed out the year-end reports from the officers. If you would like to receive a copy please contact Bob Laford.

One thing you may notice is that for the year from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010 we did operate at a “negative cash flow.”

Because we have had good success with our decal sales in recent years we have a decent cushion for our operating budget and have decided to keep the dues at \$20 for the next year in spite of the reduction in income over 2010.



## Membership News Briefs...

Congratulations to Walter Roach on his recognition for service with the Central Mass Safety Council at their annual awards dinner. And congratulations to Mary Barclay on the completion of the Beginner's Riding Course and receiving her motorcycle license!



Congratulations to Marcia on her two-wheeled upgrade. Her faithful steed that she began her riding debut with was handed off to another new rider (from Mass-3) and she found herself a Purple & Silver 2002 Honda Shadow Aero. Best wishes to Corey Feeley and his new bride Felicia on their recent nuptials, and Congratulations to Gerry Baldini on his recent retirement from the city of Fitchburg.



A peaceful stop on the Belchertown common with coffee and sweets from nearby Kristina's Bakery.

After our annual meeting in October it was off to Dummerston for some Apple Pie on a GREAT fall day for a ride.

Along with the 1,500 apple pies baked just for us, we had 18 members and friends join us for the ride, the food, and the fun!



## Medflight Insurance

The International Board has entered into an agreement with AirMed to offer RKMC members a special discount for air ambulance insurance for when you are on the road. Visit their web site for more information about this member benefit.

AirMed International is the country's leading air ambulance company, offering unparalleled medical care and bedside-to-bedside transportation on a worldwide basis. Chosen as air medical transport for two of the top three hospitals in the U.S., as well as a preferred carrier for the U.S. Department of Defense, AirMed operates a fleet of fully customized fixed-wing aircraft from its five bases of operations and provides service to more than 1 million members in the U.S. and Canada.

AirMed will provide the Red Knights with an association enrollment code that may be used for online enrollment through [www.airmed.com](http://www.airmed.com). This associate code will provide enrollees with the appropriate annual rates. AirMed will provide membership cards and information to all new and renewing annual memberships. Short-term memberships will have the option to access their online account to obtain temporary membership cards.

AirMed Partner: Red Knights Motorcycle Club  
Partner ID: MFP8K9E

## Winter Potluck

- Saturday, February 13
- 1:00 pm
- New Salem Fire Dept.  
On the common, (off  
Route 202) in New Salem,  
Mass.

Bring some food to share and stories to tell, and we will have a grand time as always!

We will have the **ride schedule for 2011** printed and ready for distribution – so don't miss it!

### Chapter MSF Scholarship

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Donna Moreau for her work on the Scholarship committee since its inception. Donna has stepped down from the committee and we all tip our hat to her for her time and efforts.

The Central Mass Safety Council continues to be our partner with motorcycle safety through our MSF Scholarship program. We will be giving out rider scholarships again in 2011 thanks to our fundraising efforts, assistance from the safety council, and the work of our scholarship committee.

Be on the lookout for the 2011 scholarship information that will be out after the new year. If you know of a new rider who would benefit from the Beginner's Rider Course, or if you would like to file for a scholarship for either the Beginner or Advanced Course, please get an application to the committee for consideration.

*No matter how long you  
have been riding —  
rider education will make  
you a better rider!*



We had a wonderful impromptu event with the members of Quebec-3 over Labor Day Weekend. We had a dozen Mass-2 people and an similar number from Mass-1 and Mass-15 meet up with Quebec as they were on weekend Holiday (About 40 Red Knights total!). They spent Saturday at Hampton Beach and were headed to Lake George after visiting with us. Mass-1 were gracious hosts and even had a fire department chaplain with us at the memorial in Boylston. The Quebec friends were very thankful and excited about the number of Red Knights from Mass that turned out to greet them. We had lunch together and then took them to the Worcester Cold Storage Memorial site on Franklin Street before they were off to their next stop.

*Lunch was interesting... a couple of us from Mass-2 sat with seven of our guests from Quebec at a Mexican Restaurant. Our waiter's primary language was Spanish with broken English, and our French Speaking guests would talk to themselves in French, us in English, and the waiter by whatever means worked!*

## **A VISIT TO SHERRY'S HOUSE**

Eleven members participated in this year's ride to Sherry's House. We were able to take the bikes this year because the weather was a bit more cooperative. We rode over 100 miles and then got a tour of the facility with explanations and background of each of the rooms with their individual themes and murals.



Throughout the year we have been holding 50/50 raffles that the proceeds were to benefit the Ride for Kids and Sherry's House. Tim Kilhart presented the staff with a check and Kevin Martin presented them with a framed motorcycle print, and our members left off over a dozen bags full of supplies for them to use.

Afterwards the ride continued with lunch at 5 Guys for good burgers and fries — and great friends! Thanks to everyone for your help!

We will be collecting donated gift cards at our Christmas party in December to present to the folks at Sherry's House to help them with their mission for the kids they serve.

## 2010 RKMC Convention!

We had ten members head to the Niagara area to participate in this year's International Convention in August. Some took extra time on the way out and some took extra time on the way back, but it all sounded like a good time!

Looking at pictures and hearing stories about dirt roads and corn fields, it appears that no matter where we end up we have a good time.

Maury kept some notes on the business side of the convention and if you would like to see those in their entirety, please contact the President and we'll get you the details. Below are some pieces of the business.

Meetings and briefings were held on Trademarks issues, insurance, and a preview of topics that would be seen at the business meeting.

At the beginning of Saturday's meeting there were 57 chapters represented, but by end of meeting this was up to 63-64 including MAL representative.

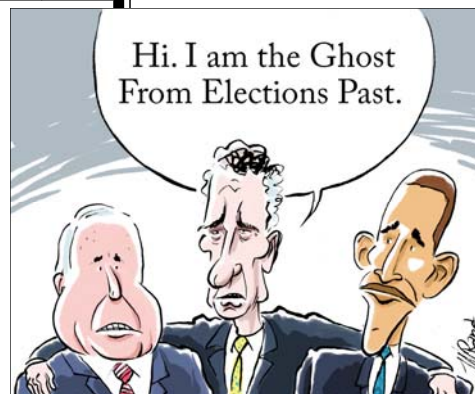
Leo Patry reported that an audit was satisfactorily completed by an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party and all was in good shape with 3-4 minor notes of suggested changes.

Future Conventions and dates: MD-3 in Ocean City, Maryland September 8-11, 2011 (NOTE DATE CHANGE). PA-12 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of August 2012. Vermont Association, in Rutland area, 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August 2013. Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI, July 16-20, 2014 (NOTE THE DATE CHANGE).

Membership: 351 Chapters, 300(+) MAL's for a total membership of 9262. 3-4 Chapter Applications in process with lots of growth in Europe. There were 13 chapters who were rescinded for non payment of dues.

Region Configuration was voted on to alter the Regional boundaries as the growth of the organization changes.

The proposed bylaw change to use electronic voting was defeated 32 for 19 against and did not have needed 2/3 vote. Next year only card votes no voice votes will be taken at convention (one vote per chapter).



Thank you to those who came out for our October meeting and election of officers. Congratulations to Kevin Martin, Tim Kilhart, and Bob Shakarian on their re-election to the chapter board. I want to personally thank each of them and their spouses and all those who serve the chapter for the time and effort you each make in helping our Red Knights chapter be what it is.

Officers for 2011 are:

Bob Laford, President  
978-724-3270  
rflaford@tiac.net

Kevin Martin, Vice-president  
978-827-4297  
kmartin812@hotmail.com

Maury Lizotte, Secretary  
(978) 410-5553  
lizotte@comcast.net

Tim Kilhart, Treasurer  
978-249-2983  
kilhart@verizon.net

Bob Shakarian, Road Captain  
978-665-9805  
Sharkey625@aol.com

Terry Atwood, Assistant Road Captain  
978-772-7606  
TATWOOD000@aol.com

Larry Robinson, Assistant Road Captain  
978-724-3321

George Colby, State Rep  
380 Main St.- Plympton, MA  
781-585-8817  
gcolby@comcast.net

### Guy's Day out in Boston 2011

The Boston Motorcycle Show is the weekend of January 29 & 30 at the World Trade Center in Boston.

It is always a great time looking at all the bikes, vendors, and wares at this show. Come join us on **Saturday, January 29**. We will meet at the Leominster train station about 9:00 a.m. for the ride into Boston and see if we can find our way — and always with a smile and a laugh!

*Other 2011 Show dates and locations are:*

*Providence, RI on January 8-9  
Salem, NH on January 15-16  
Hartford, CT on February 26-27  
Wilmington, MA on March 12-13*

*Check out [www.kevmarv.com](http://www.kevmarv.com) for more information*

### *Killington Classic*

About 500 motorcycles were in this year's Killington parade from the Mountain to the block party in Rutland. AND the Red Knights were there!

RK-VT-3 has taken on a lead role with the Killington event and our own Walter Roach was the second in line with all his flags behind Mass-15's Bob Binnall with his lit up ride. The usual crowd of locals were lined up on the road side all the way into downtown Rutland.

There were members from Mass 2, 3, and 15 at the Comfort Inn. Maybe next year we will see others.

The Lake George Classic Car Show was going on the same weekend so a number of the riders went over to LG to see (and hear) a lot of classic cars, trucks and street rods.

Caitlin asked that we pass on her new address:

Caitlin Barclay  
Apt.1812 - 9032 Dugas Road  
San Antonio, TX 78251

# KEVIN'S BIG ADVENTURE!



Kevin Martin headed west out of Lake George when we left Americade in June... and all he knew is he was headed out for a multi-state ride. He kept us all up-to-date on his blog (excerpts below) and came back with a nice tan and a big smile a couple of week's later after 5,000 miles. A group of us met him in Connecticut as he came back into New England (we bought him some ice cream at the UConn Dairy Bar) and then when we approached the Massachusetts border we made him stop so we could make sure all his credentials were in order!

Day 1 The adventure begins. Finished up at Americade and double checked my luggage and checklist on the bike, been a great week at Lake George with the Red Knights and lots of riding. The trip was pretty much uneventful for the first day. The New York thruway has got to be one of the longest boring roads in the Eastern part of the country.

Day-2 The fun continues. After spending the night in a rather questionable, seedy motel I was up at 4 am and hit the road by 6:30 all intentions of hitting the western side of Michigan, but after several stops for one reason or another, stupid bungee cords, shifting luggage, etc. and construction delays I ended in Detroit at a Comfort Inn, with a hot tub. I was going to camp tonight but the threat of Thunder showers is looming in the air and I really don't feel like being wet this early into the trip.

Day-3 Roll-on. Shame on me for not watching the traffic. I ended up back tracking into Ohio again and lost a good hour and a half. Took a detour north to Elkhart Ind. and stopped at the Harley shop (of course) got a pin for my Vest and met a nice guy named Rich that just came back from the Smokey mountains. Then there was Jim, the local high school principal with his Softail all chromed out. He said he holds essay contests for his students throughout the school year and the winner gets to have their picture taken on his ride.

Day-4 More rolling hills and farmland. After leaving Chicago and fighting with the traffic I made my way up through the countryside and twists and turns in upper state Illinois, the extreme vast farmland and fields was absolutely beautiful. I stopped in a town just outside Hoffman and met up with a couple of guys at that store who saw my red vest and fire patches. They invited me along for a little jaunt through the rolling hills and twisty turns so we took off for a couple hour ride and saw the most amazing windmill farm I have ever seen, hundreds of huge windmills just letting there props flowing freely in the wind.

Day-5 Crap! After checking in last night all I wanted was a nice hot shower and a place to crash, I went back out to get something on the bike and couldn't get back in to the room. The

arrogant clerk was insistent that it was me and the way I was using the card, he tried the card and guess what, it didn't work! Back to the lobby to make another key.

In the morning I awake at 5 and look outside, beautiful blue skies and a slight crack of the sun coming up over the horizon. You know they have those self sufficient pots for guest? Apparently not here in the "Newly Renovated" Motel 6,

Started on the road by 7:30 and rode for a whole hour and 20 minutes when the sky started to cloud over, no big deal, so I thought, well it wasn't about 45 minutes later the sky opened up, stopped and got my wet rain gear on and continued west. Three hours later it's still raining so hard you couldn't see 10 feet in front of you. I decided to stop for a break and went inside the "Quickie Mart" yup they have them out here too. Talked to a couple of guys and they said it was going to be raining like this most of the day and for the next couple of days and severe thunder storms for tonight, I'd be better heading south out of the storm they tell me, no my gut is telling me go straight and stick with it, after getting back on the road again, it wasn't getting any better, found a northbound route and decided to try that, not any better that way either after about an hour and lots of construction I took a wrong exit with no reentry before I decided to stop for the night.

Mother nature kicks ass! I'm disappointed in myself! If you haven't heard by now I've had to make a U-Turn. I did it with my Red Knights vest on so does that make it an official ride? The weather has been incredibly furious, Thunderstorms, Hail, Tornados. With a heavy head and a beat spirit I decided to turnaround and head back East. I was driven south by the severe weather and decided my gut feeling was better then trying to continue on. I did however, make it West of the Mississippi (just for you Bob!). Contacted my sister in Montana and the temperatures where to be in the 30's & 40's up that way and over 110 in the Phoenix area.

Stopped at the Indy Speedway on the way through that area and then pushed on.

Day 6 - Sorry blog followers for not getting back on line yesterday, Abdula's hotel had no

internet access, and being up in the mountains of Maryville TN, wasn't much options. I had a great ride into TN, Through Kentucky, what a big ass state that is.

After checking into the pig pen for the night, I took a little ride through town and met up with the Guys from Maryville Fire Department they had 4 members from the Red Knights. They told me that the Smokey Mountain Harley Dealer had a Public safety night on Saturday's with a live band, free food and a bike cruising night, guess where I ended up until 10pm.

Day-7 Out of the roach haven and on the road by 7:30. The rolling hills and beautiful valleys of the Tennessee valley region are incredibly gorgeous. If you ever get the chance to run these highways, 129,74,19 you have got to do it. I made it to Deals Gap in about 4 hours and stopped at the general store at the start of the tail to hydrate, and it was a hot sunny 95 degrees. Let me tell you, the Dragon is the most awesome adrenaline rush ever!

Ironically I ran this on Fathers Day, for my Dad, for all the twists and turns he but me through while growing up, To you Dad the ride was worth it. RIP!

Day-8 The final leg, I decided to take a side trip to some country roads and winding twists through North Carolina and Virginia, Finished the day with 435 miles and in Virginia beach. Have you ever gone swimming in the ocean at 9:35 in the evening, so nice! This has got to be one of my favorite spots in America, I've been here 4 times already and what a nice way to wind down my trip.

Took the Ocean drive up today after leaving Virginia Beach and found some very nice roads along the way. Pulled off the road just north of Baltimore Maryland due to , you guessed it, severe weather again! I thought I'll just pull under the over hang and wait it out, wrong, the skies opened up and the most amazing lightning and hail I had seen. The winds picked up and the stormed continued for the next 30 minutes, so I decided to check in and call it a day.

Well it's been a very exciting week and a few days, and I've really enjoyed the adventure. I'll be heading back tomorrow and can't wait to see you

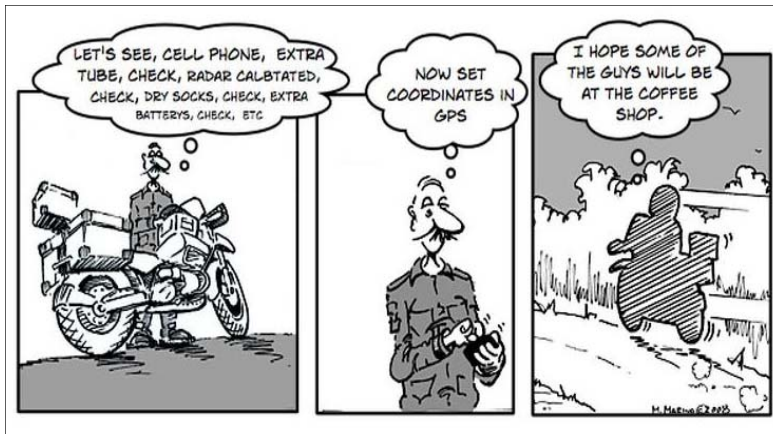
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**OUR NEXT BREAKFAST CLUB RIDE OF THE FALL IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20 — MEET AT WESTMINSTER FD AT 8:00 A.M. AND WE WILL HEAD OUT FOR BREAKFAST AND A RIDE**

*What is the chapter planning for 2011?? — It's up to you!*

Help us plan what *you* want to do for rides and events in 2011. We always have fun with what we plan, and the only way we can make it better is to let us know your ideas. Did you participate in a ride with us or someone else that you thought was worth repeating? Did you see a destination on TV, in the Travel Section of the newspaper, in a magazine, or on line that you think sounds like a lot of fun?

Let us know — this is how we come up with new ideas for the chapter to try! The officers will be meeting early in the year to prepare a ride schedule for 2011. Then we will have it ready to share with you at our Winter Pot Luck gathering in February. It's your chapter, let us know how to make it better for you!



**After our Polar Bear Ride in November, get your bike's mileage to Kevin Martin... then at the Christmas Party we will have some fun with the "data" and see how many miles our chapter rode this year!**



**(I bet it is more than you think!)**

**RK Ideas for Christmas!**



**Red Knights' apparel and stuff are always a great gift for the rider on your Christmas list!**

For RKMC embroidered clothing (shirts, coats, hats, etc.) contact Joe Guarnera at joegua@comcast.net or his home phone at 978-455-1022 .

For screened T-shirts and Golf shirts, contact Vice-president Kevin Martin (978) 827-4297

Chapter Treasurer Tim Kilhart (978) 249-2983 has a number of items too: Chapter Decals (4 inch, 8 inch, and custom size if needed), RKMC Decals, Red Knights Shoulder Patches w/ rockers, and Red Knights Back Patches & Rockers (for vests). AND the chapter motorcycle flags too!

On the International Web Page you can buy merchandise from other chapters ranging from doo-rags to collar brass and license plate frames and everything in between!

**Another idea for under the tree this year is Fred Rau's new book "The Motorcycling Touring Bible."** This book is due out about the time that you receive this newsletter. I do not know any details about the book because I, too, am hoping that Santa brings it for me on Christmas!

The *Motorcycling Touring Bible* is the best resource to help you avoid the all-too-common mistakes made on the road. These are mistakes that often lead to breakdowns, arrests, lost wages, broken limbs, death, and on more than one occasion—divorce. Avoid your own school of hard knocks and learn from Fred Rau's experiences in *Motorcycle Touring Bible*, the most complete resource available for the motorcycle traveler.

Available through [www.motorbooks.com](http://www.motorbooks.com)

Kevin's adventure continued...

all. Thank you for your support and well wishes, I hope to do this trip at least once more and cover the other side of the Rockies. Take care and ride safe.

Final Blog-what's your story? At the hotel I met a nice kid that is a volunteer firefighter for Allentown PA and was there for a training weekend. He frequents this Ramada Inn because they are so accommodating. After putting up with the wild weather, and getting the bike all tucked in for the night, a couple came up to me and asked if I was the guy that was riding the big red bike, I told them yes and they said tell us your story. You know the nice thing about biking around the country is that you meet some very interesting people that really want to hear your story.

Left early in the morning to head for home, some 420 miles from my destination and thought this is going to be a long day, made my way through New Jersey and New York, Thank God for GPS's, this thing saved my ass from all the nasty traffic tie ups in those two states, I hate driving through them and it's so much easier when a GPS can move you through crazy areas.

Anyway made it into Connecticut to UConn (in Storrs) and met up with Bob, Ed, Rick and Larry to escort me back after having a nice ice cream at the UConn dairy.

They made the leisurely ride back enjoyable from the highway and truck routes I had been on for the past week and a half. I couldn't just finish with the ride back home, I headed out route 2, hey I still had 50 miles to add on to the odometer. A short ride out Route 2 and back home, I ended with 427 miles, and 4826 total miles since I left home to go to lake George and circle the states. It's been a great adventure and I will do it again, and make it over the Rockies.

Be safe and keep riding — Burning Daylight,  
Kev



## A tale of a wrecked HD and a bruised Red Knight by Kevin Martin, VP

It's Sunday morning and the weather is a beautiful 72 degrees. The sun is bright, the sky is blue, and your ride is just waiting for you to take her out for a little cruise. You call your buddy up and decide to meet for breakfast. You've made this trip a hundred times and you were looking forward to getting out and enjoying a nice morning ride.

You take the leisurely ride through some back roads and meet up with your friends for a pleasant breakfast at the quaint little country inn and share a morning full of laughs and make plans for a ride together.

As you're leaving the restaurant your cell phone is ringing and you notice it's another friend just checking in on you and wondering what you're up to. You tell him that you just finished breakfast and were headed home to grab a

jacket and probably head out for a ride and enjoy the day. He can't go just now because he has something else to do. You climb on your ride and head back to the house using the same route you took to get there.

As you ride along you feel the warm gentle breeze in your face and the smell of something fresh baking, cinnamon or brown sugar, and you wonder where it's coming from. A little way down the road you discover a small bakery and you can tell the wonderful smell is coming from within; mmmmm. The smells make the ride even that much more enjoyable.



You're riding along and close to home, everything is good. Just for a second you take your eyes off the road and glance down at your gauges, yup enough fuel for the ride, oil pressure is up all is good! Eyes back on the road only to discover the car that was in front of you, previously about 75-100 feet away, has suddenly stopped in the middle of the road. A hand full of front brake and your foot on the rear brake brings you to a forward slide. You quickly look to the left, a car is coming in the opposite direction, you look to the right and see a tree in your path. The

only thing left is the ass-end of the vehicle stopped in the middle of the road. BANG! Without any further warning you're being tossed over the handlebars and into the back of the vehicle. Yeah, a quick flash of your whole life rushes through your head as you hit the backend of the vehicle and roll to the ground. You

lie there for a minute and take inventory. OK, I can see and hear and I know I'm still alive. Yup, hands and feet are movable and no pain in the neck. You sit up and look around. Your nose is hurting and you have blood dripping from it. You look over at your ride and she's laying on her side some oil dripping out of the bottom, some fuel dripping out of the tank, and the front end completely trashed! Your heart sinks and for a moment you're angry and ready to kill someone. Then just as quickly as it happened you are thankful to be alive.

You have the courage to stand and everything you

learned about lifting your bike back up comes to mind and you grab the handlebars and lift her back up on two wheels. The person in the vehicle you just hit comes out of the vehicle and is shaken and crying hoping you're OK. Your thoughts turn to anger and you start yelling at the person asking why she stopped in the middle of the road, only to find out that another vehicle in front of her had made the sudden stop — to look at a yard sale of all things! No, she didn't pull over or even look in her mirror she just stopped. So did the vehicle behind her. And so did I. Only my stop wasn't as quick as the other two vehicles until their vehicle helped me stop.

After the police and EMS arrive you are given the option of going to the hospital or signing a refusal. After almost 30 years of working on the Ambulance, I certainly wasn't going to take a ride in my own ambulance of all things! I wasn't hurt much, just shaken and really pissed off. The tow company came and I had her taken back to the house and got her put in the garage. That was a long weekend as I had to wait until Monday before I could make the call to the insurance company.

I covered her up with a blanket like you would a dead person, because to me that's the way I felt. I had lost a good friend. Thoughts of how many times I enjoyed taking her out for a ride and just relaxing. We met a lot of new friends over the years and a lot of miles together. She was a good old girl and I knew even looking at the damage that was done that some how deep down once she left my garage for the repair shop I had a feeling she wouldn't be coming back.

The insurance adjuster came out on Friday of that week and gave me just a little glimmer of hope that she didn't look all that bad, she could probably be fixed up as good as new and we'd be back on the road again hopefully

before the end of the riding season.

I loaded her up on the trailer and made the drive to the Harley hospital. She was moved indoors and set next to a couple of banged up buddies. It reminded me of a MASH operation seeing all those damaged bikes sitting next to each other and knowing exactly how the other owners felt about having to put their "friend" in the hospital too.

Well it took a while for the insurance company to come out and evaluate her, not satisfied with the diagnosis that the "doctor" had given the first insurance adjuster they sent another one out and this time the prognosis was even more devastating than the first, She was pronounced "*totaled*" because the frame had been twisted and aside from the forks and front fender having to be replaced they felt they couldn't take a chance and repair the damage and get her back on the road.

I was given the chance to take off the few chrome items I had given her each year on her birthday and was now faced with having to remove them and keep them as a memory. It was sad to say goodbye and have to leave her.

One day I will have another one and we will become good friends again, but until then I'd like to just remind everyone to please keep an eye on the road and be safe, just a momentary lapse of not paying attention can bring disastrous results. I

know you all love your ride as much as you love being alive so enjoy it often and take good care of her and you will be rewarded with many happy miles.

Take care and be safe

Kevin – Mass 2 VP