



From the
President's Desk

Red Knights

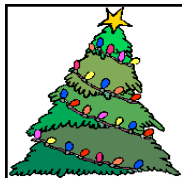
Mass Chapter 2 — Fall '13

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



[facebook.com/RKMASS2](https://www.facebook.com/RKMASS2)

Loyal to Our Duty



Mass-2

Christmas Party

- Sunday, December 8, 2013
- 1:00 p.m.
- The Glen Caffe
63 Glenallen Street, Winchendon

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.

This year's menu tentatively is a buffet that includes Chicken Poppy, and Sliced Prime Rib with appetizer, potato, vegetables, salad, and dessert.

The cost is \$20 per person (the chapter is picking up the remainder of the cost). A special thank you goes out to Maury Lizotte for his leg work on this year's party planning.

...hope to see you all there!

Let me start off by saying thank you for your show of support and confidence for electing me as your next chapter leader. As you all know Bob Laford has done an impeccable job of leading this organization to where we are today. But from it's humble beginnings with Phil Jordan getting this chapter started along with Maury Lizotte, Ed Brouillet, and Charlie Clarkson, it's amazing they are still here as members of this Chapter. This is truly something to be proud of for any organization, when 30+ years later after a thought and a few meetings we became The Red Knights Massachusetts Chapter 2.



We owe a huge Thank You to these guys for forging ahead and building a terrific team oriented chapter that even to this day is so highly spoken of across the continent and in the ranks of the International. I'm sure as they look back they never would have thought of a motorcycle club becoming so popular that it would grow to an international level and maintain the largest, best and happiest group of people around. You people are amazing, you all come from different backgrounds, have different up bringing, and different personalities, and yet we all come to together for the same common thing, Camaraderie, the love of riding motorcycles and of course the family atmosphere, oh and I can't forget the fondness of sharing food together.

Thank you for all sticking together and help make my biggest goal of continuing this tradition of involvement and leadership. I want everyone to know that I'm available to all of you and if there is anything I can do to keep you happy in this organization please talk to me. This is not an I team but a WE team and I know I have the support of the executive team as well as the membership to keep this moving, and continue to support each other.

I don't anticipate any major changes to the organization; I will work to increase our membership of active riders and participants and retain our current membership in great standing and provide as many tools as possible for the safety, well being, and training of the group.

Be safe, Stay Happy and Think happy thoughts.

Kevin Martin
President-Elect
Red Knight Mass -2
kmartin812@hotmail.com

—We have a new P.O. Box for the chapter —
RK Mass-2, P.O. Box 221, Petersham, MA 01366

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

We will again be accepting donations for Sherry's House at our Christmas party.

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.** Visit www.whyme.org for more information about Sherry's House. 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 — the children and families at the home thank you as well.

We must have a RSVPs and pre-paid dinners by Sunday, November 23 to give to the caterer.

Contact Bob Laford with your meal payment as soon as you can.

On the road with our friends...

- Father's Day was a great day... and it showed as we had 16 members and friends come out for our ride down into Connecticut. We celebrated the day with three U-Turns but that did not matter because we had a fun time with stops at Cycle Gear (where they were having a Dad's Day Sale), the Firefighters' Memorial Garden in Manchester, lunch at Rien's Deli in Vernon — and *of course* ice cream at the UConn Dairy Bar!



- We had sixteen of us head into Vermont for the 12th annual Paul's Ride hosted by RK Vermont-2. It was a great summer's day and over 100 riders met up at the Vernon Recreational Center to enjoy the hospitality of our Vermont sister chapter to support their charity run. The ride took us back into eastern Franklin County and then back to the rec center for a BBQ. As always we came home with some of the prizes — this year including two gallons of Vermont Maple Syrup and the 50/50 door prize! Our ice cream on the way home was courtesy of Cynthia... this year's 50/50 winner!

- On one of the hot humid days of July we had a dozen of us that poked round "north county" for a few miles before a picnic stop... and of course some ice cream, for a short day before the daily T-storms moved in.



- Labor Day weekend was a bit gloomy but we still had 13 members from Mass-2 (and at least that many more from Mass-13 and other friends) at the Mickles for an end-of-the-summer BBQ. There was plenty of good food and an afternoon of friends *under the tents*.



- Pouring rain on the day of the Jaffrey FD breakfast did not stop us... as we had 17 that came out to enjoy a great breakfast at the start to Fire Prevention Week. Two were even on their bikes—all bundled up in rain gear. Chris Conrad even brought his very small and quiet newborn daughter Kadie to her first Red Knight outing. That is an omen Chris... she is destined to ride the red trucks and not in the blue & white cars!

Our monthly ice cream rides have drawn to a close—as most of the ice cream stands have

closed for the season. But as has been our history, the monthly ice cream rides were very popular.



In June they were forecasting serious thunderstorms, but other than one brief downpour that only the Laford's found,

the clouds broke and it turned out to be a perfect summer evening for ice cream as 16 of us first stopped atop Wachusett Mountain and then found ice cream in Sterling.

July had 22 people at the Robinson's in Petersham, and under another T-storm watch in August we had 21 members gather at Lickity-splits in Winchendon for our favorite treats.

It was a cool evening with an early sunset for our final ice cream meeting, but we still had 15 members come out who sat on the King Phillip's picnic tables, bundled up, enjoying our ice cream!



From the sidelines...

With the reins passed on to a new chapter president and his executive board, I wanted to take a moment to tell you all thank you. I wish to express a special thanks to those who have served on the chapter's executive board during my tenure as president; Kevin Martin, Tim Kilhart, Maury Lizotte, Bob Shakarian, Larry Robinson, Steve Mickle, Cliff Eldridge, and Terry Atwood. Our chapter is successful because of individual participation. Participation by those that help organize, manage, and lead the chapter, and also each of you that participate and continue to help make our chapter strong, vibrant and active.

It is not an individual within the chapter but all of us together and all the good work and fun we strive to have together that makes our chapter successful and make all those things we do together memorable. We have a great group of friends within our chapter, and we are always making new friends.

I wish the best to the new E-board knowing that I pass on the chapter's compass to a group of eager, ambitious, and dedicated individuals that will continue to work hard in making our chapter one of the best in the Red Knights International.

It is hard to imagine that ten years has passed since I was elected president. And now Diona and I look forward to being in the "middle of the pack" on our bike instead of near the lead when we leave the meeting place. We look forward to following!

It has been an amazing ten years — and a period of time that we can all be proud of as Red Knights. What did those ten years hold for our chapter? I went through past issues of our newsletter to see what we have accomplished as a chapter over the past decade. Those items are listed below. Do they bring back memories for you? They certainly do for me.

I will close by quoting my first newsletter as president (Fall 2003) because it is as true today as it was ten years ago. *"I want to thank you for electing me chapter president. I truly appreciate the trust and confidence you have shown me as the third person to take the reins. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to be part of the chapter's leadership team. Please take advantage of your opportunity to participate in this wonderful organization."*

Bob .

What does ten years of memories hold for RK Mass-2?

Mileage... Keeping track of our miles since 2008, we have collectively logged over 900,000 miles since then. Figuring the years we did not keep track were similar in chapter miles, that is somewhere near 1.75 million miles for ten years! That's a lot of rolling through time together. Can you think of a memory (as I did) by scrolling through this list of what, when, where, and who from the past ten years?

Gatherings.... Over 40 a year on our schedule, that is over 400 events that we had to help us make memories!

We had pick-up rides, weekends, and pot lucks. We can remember Americades, Wells, White & Green Mountains, Berkshires, Cape Cod, train rides, boat rides, sleigh rides, hay rides, bike shows, conventions, rallies, ice cream rides, parades, grand tour rides, B&B rides, Scavenger Hunt, Fire Tower searches, museums, Battlefields, the Moving Vietnam Wall, FF balls and other dances, white water rafting, sledding, and classic car shows to name some!

We've ridden in perfect weather, drizzle, downpours, cold, colder, and frigid... some snow too. And there were times it was hot, hotter, and hottest.

There were Winter Frolics in Canada, touching a Four-corners in Madawaska, Ben & Jerry's, Apple Pie, Smokey Bear, Ausable Caverns, Newport and Mystic. We have been to chili cook-offs, strawberry shortcake suppers, and visited chocolatiers. There were breakfast rides, lunch rides, dinner rides, and we even had a "Porker Ride" that had food at every stop.

Curling, baseball games, hockey games, football games, then there are the card games, dice games, horse shoes, bowling, and bocce. 11 Years of Americade dinners, with over 1,000 donated door prizes. Carloads of gifts to Sherry's House and Fishes & Loaves. A trailer load of Teddy Bears that were hand delivered by Red Knights to over a dozen Ambulance Services and Fire Departments.

MSF Course Scholarships (46 as of 2013). We were recognized by the Central Mass Safety Council for our work with their MSF program in promoting motorcycle rider education. Chapter Skills Days utilizing buses, tractor trailers, police cars, and many, many tennis balls.

Ride for Kids, and being recognized by

the PBTFUS for 5th place, 3rd place, and 2nd place in New England — and the top Red Knights chapter fundraiser for 2012.

We have participated with the Patriot Guard to honor our fallen service men and women, and stood with others in grief at funerals for friends and other riders.

There have been ten conventions spread across North America that each had Mass-2 members in attendance.

Our Chapter is emblazoned in donated bricks at the 4-corners memorial, the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, and at the Gold Star Mother's monument in Manchester. We also helped fund, build, and dedicate the Red Knights Memorial, and co-hosted the 25th anniversary convention. Our chapter has also shown generosity towards many, many causes and individuals.

RK Chapter decals sold to chapters and Red Knights all over the world and even have our picture in the AMA American Motorcyclist magazine, after receiving a sound-testing grant!

What do you remember... and what will the next ten years bring?!

2014 Dues

We have been sending out electronic reminders about your 2014 dues. If you have not paid them yet, PLEASE get your dues (still a deal at \$20 per person) to our Treasurer.

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

Please have your dues in to Treasurer Bob Laford before **December 1, 2013**. Thanks.

Red Knights Mass-2
P.O. Box 221
Petersham, MA 01366

If you would like to pay electronically via PAYPAL, contact Bob

Membership News Briefs...

Our condolences go out to Peg and Ed Brouillet on the passing of Peg's Mom. Welcome to Anna Skehan, wife to Jim, and Norma Perrone-Dube as our newest chapter members.

Congratulations to Mary and Jim Barclay and best wishes to daughter Heather on her recent marriage and to Chris Conrad and Ellen on the birth of their daughter Kadie Elyse Conrad. Congrats to the Kilharts and Jim Barclay on the new additions to their motorcycle stables.

A group of Mass-2 & 13 members lead the Fitchburg 4th of July parade under hot steamy skies... and our own Walter Roach was even quoted in a newspaper article about the parade, *Retired Firefighter Walter Roach rode with the Red Knights Chapter 2 motorcycle club. All members are firefighters from around the area. They led the firetrucks from Fitchburg, Lunenburg, Leominster, Shirley, Gardner, Boylston, Ashby, Lancaster, Princeton, New Ipswich, Ayer, Clinton, Townsend, Ashburnham, Sterling, Littleton, Boxboro, Templeton and Winchendon. "I like to ride, have my five flags on my bike, do as many parades as I can get to," Mr. Roach said. "It's a lot of fun," said Mr. Roach.*

Don't forget to take a few basic steps this fall to prep your bike for its hibernation:

- Stabilize the Fuel,
- Change the oil,
- Attach a battery tender,
- Clean and Lubricate,
- Cover your bike



From the Athol Daily News: A charter member for over 38 years, Larry Robinson was awarded a progressive Joseph J. Camarda award for his long and loyal service to the Petersham Lions Club and community by Massachusetts Lions District 33A Gov. Mark Desmarais, left. Joining Robinson is his wife, Lion Nancy Robinson.

Congratulations Larry, you make us very proud to call you a Red Knight too!

RK-Mass-2 and the Ride for Kids.

We had another spectacular day for this year's Ride for Kids. Even with the on-going RKMCC Convention in Rutland, Mass-2 was represented at this year's New England Ride for Kids by six members.

It was announced that since the first Ride for Kids event in 1984, over \$70 million has been raised for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation by riders like us.

It was a smaller crowd this year with about 50 bikes. Larry was asked to assist the police with road guard duties, and Shaky was honored when he had Ryen's grandmother as a passenger.

This year our chapter brought in \$2,800 and the New England ride total was \$35,595. Mass-2 was recognized as the second highest club figure — thank you everyone!

Our friend Ryen is now a teenager, one of the other "Stars," Gary, turned 25 on the day of the ride and recently received his Master's degree!

That is why we support this ride each year, for them and all the children that benefit from the research. Start asking for donations now for next year and we will be part of the difference that the research is making. See you in 2014!

Looking for someone to repair some of your motorcycle leather? Or maybe you need some patches sewn on your vest? Terry Gagnon has been running "Zig-Zag" sewing out of her home for a couple of years to service the motorcycle community — and now she has opened a store front at 75 Main Street in Northfield so she can sew for you! She has reasonable prices and quick service. Visit www.zig-zagsewing.com for more information.



FIRE TOWER QUEST

How are you doing on your *Fire Tower Quest* in 2013? We have had a number of members (and even a group from Mass-8) complete the six towers to earn their pins.

You still have time to search out and document your visits during this year.



Winter Potluck

- Sunday, February 2
- Templeton Fish and Game Club
- 1:00 p.m.

Plan to 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 2014** printed and ready for distribution – so don't miss it!

(and you'll be home in time for the Superbowl too)

The Fish and Game Club is at 200 Partridgeville Road (Off Route 2A) in East Templeton

2013 Mass-2 Grand Tour

It was a great summer's day when we headed out with 18 people and 16 bikes for a ride to find a dozen fire stations (and some ice cream).

Bob L had mapped out the twelve that would lead us as far south as UConn in Storrs, CT and then back with a final stop at the Paxton FD.

Along the way we stopped in Barre, Brookfield, Holland, Stafford, CT, Willington, CT, Mansfield, CT, UConn, Ashford, CT, Union, CT, Brimfield, Spencer, and Paxton.

While heading down a country road between Holland and Stafford it was asked about a "comfort break." Seeing that the stations have all been unmanned and locked up tight we needed to find a place for a pause. Tim came on the radio saying we were on the street his sister lives on... so pull in there! And we did. And not only did she and her husband allow 18 Red Knights in to use the bathroom — she grabbed her helmet, jumped on Tim's bike and came along for a half-dozen of the station stops and for some ice cream!



Chapter MSF Scholarship

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 2014 thanks to our fundraising efforts, assistance from the safety council, and the work of our scholarship committee.

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 Experienced Course, please get an application (found on-line) to the committee for consideration.

SUPPORT FOR SHERRY'S HOUSE

What a great fall day we had (actually the last day of summer) for our annual ride to support Sherry's House and www.whyme.org. Thanks to Tim Kilhart who had the route and the card games all ready to play and we had nine members meet up to enjoy the day.

His route this year took us over hill and dale for about 140 miles through Franklin County and up into southern Vermont. When we stopped for lunch in Wilmington you could even see the start of the fall colors in the mountains.

The end of the ride was at Herrick's Tavern in Orange for some ice cream (of course) while Tim calculated the results and announced the winners. The winning hand was three 8's held by Tim and there were several close hands to that—three 6's by Maury and a pair of Aces by Marcia.

The whole point was to offer some support to Sherry's House and we collected \$245 in gift cards and donations that Tim brought down to the facility in

Worcester. At our Christmas party we will again be collecting gift cards that will be brought to Sherry's House to help support their mission and the children and families that are in need of their support.



What do you like with your apple pie?



2013 RKMC Convention! — Rutland, VT

If you draw a circle out from Rutland Vermont with a 500 miles radius, you will hit enough states to encompass over 80% of all the Red Knight members. That was evident at the 2013 International Convention when 698 registered attendees were in attendance. And that number does not include those nearby members that were unable to attend the convention in its entirety but came up for a visit, a ride, or the business meeting!

The weather was on our side too, as we had some of the best weather of the summer throughout the convention.



We had a good sized contingent from Mass-2 participating with 22 members there for the convention, and a half-dozen more that came up for the business meeting and to visit.

Red Knights started arriving in Rutland mid week, and by Thursday and Friday Rutland was emblazoned in RED! The prep work done by the planning committee, with RKMC members spread around Rutland and the neighboring towns, was amazing.

Thursday started off special events with a ride to the Vermont Fire Academy and a blessing of the bikes at the state fire memorial with 120 bikes. Later that day there was a grand BBQ to welcome the arriving Red Knights.

Friday offered two guided tours. One ride was to the Vermont Teddy Bear Factory and the other to the Cold Hollow Cider Mill. Aside from the structured rides, we all know that Vermont gives us hundreds of available

miles in mountain passes and valley villages as well.

Friday evening 310 bikes were escorted by Fire Apparatus and Police Vehicles to the Devil's Bowl Speedway where the Red Knights were allowed to ride around the track before enjoying a night at the races. Our own Walter Roche with his side-kick George were the lead bike with an adornment of flags (including a newly procured Swiss Flag).

Each rider donated \$10 to the local Bone Marrow Donor Program to participate in the ride.

Saturday morning started off with the annual business meeting being gaveled into order shortly after 8:00 a.m. There were 79 chapters in attendance representing seven countries (U.S., Canada, Switzerland,



Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Luxemburg).

The secretary reported that there are currently 391 chapters and 491 MALs with a RKMC population of nearly 9,000 members. During the past year we have lost 34 members — and in the history of the Red Knights we have lost 257 members.

As always, discussions at the meeting were lively with several proposed bylaw changes and amendments coming down to one or two votes.

2013 was the first time that electronic balloting was used to decide the International Board elections. Tom Caisse of MA-4 shared statistical data that

included the fact that only 39% of the chapters actually cast votes — meaning that 61% of the chapters were not represented in the balloting results (to their own choosing).

The certified results from Votenet Solutions were unsealed and read to the membership. Chris Gadway of Maryland was elected President, Leo Patry, from Ontario was reelected Treasurer, Norm Beausoleil, from Massachusetts was elected Region 1 Rep, Scott Ryan Region 2, and Jeff Peters, Region 3.

Dave Emery was also presented a flag from Senator Leahy that had flown over the U.S. Capitol as a thank you for Dave's years of public service and his tenure as International President of the Red Knights

Our Region 4 Director was appointed to fill the term of VP until next year's election and Joey Powel of North Carolina will fill the Region 4 role.

Our friend Steve Chappell from Wisconsin was honored with the Perry Carter Award and friends Don Parker from Mass-1 and Tom Caisse of Mass-4 received Outstanding Contribution recognition at the banquet.

As always — the convention hosts did a fantastic job!

Future Conventions:

- 2014 — Prince Edward Island
- 2015 — San Antonio, TX
- 2016 — Wisconsin
- 2017 — Syracuse, NY
- 2018 — Pittsburg, PA

Our thanks to those who step up and serve the chapter each year. Especially of note, we wish to thank Tim Kilhart who served as Chapter Treasurer for eight years and chose to step down this fall. Tim's meticulous care of our chapter books and finances kept the tradition that our past treasurer, Cliff Eldridge, started for the chapter.

And we wish the "new board" best wishes and congratulations as they begin the next year. There are many familiar faces as the chapter's leadership continues — in a variety of changed positions.



We discovered that Dummerston not only hosts Apple Pies in October that we so dearly love, but they also have other dinners during the year. We had a hot summer's day ride complete with closed roads, U-Turns, and ice cream, that ended perfectly with a Ham and Bean dinner at the Dummerston Grange with Strawberry Shortcake desserts that were HUGE! As you can see, Rick had his fill!

Don't give up on riding yet, just because it is October, there are still plenty of riding miles left for 2013 before the bikes are put away for the season!

Sunday, November 3. Polar Bear Ride. What will the weather bring in '13? Meet at DD at 11:00 a.m. (*Don't forget to change your clocks!*)

2014 Motorcycle Show dates and locations are:

Boston, MA - January 11-12

Salem, NH - February 8-9

Wilmington, MA - March 8-9

Check out www.kevmarv.com for more information

The International Motorcycle Show in New York City is the weekend of December 13-15, 2013

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

Every third Saturday from November through April we will gather for breakfast and fellowship. Meet at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 8:30 a.m. and we will discover a different breakfast haunt for each month. (**NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!**)

November 16, December 21, January 18, February 15, March 15, and April 19

Thank you to those who came out for our October meeting and election of officers. Congratulations to Kevin Martin, Maury Lizotte, Rick Oliver, and Bob Laford on their new positions. All those who serve our chapter deserve our thanks and recognition for the time and effort they each make in helping our Red Knights chapter be what it is.

Officers for 2014 are:

Kevin Martin, President
978-877-6179
kmartin812@hotmail.com

Maury Lizotte, Vice-president
(978) 410-5553
lizotteme@comcast.net

Rick Oliver, Secretary
978-413-5544
rickoliver3@yahoo.com

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

Bob Shakarian, Road Captain
978-807-0817
Sharkey625@aol.com

Larry Robinson, Assistant Road Captain
978-724-3321

George Colby, State Rep (Mass-3)
380 Main St.- Plympton, MA
781-585-8817
gcolby@comcast.net

Norm Beausoleil (Mass-1)
393 Greenwood St.
Millbury, MA
508-958-4560
region1@redknightsmc.com

The first Saturday in September was a perfect day for a ride... and Kevin Martin had the route planned for a ride into Rhode Island. Thirteen members followed along for a great day that included lunch at the "Common Lunch" in Little Compton, RI and an ice cream stop at Meola's.



The same day was the Hilltown Brewfest in New Salem, and we had a contingent of Red Knights there as well... some as workers and some as patrons!

RKMC facts and figures

We know what activities go on at a convention, and Vermont was definitely a well-planned one with lots of friends. But what kind of background logistics are there?

Here are some statistics that Vermont released after the convention:

Banquet: 228 pounds of beef, 300 pounds of potatoes

BBQ: 500 pounds of Hamburger, 110 pounds of hot dogs, 340 chicken halves

Breakfast: 380 dozen eggs (all week), 120 pounds of sausage, 300 pounds of bacon, 1000 +/- pancakes, 4 gallons pure Vt. Maple Syrup

Lobby/ Hospitality: 60 gallons of coffee, 2106 bottles of water, 20 pounds cheese



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) 877-6179.

Chapter Treasurer **Bob Laford (978) 724-3270** has a number of items too: Window & Helmet Decals , Thin Red Line 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!

Remember July? Hot, Humid, Steamy, Uncomfortable? But that did not stop the Red Knights from getting together and having fun!

The July 4th weekend we had a number of events that had smiling Mass-2 members gathering — from the July 4th parade in Fitchburg, a celebration by the lake at the Dupell's camp, and our annual (around) July 4th chapter BBQ.

Bob L. used the long weekend to get to the Groton Sub Base on one day to compete his seventh veteran's memorial in the Tour of Honor. He was accompanied by our Road Captain Bob Shakarian, and Navy Veteran Jim Skehan.

We had 25 people trek out to Petersham to enjoy a country breeze and a great afternoon together on July 6. As always there was food, food everywhere. Thanks to all the prep and leg work ahead of time by Larry Robinson we had grills and tables thanks to the Petersham Lions Club — and tents tables and chairs thanks to the Petersham Brass Band.

The "pool" was available for those who wished to take a quick dip. And one member even left for home after sitting in the pool jeans and all so she would have some homemade air-conditioning on the bike.

During the cookout those who had already completed the "Fire Tower Quest" were awarded their pins by the Chapter President. Maury Lizotte was the first to receive his pin since he had planned the route on Cape Cod that got them all to the needed towers.



The Red Knights were represented at the Fitchburg 4th of July parade with riders from Mass-2 and Mass-13. Even Sparky was on board despite temperatures in the 90's!

Don't forget to get your year-end mileage into President Kevin Martin to be included in the 2013 totals!

**Ice Cream—Bocce—Horseshoes—
and Friends!**

We had a great summer's evening for our July Ice Cream when 22 members and friends met up at Larry and Nancy's in Petersham with all our favorite ice cream toppings to enjoy ice cream from the Maple Farms Creamery.



And after we had our fill of decked out ice cream sundaes it was time for the yard games *to work off the extra calories!*



Our thanks to Jim Barclay for his willingness to share with us his thoughts from his car versus motorcycle incident that happened in July.

Well, it finally happened. After riding motorcycles since 1954, I was involved in my first real "accident." Although I'm still analyzing the lessons learned, I thought some of you might also be able to learn from my experience.

It was 9:15 p.m. on a very dark night. I was following two northbound vehicles on Route 202 in Rindge...as with all good Red Knights I was en route for ice cream. The SUV in front of me signaled for a right turn. As I dropped back, the SUV made a slow right turn onto a side street. As I accelerated to close the gap between me and the remaining vehicle (a small "crossover"), it slowed and pulled completely onto the shoulder and stopped next to the guard rail. I continued at about 40 mph.

What happened next was much faster than the account can be read.

In the near complete darkness, I saw what appeared to be a square of something even darker in the travel lane. I thought the vehicle door had opened. I slowed slightly and pulled toward the double yellow line. Then, about three or four feet to my right, I saw a left front parking light, followed by a left front headlight and the reality hit: **U-TURNING! NO WAY TO AVOID COLLISION!**

I continued left across the double yellow into the southbound lane and tried to accelerate, because I wanted the vehicle to miss my exposed right leg. At 40 mph and in 5th gear I couldn't accelerate much, and had to consider the southbound guard rail now a half lane to my left, but I moved just enough that the vehicle hit the heat shield behind my right calf, shooting my right tail light to parts unknown and saddle bag off the road on the southbound side. My bike was knocked sideways in the southbound lane as the u-turner completed the maneuver behind me. I was now aimed towards "my" northbound lane, so I just fought the bike to get it under control and slowed down. I was pretty cautious about stopping because I didn't know the condition of my rear brake mechanism or rotor. Then I was faced with a long guardrail on my right side, so I didn't stop until I found a driveway, about 200 yards from the point of impact.

I'm still not sure how I could have avoided the impact entirely, so I'm left to think about my actions once I realized it was going to happen. I have been through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Beginner's Course twice, once with each of my daughters, and the Experienced Rider's course. I ride about 20 to 30 hours every week and during those hours, find time to refine some of my riding maneuvers. What I've learned, what I've practiced and a half-century of riding experience all kicked in during those very long few seconds.

I never really looked at the u-turning vehicle – "look where you want to go, NOT at what you want to miss!"

I kept my eyes on the horizon, both hands open, but covering the clutch and brake handles, and my knees gripping the tank. Even after being knocked almost completely sideways, if you just ride it, you can regain control of the bike.

The motorcycle sustained a lot of damage – enough that it may be totaled by the insurance company, but I rode it to a stop, I rode it home, I'm uninjured and I'm alive to tell the story.



We had 14 members venture into the White Mountains for a weekend in July.

Maury took the lead for all the pre-planning, route planning, and getting the group to our host hotel, the Maple Leaf Motel, in Littleton.

Saturday had a couple of sub-groups of riders depending on how many miles you were looking to explore for the day.

Thinking about all the roads and curves available in the north country it reads like a math quiz and looks like a geography lesson while turning your wheels! There were routes 113 (beautiful in the summer, but closed in the winter, and "no it doesn't turn to dirt"), a RK favorite, route 232, and route 102 (just to say we crossed into Vermont) to name a few. All were fabulous fun with great scenery, gentle rolling hills and turns and great pavement!

As with any Red Knight trip, we met our interesting folk; including George at the Wilderness Restaurant in Colebrook NH who exchanged a few words of French with Maury, and had a couple 'girl kicked me out' stories.

Then there was the waitress at the Screaming Boar in Littleton, with the southern accent that was from the NH farm, not the south. It was her first night working at the restaurant and the Red Knights were her first clients. I think we got her off to a good start.

And of course there were the two ladies who had the two-headed calf (that Marcia remembered from her childhood visit) in their possession and all the stories to go with it. They took us to the far back room to see the calf which was visible only with a flashlight and camera flash.

The weather was great as was the friends to share it with. Chalk up another great time with the Red Knights!



Ice Cream in the White Mountains

Making the Red Knights "International" in Massachusetts

We had the great fortune to be part of the planning to welcome a group of European Red Knights as they passed through Massachusetts on their way to convention in Vermont this year.

We had a handful of members meet up with them at their hotel in Hadley on their arrival day. They followed us to the top of Skinner Mountain on the Holyoke Mountain range (with a stop for ice cream on the way back to the hotel).

Then it was an all Massachusetts day with a ride to the Memorial in Boylston, and a large contingent of 35 Red Knight bikes weaving the roads of central Massachusetts with a stop at the Quabbin Tower and a BBQ put on by the New Salem Fire Department with over 60 people in attendance!



All great memories for us and our friends from Switzerland, Holland, and Luxemburg!



Is that a Chinese Fire Drill? No, just Doug and Linda working to get their rain gear off!



Thanks!
To the members of the New Salem FD who served as our BBQ cooks in August!

