



- Sunday, December 7, 2025
- 1:00 p.m.
- Slattery's
106 Lunenburg St, Fitchburg, MA 01420

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

Bring a wrapped gift with a value of no more than \$15-20 for the gift swap, if you would like to participate.

Unless you will be choosing the Gluten Free option, this year's Christmas Dinner is a buffet.

The buffet and the Gluten Free option are both \$35 per person.

Prior to the meal, as in year's past, we will have a cheese and cracker plate available as members arrive and begin socializing.

Buffet includes: Tossed Crisp Greens, accompanied by seasonal fresh vegetables, Penne Marinara, Italian Meatballs, Baked Atlantic Haddock, Roasted on the bone Turkey Breast, sage stuffing and homemade gravy, Whipped Red Bliss Potato, Fresh Vegetable, Crusty Rolls & butter and Dessert Cake

Coffee and Soft Drinks will also be part of the buffet.

Contact Bob for information on the Gluten-free option(s)

Adult beverages will be available at the bar, at the member's own cost.

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

Contact Bob Laford with meal payment as soon as you can.
Checks made out to RK-Mass 2 can be sent to PO Box 221, Petersham, MA 01366



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Fall 2025

www.rk-mass2.org

facebook

facebook.com/RKMASS2

Loyal to Our Duty

From the desk of the Chapter President

Fraternal Greetings MA2,

Here we are at the end of another great riding season. This year has been especially busy for me as I try to balance furthering my education and degrees back in college and the additional responsibilities that come along with promotions at the firehouse. Many of my weekends were full of motorcycle racing with my son while still finding time for my beloved Red Knights.



2025 was a great year for our chapter as we had members that attended many of the regional rallies around the country and even some international travel for some of our members.

We are especially proud that we sent a group to the International Convention where our very own Bob Laford was presented with the 2025 Perry Carter award!

The 2026 International Convention is in Australia. I know that for most members that trip is not a possibility. Especially with the convention on the other side of the world, I encourage all of you to consider attending one of the Regional Rallies. They are a great experience and offer camaraderie with our fellow Red Knights. They are all definitely a fun time. For 2026 Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 rallies are within a day or so ride!

This October marks the end of my first term as the President of this chapter, and I could not be prouder to serve in this capacity. I appreciate everyone's continued support as I do my best in this role. I will always acknowledge that I could not do this without the support of the rest of the executive board and their continued dedication and hard work behind the scenes to keep things moving.

I especially want to note my thanks, and that of all our membership for Jim Skehan's service to the E-board. Jim decided not to run for re-election as chapter secretary this fall, and we are all grateful for his continued friendship and support of our club.

The officers will be meeting in the near future to plan our calendar for 2026. Please share with us any ideas, routes and locations that you would like included!

For those that continue to show up and attend events and rides, I thank you very much. For those that we do not see often, we miss you, come out and see us!

I'm looking forward to another great year with many more miles and smiles as a chapter

Fraternally,

President Jeff Hamberg
RKMC MA2

Mass-2 Christmas Party

- Sunday, December 7,
- 1:00 p.m.
- Slattery's
Lunenburg St., Fitchburg

Come join us for a catered buffet dinner.

Buffet includes: Tossed Crisp Greens, accompanied by seasonal fresh vegetables, Penne Marinara, Italian Meatballs, Baked Atlantic Haddock, Roasted on the bone Turkey Breast, sage stuffing and homemade gravy, Whipped Red Bliss Potato, Fresh Vegetable, Crusty Rolls & butter and Dessert Cake

We are again doing a Yankee Swap this year and will be collecting gift cards for Sherry's House. Please see the attached flyer for details and RSVP information.

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

Contact Treasurer
Bob Laford with your
RSVP and payment as
soon as you can.

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

Visit www.whyme.org for more information about Sherry's House. We will be bringing all of those gift cards 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.

Thanks to your generosity we donated \$200 to the Worcester County Foodbank and will purchase \$200 in toys for the Marine Corps League's Toys for Kids, from the 50/50 proceeds we collected throughout the year.

Did you realize that July 2025 was the 25th anniversary of the day that Ed Brouillet and Steve Mickle began their "Red Knights Firefighters Memorial Tour?" Ed and Steve wanted a special way to raise money for the memorial in honor of the 6 Worcester Firefighters who died in the Cold Storage fire in Worcester on December 3, 1999.

They decided on the Four Corners Tour (<https://sc-ma.com/four-corners-tour/>) where you have to ride to the four corners of the U.S. (Madawaska, ME, Key West, FL, San Diego, CA, and Blain, WA) in under 21 days.

Ed and Steve had an on-line log that was kept from home as they messaged back and forth each day. And technology was not quite as easy then as it is now! You can still read their log at www.rk-mass2.org/graphics/RK_I/EDSTEVE.HTM

They raised \$8,800 that was presented to the Worcester Firefighters and raised awareness and interest in the Red Knights throughout the country as they traveled 12,083 miles on their journey, including a stop at the Red Knights International Convention in Indianapolis.

Red Knights Ride for Fallen Comrades



This picture, and an article about Ed and Steve's journey appeared in the July 2000 edition of Motorcycle Consumer News, a national motorcycle magazine.

**P.S. JUST A REMINDER
THAT DUES ARE DUE TO
THE TREASURER BY
DECEMBER 1.**

**THANKS FOR YOUR
COOPERATION.**

Our 2026 Chapter Officers are:

Jeff Hamberg, President
978-413-1636
capthambergofd@outlook.com

John Loiselle, VP
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Charlie Hamberg,
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Joe Hopkins,
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Ian Hurley, Sgt. at Arms
978-877-9937
hurley.ian89@yahoo.com

MA-4 invited us to join them on their annual Connecticut River Ride — and what a day it was! It was probably the best summer weather we had seen, and you won't believe this, but they led us on roads that neither Tim K. or Bob L. had been on before!

We grabbed lunch-to-go along the way and had a picnic lunch at Gillette Castle, and then took the ferry across the river. Thank you MA-4 for a great ride! *(We think a similar ride to the castle will appear on the MA-2 calendar next year!)*



Between the RK volunteers to man the stops and those members and family that chose to ride the route, we had 18 MA2 representatives at the Petersham Lions Club Poker Run and Family Fun day back in August. Thank you to all who participated!

Winter Gathering

Break up your winter doldrums with a Red Knights' get-together!

- Sunday, February 15, 2026
- Millers Woods Rec Center
Daniel Shays Highway — Athol
- 12:00 Noon to 4:00 pm
THIS IS A POT LUCK LUNCH TIME GATHERING!

Bring some food to share, and something to wet your whistle. We will have the 2026 Ride Schedule ready for your review and look ahead to what memories will be made in the new year!

It will also be our **Third annual GEAR SWAP**. Time to purge your closet and let the gear you no longer wear find a new home!

We will also be holding our **Winter business meeting** during our time together. (We'll have the 2026 ride schedules, too!)

On the road with our friends...

The last weekend in June we had a ride up the Connecticut River Valley, enjoying some back NH and VT roads, while following our Road Captain. Of course, it was a Saturday, which meant that there was some rain — BUT, we were able to sandwich the ride in between early morning rain and late day rain. The roads we found were dry and we did not run into any rain (actually saw a couple of pieces of sunshine).

We stopped in Bellows Falls after lunch to visit the Star Hotel Fire memorial in memory of the two Bellows Falls firefighters who died trying to rescue occupants in 1981.

We had a great turnout and great weather for our summer cookout and business meeting at the On-Site Academy in Westminster.



Our Road Captain, Tim K, took us on a 240 mile round trip ride on a sunny Saturday in July to the FASNY FF Museum in Hudson, NY. And he found a great lunch buffet and ice cream before we were back in Massachusetts, too!



It was a HOT summer's day—but dry—for our ride into Rhode Island and lunch at Wright's Chicken Farm (and ice cream back in Mass).



The last weekend of summer had a couple of cool mornings, but that did not stop us from heading into Vermont for stops on top of Hogback Mountain and Mount Equinox (where we had a picnic lunch). It was a great day for riding even if we found that ice cream stands were closed for the season!



We had a dozen members meet up for our annual trek to the Jaffrey FD for their Fire Prevention Breakfast. Normally it is near freezing temperatures, but this year we were almost 80 degrees before the day was through! A few of us took advantage of the weather to enjoy some fall colors riding in New Hampshire before heading home.



Thank you to RKMC NH-1 for inviting us to their 40th Anniversary celebration in July!

2026 Dues

We have sent out reminders about your 2026 dues (\$25). Please consider getting your dues to our Treasurer early.

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 the new year or we incur a \$50 penalty).

Please have your dues in to Treasurer Bob Laford before **December 1, 2025**. Thanks.

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

RKMC Breakfast Club

Our breakfast clubs are starting up again this fall and through the winter. Come join us for some Red Knight friendship, and bring some food to share. (9:00 am)

- November 14, at Lynn and Amanda Scott's in Petersham
- January 17, 2026, at Tim and Darlene's in Athol.

Similar to last February, instead of a Breakfast Club we will be having our **Winter Meeting / Pot Luck / Gear Swap** on Sunday, February 15 at noon.

- March 21, 2026, at the Memorial House! We had such a great turnout last year, even with some Founding Fathers!
- April 18, 2026, at Larry and Nancy Robinson's in Petersham

"Let's Play Hooky" mid-week rides

In June we had the pleasure to meet and spend time with members of Germany-16 while they were visiting New England. We met them at the memorial and shared some road miles and some meals with them!



We had a couple of mid-week rides in July. One drew just a couple of members and we searched around for some ice cream.



The second July ride drew a dozen members, including friends from MA-4 and VT-2, where we had about 120 miles of good, twisty western Mass roads, with a stop for a great lunch in Worthington at Liston's Pub.



A great summer's day found us at the UConn Dairy for some fabulous ice cream!



Helmet Care

Excerpts from Marisa McInturff's article in the July issue of Road Runner magazine

Although we often spend plenty of time picking out the perfect helmet, too many motorcyclists forget to take care of their lids after purchase. Here's how to give your helmet the care it deserves.

CLEAN THE INSIDE. Sweat, skin oil, dust, and the occasional bug inevitably make their way into your helmet. Over time, the accumulated crud can cause funky smells and degrade liner materials. Pop the liners out, wash them using mild soap, and air dry them completely before reassembly.

POLISH THE OUTSIDE. The exterior of your helmet goes through a lot—sun, bugs, rain, and road grime all take their toll. Clean the shell and visor with warm water and a microfiber cloth. Avoid harsh solvents or glass cleaners, especially on visors or any antifog coatings.

PROPER STORAGE. Avoid tossing it in a hot garage, hanging it on a hook, or leaving it in direct sunlight. Heat and UV rays can degrade the helmet materials over time, while hooks or other sharp objects can dent the impact liner. Instead, keep the helmet in a cool, dry, and clean place.

KNOW WHEN TO SAY GOODBYE. Even the most beloved and well-cared-for helmet has an expiration date. Most manufacturers recommend replacing your helmet every five years, even if it looks perfectly fine. *(I read a study that said that miles worn was a better indicator of helmet life — and the study found that 45,000-50,000 miles was the best correlation with that 5-year limit. If stored and maintained properly and you don't ride 10K a year, it may be OK to stretch its life beyond 5 years, but if you ride more, you may want to replace it more frequently).*



Don't forget to get your year-end mileage into our VP **John Loiselle** to be included in our 2025 totals! (jmloiselle32c@gmail.com)

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.) Lyman Signs in Phillipston have copies of our digitized files of the Red Knight logo and our Minuteman Logo for embroidery and vinyl heat applications (Screens). <https://lymansigns.com/>

Chapter Treasurer **Bob Laford (978) 724-3270** has a number of items too: Window & Helmet Decals, Thin Red Line Decals, Chapter Patches, Red Knights Shoulder Patches w/rockers, Thermal Applications for clothing, Chapter Poker Chips and Red Knights Back Patches & Rockers (for vests). Decals and patches are available in both traditional Red Knights logo and our Minuteman chapter design.

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!

How about a gift membership to the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) for that special rider on your list? The AMA and its Massachusetts counterpart MMA work tirelessly to support our rights and promoting motorcycling around Massachusetts and around the county. Our memberships help support their endeavors.



Membership News Briefs...

Congratulations to Charlie Hamberg with completing his Grand Tour "Alphabet" and receiving his Grand Tour Master recognition with his stop at the Xenia, OH fire station!



Congratulations to Rick Oliver on completing his riding in each of the 48 continental United States, during his trip to the convention!

Condolences to Don Hurme on the passing of his sister, Debra.

Welcome to returning member Micky LaClaire from Leverett. Micky was a member a number of years back and we look forward to having him ride with us again.

Congratulations to Ian and Ellie on their recent nuptials!

Congratulations to President Hamberg on his promotion to Captain with the Charton Fire Department!

Congratulations to Marcia Marjomaa on granddaughter #7!

Mass Fall State Meeting

At the Fall State Meeting, hosted by MA-4 and held at the Huguenot Fire Museum in Oxford, Joe Hopkins was thanked for his service as Assistant State Rep and given a Region-1 Challenge coin. (There was no candidate to run as Assistant State Rep to replace Joe).

Seven Mass chapters were in attendance with 35 people in attendance (9 from MA2) and 2 founding fathers.

State Rep Martin reviewed the May Day Fund and said that it is being used as needed, and the funds remain healthy. All Region 1 coins had sold out at the convention and a new order of 250 new coins have been received.

Kevin spoke on the participation and business at both the Yankee Rally and the Convention. The 2026 Yankee Rally at the Finger Lakes is working to secure a 3rd hotel as the host hotel is almost full and the secondary is getting a lot of reservations already. To date there are already over 350 people registered.

MA-1 is opening their Christmas party to any member that would like to attend. It is scheduled for December 13th for 6 pm at the Bay Path Barn in Boylston. Cost for the meal is expected to be about \$40 and RSVPs would be due by November 20. More information will be made available.

Region-1 Rep Ken May and his wife Laura were on hand. Ken spoke that the Region lost 3 chapters in the last year, and currently has 95 chapters and 2,700 members. Twenty of the 54 additions to the Heaven-1 chapter, whose names were read at the convention, were from Region-1. There have been four additions from Region-1 to Heaven-1 since the convention.

Ken (and our Assistant State Rep) both mentioned that the International Board has released a new RKMC member application that is to be used by the chapters so that a standard intake document is used across the organization. This has been added to our MA-2 webpage.

George Colby, of MA3, brought up two proposals to amend the State SOGs. One is to spell out, specifically, what the State Rep can spend without prior authorization, and a second amendment to specifically state that any votes must be in person. These proposals will be brought up for a vote at the Spring state meeting.

Mr. Colby also brought up his concern for the need to modify an International bylaw and associated SOGs that pertain to complaints filed against members. Discussion revolved around a member's right to due process. A sub-committee of Colby, Bob Binnall and Mike Mahan will review this issue. *(More detail of these proposals were in the state meeting minutes).*

There was discussion about the 2032 Convention (Just 7 short years away) that will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Red Knights. Bob Binnall said he was approached by a Founding Father about the idea of having Massachusetts host that convention.

Bob Binnall stated that he would chair the committee, but this endeavor would have to be all chapters and not just one or two acting as hosts.

International Convention — A great time in the Midwest!

Our Illinois brethren hosted a spectacular convention in Peoria, Illinois. There were five members from MA-2 that attended the convention, and each of us would tell you it was a great time — and the accommodations were fantastic, with spectacular views of the Illinois River.

There was a complementary buffet breakfast each morning, where made-to-order options were available. There was a social hour each night where the hotel provided snacks and beverages, and most of us would migrate out to the patio and enjoy our evenings by the river.

Of course, with a hotel full of firefighters, we could not make it through the week without a fire alarm! Because the hotel has an eight floor atrium that rises above the lobby, the fire alarm system uses lasers to watch for smoke. When one of the chapters was hanging their banner over the railing near their room, it hung low enough that it obstructed one of the beams and tripped the fire alarm.

Convention statistics were ~290 Red Knights, 88 chapters from 28 states and 7 countries (U.S., Canada, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Australia, and Germany).

We each had a different route to Illinois. Bob and Tim circled up to ride into Michigan before heading back through Indiana and Illinois (and riding on Rt. 66). They also took a ride west of the Mississippi, to get into Iowa and Missouri (Tim also did a solo ride north into Wisconsin during the week). Rick took a Canadian route and came down to ride through Michigan, and cross the Mackinac Bridge into WI, MN, and ND before heading south back to the convention. Deb's route, after the convention, was bringing her to the Bootlegger Rally in Wisconsin, starting a few days after the convention.

Tim and Bob took a day and crossed the Mississippi into Iowa and Missouri, where they stopped in Keokuk, IA at their firefighter memorial. Some of you may remember, that just a couple weeks after the Worcester Cold Storage fire in 1999, Keokuk lost three of their firefighters.



With the convention in the Midwest, we did ride in windy conditions, and saw a lot of corn, soybeans, and windmills! But we also had some fantastic riding weather, and a great time, enjoying many miles!

No one can tell me,
Nobody knows,
Where the wind comes from,
Where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere
As fast as it can,
I couldn't keep up with it,
Not if I ran.

But if I stopped holding
The string of my kite,
It would blow with the wind
For a day and a night.

And then when I found it,
Wherever it blew,
I should know that the wind
Had been going there too.

So then I could tell them
Where the wind goes...
But where the wind comes from
Nobody knows.

Wind On The Hill by A. A. Milne

Congratulations to Spike Ostiguy, Scott Ryan and Ken May on their reelection as International President Treasurer and Region 1 Rep, respectively. All positions up for election on the Board this year were uncontested.

Joel Nelson of MN-5 was elected Region-5 rep, replacing Lance Coit who chose not to run for reelection.

RKMC Statistics

- 466 active chapters in good standing (increase of 7)
- 280 MALs (increase)
- 10,224 members in good standing, increase of 233
- 54 new additions to Heaven-1

Convention — continued

On Thursday of convention week, there was a guided tour up and down the scenic Illinois River, with a lunch stop at a great BBQ spot right on the river. Friday was a large (103 bikes) escorted ride from East Peoria to the state capital, Springfield. The East Peoria FD and PD led us out of the city, and the route was along the many miles of farmland. It is straight, and we experienced a lot of corn, soybeans and windmills. We stopped for lunch at a fire station where we filled the road in the neighborhood!

When we crossed into Springfield, there were motorcycle police waiting for us and escorted us through the city as police cruisers were blocking every intersection. A few blocks from the Capital Building, a SFD engine picked up the escort and brought us right to the capital grounds, where the Illinois Firefighter monument is located. The hosts had made arrangements to have a ceremony and lay a wreath at the memorial. A state senator welcomed us and thanked us for our service. During the ceremony, several of the Illinois Red Knights each spoke of a firefighter whom they knew personally, whose name was on one of the bricks. A Red Knight playing the bagpipes also participated in the service.

The Red Knights will be purchasing a brick to be placed at the memorial.

The hospitality room was always active, with a lot of smiles. On Friday night, everyone enjoyed a cook-out themed dinner in the banquet hall.

There was a company providing entertainment in the hall during dinner. They set up an axe throwing booth and a bow and arrow booth to keep us occupied! Of course there was some friendly competition between Red Knights.

There were tables set up in the hallway leading to the dinner site where chapters could sell wares during several of the days. We did exceptionally well. Tim said we surpassed any sales we have done in the past at conventions!

Along with chapter wares, there were several raffles and auctions. Dave Hamilton's fire engine trailer was auctioned off and brought in \$2,500! Half of the proceeds went to a burn center and half to the memorial hall mortgage. Rick Oliver donated a Jack Daniels barrel to Australia and it brought in \$1,400 to help with their planning efforts.

And OF COURSE, there were several MA-2 members that picked up prizes from the raffle!

The annual business meeting took place on Saturday morning. Details of the meeting appear on a later page of this newsletter.

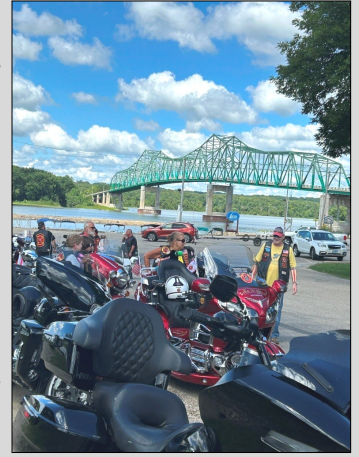
The hotel was connected to a convention center, across the street from the hotel. It was a large venue, and even with nearly 300 Red Knights, we easily shared space in the building, as a wedding reception was taking place on Saturday as well as our celebration. The bride even had pictures taken with some Red Knights.

Our banquet was very good, with Boneless Chicken, Roast Beef, veggies, and all the fixes to suit our appetites. I do not think that they planned on how firefighters eat, however, because the second round of dessert pies they brought out to refill the table were still partially frozen!

Prior to the recognition of those members that transferred to the Heaven-1 chapter, Louisiana-1 presented the members with a bell (and travel case) to be used for such occasions. As each member appeared on the projection screen and their names were read, the bell sounded.

During the awards section of the evening, our own Bob Laford was recognized with the 2025 Perry Carter Red Knight of the Year Award. Bob's voice was a little shaky when he was handed the microphone, but like he said, even if we may not see eye-to-eye, the Red Knights are a very special family.

The convention and the accompanying weather was just superb. Our Illinois brothers and sisters did a great job as hosts, and we thank them all for their work.



RKMC International 2025 Annual Business Meeting

There were 69 voting delegates for the meeting. Our meeting moved along smoothly, with very little discussion on the topics. The meeting wrapped up within 3 hours.

As with every year's report, several chapters' charters were recalled. For 2025, 15 chapters had their charters revoked as they were in arrears for 2 years. The Regional Directors each reached out to every member that was on the chapters' rosters in an attempt to save chapters. The 15 were AL5, Australia-4, England-3, IL-3, IN-10, ME-13, NB-2, NY-52, NC-10, NC-11, NS-5, OH-8, and TX-15.

A couple line items taken from the Finance report included:

- (1) The line item for legal services last year were in the red \$38,000 because they had the 10 year legal review and audit of the trademark license and they did not plan for that expense,
- (2) \$173,946 was received in dues,
- (3) \$103,179 left on the mortgage.
- (4) Donations to the memorial totaled \$3,169
- (5) 46 Events had been insured by the International in the last year.
- (6) Five claims from the AD&D insurance, held by members, have had benefits paid out (\$20,000), and 2 more claims are pending.

After the reports on the 2026 (Australia) and 2027 (Cruise hosted by Ontario-1) Conventions, proposals were heard from chapters wishing to hold 2028, 2029, and 2030. It was voted to accept these proposals for the upcoming conventions:

- 2028 St. John New Brunswick (NB 1, 4, and 7)
- 2029 Cherokee, NC (NC 13 & 26)
- 2030 There was no proposal for 2030

The E-board explained that if there were a year that no convention had a host, the Board would hold its annual business meeting without a convention, as it did during COVID.



Bylaw proposal votes from the International Convention

Proposal 1, PASSED (To reinsert hierarchy chart of officers into bylaw document).

Proposal 2, PASSED (Contained rewording of "representative" references in a number of bylaws throughout the document so that it was consistent).

Proposal 3, FAILED (Proposal was to only play hosts national anthem at the banquet, but will remain to play the national anthem of all countries present).

Proposal 4, PASSED (To add wording that "FD Associates" who no longer work for FD can retain their status as members. This mirrors wording that allows other categories of membership).

Proposal 5, PASSED (To change wording for state and regional officers to allow Social and Associate members to run for certain offices, similar to the wording for chapter officers).

Proposal 6, NO VOTE TAKEN (This was the electronic voting proposal. Point of order was brought up that this proposal would cause multiple conflicts throughout the bylaw document and could not be voted on in its current form).



Dave and Shirley Emery from VT-2 take aim with their Axes

2026 International Convention August 18-23, 2026

2026 Convention will be in Melbourne Australia at Pullman on the Park. Tram and Railway access are nearby to the hotel.

The report presented at the convention highlighted several rides, one is a two day with coordination by Eagle Rider. This ride appears to be mostly coastal routes, including a ferry trip, and includes the "Great Ocean Road." There would be an up charge of \$100 plus rental for that ride. Another event was a bus trip to the animal sanctuary that features a "Penguin Parade" and animals indigenous to Australia.

\$100 convention registration and room (with conversion) looks to be about \$225 per night, with the USD conversion.

It is late winter for them at this time of year. Regional Rep Andy Yung told us that currently, mornings are around freezing with daytime temps 45-60 degrees.

Most people planning on traveling to Australia for next year's convention were talking about extending their trip, on either side of the convention dates to spend some time touring the region.



Pope Leo XIV recently blessed and signed a customized BMW that will be auctioned off for a fundraiser to help fund children's aid projects. The bike was donated by BMW and includes the Vatican coat of arms.



The 2027 Convention is being hosted by Ontario 1 and the itinerary is a cruise out of Miami on the Royal Caribbean "Wonder of the Seas". The ship boasts 2,867 rooms and holds 5,734 guests.

Two of ONT-1 members run a travel agency (Expedia Cruises).

It is a Five-day cruise:

- 8/23/27 - Miami,
- 8/24 - Cococay Bahamas, at Royal Caribbean's private island with a water park and zip line (and beaches).
- 8/25 Nassau Bahamas - where they also have a private area for an up charge.
- 8/26 cruise day.
- 8/27 back to Miami, FL.

The ship has a casino that operates anytime they are cruising. They also have adult-only sections of the ship.

Cost is \$1,649-\$1,997 per person (Canadian Dollar) dependent on



Hosted by Ontario 1 Chapter

Onboard: Wonder of the Seas
August 23, 2027

Expedia Cruises
Air, Land & Sea Vacations

Rates Starting at:

Inside: \$1649 CAD per person*

Ocean View: \$1816 CAD per person*

Balcony: \$1997 CAD per person*

Rates include:

- All meals*
- Alcoholic Beverage Package*
- Gratuities*

* Prices are based on double occupancy. Terms & conditions apply.

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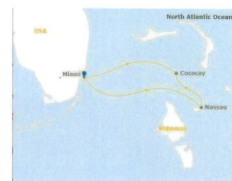
Unit 1 - 200 Whitmore Rd.

Woodbridge, ON

www.ExpediaCruises.ca/Vaughan

Registration Number: 50021552

Day	Date	Port
1	August 23, 2027	Miami, Florida
2	August 24, 2027	Perfect Day at CocoCay, Bahamas
3	August 25, 2027	Nassau, Bahamas
4	August 26, 2027	Free Day At Sea
5	August 27, 2027	Miami, Florida



room. Currently that is \$1,200-\$1,450 USD per person. Fees are all inclusive on the ship and their private island, including drinks. These prices do not include airfare.

Fees are fully refundable up to 8 months prior to the voyage.



**Lunch at the Mason City FD on the way
to the Illinois FF Memorial in Springfield, IL**

ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING

Thank you to everyone who came to our annual business meeting in October.

Coffee and donuts were waiting for our arrival at the Millers Woods rec center in Athol. We had 21 members in attendance (from Nashua to Southwick!).

Jeff Hamberg was re-elected as Chapter President and Ian Hurley was re-elected as Sgt-at-Arms, and Charlie Hamberg took on the role as Chapter Secretary.

Thank you to Jim Skehan for his service to the board. Jim chose not to run for re-election as Secretary.

After the conclusion of the meeting, Joe Hopkins agreed to be the Assistant Road Captain for 2026. This is an appointed position.

Matthew Hamberg's status as a member was voted on as a change from Junior member to Social member, as he is soon to turn 16 (and get his learners permit)!

Detailed meeting minutes will be available to the membership.



VP John Loiselle received the President's Award in recognition of the work John has done on our Honor Guard program this year.

2026 CHAPTER RIDE PLANNING

The officers will be meeting before too long to plan the 2026 ride and event calendar. Please share any ideas you have for a spot on the calendar!

Keep riding and keep being active with your Red Knight family. Don't have a bike any longer? So, what — still come out and participate with your RK chapter!

See someone pull into a parking lot on a bike? Go talk to them, ask them about their bike and their ride, mention where you have gone on your bikes before. And come tell us the stories they told you!

It is all part of our circle of life. We want to see you, and hear your stories, even if you are no longer on two wheels. Come join us and help keep our chapter vibrant and help share our chapter history!

It took us three tries to get to the Granville Country Store and to the Saville Dam in Barkhamstead, but the weather finally cooperated and our 2025 President's Ride had perfect autumn weather (and some color).

While we were having lunch at the park adjacent to the Granville Store, Dana and Cathy Robertson from CT-2 pulled up in their car because they saw Red Knights while on their leaf-peeping ride!



Annual Reports were distributed for the October meeting. If you were not able to attend our annual meeting but would like a copy of the reports, contact Treasurer Laford.



Thank you to the Scott's for hosting our Labor Day cookout, complete with a 1948 Buffalo Fire Engine in the yard — AND beautiful weather!

**Red Knights Motorcycle Club
Massachusetts Chapter 2**

Covered Bridge Challenge Ride!

Visit 6 covered bridges during the riding season and take a photo with you and your bike to receive a "Searching for Covered Bridges" patch!
(A form will be available before the next riding season begins!)



The 2026 MA-2 Ride Schedule will have a group ride to fulfill this challenge!
No cost for MA-2 members

Members participated in the large motorcade that escorted the 9/11 Mobile Museum from Quinsig College to the Fitchburg Airport.

VP Loiselle said that it was an honor to participate in this event, and that there were several times where he was touched by the reception received, especially as riding by St. Leo's elementary school, ALL of the kids in grades K-8, and teachers were lined up cheering and saluting.



Our Road Captain was the only one to catch a bug on his target during our cool evening August bug ride and ice cream stop!



Thank you to Pam Hamberg for making this beautiful Afghan in Red Knight colors that was presented to the On-Site Academy during our summer gathering there.



May it be used to help those visiting feel more comfortable.

While we were at On-Site they gave each of us a gift bag with a H.O.P.E. blanket. These blankets and gift bags are a gift from the Kokoros family and the Alex G. Kokoros Memorial Fund.

The Kikoros family lost their son, Alex, a police sergeant to suicide in 2018. They provide these bags and blankets to On-Site to be given to any visitor that comes their way.

The card inside says, The H.O.P.E. blanket given to you is a symbol of comfort and warmth. We want to let you know that your family needs you here, you matter, and they love you so much."



POLAR BEAR RIDE!

Our Polar Bear Ride is scheduled for Sunday, November 2, 11:00 am at the Westminster Dunkins. (This is also the morning after you set your clocks back an hour).

Join us for the last scheduled ride of the season!

At the Fall Massachusetts State Meeting, Joe Hopkins, Chair of International History Committee spoke about the challenges and limited response that his committee is receiving from chapters in regards to the collection of their historical story.

The original intent from the International to the committee was to have chapters document their history. As we all know, as members leave the organization — either through their own choice or those that pass away — many times some of the organization's history leaves with them.

We are fortunate in MA-2 to still have so many of our Charter Members active with our club, who continue to share our club's history with us!

Joe said that he is going to speak to the International board in regard to their expectations of this endeavor because of this lack of response from the chapters. They are also brainstorming other ways to entice chapters to participate.

More than half the chapters in Region 1 have not responded to the committee's inquiries, and only four chapters in Massachusetts have participated.

If you are wondering, YES, MA-2 has submitted our report to the committee. If you would like to read our response to the survey, you can view it at www.rk-mass2.org/RKHistory-Survey-Jan2025.pdf

WHO, WHO, WHO... WHO ARE YOU? — Continued from our last newsletter

We thank those that have taken the time to share with Us their "Bio's" and hope others will participate in the future!

Here we welcome the "bios" submitted from **Joe and Donna Hopkins**. Both Donna and Joe are International Life Members and come to MA -2 as dual members with MA-4.

Joe joined the Brimfield Fire Dept in 1966 as a Junior FF until he left for the Navy (1970-1974). While in the Navy he was trained in damage control and fire suppression on board submarines, serving on the USS Hunley, the USS Sirago, the USS Casimir Pulask, and on the USS Inchon. He then returned to the Brimfield Fire Department, serving on BFD for 20 years, rising to Lieutenant (and EMT).

As he moved around, Joe also served on the Sturbridge Fire Department, the Charlton Fire Department and the Stokesdale, NC Fire Department and the West Brookfield Fire Department, where he retired from in 2021.

Joe first became interested in the Red Knights Motorcycle Club when he was on the Brimfield Fire Department. He joined MA IV out of Fiskdale in 1984, where he is a Charter Member and a Life Member of MA IV. He held various positions on MA IV's executive board including president and vice president. He also served as the International VP position in the eighties. Joe recently stepped down as the Mass Assistant State Rep. He also currently serves as the Chair of the Red Knights Historical Research Committee.

Joe remarks that he is still a member of the Red Knights because he enjoys the overall comradery of riding with others who share both the background of being a firefighter and the love of riding motorcycles. His favorite memories are the conventions in the early years and doing rides with other chapters.

Outside of the fire service, Joe attended East Coast Aero Tech, where he received his Airframe & Powerplant certification. He has spent the last 35 years working in the field of aviation as an Aviation Maintenance Tech in corporate and commercial aviation. He also spent a few years as an instructor at the National Aviation Academy and is still working part-time at the Southbridge Airport, working on private planes.

Joe started riding dirt bikes off road when as a teenager, changing over to on-road riding in 1971 when he was stationed at the Charleston, SC Naval Base. He has had several bikes including 6 Harley ELTRA-Glides. He recently changed over to an Indian Roadmaster in 2023, and says it is his favorite by far.

His work as an Aviation Maintenance Tech took he and Donna to Florida and North Carolina.

While in Florida he helped start the RK FL-3 Treasure Coast Chapter and while in North Carolina he helped start the North Carolina 7 Chapter in Graham.



Donna joined the Red Knights (MA Chapter IV) when she met Joe in 1989. She also served as secretary for a short time with MA IV, and was also able to plan and execute a fun scavenger hunt event at Yankee Candle, Deerfield, MA.

When the Hopkins moved to Templeton in 2021 they started riding with MA 2 and joined MA 2 in 2023.

Donna is currently working alongside Joe doing research and secretarial duties for the RKMC Historical Committee.

Donna mentioned that she loves the Red Knights because everyone is friendly and she enjoys riding with others. She especially likes when our rides benefit an organization or our local community.

Her favorite memories include the Lime Runs and bonfires at the Porter Cottages up in Lake George with MA IV. As a member of MA 2 she enjoys the fun breakfasts during the winter months, and the fun activities like cookouts and bowling. She also liked participating in the laying of the wreaths at the Veterans' Cemetery and the toy drive at Walmart.

Joe and Donna have attended all but two of the Yankee Rallies and many of the Annual Conventions over the years.

Donna has been a teacher for over 35 years, teaching in Florida, North Carolina and throughout Massachusetts, mostly as a classroom teacher of children in grades K thru 3rd — spending the last nine years working in the Quabbin Regional School System. She says that she has had the privilege of working with many children that have physical, emotional or learning disabilities, retiring in 2022.

Like Joe, her favorite bike to ride on is their latest bike the Indian Roadmaster. She said that she can't pick any one favorite bike vacation or ride, but loves riding throughout the New England states, upper New York state and North Carolina.

She also mentioned that being born and raised in Northborough she knew several of those that would later become the Founding Fathers of a club that she would one day join and grow to love!

WHO ARE YOU? We started with our chapter officers earlier this year, and we'd like to learn more about you? We know that you are a Red Knight and a member of our chapter — but what makes you tick, or rather makes your wheels spin? Just drop an email to our treasurer to answer a few questions about yourself!

Charlie Clarkson

is one of our Charter members that helped form our chapter, but his service — service to his family, to the Red Knights, to Westminster, to his country go well beyond the few stories that he lets on to when you talk to him.



a very scary situation!

He mentions his travels, not only with the Red Knights, but with the Navy. As Charlie puts it, during his time in the Navy he traveled to many different places that he would have never visited on his own. He remembers traveling through the Suez Canal, and also visiting Barcelona, Spain where he met and shook hands with

John Wayne!

Charlie says that as a young man, he always wanted to ride motorcycles, but family life and household finances delayed that until he was a bit older. That time arrived, and since he had recently purchased a bike and started riding in 1983, when MA-2 held its first organizational meeting — Charlie was there. And has been there since then!

He and his wife Joyce put on over 150,000 miles together riding their motorcycles, many miles as the chapter's road captain for 16 years — and he stressed that he enjoyed every mile of it!

Like many of us he went from a small bike, to his Suzuki Cavalcade, to the bike he liked the most, his 2002 Honda Goldwing.

Charlie says that he enjoyed meeting with and working with others throughout the state (and beyond) helping other chapters along the way. He served as Mass State Rep for 15 years, and was also International's first Chairman of the Board of Directors. He was actually THE FIRST State Representative throughout the Red Knights!

He mentioned that his favorite road trip was cross country with other members of MA-2. You will have to ask him (or one of the others on the trip) about crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, something he was NOT looking forward to on the trip!

He tells us that he was "hooked" on the Red Knights since that first meeting our chapter held in 1983. And we are glad he was!

Charlie served 40 years with the Westminster Fire Department, rising to the rank of Deputy Chief before retiring in 2004. As Deputy Chief of the Westminster (MA) Fire Department, Charlie developed a collaborative team of Deputy Chiefs from throughout the north-central Massachusetts area. This team would work together to discuss issues that affected all departments and work on goals that would help them all improve.

Working with this team of senior fire officers, Charlie spearheaded a regional call firefighter training program, bringing together new firefighters from throughout the area to train together for their basic firefighter training. Many of those "new recruits" are now senior fire officers and chiefs. That collaborative training effort not only helped Charlie's department, but all the local departments benefited from this collaborative effort.

In 2001 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognized Charlie and his leadership with the Firefighter of the Year Award for his work in creating the training program. The Commonwealth's Department of Fire Service now runs a Call Firefighter Recruit Training program throughout the state to fill the need for initial training of firefighters between departments. A need that Charlie saw many years prior.

We often see Charlie wearing his Navy hat, but what many do not know is that while serving, the Cuban Missile Crisis happened (1962) and he says that from his viewpoint as a sailor, that was

Peg Brouillet

has been a member of MA2 since 1985, and a member that has been involved in every aspect of the Red Knights!



Peg grew up in NH and went to Burbank School of Nursing in Fitchburg. She worked in the ER there for 25 years. During that time, Eddie was working for the local ambulance services. After both of them were divorced, he used to come to the E.R. frequently to "get supplies." Dragging his partner Tim Kilhart with him (Yes, THAT Tim Kilhart). Peg says that the best decision she ever made was to marry her soulmate, Ed.

Peg assured Ed that she didn't do motorcycles, but as you all know she didn't win that discussion. Joining the Red Knights was the next best decision she said she ever made, saying the RKMC is like a second family and she loved being the house mother of such a great group.

Her career continued when she went to Emerson ER for the next 10 yrs, then to Heywood, again in the ER for 5 more. After 40 years in the ER, she spent the last 5 at Emerson Surgical Day Care. At that time Ed's health was failing and she retired to care for him.

After she retired, she and Ed traveled to the European Convention in Switzerland. Ed had never been to Europe and he was so excited. Daniel Waldspurger was their host and he made sure they had the best room and rides everywhere since they weren't riding the motorcycle any more. She said that they were treated like royalty. Everyone wanted their picture taken with the International President.

Peg tells us that this is indeed an amazing group and she would like to thank us all for your love and support since the loss of a very special person in her life and in ours. She says she knows Ed is looking down with others who went before him with great pride for this group.

Peg noted that her "surprise info" is that she did the twist on stage in Atlantic City, N.J. with Paul Anka!!

Kevin Martin first joined the Red Knights in 1993, and is a Life Member of MA-2, where he has served as Chapter President and Chapter Vice-President, and is currently serving as Massachusetts State Rep.

Kevin has served with the Ashburnham, Lunenburg and Fitchburg Fire Departments. He also worked in EMS serving the Fitchburg area under the Montachusett, Patriots and Medstar Ambulance services, retiring as an Advanced EMT. Along with his public safety work, Kevin also worked with FEMA, and was Nasoba Valley Medical Center's EMS Manager.

Outside of public safety, Kevin Worked for Digital, Deluxe Corp, AT&T, Tonkin paper, and also a CDL instructor.

Kevin remarked that he enjoys the comradery of the Red Knights because we are a family-like group. Riding with friends and always with a ride ready to go keeps him interested.

Similar to what others have mentioned in their biographies, Kevin says the best memories and experiences were the 30+ years riding to Lake George and through the Adirondack Mountains. "Best times ever!"

Kevin tells us that his 2004 Harley Davidson Fire Fighter special was his favorite bike. He mentioned that three members of MA-2 — Steve Mickle, Bob Shakarian and he bought these models at the same time. Some of us may remember that the three of them came riding in at a chapter ride blasting "Who let the dogs out" on our radios because they never told anyone we were purchasing new Harleys.

Kevin also shares our collective sad memory, that all three of those bikes were involved in accidents, one that took the life of our dear friend, Steve.

Kevin did tell us that he had the pleasure of driving across country in 2000, but only made it as far as South Dakota due to tornados and dust storms! He said he aborted that planned trip and redirected himself south to Florida and Key West and then back home via the coastal route.



WHO ARE YOU? We started with our chapter officers earlier this year, and we'd like to learn more about you? We know that you are a Red Knight and a member of our chapter — but what makes you tick, or rather makes your wheels spin?

Just drop an email to our treasurer to answer a few questions about yourself!

Name:

Fire Department/Public Safety history:

Joined the Red Knights in:

Still a member of the Red Knights because: (or a favorite memory about the Red Knights)

Do you have other vocations or avocations... if not a career firefighter what did you do/do you do?

Favorite bike over the years, and/or favorite bike vacation or ride:

Anything else about you that might surprise us that you would like to share?



EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

June 3-7, 2026 – Geneva/Finger Lakes, NY

*** PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM PER ATTENDEE ***

*** Please PRINT clearly!! ***

NAME _____ CHAPTER (State & Number) _____

FULL MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____ E-MAIL _____

ADULT REGISTRATION PACKAGE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday Night Buffet Dinner* and Sunday Morning Farewell Breakfast • 1 Rocker Patch • 1 Tote Bag • 1 “Yankee Rally” Microfiber Cleaning Towel 	\$ 85.00	
YOUTH REGISTRATION PACKAGE (12 and under): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday Night Buffet Dinner* and Sunday Morning Farewell Breakfast • 1 Rocker Patch • 1 Tote Bag • 1 “Yankee Rally” T-Shirt (Please indicate size: _____) 	\$ 50.00	

	QNTY		
“Yankee Rally 2026” Commemorative Coin		\$ 10.00	
“Yankee Rally 2026” T-Shirt (Please indicate size(s): _____)		\$ 15.00	
Pre-Sale Ticket to Corning Museum of Glass (Saturday)		\$ 22.00	
Extra “Yankee Rally 2026” Rocker Patch		\$ 5.00	

TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT:

HOST HOTEL; 41 Lakefront Hotel, 41 Lakefront Drive (Routes 5 & 20), Geneva, NY – (315) 789-0400

SECONDARY HOTEL: Hampton Inn, 43 Lake Street, Geneva, NY – (315) 781-2035

Reservations must be called in to both hotels, need to mention/request the Red Knights block

NIGHTLY RATE: \$189.00 (plus taxes and fees) per night for all nights of “Yankee Rally”

ATTENDEE NAME: _____

*** DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:** If you have any food allergies or other dietary restrictions that we need to be informed of (for the package meals), please write it here:

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

In case of emergency, please contact:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

FORM AND PAYMENT SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Mail completed registration form, with payment, to: Kenneth Speed
5810 Moran Road
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Please make check or money order payable to “Red Knights Motorcycle Club NY 30”.

Payments will be accepted in **cash, check or money order ONLY**. Credit card, PayPal, Venmo or other electronic payment forms will **not be available**.

Registrations MUST be received by Wednesday, April 1, 2026 to guarantee all package or additional merchandise ordered. (Registrations will still be accepted after April 1, but we cannot guarantee availability of additional merchandise.)

ANY QUESTIONS?

- E-mail us at yankeerally2026@gmail.com,
- Message us on the “Yankee Rally 2026” Facebook page,
- Contact NY 30 President Chris Tiffany at (585) 748-7688 or redknightsny30@yahoo.com, or
- Contact NY 30 Vice-President Mike McWilliams at (585) 203-4883 or mikemcw08@gmail.com.