



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Winter 2021

www.rk-mass2.org [facebook facebook.com/RKMASS2](https://www.facebook.com/RKMASS2)

Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's Desk

Hello Fellow Red Knights

I'm sitting typing up this article for the newsletter and its 27 degrees and snowing. No big surprise, after all we do live in New England and the weather this time of the year can be unpredictable. I'm also thinking it's almost the middle of February but the weather is unpredictable all year long. This has already been the snowiest winter in the past couple of years. We're a riding club for motorcycles.

Why bother bringing the topic of winter weather up? Because now is a good time to go take a look at your ride so when the weather changes to a reasonable temperature, you'll be ready to ride. Did you put your bike on some plywood or cardboard, if it's on a concrete base? Have you checked the tire pressure to make sure they are at the correct pressures? How about that battery's condition? Is it still on a tender and will it start the bike? How old is your battery? Did you get some new accessories for Christmas? This would be a good time to install them, and just check things over on your bike, while you are at it. Look ahead to better weather and the upcoming season.

I know there's a couple more of you out there that are thinking about retiring or have retired recently and I know your plates are full of what you're going to do when you do retire. As long as you're still able to ride, let's not forget about our rides before the warmer weather hits.

Also, if you have some idle time while you're hanging out at the good ole homestead, how about dropping a line to your fellow knights and check up on them with just a "Hi, how are you?" Or, "Wanna go for coffee?" We are a social club and we can still grab a coffee and chit chat. The governor is lifting the number of people that can congregate to more than 10 persons. So start your social conversations and check in on your chapter members.

February 20th is our next Virtual Breakfast club and it'd be nice to see a few more faces on line and share your thoughts, laughs, and general conversation. Think about joining us and bring your cup of coffee and breakfast item to the video. Watch your emails for login information.

Stay safe and keep warm.

President Martin

Ride Schedule is posted!

Our 2021 Ride Schedule is ready — and being distributed. We have hopes that as the year progresses, the pandemic will lessen, and we will again be gathering unrestricted!

As you look over the calendar you will see that most of our scheduled rides are vague and listed as "JARs" so that we can still plan rides together even if restrictions remain in place.

As you are aware, when Jeff Hamberg moved from Chapter Secretary to Road Captain at the annual meeting. With that, a vacancy remained for the Secretary position that needed to be filled through an appointment by the board.

Also, at the annual meeting, the President asked for anyone interested in serving as a Sergeant-at-Arms position to submit their interest to the board.

We are very fortunate to have all the names that were submitted to choose from and wish to thank all those that submitted their names for consideration.

The board has chosen Jim Skehan to serve as Secretary and Ian Hurley to serve as our first Sgt-at-Arms.

Jim will be serving out the unexpired term and the Secretary position will appear on the 2021 chapter elections.

Similar to the Assistant Road Captain position, the Sgt-at-Arms position will be appointed as needed.

For the 2021 International Board elections we will be voting for President, Treasurer and Region-1 Director.

Later in the spring we will get together to discuss candidates and issues so all members will have a chance to voice their opinions before the chapter casts a ballot.

MA-2 Chapter statistics for 2021

72 Total Members
Active (Firefighter) - 44, Social — 22, Associate – 3, Junior – 3
Of the above, 16 are Life Members, and 7 of those are "International" Life members, recognized by the RKMC-I Board for past service to the International Board.

There are 14 Charter members who have been with the club since its Charter year in 1983. We appreciate their forethought and leadership to start this great club!

With calendars in hand the officers worked to schedule another fun year's worth of Red Knight events. There are RKMC events for everyone to enjoy and as the year progresses we hope that many of our staples — including hugs and food at sit-down restaurants will return!!

Saturday, April 24. Red Knight JAR. Shake off the winter dust with our first JAR of the year. Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 1:00 pm. It's an afternoon ride with maybe some ice cream!

Saturday, May 8. Red Knight JAR. Let's venture westerly from our starting point, for another early spring ride. Meet at 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 10:00 am and we'll hit the road — and have a stop for lunch before we are done.

Sunday, May 17. Red Knight JAR. Time to Shake up the meeting place! Meet at the Dunkin's by Huhtala's Oil, Route 2A, in Templeton for 11:00 am and it will give us a new direction to head! (Exit 21)

Where might our JARs take us in 2021?

- Annie's Hot Dog in Paxton/ Liecester
- Barstow's Dairy and Bakery in Hadley
- The Clambox in Brookfield
- Hager's Farm Market on the Mohawk Trail
- Herrick's Tavern in Orange
- Jacksonville General Store on Route 100
- Janine's Frostee in Ware
- Lee's Hot Dog Stand in Baldwinville
- Murph's Hotdogs on Rt. 117 in Lancaster
- New Salem General Store
- Outlook Farm and Eatery in Westhampton, MA
- Rein's Deli in Vernon, CT
- The Summer House in Southwick MA

Where else?

A number of our members were recognized with anniversary pins during our Virtual Breakfast Club in December. Deb Mickle (25), Larry & Nancy Robinson, Michelle Shepard and Armand Guilmette, and Kevin Kaczmarczyk, (15)



2021 Chapter 50/50

You too can be a winner!

We will continue the tradition of holding 50/50 drawings when we get together during the riding season. Our



Treasurer will keep track of the funds brought in, and at our annual business meeting we will decide what worthy local charity will receive the donation.

Even with our limited number of chapter gatherings for 2020 we were still able to send a donation of \$250 to RK Vermont 2 for Paul's Ride.

They too, were affected by the pandemic and did not hold their annual ride. But that did not stop them from making donations to those in need of their help — including members, family and friends of Mass-2.

Our newly minted Sergeant-at-Arms will be in charge of the 50/50's (supported by other officers, as well).

If you have a local charity that we should consider for our year-end donation, please let an officer know.

2020 Ride Statistics

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will be able to review the miles that our members put on their bikes... as we get closer to that collective two-million mile mark!

Overall last year we averaged 13.36 people per event for our 14 held events. With the pandemic effecting all levels of Red Knight events, our chapter was also limited in gathering and events. Normally we are close to 40 different events, and some with more than 40 people in attendance!

Prior to the onslaught of COVID's full force, we did have 22 people at our Winter gathering at the Glen Caffe and 18 members at our bowling afternoon.

Our big events like our Christmas party and Americade were not even a possibility. But we did gather for a number of small rides once the restrictions were lessened in the summer.

Let's continue with that tradition of spinning our wheels together as we look forward. We are planning picnic rides and those with quick stops to get some grab-and-go meals to support local mom-n-pop businesses.

At the end of 2021, when we look back on this year's ride statistics, I suspect COVID will be a rear-view memory and we will all be hugging each other at the 2021 Christmas party!

2020 Chapter Mileage

We have been keeping track of Chapter Member mileage for 13 years now, and our total of documented miles for those dozen years is 1,891,515 with the addition of this year's 114,489 miles.

Last year was 148,281 miles and over 13 years, our yearly average has been just over 145,000 miles. Even with the pandemic, and our group rides were limited, our chapter members did respectable mileage. It looks like 2021 we should break the 2 million mile mark!

Thank you to our new VP, Rick Oliver for taking on the mileage count and for outgoing VP Maury Lizotte for keeping track of the figures for many years.

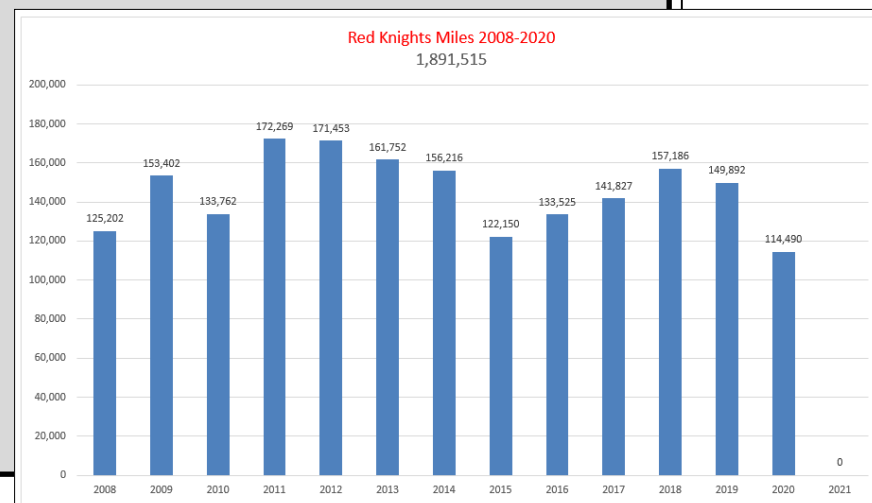
Congratulations to Tim Kilhart as our big mileage king in 2020, with **15,789**. Tim was even out on the bike right up until the early December snow storm that put an end to our late season riding! Our top female rider was Diona Laford with **4,034** miles.

Our top ten mileage-getters for the chapter were:

- Tim Kilhart – 15,789
- Armand Guilmette -- 12,014
- Robert Shakarian --11,407
- Jeff Hamberg — 8,736
- Rick Oliver — 8,306
- Robert Laford — 8,135
- Maurice Lizotte — 8,036
- Diona Laford — 4,034
- Jim Skehan — 3,289
- Charles Hamberg — 3,206

Please get Rick your 2021 start mileage if you did not give him your end mileage in 2020. Let's see who makes the top ten in 2021!

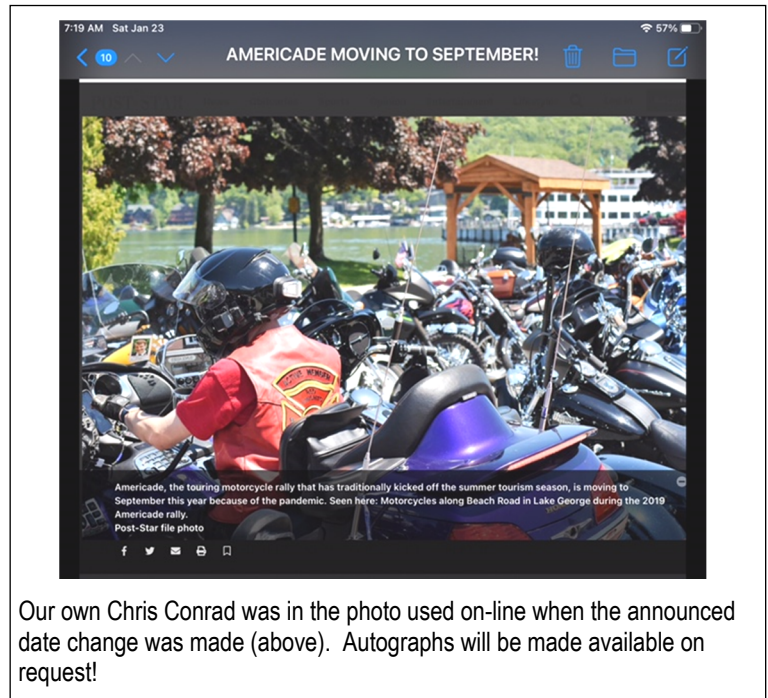
There are a lot of smiles and friendships in those miles. Keep riding and ride safe!



Unfortunately, there still remains a big COVID question mark over the planning of Americade for June 2021.

With that, the Dutchers and their crew have decided to move the rally to **September 21-25**. They are still working hard to plan for our staple motorcycle rally in the Adirondacks, just near the end of riding season instead of the beginning. The vendors and the manufacturers are chomping at the bit to hit the road and meet and greet the motorcycling community at Americade.

And there is no doubt that we motorcyclists are in great need to break loose and get back on the road, see our friends, ride the roads, have some laughs and look at everything motorcycle in Tour Expo's tent city.



Registration, normally opening on February 1, is being delayed just a bit. Christian Dutcher and his team have been meeting remotely with volunteer staff each month bantering ideas around about how best to run a safe "low touch / no touch" rally if need be. They are already to make the leap as well.

As more details emerge, we will be sharing this information with you.

Americade Planning Meeting. Let's plan on our July 4 chapter gathering to be the event where we can discuss more of everyone's plans for an Autumn Americade. Some fall colors amidst our Adirondack riding sounds like a great alternative!

**Don't forget our
Breakfast Clubs!**

Every third Saturday from November through April we gather for breakfast and fellowship.

We are hopeful that our in-person breakfast clubs will return in the fall. Mark those "3rd Saturdays" in your calendar.



In the meantime, join us on the third Saturdays of January—March for "Virtual" Breakfast Clubs through ZOOM. Links for each of those events will be sent out via email several days in advance.

Virtual Breakfast Clubs:

- January 16
- February 20
- March 20

Fall Breakfast Clubs:

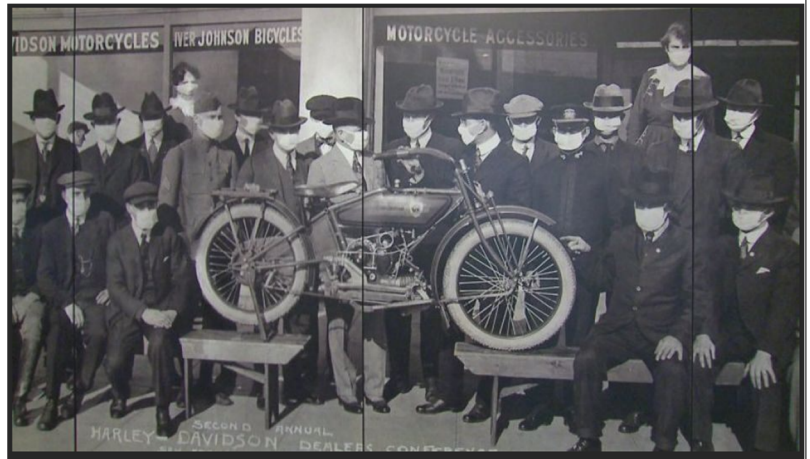
- November 20
- December 18
- January 15 (2022)
- February 19 (2022)

Membership news...

Congratulations to Chris Rutola on the purchase of his new home in Orange!

Congratulations to Armand Guilmette on his new Indian. Will we see that riding in New England, Armand, or is that a Florida ride?

If you have not received your 2021 membership card it should be included with this mailing. Also included is a copy of our 2021 Ride Schedule, and an updated copy of our roster/member contact info.



History repeats itself, and this too, shall pass, even in the motorcycle industry!

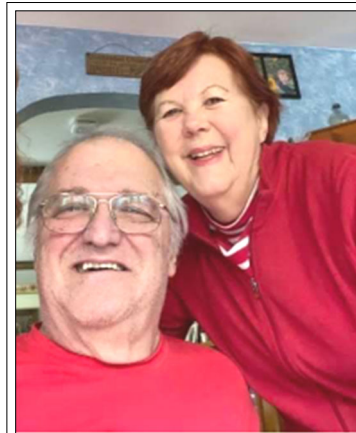
In 1918 – 1919, a flu epidemic infected about 500 million people worldwide. Nearly 1/3 of the world's population. The U.S. alone endured 675,000 deaths. In an effort to protect citizens, many communities around the country implemented preventative measures, including wearing masks. Here, Harley-Davidson dealers can be seen taking this precaution during those challenging times as they attend a 1919 regional dealer conference in San Francisco.

On the road with our friends...

When your motorcycle is broken — you fix it.



**When you are broken —
Your motorcycle fixes you.**



Great news from our friend Ed B. Amazingly after the new year clock struck midnight, a couple of days later Ed is doing very well, he is able to walk

with his walker a lot better, and not wheelchair bound and even has conversations and smiles. No one (even his doctor) understands what happened but it is good progress! Drop him a line or even a call and just say hi and let him know you're thinking about him.



Do you proudly carry a Mass-2 coin in your pocket? Have you shared a Mass-2 coin with anyone special?

Many people collect challenge coins and a number of our members have collections of challenge coins they have collected by swapping challenge coins and sharing our love for the Red Knights with others.

Our coins also serve as special "thank-you's" for those individuals, organizations and businesses that have gone the extra mile to help chapter members, the chapter, or the Red Knights. People around the world have received our coins as a thanks from members of our chapter.

Make sure you carry a coin — as an ambassador for and to show your dedication and membership to our chapter — but also purchase a few more to have on hand to thank those people who have lent you a hand or helped the chapter. Pretty soon you will have a collection of your own — and each coin will have a story.

Our Motorcycle Registrations Expired on Dec. 31.



Don't wait until that first unexpected warm day with clear roads to realize that you have not renewed your registration! (Inspections are due by the end of May).



NY 50 to host the 2022 Yankee Rally

2021 YANKEE RALLY

Due to the on-going governmental restrictions surrounding COVID-19 and the uncertainties surrounding our ability to safely and legally hold an event the size of the Yankee Rally in May, given the open-ended restrictions currently in place in both New York State and Suffolk County, the rally committee attempted to address these uncertainties with the host hotel in the hope of being able to find a solution they would allow us to hang on as long as possible. Unfortunately, this could not occur. Therefore, the committee was forced to make the very difficult decision to cancel the 2021 rally.

Everyone who has registered will be receiving a refund for your registration fees, as well as any rally swag you may have reserved. You will be contacted as soon as we set up our reimbursement process.

We are devastated to have to make this decision, but given the circumstances we were facing there really was no other option available to us. We hope all of you can understand the necessity for the decision and we apologize if you found out about it from the hotel before us as we had literally only made this decision this evening.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to send an email to the 2021 Yankee rally email address and we will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your understanding. The 2021 Yankee Rally Committee really appreciates all of your support.

All the best,

David Fernandez, Chair
2021 Yankee Rally

Spring State Meeting

The 2021 spring State Meeting for Massachusetts Red Knights will be hosted by Mass-4 at the Huguenot Steamer #1 Fire Museum in North Oxford, on Saturday, April 17.

Hopefully conditions will allow the holding of the meeting AND having the bikes out for the ride to the meeting!

Let President Martin know if you are planning to attend.

Vermont-2's Paul's Ride. Saturday, June 19.

Meet at 2/202 Shell in Orange for 8:00 a.m. Our sister chapter in Vermont is making plans for another Paul's Ride, if conditions allow. If their plans do not materialize, we can still use this date as a **Father's Day Weekend JAR Ride.**

Funds raised through this annual endeavor are used to buy gas cards to give to those who are undergoing cancer treatments and other medical care that have them and their families taking on travel to -and-from medical care. We have had members of our chapter as well and family members and friends who have been helped through the generosity of our Vermont-2 family. Join us in supporting this valuable effort.

Plattsburgh, NY will be on tap for June 1-ough June 5, 2022. Take 2 in 2022 for the cancelled 2020 Yankee Rally!
More information to follow when we learn more!

Our 2021 Chapter Officers are:

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Ian Hurley, Sergeant-at-Arms
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KEVMARV PRODUCTIONS RETIRES THE NORTHEAST MOTORCYCLE SHOWS

IT'S BEEN AN AWESOME RIDE 23 YEARS AND IT'S BEEN OUR TOTAL PLEASURE !



Finishing any ride is always troubling. That being said, Lou-Ann and I (Kevin) are officially announcing the end of our motorcycle shows in the Northeast. Our trip started in 1997 in Methuen MA then to; Salem NH, Wilmington MA, Hartford CT, Meadowlands NJ, Boston MA, Somerset NJ, Allentown PA, Reading PA, Selden NY, King of Prussia PA, Fredericksburg VA, Oaks PA, Providence RI, Chantilly VA, Marlborough MA. (and the Killington Classic.)

Our deepest heartfelt thanks go out to all the thousands of dedicated bikers that have enjoyed and supported our endeavors over the years. We did our best to bring you relevant and enjoyable experiences. Our thanks also to the many, many; dealers, venders, builders, entertainers.

"We only regret the rides we didn't take" we have NO REGRETS. Be safe!



2021 RKMC International Convention

August 18-22 is this year's convention being hosted by New Brunswick-1, across the border to our north. With fingers crossed, pandemic restrictions around our country (the border crossing) and around the world, we hope to see a group of chapter members heading off to Saint John in Canada for the International Convention.

For those of us who remain within the states, we will have our own "International Ride" on Saturday, August 21, with our travelers on our mind!

If you are interested in planning for the convention, you can get all the details, and register on-line at www.rkmc2021.com. Accommodation arrangements have been made with Delta Hotels by Marriott Saint John for the Red Knights.

At the annual business meeting, one piece of business taking place at the 2021 convention, will be votes for hosting the 2024, 2025, and 2026 conventions. Because of last year's convention cancellation, no decision was made on 2024 or 2025. (2022 is in Pennsylvania and 2023 is in Maryland).

Other events in the planning are a 12-Station ride, Moosehead Brewery Tour (with a bus for the tour), a Five Ferry Ride along the Kennebecasis River, St. John River and the Belleisle Bay, St. John River Cruise, and several other guided ride options. *(Some of these events are extra costs and require pre-registration).*

There is also a First Responder's Memorial Service to commemorate our fallen heroes and recognize their many contributions. It will also celebrate all first responders who work & volunteer to protect us on a daily basis.

Other convention staples including Meet-and-Greets, Vendor's, "Ask the Board" meeting, banquet, and farewell breakfast will also be on the schedule.

Please let President Martin know if you plan on attending the convention this year.

The International Motorcycle Show has been re-tooled for 2021 to become **IMS Outdoors**.

In past years one of the shows during the winter months was at the Javits Center in NYC.

This year organizers have taken the opportunity to completely reimagine its offerings, taking the consumer show formerly hosted inside conventions centers and moving it to outdoor venues. IMS Outdoors organizers hope to create a festival-like atmosphere to create a more immersive experience for attendees.

The outdoor venues will help the shows proceed amidst any COVID restrictions, and the dates named are to capitalize on warm-weather months for the shows.

PROGRESSIVE IMS OUTDOORS				
2021 SCHEDULE				
DENVER JUNE 18 - 20	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JULY 9 - 11	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA JULY 16 - 18	CHICAGO AUGUST 20 - 22	NEW YORK CITY SEPTEMBER 3 - 5
PENNSYLVANIA SEPTEMBER 10 - 12	NASHVILLE OCTOBER 8 - 10	CENTRAL FLORIDA OCTOBER 15 - 17	ATLANTA OCTOBER 29 - 31	