

Ed Brouillet  
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Jack Downs  
Vice President

Bill Snodgrass  
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Leo Patry  
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Quartermaster

John Rucinski  
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Gene Downs  
SE Director

Steve Chappell  
Central Director

Graham Clark  
Western Director

Bob Laford  
Newsletter Editor



[www.redknightsmc.com](http://www.redknightsmc.com)

*From the desk of the International President...*

To All Members and Friends,

It was a great summer for a lot of us and as the RKMC continues to grow, there are many opportunities to ride in other areas and meet other Red Knights. Browse our website and look at all the rides that our members have listed with information and past pictures. Take the time to ride with other chapters and other Red Knights, meet new members, and make new friends.

Next year there are events being planned throughout the continent that will draw a lot of Red Knights. A couple of these venues are:

- Red Knights Dixie Confederation of Southern Chapters Rally in Maryland (May 18-20, 2007);
- Americade in Lake George N.Y. (June 4-10, 2007);
- Western gathering of the Knights in Idaho (June 7-9);
- Red Knights at Gettysburg Bike Week (July 12-15); and
- The Killington Classic in Killington, Vermont (Sept. 6-9).

Check out our web page for more information about these rallies and others and consider joining us! 2007 is also the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Red Knights. Wow! What a milestone! For those of us that have been here from the beginning, where did the time go? Who would have ever thought we would have over 7,000 members?

Part of next year's celebration will be the dedication of the Red Knights Memorial in Boylston, Mass. I hope you will be there to see this memorial dedicated to all of our departed brothers and sisters.

*To all the members past and present, we owe you a great deal of gratitude for all the effort that was put forth in laying the ground work and starting such a great club.*

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members that elected me to serve you into our anniversary year as your International President. I have decided that this will be my last term and Convention as your International President. I can only hope that I have met the expectations of those who elected me. As this great organization continues to grow I know the future leaders of the Red Knights will continue to have challenges in front of them — as they each strive to do their best for you the members.

We all need to work together as members, chapter officers, and International leaders to manage our club's continued growth effectively. The International Board continues to work on 5-10-15 year plans to help handle the growth that is projected — and each member is asked to step up and be part of that future plan and future success.

The holiday season is now upon us. With Christmas and New Years just around the corner Peg and I would like to wish all our members and their families and friends joyous times and a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Ed & Peg Brouillet

Make your plans  
today and join us in  
**Worcester, Mass**  
For the 25th Anniversary  
Convention in August.

### Survey of the membership

The International Executive Board has decided to do a random survey of the membership to get a consensus on the thoughts of the rank and file members on the future action plans and paths of the Organization.

The survey will consist of several questions about those paths and actions to help the Executive Board formulate a final draft to be presented to the general membership for voting on at the 2007 Convention in Worcester Massachusetts.

The phone survey will be conducted between the dates of Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> and Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. 2007.

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920-338-8738 central\_director@redknightsmc.com

### *Signs of the Times*

Members of RKM Texas Chapter 1 are promoting motorcycle safety by contacting local and county officials in their area to get traffic signs erected promoting motorcycle safety.

"The signs are to raise awareness for people to look for motorcycles in the area," said David Die, safety officer and road captain for the Texas Chapter.

"We want the signs (Motorcycle Safety "Share the Road" signs) posted where traffic counts are high with motorcycles or by establishments that bikers attend," Die said. More than half of motorcycle accidents occur because the driver did not see the bike coming," Die said in a recent interview with the Orange Leader newspaper.

Great job guys!  
Every bit helps with the safety of us  
and our fellow riders!



The Red Knights Memorial Committee took delivery of the life-sized firefighter statue that will be part of the memorial in Boylston, Mass. Pictured are Don Parker and Dave Hamilton, both members of the Memorial Committee, Members of Mass Chapter 1, and founders of the Red Knights.



Dozens of Red Knights enjoyed the hospitality of the Pennsylvania Red Knights at the 2006 Gettysburg Bike Week. Pictured here are members at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial during a tour of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.

Join your fellow RKM members in 2007 for the '07 GB Bike Week on July 12-15, 2007.

**W**elcome to all our new MALs and new chapters. The Red Knights now have over 7,100 members, with nearly 400 members-at-large, and 255 chapters.

Welcome to Florida-13, Ohio-12, Illinois-13, Nova Scotia-1, Minnesota-5, North Dakota-1, Oklahoma-2, Maine 5 & 6, Illinois-3 & 14, New York-29, 30, 31, 32, 33, & 34, Pennsylvania- 23, 28, & 29, West Virginia-4, New Jersey-31, Virginia-12 & 13, Georgia-9 & 16, Michigan-5, and Connecticut-9,

***Welcome everyone!***

Congratulations to Secretary Bill Snodgrass, South East Regional Director Gene Downs, Western Regional Director Graham Clark and Quartermaster Lynn Komandt on their re-election at the August RKM Convention in NYC.

## the Chapters



### What is your chapter up to?

Let us know what your chapter does throughout the year that may be of interest to your brother and sister Red Knights. Brag a little (in the newsletter and on the web page). Send our newsletter editor info and pictures on your chapter events!



Massachusetts Chapter 2 was recently recognized by the Central Mass Safety Council for the chapter's MSF Rider Scholarship Program.

Each year the chapter, in cooperation with the Safety Council, awards four MSF Rider Scholarships.

Pictured here are Walter Roach, member of Mass-2 and an instructor with the Safety Council, Tim Cooney, Executive Director of the Safety Council, and Bob Laford, President of Mass-

At the Massachusetts Red Knights weekend on Cape Cod in May, Mass-8, assisted by International President Ed Brouillet and Mass State Rep Steve Mickle presented the club's colors to be sent to Rob Felt, a new member of the chapter who is deployed overseas.



Pictured here are Brouillet, Bob Felt, President of Mass-8, and Mickle.

Many of us who have been chapter officers for any length of time have probably been asked, "what do you do to keep your chapter active and successful." My answer is always, **KEEP BUSY!** Plan events every month. Rides, gatherings, dinners, pot-lucks, picnics, holiday parties – it does not matter what the reason. Plan events each and every month and offer your members the opportunity to get together and bond as a group of friends. You will soon find that your ranks begin to grow and this group of friends will be like family.

I received an email from the president of RK NJ-XI recently with info on some of their events. Like many of our chapters they have found the clue for success – keep busy and work together! Their calendar included such things as :

- Jimmy Moran Memorial Run in May, with nearly 600 bikes supporting the memory and family of a past chapter member,
- Statewide Meet-N-Greet Pig-Nic in Hamilton, NJ where NJ 14 & 11 hosted seven different chapters from across the state, and
- 1<sup>st</sup> comedy night @ the Colonia Fire Dept.

Red Knights throughout our organization gather for the camaraderie, to have fun, and to support each other. There are many worthy causes that are supported through the generosity of our members. Look around your region and look to support the efforts of the Red Knights and each chapter's events. That's where our success as Red Knights grows from – each other.

### Maryland Fallen Firefighters Memorial Parade and Dedication

On June 11, 2006, the long awaited dedication of the Maryland Fallen Firefighters Memorial was held in Annapolis, Maryland. Over 1,500 uniformed fire personnel were in attendance along with apparatus from each Department that had a Line of Duty Death since 1840.

The Chairman and founder of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Memorial committee, Chief Don Mooney (Lansdowne VFD) thanked all those who worked over the past ten+ years to achieve this milestone; honoring our fallen brothers and sisters. The Memorial is an open plaza consisting of memorial bricks and two walls with the names of the LODDs. The main focus is the bronze sculptures of a male firefighter and a female EMT, both send a message of love and service as they turn to wave goodbye to sculptures of an older man, a woman, and a boy for the last time at that split second as they paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The Dedication was preceded by a parade through parts of Annapolis. The parade of apparatus was led by sixty members of the Red Knights representing all 5 Maryland Chapters and PA 11.



Members of Florida's RKMC were among the 3,000 riders to participate in the "MOTORCYCLE REMEMBRANCE RIDE" on September 9.

The ride commemorates the firefighters and police officers who died in the collapse of the World Trade Center.

## Americade 2006 – Where the Rains Reign!

Spring of 2006 in the northeast meant rain – and that trend continued right through the first week of June making our Americade visit a bit damp. Actually it was mentioned that it was not rain, but rather a moving bike wash. With that frame of mind, we were able to wash the bikes almost every day with Mother Natures help and a routine effort of wearing our rain gear. But it was still a great week with a lot of Red Knight friends in attendance throughout Americade and the Lake George Region.

Wednesday evening the Red Knights hosted the Americade three-course dinner held at Roaring Brook Ranch. Over 220 people took advantage of the great food and Red Knight reputation in spite of the steady rain that fell that day. They were not disappointed as after being welcomed by International President Ed Brouillet, an assembly line of Red Knights dispersed the nearly 90 door prizes that were donated for the dinner. Thanks go out to all the chapters and all the individuals who helped make the dinner a success with your donated prizes.

After the dinner Americade founder Bill Dutcher made an appearance to talk to the Red Knights in the dining room to thank us for the club's participation and helping to make each year's Americade a special event.

Wednesday evening was also the Americade Fashion Show. A block of Red Knights, with an RKMCM banner in tow, waited in the crowd for one of the fashion show participants, who happened to be a Red Knight. Once on the runway, the Red Knights banner went high in the air and the cheers, hoots, and hollers began. The crowd and the fashion show's MC all enjoyed the Red Knights' enthusiasm. And the others modeling that night made mention that the Red Knight in the show got the most cheers!

Thursday night saw a great spread hosted by New York 12 at the Red Knight Open House at the Lake George FD. Over 200 RK members and friends signed the guest book and shared camaraderie throughout the late afternoon and evening. A number of chapters also set up shop making their RKMCM wares available for all the members.

Even with the damp, cool, and windy weather on Saturday over 75 Red Knights made it out to participate in the Americade Parade. A legion of bikes with riders adorned with fire helmets rolled down Canada Street. International President Ed Brouillet led the parade with a formation of HD firefighter specials adorned with flags as

they escorted our membership and the remainder of the Americade parade down Canada Street and to the top of Prospect Mountain. It was a great time.



### *Red Knight Chopper Raffle*

While the Red Knights did not sell enough tickets to complete the Chopper Raffle by August's convention in New York City, a 50/50 drawing was held (as stipulated on the tickets).

A ticket purchased by RK Ontario 7 was the winner, giving the chapter a prize of \$5280.00.

### Red Knights' statistics at Americade:

1. A great time was had by all.
2. The rainy weather kept the pollen to minimum so we didn't have to dust the bikes each morning!
3. The Red Knights hosted the Americade Dinner on Wednesday night to a capacity crowd of over 220 people...
4. ...and gave away nearly 90 door prizes!
5. Ed Brouillet and Bob Laford presented a seminar on Long-distance ride planning to a crowd of over 40 Americaders at Roaring Brook.
6. New York-12 did a great job at the LGFD feeding over 200 Red Knights and friends
7. Over 75 Red Knights colored the Americade parade for the thousands of on-lookers lining Canada Street.

The Red Knights International has designed a new tri-fold handout that is available on the web site for our members and friends to download.

The new handout is in a color format (for those with color printing capabilities). Please take advantage of this new brochure to share information about the Red Knights with others!

I was riding on the highway at about 6am Sunday morning. I consider myself a reasonably experienced and safe rider.

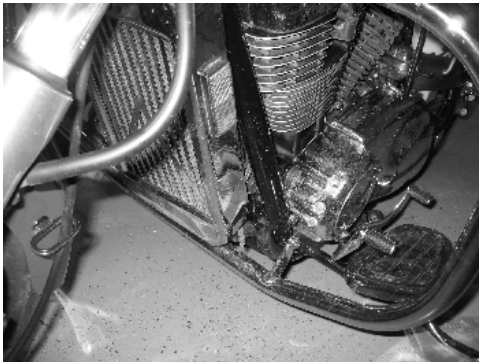
I took the course and don't ride irresponsibly.

In a split second I almost lost my life.

***This***  
**Does NOT mix with this**



Somehow?? I managed to keep the bike



on it's wheels. I only had time to stand up, pull on the handlebars and say to myself

"Holy \*\$#% this is going to hurt"

***Life is short,  
Enjoy it but keep your head up!***

Stephen Nicholl  
Alberta 3

## ***Red Knight of the Year Award***

It is the goal of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club to identify and honor a member each year as the Red Knight of the Year. This award will be known as the "**Perry Carter Award**", in remembrance of Perry for his endless work and dedication to the Red Knights Motorcycle Club.

Only an active member in good standing with the International and their Chapter may be eligible for this award. This includes Members at Large.

Each Chapter may nominate a member from its Chapter for the Red Knight of the Year. The nomination should be sent to the State/ Province Representative and then to the Regional Director. Each Regional Director would then forward their nominee to the Eastern Regional Director who will serve as the Chairperson for this award. A Member at Large, Chapter President, or an Executive Board member of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club may nominate any Member at Large for the award. This nomination would follow the same path as listed above.

The committee will consist of the Eastern Regional Director, as Chairperson, the past two recipients and the four Regional Directors.

Members who are nominated should have been present at 50 % of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club chapter events during the year. The member nominated should have visited at least one other Chapter during the year. The member nominated should have attended the International Convention in the past. The Member nominated should represent and signify the Red Knight's standard in their dealings with the public and the International's members.

The Regional Director shall forward a letter with their nomination outlining the member's qualities shown for this award to the International President. The deadline for receiving the nomination shall be prior to March 1st of each year. The final decision will be made at the Spring Board meeting each year.

All members of this committee will be notified of the names and information that have been submitted to receive this award. They are to review those names and information on why they were nominated and submit their choice in order of first, second and third to the Committee Chairperson, no later that 14 days before the spring International Board Meeting.

The winner of this award shall receive recognition and their fee for the Annual Conference of the year they are receiving the award. The Red Knights International Motorcycle Club should pay for the registration to the annual Convention.

## **Come to the west...**

**Mark your calendars!! Idaho Chapter ID-1 invites you to the First Western Gathering of Knights.**

This is a special Invitation to ride out to Idaho and to join the Western Red Knights International Fire Fighters Motorcycle Club at the Largest Rocky Mountain Oyster feed in the West. It is scheduled for June 7th through 9th, 2007 and the host hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn in Eagle Idaho.

A short Western Chapter meeting surrounded by lots of fun. This event is located in a central area of the Western Region and we are expecting representatives from all the Western Chapters. Any and all Red Knights are welcomed to join in the fun! Camping is being arranged.

For information and updates contact Graham Clark (403) 558-2254 or email [west\\_director@redknightsmc.com](mailto:west_director@redknightsmc.com)

### Duties of the International Officers:

**PRESIDENT:** Over sees total operation

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command, Director for Overseas chapters and the MAL program

**SECRETARY:** Oversight of Insurance for chapter/association/region events and the Insurance data base and related waiver record keeping (7 years). Advertising; Updating & maintaining SOG's manual, Chapter By-Laws and Association By-Laws file; Chapter, Association, and Regional Applications and Charters and State/Province Representative Roster; Maintains rosters of International Committees and Deceased Members; Responsible for Board Meeting agendas and minutes, E-Mail motions/voting/record keeping, Keeper/shipper of Banners/Flags, and oversees By-Laws Committee. Responsible for the International's Equipment Inventory data base. Publishes Chapter President's Letter (twice a year), Sending of cards/flowers for death of member, and is the contact person for chapters/members questions.

**TREASURER:** Maintains the Master Member Roster, President List, MAL roster, Chapter Approvals and numbers, and Chapter Start dates & Location. Responsible for Collection of Dues for Chapters/MALs and Pass Due reminders. Responsible for financial dealings including Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Filing of all tax forms with IRS, Working with Attorneys on Incorporation, Corporation Annual Report, and IRS Annual Report. Maintains EIN data base for Chapters and EIN filing with IRS. Monitors Expenses of the Club.

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR:** Works with states to set up Associations; works with State Representatives and local chapters as needed and to keep chapters updated, handling concerns of the members, chapters and regions. Works with Secretary on new chapter applications promoting membership in states without chapters and promoting Regional Associations.

**QUARTERMASTER:** Responsible for Trademark agreements with chapters/associations/regions. Purchasing and Maintaining of RKMC merchandise, selling of merchandise to members and chapters and designs & maintains merchandise order forms. Submits Quartermaster Financial Records. Research new sources of merchandise and new merchandise including requests for regalia from non-members. Oversees the FORK program. Special Projects assigned to the Quartermaster include -Motorcycle raffle, ticket/flyer design/distribution/finance, -Business card design/production/distribution, -Executive Board Uniforms, -Resolution of E-Bay infringement problems, -Resolution of internet infringement of trademark, -Resolution of chapter to chapter sales problems, -Proving art work to chapters/vendors/individuals and maintaining its integrity, -Banner design/purchase, -Flag purchase, -RKMC flag redesign, -Research suppliers/materials for 2007 patch & pin, -Dixie Confederation patch design/purchase/distribution, -Formatting of By-Laws chairman's laptop.

**EDITOR:** Layout of newsletter, Printing/Mailing of newsletter, Printing/mailing of President's letter, Help a Knight Program, maintaining Web Page.



Congratulations to Mark Kerr of Connecticut-2 as this year's recipient of the Perry Carter Red Knight of the Year Award. Mark was recognized for his many years of service to the Red Knights in his chapter, the State of Connecticut, and at the regional and International levels as well.

Over 100 Red Knights met up in Killington, Vermont for the annual Killington Classic. The RKMC was a prime factor in the region's celebration, leading the parade and showing their enthusiasm throughout the Green Mountain Rally.

RK Vermont-3 based in nearby Rutland were the primary hosts and welcomed all with a dinner dance after the parade and block party in downtown Rutland.



Mugging for the camera along with all the Red Knights prior to the start of the parade were International President Ed Brouillet (center), with Kevin Clemments, Killington Classic founder on his right, and Vermont Governor Jim Douglas on his left.

***Join us next year – it's the best place to be the weekend after Labor Day!***



### Vice-President Report

First, I want to thank everyone for re-electing me as your vice-president this past summer. My congratulations also to Secretary Bill Snodgrass, South East Regional Director Gene Downs, Western Regional Director Graham Clark and Quartermaster Lynn Komandt on their re-election at the most recent RKMC Convention. I am looking forward to continuing to work with the members and all those serving on the International Board again this year.

I continue to be busy with personal contacts in my efforts to provide service to the Members-at-Large and other members of our club. Since our last convention I have answered and/or read 361 emails; sent 15 applications to prospective firefighters who want to become Red Knight Members-At-Large, and signed up 9 new members (one of which lives in Germany). I have spoken with another new member who now wants to start a chapter in Pennsylvania and as your VP I continually answer inquiries from members concerning our policies on a variety of issues.

As your Vice-president I have had the honor this year to represent the International on two separate occasions for September 11<sup>th</sup> memorials. On September 10<sup>th</sup> I attended a parade in Tampa, Florida where attendance was limited to 3,000 riders. Over 2,000 additional bikers were turned away. I also attended a parade on September 11 in Daytona that was hosted by Florida Chapter 10. There were over 200 bikes at this rally with several Florida Red Knights Chapters represented. The host chapter expected between 60-100 bikers – and the number that showed was a great surprise!

On October 12<sup>th</sup> I had the solemn responsibility to represent the Red Knights International at a funeral for a firefighter who was a Fire and Iron member. Firefighter Jenkins was coming home from the station when he was struck from behind while waiting for a red light. He was dragged over 100 feet. I was proud to say there were over 1,500 firefighters and units from 50 cities in attendance.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> I attended the Florida Firefighter Memorial at the Florida Firefighter College in Ocala to honor those who gave their lives in the line of duty between October 2005 and October 2006. There were 4 names added to the memorial this year.

As a member of the International Board I continue to work with the other board members in promotion and leadership of the RKMC. The weekend of November 11 the Executive Board met in Syracuse, NY where we spent over 9 hours working on the Constitution and By-Laws, new SOG's, the Trade Mark Agreement, and other challenges that face our organization. Your Board takes their role as stewards of the organization very seriously and we all strive to provide a solid foundation for where our great club can continue to grow.

As your VP I must also advise our Members-At-Large and Non-U.S. Chapters (excluding Canada) that it is time to renew their membership. Our Treasurer has reminded us of the importance in getting our dues to him in a timely manner. So let's try and get those dues in before December 31<sup>st</sup> this year.

Again, I thank everyone for support in my bid for re-election. I'm looking forward to working for you again in the New Year. I hope you have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack C. Downs, Vice-president  
R K M C International

### **2007 Red Helmet Ride**

On Saturday, October 7, 2006, the Eighth Annual Red Helmets Ride was held from Fredricksburg to Emmitsburg, MD. What a sight to find over 100 bikes from as far away as Jacksonville, FL waiting for the Ride to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial!

There were riders from Ohio, PA, FL, DE, VA, IL, KY, and MD when the ride, escorted by Police and County Sheriff's motor officers during our trek. Even though the weather was overcast all the riders felt it important to ride in a show of respect to the families and friends of the Firefighters and EMTs being honored during the NFA's Memorial Ceremonies during the weekend.

One of the objectives each year is to coordinate our arrival with having the families outside to see us roll in. Radio communication was the key, and we succeeded in doing just that. What a great feeling we all felt as the bikes passed through a gauntlet of people prior to the ceremony's start.

We were greeted by some of the family members and by NFFF Board member Chief Dennis Compton. Concluding this year's ceremony was our traditional laying of the Red Helmets Ride Wreath at the base of the Memorial; assisted by an Honor Guard and Pipers.

Following the ceremony, many riders spent time at the Memorial and visiting with the families and friends.

This ride means a lot to the families, and it is my sincere hope that you attend this ride each year because I know that you will come away feeling great. I know the families really appreciate us.



November, 2006

Greetings from "DIXIE",

I would like to thank the membership for their vote of confidence, by voting me into the office of southern regional director for the next two year term. The SE Region continues to grow expanding in each state within the region.

The Dixie Rally held in May 2006, hosted by Texas Chapter 1 and the Texas State Association, was a tremendous success and we are all looking forward to the 2007 Dixie Regional Rally which will be hosted by Maryland Chapter 4 located in Solomons, Maryland. For more information on this event, visit the Maryland - 4 link listed on the RKMC International web site. With the reports I have been receiving to this date we are expecting a larger turnout for 2007, so make your reservation ASAP.

Because of the expanding growth of chapters and membership in the Southern Region it has become necessary to request an assistant Southern Regional Director. The east coast has been experiencing most of the expanding growth in the region. Therefore, I have appointed Carl "Bo" Toepfer of MD-4 to that position. Thanks "Bo" for stepping up to the plate.

In 2007, all State Reps have been updated to comply with RKMC International by-laws. Congratulations to the incumbents and newly elected Reps.

Again, I can't say it enough for the support I have received. I have been fortunate to have a group of people working with me as State Representatives and "DIXIE" Executive Board Officers who are focused on a common goal - "Promoting the Red Knights tradition wherever we are."

Fraternally Submitted,  
Gene Downs  
SE Regional Director

Have you ever been traveling and thought, "Gee I don't know anyone around here. Where is the best place to eat, stay, or get my bike worked on?" That's what the Help-A-Knight program is for - to maintain a database of Red Knights who are willing to accept telephone calls and help fellow Red Knights. Some of the help may be for information, or other options you may help on is if a RK member can stay overnight, pitch a tent in your yard, or leave their bike at your house.

The **Red Knights Help-a-Knight** program available on line at  
**[www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf](http://www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf)**  
(You need Adobe Acrobat to read the file).

We will continually update the version that is available on our web page. Below is the registration form to add or update your information in the H-A-K program.

Please look over your state listing and let our editor know if there are people listed who are no longer members of your chapters. Thank you.

### **RKMC Help-A-Knight Registration Form**

*Please Print Information and Check All Statements That Apply*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St./Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Fall 2006

☒ This is a **New** registration  
☒ This is a **Change** to my information

**MAIL TO:**  
Bob LaFord  
276 West Road  
Petersham, MA 01366  
CALL: 978-724-3270  
E-MAIL:  
rflaford@tiac.net

*To Help-A-Knight I will:*  
(circle appropriate numbers)

1. Take calls for information about my area. No Collect Calls.
2. Allow a Red Knight to stay overnight in my home
3. Allow a Red Knight to put up a tent on my property
4. Allow a Red Knight to leave a bike on my property
5. Bring my SAE tools to a Help-A-Knight who has broken down
6. Pick up a Red Knight's bike with my pick-up truck or trailer
7. Bring my Metric tools to Help-A-Knight who has broken down
8. Someone in my home speaks French

**Thank You** We would like to thank the members of the New York City Fireriders that looked after us so well when we had our accident on the way to convention last summer. Special thanks go to Alan Arias for going way 'above and beyond' in seeing that we had rides where ever we wanted to go and for the special tour of Manhattan. Thanks also go to Reno Dekker of NY 8 who allowed us to store our wrecked bike at his home till we could pick it up, and to Leo Patry for assisting when we went to bring it home.



Members of NJ-14 at the 5th annual 9-11 Memorial Ride



## New York Convention – 2006

Thanks to all our members and friends in New York City for another great convention!

Each of the members attending the convention had many opportunities to tour this great city, either on formal tours arranged by our hosts, or on their own. One such self-guided tour was while the International Board was holding their meeting. Several of the executive's wives went into the city by subway with their trusty guide, Daniel Waldspurger our MAL from Switzerland. They tell us that New York is an "interesting" place, especially the subway. Their time on their own included entertainment by the world's worst accordion player and a horse and buggy tour of Central Park. This group concluded their day's trek with lunch in a little Bistro and a visit to the Trump Towers. That is just one example of the great time that our members enjoyed in New York!

Friday was a great day with an awesome bus tour of New York. The Red Knights went to beautiful Cathedrals, had a walking tour of Central park, had lunch and shopping in Little Italy and had an incredible tour guide who gave you lots of history of the city.

Back to the hotel in the late afternoon, it was time to head to the Cookout at Killarney's Bar. It was a real social event, but it was cut short by darkening skies. Some people did not make it back to the hotel dry! Have you ever sat at a stop sign when it was raining that hard with no rain gear?

Saturday morning brought the usual general meeting. Some information presented at the meeting included:

- There were 34 chapters present.
- Daniel, our member from Switzerland was elected to be the MAL Representative.
- There are presently 250 MALS and 252 chapters.
- The club is now advertising the Red Knights in 20 states.
- Although near bankruptcy in 1994, through careful management of funds and an increased growth, the club is very solvent with a treasury of \$115,639.88.
- Since the organization is growing so quickly, within the next few years the International will be looking into having a paid business manager. Both the Secretary and the Treasurer put in an incredible amount of voluntary time and it is getting to be too much.
- All officers running for re-election were voted in for another term of service. Reports were given for all the committees and from all the representatives for future conventions.

Next year is hosted by Massachusetts Chapters, with the primary host being Mass-1— since that is where it all began! 2008 is in Sandusky, Ohio (Home of the park with the best roller coasters), 2009 is in Florida, 2010 in Louisiana, and 2011 in Ocean City, Maryland.

After a 3-hour meeting, we were off on a

motorcycle ride to ground zero, a very sobering place. While there we visited the Fire Station across the street, thought back and spoke of the worst day in our country's history and had a moment of silence for those who lost their lives that day.

Saturday evening brought good food, good friends and great music. A special guest was there to present a gift to the New York Fireriders. They had taken the Ride to the Wall this spring and had met a Marine who gave them a tour of the Pentagon. The Marine was so impressed to meet the group from New York who were at the Trade Towers during the event, that he came to present them with a gold sword for their bravery and dedication.

The Perry Carter Award presented to Mark Kerr from Connecticut-2 for being an exemplary Red Knight. He was very touched by the honor of the award.

The 50/50 raffle brought in approx. \$1400 and was won by Lynn Komandt, the International Quartermaster. She donated her share of the winnings to the Memorial Fund. Plans for the memorial in Boylston, Mass are to have it dedicated at the 2007 convention.

As usual the Sunday morning Adios Breakfast was a bittersweet event. We remember the great week that we had, but have to say goodbye to friends that we may not see for another year. A good time was had by all.



**Notification To all Chapters of the Withdrawal of The Red Knights  
Group Letter of Determination Application**

On June 13, 2006 I received a reply to our application for a group letter of determination to the Internal Revenue Service. In the letter there were outlined several areas of the application that the I.R.S. wanted more information in greater detail than what had been provided.

I contacted the I.R.S. by telephone and talked with the caseworker that had been assigned to our application. After several minutes of discussion it became very apparent that International would not be able to provide the IRS with the information and detailing of such that they wanted to proceed with the application.

They then gave me a list of items that they wanted fully documented, listed are several of them.

\*Provide a list of the parent and subordinate organizations, which conduct activities in Canada or other foreign lands.

\*Provide a detailed description of the types of activities conducted by a typical subordinate. Include concrete examples of specific activities conducted, rather than stating the goals they hope to achieve. You must show the commingling, fellowship, recreation and socializing there is among the subordinates.

\* Provide documentation verifying the EIN of the following subordinates and they list 10 Chapters that they want the original letters that issued their EIN's.

\* Complete form 1024, which is a statement of Revenue and expenses along with a bank balance sheet for a typical subordinate.

\*Submit a signed affirmation that the parent and subordinates will not conduct charitable gaming, issue tax-exempt bonds, or use professional fundraisers or telemarketers for fundraising purposes.

\*Will the subordinates be filing a group return and if so you must apply for a separate EIN for the group return. We had never ever considered a group return.

\*If your subordinate organizations are corporations, submit a complete copy of their Articles of incorporation and any amendments thereto that show evidence that they have filed with and been approved by the state in which they are incorporated. About ten of the chapters on the application are incorporated and I don't know if the chapters that are incorporated have kept things up to date by filing their annual reports or not. (I can't even get them to pay their dues on time least of all give me all this other information).

\*Provide a listing of all parent organization board members and all subordinate organizational board members. On the original application they again told me just to list the Chapter member that would be the contact person with the IRS in regards to the EIN, which in most cases is either the chapter president or the treasurer.

Which is what I gave them along with the listing for our International Board.

The list of other requirements that they have demanded were way beyond the ability of the International to meet on the required intervals and timetable that they spelled out.

So on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2006 after consulting with the International Executive Board I withdrew our application. Now it reverts back to what has always been the requirement, that the responsibility of filing and reporting all tax related information with both the State and Federal levels is that of the individual chapters. It is further recommended to the chapters that they apply for a letter of determination on an individual bases for each of their chapters.

Leo Patry  
International Treasurer

**Office of the Executive Secretary**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank membership for electing me to another term as the International Secretary. As before, I will continue to work for the membership. The next year offers many new and exciting goals for our membership as we grow and work to take our club into the future.

The Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club is growing in membership and chapters. At this time we have 255 active chapters. And our membership is over 7100. We have added State Associations and the Regional Directors are working with the State/Province Representatives to set up the Associations. If your state or province needs more information on the formation of an Association, please contact your Regional Director.

Our insurance program has grown each year. In 2006 we provided insurance for 38 events for our chapters. This is an increase of 31.5% over 2005. I want to thank the chapters for requesting the insurance three weeks before their event and returning the waivers in a timely manner.

In dealing with new chapters, one question that I am asked a lot is "what do I get for my International dues?" First I would like to compare our dues with other clubs. The Red Knight yearly dues are \$7.00 per year. Harley Owners Group yearly dues are \$45.00. GWRRA yearly dues are \$45.00 per year. AMA yearly dues are \$39.00 per year. IAFF motorcycle club yearly dues are \$50.00. Blue Knights Motorcycle Club yearly dues are \$20.00 per year. Wind and Fire dues are \$20.00. As you can see our dues are the lowest of any International Motorcycle dues. For your \$7.00 you get the following;

- Banners that any chapter/association can use for a period of three weeks
- Matching dollar grants up to \$200.00 for promotions of chapters or associations
- Lunch at Americade and other national events
- Decals
- Newsletters twice a year (cost over \$6500.00 each mailing)
- Advertising Handouts for your chapters
- A Memorial Park in Massachusetts
- An International Convention (we assist with insurance and funding)
- Regional Convention (we assist with insurance and funding up to \$500.00)
- State Conventions (we assist with insurance and funding up to \$500.00)
- Help-A-Knight program
- Grand Tour (certificate and pin)
- Web Site
- Quartermaster Items

We are always looking and listening for other ways to improve the benefits for our membership.

As always, I am here to serve you, the membership. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, comments, complaints and suggestions.

Respectfully Submitted  
Bill "Popeye" Snodgrass, Executive Secretary

**Red Knights International Firefighters  
MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

**2007 “25th Anniversary” Convention**

**August 16-19, 2007 Worcester, Massachusetts**

**Convention Center: Crowne Plaza Hotel**

**Convention Registration (\$95 per person  
U.S. Funds) includes**

-Registration; -Program; -Welcome Bag; -Pin & Patch;  
-Hospitality Room; -Group Tours;

**\*\*Saturday Night Cocktail Reception followed by sit-down Dinner-Dance with appetizer, salad, and entree choices of Prime Rib, Baked New England Scrod, Penne Pasta Primavera, or Chicken Francais\*\***

**Sunday Farewell Breakfast Buffet**

**Amenities Include:** Crowne Plaza Worcester's four-star rated hotel restaurant and Seven Hills Gourmet Bistro.

Ideally situated in the heart of New England, just 48 miles from Boston, the Crowne Plaza offers guests the finest facilities, the ultimate in comfort and the best service – with many shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues within walking distance

**Location:** Located in downtown Worcester at 10 Lincoln Square Worcester, MA 01608  
[www.cpworcester.com/](http://www.cpworcester.com/)

**Room Rate:** **Convention Rate: US \$ 95.00 per night base rate**

**Parking:** Secure parking available at hotel with up to 200 available *covered* spaces just for motorcycles at no extra charge

**Directions:**

- Route 90 (Massachusetts Turnpike) to exit 10 (Auburn) for Route 290
- Route 290 east to exit 17
- Take a left at the top of the ramp, at traffic lights (Route 9)
- At the second set of traffic lights, at the bottom of the hill, take a left onto Major Taylor Boulevard
- The hotel is on the right

**Distances:**

- Logan International Airport (Boston) - 50 miles east,
- TF Green Airport (RI) - 49 miles south-east,
- Bradley International Airport - 71 miles west,
- Manchester (NH) Airport – 77 miles north

*(Off-site parking for people who wish to trailer their rides to the convention will be available for the trailers).*

**Additional Activities during the week:**

- **Self-guided tours to afford you the opportunity to explore New England's beautiful countryside**
- **Thursday motorcycle ride to Foxwoods Casino in Uncus, CT**
  - **Thursday Early Arrival Bar-B-Que\***
- **Friday Bus Tour of the Freedom Trail in Boston\***
- **The host hotel has a Friday evening comedy club for evening entertainment\***
- **Saturday Afternoon Red Knights Memorial Dedication**

*\*Denotes activities with an extra costs above registration fee.*

Join us Thursday evening for a special ceremony in remembrance of our brothers who were lost on December 3, 1999 at the site of the Worcester Cold Storage Building fire.

*Details will be on the registration form.*

Registration forms will be made available online in January and will be included in Spring newsletter. At that time checks should be made payable in US funds to:  
**Red Knights Motorcycle Club – Mass Chapter 1**

**Paypal will be available via  
25thanniv@redknightsmc.com**

***If you send money via Pay Pal also follow up your registration by mailing a hard copy of the registration.***

Registration inquiries should be made to Robert Laford, registration chairman: Phone (between 6-9:00 PM Eastern): (978) 724-3270 or E-Mail: [rflaford@tiac.net](mailto:rflaford@tiac.net)

**Check the Red Knights International Website for updated convention information.**

*Early-bird registration will be open for a limited time on Wednesday evening for those who plan to arrive before Thursday.*

*Information on the available unguided tours will be available at the host hotel early in the week for early arrivals who wish to adventure into the New England Region.*

**A look at the past 25 years...  
through the lens of our members!**

It's been quite a trip over the last 25 years! Do you have photos that you think would make a great addition to a Red Knights' "historic" slide show?

Please transform any images to a digital format (JPG on a CD please) and forward them to our Editor, Bob Laford at 276 West Road, Petersham, MA 01366

Please do not email large files to Bob as the woods of Petersham

# Red Knights Motorcycle Club

P.O. Box 784  
Petersham, MA 01366  
USA

www.redknightsmc.com

Look inside for information on the Conventions in New York City and Worcester, Mass,  
Americade in Lake George, happenings around the chapters, and much, much more!

## **Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club® Inc. Office of the Executive Treasurer** **Reminder to all Chapter Presidents International Membership Dues**

Membership dues payable to the International run from January 1st till December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

A grace period for payment is granted from January 1<sup>st</sup> till March 31<sup>st</sup>.

After that date dues are subject to a \$50.00 late payment fee.

### There are eight classifications of membership:

1. Charter Member – An active member that has joined a chapter within one year of the chapter being chartered. See Section 4:08
2. Active Member – Is available to anyone who has been a member of the fire service, See Section 4:04
3. Associate Member – A person who has never been in the fire service. See section 4:05
4. Social member – The spouse, boyfriend (1) Girlfriend (1) offspring's of an Active or Associate member or member-at-Large. See Section 4:06
5. Special Honorary Member – Granted to a person of a recognized religion for the position of chapter chaplain. See Section 4:07
6. Member-at-Large – Person's who qualify for Active membership but are too far removed from any established chapter to join. See Section 's 2:01 & 2:01A
7. Life membership – See Section 2:01
8. Compassionate Honorary Member – See Section 2:01

(8)  
Dues for new members joining a chapter shall be \$8.00 per member in their first year of membership and will be prorated at the rate of 25% reduction in the third quarter and 50% reduction in the fourth quarter.

### **2007 Dues Rates:**

- Active or Associate Member \$7.00 each
- Social or Honorary Member \$4.00 each
- Compassionate Honorary Member no charge
- New member any classification \$8.00

Dues for chapters are to be sent in U.S. funds to the International Treasurer: Please be sure to include a current membership roster which has the members Name, Address, Zip or postal code, Phone number including area code, and Email address if they have one. And lastly their membership status Active, Associate, Social, Honorary, Life or Compassionate Honorary.

### ***2007 Convention Booklet***

The 2007 Anniversary Convention Committee will be mailing information on the Convention Program Booklet to each chapter in the near future. Information about the booklet and the supporting ads will also be made available in the Spring newsletter.

We encourage chapters and members to support the host chapter for 2007 and become a participating member of the convention by buying an ad in support of the convention.