

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club

Summer 2009



I traveled this year which is always fun. Other than the usual International Board meetings I rode up to the Dixie conference in May. The boys know how to host a rally in North Carolina. Weather conditions were in our favor most of the time. We had lunch on the Battle Ship North Carolina before we went on a guided tour of the ship. Then in June I went to Americade. We had a nice turn out there. Last year we had our supper in the Caldwell Presbyterian Church because the fire station was being replaced. This year we got to see how much the City cares about their firefighters. What a beautiful station. The New York State Association did a traffic job hosting this event. John Rucinski and the committee of volunteers are very kind to host this dinner for us every year. Thank you all for being there for us. There is another event going on at the same time. The Roaring Brook dinner. John Rucinski was the master of ceremonies at this event. In the past the Red Knights co-hosted this event. This year we were on our own. The Massachusetts Chapters 1 and 2 members never let us down. They did their magic gathering items to give to guest attending the dinner. The volunteered time Massachusetts Chapters 1 and 2 members donate to help run the events in town is enormous. The chalk board at the big house is where you get your marching orders. Their day starts at 6 A. M. everyday. Now that's dedication.

We are going to have an interesting convention this year. Stay informed, stay focused and let's press on.

See you in August. Ride Safe Jack

www.redknightsmc.com

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Newsletter Editor

QUARtermasters BACK IN SERVICE

The quartermasters office is up and running smoothly at this time. We did have a few speed bumps and we have tried to deal with them in a timely manner. We appreciate all of your patience and will now try to stay ahead of the curve.

We are trying to get the orders out the same day as we receive them.....except for the special orders of state bottom rockers and the “in memory of” rockers as they have to be made to order. They usually take 4 to 6 weeks.

The International Catalogue on the web site has pictures of most of the items we carry for the club. If you have any questions we can be reached at **802 843 1065** from 8am to 10pm eastern time.

We have a few Denim Jackets left we will offer at a reduced price of \$ 75 (USD) as we will no longer be carrying them. There are limited numbers and sizes so first come first served. We will take orders and money at the convention and we will ship them as soon as we get back. You will have until Sept. 15th if there are any left when we return.

The Catalogue also has pictures of the new International T shirts. They are \$ 20 and come in sizes from L to 2XL and in Black, dark Blue and a Charcoal gray. These are in stock and can be ordered in any quantity through your club. Or individually if you are a MAL.

We also have new rockers for the shoulder Maltese cross (4”) that are for past and present chapter office these are also on the website.

We have worked with Henry Heideman to get some new GRAND TOUR patches with rockers for the Grand Tours you are completing. I think that you will like the new patches as so many who do this have received a few pins and this will be something different.

We will have some items at the convention for sale.

We will bring some patches and the RKMC rings in all sizes, earrings, Mylar discs and the HEAVEN 1 patches.

MEMBERS – AT – LARGE

The Members and Executive Board would like to welcome the fifty plus new Members – at – Large to the Red Knights that have joined since last years Convention in Ohio. We hope you enjoy the fellowship of all the other members who you will meet a various Red Knights rides, events and conventions. You are a part of a growing list of Members – at – Large who have been accepted in one of the fastest growing motorcycle club. The 2009 International Convention will be in Florida and we are all looking forward to meeting our new M-A-L's. Check out the details of the Convention on the International Web-Site. There is still time to register. Hope to see you there.

I would like to thank all the M-A-L's for getting your dues sent in a timely manner. Also to the several members who responded to the reminder letter. If for some silly reason, you didn't receive a reminder, it's not too late to renew. Follow the instructions on our Web-Site, fill out the application and mail it in to the address on the form. There are about ½ dozen members who moved and didn't leave a forwarding address, phone number or E-Mail. We didn't forget you, we just lost you. Please send in your renewal.

At every Convention, it's good to see a representation of M-A-L's. We will have a short meeting on Friday evening of the Convention to answer questions, problem solve and elect a representative for voting at the Annual Meeting. I will also be attending the Red Helmet ride this year so if I don't see you at the Convention, maybe in Maryland. Ride Safe.

Dick Morse—International Vice President.

Central Region Report

The Central Region has been somewhat quiet . Though many chapters have ongoing events, these are regional events and have been distributed to their respective regions.

This year has been somewhat challenging in dealing with International problems and solving these issues for the betterment of the membership. I have submitted a more detailed report that will be published in the convention program this year and I won't get wordy with this report. I have attended all required meetings of the International board and as of now, plan on attending the convention in August.

The Central region continues to grow with many new chapters throughout the region.

I want to thank all the chapter's presidents for their involvement and input as I have requested several times. I feel this is the member's club and I will continue to be their voice at the International level.

I want to thank all who sent cards and emails during my rehab from my May motorcycle accident and I seem to be healing ok.

I still find many new and challenging issues ahead and I would like to continue my involvement . This is up to you since I am up for re-election and I ask for your support in 2009. I hope everyone has had a safe riding season and I look for to many more years of serving the membership.

Jeff Peters - Central Region Director

Eastern Canada

Well summer is here—if you can call it that. It has been extremely wet up here. Marybelle and I have just returned from a two week visit to the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island – a beautiful part of our country, but just like everywhere else, lots of rain. We were on the road for thirteen days and wore our rain gear for ten of them.

We did manage to visit with some of the members of all our chapters in the three provinces but just didn't have the time to get to Newfoundland or to stop in Quebec -- now I have an excuse for another trip. We also spent a day at Atlanicade, a new bike rally (in its third year) in Moncton NB and were quite impressed. It might be worth another visit in a couple of years.

The region is doing well. All of the chapters are busy with their ride schedules, fund raisers and other activities. We have seen about a 15% growth over the last year and are working toward more chapters in all provinces. I would also like to see a Provincial Association in two more provinces, then a Regional Association. Perhaps in a couple of years we can invite you all to join us for our first Eastern Canada Rally. The Ontario Association is holding its third annual convention on the weekend of July 17, 18 and 19 in Hamilton and we are looking forward to another fun rally. Red Knights from neighboring states and provinces were invited and it will be interesting to meet them if they come.

We here in Eastern Canada wish you all a safe and fun summer and hope to see you at the Convention in Ft. Lauderdale in August.

RIDE SAFE

Henry Heideman—Eastern Canada Director

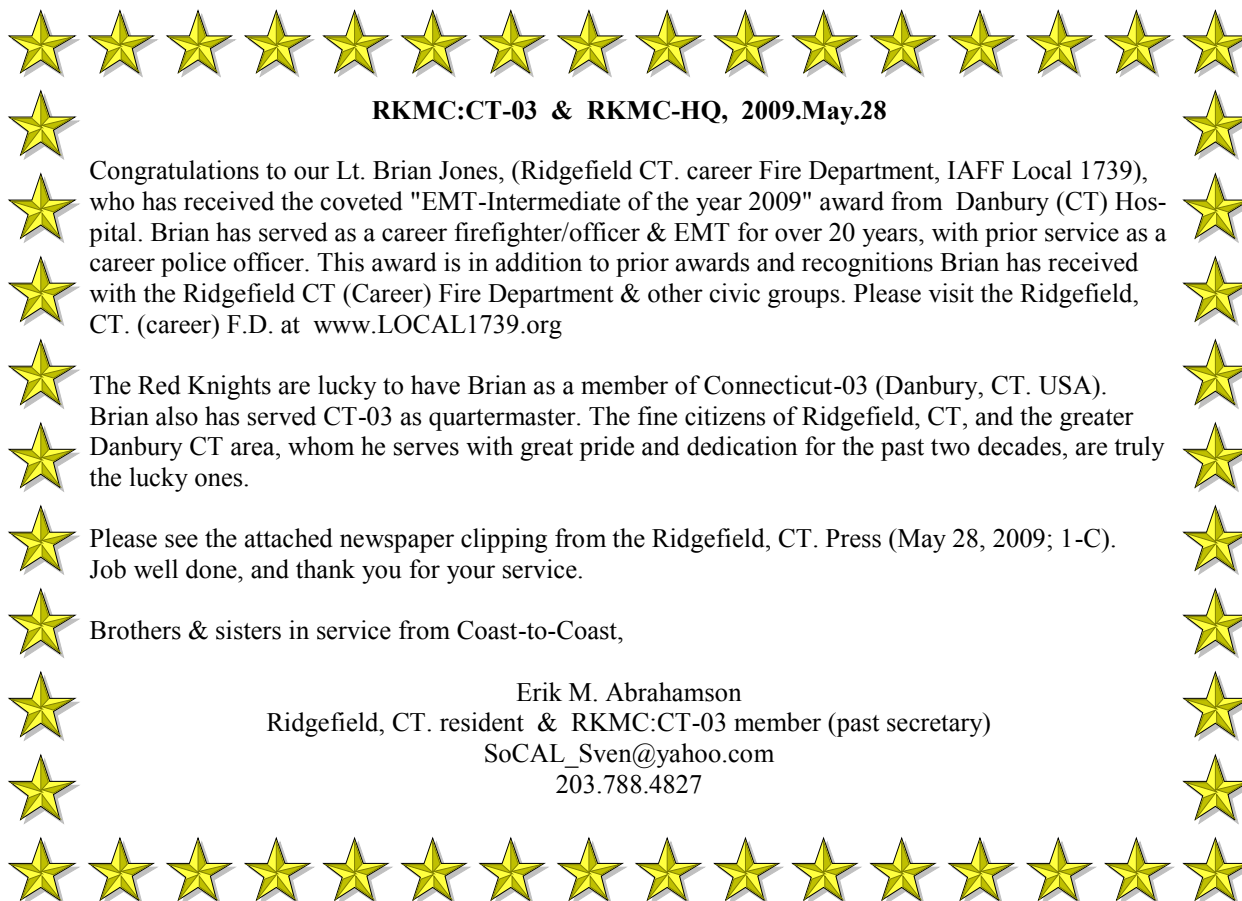
TRADEMARKS

Any item that has the following on it MUST have a trademark license agreement. A chapter business trademark license agreement allows the use of name/logo on web site, business cards, letterheads, checks, address labels, newsletters, awards, chapter applications and flyers (to promote the chapter only) to conduct chapter business only.

All merchandise that has the follow must also have the register mark behind the name (©)

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club
Red Knights Motorcycle Club
Red Knights
RKMC
Our logo

No member of the Red knights International Firefighters Motorcycle may approach a vendor to make any item without first having an approved trademark for the item. Each chapter must have an approved trademark license agreement for "Chapter Business" before a trademark for an item will be approved.



RKMC:CT-03 & RKMC-HQ, 2009.May.28

Congratulations to our Lt. Brian Jones, (Ridgefield CT. career Fire Department, IAFF Local 1739), who has received the coveted "EMT-Intermediate of the year 2009" award from Danbury (CT) Hospital. Brian has served as a career firefighter/officer & EMT for over 20 years, with prior service as a career police officer. This award is in addition to prior awards and recognitions Brian has received with the Ridgefield CT (Career) Fire Department & other civic groups. Please visit the Ridgefield, CT. (career) F.D. at www.LOCAL1739.org

The Red Knights are lucky to have Brian as a member of Connecticut-03 (Danbury, CT. USA). Brian also has served CT-03 as quartermaster. The fine citizens of Ridgefield, CT, and the greater Danbury CT area, whom he serves with great pride and dedication for the past two decades, are truly the lucky ones.

Please see the attached newspaper clipping from the Ridgefield, CT. Press (May 28, 2009; 1-C). Job well done, and thank you for your service.

Brothers & sisters in service from Coast-to-Coast,

Erik M. Abrahamson
Ridgefield, CT. resident & RKMC:CT-03 member (past secretary)
SoCAL_Sven@yahoo.com
203.788.4827

NEW CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce the Charter for WV Chapter 7 issued April 29, 2009. Our Club email is redknightsmcwv7@gmail.com. We are growing much faster than we ever expected. Since the original 7 members at the end of April our numbers as of this Saturday will be 17



The members of Massachusetts Chapter 2 of the Red Knights recently kicked off their riding season with a safety briefing with assistance from the UMass Transit Services.

Members of the riding club gathered at the transportation facility in Amherst to discuss the challenges a large vehicle operator — like that of a bus or truck — face in respect to their blind spots. The Red Knights placed their motorcycles around one of the PVTa buses and were afforded the opportunity to see what the vehicle operator sees from the driver's seat.

Many of the motorcycles positioned around the bus are invisible to the bus driver. The riders discussed measures that they can take to be more visible to other drivers and how to best operate around large vehicles in traffic.



Americade parade



**Don Parker and Jack Downs at the Americade
Good friends and Good times**

Largest motorcycle Poker run

On 18 April 2009, the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club achieved a Guinness World Records™ record for organizing the **largest motorcycle poker run taking place in multiple venues simultaneously**.

A Poker run (also known as a Poker Derby), is an organized event using a motorcycle, boat, car or other form of transportation where participants travel over a predesignated route and, at designated stops on the route, draw playing card(s). The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the run.

With the participation of 2,136 motorcycles across nine US states in 22 different venues, this event became the largest motorcycle poker run ever organized. Proceeds from the day were to benefit the Fallen Firefighter Survivors Foundation (FFSF).

Sherri Lang, representing the Fallen Firefighter Survivors Foundation, and Matt Nichols, representing the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club, received the certification.



ROADBIKE Magazine <http://www.roadbikemag.com> featured the RKMC in their "Club Corner" in the August 2009 edition of their publication... and it even has a picture of Massachusetts Red Knights in it from a Grand Tour on Cape Cod last year!

Here's the column: <http://www.rk-mass2.org/RoadBike.pdf>

Grand Tour

As many of you already know, we have made some changes to the GRAND TOUR program. After numerous inquiries as to why we did not have a separate pin for each of the four rides available, it was decided that we would offer a three inch patch (of the same design as the pin) with a rocker for each of the rides. A database will be kept to track who has completed the rides and when a member has completed all four rides he/she will also be awarded a pin. When you have completed your visits to the required Fire Stations simply fill out the application form and return it with your pictures to the G.T. chairperson and he will send you your certificate and patch and rocker (or just the rocker if you already have a patch). When a member has earned all four rockers, he/she will be issued a pin as well. If you are riding as a group, you need only send one application form with the names of the participants attached. Photo albums will be kept displaying pictures of everyone who has completed the Grand Tour and will be available at all future conventions. You may also send your application and photos electronically and we will show your pictures as a slide show at future conventions.

The new program seems to be catching on as a couple of chapters have already indicated that they want to try to do all four rides in one season.

Happy and SAFE riding. Hope to see your pictures soon.



Members of NY 22, who were the first to receive the new patch, on their Fire House Ride

June 11, 2009

It is my sad duty to report the death of Retired Fire Sergeant, Brother Anthony Maddox, Vice President of Red Knights Alabama Chapter 3.

Reportedly Brother Maddox was riding his motorcycle today when he began experiencing chest pains and he rode to the Regional ER where he suffered a massive MI and died.

RIP Brother Anthony

**Ron McCary,
President
AL RKMC 3**

Bob Chalmers

Funeral held on Sunday July 12 at 3:00 P.M.
The First Presbyterian Church located at 105 Street and 100 Avenue. .

The Red Knights will be escorting Bob

Thank you
Brian Hoekstra
President Alberta 1 RKMC



MEDIVAC SERVICES FOR RED KNIGHTS

Company Profile

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

Background

In 1983 Captain Jeff Tolbert, President and CEO of AirMed International, was the first in the U.S. to operate civilian jet aircraft equipped exclusively for medical transportation and also operated the first civilian aircraft equipped with medical liquid oxygen system. Tolbert pioneered the concept of offering air ambulance membership coverage to U.S. citizens and corporations after a client suffered financial hardship paying for his son's evacuation from Afghanistan. In 1987 Alabama native Tolbert founded Birmingham based company, MEDJet. In 1993, the company split into two distinct companies, MEDjet Assistance and MEDjet International, with Tolbert at the helm of the latter. In an effort to alleviate confusion and to better serve our customers, the company was renamed AirMed International in 2003. Based on Tolbert's vision of owning and operating all aspects of an air ambulance company, rather than contracting with other providers, AirMed quickly grew to become the country's premier air ambulance service.

Services

AirMed operates two distinct lines of business: fee-for-service and a prepaid membership program called AirMed Traveler (AMT). Both products, available to individuals and groups, provide air ambulance service to travelers anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day throughout the year, who are hospitalized more than 150 miles from home. AMT membership coverage uniquely brings patients to a hospital of their choice, not to the "nearest appropriate facility" as is the case of most travel insurance programs, health plans and premium card services.

AirMed coordinates bedside-to-bedside transportation. The medical team assumes medical care at the releasing hospital, continues appropriate medical care to the aircraft via ground transportation and during flight, and admits the patient to the receiving hospital.

AirMed Traveler members pay an annual fee that provides a maximum of two evacuations per year. There are no financial limitations, no medical necessity requirements, and no out-of-pocket costs that are common with other programs. Members do not make co-payments, nor pay deductibles.

For more information and a special rate for members of the Red Knights contact:

www.airmed.com.