



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — January 2013

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

Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's Desk

Happy New Year everyone!

In this month's Roadrunner Magazine there is an article written from the motorcycle's perspective. The entire article were the two motorcycles talking to each other over the course of their ride. One was complaining that they were sitting in the rain while the riders warmed up inside a restaurant, and the other responded that at least his partner had a shaft-drive while he was chained and would need some additional care after the ride.

So that got me thinking about what our rides are contemplating now. *"Here I am again in the dark shed – cold and lonely. I hate this time of year."* Of course if you could hear Cliff's bike, stored in Ashby, she is probably thinking, *"Sure, he's off in Florida with HER – that sporty little cruiser. But I can do so much more for him!"* And I hope that my bike doesn't know that we are planning to rent a bike when Diona and I are out west this spring – you know, what happens in Vegas STAYS in Vegas!

Hopefully none of our bikes are thinking, *"Oh, I wish he (or she) had spent some time getting me ready for winter. I can feel my carbs varnishing as I sit here!"* Or, *"I feel so drowsy, I have no energy, I wish I had that little trickle to keep me excited for spring!"*

Ah spring, it is not that far away and as we are thinking of the next riding season, so are our bikes. *"I can feel the sun heating up my storage space once in a while. It won't be long before I get rolled out and started up again. A good wash and wax would be nice as I am checked over stem to stern. But I am always a little stiff after sitting so long. Takes me a bit to feel back in the groove. But my rider is in a similar situation where he has some rust on him too, so we both need to start out slow and get back into shape together for 2013."*

What does your bike think about your riding and care? When the warm weather returns, take some time to re-familiarize yourself with your bike with some routine maintenance on the bike, and some routine maintenance on your skills.

Rider education is something we all can use to better hone up our skills for our time on the road and help our bikes be pleased with us. Consider taking part in an MSF course to help you become a better rider. Personally, I have taken the Experienced Course twice. The first time gave me much more confidence and enjoyment out riding because of the skills learned. The second time, the course helped me to identify those bad habits that had crept into my riding and helped me to focus and fine-tune those skills. I can guarantee that if I take the class again, I will learn more — just as if you take an MSF course your riding will improve, no matter how long you have been riding.

2013 is our 30th Anniversary as a chapter. Speaking to our charter members they all say it is hard to believe that three decades have passed. We had a picture board up at the Christmas Party with early pictures of the club. Lots of smiles, and lots of miles in those first few years. Those early leaders helped to set our road map on what we do and how we do it. Because of all our active members and the work of our leadership team we are able to continue those smiles and miles year after year.

The officers are working on that road map for 2013 and we will have the ride schedule published and available at our Winter Pot-Luck in February. Please come out and join us. Your bike will think great things about you if you get out and ride. Come join us so that your smile is part of the 2013 miles that we put on over the next twelve months.

Happy New Year!

Mass Chapter 2 Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Education Scholarship

The chapter is again providing MSF Rider Scholarships for 2013. We will be giving out two basic rider course scholarships that are available to anyone and two experienced rider course scholarships that are available to our members.

Deadline for submission is **February 1, 2013** and the scholarships will be awarded in March. An application for the scholarship is enclosed and they are also available on the webpage.

Please share the scholarship info with someone who would benefit from the training program.

Please help us get the word out about the Red Knights and our scholarship program by posting the scholarship flyer at your local fire department and your favorite local bike shop!

Our chapter has been involved with the MSF courses since 2004, proudly assisting 42 riders improve their skills through the MSF Scholarships that we have awarded over the last nine years!

Through the generosity of our members we were able to make a number of donations to causes and individuals who were in need of our support in the last year totaling \$1,305. Included in these were:

- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- Central Mass Safety Council
- Crohn's Colitis Foundation
- DCF Children and Family Fund
- Gift Cards/Donations for fire victims
- Greg Butler/Ashley Jackson Fund
- Little Will Donation
- National Fallen Firefighter Foundation
- NEADS
- Norris Cotton Cancer Center
- Pauls' Ride
- Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
- Sherry's House
- VNA Care Hospice
- World Vision

(\$325 worth of gift cards were brought to our Christmas party to be donated to Sherry's House! - Thank you!)

Looking over the past five years, our Treasurer's reports show that we have donated over \$7,000. (And that does not include the individual fundraising and donations we do for the Ride for Kids or Sherry's House).

That's impressive!

On the road with our friends...

- We had twelve members come out for a (Pre-hurricane Sandy) ride in late October. With a stop at the Black Forest Bakery for sweets on the way, we rode to Manchester, NH to visit the recently dedicated "Gold Star Mothers" monument.



We all know moms who are "Blue Star" moms who have had sons and daughters serve in the military. This monument is dedicated to those moms who have lost a child serving in the armed forces. Our members voted to buy a brick to be placed at the memorial to support the project.

- The mid 40's on our Polar Bear Ride actually drew out a lot of riders... 16 bikes and 22 Red Knights joined us for a hundred mile day with a stop at the Molly Stark Tavern in New Boston for lunch.
- We had 22 people come out for our breakfast club in November. It was 24 degrees at my house — but we still had four couples arrive on their bikes to join us!
- Eight members gathered for our December breakfast club. We went to KC's in Rutland for nice big omelets! When we walked in the waitress said, "didn't you all come here one day for lunch on motorcycles?" Oh, oh, we made a lasting impression!

**NON SEQUITUR
BY WILEY**



Winter Potluck

- Sunday, February 3
- Westminster American Legion
- 1:00 p.m.

Plan to bring some food to share and stories to tell, and we will have a grand time as always!

We will have the **ride schedule for 2013** printed and ready for distribution – so don't miss it!

The Legion is at
127 Main Street
(Route 2A)
Westminster

Membership news...

Our condolences to Lori and Rick Oliver on the passing of Lori's Grandmother.

Welcome to new members Doug Dupell, retired from the Erving FD, and to Barbara and Paul Duffell. Barbara was a long time member of the New Salem FD, and Paul is a native to Australia... so we need to plan a road trip with them as our tour guides!

Congratulations to Kevin Martin on his new position with the Nashoba Hospital.

The chapter keeps a database of rider emergency information (contacts, insurance company, etc.) for the officers to have on hand during the riding season. If any of your information has changed, please use the form included with this newsletter to update the information for 2013. Thanks.

2013 RK-Mass2 Fire Tower Quest



Join in for the search for Fire Towers during your journeys in 2013. Our chapter members can all participate in the search for fire towers around New England (and beyond) and earn a Red Knights Fire Tower Quest pin.

Out riding by yourself? Riding with a few buddies or with the group? See a fire tower?

Stop and get a picture with you and/or your bike with the fire tower and document the *when and where* on the official Quest application and you can be one of the Red Knights to receive this pin at the 2013 Christmas Party. (*The Quest "ap" will be available soon*).

Over the course of the 2013 riding season you must visit and document six fire towers to receive the pin.

Thanks to Marcia Marjomaa for this fun idea!

**Wounds heal, glory fades,
And all we're left with are the
memories made.**

Chris Cagle

In the past five years of record keeping, Mass-2 has posted 743,938 collective miles on our bikes! 2012 contributed 163,892 miles to that total.

If you have not gotten your end '12/ beginning '13 mileage in, drop Kevin Martin an email or call so he can log you in to this year's "race for the mileage." For 2012 our top three mileage getters were Armand Guilmette, Bob Laford, and Maury Lizotte, with 19,412, 18,515, and 16,504 miles respectively.

In 2012 we had 44 chapter events on our calendar. Over the course of the year we had an average attendance of over 15 per ride. The Christmas party was our most attended events with 41 members in attendance, Americade week was second with 32 RK members visiting Lake George. Our "lightest" attendance was five for the Spring Weekend in the Berkshires.

In Phil Jordan's remarks at the Christmas party he stated that, "The first 30 years of Mass Chapter 2 has taken us around North America visiting many places with many stories. What will it be in the next 30 years? Time will tell. My deep appreciation to all those who have carried the torch with high respect of who we are and for what we represent as firefighters. A safe and enjoyable journey to each and every one of you."

A friend of mine sent me a book "Motorcycle Therapy" about two Canadian riding buddies who left the north country to ride to Central America. It was a fun book to read, but one passage at the beginning made me laugh enough that I wanted to share:

It was very hot and I wore jeans and a t-shirt on the ride through South Dakota, and for the first time in my life I didn't wear a helmet. The wind sucked the moisture from my eyes and pinned my hair back exposing my pale forehead to the sun like an egg in an incubator. I fail to understand the affinity that dogs have for sticking their heads out of moving vehicles.

Trevor and I rode side by side. As I looked over at him to give him a "thumbs up," the wind ripped off the \$100 sun glasses from my face. The glasses fluttered through the air, landing perfectly in the wheel rut of an approaching vehicle. I put my helmet back on at the next stop.



Kevin Martin was the 2012 recipient of the President's Citation of Merit for all his efforts on behalf of the chapter.



Could the dolphins have replaced the Red Knights on Caitlin's "favorite critters" list??

At the chapter's 25th year in 2008 the Charter Members were recognized for their 25 years of membership and their work as chapter founders by receiving "Life Membership" status with the Red Knights.



Since that time, the chapter has recognized members who attain 25 years of membership with a presentation. At this year's Christmas party, Linda Stacy was recognized for her 25 years of chapter membership.

Our **Breakfast Clubs** are up and running each month! **Every third Saturday** from November through April we will gather for breakfast and fellowship. Meet at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 9:00 a.m. and we will discover a different breakfast haunt for each month.

January 19, February 16,
March 16, and April 20



At our November breakfast at Michael's in Lancaster, the curse was broken. Don was the first Red Knight to be served his breakfast!

You cannot swing a Mustang Seat without hitting a Red Knight.

Mustang seat put out the word that they needed a 2012 Goldwing to be the model for a new seat.

Maury sent in pictures of his new bike and came in second. But with second place came a factory tour for a small number of Red Knights (complete with a demo stamping of our RK vests with the Mustang Logo).

During the tour we also learned that the person whose bike was chosen was our own Armand Guilmette!



Winter Bike Shows for 2013

We looked into a Bus Trip into New York City to attend the International Motorcycle Show and found it would be \$60-\$80 per person, so we are passing on that idea as a chapter. But RK Connecticut-2 has had a bus trip each year and their details are available in case anyone would like to go to New York with our neighbors to the south. (Contact Bob L.)

The Javits Center hosts one of the largest motorcycle shows in the country! January 18-20
<http://www.motorcycleshows.com/>

The Springfield Motorcycle Show is also the same weekend—and it is the weekend that we have our January Breakfast Club. So if you would like to go to a show this winter, I bet we can come up with a caravan after the January Breakfast down to the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield!

<http://www.osegmotorcycle.com/>

Other 2013 Show dates and locations are:

Boston, MA - January 12-13

Salem, NH - January 26-27

Wilmington, MA - March 9-10

Check out www.kevmarv.com for more information

Have you thought about the 2013 convention yet?? Here is info straight from the convention chairman!

The 2013 Convention is brought to you by the Vermont State Association. We are made up of 5 Chapters, from Essex Junction to Brattleboro, Ferrisburg to Wells River and in our host city of Rutland.

Rutland is located right in the heart of Vermont, the Green Mountains, Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River Valley are only a short ride away. We have multiple self guided rides planned along with an escorted ride to Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Tour and a ride to the Vermont Teddy Bear Factory.

2013 Convention Website-www.rutlandvermont.com/2013.htm

Please feel free and contact me via e-mail any questions regarding the 2013 Convention.

Best Regards,

Michael Chamberlin

2013 Convention Committee Co-Chair — 2004HDRKC@gmail.com

603-313-9579 Cell — 603-256-8579 Home

A copy of the Convention Registration Form is included with this newsletter. Visit the International web page for updated details about the convention.

At our Annual Business Meeting we voted a donation to assist with the up-keep and maintenance of our Red Knights Memorial in Boylston. We received the below note from International Treasurer Leo Patry:

On behalf of our membership and the International Executive Board please accept a very sincere thank you for the donation that your chapter has made to our memorial site in Boylston Massachusetts.

This site is a place that all our members can take pride in having had it constructed and maintained in honor of our members, friends and love ones that have passed on from our Organization.

Thank you again for your help. Take care and ride safely

Leo

A truck driver's perspective

In an email received from the Region GWRRA they shared an article with some personal advice on big rigs and motorcycle safety. In short, the article said to spend as little time as possible near T-T units on the road. Don't sit in their blind spots, and get by them as quickly as possible when passing.

After the article appeared, they received a response from a fellow rider who also drives T-T units for a living and passed along his insight in regards to motorcycles riding around and passing his rig. That email is below.

I have been a big rigger for the past 30 years and here are some of my thoughts on truck/motorcycle interaction:

We would like you to get by us ASAP! We worry about the air behind and to the side of us effecting you as you go by, more than anything else. Being a rider also I feel the pain as bikers go by. The junk blowing from under me can be very harsh. I try to keep a steady speed so as to give riders a benchmark for speed while passing. Most truck drivers are pros and WE DO CARE about everyone around us.

When motorcycles travel in groups I would suggest that when passing (a rig) make sure the entire group has enough room ahead of the truck to form up again after the pass. The worse case I had was when a group took five-plus miles to pass me by ones and twos. Since I can see far ahead of them I saw they were running out of room and I had to back down my speed so they could safely get by. That also slowed down everyone in my lane.

So I guess the best answer -- if riding in a big group -- break up into smaller numbers -- and make plans to catch up later to the others.

Trucks have to keep speed up (for hills and such). 70-90,000 pounds of truck & trailer weight is a lot to slow down and speed up. Rigs are mostly 55 to 70 feet long. If the bike is doing the speed limit already he will have to outpace for quite a while to pass me in my rig.

While going x-country years ago on my bike I was on a very long bridge about 1/2 mile behind a rig when I saw something flying across the road in front on me-- yep it was one of his rear tires. Most truck tires are recaps that shred from the rim when they fail. I did have time to avoid the mess but I did think about the trouble I would have been in if I had been passing him.

So no matter if you're riding your motorcycle or driving a big rig there are challenges we all face attempting to keep safe on the road. Looking out for each other is very important to all our safety!



Congratulations to Kevin Martin on the recognition he received when he stepped down as 2-C-3 with the Ashburnham FD after 20 years of service!

Ho Ho Ho...

What a GREAT Christmas party we had in December. There were over 40 Red Knights in attendance and we used the day to kick off our year-long 30th anniversary celebration with displays of pictures from 2013 and 1983/84. It was fun to look at all the pictures from rides past.

During the program (prior to our wonderful meal at the Glen Caffe) President Bob Laford recognized the Charter members present as well as the current slate of officers serving on the Executive Board.

There were a lot of laughs and stories during the social time of the afternoon, and the laughs continued during the Yankee Swap portion of the day. The ceramic firefighter holding two shot glasses, the RK marquee clad "red solo cup crystal," and the Blueberry Ale all seemed to move around the room as the presents were opened.

Our chapter's first president, Phil Jordan took to the floor to speak about the founding of the chapter. It all started when he read an article about the newly formed RK chapter in Connecticut—but he soon learned that the founding chapter was actually in Massachusetts. The local enthusiasm that he discovered led to the founding of the third Red Knights Chapter, Massachusetts 2 — now the 2nd oldest chapter in existence.

The first meeting of Mass-2 took place in October 1983 with 20 members, and the growth and the fun the chapter has found has never stopped.

That showed in this year's Christmas party in Winchendon with all the smiling faces and full tummies.



Red Knights Motorcycle Club – Massachusetts Chapter 2
Motorcycle Safety Foundation – Rider Education Scholarship
www.rk-mass2.org

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FOR
2013 RKMA2/MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COURSE SCHOLARSHIP

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

HOW (WHO) DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE RED KNIGHTS SCHOLARSHIP?

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A MOTORCYCLE CLUB (Name)? _____ **ARE YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER A FIREFIGHTER? (DEPT?)** _____

WHY DO YOU WANT TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR EXPERIENCED RIDER

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RIDING A MOTORCYCLE? _____

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE RED KNIGHTS? _____

If you have any questions call or email any one of the committee members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Bob Shakarian, chairman | sharkey625@aol.com or (978) 807-0817 |
| Don Hurme | dsh98@hotmail.com or (978) 597-0701 |
| Maury Lizotte | lizotteme@comcast.net (978) 609-0267 |
| Marcia Marjomaa | marjomaame@comcast.net or (978) 302-8052 |

Please send your application to:
Red Knights Motorcycle Club – Mass-2
P.O. Box 316
Westminster, MA 01473
Attn: MSF Scholarship

If you are under 18 include a parental consent letter with your application.

Have you always wanted to learn how to ride a motorcycle or learn how to ride your motorcycle better?

The RKMC-MA2 will award
TWO (2) BEGINNER COURSE SCHOLARSHIPS AND TWO (2) EXPERIENCED COURSE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2013*

- COURSES TO BE TAKEN AT THE CENTRAL MASS SAFETY COUNCIL (186 West Boylston St., West Boylston, Ma.) Information on class schedules and directions will be provided to the awardees
- THE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED ON MARCH 1, 2013

BEGINNER COURSE ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Submit application before due date of February 1, 2013.
- 2) Members of the RK Chapter and their family members will be given first priority for the scholarship.
- 3) Members of the fire service, their families, and applicants recommended by a Red Knights member will be second priority.
- 4) Applicant shall hold a valid Mass. Motorcycle License OR Learner's Permit
- 5) Applicant shall fill out a parental consent form if under the age of 18.
- 6) Awardees shall write a brief post course evaluation and send it to the RKMA2/ MSC committee within two-weeks of completing the rider education course.

EXPERIENCED COURSE ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Be a member of RK MASS-2
- 2) Fill out application form and send it to a member of the RKMA2/MSC Scholarship committee before February 1, 2013.
- 3) Awardees shall write a brief post course evaluation and send it to the RKMA2/ MSC committee within two-weeks of completing the rider education course.

Experienced Rider Course is awarded based on

- 1) How long the applicant has been a member of RKMA2
- 2) How long the applicant has been riding a motorcycle

*The beginner course scholarships are available to anyone. The Experienced Rider scholarships are available to members of the Chapter only.

The scholarship recipient must make arrangements with the Central Mass Safety Council by June 1, 2013 to take the course during the 2013 riding season. Failure to schedule a training date will forfeit the scholarship award. If you do not show for your scheduled training date you forfeit the scholarship and must reimburse the Red Knights Mass Chapter 2 for the cost of the program. By applying for the scholarship you agree to the terms and the conditions listed here.

This award will be granted based on the applicant's willingness and desire to take the course to better their riding skills and is on a voluntary basis. This award is not designed to be an indictment of a rider's skills or as a prerequisite to riding with the group.



RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONVENTION

Rutland, Vermont
August 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2013
Hosted by: Vermont State Association



REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print Legibly

RIDER: Last _____ First _____

PASSENGER: Last _____ First _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROV/COUNTRY _____

POSTAL CODE _____ CHAPTER / MAL _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

Check here, if needing transportation from Rutland, Vermont Airport.

Registration of \$65.00 (U. S. Funds) per person includes:

- Registration, Convention Program, Convention Pin, Goody Bag,
- Door Prize Ticket, Hospitality Room, Thursday Evening BBQ,
- Saturday Evening Banquet Dinner with Entertainment,
- Sunday Morning Send-off Breakfast.

Convention ID lanyards must be worn for all events

(Lanyard ID cards include Convention Schedule on back of card.)

Registration: U. S. Funds \$65.00 per Person \$ _____

Pre-ordered Optional Convention Items from Page 2. \$ _____

Convention Tee Shirts and Ride are pre-order only on page 2!!

TOTAL U.S. FUNDS \$ _____

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!

Paid Registrations postmarked by March 31, 2013 will be entered in a drawing for (3) Free Hotel Nights during the Convention at the Rutland Holiday Inn

Please Make Check or Money Order payable to **RKMC 2013 Convention**

Print and Mail Registration Form with Payment to:

David Harrison

645 S. Lincoln Rd

Lincoln, VT 05443 USA

NOTE: Registrations Postmarked *after August 1st* including onsite registration DO NOT include meals.

For Questions, email VTrep@redknightsmc.com

For more information, visit <http://www.rutlandvermont.com/2013.htm>.



RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONVENTION

Rutland, Vermont
August 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2013
Hosted by: Vermont State Association



OPTIONAL CONVENTION ITEMS

PRE-ORDER FORM

(PAGE 2 OF Registration Form)

Convention Tee Shirts - Pre-Order Only

Quantity Size Small - - - - - Price Each \$15.00 - Total Price \$ _____

Quantity Size Medium - - - - - Price Each \$15.00 - Total Price \$ _____

Quantity Size Large - - - - - Price Each \$15.00 - Total Price \$ _____

Quantity Size Extra Large - - - - - Price Each \$15.00 - Total Price \$ _____

Quantity Size XX Large - - - - - Price Each \$18.00 - Total Price \$ _____

Quantity Size XXX Large - - - - - Price Each \$18.00 - Total Price \$ _____

Quantity Size XXXX Large - - - - - Price Each \$18.00 - Total Price \$ _____

Total Price for all Shirts Ordered \$ _____

Pre-Paid Ride & Tour

“Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream Tour” Number of Riders

Starts at: choose time 9:00am, or 10:00am Friday

(Includes Box Lunch) Price per Person \$20.00 \$ _____

Total of all Extras ordered \$ _____

Bring total to Page 1 of Registration form.

Free Ride Friday; see Convention Website for more information and Sign Up.

“Vermont Teddy Bear Factory Tour” on your own Lunch Stop included

Selfguided Rides

(See website to Sign Up)

- “Cabot Cheese Tour”
- “Covered Bridge Ride”
- “Revolutionary War Tour”
- “Waterfalls Ride”

For more information, visit <http://www.rutlandvermont.com/2013.htm>

Red Knights Mass-2 Emergency Assistance Information

Rider: Home Address:

Co-Rider: Town:

Telephone: Cell # Pager #

Road-side Service for Bike: #'s

Bike Insurance Company: #'s

Health Insurance Company Doctor
Dr's #

Emergency Contacts:

1 #'s

2 #'s

3 #'s

4 #'s

Do you have transportation for a sick bike available to others? **Y or N**

Are there any pertinent medical conditions that you would like us to know in case there is a problem? (cardiac, diabetes, etc.)

Return this form to: Bob Laford
276 West Road
Petersham, MA 01366