



From the
President's
Desk

Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Summer '04

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

Loyal to Our Duty



Hi Everyone,

Remember the winter? Here's a picture from our sledding party in Ashby if you forgot about the cold and snow! Boy, am I glad that those cold months have passed by and that we are head strong into our riding season!

What we do during the off-riding months helps pass the time with our friends, but nothing is like getting back on the bike for a ride. I heard that Steve's first ride of the season on his new Harley was February 29! I had scheduled some vacation in April – primarily thinking I would work around the house. When the time off arose, the weather was great. It was sunshine, blue skies and in the 60's, 70's, and 80's! I think I went through nearly six tanks of gas on the bike that week. Sometimes my rides were solo and sometimes with friends. And it never took much arm twisting for me to be convinced to ride or for me to do the convincing. A buddy at work had the week off before me and it rained all week. When I got back to work I asked him how his vacation was and he replied that because of the weather he didn't get any yard work done... I said, "me too!" It definitely feels wonderful to be back on the bike.

Joe Guarnera of our chapter has helped us organize and digitize our thoughts and we now have red "baseball" style jackets & "job shirts" available for the members. Early in the chapter's history we had a vendor out of Fitchburg that had worked with the club to have jackets available. We haven't done that for a long time, but with Joe's help jackets are again available and our new chapter logo is embroidered on them as well. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more info.

A big thank you is owed to Marty Eldridge for all her work with the 120 raffle again this year. And because of everyone who bought and sold tickets we had a successful raffle for 2004!

On another front, Donna Moreau and I met with Tim Cooney at the Central Mass Safety Council to talk about our club's MSF scholarship (thanks Walter). They have agreed to match our funds! That means we can give out two beginner courses and two experienced riders courses. Come to the BBQ and we can make the final decisions as a group on what the "program" should be.

We're into another great year — and it is that way because of each of you. Thank you all for the support that you give our chapter and the Red Knights.

Join us for our Summer Pot luck BBQ

This year's July BBQ is at Donna Moreau and Bob Sharkarian's in Leominster.



WHEN: Saturday, July 17

WHERE: 326 North Street, Leominster

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

Bring your smiles, your stories and some food. There will be grill space to share and plenty of fun to go around!

Let Donna know if you'll be coming and if you need directions. (978) 665-9805 or Donamore@aol.com

We will hold a brief business meeting at the BBQ to discuss the bylaw changes being proposed at the convention in Alberta, and also will review the proposal for our chapter's MSF scholarship program that the Scholarship Committee has been working on.

Mass-2 Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who bought and sold 120 Club Raffle Tickets this year and to our raffle chair person Marty Eldridge! This raffle was a success for our Club again this year because of everyone's help. The drawing was held on June 17 at our monthly ice cream ride.

Congratulations to all our winners:

Bob Addonizio, Jr., David Karras, Ron Pierce, Richard Hanks, JoanMarie Goodwin, Catherine Kibbie, Priscilla Curtis, Charlie Clarkson, Martha Gidney, Tabitha Solimini, Elaine Clements, Wally Holmes, Rick Connelly, Ann Shattuck, Dave Emery, Bob Laford, Lori Hembrow, Wayne Stacy, Chrissy Scanzani, Dick Kilhart, Ed Matthews, Gerry Baldini, Pat Naughton, Phyllis Bigwood, and Steve Mickle

At the October business meeting of our chapter, the officer positions of Vice-president, Treasurer, and Road Captain will be up for election/re-election. Any active member interested in running for the posts should contact chapter secretary Steve Mickle.

Our condolences go out to Linda and Wayne Stacy on the passing of Linda's Dad earlier this spring and to Bill Curtis on the passing of his mom just recently.

Together with our Friends!

- Our **Breakfast Rides** are over for the summer but will start up again on Saturday, October 16 for the cold weather months. We gathered right through April 17 and had a good turn out, good food, and great friends even when it was very cold, and one Saturday when it was a bit icy! Hmm... I think we'll go back to that place that had the cream cheese-stuffed French Toast with raspberries on top!
- Each year a sure sign of spring is the *River Rat Race* down the Millers River from Athol to Orange. This year we were asked to lead the fire engine portion of the parade through downtown Athol. It was a little cool, but a lot of sunshine made for a big crowd of spectators. We had six bikes form up and lead the fire apparatus that morning — then we headed off for a bit of coffee and something to eat (of course)!
- On a recent Saturday a couple of us made it to the Mass-12 Scavenger Hunt and Chicken BBQ. Ed came back home with the top prize for the day!

Membership News Briefs...

It's been a busy spring! Congratulations to Don Hurme on becoming a grandpa for the first time, to Steve Mickle on his re-election as Massachusetts State Representative for the RKMC, to Peg Brouillet on her new position in the emergency room at Henry Heywood, to Charlie Clarkson on his retirement from the Westminster FD, and to Heather Barclay & Elaine Clements who both received their Bachelor's Degrees.

Have you seen Ed B's new Honda 1800 Goldwing? It was reared in Tennessee and Ed and Peg took a plane trip down to bring it back to New England.



Come join us for the New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 15.



Each year over a thousand motorcycles converge on the Wal-Mart in Oxford to turn in their collective donations and participate in one of the "Ride for Kids" events that occur throughout the United States.

The money collected goes to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the U.S. This year there are 29 different rides in the United States.

In years past, the Massachusetts Red Knights have brought in as much as \$4,000 total for the PBTfUS. These moneys go towards research grants, family support programs, and resource materials for patients, their families, and medical professionals.

The Ride for Kids and the PBTfUS has increased awareness of pediatric brain tumors, which are one of the leading causes of children's deaths in our country.

Even if you cannot ride with us on August 15 (Some of you will be heading to Alberta for the Convention), please consider sending a donation with the members of the chapter who will be attending. Get your donation (for any amount) to Bob and Diona Laford and they will make sure your contribution makes it to the kids.

If you would like to attend the ride, please meet on the Petersham Common (Exit 17 on Route 2, follow Route 32 south) at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 15.



Chapter Bylaw Updates

There are a couple of changes that are being reviewed in our chapter bylaws to bring them in line with the International Bylaws. These will be voted on at the October meeting . If you have any questions, or would like to submit any changes for discussion, please contact Bob Laford.

Our final Breakfast Club of the early season was a nice spring day that allowed us to go on two wheels instead of four (and we headed to Parker's in Mason, NH). Three members of our chapter showed up on their new Harley-Davidson Firefighter Specials. Congratulations and good luck to Steve Mickle, Kevin Martin, and Bob Shakarian on their new rides!

Although the amount of dues are not spelled out as a bylaw, we will be discussing and voting on raising the club dues **at the July meeting at Shaky & Donna's**. We have not raised our dues in several years, and the \$10 now charged only covers the International Dues and some of our mailing cost. The officers of the chapter feel that we need to raise the dues and are recommending that we raise them to \$20 per person to take effect this fall. We polled other chapters and found that we are the lowest with what we charge for dues and other chapters range from \$15 to \$120 a year. (Yes, that is right there are a couple of chapters that charge \$120!)

Another great meal at Mother Anna's was just one highlight on our adventure in Boston back in March.

We had 18 members join us on the train for a great day under beautiful sunny skies for our Boston trip in March. That day it looked like spring was finally with us! But unfortunately the snows came back again. We stopped off at Quincy Market for some snacking and people watching before we headed to the North End. Neither Ed nor Steve could make it this year so the girls were on their own! To help them keep their spirits up, they were coaxed into one of the market's establishments to have a libation to help them enjoy their day out!

We had another great meal at Mother Anna's and then sauntered over to Mike's Pastry for some sinful desserts for the ride home on the train. We stopped back at Quincy Market again on the walk back. We saw a percussion group performing on five-gallon pails — and they were great! A number of us remarked that we used to do that sort of thing with our mothers' pots and pans when we were little, but our families never saw the musical genius in it!

We're already starting to gather information for next year and make plans to make it a "Trolley Tour" day. The trolley tours cost about \$20 per person for a group like us and they give you a tour of the city. You can get on and off the trolleys at any stop and make an entire day of the scenic tours... and great Boston food of course! Some of the stops include: Charlestown Navy Yard, Old State House, Quincy Market, Boston Common, State House, Prudential Center, Christian Science Center, China Town, Boston Tea Party Ship, and one of the Trolley rides even includes admission to the New England Aquarium in the cost of their ride! Now that sounds like an entire day to me!

Join us next year and I'm sure we'll have a great time!



Walter and Shaky make friends with Clifford the Big Red Dog (from PBS)



Joe G.

(info elsewhere in newsletter)

And as always, Cliff has shoulder patches and rockers, RK collar brass, and an assortment of decals, flags and other

Products available with the new Mass-2 designed are:

- Decals (from Cliff)
- T-shirts and Sweatshirts (from Kevin)

...and a new addition to the collection is a large (8") decal (for the top of a motorcycle trailer for example) from Ed B. This new large size edition of the decal is available for \$30.

- Jackets and Job Shirts from



With the summer solstice just passing by we probably do not want to think of much "post-Labor Day" - BUT – one great thing happening in September for us is the annual **Red Knights Weekend in Wells, Maine!**

Marty and Cliff Eldridge have again offered their recreational space to the Red Knights. This year it is on September 17-19. Last year, we found that going after Labor Day reduced the traffic in the area a lot. If you are thinking about going give Marty a call to reserve some space.

Then we'll meet at the Lunenburg Wal-Mart at 9:00 a.m. on Friday the 17th and head to Maine!



The Athol-Orange Elks and the North Quabbin Cruisers co-host a weekly **Cruise Night** every Sunday evening from now through October 10.

Looking for a reason to head out for a ride on a Sunday afternoon? Head to the Elks Club, Route 2A in Orange (near the Athol-Orange town line).

The Cruise Night is from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. with a Chicken BBQ, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Games, Prizes & Raffles, and 50's & 60's music.

Killington Classic — September 8-12, 2004

A new rally started last year in Killington, Vermont during September and it was an instant hit! They have many plans underway for their second year and it includes vendors, guided tours, a poker run, a Hawaiian luau and pig roast, scavenger hunt, motorcycle rodeo, a concert on the mountain, fire works, and a parade.

At the Red Knights directors meeting in Lake George, the organizers from the Killington Classic asked the Red Knights to lead their parade. More info will be coming from the International... so if you are looking for a weekend away in September, visit www.killingtonclassic.com and maybe we'll start a new tradition!

Red Knights Jackets, "Station" Shirts, and more!

Joe Guarnera, a member of Mass-2, has started an embroidery business and he has given us some good deals on Jackets and Job Shirts. Many of us have "baseball" style jackets left over from years past, but we have not had an available vendor to keep the orders going — so Joe is stepping up to the plate — to offer our members quality jackets and sweatshirts with Red Knights embroidery.

Available now are:

- Snap front, machine washable jackets with the Mass 2 patch on front and writing on the back will be as follows:

Red body, Gold trim, Gold Buttons
Nap Lined = \$90.00
Quilted Lined = \$95.00
Same Jacket without writing on back:
Nap Lined = \$65.00
Quilt Lined = \$70.00

- Firefighter Work Shirts

Grey with Denim collar and Denim elbow patches with embroidered Mass 2 Logo = \$50.00

Personal Name on any item = \$5.00

- Red Knights Mass 2 Embroidered hats = \$12.00 (Color - Red w/Gold embroidery)
- Red Knights Mass 2 embroidered Polo Shirts (Color - White or Blue)
- Winter Nylon Water Resistant Riding Jackets with Red Knights Mass 2 Logo = \$90.00 (Color Blue with Black or Red with Black)

Contact Joe directly to place an order with him. His email is joegua@comcast.net and his home phone is 978-455-1022

Each year the chapter sends you an invoice for your dues. And each year we do a fund raiser for our chapter. But where do we spend the money? Thanks to Cliff's meticulously kept books, we know where all our money goes. A good portion of our dues money goes to the International. About \$3-4 of our dues pays for the chapter newsletter throughout the year.

Many chapters pick one charitable organization that all their fundraising goes towards. We as a chapter have chosen that we would rather support a variety of needs in our area. Listed below are some of the donations that our chapter has made over the last few years. That's where most of the money we collect goes!

- American Cancer Society
- Ashby Ambulance Fund
- Beacon Hospice
- Dept. Of Social Services Kids Christmas Party
- Larry Jupin Fund
- Leominster Canteen
- Marty McNamara Fund
- Merrimac Hospice
- Motorcycle Memorial
- Multiple Sclerosis Society
- NYFF's 911 Fund
- Red Knights Memorial
- Ride for Kids
- Space Shuttle Family Fund
- St. Joseph's Hospital
- Westminster Firefighters' Association
- Several Different Firefighters' Association donations (for FFs burned out of their home, for a FF injured in a motorcycle crash, for a FF who lost wife in a serious crash)
- Several other family assistance donations for families who had fires and also a family of a police officer who lost a battle to cancer

Ice Cream!

In May 2003 our first ice cream ride was cold and drizzly. But we made up for that this year! When we met at WFD on May 13 the day had been full of blue sky and sunshine. Late in the day the temperatures reached 80 degrees and we had twelve bikes show up to begin our ice cream season!



We made a short jaunt to Hubbardston and stopped at Calico and Creme on Williamsville Road.

Won't you join us for ice cream this summer? Our next Ice Cream ride is Thursday, July 8. (We hope to meet up with members of VT-2 and NH-4 on this one).

We meet on each second Thursday through September. We leave the Westminster FD at 6:30 p.m.

April Pot-luck and Chapter Meeting

We had nineteen members on hand in Leominster for our Spring meeting (and pot-luck dinner). As always there was plenty to eat and a lot of chatter about what is coming up for the riding season.

A great big THANK YOU goes out to Marty and Cliff for being such wonderful hosts. I hope you got a chance to have some of those desserts that Marty put out after we had stuffed ourselves on everything else!

At the meeting we talked about ordering jackets like many of us have from years past. Info on those are elsewhere in the newsletter.

We also have a committee that is working to develop our guidelines for our Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course scholarships. If you have any thoughts as to how that program should run, contact Donna Moreau, Bob Shakarian, or Don Hurme. We'll discuss and vote on the program at the July meeting.

Another committee is looking at the International bylaws and our bylaws to see if ours need to be further updated. If you would like to comment on this, contact Bob Laford, Tim Kihart, or Cliff Eldridge.

This chapter belongs to the members, and the officers are the stewards of the organization working to fulfill the membership's wishes. Thank you to everyone who comes and participates in the meetings and events.

With our friends at Americade!

2004 was a great time in Lake George. We only had about two hours of rain after a day of HOT, HOT, HOT... and even though it was a heavy thunderstorm, after it broke the weather returned to great summer weather for riding!

People have referred to Americade as a "motorcycle nation," and I can relate to that as our clan from Mass-2 boasted 29 members before the week was through, contributing to the unofficial count of 60,000 bikes in LG!

We all owe a big thank you to our house-mother Peg Brouillet. She spearheaded much of the pre-planning for the week including much of the chapter's lodging and food. Although several members stay in different places around Lake George, many of our chapter members have repeat accommodations at the Bay Front Cottages where they have stayed for years. Our chapter does a lot as a contingent including eat, play bocci, eat some more, stoke the fire along the waterfront, have some more food, and enjoy each other's company. This year we even got to celebrate a birthday milestone for Wayne Stacy... a year that ends in "0" - but I won't say which one! He even had a very special visitor (on her walker) that offered him many products to assist him in his daily routines too.

Our closeness may have affected us otherwise as well... this year we had "Typhoid Gary" with us... and the cold that he had made it through almost most all of our group!

The largest group from our chapter came up on Sunday. Five members were already in NY when the Sunday travelers, about 18 in number, pulled on site in three different groupings. The largest group had come across a serious MVC on the Vermont-New York border. There were no other trained personnel on scene so our crews went into action - blocking traffic for safety, assisting the elderly woman who was hurt, and even packaging her for transport when the local fire department arrived! GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Later in the week, the group came across another incident where a deer and motorcycle had collided. The rider had kept his bike up, but his passenger was injured. Our members' services were not needed that time as help was already on scene.

Monday after registration we spent some time at the "tents" in Warrensburg. Each year more vendors are setting up shop in this town north of Lake George. Even though this is happening, there are still more and more vendors at the Tour Expo displays. We all spent time at the "Expo" on different days and also at Roaring Brook. One of this year's seminars was put on by Ed and Bob and was "Planning for a Long Distance Trip."

Monday night was the Americade Block party on Canada Street. Traffic was routed around the main street and bikes lined the street as we enjoyed visiting with friends and listening to the band.

As in year's past (and with everything we do) we did not go hungry! Twice we had a group go to Stony Creek for dinner. We also stayed in at the cabins - for hot dogs and hamburgers one night, and spaghetti,

Annual Red Knights New England Regional Cape Cod Weekend

We always look forward to our weekend on the Cape, and it shows with our numbers every year. This year we had thirteen bikes and nineteen people from Mass-2 who journeyed down to the Cape together.

Friday and Saturday you could not have asked for nicer weather. It seemed that Cliff was elected to be our tour guide throughout the weekend and he did a great job, as usual, and since that is the part of the state he grew up in, it is no surprise. On the way home Sunday we even stopped at his family's home just a stone's throw from the water. He normally takes us to the lighthouse in Mattapoisett and tells us that his house is across the bay. This time we saw the lighthouse from across the bay!

On Saturday our entourage divided up for different destinations. A few headed to Mashpee for a Blue Knights ride, some ventured off for shopping, a third group wandered off to Provincetown, and the largest group elected to follow Cliff around the Cape. We meandered for about 75 miles and ducked in and out of inlets and back roads (some of them marked 'for residents only'). We had a chance to enjoy the coastline, a number of small villages, and lunch at Grumpy's in Dennis. It was a great ride.

Saturday evening we all re-grouped and 35 of us had dinner at the Hyport Brewery in Hyannis before stopping for our yearly challenge match of miniature golf.

There were other Red Knights from Mass-1, 3, and 4 in attendance, although the numbers were down a little this year. Maybe the forecasted rain for Sunday afternoon and Monday kept some people away. Original plans were to do a twelve fire station Grand Tour on Sunday, but because of the forecast those attending all decided to forego staying to Monday and headed home on Sunday. Much of the ride home was dry... but we did get a few showers before the day ended back home.

During the weekend I overheard a group of some original RK members from the different chapters try to remember all the different hotels that the Red Knights have stayed at during the Cape Weekends over the years. Can you name them all? Make some of your own memories and consider joining us next year for a fun time.

(...and on the way home "the new girl" [Terry] stopped along the way and bought new boots!)

How fast is fast??

During the Americade Parade Steve Mickle's low fuel light came on... he pulled out of the parade, fueled up with his quick-pass, and was back in the parade before the rest of the 75 Red Knights had driven by!

sausage and meatballs another night. The Red Knights also hosted one of the Roaring Brook three-course dinners where over 315 people came to eat and we gave out 100 door prizes on Wednesday, and then we had another meal at the Lake George FD at the RKMC open house on Thursday.

The Adirondack Mountains are great for riding too. Along with a planned Poker Run, we all took jaunts in and around the area... including over 300 miles one day that a couple of our members took to Ben & Jerry's in Vermont.

You only need to visit Lake George and Americade once, and you will want to come back each year. If you have not been yet - maybe 2005 will be your year!

Have you bought or sold the 50/50 tickets you received with the International Newsletter?

Please support the RKMC International. The 50/50 tickets help cover the costs of "doing business" as an organization and help keep the International dues down.

Hand Signals

This article was in another club's newsletter earlier this year — and I thought it would be good to review some hand signals with our group as well.

Now I know that some of you will say (why do we need to use hand signals when we have CB Radios?) The answer to your question is *not everyone has a CB*. Other than that, CB Radios are electronic and subject to fail.

For instance, have you ever ridden in a group using the CB and not heard something because of where you were or because someone else was talking on the CB? All of this is good reason to use hand signals.

Remember hand signals are a useful tool to keep the group aware and cohesive on the roadway. So let's review some of them.

STOP arm extended straight down, palm facing back

SLOW DOWN arm extended straight out palm facing down, with up and down motion

SINGLE FILE arm and index finger extended straight up

STAGGERED FILE arm with index and middle finger extended straight up

HAZARD IN ROADWAY on the right point at hazard with right hand or foot, on the left point at hazard with left hand

FUEL arm out to side pointing to tank with finger extended

...and of course there is our favorite "BLINK-BLINK" sign to tell someone their directional is still on. That is the thumb and fingers coming together as if your hand is speaking.

Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

We'll start with a BBQ and end with a picnic in this listing!

Saturday, July 17:

Pot-luck BBQ

Join us at Donna and Shaky's in Leominster and we'll enjoy some summer fun with our friends! More info elsewhere in the newsletter.

Sunday, July 25:

Ride into Connecticut

Rumors are that the UConn Huskies make great Ice Cream. We'll stop by their Dairy in Storrs, the Fire Museum in Manchester, and some good deli fixin's in Vernon. Meet at 9 am, WFD.

Saturday, August 7:

Uranium Mine in NH

We'll leave bright and early at **8:00 a.m.** from Westminster FD for ride into NH and visit the oldest, most spectacular Mica, Feldspar, Beryl and Uranium Mines in US.

(NOTE: There is an admission fee at the mines ~\$16 per person).

Stoneyfield Farms and Yogurt Works is along the way as well!

Sunday, August 15:

Ride for Kids

Come join us and participate in one of the most rewarding benefit rides there is. Meet on the Petersham Common for 7:30 a.m. and we'll go help raise money for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. If you can't go, consider sending a donation along with us!

August 16-22:

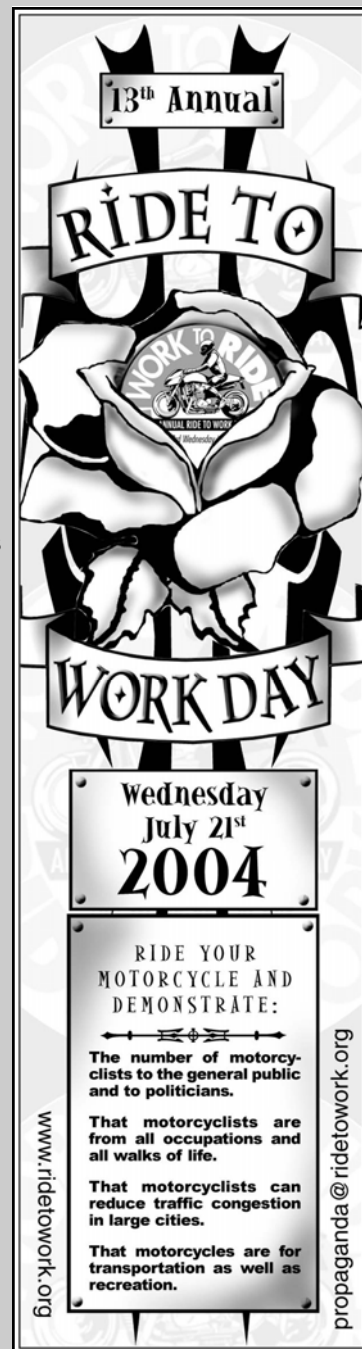
Red Knights' Convention in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Sunday, September 5:

Labor Day Weekend Picnic at the Kilhart's Camp

Meet at WFD at 11 a.m., then the Athol High School at 11:30 and we'll find our way to the Kilhart's camp (on the waters of Long Pond in Royalston) and we'll have a summer day of fun. Bring some food to share... because we always eat!

On Sunday, July 25, there is also a ride around the Quabbin to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. We'll decide at our BBQ which July 25th ride to head for as a group!



The next **Ice Cream Ride** is Thursday, July 8. Meet at the Westminster FD by 6:30.