



# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — Summer '09

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

### *Loyal to Our Duty*

From the  
President's Desk

One warm March Sunday, I was in church day dreaming about the afternoon ride I was planning and we sang these words in a hymn, *"Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flowers of blooming spring; ...It makes our spirits sing."* (See God was thinking of a motorcycle ride too). Now that we are into the best part of the year's riding weather, we can look back at our long winter and the recent arrival of spring and appreciate the wonderful spring, summer, and fall that New England offers us as riders. As I ride through our meadows, woodlands, and the blooming flowers, it makes my spirit sing!

There was a comment made in a recent motorcycle magazine that said we should ride to a place we have never been before each year on our motorcycle. I think that is a great way to find those new meadows, woodlands, and blooming flowers. I had a great opportunity to take off for a week with Rick Oliver and head to Tennessee and ride in the Smokey Mountains and experience places like the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Tail of the Dragon. Our country is full of beautiful places to ride and many different variations of our American culture, whether you stay in Massachusetts and New England or you travel across the U.S. What a better way to experience them than from the saddle of your ride!

We have many rides that are at your choosing throughout the riding year. Whatever your favorites — a short ice cream ride or a weekend away, and every mile in between, there is something for everyone's personal riding tastes.

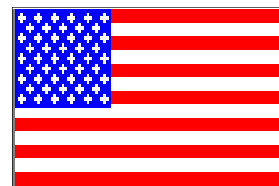
Our chapter has now given out twenty-two rider scholarships over the past 5 years. More than half of those have been to new riders taking the MSF Beginner Rider Course. I would like to think that it is our part in sharing the fun that we all have for riding. I hope that the new riders that we have sponsored will develop safe skills and develop the long-lasting friendships that accompany the ride.

I myself am taking the "ERC" this year. The last time I took the Experienced Rider Course was about ten years ago. I would like to think that I am a safe rider with good skills, but I also realize that none of us are perfect riders. We all develop bad habits and it is good to take the training periodically to polish your skills and improve your safety and your riding skills. If it has been a while since you took motorcycle rider training — or if you have never taken a rider course, consider investing in the time. You will be glad that you did.

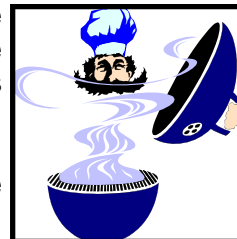
The Greek Philosopher Epicurus was intent on sharing his thoughts about our goal to "attain the happy, tranquil life." One of his musings hits the mark for us when he said that "we should look for someone to eat and drink with before we look for something to eat and drink." So as a member of the Red Knights I hope that you are one of the people that joins us—so we can (ride) and eat and drink together! Please come join us for some camaraderie, some miles, and of course some food and fun to share this summer.

Ride safe.

Saturday, July 4.  
**4th of July Pot-luck BBQ.**



Come enjoy some time with friends at a holiday pot-luck. This year we are guests at the On Site Academy on Bragg Hill in Westminster. Some of our friends from the facility will be joining us as well.



So bring some food to share, and something to throw on the grill. If you want to show off your swimming skills you can try a dip in the pool too!

For those of you that do not know where the facility is located, we will meet at the Westminster FD at noon and head over together.

**POST-Americade Pot-luck**  
Saturday, July 25.



*Good bye  
until next year!*

Get your Americade pictures  
to Marcia and Maury to be  
shown at our  
Americade Picture Perfect Pot-luck

Join us at Moe and Marcia's with your pictures and videos from Americade. Along with the pictures we'll share some food, laughs, and stories!

Meet at M & M's in Gardner at 6:00 p.m.



## Come join us for the New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 16.



We'll meet at the Petersham Common at 7:30 am and head to Oxford for the beginning of the RFK. If you cannot come with us, please consider making a donation that the riders will bring on behalf of the Red Knights.

A Ride for Kids flyer is included with this mailing.

### Membership News Briefs...

Our condolences go out to Cliff and Marty on the passing of Cliff's dad. Our prayers are with them and their family.

Congratulations to Francis Wada on his appointment as the new conductor for the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra in Punta Gorda, Florida. He will continue to conduct TSO for three more years and will be commuting for the winter concert season in Florida. He says the roads up here are still much more interesting for his motorcycle riding!



We had 17 members head to Boston on the train in April. We spent some time at Quincy Market enjoying the street performers and vendors... as well as taking advantage of the on-street produce market before we walked into the North End for lunch at Mother Anna's and dessert from Mike's Pastry and Lulu's Pastry before catching the train home.

We even shared a cannoli with our conductor when we saw her waiting for our train... and she even got us together to take a group picture — or was it for a *wanted poster*!?

*On the road with our friends...*

*A long ride can clear your mind; restore your faith; and use up a lot of fuel.*

- We had nineteen people show up at Kevin and Lori's in March for our Americade Pot Luck. There seemed to be a lot of laughing and fun to accompany the tons of food that we had. And as we all know, having recently returned from Lake George, "a fun time was had by all."
- It was 17 degrees the morning of our March Breakfast Club when a dozen members met up at WFD. We had one member spending Spring Break in Orlando and called us to see how warm we were (thank you Caitlin) and we did have a member show up on two wheels. To his credit, he had a big smile and when we were done with breakfast the sun was shining, the temperatures had moderated, and the rest of us were itching to get out for a spin! Our April breakfast had 13 members—mostly on their bikes because the weather had finally taken a pleasant turn!
- Several of our members headed south in May to attend the Dixie Rally put on by the Southern District Association of the Red Knights. We'll have to look for some stories about their trip!
- The day of our "Food Groups" ride was a beautiful sunny day and alternative plans were in the works. We had a number of members join the local Rolling Thunder chapter at their annual poker run along with about 70 other riders to enjoy the day!

**Always expect the unexpected — and keep focused on the ride!**

Down out of the mountains, the road straightened out and I buzzed over a cattle guard and saw an "Open Range" sign. I turned onto CA 266, I got distracted by lights and looked around to get my bearings. When I turned my attention back to the road my eyes bulged — before me on jet-black asphalt was a wall of black cows camouflaged by the night. I braked and swerved.

Whew! That was close...." As soon as my mind punctuated that thought, the Ducati and I were on our sides skidding down the road.

I missed the cows, but not the manure.

*Greg Drevenstedt, Rider Magazine*

At our annual business meeting for our chapter, scheduled for October, the officer positions of President and Secretary will be up for election/re-election. Any member interested in running for these posts should contact this year's nomination chairman, Kevin Martin.

**Sunday, October 11 — Annual Chapter meeting followed by the Apple Pie Ride.**

Chapter meeting (and election of officers) at 9:00 and then a ride to Dummerston for the Vermont Apple Pie Festival.

## Red Knights Spring Weekend

Looking ahead to August, we have a chapter "Poker Ride" scheduled. One of the stops is at "Sherry's House" in Worcester. Why Me and Sherry's House are Worcester Based non-profit organizations created to help Central New England families cope with childhood cancer.



There are always "needs" in the house to support their programs. Those needs are listed on their web page "wish list" of material goods—but those needs include our time as well. We will be stopping to share both our time and some care packages that members are encouraged to bring with them on the ride.

Visit [www.whyme.org](http://www.whyme.org) for more information on Sherry's House and the "Why Me" program.

(Wed. to Sun.) September 9-13.

**Killington Classic in Killington, VT.** More information about lodging when we get closer. [www.killingtonclassic.com](http://www.killingtonclassic.com)

## Cape Cod—the 2009 version...

**Friday, September 25 - 27. Cape Cod Dutch-treat Weekend.** Meet at Westminster FD at 9:00 a.m.—we'll pick up more friends at the Route 12/140 intersection at 9:30. Look for more information in upcoming correspondence on accommodations, rides, routes, and events.

This year we'll visit the Cape at the end of the season rather than at the beginning! The winds should be a little warmer in September than we sometimes find them in May... and hopefully a little bit drier too!

Our host hotel is the Town Crier in Eastham again this year and the cost is \$84 per night (double occupancy) and includes breakfast.

*Make your reservations soon!*  
*(508)255-4000*

The weather was *almost* cooperative for this year's Spring Weekend. I think Caitlin was the only rider who actually got caught in some heavy rain!

Friday found four bikes heading towards Connecticut for our weekend rendezvous near the casinos. We had a nice leisurely ride down... and then an extended back-roads ride from the hotel to spend the afternoon making donations at Mohegan Sun casino. We also partook in one of their big buffets for our dinner meal before heading back to

Plainfield and the Holiday Inn.

Saturday morning we were waiting for the four other bikes that we expected to arrive so we spent some browsing time next door at the Excalibur Powersports looking over the new bikes and accessories. One of the guests at the hotel had just driven from Wisconsin to pick up a new Honda *Fury* that he got through the dealership. We were able to take a look at this "custom-looking" ride.

We met up with the other members of the chapter at the Groton Submarine Museum and had a tour aboard the USS Nautilus, the first nuclear class submarine. That was an experience (ow, my head!) Then we were off to the sea shore for lunch at Abbott's Lobster at the Rough, a ride through Mystic, and a ride back to the hotel through some beautiful farm land. We found a place with home made ice cream at one of the farms called the Brown Cow Cafe... and you need to ask Peg about the size of the sundae that she got! WOW!

Back at the hotel we relaxed (ate some more), used the pool, and played one hand of UNO that lasted THREE HOURS! By the end of the hand (at 10:30 p.m.) we were begging for someone to win the hand!

Sunday we enjoyed another secondary road back into Massachusetts and a brunch stop at the Kozy Cabin in Barre (where some chose ice cream as their brunch) before we said our goodbyes.



*Americaders ...at the Stoney Creek Inn*

## Back home again at Americade

The countdown for Americade usually begins on the trip back home from Lake George the year before. But as the first week in June gets closer and closer the anticipation level grows higher and higher. We are all like those little kids in the Disney commercials, "I'm so excited!"

This year we had close to half our "cabin contingent" with a Saturday arrival making the Americade experience a nine day event. The Saturday we met up was a beautiful blue-skied day following a week of wet and cold weather. Some of the group meandered along the Connecticut River Valley through New Hampshire and Vermont before heading across Lake Champlain, while others joined with Mass-13 and rode out to the NY Firemen's Museum in Hudson before heading north to Lake George. No matter the route we were looking forward to an inaugural dinner at Stoney Creek Inn to begin our week (and had 11 in the early arrivals and as the scouting team to see Dot at Stoney Creek)!

The weather was the biggest story of the week. It was cold Sunday and Monday (even a frost) and those riding around the north country on Sunday ran into hail. Then it was GREAT! Not a drop of rain all week and each day was a little warmer until we hit 80 degrees on Friday.

Sunday night with 25 Red Knights settled in (we made it all the way to 33 at the cabins plus a few more around town by the end of the week) we fired up the grills where our chefs Tim and Steve cooked some great steaks. Even the Bay Front owners, Tom and Bev, joined us for dinner. It was a cold evening so it was "Wild Hogs" on the TV after dinner.

Every day had Red Knights heading in all directions of the compass enjoying the Adirondack Mountains and the blessing of good weather that Mother Nature gave us. I think the only mechanical mishaps were my flat tire (from a leaky valve stem) where I had to spend a morning at the local Honda shop and Moe's burned out headlight bulb.

Tuesday the tents, registration, and the demo rides all opened and we each tried to help the economy by spending some cash on all those necessities that we find at Tour Expo. This year the "Lake George Forum" was under bankruptcy so all the vendors were back on Beach Road.

A group of the gang was signed up for the Mardi Gras Boat Cruise on Tuesday night where Deb was getting pretty good at collecting beads for the door prizes. The Wednesday morning breakfast cruise was a wonderful time spent on the lake as well. The early morning sunrise and mirror-calm lake were a great start to the day. Wednesday was the only day that the weather man said rain — but all the rain stayed south of Albany and we enjoyed blue skies and puffy clouds all day.

The cool evenings were a perfect match for the load of cord wood that came up in the supply trailer from Ayer. We had fires a number of nights and enjoyed the laughter and company of our friends. Even Jack and Judy Downs from Florida were able to join us for a few days. When Kevin, Shaky, and the Attwoods arrived, the owners informed us that one of the reserved cabin renters was a no-show and we could rent yet another cabin for the remainder of the week — making our total "six" of the nine rental units!

At the Red Knights' hosted dinner at Roaring Brook Ranch we had about 260 people in attendance and were able to give away 100 door prizes. Thanks go to all of you who were able to send along door prizes. It makes an impression on all those attending, and on the Americade Management that we are able to do that. Bill

The Red Knights have become an Americade institution and you add so much to Americade and we look forward to seeing you each year.

- Bill Dutcher, Americade Founder  
Speaking at the RKMC hosted dinner  
at Roaring Brook Ranch

Dutcher even made an appearance at our dinner—and International President Jack Downs spoke and thanked Mass-2 specifically for our work at Americade calling us the "cornerstone of the Red Knight success at Americade."

At our Thursday open house at the newly constructed Lake George FD, we welcomed the newest Mass Chapter (15) to the fold as the International presented the Boston Chapter's executive board with their charter.

Thursday and Friday were stellar days that you wait all summer to find. Many more miles... and you'll have to ask Ed how the GPS sends you south, when you really want to head north. And Bob led a ride that went right by the Stoney Creek Inn... even though the original plan did not go anywhere near there! (Oops).

We had 30 people at the Stoney Creek Inn on Friday. Dot had let us decide the previous Saturday what the special would be and it was haddock... very well prepared haddock! The Kilharts were a bit late as their ride had brought them to the Canadian border... but there was still Cajun shrimp available when they arrived.

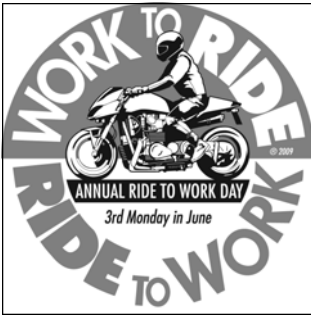
Saturday's parade found about 75 Red Knights leading the parade with lot's of flags guiding the hundreds of bikes to the top of Prospect Mountain, where the World Champion Central Florida Drill team performed for us.

And, as always, our week went by too fast and we are already counting down the days to the 2010 Americade Week.

A special thanks go out to our hosts, Ed and Peg Brouillet for sharing their vacation accommodations with us at Lake George and for all the coordination, planning, and extra work our House Mother does to arrange the space and comfort for her invited guests.







The 18th annual Motorcycle Ride to Work Day is Monday, June 15th. Every year on this day, over a million workers commute via motorcycles and scooters to demonstrate the positive benefits of these efficient vehicles.

Studies have shown the public benefits of motorcycling include:

- Motorcycles and scooters share parking spaces, making more space for everyone else.
- Motorcycles and scooters consume significantly less resources per mile than automobiles.
- Motorcycles and scooters reduce traffic congestion and save travel time.

According to the United States Census Bureau and the Department of Transportation, over 80 million cars and light trucks are used for daily commuting on American roads, and only about 200,000 motorcycles and scooters are a regular part of this mix. On Ride to Work Day, the practical side of riding becomes more visible as a much larger number of America's 8,000,000 cycles are ridden to work.

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Earlier this year, Ed Brouillet floated the idea of running for the Eastern Regional Director's position. Ed announced in March that he was considering being a candidate for this RKMC International Board's position (with our support). During the ensuing weeks as he talked to people inside and outside our chapter he made the decision that he would not be running at this time.  
I told Ed then — and most of you would agree, that no matter what his decision, his chapter and his friends are behind him in support of what he does for the RKMC. We all know that Ed would do a great job in representing each Red Knight member—and that is just not us the members of Mass-2. Ed is a true Red Knight and is always a good representative and a good ambassador for all those members within the eastern regional states and within the Red Knights whether he is an elected officer or a general member!  
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I've mentioned before that I try to keep a book going nearby at home... sometimes it takes a long time to get through a book and other times the book and my schedule allow me to breeze through it.

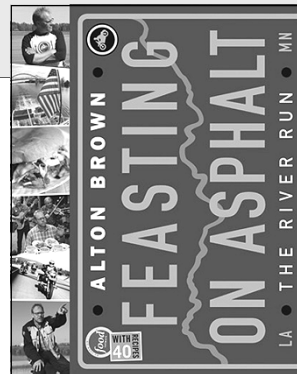
I had one book this spring that was one of those "easy reads" that I went through pretty quick — and some of you may enjoy it too.

A couple years ago Alton Brown on the Food Network (and an avid rider) did two series called "Feasting on Asphalt" where he and his entourage of bikes traversed through the United States in search of "Good Eats" at all sorts of food places along their trek. His latter series was from New Orleans up the Mississippi to the source of the big muddy.

It was a great series to watch and when I saw he put the ride they took to pen I bought the book. It is also called **Feasting on Asphalt** and is a fun book to read. It is a combination comedic motorcycle tour narration, mom & pop restaurant and cuisine revue, and a cook book.

I have even tried the bread pudding recipe that he lists from one of the stops along the way... and it was as good as the book lead you to believe!

Since the Red Knights, Motorcycles, and Food seem to all go hand-in-hand I thought this would be a very appropriate book for any of us to read!



## **RED KNIGHTS MA CHAPTER-3**

PLYMPTON, MASS

First Annual

### **Bill Hodge Memorial Poker Run**

*To benefit the Shriner's Burn center  
in Bill's honor*

Sunday-October 4, 2009 (Rain or Shine)

Poker Run Starts at: Super Stop & Shop  
341 Plymouth Street (Route 106) Halifax, Ma 02338  
(behind Dunkin' Donuts)

On-site Registration from 9:00-10:30AM

**\$13.00 Pre-Registration per person**

Pre-registration form available at: [www.rkma3.org](http://www.rkma3.org)

\$15.00 Day of the Event

Cash Prizes!!!!

*Best & Worst Poker  
Hands — Mileage Pool —  
50/50 Drawing — Door  
Prize Drawing — Chinese  
Auction*

*Burgers and Dogs at  
1:30PM*

For more info, contact:  
RKMA-3 Vice President  
Steve "Doc" Alvarez at  
[goldwingrider@comcast.net](mailto:goldwingrider@comcast.net)

Unable to make the ride to "Mass-3 Country" that day? Consider making a personal donation towards the cause by visiting the Mass-3 web page.

## Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

The next **Ice Cream Rides** are June 19 & July 17

### Sunday, June 21. **New Hampshire BBQ Competition —**

Come join us for a Father's Day Ride to at the Anheuser-Busch complex in Merrimack for the NH BBQ Cook-off. Meet at WFD at 10:00 a.m. [www.rotaryribfest.org](http://www.rotaryribfest.org)

### Saturday, June 27. **RK Vermont-2's Paul's Ride.** Let's

support a nearby chapter's efforts to help those with cancer. Meet at WFD at 8:00 a.m.

### (Saturday, July 18. **A Ride to the Rough.** Let's meet early

(8:00 a.m. in Westminster) and we'll head east towards Gloucester to enjoy the northern seacoast of Massachusetts... and some seafood too I suppose!

### Sunday, August 2. **Battleship Cove.** Meet at Westminster FD at 8:00

a.m. and we will head off to visit the USS Massachusetts at the Battleship Cove. [www.battleshipcove.org](http://www.battleshipcove.org)

### Sunday, August 15. **Southern BBQ in Vermont.** We'll be off to Chester,

Vermont for lunch at the new Curtis Grill... then a ride down Route 100. Meet at WFD at 9:00 a.m. [www.curtisbbqvt.com](http://www.curtisbbqvt.com)

### Saturday, August 22. **Day ride to Wells, Maine to visit our snow birds.** We'll meet at WFD at 8:00 a.m. and take advantage of the long daylight hours for a ride to Wells, Maine to have lunch with Marty & Cliff!

### Saturday, August 29. **Play your cards with the Chapter.** Our chapter treasurer will flip a coin and lead us where he wants. At each stop the riders will participate in some "card games" to see who ends up with the best hand. One of the stops will be at "Sherry's House" in Worcester for a visit with the kids (and drop off our care packages). Meet at Westminster FD at 9:00 a.m. More info to come in the newsletter. [www.whyme.org](http://www.whyme.org)

### Saturday, September 5. **Labor Day Weekend Cookout.** We'll be joining up with the Mickle's in Nashua for this year's Labor Day Cookout. Meet at Westminster FD at 10:00 and we'll go for a ride that ends at our pot-luck.

### Sunday, October 4: **Breakfast with Smokey Bear....** Breakfast first (to support our brethren at the Jaffrey FD) and then off to the roads of NH & VT for some fall sights! Leave WFD at 8:00 a.m.

### Sunday, October 11: **Princeton Firefighter's Breakfast.** Are you an early riser? We can grab breakfast in Princeton before the chapter meeting.

### Saturday, October 17. **Breakfast Club Ride.** Our first Saturday Breakfast Club for the Fall — plans are to visit the newly renovated Springfield Museum of History and their collection of Indian Motorcycles. Meet at WFD at 9:00 a.m.

### **2009 Molly's Ride for Child Safety**

The Molly Bish Foundation & Life "Guards" Center, Inc will be hosting their 10th Annual Molly's Ride for Child Safety on Sunday, June 28, 2009 at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA. This event is one of the largest police escorted charity motorcycle rides in New England that predominantly supports the organization by the proceeds it generates each and every year.

**Road trip to Madawaska, Maine.** It's time to head to Maine for the Acadia Festival—complete with bed races and all—and a visit to the Four Corners Memorial. [www.madawaskafourcorners.org](http://www.madawaskafourcorners.org)  
Contact Ed Brouillet if interested in going!

### **New England Fire Chief's Show** **June 26-28 — In West Springfield**

The RKMC will have an information booth at the Fire Chief's Show.

Anyone interested in spending time in the booth contact State Rep Steve Mickle.

### **Jaffrey Chamber Of Commerce Poker Run — July 12**

The Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual motorcycle poker run on Saturday, July 11. This ride is a fundraiser for the Chamber, with a portion of the money raised going to the Marty Taylor Scholarship Fund.

Marty Taylor was a native of Jaffrey. He was an avid motorcycle enthusiast since childhood and later became a certified motorcycle mechanic in Orlando, Florida where he and his wife lived for a short time. On September 18th, 2006, Marty was struck by a motorist while riding and tragically died. In his memory, members of his family started the scholarship. Last year was the first year it was awarded. It is designated for a Conant High School graduate who wishes to pursue further education in a technical or vocational related field.

The run will start at NH Moto-sports at 15 Sears Drive off of Rt. 202 in Rindge.

Registration fees: \$20.00 per rider and \$10.00 per passenger. Lunch and entertainment will be provided. [www.jaffreychamber.com/events/pokerrun](http://www.jaffreychamber.com/events/pokerrun)

## QUICK TIPS to Group Riding

Many of our members' bikes are equipped with CB radios so we can communicate when we are on a ride together.

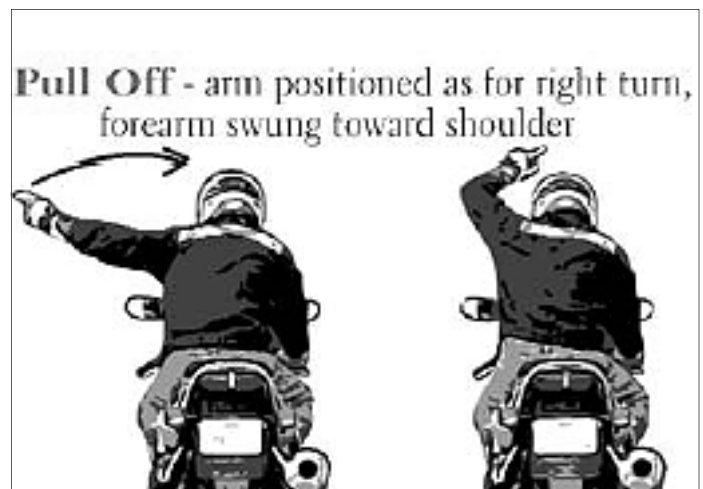
Sometimes we leaders forget that there are also members that do not have radio communications and if we do not spend some time at each ride talking about ride expectations, routes, "what if's" before we leave, it may leave someone stressed out—and that does not make for an enjoyable ride.

Here are some preparation and riding tips on "Group Riding" that was put out by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

- Arrive prepared. Arrive on time with a full tank of gas. All riders are responsible for making sure their motorcycles are mechanically up to the task. Before you even meet up with the group, make sure you've got plenty of fuel in the tank, and you've taken care of all those maintenance issues. Not sure what to check? Use T-CLOCS. You really don't want to be the reason for stopping the group for something mechanical you could have prevented
- If YOU are not feeling 100%, let one of the ride leaders know before the ride so we can keep an extra eye out.
- Know the range of your motorcycle so gas stops can be pre-planned and communicated before the ride begins.
- Participate in a riders' meeting. Discuss things like the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals. Assign a lead and sweep (tail) rider. Both should be experienced riders who are well-versed in group riding procedures. The leader should assess everyone's riding skills and the group's riding style.
- Keep the group to a manageable size, ideally five to seven riders. If necessary, break the group into smaller sub-groups, each with a lead and sweep rider. (With larger groups we will try to have secondary leaders within the group that can take over "lead" when the group separates.
- Ride prepared. At least one rider in each group should pack a cell phone, first-aid kit, and full tool kit, so the group is prepared for any problem that they might encounter.
- Ride in formation. The staggered riding formation allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern. A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering/leaving highways, or other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed. (2 or 3 second spacing or more)

- At intersections where you've come to a stop, tighten the formation to side-by-side to take up less space. As the light turns green, or when traffic opens up, the bike on the left proceeds through first.
- Avoid side-by-side formations, as they reduce the space cushion. If you suddenly needed to swerve to avoid a hazard, you would not have room to do so. You don't want handlebars to get entangled.
- Keep in eye on the rider directly ahead and behind you but also scan past the rider directly ahead of you to keep aware of conditions ahead. It is important never to keep your eyes glued on the back of the rider directly ahead of you. Instead, use your eyes to scan the area ahead of that rider. In fact, your eyes should "watch" 2-6 seconds ahead of your current position.
- Periodically check the riders following in your rear view mirror. If you see a rider falling behind, slow down so they may catch up. If all the riders in the group use this technique, the group should be able to maintain a fairly steady speed without pressure to ride too fast to catch up.
- If you're separated from the group, don't panic. Your group should have a pre-planned procedure in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up.
- **ALWAYS RIDE YOUR OWN RIDE.** Do not push your riding skills beyond what is safe for you. Remember that riding in a group does not mean you surrender any decision making when it comes to your safety.

If you must leave the formation because of a problem (and do not have radio communication) use a hand signal like this one (below), that would tell riders behind you that you are having a problem. Many times our group begins to break up at different portions of a ride and if you just turn on your directional and make a turn, it might be interpreted that you are making a planned exit. But if you use an obvious hand signal, then the others will know that there is an issue and someone will follow you off the route.



## 2009 Convention Agenda

Wednesday August 19, 2009

- 8 – 5 Executive Board Meeting
- 2 – 5 Registration Booth
- 5 – 8 Hospitality Room

Thursday August 20, 2009

- 7 – 9 Bagels, Donuts, Fruit, Juice & Coffee
- 9 – 12 & 2 – 5 Registration
- 12 – 2 BBQ Lunch
- 2 – 4 Hospitality Room Open
- 5 – 11 Jungle Queen Diner

Friday August 21, 2009

- 7 – 9 Bagels, Donuts, Fruit, Juice, & Coffee
- 9 – 11 Registration
- 9 – 2 Bike Rides (*1 North Up A1A, 1 South to Upper Keys*)
- 2 – 5 Air Boat Ride
- 2 – 5 Registration
- 5:30 - 7 (*Work Shop / General Members and E-Board*)
- 7 – 9 Jackson's Ice Cream Ride and Presentation (Then To Hard Rock)
- 8 – 11 Hospitality Room

Saturday August 22, 2009

- 7 – 9 Bagels, Donuts, Fruit, Juice & Coffee
- 7:30 – 8:30 Registrations
- 8 -12 Convention – General Business Meeting
- 12 – 5 RKMC Vendors Are Open
- 2 – 3:30 Bike Show
- 2:30 Ft Lauderdale Harley Drill Team Show
- 5 – 6 Cash Bar before Banquet
- 6 – 8:30 Swearing In Of Officers, Dinner Banquet, Awards
- 9 – 11:30 Entertainment

Sunday August 23, 2009

- 7 – 10 Farewell Breakfast

At the February Massachusetts State Meeting much discussion was made on the International Bylaws and the allowing of nominations from the floor for International elections and how Regional Officers are elected.

We have submitted a bylaw proposal that requires:

- (1) Anyone interested in running for the International MUST make their intentions known by a designated deadline prior to the convention.
- (2) The International will notify chapters prior to the convention who is running for offices.
- (3) NO nominations will be allowed from the floor.
- (4) Regional Directors will be elected by ballot sent to the chapters within their Region rather than by votes at the convention by all the Red Knights.

If you would like to comment on these proposals, please contact a chapter officer or come to the July 4th BBQ and the members can discuss convention business at that time.



We had 18 members at our Spring Meeting in April, which included a ride, lunch at Bub's B B Q in Sunderland, our Safety Briefing on large vehicle blind spots (courtesy of the UMass Transit Authority), and of course—Ice Cream!



**I**ce Cream! It's that time of year again. Come join us for our monthly ice cream rides. This year we are meeting on the third Friday of the month (through September) and will ride for ice cream. Meet us at the Westminster FD for 6:30 pm on June 19 & July 17.

On our first ride (in May) we had 16 people show up for some ice cream (at Calico & Crème in Hubbardston). We even had a few friends from Mass-13 join us!

**T**he Mass-2 Officers were hosts to the Spring State Meeting of Chapter Officers and the RK State Rep in March. We had 20 members from around the state, representing 7 chapters in attendance at the Ashburnham Public Safety Complex.

There were a number of business and bylaw discussions that will be brought up to members during our meetings this year (before the fall meeting of the State Officers).

A special thanks to Kevin Martin for his work in the kitchen preparing a fine meal that all the attending Red Knights enjoyed!



*Bob L. and Rick O. spent 3,000 miles in April down in the Smokey Mountains and taking a couple of turns on Tennessee's "Tail of the Dragon!"*

*(It was FUN!)*