



From the  
President's Desk

Hello everyone,

We have definitely had an odd spring for weather. When Rick, Maury, and I were on our trip down south in April the temperatures ranged from 32 to 94 — and shortly after we returned home nearly every place we had been was plagued with either floods or tornadoes! (And we played tag with a couple of serious storms while we were on the road too).

Our area has also been besieged with extreme weather including lots of rain and the tornadoes that marched across western and central Massachusetts. Americade week too had a variety of weather and temperatures and for the second year in the row had a rainy Saturday for the Americade parade.

But rain or not, our ride and event schedule still has opportunities for us to gather as a group and enjoy each other's company and the miles of roads available to us.

In talking with other chapter officers I know that there are chapters throughout the Red Knights that struggle to have any activity — and we all know that there have been chapters that have disappeared from the RKMC roll over the years. I feel that we are very fortunate to have the participation that we do within our chapter. Yes, the numbers we see are only a portion of our 70 members, but when we have 18 people on an ice cream ride, 15 people out for bowling, 25 people at a pot luck, and a dozen people at our Spring Skills Day, it says that we have people that want to be active and participate.

We have also had interested riders from outside our chapter area that have approached us about our events and members from other chapters that join us on occasion. When I am contacted by people from outside our geographical area I welcome them to come to any of our events and rides—but I encourage them to become active in the chapters in their area. Because even those chapters that have little activity are still alive and just need the spirit of the Red Knights to be tended to a bit to get enthusiasm within a chapter going. And we have seen that a few good people with an interest in keeping a chapter alive and active have saved some chapters within New England.

We in Mass-2 are fortunate to be blessed with more than a few good people who help keep our chapter alive and vibrant. If you are not one of those people that we see during the year, take a look at the Ride Schedule, circle one or two events, and come join us. Your input and participation will help keep our chapter motivated and moving forward. And just think what an event we would have if nearly all our members came out to get together. I know I have been a member since 1987 and there are people on our roster that I have never met. I hope to meet you this year!

2011 marks my fifteenth year as a chapter officer and my eighth year as chapter president. It is my intention to run for re-election in the fall. That does not mean that I want to discourage anyone from stepping forward for that position or any other within our chapter. New ideas and viewpoints are always welcome and needed.

I wish you all a great summer and many miles of safe riding this season. I hope to see you each out on the road with us sometime this year.

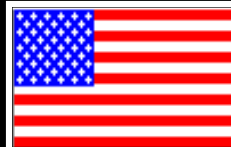
Ride safe.

# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — Summer '11

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

*Loyal to Our Duty*



Sunday, July 3.  
4th of July Pot-luck BBQ.



Come enjoy some time with friends at a holiday pot-luck.

We'll be guests of the Oliver's at their home at 44 West Street in New Salem, just beyond Hamilton Orchards. (About a mile beyond the store)

Meet us in New Salem for 1:00 pm. If you are not sure of the directions give a call for a rendezvous point

### **POST-Americade Pot-luck** **Saturday, July 23.**

We'll be at Kevin Martin's in Ashburnham (3:00 p.m.) to look at all the pictures from Americade!

Bring your CD's of pictures to view and we'll show them on the big screen and have some laughs (and food) together!

67 Holt Road (Off of 101).

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, VP Kevin Martin.

**Saturday, October 15**

**— Annual Chapter meeting followed by the October Breakfast Club (Brunch).**

Chapter meeting (and election of officers) at 9:00 and then a ride and breakfast to follow.

*Bob*

### Membership News Briefs...

Our condolences go out to Walter and Lorry Roach and Karen Noble on the recent passing of Walter's brother.

Earlier this year Terry Atwood said that he would not be able to ride as much as he hoped for the year and that he was going to step down as Assistant Road Captain. On behalf of the E-board and all our members I want to thank Terry for all his work and efforts in our Road Captain team. We hope to see both Doreen and he out on the road with us as much as they can!

Welcome back to a couple of members from years past. Jim Skehan (a charter member from Ashburnham FD), and Rich Cormier (of Leominster FD) have rejoined the chapter to take advantage of the fun we have! Hope to see you both on the road with us.



Friday-Sunday,  
July 29-31  
**Red Knight  
White Mountain  
Weekend**

1-888-513- LEAF (5323)  
E-mail: info@mapleleafmotel.com

There are eight (8) rooms reserved for the Red Knights for our summer's ride. Our special *pre-season* rate is \$59.99 + tax (\$64.25) Per night and includes Coffee in the am. The rooms will be held first come first serve (at that price) until Friday, June 17. Most rooms have Queen Beds however a couple had 2 full size beds etc.

### On the road with our friends...

- We had fifteen members and friends come out for our Galactic Bowling night in March. The Gardner Ten Pins was a hopping place amidst their light show, music, glow in the dark pins and alleys, and a full house of bowlers. In our three lanes we had Tim Kilhart with the top score of 176 for one of his strings! It was a blast, and we were all able to keep our bowling balls in our individual alleys, so the night was a success! —and we got to wear such stylish shoes too!
- Our monthly Breakfast Clubs have drawn to a close until October — but they were a popular attraction with 19 in attendance in March (we went to the Baldwinville Station) and 13 members in April.
- Our monthly ice cream rides have started up again — on the fourth Wednesday of each month through September — and our May ride found a dozen bikes and 17 people waiting for ice cream at WFD! When we arrived at Kimball's in Lancaster another three friends from Ayer pulled in and joined us as well.
- 21 members were on hand for our Father's Day afternoon of ice cream and lawn sports in Petersham. It was a beautiful afternoon and just a great day to kick back and relax!



**Boston Bound** — The blue skies of a beautiful spring day greeted eighteen of us for our annual train ride to Boston in April. We had just recovered from our April Fool's Day snow storm. We shared the train with a number of excited Bruin's fans both in bound and out bound as the B's took their Saturday afternoon match that day! *(And we all know how their season ended!!)*

We spent some time at Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market before making our way to Hanover Street and Mother Anna's for lunch in the North End. Deb has suggested that next year we spend the pre-lunch time exploring the North End before our lunch stop.

Of course the food was great, and John and his staff are forever gracious to us. Then we were off again, stopping at Mike's Pastries for boxes of goodies, and a stop at the produce vendors before catching our train back west.



**Ice Cream!** It's that time of year again. Come join us for our monthly ice cream rides. This year we are meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month @ 6:30 (through September) and will ride for ice cream.

The next **Ice Cream Rides** are June 22, July 27, Aug. 24

**Saturday, September 17.  
Mass 2's annual ride to  
Sherry's House.**

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. Donations and proceeds of the *gambling* will be left off at "Sherry's House" in Worcester during the ride (and we'll drop off our care packages too). Meet at Westminster FD at 9:00 a.m.

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



*Red Knights Spring Weekend*

We had ten members head out to the Berkshires for our Spring Weekend. It was a great day for a ride as we ventured out the Mohawk Trail and across the Taconic Trail into New York.

We worked our way south and then back into Massachusetts to check in at our host hotel, the Yankee Inn. This year we had rooms in their main building. Each room had a balcony overlooking the green way behind the hotel and a few of the rooms had fire places in them! We enjoyed the pool before we meandered on a brief walk before dinner (and a stop at the wine store next door!). Then we enjoyed an evening of cards and camaraderie.

Saturday's plans were to head to the NY State Firemen's Home to participate in RK NY-29's "Run for the Home."

We also met up with members of Mass-13 and VT-2 at the ride. We were pleased to see they had a great turn out of 75 bikes! They led us on a fun ride across the Rip Van Winkle Bridge and up Windham Mountain... and then KABOOM! A big lightning bolt came down not to far from our route and we all thought... "we may get wet!" We did get a little wet for about 15 minutes on the way back, but it was still a good ride.

The folks at NY-29 had a Chicken BBQ for us as well as raffles and games. We thought for sure that Dan from Mass-13 would take furthest traveled, but someone from Long Island beat him by 30 miles! Peg took the ladies' winnings for the hammer game too.

After that brief shower, the rains stopped and we had a nice ride back to Lenox. We did manage to find a Winery and an ice cream stop before calling it a night and adjourning to the pool again.

Sunday was another perfect weather day when we loaded up and headed back home. Unlike last year's temperatures in the 20's with spitting snow, this year we enjoyed sunshine and temperatures in the 60's. A stop at Page's Bookstore and Coffee Shop in Conway was the finishing touch of a fun weekend.



We found a yard full of "Junk Art" when we stopped for ice cream!



*"Most motorcycle riders assume that they will make it home from their travels unscathed. But mishaps do happen, which is why it is prudent to prepare for the possibility that your ride won't go as planned."*

*Ken Condon, Proficient Motorcycling*

Ken's articles, and much of what we talk about when we talk about riding safety are items like; watching out for the other guy, being prepared for the ride (bike, body, and mind), or practicing the physical and mental skills needed to ride safely.

But this preparation can also be about what happens if there is a mishap. The Red Knights have a resource to help with this. The International has entered into an agreement with AirMed Transport where you can buy med flight insurance to get you home if you are injured (more than 150 miles from home).

If you are planning on traveling this year, consider purchasing that insurance—either on a short-term basis for your one trip, or with a year-long policy. It will give you some peace of mind knowing that if something does go wrong, you (and your family) will not have to think about the logistics or cost in getting you home. (The cost is very reasonable).

Visit the RK International Web Page  
or [www.airmed.com](http://www.airmed.com) for more information.



## Americade — our home away from home!

It always seems like a homecoming when we pull off of Lake Shore Drive and into the cabins at Bay Front Cottages. Tom and Bev Roach, our hosts for the week, must think of us as friends after all these years because the weekend we arrive is the Elvis Festival and Bev always says, "I'll be with Elvis, you know where to go, just make yourselves at home." And we do!

All of those heading to the cottages had made the decision to go up on Saturday this year. We had two departure points (east and west), plus the truck and trailer took the highway route. And even though we had these three different routes all of us arrived within ten minutes of each other. The two motorcycle contingents actually passed each other on Route 9 in Lake George going in opposite directions.

It seemed to be the year for miles. Every day we had pods of our members heading out to explore the Adirondack byways. I believe we covered every direction too; from Forestport for pie, to Howes Caverns, to Lake Placid and Speculator, into Vermont, and up to Saranac and Tupper Lakes. (You must ask Jim how many roads lead to Saranac Lake because he kept ending up there!)

And as in years past there seemed to be some specific roads that were well worn by Red Knight tires. This year it was Schroom

River Road and Tracy Road that seemed to draw us to them. And of course the road to Stoney Creek gets visited a few times. The spring weather is apparent in the area with some roads still closed because of washouts and the obvious signs of flood damage on the road edges.

After arriving we did have the standard Saturday evening dinner with Dot and John at Stoney Creek. They are always pleased to see us all after their long winter. Sunday was still the ongoing Elvis Festival and the Tow Truck convention so the crowds on Canada Street were quite an array of characters from riders to Elvis look a-likes and everywhere in between. We did our good deed for the day when Bob had to use his tire plug kit on a fellow Americader's *very* flat rear tire. It drew quite a crowd watching the repair (and reading the kit's directions). At least three of those kits were sold at the Forum to people watching the plug kit's "practical demonstration."

Food was a focus for us (as usual). Walter met up with Peg the day before we left and helped gather all the grub for the week. And boy did we have grub! Burgers and dogs, of course. Then there was BBQ Chicken Surprise with a big salad, and our Italian night with 6 gallons of sauce with the meat balls and sausage. This year's Americade meal events were held at Fort William Henry. A few of the members took part in the *Brunch by the Lake* one morning — and



many of us were at the Red Knights' Dinner on Wednesday night. The food at the "FWH" was fantastic!

We also sampled a number of other restaurants besides our normal visits to Stoney Creek. One group strolled down to the Boat House restaurant next door one evening. Another group sampled Indian cuisine in town, and a third group tried out the Barnsider on the south end of Canada Street.

We laughed one morning when we realized we were not using as many eggs and bacon in the mornings as we have years past. I guess our diets are changing by choice or necessity as we are getting older and the fruit and grains were the staples we needed more of for the week. We have not changed our need for ice cream though. I believe every one of those rides that left the "compound" each day found ice cream before returning.

With use of the Ft. William Henry complex instead of the Roaring Brook Ranch you could park your bike downtown and walk or use the shuttle to hit all the nearby Americade venues. All the demos were located around the FWH and both Tent City and the Lake George

Forum were full of vendors with wares that you didn't know you couldn't live without. Up the road, Warrensburg was full of vendors and motorcyclists all week long as well.

A couple of days during the week it was HOT! So hot that we even had people swimming in the glacially cooled waters of Lake George. We also had a couple of passing weather fronts that offered some downpours and lightning — and a power outage. Bob and Diona were about 1.5 miles from the cabin when the skies opened. How wet can you get in a mile you ask? Very wet.



### *Americade continued*

This year's (sold out) Red Knights sponsored dinner was held in the White Lion room at FWH overlooking Lake George. We had the room filled to capacity with 200 Red Knights and friends. You had a choice of sirloin, salmon, or pork tenderloin. The staff and the food were great. Red Knight members donated 70 door prizes that were drawn and passed out to the crowd.

Our evenings at the Cabins were filled with card games, dice games, and dominos. When we had our time by the lake with the fire we even shared the space with groups of goslings and ducklings that are nesting around the docks. Marty brought down some marshmallows so we would not go hungry by the fire. One unexpected but pleasant surprise was Tom's guided tours on his pontoon boat. One afternoon he needed to get fuel for the boat so he gathered up the ladies that were enjoying the sunshine by the water and took them out for a ride up the lake to Bolton Landing for fuel. We noticed that each night he and Bev would take a cruise on the lake and when we were by the fire he offered to have us accompany them. It was Friday evening and the lake was like a mirror. He cruised towards downtown and the cruise ships. The shore was all lit up with the night's activities and we could even see the fireworks from the Six-Flags Great Escape. It was a very peaceful, enjoyable and appreciated evening ride.

Six of our members were part of the Americade volunteer staff. Rick & Lori, Steve, Larry, and Bob & Diona each took their turns at parking duty. Larry probably had the hardest job as he was assigned at FWH where the others were at the Holiday Inn. Bob also did a seminar on ride planning, and Bob & Diona worked a Poker Run stop where they met a Massachusetts MAL from within our chapter area! (Maybe we will have a new member soon).

Thursday was the open house at the Lake George Fire Station hosted by NY-12. There were over 250 Red Knights in attendance. Many of the chapters set up to sell their merchandise (as we did—thanks Tim and Darlene). It is always a great time to visit with others that you have not seen since last year. This year we had the novel chance to see LGFD head out to a fire call during our luncheon! How appropriate!

New York Chapter 12 works hard each year preparing the food and the station for our visit. In recognition of this our chapter presented them with a plaque thanking them for their many years of hospitality to all us visiting Red Knights.

And Thursday night would not be complete without taking our reserved park bench and corner on Canada Street in front of Bob's Ice Cream. People and bike watching — and eating ice cream. Isn't that another staple of Americade life?

Saturday was parade day — but it was also our only day of steady rain. It was the first year that we decided not to participate in the parade as a group. In 2010 we had gotten down to the parade line up before it started raining but this year it was raining before we awoke. We were not the only ones to bow out. Less than 100 bikes, including about 20 RK members made the parade. And it sounded like there were more riders in the parade than watching the parade too! Our bikes stayed covered for the day and we kept busy with inside entertainment that included dice, cards, dominos, movies... and "I'm just going to rest my eyes in this recliner." Traditionally our Saturday evening is used to clean out the refrigerator and take care of leftovers. Since we were inside all day we did a good job at that after grazing all day!

Several people did have to leave on Saturday and donned their rain gear to head home. Sunday saw the rest of us packed up, mounted up, and headed home. It was another great week in Lake George, enjoying all the pleasures that Americade brings.

See you in 2012!



## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual VT-2 Paul's Ride POKER RUN June 25<sup>th</sup> 2011

Red Knights Vermont II  
In Memory of Paul C. McAuliffe

West Brattleboro Fire Station  
Registration Time: 9AM to 10AM  
Ride maps will be provided. Ride at your  
own speed.

Lunch at the West Brattleboro Fire Station  
All profits go for gas cards to help  
cancer patients with travel expenses.

**ALL WELCOME**  
Cost: \$20.00 per person

RK Mass-2 riders to meet at the Shell Station at  
Exit 16 off Route 2 (Route 202 in Orange) at  
8:00 a.m.







## CHANGES IN THIS YEAR'S RED KNIGHT CHRISTMAS...

We are trying a new venue to offer everyone a different Christmas party this year. We have booked reservations at the Colonial Bed and Breakfast on Betty Spring Road in Gardner for our party on Sunday afternoon, December 11.

We are mentioning it in this newsletter as a heads-up because the cost per member will be \$20 and the agreement we signed with the facility stated that **we must have a head count AND full payment in by the beginning of December.**

So we will be asking everyone who plans on attending in December to have the costs (\$20 per person) into us by the Sunday after Thanksgiving (November 27). If you want to put that aside during the riding months and get the money in before the deadline, that is fine.

We hope that you will enjoy this year's festivities — and a special thank you go out to Maury Lizotte and Kevin Martin for their leg work in looking at different facilities and menus.

### AMA's top 15 Motorcycle Roads in the U.S.

The American Motorcycle Association listed their top fifteen "member picks" for best roads to ride. Which ones have you been on? Which ones are on your lists of "need to do?"

15. Washington Route 129 and Oregon Route 3; Clarkson, WA to Enterprise, OR.
14. Ohio Route 170; Calcutta to Poland
13. California Route 58, McKittrick to Santa Margarita
12. U.S. Route 33; Harrisburg, VA to Seneca Rocks, WVA (Over the Continental Divide)
11. Natchez Trace; from Natchez, MS to Nashville, TN
10. Angeles Crest Highway; California Route 2
9. U.S. Route 12; Lolo Pass, Idaho and Montana
8. Route 36; California
7. Cherohala Skyway; North Carolina and Tennessee
6. Going to the Sun Road; Glacial National Park, Montana
5. California Highway 1; Pacific Coast Highway
4. Highway 550; Ouray to Durango, Colorado
3. U.S. Route 129; The Tail of the Dragon—on the North Carolina-Tennessee Border
2. Blue Ridge Parkway; Virginia and North Carolina
1. Beartooth Highway; Montana and Wyoming

2011 100,000 Mile Club



Many of our members have not only served their communities for many years, but are also Veterans who have served and protected our freedom with their military duty. A special thanks go out to all of you who have worked so hard to make our country and our communities a safe place for us all to live.

Pictured here is Legion Commander and Navy Veteran (and Assistant Road Captain) Larry Robinson giving the Commander's Remarks at Petersham's Memorial Day Services.

## Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:



Bob, Rick, and Maury with Jack Daniels in Lynchburg, TN.

Saturday, June 25.

**RK Vermont-2's Paul's Ride.** Let's support a nearby chapter's efforts to help those with cancer. Meet at the 2/202 Shell in Orange at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 16.

**Deli-delicious at Rein's in Vernon.** We'll take a ride down to Vernon, Connecticut for lunch at Rein's Deli and explore some of Connecticut's roads. Meet at 2/202 at 10.

Saturday, July 23.

**Americade Picture Perfect Potluck.** We'll be at Kevin Martin's in Ashburnham (3:00 p.m.) to look at all the pictures from Americade!

Saturday, August 13.

**BBQ and Ice Cream!** True southern BBQ in Connecticut? We'll find out with a ride to Gran'daddy's in Putnam and then it's only a short distance for dessert at the UConn Dairy Bar. Meet at Westminster FD at 10:30 a.m.

**2011 Ride for Molly - Sunday, June 26**

Molly Bish Foundation [www.rideformolly.org/](http://www.rideformolly.org/)

**RK-Mass-3's 3rd Annual Bill Hodge Memorial Poker Run**

Sunday, July 17th.—Registration at Super Stop & Shop in Halifax with an end point at Upland Sportsman's Club. Proceeds benefit the Shriners' Burn Center for Children in Boston.

Saturday, August 20.

**The Path of Life crossing the river.** It's a ride north along both sides of the Connecticut River with our route over the Cornish Covered Bridge and a stop at the Path of Life Park in Windsor, VT. Meet at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 9:00.

Saturday, September 3.

**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 noon and we'll go for a ride that ends at our pot-luck.

Saturday, September 24.

**To the Cape and Back!** We'll meet at WFD for 8:00 a.m. and follow the Vice-president hither-and-yon on back roads down towards the Bourne Bridge and back. (If you think you want to make a weekend of it... go for it!)

Sunday, October 9:

**Breakfast (and Apple Pie) with Smokey Bear....** Breakfast first (to support our brethren at the Jaffrey FD) and then off to Dummerston Apple Pie Festival! Leave WFD at 8:00 a.m.

Amherst FF's MDA Poker Run  
Saturday, July 23, 9:00 a.m.  
UMass Football Stadium

The sky turned dark and a freezing rain began falling. Most Alpine roads are very narrow to begin with, and this particular one was barely a single car width across, but eventually I spotted a narrow gravel shoulder and pulled over. As Marc pulled up behind me, I motioned him alongside and flipped up my face shield. "Hey Marc, any idea where this road goes?"

He flipped up his own shield and stared at me for a moment before replying, "Nope. Not a clue."

"Well, then," I said, "any chance you happen to know what country we're in?"

Again he hesitated before replying. "At the last border crossing we entered Switzerland, but on these back roads we've been riding, I suppose we could have crossed into Austria sometime this afternoon... maybe even Italy."

"Then I don't suppose you know what direction our hotel is in?"

No, but let me ask you a question."  
"Shoot."

Wasn't that a great road we just came up?"

"Fantastic," I replied, "In fact, the whole day's ride has been incredible. Indescribable."

"Well then," he said, a smiling creeping across his face, "does any of the rest really matter?"

We were lost in a foreign county, high in the mountains. It was getting dark, and the rain was turning to snow. I was wet and cold, but in fact, was having the ride of my life. So I said, "Now that you mention it, old friend, no, it really doesn't matter!"

**Attitude. Trust me. It's the single most essential thing to remember to take along on your next ride, be it a day trip in the country, or a month crisscrossing Europe. Don't leave home without it.**

Fred Rau  
Motorcycle Touring Bible

Visit <http://www.fredraumotorcycling.com/> to get information on how to order Fred's new book!

**New England Fire Chief's Show**  
June 24-26 in West Springfield

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

**Scottish Highland Games At Quechee Gorge, Vermont**

Saturday, August 27

We will spend the day on a ride into Vermont — and enjoy the skills of the Scottish Competition!

(Thurs. to Sun.) September 8-11.  
**Killington Classic in Killington, VT.**

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



C.O.P.S. Motorcycle Blessing and Bike Rodeo — We had twelve members come out for the Motor-Officer Bike Blessing and Rodeo held in Uxbridge back in April. It was a gorgeous Sunday morning when we took off and headed down to the Rhode Island line.

They had a very good turn out with a parade of about 25 motorcycle officers that came into the rodeo grounds.

We were not able to stay until the motorcycle “games” started, but we did get the opportunity participate in the Blessing of the Bikes (and of the Riders).



**9-11 Steel from the WTC brought to RKMC memorial.** A contingent of Mass-2 members were part of the more than 100 Red Knights members from half a dozen East Coast states and Quebec, and their friends and family, mustered early on Saturday, June 18 in Sturbridge to escort a 9-11 relic from the World Trade Center to what will be its permanent home at the Red Knights' Memorial at of the Boylston fire station.

It took the group two years to acquire it through a competitive application process that involved navigating complex bureaucratic channels in New York. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey finally released the piece in mid June. A committee, that includes past President Ed Brouillet, is in place to determine and design the final layout that will include the piece of steel from the WTC site.



### ***Riding in the Rain*** ***Avoiding those Rain Drops***

The operative word here is DROPS. Most riders get used to riding in the rain by accident. They take off on an all day ride when the sun is shining, and by afternoon they realize they're going to get their first taste of wet asphalt, like it or not.

So, suppose you're thinking about getting on a wet road for the first time, or perhaps you've done it a few times, or you do it so much you're not thinking about what the hazards are.

Here is a list of critical rain hazards to watch for when riding in a rain storm:

**Painted Lines:** Painted lines are inherently slippery when wet. Crosswalks can be unsafe for motorcyclists, particularly if you're turning and crossing the lines at an angle. Slow down more than usual and make the turn

straight up, rather than in a lean. Watch the “tar snakes” too. When wet they can be like ice!

**Surface Textures:** Many parking areas are paved with very slick concrete surfaces. When you leave the road and enter the local mall or condo complex, the change in road surface can cause you to drop your bike in a second.

**Steel:** Manhole covers are enemy number one and railroad tracks rank a close second. Making a turn over these surfaces sets you up for trouble. Avoid them or keep the bike straight up and cross over slowly. Grated bridge crossings and metal plates are nasty to encounter in the rain as well.

**Puddles and Pot Holes:** It only takes once to know how this one feels. You cruise through what you think is just a puddle and, when it's too late, you have dropped into a pot hole that wants to suck you down to a place you definitely don't want to be. Be aware of the possibility the puddle just may be a black hole from which there is no return.

**Oil:** It can be everywhere. Those little red and blue rainbows on the ground mean danger. Per the DOT's motorcycle safety manual, if you're caught in the first rain following a few dry days, remember the roads are covered with lots of oil and dirt that will be lifted from the surface in the first 30-60 minutes of a new rain. Great time for a coffee break!



## Are you looking for trouble?

It's been said that if you look for trouble you're likely to find it. In our case (as motorcyclists), that's a good thing. If we find it, we can avoid it. Get your eyes up and actively seek out any hints of trouble far up the road. Expand the view by looking across the landscape in search of side roads, entry ramps, villages, animals or anything that can spell trouble. Continually and actively scan forward and back for hints of activity and warning signs of potential threats up ahead and from behind. Trouble comes from all directions.

**Look for it!**

Eric Trow, *Rider Magazine*



Congratulations to Steve Mickle on his recognition for ten years as State Rep. Steve was given a plaque at the State Meeting with a presentation by Steve Alvarez, President of MA-3 on behalf of all the Mass chapters. Well done Steve!

### Come join us for the New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 21.

We'll meet at the Petersham Common at 7:30 am and head to Sturbridge 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.



*Ride for Kids*

The motorcycling community continued to give generously to charity in 2010, defying the economic downturn by contributing more than \$4.5 million to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation® (PBTf) Ride for Kids® program.

That program has raised \$54 million for childhood brain tumor research and family support since 1984. Including these funds, the PBTf's overall fundraising total now exceeds \$61 million.

As the world's largest nongovernmental source of childhood brain tumor research support, the PBTf has funded projects at more than 50 facilities worldwide. Our PBTf Institutes at Duke University, the University of California, San Francisco, and the Hospital for Sick Children in Canada are working together to change outcomes for the better.

Ride for Kids® expanded to 40 cities in 2010, and will be in those same cities in 2011. The full schedule is available at [www.rideforkids.org](http://www.rideforkids.org).

## Skills Day 2011



After a week of rain we had a dry day to practice our skills at our 2011 Skills Day.

Thanks to Mt. Wachusett Community College we had use of one of their large parking lots for the day.

Bob Shakarian and his team had the *drill yard* set up for us when the we arrived.

It is always a lot of fun and a lot of laughs as we practice our circles, U-turns, serpentines, two-up riding, etc. Where the lot was empty it afforded us ample space and we were able to do some group exercises that were a blast as well.

The sun came out just as we were starting to pick up the tennis balls, so we decided that our lawns and yard work could wait and we went on a ride that included lunch at the American Grill in Peterborough and ice cream for dessert at Kimball's.

Plan on joining us next year... you **WILL** have fun, and you **WILL** learn something that improves your skills.



## Motorcycle Safety Conference

Saturday April 23, 2011

Fred LeBlanc

Three members of MA Chapter 2 attended the Motorcycle Safety Conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security on April 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year.

Several presentations were made at the day long conference all of which were informative and enlightening. Today we'll focus on some crash statistics and motorcycle insurance. In a presentation of crash and fatality data, statistics show Worcester County has the highest fatality rate with Route 2 registering 6 fatalities. Of the fatalities 25% of accidents occur between 6 pm and 9 pm with 41% occurring on Saturday and Sunday. The age group with the highest rate is the 20-29 year old bracket.

Further breakdown illustrated 54% of fatalities were Harley Davidson and 38% were cruisers. The touring bike class was the lowest category while sport cruisers were the highest. The length of time of ownership was another indicator shown. Over 40% had owned the bike for 1 year or less. The statistics confirmed many past revelations such as accidents happening close to home. This fact is true with 51% happening 5 miles or less from home. The study indicated 79% had no training in rider safety.

Many of us have heard the concern of beware of the vehicle approaching making a left hand turn. Another true fact since 67% of the fatalities were in this category. The 46 to 50 age category was also high in fatalities.

This study was presented by Gene Carabine of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Gene runs the Massachusetts Rider Education Program and is the contact to use for any RMV issues. He is devoted to motorcycle safety and has a thorough knowledge of motorcycle issues.

The topic of motorcycle insurance was presented by John W. Braley III of Braley & Wellington Insurance Agency Corp. A breakdown of the components of our insurance policies was discussed. In the audience was Betsy Lister of Lister Insurance Agency Inc. who has been a strong advocate for motorcycle issues. Between John and Betsy, a very eye opening message became clear. Many of us may be underinsured or improperly insured. Each of the 12 categories was explained in detail to help the audience understand the implications of each. I know I made changes to my policy based on the information obtained. The easiest way to understand the categories is to go to Betsy Lister's website at <http://listerins.com>. At this website Betsy has a Motorcycle Insurance Coverage 101 tutorial. I took my policy, placed it in front of me, and went through each category. I needed to change 4 of the 12 categories. I think we all should take a minute and read the tutorial.

Overall this was worth taking time on a Saturday to learn what is out there waiting for us. More information can be shared in future articles to keep us aware of what is important to us as motorcyclists. In our next newsletter we'll talk about the Massachusetts Motorcyclists Association MMA and the Massachusetts Motorcyclists Survivors Fund MMSF.

## Are you headed to the convention?

September 8, 9, 10 & 11, 2011  
Ocean City, Maryland

Thursday Afternoon: Welcome, Registration, & BBQ Buffet

Friday: Various activities including connections and directions to area attractions and escorted rides to:

- the Nations Capital;
- Assateague Ride and BBQ;
- to Chincoteague Island, VA

Friday Evening — Crab feast and related parties

Saturday Morning: Annual Business Meeting

Saturday Afternoon:

- Half day fishing excursions aboard the Angler or any of the charter boats that line the docks.
- Take a trio to the Boardwalk; enjoy some famous Thrasher's French Fries, Fisher's World Famous popcorn, or maybe a good old fashioned Funnel Cake.
- Enjoy any number of area attractions...just ask a MD3 member and get the "lowdown" on whatever it is that strikes your fancy.
- Open House at the Harley-Davidson Shop of Ocean City.
- Maryland Chapter 3's Red Knight's "Bike Show".

Saturday Evening: Annual Convention Dinner, Awards ceremony, and Swearing in of new officers,

Sunday Morning: Traditional Send-off Breakfast

Sunday, 9am-11:00am - Staging for Ceremony/Memorial Service - this is one of MD3's Annual events. Ride down the boardwalk to the Firefighter Memorial where the service will be held.

11:30am - Annual 9/11 Memorial Ride and Service on the Ocean City Boardwalk. We will end the convention with a Ceremony/Memorial Service will be held at Ocean City's Firefighters Memorial. We will end the convention with an escorted ride out of OC immediately following the service.

The only announced candidate for Region-1 Director is Don Moore of Vermont-3. Don is President of VT-3 and a retired member of the Rutland Fire Department.

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Running for re-election this year are President Dave Emery of Vermont-2 and Treasurer Leo Patry of Ontario-7.

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John Rucinski of NY-12, our current Regional Director, is not running for re-election and the Executive Board and members of the chapter wish to extend our thanks to John for his many years of service to our Regional and the Red Knights.