



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Summer '13

<http://www.rk-mass2.org>  [facebook.com/RKMASS2](https://www.facebook.com/RKMASS2)

Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's Desk

How is the riding season going for you? Do you have a big grin each time you push the start button and role out of the driveway? Are you always looking at ways to make each ride better? Or are there specific challenges that make you tense up; whether it is a particular corner and how it banks, a certain intersection, or traffic conditions that occasionally increase your "pucker level?"

The chapter's leadership is always encouraging each of us to practice our riding skills. That can be done alone with individual parking lot practice, with us as a group in events like our Chapter Skills Day, or more formally in a Motorcycle Safety Course. Any good, quality time spent on our skills will make us physically better riders.

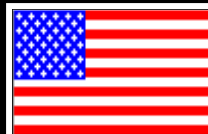
This type of skill development is very important, but it is not the only skill set that you need to practice and improve on as a rider. Your mental skills also need practice, because physical skills alone will not keep you safe.

Each time you gear up and prepare to throw a leg over the saddle, ask yourself if you are in a safe riding frame of mind. Our emotions — be it on one end of the scale, like anger, to the opposite end of our emotions with no mental energy being available — can easily take our mental focus off the ride and redirect our thoughts and attention to those other factors swirling around in our brain.

One way to *practice* our mental skills is to play the "What If" game. Whether on four wheels or two, look at situations, road conditions, traffic, weather, time of day, and other riding "in puts" and think about what could happen if something went wrong. Then mentally determine what actions you could take to safely deal with those potential threats. Lane position, speed, following distances, and blind spot avoidance are all pieces of the puzzle. If we are not prepared to make those decisions by constantly training our mental skills our internal reaction may be to freeze and not react, which leads to many crashes.

Along with both our mental and physical skills, we also must remember our motorcycle's mechanical "skills." Is my bike ready for the ride? Am I wearing the proper gear? Can I be seen by other drivers on the road. All the pieces of physical, mental, and mechanical go hand-in-hand each time we push the start button and head out the for a ride. That preparation and practice will help add to that big smile and great feeling you get as you role out for the day. That smile is part fun and part confidence because you have the skills.

Ride safe and enjoy your summer!



**Saturday, July 6.
4th of July Pot-luck BBQ.**



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

We'll be guests of Nancy and Larry Robinson in Petersham (1:00 p.m.) [355 North Main Street—Route 32]

Bring some food to share and enjoy the afternoon with your Red Knight family!

(Larry says to bring your whole family, kids, grandkids, everyone!)

Saturday, June 22. 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.

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. *(With Kevin Martin's announcement that he will be running for Chapter President, we will also be looking for a Vice-president to fill his term).* Any member interested in running for these posts should contact this year's nomination chairman, Road Captain Bob Shakarian at 978-807-0817 or Sharkey625@aol.com.

Saturday, October 19 — Annual Chapter meeting.

Meet at 2/202 Shell Station @ 9:00 a.m. — Ride to Amherst for meeting room, some education, and lunch at UMass.

How can you help the chapter?

We have several openings that will be happening on our chapter executive board in the Fall and we hope that each of you will consider how you *personally* can help our chapter. If you would consider stepping up to a leadership position—that is great! We always need new ideas and viewpoints and being part of the team that helps direct our chapter is a wonderful way to put your fingerprint on our club.

Beyond running for an office, how can you help us? What type of time, talents and ideas do you have that would help our organization grow and continue to be the vibrant and fun group that we all enjoy?

Membership News Briefs...

Our condolences to Ed & Sharon Mathews on the passing of their daughter.

Welcome to Andrew Lombardo (Shaky's nephew) as a new member of the chapter.

Congratulations to Rick and Lori Oliver on being recognized for their service to the New Salem Fire Department! And best wishes to Maury in his new job.



A regulation vehicle inspection in Massachusetts is a lot more than the "toot your horn" and get an inspection

sticker that many shops do each spring. The actual guide for giving motorcycle inspections is eleven pages long, but here are some bullet points of what is supposed to be inspected.

- All motorcycle inspection information will be uploaded to RMV via the Internet.
- Any mismatch of registration data will block the inspection from proceeding.
- Options of bike must be confirmed with listing on computer; -swing arm, -shocks, -odometer, -turn signals, -auxiliary lamps, -windshield
- The license plate must be mounted horizontally, and cannot be damaged.
- Exhaust (no modifications to baffles), must be no louder than with original equipment, ends of mufflers cannot be pinched.
- Handlebars, no higher than shoulder height, maximum 18 inch apart.
- Brakes have a list of requirements, and a visual inspection of brake pads must occur.
- Wheel bearing shall be inspected (on a lift) for excessive play.
- Front to rear wheel alignment shall be inspected.
- Steering head bearings shall be inspected for play with front wheel lifted off floor.

That is just a few highlights from the document. Other detailed inspection points are forks & suspension, tires & wheels, horn, lighting & reflectors, body components, frame, fuel system, engine & engine mounts, battery, and controls.

I don't know about you, but I do not think my fifteen minutes of time at the inspection station covered all those components closely. Is your bike ready for a true inspection?

On the road with our friends...

- A little snow won't keep us away from breakfast! In February we were greeted with a couple of inches of fresh snow, but we still had 15 members come out for our Breakfast Club at the Glen Caffe.



- A dank, cold, drizzly February Day. What a better time to carpool to Monadnock Harley Davidson to sample some of the chili and pulled pork at their annual chili competition! Lot's of different tastes to choose a winner from — and also look at all the new bikes on the showroom floor!



- Our March Breakfast Club had a turn out of 21 members and friends for Green Pancakes and Puppies at the NEADS complex in Princeton. The NEADS trainers had a number of their puppies in training out and about with us to help them with their socializing skills. We also had an in-depth discussion with one of their volunteers (who has a "hearing dog") on the training the dogs and the clients go through to become a partnership together.

- The room was all a-buzz with 23 Red Knights gathered in the Brouillet's back room planning for Americade on March 23. Of course there was an ample buffet of pot-luck choices to graze on for the afternoon too! It may have still looked like winter outside, but we were all ready to be on the bikes and headed to Lake George!



- Our Spring "Dust-off" ride saw 14 people come out and enjoy a beautiful April day for riding.

Saturday, September 21.

Mass 2's annual ride for Sherry's House. Our chapter treasurer will take the lead with our turn to "play some cards" through the western part of the state this year. 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 delivered to "Sherry's House" in Worcester.

Meet at 2/202 Shell Station in Orange at 9:00 a.m. More info to come later. Check out www.whyme.org for information on Sherry's House.

We are asking for gift cards to places like Wal-Mart, Target, National Restaurants, gas cards, and the like that could be used at Sherry's House to help support the families who need to stay there as their children are receiving treatment at the area hospitals.



Red Knights Spring Weekend

This year it was arguably the *best* weather ALL weekend long that we have seen while visiting the Cape. It was perfect! And being before Memorial Day weekend the traffic was still OK to work with no matter where we roamed.

There were twelve members of Mass-2 that ventured over the canal to the hotel in Hyannis. We had a number of rooms that were grouped and a few in an upper floor to keep an eye on us at the parking lot level!

Friday evening we walked the Main Street of Hyannis for dinner at Tommy Doyle's Irish Pub before we spent some time sight seeing along the nearby harbor. Steve had some very smooth—and very expensive scotch with his meal, but he smiled and said it was worth every penny!

Saturday was our big event with a Fire Tower ride on the docket. Maury had done much planning ahead of time and he and Armand had way points programmed in their GPS units to try and find the eight different towers that we found; Kingston Tower, Barnstable Tower, Sandwich Tower, Bourne Tower, Falmouth Tower, Dennis Tower, Brewster Tower in Nickerson State Park, and Wellfleet Tower to round out the 170 mile ride.

Of course we also had to stop along the way for nourishment (more than once) and yes, we did find ice cream.

Four members of Mass -8 caught up with us for our final three towers and they took over the lead and



brought us through some very scenic rural roads along the way. The towers they finished with had nice paved roads to

them—a bit different than the way we started our search with dirt, gravel, and some roads with very fine sand as our 900 pound touring bikes wiggled their way up the hills. Several of the towers had to be hiked to as well, and we joked that Homeland Security and the FBI were probably out looking for the biker gang that was casing all the Cape's fire towers!

Sunday was another beautiful day as we worked our way off the Cape and back home again. Consider joining us next year for where ever the RK Spring Weekend leads us!

Congratulations to this year's recipients of our **Motorcycle Safety Training Scholarships** through the Central Mass Safety Council.

Receiving the Scholarship for the MSF Beginner Course are Matthew Callahan, a firefighter with Shirley FD, and Kyle Banville of Templeton. Receiving this year's Experienced Course scholarships are Jim Skehan and Kevin Martin.

We had a big pool of candidates this year. If you applied but did not receive the scholarship, we want to encourage you to still seek out an MSF course, and by all means, apply again for next year's scholarship.

These four scholarships bring to 46 the number of riders who have received Safety Training through our funding program over the past decade. Every rider who participates in a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course becomes a better rider — and makes the roads safer for each of us!

I would like to thank the Red Knights Motorcycle Club for choosing me to attend the Experienced Rider's Course. I really enjoyed this class. Not only did I learn several new riding techniques such as emergency stopping on a corner, the proper way to approach corners, hard stops, and avoiding obstacles in the roads, I also realized I had a couple of bad habits I was not aware of. I have been using some of these techniques I have learned in this class each time I rode this week. I am so glad I got the opportunity to take part in this training.

Once again thank you all,
Jim Skehan

Americade at it's best -- Friends - Motorcycles - and Miles

The Sunday before we all gathered and left for Lake George there was a frost warning in our area, and Whiteface Mountain in the Adirondacks received 37 inches of snow, ACK! By Friday, and Saturday (our departure date) the temperature was in the 90's with high humidity. The forecasters were saying it was the hottest it had been since last August... oh Mother Nature, will you cooperate for our favorite week of the year?

We had a sunny hot day to travel to Lake George and begin our Americade week, and a warm sunny day to travel home the next Sunday (that is an unusual travel statistic!) By the end of our initial departure day we had 27 members and friends on site at the cabins, with several other couples heading up later in the week for a total of 34 Mass -2 members and friends visiting Lake George. Even though we traveled in different groups, all those arriving at the cabins on Saturday showed up within 30 minutes of each other.

The first evening there we took the Americade newbies to Stoney Creek to break them in right. We had several couples that were only able to stay for the first part of the week, so they enjoyed Dot's buffet and hospitality on our first evening.

Sunday morning started the routine of bikes leaving in all directions. Over the course of the week we had travelers visiting Vermont, Saratoga, Lake Champlain, Tracy Road, the Adirondack Store, Shroon Lake, Tongue Mountain (9N), Ticonderoga, Shroon River Road, Lake Placid, Whiteface Mountain (not to the top, though), the Green Mountains, Route 100, Forestport (for pie of course), and many miles in the hidden roads of the Adirondacks!

The weather was *mostly* cooperative. Sunday A.M. was good for riding, and as long as you were not on the road for the inch or two of rain that fell in a 40 minute time frame you stayed dry. Some of us did not stay dry! The front that moved through cleaned out the hot humid air that we rode up in and gave us bright blue clear skies for Monday, and a week that let us enjoy our bikes (up until Friday).

The weatherman's doom and gloom about tropical storm Andrea did keep many cyclists from coming to Lake George, but Friday was the only wash out day for us. And having a "down day" to watch movies, play cards, dice, and monopoly (and nap) was a good way to regenerate our energy. Some of the group took the trolley into town to visit the Forum and the tents during the rain, and Steve also ran a shuttle service for those that wanted to venture into town during the wet conditions.

Along with the traditional entertainment at the Cabins we actually had drive-in movie nights. Steve brought a 12 foot screen and projector and we watched "Wild Hogs" (of course), along with some other movies,

AND the Bruins game on the big screen. Tom and Bev (the property owners) even pulled in with their golf cart and watched some of the movie one evening.

Tom and Bev celebrate their 50th anniversary this year and we had them down for dinner one evening to present them with a plant and flower bouquet from the Red Knights.

Speaking of food — we ate well. Aside from our visits to Stoney Creek we had a hot dog/hamburg BBQ one evening, steaks and chicken on the grill another evening — and Marty's spaghetti and meatballs (and sausage) another evening. Thanks to those special ladies (Marty, Deb, and Nancy) who worked around the kitchen for the week.

We all helped the economy at Tent City on the beach, in

Oh, the fickle finger of fate! With planning underway for Americade and just a day or two before we leave, Bob's bike lost it's voltage regulator, Maury's ballast went out on his HID headlights, Rick was still trying to figure out how to get his trailer lights to work, Ed's truck decided that it wanted to spend the week at the Ford "clinic," and Larry was trying to find a last minute inspection station that still had motorcycle stickers AND a new sump pump for the one that died just before getting ready to leave for the week.

I won't say it was *panic* time... but it was definitely *scramble* time!

the Forum, and at Warensburg. Michelle remarked that Armand was looking at a motorcycle trailer for his yearly winter trips to Florida and she got a T-shirt. There were seminars and demo rides, boat cruises, and a lot of window shopping. You could tell that the economy is still struggling as there were fewer vendors—and fewer visitors—everywhere you went. The only day that Canada Street looked like it is supposed to with wall-to-wall bikes and people was Saturday when the rains had left.

The RKMC International planned a Grand Tour ride but forgot to tell anyone other than the New York Chapters! But we found out at the last minute and helped get the word out so there were about 50 bikes that participated. They do plan on having another ride next year.

The RKMC open house at the Lake George FD was about half of normal attendance because the rain was expected early in the evening. Again, the weatherman kept everyone away and back at the cabins around 9 p.m. we were still dry!

Saturday morning the rain had left, but unfortunately so had many of the people.

The Americade Parade saw about 1/3 the bikes that normally participate — and the Red Knights saw a similar turnout with only 25 bikes riding in the parade. Those watching the parade were very enthusiastic (and dry) but it was a light turn out for the parade viewers as well.

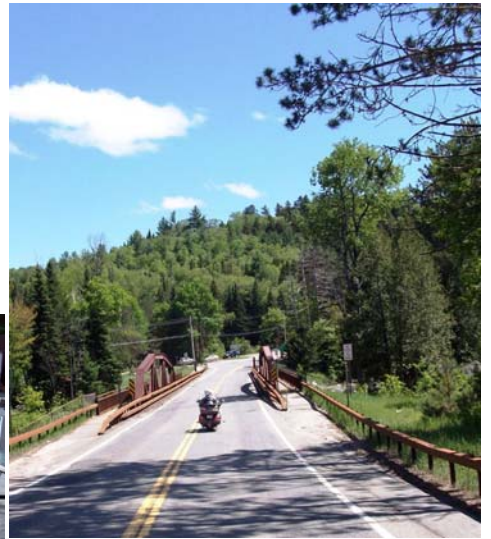
After the parade many of us were back on the road to make up the miles we missed on Friday and enjoyed the afternoon from the saddle.

As is usually the case, we had a great time in Lake George and the week went by too fast! Both newcomers and veterans to Americade from our chapter seemed to be sporting smiles all week long. It's one of those weeks that you think of all

year long... because *it is* only 355 days until Americade 2014. Plan to join us next year!

Saturday, September 28. Americade Picture Perfect Potluck.

Bring your pictures, your videos, some food to share, and your *opera glasses* to enjoy an afternoon of laughs reminiscing about our Americade week! 4:00 p.m. at M&M's in Gardner.



We had 18 members *grace* the Harvard Lanes for some Candlepin Bowling in March.

Our top score was 99 for a string and our low score... well, was a bit lower.

Tim Kilhart and Linda Stacy were the two top scores for the day and Bob L. and Ed B. shot it out for the other end of the scale.



RKMC Hits the Lanes

When we turned in our sheets at the end of the afternoon, the lane's manager joked that it was pretty bad when you don't shoot your age. Truth be told, when you added Ed and Bob's first string scores together you still didn't get near a retirement age! But we all had fun (of course)!

Then it was off to the Nashoba Club in Ayer for some sustenance and refreshments to celebrate our bowling success. (I think we better stick to bocce!)



Do you have one of those "bucket-list" rides that you think is just a little bit too far away for the vacation time that you have available?

Rick & Lori and Diona & Bob had a great spring vacation in Nevada that included 1,000 miles of motorcycle riding... on bikes provided by Eagle Rider Rentals. www.eaglerider.com/

This very professional and nation-wide outfit provides access to many models and brands of bikes at very reasonable cost to help you fly somewhere and make a check off your "bucket list" with no hassles and no stress!



Boston Bound

This year a dozen of us met up and headed into the Red Line for a trip into Boston to find the Boston Fire Museum.

The Boston Sparks operate the Fire Museum in one of the fire houses that was built by the owners of the businesses in that neighborhood. The station has the dubious history of having the most line-of-duty deaths as the firefighters in that station responded throughout the warehouse district of the city to some of the most dangerous buildings and fires in the city.

We enjoyed a great tour offered by one of the BFD's retirees. From the hundreds of helmets hung from the ceiling, to the apparatus, dispatch area, history on the fire alarm system, and the Coconut Grove Fire, every inch of the building was a treasure to us. They even had a section of the original water main laid in the city — hewn from a tree — bringing the term "fire plug" into perspective!

Over 100 of the helmets on display at ceiling height are from Arthur Fielder's personal collection. An avid fire buff himself, Maestro Fielder was named honorary Fire Chief and received helmets from cities throughout the world during his years as conductor of the Boston Pops.



Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:

Saturday, June 29. Strawberry Supper Ride.

We know that Dummerston means Apple Pie — but it also means a Strawberry Supper! (Ham and Bean Supper with Strawberry Shortcake). Meet at 2/202 Shell in Orange at 1:00 p.m. and we'll have an afternoon ride that stops in Vermont for the dinner.

Saturday, July 20. Dam—it's time for a

Western Massachusetts Picnic Ride. Meet at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 10:00 a.m. and we'll head west. First with a stop at the Outlook Farm along Route 66 to grab lunch-to-go and then a picnic at the Knightville Dam and a later stop at the Glendale Falls.

Friday-Sunday, July 26-28. White Mountain Weekend — Mount Washington Sunrise.

Come enjoy a weekend in the White Mountains with a base camp at the Maple Leaf Motel in Littleton. On Sunday those who would like some adventure can ride the Auto-road at Mount Washington to be part of the **Sunrise Drive**. Details to follow in newsletter.

Friday, August 2. Art on Wheels. Part of the Brattleboro, Vermont monthly Gallery Walk, August's "walk" is along Flat Street with all sorts of motorcycles on display near Lynde Motorsports. Meet at 2/202 Shell Station in Orange at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 10: It's a Grand Tour for Firefighters! Come join us for a ride into Connecticut for a visit at the Manchester Firefighters Memorial Garden, a stop at Rein's Deli for lunch, and UConn Dairy for ice cream. Along the way we will find some fire stations to earn the Red Knights Grand Tour for 2013. Meet at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 9:00 a.m.

Thursday-Monday, August 29-September 2. Killington Classic in Killington, VT. More information about lodging when we get closer. www.killingtonclassic.com

Saturday, August 31. 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 Dunkin Donuts at noon and we'll go for a ride that ends at our pot-luck.

Saturday, September 7. The Veep's Harbor Ride! We'll meet at the Burger King at K-Mart Plaza at 9:00 a.m. and follow the Vice-president south-east into Rhode Island for some shoreline views.

New England Fire Chief's Show June 21-23 in West Springfield

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

Ice Cream! May started our monthly ice cream rides, and they are always well attended! This year's meetings will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month through September.

The next **Ice Cream Rides** are June 26, July 24, Aug. 28



We were among 300 other riders escorting the Veteran's Traveling Tribute when the Moving Vietnam Wall came to Gardner during April.

Massachusetts Red Knights State Meeting
Saturday, October 12

Hosted by RK Mass-4 at the Charlton Fire Headquarters
More details to come...

National Ride to Work Day

Monday, June 17, 2013
www.ridetowork.org/



RK-Mass2 **Fire Tower** **Quest**

Join us in a search for fire towers while out riding this year.

Visit 6 fire towers (and document the visits with a picture of you and/or your bike with the fire tower) and win a cool pin at the end of the season.

How are you doing on your Fire Tower Quest?



Come join us for the New England Ride for Kids on Sunday, August 18.

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



PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES

Dear fellow motorcyclist,

In 1984, a newspaper executive and motorcyclist by the name of Mike Traynor had a very close friend whose child was stricken with a brain tumor. After watching the death of this child, and learning about the plight of thousands of other children who were stricken with this type of cancer, Mike set out to raise money to fund pediatric brain tumor research.

He organized a ride in Atlanta, Georgia. 100 motorcyclists participated in that ride, and they raised \$4,000. That ride was later to become known as the first Ride for Kids®.

The second Ride for Kids® was held in Chicago in 1989, and two years later, Mike left his career behind to give full time attention to organizing Ride for Kids® events across the country. And this is how the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of the United States (PBTfUS) was born. Since 1984, motorcyclists have raised over 70 million dollars through Ride for Kids® events. And because of the fund raising efforts and participation of motorcyclists, the PBTfUS has become the largest funding agency in the world for pediatric brain tumor research, outside of the U.S. government.

The New England Ride for Kids® is one of forty motorcycle events that will be held across the country this year to support the PBTfUS in their mission to find the cause and cure of pediatric brain tumors.

The 2013 New England Ride for Kids® will be held on Sunday, August 18. This police escorted ride will start and end at the Tantasqua Regional High School, located at 319 Brookfield Road in Fiskdale, Massachusetts, just outside of Sturbridge.

Registration is from 8:00 until 9:30, and the ride leaves promptly at 10:00AM. This is a rain or shine event. The Celebration of Life will be held at the conclusion of the ride, and you will get to meet some of our "Stars". They are brain tumor survivors who have been given a second chance at life, thanks to the money raised by motorcyclists who support the Ride for Kids® program.

For more information about the Ride for Kids®, please visit our website at: www.ride4kids.org.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: hblad1@comcast.net or call me at (781) 961-4684.

Sincerely,

David S. Odess

David S. Odess
Task force leader for visitation
New England Ride for Kids®



May 22 was our first ice cream ride... but along with it came severe thunderstorms, hail, zero-visibility rain, and a tornado warning. But also... 17 Red Knights came along with it (in 4 wheels) at the Ice Cream Barn in Templeton. Because it was ice cream!

Skills Day 2013

A beautiful spring day greeted us as 28 members and friends joined us for our 2013 Skills Day. Bob Shakarian, Kevin Martin, and Bob Laford had scoped out this year's parking lot and had plans in place for the layout for the afternoon.

We were joined by some friends from VT-2 and everyone said it was a fun day and everyone learned something. The day before a handful of Mass-2 members participated in a GWRRA Ride Captain class where they learned a slick way to quickly park a line of bikes. We practiced the procedure as well as our other skills and it worked slick!



Skill Day stations included clutch control from starting, U-turn, Serpentine, Object in our path, lane swerve, diminishing line, circles, stopping/starting on a hill, slow maneuvers, and pulling from an intersection (into traffic).

Rider education and improving our individual riding skills not only makes us better and safer riders it makes you feel more confident on your bike and makes the ride more FUN!

We proved that no one is the perfect rider, EVERYONE makes errors, and EVERYONE can compete against themselves to become a better rider. Better riders makes our Red Knight rides safer and more fun.

This type of practice can be done alone in an empty parking lot too. We set up cones and tennis balls, but the painted lines can be your layout anytime you want to pull into a lot and do some circles, swerves, and quick stops. Every little bit helps.

Stop by a nearby parking lot today... and join us next year for the group fun together.

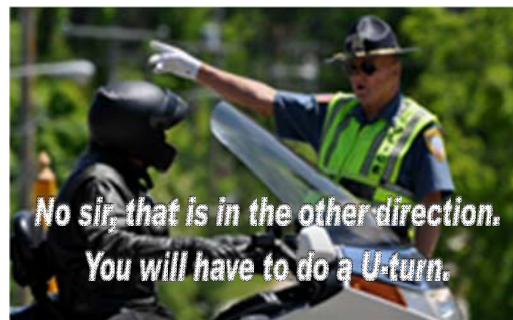
While in Boston for the State meeting earlier in the spring we decided to walk around a bit before catching the "T" back to where we left the car (it was a rainy day).

Our president said, "if we follow Boylston Street it will bring us back to the common and we can have lunch in the North End."

After walking for a while our Road Captain looked at his smart phone and said, "a couple more blocks and we'll be near Fenway Park."

"Crap," we walked in the wrong direction!

Even on foot we end up doing U-turns!



2013 is our 30th anniversary and the three members who have served as Chapter President (Ed Brouillet, Phil Jordan, and Bob Laford) had the honor of cutting our 30th year celebration cake.



Sound: The sensation perceived by the sense of hearing.

Noise: Any sound that is undesired or interferes with one's hearing of something.

We all like how a motorcycle sounds. And if you are like me, when you hear a bike coming you probably turn to look at it (and smile). And there are also probably times that, like me, a loud, offensive, barking bike passes by and you cringe because its NOISE is actually painful to experience.

If we, as riders, see the negative points of excessive motorcycle sound, what do you think is the general public's view, who has no routine interaction with motorcycles and riders? What do you think their opinion of motorcyclists is after that obnoxious bike roars by?

We as riders need to be educated and concerned about how motorcycle noise affects our rights as riders. Around the country, and even here in Massachusetts, communities have passed noise ordinances and outright bans against motorcycles because of excessive motorcycle noise.

As part being an informed motorcyclist, the AMA recently made sound measuring kits available to motorcycle clubs through a grant program. We (Red Knights Mass-2 and Massachusetts in general) submitted a grant and received one of the units.

This unit will be available at our events throughout the year, including Americade. Please take advantage of this resource to see how your motorcycle compares to the noise limits in the Massachusetts General Law.

The bogus argument has always been "Loud pipes save lives." But *IF* the noise level of an approaching object is the best way to catch the attention of an inattentive driver, how come so many people are hit by trains each year?



Some familiar faces appeared in the July issue of the AMA's American Motorcyclist magazine in an article about the grant.

Are you headed to the convention?

Vermont is hosting this year's International Convention (August 15-18). This is turning out to be one of the best attended conventions in the club's history. That makes sense, because not only does New England boast some fantastic riding roads, but also, if you draw a 400 mile circle from central Vermont, approximately 65% of all the Red Knights live within states inside that circle!

There are 18-20 European members planning to attend this year's convention. They will be staying in Marlborough, Mass on Tuesday night August 13.

They are planning to visit the RKMC Memorial in Boylston on the morning of Wednesday, August 13. RK Mass-1 is putting out the call to any and all Red Knights that would be able to be at the memorial that morning to meet and greet our European Brothers and Sisters.

From Boylston, the guests will be riding through central Mass before stopping in New Salem and attending a BBQ that is being hosted by our chapter!

I know some of you will already be in Rutland for the convention by Wednesday, but for those of us still at home, and even if you are not going to the convention in Vermont, consider making their visit a memorable one by joining us in Boylston at the memorial and/or at the Mass-2 BBQ. More info will be made available in the future.

For 2012, the positions that we as a region are voting for are International President and Treasurer and Regional Rep. Our Regional Rep Don Moore is not running for re-election. There are currently three people running for Region-1 Rep and two for International President. Please take some time to review their platform and comments on the International Web Page. The chapter will be casting its ballot at sometime in the near future.

Please let the officers know if you have any views or comments you wish to make known about the positions and candidates.

Robert Laford, President
Officers and Members of Red Knights Mass Chapter 2

Mr. President,

I would like to announce my intentions to run for Chapter President for the upcoming election in October. I have proudly served as Vice President for the Chapter since 2003 under your leadership and feel I am ready to uphold the highest standards you have set forth for this chapter.

Previously I was instrumental in getting a new chapter started (Chapter 13) and served as treasurer for that chapter for a year and half while they were going through the trials and tribulations that any new chapter faces.

I have served on the Ashburnham Fire Department for over 20 years, having held positions as Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Fire Fighters Association.

I am a member in good standing of the Mass Chiefs Association (Chief Officer) as well as a member of the Midstate Mutual-Aid association and Worcester West Forestry Wardens Association.

I was held accountable as a Battalion Chief and EMS Director for the safety, training and performance of my department members as well as reporting directly to the Chief of the department and providing input to our annual budget as well as seeing through the process of obtaining our Advanced Life Support License. I was the driving force behind the departments forestry fleet as well as the design and build out of the current first due piece of apparatus.

I have served the community as an EMT since 1980 and currently hold the position of Emergency Preparedness / Emergency Management Coordinator for Nashoba Valley Medical Center, and Field Personnel for Medstar ambulance.

I have always been supportive and a positive influence of the Chapter, I feel I have built a great rapport with our members and encourage them to continue to be safe and enjoy the sport of Motorcycling and camaraderie and brotherhood that is shared as a group.

This Chapter is by far the best of the best and I will continue to strive to keep our standards high and moral in good standings.

Sincerely

Kevin Martin
Vice President
Mass Chapter 2.



How old is your motorcycle helmet? It is recommended that we replace our lids every five or six years. Hair oils, body fluids and cosmetics, as well as normal "wear and tear" all contribute to helmet degradation. Petroleum based products present in cleaners, paints, fuels and other commonly encountered materials may also degrade materials used in many helmets possibly degrading performance. Ultraviolet rays from sun exposure also contributes to the aging of our helmets, just as it does our skin. Additionally, experience indicates there will be a noticeable improvement in the protective characteristic of helmets over a five-year period due to advances in materials, designs, production methods and the standards.

OK, It's time to buy a new helmet. How do you find one that fits properly to give you the best fit for **your safety!** Here are some fitting tips from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

Finding a helmet that fits properly is essential for protection and comfort. A helmet that is too tight may cause a headache, and one that's too loose can shift your head, which could diminish its protective effect.

You can estimate helmet size by measuring your head, or using your "hat size" and finding a conversion chart from the circumference or hat size to a helmet size.

Measure your head at the largest circumference—usually just above the eyebrows in the front, above your ears, and around the back. Actual size and interior shapes vary among brands and even between different models of the same brand. Some helmets are designed for oval-ish heads, some for round-ish heads—and human heads

vary in shape as well, so you may have to try many helmets before finding one that fits well.

When you try on a helmet, if it slides down on your head with little or no resistance, it's too large. Obviously, if it will not slide down over your head at all, it is too small. A helmet should fit snugly and may even feel a bit too tight until it's all the way down over the head. It should sit squarely on your head and the cheek pads should touch your cheeks without pressing uncomfortably. For full-face helmets, look in a mirror to confirm your eyes are about midway between the top and bottom edge of the eye port.

With the chin strap fastened, your skin should move slightly as the helmet is moved from side to side and front to back. You should feel as if a slight, even pressure is being exerted all over your head by the helmet. A helmet will loosen up slightly as the comfort liner compresses through use, so choose one

as snug as you can comfortably wear.

If there is little or no skin movement in either the vertical or horizontal movement, or the helmet moves very easily, the helmet is too large. It could end up being noisy and let in wind, or even come off in a crash.

After wearing it for a few minutes, remove the helmet and look for any evidence of pressure points on your skin. Red spots or soreness can indicate pressure that can cause discomfort during long rides. Try on the next larger size or a different brand. Some models come with a variety of cheek pads to help you customize the fit (assuming the helmet fits the top of your head well).

Quality DOT-compliant helmets come in a wide range of prices. The right helmet is the one that is comfortable for you to wear every time your ride. Visit www.helmetcheck.org for more helmet information.



Come join us in celebrating the 4th of July (But on the 6th) at Larry and Nancy Robinson's in Petersham



The grill will be hot—so bring a dish to share and something to throw on the grill.

The Robinson's big yard is ready for some family fun, so bring your whole family—kids, grandkids, whoever you want to drag along for some Red Knight fun.

There will be yard games and fun for everyone!

So join us on Saturday, July 6, at 1:00 p.m. at Larry and Nancy's, 355 North Main Street (Route 32) in Petersham. Just about a mile from the Athol town line.

