

From the President's Desk

Here we are again with another newsletter. It's just one if those things we do to keep you all up to date with what's going on around you and with other chapters. It's the best thing for communication with such an active chapter.

As I sit here an write this up, I'm out having my coffee on the balcony of the seven floor of our hotel in New Smyrna Beach Florida. The sun has just come up and the waves on beach are rolling in and out on the Sands. I cannot help but let my imagination run crazy.

It's the beginning of March and I'm sitting in 60 degree morning temperatures watching people walk along the beach and the life guards are preparing the beach for the daily influx of visitors that come here every year just to relax and enjoy the view.

It's bike week in Daytona and we took a ride up to Daytona Speedway yesterday to see all the cool new bikes and vendors selling their goods. Big tough biker dudes drooling over the hottest, fastest bikes available, and turning to their significant other with sad puppy dog eyes, "What do think honey," says one guy. As his wife or girlfriend turns around and gives him that deer-in-the-headlight look as she shows off her very large pregnant belly, she asks, "does it come with a sidecar?"

We're no different then the rest of the riding world. We all love to look at and dream of having new toys or the latest fashion. Sometimes it's just out of reach and then we stop to think, *what I have is OK for now*. I can still go out and put my knees to breeze and let the wind hit me in the face.

But if we become lazy or complacent with what we have it will eventually breakdown and we will no longer have those things we have worked so hard for to enjoy. That includes the maintenance of our friends and the bonds within our chapter. We are all in this club and ride because we love it. We are all alike in some respects as well. When we see someone enjoying something new like a new ride or some after-market *bling* — or we accept a new member into the chapter, we should be excited and welcome them and help them celebrate.

Don't feel like you're missing out on not getting something new — or shy away from the new member because they do not ride what you ride. Learn why they ride the kind of bike they do and what they like to do when they aren't riding. *Make them feel welcome!*

We've made it through all these years together and like I said when I took over piloting this ship, I want to add more passengers! I want you all to stay on board and bring your friends along.

It's getting real close to full riding season and if you have family members or friends that ride, bring them along once in a while and see if they might enjoy some of the things we do. Our rides are not just for official members.

If you are reading this and think that you have not been out with us for a while... or even if you are now on four wheels and no longer two or three — come out and have some fun with us!

Well, I'm going to get another cup of coffee

and some breakfast before we go check out more of the Florida seashore. Have a great day whatever it brings for you and stay safe.

The Prez

2016 RK-Mass 2 Ride Schedule is posted!

Are you part of the Red Knight's "STP" Project? Similar to many organizations that we may belong to, sometimes the success of the organization is thanks to the "STP" project.

The officers of this chapter and its members can improve on the great things we have done together and for some of our members the thought is that "STP" is enough.

But it really is not. We each need to dig in and help out with ideas, attendance, and elbow grease when it is needed to keep the Red Knights alive and new each season.

So, for 2016, come jump on the bandwagon and help us break through the "STP" glass ceiling and make the chapter a chapter for ALL our members.

What is "STP?"

It's the Same Ten People!

For the 2016 International Board elections we will be voting for VP and Secretary. Currently there are three candidates for VP, Tom Delbois from Switzerland, Tim Reinard from WV, and Spike Ostiguy from Mass-4.

Later in the spring we will get together to discuss candidates and issues so all members will have a chance to voice their opinions before the chapter casts a ballot.



ON THE FRONT COVER! Red Knights from Mass-2 were on the front cover of the Americade Times leading the 2015 Americade parade when the magazine came out in December! There were also great shots of our group (in the parade) on an inside two-page spread. This is the fourth time that Red Knights have headlined the magazine. There is no doubt that Americade is colored RED!

Americade Pot-luck Planning Meeting.

Are you planning on going to Americade in June? Come to Rick and Lori's (in New Salem) for our monthly **Breakfast Club** for 9:00 a.m. and we'll look at this year's details about our annual trek to Lake George. [*Rick and Lori have a new home at 148 West Street - the corner of West Street and West Main Street in New Salem — call for directions if you need them*]



For motorcyclists, camaraderie is the key — no matter how far you have to travel.

That's why each summer, tens of thousands of people descend on this Adirondacks village to take part in the Americade Motorcycle Rally, held since 1983. The purr of the engines and the burning rubber takes over as motorcycle enthusiasts gather in the village, coming from the north country, from across the state, and even across the nation to take part in the tradition,

"It's quite a trip. ... It's just a beautiful town; it's a beautiful area," said David Ebbrecht, who came with his wife, Penny, and their dog Daisy. "If you're coming, just take it all in, without any real expectations."

"You see things differently when you're on the bike," Jamie Cosimeno said. "No distractions." "It's our psychiatrist," Mr. Kiser said. (From the Watertown Daily Times)

What does Americade offer you?

The best roads in the northeast.

The most factory demos at any event in the U.S.

Americade's Expo, the largest concentration of motorcycle vendors in a single location in the U.S.

A Great Main Street: Thousands of bikes parked along Canada Street with lots of restaurants with music and decks overlooking the one of the most beautiful lakes in the U.S.

A big rock concert featuring, Grammy-nominated, multiplatinum recording artist Aaron Lewis.

Stunt shows, music, motorcycle parades and fun.

The laidback and easy pace of the Adirondacks and Vermont greet you as you enjoy the natural beauty of northern forests, quiet lakes and clean mountain streams.

These are only a few of the highlights during this week of all things motorcycle. Visit Americade.com or talk to one of the many chapter members that think Americade is the place to be every June if you want to learn more!

When packing for Americade, remember your fire helmet and



come join us in leading the parade on Saturday.

There is no Red Knights Ladies meeting to plan for our week's supplies and related logistical needs for Americade this year.

Consensus is that the years of experience and the current list of "needs" was a good start! Similar to last year, there will be a period of food shopping when we first arrive at Lake George on June 4. If there is something that we did not have available at the cabins in the past, touch base with Peg to see if it can be added to the list.





Breakfast and Ice Cream

Way back in November our Polar Bear Ride was under bright blue sunny skies with temps in the 50's.



• Our breakfast club at Kevin and Laura's helped celebrate Christmas with over 20 RKMC members and families.

- Had a great turnout (30) for our winter potluck on Valentine's Day. It started with -20 plus a wind-chill, with a high of
- 5 degrees for the day but we had a
- wonderful afternoon! (And two days
- later it was in the 50's)



• Just a few days after the Winter Pot Luck we had another good turnout for our February Breakfast Club at Ed and Peg's!



Don't forget that our Breakfast Clubs have another two months to go!

Every third Saturday from November through April we gather for breakfast and fellowship. (Pot-Luck Breakfasts begin at 9:00 a.m.. March 19 is being hosted by Rick & Lori in New Salem and April 16 is being hosted by the Cynthia and Mark in Princeton!

Would you like to be a Breakfast Club host for the next round beginning in November? Contact President Martin to be put on the schedule.

Thank you to Kevin & Laura, Doug & Linda, Ed & Peg, and Rick and Lori our December to March Breakfast hosts this year! Come join us for a fun morning (and food) with a big turnout of RK friends!



We helped the Dupell's break in their new home in Fitchburg for our January Breakfast Club.

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And it will not be long before we will be gathering for our **Monthly Ice Cream Rides!** Those are planned for May 25 — June 22 — July 27 — August 24 — and September 28.

Meet at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 6:30 p.m. on the **fourth Wednesday** and we'll be all smiles when they hand us our first ice cream cone!

### Mass-2 Life Member Day

Plans are underway for a Life-Member ride and picnic to pay tribute to those members that have been with us from the start and for those who have been honored otherwise as Life Members.

Whether you ride with us regularly or not — or maybe you no longer ride, we are hoping to get ALL our Life Members out to join us for a brief ride and picnic on August 27.

Mark it in your calendar. If you are Life Member we want you to join us! All other members, come out and say thank you to those who started the club. This is a family gathering, so the more the merrier! More details will follow.

Our Life Members who are also charter members include: Ed & Peg Brouillet, Tom Chaplin, Charlie Clarkson, Carole & Jack Collins, Cliff & Marty Eldridge, Robert Feeley, Phil & Bea Jordan, Wayne Stacy, and Richard Wheeler

#### Spring Motorcycle Maintenance Tips Prep for a New Season of Riding

With spring officially here, and summer on the horizon, lighter nights and the weather awaken the urge to bring your bike out of hibernation.

But before you hit the road, here are a few recommendations to make sure the wheels keep turning on your awakened steed.

First, how you recommission your bike largely depends on what you do prior to laying it up.

There is no better time than now to get your bike serviced. Whether you do it yourself or get a mechanic to do it, it's the perfect time to look over all the safety critical aspects of your machine. If it's not in need of a service, then here are some key things to look out for. It's not a definitive list, and many of these checks should form part of your regular pre-ride routine anyway.

Brakes. If it's been laid up, the chances are that your brakes may have seized up a little and that the fluid will have absorbed some moisture, making them feel spongy. As a minimum, a thorough visual inspection and test at walking pace is required. We'd also recommend cleaning up any surface corrosion from your brake discs and ensuring that any protective fluid you sprayed on has been washed off. If in doubt, we'd highly recommend changing the brake fluid and changing pads if need be.

Battery. Hopefully you've had this on a tender over the winter but if not, your battery probably needs a dose of TLC. If your battery isn't sealed, check the water level (using distilled water to top up) and clean up the terminals (using a little grease on the connection).

Hopefully a slow charge will bring it back to life. Do be aware that non-use can affect the battery and may ultimately mean that the battery will no longer hold a charge. If the battery struggles to turn the engine over, or quickly loses charge, you should consider replacing the battery – especially if you run additional electrical items that place a largerthan-usual strain on the charging system.

<u>Fuel</u>. Ideally, you put some fuel additive in the tank before laying up but, if you didn't, there's a chance that the fuel will have gone "off" and can lead to the fuel injectors (or carburetor jets on older bikes) getting clogged up. We'd recommend putting fresh fuel in as a minimum, but if it runs rough, new fuel filters and a clean-up of the injectors/jets could well be required.

<u>Oil</u>. If you changed the oil and filter before laying up, you've probably got nothing to worry about, though we would still check the levels and check for any moisture that may have got into the system. If you didn't change it, then do it now!

<u>Tires</u>. Pay particular attention to your tires. Check the pressures and make sure that they are as per the owner's manual. If your bike has not been on paddock stands or moved around over winter, you may find that the weight of the bike has caused some damage to the tires. If there are any cracks on the sidewalls, change the tires. Don't take any chances.

Suspension and Steering. Give these a thorough inspection, checking for any excessive wear or play in the steering or shock absorbers. Tighten up any looseness in the steering head and check for any leaky fork seals.

<u>Coolant</u>. If your bike is liquid cooled, check your coolant. Remove the radiator cap (when the engine is cold) and check to make sure that it is both clean and above the minimum level. Dirty coolant can clog up the radiator and water jackets, so if it doesn't look clean, flush out the system and replace with a fresh mixture of anti-freeze and water.

<u>Electrics</u>. Check all your lights are working properly and replace any faulty bulbs or fuses as necessary. Finally, w washing your bike is always a good way to get intimate with it and check for any damage or excessive wear. Give your bike a good clean and wax, removing any surface corrosion and oily corrosion inhibitors you may have lashed on before the winter. Here's a T-CLOCK pre-ride check list that you can print out and keep handy.

| Bike                                       |  |
|--------------------------------------------|--|
| Front tire condition<br>Air pressure (PSI) |  |
| Rear tire condition                        |  |
| Air pressure (PSI)                         |  |
| Front rim                                  |  |
| (Check spokes, dents, etc.)                |  |
| Rear rim                                   |  |
| (Check spokes, dents, etc.)                |  |
| Throttle operation                         |  |
| Clutch operation                           |  |
| Front brake                                |  |
| Rear brake                                 |  |
| High beam                                  |  |
| Low beam                                   |  |
| Taillight.                                 |  |
| Brake light                                |  |
| Left and right turn signal                 |  |
| Hom                                        |  |
| Fuel                                       |  |
| Oil                                        |  |
| Suspension condition                       |  |
| Suspension-Solo setting                    |  |
| Suspension-Passenger/Luggage setting       |  |
| Kickstand                                  |  |

<u>Final Checks</u>. And while you've given your bike the once over, don't forget the rider too. Make sure your riding gear is in good condition and still fits well after a winter of indulgence. It's also advisable to start off with a nice gentle first ride out to get back into the swing of things and blow the cobwebs off both man and machine.

\*\*\*Are you looking for a motorcycle service tech you can trust and will offer you more than fair prices for his work? Our own Red Knight, Jeff Hamberg, at Hamberg's Motorcycle Service in Orange is a great ally to keep your steed in tip top shape.\*\*\* Matt Hamberg, son of Jeff and Faith Hamberg received a new ride from Santa in December.

You may have seen some Facebook video of him tearing up his yard on Christmas day (and the weather allowed a number of us out that day).



We'll keep you updated on Matt's adventures because he plans to compete in the "MX" competition for 5 and 6 year olds at Crow Hill in Templeton.

I bet we can get a Red Knight cheering session going!

### Saturday/Sunday, July 16-17.

Lake Sunapee Cruise. We are looking into a ride up to Lake Sunapee. Hoping to have some lodging options that would make it an over night. Maybe our cruise could include a dinner cruise on the lake.

Not up for the overnight? Could be a day ride for some, and that's OK too.

More info to follow about lodging and times.



Mass-2 was part of the crowd at this year's Chili Fest at Monadnock HD. There were a variety of Pulled-Pork samples that we each picked, but most of us did pick the Ghost Pepper Chili as the best!

# Second Annual Yankee Rally Wildwood, NJ

Do your 2016 plans include the Yankee Rally this year? (May 20-22)

Preliminary Schedule includes:

- Hospitality Room
- Escorted group ride to local Winery
- BONFIRE on the BEACH
- Escorted Ride on the BOARDWALK
- Biker and other games (including Human Hungry Hungry Hippo)
- Vendors
- Region 1 Meeting
- Banquet
- Live band for dancing
- Blessing of the Bikes
- Farewell Breakfast



The Region 4 Dixie Rally is the weekend before in Ocean City, MD and I hear there are Mass-2 people considering attending as well!

# Are you ready to make a large withdrawal from your savings?

After he made an emergency landing on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009, Captain Chesley Sullenberger said to news anchor Katie Couric, "One way of looking at this might be that for 42 years, I've been making small, regular deposits in this bank of experience, education and training. And on January 15, the balance was sufficient so that I could make a very large withdrawal"

Have you been making routine deposits to your bank of experience, education, and training in regards to your motorcycle skills? Would enough of a balance be on hand if something occurred while riding and you had to draw on those skills?



The 2016 calendar does not have a Skills Day. That does not mean that you or I should skip that routine practice. No matter how long each of us has been riding, take the time this spring and throughout the season to do some parking lot practice and improve your riding skills. That deposit of experience may save your life!

# Come out and join the fun in 2016!

- Saturday, April 2. Massachusetts State Meeting. The spring State Meeting for Massachusetts will be hosted by Mass-1 in Boylston. Meet at Westminster Dunkins for 9:00. Let President Martin know if you are interested in attending so the hosts can plan.
- Saturday, April 16. **RK Mass-1's Spaghetti Supper.** Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 5:00 p.m. to head to Boylston for a *great* Spaghetti Dinner!
- Sunday, April 24. Spring Dust-off Ride. Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 10:00 a.m. and we'll head out to spin our tires and dust the cobwebs out of our ears!
- Saturday, May 14. A visit to the RKMC Memorial. This is a tentative date for a work party for a Spring clean-up at the memorial (or a ride if not). Meet at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 9:00 a.m. More details will be coming, watch your emails.
- Saturday, May 21. Frogs Legs at Rein's Deli. Meet at Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 9:30 a.m. for a ride to Rein's Deli in Vernon, CT —- a search for the Frog Bridge in Willamantic — and since we are that close, ICE CREAM at UConn!
- Saturday, June 18. **RK Vermont-2's Paul's Ride.** We'll be supporting a nearby chapter's efforts to help those with cancer. Meet at the 2/202 Shell in Orange at 8:00 a.m. and we will head to southern Vermont. This year the ride begins at the Putney Fire Station.
- Sunday, June 19. Father's Day Zip-lining at Berkshire East. Dad's are free at Berkshire East on Father's Day. Come zip-lining with us! Reservations are a MUST. More details will be coming.

Saturday, June 25.

Looking for a Vermont Haunt before Dummerston's Strawberry Supper — Meet at Westminster DD's for 9:00.m. and we will be off for a day-ride in search of Emily's (haunted) bridge in Stowe and then south to soothe our frightened nerves with Strawberry Shortcake.

### Membership news...

Our condolences to Doug and Linda Dupell on the passing of Doug's mom in January.

Congratulations to President Kevin Martin on passing his Advanced EMT certification. Congratulations to Life Member Tom Chaplin on his new Spyder RT! Come out and ride with the chapter Tom, we'll help you put on some miles! Congratulations as well to Jeff Hamberg on his new ride, a 2012 BMW K1300S.



Congratulations to Peg B. on her RKMC 30 year pin!

Heavy hearts met the RKMC when we turned the new year. Our long-time friend and Red Knight Founder Dave Hamilton of Mass-1 passed away. Now he is riding with Heaven-1 and all our RK family who have gone before.

Thank you to all who accompanied us to Dave's services.

Congratulations to Assistant Road Captain Larry Robinson for over 50 years of service to the Petersham Fire Department. Your Red Knight family is very proud of you!



### Change in Chapter Dues voted

At the winter pot luck we voted a change in the chapter dues so it would be tied to the International rate for an "Active Member." If there is no change in the International dues structure this means dues for Mass-2 members will be \$25 in the fall. We will update you if the International increases dues at their meeting in August.

Another voted change was that Chapter Life Member dues will continue to be paid in full by the chapter unless the RKMC International fee charged for an "Active Member" exceeds \$20. At that point the chapter will continue to pay the International portion of the Life Member's dues and the Life Member will be responsible for paying the "Chapter" portion of the dues. (Currently the fee for an "Active Member) charged by the RKMC International is \$13).

E had another great year that came to a close with a fun crowd at the Glen Caffe in Winchendon for our Christmas party. We had 36 members signed up with an additional

six kids joining in to make it a boisterous afternoon!

The meals were great and our service was top-notch from Sally and her staff. Along with the strawberry shortcake and ice cream we were all served, House Mother Peg had a plate full of chocolate cookies that went around.

During our Yankee gift swap there were a few popular gifts that made the rounds including a set of Pilsner Glasses that were filled with chocolates, a box of assorted (hot) cheeses from the Cabot Creamery, a bottle of Buffalo Trace Bourbon



(yes, Whiskey Jim, you missed it), and a lot of other fun prizes. We had door prizes too, DVDs with all the past RKMC picture-videos that have appeared on our webpage over the years.

The picture board was in place with over 100 photos from this year's chapter events.

Peg Brouillet was awarded her 30 year certificate and pin and Larry Robinson was recognized for over 50 years service with the Petersham Fire Department with a special plaque from his Red Knight family.

Along with being generous with our Yankee Gifts to each other, our chapter was also generous with \$375 worth of gift cards and cash gifts that were sent to Sherry's House in Worcester.

Thanks again for another great year! Hope to see all of you on the picture board at next year's party!



Our Motorcycle Registrations Expired on Dec. 31. In 2015 our chapter members rode 104,630 miles. We have been tracking our members' miles for eight years and in that time we have been over 1,179,000 miles collectively!

Last winter was a bear, with the first major snow storm just before Thanksgiving 2014 and then a February that never seemed to STOP snowing! Our mileage totals were down as individuals and collectively — So it is time to make up for the deficiency in 2016!

For 2015 Armand Guilmette was top mileage getter with over 12K, Bob Laford second, breaking 11K, and Maury Lizotte was third with just over 10K miles and the top female mileage champion is Michelle Shepard, with just shy of 4K.

Armand and Bob have bantered for the top posts for several years. Whose up to challenge them and add your mileage to the top of the list in the new year? Make sure you are on the list for 2016... and get out and ride!

Our 2015 season had 40 different chapter events, rides, and gatherings. Even with the snow-mageddon that was on top of us in February and a late start to the riding season, we still had a lot of events and good participation. We had an average of 15.23 people that attended each event. Americade and our Christmas party tied for top attendance with 34 members and friends. (If you add the six kids that were part of the December party we hit 40!). The smallest was five at the (cool and early darkness) September Ice Cream ride.

There is a group of members — about 20% of our roster — that we never see. Some we have not seen in years and years. Why? Even if it is not a ride you want to come out and participate in, there are plenty of other events. Come out and be an active part of the chapter and have fun with us!.



Don't wait until that first unexpected warm day with clear roads to realize that you have not renewed your registration! (Inspections are due by the end of May).



### ARE YOU HEADED TO THE 2016 CONVENTION IN WISCONSIN IN AUGUST

As the Red Knights have grown our conventions have been varied in location. Early in the club's existence the east coast was the primary location. 2015 had us in Texas and a few years into the future we will be in Europe!

It sounds like a lot of good planning is going on for Wisconsin this year. If you are going, let our chapter President know.

Are you a frequent traveler, either by bike, car, airplane, or hot air balloon? Whatever your means of travel, did you know that the Red Knights have an agreement for discount memberships through AirMed?

This air medical transport company will get you home from your trip if you become ill or injured. It is a little piece of mind for you and your family if you are far from home. Look to the International webpage for more information on this service.



We are not doing the full Scholarship program this year. Because of the waning interest we have seen with the number of applications we have received in the last few years we are taking a break from awarding the four annual rider courses.

We do have one "left-over" Experienced Rider Course certificate that is available to a Mass-2 member.

If you have never been awarded a chapter scholarship for the Experienced Course in the past and are interested in taking the class, please submit a letter of interest to the chapter officers. Send your letter to: RK Mass-2, P.O. Box 221, Petersham, MA 01366 by May 1.



The 12th Annual Dixie Rally is being hosted by Maryland 3 in Ocean City, Maryland on Friday, May 13, 2016 to Sunday May 15, 2016

Visit http://redknightsmd3.com/ for more info and to register.



Whether you are planning to attend this year's convention in Wisconsin or not, consider being a part of it by supporting the planning committee by purchasing a sponsor ad in the Convention Program.

Having been involved in the planning and operation of several conventions in the past, Mass-2 knows how much effort (and costs) go into a successful convention. All left over proceeds are donated on behalf of the Red Knights to a charity supported by the planning group.

Download an ad form at http://www.rkwi5.com/2016-internationalconvention.html

Looking ahead, **Saturday, July 2 is our 4th of July Celebration with BBQ and Bocce**. 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.



# It's Good for Your Health!

Dr. Edward Szerlip, a member of the *Motorcycle Doctor's Association*, was recently interviewed in the AMA's American Motorcyclist magazine. He stated that there is a medical basis for riding a motorcycle.

"It's good for your health." He pointed to research conducted at King's College of

London's University Hospital that found motorcycling is good for the brain, the lungs, the heart, circulation, and the back and the leg muscles. Motorcycling also burns fat.

So follow the doctor's advice and prescription — Ride your motorcycle for at least an hour a day. It's good for you!





Did you look closely at your Americade Times when it arrived? Not only is our chapter prominent on the cover and inside, The Americade folks paid tribute to Steve Mickle, *"long time enthusiast of the parade and all things Americade."* 

If you have a favorite charity that you would like to consider, pass that on to President Martin.



The 20th Anniversary Party at the New Salem General Store had a great representation of the Red Knights. And why not? The NSGS is *motorcycle friendly* and the proprietors are our own Rick and Lori Oliver — Congratulations to you both!



A "re-purposed" Mass-2 vests now rest on a chair in the Swiss-1 Clubhouse, completing our *hands across the sea* to our brothers and sisters in Switzerland! Now when they go for a ride or toast a glass, we are all with them!

