



Red Knights

Mass Chapter 2 — Winter 2023

www.rk-mass2.org facebook.com/RKMASS2

Loyal to Our Duty

From the President's Desk

Hello Red Knights Family.

Welcome to your March 2023 edition of the news letter. It looks like we made it through the worst of the weather, albeit there may still be a little cold weather happening before we are through with winter, but it won't last long.

Before you know it, the roads will be filled with brother and sister motorcyclist. Will you be out there with them? With us? With other friends? It doesn't matter with whom, just get out there and ride! 2023 is our 40th anniversary as a chapter, and we have a lot planned. Wouldn't it be great to have 100% of our members come celebrate with us this year? Don't ride any longer? No worries, come along in four wheels. Afraid you don't know anyone because you have not been to a club event in a long time? No worries, it's time to make new friends and renew old friendships in the club!

But remember before you do roll you bike out for your first ride, make sure you go over your ride completely. It's been sitting all winter and needs a once-over to make sure it is ready to go.

It only takes an hour or two to go over everything. Most of us have been riding for a long time, but that's not an excuse to become complacent. We each need to develop good motorcycle habits and one good habit is fix the things that need fixing now before the season begins.

Your riding skills have been dormant for the winter too. Take some time to practice those basic skills like emergency stops, swerving and the like to get your reflexes back into condition.

Reminder #1 - Americade is coming up soon, who's going? Make reservations now if it is in your plans. If you make reservations in (or near) Lake George, let me know where you are staying (we no longer have our own compound). But we can still gather as family while in the Adirondacks. Just a reminder, Americade is being held Memorial Day week this year - May 30 through June 4.

Reminder #2 - The Yankee Rally follows close behind Americade on June 8-11 in the Finger Lakes region of NY.

The Host Hotel is Quality Inn and Conference Center, 2468 State Rt 414, Seneca Falls, NY — and it is full, the secondary hotel is also full. But there are rooms available at a third hotel. That tells us there will be a big crowd of Red Knights family at the Rally! Come and join us.

For more details, go to the Red Knights page (www.redknightsmc.com) and click on the "Events" tab. The Yankee Rally is at the bottom of the list.

Look inside the newsletter for more details on these two rallies and other rides and adventures that are planned for our chapter's 40th anniversary year.

Wishing you all a safe and happy week, take care and continue to watch out for each other.

President Martin

2023 Ride Schedule is posted!

Our 2023 Ride Schedule is ready — and being distributed.

Get your copy (or download it from our webpage), grab your red marker and start writing the dates on your calendar!

Put a copy on your refrigerator right by your finger paintings and come join us for a fun season with friends!

MA-2 Chapter statistics for 2023

- 71 Total Members
- Active (Firefighter) - 41,
- Social — 22,
- Associate — 3,
- Junior — 3,
- Compassionate Honorary—2

Of the above, 16 are Life Members, and 7 of those are "International" Life Members, recognized by the RKMC-I Board for past service to the International Board.

There are 14 Charter members who have been with the club since its Charter year in 1983. We appreciate their forethought and leadership to start this great club as we celebrate our 40th anniversary this year!

Since 1983 there have been over 160 members who joined and then later left our chapter.

What keeps you and I as members, and what has other members leave? If you have an opinion you would like to share, let an officer know.



The Red Knights Mass Chapter 1 Memorial Challenge



Since it's inception in the early 2000's and it's dedication in 2007, the Red Knights Memorial has been a work of love and dedication by and for Red Knights from all over the world.

From conceptual drawings, work parties, construction and continued care, the Red Knight property in Boylston is there for the members. Currently, there are over 640 names of our brother and sister Red Knights who have passed away and listed in the Heaven-1 chapter.

In 2017 the Red Knights realized a dream in acquiring the adjacent property and home — to become the Red Knights Memorial Hall. This building is a place for visiting Red Knights to stay while visiting the area.

The Red Knights still hold a mortgage on this property, and the memorial property cannot be transferred to the foundation and considered non-taxable until that mortgage is paid off in full.

We as a unit of Red Knights can pay this mortgage off and be debt-free if we work together!

Massachusetts Chapter 1 is issuing a challenge to every Red Knight and every Chapter to work to pay off the Red Knight memorial mortgage in 2023.

RK Mass-1 is CHALLENGING EVERY RED KNIGHT to donate \$20 USD to be placed against the principle of the mortgage of the Red Knight property in Boylston, Massachusetts.

Mass-2 has accepted this challenge and are asking each member to consider donating \$20 to help pay off our mortgage! Please send your donation to our treasurer, checks made out to RK Mass-2, PO Box 221, Petersham, MA 01366

We will be contacting each member of MA-2 with a goal of having 100% participation, and sending in our donation to the challenge by April 1.

Please help us achieve this goal!

Thank you to everyone who has already donated to the challenge. To date, **51%** of our chapter has made their personal donation.

Region-1 Vacancy

In November, it was announced that Region-1 Representative Eric Jock was stepping down, effective immediately for personal reasons. This left a vacancy on the International Board, and warranted a special election.

When the call went out for candidates to fill the void, two Red Knights threw their hats into the campaign — Ken May of New Jersey, and our own Rick Oliver!



International VP Spike Ostiguy, Ken May from NJ19, Rick Oliver, and International Secretary Mike Woods... photo from when Rick was shaking hands and kissing babies at the NJ After Christmas Party in January.



Voting opened for chapters in Region-1 (New England, New York and New Jersey) on January 11, and after voting closed on January 27, Ken May was announced as our new Regional Director for our Region.

Our Region was very fortunate to have two members with strong dedication towards the club and its members who stepped up and were willing to run for the vacancy and serve the Red Knights.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

Jay Leno was in a recent motorcycle accident that left him with several broken bones. On January 17, the former Tonight Show host was riding on his 1940 Indian motorcycle when he was knocked off the bike.

"I've got a broken collarbone. I've got two broken ribs. I've got two cracked kneecaps," Leno told Las Vegas Review-Journal in a new interview. "But I'm OK!" he reassured fans, going on to confirm that he is still "working".

At the time, Leno, 72, said that he had been test-driving his vintage vehicle when he smelled the scent of leaking gasoline.

"So I turned down a side street and cut through a parking lot, and unbeknownst to me, some guy had a wire strung across the parking lot but with no flag hanging from it," Leno recalled.

"So, you know, I didn't see it until it was too late. It just clotheslined me and, boom, knocked me off the bike."

2023 Co-Rides — We are celebrating our 40th year as a chapter in 2023, and with that you will see in the schedule that we have a number of rides we are billing as “Co-Rides.” These are scheduled rides that have us meeting up with members of neighborhood chapters, to share some time and Red Knight spirit with other nearby friends.

Sunday, June 4. **Co-Ride with RK NH-4.** We will be meeting up with our friends just over the border for ride in NH. Details still in the works, but plan to meet at the Westminster Dunkins for 10:00 am. (*This is the most probable date*).

Saturday, June 24. **Co-Ride with RK NH-9.** We will be meeting up with our friends to the north for a day-ride. Details still in the works, but plan to meet at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 9:00 am.

Sunday, July 16. **Co-Ride with RK MA-1.** We will be venturing Meeting MA-1 at the memorial in Boyston and joining them on a ride under their lead. Meet at the Westminster Dunkins for 9:00 am.

Saturday, July 22. **Co-Ride with Mass-4.** Riding with MA-4 we will have lunch at the Speedway Raceway at Thompson Speedway. Meet at Westminster Dunkins at 10:00 am.

Saturday, September 2. **Co-Ride with RK VT-2.** We will be venturing up Route 100 for a picnic ride after we meet with VT-2. Meet at 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 9:00 am.

Saturday, September 23. **Co-Ride with RK MA12.** Our “**Dam Ride**” postponed from 2022 is back on the schedule as one of a Co-Ride with MA-12. We’ll stop at the Granville Country Store to pick up some sandwiches for lunch and ride to the Saville Dam for a picnic. Meet at 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 9:00 am.

2023 Chapter 50/50

You too can be a winner!

We will continue the tradition of holding 50/50 drawings when we get together during the riding season. Our Treasurer will keep track of the funds brought in, and at our annual business meeting we will decide what worthy local charity will receive the donation.



At our annual meeting we decided to hold the 2022 donations until the spring, where it will join each of your donations to the “Memorial Hall Challenge.”

If you have a local charity that we should consider for our year-end donation at our annual meeting in the fall, please let an officer know.

2022 Ride Statistics

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will be able to review the miles that our members put on their bikes... and in 2023 we continue to chart more miles and memories together as celebrate 40 years together!

Overall last year we averaged 14.66 people per event for our 38 held events. Both our overall average and our number of events have returned to pre-pandemic levels!. There have been years where we top 40 different events, and some with more than 40 people in attendance — since this is our 40th year, those all sound like good numbers!

STAY YOUNG – COME OUT AND RIDE WITH US!

As motorcyclists, generally speaking, we tend to be a bit more whimsical and spontaneous than your average Joe. We prefer to cling to the youthful endeavor of chasing desires — however pointless, however ridiculous. I say this without apology. A motorcycle will do that to you. Adult responsibilities are constantly conspiring to wrench the remaining youthful aspects from us and spoil our fun, whereas motorcycles seem to help stave off the trying circumstances of life.

(Taken from a recent editorial in Roadrunner Magazine)

Bullets from our schedule:

Saturday, March 25. **Mondadnock Harley Chili Contest.** The chili is ready at noon. Meet at the Winchendon McDonalds at 11:30 am.

Saturday, April 29. **Spring Dust-Off.** Shake off the winter dust with our first official ride of the year. Meet at 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 1:00 pm.

Saturday/Sunday, July 28 and August 6. **Grand Tour—Thing One and Thing Two.** Double days of riding (not an overnight) to do a Grand Tour around central and southern New England. If you cannot make the entire ride both days, get the stops you can with the group and you have to the end of the riding season to complete the station stops you need. Meet at the 2/202 Shell Station (both days) 10:00 am.

Sunday, July 2. **4th of July Celebration and Cookout.**



Come enjoy some time with friends at a holiday pot-luck. Lori and Rick will be our hosts in New Salem. Bring some food to share and something to throw on the grill. (Noon).

Vermont-2's Memory Ride. Saturday, May 20.

Our friends in Vermont are re-tooling their annual charity ride. We will be heading into Windham County, Vermont to have a fun day and support our sister chapter. Meet at the 2/202 Shell Station in Orange for 8:00 am.

Don't forget our Breakfast Clubs!

Every third Saturday from November through April we gather for breakfast and fellowship.



Thank you to Ed and Peg for being our January hosts. Even though most of us had to clear snow before leaving home, we still had 15 show up for a good morning of friendship!

Upcoming Breakfast Clubs:

- March 18 at Bob and Diona's in Petersham
During our March Breakfast Club we will be talking about Americade/ Yankee Rally/Convention Planning to see whose going where for those large RKMC gatherings in 2023?
- April 15 at Jeff and Faith's in Southwick. We will talk about riding down together for a spring ride!

Our April breakfast at Jeff and Faiths will be a "Brunch" that starts at 10:00. Watch your emails for info on meeting so we can ride and/or carpool together down to Southwick.

As a *pseudo*

Skills Day, Jeff will be preparing a program in his shop to talk about motorcycle maintenance. We do not have a parking lot



Skills Day scheduled, but we all know how important those parking lot practice sessions are, so make sure you take some time, privately, to get your skills back up to par, since we have been parked for the winter!

- November 18 we start off again when cold weather arrives! Come join us at Tim and Darlene's in Athol.

Membership news...

Welcome (back) to Bob Szocik as a member. In younger years when Bob was on the Lunenburg FD he was a member of MA-2. Camping at Kenolie Village near Rick and Lori and seeing that motorcycle come in and out brought back his interest in riding — and a Spyder.

Congratulations to Ian and Ellie on their new home in Southwick.

Welcome to Joe and Donna Hopkins. They are both Life Members with MA-4, but have recently moved to Templeton and have been riding with us quite a bit!

If you have not received your 2023 membership card, contact the Treasurer.

Our Winter Pot Luck

WOW! We had a great turnout with 37 members and friends joining us at our Winter Potluck at the Templeton Fish and Game Club to kick off our 40th anniversary year.

We even had friends from MA-4 and chapters in Vermont and Maine. So great to have them join us.

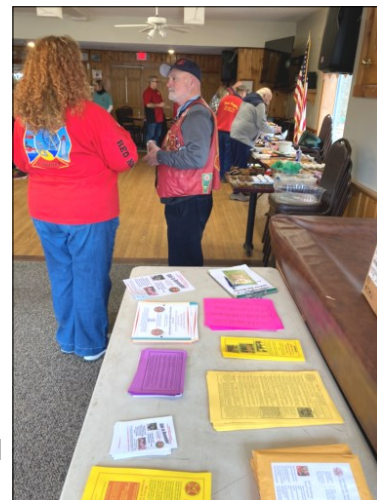


As expected, there was more than enough food on hand and quite the variety, including some smoked ribs straight from VP Rick Oliver's new smoker.

Our 2023 schedule was printed and available, as were some other handouts about events for us to participate in during the year.

Several of the Red Knights were eyeing the bulletin board where camps on the lake are listed for sale. Hmmm, maybe they would change the name of the road on the other side of the lake to "Red Knight Drive!"

Thank you to everyone that joined us, it was a fun afternoon.



2022 Chapter Mileage

2022 was more *normal* as more and more of our world comes back to routine activities, and our riding and the Red Knights were no different.

On our original 2022 schedule there were 33 events, and at the end of the year, including our "Hooky" rides we had 38 times we were together, even though there were a couple rides that were cancelled for one reason or another during the year.

The regional rallies were back as was the International convention. Our picture board showed a lot of smiles in the 85 pictures that greeted us at the Christmas party.

We have been keeping track of Chapter Member mileage for 15 years now, and our total of documented miles for those years is 2,148,157 with the addition of this year's 112,363 miles.

With over 2,000,000 miles (collectively) in those miles, our yearly average is over 140,000 miles. A bit less for 2022, but still a lot of miles our tires have rolled on!

Thank you to our VP, Rick Oliver, for tracking the mileage.

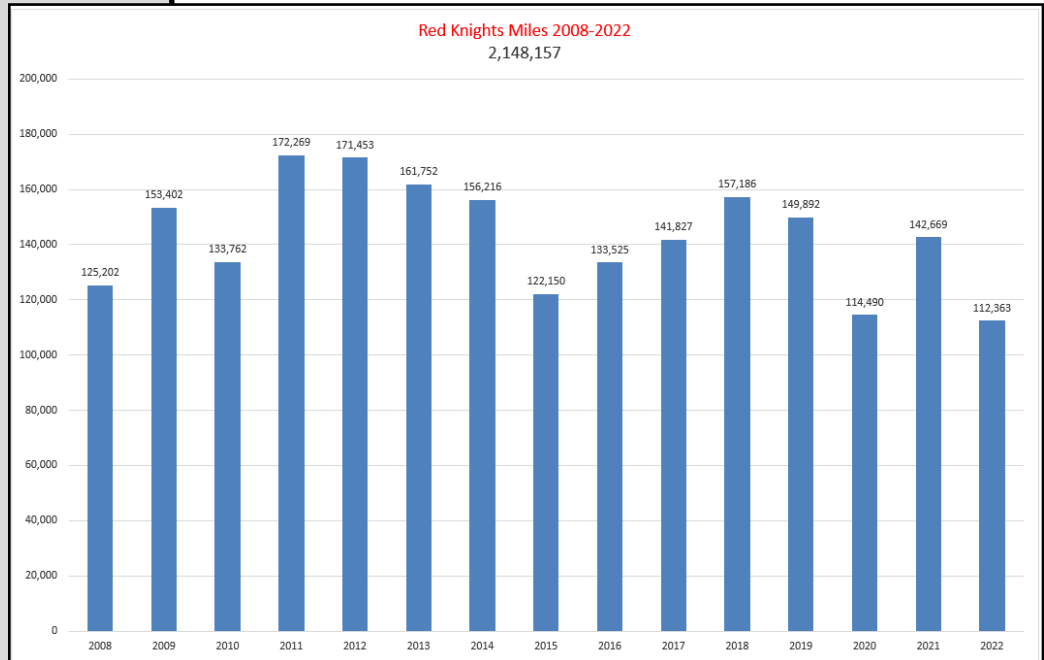
Congratulations to Bob Laford as our top mileage rider in 2022, with **15,916** and our top female rider, Diona Laford with **4,863** miles.

Our top ten mileage-getters for the chapter were:

Bob Laford, 15,916
Tim Kilhart, 14,765
Armand Guilmette, 14,735
Rick Oliver, 12,378
Maurice Lizotte, 7,664
Jeff Hamberg, 7,341
Diona Laford, 4,864
Jim Skehan, 4,520
Robert Shakarian, 3,910
Doug Dupell, 3,540

Please get Rick your 2023 start mileage if you did not give him your end mileage in 2022. Let's see who makes the top ten in 2023!

There are a lot of smiles and friendships in those miles. Keep riding and ride safe!



We know that for decades many of us have looked forward to heading to the Adirondacks and Lake George, NY for our spring enjoyment at Americade.

Do you remember (probably 10 or 15 years ago) there was a potential for Americade to move out of New York to another location, because of politics out of the Albany State House?

And then in 2019 we learned that "our" cabins at Bay Front Cottages would no longer be available, as they were transitioning from weekly rentals to long-term (monthly) rentals. Then, of course, the pandemic added more changes (and cancellations) to Americade for two years!

This year's changes are not that grim, but there are significant changes afoot in the planning and operation of Americade. To begin with, Americade has backed up one week (to Memorial Day week) as to not overlap with Laconia. The "company line" is that vendors told Americade they cannot go to both with that overlap. Hopefully the vendors step up and improve the attendance and quality of vendors, this year. (This *may* be a permanent scheduling change).

Also changing is some of the scheduling. The Tour-Expo (tent city) will not be opening until noon on Wednesday, May 31, cutting down one day of vendor availability. Some other things, like seminars, will not run until Thursday.

We know that change is a constant, and what does not change is how beautiful the area is and how motorcycle-friendly the mountain roads and villages are for those that head up to Lake George.

The Red Knight commitment still exists and with that tradition we will be returning to the Lake George Fire Station on Thursday for chapter wares, the dinner hosted by NY 12, and the Founder's Ride.

Yes, Americade will be different in 2023, but those who ride up to the Lake George region will still have a fun time.

Along with the events planned at Americade by NY Chapter –12 (The Open House and the Founders' Ride on Thursday), NY Chapter 3 is also planning Red Knight events on Wednesday (May 31) and Saturday (June 1). Information below!

RK NY 12 is again hosting the RKMC Open House at the Lake George FD. They are also, once again, hosting another Red Knights Founders' ride on Thursday, June 1.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD...



IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN NORMAL - NOW MAY 30 - JUNE 3!

AMERICADE IS CELEBRATING ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND DOESN'T WANT TO COMPETE WITH LACONIA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY!



NEW YORK CHAPTER III HAS MOVED ITS ANNUAL WEDNESDAY AMERICADE RIDE TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 31!

JOIN US AT THE

WHIPPOORWILL CAMPGROUNDS IN LAKE

GEORGE, RED KNIGHTS AMERICADE "COMMAND POST", FOR THE WEEK. CAMPSITES, MOTEL ROOMS, AND CABINS AVAILABLE AND BOOKING NOW. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

Robert Moose, Oklahoma's State VP posted this, recently. It is a statement that was made by a Red Knight at a meeting he was attending.

It is not just the chapter officers' responsibility but all the members' responsibility to put the word out about rides or events, that we might all want to go on.

Everyone in this club has someone else's phone number that is in the club. The next time you get the urge to ride, call up your friends, post it online, and send a group text. Not everyone has all the apps, but everyone has a phone number. Call them and invite them out.

When you have a ride planned or are just going to go out for wind therapy, remember that there might be someone else who needs that wind therapy. Maybe they are going through something that they can't talk about, but you calling them and inviting them along might just be what they need at that one important moment in their lives.

Your Mass-2 E-board tries to keep you informed of club happenings, and our "Hooky Rides" are another example of the opportunity to get together to ride. But don't leave it to just those people that hold chapter titles.

If you invite another rider along for your impromptu ride, you may not say more than a dozen words during your ride, but that Red Knight companionship and your knees in the breeze together may speak volumes for the both of you.

On the road with our friends...

NJ State After Christmas Party. We had several members of MA-2 travel to New Jersey for their state's "After Christmas Party." There were many Red Knights from other states, as far away as New England and New York, Minnesota, Iowa, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia!

This was the 10th annual such winter gathering and the NJ Knights were very hospitable to all of us from the outside. It was like a Regional Rally or mini-convention all its own. They even held a state association meeting, went through all their business, and were done with that in about 20 minutes, including election of officers!

They arranged shuttle services for us to get to the train station so anyone who wished could take the short train ride to NYC to visit Ground Zero and the World Trade Center 9-11 Museum. What an emotional visit that was.

The shuttle service was also available from the hotel to the hall where we had a great meal. Afterwards they had four different comedians that kept us entertained for the evening.

Door prizes included a 55 inch TV, 12 different baskets of prizes... and MA-2 didn't win a one! The TV raffle raised over \$1,500 that was going to two different Red Knights that needed some assistance.

What a great weekend it was! You should think about heading to "the other country" sometime for this event.





Do you proudly carry a Mass-2 coin in your pocket? Have you shared a Mass-2 coin with anyone special?

Many people collect challenge coins and a number of our members have collections of challenge coins they have collected by swapping

challenge coins and sharing our love for the Red Knights with others.

Our coins also serve as special “thank-you’s” for those individuals, organizations and businesses that have gone the extra mile to help chapter members, the chapter, or the Red Knights. People around the world have received our coins as a thanks from members of our chapter.

Make sure you carry a coin — as an ambassador for and to show your dedication and membership to our chapter — but also purchase a few more to have on hand to thank those people who have lent you a hand or helped the chapter. Pretty soon you will have a collection of your own — and each coin will have a story.

Our Motorcycle Registrations Expired on Dec. 31.

Massachusetts
22

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).

RK Mass-1's Spaghetti Supper is on Saturday, April 15 in Boylston. Meet at Westminster Dunkins for 5:00 pm and we will head to the best pasta dinner around!



This is also the date for the spring clean-up at the memorial.

Rick and Bob had some Mass-2 Poker Chips made up, specifically to give away to others to promote our chapter, as we ride. They were so successful in giving them away at the NJ After Christmas party, that they had to order another batch!

They are less expensive than the coins, and that makes it easier to give away more. If you would like to purchase some (\$1 each) to carry on your rides and give them away, contact Bob.



2023 YANKEE RALLY

June 7-11, 2023

In the Finger Lakes Region of NY

Some of the events on the schedule include:

- Evening Ride to end at Mac's Drive-In Restaurant
- Evening Social Event: The “Yankee Rally FLX-perience” with Finger Lakes Wineries, Breweries and Distilleries will be on hand to provide tastings and bottle sales of their products and a Variety of Food Trucks for the many tastes of the Finger Lakes
- Feature Ride to Finger Lakes Waterfalls & Hammondsport (lunch provided) Tour of the Glenn Curtiss Aviation and Motorcycle Museum (extra charge)
- Region-1 delegates meeting
- Regalia/Merchandise and Silent Auction Room
- Open Self-Guided Rides/Tours
- Daily 50/50 drawings, one Rally-long 50/50 drawing and Chinese auction items
- Farewell Buffet Breakfast for all participants

Spring State Meeting

MA-15 will be host of the spring state meeting on Saturday, April 22. It will be at a Red Knight's home in Norton.

Depending on what the season holds and the weather the day brings, we may be on the bikes! Either way it will be an early start from the Westminster Dunkins as a highway-only route is 1 -1/4 hours and a Route 140 route is 1-3/4 hours.

Keep an eye on your email for details, and let the president know if you are planning to attend.

A number of our members were recognized with anniversary pins during our Christmas party in December. 30 Years to Diona Laford and Ed Mathews, 25 Years recognition to Judy Perla, and 15 Years to Rick and Lori Oliver.



For the 2023 International Board elections we will be voting for President, Treasurer and Region-1 Rep. We will only cast a ballot if there are contested positions.

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

MA-2 member Fred Leblanc also belongs to RK SC-1 (as he and Lisa live in Myrtle Beach). While he was with that chapter at the Wreaths Across America, in that state, he was honored to be asked to represent the Army as wreaths were placed for each branch of the military. We are very proud and grateful of all our members who have served in our armed forces.



Founding Father Norm Beausoleil had ornaments cast with the Founding Father design to use as a fundraiser for the RKMC Memorial.

Mass-2 and Swiss-1 ordered some together and they arrived just in time for Rolf and Monika's visit to New Salem on New Year's.

For MA-2 we did order a few more than we had "pre-orders" for — so if you would like one (\$10), please contact Treasurer Laford (While supplies last).

Where might our Hooky Rides lead in 2023

There are no "JAR" Rides listed on the 2023 ride schedule, but there are plenty of empty dates that we could gather for "Just-a-Ride." Have an idea for a ride, or would you like to lead a ride along a favorite route? Don't be shy, others would like the ride too!

2023 is the third year of our mid-week "Let's Play Hooky" rides idea. These continue to be a popular hit with those that have weekday availability to ride, and we expect to keep them going in 2023. Not scheduled in stone, these rides are impromptu with a few days' notice via email. We have a number of members who are enjoying retirement and others still working shift work, where there are mid-week days available to ride. And of course some of our riders who have joined us mid-week have just decided to play hooky from work!

We have ridden on different days of the week, sometimes early for coffee, later in the morning for lunch, or in the afternoon for ice cream. We have seen anywhere from 3 to 12 riders — and even see members from other chapters join us.

Keep a lookout for a "Let's Play Hooky" email and we will again be riding mid-week in 2023.



We had a "Let's Play Hooky" lunch in February at Slattery's so we could make reservations with Judy Belliveau for the 2023 Christmas party.



Your chapter officers for 2023. Tim Kilhart, Asst. Road Captain .. Jeff Hamberg, Road Captain .. Kevin Martin, President .. Bob Laford, Treasurer .. Rick Oliver, Vice-president .. Ian Hurley .. Sergeant-at-Arms .. Jim Skehan, Secretary

The Athol Post of the American Legion Riders are hosting a Bike Blessing on Saturday, May 6. Sign in begins at 1:00 pm.

This program is an indigenous ceremony performed by a member of the Native American Warrior Society. Being a different style of blessing, we wanted to share the information.

SAVE-THE-DATE!

RKMC Mass-2

40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, August 19, 2023
Templeton Fish and Game Club
1:00 pm

Come help us celebrate 40 years as a Red Knights Chapter! All our welcome!

Enjoy Red Knights friendships with RKMC members from across the area. We'll have food, fun, prizes, and comradery to make more memories!

1983-84 E-Board



Officers of the Fitchburg chapter of the Red Knights are (l. to r.) Maurie Lizotte, secretary; Philip Jordan, president; George Fregeau, vice president; and Cliff Eldridge, treasurer.



Presidents of RK Mass-2

2023 E-Board



RKMC — MA2
and Rev. Geoffrey Smith
of the Petersham Congregational Church

Invite you to a Blessing of the Bikes and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 1:00 pm
At the Petersham Common — Route 32

A free-will donation of \$10 per bike is asked, and all proceeds will be donated to Home Base, a Massachusetts-based Veterans Support Service



Our chapter hosted blessings in the early years of the club (in Fitchburg) and last year's blessing (in Athol) brought out 29 bikes. Let's work to have a bigger turnout for 2023 of both our members and other riders you know!



Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program, is dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for Veterans of all eras, Service Members, Military Families and Families of the Fallen through world-class clinical care, wellness, education and research. Home Base operates the nation's foremost private-sector clinic devoted to treating the invisible wounds associated with military service. Since its inception, it has provided excellent complimentary care to over 24,000 veterans and family members.

For more information on Home Base visit www.homebase.org

RK Mass-2 CHRISTMAS 2022

Slattery's Restaurant and their manager Judy Belliveau were great hosts to us for our 2022 Christmas party. Did you know that Judy, the lady serving drinks that day, is married to a retired Fitchburg Firefighter? I think she knew what she was in for when we booked the room — a lot of laughter and hugs and a wonderful afternoon with our Red Knight family.

We started off the afternoon with a lot of socializing along with the hors d'oeuvres. There were 85 photos on the picture board this year. That is more than we had the last few years, because 2022 saw more riding and more get-togethers than 2020 or 2021! We had 34 members in attendance, and everyone seemed pleased with the meals prepared at the restaurant.

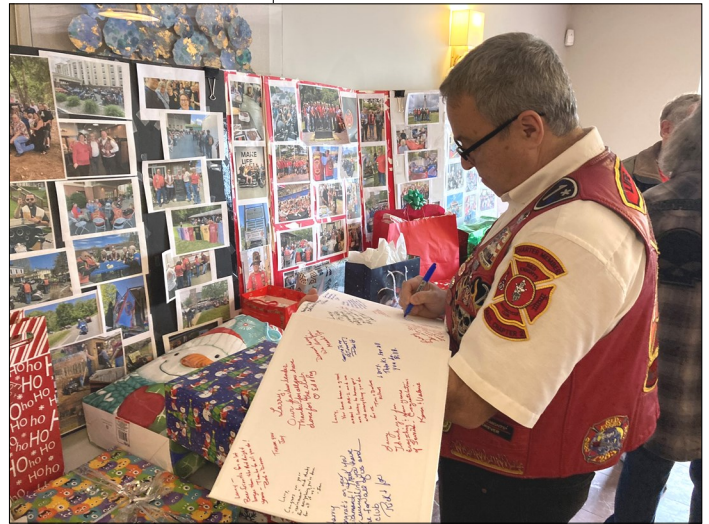
During the socializing I heard Shaky trying to convince Ernie Lee to take his plane from Massachusetts to Florida for a trip... and Shaky could tag along for the ride home. :-)

Everyone signed the photo book for Larry Robinson, as a thank you for his 15 years as Assistant Road Captain. There were many memories in that book. Larry was never the center of attention in the photos, but he was in the background keeping watch over us, just as he did as the tail gunner for all those years! I bet he still takes up that position on an occasional ride in the future, too!

After dinner, President Martin swore in those officers that were elected/re-elected at our annual meeting in October. He also announced the chapter's support for our Vice-president on his campaign for Region 1 Director on the International Board. Certificates were awarded for 15, 25 and 30 year members of our club. The international does not have 35 year pins, but Linda Stacy reached that milestone in 2022. Congratulations to the Oliver's, Diona Laford, and Judy Perla on their special anniversaries with the club. Bob and Diona Laford were recognized as the top male/female riders for the year.

Then we all headed for the gifts. There were a lot of smiles and laughs, as there are every year. Ernie Lee hunted down the shorts with the firefighter hose emblazoned on the front. I am not sure if he grabbed them for a gift for his firefighter son for Christmas, or if he will be sporting them himself at his and Linda's camp next summer!

It was great seeing everyone!



With all the gift cards we collected at the Christmas party, we sent a donation of \$250 to Sherry's House! THANK YOU ALL for your generosity.



Non-Red Knight events to support our communities

There are two events on our 2023 calendar that by themselves are not Red Knight events or motorcycle events, but we hope to get all your participation to support our greater communities.

Sunday, November 26. Marine Corps Toys for Tots. We will be staffing the Toys for Tots tent at the Walmart in Orange from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come join us—all we need is a few hours each!



We have helped with the Toys for Tots in the past, and it is a lot of fun!

Saturday, December 16. Wreaths Across America. Join us and other volunteers placing wreaths at each grave at the Veterans' Cemetery in Winchendon. We will meet at Westminster Dunkins at 8:00 am, and head to the cemetery, for the 9:00 am assignment. We will plan to have lunch together after the assignment.



We know other Red Knights around the country who participate in these events at different Veteran's Cemeteries and they all said it is a very worthwhile event to participate in, giving well-deserved respect to our Veterans, past.

We will share more information on these events as they approach.

2023 RKMC International Convention Fussach, Austria—September 7-10



The 2020 convention was billed as the first truly "International" convention, in France, but the pandemic put the stop to that celebration!

This year's convention was originally supposed to be in Maryland, but the host hotel was sold and it left our MD chapters out in the cold! In came Red Knights from Austria-4 to step up and take on the convention with a short planning cycle, making 2023 the first convention to be hosted across the pond!

To accommodate the short planning time, the international agreed to a September date, rather than the normal third week in August. Austria was able to do this in such a quick order because they were already planning the European Convention (Region-7 Rally), and just expanded their planning on a larger scale.

We know that it is just the first, as Germany and Australia are planning for conventions in the coming years.

We have several members that have plans underway to attend the convention in Austria, and to add some extra time to their travel abroad, including a visit to the Oktober Fest in Germany before their return to the states.

Austria has reserved 6 hotels/688 beds for the arriving Red Knights. They have planned for excursions to the memorial concentration camp at Dachau (with English speaking guides), to Munich, and to Bregenzerwald. There will be both a Region-7 business meeting and the International's Annual Board Meeting, during the convention.

Hosts are planning for a shuttle bus from the airports in the region to the convention site. They are also researching motorcycle rentals, for those interested.

We are all excited to hear about our members' experiences and see some photos of the convention.



"Yankee Rally" 2023

HOSTED BY NY CHAPTER 30

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (subject to change):

Wednesday, June 7	ALL DAY	Self-Guided Rides/Tours will be available
Thursday, June 8	11:00-5:00	Registration Open Regalia/Merchandise and Silent Auction Room Open
	ALL DAY	Self-Guided Rides/Tours will be available
	6:00 PM KSU	Evening Ride to end at Mac's Drive-In Restaurant in Waterloo (cash required)
Friday, June 9	8:00-5:00	Registration Open Regalia/Merchandise and Silent Auction Room Open
	1:00-5:00	Games/Activities
	6:00-?	Evening Social Event: The "Yankee Rally FLX-perience" <i>Finger Lakes Wineries, Breweries and Distilleries will be on hand to provide tastings and bottle sales of their products</i> <i>Variety of Food Trucks for the many tastes of the Finger Lakes</i> <i>Cash Bar will be available</i>
Saturday, June 10	8:00-2:00	Registration Open
	8:00-5:00	Regalia/Merchandise and Silent Auction Room Open
	9:00 AM	Delegate Meeting <i>Proposals for 8th "Yankee Rally"</i> <i>Region and International Reports</i>
	11:00 AM KSU	Feature Ride to Finger Lakes Waterfalls & Hammondsport (lunch provided) Tour of the Glenn Curtiss Aviation and Motorcycle Museum (extra charge)
	ALL DAY	Self-Guided Routes/Tours will be available
	6:00 PM	Evening BBQ Dinner Winners of Silent Auction Announced
	7:00-11:00	Live Music by "The Slow Riders" <i>Cash Bar will be available</i>
Sunday, June 11	8:00-11:00	Farewell Buffet Breakfast for all participants

Daily 50/50 drawings, one Rally-long 50/50 drawing and Chinese auction items
Proceeds from this event will benefit the Finger Lakes Regional Burn Association's "Camp Courage"



"Yankee Rally" 2023

HOSTED BY NY CHAPTER 30

June 7-11, 2023 – Finger Lakes Region, NY

EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

**** Please submit one form per attendee. ****

NAME _____ **CHAPTER** _____

FULL MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ **E-MAIL** _____

Check all that apply:

QNTY		AMOUNT
	"Yankee Rally 2023" Registration Package (Adult) – \$75.00 – Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 "Yankee Rally 2023" Drink Tumbler• 1 Rocker Patch• 1 Tote Bag• Saturday Evening BBQ Dinner• Sunday Morning Farewell Buffet Breakfast	
	"Yankee Rally 2023" Registration Package (Youth 12 and under) – \$35.00 – Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 "Yankee Rally 2023" T-Shirt – SIZE:• 1 Rocker Patch• 1 Tote Bag• Saturday Evening BBQ Dinner• Sunday Morning Farewell Buffet Breakfast	
	"Yankee Rally 2023" Commemorative Coin – \$10.00	
	"Yankee Rally 2023" T-Shirt – \$15.00 – SIZE:	
	Pre-Sale Ticket to Glenn Curtiss Aviation & Motorcycle Museum in Hammondsport – \$10.00	
	Extra "Yankee Rally 2023" Rocker Patch – \$5.00	
TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT:		

HOST HOTEL: Quality Inn and Conference Center, 2468 State Route 414, Seneca Falls, NY – (315) 577-6068

RATES: **\$139.00** (plus tax and fees) per night for all nights of the Rally

ALL RESERVATIONS are made online: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/IB37V5>

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

ATTENDEE NAME _____

In case of emergency, please contact:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

1. Completed registration forms, with payment, may be sent to: Deborah Speed
5810 Moran Road
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Please make check or money order payable to **“Red Knights Motorcycle Club NY 30”**.

2. Completed forms may also be e-mailed to yankeerally2023@gmail.com and payment may be sent via PayPal (either “Finger Lakes Red Knights” or redknightsny30@yahoo.com).

Registrations MUST be received by Saturday, April 1, 2023 to guarantee all package items

(Any registrations received after April 1, 2023 will still be accepted,
we just cannot guarantee all package items will be available.)

Any questions, please e-mail yankeerally2023@gmail.com or contact any of the following:

Chris Tiffany, President
(585) 748-7688
redknightsny30@yahoo.com

Mike McWilliams, Vice President
(585) 203-4883
mikemcw08@gmail.com