



Red Knights Motorcycle Club Massachusetts — Home of the Founders

Fall 2015
<http://massredknights.org/>

The Spring 2016 State meeting is being hosted by Mass-1
and the Fall State meeting will be hosted by Mass-3.

From the desk of the State Rep

Greetings all Massachusetts Red Knights.

This is the ninth edition of the Massachusetts State Red Knights Newsletter. MA-2 Bob Laford has been the editor and publisher and we all owe him a resounding "Thank you" for his tireless work and dedication to the flow of information we have for our MA State Red Knights.

I can tell you all that the MA State Red Knights would not be what we are today without his assistance.

Bob decided to step down as YOUR Assistant MA State Representative this fall after four years of dedicated service. I am going to miss our "interesting" conversations and his valuable input whenever I had a problem or question. Thank you Bob for all you did for me and the MA Red Knights over the years!!!

MA-15 Bob Binnall was elected as YOUR Assistant MA State Representative at the fall meeting in October. I can't help wondering if having another "Bob" to help me is some sort of a conspiracy to keep my mind on an even keel.

I have known "new Bob" for a number of years both professionally and as a friend. I can tell you all that the transition shall be seamless and he and I will work very well for you together.

Your new Assistant State Representative, MA-15 Bob Binnall and I shall strive to keep Massachusetts on top. If you have something you would like to see added or included within future newsletters feel free to send it to me for publication.

The ongoing "Political" issues involving our state came to a head at the International Convention this year. "We" submitted two bylaw proposals. "Any board member that leaves must be replaced by vote of the membership" passed.

"Any board member that quits his post cannot run for another position for two years" failed.

Going forward, the International Red Knights BOD can no longer appoint to fill a vacant position.

My position as the Red Knights forum moderator went away with the formation of the new Red Knights web site. I was appointed to the position of chairman of the newly formed "International Communications Committee" by the International Board of Directors last fall and replaced by Region-7 Tom-Tom this summer after the convention. More time for me to do other "stuff".

MA-1 Charter / life member Norm Beausoleil, our Region 1 Director, chose not to run this year. Norm was a

great asset to our region and will be missed.

NJ-31 Matt Mattera was elected to replace Norm. I have spent a fair amount of time interacting with Matt and feel he will work as diligently for us as Norm did.

A reminder from OUR Region -1 Director.....

If you ever have a question or problem you should look to your chapter president for an answer. If your issue can't be resolved at the chapter level you can bring it to me, YOUR State Rep. If I can't resolve it I will bring it to OUR Regional Director. Matt requests that we all follow the chain of command.

In closing, I thank you for your continued support and promise to maintain my dedication to this position, as well as all of you. I shall continue keeping you informed, to maintain the Massachusetts State Red Knights as the best state organization in the International Red Knights community and tirelessly work toward the betterment of all.

The season for bike riding is slowly fading away. Soon we will all be suffering from PMS. (Parked Motorcycle Syndrome)

Be safe out there people.

Regards to all,
MA-3 George Colby

Steve Mickle Mr. Red Knight Award



Congratulations to Bob Binnall of RKMC Mass Chapter 15 on being the inaugural recipient of the Steve Mickle "Mr. Red Knight" Award!

Fall 2015 State Meeting

Our 2015 Fall State Meeting was one for the record books with 61 members present representing ten chapters (out of 13) and with representatives from our Members-at-Large! A special thanks was given to the Charlton FD members who had been refurbishing the meeting room and put in an extra effort to have their work complete so we could use the room for our meeting.



To encourage more chapters to consider hosting future state meetings, it was formally voted that a hosting chapter is not required to provide lunch. Hosts may elect to have lunch for attendees and may also decide to ask the membership to assist with the cost, but lunch is strictly optional. Please consider having your chapter host a future meeting.

Thank you to our outgoing ASR Bob Laford of Mass-2 for his two terms of service to our organization and congratulations to our new Assistant State Rep, Bob Binnall, of Mass-15 on his election at our fall meeting.



As many of you know I was appointed the Mass Assistant State Rep on October 24th at the fall meeting held in Charlton, Mass. It was our largest turn out ever at a spring or fall meeting which was exciting as our Mass chapters continue to grow and show support for one another. I look forward to following in Bob Laford footsteps and help George Colby make Massachusetts the best state in the Red Knights motorcycle club. I also look forward to meeting new people and being out on the open road with many of you in the future.

I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to MA-2, MA-13 and Bob Laford. About half way through the meeting I was blindsided, in a good way. I was being awarded the Steve Mickle "Mr. Red Knight" Award. From what I understand Bob Laford nominated me for this award and MA-2 and MA-13 bestowed upon me something that I will cherish for the rest of my days. Although Steve Mickle was a fellow Red Knight, he was first a great man, husband, father, and someone I had the PRIVILEGE to call my friend. Although I only met Steve when I became a Red Knight, he left a lasting impression on me as he has done to so many. To have my name mentioned along side Steve's is something that I do not take lightly. As I said at the meeting, "I am truly humbled to receive this award."

Mass. Assistant State Rep.
Bob Binnall

Do you remember the years of our Massachusetts "Dutch Treat" weekends on Cape Cod? Do you think that may be a good idea to reinstate that weekend gathering in the future?

We had Red Knights from across Massachusetts (and New England) that would come out to the Cape for a spring kick-off weekend before the Cape got too busy. It was always a great time!

Contact State Rep Colby with your ideas, and maybe something may come to fruition next year.

If it does come to life you shall be notified!

The New England Fire Chiefs' Show that has been held in West Springfield for many years is being moved to Foxwoods Casino in eastern Connecticut.

The figure mentioned for vendor booths in the new venue start at \$2,500. The Red Knight booth has always been without charge. Those that spend their weekend there running the booth each year say they hope the "comp'ed" space will continue.

If the Red Knights are required to purchase vendor space, our presence at the expo may not happen in 2016.

Mass-13 asked for support for the annual **Texas Road House Home for Soldiers Ride**. The Home for Soldiers raises money to build homes for Disabled Vets. The 2016 ride in on August 7, with Massachusetts ride out of the Leominster "Texas Roadhouse" restaurant.





New York hosted Covered Bridge “Spanner Ride” during Americade

Americade Memories



Watching the world go by on Canada Street — an Active, Social, and Associate member!



Selling wares and socializing at the RKMC Open House at the LGFD

Breaking bread at the LGFD with a few members of our family



A great day for a parade!



Special honors by Americade for our special memories of Steve

Visitors. The Red Knights Memorial in Boylston receives many visitors throughout the year. Many times those of us "local" to the memorial can greet and sometimes escort our visitors into the site — IF we know that they are coming.

If you hear of Red Knights making plans to visit the memorial, please let the State Rep know so he can pass that information on to all of us.

It is a lot of fun to meet with fellow Red Knights from around the country — and around the world. And it is an honor to share their time at the memorial with them!

A big thank you, as always, to the members of Mass-1 who are vigilant in ensuring the memorial is cared for and also for having water and Mass-1 members available when known visitors arrive.

A group from Nova Scotia 4 also made the Memorial in Boylston a way point on their way to the Yankee Rally in May.



Mass members met and escorted them through central and western Mass on their way to the Empire State. While talking at the memorial they said their route was across the Ferry from Nova Scotia and then down routes 95, 495, and 290. They asked if all the riding in Massachusetts was that crowded? No... you're past that now, and the GREAT riding in Massachusetts begins here!



A hot July summer Saturday found ten of Mass-2 & Mass-4 members meeting up with 11 members from NY 44 & 49 in western Mass and escorting them to the memorial in Boylston, where Mass-1 was waiting to welcome them to Boylston. Earlier that same day Mass-1 hosted a large group of brothers and sisters from New Hampshire 9 at the RKMC Memorial.



Roger van Kollenburg, from Australia 5 met with a number members on a perfect July evening!

Daniel and Don from RK Switzerland-2 were greeted by members of Mass 1 and Mass 2 during their time in New England in August.



Members from NY Chapters 25 and 26 made their way from Long Island on a perfect summer's Sunday to meet up with members from Massachusetts to see the memorial (and then to have a ride to Hot Dog Annie's in Leicester!

We also had visitors from NY12 and MD4 at the end of September.

Another contingent from NY is coming on 11/14. They plan to be in Boylston around 11:00.

The first ever Yankee Rally — RKMCM Region 1, hosted by the New York Association just outside of Saratoga was a grand success!



Several hundred Red Knights from around Region -1 and beyond — came together for a super few days prior to Americade.

NY-12 and their team did an awesome job planning the rally (in a very short time period). Their planning even had to endure a major water break and damage to the original host hotel just several weeks prior to the event that required moving people with reservations and events planned for the celebration!



It sounds like everyone had a great time with events like Hospitality Under the Tent, the BBQ, and local rides. This included a visit to the Albany State Museum and the 9-11-01 exhibit. There was also “biker games,” plenty of socializing, and a pig roast to round the weekend out.

New Jersey (in 2016) and Vermont (in 2017) have their work cut out to surpass the inaugural Yankee Rally!

2016 Yankee Rally — Wildwood, NJ

Now, it's time to start planning for the 2016 Yankee Rally. Registration and reservations have opened as of June 1, 2015.

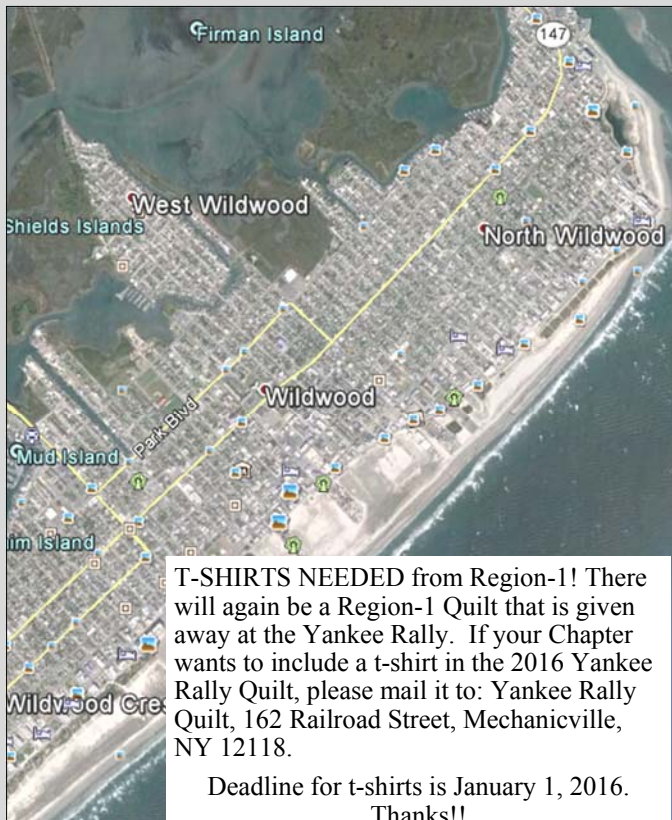
Information, including registration information is available from the 2016 Yankee Rally Facebook Page. Hotel reservations started to pour in as soon as the phone line was listed — so do not hesitate to make your room reservation.

To make reservations at the Bolero Resort call 609-522-6929. **DO NOT MAKE RESERVATIONS** via the Bolero webpage as you will not get the Red Knights discount.

To register for the Rally, visit www.rkmcnj31.com and download a form.

New Jersey has said, “Trust Us,” that they have lots of fun planned for all of us! And with our new Regional Rep Matt Mattera inviting us to play in his back yard, there is no doubt the red carpet will be out for the RKMCM!

Wildwood is an incredible location and has been voted in the top beaches and boardwalks in the United States and the Bolero has a front row seat... on the beach!



T-SHIRTS NEEDED from Region-1! There will again be a Region-1 Quilt that is given away at the Yankee Rally. If your Chapter wants to include a t-shirt in the 2016 Yankee Rally Quilt, please mail it to: Yankee Rally Quilt, 162 Railroad Street, Mechanicville, NY 12118.

Deadline for t-shirts is January 1, 2016.
Thanks!!

It is guaranteed that the Mass State Rep will soon be sending out *several* reminder emails about Chapter and MAL dues that need to be in to the International at the end of the year.

Beat him to the punch. Have your dues in prior to his first email and you can say, “George, it is all taken care of!”

San Antonio in August!

Ah, what a better way to spend some time with Red Knight friends than with 108 degree days in southern Texas along the San Antonio River Walk!



333 Red Knights were registered for the convention, and reps from Massachusetts arrived via plane, 4-wheels (with bikes) and on two wheels!

Our Texas hosts had a lot packed into a few days, even for those people that flew into town and were not out on any of the motorcycle rides. Activities included the cruises on the River Walk canal, an after hours tour of the Alamo, and all the restaurants and sites along the River Walk, to name a few.

The hospitality room was always full of activity. The hosts made sure there were plenty of cold beverages of every type (including a margarita machine) to help combat the Texas heat and there was always an abundance of laughter on hand.

A lot of business took place during Saturday's meeting including discussion and voting on the proposed bylaw changes that Massachusetts chapters submitted. One of our proposals (that a vacancy on the International Board must be filled by election not just appointment) was successful, and the second proposal (that if you resign a position on the International Board you must have a cooling off period before you can serve on the board again) did not pass.

Thanks go out to our Texas brothers and sisters for a job well done!



2016 RKMC Convention — August 18-21
Kalahari Resorts — (Wisconsin Dells, WI)

...that's just a short 1,200 miles, 18 road hours away!

Convention rate.

16th and 17th - \$149/night, 18th and 19th - \$169/night, 20th - \$179
The per night rate includes a pass to the waterpark and parking

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire membership of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club. Thirty three years ago I had the dumb luck of being at the right place at the right time and knowing the right guys to ride my motorcycle with. There were several guys from my department in Westborough, MA, that I rode with, but I was the only one interested in joining my mutual aid partners in Northborough for that infamous meeting in August that spawned what is now known as the largest firefighter motorcycle club in the world. I had the honor of penning the original by-laws and of watching the club gain international status.

Five years ago I had the honor of being present at the Ocean City, MD convention when the International Board bestowed International life Membership upon me and the 8 other surviving Founding Fathers and posthumous recognition to the two that passed before. Two years ago I had, once again, the dumb luck of being at the right place at the right time to win not only nomination but also election to the International Board as Region 1 Director.

For the past two years I represented not only Region 1 but all members of the Red Knights when I took to the meeting floor and challenging debates. In December of 2014, as I was facing the final quarter of my elected term I came to the realization that I could do my job in the office but I was unable to do the part of the job that was required of me in the field. I couldn't be where I felt and believed I needed to be when I felt and believed I needed to be there. I couldn't make large events, funerals, chapter, state or association meetings, all of which are part of the job of the Regional Director, because that is where the Director gets his or her greatest sense of what the Region wants and needs – face to face interaction. For that reason, I chose not to run for re-election and went to the membership of the Region looking for people to step up and run to replace me. Several people expressed interest, but only Matt Mattera picked up the glove and took the challenge. Matt was elected by acclamation at this past week's Annual Business Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, and I look forward to working with him and helping him where and when I can.

Although I am no longer on the Board, I want everyone to know that I will continue to champion any cause that I believe is in the best interest of the entire club, not just Region 1. As a Founder, I will continue to work to make sure this club remains what it was meant to be, a club for ALL motorcycling firefighters, whether in a chapter or MAL - WE ARE ALL THE SAME! I will be addressing the European Association meeting in September, at the request of the Board. In the meantime, I trust your new Region 1 Director, Matt Mattera, will serve you all with dignity, honor and pride. Again, thank you all for allowing me to once again serve on the executive board, and beware. I'll be back

Norm

Passenger Friendly: Tips for those who ride together

- Be sure the rider is ready for you to get on the bike. Once on, sit still. A shift in your weight can drop the bike, especially at a stop.
- Once riding, lean with the bike. Looking over the rider's inside shoulder in a curve will nearly always provide the correct angle.
- If you are to be the navigator, be sure to give directions soon enough that your rider has plenty of time to maneuver.
- Pay attention to the rider's physical signals. You can often predict and brace for a quick stop just by feeling the rider's muscles tighten.
- Communicate. If you need to stop, let the rider know.

Tips for Being an Effective Two-Up Pilot

- Realize that the passenger is more prone to wind effect, cramping and boredom.
- Passengers may also get colder than the rider due to the wind chill.
- As the driver, remember that you have the constant mental stimulation of piloting the bike. The scenery might not be the most fascinating for your passenger (there are only so many words that can be made out of the letters on the DOT sticker on the back of your helmet). Give your passenger a break off the bike every few hours to stretch his or her legs and break up any boredom that might have set in.
- Be sure you're aware of and comfortable with the adjustments necessary for riding two-up. Always allow for the added stopping distance you'll need with the extra weight at stoplights and during parking lot maneuvers.
- Have your passenger hold onto you tightly enough to move with you as you lean into corners, and make sure he or she knows to brace as you are about to brake. Don't try to impress your passenger with quick acceleration or knee-dragging cornering. He or she won't be delighted.
- Make sure your passenger has the same protective gear as you do when riding—helmet, leathers or a riding suit, and a rain suit.
- Always stop on request. Remember, this is supposed to be fun for both of you! Your passenger trusts you with his or her safety. Earn the trust.

A touring tip from Road Runner magazine

How to Stay Safe in Murky Weather -

Riding in fog—especially when it's combined with rain and darkness—heightens a number of risk factors that prudent motorcyclists usually seek to avoid:

- Rider visibility of potential hazards, both ahead and from behind (like being rear-ended by a faster moving vehicle) is severely restricted.
- Accumulation of moisture on face shield and/or glasses further inhibits your ability to see the road and spot hazards.
- The ability of other vehicle operators to see you is significantly diminished.
- Rider spatial disorientation with the road and its surroundings increases the chance of getting lost or having an accident.
- Visual loss of the horizon can cause misjudgment of the motorcycle's lean angle and a greater chance of low siding the motorcycle on slick pavement.

• Emerging from a heavily forested area into fog illuminated by daylight can suddenly cause a whiteout effect, overpowering a rider's wide-open pupils.

And the list goes on. The best advice for riding in fog is simply to not do it; wait until weather conditions improve before heading out. But there are times when it's not practical to do so. If you find yourself caught in heavy fog, with no good alternative for avoiding it, consider several strategies for mitigating the increased risk.

Slow down and continually adjust your speed as visibility changes.

- Take the most familiar route to your destination.
 - Use a defogging agent on your face shield and glasses.
 - Keep your headlight on its low beam setting to avoid light flaring off of the water molecules and further reducing visibility.
 - Monitor your rear view mirrors for fast approaching vehicles from behind and, if necessary, prepare to take evasive action.
 - If another vehicle is following too close, tap your brakes lightly to flash your taillight or turn on the bike's flashers, if it has them.
 - Wear reflective material and bright colors.
 - Avoid sudden inputs to the brakes or steering, and use engine braking as much as possible.
 - Follow the taillights of another vehicle, at a safe distance and speed, to reduce any spatial disorientation.
 - Use the white line on the right side of the road as a point of reference and keep it to your right, particularly when there are on-coming headlights that glare out the centerline in the fog.
- If forced to stop, either by the fog becoming too dense or a mechanical problem, move yourself and your bike well off the road.

Remember it's always safer to anticipate and avoid dangerous riding conditions than to try and mitigate their risk once you are in them



Waving and riding have always gone together for me. The camaraderie of the road and riding two wheels just fit. Those other riders are the only people who get what it feels like.

More and more those other riders wave back less. There was a time that I got mad, thought they were rude, and tragically fell into that all too human trap of thinking negatively about that other rider.

What I have come to realize with age, understanding, and wisdom is they might just not know or understand the wave. Maybe they are thinking of other things and while they didn't wave back they appreciated the wave. Maybe that wave made them smile and they waved at the next rider.

People are more connected than ever. I can message across the world, video chat anywhere, post pictures, videos, and "talk" to my followers on social media anytime day or night. What I can't always do is be present in the moment. That small gesture between riders is an understanding of the passion, the lunacy, and the need that is riding a motorcycle.

Don't wave expecting it to be returned, wave to show you get it. Wave because you want to connect, wave because that rider could use the wave to brighten an otherwise lonely day. Wave at all bikes, big and small, foreign and domestic. Wave because you mean it. I know if I see you I'll wave your way. It may be a peace sign, drop it low, or even just a finger lift but I will acknowledge you on the road. If I happen to not wave and you did. Know I appreciate and I'll pass it on to the next rider.

Taken from an HD Forums article



If you have ever been at the Full Throttle Saloon in Sturgis or watched the reality TV show filmed on the premises your "Fire Prevention Officer" gene in you probably kicked in and you thought, "this place is ripe for a big, fast-moving fire." And... you were right!

Less than a month after the close of the 75th Sturgis Rally, one of the main watering holes of the event was leveled by a fire that reportedly was started by an errant power cord (a pinched power cord to a keg refrigerator to be exact) causing an estimated \$10 million in damages and completely destroying the building.

Billed as the largest biker bar in the world, the Full Throttle Saloon is said to have as many as 15,000-20,000 patrons during a busy night during the rally.

Several articles printed after the fire talked about the lack of fire and building codes and no sprinklers and the potential for a large loss of life fire if the building were have burned during the motorcycle rally when it was at capacity and the nearby camp ground and cabins were occupied. Happening the first week September rather than the first week in August was fortunate — there were no reported injuries during the fire.

Some 45 firefighters fought the blaze, and their efforts were complicated by the lack of fire hydrants or a ready water supply at the site. Water had to be trucked in via a tanker shuttle operation.

Because it was such a large dollar loss, the South Dakota State Fire Marshall brought in the ATF to assist with the investigation. Newspaper reports that more than two dozen federal investigators were involved in the scene investigation.



Before and After