



Red Knights Motorcycle Club Massachusetts — Home of the Founders

Fall 2020

Mass-4 will be the host of the Spring 2021 state meeting at the Huguenot Steamer in Oxford.

From the desk of the Massachusetts Red Knights State Representative

Hello All;

I do hope you and yours are healthy and COVID free.

I don't need to go on about how much of a disappointment this riding season has been for many of us or how many events we were planning on going to that were cancelled.

Look on the bright side... You saved money by not going to events.!

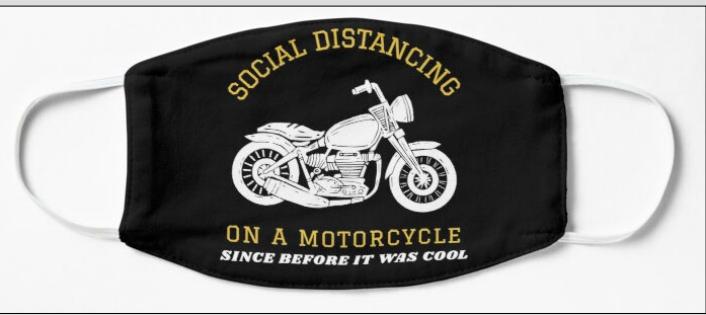
The Spring State meeting was cancelled and hope was cast that by the time the fall meeting happened the COVID would be gone.

That meeting did not happen as planned on Cape Cod, but I think we did pull off a good, safe, fun fall state meeting.

The desserts were provided by MA-1 Jackie Hamilton and MA-12 Nancy Schneider. MA-3 VP Paul Schleicher and Active member Chris Ferreira and Social member Linda Schleicher did the cooking and serving. The "hands off" technique worked well to eliminate any COVID spread. The weather was perfect and all-in-all I think everyone had a good time.

There wasn't much business to take care of by the membership, with the exception of the election of the State Rep. No one threw their hat into the ring so I was voted in for another two years by default.

One funny thing happened.. Those of you who "do" Facebook have probably seen the photo of me in my complete ensemble of my ® shirt and now, (thanks to MA-2 & 13 Deb Mickle) my ® hat. Busting chops for not



2020 International Elections

Region-1 did not have any contested positions, so our chapters did not have to cast any ballots for this year's election. Results of the election were:

- Vice President – Spike Ostiguy MA 4
- Secretary – Jack Jarvis NC 6
- Region 2 Director – Leo Patry ONT 7
- Region 4 Director – Steve Guillot LA 1
- Region 6 Director – Allen Aurich TX 4
- Region 8 Director – Ken Mahon New Zealand 6

having a Trade Mark License Agreement is a thing with me in case you didn't know.

Bob Binnall, your assistant State Representative, and I continue to communicate and work behind the scenes to maintain the Mass State Red Knights as the group to emulate and I maintain my promise to you all to do the best I can to maintain the trust you have placed upon me.

Be safe out there people. We have a few more weeks of riding before the winter P.M.S sets in. Lets all hope for a COVID free 2021.

Regards,
George

Convention 2021 St. John, New Brunswick, Canada



Hearing from Jim Bedford of the 2021 Convention planning committee, we have learned that information about the convention in August, including registration, hotel accommodations and other information will become available in late October.

Keep a lookout for messages and information from our state rep on the convention as well as the new convention webpage. The "Red Knights - All Chapters & MAL" Facebook page is also a good resource for RK info.



We know that Americade 2020 was rescheduled and then canceled because of COVID, but the non-Americade reschedule dates in August still saw an RKMC Open House at the Lake George FD.

Massachusetts was represented at the truncated gathering by Mass Chapters 2, 4 and 15.

About 50 Red Knights were in attendance and we thank RK NY 12 for hosting us. We all look forward to see what 2021 will bring for Americade, and all the other events that have been curtailed because of the pandemic.



For those who made plans for either the June or July Americade, the Dutchers offered refunds for registrants or enable them to apply their 2020 registration fee to the 2021 event. Registrants who take the 2021 credit will receive early-registration privileges and a \$20 additional credit.

We hope that our world returns to some semblance of normalcy before the time of our annual pilgrimage to Lake George returns in June, but we will have to wait and see!

At the crafting of this newsletter, our friends in Canada are telling us they are seeing a spike of cases return to their area and the border with our northern members remain closed!



We were all saddened when we heard that Bob Hollner, President of NY12, passed away suddenly in September.

Bob was the RKMC Americade liaison and was always working behind the scenes promoting the Red Knights and making sure that we all felt welcomed and part of his family when we walked into the Lake George FD for our annual open house.



Bob's love of family, friends, and the Red Knights was always noticeable in how he lived each day, and he will be missed by all those who knew him.

Rest in peace, Bob, we'll take it from here.

2021 Yankee Rally — Long Island, NY

The Red Knights 6th Yankee Rally will be held from May 21-23, 2021 on Long Island, NY. It will be a celebration of friendship and family , as well as a tribute in remembrance of the 20th Anniversary of 9/11/01.

There will be multiple activities that include rides and a tour to Ground Zero.

We have secured a block of hotel rooms at the Hyatt Regency on Long Island, 1717 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, New York.

Yankee Rally pricing: (3 nights, Thursday thru Sunday stay)
\$190.00 per night plus taxes - Single occupancy INCLUDES Breakfast, \$201.00 per night plus taxes - Double occupancy INCLUDES Breakfast. (877.803.7534)

See the webpage a <https://www.redknightsny43.org/yr2021> for more information and for registration information.

Since the 2020 Yankee Rally in Plattsburgh, NY was cancelled, we hope that in choosing new hosts for future Region-1 rallies will include our friends from NY 50 so we can celebrate with them and thank them for the hard work they did planning for the missed and the new rally!!

Hello fellow brothers and sisters,

To say this year has been out of the ordinary would be an understatement. We have been unable to do many of the things that we love to do.

Most Red Knights events were cancelled, (with the exception of the Bootlegger Rally in IL). The COVID pandemic caused the cancellation of multiple rallies, Americade, the Convention, the Cape Cod Dutch weekend and most importantly, in my opinion, hanging out with our Red Knight Family.

Hopefully the upcoming year will be better and we can get back to what we all love to do — riding motorcycles and spending time with one another.

Please remember that if you or your family need any help in these difficult times to please reach out to George or myself. We will do our very best to help you, however we can. We have a great group of Red Knights in MA and we are a family and family helps each other, when needed.

As you may have already heard, George Colby, your Mass State Rep was reelected for another two years at the 2020 MA Fall State meeting. Congratulations George, I look forward to continuing working with you.

The meeting was held at George and Sandi's house in Plympton, MA, (outside so we could social distance). I'd like to thank George and Sandi for opening their yard to us so we could come together, even if we were six feet apart.

Before I go I'd like to take a quick moment to say "Thank You" to Bob Laford for continuing to put out this newsletter. Although I enjoy reading it every year I feel like this year I need it more than ever. We haven't really been able to spend time with one another this year so again, "Thank You Bob".

Stay safe everyone

Bob Binnall
MA-15
MA ASST. State Rep

On the floor (grass?) of the fall state meeting, Assistant State Rep Bob Binnall discussed the "**Give a Child a Christmas**" charity ride supported by RK NY Chapter 12 each year (now being called the "Bob Hollner Memorial Ride").

Bob explained that this was an effort that was near and dear to Bob Hollner's heart and other Red Knights were stepping up to continue that support in Bob's memory.

A sizeable donation was made on behalf of the RK Bootlegger Rally held in September in Illinois and the membership of Massachusetts voted a \$200 donation from the State Rep's account. Winnings from the fall 50/50 were also donated to the ride.

The Best Western in Clifton Park (518) 371-1811) has also stepped up, in Bob's memory and in thanks for what he had done for the community, and is offering discounted rooms to Red Knights who wish to go to the ride, and spend the night. (Make sure you mention the Red Knights).

Bob Hollner Memorial Ride
To benefit
Give A Child Christmas
Hosted by
RED KNIGHTS NY 12

Sunday October 11th, 2020 (Rain or Shine Event)
Eagles Club
373 Crescent Ave., Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Gates open at 9:30 AM
Guided Ride (weather permitting) KSU 11 AM
Presentations and Dinner will be serviced upon return from ride at Approx. 3 PM., at the Eagles Club pavilion, provided by our Friends at PICNIC PLUS.

Cost is \$20.00 per person or equivalent in an UNWRAPPED toy.

FOOD-MUSIC-RAFFLES

In accordance with New York State Guidelines we are requiring that Masks be worn while on Premise unless you are eating!!!! We ask that you please adhere to this rule as it is our hopes to keep all Patrons who attend Safe!!!
We Thank you all in advance for your co-operation.

Any question or comments please contact Colleen Bahan at NY12@redknightsmc.com



2021 Dixie Rally (Region-4) May 14-16, 2021 — Culpeper, VA

Two side-by-side hotels have rooms blocked for the Red Knights in Culpepper for the Dixie Rally. The Best Western (540-825-1253) and the Holiday Inn Express (540-825-7444).

Follow Virginia Chapter 5's webpage for more details and to download registration information: <https://redknightsva5.com/2021-dixie-rally>

Print motorcycle magazines edge closer to extinction

Print motorcycle magazines in the United States continue to become an ever more endangered and disappearing species.



The future remains murky for what was long the largest monthly motorcycle magazine in motorcycling, Cycle World. Bonnier has been trying to sell many of its U.S. titles since early this year. Bonnier's holdings range from once-massive print publications such as Field & Stream that no longer appear in print at all to enthusiast publications such as surfing magazines. Even if Bonnier does successfully negotiate a sale, there's no guarantee that Cycle World will be among those titles that find a new owner.

With the print edition of Motorcyclist eliminated last year and Cycle World switching to a quarterly schedule the year before, that left Rider magazine as the largest monthly commercial motorcycle magazine in the U.S. market. But not for long.

The March issue of Rider was the last one to be printed and mailed in paper form. As a subscriber myself, I can tell you that like many readers I never received any

notification that the print version was suspended. The company is still producing the magazine in the same layout, but it is posted online only.

It's hard for me to understand why a company would refuse to communicate with

its own customers about the future of its product — a product those customers have paid in advance for.

In July, American Iron magazine announced it was ending its print publication after 31 years. Early this year, Motorcycle Consumer News shut down. Unlike the other commercial motorcycle print magazines, it did not publish advertising but was instead supported solely by subscribers. That different business model didn't ensure its survival, either.

So who's left among publications serving on-road riders in the U.S. market?

RoadRUNNER magazine continues to publish a print edition, as well as digital versions, and serves a touring-focused audience similar to Rider's. Roadracing World & Motorcycle Technology primarily covers racing but also tests some street motorcycles.

Beyond the magazines aimed at street riders, Hi-Torque Publications still produces print versions of Dirt Bike and Motocross Action for off-road riders. ADVMoto publishes six print issues a year for fans of adventure motorcycles.

Whose next?

Fall State Meeting

Our Fall Cape Cod plans — with our state meeting on the docket for the weekend fell through because of the continuing pandemic, and the concern of the health and safety of our members — but George and Sandi



stepped up to host a socially distant cookout and meeting in their back yard in Plympton.

After adjournment of the meeting, a cookout of hamburgers and hot dogs with an

assortment of sweet treats rounded out the gathering before members continued to enjoy the sunny fall day with their rides home.

A special thank you to the grill master MA-3 Paul Schleicher Sr. and his assistants MA-3 Chris Ferreira and MA-3 Linda Schleicher. Desserts provided by MA-1 Jackie Hamilton and MA-12 Nancy Schneider.

Congratulations to George Colby on his re-election as our State Rep. at the Fall State Meeting

Check out the museum where our Spring 2021 State Meeting will be in Oxford!

<https://www.huguenotsteamer.com/>

International President's Report 2020

This is the report that President Joey Powell presented at the remote Board Meeting held in August (on the Saturday that would have been the convention membership meeting).

This year has been a challenging year for all . We have had to make decisions that the board has never made. Cancelling the 2020 convention was the hardest item that I have been involved with as a member of the board, but we must take the welfare of each member under consideration. Under the guide lines that were given out for everyone to follow due to the virus, the board started having Zoom meetings each month to stay informed. We had to cancel our spring meeting so the Zoom meeting has been a great help. On the other hand, we also feel unconnected with each other and the members. As everyone knows being face to face is always better. We hope to have our fall meeting but we shall see what happens. We are going to have an ABM meeting again by Zoom, we are hoping to be able to record it so everyone can watch. We are looking into other ways also. This year it will be only an information meeting since we can not vote on items.

2021 will be challenging! As an organization we should continue to grow in Members and Chapters. Not too many organizations can say this. We do see places opening up to a certain degree and we are able to ride as a group. Continue to follow local guidelines as we fight our way through this time. I know the coming year will be a great one! The club was formed for riding and enjoying the company of each other. Sometimes I think we forget this. This coming year I would like to challenge each Chapter to plan a ride to meet another Chapter that you have not rode with, sit down, talk and get to know them, asking questions, and I will guarantee you that new ideas will be out there for you to become a better Chapter and also gain new Members. Again the club was formed to ride and make new friends. What I think a Red Knight should be:

As I take a look at why I joined the club I think back why I joined the fire service. I wanted the company of people that when I was down they would be there to pick me back up no matter the effort. In other words, they would not turn on me and feed me to the wolves even though we have different opinions or disagree on something. We can take our opinions the majority of times, putting them together to form one great item that would work for all. Being on the Board has taught me to listen and not react the first time I hear something. Try to understand the other person. I myself do not do this all the time and I get pulled back in line. We all must sometimes move forward and learn from the past. We cannot erase what has been done but we can learn from it, teach others about it so we can be better in the future. Just like a fire scene. After the call we go back and take a look at what we did and we preplan for the next call so we can be better. With this said, the past is the past. Learn from it, build on it, and pick your brothers and sisters up to make them better. We are all Red Knights at the end of the day. Not one of us is better than the other, we are all equal. We take the best from each other and make this club the best, the biggest, and the strongest. If you are in the club so that you can make a name for yourself you are in it for the wrong reason. It's all about making new friends, enjoying the company of your fellow firefighters, and their families. Telling stories on each other for what they have done positive on the "fire scene". Be a part of the biggest firefighter family in the world and most of all, GO RIDE your bike and have fun in life.

Red Knights International Convention 2020

From the virtual 2020 Annual Red Knights Meeting:

- As of Dec 31, 2019 there were 441 RKMC chapters & 359 MAL, with 9,254 members.
- 46 names have been added to the Heaven 1 roster since our last convention.
- Congratulations to the new Region 8 Director; Ken Mahan of NZ-6.
- All other positions were unopposed.
- Nominations open Jan 1, 2021 for election of president, treasurer, regions 1, 3, 5, 7
- Since the 2024 convention location cannot be voted on this year, next year we will be voting on 2024 & 2025 locations.
- Congratulations to this year's recipient of the Perry Carter Award - Andrew Young of Australia 6.
- Lifetime Membership was presented to Outgoing Region-8 Director Jason Collins for his dedicated service to the Red Knights.
- The fall board meeting will include all board members since they have been unable to have a face-to-face meeting due to Covid-19

Congratulations to both Spike Ostiguy (MA-4) and to Jack Jarvis (NC-6) on their re-elections as International VP and International Secretary, respectively.

Bylaw Updates voted at the Convention

Without an in-person convention, no business was able to be tended to from the floor, as the bylaws do not allow for proxy voting.

That situation included the inability to bring and bylaw change proposals to the membership and also no vote on the hosting of the 2024 convention.

2021 Red Knights International Election

International positions of President, Treasurer, Region 1, 3, 5 and 7 are all up for election/ re-election in 2021. Similar to this year, chapter election ballots will only be cast if there are contested positions.

2021 — Keeping with an international flair, 2021 is being hosted by New Brunswick-1, in St. John's New Brunswick, Canada. NB and nearby Nova Scotia is some wonderfully picturesque scenery along the Bay of Fundy. Another convention that is a short distance from New England and the Northeast is sure to be a big turnout!

2022 —

Southwest Pennsylvania will be the host for 2022 in Johnstown, PA. Full of history, Johnstown Red Knights in PA-22 are planning to incorporate history into your visit, including the Great Johnstown Flood, the region's steel industry, 9-11 memories, and a celebration of the Red Knights' 40th anniversary. Initial plans include an Ice Cream Social, a nearby Firefighter's Convention and parade.

2023 —

Maryland

2024 — No applicants were able to be voted on as there was no formal in-person business meeting in August 2020. The Convention meeting in 2021 will have to solicit and vote on conventions for both 2024 and 2025.

Start your planning today and mark your calendar and your maps. It won't be long before we hit the road to gather the clan once again!

Turmoil and surprises so far for the motorcycle industry in 2020

From Revzilla's "Common Thread" blog

Your local dealership might have closed for good in the last few months. Or it might have had an unexpectedly strong season

Performance was all over the map for individual powersports dealerships across the United States in the first quarter reports. Compared to last year, overall U.S. motorcycle sales for the quarter were only down four percent. The market's turbulence was the result of positive effects, such as passionate customers, adaptable retailers, and the isolation-friendly nature of riding, balanced against the negative effects of massive unemployment, stay-at-home orders, and serious health and safety concerns.

New motorcycle sales are only part of the story, though. Motorcycle Powersports News (MPN) reported that online sales of aftermarket powersports parts and accessories in the first week of March (before the main effects of the pandemic) and in the first week of May in the United States and Canada. It found sales were up 126 percent. That far surpassed the usual season opener uptick.

Another phenomenon is the national shortage of bicycles and ebikes. The virus quickly reduced usage of public transportation in large metro areas and those who were still commuting sought inexpensive, practical alternatives.

Motorcycle dealerships adapted to the pandemic and found new ways to serve customers. Most manufacturers, worked with dealerships to offer some contactless purchasing options to purchase motorcycles over the phone or online, with a bike delivery soon after. No handshakes, signatures, or in-person contact required. Some dealerships benefited from the PPP Loan Bill and powersports employees were deemed essential workers, in most places. Some service departments reported they were busier than usual as business was boosted by the arrival of federal stimulus checks and riders saw some alternative activities they previously enjoyed were shut down.

The used motorcycle market has been iffy. Sellers are eager to turn unwanted motorcycles into cash, especially when they're holding models in high demand, but their pool of potential buyers has been curtailed by fears of virus transmission, loss of employment, and other obstacles. (*One Craigslist post this author saw politely asked that the cash be handed over in a Lysoled Ziplock bag. A fair request, and another example of the increased inconvenience of selling anything these days.*)

That's not to say that motorcycling escaped the disruption and risk of the coronavirus. Dealership closures, canceled events, crowd-less races, and stay-at-home orders are just a sampling of negative changes for the industry.

Another development that could have a long-term effect is the disruption of rider training programs. MSF classes in multiple states have been canceled. Some programs, like Pennsylvania's, may close for good. This could have a long-tail negative effect on ridership by increasing barriers to entry for new riders.

"The MSF continues to work closely with all stakeholders in rider education and motorcyclist safety to seek solutions for today's challenges," said Robert Gladden, vice president of training operations.

Insight will be coming (and being interpreted) on how the industry fared in Q2 (and Q3) and we will get a clearer picture of the motorcycle industry's health.

