

## Red Knights Motorcycle Club Massachusetts — Home of the Founders

The fall 2023 State Meeting will be hosted by Mass-4 at the Huguenot Museum in Oxford on Saturday, September 9.

Spring 2023

v-140

### *From the desk of the Massachusetts Red Knights State Representative*

Greetings all Massachusetts Red Knights!

If you attended the spring state meeting you would have noticed a new (appearing) me has been born. After more years than I care to remember I am no longer wearing corrective lenses. Unfortunately cataract lens replacement surgery is synonymous with age. It is what it is!

Without the production of this newsletter, there would not be the unprecedented sharing of information we have, and all the thanks for this goes to MA-2 Bob Laford.

It has been a tough year medically so far.

MA-13 has two members that underwent surgery and are still in recovery mode. MA-15 has a member recovering from a crash. I have sent out requests for get well cards and have been notified that many have been received and are most welcome.

The spring state meeting held April 22nd was the shortest in my tenure and your Assistant State Rep. Bob Binnall and I are going to try to maintain the "short" format going forward.

Working with Bob Binnall, your assistant state Rep. continues to be a great pleasure for me.

Bob is a dedicated man, a great sounding board and I appreciate him very much.

We in Region-1 have a new Director.

Ken May is from New Jersey and attended our spring meeting. Ken organized a Region-1 meeting with all the state Reps. / Association Presidents recently and we covered a lot of ground. The questions, complaints and issues that were brought forth at the meeting will all be presented to the International board by Ken and he welcomes any input from any of us.

The riding season is upon us people so please stay alert out there. We already have had one of our members hurt from contact with a motor vehicle.

Regards and safe riding to you all,

George



Members in attendance at Spring meeting held in Waltham.

## 2023 YANKEE RALLY

Join several hundred Red Knight family members from Region-1, and beyond, as we converge on the Finger Lakes Region of NY for the 2023 Yankee Rally.



Hosted by RK NY30, traveling to western New York for this event is only about a 300 mile ride, and the trip and what awaits you in Seneca Falls will be well worth traveling to the June 8-11 rally.

With the International Convention in Europe, this year, we know not as many U.S. and Canadian Knights will be attending that event, so the Yankee Rally is the perfect event to help fill your RKMC 2023 calendar!

Because of the regulation changes between the IRS and Paypal, our hosts encourage everyone sending in registrations to MAIL their check and forms via USPS.

Information on the rally and the hotels are available on the RKMC International webpage under "events."

The Quality Inn is the host hotel, and although it is fully booked with Red Knights, there are two other nearby hotels that serve as overflow.

There is interest from both New Hampshire and Maine in hosting future Yankee Rallies. We will vote on future hosts in June.

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# The Red Knights Massachusetts 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 engraved at our memorial.

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 RKMC still hold a mortgage on this property, once this mortgage is paid, we can transfer the property to our Memorial Foundation, which is a charity, and apply for a waiver of property taxes.

**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.

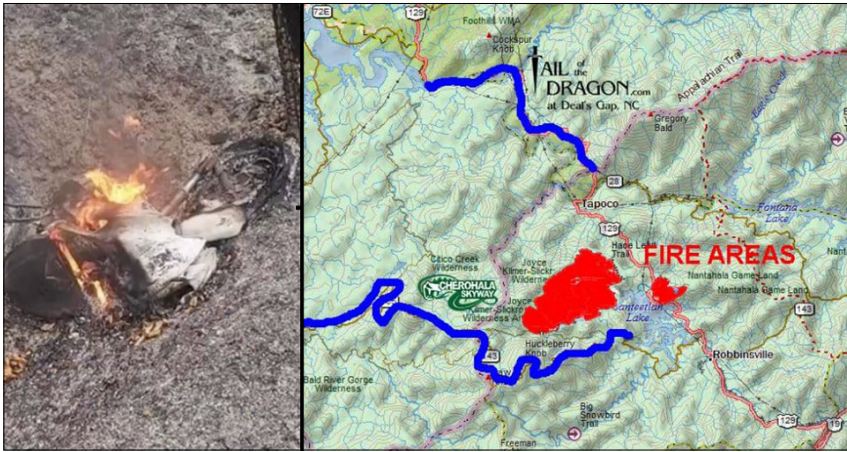
*It is recommended that chapter treasurers collect the donations and send them to the International Treasurer, earmarked for "the principle of the mortgage" of the memorial hall. Members-at-Large will send their donations directly to the International Treasurer, again, earmarked for "the principle of the mortgage".*

*Please note in your donations that it is part of the Mass-1 Challenge!*

Donations from just over 8,000 members would pay off the balance of the mortgage of \$160,800.

*(Challenge is not intended to include Junior Members of the Red Knights)*

## Motorcycle crash on Tail of the Dragon sparks 177-acre wildfire



[In early-November], a crashed motorcycle caught fire and ignited leaves and trees along U.S. 129 near Deals Gap, North Carolina and the Tennessee border — the infamous “Tail of the Dragon” that’s beloved by motorcyclists for its challenging twists and turns.

The blaze grew into a large wildfire before emergency responders gained control and halted the spread after several days of containment efforts. The motorcyclist escaped the crash and fire without injury.

Crashes are not uncommon along the Tail of the Dragon’s 318 curves, and with any crash comes the potential for fire. The unnamed motorcyclist, who was on a borrowed Yamaha YZF-R6, was alone at the time of the crash and could not lift the bike or extinguish the flames that started after hitting the ground.

“The motorcyclist lost control and collided into the roadside. Upon collision, the motorcycle was engulfed in flames which ignited the wildfire,” according to Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation became aware of the fire around 12:18 p.m. on Sunday, November 6. Some roads in the area remained closed for several days during the firefighting effort. The Tennessee Division of Forestry had issued a “high danger” fire warning for the surrounding forests at the time of this crash and ensuing fire. Throughout that part of the fall, wildfires across the Tennessee kept foresters on their toes until rain, left over from Hurricane Nicole, dampened the area.

“Low relative humidity coupled with dry, fresh leaf fall set up vulnerable fire ignition,” the Division of Forestry said. “Fortunately, moist conditions on the ground below the freshly fallen leaves assisted firefighters with rapid containment on most fires.” The Tail of the Dragon fire covered some 177 acres, according to the Department of Agriculture. There were no injuries and no damages to the iconic road.

The International’s spring board meeting will be held in mid-May.

As with year’s past, we expect to see business proposals (bylaw changes and such) that will be proposed by the board to be announced after that time. These proposals will be brought to the membership at the annual board meeting in Austria in September.

There were some proposals that were announced after the fall meeting.

One proposal, by the board, appears to alter whom and how members can be honored as Life Members.

Another proposal is to prioritize chapter applications from North America to host conventions during even-numbered years before considering applications from other regions for those years.

A series of proposals to answer the multi-rocker issue has also been written for discussion and decision at the convention in September. Details on this specific submission appears later in this newsletter.

### Region 1 Special Election

With Eric Jock stepping down as Region-1 Rep, the International had to hold a special election to fill the vacancy from November until the convention in September.

Rick Oliver of MA-2 and Ken May of NJ-19 ran for the position to represent the Region and with the votes casts in January, Ken May will be serving as the Region-1 Rep until September (and is also a candidate for re-election). We congratulate Ken and wish him the best as our new representative, and we also acknowledge the dedication to our club from Rick in his efforts during the campaign.

We were fortunate to have two candidates that care so much about the Red Knights and its members who were willing to serve.

We, as chapters in Massachusetts, will again be casting votes for President, Treasurer, and Region-1 Director later this year if there are contests on the ballot.

Region 1 has 92 chapters throughout New England, New York and New Jersey. 87 chapters were eligible to vote, and 57 of those cast ballots. That is a 65% participation.

### Spring 2023 State Meeting

Mass-15 hosted the Spring 2023 State Meeting at the Sons of Italy hall in Waltham. The parking lot was a collection of bikes and cars on the cool April morning! Thirty Red Knights were in attendance representing Mass 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13 and 15.

Detailed minutes of the meeting are available through your chapter president, but below are a few highlights.

- State Rep Colby spoke briefly on the International's proposal to change the "Life Member" program. This was one proposal that was included in documents that were released after the board's fall meeting.
- Both State Rep Colby and Regional Director Ken May spoke about the Region 1 Mayday fund in place to help Red Knights in need in our Region.
- The Tri-state Fire Show will be on Sunday, May 21, at Webster Lake (Memorial Beach Drive) from 9:00 to 3:00. MA-4 will again have a booth to promote the Red Knights if anyone wishes to join them.
- Founder Don Parker spoke on the Mass-1 challenge for the principle on the property's mortgage. He said he has not heard any feedback from the International about donations coming in, but his chapter has completed their donations.
- Our state rep has had several discussions with MA-8 about the possibility of a Cape Cod weekend this year, but so far there is no plan.
- MA-4 is changing vendors for the red leather vests they are providing. The quality of the new vendor's vests and the ordering timeline look to be an improvement.
- Region-1 Director, Ken May, was in attendance and said that questions from Massachusetts (and the region) will be brought up at the International's spring meeting being held at the Dixie Rally in Alabama in May. The board has an agenda item for "open discussion" after their business is concluded.

**A goal for state meetings** going forward is to shorten the time needed for the meeting. This is an attempt to finish the meeting earlier as to not have host chapters feel they must provide lunch. Hopefully this will allow all chapters to host without a perceived financial hardship.

Discussion also included the potential for an informal ride after a meeting, with the possibility of a lunch stop.

**The 2023 fall MA State Red Knights meeting will be hosted by Mass-4 on Saturday, September 9, at the Huguenot Museum in Oxford. (No HP Access)**

The Assistant State Rep position will be up for election/re-election at the fall state meeting. Anyone interested in running for the position should file their intent and bio with State Rep George Colby by **August 1**.

### Nigerian government may ban motorcycles



The sixth most populous nation in the world, with a population more than 200 million and an annual motorcycle sales figure of more than 500,000, is set to ban the use and sale of all motorcycles in an effort to hamper the actions of terrorist bandits.

The Nigerian government is considering banning the use of motorcycles across the country.

Mr. Malami said the ban was being considered as part of efforts to curtail the activities of terrorists, who often use motorcycles. "Placing a ban on the use of motorcycles will cut the supply of logistics to the terrorists," he said.

"This will be done in the national interest."

"So, regardless of the means that is being considered for the possible banning, this is a sacrifice that we see as what will help address the security challenges and I think no sacrifice is too big as far as that issue is concerned."

The minister also said that less than a third of Nigeria's 200 million population would be affected by a ban on motorcycles and so it was worth the sacrifice. (Along with the "bandits," motorcycles are a common means of transportation among poor and middle-class Nigerians).

Have you purchased a "Founders' Ornament?" This beautiful acrylic ornament recognizes the Founding Fathers and at the same time helping reduce the principle of the RKMCM® Memorial Hall?

The price of the ornament is \$10.00 US. Plus shipping—while supplies last)

To order, please send an email to Norm at [normbeausoleil@redknightsmc.com](mailto:normbeausoleil@redknightsmc.com). Combined orders by chapter(s), or state(s) will certainly help reduce the shipping costs.



At the spring state meeting a motion was made to increase the stipend to assist host chapters with providing coffee and donuts for the meeting from \$50 to \$75. This motion will be discussed and voted on at the fall meeting.

**Chapter email address and 2023 Voting** – The International Board has set up RKMC email addresses for each chapter under “redknightsmc.com” If you need assistance with your official chapter e-mail contact your state rep for guidance.

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For 2023, in Region 1, the positions that we are voting for in are International President, Treasurer, and Region-1 Director.

Nominations will close on June 11 and that is when we will know what contests must be decided by electronic ballot for our chapters in Region 1.

If you are an Active Member of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club, who have previously served a Chapter or Association as President or Vice President or as a State or Provincial Representative for a minimum of one term, you may serve on the International Executive Board.

To be placed on the ballot, a qualified member must be nominated by the President or Vice President of two Chapters. A Member-at-Large may be nominated for any position on the International Executive Board having received a majority vote of the International Executive Board.

If you, or the person whom you are nominating, suit the requirements for nomination, you may fill out the nomination. The Nominee must complete the Nomination Profile prior to close of nominations and provide a photo. For more information, refer to the International webpage at <https://www.redknightsmc.com/election-information>

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Voting is the only way we can voice our opinions on our representation. When was the last time your chapter email account was checked for incoming messages from the International or others? (You can also have the chapter email forwarded to others for better monitoring).

#### Chapter preparation for voting:

- Chapters must be in Good Standing
  - \* Dues current
  - \* Roster up-to date
  - \* Signed TMLA Agreement
- Members at Large must be in Good Standing
  - \* Dues current
  - \* Active email address provided prior to the closing of nominations
- Notification via Chapter RKMC Email Address
  - \* One Chapter – One Vote!  
*(A simple majority of the individual MAL ballots cast will determine the candidate receiving the MAL vote to be cast with Chapter votes)*
- \* Keep your password to RKMC email confidential – change it if necessary
- \* MAL's will receive individual ballot via email
- Know the timeline
  - \* Posted on International Webpage & above in this publication
- Review Nominee Profiles on line at International Webpage
- Ballot sent to Chapter email address and to individual MAL's.
- Select Candidate
- Submit
- Print receipt confirming vote

#### Dates affiliated with the 2023 voting:

- Incumbents Intent — 180 Days prior to convention by March 13th
- Nominations Closed — 90 Days prior to convention by June 11th
- Chapters Start Vote — 60 Days prior to convention on July 11th
- Voting Closed — 30 Days prior to convention on August 10th
- Vote Results Announced at Convention — September 9th

#### On the ballot

International President Joey Powell has decided not to run for re-election. Spike Ostiguy, from MA-4 has decided to enter the race to fill the position left vacated by Joey's decision.

Ken May is running for re-election for Region-1 Director and Scott Ryan is running for re-election as International Treasurer.

We will not know if there will be contests for any of these positions until after nominations close on June 11.

With Spike's intention to run for a different position, that also means a vacancy for Vice-President may be forthcoming. Bylaws state that when the vacancy is declared, then a special election will be held.

Although we will not be voting on the position, Region-3 Director Trey Anderson is also not running for re-election.

#### **National Motorcycle Museum in Iowa to close its doors**

The National Motorcycle Museum in Anamosa, Iowa, one of a handful of non-profit motorcycle museums in the United States, announced it will close for good, later this year.

J&P Cycles co-founders John and Jill Parham were instrumental in the creation of the museum. After John's death in 2017, Jill continued on the board of directors. She said the financial pressures of keeping a non-profit museum afloat finally pushed the board to decide to close the museum

The museum's plans call for the motorcycles on loan to the museum to be returned to their owners and the ones owned by the museum will be auctioned off.

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

Yes, we did have a convention scheduled in France for 2020, but having been circumvented by the worldwide pandemic, this year's convention in Fussach, Austria truly makes our organization "international!"

A big tip-of-the-hat goes out to Austria-4 for taking on the convention with a very short planning cycle. You may recall that the 2023 convention was originally to be hosted by Maryland. In the midst of planning, their host hotel was sold and all event contracts with the hotel were cancelled.

Since Austria-4 was hosting this year's EuCon (Region 7 Rally) they decided they could quickly change gears and welcome worldwide family members to Europe. The EuCon business will still take place during the week, along with the events and business meeting planned for the International Convention.

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.

There are three different pricing and planning options, depending on what part of their itinerary you wish to participate in, if you are headed over the pond.

- September 5-11, 780 EUR
- September 7-10, 390 EUR
- September 8-10, 260 EUR

There are also camping options. Excursion to Dachau and Munich are at additional costs.

The hosts are working to have options for motorcycle rentals, and have rides and tours of the area in the planning, as well.

For further information and details, visit the events page of the International Website.

### Locations to remember for future conventions:

- 2023 Austria 4 will host in Fussach, Austria (September 7-10, 2023).
- 2024 to be hosted by Germany 18
- 2025 to be hosted by the Illinois State Association
- 2026 to be hosted by Australia 5

[www.americade.com](http://www.americade.com)



### **Americade 2023—Yes there are a lot of changes!**

Since Americade founder Bill Dutcher retired, and compounded with the pandemic, there have been a number of changes instituted at Americade. The biggest is that for 2023, Americade week is a week earlier — and not an entire week.

Americade will run from Tuesday, May 30 to Saturday, June 3. Tent city and its vendors will not open until noon on Wednesday, May 31, and some staples of the Americade platform, like seminars, will not be online until Thursday, June 1.

Do you know what remains a constant at Americade? It's the Red Knights — and 2023 is no different.

RK NY-3 will again be running their Adirondack ride for the RKMC on Wednesday. As in years past (actually decades), the Red Knight open house at the Lake George FD is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, with chapter wares at LGFD, the Founding Fathers Ride, and the Red Knight dinner.

Firefighters know how to be flexible, and even with the changes from the corporate office, anyone who heads to Lake George knows the region allows us a great time and lots of fabulous riding!



RKMC NY III hosts the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# DREAMS RIDE

"LEFTY" WRIGHT MEMORIAL RIDE

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023



Start @  
1784 Route 9  
Lake George, New York

### 175 MILE RIDE 'ROUND SACANDAGA LAKE

REGISTRATION: 08:00 AM

BIKE BLESSING: 08:30 AM

KICK STANDS UP: 09:00 AM

### BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROVIDED

*"Dream with your eyes wide open..."*

*Steve "Lefty" Wright 1955-2021*

*Wishes - Playin' With Fire Band*

## What's up in 2023

What are you planning for during the latter half 2023 with your chapter? Do you have some *great* ride ideas that you would like to share? Do you have a charity event that you would like other chapters to come out and support?

It's time to blow your own horn and tell us all about them.

If you have rides and events that you want other chapters to know about, get the information to State Rep Colby so he can use his vast collection of email addresses to get the information out to other Red Knights!

## RK Vermont-2's Remembrance Ride

A number of chapters from Massachusetts put Vermont 2's annual ride on their calendar. Even though the name of the ride has changed from Paul's Ride, this year's Remembrance Ride will hold the same great Vermont Riding and comradarie with fellow riders from around New England.

Vermont-2 raises funds to purchase gas cards that are given to those (and their families) that are undergoing healthcare treatments that require travel. VT's generosity with those gas cards has gone well beyond Vermont borders and have helped friends, family and neighbors of Red Knights throughout the region.

This year's ride is on Saturday, May 20, and registration opens at the Vernon, VT Rec Center on Pond Road at 9:00 am. Come join a great cause!

## BLESSING OF THE BIKES

RK Mass-2 is holding a Blessing of the bikes and Ice Cream Social

On Sunday afternoon,  
May 7 at 1:00 pm  
on the Petersham  
Common (Route 32)

PFD Chaplain, Rev. Geoffrey Smith of the  
Petersham Congregational Church, officiating.

*All are welcome*

*(A free-will donation, of \$10 per bike, is asked, with proceeds going to HOME BASE, a Veteran's support agency)*



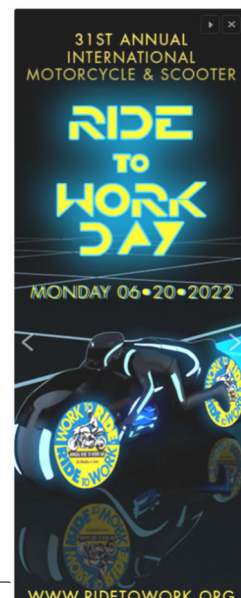
Another great meal was had at the Boylston Town House, served by the members of MA-1 at their annual Spaghetti Dinner!



## International Ride to Work Day

Retired or not currently working? Maybe you are off-shift on June 19? Get out and ride!

We know how beneficial some fresh air is while we have our knees-in-the-breeze. And that ride definitely helps our mental outlook! Ride safe and keep well!  
[www.ridetowork.org](http://www.ridetowork.org)



What is your time in the saddle each year?

In regards to your skills, if you don't use it, you lose it!

I watched a YouTube video of a fellow rider, during the winter. He talks about different motorcycle topics and one day he spoke of "competencies."

He is retired from air traffic control and he said that with Air Traffic controllers, they require 8 hours on radar and 8 hours in tower each month to maintain their proficiency. When they return from time off, like a vacation, they are not considered proficient because even if their lapse of time is only a week or two, they need to build their skills level back up.

Think about that on a motorcycle. How long do you go between rides — or how long was the break in your riding over the winter? The longer lapse in time between our rides, the greater our decline in riding proficiency.

He cited one study that discussed minimum miles per year on a bike to be proficient and competent in your riding (5,000). But he stressed that he felt it was the consistent riding (3 to 5 times a week) over a specific mileage that help us remain competent. (AND we need to be practicing solid riding skills during that saddle time because seat time only contributes to skilled riding if we are practicing those necessary skills like emergency braking, swerving, avoidance skills, etc.).

He spoke of styles of motorcycle. If you have both a two wheel and a three wheel motorcycle, for example, you need to have adequate seat time to keep those individual skills sharp.

Most people believe their rider skill is higher than it actually is. Fortunately many of us never have that time when our skill level is tested on the street during an emergency or urgent situation.

Keep working to improve your skill set. Practice, take formal training, get out and ride, **OFTEN!** During those down times, when you are not riding, grasp onto other medium that help you improve your riding knowledge, like watching pertinent videos and reading on how to improve your skills.

The best bike to ride, for you — is the bike you have. The best roads to ride, for you — are the roads nearby.  
You do not have to live up to what you see on social media. Just get out and ride!

### Excerpts from the January letter from International President about the new **IT Committee**

Technology has grown to be so technical today that the Board has decided to create a new committee to tackle these challenges. The Information technology (IT) committee will help us move toward the future and help create a better experience for all of us. From creating new mobile apps, to helping us old guys out with simple tech questions, to whatever technology creates a better world for us all! It will be with their guidance and know-how to drive us into the next decade.

With that being said, we are looking to start this process of forming this committee and having them appointed at the Spring Board meeting. With some outside help, we have created a Skills and qualifications list that are below. Please review this and see if this might fit you!

#### IT committee skills and qualifications:

- To qualify for the IT committee, candidates must possess certain qualifications. Skills that may indicate quality candidates suited for IT committee positions include but are not limited to:
- High-level knowledge of commonly used software, hardware, and applications.
- Strong oral communication skills to gather information from members and explain complex technical concepts in simple language.
- Demonstrated written communication skills to create useful support logs.
- Analytical and problem-solving skills to troubleshoot and diagnose issues.
- Time management skills to provide updates and fixes within a promised time frame.
- Multitasking skills to assist multiple members or Board members at once.
- Observational skills to recognize warning signs that indicate potential problems.
- Customer service skills to interact professionally and positively not only with members and fellow committee members but also with outside vendors, when and if the need arises.

Our new SOG 19:02 describes the details of this new committee and will grow and change as time goes on.

The website content, Social Media content, and issuing of new RKIFMC emails will remain assigned to the Communications Chair. This committee shall have up to three members assigned by the International Board with the Chair being selected by the three members assigned. The IT committee shall not enter into any contract or make any purchases without the sole permission of the International Board.

If you are interested in being a part of this new committee and forming a new future, please send your letter of intent/resume to the International Secretary by May 5th, 2023, to be considered for these appointments. The International Board will discuss and make recommendations for an appointment at the Spring Board Meeting.

We hope this formation will help give us all tools to grow and develop a better tomorrow for all of us! Thank you for your time and patients as we move this club into the technology age!

### Regional Rallies for the Red Knights

- The Dixie Rally (Region-4) for May 18 - 21, 2023  
Pell City, AL. Hosted by AL-4.
- Yankee Rally (Region-1) for June 8-11, 2023, Finger Lakes, NY.
- Western Rally (Region 5) scheduled for June 16 - 18, 2023, in Spokane, WA.
- Atlantic Rally for July 6 - 9, 2023 in Clarendville, Newfoundland
- The Bootlegger Rally (Region 3) for August 31st to September 3rd 2023 in Youngstown, OH.

All these events have information online and through the "Red Knights All Chapters and MALs" Facebook group, and/or on the International's Events page.

Are all your members who come out and ride on bikes that are registered and inspected?



Wander around the parking lot at your first ride after May 31 and see how many are not!

Registrations expired in December and Inspections Expire in May for motorcycles in Massachusetts.

Looking for a fun road trip? The National Parks Service has five dates when admission to NPS are FREE!  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)



- January 16—MLK, Jr. Day
- April 22—Monday of National Park Week
- August 4—Great American Outdoor Day
- September 23—National Public Lands Day
- November 11—Veterans Day

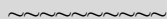
## 2023 Bylaw proposals for Vest Rockers

From International President Joey Powell: As promised, your International Board has drafted some proposals for consideration at next year's Annual Meeting in relation to the matter of how many rockers can be displayed on the back of our vests.

The Board is not taking a stance on which of these options "should" be passed, these are bylaws, and these are the rules the membership sets for us to follow.

If you find these drafts are not clear and have suggestions on how to write them more clearly, please share your ideas with your Regional Director. All suggestions will be considered by the International Board and a final draft proposal will then be forwarded to the bylaws committee to be included in the 2023 convention booklet.

It is important to also note, regardless of which version of the bylaws the members select, the restrictions in these and other sections of the bylaws remain in place. That is, all patches must be in good taste and a member may not wear a patch showing a membership status or chapter affiliation which is untrue, for example, a Social Member may not wear an "Active Member" or a "Charter Member" patch. The Board thanks you for your patience, your understanding, and your support as we work through this matter.



The proposals, in their entirety are available for review on the Red Knight International's webpage.

The Board recognizes that a bylaw change requires a 66% majority of voting members at the Annual Meeting and there is a very real possibility that all three proposals may fail. If that is the case, we will be left with the current language in the bylaws which has been the subject of differing interpretations, especially over the past few years.

The purpose of Proposal 1 is to make it clear that only one top rocker may be worn and that only one bottom rocker may be worn on any vest. This does not prevent a person who is a member of multiple chapters from having multiple vests each with a single bottom rocker indicating their membership in a particular chapter. This proposal also defines a rocker as any curved patch and restricts rockers to those sold through Red Knights Regalia. To avoid confusion and "technicalities" NO other curved patch of any size, color, or description may be worn on the back of the vest.

The purpose of Proposal 2 is to allow members who might already have multiple top or multiple bottom rockers to continue to wear those patches as is, by added a grandfather clause into the bylaw. This proposal is only relevant if Proposal 1 passes, if proposal 1 does not pass, proposal 2 will be withdrawn. If proposal 1 passes and proposal 2 does NOT pass, members with multiple rockers must remove all but one top rocker and one bottom rocker.

The purpose of Proposal 3 is to allow members to wear as many top rockers and as many bottom rockers as they wish.

## Committee Chairs

International President Joey Powell announced that during the Fall Meeting the Board made selections for the Committee chairs for the new year, 2023. He also issued a special thanks to all the past committee chairs and members that served and put in time and effort to help grow the club, and also to all who expressed interest in serving on the committees.

The committee chairs will be selecting their committee members and reaching out to them. The nomination committee is selected by the Board according to the by-laws.

### Committee Chair Appointments 10/28/22

- Communications Chair: Sara Lynn Prefontaine VA 8
- Bylaws Chair: Tim Reinard WV 6
- Nominations: Chair Thomas Caisse MA 4 (Members: Dave Emery VT 2, Thomas Delboi Switzerland 4)
- Chaplain: David Diveley IL 14
- Grand Tour Chair: Emmett Duprey PA 38
- Quartermaster Chair: Don Moore VT 3
- Newsletter Chair: Steve Williamson England 2
- Help-A-Knight Chair: Trudy Rutkowski PA 8

## ***Some checklist items to look for when buying a used bike***

Excerpts from <https://www.cleanharleys.com/blog/inspectionchecklistforpreownedmotorcycle>

- Be Prepared to Walk Away – trust your gut!
- Think About Getting it Home — Trailering? Tie-downs?
- Bring Anything Needed to Drive it Home — Gear, registration?
- Check the Title and VIN — Everything matches?
- How Does the Bike Look? - Look at nooks and crannies
- Look at the Exhaust — Rust or damage?
- Inspect the Tires — Age, condition, proper size?
- Look at the Controls — Any end-damage, move freely?
- Take a Look at the Fluids — Condition?
- Beware of Rust or Damage — Everything work & moves?
- Test the Suspension — Up and Down, Front and Rear
- Start the Bike Cold — Ask that it be left cold to start
- Take it for a Ride — May require seller to hold your cash
- Ask Questions — Maintenance history and records, history with owner, owner's riding history, etc.

## ***Be Aware of Common Scams***

- Requiring a Deposit — Money down to look at it? NO!
- Clocking the Bike — Mileage does not match condition? NO!
- Sale of Stolen Bike — Numbers look altered? NO!
- Must Sell Immediately — Sob story to sell quickly? NO!
- Specific Forms of Payment Requested — Pay in gift cards?

**If it seems too good to be true—it probably is!**

Here's a T-CLOCK pre-ride check list that you can print out and keep handy.

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

### State Representative qualifications

One topic of discussion at the Region Director meeting was State elections as it pertains to the State Representation, that needs to follow SOG 8:01. This is slightly different than what we have done in the past. This modification does not apply to the Assistant State Rep.

Only active members in Good Standings may run for the position of State President or Representative and must be endorsed by the Regional Director. Any person wanting to run for the position of State President or Representative shall notify the Regional Director of his/her intent within 45 days of the election.

It will be the responsibility of the Regional Director to verify that the candidate meets all requirements. The Regional Director shall then notify all State Chapters of the list of candidates within 30 days of the election. The Regional Director will then notify the International Board of the election results.

Even if our State Rep is up for re-election (as he may be in 2024) he would follow these guidelines.



Recently elected Region-1 Director Ken May hosted a meeting of Region-1 State Reps at Memorial Hall, recently. Participating in the meeting (left to right), Chuck Weikel (NJ), Wayne "Bull" Archie (ME), Colin Nelson (NH), Ken May, George Colby (MA), Frank Nestor (NY), and George Roy (VT)

Detailed notes from the Region-1 meeting between the State Reps and Region-1 Director Ken May were shared with the chapter presidents, to be shared with the members, at the beginning of April.

The pages of notes will not be re-written here, but just a few brief bullet points as a point of interest. If you have not seen the notes in their entirety, please contact your chapter president.

- Information sharing is a major topic for the Regional Director, and he will work to keep communications transparent and ongoing from the board, through his position to the State Reps and then to the chapters.
- The Region-1 Mayday Fund, created in 2022, to help any Region 1 Red Knight that was injured, ill or even just fell on some tough times has given out 12 \$100 grants to help members. The account has a balance of \$3,906.83. Mayday Fund Coins, the primary source of fundraising for this cause, are still available.
- A By-Law proposal has been filed this year asking for a change in wording in regards to "Road Captain." There is concern over specific wording (currently) that says Road Captains should inspect each motorcycle on a club ride. Concern is that this could open the Road Captain, and the chapter, to undue liability.
- The Mass-1 Challenge was discussed and how it is not getting the support that was intended from chapters within the region.
- NY State Rep is trying to get a contingent of Red Knights to meet up and do the Americas 9-11 Ride, which visits each crash site. The ride is August 17 to 20th and starts in Somerset, PA and ends in New York City. It is full police escorted ride, which includes fuel and food stops. Red Knights from Albany and Lake George have started a team and would like to get as many Red Knights as possible to ride this as one large group.
- There is interest from both NH and Maine in hosting a future Yankee Rally. Currently, there is no host for 2024. We will be voting on NH as a host for 2024 at the rally meeting in June.
- There were a number of questions submitted by chapters for discussion at this meeting. These inquiries will be brought to the board.