



# Red Knights

## Mass Chapter 2 — Summer 2015

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*Loyal to Our Duty*

Saturday, August 29.  
**Steve's Day**

Plans are underway with the Red Knights and the Groton Country Club to hold a day of fun, friendship, food, and family in memory of our friend Steve Mickle.

More information will be coming out, including the purchase of tickets to cover food costs, but current plans include family-fun games, plenty of food, and an afternoon where Red Knights, friends, family, and all are invited to share our memories and smiles that Steve brought into each of our days.

Greetings everyone,

Well another Americade is behind us and still quite a few adventures coming up for the summer. As long as we can get through all these passing monsoons we should still be able to enjoy a few more months of good riding. Just a reminder that it's a good time to take a look at your bike now that you've been out on a few trips. Check your tires; make sure you haven't put any gouges in the side walls, your tread depth is still within normal limits, Lights all working, any paint chipping where rust might be starting, etc. All of these things can help you maintain a good & safe ride and getting repairs made early will avoid more expensive repairs down the road.

Along with our schedule there is a Summerfest on July 12 in Leominster with a BBQ at the Eagles afterwards. I've joined this ride for the past couple of years and it's a fun ride. There's a Veteran BBQ ride on the 18th leaving American Legion Post 193 in Winchendon (Registration at 9:00 am) taking a ride around NH, stopping for Ice Cream and then heading to the Veterans Victory Farm for a BBQ as well. *(This is to raise money to help provide an environment that is supportive for the ones that protect our freedom).*

Several others coming up as well, I'll try to send out reminders as the dates get closer. Add <http://www.lets-ride.com/event/massachusetts.htm> to your list of favorite places on the web, they usually have a long list of events for motorcycles.

Don't forget the 4th of July parade in Fitchburg, if you're interested in attending, meet in Fitchburg on Summer Street by the Summer Street Fire Station. Motorcycles will be escorting the Fire Engines so I've heard.

Our annual 4th of July picnic (on Sunday, July 5) at Larry and Nancy's house is also coming up and more info is mentioned in this newsletter.

In couple of months a few of us will be headed to San Antonio TX for the Heat of the Summer Red Knights Convention. Just a reminder to read the proposed by-law changes and send me any of your comments and feedback so I can review your input before the articles get batted around at the convention. Read the bylaw changes and the rest of the bylaws at: <http://www.redknightsmc.com/proposedbylawschanges.py>

In closing I'd just like to say thank you for everything you all do and helping to make this chapter a success. Have a great summer and stay safe, See you on the next ride.

The Prez

At our annual business meeting for our chapter, scheduled for October, the officer positions of President and Secretary will be up for election/re-election.

If you are interested in running for office, please contact nominations chair, Vice-President Maury Lizotte at [lizotteme@gmail.com](mailto:lizotteme@gmail.com) (by September 15th).

### Saturday, October 24 — **Annual Chapter meeting.**

We are trying something new for this year's annual business meeting. It will be combined with our Picture Perfect Pot Luck. We have the hall reserved at the Petersham Congregational Church at 21 North Main Street (Route 32).

Join us at 1:00 p.m. for a pot luck dinner, followed by our business meeting, then a review of this year's pictures!

### **4th of July Celebration Pot-luck BBQ.** Sunday, July 5

Come enjoy some time with friends at a holiday pot-luck. We'll be guests of Nancy and Larry Robinson in Petersham (1:00 p.m.) [355 North Main Street, Petersham —Route 32]

*Bring some food to share, and have your bocce arm and your horse shoe aim ready for action!*



### Membership News Briefs...

Spring 2015 saw an influx of new bikes to the club! Best wishes to Ernie (and Linda) Lee on their new ride — a 2008 Kawasaki Concourse, to Ed & Peg Broulliet on their new Candy-Apple Red Can Am Spyder, and to Cyn Dunbar on her new 950 VStar!

A tip-of-the-hat to Rick and Lori Oliver as they approach the 20th anniversary of their proprietorship of the New Salem General Store! Remember, that if you stop and are wearing something "Red Knight" your first coffee is on the house! And good luck to them in their new home... just down the street a bit further from where they lived on top of the hill!

Best wishes to Norma Perrone Dube as she heads west to start a new job in Idaho, and to Linda Lee on her retirement at the end of the school year!

Our condolences to Mark and Cynthia Dunbar on the passing of Mark's mom.



Phil Jordan's Kozy Kamp cargo trailer is for sale. Great condition... and a super little trailer. \$500 Interested, give Phil a call or an

email. FirephilFD@aol.com

### CT-Overnight in August Changed to Sunday Day Ride!

Original plans were to have a overnight weekend to coincide with the CT-2 picnic. Some lodging snafu's along with a number of our members already booking travel expenses for the soon after convention, have us re-thinking the overnight, and we will be doing a day ride to Connecticut for their annual Red Knight picnic!

RK Conn-2 is hosting their annual picnic on Sunday August 2. It is being held at the Portland fire Company 2 Picnic Grounds, Indian Hill Ave, in Portland, CT, along the Connecticut River.

It is a 90 mile ride... probably down Route 32 into Stafford Springs, Vernon, and Manchester, CT.

Plan to leave Westminster Dunkin Donuts at 9:00 a.m. to be at the picnic grounds by noon!

### On the road with our friends...



- Forty-five members from around Massachusetts ventured to Westminster (in the snow of course) on March 28 for the **Spring** state meeting chaired by State Rep George Colby. Thank you to all of the Mass-2 members that stepped up and helped out with set-up, baking, and just being part of the meeting! Another first for the Red Knights — with Region-1 Rep Matt Matterna addressing the body of RK members via Skype on *the big screen*!
- Mass-1 had a *fantastic* Spaghetti feed in April, with a full house of people at the Boylston Community Building. That crowd included 11 from Mass-2 and I think we all waddled back out to the parking lot after getting our fill!
- A dozen members made it out to our Spring "Dust-Off" ride... even though it felt like a Polar Bear ride with temps in the 30's! A good meal at the Hometown Diner in Rindge was part of the morning too.
- The first Saturday in May brought us a perfect spring day, that must have had most of the club doing yard work! But for the five of us that met up for a ride, we had a great ride to the Quabbin Tower and then lunch courtesy of the deli at the New Salem General Store.



- Thank you to the work crews of Massachusetts Red Knights that spent a Saturday morning "spring cleaning" at the memorial in Boylston. It looks great!

## How Motorcycle Riding Improves Physical Health

*Taken from an on-line blog post that Ed B. came across!*

Riding a motorcycle is a form of low-impact exercise that improves muscle tone, can assist with weight loss, and has a multitude of health benefits. These health benefits include but are not limited to:

- **Healthier, stronger knees and thighs:**

A well-known orthopedic surgeon in Indy once told me that motorcycle riders have fewer knee problems because riding a bike strengthens key muscles used to hold the patella and other bones in the knee in place. He told me that riding a motorcycle may reverse knee pain and problems and can most definitely prevent them. Most of the key muscles used to hold knee bones in place reside in the thigh. Ever notice that chicks that ride bikes have nice thighs? There's a reason! Additionally, backing a bike into a parking spot, especially uphill, is basically like doing leg presses with a 600 pound weight. It works!

- **Improved core**

**strength:** Again, all of the activities involved in steering a bike, moving it at slow speeds, etc., serve to strengthen muscles in the abdomen. It's more fun than situps!!

- **Increased insulin**

**sensitivity:** Because riding a motorcycle is a low-impact form of exercise, people who ride have improved insulin sensitivity for up to eight hours after a ride. Improved insulin sensitivity has a profound impact on weight loss, because insulin is a fat storage hormone. Having improved insulin sensitivity means your body will produce less insulin to counteract carbohydrates or to lower blood sugars, which means your body will be signaled to store less fat. The improved insulin sensitivity is also of great importance to anyone with Type 2 diabetes.

- **Calorie burning:** Riding a bike burns calories. Period. Getting everything ready for a ride takes time and burns calories, but there's more. Think about it ... it requires effort while riding to maintain balance, shift, brake, control the clutch, battle headwinds, etc., and that's AFTER you burn calories backing the bike out of the garage! Riding into a headwind burns a significant amount of calories as your body tenses muscles to fight the wind and stay on the bike. This constant resistance exercise not only burns calories but serves to strengthen those muscles, which ultimately increases your metabolism. Additionally, the physical effort exerted while turning, especially at higher speeds, can be significant. Folks who ride motocross or race motorcycles can burn up to 600 calories per hour; the rest of us burn around 200-300 calories per hour. Not bad! (Note to passengers: You burn zero calories per hour while riding passenger on a cruiser, and potentially up to 50 calories per hour while riding passenger on a sport bike. Maybe it's time to consider getting your own bike!)

- **Improved neck**

**strength:** This one is limited to those riders who wear helmets and those who have taken the time to properly fit themselves to their bike with the correct handle bars, seat, foot pegs, etc. Riding a bike that doesn't "fit" well can actually cause back pain and destroy proper alignment. Make sure your bike fits you! Wearing a helmet for a few hours a day would strengthen your neck whether you ride or not. Wearing it while riding, especially if you don't have a windshield to shelter you from the wind, requires significant strength. I'm happy to say, much to my chiropractor's chagrin, I was able to reverse

whiplash simply by riding my bike and wearing a helmet. (I never ride without one.) Strengthening my neck muscles served to pull my neck vertebrae back into alignment and back into the proper curvature. That is a therapy I can live with!!!

- **Mental outlook:** Motorcycle riders usually report returning from a ride feeling energized and happy. Many riders refer to their motorcycle as their "therapist." Riding a motorcycle has a wonderful way of releasing endorphins that serve to boost mood and improve outlook. The time spent on a bike also provides valuable sun exposure, known to increase Vitamin D levels which are known to be powerful mood enhancers. Additionally, the hours of alone time spent on the back of a bike either allows folks to completely escape from their problems or allows them to work through problems and consider issues from different perspectives. I know more than one rider who hops on their bike and takes a ride when they have an issue needing consideration. (This does not, of course, apply to issues causing great distress.)

That's it! Riding a motorcycle has definite health advantages, both physical and emotional. As always, ride smart. Get thoroughly trained before starting to ride and then take time to practice on back roads before hitting main thoroughfares. Take your time and don't try to beat lights or get in front of slow drivers. As always, NEVER drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Even one beer can affect reaction time enough to impair shifting, clutch operation and turning ability. Just don't do it.

I'm off to ride. Have a great day!



# Americade at it's best -- Friends - Motorcycles - and Miles

Welcome Home! That is what Tom and Bev Roach say when they see us pull off the road and into the Bay Front Cottages each year in Lake George. And it feels like we are home when we arrive, too. The stress of work and the day's ride fall away as you realize where you are and our Americade week with friends has begun.

This year we had the group of members that left Friday to head to the Yankee Rally and we had the remainder of the travelers meet in Fitzwilliam on Saturday morning to head to New York. It was hot and sunny! After lunch at Bob's Café in Manchester we made our way through the 86 degree sunshine to meet up with Marty, Cliff, and Deb who had already settled in at the cabins and had done some Saturday grocery shopping.

After getting our room assignments we enjoyed kicking back for the afternoon before a BBQ dinner at the Barnsider in Lake George. The village was busy as it was the Elvis Festival. We experienced a couple heavy thunderstorms on Saturday afternoon and evening. Some of us had good timing back to the cabins and avoided getting soaked – and others' timing was a bit off and had to dry out after making it back home.

Sunday was a rainy day and we had some high winds that actually carried off one of our pop-up tents and had it land on the roof of the "big house." Those attending the Yankee Rally arrived amidst the rain and gusty winds and settled into their respective rooms for the week. We had our first big meal together with charcoal grills running for hot dogs and hamburgers – and of course spicy beans! After dinner Bob Binnell from Mass-15 pulled in to socialize for the weekend, sharing his lights and sirens with us from his fire bike.

Monday was the week's wash out. A few people ventured out in the rain with their bikes to get their pre-registration packets, and a couple of others took advantage of the cars available for errands. Rick and Lori headed via 4-wheels to the west to visit some relocated friends. In their travels they discovered that the Buffalo Head restaurant in Forestport, that always was a destination for pies, was no longer open.

Marty and Deb were busy in the kitchen getting ready for a rainy day feast with Cajun shrimp, sausage, onions and peppers. Dice, Pitch, Scat, and cribbage were all the activities of the day as the rains came down. With umbrellas in hand there were also Red Knight pedestrians between the cabins and the water, and the nearby convenience store

to keep us occupied during our cabin-bound day. Tom's boat business even had a rescue mission to retrieve a boat that had been swamped and sunk during the wind and rain swept day and worked on other storm damaged boats throughout the week.

Tuesday started off with some drizzle but dried out (and stayed cloudy and cool). That gave people a chance to get out for some exploring as well as start wandering through the vendor tents in both Lake George and Warrensburg. At Tour Expo, the newly renovated parking lot served the vendors wonderfully well with no flooding! It was like old home day as you would find more Red Knights from around the U.S. and Canada every time you took a corner or went into a different vendor area.

Tuesday night was another great meal (of stuffed chicken) thanks to Deb and Marty. Then it was more cards and laughs to fill the evening.

Wednesday was a perfect day with blue skies and sunshine. It was also the start of the "changing of the guard" as some of our half-week attendees headed home and others arrived.

A good number of our members headed to the fire station to participate in a "Spanner Ride" visiting covered bridges in NY and Vermont. Ninety-six bikes and over 120 people were on the ride. Lunch was provided at the Granville Fire Department by their Ladies Auxiliary. Over \$600 was collected for the host chapter's charity of choice for a children's burn fund.

The chicken was not stuffed on Wednesday night, but we were - with sausage, homemade meatballs and pasta. Bob Binnell from Mass-15 came by again to visit and we adjourned from the picnic tables to the fire place by the lake for the evening.

Thursday started off with cool temperatures and a low cloud deck. But that did not stop pods of Mass-2 riders from signing out of the cabins for rides in all different directions from home base. By noon the clouds had broken and a bright blue sky was above us. Thursday was also the Red Knights open house at the LGFD hosted by NY12. The apparatus bay was full of Red Knights hawking their wares, socializing, and enjoying the meatball subs provided by our hosts.

Then it was off to Red Knights corner on Canada Street to people

and bike watch. It is also the evening of the annual House Mother's beer at one of the nearby taverns!

We woke up to more rain on Friday morning but it moved out by 10:00 and turned into a great riding day. A lot of miles were put on by the attendees both in groups and as solo riders up and around Lake George, the Great Sacandaga, and Lake Champlain, with one set of riders going up to touch the Canadian border and back!

We all re-grouped at the cabins for a ride out to the Stoney Creek Inn to see Dot and have dinner there. Afterwards, several members headed for the fireworks and Eagle's reminisce band. Then it was back to the cabins where Deb had picked up Cannoli's for us as well as some fresh baked brownies as we all sat around the patio and just enjoyed the company!

Saturday was the Americade parade with the Red Knights in the lead once more. It was a perfect day with blue skies and bright sunshine. Forty-six Red Knights bikes were in place. A special tribute to Steve Mickle lead the parade with Steve's picture on Bob Binnel's fire bike leading the contingent. When each Red Knight bike passed Deb Mickle on the parade route, the bike stopped and the riders saluted. It was a very emotional parade route.

With the final day's weather so spectacular, it did not take our members long to change out of our parade uniforms and hit the roads to explore and enjoy more of the Adirondack roads for our last day in New York. And for the evening a few members went to the Aaron Lewis concert in the park, and a good crowd of us enjoyed another fire by the lake!

Sunday greeted us with cold and clear skies for our ride home. We waved to Tom and Bev as we left (they were getting ready to leave for their trip to Alaska) and we all thought --- see you next year! Maybe you can join us in 2016 too!



**This year's Year-end Picture Perfect Potluck** is being planned to coincide with our annual business meeting on October 24. Come be part of the governing and planning for your chapter plus enjoy the afternoon together looking over our memories and sharing some food!

### *Riding buddies -*

There were a couple of recent columns in different motorcycle magazines that discussed who you ride with — Your riding buddies.

The first column talked about the varying levels of riding buddies. Those from years past that may have gotten you into riding, those who may have given up riding while you kept riding, and those that you may not ride with much any longer because your riding styles differ. Do you have that riding buddy that is ready at a call's notice to spin some miles? Or maybe it's that riding partner you only see once in a great while because you are no longer in the same area of the country.

This particular column went on to say, then there are certain riding buddies that are "your *wing man*." That riding buddy that thinks like you do, rides like you do, and knows how you are going to act and react on the ride with him or her. That, is a special riding buddy, and I hope that we each can identify one or two in our riding circle.

The other column spoke of when that "riding buddy" we need today, is ourselves. Many times our psyche needs that time alone with our thoughts when out for a ride. And that is OK as well.

So the question of the day is, who are your riding buddies and will you come join us for some Red Knight rides this summer?

### **Upcoming Chapter Rides and Events:**

**Saturday, June 27. Dummerston Strawberry Supper** in Vermont — Meet at Westminster DD's for 3:00 p.m. and we'll head out for a ride before the shortcake!

**Saturday, July 18. 2015 Crazy Ride.** Who knows where, what route, or who is riding, but come see what a crazy ride is all about! Meet at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts for 9:00 a.m.

**Saturday, July 25. Red Knight Bug Ride.** *If you don't have a windshield, always brush your teeth after a ride to get the bugs out of your smile!* Join us at 4:00 p.m. at the Westminster Dunkin Donuts and we will head out for an early-evening ride to see how many bugs we can collect on our "targets." And I suspect that ice cream will be involved!

**Sunday, August 16. Ride of Your Life (For suicide prevention).** Not going to the convention? The annual Ride for Your Life is a three hour ride through North Central Massachusetts with stops at local motorcycle shops along the way. Registration begins at 8 am at Monty Tech.  
[www.suicidepreventiontaskforce.org/](http://www.suicidepreventiontaskforce.org/)

## **National Ride to Work Day**

Was Monday, June 15, 2015 — [www.ridetowork.org/](http://www.ridetowork.org/)

***Did you ride yours?***

**Ice Cream! May started our monthly ice cream rides!**

**This year's meetings will be on the fourth Thursday of the month through September.**



With the Thunderstorms passed, a few loyal ice cream-ers came out to Meola's for our first Ice Cream ride in May!

June was a beautiful summer evening and the 11 of us out for ice cream found a car show going on at the King Phillip Dairy Bar!

**The next Ice Cream Rides** are July 23, Aug. 27, and Sept. 24 (6:30 p.m.)



Thanks to Ed and Peg for hosting our April Breakfast Club. It was a beautiful day and we did have a few of the 19 members in attendance show up on their bikes! Our menu ranged from Bagels and Pastries to breakfast casserole, mimosa's and Caribbean breakfast cups, and even moose meatballs and venison!

Massachusetts Red Knights Fall State Meeting will be hosted by RK Mass-4 at the Charlton Fire Department in Charlton Depot. Date and time to be determined.



*We have a few of our embroidered patches with our new Minuteman logo still available. We also have 3" and 4" decals with our new logo.*

*Chapter member price is \$7 for patches and 4" decals, \$5 for 3" decals. Contact Treasurer Laford if you are interested.*





## Skills Day

The weatherman said that it was going to be a wet day, but surprise surprise he was wrong! We had twenty members come

out for our 2015 Skills Day. This year we were in New Salem with the Swift River Elementary School as our drill yard. We took over both their parking areas and their playground to make it our playground for the morning.

We practiced swerves, circles, and emergency stops. We had to maneuver serpentines and stop-start on a hill. There was a box to do a U-turn in as well as an obstacle to ride over leading into a narrow passage.

Prior to hitting the drill yard, Red Knight Jeff Hamberg led a discussion on a detailed T-Clock inspection under the tent at the New Salem General Store. He spoke on how routine maintenance checks help you and your bike be prepared for the ride ahead. Thanks Jeff!



After all the tennis balls were retrieved we adjourned back to the NSGS where the twenty of us overwhelmed the deli staff with our lunch requests.

After lunch we all regrouped and headed to the Oliver's to help them pack up their large home and move everything over to their new smaller home... just a little further down West Street!



Cynthia said, "I'll take care of the guns!"

## Annual RKMC International Convention San Antonio, TX

Our chapter will be well represented with a number of people headed to San Antonio (and one transplanted member awaits their arrival).

This year our chapter does not have a ballot to cast for election to the board, as Matt Mattera of NJ-31 our candidate for Region-1 Director and the other club-wide positions are running unopposed.

There are some bylaw proposals up for discussion and vote during the annual business meeting. These include the proposal that was submitted by the Massachusetts Chapters earlier in the spring.

Please take the time to visit the webpage that lists the bylaw proposals and review them. If you have any questions, wish to discuss them or voice your opinion on them, contact President Martin.

<http://www.redknightsmc.com/proposedbylawschanges.py>

If you do not have Internet access and wish to review the bylaws, contact a chapter officer.

A special thank you to Secretary Rick Oliver for taking time from his vacation to serve our chapter by selling our decals at the convention.

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In related news, at the fall Massachusetts State Meeting (date yet to be determined), the position of Assistant State Rep will be voted on. If you have an interest in this position or wish to discuss it further, contact State Rep George Colby at [gcolby@comcast.net](mailto:gcolby@comcast.net)

Caitlin may not have been able to go to Americade with us but she was visiting for a few days in May and made sure she made a stop at both the Ladies' food planning meeting and the Guys' dinner out that evening! See you in San Antonio Caitlin!



### Top 10 Overlooked Motorcycle Safety Tips

1. **Stay Focused.** We're all guilty of wandering off, especially if we're cruising along the interstate without another soul in sight, but maintaining focus is key in the event an emergency arises. That doesn't mean riding wide-eyed and with a death grip on the bars, but stay alert, be aware of what's around you, listen to your motorcycle.
2. **Tire Pressure.** The second entry on this list was checking the condition of your tires, but monitoring tire pressures is important enough to warrant its own spot on the list. Both over and underinflated tires can compromise a motorcycle's handling.
3. **Use your mirrors.** Situational awareness is key when you're riding, and being aware of your surroundings – in front, behind, and on both sides – will help you ride at an appropriate pace for the conditions. You do this by looking at your mirrors. Being aware of escape paths on either side can help avoid an accident.
4. **Check Chain Slack.** [If you have a chain]. We take our chains for granted most the time, but every 500-700 miles or so we should give our chains a little love.
5. **Bring the right face shield.** From the Department of Obvious Statements comes this nugget: being able to see while riding a motorcycle is important. Do you ever ride at night with a dark faceshield?
6. **Covering the levers.** When you find yourself in a precarious situation it's a good idea to cover the brake and clutch levers with at least a few fingers, and have the right foot at the ready in case some rear brake is needed, too.
7. **Riding Gear Condition.** Even if your gear hasn't had an up close and personal engagement with the pavement, it's always wise to check the condition of your gear regularly.
8. **Check your fluids.** Most people know that changing the oil is an important part of motorcycle maintenance, but replacing brake fluid isn't given nearly as much thought [and it should be changed with some regularity].
9. **Tire Condition.** Sure you know riding on bald tires is a recipe for disaster, and yet it's still a common sight to see. Monitor your tires regularly.
10. **Helmet Age.** You've managed to hang on to the same helmet for five years without it ever touching the ground. But, no matter how well you take care of your lid, if it's five years old or older you should consider replacing it. That is coming from the folks at the Snell Memorial Foundation. Retire the old lid!

Taken from Motorcycle.com

Congratulations to Larry Robinson on his recognition with the Grange *Community Citizen of the Year Award*. Very well deserved indeed!



The hall was filled with family and friends and the roast began with information of Larry growing up in Petersham, his 6 years in the Navy, 51 years with the Fire Department, and many years with the Walter Fernald School. People from all the organizations he has been a part of spoke including his church, the Boy Scouts, the Legion, the Fire Department, the Lions Club, different town committees and groups... and the Red Knights.

They had letters from family that could not be there that were read and one of his sisters was even a surprise guest from Texas.

Representatives from the Statehouse were on hand with proclamations as well. There is no doubt our Larry is there for everyone! But we knew that already.

A dozen members and friends gathered on a perfect Memorial Weekend Sunday for a ride in

search of some fire towers. Congratulations to Mark and Cynthia as they completed their Fire Tower Quest to earn their pin (with stops in Harvard and Milford, NH)!

President Martin lead the troops around the area along 85 miles of sun-soaked Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire roads!



Even Caitlin got the chance to get her bike out of the cobwebs and ride with us during her short Mass visit!



## Saturday, August 22. Mass

### **2's annual ride for**

**Sherry's House.** Tim K will take the lead once again as we "play some cards" through parts unknown. At each stop the riders will participate in some "card games" to see who ends up with the best hand.

Donations and proceeds of the *gambling* will be delivered to "Sherry's House" in Worcester.

Meet at 2/202 Shell Station in Orange at 9:00 a.m. Check out [www.whyme.org](http://www.whyme.org) for information on Sherry's House.

We are asking for gift cards to places like Wal-Mart, Target, National Restaurants, gas cards, and the like that could be used at Sherry's House to help support the families who need to stay there as their children are receiving treatment at the area hospitals.



## Expanding Gear and Other Curiosities

*...excerpts taken from the May issue of Road Runner Magazine*

[Have you noticed] a pattern of occurrences that seem to defy the law of physics? Several of these happen so consistently that there is evidence they're an absolute truth.

1. **Law of Luggage Capacity.** Any luggage that you purchase will hold approximately 10 percent less than you want it to. This law is universal regardless of what size luggage you buy. Another provision of this law is that there will always be at least one item you wish to pack that is approximately one inch too long to fit into the luggage.
2. **Law of Luggage Expansion.** In addition to not being able to take as much as you want, you will also find what you do take will expand around 20 percent once it is removed from your luggage. The simple solution to this problem is to fill your luggage to 80-percent capacity and theoretically you will be able to re-pack everything.
3. **Law of Cargo Nets.** Elastic cargo nets are purchased for the intended purpose of securing the previously mentioned items to the bike that will not fit into the luggage. Please be informed that the only time cargo nets seem to work well is in the cargo net sales ads. The net is always either too large or too small, or there is no way to secure the net properly in the location you want to use it on the bike.
4. **Law of Misfit Toys.** While on tour, there is a 100% chance that you'll need at least one of the two or three items trimmed from your packing list in order to allow the luggage to close. The item will generally be something you've never needed before.
5. **Law of Weather Woes.** At least one once-in-a-century severe weather event will occur during a tour, regardless of the tour location or season.
6. **Law of Tread Life.** Any tire that you purchase will have a tread life around one-third of the mileage mentioned in the reviews.

## **REGION-1 RALLY 2015!**

Mother Nature was smiling on the first ever Yankee Rally! On Thursday our area saw guests from Nova Scotia - 4 as they traveled through New England, stopping at the RK Memorial and then heading to Saratoga via central Massachusetts.

On Friday four couples from Mass-2 headed a similar route and met up with several hundred Red Knights for the Region-1 rally (and a few more Mass-2 members). NY-12 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!

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!

## **RK Vermont-2's Paul's Ride.**

What a great day for a ride! Mass-2 had 21 people that came out for the annual Paul's Ride. There was a great route that we took for the scavenger hunt and, of course, we left with nine of the prizes at the end of the day. Our members brought raffle prizes with us as well this year!

Dave Emery told us that they have out close to \$7,000 in gas cards last year to people going for cancer treatments. A good part of those funds come from this annual ride named in memory of Dave's brother.





**Red Knights International  
Firefighters Motorcycle Club  
NJ Chapter 31, Middle Township, NJ  
President Matt Mattera**

Brothers and Sisters,

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Yankee Rally has just concluded and we had a blast!! Congrats to Bob and Sue Hollner and the rest of RKMC NY 12 for a job well done. Now, it's time to start planning for the 2016 Yankee Rally. Registration and reservations have opened as of today, June 1, '15. Attached you will find the registration form. You may begin making reservations at the Bolero Resort by calling [609-522-6929](tel:609-522-6929). We will share the schedule of events as soon as we get all the details finalized. Trust us, we have lots of fun planned for you all! Wildwood is an incredible location and has been voted in the top beaches and boardwalks in the United States.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2016 Yankee Rally, May 20 – 22, 2016 in Wildwood, NJ.

**Fraternally,**

**Matthew J. Mattera**

President, New Jersey State Association of Red Knights  
President, RKMC, New Jersey Chapter 31



A collection of vests in attendance at the 2015 Yankee Rally. Information on the 2016 Rally included in this newsletter. "LIKE" the 2016 Yankee Rally on Facebook for up-to-date info



**W**e are very fortunate to live in close proximity to the Red Knights Memorial in Boylston. It's just a few miles away and we can visit, or attend gatherings, at the site without too much effort.

Being this close, we also have the opportunity to be RKMC Ambassadors and meet traveling Red Knights who are planning to visit the memorial. Just in the last weeks we have had visitors from Nova Scotia, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania (that I know of). And the last two summers the memorial was host to members from Europe. All brothers and sisters to us, and giving us the chance to meet them and welcome them to our home turf.

**Another chance to meet visitors is coming up in July with NY Chapter 44 visiting on July 11 & 12.**

Their plans are to leave Cooperstown, NY and come across western Mass to Greenfield where they are hoping some Mass members may meet them to ride east on Route 2 towards the memorial. (And maybe some to ride with them on Sunday as they head home as well).

Time estimate is that they would be in Greenfield around noon on Saturday, July 11. Those of you who would like to ride with them, please contact Treasurer Laford. We could meet in Orange and head to Greenfield and then get them back to the memorial by 4:00 p.m. or so. They will be staying at a hotel not too far from Boylston.



Outside Stoney Creek Inn before our dinner during Americade week.



One of the covered bridges during the Spanner Ride adorned with Red Knights' vests and flags during the Americade ride.

# 2016 Yankee Rally Registration Packet

**\*\*PLEASE PRINT OUT THIS PACKET AND MAIL REGISTRATION  
FORMS WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER  
FOR YOUR TOTAL COST\*\***

Registration forms and fee should be mailed via USPS to:

**RKMC NJ31  
c/o Amanda Roun  
731 Garfield Avenue  
Palmyra NJ 08065**

Registration will start on June 1st, 2015 and will be closed on April 1st, 2016

**ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE PAID BY CHECK/MONEY ORDER. NO CASH, CREDIT OR PAYPAL &  
ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE**

**\*THIS IS A PACKAGE DEAL ONLY\*  
THIS IS A FAMILY ORIENTED EVENT! BRING THE KIDS!**

|               |                 |                     |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Dates:</b> | <b>Friday</b>   | <b>May 20, 2016</b> |
|               | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>May 21, 2016</b> |
|               | <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>May 22, 2016</b> |

**Host Hotel:**

**Bolero Resort and Conference Center  
3320 Atlantic Avenue  
Wildwood, NJ 08260  
Phone: (609) 522-6929**

When reserving your room you must tell them you are with the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Yankee Rally to get our group rate\*

**Included in registration fee  
Friday night hospitality room  
Saturday Pig Roast  
Sunday Farewell Breakfast**

**This event is FAMILY FRIENDLY!  
Please keep this page**



# Red Knights International Firefighter Motorcycle Club

## 2016 Yankee Rally Registration Form (Page 1)

### Hosted by New Jersey - Chapter 31

Registration will start on June 1, 2015 and will be closed on April 1, 2016.

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE PAID BY CHECK/MONEY ORDER. NO CASH, CREDIT OR PAYPAL & ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE. CHECKS/MONEY ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO: RKMC NJ31

**Dates:** Friday May 20, 2016 through Sunday May 22, 2016

**Location:** Bolero Resort and Conference Center, Wildwood NJ

*There is a separate registration form for children age 12 and under.*

|                                         |         |                               |                                          |        |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------|
| Registration cost per adult:            | \$50.00 | Number of Adults Attending:   | <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/> | X \$50 |
| Registration cost per child:            | \$20.00 | Number of Children Attending: | <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/> | X \$20 |
| Child is 12 and under (see second form) |         |                               |                                          |        |

| Total |
|-------|
| \$    |
| \$    |

**Rally Adult Tee Shirt (ONE Included in registration)** Please choose size for each attendee listed below:

|            |       |        |       |        |         |          |
|------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---------|----------|
| Driver:    | SMALL | MEDIUM | LARGE | XLARGE | XXLARGE | XXXLARGE |
| Passenger: | SMALL | MEDIUM | LARGE | XLARGE | XXLARGE | XXXLARGE |

**Additional Tee Shirt**

(\$15/\$17, Please choose size):

|        |        |        |        |         |          |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| SMALL  | MEDIUM | LARGE  | XLARGE | XXLARGE | XXXLARGE |
| X \$15 | X \$15 | X \$15 | X \$15 | X \$15  | X \$17   |
|        |        |        |        |         | \$       |

**Rally Youth Tee Shirt**

(One shirt is included for each child registered)

**Additional Youth Shirts \*\*see page 2\*\***

|        |        |           |          |          |               |
|--------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| XS 2-4 | SM 6-8 | MED 10-12 | LG 14-15 | XL 18-20 | Special Size: |
| X \$10 | X \$10 | X \$10    | X \$10   | X \$10   | X \$10        |
|        |        |           |          |          | \$            |

**ONE Challenge Coin will be included in ADULT registration fee. Additional Challenge coin(s)-PRE ORDER ONLY!- \$10/each.**

Total Additional Challenge coins ordering:

|                                          |                  |    |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----|
| <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/> | X \$10 each coin | \$ |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----|

**2nd Annual Collectors Yankee Rally Glass - PRE ORDER ONLY! - not included in Registration**

Total Collectors Glass(es) ordering:

|                                          |                   |    |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|----|
| <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/> | X \$15 each glass | \$ |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|----|

**Yankee Rally Pin - PRE ORDER ONLY!- Not included in Registration:**

Total Yankee Rally Pin(s) ordering:

|                                          |                 |    |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|----|
| <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/> | X \$10 each pin | \$ |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|----|

**Pig Roast (included in Registration fee) will be on Saturday. Will you attend?**

|     |    |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

**Farewell Breakfast (included in Registration Fee) will be on Sunday. Will you attend?**

|     |    |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

**Total Registration Costs:** \$

**CHECKS/MONEY ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO: RKMC NJ31**

**Driver Information**

**Name:**

**State/Chapter**

**Affiliation:**

**Passenger Information**

**Name:**

**State/Chapter**

**Affiliation:**

**Street Address:**

**City, State, Zip**

**Telephone:**

**primary #**

**secondary #**

**Email Address**

# *Red Knights International Firefighter Motorcycle Club*

## 2016 Yankee Rally Registration Form (Page 2)

### Hosted by New Jersey - Chapter 31

#### CHILD REGISTRATION FORM

**\*\*A child is anyone age of 12 and under\***

Yankee Rally Tee Shirt (ONE Included in registration-previous page)

Please choose size (YOUTH SIZES) for each attendee listed below.

We have sizes available in 6 months and up:

|             |        |        |           |          |          |               |
|-------------|--------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Child No. 1 | XS 2-4 | SM 6-8 | Med 10-12 | Lg 14-15 | XL 18-20 | Special Size: |
| Child No. 2 | XS 2-4 | SM 6-8 | Med 10-12 | Lg 14-15 | XL 18-20 | Special Size: |
| Child No. 3 | XS 2-4 | SM 6-8 | Med 10-12 | Lg 14-15 | XL 18-20 | Special Size: |
| Child No. 4 | XS 2-4 | SM 6-8 | Med 10-12 | Lg 14-15 | XL 18-20 | Special Size: |
| Child No. 5 | XS 2-4 | SM 6-8 | Med 10-12 | Lg 14-15 | XL 18-20 | Special Size: |

Pig Roast (included in Registration fee) will be on Saturday. Will the children attend?

Yes

No

Farewell Breakfast (included in Registration Fee) will be on Sunday. Will the children attend?

Yes

No

Driver Information

Name:

State/Chapter  
Affiliation:

Passenger Information

Name:

State/Chapter  
Affiliation:

Child No. 1

Name:

Age:

Child No. 2

Name:

Age:

Child No. 3

Name:

Age:

Child No. 4

Name:

Age:

Child No. 5

Name:

Age:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip

In case of emergency on-site number(s):