



Ed Brouillet
President

Jack Downs
Vice President

Mike LeBlanc
Secretary

Leo Patry
Treasurer

Joe Conroy
Chairman of the
Board of Directors

Dave Emery
Vice Chairman of the
Board of Directors

Clayton Thomas
Secretary to the
Board of Directors

Bob Laford
Newsletter Editor



**Red Knights
International Firefighters
Motorcycle Club, Inc.**

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

First I would like to welcome all our new Chapters and all their members. We hope that you enjoy being a member of the Red Knights. It is one of the greatest social organizations around! Next to the "Brotherhood of Firefighters," there is nothing better.

It is hard to believe we are almost through another year, and quickly approaching the end of our riding season. This past convention was one of the best that we've had in our twenty years. A very big thank you goes to Rhode Island-1 for an outstanding job hosting this year's event. It takes a lot of planning for a host chapter. Our next two conventions are in Canada and should be a lot of fun. I am looking forward to the trips to Quebec in 2003 and to Edmonton, Alberta in 2004 and I know that both of our hosts are already hard at work.

The Executive-board is working hard to insure that we are staying up with the things that have to be changed and that the membership is kept well informed of what is going on throughout our organization. As we continue to grow we will continue to make adjustments in the way we do business. There were some big changes in our by laws this year. I feel that those changes will have a very positive effect in the growth of our membership. We are already starting to see the results.

The Red Knights are growing at a huge rate. In June of this year we were just over 100 chapters. We had 112 chapters registered by the August convention. Since then we have had 10 more inquiries from all over the continent. Our spring mailing went to 1600 households around the world. In six short months, this mailing will increase to 2400 households.

We are beginning to assemble a committee for the funding, design and construction of a Red Knights Memorial. The memorial will be built in Boylston, Mass, and will be dedicated to all of our past brothers and sisters and to all Red Knights. This challenge will take the support of all the chapters and every member for it to be a success and become a reality. I hope to see this project completed in time for a formal dedication at our 25th anniversary convention in 2007.

To all my Board members: A very special "**Thank You**" for all the hard work that you do each and every day for the Red Knights. From my wife Peg and I, we hope that all of our members have a great Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you at future conventions and on the road.

Ride Safe, and God Speed

Respectfully Yours:

Ed Brouillet

Ed Brouillet,
International President

Begin planning today for the
20th Annual RK Convention

AUGUST 7-10, 2003

**"Le Rendez-Vous"
in Laval, Quebec**

[www.redknightsquebec3.tripod.com/
convention.htm](http://www.redknightsquebec3.tripod.com/convention.htm)

Here are a few web links from the area
Sheraton Laval: www.sheraton-laval.com/
Ville de Laval: www.ville.laval.qc.ca
Tourisme Laval: www.tourismelaval.com/

**More information is inside this
newsletter.**

Andre Giguere, Convention Chairman
Sec.-Tres. RKQuebec III
rkquebec3@yahoo.ca

Congratulations to those International Officers who were elected and reelected at the Convention in August;



- Jack Downs, Vice-president
- Mike LeBlanc, International Secretary
- Joe Conroy, Chairman of the Board
- Dave Emery, Vice-chairman of the Board
- Clayton Thomas, Secretary to the Board

A special thank you goes out to Gil Rekken for his time of service to the board. Gil chose not to run for re-election to the position of Secretary of the Board this year. His work with the board was very much appreciated.

Red Knight Statistics:

- 124 Chapters, 3,000 members
- At the convention 247 members were registered and represented 39 Chapters
- 50/50 in 2002 brought in \$4,130 (that meant over \$2,000 for the

"Le Rendez-Vous"

20th Annual RKMC Convention
AUGUST 7-10, 2003 in
Laval, Quebec

"Experience the International Quebec Flavor".
Where you can already smell and taste the
flavour of all different dishes...

2002 in Rhode Island was the 20th Anniversary of the Red Knights. And you all did a Great Job !!! Thanks to each and every one of you for participating and getting involved. Your teamwork and efforts has provided us much success and direction with our convention planning. Everyone involved with this year's convention should be proud of such a successful gathering!

In 2003, Laval will be the Place to Be for our 20th annual convention. Things are going extremely well here in Quebec. We have a great team working on planning the 2003 convention and are excited about everyone visiting us here next August.

- Convention Date: August 7 – 10, 2003
- Room rate: \$129.00 Canadian.
- Convention registration fees: \$115 Canadian

There are 10 rooms blocked for Wednesday night, 70 rooms for Thursday night, 80 rooms for Friday and Saturday. The hotel has 1 King size bed or 2 Double bed

Hôtel Sheraton Laval

2440 Autoroute des Laurentides,
(this is Highway 15 North, exit 10),
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7T-1X5

Phone: 450-687-2440 Fax: 450-687-0655

For reservation (Hotel Direct): 1-800-667-2440

Reservation: Please mention Red Knights Convention, upon reservation, at the above number only.

rooms. They have SMOKING and non-smoking rooms. Check-in time is 3:00 PM.

Convention web site:

[redknightsquebec3.tripod.com/
convention.htm](http://redknightsquebec3.tripod.com/convention.htm)

Welcome to all our new M.A.L.'s and new chapters. The Red Knights now have over 242 members-at-large (including members in Europe) and 124 chapters. Our new chapters since the last newsletter are:

New York-6, Florida-9, Pennsylvania-6, Ontario-2, Connecticut-8, New Jersey-3, New York-15, Alabama-3, Wisconsin-1, Maryland-1, Pennsylvania-2, North Carolina-3, Indiana-4, Wisconsin-2, Massachusetts-7, Georgia-3, Alberta-3, Quebec-1, Texas-2, Illinois-6, Virginia-4, Alabama-4, Ohio-2, New York-16, Ohio-3, Georgia-4, Colorado-4, and Alabama-5.

Welcome everyone!

Attention all Chapter Officers!

After each mailing of the International Newsletter, we receive a number of mailed units back for improper address, forwarding time expired, insufficient address information, etc. Each time a piece of mail is returned there is a member who did not receive their newsletter, and the returned mail is a cost that ultimately comes out of each members' pocket.

When you send in your updated rosters and dues for 2003 (which are due shortly) please take the extra time to ensure that your members'

Safety Tip

Taken from the Ohio-5 July Newsletter

Emergency braking is something that you may have to do at any time. Sometimes you need to stop as quickly as possible, and having the skills to do so will make the difference. Here are some tips on how to get you and your motorcycle halted pronto:

Apply both brakes to their maximum, just short of locking them up. Practice in an open, good-surfaced place, such as a parking lot.

Keep the motorcycle upright and traveling in a straight line; and look where you are going, not where you have just been.

You don't want to lock the front brake. If the wheel does chirp, release the brake for a split second, then immediately reapply without locking it up.

If your rear wheel locks, do not release the brake. If your handlebars are straight, you will skid in a straight line, which is all right. You've got a more important priority and that is to get stopped!

How to contact your International Officers:

- **President:**
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the Chapters

What is your chapter up to?

NEWS FROM AROUND



Let us know what your chapter does throughout the year that may be of interest to your brother and sister Red Knights. Brag a little (in the newsletter and on the web page). Send our newsletter editor

Connecticut-Chapter-II's

4th ANNUAL BUS TRIP TO NYC and the Motorcycle Expo at the Javits Center in JANUARY 2003

Check out their website for more details:

www.rkmcct2.org

RED HELMETS RIDE IV

The tragedies of "9/11" were felt around the world especially in the firefighting family. With this mind and the large number of people expected to attend, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation elected to have their Memorial services in the Washington, DC area in lieu of the actual Memorial site in Emmitsburg, MD for 2002.

In conjunction with the NFFF, the Red Helmets Ride was planned over many months. Our Memorial was to be held in the north parking lot of the Pentagon; a very befitting location.

On a warm and sunny Oct 5th, the bikes started arriving. Many were escorted from several staging areas by Maryland State Police, Montgomery, Prince George's, Howard, Anne Arundel, Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington County Police, Laurel and Annapolis City Police Departments. Canteens from Springfield FD and Centerville FD provided refreshments. The memorial site consisting of several tents, a stage and podium and sound system were set up by the Montgomery County Fire recruits. Honor Guard units and Bagpipers from all over the east coast and mid-west had arrived and were practicing. Two aerial ladders from Frederick FD and Woodsboro VFD were extended with an American flag strung between them. Firefighters from across the Country had come to pay their respects.

Red Knights from Ontario, Can, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Illinois, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, and Wind and Fire Chapter members from the Space Coast, York Pa, No Virginia, Va. Beach, Montgomery County, and Frederick, Md. were all represented as well as 3 Harley Motor Medic units from Daytona Beach FD.

You can read more about the ride under the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Web Page at: www.firehero.org



Now that's a Ladder Truck!



Members of Illinois-3 with the Lynchburg Ladder Truck During a ten day 2,700 mile road trip earlier this year, members of Red Knights Illinois-3 took a break in Lynchburg, Tennessee with the Jack Daniels Fire Brigade aerial

Riding the Coast on Cape Cod

Hosted by Massachusetts Chapter 8 and Mass. State Rep Steve Mickle, the Red Knights New England Cape Cod Dutch Dutch-Treat Weekend has been a staple of spring time events for New England Red Knights for many years. May 3-4-5, 2002 brought together members from Massachusetts Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, and Connecticut-2 to the Heritage House in Hyannis, Mass.

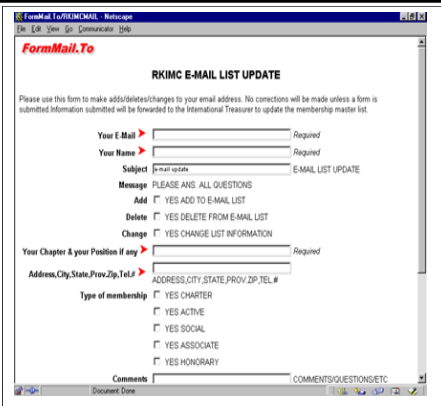
Saturday morning, 32 bikes ventured off for a tour along the back roads and shoreline of Cape Cod. Booked as a *lighthouse tour* they visited Chatham Light, Coast Guard Beach at the National Sea Shore, and drove by Nauset Lighthouse, and finally to the Marconi Station. Included in the ride for part of the entourage was a ride into Provincetown at the tip of the Cape.

After the ride the members reassembled at the Barnstable FD for a BBQ hosted by RK Mass-8. The weekend was one of those sunny spring weekends and besides Red Knights we saw hundreds of other bikes on the road!

Conn-II 3RD ANNUAL RIDE & STAY WEEKEND

The 3rd annual **Ride & Stay Weekend**, hosted by Connecticut-II was held July 27-29th. There were 45 participants this year with 28 bikes and included riders from Connecticut, Maine IV, Massachusetts IV, New Jersey 5, Rhode Island 1, and guests from the Hartford Star Touring Riders. The event was held at the Waterville Valley Inn in New Hampshire.

The weekend included a ride along the Kancamaugus Highway on Saturday and a Pool Side BBQ. The fourth annual Ride & Stay Weekend will be held the last weekend in July, 2003.



Please make sure that your mailing address and e-mail address is current with your chapter secretary.

The Red Knights also maintain a database of email addresses of our members. John O'Hagen of Connecticut-II (jgohagan@cox.net) oversees this undertaking. John has developed a form for members to use (available on line from our web page at



www.redknightsmc.org/links.html) to add, delete, or change their email addresses.

John also wanted to pass along that if you were using the now out of business @home as your Internet provider or if you have changed providers in general to continue being included on the e-mail list he needs to know your new e-mail address.

Chapter Emergency Information Forms

Do you know everyone who rides with your chapter well enough that you know who to call if they need help on the road?

After reading an article in Wingworld, about a group of bikes who experienced an accident and serious injury of a rider with them, Massachusetts-2 decided to institute an emergency information program with their members. Below is a reduced copy of the form given to every member of the chapter — and any non-member who comes on a ride with the chapter.

The information is then put into a master document. Chapter officers carry a copy of the master document with them on their bike. If the need ever arises, the officers have needed medical and doctor information, family contacts, and even insurance and roadside assistance information.

Thinking about members of our Red Knights family injured on the side of the road or being taken away in an ambulance is not something that we want to contemplate; but being emergency responders we all know the possibility of that happening does exist.

Consider adopting a similar program in your own chapter. The preparation made ahead of time will be worthwhile should you ever need to help out a member on a ride.

Red Knights Mass-2 Emergency Assistance Information			
Rider:		Home Address:	
Co-Rider:		Town:	
Telephone:		Cell #	Pager #
Road-side Service for Bike:			#'s
Bike Insurance Company:			#'s
Health Insurance Company			Doctor Dr's #
Emergency Contacts:			
1			#'s
2			#'s
3			#'s
4			#'s
Do you have transportation for a sick bike available to others? Y or N Allergies?			
Are there any pertinent medical conditions that you would like us to know in case there is a problem? (cardiac, diabetes, etc.)			
Return this form to:			

Who is that

The Americade members of the bic razor club

Although there are a number of Red Knights who genetically speaking are lacking a bit of hair on the top of their heads, it seemed to be contagious throughout the riding season.

A group of mostly Mass-2 members joined the Jack Downs fan club for Americade and sported the smoothed top models courtesy of their Bic disposable razors... and then came the convention.

At the convention in Rhode Island many more heads fell under the razor forming the Red Knights Hair Club for Men. But this time for a good cause, raising over \$1800 for the Tomorrow's Fund at Children's Hospital as each head shaved bared a price.

The bids on Leo Patry's silvery locks brought in the highest bid for \$120 and along with over thirty other Red Knights helped the RKMC again show they were the "shining" example on the street!



Americade was RED with our members!

Life is to be celebrated — with friends, if possible. Americade helps make that happen, and we're very proud to have played our part in the process of bringing thousands of motorcycling friends together, to enjoy our common bond, in a responsible way, in a beautiful place.

Bill Dutcher, Americade Director

The Red Knights were also very proud to help Americade celebrate its 20th annual rally in Lake George, NY.

The RKMC was a prominent fixture in Red everywhere you looked at Americade in June. From the opening ceremonies, to the block party on Canada Street, to our "Three-course Dinner" at Roaring Brook and to our open house at the Lake George FD on Thursday evening.

Wednesday evening the Red Knights hosted nearly 500 guests at Roaring Brook Ranch for a three-course dinner.

Thursday evening, some 200 Red Knights participated in the open house at the Lake George Fire Station. Thanks go out to NY-12 for all their hard work in preparing another successful open house.

Friday evening, the RKMC held a special place of honor during the awards celebration. Americade held a tribute in honor of 9-11-01 and the Red Knights were asked to stand as an honor guard during the

Thank you to the chapters who brought door prizes to Americade. During the Three-course Dinner that RKMC hosted we were able to give away 58 individual door prizes!

Thanks go out to Manitoba-1, Mass-2, Mass-4, NY-12, and Vermont-2 for their help — and to all the people who served as runners during the raffle.

program. Included were several of our members from FDNY, which made it a very special honor for all of us.

Saturday was the Americade parade, and the Red Knights awarded their first "Red Knights Award" to the Lost Wheels Motorcycle Club of New York for the largest group participating in the parade. Their president told us that this was a very special honor for them as they lost a member at the WTC site in September.

There were 77 Red Knights bikes and well over a hundred members who participated in the parade. A sea of Red Vests topped with many variations of fire helmets received lively cheers from the crowds along Canada Street. It was a very special event.

At the end of the parade, the Americade staff asked the RKMC to be the "A" in the living logo — but we asked to be the "R" (for Red Knights!) instead. Look for us when the picture comes out. There will be no doubt that Americade was colored Red this year!

Did you see the August issue of **Motorcycle Consumer News**? Editor Fred Rau had three pages of Americade pictures and the largest one in the collection was the Red Knights before the Saturday parade!

See the article online at www.tourexpo.com/MCN.pdf

Have you ever considered being an Americade Volunteer?

Americade is the fun and the success it is because motorcycle enthusiasts like yourselves are willing to volunteer time to make it a great week. However, the Americade Staff is always looking for "new blood" to help keep the Americade machine a vibrant functioning group of people.

Some volunteers are busy all week long, while others have specific events and times that they are willing to lend a hand. Any contribution of time is appreciated. Duties can be tailored to fit in with other activities. Without these people, and new ones each year, Americade would cease to exist.

From check-in to the traffic guides, to ride escorts, and a gazillion other tasks, the Americade volunteers are everywhere.

Let's show them that the Red Knights appreciate the Americade Spirit, and lend a hand. If you have an interest in helping out as a volunteer at Americade, send an email to Staff@tourexpo.com or drop a note to **Christi Dutcher at Americade, PO Box 512, Jericho VT 05465**



Verne and Debbie O'Dwyer and Russ and Dianne Rawiri of Northland-1 (New Zealand) put on over 1,050 kilometers to complete their Grand Tour over some beautiful countryside and great roads.



If you have pictures from your GRAND TOUR that you would like posted on the web page, get them to our editor and they will be posted at www.redknightsmc.org/GT.HTM



Help keep this RK Program alive with your participation in

RED KNIGHTS Grand Tour

During the 2002 riding season, Twenty-nine Red Knights completed the Red Knights Grand Tour. Were you one of them? Plan to run the Grand Tour for 2003, either by yourself, with a few Red Knight friends, or with your Red Knights Chapter, and help spread the word to other firefighters about what a great organization the Red Knights are.

What is the Grand Tour

When the club was young, the easiest way to tell others about it was by word of mouth. This meant that the members had to get out to visit other firefighters in their areas, and one of the best ways to do that was to visit Fire Stations. Someone came up with the idea of rewarding members who made a certain number of visits with a certificate and a pin. Proof of these visits was needed and so the idea of Grand Tour was born.

How do I earn a Grand Tour Pin

In order to earn a Grand Tour Pin you must first get an application form from the G.T. chairperson, then during the course of one (1) riding season you must visit nine (9) fire Stations whose names begin with the letters G R A N D T O U R, or twelve Fire Stations beginning with any letter of the alphabet (this is for members who live in some of the more remote areas and may not be able to come up with Stations beginning with the letters g r a n d t o u r). You must have a picture of you and your motorcycle taken at each Station, with the name sign visible. Co-riders may also earn a pin and a rider and co-rider may have their picture taken together.

When you have completed your visits simply fill out the application form and return it with your pictures to the G.T. chairperson and he/she will send you your certificate and pin.

Photo albums will be kept displaying pictures of everyone who has completed the Grand Tour and will be available at all future conventions. So if you would like to see this program continue please get out there and support it.

Henry Heideman, Grand Tour Chairperson
hmheideman@sympatico.ca
 905-372-6073

Have you ever been traveling and thought, "Gee I don't know anyone around here. Where is the best place to eat, stay, or get my bike worked on?" That's what the Help-A-Knight program is for – to maintain a database of Red Knights who are willing to accept telephone calls and help fellow Red Knights. Some of the help may be for information, or other options you may help on is if a RK member can stay overnight, pitch a tent in your yard, or leave their bike at your house.

The newest version of the **Red Knights Help-a-Knight** program available on line at www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf

(You need Adobe Acrobat to read the file).

If you don't have access to the Internet, the chapter presidents were each given a copy so they can duplicate and share them with the members. Below is the registration form to add or update your information in the H-A-K program.

RKMC Help-A-Knight Registration Form

Please Print Information and Check All Statements That Apply

Name _____ Chapter _____

Street _____

City _____ St./Prov. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ - _____ - _____

This is a **New** registration

This is a **Change** to my information

To Help-A-Knight I will: (circle appropriate numbers)

1. Take calls for information about my area. No Collect Calls.
2. Allow a Red Knight to stay overnight in my home
3. Allow a Red Knight to put up a tent on my property
4. Allow a Red Knight to leave a bike on my property
5. Bring my SAE tools to a Help-A-Knight who has broken down
6. Pick up a Red Knight's bike with my pick-up truck or trailer
7. Bring my Metric tools to Help-A-Knight who has broken down
8. Someone in my home speaks French

MAIL TO:
 Bob LaFord
 276 West Road
 Petersham, MA 01366
 CALL: 978-724-3270
 FAX: 978-724-0201
 E-MAIL:
rflaford@tiac.net

Greetings from Indiana - Chapter One!

I would like to begin by thanking everyone within my own Chapter, who elected me President. I know that I have some very big shoes to fill here (but also know that I can't do that) and I will do the best that I can. Our chapter has had some very big Mountains to climb and have been knocked down a few times. But we have been able to pick ourselves up again and continue on – with our heads *High!*

We are going to try and put some fun and laughter back in our chapter, get on our bikes, and go ride a lot more. Since 1999 Indiana-1 has lost 7 members. At the convention in Rhode Island I was listening to our International President Ed Brouillet talk about how the club has received approval to erect a memorial at the Boylston, Massachusetts Fire Station. Boylston is significant because it is where our club started in 1982.

It was then that I decided that I was going to do something to really get this Memorial Fund started. I had already began thinking about doing the Four Corner's tour; just like Ed Brouillet and Steve Mickle did in the Summer of 2000 in memory of the Worcester 6.

I thought about it for some time after our convention and have decided to do that run for our Red Knights Memorial.

I presented my plan at Indiana-1's September meeting, and asked if there might be others that might want to ride along with me. At this point I have a few members that are thinking about doing the ride with me.

Instead of doing it in the summer time I want to do it this coming spring. This is to attempt to miss the extreme heat that Ed and Steve experienced in July and August.

I have already started by sending requests for Major Sponsorship to Harley-Davidson, BP Products (fuel), and Accor - North America (lodging). If there are other companies that any members know of that might help in supporting the effort, please pass on the information.

The mileage will be approx. 10,400 miles. I am going to leave Indianapolis and head to San Ysidro, California to start the trip (first corner). Then it is Blaine, Washington – Madawaska, Maine, and then finish in Key West, Florida.

At the first stop (California) and the last stop (Florida) I plan on resting for a few days before I continue.

That's a lot of miles to travel in 21 days, but there is a good cause for doing it! I am also hoping that as I travel along the route I will be having Firefighter's from all different cities join in and ride with me for a while.

I hope to be collecting donations along the way to raise money for our Red Knights Memorial. I have set a goal of twenty thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars to be raised. The donations that are collected through this ride will be presented by Indiana Chapter-1 at our next Red Knight's convention (in Quebec during August 2003). Again, this memorial is our memorial; it's for our friends who are no longer with us. Our fellow Red Knights who have served their communities and served the Red Knights.

I am excited about this huge opportunity. I look at it as an honor to ride the Four-Corners of the United States and have Red Knight's from all over the Country (and beyond) join me and be part of this ride – and support this fundraising effort in memory of our members!

I look forward to see you all. I will try and let everyone know a starting date and all my other details, as they become available. Thank you for your support.

Clayton Thomas, Indiana-Chapter-One
317-894-3096 – cfr6@juno.com

What is the Four-Corners Tour?

Four Corners Tour Rules:

This is a motorcycle tour and the entire distance must be ridden on your motorcycle.

The four (4) official checkpoints are:

1. San Ysidro, California
2. Blaine, Washington
3. Madawaska, Maine
4. Key West, Florida

- You may visit the four checkpoints in any sequence and by any route that you desire. You do not have to return to the first checkpoint to finish this event.
- You start the event by visiting the first checkpoint of your choice and by mailing the required proof of visit information in the stamped, pre-addressed envelope provided.
- You are allowed twenty-one (21) days total time to complete this event. (Time will be measured on the postmarked dates on the checkpoint envelopes).
- You must take a photo of your motorcycle at each checkpoint, parked next to a building or marker; such as a police station, post office, public library, city limits sign, monument or landmark that clearly shows the checkpoint city name.

Visit

www.usa4corners.org/
or

[www.redknightsmc.org/
EDSTEVE.HTM](http://www.redknightsmc.org/EDSTEVE.HTM)

for more info on the

Chapter and Member-at-Large Dues

Please remember that the support received from our chapters and our M.A.L.'s through dues is what allows the Red Knights to function and provide services like the newsletter to our members.

Please return your 2003 payments to the International by the end of the year.

October 1, 2002

**REMINDER TO ALL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS
AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

All international dues are due on January 1 and must be paid by March 31st of each year. Please ensure that your International dues are paid on time and avoid the \$25.00 late payment fee. The other very important part of paying your chapter and membership-at-large dues is to include an up to date roster for all members in the chapter. This roster should include member names in alphabetical order their home address, phone number and email address if they have one along with their membership category. The updated address is the only way we have of making sure that your members receive their newsletters and other international information that is mailed out or sent by email on occasion.

The rates for membership renewals for 2003 are as follows:

- Active or Associate member \$7.00
- Social or Honorary Member \$ 4.00
- Member-at-Large Active member \$15.00
- Member-at-Large Social member \$ 10.00

Dues must be paid in U.S. Funds by check or money order made out to R.K.I.F.M.C. (*On money Orders make sure they are the International type that can be cashed outside of the United States or it's possessions.*)

Checks and updated roster should be mailed to the International treasurer:

Leo Patry
6000 Battersea Road
R.R. # 2
Battersea, Ontario
Canada, K0H 1H0

If you have any questions or problems with the dues issue, please contact me at



Red Knights Memorial

The Red Knights were born in Boylston, Mass, and recently through the help of Don Parker of Mass Chapter-1 the Red Knights have received permission from the town to construct a memorial on an area of land at the Fire Station.

A committee is being set up to make plans for the funding and the designing of the memorial. The executive board hopes that the committee will include members of the beginning chapters – Massachusetts 1 & 2, and Connecticut-II. Other members from Massachusetts (and beyond) are encouraged to participate as well. The reason for singling out these chapters is that they were the first chapters that started this organization twenty years ago.

The hopes are to complete the memorial for dedication at the 25th Anniversary Convention for the RKMC in 2007.

If you have ideas on a memorial for the Red Knights, or would like to serve on the Memorial Planning Committee, please share your thoughts with one of the International Officers.

NYC FIRE RIDERS ANNUAL MEMORIAL RUN

Over 200 bikes attended the NYC Fire Riders Memorial Run on August 3rd honoring past members as well as members who were lost on September 11th, 2001. Three RKMC International officers attended, Ed Brouillet, Mike LeBlanc and Joe Conroy, along with 18 members from CT II, five members from MA-2, three members from MA-4, four members from NY-8 and 12 members from RI-1. About 40 bikes from these chapters met in New Haven and rode into Queens as an impressive group.

The NYPD escorted the ride through NYC to the NY City Fire Museum on Spring Street for a tour of the museum and lunch. CT-II presented NYC Fire Rider President, Victor D'Aquino, with a check for \$500 to the Tillery Street Fallen Heroes Fund in Brooklyn, NY. After lunch, the ride

continued to Marine Company 1, for a tour aboard the "McKeon" fireboat and a beautiful cruise of the New York harbor, past lower Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty. A memorial prayer was conducted aboard Marine 1 in remembrance of 9 NYC members and 7 Nassau County members.

This ride is an annual event. We congratulate the NYC Fire Riders for a great job organizing this event. It is a ride that all Red Knights should support.

Joe Conroy
International Quartermaster

Everything is going smoothly at the QM's post. I continue looking forward to working with the members of the International Board to make the Red Knights an enjoyable part of all our lives over the next two years. Anyone that has items that need to be added, changed or deleted in the International Catalog please contact me to make the changes. This includes contact information and pricing as well as items for sale.

I would ask a few things to make my job as Quartermaster a little easier though.

- When placing an order PLEASE download the most current version of any order form (International or chapter) I'm doing my best to keep the contact information and pricing up to date.
- Please also note that the International QM has a new address. The Narragansett, Rhode Island address is no longer current. The new address is 3 Rocky Pine Road, Richmond, RI 02892, telephone (401) 491-9071.
- Please try to get together as a chapter and place your orders at the same time.

There have been quite a few instances of multiple orders being sent to the QM from members of the same chapter at the same time. As a result the cost of shipping is much higher and (more importantly) it is creating a lot more paperwork.

Joe Conroy



The Officers of the International decided to create a **Chapter of the Year** award to recognize chapters that have gone above and beyond to support and promote the mission of the Red Knights.

The first award, for the 2002 Red Knights Chapter of the Year, was given to New York 12.

A very well deserved recognition for all the work they do at Americade and all

Rhode Island Welcomes the RKMC August 2002

A big thank you goes out to all the members of Rhode Island-1 for all their work in making the 2002 Red Knights Convention an overwhelming success! There were 250 members registered for the twentieth anniversary convention of the Red Knights. This was the first convention that Ed Brouillet served as International President and the only glitch on arrival day was there didn't seem to be a room for the president. The Brouillet's reservation had been lost, *and there was no room at the Inn!* — But they finally got a room and didn't have to sleep with the bike!

Thursday was a beautiful New England day and some of the Knights took a road trip to Newport and Narragansett for shopping. Thursday was also the Clambake planned by Rhode Island, and 129 people attended! Socializing was cut short by storm clouds and sprinkles at the bake site, but continued in the hospitality room back at the hotel.

It was at this point that someone decided that the host of each convention should be bald, (because we know the RI-1 president Mike Leblanc isn't called 'Cue' because of his billiards talent), so Sylvain, the president of Quebec 3 was the first to go under the razor – and that was the beginning of the RKMC Hairclub for Men! Before long the entire International Board was sporting the smooth look. Leo Patry needed a little coaxing and the members began bidding on Leo's head, earning over \$120, which would be donated to the R.I.-1 charity. There were many more cuts to follow - 13 total that night, and many more before the week was through, raising over \$1,800 for the Tomorrow Fund of Children's Hospital.

Friday had a variety of events for everyone; Newport and Wickford for shopping, Narragansett for the beach or a boat ride in the bay, and some members had lunch at Hooters. There was socializing, a Board of Directors meeting and more haircuts that evening.

There were some bylaw changes at the convention membership meeting.

Sunday was the convention Adios Breakfast. And as always, the worst part of any Red Knights gathering is the having to say good-bye to our friends. Rhode Island worked hard and had a good convention that brought many of our friends together on the east coast.

Think about joining us next year as we journey into Canada for the '03 convention.

Florida Chapter 1 is selling RKMC ball hats to raise money for the Red Knights International Memorial. The price of the hat is \$15.00. All of the profit goes to the Memorial Fund. Shipping is free.

Anyone interested in making a purchase please contact Jack Downs at 12040 S.W. 26 Court. Davie, Florida 33330, telephone (954) 474-1644 or E-Mail Jack at rkmch1@mindspring.com

Thanks, Jack

Excerpt from
Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

You see things on a motorcycle in a way that is completely different from any other. In a car you're always in a compartment, and because you're used to it you don't realize that through that car window everything you see is just more TV. You're a passive observer and it is all moving by you boringly in a frame.

On a cycle the frame is gone. You're completely in contact with it all. You're in the scene, not just watching it anymore, and the sense of presence is overwhelming. That concrete whizzing by five inches below your foot is the real thing, the same stuff you walk on, it's right there, so blurred you can't focus on it, yet you can put your foot down and touch it anytime, and the whole thing, the whole experience, is never removed from immediate consciousness.

Our plans are deliberately indefinite, more to travel than to arrive anywhere. Secondary roads are preferred. Paved county roads are the best, state highways are next. Freeways are the worst. We want to make good time, but for us now this is measured with emphasis on "good" rather than "time." Twisting hilly roads are long in terms of seconds but are much more enjoyable on a cycle where you bank into turns and don't get swung from side to side in any compartment. Roads free of drive-ins and billboards are better, roads where groves and meadows and orchards and lawns come almost to the shoulder, where kids wave to you when you ride by, where people look from their porches to see who it is, where when you stop to ask directions or information the answer tends to be longer than you want rather than short, where people ask where you're from and how long you've been riding.

Once we caught on nothing could keep us off these roads, weekends, evenings, vacations. We have become real secondary-road motorcycle buffs and found there are things you learn as you go.

We have learned how to spot the good ones on a map, for example. If the line wiggles, that's good. That means hills. If it appears to be the main route from a town to a city, that's bad. The best ones always connect nowhere with nowhere and have an alternate that gets you there quicker. If you are going northeast from a large town you never go straight out of town for any long distance. You go out and then start jogging north, then east, then north again, and soon you are on a secondary route that only the local people use.

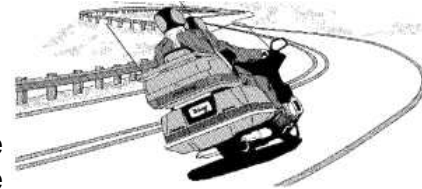
The main skill is to keep from getting lost. Since the roads are used only by local people who know them by sight nobody complains if the junctions aren't posted. And often they aren't. When they are it's usually a small sign hiding unobtrusively in the weeds and that's all. County-road-sign makers seldom tell you twice. If you miss that sign in the weeds that's your problem, not theirs.

So we navigate mostly by dead reckoning, and deduction from what clues we find. With a lack of pressure to "get somewhere" it works out fine and we just about have America all to ourselves.

Planning ahead for future RKMC Conventions:

- 2003 – Laval, Quebec.
- 2004 – Alberta .
- 2005 – Ontario
- 2006 – NYC
- 2007 (25th anniversary) - Massachusetts

It's Tempting to Think of
a Backroad As Your
Personal Racetrack



You're out on one of those twisty little backcountry roads. The weather is sunny and warm, there's hardly any traffic, the pavement is smooth and clean, and there are lots of corners. It doesn't get any better than this. You concentrate on delayed-apex lines to maximize your view, and brake at the end of each straight so that you can roll on the throttle as you lean sharply into each curve. You knew you would be getting a little more aggressive on this road, so you're wearing your full leathers as if this were your personal track.

But as you lean over hard into a tight right-hander that curves behind a barn, you realize a tractor is pulling a hay wagon across the road. Instantly you straighten the bike and squeeze as hard as you dare on the front brake. The bike stands on its nose with the front tire shuddering and the rear tire barely touching the pavement. Closing too rapidly on the hay wagon, you squeeze harder, and the front suddenly washes out, dumping the bike on its side. Miraculously, you and the bike slide completely under the wagon in a shower of broken plastic. Your leathers save you from any serious road rash, but the bike is a mess.

In the country where traffic is light, farmers and local residents are more complacent about the road. You must constantly remind yourself that a public road isn't your own personal racetrack. When in farm country, you should predict that there might be activity near a barn and keep speed down until you can see what is happening. It isn't the farmer's fault if you are riding too fast for a situation. The more aggressively you ride, the more important it is to quickly adjust your speed so that whatever happens you can always stop within your sight distance.

...from David Hough's Street Strategies, a book every motorcyclist should read!

From the desk of the International
Vice President....

I know you all did not come to convention, but I don't know why. Unless you didn't want your head shaved. We leave every convention with or without something. This year we left with our hair on the floor. It was all in fun and in the name of charity. I can't think of a better reason. We had a lot of fun and took care of a lot of business, too. The members spoke loud and clear on the resolutions presented this year. New Constitution and By-Laws have been printed and sent to all Chapter Presidents.

You have no doubt heard Gil Rekken (Mr. Happy) our Board of Directors Secretary has stepped down from office. If you want to laugh or hear a good laugh just get next to Gil. Gil and his wife Heather are always fun to be around. I like them even better now that they own a new Firefighter Special Ultra. We are going to miss Gil at our Board of Directors meetings. We wish him the best of luck. Taking over for Gil is another good man, Clayton Thomas. Clayton has been very busy attending events with his bagpipes. He has been seen on television and other high profile places. Clayton has always been there for his chapter, the members, and the International. He and his wife Judy are a pleasure to talk to and be with. I am looking forward to working with Clayton as our new Board of Directors Secretary. And congratulations to all of the re-elected officers - Chairman of the Board Joe Conroy, Vice Chairman Dave Emery, and Executive Secretary Mike LeBlanc. I was also re-elected Vice President and I thank everyone for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Vice President for another term. The responsibility of the Vice President is to assist the President. The Vice President also is in charge of the MAL program. With the technology we have now and with the growth of Chapters and MAL members throughout the country we are able to match the two together. We are suggesting the MAL join a Chapter in their area. We are tracking that closer than before. I want to reach out to the MAL's and provide them with as much information as possible. MALs sometime become the seed to a Chapter in an area. I have heard comments that they feel lost and my objective is to change that feeling.

Our organization is dependent on these conventions to distribute information and get the feedback from our members. All during the year I hear about problems that need to be addressed. At conventions we get a chance to discuss the issues and resolve our differences. I encourage you to contact any board member if you have advice, complaints or any comments. My door is always open. With your help we will protect, guide and strengthen our organization. Our attendance at conventions continues to increase. That was proven when we heard the announcement that this was the largest convention hosted by any Chapter. Thanks to Rhode Island Chapter 1 members for hosting our 20th Anniversary convention.

I may not get to speak to you before the end of the year, so from our family to your family have a very safe and happy holiday.

Sincerely,
Jack Downs

From the International Secretary

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

This has been an exciting and prosperous year for the Red Knights. We have grown to over 120 chapters. We have gone overseas with our membership and we have established at least 1 chapter overseas and with the new dues structure voted in at convention we should grow even stronger overseas.

The vest issue is finally behind us. It was voted and passed that the vest color would be at the discretion of the member.

If a chapter chooses to write into their by-laws, that only RED can be worn then it will be left up to the chapter to enforce that rule.

If a chapter chooses to go with a different color their members shall, by International rule however, always have the option of wearing a Red vest.

We have tried to keep the issuance of chapters in check by only allowing the International Secretary to issue applications for chapters and the Vice President to issue applications for Members at Large.

We have grown immensely throughout the south with the help of Dallis Johnson, President of Alabama 1 to whom I shall be forever grateful. Also anyone who is a MAL and would like to know if there is a chapter close by or might be interested in getting a chapter started in their area contact me at. RKRI1CUE@AOL.COM.

As always I am available to answer any and all of your questions.

Mike (Cue) LeBlanc
Secretary Red Knights International

Andre Giguere, 2003 Convention
Chairman for Quebec 3 says,

"In Rhode Island, you may have noticed that there were "New HEADS" appearing during the convention, day after day, even hour after hour, I would even say minute after minute. But wait until you see next summer!

DA77777777"

Red Knights Motorcycle Club

c/o 276 West Road
Petersham, MA 01366
USA

www.redknightsmc.org



Look inside for information on the Rhode Island Convention, Americade, Chapter Events, the Convention in 2003 and much, much more!

A USEFUL LIST OF THINGS TO PACK WHEN TOURING ON YOUR BIKE

(reprinted from www.Americadeinfo.com)

1. A spare key to your bike (either hidden on your bike or with a riding partner).
2. Medicines that you will need including any kind of pain relievers such as Aspirin or Ibuprofen that you may use. (Put them in your First Aid kit).
3. Sunglasses — and pack an extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses.
4. Sun block. With high-SPF protection (45-60).
5. A terrycloth towel or a clean cloth baby diaper and some water are best for cleaning your windshield.
6. Get maps (free) from state-run welcome centers or write to city/state Chambers of Commerce ahead of time and request maps.
7. Take a phone number list and don't forget your cell phone. Bring a pen and some paper (like a steno pad or spiral notebook) for keeping notes and phone numbers. Tape an envelope to the inside cover of your pad to keep all your loose receipts in.
8. Camera. "Disposables" are great for touring.
9. Emergency tools; emergency tire repair kit, etc.
10. Pack bungee cords and zip-ties. (They may come in handy).
11. Carry a small amount of dishwashing liquid in a small shampoo bottle, like those found in motels. Not only is it useful for washing the grease from a roadside repair off your hands in a stream or pond, it's also the best lubricant for re-attaching side covers that are held in place by a rubber grommet. It allows the plastic post to slip into place without dislodging the grommet, and it doesn't attack the rubber like oils, greases and other lubricants do.
12. Gold Bond powder - great for minimizing "derriere rash."
13. TWO do-rags or helmet liners. Use one while the other dries out.
14. Light tanned deerskin gloves (won't turn your hands blue or purple when they get wet from rain or perspiration).
15. A pair of tennis shoes or slip-ons or moccasins for when you're NOT riding.
16. Rainingear (DUHI) Believe it or not, some forget to pack it!
17. A credit card (especially if it's not maxed out) will allow you to pick up almost anything else.
18. A "short" roll of toilet tissue. I usually pull a roll off the spindle when there's about 1/2" of thickness left on the roll. (You can even "waterproof" the T.P. by keeping it in a plastic Zip-Lock bag!) It comes in handy for more uses than the obvious, like wiping the dipstick when checking oil level, wiping up small spills, cleaning one's eyeglasses, etc.