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Bob Laford  
Newsletter Editor

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

Dear Red Knight Members & Friends,

I hope this letter finds all of our members doing well. It looks like it's going to be another long and hard winter up in the northeast. We had a snowfall this morning and it is only October 23<sup>rd</sup>. I envy those of you who have sunshine and warm weather to ride in all year long.

As we approach the holidays I would like to wish all of our members, friends, and loved ones a safe and joyous holiday season. We have had quite a year in our organization and one piece of good news is that we are still growing! We have over 148 chapters and 3,500 members. We receive information requests on a daily basis from many parts of North America and beyond.

I would like to thank all of the chapters that voted to re-elect me as your International President. This past convention in Laval, Quebec, something happen that has never before occurred in the history of the Red Knights. We had a tie vote for the office of International President.

I see the vote as an indication to me that the organization's leadership has problems! It is not that I won the election by one vote that has me worried. The fact that 49% of the chapter presidents felt that I was not doing the job I was elected to do and that 49% felt that a change was needed is what has worried me since the election.

**You are the people that I want to hear from. You felt that something needed to be changed. The board and I cannot make changes if we don't know what changes you feel need to be made.**

Here are some of the comments I have overheard from our membership:

This is a social club for the members, it's a club to have fun in and be proud to be a member of. We come to conventions to have fun and socialize.

- Conventions are becoming too political and we don't have enough time to do all the fun things and take care of all the business that needs to be done.
- Why do we have to have a meeting on Friday only to go over the same things again on Saturday?
- Why do we need an International Board and a Board of Directors? That's a two-tier system and a duplication of efforts.
- Why don't they just make it one International Board
- Conventions are crammed into such a short period of time. Do we need to make them longer?
- It's getting harder for convention committees to set up conventions and plan all the different things for members to do with such a short time to do them in.

I would very much all of the members to think about these things. Please go to your chapter meetings and encourage your chapter officers to let us know what you would like us to change. The Board and myself have a very open door policy. Feel free to contact any members at any time.

Last but not least - I would like to thank all the members, officials and friends of Quebec-3 for the outstanding job they did on our 2003 convention. Thank you Brothers and Sisters.

Sincerely,  
Ed Brouillet, International President

**The 2004 Red Knights  
International Convention**



**Edmonton, Alberta – Canada  
August 19 - 21, 2004**

*Dink Miller of Indiana-1 has a new basset hound named Flash. Flash has been riding with Dink for over 2,000 miles already and she is looking forward to riding with him to Edmonton in '04! How about you? Are you headed to Edmonton?*

Look inside for info on this great opportunity to see another beautiful piece of Canada!

**See you in Edmonton in  
2004!**

He logged over 10,000 miles on a four-corners tour to raise funds for our Red Knights Memorial... and he ran out of gas on the way home from the convention!

Read about Clayton Thomas' spring tour for the memorial inside this newsletter. You can also read his daily log of the trip including the rain, hail, snow, tornadoes, heat, heat, heat, and then more rain online at [www.redknightsmc.org/](http://www.redknightsmc.org/)

**Chapter Presidents and  
Treasurers**

Please make note of  
important dues

## *Red Knights' Memorial Ride – 2003*

Shortly before Clayton Thomas of Indiana-1 left for his Four-Corners Memorial Ride in the spring he dropped me an email. In a few short words he said what many people feel about the Red Knights – We're family and a very special family. I'd like to share a bit of his letter with you:

Well, here I am, about 2 1/2 weeks from my departure date I am having a graphic company working on my helmet and my trailer for this trip so that people will know that this is for a great cause.

The FDIC (FD Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis) was a great place to display the bike and have our banner of our great club hanging above it. A lot of firefighters from all over the USA now know more about the Red Knights than before. It was also great to meet some of our members from all over the country at the show.

I am in good sprits about this ride. It is for our past brothers and sister Red Knights and they deserve it. For all the charter members who started each chapter, and seeing what it has built into today with over 140 chapters worldwide and over 3500 members. That is cool.

I'll never forget the day that Goody came up to me at Wal-Mart parking lot and told me about the Red Knights. Over the years a lot of great friendships have occurred and I am proud to be a Red Knight.

This is a super club.

***Amen to that, brother!***

Clayton left Indianapolis on May 4th after a send-off breakfast and bon voyage wishes from family, friends and supporters. His entire trip and his daily log can be seen at [www.redknightsmc.org/MRIDE.HTM](http://www.redknightsmc.org/MRIDE.HTM).

Clayton touched all four corners, from Blaine, Washington – San Ysidro, California – Key West, Florida – and Madawaska, Maine in 19 days. Red Knights from around the country joined him on different portions of his trip, and Mother Nature watched over him with rain, snow, sleet, more rain, some snow, hail, tornadoes, more rain, HOT, HOT, HOT, and a little more rain!

His trailer was left behind in Texas after a breakdown, and the four hour trip from Jack Downs' home in Davie, Florida to Key West turned into a twenty-four hour trek that rivaled the Israelites 40 year journey out of Egypt!

Clayton received the gracious hospitality of firefighters throughout the United States where he was afforded accommodations in firehouses and in local hotels as a guest to the local unions and firefighters.

The fourth corner in Madawaska, Maine was reached on Saturday, May 31 with International President Ed Brouillet and others escorting Clayton into Madawaska. The Madawaska Fire Department even showed their support by having their newest fire engine waiting for Clayton outside the local Post Office, adorned with the RKMC International Banner. All those attending Americade were able to celebrate with Clayton and share in his success because Lake George was a stopping point for him between Madawaska and home in Indianapolis.

With the conclusion of this tour, Clayton's riding career will have taken him through all 48 of the lower continental United States — the last 12,000 (+) miles of his riding done for members of the Red Knights who have passed away.

Clayton's trip was to raise money and awareness of the fund drive underway by the Red Knights to raise money to build a memorial to our members. Please support the effort that was begun with Clayton's ride and consider making both personal and chapter donations to the Red Knights Memorial Fund.

Welcome to all our new M.A.L.'s and new chapters. The Red Knights now have over 180 members-at-large (including members in Europe) and 148 chapters. Our new chapters since the last newsletter are:

Alberta-4, Ohio-7, New Hampshire-2 & 3, Indiana-5, Pennsylvania-11 & 12, New Jersey-4, Florida-10, Arkansas-2, Indiana-6, Florida-11, North Carolina-4, Illinois-7, Alberta-5, New York-17, Georgia-5, No. Carolina-5, Ontario-11, and Arizona-1

***Welcome everyone!***

After completing his 12,000 mile journey this spring, Clayton Thomas of Indiana-1 arrived at the convention with a check for \$2,600 to help the International kick off its effort to raise money for our Red Knights Memorial.

We hope that each chapter will also help raise funds for the memorial to our members who have passed away.

### **Florida-1 supports the drive to raise funds for the Red Knights Memorial**

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 [rkmcch1@mindspring.com](mailto:rkmcch1@mindspring.com)

### *Be a part of the Red Knights Anniversary Yearbook*

The Red Knight's are planning 25th Anniversary (once in a lifetime) Book about the first 25 years of the Red Knights. I am chairing this project and am looking for participation from EVERY chapter!

What I am going to need from each chapter is any information you can give me about your chapter and also information that the M.A.L.'s can give me too!

How and when your chapters started, the charter members of each club, photos of club events and people (past and present).

I am thinking about maybe having a section of like "Passport Pictures" of all present members of each club.

I am open for any and all suggestion that anyone might have to make this something that everyone will want to get!

It is also great that we have a few years to work on this project and make it the best it can be. If there are others who would like to be part of this team, please let me know ([cfr6@juno.com](mailto:cfr6@juno.com)).

The printer has told me that we can get a leather-covered book in the price range of about \$60.00.

Yes, It is only 2003 and the book will be coming out in 2007. But that gives us time to do this right and be a project that we will be proud to show others.

Thanks everyone, Clayton Thomas

*How to contact your  
International Officers:*

• **President:**

Edward Brouillet  
326 Minott Road  
Westminster, MA, USA, 01473  
978-632-8230 – RKMA2@net1plus.com

• **Vice President:**

Jack Downs  
12040 S.W. 26 Court,  
Davie, FL USA, 33330  
954-474-1644 –  
rkmcch1@mindspring.com

• **Executive Secretary:**

Michael LeBlanc  
15 Cove Road,  
Coventry, RI, USA, 02816  
(401) 933-1760 – RKRI1CUE@aol.com

• **Treasurer:**

Leo Patry  
6000 Battersea Rd. R.R. # 2  
Battersea, Ontario, Canada, K0H 1H0  
613-353-1790 – leo.patry@sympatico.ca

• **Chairman,  
Board of Directors:**

Joe Conroy  
3 Rocky Pine Road  
Richmond, RI, U.S.A. 02892  
401-491-9071 – ltjconroy@cox.net

• **Vice Chairman,  
Board of Directors:**

Dave Emery  
119 Forest Street  
Brattleboro, VT, U.S.A. 05301  
802-254-4487 – djebfd@yahoo.com

• **Sec. Of the  
Board Of Directors:**

Clayton Thomas  
809 Dunbar Drive  
Cumberland, IN, USA, 46229  
317-894-3096 – cfr6@juno.com

• **Newsletter Editor  
and Webmaster**

Bob Laford  
276 West Road,  
Petersham, MA, USA, 01366  
978-724-3270 – rflaford@tiac.net

A **Memorial Ride T-Shirt** is being produced to help raise funds for the Memorial (through Clayton's ride). The shirts are available in XL, XXL, and XXXL sizes all for \$20 each. They look great and will help build our memorial. Contact Clayton for more information. (317-894-3096 – cfr6@juno.com)

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Massachusetts Chapter-1 was the first Chapter of the Red Knights back in 1982 and their chapter leadership has agreed to spearhead the drive to build a memorial to all our members past. The town of Boylston, Massachusetts has agreed to allow the Red Knights to erect this memorial on the grounds of the Boylston Fire Station. A very fitting tribute, since this is where the Red Knights were born.

Hopes are to have this memorial ready for dedication by our 25th anniversary in 2007. Clayton Thomas of Indiana-1 has started off the fundraising for this fete and we owe him a debt of gratitude. But it is you the members, and the individual chapters that will make this fund drive and the memorial for all our members – past – present – and future a true success and a monument that has meaning for each of us.

The Memorial Committee has been meeting and they have also set up an account for the memorial fund. Please consider supporting the fund with donations and fundraisers from all the chapters. Also, please support the planning work of the committee and share with them any ideas that you have on what the Red Knights Memorial should be.

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**Y**es, I want to support the efforts of the Red Knights to raise money for the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Memorial.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ (If applicable)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge/Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Personal  
 Club  
Please check appropriate Box

Please make checks payable to:  
**Red Knights International Memorial Fund**  
Shrewsbury Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union  
PO Box 227  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

**RED KNIGHTS CONNECTICUT CHAPTER II**

**4th Annual NYC bus trip to the  
INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOW  
At the Javitts Center**

\$37 per person – Includes Bus and Expo

**Saturday,  
3, 2004**

**January**

- Bus departs Enfield, CT at 7:00 a.m.
- East Hartford, CT at 7:30 a.m.
- Cromwell, CT at 8:00 a.m.

Departs NYC at 6:00 p.m. – Plenty of time for lunch and sightseeing

**FOR TICKETS** contact Diane O'Hagan at 860-871-0725 or  
John O'Hagan at 860-749-0222

**L**ooking for a new Red Vest? Thanks to RK Vermont Chapter-2 a vendor selling red vests was available at the Thursday evening open house at the Lake George F.D. during the Americade week. The vendor had a supply of vests on hand and also took orders for sizes that were not available on site. An ad from this vendor appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

Several vendors who make red vests are listed on our web page at [www.redknightsmc.org/CATALOG/RVEST.HTM](http://www.redknightsmc.org/CATALOG/RVEST.HTM)

# the Chapters *What is your chapter up to?*



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

The **Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation** of the U.S. recently recognized **Red Knights NY-8** as one of the top fund raising chapters in the country for the 2002 season of Ride for Kids!

Congratulations from all of us to them for their hard work – and kudos to all our Red Knights who participate in the Ride for Kids around the U.S. and Canada. Red Knight members are responsible for bringing in thousands of dollars to this

Members of Red Knights Virginia VI – Newport News responded to the call for assistance with a tree removal on the property of an ARC Foundation home.

Hurricane Isabel moved through the area leaving destroyed homes, loss of power to many areas and numerous large trees down on homes, blocking streets and in the yards of folks who just could not remove them on their own without help. Nine days after the storm and some of the Red Knights members themselves still without power, responded to a call for assistance from family members of one of these folks. A large tree had fallen in the back yard of the Sarah Hudgins Home.

The house is part of the ARC Foundation (Association for Retarded Citizens). The tree fell on the back deck blocking the rear exit and most of the yard. Red Knight members Chico and Brenda Manzie, John and Peggy Bebb, Kay Tacy, and Billy Hogge went to work clearing the tree. After a couple of hours cutting and dragging tree parts out to the curb, the folks at the ARC home could once again enjoy their outdoor surroundings.

**Great Job Guys and Gals!**



Some of the rides participating in the 2003 Maryland Firefighters' Memorial Ride



## Maryland Fire and Rescue Memorial

Sunday, April 27, 2003 found over 240 motorcycles riding to Annapolis in the Second Annual Maryland Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ride.

The Memorial is the brainchild of past Chief Don Mooney, Lansdowne VFD. As founder and chairman of the Memorial Foundation, Don along with many other firefighters from around the State have been working for many years to have a Memorial honoring all the Maryland firefighters who have answered their last alarm while on duty. Many hours have been spent in planning and designing a befitting tribute. Many dollars are needed for this Memorial to be built. Land was donated by the state at the intersection of Calvert and Bladen Streets in downtown Annapolis.

Just recently, a contract was signed by the Foundation and a sculptor to start on the building of the statue. Money is still needed and a statewide boot drive on May 17<sup>th</sup> is planned for EVERY fire department to spend three hours that morning collecting at a shopping center or mall.

Sunday's ride was quite a contrast to last year's inaugural ride where it rained buckets. A hardy 22 motorcycles left Clarksville VFD escorted to Annapolis in '02. This year's ride had warm and sunny skies. Bikers from as far away as Ocean City and southern Maryland hooked up with riders from Wheaton VRS, Marlboro VFD and Annapolis H/D at the Park and Ride in Davidsonville. Members of Red Knights MD 1,3, and 4 where all represented. Fire apparatus from Wheaton, Kensington, Sandy Spring, Rockville, Ocean City and Arundel where also there to ride in the procession of firefighters and friends on their bikes to the Memorial in Annapolis all escorted by the motor officers from PGPD, Calvert PD and Annapolis PD.

As we rode down Rowe Blvd, Annapolis City FD's two Ariel ladders extended with a huge American Flag greeted us. The services began at 2:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by MSFA Chaplin Hetz, welcoming by Past Chief Tom Baker, Branchville VFCo. Among those riding to honor our fallen brothers and sisters were State Fire Marshal Bill Bernard and recently retired MSP Superintendent Dave Mitchell. Speakers included, Jim Collins Red Knights Maryland 1 and the Foundation Chairman Don Mooney. Two Anne Arundel County Fire recruits presented the Wreath at the site. Chaplin Hetz concluded the brief ceremony.

Next year's ride is planned again for the last Sunday in April. The Ground Breaking Ceremony is also planned for next year. To all Maryland State firefighters, please support your Memorial by buying a "brick" and have it placed in the "Walk of Flame." Plan to attend next year's Memorial Ride.

Past Chief, Tom Baker, Red Knights MD 1

Dear friends,

Once again I must thank Quebec III for their hospitality. Every convention has the touch and quality that makes for exciting and different experiences. That's what makes attending it so enjoyable for my wife Judy and I. We also enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones. This trip was more a get away, kick back, quality time with each other type convention for us. We had never been to Quebec before so needless to say we were like two kids in a candy store.

Congratulations to President Ed Brouillet, Treasurer Leo Patry, and Secretary of the Directors Clayton Thomas on their re-election. I am looking forward to working with them and the rest of the Board again this year. Clayton is appointed to chair the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary yearbook. He will over see the contents and publication. You will be hearing more about that as the program develops. Equally important is the Red Knights Memorial chaired by one of our forefathers Don Parker. Don is working with his committee to erect a memorial in Boylston, Massachusetts where a group of firefighters met and formed the Red Knights. If you have an interest in either of these two committees or feel you would like to help please call the Chairman or any Board Member. Remember this is our Anniversary Book and Memorial so let's make them as nice as we can. Another good meeting conducted by our Vice-Chairman Dave Emery was with the State Representatives. Bill Snodgrass and the members in Ohio 1 with the help of other Ohio Chapters have presented a Constitution and By-Law designed to solidify the State Representative position. The Executive Board read the proposal and is here to tell you a lot of work went into developing this document. It is the feeling of the Executive Board that this language has been way over due. We thank Bill for bringing this to the forefront so we can move forward in this area.

At convention every year an MAL member is elected to represent the MAL's at our meetings. This year the MAL's elected representative is William Jacobs from Illinois. William will hold this position for twelve months. Thank you William for accepting the nomination. I look forward to working with you. The MAL's registered at Convention were William Jacobs from Illinois, Kurt Wahtera from Massachusetts, and Dean Newkirk from Connecticut. In addition to these members we had a late arrival from Texas, MAL M. Flint Breeding. Currently we have 181 Members At Large. If anyone has any questions about the MAL program please get in touch with me. A special thanks to Michael Adams from Pennsylvania for representing the MALs last year.

Our Treasurer has reminded me that it is time to renew our membership dues. I will be sending notices to all MAL members in November. I will need to update my records about you to keep the cost of future mailing down. Most of you have already sent me any new addresses. I can be reached at [rkmch1@mindspring.com](mailto:rkmch1@mindspring.com).

This will be our last newsletter this year. Thanks to Bob Laford for his continued support making sure we receive our newsletter on time every time. Thanks also to all the men and women who work behind the scenes on committees and special interest projects to make a difference in the International. We are in motion. Let's not loose sight of our direction!

Until we meet again, God bless and have a great holiday!

Sincerely,  
Jack C. Downs  
International Vice President

### ***Rendezvous 2003***

All of us in Quebec-3 wish to thank everyone who journeyed to Laval this summer and made the 2003 Red Knights Convention a successful one! A special thanks to each of you for your support of our chapter charity, "Fondation Ste-Justine" for the burned child.

André Giguere  
Chairman, 2003 Convention Committee

### ***Americade 2003***

A local weatherman said that the weather patterns for the northeast U.S. had been cool and wet from Oct '02 to June, and yes the week of Americade did see some of that weather, but well over 200 Red Knights also enjoyed several days of sunny, warm weather, and some great riding the first week of June.

Always a great week to socialize, ride, and spend your money on "bike stuff," the 20th annual Americade was no different.

Clayton Thomas, of Indiana-1, became a local celebrity during the week when he was interviewed for the local television news about his Four-Corners Memorial Ride. His bike was displayed in a number of areas during the week in hopes to raise funds for the Red Knights Memorial.

The Red Knights also held several spots in the Americade schedule. The first was a seminar hosted by President Ed Brouillet and Editor Bob Laford on the History of the Red Knights. They discussed where the RKMC had been, what we were doing now, and what to look forward to in the future. A number of people in the audience were there because they either wanted to start their own chapter or were interested in joining but didn't know how.

Wednesday evening was the three-course dinner at Roaring Brook Ranch hosted by the club. This was the second year that the RKMC hosted this event. Several hundred people enjoyed the dinner and the hospitality of our members. Over 70 door prizes were given out during the evening. Thanks to all the chapters and all the members that donated prizes for this event. Many of the people attending came up to Red Knights after the dinner and throughout the week and remarked at what a great time they had and were astounded at the prizes we gave away. To put the number of prizes into perspective, one of the major manufacturers hosted another dinner the same night and only gave out 18 door prizes!

Thursday evening was the annual open house at the Lake George Fire Station. Over 200 Red Knights were in attendance, and no one went hungry thanks to the hard work of New York Chapter 12. At the conclusion of the raffle held at the LGFD, Chapter-12 donated the proceeds of the raffle to the Memorial Ride and the money was handed over to Clayton Thomas. Thanks go out to John Rucinski and all his members for their hard work and for the donation to the Memorial Fund.

Our club again participated in the Saturday parade showing pride and the many different fire helmets as we made our way through the village of Lake George and up Prospect Mountain to conclude another great week at Americade. See you next year!

*BIG HERO, LITTLE HERO*



The Vermont Teddy Bear Company has started a program called "The Friend for Life Program" to make stuffed animals available to emergency services in an effort to help responders with incidents involving children.

As we all know, to a child traumatizing events can take many forms. Daily, emergency responders, like you our members, treat and assist children who are either injured or a witness to accidents, fires, and domestic violence. According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, there are 39,000 injuries per day to children in the United States alone that require medical attention.

The program initiated by the Vermont Teddy Bear Company ([www.vtbear.com](http://www.vtbear.com)) is two fold. First, if you are an emergency services provider or a non-profit entity "Little Hero" bears are available to be purchased at a reduced rate. A non-profit group, like our local chapters, could

raise funds to purchase bears and distribute them to response agencies in their area. Second, the Vermont Teddy Bear Company will make the bears available to local businesses at a retail rate. For every bear that is bought by a local retailer, a bear will be donated to the local response agency.

For further information on the Little Heroes Bears and the "Friend for Life" program, contact Tom Clark at the Vermont Teddy Bear Company, 802-985-1394

([tomc@vtbear.com](mailto:tomc@vtbear.com)).



Members of Mass-2 delivering "Little Heroes" Teddy Bears to the Westminster Fire Department. Westminster was one of twelve departments within their membership area that Mass-2 visited.

**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](mailto:Staff@tourexpo.com) or drop a note to **Christi Dutcher at Americade, PO Box 512, Jericho VT 05465**

The International Quartermaster is now in a position to refund the setup fees that chapters have paid in the past for their chenille bottom rockers.

**The Following chapters have a credit that they can use on their next purchase with the International Quartermaster**

ALB 1 \$15.00	NH 12 \$15.00	ONT 5 \$15.00
CT 7 \$15.00	NJ 10 \$15.00	PA 2 \$30.00
FL 1 \$15.00	NJ 3 \$15.00	TX 2 \$15.00
MA 11 \$15.00	NY 14 \$15.00	VA 3 \$30.00
MA 8 \$15.00	NY 2 \$15.00	VA 4 \$15.00
MD 1 \$30.00	NY 5 \$15.00	VT 2 \$15.00
ME 4 \$15.00	OH 3 \$15.00	WI 1 \$15.00
NH 1 \$15.00	OH 5 \$15.00	

The Americade Award for furthest distance traveled to Americade 2003 went to Clayton Thomas of RK Indiana-1. His Four-Corners Memorial Ride brought 10,758 miles between his home and Lake George, NY.

It was a round-a-bout trip that began May 4 and Americade

Congratulations to Ed Brouillet, Leo Patry, and Dave Emery on their re-elections to the leadership of the International.

It was a spirited election that proves that there are many people that have the interest of the Red Knights at heart.

The future of the RKMC will remain strong with the commitment available from the current elected officials and those that work with the board as well as each



In recent statistics on traffic crashes (for 2001), the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported that 41% of motorcycle fatalities involved a motorcyclist with blood-alcohol content of 0.8 or higher.

As emergency responders we know the horrors of drinking and driving – but in another part of our lives, motorcycling, that community is not taking the common sense approach to motorcycles and alcohol to heart. Would you take the keys from a buddy who had been drinking, before he got on his bike (or in his car)? In a survey conducted by the NHTSA they found the majority of the respondents said, “no” they would not try to stop someone who had been drinking from riding their bike.

How many “motorcycle” events do you know about, and even go to, that have alcohol as a main staple of the celebration when the ride is over? As public safety professionals *on the job*, we should also be public safety minded off the job, and promote a safer attitude and environment, especially when it comes to alcohol and motorcycles.

The AMA and the NHTSA have teamed up for a Ride Straight campaign for the motorcycle community. Their program emphasizes that riding a motorcycle takes coordination, balance, and, most important, good judgment. And that alcohol, more than any other single factor, can rob you of your ability to think clearly and ride safely.

Visit the campaign web site a [www.ridestraight.com](http://www.ridestraight.com). And as Mark Tuttle, editor of Rider Magazine said, “The solution to these terrible statistics is simple. Ride straight, and don’t let your friends drink and drive either. If this sport is right for you and them, the ride is enough.”

## 2003 was the 20th annual Red Knights International Convention... And Quebec 3 did an outstanding job in Laval!

Thirty-five chapters and 269 members were in attendance at the convention this past August in Laval, Quebec. Our hosts, Quebec-3 did an outstanding job and everyone had a great time!

It felt as though the entire community had opened their arms to greet the Red Knights. And if you looked at the neighborhood cook-out we went to, it would be hard to dispute that claim. Not only was the BBQ attended by 150 Red Knights, people from all through the park’s neighborhood came to visit with us and cheered as the motorcycles roared through the neighborhood with an impressive police escort. The BBQ offered us some great roast pork, beef and lamb. We all enjoyed the band too, as they played through the evening for us.

On Friday there was a choice of a bus tour into Montreal or a bike ride to Mount Tremblant. Now, who got stuck up on the gondola? Although the weather wasn’t perfect we had more sun than rain and everyone on both adventures had a great time.

On Saturday, another tour of Montreal, this time on our bikes and we visited *Old Quebec* where International President Ed Brouillet was given a key to the city.

Our membership meeting was quite exciting. Spike Ostiguy threw his hat into the ring to run for International President against Ed Brouillet. When the first ballot was counted it was a tie vote, oh boy! After a long period of discussion a second ballot was taken and Ed Brouillet was re-elected International president.

The meeting also discussed some important issues including the trade

marking of the Red Knights name and logo to help protect our club. A reminder to all chapters that if you use the club’s emblem or crest in merchandise and clothing you must receive written permission from the Quartermaster to meet the needs of the trademark.

We also had some discussion about Georgia-Chapter-2 and all send our best wishes to them – the entire chapter has been activated and was on active military duty in Iraq. Our North Carolina chapter also has a number of members on active duty. We send our thoughts and prayers to all our Red Knights brothers and sisters who are currently serving in the military.

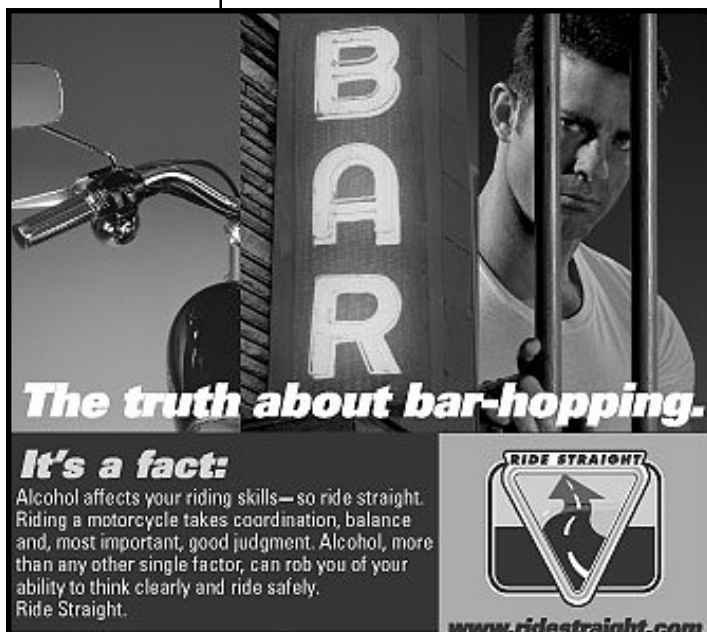
The Saturday night banquet was a show to remember. Flint Breeding of Texas-2 won furthest distance to the convention with 2,300 miles traveled (mostly in the rain). We were presented with hors d’oeuvres during our social hour before the banquet served by very elegant waiters and waitresses. When the dining room was opened we were guests to a five-course dinner that would be difficult to surpass! What helped make the night memorable was the entertainment. We were treated to the Ms. Rendezvous 2003 contest, a competition that not only brought our members up on the floor as participants, but some of them proved that all made up they make pretty scary looking women—especially those who were part of the Romeo and Juliet skits.

But there were also some of our better halves called down to the floor to compete... in the kissing contest and in the shoe-gathering contest. And everyone had a great time.

During the festivities, Andre Giguere, convention chairman presented a check for \$4,000 to St. Justin’s Children’s Hospital on behalf of Quebec-3 and all the Red Knights.

Sunday morning was the farewell breakfast where we had a chance to break bread with our RKMC friends one more time before hitting the road for home and other destinations.

A great big **THANK YOU** and **JOB WELL DONE** is owed all the members of Quebec-3 for their hard work in putting the 2003 convention on the map with a fantastic time for everyone.



**The truth about bar-hopping.**

**It's a fact:**  
Alcohol affects your riding skills—so ride straight. Riding a motorcycle takes coordination, balance and, most important, good judgment. Alcohol, more than any other single factor, can rob you of your ability to think clearly and ride safely. Ride Straight.

**RIDE STRAIGHT**

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

# ***Mountain Leather Design***

**On the Green — Chester, Vermont 05143  
802.875.4003 tishachevalier@hotmail.com**



Specializing in quality,  
custom made leather goods  
– INCLUDING RED VESTS, SKULL  
CAPS, AND VEST EXTENDERS –  
for the Red Knights Motorcycle Club!

We also carry great firefighter T-shirts  
beautifully designed by  
***The Mountain Corp.***

Please call or e-mail us for free leather  
swatches and pictures of our products



From the International Quartermaster.

First off, Catherine and I wish to express our sincere condolences to the family of Rick Stimson and the members of NY-8. On a happier note, I'm happy to say I'm fully recovered from the accident Catherine & I were in this past May on I-95 in Providence, I got my bike back on the road the beginning of October. I also need to say thanks to the Howard Ave Station in New Haven CT, they were kind enough to put my bike up for the night and let me watch the Red Sox lose the 7th game to New York while I was waiting for Jody to come give me a ride (yup, a week after getting back on the road I broke down).

The Quartermaster has been VERY busy this year. The new vest patches have been very well received. The International has now trademarked the RKMC name and logo. ANY Chapter that will be making any type of Red Knight item, whether it is for your own chapter or being offered to others needs to complete the "Trademark Use Agreement" before the items are made. Attached to the Trademark Use application is the form to have the item placed in the International's online catalog if you so choose. Please be sure to provide a detailed description of each item (example, the baseball cap offered by RI-1: Cloth baseball cap, one size fits all, with embroidered 3" RKMC Maltese Cross on the front, non-chapter specific). These forms can be downloaded from on the Merchandise page of the RKMC International's Web Page.

Due to the large volume of orders I am dealing with I just have a few things I would like to make everyone aware of.

- Please order through your chapter as a group, not as individuals
- Use the order form provided on the International's web page. (not hand written notes)
- Be sure when ordering that you have the most current order form that is posted on the web page
- Order forms that are not filled out in their entirety will be returned (that includes the color column)
- When ordering the bottom rockers for the new style vest patch your chapter will be able to get them at "30 Patches for \$12.00/each" IF you are willing to wait for a second chapter to order at the same time. If you are interested in this contact the Quartermaster for more information.

Have a safe fall and see you on the road next spring.

Joe Conroy , RKMC International Quartermaster



From the Office of the Secretary  
15 Cove Road – Coventry, RI 02816

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I usually give a summary on the spectacular growth in our membership and chapter numbers; but instead, I would like to give recognition to one of the reasons we have grown so much in the last few years.

When I became the International Secretary, I started an advertising campaign with a small firefighter oriented newspaper called the **1st Responder Newspaper**.

The GM and owner of the paper have gone to great lengths to provide us with advertising space. They have also allowed us to set up in their booth space at trade shows; and have been an overall asset to our organization.

The newspaper publishes eight editions, which cover a total of 13 states: New Jersey, New York, Long Island, New England, Ohio/Pennsylvania, Florida/Georgia and California.

Each of these issues contains articles, photos, fire stories and human-interest stories from the areas served by that particular region.

Each issue also carries advertisements from both major suppliers and small time suppliers of firefighting equipment and memorabilia.

We are asking that to help to show your gratitude to these fine folks, you as members of the Red Knights, consider taking out a subscription to this Newspaper. They may not cover your area at this time; but who knows, if enough members from a particular area show an interest, they might just expand.

Other members with fire related businesses might also consider using 1<sup>st</sup> Responder News as an advertising tool.

The cost of a one year subscription is \$24 and can be applied for by calling 1st Responder News at: (845) 561-6400 and providing credit card information; or by sending in a check for payment, including mailing information and indicating the edition you would like to subscribe to.

Those interested in advertising can contact Kathy Ronsini at [Kathy@1stresponder.com](mailto:Kathy@1stresponder.com) or by calling: (845) 561-6400 ext. 11.

Fraternally,  
Mike (CUE) LeBlanc  
Secretary Red Knights International

## The 2004 Red Knights International Convention Edmonton, Alberta, Canada – August 19 - 21, 2004

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Alberta 1 is proud to host the “2004 Red Knights International Convention” in Edmonton, Alberta. And we extend an invitation to everyone join us for a variety of events in August!

Some of the highlights for the 2004 Convention are:

- Pre-trip - August 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> – If you can arrive early, come on the trip to the mountains and very popular tourist towns of Banff, Jasper and Canmore. The cost is \$299 per person (based on double occupancy, limited space is available, first-come basis).
- Pub Crawl – Thursday night – What’s a convention without a little socializing and meeting the local folks at various locations in Edmonton? We’re sure you’ll have lots of fun and meet old and new friends!
- Fort Edmonton Park – Friday night – To add some local history to this convention, we’ll go to the Fort Edmonton Park that was built in 1846 where we’re promised quite the show and then have a delicious barbecue...Alberta style!
- Banquet and Entertainment – Saturday night – More great food and entertainment...this event will be very interesting, so don’t plan on leaving early!
- Farewell Breakfast – Sunday morning – To ensure you have a safe trip home; we’ll feed you one more time...before you leave your old and new friends!

For additional information on the 2004 Convention, please check out our chapter website at [www.redknightsalberta1.com](http://www.redknightsalberta1.com)

For the Brothers and Sisters that can arrive early or stay after the convention...there are several tourist attractions in and around Edmonton to enjoy:

1. West Edmonton Mall – The world’s largest entertainment and shopping center (over 800 stores)...very close to the Royal Executive Inn.
2. Fort Edmonton Park – Experience the history of the 1846 Fort (shopping and food services available).
3. Muttart Conservatory – If you enjoy nature’s beauty, this is a must see...four glass pyramids with floral paradise.
4. International Fringe Theatre Festival – Several days of theatrical entertainment in Edmonton’s Old Strathcona neighborhood. The Fringe Theatre Festival is regarded as the largest alternative theatre festival in North America.
5. Elk Island National Park – Established in 1906 as Canada’s first federal wildlife sanctuary for elk, bison and moose. Also, this Park has a golf course, hiking trails, etc., etc.

For additional information on tourist attractions for Edmonton and area, please check out the following websites:

[www.edmonton.com](http://www.edmonton.com) – [www.infoedmonton.com](http://www.infoedmonton.com)  
[www.travelalberta.com](http://www.travelalberta.com) – [www.discoveredmonton.com](http://www.discoveredmonton.com)

Information and Registration Forms are available on line at [www.redknightsmc.org](http://www.redknightsmc.org).  
Registration forms will also be made available in the RKMC Spring Newsletter.

Dear Fellow Red Knights,

From the desk of Clayton Thomas  
Secretary to the Board of Directors

2003 has been quite a year for me as most of you already know. Words alone will never be able to thank all of you for what you did for me and the Red Knight's Memorial. Sometimes when I am watching Al Roker on the Today Show and I see the entire United States in front of me, it just scares the (You Know What) out of me to look at all those miles that I had to go through on My Four Corners Tour. Man, that's a lot of states and a lot of bad weather too!

Did I tell you about the SAND STORM that I went through in El Paso. (There's that Texas Again). I have never in my life been through such a giant State like that. When I said "Texas-Texas- Texas" in my daily log I really meant it. It was very big and many miles to get through.

Then there was my Trailer Incident at Sierra Blanco. I finally went back about 45 days later, with the help of one my great friends and newly elected president of Indiana - One Tom Cooke. It was 3,000 miles and 24 hours of driving each way but we finally got the trailer back home and it has been totally rebuilt like new.

There are so many people to thank for all their support during my 19-day "Four Corners Tour." I would like to name you all but time and space do not allow. There are several Red Knight Chapters, however, that I must thank publicly. They are California-Chapter-One, Texas-Chapter-One, Florida-Chapter-One, Maryland-Chapter-One, Connecticut-Chapter-Four, Massachusetts-Chapter-Two and Massachusetts-Chapter-11. These are the Chapters that went above and beyond to help me on this memorial ride, and without their help it would have been very difficult to finish the ride.

Words alone will never be able to thank Ed, Steve, and Tim (from Mass-2) and the Fire Chief and members of the Madawaska Fire Department at Corner #4. International President Ed Brouillet met me in Maine to ride the last few miles with me. I should have known that something was up when we got to the 'Welcome to Madawaska' sign and Ed told me to take the lead into town. To come over the hill and see a Madawaska Fire Engine laden with the Red Knight's banners parked in front of the Post Office put tears in my eyes.

What a thrill and an honor it was for me to do this ride, alone and for a great cause – our Red Knights Memorial in Boylston, Mass.

At the Convention in Laval it felt wonderful to present a check for \$2500 to Don Parker of Mass-1 for the Memorial Fund. I am now making a request to all of our 3,500 (+) members and 148 Red Knights chapters to come up with a ride, or Poker Run, or some other fundraiser from your chapter and donate a portion of that money to the Memorial Fund.

It is probably going to take between \$20,000.00 and \$ 30,000.00 to build a nice Memorial for all of our Fallen Members. This is for them and may they all rest in peace and never be forgotten.

recent news and I guess you could say that it is not the best news to have to tell you all; but after I do you will all understand a lot more of why this Memorial Ride meant so much to me. As most of you already know, I had open-heart surgery and had to retire from the Fire Service after 31 years. Late this summer, a week or so after my convention and New Jersey Ride I wasn't feeling that great so I went to my doctor and she told me to check with my heart specialist and see if there might be another heart related problem.

As I write this I am now in my second week of heart rehab and everything is going okay. The bad news is that after talking with both my wife Judy and the doctor I was told that the motorcycle was just putting too much stress on my heart and it was time to step down for a while, maybe never again to ride.

Then I sat down and had a talk with my best friend and wonderful wife Judy Ann. When we purchased our first Harley from Perry Carter, it was Judy that wanted to buy it no matter what it took to get it. More recently, when I purchased Perry's 1999 Harley from Patricia this past spring, it was something that both of us wanted as well. We decided that if I was going to do this Four-Corners Memorial Ride I wanted Perry's, Goody's, and Georgia's Spirits with me on my Trip. (These three people were very special members of our chapter who are no longer with us). And I know they were with me, because when I burnt my leg-that was Perry telling me that he was watching over me. And when I spilled something on my shirt while eating - that was Bill telling me he was there too, and when I got a sunshine day, that was Georgia making me feel good that day. They were very dear friends to a lot of us and are dearly missed.

I love my wife more than anything and I don't want to put her in a situation where she may get hurt on the bike if something were to happen to me while we were riding. So I will be selling my Harley and trailer and taking orders from my doctor and my wife (but not necessarily that order). But just because I am selling our bike doesn't mean that I am stopping being a Red Knight. I am not. I still am planning on remaining a Red Knight and maybe somewhere down the road we might be able to be able to get another bike and get back on the road again. But for now I am just going to have to be four-wheeling it for a while. I am still planning to keep my position on the International Board as well.

So thank you all for everything and lets keep that Memorial Fund growing!

Clayton Thomas  
Indiana - Chapter One  
Secretary to the International Board of Directors

Now for some

Red Knights Maryland-3 conducted a Memorial Ride in honor of the Fallen Firefighter Brian Firkal, of Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania who died while rescuing an 11-year old boy trapped in rough ocean current while he and his wife were on vacation in Ocean City, Maryland. Members of MD-3 rode the five hours from Ocean City to Nesquehoning on "Brian's Ride" for a special presentation to Brain's wife Jane.

Pictured here are Larry Sackadorf of RK-MD-3 presenting a Red Knights International Flag to the Fire Chief of Nesquehoning Hose Co. #1, John McArdle (Brian's Fire Dept ) and to Brian's wife Jane after the memorial ride. Brian was



### Important Insurance Information

For those of you (U.S. Members) who are planning to travel to Canada for the convention (or anytime), just a reminder that Insurance Regulations in Canada require that you have a **Canadian Insurance Card** from your U.S. insurance carrier.

You do not need to get additional insurance, but whether you are traveling on two wheels or by four, you need to visit your insurance agent and get a Canadian Insurance Card.

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.

Instead of distributing a hard copy of the newest version of the document, we have frequently updated the information that is available online.

The **Red Knights Help-a-Knight** program available on line at

[www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf](http://www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf)

(You need Adobe Acrobat to read the file).

We will continually update the version that is available on our web page. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

*X This is a **New** registration*

*X 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

Fall 2003

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

### Reminder to all Chapter Presidents

**International dues expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> and are payable before March 31, 2004** there is a \$25.00 late payment fee for those paying after this date. The dues rate per chapter member for 2004 is as follows:

Active or Associate Member \$7.00/ea.

Social or Honorary Member \$4.00/each

Compassionate Honorary Member no charge

(See section 2:01 of constitution for more details)

Members at Large dues are \$15.00 for an Active Member and \$ 10.00 for a Social Member

Dues for chapters are to be sent in U.S. funds to the International treasurer:

Leo Patry  
6000 Battersea Road - R.R. # 2  
Battersea, Ontario – Canada K0H 1H0  
(613) 353-1790 — leo.patry@sympatico.ca

Dues for Members at Large in U.S. funds are to be sent to International Vice-president:

Jack Downs  
12040 S.W. 26 Court  
Davie, Florida – U.S.A. 33330  
(954) 474-1644 – rkmccch1@mindspring.com

### What evil lurks in the hearts of men... The SHADOW knows!

There are members of the Red Knights that are still able to ride their bikes at this time of year, even though the northern lands are barren and cold!

And if you get the chance to ride at this time of year there are aspects of riding to think of beyond just the colder temperatures. One is the sun. We have less of it, meaning fewer daylight hours to ride in, and at this time of year the angle of the sun in the early morning or early evening (or late afternoon as it may be) can play havoc on how well you see and how well you can be seen!

If your shadow is directly in front of you, the longer it is, the harder it is for on coming traffic to see you!

Besides being a good indicator of how visible you might or might not be, shadows are worth looking out for because they mark where the ground is cooler than its surroundings. This is critically important on very cold days as they may mark the location of otherwise hidden stretches of ice.

# Red Knights Motorcycle Club

c/o 276 West Road  
Petersham, MA 01366  
USA

www.redknightsmc.org

Look inside for information on the conventions in Laval and Edmonton, Americade, the RKMC Memorial, and the 2003 Red Knights Memorial Tour.

## **RED KNIGHTS Grand Tour**

*Help Keep the RKMC Grand Tour alive! Participate by yourself, with a few friends, or with your chapter and help spread the word about the Red Knights to fire departments around your area*

### ***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 GT chairperson and he/she will send you your certificate and



Red Knights – Vermont-Chapter-2 on one of their Grand Tour stops in Ryegate, VT this summer. Have you earned your Grand Tour Pin?

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

If you have pictures from your GRAND TOUR that you would like posted on