



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!

Welcome to all our new M.A.L.'s and new chapters. The Red Knights now have over 150 members-at-large (including members in Europe) and 175 chapters. Our new chapters since the last newsletter are:

Pennsylvania-13, Tennessee-2, Georgia-6, 7, 8 & 9, Kentucky-1, Ohio-8 & 9, New Jersey 11, 12, 13 & 14, Texas-4 & 5, Illinois-8, Louisiana-4, New York-18, 19, 20, & 21, Mass-6 & 9, Minnesota-1, New Hampshire-4, Idaho-1, and Maryland-5

Welcome everyone!

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

www.redknightsmc.com

Dear Brothers & Sisters

I would like to welcome all our new chapters, members-at-large, and all of the new members to the Red Knights. I hope you will enjoy being a member of the Red Knights. It is one of the greatest social organizations there is; next to the "Brotherhood of Firefighters," there is no better organization to be a part of!

Another riding season is upon us. Please remember to be on your guard. We must look out for all those drivers who are not paying attention to motorcycles. The last thing we want to hear about is that another brother has had an accident due to someone not looking where they are going. So, please be careful out there.

According to the vote at the last convention, 49% of the chapter presidents that voted that day felt that I was not doing the job they elected me to do. After the election, I asked to hear from any of the chapter presidents about any problems they felt the leadership needed to address. As I write this letter I have not heard from anyone! I urge you to contact any member of the board with anything you feel needs to be addressed within our organization. Drop us a letter - signed or unsigned. This is your organization.

Americade, the annual motorcycle rally held in Lake George, NY in June, is just around the corner. On Wednesday night at Americade we host one of the week's dinners. Would your chapter donate a door prize for us to give away that night? We will also have our open house on Thursday night at the Lake George FD at 5:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for us to get together, break bread as a family, and talk about the club, motorcycling, and the future. I hope to see many of you there. We will have more information about Saturday's Americade Parade at that meeting as well.

The RKMCI International Convention is in Edmonton, Alberta this summer. I am excited about my trip out west to join our brothers and sisters in Edmonton. All the details point to another convention that you won't want to miss. The guys and gals in Alberta have a lot of great things set up for us to do. Their pre-trip to the ice fields is just a warm-up for the rest of the week. Sign up soon as I hear it is filling up fast. We hope to see a lot of members there.

The growth of the Red Knights is getting mind-boggling. At the time of this newsletter we are approaching 175 chapters and over 4,000 members. Where do you think we will be by our 25th anniversary? I feel we could be well over the 200 mark. As we continue to grow it will take the effort of every board member to see that we are going down the right road and working for the betterment of our organization. The international board is looking to change some bylaws again this year. These changes are to help us be more efficient and to help the membership have a better understanding of how the international board plans to operate. I feel this will help give the organization's leadership more input by adding two more voting members on the board.

In closing I would like to thank all the members that elected me for another two years. I am always there for you, the members. Feel free to contact me with any problems or suggestions you may have. I promise that I will always work to do the right thing for the Red Knights.

Sincerely, Ed Brouillet, International President

*The Red Knight Rider
Newsletter of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club
Spring 2004*

Our web page (www.redknightsmc.org) has been experiencing some technical difficulties that we hope are corrected by the time you receive this mailing. If you cannot access the web page, go to www.redknightsmc.com. We have set up a mirrored page to help us remain online until our server problems are corrected. Thank you for your patience.

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

Don Brandon
Secretary to the
Board of Directors

Bob Laford
Newsletter Editor

Secretary's Report

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

We have hit another high this year with chapters. At this time we are over 170 registered chapters!

I am going to again try to run an advertising blitz this spring just before riding season begins through the 1st Responder Newspaper.

The method in which chapter applications are given out is working fairly well with just a few things that need to be addressed.

My position will be coming up for election this year and I will be seeking a third term. I think I have done a good job so far and if you feel the same please ask your chapter representative to vote for me at convention in Alberta.

I still need a contact person for each chapter. Please get together with either your E-Board or even the chapter presidents but I need a good email address or a good snail mail address for sending updates and notifications to the chapters.

Respectfully Submitted.

Michael A. LeBlanc

Secretary Red Knights International

Many of our States and Provinces have a "State or Provincial Representative" to the International Board of Directors. But what are the duties of a "State Rep?" Section 3:23A of the International Bylaws list the specific duties and responsibilities of these members of the organization.

State and Provincial Representatives shall:

- Promote and ensure that all inquiries about the Red knights are given up to date information [in their state or province].
- He/she shall check with Chapters in the State or Province they represent and shall send semi-annual reports in writing to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- When called upon by Chapters, Members or Members-at-Large in his/her State/Province, he/she shall answer to that call, if the problem is such that it requires immediate action then he/she shall call on the President to inform him/her of the problem and be advised on what to do.
- The state/provincial representative shall from time to time check with fire departments in their State/Province to find out if there is interest in any of they're members joining or starting a Red Knights Chapter.
- The State/Provincial representative shall keep an updated roster of the Chapters in his her State/Province and if any changes are made, notification shall be pasted on to the Executive Secretary for updating the rosters
- Any expenses shall be authorized by the Executive Board prior to the action requiring the expense, except the cost of reports, mailing and phone costs relating to Red Knights business. Such expenses shall have receipts sent to the Treasurer prior to being paid.

Red Knights Int. Firefighters Motorcycle Club Inc.
 Leo J. Patry, International Treasurer
 6000 Battersea Rd., R.R. # 2
 Battersea, Ontario, K0H 1H0, Canada
 Home Phone (613) 353-1790 – leo.patry@sympatico.ca

YEAR END REPORT FOR 2003

GENERAL ACCOUNT

1st Quarter 1/1-3/ 31/03	2nd Quarter 4/1-6/30/03	3rd Quarter 7/1-9/ 30/03	4th Quarter 10/1-12/31/03
Opening Bal. \$ 16,373.33	Opening Bal. \$24,213.01	Opening Bal. \$26,435.49	Opening Bal. \$27,933.31
Deposits \$ 12,444.00	Deposits \$ 8,759.68	Deposits \$ 6,494.05	Deposits \$ 2,289.94
Expenditures \$ 4,604.32	Expenditures \$ 6,537.20	Expenditures \$ 4,996.23	Expenditures \$ 6,253.84
Closing Bal. \$ 24,213.01	Closing Bal. \$26,435.49	Closing Bal. \$27,933.31	Closing Bal. \$ 23,967.50

MEMBERSHIP

As of December 31, 2003 we have 143 chapters of 155 fully paid up and in good standing. We also have 187 paid up Members at Large

A brief summary of the 1st quarter is as follows:

1st Quarter 1/1-04/ 31/04	2nd Quarter 4/1-6/30/04	3rd Quarter 7/1-9/ 30/04	4th Quarter 10/1-12/31/04
Opening Bal. \$ 23,967.50	Opening Bal. \$	Opening Bal. \$	Opening Bal. \$
Deposits \$ 13,566.75	Deposits \$	Deposits \$	Deposits \$
Expenditures \$ 5,313.83	Expenditures \$	Expenditures \$	Expenditures \$
Closing Bal. \$ 42,848.08	Closing Bal. \$	Closing Bal. \$	Closing Bal. \$

As of March 31st 2004 we have 152 paid up Members at Large and 88 of 172 chapters fully paid up and in good standing, Unfortunately that leaves 49 % of the Chapters in arrears.

*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 –
rkmch1@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:**
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Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5Y 2S1
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- **Newsletter Editor
and Webmaster**
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Petersham, MA, USA, 01366
978-724-3270 – rflaford@tiac.net

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Massachusetts Chapter-1 was the first Chapter of the Red Knights back in 1982 and their chapter leadership is spearheading 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. 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.

Yes, 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: \$ _____
Please make checks payable to:
Red Knights International Memorial Fund

Personal
 Club
Please check appropriate Box

Shrewsbury Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union
PO Box 227
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

**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 rkmch1@mindspring.com

There are times when you just have to ride. Anyone that does or has ridden a motorcycle knows this. It is both an addiction and a cure.

It is an addiction in that when you are not riding you are thinking about riding. When you are not on a road trip, you are planning the next one.

For all that it demands as an addiction, riding pays you back many times over by being a cure. Riding will lighten your mood, and curb your anxieties. It will calm you, crystallize your thinking, and organize your mind. If everyone rode, there would be no need for psychiatrists; and probably much less need for lawyers.

From "Life is a Road – the Soul is a Motorcycle"
by Daniel Meyer

Reminder...

Vote
At this year's convention, the positions of Vice-president, International Secretary, Chairman and Secretary to the Board are up for election/reelection. Anyone who intends to run for International Office at the convention in August should announce their intentions at the Red Knights meeting held at Americade in Lake George. (Any bylaw change submissions must be also into the board within the designated time frame [90 days prior to the convention] as stipulated in the bylaws).

Anyone planning to run for office that will not be at Americade should forward relevant information to a member of the International Executive Board or the Board of Directors before Americade.

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

Members of RK Mass-2 recently voted to institute a scholarship program available to young riders in their area.

A suggestion from inside its membership, the club is organizing a program to help fund tuition to the MSF New Riders' program. "To a new rider, the cost of a rider education course may prohibit him or her from taking the valuable education, especially a 16 or 17 year old", said

Chapter President Bob Laford. "We hope that by making financial assistance available to young people in our area, it will help encourage more of them to take the training and start their riding career on the right foot."

We received a number of emails and pictures from members throughout the cold north telling us of their fire department actions during the cold weather months. Alberta Firefighters sent us pictures of a block of stores in their area that looked like a ice castle in a Disney movie. New England had two weeks of below zero weather (that's Fahrenheit) during a January that forecasters said was the coldest since 1888!



Above is a very cold looking Dave Emery (on right), Fire Chief in Brattleboro, VT and Vice-chairman to the Red Knights Board of Directors at a large storage facility fire in his community in January when temperatures were well below zero (F). This picture and a story about the fire appeared at Firehouse.com. Hopefully all that cold weather is behind us for a few months, and all the ice will be gone when we head to Alberta for our 2004 convention!

Connecticut Chapter 2 is planning for their 4th annual **Ride & Stay Weekend** in New Hampshire July 22-25th, 2004 (3 nights) in Lincoln, NH. Weekend includes dinner certificate for Thursday or Friday dinner, Club BBQ on Saturday, and farewell breakfast on Sunday, plus a group ride on Saturday before the BBQ.

Check out their web page or contact Diane O'Hagen for more information. (860-871-0725)

Kudos to our members in Maryland 3! This article appeared in the Delmarva Daily Times:
Shore Life! By Kristin Roberts

Firefighters are a talented lot. Many fight fires, save lives and still have energy left over for some personal activities. A motorcycle club made up of firefighters, the Red Knights, has fun, but does good works, also.

Recently, the biking brotherhood got together to help Timmy Corbin of West Ocean City, who suffers from a debilitating condition that affects his spinal cord and mobility.

He's been at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center for therapy, and when he comes home, he'll be riding in a wheelchair, so the guys of the bike club got together and built him a beautiful ramp.

Now, he can bypass the steps to his front door and "cruise" down to the car. It's a sweet thing, the ramp, neatly put together by those with contracting skills and a love of their fellow man in their hearts.

Home Depot donated the building materials.

The effort was organized by **Larry Sackadorf**, 43, who is a career firefighter and paramedic with Ocean City. He started the bike club chapter, and it's going gangbusters.

"We started with about 17 members in 2002 and now we're up to about 83 members," said Sackadorf. The guys come from different fire companies.

"We've got members from clean over in Hillsboro in Queen Anne's County near Route 404, to Hurlock and Snow Hill," he said.

Last year the bikers were asked by the organizers of Delmarva Bike Week to head up a 9-11 remembrance week in Ocean City. They also do charitable rides.

A couple of months ago 50 members of Red Knights rode to Nesquehoning, Pa. in memory of a firefighter who drowned in Ocean City. The ride took five hours, and the family of the man sent the club video tapes of the news coverage their ride generated.

There is a **Firefighter's Poker Run for Cancer** scheduled for Saturday, May 22nd and beginning in Robbinsville NJ.

Registration is 9-10 am at the Washington Township Fire Department on Rt. 130 in Robbinsville. You can also pre-register at Harley Davidson of Edison. Contact Don at 609-548-2637 for more information.

One of our newer chapters, NJ Chapter XI, chartered in Woodbridge Township is on the road supporting the organizers of the SOS Motorcycle Run scheduled for June 19 at the Wall Township Speedway in Wall, NJ.

This is a benefit ride to help law enforcement officers who have suffered disabling events that are not job related.

NJ-XI will be assisting with the escorted non-stop 40 mile run — ending with an all you can eat family style picnic and a night of racing at the Speedway. More info is online at www.SOSRUN.com.

Join your Red Knight brothers and sisters for some special events at Americade:

- **Three-course Dinner** hosted by the Red Knights on Wednesday evening. This is one of the events you can choose to attend on your registration form. Last year we hosted nearly 500 people for the dinner. PLEASE help us with door prizes. **Each chapter is asked to donate a door prize** (and get it to the President before June).
- **RKMC Open House and Meeting** at the Lake George FD Thursday evening, June 10. Come break bread with several hundred other Red Knights with Thursday's hosts, NY-12.
- **Wednesday afternoon seminar on "Planning for a long distance trip"** presented by International President Ed Brouillet and Editor Bob Laford, at Roaring Brook Ranch.

NOTICE TO ALL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Grant money for the promotion of the Red Knights Organization **is available** up to a maximum of \$300.00 per year per chapter on a first come bases till the funds are used up.

The guidelines for the money are they must used to promote the Red Knights International Organization. It can be used to rent booth space at trade or bike shows, to print up literature promoting the organization, to have a banner made for the chapter to display in parades or as a back stop at an information booth, etc.

The grant request must be applied for in writing to the International Secretary stating the actual cost of the project. Preference will be given to chapters that are also using some of their own funds. The requests will be presented to the Executive Board by the Secretary for approval then a check will be issued to those chapters that are approved along with a request to send back a picture or sample of the finished product.

Don't hesitate, as there is only so many projects that can be approved each year. Apply now – available funds are limited!

Are you riding distance from western Massachusetts?
What are you doing on July 24, 2004?

RK Mass Chapter 12 is holding a benefit ride for their Road Captain, Harley Maxwell. Harley was seriously injured when he was hit by a truck while on a ride earlier this year. He has been through several surgeries and could use our prayers — and our participation in this ride!

The date is Saturday, July 24, 2004. The ride leaves from the Elks Lodge at 429 Morgan Rd. in West Springfield, MA. Registration is 0900 to 1200. For more info contact chapter president Mike LaPalme at 413-821-9968 or Wsfddog@aol.com

Americade 2004

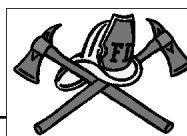
Lake George here we come!

To paraphrase *BackRoads* magazine, for one week in June all is right in our little motorcycling world. We live in a motorcycle nation, and that is just fine with us. With more than a 20-year history behind it, Americade is one of the best places you can ride to on your bike. Good folks, good times, and great fun are to be had in early June each year.

Where else can you get together with more than 50,000 of your closest buddies – 300 or so of whom are fellow Red Knights – look at every conceivable motorcycle accessory, view and test ride bikes from a dozen different manufacturers, and enjoy planned and unplanned rides on some of the most wonderful riding roads in the northeast.

This year Americade is scheduled for June 7 to 12 in Lake George, NY. Their *Tour Expo* is expanding beyond Million Dollar Beach to include the new indoor convention center built across from the Holiday Inn.

The Red Knights have been active and visible in nearly all the Americades over the past two decades and 2004 is no different. Come and meet up with old friends and new ones at the Thursday evening open house at the Fire Station where we will have a general meeting and dinner together. See you in Lake George!



Don't forget to bring your **FIRE HELMET** to wear in the Saturday parade!

The Red Knights are still the only non-commercial organization that has been asked to be a host to one of the week's Three-Course Dinners. As in the last few years, the **Red Knights are hosting the Wednesday evening Three-course dinner at Roaring Brook Ranch.**

After last year's dinner, International President Ed Brouillet was approached by Americade founder Bill Dutcher and asked, "How do you do it?!" We gave away more than 70 door prizes during the dinner while major corporate sponsors gave away prizes in the single digits. Ed's answer, "**It's our members!**"

That is what makes the RKMC sponsored dinner so special. The Red Knights are part of the crowd that shares dinner time together. The Red Knights work together to provide great hospitality for the evening. And it's the Red Knights who pile up the door prizes more than any other sponsor!

Our members were stopped on the street and in the Tour Expo on Thursday and Friday by people who attended our dinner and thanked them for a great time — and everyone of those people said, "WOW, what great prizes!"

So, help us keep this tradition alive. Can we get more than 70 prizes again this year? It's up to the chapters and their members. Please start thinking about door prizes. Even those gifts that you got for Christmas that you know you'll never use. We have over 4,000 members, and over 170 chapters, and **we are asking that each chapter send a door prize** to International President Ed Brouillet before Americade. Are you coming to Americade? **Bring a door prize with you!** Let's show those big corporate sponsors how to do it once again.

And as always, thank you all for making our organization what it is. Like you, I am proud to be a Red Knight!

Ride and Function Insurance

The International Executive board strongly suggests that any time your chapter sponsors or co-sponsors an event that you purchase Liability Insurance to cover not only your chapter and it's members but the facility where you are hosting your event.

Over the last three years we have made this easy for the chapters to purchase insurance by getting a blanket type policy through an insurance broker. Again this year we are offering this to the chapters at a reduced cost. Here is how it breaks down.

To insure every participant coming to your ride, dance, or fundraiser for up to \$1,000,000.00 of personal liability it will cost: For 1-250 participants it costs the chapter \$120.00, for 251-500 participants it cost the chapter \$150.00 for 500-

1500 it costs the Chapter \$250.00, for 1500-3000 participants it costs the chapter \$310.00, anything over 3000 will cost the chapter \$400.00.

I need at least two weeks notice to get the policy so please try to work within those restraints. All I need is a check for the amount made out to Red Knights International, the name and address of the place where your event will end up, and the date or dates of your event. I say dates because if you are holding a weekend event then you are covered for the entire weekend.

Thank you and Ride safe,
Michael (CUE) LeBlanc, Secretary
Red Knights International
Rkri1cue@aol.com 401-933-1760

From the Vice-president

As the International grows larger and larger with more chapters and Members-At-Large the Executive Officers become more challenged. There are more questions to answer. There is more area to service and more demand. We constantly adjust our roster to keep up with the need. The tools we have to work with are becoming a challenge. All of the officers do not have the programs in their computers necessary to do their job. This creates a second problem because we cannot share information with PC's that are not compatible. To assist the executive Board with tracking merchandise, members, addresses and be more efficient it may be time to purchase some equipment. We will be talking more about this at Lake George and this year's convention.

Before I go any further with my article it is with sincere regret I must tell you our Member-At-Large, Larry Greker, passed away August 15, 2003. Our sympathy goes out the Larry's wife and his family. Anytime we loose a member on or off the job we need to submit their name to Don Parker to be recorded on the cenotaph.

I also must send best wishes to Clayton Thomas who had to step down as Secretary of the Board of Directors for health reasons. Clayton has agreed to continue chairing the committee that is assigned to publish our 25th year anniversary book. Don Bradon will fill in for Clayton as Board of Directors

Secretary until the convention. At that time there will be an election for the remaining term. We owe Don a "big thanks" for taking on this responsibility on while trying to host the convention.

I feel I have met my obligation as your Vice-President. I feel I have brought the MAL membership up to a standard that everyone should be satisfied with in the organization. We have less delinquent dues paying members on the roster then ever before. We have improved the line of communication via regular mail, E-Mail and the newsletter. All Members-At-Large have now received a copy of our latest Constitution and Bylaws and the Help-a-Knight directory along with the most current list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of the Executive Board Members and the Board of Directors. This didn't just happen overnight. And it didn't happen without help. As the Executive Board Members have stated before and agreed to, supporting each other and helping one another to continue the level of service takes to run the International. I thank each and every Board Member for making my job a lot easier for me. I hope I can repay the favor some day. It is a pleasure for me to serve as the International Vice-president. The first day I took office I felt it was an honor and a privilege. I feel the same today. This is an election year for me and I hope I can count on your support to re-elect me as your Vice-president for another term. I hope to see all of you at Lake George and I am

International Quartermaster

The International Quartermaster's position has been extremely busy this past year. As I'm sitting here typing out this letter we have 176 chapters' worlds wide with over 5000 members. I have to admit, I never imagined in my wildest dreams that when I stepped into this position I would be spending 20-25 hours a week (or more) on RKMC club business. We are growing at an unbelievable rate and I'm happy to say I don't see any end in sight. ALL the members of the International Board are doing an incredible job to help make the Red Knights what it is and hat it will be.

Trademarking paperwork is now available on the International's web sight, as well as an information sheet to help build the catalog pages for each item. I would like to remind all chapters that any and all RKMC items your chapters are making need to be registered with the International Quartermaster. When submitting the trademark users agreement and catalog submission form it would be very helpful if you could also email a good quality digital picture of the item. As items get cataloged they will receive a Red Knights identification number. Any item not submitted by the end of this calendar year will be dropped from the web page catalog.

Due to the ever increasing size of the club and the large volume of orders being sent to the International Quartermaster, as of July 1, 2004 the International Quartermaster will no longer be accepting orders from individual members (MAL excluded). ALL orders must be sent in as one group as a chapter from your chapter quartermaster. If you have any questions or concerns about this new policy please feel free to contact me.

Stay safe and have a fun riding season!

Joe Conroy
International Quartermaster

looking forward to the convention. Travel Safe.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Jack C. Downs, International VP

RED KNIGHTS' 50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 Raffle needs your support! Each year the Red Knights run a 50/50 raffle with a drawing at the convention. The raffle supports publicity of the Red Knights, including newsletter publishing and mailing costs. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to the club and fifty percent to the winner!

This newsletter (and every newsletter) has two \$5 tickets attached to the center of the newsletter. Every member is being asked to buy or sell these two tickets (Chapters are being asked to buy six tickets each and those will be in a separate mailing). With over 4,000 members the potential to help the Red Knights through this drawing is BIG! Think of the 50/50 prize that will be drawn at the convention if everyone sells two tickets. *You do not have to be present to win at the convention.*

If you want to sell more tickets (to your friends, family, and co-workers) so they can have a chance to win cash too, just photo copy the tickets and **SELL! SELL! SELL!**

The 50/50 raffle is a fund raising event that subsidizes postage for the newsletter, ads in magazines & bike related newspapers, and the International's web page. Without a successful 50/50 raffle the International would have to look to the members for additional financial support.

Please help by buying and selling the 50/50 tickets printed on the side of this page, that's just two tickets per member plus six tickets per chapter. If you have any questions contact Peg Brouillet of Mass-2. Sold tickets and money (checks only to RKMC-International, please don't mail cash) should also be sent to Peg by **July 15** (or brought to the convention)

Peg Brouillet
326 Minot Road
Westminster, MA 01473 (USA)
(978) 632-8230

RKMA2@net1plus.com

Thanks to your support, last year's raffle brought in \$1,862 that was split between the Red Knights and the winner. Please support this fund drive by purchasing the two tickets included in this mailing. **Forward ticket sales and stubs to Peg by July 15** so the Club can track Chapter activity in this effort. Thanks for your help and see you in Alberta!

(You don't have to be present in Alberta to win)

Chapter Tickets have been sent in the President's mailing

RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE CLUB

2004 CONVENTION – EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Support our brothers and sisters in Alberta-1 and purchase ad space in the convention booklet!

For any Chapter that has hosted one of the annual conventions you know that Alberta-1 has been working hard. This work began long before last year's convention even began in preparation for the arrival of the Red Knights in Edmonton this August.

Along with the work are some costs to the club. The primary way for them to raise funds to pay for the club's convention expenses is through their convention program and ad book.

If you run a business or know of a business that would like to advertise in the booklet OR if your chapter would like to take out an ad to support AB-1 OR for those of you who cannot make the convention and would like to support our hosts with an ad in their books...

Advertising rates for Souvenir Journal
Camera ready art work necessary. We accept no responsibility for poor quality reproduction artwork

Full page	Half page	\$	Quarter page
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Make money orders or cheques payable to RKMC Alberta-1, attach ad copy and/or artwork as it is to be published and forward by **May 30, 2004** to :

Don Brandon, Program Coordinator
Red Knights Alberta 1
6246 - 162 B Ave
Edmonton, AB T5Y 2S1
(780) 473 - 8929

Alberta-1 thanks any and all supporters (businesses, chapters, and individuals) for help promoting the Red Knights and the 2004 Convention.

The Red Knights needs your support!

Please find the two 50/50 tickets (\$5 each) in this mailing and buy or sell them. 50% of the proceeds from our 4,000 (+) members will go to the winner to be drawn at our August convention. Return the ticket stubs and checks (made out to RKMC) to Peg Brouillet

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 17th to 19th – 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

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 – www.infoedmonton.com

www.travelalberta.com – www.discoveredmonton.com

Information and Registration Forms are available on line at www.redknightsmc.com.

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.

1st Responder Articles

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

We have been presented with a promotional tool that I think will greatly assist our organizations growth and future.

The people at the 1st Responder firefighters newspaper have presented us with this offer. If your chapter has a ride or function and has a group picture or a small write up about the function get it to me and I will see that it gets into the next issue of the paper designated for your area.

Be sure to try to provide some info about the photo also. IE names or place it was taken.

Thanks,
Mike (CUE) LeBlanc,
International Secretary

RED KNIGHTS Grand Tour

The Grand Tour is alive and well
(and getting bigger and better).

Since the International Board reinstated the Grand Tour at the 1998 convention it has grown every year. In 1999 we had 32 members complete a Tour. After a note in the Newsletter in the spring of 2001, participation started to grow again with 31 members finishing a Tour in that year, 40 in 2002, and 85 last year!

I am sure that by the time you read this I will have had to purchase our second photo album since the first is almost full and I am expecting several applications to come over the next several weeks.

A new pin has been designed and I hope to have them by the end of April. The pin is a depiction of the RK seal with a firehouse in the center in place of the motorcycle.

Please continue to support Grand Tour. It can be a lot of fun. Several chapters are using the Tour as a club ride every year while others are incorporating a Tour into a poker run.

Henry Heideman
Grand Tour Chairman

hmheideman@sympatico.ca – 905-372-6073

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 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.

How about your chapter and the chapters around you? Or even on your bike solo or with a few friends? Maybe in the Fall newsletter it will be your picture that we see in this space celebrating your GRAND TOUR!

Be a part of the Red Knights Anniversary Yearbook

The Red Knights are planning a 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.

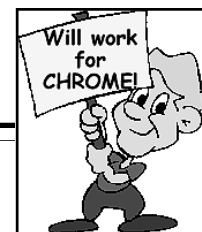
I am open for any and all suggestion that anyone might have to make this something that everyone will want to purchase!

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).

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



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**

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 (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.

Please look over your state listing and let our editor know if there are people listed who are no longer members of your chapters. Thank you.

The Red Knights are supporters of the **Ride for Kids** in many places throughout our organization. Come join thousands of your motorcyclist friends and help us help the medical research community find the cause and the cure of childhood brain tumors. And when you ride with others side by side in that endless column of bikes, people waving at you at every turn, you know you're making a positive statement for our sport at the same time.

As the national Ride for Kids program enters its 21st season, four new cities are being added to the roster, bringing the total to 29 Rides for the 2004 Ride for Kids schedule. The new Ride for Kids events are scheduled for Denver, CO; Raleigh-Durham, NC; Kansas City, MO and Madison, WI.

Motorcyclists are the heart and soul of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and the Ride for Kids program, raising more than \$20 million since 1984 to support the Foundation's research and family support programs. More children in America today die of brain tumors than from any other cancer. The support that motorcyclists have provided across America is bringing hope to thousands of children and their families. Join in the excitement and make a difference in a child's life! To find out how to register for the Ride for Kids event in your area, please call (800) 253-6530 or visit www.rideforkids.org.

About the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation funds medical research grants to help find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. The Foundation is the largest source of non-governmental funding for pediatric brain tumor research in the world. The PBTF also offers family support programs for families with a child who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Programs include free literature about brain tumors, the *Helping Hand* national newsletter, the Informed Parent Internet Conference series and college scholarships. For

more information about Ride for Kids® or the PBTF, please call (800) 253-6530 or visit the Foundation's websites at www.rideforkids.org or www.pbtfus.org.

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

Upcoming Ride Dates

2-May	Pittsburgh, PA	8-Aug	Madison, WI
2-May	Triangle Area , NC	15-Aug	New England
		29-Aug	Ann Arbor, MI
16-May	Torrance, CA	29-Aug	Asheville, NC
6-Jun	Atlanta, GA	12-Sep	Puget Sound WA
6-Jun	Richmond, VA	19-Sep	Columbia, MD
26-Jun	Knoxville, TN	19-Sep	St. Louis, MO
27-Jun	Colorado	26-Sep	Birmingham, AL
11-Jul	Indianapolis, IN	3-Oct	Sacramento, CA
13-Jul	Kansas City, MO	10-Oct	Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX
18-Jul	Chicagoland IL	17-Oct	Phoenix, AZ
18-Jul	Utica, NY	24-Oct	Louisiana
25-Jul	Minnesota	7-Nov	Dunnellon, FL
31-Jul	Marysville, OH		
1-Aug	Hudson Valley, NY		

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

Spring 2004

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



**2004 RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 4, 2004

Forward Registration form to: Red Knights Alberta 1
c/o Bob Harris
6615 – 123 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 3T3

NOTE: All amounts are in “Canadian” dollars. Please make cheques payable to “Red Knights Alberta-1”

Chapter:			
Name:			
Address:			
City, Province/ State:		Country:	
Telephone No.:	Area Code:	Telephone No.:	
Convention Registration Fee			\$125.00
Convention “T-Shirt” (circle size) S M L XL XXL XXXL			N/A
Pre-Trip to Jasper, Banff and Canmore August 17 – 19 \$299.00 per person NOTE: A deposit of \$100 is required before June 4, 2004.		Attending []	Not Attending []
Thursday Night – Pub Crawl \$10.00 per person		Attending []	Not Attending []
Friday Night – Barbecue at Fort Edmonton \$10.00 per person		Attending []	Not Attending []
Convention Golf Shirt \$35.00 each S M L XL XXL XXXL			
Convention Ladies Sleeveless \$35.00 each S M L XL XXL XXXL			
<u>TOTAL</u>			\$

E-mail address to confirm that registration has been received: _____

AIRPORT PICK-UP REQUIRED YES [] NO []
Please e-mail arrival information (date, time, airline, and flight number) to Elaine Court at gecourt@shaw.ca

Host Hotel: Executive Royal Inn (state “Group No. 1347” to get Red Knights Room rate of \$99.00
www.executivehotels.net/edmonton/edmonton.html

Red Knights Motorcycle Club

c/o 276 West Road
Petersham, MA 01366
USA

www.redknightsmc.com

Look inside for information on the Convention in Alberta, Americade in Lake George, happenings around the chapters, the 2004 50/50 raffle and much, much more!

Never ridden in Alberta before?? There was an article in the March issue of Wing World that talked about how great a riding experience Alberta is. Here is an excerpt from the article. After reading it, then you can start planning your own riding experience by heading to Alberta this August for the **2004 Red Knights Convention!**

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We've lived in five provinces and though they all have their special places and singular allure, Alberta is the one place I always drift back to when it comes to riding. Today we are going to do one of our "all-time favorite, best choice, it doesn't get any better than this" kind of rides. The kind of ride people gush and drool over when you show them pictures of the bike parked beside a frozen lake, and glaciers that come down and kiss the shoreline, even though the temperature at the top of the pass stands at 22 degrees Celsius. We are going to ride the Icefield Parkway, which will take us over arguably the most spectacular and breathtaking stretch of highway in North America. We will cover seven hundred kilometers, pass numerous stunning vistas, climb above the tree line through the Bow Pass, (hoping that the snow has been graded off the highway at the peak), and pass several glaciers during the course of the day. Any ride in Alberta is a good ride, but whenever I ask other Alberta riders to tell me what their favorite ride is, the Saskatchewan River Crossing, Lake Louise, Banff loop is always the one at the top of the pack.

Alberta is big sky country. When you're under it you can feel its presence. It presses down on you. You can feel the stress and tensions of the day or week oozing out your boots, over the floorboards and washing away as the asphalt rolls away behind you. You feel yourself decompressing beneath that wide, blue vault. One of the first comments I hear repeatedly from first time visitors to Alberta is how blue the sky is.

We flow with the traffic to Sylvan Lake, knowing that a lot of the four-wheeled boxes and square, boxy RV's will take the turnoff to the lake, and that the road will then open up for us as we press on toward Rocky Mountain House. One of the really great things about this particular ride is that the traffic is incredibly light on this upper section, and you have long stretches of road all to yourself. You often have the opportunity to practice "Counter Steering 101" on the countless twisty sections that stretch out and beckon to you. It's easy to twist that right wrist just to let the bike get up and dance and stretch her legs a bit every once in awhile. Excerpt from *Alberta Sunrise*, by Chris Besse, Red Deer, Alberta

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Ready for your riding time in Alberta? We'll see you at the convention!