

*Red Knight
Motorcycle Club
International
Newsletter*

*Spring
2015
Edition*



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Letter From the Editor Page 3

Presidents Report Page 4

Officers Corner

Treasurer's Report Page 5
The Chaplain's Corner & Secretary's Report Page 6
Members that past away & New Chapters Page 7
International Quartermaster Page 8
Help-A-Knight Page 9
Helmet Stickers & 4 Cornor Park Hero's Wall Page 10
International Fall Meeting Minutes Page 11 - 21
Bylaw Change Proposals Page 22 - 25

Region 1:

Directors Report Page 26 - 29
2016 Yankee Rally Report Page 29
Hands Across the Border & NY Rally Page 30
NJ Patriot run & 9/11 Ride Page 31

Region 2:

Directors Report Page 32 -33

Region 3:

Directors Report Page 34 -35
PA Association Report Page 35- 36
Soup-R-Kids Event Page 36

Region 4:

Directors Report Page 37

Region 5:

Directors Report Page 37

Region 6:

Directors Report Page 38
Fallen Firefighter Flags Page 38 - 39
Memorial Ride for burned Firefighter Page 40

Region 7:

EUROPEAN NEWS & Iron Butt Program Page 41-42
Arco's New Member Story Page 42
UK / IRELAND & UK & Ireland Meeting Page 43 - 44
Germany Page 44 - 47
Belgium Page 47 - 49
France Page 50 - 51
Switzerland Page 52
New Zealand Page 53 - 64



Editor's Report

Hello to all my Brothers and Sisters

Before I start, I just want to thank all of you that sent well wishes to me when I was in the hospital 300 miles away from home. I have been going through a lot of health issues but I am on the mend and I vow to work hard to keep this newsletter up and running for all my brothers and sisters world wide! All the well wishes gave me the strength to work harder for all of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

This newsletter was a bit challenging because it was a long, long winter and in the northeast, record snowfall and cold temperatures. Thanks to all that sent in articles, the newsletter is filled with great articles from around the world.

It's finally riding time again! Great events are happening all over the world and the Convention in Texas is sure to be a great time. The first ever Yankee Rally has a much bigger than expected showing. It is just before Americade and just a few miles away.

It would be nice to hear from the MAL's. I am sure a lot of MAL's are very active and we all want to hear from you.

I have been asked by several members if we will ever print hard copies and send the newsletter via snail mail, especially for the members that do not have an email or access to the internet and for now the answer is no. The cost to start up and maintain such a task would put a large strain on the organization financially. I do ask that, for now, all directors for MAL's and presidents that may have members that do not have an email or internet access, please find a way to get the newsletter to these members.

Please remember to thank all that is involved in this newsletter, I am just a small piece of the puzzle. All of the world reporters that work so hard to get articles are the foundation of this newsletter. Australia Reporter: J. Steve 'Bull' Payne, New Zealand Reporter: Adam Knezovic, England / Europe Reporter: Steve Williamson and all Regional Directors. Sometimes I am nothing more than a haunt to them but they come through with some great stories.

I am working on a new audio version of the newsletter for member that is either on the run or has difficulty reading. It should be out in a few days from the newsletter

Last, I am always open to suggestions and hope that each of you please contact me with any suggestions to make this newsletter a much better experience.

David Michaud
International Newsletter Editor
Quartermaster/Treasurer ME 7
<mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com>



Presidents Report

Spring is HERE! At least for us in the northern places. Our friends in PEI might see the snow melt by convention. I sure have been thinking about the Kiwis and Aussies nice weather while I was plowing snow here on the East coast and couldn't get the bike out for months.

We have had a busy winter around here. We did have a chance to get to the after Christmas party in New Jersey as well as the annual dinner and elections with Massachusetts 4. The Maryland State meetings are always productive and a great lunch to boot! I also had a chance to have dinner with GA 13.

The Board has been busy working on many fronts. If you haven't looked yet, please take a moment to look at the new, revised SOG's, they are much shorter and easier to read, and hopefully easier to translate for our brothers and sisters that don't read/speak English as their native language.

We have entered into a contract with Harris Connect, a publishing company to write a book on the history and members of our organization. This will be a year plus long project where they will send out postcards to all members requesting you to call a toll free number. They will then collect some simple information from you (example, verify address and number) and if you want they will take a short story from you and a picture is you send them one. We are excited about this project for so many reasons, one of which, we really want to get the original history from our founders in writing.

A new web hosting service is now under contract as well. Once the new site is built and approved, the transfer should be seamless. Hopefully one day in late May or early June you will go to the website and see an all new design. We will NOT be changing anything related to the chapter email accounts until after the election process is completed. In August the Email accounts will be moved to the new Server, during that process, **ANY EMAILS ON THE OLD SERVER WILL BE LOST!** During all of these changes, our current webmaster, Tommy will be keeping the website rolling along. We all owe a huge thanks to Tommy for the countless hours he has spent keeping our site running for the last year plus. Keeping up with and trying to decipher what we send him is a chore to say the least. Thanks Tommy!

After nearly 10 years of the Board meeting Spring and Fall in Syracuse, NY we have decided to make a change. As a cost savings effort, we are going to be meeting near Baltimore Washington Airport starting this fall. If you would like to come in and see what we do, please let your Regional Director know. He will give you the specifics on dates and times.

Our big kickoff for spring is the DIXIE rally. This year it's in New Orleans, hosted by LA1. Shortly after I look forward to the first ever YANKEE rally, it's in New York, hosted by NY12. The annual International Convention is in Texas this year. I heard a rumor that the weather might be warm in San Antonio in August. The KORT (Knights Of the Round Table) or the "gathering of the Knights" is being hosted by the Red Knights New Jersey Trifecta in October.

As a small token of our appreciation for all chapters/members who submitted the International dues on time this year, we sent out a medical data card and carrier for use on your helmets. Please fill out and place on your helmet. Hopefully it will never be used, but it may help if the need arises. As most of us are getting ready for a busy riding season, I want to personally ask each and every one of you to ride safe, drink responsibly, stay out of trouble and most of all HAVE FUN!

Chris Gadway
International President



Treasurer's Report

Before I get into the “business” end of my comments, I want to thank all the people who are involved in sharing news from other Red Knights. I don’t just mean David with the Newsletter, George with the Forum, Tom Tom with the International Facebook page, or Scarlet and Smooches with the All Members Facebook page. I also mean all the members who contribute stories, questions, pictures, and posts in all these means of communicating with one another. This past winter we broke a record for the most snow in one season ever recorded, over 18 feet of snow. As you can well imagine, this has cut into our riding season a bit. Seeing all the pictures and stories about other members getting out with fellow Red Knights, or even just a quick snapshot of a stop along the road helped me retain a little bit of sanity through a long winter. Seeing brothers and sisters enjoying motorcycling and the fellowship of firefighters around the world always leaves me feeling good about being part of this huge family.

Over the winter, I sat down a few times and updated a map of all those family members. You can find the link to this map on the Treasurer’s Page on the International Website. Every so often I throw the link up on facebook but it doesn’t take long for other newer stories to push that down the page so I intend to keep the link on my page so you can easily find it anytime you like. If you haven’t looked at the map, I strongly encourage you to do so, no doubt you will be surprised at how many towns and cities around the globe there are members. Please note, the map is not 100%, I take the information from the rosters sent to me and I have found a town or two that wasn’t spelled exactly right, when that happens it’s hard to say where that dot will land on the map. As well, the map is not as up to date as the new member applications are. With as many members as we have, it can take hours for Google Fusion Tables to update the information, and that’s if I’m not doing anything else on the computer.

Speaking of not doing anything else on the computer, from about early December when dues started to first roll in to well after the 15th of February, it wasn’t often that I had the opportunity to do nothing else on the computer. I appreciate all the help and patience from chapters and MALs as I updated rosters and dues amounts for you. In a way it was good to get all the snow because there wouldn’t have been much time to ride anyway.

New to the Red Knights this year are the Medical Data Carriers (stickers to go on helmets with information that may help EMS/Hospital staff if the need ever arises). I certainly hope nobody ever gets to find out how well they work. To all my fellow Canadian Red Knights, if your dues were paid on time, you should have received an envelope from me with your stickers. If you paid on time and didn’t receive them, please let me know so I can look into what may have happened. I won’t automatically jump to blaming the post office but it will say “WOW” it sure did take long for some dues checks to get to me this year. Again, I thank you for your patience with UPS and Canada Post, I know there were several chapters that were getting worried about having their checks sitting in a post office somewhere for weeks (months in a few cases). I have my fingers crossed that I can get a system in place where this won’t be a problem in the future.

Ride Safe, Ride Often

Scott Ryan, International Treasurer



The Chaplain's Corner

The Matter of the Heart

"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me."

Matthew 15:8

Have you ever found yourself distracted during a time of worship? As you're singing, maybe you're thinking, *I am so sick of this song. Why are we still singing this song?* Or maybe you're looking around and saying to yourself, *I'm more spiritual than anyone here. I'm such an awesome worshiper.* Then again, you might be thinking, *I wonder what I should eat after church?*

During a worship service, it's possible to have no thought of God whatsoever. But here's what we need to know: Worship is not an art form; it is a heart form. God looks at what is going on inside. Quoting from Isaiah, Jesus said, "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me" (Matthew 15:8).

Jesus told the story of a Pharisee and a tax

International Secretary

As we are now in the third quarter of 2014, I find the time is flying by.

As I look back over this year so far, I find that I have not attend (visited) as many chapters and members as I had planned. I have attended the Dixie Rally (Region 4 in Virginia, the International Convention (in Prince Edward Island, Canada) , the 343 Memorial Ride in North Carolina, the National Motorcycle Museum in Iowa, the 2014 Fire Riders Iron and Steel ride (NY to VA) and the Knights of the Round Table tournament in Texas.

Along the way I have met many old and new members of our club. It is always a benefit of my position to meet new members and we have added thirteen new chapters this year and had 46 requests for information on starting new chapters. I am looking forward to adding a few more chapters before the end of the year.

We held the fall International Board meeting on November 12-16, 2014 in Syracuse New York. I want to thank the Board for working hard to finish the 58 items on the agenda including the review and approval of the SOG manual. We also had a presentation on a new computer RKMC Management tool that will be a benefit to the Board in our record keeping.

We have added a Communication Committee, a Newsletter Committee and a new Chairperson for the help the Knight program this year. We are always looking at ways to make this program better for our members.

Loyal to Our Duty

Bill Snodgrass
Int. Secretary
Int. Chaplain

collector who both went to the temple to pray. Tax collectors were despised in the eyes of nearly everyone, while Pharisees were the most religious guys around. Jesus said that the "Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess' " (Luke 18:11–12).

The tax collector, however, stood at a distance in the temple. He wouldn't even look up to heaven as he beat his breast and prayed, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!"

Jesus concluded by saying, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other" (verse 14). Why? Because his heart was right toward God.

When we worship, let's do it from our heart. Because the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.

Bill "Popeye" Snodgrass



Members that past away

It is an unfortunate part of life but we must never forget our fallen brothers and sisters. Below is a list of the more recent member that has past away.

Sonny Boryszewsk	CT 2
Tracy A.Risko	NY 3
Mark Wentovich	MAL
Mary Scalzo	NY 8
Alan Stanton	NY 47
Gregory Darnell	TN 2
Charles Shinsky	DE 4
Lucille Tiffany	NY 43
David Swift	WA 2
Dale Boismenu	IL 21

New Chapters:

West Virginia 9	Vienna
Wales 1	Prestatyn
Maine 10	Kennebunk
Germany 11	Freiburg
British Columbia 3	Sidney
Quebec 5	Gatineau
Australia 15	Ballarat
Maine 11	Glenburn
Ontario 22	Orillia
Australia 14	Lockington

Trademarks: Names and Patches

Please take the time to know about our Trademarks ® and when the trademark logo has to be used. The TMLA info is here: <http://www.redknightsmc.com/useofnamesandlogo.py>:

The following names must have a license for anyone to use:

- Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club®
- Red Knights Motorcycle Club®
- Red Knights®
- RKMCC®
- Our logo®

Quartermaster's Corner



Spring 2015

Hello to all,

Kevin B. Williams here, I'm YOUR Red Knights International Quartermaster.

Recently I received a large order of patches to keep me well stocked for the many orders from the 20 countries that our membership resides in.

When placing your order, please be sure to check the cost of shipping.

If you choose to use the US Postal service to send me your order, you need to send me the most current order form, found in the "Downloadable Files" section of the RKMC website.

Looking at the home page of redknightsmc.com, scroll down on the left side of the page, under the "Members" section, 5th line below that you will find the "Downloadable Files" icon.

If you prefer that I e-mail you the order form you can send me an e-mail & I will get it to you.

For those of you that enjoy wearing a RKMC ring, you will find the various sizes of rings we carry. The "Old Style Stainless Steel Ring" has very limited sizes and they are all listed on the order form. Please choose carefully as I am limited to what I have in stock & cannot get any more of these rings.

I am still looking to expand the ladies line of jewelry.

If you have a creative idea for me, please e-mail me the idea description, or a picture & vendor information so that I can see how best to include the idea into the Regalia sales.

If your idea becomes a Regalia item, I will post a pic of you wearing the item for our catalog and also post it on the RKMC facebook page.

We are selling the "Old Chenille" patches at clearance pricing.

The 10" Maltese Cross is \$10.00 and all rockers are \$5.00.

For those of you wishing to capture a piece of Red Knights history I suggest that you contact me soon. There are many members that are buying what is left for their trophy case.

I am always available by phone or text if you have a question about an order or a new product idea...732.692.3707.

For those of you that will be attending the International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, be sure to look me up.

I enjoy meeting the members from around the world and I will have everything in the catalog for sale there. Among the benefits of attending the convention is that you do not pay for shipping when purchasing the Regalia items.

Until next time; keep the rubber side down.

Proud to be a Red Knight,

Kevin B Williams

RKMC Intl QM

rkrquartermaster@redknightsreglaia.com

732.692.3707

What in the world is HELP-A-KNIGHT??



All Red Knights travel at some point. Whether it's on two wheels or in four or even in a toy hauler, you're on the road and away from home. What happens if you break down? What happens when you find yourself in an area that's totally new to you? Looking for a place to stay the night at a minimal or no cost or to park your bike if needed? Wouldn't it be great to have a fellow Brother or Sister to call on? Even if you've never met that person?

The Red Knights family spans the entire United States, Canada, Nova Scotia, and overseas our population is growing in England, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Norway, Belgium, Australia and New Zealand. We all are members for a reason and we all share the same background, firefighters and their family. We all have the same civic call to duty in our blood. We all take care of and help our own.

The Help-A-Knight program was started many years ago to help our Brothers and Sisters on the road but quickly expanded to Red Knights opening their homes to fellow Red Knights for overnight stay when needed. The program now includes overnight stay, tent stay on a property, safely parking a bike, coming to someone's assistance with tools and or a truck with trailer if available. Basically, if there is a Red Knight in your area who participates in the program, you contact them with your need and if they are available, they will help you.

I've heard stories of folks planning entire trips across the United States and never staying in a hotel. I've heard stories of folks breaking down hours and hours from home and needing parts where there weren't overnight delivery and a fellow Red Knight driving 45 minutes one way to help them get back on the road. I've heard stories of folks traveling and having an accident and a member from a local chapter going to the hospital to see to any needs they have. There have also been Red Knights that have lost loved ones and in the time that it takes them to get across the country, fellow Red Knights in the area of the loss have helped the family until the Red Knight's arrival. This is what it is all about. No Red Knight left on the side of the road, no Red Knight stranded, everyone having an extended family to count on. I've often said, the one thing I love about being a part of this organization is that you can walk up to pretty much any Red Knight you may come across, extend your hand and be pulled in to a hug instead. We truly are a family.

So how does Help-A-Knight work? Please visit the International website at www.redknightsmc.com and click on the link on the left hand toolbar under PROGRAMS that says HELP A KNIGHT. This will take you to the page where you can obtain any HAK (Help-A-Knight) information. You can click the link to sign up to be a part of the program and you can click the link to obtain a printable PDF list of all participants.

You also have me, Amanda "Smooches" Roun. I am available to assist (if it's possible) with your utilizing the program or connecting you with other Red Knights in your area. I'm very glad to do so! Our family is amazing and I enjoy very much meeting new Brothers and Sisters!

So take advantage of this program and meet your family! You won't regret it. You'll only enhance your experience! Don't forget to provide us your feedback on your experience, suggestions or feedback in general on how we can improve the program!

Amanda "Smooches" Roun
Help-A-Knight Coordinator
Email: Helpaknight@redknightsmc.com
Telephone: (856) 630-9277 (I do accept text messages)
Facebook: Amanda Leigh Roun

ATTENTION CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

There is funding available to the chapters and State or Provincial Associations to help with the promotion of the Red Knights Organization. There is funding available for registration fees or booth rental at trade shows and bike events, pamphlet printing, banners etc. to help promote the Red Knights Chapters and membership recruitment

The funding is available on a first application bases, on a matching dollar bases up to \$200.00 per application until the yearly budgeted allowance is depleted.

Full details are available in the International SOG's section 10 applications should be sent to the International Treasurer at treasurer@redknightsmc.com

There is also funding available for available for events at the Chapter, State/Provincial and Regional Association levels. Full details are available in the International SOG's under

section 10:02

Leo

Leo Patry

Helmet stickers purchased by the International Board

At the Fall 2014 meeting of the International Board, a discussion was held on the possibility of purchasing Helmet Medical Stickers for the membership who get their dues in by the February 15th deadline. The discussion centered on the helmet sticker as being a way to help medical personnel, responding to an accident involving a Red Knight Member, have the needed information available while lifesaving decisions are being made. While the Board hoped that no one would ever have to have their medical information used, we all know the reality: of people not seeing our headlights coming; drivers passing us and then cutting back in before seeing us in their mirrors and distracted drivers with their cell phone up to their ear. We have all been there/ done that and only thru the grace of God, have been able to avoid an accident.

However, the discussion had another turn. It seems that the European Medical responders have been trained in removing a helmet whereas many of our medical responders may be volunteers that are trained in how to keep us going but not particularly in how to safely remove a helmet. When these people come on the scene of an accident, they have to make decisions on how to triage the people involved based on what they see. As we all know, a helmet removed incorrectly can cause serious and sometimes, permanent damage and that is our main concern. In fact, the deal with the purchase of the stickers, came with notification of the larger ambulance/medical response departments as to what the stickers are for and how they can be helpful. But since there are so

Four Corner Park Report

As most of you know, the Four Corner Parks are some of the greatest rides you will ever go on. If you have ever been to them you know what I mean. Well the Madawaska Maine Park is a known as the best because they have done and continues to improve constantly. They now have created a heroes wall so now when bikers come up to see the park, they are able to look at patches all over the world. I have been approached and asked to see if your department and/or Chapter wants to be part of the hero's wall. there is no cost. All your department or chapter has to do is send me a patch, and I will add it to the hero's wall. So if you want to send a patch, send to: David Michaud Four Corner Park Hero's Wall 1431 Van Buren Road Caswell. ME 04750 and I will be proud to add it and I will send an email photo of your patch on the hero's wall of the Four corner park in Maine.

MINUTES OF RKR LTD CORPATION BOARD MEETING HELD IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK ON
APRIL 8, 2015.



Chris Gadway called meeting to order at 7:00 PM on April 8, 2015.

Roll call of Officers:

Board members present were:

Chris Gadway,

Bill Snodgrass, Secretary

Jack Jarvis, Vice Chairman

Scott Ryan, Treasurer

Guest: Norm Beausoleil

Leo Patry

Tom Delboi

NEW ITEMS:

- Web Master hours, transfer to RKI meeting
- Chenille Patches, transfer to RKI meeting

FROM THE QUARTERMASTER:

- I'm filling an order for a Medium butt buffer.

Last year when I sold the only medium that I had I did not order more, because in nearly two years we sold the only one I had in stock.

Leo & I agreed that there was not enough of a demand to justify keeping the medium in stock.

How about you bring this up for discussion @ the April meeting?

Scott and Kevin has the approval to place order as need to maintain stock

- Speaking of the April meeting, I'll be getting you the current inventory for the meeting.

Among the inventory we have many of the charcoal tee shirts.

I have found that we do not sell many of them in general.

I'd like to explore the idea of selling what we have in the charcoal & possibly discontinuing the color for a while.

- Same for the ladies V-neck tee shirts.
- We have 2 types of black, loads of dark blue (not a big seller), and an ash colored (more like another off shade of black) that doesn't sell much.

Scott and Kevin are to maintain the amount of stock as they see fit.

- How about I put together proposals based on what is in stock & how much actually moves and have it discussed in April?
- I'll be putting together an inventory of patches that we cannot use.

Some are misprints; others are patches that we have swapped with a chapter that had them printed incorrectly.

Scott is to destroy these items and write these items of for tax purposes

- We have 282 pieces of the old chenille patches that we are going to sale at a reduced price of \$10.00 for center and \$5.00 for rockers. We will keep one of each color patch for our records.

Motion 2015-001 was made and approved

- Scott presented the financial report for the year (see report on file).
- Discussion on design for new challenger coin led by Jack.

Submit your ideas to him and he will submit them the final ideas to the company and Board for final approval.

- Discussion on giving patches for uniforms to European members who attended the Annual Convention in Texas in August to take back to Europe. This needs to be discussed by the RKI Board.

It approved by the RKR, the RKI Board will readdress this by e-mail. We need to know who is going to be the Quartermaster before we do this.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 pm

Submitted By:

Bill Snodgrass

RKR Secretary

RKIFMC BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, April 9 to April 11, 2014
8:00 am 5:00 pm

PRESIDENT

1. Meeting called to order at 8:00 by Chris
2. Chaplain gave opening prayer.
3. Moment of Silence for those who have passed
4. Opening greeting from President
5. Roll Call

Chris Gadway, President, Present
Jack Jarvis, VP, Present
Bill Snodgrass, Secretary, Present
Scott Ryan, Treasurer, Present
Gil Rekken, Region 5, Present
Tom Delboi Region 7, Present

Norm Beausoleil, Region 1, Present
Leo Patry, Region 2, Present
Tim Reinard, Region 3, Present
Joey Powell, Region 4, Present
Joe Connors, Region 6, Present

All Board members presented.

6. Rules of meeting

- Break at 55 to 60 minutes
- Items for Executive session, must let Board know when and what

7. Reports

- President: Thank the Board for working together on several issues.

- Vice President: We are at almost 400 MALs. All overseas chapter dues were paid on time. It is working well with Tom Delboi handing the new MALs in Europe and mailing out their welcome package. He has agreed to continue to do this if the new Regional Director is in agreement.
- Secretary: The Medical Data Decal program in the US is completed, 5,934 were mailed out. Feedback has been very good from the chapters. Tim Reinard is to write something for the newsletter on this program All Medical Data Decals for the MALs, Overseas chapters and Europe have been given to Jack and Tom. Tim is to write a report on this program for the newsletter. Gave an update on the insurance and new chapter programs.
I have attended three funeral/memorial services for our members who have passed away. To date we have lost 10 members in 2015. I want to thank Region 3 Director, Tim Reinard, for assisting me in doing these as it was a big help. Since he became the Region 3 Director he has attended 10 funerals/wakes (in three regions) that I would have had to attend.
- Treasurer: Has been busy with the dues renewal. Has found that this position is taking more time than he thought it would. He submitted a copy of the financial report to the Board.
- Region One: he has new chapters in his region, happy to see it is growing. Working with the committee for the Yankee Rally. Looking for over 300 members to attend. Did have to change the host hotel but everything is moving forward.
- Region Two: Spend 4 months in Florida away from the cold and snow. Introduced his self to new chapters and MALs in region. Send out a letter to all chapter regarding term limits for Board members.
- Region Three: Traveling and trying to meet as many chapters as he can. Helped in the forming of three new State Associations. Attended a Fire Expo in Pittsburgh with chapters from PA. Printed tri fold brochures and gave out. Has a Regional Meeting scheduled for June.
- Region Four: Still having problems with GA 15, Challenged all chapter to get five (5) new members in 2015. The Dixie Rally will be held in Ocean City, MD in 2016 and in North Carolina in 2017.
- Region Five: Western Rally is in Alberta for 2015 and in North Dakota in 2016. Minnesota will be holding a state rally on July 17-19, 2015.
- Region Six: Brothers Keepers (1% club) is moving into Texas. They are ok with the Red Knights. He has a meeting set with the Hell Angels in Arizona. He has some problems with TMLAs in Texas and working to correct them.
- Region Seven: Still growing, has a problem with one chapter who does not understand the history if the Red Knights. Is working with them.

8. Convention reports

- Attends the Convention meetings, committee is work together. Went over details of what is need by the Board. Advise him that they would need to furnish equipment for the Board meetings (projector, extension cords for laptops). Chris is make arrangement to get RKIFMC equipment to Texas for convention. Advise him that the committee would need to print the International Handout booklet.
- 2016: Tim has a meeting in two weeks with the chapters in Wisconsin who are hosting the Convention and will give a report to the Board after the meeting.
- 2017: Julie Carson and Carlos Ferrer gave a power point presentation on the plans they are working on and will give it at the 2015 General meeting
- 2018: PA 8 is hosting but this may be change to the PA Association hosting. Plans are moving forward.
- 2019: Rumors that NH, OK and NB may submit bids to host. Norm is to meet with NH on 4/11/2015.
-

- 2020: The European Association will submit a bid to host in Styraia, Austria at 2015 General Meeting. Tom showed a power point presentation on their behalf.

9. Adjustments to Agenda

- Convention report from NY at 4:00 pm on Friday
- Web site proposal
- Web site

THE FOLLOWING WERE CARRIED OVER FROM THE 2014 FALL MEETING

10. Application for Hosting Convention, Scott is to re-write By-Law section 2:02 on Annual Meeting/Convention.

Done, what is on the web site is correct. CD was sent to all chapters/associations who are hosting in the future.

11. Ability for International officer to enact a suspension pending board approval

Discussion on this was led by Chris, Leo spoke against this. We have the means to be able to talk with each Board member on this issue as a group. It was agreed not to allow this at this time.

12. A discussion on having a First and Second Vice President and term limits

Chris showed power point for a new organization flow chart on this subject that was based on number of chapters/members. This would have a President, Executive VP, three Regional VP, Secretary, Treasurer and 10 Regional Directors. Good discussion on this idea which would take some time to develop to a point to present to the membership.

Power Point is to be sent to Board members for review and comments and review at the Fall Board meeting was to be submitted by Chris.

13. Different design on challenge coin, Norm is having photos taken of Memorial, Jack is working on design and will forward to Board members for review

Still working on design, Norm is working to getting the photos and will submit them to Jack for the design. Jack will submit to two different designs. Side one will be have the RKMC logo. Side two to have one of the new designs that will be approved by the Board.

14. Jackets for International Board members, Tom to show the International Board possible Jackets for board members.

Board was not interested at this time

15. Scott is to work on a SOG and by-law change for more than one regional meeting or for President/Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer travel.

In by-laws now, just need to advise Board of travel and reason for travel.

16. Board meetings location and dates for Fall Meeting, 2015

Best Western BWI Airport, October 18-20, 2015. RKR Board meeting will be at 1000 and the RKI 1300 on October 18, 2015.

17. Discussion on if we can get health (travel) insurance to cover us while we are on Red Knight business (Secretary to research)

Cannot get, Secretary checked with three companies

18. Business Plan Review (Saturday Morning)

This was tabled till October 18, 2015

PRESIDENT

19. By-law committee / general bylaw discussion

The by-law committee is not working at this time. We will be working to redo this committee. In the meantime all by-law proposals are to be submitted to the International Secretary. He is to advised the Board of any by-law proposals he receives and have them posted on the Red Knights web site.

Reviewed the following by-law proposals:

<i>Section 2:01 II</i>	<i>This is endorsed by the International Board</i>
<i>Section 2:01 VI</i>	<i>Leave as written in by-law</i>
<i>Section 3:04</i>	<i>This is not endorsed by the International Board</i>
<i>Section 3:05</i>	<i>This is not endorsed by the International Board</i>
<i>Section 3:14</i>	<i>This is not endorsed by the International Board (Bill/Scott declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting for this discussion)”</i>
<i>Section 3:22</i>	<i>housekeeping items (Pres, VP, Sec, and Tresurer to update by-laws</i>
<i>Section 3:17 I</i>	<i>housekeeping</i>
<i>Section 4:05</i>	<i>This is not endorsed by the International Board</i>
<i>Section 5:04</i>	<i>housekeeping does not need to go to the membership for a vote, remove section as shown</i>
<i>Section 5:06</i>	<i>This is endorsed by the International Board</i>
<i>Section 5:09</i>	<i>This is endorsed by the International Board</i>
<i>Section 4:02</i>	<i>This is endorsed by the International Board</i>

(Board agreed to post by laws proposals and rationale on web site, newsletter and International Booklet)

VICE PRESIENT

20. Andy Monell (to speak on By-Law 2:01) at 1000 hrs. (cancelled Jack to speak on this)

Andy did not show. This was addressed and an addition was made on the in the by-law proposals

21. Jason Collins would like to be able to purchase Australian rockers to wear only when he is here in the states. As of right now the SOG states that no 10" rockers are to be sold to Australian members.

Only Officers of the chapter may order patches and he is not an officer. Due to the law in Australia that bottom rockers cannot be worn on the back of the vest. Due to this, his request was not approved after discussion. As this will cause big problems in Australia and Ross is not in favor of this

22. Forum **TABLE TILL NOVEMBER**

Discussion was held on the need of having this or not. When we go to the new web site, do we want to keep it? We will table this until we have a new web site and then make a discussion.

SECRETARY:

23. By-Law Section 3:22A vs. SOG Section 8:02

Not a problem between by-laws and the SOGs as they are guide lines only. The By-law states what the International wants and the SOGs state how to do it.

24. Time logs, do we need them or not

Reasons were given on why they are required. Average number of time for all Board members is to be submitted at the end of year with the EOY

25. International Reports for convention booklet to Secretary

Due July 1, 2015 to Secretary. He is to submit the booklet to the Convention Host for printing.

26. Reading of motion 2015-001E into minutes

Secretary read the motion into the minutes

27. Heaven One (started 1/2009, 198 deaths, 38 not notified, 17 flag/coin send, 143 attended)

WA 2 Death, try to use OR 1 if not use Region 5 Director.

28. Special Compassionate Honorary Member for TN 2

Sally Darnell will be made a MAL Special Compassionate Honorary Member. Secretary is to notify her. Jack will send her a MAL package.

PRESIDENT

29. Kathleen Brooks, Harris Connect to speak on a no cost to RKMC history/member at 1300 hrs.

Wants to do a book of our history of our club and directory of members. 50 pages would be history. The book would be sold to our members only at a cost of \$89 for hard copy or \$69 for a soft copy. See handouts given to us. Royalty of \$5.00 back to club after 10% of member purchase. Data base of our roster would need to be submitted to the.

They would send a post card (at least 4) to our members who wanted to take part in the program. Our members would be advised to call a phone number and give them the information needed.

Motion 2015-002 was made and approved to enter into with Harris Connect to produce a book of our history and a directory of our membership. A letter will be submitted to the chapters by the Regional Directors. It is to be placed on the web site and our face book account.

Chris and Scott to work on the contact with them. After the contract is signed a copy with be submitted to all Board members. Chris and Jack will work on the letter to the membership.

TREASURER:

30. Section 9/10 changes, (Scott)

Life Member Dues - By-Laws 2.01 (I) states "The organizational level proposing the member for Life Membership shall pay such membership costs annually."

I would like confirmation that this refers to ALL chapters a Life Member is a member of, not just their home chapter. (Scott)

If an International Life Member, no dues are to be paid to the International by any chapter(s) that they may belong. If Life membership made by chapter, are to be paid to the International by the Chapter.

31. Chapters at discretion of the Board (Bylaw 3.10 5 b), Illinois 20, Massachusetts 5, Massachusetts 14, Tennessee 2.

Left up to the Treasurer to use his own direction

32. Chapters surrendering charter: Georgia 21, Nevada 1, New York 13, New York 51

Need to receive a letter stating that the chapter was going to disband. The letter needs to be submitted to the Regional Director who will work with the International Treasurer.

33. By Law Section 201 II. a. Any Member-At-Large wishing to transfer membership to a designated chapter may do so upon the written request to the International Secretary from the Chapter President that the M.A.L. is transferring to. There shall be no refund of M.A.L. dues or will any International dues be payable by the chapter he/she transfers to for the calendar year of the transfer. The M.A.L. shall notify the chairman of the Member-At-large committee of his/her transfer.

MALs may form a new chapter

34. I am interested in either changing the wording or the interpretation to allow MALs to transfer to a new chapter they are creating

After discussion it was agreed that they can

April 10, 2015, meeting opened, all members are presented,

REGION 1:

35. A line item budget for maintenance (lawn care, pruning, taking, etc.) for the Memorial. The guys from MA 1 have been doing it (labor, equipment and fuel) pro bono since day one, and some of them are thinking it's time for a change.

We have a line item budget for this. MA 1 is to manage this fund and submitted invoices to the International Treasurer for payment.

36. International seed money for convention startup

International does not have a credit card that can be used for placing a deposit for the hotel for rooms. It is up to the local chapter/associations to work this out.

37. NY 51 should be suspended and their charter needs to be revoked.

After discussion, it was agreed due to the facts that Norm presented and the fact that they have not paid their International dues since 2013.

REGION 2:

38. A review of the survey I did in Region 2 in regards to the terms of office question for International officers

Review of survey that Region Directors did in Region 2. 9 chapters and 1 MAL responded.

Survey showed that chapters were not in favor of term limits or restricted in servicing on Board.

39. Promotional and Events Grants Program

There are chapters that still do not know about these programs. Maybe placing information about the grant program on our face book, newsletter and web site would help. Leo was told see that these were place on these sites.

REGION 3:

40. Sending complete rosters to State/Province Representatives

Directors were to break the master roster down by state/province and give it to each state representative. This is to include the MAL roster for each state/province.

41. When change to by law 3:14 and 3:21 occurred (Comments from Jeff Peters)

This was done by the By-Laws committee as part of the cleanup of the by-laws.

REGION 6:

42. SOG Section 8:01 vs. By Law Section 4:02 and 4:02A

The following were removed from Section 8:01 after discussion; "This term is to run opposite the term of the overseeing Regional Director".

Section 8:02 now reads "The executive board of the association shall include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chapter/MAL Representative "

44. Software" Go to Meetings"

Discussion on this program and review of program. Board does not see the need at this time. We have the available to have conference calls now.

REGION 7:

40. Trademark: New updates on the trademark issue, discussion about trademark.

We are trademarked by WIPO Madrid, in Switzerland and all of Europe. Have a letter from the attorney requesting the payment of 1029.35 euro. Motion 2015-007 was approved to have the International Treasurer paid the amount of 1029.35 euro to the firm of Hindennach Leuze & Partner. This is due to letter giving a dead line to a football team who has been using the Red Knight name for ten years while we have only used it for five years in Europe. Motion 2015-008 was passed to have Tom Delboi contract an attorney to research is we have the correct wording on our TLMAs and how to handle any issues in the future. Fee not to exceed \$2800.00.

41. MAL patches: I want to open a discussion about the MAL welcome patches. I received a lot of questions from new chapters and new members of existing chapters why MAL get front patches as a welcome gift, but not Joe member from new or existing chapters.

The MALs paid for the patches when they join because they are paying \$25.00 to join the RKMC. Problem is from Germany on why all chapter members do not get the 4" patch when they join. The Regional Directors needs to submit a letter addressing why to all chapters.

42. Interschutz: Updates about the Interschutz exhibition, possible ways to recruit new members there. Tom wants to have a new MAL member package to give out if they sign up for membership at this event. He wants to have 200 decals and 4" patches for this event. Secretary is to send 100 decals to Tom.

43. Communications: I want to bring you feedbacks from the German chapter presidents meeting about ways to publish information (for example new founded chapters).

Meeting of Germany Chapter Presidents two weeks, they want a notice of all new chapters submitted to them before a notice is posted on face book. Not to change.

43. Knight and Way: Updates from Ramona about the KaW program.

She has found that the program that she was using may have a security problem. She is looking for a new servicer to use. She thinks that by the end of August a sample program will be send to the Board with a sample program to be send to the chapter. She hopes to have the program ready by spring 2016.

44. RKR patches in Europe: I want to re-discuss the idea to find a vendor and/or a quartermaster for the RKR patches in Europe. MAYBE THIS ITEM FOR THE RKR AGENDA???

In Texas, each European member takes RKMC patches back with them. We agree on 50 sets to be given to them. Tom will give a list of who is to be given the patches. However a European Quartermaster must be in place before we will allow this to happen. Tom is to work with Pierre to decide who this will be.

45. Countries: We thought that we have members in 20 countries, but we made a mistake. England and Wales are not countries; they are all part of the country "United Kingdom". All of them have passports of "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland". Any action needed?

While we know that these are in the UK, we want all members to show honor of the area where they live. Therefore we display their flag (if they have one).

46. Tom reported that the Grand Tour program is working in Europe

47. Roster to Scarlett or Amanda so that they can check the names before approving them on the RKMC face book account.

This was discussed and agreed to furnish that the Master Roaster be submitted to them with name and chapter only. Scott is to submit this to them.

TOM CASSIS IS IN MEETING AT 8:00 AM ON APRIL 11, 2015

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

48. Update on 2015 Elections

President: Chris Gadway Treasurer: Scott Ryan Region 1: Matthew Mattera

Region 3: Tim Reinard & Jeff Peter Region 5: Gil Rekken Region 7: Pierre Halleux

May 17, 2015 nominations close, June 16, voting starts, July 16 voting ends

RKMC email addresses to be used

Cost for election including Region 3 election is \$1500.0, cost could be \$2000. Is there is a nomination for President or Treasurer

Motion 2015-004 to execute contract with Vote Net for 2015 election

49. Contract options for electronic voting

Dave Emery is approved as to receive the results of the election if Tom Cassie is unavailable to receive them.

50. Review of proposed By-Law Change for filling vacancies submitted by Mass

Had discussion on 3:04 and 3:05, Tom Cassis is taking suggestions on 3:05 back to MA to see if they want to agree to make changes and re-submit. He will advise the Secretary of any changes by the May 1st dead line of posting.

TOM CASSIS HAS LEFT THE MEETING 10:43

TOMMY HIMES HAS ARRIVED FOR THE MEETING 10:50

WEB MASTER:

51. Hours

The Board advised him that they had decided to go with an outside company. He was asked to continue doing the web site until the new site is up and running. He agreed to help.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

52. Chenille patches

RKI agreed to stop using Emblem Emprises and start using Carolina Embers for the chenille patches, price would be slightly higher.
To checks with Wolfe Enterprise on the cost and available of them doing the Chenille patches.

53. OCA Award

Discussion was made and agreed to award this award to two members at the Annual Convention dinner. Chris is to handle the arrangements.

54. Question on Patches needing the ®

Is needed on all items with our name/logo

55. Additional funding for KORT

They can request funding from the promotion grand funds.

56. History of RKMC to be kept at Texas Tech.

Joe Connors is to get a quote

57. Business plan

Tabled to October 18, 2015 business meeting. First item to be discussed.

58. *Each Board member is to take one session of the By-laws and review and comments, be ready to discuss at the October meeting.*

Closing comments

Meeting Adjourned at 1558

Submitted By:

Bill Snodgrass
Secretary

By-law Proposals

As By-Law reads now:

Both By-Laws sections below say the same thing:

SECTION 2:01 MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND TENURE

~~VI. An Active member can if they so wish be a member of more than one chapter at a time. They must pay the same dues as other members of the chapter that they chooses to join and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of an Active member in that chapter, except that they may only hold office in one chapter at a time. The chapter in which they hold office will be considered the members home chapter”.~~

SECTION 5:04 ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Commencing with the passage of this amendment (8/22/2009) Active membership shall be available to Active and Retired Firefighting personnel of an established Fire Department, which is under the command of a Fire Chief or Public Service Director whether they are Career, Part Paid, On Call, Volunteer, Military or Industrial and who presently own or have access to a Motorcycle and have a current legal Motorcycle endorsement. A past Active member, who no longer can ride a motorcycle, may retain their active status. Emergency Medical Technicians and Medics are eligible to be members if they are employed by an established Fire Department. Upon receiving an application for Active Membership, the candidate shall receive a two thirds (2/3) (66%) acceptance vote of members present with no probation period. *An Active member can if they so wish be a member of more than one chapter at a time. They must pay the same dues as other members of the chapter that they chooses to join and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of an Active member in that chapter, except that they may only hold office in one chapter at a time. The chapter in which they hold office will be considered the members home chapter.* Any Active member whose membership started prior to the passage of this membership requirement on 8/22/2009, shall be grandfathered as an Active member.

Reasoning: *Proposal to strike the section from this section to avoid duplication with Section 5:04 shown in italics- same wording appeared in both sections. One additional change would be to strike out the “es” on wish for grammatical correction.*

Proposed by Tim Reinard, Region 3 Director

Endorsed by Board

As By-Law reads now:

SECTION 5:06 SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP

Social members shall be a Spouse, Partner, Boyfriend, Girlfriend, Son, Daughter, Brother or Sister, Father or Mother of an Active Member, Associate Member or a Member-at- Large.

The minimum age for a Social member shall be 16 (sixteen) years of age before joining.

Proposed:

SECTION 5:06 SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP

Social members shall be a Spouse, Partner, Boyfriend, Girlfriend, Son, Daughter, **Grandchild**, Brother or Sister, Father or Mother of an Active Member, Associate Member or a Member-at- Large.

The minimum age for a Social member shall be 16 (sixteen) years of age before joining.

Reasoning: *The addition of the word Grandchild allows Jr. members, who are grandchildren of a present member, a category to move into if they don't join a fire department. It is my hope that grandparents, who now watch or are raising their grandchildren, can take the children to meetings and outings with people that show social responsibility, integrity and honor and demonstrate good citizenship. It is my hope that these aspects of life will have a positive effect on the child/young adult.*

Proposed by Tim Reinard, Region 3 Director

Endorsed by the Board – Board agrees with the rationale.

As By-Law reads now:

SECTION 5:09A JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP To qualify for junior membership, dependent children or of Active and Associate members must be under the age of sixteen (16) years.

There shall be no dues collected for Junior Membership by the International and chapters shall be allowed to list such junior members on their rosters until age 16. At age 16, the junior member must switch membership and pay dues.

Proposed:

SECTION 5:09A JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

To qualify for junior membership, ~~dependent~~ children or **Grandchild** of Active and Associate members must be under the age of sixteen (16) years.

There shall be no dues collected for Junior Membership by the International and chapters shall be allowed to list such junior members on their rosters until age 16. At age 16, the junior member must switch membership and pay dues.

Reasoning: the elimination of the word dependent allows children and now grandchildren (who are not dependents of members) a way to stay involved in our organization.

Proposed by Tim Reinard, Region 3 Director

Endorsed by the Board

By-Law Change Proposal submitted by George Colby, Massachusetts State Representative, on behalf of the Chapters present (MA Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15) and voting unanimously in favor of the Proposal, at the Massachusetts RKIFMC State Fall Meeting.

SECTION 3:04 RESIGNATION

Any International Executive Board member may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Board. Any International Executive Board Member who resigns from the International Executive Board shall not be eligible for nomination for, or appointment to, any position on the International Executive Board for a period of two years from the date of resignation.

Not endorsed by the Board – May eliminate a qualified person to run for another position within that two year period. The position resigned from may have reached beyond the capabilities of the member holding it (accounting, insurance, family time constraints).

As it reads:

SECTION 4:02 STATE/PROVINCE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

The Officers of the State/Province Associations shall be: President (State/Province Representative), Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Road Captain (Optional) and Chapter Representatives. The Chapter Representative shall be the President of a Constituent State/Province Chapter or an annually elected/appointed Representative plus one Member-at- Large. The State/Province Executive Board shall be elected in alternate years at the State/Province Association's annual meeting: the State/Province Representative and Secretary in even years, the Vice-President and Treasurer in odd years. To be eligible to be an Officer of the Association, one must be a currently paid member of a Constituent Chapter and International. The State/Province Representative shall be elected to two -year terms as outlined in this Section and referred to in the International Constitution and By-Laws. All communications from the International Executive Board concerning the Associations shall be directed to the President, State/Province Representative. It shall be his/her responsibility to forward the information to the concerned member.

Proposed change:

SECTION 4:02 STATE/PROVINCE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

The Officers of the State/Province Associations shall be: President (~~State/Province Representative~~), Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Road Captain (Optional) and Chapter Representatives. The Chapter Representative shall be the President of a Constituent State/Province Chapter or an annually elected/appointed Representative plus one Member-at- Large.

The State/Province Executive Board shall be elected in alternate years at the State/Province Association's annual meeting: the ~~State/Province Representative~~ President and Secretary in even years, the Vice-President and Treasurer in odd years. To be eligible to be an Officer of the Association, one must be a currently paid member of a Constituent Chapter and International. The ~~State/Province Representative~~ President shall be elected to two -year terms as outlined in this Section and referred to in the International Constitution and By-Laws. All communications from the International Executive Board concerning the Associations shall be directed to the President, State/Province Representative. It shall be his/her responsibility to forward the information to the concerned member.

Endorsed by the Board

By-Law as written:

SECTION 2:01 MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND TENURE

II. a. Any Member-At-Large wishing to transfer membership to a designated chapter may do so upon the written request to the International Secretary from the Chapter President that the M.A.L. is transferring to. There shall be no refund of M.A.L. dues or will any International dues be payable by the chapter he/she transfers to for the calendar year of the transfer. The M.A.L. shall notify the chairman of the Member-At-large committee of his/her transfer.

b. Any Chapter Member wishing to transfer their membership to Member-at-Large shall demonstrate a travel hardship to participate in Chapter activities or has the written approval of the Chapter President to transfer to MAL. Prior Chapter members requesting membership as an MAL shall be subject to these requirements.

Proposed Change:

SECTION 2:01 MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND TENURE

II. a. Any Member-At-Large wishing to transfer membership to a designated chapter may do so upon the written request to the International Secretary from the Chapter President that the M.A.L. is transferring to. There shall be no refund of M.A.L. dues or will any International dues be payable by the chapter he/she transfers to for the calendar year of the transfer. The M.A.L. shall notify the chairman of the Member-At-large committee of his/her transfer.

~~b. Any Chapter Member wishing to transfer their membership to Member-at-Large shall demonstrate a travel hardship to participate in Chapter activities or has the written approval of the Chapter President to transfer to MAL. Prior Chapter members requesting membership as an MAL shall be subject to these requirements.~~

Reasoning:

THIS IS AN UNFAIR AND PREDUDICIAL RULING FAVORING CHAPTER RIGHTS OVER INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS FOR THE RED KNIGHTS.

This motion was made by a state with a dense population of Red Knights, although the state has less than half of 1% of the Red Knight population, and has now unfairly affected Red Knights around the world.

Endorsed by the Board – Board agrees with the rationale.

We have lost 42 members due to this change in the past 8 months.

SECTION 3:14 ELECTION, TERM OF OFFICE, QUALIFICATION

All members of the International Board of Directors will be limited to 3 consecutive full terms (6 years) in any one position that the membership voted them into. Board members will be prohibited from running for election to any board position after serving 3 consecutive full terms. International

board members who fall into the category of this bylaw may run for election to an International Board position after a 2 year full term waiting period.

Submitted By Jeff Peters OH 1

Not endorsed by the Board – Proposal will disqualify members who are able to offer the best possible work for the organization. This is also a direct conflict of By-Law 3:02.

SECTION 4:05 NEW

Dissolution of a State, Provincial, or Regional Association

In the event a State, Provincial or Regional Association is dissolved any remaining funds in their treasury will be divided among the remaining chapters in good standing with the International for that State, Provincial or Regional Association. Each chapter can make their own determination as to where funds will be distributed or donated. The Executive Board of a State, Provincial or Regional Association shall be responsible for the distribution of funds to those chapters. A detailed report shall be submitted to the Regional Director and passed on to the International Treasurer.

Not endorsed by the Board – The International By-Laws should not have the authority to govern how a dissolved Chapter/Association uses their monies. This could be placed in the SOGs of the Association

2015 Knights of the Round Table (KoRT) Annual Tournament

The 2015 Official Knights of the Round Table Tournament will be held October 16-18, 2015 at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 2134 West Landis Avenue, Vineland NJ 08360. The hosts will be the Red Knights South Jersey Trifecta (NJ Chapters 16, 23 & 31).

The committee is hard at work planning a fun filled weekend! Some of the things they are working on are: donation, raffles, costume party, games, tournament events, t-shirts, challenge coins, led group rides, optional solo rides, DJs, door prizes, BBQ, bike blessing and more!

Registration for the event is now open! For registration, please visit <http://www.knightsoftheroundtable.us/>.

Reservations at the host hotel are open already as well. When making a reservation, please mention KoRT. For reservations at the Hampton Inn & Suites call (856) 405-0600. The KoRT rate is: Standard King \$109 per night. King Suite \$129 per night.

You can also choose to stay right next door at the Wingate by Wyndham, 2196 W Landis Ave, Vineland, NJ 08360. For reservations there call (856) 690-9900. All rooms are \$85 per night.

Stephanie Fowle

NJ Chapter 31

PR Coordinator



Region 1



Red Knights Motorcycle Club®

Region 1 Director
Norm Beausoleil
100 Quincy Avenue, Apt. 2
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508 958-4560
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May 1, 2015

Wow!

Hard to believe it was 2 years ago today that I first addressed the members of Region 1 and asked for their vote in Rutland, Vermont. And now, looking back, that 2 years has been full of surprises, travel, friendships and other great things! The people I've met have been nothing short of spectacular, and the way you all have welcomed me into your states, meetings, countries, homes, well, what more can be said?

Over the last 2 years I've traveled around the country and across the (smaller) pond performing my duties as the Region 1 Director. I can't tell you what a humbling experience it has been. I've experienced nearly all aspects of the Club and I find it amazing, no matter how different we all are, how much we think alike, act alike, play alike and ride alike, with safety always being our number 1 priority. I'm now getting ready to be back on the outside, just a regular member of the finest firefighters' club in the world. And we ride motorbikes, too! Wow!!

There are things I've experienced as a Director that 99.9% of you will never get to experience. That's how hard working the guys at the top are. The time and energy spent by your Directors is unbelievable, and very often unrecognized and thankless. There are times when we, as Board members, find ourselves in conflict with each other, but by the end of the day, resolution for the good of the Knights is always attained.

I want you to know that I truly enjoyed being a Regional Director, with the exception that I was not able to be everywhere I felt I needed to be to do my job and my Region justice. With that said, you all need to know that the 4 men at the top of the chain deserve far more respect than I can ever offer. The man or position doesn't matter, the work done by the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of this club can only be appreciated once you sit at the table and argue with them, negotiate with them, agree with them, cry with them, laugh with them and ride with them.



President Chris Gadway runs a private business that keeps him going 18 plus hours a day and traveling several days a week, yet he still responds to every phone call, e-mail, question or other Red Knight task put to him. Being the “CEO” puts him in a difficult position of trying to appease everyone and staying as neutral as possible. How he does it is beyond me!

Vice President Jack Jarvis is a full-time Captain in Wilmington, NC, and deals with all the issues of Members-at-Large and Australia and New Zealand. With more than half of his charges being overseas, he is dealing with issues of major cultural and regional differences, and to be able to adjust to time zone differences must be a daunting task. I’m not so sure I want to try that job, even for a day, lol.

Treasurer Scott Ryan is likely one of the best candidates we can have in that position. He is, if I’m not mistaken, the Chief Financial Officer of Charlottetown, the capitol of the province of Prince Edward Island, Canada. He is familiar with budgets and international financial dealings. With chapters in over 17 countries (I lose count, we seem to add a country every other month) this club needs someone with that expertise. In retrospect, I can’t forget Leo Patry who did that job for many years. He resigned this past August because he recognized he could no longer fulfill the duties of the office to the capacity required for such a club. It took a great deal of courage to admit that, and I respect him deeply for his decision.

Secretary Bill Snodgrass is, without a doubt, the hardest working and least acknowledged member of the International’s “Executive”. I can’t begin to tell you how under-appreciated he is. Bill deals, in some form or fashion, with every member of the club, every chapter of the club and every aspect of the club. He is often misunderstood but I can tell you that everything he does is, in his heart, for the best of the club. Bill, my hat is off to you!

During my tenure I have watched the club continue to grow. My own region has grown, adding 4 Chapters in Maine, 1 in New Jersey and 2 in New York, and there are applications for more. I have gone to Europe to attend the second annual European Association Meeting in Bruges, Belgium, and I’m heading to Switzerland in September for their third Annual Meeting. I’ve become a member of Switzerland 4. I’ve met with all the Region 1 chapters at their State level meetings except Rhode Island, which I hope to do soon. And lastly, Region 1 will be holding its first rally in New York at the end of May. I couldn’t ask for more.

As for now, I look forward to the Convention in San Antonio, TX, in August. After that, I look forward to resuming my role as just another Red Knight, offering my support to the Board and the membership as needed or requested and riding with each and every one of you. Look out Australia and New Zealand, I’m aiming to go down under in the next year or 2. There better be some good riding weather when I get there!

Thanks for all your support!

With my regards, as always, I remain Loyal to our Duty,

Norm Beausoleil
Region 1 Director, Life Member and Founder – MA 1



Red Knights Motorcycle Club[®]

Region 1 Director

Norm Beausoleil

100 Quincy Avenue, Apt. 2

Winthrop, MA 02152

508 958-4560

region1@redknightsmc.com

Red Knights Motorcycle Club®

Region 1 Director: Norm Beausoleil

100 Quincy Avenue, Apt. 2

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May 1, 2015

Dear Fellow Knights,

My name is Norm Beausoleil, the Region 1 Director of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, and I am also one of the original eleven Founding Members of the Red Knights. I am writing to you all because as a member of the International Board of Directors I have heard some things that disturb me as a Founder.

When Ed Wright, Jack Pierce, Don Parker, Bob Goulet, Dave Hamilton, Roger Wentzell, Jon Tripp, Dave Hunt, Colin Mackey, Bob Bourassa and I founded the Club we had a goal of making this a club of motorcycling firefighters with the single most goal of sharing both passions in a friendly, social and equal manner. We did not want to make membership difficult, nor did we want to "prospect" members because we believed they had already earned their membership in the club because of who they are and what they do - they are firefighters. No one member was better than another, so there was, and is, no reason to rank them or make them earn a position of stature. As it stands, the practice of prospecting and/or ranking members has never been encouraged or allowed, and it never will be.



With that being said, we never imagined growing the way the Club has grown. The addition of European and South Pacific nations is an exciting element and it has also presented challenges to all members, but most specifically to the International Board of Directors.

There are major cultural differences, not only between these three regions, but within the confines of each and every individual country, and the International Board has done its best to be flexible, understand, recognize and accommodate those differences. Whether those differences are social, economic, legal or regional, we have been very accepting and tolerant of the changes necessary in some of our basic philosophies. There is, however, a limit to what we will tolerate and how we, the club, will adapt. We, the club, will adjust to 1% club demands and requests to keep peace between us all, but we will not, ever, operate as a 1% club, nor will we conduct ourselves in any activities that may appear as though we are operating or aligning ourselves with such clubs. We do not "prospect". We do not "support" 1% clubs. We do not and will not give the impression that we do, either. We will "respect" those clubs, just as we ask that they "respect" us, but we will not "support" them or any activities that may appear to mimic their clubs or lifestyles.

As a Founder of this Club, I am writing to you today to ask for your Respect of the Founding Fathers and the leadership of the Club, the Club to which YOU belong. Respect the fact that we do not "prospect" members or make them "earn" their membership in a chapter or the Club. Respect the decisions made by the International Board and all the members that make up this organization, decisions that have been made and adjusted over time, more than 30 years. Respect the fact that Members-at-Large (MAL's) are full and equal members of the Club -many chapters wouldn't exist today had there not been a MAL to get them started - and respect each MAL as though he or she was a charter member of your chapter. Respect the fact that we do not "support" 1% clubs, nor do we support activities that reflect such activities. And finally, accept and respect what nearly 10,000 other Red Knights have accepted, that we may not be able to make all or, for that matter, any meetings, rides, outings or other activities. If you are a Firefighter and you ride a motorcycle, you are already 100% worthy of being a Red Knight; you have already passed the test.

Each of you asked to join the Red Knights because of who we are and what we stand for. We are a proud group of men and women that respect each other. We have learned to accept cultural, social and regional differences that are necessary to make things work. You must accept the Club for who we are, and, more importantly, who we are not. In the meantime, I want you to know that I thank you all for being Red Knights, for being firefighters, and for being friends. See you on the highways and byways!

With my regards, as always, I remain Loyal to our Duty,

Norm Beausoleil

2016 Yankee Rally

The north-east haven't even had the very first Yankee Rally (and we are so excited to attend!) but New Jersey Chapter 31 is already in full swing planning the 2nd Annual Yankee Rally.

Save the dates: May 20-22, 2016 and join us at the Bolero Resort & Conference Center in Wildwood, NJ! More details to come, just know, we are planning for a large turnout and want to make this a weekend to remember!

First Annual **Red Knights MC** New York State Rally



September 11th - 13th 2015 Hosted by Red Knights NY50

Officer of NY50 Contact information and Other

Eric Jock, – President 518-569-7430 or Email at ejock13@live.com

Travis Spellman, 518-645-5493 - Vice President

Daniel Prew - 518-534-2536 - Road Capetian

Joni Spellman – 518-645-5494 Treasurer

Or NY50@redknightsmc.com



5th Annual Canada - USA
Red Knights International Motorcycle Club

Hands Across the Border Ride

Supporting the
Dexter Fire Department
100 Canal Street
Dexter, NY 13634
(315) 639-6271

When: May 3, 2015*.
Arrival Time: 12:00 (Noon)
Cost: Chicken BBQ \$12.00
All you can eat chicken, sides, and drinks

** Reservations Required.*

Call 585 750-8083 or e-mail dhewett@rochester.rr.com
with total number attending by April 27th



Patriot Run Southern NJ

Red Knights NJ Chapter 31 will be holding its Annual Patriot Ride Poker Run on Sunday, October 4, 2015. The proceeds from this event will benefit the Forgotten Warriors Museum located at the Cape May Airport.

Registration is from 9 am to 11 am at Atlantic County Harley Davidson, 219 E. White Horse Pike, Galloway. Cost is \$20 for rider, \$10 for passenger. All bikes are welcome! Price includes food, door prizes, music, bike games and tons of fun. See you all October 4 at AC Harley!! For more information, please call 609-889-5285.

The Forgotten Warrior Museum is dedicated to preserving and exhibiting memorabilia from our Vietnam and Korean War veterans. This museum helps us all to remember the sacrifice so many made during those wars. It also serves as a sanctuary and place of reflection and healing for our veterans. The museum is located at 529 Forrestal Rd, Rio Grande, NJ 08242. It is open daily from April to November and never charges an entrance fee. The museum runs on donations alone and is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Annual 9/11 Sunset Beach Ceremony Ride

All motorcycle enthusiasts are welcome to join NJ31 for our Annual 9/11 Sunset Beach Ceremony Ride. We will be meeting at the Cape May Court House Acme on September 11, 2015 at 4:30pm, kickstands up at 5:00pm. We will then ride to Sunset Beach, Cape May Point for the flag lowering ceremony. As in past years, this ceremony is in memory of Paul Pansini, one of 343 FDNY firefighters killed on 9/11/01 at the World Trade Centers. Paul's family is always in attendance.

This is a very solemn event that all have been proud to attend in the past. This will be a police motor escorted ride from Cape May Court House, NJ to Cape May Point, NJ.. All are welcome! There is no cost to ride. However, we ask for anyone to make whatever donation they wish, which will be donated to the charity of choice of the Pansini family.

Red Knights who attend are also welcome to join us afterward at the Green Creek Fire Company for food and fellowship.

New Jersey Chapter 33

Burlington County New Jersey now has a Red Knights chapter!

New Jersey 33 of Palmyra, NJ was chartered on November 10th, 2014. NJ33 is the first chapter and only chapter in Burlington County, the largest county in the state. The membership of NJ33 is made up of folks from Palmyra, Cinnaminson and Delran and surrounding areas and has grown from 11 members upon Charter to 30 members as of May 1st, 2015.

Should you be coming through the area, don't hesitate to reach out and stop for a visit! We are always happy to host fellow Red Knights family!

You can find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/rkmcnj33](https://www.facebook.com/rkmcnj33) or email us at RKMCNJ33@gmail.com.

President – Howard Roun, Jr.

Vice President – Leo Bankowski

Secretary – Amanda “Smooches” Roun Treasurer- Kristin Adams

Road Captains – Steve Tanis and David “Handlebar” Wilbur

Sergeant at Arms: William Domask



REGION 2 DIRECTORS END OF YEAR REPORT

September 22, 2014 till December 31st 2014

Since my appointment by the International Board of Directors on September 22, 2014 I have started a draft copy of a procedures manual for the position of Region 2 Director as well as a work time log.

Attended the fall meeting of the International Board in Syracuse New York on November 12 – 16th 2014

Represented the International at the Wake and Funeral of Willard Collins of the Ontario 3 chapter in Wiarnton Ontario on November 8-9th.

I have sent Emails to all chapters and MAL's in Region 2 informing them of my appointment and inviting them to contact me with any questions or concerns that they may have.

An information note has been sent to the chapters after receiving a couple of requests for information and suggestions on how to keep the interest of the chapters members in the off riding season.

A survey questionnaire has also been sent to the region 2 chapters requesting feedback on the terms of office for the International Board with a request that all replies be sent back by January 31, 2015

Assisted was provided to two chapters in resetting of their official Red Knights Email passwords so that they could access the chapters mail box.

I would also like to remind the Chapters how It's very important that the chapter President ensure that either they or another chapter officer checks the mail box at least one a week and that the old mail be deleted or filed so that the box does not get filled up and start to bounce mail back to the sender, This address is also the only address that will be used to send ballots and voting instructions to the chapters on the voting procedures for the election of the International officers.

I look forward to the 2015 riding season and I hope to be able to attend some of the rallies and events that are being held in Region 2 with a request that the chapters send me information on events they are holding so that I can attempt to make arrangements to attend them.

A request was also sent to the chapters to place the MAL's that are in their respected Provinces on their Email list of chapters events and invite them to also attend.

The 2015 International Convention being held in San Antonia Texas next August the 13th to the 19th registration is now on line at the International web site of www.redknightsmc.com and I am told that the hoist hotel is filling up fast. Also a reminder to those members that attend Americade in Lake George New York to make sure and come to the Open House held at the Lake George Fire Hall on the Thursday June 4th from 1500 Hrs. till 1800 Hrs.

I also encourage the Chapters and Members to contact David Michaud the International Newsletter editor at editor@redknightsmc.com with any events and happenings within their chapters and or with items of interest to the other members of the Red Knights for inclusion in the newsletter.

The 2014 fall edition of the newsletter was forwarded to the chapters on December 11th with a request that they distribute it to their members and any MAL's in their chapter's immediate area,

Also to inform them that the newsletter is also available for viewing on the International Web site

We have a member of New Jersey 33 Amanda "Smooches" Roun who has been appointed to update the Help a Knight directory this is currently in need up a major updating. I am sure that Amanda would really appreciate the members checking the directory on the International web site and then notifying her of any updates or corrections in the listings that are needed and any member wanting to get listed in the directory fill out the registration form which can be found

At . <http://www.redknightsmc.com/hak.py>



The Help a Knight directory is a great tool to have with you when traveling it is also very helpful in contacting another Red knight in an area that you will be traveling in to ask about local events and sites as well as information on accommodations and places to eat or to stay away from.

A notice in regards to the deadline and requirements for nominations for the Perry Carter award has also been sent out to all the chapters and MAL's in region 2 encouraging them to put forward any member's name that they feel would be deserving of that award along with a bio of the candidate and reason for the nomination. I would like to Thank all the chapters and members in Region 2 for their support, help and input to me in taking on this new position of Region 2 Director

Leo

May 3, 2015

REPORT ON THE 2015 DEXTER RED KNIGHTS RIDE

The Dexter Fire Department ride started ten years ago when a hand full of Canadian Red Knights decided to ride over to Dexter New York and attend the Fish Fry being held by the Dexter New York Fire Department as a fund raiser.

Well for the first several years the Red Knights present were mostly all Canadian's with a small sprinkling of American Red Knights, One of those American Red Knights was Dennis Hewett the Treasurer of New York 22,

Well Dennis didn't think too much of the Canadian Red Knights way out numbering the American Red Knights to support an American Fire Dept. So he stated that would change by the next years BBQ which had by this time been changed from a fish fry to a Chicken BBQ, well the next BBQ came and went and the Canadians still outnumbered their American brothers.

This really set Dennis off and he promptly but forward a \$100.00 bet with the Region 2 Director Leo Patry of the Ontario 7 chapter that the next year he would outnumber the Canadians and win Leo's \$100.00 for Charity.

It turns out he was right and last year he did win the \$100.00 with a total attendance of 91 Red Knights for the BBQ 54 of which were American.

He again issued the challenge and it was accepted by Leo for another \$100.00 bet for 2015. Well he was successful again the 2015 BBQ was attend by 165 Red Knights of which only 52 were Canadian,

The end result was Leo was out another \$100.00 but the big winners were the Dexter Fire Dept. and the Red Knights themselves, that did attend from both sides of the border because it gave us all the opportunity to practice what the Red Knights is all about and that is that we are a brotherhood of current and retired firefighters who love motorcycling and have a desire to ride and meet other likeminded firefighters to form new friendships while being able to ride our bikes to different destinations.

A great job done by Dennis and Julie Carlson the New York State representative for the Red Knights in rallying the troops to support this event, I am looking forward to next year but have learned my lesson and there will not be a \$100.00 bet.

On another note a lot of the members attending this event will also be attending Americade and are encouraged to taking part in the Spanner ride being hoisted by New York 3 on Wednesday June 3rd leaving from the Lake George Fire Hall with Registration starting at 0900. Then the next day is the Red Knights International Open house is at the Lake George Fire Hall hosted by the New York 12 chapter starting at 15:30 Hrs.

Hope to see a record number of Red Knights at this event also.



Office of the Region 3 Director

25.6 Bell Boulevard

Weirton, West Virginia, 26062

1-304-797-9641

region3@redknightsmc.com

April 1st, 2015

Brother and Sister Members of the Red Knights,

During the first quarter of this year, I was honored in being chosen by the International to attend a Brother Knight's funeral in Delaware. I still think it is right to honor our deceased members on behalf of the International Board, The State Association, The Local Chapter and the Members of the Chapters that have known and grown with our deceased brother or sister. To date I have attended 10 funerals in three different regions and have found each a moving experience as we are losing a member of our family.

The first quarter of this year brought forth the formation of the Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wisconsin Associations. The hardest part for me was reading and re-reading the by-laws and SOGs as to which section applied to the particulars of each Association being formed. But the best part was to show up, meet the founders, take roll for the first meeting and to run the election for the officers. Two of the Associations are now working on their SOGs, due to concerns that the members of the Association want to clarify right out of the chute. The other Association meets toward the end of April to elect their officers. These Associations came about because members saw an advantage to having a way to promote comradery and fun within their respective state.

One thing that I have heard repeatedly, in my travels, is the use of Robert's Rules because the By-laws and SOGs are not applicable. I have been involved with non-profits and volunteer organizations for the last 40 years and have had to consult Robert's rules on several occasions. The rules are to make meetings better not to tie up the meetings. I would suggest that we use the rules sparingly and to help move things along. The good thing is that it is easier now to find what you need in the electronic age as you can google Robert's Rules on line and search for a particular section. The other thing I have tried to offer up is the Agenda for the meeting. Every meeting needs an agenda or an outline to keep everyone on track. Meetings have a tendency to fill the time allotted. So, if no one moves for two hours, you will have a two hour meeting. There are some books available if you have time next winter to read. One is L.E.T. by Thomas Gordon. This book will give you techniques to ensure your meeting is effective and the chapter's time is used efficiently. I do not think any of us like to waste our time in meetings that seem to go on for way too long. An additional item you may want to consider is googling "meeting management". Many articles are available on-line that can help you get things done for the Chapter during your meetings. One other thing that some of us might not realize is serving as an officer of your Chapter can help with your career. It shows commitment, leadership skills and a host of other things that HR people are looking for in someone that wants to work for their organization. Participation is a career builder for our younger members and I would like to encourage and see them step up to the plate.



Right now I am spending time on communicating with Chapters that have not paid their 2015 dues. Some of the time it is a matter of who is the new President but other times it is just the economy and we have to see if membership outweighs the downside of not belonging to this great organization.

On average, I am spending ten hours a week performing work for Region 3, not including Board Meetings and other required activities. Therefore, it is a part time job, but one I enjoy immensely and look forward to performing for the next few years.

Keep safe and enjoy the fellowship of the Red Knights.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Reinard

Interim Director

Region 3

Pennsylvania State Association of International Red Knights Motorcycle Club

Pennsylvania State Association of International Red Knights Motorcycle Club would like to announce the newly formed State Association. Pennsylvania has 24 Chapters of Red Knights and 16 MAL's with in the state, currently 14 Chapters have joined the Association.

The Executive Officers at this time are:

President/State Representative- Thomas Etzle PA 15

Eastern Vice President- Peter Arcati PA 41

Western Vice President- Brian Burgoon PA 39

Secretary- Amy Gilliland PA 24

Treasure- Stacy Boyer PA 33

Road Captain- Donald Chisville PA 4

Chaplin- Cal Hommer PA 39

Association email- assoc14@redknightsmc.com

We are currently planning the 1st Annual Pennsylvania State Association Family Picnic. It will be held June 27th, 2015 at the American Legion Memorial Park, 104 Deli Delight Legion Park, Hollidaysburg PA 16648

Open to ALL RED KNIGHTS

There will be a \$15.00 per person charge we will be serving hamburg's, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, baked beans, desert, water, tea, punch, ect...

There are rooms blocked at 2 hotels in the area with a room rates of \$99.00 a night. Comfort Inn, Duncansville Pa or Comfort Suites, Altoona Pa.

Camping available at Prince Gallitzin State Park, 888-PA-PARKS

We are asking for a RSVP to STA63INFERNO@AIM.COM by June 6th, 2015 for the picnic.

There are rides leaving the picnic to points of interest and ending at Thunder in the Valley Motorcycle Rally in nearby Johnstown Pa.



We will be hosting a Red Knight wedding at the Picnic for the Western Vice President Brian Burgoon and his fiancé.

The state meeting will be held on Sunday June 28th, 2015 at Comfort Inn, Duncansville PA at 10:00am

As the Association grows we are hoping to be able to have better communication throughout all chapters within our state an also with all Red Knights. We are here to grow as a family of brothers and sisters and have a good time enjoying safe motorcycling



RED KNIGHTS WI 4 **2015 SOUP-R-KIDS**



Children's
Miracle Network
Hospitals

RAISING MONEY FOR
THE CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

WHEN
JUNE 6th
11 am - 2 pm

WHERE
WITTENBERG F.D.
405 WEBB ST. WITTENBERG, WI

Homemade Soups / Nueske's Brats & Wieners
50/50 Raffles

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DONATIONS FOR MEAL APPRECIATED

A RIDE FROM
ROTHSCHILD F.D. TO WITTENBERG F.D.
LEAVES AT 10:30 am.

www.redknightswi4.webs.com

Facebook : Red Knights MC - WI Chapter 4

PLEASE VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE.

Region 4



Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club ® Inc. Office of the Region 4 Director

Joey Powell
9013 Pageland Court
Wake Forest, North Carolina, 27587
1-919-556-8077
1-919-697-0203 cell
region4@redknightsmc.com

Just a little note from Region 4.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE 2015 Dixie Rally MAY 15-16 IN NEW ORLEANS?

Please visit the Louisiana 1 web site for more information www.redknightsla1.com. This will be a great event for all.

This year so far has been a great year. We are getting request for new chapters and new members every week. This year I challenge each chapter to get 5 new members. I hope to add four hundred new members to Region 4 this year. Riding season has begun in the south for sure. The rides and events for chapters and other clubs are in full swing. I know that we cannot go to each event but please take time to support those who come out to our events.

Region 5



Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club ® Inc. Office of the Region 5 Director

P. O. Box 147
Garson, Manitoba
Canada R0E 0R0
1-204-444-3443
region5@redknightsmc.com

Just to let you know what is going on in Region 5.

As always I keep myself busy with contacts from the chapters and upcoming events in the region via emails and telephone. We are welcoming a new chapter to our region, BC welcome to our region and I look forward to meeting you.

In April I attended the International board meetings in Syracuse.

We were able to complete our agenda and some new ideas were brought forward and you should be seeing some changes in the near future.

June 26 = 28 the Western Rally is being hosted in the Crowsnest area (Coleman Alberta).

July the MN. Chapters are holding their 10th year anniversary with a rally.

In August is the International convention in San Antonio, Texas.

I will be attending all of the above.

I am looking forward to seeing you at a few of these events.

The riding season in the Great White North is finally here, the snow is gone and it is time for getting those bikes on the road.

Everyone have a safe Riding season.

Stay Safe

Gil Rekken



Region 6 News.
Joe "ChickenJoe" Connors

It seems the winter has been long for the northern part of Region 6 but for the rest of us it has been reasonable at least some folks have been on their scooters for at least part of the winter. Since the warm weather has shown up it is time to get the rust out of our heads and check out those scooters. I am a big fan of the MSF Riders Courses, either Basic or Experience Riders. Also if you have not seen the video produced by MSF called Group Riding I highly recommend your chapter purchase it, along with the work books. It will be a good project for your Senior Road Captain to learn and share with your chapter. This video is extreme helpful when you plan a group ride.

Now for them scooters, I expect most of them have been setting for most of the winter, and they will need a little TLC. Most importantly is to use the TCLOCK system to check out that bike for the spring/summer season. I highly recommend you check out your tires for cracks in the tread, those cracks are a warning that it is time to change the tire because they have dry rotted.

The Texas State Association has been working very hard over the winter preparing for the International Convention. Events are coming together very quickly now. The important date to keep in mind is June 1st. That is the cutoff date for pre-registration, so if you plan to come to Texas for the International Convention get that registration in before June 1st. There are some really cool events planned for this year's Convention We really hope to see you down here in the West. The riding temperature will be perfect.

The BOD has been putting in a lot of time working on the SOG last year and publishing them, as many of you know the SOG has been reduced by half. Most of this came about by reducing duplication between the By-Laws and the SOG.

The last thing I would like to touch on is drinking while riding. It has come to our attention that this practice, while not prolific, does happen from time to time. It is extremely dangerous to ride those bikes and drink. Many of you understand the problem for drinking and driving a car, it is even more dangerous to ride a motorcycle and drink because we are already at risk just riding the motorcycles. So I urge you to ride safe and not drink and ride. Sounds simple, but drinking and riding happens far too often.

Again Ride Safe and we will see you at the 2015 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

TX 14 Members Dan and Donna Dilbeck heard in 2012 that the International Red Knights would like to see Firefighters honored on 9~11 with Flags each year. So, Donna took it upon herself to do the research and locate the where about of deceased firefighters of Red River County Tx. Tx 14 is made up of members from Lamar, Red River and Bowie Counties. Dan and Donna are from Red River County and wanted to show their respect to fellow decease firefighters in their home county.

Each year now (2years) we have put out flags for deceased firefighters in Red River County. We went to 27 cemeteries, drove a total of 250 miles, 9 hours to honor these men and women. We put out "Loyal to Our Duty" Flags on all of the graves. We have a list of 94 names and we honor them all.

During the first year of research many people heard of our efforts and gave names or cemetery locations. Donna put her genealogy skills to work and started locating the firefighters. Once a general location was made, Dan and Donna went to the cemeteries and walked them to locate the graves. We made a notebook and maps of the locations and headmarkers. Donna keep people posted on her personal facebook page about the progress of the research. When it came time to purchase flags, I showed them to my friends. Without asking donations started coming in for the flags. On the weekend closest to 9~11 Dan and Donna travel the county and put out "Loyal to Our Duty" flags for every firefighter that has passed away and buried in the county. We don't know if other Red Knights or doing this or not, but we will continue this each year. It is an honor to do so..



Dilbecks remember fallen firefighters with flags on 9/11



Photo by Marcia Davis

Donna and Dan Dilbeck straighten a fallen firefighter remembrance flag on a grave in Fairview Cemetery last Wednesday, September 11th.

By Marcia Davis
Managing editor

Red flag grave markers emblazoned with the familiar fire Maltese insignia honored fallen firefighters of Red River County this September 11th.

Last Wednesday – on the outskirts of Clarksville a slight breeze under a bank of thin clouds blew across Fairview Cemetery as Donna Dilbeck and her husband - Clarksville Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dan Dilbeck - stooped to straighten one of the red firefighter remembrance flags. The Dilbecks had carefully placed the flags at the graves of fallen firefighters in Fairview and Clarksville Cemeteries, and in cemeteries across Red River County, and sent flags to DFW, Tennessee and Mississippi cemeteries where Red River County firefighters are buried.

"Nothing like this has never been done," Donna Dilbeck said. "There's been no memorials to honor our firefighters - living or dead. They've done a lot of good all their lives, but there's no monument or anything anywhere to honor who they were and what good works they did."

The Dilbecks are members of the Red Knights, an international motorcycle group of firefighters and their families. The Knights do special rides and many honor

firefighters on 9-11 by putting flags out on their graves, since firefighters don't have a day like Veterans or Memorial Day, Donna said.

"There's an organization out of Blossom with members in Lamar, Red River and Bowie counties, but researching and marking all those fallen firefighters grave proved too big of a task and too short notice for us to do it, so I took it upon myself personally for Red River County."

Donna said she posted information about the project on Facebook, noting that she wanted to honor all the deceased firefighters buried in Red River County even if they served as firefighters somewhere else.

"People started giving me names and I started a list and made a book out of it and ended up with 78 names and some of them are out of state and out of county, but all the ones in Red River County I found except maybe five names that I could not find anything on. On those names, there was no record available to find out about them and no one could give me leads."

The firefighters that Donna couldn't find information on were: Lloyd Holloway, Ollie Long, Charlie Wright, Arthur Bybee, Roy Goodman and Grover Beal. If anyone knows of

more firefighters or knows about these firefighters and where they might be buried, they can contact me on Facebook or call Donna at 903-427-5679.

Donna said, through Facebook, she received all the donations needed to pay for the flags. "People even offered to come help us put them out."

She said on the Sunday before 9/11, she and Dan located and visited each gravesite to put the flags out, then took pictures of the graves sites marked with the flags. "We spent eight hours and drove a little over 200 miles to put the flags all over the county: 27 in Fairview in Clarksville, three in the Clarksville Cemetery - 30 flags in all in the city limits."

Dan, who's been a firefighter for three years with the Clarksville Volunteer Fire Department, said the ground was so dry, he had to take a big metal rod and a sledge hammer to carve out a hole at each gravesite to hold the flag stick.

On September 28, the Dilbecks will join a Red Knights motorcycle ride to West to help move a fence for a family that lost their home in the tragic West fertilizer plant explosion April 17th. "We'll ride down on Saturday morning," Donna said, "stopping in Sulphur Springs, Canton and Corsicana, then spend the day in West helping with long-term recovery efforts."



Red Knights Tx 14 holds a Memorial Ride each year in September. In the year of 2014 there was a firefighter by the name of Joe Yeakley, who was burned. Joe at the time of our Memorial Ride Joe was being treated for burns he sustained when a structure collapsed on him early in the morning on Friday, January 17, 2014. Joe Yeakley is a 14-year veteran with Lindale Fire Department with a total of over 30 years in the fire service. Mr. Yeakley sustained burns over 50% of his body. There were many benefits held in his cause in his home town. Our Chapter is about 1 ½ hours from his home and we wanted to help. So, we cleared it with his family and purchased a 1911 Colt Government 45 pistol. We sold chances and took donations to help this family. We traveled to Lindale and participated in fundraisers there and also went to Paris, Detroit and Clarksville to events to raise money. In the end we raised about \$3100.00 for this family.

In September of 2014 Joe received the “Star of Texas Award”. "The Texas Legislature created the Star of Texas Awards to honor peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders who were killed or seriously injured in the line of duty on or after September 1, 2003”.

It was with happy hearts that Joe Yeakley got well enough to come home to stay at Thanksgiving of 2014.

On our ride we stopped in the towns of Paris, Commerce, Emory, Mineola, Lindale, Noonday and on to Jacksonville Texas. We picked up riders along the way and had wonderful Fire and Police escort through these towns. We had around 25 or so bikes to participate in the event. We had Red Knights from the south, Texas 1 to come up and join our ride.

In previous years we have rode and made donations to the Fire Memorial in Beaumont, Tx several times. We also rode to West, Tx and volunteered our time and made donations. When we went to West, our event was published in the 1st Responder Broadcast Networks paper.

<http://www.1rbn.com/webpages/news/Displaynews.aspx?jumpTo=true&id=b4b25098-3696-43b6-8b2f-8080cc781488>

Region 7

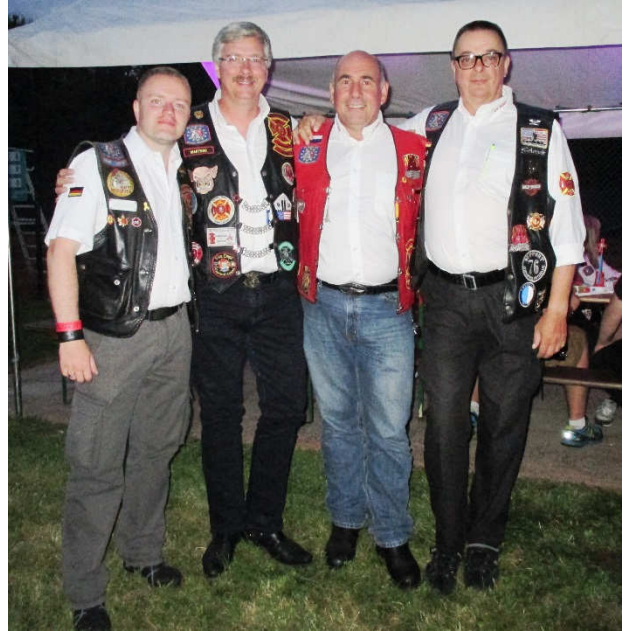


EUROPEAN NEWS

Membership in Europe continues to grow with new chapters and members joining our family in countries where there were previously no Red Knights, we now have members in 15 European Countries...Austria, Belgium, Croatia, England, France, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Wales.

Claus `Colonel` Feederle resigned his position as European Board Vice President at the Presidents meeting in September 2014 and on behalf of all European Red Knights I would like to put on record our thanks for his service as one of the original board members. "Thanks you Colonel for your dedicated service".

Congratulations go to Harris Puisais on being elected as the new Vice President.



European Board L to R: Michael Pfoertner (RC), Pierre Halleux (Pres), Tom Hoedjes (Sec & Tres), Claus Feederle (Past VP)

Iron Butt Program of the European Association

One of the mission statements of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club is to promote motorcycling safety and to participate in the sport of motorcycling.

To promote this exclusively for Europe we announced our Iron Butt Program about a year ago.

The idea is to ride 10.000 kilometers (6220 miles) per year, January 1st till December 31st. This can be done on your own bike, a second or a rental bike. Participants have to bring proof of that by picture of their odometer or rental agreement. Only riders can qualify.

At the end of the year they send their pictures to the award manager. A certificate and a patch will be sent to the applicant if everything is OK.

In 2014 no less than 19 members qualified:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Ger Bariscale | Gery Jansen | Jean-Robert Martinot | |
| Christoph Behling | Stephanie Behling | Harris Puissais | |
| Fabrice Detez | Klaas Smit | Markus Geist | Cont: |
| Pierre Halleux | Dirk van der Steen | Stijn de Grootte | Julie van der |
| Steen | Stefan Streiff | Tom Hoedjes | |
| Jan van Herck | Thierry Verdet | Koen Vanthuynne | |
| Daniel Waldspurger | | | |

They all received the Patch in "Bronze". When a participant achieves a second and third award they will be issued with Silver and Gold patch.





Program Rules are on our website <http://www.redknightsmc.eu> or you can ask the award manager by email awards@redknightsmc.eu

We would like to invite all European Red Knights to join us for this challenge.

Keep them rolling and keep them safe

Tom "Sparks" Hoedjes
Secretary Association of Europe

My fellow Red Knights Members,

A lot of you I know by Facebook, and some of you I met in person. What a big family! I'm a member since may 24, 2013. Almost two years now. I remember looking at the Red Knights MC patch on Peter Dekker his leather vest (President Netherlands 1) and asking him to give me one for my Fire Fighter Department / House patch collection. But I didn't had my motor drivers license yet. He told me I could get one, but than I had to become a member of the Red Knights MC. But...no drivers license and no motor.

So I started motorcycle lessons in January 2013. Before my exam I bought a Harley Davidson FXR. Another reason to get my license, a Harley Davidson in the garage. The FXR is sold, we've got a beautiful Softail Heritage Springer now. I started to read about the Red Knights MC on the internet. And than I decided to become a member. Peter asked me if I was interested to become the Treasurer. He did know me from the Fire House, so he know my accuracy with numbers.

Slowly I met the rest of the members of chapter Netherlands 1. A nice group of (ex) Fire Fighters. It's a growing Chapter, right now we have 20 full members and 6 social members.

Two years later already. New contacts from al over the world. Next month a chapter member from Nova-Scotia is coming over to stay here! I've got very good contact with Kevin B. Williams (my brother from another mother), I'm still grateful for the USA Fire Fighter helmet. We've (my wife Cisca and I) met chapter members from Belgium, Switzerland and Germany. April LeAnne White arranged a beautiful Jack Daniel's Fire Department T-shirt for me. Yes, one big new family.

This article is just my way to thank you all for the way you all fill my life every day. I love to follow you on Facebook. Especially the Facebook Red Knights MC - All Chapters & MAL. Like the stories. You never know when we will meet, but I'm looking forward to it.



Arco Harmans Red Knights MC member, chapter Netherlands



UK / IRELAND

ENGLAND 2 – Sheffield



Members from RKMC England 2 joined up with the Blue Knights Chapter, England 9 to assist with the marshalling of the 2014 Toy run to help Radio Hallam's Mission Christmas, with each biker bringing toys to donate to South Yorkshire's underprivileged children that would otherwise not receive a gift on Christmas morning.

The group approximately 90 motorcycles was split in to three smaller groups and left Moto Demon bikers' cafe and shop in Rotherham riding to Radio Hallam in Sheffield.

On arrival at Radio Hallam toys and sweets were presented to Radio Hallam Mission Christmas by Bikers from Red Knights, Blue Knights, South Yorkshire Lady Bikers, Independent Bikers, Sheffield and Yorkshire Bikers.



Red & Blue Knights Marshalling Crew

ENGLAND 1 - Brandon

Annual UK & Ireland Meeting

The Annual UK & Ireland Meeting was hosted this year by England 1 and took place in Brandon, Suffolk on 17th to 19th April. Though many of England 1 members are serving in the American Military and are deployed away from the Chapter it was a true show of the Spirit of the Red Knights Brotherhood that the meeting still took place. A huge thanks must go to Tom Wade, England 1's President and his wife Maria for their hard work in organising the event which was a huge success and was attended by members from Belgium 1 & 2, England 1, 2 & 3, Switzerland 1 & 2, Ireland 1, Wales 1, Members-at-Large, Ontario 21 and Blue Knights, England 9.



There was an informal gathering for food and drinks on the Friday night which was followed by two different rides to choose from on Saturday, a shorter route to a Custom Motorcycle Builders and an Indian Motorcycle /



Morgan cars showroom, or a longer ride to the coast and back. Saturday evening was party time where members enjoyed `Live` entertainment and good food, good company and plenty to drink.



England 1 President, Tom Wade being presented with
A piece of Cork Crystal by
Barry O'Mahony, Ireland 1 Vice President

GERMANY

GERMANY 2 – Wolfenbuttel

On the 12th of July 2014 RKMC Germany 2 hosted the RKMC European Association Board Meeting and celebrated their fifth anniversary with about 100 guests including our Red Knights brothers & sisters and friends from some local motorcycle groups and clubs. As well as good conversation, laughing, dancing and of course good drinking & meals, we organized a ride around Wolfenbuttel with our motorcycles in several groups on Saturday.

To honor the five years of membership we presented our members with special pins for their vests. Moreover, we raised some money for “Paulinchen e.V.”, this is an



initiative for children who were hurt by fire that we try to support as often as it is possible.



We want to say “**THANK YOU**” again for a great weekend and for five years full of exceptional friendship within the Red Knights.



GERMANY 3 - Gießen

Members of Germany 3 presenting the cheque to Weitzel Lotz of the Children's Hospice Service

It is always great to see Red Knights Chapters raising money for good causes, particularly when those causes are for children and Germany 3 have been doing just that by raising money for “Outpatient Children's Hospice Service” in Gießen, Germany. The Chapter raised 400 euros for the hospice which supports sick children and their parents throughout the year.

Also this year they will again donate money that is raised at their annual Summer Party and they would like to thank all their past and future summer party guests for helping support this charity with their donations.

Germany 3 are a very active chapter in Europe and visit many other chapters throughout the year, Why not pay them a visit for the Summer Party, you are sure to have a great time!



FORMATIONS-PARTY



OKTOBER 3. , 2015

to

Castrop-Rauxel / NRW Germany

start at 6:00 pm

Adress:

Wittner Straße 310, Kleingarten Merklinde
44577 Castrop-Rauxel - Germany

*We want to celebrate with you and will be happy to
in our party there when her since!*

Course will be provided for the physical well.

*In order to plan, we ask you
by the
01 August at feedback!*



email

info@red-knight-germany-9.de

or post:

Red Knights GER IX
Recklinghausetr Str. 45
D-44581 Castrop-Rauxel



GERMANY 8 - Kall

Germany 8 currently have 12 members and are busy refurbishing a very old building which will become their new clubhouse. The new clubhouse will be inaugurated at their party which will take place on June 27-28. For more details of the party contact Germany 8's President, Andy by their chapter email. germany8@redknightsmc.com



Germany 8 members busy refurbishing their new clubhouse

BELGIUM

BELGIUM 2 – Blankenberge

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This year, we have a very big event in Ieper (Belgium) where is commemorate the end of the First WW. Each evening, at 8:00 PM, The Last Post is playing under the Menin Gate Memorial by The Belgian Firefighters.

I think, we (Red Knights) have a good opportunity to share our respect during this 30.000th Last Post on the 9th July, 2015.

If you are interested and you think you would like to join us, we can help you to find a room or other. Let us know (regionassoc2europe@redknightsmc.com) if you want to join us).

Pierre Halleux

President, Red Knights MC Inc. Europe Association

Buba, the President of Belgium 2 has been asked to contact as many Red Knights, World Wide in order to coordinate our attendance at this historical event. If you would be interested in attending please contact him through their email contact.

Belgium2@redknightsmc.com



30,000th Last Post - A tribute to the tribute

On 09/07/2015 the Last Post will be blown for the 30,000th time under the Menin Gate in Ieper. To celebrate this unique occasion, GoneWest (the cultural remembrance programme of the Province of West Flanders) is organizing with the Last Post Association and actor Wim Opbrouck (the guiding spirit behind the initiative) 'A Tribute for the Tribute'.

On 9 July 2015, this large-scale participative event will take place in fire stations all around the world.



People from all over the world will be asked to follow the Last Post ceremony live at 20.00 hours local Belgian time (GMT+2) on 9 July 2015 in their local fire station. A short text, specially written for this event by Wim Opbrouck, will also be read aloud in each of the participating fire stations by a person selected locally (for example, the mayor, the chief fire officer, the youngest fireman, the oldest fireman, a veteran etc.).

When the 30,000th Last Post is sounded by the buglers under the Menin Gate, it is hoped that a moment of silence and contemplation will be held in as many fire stations as possible around the world, and that the commemorative text will be read out in honour of the Last Post. A simple gesture; a tribute to the buglers who have brought their own tribute to the fallen

soldiers of the First World War 30,000 times; a tribute celebrating the worldwide solidarity between the firemen and firewomen of all nations. This will not be a large-scale, 'spectacular' event, but a quiet and dignified coming together of kindred spirits in a special place - the local fire station.

PROGRAMME FOR THE CEREMONY

- 19.00: Arrival of civilian guests at the fire station
- 19.40: Word of welcome by the chief fire officer
- 19.50: A contemplative text, written by Wim Opbrouck, will be read aloud (by a person chosen by the local fire brigade)
- 20.00: 30,000th Last Post - live broadcast
- 20.30: Closing address by the chief fire officer - Sirens are sounded.

Via online media, internet streaming and other classic media channels, GoneWest will make the 30,000th Last Post available to communities around the world. In this way, the feeling of solidarity between the participants will be greatly strengthened. Information about the further development of the project will also be communicated via lastposttribute@west-vlaanderen.be.

More information: <http://www.gonewest.be/en/last-post/30000th-last-post>



BELGIUM 4 – Soignies

In December 2014 Belgium 4 participated in the Christmas market in Soignies (More picture are available on our website www.belgium4.be) to raise funds for Sporting Society "the cliniclowns" This Sporting Society trains men and women to become clowns in hospitals so that they can entertain the children and make them laugh, the aim is to help them forget their illnesses for a short period and bring some joy and happiness to the their lives.



Belgium 4 have raised €2300 so far and this sum will be able to provide 4 new clowns.



2015 will be a busy year for Belgium 4 they be preparing for the 2016 European Meeting as well as taking part in the activities below, some of which are in partnership with our friend in the Blue & Green Knights.

May 1, 2015 they participated in the run of the Brussels Military Police and the following day, May 2, they organized the first memorial to our lost Sister Pascale Fadier who was sadly killed in a motorcycle accident by a drunk driver.

May 3, 2015 they have their 2nd day and safety training

bike with the collaboration of the Blue Knights Belgium 4 and from 09 May to 16 May a group will go to Corsica to visit fellow Red Knights.

On their return, May 29 to May 31 we they travel to visit RK France 1 to celebrate their Chapter's Anniversary.

On June 13 the Chapter will attend the 2nd dinner party of the Knights of the Roundtable where members of the Red, Blue and Green Knights will be in attendance.

And on June 25 they will pay tribute to US soldiers who died in Normandy in 1944 with a motorcycle ride and visit to the American cemetery to exchange flags.

All information and pictures are on our website.

Mémorial Pascale
Samedi 02 Mai 2015
 10:00 am

Balade moto en mémoire de ton sourire
 « Miss Sourire »

Ta mort inattendue,
 A déchirés nos cœurs
 Parler de toi,
 C'est te faire
 Exister...
 Ne rien dire,
 Serait t'oublier...



RKMC BELGIUM 4
 Service Incendie de Soignies
 Rue de la Senne, 72
 7060 Soignies

www.belgium4.be



FRANCE

FRANCE 1 – Paris

On March 29th members from RKMC France took part in a blood donation day

Blood donation operation for the armed forces.



France 1 President, Harris Puisais

France Chapter I, in partnership with the blood transfusion center of the Jean Julliard, decided to organize a blood donation operation. This operation was called: "The bikers are warm-blooded"



Because each day, the military in overseas operations are ready to shed their blood for their country, members from France 1 decided that on 29th March they would make this simple but highly symbolic gesture and give theirs. Following the giving of blood at the blood transfusion center of the armies of

Percy military hospital in Clamart members were treated to a joint BBQ in Percy Gardens. This was a great effort by France 1 who donated 19 liters of

blood for their wounded soldiers.

A huge thank you to all the staff of the CTSA Clamart, but especially to our biker friends, especially those that came from Belgium to take part in this important operation

On February 27th France I entered into a partnership between the chapter and the running team `NO LIMIT RUNNERS` who undertake runs for ill children. On March 22th, eight firefighters from Paris and members of "NO LIMIT RUNNERS" association crossed the finish line of the Rome marathon with Sofiane. Sofiane is 5 years old and suffers from hemiparesis, paralysis affecting one part of the body. Sofiane is a fan of firefighters and wanted to take up a sporting challenge in a joëlette (a hiking chair suitable for people with reduced mobility) and there were congratulations all round for completing the challenge!



Sofiane



At the finishing line with Sofiane



France 1 President, Harris Puisais handing over a Cheque for 400 euros



SWITZERLAND

Switzerland 2 – Thun

A delegation from Switzerland 2 will visit the party of the Chapter "France II" at Le Lavandou at the end of May and a further delegation will travel to the "International Convention" at San Antonio TX.

2015 Calendar:

11/07/2015 summer ride 14/08/2015 Intl. Convention 11/09/2015 European Convention 4/10/2015 autumn ride

01/03/2016 "New Year's Reception"

By far the most important event for Switzerland 2 in 2015 is the "European Convention 2015" from 11 to 13 September 2015 at Sumiswald to which all Red Knights are welcome. Switzerland 2 are organizing this year's Convention and those who want to participate should sign up as soon as possible, because it is already more than 75% booked up.

For further information and registration/application form, please refer to our website: www.rkmc.ch

RED KNIGHTS MC®
European Convention
 11.–13. September 2015

Organised by

Supported by

Anmeldung und Preise ab 1. Dezember 2014 auf www.rkmc.ch
 Inscription et prix dès le 1^{er} décembre 2014 sur www.rkmc.ch
 Registration and prices from 1st December 2014 on www.rkmc.ch

Freitag, 11. September 2015
 ab 17:00 Empfang der Gäste
 18:30 - 20:00 Barbecue
 ab 20:00 Gemütl. Beisammensein

Samstag, 12. September 2015
 08:00 - 10:00 Frühstück
 10:00 - 12:00 Präsidentenkonferenz
 11:00 Ausfahrt
 18:00 - 20:00 Galadinner
 ab 20:00 Abendprogramm mit musikal. Unterhaltung
 anschl. Gemütl. Beisammensein

Sonntag, 13. September 2015
 08:00 - 10:00 Frühstück
 11:00 gemeinsamer Abschluss
 anschl. Abreise der Gäste



Vendredi, 11 septembre 2015
 dès 17:00 Accueil des motards
 18:30 - 20:00 Barbecue
 dès 20:00 Réunion amicale

Samedi, 12 septembre 2015
 08:00 - 10:00 Petit déjeuner
 10:00 - 12:00 Réunion des présidents
 11:00 Balade des motos
 18:00 - 20:00 Repas gastronomique
 dès 20:00 Soir d'animation avec musique
 après Réunion amicale

Dimanche, 13 septembre 2015
 08:00 - 10:00 Petit déjeuner
 11:00 Fin de la convention
 après Départ des motards

Friday, 11. September 2015
 from 17:00 Welcome of the guests
 18:30 - 20:00 Barbecue
 from 20:00 Get-together

Saturday, 12. September 2015
 08:00 - 10:00 Breakfast
 10:00 - 12:00 Meeting of Presidents
 11:00 Bike tour
 18:00 - 20:00 Convention Banquet
 from 20:00 Convention program with music
 then Get-together

Sunday, 13. September 2015
 08:00 - 10:00 Breakfast
 11:00 End of Convention
 then Departure of the guests



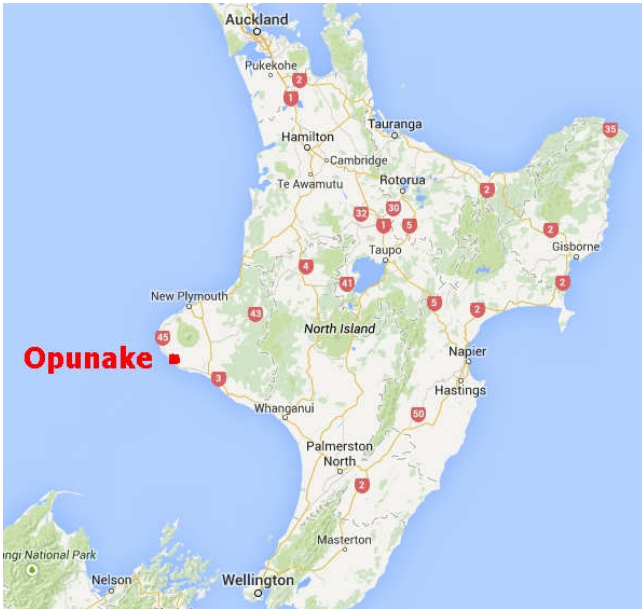
Red Knight MC New Zealand



Article by Adam Knezovic
RKMCNZ - VP NZ2

Annual Convention, better known as 'The Gathering' 2014
Chapters NZ1, NZ2, NZ3, NZ4, NZ5 and NZ6 all were represented.

The 2014 Gathering was held over the weekend of October 3rd, 4th and 5th 2014 and hosted by NZ4 and held in Opunake, on the west coast of the North Island of New Zealand.



Opunake is a small town on the southwest coast of Taranaki in New Zealand's North Island. It is located 45 kilometres southwest of New Plymouth. Rahotu is 16 km to the northwest. Manaia is 29 km to the southeast. State Highway 45 passes through the town.

The town has a population of 1,410 (June 2014 estimate). Opunake is the westernmost town in the North Island with a population of at least 1,000.

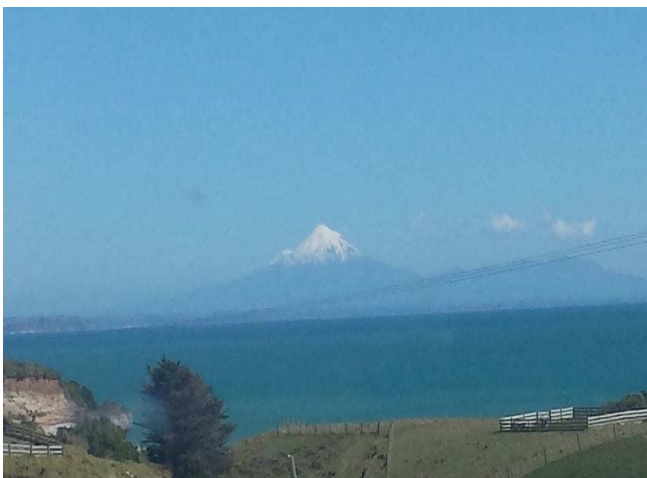
The town was settled in the 1880s. It was intended to be a major port but, other than a jetty constructed in 1891, little else was completed.

Opunake is the centre for the local dairy industry, and is also a popular tourist spot, having one of Taranaki's finest beaches. The beach is composed of volcanic blacksand and there are large rock pools to be found on the north-west end of the beach at low tide.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opunake>)

One of the main highlights of the area is Mt Taranaki, shown as the green spot to the top right of Opunake on the above map and shown here in this photo below.

The Gathering is our annual get together of all chapters in New Zealand. It involves riding there to assemble on the Friday, with some chapters leaving their home town Thursday, some even Tuesday or Wednesday to get there on the Friday.



(Photo: J. Ansley)



(Photo: A. Knezovic)

The hosts utilise a Fire Station (usually a Volunteer Brigade) in their area, and the brigade do the catering for the event, as well as provide refreshments (wet canteen). All profits/proceeds go to the brigade and are generally utilised for equipment or PPE. This year, Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade was our host station



(Photo: A. Knezovic)



(Photo: A. Knezovic)

Attendees find their own accommodation, with the brigade ferrying members to and from their place of sleep by van or mini bus. This allows no drinking and riding, and members can enjoy themselves.

Saturday involves breakfast (of course) and then a day's riding, usually around the area, and approx. 5-6 hours of riding. This year was abit shorter, with torrential rain putting a dampener on the fun. We rode out to Toko firestation, where that Brigade put on a Bar B Que for lunch, and then rode back, with some splitting off to visit other sights.



(Photo: A. Knezovic)



(Photo: A. Knezovic)

Saturday night has a feast of a meal, drinking, prize giving, sheriff fines and joviality, along with more drinking.

The best part of this event is catching up with all our mates, talking long stories about anything but probably motorcycles and rides, and just enjoying each other's company.



(Photo: A. Knezovic)



(Photo: A. Knezovic)



(Photo: A. Knezovic)



(Photo: A. Knezovic)



(Photo: A. Knezovic)

Sunday is about having breakfast, packing the bikes, saying farewell to our friends, new and old and then riding home.

For this author, it is an experience that I look forward to year after year, and is talked about for months afterwards. Photo's go up on our facebook page/s as does the humour,



We'd welcome any overseas RKMC members who would like to come and share a Gathering with us, join the fun, share some stories and get some all-important photos with us. You are always welcome.



(Photo: A. Knezovic)



(Photo: A. Knezovic)

The next Gathering is to be held over the weekend of the 10th, 11th and 12th April 2015, moving it into the end of Summer in an attempt to savour the sunshine and move away from the wintery period of October.

Below are each Chapters Presidents small write up about the event, based on their own thoughts and feelings.

Best regards

Adam Knezovic – VP NZ2.



Russell Rawiri – President NZ1

The gathering at Opunake was the first since all chapters were formed, and a big thank you goes out to Chapter 4 for hosting it this year. Albeit the weather gods were not on our side the gathering was a big success. Meeting members face to face from around the country was great, forming new friends is what it is all about.

The ride down with some of our own members was great, and then meeting up with Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 was a huge bonus and a thoroughly great ride.

The ride which was scheduled for Saturday was also great going to Toko Fire Station where lunch was prepared for us. The ride back to Opunake for us was also great as the weather cleared a bit making it a good ride.

Saturday nights dinner was outstanding with a traditional hangi, that set the evening off to a great start. The Sheriffs did a great job, and we all had a laugh at each other.

After several years of a Gathering and being the only Chapter for 13 years this was certainly in my opinion, a great time to share with other Chapters. I believe that everyone had a great time and I know I look forward to others in the future.

Having other Chapters around the country makes it truly a great event to look forward to each year.

Loyal to our Duty

Russell LM Rawiri

President

Red Knights NZ Chapter 1

Andy Lockyear – President NZ2

Over a very wet weekend on 3-4th October in Opunaki, Taranaki. New Zealand held our 2nd annual Gathering

With representatives from all 6 chapters attending,

Approx 45+ members present,

All getting together at Opunaki fire station on the Friday night for a very large BBQ and lots of drinks

On this evening a historic Exec meeting was taken place having all but one executive member from all NZ chapters present (6 presidents 5 vice presidents) chapter nz 1 thru nz 6, Photo attached

On the Saturday a ride up the mountain was had to a brand new fire station (TOKO) where lunch was supplied by that brigade, all member were seen huddling around the BBQ drying there gloves as some hail had just fallen and the temp was at 4deg C so lots of blue fingers but good company prevailed to still make this enjoyable

This was followed by a very entertaining night back at Opunaki Fire Station where a traditional Hungi (underground Cooking) feed was supplied a compulsory shot of homemade honey bourbon was in hand as we walked in the door... YUM



Followed by speeches and fines all round all providing some extra funds for Opunaki fire brigade social club,

What an awesome weekend and fun despite the run of bad weather excellent company all round, This followed a nice sunny day on the Sunday for most to head of different directions for home,

Can't wait for 2015

Andy Lockyear (Lokky)
President NZ 2



Robbie Winterson – President NZ3

NZ 3 the Waikato Chapter of The New Zealand Red Knights planned to meet the Auckland Chapter at the Z servo in Te Awamutu. A convenient fuel stop on State Highway 3 and also next door to Trevor Hall motorcycles which had a bit of eye candy. This turned out to be a great call as the weather gods decided to bless us with a cold drizzly rain. So we mooched around the shop a while getting the hopes up of the sales staff until the others turned up. A quick blast to Te Kuiti had us ordering hot coffee and bacon sammies with the Whangarei chapter who had arrived there the night before. The weather still being a bit changeable saw most riders donning the wet weather gear.

We headed out onto SH 3 again heading south into the cold wind and rain. Up and over the King Country, down through the Awakino Gorge and onto the Whitebait town of Mokau. With everyone feeling the cold it was more coffees and sandwiches. Next it was up and over Mount Messenger and into the province of Taranaki to fuel up again in Urenui. From Te Kuiti in the Waikato to Opunake in Taranaki it's 4 hours of great bike riding road on a nice sunny day, with loads of good corners and fast straights. So considering the +



gale force winds and driving rain it was with some relief we all arrived at the Opunake Fire Station shiney side up given the terrible weather conditions.

After getting our bearings locally, everyone went off to their digs to unload the gear and put the bikes to bed. A few of us needed some of Mr Jim Beam's Devils Cut Bourbon to defrost from the inside then before we knew it the van had arrived to take us back to Opunake Station for the Bar-B-Que dinner. A fine feast it was to and a great way to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

After dinner and a few more beers a few of us wandered into Opunake to meet the towns folk. The locals as always, were curious of the leather clad strangers but soon made us welcome and invited us to join in. A German folk band was playing and that mixed with the jokes and tall stories finished the night off a treat. A chilly walk back to the motel and that was Friday done.

A leisurely start to Saturday morning saw us get ourselves and our bikes out of bed and back down to Opunake station for a cooked breakfast. Again the weather wasn't great so some bacon and eggs was gratefully consumed to soak up the previous night's indulgences. Due to the extreme weather the days ride was shortened and we were soon back in the saddle for a quick run inland off the coast to Eltham then through Stratford to the Toko brigade Station. Again the BBQ was cranking but this time it was drying frozen gloves besides the sausages.

After another great feed we were back on the bikes to zoom back to where we had come from. A bit of free time was on offer so people went their separate ways. I don't think many went far and after a quick nap it was back to Andy and Adam's room to wring the neck of another bottle of Devil's Cut.

We were chauffeured back to the Station for another spectacular meal. This time it was cooked in the traditional Maori style of Hangi. The food is wrapped then buried in the ground with hot stones providing the heat, creating a delicious earthy flavour. After dinner was the fines session which not only provided plenty of laughs but also made a nice donation to present to Opunake Brigade for their superb hospitality.

Many more tall tales were shared along with the beers and frequent trips back to the buffet for that one last piece of meat or some more dessert. Perhaps the night before had taken its toll as the group slowly dispersed. A few of us hadn't quite finished so it was back to the local pub to finish the night off. No Ompah band this time but they had a covers band instead. A few even remembered us from the night before.

Sunday saw everyone packing up for the ride home. At Opunake Station great food was again on offer and after a few group photos the sun started poking through and everyone was itching to hit the road. Heading around the coast the road started to dry and all the weekends lack of riding frustration melted away as the Rocket 3 glided through the corners and powered into the straights. Through New Plymouth and back onto the open road saw us riding this great highway the way it deserves.

A few stops to regroup saw us overtake some other bike rider 3 times. We'd stop to group up and he'd go by then we'd catch him again a bit further on. He always pulled aside to let us by but he probably wondered what on earth we were doing. Lunch at the Fat Pigeon Café in Piopio was our last stop as a group then it was carrying on North into the sunshine and on towards home. Settling down after Te Kuiti as the road straightens and the traffic thickens our need for speed and hard cornering was satisfied. Terry and I left the group at Kihikihi and blasted through the South Waikato for me and over to Tauranga for Terry.

All in all an amazing weekend of fun and laughter despite the weather gods trying to thwart our plans.



When your with great people and great friends there's nothing that can dampen a man's spirit. Always disappointed that it was over so soon but already excited about the next one.

Loyal To Our Duty
Robbie "Blizzard" Winterson
President NZ3

Jason Ansley – President NZ4
Host Chapter

RKNZ 2014 National Gathering was held in October Hosted by NZIV (Taranaki) Chapter in conjunction with the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade. We had over 60 members from across the country register and attend this weekend. Unfortunately the good old Taranaki sunshine proved to be elusive and there were a large proportion of wet riders turning up on the Friday night.

Friday night was a meet and greet combined with an amazing BBQ dinner and drinks kindly catered for by the members of Opunake Brigade, followed by quite a lot of tall tales. It was good to finally meet a lot of members in person rather than talking to via Facebook ☺.

The horrid weather continued Saturday which forced a change in ride plans, RKNZ IV had planned an amazing race type event taking in the sites of the amazing Taranaki region, but alas this was not to be. After the coffee and breakfast kindly cooked by Glen Heather (NZIV's newest member), with food being donated by Taranaki Vet Group (Thanks' Hoppy!) Approx. half of the group decided to brave the weather and rode through to Toko Fire station for a sausage sizzle lunch and to check out NZ's newest built Fire Station.

The BBQ there became very versatile, not only for cooking food, but also for drying out and warming up wet gloves. From there a smaller group broke off to continue around the mountain (which unfortunately was still hidden behind rain clouds) to get some pics for their "FIREHOUSE" badge, and the rest returned to Opunake. Saturday night we were once again very well fed by the Opunake brigade members, this time with a Hangi (a Traditional Maori cooking method).

This was followed by chapters fine sessions and various presentations, with all the proceeds from the fines being donated to the Opunake Brigade. We also had the honour of having Miss January & Miss December from the 2015 Fire-fighters Calendar in attendance happily selling and signing the calendars. Several more drinks were consumed and a lot more tales told before the night was out.

Sunday morning seen another great breakfast being had prior to all riders Parading down the main street, escorted by both of Opunake's Fire Appliances prior to the goodbyes and riders dispersing back to the various regions that they come from.

All in all a great weekend was had, despite the weather doing its best to throw us a curveball. Looking forward to the next one in Hunua 2015!

Jason Ansley
President RKMC NZ 4



So it was finally time for the Gathering, the day dawned bright and clear, Yeah Right..!! On with the wet weather gear and hit the road. Not too bad leaving Wellies but progressively got worse and worse as we headed north.

Torrential past Bulls and all through Wanganui etc. Quick stop in Wongers for the Pres to buy a new helmet and back into it.

Arrived in Opunake and things we're slowly brightening up. So ditched the wets, put all the heaters on in the house to dry things out and after a couple of cheeky shots of "Rat Poison" (a rather delicious and smooth homebrew bourbon supplied by "Ratti") to warm the insides off to the station we went.

Great food, booze and company.

Awesome night meeting new people and generally having a good yarn.

Next morning we all meet for a wicked brekkie, weather still shite but most decided to do the ride that was the fall back due to the weather, again a bit average riding but things cleared up and we decided to do a Station run around the mountain. Glad we did, it fined up completely and the riding was awesome.

Back in Opunake in the arvo and it hailed 2 mins after we arrived, all good, back off to the Station for a mean Hangi and more of the same from the previous night. Brekkie again the next morning and a group photo before we all headed off in separate directions, in the dry too.

All in all a great weekend, Thanks heaps from all of us at Chapter 5 to the Opunake folks that organised and ran everything over the weekend, it was greatly appreciated. If that's the standard of the Gatherings to follow then we're all in for some great times. Till next time, Ride hard - Ride safe..

Cheers
Chris Ryder
VP RKMC NZ5

Ken Mahon – President NZ6

Well the first thing we would like to say is a huge Thank you to all the members of the Opunake Fire Brigade you did us proud. The effort you all put in to making us feel so welcome was much appreciated.

The BBQ and Hangi were out of this world, **“My Kitchen Rules Opunake” u rock**
And of course big up to Chapter 4 for putting it all together well done Guys and Girls awesome

Doug Wright had spent a few days in bed crook with the flu but nothing was going to stop Doug a true West Coast and NZ6 hard man .Doug and myself couldn't wait to get up there and meet old Friends and make new ones ., great crossings on the Ferry and a dry trip up unlike some of you poor buggers on Friday.

Friday Night was a blast especially after hours at the corner pub but that's an entirely other story aye Pushrod



Saturday was a crap day weather wise but the comradeship made up for the weather Saturday night well hell what a night, the fines were such a laugh , the Hangi was delicious and the drinks went down very well even if some found the bourbon to swallow aye Tim

Highlight was Doug wining the most travelled Red Knight to get to Gathering.

Once again a big thank you every one for making it a Gathering to Remember both Doug and I were so pleased to be able to represent NZ6 keep safe people .Look out Hunua Gathering 2015 NZ6 Mainland will be there

Cheers

Ken Mahon
President RKMC NZ6