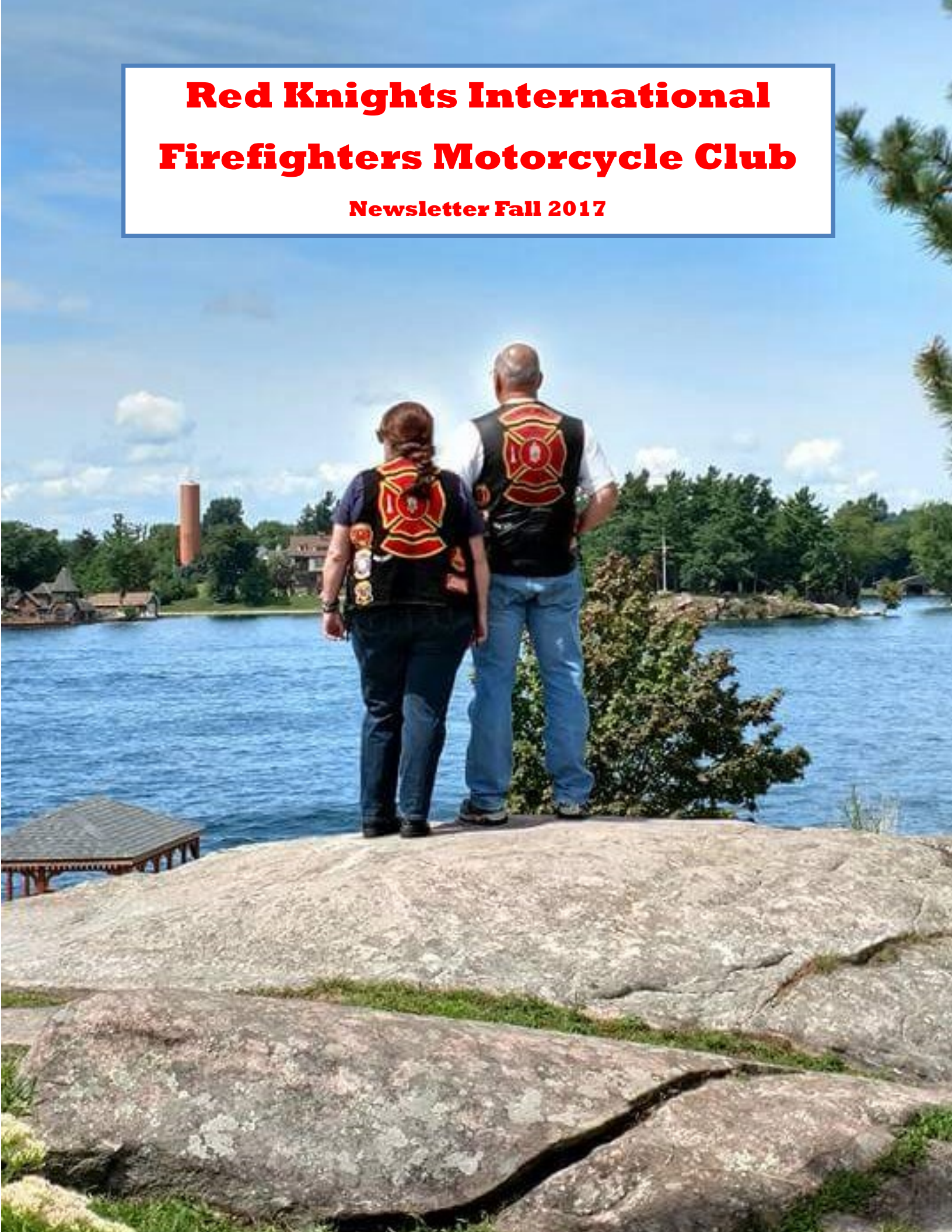


Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club

Newsletter Fall 2017



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Have you checked out the Red Knights Website recently? You could be missing a lot!

Website: <http://www.redknightsmc.org/>

Board Members: <http://www.redknightsmc.org/boardmembers.htm>

Letters From the President: <http://www.redknightsmc.org/presidentletter.htm>

Board Reports: <http://www.redknightsmc.org/boardreports.htm>

Events: <http://www.redknightsmc.org/redknightevents.htm>

Other items you can find: Merchandise (both from the International Quartermaster and Chapters),

Member forms, By-laws, Programs and much more!

Join the group on **Facebook:** Search “red knights - all chapters & mal”

Colin Nelson NH9, being awarded
the Perry Carter Award
(AKA: Red Knight of the Year)





Convention 2017

(Pictures taken from Facebook)



Red Knights International Meeting held at the August 2017 Convention

Notes "borrowed" from another member's post...

...Here is a summary of what happened at the business meeting today. The next three conventions will be,
2018 Pittsburgh
2019 New Hampshire
2020 France.

New Brunswick I was successful with their bid to host the 2021 convention in Saint John.

(Addition) 2022 will be in PA (Newsletter editor note: Sorry, I can not remember the chapter or location, but they gave a heck of a presentation!)

The latest membership numbers boast 437 chapters and a total of 9984 members across the world.

The executive board was recently presented with an opportunity to purchase the land adjacent to the Boylston memorial site. They quickly made the decision to acquire this land (and) are now negotiating a land swap deal with the municipality of Boylston to switch (part of) the land they bought for the land that the memorial now sits on, therefor permanently securing that land and bringing it under Red Knight ownership.

A Red Knight Memorial foundation has been created which will allow the Red Knights to supply tax receipts for people who donate to the ... memorial (foundation; i.e. house)...

(Addition: No tax credit for money sent for the "Memorial".)

This purchase also included the house on the land which is a three bedroom two bathroom full renovated house. The idea and hope is that those traveling to visit the memorial will be able to use this house as a place to stay there by saving the cost of hotels. The executive had to act quickly in order to secure this deal so more information will be forthcoming.



Yearly dues are increasing by four dollars (US) per member. This is the first time in almost 10 years that an increase has happened.

We have a new Regional Director as Gil has decided not to continue in his role. Lance Coit from North Dakota is our new region 5 (western) director.

There were 9 countries and 575 pre-registered for the convention.



Region 1

Members of Red Knights Mass-2 presented a check for over \$3,000 to Sherry's House (www.whyme.org). Sherry's house is a residential facility where families whose children are undergoing cancer treatment (in and around Boston) can stay.



The chapter raised

the funds by raffling off a finished Jack Daniels barrel that was donated by members Rick and Lori Oliver, proprietors of the New Salem General Store.

New Jersey State Association of the Red Knights

5th Annual After Christmas Party

Saturday, January 13, 2018, 7:00 pm—11:00 pm

North Centerville FD, 372 Middle Road, Hazlet, NJ 07730

Find the registration form on the [red knights - all chapters & mal](#)

Facebook page or contact John Gilgannon at

jgilgannon3@hotmail.com or 7329774460.



Region 3

On Saturday February 11th 2017. Chapter MI 5 held a fundraiser to raise funds to send at least 2 children to The Great Lakes Burn Camp. The Great Lakes Burn Camp is made up of several volunteers and local firefighters that set camp up twice a year to allow the children that have been burned in fires to come to camp and have some sort of normalcy to play, learn and network with other children that have gone through or are currently going through the same issues they are



after a severe burn. The children's burns can be fire, chemical, steam, car accident related, etc. It cost \$650.00 per child for them to be at camp for a week. During the week the kids learn crafts, swim, participate in a challenging team oriented rope course, play team games and network where no one is staring or asking what happened to them.

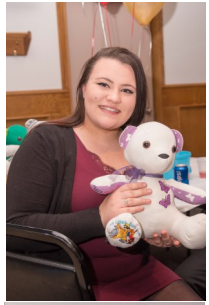


This was the first year for us to take on a fundraiser of this size and it was a huge success! The chair of the event was Sherry Lawfield, the Chapter Secretary, Ken Lawfield Chapter President, Treasure and his wife Tom and Regie Hayes and past Presidents Chris Boyd and Jamie Boyd.



The event exceeding expectations and raised over \$5,000.00 at

the event. "This was the most exciting thing our chapter has done, since we first organized, and we were all amazed at the success." This event will now be an annual event to support The Great Lakes Burn Camp and the children it serves. Submitted by: Sherry Lawfield



Region 5

2017 Western Region Rally The Salish Sea – Coast to Coast

On June 23rd, 2017 over 100 family and friends gathered in Sooke, British Columbia (BC), Canada for the 2017 Western Region Rally. The rally was hosted by BC Chapter 3 (Vancouver Island) and held at RKMC member Darrell Thompsons' (and his incredibly wonderful and patient wife Sue) acreage. The backdrop (actually, across the street) from the rally was the Salish Sea, the Olympic mountains of Washington State and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Definitely a treat for those who rode across the prairies and the mountains to get here.

Friday started with registration and a meet and greet BBQ. An antique fire truck from the local Sooke Fire Department arrived for ambiance and the horses and deer roamed through the paddock where the RV/trailer members were parked.....a whole new meaning to watch your step. By the end of the evening our 99th and 100th registrants (from Minnesota) had arrived and checked in and Darrell didn't have much hair left on the back of knuckles after doing dawgs and burgers (hot dogs and hamburgers) for everyone. A truly successful start.



Saturday dawned bright, sunny and hot and, for those who wanted, breakfast was served. Once again hairless knuckles Thompson was on the grill and pancakes and sausages were served. Just after 9:15 am a riders meeting was held for

those who wanted to participate in the Salish Sea Coast to Coast ride. Prior to the start of the meeting, a moment of silence was held for our never forgotten brothers and sisters and following the meeting there was a biker blessing. Both were lead by our very own fire chaplain and chapter member Gordon Kouwenberg.....thank you Gordon.



The ride was about 250kms/155 miles and was sunny and hot most of the way. Through tree canopy covered back roads, operational logging areas, quiet farm lands, small communities and roadways right beside the ocean or that offered stunning ocean views. There was a bear sighting reported and the eagles were soaring about for those who were lucky enough to see them. For those who didn't join the ride, there was horseback riding, local shopping and some of the folks just toured around the southern Vancouver Island area to see the local sights.

Saturday evening was the banquet at the Sooke branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Dinner, door prizes, fun and laughter were the order of the event and lasted for most of the night.... for some.

Finally, Sunday morning. The rally was over, family and friends heading back home or to carry on with their travels on the way home. Many attended a breakfast, once again at the Sooke Legion, to start the day with a full tummy. Before we knew it.... they were gone. Hopefully though, with great memories of the 2017 Western Rally.

Many of us have attended rallies and many of us also know how much work goes into making them successful. Our attending members and their families are not "high maintenance" nor do they require elaborate settings. I honestly feel that's why our regional rallies are so successful. From a parking lot or a farm field to a nice resort or hotel setting the only common thread is us, our family and friends. That seems to be all we need to make our rallies the success that it was.



In closing, a huge thanks to our organizing committee; Darrell (& Sue), Gord, Dave and Becky, Randy (our official photographer) and especially to all those who attended. It wouldn't have been what it was...without all of you.

Myles Anderson
Vice President & Rally Organizer
BC Chapter 3



Region 7



A Short Statistical History of the European Chapters

Steve Williamson, the Region 7 Reporter asked me to write some lines about new Chapters and MAL in Europe since beginning of the year. I say "Yes, no problem..." and the problems begin. I found a lot of information from various sources but not all information with the same content was consistent. So, we have rosters and lists from every chapter but some members join two or more chapters, in these circumstances the information below is my interpretation of the history...



European Knights at the 2016 European Convention

I'm sure, the first Red Knights lived in Europe before 2005 because on April 4th in 2005 some of them founded the first Chapter of the Red Knights MC in Europe. The Chapter was named Austria I and was in Schwechat near Vienna. Unfortunately, five years later, in May 2010, this Chapter dissolved. But the first important step was taken. In the year 2008 the next chapters in Ireland and in Germany were founded. From then every year we gain new Chapters and new Members. Often in a Country, we will first find one or two people who join as Members At Large (MAL) and in the next few years a new Chapter will

be born. Since the beginning of the year 2017 we have welcomed eleven new MAL and two new Chapters to our family.

At the end of May 2017, we have eight hundred and sixty five (865) Members in Europe. Ninety six (96) of them are MALs and live in sixteen (16) Countries. In thirteen (13) Countries we will find forty four (44) Chapters and I know that the forty fifth will be chartered in the next few months.



European Knights at the 2016 European Convention



2016 EU Convention gather at Charleroi Airport

One Chapter I have not counted in the text above. Unfortunately, the Red Knights also has members in the "Heaven One" Chapter. Six Knights ride the Highway to Heaven in the last twelve years and we had to engrave their names on the Boylston Memorial. Different to the Mother Chapters in the United States, in Europe the Red Knights speak several different languages. This and also the different temperaments of the sixteen Countries make it sometimes not easy to communicate. Therefore, in 2011 the European Association of Red Knights MC was founded. The tasks of this Association are to coordinate

the communication with the International Board of the Red Knights MC and to coordinate the activities of the several Chapters and Countries. To do this the European Association has its own Board and every Country has a Country Representative who should translate the letters and texts of the International and the European Board into their own language and act as the point of contact to these Boards.

Stefan "Sergeant" Streif

Secretary, Red Knights MC European Association

(Since receiving this article we have another new chapter in France – France 6)

A Tribute to Our European Padre, Rainer Lipp

The Padre entered the Red Knights on April 15, 2011 after being nominated by Claus "Colonel" at Red Knights Germany I. Padre was soon recognized as European Padre at the European meeting in Wolfenbüttel in August 2012 where this act was dedicated and confirmed by Dave Emery. The patch of the European Padre was then handed to him in August 2013 by the President of the European Association.



Padre participated in numerous meetings and has always been present at European conventions (2011 Charleroi - Belgium, 2012 Wolfenbüttel - Germany, 2013 Paris - France, 2014 Brugge - Belgium, 2015 Sumiswald - Switzerland and 2016 Namur - Belgium).



Padre receives his 'Padre' patch

The Padre had this gift of listening that allowed him to meet, encourage and reassure all the Red Knights who confided in him, he had that human dimension that made each and every one of us press him against his heart with love and benevolence.

The warmth of his smile, gratitude and love in his eyes, time shared were the cement of the relationship of the European Red Knights even though the European Association has multi languages, multi cultures, there are 18 countries - 13 languages, it was never an obstacle for our Padre, he was always able to communicate with all Knights no matter where they came from or what language they spoke.

The Padre's courage at the last European meeting was an example for all of us despite being exhausted and out of breath due to his illness, he prayed for us all and united us at the foot of the Manneken Pis and the large number of Red Knights present at his funeral showed how much he was respected and loved.



Padre leads prayers at the Manneken Pss

Here is what Region 7 Director, Pierre Halleux wrote about him:

Each of us, present today in body and/or spirit, honors our Padre.

His radiant smile, his generosity, his openness of mind, always close and available, have been for each of us a source of peace, pleasure, sharing.

On each occasion we met, Our Padre offered us His love, benevolence and blessing.

Witness to the early development of the Red Knights in Europe, he remains a model, an example for each of us

At the last European meeting, at the 9/11 ceremony in Brussels, he showed us courage, self-denial and self-sacrifice.

Our Padre will remain forever in our hearts, he is our base, bringing together all our differences.

He will now be our light and our guardian angel. He will watch over us and he will keep us under his protection.



Pictures from Padre's funeral

France IV

On May 21, 2017, members of the Red Knights France Chapter IV organized "Fire Day 2017" on the theme of motorcycle and firefighters in Nîmes - Uchaud 30620 in partnership with the And the disabled - ADARH.fr The event was open to all motorcyclists and the public and entry was free.

There were exhibitions to show off old motorcycles, old cars and American cars and there were animations for children including trampoline, inflatable structure, cotton candy, confectionery stand, and without forgetting the animation Parcours du Pompier adapted and reserved for children! The children also had the opportunity to try their hand at some firefighting drills.



Children trying their hand at some firefighting drills

For the older ones, there was the animation bull "Rodéo", creation of stainless steel objects, leather craftsmen, vinyl musical supports and many other exhibitors!

The Associations' corner included organisations involved in discovering people who are looking for missing teenagers, volunteers who intervene in disasters, motorcyclists who mobilize for children with cancer and who have a disability as a result of an illness. And many others who are all so formidable.

The city firefighters informed about the actions and attitudes to have in the presence of a victim. The Motorized Brigade of the Gendarmerie (Police de la route) presented their motorcycles and equipment for people to have a look at.



A club of "Dance Country" initiated the audience to the mythical American dance and the group of musicians "So W @ tt" entertained everybody throughout this pleasant day from 12h to 20h.

For those who had a motorcycle, trike or exceptional car, a route was planned at 11:00 on the small roads of our home! Catering and refreshments were available on site to ensure the comfort of our visitors.

UK/Ireland Meeting 2017



This year's UK / Ireland meeting was hosted by Wales I at Rhuddlan, North Wales and as well as members from the UK and Ireland. It was a pleasure to welcome members from Belgium, Switzerland and Luxemburg and we thank them for making the effort to



Setting off for the ride to Llandudno

travel such large distances to be with us. Friday night was an informal night at a local restaurant followed on Saturday by a group ride to Llandudno Fire Station for refreshments. Then back to visit Rhuddlan Castle before returning to the hotel to prepare for the evening's party.

Guests were shuttled to the Rhyl Rugby Club by coach on Saturday night for the party where the usual presentations were made and beers drunk. A raffle was held to raise money for local charities and Ireland I members entertained those present with their hilarious sense of humour and antics.

The weekend came to an end after breakfast on Sunday morning when everybody said their goodbyes and set off for home. Wales I are the UK's newest Chapter and they did a great job in organising the weekend, Well Done Jacob and his members.



At Rhuddlan Castle

CONGRATULATIONS TO WALES I PRESIDENT, JACOB AND SOCIAL MEMBER MARIA ON THEIR RECENT ENGAGEMENT



Jacob and Maria celebrate their engagement

Jacob had planned to propose to Maria on a bridge in Brugge, Belgium but the ferries to go to Belgium 2's party weekend were cancelled so he took Maria for a weekend away in Cornwall and proposed on a beach there instead.

Good luck to you both for the future.



England 2 Assist South Yorkshire Police

England 2 have been involved with helping South Yorkshire Police and the Blue Knights with escort and traffic control duties for the annual Sheffield Children's



Riders arriving at the Sheffield Children's Hospital



Hospital Egg Run and a Funeral Cortege for a fallen biker. These types of duties are made easier with the use of bike-to-bike communications systems supplied by Wintec and Intaride Communications.

The Children's Hospital Egg Run was organised by South Yorkshire Police and travelled its way from their Operations Section HQ through the streets of Sheffield, more than 400 motorcycles took part and had to be marshalled to the Hospital where donations and Easter Eggs were presented to the children who unfortunately find themselves in hospital. The former World Superbike Champion and former MotoGP rider, James Toseland is from Sheffield and is a keen supporter of the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity, as always he attended with his wife, the singer Katie Melua. James took his usual role of leading the ride. It is quite fitting that we should be asked to assist with this ride because the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity is the chosen charity of both the Red Knights England 2 and Blue Knights England 9.



James Toseland giving an Easter Egg to a young patient



England 2 Ride Captain & Vice President prepare to marshal 500 motorcycle

Unfortunately a young motorcyclist crashed and was killed on his way to the ride and two weeks later a cortege was arranged to escort him on his final journey. Around 500 motorcyclists were expected and South Yorkshire Police again asked if Blue Knights England 9 and Red Knights England 2 could assist them with escort and traffic control duties.

Wales 1 Takes Part in Prestatyn's Carnival Parade

Wales 1 undertook a great PR exercise by taking part in their home town's annual Carnival Event and Parade. The streets were lined with holiday makers and residents, many of whom were being made aware of the Red Knights for the first time. After the parade people had the opportunity to speak to Wales 1 members about motorcycling and the Red Knights MC.



Wales 1 spread the word about the Red Knights at the Prestatyn Carnival

Switzerland 1 Host the Despatch Riders

At the beginning of 2017 I was asked if I wanted to host the Despatch Riders for their "Ride for Forgotten Heroes" when they come to Switzerland.

The idea of the Despatch Riders is to make a tour through Europe and visit wounded comrades, Red-, Blue-, or Green Knight and let him tell his story.

The tour took place June 25th through 30th, crossing Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Germany, the riders arrived in Lucerne on the 26th where we met for a coffee and some small talk before they continued their ride to Italy. Colonel from Switzerland 2 accompanied them to the Grimsel Pass.



Switzerland 1 and Despatch Riders



Group tour of the Fire/Rescue Dispatch Centre

They returned to Switzerland on Thursday 29th and we picked up the group in Martina, near the Austrian border and had a nice ride to Zürich where TomTom Delboi arranged a tour through the biggest Fire/Rescue Dispatch Centre of Switzerland.

From there we took the Despatch Riders to our clubhouse where we had a great night entertaining them with BBQ and drinks. Afterwards our hero talked about his experiences from a big fire and a collapsing garage where he got wounded and unfortunately lost several crewmembers.

It was a very impressive

talk which highlighted the dangers we face in the 'Line of Duty' The group spent the night at our clubhouse and after an early breakfast they continued their tour to Ramstein Airbase in Germany.

It was a very memorable day in the history of Switzerland I and we would be honoured to host them again.

Tom "Sparks" Hoedjes
President Switzerland I



Sharing Experiences at the Clubhouse



Red, Blue and Green Knights together with the Despatch Riders

Belgium 4 - Rallye Télévie 2017



Belgium 4's President addresses the gathering

Since 2012, the Red Knights have assisted with the organising and marshalling of the Télévie rally in Belgium. Télévie was created on the initiative of private television station RTL TVI, which aims to raise funds to advance leukaemia and cancer treatment in both children and adults.

This year the rally went from the main square of Nivelles to the site of the inclined plane boat lift of Ronquières and more than 3000 motorcycles took part in the event.

In order to ensure this year's event was a success the Red Knights assume the function of captains of road, marshalling riders and controlling traffic along the route, there were more than 80 Red Knights present and all the Belgian chapters were represented. In addition we were able to count on help from the Blue Knights and Green Knights resulting in great cooperation between all Knights.

The 2017 event was a fantastic success and as a result of initiatives related to Télévie the incredible amount of 11,027,650 euros was raised

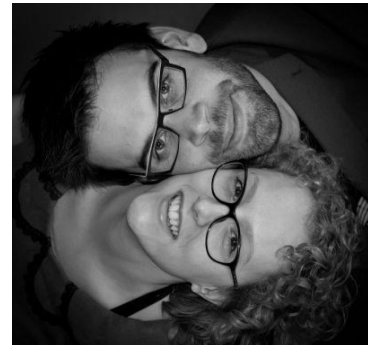
The Red Knights have a big heart.

Aurélie Meunier



Participants prepare to ride off

European Red Knights` Wedding Celebrations



Laurien De Jaeger and Stijn De Groot –Belgium II



Delphine and Cédric Grabowski – Belgium VII



Sandrine Vandendaele and Jan Van Herck – Belgium I

Congratulations to Laurien De Jaeger and Stijn De Groot of Belgium II, and Delphine and Cédric Grabowski of Belgium VII, and Sandrine Vandendaele and Jan Van Herck of Belgium I on their marriages. The Red Knights family wishes all three couples a long, happy and prosperous life together.

Region 8

New Zealand was the first country to form a chapter outside of North America, with NZ1 being chartered in 2001. We now boast 9 chapters across the North and South islands of New Zealand. Since 2008 we have held an annual 'Gathering', where a host chapter will invite members from all other NZ chapters to converge on a different part of New Zealand's idyllic countryside to enjoy what Aotearoa (Land of the Long White Cloud) has to offer: in the form of fantastic motorcycling roads, to promote motorcycle safety, project a positive image of motorcycling and to enjoy the community of firefighters.

This year in March 2017, Takaka at the top of the South Island hosted approximately 63 members for the 10th annual Gathering. The Gathering is held in support of the local volunteer fire brigade, where in exchange for hosting the club, we support them in the form of fundraising for which they can put towards vital firefighting resources. We were pleased to be able to present the Takaka Volunteer Fire Brigade with a contribution of \$800 from the weekend. The weekend entails riding the scenic roads around the area, socializing with fellow motorcyclists and chapter members, fundraising, a poker run, and a parade down the main street with fire escort to support the local community.



NZ has a Gathering Shield, which was created by the NZ5 chapter. During the weekend this is presented and passed on by the host chapter to the next chapter to host, and lists the year and location of the Gatherings.

A bonus for the weekend was the attendance of the

Region 8 (South Pacific) Director Jason Collins and his wife for the Gathering. A great weekend was had by all, reinforcing the camaraderie and brotherhood/sisterhood shared by all members and between New Zealand and Australia.

We look forward to many more and encourage other Chapters around the world to do the same!
Submitted by: Shaun Davis-Crowley, Region 8 NZ Reporter, Vice-President NZ5



From a Member...

I was recently caught off guard by a question, “what does the organization do for me?” I was caught off guard by this because I don’t think that way. I had heard the question posed to another member once before and was just as surprised. I prefer “what can I do to improve the organization?”

We as a Red Knight family were brought together, or rather found each other, because of the obvious, our passion for the fire service and motorcycle riding. I would never have walked into my first volunteer fire station and asked “what’s in it for me if I join?” although through the years some people evolve into that, it’s not who I am.

This question has been stuck in my head and thought about often. Everyone has their reasons for becoming a Red Knight, some simply want a patch on a vest and are only seen once a year to pay their dues, or via mail and not seen at all. The majority at least have involvement at the chapter level, attend meetings, rides, picnics, parties or whatever social gatherings the chapter is involved with. Others have discovered the brotherhood beyond just the chapter, neighboring chapters, state associations, regions, and international events. It makes me wonder if those who have not discovered anything outside of the chapter choose not to or are not aware of the brotherhood and camaraderie that exists in this great organization. Are those who have not experienced the brotherhood outside their chapter the majority thinking “what’s in it for me?”

What can I do? I can get involved at many different levels from simply being an active member by attending events like rides, meetings, and picnics. I can get more involved and suggest events, ride destinations, or fund raisers. I can lead rides, host events like rides or parties. I can hold an officer position. The point being I can do whatever I like and am only limited by myself and how involved I choose to be.

Are members with this thought active? Have they experienced life beyond the chapter? There is nothing wrong with not reaching out beyond the chapter if you choose, but the answer to “what does the organization do for me?” becomes a worldwide organization or family that you can ride with, attend meetings, rallies or conventions with, only based on your limitations, not the organizations.

Thoughts to ponder.

I would task officers to reach out to members and encourage involvement. Discover the brotherhood.

