

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club

INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
UPDATE!



COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS
INFORMATION

June 2020 Newsletter

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WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Firstly, I welcome Glenn Giles and Lance Solberg to the team of Regional Reporters, they have taken on the Region 2 and 5 Reporters positions. For the first time, we now have reporters in place for every region.

When I started working on this Newsletter back in February my main focus was on the fact that many of our members had been involved in the Australia bush fire operations and I am sure that they, and non-Red Knights deserve praise and gratitude for their bravery in the face of such large scale operations. THANK YOU!

Now however we are all having to deal globally with the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic and I'm sure that there have been many sleepless nights worrying about you and your families catching the virus, and due to events needing to be cancelled to comply with Governments' imposed restrictions, and to adhere to our Board of Directors' directive following their conference call in March. (See minutes below)

The important thing to remember is that there will always be other opportunities to meet and ride with your RK brothers & sisters, the main priority at the moment is to stay safe and healthy and to look after yourselves and your loved ones.

Even though there have been many cancelled events, myself and the Regional Reporters have worked to produce this Newsletter for you, I hope you all stay healthy and enjoy reading it.

editor@redknightsmc.com



The next Newsletter will be published in December 2020... Send your articles to me or your Regional Reporter by **30th November 2020**.

COVER PHOTO Red Knights gathered at the RK Memorial.
`Where it all began in Boylston`

Communications Chairman – George Colby communications@redknightsmc.com

Newsletter Editor - Steve Williamson editor@redknightsmc.com

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Region 7	Steve Williamson -	region7reporter@redknightsmc.com
Region 8 NZ	Shaun Crowley -	region8nzreporter@redknightsmc.com
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CORONAVIRUS – COVID19



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An open letter to the membership

March 16, 2020

Subj: COVID-19

Red Knights Members,

I would like to take this time to talk to you about the Covid-19 Virus and the need to do all we can to protect ourselves and everyone around us.

We have all heard of the things we can do to help stop the spread of the virus so let's do our part.

There are several events coming up in the next few months and the chapters holding these events should take every precaution.

Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer needs to be on hand. It is our responsibility to make sure that we take care of everyone. If it is just a local event you might need to think about postponing to a later date.

We all know that members, including myself, have taken vacation time so as to be able to attend but we need to think about the wellbeing of everyone. Many of us are not spring chickens any more.

First and foremost we need to take care of our families. If anyone needs anything please reach out to your chapter members for help. We all must pull together. Not just now but at any time we need anything.

Schools are closing and many businesses have people who can work from home, but the emergency workers cannot. They are on the front line. We have to be there to support them. Some emergency personnel will not be able to be at home, so if you can, please reach out, making sure their families know you are there for them.

At this time all events are still on. If there is a change please contact your Regional Director and or the Communication Chair George Colby at communications@redknightsmc.com.

In closing I will add that everyone needs to watch their chapter emails very closely for changes and cancelations of events and rallies.

Loyal To Our Duty

Thank you,

Joey Powell



FEVER



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



SORE THROAT



HEADACHE

COVID 19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



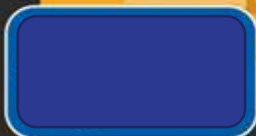
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



MARCH 2020 BOD CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES



RKIFMC

March 27, 2020
Conference Call

CONTACT

PHONE:
910-297-7932

WEBSITE:
redknightsmc.com

EMAIL:
secretary@redknightsmc.com

Conference call started at 0831 EST

Moment of silence

Roll Call – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6, Region 7, Region 8 were all present for the call.

- Opening remarks from Joey thanking everyone for being on the call and for the work being performed in their respective areas.
- Spring Meeting has been postponed with no official reschedule date yet.
- ALL official RKIFMC events are to be suspended until further notice.
- RKIFMC Memorial Hall and Memorial are closed until further notice.
- RKIFMC Insurance has been cancelled by the insurance company until further notice.
- Any International RKIFMC sponsored events (Dixie, Yankee, Western, etc.) that were cancelled due to the current situation will be able to send a detailed treasury report to the International Treasurer and the RKIFMC will cover any fees associated with refunding monies to the Membership. Please contact Scott directly for more information.
- Due to the timeframe necessary, the International Board will not be bringing any By-Law proposals forward for the 2020 Convention. Any By-Laws presented, by the Membership, to the By-Law Chair within the proper guidelines will still be presented at Convention.
- The RKIFMC Board will still be working to solve issues as possible by email motion as stipulated in SOG 15:01.
- The RKIFMC Board will be holding monthly conference calls to keep everyone aware of the situation and any changes that need to be made. This information will be posted for the Membership to see.
- Next call to be scheduled in middle of April TBA.
- As of now, the International Convention is still a go but information will be passed as soon as we have it.
- Call adjourned at 0931

APRIL 2020 BOD CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES



RKIFMC

April 30, 2020
Conference Call

CONTACT

PHONE:
910-297-7932

WEBSITE:
redknightsmc.com

EMAIL:
secretary@redknightsmc.com

Conference call started at 0806 EST

Roll Call – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6, Region 8 were all present for the call. Region 7 was excused.

- Opening remarks from Joey thanking everyone for being on the call and for the work being performed in their respective areas. Also gave a brief update about Pierre being on top of the Convention and will be giving updates as they are available.
- Heaven One program – This program needs some work to get it back to where it needs to be. This is our most cherished program and will not be taken lightly. We are all to brainstorm on email and calls to try and get this to the best it can be for our Membership. Reporting, rosters, timelines, and funeral representation are all issues to be worked on.
- Chapter Officers – what are actual officers and what are appointed positions? It is up to the Chapter to regulate their Chapter Board, but the official roster turned in to the International Treasurer needs to have all ELECTED positions under the officer tab and all APPOINTED or non-board positions added to the comments tab. This will help clarify home Chapter as well.
- Electioneering – the definition of electioneering can be subjective so we need a clear policy of what Board Members can or cannot do when there is an International position contested. We as a board have a motion against electioneering, but again, it can be subjective, so everyone needs to brainstorm and come up with ideas for a new policy to be written.
- Memorial Hall mortgage info – The balance as of 12/31/2018 is on the website. The balance is updated after every ABM.
- Fall Meeting attendance – the new format was attempted and was not very favorable to accomplishing necessary tasks to run the organization and gave a feeling of alienating the Directors for almost a year before the first meeting as a board. The Fall Meeting was discussed, and further information will soon be sent out by the International President.
- Convention hosting – no new application has been received since Maryland. No proposals will be accepted at Convention without the application being turned in to the board prior per.
- Newsletter material is due by May 31 to Steve.
- There will be an Executive Board call the week of May 13 to try Zoom. We will have our next International Board call the week of May 20.
- Waiting on a return email from insurance company on future of coverage. Will call today as nothing has been answered and we have events scheduled in late June.
- Region 3 reported that 2022 convention is on track and he will be meeting with them as soon as it is possible.
- Call adjourned at 0922.

MAY 2020 BOD CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES



Conference call started at 0815 EST

Roll Call – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6, Region 7, Region 8 were all present for the call.

- Opening remarks from Joey thanking everyone for being on the call and for the work being performed in their respective areas. Went over raising hand before speaking due to there being 12 of us on the Zoom call.
- **Region 1-** recommended that we remove the official Red Knight restrictions as of June 1, 2020. That recommendation was accepted unanimously, and Joey will be sending a letter to the Membership ASAP to reflect the decision.
- **Region 2-** ON Assoc. Rally has been cancelled due to heavy restrictions still in effect in Canada. Encouraged the communication with Chapters and Members within Chapters to keep from losing our family due to non-contact. Atlantic Assoc. is holding electronic elections for their officers.
- **Region 3-** the Bootlegger Rally is still on and is receiving a lot of new registrations. Looks like it will be a large event.
- **Region 4-** the Dixie is looking to reschedule. They will meet with the hotel when they open on June 1st to get dates for everyone. Looking to be in October and will schedule around KORT which is the weekend of October 16-18.
- **Region 5-** the Western is cancelled but MN is still looking to hold an event in July.
- **Region 6-** we have had a couple people looking to start new Chapters in TX. Chapters are starting to plan events. TX State Assoc. working with Shriners Hospital in Galveston to reschedule fundraiser for 9/26/2020.
- **Region 7-** the 2020 Convention decision must wait until French PM announces whether the borders will be open for all travelers or just EU travelers. The border may remain closed to all. Financial breakdowns were presented for multiple scenarios of border opening or closing. The International Board will make a final decision the 1st week of June.
- **Region 8-** nothing new is going on as the region is still locked up pretty tight.
- **Secretary-** insurance is available again starting June 1st if the authority having jurisdiction is allowing the events. Any violation of local orders will void the Certificate of Insurance with no refunds.
- Call adjourned at 0946.

RKIFMC

May 24, 2020
Conference Call

CONTACT

PHONE:
910-297-7932

WEBSITE:
redknightsmc.com

EMAIL:
secretary@redknightsmc.com

MESSAGES FROM BOARD MEMBERS



PRESIDENT - Joey Powell

Members, these past months have not been easy on any of us. Not being able to see our families, friends, and our own Members has been tough on everyone. Each month the International Board have had a conference call to keep everyone up to date on what is going on. This month we did two Zoom meetings. One with the executive board and then the following week with all board members, and they went very well.

As you know, nationwide some restrictions are being lifted. That is why we the board are now encouraging the Chapters and Members of the Red Knights to plan your events beginning June 1st, 2020. As of June 1st, our insurance carrier is also allowing new certificates to be issued if the local guidelines allow the event being held. As we move forward, we ask that you follow your local government guidelines. If you as a Chapter still do not feel comfortable meeting, that is ok but please stay in touch with your Membership. If you do meet, please do so safely. Your International Board will try to stay on top of all new happenings and will continue to meet each month.

There have been question's concerning the convention. A decision will be made after the first week of June. This when the French government will be speaking, and we will have to base our decision after that.

The board had to cancel the spring meeting; this was a tough decision. As a board we all feel a little out of touch with each other. Yes, the calls have helped during this time, but as we all know a face to face meeting is always better. With the cancellation of the Spring Meeting, the entire board feels it is in the best interest of the organization to have everyone in attendance at this year's Fall Board Meeting. We will still be saving the same amount of money for the organization. We, the board, will not go against the By-Laws, but we all felt like we need to get together as a complete board to be able to re-engage with each other. We have two new board members that have not attended any meetings since their election due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

If you have any questions or concerns, as always, please feel free to send me an email from your Chapter email account to president@redknightsmc.com.

As we continue to move forward stay strong. We will come out stronger than ever. Remember it's the small things we do for each other that counts the most.

Joey Powell, International President

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VICE PRESIDENT - Spike Ostiguy

Fraternal Greetings Brothers and Sisters

I hope this spring message finds you and your loved ones well during these trying times.

As I begin to type, it is Saturday May the 9th here in the northeast, U.S. A day before Mother's Day and it is snowing. What a crazy 2020 it has been to this point. I will not dwell on the current worldwide state of affairs. As I would presume most of this newsletter will frequent the topic, that quite frankly we'd all like to soon see fade from our m/c's rearview mirrors.

With the spring meeting of the International Executive Board being postponed last month, your Executive Board have been participating in monthly/semimonthly conference calls.

As "Zoom" is becoming ever more popular, future meetings will most likely be held in this format.

As most know, I oversee the Member-At-Large (M.A.L.) membership worldwide.

This classification of membership was conceived by our Founding Fathers. The premise being... firefighters out there wanting to join the Red Knights family, but did not live near an already established RK chapter. This classification of membership afforded the firefighter the opportunity to join. With that, it is our hope / our wish that this M.A.L. member will promote the Red Knights, fostering six (6) other like-minded firefighters. Ultimately starting a chapter of his/her own. Member-At-Large membership... A stepping stone if you will, to chapter membership. Word of mouth; Proven over time to be our best advertising tool by far.

Chapter President's, we ask that you reach out to M.A.L.'s in your area. Invite them to your chapter's meetings, rides, functions, etc. Include them in your e-mail mailings. If you do not have this M.A.L. information, using the chain of command, please contact your State/Country Representative. They will gladly supply you with it.

In closing, let us all be safe out there. Moving forward as the Covid-19 restrictions ease, we must remain cognoscente and do our part as to minimize future spikes that may set us back yet again.

Remember, the Red Knights are "Loyal To Our Duty" 24/7 around the clock... around the world.

Stay safe.
Karen & I hope to see you real soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Spike Ostiguy, International Vice President

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REGION 4 DIRECTOR - Steve Guillot

I have been reading and answering emails and phone calls for all State Representatives, Chapter Presidents and members as well as the MAL'S.

I have spoken with several members with concerns and questions they have.

I have also spoken to new members about starting their own chapters or re-opening their old chapters.

I like to give a special thanks to my fellow board members and some Committee Chairmen and Region 4 State Representatives, for all the support and help with my new position. I would like to address the members for being patient towards me answering questions and handling some of the issues they were having.

From the time I was elected Region 4 Director I have spent 10 – 15 hours per week on Red Knight business. In the last few months, I was invited to GA20 10-year Anniversary Party and Ride but unfortunately I was unable to attend due to work commitments. I was also not able to attend any fund raisers as traveling was not permitted due to Corvid 19 and all events have had to be cancelled at this time. Congratulations to GA20 10-year Anniversary and the 6 Red Knights and one guest from Virginia 1 for assisting with the Patriot Guard Escort.

On the other hand, we would like a congratulations going out to LA1 for 20 years of Loyalty to RKIMC from April 2000 to 2020.

I was available for all conference calls with the International Board. Things were addressed on these calls as needed.

Under these trying times with Corvid 19. I hope all is well and everyone is doing fine. I do know a few members have tested positive of the virus.

May God Bless each and every one of you and hope that you had a speedy recovery.

Steve Guillot

Region 4 Director

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REGION 7 DIRECTOR - Pierre Halleux

Hello Red Knights,

We have known, since February, an exceptional situation.

Europe has often in the past experienced very specific and complicated situations. Wars, famines, pandemics have always been present in the world and have sometimes hit Europe hard.

Our brotherhood, the Red Knights, has allowed us to forge close and strong ties between members of different countries who have sometimes been in conflict, sometimes allies.

We meet often, we drink to our health and we laugh and rejoice in being brothers beyond our birth.

More and more meetings are unfortunately cancelled from confinement but, frontline workers, we understand the need to take measures to stop the spread of the virus. It makes us sad and it also makes us strong.

We are looking forward to seeing you again soon, knowing that we will be able to laugh and sing together, play Looping Louie, have a drink and watch over each other.

Our club is great for its diversity but above all for its brotherhood. We are happy to see our brothers and sisters posting photos of a past meeting or ride.

Courage to all, rejoice in tomorrow and above all take care of yourself and your families.

Fraternally

Pierre Halleux
Regional Director Region 7

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MEET THE TEAM OF REGIONAL REPORTERS

Region 1 – Jim Voss



As the Region 1 reporter Jim covers the New England states, he is a Charter member of NH Chapter 5 out of Epping NH helping to create the chapter in 2005. Jim is currently the Secretary for the Chapter, serves as the membership chair, and had served as Vice President for 4 years. Jim retired from GE Aviation in 2013 after 44 years. When he retired from the Army National Guard as Colonel, in the Medics in 2005 he joined as a volunteer firefighter / EMT with the Kingston, NH Fire and Rescue. He stays busy with NH5, American Legion Riders, a local Veteran' Club, the Kingston Fire Department and is a substitute teacher at the local high school. "I really like putting together the articles for the newsletter, it gives me something to do." Yeah, right Jim.

In the photo Jim is presenting a NH5 patch to fallen charter member while attending the NH 2019 convention

Region 2 - Glenn Giles



My name is Glenn Giles. I have been a member of the swift Current/Black River Fire Department for the last 29 year. I have held the positions of secretary, Assistant Chief, Chief and Captain.

I am the president and is a founding member of Newfoundland 2.

I am married to my best friend (and co rider) Holly for 33 years.

Region 3 - Jim `Maverick` Garner



I am the Region 3 reporter, James Garner aka "Maverick" (for some of you younger people that name came from a western tv show of the same name starring James Garner not from top gun")

Born and raised in Montgomery county Maryland.

Always since Johnny and Roy I wanted to be a firefighter. It began in 1982 and a Paramedic in 1989. Been around a bit starting in Beltsville Maryland for PGFD Co 31/41.

Currently married for over 20 years to the love of my life with 4 kids from ages of 31, 21, 20 and 13 Fast forward I have been firefighter/medic in Virginia, Maryland, Washington Dc and Indiana and when not on shift I did construction, I have been riding motorcycles since I was 6, my first street motorcycle was a

1966 Triumph Tiger chopper, I currently ride a 2006 Road King or A

2010 Firefighter Edition Ultra Classic. I started with the Red knights in Indiana with Chapter 2 which was quite a distance from my location good group but had to cross a timeline and an hour ride. I was encouraged to form Indiana Chapter IV where I am currently serve as President. I am the current Secretary of Red Knights Indiana State Association 17.

Region 4 - Sara-Lynn Prefontaine



Sara-Lynn is the RKMCM Newsletter Reporter for Region 4 and is a Social Member of Virginia 5 & 8 and has been a Red Knight Member for 6 years.

She is Co-Chairman for Virginia 8 Annual 9/11 343 Ride which is the largest fundraiser the chapter holds every year held at Prince George Company 1 Fire Department in Prince George, VA.

Committee Member of 2021 Dixie Rally Planning with Virginia 5.

"I have enjoyed my experiences with the Red Knights I have been to many places within the US that I never would have thought to visit before, such as Xenia, OH where I obtained my X to complete my

Grand Tour Master patch in 2017. I have attended 4 Dixie Rally's Ocean City, MD; Guntersville, AL; Raleigh, NC; and Gulfport, MS and the After Christmas Party in Mt. Laurel, NJ. In 2019 I was lucky enough to attend the International Conference in Loon, NH. I have enjoyed spreading the word about the Red Knights and all that we do for our communities and I'm looking forward to putting many miles under my belt with my best friend and boyfriend in the coming year".

Region 5 – Lance Solberg



Lance is the new reporter for Region 5 and is look forward to this new chapter in his Red Knights life and to seeing what my creative skills may accomplish.

He is fairly new to the fire service with nearly 5 years as a volunteer firefighter and is married to Christine his wife of nearly two years. Ironically, they were married by Joel Nelson MN4 at the 18 Western Rally in Minnesota.

Lance started out with ND1 in October 2016 and in January 2018 before setting out to build another ND chapter, a venture that came to fruition on June 16, 2019, when North Dakota 2 received their charter with Lance as its President.

Region 6 – Chuck ` Roadrunner` Matthews



I originally joined the Red Knights MC as a M.A.L, in 2000 when I was a member of the Duncan Oklahoma Fire department. I had purchased my first long distance road bike a 1988 Yamaha Venture Royale but after I had gotten remarried I had to get rid of my bike in 2002 so I didn't renew my membership. After Retirement in 2006 and a third Divorce, I purchased a 1989 Yamaha Venture Royale in 2012 I became an RKMCM M.A.L, since there were no chapters near me in Corpus Christi Texas. I started riding and then in 2015 when the International Convention was held in San Antonio, I finally got connected with my Texas Red Knight Family, I began riding 3 to 4 hours to events that the Texas Chapters were riding in and started getting

active in the Texas Association.

In 2016 I was approached by a Brother and was asked if I would help start a Chapter on the Northwest Side of Houston in the Tomball area. So eight of us started RKMCM TX Chapter VII, I held the Road Captains position until Oct. 2016.

I was elected the Red Knights of Texas Association State VP in June of 2017 and re-elected in June of 2019.

I was asked to join the new RKMCM TX Chapter X that was organized in Rosenberg TX, about an Hour closer to me in Corpus Christi. I am Currently the TX X Vice President.

I have been the RKMCM Region 6 Reporter since it inception.

By the time this newsletter comes out I will have moved to North Texas to Greenville TX. I received a job offer with my Current employer that I could not refuse, I see it as a Win all around, I'll be within three hours of my six Granddaughters, five children, I will be able to ride up into Oklahoma to ride and see my Oklahoma Brothers more often. I will be able to help our Northern Texas Chapters with growth.

Region 7 - Steve Williamson (& Editor)



I retired after 30 years' service as a whole time (Professional) Firefighter/Officer. I am a Charter Member of England 2 and held the positions of Secretary and Treasurer in our first year of existence in 2011 before being voted in as the President the following year, a position I still hold.

I was the UK Representative to the RKMC European Association until recently and I have been the Newsletter Reporter for Region 7 (Europe) since the Newsletter was resurrected a few years ago and worked under Editors Dave Michaud and Stephanie Fowle, my predecessors before being asked to take on my current role as Editor in 2018. I am still the Region 7 Reporter.

I completed my Grand Tour Master in 2014, the same year I received the President's Award for Dedicated Service and this was followed in 2017 when I was awarded the Outstanding Contribution for Dedicated Service Award.

Region 8 (Aus) – Judy Teuma



Judy is the Road Captain at Red Knights Motorcycle Club Australia Chapter 10 and Regional Reporter South Pacific.

Judy is also an active firefighter and was involved in operations fighting the Australian bush fires.

Region 8 (NZ) – Shaun Crowley



I come from a motorbike riding family, with my grandparents, both parents and my sister also riding. At one stage we had 9 motorbikes in the garage and the car was banished to the drive for those 'wet' days!

I still enjoy riding as often as possible and don't need an excuse to get out on the roads. A few years ago I took my Buell over to the States and rode 12,500 miles in 6 weeks to party in Sturgis and last year got to spend a month on a Royal Enfield riding around the mountainous Himalaya's in India. (Article in December 2019 Newsletter)

I've been a career firefighter for 30 years and still love it, currently stationed in Newtown, Wellington.

I'm a charter member of NZ5 and am honoured to be in my 3rd year as President of the NZ5 Chapter. This is my 2nd year as Region 8 NZ Reporter and is a fantastic way to interact with the other Chapters to see what they've been up to.

As Editor of the Newsletter I want to put on record my thanks and appreciation for the hours that the reporters commit to producing this Newsletter, without them it would not be possible to do so on my own. THANKS

EDITOR'S APOLOGY

In the December Newsletter I congratulated those members that received awards at the 2019 Convention but I must apologise to Tim and Angela Reinard for omitting them from these congratulations.



CONGRATULATIONS Tim and Angela on your well-deserved Life Membership Awards

SW

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION PARIS 2020 – UPDATE

As this Newsletter is being published the Covid-19 situation in Paris and with the International Convention is laid out below by the Region 7 (European) Director, Pierre Halleux.



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The French Prime Minister held a press conference today. French borders are expected to open to Europeans on June 15, 2020. This measure depends on keeping the contamination rate low. Next steps will be on June 2, 2020, bars and Restaurants will be open.

On June 22, there should be a joint decision to open European borders to non-Europeans. It is therefore on this date that we should have confirmations (to be confirmed). This opening make perhaps possible the International Convention, at least the EuCon Rally.

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***** ATTENTION PLEASE *****

***** OFFICIAL NOTICE *****

On June 14th the BOD will have a Zoom meeting regarding the 2020 convention. It is hoped that shortly thereafter an official announcement regarding the convention go/no go will be published.



POSTPONED OR CANCELLED RALLIES, MEETINGS AND PARTIES

Due to the Covid-19 virus Lockdowns across the world, 2020 looks like being the year that never happened when it comes to being able to attend Red Knights Rallies, Meetings and Parties as many have had to be cancelled or postponed until either later this year or until 2021. We also see many chapter ride outs and meetings being cancelled meaning that we may not have seen our fellow chapter members during recent months, for this reason it is vitally important to simply keep in touch. Ontario 7 for example have had no fewer than nine events cancelled since March.

Below is a list of the cancelled events that I have and where a new date has been set it is listed in the righthand side column.

Cancelled / Postponed 2020 Event	Cancelled/ Postponed	New dates
UK/Ireland Annual Meeting	P	23 rd to 25 th April 2021
Dixie Rally	C	
Yankee Rally	C	
Germany 13 Party	C	
Germany 6 Party	C	
Atlantic Association Rally	C	
Belgium 2's Spring Party (April) & Gathering of the Knights weekend (June)	C	
Austria 2 Party	C	
France 4 Party	C	
Belgium 7 Anniversary Party	P	25 th to 27 th June 2021
KoRT (Europe)	C	
Americade (June)	P	21 st to 25 th July 2020
Switzerland 1's 11th Anniversary Party	C	
Ontario Association Spring Ride/Lunch	C	
Texas Red Knights 1 st Annual Shriners Hospital Ride	P	26 th September 2020
Western Rally	C	
NY47 - 7 th Hems Angels Ride	P	Possibly in August 2020
Croatia Firefighters' Ride and BBQ	P	19 th June 2021
Germany 3 – 10 th Year Summer Party	C	
Pennsylvania 32 – PA State Association Picnic	C	Hopefully in 2021

Reasons to Celebrate in these testing times!

Region-3 Director, Trey Anderson gets down on one knee in the snow to propose to his girlfriend Logan while skiing in West Virginia, making it a very memorable 2020 Valentine's Day.



Shawn Thorud the MN4 Vice President goes down on one knee to propose to his now future wife Julie Luhnig.



Sean and Rachael Harrison from New Hampshire 9 and Ray Oosterbaan and his wife Jolanda from Netherlands 1 were married earlier this year.



Congratulations to you all on your special occasions..

STOP PRESS: A day before the Newsletter was sent for publication I found out that Sean and Rachael are expecting their first child.

CONGRATULATIONS on your pending new arrival.

SW



COFFEE BREAK QUIZ TIME!

WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden in the grid from the list below, the words can run across, backwards, up, down or diagonally

H	E	L	P	A	K	N	I	G	H	T	O	Y	S	A
C	H	A	O	Y	T	I	R	A	H	C	L	T	F	F
H	A	R	L	E	Y	A	O	N	I	L	P	S	I	E
A	N	E	E	L	N	M	C	H	A	P	T	E	R	G
P	D	G	A	D	E	T	K	R	O	N	P	V	E	R
T	W	I	T	E	K	L	E	I	E	Q	U	L	H	A
E	D	O	R	A	K	N	R	D	R	A	W	A	O	L
R	U	N	F	N	E	R	I	F	Y	R	P	I	U	T
R	I	D	I	R	E	S	W	G	T	O	U	R	S	A
O	E	G	I	B	E	H	T	S	H	U	L	O	E	R
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T	E	E	P	E	M	A	I	L	X	E	S	E	W	B
E	M	A	E	L	C	Y	C	R	O	T	O	M	U	M
R	I	D	E	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	Z	L	C	E
P	I	H	S	R	E	B	M	E	M	G	C	H	T	M

RED KNIGHTS MC;
 PRESIDENTS; MEMORIAL;
 AWARD; EMAIL;
 RIDE CAPTAIN; TOURS;
 GRAND TOUR; TYRE;
 MOTORCYCLE; HARLEY;
 CHARITY; MEMBER;
 CHAPTER ROSTER; FIRE;
 HELMET; REGION; KNIGHT;
 CHAPTER; RIDE; CLUB;
 MEMBER AT LARGE; RALLY;
 FIRE HOUSE; MEMBERSHIP;
 HELP A KNIGHT; ROUTE;
 VEST; ROCKER;

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot 10 differences between the two photographs below?



FIND THE ANSWERS AFTER THE REGIONAL ARTICLES



YOUR MEMORIAL VISIT PHOTOS

A suggestion by our Region 3 Reporter, Jim `Maverick` Garner made me realise that we didn't have any information in the Newsletter to help members sell their unwanted items. So to correct this, the item below will now appear in all future Newsletters. Thank you Maverick for highlighting this omission and hopefully members can start cashing in.

ITEMS FOR SALE?

Do you have any motorcycle related items that you no longer want?
Turn them into cash by selling them on the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club Trading Post Facebook Page.

It is free to advertise your items on this page and they can be viewed and hopefully bought by Red Knights brothers and sisters.

The Facebook page link is;

https://www.facebook.com/groups/432682693604721/?ref=group_header

Copy and paste this link to go to the Trading Post page and start selling those unwanted items.

RKMC® ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY SALES ON THE TRADING POST

YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN!!

Tim Reinard, WV-6, is appointed as your new By-laws Committee Chairman.

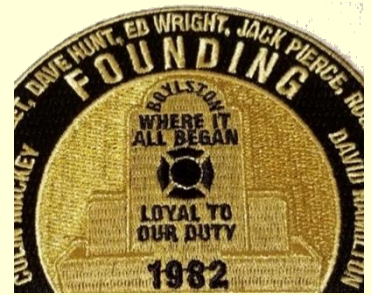
Congratulations to Tim on his appointment. Tim has been a Red Knight for 8 years and stood down as Region 3 Director last year after 5 years in the post, he has served in every position in his home Chapter of WV6 and was awarded LIFE MEMBERSHIP at last year's International Convention.

Should you need to discuss a proposal or perhaps a translation of a by-law. Please do not hesitate to contact Tim at bylaws@redknightsmc.com.



SW

What Happened to Jack Pierce? - One of our Founders



Brothers and sisters! I hope all are well as you battle the emotional and financial stresses of the times, and I pray we will all come through this stronger and more compassionate than when it all started. I wanted to write a short article about a very important member of the Club that has been, how shall I say it, absent for a long time.

As many of you know, Yankee Rally 2019 was held in the Boylston, Massachusetts, area and it was dedicated to getting the Founders' names recognized, not only at the Rally, but around the world. This was done, in no small way, through the fundraising efforts of MA 15's Robert Binnall and the organizers of the Rally with the sale of the "Founders Patch".

As many of you also know, 500 bottles of Jack Daniel's Single Barrel Select were also "sold" as a fundraiser, and they are known as the Founders bottles. Between the two fundraisers nearly \$25,000US was raised to help reduce the mortgage on the Club's Memorial Hall in Boylston. During these fundraisers, the names of the 11 Founders were brought up and discussed on many occasions.

As we know through the printed history of the Club, there are 11 Founders. Three of the Founders have gone on to our Heaven's One Chapter. Any of you that attended Yankee or Convention 2019 had the opportunity to meet, speak and perhaps even raise a glass with seven (7) of the eight (8) living Founders. One thing that nearly always occurred was the question "What happened to" or "Where is" Jack Pierce? The answers ranged from "we have no idea" to "somewhere in Arizona" to "we haven't heard from him in years". I'd like to now answer your question!

Don Parker gave me the last known cell number that Jack was known to have. On the morning of April 29 I took a chance and gave him a ring. The call went to voice mail, with no indication as to who the number belonged, so I left a message that went something like this:

"At one time I called you Chief, but when our uniforms came off I called you Jack. In 2006/2007 you gave me a gift for which I can never repay. For that, I will forever call you 'Brother'. I'm calling because today I would like to offer you the same gift in return. Jack, this is Norm Beausoleil. Please give me a call, you have my number. I look forward to hearing from you, your brother, 'Beans'".

Jack returned my call that same afternoon and we spoke for nearly an hour. We reminisced about many things. I told him the gift he had given me was the Red Knights MC, and all it stood for when he came to me asking for anything and everything I had relative to the beginning, as the Club had created and was planning to dedicate the Memorial. I had been away, doing my own family thing, and missing the growth of the Club. His invitation reignited the passion I had for motorcycling AND for the Red Knights.

I hadn't lost touch with Jack or Ed or Dave as we continued to count on each other for Mutual Aid in the Fire Service, but, at least Dave and I (and a few others) had separated from the Club for our own personal reasons.

Cont;

With that said, I told him I would like to return to him the Red Knights and all WE are. So (I get this isn't as short as promised) with the stage set, here's Jack, and his memories and response to my "gift".

Jack will be 79 years old at the end of May and living on his own in a very small home in Silver City, New Mexico. His son Curt lives nearby with his wife and their 7 year old daughter, so although he is living alone, he is not lonely. He still has a motorcycle and got on it for the first time in a couple years just a few weeks ago. Here is what he told me, not in conversational order but placed in chronological order for ease of writing and accuracy.

His first real memory of me was a morning in the late 70's or very early 80's when I was in the back lot of his fire station chatting with Ed Wright and Jim Claflin when he came out and joined us. I was telling the boys about an upcoming cross country motorcycle trip I was heading on. Jack was inspired. He had never owned or ridden a motorcycle but this trip I was planning sounded so "liberating" that he learned to ride and bought a bike. Over the next few years he rode with us (Ed, Colin Mackey, me and several others from Westborough and Northborough) on local foliage rides.

When conversations about a club came up, he wanted to integrate his Northborough FD riders (Jack, Ed, Dave, Jon and Colin) with his Boylston FD friends (Don, Roger, Dave, Bob and Bob) and his Westborough FD friends (of which only I took the bait), and he opened his meeting room for the now famous August, 1982, meeting. Over the next few years, unbeknownst to anyone, Jack was out of his element. He was always an introvert, and never really liked crowds, but the Red Knights took him to a place that gave him peace of mind and soul.

In the mid to late 2000's, in his words, the Town of Northborough "impeached" him and removed him from his position of Fire Chief. The details are vague and relatively unimportant to this story, but one piece of their evidence was a gasoline receipt for less than \$20US in Lake George during Americade, where he used a town credit card, in a gesture of goodwill, to purchase fuel for some out of town firefighters. During this same period of time, a fuel station in Northborough that was owned by his father fell under scrutiny of the State Environmental Protection Agency because of an earlier fuel tank leak. As the fire chief in town, he was the enforcement authority that signed the official documents. By the time remediation of the spill expected, his father had passed (I believe, or not long after), Jack was out of the chief's position and was now responsible financially for a condition he was the originally a complainant on.

I'm sure there was more to all this, but in the end, that was it for Jack and life in Northborough. He sold what he could and packed everything he wanted into his pick-up and drove out of town, effectively never to return, except for very short personal visits. His plan was to go to the Carolina's but as he passed through them he wasn't quite captured and he turned right, heading west toward the unknown.

He found and settled in Silver City, NM, and that is where the trail ran cold, until now. As George Strait's song "all my ex's live in Texas" goes, it was even rumoured that he'd died.

A news article regarding a new fire station reported that the Town of Northborough was looking to place the new station on property of the "late John S. Pierce". Don Parker read that, called Jack's cell and eventually (and fortunately) dispelled that rumour.

Cont;

So now we are in the present. I'm on the phone, telling him everything that I've done with the Red Knights. Where I've been, where I'm going and who all I am doing this with, and how his invitation back in 2006 turned into the greatest gift a man could receive. Now it was my turn to give back. I told him how much more the Club had grown, everything - chapters, numbers, countries, you name it - and all he could say was "wow".

I told him about the fundraisers, the patch, the whiskey, and how the money was going towards the mortgage on the house we bought. I could feel over the phone the amazement he sensed that we owned the house right next to the Memorial. I told him that we are holding his very own Founders patch and boxed challenge coin. I told him I have a bottle of Jack Daniels for him. I told him about his very own, personal challenge coins that we want him to have, so he can distribute them. I told him he is a Life Member of the Club, never to lose his status. I told him that everyone wants to know how and where Jack is.

I told him I want to bring these items to him, to give the Red Knights back to him, like he had given the Club back to me, and he said "no" to the physical items. There is no bitterness - he said his home is too small to find a place for these things. He has a place in his heart for the Red Knights, but there is no place in his life for them. He then told me that I had no reason to feel indebted to him for that invitation so many years ago. He told me that, in fact, it was him repaying the gift of freedom those many years before during that visit in the back lot.

Finally, I told him I wanted to write this story. I said that the members want to know about Jack and asked if I should let him read the article before I sent it or to the newsletter. He said he knew that it would be done right. He reminded me that it was me that wrote to the Blue Knights introducing the new club. He reminded me that I wrote many of the original documents for the Red Knights, and most of all, he remembered that it was me that had reached out to our Massachusetts Legislature to secure the first Red Knights motorcycle series registration plates. Because of that he trusted that this would be done right.

So today, Jack rides with the wind where Jack wants to go, almost always alone, but very happy with what he has and who he is. He is comfortable this way. From Silver City he finds himself travelling to Lordsburg and Deming to the south, or he'll head north into the Gila National Forest where Jack can be Jack. When the borders have "opened" I will head west on Interstate 10. I will carry with me the gifts the membership has for him. I will let him touch them, see them, and yes, even taste one of them, and, if there is still no room in his home for them, they will have at least found room in his heart, soul and mind, and Jack will be Jack, and he will be back with us, if only for a day.



Norm Beausoleil meets up with Jack Pierce

Article written by Fellow Founding Father Norm Beausoleil

The Grand Tour

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

After visiting Fire Stations beginning with the letters **G R A N D T O U R** members were given a patch and/or pin. Over the years, other rides were added, **RED KNIGHT, FIRE HOUSE,** and **TWELVE STATION** rides. The ultimate ride is the **ALPHABET** tour which includes all the letters in the alphabet and can be completed over a lifetime. WOW !

In order to earn a Grand Tour Certificate, Patch and/or Rocker you must, during the course of one (1) riding season, or for those of you lucky enough to be able to ride all year, one (1) calendar year, visit nine (9) fire Stations whose names begin with the letters **G R A N D T O U R,** or **RED KNIGHT,** or **FIRE HOUSE;** or visit **TWELVE STATION** beginning with any letter of the alphabet.

You must have a picture of you *and* your motorcycle taken at each station, with the station's name sign visible, and be sure to **NOTE THE DATE.** Applying for a designated patch is done through the International website (www.redknightsmc.com)



Co-riders may also earn a Certificate, Patch and Rocker and a rider and co-rider may have their picture taken together. Group photos are welcomed as well if you are doing the Tour as a chapter. It is not necessary to have all of your motorcycles in the photo but please ensure that at least some of your motorcycles are.

When you have completed all five Tours you will be sent a GRAND TOUR MASTER Certificate and Rocker.

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2019 GRAND TOUR COMMITTEE REPORT

At the end of 2019 the Grand Tour Committee consisted of Emmett Duprey (PA 39) as the Grand Tour Chairman, helping him was Tom Hoedjes (Switzerland 1) as European assistant, and Roger van Kollenburg (Aus 5) as Australia/New Zealand assistant.

The Grand Tour program is growing in members completing rides and obtaining their Grand Tour Master. There are still chapters and members that do not know about the program. The Committee's goal for 2020 is to increase awareness of the Grand Tour Program and get more members completing their first Grand Tour Ride. I would like to see every club participate in the Grand Tour Program. We are always looking for ways to increase participation, completion of Tours, and Tour Masters.

Just a couple of reminders from the Grand Tour Committee.

- Make sure your rosters are updated. If someone from your chapter submits a Tour and is not on the International Roster they will not get the Certificate and Patch until they can be verified as a member. This will delay the application and process.
- All photos need to have the rider, motorcycle and the station's name sign in it. The name has to be readable. Group photos do not need all the motorcycles in the picture.
- More than one name can be typed into the application. Make sure you list Guests as `Guest` and not under the Rider or Passenger.

2019 Grand Tour Year End Report

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Grand Tour Program this year. It was a good year, we now have a total of 6289 rides completed for tabs, 402 Grand Tour Masters and 151 Guest pins have been issued since the Grand Tour Program has been started.

This year 418 Grand Tour Rides have been completed, 32 of these members achieved their Grand Tour Master Tab and 35 guests completed rides. 123 members completed a Grand Tour ride for the First Time.

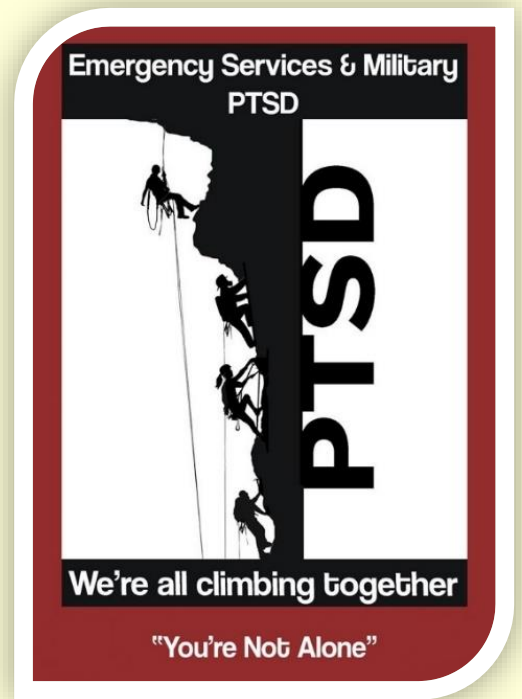
Thank you for your support from all the Grand Tour Committee Members.

Completed Year End Grand Tour Report 2019

Grand Tour Master	32	
Grand Tour	52	We hope everyone has a Safe
Red Knights Tour	84	2020 riding season and
Fire Station Tour	53	continue to complete the
12 Station Tour	165	Grand Tour Rides.
Alphabet	32	Emmett Duprey,
Guest Pins	35	Grand Tour Committee
		Chairman

ONE MAN'S BATTLE WITH PTSD

With the current Covid-19 situation there will be many 'front line workers' such as nurses, doctors, firefighters, police and ambulance services staff fighting to help all nations beat this horrible virus, some will be witnessing people dying due to their illness, and some may be left traumatised as a result of what they experience.



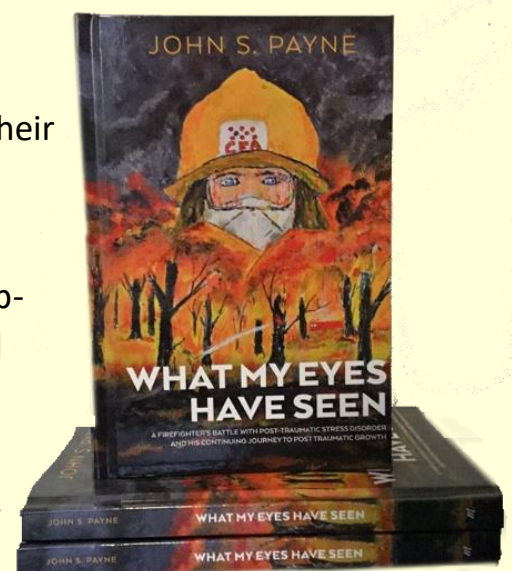
One man who has served his community during bad times in the past is John S Payne, a member of Australia 1, he is a veteran who served the Victorian community within Corrections, Government Investigations, and as a Volunteer Firefighter. During a career spanning nearly 3 decades, he worked on many incidents, including the Black Saturday bushfire of February 2009 for which he was honoured with the National Emergency Medal.

As a direct result of his service, he was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a condition he has lived with since 2009. John wrote 'What My Eyes Have Seen', to share his lived experiences with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and is passionate about advocating for mental health and suicide awareness to the greater community and encourage people to get help.

John has written a book about his battle with PTSD and hopes his story will help reduce the stigma associated with mental health and increase the understanding of mental health conditions like depression, anxiety and PTSD for first responders, correctional officers, their colleagues, family, and friends.

John's key messages are: 'Reach out early – you will be supported and don't suffer in silence.' Encouraging early help-seeking is a crucial priority in any effective workplace mental health strategy.

If you would like a copy of John's book visit <https://whatmyeyeshaveseen.com.au> and grab a copy today or go to Amazon and buy your copy from there.



Are Motorcycle Clubs on the Decline?

Are motorcycle clubs dying? Almost every club has seen a decline in membership. A few clubs have folded due to lack of interest, dwindling funds, increased costs, aging members, and other factors that eventually bring the club to its knees.



Popular rally speaker/author Jack Riepe wrote, ***“Clubs aren't dying. Their members are dying.”***

The reasons why clubs are on the decline is hugely complex – No-one claims to have a crystal ball that gives the answers. Society is changing. Most riders don't join clubs anymore, instead they prefer to do their own thing.

At a club meeting or at a rally, members can socialize and share information, kick tires, share a few beers, and those face-to-face interactions established a bond but the “old way” a club gathered members and kept them engaged doesn't seem to be working.

Today people rely on social media more to give us connections, we organize rides via email or text message, we substitute the face-to-face interactions we get at a club meeting, with something found on a desktop or a cell phone. This “new way” seems great on the surface, but those social media connections don't lend themselves to keeping a motorcycle club afloat.

Another reason why clubs are choking on a chicken bone: **POLITICS.**

This includes the politics of society and the politics of the club. It goes without saying that discussing societal politics within the club is a sure-fire way to cause division and for that reason should be avoided. A motorcycle club should be a “safe zone” away from the politics of the day.

Then there's the club's internal politics. When you get more than two people in a room, you'll have a list of rules and bylaws. Remember, when you disagree with another member's views, keep things civil. It may surprise you to learn the other person isn't “the stupidest person on the face of the planet”, they just have a different opinion. Allow them to have one.

A few people rise to a position of leadership (club officers). Some are natural-born leaders who make great contributions. Others are dismal leaders who drive away members because of their personality. When a club elects leaders, they don't want to choose from that second group. If an officer goes off in the wrong direction, members need to speak up. Silence allows the problem to grow. Good leaders can take constructive criticism. Poor leaders get offended and defensive. You want good leaders.

Officers get re-elected because they did a good job. Some officers get re-elected because nobody wants to take over their vacant office. Rather than leave the slot empty, that officer reluctantly agrees to continue. A healthy club will have a number of people willing to serve on the board.

An officer or key member who gets things done often finds they're the only one doing the work, eventually they become involved with organising too many club activities and after a few years they become weary and they eventually fade away, leaving a void in the fabric of the club. Filling that void isn't easy.

It's painfully clear that most club members aren't willing to put any work into their club but want the benefits of it - the kind of work needed to keep it alive. The average member sits back and lets others carry the load.

Members might be afraid to volunteer because they've seen what happened to others: Joe raised his hand at a meeting and now he's got a can of worms wiggling in his lap. However, if a dozen hands went up at the call for volunteers, those tasks would be easy because the workload would be shared.

Get volunteers to do tasks and share the load. Keep the jobs simple and clearly defined and once a volunteer has filled their commitment, they're done. Don't pile on task after task, don't burn them out or they won't volunteer again. Give them some positive feedback.

Many clubs hold monthly meetings on days that conflict with members' other commitments, would more riders attend if you switched meetings to a day where more can attend, if dates and times don't work for the majority, things need to change.

Every club should take a long hard look in their mirror. What do you see? Is your club alive, vibrant, growing, and healthy or is it on life-support? Be honest when you give your answer, then figure out how to make changes. If you are not willing to change where necessary the club may be on the slippery slope that leads to failure.

Members must understand that the club exists only as long as everyone contributes. Members **must** get involved, volunteer and participate. This doesn't mean spending hours a week on club business; but doing **something**, no matter how small. One hour at a club meeting or a few hours at the annual rally.

Ask your club a few simple questions:

What do we offer as a motorcycle club?

Are we preaching to our own choir?

Are we attracting new members?

Do people really want what we're offering?

Are we reaching outside our own little circle?

Are we retaining existing members?

Should there be a limit on how long an officer should hold their elected position? If they're happy in their role and they're doing a good job, remaining in office year after year seems to be in the best interests of the club, but if an officer stays too long there's a danger that the club will eventually be viewed as "Joe's M/C Club" and Clubs are not about individual personalities, they're about the group.

Leadership turnover ensures the club won't become stagnant. A system where officers serve a couple years then rotate out makes a lot of sense and keeps things fresh. Allow senior officers to "train-up" junior officers. This applies to presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and other positions such as volunteers.

Let's say you're a former club officer who served your term - now it's time for others to keep things running, but be prepared to step back into leadership for a period if the club needs it. If you don't want to serve as an officer, work as a key volunteer and show others how it's done. Lead by example, mentor others, and help members learn from your experience.

If you want your club to keep riding into the Roaring Twenties, the next steps are up to YOU:

√ **Attend meetings!** √ **Volunteer!** √ **Get involved!**

√ **Serve as a club officer!** √ **Do something for your club!**

Or you can sit back and watch your club go the way of the dinosaur.

Article supplied by Leo Patry, Region 2 Director

HAVE YOU BEEN ZOOMING?



Amanda Smooches Roun



Sara-Lynn Prefontaine

During the Covid-19 lockdowns across the world two members came up with the idea of having virtual Red Knight gatherings to enable us to keep in contact with each other and got to work setting it up.

Amanda Smooches Roun our Help-a-Knight Coordinator and Sara-Lynn Prefontaine our Region 4 Newsletter Reporter started holding ZOOM virtual gatherings once every Sunday but soon realised that due to different time zones it might be difficult for everybody to take part.. The solution they came up with was to hold two meetings with Amanda and Sara-Lynn acting as room moderators.

****RED KNIGHTS VIRTUAL GATHERINGS****

Meeting ID: 446 293 102. Password: 049917

SUNDAYS 12 Noon EST to 2 PM EST and 6 PM EST to 8 PM EST.



These virtual meetings are not sponsored or run by the International but are the work of two members who wanted us all to keep in contact with each other. They are just casual meet and greets hosted by a member's personal zoom account aimed at helping Red Knights increase morale during these trying times.

As Room Moderators for the two meetings each Sunday Amanda and Sara-Lynn have been committing a large amount of their family time to our great Red Knights family, this along with the roles they already undertake keeps them busy with Red Knights activities.

Thank you ladies for your commitment, the contact with other Knights has proved very popular and means a lot to members and it is great that so many have been able to meet fellow members and have been able to put a face to a name.

SW

A Belgian Traveler's Experience of an Australian Red Knights' Party



When Ine Vanthuynne, the daughter of Belgium 2's President set off travelling to Australia it seemed inevitable that at some point she would end up in the company of our Red Knights family, and we can always rely on members to look after the extended family no matter where they are from. It happened in Australia when Ine was invited to the Annual Red Knights South Pacific end of Rally party in Australia.

Below is Ine's amusing account of her party experience.

"I'm watching you, foreigner." Dan left the shed with a big grin on his face. In half an hour the members of the motorcycle club would arrive after a cold ride in the pouring rain. The snacks were ready, the meat was hissing on the barbecue and the banners hung neatly. In the front of the hall, a lonely man was warming up the karaoke machine. I had joined the women, who, huddled around the fridge, were getting very excited about "canned cava."

"I'm really not going to sing tonight," Jane began, opening the first can and passing it around. "No, that's for the beards," added Karo. "I wouldn't dare, because Dan is watching me," I thought out loud. The members of "the Red Knights", dressed in leather jackets, are known to look like true "Hells angels", complete with piercings and tattoos, but are actually sweet teddy bears. A statement that is confirmed every time I see my father walking by, who also counts himself as a member of that motorcycle club. From Dan, however, I couldn't make sense. He seemed very serious when he announced that, before I went home, he would check my bag for stolen goods.

Soaked motorcycles entered the shed half an hour later, drop by drop. A second can of cava and a lot of thankful words were generously shared. This was the end of the weekend. The closing event after the annual Australian meeting, and "that deserved a party," said the president of the club.

The lonely man then put a new song on the karaoke machine and did his utmost to set the tent ablaze with his warm voice.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere around the refrigerator, with the encouragement of revolutionary cava cans, was thawing. The ladies chuckled to give me extensive updates on the 'club gossip'. As I feasted on the stories, I suddenly felt a hand pressing on my shoulder. "I'm not losing sight of you, foreigner." Then his eyes narrowed suspiciously and then poured himself a rum-cola behind the bar.

In the front of the shed, the lonely man had given up singing, so the music was suddenly remarkably absent. "Come on foreigner, it's up to you to sing a song," Dan encouraged me. No way that I will be singing, I thought to myself. "When you sing Bohemian Rhapsody, I surgically shout the "Galileos" with you," I quipped.

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ENTREPRENURIAL CHARTER MEMBER OPENS HIS DOORS

In Concord New Hampshire, a new craft distillery is harkening back to old-school methods of producing spirits, using traditional still designs and corn-based products. Steadfast Spirits Distilling Co., is the first licensed liquor manufacturer in the city of Concord. The distillery is offering a clear bottled moonshine, plus product lines of moonshine-mixed cocktails under the name Trouble's Moonshine. A firefighter for the Windham Fire Department, a carpenter by trade, and a Charter member of NH-5, Charles "CJ" Lundergan tells us "Keep an eye out for our premium moonshines by Trouble's as well as traditional American whiskeys and ryes carrying the Steadfast Spirits moniker". Follow them on Facebook @steadfastdistilling, visit steadfastspirits.com or call 603-333-2162

STEADFAST SPIRITS in Concord, NH

Members of NH-5 came out on grand opening day to support fellow Charter member 'CJ' on his new adventure. Whether you're looking for your next straight sipper, mixed drink, or premade cocktail, he has options for you!



MA-3 Charter member awarded Chapter Life Membership.



Congratulations to Paul Schleicher Sr; a member of MA Chapter 3 since its conception in 1984 has been honored by MA-3 chapter members with Chapter Life membership.

Paul has been a member of the chapter through thick and thin for 36 consecutive years and is one of only two remaining charter members of the chapter.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER 5 TURNS 15, AND IS GOING STRONG

New Hampshire Chapter 5 is celebrating their 15TH ANNIVERSARY! What began with a handful of firefighters in the Epping New Hampshire Fire Department who enjoyed motorcycling resulted in the Chapter being officially created in May 2005. The team of twelve Charter members started the evolution of events. They realized right away starting a new chapter was not easy but they hung in there and the chapter continued to grow and quickly spread to surrounding communities. Today, NH5 boasts eight of the original charter members are still die-hard members of the forty-four total. Grown to be a true family chapter, we meet annually in January with pot luck supper and draft up the ride schedule for the year. NH5 looks forward to riding once every week at dinner time to a different restaurant taking the long route through the beautiful New Hampshire country back roads. Great fun. Meetings are set for second Sunday evening each month to an agenda and attendance is pretty stable. Other rides scheduled include Americade, the Fire Academy memorial in Concord, and NH Veterans cemetery in Boscawen. It is at that cemetery where not only is the NH Red Knights memorial that was dedicated during the 2019 Convention located, but it is the resting place of one of our beloved charter members, and a Fire Department LODD Harold Frey. It is a tradition that we solemnly visit and pay tribute to Brother Harold each year.

Original members celebrating 15 years this year: Doug Butland, Charter; Steve Cimino, Charter; Blue Kelloway, Charter; Charles 'CJ' Lundergan, Charter; Ed Lyons, Charter; Dick and Laurel Rodier, both Charter; Jim Voss, Charter; Joe Goldstein transferred in from MA-11 and now has 15 years; Rich Provencal, and Diane Voss. Dave Weymouth celebrated 20 years last year, Michele Pare and Nancy Goldstein celebrate 10 years this year. Finally Laura Frost will receive her 5 year pin. We plan on a celebration for all of our members.

One of our Charter members moved to A Z to follow his family along with his active member wife, Daryl and he is the treasurer for the newly chartered and ONLY Arizona Chapter – Chapter 2. We think that's pretty cool! Thanks Ed and Daryl; we taught you well!



NH5 members at the February 2020 monthly meeting at Epping Headquarters- where it all began.

VERMONT CHAPTER IV has the 'vision' to assist

Well, well, hard to believe we made it through another one and 2019 is all but a mere memory to us as the year of the eye doctor is upon us. (2020- Get it! Come on now that was funny!)

We here in the great state of Vermont began our season with our annual Blessing of the Bikes in May.



From there we were asked again to assist the organization that runs the Three Day Stampede; an organization that raises money for cystic fibrosis, a terrible disease.

Chapter IV with the help of Chapter I held the first Vermont State Association Summer Family Picnic. Seventy RK Family members from 3 States were in attendance for a fun day on the shore of beautiful Lake Champlain! Great 1st time event and it

looks like it will be an annual as we are hosting it again for 2020!

We also tried a new style fundraiser this year, a 3D Archery Tournament weekend. For those not familiar, this is a given course through the woods and fields as if you were hunting. There are many different targets at different ranges and you must stand at a predetermined yardage to shoot. The areas you hit the target are worth different points. Collect points and at the end of the weekend each are totalled and prizes are given to the highest in each category. A great way to earn money, get people out doors and a bit healthier too. We have already nailed down a date for another in 2020- another annual event!

Completed a couple of group rides, and then before we knew it the date was here for our annual Rays Ride. This as we have stated in the past is a ride we were honored to take over from another chapter years ago as the man we ride to remember was one of our counties own greats. The money we raise that day is then given to our county fire association, who then choose a couple of kids and assists them with their college \$\$\$\$\$. We all know it is very expensive to learn these days.

We also donated some monies to a few people in need. One was a single mom with a medical issue taking her out of work and doing all she can to make sure her children are okay.

Chapter IV responded with cash and gas cards to assist her, and followed up again with her just prior to Christmas to make sure the children would have a few things under the tree. I am very humbled to be able to continue to guide this ever growing Chapter.

This group of men and women continue to make me proud daily, as with anything we have a core group and then a few shadows. That is what makes things tick, as you all know we need people willing to assist and be there when needed but cannot make all the rides or meetings etc.

Be safe out there we continue to lose brothers and sisters all too often to the ones in cages, ones on their cell phones and ones that just plain should not be on the roads to begin with. God bless from all of us here at Vermont Chapter IV and if in our area and ever need help reach out as we cover most of the state with all of our association chapters.

Cheers, Michael Coyle, Vermont Chapter IV

Passing of New Hampshire 2 Member

Red Knights New Hampshire Chapter 2 regrets to announce the passing of Active Member Michael J. Galimberti, 50, of Wolfeboro, NH on January 23, 2020, after a hard-fought and courageous battle with bile duct cancer.



Michael J. Galimberti, NH-2 Leads the Red Knights compliment of NH-2, NH-5, NH9 slowly down Main Street as part of the Kingston NH 325th Celebratory parade, August 2019.

“Berti”, as his friends would call him was one of the most positive and caring people you could ever have met. You were always met with a smile from Mike. His vigor and compassion was contagious and would make you a better person. People were drawn to Berti and always enjoyed spending time with him.

Mike was married to his wife, Kim, for 18 wonderful years. The two have a daughter, Emilia, who was the light of his life.

Along with being an avid drummer, Mikes other hobbies included flying drones, fishing, hunting, farming, bee keeping, and motorcycle riding. Berti was an Active Member of New Hampshire Chapter 2 and enjoyed many Club events. He participated in many Honor Flight escorts, the annual Club trip to Lake George, New York, Sarah’s Ride, and the Lieutenant Chris DeWolf Scholarship fundraisers.

Mike carried the New Hampshire Chapter 2 Club Flag, a cherished tradition, throughout his fight against cancer. The Brotherhood was always with Berti, the many pictures he shared of himself with the Flag showed he knew we all supported him and were proud of him through his battle. The Flag will now reside with Mike’s Wife. Kim and Emilia will always be a part of our Family.

For his last thoughtful contribution, Mike participated in the Last Wish Program, devoting himself to support in the cutting-edge research at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Red Knights New Hampshire Chapter 2 would like to take the time to personally thank the 93 Red Knights Chapters and the members of the International Board that extended their condolences and a special thank you to Dennis Hewett.

A number of chapters came together in respect for a fallen brother.

“It is with great sadness that we report the loss of a member of our club. My brothers and sisters on the Seacoast will never forget his friendship and dedication. Rest in Peace Mike. A part of you will always ride with us.”

Dave Blatchford, President NH-2



Greetings Red Knight Brothers and Sisters from New Hampshire 6,

Happy Spring from NH Chapter 6 to all of you south of the pseudo Arctic Circle. So much covered in snow, ice, permafrost and frost heaves you could hide a Street Glide under it all for the season as free storage. We hope the roads wash clean, dry and the only ice we see is in our cooler or glasses from here to December.

We have been busy doing our northerly duties as you probably expect: Gathering fire wood to keep mother warm, wearing our flannel plaid coats and Carhartt's, and swerving to avoid deer in the roads. Mostly we have been crying over our bikes garaged all winter while petting them, talking softly to them, assuring them the snow will melt and they will once again be polished and shined to ride once again with us in t-shirt and vest. Hey, don't judge, it's a long winter up here!



In February, NH Chapter 6 and 7 came together at an annual 'Dust off Your Leathers' Banquet. We shared many needed smiles and laughs in the middle of the 4 wheeled winter.

Who's on Duty now at New Hampshire 6?

Steve Dudley will be sharing Ride Captain Duties with Craig France and that will help with some diversity in planning and Active member Denita Dudley stepped up and assumed the Secretary position.

The other officers were voted in and will remain in current positions unless anyone has any objections? Bueller? Bueller? Bueller? Anyone? Anyone? OK, it stands... you had your chance!

Chapter 6 would also like to welcome three new members over the winter: Chris & Sharon Fournier (shown in the picture) and Todd Desmarais. Chris and Todd are Active members and Sharon is one of our three Social members.

This season we are planning membership drives. We plan on some group rides and maybe some Red Knight Grand Tour program or 4 corner rides for the chapter. We are scheduled to join the "Ring the Bell for Nick" Ride (July 25), the annual Fire-Police-EMS Ride and many other fund raisers. We hope to see our brothers and sisters at these events!

All of us at NH Chapter 6 would like to remind you to Ride Safe, look twice, clear your intersections taking off and watch for shotgun scenarios when approaching those busy intersections. Never ride the quarter panel blind-spot and look for glowing eyes in the grass at night.

We were once asked what the Red Knights MC meant to us. Well "Friendship" is the simplest way to put it. All the incredible lifelong friendships we have created and will create.

Thank you to the RK founders and to the International club for allowing us to be a part of it!



NY 36's 12th ANNUAL MEMORIAL RIDE TO HONOR RON THOMAS



This year's NY 36's Annual Ron Thomas Memorial Ride on the 15th May had to be a less grand event than usual due Covid-19 restrictions consisting only of the memorial ride but no Dice Run and no Auction, that didn't stop 14 Bikes and 16 people meeting at Wellsville Fire Department's Dyke Street Engine Company, for the ride which went from Wellsville NY to Little Grand Canyon, PA, a round trip of about 100 miles.

During the day NY 36 President, Brian Ennis handed a package containing a bunch of Newspaper articles to Red Knight John Fleischman, these had been sent by Matt McCarthy in Ohio; Matt found NY 36 through the Facebook page Red Knights - All Chapter & MALS and were about John Fleischman's step-father who was the Fire Chief in Wellsville NY in the 1950's.



NY 36 President, Brian Ennis hands the articles to John Fleischman.(R)



Ride participants on PA Route 6



2020 Ride shirt

Information provided by Steven Griffith, Red Knights New York 36 Webmaster.

Region 2

(Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario)

The COVID-19 pandemic has played havoc on many of the Red Knights activities this season. Many of the Rallies and Chapter rides have been either cancelled or put on hold. The Red Knights Atlantic Association Rally has been cancelled for this year, hopefully next season will be a better year.

Only two chapters have reported any activity so far this year but hopefully we will get more for the next Newsletter.

Calling on all Region 2 chapters to get your reports in for the Fall Newsletter.

Newfoundland 2 Give a Donation to Children's Hospital

Newfoundland 2 recently gave a \$500.00 donation to the Mazol Shriner's Boot Club, Burin, NL on behalf of all our RKM CNL 2 members.

Our proceeds help support the Shriners Hospital for Children in Montreal, Canada.

The Shriners were delighted and thanked our Club for our continued support. Great job. "Loyal to Our Duty"

Pictured L-R : Social member Peggy Clarke, Boot Shrine Club treasurer Noble Harold Matthews, Vice President Wayde Clarke, Boot Shrine Club President Shane Foote, and RKM CNL 2 Road Captain Terry Mallay.



ONTARIO 7 SHOW THEY CARE WITH BEARS

On Tuesday 3-March-2020 Comfort Bears were provided to 3 Fire Stations, purchased by Red Knights Chapter Ontario 7 under the Starboard Cares program.



Starboard Cares is a division of Starboard Communications which works to help local charities and community initiatives with marketing, promotional ideas and concepts. One of these community initiatives are the Bears. Ontario 7 is proud to sponsor the purchase of these bears which will hopefully provide comfort to children, who end up in a trauma event outside of their control.

Cont.

Starboard representatives are Account Executive Sandi Wight and Community Ambassador Amanda Lorbetski. First Bear cost \$25, any more in the same order are \$15 each. The company or in our case Chapter that purchased the bears can have their Logo placed with the bear. Ontario 7 purchased 12 bears. 4 would go to each of the 3 Fire Stations that Ontario 7 hold their meetings at, which are: Stone Mills Station #1, Napanee Fire Hall and Belleville Fire Station #3.



From left to Right is Lieutenant Leanne McAuley, Amanda Lorbetski and Ontario 7 Vice-President Mike McKenna.



Left to Right are; Randy Cook, John Koenig, Amanda Lorbetski and Ontario 7 Vice-President Mike McKenna



Amanda Lorbetski is on the left, in the middle is Mike McKenna and on the right is Ontario 7 member Rob Nelson. Everyone else are the Firefighters from Station #3.

In order of delivery, the first picture is at the Stone Mills Station #1. The second photo is from the Napanee Fire Hall. The last photo is from Belleville Fire Station #3

Region 3

(Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wisconsin)

OK, let's see what is happening around Region 3; we know that due to the Covid 19 Pandemic unfortunately most of Red Knights events have had to cancel which is the worst thing that could have happened and my prayers go to all that have been effected and their families.

INDIANA GET STATE ASSOCIATION STATUS

Indiana has exciting news on January 25th, 2020 in Carmel, Indiana the very first meeting to start a State Association was held with enough members of each Indiana chapter present to vote it in. State Association procession was unanimous. Present were Indiana 2, IV, XI and MAL also a special thank you goes to Illinois State Association who was present for questions and to give some guidance and to Trey Anderson Region 3 Director.

This was proceeded by the Association election and paperwork proceeding.

Indiana State officers:

President Mike Woods Indiana 2

VP Max Gamble IN3

Secretary Jim Garner Indiana IV

Treasurer Lisa Woods Indiana 2

Congratulations go to them all on being elected to their new positions.

Verbal Association status was granted and Indiana became Red Knights State Association

17.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOMED TO THE RED KNIGHTS FAMILY

We welcomed the following new members to the family:

Mike Attwood Indiana Chapter IV (Active)

Robin Attwood Indiana Chapter IV (Social)

James `BigDawg` Carmack (MAL)

Eric Burkholder (MAL)

Jason Cook (MAL)

Josh Underwood Indiana Chapter III (Active)

Chris "Shrek" Hauber Indiana Chapter III (Active) Leva "Mae Mae" Indiana Chapter III (Social) Frank and Mary Jeffers Indiana Chapter II.

NEWS FROM INDIANA III

We hope this finds all of our Red Knight brothers and sisters in good health and great spirits. Indiana Chapter III has done well surviving the COVID 19 outbreak, but we are all ready to get out of the house and put some rubber on the road.

In January of 2020 members of Indiana III were honored to be able to attend the inaugural Indiana State Association meeting. Indiana Red Knights are currently working towards chartering a State Association in efforts to build and strengthen the bonds of all Indiana Chapters and Members at Large.

Since January we have also seen several new Members at Large and the possibility of a new chapter forming, IN III is proud to be a part of building the Indiana Red Knights family.

Prior to the pandemic IN Chapter III had a bit of a growth spurt and welcomed 4 new members into the chapter, Active Members Josh Underwood and Chris "Shrek" Hauber along with Social Members Leva (Mae Mae) Frank and Mary Jeffers. As of the past couple weeks members of Indiana III have been able to get out and put some miles on the tires. Members have taken some beautiful rides along many of our rivers and through are rolling

county side and farm lands. One particular member Bryan "Gramps" Setser and wife/Social Member Heather Setser took a trip to one of our area hot spots called the "Shoe Tree". Unfortunately, several of our local charity rides and our state "Hoosier Burn Camp Ride" have been cancelled.

Outside of the grim COVID-19 news we have a bit of a shining light. One of our newest members Chris "Shrek" Hauber has recently returned home to us from a 14-day deployment to New Jersey to assist local EMS providers by running additional ambulances to assist with the overloaded emergency response system. We are all very proud of "Shrek" and his co-workers for going out even more on the frontlines to do the work we do. Thank You "Shrek"!

Looking forward we are hoping for warmer and dryer days to get out and ride. We are also prepping for our trip to Peoria Illinois for the Region 3 Bootlegger Rally! Indiana III members are booked for the host hotel and ready for the party!

Again, we hope everyone is well and we will see you the wind.

Max "Elwood" Gamble
IN Chapter III President



Members from Ohio 6 enjoyed a social gathering at a local Winery during the Holidays this past winter but due to the unforeseen events that have occurred worldwide our chapter has not been as active as we had planned. We do have several chapter rides with a few overnight trips planned throughout the riding season but we are respecting the state laws and guidelines at the current time. Our officer board got together for a "ZOOM" meeting recently to discuss the way forward, it was something that was all new to me but a great way to stay in touch with the chapter and this type of a meeting can be used as a great tool when trying to work around everyone's schedules or even if the weather doesn't cooperate. Not every ride we plan has to do with Fire Stations. Our chapter has put together day rides to Restaurants overlooking scenic lakes, Historical locations, Botanical Gardens, and this fall we planned a ride through a Haunted Cemetery. This should be pretty spooky especially later in the evening. Some of the overnight trips include Niagara on the Lake and the Mansfield Prison. We hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and ride safe.

Thanks,
Richard Merkosky
President
Ohio Chapter 6

WISCONSIN VI HELP FIRE LOSS VICTIMS

We also heard from our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin Chapter VI out of Eau Claire,

From the International to our local chapter, the Red Knights are about giving back to our community. From what we all do as firefighters to what we do during our off-duty time, it's about making a contribution to the community that has nurtured us and our families. It's not just what a Red Knight does, it is a part of who they are.

In 2016 our chapter raised \$3,500 for the American Red Cross by holding a Ride for the Red here in Eau Claire and by hosting the Red Knight's International Convention in the Wisconsin Dells. Most of that came from the generous Red Knights who travelled from all over the world to support our clubs and the charities we were supporting.

New this year we will be helping families that have experienced a loss of their primary living quarters by fire. We will be providing a \$50 VISA card for the family to use as needed and we hope to increase that amount as we gather funds through fund-raising rides and events throughout the year so stay tuned for our summer fund raisers.

Watch the site below for this year's fundraising and community service projects. You can get more information about their Chapter by going to their website and if you are near why not give them a call.

Call 715-861-6042

m.me/RedKnightsWIVI

rkmcw6@gmail.com

<http://rkmcw6.weebly.com>



It looks as though people are starting to get out for some wind therapy which is great to see like PA34. PA34 raised funds and donated two kids' bicycles for our local American Legions Christmas for Kids.

On a cold morning in the beginning of April, three members took off for Wyoming County to participate in the Funeral of a Decorated Vietnam Veteran.

Again in April, we were asked to participate in the funeral of a WW2 Veteran. PA34 had four members attend.



FAREWELL TO A MARINE IN WYOMING COUNTY



Afterwards we supported our local Mission BBQ, we do a lot for local Veterans & First Responders including displaying our PA34 Patch.

In the beginning of May, while on a twelve station ride, we were happy to accept an invited by Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Company to participate in a Child's Birthday Parade.



Douglas D Thomas
PA 34 Quarter Master

BOOTLEGGER RALLY

For new members or for those who may not be aware. Indiana is part of the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club Region 3 which consists of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

Each year most of the Red Knight Regions host a rally for their respective state/provinces and members within, most rallies are named after their geographic location or something that pertains to that particular area. (R1-Yankee, R4-Dixie, R5-Western, etc.) Region 3 now host the fairly new Bootlegger Rally, 2020 will be the 2nd Annual Bootlegger Rally.

The Regional Rallies are held to bring together not only the respective Region but all other Red Knights who are able to attend. Rallies are an excellent time to communicate, build relationships, and network with Red Knights from all over the world.



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To get the most out of your club attending Red Knight sponsored events is the best way to stay connected with what the Red Knights are up to.

The 2020 Bootlegger Rally is very close to home for the Indiana Red Knights. The rally will be hosted by the Illinois State Association in Peoria Illinois, at the host hotel the Embassy Suites in East Peoria.

It was decided at the 2019 Bootlegger to host the rally each year on Labor Day weekend for ease of remembrance and scheduling. This year's rally will be held starting Thursday September 3rd through Sunday September 6th. We hope to see you all there!



Region 4

(Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Dist of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia)

GA 20



What began in late 2009 as a desire to bring area firefighters together for something other than work finally became a reality when GA 20 was chartered March 4, 2010. Ten years have passed since then and the Chapter that began was 20 members has grown to over 40 members with more joining on almost a monthly basis. This past February, members from GA 20 celebrated their Chapter's 10th anniversary with a weekend of fun and charity ride.

The festivities began Friday evening at Toucan's Ale House where members and guests enjoyed an evening of good food and fun. Saturday started with a charity ride benefiting 'Access Prom', a local program allowing the special needs children in Glynn County to enjoy and experience their high school prom just like any other student would. Including special needs students from Brunswick High School, Glynn Academy, and Morningstar Academy.



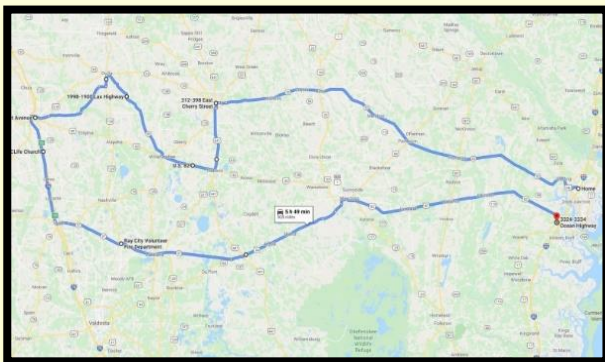


Following the benefit ride and cookout members enjoyed some local riding before the Anniversary Party at Bardelous in Brunswick, Georgia. The weekend finished up Sunday morning with Breakfast for those that were able to make it after the party the night before. With the event a success we are planning to do something every year, maybe smaller for the next few years then a bigger event for our 15th Anniversary.

Red Knight Tour: Practicing Social Distancing For Over 300-Miles– On Saturday, May 16, 2020 in South Georgia was perfect for riding, with temperatures starting in the low 70's and climbing to the mid 80's as the day went on, with no rain and clear skies in the forecast. That was the setting for the ride. Several GA 20 members gathered for an impromptu 'Red Knight' tour. Kicking off the ride at 09:00 EST, at Glynn County Fire



Rescue Station 8, and then heading out for what ended up being approximately 335-miles of riding and 10-1/2 hours social distancing at highway speeds. Like many rides, planned in areas with minimal first-hand knowledge, there is the possibility of adjustments needed on the fly. This ride was no different, once in Douglas a couple members offered to lead to Kirkland as they were familiar with the area and knew of



some 'fun' roads that we could take, making the ride more enjoyable. Our second 'detour' came when we arrived at what was formerly the Eldorado Vol Fire Department. The County has taken the station over as we scrambled and found an alternate "E" fire department that was not too far out of the way. Ellenton was the new "E" for the tour and fortunately only added approximately 25-30 miles to our route. By the time we made it home we all had logged over 300-miles of great riding and fellowship.



GA 26



In December we participated in the Annual Centerville Lighted Christmas Parade. It was a lot of fun and there were a LOT of people.

We had our Christmas Party and end of year elections on December 15th. We elected a new Treasurer - Mike Banbury and re-elected President David Trussell and Ned Dixon as Sargent at Arms.

Sonny's BBQ put on a good spread and a good time was had by all!

In January we decided we needed to go to a hockey game. Lots of fists were thrown, yelling, and complete mayhem. Then the game started!



In February the State of Georgia recognized one of our own. Our VP, Joe LeMaster, was Firefighter of the Year 2019. We are very proud of the job he does; for the county and the club. (Joe is on the right, our President – David Trussell is on the left.)

We have our Annual ride planned for April 18th. We decided to donate all proceeds to our Local Ronald McDonald House in Macon Ga. We are busy planning, getting door prizes and sponsors. We hope this ride will be a great success! We have so much more planned (and unplanned) for 2020. It is going to be a great year!



NC 6



Members of North Carolina 4 were honored to participate in the SPC Antonio Moore - Fallen Soldier Escort in Wilmington on 1 February 2020 riding with many other bikers.

NC 13

On May 2nd, 2020 Red Knight NC13 helped Keith Bills with a food drive in Iredell County. We raised 3,500 lbs of food and \$1,400 to the Iredell Christian Ministries. We also named the ride in Memory of Dakota



Snavelly which is the son of Jimmy

Snavelly, President of NC24. We had NC XX, 21 and 24 with us as well as other Motorcycle clubs that helped. We would like to Thank Brandon Shives for the trailer, STE Powersports for allowing us to host it there, North Iredell Rescue Squad for allowing us to set the trailer there and being the end of the ride.



We would like to also thank Statesville PD, Spencer Lee, Harmony Fire Department, Food Lion on Hwy 115, Lowes of Statesville and the community of Iredell and surrounding counties.



June 27th NC13 and NC24 will be putting on a ride for NC13 member Cole-man. This is a Poker run with an escort to the final stop and all proceeds will go to help get a service dog for Cole.

September 12th NC13 Presents the 5th Annual 9/11 Ride. All proceeds to help Iredell County Burn Children's Fund and surrounding counties.

VA1

On March 7th Red Knights VA 1 had the honor and privilege to assist the Patriot Guard with escorting this firefighting sailor who perished at Pearl Harbor in 1941. 6 Red Knights and a guest braved the chill and light rain to accompany the family from Bliley's in Richmond to National cemetery in Amelia, VA. Job well done by all. It was rather overwhelming to see the patriotism and support from hundreds of bystanders who stopped what they were doing and paid their respect with American flags and salutes all along the route.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 the Virginia Fallen Firefighters memorial which we have been a major supporter of for many years has been cancelled. This event gave many of us from all chapters and even out of state to recognize the firefighters that made the ultimate sacrifice and show the families the deep brother/sisterhood of our calling. From VA1 we hope that all are safe and enjoying social distancing on two.

VA5

Virginia 5 just celebrated our 3rd anniversary (May 18th)! We are located in the beautiful little town of Culpeper, just east of the Beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains (Great for riding thru) or a couple hours west for some beach cruising. VA 5 will be the host for the 2021 Dixie Rally. We are excited to show you our little slice of Heaven and to take you to some winding and breath-taking views. You can find more information about the 2021 Dixie Rally and our current fundraiser visit our website www.RedKnightsVA5.com.

We are also selling custom Red Knight badges with your Chapter, State/Country, and Number. These funds are going to help us support the 2021 Dixie Rally. Simply go to the website and click on the shop now link. Ride Safe and we hope to see you all in May 2021!

Speaking of the Dixie Rally a word from the Dixie 2021 Chairman

The Dixie Rally will be hosted in Culpeper, Virginia on May 14-16, 2021. The host Chapter is Virginia 5 with help from other Virginia chapters to make this a huge success. The room options and availability will be posted on, RedKnightsVA5.com and our Facebook page [RedKnightsVA5](https://www.facebook.com/RedKnightsVA5). There will be plenty to do and as always anyone arriving on Thursday will be provided dinner also. The cost of the registration will be \$65.00 which will include a t-shirt. There will be a challenge coin available for purchase as well. All information and merchandise along with registration can be found on our website. Hope to see you all in May 2021!

Bob Bebee, Dixie Rally Chairman 2021

	<h2>VA 5 Fundraiser</h2> <p>Order your custom Red Knights thin red line badge. \$90 for badge \$5 for shipping and handling. Your chapter will be engraved on badge. Proceeds from sales go towards the Dixie 2021 fund & VA 5</p> <p>Name _____ Email Address _____ Qty _____ State to be listed on Badge: _____ Chapter number: _____</p> <p>Order yours TODAY thru: RedKnightsVa5.com</p>
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SOUTH CAROLINA 1

Third Time's A Charm!



Myrtle Beach, South Carolina again has a chartered chapter! With the help of many hands, heads, and hard work, John Gilgannon (President) has successfully re-chartered SC1 for the third time. This chapter is confirmed to be the most diverse chapter in the Red Knights realm. They have deemed themselves "The Vacation Chapter" and their membership is made up from local Myrtle Beach and surrounding towns residents along with dual members from six other states and a total of three Red Knights regions.



Planning on being anywhere in the Myrtle Beach area? The membership of SC1 wants to show you our Red Knights hospitality! Please send an email to SC1@redknightsmc.com and we will coordinate a gathering/ride/meal to make you feel at home with your fellow RK "Framily*". You may even be able to score a free room with one of us!

John Gilgannon, President, Howard Roun, Jr., Vice President Amanda Smooches Roun, Secretary/Treasurer

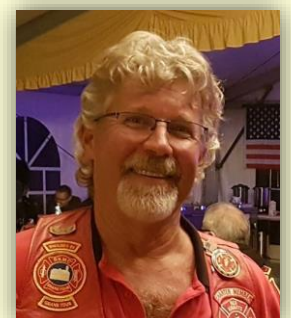
*"Framily" is a word Smooches coined meaning friends who became family. Which is what all Red Knights are!



FL14 in the Clearwater/Tampa area, sends greetings from the Sunshine State! Our Chapter has 23 members who show good participation at our year-round functions. Our members come from all over the central, west coast area to be part of our Chapter, but anyone is welcome. We slowed down for a short time during the Covid-19 pandemic, but our state is starting to open things back up and we will be becoming more active again as a result.

We are fortunate to enjoy nice weather most of the year, so there are always many events, rides, rallies, and fundraisers for us to attend. We have a **Facebook page** at www.facebook.com/groups/rkmcf14/ that anyone can join to stay up to date on our activities. You can contact us by email at FL14@redknightsmc.com or call President Lee Tomin at 352-232-0641 or Vice President Richard Arenella at 727-935-4517.

We have a new State Rep and want to congratulate FL14 member & Red Knights founding father, Norm Beausoleil on being voted in as Florida's State Rep. Many members know Norm and know that he is always very active attending gatherings at home and abroad.



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Here at Florida 14 we take part in several charity fund raising events throughout the year, not least two toy runs in December; one on the 1st and another on the 15th December 2019. Our big fund raiser for 2020 was cooking on the grill at a local Harley Davidson dealership on the weekends and hopefully we will have final totals of the amounts raised later in the year.

Here you can see Joe Mulholland, Nancy Sparrow, Erika Williamson, Charles “Frenchy” French, and

Corey Anderson hard at work at the grill.

Bert’s Barracuda Harley Davidson Toy Run - Dec 1 and the Suncoast Brotherhood 39th Annual Toy Run – Dec 15, 2019



Daytona Beach, FL Bike Week - March 2020

We met up with Florida Chapter 4 for the ride to Daytona Beach and went on their planned ride to St Augustine, FL. We got to meet Red Knights from several states and Quebec. It was great to meet the members of FL4 who are just north of our chapter and we are looking forward to getting together again in the future.



One of the advantages of living on the coastal area of Florida, and of course the good weather is that Florida 14 get to enjoy rides, meals, and events by the water most of the year.



FUTURE EVENTS IN REGION 4

**RED KNIGHTS NC CHAPTER 13
PRESENTS
5TH ANNUAL 9-11 RIDE**

**SEPT. 12th, 2020
REGISTRATION BEGIN @ 10AM
TRINITY VFD 2968 WILKESBORO HWY
RIDER MEETING @ NOON
KSU @ 1230
\$25.00 PER BIKE**

**PROUDLY
SPONSOR BY**



POWERSPORTS



92.9 & 550
WAME
REAL COUNTRY
www.wame.com

**MEMORIAL PRESENTATION AT THE END OF THE
RIDE @ CLEVELAND COMMUNITY VFD
11170 STATESVILLE BLVD CLEVELAND, NC**







POKER RUN FOR COLE-MAN

PRESENTED BY

RKMC NC 13 AND 24

JUNE 27, 2020

Starts @ 10am

STE POWERSPORTS

1426 NORTHSIDE DR STATESVILLE

LAST BIKE OUT 1130 AM

**SILENT AUCTION
DRINKS
MUSIC
GUN RAFFLE
DRAWING**



ALL BIKES WILL NEED TO BE AT
AT THE 4TH STOP BY 315PM FOR ESCORT TO THE SQUAD

RIDE WILL END AT ROWAN COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO HELP COLE'S FAMILY GET A
SERVICE DOG FOR HIM TO DEAL WITH HIS SEIZURES.

SPONSORED BY

UNHARRIE SOAP CO. ALL SEASONS OUTDOOR STE POWERSPORTS
D&D AMERICAN PERFORMANCE TILLEY'S HD BLUE COLLAR CYCLE CO

4th Annual Red Knights 9/11 Ride September 13, 2020

Join the Red Knights Chapter 8 for 80+ scenic miles while remembering those we lost on 9/11.

Registration starts at 7:30am at

Prince George FD Company 1

Blessing of the Bikes & Safety Brief prior to

Kick Stands up at 9:11am

Ends at Namozine VFD.

Registration before the event is encouraged at www.RedKnightsVA8.com

Driver is \$20

Passenger is \$10

prior to 9/6/20

After or on-site \$25 for Driver & Passenger \$15

Part of the proceeds will be going to help those in our community.

See our website for more information & to register.



Region 5

(Alaska, Alberta, , British Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northwest Territory, Oregon, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming and Yukon)

Red Knights Deliver!

Minnesota 4 is usually a very active chapter with weekly dinner rides, but the COVID-19 has put a stop to that. However, we have taken the "dinner rides" to a new level with an opportunity to partner with YMCA Homeless Outreach Team, to deliver meals to young adults in the Twin Cities area. One of our members, Lisa Robinson Gustner who is a Community Program Director with the YMCA, has worked with local homeless youth to find them temporary shelter in local hotels during the pandemic. The need for food was still a priority and Lisa looked to the Red Knights to help; and they stepped up! MN Chapter 4 members have donated money to purchase meals from local restaurants and then delivered them to the youth at the various locations they are temporarily staying. Not only do the youth get meals, COVID protection like gloves and masks, but they get a visit from firefighters on motorcycles! MN4 has delivered meals twice so far with plans to deliver weekly, or more if able, until this pandemic subsides.



Be safe!

Adam "Flash" Gordon,

Road Captain - MN4

MINNESOTA 4'S COVID-19 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION RIDE-BYS



March 17th, St. Patrick's Day is for the most part an international drinking holiday. It is a time to get together with your friends, sing songs, listen to Irish music, drink green beer and Irish whiskey. This day also happens to be my birthday. Due to COVID-19, this year many are unable to celebrate in traditional ways. We were all told to stay in our house, go to work only if you have to, and keep to yourself. So how do you have a fun birthday when you are stuck at home and have to practice social distancing?

Well one day my girlfriend Ashley (Vroom-Vroom) and I were watching videos of fire departments and police departments doing birthday parades. Watching the kids in these videos light up from the special attention warmed our hearts. Knowing that there are lots of kids out there having birthdays, and that the fire and police departments only have so much time to dedicate to doing something like this for the community we decided to put up a post on Facebook.

"Anyone that has a birthday or your kid's birthday coming up please read.

As some of you know I am a member of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club which is a firefighter motorcycle club. We all know that these are trying times and our birthdays still pass but the celebrations are very different. For our kids, they don't understand really why or the magnitude of the situation.

So that said, if you have a birthday or your kiddo has a birthday coming up please message me and I will try to get a group of Red Knights to do a ride by on our bikes and give them a cool little something they can remember. Please include the person/kiddos name, age they are turning, address, and preferred date and time you would like us to ride by."



Well needless say, it didn't take long at all before I had messages popping up from friends asking for us to do a ride by. Our Road Captain Adam (Flash) Gordon copied my post and shared it as well within the first hour of me posting it up. About 3-4 hours later my phone was ringing. Flash said "I think we may

have bitten off more than we can chew. I have about 3-4 requests already." From that point forward Vroom-Vroom, Flash, and I worked on coordinating the rides.

Cont;

In order to coordinate everything, we had to make a new Facebook page and a dedicated email to communicate through.

Our first ride by was for our own little girl, Sophie. She was ecstatic since she thought that she wasn't going to get to do anything for her birthday. After the birthday parade for her, she couldn't stop talking about it. Anyone that asked how her birthday was, well they were in for an ear full. She said it was ***"the best birthday ever, quarantine isn't that bad mom!"***.



We have been able to join in on so many great rides- including one for the son of Josh Richardson, a local firefighter that lost his battle with cancer last year. His wife wrote to let us know how much it meant by saying ***"I don't even know how to say thank you! When I walked out the front door this morning and***

heard the motorcycles revving up, the sirens of the fire trucks and police cars, I was completely lost in emotion. Watching you come around the corner literally brought me to tears. Thank you for wishing Kaden an incredible birthday, one that he will NEVER forget (or any of us for that matter)! While paying tribute to Kaden's birthday, you also honored Josh! It felt as though we were being wrapped up in LOVE. Thank you! For being here today, and helping to make this first birthday for Kaden so memorable and special. We will never forget!! We love you guys SO much!! God Bless the Red Knights!"

Since the rides have started, we have done over 18 birthday parades.

Some of them have been with just club members, and others we have been able to coordinate with local fire and police along with family members of the birthday boy/girl.

We have had at least 7 bikes and a few have had close to 35 bikes. It is

just one of the many ways this great chapter has come together to reach out and make a positive impact on our community. I can't thank everyone in my chapter enough and I hope that everyone has gotten as much joy and satisfaction out of doing this as I have.



Jesse (T-Bag) Bullis

Lieutenant East

RKMN 4

Region 6

(Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah)

Well Brothers and Sisters of the Red Knights, I was hoping to have several great pictures of the events that the Texas and Oklahoma RKMC chapters participated in at this time of year. But with this Covid-19 everything has been cancelled just as it has in your part of the world.

I hope all of you are still safe and healthy as you deal daily with this as you do your jobs.

- The Oklahoma Ride to Remember for April 18th and the 25th Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing were cancelled, but good news the Ride will be rescheduled for Sept. 12, 2020 in Oklahoma City.
- The Texas Red Knights First Annual Shriners Hospital Ride for April 25th, was cancelled and rescheduled for Sept.26 2020
- The Texas State Association Convention is still scheduled for June 25-28th 2020 in Beaumont Texas with Chapters 1 and 12 hosting our Annual Convention.

Hoping the COVID-19 is resolved soon so that we have good news to share again, until then Brothers and Sister Stay safe.

Chuck Matthews
RKMC Region 6 Reporter

Region 7

(European Chapters)

With Covid-19 closing many European country's borders and citizens being told that they are not to attend social gatherings there has inevitably been many cancelled meetings and rallies.

However, one Chapter was lucky enough to see their hard work come to fruition with their events going ahead. Germany IX are always very busy, with both chapter activities and in the local community, they attended the Dortmund Motorcycle fair and were honoured to be invited to the New Year's reception of the Mayor of the city of Castrop Rauxel on Saturday, 8th February 2020.



Germany IX are welcomed to the Mayor's Reception

GERMANY IX & IXI'S DORTMUND MOTORCYCLE FAIR EXPERIENCE

Germany IX and XIX were in attendance for four days between 5th and 8th March at the Motorcycle air in Dortmund where they welcomed visitors to their stand for a cup of coffee, a piece of cake and a chat with them about all things motorcycle and of course about the Red Knights MC.



The first day at the fair was an interesting and beautiful one but it was obvious that the air was in the shadow of the Coronavirus. There was far less going on compared to last year, fewer stands and fewer visitors. It was hoped that the numbers of visitors would increase as the fair continued over the next three days.

The second day at the saw them welcome visits to their stand from Red Knights MAL and Chapters, including members from their own chapters who were not staffing the stand and other Motorcycle Clubs visiting them included the Blue and Green Knights. Germany IX were happy to receive gifts from their visiting friends Germany XXII.



The 3rd day at MoToMe 2020 came to a close, it had been a `tiring but super good day`, there had been many visitors and friends joining them on the stand from the Red Knights, Blue Knights, Medical Knights and other motorcycle friends from near and far.



As a successful day 4, the last day at the Dortmund motorcycle fair came to a close there was time to reflect on the four days activities.

It had been a great success and huge a commitment from members of Germany IX and IXI who gave up their time to staff the stand for four days; `it had been very exhausting but also mega beautiful` was their comment afterwards. Many interested people had joined them and had been told about the Red Knights, perhaps Germany IX will soon grow again as a result.



Cont;

Germany IX send their thanks to everyone who filled their donation jar over the four days, donations which will soon be handed over to the chosen charities.

Despite the many hours of planning and the commitment at the fair Germany IX is going to do all again next year and would be delighted if you would visit them again at our booth at MoToMe 2021 next year.



SW



SOMETHING GOOD COMES FROM THE CANCELLED 2020 UK/IRELAND MEETING



UK MAL Chris `the Dark Lord` Newiss has singlehandedly been working hard to organise the 2020 UK/Ireland Annual Meeting in Blackpool, England and Red knights from across Europe and some from the USA had booked to attend. After organising entertainment and meals for the Friday and Saturday nights and a ride out into the beautiful English countryside on Saturday he was devastated to have to cancel the event because of the Covid-19 outbreak.

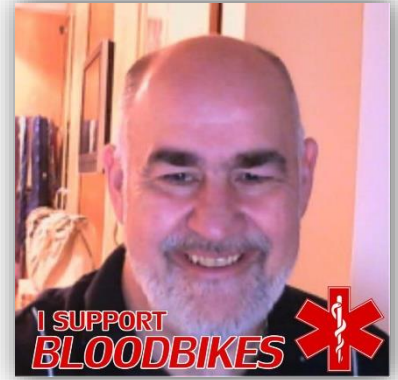
Chris had planned on giving everybody attending a `goody bag` and was left with chocolates that were supposed to go in them, so instead of them going to waste Chris delivered them as a gift to Brian House, his local children's hospice who give care to children with cancer and other terminal diseases.

So we look forward to April 2021, Chris is determined to finish what he started and is planning to run his event next year.



SW

UK Member-at-Large Volunteers



UK Member-at-Large Charles Fairfull is a volunteer with the Shropshire Staffordshire Cheshire Blood Bikes, a service that transport blood products as well as a variety of other urgent medical items, including breast milk (Which is donated by women and used to feed premature babies) and other urgent items such as patient notes, electronic scan information and even small pieces of urgently needed surgical equipment and of course more recently, `Covid-19` samples for testing to NHS hospitals across Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire in the UK. This is achieved using temperature controlled boxes attached to their bikes.



The service is a 100% voluntary service and is available 24/7, it is valuable service to the National Health Service Hospitals but especially so during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic and Charles could be expected to turn out at all hours of the day or night when he is on call. During a recent callout he experienced a show of gratitude from members of the public for the service he is providing and below is his account of what happened.

“Doing my run to Birmingham for Shropshire Staffordshire Cheshire Blood Bikes today. While I was travelling between hospitals I stopped at a pedestrian crossing to let the people cross. As they crossed they looked in my direction and started to clap and, as I was the only vehicle there, I realised it was for me. What a wonderful gesture to which I suddenly suffered a touch of hay fever. Strange I don’t normally react to pollen.”

It has become a weekly ritual in the UK to step outside at 8pm on a Thursday evening and clap to show our thanks to all National Health Service workers for the work they are doing to combat the Covid-19 Coronavirus. I am sure that many of us in Charles’ riding boots the day he received the pedestrians thanks would have had the same reaction; `Hay Fever runny eyes`.

Great Work Charles and THANK YOU!

Charles can be seen in the centre of this picture..

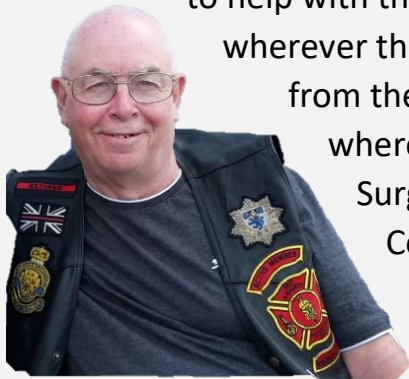


UK MEMBERS JOIN THE `VOLUNTEER RIDERS UK` TO DELIVER COVID-19 PPE TO FRONT LINE WORKERS

One of the big problems that Front Line workers such as Doctors, Nurses and Care workers have had in the UK is the shortage of PPE and their ability to get it delivered to where it needs to be. To help those that need it, people all over the UK have been producing PPE at home. Everything from face masks or shields to full sets of scrubs (Clothes worn when treating patients), but once these have been produced they still need to be delivered and that is where the Volunteer Riders UK come in.

In order to ensure that all front line workers have as much protection from Covid-19 as possible and as quickly as possible, **Volunteer Riders UK** was set up for the distribution of PPE to front line workers and as a voluntary organisation they are putting PPE makers and those who need it in contact with each other and when the order is placed they get it delivered by their riders.

UK Red Knights Alan Blacklee (MAL) and Steve Williamson (England 2) have volunteered to help with the deliveries of these much needed parcels to wherever they are asked to go, firstly they collect the items from the producer and then ride to deliver them to where they are needed, which could be Doctors' Surgeries, Care Homes or even the homes of Community Nurses across the UK.



There is no fee or expenses paid, all the services are given free of charge, we just jump on our motorcycles and off we go to help front line workers fight this deadly coronavirus as safely as they can.

Let us hope that their services are not needed for long because this will mean that the Coronavirus is no longer with us.

SW

Region 8

(Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific)

AUSTRALIA 6 COME OUT OF LOCKDOWN TO CELEBRATE THEIR 9th ANNIVERSARY



Happy 9th Anniversary everyone!!!

It has been great so far, Australia 6 have been involved in many worthwhile events and they have organized some great rides and had a really good time in the process.

Events such as last year's 2nd Gathering, Wall to Wall rides, Toy Runs, Black Dog rides as well as their Chapter's monthly rides; everything counts, and the great thing is that they have a fantastic reputation in their local area.

All Australia 6 members should pat their selves on the back, without you guys they couldn't have achieved anything.

Australia 6's President Andy Young said "To say I'm proud of what we have done would be a gross understatement, here's to many more years riding together."

Their Celebration Ride Recipe

1 Sunny Autumn Day

1 twisty road

Several Red Knights on Motorcycles

1 Lunch from a noted local Bakery

Method :

Mix well and enjoy.

Saturday 16th May, the lockdown in Victoria was eased and Australia 6 had just celebrated its 9th Anniversary so

it was time for a ride. Was this the first post quarantine Red Knights run in Australia ... in the world?

Luckily only 10 people met up for their first ride post Covid-19 quarantine, the maximum number allowed to gather together as mandated by the state government. They had a leisurely trip via Longfird, Rosedale, and Gormandale to Yarram. A Takeaway lunch from the locally renowned Yarram Bakery in the Yarram Memorial Park was the order of the day and their President was on hand with a tape measure to ensure social distancing was being enforced, it was also fantastic to have Australia 19 meet up with them to share lunch and join the ride part of the way home.



After a long couple of months with little or no wind therapy it was good to be out riding again. Thanks to all that came out for the day, looking forward to our 10th Anniversary next year - watch this space.



Australia 19 visit a station with Character.

Many thanks to Daniel our Road Captain, for arranging the day, great to meet the Walhalla Fire Brigade in there Station with character (old stables) fitted out to suit the Brigades needs and then to top it off the Monaro club had a show and shine at Erica, It was a great day and great company Bernie, Matt, Daniel, and Greg.



Australian Red Knights Gathering

Keep the dates free 13th, 14th and 15th November 2020.. Due to COVID-19 there is no certainty that it will go ahead but everybody concerned have their fingers crossed.

Please subscribe and follow this event to keep up to date with all details. Facebook page red knights Australian gathering 2020

Australia 10 are hoping to be the proud hosts of this event and look forward to having a great attendance from Region 8 Red Knights.

Red Knights Australia 9's New Year's ride

on Sunday 5th January met at McDonalds in Maddington and after a short catch up they rode to the RAAF Aviation Heritage Museum at Bull Creek. The museum is packed with interesting historical exhibits and is worth a visit if you are ever out that way.

It was a great ride directed by the VP, and a warm welcome was given to Phil from NZ who has crossed the ditch to live in our part of the world.



Australia day bushfire relief ride

On 26th January 2020 was the Australia Bushfire relief ride was hosted by Red Knights Australia 12 with the assistance of the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans MC.

Fantastic day raising money for those suffering down south due to the fires.

Charity ride results were great!



The ride day included raffles and prizes, and riders and pillions paid to take part in the ride which resulted in a fantastic \$2,300 being raised with further money being raised from The Veterans (\$250) and the Ville Vixens who donated \$100. Thanks to were sent to the lovely ladies from Ville Vixens, most of whom could not attend the ride.

A grand total of \$2,650 was raised on the day which was donated to The Salvation Army Bushfire Disaster appeal and the Red Knights Aussie Fires Benefit.

NEW ZEALAND GATHERING IS A HUGE SUCCESS

New Zealand and perhaps the world's Southernmost Chapter were the hosts for this years 'Gathering', held in February 2020 in the Southern most point of the South Island, Bluff.



Approximately 50 Chapter members from all over New Zealand, the furthest travelled coming from NZ1 in Northland about 1900 kms (1200 miles) away, rode from far and wide to attend the event, with ferry crossings booked months earlier to cross from the North to the South

Island, flights booked for those short on time, accommodation booked-out in the small settlement of Bluff, bars stocked, singing voices warmed up,



cotton buds ordered to block the ears and stories embellished, ready for a weekend full of the famous Southern hospitality and seafood!

It was also a pleasure to have Region 8 Director Jason Collins attend another of our Gatherings. Always a great laugh to be had and a chance to catch up with the Chapters all in one place. Thanks Jason!



The timing of this Gathering was organised to follow on from the Burt Munro Challenge, a week full of events that celebrates the life and accomplishments of Burt Munro and the rich motorcycling history and personalities of New Zealand.

<https://www.burtmunrochallenge.co.nz/about>

The week of festivities includes hill climbs, drag racing, beach races, street racing, speedway and street sprints to name a few.

Invercargill was home to Burt Munro, and you can view one of the original 'World's Fastest Indian' machines Burt Munro built to race at the Bonneville Salt Flats at E Hayes and Sons in Invercargill.

https://www.ehayes.co.nz/Motorworks-Collection/Hayes-motorworks-collection-__1.8574



This is actually an operating hardware store with pieces of motorcycling history interspersed amongst the aisles of hardware goods. Truly a must see for all motorcycle enthusiasts!

When you're not busy taking in one of the events there is an absolutely amazing motorcycle museum called Motorcycle Mecca

<https://www.motorcyclemecca.nz/> and the Bill Richardson Transport museum

<https://www.transportworld.co.nz/> in Invercargill that are world class and definitely worth making time for as well if you have a spare day up your sleeve.

So after a week of festivities it was time to enjoy the hospitality of NZ8, led by a fantastic organising team that had everything covered.

Beautiful fresh, bountiful seafood came out on giant platters overflowing with crayfish (lobster), fresh fish and mussels at the Bluff Volunteer Fire Station as we caught up on adventures from our rides down. After we had gorged ourselves on seafood they announced it was now time for dinner over at the Bowling Club.....yep, more fresh seafood!! Believe me, there were NO complaints!

The local Te Rau Aroha Marae also took great care of us for our breakfasts in their beautiful Wharenui (meeting house). The amazing thing that brings you back to these smaller settlements and towns is the sense of community and banding together of the locals to look after you. Bluff would be a world leader in this area.



The weather had been pre-ordered for a fantastic ride as we explored the Southland area, and I believe the Ride



Captain (was that you Nappies?) may have taken us on an extended tour at some point, as the other local chapter members were seen scratching their heads at a certain part of the ride! Some of the best adventures are unscripted!

In all, a very memorable Gathering hosted very successfully by New Zealand 8. I would personally like to thank the crew for all their hard work. Well done team, every year the bar is raised and yet again exceeded!

2021 is to be hosted by our Northland Chapter, at the top of the North Island.

This will be a huge year for them, as it is actually their 20th Anniversary as a Chapter, the first Chapter to start outside of the U.S.A!

Cheers,

Shaun Crowley

NZ5 Chapter President

Region 8 NZ Reporter

THE MOTORCYCLIST'S GUIDE TO RIDING IN THE RAIN

GEAR UP

Waterproof your gear for any riding conditions

- Water-resistant riding pants and jacket
- Waterproof tank bag or backpack to store additional dry clothing
- Extra plastic bags to keep your valuables dry
- Anti-fog coated face shield or goggles
- Windproof/waterproof balaclava for added facial protection
- Waterproof gloves and boots

BEFORE YOU RIDE CHECKLIST

Conduct the following prior to your riding adventure

Tires

Check that your tires are inflated properly and have the proper tread depth.

Brakes

Ensure your brakes are functioning properly and identify the wear on the brake pads.

Oil & Brake Fluid

Inspect your motorcycle for any oil or brake fluid leakage.

Route

Map an alternate route and/or rest stop to take shelter when the rain starts to pour.

Defogging

Wipe down your windshield, goggles, and/or helmet visors with anti-fogging treatments.

NEW ZEALAND LOSE TWO OF THE BEST



NZ6 and NZ7 were dealt a double blow earlier this year in January, with the loss of two of their members within 2 days of each other.

Sel lo Tam, NZ7 Sgt at Arms and Doug Wright NZ6 Life Member & NZ7 Chapter member were both huge parts of these chapters.



Sel was a big man with a big smile, a big heart and a penchant for pies! Legend has it

that whenever the Chapter went riding and took a break, a pie would appear from somewhere on Sel's person or bike! Sel was a quiet force with an eloquent voice that was very much respected amongst his family, friends, workmates and riding buddies. When Sel had something to say you listened and normally laughed, as he'd somehow snuck a joke in as well.

NZ6 Life Member and NZ7 Chapter member Doug Wright didn't have the same stature as Sel, but by God he made up for it in personality!

You could always hear Dougie before you saw him, whether it was on his Harley or Triumph. And his catch phrase "Faaaaaaaarrrrrkkkk" wasn't far behind!

A deer and pig hunter from way back, Dougie could look after himself, and if anybody needed a hand he was there.

NZ6 and NZ7 have two huge voids left by these characters and it is during these times that the Chapter brother and sisterhood stand strong, gain strength from each other and celebrate their lives.

It is a testament to their characters that both of these much loved, much respected and very much missed individuals had huge send-offs, with Red Knights members travelling from around the country to pay their respects and to take part in the motorcycle guard of honours taking pride of place at the head of their processions.

Sel and Dougie, Kia Kaha (Stand Strong) Brothers! You are loved and will be forever missed.

Words by Shaun Crowley

NZ5 Chapter President

Region 8 NZ Reporter

THE NEXT GENERATION OF KNIGHTS!



These two little ones caused quite a stir when this picture appeared on Facebook, but did you wonder what they were saying to each other?

Well here is your chance to put words into their mouths, so to speak!

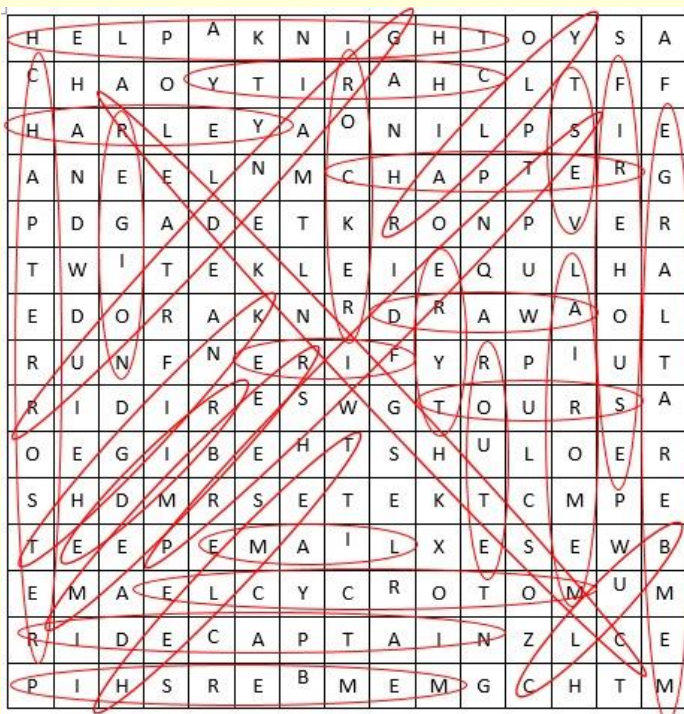
Send your thoughts to me at editor@redknightsmc.com

I will publish the best ones, and the winning entry in the December Newsletter, and I will send an England 2 patch to the winner.. SW



QUIZ PAGE ANSWERS

WORD SEARCH



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE





RED KNIGHTS' CHARITY CHECKS PHOTOGRAPHS

