

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club



July 2022 Newsletter

IN THIS EDITION

- Reports from the Board.
- Election time – Secretary Candidates' Bios
- Chaplain Vacancy
- 2023 Convention – Austria 4
- Where are you?
- History of the Challenge Coin
- Spot the Difference
- Your Wedding Photos
- 2022 Founding Fathers' Dinner
- Regional Articles
- Spot the Difference Answers
- Future Events
- Heaven 1 Photos

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

I'll start this Newsletter off by asking the question;

Are we ever going to get back to the Status Quo in the world?

Over the past few years we seem to have gone from one crisis to another, severe fires in the US and Australia, Covid-19 restrictions are still with some of us and now the war in Ukraine which has had an impact worldwide. (I'm not going to express any political views).

One thing for certain is that our GREAT Club continues to grow and go from strength to strength and, thankfully now that Covid-19 restrictions are easing we are able to once again ride with our Brothers and Sisters.

I would like to thank everybody that has taken the time to contribute to this and past Newsletter, and remember that you can send articles to me or your Regional Reporter at any time, you don't have to wait until the submission deadline approaches.

Finally; RIDE SAFELY and STAY FIT AND WELL. **LTOD**

editor@redknightsmc.com



The next Newsletter will be published in February 2023...

Send your articles to me or your Regional Reporter by 31st January 2023

COVER PHOTO

Members of Indiana 3 out for a ride

NEW REGION 6 REPORTER

I want to welcome **Charles Prince**, Arizona 2 President, to our team of Reporters. Charles steps in to fill the vacancy to complete the team of reporters.

Communications Chairman – George Colby communications@redknightsmc.com

Newsletter Editor - Steve Williamson editor@redknightsmc.com

Regional Reporters' contact emails

Region 1	Jim Voss -	region1reporter@redknightsmc.com
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Region 5	Lance Solberg-	region5reporter@redknightsmc.com
Region 6	Charles Prince	region6reporter@redknightsmc.com
Region 7	Steve Williamson -	region7reporter@redknightsmc.com
Region 8 NZ	Shaun Crowley -	region8nzreporter@redknightsmc.com
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REPORTS FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT - Joey Powell

I would like to thank the Board, Committees, and the Chapter Members for a job well done in 2022. All together we have reached our goal with 10,000 members.

I encourage each member to be engaged with their chapter in the coming year. Stay focused to help the chapter and the club to grow, while supporting your local communities. Contact your Regional Director with concerns and ideas to help the Red Knights not only grow but support for each other. We need to remember that this is our club, not just one person's. I have learned being on the board that a lot of times if we put ideas together it works best for the organization. We all need to think what is best for the Red Knights as a whole, not just ourselves or one chapter or region. In attending rides with local chapters this past year, I saw old friendships rekindled and new friendships being made. The communities welcomed us with open arms and enthused to see the Red Knights and the support for their hometowns.

We were able to hold our spring meeting face to face for the ones that could be there, and the others joined by Zoom. Also, we have held all three Rallies this year and I believe that everyone had a great time.

In 2022, I challenged the Members to focus on what we, individually, can get out of the club but what we can give to our organization. If you give of yourself and your time, in return you get a feeling of satisfaction knowing you not only helped your chapter and community, but you may have been that encouragement for another member because of your willingness and positive attitude. You will certainly make more friendships than you can imagine not just in the chapter but around the world. How many people do you know that can say they have friends in other countries? As a friend of mine always tells me when I call him, "just get on your bike and ride, enjoying the adventure of where it takes you and the people you meet".

This coming year will be another challenging year however, I see our club changing in positive ways. Yet, we need to stay focused on the reason(s) our Founding Fathers started the club and the intentions for our existence. A club for firemen and the families to ride and make new friends (Fellow Firemen and their families to ride with).

I look forward to working with the existing board members and the new board members, seeing their new ideas for the club.

In closing remember your family and tell them you love them at the beginning and at the end of each day. You never know when it might be the last time, they may see you.

"My profession is somewhat unique in comparison to that of the average person. At any one fixed moment in time when duty calls upon me, I am prepared to sacrifice my own life to save the lives of others I may not even know. I am willing to do this because I understand that we all make choices in life. As for myself, this is the choice and path of service that I have chosen to follow. Though my job is often rewarding, it can also be unsettling. I often reflect upon the simplicity of one question, "Who am I?" At times, I cannot provide this answer, not even for myself. So, "Who am I" to choose a profession in life that regularly shows no mercy for the preciousness of life? "Who am I" to willingly, without hesitation, invite myself into some of the most uninviting situations known to mankind? "Who am I", so that when duty calls, may never again lay eyes on the loved ones I could leave behind? The assumed simplicity of this question is not so simple after all. Understanding "Who I am" may be difficult to answer at times. However, all I need to do is pause, think about, and remember those lives I have positively influenced and maybe even saved. All I need to do is look back on the years of service I have given to my community and realize that I helped make the world a safer place in which to live. In my heart, I know I made a difference. "Who am I?" I am a Firefighter!"

WE ARE A FAMILY OF ONE - THE RED KNIGHTS.....

Loyal to Our Duty
Joey Powell



VICE PRESIDENT - Spike Ostiguy

Fraternal greetings everyone,

Well, it looks like we made it. It's been a long time a comin' With the last two (2) years in the rear view, please know that Karen and I are looking forward to the in-person, and a whole lot of facetime with All of our Red Knights family here in Johnstown, PA and future rallies and gatherings around the globe.

The next two (2) paragraphs, again are worth re-visiting from my last year's convention report.

A friendly reminder... Members contemplating or wanting to leave their respective chapter(s) and applying for Member-At-Large Membership. With all due respect, this is not how the M.A.L. program works. Or how it was conceived by our Founding Fathers.

(from 2020/2021) 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 (some in remote areas) wanting to join the Red Knights family but did not live near an already established Red Knights Chapter. This classification of membership afforded those firefighters the opportunity to join. With that, it is our hope / our wish that this M.A.L. member will promote the Red Knights in his/her area, 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.

Chapter President's, we ask that you reach out to the 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 your areas respective M.A.L. information, using the chain of command, please contact your State/Provincial/Country Representative. They will gladly supply you with it.

Even with the Covid 19 endemic upon us, we your Executive Board have been participating in monthly/semimonthly conference calls, and "Zoom" meetings to date.

Representing the membership, since my last report I've attended / participated in:

- Attended the Heaven 1 Protocol for Ann Blandon, Massachusetts Chapter 3 Associate Member, Sunday January 16, 2022
- 2021 - Spring Board Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland Apr. 20-Apr. 23
- Attended the Heaven 1 Protocol for Walter Roach, Massachusetts Chapter 2 Active Member, Friday April 29, 2022
- Roll called "present" at all but one conference calls / "Zoom" meetings of the RKI, RKR and RKMF
- As a Massachusetts Chapter IV member, I currently sit on the R.K. Memorial Hall/Park Committee

State of the Member-At-Large (M.A.L.) Program

At the time of this report... we have 321 M.A.L.'s (2021/2022/beyond =)

Region 1 = 11/33/2=46

Region 2 = 9/13=22

Region 3 = 11/17=28

Region 4 = 12/29/4=45

Region 5 = 7/39/1=47

Region 6 = 8/32/1=41

Region 7 = 9/63/1=73

Region 8 = 2/15/1=18

V.P. = Mexico = 1

Member-At-Large applications thru the first six (6) months of 2022

January = 6 February = 1 March = 15 April = 12 May = 10 June = 14

To date, we have had six (6) Member-At-Large applicants referred to Chapters.

One (1) Member-At-Large Member has transferred to Chapter membership.

Lastly. The 2022 election process for position of International Secretary is upon us as we speak.

There are two (2) Candidates running for this position. Nominee profiles can be found on the R.K. Website.

#1 Michael “Woody” Woods (Indiana 2)

#2 Colin Nelson (New Hampshire 9)

Through your personal e-mails, all Active Member-At-Large Members in good standing should have received an official voting ballot from “VoteNet.” If not in your inbox, check your spam / junk folder. Voting is open from June 21, 2022 to July 21, 2022.

Any questions regarding the process, please feel free to contact me.

Any questions to the candidates, they both have expressed openness to contact them.

By all means, view each of their candidate profiles to make your own decision.

Please take this opportunity to have your voices heard. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Spike Ostiguy, R.K.I.F.M.C. International Vice President, Life Member, Massachusetts Chapter IV



SECRETARY - Jack Jarvis

Hello to all my brother and sister Red Knights!

Well, it looks like 2022 has taken off and we are out and about hosting rides and events like I haven't seen in a few years! All I can say is that PA better be ready for everyone to show up in August as I see this convention breaking ALL the attendance records! Seems weird that this is going to be the last report to the Membership from me! Thank y'all for all the support as I have tried to do everything in my power to help this organization grow in a manner that will make our Members flourish and stay safe on the roads without hassle from outside organizations. This is no longer your dads Red Knights; big changes are coming from a whole new generation of Red Knights, and it is now time for me to step out of the way and watch.

Your International Secretary has been very busy since the last time I sent out this report. I was able to attend the Spring Board Meeting in Baltimore, and man was it good to see everyone in person! I also attended all the monthly Zoom meetings your board has been having to remain up with current events and spoke with quite a few Chapters and Members during the past year. I have spent an average of 25+ hours a week on my secretary duties. These include email, reports, conference calls, meetings, TMLA's, insurance, new Chapter information, and all the smaller behind the scenes work that is always done just to keep things organized. I can tell you that not getting together as much has led to some very creative items for sale from our Chapters.

Since the inception of the digital signature TMLA process, we have successfully approved almost 1000 new TMLA's with an average turnaround time of just over two hours! Thanks to the COVID restrictions, I have received a record number of applications for TMLA's. I am happy to say that improvements of the TMLA program are working wonderfully. Please remember that the application and the artwork must be submitted together, electronically. All applications and artwork are now saved electronically and if you mail me bad artwork, I cannot accept it as it will not scan properly. Please also remember that ANY design that you create with our name or logo **MUST** have the required ®. If the registered trademark is not plainly visible

when I receive the application, it will be returned with a quick reminder! Please do not make items that have not been approved or does not contain the ®. If you have a question on whether an item needs a TMLA, it probably does, and you can send a quick email to make sure. Don't miss the breakout session at Convention on Friday morning.

We have added more new Chapters this year. As of now, only new formed Chapters are receiving membership cards in their new Chapter packet. We are still looking into a better membership card that will work for all of us.

We have insured twenty-eight (28) events so far, this year. The season is gearing up here in North America, so I see a lot more events being insured. Please take advantage of this great program we have. It is a good piece of mind for the Chapter for a very low cost. The cost has gone up a bit from previous years, but it is still a very inexpensive piece of mind for the hosts of the events. If you have any questions about the insurance, please call or email me. Don't miss the breakout session at Convention on Friday morning.

The advertising in our low membership areas has hit its stride and I am looking forward to getting the calls and emails asking for more information soon. Our MAL's are doing a great job in forming multiple new Chapters this past year!

Just as a reminder for ALL Chapters. Make sure your email is up and running and being checked by someone because ALL official documentation (TMLA's and Insurance Certificates) coming from this office will ONLY go to the Chapter email address assigned by the RKIFMC.

I would like to take this time again, to thank everyone for their support over the past 15 years that I have had the privilege to serve you in the respective positions I have been elected to. I will be retiring as your International Secretary at the 2022 Convention and will not be seeking any new position on the board. It has been a great ride and I hope that I have done my part to improve this amazing organization. It is now time for Marie and me to ride off into the sunset and enjoy the organization and all our brothers and sisters from out behind that table!! And MIMI and POPS are going to enjoy our time with our new granddaughter!!

As always, keep the shiny side up and your knees in the wind!

Loyal to Our Duty

Jack Jarvis

Retired International Secretary



TREASURER - Scott Ryan

From the desk of your treasurer

In the hopes I can save us all some grief, in this newsletter I want to dig a little deeper into Membership categories.

First, I will point out that Membership categories are detailed in the bylaws, which are changed and passed by a super majority of the chapters at an AGM. Not that long ago, "Grandchild" was added to the Social Member category. No big deal, right? Wrong. That is a huge deal. What that change signaled is that the list of relationships is a firm definitive list which you as members have the power to change and I as Treasurer have the responsibility to follow. The list of relationships is not "people LIKE mother, father"... So my Aunt, who was like a mother to me, cannot be a Social Member; my friend in high school who taught me to tie my shoelaces and is like a brother to me, cannot be a Social Member; my mother-in-law is not like my mother and cannot be a Social Member – can I get an amen. Those relations cannot be Social Members **YET**. If we, as a body, want to include more relations as Social Members then we, as a body by super majority, need to change the list. To start the process to change the list is easy – fire an email off to bylaws@redknightsmc.com to get the ball rolling. To be clear, no, I do not think the Founders meant to exclude grandchildren, just as I do not think we as a body meant to exclude them every year until the bylaws were finally changed to include them. **BUT**, until the bylaws were changed to definitively include them, we could not add them as Social Members.

I'm not done yet. There are a number of other relations that are not included in the bylaws. Some of which I suspect nobody meant to exclude. But it is only my opinion and that doesn't matter until the bylaws change. I suspect a super majority of people would agree with me that step-relations should be considered. I'm sure lots, but maybe not a super majority, would agree in-laws should be considered.

I am not confident aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins would make the list. I'll come back to this later when I talk about Associate Members.

There is a reason why people may not agree to include some of the relations noted above. Social Members get a vote in chapter business. The bylaws are not 100% clear on what it takes to bring a Social Member onto the roster. That is, it doesn't explicitly state that they need to be voted in. Arguably, a person could walk into a Chapter AGM with a dozen new Social Members and influence the results of an election. Just so ya know, that's not a hypothetical problem, it has been tried.

Also not clear in the bylaws is what it takes to be an Associate Member. It doesn't explicitly state that an Associate Member has to have a motorcycle license. This means it is possible for extended family to join a chapter as an Associate even if the bylaws are not changed to expand Social Membership. Just remember, Associate Members cannot exceed 10% of Active Members. On that note, just to clarify, that is 10% of the members who qualify for Active Membership, not 10% of members who show up for rides and are otherwise active in the chapter. Too often, chapters try to bring on Associate Members putting them over the 1 in 10 Active and that just opens the door for someone to get very embarrassed.

While I'm on a run of clarifying membership categories, the other misunderstood category is Honorary Member. Honorary Members are limited to a chapter Chaplain and to civic or business leaders who do volunteer work for the chapter. This is not a catchall category. This is not a place for your favourite hockey team's mascot, not a place to list a restaurant where you hold your meetings, not a place for your pet, and I am sorry this sounds so cold hearted, but it is not a place for make-a-wish to get a vest for a child. Yes, it is an absolute honor to be in the Red Knights, and it would be great to honor anyone on that last list with a membership. BUT, a super majority of our members have not structured our bylaws that way. Please see our SOGs, section 12:03 and the Friends of the Red Knights (FORK) for this sort of recognition instead.

As always, if you have any questions I'm here to answer them. It's always best to fire an email off to me so I have time to research the specifics of the case and help you determine the best place for people looking to join our club.

Sincerely

Scott



REGION 1 DIRECTOR - Eric Jock

How can it be that a year has already gone by, and almost in the blink of an eye. If there is one thing that I have learned that is, time does not slow down for anything, not for a global pandemic, watching kids or family grow, or time pass. There is all but one promise in life and that is the end. We often find ourselves saying goodbye or seeing you later, and this past year was no different. We have said our goodbyes to far too many brothers and sisters and I would be ashamed of myself for not acknowledging them.

This year was also filled with triumph! We had the return of the in-person meetings of the international board. The return of all the amazing rallies and the return of being together! This year also brought to Region One the start of our "Mayday fund" a fund established to assist our members in times of need. My goal is to see this transform into each region and help as many Red Knights as possible, giving us all a way to help each other. For more information on the Region One Mayday Fund please reach out to me at region1@redknightsmc.com !

Sadly for the last 2 years, 2020, and 2021 - The Yankee Rally was canceled. This year however it returned, and returned with vengeance! New York 50, and the Yankee Rally Committee - CRUSHED this rally. Every little detail was planned and executed flawlessly. Hard work and dedication to the organization paid off big time, and by all reports each of the 361 people in attendance fully enjoyed themselves. A new record

might I add! Congratulations New York 50 on a job well done. As we move forward into 2023 we are looking forward to being in the Finger Lakes Region of New York, with New York chapter 30. Congratulations on your successful bid and Good luck next year, I am only a phone call away if I can be of help!

It's nice to see our membership growing, and thriving, working together for the common goal. My challenge stands the same. I encourage each of you, each chapter to get out there, travel to another state, another region, or even just another chapter's event. Support them, ride with them, and spend time together. Meeting new friends and doing things together can lead to some of the very best ideas! We are nothing alone, but together we can be a force of good!

In closing, I want to thank everyone for all of the support over the last year. I would also like to give a shout-out to my fellow International Board officers for assisting me with all my questions and concerns, my State Reps for their help in each of their respected states, and our international support committees for the tireless, thankless hard work they do for us, and all the members around the globe for making this club what it is, the best in the world! I have learned a lot and look forward to learning even more over the next year! I have had a very busy and productive year and I promise to keep the forward momentum going, growing the region, keeping lines of communication open, and working hard for you, the members. Keep up the good work, keep the rubber side down and stay safe - always!

As always, remain "Loyal to our duty"
Eric Jock



REGION 2 DIRECTOR - Leo Patry

Another year has flown by, I have now been a member of the Red Knights International Board of Directors in one position or another for 30 Years; and have attended every International Convention since 1991, 2022 will be my 29th convention. I never realized when I joined the Red Knights in 1989 what a major affect it would have on my life. I have had the opportunities to help build this great organization into what it is today, made new friends, been able to work with, and to learn from, the great members that have contributed to our growth and success both in the past and the present; and with many new exciting things to come in the future with our continued growth around the world, I find that being a part of the Red Knights is every bit as exciting and stimulating today as I did when I first joined.

With the cancellation of both the 2020 Convention in Leon France and 2021 in St John New Brunswick and with the impending 2022 Convention in Johnstown Pennsylvania has renewed excitement in the membership to attend, and once more get the opportunity to meet old and new friends from the Red Knights Chapters.

Region 2 Chapters unfortunately lost out on pretty well all activities in both 2020 and most of 2021 due to Covid. Fortunately, we were able to hold Zoom meetings and stay in contact with our membership. This spring has shown a slow return to normal conditions for us to be able to once more socialize and take part in Rides and events. The one good thing about the last couple of years our international membership did not shrink by any noticeable amount, and we have actually gained chapters. As of May 1, 2022, we had 482 chapters with 9750 members this number also included 318 MAL's.

I have continued to maintain a time log of time spent as the Regional Director along with the updating of the procedure manual for the position of Region 2 Director. I was also able to attend all International and regional Zoom meetings held during the last couple of years and was able to also attend this springs International Board meeting in Baltimore Maryland. Over and above the mentioned Zoom meetings and the spring meeting in Baltimore I have been able this year to attend the June Yankee Rally in Plattsburgh New York the Red Knights events and rides in Lake George New York during Americade as well as the July Atlantic Association Rally in Ducks Pond New Brunswick.

Respectfully submitted by
Region 2 Director Leo Patry



REGION 3 DIRECTOR - Trey Anderson

Holy cow, we're back to convention? It both seems like New Hampshire was just yesterday and yet it feels like we have not been to convention is such a long time! I hope each and every one of you had a safe trip into Johnstown! If I could speak for both the 2022 Convention Committee, and myself; WELCOME TO JOHNSTOWN!

Riding into Johnstown you have to have felt a sense of true Americana. This historic town is famous for quite a few reasons. The most notorious reason has to be the flood of 1889. This flood brought global notice to Johnstown. This tragedy took the lives of 2209 people and caused \$17 million dollars in property damage. As the flood museum is one of the points of interest this week for convention I will not ruin all the details. Not all of Johnstown's fame came from one of the three horrific floods that wreaked havoc on this town. Maybe you have enjoyed the 1977 award winning film starring Paul Newman, Slapshot. The ice rink that the movie was filmed in will play host to our evening hospitality room, and our Saturday night banquet. Unfortunately, one of the most iconic attractions will be closed for our visit this week. The Johnstown Incline plane can be seen from around the city. It was constructed by the Cambria Iron Company to bring ease of travel up Yoder Hill to Westmont. The incline plane was available for use starting in 1891. This old steel community is rich with heritage and diversity and hosts one of the largest motorcycle rallies on the east coast.

As you enjoy everything Johnstown, and the 2022 Convention committee has to offer us, I encourage ALL of you to make sure to seek out Red Knight Brothers, and Sisters this week. Make connections with members you have never met and make sure you get to know the candidates of the 2022 election. Region 4 will be welcoming Chuck Marks as their new Regional Director. Region 4 members, especially, should pursue some face time with him, and get to know this great man! Our only contested election this year as we all know is International Secretary. Colin Nelson, and Michael "Woody" Woods are both great candidates. Only one of these two extraordinary men will take the position at the end of this week.

Don't forget about the upcoming Bootleggers Rally! The men and women of PA38 have some exciting twists to this year's event!

Safe travels to everyone on your way home!

Fraternally,
Trey Anderson



REGION 4 DIRECTOR - Steve Guillot

Well, we are in the first 6 months of 2022. As we all look back it looks like 2022 will be a lot better year for this Red Knights family and brotherhood.

I have attended the Spring Board Meeting in Maryland. Also have attended 2022 Dixie Rally in Brunswick, Georgia and please to say 2022 Dixie Rally has broken the record of attendance. Job Well Done!

Our organization has had more than anyone would want to count losing our brothers and sisters, I would like to send condolences to the family, friends and Chapters who have lost someone. Prayers from my family to yours.

The 2023 Convention which was supposed to be in Maryland which was cancelled due to the host hotel being sold. I would like to thank Australia 4 for stepping up to host the 2023 Red Knights

International Fireman's Motorcycle Convention. Congratulations to Georgia State Rep. Chuck Marks to the International Board as our Region 4 Director. Chuck, I am always an email or phone call away for any help. And welcome to all the new members in all Region's of the Red Knights Family.

I would like to thank the International Board Members who helped me through the past two years as well as Region 4 State Representatives and Members

Sincerely,

Steven Guillot
Region 4 Director



REGION 5 DIRECTOR - Lance Coit

Well, 2022 has started up with a lot of promise. The United States and Canadian border have opened, and things are starting to get back to normal. Covid is still around but is having much less effect on people wanting to get out and do things.

We have kept up with our monthly Zoom meetings this spring but as summer has come about, we have put them on hold until next fall. When the weather is nice, we need to spend our time riding and not having meetings. We would love to have many more participate in those meetings when we start up again. I will try and reach out to each of the chapters by phone and email as the summer goes along.

The Western Rally was recently held in Devils Lake ND, at the Spirit Lake Casino. We had an awesome turn out and was great to see everybody. With the border being closed we hadn't gotten together with our Northern members here in the US. ND2 did an awesome job, and everybody seemed to have a great time. Several chapters were represented, and I believe 90 or so members attended. Next year the rally will be in Spokane Washington. It should be a great time as well as some great riding to get there. I will be looking forward to that trip.

I am looking forward to summer convention coming up in Pennsylvania in August. I am planning to ride to convention and maybe stopping at some of the region's southern chapters along the way if time permits. It should make for a good little vacation from North Dakota. I hope to see some of you there if you can make it.

In closing I would just like to thank everybody in the region for your support. I especially enjoy hearing from all of you. Many of you have great ideas to share that make the club a better place. I wish everybody a great riding season. Stay safe and healthy. If anybody wants to contact me about anything be sure to call, text or email me.

Sincerely,

Lance Coit
RKIFC Region 5 Director



REGION 6 DIRECTOR - Allen Aurich

I have spent at least 15 hours each week working on Red Knights business.

This year has a lot better for rides and rallies. In May I attended the Dixie Rally along with members from TX 4 and OK 2. We all had a wonderful time, and everyone made it home safe.

On April 30, 2022, I attended the Oklahoma State Meeting and fundraiser for Hydrants of Hope. Between the ride, auction, and sales of Hydrants of Hope items over \$6,000 was raised. I want to congratulate them on a job well done and let them know how proud I am of them.

The Oklahoma State Association Officers are:

Pres. – Richard Sprague – OK 9
Central VP – Brian Thompson – OK 10
Western VP – Robert High – OK 5
Eastern VP – Robert Moose - MAL
Sec. - Margaret McGowan – OK 3
Treas. – Willet King – OK 7
Congratulations to all the officers.

On May 21, 2022, I attended the Texas Association Meeting and fundraiser. They were able to raise over \$ 1,500 for their charities. I want to congratulate them on a job well done and let them know how proud I am of them.

The Texas State Association Officers are:

Pres. – Brian Singleton – TX 1

V. Pres. – Daryll LaBove – TX 1

Sec. – Oscar DeLeon – TX 4

Treas. – Chuck Buchman – TX 3

Road Capt. – Jimmy Vance – TX 3

Congratulations to all the officers.

Respectfully submitted:

Allen Aurich

Region 6 Director



REGION 7 DIRECTOR - Tom van der Kley

Dear brothers and sisters,

The year started a bit leisurely and then hit with full force. Early in the morning of February 12, I received the news by phone that the president of Italy 1 had passed away unexpectedly. After a short phone call to get more information, I took time off and after a night shift I made the 1200 km journey to pay my last respects to Leonardo and to support his family. On Sunday afternoon I arrived in Florence where I immediately drove to the funeral home. Once there, I paid my last respects to Leonardo and expressed my condolences to his wife Francesca, his family and his chapter. On Monday, Leonardo was given a beautiful send-off ceremony in the church and then buried in the cemetery.

I was especially pleased that colleagues from Germany and Switzerland came to pay their last respects to Leonardo.

A few days after I arrived home, the next blow came. Michael Iadarola, with whom we had said goodbye to Leonardo a few days earlier, passed away overnight. Since I wanted to attend the German presidents' meeting as a guest anyway, it was only a short detour for me to say goodbye. After arriving at the presidents' meeting on Friday, I drove to Beiersdorf early on Saturday morning to pay my last respects to Michael. It was also a very moving ceremony that was held. After a short stay, I drove back to the presidents' meeting where the evening came to an end, and everyone was eager to hear what I had to say about the funeral.

In April, the time had come for me to fly to the international board meeting in the USA for the first time. I was met by the int vice president at the airport in Boston and after a short dinner we drove on to Boylston to the memorial house. To my surprise and amazement, my colleagues had hoisted the RKMC, USA and Luxembourg flags in welcome. After a short night, I went to the board meeting together with our vice president. This took place in a hotel in Maryland. The board meeting was scheduled for 4 days. Since we finished one day earlier than planned, I was very lucky that our VP still had time and he took the time to show me some nice places and fire stations. On the last day in Boylston, I had the great honor to meet 3 of our founding fathers personally. They told me some very interesting stories. After what felt like a much too short weekend, I returned home with many new acquaintances and impressions.

The first weekend in June, two of my chapter members and I went to the founding ceremony of Denmark 1, where I had the great honor of announcing the founding of Denmark 2 together with the president. The founding ceremony of Denmark 1 had to be postponed for a few years, because of corona. Despite all this, the founding ceremony was a great success. About 80 members came to celebrate with the “Vikings”. There was a ride-out on Saturday that could not have been better. The trip went through the breathtaking Danish countryside and past the sea. Lunch was in front of a fire station, where the colleagues went out of their way to welcome and feed us.

From 19th to 22nd of June I had the privilege to run an InfoPoint together with many other members at one of the biggest trade fairs for firefighters worldwide called “Interschutz”. With 8 people per day, all kind of questions were answered, and discussions were held. Many contacts were made and certainly more than one future member was recruited.

Last weekend I finally had the chance for my first meeting with Austria 4 to discuss the international convention 2023. It was important for me to figure out their planning, the progress of their organization and got answers to all the questions my colleagues had. I won't give too much information yet, but I can say one thing right now:

Plan your vacation and attend the international convention 2023 in Fussach, Austria. You will definitely not regret it.

Between all this, there were countless phone calls, emails and online meetings with the European Association board as well as the international board.

I would like to remind you all to check your official chapter email account regularly for news and information.

In case of any questions, problems or anything else, I am as always available for everyone under the known channels.

Stay safe and take care of yourselves

Fraternally

Tom van der Kley
Regional Director Region 7



REGION 8 DIRECTOR - Ken Mahon

Well, 2021/22 has been another year full of challenges for us all in Region 8 and no doubt all the other Regions in our Red Knight Family. The ongoing effects of Covid and restrictions on travel and events have had a huge effect on us all but finally there is some light at the end of the tunnel.

During the year I have attended all the International Board meetings unfortunately once again by Zoom

It never fails to amaze me the knowledge, dedication, and effort that all the Board Members put into ensuring that our Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club and its Members are well represented and protected.

Many thanks To Andy Young for his continued support and assistance it is very much appreciated.

In my end of year report 2021, I challenged all Presidents of Chapters in Region 8 to take ownership and ensure that rosters and dues are sent in and paid on time. I wish to thank you all for the huge response to this request with nearly all chapters in good standing, I only had to chase a very small number of Chapters that have outstanding rosters.

MALs in Australia numbers are remaining steady with several new Members and hopefully they will get to meet and mingle with other Red Knights during the year.

Sadly, in February we lost Carol Harris a Social member of Australia 2 RIP.

Many Chapters in the Region have seen an increase in membership during the year which is great indication of the strength of the RKIFMC in the Region

April 3rd, 2022, a new chapter was formed, Australia 22 was born and is steadily increasing its membership, many thanks again to Andy Young and all the other Members and Chapters who assisted David Cooper to get Australia 22 up and running, outstanding work.

It has been pleasing to see Red Knights throughout Region 8 getting out enjoying Chapter Events and rides along with the fund raising being carried out by all Chapters. Some of the events are huge but I won't go into much detail and spoil the write ups in the Newsletter due out soon, So get those photos and reports on events into your region reporters.

New Zealand 3 hosted the New Zealand National Gathering during March in the middle of a pandemic. Ngongotaha Volunteer Fire brigade and the Ngongotaha Bowling club hosted over 90 Red Knights Members. They had 100 registrations which was the limit under the pandemic restrictions, with a few not being able to make it due to personal reasons. Nine out of ten Chapters in NZ were represented this year. New Zealand 3 did themselves proud the whole weekend was run like a well-oiled machine and a great time was had by all.

Australia will be holding their 2022 Gathering on the on the 28th -30th of October hosted by Australia in Launceston, Tasmania, which is an island state of Australia 240 km to the south of the Australian mainland. New Zealand 6 is hosting the New Zealand 2023 Gathering in Reefton, South Island 17th – 19th March. I feel very encouraged by the way the Chapters in Region 8 are conducting themselves and acting as a larger family, not only mixing socially but supporting other Chapters and members in many ways that will only strengthen the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club with in the Region.

I am very lucky and honored to be able to represent such a great group of people, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance.

Yours Sincerely

Ken Mahon

It's Election time and voting is open

The positions of Vice President, Secretary, and Regional Directors of Regions 2, 4, 6 & 8 are all up for election.

Spike Ostiguy is standing for re-election as our Vice President.

Two candidates are seeking election for the position of SECRETARY – COLIN NELSON & MICHAEL WOODS.

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club® International Board of Directors Nominee Profile International Secretary - COLIN NELSON

1) Personal Profile

- a. Colin Nelson
- b. (No specific Nick Name)
- c. Newbury, NH, USA
- d. Other N/A



2) Red Knights Information

- a. Current Home Chapter: NH-9
- b. Positions Held: (Chapter Level) President / Vice President / Convention Chair / NH State Rep
- c. Years (total) in RKIFMC: 16
- d. Other N/A

3) Fire Service Affiliation

- a. Name of Department: Newbury Fire Department
- b. Number of Years in Department: 25 Years
- c. Positions Held: Firefighter / Lieutenant / EMT Basic
- d. Other N/A

4) Platform For Election

I have lived in Newbury, NH since childhood. I joined the Newbury Fire Department at 18 years old, rising to the rank of lieutenant before retiring after 25 years of service. I joined the Red Knights first with NH Chapter six, then a year or so later became a charter member of NH 9 in 2007.

In NH Chapter 9, I have held the offices of Vice President and President. In 2015, I was elected chair for the 2019 RK convention, which was held at Loon Mountain NH. With the hard work of many NH Red Knight members from several chapters we hosted over 600 people from eight countries. During that convention with the hard work and guidance of the very dedicated Convention Co-chair Blue Kelloway, a Red Knight memorial stone was placed and dedicated in the state's Veteran's cemetery to commemorate NH Red Knight members who have passed away. Since then, the Blue Knights have dedicated their own stone directly across from ours. Thiers may be taller, but ours was there first!

I became the NH State Representative just over a year ago. We are working on developing a website so that all NH Red Knights can post and see events, rides, and other information so we can more easily support each other.

I work closely with the Granite State Fire Service Support Team along with several other Red Knights; we provide representation at the annual memorial service and lay flowers for those fallen firefighters who do not have family or fire department representation at the event. We also offer support for any firefighter funeral if family requests it.

I am on the board of directors of the New Hampshire Police, Fire, and EMS Foundation; this foundation was started by NH Police Chiefs and expanded to cover all first responders. Over the last ten years, this non-profit foundation has given out over 250,000 dollars in assistance to first responders injured or killed in the line of duty to cover expenses not covered by insurance.

The NH Red Knights have helped raise money through rides and fund-raisers, and that is very much appreciated by the foundation. I am so grateful to the Red Knights for helping me connect with so many fantastic folks from all over the world that I never would have met, not to mention the people that I have met in my own and all the NH chapters. The support we offer each other in person, on Facebook, and on zoom is amazing; I am honored to a part of this organization. I have worked in construction and the concrete industry for the last 33 years.

I have had to multitask and be flexible every day, as most of us have to do in the fire service as well, and I believe I am proficient at it. I am familiar with PDF files, word programs, and know my way around excel pretty good.

If elected secretary, I hope to bring whatever skills I have to continue the good work already done by Jack Jarvis and help to keep the membership up to date about what is going on in the organization. I am at a point in my life that I would prefer to work a bit less and enjoy more of the things I like to do and will be proposing a decreased work schedule this summer. This will allow me the time to dedicate to the work that comes with this position, and if not elected, more time to ride!

Jack has left some very big shoes to fill, but I am confident I can learn the system quickly and fulfil my responsibilities to the Red Knights. Thank you for considering me for this position.

Loyal to our duty, Red Knights Forever

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club® International Board of Directors Nominee Profile International Secretary – MICHAEL ROBERT WOODS

1) Personal Profile a) Name: Michael Robert Woods

- b) A.K.A. / Nick Name: Woody or Popa Woody
- c) City, State / Province, Country: Rochester Indiana USA
- d) Other (optional):

2) Red Knights Information

- a) Current Home Chapter: Indiana Chapter 2
- b) Positions Held at Chapter, State/ Provincial, International Level: President IN 2 and President Indiana State association #17
- c) Years (total) In RKIFMC: 5 years 6 months
- d) Other (optional): Alabama Chapter 4 member / 2018 Knights of the Round Table Best Knight Winner / 2020 Bootleggers Rally Committee Admin.



3) Fire Service Affiliation

- a) Name of Department(s): Rochester Fire Dept. and Henry Township Vol. Fire Dept.
- b) Number of Years in Department(s): 24 years / 5 years
- c) Positions Held: FF-EMT, Training Captain / FF-EMT
- d) Other (optional): Rochester Police Dept. SWAT/Medical Officer 8 years

4) Platform for Election

a) Primary reason(s) for running:

The reasons I would like to run for this Job Position are many, but there are a few that stand out for me. First, I would like to say that our system, I feel that we have, is not broken. Nor the person performing these duties currently is not doing their job. But with every Job Position there are places that can be improved, built upon, and grown.

Being a Training Officer with my FD for 9 years, I developed a passion for training and looking for new and better ways to battle the beast! In many ways, this Job Position is no different! We, as a whole, need to look to our futures and strive for better ways to conduct our business, but not forgetting our past that has been hard fought for us! First, I want to explain why I keep stating "Job Position".

I feel there is more to this position than a title. When a person makes it their job to perform, they tend to take ownership into it and perform to a higher standard. This Job position is more to me than just a position or title, it is that person's duty to work hard to do a good job for our Club members.

Some of the reasons I would like to seek this Job Position are that, as a leadership team, we should have a responsibility to bring our members the tools that they need to be successful through a positive, transparent and friendly experience. After all, we are one large family, spread around the world, with many different views.

Also, I have dedicated my life to serving others, from being a soldier in the US Army, Volunteer Firefighter, a career Firefighter, EMT-A, and a Tactical Medic for RPD. This Job position would be another honor to serve a great bunch of people! Another reason to run is, I believe in this club for what it was, is, and will be! And I hope that I can just be a small part in making it stand for the test of time! R.K.F.F.R.K.

b) Vision for future of RKIMC:

To be the best Firefighter M/C both to our members and to our communities we serve and protect. Also, to Build a better tomorrow for our Club as a whole. To provide a better service to our members by striving to find better ways to give our members the tools they need to be successful. From improving club documentation and understanding of them. To having better access to Chapter merchandise and a better understanding of the TMLA system.

Also, by bringing a touch of understanding and approachability to this position will make for an overall better experience and be more conducive to better business practices. We, as a team, can and will make this Club the best that it can be through understanding, civility, transparency, knowledge, and desire! "In some cases we learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself." Lloyd Alexander 1964 "The Book of Three"

5) Other:

- a) US Army Infantry 11 years with one combat tour in Iraq
- b) Rochester Fire Dept. 24 years
- c) Emergency Medical Tech. for 21 years
- d) Henry Township Volunteer Fire Dept. 5 years
- e) Rochester Police Dept. S.W.A.T. Medic 8 years
- f) Indiana Chapter 2 president for 5 years 6 months
- g) Indiana State Representative / President 2 years
- h) 2018 Knights of the Round Table "BEST KNIGHT" winner
- i) 2021 Bootleggers Rally Committee Admin.
- j) Alabama Chapter 4 member

Standing for re-election for the positions of Region 2, 6 & 8 Directors are Leo Patry, Allen Aurich and Ken Mahon respectively, and we have Charles Marks standing for election as the Region 4 Director.

All candidates' profiles can be found on the RKMC International website. (www.redknightsmc.com)



****** ATTENTION ALL RED KNIGHTS ******

A message from our International President concerning the **OPEN POSITION OF INTERNATIONAL CHAPLAIN** can be seen below.

**Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club Inc.
Office of the International President**

Joey Powell

9013 Pageland Court

Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587

president@redknightsmc.com

Hello to all our Red Knight Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of the international board, I am writing you all to let you know that we are actively seeking a Member to fulfill the position of Chaplain.

This position has become vacant. The Region One Director stepped up to fulfill the duties of Chaplain in the interim. The position of Chaplain should not be taken lightly. It is a job of honor, passion, and pride. The Chaplain is someone who we all can turn to when there is no one else. The Chaplain is someone to talk to, someone to lean on, and someone who listens and has each Member's best interest at heart. This Member should have good organization, communication, and listening skills. This person will work directly with the Regional Directors to be certain that the Heaven One protocols are followed and that each Member that passes receives the honor they deserve.

International By-Laws

1:04B International Chaplain; The International Chaplain will be appointed by the International Board on an annual basis at the Fall Board Meeting.

If you or someone in your chapter is interested in this position, please contact your regional director and send a "resume" with your qualifications for the position. If you would like a copy of the "job description" your director will be able to provide that as well. The International Board will then meet and select a new Chaplain from the applications we received. This advertisement is open until midnight on June 30, 2022.

Thank you.

Loyal to Our Duty

Joey Powell

AUSTRIA 4 HONORED TO BE HOSTING THE 2023 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The letter below from our President, Joey Powell, explains:



**Red Knights International Firefighters
Motorcycle Club ® Inc.
Office of the International President
Joey Powell**

**9013 Pageland Court
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587
president@redknightsmc.com**



Hello to all our Red Knight Brothers and Sisters,

I wanted to get an official notice out to everyone to let you know that we have some exciting news for you. With the opening of the 2023 Convention site due to a sale of the host hotel, we, as a board, were tasked with locating a site to host with VERY short notice. We actually had two applicants that stepped up to the plate for us all. Illinois volunteered to move their date up a couple years and Austria 4 stepped up ready as well. With that, and with a lot of discussion at our Spring Board Meeting, we have decided with a decision from your entire International Board to award the 2023 Convention to Austria 4.

Austria 4 was already hosting the European Conference which they run just like the International Convention. This means that they already had everything we needed in place, and we only had to make one small adjustment.

As has been done in the past, we will have to move the date of the 2023 Convention to the week of September 7-10, 2023. Please plan to attend the first official International Convention (since France got cancelled due to you know what!).

Thank you and feel free to reach out to your local Regional Director or Board Member if you have any questions.

Loyal to Our Duty

Joey Powell

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

Click on the link above to go to the Trading Post page and start selling those unwanted items.

CONGRATULATIONS

Virginia 8 Vice President Mike

“Wink” Hickam popped the

question to **Region 4**

Reporter Sara-Lynn

Prefontaine on June 15,

2022 while the couple

were on vacation in New

Orleans at Jackson Square.

The couple would like to send a

special thank you to VP Spike Ostiguy and Karen Ostiguy for

capturing their special moment. No date has been set at this time.



WHERE ARE YOU? LET BROTHERS & SISTERS KNOW!

Good day all! After lots of discussions with folks at the Dixie and Yankee Rallies, I am compelled to put this out here for everyone.

Many of the southern states (mostly Florida, I think) and the northern states - mostly Regions 1 and 2 - have members that are considered "snowbirds" meaning that they travel in the same direction as the migratory birds, south for winter, north for summer. Others "migrate" to never return which is great - I love it, but it also presents us, as a riding and social club, with an interesting conundrum.

If you like riding with others and/or enjoy the company of other Red Knights, and you are one of those members that either go with the ebb and flow of travelling seasonally or have moved and chosen to keep their original chapter membership I'd like to suggest that you notify the state rep of their vacation state or new home state that they are there, and for how long. We have many members looking for people to ride with but if we don't know someone else is around, and where they are, we can't help out.

For instance, there are several Club members from NY that have chosen to retain their NY memberships while in Florida permanently. Of those I know of, they are hundreds of miles apart. I also know of members that come from Ontario and Massachusetts during the winter, so I am sure there are others I'm not aware of.

If you intend to travel to another state, country or province for any extended amount of time and don't plan to change chapters or join an additional or new chapter, regardless of what state you're going to or coming from, please notify the state rep of the place you're staying at so we can all help each other find our brothers and sisters.

These states have Reps – AL, CT, FL, GA, IL, IN, LA, ME, MD, MA, MS, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TX, VT, VA, WV & WI, and the e-mail is:

XXREP@REDKNIGHTSMC.COM where the XX is the 2 letter state code.

In Canada you have the Atlantic Association (ATLREP@REDKNIGHTSMC.COM), the Quebec Rep (QCREP@REDKNIGHTSMC.COM) and the Ontario Rep (ONTREP@REDKNIGHTSMC.COM),

The European Rep is EUROREP@REDKNIGHTSMC.COM and

The Australia Rep is AUSTRALIANREP@REDKNIGHTSMC.COM.

Even if you are just travelling to or through, please feel free to reach out to the rep for advice, help or other information. Thanks for listening and ride safe!

Norm Beausoleil
Founder and FL State Rep

History of the Challenge Coin

The history of military challenge coins is widely debated, and their origin is rooted in the history of civilizations from the Romans to the American colonials. But there's no doubt that military challenge coins are a big part of military culture and increasingly so in the civilian world. Challenge coins are a great way to boost morale, identify allegiance and are a terrific way to extend one's appreciation by saying "thank you" with coin in hand and a firm handshake. Moreover, challenge coins—specifically in military units—demonstrate "proof of membership" and affiliation with a specific unit or element extending esprit de corps and morale in its proud members. Then, there is the time-honored tradition of slamming your unit challenge coin down in bars to see who has theirs. He who is last or without buys the first round. The traditions of unit challenge coins date back to the World Wars, but their true origin is steeped in myths and legends. Regardless, challenge coins are fun to give, receive and display.

Today, we'll explore the history of military challenge coins, examine their possible origins and explain how military challenge coins have made their way into the White House, the United States Congress and the highest levels of the Pentagon, as senior government leaders have pressed their own challenge coins to present to well-deserving recipients. While the specific origin of military challenge coins may never be known, we can certainly trace its history back to the first stamped coinage of the Roman Empire and its legionnaires.

The Romans Built this Place

During ancient times, kings and emperors shaped precious metals with their image as currency for the exchange of goods and services. The Roman Emperor Maximus was one such leader who also had legionaries who fought for Rome. The legionnaire was not always a Roman citizen, but often mercenaries who fought for payment of their professional skills. They were often rewarded handsomely by the emperors of Rome for their exploits in battle, as it was in the best interest of the emperor to keep his military force well financed. The payment of legionnaires in pressed, metal coins is likely the first recorded military challenge coin in the history of warfare and, if not, it's a good place to begin. The Romans were among the first to stamp precious metals into coins, and given their veracity of large-scale military forces, why not bestow upon the Romans the mythological origin of challenge coins.

The Great Wars of the World

One particular story dates military challenge coins back to World War I (1914-1918) and a wealthy military officer who had bronze medallions struck with his flying squadron insignia stamped on them. He presented the coins to each member of the squadron before they departed on missions over Europe. One day, a pilot was shot down over Germany and later captured by German soldiers and held captive as a prisoner of war. He was stripped of all personal belongings and identification by the Germans and only had his personal clothing and a small leather pouch that contained a squadron coin inside. The pilot eventually escaped his German captors and made his way back to France. The French, who retained him, thought he was a spy. Upon discovery of the squadron medallion, he was recognized as an American and later returned to his unit. The coin saved his life and earned him the recognition as an American Soldier.

Clandestine Operations in the Vietnam War

The United States of America's entrance into the Vietnam War (1956-1975) first consisted of U.S. special operations forces working with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) conducting clandestine operations against the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong. The nature of the military clandestine mission was such that the actions of many American special operations Soldiers were not recognized overtly by the United States Army with medals and ribbons. The 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) participated in many of these clandestine missions over the years in Southeast Asia with little to no fanfare.

As legend has it, the Commander and Sergeant Major of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), in order to properly recognize their men, designed a military challenge coin to present to them. On the front was

the unit's name, a beret flash with the numeral one in the top right and a sword pointing up, signifying the unit was ready for combat, and an eagle on top spreading its wings. On the reverse side, was the Special Forces motto "De Oppresso Liber," the traditional Green Beret, a bayonet and scroll and a blank space to enumerate the coin for prosperity. The command kept a detailed registry to record the name, date and mission of each recipient. The 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) coin was a way for the command to formally recognize their men and their accomplishments when formal acknowledgment by the Army was openly frowned upon.

The story of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) presenting coins to men in secrecy deep in the jungles of Southwest Asia is a story of legendary proportions. The dark, shadowy nature of the special operations forces coupled with the CIA only adds to the mythological nature regarding the historical origins of military challenge coins.

Today, the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) retains the original design it had during the Vietnam War, and it continues to conduct missions throughout Asia as part of its heritage. The coin is legendary, as its own history within special operations lore only adds mythological proportions as to the true origins of military challenge coins. The tradition continues then and now.

The 'Coin Check'

Today, a popular tradition at unit social functions, formal events and in local bars is the "coin check." The popular coin check dates back to the Vietnam War and the bars run by military service members at the forward operating bases (FOB) and combat outpost (COB). As the story goes, military service members were to present enemy bullets or their unit challenge coin to gain entrance into the bar.

The tradition continues today when someone yells out "coin check" and then slaps their coin onto the bar and all military members—active duty and veterans—are to respond in kind by placing their coin on the bar. The last one to present their coin or the one who shamefully is without theirs has to buy the round of alcoholic drinks for the group. Oftentimes, there are strong verbal arguments initially regarding whose coin is more senior to the other coins. The older the coin, the more senior. But also, the more senior in rank the person's coin is, based on rank of the presenter, wins out in the end.

The coin check is a great icebreaker and gets folks talking about their personal experiences. It brings out the pride many of our service members feel regarding their service during a specific era, a specific branch and a specific mission they participated in. It starts the stories flowing at the bar that last well into the late evening and early morning hours.

History of the Coin in the RKMC

There are existing two types of coins.

1. The coin that is given at rallies, events or chapter parties. It's often called a challenge coin, but is in fact a collector coin or event coin.
2. The challenge coin.

The tradition of the RKMC challenge coin is also known in our club. Officers from the international board, such as members have their own coins. They are presented to you, if you have done something that in the eyes of the Coin presenter was special and wide over his duties.

How the rules and the meaning of the coin are, will be explained by the person who presents it to you.

RKMC International Board

COFFEE BREAK PICTURE QUIZ

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot 10 differences between the two photographs below?



Find answers after the Regional Articles



It was pointed out in an article a few newsletters ago that as a club we are not getting any younger. Could this be members from your Chapter?



Your Wedding Photographs



2022 Americade - Founding Fathers Dinner

Thursday, June 9, 2022

As most North Americans know, Americade® is motorcycle rally held annually in Lake George, NY, on the shores of the lake by the same name during the first full week of June, after Memorial Day. Since the mid to late 1980's there has been a ride sponsored by NY 3 (Albany) and a dinner sponsored by the RKMC® and NY 11 (Lake George) and NY 12 (Wilton), used as a recruiting tool for the Club, on the Thursday of the weeklong rally. The dinner is held at the Lake George Volunteer Fire Department with members of that department assisting in the preparation and serving of the meal.

Like everything else, the illustrious virus known as CoVid-19 put a damper on the Rally in 2020. In 2021 Americade® was once again held but (at least) one thing changed. NY 3 still led the Thursday ride but the dinner sponsored and hosted by NY 11 took a new direction. The dinner was renamed the "Founding Fathers' Dinner" partly in the memory of Bob Hollner, the president of NY 12 who passed away unexpectedly, and who had suggested the change but never got to see it happen. The dinner was well attended, but only a handful of the Founders were able to make the trip north.

This year, Bob Binnall, President of MA 15 (and the chairman of Yankee 2019, known as the Founding Fathers Rally that year), along with the help of a number of others went a step beyond the ordinary and, using funds raised last year for the event, arranged for a 14 seat van to pick up all the Founders able to attend this year at the RKMC® Memorial Hall in Boylston, MA. By the time Yankee Rally "Take 2 in '22" was underway, only 4 of the 6 Founders still living in Massachusetts were onboard – Don Parker, Ed Wright, Jon Tripp and Dave Hunt, along with Dot Parker and Jackie Hamilton, wife of the late first International President Dave Hamilton. Being from Florida, and 1,100 miles away, I was not planning on going to Americade® as I had already been to the UK/Ireland meet in Blackpool, England, The Dixie Rally in Brunswick, GA, and the Yankee Rally in Plattsburg, NY, with the Western, Atlantic, Convention, Bootlegger and EuCon still on my plate. Our last Founding Father, Jack Pierce, is in New Mexico and we have been unable to reach him.

Any of you that know Brother Binnall will attest that the man is relentless. He is persistent, and he is tirelessly relentless. By the way, did I mention he can be relentless? Well, working on me, and in a way, my wife, he convinced me to attend. Down to 2 not coming, right? This year's Yankee was the best attended (Yankee) Rally to date (arguably contested by the folks from Vermont) and 5 of the 8 living Founders were in attendance but one of them was not planning to attend the dinner. Bring on Bob the Relentless, with a little help from his friends. By the end of Yankee, Bob Bourassa was convinced to join the party. So the MA 1 contingent (and FL 14, too) headed back to Boylston with the assignment to convince the one holdout he needed to join us.

By the end of day Monday, with little persuasion necessary, Roger Wentzell agreed to join the party. This would be only the 4th time in 15 years that all the Founders (with the exception of Jack Pierce) would be together at a public gathering of Red Knights® (we are together several times a year chapter at meetings).



On Thursday morning, June 9, at 09:30, the van arrived at Memorial Hall where all but Roger boarded for the trip of the decade. Along with Peter Stone, MA 1 president, we left to pick up Roger at his house and away we went. Three hours and 140 miles later we arrived at the Lake George Fire Hall and were greeted by about 50 members of the Red Knights® that were there waiting for us. What a rush! We greeted everyone, and everyone greeted us. One highlight of the day was the moment Geo®ge Colby had Jackie Hamilton get on the back of his bike and a small parade escorted her on the first ride she's taken on a motorcycle since Dave passed away. The ride returned and dinner was served. It would be my guess that there were approximately 125 people in attendance. After the cake was served there were raffles and a 50/50, won by a Founder and returned to the fundraiser, then the old guys headed home. We were back in Boylston by 19:45 with memories of a lifetime.



On behalf of the Founders I would like to extend our deepest gratitude and thanks to Bob and Alex Binnall (MA 15), George and Sandy Colby (MA 3), Frances (Ed) Corcoran (NJ 31) and Theresa DeWitt (NJ 31), Sue Hollner (NY 12), Frank Nastro (NY 11), the Fire Chief and members of the Lake George VFD and all the others that attended and made us feel so welcome. You all always say “thank you” and “without what you did, we wouldn’t be here today”, and we always, in return, say **THANK YOU**, because **without YOU, our dream wouldn’t have come true**. Here’s to seeing you soon, somewhere, sometime, whether you expect it or not! As always, I remain,
Loyal to Our Duty, Norm Beausoleil.



Region 1

(Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York)

Steve Cimmino , a Charter Member



Steven R. Cimmino Sr. "Steve", 61, passed away May 6, 2022 from injuries he sustained in a motor vehicle accident in Kingston, NH. He served as Vice President and Charter Member of Chapter 5, Red Knights International MC club in Epping, NH where he was a firefighter/EMT in Epping for a few years. Steve is survived by his wife,

Shelly, son Steven Jr., daughter Jessica and son Matthew. He leaves behind 2 brothers and sisters-in-law, a sister and sister in law to his predeceased brother. NH Red Knights stood vigil at his casket at the wake.



NH Chapter 5 President presented his wife with a Red Knights Angel Coin, and NH State Representative Colin Nelson gave her a proclamation that Steve's name will be added to the memorial at International Headquarters in Boylston, MA. They invited the family to be present when they add Steve's name to the list of fellow knights no longer with us.

Rest in Peace, our brother.

Graduating High school in the vocational program, Steve specialized in flooring and was a self-employed tradesman. An avid motorcycle rider, he was a member of the Journeymen Club comprised of tradesmen. They and NH Red Knights of Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 9 showed their respects as they rode to the funeral.



Moving wall-Hooksett

Members of the New Hampshire Red Knights along with several other Veterans groups escorted the Vietnam Memorial moving wall to the playground behind Town Hall in Hooksett, New Hampshire and assisted in setting it up. It was a sobering experience and I was surprised how much it still affects me. Many of us lived the horrible time in our history. We are now losing our aged Vietnam veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era.



Members of NH Knights were part of the mc escort of the Vietnam moving wall to its display location in Hooksett, NH



Members helped to ready the support base to accept each of the panels and then cautiously unload the panels and carry them to their designated positions.



Members of Chapter 5 and Chapter 9 worked in teams to ensure the safety of the panels and position them in the support base and assisted in installing each panel.



Members of New Hampshire Red Knights, happy to have helped. Many of them a veteran.

Scholarship recipient Amount \$500.00

Red Knights Chapter 5 offered their first annual scholarship designed to benefit graduating high school students or persons interested in pursuing a two-year, or four-year program in the fire sciences, fire training, or related emergency medical and paramedic certificate.

Our recipient of the scholarship is Mr. Curt Fitton. Curt is a career full-time firefighter for the city of Manchester, New Hampshire as well as a call Lieutenant for the town of Raymond, NH, where he lives and started as a Fire explorer in 2012 and then a call FF when he turned 18. He earned an Associate's degree in Fire Science from Lake Region Community College and this scholarship will assist him to continue his education seeking a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science in Management concentrating in Public Administration. Curt feels with his background, his degree in Fire Science, coupled with this BS degree he can become a more valuable asset as a career firefighter officer serving the communities. We agree.



Good Luck, Lieutenant.

Yankee Rally

New York 50 and the Yankee Rally Committee hit a Grand slam with this year's Yankee rally. This year I was in a special position as chapter president, Chairmen of the Rally Committee, and Region one director. Seeing all the hard work firsthand and the dedication of the team assembled to pull this rally off was astonishing. Countless hours of work and planning all came together and came together flawlessly. As chapter president and chairmen, I am proud of my team, each one of them however small their part played a huge role in pulling this rally off.

Records were set. This year's attendance has taken the lead with the rally attendance, with 361 folks registered. All in good fun we have done it - and hopefully set the bar for next year's host to try and beat!

Yankee Rally 2023, Congratulations New York 30 on receiving the bid to host next year's rally! Speaking for all, we look forward to being there with you and everything you have planned for us!

Region One flag

In 2019 we gathered in Boylston Massachusetts for the last Yankee rally that was held. I think it's safe to say that no one will ever forget that rally and what was done there for our club and its founding fathers. On Friday the day before the main group ride, New York 50-chapter members rode over to the hall, on a mission. A mission for our upcoming rally in 2020. That was the day they had some founding fathers and international board members stationed at the hall, for questions and a sort of meet and greet. That day we found Ed Wright wandering around the memorial grounds. After speaking with Ed and discussing our secret mission with him. We together carried it out.

A reminder that - Just one year prior to this meeting with Ed we as a group meet in Boylston for the Memorial Park Re-Dedication and Memorial Hall dedication. On May 5th, 2018.

Back to 2019 and standing there with Ed and the New York 50-chapter members. You see we thought it would be cool to buy a new flag, bring it with us, stash it in my bike, sneak over to the memorial raise that flag, take some pictures for proof, lower said flag, stash it and return with the holy grail of auction items. Little did we know things were about to change, all because of Ed.



So, there I am, with permission to lower the flag and raise our own, the flag I lowered was not new, it was not in horrible shape and was to return to the flagpole. Hey Ed, I said, mind holding this one for us while I raise this one quickly? Sure, thing he says and Up the pole it goes.

He steps back watching as we put the new flag up the pole. We all step back take some pictures and admire it. Ed says, Gee guys, look at this flag, and look at that one up there... Yea Ed? Looks good up there uh? He then asks us if we mind leaving the new flag up there because that really should have been done before today, he says, and says - this will be our little secret, I think I have the power to do that, Ed says jokingly. Well sure Ed we can do that! Not a problem. Remind you we went there to bring a flag to fly and live auction off for our rally in 2022. Well, now we hold the golden ticket. This auction item could fund the next ten years of Rallies! A flag that has flown over the memorial not just for seconds. But who knows how long?

Then I have a light bulb moment, I NEED TO SPEAK TO Spike!

Later that night in conversation at the hotel and Spike may not have even picked up on it, "Hey Spike, how often are the flags at memorial flown for?" "Oh a year or better depending on the weather, we have not had a meeting lately, my guess is the one there now was replaced for the rededication ceremony last year." "OH REALLY?" I said. "Yep, to my knowledge that was new for that event, I can ask Peter?" "Naw it's okay, just asking!" "Great, thanks brother" and on we went.

So folks there it is, the story of this flag, this flag that was raised over our memorial at the rededication and taken down at the founding fathers' Yankee rally more than a year later. Now the real question, is what to do with it? Raffle? Live Auction? Nope, in my eyes, and support from my chapter. No one person can own such a cherished item. Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to you the heart of Yankee Rally.

I made this display case with reclaimed 100-year Black cherry wood and built into it, on the back half of it is a time capsule. There is a slot here on the side where hosting chapters can insert their coin at their Yankee rally dinner when they hand it off to the next host. It is my wish for this flag to travel from Yankee rally to Yankee rally, symbolizing the heart of our region, of our Yankee rally. Reminding your chapter where this all began, why we are doing what we do. Reminding you to pick each other up and support each other as chapter members, as friends, and as red knights family. Reminding you why we are doing what we do, and to always work hard and work together. Planning a rally should bring your chapter closer and tighten your bond just as it has done here for NY50.

When things are hard, and you want to give up, look at that flag and remember, why you are doing this, not for you, your chapter, or yourself, but for our family, and our history, our Red Knights. It is my wish that if the Yankee rally should ever end, this display is destroyed, the flag flown again back at our home and the coins inside displayed forever within the memorial hall. Please share a drink and talk about the stories from all the amazing events we have had. At Yankee Rally dinner during this presentation, I asked that all past rally hosting chapters bring a coin with them and come forward and insert their very own rally coin, memorializing their rallies, forever.



FRONT



BACK



Region One Mayday Fund

- New this year to region one is the Region one Mayday fund. It is the general focus of the Region One Mayday fund to assist Red Knights in times of need. This fund has been formed by the Region one state representatives to support Red Knights members of Region One that are in good standing, have been injured on duty, suffered personal injury accidents, or have an illness that requires a little help. Funds will be raised by donations, sales of goods, raffles, auctions, or donations. My hope is that everyone has seen the new Region one coins at this point and has purchased one for yourselves. Did you notice that they are numbered? Yes, they sure are!

- In early May of 2022 in Boylston Massachusetts, the Region One State Representatives held the first in-person meeting, and we unveiled this project to the membership, it was then and there decided that Coin numbered 343, shall be auctioned at this year's Yankee Rally in Plattsburgh New York, at the Saturday dinner, that auction was held, and the coin went for \$1343.00. This money will go directly to the Mayday fund!

CONGRATULATIONS ROB WRENN – NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION RED KNIGHT OF THE YEAR

Congratulation to N.Y. State Association Past President, N.Y. 26 Past President, & N.Y. III Active Member Rob Wrenn for receiving the **NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION RED KNIGHT OF THE YEAR 2022** - It was well deserved.... Nice Job Rob, your hard work paid off...



Region 2

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

Riding season is finally upon us, with that brings good weather, great friends, and open roads. Also time to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

Even here on the "ROCK" the riding season has arrived. The icebergs have returned bring with them increased presence on the roads, the tourist have made their yearly pilgrimage to see the bergs. So, please be safe and remember, "RUBBER DOWN, SHINEY SIDE UP"



NEWFOUNDLAND 2



It's hard to believe that 5 years has passed so fast. Members of Newfoundland 2 received their 5 year service pins.

This past week Newfoundland 2 had their annual Poker Run with proceeds going to the Shriner's Hospital for sick kids in Montreal. The weather was great for the ride, a good day to reconnect as a group, after the long winter. The Shriner's showed their appreciation by supplying a meal and the use of their Lodge for the last stop.

In a couple of weeks members of Newfoundland 2 are heading to New Brunswick for the Red Knights Atlantic Association Rally. Looking forward to meeting up with new and old friends.

REGION 2 REPORTER

GLENN GILES

"LONG MAY YOUR BIG JIG DRAW"



Region 3

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

Hello my brothers and sisters,

First off let's take a moment of Silence for those we have lost this year and in the past.

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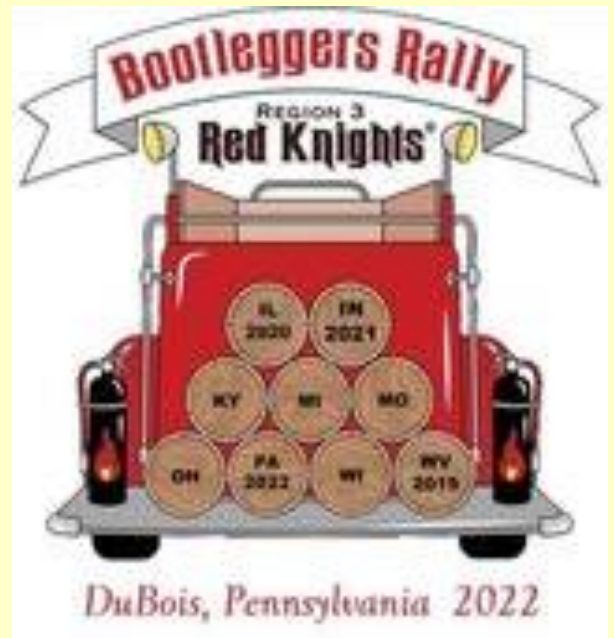
Just a Shout out as always to our annual event held in our region as always!

Region 3 has been hosting a region wide rally called the " Bootlegger" It received its name due to the entire region was where "Moonshine and Whiskey", fast cars, outlaw driver began to run their product during prohibition, Also Nascar came from these same drivers and many of the drivers grew up running the mountain ridges with moonshine.

Now that I have your attention!

Region #3 – Bootlegger Rally

For those of you I am sure you have at least heard of the Bootlegger Rally, well just some things for you to discuss with your chapter. The Bootlegger Rally has been a must do for our region, we are going into our 3rd year of this rally and each one has set new and different themes as well as set and raised the bar with each location. The first was held on Labor day weekend 2019 in the mountains of wonderful, wild, West Virginia and was centered around Point Pleasant.. (ya know home of the infamous Moth Man.) It was a blast and set the bar from there on out.



The 2nd was held in Peoria, Illinois it was again a mind-blowing experience the Starved Rock was a great run, the “family” Atmosphere was well present, new friendships made old friendships picked up where the conversation ended. Those Illinois boys were extremely hospitable even sharing a very delicious drink called “Malort” Which by the way is now a Bootlegger tradition.

The 3rd was held right here in my state of Indiana, it was in Southern Indiana and had some great riding experiences, Little Nashville is a bargain shopping mecca, this was held in a “Indiana traditional” back yard barbeque style and they sure pulled it off changing the bar and raising it.



Now this Bootlegger rally has caught on and became a theme style on labor day weekend every year you will find a group of Red Knights at some location in Region 3.

Now the 4th Annual Bootlegger!

This will be held same as always Labor Day weekend and no you have not missed it! It will be held in beautiful downtown Dubois, PA by none other than PA 38 home of our favorite Grand Tour Chairperson. Let see what they came up with for the Bootlegger! I bet it will be another memorable event. So if you want to experience a true Red Knights family event, Brother and sister bonding and what it means to say "Framily" you don't want to miss it September !-3,2022

If you are interested in hosting a Bootlegger event in Region 3 contact

Trey Anderson

region3director@redknightsmc.com

Enough already, yes I know but we are proud of our event here!

News from Region 3 is short due to most happenings taking place after this edition. So some news coming from Indiana Chapter 11 and yes there are pictures.

For the last 3 years they have completed a Charity ride for a great man Jack Eskridge this ride is very dear to their heart, all proceeds go to the Hoosier Burn Camp. Hoosier Burn camp is where young burn victims can be just one of the kids. The camp is at no cost to their families. Over the years Jack and his heroes worked tirelessly to make sure the kids have a place to go. Check out their website Hoosierburncamp.org

This year it was reopened for interaction with the kids. It was attended by 4 of Indiana's chapters, Chapter 3, Chapter Iv, Chapter VI and chapter XI among many, many other riders, groups and emergency services. Look for yourself despite riding through a severe storm it was a great day once it cleared up.

Thanks every one! Please submit news items you want to share after the riding season before January 31st Freakin 2023!

region3reporter@redknightsmc.com





Region 4

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

North Carolina 22 Host Charity Ride for Person County Firefighter Burned Children Program

On Saturday June 4th the Red Knights NC Chapter 22 hosted the Heal the Burn Ride to support the Person County Firefighter Burned Children Program. With almost 60 bikes and several cars and trucks the escorted ride covered the beautiful scenery of the back roads of north central NC. The ride started at a local bank



parking lot and

ended at the Roxboro Fire Department Station 2 for a great meal of pulled pork, barbecue chicken, green beans, mac & cheese, mashed potatoes and gravy. There were door prizes and a 50-50 raffle.

At the end of the meal a check presentation was made. They were able to donate \$5,000 dollars to the program. In attendance were North Carolina State Association Officers as well as the International President Joey Powell.

Special thanks to the Roxboro Fire Department for the use of their Fire Station for a great afternoon.



Submitted by Stanton Mesh, President RKMC NC18,
RKMC North Carolina State Secretary

A tropical storm threatened Red Knights Florida 14's event, yet **OUR WHEELS FOR THEIR WHEELS** was a great success



After 2 and ½ months of preparation a tropical storm that came from the Pacific Ocean and crossed over Mexico into the Gulf and strengthened, threatened the final fundraiser for Wheelchairs4kids. For three weeks prior to the event the members of FL. 14 set up booths at local bike nights held at Quaker State and Lube, and Harley dealer Bert's and OCC Roadhouse in Pinellas Park. On the Friday night before our event the Tarpon Springs Merchant's Association provided the Red Knights with a booth at their monthly first Friday event.

We sold 50/50 tickets at all three venues and raised \$3,250 half of which went to Wheelchairs4kids. In addition, we had a firemen's boot and asked those in attendance to "Fill the Boot for Wheelchairs4kids. This raised \$525.

On the day of the event the storm moved south and after a little morning rain we were able to set up our tents at JillyBeans in Dunedin Fl. JillyBeans owner Jill Beltman provided the venue for the event and participated in all aspects of fundraising.

Charity Bike Event

Benefiting:



GOAL: \$12,000.00

WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022 FROM 2-5PM
WHERE: JILLYBEAN'S ICE CREAM & TREATS
368 PATRICIA AVE, DUNEDIN FL 34698
727-754-5742

MUSIC
ALL WHEELS WELCOME, FEET, TOO!
Rain Date: Saturday June 11, 2-5PM
Sponsored by:

RAFFLE BASKETS
50/50



This event is not sponsored by Pinellas County Schools



Both the Red Knights and Jill provided gift baskets for the event that raised \$1,978. Special donations from the Tampa Bay Bucks, Lightning and Just Jim's Leather and Sewing, were auctioned, and raised an additional \$560.

A check was presented to WheelChairs4Kids at the KIA Fest in Sims Park in New Port Richey. A large contingent of Fl. 14 Red Knights were present when the check was given to representatives of Wheels4kids.



Special recognition has to go to Red Knights VP Joe Muholland who chaired the event with Jill Beltman from JillyBeans, all the Red Knights who manned the booths and made gift baskets, Bert's Barracuda Harley Dealership and OCC Roadhouse, Quaker State and Lube, the Tarpon Springs Merchant's Association and all the bikers who supported our event.

Region 5

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

Well friends,

I don't have a huge report but the 2022 Western Rally was held and completed hosted by us ND2 members. First Region 5 Rally in 3 years with 2020 Deadwood SD1 falling victim to Covid-19 so they selected 2025. 21 Western Rally was to be Coldfoot AB. Again victim of Covid-19. Take two in 2024 I believe. 2023 is scheduled to be in Spokane WA hosted by WA2.

As for the Rally itself we held it at Spirit Lake Casino and Resort on Devils Lake near Devils Lake ND.

Christine and I arrived Wednesday evening to start decorating. Thursday morning, the event tent wasn't finished yet at 7.30am. Oh boy! By noon we could start. We pulled it off. Then the fun started. I'd changed up the routine of how The Western had been done in the past. It worked.

Attendees included 3 regions, 2 countries, 8 states, 2 provinces. And about 100 guests.

I was thrilled that 2 past Region directors were in attendance. Thanks Graham Clark and Gil Rekken and current Region 5 director Lance Coit. What an honor for me to be standing in the same picture with them.

For Friday's day activities nothing was planned as a group. Only Friday evening. We opened up the meeting and meal with honor guard and the National Anthems.

So I've included lots of pictures.



Region 6

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

Just wanted to give you some information on our state dice run and state meeting for 2022.

We held a dice run for Hydrants of Hope. Hydrants of Hope is an organization that was created by a Tulsa fireman Mark Meyer who was going through cancer treatment himself and felt the need that he had to help the kids of Oklahoma who was suffering from cancer. He started out with a pin for hats and jackets that sold for \$5.00 and it went from there. He has passed away but his wife has kept it going. They help the kids with any need they need.

We raised \$3650.00 for them this year and with her sales of t-shirts, cups, hats etc. we raised \$5,000 total for them.



We held our annual state meeting and voted on new president, 2 new vice president and the state secretary.

Our New State President is Richard Sprague (papa bear (left)) from chapter 9, new Western Vice President Robert High (Undertaker (2nd from left)) from Chapter 5, New Central Vice President Brian Thompson (Big Country (3rd from left)) from Chapter 10 and State Secretary Margaret McGowan Davis (right) from chapters 2 & 3.



If you have any question please give me a call. 580-445-1650.

Thank you

Margaret McGowan
Okla Red Knight State Secretary



Above you can see Arizona-2 Vice President, Roger Aguilar and Road Captain Jerry Randolph making the rounds and representing in Arizona and Colorado.



Dan (Mudder) Schwankl was also out and about putting some miles on in Colorado while escaping the heat in Arizona.

While others have been enjoying the desert, some of the lakes and of course local Bike Nights.

Congratulations to Oklahoma 7 members Mike "Grumpy" & Rachel "Turtle" Stines on their marriage.

*** Oklahoma-7 Wedding ***
Mike "Grumpy" & Rachel "Turtle" Stines of OK-7 were united in marriage at the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs, Co., on Saturday, June 18, 2022.
=====



... See more

Congratulations to Arizona 2 Treasurer Ed Lyons on his Retirement.



Congratulations to Sean & Rachael Harrison on the Birth of their Son Owen Michael Harrison.



Region 7 (European Chapters)

EUROPEAN RED KNIGHTS COME TOGETHER TO HELP UKRAINIAN FIREFIGHTERS & CITIZENS

Two European Red Knights, Ryk Matysiak and Sven Coopman have been working tirelessly to help provide aid for Ukrainian citizens and firefighters who have been affected by the Russian invasion of their country.

England 2 member Ryk Matysiak started the 'Untied for Ukraine' movement and began collecting items to send to Poland, he soon had to open more collection points in and around Barnsley, South Yorkshire such as the response to his messages for help. Collection points quickly filled up with clothing, toys, food and medical items and through Ryk's contacts in Poland he was able to arrange for lorries to collect and take the donations to where they were needed in Poland.



Word about Ryk's efforts soon spread in the area and articles appeared in the press, he and his band of volunteers were inundated with donations and have filled and sent eight lorries, that's more than 130 tonnes of donations to Poland.



ended swiftly to the breakout of war in Ukraine...

HELPING HAND: Henryk Matysiak with some of the donations. Picture: Shaun Pridmore

Donations flood in as people rush to help out stricken Ukrainians

By Jessica Morris

BARNSELY residents' generosity has been praised after locals donated to a newly-formed appeal to help Ukrainians fleeing their war-torn country.

Spearheaded by businessman Henryk Matysiak, three vans loaded with donated items will be driven more than 1,000 miles to Poland where thousands of refugees have sought asylum having escaped Russia's invasion.

Henryk, of Hunters Avenue in Poppleton, took it upon himself to use his family connections to set up the collection.

Drop-off points so far in Barnsley include McLintock's Business Centre on Summer Lane between 8am and 5pm on weekdays, Wortley Private Club, 23 Cully Lane in Old Town and Tuckersley Welfare Hall.

Henryk, an ex-firefighter, who more than a decade, has uncles and cousins in Poland – a connection he says helped him come up with the idea to run the collection. The 58-year-old told the Chronicle local support has already "flooded in" – and praised well-wishers for helping the cause.

"There are a lot of Ukrainians fleeing to Poland at the moment and my family are already helping over there," he said.

"This is something that isn't going to stop being a need for people.

"I thought, with my connections, this is a tiny way in which I can help.

"Help is coming in thick and fast since I first asked people if they could help me with the collection."

The invasion, which has not met with widespread condemnation, comes after President Vladimir Putin recognised two breakaway regions held in eastern Ukraine by pro-Russian rebels as independent states and ordered troops into the territories.

Henryk plans to make the trip during the third week in March, by which time he hopes there will be a substantial amount of donations collected.

The items needed most include clothes, toiletries, blankets, and non-perishable foods.

He only put the feelers out on social media last Saturday, and after receiving an 'overwhelming' response, decided to go through with his efforts.

Despite running his own business, he plans to play a key role in making the trip, but is calling for help from volunteers.

The logistics of the plan are mostly what he says he needs help with, as to get the vans across to Poland will require a team effort.

"It would really help if we could get some local storage where we can sort and get ready for transporting," he added.

"It looks like we need it already with what's coming in."

"We also need any help with transport and fuel, so if there are any haulage firms or vehicle hire companies out there, we'd appreciate their help."

Henryk can be contacted for further details of drop-off points via his Facebook – Ryk Matysiak.

THE VOICE OF BARNSELY £1

2,000 aid boxes on way to help Ukraine – with more to follow thanks to generous Barnsley folk...

READY TO GO: Polish lorry driver Blazej Kochanski (front left) and Henryk Matysiak (front right) and an army of volunteers load up the first of the lorries bound for Ukraine. Picture: Wes Hobson. PD090885

From Barnsley, with love

By Jessica Morris

Storage now at full capacity

HELPING UKRAINE: Volunteers prepare the parcels and boxes which have been dropped off at the collection point in the Alhambra.

European MAL and MAL Representative Sven Coopman from Belgium



had a discussion with UK MAL Kev Normansell about what could be done to help firefighters in Ukraine and the idea of a `United for Ukraine` patch was born.

Within the hell on earth that is Kiev there are still those brave few who keep helping and saving people, and those need our support.



For that reason Sven offered the patch you see opposite for sale. This fundraiser is in support of the firefighters in Kiev, and all proceeds will go directly to the fire department, no middleman.

Sven was also happy to receive donations from those who wish to support the Ukrainian firefighters without buying a patch.



An initial order for 1000 patches was placed, 945 of which were quickly snatched up by Red Knights members across the world, those who were not lucky enough to buy a patch in this initial 1000 were already asking if they could order from a second batch and by the beginning of April Sven had informed the membership that a second batch would be ordered and these too quickly sold out for a second time.

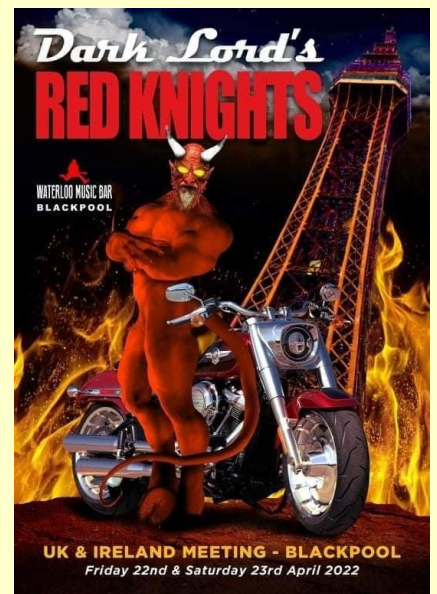
After all the available patches had been sold and posted out Sven had raised €14,000 which was used to buy items needed by the Ukrainian Firefighters.



THIRD TIME LUCKY FOR THE DARK LORD'S UK/IRELAND MEETING

Finally after being cancelled twice because of Covid-19 restrictions, Chris Newiss's UK/Ireland Meeting went ahead in Blackpool, England.

There were members from England, Ireland, USA, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany in attendance to enjoy a weekend of great company, food, drink, music and a superb ride into the picturesque Yorkshire Dales.



The meeting got underway on Friday 22nd April with registration at the Waterloo Music Bar, our base for the weekend. Early in the evening we travelled by tram to a restaurant in Blackpool for a traditional British meal of fish and chips before returning to the Waterloo for an evening of entertainment by three bands and of course the consumption of quite a few alcoholic beverages.

On Saturday morning we all met at the Waterloo for a ride briefing and then off we went for a ride to the Yorkshire Dale visiting the Ribble Head Viaduct, Hawes (for lunch) and then on to the Pendragon Castle where England 2 member, Andy McFarlane gave everybody a talk about the Castle's history. The group then rode to the Devils Bridge, a popular spot for bikers, for an ice cream.





It was then back to the Gurkha Hotel, most attendees' accommodation for the weekend for an 'All you can eat Asian buffet' and then with bellies full we descended on the Waterloo again for another night of entertainment by yet another three bands.



Some of the group decided to stay for an extra night so that they could again enjoy being entertained at the Waterloo by another two bands, making it eight bands in there nights, one of which being the best band of the weekend (Editor's opinion), Deeper Purple, a tribute to the original band Deep Purple. Deeper Purple were amazing and according to many there were better than the original band.

Monday morning saw the remainder pack up and head for home, everybody there agreed that it had been an amazing weekend, WELL DONE CHRIS 'THE DARK LORD' NEWISS for hanging in there for three years and putting on a superb meeting.

Those that know Chris knew that it was never in doubt, it was always going to be a fantastic weekend.

Any money raised from the meeting and a collection on Sunday night will go to the Brian House Children's Hospice, and not content with what was raised over the weekend, Chris



set off soon after on a walk across England from the west coast to the east coast to raise more money for Brian House, a walk that will take him and a friend twelve days to complete.

UK/Ireland Meeting April 22 – 24, 2022

(According to Norm Beausoleil)

My travels for 2022 began with a long-awaited trip to Blackpool, England for the first UK/Ireland meet in 3 years, hosted by England MAL Chris Newiss. Three years in the making and it did not disappoint. Twenty eight Red Knights with twenty bikes from England, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the US shared great company, food, spirits, music and unbelievable sights, scenery and riding in the north west of England. Comfortable housing and very good food (except for the white pudding, lol) at the Gurkha Hotel set the stage for truly great weekend of entertainment at the Waterloo Music Hall next door.



Adding that there was nary a drop of rain to fall over the entire weekend made the event that much more brilliant!

The Town of Blackpool has been called the “Vegas” of England and it held up to its name for the scenery and entertainment. The Blackpool Tower is the main focal point of the city. Similar in appearance to the Eiffel Tower it provides a truly birds-eye-view of the city, coast and the Irish Sea. The group headed into town Friday night for a delicious Fish & Chips dinner (it seems like that’s all they eat there, lol) at Yorkshire Fisheries. Returning to the Waterloo for music until the wee hours of the morning topped off a great first day.



The Saturday morning ride-out was executed nearly flawlessly – the Irish boys forgot to fuel up the day before, so they had to hurry, to say the least, to catch back up. Travelling the country roads of Counties Lancashire, North Yorkshire and Cumbria was like a walk through my history books. Beautiful fields, farms and pastures lined with ancient stone walls running for miles were an amazing sight.



Sadly, I was caged but I was still able to enjoy and experience unbelievable twisting, winding, hilly, curvy country roads. In most ways I was envious of the blokes on 2 wheels, but as we approached oncoming traffic on the “wrong” side of the road I quickly realized that, without experience riding on the left, if an oncoming vehicle had crossed over the center line (figurative, lol, they don’t have lines out there) on a sharp turn, I may have actually reacted like I was in the states and gone right to avoid a collision and actually cause one. Lunch was anywhere you chose in the Town of Hawes in North Yorkshire. The highlight of the ride (besides the ice cream stop on the river) was a stop at Pendragon Castle near Kirby Stephen in Cumbria with a very animated and well-presented history of the castle and area by our very own Andrew McFarlane of England 2.



Dinner was held at the Ghurka Hotel with a fine selection of Nepalese foods. The joy of being a part of this Club was clearly expressed by everyone in attendance. There are 4 British chapters (3 in England and 1 in Wales) and 1 Irish chapter and there is a customary practice of the guest chapter presenting a gift to the host chapter.

In this case it was far more personal as the “host chapter” was an MAL with help from his lovely wife Louise and behind the scenes help from Sven Coopman, a MAL from Belgium. Barry O’Mahony and Keith O’Callahan from Ireland 1 (in the ice cream photo above) presented Chris – known by many as “The Dark Lord” – a handmade “replica” of the Blackpool

Tower. The foundation was a front sprocket and the tower was welded drive chain. Topped off with a decorative light string the gift brought a tear to nearly everyone in the room.

Sunday was go home day for many and visit the town for the rest. That night we were thrilled at a concert in the Waterloo by Deeper Purple, a truly amazing cover band the original Deep Purple. A pass of the hat after the concert combined with the generosity of Ian Fletcher, owner of the Waterloo, raised 1,000 British Pounds Sterling for Chris' charity, "Brian House Children's Hospice".



Germany 27 raise money for children with cancer with cancer

Germany 27 participated in a fundraiser to raise money for children with cancer, what great way to support their community

The members of the Red Knights MC Germany 27 didn't let the fund raiser pass and were proud to support this great fund raiser.

It was decided that donations from the patch campaign "Support a Warrior 2022" go this year to the Essen parent initiative to support children with cancer.

On our last weekend tour Germany 27 chapter collected well over 100 euros for EIN patch. This patch will now receive a place of honor in our clubhouse.

On behalf of Germany 27, their member Dominik handed over the donated funds and received the patch from Ron Lauber from the Center for Geo-Information of the Bundeswehr (ZGeoBw)

Every bit of support counts! See the info flyer for more information.



An information flyer for a fundraising campaign. At the top, there are several small photographs: a family, a child in a hospital bed, and a child being held. Below the photos is a QR code and the text 'SPENDEN PATCH AKTION'. The main text reads: 'SUPPORT A WARRIOR 2022. Jedes Jahr erkranken etwa 1800 Kinder unter 15 Jahren an Krebs! Diese Diagnose ist der Start in den wohl härtesten Kampf den Kind und deren Eltern führen können. Ein Kampf ums Überleben. Dabei meistens alle beteiligten wochenlange Aufenthalte im Krankenhausem und ein Leben in Quarantäne.' It also provides a PayPal donation link: 'Spendenkonto: PayPal: ron.lauber@gmx.de' and a donation amount of '5,00 € fürs Patch und gerne mehr'. At the bottom, it lists the contact information for Charibosmann Erreich and Ron Lauber, and includes the Bundeswehr logo and 'Supported by Cafe Vireck'.

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK! - UK MEMBERS VISIT BELGIUM 2 & NETHERLANDS 1

After two years of not being allowed to visit our friends in Europe, members from England 2 and two MAL from the Norther East of England were delighted to be able to set off on the overnight ferry from Hull to Rotterdam on Thursday 16th June to once again visit Belgium 2 for their Gathering of the Knights weekend. It's been three years since our last visit due to Covid-19 restrictions and we were all looking forward to renewing our friendships with our Belgium Brothers and Sisters in Oostkamp.



After docking and disembarking in Rotterdam, Netherlands, we set off on our three hour journey south to Belgium which took us down the west coast of the Netherlands over a series of bridges, stopping off for lunch on the way in a small picturesque Dutch town of Veere.



It was then on to our final destination of Oostkamp, near Brugge and the Van der Valk Hotel, a hotel that we have used many times before. We were treated by Belgium 2 to a Friday evening of socialising, drinking and eating from the BBQ at the Oostkamp Fire Station.

In a change to the previous format, where riders followed a marked route, Belgium 2 organised a two hour group ride for Red Knights through Belgium towns and countryside to an Army Helicopter Rescue base and Army Fire Station in Koksijde.

Whilst the group were being shown around the base a `turn out` for the helicopter came in and it quickly mobilised to search for a missing boy, returning an hour later with the news that the boy had been located.

We returned to the hotel to freshen up in preparation for Saturday night meal and entertainment at the fire station which is within walking distance from our hotel. Once there, the Gathering witnessed Belgium two President enrol five new members and present several members with their 5 and 10 year membership pins. We enjoyed a delicious meal before being entertained by a local band.



As always Belgium 2 were the perfect hosts and everybody had a great time riding, eating and drinking, but most of all, enjoying the company of friends, or should I say `family`.



Usually the weekend finishes when we leave Belgium 2 in Oostkamp but not on this occasion as we set off to meet Jolanda Oosterbaan a member of Netherland 1 at the Netherlands National Fire Service Museum in Hellevoetsluis.

We set off after breakfast, stopping off en-route for a coffee break and it was then off to meet Jolanda at the museum, the visit proved to be an interesting diversion on our journey to the ferry port of Rotterdam and the equipment on display brought back many memories of our time in the Fire Service.

Jolanda kindly invited us back to her home for something to eat before the overnight ferry sailing back home to the UK and she certainly pushed the boat out serving up a fantastic meal to the seven UK members present.

With the motorcycles safely strapped down in the ferry's vehicle deck we made our way to the bar to enjoy a few beers before turning in for a night's sleep.



The weather for the whole trip was kind to us, the only rain falling on Saturday night so a dry weekend of riding was very welcome.

The only downside to the weekend was one of the group noticed he had a flat tyre when leaving the ferry.. The guilty nail was removed, the puncture repaired and he was soon on his way again for the long ride home.

The next channel ferry crossing for us is in September for the EuCon in the Netherlands when we will again be able enjoy the company of Yolanda and the rest of Netherlands 1.



Party with the Vikings aka Founding Party of Red Knights Denmark 1.



The planning started in October 2019, on the party in June 2020. The Covid-19 came 3 months after we publish the party and the whole country got shot down. We had to postpone for the first time, no parties allowed, only close family contact and no traveling in or out of the country. And like all others we waited, we hoped and got crazy of the restrictions. We tried once more in the spring 2021, but only Germany had the borders open to Denmark. We already had people coming from 11 different nations, so that didn't help. We postponed the party once more. This year, 3rd time trying, we were lucky, finally all guests were able to come to us and have a good time.

June 3th to June 6th, we had a blast of a party. First guests arrived at the camping site in the early afternoon and then the party started. Beer was cool, the mead was tasty, the sun was shining and everything was great. Dinner was served all through the night, it was great. Besides RK's we invited the Danish Blue Knights too. Great guys and we enjoyed their company the whole weekend.



Red Knights from France, Belgium, Netherland, Germany, Poland, Canada, England and Finland attended our party. So cool that all made it here.



Friday night, I as President gave a little welcome speech and then we had a surprise, the announcement of the second chapter in Denmark. And again, congratulations to Red Knights MC Denmark 2. Then we had a presentation of, Rasmus "Fossie" Lillemose and Jan "Little John" Van Herre, whom finished the Viking Master Tour, our tour all over Denmark. A Viking shield was presented, and their names will be plated on there forever. Great job guys.

Saturday morning breakfast was served and at 11 am we had a ride-out. The trip went through the nearest town, Naskov, where the local fire department, were ready with the blue lights and the Danish flag on the ladder. It was a beautiful sight. Then we drove on to a fire academy, where the volunteer firefighters served hotdogs and potato salad for everyone. The volunteer's said it was fantastic to meet so many brothers and sisters and they had a great time showing the academy off.



Then the trip went on and the last stop on the ride-out, was at an ice cream shop by the coast. People soon found out, that the shop was VERY generous with the ice cubes, no one was left hungry.

The party went on at the camping site. Dinner was a whole pig on the barbecue, salad and creamy potatoes.

At night we had a guitarist playing, while dinner was eaten and afterwards two more musicians joined and the dancing started. I, again gave a short speech and gave the microphone on to the President of the Danish Firefighter Cancer association. His speech was the concern for all of us, the dangerous work we do, the cancer risk and the lack of legislation in Europe to protect the firefighters.



The music and party went on until very late and no one was thirsty when they left for bed.

Sunday's breakfast was served and then our brothers and sisters went on their way, heading home.

To all that made the trip to our first party in Denmark, thank you so much for joining us. And all that didn't make it, you missed out on fantastic party.

Hope to see you all next time a party with the Viking is published.



Best regards

Jan "Ironside" Winther

President Red Knights MC Denmark 1

INTERSCHUTZ 2022 - The Red Knights MC at the world's leading exhibition for firefighting, rescue, civil protection and security.

After the Interschutz had to be postponed twice due to the Corona Pandemic, the gates now opened from June 20 to 25, 2022 in Hannover (Germany). More than 1,300 exhibitors from all over the world came to Interschutz in Hannover and 85,000 visitors from 61 countries discovered innovations and exchanged experiences.

The Red Knights MC was also allowed to participate in the exhibition as an ideational exhibitor for the second time after 2015.



Our team at the stand, consisting of members of the chapters Germany 2, Germany 15, Germany 16, Germany 21, Germany 22, Germany 23, Germany 31 and Switzerland 1 had many positive conversations and could inform interested guests about the Red Knights MC. Contact details were exchanged and interests in memberships in our motorcycle club were aroused. Our permanent crew was supported by spontaneously arrived day guests of countless other chapters.

A delegation from us was allowed to attend the official opening ceremony with the Minister President, Minister of the Interior, Mayor of Hanover and the President of the German Firefighters Association, himself a member of the Red Knights MC.

In addition to interested firefighters, we were also able to welcome members of the press and high-ranking executives from fire departments from all over the world and friends of the club.



Parallel to the Interschutz, the 29th German Fire Brigade Day also took place in Hanover. As a final highlight, a motorcycle and vintage car parade was organized. The parade was led by a total of 60 motorcycles of members of the Red Knights MC. Various local TV stations reported about it and you can also find videos on the internet.



Our thanks go to the German Fire Brigade Association, the Lower Saxony State Fire Brigade Association, the Association for the Promotion of German Fire Protection and of course our International Board, without their support a participation would not have been possible.

The next Interschutz will take place from 01 to 06 June 2026 again in Hannover and we hope then again to be a part of the event.

Michael Pfoertner, German Representative and President RKMC Germany 2

Region 8

(Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific)

Australia 18 & 8 Members Receive Awards

In 2019/2020, Australia was affected by the worst bushfire event in the nation's history. Thirty-four people lost their lives, including six firefighters in the state of N.S.W. 46 million acres of bush and farmland was burnt (13,600,000 acres in N.S.W. alone), and more than 3,500 homes were lost.

Between 2020 and 2022, members of Australia 18 were awarded the National Emergency Medal, Australian Capital Territory (A.C.T.) Emergency Medal and the N.S.W. Premier's Citation. These are:

Phillip Cottrell (Charter Member) - National and A.C.T. Emergency Medals, N.S.W. Premier's Citation

Stephen Wilde (Active Member) - National and A.C.T. Emergency Medals, N.S.W. Premier's Citation

Mike Kelly (Charter Member) - National Emergency Medal (scheduled to be awarded on 12 June), N.S.W. Premier's Citation

Michael Swinger (Active Member) - National Emergency Medal (no date set for presentation), N.S.W. Premier's Citation

Andrea James (Social Member) - N.S.W. Premier's Citation

Michael James (Charter Member) - National Emergency Medal (scheduled to be awarded on 12 June), N.S.W. Premier's Citation



Phillip Correll receives his award



Left to Right:-

ACT Emergency Medal,
NSW Premier's Citation,
National Emergency Medal.



On the 11 May 2022 Scotty Hamilton President of Australia 8 was honoured to be presented 30 Year Long Service Medal and Honorary Life Membership of Country Fire Authority (CFA) by Chief Officer Heffernan at the South East Region Staff Forum Dinner. Inaugural Red Knights Australia 8 Past President Damien O'Connor was there to witness the presentation.



Here's to the next 30!

Congratulations Big Scotty

THE RED KNIGHTS FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW IN AUSTRALIA

On the 26th March 2022. A new Red Knights Australian Chapter was born. Congratulations Red Knights Australia 22 (Ararat).



Upcoming Events **KEEP THE DATES OPEN**

- 28th, 29th, 30th October 2022

Red Knights Gathering in Launceston, Tasmania.

Start saving your dollars.

- Show your support for The Keith Hamilton 25th Annual Sale and District Toy Run on the 10th December 2022.

Hosted by Red Knights Australia 6. For more info contact Andy Young (Australia 6)

- Show your support for the 23rd Gippsland Motorcyclists Toy Run

On the 3rd December 2022

Gippsland toy run to go ahead 3rd December

About 7 years ago the Gippsland Toy run almost didn't happen due to the LCC and its requirements to hold an event, so Brain from Red Knights Australia 19 touched base with Kellie Ocallaghan and Steve Lyons and changed it from an event to a run where we didn't need to meet the event requirements of LCC.

Red Knights 19 LV have been supporting the running of the Toy run since its inception. And when I was with Chapter 6 supported it for two years, Andy Young from Red Knights Australia 6 now runs the Sale Toy run. We work with Alf and Stella started the run 22 years ago, and we help with PR, safety brief prior to the run, corner Marshall's and when we can donations to the run which has been very difficult with the lockdowns and being only a small chapter that's not easy. This following write up is on the toy run FB page.

THE 2022 GIPPSLAND MOTORCYCLISTS TOY RUN IS OFF AND RUNNING

This week members of three clubs, the Eastern Riders, the Red Knights and Riders Evolution, got together with Dave and Julz from Bobber Dave's Custom Cycles, Traralgon, to launch the 23rd Gippsland Motorcyclists Toy Run. Santa also dropped in to add a touch of class to the occasion and his arrival kicked off the start of what is going to be another great year.

The date this year will be Saturday 3rd December, which is the first Saturday of the month. Quite a few of the details have already been put into place but there is still lots more to do, and we'll keep you posted as we progress.

We all thought that the last couple of years were difficult enough for local families and that all would be better for 2022, not so. The Salvos and St Vinnies tell us that there are just as many families struggling to make ends meet as there ever was. Many people are finding it difficult to pay for basic needs and are seeking support more than ever and this will be reflected in the coming Christmas period.

The challenge for us is still there and I know that our community will, once more, rise to the occasion and make this year as successful as 2021. In fact at today's launch Albie Richards, President of Riders Evolution Social Motorcycle Club, tells me that their members started collecting toys right after last year's Toy Run in December. They have topped \$6000 worth of toys for the last 3 years, an achievement for which they are very proud.

Although Christmas is still many months away it is never too early to start putting away a gift or two. There are already several collection points for you to drop off gifts so, if they're getting in the way, you can take them to one of the following locations or call Alf and Stella on 0434 618 689 and we will arrange to collect them.

The office of Melina Bath MP – 181 Franklin Street, Traralgon

The office of Russell Northe MP – 12-14 George Street, Morwell.

Bobber Dave's Custom Cycles – Nefertiti Court, Traralgon.

The Erica Caravan Park.

Australia 2, 5,14 & MAL attend Bike Blessing

Red Knights are always available to help the community in any way they can.

On the 3rd of March some of the Red knights Australia 2, 5, 14 and MAL's attended The Blessing of Bikes Tatura and whilst at the event they were not afraid of their getting their hands dirty and can be seen working on one of the local lads bicycle chain.



New Zealand Gathering is a huge success

The weekend of March 18th-20th saw the Red Knights NZ3 Chapter host the 2022 Gathering in Ngongotaha, set on the western shores of Lake Rotorua.

Rotorua is a very popular tourist destination for both domestic and international visitors alike, well known for its geothermal activity since the 1800's.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions in New Zealand at the time of the event limiting gathering of groups to 100 people and rules around people outside the fire brigades being on station property, the decision was made to hold the event at the local bowling club almost next door to the station.

Unfortunately in the week leading up to the national Gathering two of the organising committee, President Gary Stitt and Secretary Shelly Stitt were dealt a very rough hand and were called to Australia due to the untimely and dreadful illness and unexpected passing of our Presidents brother.

With this unfortunate news the organising committee rallied together, with the VP having just returned into the country from his overseas work, with their goal to make sure all those attending were able to have the weekend away they all deserved, and boy did they deliver.

Friday night saw registrations open and Red Knights Chapters arriving from all parts of the country to socialise, have a few drinks, and finish embellishing the stories not quite finished from the last Gathering. From recollection the bar staff had to bring in reinforcements and do a restock for the Saturday!

Saturday was a big day. The wonderful crew from the Ngongotaha Volunteer Fire Station and their helpers put on an awesome breakfast. In fact all of the catering for the weekend was amazing, especially with the original catering company pulling the pin on us only two weeks out. A real testament to how well the Ngongotaha Volunteer Fire Station came together to look after us!

After Breakfast was the ride. This was well attended with 57 bikes and 14 pillions taking to the various roads around the Bay of Plenty. The scenery covered everything from nice windy roads around the lake, rolling farmland to open coastal vistas, fast sweeping corners to tight hairpin turns and finishing with riding past some of the other 16 lakes in the region to be back in time for lunch.



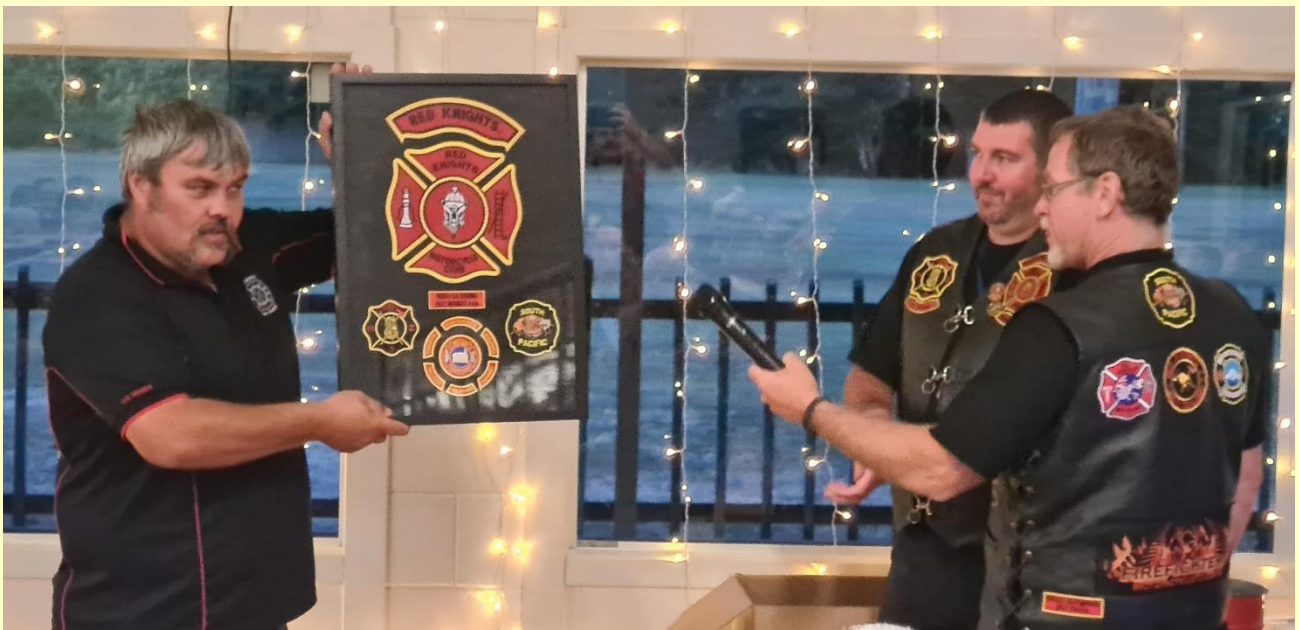
Saturday night and it was time for the dinner and the much anticipated awards/fine sessions to take place. A wonderful night was had by all. The evening's events went well into the early morning hours with brothers and sisters from all over the country sharing stories, laughs and having just a damn good time.



Sunday morning breakfast always seems to come about all too fast

and it was time for the farewells and every one to make their way home. With over 80 people attending the gathering after many falling ill to Covid-19 and other various reasons it was still a great event.

I cannot speak highly enough of the team that spent 12 months getting everything sorted in these continuing ever-changing times and just how well the chapter worked together. The disappointment of not having the President Gary Stitt and Secretary Shelly Stitt, who had put countless hours into everything and not being able to attend was also evident and the rest of the team missed them for sure.



Volunteer Fire Brigade Chief Tai Thompson (on the left) accepts a presentation from NZ3 Vice Pres Dave Yeo and MC Justin Smith.

Over \$1000 dollars was raised for the Volunteer Fire Station which was greatly appreciated by the chief who also showed this in his speech to all attending.

So that's the rundown of the New Zealand 2022 Gathering held by NZ 3.

We look forward to attending the Reefton Gathering in the South Island in 2023.

Words by

Dave Yeo, NZ3 Vice President

NZ5 Hospice Charity Ride scoops \$3000 for a mornings ride

It was an honour and a privilege for NZ5 to host the annual charity ride for Te Omanga Hospice, held on Sunday May 15th 2022 in Lower Hutt, Wellington.

The Charity Ride marked the start of Hospice Awareness week and provided an opportunity for motorcyclists to raise much needed funds and awareness to assist Te Omanga Hospice support the patients and families in their programmes.

Every day Te Omanga Hospice provides compassionate care to 180 people living with a terminal or life limiting illness, with 1 in 3 people who die in the Hutt Valley area being supported by their services.



The ride was a huge success, with approximately 80 motorcycles gathering on a calm Sunday morning at Te Omanga Hospice, before riding off on a mystery tour and finishing at a local establishment, where we were very pleased to be able to present the Chief Executive of Te Omanga Hospice, Bidy Harford with a donation of \$3000.



NZ5 Pres Shaun Crowley

NZ 4 Host the Ride of Remembrance

April 24th 2022 saw NZ IV once again host the Ride of Remembrance, raising funds for the South Taranaki RSA (Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association).

In previous years we have ridden around the iconic Mount Taranaki and Egmont National Park, but this year we travelled south, taking in some of the lesser travelled back country roads along with main highway riding.

Approximately 60 bikes joined us on the ride, and when we returned to the RSA for some raffles and batters up, we had raised just under \$2000 for the team at South Taranaki RSA.



Words by NZIV Vice Pres Jason Ansley

NZ 6 Nelson Tasman Hospice Charity Ride

NZ6 covers the top of the South Island and down the west coast of what is proudly referred to as 'The Mainland' by the South Islanders. This is a huge expanse of diverse countryside and some of the best riding available within both the North and South Islands.

NZ6 used this to their advantage when organising their last Charity ride for the Nelson Tasman Hospice, as there is never a shortage of riders willing to enjoy these roads. 54 bikes partook in riding nirvana with a circuit passing through St Arnaud and stopping for a group photo at the beautiful Lake Rotoiti in the Nelson Lakes National Park.

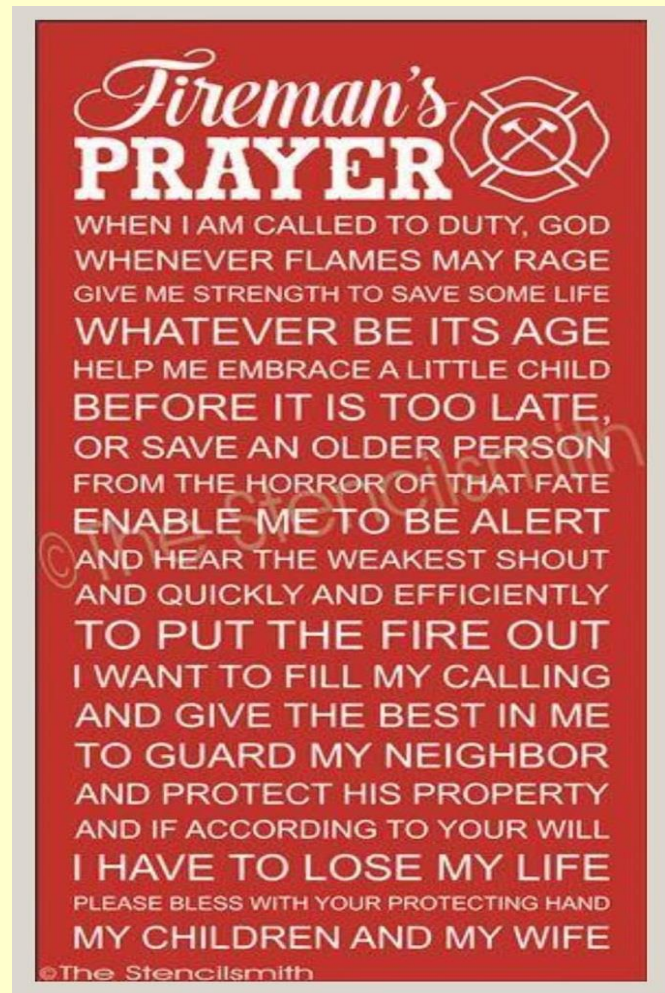
NZ6 were pleased to present Nelson Tasman Hospice with a donation of \$1500.

Words by Region 8 Director and NZ6 Pres Ken Mahon



NZ6 Charity ride for the Nelson Tasman Hospice stops at the beautiful Lake Rotoiti in the Nelson Lakes National Park

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE ANSWERS



FUTURE EVENTS



Knights of the Round Table - KRT



**EUROPEAN
RALLY 2022**

5th to 7th August 2022

NIEDERKAIL SPORTPLATZ
GERMANY

GPS COORDINATES 49.955072, 6.736130

KRT is being hosted by Green Knights MMC Chapters 27 Spangdahlem and Chapter 29 Ramstein.

Invitations are cordilally extended to RED, Blue and Green Knights

More information will be posted separately regarding: Available Accommodation, Tentage, on-site facilities, entertainment, food, beverages, music and the all important competitions including POC and relevant websites, tourist information etc.

Please Note: All planning subject to COVID Restrictions

NH POLICE, FIRE, EMS
14TH ANNUAL
Motorcycle Ride.

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 13TH, 2022**
KICKSTAND UP AT 10AM

JOIN US FOR A
PLANNED RIDE AROUND THE LAKE

HOSTED BY:
Black Sheep NEW HAMPSHIRE
RED KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB
NH POLICE-FIRE-EMS FOUNDATION

**LACONIA
HARLEY-DAVIDSON®**

The poster features a central black banner with white text. On the left, a blue and white motorcycle is partially visible against an American flag background. On the right, a red and white motorcycle is partially visible against an American flag background. Logos for the NH Police-Fire-EMS Foundation, Black Sheep New Hampshire, and Red Knights Motorcycle Club are included. The Harley-Davidson Laconia logo is at the bottom right.



Gründungsparty

19.08.2022 – 21.08.2022

Für mehr Informationen folgt uns auf unsere Seite und auf facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/RKMCGER26>

SCAN ME



<https://www.red-knights-germany-26.de/>



Red Knights MC® Switzerland 2

Birthdayparty
Save the date

20.-21.08.2022

Affoltern i. Emmental (CH)

Löle-Bistro

Dorfstrasse 7

3416 Affoltern i.E

Musik, Bar, Grill, Gemeinsam Feiern,
Gemütliche Atmosphäre

Anmeldung:

Anmeldeinfos folgen demnächst



8th Annual Ride For Burn Camp

Saturday, July 30, 2022

Starting at Plainfield Fire Headquarters
23748 W 135th St, Plainfield, IL 60544

Registration: 8:30am - 10:00am	Food included at final stop.
Kickstands Up: 10:30am	Drinks available for purchase.
Rider Only: \$30 Two Up: \$50	Raffle, 50/50 and more!
After Party Only: \$20	All bikes welcome!

Rain or Shine After Party & Fundraiser @ 3:00pm McBride's on 52
2727 W Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60435

Proceeds Donated To:
Camp "I Am Me"
Illinois' camp for young burn survivors

Sponsored By:
LAW TIGERS
MOTORCYCLE LAWYERS

For more information and to register visit:
www.rkmc23.com

Red Knights NY 14

BURN FOUNDATION of CENTRAL NEW YORK

RIDE TO SUPPORT THE BURN FOUNDATION OF CNY

JULY 30, 2022
MARCELLUS FIRE DEPT

MEETING @ 11AM—KICKSTANDS UP @ NOON

\$15 PER BIKE

DOOR PRIZES INCLUDE
CUSTOM HELMETS &
HARLEY DAVIDSON
GIFT CERTIFICATES

INCLUDES 1 TICKET FOR RAFFLE
RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZES AT THE END

RIDE ENDS AT PASTA ON THE GREEN—FOOD AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE (NOT INCLUDED IN BIKER FEE)



“RUN TO THE HOME 2022”

Sunday, August 14th.

LOCATION: FASNY Fireman’s Home
Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson, NY

TIME: Registration – 9:00 AM Start – 10:30 AM

COST: \$20 per Persons riding
\$10 for non-riding participants

INCLUDES: Light Breakfast, Lunch, Raffle Prizes
50 Mile Motorcycle Ride

For Information Contact:
Dan Bransfield 860-990-2831

rkmcny29@gmail.com
www.rkmcny29.com
www.facebook.com/rkmcny29/events



Proceeds to
Benefit the
FASNY
Fireman’s
Home



RKMC® Germany 2 WOLFENBÜTTEL



13. Chapterparty

09.-10. Juli 2022

Wolfenbüttel

Naturbad Fämmelsee

Am Fämmelsee 6

38304 Wolfenbüttel

52° 10.112 N, 10° 29.996 E

Party
Ausfahrt
Speis & Trank
Zeltplatz vorhanden

Informationen & Buchung unter:
www.red-knights-germany2.de



NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION MEETING / ANNUAL PICNIC

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH, 2022

12:00 NOON - ???

Hosted by Red Knights NJ 33 – Delran, NJ

Home of: Scuba “Steve” & Donna
154 Jumping Brook Road
Lincroft, NJ 07738

Hamburgers / Hotdogs / Pulled Pork plus sides
Soda / Iced Tea / Water



2022 Annual State Picnic Registration Form
Hosted by New Jersey – Chapter 33



Poker Run



Date:

Saturday, July 9

Rain Date:

Sunday, July 23

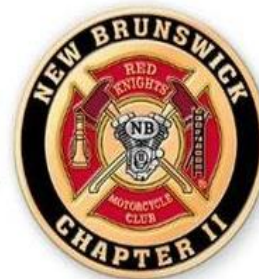
Registration:

New Maryland Fire
Hall (600 New Mary-
land Hwy)

10:00 am

Kickstands Up:

11:00 am



Cost:

\$25.00 per motorcycle,
non-rider registration
and donations are
welcome

**Stops at the following
fire halls:**

Minto
Jemseg

Includes:

BBQ
Prizes

Sponsored by the Red Knights NB Chapter 2
In support of the Atlantic Burn Camp



A special thank you to our sponsors:

JBPPhillips Construction



Jim Bishop

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JEREMY PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT
506-471-5736

RKMC, NH-3 RIDE FOR CHaD



DATE: SATURDAY AUGUST 27, 2022

START AND FINISH AT LANCASTER, NH FAIRGROUNDS

FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT POST RIDE AT LANCASTER FAIRGROUNDS

APPROX. 100 MILE LOOP IN NH WHITE MT AREA, SEE

**Red Knights International Motorcycle Club Pittsburg NH Chapter
3 Facebook page for route details**

9:00 AM REGISTRRTATION KICKSTANDS UP AT 10:00AM

\$20.00 per Motorcycle - \$30.00 per car



1st Annual Jake McMinn Memorial Benefit Ride

For One Of Our Own

Jake was a charter member of PA38 Red Knights Motorcycle Club and a Firefighter with Falls Creek Fire Department. Jake was taken away from us too soon. PA38 is hosting this ride to help take care of One OF Our Own. This benefit ride is for Kenzley, Jakes daughter.

WHEN

SUNDAY - July 24th 2022
Registration begins at 10:00 am
Kick Stands Up at NOON

WHERE

Falls Creek Fire Station
4 1st Street
Falls Creek, PA 15840

COST

\$15 Driver
\$10 Passenger

RIDE

70 - 80 Mile Ride
1 Stop planned

At the end of the ride food will be provided. There will also be raffles and a Chinese Auction.

The ride is sponsored by Red Knights PA38 and Falls Creek Fire Department.



MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION

MEETING / ANNUAL PICNIC

JULY 16, 2022



RIDE TO THE BEAUTIFUL EASTERN SHORE

MEETING AT NOON LUNCH TO FOLLOW

Hosted by Red Knights Maryland Chapter 7

Meet us at: Galena Vol Fire Company
90 East Cross Street Galena, MD 21635

2022 Annual State Picnic Registration Form

Registration Form deadline is July 10, 2022
Checks or money orders made out to Red Knights MD Chapter 7
Mail to 31873 Griffith Dr Galena, MD 21635
Venmo @tbizz92
Contact: T, Tylerbiz519@gmail.com 443-480-8999

Food provided, Cost per person is \$10.00

Name _____ State/Chapter _____
Name _____ State/Chapter _____
Name _____ State/Chapter _____
Name _____ State/Chapter _____
Name _____ State/Chapter _____

Local Hotels:

Hampton Inn
117 Sandhill Dr Middletown DE 19709
833-453-1097

Red Roof Inn
160 Scheeler Rd, Chestertown, MD 21620
877-843-7663

Red Knights NY LIII 1ST ANNUAL

POKER RUN

50/50
RAFFLE

CASH
PRIZES
FOR
CARD
HANDS

DOOR
PRIZES



SATURDAY, JULY 9th

Start & Finish at Nassau Sportsmans Club

370 Boyce Rd, Nassau NY 12123

Registration 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM \$20.00

Kickstands up 10:15 AM

LUNCH INCLUDED

6th Annual Red Knights 9/11 Ride September 11, 2022

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 & Passenger is \$20 a piece.
prior to 9/4/22

After or on-site \$25 for Driver & Passenger
Part of the proceeds will be going to help those
in our community.

See our website for more information & to register.



