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President



[www.redknightsmc.org](http://www.redknightsmc.org)

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

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

As we close in on the end of 2004 the Red Knights will be over 200 chapters strong with over 5,200 members. We have come a long way from the early years when there were only a handful of chapters. The growth and success of our club is because of you the members. Your chapters and your participation makes the Red Knights what it is today.

I would like to welcome all of the new members to the Red Knights and to all of our current members I say thanks – thanks for your continued support of our organization whether you are in a chapter, a chapter officer, or a Members at Large. I hope that each of you have found *that something special* in being a member of The Red Knights.

One person I would like to mention specifically is Mike Leblanc of Rhode Island-1. Mike served as our Executive Secretary for the last several years, and served the International Board in other posts before that. He decided not to run for re-election this past summer at the convention. We all tip our hat to Mike and thank him for his time in service for the RKMC. Thanks Mike.

Your executive board has been working very hard over this past year. In an effort to see that every member has a voice the board has been restructured. The members attending the convention in Alberta voted the change from five voting members to a nine-member board. These changes include the updating the duties of the board and include the addition of four regional directors. The regional representatives of the International Board are a direct contact for the chapters. It is a change that we hope will improve the communications between the board and the chapters.

I would like to thank all the members, friends, and the city of Alberta for showing us such a great time in August. For those of you that did not make the 2004 convention, you missed one of the best. Every year at our conventions the host chapter tries to “best” any past host chapter by showing our members a great time. This year was no different. It was a long trip for some of us but well worth the miles! THANKS ALBERTA-1.

**Membership!** We are hearing that some of our chapters are having trouble getting and keeping members. If you look at the chapters that appear to be the most successful it is because they work as a team. Strive to have collective input on what the chapter does and how it operates.

If members feel left out, not welcome, or see that others want “total control of the chapter,” frustration sets in. This is the recipe and will lead to destruction of a Chapter.

**Remember, the Red Knights is a Social Club.** It was started as a way for members of the fire service to get together, have fun, and get away from the stress of our jobs. Let’s not try to change the world – let’s just come ride together and have fun.

IT’S UP TO YOU TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!

Ride Safe -- Sincerely,  
Ed Brouillet, International President

**Congratulations** to Alberta-1 and all the Red Knights who participated in the 2004 convention in Edmonton... not only was it a *great* convention – but Alberta-1 presented a check for \$7,000 to the Firefighters Burn Treatment Society as well as another for \$1,500 to the RKMC Memorial!

*You do us proud!*

The Burn Society supports research and other endeavors carried out at the University of Alberta Hospital as well as funding the Alberta Children’s Burn Camp.

Make your plans today and join us in **TORONTO** ...for another great Red Knights Convention! August 11– 14, 2005

Would you like an original “GUNZ” print like that presented to the Red Knights at the Killington Classic?

This tribute to the Red Knights and all firefighters is available on a limited basis directly from the artist.

For more information visit our web page at [www.redknightsmc.com/GUNZ.HTM](http://www.redknightsmc.com/GUNZ.HTM)

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

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Massachusetts Chapter-1 was the first Chapter of the Red Knights back in 1982 and their chapter leadership is spearheading the drive to build a memorial to all our members past. The town of Boylston, Massachusetts has agreed to allow the Red Knights to erect this memorial on the grounds of the Boylston Fire Station. A very fitting tribute, since this is where the Red Knights were born.

Hopes are to have this memorial ready for dedication by our 25th anniversary in 2007. It is you the members, and the individual chapters that will make this fund drive and the memorial for all our members – past – present – and future a true success and a monument that has meaning for each of us.

The Memorial Committee has been meeting and they have also set up an account for the memorial fund. Please consider supporting the fund with donations and fundraisers from all the chapters. Also, please support the planning work of the committee and share with them any ideas that you have on what the Red Knights Memorial should be.

**Y**es, I want to support the efforts of the Red Knights to raise money for the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Memorial.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ (If applicable)

Pledge/Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal  Club  
Please check appropriate Box

Please make checks payable to:  
**Red Knights International Memorial Fund**  
Shrewsbury Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union  
PO Box 227, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 — (508)845-6755

Thank you to the **Vermont Teddy Bear Company** for donating the “Red Knights Bear” that was given to every rider in the Killington parade. VT Teddy Bear Co. has a program to assist rescue people by making “Little Hero” Bears available to give to children. Visit them online at [www.vtbear.com](http://www.vtbear.com)

**Vermont's Killington Classic welcomes the Red Knights**

Nestled in the Green Mountains of Vermont is the resort village of Killington. Beginning in 2003 the weekend after Labor Day has turned into a biker’s holiday and is fast becoming “THE” place to go for an outstanding fall motorcycle rally.

This year was a special year for the Red Knights in Vermont as the hosts of the Killington Classic invited to Red Knights to lead their Friday night parade from Killington to the City of Rutland some 15 miles away.

Led by more than 60 Red Knights accompanied by Vermont’s Governor, the parade passed under an arch made by two of the city fire department's ladder trucks as the parade entered the city.

The parade and the aerials were a

symbol honoring the hundreds of firefighters and rescue workers who died in the collapse of the World Trade Center after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. At the conclusion of the parade the Killington Classic organizers presented members of the Red Knights International Executive Board with a commemorative painting in honor of all emergency services personnel who responded on September 11, 2001.

Consider placing the Killington Classic on your ride calendar next year. More information is available on line at [www.killingtonclassic.com](http://www.killingtonclassic.com)

**W**elcome to all our new MAL’s and new chapters. The Red Knights now have over 150 members-at-large (including members in Europe) and 199 chapters. Our new chapters since the last newsletter are:

- Auckland-1 (New Zealand), New York- 22 & 23, Tennessee– 3 & 4, Oklahoma-1, Virginia-7, 8 & 9, Florida-2, Ontario-12, New Jersey- 15 & 16, Minnesota-2 & 3, Tennessee-2, Pennsylvania-14, 15 & 16, New Mexico-1, Georgia-10 & 11, Ohio-10, Oregon-1, Vermont-3, Texas-6, British Columbia-2, Alabama-3, North Carolina-6, Louisiana-5, Maryland– 6 Nebraska-1 and Illinois-9

**Welcome everyone!**

**the Chapters**



*What is your chapter up to?*

Let us know what your chapter does throughout the year that may be of interest to your brother and sister Red Knights. Brag a little (in the newsletter and on the web page). Send our newsletter editor info and pictures on your chapter events!



Red Knights – Maryland 4 participated at Rolling Thunder in Washington, DC over the Memorial Day weekend in May. During the event they witnessed another rider go down. As we would expect, our members were some of the first to act and help out a fellow rider. Here, MD-4 members Susan Smith, Barbara Kile, Mike Allen, and President "Hutch" Hutchinson assist with first aid until DCFD arrived. (The rider down was not a member of Red Knights). We have all witnessed similar situations, and I am proud to know that our members, though "off duty," are always willing to jump in and help others when their help is needed!

Barbara Kile, Mike Allen, and President "Hutch" Hutchinson assist with first aid until DCFD arrived. (The rider down was not a member of Red Knights). We have all witnessed similar situations, and I am proud to know that our members, though "off duty," are always willing to jump in and help others when their help is needed!

On Saturday, July 10th 2004 the Red Knights of Palm Coast, Chapter 11 sponsored a tri-county poker run to raise funds for a local charity, Family Matters.

Family Matters provides low cost or free daycare to children in Flagler County. They provide after school tutoring and a wide range of interesting activities from karate to Irish step dancing to SCUBA instruction.

The poker run, which started in Flagler Beach, went on to the Volusia County. Then they went on to Bunnell, and St. Augustine.

Many local businesses showed their support with donations of prizes for the raffles.

For the Red Knights Chapter 11, who were founded only last September, it was their first charity run and was considered a success by all for raising \$1,368.00 for Family Matters and for providing great fun and fellowship for bikers from three counties.

**Incident at Little League International – August 17, 2004  
(From the North Central Pennsylvania Portal)**

A woman and man were headed north on U.S. 15 when they pulled off the road onto at parking lot on Little League International property. The woman exited the vehicle, calling for help. The man in the vehicle apparently was in some great distress.

Responding on the scene were: Tom Lyons (Deputy Fire Chief, Clifton, N.J.) Mike Adams (Williamsport Fire Department) — both at the Little League events as part of the volunteer staff — and Little League employees Jim Ferguson and Ron Scott.

The man had no discernible pulse. Mr. Ferguson called 911 by

cell phone, and the four began CPR. By the time paramedics arrived, the man was breathing on his own and had a pulse. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Little League International is proud of all those who devote their time an energy to making the Little League Baseball World Series a fun and safe event for everyone. We're particularly proud -- but not particularly surprised -- that Tom, Mike, Jim and Ron responded so

**Florida-1 supports the drive to raise funds for the Red Knights Memorial**

Florida Chapter 1 is selling RKMCM ball hats to raise money for the Red Knights International Memorial. The price of the hat is \$15.00. All of the profit goes to the Memorial Fund. Shipping is free.

Anyone interested in making a purchase please contact Jack Downs at 12040 S.W. 26 Court. Davie, Florida 33330, telephone (954) 474-1644 or E-Mail Jack at rkmch1@mindspring.com

Over 250 riders took part in the 6th annual "Red Helmet Ride" on October 2, 2004.

This ride ends at the National Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD at the Fallen Firefighter ceremonies each year.

For more information on the ride visit [www.redhelmetsmcride.org/](http://www.redhelmetsmcride.org/)



The Red Knights are not surprised in their response either... and are very proud of our Pennsylvania Member-

## Gathering of our *Clan* at Americade!

In my teens motorcycling was inexpensive and fun, basic transportation. In my twenties riding became *competition, roadracing, and dirt-tracking*. In my thirties – and later – riding became roadriding and touring.

At first, my road riding was influenced by my prior racing experience: corners were the only interesting part. At day's end there was a feeling of having "conquered the road," but although it was totally absorbing, it wasn't particularly relaxing.

Then I had the chance to ride an HD WideGlide up the Pacific Coast Highway: feet out on the highway pegs, leaning back, and looking up.

My goodness! There were things to be seen: hawks circling above the cliffs, interesting cloud formations. Lots of things which my former "look intensely at the road" focus had missed. At the end of that day, I felt relaxed and mellow.

Finally, I *got it!* You can go fast and miss most of the scenery, OR you can kick back and see the wonderful world around us. It's an attitude thing – attitude is everything!

Bill Dutcher, Americade Director .

Mr. Dutcher's epiphany probably helped him realize the idea of Americade. Kick back, and enjoy what is around you! And with an estimated 60,000 motorcycle enthusiasts joining in with him at Lake George, NY, I think he got it right! What started out in 1983 with 3,000 participants has grown each and every year bringing thousands of people to the beautiful Adirondack Mountains to enjoy each other's company, motorcycles and vendors of every design, and great riding! Americade followers bring something else as well – over \$50 million into the Lake George economy and looked upon as single



largest economic week to the Lake George Region. Hundreds of thousands of those dollars spent at Americade have also gone to local charities courtesy of the visiting motorcyclists like yourselves.

The Red Knights Motorcycle Club has been a part of the Americade celebration for many years. In a recent email from Mr. Dutcher, he Thanked the RKMC for being a wonderful group, and that "[the Red Knights] add a lot to Americade."

Look at any of Americade's publications over the past years and you can always find Red Knights in the pictures. From the opening ceremonies and Monday night block party to the awards show, fireworks, and parade, our members are in the thick of it with our "feet on the highway pegs, leaning back, and looking up." In other words... having a great time in a great place.

Americade is so successful not only because of Mr. Dutcher's vision and the Lake George scenery – it's also because of the volunteer army that works to make Americade special.

Some 400 people volunteer to make sure that every year Americade week is better than the year before – and the Red Knights are in those ranks too.

From behind the scenes like parking bikes, working at the RK dinner, and working at the Poker Runs are all tasks that are essential. Also, the Red Knights ran one of the Roaring Brook seminars (this year on "Planning for a Long-distance Trip"). We have members who are helping to give something back to Americade to ensure that it continues into the future.

There is so much going on during that first week of June in Lake George. Come join us next year and

## Red Knights' statistics at Americade:

- Wednesday evening Three-course Dinner at Roaring Brook, hosted by the RKMC  
Over 315 people served... and 100 **Door Prizes given out!**  
Thanks to every individual and every chapter that donated door prizes to make this such a successful event!
- Thursday evening open house at the Lake George Fire Station  
283 Red Knights enjoyed the meal and hospitality provided by NY-12 our Lake George host chapter. Thank you to all their members for another great year at the LGFD!
- Saturday morning parade.  
Adorned with our colors, flags, and balloons over 75 Red Knights motorcycles were part of the

**Red Knights Int. Firefighters Motorcycle Club Inc.**  
**Leo J. Patry, Treasurer**

**Reminder to all Chapter Presidents**  
**International Membership Dues**

Membership dues payable to the International run from January 1 until December 31 of each year. A grace period for payment is granted from January 1 until March 31. After that date chapter dues are subject to a \$50.00 late payment fee.

**2005 Dues Rates:**

There are eight classifications of membership:

1. Charter Member – An active member that has joined a chapter within one year of the chapter being chartered. See Section 4:08
2. Active Member – Is available to anyone who has been a member of the fire service, See Section 4:04
3. Associate Member – A person who has never been in the fire service. See section 4:05
4. Social member – The spouse, boyfriend (1) Girlfriend (1) offspring's of an Active or Associate member or member-at-Large. See Section 4:06
5. Special Honorary Member – Granted to a person of a recognized religion for the position of chapter chaplain. See Section 4:07
6. Member-at-Large – Person's who qualify for Active membership but are too far removed from any established chapter to join. See Section 's 2:01 & 2:01A
7. Life membership – See Section 2:01
8. Compassionate Honorary Member – See Section 2:01 (8)

Dues for new members joining a chapter shall be \$8.00 per member in their first year of membership and will be pro-rated at the rate of 25% reduction in the third quarter and 50% reduction in the fourth quarter.

- Active or Associate Member \$7.00 each
- Social or Honorary Member \$4.00 each
- Compassionate Honorary Member no charge
- New member any classification \$8.00

Dues for chapters are to be sent in U.S. funds to the International treasurer: Please be sure to include a current membership roster which has the members Name, Address, Zip or postal code, Phone number including area code, and Email address if they have one. And lastly their membership status Active, Associate, Social, Honorary, Life or Compassionate Honorary.

Leo Patry (613) 353-1790  
6000 Battersea Road leo.patry@sympatico.ca  
R.R. # 2  
Battersea, Ontario Canada K0H 1H0

A motorcycle is like a modern day magic carpet, whisking you off to Disney World, or Death Valley, or both. For us riders the bike is a more enjoyable alternative to a plane, a train, a car, but travel is not so much the motorcycle as the motorcyclist. Some people like to sleep home every night, others want to see the sun rise from the Atlantic Ocean and see it disappear in the Pacific. Motorcyclists tend to fall in the latter category.

Want to be alone? Take your ride for a thousand miles along the dirt roads that parallel the Continental Divide. Want a lot of people? Change the oil and put a new tire on the bike and head for [one of the many rallies throughout North America.]

Travel is good. Travel clears the mind. Travel teaches you about other people and other cultures. Ask the Montana rancher if you can pitch a tent down by the river. Dance the alligator stomp with the Cajuns in bayou country. Go way Down East and stuff your face with the freshest lobster you will ever have the pleasure of eating. The more strangers you meet, the more friends you make, the better world it is.

The United States and Canada are big countries, and we live in an even bigger world [which includes our members in New Zealand and Europe as well]. We should all get out and see as much of it as possible. Get on your bike, whatever the make or model, and go see what lies around the corner, over the horizon, or at the end of the rainbow. You'll be glad you did!

HRCA magazine, June 2004



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AVAILABLE 12" 14" 16" OR CUSTOM LENGTHS  
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## Three Degrees of Separation — by Pat Hahn – taken from [www.ride4ever.org](http://www.ride4ever.org)

On your motorcycle, your riding strategy, physical skills, and protective gear—in that order—are what separate you from the ground. These are the three degrees of separation. By themselves, each of the three degrees can save you. Combined, they create a nearly impenetrable defense against the hazards motorcyclists face every day.

Riding strategy is your first degree of separation, because mental skills, as you know, make up 90% of everyday riding. One hundred percent attention to your surroundings, accurate detection and perception of road hazards and risks, and sound judgment and decision making are the primary keys of a good riding strategy.

Attitude also plays a part. Taking responsibility for your own actions is easy, but because you, the motorcyclist, will more likely suffer bodily harm in the event of a crash, then you, the motorcyclist, must take responsibility for everyone else's actions as well. This means being tuned into not only your self, your bike, and your environment, but also being aware of other drivers, correctly anticipating their behavior, and effectively avoiding hazards before they place you at risk. Ideally, a skilled rider avoids hazards before they even become hazards.

Physical skills are your second degree of separation. Though they make up only a small percentage of everyday riding, when you really need them, they instantly become 90% of your survival. When something breaks through your mental barrier (as any hazard worth its weight is prone to do), instinct, self-preservation, and adrenaline have to take over. At these moments, if your physical response isn't the correct one, you'll immediately need to rely on your third degree of separation: protective gear.

Protective riding gear is your backup in case your first two lines of defense crumble. When something finds its way past your first two barriers, what you're wearing is all you have left. It's technically a combination of the first and second degrees. Mentally, it falls under

preparation. Physically, it protects you from the ravages of the pavement and the elements—such as heat, wind, and cold that can affect your ability to concentrate and operate the bike.

In theory, your mental strategy can protect you from everything. For those times when your brain can't save you, your physical skills and ability to control your motorcycle are your backup plan. What your mind and skills can't protect you from, your riding gear has to. Each degree of separation can stand on its own, but is far more potent when combined with the others.

Let's look at an example of the three degrees of separation:

Meet Veemax Vince. Vince loves his bike. He uses it for commuting, transportation, traveling, and recreation. He likes the way he looks on his bike. He likes the way it makes him feel.

Unfortunately, Vince doesn't use a riding strategy, has never taken rider training, and doesn't wear protective gear. But Vince genuinely thinks he knows how to handle his bike. Besides, he's ridden for two years without an accident. He knows what he's doing. Right?

One day, Vince is on his way home from work. It's 4:30, summer, the sun's shining, and the traffic is the typical for rush-hour. He's wearing penny loafers, slacks, a shirt and tie, and sunglasses. He's riding down Last Chance Avenue, an urban four-laner that has no median, stop lights every four blocks, and a 30 mph speed limit. There's no parking on either side of the street, and gas stations, liquor stores, motels, and apartment buildings are spaced evenly apart. Vince is five minutes from work and five minutes from home.

Vince approaches a four-way intersection. He's got the green light and he's in the left lane. His plan (if you could call it that) is cruising straight on through at 30 mph. On the far right corner of the intersection is a convenience store. In the right lane, in front of the convenience store, is a big delivery truck, parked illegally, with its

flashers on. The truck is blocking Vince's view of the store's exit.

The truck is also blocking the view of Sherry Cavalier, the woman trying to turn left out of the convenience store, behind the truck. She takes a slug of her Coke, sets it down, looks left and right, doesn't see anyone coming, and pulls out—right in front of Vince. Vince's eyes grow as big as saucers, and he panics. He grabs a big handful of front brake and stomps on the rear. Sherry suddenly sees Vince, her eyes grow as big as saucers, and she panics. She slams on her brakes and stops directly in his path.

Vince's ride is over. He slides, both tires locked and smoking, into Sherry's left-front fender at about 20 mph. He is thrown from his bike, and he vaults over Sherry's hood and lands on the blacktop on his head and forearms.

Twenty minutes later, Vince is on his way to the hospital, in a coma, with a fractured skull, a broken hand, wrist, and collar bone. He's got multiple lacerations on his arms and chest, and a heapin' helpin' of road rash. His bike is bent in half and lying in a pool of gas and oil. Sherry, after giving her tearful statement to the police, drives home with a bent front wheel and crushed fender, sipping the Coke she bought forty minutes ago. It's still cold.

Was there something Vince could've done to prevent this? Yes. There were a number of things he could've done:

If he'd been using a riding strategy, he would've been more cautious riding through the intersection. He would've known the most dangerous place for a motorcyclist is an intersection. He might have slowed down, and covered his brakes and clutch to reduce his reaction time. He may have noticed the big blind spot created by the delivery truck, and slowed even more or adjusted his position to accommodate it.

Continued on next page

### Three degrees of Separation (continued)

If he'd taken rider training, he'd have known how to use his brakes properly, and possibly been able to stop, or slow his bike enough to avoid the crash with a quick swerve.

If he'd been wearing a helmet, gloves, and a jacket, he might have gotten up, dusted himself off, and spent the next ten minutes yelling at Sherry. Then he would've spent the rest of the afternoon mourning the loss of his beautiful bike.

Any one of the three degrees of separation probably would've changed the outcome dramatically in Vince's favor. Had Vince been using all of them simultaneously, this accident likely never would have happened.

If you already use the three degrees, great. If you don't, it's time to start: If you don't have a riding strategy, create one. If you have never taken a safety course, take one. And if you don't wear protective gear, get some—the best you can afford.

But is there more to riding than just the three degrees? You bet. The three degrees cannot protect you from everything—but they can protect you 99 percent of the time. For ideas on how to protect yourself from the one percenters, look for my new book *Ride Hard, Ride Smart—Advanced Strategies for Serious Riders*, due out in March, 2004. In RH, RS, I use the three degrees of separation as a springboard into more advanced riding strategies: dealing with other drivers, choosing the safest route, vision and visibility, when not to ride, intersections, risk and hazard hierarchy, speed differential, shadowing, the soft lane change, understanding traffic flow, and group riding, among other concepts. As a bonus, there is an in-depth look at the Hurt Study, and what it means today.

### From the desk of the International Vice President Jack Downs

This letter is always fun to write because of the time of year. Our Annual Convention business is behind us and we are looking towards the holidays. I hope Santa brings me a football team for Christmas because the Dolphins are not doing well!

The Convention was a huge success with the highlight for me being the road trip to the Canadian Rockies. Everyone agreed that the water falls and mountains were just beautiful. We were all taken by surprise by the beauty when we got to the glaciers.

The body has elected me to serve as Vice-president for another two-year term. I am very proud to be your choice and will continue to give you the best service possible. Congratulations to all the board members who were elected at the convention. We had a number of new people that joined the board this year and Mike Adams was re-elected for another year to represent the Members-At-Large. In attendance this year all the way from Switzerland was MAL Daniel Waldspurger. Daniel was a big hit and a fun person to party with.

Unfortunately in route to convention two of our members, Rabbit and Doreen Roberge had a problem and went down on their bike and were hurt. Their injuries were not life threatening but serious. I am happy to report they are back on their feet and doing fine. Rabbit we missed you and Doreen at convention. We hope to see you next year.

A special thanks to all of the members of Alberta 1 for their work to host our convention. After I arrived at the hotel and looked at the convention agenda I thought I was going to have to extend my stay just to "get it all done" in the time provided. The term they use in Edmonton when you fall behind schedule is "Fast Track It". I have heard that term in hospitals but never on a fire ground or at a Red Knight convention. But there were a few times I heard Don and Brian holler just "fast track it!" Then within no time we were back on schedule again. Gary, Grant, Bob, Brian, Don and all of the committee members – thanks for a wonderful time. I will not forget the fun I had in Edmonton.

We have turned another corner in the organization with the approval to restructure the Executive Board and by adding Regional Directors. This is an opportunity to provide better service to our members. It was necessary to increase the size of the board to keep you informed of the growth, activity, events and problems we are faced with in our organization. Thank you, the members, for approving the recommended changes.

There are now Regional Directors to assist the chapters. One of the first things the Regional Director is going to do is meet with the State Representatives. If your State has two or more chapters you should have a State Representative. If your state does not have a representative then the Regional Director will assist the chapters in the process of electing a representative.

Chapters should also each establish a Constitution and Bylaws. Should your Chapter take the position not to have a Constitution and Bylaws you will be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the International. All Chapters should have a current copy of the International Constitution and Bylaws (now available on disc or off the webpage). Please make sure your Chapter's Bylaws are up to date and that the International Secretary has a copy as the International must approve the Bylaws of every Chapter.

Keep in mind that although we are still a social organization, the International Executive Board must approve any action taken by a Chapter because the local charter comes from the International. Any member or Chapter Officer can contact any of the International Officers at any time and for any reason. If a Chapter Officer or member has a question about vests, patches and rockers, colors, a bitch, a gripe – about anything – please give us a call. Colors and meetings are the hot topic at the moment. It is important for Chapters to meet regularly with their members but the International has not approved mandatory attendance to Chapter meetings.

I hope everyone has a great holiday. Keep riding and having fun. Be safe!

Sincerely and Fraternaly  
Jack C. Downs

*Be a part of the  
Red Knights Anniversary  
Yearbook*

The Red Knights are planning a 25th Anniversary (once in a lifetime) Book about the first 25 years of the Red Knights. I am chairing this project and am looking for participation from EVERY chapter!

What I am going to need from each chapter is any information you can give me about your chapter and also information that the M.A.L.s can give me too!

How and when your chapters started, the charter members of each club, photos of club events and people (past and present).

I am thinking about maybe having a section of like "Passport Pictures" of all present members of each club.

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

It is also great that we have a few years to work on this project and make it the best it can be. If there are others who would like to be part of this team, please let me know (cfr6@juno.com).

The printer has told me that we can get a leather-covered book in the price range of about \$60.00.

Yes, It is only 2004 and the book will be coming out in 2007. But that gives us time to do this right and be a project that we will be proud to show others.

Thanks everyone,  
Clayton Thomas

*RKMC Business at the 2004 Convention*

The annual meeting of the Red Knights International was held at the convention in Edmonton on Saturday, August 21. There were 25 voting chapters in attendance and 155 registered members at the convention.

At the time of the convention there were 198 chapters and 174 MALs in the Red Knights organization.

Long time International Secretary Mike Leblanc chose not to run for re-election. The International expresses its sincere gratitude to Mike for his years of service to the organization. Bill Snodgrass from Ohio was elected International Secretary. Jack Downs of Florida was re-elected as International Vice-president.

Ten chapters had their charters revoked during the meeting for failure to keep current with the International.

After discussion, the proposal to eliminate the two-tiered board system within the International and replace it with a nine member voting board passed unanimously.

The new members of the board's structure include: Dave Emery of Vermont-2 as the North-east District Director; Gene Downs of Florida-1, as the SE District Director; Carl Meyers of Illinois-2, as the Central District Director; and Graham Clark of Alberta-1, as the Western District Director.

Bylaw changes voted on at the convention included wording changes to reflect the new board make-up and authorizing an allotment for the board members to assist them with travel expenses for the meetings of the board that take place.

The convention for 2005 will be in Toronto followed by New York City, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Panama City Beach, Florida.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As some of you already know I chose to step down as the International Secretary this year. The Secretary's position is one of the two most important jobs in any organization or business the other being the Treasurer. I served two years as the Secretary to the board and 4 years as the Executive Secretary. I like to think that I gave it my best effort and accomplished many of the goals I set out to do.

In my terms I helped to finally put the vest issue to sleep and make it safe for all our members to display their choice of colors anywhere in the world. I helped set up an advertising campaign that increased our chapter numbers from 69 to over 200 to include 2 chapters in New Zealand.

The newly formed style of the Board will greatly increase the communications link between the membership and it will make a better working environment for the future growth of the Red Knights through out the world.

But unfortunately being a full time firefighter, a husband and the father of a 12 year old boy takes a lot of time and I feel it is time to devote more time to my family and career.

I will still be there at conventions, area rides and I will also be available to anyone who has a question or situation that they feel I might be able to help with. So for now thank you all for your support. And who knows maybe somewhere down the road I will make another mark in the history of the Red Knights International.

Stay Safe,  
Mike (CUE) LeBlanc — Red Knights RI 1

## RED KNIGHTS Grand Tour

### *What is the Grand Tour?*

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

### How do I earn a Grand Tour Pin

In order to earn a Grand Tour Pin you must first get an application form from the G.T. chairperson, then during the course of one (1) riding season you must visit nine (9) fire Stations whose names begin with the letters G R A N D T O U R, or twelve Fire Stations beginning with any letter of the alphabet (this is for members who live in some of the more remote areas and may not be able to come up with Stations beginning with the letters g r a n d t o u r ). You must have a picture of you and your motorcycle taken at each Station, with the name sign visible. Co-riders may also earn a pin and a rider and co-rider may have their picture taken together.

When you have completed your visits simply fill out the application form and return it with your pictures to the

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

GT chairperson and he/she will send you your certificate and pin.

Photo albums will be kept displaying pictures of everyone who has completed the Grand Tour and will be available at all future conventions. So if you would like to see this program continue please get out there and support it.

Henry Heideman

hmheideman@sympatico.ca – 905-372-6073  
Grand Tour Chairman

*Join the RKMC Grand Tour! Participate by yourself, with a few friends, or with your chapter and help spread the word about the Red Knights to fire departments around your area*

If you have pictures from your **GRAND TOUR** that you would like posted on the web page, get them to our editor and they will be posted at  
[www.redknightsmc.org/GT.HTM](http://www.redknightsmc.org/GT.HTM)

To all SE Regional chapters,

I would like to thank everyone responsible for electing me your SE Regional Director. I am very excited about the "new" tier of officers that the International Red Knights Motorcycle Club has adopted. I think this new approach to chapter communication will bring the chapters closer with the International Board and the direction we need to head for in the future.

I have been introducing myself to the State Representatives within the SE Region and asking for current information from each State Rep to eliminate any possible break down between each state and the International Board.

There will be a new "job description" for the State Reps explaining the duties that are expected. Also, along with "job descriptions" there will be "Standard Order Of Procedures" (SOP) to establish guidelines for each State Rep. Brothers, we are growing, and with this growth we must operate in such a manner that will be consistent, fair and have everyone working off the same page.

Since my short time working closer with the International Board I have been exposed to

some very exciting ideas and new progressive direction on the near horizon as well as long range plans of action. The next few years are going to be very exciting.

I look forward to working with each state rep within the SE Region and plan to travel as much as I can visiting with the different chapters within the SE Region. Even though I will be working mainly with the State Reps I want to operate an "OPEN DOOR" policy with each member within the SE Region and invite anyone who needs to communicate with me to feel free to do so, thanks to Bob Laford, our International web master, I have an email box and Red Knights email address separate from my personal one, this information is posted on our International web site as well as here [sedirector@redknightsmc.com](mailto:sedirector@redknightsmc.com). Ride Safe and "Let Us Never Forget 9-11-01.

--  
Fraternally,  
Gene Downs  
International Red Knights  
Southeast Regional Director

Did you see the August issue of Motorcycle Consumer News? In the collage of Americade pictures in the magazine was a picture of International President Ed Brouillet and Sparky the Fire Dog riding in the Americade Parade!

Don Brandon from Alberta-1 sent around an email on September 8 saying that it was snowing in parts of Alberta! Guess having the convention in August was the best idea. What's the motto there... **"nine months of winter and three months of poor sledding?"**

~~~~~  
*Did you see all the pictures from the convention that are posted on our webpage? Visit [www.redknightsmc.com/ALB\\_04.HTM](http://www.redknightsmc.com/ALB_04.HTM) for dozens of great shots!*

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Gordon Mayhew – 450-377-4224  
266 Dufferin, Valley Field, Quebec, Canada

## CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?!?

A study in New Zealand recently reported in the British Medical Journal showed what most of us already know – that more conspicuous motorcycle riders are more likely to arrive at their destination safely. Researchers compared 463 riders involved in accidents with 1,233 randomly selected riders in the same New Zealand region.

Simple things that increased the rider's visibility dramatically reduced accidents and injuries. Riders wearing fluorescent or reflective clothing had a 37 percent lower risk of a crash or collision compared with other riders. Compared with using a black helmet, wearing a white helmet reduced the rider's risk by 24 percent. Finally, using daytime headlights reduced the risk of having an accident by 27 percent. Be seen!!

Have you visited the **Red Knights Message Board** on line? It is a great place to visit with others that are members and friends of the Red Knights. There is a forum for general discussion, one to list things for sale, one for Rides and Events, one for "Good and Welfare" to keep us informed of ill or injured members, and another specifically for Red Knights Officers to share ideas back and fourth.

Visit the site online at [www.redknightsmc.com/forum](http://www.redknightsmc.com/forum).

## RKMC Help-A-Knight Registration Form

*Please Print Information and Check All Statements That Apply*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St./Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

This is a **New**  
registration

This is a  
**Change** to my  
information

To Help-A-Knight I will: (circle appropriate numbers)

1. Take calls for information about my area. No Collect Calls.
2. Allow a Red Knight to stay overnight in my home
3. Allow a Red Knight to put up a tent on my property
4. Allow a Red Knight to leave a bike on my property
5. Bring my SAE tools to a Help-A-Knight who has broken down
6. Pick up a Red Knight's bike with my pick-up truck or trailer
7. Bring my Metric tools to Help-A-Knight who has broken down
8. Someone in my home speaks French

Fall 2004

MAIL TO:  
Bob LaFord  
276 West Road  
Petersham, MA 01366  
CALL: 978-724-3270  
E-MAIL:  
[rflaford@tiac.net](mailto:rflaford@tiac.net)

Have you ever been traveling and thought, "Gee I don't know anyone around here. Where is the best place to eat, stay, or get my bike worked on?" That's what the Help-A-Knight program is for – to maintain a database of Red Knights who are willing to accept telephone calls and help fellow Red Knights. Some of the help may be for information, or other options you may help on is if a RK member can stay overnight, pitch a tent in your yard, or leave their bike at your house.

The **Red Knights Help-a-Knight** program available on line at [www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf](http://www.redknightsmc.org/HAK.pdf)  
(You need Adobe Acrobat to read the file).

We will continually update the version that is available on our web page. Below is the registration form to add or update your information in the H-A-K program.

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

**The 2005 Red Knights International Convention — Toronto, Ontario, Canada August 11 – 14, 2005**

Fellow Red Knights,

Ontario 1 would like to extend an invitation to all chapters to join us in Toronto for the Red Knights International Convention in 2005

For additional information or updates visit our web site at,  
<http://ca.geocities.com/rkmcon1@rogers.com>

From the Office of the Executive Secretary

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank the members of Alberta 1 for hosting our convention in Edmonton. Those of you, who missed this event, missed a great time and a beautiful trip to the Canada Rockies.

I would also like to thank the members who supported me in the election for Executive Secretary. As you may know I have replaced Mike Leblanc who served as your Executive Secretary. A big thanks goes to Mike for the job that he has done for the Red Knights.

We are growing in membership and chapters. Since the convention we have 29 requests for new chapter applications and have 9 new chapters. At this time I write this, we have 194 chapters and over 5200 members. We are working on system to help us track when and where we send applications so that we can work with the Regional Directors to follow up on them.

The Executive Board is hard at work with the restructuring of the Board and updating the By Laws. With the new Regional Directors we are working to have a State/Province Representative in each State and Province as well as the formation of State and Provincial Associations. The outlook for our Association is brighter than ever before. As we continue to grow these changes will make management of the Red Knights more efficient and give the Chapters more say in their States, Provinces and Regions.

I am here to serve you the membership. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bill "Popeye" Snodgrass  
Executive Secretary

Some of the events that you can expect to enjoy are:

- **A pre convention trip** to one of the seven natural wonders of the world, Niagara Falls. Including a stop at a vineyard, with samples, time in Niagara Falls, an activity, ie. Maid of the Mist, and a visit to Niagara on the Lake. This will be limited according to the numbers that are interested. We are also looking at entertainment packages, which include a one stay in a downtown hotel, dinner meal at one of a number of restaurants and a choice of entertainment, theater, and sports.
- **Thursday** is a ride to Elgin Park in Uxbridge with a BBQ Hog Town style.
- **Friday** will have a tour by bus of Toronto and a harbor tour of the waterfront and for those that are interested a tour of the CN Tower, the tallest free standing structure in the world.
- **Saturday** will have the how and Shine, the banquet and entertainment and of course the dinner along with dancing into the weeee hours.
- **Sunday** is the hit the road breakfast and more food to get you on your way.

More information and registration will be out with the Spring Newsletter... keep an eye on the RKMC Website too!

Words from a founding father...

We received this note posted on our Message Board and thought all of you would like to read it.

I was surfing and found this page when I *googled* my name! What a surprise. I was one of eleven firefighters in Central Massachusetts that wanted to get a club going for firefighters that ride. I contacted the Blue Knights in Maine to make sure they didn't have an objection to us (you) using the "knights" portion of the title. I penned the original By-Laws and Constitution and I successfully petitioned the Massachusetts legislature to get the "RK" license plates for bikes (I still have the first five years' of "RK 1" plates from Massachusetts). Unfortunately, I was the first to drop membership because I got rid of my bike.

Now look at you all! I can't believe how the club has grown. When I left the club there were three Mass, two Conn', a couple of Canadian chapters. CONGRATULATIONS!!! What really makes me proud is that I am named on the RKMC History page, (along with some great people that I have not seen in quite a long time), and that I was part of the creation of an apparently well respected club!

I would like very much to try to attend the 2007 convention in Boylston so I can see for myself how you have grown. Take care, and ride safe - there's someone out there that loves you. Wishing the club the best!

Norm Beausoleil, [no longer] a Charter Member of MA #1.

# Red Knights Motorcycle Club

c/o 276 West Road  
Petersham, MA 01366  
USA

www.redknightsmc.org

Look inside for information on the Conventions in Alberta and Toronto, Americade in Lake George, happenings around the chapters, and much, much more!

Another year, another routine Red Knights International gathering...**NOT!** Alberta-1 took the challenge and hosted the 2004 Convention and what a convention it was! In '04 Alberta 1 had a few "first times" in Edmonton

*For the first time* a Pre-trip was held before the convention. The Pre-Trip to the Canadian Rockies was awesome! There were 41 people that were totally taken with the beauty of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Our fantastic tour guide, Jaqi, provided the names of the Rocky Mountains and some history lessons as well as some fun times throughout the trip. Everyone had lots of fun and laughs.

*For the first time* a member attended from a country other than Canada or the U.S. Daniel Waldspurger from Switzerland joined us in Edmonton! He flew into Calgary, rented a motorcycle, and then drove to Edmonton for the convention.

*For the first time...* a professional singer sang the three national anthems of the countries of our chapters; United States, Canada and New Zealand. She did a stupendous job!

*For the first time* a beautiful silver fire bell was sounded three

times after each member's name was read at the memorial portion at the banquet. There were a few tears as we remembered our friends

The 2004 convention was action packed from Thursday through Sunday. *On Thursday*, there was a pub crawl where folks got to visit with old and new friends at several drinking/eating establishments in the city. Almost everyone participated in this well-planned and fun event. *On Friday*, there was a police escort from the host hotel to the Fort Edmonton Park. There were over 80 motorcycles in the parade. At the Fort Edmonton Park we feasted on barbecue steaks and all the fixings – what awesome food!

At Fort Edmonton, Keith Sandulak, the Cartoonist was so popular he had to be relocated to the host hotel to continue his cartoon drawings (donations for the drawings went to the Fire Fighters Burn Treatment Society). *On Saturday*, we must have used up all the good weather with the Pre-trip and the beginning of the convention. With some rain on hand the Show and Shine was more show than shine!

The banquet was well attended with the ceremonies, swearing in of new officers, a delicious meal, and

live entertainment.

*On Sunday*, as with any fun-filled convention, there is an end. The Farewell Breakfast was well attended which is always sad because it means our friends are leaving the host city and heading home – this year in the pouring rain.

The '04 Convention Committee worked well as a team and it showed! From the hard work on this convention and through people's generosity, not only did everyone have a great time, but Alberta 1 was able to make donations to the "Edmonton Fire Fighters Burn Treatment Society" and "Red Knights Motorcycle Club Memorial" and, at a later date, a donation will be made to the "Edmonton Fire Fighters Benevolent Fund." Thank you all for making these donations possible!!!!

See you in Toronto in 2005!

# Red Knights' Questionnaire

What do you think about the Red Knights? What is going right? What could be done better? This is your chance to let the

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter

Mail completed questionnaires to  
International Secretary Bill Snodgrass  
1677 Jackson Road, Columbus, Ohio U.S.A. 43223

## How to contact your International Officers:

- **President:**  
Edward Brouillet  
326 Minott Road  
Westminster, MA, USA, 01473  
978-632-8230 –  
RKMA2@net1plus.com
- **Vice President:**  
Jack Downs  
12040 S.W. 26 Court,  
Davie, FL USA, 33330  
954-474-1644 –  
vice\_pres@redknightsmc.com
- **Executive Secretary:**  
Bill "Popeye" Snodgrass  
1677 Jackson Road  
Columbus, Ohio U.S.A. 43223  
614-271-8577 –  
Secretary@redknightsmc.com
- **Treasurer:**  
Leo Patry  
6000 Battersea Rd. R.R. # 2  
Battersea, Ontario, Canada, K0H 1H0  
613-353-1790 –  
leo.patry@sympatico.ca
- **Quartermaster:**  
Joe Conroy  
3 Rocky Pine Road  
Richmond, RI, U.S.A. 02892  
401-491-9071  
quartermaster@redknightsmc.com
- **North-east Director:**  
Dave Emery  
119 Forest Street  
Brattleboro, VT, U.S.A. 05301  
802-254-4487 – djebfd@yahoo.com
- **South-east Director:**  
Gene Downs  
1102 N.W. 81 Terrace  
Plantation, FL U.S.A. 33322  
(954) 916-9456 –  
sedirector@redknightsmc.com
- **Central Director:**  
Carl Meyers  
3100 W. 114th Street  
Merrionette Park, ILL U.S.A. 60803  
(708) 389-9367 – carlmed1@aol.com
- **Western Director:**  
Graham Clark  
34 Alexander Drive  
Leduc, Alberta, Canada, T9E 5H3  
(780) 986-0397
- **Newsletter Editor and Webmaster**  
Bob Laford  
276 West Road,  
Petersham, MA, USA, 01366  
978-724-3270 – rflaford@tiac.net

Any chapter in need of Red Knights Membership Cards should contact International Secretary Bill Snodgrass.

Y or N – Do you have a copy of the Help-A-Knight Program?

Y or N – Do you know what the Help-A-Knight Program is?

Y or N – Have you ever used the Help-A-Knight Program?

Y or N – Should the International continue the Help-a-Knight program?

What do you as a member suggest we do to encourage chapters to pay their International dues on time (before the March 31st deadline)

What can we do to make the club better for you?

What events or issues would you like to see covered in the newsletters?

What do you expect from the International?

What can we do to make the club better for you?

How long would you like the International conventions to run.

Y or N – Should the International take the profits from the 50/50 raffle and put them in our International memorial fund?

Please feel free to forward other comments and questions to the International Secretary.