



**RED KNIGHTS
INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS
MOTORCYCLE CLUB®
Boylston, Massachusetts Est. 1982**

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To My Red Knight Family,

It's hard to believe that 2025 is here and another year is behind us. Region 1 has grown slightly over this past year adding a total of 22 members to the overall membership in the Northeast. But as we grow we must and will always remember the 17 Region 1 members that have passed during 2024 and are now memorialized in Boylston, Mass.

Region 1 now consists of:

8 States
98 Chapters
2772 Chapter Members
31 Members at Large
2803 Total Members

I need to start my report with the 2024 Dixie Rally which was held in Statesville, North Carolina. I wasn't registered to attend the rally, due to prior commitments, one in New Hampshire and the other in Maine. So, on May 16th, I was heading to Boylston, Massachusetts to stay for the evening at the Red Knights Memorial Hall. It's amazing how receiving one phone call can change your plans in a second. That call told me that my son was involved in a motorcycle accident while attending the Dixie Rally. He was taken to the area Trauma Center with sever back pain. Well, after driving 5 hours North, I turned around and started an 800-mile trip south to North Carolina. I received numerous phone calls and messages from Red Knights, some whom I didn't even know. Most just wanting to make sure I was okay driving and others updating me on my son's condition. I even received calls making sure I would have a place to stay once I arrived in North Carolina. I finally arrived at around 2:00 AM, to find Red Knights still up waiting for me so they can pass along what they knew. Later that day I found out that my son had broken several vertebrae in his back, but thankfully sustained no serious damage. Once released from the hospital he would need to stay in NC for several more days before heading home to New Jersey. A North Carolina Red Knight made sure we didn't stay in a hotel, and they put us up in their home. My son had to wear a back brace for several months and then Physical Therapy. The support my family received from members of NC, NJ, NY, IN, MA, GA and even Switzerland was amazing. I would also like to report that because of the Fellowship, Friendship and now Family, my son has fully recovered and just this past December purchased a new HD Road Glide.

"Loyal to Our Duty"



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As Regional Director it is one of my duties to attend meetings, not only with the International, but with the Region 1 States and when possible, the Chapters. So, this past year I attended all 3 In-Person International Board Meetings along with the 8 Zoom Meetings they held. I also attended State and/or Chapter meetings in Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey and New York, bringing back to the Region One membership information as to what is happening not only Internationally, but locally throughout the Region.

Region 1 has had a few changes this year in the leadership of our State Associations and State Representatives. I can only say Thank You to those that served faithfully during their terms in office. Stepping down from the positions was George Colby of Massachusetts, Chuck Weikel of New Jersey, Frank Nestro of New York and George Roy from Vermont. We also welcome their replacements, and I can only wish them success. Kevin Martin (MA), Chris Rogers (NJ), Tim Tordoff (NY) and Ryan Peebles (VT).

It was an unexpected honor when I attended the 2024 April meeting of the New Jersey State Association, where I was shocked as they presented me with the NJ Red Knight of the Year, better known as the "Barry Stires Award." It was literally the first time I was speechless.

The 2nd Annual Red Knights "Steak Night" which was held in May, at Huddy's Inn and Restaurant in Colts Neck, NJ was a great success. Attended by 20 Red Knights from NJ, NY and PA. Hopefully, this annual tradition will continue and expand throughout the club.

I attended the 2024 Yankee Rally in Keene, New Hampshire, which was well attended and included 5 fully escorted rides. One to the Red Knights Memorial in Boylston, MA and a Parade through the town of Keene. I am happy to say that the next couple of Yankee Rallies have been set with 2025 being in Bangor, Maine and 2026 again in the Finger Lakes Region of New York.

My wife and I attended the 2024 International Convention in Leipzig, Germany. What a great time we had, and while I was in meetings with the Board, my wife tagged along with other Red Knight members, visiting the countries of Poland and the Czech Republic. Now all I hear is about her riding in a car doing 147 MPH on the Autobahn. The part of the convention I think I will remember the most, besides the newly acquired friends we made, is when the entire Board was called to the stage, and we were all officially Knighted.

Well, just weeks after returning home from the convention, I was off traveling again. This time to Oklahoma City for the 1st ever Region 6 Scooter Stampede. I took the long route, heading to North Carolina first, to meet up with some Red Knights. Then we headed Memphis, Tennessee



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meeting up with Red Knights from Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, before finally arriving in Oklahoma. Everything they planned was perfect, except for the weather. No, it didn't rain, but man was it hot. Reminded me of the 2015 San Antonio convention.

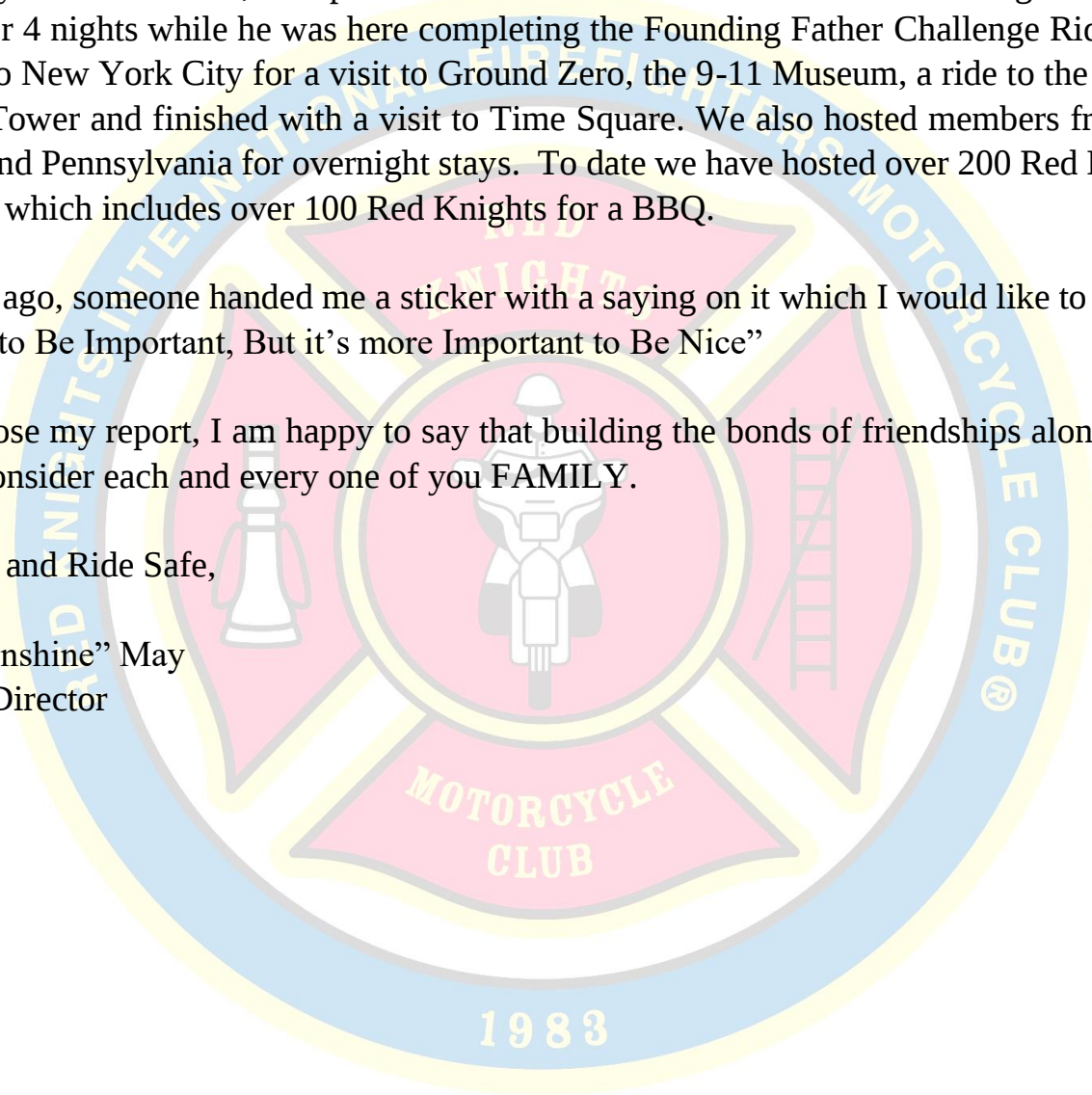
For those of you that know my family, we never turn away any Red Knights traveling through New Jersey. Matter of fact, we opened our home to our first Australian Red Knight visitor, Jeff Morgan for 4 nights while he was here completing the Founding Father Challenge Ride. I even took Jeff to New York City for a visit to Ground Zero, the 9-11 Museum, a ride to the top of the Freedom Tower and finished with a visit to Time Square. We also hosted members from North Carolina and Pennsylvania for overnight stays. To date we have hosted over 200 Red Knights at my house, which includes over 100 Red Knights for a BBQ.

Sometime ago, someone handed me a sticker with a saying on it which I would like to share.
"It's Nice to Be Important, But it's more Important to Be Nice"

So, as I close my report, I am happy to say that building the bonds of friendships along the way is why I consider each and every one of you FAMILY.

God Bless and Ride Safe,

Ken "Moonshine" May
Region 1 Director



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