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PT Reynolds Newsletter Editor

> **The Red Knight Rider** Vewsletter of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club



<u>From The Office Of The</u> <u>Red Knights International President</u> <u>Jack C. Downs</u>



This is my year end report for 2008 and as you can see we are trying something different. We are posting the officers reports on the web site now. This may be more effective to get our message out for three reasons. One, you will get our reports. Members have been telling us they don't get the news letter. That can only mean they are not on our mailing list or the address we have is incorrect. Two, you will get the reports faster. And three the expense is less. After mailing the news letters we are finding a growing increase in return mail. So, we would like to try it this way and see what happens. This should be the answer to a growing problem.

You are going to see some new faces on the Executive Board this year. I would like to welcome Vice President Dick Morse, Eastern Director Spike Ostiguy, Western Director Gil Rekken, International Quartermaster Kent Armstrong to the Executive Board and Newsletter Editor Patrick Reynolds. I am looking forward to working with these Officers. Also congratulations to our Executive Secretary Bill Snodgrass on his re-election.

It was a pleasure working with Vice-President Dave Emery, North East Director John Rucinski, our Quartermaster Bill Collins and of course our Newsletter Editor Bob LaFord. These members have made a huge contribution to our club in so many ways. As the members of the Board are finding out it takes more time and effort to work on the Executive Board these days. At our fall meeting in Syracuse, New York had an agenda with some 34 items to discuss. Generally we only have half that number.

Back when we were restructuring the Executive Board we suggested to you we need help getting our message to our members. That was when Regional Directors were approved. It looks like we were correct in creating the positions of Regional Directors. The Regional Directors are very helpful to both sides of the table. I think we are serving our members to the best of our ability. We have tried to keep up with the growth of our club in so many ways. Our members need to remember the rules we run our International with and the members run their Chapters with are written and accepted for a reason. Everyone needs to work together and stay in compliance with the rules we have agreed to.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know I am looking forward to 2009. This will be my 10th anniversary as an International Board member and 14 years as a Red Knight. I was elected to the board in 1999 and it is a pleasure serving you. I am having a good time being a Red Knight and it is because of the members that makes this feeling possible. As always, if you are ever in South Florida be sure and look me up.

Stay Well and Ride Safe! Jack



Red Knights International Firefighters Memorial Site Report for 2008

As most members are aware we dedicated our Memorial Site in Boylston Massachusetts in August of 2007 this was a very proud moment for our organization in that we were able to dedicate this site to those that were members of the Red Knights when they passed away.

This site was built as a result of the vision and hard work put forth by the members of the Massachusetts chapter 1 with the support of the general membership and chapters.

Three members of the red knights that have gone beyond the norm in volunteering time and Labor to this cause and need to be recognized by the membership for their hard work and dedication to the memorial site are Don Parker, Peter Coskie and Roger Wentzell

The total cost for this project was \$128,152.94 this was done through donations of services and goods from various companies and members along with donations of \$22,141.85 from members and chapters. The International also advanced as an interest free loan the amount of \$23,108.00 to be paid back by continuous fund raising from the chapters. The balance still outstanding in balance of that loan is \$15,641.00 so we still have a long way to go to retire the loan amount.

On top of the loan repayment we need to have a funding project to ensure the continuous care and maintenance of the site. The International Quartermaster has for sale a Red Knights memorial patch which can be viewed on our web site in the quartermaster catalog all profits from the sale of this patch goes to the maintenance account for the memorial site.

For the 2008 year we had the set aside in the maintenance fund \$627.00 from the 2007 convention 50-50 draw as well as the \$725.00 raised by the raffling off at the 2007 convention of the beautiful hook rug made by Peggy Brouillet and her mother.

That \$1,52.00 along with \$6,500.00 that was put forth by the International allowed us to take care of this year's upkeep and the erection of an addition name plaque for the members that had passed on since the 2007 convention.

We currently have 116 members who have passed on and whose name is currently inscribed on the memorial plaques. This will be an ongoing process where every spring we will update the plaques with the names of those members that have passed on since the previous spring update.

To date this year we have only raised \$155.00 from the 2008 Convention 50-50 draw and \$690.00 from the sale of Heavens one-memorial patches for a total of \$2,860.62 a far cry from what is required to maintain the site.

So once again I am asking the chapters to make a donation to the Memorial. Below is a list of those chapters and individuals that have made pass donations, as you will note there are several that have made the donation to the site any annual gift. The recommended amount is a donation of \$100.00 for every member from the chapter that is on the memorial list, but again that is just a suggestion the chapters will have to decide what they can afford to donate some will be able to afford more and others less. All donations will help to keep this site as something we are all proud of and a show of respect for those of our members that are no longer with us.

Donations to the Red Knights Memorial Fund

Mass 1 Clayton Thomas IN 1	Florida 1 New York 12		MA 2	International
Paul Jeffers NY 10 Ontario 1 Memory Ken Roberts Ont 1		2004 Ontario Anonymous Ontario 1 Alberta 1		01
James Cody New Yor	rk, Ontario 1	2005 International]	New Jersey 5
	International Ontario 15 b Massachuset	Ontario 1 Mark Gehri ts 4 <u>2007</u>	Lynn K Interna	Comandt OH 1 tional
Steven Bermuper NY Massachusetts 5 Bill Snodgrass Ohio 5	Ontario 9	nt 7 Mass	1 na 7	ed Knights Vermont 2 Mass 2 New Hampshire 4
		<u>2008</u>		
Illinois 5	Massachuset	ts 3 New 7	York 21	Connecticut 3

Illinois 5Massachusetts 3New York 21Connecticut 3Maryland 7New York 8North Dakota 1Massachusetts 2New Hampshire 4Ontario 9MAL'sDavid Shapp –PAJoseph Demilia –NY Thomas Zullo – NYEdward Farquhar –NYRichard Jackson –GAMichael Ennis –NJBob Price –NYJane Rizzo -NY



www.redknightsmc.com



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Gil Rekken Western Director

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Jeff Peters Central Director

Steve Chappell Bylaws Chairman

PT Reynolds Newsletter Editor

> **The Red Knight Rider** eusletter of the Red Knights International Motorcyc

My name is Patrick Reynolds and I am the new editor for the Red Knights newsletter. I realize that this is a daunting task. The previous editor, Bob LaFord, is excellent and for me to try and equal his skill will be futile. But I promise you that I will give you and the club my very best efforts.

I consider myself to be one of the luckiest people alive. I got to work a job that I loved; I was a New York City firefighter. I traveled all over the city and got the opportunity to work with some of the finest people in the world. But time does take its toll and the older I got the slower I got. When I found myself tripping probies so I could beat them to the door of the fire apartment, I knew it was time to retire. And in 1993 with a tear in my eye and wonderful memories I left.

I taught for the University of Cincinnati. My field was Fire Science and I taught a number of classes that dealt with strategies and tactics in the fire service. After the World Trade Center attack I went back to New York City to work at the site. Returning to the teaching field was difficult for me and I was offered a position with a fire department in Ohio. I did that for three years and found that fire services whether in New York or a small town in Ohio are similar. We have a desire to serve and to serve well.

Being a member of the Red Knights addresses that need to serve. Whether it is riding as a member of an honor guard, or helping with a local charity we firefighters have an innate and unquenchable drive to make the lives of our fellow citizens more bearable, easier and ultimately better. The word – Noble – isn't often used today. People today are looking for the ulterior motive when selfless actions are taken. But the fire service, as well as our military has earned the right to be called noble. We give of ourselves and ask little in return. Let us never forget what it is we do and who we do it for.

Again, I am pleased and honored to be the Red Knights editor. I hope that you will be pleased with what I have to offer. And I hope that you will take the time to praise me when I've earned it, and complain to me when I deserve it.

Fraternally yours P. T. Reynolds

Red KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2008-2009

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TRADEMARKS

The names **RED KNIGHTS, RED KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB, REDKNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB, RKMC AND OUR LOGO are** on file with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office as being licensed trademarks of the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club.

This means that any item that displays the above shall have an approved trademark license agreement in place with the International Secretary before any item can be made, purchased or sold bearing our name(s) or logo.

Each item that uses our name(s) and/or logo shall have the **(B)** showing that the name and/or logo has been approved and is registered.

Each chapter/association is required to obtain a trademark for chapter/association business items which will allow the use of our name/logo on web site, business cards, letterhead, checks, address labels, newsletters, flyers (to promote the chapter only), and chapter applications to conduct chapter business.

A trademark license agreement for merchandise will not be approved for a chapter or association that does not have an approved trademark license agreement in place for chapter/association business with the International Secretary.

The trademark license application can be found at <u>www.redknightsmc.com</u> under the link for merchandise.

If your chapter is not selling an item that it has a trademark license agreement for, please advise the International Secretary.

BY-LAWS

As of January 1, 2008, each chapter was instructed to resubmit their chapter bylaws for review and approval or to state that they were going to operate under the International By-Laws to Steve Chappell (by-law committee chairperson) at <u>by-</u> <u>laws@redknightsmc.com</u>.

To date only 53 chapters have submitted their by-laws. This was not a suggestion and each chapter must submit their by-laws or advise that they are following the International By-Laws.

MATCHING FUND GRANTS

Chapters/Associations who are requesting matching fund grants will not be entitled to the funds if they do not have an approved chapter/association businesses trademark license agreement in place with the International Secretary.

NEW TOP ROCKER

The membership has approved a new top rocker that can be worn by Active members. Social and Associate members are not approved to wear this top rocker. The new top rocker will say "FIREFIGHTER".

MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

Section 5:04 of the International By-Laws states: Active membership shall be available to Active and Retired Firefighting personnel, whether they are Career, Part Paid, On Call, Volunteer, Military or Industrial and who presently own or have access to a Motorcycle and have a current legal Motorcycle endorsement. A past Active member who no longer can ride a motorcycle may retain their active status. Emergency Medical Technicians and Medics are eligible to be members if they are employees by an established Fire Department.

We are finding chapters who are not checking the qualifications of their members when joining the chapter. We advise all chapters to follow up on the qualifications of its members.





To help support the maintenance of our Red Knights memorial in Boylston, Massachusetts, the *tearens* One patch was created as a special fund raising item.

All profits from the sale of these patches go directly to the maintenance account for the site. The patches can be ordered from the International Quartermaster at a cost of \$10.00 each

Welcome to all our new MALs and new chapters. The Red Knights now have 8,500 members, with nearly 330 members-at-large, and over 282 chapters.

Welcome to Michigan 1, Ohio 13, Vermont 4, New Hampshire 8, Arkansas 3, Idaho 2, Georgia 18, and Ireland 1!

Welcome everyone!

ow can your talents be best used to help the Red Knights? All levels of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club benefit from the efforts put forward by each of the members.

There are always tasks to do and help that is needed in your chapter, in your state, in the Regions, and at the International level too.

How can you help make the Red Knights a better organization?

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 is available on line. **Visit www.redknightsmc.com and click on "Membership**"

(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.

	RKMC Help-A-Knight Registration Form Please Print Information and Check All Statements That Apply	
Name	Chapter	
Street		
City	St./Prov Zip	
Phone		
	Email information to: editor@redknightsmc.com	
 Allow a Red K Allow a Red K Allow a Red K Bring my SAE Pick up a Red 	To Help-A-Knight I will: (circle appropriate numbers) information about my area. No Collect Calls. night to stay overnight in my home night to put up a tent on my property night to leave a bike on my property tools to a Help-A-Knight who has broken down Knight's bike with my pick-up truck or trailer	
0,1	ic tools to Help-A-Knight who has broken down	
8. Someone in my	home speaks French	
I		

Re-selling of RKMC Items

The re-selling of RKMC items or giving them to a business that will re-sell them (like Goodwill) is not allowed under the RKMC Trademark and Constitution regulations.

If the person is no longer a member of the RKMC, they can return the items to the chapter, place it on a wall for their own display, or use the items for rags — but Red Knight items cannot be sold to the general public.

The following by-law changes are endorsed by the International Board

There are five proposed bylaws changes or additions. The changes/additions are in italics.

SECTION 1:04 A INSIGNIA PLACEMENT (change)

b. A top rocker showing membership status may be worn as listed in Section 2:01 of the By-Laws or another option available is a top rocker that reads "RED KNIGHTS" or "FIREFIGHTER"

SECTION 2:01 MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND TENURE (NEW)

VI. An Active member can if they so wishes be a member of more than one chapter at a time. They must pay the same dues as other members of the chapter that they chooses to join and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of an Active member in that chapter.

SECTION 5:06 SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP (change)

Social members shall be a Spouse, Partner, Boyfriend, Girlfriend, Son, Daughter, Brother or Sister of an Active Member, Associate Member or a Member-at-Large. *The minimum age for a social member shall be 16 years of age before joining*.

SECTION 5:07 SPECIAL HONORARY MEMBER (change)

Each Chartered Chapter may grant Special Honorary Membership status to a member of a recognized religion for the position of Chapter Chaplain. Special Honorary Membership may also be granted to a civic or business leader who does volunteer work for the Chapter. (REMOVE THIS LINE) *Special Honorary Membership may also be granted to the widow or widower of an Active or Associate Member*.)

(ADD THIS LINE) The International dues for this membership classification is to be paid by the Chapter.

SECTION 5:10 E-mail address of Record (NEW)

The Chapter mailing address and e-mail address of record will be that of the current Chapter President and Chapter Secretary. The Chapter Secretary shall maintain a current roster on file with the International. All communications from the International shall be forwarded to the proper Officer(s) or member. Communication to the International Executive Board shall be sent to the International Regional Director for distribution.

Chapter Business Trademark License

Any chapter who has a web page must now obtain a Chapter Business Trademark License.

The Chapter Business Trademark License is for use of our name/logo and will include use on a Chapter web site, business cards, letterhead, checks, address labels, newsletters, flyers (to promote your chapter only), and chapter application. Every Chapter who uses any of the listed items must apply for this license.

Use the Trademark License Application and under question 3 (What are you planning to produce) write "Chapter Business Trademark License."

If you are reading this in our newsletter it is obvious we are taking a different approach in the publication of our newsletter. Since the letter will be published on the web we have a great deal of flexibility, allowing us to publish more often and with greater impact on the club.

The release of the newsletters will be 1 April 2009, 1 July 2009, 1 October 2009, and 1 January 2010. If you want your articles and photographs included in our newsletters I'll need them by the following dates:

For the April newsletter the deadline is 15 March, 2009. For the July newsletter the deadline is 15 June, 2009. For the October newsletter the deadline 15 September, 2009 For the January newsletter the deadline is 15 December, 2009

I am very excited about this new approach to publishing and I promise you that I will make every effort to make this newsletter something we all can be proud of

4 Mental & Physical Traps to Watch Out For on the Road... thought provoking tips from the AMA

Riding a bike keeps you in the elements, which is great, but it can also tire you out quickly. So always be on the lookout for:

<u>Dehydration</u>. Long days on the bike—or even short ones on hot days—can dry you out much faster than you realize. Either use a hydration system or take frequent breaks to drink fluids.

<u>The Stupids</u>. If you find your mind getting a bit foggy—say, you can't decide whether to stop for a break or not—take it for the warning sign that it is and stop. Are you hungry? Thirsty? Tired? Figure out what's wrong and fix it before you get back on the bike.

<u>Small Pains that Could Turn Into Big Ones</u>. Sitting in one position for long periods of time can cause muscle soreness. Tightening up? Stretch your muscles (safely) on the bike, or better yet, stop and walk around. A few minutes off the bike can buy you an hour or more of comfort back on it.

<u>That Voice</u>. If that voice in your head is telling you to stop for the night, or that another 100 miles may be too much before lunch, or that you're riding too fast, or anything else, do yourself a favor and listen.

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 and send pictures and information on your chapter events to the International Board!











CT2 Chapter presented John O'Hagan with the Perry Carter Red Knight of the year award at our monthly meeting on 10/9/2008. Photos attached show CT2 President (left) Scott Chamberlain and VP Phil Nevers (Right) with John in the center.



My name is Josh Maxwell and I am current president of Indiana chapter 09. We are new, started in September, and just want to say hi. We have had one group ride, about 200 miles down to Kentucky lake. It was a very nice day, fall colors were coming in, food was great, and the socializing was great. In the photo, from left to right, is Ben Woodard (vice-prez), Governor of Indiana Mitch Daniels, and myself. Photo was taken by Chief John Buckman. If anyone or any chapter would like to get together or has suggestions please write me at uscgmax@aol.com





Hello Red Knight Members,

Occasionally something comes along that unites a community to help the children in need. The Flying Horse Farms is a nonprofit organization committed to building a summer camp and year-round retreat center that inspires children with serious illnesses to reach beyond their diseases and embrace the healing power of unbridled fun!

This special place is located in the heart of the Midwest, Mount Gilead, Ohio. Situated on 167 acres of gently rolling hills, lakes, woods, trails, meadows, and wetlands, Flying Horse Farms (www.flyinghorsefarms.org) promises to help children and their families trade the restraints of hospital visits, blood transfusions, chemotherapy treatments, overwhelming stress, worry and fear with days of swimming, fishing, horseback riding, and nights of campfires and singing! All camp activities are designed to allow campers to experience success no matter what their disease or disability—all at no cost to the campers or their families.

Bill Snodgrass, Red Knights MC Ken Valverde, Blue Knights MC



We made the ride in 34.5 riding hours (had one flat tire) and lots of rain. We exceeded our goal of raising \$1000.00 for the Flying Horse Farms Guten Tag from our German Brother Fire fighters

hallo to you here some pic from Germany # 1 at the autumn party from fire depart of sigmaringen greats from claus



Eastern Canada

Well up here in the Great White North we have put our bikes to bed for another season. The 2008 riding season has been a busy one for most of us.



This was another good year for Nova Scotia Chapter 1, who is thankful to have had a safe season. Their members got together for rides on a fairly regular basis and they made some inroads with some of the other local motorcycle groups, and gained many new friends along the way.



Prince Edward Island may also have a second chapter before we get our bikes out again. PEI Chapter 1 had what can only be classified as a stellar year. This was only their third year as a chapter and membership is already much larger than expected. During 2008 they welcomed 11 new members many of whom got their bike license and bought motorcycles just so they could become members! Early in the year they attended a local bike show where they joined a number of distributors and other bike clubs, their new banner drew quite a bit of attention. Through the year they kept making appearances in new places as a group - show and shines, the Canada Day Parade, department fund raisers, and Fire Prevention week displays to name a few. Without question, their weekly rides helped get the colours out where we could be seen as well.

Planning is already underway for an Inter-Provincial Grand Tour where we plan to connect with Red Knights from the neighbouring Provinces in 2009. As well, they are in the process of developing our "Four Shore Tour" that will see members riding the shoreline all the way around the Island. They have also been kicking around some ideas related to hosting an International Convention - complete with world class golfing, deep sea fishing, BBQ at the Beach, and of course a ride across the largest bridge in the world in its class. They are also working out the plans for one of our newest members "Jake." Keep your eyes out, it is their hope that Jake will get to meet every Chapter in Canada in 2009!!!!



Newfoundland 1 has been riding a lot as well. With the distances between towns on 'The Rock', when the chapter did their Grand Tour, they had to ride 1500 miles over the course of 3 days to complete it. Ontario's 15 chapters were very busy in 2008. The Provincial Association's web page showed 19 events and most were attended by several chapters. The association manned an Information

Booth at the Motorcycle that was a huge success as June ON 9 hosted the Section in Ottawa. After a old friends on Friday and a day morning, the members riding in the Ottawa area. In July a number of chap-(child abuse prevention) August a good number of



Supershow in Toronto in January many new contacts were made. In ond Annual Provincial Convengreat evening of catching up with short business meeting on Saturwere treated to some spectacular

ters rode in the various CAPPY rides around the province and in Ontario Red Knights attended the

International Convention. September saw several Toy Rides around the province including the 30th Annual Red White and Blue Toy Ride in Toronto which brings together the Red Knights, the White Knights and the Blue Knights for a worthwhile charity ride. October saw the first annual Ontario Association 'Autumn Colour Ride' which due to inclement weather was not that well attended but hopes are high for next year.

The Eastern Canada Region would like to wish all Red Knights a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and SAFE 2009.

Respectfully submitted Henry Heideman Director Eastern Canada.



Fallen Firefighter Survivors Foundation

FFSF 2009 "World's Largest Poker Run"

We at the Fallen Firefighter Survivors Foundation would like to extend a heart felt welcome to you and thank you for your participation in this upcoming extraordinary event. We invite you to visit our website at <u>www.ffsfusa.org</u>

There are several requirements that need to be covered as we move forward in preparation for this poker run.

Event Date/Time Saturday April 18, 2009

10 AM EST

Guinness Book of World Records will be recording this event. One of the requirements is the Poker Run will need to start at the same time in all seven states.

All proceeds from the registration fees are to be returned to FFSF.

I will be sending you the artwork for the Poker Run T-Shirts. Each Chapter will be responsible for printing the shirts with your areas sponsors on the back. You may use any print screener you choose however, I have made arrangements with a print screening company to print your shirts if you are interested at a discount. <u>Please note:</u> All proceeds from T-Shirts sales are to be returned to your chapter. All proceeds from your 50/50 Raffle are to be returned to your chapter. At least one Fire Department will be required as one of the stops.

I will be sending you a waiver for this event. All participants are required to sign this waiver. Attached is the FFSF 2009 Poker Run flyer. You may create your own flyers adding your Chapter information and local sponsors.

All I ask is the FFSF logo and website information remain a part of your flyer.

I will be sending updates and additional information to you as we move forward in this very unique endeavor. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas. I look forward to working with you to make this an unforgettable experience.

Sincerely,

Sherri Lang info@ffsfusa.org

"World's Largest Poker Run"

Fallen Firefighter Survivors Foundation



www.FFSFUSA.org

Saturday April 18, 2009

We invite you to participate in the World's Largest Poker Run. Held in seven states, **Guinness Book of World Records** will be there to authenticate this unforgettable, world record event. Motorcycles, Cars and Trucks are welcome.

> First out 10AM EST (A must) Last in (decided by the event planner of each location.)

Pre-Registration Fees

Rider \$25 T-Shirt included Passenger \$15 T-Shirt included

Day of Event Registration Rider \$20 Passenger \$10

T-Shirts available \$12 Donation Extra Hands \$5

50/50 Raffle, Best and Worst Hand

For additional information, you may contact us: info@ffsfusa.org

> FFSF PO Box 58 Eagle Lake, Fl. 33839