Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club



July 2023 Newsletter

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COVER PHOTO

Red Knights colors being proudly displayed

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Here we go again with another edition of your Newsletter; firstly, I would like to thank Lance Selberg for his time as Region 5's Reporter. Lance stepped down after the last newsletter and I am pleased to say that Delainey Thorud has volunteered to pick up where Lance left off and has become your new Region 5 Reporter. WELCOME to the TEAM Delainey.

It's great to see that we as a Club appear to have returned to normal at last, our Rallies, Rides and charity activities have ramped up and all the usual gatherings are now back on the annual calendar, and we are all travelling freely to spend valued time with our Red Knights brothers and sisters.

I am particularly looking forward to the International Convention in Austria this year as it will be the first one to take place across the pond and as I live in England it is easier for members of my chapter, England 2, to attend as a group, it also gives me the opportunity to meet in person many of you that, until now have only been Facebook or email contacts.

I know many of you are making the long trip to Austria and taking in the sights that Europe has to offer, stay safe and enjoy the experience and hospitality of your European Brothers and Sisters.... After all, that is what our great family is all about.

SEE YOU IN AUSTRIA

editor@redknightsmc.com



The next Newsletter will be published in February 2024...

Your articles must reach me by 31st January 2024.

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REPORTS FROM THE BOARD



<u>PRESIDENT - Joey Powell</u> Fellow Red Knights,

In writing my last report as International President and as a member of the Board I want to recap a few things. I have watched this organization grow bigger and bigger each year, overcoming obstacles along the way to keep up with the expansion. I started my journey as a Chapter Officer and accepted a position at the State level. As a chapter member, I had no idea what went on behind the scenes, truly a learning curve! As a State Officer is where I began to learn workflows,

different levels in which to work and the importance of each. Making calls to the International Board and how to solve problems. My first convention was in 2011 Ocean City, Maryland where I met some of the board members that had helped me along the way. Going to the ABM that Saturday morning was a great event because of what I learned. In 2013, in Rutland Vermont, I was asked to fulfill the remaining term of the Regional 4 director position. This took me by total surprise, and I had to call home to talk to my wife. She said do it and the new journey of Regional 4 Director began. At my first fall meeting I was the quite one setting back learning how and what the board did. When asked to take the office, they said it was going to be easy and no problems. Well, it was not easy and yes there are problems. After 5 years as Regional 4 Director I was approached by some members to run for International President. I was shocked! This was not on my thought process at all. After discussing it with some members and my wife, the challenge was accepted. One of the first things I had to learn was to listen and not speak to soon. Listening to all was hard at times, but I learned to do this and put it all together to make the best decision for the club.

I believe the hardest point being on the board was during COVID. We were not able to hold conventions and see each other or have face to face meetings. During this time, I saw our members step up and hold this group together. We grow members, TLMA went through the roof because everyone had nothing else to do but think of new ideas on how to make items for their chapters and for everyone else. This also promoted our club to a different level. Thanks to all of you, the members, we stood tall during this time.

ZOOM meetings were held not only for the board but by other chapters to keep everyone engaged. I am from the old school which meant I had to learn something new. Computer or high-tech guy are not in my resume . This was a great way for all of us as members and the board to keep in contact and carry-on business as usual. The board started having zoom meetings once a month to keep up on our business, it was/is great! We are now "zooming" once a month because everyone agrees this allows us to stay informed.

It's hard being a on the board or even being an officer of the chapter. Everyone is always watching your every move, comments, behaviour and asking questions. A great deal of time is spent away from our families and friends. Each year everyone on the board attends the fall meeting, spring meeting, and the convention. Now these are roughly 3weeks. This does not include Zoom meeting, phone calls, emails, etc. During my years on the board, I never missed a meeting pertaining to the Red Knights, I did miss many family events and vacations. However, I made the decision to take the office(s), therefore this was one of my obligations as an officer. Trying to fulfill my duties where tough at times, but I was committed to the members and the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, as well as what we stand for.

This year 2023, I have attended all the board meetings; eight Zoom meetings and just halfway through the year. Last year 2022, we had 16 zoom meetings! I will be attending the convention this year, as well as local and state events. After leaving my position as International President my plans are to engage back in at the State level, making North Carolina chapters the best! I also look forward to engaging back in my Chapter to continue to help us grow and be a model for other chapters.

My door is always open to listen or help in any way that I can.

I would like to thank all the board members that I have worked with for all your hard work. No one knows how much you do behind the scenes and the time it takes away from your families and friends.

Thanks to everyone that has supported me over the years.

Remember who we are and the basis of the Red Knights!

"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!"

Respectfully and lovingly,

Joey Powell, International President



VICE PRESIDENT - Spike Ostiguy

Fraternal greetings everyone.

Wow... My elders were right all those years. The older you get; The faster times seems to fly by. It feels like it was just a few short months ago we were in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. And what a great and memorable convention it was. Fast forward... to the next R.K.I.F.M.C. milestone. Our very first

International Convention outside of the North American Continent. Trust me, living here in the North East I certainly do not want to rush summer away. But. Karen and I are really looking forward to seeing our Red Knights family abroad. See you in Fussach.

The next two (2) paragraphs, again are always worth re-visiting
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 and motorcycle enthusiasts. 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.

Meetings of your International Board of Directors and Memorial Hall/Park Committee

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

- Attended the Heaven 1 Protocol for Scott W. Eighmie, New York Chapter 49 Active Member, Saturday December 17, 2022
- 2023 R.K.I.F.M.C. Spring Board Meeting, Pell City Alabama May 15-May 18
- Roll called "present" at all but one conference calls / "Zoom" meetings of the RKI, RKR and RKMF

As a Massachusetts Chapter IV member, I also sit on the R.K. Memorial Hall/Park Committee
 Co-coordinated the Annual Spring clean-up at R.K. Memorial Hall & Park. Saturday April 15, 2023

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

At the time of this report... we have 333 M.A.L.'s (2021/2022/2023/beyond = ttl.)

Region 1 = 9/4/29=42 Region 2 = 7/4/10=21 Region 3 = 11/6/13/2=32 Region 4 = 9/11/25/2=47

Region 5 = 4/10/33/=47 Region 6 = 3/10/26/2=41 Region 7 = 6/5/67/3=81 Region 8 = 1/7/12/1=21

V.P. = Mexico = 1

As the numbers indicate above, there are fifty-seven (57) M.A.L. Members, one year (2022) in arrears.

And there are fifty (50) M.A.L. Members two years (2021) in arrears.

Per the By-Laws 2:10 3. International Dues: [excerpt] After two years of non-payment,

the MAL will be removed from the roster.

S.O.G. 12:06 Restricted Service: [excerpt] Restricted Service is imposed on a Chapter, Member, or Member at Large when that chapter or person is either in arrears for their International dues,...

If you find yourself in either of these categories, please reach out to myself or the International Treasurer Scott Ryan, at your earliest convenience. So we may get you back in good standing with the club. treasurer@redknightsmc.com

Member-At-Large applications thru the first six (6) months of 2023

January = 7 February = 3 March = 17 April = 9 May = 17 June = 9

To date, we have had one (1) Member-At-Large applicant referred to a Chapter.

Ten (10) Member-At-Large applicants pending Chapter placement.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Spike Ostiguy
International Vice President



SECRETARY - Michael Woods

Hello to all my fellow Red Knights Brothers and Sisters

I would again like to thank everyone for giving me this opportunity to serve you on this Board. It truly is an honor and privilege to be a small part of our Club's future! As I'm becoming adjusted to this new role, I have been working very hard to continue to learn and grow. The

day-to-day items have been reduced in cost and time, leaving more time to look for better ways to conduct your business. I will always work hard for you because I feel you all deserve nothing but the best!

In this last year as International Secretary, I have had the privilege to attend the 2023 Bootleggers Rally, 2023 Indiana State Picnic, 2023 International Fall Board Meeting, 2024 New Jersey State ACP, 2024 International Spring Board Meeting, 2024 Dixie Rally, and 2024 Yankee Rally. I cherish those events and the memories made at each and every one of those. I look forward to many more years of building bonds, friendships, and memories!

I developed a passion for education as a Training Captain for my F.D. and I'm trying to find better ways to drive that here with the RKMC.

If you need information about TMLAs, go to:

https://www.redknightsmc.com/chapter-merchandise_cloned

If you are seeking Liability Insurance for your event, go to:

https://www.redknightsmc.com/insurance-for-authorized-red-knights

If you have questions on your Bylaws or SOGs, go to:

https://www.redknightsmc.com/downloads

If you would like more information about the Memorial Hall, go to:

https://www.redknightsmc.com/reserve-memorial-hall

There is a wealth of knowledge out there to be found, visit our website and explore! https://www.redknightsmc.com/

If you have any ideas for better educational items please feel free to let me know, I'm here to help and move to a better tomorrow!

Below are the stats since taking over last year:

10/27/2022 to 6/26/2023

TMLA report:

Approved: 202
Denied: 3
Pending: 7
Total requested: 212

New Chapter Applications sent out:

Interest letters sent: 24 Applications sent: 19

Equipment or items issued:

Banners: 3

Insurance policies:

Insurance issued: 33
Non-compliant: 1
Pending: 9
Insurance requested: 43

Rental Agreements issued:

Total issued: 22 Pending: 1 Total requested: 23

HEAVEN ONE CHAPTER:

NEW MEMBERS: 39

One last thing, get out there and meet new RKMC members, rekindle old contacts and turn them into friendships! Go to rallies and have a great time with likeminded brothers and sisters. There is more to this club than just chapter life, there is a whole world full of our brothers and sisters that you can create new bonds with! And please don't forget what Brotherhood and Sisterhood are all about!

Again, Thank you for your patience and faith! I'm very appreciative to be able to serve you and help be a small part of making this beloved organization grow for our future!

"Loyal to Our Duty"

Michael Rickost

Michael "Woody" Woods

RKIFMC International Secretary

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TREASURER - Scott Ryan

Treasurer's Report – Convention 2023

Please accept this, my 2023 convention report for activities in 2022 as International Treasurer.

Since my last convention report, COVID restrictions have been lifted and I have been able to attend meetings and events in person. And I have taken advantage of that opportunity, including a Celebration of Life in New Jersey for one of our Members, in-person meetings in Baltimore, the Dixie in Georgia, the Yankee in New York, the Atlantic in New Brunswick, the International Convention in Pennsylvania, and the European Conference in Netherlands. I managed to ride in every Province in Canada and hit the States in all four corners of the US for a personal best of 40,000 km of seat time and countless great memories along the way.

We have added 7 chapter in 2022, and after a couple of years being unable to vote on matters at the AGM, did vote out 47 but were able to bring 3 of those back into good standing.

As far as members go there were over 900 new members who joined our club in 2022! I would like to take this opportunity to encourage Chapter Officers to review the bylaws and be very familiar with the various membership categories. Too often I encounter situations where the categories are not understood and members who are entitled to wear the Active rockers are not provided that opportunity and where other members have the honour bestowed upon them even though they are not deserving of the title. FD Associate, Honorary, and Social are also very often misunderstood and misapplied.

It has been my pleasure to serve you and I look forward to another term as your Treasurer. I still have the Bootlegger and the Western on my bike-it list and have not given up on being able to attend these in the coming years.

Sincerely Scott Ryan

REGION 1 DIRECTOR - Ken May

It was January 28th that I received a call from the Executive Board stating I was elected to fill in as the Region 1 Director for the remainder of our past Directors term. After which I received a congratulatory call from Mass-2 Vice President Rick Oliver, my opponent.

The Board decided that I was to be officially sworn in on February 1st, but I felt it was best that I attend the funeral of a NY 43 member. So, I was sworn in on the 2nd of February and from there all I can say is "Wow".

I met with our Vice President Spike Ostiguy the weekend of February 3rd to the 5th in Boylston and received my official duties. The first few weeks were more of learning the workings of this organization and I would like to thank not only Spike for his help but Michael Woods our International Secretary, for helping me get adjusted to a new way of life. Yes, I had an idea of it, but it goes deeper than I thought, and I love the challenge.

In just the five months since my appointment Region 1 has transferred 5 members to the Heaven One Chapter and I was able to attend 4 of those funerals and present the Flag and Angel Coin to the families. I was also able to visit a NY member that was seriously injured and burned over 80% of his body. I am happy to say he is recovering and doing great. He even attended this year's Yankees Rally.

March, I hosted a Region 1 State Rep meeting in Boylston which was attended by 6 State Reps. It was not only great seeing everyone again, but we were able to discuss what is going on in each of the states and what we need to do as a group to continue to grow stronger.

As most are aware, Region 1 has a "Mayday Fund" which is used to help any Region 1 member in times of need. To date this fund has helped 15 individuals with a monetary gift. So, if you see a Region 1 coin for sale, know that the money is going to help a Red Knight.

I attended state meetings in New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts, along with several chapter events. It's nice to say that when Red Knights need to get together for a purpose, they normally have a good showing. And two come to mind, a New York Chapter held a fund raiser for one of their own. Just a simple \$15.00 spaghetti dinner. Well, it raised just over \$18,000. Another was a Ride/Bike Blessing to raise money for a local Burn Center, which brought in approximately \$20,000.

The Dixie Rally which was held in Pell City, Alabama and hosted by Chapter 4 was a great success. The International Board held their spring meeting there just days before the start of the rally. What a great opportunity for the members to meet the Board and ask questions.

Not to be out done, New York 30 hosted this year's Yankee Rally in the Finger Lakes Region of NY. It was a record-breaking rally with the final attendance at 409 Red Knights. So, for those of you that have never been to a Rally, here's your chance. Next year's Yankee Rally will be in beautiful Keene, NH.

I personally have been busy working about 2 hours a day on Red Knights business. Mostly while the wife is at work, (it's quiet.) My phone rings at least twice a day with a Red Knight on the other end, and sometimes those calls can last for hours. But, as I said in the beginning, my phone is always on no matter the day or time.

In closing, I would like to thank several individuals that I know without their help and support I would not be here writing this letter. New Jersey 19 President Ernie Berthold, New York State President Frank Nestro, and Mass State Rep George Colby for their continued help and support through the entire process. My beautiful wife Laura, who has endured the most, eating dinner, watching a movie, getting ready to go out somewhere and the phone rings. But she is just like me "Red Knight Forever."

REGION 2 DIRECTOR - Leo Patry

This is an exciting time for the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club in that this year we are holding our first international convention overseas.

This convention will be for a lot of our members will be the first time they will be able to meet members from around the Globe with the opportunity to make new friends with our brothers and sisters in the club.

I never realized when I joined the Red Knights 34 years ago what a major affect it would have on my life. I have been fortunate to have work with and to learn from, the great members that have contributed to our growth and success both in the past and the present.

The past years activities of the Red Knights chapters in region 2 have slowly come back to previous years levels, two years of Covid really played havoc with the activities of both the International and the chapters.

As the Region 2 Director I have attempted to maintain contact with all chapters in the region informing them of events and notices from the International and other associations within the region encouraging all chapters and MALs to contact me with any questions or problems they may be experiencing within the Red Knights Organization.

I continue to maintain a time log of time spent as the Regional Director along with an updated procedures manual for the position of regional director. I have continued to maintain the booking sheet for members to use the Red Knights Memorial House in Boylston Massachusetts, I urge all members to consider booking the house and traveling to the site to meet some of the founding father and see where it all began.

Since last year's convention in Johnstown Pennsylvania, I was able to attend the Ontario Association meet and greet event held in Smith Falls Ontario, the Dixie Rally in Pell City Alabama and this years Ontario Association ABM held in Port Perry Ontario.

I have attended all executive meetings of the international board including all Zoom meetings.

I also had the honor to arrange for the presentation of Heavens One Honors to the families of four region 2 members that have passed since the 2022 convention.

Sincerely yours in brotherhood Leo Patry



REGION 3 DIRECTOR - Trey Anderson

NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM REGION 3

Trey Anderson Region 3 Director

REGION 4 DIRECTOR - Chuck Marks



Brothers and Sisters, as my first year in office comes to a close, I can honestly say I have found it rewarding, fun, and frustrating all at the same time, if you can believe that. I have seen firsthand what it takes to make this club, in my opinion, the best. From the first day of the 2022 International Convention in Johnstown until now, my phone rings probably 5-6 times a day on average along with texts and emails regarding Red Knights MC business.

Some questions are easy to answer, and some may take a few days to get the right answer, and I have a very strong and knowledgeable group of board members to assist me.

Over the past year we have had new chapters start in region 4 and a few members relocate to South Florida and express interest in revitalizing FL1. They now have a current roster, and I am confident they will work to grow this chapter. We have had several members pass and receive Heaven One honors. I want to thank the state reps and other board members that attended funerals when I wasn't available to.

Since last August, I have attended several Red Knights events starting with the Convention in Johnstown, PA, and two weeks later Bootleggers Rally in DuBois, PA. While I am unsure of the exacts numbers, I do know that everyone there had a great time. We rode some beautiful mountain roads and went on an Elk seeking trip that Friday morning. Jamie Shaffer IN2 was like a little kid when we found a rather large herd and I'm glad that I was able to help him with that experience. We left for home on Sunday morning and anyone that follows me on Facebook knows I rode in torrential downpours and flooded roads for 3 days. I appreciate all of my brothers and sisters that kept checking on me to make sure I was safe. If you ask me, that is truly what brotherhood is all about. In October, I attended AL4's ride 3 Hots and a Cot for homeless veterans. We had amazing representation from several chapters, states, and regions. October 26th- 30th I attended the Fall Board meeting in Baltimore. This is when I realized what truly goes into making this club run. I would have never thought that it was much more than riding motorcycles and having fun, but my eyes were opened wide. On January 14th, Brandi and I attended the NJ After Christmas Party. This was our first time in New Jersey. We went into New York City to see the World Trade Center as well as Times Square with several other Red Knights. Brandi and I are always on the hunt for the best and most unique places to see and eat. I'm a huge mafia buff so we put together our own Sopranos Tour. We set out with Shawn "Chubbers" Halbert to find different locations from the show Tony's Sopranos house, Bada Bing (AKA Satin Dolls), we were even able to eat in the same booth that the final scene was filmed in at Holsten's Diner. Thanks Ernie Berthold and Ken May for helping us plan this adventure.

May 15th-21st, I attended the Spring Board Meeting and Dixie Rally in Pell City, AL. This was the first time a Board meeting was held in conjunction with a regional rally, it was a huge success. It provided the opportunity for members to meet the entire board without having to attend the ABM. I think everyone had a great time and we had over 300 attend.

I would like to thank the members of the international board for helping me to settle into this new position, and my wife Brandi of 18 years for supporting me and understanding the long hours and phone calls that are usually at very inconvenient times. Thank you for understanding my commitment to our club. There is no way I could do any of this without her love and support. As for all the members ride safe, keep the shiny side up, and always strive to better yourself and our club.

Chuck Marks

Region 4 Director

REGION 5 DIRECTOR - Lance Coit



NO REPORT RECEIVED FROM REGION 5

Lance Coit, 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 TX1, TX2, TX3, TX4 and TX12 and OK2, and OK7. We all had a wonderful time.

On April 29, 2023, I attended the Oklahoma State Meeting and fundraiser for Hydrants of Hope. Between the ride, auction, and sales of Hydrants of Hope items over \$3,000 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 - Daniel McClain - MAL

Sec. - Margaret McGowan - OK 3

Treas. - Sabrina Day - OK 11

Congratulations to all the officers.

On April 21, 2023, I attended the Texas Association Meeting and fundraiser. They were able to raise over \$ 2,000 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

Congratulatios to all the officers.

One other thing, Be on the lookout for a Region 6 rally around the 3rd weekend of September 2024.

Allen Aurich, Region 6 Director

REGION 7 DIRECTOR - Tom van der Kley



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year will be special for Region 7. With the first international convention in Europe (after the planned one in France unfortunately could not take place because of Covid) we have a new milestone for Europe. Now we have the opportunity to show the whole world how we live, work, party and tick here in Europe. I am sure that this will be one of the

best international conventions that has ever taken place. The numbers speak for themselves: over 550 registrations from all possible nations and continents. The entire international board (except for Region 3 and Region 2) will be present, and many will have the opportunity to see them for the first time. However, we must not forget that it is also our convention and we have the fun at the forefront. I'm really looking forward to the convention, seeing old friends, meeting new people and making new friends.

In May we had our Spring Meeting for the first time at a Red Knights event (Dixie Rally in Alabama). At first, we were not sure if this would be a good idea, but it turned out that it makes sense to have the meetings at a RKMC event. This gives members who do not have or have not had the opportunity to attend a convention the opportunity to get to know the international board and address any issues directly. This has opened up the possibility of addressing issues or topics more quickly that we can work on.

With great confidence I also look to the future, with the establishment of an IT committee alone, new opportunities are opening up that will give us several possibilities to modernize and simplify communication in the future. As a small teaser e.g.: Fixing email problems, an RKMC app as well as broadcasting of larger meetings or the like.

I would also like to remind you of a few things:

- Please remember to send in your rosters in time and put the Regional Director in CC.
- Please read your mails regularly, as this is the only official way to keep you informed about everything.
- Stay collegial. Think outside the comfort zone. We are a worldwide acting MC. It is very difficult to find a general and for everyone suitable consensus. We are constantly working to make it possible for everyone and to meet their needs. With over 10,000 members you can imagine that this is not so easy and we cannot always fulfil every wish.
- Just drive and have fun that is the most important thing!

We would also like to point out that this year for the first time we have a Committee Chair in our ranks! I wish Rolf "Imperial "Mühlemann all the best for his new position as Grand Tour Chair. He will lead the Grand Tour Committee in the future, and I am sure that there will be some changes in the future.

Some people always write how many hours they have worked per week for our MC, how many e-mails they have answered etc. To be honest I have never paid attention to it. I can only think of the saying: If you love your work, you will never work another day in your life.

Finally, it only remains for me to say that I wish you all an accident-free season, much joy and especially health, as well as many Miles on the motorcycle, many unforgettable moments with the red Family, many parties and trips and a beautiful international convention.

Fraternally

Tom van der Kley, Regional Director Region 7

REGION 8 DIRECTOR - Ken Mahon

Kia Ora, Brothers, and sisters Welcome to all the New Members of the Red Knights in Region 8 and throughout the world our family is growing.

What a year, finally we have been able to get out and about doing what we do best. riding our bikes, enjoying other Red Knights' company, and attending Rallies, Charity events, and meetings.

I attended the Board Fall Meeting and the Spring Meeting Since our last ABM and 20220 Convention. It has been a busy time looking after the Region and I ask that if any members in the Region need help or any assistance, please reach out to me. I am here to help you all.

Thanks to all the Chapters in Region 8 paying the Dues and Roster updates on time, still a few rosters outstanding let us get on top of it all, please!

I was lucky enough to be able to stay on in Pell City Alabama after the Spring meeting to attend my very first Rally outside New Zealand. Was great that the Red Knights attending the Rally were able to meet the other Board members in person and get to ask questions and mingle with us in a social environment.

What a great Rally the Dixie was. Words cannot really express my thanks to all the fellow Red Knights in attendance who made me feel so welcome. My Red Knight American Family has grown, so many new friends too many to mention by name but you all know who you are! Along with catching up with old friends as well.

Alabama 4 you guys and girls' rock. Great food, great moonshine, great ride, great people thanks so much

I attended the New Zealand National Gathering held in March Hosted by New Zealand 6 in Reefton in the South Island all Chapters were Represented. won't go into too much detail as there will be an article in the next International, sufficient to say it was a great Gathering.

Looking forward to attending the Australian Gathering in Canberra on 10-12th November with some fellow Kiwis'

Keep safe and enjoy Life you never know what's around the corner.

Cheers.

Ken Mahon Region 8 Director





SPOT THE 12 DIFFERENCES (answers are after Regional articles)





YOUR NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS







We Need Your Photos

For The Website & Facebook Pages

Do you have photos that haven't been posted recently on Social Media?
Please share them so we can use them on Facebook and the International website.
Send your photos to
Communications@RedKnightsMC.com



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that on the Red Knight Website there is a calendar where Chapters can have their events published for all to see. To have your Red Knight Event added, your information should be sent to communications@redknightsmc.com 30 days prior to the event.

days prio	r to the eve	nt.				

Please make sure you list out the following information:-

What Chapter is running the event:

Name of Event:

Date of the event:

Time of the4 event:

Location of event:

Point of contact including their Name and telephone Number

Please make sure you list the full chapter name saying just a chapter number will delay in your event being posted. (eg; NY21 not just 21) there could be many Chapters in different States/Countries with the same number.

No graphics can be included in your calendar post so there is no need to send images of posters/flyers.

The Events calendar can be found on the website under Events>Calendar of Events. https://www.redknightsmc.com/events

This calendar also has all chapters Anniversary date listed as well as other important dates to be aware of (Nomination dates, Voting, When Articles are due for the Newsletter).

The Calendar is a google calendar so you can add it to your mobile device as well. Information on how to do that is on the calendar page.



Region 1's "Yankee Rally 2023" was held from June 8-11 in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State, hosted by NY Chapter 30, at the Quality Inn and Conference Center in Seneca Falls. The early week eerie haze of the Canadian wildfire smoke did not stop hundreds of Red Knights® and their families to join together in social interaction and enjoyment of this beautiful area of New York, some arriving as early as Monday, June 5!



Most of the attendees arrived during registration hours on Thursday, June 8. Many also partook in exploring the area's restaurants, lake views, wineries, waterfalls and unique shopping experiences. That evening, approximately 90 Red Knights® enjoyed a 50mile guided ride, with the route taking shoreline roads along both Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, ending at Mac's Drive-In, a distinctive 1960s curb-service restaurant in Waterloo.



On Friday, many folks headed out early to explore the Finger Lakes Region, checking out local restaurants and diners, wineries, distilleries, breweries, and epic vistas over and along the lakes. Some took to longer routes to Letchworth State Park, Rochester (and the home of the "Garbage Plate",

Tahou's), Syracuse Niagara Falls. There were also a handful of Red Knights® that took to a few "Biker Games" in the parking lot, namely the "Slowest Race" (Past Region 1 Director

Matthew Mattera of New Jersey 31 was the victor) and "Biker Cornhole" (won by International Secretary Mike "Woody" Woods and his wife Lisa "Bo Peep" of Indiana 2).



Friday evening featured a selection of food trucks (including summertime favorites, our regional favorite "garbage plates", and ice cream!) and two popular Finger Lakes libation locales, DisBatch Brewing Company of Macedon and Smokin' Tails Distillery of Phelps.

On Saturday, after a short meeting with attendees to review ride information and to determine the next "Yankee two locations, kickstands went up at 10:15 AM for the featured guided ride from the Quality Inn to the Village of Hammondsport on the south end of Keuka 141 motorcycles Lake. through the proceeded of Waterloo, Village



escorted through the City of Geneva

by Geneva Fire Department's Engine 1112, through the Village of Penn Yan, and welcomed into the Village of Hammondsport with the American flag flying over Route 54, courtesy of the Hammondsport Fire Department. After a complimentary lunch served by members of the Hammondsport American Legion, about 175 members enjoyed a tour of the Glenn Curtiss Museum of Aviation and Motorcycling.







Others took back to the roads, whether as small groups to the Canandaigua Lake overlook, Taughannock and Shequaga Falls, or out to other destinations before returning to Seneca Falls to finish out the evening with a Yankee Rally tradition BBQ buffet dinner, and live music by "The Slow Riders".



At the band's break, New York 30 President Chris Tiffany deposited the "Yankee Rally 2023" coin into the Rally's commemorative flag box, then in ceremonious fashion, handed off the flag box to New Hampshire 9's President Sam Sherrill, indicating the official announcement that the 2024 "Yankee Rally" will be held in Keene, New Hampshire, from June 6-9, 2024.



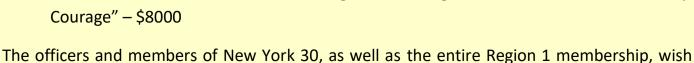
New York 30 also administered two live auctions on Saturday night, one being a bottle of Jack Daniels' single malt whiskey that was drawn from the batch/barrel for the Founding Fathers' fundraiser (thank you to David Fernández from NY 43/53 for allowing us to auction it off, and to Ernie Berthold from NJ 19 for the winning bid), and the other being signed lithographs created by David Jean of AngelSpeak Publications (thank you to Mike Coyne from Ontario 11 for bringing them!). All of the proceeds from these two auctions will be forwarded to International to be applied to the principal on the Memorial House in Boylston.

A Sunday morning breakfast buffet filled many Red Knights® up before the hugs and well-wishes of new and long-time friends filled the air, as everyone mounted up and departed to their home locations.

Throughout the weekend, New York 30 held three 50/50 drawings, raffled off a customdesigned set of cornhole boards and gave away baskets of local wines, spirits, foods and other Finger Lakes souvenirs via a Chinese auction. The funds raised on these giveaways, as well as monies raised through the registrations and merchandise sales, will be forwarded later this season to the Finger Lakes Regional Burn Association in Fairport (www.flrba.com). FLRBA provides not only education on burn injury prevention, but also emotional, mental and physical support to burn injury survivors and their impacted families through many local programs and activities. New York 30's fundraising efforts annually involve FLRBA's summer camp for burninjured children and teens, aptly named "Camp Courage".

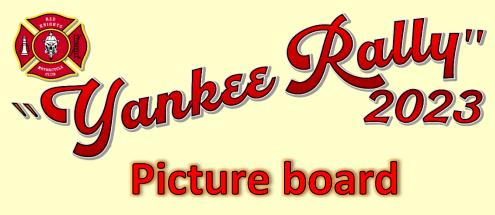
Some statistics from "Yankee Rally 2023", the seventh Region 1 rally held:

- There were 409 registered attendees to "YR '23", making it not only the highest-attended Yankee Rally, but is confirmed to be the highest-attended of all regional Rallies in the Red Knights® organization to date.
- Attendees came from 14 US states, two Canadian Provinces and, in the company of Founding Father Norm Beausoleil and his wife Kathy, four members from Germany X!! Two Founding Fathers, one International Board member, two Regional Directors, two MALs, all officers of the New York State Association and members from 66 Red Knights® chapters were represented.
- Members traveling the furthest distance...
 - Internationally... the Stolls and Thürks from Germany 10
 - United States (via motorcycle)... Nick Vogel and Adam "Flash" Gordon from Minnesota 4
 - United States (via other transportation)... Heather Drew from Alabama 4
- Estimated amount raised for the Finger Lakes Regional Burn Association's "Camp



nothing but the best in the planning and hosting of the 2024 "Yankee Rally" to New Hampshire







Riding season Begins

The Riding season has begun! First night out with the officers of NH5. They ride every Thursday night with scheduled destinations and a series of other events.

Motorcycles are Everywhere,





Members of Red Knights NH chapter 1 had the privilege of being part of the proclamation of motorcycle awareness month in Amesbury MA. The director of Motorcycles are Everywhere, Amesbury Mayor and Police Chief expressed their gratitude to Red Knights N.H. chapter 1 for their support and dedication.

NH9 ALPHABET Grand Master prospects

John Hill and Mel Amato of NH9 did a little over 400 miles on the bikes in one day and rode all the way to just below Lake George NY. They managed to get three more stations for the Alphabet Tour including this one in Vergennes, VT. Those combined with the 4 stations they did since then means they only had 4 stations left to complete the Alphabet Tour and receive Grand Master certification.



IRA VOL. FIRE DEPT.

THEY DID IT! The other

day they got the letters X and Z in Ohio and finally got the letter I in Ira NY. And with that stop, they have finished the Alphabet Tour thereby finishing off ALL 5 Grand Tour Challenges!

RK NH1 welcomes new members

A big welcome to David and Kathleen Paradis to joining N.H.1 for a great day of riding and friendship. Next adventure....Lake George!



Yankee Rally 2023



Riding in the rain 400 miles to the Finger Lakes region in NY for Yankee Rally 2023 did not deter these members of NH5 from toasting their safe arrival and looking forward to a great rally. They were not disappointed. NH5 is looking forward to co-hosting Yankee Rally 2024 to be held in Keene NH scheduled for June 5 – June 9, 2024.

Region 2

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

Nothing received from Region 2..

BEWARE OF WET RIDING CONDITIONS

Be alert of dangerous road conditions in order to navigate the streets safely



Reduced Traction

Rain unveils oils that create slippery, wet surfaces that reduces the traction on your tires. Try to avoid riding on painted lines, manhole covers, tar snakes, puddles, and metal crossings. When possible, ride behind the vehicle's tire tracks, as they have already propelled some of the water away and allow you the gain better traction.



Obscured Obstacles

Abundant rainfall can obscure potholes and uneven surfaces on the road that can be hazardous to your safety. Slow down as much as possible, squeeze your clutch, and coast through the puddle. At higher speed conditions, try to maintain your speed and avoid abrupt changes as it can reduce the traction of your motorcycle.



Decreased Visibility

Visibility is reduced for both motorcyclists and vehicles while riding in the rain. Consider wearing reflective and/or bright-colored riding gear to increase your visibility in the road. Adjust accordingly to weather conditions and practice riding defensively.



Increase Braking Distance

Braking distance should be increased due to the lack of traction on the wet roads. Ride as vertical as possible to allow your tires to have the best contact path with the road. While braking, apply a lighter application to the front brakes.



Lightning

If lightning strikes during your ride, find an indoor rest stop immediately and wait it out. Riding in the elements on a metal contraption during a thunderstorm is asking for trouble!

RIDE SAFELY

Some news for our region. It is unfortunate our region director has resigned prior to our election as all have already heard. We do have 2 candidates who have asked to post accolades and some bio.

Trudy Rutkowski

RKMC Region 3 Candidate Letter

Dear Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club, Region 3 members: I am writing this letter on behalf of Trudy Rutkowski, an outstanding leader and committed member of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, who is seeking the position of Regional 3 Director. I've known Trudy for 11 years when I joined the RKMC and Trudy was on the board of the RKMC PA 8.

During my time as a member of PA 8, I witnessed Trudy organizing many fundraising events, rides, and other activities that brought our members together. Her dedication and willingness to spend the time and energy needed to make the events successful was very apparent. It is evident that Trudy has a passion for the Red Knights Motorcycle Club and has made it a part of her everyday life.

Trudy is a candidate that would be an asset to the Red Knights Motorcycle Club with her positive attitude, interpersonal skills, and experience. Furthermore, Trudy is very approachable and offers valuable ideas and an open mind. This is a candidate that the members would be able to work with collaboratively and find solutions.

I am certain that Red Knights Motorcycle Club will benefit significantly with a person of Trudy Rutkowski's caliber as Regional 3 director. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about Trudy's qualifications.

"Loyal to Our Duty"
Secretary
RKIFMC PA Chapter 11
Interim PA State Association President
412-913-1864

Mark " Moon" Mullen

To Our Red Knights Brothers & Sisters, Letter of Endorsement for Mark "Moon" Mullen for the position of Region 3 Director.

I am writing this letter on behalf of the members of Pennsylvania Chapter 8 of the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club to endorse Mark "Moon" Mullen to be considered as your selection for Region 3 Director.

Mark has served the Red Knights organization exceptionally well in his positions throughout the years, currently serving as IL Chapter 14 President and Illinois State President.

His commitment to others, and to the greater good of the entire organization has been proven through a track record of exceptional service. Mark is a true leader... he served his community honorably and Retired as Chief of Dolton Fire Department.

He once again stepped up when the IL State Association was in dire need of repair and has brought it back to life in a resounding fashion to serve the Chapters and its members.

Mark has amazing people skills and focuses on finding solutions with heartfelt resolve to help us all succeed. He is a unifier. I am confident that given Mark's abilities, character and qualifications, he is hands down the most qualified and competent candidate for the job as Region 3 Director.

Sincerely, Kevin T. White President - PA Chapter 8 412-855-0212

Hello brothers and sisters from around the world.

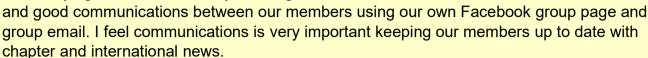
We here in region 3 want to say what a pleasure it is to bring you news from our wonderful "Bootlegger" States. Yes most of you know region 3 is home of the infamous "Bootlegger" rally. A little history and yes I know this is becoming an every newsletter topic, for those that have been in the RK family since the inauguration of Bootlegger in 2019 who are aware of what it is. This is time to remember, reflect back to those rallies that created some great memories, "Framily" Time, camaraderie and some just crazy fun. But for our newest members of the "Framily" here is a little history of bootlegger rally!

Bootlegger Rally began In the beautiful hills of West "by god " Virginia in 2019, Followed by another great time in 2020 (during covid it still happened) in Peoria, Illinois, In 2021 the Bootlegger took a different turn and was amazing, it was held in southern Indiana and was just like being at a down home back yard barbeque. Now in 2022 it was moved to Dubois, Pennsylvania. This scenery was amazing, great rides, great people even got to visit that little rodent who predicts American weather (Punxsutawney Phil). Which bring us to the year 2023, Bootlegger will be held in Youngstown, Ohio and every year this has gotten better and bigger can't wait to see what them Ohio Red Knights come up with and I do believe it will be spectacular. As always Bootlegger is held Labor Day weekend.

Lets hear from a few chapters

OHIO 3 KEEP ACTIVE AND EMBRACE SOCIAL MEDIA

Hello Region 3 !!! Ohio Chapter 6 has been staying active with monthly meetings



Living in Northeast Ohio has its challenges when it comes to the weather in early spring. Anyone who lives near Lake Erie, especially in the "Snow Belt" knows that the temperatures can be 30 or 40 degrees and snowing along the lake and 50 miles South the temperatures can be in the 50s and 60s, this really shortens the riding season sometimes.

This year we didn't really get our bikes out, other than maybe a day or two, until the middle of the month of May. Anyways, we are hanging in there.



A few members had health issue, surgeries, family issues, and some had to work for a living, but we are finally starting to get out and do a little riding. Occasionally we plan a few lunch rides and recently we rode to Mercer, PA for lunch at the Iron Bridge Restaurant. Great place for food.

Then we took a 20 minute ride down the road to the Avenue of 444 Flags. This is a solemn tribute to the Americans that

were held hostage in Iran for 444 days years ago. We also recently attended the Firefighters Memorial Ride in Cleveland. This event starts with a ceremony to remember those Firefighters and their families who paid the ultimate sacrifice over the past year. Then we rode on a Police escorted motorcycle ride.

We are working on several rides for this year in addition to our annual Summer Steak Roast, Fall Clam Bake, and a Holiday Gathering in December.







Good luck to everyone and ride safe !!!

Sincerely,

Richard A. Merkosky, President

Region 3 Members receive their Five and 15 Year Membership Awards



Gail receiving her 5-year certificate from Mark Mullen



Lisa receiving her 15-year certificate from Mark Mullen

Motorcycle tip of the season-

Make sure you watch for those who are not watching for you! Keep the shiny side up, safe travels, get out and enjoy our rallies, meet new family members and enjoy life!

Maverick



Region 4

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

Maryland Chapter 4 - 20th Anniversary





The Calvert County Maryland Board of County Commissioners celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club® (RKIFMC) and the 20th anniversary of the local chapter RKIFMC Maryland 4, a 501(c)(3) organization whose members reside in Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles Counties on June 3, 2023.

Members of RKIFMC Maryland 4 have consistently demonstrated their commitment to promoting motorcycle safety, collaborating with Maryland Highway Safety to raise awareness among fellow motorcyclists and other road users.

The local chapter has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for various local charities, burn centers and children through impactful toy drives. They have also played a pivotal role in hosting events in Calvert County which draw hundreds of participants from across the United States and around the world. Members of RKIFMC Maryland 4 accepted the proclamation on behalf of the local chapter.

Maryland 4 anniversary celebration was held on June 2nd & 3rd. There was a social get together Friday night with a ride, dinner, and party on Saturday. A great time was had by all!!





Chapters from Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania President Alex Velazquez, South Carolina, Member at Large attended as well as Past Presidents Alan Billings, local chapter of Strength and Honor Motorcycle Club Joe Gould, Chris Gadway.



Marshall County Red Knights members include, in front, from left, Randy and Miranda Hughes; and Adrian and Misty Ogle. In back is Junior Member Bradley Ogle. The group is part of Red Knights Chapter 14 in Marshall County.

RED KNIGHTS

Motorcycle club rides for charity

By ELIZABETH SUMMERS

The Reporter

Firefighters are generally among the first to arrive at a scene when someone needs help.

The Red Knights are similar in the fact the group of current and retired firefighters are ready at a moment's notice to help those in need.

The Red Knights
Chapter 14 of Marshall
County are an international motorcycle club
comprised of active
and retired members of
career, industrial, paid
on call and volunteer fire
departments. The fraternity pulls together to
raise funds benefitting a
wide variety of charities.

"We do one large fundraiser each year to meet club bylaws," said Sgt. At Arms Randy Hughes.

The year, the club is hosting a St. Jude's Children's Hospital benefit June 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Boaz VFW Post 6837 fairgrounds.

The daylong event will feature a benefit motorcycle ride, car show, raffles. Corn hole, food and craft vendors, live music and more.

The ride is \$20 per vehicle and \$5 a passenger on a motorcycle. Ride registration is from 9 to 10 a.m. with safety meeting at 9:45 a.m.



The Red Knights have their own challenge coin.

Kickstands up at 10 a.m.

The car show is \$20 per entry with judging and best in class awarded at noon with a raffle drawing.

The Boaz Fire Department, Marshall County Sheriff's Office and Whitaker's Towing will be on hand with vehicles on display.

A blood drive through LifeSouth will also be held during the event.

Family affair

Many of the Red Knights members are family, such as in the case of the Ogle family.

Adrian Ogle is the group's president while his wife, Misty, handles a little bit of everything, she said. Their son, Bradley Ogle, is a junior member. Adrian, 48, has been active in fire service since he was 16 years old. Bradley has been active since he was

16.

Hughes and his wife, Miranda, are also members with Randy acting as Sergeant at Arms and a medic, while Miranda is a nurse and medic on rides.

"We participate in events with other clubs all the time," said Misty. "We support each other when we can."

Randy said the club is choosy about what other types of events and groups they support.

"We don't socialize with other clubs that don't share our values," he said.

"If they are doing something we don't want our children seeing, we won't participate."

Misty characterizes the Red Knights as a Christian-based motorcycle association.
"They are a Christian group that rides," she said.

When called on, the Red Knights will join in rides and events supporting local charities and people in need when possible. When they can't participate, they will "show up and bring a donation," Randy said.

"We are here to support other firefighters and their families," Misty said.

The most recent example of this was as the Red Knights provided an escort to the late Tidmore Bend Fire Chief John "Jay" Stoddard as his remains were transported to the memorial service. Red Knights braved cold, windy and rainy conditions to provide an honor guard escort.

"We are like a big family," Adrian said. "We have a designated person to act as a grief counselor. At funerals, we present the family with an American flag."

Non-profit providing help

Randy said the group operates strictly on donations and funds raised through events such as this summer's kid's benefit.

"We work from our own pockets if we have to," he said. "When someone's house burns down, we take a check to the family to help with immediate expenses. We try to provide enough to put them up in a hotel for a night.

"We have some local businesses that help us. Without them and support from private individuals, we couldn't do what we do."

Misty said the club is a big supporter of local, family-owned businesses.

es.
"We support local
businesses as much as
possible," Misty said.
"You won't see support
from big box stores. We
always include the small
businesses in our events.
This summer you will
see local crafters, artists
and food vendors. You'll
see mom-and-pop stores
represented.

"And we try to always support them when we can in return."

Membership and recruiting

The Marshall County Red Knights chapter has 11 current members and is always looking for more interested in joining.

"We are always seeking new members," Randy said. "We are always open for applications. Anyone interested should reach out to this chapter or any one of the others that may be more conveniently located for them."

Chapter 14 has a public Facebook page with information and applications online. The Red Knights International also has an informational Facebook page. Chapter 14 also has a private, members only page allowing members to keep up with scheduled events.

"The requirements to become a member are you must have been active in a fire service," Randy said. "There are questions you need to be able to answer: were you a member of a fire service or a medic or an EMT? Do you have a current endorsement on your driver's license for motorcycle? Do you own or have access to a motorcycle?

"If you do not live within a reasonable distance from an established club, check online for information on being an at-large member."

Red Knights' history

During the summer of 1982, several firefighters were visiting "Randy's Cycle Shop" in Boylston, MA., and the subject of motorcycle clubs came up. Soon they were all grousing about the fact that law enforcement people had a motorcycle club known as the Blue Knights but there was no club for firefighters. After this tire-kicking session, owner Randy Wilson suggested to Ed Wright, a firefighter from Northboro, MA, that he stop talking about the lack of a club and form one instead.

Recognizing a good idea when he heard one, Ed Wright went home and made some hand-printed posters inviting firefighters from the area to meet and determine if there was enough interest to form a motorcycle club. On Aug. 17, 1982, Fire Chief Jack Pierce allowed a small group of motorcycle enthusiasts to meet in Northboro Fire Headquarters to lay the groundwork for the



Members of the Red Knights Chapter 14 helped lead a processional for Tidmore Bend Volunteer Fire Department Chief John "Jay" Stoddard recently.

formation of a motorcycle club.

On October 19th. 1982, firefighters Colin Mackey, Bob Bourassa, Ed Wright, Roger Wentzell, Dave Hamilton, Bob Goulet, David Hunt, Jon Tripp, Don Parker, Norm Beausoleil, and Chief Pierce met again. There was interest in promoting the positive image of motorcycling while enjoying the camaraderie of other firefighters. It was decided then that this group would be known as the Red Knights Motorcycle Club.

News of this new club spread like a grass fire. In July of 1983, a chapter was formed in Connecticut, In October of that year, a second Massachusetts chapter was formed. Soon applications came in from Nevada and Louisiana. In August of 1983, the founding members realized the organization was rapidly growing beyond its original expectations. To properly handle this growth, they elected a committee to serve as a National Board of Directors. With applications from Ontario and Saskatchewan, Canada, the club became the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club.

As a result of the seed that was planted at Randy's in 1982, there are now more than 300 Red Knights chapters and 9,000 members throughout the world.



Spencer Drew took John "Jay" Stoddard's remains on one last ride during funeral services for Stoddard recently.

The above article appeared in the Sands Mountain Reporter Newspaper

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER 22 HOSTS BURNS CHARITY RIDE

NC22 hosted the 6th Annual Heal the Burn Ride on June 3rd for the local chapter of the Firefighters' Burned Children Fund of Person County.



The ride raised a Total of \$6,785 that was given to the Firefighters' Burned Children Fund of Person County with 3 additional direct donations to the FFBCF of PC as a result of the ride that totalled over \$2,000.



It was attended by 70 Bikes and over 100 people and the 7 RKMC chapters represented were NC22, NC27, NC13, NC12, NC21, NC14, and NC26

2023 Region 4 Dixie Rally

2023 Red Knights MC 19th annual Region 4 Dixie Rally hosted by Alabama Chapter 4 was held May 18th to 21st in Pell Alabama.

At the banquet it was announced that there were 302 registered attendees, 68 chapters, 19 states, 4 countries.



Cont:

Alabama 4 presented the final numbers from the Dixie Rally charity's and they are going to be able to donate to the Camp Conquest and Chief Justin McKenzie a check for \$9000.00.



The Saturday banquet was held at Talladega Speedway.

"The wheels on the bus go round and round" was heard on the bus ride to the banquet and a Memorial service for Red Knights GA8 President/Georgia State Representative Vince Blevins was held where Region 4 Director Chuck Marks presented Debbie Blevins with the Red Knights flag and coin.







Activities included rides to Barber Motorsports Park and motorcycle museum, Talladega Motor Speedway and International Motorsports Hall of Fame as well as several others.





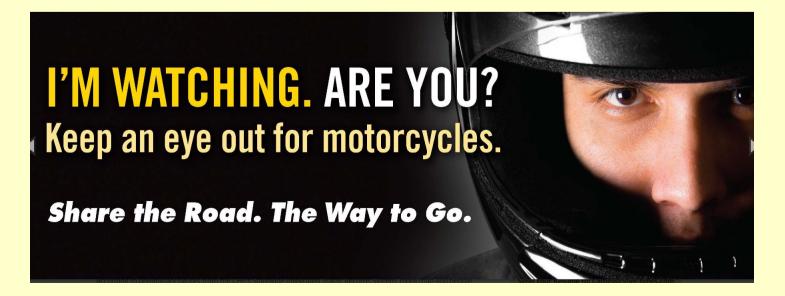
Region 4 – Highlight a Red Knight

Danny "Duck" Ashton

Danny Ashton is a 7-year Red Knight, a member of Virginia Chapter 8. He was an industrial Firefighter that also served on Haz Mat squads and confined Space teams during his career. A very active member, he currently performs duties as Chaplain for Virginia 8 and has led local and regional gatherings in prayer. Married for 41 years to his lovely wife Jean, Danny is an avid fisherman who continues to compete in tournaments, but is most proud of his efforts hosting disabled Wounded Warriors on fishing excursions. Often at the annual 2-day Tournament for Veterans on the James River, he can be heard proudly stating, "I love these guys and wouldn't miss this event for all the world.", a fine example of remaining loyal to one's duty.







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

WE HAVE A NEW REGION 5 REPORTER!

Hello Red Knights! My name is Delainey Thorud, and I am your new Region 5 Reporter. I joined Minnesota Chapter 4 as a Junior Member in 2014 and have been very active in the club for the past 9 years. I graduated from Drake University in 2021 with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication and have been doing communications work for non-profits ever since. I am very excited to start working with different chapters of the Red Knights and putting together articles on the happenings in Region 5! I hope that for future newsletters I can receive more information from other chapters to highlight the amazing events that Red Knights across the region are hosting and attending. Now onto the good stuff!

Region 5 Western Rally

From June 16-18, Washington 2 hosted the 2023 Red Knights Region 5 Western Rally in Spokane, Washington. Red Knights came from all over the country to enjoy the beautiful riding in Washington, connect with old friends, and meet new ones! Some highlights from the rally include multiple organized rides, blessings of the bikes, riding THROUGH a motorcycle bar, and countless memories made with RK brothers and sisters!



lowa 2

5th Anniversary Party

On June 3, 2023, lowa Chapter 2 celebrated their 5year anniversary. The party included a 130-mile ride with four stops, a street dance with music from 3 On The Tree, and lots of fun with friends from near and far!



IA2 at their 5th Anniversary Party

Wheelin' 4 Healin'

Each year, IA2 receives donations from 65+ local businesses and puts together a stamp book encouraging people to visit these establishments. When people make purchases at

the establishment, they get a stamp, and each stamp enters them into a drawing for prizes at IA2's year-end party. All the donations made, and funds raised are donated to the St. Florian Miracle Burn Camp that helps build self-esteem and supports the emotional healing of burn survivors ages 8-18. In 2021, IA2 visited the camp and attended the Gala where they were presented with an award in recognition of their support of the foundation.



IA2 members at the Miracle Burn Camp Gala

Dinner Knights



Every week IA2 does a "Dinner Knight" with their members where they ride to local businesses that are involved in their Wheelin' for Healin' benefit and are listed in the stamp book. These "Dinner Knights" can draw upwards of 30 people and are used to get members and their friends/families together.

IA2 members on one of their "Dinner Knights"

IA2 President Wins Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award and Iowa Department of Corrections Humanitarian of the Year Award

2023 has been a big year for IA2 President, Keith "Birdman" Paulson, who received two awards for the work that he has done both with the Red Knights and on his own accord to better the lives of Iowans. He received the Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award for the charity work that he has done with the Red Knights supporting veterans, veteran benefit

rides, and local communities. He also received the Iowa Department of Corrections Humanitarian of the Year Award for raising thousands of dollars for local charities and "enhancing the quality of life for the Citizens of Iowa, through acts of kindness and generosity." Congratulations Birdman!!



Birdman (left) at the Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award Ceremony

IA2 Visits Ground Zero



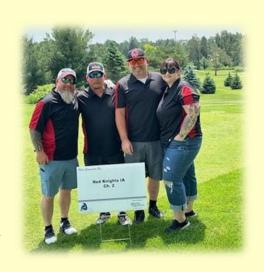
In January of 2023, eight IA2 members flew to New Jersey to attend the New Jersey 19 Christmas Party. While they were on the East Coast, they visited the Ground Zero New York Memorial and paid their respects to the fallen firefighters and civilians that were lost on 9/11/2001.

IA2 at the Ground Zero New York Memorial

Youth Wrestling Golf Tournament Sponsorship

In June of 2023, IA2 sponsored a hole at a golf tournament benefiting youth wrestling in the area. Members got matching golf shirts and it was a great way to get involved with the community while getting their name out there!

IA2 in front of their sponsor sign at the Youth Wrestling Golf Tournament



Donor Brick at Freedom Rock in Jones County, Iowa



Jones County, Iowa will be having an open house on July 9, 2023, to unveil the Freedom Rock and the Donor Bricks that are on display. All 99 counties in Iowa have a Freedom Rock, or a giant boulder with a patriotic mural painted on it to honor veterans. This year, the Jones County Freedom Rock Park will have Donor Bricks, including one for IA2, for those who have donated to the Freedom Rock program or the park that it is being placed in.

IA2's Donor Brick at the Jones County Freedom Rock Site.

Minnesota 4

Fellow Red Knights,

The snow has melted, the rain has washed the sand away, the potholes have been filled, and it is finally riding season again in Minnesota! After a *very* long winter we are ready to get back out there, and boy do we have a busy season ahead of us. With more than **18 rides, rallies, and fundraisers** (not including our weekly club dinner rides!) on our official calendar, we are going to be one active bunch. Make sure to check out our list of events below, along with some feature articles on MN4 happenings!

2023 RKMN 4 Planned Events

• Dixie Rally: 5/18-21/2023

CVMA Dyna Fundraiser: 5/19-20/2023

Memorial Weekend Ride & Fun: 5/26-29/2023

• EMS Charity Ride: 6/3/2023

Maranatha Blessing of the Bikes: 6/4/2023

Yankee Rally: 6/8-11/2023

Western Rally: 6/16-18/2023

Deadwood w/Tumbles & MT: 6/21-28/2023

ABATE Freedom Rally: 6/29-7/1/2023

Atlantic Rally: 7/6-9/2023

Pearly Gates Veterans Benefit: 7/7-9/2023

• IGYSIX Ride: 7/8/2023

Sturgis 83rd Rally: 8/4-13/2023
Monticello VFW Ride: 8/2023
CVMA Joint Forces Ride: 8/2023

RKMN4 Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit Ride: 8/26/2023

Bootlegger Rally: 8/31-9/3/2023

Red Knights International Motorcycle Convention 2023 – Austria: 9/7-9/10/2023

St. Croix Valley Riders Chilly Feed: 9/8-9/2023

Fall Flood Run: 9/16/2023



KMN4 members at the Dixie Rally in Alabama



RKMN 4 members at the Western Rally in Washington

Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit Ride



On Saturday, August 26, 2023, MN4 will host our 13th annual Firefighters Fighting Cancer benefit. The benefit includes a scenic ride through the country, a silent & live auction, raffles, and food and drinks. The proceeds from the benefit go to a local firefighter and/or their family battling cancer. This year's beneficiaries include Active Member Ian Osborn and Associate Member Ken "Seven" Garman. The benefit is open to the public and Knights from all over the state and country are encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there! Donations can be sent via Zelle to treasurer@redknightsmn4.org.

2022 Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit Ride

New Members

The best part of this riding season is going to be getting to know the **9 new members** that have joined our club since 2021. With the addition of those 9 members, we now have a whopping **143 members!** Help us welcome:

- Russ Gerhard (Active)
- Lance "Popeye" Handel (Active)
- Isiah Bladzik (Active)
- Sarah "Glitter" Bladzik (Social)
- Ryan Signore (Active)
- Brenda Patnaude (Social)
- David Sinner (Active)
- Brad Miller (Active)
- Cieluch Elizabeth (Social)



Weekly Dinner Rides

Almost every week, year-round, MN4 puts on "dinner rides" to get our members out riding in the summer and together in the winter. Each week a different Knight will choose a dinner location and plan a ride there. This gives members the opportunity to host rides in their area and make rides that they otherwise may not be able to. Dinner rides average 15+ Knights each week!





RKMN4 Dinner Rides

A Red Knight Wedding and Gender Reveal

In September 2022, more than 60 Red Knights helped Ken "Cooter" Martin and Ashley "Smashley" Jones celebrate their big day! Red Knights rode to the wedding, wedding photos were taken on "his" and "her" bikes, and members of MN4 got to see each other all dolled up!



The RKMN4 family at Smashley and Cooter's wedding





Then, in June of 2023, Cooter and Smashley announced that they have RKMN4's newest Junior Member on the way! In true biker fashion, Cooter did a burnout to announce that they are having a baby girl who is sure to steal all our hearts. Keep an eye out for pictures of MN4's newest member in the February newsletter!

Smashley and Cooter's Gender Reveal

RKMN4 Takes on Panama City Beach

In October 2022, more than 45 members of RKMN4 rode, drove, and flew to Panama City Beach, Florida for Vice President Shawn "Bunz" Thorud and Social Member Julie "Jugz" Luhning's wedding (officiated by President Joel "Hambone" Nelson!) The wedding was purposely planned during PCB's Bike Week and 4-day Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally. Group rides were planned almost every day, parties were planned almost every night, and a great time was had by all!



The RKMN4 family immediately following the wedding ceremony in Panama City Beach, Florida

RKMN4 Tables at Donnie Smith Bike Show and Dirty Rotten Biker Fest

In an effort to get our name out there and raise money year-round for our Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit, RKMN4 has started tabling at different motorcycle events and rallies in our area.

This year, we tabled at the 2023 Donnie Smith Bike Show. We educated attendees about our club, handed out flyers with information on our Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit Ride, and showcased Active Member Joe Patnaude's award-winning firefighter motorcycle. We also attended the Dirty Rotten Biker Fest where we again educated attendees, passed out flyers, brought in donations, and sold water with the proceeds benefiting our Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit.



RKMN4's booth at the Donnie Smith Bike Show 2023

In conclusion, MN4 has a lot going on, and we wouldn't have it any other way! We look forward to a fantastic riding season and hopefully meeting some new Knights at one of our many rides, rallies, fundraisers, and conventions. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about any of the topics presented in this newsletter, please contact MN4's Editor, Delainey Thorud, at region5reporter@redknightsmc.com.

"Region 6 Scooter Stampede"

there has been movement from a group working on a region 6 gathering in Oklahoma Sept 18, 19, 20, 21 in 2024. Any and all Red Knights are welcome to participate, it will take a lot of effort from everyone to pull this together. If you want to be involved there is a Zoom meeting on Thursday evenings. The link is posted on 2 GroupMe pages and the state FB page. The name selected is "Region 6 Scooter Stampede". Tentative locations have been looked at with daily event plans in the works. Let's make this a Regional event that repeats on an annual basis.

FROM OKLAHOMA

Saturday April 15, 2023 we had a few chapters that participated in the annual Ride to Remember ride. This ride is put on each year to honor those 1st responders that were lost during the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building April 19, 1995. Oklahoma Chapters 2. 9,10,11 and a Minnesota chapter4 Member Paul Steinman all rode this ride to honor those that are no longer with us and to raise money to 3 charities that help 1st responders in need. See Group picture. This is a huge ride. Riders come from all over Oklahoma Texas Kansas to do this ride.

Also, On April 29,2023 Okla Red Knight Association is doing a dice run for Hydrants of Hope. Hydrants of Hope is an organization that was started by a Tulsa Fireman, Mark Meyer who at the time was going through cancer treatment himself and saw the need for help to families of kids who suffer from cancer here in Oklahoma. He started off with designing hat pin selling them for \$5.00 and it has grown from there. They help with anything from rooms form mom and dad while the child is going through treatment to medical supplies or food, clothes, gas for the vehicles to get to the dr appointments. They have a summer camp that is specially for the kids that are able to go with Drs and nurses who have volunteered their time so these kids can have some kind of normal life. After Marks passing his wife and daughter have kept up his dream helping as many kids and families as possible. So again for the 2nd year we have decided to do this dice run. We invite anyone that wants to come and join. We do have a motel that has blocked out rooms for us. Homewood Suites on Reno Ave in Oklahoma City on the date that are blocked is April 27-30. For more information they can email me okredknightsstatesecretary@gmail.com or text me 580-445-1650. I have attached the flier.

Chuck Prince Region 6 Reporter

ENGLAND 2 START THE RIDING SEASON OFF BY BRING EASTER JOY TO THE CHILDREN IN THEIR AREA

Sunday 2nd April was the forty-second Nottingham Charity Easter Egg Run. Bikers from the Nottinghamshire area gathered at the Forest Recreation Ground in Nottingham, the starting point for the fourteen miles to Mansfield Fire Station. Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service hosted the Egg collection again, having done so for many years now, so thanks must go to Chief Fire Officer Craig Parkin for his and his staffs' continued support.

The event is organised by England II Red Knight, Tim Marston (pictured below). Tim puts a lot of effort, and his own time into organising this event, which provides Easter Eggs for disadvantaged children in the county. You can see below that he

had quite a haul of easter Eggs.





The following Sunday, 9th April they were at it again, along with Blue Knights



England 6 and England 9 they assisted South Yorkshire Police with the marshalling of hundreds of bikers through Sheffield's streets finishing at the Sheffield Childrens'

Hospital to deliver dozens of Easter Eggs and donations.

This has become an annual event which finishes with the Marshals riding to the SY Police's Social Club for a bacon sandwich and social gathering, all of which further strengthens the bonds between the Red and the Blue Knights.



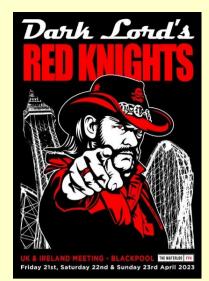
England MAL's Blackpool Gathering

England MAL, Chris Newiss organised his second meeting in Blackpool, having done so in 2022 when he was the host

BACKSTAGE
BAR

for the UK/Ireland Meeting.

The meeting was again centred around the Waterloo Music Bar where Red Knights



from England, Belgium and France enjoyed two nights of music.

The Gathering started on the Friday night with a tram

ride into Blackpool for a Curry meal before returning to the Waterloo for the first night's entertainment. Blackpool is famous for its Tower Ballroom and the party were able to see it up close on their way to the curry restaurant.

Saturday looked to be heading for a very wet ride out, the route was changed to take the riders away from the worst of the rain but fortunately the weather



gods smiled on the riders, with the rain easing it turned out not to be

too bad after all and the group were able to enjoy some fantastic scenery and roads

Saturday night began with a meal at the Gurkha Hotel

Restaurant before again heading to the Waterloo Bar for a second night of entertainment and drinking.

Sunday morning came all too quickly and most Knights headed for home after breakfast, most that is apart from four England 2 members and a Belgian MAL who stayed an extra night to watch the band of the weekend, Deeper Purple.



England 2's VP, Andy Mc seems to be enjoying himself

RED KNIGHTS ITALY 1 REMEMBER LEONARDO

1st Old Florence Rugby Trophy 1931 Memorial SHOE 2023

On 20th May, Chapter Italy 1 in Florence welcomed Red Knights from various parts of Europe to the Memorial of Leonardo Pilone Scarpellini.





The group of motorcyclists rode to the cemetery for a special greeting to Leonardo before continuing their journey in the Florentine hills at the Michelangelo square and finally at the Rugby field of Padovani in Campo di Marte, where the Pompieropoli and Rugby Open Day at Florence Rugby 1931 and the Rugby tournament were taking place.

All proceeds from the day were going to ONLUS One Petal for Margherita Onlus for the research of rare diseases.

MEMORIAL SHOES - PADOVANI STADIUM

So the second part of the memorial by way of the 1st Trophy Old Firenze Rugby 1931 Memorial Scarpa 2023, Memorial of Leonardo Pilone Scarpellini at the Padovani Stadium got underway with the gates opening at 9:30 to the static exhibition of historical means of the Florence historical Firefighters Museum Group.

Due to the flood emergency that affected the region of Emilia Romagna, it was not possible to set up the small Fire City activity ... but a state-of-the-art vehicle was brought in for kids to ride...

The Mercy of Florence organisation performed first aid simulations on the mannequins, and allowed visitors to see and climb on the ambulance.

With the arrival of Francesca del Campana, Leonardo's widow and her Red Knights bikers the match ball was delivered to Associazione 50 minuti VETERANI CALCIO STORICO FIORENTINO to Lorenzo Scarpellini. With the teams gathered on the field ready to begin the OLD Rugby tournament, and with all the components Leonardo had been part of with the Bandierai degli Uffizi di Firenze and the Red Knights Mc Italy 1 – FIRENZE, a minute of silence in



memory of Leonardo Pilone Scarpellini was observed by those in attendance.

The day's proceeds which amounted totalled 5,000.00 euro were donated to ONLUS Un Petalo per Margherita Onlus for the research of rare diseases.

This total was increased with a donation from Red Knights MC Italy 1 - FIRENZE in honor of the memory to Leonardo "Pilone" Scarpellini in Chapter Heaven 1.



Germany 9 and 19 FLY THE RED KNIGHTS' FLAG AT THE `Dortmund Motorcycles FAIR 2023`

Always on the first weekend in March, the "Motorcycles Dortmund" opens its gates for motorcycle enthusiasts.

Brothers and Sisters from Chapters Germany 9 and Germany 19 had a booth there and dignifiedly presented the Red Knights MC, this was the place to be to meet tons of Red Knights from other chapters!



Good conversations could be had over coffee and cake and a contribution in the donation jar for the benefit of Kinderhospiz Sonnenherz couldn't be missing either!

Day 1 of the Fair saw that the hot phase for the motorcycle fair in Dortmund had begun, `The Build` was underway in readiness for what was hoped would be many visitors from the Red Knights and beyond who would hopefully donate into the collection drive at the booth.

The donations this year will go to the Child Welfare Association Dortmund and to the children's hospice "Sonnenherz" in Castrop-Rauxel.



Day 2 saw guests from RKMC Germany 6, The Titanium LEMC Chapter Ruhrpott and members of the Moon Knights.

The donation jar for the Kinder Hospiz and the Child Welfare Association Dortmund was slowly filling up due to the generosity of visitors to the booth.

Day 2 was a great success and day 3 promised to be equally as successful with a steady stream of visitors to the booth from Red Knights and other friendly mc's like the Blue Knights and the motorcycle sport club Waltrop e.V.





Day 4 followed another successful day where 47 guys visited our booth at MoToMe. Visitors were keen to donate and were thanked for their willingness to donate, the donation jar was filling up nicely by this point.

What was also cool day 4 was that Germany 2 and Germany 23 visited us despite the enormously distance they had to travel to get to the Fair.

Day 5 was a relaxing day and heartfelt thanks

were given to everybody involved and invitations given for 2024 when the Motorcycle fair Dortmund will once again welcome the Red Knights.

It was heard that the big manufacturers are in for again for 2024 and the Red Knights booth will also get bigger.

The Child Welfare Center Dortmund and the Kinderhospiz Sonnenherz passed on their thanks for RKMC Germany's financial support. "You guys are the best.

We were overwhelmed by how many members of the Red Knights visited us". It was a red tide and many visitors to the fair were very interested in the Red Knights so they were treated to good conversations over a coffee and many questions were answered.

Everyone agreed that our attendance at the Fair was a good thing and agreed to keep up the good work. They are looking forward to your visit in 2024.

Final report at the MOTORCYCLE DORTMUND 2023

Over 100,000 motorcycle fans flocked to the Westphalenhallen

There was a big hello this year in the Westfalenhallen. After a three-year break, the traditional Dortmund motorcycle fair opened its gates once again. 104,000 two-wheeler fans came to see the latest scooters, motorcycles, apparel and accessories.

BIKERS 2024 has a special launch day next year.

The first day of the fair is the 29th February and will run from Thursday through to Sunday the 3rd March in the Westfalenhallen again.

On the conclusion of this year's very success FAIR, Germany 9 & Germany 19 are at the start of another year of preparation and planning, they would be happy to welcome you again at their RED KNIGHTS MC stand.





I would like to raise awareness about cancer, specifically the cancer I have just battled

My name is Ronnie Patterson, President of Red Knights Motorcycling Club England 4 and a former firefighter with Essex Fire and Rescue Service, I served for 22 years and retired in 2020, shortly

after retiring I battled penile cancer, an extremely rare form of cancer which affects between 400 to 600 men each year across the UK.

Penile cancer is very specific to men and although rare, can be very deadly. It happens when abnormal penile cells grow in an uncontrolled way. It can develop anywhere on the penis but is most common under the foreskin in men who haven't been circumcised or on the head of the penis (the glans).

Now I have decided to share my experience in the hope of raising awareness – and potentially helping others.

Unfortunately, most men have no idea of its existence and let's face it, most - if not all - men don't like to talk about these things.

"I first realised something was wrong in 2016. I noticed a small area of red skin which was not unusual as I was very active at the time. I was a firefighter so at times I would get rashes from the physical work we did. I noticed an area of red skin changing to more of a hard yet flaky texture. Then a friend of mine who worked in funerals told me of an unfortunate 'customer' who had died of this disease. At this point I was curious as I hadn't heard of it before, so Googled it and from what I saw, it looked very similar to what I had.

"I immediately booked an appointment with my GP, but they told me it wasn't cancer.

"The problem stayed like this until I retired in 2020, which was right at the start of the Pandemic. Further changes to the skin area had started.

"Unfortunately, by this point all doctors' surgeries had closed and the hospitals were full of highly infectious cases of Covid. I wasn't too worried as my GP had told me it wasn't cancer.

"In early 2021, when the surgeries reopened, I saw my GP with another issue, but also asked them to look again at my ongoing issue as it had been some time and it had spread over a larger area. It has evolved into more of a lump.

"In December 2021 I finally had my diagnosis. But by then, what would have been treated with a mild chemotherapy cream in 2016, had to be treated by carrying out a partial amputation of the affected area. I had skin grafts and then, months later, the removal of the lymph nodes to see if it had spread.

"Luckily, I had a very slow growing strain of this cancer, and it hasn't spread. But it could have been much worse.

"The specific group of men that may be potentially vulnerable to this cancer are those that are overweight; heavy smokers; have skin issues like psoriasis; and/or have suffered with trauma to that area; and it has been linked to the Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV).

"I'd urge everyone to get checked if they have concerns."

Symptoms of Penile Cancer include:

- A growth or ulcer on the penis, especially on the glans (head) or foreskin.
- Colour changes.
- Skin thickening.
- Persistent discharge with a foul odour underneath the foreskin.
- Blood coming from the tip of the penis or under the foreskin.
- Unexplained pain in the shaft or tip of the penis.
- Irregular or growing bluish-brown flat lesions or marks, either beneath the foreskin, or on the body of the penis.
- Reddish, velvety rash beneath the foreskin.
- Small, crusty bumps beneath the foreskin.
- Irregular swelling at the end of the penis.

Cancer can develop anywhere in the penis, but the most usual places are under the foreskin and on the head (glans). Other non-cancerous conditions can initially present similar symptoms so anyone with concerns is urged to contact their GP as soon as possible.

If anyone requires any more information about cancer you can either contact Cancer Research

(https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/penilecancer? gl=1*7w1rl6* gcl dc*R0 NMLjE2ODAwMDQ2MDMuNzU1MGNIOTEzY2ZkMTMxNGU5YmFhYWIzZTkwNWUzNTk.* ga*NDE0NDE3ODI0LjE2ODAwMDIyMDg.* ga 58736Z2GNN*MTY4MDAwNDYwNC4yLjEu MTY4MDAwNDYwOS41NS4wLjA.& ga=2.219675163.305623311.1680002208414417824.1 680002208& gac=1.55177727.16800002208.e0968e05bde510b07849ea2771721f6a)

Macmillan Cancer Support

(https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer.../penile-cancer)

or

Orchid (https://orchid-cancer.org.uk/Penile-Cancer/)

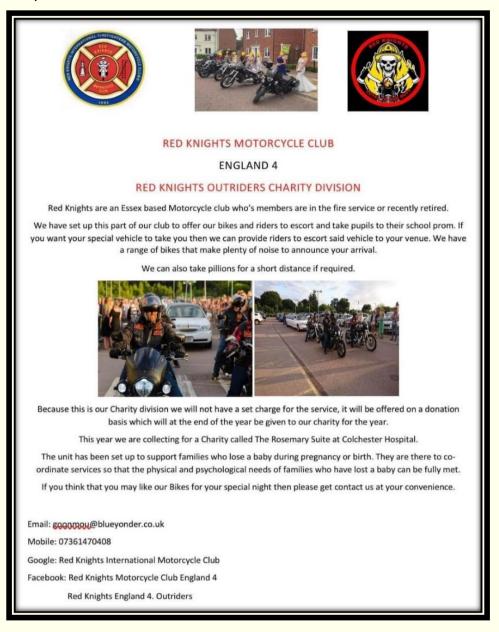
Fighting Male Cancer – Penile Cancer, which is the charity organisation for this specific cancer.

Ronnie Patterson



ENGLAND 4 CHOOSE THEIR FIRST CHARITY

England 4 are relatively new within the Red Knights so this year is the first one for us taking a charity on for the year.



We have chosen the Rosemary suite at Colchester hospital. It is a unit set up to help families who unfortunately suffer baby death during or after birth. The staff will assist with the family's needs at this upsetting time.

One of our brothers has unfortunately experienced the unit through his daughter, so a very good reason for us to raise money.

We are doing various events, fire station open days, prom escorts, selling challenge coins and we are holding an event in August which will include a raffle.

Below is the link to the Rosemary suite, please have a look.

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077570318012

Thanks for reading, Ride safe brothers and sisters, Loyal to our duty, Muffy

(Quartermaster England 4)

Red Knights France IV kept their promise, despite the wet weather.

On Sunday May 21, in Uchaud 30620, the Red Knights® France IV motorcycle club held its 6th Fire Day in the Espace Christian-Eymard parking lot.

The event raised funds for the French fire department's orphans.

Although President Richard Mourgue was "disappointed by the lack of public participation, due to the rainy weather, to come and support our action, which penalizes the orphans".

The charity day kicked off at 10:30 with a motorcycle ride by some thirty "real bikers", who weren't afraid to brave the rain.

At midday, there was an aperitif and dance, followed by a pin-up parade and the election of the most handsome bearded man. The winner was Daniel, a member of the France 4 chapter.

The Aigues-Mortes-based Country Dance Forever club gave an introduction to country dancing on the stage, while the Les Gémeaux group, also from Aigues-Mortes, led the dancers onto the dance floor.

Finally, the highlight of the day was a demonstration of dance and gymnastics by "Cheerleading", supporters of the American soccer club Les centurions de Nîmes.

The day ended with twenty-two stands, including the MC Gatekeeper, a motorcycle club that is also a firefighting club working for the same cause.

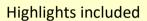


France 2 celebrates their 10th birthday

From May 24 to 28 in Le Lavandou, Red Knights France 2 celebrated their 10th anniversary.

The weather was mild and sunny, and the Chapter was able to allow its

guests to visit and enjoy the Var countryside.



- a run along the Route des Crêtes
- A visit to the Provence Landing Museum at Mont Faron
- A visit to the motorized brigade and the PSIG in St Tropez
- A visit to the old St Tropez gendarmerie, famous thanks to the film
- "The Gendarme of St Tropez", now the museum of the gendarmerie and cinema.



The official evening on Saturday evening provided an opportunity to look back over the past 10 years and talk about the future.

A more solemn moment during the ceremony was the passing of the Country Rep patch from former Country Rep DUCATILLON Francis (RKF2) to the new MARCHER Jean-Charles (RKF7).

The anniversary came to an emotional close on Sunday morning, when it was time to say goodbye, but it's certain that we'll all be meeting up again soon, either on the road or at future gatherings.







NEWS FROM FRANCE 1

Le samedi 15 avril, au Centre de Transfusion Sanguine des Armées de Clamart, s'est tenue notre traditionnelle opération : Du sang pour 100 motards.

Belle réussite cette année, avec des collègues de RKF VII, des pompiers du fort de la Briche et un ami venu d'Orléans!

Grace à nos deux partenaires, Team Axe et ADN Moto, nous avons pu tirer au sort les deux lots pour les donneurs.

Saturday, April 15, at the Armed Forces Blood Transfusion Center in Clamart, our traditional operation was held: Blood for 100 bikers.

A great success this year, with colleagues from RKF VII, firefighters from Fort de la Briche and a friend from Orléans!

Thanks to our two partners, Team Ax and ADN Moto, we were able to raffle the two lots for donors.



Le week-end du 24-25 juin 2023, le chapitre France 1 a fêté son 12ème anniversaire en région Bourgogne et en a profité pour visiter le château de Guedelon qui est un chantier de construction expérimental d'un château fort, débuté en 1997, selon les techniques et les matériaux utilisés au Moyen Âge.



On the weekend of June 24-25, 2023, the France 1 chapter celebrated its 12th anniversary in the Burgundy region and took the opportunity to visit the Château de Guedelon, which is an experimental construction site for a fortified castle, started in 1997, according to the techniques and materials used in the Middle Ages.

17 membres du chapitre étaient présents et Cathy, member de France 1 a créé pour cette occasion un tableau avec le logo du chapitre. Vous pouvez retrouver ses créations sur https://www.facebook.com/kreadekaty

17 members of the chapter were present and Cathy, member of France 1 created for this occasion a table with the logo of the chapter. You can find his creations on: https://www.facebook.com/kreadekaty



Region 8 (Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific)

NZ X - New Zealand now has 10 Chapters!

New Zealand has reached double digits and now boasts ten Chapters within our shores. Our newest Chapter is located in the Central Otago district of the South Island.

The population of New Zealand currently hovers around 5.2 million people spread amongst our three islands (North, South and Stewart Islands), with geography playing a major part in where the majority of the



population settles. The South Island is populated by only 1.2 million people over approx 150,400 square kms (58,000 square miles), whereas the North Island metropolitan city of Auckland (4,900 square kms) boasts over 1.65 million alone! This blesses the South Island



with the expansive scenic vistas without the feeling of being overcrowded and amazing roads without the traffic.

Charlie Le Couteur is the President and one of the Charter Members of the recently formed NZ X, actually beginning his Red

Knights journey in 2010 when he was recruited by current NZ1 Vice President Roy Smith, while he was serving with the Kerikeri brigade up in Northland.

After relocating to the town of Cromwell in the South Island in 2016 Charles joined the Cromwell brigade, with enquiries revealing that there were no Red Knights chapters in the area. So, he contacted the then Region 8 Director Jason Collins, and on the 25th February 2018 NZ X received their Charter. It was a bit of a slow start due to Covid but they now have 16 members and growing, with current Region 8 Director Ken Mahon providing a guiding hand.

NZ X Chapter will host the annual National Gathering in 2025 and they are looking forward to hosting the event and showcasing their beautiful region. Now that they are established and have this year produced their own Chapter patch, a unique feature of the NZ X patch is that each tooth on the cog surrounding the patch represents a brigade situated within their region.

West Coast Gathering a Huge Success for NZ6



Well, what a weekend!

All the hard work and planning done by the Chapter 6 crew and the Reefton Volunteer Fire Brigade paid off big time, and a great time was had by all.

The only thing we couldn't control was the weather and a few who travelled to Reefton got a wee bit damp.



The weekend of March 17th-19th 2023 resulted in a great turnout with all ten NZ chapters represented as well as a couple of Australian Red Knights in the form of Past Region 8 Director Jason Collins with his partner Venessa, Australian Rep Andy Young and his partner Lyn and also NZ2 member Andy Lockyear, who now lives on the Gold Coast making it a true Region 8 event!

We received 130 registrations for the Gathering

but in the end, we had 120 Red Knight members attend.

Unfortunately, the only mode of transport to get our motorcycles between the North and South Island is the Cook Strait Ferries, which were having issues for several weeks before and after the Gathering, resulting in reduced numbers as they could not get across due to cancelled bookings.

Friday kicked off with Members registering at the Fire station and picking up their packs. With New Zealand being two separate Islands, we don't always get to see our brothers and

sisters from their respective Chapters on the other Island as often so you can imagine the joy, hugging, and backslapping that goes on while renewing our friendships along with a good mix of Adult beverages.

The Reefton Brigade crew then put on a good hearty evening meal.



Saturday -Rain Disappeared, the Brigade had arranged for the Reefton area School to cook up and serve us breakfast at the school as a fundraiser.

At approx. 10.00am we left the fire station on our Bikes and were led out of town by the Brigade vintage Fire Engine for our group ride of approx. 135 km. Our first stop was at a memorial site for the 29 men killed in the Pike River Coal mine explosion in 2010 - a very sombre place. None of the bodies were ever able to be recovered.









Ride then proceeded to an old mining town called Blackball where the local Volunteer Fire Brigade put on a lunch as a fundraiser for the Brigade. The Chief happens to be the chef at the historic hotel. Was a beautiful day and a tasty lunch.

The ride then returned to Reefton where a fun event was held, and each Chapter was required to partake in the;

West Coast Hard Man team chapter challenge -

This even involved grappling with a dead gutted 45kg wild pig around an obstacle course involving a rope climb, large Tractor tires, an electric fence, and a large net. A demo of the Run was carried out by FF Mel Askin a female Firefighter of the Brigade who holds the record, very impressive.



The competitor had to tie a rope around the pig and throw the line over marked lines to indicate a river, cross the rope bridge to the other side of the river, pick the pig up run to tractor tires throw the pig over them and then climb over tires, drag push-pull the Pig thru the tires and over the electric fence then drag it under the large fishing net to the finish line

This was carried out with some great efforts being put in by the Various Chapters representatives with a lot of cheering and laughter from the sidelines

This competition was won by Neal Linkwater (Wheels) NZ6



But it didn't end there. Several Chapters did not partake and as a result, the President of the offending Chapters were called up to the front of the Crowd, to face the punishment.

They all had to apologize to the pig whose tongue was hanging out by this stage and give it a kiss to much laughter from the crowd

A meeting of all the Chapter executives was held shortly after and reports were given by each Chapter.

Great to see that most Chapters are in growth and involved in running and supporting Charity events and Rides

The date and Chapters hosting the National Gathering for the next 3 years were confirmed.

Discussion was held on a national fundraising event and further investigation is to be carried out.

Saturday Night was another great night with a sit-down meal served by the Reefton Fire Brigade members, with wild pork, Venison, Blue cod and Crayfish to name a few of the delicacies eaten that night.

This was followed by our ritual Fine session represented by all of the Chapter Presidents and Sheriffs. Much hilarity ensued as awards, certificates, presentations and punishments were dished out for each of the Chapter members misdemeanours throughout the year.

Between the Fines, Raffles and donations the Reefton Brigade received \$1400.

Sunday morning heralded another hearty west coast breakfast and farewells before everyone slowly departed into the West coast fog, smiles on their faces!



Report by Gathering Host NZ6 Chapter President and Region 8 Director Ken Mahon

NZ5 host another successful Hospice **Charity Ride**

NZ5 were proud to be able to host another fantastic fundraising ride for Te Omanga Hospice, now in its third year and getting bigger every year, with more sponsors asking to get involved.

This year over 100 bikes and riders participated, raising an amazing \$4,300 for Te Omanga Hospice for a morning's work! A big thank you and appreciation goes out to all of the NZ5 members for supporting this charity ride.







NZ5 President Shaun Crowley shares the stage with Te Omanga Hospice CEO Biddy Harford∼







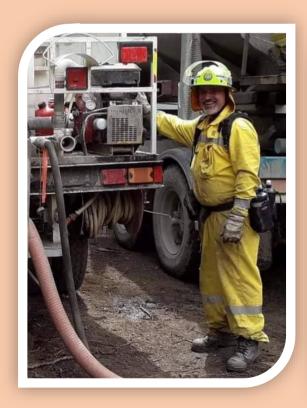
Two NZ5 Members deployed to Canada to help Fight the Wildfires

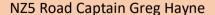
Two members of NZ5 flew out to Canada on June 19th as part of a month-long deployment of 24 firefighters from New Zealand that headed off to Alberta and British Columbia, Canada to help fight the wildfires that are still raging across the country.

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Greg Hayne and Elliott Cowlee for being selected! Especially with Elliott having just got back from his HONEYMOON 2 days before being deployed!

Greg and Elliott are our Road Captains, with Elliott having just been voted into the position less than a month ago at our AGM. We will try not to be rudder-less without our Road Captains!

A massive thank you to you both and let's not forget their whānau holding the fort at home







NZ5 Road Captain Elliott Cowley

AUSTRALIA RED KNIGHTS SUPPORT 'SUNDAY CRUISE for a CURE'

Sunday 19th Feb 2023, Red Knights Australia 10 supported "Olaf the shitbox" on its first "Sunday Cruise for a cure". The aim of the day was to raise funds toward the Cancer Council's "Shitbox Rally", to fund cancer research projects nationally. Olaf the shitbox is a 1993 Ford Laser, pimped out with Olaf memorabilia from Disney's Frozen. Shitbox Rally is not a race, rather a challenge to achieve the unthinkable... To drive cars worth just \$1,500 across Australia via some of its most formidable roads, all in the name of charity.









RED KNIGHTS RECEIVE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDELS

Australian Red Knights would like to congratulate Members Shane and Kyle Taylor from Australia 1 on receiving the National Emergency Medal at the Bendigo RSL today for their service during the 2019/2020 bushfires, well done!!!



4th Australian Gathering

G'Day Red Knights,

Preliminary details for the 4th Australian Gathering so that members have a chance to book leave, travel and accommodation for the event.

Hosts: Australia 18

Location: Canberra ACT

Dates: 10-12 November 2023

Accommodation:

Sundown Villas Complex 205 Narrabundah Ln, Symonston ACT 2609 Ph: +61 2 6239 0333

The Complex have offered a 15% discount to all who are attending the Gathering.

To get the discount, you HAVE to tell them it is for the Red Knights Gathering

Aussie Red Knights do their bit for the Vets

AUS 2 members ISY and Mark have been out selling ANZAC badges, last Friday 21 April and today 24 April (total 16 hours for charity) for our veterans.



Red Knights Australia 3 show their support for NZ Fallen Firefighters

Australia 3's AGM was held in February 2023 and report that they had a great turnout. During the meeting a Minute silence to show support for the fallen NZ firefighters was held. Thanks to Pumpy and the caterers



Australia 6's Burning sausage sizzle.

Australia 6 held a sausage sizzle and raised a net profit of \$624 for their efforts. Gotta love the price bump to \$3.50

Well done Australia 6





To finish off the news from Australia here is a photo gallery of our Australian Brothers and Sisters



























SPOT THE DIFFERENCE ANSWERS



FUTURE EVENTS





RUN TO THE HOME 2023



SUNDAY, AUGUST 13th

Location: FASNY FIREMAN'S HOME

125 Harry Howard Ave., Hudson, NY 12534

Time: Registration - 9:30 am - 10:45 am / KSU - 11:00 am

Cost: \$20 per Person / \$10 per non-riding participant



For information contact:

Bob Hawley (518) 369-8379 rkmcny29@gmail.com www.facebook.com/rkmcny29/events



2023 PA State Association Picnic

July 22nd, 2023

Hosted by PA 37



Come Join us for a day of fun and entertainment!!

Picnic Location:

Fairchance Vol. Fire Dept.

31 Pittsburgh St, Fairchance, PA 15436

- * Blessing of the Bikes
 - Poker Run
 - BBQ Lunch
 - Chinese Auction
 - Door Prizes
- Cornhole Tournament
- Live music entertainment by a local singer / song writer
 - Clean & Friendly Host Hotel 7 miles from Picnic
 - On Site camping

Registration and more info can be found on our website or Facebook!

www.redknightspa37.com

@redknightspa.thirtyseven

@PaStateAssociationofRedKnights

Any questions, please e-mail pa37secretary@gmail.com or contact any of PA 37's Officers.

Alex Cahill, President

Paul Mueller, Vice President

Amber Handlin, Secretary, Picnic Chair

Laurie Mueller, Treasurer



OLICE, FIANNUAL & S. S. Motorcycle & Motorcycle & Ride.

REGISTRATION AT 10AM SAFETY BRIEFING AT 10:45AM KICKSTANDS UP AT 11AM

\$25 PER RIDER \$10 PER PASSENGER \$10 PER MEAL FOR NON-REGISTERED RIDERS

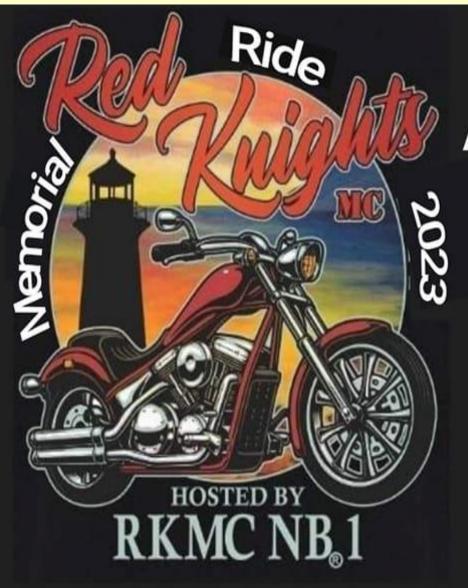
JOIN US FOR A
PLANNED RIDE ON SOME
HILLS & CURVES

RIDE WILL OCCUR
RAIN OR SHINE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT NH9EVENTS@GMAIL.COM

LACONIA HARLEY-DAVIDSON HOSTED AT Laconia Harley-Davidson 239 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith, NH 03253





August 5, 2023

Rain date August 12

All proceeds to be donated to the Atlantic Burn Camp

The ride will start at Grand Bay-Westfield fire station 1 Kick Stands up at 11am

Registration 10am-11am \$20 Rider, \$10 passenger



RED KNIGHTS NY42 11th Annual Bucket Brigade Ride



SATURDAY JULY 15, 2023

SIGN IN IS FROM 8:00 – 9:30 RIDE BEGINS AT 10 am \$15 PER PERSON

ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT THE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

New ride route again will be approximately 100 miles Starting at the

BATH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

50 East Morris Street, Bath, NY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: JASON CAUSER at (607) 684-4703

Lottery Board



50/50 Raffle





9th Annual Ride For Burn Camp Saturday, August 19, 2023

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

Registration: 8:30am - 10:00am

Kickstands Up: 10:30am

Rider Only: \$30 Two Up: \$50

After Party Only: \$20

Food included at final stop.
Drinks available for purchase.
Raffle, 50/50 and more!
All bikes welcome!

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



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



Red Knights

International Firefighters Motorcycle Club

GA Chapter 20

Brunswick, Georgia

GOLDEN ISLES EMERALD SOCIETY BENEFIT RIDE

SATURDAY JULY 15, 2023

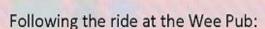
Registration: 2:00 - 2:45 pm

KSU: 3:00 pm

Wee Pub Brunswick

267 Village at Glynn Place, Brunswick, GA

\$20.00 per Bike



LIVE MUSIC by: Your Mom's Favorite Band

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT by Emerald Society (registration by GIES, not included w/ ride)

Benefitting the Golden Isles Emerald Society, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to helping others in our community. Some of the GIES programs include; 'Shop with a Firefighter', firefighter benevolence, scholarships, and community outreach.



For Additional Ride Info Contact:

Jon Collett (912) 230-3679, Brian Stewart (912) 230-1079, Cory Webb (912) 432-6194.

The Steele Rides Benefit Ride For Ja' Mark Steele Saturday, July 22nd 2023

Registration Starts At 9:30 am
Kick Stands Up At 10:30 am
Back At Church At 11:30 am
Donations Will Be Accepted
Location: Wadeville Baptist Church
144 Shoe Factory Rd, Mt. Gilead 27306



50/50 Raffle

Ja'Mark Steele is
10 years old. He
was diagnosed with
severe Autism and
he is non-verbal.



Event By NC Red
Knights

Chapter 24

