# NEWSLETTER



# REGIONAL REPORTERS

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**Region 2** Glenn Giles Region2Reporter@RedKnightsMC.com

**Region 3** Jim Garner Region3Reporter@RedKnightsMC.com

**Region 4** Alan and Diane Billings Region4Reporter@RedKnightsMC.com

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**Region 8 AUS** Judy Teuma Region8AUSReporter@RedKnightsMC.com

**Region 8 NZ** Zane Eyre Region8NZReporter@RedKnightsMC.com



# Letter from the Editor Delainey Thorud (MN 4)

Hello Red Knights! My name is Delainey Thorud and I'm your new International Newsletter Editor. I have been a member of Minnesota Chapter 4 for 10 years and have been the Region 5 Reporter for the past year.

I want to start off by thanking the amazing team of Regional Reporters that helped put this newsletter together. I am looking forward to continuing to work with them to keep the

membership informed and engaged with all things Red Knights!

Throughout the next few newsletters I may be making some changes, switching up formatting, and trying new things. I really want this newsletter to be informative, engaging, and something that the membership looks forward to reading. In order to do this, I need your help! If you have any suggestions for the newsletter (things you want to see more of, things you want to see less of, ideas on how to make it better, etc.) please let me know!

Remember, this newsletter is what YOU make it, so please make sure to send your events, stories, and photos to either your Regional Reporter or me throughout the year. **Updates for the February 2025 newsletter will need to be sent to your Regional Reporter or me no later than January 13, 2025.** 

Please feel free to contact me anytime at: Editor@RedKnightsMC.com.

Delainey Thorud International Newsletter Editor, RKIFMC

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#### **Newsletter Quiz**

# Your chance to win a challenge coin!

The first three people to correctly answer the questions below and email their answers to Editor@RedKnightsMC.com will receive a free challenge coin from my home chapter, Minnesota 4.

Good luck and happy reading!

Delainey Thorud International Newsletter Editor RKIFMC

#### **Quiz Questions:**

- 1. When are updates for the February 2025 newsletter due?
- 2. How many new members joined the Red Knights in 2023?
- 3. How many registered guests were there for the 20th Annual Dixie Rally?
- 4. What anniversary did France 2 celebrate this year?
- 5. On what day were there two New Zealand weddings?

Please note, some reports and updates included in this newsletter are presented as submitted and have not been altered or edited in any way.

## PRESIDENT - SPIKE OSTIGUY

#### Fraternal Greetings All

This report is in memory of my Mom, M. Madeleine Ostiguy "Maddy." Mom passed away June 1st 2024 surrounded by her loving family. May she rest in eternal peace.

Nearly ten (10) months ago (Fussach,2023) right out of the gate, we hit the ground running. First on my agenda (for a number of reasons) was to take a look at increasing the Club's number of State, Provincial and Country Representation, in accordance with By-Law 3:19 4. Thanks to the hard work and due diligence of all your Regional Directors, S/P/C Representatives has increased by over 55%.



Between our Spring, Summer, and Fall Board Meetings we also continued with our monthly, sometimes bi-monthly Zoom Meetings. IB meeting minutes can always be found on the website.

#### 2023 Fall Board Meeting (FBM) minutes =

https://www.redknightsmc.com/Images/redknightsinternational/Executive%20Board%20Meeting%20Minutes/2023%20Fall%20Board%20Meeting/2023 Fall Non-Executive Minutes.pdf

## 2024 Spring Board Meeting (SBM) minutes =

https://www.redknightsmc.com/Images/redknightsinternational/Executive%20Board%20Meeting%20Minutes/2024%20Meetings/2024 Spring Non-Executive Minutes.pdf

#### R.K.I.F.M.C. Historian Committee =

https://www.redknightsmc.com/Images/redknightsinternational/Executive%20Board%20Meeting%20Minutes/2024%20Meetings/Historian\_letter\_4-13-2024.pdf

And lastly... It's in the incipient stages as we speak. In 2025 it is my plan to have a Red Knights Memorial Foundation (RKMF) golf tournament. The inaugural golf classic God willing will be played at one of the two Boylston, MA golf courses. It is also my hope that this will become an annual event. All proceeds will go toward the mortgage/principal of RKMC Memorial Hall. We have room on the golf committee for anyone wishing to help. If you are interested, please feel free to reach out to me. Please stand by for future details.

See you in Leipzig Germany, if not before. Be safe, and ride safe.

R. Spike Ostiguy International President

SPIKE G

## **VICE PRESIDENT - NORM BEAUSOLEIL**

Well, welcome to Leipzig, Saxony, Germany, and congratulations to Germany 18 for hosting the main event of the year, the RKIFMC® Annual Convention and Business Meeting.

Where do I begin? First comes every single one of you. Not only those of you here in the East of Germany, but every single one of you. Without you the Red Knights wouldn't be who we are, where we are or what we are. You have helped make my life fulfilled and I can only hope the Club does the same for each of you. You are living the life the Founders could only dream about!



Last year in Füßach, Austria, the membership experienced their first International Convention outside of North America, and let me tell you, it did not disappoint! Beautiful scenery, fabulous motorcycling, delicious food, picture perfect weather, well, it didn't rain, and European hospitality all made the experience one for the record books. So did the temperature!

The convention ended leaving the International Board with 2 vacant positions, the Vice President, and the Region 2 Director. After the mandatory nomination period expired, Randy Smith was declared the new Region 2 Director as he was unopposed. Congratulations my friend! I was nominated for the Vice President position as was my friend Matt Mattera, giving you, the membership a choice. I'd like to thank you for choosing me in a challenging election and Matt for the good and welcome competition.

My work started Christmas week as the election results came out in mid-December. During that September to December void of a VP, President Ostiguy made a heroic effort at doing both his new and old jobs, but as one may imagine, there was a lot to be done and not enough time for one person. I met with Spike at the Red Knights Memorial Hall for 3 days to get my initiation and it's been full steam ahead since.

Since that meeting, I've been busy with the Member-at-Large (MAL) Program and quite a few other duties, both required and voluntary, for the Board and the membership. A synopsis is:

- · 2024 Spring Board Meetings in Baltimore, Maryland;
- · All full board Zoom meetings.
- All conference calls of the RKI and RKR 2024 UK/Irish Rally in Bantry hosted by Ireland 1 – Cork
- 2024 Opening speaker for England 4's National Red Plaque Memorial Dedication in Essex, UK.
- 2024 Yankee Rally in Keene, NH, hosted by NH 9.
- I have hosted members of Germany 10 and Australia 6 at my home in Florida, as well as several local & regionally sponsored R.K. rides/events in Florida and beyond.

Although I have not had the honor of representing the Board at any Heaven One Ceremonies, I do still bow my head for all those that have passed in the past year and before. Godspeed and Rest Easy.

## **VICE PRESIDENT - NORM BEAUSOLEIL**

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

At the time of this report... we have 302 M.A.L.'s.

Region 1 = 48 Region 3 = 38 Region 5 = 48 Region 7 = 97 Region 2 = 21 Region 4 = 54 Region 6 = 38 Region 8 = 23

Since the last convention we have had eight (8) M.A.L.'s transfer to chapter membership. I have also had one MAL transfer to the Heaven 1 Chapter.

Through the hard work and perseverance of many Chapter Presidents and their officers, we are working to plug eighteen (18) M.A.L. applicants into chapters for chapter member status, and, we currently have five (5) of those M.A.L. applicants pending chapter status.

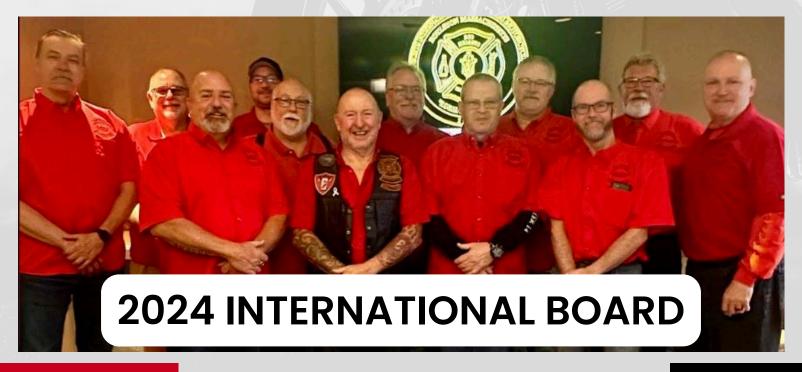
Remember, the Red Knights are active 24/7 around the clock... around the world and, it is YOU that steer this incredible family organization. My door/phone is always open. Please, feel free to reach out to me, or any Board Member for that matter, with any questions, comments, and/or concerns that you may have.

Again, I look forward to seeing all my Brothers & Sisters in Leipzig... Danke Schön!

As always, I remain,

Loyal to Our Duty

Norm Beausoleil RKIFMC® International Vice President Life Member & Founder Massachusetts Chapter 1.



## 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! This last couple of years has seen highs and lows, chalked full of learning experiences and harsh realities. During this first term, I have learned that there are a lot of misconceptions and false truths. We will always have a few Members who truly have no understanding of the trials and tribulations we face as Board Members. I would encourage any Member to make a positive difference and run for a Board position.



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

I developed a passion for education as a Training Captain from my F.D. and I'm always searching for 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: <a href="https://www.redknightsmc.com/insurance-for-authorized-red-knights">https://www.redknightsmc.com/insurance-for-authorized-red-knights</a>

If you have questions on **AD&D Insurance**, go to: <a href="https://www.redknightsmc.com/insurance">https://www.redknightsmc.com/insurance</a>

If you have questions on your **Bylaws or SOGs**, go to: <a href="https://www.redknightsmc.com/downloads">https://www.redknightsmc.com/downloads</a>

If you would like more information about the **Memorial Hall**, go to: <a href="https://www.redknightsmc.com/reserve-memorial-hall">https://www.redknightsmc.com/reserve-memorial-hall</a>

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

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!

# SECRETARY - MICHAEL WOODS

Below are the stats since the last Convention: 9/16/2023 to 6/16/2024

**Heaven One Chapter:** 

New Members: 47

**TMLA Report:** 

Approved: 254 Denied:3 Pending: 1

Total Requested: 258

**New Chapter Applications Sent Out:** 

Interest Letters Sent: 28 Applications Sent: 23 **Insurance Events:** 

Insurance Issued: 27

Pending: 4

Insurance Requested: 31

**Insurance AD&D:** 

Claims Filed: 4

Total Payout: \$16,000

**Rental Agreements Issued** 

Total Issued: 51
Pending: 1

Total Requested: 52

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 like-minded 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 "Woody" Woods

Michael Richard

**RKIFMC International Secretary** 

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## TREASURER - SCOTT RYAN

Please accept this, my 2024 convention report for activities in 2023 as International Treasurer.

Since my last convention report, I have attended the fall and spring in-person meetings in Baltimore along with numerous Board Meetings by way of Zoom and the first International Convention outside of North America. Taking time during that trip to join a couple of other Red Knights and tour Southeast Europe, riding through 22 countries, many of which I have never been in before. Have to say, the Europeans have some beautiful countries to ride through.



We have added 22 chapter in 2023 and did have to officially close 10 at Convention in 2023.

As far as members go there were over 1,162 new members who joined our club in 2023! I would like to take this opportunity to again encourage Chapter Officers to review the bylaws and be very familiar with the various membership categories. Further to that, I would ask that the By-Laws be applied the same in good times as they will be in bad times. This is important considering the breadth of our organization and I appreciate the support from chapters when I question the status of members in their chapter. Please continue to keep in mind, if I have one Chapter President blocking a member's nieces and nephews from joining because they will vote against them and I have another Chapter President trying to sponsor their own nieces and nephews because they will vote for them, somebody isn't going to be happy. Regardless of who or where the President is, I will side with the By-Laws. If Chapters think the By-Laws are wrong, there is a solution to that problem!

It has been my pleasure to serve you and I look forward to continuing as your Treasurer.

Sincerely Scott Ryan Loyal to our Duty (902) 330-3431



## **REGION 1 DIRECTOR - KEN MAY**

Brother and Sister Red Knights,

Region 1 consists of:

- 8 States
- 98 Chapters
- 2,678 Chapter Members
- 36 Member at Large
- 2,714 Total Members

Since my last convention report Region 1 has transferred 21 members to the Heaven One chapter and I ask that we as a club keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.



It's been one year already of my two-year term as your Region 1 Director, and what a year it has been. Region 1 has seen members leave and members join, we even lost a couple of chapters, but have formed new ones along the way.

Last September we as a club had our International Convention for the 1st time outside of North America and what is there to say, except thank you Austria. Even though the International Board was in meetings for most of the convention, we did take a day to relax and tour the beautiful country and a visit to Dachau, a German Concentration Camp and dinner in Berlin. Memories that will live forever.

As Regional Director I have a semi-annual Region 1 State Rep meeting (Oct & March) in Boyleston, Mass. Here we sit around the table listening to the concerns of each state and try to work things out amongst ourselves. We go over the By-Laws and SOG's, seeing if there is something we can change or bring to the Board to make things easier for the members. And as I have learned, you maybe doing what you feel is best for this organization and the majority agrees, but someone will try to knock you down, But we still try.

I have attended State meetings in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. These meetings I must say were professionally done. Yes, we agree to disagree on a lot of issues, but at the end we enjoy each other's company.

At the April meeting of the New Jersey State Association, I was honored to have been presented with the New Jersey Red Knight of the Year Award, better known as the "Barry Stires Award." I have been speechless before, but to have tears of joy streaming down my face was a first. There are 417 members in New Jersey and to be chosen for this award means a lot.

I was invited to so many different events held by chapters and Associations throughout the region, that sorry to say, I had to pick and choose and missed only a few.

## **REGION 1 DIRECTOR - KEN MAY**

As I mentioned earlier we transferred 21 Region 1 members to the Heaven 1 Chapter for which I personally attended 8 services and several chapter meetings to present a Flag & Angel Coin to the family. This is one job I really don't like, until you see the appreciation of the grieving families face, which then makes it all worth it.

As Regional Director it is a duty to attend the International Board meetings when possible, whether it is in person or on Zoom. It is my job to make sure all information is relayed back to my Regional Reps, so they may distribute it you their chapters. Well, I have attended 100% of the meetings and all information has been passed on in a timely manner.

The 2024 Region 1 Yankee Rally was held in Keene, New Hampshire and what a great success and most enjoyable time. There were 341 Red Knights in attendance at this Rally, which included 5 Self-Guided rides and 5 Guided Rides. The guided rides included a ride to the Telephone & Fire Museum, Dinner & Dessert, Parade through Keene, NH, the rededication of the Red Knights Monument in the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH where we were honored to listen to speeches from the New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, Red Knights VP Norm Beausoleil, NH State Rep Colin Nelson and myself. Then of course the ride to the Red Knights Memorial in Boylston, MA. We learned that the New Hampshire charity for this event was Donate Life, an organization that helps families of those that lost someone, but also saved a life by donating their organs so someone else may live. We heard some touching stories from those that received organs and from families that lost loved ones but made a difference toward others.

Our Saturday evening dinner and Sunday morning breakfast was supplied by Tempesta Restaurant/Bar, which is located in the host hotel. I personally spoke with the owners of the restaurant, and they stated that they were sorry that each night the restaurant and bar had closed early, but the Red Knights would be welcomed back anytime.

#### Our Next Yankee Rallies are set:

- 2025: Bangor, Maine
- 2026: Finger Lakes Region, New York
- 2027: Tentative Connecticut



## **REGION 1 DIRECTOR - KEN MAY**

I might be the Region 1 Director, but I need to speak about the 2024 Dixie Rally that was held in Statesville, NC.

Back on May 16th, I was heading to Boylston for a funeral service that was to be held on May 17th, then on to another one on May 18th in Maine. Well, my trip up north got cut short, due to an incident at the Dixie Rally. My son was involved in a motorcycle accident and suffered some injuries that aren't known just yet. I turned around a started to head home. I immediately made a phone call to try to get the Red Knight funeral services covered. It took only one call to make sure a Representative was there to honor our fallen. I contacted my wife who was home and at work and then someone at the Dixie Rally that could give me more information. I was told that my son was awake and able to move his extremities but complained of severe pain in his back. He was taken to Baptist Hospital Wake Forest in Winston-Salem, the Regional Trauma Center. Several Red Knights stated they were going to stay with him until I got there (a 12-hour trip.) Throughout my trip I spent about 10 hours on the phone with Red Knights that were at the rally and others that were not, but word does travel fast. They were just concerned about me and making sure I was taking my time to get there safely. Well, I arrived at the rally hotel at 2:00AM and to my surprise I was met by a group of Red Knights that waited for me to get there.. They gave me some updates about his condition which turned out to be a broken back. After a couple hours of sleep, I headed to the hospital to see that he was doing okay except for the pain in his back. Red Knights from all over were calling, texting, and visiting my son and myself in the hospital. They were even making sure I was okay with what had happened. Well, the Dixie Rally came to an end and the members headed home, but the calls of concern kept coming. My son was finally released from the hospital but told not to travel home for several days. The Dixie Rally hospitality still continued as we were told that he and I would not be staying at a hotel but will stay at a Red Knights house until he is ready to travel home. We may have different opinions and argue once in a while, but when a Red Knight needs help, they don't even have to ask...

WE ARE FAMILY..RKFFRK



## **REGION 2 DIRECTOR - RANDY SMITH**

#### **Greetings Fellow Knights**

Our Region covers Eastern Canada, from Ontario to Newfoundland, with over 850 chapter members in 41 chapters, as well as 18 M-A-Ls. It's over 3200 kms between our most distant chapters. (in miles, that's a lot too)

#### **Activities in 2024**

The year started (January 05-07) at the International Motorcycle Supershow in Mississauga. This may be the largest show in Canada, and Ontario Association 6 has a great setup, giving the RKMC much needed visibility and an important recruiting opportunity.

Also in January, I had the honour of attending the celebration of life for an Ontario 11 member, presenting a flag and coin to his family. This was extra special for me, as I had known him for decades. We will miss Carl Cornell, who joins the late Joye Cornell on the Heaven 1 roster.

In February, as the Secretary of Association 6, I met with the Executive in Elmira Ontario.

On March 02, my home chapter Ontario 1, celebrated its 40th anniversary. There were several Charter Members in attendance. We had our most senior, and most junior, members there. It was a wonderful occasion.

In April, the International Board met in Baltimore, Md. We conducted 4 days of meetings, which resolved many outstanding issues. We have also met several times by Zoom videoconferencing to deal with many types of issues. This Club of ours, spread around the globe, has many challenges. We can meet them, and deal with them, as long as we always remember to listen.

Throughout the year, I have been engaged with several groups wishing to form new RKMC chapters. We now have new chapters in Hawkesbury, Ontario and Miramichi, New Brunswick. We have also gained some new M-A-Ls and hope to mate them with chapters some day.

In May, I had the pleasure of meeting visiting members from Massachusetts. We had a great dinner and time to socialize.

On June 08, Ontario Association 6 held its AGM in Port Perry. This year, there are some changes on the Association Executive. The outgoing President, Wylie Welsh, has served on the Executive since it's inception and is to be commended for putting in countless hours to help build the Club in Ontario. The Association now has a big screen TV to use at bike shows, etc.

## **REGION 2 DIRECTOR - RANDY SMITH**

From July 18-21, the Atlantic Rally is in Charlottetown, PEI. I will be attending with other Ontario members and will report on it at a later date.

August 11 will be the second annual Camp Bucko ride, supporting burn survivor kids. Ontario Chapter 1 is taking the lead on this, giving multiple busloads of campers a motorcycle escort into the camp. We did it last year, we loved it and so did the kids!



Last year, members from Ontario attended the first RKMC International Convention ever held in Europe, in Fussach, Austria. The camaraderie of an International Convention cannot be described, you simply must see and feel it. This year, we return to Europe for the International Convention in Leipzig, Germany.

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) has reached out to the Red Knights to participate in the 2024 Fallen Firefighters ceremony in Ottawa this September. Ontario and Quebec chapters are expected to be part of this. More to follow.

#### Chaplaincy

Last year, the RKMC suffered the loss of our International Chaplain, Dave Diveley. As a lay minister, I filled in as Chaplain Pro Tem. This is in fact a stand-alone position within the Club.

At the start of this year I dealt with the passings of several members, from Poland to Virginia. Many thanks to the chapter Presidents and Regional Directors who stepped up to help me with these duties.

The International requested applications from members willing to take this role on. After reviewing many submissions, we were lucky enough to gain the services of Theresa Palmer as our International Chaplain. We are thrilled to have "Terri" in this position. Her background, skills and insight are truly a gift. Welcome!

This is important - Please ensure that rosters are up to date and dues are paid, as this is critical to our Heaven 1 protocols. Your chapter may vote to pay the dues for any ailing member to keep them current. I can't tell you how difficult it is to tell a chapter that their (former) member cannot be assigned full honours due to them having been dropped from the roster. This is why it's done quarterly, and not just annually.

#### **Looking forward**

In my previous report, I requested that I be included on distribution lists for events in Region2. I really want to get out and meet as many Knights as possible. So far, I have invites from chapters in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. I'll do my best to see you all.

## **REGION 2 DIRECTOR - RANDY SMITH**

I still ask the following from every chapter in Region 2 – if you have an event coming up, please let everyone know in advance. Email your Provincial Rep, cc me as well. Many times, we've heard from members after an event "Wow, I would have attended that". This is a social organization, and I emphasize social.

Last year, members from Ontario attended the first RKMC International Convention ever held in Europe, in Fussach, Austria. The camaraderie of an International Convention cannot be described, you simply must see and feel it. This year, we return to Europe for the International Convention in Leipzig, Germany.

Please remember that I am always available by email at <a href="region2@redknightsmc.com">region2@redknightsmc.com</a> or by phone at 647-470-7562. If you're coming through Toronto, let me know. There's always time for a coffee or a bite to eat with a fellow Knight.

In fellowship,

Randy Smith
Red Knights MC
Region 2 Director
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
1-647-470-7562

#### "Loyal To Our Duty"



## **REGION 3 DIRECTOR - MARK MULLEN**

Region 3 currently has 66 chapters, with 1325-chapter members, 21 MAL's. Illinois has nine chapters, Indiana has nine chapters, Kentucky has one MAL, Michigan has one chapter, Missouri has one chapter, Ohio has 10 chapters, Pennsylvania has 25 chapters, West Virginia has six chapters and Wisconsin has five chapters.

We have two new chapters that have recently started up they are Pennsylvania 21, and Illinois 15 welcome aboard.

We also have a new chaplain her name is Terri Palmer, Welcome from region 3.



Pennsylvania first quarter meeting was held January 20th 2024 elections for president and treasurer took place Don Brandt was elected president and Rick Grimes was elected to treasurer. Pennsylvania also completed the TMLA audit with the international secretary for the state association in February.

The second quarter meeting was held April 20th, Pennsylvania 34 is preparing a stop the bleed class and plan to make available for chapter events. Pennsylvania 41 funeral February 26th Tom Vogelsong, region 1 director Ken May presided along with Pennsylvania state president Don Brandt and members of Pennsylvania 41. Pennsylvania 39 spring fling fundraiser for the suicide ride in September.

In Illinois when I stepped down as the Illinois State president/state Rep The vice president Rytis Juzolenas from Illinois 23 moved up and to fill the vice president's seat Zach Arnold(cowboy) from Illinois 14 was elected to that position.

Illinois State association members are working hard to make sure that the 2025 convention in Peoria IL is a success. The Illinois State association would also like to welcome the new chapter in our state of Illinois chapter 15. Illinois chapter 14 is also looking into starting a college scholarship fund for our junior members it would be named the chaplain Dave Diveley sr. scholarship fund

I attended the fall of 2023 board meeting in Baltimore MD and just recently attended the spring board meeting April 10th to the 14th in Baltimore MD the meetings were long but we got a lot accomplished this new position requires a lot of traveling but being retired now, I kind of enjoy it. I have attended multiple state association meetings in our region and it's great to talk to my brothers and sisters face to face.

I'm looking forward to attending the 2024 convention in Germany and of course the 2024 bootlegger rally in Columbus IN on September 5th to the 8th 2024

Moon Region 3 Director

## **REGION 4 DIRECTOR - CHUCK MARKS**

Brothers and Sisters as I'm sitting here just winding down from my youngest daughters High School Graduation and thinking about the last year which has been one of my busiest so far, since the 2024 Convention in Austria I have attended the Fall and Spring Board meetings in Baltimore MD the 2024 Dixie Rally in Statesville NC along with multiple ZOOM meetings. Every day I am reminded just how much it takes to run our incredible club that I love so much. I spend upwards of 7-8 hours a week on emails and phone calls It definitely puts a strain on my family life, but without the support and understanding of my amazing wife Brandi



I would not be where I am at today. Brandi, thank you from the bottom of my heart and I love you for always being by my side.

Region 4 has had several new chapters form along several inactive chapters being revived. We have also had several members receive Heaven One Honors. I want to thank all region 4 state reps for handling these events when I have been committed elsewhere.

My plans for next year are to the following events:

- International Convention Leipzig, Germany August 14-18,2024
- Bootlegger Rally Columbus, Indiana Sept 5-8 2024
- 1st Annual Scooter Stampede Oklahoma City, Oklahoma September 18-22 2024
- Knights Of the Round Table (KORT) Fontana Dam, North Carolina October 10-13 2024
- Dixie Rally New Orleans, Louisiana (or if you're from there "NAWLINS") May 14-17 2025

As always I will stay committed to our club and I am only a phone call or email away. Please stay safe out there on the roads and "Ride It Like You Stole It"

Loyal To Our Duty

Chuck Marks
478-221-4336
Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club
International Executive Board – Region 4 Director
Red Knights MC GA 2

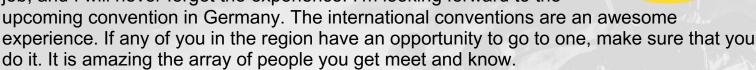
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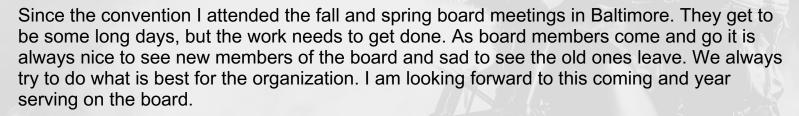
INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE CLUB

# **REGION 5 DIRECTOR - LANCE COIT**

I have been very honored to serve as the Region 5 director for another year. I feel that all the work the members in Region 5 do make my job easy. We have a very big region, and it is hard for everybody to have the chance to meet everyone. I have been lucky enough to meet a lot of the members but there are still a few I haven't been able too.

I had a blast at the convention last year in Austria. It was an awesome time and experience. Austria Red Knights did a fantastic job, and I will never forget the experience. I'm looking forward to the





Next week I will be leaving to go to the Western Rally in Sydney, BC. Looking forward to it, as it is always a really great time. It is beautiful country out there. If you ever get the chance to visit the area don't pass it up. Also had a great time in Spokane last year. The Washington group did an awesome job.

I have spent the spring getting state and provincial rep programs in place. I finally got members in place so we can get started. Every state and province that has a chapter in it now has a rep for their area. I just must get the email addresses set up and work on a little education and we should be good to go.

I am looking forward to the new year and meeting more members along the way. Everybody stay safe and healthy and have an awesome year.

Lance Coit Region 5 Director





## **REGION 6 DIRECTOR - ALLEN AURICH**

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

On April 28, 2024, 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. Dale Saul 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

This year I was not able to attend the Texas State Association Meeting, because I was at the International Boards Spring Meeting that weekend.

#### **The Texas State Association Officers are:**

Pres. – Brian Singleton – TX 1 V. Pres. – Daryll LaBove – TX 1 Sec. – Cameron Womack – TX 7 Treas. – Chuck Buchman – TX 3 Road Capt. – Jimmy Vance – TX 3

This is my last year as the Region 6 Director. I have enjoyed meeting everyone in the 8 years that I have been on the International Board. I will still be out there meeting more people and promoting the Red Knights. I would like to thank everyone that has helped me along the way.

Respectfully submitted: Allen Aurich Region 6 Director 281-639-2453



## **REGION 7 DIRECTOR - TOM VAN DER KLEY**

Dear members,

Winter is finally over and we are back in full season, hoping for a good time full of wonderful moments and unforgettable experiences. I am looking forward to celebrating many birthdays together and strengthening our community.

A special highlight this season will be the upcoming International Congress. There is great anticipation for this major event and I am sure that it will be another unforgettable chapter in the history of our club.



The International Board has put in a lot of work over the last few months to make the coming season a success. Several innovations are in the works to improve our operations and bring our community even closer together. These innovations will help us to master the challenges of the future and achieve our goals.

Special attention and thoughts are also focussed on our sick members at this time. We sincerely wish them a speedy recovery and I hope that they will soon be completely well again. I send them much strength and confidence.

I would like to remind you that the values of comradeship, honesty, loyalty and respect form the basis of our actions. Always look out for your safety and behave in a comradely manner. Help where you can and support each other.

A special thank you to all the members who have worked hard over the last few months to make this season unforgettable. Your dedication and commitment are priceless. A big thank you also goes to all the International Board members who will be leaving the Board. Their hard work and dedication has made our club what it is today.

A personal thank you goes to all the Country Representatives. Without your work it would not be possible to support and help our members in the way we do today.

We look forward to the coming season with optimism and zest for action. May it bring us many wonderful moments and successes. Here's to a great time and many more years of cohesion and friendship!



## **REGION 8 DIRECTOR - KEN MAHON**

Kia Ora, Brothers and Sisters, I hope this report

This is my final Report to you all as I stand down from the Role of Region 8 Director at the 2024 Convention in Leipzig, Germany in August

It has been an amazing four years and an experience I will NEVER forget (the good and the bad.)

To my fellow Board members past and present, thank you for the support and guidance you have given me during my time as Region 8 Director.



To all the Red Knight Members in Region 8 thank you all for your support in allowing me to represent you all on the Board, I hope I have lived up to your expectations

To the team behind me, My beautiful wife Jan, Andy Young (Australian Rep), My Chapter NZ 6 especially my VP Dion Congdon, for having my back

I will miss, the role but I believe that it needs to be shared within Region 8 to allow other members to gain the knowledge and expertise to ensure Region 8 continues to grow not only in membership but also in stature

Big shout out to all the Chapter Officers in Region 8 for all their hard work during the years getting Dues paid and updated rosters sent in on time. And stepping up to run events and looking after your members

To the two repeat offending Chapters in Australia, it is time to get your act together it is not rocket science and once again your chapters are not in good standing. The consequences for your members can be devastating especially if a member passes and members/Family, start questioning why they cannot receive any RK honors.

There have been some outstanding Charity Fundraising Rides and events carried out within the Region during the year and the Chapters should be very proud of their efforts and the publicity gained for the Red Knights.

I won't go into details as I am sure our enthusiastic region Reporters will cover these with some great articles in the International Newsletter

I attended the New Zealand Gathering held in March, Hosted By NZ 2 in Pukekohe,

The Chapter and Fire Brigade ran a fun-filled event, while numbers were down it was a huge success thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The dragstrip event was a blast,, some rapid bikes owned by our members. Not mine though

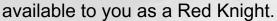
# **REGION 8 DIRECTOR - KEN MAHON**

A productive meeting of all the Chapter Executive Officers present was also held

I hope to attend along with a few other Kiwis the 5th Aussie Gathering 2024 -15 - 17th November - Latrobe Valley Victoria organized by Australia 19 - Call Brian Soall - 0437 257601

Can I suggest you all use the QR code below to Visit the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club web page here you will find a wealth of Factual information (unlike some of the

rubbish posted on Facebook) to assist in running Chapters and what is expected and





Under the below headings there are drop-downs with further information

- BOARD
- EVENTS
- GRAND TOUR
- HELP-A-KNIGHT
- MEMBERSHIP MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
- RED KNIGHTS REGALIA
- NOTICES

I wish you all good health and ride Safe

Don't ask what you can get out of the Red Knights MC but THINK about what You can put into the Brotherhood of the Red Knights MC



# **GENERAL RED KNIGHTS NEWS**

#### **RKMC Historian Needed**

The Red Knights are looking for a historian to help preserve our past! If you are interested or would like to learn more, please send an email to the International Secretary (Secretary@RedKnightsMC.com) before August 13, 2024.



## County, State, and Province Rockers

We are excited to announce that Country, State, and Province representatives can now get a 4" rocker for your vest or as a memento. These rockers are a symbol of your hard work and dedication, and they can be found on the Regalia Page at <a href="https://www.redknightsmc.com/red-knights-regalia">https://www.redknightsmc.com/red-knights-regalia</a>.

# Bylaw Proposals for the 2024 Annual Business Meeting

The bylaw proposals for the 2024 Annual Business Meeting have been posted to the website for your review.



Please review them here:

https://www.redknightsmc.com/Images/redknightsinternational/By-Laws/2024/2024\_International\_By-law\_proposals.pdf?
fbclid=lwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR15rUb9PC96MInL5OQ6pnxCr6D0Wk6a9RQ
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## We Need Your Photos!

We need your photos for the website and Facebook pages! Please send your photos to:

Communications@RedKnightsMC.com



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**



# **Atlantic Rally**

Prince Edward Island, Canada



# International Convention

Leipzig, Germany



# Bootlegger Rally

Columbus, Indiana, USA



# Scooter Stampede

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA

# **RED KNIGHTS WORD SEARCH**

Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

# Words

Boylston
Brotherhood
Firefighter
Loyalty
Motorcycle
Red Knights
Riding
Tour Master

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## **REGION 1 - REPORTER: JAMES VOSS**

#### **Massachusetts 2**

## Charlie Clarkson Receives Steve Mickle "Mr. Red Knight" Award

Charlie Clarkson is a Charter Member of MA 2 and was the chapter's Road Captain for nearly 15 years. Charlie served as the first Massachusetts State Representative (State Rep.) for the Red Knights for fifteen years and was the very first State or Provincial Representative for the Red Knights.

During his time as State Rep., Charlie would attend each chapter's meetings throughout the year, visit fire stations throughout the state to promote the Red Knights with firefighters, and successfully added members and chapters. Charlie worked with the



Massachusetts legislature and Registry of Motor Vehicles to allow special "RK" motorcycle license plates for Red Knights in the state. He also served as the first International Chairman of the Board of Directors, and as Secretary for the International Board of Directors.

In his 15th year as State Rep., Charlie worked with his assistant, the late Steve Mickle, to share his vision of the State Rep.'s position. To prepare Steve for the position, Charlie shared the need for communication, cooperation, and friendships across chapter boundaries in Massachusetts and beyond. The award that Charlie was given at the state meeting is named after the late Steve Mickle.

#### **Blessing of the Bikes**



MA 2 held their 2024 Blessing of the Bikes and Ice Cream Social under blue skies and warm temperatures in May. Red Knights from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, and New York were all in attendance, as were local Veterans' riding clubs; Spyder Ryders and the CMA. Over 80 people on 60 motorcycles, and two bicycles came out to enjoy the afternoon.

## **REGION 1 - REPORTER: JAMES VOSS**

#### **Massachusetts 2**

#### **Blessing of the Bikes - Continued**

Rev. Geoffrey Smith, Pastor of the local Congregational Church and Chaplain of the local fire department presided over the blessings before the ride. Ice cream for the event was donated by Maple Valley Creamery in Hadley, MA. Proceeds from the event were donated to Home Base, a Red Sox foundation that supports veterans and their families.

MA 2 also schedules monthly breakfast clubs and virtual "Tech Tips" sessions. Members find these sessions informative and helpful and MA 2 recommends that other chapters try these sessions as well.



## **New Hampshire 5**

## Supporting Epping, New Hampshire Police and Fire



Members of New Hampshire (NH)
Chapter 5 supported the annual Epping
Police and Fire Fundraiser Pancake
Breakfast. Serving eggs, plain and
chocolate chip pancakes, bacon, and
plenty of drinks. Epping Fire is the home
and headquarters of Chapter 5 and has
been since incorporation May 2005.
Meetings are held at 4:00PM the second
Sunday of each month.

# **Earning Red Knights Service pins!**

NH Chapter 5's first meeting of 2024 included the presentation of membership pins. President Steve Pelechowicz presented Christiann Unger with his 10-year service pin and Secretary Jim Voss presented the President with his 5-year pin. Congratulations to both Christiann and Steve!



# **REGION 1 - REPORTER: JAMES VOSS**

## **New Hampshire 5**

## Former NH 5 President Presented with Appreciation Award

Current NH 5 President, Steve Pelechowicz, presented former NH 5 President, George "Blue" Kelloway, with an Appreciation Award just before the 2024 Yankee Rally. This award was presented on behalf of all of the members of NH 5. Blue served as President from 2021-2022 and is now a member of NH 1.



## 2024 Yankee Rally - Special Find

During the 2024 Yankee Rally, members of NH 5 went visiting surrounding towns and came across a street in Peterborough, NH that meant a lot to them. It is called "VETERANS WAY Lest We Forget" and contains a copper plaque ordained with the seal of each branch of the U.S. Military.



To the left are veteran members of NH 5 honoring the community members who answered the call of duty. From left to right are James Voss (U.S. Army), Steve Pelechowicz (U.S. Air Force), and Joe Goldstein (U.S. Navy).

## **New York 42**

## 12th Annual Bucket Brigade Ride

New York 42 will host their 12th Annual Bucket Brigade Ride benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project on **Saturday, July 13, 2024** in **Bath, New York**.



# **REGION 1 - REPORTER: JAMES VOSS**

## **New Hampshire 5**

#### **Members of NH Red Knights Hard at Work**

In April, the Kingston, NH Fire
Department had a multiple-alarm fire.
Mutual aid from multiple communities
responded quickly with tankers, engines,
a ladder truck, and EMS. A tanker shuttle
was set up in this non-hydrant area until 8
PM when an excavator was able to knock
down the house.



Multiple towns responded to the April fire and established a command center. On the right is Newton, NH Fire Chief and Vice President of NH 5, John Alcaidinho. Multiple animals were rescued by firefighters at the scene. A Newton Firefighter rescued a dog and MSPFA was notified of animals in the yard. All residents made it out safety.



Kingston Fire Captain and 19-year Red Knight, Doug Butland, was on scene tracking Fire Operations and EMS for one firefighter who suffered a medical emergency while at the April fire. CPR was performed by other firefighters and he was rushed to a local hospital where he recovered.



## **REGION 2 - REPORTER: GLENN GILES**

# **Letter from the Reporter**

With the weather finally improving here on the Rock (Newfoundland) more and more motorcycles are hitting the road for the season. Many are planning their trips to explore new areas. Please ride safe and remember, "rubber side down."

## 2024 Atlantic Rally - Prince Edward Island, Canada - July 18-21, 2024

The 2024 Atlantic Association Rally will be held from July 18-21 in Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada. PEI Red Knights are looking forward to welcoming all Red Knights to their beautiful island. If you have any questions regarding the rally, please contact Scott Ryan at treasurer@redknightsmc.com.

#### **Newfoundland 2**

## **Atlantic Rally**

With a successful 2023 Atlantic Rally behind us, members of Newfoundland 2 are preparing to travel to Prince Edward Island to attend the 2024 Atlantic Rally, safe travels to all attending the Rally. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

**ENJOY THE RALLY!** 

#### **New Executive Board**

Newfoundland 2 has a new Executive Board. Please help us welcome the following members to their new positions:

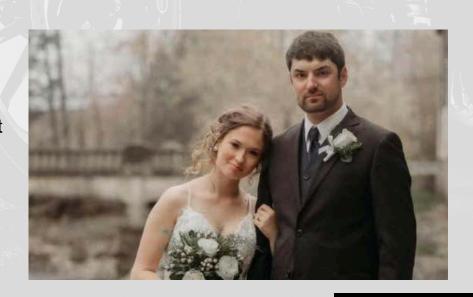
- · President Wayde Clarke
- Vice President Cyril Drowns
- Secretary Corey Seward
- · Treasurer Stan Reid

## **New Brunswick 4**

## **Wedding Bells**

New Brunswick 4 member Kyle Moffatt married his beautiful bride, Danni on May 4, 2024.

Congratulations Kyle and Danni!



## **REGION 3 - REPORTER: JIM GARNER**

#### Ohio 6

#### **Motorcycle Awareness Month Education**

The month of May, as everyone knows, was Motorcycle Awareness Month. This year, we decided to have a little refresher/continuing education on updated traffic laws and motorcycle

safety on the roads in the State of Ohio.

We invited an Ohio State Trooper, who happens to ride a motorcycle, to our May meeting as he was well educated on the topics we were interested in. The Trooper presented a power point presentation regarding motorcycle safety and gave



information on motorcycle statistics, traffic laws, and speed limits. He answered many questions from chapter members. The Trooper also talked about what he has seen out on the roadways and the accident sites he has been on involving motorcycles. Some of the traffic stops and accidents he mentioned were quite interesting.



A question was brought up about carrying a weapon CCW on your motorcycle. Ohio has an "Open Carry Law" and motorcycles are considered an open vehicle, so a rider does not have to conceal their weapon on the bike. Who would have thought.

It was a very interesting presentation and highly recommended if you want something different to do at your meetings.

## 20th Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride

Ohio Chapter 6 attended the 20th Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride held outside of the Cleveland Browns Stadium. This event honors the fallen Firefighters over the past year and awards scholarships to high school students. The ride traveled past 12 fire stations and ended at Rock & Roll Harley Davidson Dealership for food and entertainment. We couldn't complain, the weather was perfect.

Have a great and safe summer!!!

Richard A. Merkosky President Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club Ohio Chapter 6





## **REGION 4 - REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS**

## 20th Annual Dixie Rally Recap

The 20th Annual Dixie Rally was hosted by North Carolina 15 in Statesville, North Carolina from May 15-19, 2024. There were 370 registered guests, including one international guest,

from 24 chapters!







Events at the 2024 Dixie Rally included rides to Richard Childress Racing Museum, Mt. Airy – Home of Andy Griffith, Pilot Mountain, North Carolina Transportation Museum, as well as individual rides to Southern Distillery and Cheerwine Festival.



# A Dixie Rally Wedding

The 2024 Dixie Rally had its first ever wedding at the banquet. Congratulations to Ray (PA 8) and Lucy (AL 3) Williamson! They first met at a previous Dixie Rally so it was only natural that they would get married at a Dixie rally.

# **Future Dixie Rally Locations**

- 2025 New Orleans, LA LA 1
- · 2026 Aberdeen, MD MD 6
- 2027 Brunswick, GA GA 20
- 2028 Charleston, SC SC 3









## **REGION 4 - REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS**

## **Highlight a Knight**

Congratulations GA 26 member, Ned Dixon, on his promotion to Interim Fire Chief. Chief Dixon has been a member of the Warner Robins Fire Department since 2007 and has worked his way up from firefighter to Assistant Chief of Training.



#### Alabama 2

#### Alabama 2 turns 22!

Alabama Chapter 2 celebrated 22 years on April 11, 2024. They are the oldest Red Knights Chapter in Alabama.

#### **North Carolina 6**

#### 16th Annual 343 Memorial Ride

The Red Knights of North Carolina 6 cordially invite everyone to participate in the 16th Annual 343 Memorial Ride to Honor the Fallen of 9/11. The ride will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024.

Mail in registrations and in person registration at Carolina Coast Harley-Davidson (CCHD) Wilmington are

RED KNIGHTS <sup>®</sup> N REGISTRATION FOR 2024 343 MEMORIA	THE SATURDAY
REGISTRATION IS \$25 PER PERSON. INCLUDES ESCORTED RIDE, PIN, T- Available to the first 343 to register).	SHIRT, MEAL TICKET, AND DOG TAG (DOG TAGS ARE ONLY
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PASSENGER	- T-SHIRT SIZE:  S( ) M( ) L( ) XL( )  XXL( ) XXXL( ) OTHER ()
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underway. Mail in users can print this photo or request a .pdf version from NC 6 by emailing a request to nc6@redknightsmc.com. Registration forms are available at CCHD Wilmington. Please use the 2024 Form ONLY.

## North Carolina 6 and South Carolina 1

#### St. Patrick's Day Parade

On March 16, Red Knights of North Carolina 6 and South Carolina 1 attended the 200th Anniversary St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia.



## REGION 5 - REPORTER: DELAINEY THORUD

## **Region 5 Reporter Needed**

Hello Region 5 Red Knights! As I continue in the position as International Editor, I am relinquishing my role as Region 5 Reporter. As such, I am seeking a new member of Region 5 to take on the position. I will make sure that you have all of the information and materials required for this position and am happy to assist you in any way as you learn the ropes of being a Regional Reporter.

If you are interested in becoming the next Region 5 Reporter or learning more about the position, please send an email to Editor@RedKnightsMC.com.

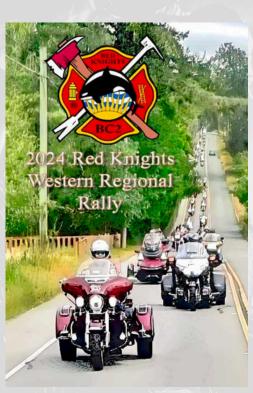
## **Region 5 Western Rally**

This year's Western Rally was hosted by British Columbia 2 in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada from June 21-23, 2024.

Red Knights from across North America rode, drove, and flew to Sidney for 3 days jam packed with riding, sightseeing, socializing, eating, and drinking!







#### **British Columbia 2**

#### First Spring Ride of the Year

I don't know where 2023 went and 2024 seems to moving at the same pace. We had our first spring group ride of 2024 in March and it was full of a laughs, fun, and a lot of rain!

#### **Biker Blessing**

On May 11, 2024, we attended the annual Biker Blessing event in Sooke. We then went for a ride that ended at 4 Mile House for our Spring Roundtable.



## REGION 5 - REPORTER: DELAINEY THORUD

## **British Columbia 2**

#### **New Members**

Amidst the 2024 riding season we have has a few new members patch in!





## 2024 Western Rally on a Whim

On the last day of the 2023 Spokane Western Regional Rally, we (BC 2) were approached before parting for home and asked if we could take on the task of Hosting the 2024 Western Regional Rally, as the chapter that was originally hosting the Rally was now unable to commit to the task. BC 2 accepted the challenge to host the rally on short notice, which speaks volumes about our commitment and unity.





We had an extremely successful 2024 Western Rally in Sidney, British Columbia from June 21-23, 2024. I am so proud of the Rally Committee for pulling this together. I cannot express enough gratitude towards the Rally Committee, whose tireless efforts have been the cornerstone of this event's success. Their dedication deserves more than a bouquet of flowers; it deserves my collective heartfelt thanks.

Additionally, I extend my sincere appreciation to Michael "Woody" Woods, RKIFMC International Secretary, and Lance Coit, Region 5 Director, for their invaluable support throughout this journey.

Randy A. Eckert President RKMC BC2 Sidney, BC Canada

Loyal To Our Duty

## **REGION 5 - REPORTER: DELAINEY THORUD**

#### lowa 2

#### Wheelin' 4 Healin'

Each year, IA 2 solicits donations from 65+ local businesses to raise money for the St. Florian Miracle Burn Camp that helps build self-esteem and supports the emotional healing of burn survivors ages 8-18.



This year, IA 2 donated more than \$10,000 to the foundation. In April, IA 2, along with members of Minnesota 7, attended the St. Florian Gala where they were presented with an award in recognition of their support.

#### 2024 Summer Fun Run

On June 22, 2024, IA 2 hosted their annual Summer Fun Run ride. It was a rainy day, but that didn't stop them from enjoying the event which included 5 stops, delicious food, good music, and great company!



#### Minnesota 4

As usual, Minnesota 4 hit the ground running this riding season and we have been keeping ourselves busy! We had a great start to the season with an early spring that allowed us to get out riding as early as the first week of March, which is often unheard of for Minnesotans.

We are extremely proud to announce that there has been/will be at least two members of MN 4 at all U.S. Regional Rallies, plus the Western Rally in Canada and the International

Convention in Germany this year!



MN 4 members at the Dixie Rally



MN 4 members at the Western Rally



MN 4 members at the Yankee Rally

## **REGION 5 - REPORTER: DELAINEY THORUD**

#### Minnesota 4

In addition to attending the Regional Rallies this year, MN 4 has also been tabling at events, hosting dinner rides, and securing donations for our Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit in August. You can see our full list of events below along with some MN 4 highlights from the past few months.

#### 2024 MN 4 Planned Events

- Donnie Smith Bike Show: 3/23-3/24
- Spring Flood Run: 4/20
- Dirty Rotten Biker Fest: 5/4
- Dixie Rally: 5/15-5/19
- Monticello Blessing of the Bikes: 5/18
- "RED KNIGHT" Patch Ride: 5/19
- Memorial Weekend Ride & Fun: 5/24-5/27
- MN EMS Charity Ride: 6/1
- Maranatha Blessing of the Bikes: 6/2
- Yankee Rally: 6/5-6/9
- · Western Rally: 6/21-6/23
- RKMN4 Family Picnic: 6/30
- Pearly Gates Veterans Benefit: 7/11-7/14
- IGYSIX Ride: 7/13
- RKMN8 Benefit Ride: 7/13

- Atlantic Rally: 7/18-7/21
- ScenicFest: 7/18-7/21
- Sturgis 84th Rally: 8/2-8/11
- Red Knights International Motorcycle Convention 2024 – Germany: 8/12-8/18
- RKMN7 Benefit Ride: 8/17
- Ride for the Joes: 8/17
- Monticello VFW Riders Summerfest: 8/17
- RKMN4 Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit Ride: 8/24
- Bootlegger Rally: 9/5-9/8
- Tomahawk Fall Ride: 9/12-9/15
- Scooter Stampede: 9/18-9/21
- Fall Flood Run: 9/21

## **Firefighters Fighting Cancer**

On Saturday, August 24, 2024, MN 4 will host our 14th 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 a local firefighter, a MN 4 social member, and two MN 4 family members.

The benefit is open to the public and any and all Red Knights are encouraged to attend. If you can't attend, you can still help support this important cause by scanning one of the QR codes to the right and donating today!





scan to donate



# **REGION 5 - REPORTER: DELAINEY THORUD**

#### Minnesota 4

#### The Newest Junior Member of MN 4

On September 29, 2023, Ashley "Smashley" and Ken "Cooter" Martin welcomed MN 4's newest Junior Member, Evelyn Rae Martin, into the world (and the Red Knight family). Since then, she has stolen all our hearts, grown like crazy, and attended countless MN 4 events. She even got her first "motorcycle."

Congratulations Cooter and Smashely!

#### First Annual RKMN4 Annual Picnic



On June 30, 2024, MN 4 held their first annual Family Picnic. Members were encouraged to bring their immediate and extended families so that they could meet the RKMN4 family. Attendees enjoyed a potluck style meal with lots of food, socializing with old and new friends, and lots of games including: tug

of war, three legged races, sac races, bags, ladder toss, and more! A special thank you to Cooter and Smashley for planning this great event. We can't wait to do it again next year!

#### Memorial Weekend Ride & Fun

Over Memorial Day Weekend, 54 members of MN 4 (over 1/3 of our chapter!) descended upon the town of Lanesboro, Minnesota for a full weekend of riding, exploring, and spending time with great friends!



## "RED KNIGHT" Grand Tour Patch Ride



On May 19, 2024, Members of MN 4 and MN 7 did the "RED KNIGHT" Grand Tour patch ride, organized by our Assistant Road Captain, Elisha "D'Lish" Wolfman.

What started off as a beautiful day quickly turned sour when we were hit by storms and lots of rain. Thankfully, no one melted and we were able to complete the ride!









#### **REGION 5 - REPORTER: DELAINEY THORUD**

#### Minnesota 7

#### Mike Parker Memorial Ride

On August 17, 2024, MN 7 will be hosting their annual Mike Parker Memorial Ride benefitting the Red Knights MN 7 Firefighter Fund. This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend!

#### **Supporting Local Fire Departments**

Throughout the year, MN 7 tries to support as many local fire departments as possible. Some departments host dinners, some host pancake breakfasts, and some just have open houses. Regardless, MN 7 tries to attend as many as possible. See some pictures below.





Gibbon Fire and Rescue Chicken Feed



Rockford Fire Pancake Breakfast



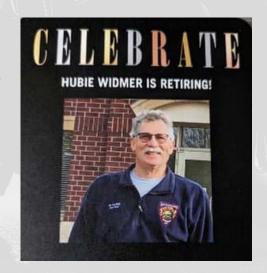
Waconia Fire Pancake Breakfast

#### MN 7 Treasurer, Hubie Widmer, Retires

On June 30, 2024, MN 7 celebrated the retirement of their Treasurer, Hubie Widmer. Hubie is a Charter Member of MN 7 and served on the Watertown Fire Department for 43 years.

Earlier this year, Hubie was showcased on the local news for his quest to take a picture in front of all 775 Minnesota Fire Departments before he retired. Check out the story here: <a href="https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/land-of-10000-stories/firefighter-photo-in-front-of-every-fire-department-in-minnesota-all-775/89-3910635c-03ff-4c2c-a41a-d7ad53b5f722?">https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/land-of-10000-stories/firefighter-photo-in-front-of-every-fire-department-in-minnesota-all-775/89-3910635c-03ff-4c2c-a41a-d7ad53b5f722?</a>

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#### REGION 5 - REPORTER: DELAINEY THORUD

#### **North Dakota 1**

#### **Passing of Leroy Magnuson**

ND 1 Charter Member, Leroy Magnuson, passed away on March 12, 2024. Leroy was a valued community member serving on the Valley City Fire Department for 46 years.

In the picture to the right, you can see Region 5 Director, Lance Coit, presenting to Leroy's widow, Karen, at his funeral.

#### 9/11 Ride

ND 1 will be hosting their annual 9/11 ride on September 15, 2024. All are welcome to attend.

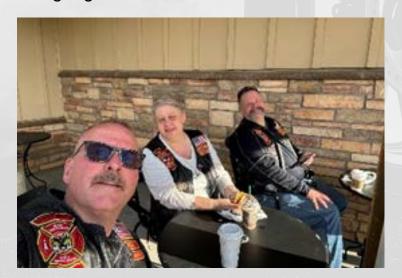
#### Photo of ND 1

Please see a photo of ND 1 members to the right.

## Oregon 1

#### Riding Season has Begun!

Now that the weather is nice, Oregon 1 has been going on some really nice rides! On Saturday, June 8, members of OR 1 went on 300 mile ride from Willamette Valley to Tillamook, Oregon and back. A great time was had by all and they can't wait to continue riding together this season!









#### **REGION 6 - REPORTER: CHARLES PRINCE**

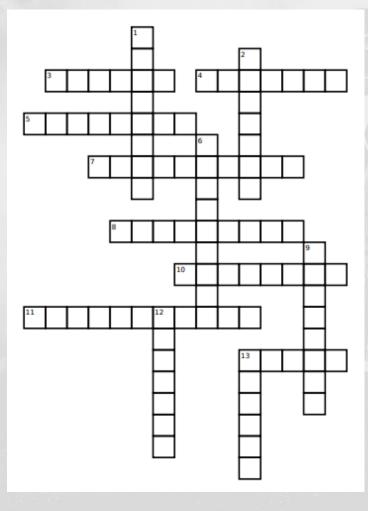
#### Texas 4

#### Two Dr. Sullivans!

On Saturday, April 27, Dr. Michael Sullivan, a member of TX 4, and his wife, Dr. Eloise Landrum Sullivan, BOTH graduated with their Doctorate Degrees in Biblical Psychology. Congratulations to both Dr. Sullivans!



## MOTORCYCLE PARTS CROSSWORD



#### Down:

- 1) Stores gasoline for the engine
- 2) Additional seating attached to the side of a motorcycle
- 6) Mechanism used to change gears
- 9) End part of the exhaust system where gasses exit
- 12) Reduces noise from the exhaust
- **13)** Mechanism that connects and disconnects the engine power to the transmission

#### Across:

- 3) Slows down or stops the motorcycle
- **4)** Aerodynamic shell often found on sport or large motorcycles
- 5) Controls the speed of the engine
- 7) Part of the motorcycle used for steering
- **8)** Metal rod that supports the motorcycle when parked
- **10)** Another name for a backrest for a passenger on a motorcycle
- **11)** Instrument that displays the motorcycle's speed
- **13)** Part of the drivetrain that transfers power from the engine to the rear wheel

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### Red Knights Promoted at Motorcycle World Bodensee

In January, Red Knights from Germany 1, 5, 33, and Austria 4 attended the Motorcycle World Bodensee event in Friedrichshafen to promote the Red Knights to the motorcycle world.

The event was attended by motorcyclists from all around the region and many were introduced to the Red Knights for the first time.

As was stated by one of our Red Knights, "no matter where, together we are strong."



#### **Belgium 8**

#### 10-1 (9th) Anniversary Party

Belgium 8 will be celebrating their 10-1 (9th) anniversary from **September 6-8, 2024** in **Antwerp, Belgium**.





#### **Belgium 10**

#### **Introduction to Belgium 10 President and Chapter**

I would like to introduce myself, I am Ronald "Poepa" Ricour, President of Belgium 10.

We are situated in the center of beautiful Limburg; Namely Genk. Genk is a coal mining town but also the city where the Limburg Fire School is housed. PLOT Province of Limburg education and training. Our chapter was actually founded by Plot's instructors. I had contacted Danny Vanoeckel, President of Belgium 8 (and now Belgium Representative) for tips on how to establish our chapter.



#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Belgium 10**

#### Introduction to Belgium 10 President and Chapter - Continued



We started with 10 members and have since grown to 32 members. 14 of our members are, or have been, instructors on the Plot with 3 of them being employed as proessional instructors. 3 members are officers, 11 are non-commissioned officers, and we have 1 female member who is our secretary.



As a new chapter we are still finding our way, organizing rides, competing with other chapters, and getting involved in charities. Our goal is to bring the 3 zones of our province together under one chapter.

We hope to meet you sometime at an event somewhere. Greetings,

Ronald "Poepa" Ricour

#### **England 2**

#### Two Donations to Hospital Charity Twice in February



Following the devastating news in 2021 that the grandson of one England 2 members was undergoing treatment for Leukaemia, it was decided to make a donation to a charity that was helping his family through this terrible time.

The P.A.C.T. charity (Parents of Children with Tumours & Leukaemia) provide among many things, financial help,

accommodation, days out and holidays for any family that has the misfortune to have a child going through cancer treatment.

As one of their own was in this position and receiving P.A.C.T.'s help, England 2 adopted P.A.C.T. as their Chapter Charity and any future donations from the chapter will go to this worthy cause.

England 2 received the great news in November that our member's grandson's treatment has been successful and he is doing well.

England 2 were happy when in February when they were able to donate their second cheque for £760 to P.A.C.T. to help them continue their good work and this was followed shortly afterwards with a third cheque for £185.

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **England 2**

#### Two Donations to Hospital Charity Twice in February - Continued

This money was raised for the charity through the sale of chapter pins and patches and through generous donations of members.





#### **England 4**

#### Months of Activity Raise Money for Baby Bereavement Charity



The creation of the memorial follows a year of activity by England 4 which has seen them raise a fantastic £2752 for their chosen charity and their hard work was covered in their local press. This incredible amount was raised through raffles and by the chapter giving escorts for weddings, proms and any event that they were asked to escort.

# Honoring the Fallen: Inauguration of the UK National Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial in Essex, England

The spirit of camaraderie and remembrance was palpable as members of the Red Knights from across Europe and beyond gathered alongside distinguished guests for the official inauguration of the National Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial. Held on May 4, 2024, at the Living Memorial complex in Rettendon, Essex, the event marked a significant milestone in honouring



the bravery and sacrifice of fallen fire service personnel.

At the heart of the ceremony was the dedication of the memorial, a poignant tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice during or after their period of service. Spearheaded by the England 4 Chapter of the Red Knights, the initiative aims to create a lasting legacy that would serve as a place of remembrance and reflection for generations to come. Red Knights from Netherlands, Belgium and all over England were in attendance.

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **England 4**

Honoring the Fallen: Inauguration of the UK National Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial in Essex, England - Continued



Members of the Red Knights England 4 Chapter played a pivotal role in bringing the memorial to fruition as part of an unwavering commitment to honouring fallen comrades. The chapter's dedication and tireless efforts were instrumental in ensuring the success of the project, from conception to completion. The project was made possible with generous funding from the British Fire Brigades Union, and with the support of Essex County Fire

and Rescue Service and countless local businesses and individuals who contributed to the success of the project.

International Vice President of the Red Knights Norm Beausoleil travelled from the US to attend the inauguration and deliver opening remarks. The ceremony saw the participation of senior colleagues, including Moira Bruin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, who delivered heartfelt remarks underscoring the importance of the occasion. David Hurst, High Sheriff of Essex, also spoke, highlighting the significance of the memorial in paying tribute to the courage and sacrifice of firefighters.



A special moment came with the official opening of the memorial by Cllr Linda Mascot, Mayor of Chelmsford. Fr John Bloomer of the Chelmsford Diocese led the assembly in a solemn service, offering prayers for the fallen and blessings for the memorial. His words of comfort and solace resonated deeply with attendees, reaffirming the enduring bonds of brotherhood and solidarity among firefighters, especially meaningful as May 4 is also St. Florian's Day, the patron saint of firefighters.



Throughout the ceremony, the Red Knights motto, "Loyal to Our Duty," echoed as a guiding principle, reflecting the commitment of fire service personnel to serve their communities with honour and integrity. In his closing remarks, Ronnie Patterson, President of Red Knights England 4, encapsulated the spirit of the occasion, stating, "Today, we honour the courageous men and women who gave their lives in service to others. Their legacy lives on in our hearts, and this memorial stands as a testament to their sacrifice."

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **England 4**

## Honoring the Fallen: Inauguration of the UK National Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial in Essex, England - Continued

The ceremony concluded with a stirring performance by the Sutherland Pipes and Drums, leaving attendees with a sense of reverence and gratitude for the courageous men and women who work in the fire service.

With the inauguration ceremony successfully commemorating the sacrifices of fallen firefighters, the Red Knights look forward to continuing their mission of honouring their legacy and serving their communities with dedication and pride.

Anton Shelupanov, Comms Officer, England 4





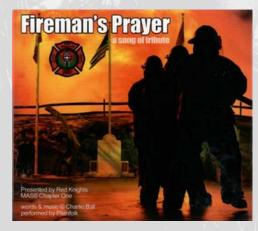


#### France 1

#### **Une Belle Histoire Sur La Prière Des Pompiers**

La fille d'Hélène du chapitre France 1, a traduit les paroles de la prière en français et a réinterprété la chanson avec son groupe Naytrillo. Marion nous raconte cette histoire:

C'est en 2022 que nous nous sommes regroupés sous le nom NayTrillo pour réinterpréter la prière des pompiers, hymne des Red Knights. La version originale de ce titre est "Fireman's Prayer" et est originalement interprétée par Charles Ball au sein du groupe Plainfolk. En version anglaise à l'origine, nous avons pris comme un challenge le fait de répondre au souhait du chapitre Red Knights France 1 de pouvoir prier en français



sur le même air. Le texte a été légèrement modifié pour correspondre au mouvement global de la mélodie originale mais se rapproche au plus près du texte, de l'intention et de l'écriture de Charles Ball : les pompiers sont au centre avec leur force pleine, leur courage, leurs peines et leur détermination.

Lors de la création de l'album de NayTrillo s'est posée la question d'ajouter la reprise de Fireman's Prayer aux autres compositions. Nous avons décidé de remonter jusqu'à la source et de remettre cette décision à l'interprète du titre original : Charles Ball. Nous avons finalement eu la chance d'obtenir son accord direct après les efforts menés par 2 membres de France 1 : JR et Hélène pour retrouver les contacts des uns et des autres !

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### France 1

#### Une Belle Histoire Sur La Prière Des Pompiers - a continué

En effet, il y avait peu de chance que les adresses mails soient toujours valides, et encore moins lues après tant d'années (le dernier album de Plainfolk datant de 1996!)

C'est donc après quelques échanges avec Charles et grâce à son soutien que nous avons aujourd'hui l'honneur d'interpréter notre version de son œuvre dans notre album fraîchement éclot!

- Pour écouter la prière en Français, lien youtube:
  - https://youtu.be/JjULRvFWxKc?feature=shared
- · Pour acheter l'album, découvrir d'autres chansons et encourager ce groupe:
  - https://NayTrillo.bandcamp.com
- Pour en savoir plus sur le titre original:
  - https://eu.telegram.com/story/news/local/east-valley/2006/04/16/plainfolk-does-it-old-fashioned/53108255007/

#### France 1

#### A Nice Story About the Fireman's Prayer - Translated to English

The daughter of Hélène, member of France 1, translated the words of the Fireman's Prayer into French and reinterpreted the song with her group Naytrillo. She tells us this story:

It was in 2022 that we came together under the name NayTrillo to reinterpret the firefighters' prayer, the anthem of the red knights. The original version of this title is "Fireman's Prayer" and is originally performed by Charles Ball in the group Plainfolk. Originally in English version, we took it as a challenge to respond to the wish of the Red Knights France 1 chapter to be able to pray in French to the same tune. The text has been slightly modified to match the overall movement of the original melody but comes as close as possible to the text, the intention, and the writing of Charles Ball. The firefighters are in the center with their full strength, their courage, their sorrows, and their determination.

During the creation of NayTrillo's album the question arose of adding the cover of Fireman's Prayer to the other compositions. We decided to go back to the source and hand this decision over to the singer of the original title: Charles Ball. We finally had the chance to obtain his direct agreement after the efforts made by 2 members of France 1: JR and Hélène to find each other's contacts! Indeed, there was little chance that the email addresses would still be valid, let alone read after so many years (the last Plainfolk album dates from 1996)!

It is therefore after a few discussions with Charles and thanks to his support that today we have the honor of performing our version of his work in our newly hatched album!

• https://naytrillo.bandcamp.com

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### France 2

#### France 2 Celebrates Their 11 Year Anniversary



May 23-26 saw the 11th anniversary of France 2, which took place in the Var, France.

Brothers and sisters from Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and France joined us in this wonderful gathering of fraternity, joy and conviviality.

I had the honor of officially integrating our treasurer Christophe Delcroix, who was unable to attend on the day in question.

Thanks also to Road Captain, Thierry Duval, and deputy treasurer, Marie José, without whom the anniversary wouldn't have taken place. Please see pictures of the trip below.

Thanks to all who came to our anniversary, and long live the France 2 Chapter!

Loyal to Our Duty, Lionel Paillot, Président France 2



We visited a wooden pipe factory.



We passed magnificent scenery.



We saw the fabulous lake of Sainte Croix in the Haut Var.



"Verre de l'amitié" on the beachside to the sound of Vice President Francis Ducatillon's guitar.

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### France 3

#### Les Scénarios de Charli - Défense des droits

Nous organisons une journée au profit de l'association les scénarios de charli association qui oeuvre pour créer un parc d'attraction à caractère humain et adapté au PMR.

Cette journée permettra de participer financièrement au développement du parc.

Cette association a été créé par un collègue sapeurs pompiers touché par le handicape son fils est autiste ce qui le motive à construire cette structure pour améliorer le quotidien des personnes touchées par le handicapes.

Le programme de la journée sera dévoilé courant juillet.

Les Scénarios de Charli a pour objet de répondre à une carence de structure en matière de loisirs adaptés. Elle a pour mission l'amélioration du quotidien des



personnes touchées directement ou indirectement par le handicap en aménageant un parc de 4000m2.

#### Charli's Scenarios - Defense of Rights - Translated to English

We are organizing a day for the benefit of the Charli's Scenarios Association, an association which works to create an amusement park with a human character and adapted to PMR. This day will allow you to participate financially in the development of the park. The program for the day will be revealed in July.

This association was created by a fellow firefighter affected by disability. His son is autistic, which motivates him to build this structure to improve the daily lives of people affected by disability.

The Charli's Scenarios Association aims to respond to a lack of structure in terms of adapted leisure activities. Its mission is to improve the daily lives of people affected directly or indirectly by disability by developing a 4000m2 park.

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Germany 2**

#### They Said Yes! Germany 2 Enjoys Wedding Celebrations

In April, Germany 2's VP, Hatti and his Petra said YES to each other. Of course, the Chapter surprised their two members with a delegation and together they were toasted for their well-being as newlyweds.

Since Hatti is also the group leader of the Krad specialized group at Fachzug I&K - Landkreis Wolfenbüttel, Germany 2's President Micha and Kropfi, for once, exchanged their hats for their uniforms and conveyed the congratulations of



the comrades. The newlyweds were wished `all the best and lots of fun` on their journey of life together!

#### A Chapter Under the Spotlight



Germany 2 was established in 2009 and was the second Chapter of the RKMC in Germany and also in Europe. Of the 14 founding Members, 9 are still active in our Chapter.

Today we have 30 Members, including the German Representative of the Red Knights, Michael Pförtner, and the president of the German "Feuerwehrverband," Karl-Heinz Banse. 2024 is our 15th anniversary and we will celebrate

it like almost every year before at the natural lake "Fümmelsee."

Most of the European Red Knights know this location because the second of our organized European Convention 2019 took place there. In 2012 we organized the first (only for Red Knights) European Convention in our hometown Wolfenbüttel. We are also proud to say that we have participated at every European Convention since 2011 (Blue and Red Knights together) and also visited two international Conventions. In 2015 and 2022 we organized with some other German Chapters a information stand at the international fire fair "Interschutz" in Hannover.

In every year since our foundation, we collect and donate for "Paulichen - Initiative für brandverletzte Kinder" and a local youth swimming association. Our "Chapter Life" takes place in regularly meetings at least one in a month. In the summer we ride motorcycles together, in the winter we meet each other in local restaurants, and the whole year we try to participate at as many meetings and parties as possible from other Chapters.

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Germany 2**

#### 15th Anniversary Party

Germany 2 is celebrating their 15th anniversary from July 12-14, 2024 in Wolfenbuttel, Germany.

# SAVE THE DATE 15. Anniversary RKMC° Germany 2 WOLFENBUTTEL 12.-14. July 2024

#### Germany 9 and 19

#### 10th and 5+1 (6th) Anniversary Party

Germany 9 will be celebrating their 10th anniversary and Germany 19 will be celebrating their 5+1 (6th) anniversary in a joint celebration from **September 13-15**, **2024** in **Waltrop**, **Germany**.



#### **Germany 12**

#### **Rewarding Members at the General Meeting**

On March 15, 2024, Germany 12 held their general meeting in the Alter Kanal Forest guest house. President Christian Friedrich was able to welcome 24 out of 31 members. After the annual reports and a good meal, the award of honors took place.



Christian thanked Svenja Rebmann and Helmut Krogmann with a gift for letting us hold our garden party at their place last year. Thank you again for this.

Olaf Scherer, their road captain, was awarded with his Iron Butt in Silver for 10200 km was handed over and Helmut Krogmann was given his Iron Butt gold award for 11500 km. The Chapter's heartfelt congratulations were given to them both.

Svenja Rebmann, Sandra Lambrecht, Nicole Ramachers, Marion Knoop, Bernd van den Berg, and Andreas Effinghausen were honored for 5-year membership and their quartermaster, Henning Thies, was honored for his 10 years of Red Knights membership.

We congratulate all those that were honored at their general meeting!









#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Germany 14**

#### First German Rallye in Goslar

This year, the first German Rallye of the German Red Knights Chapters took place at the centrally located Hotel Harzlodge in Goslar. Germany 14 President Whitie said it was a crazy idea, but that crazy idea became a reality!



Members from the German Chapters 2, 6, 12, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, und 34 accepted our invitation, and arrived one by one to fill the place up with motorcycles.

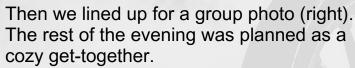
In the evening there was a buffet and other highlights were on the program. After Whitie, as President of the chapter Germany 14 and organizer of the rally, addressed a few words to the general public,

three new members (Fuchs, Esche and Berre, right) were asked to come forward. They received their knighthoods today.



Nelly (left), a MAL, had also announces his interest in joining the 14ers and he also received his saber guide and the knighthood.

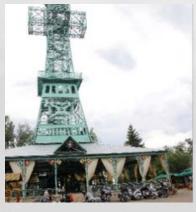
A big welcome to all the new members!



On Saturday we took a trip to the Josephs Cross in the southern Harz. Since many Red Knights participated in the ride, we rode in three groups with a time interval of



10 minutes. Two groups met at the Josephs Cross. The third group got a bit lost and drove directly to our last meeting point.



There was a summer toboggan and some members try to outdo each other with the highest speed. This was a lot of fun. After returning to the Harzlodge, we ended the evening again in a cozy atmosphere. On Sunday, after breakfast, everyone packed their bags and headed home after a big farewell.

Conclusion, a successful weekend and we look hopefully forward to the next time in 2024. Thanks for the great "crazy idea."

Germany 14

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Germany 22**

#### Firefighters are Always Ready for Action!

Like in many other countries, the first of May is an official holiday in Germany. Due to several occasions, our members decided to split up.

Our newest brother, Simon, visited the open day at the Gladbeck fire department and met there with our brothers and sisters from GER 24.

Our officers Scholli (Vice) and Hannes (Secretary) decided to take a smaller tour and visit the summer party at the volunteer fire department in Remscheid-Lennep. After some cool drinks and nice talks with comrades they decided to continue their journey and enjoy another ride. Although Solingen and Remscheid are larger cities, there are many rural areas, ideal for cruising. Due to the holiday and the very sunny and warm weather, there was plenty of traffic on the roads.

In the very outskirts of Remscheid, they recognized that the traffic came to a halt. Scholli spotted a motorcycle lying on the road and a heavily damaged car right next to it. There were no warning signs or any other clues that the situation was under control. Scholli signaled Hannes, who was riding behind him and couldn't catch a glance that there was obviously a situation where their assistance was needed.







Both of them are not only firemen and trained officers, but also paramedics (Rettungssanitäter), so they rushed past the waiting cars and used their bikes to block the road, one in each direction. The two decent and inconspicuously bikes were perfect for the job.

They knew what to do – no words needed.

Scholli immediately took care of the injured motorcycle rider and learned that the motorcycle rider had crashed right into the driver's side of car because the car was doing a u-turn on the road. The biker flew on the roof of

the car and dropped down after that. A complete body check showed that the driver had multiple guardian angels because he had no visible injuries. He was awake and able to walk, pulse was stable, but he had some pain in the stomach. This could be an alarm sign of abdominal trauma!



#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Germany 22**

#### Firefighters are Always Ready for Action!

Whilst Scholli took care of the motorcyclist, Hannes gained an overview over the scene. Because no one else had taken action before, he also had to initiate the emergency call. Due to the abdominal pain, an emergency doctor was needed.

The car driver had no injuries, but a serious shock and several times our Knights had to prevent spectators from lighting up a cigarette.

Although the scene was seven kilometers from the station, the Remscheid fire department and ambulance did arrive very quickly – although it felt much longer for the for them to arrive.

After the motorcycle rider was handed over the ambulance crew and emergency doctor, both Red Knights gave their names to the police for further questions.

So, they could continue their trip after about half an hour, some adrenaline still in their veins.

No thinks needed – they were just doing what was needed.

A local newspaper and some internet reporters wrote articles mentioning the Red Knights MC as first responders.

#### **Germany 24**

#### **5th Anniversary Party**

Germany 24 is celebrating their 5th anniversary from September 27-29, 2024 in Halter am See, Germany.

#### **Germany 34**

#### **Founding Celebration**

Germany 34 is hosting a Founding Celebration from July 19-21, 2024 in Leichlingen, Germany.





#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Germany 22**

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#### Italy 1

#### **Weekend With Family**

In our video conference meetings, we are mostly organizing the European Rally of 2025. Now, it was time to meet in person, so we decided to meet at the base of Alpi Apuane, high mountains in Tuscany famous for Carrara Marble and where Michelangelo's David was "born." The location had been a winter rally called Motofusten. A weekend with the family to organize, yes, but also to be together.

Roger, Matina and their dog Debbie from Germany drove by camper 800Km. Baloo, Angie and their doggies arrived with the motorhome from Switzerland and drove 600Km.

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Italy 1**

#### **Weekend With Family - Continued**

Andy our President from Garda Lake, Karika from Parma, and Ilaria from Florence arrived by car. Nastro, Pados Sound and Francy were the only ones by Bike.....the true Bikers!!!

The meeting point was near the Devil's Bridge, a very suggestive place around 12:30, lunch time naturally. After lunch so we directed ourselves with bikes with Pados as Road Captain ahead and the vehicles behind. We joined the winter rally Motofusten, on the place the motorhomes revealed to be very useful: tables, chairs, music and beer appeared. The meeting started with Nastro as Chairman opening with his famous "pippone"...a very long speech.



Decisions, tasks and responsibilities were assigned and now we are really ready to make the European Rally of 2025 come true.



As the sun sets down over the mountains the party begins with "vinbrulé" hot spiced wine. The first cheer goes to our founder and former President Leonardo Pilone in Heaven 1: "Thank you for putting all of us together!"



It was early for dinner, so Andy made magic and offered opening with salami, bread, and wine. Then, Roger made more magic and produced some meat, 12 (too much?!?) American steaks to be grilled on the huge firepit built on purpose, we obviously finished them all.....naturally!!!!!



The night was still young so Baloo took out a bottle of Parampampoli, hot spiced liquor. The flames were high and the fire was dangerous but, no problem.....the "pompieri" (italian for firefighters) have no fear and we put out the flames....the last cheers.



Now it was time to sleep. The luckiest ones put on their pajamas and they entered into the camper. Someone slept in the car. The "hardest" bikers slept in tents.

The meeting was useful and, at the same time, a beautiful day. A nice Family weekend.

Red Knights Motorcycle Club Italy 1

#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Netherlands 1**

#### **Celebrating 12.5 Years!**

The Red Knights Netherlands 1 was founded on May 13, 2011. Since 12.5 years after its founding would take place in November and this would not be in ideal weather conditions, it was decided to postpone the celebration to the spring of 2024. On the weekend of May 26 and 27, it was party time!





The organizers had found a beautiful location in Kerkrade, Limburg, in the south of the Netherlands. A hotel with a castle next to it where the dinner and party could take place.

In the early morning, the various members from all over the country were on their way early to be welcomed with coffee and Limburg pie.



At 10:00 am the ride-out towards Maastricht started where we visited the locks of Maastricht. The route continued across the border into Belgium where a visit was made to the American cemetery and memorial site, Henry-Chapelle, for the fallen American soldiers during the Second World War.











After laying flowers at the monument and a moment of silence, the route continued from Belgium to Germany and then reached the 3-country point of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany in Vaals. Time to stretch the legs and enjoy lunch at restaurant 'De Bokkenrijders' in Vaals. After lunch the ride continued through beautiful hills and forests towards the castle in Kerkrade. Despite the rain it was a beautiful ride-out. The motorcycles were parked and everyone could freshen up before dinner.

The 3-course menu was served and plenty of drinks were available. After dinner it was time for an official moment. In the past year, 2 chapters have been added in the Netherlands, Netherlands 2

and 3. These chapters partly arose from Chapter 1. This expansion of chapters is a positive development of the Red Knights family within the Netherlands and beyond. This party was all about fraternization and solidarity between the Dutch chapters.





#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Netherlands 1**

#### Celebrating 12.5 Years! - Continued







There were several anniversaries for the 10-year membership and several members were recognized for their contribution to the chapter.

After a presidency of more than 11 years, Peter "Pyro" Dekker has decided not to

continue in the role of President, but to remain as a member of chapter 1. Over the past year, Peter has been unable to function properly due to PTSD and the presidency has been transferred to Ray 'Wing' Oosterbaan. Peter will of course continue to support the current board where necessary and will play an active role for the club as a photographer/filmmaker for the chapter. He thanks the members for the support of recent years and has every confidence in the current board.

In particular, Margriet "Daisy" Brinxma was recognized as a thank you for her remarkable commitment to chapter 1, her support of her partner Peter "Tailgunner" Abbring in the establishment of chapter 2 and his role as Red Knights European Association President, and her active contribution to setting up foreign trips for which she even made an international flight



to arrange the necessary matters. She also brought one of our English brothers from the convention in Fussach to the ferry in Belgium so he could go home after an accident. She is always willing to reach out a helping hand. A true Knight!



After the official part, the party could get going. Snacks and drinks were served in abundance and a competition was organized to use XVR to extinguish a fire on a cruise ship. A bottle of Jack Daniels was ready for the winner Lennart "Rhino" van Rheenen. A successful party!!

The next morning, we had breakfast together at 8:00 am, after

which everyone could check out and start the return journey home.

Thanks to Ray "Wing" and Jolanda for the great organization of this party.



#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### **Netherlands 2**

#### **Tulip Rally**

On Friday April 19th the time had come, the first International Red Knights weekend organized by Netherlands II. We had found a nice, small campsite in the top of the province Noord Holland. To be precise, in the village of Van Ewijcksluis at the Wad noch Meer campsite. We had 3 chalets and a caravan at our disposal, enough space for the 15 guests who were invited.





After the reception on Friday, we ate a pasta meal together and spent the evening enjoying a little bingo and some bites and drinks.

Saturday after breakfast it was time for the ride-out with a group of 25 motorcycles. Our Road Captain, Johan, developed

a beautiful route past many tulip fields and windmills and through little villages. The route brought us to the Alkmaar fire station where both professional and volunteer fire brigades share the barracks together.

After the lunch the group got a great tour behind the scenes of the fire station. After driving back onto the road in style through the fire exit hall, we headed towards to the city of Medemblik where coffee and cake were served in the dungeon of Radboud Castle. We were back around 16:00 hours, well in time for the BBQ and another pleasant evening.

After Sunday breakfast we said our goodbyes. Despite a spot of rain every now and then and some windy nights, we can all look back on a very successful weekend.

If you are interested to visit the area and want a nice place to stay look at the website of the camping site <a href="www.wadnochmeer.nl">www.wadnochmeer.nl</a>.















#### **REGION 7 - REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON**

#### Portugal 1

#### **1st Anniversary Party**

Portugal 1 is celebrating their 1st anniversary on July 7. The location is to be determined.



#### **Switzerland 4**

#### **Reelecting Officers**

At the Switzerland 4 annual meeting, all officers were re-elected to their positions. One member "changed" from Associate to Active member as she started her firefighter career at her local fire department. Another successful story of somebody who became a firefighter because of the Red Knights! 15 year membership pins were awarded to Giuliano Felline and Silke and Thomas Delboi.



#### **REGION 8 NZ - REPORTER: ZANE EYRE**

#### 2024 New Zealand Annual Gathering

Each year one of the 10 Chapters we have here in New Zealand throw their ideas on the table to come up with an Annual Gathering that is exciting and enjoyable. The annual gathering provides the opportunity for Members across the country to



get together, ride their motorcycles, and simply have a great time in their Chapters Region. This year, like others, did not disappoint!

Over the weekend of March 15-17, Auckland based Chapter NZ2, with the assistance of the Pukekohe Fire Brigade, hosted a gathering to remember. Red Knights Members from all across New Zealand descended on the township of Pukekohe in the later parts of Friday afternoon to collect their registration packs. Some were fortunate enough to beat the weather, others were not so lucky and arrived rather wet but still smiling. Let's just say that all attendees enjoyed a well-deserved beverage or two while receiving a formal 2024 Annual Gathering welcome by the NZ2 Exec, closely followed by dinner and dessert.





Saturday morning, attendees woke up to a big breakfast to fill their bellies and clear skies raining nothing but sunshine. Following a quick 9:30 ride briefing, it was kick stands up and on the road through some of the Northern Waikato Regions back roads and down to the NAPA Auto Parts Dragway in Meremere. Apprehension that someone would blow a belt very quickly turned into what can only be described as fearlessness. Who would have thought Firefighters could have turned this event into something competitive, right! Two Wheels, Harley Trikes, or Canam Spyders, it was on! A special appearance from a local on his Drag bikes gave everyone the opportunity to see how it was done.

Afternoon rolled in, Motorcycles were parked up and Leathers were swapped out for dress shirts as we set in for an evening of laughs. Hosted by the Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club, Awards were handed out to the Host Chapter, Furthest Travelled, the Chapter with the most attendees, and of course it's not a Gathering night without a well-deserved Fine Session to provide some fueled banter.



#### **REGION 8 NZ - REPORTER: ZANE EYRE**

#### 2024 New Zealand Annual Gathering - Continued



All proceeds from the event and raffles went to the Pukekohe Fire Brigade Skytower Challenge Team who were raising much needed funds for the Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand Charity. Members of the team were kind enough to assist NZ2 with the running of the event bar, cooking meals, as well as providing a shuttle service ensuring all Red Knights members made it to and from the evening venues safely.

Like all New Zealand Annual Gatherings, it's not only the Gathering itself that make it such an enjoyable experience. The ride plans, the Members hospitality for those traveling from a far, and all the short pit stops along the way just top it all off. Following a farewell breakfast on the Sunday morning, members departed in masses to explore other hot spots in the Region, before turning back and making their way home.

Thank You to everyone that helped play their part in making this event a successful and enjoyable weekend. Also, a massive thanks to everyone that attended.

See you all in Central Otago for the 2025 Annual Gathering.

Cheers.

Zane Eyre





#### Two New Zealand Red Knight Weddings on March 23, 2024!



Timo and Lisa O'Halloran of NZ 5 pose with their motorcycle on their wedding day!



Jason and Debbie Ansley of NZ 4, joined by members of NZ 4, NZ 5, NZ6, NZ 8, and NZ 9 on their wedding day!

#### **REGION 8 NZ - REPORTER: ZANE EYRE**

#### **New Zealand 9**

#### **Great Day, Great Cause**

Weddings, cocktail parties and holiday celebrations, all shindigs you would likely kick off those sneakers and track pants and dust off your formal attire for. Now, picture this! How about gearing up in that suit and tie, starting up your motorcycle, and heading out for a ride.





Well, for the past seven years in the month of May, that's just what NZ 9 President, Rossco has done.

Being his seventh year hosting the Distinguished Gentlemans Ride (DGR) in Napier, Rossco has had the privilege of organising this event giving motorcyclists the opportunity to dress up in their most dapper gear and ride Side by Side to raise funds in support of Men's Health and Prostate Cancer research. The DGR is a Worldwide event

drawing in tens of thousands of riders each year joining in the event on the same day, but in different locations, to raise awareness.

This year the Napier DGR raised over \$7000, with 70 riders turning up in support. The riders of Napier are looking forward to joining in this event again next year with a confirmed date of May 18th, 2025.

To date the Global impact of the DGR has seen 958 organised rides, in 105 Countries, and raising over \$52M USD since 2012. For info visit <a href="https://www.gentlemensride.com">www.gentlemensride.com</a>.









## **HEAVEN ONE**

#### IN LOVING MEMORY



Doreen Atwood MA13



Nancy Brissette MAL



David Carvalho CT7



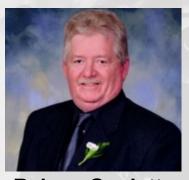
Dave Frye AB12



Tina Larsen NJ13



**Leroy Magnuson** ND1



Rejean Ouelette NB5



Phillis Rader GA1



Marian Sheldon NY50



Carol M. Studdert IL2



David Vogelsong PA41



Mike Weiss Sr. AL6



Edmund Zukowski NJ13

#### Not Pictured:

- Brooks M. Bourgeois (LA1)
- Richard Bowes (QC3)
- Jennifer "Slick" Hoemer (GA23)
- Noel Meloche (ON6)
- Wade Robinson (ME3)
- Philip Seiden (NY49)
- Raymond Wines (MD1



## **MARRIAGES**

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLYWEDS!**



**Kyle and Danni New Brunswick 4** 



Hatti and Petra Germany 2



Ray and Lucy Pennsylvania 8 Alabama 3



Timo and Lisa
New Zealand 4



Jason and Debbie
New Zealand 5

## **ANSWER KEYS**

