

JANUARY 2025

RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB



NEWSLETTER



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Letter from the Editor

Delainey Thorud (MN 4)

Hello Red Knights! I hope that you all had an amazing 2024 riding season and that you are looking forward to (or enjoying) the start of the 2025 riding season; I know I am!

As always, I want to start off by thanking the amazing team of Regional Reporters that make this newsletter possible. I would also like to welcome Ashley Martin and Jen Zenker as the new Region 5 Reporters, we are so excited to have you on the team!

We are also looking for a new Region 6 Reporter. If you are interested in applying or would like to learn more, please contact me at the email below.

This year, I hope to attend my first International Convention in Peoria, Illinois! The Red Knights Illinois Association has a great weekend planned full of rides, activities, and socializing. I hope to see you there!

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 July 2025 newsletter will need to be sent to your Regional Reporter or me no later than June 13, 2025, or they may not be included.**

Stay safe and have a great first half of 2025!

Delainey Thorud

International Newsletter Editor, RKIFMC

Editor@redknightsmc.com

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Newsletter Tips:

If you are viewing the newsletter as a PDF, you should be able to click on the content items to the left and be taken directly to that page.

There are games throughout the newsletter and the answers can be found on the answer key on the very past page of the newsletter.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or would like to learn more about the process for these newsletters, please contact the International Newsletter Editor, Delaine Thorud, at Editor@redknightsmc.com.

Happy reading!

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

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Newsletter Quiz

Quiz Questions:

- 1) When are updates for the July 2025 newsletter due?
- 2) Who was awarded the first ever "Director Emeritus" award?
- 3) How many Grand Tour Master certificates were issued in 2024?
- 4) When and where is the 2025 International Convention?
- 5) Which region is looking for a new Regional Reporter?

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

PRESIDENT – SPIKE OSTIGUY

Fraternal Greetings Brothers and Sisters

I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year!

As I complete my first full year as International President, I often reflect on how fortunate and blessed I feel to be a part of this family. Maybe it's been more amplified for me this past year than others, with the loss of my Mom in June. We ushered in 2024 by honoring the life of past International President, Edward "Eddie" G. Brouillet with R.K. Heaven One protocol.



The year 2024 also brought its challenges, particularly from Ol' Mother Nature. Five (5) hurricanes made landfall here in the lower 48. All these weather events obviously had made their respective impacts. It was Hurricanes Helene & Milton that seemed to inundate the national news highlight reels. Helene, made landfall in Florida, ultimately dumping historic rainfall in North Carolina and surrounding states. Less than a month later, Milton made landfall in Florida as the strongest storm in 2024.

You may wonder why I am highlighting the weather and storms in my President's report. The reason is that during and after these storms I observed via RK Facebook posts, and receiving e-mails and phone calls with accounts of many of our Red Knight chapters and members rising to the occasion with relief efforts and food, for days and even weeks on end. Members helping members. Members helping citizens, both in and outside the communities in which they live. Without hesitation, you took on a duty to act, and all are to be commended. You epitomized what it means to be a Red Knight, and to be "Loyal To Our Duty." Thank you!

The Red Knights also witnessed history in 2024. For the first time in our 42+ year history of the Red Knights, the International Board invoked By-Law 3:03 to honor retired Region 2 Director Leo Patry (Ont. 7) as "Director Emeritus." The whole story, presentation, and pictures can be found in the 2024 End of the Year (EOY) Newsletter.

During the Summer Meeting in Leipzig, Germany, the International Board established an R.K. Historical Committee. A Board memo posted in early April seeking interested members yielded a number of letters of intent. Joseph Hopkins was appointed as Committee Chair. Joe is a Charter Member of Massachusetts Chapter IV (1984) and past International Vice President (1986-1988).

The year concluded with my having attended all scheduled meetings of the R.K.M.C.: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Virtual. I am confident Secretary Woods (Woody's) report will have the exact number of virtual meetings. I regret too having lost track after eight (8).

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

PRESIDENT – SPIKE OSTIGUY

I want to extend my gratitude to the members of the Board and all the men and women of our important Committees. It truly is an honor and privilege to work in concert with you all.

In closing... I would like to take this time to inform the membership and announce that I will be seeking another term as your President of this incredible organization.

Respectfully submitted,

SPIKE

R. Spike Ostiguy
International President

By-Law 3:03 to honor Leo Patry (Ont. 7) as “Director Emeritus”

Recently retired R.K. Region 2 Director Leo Patry has made history within the Red Knights organization. For the first time in the 42+ year history of the Red Knights, the International Board invoked By-Law 3:03 to honor Leo Patry (Ont. 7) as “Director Emeritus.”

On Sunday, October 20th, during a regularly scheduled chapter meeting at the Napanee Fire Hall in Ontario, Canada, Leo was surprised by International Board Members; President Spike Ostiguy and Region 2 Director Randy Smith, along with several Ontario and Quebec R.K. Chapters as he was presented with this distinguished award from the International Board.

Once again, Leo, you have set the bar high! This organization deeply appreciated your longstanding heartfelt dedication.



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – NORM BEAUSOLEIL

Greetings one and all, and welcome to 2025! This past year has brought new insight to me regarding the Club, its members, and its leadership. Now it's time to bring everything together and bring you up to speed on the Vice President's front!



The year 2024 was certainly an eventful year for me. It started off with me in my new role as VP and I was, to say the least, quite overwhelmed, but with support from the other board members I was able to hit the ground running with only a few obstacles that were fairly easy to maneuver. I was quite busy with travel, meetings, rallies, conventions, and the MAL Program, and I enjoyed nearly every minute of it all.

As many of you know, I love to travel, and that passion leads me to going places and doing things that bring me great joy, and this year was no different, albeit with greater purpose, the opportunity to meet more of you! Since 2013, I have made every effort to attend the UK/Ireland meet (always the last weekend of April), but this year was quite different. The rally held outside of Cork (Ireland 1) in Bantry, Ireland, was as enjoyable as ever! I was honored, not for being a Founder or the VP, but I was nominated and entered into the prestigious English "Order of the Horse's Arse" fraternity! Ask me how I qualified next time you see me!

What made this trip to Ireland even more memorable was that when I left Cork, I went to Edinburgh, Scotland, and got to meet our first Red Knight from Scotland, a member I welcomed into the Club as an MAL earlier in the year. He was a most gracious host as he gave me a wonderful tour of that area of Scotland. From Scotland I took a train to England where I was again honored. The members of England 4 created the National Red Plaque Memorial in Essex, England – and asked that I make the opening remarks at this event which featured speakers from the fire service, union, city, shire, and even the Crown. It was a truly humbling moment.

My next trip was to Keene, NH, for the annual Yankee Rally where, once again, I was given the honor of speaking at the re-dedication of the New Hampshire Red Knights Memorial, as both a representative of the RKIFMC Executive Board and as a Founder.

At the end of July, I left for Berlin, Germany, eventually arriving in Leipzig for the 2024 Annual convention and business meeting. The members of Germany 18 did a fabulous job! Their ability to entertain and provide great hospitality was amazing! Thank you to Matthias and his crew! Job well done. For me, the highlight of the event was the Saturday night awards banquet.

Last year, long time Board Member Leo Patry stepped down from his position as Region 2 Director after 30 years in various positions on the Board. I am extremely proud and grateful to be part of the board that found a way to recognize such dedication with a level of recognition that is unlikely to be replicated anytime soon - the well-earned and deserved honor of "Director Emeritus". I would like to once again publicly say thank you Leo for your dedication to the Red Knights.

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – NORM BEAUSOLEIL

My final “personal” trip of the year was a last-minute decision to attend the first ever Region 6 Rally – known as the Scooter Stampede. Another memorable moment in the books for me. Not only did I get a great tour of Oklahoma City and the surrounding area, I was also greeted with unmatched generosity! The highlight of the event was the Saturday evening dinner where the raffles and auctions were held. Many of you know that I held a fundraiser years ago with Jack Daniels in support of the mortgage on our Memorial House and property. I still had an unopened bottle from the fundraiser, so I decided to offer it for auction or raffle. Well – much to my surprise, that 1 bottle fetched \$1,105.00 in a live auction. I would like every member of the Club to recognize Ryan Morrison, OK 10, for his generosity. I would also like to give a huge shout out to Buddy Myers, president of OK 10 and the rest of the Scooter Stampede committee for their generous donation of the 50/50 proceeds (\$177.00) to the same cause. Finally, Cheryl Crabb, OK 10, also earned a place in my hall of memories for her generous donation of \$100.00 to purchase an empty JD bottle from the fundraiser. All-in-all, I walked away from Oklahoma and the Scooter Stampede with about \$1,385.00 in funds to go towards the principal on the mortgage.

Now, down to the business end of my report!

Representing the membership this past year I was able to attend all Conference Calls and Zoom Meetings of the R.K.I., R.K.R. and R.K.M.F. to which I was invited or expected to be at. I attended, in person, the following meetings and events:

- RKIFMC Spring Board Meeting (SBM), Baltimore, MD April 10 - 14, 2024
- UK/Irish Meet, Bantry, County Cork, Ireland April 26 - 28, 2024
- Yankee Rally (Region 1), Keene, NH, June 6 – 9, 2024
- RKIFMC Summer Board Meeting/ Convention/ABM & EuCon, Leipzig, Germany. August 13 - 18, 2024
- Scooter Stampede (Region 6), Oklahoma City, OK, September 20 – 22. 2024
- RKIFMC Fall Board Meeting (FBM), Baltimore, MD November 13 – 17, 2024

2024 R.K.M.C. Heaven One Honors:

As I oversee the R.K. Member-At-Large (M.A.L.) Membership worldwide, it is also with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of one (1) Member-At-Large, since my last EOY Report. Godspeed. May you rest in peace. RKF.

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

12-31-24: We have 306 R.K.M.C., Member-At-Large Members: 258 Active/41 Social/ 7 Junior

In 2024 we received 108 R.K.M.C., Member-At-Large applications and I've worked on an additional 44 from previous years. 68 have been approved as MAL, 35 have been referred to chapters, 2 transferred from chapters to MAL and 2 were denied membership, the rest are still pending. We also had 14 Member-at-Large resign from the Club. The biggest note of all is that we have accepted 14 MALs in Finland bringing the total to 16. They do not live close to each other, but they may work on 1 National Chapter, similar to Norway 1.

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – NORM BEAUSOLEIL

In accordance with the By-Laws Article 2, Section 2:10 3. International Dues:

It is unfortunate I report that there are 89 Member-At-Large Members on restricted service.

- 31 have not paid dues since 2022 and have removed from the roster,
- 27 have not paid since 2023, are now 2 years in arrears, and in jeopardy of being removed, and
- 62 have not renewed for 2025 and are now 1 year in arrears.

All have been advised that they are now on restricted service.

We do hope that you take this opportunity to renew your membership and return to in good standing status. If you are an MAL and have not received a “Dues Reminder” e-mail from me, please send an e-mail to vicepresident@redknightsmc.com. The most likely cause is an incorrectly recorded or copied email address on the roster – mistakes happen.

If you are an MAL and have dues owed, please contact the International Treasurer, Scott Ryan, at treasurer@redknightsmc.com.

Member-at-Large Program Update:

As manager of the Member-at-Large Program (the Program) I have a great deal of freedom with the process, and I would like to pass my thoughts on to all of you, particularly chapter leadership and those members that move away from your “home” chapter.

The Red Knights is an organization based on **Chapter Membership**, and the Program was designed to allow the Club to gain exposure in areas where we are not established. It is designed to be a starting point to eventual chapter membership, it was not designed to be an endpoint membership location for chapter members to transfer to. For example, a motorcycling firefighter in Colorado, Saskatchewan or Latvia hears about us and asks to join. Voila, a perfect MAL candidate. We have no chapter in the state, province or country yet, so the MAL program can do just what it was designed to do – RKMC exposure in a remote area. New member, new place, no question.

Where I am taking a different approach is this: **First**, I am asking current chapter members that move to **seriously consider** several things before I approve a transfer to MAL.

Let's say a member from MA 1 moves to Colorado. That member is already a Red Knight, and, although the By-Laws (Section 2:06(2)) allow a transfer to MAL due to a “travel hardship” – and I won't necessarily deny the request – **I will first ask 3 very serious questions.**

1. Why do you want to leave your chapter?
2. Why do you want to be an MAL? Based on your answers to 1 and 2, I will ask
3. Why should (or would) I approve your request to become an MAL? Remember, we are a **Chapter Based** organization, and a chapter member is able to represent us in a new area, and with their access to information from their (current) chapter, i.e. newsletters, e-mails, contacts, etc., they can do the same job as an MAL, including starting a new chapter, with the benefit of current chapter support.

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – NORM BEAUSOLEIL

Member-at-Large Program Update, Continued:

You might say that that member won't be an active member of the chapter – he/she won't make meetings, rides, events, parties, etc. I SAY, SO WHAT? I'll bet every chapter already has local members that fit that description. Having that member move away won't affect chapter activities, will it? And, this Club does not approve or condone attendance requirements EXCEPT at the International Board level. Finally, the member that has moved will benefit more from being included in all communications from their chapter. Who loses? I don't see anyone suffering from that scenario.

Second, I'll now reverse the roles a bit. Let's say I receive an MAL application from a prospective member who lives in Florida, 100 miles from any other chapter. I have been referring those applicants to ALL chapters in the state, listing closest first, and **asking the chapter presidents**, along with the respective state/province/country reps and the regional directors, **to ALL reach out to the applicant and invite that applicant to join their chapter**, for EXACTLY the same reasons as above. I can only see good things coming to a chapter that can get additional members and a remote member that isn't "active" will still be in the loop and may surprise you, where an MAL may not even know your chapter exists. Once again, who loses? **This one is a win-win**. Once again, I won't necessarily deny the application, but if someone wants to be a member, and chapter membership is available and, on the table, why should that applicant refuse?

This is where I need your help – yes, every one of you that is already a member of the RKMC. Welcome and/or invite new members and be open to receiving new members, no matter how far away they live, into your chapters. If they are active look at the benefits. If they are inactive, what have they changed? New blood can infuse new life.

In closing, I am looking forward to **2025 AND BEYOND** in serving you, the members, to the best of my ability. Thank you for trusting me and, to my wife Kathy, thanks for putting up with me and being the best travel partner a guy could ask for! I hope to see you on the road, or at any of the many upcoming Red Knights events, rides and rallies in 2025, particularly the Yankee in Bangor, Maine, the International Convention in Peoria, Illinois, and the EuCon Rally in Florence, Italy, among other possibilities.

As always, I remain,

Loyal to Our Duty

Norm Beausoleil
RKIFMC® International Vice President
Life Member & Founder
Massachusetts Chapter 1, Ireland 1, and Switzerland 4

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

SECRETARY – MICHAEL WOODS

Hello to all my fellow Red Knights Brothers and Sisters

I want to take a moment to thank everyone for the continued opportunity to be part of the Board! It's such an honor and privilege, and I'm excited to contribute to our Club's future together. As a member of the International Board for one term now, I've had the chance to learn a great deal about the dynamics of this organization. There have been joyful moments, as well as some challenging times. I've realized that we don't always have all the facts in any situation, and it's important to communicate with one another. Most of the time, we find that what we think we know is just a story or a misunderstanding. After all, we are all human!



During my last year as your International Secretary, I have had the privilege of attending several important events, including the 2024 International Spring Board Meeting, the 2024 Dixie Rally, the 2024 International Convention, the 2024 Bootleggers Rally, the 2024 International Fall Board Meeting, and, sadly, a few Heaven One services. I cherish the experiences and memories created at each of these events. I look forward to many more years of building bonds, friendships, and unforgettable memories!

Over the past year, I have been busy transforming the TMLA (Trademark License Agreement) system into a fully digital platform, and I am pleased to report that it is nearly complete. The final step is to create an educational program to help our members understand and feel comfortable using the system. With over 4,000 TMLAs in place, this has been a challenging task, but we will continue to work on improving it for our global membership.

Please remember that this system is designed to protect our names and logo from misrepresentation and is not intended to create difficulties or internal strife among our members. One aspect that seems to be commonly misunderstood is the use of the ® symbol. Our intellectual property attorney has clarified its usage: the ® symbol is not compulsory in any jurisdiction where we hold registrations, but it is highly recommended. When I mention this, members often ask what it means. To clarify, the ® is not required, but its use is strongly encouraged, and I will always ask that it be placed on our products. If the symbol is not included, it does not make the item illegal, and I will not disapprove an item solely for the absence of the ®.

If you are unsure whether an item requires a TMLA, please fill out an application along with a picture and send it to me. If the item involves any of our protected names or logos, the answer will always be yes. I'm here to assist you and am always happy to help.

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

SECRETARY – MICHAEL WOODS

Below are some of the stats from 2024:

Insurance Policies:

Insurance requested: 54
Not issued: 7
Pending: 0
Insurance issued: 47
Non-compliant but issued: 1

TMLA Report:

Total requested: 421
Denied: 18
Pending: 6
Approved: 397

New Chapter Applications Sent Out:

Interest letters sent: 30
Applications sent: 28

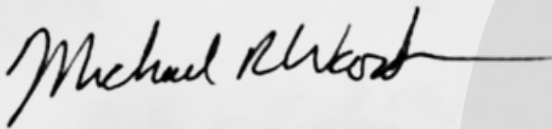
Rental Agreements Issued

Total requested: 49
Pending: 0
Total issued: 49

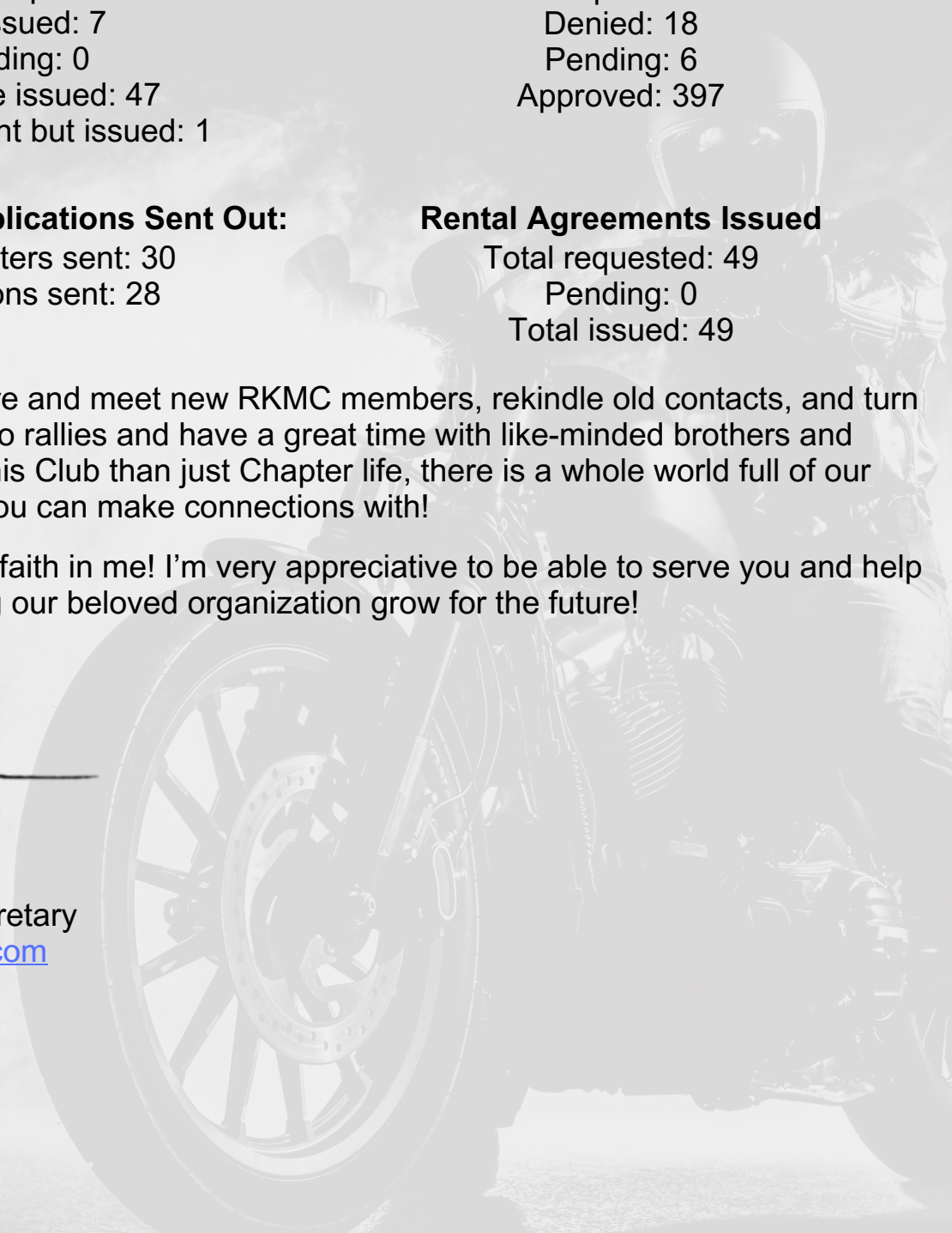
One last thing, get out there and meet new RKMC members, rekindle old contacts, and turn them into friendships! Go to rallies and have a great time with like-minded brothers and sisters. There is more to this Club than just Chapter life, there is a whole world full of our brothers and sisters that you can make connections with!

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

“Loyal to Our Duty”



Michael “Woody” Woods
RKIFMC International Secretary
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2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

TREASURER – SCOTT RYAN

I have lost track of how many meetings I attended in 2024, but I do know I attended all the International Board meetings that were called – in person and virtually. This included, of course, the Annual meeting in Leipzig.

For me, in one way, it was a quieter year regarding rallies. I wasn't able to attend as many regional rallies as I have in the past but I was able to, with my chapter, host a very successful Atlantic Association Rally.



I was honoured at the European Association President's Meeting this year to be recognized for the distance I had ridden in 2023. A part of that accomplishment included over 7,000 km in South-East Europe. In 2024, I was fortunate to put on another 7,000 km in Europe, this time taking a loop around the Baltic Sea. There certainly is some beautiful riding in Region 7! That said, I definitely encourage those of you in Regions 1-6 to get out and explore, the variety of landscape, architecture, and personalities throughout North America can make for some great adventures as well. Region 8, I'm looking forward to having good things to report about your area after convention 2026!

I have recently updated the chapter roster spreadsheet I send each chapter in the fall of the year. It now includes a note at the bottom of the dues tab with instructions on how to pay through our website. The more often Chapter Treasurers pay dues, the easier it gets, but Chapter Treasurers change frequently so little tricks like this are helpful. If any Treasurers out there want additional tips and tricks in the annual dues spreadsheet, let me know, they can be added.

At the convention in 2024 we added some clarity to our Social Membership. This was spurred by me seeing inconsistent interpretations amongst Chapters. There was great discussion on the floor about this and I would like to point out that eligibility is not automatic membership. At the time I did not fully appreciate the comments of how this change could dilute our membership. My thoughts were similar to another member who noted the challenges around Junior Members and him being able to bring his son into the club but not his step-son. It was these types of situations I had in mind. On the other side I can see how it could be "watering down" our membership if my 80 year-old father remarried and I brought all my new step-brothers and step-sisters into the club. Although either of these situations are now eligible, I would hope the Chapter would consider the validity of the second scenario before voting to approve those relatives. To help understand if this change did fully clarify Social Membership, please, when you submit a new Social Member, in addition to noting who their sponsor is, include what the relationship is.

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

TREASURER – SCOTT RYAN

Once again, thank you to all the Chapter Officers and others who I have worked with over the year, I'm here to make your jobs easier so you can just have fun and ride. I appreciate how so many of you make that possible for me as well. Something that can make it even easier for you and for me, when you are submitting roster updates with added members, please make a note if they are already members of another chapter and which one is their Home Chapter. With 10,000 members, I don't recognize all the names, if a name pops up on your chapter roster that wasn't on the last version, I assume they are a New Member and look for \$20.

Ride safe, I hope to see you soon.

Scott

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

There are 10 differences. Answers can be found on [page 97 \(linked here\)](#).

Spot the differences courtesy of Steve Williamson, Region 7 Reporter!



INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Front Row (Left to Right): International Secretary, Michael Woods; International Vice President, Norm Beausoleil; International President, Spike Ostiguy; and International Treasurer, Scott Ryan

Back Row (Left to Right): Region 8 Director, Andy Young; Region 7 Director, Tom Van Der Kley; Region 6 Director, Brian Singleton; Region 5 Director, Lance Coit; Region 4 Director, Chuck Marks; Region 3 Director, Mark Mullen; Region 2 Director, Randy Smith; and Region 1 Director, Ken May



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 1 DIRECTOR – KEN MAY

To My Red Knight Family,

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



Region 1 consists of:

- 8 States
- 98 Chapters
- 2,772 Chapter Members
- 31 Members at Large
- 2,803 Total Members

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

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

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 1 DIRECTOR – KEN MAY

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

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

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

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

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

Well, just weeks after returning home from the convention, I was off traveling again. This time to Oklahoma City for the 1st ever Region 6 Scooter Stampede. I took the long route, heading to North Carolina first, to meet up with some Red Knights. Then we headed Memphis, Tennessee meeting up with Red Knights from Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, before finally arriving in Oklahoma. Everything they planned was perfect, except for the weather. No, it didn’t rain, but man was it hot. Reminded me of the 2015 San Antonio convention.

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

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 1 DIRECTOR – KEN MAY

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

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

God Bless and Ride Safe,

Ken “Moonshine” May
Region 1 Director



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 2 DIRECTOR – RANDY SMITH

Greetings/Felicitations!

It is a pleasure to give the membership an update from the Great White North. The snow is falling outside, and the temperature is -4 Celsius. It's a perfect time to talk motorcycles, and the year in review. First, a brief look at Region 2.

Our Region encompasses all 6 of the provinces from Ontario to Newfoundland. We currently have 40 chapters, and approximately 894 chapter members and 19 M-A-Ls. It's a large geographic area, with Canada's most and least populated provinces. It's beautiful riding from one end to another.



The Year in Review

In 2024, after a brief stint as Chaplain Pro Tem, it was great to welcome Terri Palmer as our new International Chaplain. She is a great addition to our team.

February is the height of curling season (don't ask!). The Toronto Firefighters Celtic Society held a large fundraising bonspiel for one of our designated charities, Camp Bucko. Many area departments come, and it's a blast. The Red Knights attended, and ON-1 President Tony Cardinale repped us on the ice!



We have developed a strong relationship with Camp Bucko, a summer camp for young burn victims. More on this later.

In March, we saw my home chapter (Ontario 1) celebrate our 40th anniversary. It was heartwarming to have Charter members such as myself sitting with new members who just joined the fire service a few years ago.

The International Board held it's Spring (April) and Fall (November) meetings in Baltimore Maryland. A lot of work is carried out at these meetings. We never forget the trust that has been placed with us, or our obligation to you. There are some issues which may involve a lot of discussion, and we always approach them with respect for each other and your best interests in mind.

The International Board held it's Spring (April) and Fall (November) meetings in Baltimore Maryland. A lot of work is carried out at these meetings. We never forget the trust that has been placed with us, or our obligation to you. There are some issues which may involve a lot of discussion, and we always approach them with respect for each other and your best interests in mind.

The Board also meets throughout the year via Zoom meetings. This is an efficient and cost-effective way of dealing with many time-sensitive, or minor items.

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 2 DIRECTOR – RANDY SMITH

I was able to attend the Atlantic Rally this year in Charlottetown, PEI., a truly beautiful part of Canada. East coast hospitality at it's finest.

New chapters were formed in Miramichi, NB and Hawkesbury, ON. Sadly, we lost a chapter as well. This serves as a reminder to every chapter that we are either bringing new members in, or slowly shrinking.

I sit on the Executive of Ontario Association 6 as well. This year saw some changes to the Board, and more are coming in 2025. Ontario Red Knights will see some new ideas, with input from all welcome.

Ontario 1 welcomes other chapters as they provide a motorcycle escort for busloads of campers to Camp Bucko each year. The kids love it, and so do we! This year, the rain didn't deter us at all. We were well received by staff and campers alike.

The International Convention in Leipzig, Germany was a total success. An incredible experience for attendees. You have to attend just one International to understand who and what we are. I'm told that the rides were great as well.

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend was held Sept. 6 – 8 this year in our nation's capital, Ottawa. For the first time ever, the RKMC was invited play a role in this national event. Members from Ontario formed a Guard of Honour at a private ceremony for the families of the fallen on Saturday. On Sunday, Ontario and Quebec members joined the official parade to the CFFF monument. It was solemn, but the reception of the families assured us that we will be back next year. Our goal is to have each province of Region 2 represented each year.



A special honour for me this year – On October 20, President Spike Ostiguy and I got to surprise retired Region 2 Director Leo Patry at an Ontario 7 meeting, where we presented him with his Director Emeritus plaque. His 3+ decades of unwavering service to this Club will never be forgotten, and I consider him a great mentor.

This year one of my duties is to handle the reservations for the Memorial House. Please use the form on the website to make your reservation.

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 2 DIRECTOR – RANDY SMITH

I am happy to answer each email and phone call that I've received. If I don't get back to you right away, I apologize but I'll do my best. It's gratifying to be able to explain a procedure or SOG one on one, and have the other person understand the real meaning of it. We on the Board are constantly looking for ways to improve communication and clarify terms that aren't common language to everyone.

The coming year is already off to a busy start. The Spring International Board meetings are set, and we have Zoom meetings on a continuous basis. Everyone is looking forward to this year's Convention in Illinois, as well as next year in Australia. My home chapter is already heavily into planning for the 2027 Convention at sea, sailing from Florida and hosted by Ontario 1! The logistics are...interesting! Great ideas are flowing, and the energy is infectious.

Please know that I am always available to chat, unless I'm running calls at work. Phone, email or drop by the fire station (with a little notice!) and I'll put the coffee on. Here's to a great 2025 with lots of laughs, and lots of memories.

I remain,
Loyal To Our Duty

Randy Smith
Region 2 Director
647-470-7562 (RKMC)



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 3 DIRECTOR – MARK MULLEN

Region 3 currently has 66 chapters, 1354 members, and 21 MAL's.

- Illinois – 9
- Indiana – 9
- Michigan-1
- Missouri-2
- Ohio-10
- Pennsylvania-25
- West Virginia-6
- Wisconsin-5
- Kentucky- 1 MAL



Missouri has started a new chapter Missouri 2, welcome from region 3. And Missouri 4 is in the process of getting started as we speak.

We did lose some members during 2024 they have gone on but will not be forgotten, (1-1-24 to 7-14-24).

- Joe Day - IN2
- George Michels - IN11
- David Thomas Vogelsong - PA41
- Carol M. Studdert - IL2

I attended the 2024 annual Red Knights international firefighter motorcycle club convention in Leipzig Germany. And I am looking forward to the 2025 convention to be held in my home state of Illinois. August 19th through August 24th, 2025. Illinois is working very hard to make sure this event is a huge success. With the cost of everything going up lately Illinois is trying to keep the event affordable for all of us.

Bootlegger 2024 was a success, and enjoyed by all who attended thank you to Indiana 1 and Indiana 2 for hosting the bootlegger rally. Bootlegger 2025 will be in Wisconsin on Labor Day weekend. I hope to see everyone there. The West Virginia State association is currently discussing hosting the 10 year anniversary of the bootlegger rally in 2029.

I attended the fall board meeting held in Baltimore MD on November 14th to the 16th 2024. It was very informative as usual and got to meet some of the new board members from region 6 (Brian Singleton) and region 8 (Andy Young).

On behalf of region 3 I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas. And that everybody has a happy and prosperous 2025.

Moon
Region 3 Director

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 4 DIRECTOR – CHUCK MARKS

Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the close of 2024, I want to reflect on what has been an eventful and enriching year serving as your Region 4 Director. January kicked off with an exhilarating weekend in the vibrant city of New Orleans, where the air was filled with excitement and camaraderie. Shortly after, I embarked on a seven-day cruise with a large group of Red Knights. Although this gathering was not an official Red Knights event, it carried the same warmth and spirit we cherish in our community. During that time there were many What Ifs of doing a Cruise for an International Convention. I also had the privilege of attending the Alabama state meeting, where the sense of brotherhood was palpable.



February presented an unexpected trip back to the lively streets of New Orleans, this time to honor a beloved brother being placed on the Heaven One Roster—a heartfelt occasion that reminded us all of the bonds we share.

April marked the beginning of a whirlwind of activities. I attended the Spring Board Meeting in Baltimore, where we engaged in meaningful discussions, followed by the GA25 Swamp Ride. This event took us on a delightful adventure through the enchanting Okefenokee Swamp, where I had the pleasure of spending a day with various GA chapters, united in our shared passion for riding.

May brought the highly anticipated Dixie Rally in Statesville, NC. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the chapters that labored tirelessly to make this event a resounding success—your dedication shines through. However, the event was tinged with sorrow as we faced two motorcycle accidents en route to Dixie, and one during the rally itself. While details on the first two incidents remain limited, I want to express my gratitude to David and Kathleen Wenck for their prompt aid during the accident that occurred at Dixie. My thoughts and prayers remain with all those affected.

June was relatively quiet, filled with several joyous birthday celebrations and a Zoom meeting with the board, where we worked diligently to streamline the agenda for the upcoming Germany ABM.

July brought a flurry of Zoom meetings as I prepared for the Convention, ensuring that every detail was in place for what promised to be a memorable event.

August was a highlight of the year with the 2025 Convention held in Leipzig, Germany. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to Germany 18 for orchestrating such a spectacular event. Special recognition goes to Rico Richter, who graciously served as our chauffeur and guide during the days leading up to the Convention. Our travels took us across Germany, Switzerland, Poland, France, and the Czech Republic, enriching our experiences and deepening our bonds with one another.

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 4 DIRECTOR – CHUCK MARKS

In September, I journeyed to Columbus, IN, for the Bootlegger Rally, where IN 1 and 2 consistently put on a fantastic rally—an occasion I eagerly anticipate attending again next year in Wisconsin. Just eight days after returning home, I was off to Oklahoma City for the inaugural Scooter Stampede. Buddy Meyers and his dedicated crew did an outstanding job hosting this event, drawing in about 100 attendees for a memorable day.

November welcomed me back to the Fall Board Meeting in Baltimore, MD, alongside two new board members: Region 6 Director Brian Singleton and Region 8 Director Andy Young. Our meeting was productive and inspiring, and I look forward to collaborating with these brothers as well as the entire board in the future.

As December rolled in, I participated in the 42nd Annual Iron Cross MC Toy Run, where I joined forces with three GA chapters and approximately 600 other motorcyclists. The sense of community and purpose was invigorating. The month also brought a poignant moment as I attended the funeral of a brother and friend I have known since my first days in the Club—reminding us of the personal connections that bind us together.

In summary, this year has been a kaleidoscope of experiences, filled with laughter, tears, and unforgettable moments. I eagerly look forward to reconnecting with all of you in 2025.

Wishing you a Happy New Year—stay safe and ride proudly!

Chuck Marks
Region 4 Director

“LOYAL TO OUR DUTY”



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 5 DIRECTOR – LANCE COIT

Brothers and Sisters,

Another year in the books for region 5. We had a little longer summer which extended our riding season up north this year compared to last year. In the off season we continued to have our regional monthly zoom meetings. We have had an increase in attendance at these meetings and are always looking for more members to participate. It is always a good way to stay in touch through the winter.



This year many of us traveled to Sidney, British Columbia for the Western Rally. It is always fun to visit Vancouver Island. It is a beautiful place, and you get to take your bike for a boat ride to get there and home. They put on some awesome rides and fed us well. It was a great rally, and they did a great job hosting the Western. There is a lot of work and stress involved with getting these events to happen. I would like to thank everybody involved for their hard work. Also, I would like to thank everybody that attended, it is great to see everyone. Next year the rally will be held in Deadwood, South Dakota. It should be a great time, always awesome to ride in the Black Hills and Sturgis isn't too far away to go visit.

On the international side, I did attend the spring and fall board which are always fun to go to. We go over a lot of stuff to try to keep things running smoothly. The summer meeting had a new twist to it. That meeting was held in Germany. It went very well considering the language barrier for those of us that only spoke English. The International Board were all Knighted, which was interesting and special. This coming year we will be going to Peoria, Illinois for the International Convention. This should also be a very fun and interesting event.

Once again, I look forward to serving as the Region 5 Director for the rest of my current term. I will not be running for re-election. My term will end at the summer convention. If anybody wants to run for the position feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I hope to see as many Red Knights in person as I can this year. With the convention in Peoria this year I hope to meet many more region 5 members from that area. Everybody stay safe and healthy this upcoming year.

Lance Coit
Region 5 Director



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 6 DIRECTOR – BRIAN SINGLETON

2024 was a busy year for the Red Knights, with our second overseas International Convention in Leipzig, Germany.

I have averaged 8 hours a week working on Red Knight business for a total of 416 hours.

Region 6 has 27 Chapters, 384 Members, and 3* Members at Large. We unfortunately lost three members this year:

- Shane Adair - TX12 - 10/04/24
- David Die - TX1 - 10/18/24
- Merton Silk - TX10/VT1 - 11/21/24



I have been working with each chapter to ensure that they are checking their emails regularly and that each chapter is utilizing them. Further, I have been working with each state representative to ensure that all MALs are receiving updates and international information appropriately. So, if you are reading this report and not checking your chapter's email regularly, let's get going. I have been working with the support TX State Rep to assist with getting chapters current with RK International dues and rosters. I have spoken with three individuals about requirements to form chapters within TX.

Once again, your chapter must submit quarterly roster updates by April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st to avoid being put on Limited duty. These updates must come from your chapter email so that we know which chapter is submitting them.

This year, our Oklahoma chapters hosted the Inaugural Region 6 "Scooter Stampede Rally." We were honored to have one of the founding fathers, Norm Beausoleil, in attendance. The rally raised \$1378.60 to go toward the mortgage of the Memorial House.

This year, our Texas chapter attended the LA 1, 911 fundraiser to help firefighters and their families. The chapter also participated in the Beaumont Blue Santa ride to help families in the Beaumont, TX, area. Several Texas and Oklahoma Chapters also traveled to attend the Dixie Rally in Statesville, NC, and the Region 6 Rally in Oklahoma City, OK.

To all Region 6 Chapters, please send your events and fundraisers to region6reporter@redknightsmc.com so that they can be included in the newsletter.

The 2025 International Convention will be held in Peoria, Illinois, from August 20-25, 2025. Registration is now online at the international website under the events tab: www.redknightsmc.com. The 2026 International Convention was held in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, from August 18-23, 2026.

Respectfully submitted:
Brian Singleton "Minion"
Region 6 Director

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 7 DIRECTOR – TOM VAN DER KLEY

The year 2024 was a year full of challenges and gratifying successes for our club. In this report, I would like to summarize our most significant achievements, the work we have done, and our plans for the future.

Successes:

1) New chapters and international expansion:

This year, we were proud to establish new chapters in several countries. This not only demonstrates our growth, but also our commitment to international partnerships and communities.

2) International convention in Leipzig:

The international convention in Leipzig was a great success. The event brought together members from different countries, promoted the exchange of ideas and strengthened our community.

3) Well-run MAL program:

Our MAL program has made remarkable progress this year. It has proven to be an important tool in supporting our members and promoting collaboration.

4) Effective EU Quartermaster:

The EU Quartermaster has performed his duties very efficiently and helped to ensure that all resources and materials are well managed. This has significantly supported our operations.

5) Communication:

This year, I have conducted numerous telephone calls, countless e-mails and many online meetings, including the spring, ABM and fall meeting. These communication strategies have enabled me to actively involve all members and promote exchange.



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

REGION 7 DIRECTOR – TOM VAN DER KLEY

Projects for the future:

I have ambitious plans for the coming year:

1) Expansion into other countries:

I want to expand our presence in other countries and further promote the internationality of our club.

2) The Assign app:

We plan to introduce the Assign app to further improve internal communication and organization.

3) Member Orientation:

A central concern will be to get our members back on track and to clearly communicate the core values of our club – honor, loyalty and respect for one another.

Conclusion:

The year 2024 has strongly supported our vision of strengthening our community and growing internationally. I am full of confidence and enthusiasm for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

I thank all our members for their commitment and support and look forward to another successful year!



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REGION 8 DIRECTOR – ANDREW YOUNG

G'day from Region 8!!

I hope that you all had a great Christmas and New Year, best wishes to you and your families for 2025.

Here in our Region, we are right in the middle of our best riding weather, but that also means the threat of bushfires. Please spare a thought for the Region 8 members that are involved in fire suppression activities. As I write this, there have been several very active fires the largest of which was in the Grampians National Park in Victoria, Australia that has burned around 75000 hectares. (185,000 acres). Fortunately, there has been no lives lost and very few buildings destroyed in this very large active fire. Fire Suppression activities will continue for several weeks in this area.



As the new Region 8 Director, I thank my predecessors, Ken Mahon and Jason Collins for their hard work in setting up and establishing the new Region. I look forward to continuing your work.

As I was performing the role of Australian Rep to Ken's Regional Director, it became necessary to elect a representative in New Zealand to better represent the NZ chapters. After calling for nominations from NZ members an election was held. The successful candidate was Zane Eyre, Chapter President of NZ8. I am looking forward to collaborating with Zane so we can represent this region to our best abilities.

So far, I have participated in one Zoom meeting in August and attended, in person, the Fall Board meeting in Baltimore. I will also travel to New Zealand and attend their Annual NZ Gathering 2025 in Cromwell on the South Island (Mainland according to some) at the end of January.

As one of the "new guys" on the Board, I would like to thank the other board members or their support and guidance as I take up the role. I'm looking forward to working with these guys to make our club the best it can be.

Since taking on the role in August, I have averaged around 6 hours per week on Regional Director travel and activities.

Region 8 now has 31 chapters with around 560 Chapter Members and MAL's.

As we start 2025, I would like to encourage all chapters, all members to get out and go for ride, share your rides with your neighbouring chapters and other clubs, go on a ride with another chapter and support their events. Go to a rally or gathering and experience the brotherhood that comes with being a Red Knight.

Loyal To Our Duty
Andy Young
Region 8 Director

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

CHAPLAIN – TERRI PALMER

The Chaplain's job depends on the need. The need is as little as picking up the phone and making sure that a fellow Red Knight is being properly honored for their service. To as involved as providing the personnel for the service and conducting the serve.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the president, the regional directors, state representatives and chapter presidents for all your willingness to support the Heaven One program. I know for a fact; the family greatly appreciates what we do. The honors we provide will be remembered for years to come.



This year has been a learning year for your chaplain. Learning what my role is and how to support that role. I thank all those who took the time in shepherding me and providing how to walk deeper into the role. As I got more comfortable in the role of International Chaplain the scope became clearer.

What is that scope first and foremost it is supporting you the Red Knights community when you have a death. Upon receipt of a death determinations need to be considered. If the announcement does not contain any arrangements at the minimum a sympathy card is dispatched. If the announcement does have arrangements, then the Chaplain will begin to make phone calls and determine who will do the presentation of flag and coin.

This year, your Chaplain had the distinct honor of presenting the Heaven One flag and Coin to a fallen Red Knight of the State of Maryland. The International Chaplain was also part of the Maryland delegation who participated in the wreath laying ceremony of the Maryland Fallen Firefighter's Memorial in Annapolis, Maryland.

As of this report all regional directors are fully stocked with flags and coins. Please be advised that if you do have a need for flags and coins it is easier to let me know in advance than when you need them in a day!

The International Chaplain is ready to support your chaplains with suggestions on how to organize a memorial service, or how to honor during the presentation of Heaven One flag and Coin. I am able to provide prayer selections, poems and even a short speech to convey our respects for the fallen member.

Goals for the coming year:

- I would like to see each chapter have a chaplain or at least the state has a chaplain.
- I will be compiling a separate chaplain roster so that I will have quick reference and introduce myself to your local chaplains and offer personal support to them.
- I would like the brotherhood to seriously consider a yearly memorial service. This is not a goal to be accomplished in the year 2025. This will take a year to do some preplanning, this is a long-term goal.

Once again, I am deeply honored and humbled by your faith and trust in voting me as your chaplain.

Respectfully submitted.
Chaplain Terri (Theresa) R. Palmer

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

GRAND TOUR COMMITTEE CHAIR – EMMETT DUPREY

At the end of 2024 the Grand Tour Committee consisted of Emmett Duprey (PA 38) as the Grand Tour Chairman, Roger van Kollenburg (Aus 5) as the Australia/New Zealand Coordinator, and Rolf Imperial Muehlemann (Switzerland 1) as the European Coordinator.



The Grand Tour program is growing and in 2024 the Loyal To Our Duty Tour was introduced and went live in August. This new LTOD Tour gave members who have completed the Grand Tour Master a new challenge to obtain. 38 Members have completed the LTOD in 2024.

2024 saw the most members obtain their First Tour Patch. 54% of the members completing a Tour were first time applications. Welcome to the GT family. Now they too have the Grand Tour Bug.

656 Tours were completed by 91 Chapters in 2024. 407 by active members and 25 by Guest. 219 members were First timers.

Total Certificates and Patches issued:

- Grand Tour - 98
- Red Knight - 106
- Fire House - 104
- 12 Station - 216
- Alphabet - 37
- Grant Tour Master - 32
- Loyal To Our Duty - 38
- Guest - 25

From the Grand Tour Committee, to all of you, have a safe riding season and hope to see you at a Convention or a Rally in 2025.

Loyal To Our Duty,

Emmett Duprey, PA38
Grand Tour Chairman

*The Grand Tour
Committee
Completing the
Loyal To Our Duty
Tour (right)*



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

HELP A KNIGHT COMMITTEE CHAIR – TRUDY RUTKOWSKI

Hello Fellow Red Knights,

I hope everyone had a great Holiday.

So I have a question for Everyone, Do you know or have heard about the Help A Knight Program ? So it has come to me that a lot of our new Members and even our Regular members still don't know about Help A Knight. Well lets talk. A few years ago the program was put together, it is to help Red Knights around the world, it's to help if you are broke down, lost, crashed, ran out of gas, need a place to stay a bite to eat and so on. Help A Knight has a directory on the web site that you can download before traveling, an keep handy in times of need. So lets go over the Program



Program Over View – this is a Red Knights travel Support Network

The Red Knight Travel Support or Help A Knight is world wide, it helps Red Knights access Local Contact Lists of Members that are there to help.

Give Emergency Assist for Quick support for Personal or Travel Emergency

It's a Resourse guide with information about nearby Red Knights, tools available, trailers, and lodging

So How to you take advantage of the Program

Register in advance to be on the List of Members to Help at <https://www.redknightsmc.com/help-a-knight-application>, fill out the application and email to the Help A Knight Chairperson.

Print out the Roster of members that have joined the program and keep with you when traveling

Stay informed, the Help A Knight gets updated as members join, so when traveling also go in for a new version of the list

What are the Benefits of this you ask, You will have a piece of mind knowing someone is a phone call away to assist you, and what a great way to meet other Red Knights along the way for a bite to eat and Camaraderie, this builds Friendships and we are Family.

So Lets get started today, Help A Knight is there ready to Help and serve you, if you need more info, please feel free to email me at helpaknight@redknightsmc.com

Stay safe, and Riding season will be here before you know it, Hope to see you on the road or in our travels.

Loyal to Our Duty
Trudy Rutkowski
Help A Knight Chairperson

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

HISTORICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR – JOSEPH HOPKINS

I am honored and excited to have been named the Historical Research Committee Chair on August 18, 2024.

As the RKMC Historical Research Committee Chair, I will be working with committee members Robert Moose (SC 2) and Stefan Streif (“Sarg”) (Switzerland I) and I will be having the assistance of Director Emeritus Leo Patry (Ontario I).



My current plan for the Historical Research Committee will be to start off condensing and organizing the early history/the beginnings of the International Red Knights Motorcycle Club which was started in Boylston, Massachusetts in 1982, and then working on the history of the chapters of Northeast United States.

Robert will start off working on the history of the chapters of southeast United States, Stefan will start off working on the history of the International Chapters, and Leo will be assisting with the history of the Canadian Chapters.

Once the early histories of these regions are covered, we will continue with the chapters throughout the United States and other parts of the world. Eventually, we will work on how the chapters have progressed throughout the years and where the chapters stand today. This is a monumental project. It will take time and be somewhat fluid.

I will be reaching out to others for their input as this process progresses. If anyone is interested in assisting with this endeavor or joining the committee, please reach out to me at my email address: Historian@RedKnightsMC.com.

Looking forward to researching the past histories of all the chapters in the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club, seeing how the members of this club have contributed to the growth of this organization and to come up with a plan to keep this organization's history going for years to come.

Joe Hopkins



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

IT COMMITTEE CHAIR – DON BRANDT

The IT Committee is a fairly new committee.

We started a replacement project of laptops for the Board. We are now using Office 365 to give the Board needed functionality to share files and to move the club forward.

Moving forward, we will be working with the Board to update technology at the Memorial House with a digital picture frame and digital message board for visitors. We are also going to look into the possibility of adding a digital kiosk for the Heaven One Memorial.

One of the big projects is investigating the capability to stream the Annual Business Meeting from Convention so that members unable to attend can still take part.

Respectfully submitted:

Don Brandt
RKMC IT Committee
Chapter Member PA11, AL13, NJ19



2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR – THOMAS L. CAISSE

First Happy New Years to all. It is between Christmas and New Years that I am drafting this report in hopes of bringing everyone up to date on what the Committee has been doing this past year. The committee currently has three members: me, Thomas Delboi, and Dave Emery. This was one of the few years in the recent past where we did not have any contested races for the positions up for election or had to administer a Special Election to fill a vacancy. We did respond to requests for information and had to process incumbent officers running for re-election to ensure continued compliance and eligibility. There was one open position for Regional Director in Region 6, which was filled without a challenge.



The Committee wrote the Committee Procedural Manual and updated the Nominee Profile which will be implemented for the 2025 nomination process which opens January 1, 2025. The challenge the Committee had in writing the Procedural Manual and updating the Nominee Profile was to assure that these documents serve the membership globally. This was particularly a challenge in the revisions to the Nominee Profile which is the core document used by the Committee to determine eligibility of a member to be placed on the ballot for an International Board position.

In addition to the above activities the Committee provided updated election materials as well as Candidate (Nominee) profiles for posting on the international website. I represented the Committee at the 2024 Spring Board of International Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom) and Tom(Tom) Delboi represented the Committee at the Annual Business Meeting held at the 2024 Convention. The Committee held two formal meetings with minutes recorded and provided to the International Board of Directors via copy to the International Secretary. There were several informal exchanges / communications throughout the year.

I would like to conclude with a thank you to the Committee members and for the support and guidance of the International Board of Directors.

I would encourage anyone who is interested in the Committee to review the Committee Procedural Manual and reach out to nominations@redknightsmc.com for more information.

Best wishes for a safe and happy 2025, keep the rubber side down!

Respectfully submitted,
Tom

2024 END OF YEAR REPORTS

QUARTERMASTER – DON MOORE

In the year 2024, a total of 486 orders were processed and shipped from our office in the U.S. Additionally, orders were processed and shipped from our EU Quartermaster in Germany. Our current inventory stands at 12,292 pieces.

Below is a snapshot of some of the more popular items:

Orders Processed:

- 5,144 4" patches
- 2,992 10" patches
- 410 5-year membership pins
- 204 10-year membership pins
- 111 15-year membership pins
- 37 Men's T-shirts*

Note: *Due to the rise in wholesale pricing for T-shirts, the Regalia Board has decided to discontinue T-shirt sales. Once the limited stock is depleted, RKR will not be selling T-shirts in the near future.

This report highlights the significant volume of orders processed and shipped throughout the year. The decision to discontinue T-shirt sales is a strategic move in response to rising costs. We appreciate the efforts of all members in achieving these results and look forward to continued success in the coming year.

Best Regards,

Don Moore

RKIFFMC QM

Red Knights Regalia - Red Knights International Motorcycle Club (RKIMC)



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY
16-18

Dixie Rally
New Orleans, LA,
USA

JUN
4-9

Yankee Rally
Bangor, ME, USA

JUN
27-29

**Western
Rally**
Deadwood, SD,
USA

JUL
10-12

Atlantic Rally
Bouctouche, NB,
Canada

AUG
21-25

**International
Convention**
Peoria, IL, USA

SEPT
5-7

**Bootlegger
Rally**
Waukesha, WI,
USA

TBD

**Scooter
Stampede**
TBD

TBD

**Knights of
the
Roundtable**
Washington, DC,
USA

GENERAL RED KNIGHTS NEWS

We Need Your Photos!

We need your photos for the website and Facebook pages! Please send your photos to:
Communications@RedKnightsMC.com

We Need Your Photos

For The Website & Facebook Pages

Do you have photos that haven't been posted recently on Social Media?

Please share them so we can use them on Facebook and the International website.

Send your photos to

Communications@RedKnightsMC.com



MOTORCYCLE BRAND WORD SEARCH

Words can go in any direction. Words do not share letters. Answers can be found on [page 97 \(linked here\)](#).

Words

BMW
Ducati
Harley
Honda
Indian
Kawasaki
Suzuki
Triumph
Victory
Yamaha

S	N	E	Z	A	H	G	H	N	H	X	R	N	D	V
E	H	H	E	G	H	A	R	L	E	Y	Q	F	U	T
S	A	D	Q	T	J	Q	P	S	N	T	B	O	C	H
T	M	A	U	S	M	G	N	Z	V	T	O	U	A	Z
R	R	I	N	D	I	A	N	M	I	V	P	M	T	P
I	B	T	R	K	S	L	A	Y	E	Y	Y	L	I	P
U	K	L	W	Y	F	O	U	A	G	Y	H	S	T	C
M	A	R	W	H	V	O	E	S	O	A	W	J	T	P
P	W	S	Q	R	K	I	E	Y	M	M	N	Z	P	H
H	A	R	C	G	H	U	C	I	A	A	J	U	T	O
R	S	I	B	M	W	N	S	T	F	H	E	K	Q	N
Z	A	M	G	U	V	E	B	Y	O	A	E	I	J	D
K	K	J	M	F	B	C	D	M	V	R	J	O	D	A
Z	I	L	Y	X	D	S	Q	V	W	X	Y	Y	V	X
B	E	U	L	C	L	W	Z	D	B	S	C	M	H	A

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 1 – REPORTER: JAMES VOSS

Region 1 Anniversaries

Massachusetts 4 Celebrates 40 Years

What a great afternoon MA-2 had helping MA-IV to celebrate their 40th anniversary as Red Knights back in August. Complete with chicken BBQ, a bit of Red Knight and MA-IV history, lots of stories and some cake as well! Congratulations and thank you for inviting us along. MA-2 celebrated 40 years in 2023.

New Hampshire 4 Celebrates 40 Years

Congratulations to New Hampshire 4 on celebrating their 20th year in the Red Knights Motorcycle Club and going strong. Congratulations on 20 years as Charter Members of NH4: Robert Trudelle, Tim Fiske, Richard Trempe, Mark Salisbury and Don Kraemer.



New Hampshire 5 Celebrates 20 Years

Twenty years ago, a group of firefighters at the Fire and Rescue department in Epping, New Hampshire who rode motorcycles together decided to start a Red Knights Chapter. The members of the department who started the group were: Bruce Chapman, Steve Cimino, Harold Frey, Charlie Goodspeed, Bob Locascio, and Dick and Laurel Rodier. Chapter 5 was officially chartered in May of 2005, and included members from surrounding departments to include Doug Butland, Ed Lyons, Jim Voss, Blue Kelloway, and CJ Lungerhan as well as a host of Associate and Social members. (Steve Cimino, Harold Frey, Charlie Goodspeed are since deceased).

Membership fluctuated over the years for the chapter around to an all-time high of 52 members in 2019, and the fact that 8 members are celebrating this 20 year benchmark. The chapter is very proud of their lineage, their progress through the years and boast they are still going strong.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 1 – REPORTER: JAMES VOSS

Massachusetts 2

MA2 Busy Raising Funds

RK Massachusetts 2 hosted their annual Blessing of the Bikes earlier this year. A beautiful spring day welcomed more than 60 motorcycles (and a few bicycles) to the Petersham (MA) common for the blessing and ice cream social. Pastor Geoffrey Smith of the Petersham Congregational Church and Chaplain for the Petersham Fire Department officiated. Members of the fire department were also on hand with apparatus to support the event. Proceeds raised went to Home Base; (www.homebase.org) a Red Sox foundation that supports veterans and their families.



Toys for Local Children



Massachusetts Red Knights Chapter 2 is helping the local Marine Corps League collecting toys for local children at the Orange, MA Walmart.

Chapter members voted to donate a basket full of toys to help start filling the boxes! Walmart even gave them a discount when we were checking out!

Massachusetts 2 and 4

Joint Ride to USS Nautilus

Red Knights Massachusetts 2 and Massachusetts 4 held a co-ride earlier this year and traveled to the Groton Submarine Base in Groton, CT to visit the USS Nautilus Museum. The USS Nautilus was the world's first operational nuclear-powered submarine.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 1 – REPORTER: JAMES VOSS

New Hampshire Fallen Firefighters Memorial

New Hampshire Red Knights Giving Back

New Hampshire Red Knights attending the annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial (right). This year, the New Hampshire chapters collectively presented a check to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial from monies raised with the sale of New Hampshire Red Knight state coins. Loyal to our duty.



New Hampshire 1

Awards and Achievements at the NH1 Annual Christmas Gathering



New Hampshire Chapter 1 President, Dave Weymouth, proudly shows his LIFE MEMBER rocker at the annual Christmas gathering (left). Dave has been Loyal to his Duty for twenty five years and is the past New Hampshire State Representative. Congratulations, Dave!

At the gathering, Doug Butland was also presented with Chapter 1's annual Red Knight of the Year award for his work this year as fundraising chair. Congratulations, Doug!

New Hampshire 5

NH5 Awards Educational Scholarship Award

Red Knights NH5 awarded its annual \$500.00 educational scholarship to Jacob Raymond of Plaistow, New Hampshire. Jacob will begin his freshman year at Lakes Region Community College in pursuit of a degree in Fire Science. Jacob exemplifies the desire to protect the people and property of New Hampshire from the devastation of fire. His respect for community and its citizens has been shown through his commitment as a junior firefighter in the Plaistow Fire Department, while maintaining an impressive GPA at Timberlane Regional High School. Good job, Jacob!



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 1 – REPORTER: JAMES VOSS

New Hampshire 5

Attending the Convention at Prince Edward Island



Prince Edward Island is known for their picturesque small villages (left), red sandstone cliffs and expansive sand dunes. Riding and sightseeing in Prince Edward Island is breathtaking. You can ride all day from one side of the Island to the other and enjoy it all.

NH 5 Members enjoying the day riding and touring. Taking a selfie at Cape Tyron, Prince Edward Island (right).



Everyone Loves a Parade

Red Knights were invited and NH5 attended the town of Newton, New Hampshire's 175th anniversary celebration! It was a great day for a parade. The parade was quite lengthy and included marching bands and fire and emergency equipment from surrounding towns. The support by Red Knights was very well received!



Holiday Dinner



NH5 enjoying a wonderful holiday dinner after a fabulous riding year. Happy Holidays to all!

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 1 – REPORTER: JAMES VOSS

New Hampshire 5

Toys for Tots

New Hampshire Red Knights Chapter 5 President, Steve Pelechowicz, presents a check on behalf of the Chapter to the United States Marine Corps Reserve for their annual Toys for Tots event. Newton Fire Chief who is also Chapter 5 Vice President and members of NH 5 look on (right).



Chief John Alcadinho sponsors Tots for Tots each year. The mission of the Toys for Tots is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute them to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas.

New Hampshire 6

Certificate of Appreciation



Dave and Kathy Paradis received a Certificate of Appreciation for their dedication to the Chapter. Great job!

New York 26

2024 Teddy Bear Motorcycle Run

On January 9, 2025 NY 26 was honored at The Town of Brookhaven Town Board Meeting for our efforts with our Annual Teddy Bear Motorcycle Run. All teddy bears that were donated went to The Town of Brookhaven Interface to help needy kids.

Over 250 teddy bears were donated this year!



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 3 – REPORTER: JIM GARNER

Hello RKMC,

I am BACK!!! Your favorite Region 3 Reporter, yes, it is me, Maverick.

I have missed you all and the newsletter, so let see what everyone else has missed!

Ohio 6

Update from President Richard Merkosky

Hello everyone, we've been hanging in there with monthly meetings and a few motorcycle rides. I was fortunate to attend the convention in Leipzig and thought it was one of the most memorable conventions I have ever been to. Our chapter enjoyed our annual fall Steak Roast in September and our annual Clam Bake in October. We finish the year with our annual Holiday Gathering. We are looking forward to a great 2025 riding season and hope everyone has a safe year.



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.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 3 – REPORTER: JIM GARNER

Ohio 6

20th Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride

Ohio Chapter 6 attended the 20th Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride held outside of 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.



Pennsylvania 39

2024 Spring Fling

This year we had 117 people in attendance for our annual Spring Fling dance, including 23 Red Knights representing 5 chapters! It was a great gathering with a lot of dancing and fun!

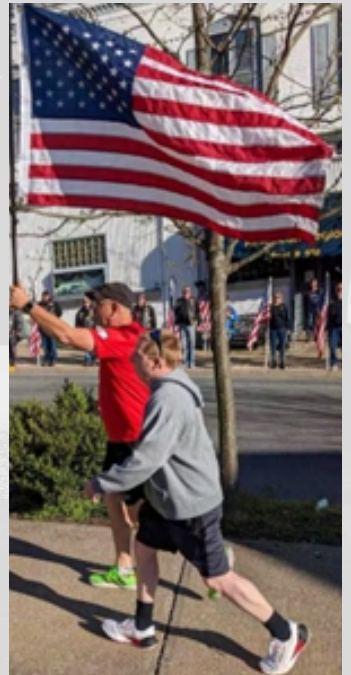


2024 Adam Zook Memorial Cruise

PA 39 members volunteered our time on a beautiful evening to park cars for the Annual Adam Zook Memorial Cruise in 2024.

Team Red, White, and Blue

PA 39 members stood in a flag formation line for Team Red, White, and Blue who moved a single flag from Philly to Chicago by human power, running, walking, and bicycling the entire way. The single flag traveled 1600+ miles in 30 days. The Veteran on this leg traveled 45 miles.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 3 – REPORTER: JIM GARNER

Pennsylvania 39

Annual Mental Health Awareness Night at Altoona Curve Game



Pennsylvania 39 participated in the Annual Mental Health Awareness Night at the Altoona Curve Game. This gives us a chance to speak with many community members about our club and our efforts to raise awareness for Suicide Prevention and promote our Annual Suicide Awareness Ride. It was an awesome night for some baseball!

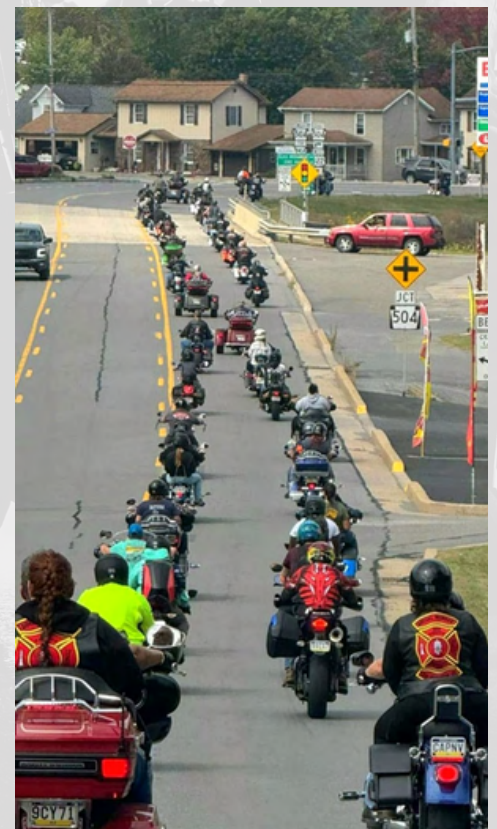
Remembering Lives Lost on 9/11

As we remembered those who lost their lives on 9/11, seven of our PA39 members came together with 11 other local motorcycle clubs in our area to display a flag on the Peoples Natural Gas Field before the Altoona Curve Baseball game. It was an honor to be involved with this event.



6th Annual Suicide Awareness Ride

PA39 held their 6th Annual Suicide Awareness Ride - 90 bikes and 138 riders were in attendance for a 107 mile ride through beautiful Central PA. The ride commenced with a delicious picnic and great raffle items with the big ticket item being a Blackstone Grill and accessories. **THE GRAND TOTAL RAISED WAS \$7,500!!!!** This will be split between two local organizations with ties the community that promote suicide prevention and awareness.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 3 – REPORTER: JIM GARNER

Pennsylvania 39

Kickstand for Kandy

Kickstands and Kandy, held at Roundhouse Harley in Duncansville, is an annual event that involves local motorcycle clubs and organizations coming together to offer a free and safe Halloween event for the community. It is a great outreach and always a fun time for everyone involved by dressing up and seeing hundreds of children having fun visiting the booths, eating treats, coloring pictures, hitting the piñata, taking pictures at the many props and dancing to music!



Final Note From Your Region 3 Reporter

It looks like our Region 3 Chapters had a great year. Thank you to those who sent in submissions!

As always, think warm, sunny, riding season thoughts, and watch out for others on the road.

Loyal to Our Duty

Keep the shiny side up, the rubber side down! Be safe!

Maverick
Region 3 reporter
IN IV President

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

2025 Dixie Rally



LA 1 would like to welcome you to the 2025 Dixie Rally in New Orleans, Louisiana!

Rally Dates: May 15 through May 18, 2025.

To register please visit our website at redknightsla1.com and click on the 2025 Dixie Registration link at the top of the page. This will allow you to fill it out and pay electronically or “snail mail” it as well.

To guarantee your T-Shirt/Size is included in your Welcome packet upon arrival, all registration types (on-line or mail in) MUST be completed or arrive BEFORE April 15, 2025.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON HOTEL REGISTRATION:

- Hotel rooms can now be reserved for Dixie 2025 at the Clarion Hotel.
- Hotel reservations MUST be made through the HOTEL and not through Red Knights.
- Hotel Registration: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/vx08g7?ratePlanCode=BSHAZI&checkInDate=2025-05-14&checkOutDate=2025-05-19>, or call them at: 504-467-5611
- A room block has been set up at “CLARION By CHOICE HOTELS”
- **PLEASE ENSURE YOU USE THIS INFORMATION WHEN BOOKING YOUR ROOM:**
 - Group Name: Red Knights
 - Group #: VX08G7
- The Reservation Deadline is March 15, 2025.

For any additional questions or concerns, please contact Steve Guillot at 504-319-8885.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

Region 4 Highlight a Knight

Carl McCluskey - GA3



Carl is a 10 plus year Charter member of Red Knights GA3 and recently became the president of the chapter. He is a 28-year retired Sergeant with Columbus Fire & EMS in Columbus, Georgia. After retiring in 2019, He joined his local Volunteer Fire Department in Cataula, Georgia. Like many firefighters he came from a family of firefighters. His father and grandfather were firefighters in Derby and Seymour Connecticut where he grew up. Carl grew up around the fire house and always knew he would be destined to follow in his family's footsteps. After relocating to Georgia in his teens, and a

career in the printing industry after high school Carl was accepted into the Fire Academy, He knew his calling in life had been fulfilled and my father's hopes of passing on his legacy came to fruition. His father was able to pin his badge on him after graduating from the fire academy. 28 years later after retiring he focused on riding, his motorcycle parts business, and building the 9/11 Firefighter Memorial motorcycle. Carl has ridden motorcycles since he was in his teens, owning 6 bikes from enduros to touring to a drag bike. He didn't get his first car until he was in his twenties.

This handcrafted motorcycle has been transformed to look like a Fire Truck and is a rolling tribute to the 343 Firefighters killed during the attacks at the World Trade Center on 9/11. I've made this motorcycle to look like a firetruck. Complete with hoses, a ladder, air tanks, and the iconic bell at the front of the motorcycle at which the bike is notably named "Belle". The dash of the motorcycle has the names of the Firefighters that were lost that day. The bike has a clock that has stopped at 08:46 AM, the time when the first plane hit the first tower.

Carl takes this 2003 Harley Davidson Firefighter 9/11 Memorial motorcycle to various shows, rallies and charity fundraising events throughout the Southeastern United States to honor the 9/11 Firefighters and in their remembrance to "Never Forget".



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

Welcome New Chapter Virginia 3

VA3 started this year with a May gathering to organize. They received their charter by June 3rd, 2024. Their first meeting was held on June 5, 2024 where offices were elected.

- President: Jimmy Lewis Jr.
 - VA3@redknightsmc.com
- VP: Shawn Shirely
- Secretary: Kim (Herm) Herrmann
 - RKVA3.secretary@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Torie Shirely
- Road Captain: Gerald (Summer) Peade
- Quartermaster: Stuart Barlow
- Asst. RC: Nathan Peterson

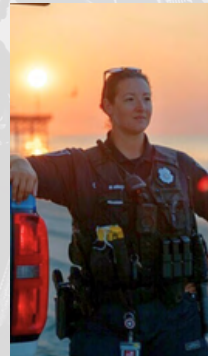


If you are in the Amelia, Midlothian, VA area they invite you to reach out and contact them.

South Carolina 1

SC1 Member / Myrtle Beach Police Officer, Daniele Loizzi, Involved in Life Saving Rescue

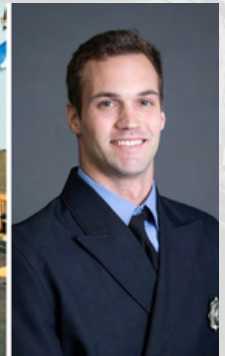
On Saturday, July 13, 2024 Daniele was on duty as Myrtle Beach police officer when she responded to a report of a car in a retention pond. Daniele and Officer John Lively, along with Myrtle Beach F/F Wyatt Lloyd, found a car in the water with the driver unable to exit the vehicle because his prosthetic leg was stuck under the pedals. Together, they were able to pull the driver from the vehicle through the window before it sank completely.



Daniele Loizzi



John Lively



Wyatt Lloyd

Photo source: MBPD/MBFD

Wreaths Across America

Members of SC1 participated in Wreaths Across America at the North Myrtle Beach Memorial Gardens on Saturday, December 14th, 2024. Along with our members, we were joined by Papa Joe from NJ16.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Meet Your New Region 5 Reporter Duo!

Hello all! My name is Ashley (Smashley) Martin, and I have been a Social Member of MN4 since 2020. My Husband is Ken (Cooter) Martin, who has been an active member since 2019, and we have a 15-month-old Daughter, Evie who is our Chapter's youngest junior member! I have been riding motorcycles for about 15 years. I started out on a Sportster before I upgraded to a Dyna Low Rider that I rode for about 10 years. Finally, to keep up with the big boys on all our trips, I upgraded to my brand new Streetglide in the Spring of 2022. I have the BEST times with my RK family and love them very much! I am so honored to be able to share them with the world!

Hi, I'm Jen. I am a Social Member, married to the current VP of MN4, Nate (Birdie/Late Nate) Zenker. Nate is a charter member and I joined a few years ago after we got married. I got my motorcycle license fall of '23 and started with a Sportster – changed to a Heritage Softail this summer (totaling your bike isn't really the proper way to go about getting a new bike, but that's neither here nor there :D) I have so many fond memories with this club and I could go on and on about awesome moments – I honestly love this chosen family of mine.

We are so excited to be able to share our amazing Region with the world! PLEASE send us your events and highlights throughout the Spring/Summer so we have plenty of content for the next newsletter! For now- let's have a look at some of the fun times had by our Region 5 Chapters over the last 6 months!

Given MOST of us in the Western Region only have half of the year to be on 2 wheels - we were JAM PACKED with events all season long and have so much to look forward to coming up this year!

Keep the wind in your hair and the shiny side up!

Ashley (Smashley) Martin, MN4
Jen Zenker, MN4

Email content to: region5reporter@redknightsmc.com



Jen (left) and Ashley (right)

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Alberta 1

12-Station Patch Ride

Alberta 1 hosted a 12-Station Patch Ride on September 20th. The event brought together members from Red Knights chapters AB-1, AB-2, and AB-9, along with special guests from the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) District 9 Riding Club. With 13 riders participating, the ride was a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the open road and share camaraderie. The AB9 member rode an hour in to join us and at one point the temperature was just below freezing, but the sun came out and it was a great ride. The crew from IAFF had a great day with us and plan on inviting us to some of their rides.

Aaron Fuson
AB1 Road Captain



Alberta 2

A Double Dose of Happiness!

Milestone news out of Alberta 2! In November, Vice-President Keith Steele of AB-2 became a proud grandfather to not one, but TWO beautiful bundles of joy—twin babies! Congratulations to Keith and his growing family on this double dose of happiness!



British Columbia 2

“Ride to Live”

British Columbia 2 Member Steven Tyler, with other Chapter members, attended the Westcoast Motorcycle “Ride to Live” Event on September 8th. There, they met a couple of fellow Red Knights from up island and members from British Columbia 3!



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

British Columbia 2

A Chilly Start to 2025

The cold didn't stop BC 2 President, Randy Eckertt, and other BC 2 members from going out on a rainy New Years Day ride to kick off the 2025 season! Hope you had some hand warmers, friends!!



British Columbia 3

BC3 has been BUSY!!! In 2024 alone, BC3 added TWENTY members bringing their total membership up to 80. LOYALTY is tried and true for BC 3 as this year they will award 16 ten year pins, 9 five year pins, and 1 fifteen year pin to some VERY deserving members! They have also added their new logo, patch, and challenge coin! In 2025, they will reach their 10th Anniversary as a Chapter and bid farewell to their outgoing President Dean Kwasny, but for good reason as he became the Provincial Rep for BC! Congrats on some amazing achievements this year BC3!!!

Poster Run

In 2020, in a move to increase membership and awareness about the Red Knights and the BC3 Chapter, we started our Poster Run Campaign. During Covid, we were still able to visit seventy firehalls with out leaving Vancouver Island. Over time we were successful in gathering members all over British Columbia. This season we decided we need to visit some of these members on the BC Mainland and promote the club and chapter in places we did not.

In September of 2024 Chapter VP Gil Hodges and I headed out on a poster run and meet up with some of our members.

With stops at halls in between and along the way, we met up with members in Cache Creek, Shuswap, Sicamous, Kelowna, Penticton, Okanagan Falls, Greenwood, Grand Forks, Christina Lake, and Harrison Hot Springs.

Weather treated us very well, a little cool in Greenwood, -1C or 30F in the morning, and rain the last few kilometers on our trudge to the ferries and home. Thank you to all the BC3 members for their hospitality along the way.

I am hoping to repeat this run in 2025, hopefully with a couple more riders in tow, details to follow.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

British Columbia 3

A Scotsman and Dutchman go into an Irish Pub

In November, Neil McClean made a trip overseas to Paris and Bruges where he met up with Belgium RK Member “Buba!” From Neil: A Scotsman and Dutchman go into an Irish Pub, What could go wrong? Great time with Belgium Red Knight Keon, aka Buba. Thank you for your kind hospitality!



Poster Run

**65th Annual BC Firefighters
Curling Championships**

Parksville Curling Club
220 Corfield Street, N.
Parksville, BC, V9P 2S5
January 29 - February 2, 2025

Open to all level of curlers!
Paid, Volunteer and Retired
Entry Fee: **\$500/team**
\$250/team for first time entry Teams

Contact: Gerald Ferguson, Sec. Treas. B.C.F.F.C.A.
Cell: 250-927-3814; Email: fergusongs@shaw.ca

Check website for more info – www.bcffca.ca

A graphic illustration of a curler in a red jacket and black pants, crouching and sliding a curling stone. The stone is dark and has a red handle.

This year, to get the Red Knights and specifically BC 3 more exposure, they are a sponsor of the 65th annual FF Curling Championships!

Iowa 2

The word SUPPORT comes to mind when looking through Iowa 2's last few months of events! From supporting MULTIPLE Fire Department's Pancake Breakfasts, Raffles, and fundraising dinners to getting out and riding for a cause!

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Iowa 2

Wheelin' for Healin'



IA 2 putting on their Wheeling for Healing Fundraiser. This year it was a Bags Tournament!

Miracle Burn Camp Gala



IA 2 members attending St. Florin foundation, Miracle Burn Camp Gala.

Welcome, Dave Rundall



Welcoming New Member Dave Rundall.

Honoring Stefan Watermann



In July, Members of IA 2 took part in a ride to support the Memory of Stefan Watermann and helped raise money for a Scholarship in his name!

Manitoba 1

Monthly Breakfasts

MB1 is a really close-knit group. In addition to its core membership, the chapter is often joined by active and retired firefighters for weekly rides. During the off-season, MB1 keeps the connection alive with monthly breakfast meetings, ensuring everyone stays in touch. While the Christmas season was uneventful, conversations buzzed with excitement about this year's upcoming rides, including the Deadwood Rally and the International.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Manitoba 1

Western Rally

A MB-1 crew rode to Sydney, BC, for the Western Rally this past summer. In fact, MB-1 has made it a point to attend all the rallies they can - who can resist a RK event?



Minnesota 4

It's no surprise that Minnesota 4, the largest chapter in the world and a powerhouse of activity, kept incredibly busy the last few months! From weekly dinner rides during warmer days that turned into weekly game nights at the Pennhouse (our clubhouse), to patch rides, charity rides, a weekend showcasing our women riders, and hosting a plethora of events throughout the last half of 2024. This group is always looking for opportunities to spend time together!

We have a few great events coming up in 2024 that you should keep your eye on! It is our TWENTY YEAR Anniversary and we plan on celebrating with a Minnesota All Chapter Get Together weekend on July 18-20th in Mankato, MN. More information to follow- so keep your eyes peeled! See below for full list of events to look forward to!

Now, let's dig into some highlights from the 2nd half of the year!

A Red Knight Wedding

Congratulations to Kimberly and Michael Keller, who got married on September 21, 2024! Kimberly and Michael invited MN4 to their wedding and a great time was had by all!



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Minnesota 4

A Special Surprise

About a dozen members of MN4 ventured up North to McGregor, MN to honor members Elmo and Wynonna as they are expecting a baby boy!! Much to our surprise, Elmo had one more gift up his sleeve- a proposal to Wynonna!! SO much to look forward to in 2025 for these two!



Weekly Dinner Rides

Throughout the summer, different members of MN4 organized weekly dinner rides. A chance to try out new places, get some miles on and hang with the best family!



Friday Night Game Night

Once the weather got a bit too chilly to ride- President Shawn “Bunz” Thorud started up a Friday night game night at our clubhouse! Games vary each week, but often include poker, Cards Against Humanity, video games, card games, and more!



Girls Ride Out Weekend



In early August, MN 4 members “B-Squad,” Delainey, “Smashley,” Jen, and “D’lish” along with MN 7 member Amanda created the first Annual RK Girls Ride Out Weekend! We already have our next trip on the books for June!

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Minnesota 4

14th Annual Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit

Also in August, MN 4 hosted its 14th Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit, where the event raised funds for FOUR different beneficiaries fighting cancer.



FIREHOUSE Patch Ride

Assistant Road Captain D'Lish organized a great Patch Run where riders earned their FIREHOUSE PATCH! From D'Lish: 27 people, 23 bikes, only 3 deer, plenty of miles and lots of laughs!!



Red Knight, Red Knut, and Rookie of the Year Awards

On January 4th of this year, during our Holiday Celebrations, 5 Red Knights were awarded some great accolades! Jamin Wood received Rookie of the Year for his outstanding activity with the club during his first year. Nick "Scenic" Vogel, Dylan Annis, and Spencer "Titus" Hulburt received the Red Knut of the year for chasing a mouse around Scenic's pole barn-up the walls and into the rafters and all! Dave Sinner was awarded Red Knight of the year for his continuous support for the club and its members. Congrats to all of you for being an amazing part of this chapter!



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Minnesota 4

MN Wild Firefighter Appreciation Night

MN4 Members enjoying a MN Wild Hockey Game during Firefighter Appreciation Night!



2025 MN4 Planned Events

MN4 is looking forward to another busy year filled with rallies, rides, get togethers, and all kinds of different events. See below for the current 2025 list of events that is sure to be expanded as the year goes on!

- Donnie Smith Bike Show: 3/29-3/30
- Spring Flood Run: 4/19
- Dirty Rotten Biker Fest: 5/3
- RK Dixie Rally: 5/16-5/18
- Memorial Weekend Ride & Fun: 5/23-5/26
- Maranatha Blessing of the Bikes: 6/1
- RK Yankee Rally: 6/4-6/9
- MN4 Annual Family Picnic: 6/8
- MN4 Girls Ride Out: 6/13-6/16
- RK Western Rally: 6/27-6/29
- RK Atlantic Rally: 7/10-7/12
- IGYSIX Ride: 7/12
- MN4 20th Anniversary/MN All Chapter Get Together: 7/18-7/20
- Sturgis Rally: 8/1-8/10
- **MN4 15th Annual Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit Ride: 8/16**
- Red Knights International Motorcycle Convention 2024 – Illinois: 8/21-8/24
- Bootlegger Rally: 9/5-9/7
- Tomahawk Fall Ride: 9/11-9/13
- Scooter Stampede: 9/17-9/20
- Fall Flood Run: 9/20

Firefighters Fighting Cancer

On Saturday, August 16, MN4 will host our 15th annual Firefighters Fighting Cancer benefit and we are already hard at work seeking donations for our 2025 beneficiaries! If you would like to contribute to this important cause, please scan the QR codes below to donate or visit <https://redknightsmn4.org/rkmn4-benefit-ride/> for more information.



scan to donate



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Minnesota 7

Minnesota 7 kept busy this year and had their hands in all sorts of events! Supporting fellow MN Chapters in their fundraisers and rides, attending Sturgis, and hosting their own benefit ride to name a few!

Dirty Rotten Biker Fest



The season started off strong at the Donnie Smith Bike Show! “Flash” Road Captain from MN4 presented “Leash” from MN7 with a chapter flag! (Left)



Sturgis Meetup

MN Chapters Unite!!! MN 7 members “Leash” and “One Feather” meeting up with MN4’s “Wild Bill” and MN9’s Stephen at Sturgis! (Right)



MN 7 Members on the RO4C Ride



Rockford Fire Pancake Breakfast



MN 7 Road Captain “Leash” and President “Chubbers” Attending St. Florian Burn Camp Gala



MN 7 and MN 4 Members hanging out a Red Lodge Bar during MN4’s benefit ride

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Minnesota 7

MN7 Benefit Ride

MN 7 Hosted their own Benefit Ride on August 17th, and the following week were supporting MN 4 in their annual benefit! See a photo of the Road Guard staging area to the right.

Fall Flood Run



What a way to cap off the riding season with the Fall Flood Run! Yes, Minnesota has beautiful bluff views like this! (Left)

Minnesota 9

MN 9 taking advantage of the great warm weather we had well into the fall!



Nebraska 4

NE 4 was all about charity in 2024!

They hosted their yearly poker run on September 7th to benefit victims of fire in their community. Hosted a free pancake breakfast, and held many fundraisers for "Brothers' in Need!"

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

North Dakota 1

Annual 9/11 Run

Scott Berge, one of the charter members from ND-1, shared some great news – the Annual 9/11 Run was a roaring success again this year! This ride has

been a cornerstone for ND1 since the chapter's early days, and they've kept it rolling every single year, rain or shine.

Based out of Valley City, ND, the crew kicks things off at the Valley City Fire Station and wraps it all up back where it started.

The funds raised from the run go straight back into the community, helping folks who've faced tough times—sometimes fire-related, sometimes not. It's all about lending a hand when it's needed most.

Way to go ND-1!



Oregon 1

OR 1 took advantage of their beautiful scenery and took a trip to a true Ghost Town, Shaniko OR! They also enjoyed each other's company at their Chapter's Christmas Party!



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Washington 5

All About Giving Back

WA5 is all about giving back to those that support them! A crew generously supported the Davenport Lions Club this past December by preparing and serving a hearty, full-plate dinner, showcasing their commitment to community service.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 6 – SEEKING NEW REPORTER!!

Wanted: New Region 6 Reporter

This role involves gathering exciting stories from chapters within the region and submitting them to the Editor for publication in our bi-annual newsletter (January and July editions).

The ideal candidate will be a strong communicator, comfortable reaching out to chapters for updates, checking and responding to emails, and meeting deadlines. If you have a passion for connecting with others and sharing inspiring chapter news, we'd love to hear from you! Interested candidates can reach out to Delainey Thorud at Editor@redknightsmc.com.

Help us highlight the amazing work happening in Region 6!



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

EUROPEAN RED KNIGHTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN LEIPZIG

Margriet Brixma `Daisy`

Margriet received the Outstanding Contribution for Dedicated Service Award in recognition of her Exceptional Leadership, years of hard work and Valuable Contribution to the Red Knights.



RKMC Chapter England 4



RKMC Chapter England 4 received the President's Merit Award for Dedicated Service in recognition of their hard work in setting up the Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial in Rettendon, Essex. The award was accepted on the behalf at the Convention by UK Member at Large, Tom Foster, who presented it to the Chapter on his way home from Leipzig.

Sascha Schollenbruch & Hanns-Ulrich Adam

received the Life-Saving Award in recognition of their actions On 2 May 2024, the two members Sascha Schollenbruch and Hanns-Ulrich Adam of Chapter Germany 22 of the Red Knights International Firefighters MC were driving along the Bundesstraße 51 after attending a fire service festival when they reached the scene of an accident where a motorcyclist and a car had collided shortly before.

The two secured the scene of the accident, alerted the necessary emergency services and carried out life-saving measures on the accident victims until the emergency services arrived.



Daniel `Wauzi` Waldspurger



Daniel `Wauzi` Waldspurger received European Red Knight of the year Award for 2024.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of them on their Awards and thank you for your commitment and service, and for representing the Red Knights MC in such exemplary ways.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

CHARITY RECEIVES YOUR LEIPZIG CONVENTION DONATIONS

Germany 18 was honoured to be able to hand over your donations from the International Convention 2024 in Leipzig to the "Have-a-last-wish-Car" Project.

A cheque for €1000 was donated thanks to the generosity of all Red Knights that attended the International Convention in Leipzig.



Belgium 4

Red Knights Belgium 4 is Pleased to have Honoured their President

Congratulations to Aurelie Meunier on being honoured recently by her Chapter, Belgium 4 for her past and continued work within the Red Knights.



Belgium 8

Belgium 8 Celebrate their 10th Birthday (Early)



After Corona virus stole their 5th birthday party leading to the cancellation of their celebrations, they decided that they would better be safe this time around and planned their 10th (– 1 year) birthday celebrations in September 2024 instead of waiting until 2025. During their celebrations they visited one of the biggest stations in Belgium, Station North in Antwerp. In the pictures they can be seen in the station's crisis room and in front of the station at the monument for their fallen firemen. Belgium 8 also held a Whisky tasting with [Dims Drams](#) and were able to donate 750 euros to [abovendeclouds](#). They thank everyone who contributed to this.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Denmark 1

The 'Viking Master' Tour Explained



In 2021, Rasmus Lillemose and I came up with the idea of the Viking Master Tour. The aim was to ride another challenge in addition to the Grand Tour Master and get to know as much of Denmark as possible.

The entire tour consists of 4 subtasks. Each partial task must be completed within one year. Specifically, there is the DANMARK Tour, in which you have to drive to a fire station whose town begins with each letter in the word Danmark. In the 5 Regions Tour, fire stations in the 5 different regions of Denmark must be visited and in the Compass

Tour, the northernmost, southernmost, easternmost and westernmost fire stations in Denmark must be visited. After completing the 3 tasks comes the enjoyable part. The Viking Master Patch can only be obtained in person, by participating in one of the DK1 parties, an excursion or a DK1 meeting. However, you only receive the patch if you have completed all the other tasks.

Here is the report on my Viking Master with some tips and recommendations:

The journey to Denmark is not worth mentioning, as it only involved the motorway, the Elbe tunnel and lots of traffic jams. Of course, you can also make the journey more interesting by taking smaller side roads, but time played a decisive role for me here.

My starting point for the tour was Vojens in Syddanmark, where I stopped at the first fire station (5 regions) on the first day of the actual tour. I continued via Rødding (Danma R k) to Hvide Sande (Compass West), which took me directly to the second region, Midtjylland. A little further inland, the fire stations (5 Regions) and Års (D A nmark) were on my list. The first day came to an end in Års after 303 kilometres on small roads with a maximum speed of 80km/h. Those who like the north of Germany will feel at home in the regions of Syd- and Midtjylland.



Day 2 of the tour went north, past Dronninglund (D anmark), Ålbæk (5 regions) to the northernmost fire station in Skagen in Nordjylland. A great holiday region, lots of beaches and German is understood almost everywhere. To start the next day and for my early ferry crossing, I took the motorway back to Randers, where the second day ended after 351 km.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Denmark 1

The 'Viking Master' Tour Explained... Continued

The third day had to be changed slightly. The original plan to take the Ebeltoft - Sjællands Odde ferry had to be changed to the Aarhus - Sjællands Odde ferry due to the closure of Ebeltoft harbour. Tip: get the app from Molslinjen, here you can book tickets and see timetable changes. This app is also useful for the connection to Bornholm. From Sjællands Odde in Sjælland we travelled via Asnæs (next A for Danmark) and Mørkøv (Dan M ark), on to Næstved (Da N mark). After the ferry crossing and arrival in Sjællands Odde, the real holiday began for me. After the typical holiday regions of Nord-, Midtjylland and Syddanmark, here you have peace and quiet for the most part and can enjoy the fantastic landscape with every metre. I booked the night ferry from Køge for the crossing to Bornholm, so after the fire station in Gedser (Compass South) I travelled via Præstø Havn (motorbike meeting point, delicious ice cream, great food) towards Køge. The day ended at about 410 kilometres.

Day 4 started at 0.30 a.m. with the night ferry to Rønne on Bornholm. If you choose this crossing, you will arrive on Bornholm at 6.00 am. All cafés and bakeries are closed at this time. Have a coffee on the ferry, the next one is at 8.00 am. Bornholm is small, in 100km you have travelled once around the island. So don't rush, enjoy the time and the scenery. Keep as far south as possible from Rønne towards Nexø, where there are great beaches and plenty of sea to see. For the Compass Tour, visit the guardhouse in Nexø. Coffee and a small snack are available from 8.00 a.m. at Coffee Creative in the harbour. On the way back, we took the northern route back towards Rønne, along the cliffs with lovely little harbour towns and lots of sights. Just follow the signs on your tour. I spent the night at Hotel Skovly, great breakfast, nice accommodation and a short drive to the harbour in Rønne.



Day 5 began with another ferry crossing, this time to Ystad, Sweden. If you're still working on the alphabet tour, here's the Y. After a 1.5-hour ferry crossing with the fast ferry, we travelled briefly through Sweden and over the Øresund Bridge back to Denmark. Book your ticket for the bridge online beforehand, so you can drive straight through the control with licence plate recognition and don't have to book a crossing at the terminal.

On the way to the island of Orø, where the last fire station and a party were waiting for me, I had to stop at Kirke Hyllinge (Danmar K) and Skibby (Hovedstaden region). I took the last photo of the fire stations on the island of Orø in the harbour. I had now also completed the Sjælland region. Now it was time for the cosy part of the trip, the annual MC Iceland party.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Denmark 1

The 'Viking Master' Tour Explained... Continued

All in all, it was about 1,600 kilometres in Denmark, plus the journey there and back. Every kilometre was worth it. Next time, I would plan even fewer motorways, but rather one more day of travelling, and perhaps make a detour to the island of Fyn.

After the trip, my personal favourites are Bornholm and the area around Sjællands Odde and Asnæs. Great views, great motorbike routes.

Use the apps offered by the ferries, so you always have an up-to-date overview of which ferries are travelling when.

Card payment is possible everywhere, if not (only happened to me once), you will find a solution together. I, for example, was able to pay for my coffee in euros.

Every Dane speaks English, especially in the holiday regions German is also understood.

Use ferry connections, they are not that expensive. A 5-hour ferry connection to Bornholm cost me €33. WIFI included. Far cheaper than the Rostock or Puttgarden ferry connections.

If you have any questions, you can find out more on our website www.RKMCDK1.eu. The members of DK 1 will also be happy to help.

Please make sure to use GEO-tagging for your photos, which works well with the free GPS Map Camera app, for example.

The real aim is to have a 'hygge' time. Get into conversation with people (any harbour café is an ideal place) and enjoy the landscape, which could hardly be more different. Have a good time in Denmark.

Joerg "Höffi" Hoefken
Quarter Master, Denmark 1



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

England 2

Ride to Hadrian's Wall 2024

Many of you will probably know something about Hadrian's Wall. It crosses northern England, but is not the border with Scotland, that is further north.

About three years ago I organised a chapter ride to this ancient monument, but only three of us went. Clearly the word spread, when I asked at the International Convention in Fussach, if anyone was interested in another visit, I was surprised by the enthusiastic response. We achieved an international event when Sven Coopman (the famous Belgian MAL), who is no stranger to many of you, said that he would attend.

I have organised trips to the Wall before, but never on this scale. The Inn where I normally book accommodation was too small, so we ended up occupying most of the Angel Inn, Corbridge, Northumberland. I wrote an itinerary and sent out route details. All done well in advance. All sorted? You might think so.

The evening before we were due to go, I was contacted by Dale Priestly, an England 2 Chapter member, who told me that the first Roman monument I had planned to visit was closed all week. I thought that this would not be a problem and consulted the English Heritage web site. The Fort that was my back up plan was, according to the official web site also closed for the week. I quickly checked the other places that I planned to visit and found to my great relief that they were all open as normal.

We all rendezvoused at Wetherby Services on the A1 at 09:30 and set off north at 10:00. The weather was kind, we had experienced a lot of rain for months, but the sun even made an appearance. En route to the first visit we passed one of the sites that the internet site confidently said was shut. It was very busy, clearly the website was wrong. I made a note and carried on to my revised visit. This turned out to be a piece of good luck. Birdoswald Fort is quite a long way west, in Cumbria, but has some unique features.



When we arrived, we were told that we were welcome to see the archaeological dig that was investigating the civilian village that had stood next to the fort. When we walked to the dig site, they had exposed the public bath house. The two men who stepped forward to tell us about the discovery were two of the UK's most eminent archaeologists. They were able to tell us a great deal about their investigation.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

England 2

Ride to Hadrian's Wall 2024... Continued

Once we had looked at the fort, which had been occupied for many years by a regiment of Auxiliary soldiers from Romania, we rode back east on the New Military Road (built in the C18th) to Corbridge for a shower, dinner and a few beers. Those of you who have attended events with England II will know that we only drink beer to be sociable so we settled in for a few drinks and a night of merriment and laughs before retiring to bed.



We were on the road at 09:30 the next morning for the ride to the [Roman Army Museum](#).

This is part of the Vindolanda Trust and is a very high-quality exhibition. The Roman Fort of Magna stood at this site, though it had never been investigated by archaeologists. They're now on the second year of a five-year project to investigate the site. As a result, we were able to visit another live dig. They were excavating finds every few minutes, both from the fort and the civilian settlement.

The museum gives a very clear picture of the lives of the soldiers who were posted to the most northern part of the Roman Empire. It must have been a very hard life, but there were rewards for those who served their time and were honourably discharged.

You can buy a ticket for this museum that will also get admittance to Vindolanda 13km away on the same day. £16.50, it is good value.



We rode to Vindolanda (The White Field in English). We had all afternoon to look at this large site, with its superb museum. There has been an ongoing project to excavate the site since the 1970's and there is about another forty years' worth of digging to do. This fort is older than the wall and the Emperor Hadrian visited there on a tour of inspection immediately prior to the construction commencing.

We joined an official tour with a guide, who showed us important features of the site that included the fort and the village that accompanied it. There settlements were officially sanctioned to provide leisure activities for the troops in such an isolated place.

Among the most important items found at this site are the Vindolanda Tablets. Small pieces of tree bark used in the way we use post cards. They include complains about poor supplies, a letter of thanks for some warm underwear and socks, an invoice for half a kilo of pepper (imported from India), and most importantly an invitation to a birthday party. It contains the earliest example of a woman's hand writing and signature in Europe.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

England 2

Ride to Hadrian's Wall 2024... Continued

Though sometimes you get “that visitor” who explains things for the guide.

[Both these museums](#) are incredibly informative, have good shops and nice cafes.



We returned to Corbridge, shower and change and because we're English (and a Belgian) we went for a curry. We can recommend the Valley Junction, a short walk from the inn, it is part of the railway station and the food and hospitality were first class.

On our last morning, we visited [Corbridge Roman Town](#). When you see it now, it is a little confusing, because you are looking at the evidence of nearly four hundred years of occupation, and it isn't clear what related to which period unless you have studied very carefully. It is a good site and has a small, but very good museum.

After this we made our way south toward home. In time I will organise another tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

If any of you are planning to visit the UK and want to see this beautiful and historic area, I would be pleased to give you any information I can or offer my services as a guide.

**Andy McFarlane, Vice President,
England 2**



REGIONAL NEWS

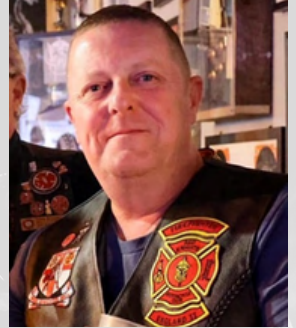
REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

England 2

England 2 Member Receives Award from the King's Representative

England 2 member Tim Marston was honoured to receive the Lord Lieutenant's Award at the recent Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Awards Ceremony. The Lord Lieutenant is the Representative of the King in the county of Nottinghamshire.

Tim received his award in recognition of his tireless work over the past 18 years organising the Nottingham Motorcycle Easter Egg Run, a run that attracts hundreds of riders to take part.



After the awards Tim said “I am extremely honoured and humbled to have received an award this evening as part of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Annual Awards Ceremony. My award acknowledged 18 years of organising and running the Nottinghamshire Motorcycle Easter Egg Run”



England 4

England 4 Ride to Belgium 8's Birthday: A Weekend of Brotherhood, Rain, and Memories

In September, six members of Red Knights England 4 set out on an adventure to celebrate the birthday of our friends Belgium 8. It was a journey filled with camaraderie, impressive sights, great riding, and a little bit (well, a lot) of rain!



A Wet Start

Our journey to Belgium started with high spirits and damp gear. The weather wasn't kind, and we found ourselves riding through heavy rain much of the way. Not so much Red Knights, more Wet Knights! Despite this, the promise of reuniting with our Red Knights brothers and sisters and celebrating Belgium 8's special day kept us motivated. True to Red Knights' spirit of resilience, the wet ride only added to the sense of accomplishment once we arrived.

Belgium 8's Legendary Hospitality

From the moment we reached our destination, the hospitality of Belgium 8 was second to none. Members from multiple Red Knights chapters across Europe came together for the event, and the spirit of friendship and fraternity was palpable. Whether sharing stories, swapping patches, or raising a glass (or two), it was clear that the bonds of the Red Knights extend far beyond borders.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

England 4

England 4 Ride to Belgium 8's Birthday: A Weekend of Brotherhood, Rain, and Memories... Continued

A Visit to Antwerp Fire Station

One of the highlights of the weekend was a tour of the massive Antwerp fire station, hosted by Brandweer Zone Antwerpen colleagues. The station is one of the largest and most modern in Europe, and we were blown away by its scale and efficiency. From state-of-the-art firefighting equipment to their fascinating response systems, the visit offered a new appreciation for how our firefighting brothers and sisters in Belgium operate. For us as fire service personnel and supporters, the tour was both impressive and inspiring.

Riding Through the Countryside

After the fire station visit, Belgium 8 led us on a scenic ride through the beautiful Belgian and Dutch countryside. Rolling green fields, charming villages, a national park, and smooth roads made for a perfect ride. It was a reminder of why we ride as Red Knights—not just for the destination, but for the journey and the people we share it with.

The Infamous Tripp-Trapp

No celebration would be complete without sampling the local fare, and Belgium 8 didn't disappoint. We were introduced to the famous "Tripp-Trapp," a mix of two Belgian beers that is as delicious as it is deceptively strong. While it felt a little dangerous, we decided it was a risk worth taking. Let's just say, Tripp-Trapp left a memorable impression!

Grateful for Brotherhood

As the weekend came to a close, we reflected on what makes the Red Knights so special. Belgium 8's event wasn't just a birthday party; it was a celebration of the global brotherhood that unites us. We left with full hearts, fantastic memories, and a deep gratitude for Belgium 8 and everyone who joined the celebration.

The ride home was, once again, a wet one. But no amount of rain could dampen the joy we felt from the weekend. Thank you, Belgium 8, for your hospitality, friendship, and for reminding us why we're proud to call ourselves Red Knights. Until next time, ride safe and "Loyal to Our Duty!"



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

France - All Chapters

Un Week-End Festif au Bord du Lac de Vassivière avec les Red Knights® MC Chapter France

Du 14 au 16 juin 2024, le lac de Vassivière a vibré au rythme des moteurs et des rires, accueillant près de 60 membres des Chapters français des Red Knights® MC pour un week-end mémorable.

Malgré une météo pluvieuse, l'ambiance était joyeuse, festive et fraternelle, au programme une balade à moto à travers les magnifiques routes touristiques qui entourent le lac, L'occasion parfaite pour une photo de groupe au bord de l'eau, un moment symbolique de partage entre amis.

Malgré une météo pluvieuse, l'ambiance était joyeuse, festive et fraternelle, au programme une balade à moto à travers les magnifiques routes touristiques qui entourent le lac, L'occasion parfaite pour une photo de groupe au bord de l'eau, un moment symbolique de partage entre amis.

La soirée s'est animée autour d'animations comme le karaoké et les fléchettes, permettant à chacun de montrer ses talents ou de se lancer dans des duels amicaux. Les rires résonnaient et les chants s'élevaient, transformant la pluie en une simple toile de fond à une fête vibrante.

Un moment de recueillement a également été au programme, avec des discours du Country Rep et des Présidents de Chapters présents. Un hommage a été rendu aux membres disparus, accompagné de l'hymne des Red Knights®, une occasion de se souvenir et de célébrer la camaraderie. Des récompenses de Grand Tour ont également été remises, soulignant les contributions de chacun à la communauté.

Malgré les gouttes de pluie, l'atmosphère était chaleureuse et pleine de fraternité. Les retrouvailles avec des amis de longue date, ainsi que les nouvelles rencontres, ont enrichi cette expérience collective. Chaque membre est reparti le cœur léger, avec des souvenirs gravés à jamais.

Le rendez-vous est donné en 2026 !



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

France - All Chapters

A Festive Weekend at Lac de Vassivière with Red Knights® MC Chapters France

From June 14 to 16, 2024, Lac de Vassivière vibrated to the rhythm of engines and laughter, welcoming nearly 60 members of the French Red Knights® MC Chapters for a memorable weekend.

Despite the rainy weather, the atmosphere was joyful, festive and fraternal, with a motorcycle ride along the magnificent tourist routes surrounding the lake, the perfect opportunity for a group photo by the water, a symbolic moment of sharing between friends.

The evening was enlivened by entertainment such as karaoke and darts, allowing everyone to show off their talents or engage in friendly duels. Laughter resounded and songs soared, transforming the rain into a simple backdrop to a vibrant party.

A moment of recollection was also part of the program, with speeches by Country Rep and the Chapters Presidents present. A tribute was paid to departed members, accompanied by the Red Knights® anthem, an occasion to remember and celebrate camaraderie. Grand Tour awards were also presented, highlighting everyone's contributions to the community.

Despite the raindrops, the atmosphere was warm and fraternal. Reunions with old friends, as well as new encounters, enriched this collective experience. Each member left with a light heart, and memories engraved forever.

See you in 2026!

France 7

Une Soirée Inoubliable pour le 5ème Anniversaire de France 7

Le 12 octobre, les Red Knights® se sont réunis chez France 7 pour célébrer le 5ème anniversaire de du Chapter. C'était une soirée empreinte d'émotion, de souvenirs et de festivités, réunissant les membres de la famille des Red Knights dans une ambiance chaleureuse.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

France 7

Une Soirée Inoubliable pour le 5ème Anniversaire de France 7... Suite de la première page

La soirée a débuté par un moment solennel en hommage à nos camarades disparus. C'était une manière touchante de se souvenir de ceux qui ont contribué à la richesse de notre chapitre. Ensuite, nous avons procédé aux remises de récompenses pour le Grand Tour, célébrant les exploits et l'engagement de nos membres.

Les remises de couleurs ont ajouté une touche symbolique à la soirée, renforçant notre fierté d'appartenir aux Red Knights.

Les récompenses, dont des pin's marquant nos 5 ans, ont été accueillies avec des applaudissements et des sourires.

Pour l'occasion, France 7 avait prévu une paella, accompagnée de produits locaux savoureux. La soirée s'est ensuite animée avec des parDes endiablées de looping louis et beaucoup de rires. Chaque membre a apporté sa touche personnelle, et l'énergie était contagieuse. Nous avons partagé des anecdotes, renforçant encore plus nos liens.

Ce 5ème anniversaire a été non seulement un moment de célébraDon, mais aussi une belle occasion de se rappeler pourquoi nous faisons parDe des Red Knights. Ensemble, nous avons non seulement honoré notre passé, mais aussi regardé vers l'avenir avec enthousiasme.



An Unforgettable Evening for France 7's 5th Anniversary

On October 12, the Red Knights® gathered at France 7 to celebrate the Chapter's 5th anniversary. It was an evening full of emotion, memories and festivities, bringing together members of the Red Knights family in a warm atmosphere.

The evening began with a solemn tribute to our fallen comrades. It was a touching way to remember those who have contributed to the richness of our chapter. Then came the Grand Tour awards, celebrating the achievements and commitment of our members.

The presentation of colours added a symbolic touch to the evening, reinforcing our pride in belonging to the Red Knights.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

France 7

An Unforgettable Evening for France 7's 5th Anniversary... Continued

The awards, including pins marking our 5th anniversary, were greeted with applause and smiles.

For the occasion, France 7 had provided paella, accompanied by tasty local produce. The evening was then brought to life with frenzied games of looping lous and lots of laughter. Each member brought his or her own personal touch, and the energy was contagious. We shared anecdotes, strengthening our bonds even more.



This 5th anniversary was not only a moment of celebration, but also a great opportunity to remember why we are part of the Red Knights. Together, we not only honoured our past, but also looked to the future with enthusiasm.

Germany 24

Germany XXIV Celebrate Their 5 Year Anniversary & a Busy 2024

The last weekend in September was the 5th year anniversary of their chapter and it had to be celebrated!

Germany XXIV have had so many things going on recently including a party with our brothers and sisters from other chapters and with friends clubs, a bag toss tournament, a ride out with 25 motorbikes and live music from the [Tales of Tinnef](#), these all set the framework program for a weekend that will remain in our good memory for a long time.



Not only did their members have a great time but there was also a good purpose too. They used the festive occasion and supported the workshop for people with disabilities in Dorsten-Wulfen and the [Klara Hospiz Marl gGmbH](#) with a donation!

Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us and helped us support the important work of both organizations here locally!



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Germany 24

They said yes!!!

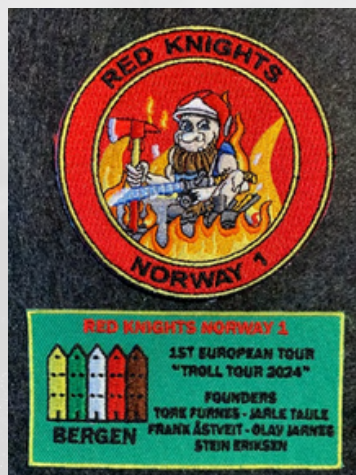
Our members Joline and Christian have said yes to each other in Styrum Castle! We did not miss the opportunity to congratulate them personally and wish them all the best for the future together!!



4125 km Across Denmark, Sweden, and Norway

On 22.6.24 it started towards Denmark. Jan, President of Denmark 1 took the time to tour through Denmark with us. Afterwards we enjoyed his and Lotte's hospitality. Thank you very much for that!!

Then we went to the south of Sweden. In great weather we let the beautiful landscape pass us by and finally reached our starting point of the Troll Tour in Bergen. Guided by Norway 1, we could enjoy spectacular views of fjords and mountains.



With 25 motorcycles we went through the longest driveable tunnel in the world and at 1,500 m we could look at the Geirangerfjord at 3 degrees.

The troll tour was great! Many thanks to Norway 1 for the great organisation!

We will gladly come back!!

Bettina "Tina" Rogge

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Germany 26

It has Been a Busy Time for Germany 26

In September Germany 26 went to the church as guests at the wedding of Treasurer Anne and Road Captain Sebastian from Germany 30, also taking part were members of the German Chapters 6, 14, 24 and of course Germany 30 was there and didn't miss the opportunity to stand in line to congratulate and then escort them to the wedding celebration.



Afterwards, our members went on to the anniversary celebrations of Germany 9 and Germany 19 in the beautiful Ruhr area, or more precisely to Waltrop. There we were able to attend a slightly different reception with a knighthood before we were able to congratulate those celebrating their anniversary and present them with our gift.

After the official part was completed, we moved on to the cozy part with lots of cold drinks and grilled food. All in all, another eventful and great weekend.



Germany 30

Anne and Sebastian Wemmer have tied the knot!

Treasurer Anne and Road Captain Sebastian from Chapter Germany 30 were married on September 14th in Emmerich am Rhein.

Representatives of the active fire brigade, the youth fire brigade, and the children's fire brigade of the city of Emmerich am Rhein, as well as numerous members of the German Chapters 6, 14, 24, 26, and 30 of the Red Knights MC and members of friendly MCs congratulated them in front of the church.



On behalf of the entire Red Knight International Motorcycle Club, we wish you a lifetime of happiness and many miles of love and laughter together.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Germany 30

Germany 30 hold their Annual Charity Run and Celebrate Oktoberfest

On 12.10.2024 their annual event took place in the framework of the Deichtour charity run followed by Oktoberfest party. The tour went 110km, over the most beautiful ponds in the region. During the charity run, at a stop at Spijksedijk, Laurens "Chino" was knighted Into the Red Knights. Following the tour, at the fire station Emmerich on Pastor-Breuer-Str. the Oktoberfest was celebrated with white beer, pretzels and liver cheese in a bun.



At the event, their goals and values as RKMC are always at the forefront. They want to maintain comradeship among motorcycle-riding firefighters at home and abroad, with their relatives and everyone else who is enthusiastic about it. Another very important point for them is the support of non-profits, charities, social organizations and foundations. So this year Germany 30 have been able to donate to the Star Hours through their donation box and the revenue of the event. It came together to be a great sum. At this point, a very big thank you to all donors. It is hoped that in this way, they will be able to join hands a little bit with the project of the Star Hours, financed entirely from donations. Keep up the good work!



Germany 30 was able to hand-over a donation of €900 to Bianca and Pascal Wieners, with great pride.

The Star Hours are voluntarily organized by the Johannites.

They provide beautiful moments, precious time and priceless memories for people who are critically ill. This is how these people can experience moments that are for granted for us.

The star hours have been around since 2020 and is from an idea of the chief physician of anesthesia and intensive care of the St. Willibrord hospital in Emmerich, Prof. Dr. Joachim von Alst was born, who is also active as a volunteer at the Johannitern. There is close cooperation with the palliative network in Emmerich.

For more information, interest, etc. See the attached link:
https://www.johanniter.de/.../johanniter-sternstunden-im...



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Italy 1

Italy 1's Memorial Day for Pilone

Leonardo Scarpellini President and founder of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Italia1 was known to all as 'Pilone'.

He was a tall, sturdy man with two big hands, a big face and drank beer like it was water. If you met him, you were afraid, because of his size, and your first thought was that you hoped you would never see him angry.

However, a simple greeting, a handshake (your hand disappeared into his) was enough for his big face to explode into a huge smile and you could read the happiness in his eyes. The 'giant' would immediately turn into a 'child' and a playmate who smiled at life.

April 18 would have been his 50th birthday and Club Italy1 wanted to remember him with his "brother" bikers. Our Road Captain Pados called for a "meeting" of all his biker friends on Saturday, April 13, making a

rendezvous at the exit of the Florence South highway, at 10 am. The tam-tam went all the way to Germany from our Brothers & Sisters Roger and Martina who left on their motorcycles on Thursday to reach Switzerland, where Mauro and Angelina hosted them. On Friday they hit the road and rendezvoused in Modena, where they met up with Andy and Soldier, then reached Nastro's Club House to spend the night. Saturday morning was an early wake-up call for everyone, and excitement began to set in. Pados is the first to arrive, then Sound, Ilaria and Karika, arrived to join the group at Nastro's Club House. Our Road Captain advises us that many had responded to the invitation and within seconds, the meeting point is filled with motorcycles: 2...5....10.....30.....40.....60

Pilone's brother Lorenzo also arrives with his DUCATI "fire" red, and greets everyone, one by one, as Pilone would have done.

As in all our events, Francesco Martinucci, "Pilone's" work colleague, with his professional equipment always takes care of the filming.

<https://youtu.be/4RaGoWF0fjA?si=jUJsWUO75Qi6NPdo>



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Italy 1

Italy 1's Memorial Day for Pilone... Continued

The Road Captain makes the signal for departure, the "centaurs" all get on their iron horses, the roar of the motorcycles is heard, the "iron snake" begins to devour the road.



In 30 minutes we arrive at the cemetery of San Donato in Collina, waiting for us, of course, Francesca is holding a large bouquet of red and yellow flowers. The ride down to the parking lot is obliged to pass in front of the cemetery, and every biker who passes makes the rumble of his bike echo in the valley as to feel to "Pilone" that we are coming.

Francesca, begins to have her first moments of emotion, but her spirit is so great that she finds the strength to greet all the participants one by one.

Andy, our current President, takes Francesca under his arm and at a slow pace they walked to "Pilone", followed by all their biker friends. They are all bikers with leather jackets, tattoos and "tough guy" expressions. Some are wearing dark glasses so as not to show their emotion, and some are "scornful of danger" and show all their emotion. The "strongest among" all is always Francesca who, together with her Leonardo, start talking and thank everyone for participating.

It is our custom, when we remember or visit "Pilone", drink of beer and in his honor pour a few of beer on the ground, as if to share once again, a drink with our "Presidonte" (that's what we called him as President was not enough to describe a "great" man). We proceed to distribute the beer glasses to everyone.



Andy raises his glass and loudly announces the cheers, "per Pilone."



The voices of everyone present echo through the small silent cemetery, as if to make it, if only for a moment, a place to party. Where there is "Pilone" there is party, passion, love and Brotherhood.

With our thoughts and emotions, we put on our helmets, close our jackets and all get back on our motorcycles. With our Road Captain in the lead, the "iron snake" winds through the hills around Florence, where the motorcyclists' eyes are lost among the typical Tuscan landscapes.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Italy 1

Italy 1's Memorial Day for Pilone... Continued

There is also time for a stop in a large square, where Francesco Martinucci, with his drone, takes a photo from above, as if to symbolize "Pilone" looking at us, blessing us and thanking us all.



The destination is a beautiful restaurant at the foot of the church Certosa in Florence, where Pilone's dad and mom are waiting for us. They have never meet almost any of the bikers present, but greet them all as if they were their own children. At the lunch we also invited Laura, president of the Mayer Association of the Children's Hospital Burn Unit, who explained their social commitment. Everyone participated with a small donation. The "little" of "many" can do so much.

The lunch was held in total cheerfulness and biker brotherhood, as Pilone himself would have wished. At the end, everyone returned to their homes, not without a farewell between pats on the back and bikers handshakes.

Club Italy1 continued its motorcycle journey, again through the hills of Florence until it arrived at the Florence Fire Station, the oldest Fire Station in Italy still in operation and Pilone's place of work. The welcome of course was "fraternal."



The day has come to an end, Italy1 returns, each to his home, aware that we have had an intense day, sad, because we would never have wanted to experience it, but at the same time happy, for have in our mind and heart, Pilone.

Red Knights Motorcycle Club Italy1

REGIONAL NEWS

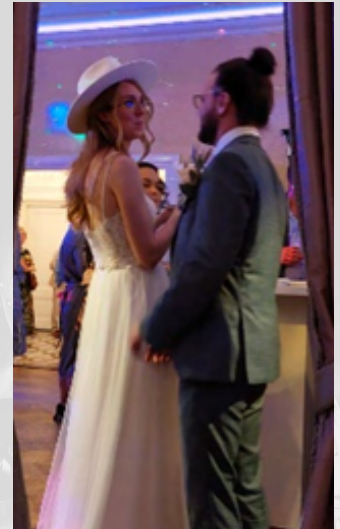
REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Netherlands 2

Wedding Celebrations

Red Knights Netherlands II were very pleased in September to announce that they attended the wedding ceremony of 'sergeant at arms' Daniel Burggraaff with his lovely bride Rinske Keizer.

Netherlands II wish the happy couple and their two sons much love and happiness.



Switzerland 1 and 3

Our Journey to Red Knights International Convention 2024 in Leipzig

On August 11th Switzerland 1 and a member of Switzerland 3 gathered for a Ride with the goal, Red Knights International Convention in Leipzig, Germany. Sunday morning, about 8:30 our journey began in Veldheim Aargau, Switzerland. 3 Motorcycles, 4 Red Knights, about 1'000 Kilometers and, during the Ride, a lot of cool encounters.



All back roads, beautiful countryside's and excellent weather. Coffee stopp in Engen, Germany, lunch at Leutkircher Kutlurbrauerei, Leutkirch im Allgäu. A Former Railway Station.

The plan was to meetup with one or two members of Germany 15 who are stationed in Allgäu. To our surprise about 12 members of the chapter showed up at the Railway Station in Miesbach. In convoy with the chapter, we were escorted the last view Kilometers to our Hotel in Rosenheim. After a quick shower the next highlight came along, dinner at the Happinger Hof, Rosenheim, Biergarten. A visit at the Kolbenmoor Fire Department, and a final beer on the town square completed a beautiful evening.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Switzerland 1 and 3

Our Journey to Red Knights International Convention 2024 in Leipzig... Continued

Day two promised us a about 500 Kilometer ride through beautiful Allgäu and Bayern, again accompanied by a member of Germany 15.

We met with Kai in Landshut for Coffee, and drove, following this Red Knight through his backyard, to the wonderful place for lunch at Restaurant Seeterassen in Happurg.



After saying goodbye to Kai and his son, sure to meet them soon in Leipzig, our journey continued riding on the German Autobahn for the last leg of about 300 Kilometers. All went well till 150 KM, then one of the Bikes was losing parts of his back tire.

Pulling out at the next rest area, the damage became visible, a big part of the tread was torn out.

Nobody was hurt, and, after we made sure the rider and passenger were okay, they waited for a tow truck, and we went on to Leipzig.

After a warm welcome at the Host Hotel by Germany 18, by Waldi and his crew, we waited for our fellow travelers to arrive. In the cozy bar of the Hotel, we were welcomed by guests that arrived before us and dropped in during the evening. With great support of the Hotel Staff, keeping the kitchen open for us, we were complete again around midnight.

Thank you, Germany 15 and Germany 18, Waldi's crew, for a great adventure and an exceptional international convention in Leipzig.

Gery `Dutchy` Jansen



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 AUS – REPORTER: JUDY TEUMA

Red Knights Australia Events

Ian Wells Memorial Ride

- 1st February
- Australia 19

Red Knights Gathering

- October
- Australia 22

Ride for Kids

- 9th March
- Australia 22

28th Annual Keith Hamilton Sale and District Toy Run

- 13th December
- Australia 6

Also, every Friday nights Farside Fridays. Check out Red Knights Australia 6 page for more information.

Grand Tour Ride in Australia

On Monday, January 27th, Roger Van Kollenburg and Tony will be heading out to scope the Australia ride with a focus on roads around the Pullman - however, we will grab “GRAND TOUR” while on the road - 401km a ferry some lunch!!

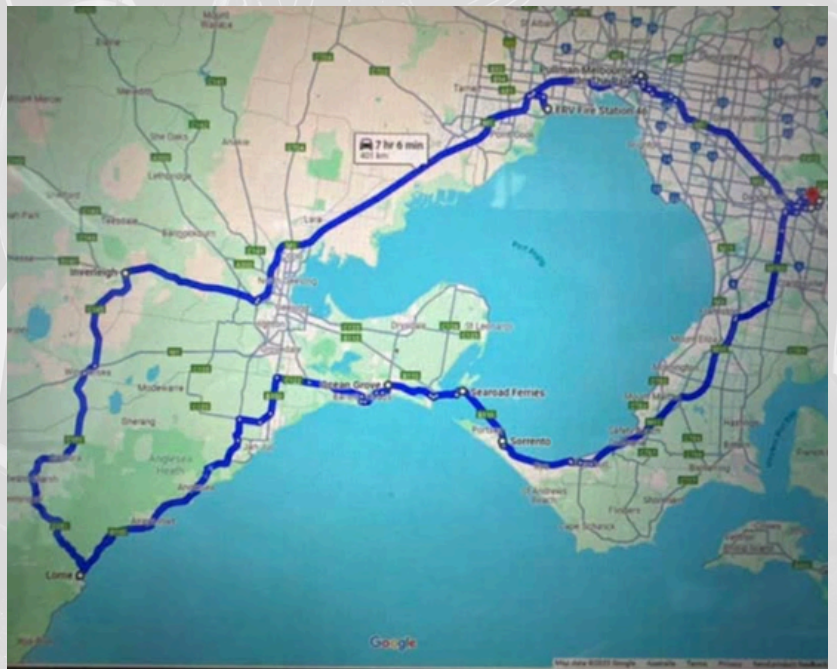
They will head North and grab Narre Warren Nth and Upwey before heading to the city and the Pullman.

Meet up is at 8am with stand up at 8:20am - full tanks and coffee before a brief and ride.

For those planning on joining at the Pullman, the aim is to be there around 9:15-9:30am, in Clarendon St. alongside the hotel (not in the front entrance).

Grand Tour Ride

1. Narre Warren Nth
2. Upwey/Upper FTG
3. Coffee at Roger's
4. Pullman
5. Altona FRV
6. Geelong CFA - Coffee
7. Inverleigh (just because)
8. Deans Marsh
9. Lorne - Coffee
10. Torquay
11. Ocean Grove Catch up with Wardy
12. Ferry - Rest
13. Rye
14. Rosebud



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 AUS – REPORTER: JUDY TEUMA

Australia 6

27th Annual Keith Hamilton Sale and District Toy Run

On Saturday 24th December, Australia 6 hosted the 27th Annual Keith Hamilton Sale & District Toy Run. Around 60 bikes to part in a couple of hours ride around our local area, collecting toys and donated goods along the way.



Thanks go out to Chris and Peter from the Victoria Police Wellington Highway Patrol unit for providing a police escort for the ride, and Sale CFA for allowing us to use a Big Fill Fire Unit for our chase vehicle.

Australia 6 had organised significant donations from Esso Australia (\$5,000), The 6th Child (\$6,000 in toy donations) and thousands of dollars in donations from the local business community. Australia 6 also tipped around \$10,000 to support the event.

The ride departed the Sale Clocktower at 9am, under beautiful blue skies and just perfect riding weather and we travelled to Rosedale, Heyfield, Tinamba, Newry, Boisdale, and stopped in Maffra at the Gippsland Vehicle Museum for a coffee and a catch up.



The last part of our run was a trip up and down the length of the Maffra main street and the short ride to Sale for the presentation of toys to the Salvos and St Vincent de Paul Society.

We 2/3 filled a Budget moving van with donated goods that will all go to needy families this Xmas. Our conservative estimate of the total value of donated goods was around \$35000, which beat last years total by around \$5000.

Several Awards were handed out including the award for longest travelled to get to the event on a motorcycle – Won by Graham Whelan of Aus 22 who travelled 915km from Strathalbyn in South Australia to attend our event.



This event marks the 8th time we have run this event, after taking over from the previous organiser Ian Kennedy who passed away during the build up to the 19th Anniversary event and we have been working hard to build this event up bigger and better every year.

If you're in the Sale area on the 2nd Saturday in December each year, feel free to join us for a great day out.

We do it for the kids, because every kid deserves to have a great Christmas.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 AUS – REPORTER: JUDY TEUMA

Australia 14

Inaugural Christmas Toy Run

The people of Campaspe Shire suffered devastating floods in 2022 (right) & again in 2023. Our aim is to support the Rochester Community. Families that have been affected and are still finding it difficult to return to pre-flood life. We are hoping to bring some joy and relief at Christmas, aiming to provide gifts for the children to ensure their Christmas is plentiful and happier start to 2025. So, our journey begins.



After months of speculating, planning, meetings, and chatting to numerous people and businesses the inaugural Red Knights Aus. Chapter 14 Toy Run was due to happen on the 30th November, 2024. Last minute details, crossing t's and dotting i's, this was the day... but Victoria Australia and the weather had other plans... after weeks of beautiful sunshine and spring weather, Mother Nature was sent to try us. Predicted storms and centimeters of rain were due to descend upon the Shire of Campaspe.

The thought to call off the Toy run, although brief, was not in the vocabulary of the Red Knights. We may not get the full contingent of riders, but we will have enough to collect and deliver the hampers and toys to the facilitators, the Rochester Salvation Army.

The day started wet, although not cold or windy, we gathered at the Star Hotel in Echuca, beside the mighty Murray River.

We were joined by several members of the Southern Warrior Motorcycle Club; President Jason Kelly, Mick Bourke and Mark Brettschneider; including Rushworth CFA Captain Dean Jamieson and CFA life member Christine Coleman a firefighter with 35 years with the CFA. Captain Dean & Christine led the convoy of bikes in the Rushworth Support Vehicle.



The rain eased to a slight drizzle and by the time we were to start proceedings it gave a slight reprieve. This allowed us to gather for the incomparable Australian Indigenous Smoking Ceremony led by Southern Warrior Mick Bourke who recited the blessings in both the indigenous language of the Yorta Yorta and English. The President of the Southern Warriors Jason Kelly, presided over Welcome to Country reciting the time-honored stories of the past, explaining the connections to the land, skies, rivers and animals of Australia, bestowing blessings and knowledge of country on us and our event. This is a powerfully emotional experience, that one cannot help but feel pride and awe of the Australian Indigenous history. In the course of these proceedings Jason honored us with the presentation of a traditional Message Stick, binding our two clubs with respect and symbols of brotherhood.



REGIONAL NEWS

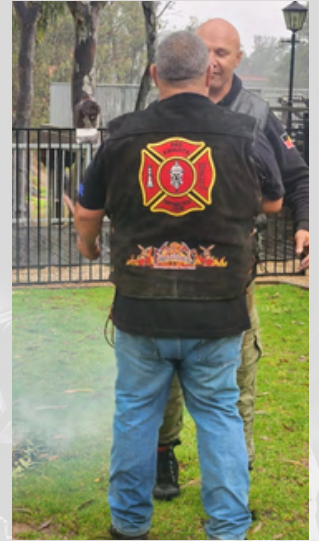
REGION 8 AUS – REPORTER: JUDY TEUMA

Australia 14

Inaugural Christmas Toy Run... Continued

Red Knights Aus Chapter 14 President Colin Consiglio accepted the Message Stick, with unmasked pride and emotion. To receive a gift of such importance, this is not only a gift of high esteem, but signifies the bond of these two clubs.

After the ceremony and time for some banter, it was time to begin our journey through the Campaspe shire. Our first stop was the Ky Club, which provided morning tea and a shelter from the drizzle. Several other businesses in Kyabram allowed us to put collection boxes for people to donate new toys for our cause, which were collected whilst there.



We then continued on to Rushworth, where the CFA provided our next break in travelling to stop for lunch, catering hot Aussie pies & sausage rolls. The weather was beginning to ease making it a more enjoyable ride, although the sky was dark and threatened to open with a deluge at any time.

After lunch, we continued on the back roads and country side of Northern Victoria, through Stanhope and onto Rochester. Where we delivered the donations of Christmas food hampers and toys to the Rochester Salvation Army, they were received with humble gratitude for the peoples of Rochester and surrounds.



Thanks to our sponsors; Murray River Shire, Campaspe Shire, Moama Bowls Club, & Star Hotel, Echuca.

Australia 19

5th Annual Gathering

On the weekend of November 15, Australia Chapter 19, Latrobe Valley, held their 5th Annual Gathering. We had brothers and sisters from as far away as Queensland (1800kms away) and Tasmania.

It was great to meet brothers we have never met and catch up with local brothers yet again.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 AUS – REPORTER: JUDY TEUMA

Australia 19

5th Annual Gathering... Continued

We took a cruise up to Walhalla, an ex goldmining town, with roads covering all aspects of riding; from open road with sweeping corners, to climbing up into hills and into narrow winding roads tight corners.



After, we returned to Erica Fire station CFA, run by Volunteers who put on a great BBQ lunch for us as a fundraiser so we could support their Brigade.

The ride culminated with a Banquet at the local Aero Club. There was live music by a local couple, presentations, raffles, and an auction to raise funds for our local charities.

Chapter 19 member Jeremy De Pellegrini hand painted a motorcycle tank in gold leaf for the gathering and presented it to Mack and Sammi who traveled the longest distance by bike (1800Kms from Beachmere QLD) (right).



A hand painted helmet was presented to the oldest rider (below).



The helmet was painted by Mick Harding, who belongs to the Yowong-Illam-Baluk and Nattarak Baluk clans of the Taungurung people. Mick is an artist specialising in wood working, sculpture, printmaking and giftwares and works for his family business, Ngargawarendj.

The helmet artwork represents our creation spirit Bunjil and our ancestors and highlights our connection with other Kulin groups through ceremonies, trade, and ongoing relationships. As Taungurung, we are led by Bunjil, the Wedge-tailed Eagle, who created men from bark and women from mud.

It is safe to say that a great night was had by everyone.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 NZ – REPORTER: ZANE EYRE

2024 Twizel Mini Gathering

Red Knights members from far and wide descend upon the small Makenzie District township of Twizel. The Annual Mini Gathering invites all members, family and friends to take part in a great weekend away exploring what the Canterbury Region has to offer.



The rumble of motorcycles rolled in to the 1,900 resident town on Friday afternoon, before heading down to the Twizel Fire Station for an amazing, cooked meal, and beverages.

An early Saturday morning catch up with the Twizel food bank was another great success, with non-perishable goods donated by Red Knights members, Service Foods, and Kiwi Harvest. Members collated all the goods into a chiller trailer kindly supplied by ERS Energy Recovery Systems and delivered them to the Food Bank ready for their busiest time of year assisting families in their time of need.



A ride out to the Benmore dam, followed by lunch at Otamatata, and a visit to the Otamatata Fire Station to introduce ourselves made for a perfect follow-up and day out.

Held the weekend prior to NZ Labour weekend each year, we highly recommend the Twizel Mini Gathering a bucket list road trip.

New Zealand 4

Ride of Remembrance

NZ4 hosted a Ride of Remembrance event in November, which saw 50 riders show up to register from the Taranaki Region, along with other New Zealand Chapter's members. Raffles and Batons Upheld, with prizes donated from various businesses, both local and abroad in support of the event.



The Armistice Day Memorial Ride is held on the 11th Hour, of the 11th Day, of the 11th Month when the guns fell silent.

This year's event saw a donation of \$2,234.00 for the Hawera RNZRSA (Returned and Services Association). Every day the RSA movement helps all service personnel, and their families get the support they need.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 NZ – REPORTER: ZANE EYRE

New Zealand 8

2024 Southern Scooter Challenge

New Zealand 8 joined 150 riders that battled out the cold, wet and windy weather for the bi-annual Southern Scooter Challenge. This event, supporting Hospice Southland, takes keen riders 220km (124miles) from Bluff, the southernmost point of SH1 New Zealand, to the adventure capital of the world, Queenstown.



Off to a good start, not so much. Heavy crosswinds and highway surface flooding meant event organisers had no choice but to make a last-minute change to the start line location, moving scooters 25km up the road on support vehicles, away from the exposed areas of the Deep South, to regroup in Invercargill before starting the heavy rained battle.



Rain! Rain! Rain! Yes, it sure did. Wet weather gear did not stand a chance for the first 100km, making the first two checkpoints in Winton and Lumsden appealing to some. Many not bothered by the conditions kept in character in their fancy dress, with nothing but smiles. Pirates, Bathrobes, Business Suits, and even a scooter modified to look like the famous Burt Munro's 1920 Indian Scout Special showed up to enjoy the day.

A large part of the Southern Scooter Challenge starts months before the event day itself. Fundraising is a vital part of the Challenge's success with a combined total of over \$100,000.00 NZD raised for Hospice Southland on this Challenge alone. Hospice Southland provides specialist palliative care to those with life-limiting illness in the Southland and Wakatipu Basin, free of charge, 24/7.

If anyone wishes to join the antics, or maybe a 'change in pace' for a well-deserved cause, give New Zealand 8 a call and we will keep in touch with the 2026 event details.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 NZ – REPORTER: ZANE EYRE

New Zealand 9

k-55 Santa Ride

NZ9 hosted another successful K-55 ride which took place on December 8th.

K-55 was set up in 2019 to assist NZ Firefighters with Firefighting related cancers and PTSD. This year the Annual Santa Ride saw riders, on their tinsel covered bikes and Christmas themed costumes, ride from the Napier Fire Station, through to Lake Taupō.



The event raised \$2,115.00 towards the K-55 fund. Members are encouraged to get along to support the K-55 Santa Ride next year, or to jump on board and host other events in support of this worthy cause.

New Zealand 11

New Zealand's Newest Chapter

Greetings from New Zealand's Newest Chapter, NZ11 - Ōtautahi!

We're thrilled to announce the formation of the Red Knights Chapter NZ11, Ōtautahi, based in the stunning Canterbury region of New Zealand.

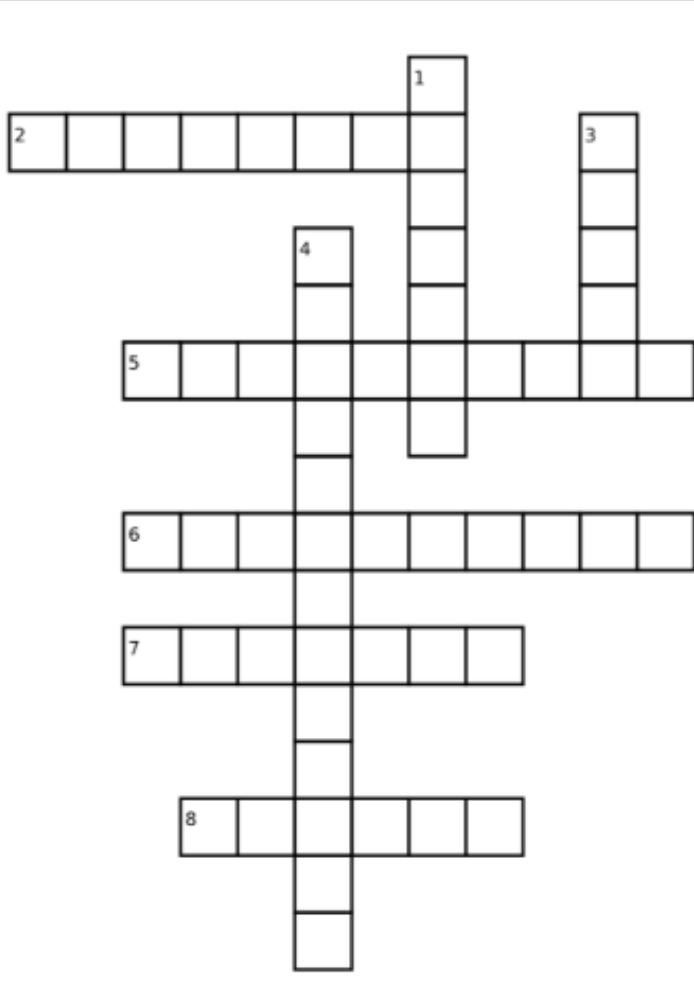


It's an exciting time for us as we bring together a passionate group of riders united by our shared firefighting roots, camaraderie, and love for the open road. Recently, we celebrated our very first Christmas ride, which took us through the beautiful Leader Valley and beyond to Cheviot. The weekend was filled with scenic rides, great company, and plenty of laughter. A highlight was the visit from Santa at the Cheviot Trust Hotel, where we also made a donation towards new play equipment for the community. The generosity and spirit of our members shone brightly, making it a memorable kickoff to what promises to be a fantastic chapter journey.

We look forward to connecting with our Red Knights brothers and sisters from around the globe as NZ11 grows. If you ever find yourself in New Zealand, be sure to give us a shout ☑ the welcome mat is always out!

Ride safe and stay connected, NZ11 Ōtautahi Chapter

RED KNIGHTS EVENTS CROSSWORD



Answers can be found on [page 97 \(linked here\)](#).

Down:

- 1) _____ Stampede hosted by the Oklahoma State Association in September 2024
- 3) Rally hosted in North Carolina in May of 2024
- 4) Convention hosted every year by different Red Knights chapters around the world

Across:

- 2) Rally hosted by PEI 1 in July 2024
- 6) Rally hosted by IN 1 & IN 2 in 2024
- 6) Knights of the _____, a competition between the Red, Blue, and Green Knights
- 7) Rally hosted by BC 2 in June 2024
- 8) Rally hosted in Keene, New Hampshire in 2024



HEAVEN ONE

IN LOVING MEMORY



Shane Adair
TX12



Betty Ashcraft
WV6



Michael Barber
NY3



Carolyn M. Baye
LA1



Steve Benjamin
NS1



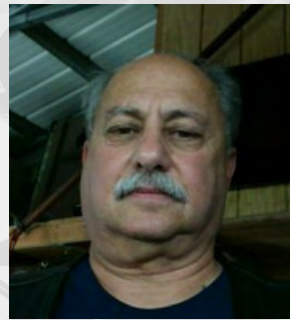
Larry Blacklock
VT4



Mel Derhammer
PA32



David Die
TX1



Mike Loscalzo
NYC Fireriders



Ted Olmsted
MN4



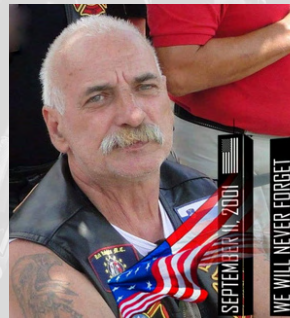
Joe Patnaude
MN4



Victor Post
NY52



Roxanne G. Purdy
PA MAL



Ivan Regorsek
SLO1



Dalroy Ruppert
GA22



Ronda Sixbey
IN2



Jim Spillane
NYC Fireriders



Henry Vandermolen
ON12

Not Pictured:

- **Bruce W. Bates** (NY40)
- **William Brown** (VT2)
- **Paul Chocklett** (VA19)
- **Darlene Clark** (NH4)
- **Dennis Gobey** (ON9)
- **John E. Lewis Sr.** (LA1)
- **Bertram "Ed" Moody** (VT2)
- **Ian Wells** (AUS19)

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLYWEDS!



Sebastian and Anne
Germany 30



Michael and Kimberly
Minnesota 4



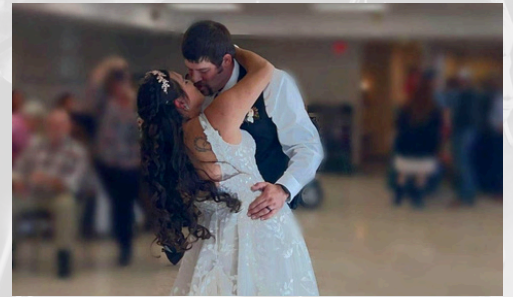
Daniel and Rinske
Netherlands 2



Nick and Tyler
New York 44



Jeremy and Allison
Pennsylvania 37



Shane and Chanyiah
Vermont 4

BIRTHS

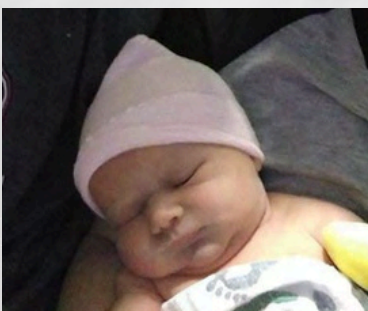
NEWEST JUNIOR MEMBERS!



Maddox
New York 44
Parents: Nate and
Annie Goodwin



"Maggie"
Vermont 4
Parents: Scott Jr.
and Noel Loftus

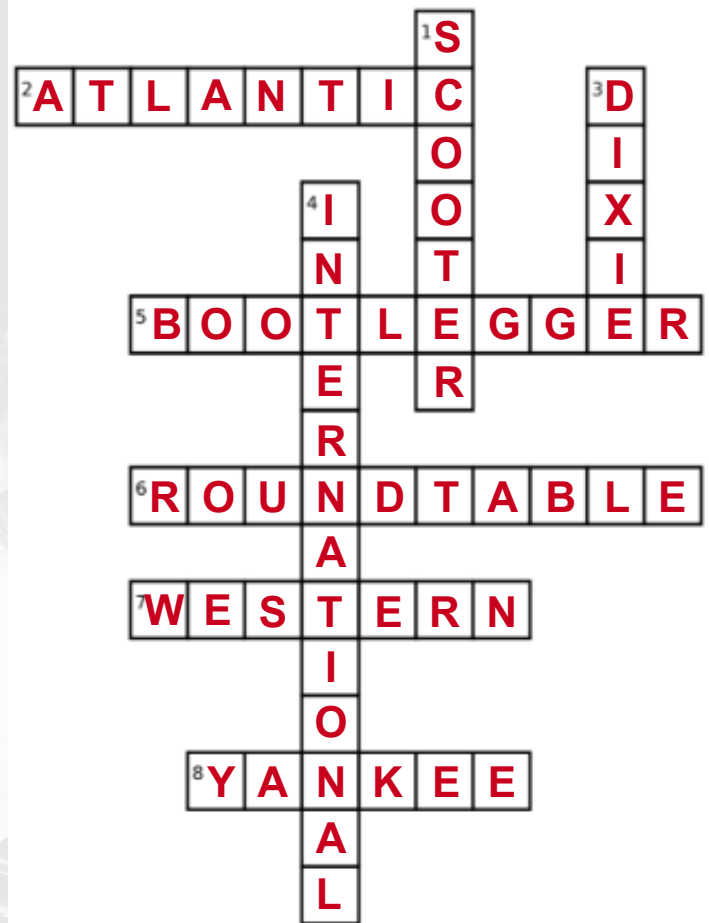
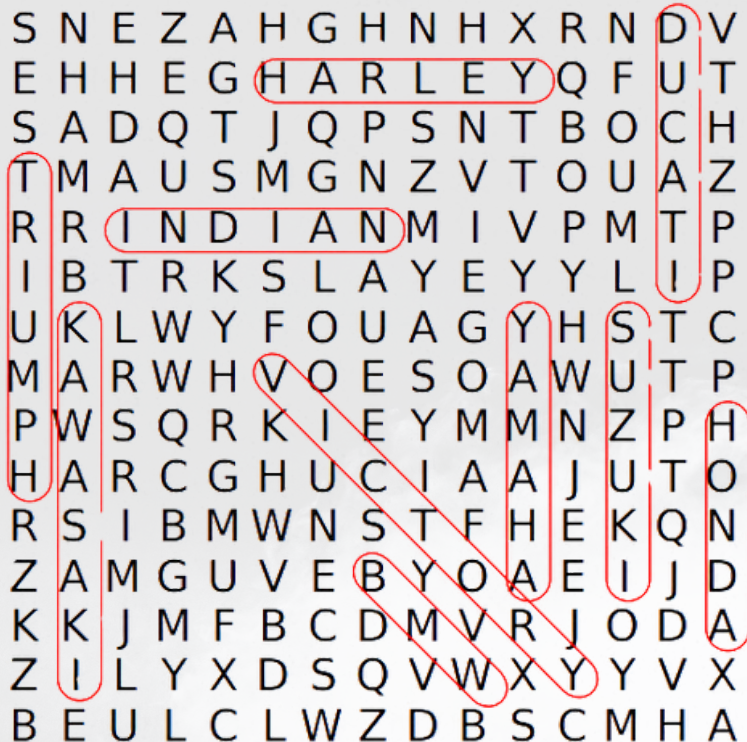


Evelynn Rose
New York 44
Parents: Mark and
Kelly Ann Johnson



Emmy Mae
New York 25
Grandparents:
Stephen and Missie
Hesler

ANSWER KEYS



Newsletter Quiz Answers:

Thanks for playing!

- 1) When are updates for the July 2025 newsletter due? **June 13**
- 2) Who was awarded the first ever "Director Emeritus" award? **Leo Patry of Ontario 7**
- 3) How many Grand Tour Master certificates were issued in 2024? **28**
- 4) When and where is the 2025 International Convention? **August 21-25 in Peoria, Illinois, USA**
- 5) Which region is looking for a new Regional Reporter? **Region 6**