

Greetings Fellow Knights

The latest quarter is actually covered most of riding season in Canada and really the only quarter that I can comfortably ride in all three months.

The longest ride again this year was to Convention. I took the scenic route there this year, through the back roads of Maine then up over the top of the Great Lakes. I took advantage of a little extra time I had to visit the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial again. That alone was worth the trip.

My hats off to the crew in Wisconsin who pulled off the convention. I know it was a relatively small group but it was obvious they had spent a lot of time planning this. I was fortunate to have the time to take in a couple of the planned rides. They were long rides and the road captains were able to safely keep us together as a group the entire way – for those who have never planned a group ride, that is NOT an easy job.

The trip home was a little rough on my computer though and somewhere along the road I must have hit a bump it didn't like. I lost access to my computer and e-mail for a week or two and even when I got it back I had lost some work. I don't think it greatly affected the job I do since I haven't heard too many complaints but it made for a lot of extra work and did slow me down more than I like to be. If anyone e-mailed me question up to or during the Convention that I didn't answer, please remind me. This also may have created a hiccup with the Regalia orders for a week or two but I think those have also been all caught up.

I have the great pleasure of taking home an award for a member in my area and was able to attend the First Atlantic Association Rally the weekend after Convention in the neighbouring province to present it to him. It was an Outstanding Contribution Award for John Bedford. Interestingly, the Saint John Fire Chief was giving a speech at the rally before me and was talking about the important attributes of a firefighter including integrity, dedication, and the like, and on a couple of occasions used John as his example. It was a great lead-in to my presentation of the OCA, which is also about going above and beyond to help a brother or sister out.

And of course, there was the opportunity of a lifetime to represent Red Knights International at the 2016 European Conference in Belgium this year. A European Conference is definitely something worth putting on your bike-it list. To have such a rich variety of customs, cultures, and languages in one place and still have such strong bonds with one another speaks to what a great club we are. I do hope to get back to be able to enjoy more of these conferences. This one had the added pleasure of being able to attend in Brussels on September 11th when Belgium allowed Manneken Pis to represent the Red Knights and firefighters around the world.

I would strongly suggest if you add this to your bike-it list, you do like I did and set aside some extra time and money to see the countryside. Granted, I didn't set aside enough time and only had three days to ride through 10 countries from Belgium down to the Mediterranean Coast and back, but it was enough to pick out a few places I want to go back to and spend more time.

Following are notes I like to keep at the bottom of all my reports so members can access the information easily:

As your treasurer, one of the main questions I get is how much the dues are. Unfortunately, our bylaws do not outline the dues in a nice easy to understand format. The note below I will include in each of my quarterly reports so member know where to find it anytime you sign up a new member. I would also like to ask chapter to please provide me with updated rosters whenever new members join.

Chapter Member Dues:

Renewal = \$13 Active & Association, \$7 Social & Honorary (\$50 late fee after February 15th)

NEW member = \$16 all members; \$12 for those joining in August/September; \$8 for those joining after October 1

Joining a second chapter or more = \$13 Active & Associate, \$7 Social & Honorary (25% off August/September and 50% off October or later)

NEW Chapter application fee = \$35

MAL Dues:

Renewal = \$15 Active, \$10 Social (\$10 late fee after March 31)

NEW MAL = \$10 application fee + \$15 Active, \$10 Social (25% off August/September and 50% off October 1 or later).

All dues are US Dollars. Options are to mail a check, pay from your paypal account directly to treasurer@redknightsmc.com or through one of the paypal links on our website at <http://www.redknightsmc.com/membership.htm> with the top button being perhaps the easiest (all you have to do is change the quantity to the total amount of dues being paid).

I have also officially taken over the mapping of members. Unfortunately, the neat little mapping feature we used to have access to for free and is linked to our website has started charging \$99 per month for the number of entries we have. For that reason, I am going to stick with a free option through the link below. If anyone finds any errors in the map, please let me know.

https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=1NFni--CfC8ql-nSR3K3yTm4hLG0T8Pml_xjY9lVo#map:id=3

Ride safe,
Scott