

# **Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club**



**December 2019 Newsletter**

## IN THIS EDITION

- Messages from the Board.
- Annual Awards
- Coffee break quiz.
- Founding Fathers patches.
- Founders JD Bottles Story
- Avoiding dehydration when riding.
- Boylston, We have a problem!
- Regional articles.
- Quiz answers.
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## WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Since the last Newsletter in June there have been some changes at the top of our organisation with Chris Gadway stepping down as our President and Tim Reinard stepping down as the Region 3 Director. I am sure that I am speaking for all members when I say a big `THANK YOU` to them both for their outstanding service to the Red Knights MC.

I would also like to congratulate Joey Powell on becoming our new President, Joey was formally the Director of Region 4, we must also congratulate Trey Anderson and Steve Guillot on being elected as the new Region 3 and Region 4 Directors.

We welcome Sara-Lynn Profontaine to the team of Reporters, she fills the vacant Region 4 post.

As always seems to be the case, the end of year Newsletter is a bumper edition due to most members riding some miles over the year and wanting to let us know about their adventures. I want to thank my team of reporters and all contributors for taking the time to write and send in your articles.

[editor@redknightsmc.com](mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com)



**The next Newsletter will be published in June 2020...**

**Send your articles to me or your Regional Reporter by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.**

### COVER PHOTO

Members of NC 6, 11, 13  
& 22 honoring  
Brother Paul Tidwell



### WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN

**BECOMING REGION 2** (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario) **or REGION 5** (Alaska, Alberta, , British Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northwest Territory, Oregon, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming and Yukon) **REPORTER?** If so please contact me at: [editor@redknightsmc.com](mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com)

Communications Chairman – George Colby [communications@redknightsmc.com](mailto:communications@redknightsmc.com)

Newsletter Editor - Steve Williamson [editor@redknightsmc.com](mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com)

### Regional Reporters' contact emails

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Region 3	Jim Garner	<a href="mailto:region3reporter@redknightsmc.com">region3reporter@redknightsmc.com</a>
Region 4	Sara-Lynn Profontaine	<a href="mailto:region4reporter@redknightsmc.com">region4reporter@redknightsmc.com</a>
Region 6	Chuck Matthews -	<a href="mailto:region6reporter@redknightsmc.com">region6reporter@redknightsmc.com</a>
Region 7	Steve Williamson	<a href="mailto:region7reporter@redknightsmc.com">region7reporter@redknightsmc.com</a>
Region 8 NZ	Shaun Crowley -	<a href="mailto:region8nzreporter@redknightsmc.com">region8nzreporter@redknightsmc.com</a>
Region 8 Aus	Judy Teuma -	<a href="mailto:region8ausreporter@redknightsmc.com">region8ausreporter@redknightsmc.com</a>





# Merry Christmas

## MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD



### PRESIDENT - Joey Powell

Hey all, it's been a busy three months since taking office as the International President. Trying to get in synch with the new roll and still responding to items on the Region 4 side. I took the office very excited and now more than ever to help guide this club in the best of my ability to grow and keep the club going in the direction that our founding fathers started the organization. We have had our fall board meeting and we have great ideas for the future of the club. First on the agenda is to finish old items then start on the new ideas.

I would like to encourage each member to be engaged with their chapter. Stay focused to help the chapter and the club to grow. Contact your Regional Director with concerns and ideas to help the club grow. We need to remember that this is our club not one persons. I have learned being on the board that a lot of times if we put ideas together it works best for the club. We all need to think what is best for the club not just ourselves or one chapter or region.

Right after the convention I attend three 9/11 rides with local chapters. I will be working with the new Region 4 director to get them up to speed on what has been going on with in the region.

As the New Year starts we need to take a look at why this club was started. It was just a bunch of guys, great friends sitting around wanting something to do. They rode motorcycles and enjoyed each other's company and friendship. It did not matter if they had different ideas or not, they work together as a team and friends to start this great club. I think sometimes we forget that we are a social club. We need not to look at what we can get out of the club but what we can give to club. If you give in return you could get a feeling of success that you have done a great job to help someone. You will certainly make more friendships that you can imagine not just in the chapter but around the world. How many people do you know that can say they have friends in other countries? As a friend of mine always tells me when I call him just get on your bike and ride. Enjoy the adventure and where it takes you and the people you meet.

In closing remember your family and tell them you love them at the beginning and at the end of each day. You never know when it might be the last time, they may see you.

**"My profession is somewhat unique in comparison to that of the average person. At any one fixed moment in time when duty calls upon me, I am prepared to sacrifice my own life to save the lives of others I may not even know. I am willing to do this because I understand that we all make choices in life. As for myself, this is the choice and path of service that I have chosen to follow. Though my job is often rewarding, it can also be unsettling. I often reflect upon the simplicity of one question, "Who am I?" At times, I cannot provide this answer, not even for myself. So, "Who am I" to choose a profession in life that regularly shows no mercy for the preciousness of life? "Who am I" to willingly, without hesitation, invite myself into some of the most uninviting situations known to mankind? "Who am I", so that when duty calls, may never again lay eyes on the loved ones I could leave behind? The assumed simplicity of this question is not so simple after all. Understanding "Who I am" may be difficult to answer at times. However, all I need to do is pause, think about, and remember those lives I have positively influenced and maybe even saved. All I need to do is look back on the years of service I have given to my community and realize that I helped make the world a safer place in which to live. In my heart, I know I made a difference. "Who am I?" I am a Firefighter!"**

**WE ARE A FAMILY OF ONE - THE REDKNIGHTS.....**

Joey Powell, International President



**SECRETARY - Jack Jarvis**

Hello to all my brother and sister Red Knights!

Well, it is hard to believe we are about to enter 2020 with our wonderful organization.

I am looking forward to working with Joey and Trey and to see how well they help this board gel. I am so excited for the new faces in new positions! I can't wait to have our new Region 4 Director take office!

Your International Secretary has been very busy since the last time we were all together. The new procedures in place for the insurance and the TMLA's are working wonderfully! I attended the Spring and Fall Board Meetings and met with quite a few Chapters and Members during the past year. I have also spent an average of 25+ hours a week on my Secretary duties. These include email, reports, conference calls, meetings, TMLA's, insurance, new Chapter, and all the smaller behind the scene work that is always done just to keep things organized.

Since the inception of the digital signature TMLA process, we have successfully approved over 500 TMLA's with an average turnaround time of just over two hours! That is right, I said two (2) hours! The times of waiting weeks before you could start producing an idea for your Chapter is over. I am still having the pleasure of approving items for Australia and Europe in a matter of minutes! This has been a great move for all of us. Speaking of the TMLA's I have completed the 4,000+ scanned and refiled to make sense and to make it easier to locate artwork and approve items that may be similar, so we do not step on each other's ideas. This was a long process on the front end but will pay dividends for all of us for years to come. Seems like the more filing I do, the more I see needs to be done to organize it all!

We have added six (6) Chapters since the Convention. If the current Chapters need Membership Cards, please contact your Regional Director and they will be able to get them to you. We are phasing out the old cards so when these are gone, we are done with cards until we can come up with a better fit for all of us. We are looking to a better-quality card that may not need to be replaced every year.

We have insured forty-one (41) Chapter events this year and I am already getting the Christmas Parade requests! Please take advantage of this great program we have. It is a good piece of mind for the Chapter for a very low cost. If you have any questions about the insurance, please call or email me.

The advertising in our low membership areas has hit its stride and I am looking forward to getting the calls and emails asking for more information soon. Our MAL's are doing a great job in forming new Chapters this past year!

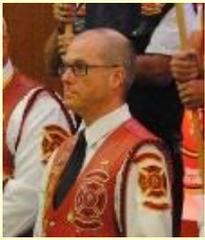
I am happy to say that improving the TMLA program is working wonderfully. Please remember that the application and the artwork must be submitted together, electronically. All applications and artwork are now saved electronically and if you mail me bad artwork, I cannot accept it as it will not scan properly. Please also remember that ANY design that you create with our name or logo **MUST** have the required ®. If the registered trademark is not plainly visible when I receive the application, it will be returned with a quick reminder!

I would like to take this time to thank everyone again for your continued support. I am looking forward to run for election again in 2020 as your International Secretary. I can promise that I will continue to put everything I have toward making our organization a better place for all of us. If anyone has any questions, concerns, ideas, or just wants to chat, please feel free to call or email me anytime.

Just as a reminder for ALL Chapters. Make sure your email is up and running and being checked by someone because ALL official documentation coming from this office will ONLY go to the Chapter email address assigned by the RKIFMC.

As always, keep the shiny side up and your knees in the wind!

Loyal to Our Duty  
Jack Jarvis  
International Secretary



### **TREASURER - Scott Ryan**

As 2019 winds down and we get ready for 2020, I want to take this opportunity for thank all the members who have worked with me through this past year. We have been able to add several chapters over the year along with many new Red Knights. I look forward to serving you again through 2020.

As always, I also want to take this opportunity to remind chapters and members what is required in order to stay in good standing. Of course by January 1, I need the dues for 2020 along with the most up to date roster. Through the year, I will also need roster updates at least by April 1, July 1, and October 1.

This past year, with a couple of elections happening, the importance of updated rosters became even more evident. I encourage you to mark your calendars as I get lots of feedback that my email reminders only clutter up the mailboxes of many chapters.

As you plan for your events for 2020, I want to encourage you to consider the Red Knights Memorial Foundation as the source for your fundraising support. We have come a long way with our property and there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Merry Christmas

Scott Ryan



### **REGION 1 DIRECTOR - Matt Mattera**

Here we are again at the end of another year. 2019 has been a great year for the Red Knights, especially for Region 1. This year's Yankee Rally was held in Boylston, MA and focused on the Founding Fathers of this great organization. Without Colin Mackey, Bob Bourassa, Ed Wright, Roger Wentzell, Dave Hamilton, Bob Goulet, David Hunt, Jon Tripp, Don Parker, Jack Pierce and Norm Beausoleil, this Club may never have been started. Their idea has turned into an incredible organization that I like to call family. The 2019 Yankee Rally committee should be proud of their endeavour to honor our Founding Fathers, job well done!

Region 1 stepped up again in 2019, as the New Hampshire Red Knights hosted the 2019 Red Knights International Convention in Lincoln, NH. Loon Mountain Resort was the setting and what a beautiful show it was! If I'm not mistaken, this was the second most attended Convention in the history of the Club, and I didn't hear of anyone who was disappointed. Honestly, if you were disappointed, it was your fault. There was plenty of fellowship, fun, food and FIREWORKS! Yes folks, the fireworks display was incredible. The view of the fireworks over the big top tent, with Loon Mountain as the backdrop was beautiful. I'm pretty sure toward the end of the over 20-minute show, the sky was literally on fire. I heard Past International President Chris Gadway remark, "There won't be a moose around for miles!" If you missed this year's Convention, you missed a great time. But don't fret, there is always 2020 in Laon, France!

During the 2019 International Convention, we heard from Past International President Chris Gadway as he addressed the crowd at the Saturday night banquet. He thanked everyone for the honor to serve the membership for 9 years. I can say, I personally learned a lot from Chris throughout the years and believe I am a better leader because of his example. Thank you, Chris, for all you did for the Red Knights! It was an honor to serve with you! Our current President Joey Powell took over and I'm excited to work with him and move forward to a bigger and better Red Knights.

Sadly, we have had plenty of moments of mourning throughout 2019. For those of you who have lost a member/friend/family, my prayers are with you. Heaven One continues to grow in membership as time ticks on. As I said in last years end of year report, please don't forget the families of those who have gone before us. The Red Knights were a part of their lives, and we should do everything we can to make that continue and support them.

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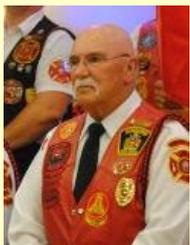
Since Convention, the newly redesigned International website is up and running, as are reservations at the Red Knights Memorial Hall. It is my honor to serve on the RKMf Executive Board on alternating years with the Region 2 Director.

This year is my year and I will be more than happy to assist you in making a reservation to stay at our Red Knights Memorial Hall. It is very simple to do, just go to [www.redknightsmc.com](http://www.redknightsmc.com), click on Memorial Foundation and select "Reserve Memorial Hall". There are instructions and Frequently Asked Questions provided. If you have any questions, you may email [memorial@redknightsmc.com](mailto:memorial@redknightsmc.com).

Speaking of our Red Knights Memorial and Red Knights Memorial Hall, I thank all of you who have made donations to the Red Knights Memorial Foundation. We've raised a considerable amount already, and some, like Norm Beausoleil with his Jack Daniels fundraiser and Bob Binnall with his Founding Fathers patches, have really helped out a lot! With that said, we still need your assistance. Many of you do amazing work raising funds for so many worthwhile charities. I hope you will consider assisting your own brothers and sisters by holding a fundraiser for RKMf. In addition, if you shop on Amazon, as many of you do, you can go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to raise money. This is still Amazon, only a small portion of your purchase is donated to a charity of your choosing. I, personally, have chosen the Red Knights Memorial Foundation as my designated charity. That way, every time I buy something through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), a small portion of my purchase is donated to RKMf and helps us to pay off the mortgage, maintain the property, and ensure that the Red Knights Memorial continues to serve as a beautiful place for our past and present membership.

As we enter 2020, a brand-new decade, I wish you all the best and a very safe year. Let's make the "Roaring 20s" of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the best decade of the Red Knights! As I've said in the past, and I will continue to say, a wise man once told me that you get out of this club ten-fold what you put into it. If you put in nothing, don't be surprised when you get back nothing. Until next time, ride safe and Red Knights Forever!

Matt Mattera  
Region 1 Director



#### **REGION 2 DIRECTOR - Leo Patry**

I never realized when I joined the Red Knights 30 years ago what a major affect it would have on my life. I have been fortunate to have been able to work with, and to learn from, the great members that have contributed to our growth and success both in the past and the present and I look forward to the many new exciting things to come in the future with our continued growth around the world.

The year 2020 will bring our first International Convention to be held outside of North America with the convention being held in Loan, France and I am so looking forward, as are a lot of our members that will also be attending from the USA and Canada, to having the opportunity to meet and make new friends with our brothers and sisters in the European chapters.

The past years activities of the Red Knights Chapters in Region 2 have been busy, it's been a year of growth and development.

The Ontario and Atlantic Associations of the Red Knights in Region 2 have both continued to grow and become more active providing many more opportunities for the membership to have designations and events to ride to and the ability to meet other Red Knights and form new and lasting friendships.

Each year the list of Chapters and Associations holding rallies and events grows and I strongly encourage you to as chapters and individuals to try and encompass these events in your road trips.

As the Region 2 Director I have attempted to maintain contact with all chapters in the Region, informing them of events and notices from the International and other Associations within the Region and helping them with the development of their chapters, encouraging all the chapters and MAL's to contact me with any questions or problems they may be experiencing within the Red Knights Organization.

I have continued to maintain a time log of time spent as the Regional Director along with updating the Procedures Manual for the Position of Region 2 Director.

To date this year I have averaged 6 Hours per week working on emails, calls to chapters and Associations along with the generation of reports to the International Board.

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That time frame doesn't include the time utilized in the attending of Board meetings of both the International and the Regions Associations.

Executive meetings of the International board that I attended:

- April 24-28, 2019 Executive Board meetings in Baltimore Maryland
- August 20-25 2019 International Convention and meetings in Lincoln New Hampshire

Association Meetings Attended:

- Ontario Association Meeting April 12, 2019 in Coburg Ontario
- Ontario Association ABM and Rally July 18-2, 2019 Owen Sound Ontario
- Ontario Association Meeting October 4, 2019 in Coburg Ontario

I was also fortunate to be able to attend and participate in a number of events, and meetings.

- The Hands across the Border Chicken BBQ at the Dexter New York Fire Department.
- The Ontario 9 chapter meeting in Ottawa Ontario,
- The Ontario Association Hoofs and Feathers weekend in Peterborough Ontario
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Yankee Rally in Boylston Massachusetts
- The Red Knights ride in Lake George hosted by New York 3
- The Red Knights Americade Open House and BBQ at the Lake George Fire hall hosted by New York 12.
- The Ontario Association Color Ride weekend in Barry's Bay Ontario

I was also honored in being able to represent the Red Knights International at the Funerals of Region 2 members that have passed.

- April 28, 2019 Funeral of Gail Smith, a Social member of Ontario 11 in Uxbridge Ontario.
- October 17, 2019 Funeral of Brenda Everall a Social member of Ontario 7 in Wellington Ontario

Sincerely yours in brotherhood

Leo Patry, Region 2 Director



### **REGION 3 DIRECTOR - Trey Anderson**

Brothers and Sisters,

What a great year it has been! Let me start off by expressing my gratitude to the members of Region 3 for electing me as your Regional Director. After the great time in Lincoln, NH at the 2019 convention I have been putting forth a lot of work for our region. We now have State Reps in each of our states who are there to assist any of the chapters in their state. I need to thank the Reps for everything that they have done to assist in making this a smooth transition.

We are working on changing the State Association Emails over to a State Rep Email. For example the current *assoc15@redknightsmc.com* will soon be *wvrep@redknightsmc.com*. When this change takes place I will be contacting the chapters to notify you of the switch.

Indiana has been in the discussion period of possibly forming a State Association. Michael "Woody" Woods is currently the interim State Rep as the chapters in the state discuss whether or not they want to move forward with at state association. There will be a meeting in January to discuss the possible state association (Date TBD). Please watch the Facebook page *Red Knights Motorcycle Club – Region 3*, or contact Woody (*inrep@redknightsmc.com*) for the upcoming date.

As many of you know the inaugural Region 3 Rally "The Bootlegger Rally" was hosted by the WV State Association during Labor day weekend this year. I had the pleasure of assisting in hosting this great event. The numbers were fantastic we had over 130 Red Knights in attendance. 14 states from 4 different regions were represented. Attendees had the opportunity to go on many rides while taking in all the beautiful scenery of my home state of West Virginia.

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Friday guests were able to pick from several different self-guided tours although I believe most took the "Aliens and Hotdogs" tour taking them into my neck of the woods.

Saturday was the guided tour to the New River Gorge Bridge, Lunch, and then dinner with a band. I think it's safe to say that all who were in attendance had a wonderful time!

The 2019 Bootlegger Committee decided to have several auctions and raffles to raise money for Red Knights Memorial Hall. The 2019 Bootleggers Rally was able to donate \$2746 to assist with the mortgage! I would like to sincerely thank the 2019 Bootlegger Rally Committee on all of their hard work and dedication!

The 2020 Bootleggers Rally will be hosted by The Illinois State Association. Check out the Facebook group *Bootleggers Rally 2020*. The event will be held September 3rd to September 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 in Peoria, IL. For more information Contact them via email: redknightsilassoc@yahoo.com. I would suggest getting your rooms booked early as the 2020 Yankee Rally has already booked out in multiple hotels!

As riding season has slowed down I hope everyone a very happy and safe holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Fraternally,

Trey Anderson  
Region 3 Director



#### **REGION 4 DIRECTOR - Steve Guillot**

We welcome Steve Guillot as the new Regional 4 Director. Steve has only been in post a short period of time and as such has not been able to write a full end of year report. He has however asked that his thanks be passed to everyone for their support and for showing their Confidence in him by electing him to the Regional 4 Director position. Steve is looking forward to working with all Red Knight Brothers and Sisters and he and his family wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years. May God Bless each and every one of yall.

Steve Guillot  
Region 4 Director



#### **REGION 5 DIRECTOR - Lance Coit**

Brothers and Sisters,  
As I write this report my first term as Region 5 director has come to an end and have started my second term. Thank you to all the members from our region for your support. Each year it is great to meet members of our region while traveling as well as members from all over the world.

This year I attended the spring board meeting in Baltimore. We discussed bylaw proposals for the summer meeting as well as other issues pertaining to the club. I also attended the Western in Edmonton, Alberta. As always, the Western Rally is always a lot of fun and Alberta did a great job putting it on. I also attended the convention at Loon Mountain, New Hampshire. It was a beautiful place to visit and was an awesome convention. At this meeting some restructuring of the board meetings were approved which should save the club some money and reduce travel costs for the directors. With this change the directors did not attend the fall meeting.

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Regionally the only benefit ride I attended was the 911 tribute ride put on by ND1. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to three of our members this year. I attended Dave Rogers (BC3) celebration of life in Victoria, BC. I also attended William Wells (MN8) sharing of memories. I was unable to attend the service for David Tomshin (MN4) so Joel Nelson, President of MN4 presented the coin and flag to the family.

Looking back the year really flew by. After the holidays this year I will try to reach out to all the chapter presidents and touch base with them and make sure everything is up to date. Looking forward to the Western in Deadwood, SD. Should be a great time and good turnout. The convention is in France so that should be a little different this year.

As always, I am only a phone call, text, or email away if any of you have concerns you would like to discuss. Our region covers a huge area, so it becomes hard to get together face to face so feel free to contact me by whatever means works best. I hope everybody has a great holiday season and will be looking forward to seeing as many of you as I can.

Lance Coit  
Region 5 Director



### **REGION 8 DIRECTOR - Jason Collins**

G'day from Down Under,

2019 is all but finished.

This year for me has been one of focus on work, finally finishing my required modules and being promoted to the rank of Station Officer (Captain). I did take a bit of time off and extended my time to Convention to do a little ride around the USA. I was fortunate to be joined by my brother for a little over a week and shared Sturgis bike week with some longtime friends. After Sturgis I went on a little run (8700 km / 5400 miles) finishing up in New Hampshire for the Convention. During the convention I attended Board Meetings and the AGM, congratulations to both the outgoing officers and the incoming. On the home front I logged around 2-3 hours of Red Knights related business per week for a total of approximately 130 hours.

The Convention was a great time, as always and the Host Chapter certainly did an outstanding job. Apart from the organized rides the social aspect was outstanding with an awesome live band / BBQ one night and banquet dinner cumulating in numerous awards being presented. Congratulations to Region 8 member Neville McKenzie on his Outstanding Contribution Award and to all the other recipients.

Throughout the year Region 8 has continued to grow with us welcoming Australia 21 from the Hunter Valley Region in New South Wales. Welcome one and all to the family. Region 8 ever changing Membership now stands at 600.

November saw the 2nd Australian Gathering hosted by Australia 6. Friday saw us with a meet and greet, BBQ and trivia night, at the Sale Fire Brigade. Saturday attendees braved the pretty terrible weather (it was also agreed that I would no longer have any input on date to be heard given 2 wet years in a row) for a guided ride through Gippsland enjoying lunch at a little country ton pub. Saturday night dinner and party was hosted at the home of Dan and Jade (huge thank you) who opened the door for dinner and what turned out to be a favourite for many karaoke. A Red Knight auction raised not only some funds for the local Fire Brigade but also piece of hose used in cutting ceremony of our Memorial was made into a plaque with the sale amount donated to the Memorial Foundation. Sunday was the farewell breakfast with a slightly dryer day.

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A little over 8 weeks from writing this I'll be attending the New Zealand Gathering hosted by New Zealand 8 being held in Bluff South Island. From early signs it should be a very well attended event I'm sure there will be an article in future Newsletters and I will report further again later in 2020. Many Red Knights are heading to this one a little earlier to attend the Burt Munroe Classic (The Wolds Fastest Indian lived in a nearby town) to enjoy the festival and support one of our own as he races along the beach just as Burt did in testing.

At this time of year Australia and New Zealand continue to meet the RKIFMC Mission Statement, as a result many individuals and organizations continue to benefit from their work. Many Chapters have taken the lead in organizing Christmas toy runs while others have joined the numerous events being held at this time of the year. Bringing joy to those less fortunate is one of our strengths.

I look forward to what next year brings and look forward to continue to serve you the membership.

Finally thank you all for your support, from my family to yours we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2020 be a great year for us all!

Yours sincerely,

Jason Collins  
Region 8 Director

# CONGRATULATIONS

It is tradition at the Annual International Convention to reward those members who have contributed greatly to the Red Knights throughout the year, and this year the following people were recognised for their outstanding contributions.

## PERRY CARTER AWARD Red Knight of the Year



Retired Captain, Paramedic and Rescue Diver for Chesterfield County, Virginia Fire & EMS, Michael "Red Writer" Brigati, author of *Fire Thieves*, and active member of VA8 was awarded the Perry Carter Award. Michael has raised over \$19,000 to date through the sales of his book *Fire Thieves*. Money has been raised for various charities around the USA since May of 2016 to date to include MCV Evan-Haynes Burn Center, Old Dominion Firefighters Association, Big Oak Ranch, Gray-Bruce Ontario RKMC, 9/11 Memorial Foundation, Virginia Fire Marshalls Scholarship Foundation, International Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Virginia Fallen Firefighters Foundation,

Corolla Volunteer Fire Department, Pawsitive Patrol, Chesterfield Firefighters, Red Knights Memorial House, Firefighters Assistance Program (Western Rally), Joey O Autism Foundation, Red Knights VA 8 Closet at MCV, and Old Dominion Burn Foundation.

Not only has Michael done all this in the name of being a member of Red Knights Virginia 8, but also in memory of his late son, Matt, who was taken from him far too soon. Matt was a 7x organ donor giving the gift of life to many others. Thru his work with the Red Knights Michael has been able to honor his son's legacy and continues to make a difference in the lives of those who receive these donations.

**George and Sandi Colby, and  
Chris and Julie Ann Gadway**  
were honoured with the  
Life Membership Awards



*George and Sandi Colby receive their Life Membership Awards*



*Chris and Julie Ann Gadway with their Life Membership Awards*

**Tom Van Der Kley, Stephanie Fowle  
and Neville McKenzie**  
were awarded  
Outstanding Contribution Awards



**\*\*\*\* ATTENTION ALL RED KNIGHTS \*\*\*\***

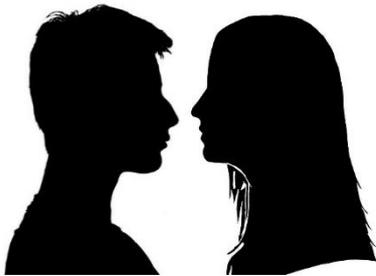
The Red Knights Memorial in Boylston, is **NOT** maintained in the winter months.

If you visit the Memorial and the logo is covered with leaves, snow, ice, **PLEASE DO NOT** sweep, scrape or use any other means to clear it off. The logo is fragile and does not tolerate scraping.

Your attention to this very important matter is appreciated.



# WANTED



**COULD ONE OF  
THESE BE YOU?**

**REPORTERS **WANTED** FOR  
REGION 2 and REGION 5**

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

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

**CONTACT THE EDITOR IF YOU WANT MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT IS INVOLVED**

**[editor@redknightsmc.com](mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com)**

# COFFEE BREAK QUIZ TIME!

## RED KNIGHTS `FOUNDING FATHERS` TRIBUTE WORD SEARCH.

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

Find the names of our Founding Fathers and where it all began, then find the Countries where the Red Knights MC now has members. The words hidden in the grid can run across, backwards, forwards, up or down.

RANDYS CYCLE SHOP.  
BOYLSTON. MASSACHUSETTS.  
HUNT. TRIPP. BOURASSA.  
PARKER. WRIGHT. MACKEY.  
GOULET. WENTZELL. PIERCE.  
BEAUSOLEIL. HAMILTON.  
UNITED STATES. SPAIN.  
CANADA. NEW ZEALAND.  
BRAZIL. AUSTRIA. DENMARK.  
NORTHERN IRELAND.  
ENGLAND. FINLAND. ITALY.  
NETHERLANDS. AUSTRALIA.  
SLOVENIA. BELGIUM.  
FRANCE. IRELAND. CROATIA.  
MEXICO. SWITZERLAND.  
LUXEMBOURG. GERMANY.  
NORWAY. WALES.

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot 10 differences between the two photographs below?

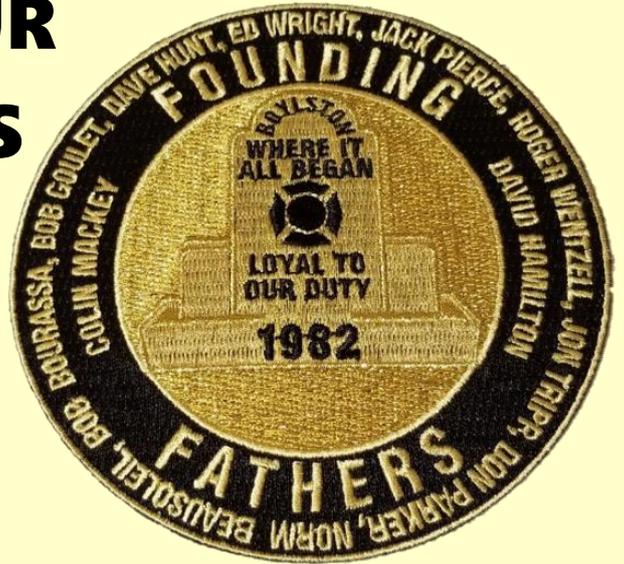


YOU WILL FIND THE ANSWERS AFTER THE REGIONAL ARTICLES



# FOUNDING FATHERS PATCHES

# HAVE YOU GOT YOUR FOUNDING FATHERS PATCH YET? BUY YOURS AND HELP PAY FOR THE MEMORIAL HALL



As some of you may know Bob Binnall has been selling "Founding Fathers" patches this year, with help from Alex Binnall MA 15, Deb Mickle MA 2/ MA13 and George and Sandi Colby MA 3. They have gone to many Red Knights events this year and have sold many "Founding Fathers" patches. Founding Father Norm Beausoleil and International Vice President Spike Ostiguy were even nice enough to take some to EuCon 2019 in Germany, where they sold 150 "Founding Fathers" patches.

"Founding Fathers" Patches are now available for purchase through PayPal worldwide, or for U.S. residence you can also mail in your order form with payment. Patches are \$10 each and \$8 from every patch sale goes directly to Red Knights Memorial Hall, to help pay the mortgage.

From June 1 of this year, with the help of many Red Knights purchasing this patch we have donated almost \$9000 to Memorial Hall. Although helping to pay the mortgage is a great thing I would like to take this moment to say "Thank You", to anyone who has already purchased a patch or to anyone who purchases a patch after seeing this post.

By buying this "Founding Fathers" patch and putting on your vest you are making sure that the 11 men that started this club/family back in 1982, Ed Wright, Roger Wentzell, Jon Tripp, Don Parker, Norm Beausoleil, Bob Bourassa, Dave Hunt, Jack Pierce, David Hamilton, Bob Goulet and Colin Mackey will live on forever with the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club, Like they should!

Please contact Bob at [foundingfatherspatches@gmail.com](mailto:foundingfatherspatches@gmail.com) to enquire about ordering your "Founding Fathers" patches or 2019 Yankee Rally challenge coin, the link to the order form is:-

<https://www.facebook.com/download/451521415483085/Founding%20Fathers%20Patch%20order%20form.pdf?av=100002526435664&eav=Afah8qluesSIRqL2ETMSTS7xGoGA6YKX5-qisn4FRiZ7jQ94IAMwirLySNqdtJHIG1k&hash=Acq3pKiubdgtW50I>

# History in the Making

For the first time in the history of the Red Knights the International Convention will take place across the Atlantic in 2020 and will be held in Laon, near Paris, France, Europe.

It promises to be a fantastic Convention so why not come along and meet your European Brothers and Sisters and see what Europe has to offer?...



Registration Form; <https://www.redknightsmc-2020.eu/2020-event-registration.pdf>

## THE FOUNDERS JD BOTTLES STORY

For several years I chased our Brother Rick Oliver, MA 2, to buy a few of his Jack Daniel "Fire Brigade" single barrel bottles. It was a fund raising project that he took on for his chapter. While in Cork, Ireland, at the EuCon Rally of 2018, I discussed the possibility of a Jack Daniel's fundraiser for the mortgage on our recently acquired RK Memorial Hall in Boylston (we'll save that subject for another time and article) with Rick and we came up with the Founders Edition.

Armed with paper, pen, Quicken and Excel, I set off on what would become an adventure nearly of a lifetime. In mid-October, 2018, I ask Rick to order a barrel and we would get going. In mid-November Rick received samples from 3 different barrels and he held a tasting party. He and his cronies settled on the sample from barrel 18-7256 as the best tasting, and that became the infamous "Barrel 1". He then told me I would have to pay for the barrel when it was delivered, that there would be about 250 bottles, at \$41.99/bottle and my head spun when I realized I was going to need around \$10,500.00! Where am I going to get that kind of money? I thought.



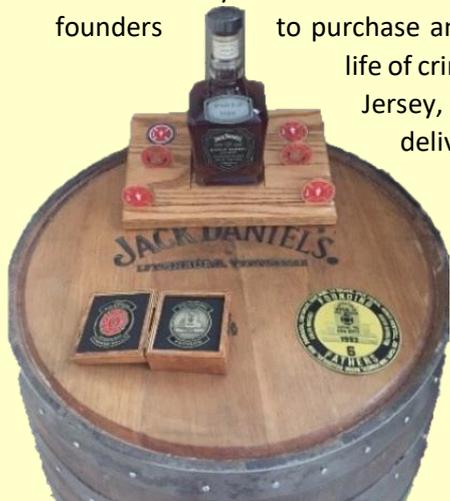
I asked Rick and together we decided to try pre-selling the whiskey, and I said "Great! I hope the membership really trusts me, otherwise I'm going to need to take a loan!" Well, you, the membership, showed me what kind of love we have for each other. On or about November 18 I made a public post on FaceBook that I was doing the fundraiser and we were off to the races. The first bottles were "sold" on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November and by the time the barrel was delivered, December 19, I had sold enough bottles that I was able to pay the full invoice of \$10,833.42! I was a bit worried though, because we were invoiced for 258 bottles (43 cases) but we only received 252 bottles (42 cases). By December 28 we were ready to start etching and numbering the bottles, and once again, Rick "put me on the spot".

Cont;

“How do you want to number the bottles?”, he asked. “1 through 252? 1 of 252 thru 252 of 252? 1 of 500 through 500 of 500?” And I said “Whoa, wait a minute! There’s only 252 bottles, why would I want to number them to 500?” Rick’s reply, dry as can be, was “Well, you may want to do another barrel.” I nearly dropped.

No way I thought, this is too much work. But then Rick told me Jack Daniel’s agreed to give me a barrel, not barrel 18-7256, but a barrel, and it was delivered to Rick’s store not even a week later.

So, now it was time for a road trip! Around the 17<sup>th</sup> of January I headed north from Florida with my pickup to get my barrel and a few items I hadn’t moved to Florida 2 years previously. I made a few phone calls, went to Rick’s, and loaded my barrel and 18 cases of whiskey into the truck. I went back to Boylston and delivered 2 cases for the founders to purchase and set off on a trek home with 96 bottles of Jack to deliver, and so started my life of crime as a bootlegger. Over the next 3 days I stopped in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida delivering bottles to brothers and sisters that agreed to get them to other brothers and sisters. By the time I got home I had only my bottles left!



The trip was so invigorating that I called Rick and said “let’s order another” and so it was to be. On February 13, I took a \$9,000 loan (barrel 2 wasn’t selling as fast and I refused to use the profits of barrel 1 to pay for the second barrel, if it didn’t sell I’d have nothing to show) and on February 19<sup>th</sup> 264 bottles from barrel #18-7260, bottled the same day as the previous barrel, were delivered. We were invoiced for 258 – remember, we were “short” a case in December – the bill was paid and I was now off trying to sell enough bottles to pay the loan and keep the interest costs down. On May 21<sup>st</sup> I made the final payment on the loan and every nickel from then on was pure profit for the house.

Now the fun part! Roger Van Kollenburg, Australia 5, requested when he bought his 3 bottles that 2 be for him and that he wanted to purchase bottle # 1 for the purpose of donating it back for a raffle. Little did he know that the plans had already been made to raffle Bottle #1 at the Yankee Rally and Bottle #343 at convention so I graciously accepted his generous offer.

I began selling raffle tickets the same as the bottles and ticket sales were almost as brisk as bottle sales. I then approached Founder Bob Bourassa with a request to make an oak display stand for the 2 bottles being raffled and I asked each of the living Founders to donate one of their challenge coins for each of the 2 raffles. The prize was now complete!

Distribution in the States was fairly simple, hopscotch bottles from chapter to chapter and everyone was content. Europe and Australia were a whole other challenge. I sold 6 bottles to Australians, and needed to figure out how to get them there. Jason was coming to convention so he could bring his and 1 other’s back, but that left 4. A girl that works with Roger, Gabby Keats, not a Red Knight, came to the states to do the 911 stair climb in NYC. Thanks to some crafty work, I brought his 2 bottles to a Philly layover I had, and handed them off to Keith Mortensen, who met Gabby and delivered the goods. Down to 2, right? Shauna Wilson, Australia 6, was coming to the states and changed plans so she could attend Yankee, and she and Rob took home the last 2 bottles. Australia was all set!



Europe was a different story but with a very similar outcome. Many bottles were purchased and not so many were coming to the states so we had to get creative! I was able to find people to bring all but 8 bottles to Europe between International Events, but those 8, well, they are special. Kathy and I were going to Sheffield, England for the UK/Ireland meeting in April and I told them I would bring the 8 bottles as long as they were willing to pay any duty incurred, to which they all agreed. We got off the plane in Heathrow and stepped right up to the counter where we had “Something to Declare”.



An immigration officer steps out and asks “Can I help you?” to which I responded “I have something to declare!”. I explained about the meeting, firefighters from several countries, motorbikes and yes, finally about the Jack Daniels Fundraiser and how I was delivering 8 bottles to 7 firefighters. So, he says “You have 8 nips?” To which I then replied “No, not nips, 8 - 750ml bottles” and I held my breath for his response.

The gentleman cocked his head slightly, looked at me and said, “8 bottles? Ah, you’re just a touch over the limit. Have a great time!” and a slight smile crossed his lips as I breathed out, said thank you and delivered all 8, duty free, to some very happy Brothers!

Now let’s fast forward to May and my travels toward Yankee Rally. I left St. Pete, Florida, on Wednesday, May 22, with around 8 bottles of Jack to be delivered along my way to Washington, DC, for Rolling Thunder, with stops in north Florida, Georgia and Roanoke, VA. Bottles 1 and 343 were along for the ride.

Bootlegging journey 2 was another fun event. I spent Wednesday night in Tennessee, and Justin Hendrix, TN 7, was very helpful in getting me out of a “Deliverance” situation. Thursday night was spent in Roanoke, VA, where I delivered a bottle to Rudy Hecker, VA 19, just to discover I read my sheet wrong and brought him 1 when he bought 2. (Side note, Mike Brigati, VA 8 and author of the book “Fire Thieves”, volunteered to deliver it to him after Convention – Thanks Mike!) Friday I made it to Culpeper, VA, after a great ride on the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive, escorted by the 1 and only Gary Shiflett, President of VA 5. To my great surprise, VA 5 took me out to dinner AND put me up for the night. Thank you once again to all of you, your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. Saturday was a relaxing day where I met up with my blood brother and some of his USCGA classmates. We rode Rolling Thunder on Sunday and the cap of the evening was that I got to tell lies and bad jokes with one of only two 4 star Admirals of the Coast Guard, the Vice Commandant. On Monday it was off to the races and Boylston, MA, where it All Began!

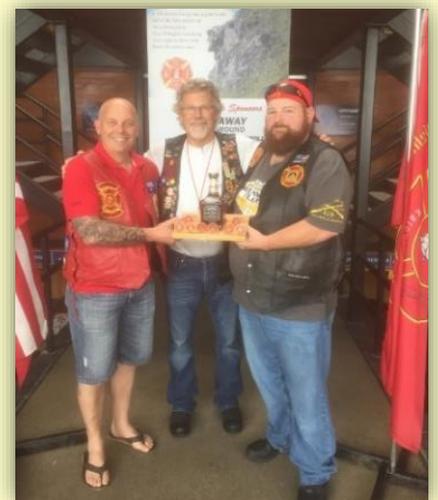
Yankee was a treat. Its theme was “The Founding Fathers” which played right into my fundraiser. Tickets were sold and recorded right up to 5 minutes before the drawing. Thanks to my wife Kathy and Mass 1 president Pete Stone, the records were kept and I was confident we’d know the winner before the night was out. I was asked to give a little “speech” to the membership regarding the beginning days which gave my assistants time to finish recording and accounting.

I had introduced the membership to the Founders present at the Rally and to the family members of Randy Wilson, the gent that owned Randy’s Cycle Shop, where the seed of the Red Knights was first planted.

I asked his son Ken to step up and draw the ticket.

Ken reached in, fished around and then drew ticket number 325007. I knew the ticket series of numbers and knew that that ticket was sold to the first person that bought tickets. Mike Danley, WV 2, had purchased ticket numbers 325001-325015. I called him, put him on speaker phone and told him he won. The crowd roared with glee as he responded with disbelief. His prize was delivered at the International Convention and presented to him by Region 8 Director Jason Collins from Australia 6. So, at this point, Barrel 1, being sold out, had netted \$4,162.80, and the Raffle for Bottle 1 netted \$906.00. Wow, \$5,068.80 was a great start, and we had barely sold tickets for #343.

By mid-July I had actually SOLD OUT, so all that was left was to deliver bottles, figure out how to deliver bottles, and concentrate on selling tickets for the “coveted” bottle #343. The Convention in Lincoln, NH, proved to be the perfect spot. Quite a few people took me up on an offer of the exciting life by becoming bootleggers themselves.



I found a way to deliver all the rest of the bottles and had a heck of a raffle to run. By Friday night I had run out of raffle tickets and had to borrow some from the convention committee.

I packed it up at 19:00 thinking my sales of \$2,120.00 was done, but no. At 10:00 Saturday morning I received a FaceBook message from a brother in Australia asking if it was too late. Never too late, I said, and he bought the last \$20.00 worth of tickets I sold. With the math all done, ticket and bottle sales totalled \$10,797.84. Brother Eric Jock, NY 50, made the most generous donation of \$2.16 to bring the fundraiser to a close at an even \$10,800!!!!



That night, after the Convention Banquet, I was asked to commence the festivities by drawing the ticket for Bottle 343. I invited the Club's new First Lady, Joy Powell, to draw the ticket. She reached in deep, found a corner of the raffle bag and drew ticket number 606297. I rushed to my spreadsheet and announced that Nick "Benny" Hill, an Indiana MAL was the winner.

A friend of his immediately called him and we once again put the winner on speaker phone so the entire audience could hear his reaction. The crowd roared and the love of the club was palpable. Finally, the fundraiser is over, except for writing the check, right?

Wrong. Not 5 minutes later, our new President, Joey Powell, grabbed me by the arm and asked me back to the podium. "What's up?", I ask. Joey says "Benny is on the phone and has asked that you live auction the bottle. He has donated it back!" So, here we go again. Bidding started with a strong. Loud \$500. I eventually have 4 bidders going back and forth, Scott Ryan, who had to give up at \$1,000, and Joy and Joey Powell, who finally gave up when Mark Green, NH 9, offered a whopping \$1,250.00. The final tally? \$12,050 was raised to go directly towards paying down the mortgage of the Memorial Hall. Thank you, each and every one of you for your generosity and trust. This truly a fabulous family!



**Article written by Norm Beausoleil**

# AVOIDING DEHYDRATION WHEN RIDING IN HOT WEATHER:

Dehydration can have many effects on the body that can lead to you losing your concentration and the ability to ride safely, here are some tips to help prevent you becoming dehydrated.

1. Don't drink too much alcohol the night before a ride. It has a diuretic effect which means it causes you to urinate more water than you take in which means you are losing fluid and you can't counteract that by drinking lots of water because most of it will go out in your urine. Obviously, don't drink alcohol while you are riding!
2. Start drinking water as soon as you wake and keep sipping water right up until you get on your bike. It takes about half an hour for water to reach your muscles. Guzzling water just before a ride is not good as it can cause your stomach to cramp.
3. Wear ventilated motorcycle clothing. Leathers may protect you better in a crash, but they create a "microclimate" which impairs your ability to lose heat. As a result you will produce more sweat to decrease your core temp. Instead, wear a flow-through jacket. There are heaps of options on the market. Make sure they have vents in the back so the air flows through. Also, loosen the sleeves so you get plenty of air on your wrists which have a lot of blood vessels close to the skin to effectively cool you down. However, be aware that a flow-through jacket cools you down because it is drying the sweat off your skin which can lead to dehydration. Don't be fooled by your level of coolness as ventilation can also cause you to lose more water, so you still need to keep drinking plenty of water.
4. Don't be tempted to remove your jacket in the heat! Exposed skin may feel cooler, but that's because the sweat is evaporating quicker, but that is just making you more dehydrated. And while your skin feels cool, you'll be tricked into staying in the sun longer which leads to sunburn. That also leads to dehydration because your body needs water to repair and renew damaged skin.
5. Get a Camelbak or other brand of water-dispensing unit so you can continue to take small sips of water while you are riding. I've seen riders with cup holders so they can take slurps from a water bottle. That's obviously not as safe as the hands-free Camelbak option, but anything is better than nothing. Some people don't like Camelbaks because the water gets hot, but the temperature of the water doesn't affect dehydration.

Cont;

6. Stop more often than usual and hang out in the shade or in an air-conditioned cafe. Since you are drinking lots of fluids, you will probably need to stop anyway!
7. While you're stopped, have a coffee, but take it easy. No need to swear off your favourite caramel latte, but avoid excess coffee. That also goes for caffeinated drinks such as Energy Drinks. High levels of caffeine have a diuretic effect just like alcohol.
8. While having a coffee break, avoid having too many sweet cakes, donuts and muffins. Sugar can dehydrate you if it gets to very high levels in your blood. This can happen if you are a diabetic, take certain medications or have an infection or some organ diseases. Sugar causes your kidneys to produce more urine to eliminate the sugar, leading to dehydration. Likewise, don't drink too many sugary drinks. Best to stick to plain water, real fruit juices with no added sugar or drinks such as Sport Drinks that replace salts and minerals lost in sweat.

We've talked a lot about urine and it's important that you monitor its color. It should be light tan or nearly clear in color. If it's dark, you are dehydrated.

Sweat also depletes your body of sodium and if it becomes too low, it can cause many of the same symptoms as dehydration. The average diet probably has enough sodium, but it's good to have a little bit of salt on your meals or drink sports drinks that have a sodium supplement. However, beware of sports drinks with caffeine and sugar.

*Thanks to Bones, GA20's Road Captain for this article.*



# **BOYLSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!**



Recently I reworked the roster of my chapter and got scared, more than half of our members are over the age of fifty and only twenty percent of my members are under forty. In thinking about this, I also thought back to the International Convention in August of this year in New Hampshire. Those who looked around attentively could see about the same picture, only very few young members of the Red Knights were present. Well, one can say now, there were mainly delegates and presidents present, and these are usually more experienced members, so not the youngest anymore. But if I listen and look around in my environment, I notice that the problem of having only older members in the chapters is widespread at least in Europe. I cannot speak for the rest of the world, but I suppose the situation is not much different.

But what can we do about it? How can we find young members who are willing to join the Red Knights? Or to put it another way: Why don't the young firefighters want to come and join us? Could it be that we are too little known or is our hobby, motorcycling even dying out? Probably everything together has an influence. For example, heavy motorcycles are usually too expensive for young people and in addition, some regard them as polluters which also have no use since they are usually used only for pleasure, and finally, the traffic density in the cities is so high that motorcycling is often no longer fun. Another problem, at least in Europe, is the trend towards a consumer society. Collaboration and participation are no longer in demand, many just want to come and enjoy a ready-to-run adventure.

Even the Red Knights are not well known, at least in Switzerland and large parts of Europe. In contrast to other motorcycle clubs, which are often mentioned with (often bad) news in the newspapers and media, the Red Knights are only reported on if they take care of it themselves and then mostly only locally. Admittedly, these are very good reports, but they are rare. Journalists are usually more interested in sensations and sensational stories about misfortunes and crimes and that's exactly what we don't want to deliver. So what do we do?

One possibility would be to refer to our other skills and activities, which we undertake in addition to motorcycling. According to the motto "Do good and talk about it" we can try to report about our charity events and use them as a sales argument to the media.

But, and there is no way around this, we members are the ones most in demand and we must be able to inspire our comrades in the fire brigades to join us and take part in our (second) hobby and we must also show this enthusiasm ourselves. Only in this way can we convince others to do the same and bring young firefighters to the Red Knights.

If we don't manage to lower our average age drastically in the next few years, we will be like the dinosaurs: The Red Knights will die out and there won't be a fiftieth anniversary to celebrate in 2032.

**Boylston, we have a problem!**

Stefan "Sergeant" Streif. President Switzerland 1. Secretary, European Association

# Region 1

(Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York)

## RED KNIGHTS' MEMORIAL TO VETERAN'S CEMETERY

The Memorial Walkway here in the NH State Veteran's Cemetery NHSVC began in August of 2002. The vision back then was for folks to purchase and engrave a brick to pave the walkway with memorial bricks. Since then, the Memorial Walkway has surpassed all expectations.

My Vice President in NH5 is a Vietnam Veteran. 'Blue' was a Navy Corpsman and now works as a registered nurse. A charter member, Blue had a vision to design, create and place a Red Knights memorial at this NHSVC. He argued that after the wars, veterans looking for the next challenge found the local fire departments served the community and were usually taking applications.

Firefighting is one hell of a job. There are some bad days and not just anyone can do this job. Veterans understand. You develop personal coping mechanisms when working aside your brothers and sisters under hostile conditions. Military and firefighters are both trained as individuals but work well together as a team, and understand completion of a job or task is essential.

We have 49 members in NH Chapter 5. Of that 13 are veteran members. That is 26% of our membership. Huge number! So when Blue argued many veterans went into Fire service, he was right. When he argued the Red Knights memorial belongs in a Veterans cemetery, he was right.

Blue single handed raised money for this headstone. He designed it, hammered the suppliers on costs, sought donations, had it engraved, and managed to get the stone delivered in time for the NH convention. His vision to erect a memorial for the Red Knights at the NHSVC has come true and I am here to report Blue made Red Knights International MC Club history at the 2019 NH convention erecting what we believe is an unprecedented Red Knights memorial at a Veterans cemetery.



***We challenge other Chapters  
to follow Blues lead!***

Inscription Reads:

THEY SERVED THEIR COUNTRY TO RETURN HOME TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES. THEY CAME WITH STRENGTH, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT TO SACRIFICE FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS. TO ALWAYS REMAIN

**LOYAL TO OUR DUTY**

2019 Red Knights International President Chris Gadway and NH Convention Chairman Colin Nelson (behind Chris), listen intently to NH Governor Chris Sununu as he reads the Governor's Proclamation to NH5 Blue Kelloway at the memorial dedication by Red Knights to the Veterans Cemetery.



Members of RK NH5 with the Red Knights memorial at NH State Veterans Cemetery.



NH5 VP Blue Kelloway (L) was presented with token of appreciation by NH5 President Doug Butland, NH 5 Quartermaster Rich Provencal (R) at the NH International Convention. Inscription says:

“TO BLUE KELLOWAY. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK TO PUT THIS MEMORIAL TOGETHER. FROM YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE RED KNIGHTS”



NH Red Knights Blue Kelloway (L), and Rich Provencal (R), present a \$620.00 check to NH State Veterans Cemetery Director Shawn Buck. Check was as result of generous donations from Red Knight members who attended the unveiling of the Red Knights memorial placed at NHSVC during the 2019 International convention held in Lincoln N.H.

Jim Voss

Region 1 Reporter

## **NEW YORK 25 RAISE A MASSIVE \$10,000 FOR FIREFIGHTER BURNS UNIT**

President Mark Stark, VP Joe Szot and members of Red Knights NY-25 handed over a \$10,000.00 check to President Dawn Meyer and her Board of Directors of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters Burns Center Fund in front of University Hospital. These funds were raised during their 14th Annual Bike Blessing & Ride back on June 2nd.



In the 14 years of donating money from their rides to them, Chapter NY-25 has raised over \$150,000.00 for the burns center fund.

## **JAMISON, NY 12 JUNIOR MEMBER RAISES MONEY FOR CANCER CHARITY**

Following on from the earlier `Boylston, we've got a problem!` article about the number of older members, it is good news to see a younger member getting involved with his

local chapter and it shows that you are never too young to raise money for charity. NY 12 Junior Member, 9 year old Jamison exemplifies what the Red Knights is all about by raising \$500 for his grandmother's cancer benefit in just seven days!!!

He could not have done it without the support of Red Knights from eight different states.



Thank you all for your help and support, and **WELL DONE JAMISON** the Red Knights family is proud of you for a job well done.

# Region 2

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

We are still looking for a Newsletter Reporter for Region 2.... If you would be interested in becoming the Regional Reporter for this region please contact the editor at [editor@redknightsmc.com](mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com) for information on what is involved.

# Region 3

(Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wisconsin)

***Since our Last newsletter we have had some new direction!***

First off let's have a great big thank you to our Past Region 3 Director- Tim Reinhardt who for 7 years represented Region 3 relentlessly, with dedication, valour, and pride. Without Tim a lot of Region 3 direction would not have gotten to where it is today, Tim has left some big shoes to fill.

Now let's give a warm, hearty Red Knights welcome to our New Region 3 Director- Trey Anderson. Trey is coming in with a lot of new ideas to push Region 3 into the next decade and beyond. Both past and present Region 3 Directors Hail from the Wild Wonderful West Virginia.

## **Now onto Chapter submissions from around our Region:**

Hello from the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club **Indiana Chapter III – Salem, IN**. The RKMCI Chapter III was chartered on October 18, 2018 in the small south-central town of Salem, Indiana. We would like to thank the International Board and Past Region 3 Director Tim Reinhardt for helping us get our charter. We have just reached our 1 Year Anniversary and are looking towards the future.



In our first year we have attended several charity/benefit rides for the local community, donated to the local Patriot's Day Charity and the Making Noise for Toys for the Kids ride. At the State level we rode in and attend visitor's day at the Hoosier Burn Camp Ride from the Carmel IN Fire Department to Camp Tecumseh in Brookstone IN. At the Regional level we attend the inaugural

Bootleggers Rally hosted in West Virginia where we truly found out what the Red Knights family is all about.



We are excited to grow our chapter as well our state, region, and international family and plan to attend many rides and events in 2020 in the hope of meeting all of our Red Knight brothers and sisters along the way. If you have any questions for the Red Knights Indiana Chapter III please feel free to contact President Max T. Gamble at [in3@redknightsmc.com](mailto:in3@redknightsmc.com)



# OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND INDIANA

## Indiana Chapter IV highlights of the year:

Formed in March of 2019 from various Red Knights members and a few new ones to promote the brotherhood further into the northern central western region of Indiana. We were formed with 7 and now at current 18 members.

Chapter IV was requested as guest of honor at a 9/11 tribute hosted by Nappanee which a donation of their proceeds was to be donated to Hoosier Burn Camp.

Chapter IV Represented Indiana at the Illinois State Picnic and met with the new Region 3 Director.



Also present at the picnic were the next generation of Red Knights as well as some great new friends and a trio of chefs. We represented Indiana at the Delmarva and Ocean City bike week in September. Met up with many different chapters that were present.



**Illinois State will be the Bootlegger Rally for 2020, the dates are September 3rd-6th, 2020** registration is now open on Bootlegger Facebook page.

Hope to see everyone there!



# EXCITING TIMES!!

August of 2019 was an exciting time for Red Knights from across the country and internationally. Beginning with the annual convention in New Hampshire and ending on a high note in the mountains of West Virginia. This August brought to the Red Knight's a new rally that held its own with its well-established legendary patriarchs; the Yankee, Dixie, and Western Rally's. Region 3's first annual Bootleggers Rally hosted by the West Virginia State Association.

Starting Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup> Red Knights began rolling into little known Charleston WV, located in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. Thursday kicked off the festivities with a cookout and pool

party. International may have said no mechanical bulls, but that never stopped a Hillbilly from thinking their way around something. With a little redneck ingenuity, we came up with a way to have some good ol' fashion fun that evening. For those who want to dig deep into the rally group page, there you'll find pictures of those who gathered round having fun, and just maybe even a video of the newly elected Region 3 director, Trey



Anderson, basking in glorious victory after going head to head with a bull in the pool of the hotel. The weekend was only getting started and it was already off with a splash.

Starting Friday many of those who had joined the rally spent the day exploring the local area. One group



headed West and ended up finding a bike they couldn't live without and took home a beautiful new Harley from Black Sheep Harley in Huntington. While they were signing papers, another group ventured up along the Ohio river to visit the infamous Mothman Museum and statue and then stopped along the way back at Guy Fieri's from Diners, Drive-In's, and Dive favorite hotdog joint, Hillbilly Hotdogs, for a quick lunch before heading back to Charleston for the much anticipated biker games. From the famous WV

slow race, to a fun game involving skiing along to "Do Wah Diddy", there was even a duck mask thrown in for good measure during a game we like to call "Date Night". After all the riding, scavenger hunting, and games, everyone gathered inside for a BBQ dinner and live music from the band. Already people were talking about how much fun everyone was having. Region 3 could have stopped there, and everyone would have gone home happy, but it was just a taste of what Appalachian beauty and hospitality we had to offer.



Cont;



Saturday morning found the sun rising on a beautiful day, and over 100 motorcyclists set out to explore the New River Gorge. Riding along the Kanawha River and curving their way historic Rt. 60 to the New River Gorge Bridge, the world's second largest single span arch bridge.



From there they rode "The Talon" an 18-mile curvy stretch of road that gets its name from being similar to Tennessee's famous Tail of the Dragon; members got to experience more of the beauty the Appalachian Mountains. After a quick lunch at Hawk's Nest State Park, everyone headed back to Charleston for an evening full of fun, and entertainment.

Before the final evening's festivities began, a Region 3 meeting was held to discuss the future of the Bootleggers Rally. Illinois State Associate stepped up and will be taking the reins for 2020. Then commenced the festivities. In a ballroom filled with red, black, and gold balloons, RK members representing 30 chapters, 14 states, and 4 regions gathered for a large dinner, raffles, and comradery. Bob Binall and his two wives were there to celebrate with us and raise money selling patches. That night with Bob, Zippy, and the generosity of so many, the WV State Association was able to raise over \$3300 for the Memorial house in Massachusetts. The rest of the evening was spent dancing, telling stories, and having an all-around wonderful time with those we are proud to call family.



The first annual Bootleggers Rally will be one talked about for years to come, and Illinois has some big boots to fill, but WV is confident that we are leaving her in good hands. We encourage anyone and everyone to attend the 2020 Rally that will be held in Peoria, IL. On behalf of the WV State Association we want to thank everyone who attended this year, and we greatly hope you were able to have fun at our little shindig. Oh, and "one last thing" if you run into Joel Nelson, better known as Hambone, ask him what happens when you're the last person to register. Best wishes to all our Red Knights family - West Virginia State Association Rally Committee.



# RED KNIGHTS ILLINOIS 14

As our first submission, I wanted to share a little about our chapter, Illinois 14. Our chapter is very family centered, over the past 6 or 7 years has grown to include many younger families with small kids. Since our humble beginnings about 13 years ago, a few of our first “junior members” have become parents themselves. Including Actives, Associates, Social & Juniors, we currently have 60 members on our roster. We often have random cookout or birthday party invites extended to the whole chapter. Sporadic “Let’s ride today” texts & emails pop up throughout our warmer weather. Collectively, we are a close family & always honor the brother & sisterhood of Red Knights MC.



What we do to keep our membership involved: We have our monthly business meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri evening & we plan a “Dinner Ride” the first weekend. Dinner rides are usually Fri evenings or a Sunday brunch. Must admit, many of us enjoy a Sunday Bloody Mary option. Everyone suggests restaurants to visit. We plan further distance ones in warm weather & closer to home for the cold months, then carpool in the Cages for those one. We have a few designated meeting points depending of the direction, meet & ride together to the dinner location.

Participation ranges from 6 to 24 average, depending on who is available.

We also have a few regular annual events happen. Our biggest one is our annual fundraiser ride – Ride 4 the Rescuers, which we started our 2<sup>nd</sup> year. We use this ride along with a gun raffle to raise money for 2 causes. We started this to help injured or Fallen Firefighters within the counties & co-workers of our membership. When we hear of an incident, we try to get a small check asap to the family, just a bit to get them through those first few days when something tragic happens. Our next cause we support is Camp I Am ME. This is a summer camp for burn victim children, free to those families. We learned of this camp through a local family whose youngest son attended there. We had made him an Honorary member that year. His family become involved with our chapter. The next year, we had an Associate spot become available, so his father joined & brought the whole family in as Socials. They have been a blessing to our chapter in many ways – doing a great job as Secretary & Quarter Master spots for several terms. Each year we have a group of members ride out to Camp I Am ME to present the check (averaging \$5000) in person and get to meet with the kids and families who attend. Our very own attendee, Nic Colbert has been approved to work as a Camp Counsellor.



We hold an annual Picnic in August to celebrate the chapter anniversary & a Holiday party. We also help other organizations at their events. We assist parking & run the first 2 stops for the Kankakee County Ride For Life Cancer Benefit. We work the Beer Tent for our local Phantom Harley Dealership at their Sept. Open House event. Many other years we have assisted the Marine Vets Toys for Tots Ride & Toy Drive, per invite.

# SPECIAL MOMENTS FROM OUR PAST RIDING SEASON

Congratulations to Corday & Jamie Lawrence on their summer wedding & birth of daughter, Savannah. Proud grandparents are our Pres. Brad Clutz & wife, Roberta. Miss Roberta also completed her Motorcycle Endorsement so she can ride solo next season.

`Ride 4 the Rescuers` had over 100 bikes (near 150 attendees), rode about 80 miles, 4 stops and a great finale stop with an amazing pork chop dinner cooked by our members – Chaplain Dave can lead a great grilling team! Between the Ride & Gun raffle we earned enough to easily maintain our Camp I am ME \$5000 donation and a few other smaller donations for Fallen & injured Firefighters.

Some of our members attended the International Convention and others rode out to the First Annual Region 3 Bootlegger Rally held in Charleston, WV. Some brave souls did both! Lol



Illinois State Association volunteered to host the Bootlegger Rally 2020. Location just announced for Peoria, IL. Check out the Bootlegger Rally 2020 page on FB for more info & updates. West Virginia kicked it off pretty good, left some big shoes to follow. We will do it proud!

Chapter IL 14 hosted our Illinois State Association Picnic in September. Our brigade of Chaplain Dave, Big John & J-Dub, manned the grill, along with Potluck sides donated by all. Since about half of the State board is currently made up of IL 14

members, we are helping as much as we can.

On a sad note, after a fatal accident, we had to say farewell to another one of our former members, Ryan McBride. Previously, he had been an Active member with us for over 4 yrs.

Let us all remember to reach out to one another, sincerely and often. Stay in touch, especially those we don't get to see as much in the colder weather. Also, please remember to reach out and ask for help or a chat when you feel the need. We are a Family here.

Keep the spirit of Brotherhood & Sisterhood going.

Till next time, enjoy your holiday season.

Scarlett Mullikin – Reporter RK IL 14



## FROM PENNSYLVANIA:

We also have a special shout out for a very deserving Member at Large from the great state of Pa.

The Pennsylvania State association received a letter in regard to his act of selflessness and honor to our Veterans. Job Well Done **John Rudzianski**, you have represented the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club with honor:

Good afternoon,

I am sending you this as a thank you: Once again one of your red knights came thru for The Montrose Business and Professional Women.

John Rudzianski Jr. is the greatest he comes early and stays well after all others have left.

John has never once said No when asked to help with this event.

This year we fed vets at no cost to them as well as citizens of Montrose.

Please pass this along to whom ever handles this. Pictures are enclosed as well as totals served to follow.

Thank you  
Montrose BPW president



## ALSO FROM PENNSYLVANIA

On July 29<sup>th</sup> PA38 hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual PA State Association Picnic and had members from 9 chapters across the state attend.

Some member came early and enjoyed Friday evening at the local Harley Davidson dealership's event, where they had live music, food and a large car show. Saturday morning our State Chaplin Cal Hommer held our bike blessing, after words several members left for a day of riding and ended up at the Kinzua State Park and Skywalk. At 3pm we all met back at the Friendship Hose Company, in DuBois, PA for a awesome dinner. We raffled a bottle of Jack Daniel's off that came from the Memorial House Fundraiser, Rodger Young PA31 was the lucky winner. We all had a wonderful day/weekend. Thank You to PA38 for that.



Looking forward to 2020 Picnic being hosted by PA32 in the Jersey Shore, PA area-July 18th, 2020 more info to follow on the PA State Association Facebook page.

Amy Gilliland  
PA State Association Secretary

## FROM OHIO:

RKMC OH-13 participated in a ride on October 20, 2019 that was sponsored by the Springfield, OH Highway Hikers MC. (see attached flyer). It is an annual event that they sponsor for the Salvation Army Toys for Tots program. This was the 41st annual ride that draws huge crowds for a GREAT CAUSE (KIDS). This year there were 3358 bikes involved in the event that goes from the VFW in Medway OH (Highway Hikers Club House) to the Clark County (Ohio) fairgrounds. It is a 25 mile ride that if you were stationary it would take 55+ minutes for all the bikes to pass you riding in a staggered formation. Quite a sight to see and participate in. This is the 4th year that RKMC OH-13 has participated in this event. To ride, you bring a toy for the kids and the Salvation Army collects them at the fairgrounds and distributes them in the Clark County, Oh.



## OHIO 6 CONTINUE TO GROW

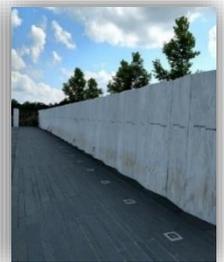
It is always fantastic news to hear that our family is still growing and Red Knights Ohio Chapter 6, who were formed in March of this year is slowly continuing to increase their member numbers. Their riding season in Northeast Ohio had a late start due to the weather but their chapter pre-planned several weekday and weekend rides with a couple overnight stays and they continued with their monthly meetings as soon as the weather improved.

The photos here are of their recent visit to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA.

They also had an overnight ride to Letchworth State Park in New York.

It has been a busy summer for some members with extended vacations out West and to various vacation spots.

The chapter is planning on adding more dinner rides and trips to interesting destinations to keep the interest of our membership.



Once again, I hope you enjoy our exploits around Region 3.

Stay Tuned for next newsletter and REMEMBER: 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Region 3 Bootlegger Rally will be held in Illinois September 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> and will be another one to remember!! Registration information can be found on Bootlegger 2020 Facebook page.

Hope to see you there! As always, Ride safe and Ride Often and Have a safe and Happy Holidays and A Happy Safe New Year!!

`Maverick` Jim Garner, Region 3 Reporter, Indiana Ch IV President.

# Region 4

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



**GA26--2019** has been a full year for Chapter 26. In January we celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a family dinner. We had a group outing to watch the Macon Mayhem, our local semi-pro hockey team. February was just as busy with fun rides (looking for Doc Holidays Grave), benefit rides and planning our annual benefit ride. We joined a wonderful group called Bikers for JoJo. JoJo is a beautiful little girl with a horrible disease who loves motorcycle and bikers. We have had the best times traveling with her picture and sharing them on her FB page. Some of us were even able to meet up with members of TX 7 for dinner in Atlanta! In March one of our own, Louis Gomez, completed his iron but ride – 21 hours and 1056 miles from Georgia to Texas.

A group of us traveled to Alabama 14 for their benefit ride April 14<sup>th</sup> and they returned the visit by attending our annual benefit ride on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Our ride was a huge success as we were able to raise \$2600 for MS Center in Atlanta.



Dixie Rally May 2019 – this was an awesome event; several members were able to go. We even made a side trip to New Orleans and the Pitbull Rescue featured on Pitbulls and Parolees.

Baseball was on the agenda for June. We had over 15 members attend a Macon Bacon game. It was hot but the food was free and our team won!

July 4<sup>th</sup> caught some of our members standing on the I-75 overpass waving American Flags. It was the most patriotic



and heartwarming experience. We also got to see giant American Flag made of hay bales! In August we had another benefit ride – a Bug Run. We were able to raise \$308 toward our Tip Ride in November and got eat fabulous steak at Benton Lees!



In September a few members got to spend quality time in North Carolina and Tennessee. The amazing rides (Rattler, Sidewinder, Devils Drop) were thrilling. The Blue Ridge Parkway was awe inspiring. Later in September some of our members had the honor of leading the semi-truck carrying the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall to The Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins Ga. In October GA 26 was well represented at Biketoberfest in Daytona.



November has also been exciting. We had our annual Tip Ride where we pick a random restaurant for lunch and tip the waiter or waitress the "tip" money we have collected all year. We were able to tip our waitress \$700 for Christmas. We found out later that her mother had just returned to work after suffering a heart attack and money was tight for them.



We have been very blessed this year. Retirements, new jobs, promotions, marriages and babies, even a Fire Fighter of the year for Georgia – Joe LeMaster Ga Chapter 26 VP. Grand Tour Patches, benefit rides and monthly family dinners. 2019 is not over yet, we still have several things planned for December. Christmas parade and Chapter Christmas Party. Not to mention we are planning a trip to Sturgis, Dixie Rally in New Orleans, Yankee Rally, and our annual benefit ride. We cannot wait to see what 2020 brings!

**NC6** Members gathered on November 24th for the club's annual shopping day event in support of Carolina Coast Harley Davidson's Toys for Tots ride event on Dec.1st in Wilmington NC. NC6 enjoys an annual lunch meetup and shopping expedition so that toys can be delivered to CCHD before the Toys for Tots ride event. NC6 also purchases kids bicycles for the event every year.



**VA8** Virginia 8 started the year off with their annual New Year's Day ride. This year the chapter rode to Waverly, VA to the Virginia Diner.



April the chapter enjoyed their annual cookout at fellow member Tommy Herman's home of historical fire equipment and memorabilia.

May 9 members enjoyed the Dixie Rally in Gulport, MS. A wonderful time was had by all! Members from Virginia 8 & Virginia 5 take a trip to New Orleans with a stop to check out that beautiful view.

June VA8 along with Virginia Chapters 2, 5, and 12 all attended the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service escorting several families to include LODD Lt. Brad Clark's Family. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Biker Babe Photoshoot in conjunction with Vision of Rose Photo, LLC raising funds for the Christmas Angel Program and MCV Evans-Haynes Children's Burn Unit.

August Members Danny Ashton, Mike Hickam, and Chapter President Larry McClung went down to NC8 to show their support for their Poker Run. August also they held The Annual Chris Davidson Memorial Ride...Chapter members use this ride to reflect on those we have lost. Several members also made a very quick trip to Lincoln, New Hampshire for the International Convention to help honor one of their own, Michael "Red Writer" Brigati receive the Perry Carter Award.



September VA8 hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual 9/11 ride on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. They had their largest turn out yet of 100+ participants, to include chapters (VA1, VA2, VA5, VA6, and NC8). Their ride raised funds for two local firehouses and the MCV Evans-Haynes Children's Burn Unit. The chapter started

their ride in Prince George, VA at Prince George Volunteer Fire Department Co 1 and ended at Namozine Volunteer Fire Department in Dinwiddie, VA.

The event also had a silent auction and a live auction where a custom made Axe was done donated by John Lunstrum of Long Beach, MS and a custom wooden flag donated by David Jimenez of Dinwiddie, VA. The ride and auctions raised over \$3,000. Next year's ride will be held Sunday, September 13, 2020, please consider joining us.



October Jamie Hawkins Ride raised funds for a young man that needed money to help with medical bills, who battles Medulloblastoma Cancer.

November brought an annual trip to Corolla, NC for fun, fellowship, relaxation, and food with not only VA8 members, but this year VA5 joined in the fun as well. Michael "Red Writer" Brigati and Danny "Duck" Ashton also completed their Red Knight Rockers.

Chapter 8 members are looking forward to 2020 and hope to meet more fellow RK brothers and sisters along the way.

# Region 5

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

After Brian Byrnell stepped down from the Team of Reporters we are looking for a Newsletter Reporter for Region 5.... If you would be interested in becoming the Regional Reporter for this region please contact the editor at [editor@redknightsmc.com](mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com) for information on what is involved.

# Region 6

(Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah)

## **Red Knight Brothers and Sisters:**

Looks like since my last article, and I do apologize for missing the last newsletter deadline, life gets busy and I overlooked doing it.

In Region 6 we have had growth with a few new Chapters, within the past few months. I would like to welcome AZ Chapter 2 Congratulations to Charles Prince for getting them up and running, Texas has also had the addition of two new Chapters TX Chapter 13 in China Texas, West of Beaumont, President Steve Morgan, and TX Chapter 10 in Rosenberg TX Southwest side of Houston, President Jahbari Raggette.



*Members of the new Texas 13*

It seems that some of our Brothers and Sisters are having to winterize their bikes and store them away until the spring riding season, down here in Texas the weather is just cooling off enough so we can actually enjoy our winter season. Please remember to dress for the slide not the ride, with colder weather dress in layers to block the wind but not impede your ability to handle your bike. As always watch out for each other and those crazy cage drivers that always seem to say the words "I didn't see him".

## **Upcoming rides and events in the Region 6 area:**

On April 18 2020, The Oklahoma Red Knights assist with this event in Conjunction of Oklahoma Wind and Fire, Texas Red Knights have been riding up to show support for this event, This will be the 25th anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing the annual ceremony will be on Sunday April 19th at the OKC Bombing Memorial, the site of the bombing that showed the Oklahoma Spirit and determination. Many of the Oklahoma Wind and Fire and Oklahoma Red Knights were first responders to this incident and were there for several weeks of the incident recovering the victims of this tragedy. I was also called into respond, so this ride is near and dear to my heart and my brothers and sisters in Oklahoma.

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Oklahoma City Oklahoma Ride To Remember for First Responders Poker Run April 17 2020 Margarita Island party, Hosted by Wind and Fire MC, Papa's Leather, Anheuser Busch, The Downed Bikers Association, Ride Oklahoma Charities, Red Dirt Jeeps, Ok Chive and the Lutheran Church of our saviour are pleased to announce the 2020 ride benefiting the Oklahoma Police officers memorial the Oklahoma Firefighters memorial and the Emergency Responders Assistance Program.

April 18, 2020 Staging will begin Saturday morning at Papa's leather on NW 23rd and college 0900, riders out at noon. Ride ends at Margarita Island with raffles and prizes awarded throughout the evening.

On April 25, 2020 The Texas Red Knights will be having the first annual escorted ride. It is the Texas Red Knights Shriners Ride for the Kids.

It will start in Katy TX & end in front of the Shriners Hospital with the presentation of a check to the Hospital.

Please look for updates on the Texas Red Knights State Association Facebook page.

And as always if you have any articles, rides or events if you would please email them to me I would be glad to include them in the next newsletter. We have several RKMC that travel and would like to join in and support you when in your area.

Keep the Shiny side up and the rubber side down.

Chuck `Roadrunner` Matthews

TX chapter 10 V.P.

TX State Assoc. V.P.

RKMC Region 6 Reporter

## **IS A BAD DAY RIDING BETTER THAN ANY DAY OF NOT RIDING?**

On Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, Brother Larry Nunez and I set off on our motorcycles to attend the Red Knights International Convention in Lincoln, New Hampshire. I officially travelled 3914.5 miles round trip from Texas City, Texas to Boylston, Massachusetts which was the furthest north I made it to on this trip. Larry and I left Texas and rolled into Boylston on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. For the most part, we rode with hot but good weather, however, there was one time in Virginia, where we had to pull over at a rest stop, due to heavy rain and hail. Funny thing is that the weather band on my bike would come on and warned me that an impending storm was coming with hail. The weather band would interrupt my radio with warnings about such and such counties of Virginia but I didn't know where those counties were in regards to where I was!! Larry suggested we pull over, and just in the nick of time before the bottom fell out. We also rode through Newark, New Jersey and was able to see the New York, New York skyline which is rather impressive. Did you know they charged us \$15.00 a piece to cross the George Washington Bridge that separates Fort Lee, New Jersey and the Washington Heights area of New York over the Hudson River? Fifteen Dollars...Highway robbery!!

Cont;

We met up with Michael Sullivan and the three of us spent Wednesday night at the Red Knight memorial home in Boylston. I recommend, I encourage...if you have not been able to go visit, stay and walk the memorial...put it on your bucket list right now.

Family matters brought me to Boston's Logan airport and I flew back home that Thursday afternoon (August 22<sup>nd</sup>). On Saturday (August 24<sup>th</sup>), I flew back to Boston with the sole purpose of getting myself and my bike back home as quick as possible. After a \$73.00 2-day parking fee, I left Boston airport around 3 that afternoon but I didn't make it that far before it got too dark and I'm not a fan of riding the highways that I am unfamiliar with once it gets too dark to see the critters running around the roads.

On Sunday, I took off from Scranton, Pennsylvania and 851 miles later rolled into Gadsden, Alabama staying just off Interstate 59. It was a beautiful Sunday with nice cool weather and no rain and the traffic was rolling along at speeds everywhere I went. I rode again until dark...about 13 hours on the bike including stops for gas, water and lunch. I calculated that I averaged 65 miles an hour on the mostly 70 MPH interstate. . A very sweet day of riding.

Now let's get to the day in question. Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. I am a simple 11 hour ride from home. Google clocks it at 741 miles from Gadsden, Alabama to Texas City, Texas. As usual I get up and turn on the TV to watch the local news as I get myself ready. The weather forecast says it's raining in Birmingham, Alabama, which is the direction I am heading (southwest on I 59) but it is fast moving to the north and will be clear with only scattered showers the remainder of the day. I thought I would eat a quick breakfast and by the time I get to Birmingham the storm and rain showers will have passed. Wrong. I think it rained the whole time I was riding through Alabama.

I stopped before hitting Birmingham to put on my rain gear. It was a manageable rain (if there is such a thing) not the kind of rain that you need to go duck and cover but I had to slow down to 55, sometimes 60 miles an hour. Travelling around Birmingham on I-459 the traffic slowed down to a crawl due to multiple wrecks on both sides of the highway. I crept through the traffic adding at least 30 minutes to my journey and on a sweeping curve just outside Meridian, Alabama there was a wreck where two logging trucks had lost their loads of cut pine trees. My wife, Cindy, who was following me on the App Life 360, mentioned later to me that I travelled 3 miles...in One hour... Yea...only 3 miles in 60 minutes in the drizzling rain, till I got clear of the wreck. As I got moving again heading down I-59 in my southwest direction, I was amazed at how many cars had gone off the freeway. I know I passed, two cars in the ditches not more than a mile apart.

I have always told everyone, that people do not know how to drive, and this is even truer, when it is raining!! As I got into Slidell, Louisiana I had to pull over due to not being able to see. The storm going through there was blinding, even cars and trucks were moving off the road so I found a gas station and waited 30 minutes until it blew over.

Cont;

I headed west on the I-12. Now if you are familiar with this part of the Interstate, when you get to Baton Rouge the highway turns into I-10 and it goes straight into Houston, Texas. However, the I-10 was closed between Baton Rouge and Lafayette, Louisiana due to a major wreck on that part of I-10 and both the East bound lanes and the west bound lanes were closed and a detour was set up. The wreck occurred between those two towns on the stretch known for its 20 mile stretch of bridged swamp land. Hundreds of cars, trucks, motorcycles and 18 wheelers are being detoured North on LA 415, then West on State Hwy 190. Now that is not too bad of a road (LA-490), but it had several small, one stop light, towns along the route. Imagine all those vehicles stopping at each town and the wait time to finally get through each town.

I finally made it to I-49 and headed south into Lafayette, from there I got back on I-10 west heading back home. So, my usual One hour trek from Baton Rouge to Lafayette, took me over two hours and 15 minutes. The only good thing about that part of the trip was that it finally stopped raining and I was able to peel off my rain gear at one of those stop lights. By now, it has gotten dark on me. I know, I know...what about "I don't ride after it gets to dark" ...but by gosh, I was going to make it home...and I am a lot more familiar with this part of Louisiana and into Texas on I-10 to my exit home. So, I trek on.

Then comes Beaumont, Texas. Construction brings the traffic to a major slow down and my usual 30 minute ride from Beaumont to Winnie, Texas along I-10 takes over an hour. I finally make it home...it is almost 11:30 at night. My 11 hour, 741 mile trip has taken me 16 and half hours, and yes, my trip meter reads 740 miles. I get home, tired, wet, and hungry. I figure I was in the rain at least 9 of those hours.

So, back to my question. Is a bad day riding better than a day of not riding at all? The answer is YES!!

Oscar De Leon  
President, RKMC Texas 4

## **ARIZONA IS BACK ON THE RED KNIGHTS MAP WITH A NEW CHAPTER, WELCOME ARIZONA 2!**

After 2 Years of hard work the new Chapter was finally chartered in September 2019 to become the only Red Knights Chapter in the State of Arizona.

After learning that from 2001 - 2008 there was an Arizona Chapter 1 in the Cave Creek Area which had apparently disbanded, they tried to contact some of the original members of Arizona 1 to see if they would be interested in joining the new members in order to re-establish Arizona Chapter 1, unfortunately they were unable to reach any of them. As a result of this they were granted Arizona Chapter 2 status.

Arizona 2 are located in Phoenix and have members throughout the area including Phoenix, Glendale, Chandler, Goodyear, Wickenburg and they currently have 8 Active/Charter members and 1 Social member.

### **The Chapter Officers are.**

PRESIDENT:	Charles (Chuck) Prince (pictured right)
VICE-PRESIDENT	Roger Aguilar
SECRETARY	Tim Franz
TREASURER	Ed Lyons
RIDE CAPTAIN	Jerry Randolph



Arizona 2 are looking to continue to expand their membership and hope that in the future they will be able to create and encourage additional chapters to form within Arizona and in time establish a State Association.

Their new President points out that none of this would have been possible without the assistance of Region 6 Director Allen Aurich, International Executive Secretary Jack Jarvis and Treasurer Scott Ryan.

Charles `Chuck` Prince said, "I can't thank these individuals enough for all of the information and assistance they provided to help establish this Chapter".

## **Region 7**

(European Chapters)

**DON'T FORGET THAT FRANCE 3 WILL BE  
HOSTING THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN 2020.  
NEAR PARIS, FRANCE.**

**Registration Form; <https://www.redknightsmc-2020.eu/2020-event-registration.pdf>**

# GERMANY 2 CELEBRATE THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

How time flies!

It's been ten years since 15 firefighters and women decided to set up a chapter of the Red Knights MC in Wolfsburg. On July 10<sup>th</sup> 2009, it was finally official and they were able to hold the founding certificate in their hands!



A lot of time has passed since then and the chapter has experienced a few not so beautiful moments as well as some really beautiful ones.

But they did not let themselves get down during the less beautiful times and their family has been strengthened by them, the members of the chapter proved time and time again that they are on the right track.

On the occasion of their 10th Anniversary, they are organising the eighth EuCon Rally (European Convention Rally) which took place in Wolfsburg in September, for the first time in history there will be more than 300 participants!

Already on July 10<sup>th</sup>, their founding day anniversary, the chapter toasted their 10th birthday.

To honor the present members for their many years of membership Germany 2 President Micha and their Vice President Klausen presented members with the following corresponding pins:

## 10 Year Membership

Daniela Finkenauer

Günter Hackspiel

Gabi Hellmund

Klaus Hellmund

Martin Kropf

Michael Orth

Michael Pförtner

## 5 Year Membership

Florian Paschke



We are looking forward to many more years with the Red Knights family and can't wait to toast to ten years of Red Knights MC Germany 2 together with our guests, at the EuCon in September!



# European Convention RALLY 2019

## Wolfenbüttel, Germany



In September Germany 2 hosted the Red Knights European Convention Rally for the second time, the two years of planning and lots of hard work paid off in the end and they were able to welcome a total of 326 Red Knights from all over Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherland, Norway, Switzerland) and also the USA accepted our invitation and made the weekend unforgettable.

On Friday nearly everybody made their way to the event area nearby at the natural lake „Fümmelsee“. The guests booked different options for their overnight stay (group tent, pension, hotel). The challenge for us was, that the pensions and hotels were in different distances to the event area. So we organized some busses for the weekend and a mobile phone with a special number to call, if the guest needed a shuttle, so that everybody would get safely back to their beds, when leaving the party.

On Saturday there was a ride out with nearly 200 motorcycles through the landscape of Wolfenbüttel which was very impressive and in the evening, after the dinner, there were some official speeches and the handover of the European Association Flag for the next years EuCon Rally took place. New members were included in the big Red Knights family and Founding Father Norm Beausoleil offered a special kind of whiskey bottle for an auction. Of course there was a big party afterwards, with a short performance by two belly dancers.

During the Saturday night presentation Micha, Germany 2's President, received many gifts from the chapters in attendance and our International President Chris Gadway was accompanied on stage by the International Vice President Spike Ostiguy and took the opportunity to present the European Treasurer and MAL Representative Tom Van Der Kley with the President's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Red Knights.



After the breakfast on Sunday everybody took the road home, with a backpack of special memories from the biggest EuCon Rally so far.

Germany 2 send their thanks to all present for taking the time to attend and they thank all those that supported them throughout the planning period and during their party weekend. Without you all this event wouldn't have become the successful Rally that it was in the end,

“JUST AWESOME”



# IT HAS BEEN AN ENJOYABLE 2019 FOR ENGLAND 2

After hosting the UK/Ireland meeting in April, England 2's year continued at a pace with them assisting the County's Police and local Blue Knights to marshal hundreds of bikes at the City's annual Children's Hospital Easter Egg run, followed by them visiting Belgium 2 for their Gathering of the Knights weekend near Brugge in June and then attending an Emergency Services Day at Sandtoft Airfield in Humberside a few days later.



*England 2 in Ypres*

During their Belgium visit they visited the Flanders Field Museum in Ypres on the Friday before partying at Belgium 2's clubhouse. After sleeping off the previous night's activities Saturday was a late start and several members rode to Ostende to visit the World War 1 and 2 open air museum where the German sea defences and tunnels can be experienced.



*The Open Air Museum, Ostende*

Saturday night's party was held at Oostkamp's fire station where entertained was provided by a live band.



On Sunday England 2 members spent a few hours socialising at the fire station before riding to the Bikers' Loft Café in Ostende where they were again treated to a performance by an excellent live band before returning to Zeebrugge for the overnight

ferry back to the UK. Five days later members retraced their steps to ride from South Yorkshire back to Humberside's Sandtoft Airfield to take part in an Emergency Service day.



*Emergency Service day*

With the stand set up and ready to go by 0900 hrs they waited for visitors to arrive at 1000 hrs and spent the day talking to visitors and firefighters from the Humberside area and handed out flyers in an effort to promote the Red Knights.

England 2's monthly ride outs have continued throughout the year despite some bad weather, they are proud of the fact that they have had at least one organised ride every month since January 2012. Their longest trip was to the Eucon Rally in Germany in September.

# DENMARK 1 and MALs RAISE MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

Red Knights in Denmark demonstrated that not only Chapters can raise money for charity as proven in August when two Members at Large (MAL) from Doerverden (Lower Saxony/Germany) and two members of Denmark 1 started a fundraiser for a children's hospice.



The participants of the "Schnitzelrun" not only came from the region around Doerverden but also from Dinslaken (Germany 6), which is situated 300 km away from Doerverden, from Cuxhaven (Germany 16) and from Bielefeld (MAL). One member from Germany 22 even popped in just to have a quick coffee riding 120km to get there before he had to leave again.

The participants of this "Schnitzelrun" had to visit 13 local fire brigades in the borough taking part in a quiz by answering several questions concerning the brigades such as "How high is the tower of the fire brigade in Hülse?" or "How many aid organizations are located at the fire brigade in Rethem?".

Food and drinks were provided by members of the youth fire brigades at several stops.

Last stop on the "Schnitzelrun" was "Westen" where all participants arrived safely after the 140 km ride.

The award ceremony for the winner of the quiz took place in the presence of the Mayor, who praised and thanked the organizers for their commitment to the good cause.

In the end the entry fee minus the main prize went to the children's hospice Löwenherz, which was happy to receive a donation of 353 euros.



Conclusion of the event: Thanks to the local press for ensuring that the Red Knights MC and the fundraising campaign were positively publicized to many people and it proves again that even a small group can achieve a lot.



I am happy to pass on the thanks of the children's hospice to the Red Knights.

Joerg "Höffi" Hoefken,  
RK Denmark 1



# BELGIUM 2 RAISE MONEY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AT THEIR `#GATHERING2019`

It has become an annual June tradition for Belgium 2 to organize their Charity motorcycle ride and once again they did so over a weekend in June, every year they choose a good cause to which the full proceeds of the motorcycle meeting will go.

This year they decided to choose 'De Bevertjes' again, last year they helped them by raising money to expand their 'snoezel' room. 'Snoezelen' is a combination of cuddling, wellness and feathering, it is a process of discovery and stimulation, but also of relaxing, unwinding and enjoying. It stimulates different senses and increases the well-being of children with disabilities, this year Belgium 2 wanted to help them to finish what they started last year.

Every year Belgium 2 welcome motorcycles and their riders from all over Europe and this year they had the chance to meet Red Knight brothers and sisters from Belgium, England, Ireland, France, the Netherlands and Germany.

More than 300 bikers were welcomed during the weekend and over 200 people came for the barbecue on Saturday night! The event was a huge success again partly due to the weather being better than expected and the food and drink was amazing, everyone was able to have a something to eat and drink after a long ride on the two pre-planned routes.

To answer the big question, €2250 was raised for the kids this year and Belgium 2 want to thank everyone who came to the Gathering for their help and their money, but most of all: thank you for your smiles and your positivity.

They will be doing it all again next year and look forward to meeting you all again.



## Red Knights schenken 2.250 euro aan MPI De Bevertjes

### OEDELEM

Red Knights Belgium 2, de motorclub voor brandweerlui, heeft een cheque van 2.250 euro geschonken aan het MPI De Bevertjes in Oedelem. Dat bedrag vormt de opbrengst van de jaarlijkse motorrit voor het goede doel, die half juni vierhonderd deelnemers lokte. Met het geld zal de snoezelruimte van De Bevertjes verder worden ingericht. Vorig jaar schonk de motorclub al tweeduizend euro aan De Bevertjes. (aft)

# PARTY TIME AT GERMANY 3

The Chapter Red Knights MC Germany III held its 9th summer party again this year with many friends and guests from various motorcycle clubs. The party started as usual on Friday with campfire and welcome, and on Saturday the customary group ride set off for a scenic ride around the area. The ride was followed in the evening with entertainment by the live band "Friends of Harald J." which made for great atmosphere. After breakfast on Sunday morning, goodbyes were said and all bikers departed back home.

Thanks to our guests we were again able to hand over a check for 600 euros to support and aid service for sick children which gives valuable support for the work carried out for the benefit off the children and their parents.

We would like to thank all guests again and invite you to our next parties.

We will again organize two parties in the coming year in favor of the children's aid service and hope again for many guests to our 10th anniversary.



# Region 8

(Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific)

## NZ6 PRES KEN MAHON SPREADS THE ANTI-VIOLENCE MESSAGE

NZ6 Pres Ken Mahon had the honour of captaining the White Ribbon Ride for a 2800km tour around the South Island of New Zealand, visiting schools and community groups to spread the message of stopping the cycle of violence towards women.



New Zealand has the highest level of reported violence towards women in the developed world:

- 41% of a frontline police officers' time is spent responding to family violence.
- One in three women experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

The White Ribbon ride is in its ninth year, having started in 2011. Ken has been involved for the last 5 years and is proud to be an Ambassador for the organization. "Our young men and women are the way of the future. We need to break the cycle of abuse towards women. Those of us who take part in the White Ribbon Ride are committed to helping by giving men and women the tools for healthy relationships. We want to get men to stand up, speak out and stop violence towards women."

When the riders blast into town, people take notice, he said. "There's an effect of 20 big bikers turning up and telling people to respect each other." NZ6 member Kris North was in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of attending the South Island tour.



The "highly motivated" group is joined at each event by speakers with stories to share. "People who have been perpetrators, and people who have been at the receiving end."

"Even reaching one or two people will make the long journey worth it. None of the riders are trained counsellors, but they can point people in the right direction." Says Ken.

This year, the ride was supported by Soroptomist International, who work to improve the lives of women and girls. At the Nelson event, the organisation joined riders with a display of 20 pairs of shoes representing each woman or child who died last year.

As an added bonus, Prince Charles spoke with Ken and the gathered White Ribbon bikers while visiting Nelson on his New Zealand tour.



This year's campaign was aimed at Challenging the #Unspoken Rules.

Unspoken Rules are the expectations that boys and young men inherit from society, based on outdated ideas of what a man is, how he acts, and how he should express himself.

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Even if we don't agree with them, these rules still exist silently in the background for far too many. Rules like, Be the Man, Toughen Up and Boys Don't Cry reinforce unhelpful stereotypes about what it is to be a man.

These #unspoken rules put pressure on boys and young men to behave in certain ways and dismiss behaviours perceived as "unmanly", leading them to suppress their emotions and their individuality. This affects how our boys and young men feel about themselves, and how they treat others. It affects how they approach their relationships, and can lead them to act disrespectfully – even violently – toward their partners.

We have the opportunity to use our voices as parents, caregivers and influencers to speak up over the #unspoken. By saying out loud to our boys and young men that it's ok for them to be who they are, we can encourage them to define themselves as men who have respectful relationships – protecting our whole community.

For more information, visit <https://whiteribbon.org.nz/home/campaigns/>

## RED KNIGHTS NZ9 K-55 \$ANTA RUN 2019

Hi, my name is Ross Arthur, known as Rossco. I'm the VP of NZ9, which is based on the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand.

A few weeks ago there was an article on a local magazine program called Sunday (<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/sunday/clips/burnout>) which highlighted a current issue where local firefighters are being 'poorly supported' with regards permanent firefighters that are suffering due to work related (fire induced) cancers.

There is also a secondary issue whereby firefighters are required to attend medical 'Purple Calls', where the patient has had a cardiac event. As all first aiders will know the actual success rate of recovery after a cardiac event is actually quite low, so because of this there is a much higher number of firefighters, who signed up to save lives, now experiencing a considerably higher number of fatalities. This is having a very serious impact on the firefighters' mental health and in such serious cases there is a much higher number of firefighters suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, which is currently not being supported without evidence of trauma.

This inspired me to do something, and I was racking my brain to think how we could support firefighters and their families who are going through difficult times as a result of delayed financial support due to existing processes. That is when I decided to run a local fundraising ride, but then I started running with this idea.....

I took part in the 'Firefighters Ride for Cancer' a couple of years ago, which was started by fellow Red Knight Rob Appleton from NZ6. This was a ride from Cape Reinga to Bluff – a 2100 km (1300 mile) ride from the top of the North Island to the bottom of the South Island, raising funds for the Cancer Society. This is a great charity that does awesome work, but I wanted to create a ride that helped to support Firefighters in their time of need.



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Red Knight Tim O'Halloran from NZ5 had also previously done some work into setting up an account with the New Zealand Firefighters Credit Union, so that 100% of funds raised will be directed to supporting those firefighters and their families who are struggling due to the processes.

So with this in mind, I have created a ride called the K-55 \$anta Run. My wife recently returned from a trip to the UK, where she told me about a fundraising ride where all the riders dress in Santa suits over their protective gear, which I loved, hence the ride name. It would certainly raise awareness for the ride but I have made this optional as with the ride open to all riders and clubs a few of the riders 'would rather not'! So, why K-55 I hear you ask? In New Zealand our emergency services use K codes when reporting to Comms, with K-55 being the code for Special Service and this will be a special service provided to all our fire fighters.

This year we will be Riding from Napier Fire Station to Wairoa, where we will be welcomed by our Wairoa based Red Knight members from NZ9. The plan is to expand the ride next year so that the ride will travel from Napier to Taupo, which is the most central destination in the North Island. I will be inviting the other Red Knights Chapters to organise rides in their own respective areas with Taupo as their final destination. All proceeds from this ride will be deposited into the K-55 fund.

The fund is open to both Career and volunteer firefighters as Cancer and mental health doesn't care who it affects and we all have the potential to suffer. There will be an application process in place where each case is assessed on an individual basis and the appropriate assistance and funds given directly to the affected family. The funds will be managed by NZ9, although funds can be raised by all Red Knight chapters for the benefit of all New Zealand firefighters and their families.

My overall intention is to rekindle the original Fire Fighters ride for Cancer. This will go from Cape Reinga at the top of the country to Bluff at the bottom, travelling through every chapters district. As host and Ride Captain I will cover the whole distance, inviting all other Red Knights Chapters to organise the best route through their 'patch' and join the ride as it passes through. This gets everyone involved and also helps to raise awareness. I have had some great feedback from local clubs and riders, and can't wait to get this off the ground.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rosco Arthur

[Rosco8@msn.com](mailto:Rosco8@msn.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Red-Knights-K-55-anta-Ride-111310046956349>

# SHAUN CROWLEY'S HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE



It was winter time in New Zealand and I felt the urge for an adventure.

If you ever felt like heading on an adventure I can definitely recommend heading over to India to ride the mountainous Himalayas. I'd never travelled to India before but it was to be my home for the month of July. The summer riding season is limited

to only a couple of months in the mountainous areas due to the snow and arduous weather conditions, so the window of opportunity is really only July-August. This means you get the hot, humid temperatures in the lowlands before the arrival of the monsoon season.

Some workmates had done a similar trip the year before with Aboriginal Tours and highly recommended them, so I had taken their advice and booked with the same outfit.

I left New Zealand on a dull 10°C (50°F) winters day and arrived 26 hours later into a muggy 38°C (100°F) Delhi morning, taking in the cacophony of noise, colours, and humanity as I jumped into a taxi for my 2 day stay in the city before heading into the mountains.

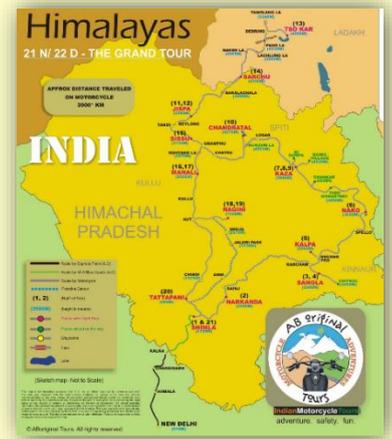
There were 14 of us booked on this 3 week tour, made up of 3 Kiwis (New Zealand), 6 Ozzie's (Australia) and 5 Yanks (you know where from), with only one pillion amongst the group. We were all staying at the same hotel in Delhi, so had a chance to meet on an included full day Delhi tour before our tour started proper. I didn't know anyone else on this trip, but with a common bond of motorcycles and adventure you quickly forge friendships.

The great thing about an organised tour in a foreign country is that all the logistics are taken care of, so that you can actually enjoy your trip from day one.

A good example of this would be Day One where a fleet of taxis careered their way through rush hour traffic to deposit us at the Delhi train station to board our express service - first class carriage with drinks and meal service, alighting off the train at Kalka to board our two vehicles of mass destruction to climb the 4 hours into the mountains to our 1938 heritage hotel, complete with misty views down the valley overlooking Shimla, all without really raising your pulse.....except the part about our vehicles of mass destruction. I'll just say it's not often you go toe-to-toe with a tractor on a highway! You learn very quickly in India that there are not really any road rules as such, that driving is more like a fluid dance, but there ARE 3 requirements for driving: 1. Good horn; 2. Good brakes; 3. Good luck.....all of which get used often!

If you meet these 3 requirements you'll do just fine!

Shimla was the start and finish point of our 3 week grand tour, taking in the northern provinces of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh. This is where we pick up the bikes, go through a comprehensive safety briefing, complete the last of the paperwork and meet the 8 members of our support crew that will be our shadows for the trip.



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The support fleet comprised of 3 x four wheel drive vehicles in the form of a luggage vehicle to carry everything except your daypack / CamelBak for the riders, a passenger SUV for crew and pillions if required and the mechanics truck full of every conceivable part they may need for the trip. The support crew were fantastic throughout and nothing was ever a problem. The mantra was definitely under-promise and over-deliver!



carry everything except your daypack / CamelBak for the riders, a passenger SUV for crew and pillions if required and the mechanics truck full of every conceivable part they may need for the trip. The support crew were fantastic throughout and nothing was ever a problem. The mantra was definitely

What followed for the next 3 weeks was some of the most exciting, challenging, exhilarating, fun riding that I have done, with just jaw-dropping scenery around every sweeping bend, craggy cliff-edge, mountain summit, zig-zag hairpins, massive drop-offs, soaring cliffs.....you get the picture.

I parked up the bike for the last time back in Shimla, turned off the key and dismounted my steed that had carried me through the Himalayas for over 2200 kms (1,360 miles) through countless river crossings, through snow, rutted roads, dirt tracks, goat tracks, muddy roads and even one section of smooth, undulating tarseal! We navigated the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest motor able pass in the world at 5,360 metres (17,582 ft), rode the most treacherous road in the world and stripped down to my daks to swim in a glacial lake.



All this goes through my mind as I shed my dusty, dirt encrusted gear and helmet, a huge grin mirrored on everyone else's face – a sense of relief, accomplishment, satisfaction, exhilaration.....and some sadness, as the adventure is over. But with the end comes reflection and the memories of the trip - the fun, the hilarity, the misadventures, the bond that these strangers from 3 weeks ago have formed and will continue to put a smile on your face when you recount the many epic stories from conquering the Himalayas!

India is a country that wasn't on my radar for exploring by motorbike but it certainly is now, and I highly recommend Atul and his dedicated crew at AOriginal Tours for an adventure of a lifetime.

<https://indianmotorcycletours.com/> or  
<https://www.facebook.com/indianmotorcycletours/>

Shiny side up peeps,  
 Shaun Crowley,  
 NZ5 Pres



# CHARITY FUND RAISING DOWN UNDER!

## WHAT A SUCCESSFUL NIGHT FOR AUSTRALIA 21

On the 3rd August, Australia's newest chapter, Australia 21 held a Trivia Night, their first fundraiser event as Red Knights. The event was a huge success raising a fantastic \$1501.50 for the Westmead Children's Hospital KIDS Burns Unit. Great team work.



## AUSTRALIA 12 RAISE MONEY FOR HOUNDS-4-HEALING



On the 17th November Australia 12 held a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle event to raise money for Hounds 4 Healing. They raised \$1500, money which will help up to 3 Veterans have their assistance dogs registered. What an awesome outcome.

There is a 'Go fund me' page should you wish to help by donating to:- Hounds 4 Healing Fundraiser

## Australian Red Knights Attend Events

Various Australian Fred Knights Chapters have been busy attending meetings and events over the past six months, including a Motorcycle Blessing, chapters 2,4,10 and 14 a get together of at the Bendigo Shovel Fest and Australia 2 had a day our visiting the Puckapunyal Tank Museum.



# STEVE PAYNE'S TRIP OF A LIFETIME

## Black dog ride 2019



On Friday 26th July Steve Payne began his epic ride in the 2019 Black Dog around Australia ride, he embarked on a 15,700km epic journey of personal discovery and community awareness over 35 days.

Suffering from PTSD made this a very difficult decision for Steve to make, with a lot of self-doubts including would he be up to the challenge of such an epic journey. Riding around Australia was on his bucket list so he would get to check this off and at the same time help raise much-needed funds for Mental Health and get to share his own story where possible along the way. There were good days, there were bad days; ups and downs but Steve's fellow riders were there to help and support one another through it all.

Here are some mileages taken from GPS logs.:

<b>Friday</b> 26 July - Day 1	Denmark	419 km	<b>Saturday</b> 27 July - Day 2	Esperance	563 km
<b>Sunday</b> 28 July. - Day 3.	Madura Pass.	730 km	<b>Monday</b> 29 July. - Day 4	Ceduna.	674 km
<b>Tuesday</b> 30 July. - Day 5	Port Augusta.	471 km	<b>Thursday</b> 1st August, Day 7	Goolwa.	531 km
<b>Friday</b> 2nd August - Day 8	Mount Gambier	484 km	<b>Saturday</b> 3rd August. - Day 9	Ballarat.	335 km
<b>Sunday</b> 4th August. - Day 10	Lakes Entrance.	542 km	<b>Monday</b> 5, August. Day 11	Canberra.	662 km
<b>Wednesday</b> 7th August, Day 13	Bathurst.	405 km	<b>Thursday</b> 8th August, - Day 14	Tamworth.	484 km
<b>Friday</b> 9th August, Day 15	Byron Bay.	465 km	<b>Saturday</b> 10 August, Day 16	Harvey Bay.	464 km
<b>Sunday</b> 11 August, Day 17	MACKAY	744 km	<b>Monday</b> 12 August, Day 18	TOWNSVILLE	432 km
<b>Tuesday</b> 13 August, Day 19	CAIRNS.	370 km	<b>Thursday</b> 15 August, Day 21	NORMANTON.	684 km
<b>Friday</b> 16 August, Day 22	Mount Isa,	515 km	<b>Saturday</b> 17 August, Day 23	Tennant Creek.	773 km
<b>Sunday</b> 18 August. Day 24	MATARANKA	578 km	<b>Monday</b> 19 August Day 25	Darwin.	470 km
<b>Wednesday</b> 21 August Day 27	Kununurra.	845 km	<b>Thursday</b> 22 August Day 28	Fitzroy Crossing.	682 km
<b>Friday</b> 23 August Day 29	Broome.	409 km	<b>Sunday</b> 25th August. Day 31	Karratha.	878 km
<b>Monday</b> 26 August. Day 32	Carnarvon.	702 km	<b>Tuesday</b> 27 August. Day 33	NorthHampton.	451 km
<b>Wednesday</b> 28 August Day 34	Swan Valley	476 km	<b>Thursday</b> 29 August, Day 35	Busselton	259 km

**Whew, we made it.**

Cont;



Before the 35 day ride started they were all strangers, now they would bare their souls to any one of the group without a second thought. :)  
The last day was a slow day, slow to start, big breaks and then a wet finish. The western Australian (Busselton, actually) riders came up and escorted us to Busselton and it was a bit tight in the traffic,

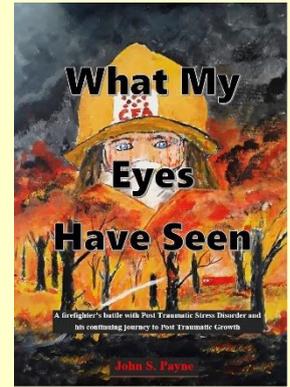
however we made it to the service center for lunch and coffee at just about the same time it started to rain so it was either good management, or good luck.

By the time we finished eating the rain had cleared for the time being and the ride to Bunbury was mostly dry, we waited in the park lands next to the dolphin education center till after 2:00 for the rest of the WA team to arrive and the police were there to escort us for the final 40 km to Busselton. Great guys. Our arrival in Busselton was a bitter-sweet moment, bitter because it was all over and we were parting, and sweet because they had all achieved so much over the last month.



## Steve's book and Facebook Page

Steve has started a Facebook page, 'Talk 'it' to zero', PTSD and Suicide Awareness` <https://www.facebook.com/Talk.it.to.zero/> he also guest speaks at events centred around PTSD and Suicide Awareness. He has also written a book about his PTSD experience called, 'What My Eyes Have Seen'. It was whilst writing his book that 'Talk 'it' to zero' came to him. Its main focus group is the Police and Emergency Services but really anyone should get benefit from it. The book and 'Talk 'it' to zero' were launched at the same time.



SW.

**R U O K**  
**It's a question that's simple as  
Black & White**

**BTS**  
BEHIND THE SEEN  
[www.facebook.com/behindtheseenuk](https://www.facebook.com/behindtheseenuk)

**“Have that conversation”**

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# RED KNIGHTS' CHARITY CHECKS PHOTOGRAPHS

