



Introduction

Because it has been a while since the International Newsletter was published I thought I would publish a European Newsletter to keep you all informed of what fellow European Red Knights are doing. I hope you enjoy it!

EUROPEAN RED KNIGHTS' AWARDS DURING 2017

The European Red Knight of the Year - 2017



CONGRATULATIONS Gery 'Dutchy' Jenson who was awarded the European Red Knight of the Year award for his work and contribution to the European Red Knights. Being the Vice President of Switzerland 1, Switzerland's Country Representative and the EU webmaster demonstrates his commitment to the Red Knights and this award is well deserved.

Red Knights International Firefighters MC Outstanding Contribution Awards

Special CONGRATULATIONS to Tom 'Sparks' Hoedjes and Steve Williamson who were honoured to be awarded the Outstanding



Tom Receiving his award

Contribution Awards at the International Convention in Syracuse, Tom for his tireless work as President of the European Association and Steve for his work as the International Newsletter Reporter for Europe and as the UK Representative. Unfortunately Steve was not at the Convention so his award was received on his behalf by England 2's Ride Captain, Alan Grayson.

The European Association gets a new Vice President

CONGRATULATIONS go to Aurélie Meunier on being voted in as the European Association's Vice President.

Aurélie is the President and Secretary of Belgium 4 and in collaboration with Belgium 1, 2, 5, 6 & 7 organized the 2016 EuCon in Namur.



IRON BUTT AWARD 2017



The thirty one (31) participants of the Iron Butt Award 2017 rode their bikes nearly 300'000 km or more than seven times around the world last year. The hardest butt must belong to Julian Paschke from Chapter Germany 2. He rode for 17'900 km in the saddle in 2017 and made the award for the second time. For this he will become the silver patch. The fourth time has made the award Gery "Dutchy" Jansen from Switzerland 1. He is the first Red Knight who become a patch with a golden star.

The Iron Butt Award was introduced in 2014 by the Red Knights MC European Association. The goal of the award is to motivate all Red Knights to ride their motorcycle more often and visit more chapters. First, the award was for European Red Knights only but since 2017 the award is open for every Red Knight in good standing. The only restriction is that only riders can participate, not their passengers.

Every Red Knight who ride 10'000 km or more in one calendar year and send photos and money to the European association will receive a certificate and a patch. In the first year the patch will be colored bronze, then silver and the third time gold. The following patches show one or more golden stars.

To participate the award is very easy. At the beginning of the year you must take a photo of your odometer. At the end of the year you take a second photo and show that you have a difference of 10'000 km or 6'220 miles on your odometer. If you have more than one bike you do this for every one of your bikes and add up the differences. Then you send this photos with your postal address to the email address of the award manager. Parallel you have to send the money (€ 10.--) to the treasurer of the European Association. More detailed information can be found on the homepage of the Red Knights MC European Association (www.redknightsmc.eu/ironbutt.html).

The KoRT trophy for Europe stays with the Red Knights for another year

The 2017 event took place near Bern, Switzerland and following on from Red knights success in 2016 the honour fell to the Red Knights to host the 2017 event. After taking part in the various events in the completion Chris Behling, formally of Red Knights Germany XI won the 2017 competition beating members from Blue and Green Knights.



Chris Behling in action and receiving his trophy

5th Anniversary of France II

Every year at the end of May, the chapter from the South of France invite Red Knights to their chapter anniversary. It's not about a party as we know it from other parts of Europe with campfire, BBQ and beer on a Saturday night. It's a well-organized 4-5 days stay at the seaside in a holiday resort with long ride-outs in the beautiful landscape of Southern France, sitting-together-at-the table-lunch and - dinners with gastronomic specialties, events together with local firefighters, enjoying life and good company.

Francis, President of France II and his wife Marie-José are perfect hosts and try to make the most of the stay there. Also they are really working much on growing the RKMC family in southern France and having good connections to the government, especially to the "Sapeurs Pompiers la Londe" and with the mayor of La Londe who presented the medal of the town of La Londe to Pierre Halleux, Tom "Sparks" Hoedjes and Francis Ducatillon as representatives of the RKMC Europe and France.



Thank you Francis and Marie-Jo, we will come back next year...

RKMC Memorial Rededication – Boylston 2018

Great days in Boylston

It's always great for us to spend some days in USA especially when it's for a Red Knights event and for to see our friends and brothers from this big family.

This time in May, we had the privilege to be part of the rededication of our RKMC Memorial and the new Memorial Hall. It was amazing how many Red Knights made their way to Boylston on a sunny and warm spring day to join the family.

The International Board, members of Massachusetts I and the town did great work on the house, its surroundings and the memorial. All was clean and nice to receive the guest for the ceremony, for visiting the memorial hall and for having a good lunch together.

The ceremony was impressive, the present founding fathers never thought of what the RKMC would become throughout the over 30 years after founding this Firefighters MC. A special touching moment was the speech of Tom "Sparks" Hoedjes, President of the RKMC Europe Association, who spoke about what the Memorial means to the fast growing Red Knights family in



Tom 'Sparks' Hoedjes addresses the gathering

Europe and for all our brothers who are no longer with us and who's names are written on the memorial cubes for their families.

Our new Memorial Hall is an ideal place to stay for a visit of the memorial. They really did a great job with furnishing and decorating the house for an overnight stay and it has a museum for the visiting RKMC members.



In commemoration of our Brothers from Switzerland:
Erich Hodel – Switzerland 1 & Peter 'Shorty' Sterchi – Switzerland 2

Thanks for all who worked on it, to make this possible for us.

Monique "M" Reusser, Switzerland 1

Ireland 1 Member is planning to run 32 Marathons in 16 days

This September 1st to the 16th Cork City Firefighter Alex O Shea takes on his biggest challenge to date. In aid of the Irish guide dogs for the blind. He will run 32 Marathons All 32 Counties of Ireland In just 16 days



So that's a marathon in every county of Ireland running two a day. Alex will be supported by Ollie O'Sullivan a police officer throughout this challenge and will be joined by runners each day.

Alex is no stranger to taking on big challenges and ran his first marathon only 4 years ago doing so in his full fire gear breaking the then Guinness world record a record Alex has held now for over 4 years. Alex has also gone on to represent Ireland at a world 100km championships and a European 24hr championships.

Should you like to follow or support Alex you can do so at www.alexoshea.ie were you can like the Facebook link and share his page to help promote his challenge.

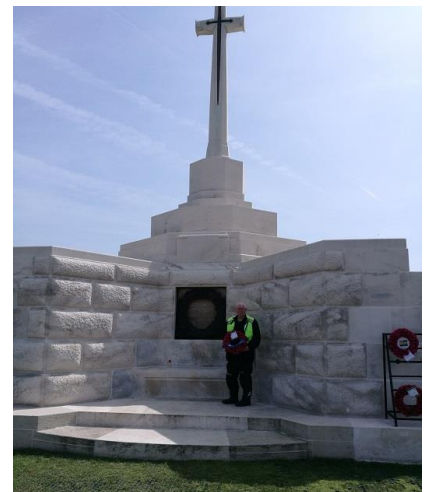


Alex with Ireland 1's President, Barry O'Mahony

UK Member at Large pays his respects to the Fallen Soldiers

Whilst visiting Belgium in June to attend Belgium 2's Gathering of the Knights weekend, Alan Blacklee, a Member at Large from the UK, laid a wreath at the Tyne Cot Cemetery in remembrance of the fallen WW1 soldiers.

Alan is a Parish Councillor in the North East of England and he laid the wreath on behalf of himself and the Parish Council.



Red Knights - Croatia I, FIREMAN RIDE AND BARBACUE 2018

For the fourth year in a row, a firefighter meeting on motorcycles called FIREMAN RIDE AND BBQ was hosted by Croatia 1 on 16th June.

At the meeting we visited the fire brigades in Primorje - Gorski Kotar County.

This year we visited the fire brigade units in the Gorski Kotar region. (PFB / VFB Delnice, VFB Kupjak and VFB Mrkopalj).

Barbecue is held every year in the Fun Park Vrata, and the gathering is completed with a dinner at the PFB Rijeka – station Vežica.



Red Knights - Croatia I, pred. Marijan Smerdel – Maki



EuCon 2018
*Red Knights European
Convention 2018*
Sep 7, 2018 | Trabolgan Holiday Village
—
Red Knights European Party taking place in Cork,
Ireland, 7th - 9th September 2018.
All Red Knights welcome.
Enquiries : rkireland1@outlook.com.



Cork, Ireland

ARE YOU GOING TO THE EUCON 2018?

The 2018 EUCON is being hosted by Ireland 1 in Cork, Ireland and is sure to be a fantastic weekend.

Ireland is a beautiful country and has some great roads to ride, so why not extend your stay and visit some of its attractions?

England 2's Annual Belgium Visit



Every year in June England 2 make a trip to visit Belgium 2 for their Gathering of the Knights weekend and after last year's disappointment of not being able to attend because P&O Ferries cancelled their ferries, we couldn't wait to make the trip this year.

We set off for the overnight ferry from Hull to Zeebrugge on Thursday meeting up with MAL, Alan Blacklee at the ferry terminal. We had an enjoyable meal and a few drinks on the ferry and disembarked on Friday morning for a day's riding and visiting some WW1 sites.

Our first visit was to the Tyne Cot WW1 Cemetery which we found a very humbling experience.



While we were there Alan Blacklee laid a wreath in remembrance of the fallen soldiers. After spending some time at the cemetery we made our way to the Passchendaele Memorial Museum which again brought home the full horrors of the First World War.

After our visits we made our way back to the Van Der Valk Hotel in Oostkamp where we joined members from England 3 and Ireland 1. We changed and got ready for the night's party at Belgium 2's clubhouse and thanks to their members for picking us all up and taking us there.



It was the first visit to Oostkamp for three of those present and they were amazed by the warm welcome they received from fellow Red Knights that they had never met before.



After Friday night's drinking it was decided to have an easy day on Saturday so we had a leisurely ride and eventually arrived in Bruges for a few hours before returning to the hotel to change and walk to the fire station for the Official Gathering of the Knights party.

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Over the years the Belgium 2 Gathering has increased in size and this year was no different with over 180 people gathered for the evening which got underway with warm welcome from their President Buba, followed by a ceremony to welcome three new members to Belgium 2's Chapter, and England 2's President was honoured to be asked to present 5 year membership pins to Marina and Franky.



After the formalities were completed the evening continued with an excellent meal and music from the very professional band, DUST who entertained us for two hours.

Sunday morning began with a ride to the fire station to socialise with friends before setting off on a ride around the region's countryside and finally a visit to the Bikers' Loft near Ostend where we were given an entertaining guided tour of the Old



Timers Motorcycle Museum by the museum's owner. From here we rode through Blankenberge back to the port at Zeebrugge for the overnight ferry back to Hull.

A fantastic weekend was completed with goodbyes on Monday morning as we all made our way home...

Thank you again Belgium 2 for another great weekend, their hospitality is always the best and their friendship is valued.. We are already planning next year's visit.

If you'd like to see more photographs from our weekend go to:

www.redknightsmcengland2.jigsy.com/gallery

France 6 Raise money for Cancer Research

Members of RKF6 helped this year the association "a rose, a hope" by participating in their actions for a whole weekend by offering a rose against a donation.



The profits are donated to the cancer research association 68100 euros have been collected

Other projects will follow this year, such as bringing Christmas presents to hospitalized children.



Belgium 2's Gathering of the Knights

THANK YOU [#GATHERING2018](#)

Dear brothers and sisters,

To our annual June tradition, we organized our motorcycle ride once again for the benefit of a good cause. Every year we choose a different goal, to which the full proceeds of the motorcycle meeting will go. This year we choose 'De Bevertjes', a school nearby our clubhouse, where toddlers and children with moderate to severe motor and/or mental retardation learn to learn. The school will use the budget for expanding 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 people with disabilities.



Every year we enjoy welcoming motorcycles and their riders from all over Europe. This year we had the chance to meet our brothers and sisters from Belgium, England, Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Germany and even a few members from Mexico! We welcomed over 300 riders during the weekend and over 180 people came for the barbecue on

Saturday! What a success! The weather was good as well as the food and everyone could use a drink after a long hot drive. Still, we cannot say yet how much we raised but soon there will be an announcement. Please, look for it on our Facebook and website.

We want to thank everyone who came to the Gathering this year for your help, your hands and your money. But most of all: thank you for your smile and your positivity. We look forward to meet you all again next year.

Sincerely,



Buba, Comte le Balzac, Chuck, le Chat, Groggy, Switzeldinges, Baking Nurse and all members of Red Knights Belgium 2