

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club

December 2018 Newsletter



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COVER PHOTO

International President and Vice-President pay their respects at the 9/11 Kinsale Garden of Remembrance, Ireland.

The next Newsletter will be published in June 2019... Send you articles to me or your Regional Reporter by 31st May 2019..

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

My name is Steve Williamson and as your new Editor I would first of all like to thank my predecessor, Stephanie Fowle for all her hard work in this role over the past few years, I hope I can continue the good work where she left off.

I have been the Region 7 Reporter since the resurrection of the Newsletter a few years ago but this is my first International Newsletter as its Editor and I hope you enjoy reading it, I am looking forward to serving you all and keeping you abreast of what is happening in this great family of ours.

Remember that I and the Regional Reporters can only produce the Newsletter for you if you send us your stories, so get writing and sending them in. I see many events, stories and photographs posted on Red Knights Facebook pages from around the world so why not send them to us for inclusion in the Newsletter...not everybody is on Facebook but I am sure they would like to read about your adventures. The contact details for sending in your articles are at the bottom of this page.

So here we go, enjoy!

editor@redknightsmc.com



WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REGIONAL REPORTER?

We are looking to recruit Regional Reporters in Regions 2, 3 and 4

If you are interested please contact me at:

editor@redknightsmc.com

Communications Chairman – George Colby communications@redknightsmc.com

Newsletter Editor - Steve Williamson editor@redknightsmc.com

Regional Reporters' contact emails

Region 1 Jim Voss - region1reporter@redknightsmc.com

Region 5 Dave Rogers - region5reporter@redknightsmc.com

Region 6 Chuck Matthews - region6reporter@redknightsmc.com

Region 7 Steve Williamson - region7reporter@redknightsmc.com

Region 8 NZ Shaun Crowley - region8nzreporter@redknightsmc.com

Region 8 Aus Dave Freeman - region8ausreportedr@redknightsmc.com





Merry Christmas

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT - Chis Gadway

Congratulations to Pittsburg PA Chapter 8 for being the Convention host for 2018. You all have put in so much effort getting ready for the hundreds in attendance this week. On behalf of all attendees, thank you! We are all going home with many great memories.

Since last year's Convention, the Red Knights has seen some amazing, history making things happen.

The call went out last year for Charter Donations for the newly formed 501(c)3, the Red Knight Memorial Foundation. Through the incredible generosity of our membership and a few Boylston businesses, over \$60,000 was raised in a few short months. The Membership around the world extends its appreciation for those who donated. You can find the new RKM website at www.rkimf.org. There you can see pictures of your Memorial Hall and the Charter Donor Wall, it's a must see.

In May members from around the world converged on Boylston as we had the Memorial Park rededication and dedicated the new Red Knights Memorial Hall to you, the Members. There were just under 350 in attendance. It was a great ceremony to say the least. The Hall is now open for your use. You can find the reservation form as well as a link for the dedication ceremony (thank you Bob Laford) on the website. Bookings are already taking place. Special thanks go to all those who helped get the house and park ready.

This year the mail out newsletter is making a special return. Look in your mailboxes for the summer 2018 edition. One copy will be sent to each household. A huge thank you to all the Regional Editors and Stephanie Fowle as Editor for all you work.

Your International Executive Board met to conduct business in the fall of 2017 and again in May. This is in addition to the near monthly conference calls we hold to ensure the business end of this great organization is running smoothly. When you see one of your officers, please take a quick moment to say thanks. These fine gentlemen dedicate hundreds of hours in a labor of love for you.

My wife and I had the pleasure of attending many Red Knight events over the last year and had more fun than we can remember. In October, We went to the KORT (Knights Of the Round Table) in Waldorf Maryland. The Hosts, the Green Knights won the tournament yet again. We went to the New Jersey after Christmas party, what a blast. Once spring finally showed up, we travelled to the Dixie Rally in Guntersville state park in Alabama (AL 2), A few days later we were off to the Yankee Rally in Clifton Park NY(NY12 and NY29). In late June, Julie and I rode 3160 miles (with only an hour of rain) round trip to have a fun filled weekend at the Western Rally (MN4). All of these hosts deserve accolades for all their hard work. The Region Rallies are the place for a fun weekend where we get to see our extended families each year. If you haven't been to one yet, make the trip sometime. It's worth the ride.

Red Knights TN7 will be hosting the KORT this October in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Please join us so we may take the win in 2018. Please see our website, redknightsmc.com for more details and to register.

Another round of appreciation goes to the interim Quartermaster, Alan Billings at the beginning of 2017 Alan took over the responsibilities and made the transition in late December to the permanent QM, Don Moore. All was very successful. Thanks go to Alan for stepping up and filling the interim position when asked and for all your hard work during the changeovers. Thank also goes to all those that applied for the position. Congratulations to Don Moore for being appointed as the new QM for the Red Knights Regalia Corp. Late 2017 also saw a change in the Grand Tour Chairman. Thank You Emmett Duprey for making yourself available to take on the interim position and bringing it up to date.

Please update your rosters and check your Red Knights Chapter email accounts regularly.

Updating roster is CRITICALLY important. If a person is not on the International roster,
THEY ARE NOT A MEMBER OF THE RED KNIGHTS.

When a member passes away, an officer of the chapter should do the following:

Notify the Chaplain or your Regional Director ASAP, by email or Phone.

Go to the website, redknightsmc.com, look near the bottom left, and find the Obituaries box.

Click on report a member passing (the red print)

Fill out the form and click submit.

During this process or shortly after, please attach or send in a photo of the member

Someone will be in contact with you shortly.

In Closing, I want to take this opportunity to personally extend my appreciation to each of the Committee Chairs for all they do. In addition, I want every member to know that each and every one of your elected officers works diligently with laser focus on their tasks at hand. Special thanks go to each and every Red Knight, without you, this organization would not be what it is today. Thank You to all. Most importantly, my heartfelt gratitude goes to my wife, Thank you Julie for standing beside me for the last eight years, as we have both served this great club.

Red Knights Forever

&

Loyal to our Duty

Chris Gadway

****** 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.





VICE PRESIDENT - Spike Ostiguy

Fraternal greetings everyone,

Well... 595 Main Street in Boylston, MA.

This labor of love came to fruition a little over six (6) months ago.

Earlier this year... May 5th 2018 to be exact ushered in another historic milestone for this organization and all its members, past and present.

Witnessed with 343 in attendance was an overwhelming and emotionally charged re-dedication of the R.K.M.C. Memorial Park, and the dedication of your new R.K.M.C. Memorial Hall.

Please take the time to peruse the Red Knights Memorial Foundation website <http://rkimf.org/wp>

Representing the membership, this past year I attended;

- 2018 – Spring Board Meeting, Boylston, Massachusetts May 1-4
- All conference calls of the RKI, RKR and RKMf
- As a Massachusetts Chapter IV member, I also sit on the R.K. Memorial Hall/Park Committee which has met numerous times throughout 2017-2018
- R.K.M.C. Yankee Rally, Clifton Park, New York June, 2018
- Americade, Lake George, New York June, 2018
- R.K.I.F.M.C. Annual Convention, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania August, 2018
- 2018 – Fall Board Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland October/November, 2018
- And a number of local & regionally sponsored R.K. rides/events.

As in years past and as always, it saddens us to report the loss of members.

Since last August I've attended three (3) Heaven's One Services.

Lori Kenney, Connecticut Chapter 2

Rich Powers, III Massachusetts Chapter IV (my home chapter)

Jack Downs, Florida Chapter 1 Past International President and Life Member

And most recently (Oct.) Wendi Hamilton.

Wendi, the wife of Massachusetts 1 Social Member Tim Hamilton.

As most of you may know, Tim is the son of the late Founding Father, Dave Hamilton.

Although Wendi not a member... We are all family.

Godspeed May you all rest in peace RKF

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

At the time of this report... we have 381 M.A.L.'s

Region 1 = 48

Region 2 = 24

Region 3 = 44

Region 4 = 56

Region 5 = 49

Region 6 = 41

Region 7 = 93

Region 8 = 26

Since last convention we have had 21 M.A.L.'s transfer to chapter membership – or – start chapters. In part by Denmark 1, Indiana 3 & Australia 4.

Remember, the Red Knights are active 24/7 around the clock... around the world.

Remember, it is YOU that steer this incredible family organization.

My door/phone is always open. By all means please feel free to reach out to me or any Board Member for that matter with any questions, comments, and or concerns that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Spike Ostiguy

International Vice President



SECRETARY - Jack Jarvis

Hello to all my brother and sister Red Knights! Welcome to Pittsburgh! I look forward to the Convention every year to make new friends a reacquaint with all the family from previous years! I would like to start my report by thanking my beautiful bride for all the love and support she has given me since the day we met. You may not understand that my wife has served the same 10 plus years on this board that I have. She has been there for all the late night calls, running out the door to help someone in need, long times away from each other, and the constant calls that seem to come around dinner time. I love you Marie and I could not have done this without you!!!

Your International Secretary has been very busy since the beginning of 2018. There are some new procedures in place that are helping everyone involved in the process and some old procedures are now in the 21st century! I have attended the Spring Board Meeting, the Memorial Hall Dedication, and the Memorial re-dedication in Boylston and met with quite a few Chapters along the way. I had the honor of representing the Board at a Members funeral. This is still the best program we have in our organization! I have also spent an average of 25-30 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 in January, we have successfully approved one hundred and seventy-five (175) 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 have had 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 am still working to get all 3,000+ 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 will be 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 eighteen (18) Chapters this year. If the current Chapters need Membership Cards, please contact your Regional Director and they will be able to get them to you.

We have only insured nineteen (19) Chapter events so far this year. 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.

I am happy to say that improving the way the TMLA program worked was my number one goal and it is all moving without any kinks so far.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone again for your support in electing me to fill this position. 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. Also make sure you are getting those roster updates into the International Treasurer. These are very important to the Board and to the Membership so we can keep the engines running smooth.

Remember that YOU run this organization and if you have any ideas or requests, please send them in to your Director or to myself. We love getting the involvement of everyone.

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

Loyal to Our Duty, Jack Jarvis, International Secretary



TREASURER - Scott Ryan

Please accept this, my 2018 convention report as International Treasurer.

A big thank you again to all the members who have shown me such great support over this past year. Your cooperation and assistance is always greatly appreciated.

Since my last convention report, I attended several meetings at the Convention in Syracuse, the fall board meetings in Baltimore, and a number of conference call meetings in between. I also had the distinct pleasure at the spring board meeting of attending the first ever Red Knights meeting in the Red Knights property in Boylston. Any chapters who have a chance to visit the memorial, I highly recommend planning a meeting in the boardroom there. Carrying out the business of this organization while being able to glance out the window at our memorial park is a humbling experience and a testament to what we have become. I was very disappointed that there were so many logistical problems with having a meeting of the 12 board members so far from the airport and from a hotel, otherwise it would be an excellent place for the board to continue meeting.

I want to thank Alan Billings for stepping up to the plate and taking on the International Quartermaster's role this past year. I am sure anyone who dealt with Alan will agree, he did a great job serving our members. For the record, I didn't lie about how many orders I see go through in the course of a year. I may have misunderstood how much time each order takes but it was an honest mistake, not a way of luring anyone into taking on the task. Of course, I want to thank Don Moore for being so keen to continue on where Alan left off, so far it has been a great pleasure. A thank you is also deserving of the other members who expressed interest in being your International Quartermaster, it is great to see we have so many dedicated Red Knights willing to help out.

Finally, I want to thank all the members, especially chapter officers, for your understanding as we work through the new way of ensuring membership information is accurate and up to date. I do appreciate the time you put into this club to regularly check the official e-mail and check the status of your roster. It will help us carry out our commitment to recognize members through the Heaven 1 program.

It has been my pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely

Scott Ryan

Loyal to our Duty



REGION 1 DIRECTOR - Matt Mattera

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Woohoo!! Convention is finally here! I look forward to this all year. Congratulations to the 2018 Pittsburgh Convention Committee. We always look forward to seeing the local flavour that will be added at Convention.

We've lost 6 members in Region 1 for the year 2018. Please keep all of their families and chapters in your thoughts and prayers. For those who did not make last year's convention, we've improved the Heaven One dedication held each year at the banquet. Now, in addition to reading out the names of those we've lost since the previous year's Convention and ringing the bell, we have now incorporated a slideshow with a photo of the member, if supplied, along with their name and chapter. This has made that part of the evening even more heartfelt.

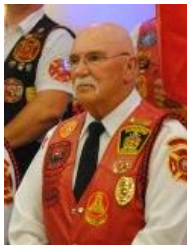
This year has kind of been like the country singer Morgan Wallen's song "Up Down" for me personally. Thankfully, most of it has been on the up. There's been a lot going on for 2018.

It started out at the New Jersey State Association annual After Christmas Party in January. This year it was hosted by NJ 4, who did a great job and had some amazing prizes. Next up was the International Executive Board Spring meeting, which we held for the first time ever in the Red Knights Memorial Hall. It was humbling to hold our meetings next to our most cherished possession, the Red Knights Memorial. Immediately following the Spring meeting was the Red Knights Memorial Re-Dedication and Red Knights Memorial Hall Dedication that was held on May 5, 2018 in Boylston, MA. Being a part of these events was the greatest honor I've had since becoming a Red Knight! A sincere thank you to all who attended and to all who helped make it happen. If you didn't know, the Red Knights Memorial Hall is now open for use by members. You can find information on how to make a reservation by going to www.rkimf.org and clicking on "reserve memorial hall". There is also a link from the International website at www.redknightsmc.com. On June 1-3, 2018, I attended the 2018 Yankee Rally, hosted by NY 29 and NY 12 in Clifton Park, NY. As always, the Yankee Rally was a blast, congratulations to both chapters for a job well done! This year, an incredible show of compassion was shown by the attendees, as over \$1700 was spontaneously raised for an employee of the host hotel Best Western. The employee, Peggy, needed new hearing aids and could not afford them, so the Red Knights came to her rescue. You are all amazing human beings! Next year's Yankee Rally will come back to Where It All Began and will be held at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough, MA and will be hosted by MA 15. This is a short drive from the Red Knights Memorial and Red Knights Memorial Hall. Immediately after the Yankee Rally, I travelled the short distance to Lake George to once again enjoy Americade. For the second year in a row, I had the honor of staying with MA 2, and I again thank them for their incredible hospitality. Although I missed most of the Red Knight events because I was in the process of buying my 2018 Road Glide Ultra, I have been told that NY 3 once again hosted an amazing ride on Wednesday that took everyone to Lake Placid, NY, where they were able to get their picture taken, on their motorcycle, at the base of the Olympic ski jump. Thursday was another delicious dinner at the Lake George Volunteer Fire Department, hosted by NY 12. Saturday was a new event, the Americade Ride for Kids. This ride benefited kids suffering from paediatric brain tumors. The Red Knights lead the ride and some members had the honor of having a parent or child as a passenger. This was my fourth Americade in a row and it is always a great time. Next up, on July 21, 2018 I attended the VT 1 Make-A-Wish Poker Run. President Julie Rogers and the rest of VT 1 did an amazing job, but I may be a little biased. On August 5, 2018, I again attended the CT 2 picnic. CT 2 also celebrated their chapter's 35th year during the picnic, congratulations on a huge milestone!

Whew, this year's been busy! On average, I put in about 7 – 10 hours per week on Red Knights business. Some may think that is a lot, but it is less than it has been in the past. This is greatly due to the awesome State Reps in Region 1. Each year gets better and I thank all eight of you for the hard work you put in, which saves me.

I hope you all enjoy your Convention here in Pittsburgh. Please, if you see me walking around, feel free to say hi and if you have any questions, I'm here for you. Once again, thank you for the honor of being your Region 1 Director. Red Knights Forever!

Matt Mattera
Region 1 Director



REGION 2 DIRECTOR - Leo Patry

As the Region 2 Director I have attempted to maintain contact with the 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.

Executive meetings of the International board that I attended
August 20, 2017 (Executive Board meeting held after the ABM)
October 25, 2017 Executive Board meeting in Baltimore Maryland
May 1 2018 Executive Board meeting in Boylston Massachusetts

At these meeting as a Board member I took part in the discussions and actions voted upon that were applicable to the Organization

As the Liaison person for the International I attended the 2021 Convention meeting St. John New Brunswick

Association meetings attended:

September 18, 2017 Association 6 Executive meeting in Coburg Ontario

April 20, 2018 Association 6 Executive meeting in Coburg Ontario

At the Association meetings I attended, I took part in the discussions on how to communicate across chapters and Associations, how to deal with difficult members and the promotion to the chapters of the benefits of belonging to the Associations.

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

- The Ontario 9 Chapter meeting in Ottawa Ontario,
- The rededication of the Red Knights Memorial Park and the dedication of the Red Knights Memorial Hall in Boylston Massachusetts
- The Ontario Association Hoofs and Feathers weekend in Port Perry Ontario
- The 4th Annual Yankee Rally in Clifton Park New York
- 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.

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.

Since last year's ABM on August 19th 2017 till the time of writing this report I have spent a total of 318 Hrs., averaging 6.36 Hrs. per week, on Region 2 Business along with the additional time spent attending the International Board, Association and Region 2 Chapter meetings held on the following dates.

If feels like it was only yesterday when I was writing the report for the 2017 convention.

Time sure does feel like it picks up speed as you get older.

I look back to when I joined the Red Knights in 1989 and have a hard time believing that 29 years have flown by and that I am now in my 25th year as being a member of this great Organization's Executive and that the 2018 convention will be the 26th one that I have attended.

I am so thankful that I have had these opportunities to have met and made lifelong friends with so many wonderful people and been able to work with, and to learn from them.

These great members have contributed to our growth and success and with many new exciting things to come in the future with our continued growth around the world, I find that being a part of the Red Knights is every bit as exciting and stimulating today as I did when I first joined.

I am looking forward to attending the June 23-24, 2018 Firefighters Memorial service to be held at the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst Ontario. As well I will be attending the July 20-22, 2018 Ontario Association 6 ABM in Lindsay Ontario being hosted by the Ontario Chapter 20.

Then there will be the International 2018 convention in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania August 14 -19 2018 hosted by the Pennsylvania State Association and attending the International board meetings that will be held during that week. I hope to see many of you at the convention.

Respectfully submitted by
Leo Patry
Region 2 Director



REGION 3 DIRECTOR - Tim Reinard

As the 2018 Convention nears, I find that this has been a great year. In January the Illinois Chapters decided to reorganize the IL State Association. Region 3 now has state Associations in WV, PA, OH and WI.

Due to the Associations being active, this year has seen my work load cut back with the State Associations taking responsibility for their states and answering a lot of questions, inquires and checking in on Chapters. Most of my work has been contacting people, who reach out by emails to various officers and want to join us. Usually this involves a phone call explaining requirements, how to join a present Chapter or form a new Chapter, or perhaps become an MAL. In the rare instance where I can't get a phone number an email is sent, but I always worry that the content may be misread or misunderstood and ask the individual to contact me by phone with any questions or if they feel the Red Knights is an organization that they want to belong to.

The convention has taken up some of my time with helping PA 8 under leadership of the Committee Chair Trudy Rutkowski. By the time you read this, the convention will have started and I hope that everyone partakes of the City of Pittsburgh and all there is to offer. After the convention, the committee will be addressing the convention book and trying to clarify some things in the book and making a check list / spreadsheet for future committees to use while planning the convention. Reading the book every month doesn't seem to be an effective use of the committee's time. Hope to make it easier and simple with the approval of the International Board.

My time at the dedication of Boylston would not have gone so well without my fellow Board members and MA1 members. And I feel this is the proper place to thank everyone. Seems I had picked up a double sinus infection and a little pneumonia, so breathing was kind of tough. But everyone kept an eye on me and we got through the whole event without episode. To me this exemplifies what caring and sharing are all about.

On a personal note, I am finally able to get my leg over the seat of the ultra and will be riding to convention this year. It has been 9 months since my hip replacement and I was starting to wonder if I would ever be able to swing the leg over the seat. Even started looking at trikes and trike kits but not sure is I am ready to give up the lean just yet.

Hope this finds all of you well.
Tim Reinard
Region 3 Director



REGION 4 DIRECTOR - Joey Powell

Fellow members, what a year it has been. I like to start off by thanking all of the members for a great year filled with great rides and Rally's. I would like to thank Alabama for hosting the 2018 Dixie Rally. This was a great event. We went back to the basics, I believe, just coming together and having fun, making new friends and great memories. There were a lot of new members that attending this year. Next year the Dixie will be held in the Gulf Coast in Mississippi hosted by one of our newest chapter MS3. Last year after the convention I was unable to attend the fall board meeting due to a family emergency. However, I attended the Spring meeting and the dedication of the memorial hall.

I believe that with in Region 4 more members are beginning to read the by-laws and SOG. I still get calls on them but the questions are to help understand them and this is a great call to get. I feel like more members are getting involved. I would still like to encourage each chapter to get more younger members involved. This is our future for the club to grow, get them involved in helping with decision making and make them feel like a part of the organization. I hope to have a new program and power point out on the web site by Fall to help each chapter recruit younger members. This past year we added 4 new chapters to Region 4: GA 5, MS 2, MS 3, NC 23.

This past year we lost a lot of great members that passed away. With this said, at the beginning of this year 2018 we lost our North Carolina State Association VP Gary Sanders. He was involved in a motorcycle accident while in route to a State meeting. This got me thinking that we need to honor those members who pass while conducting Red Knights business or during a Red Knight event in a special way. I brought this up at the Spring meeting and was ask to come back in the Fall with the criteria on how we can do this. KORT this year is being hosted by the Red Knights! It will be held in Gatlinburg TN in October. We are hoping for a great turn out for this event, the time of year and the location could not be better. Leaves will be changing in the mountains and the rides will be great. Please visit the International web site for all the details.

As I stated above, I believe that we went back to the basics at the Dixie Rally. I do believe that this is what we need to do. We do need to run the organization as a business but we need to also remember why the club was formed. The club was formed for a few reasons.

To promote motorcycle safety.

To engage exclusively in social charitable and educational activities.

To project a positive image of motorcycling.

To enjoy the community of firefighters.

Sometimes I believe that we get to involved and caught up in the business part and we forget the FUN part of just riding making new friends. Let's make it fun for everyone and get out there and ride.

Have a great year and I hope to see you out there on road.

Who am I" ...by Thomas Powell

August 28, 2010

"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.....

Hope everyone has a great year of riding.

Joey Powell
Region 4 Director



REGION 5 DIRECTOR - Lance Colt

At the last convention in New York I was fortunate to be elected as the new Region 5 Director. On the international side I attended the fall board meeting in Baltimore, the spring board meeting along with the Memorial Dedication in Boylston Massachusetts. As with anything new it takes a little time to figure out how things work and what needs to be done. A special thanks to all the current board members as well as Gil Rekin our past Region Director for helping me through the process.

I am glad to announce Region 5 has gained three new chapters. A special welcome to Alberta 2, Iowa 2, Minnesota 2, as well as a few MAL's. On the downside we are also losing 3 chapters at convention. After speaking with the members involved there was little hope of saving Idaho2, Minnesota 1, and Washington 3.

At the time of this report I have just returned from the Western Rally in Minnesota. For those of you that couldn't make it you missed a awesome rally this year. It was held at Big Sandy Resort near McGregor Minnesota. Over 140 Red Knights attended including the International President Chris Gadway. The Minnesota Red Knights did a great job, and everybody had a really great time. I am looking forward to next year's rally in Edmonton Alberta. It is at the base of the Rocky Mountains and is very beautiful place to visit. Come join us for a great time.

I have tried my best to answer any questions and deal with some of the problems in the region. I am your regional representative on the board so don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or issues you may be dealing within the Red Knights. Thank you for your support and I look forward to what the next 12 months has in store.

Lance Coit
Region 5 Director



REGION 6 DIRECTOR - Allen Aurich

I have spent up to 10 hours each week working on Red Knights business. I am working with some of the MALs out in Arizona to form a new chapter. I am also working on getting Oklahoma Chapter 1 from Pryor, OK. back up and running.

On May 1st through May 6th I attended the Spring Board Meeting where the International Board was able to rededicate the Red Knights Memorial and dedicate the Memorial Hall to the membership. What great and historic week.

On May 19th the Texas Assoc. helped the Texas LODD Task Force put on their escorted ride to raise money for fallen Firefighters, Police, and EMS workers families in the State of Texas.

On June 7th through June 10th, I attended the Oklahoma State meeting hosted by OK 10 from Chickasha, Ok. We had a great time and passed on a lot of helpful information to each other.

The new Oklahoma State Association Officers are:

Pres. - Chris Looney - OK MAL

Central VP - Richard Sprague OK 9

Western VP - Carl Billey - OK 8

Eastern VP - Allen King - OK 7

Sec. - Willet King - OK 7

Treas. - Shawna Spoonemore - OK MAL

Congratulations to all the officers.

On June 22nd through June 24th I attended the Texas State Convention and Meeting that was hosted by TX 8 from Lake Jackson, TX. We had a great time and passed on a lot of helpful information to each other.

The new Texas State Association Officers are:

Pres. – Dugan Stanley - TX 12

V. Pres. – Chuck Mathews - TX 7

Sec. – Daryll LaBove - TX 1

Treas. – Josh Wilde - TX 7

Road Capt. – Dean Smith - TX 4

Congratulations to all the officers.

Respectfully submitted:

Allen Aurich

Region 6 Director



REGION 7 DIRECTOR - Pierre Halleux

1. New Members at Large, New Chapters and New Countries.

• New Members at Large (18 members)

Gerold Schmidt (GERMANY)

Carlsten Pojke (GERMANY)

Andreas Berufs (GERMANY)

Thomas Gundlach (GERMANY)

Annelies Aillet (BELGIUM)

Joerg Worbs (GERMANY)

Melanie Worbs (GERMANY)

Bassiem Madalo (GERMANY)

Kathrin Madalo (GERMANY)

Lilli Madalo (GERMANY)

Michael Mummert (GERMANY)

Ulrich Nielsen (GERMANY)

Noah Fischer (GERMANY)
Andrea Pribil (CROATIA)
Gunnar Bauer (GERMANY)

Vjeran Pribil (CROATIA)
Olaf Böse (GERMANY)
Steen Christoffersen (DENMARK)

• **New Chapters (3 - 26 members)**

- * Switzerland 5, Villeneuve (8 members)
- * Germany 18, Leipzig (11 members)
- * Germany 19, Dortmund (7 members)

Region 7

- 104 MAL
- 841 Chapter members (**945** members)
- 17 Countries
- 15 languages
- **49** Chapters

2. Region 7 Director's duty

- Participation :
 - * Europe Association Board Meeting (Giessen - Germany) February 2018
 - * Germany 6 meeting (Dinslaken - Germany) April 2018
 - * 2020 Meeting with France 3 (La Fere - France) April 2018
 - * Spring Meeting (Boylston - USA) May 2018
 - * Dedication Memorial All (Boylston - USA) May 2018
 - * Italy 1 Meeting (Padova - Italy) May 2018
 - * France 2 Meeting (Le Lavandou - France) May 2018
 - * France 1 Anniversary (Arville - France) June 2018
 - * Belgium 2 Gathering (Oostkamp - Belgium) June 2018
 - * Europe Association Board Meeting (La Fere - France) June 2018
 - * France 3 Anniversary (La Fere - France) June 2018
 - * July 7 : Germany 8 Wedding - Germany
 - * August 3 to 6 August : European KORT - Switzerland
 - * August 14 to 20 : Annual Business Meeting, Pittsburg
 - * September 5 to 12 : EuCon 2018 - Ireland
 - * October 7 : Belgium 1 Charity Ride - Belgium
 - * October 30 to November 3 : Fall Meeting 2018 - USA
- 1150 emails, 280 hours Office business, 34 days travel for visit.

3. Request of opening Chapter from

1. Belgium : 2 Opening Chapter interests
2. England : 1 Opening Chapter interest
3. Denmark : 1 Opening Chapter interest

Fraternally

Pierre Halleux

Regional Director Region 7

Loyal To Our Duty



REGION 8 DIRECTOR - Jason Collins

G'day from Down Under,

It's been a busy time in the South Pacific since the start of the year, hard to believe that we are already ½ of the way through 2018. I would like to thank everyone for their support and hope that I have served you well and provided you with good representation.

Since the beginning of the year I have logged approximately 160 hours of Red Knights related work. Getting on the motorcycle more this year has been somewhat hit and miss for me but time away from work is starting to free up so don't be surprised if I arrive at one of your Chapter rides.

Communications and relations between Australia and New Zealand continue to be strengthened with the sharing of ideas including both successes' and failures. Australia has taken a leaf out of the New Zealand handbook and is in the planning stages of the first Australian Gathering.

In March I attended the New Zealand Gathering hosted by New Zealand 7 just out of Christchurch in the South Island, a fantastic social occasion that was well received. Members rode from all parts of New Zealand with many extending the ride to take in one of the most scenic Countries in the World. Not only is this event a bonding experience but contributes to a local Fire Brigade. Hats off to all those involved and congratulations on a successful 12 Station Ride for around 30 not an easy task.

As mentioned above Australia is holding its first Gathering in November based on the very concept of the New Zealand Gathering. Thanks to Australia 5 & 20 for taking the lead on what I hope will be the start of annual weekend event.

A number of new MAL's have come on board that I have been heavily involved in with assisting the International VP. Chapter growth has been good with 1 new Chapter in New Zealand and 2 Chapters in Australia. Region 8 has grown now to 29 Chapters and just over 600 Members.

In May I had privilege to attend the Spring Board Meeting held for the very first time in a property owned by the Club. A very humbling experience working with a committed and professional International Board, who not only took care of business but put in a lot of work on the property readying it for the dedication.

Australia and New Zealand continue to meet the RKIFMC Mission Statement, as a result many individuals and organizations have benefited from their work. From raffles, BBQ's, Poker runs, Burn Rides and Show & Shine's organizations such as Burns Units, Hospital Emergency Departments, Hospice, Fire Departments, and those in most need have been recipients of the hours of work that many in the club have put in. To say I'm proud of each and every one would be an understatement.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jason Collins
Region 8 Director
Loyal to our Duty

PERRY CARTER AWARD

'RED KNIGHT OF THE YEAR 2018'

CONGRATULATIONS - ALAN BILLINGS



When Alan was presented with the Perry Carter Award at this year's convention in Pittsburgh he was asked if he wanted to say a few words but at the time he was still shocked and couldn't think what to say.

Over the next week Alan had time to reflect on his time as a member of the Red Knight family and this is what he posted on Facebook.

"When Diane and I joined Maryland 4 in 2007 we were looking for a group to ride with that shared the same social and family values that we did. Our time in this organization has far exceeded what I was expecting. At first we just went with the flow of what was happening in the chapter really unaware of what the Red Knights was outside of our little corner of Maryland.

As time went on, as in every organization I have been part of, I felt the need to get more involved in the chapter eventually ending up as President.

During my growth in the chapter Chris Gadway invited me to attend a meeting of the Maryland State Association. Up until then I didn't really know it existed or what it was about. I began attending the quarterly meetings and got to know other Red Knights from around the state. I thought that was really cool that could get to be friends with others and become part of the greater family from the state. Once again I could not belong without getting more involved eventually becoming President of the state association as well as chapter president.

While Chris was an International Officer he attended several funerals and memorials. I rode with him on many of these. I was very humbled to have members from these other chapters not only genuinely thank us for being there but also include us in their celebrations of life following the funerals. I really was beginning to understand the family that this organization truly is.

I am constantly telling members of not only my chapter and state but anyone that will listen that if you do not get out your chapter's little corner of the world and go to rallies and conventions then they are missing out on what the Red Knights is all about. This great family of Red Knights from around the world is outstanding. When I joined if somebody told me I would be able to pick up the phone and call or send an email to people I would meet from all over the country and the world I would not have believed it. Now I could travel everywhere and have "family" to visit.

This has been an incredible journey for Diane and myself and will continue for years to come.

As a good friend has taught us to say – RED KNIGHTS FOREVER!"



YOUR MOMENTS IN PICTURES



Region 1

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

Massachusetts 2 celebrates 35 years as a Chapter

In 1983, after meeting with the Founding Fathers in RKMC Mass-1, a group of firefighters in and around Fitchburg, Massachusetts decided it sounded like a great idea and a lot of fun – and Red Knights Mass-2 received their charter in October 1983. The above picture is from a local newspaper's article announcing the chapter's inception with the headline, "Here Come the Red Knights!"



Officers of the Fitchburg chapter of the Red Knights are (l. to r.) Maurie Lizotte, secretary; Phillip Jordan, president; George Fregeau, vice president; and Cliff Eldridge, treasurer.

That first year 49 people jumped on board to be founding members. Thirty-five years later the chapter is going strong with 70 members on the roster. In between those years, the chapter records show that 232 individuals have been members of the chapter, enjoying the family and fun that the Red Knights is.

What does 35 years hold? Gatherings.... Averaging 30 to 40 chapter events a year on the schedule, that is close to 1,000 (or more) events that we had to help us make memories!

There were pick-up rides, weekends, and pot lucks. We can remember Americades, beach get-aways, Conventions, Yankee Rallies, White & Green Mountains, Berkshires, Cape Cod, train rides, boat rides, sleigh rides, hay rides, bike shows, conventions, rallies, ice cream rides, parades, grand tour rides, B&B rides, Scavenger Hunt, Fire Tower searches, museums, Battlefields, the Moving Vietnam Wall, FF balls and other dances, white water rafting, sledding, and classic car shows to name some!

We've ridden in perfect weather, drizzle, downpours, cold, colder, and frigid... some snow too. And there were times it was hot, hotter, and hottest.

There were Winter Frolics in Canada, touching a Four-corners in Madawaska, Ben & Jerry's, Apple Pie, Smokey Bear, Ausable Caverns, Newport and Mystic. We have been to chili cook-offs, strawberry shortcake suppers, and visited chocolatiers. There were breakfast rides, lunch rides, dinner rides, and we even had a "Porker Ride" that had food at every stop.

Curling, baseball games, hockey games, football games, then there are the card games, dice games, horse shoes, bowling, and bocce. Carloads of gifts to Sherry's House and Fishes & Loaves. A trailer load of Teddy Bears that were hand delivered by Red Knights to over a dozen Ambulance Services and Fire Departments.

Chapter Skills Days utilizing buses, tractor trailers, police cars, and many, many tennis balls. We have participated with the Patriot Guard to honour our fallen service men and women, and stood with others in grief at funerals for friends and other riders.

Mass-2 has had a number of members that have served the International Board, both as elected positions and appointed positions, including (and we know there are others) Ed Brouillet, Phil Jordan, Charlie Clarkson, and Bob Laford.

It is an honour that our chapter has been involved in all levels of the RKMC and has been part of its growth and direction for so many years.

The Red Knights are family, and there are still thirteen of the original charter members that are with the chapter in 2018.

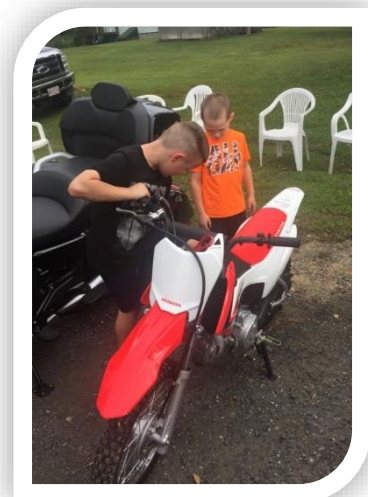


Only four members have served as chapter president in the group's 35 year history. And all four were on hand for the RKMC Memorial House dedication this Spring. Pictured here are Phil Jordan (1983-1993), Ed Brouillet (1993-2003), Bob Laford (2003-2013) and Kevin Martin (2013-Present).

To celebrate 35 years the chapter hosted a Pig Roast and nearly 100 members and friends from around New England joined the fun on Labour Day Weekend. And how

appropriate, the BBQ'd porker was laid out on the Motorcycle Lift in Chapter Secretary Jeff Hamberg's bike shop for member (and professional butcher) Charlie Hamberg to cut up!

Thank you to all those that came out to celebrate with us and offer a toast to the past and to the future.



What do you remember... and what will the next year bring?! Whatever it holds, we'll be there as friends and family enjoying this great organization – Red Knights.

And looking at this picture, it makes me think that the future looks bright!

Thanks to Bob Laford for this article

NY 26's Annual Teddy Bear Run Gets Recognition

On Sunday November 18, 2018 the members of New York Chapter 26 held our annual Teddy Bear Run collecting Teddy Bears and raising funds for the Town of Brookhaven Interface Program. These bears will be distributed to children throughout the township during the year to help make hard times seem a little better. The money raised will help families with food and other needs that the program may be able to help with. This year the chapter was awarded a proclamation from the township declaring Sunday November 18, 2018 as Red Knights Motorcycle Club New York Chapter 26 Day within the Town of Brookhaven.



Region 2

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

The past years activities of the Red Knights Chapters in Region 2 have been busy. It's been a year of growth and development, we have had 5 new chapters start up in the region.

The Ontario Association has had four more chapters join the association which gives us 19 of the 21 chapters in Ontario in the Association with the other two giving consideration to also joining in the 2019 season.

The Atlantic Association is also growing and becoming more active with the ABM being held in July with the election of a completely new Executive Board with a lot of exciting ideas for the members of the Atlantic Association.

I now realize that we are quickly approaching the busy Christmas season of December and how hectic it gets and we have a tendency to get caught up in trying to get everything done and planned for the holidays and forget about the really important things in life, such as family and friends, we in the Red Knights are fortunate in having a very large extended family outside of our personal families.

The main objective behind the creation of the Red Knights was to give Firefighters who have a passion for Motorcycles and riding an opportunity to meet likeminded individuals to share that passion with.

The Red Knights have grown into a worldwide Organization and has made it possible for us to form new friendships with members from all around the world. This has resulted in my case and I am sure in many cases of other members in the making of new friendships with fellow Firefighters and their families from many countries and having the opportunities of renewing those friendships each and every year at the numerous conventions and rallies held by the Red Knights.

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.

I would like at this time to wish all members of the Red Knights a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Sincerely yours in Brotherhood

Leo Patry, Region 2 Director

New Brunswick 5 donate to burns victim

Members of Red Knights MC NB Chapter 5 presented Mr Marcel Theriault of Edmundston , N.B. with a donation of \$500 to help cover costs incurred with travel to hospital , medication and bandages . Mr Theriault suffered 1st and 2nd degree burns to his face, arms and hands due to a fire in his garage.



Region 3

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

I am sorry there are no articles for Region 3.... If you would be interested in becoming the Regional Reporter for this region please contact the editor at editor@redknightsmc.com for information on what is involved.

Region 4

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

2018 Knights of the Round Table

Red Knights MC Tennessee 7 did a great job of hosting the 2018 Knights of the Round Table Competition and as the gathering of the Knights at KoRT came to a close we were pleased to announce that Red Knights Indiana 2 Chapter President Michael 'Woody' Woods came out victorious bringing the sceptre back to the Red Knights by becoming the grand champion. This was a great achievement and ended a 6 year dominance and run of victories by the Green Knights.

I think we can say that everyone had a lot of fun, nobody required any first aid, and no bikes will need any body work repairs.

Big shout out must go to Justin Hendrix and his entire team for an awesome time in the Smoky Mountains and huge **CONGRATULATIONS** go to "Woody" for a great job and making us all proud!

The sceptre will be on tour for everybody to see in 2019, you can see it at the Dixie Rally, Yankee Rally, Region 3 Rally and the Convention.



Region 5

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

I am sorry there are no articles for Region 5 If you would be interested in becoming the Regional Reporter for this region please contact the editor at editor@redknightsmc.com for information on what is involved.

Region 6

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

Hello Brothers and Sisters;

I have reached out to every Chapter in the Red Knights MC region 6 trying to figure out what to report for the Region. As I filter through the events that I know happen in region 6 by press time they will all have been completed. So what I will report on is just what does Region 6 consist of.

Region 6 includes (the following data was from 2017 as I was unable to obtain the most current numbers)

California 1 chapter and approximately 15 M.A.L.

Colorado Approximately 3 M.A.L.

Hawaii 0 chapters and 0 M.A.L.

Kansas 1 Chapter and approximately 1 M.A.L.

Nevada approximately 4 M.A.L.

New Mexico 4 Chapters and Approximately 1 M.A.L.

Oklahoma 9 Chapters and approximately 9 M.A.L. Just Recently OK 1 was re-established.

Texas 13 chapters and approximately 23 M.A.L. TX 9 was just recently established in TX.

Utah approximately 4 M.A.L.

As you can tell we have a lot of room for growth.

Events happening in Region 6

Oklahoma has the 2nd annual Ride to Remember Oklahoma First Responders April 20, 2019. The Oklahoma Chapters assist the Oklahoma Wind and Fire on this event. Several TX members ride up to participate in this event. On a personal note as an Oklahoma retired Firefighter this is a special cause for me and I ride from South Texas to Oklahoma to do this ride. You can find the information on Facebook if you would like to join in on the fun. The Texas and Oklahoma Chapters have a great time hanging out for the weekend.

The Texas State Association assist in the LODD Memorial Ride in May still to be determined on location at press time.

The Texas State Association Annual Convention has been set for June 28-29th 2019 in Tomball TX Hosted by TX VII.

Chuck (Roadrunner) Matthews,

TX VII Road Captain, TX State Association Vice President



Region 7

(European Chapters)

Red Knights International Firefighters MC Outstanding Contribution Awards for Europe

Three European Red Knights have been honoured to receive the Outstanding Contribution Awards since the last newsletter was published. CONGRATULATIONS to Tom 'Sparks' Hoedjes and Steve Williamson who were honoured in 2017, Tom for his tireless work as



President of the European Association and Steve for his work as the Newsletter Reporter for Europe and as the UK Representative. These were followed In 2018 Danial 'Wauzi' Waldspurger was presented with his award at the International Convention for the

many contributions he has made to the Red Knights.

The European Red Knight of the Year – 2018

Further CONGRATULATIONS go to Danial 'Wauzi' Waldspurger on his European Red Knight of the Year award for 2018.

Danny was the first Red Knight in Europe and has been tireless in his work to promote the Red Knights, he has been instrumental in the Red Knights involvement in the Knights of the Round Table competitions in Europe.

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.



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 for each donation. A total of 68100 euros was collected and all profits were donated to the cancer research association. Other projects will follow this year, such as bringing Christmas presents to hospitalized children.



EUROPEAN IRON BUTT AWARD



The thirty one (31) participants of the Iron Butt Award 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 and made the award for the second time. For this he will get the silver patch. Switzerland 1's Gery "Dutchy" Jansen's fourth Iron Butt award has earned him the honour of becoming the first Red Knight to be awarded a patch with a golden star.

To participate in 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 totals. Then you send this photos with your postal address to the email address of the award manager. You must also send € 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 award is still ongoing for 2018 but participation has been just as good as last year and it is now open to all Red knights.

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 tried to make the most of the stay there. Also they are really working hard 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...



England 2 Member, Dick Barr Cycles from John O'Groats to Lands' End

Dick Barr, a member of England 2, and three other firefighters cycled nearly 1000 miles from John O'Groats to Lands' End in aid of the Western Park Cancer Charity raising over £4000.



The cyclists were assisted during their epic ride by their driver and fellow England 2 member Keith Ellis, together they rode for 10 consecutive days beginning on 8th September 2018.



Weston Park is the region's only cancer hospital, providing care for thousands of patients across South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire. Weston Park Cancer Charity is committed to funding things that the NHS is not able to in order to offer the best possible care to patients and their loved ones.

Red Knights - Croatia I, FIREMAN RIDE AND BARBACUE 2018



For the fourth year in a row Croatia 1 held a firefighter meeting called FIREMAN RIDE AND BBQ this year's was held on 16th June. At the meeting we visited the fire brigades in Primorje - Gorski Kotar County including 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 was completed with a dinner at the PFB Rijeka station Vežica.

Ireland 1 Member completes 32 Marathons in 16 days

From September 1st to the 16th Cork City Firefighter Alex O'Shea took on his biggest challenge to date. In aid of the Irish guide dogs for the blind, he ran 32 Marathons All 32 Counties of Ireland In just 16 days raising over €30,000...AMAZING!



So that's a marathon in every county of Ireland running two per 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.

A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE on the 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.



Tom 'Sparks' Hoedjes addresses the



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

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 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 members. Thank you to everybody who worked on this to make it possible for us.

Monique "M" Reusser, Switzerland 1



Belgium 2's Gathering of the Knights

THANK YOU #GATHERING2018

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 was the food, and everyone needed a drink after

a long hot drive.

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.

A fantastic total of 2000 euros was raised this year and Members of Belgium 2 can be seen here handing over their cheque to 'De Bevertjes' in September.



England 2's Annual Belgium Visit

Every year in June England 2 visit Belgium 2 for their Gathering of the Knights weekend and after last year's disappointment of being unable to attend because our ferries were cancelled, we couldn't wait to make the trip this year.

We took the overnight ferry from Hull to Zeebrugge on Thursday disembarking on Friday morning for a day's riding and visiting some WW1 sites.

Our first visit was to the Tyne Cot WW1 Cemetery which was a very humbling experience, and then we made our way to the Passchendaele Memorial Museum which again brought home the full horrors of the First World War.



Friday night was spent at Belgium 2's clubhouse and after the 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. The Official Gathering of the Knights party was held at the nearby fire station and over the years the Belgium 2 Gathering has increased in size and this year was no different. More than 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, Steve Williamson was honoured to be asked to present 5 year membership pins to two members.



After the formalities were completed the party continued with a meal and live music.

We rode to the fire station to socialise with friends on Sunday morning 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 and then it was back to Zeebrugge for the overnight ferry back to the UK.

Germany 14

Already after its foundation in 2016, the chapter from the capital of Germany has grown more and more. 2018 was to be our year of activity and we wanted to step out of the shadows and actively draw attention to ourselves. We visited many friends MC's and of course our brothers and sisters in Germany and abroad.

Our main focus was on this year's chapter party was to be under the motto "no violence against emergency forces". We led a convoy of over 80 bikes through Berlin to the Brandenburg Gate. The feedback of the population and the participants was very positive. In cooperation with the Berlin Senate and Unfallkasse Berlin, we were able to draw attention to the lack of awareness of the increasing readiness to use violence in Berlin. In the following years we want to continue the campaign and will represent our concerns.



After the demonstration there was a small tour by Berlin to the military-historical airfield in Gatow. Here our chapter party took place with best weather and live music and it was celebrated into the early morning hours.



We have also given first aid courses especially for bikers at other motorcycle clubs. Also here the feedback was very positive.

Finally we wish all brothers and sisters of the Red Knights MC family an accident free season 2019.
Patrick „Whitie“ Weiß, President Germany 14

Tom and Stephana travel to the EUCON 2018 at Trabolgan, Ireland



This is the story of Tom van der Kley's and his girlfriend, Stephana's travel from Germany (Messerich) to the EUCON 2018 in Trabolgan Ireland. It is written to show how interesting and beautiful it is to travel together, even on long journeys and covering many kilometres. It was Stephana's first long journey on a motorcycle and she rode like a seasoned rider..



We set off on the 4th of September in Messerich Germany heading for Charleroi airport to meet Pierre Halleux and Patricia. Pierre's camper was there and kindly let us to stay in it for the night.

5th September.

After a long time waiting, finally the day has arrived. After the riders had arrived the Charleroi Airport Fire Brigade gave us breakfast, a short explication of the day's plans followed and we started our first day riding together.

We had our first break after 90 minutes to see if everyone was comfortable with the riding, all was fine so we rode on until 12:30 when we had a break for lunch. We finished the second half of the day arriving safely at the Hotel in Lisieux. We met at nearby Buffalo Grill for dinner after which some of the members organized a birthday surprise for one of our group. The guys from Buffalo Grill brought some cakes and after a little happy birthday singing and a couple of drinks, day one had reached an end.

6th September.

The day started at 0700 and after riding for a total of 3½ hours we stopped for lunch at a small restaurant in France. After a delicious meal, we rode for 90 minutes before stopping to fix a problem with one of the Top-Case. Luckily we were able to get two screws from an old Renault garage that fitted perfectly. After two more small brakes, we arrived on time at Roscoff Harbour.



We checked in for the ferry, secured the bikes and had our first Heineken on the Boat. Most of the group were pretty tired so we had an early night.

7th September.

Some of the members were a little seasick over night so we started easy. After a short safety briefing with a lot of: STAY LEFT!! We started the last part of our journey. It was a little confusing for the first couple of miles having to ride on the " Wrong side " of the road but we soon got used to riding on the left. We had our dinner at a kind of Canteen where there was an historical walk where you could see two old buildings and the river.

Personally, it was my first " Irish " experience of the beautiful landscape. After the meal we started the last couple of miles and had to take a tiny ferry to get from one side of the bay to the other.

The crossing was so short that just a minute after the safety instructions we landed on the other side. What a fantastic moment it was when we finally arrived at the Trabolgan Holiday Village! So here we are in beautiful Ireland with the whole Red Knights family and a warm welcome. We received our goodie bags and keys to the room, took a quick shower and headed for the bar to enjoy a fantastic evening of drinking and socialising and it was nice to see and meet some of the US members like Chris, Lorey and Rick, that I've not seen for a couple years.



8th September

After a quick breakfast it was time for the Presidents' meeting which closed at 09:30. Wow that was a fast one and the first time that we didn't have to hurry to be on time for the ride out.

In beautiful Irish weather about 200 bikes set off on the ride which was escorted by the Irish GARDA. Our first stop was on a Cliff overlooking where the Lusitania was sunk by a German Sub-Marine in ww2 and then it was onto the 9/11 Memorial garden at Kinsale where each of the 343 Firefighters killed had a tree planted in their name and a name plate positioned at every tree. Emotional speeches were given by Barry O'Mahoney and Chris Gadway and an Ireland 1 Member played his bag-pipes, I am pretty sure that not only my eyes weren't dry after that. The next stop was at the Cork City Fire Brigade, they did an awesome job getting all the bikes parked inside the station where they provided lunch and even had the RED-BULL promotion ladies there handing out fresh cold cans.

In the evening we had our Gala Dinner and shortly after the dinner the Cork City Fire Brigade Drums and Pipes played for us.

9th September - End of the official convention

We had a breakfast and said goodbye to the participants who started their trips home. We accompanied some other Knights to Cove and the Titanic Museum and then visited Blarney Castle and the Jameson Distillery before returning to Trabolgan, for the unofficial closing Party.

10th September - Goodbye to everyone

After breakfast we said our goodbyes and rode to the Cliffs of Moher. We planned to arrive in the early afternoon and to sleep in a B&B in Doolin but due to bad weather (again fog and rain) we arrived later than planned. We didn't see anything of the cliffs due the fog as visibility was down to around 5 meters. We decided to ride directly to Roscoff and stopped around 120 km from Doolin in a nice little city where we found a perfect hotel near to a cute Bar. After getting out the wet clothes we went to the bar and drank our last beer on Irish soil.

11th September.

Finally the weather was a little better for our last day in Ireland. We rode over nice little roads back to Roscoff arriving in the Harbour where we met two other MAL who were waiting to board, soon after a whole bunch of Switzerland guys arrived so it was going to be a nice evening on board together.

12th September - On French ground again

We said goodbye to our travelling companions and headed for Normandy stopping first in St. Mere Eglise (where a Paratrooper is still hanging on the roof of the Church).

After visiting the Airborne Museum, we rode to the Beaches, first to the Pointe du Hoc (depicted in the Movie Saving Private Ryan) and then to Omaha Beach. After a taking pictures and a few short stops we found a hotel in a small fishing village. We went for dinner in a fish restaurant and ordered oysters (we both never had oysters before). All I can say is that it wasn't our favourite thing to eat but after our fish and steak dinners we slept very well.

13th September

After breakfast we rode to the beaches again to the Museum of Debarkation and then to the Dead Man's Corner to a new Museum housing a DC3 simulator. The only thing that I want to say is: "If you are in the Normandy go there, it is worth every cent".

14th September

The last day we rode from Lisieux back home. It was around 600 km on French national roads. It was a long day but after 12 Hours we arrived safely and tired at home after riding a total of 3064 km.

It was one of the best holidays I've ever had. We have a lot of memories and made a lot of new friendships. We saw stunning landscapes and villages and gained a lot of experience for traveling long distances (like always having a couple of screws and a toolbox on your bike) We learned that riding in a big group is easy when everyone takes care of each other. And most importantly: Riding with the biggest family is worth every km, every raindrop and every dirty road.

Tom van der Kley, MAL, Treasurer of the European Association, MAL Representative,

*If you are thinking of
visiting Europe in 2019
here are two events that
you might be interested
in.*

Knights of the Round Table Rally 2019



Green Knights MMC as 2018 Champions are hosting the event

Location: Ardenne Region Belgium
Date: 2-4 August 2019



**The KRT Rally 2019 will be hosted by Belgique 2.
Cedric Francois (Prez) will post specific detail soon.**

Welcome back to Wolfenbuettel!

We are very proud to host the RKMC European Meeting for the second time and welcoming you again in our beautiful town.



Choose your accommodation:	Hotel	199€
(whole weekend, drinks excluded)	Guesthouse	175€
	Group tent	120€

Come and be part of Europe's largest RKMC party in 2019!

**See you from
06.-08. September 2019!**

Information & booking



<https://rkmc-europeanmeeting2019.jimdo.com>



Red Knights MC
European Meeting 2019
hosted by Germany 2

Ireland 1's account of their 2018 European Conference

Red Knights Ireland 1 had the honour and privilege of hosting Eucon 2018 in our home city of Cork on 7th - 9th September in the fantastic surroundings of Trabolgan Holiday Village. It was a delight for us to see so many people make their way to our tiny island from far and wide. Some arrived a few days before the event and some stayed for a while after to soak up the unique atmosphere that our country has to offer.



Friday was registration day and was due to commence at 17.00. We received reports of guests arriving at 08.00 trying to book in. Some were very keen to get the party started!! Throughout the day guests trickled on to the concourse of Trabolgan and immediately found Cotters bar. Registration opened early at 15.30 and continued for a few hours. By 19.00 all our guests had arrived with the exception of England 2 who were running late due to a ferry cancellation and eventually joined us at 22.30. By this time the party was in full swing and a local band were playing a variety of songs for our distinguished guests. A fine buffet was served to fill the empty bellies of our weary travellers. There were hugs, handshakes and fist bumps aplenty as new and old friends met and took to the dance floor in an evening that was enjoyed by all.



Saturday, we woke to the disappointment of our fears being realised, RAIN. Thankfully as we met everyone for breakfast, all were buzzing about the forthcoming ride out. As we assembled in the carpark, we were joined by our colleagues from An Garda Síochána (Police). Three Garda motorbikes and a Garda Jeep were to be our chaperones for the day. Some 130 motorbikes left Trabolgan at 11.00 heading for the beautiful Old Head

of Kinsale. Under the stewardship of our diligent chaperones the entire group was kept moving and together. Out at the "Old Head" we stopped for a photo orchestrated by the wizard behind a camera and a great friend of Ireland 1, Kieran Minihane.



He even braved the wind and driving rain and wrestled with his drone in pursuit of "the perfect shot". From there we headed back towards the picturesque town of Kinsale, where just outside stands a monument to the firefighters lost in 9-11. It was a sombre and sobering moment and as a wreath was laid to honour them, Alan Roberts of Ireland 1 played Amazing Grace on the bagpipes, and after a moment's silence we were on the road again.



Our next stop was Cork Fire Brigade HQ. Where we were received by members of Blue Watch, Third Officer B O Donnachú and Chief Fire Officer John Ryan. A fine spread was provided by "Le Chef" Peter Long, member of Ireland 1. Again nothing was spared in what was presented and along with Blue Watch who helped out, nobody left with an empty stomach.



On leaving the station we headed back to Trabolgan and prepared ourselves for the nights festivities. We gathered in Cotters Bar to hear speeches and words of gratitude towards our efforts in organising the event, before heading to Kitty O Sheas restaurant for dinner. After dinner we had a special visit from Cork Fire Brigade Pipe Band. Who Marched in and played a few tunes, which seemed well received by all. Then it was back to Cotters, where a traditional band played a Mix of traditional and Irish ballads. This was followed by a DJ, which resulted in probably the first ever "mosh pit" being formed in the bar. It was a great night and was enjoyed by all who stayed up long enough to witness the mayhem of the night.

On to Sunday and time to say a few goodbyes to friends leaving us but travelling on around our fair isle. Some took the opportunity to go off and venture to some of our nearby tourist attractions. Others decided to catch up on some much needed sleep. It was a beautiful day in Cork so it was perfect for whatever people decided to do. After dinner we once again congregated in Cotters, which was now open to the public, so we took the opportunity to set up outside on the concourse with a few guitars and have a few hours of a sing-song with everyone. It was good craic with good company and many laughs.

Monday morning again it was time to say our goodbyes to our remaining guests and wish them well on their travels and safe riding wherever they were to end up.

All in all we at Red Knights Ireland 1 hope all of our visitors enjoyed the whole weekend as much as we enjoyed hosting them. To us it was a great success and we delighted in the positive vibes and feedback we received from everyone. We passed on our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the staff and management of Trabolgan and would like to thank everybody involved in organising a fantastic weekend that will live long in memories. And finally we would like to thank every member of every chapter, far and wide, who attended, for without you and your patience and good nature, the weekend would not have been the success it was.

Is mise le meas (Respectfully yours)

Keith O Callaghan, Secretary, Red Knights Ireland 1

Region 8

(Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific)

Australia 10 make the Newspapers & TV News



The idea of doing something “fun and different” for a good cause inspired the Wyndham chapter of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club to hold a pyjama run to support the SAFE STEPS family violence response centre.

The idea came to fruition on Saturday the 3rd of November when Australia 10 set off from the Sealight Pavilion in Melbourne Docklands precinct in Victoria wearing pyjamas over their protective clothing to raise funds and awareness for the Centre. Safe Steps provide access to emergency accommodation, safety planning, advocacy and referrals to those escaping a violent domestic environment.

Approximately 35 bikes from Australia 10 and various other clubs as well as non-club riders participated in the event, they enjoyed the ride in the Victoria sunshine before arriving at Channel Seven’s Docklands headquarters where their good work was captured on TV by Channel 9 News and in the local newspapers.



The ride took them out of Melbourne through the towns of Rockbank, Gisborne, Bacchus Marsh and finishing back in Melbourne at the Phoenix Hotel in Point Cook for lunch. Along the way they collected 133 pairs of pyjamas which will be donated to Safe Steps. These will be used by families who move into crisis accommodation, often with only the clothes on the backs. They were also able to hand over the good sum of \$400 to the organisation to use in the course of helping those in need.



Donations to Safe Steps can be made via their website <https://www.safesteps.org.au/get-involved/donate/>

New Zealand's riding season gets underway

The riding season is just kicking off with a hiss and a roar in New Zealand after the standard winter hibernation.

New Zealand has 10 Chapters spread across the North and South Island, with 6 in the North and 4 in the South. Our mountainous terrain can sometimes be restrictive with meeting other Chapters due to the distances involved, but a weekend trip to meet up with other Chapter members definitely strengthens bonds.

An adventure was organised into NZ 9's territory of the sunny Hawkes Bay for the weekend of 28th-30th September 2018, with 15 members from NZ 5 warmly greeted by NZ 9 members. The weekend consisted of perfect riding conditions, numerous great riding roads, lots of hilarity and culminated in a group dinner. The overall consensus was that we will definitely organise another weekend adventure, where two chapters are able to meet up.



NZ 5 have been out on the road throughout the winter, with their Road Captains organising a ride every fortnight to an area or place of interest. NZ 5 caught up with NZ 9 again in October, where they checked out an early settler's museum in Feilding.

NZ 5 also took part in the Pink Ribbon Ride on the 14th Oct 2018 – supporting Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, with over 250 bikes on the ride. This was a very well-run event, but even so accidents happen. There was a 2 bike accident near the back of the pack that was witnessed by two of NZ 5's members - Vice-Pres Tony Kerr and David Beckley. They quickly leapt to the aid of the two riders and assisted in rendering first aid before emergency services arrived. Fortunately the injuries weren't life threatening and one bike could even continue on the ride. A big THANK YOU to these two for upholding the ideals and principles of the Red Knights and helping others.



RK New Zealand holds an annual 'Gathering', where all 10 Chapters are given the opportunity to converge on a different location around New Zealand to partake in the regions twisty roads, imbibe in their amber nectar (lots of craft beer breweries in NZ!), reunite with friends far and wide from the Chapters and for all of the Chapter's Presidents and Vice Presidents present to meet round the table to discuss any Chapter issues or initiatives. This February it is in the North Island provincial town of Waipukurau and to date there have been approximately 70 registrations.



NZ 9 Chapter with the Members of the Waipukurau Volunteer Fire Brigade wish to open up an invitation to all Red Knights NZ, Region 8 and global Members, to attend the 2019 Gathering on the 22nd-24th February 2019 in Waipukurau, Central Hawkes Bay, New Zealand.

This will be a gathering not to miss as we introduce you to some amazing riding roads in and around central Hawkes Bay. 100% of your registration fee is going to the Waipukurau VFB as our Base hosts for the weekend. Here is some of what you can expect!!

- Friday Arrival BBQ Dinner:

- o Mix and mingle with fellow Knights and get to know our hosts, enjoy a meal and refreshments after your long journey to Central Hawkes Bay

- Saturday Breakfast & Ride:

- o We kick the day off with a hearty breakfast at the fire station, then our road captains take over and take us touring (Saturday lunch as at your own cost)

- Saturday Evening Dinner:

- o Freshened up after our ride we are back to the fire station for our evening sit down dinner, Executives meeting, Chapter fining session and lots more fun!!

- Sunday Morning Breakfast & Farewell:

- o Before we depart another hearty bikers, breakfast is on at the fire station, chance to say our final huru's and ride off with our memories of a great weekend.

If you require any further information about the February Gathering, please feel free to contact Rossco (VP NZ9) at rossco8@msn.com

The NZ 6 chapter is spread across the top of the South Island and covers some amazing roads from the top of the South, to the West coast and to the East coast. Members are located all over this geographically diverse area, and so organise over-nighters for catch-ups.



Bikes lined up at Murchison Cemetery for the unveiling of Joe McLellan's headstone over the weekend as part of a celebration for Joe. Photo: Supplied. Inset: 35 year old Joe McLellan.



Riding for Joe

Amy Russ
Reporter

amy@waikato.co.nz

Family and friends of Murchison local Joe McLellan gathered in the weekend for a memorial ride and unveiling, to celebrate the life of the loving family man.

Tragically Joe passed away on Christmas Eve 2015, when he lost control of the ute he was driving.

Father to four, 35 year old Joe was the Deputy Fire Chief at the Murchison Vol-

unteer Fire Station, an active member of the Board of Trustees for the local school and a 'community-minded' person who loved a good social event. His step-daughter Alysha Tinetti says there wasn't an event he was not involved with.

"The family wanted to do something for everyone who knew Joe, because this is how he would have wanted it," says Alysha. "To have everyone he socialised with all come together to celebrate, not only him, but everyone

being together. We chose to do this on April 14 because it's the closest weekend to his birthday (April 16) and anyone who knew Joe would know that he always had a gathering with his mates on his birthday, and we weren't about to stop that."

On April 14, friends and family gathered at the Murchison Fire Station to set off on Joe's usual bike run through Springs Junction to Reefton and back to Murchison, before heading to the cemetery for Joe's head-

stone unveiling. Ending the day with a BBQ back at the Fire Station was the perfect tribute to a man who was loved and remembered by so many.

The Red Knights, an international firefighters motorcycle club that Joe was a member of, have decided to make the run an annual event in tribute to Joe.

Joe is survived by his wife Erin, step daughters Alysha and Bevalyn Tinetti, and children Penelope and Anthony McLellan.

One of NZ 6's members, Deputy Chief Joe McLellan from Murchison Volunteer Fire Station was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident on Christmas Eve 2015, and every April NZ 6 hold a memorial ride to celebrate his life. Here is an article from the local newspaper.

NZ 7 are located on the East coast of the South Island around the Christchurch area. NZ 7 were the hosts for our previous Gathering and were pleased to be able to present a cheque for \$1200 to the South Canterbury Hospice from the proceeds of the Gathering.

New Zealand articles written by Shaun Crowley, NZ 5 Chapter Pres, Region 8 NZ Reporter

Australia 5 Host the first Australian Gathering

In May 2018 the Region 8 Director asked me if my Chapter (Australia 5) would be willing to Host the 1st Australian Gathering on the 4th weekend of November. It was an Honour embraced by the chapter and the planning began.

We found a brigade who was willing to offer their station and we were off and running. Our gathering arrived so quick and the weather was not our friend. Many had to ride in down pours and one member felt the sting of the road! Fortunately, nothing more than his pride hurt.

Our Hosts from Badger Creek officiated at a fun and welcoming trivia night, a few drinks, great food and many laughs saw the first night through. Saturday saw more rain and breakfast was an opportunity to consider the safest ride options – lunch would be waiting in Marysville at the Duck Inn.



A shorter than wanted, yet much safer route was picked and we were off. After a good feed and some time to visit local shops we upped stands and headed back to Badger Creek. Between the ride end and dinner there was some downtime to enjoy the local area, sell chapter Merchandise or just rest and share a tale or two.



To start dinner, Aus 5 junior Member Makayla Moore offered an Indigenous “Welcome to Country” followed by Aus 5 VP offering a toast to the missing Fire Fighter. A 2 course meal with an Auction and coin toss for a bottle of Jack Daniels had us all sharing many jokes and laughs. We also welcomed Shauna and Rob Wilson to the GTM family as well as presenting them with their “AUSTRALIA” patches, a feat completed in record time and without duplicate stations.

We wrapped up the weekend with breakfast and an invitation to enjoy the Native Sanctuary before heading home.

All in all, we had a wonderful weekend with 41 Red Knights joining in the event. We had representation from 10 Australian chapters, 7 presidents, 1 Australian MAL and 1 New Zealand chapter.

For all our efforts, we can pat each other on the back and be proud as enough funds were raised to cover the cost of a desperately needed second defibrillator unit for on the brigade's second truck... Well done to all who came and a special thanks to my chapter, you are all truly family.



Article written by Roger van Kollenburg, President, Australia 5



RED KNIGHTS' CHARITY DONATIONS

