



***RED KNIGHTS INTERNARTIONAL FIREFIGHTERS  
MOTORCYCLE CLUB, INC.***

***INTERNATIONAL BOARD AND COMMITTEES END OF  
YEAR REPORTS***

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## **Jack Downs, President, 2008 End of Year of Report**

This is my yearend report for 2008 and as you can see, we are trying something different. We are posting the officers reports on the web site now. This may be more effective to get our message out for three reasons. One, you will get our reports. Members have been telling us they do not get the newsletter. That can only mean they are not on our mailing list or the address we have is incorrect. Two, you will get the reports faster. In addition, three the expense is less. After mailing the newsletters, we are finding a growing increase in return mail. Therefore, we would like to try it this way and see what happens. This should be the answer to a growing problem.

You are going to see some new faces on the Executive Board this year. I would like to welcome Vice President Dick Morse, Eastern Director Spike Ostiguy, Western Director Gil Rekken, Southern Director Jack Jarvis and International Quartermaster Kent Armstrong to the Executive Board and Newsletter Editor Patrick Reynolds. I am looking forward to working with these Officers. Also congratulations to our Executive Secretary Bill Snodgrass on his re-election.

It was a pleasure working with Vice-President Dave Emery, Eastern Director John Rucinski and our Quartermaster Bill Collins and of courses our Newsletter Editor Bob Laford. These members have made a huge contribution to our club in so many ways. As the members of the Board are finding out it takes more time and effort to work on the Executive Board these days. Our fall meeting in Syracuse, New York had an agenda with some 34 items to discuss. Generally, we only have half that number.

It looks like we were correct in creating the positions of Regional Directors. The Regional Directors are very helpful to both sides of the table. I think we are serving our members to the best of our ability. We have tried to keep up with the growth of our club in so many ways. Our members need to remember the rules we run our club with are written for a reason. Everyone needs to work together in your chapter and stay in compliance with the rules we have agreed to.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know I am looking forward to 2009. This will be my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a board member and 14 years as a Red Knight. I was elected to the board in 1999 and it has been a pleasure serving you. I am having a great time being a Red Knight and it is because of the great members that makes all of this feeling possible. As always, if you are ever in South Florida be sure and look me up.

Ride Safe!

Jack Downs

## **Dick Morse, Vice President, 2008 End of Year Report**

This is the month-by-month activities report of the Vice President of the Red Knights International Executive Board.

After working on the International Convention in Sandusky for approximately 2 years, 9 trips to Sandusky, half a dozen meetings and untold hours, The Committee pulled off one of the most memorable Conventions in Red Knight history. Attendance was a record breaker and the reception by the community was amazing. All trips went well with no accidents.

August, I was elected to the Vice President's office on the Executive Board. Receive laptop from Dave Emery. Dave sent all the material that is needed to complete the duties of the VP.

September; Receive E-Mails and answer Club related phone calls. Attempt to get the laptop working. Had a friend help set it up. Attend Chapter # 1 meeting and Help with a fundraiser at Western Reserve Harley Davidson. Created a two-part envelope for the collection of MAL dues. Received patch and rocker inventory from Dave Emery. Purchased a storage cabinet for supplies. Purchased office material needed to complete my duties.

October; Travel to Maryland to participate in the Red Hemet ride and the Memorial Service at the Fire Academy in Emmitsburg. Met many Red Knights members and was introduced as the Club's new Vice President. Traveled to Syracuse New York to attend the International Executive Board meeting. Attended the Ohio #1 meeting. Phone calls and E-Mails sent and answered.

Put Master MAL list from Leo in a program called "My Mail List" Still having problems with the Laptop. Sent out new MAL packets to new members.

November; E-mail and phone calls handled. Put together almost 400 MAL dues envelopes. Stuffed, Labeled, Stamped, Sealed and Sent. This was finished by the end of the month. Took laptop to repair shop and was advised that the laptop was shot. Received another from the International Secretary. Waiting for answers inquiries from MAL applications.

December; Received several phone calls from Members at Large concerning, dues owed, address changes and other problems. Worked with the International Treasurer to work out some problems. Follow up on several items and thanks to Leo for doing the same. Friend has laptop and will get it up and running after the Holidays. Sent out several more new MAL packets.

Note: Laptop is now set up and working, the old one was returned to the Secretary. I will work with Leo in updating the Master MAL list and in due time, send out second notices to those who are in arrears with their dues.

Attested: Dick Morse, International Vice President.

## **Bill Snodgrass, Secretary, 2008 End of Year Report**

The year 2008 was another busy year for the Office of the International Secretary.

The trademark license program takes a large part of my time. The trademark license program for chapter business is not working as well as expected. We have 148 chapters who have applied for a trademark license for chapter business but have 28 chapters who have not returned them. We have 307 chapters; therefore, 38% have approved trademarks for chapter business.

The turn around time for approving new trademark applications to the chapters improved from several weeks to 5 to 7 days, depending on the mail system. When I took over the trademark program we had 185 applications (some were still pending), we now have 532.

The next challenge is the Chapter By-Law approval program. In January 2008, all chapters were notified that they needed to resubmit their chapter by-laws to Steve Chappell for review and approval. I want to thank Steve Chappell for accepting this duty. The chapters have three choices that they can do. The first is to adopt the International By-Laws for their chapter by-laws, the second is to use the generic Chapter by-laws or design their own chapter by-laws and submit them to Steve. To date we have 52 chapters who have approved chapter by-laws and 18 who have chosen to adopt the International by-laws as their chapter b-laws. Steve has 67 additional chapters that he is working with on approving their by-laws for their chapters. This gives us a submission rate of 44% and an approval rate of 25%. We need to make this a major project in 2009.

In 2008, we insured 56 chapter events. This is the same number as in 2007. In my visits with other chapters, I have found that there are still chapters who do not know about this program. We need to get the word out to all chapters about this program.

In 2008, we had 137 requests for information on starting new chapters. We approved 32 new chapters (23%) and have 40 applications outstanding. As the numbers show, we are getting a lot of inquires but are not getting the same number of new chapters

We have to do a better job of following up on these applications. We are not gaining as many chapters as we are getting requests for information. The Regional Directors and State/Province Representatives have to take the lead in following up on these requests. As the applications are good for only 120 days, I would suggest at least two or three follow-ups on each request.

The SOG manual is still a work in progress and I want to thank the Board members who have input on this. The one thing that I have found is that not all of the State/Province Representatives are aware of this manual or where to find it (it is on our web site under the link for Membership). As they are the first line in the chain of command, they need to be aware of this. Many of the questions that I received from them, the answers are in the SOG manual.

A Procedure Manual for Hosting of the International Convention was designed, approved by the Board and placed into service. This lists the requirements for hosting the convention, the needs of the International and the reporting forms need. It is a road map for the chapters to follow. The 2008 Convention Committee was the first to use this manual and feedback shows that it was a big help to them. The financial reports are a big help to the International Treasurer.

The system put in place voting at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) now has been in place for tow years. We have found areas where it stills needs to be streamlined but is working. We are now able to track who votes for each chapter. The voting member now signs in, is check to see if they are a member in good standing of that chapter and given a wristband. We are still working on making this easier for the membership.

The Convention Handout Booklet containing all of the reports, by-law changes and other information given to each member in attendance when they registered is also now in its second year. This has been accepted by the membership with good results. This allows the member time to review what will take place at the ABM. This year we hope to add a short bio on members seeking election to the International Board.

I attended three International Board meetings, a Special meeting with MD 4, the Annual International Convention, the Dixie Rally, Western Rally, NC State Rally, the 343 NC ride, the open house lunch at Rolling Thunder. I visited 30 chapters in North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Nevada, and Colorado. In addition, I attended three national rallies in Arkansas, Texas and Nevada promoting the Red Knights. I represented the Red Knights along with a member of the Blue Knights on the "Knights Across the Borders" Charity Ride from Canada to Mexico for a children's camp.

I attended the first Red Knight Cruise in February.

I attended three funerals of Red Knight members as the representative of the Red Knights International Board.

I worked a total of 1124 hours in 2008 over 239 days which is an average of 32.49 hours per week based on 34.6 weeks. This is an increase from 28.47 hours a week for 2007. The workload for the position of International Secretary is increasing as we grow.

I want to welcome the new Board members who were elected in August to the Board. I know that they will work towards the team building and devotion to service of the membership and organization that is required of all board members.

Submitted By:  
Bill "Popeye" Snodgrass

## **Leo Party, Treasurer, 2008 End of Year Report**

As International treasurer I submitted to the board a quarterly report for all quarters of the 2008-year including an end of year report. I also provided the board with up to date financial records and a report for all three Executive meetings held in 2008. In January of 2009, I mailed to the International Secretary a CD with a copy of all the Treasurers records as stored on the treasurers Lap Top Computer along with paper copies of my year end reports.

I made hotel arrangements for all Executive board meetings held during the year as well as arrangements for air flights for those members required to fly in to attend.

Meetings where held: April 4, 5, 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Syracuse New York

August 20, 22, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008 in Sandusky, Ohio

October 23, 24, 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Syracuse New York

Set up and maintained a tracking databases for funds donated by the chapters for the Red Knight Memorial. All promotional and events grants given to the Chapters and Associations of the Red Knights Organization along with all grant funding provided to the Chapters and Associations for multi-chapter events for the Red Knights Membership.

Maintained and tracked the Organizations investment account and made reports to the Executive board on a quarterly base the state of that account.

On July 15<sup>th</sup> we completed the trade marking process for the name "Red Knights and RKMC then on November the 4<sup>th</sup> we completed the trademark for Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club we are now just waiting for the completion of the same trade mark applications in Canada which should be completed early in 2009.

We also changed legal firms in 2008 as the lawyer who has handled our trade mark application since the beginning of the application process in 2004 Joseph Englander left the firm of Christopher & Weisberg P.A. and became a partner in the firm of Shutts & Bowen.

We now own the names and logo design (which is the crest on the back of our vests)

- Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club
- Red Knights Motorcycle Club
- Red Knights
- RKMC

We currently own the Canadian rights to the Red Knight's name and are awaiting the finalization of the application process for the remaining names as owned in the United States.

On January 18, 2008 I filled with the IRS the required 1096 form dealing with our 1099 Misc. form reporting honorariums paid and interest earned on our investment account then on February 1, 2008 I filed the Red Knights corporate tax return with the I.R.S

On August 28<sup>th</sup> 2008 I filed the annual report with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in regards to our articles of incorporation.

Unfortunately, because of the personal commitments of our quartermaster he was unable to keep up with the demands of the quartermaster's office and stepped down. The Board in turn appointed Kent Armstrong as Quartermaster and Joy Ellis as his assistant. There have been several procedural changes made that have greatly sped up the time requirements for the chapters to receive the orders they have placed.

With the appointment of a new Quartermaster the International treasurer took over the complete control of all monies and accounts for that office, which did increase the amount of work required by the treasurer but made the system and accountability of the cash receivables and liabilities considerably more accurate.

Spent 1679 hours (35 hours per week) during the period of Jan 1 – Dec 31 2008 dealing with Emails, phone calls, and correspondence related to the duties of International treasurer with approximately 2 hours per week spent on Internationals Banking requirements. Averaging out to 34.98 hours per week an increase of 4 hours per week from 2007 and 14 hours per week from 2005

The above mentioned times are also above the time required to attend Executive meetings and the business conducted at the Internationals business meeting held each August. I also attended two funerals in 2008 for Red Knights members that had passed away as the representative of the International Board along with attending special meeting held in Maryland in December

At this time I would like very much to thank all the members of the International Executive for all the help and encouragement they have provided me in a very hard and trying year.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of the executive board for all their efforts on behalf of the membership and the team building that has continued over the past couple of years to bring the board to the level it is now at, without that drive and devotion the organization would not be able to survive.

At the completion of my fifth term (10 years) as International Treasurer I would at this time declare my intention to run for one more term of office as International treasurer and am requesting the support of the chapters and membership for my candidacy in the elections to be held at the 2009 convention in Fort Lauderdale Florida in August.

Leo Patry  
International treasurer

## **Kent Armstrong, Quartermaster, 2008 End of Year Report**

**(NO REPORT SUBMITTED)**

## **Jeff Peters, Central Region Director, End of Year Report**

This first, full year as Central Director has been both busy and fulfilling. I have had many very good interactions with the chapters in the Central Region, our Region has experienced very few issues, and I thank the members for that.

The Central Region chapters have conducted themselves in a very professional manner and I am proud of my Region.

I attended many meetings in regards to the International Convention in Ohio in 2008 and as most of you know that attended; this was a most successful convention and the most attended convention in our history. Thanks to the Ohio Association for putting on a very impressive convention and I hope future conventions take note of the success.

I conducted and completed the election process for the Ohio Association officers and they have a very dedicated group leading the Association. I also conducted polls of other states about forming Associations and have received minimal response and support for this endeavor. Time will tell about if they want Associations within their states. I encourage them in forming Associations.

I attended the spring business meeting of the International board in Syracuse, NY and also attended the Board meeting at the convention and attended the Fall Board meeting in Syracuse, NY.

I think we have a very good group of individuals that are providing guidance for the Red Knights and I look forward to many more years of interaction with this group.

I attended the Red Helmet ride in the fall of 2008 and participated in the parade and memorial. A very sobering but great event honoring our fallen firefighter brothers. I also attended Rolling Thunder in DC.

I attended the 2008 convention in Ohio and spent the entire week meeting and having a wonderful time with our members.

There were some chapters that experienced some problems but all were worked out to the member's satisfaction and I thank those that were involved in this.

Now starting a new year, I look forward to the continued growth of the organization and meeting new members and promoting the Red Knights.

I have decided to run for another term come the convention 2009 and I ask for the support of the Central Region and your vote at the 2009 convention.

If there are any problems, concerns, questions or any thing else on your mind, I am always available to be contacted and I do make it a point to get you a reply within 24 hours.

I have averaged approx. two hrs a day doing business for the organization.

Ride safely and have a wonderful 2009.

Jeff Peters Central Director

### **Spike Ostiguy, Eastern Region Director, End of Year Report**

**(NO REPORT SUBMITTED)**

### **Henry Heideman, Eastern Canada Director, End of Year Report**

In 2008, I was able to meet all the obligations of my office. I attended all three Executive Board Meetings, answered all requests for information and spent some time at our booth at the North American International Motorcycle Super Show held early in January in Toronto. Also in January, I compiled a list of Fire Departments in the Province of New Brunswick, where we had no presence, and mailed an information packet to each. The results of that promotion are that we now have one chapter in the province and are working on two more. We are also currently working on a new chapter in Prince Edward Island.

During the year, I spent a total of 242 hours or a little over 20 hour per month on Club business.

I am looking forward to the year ahead as we are currently working on a newsletter for the region. We have a volunteer to edit it and our first edition should be out before the riding season. I am excited about the prospect of a Regional Association, which I will get to work on as soon as we have a second Provincial Association, which could happen in the near future.

All in all 2008 was a good year for the Eastern Canada Region and I am really looking forward to 2009.

Respectfully submitted  
Henry Heideman  
Eastern Canada Director

## **Jack Jarvis, Southern Region Director, End of Year Report**

After being elected in August, I realized just how much work goes into this position. Being the Assistant Southern Director was a breeze, all I had to do was follow up a couple items and tie a couple loose ends. I now know what this actually takes and I am proud to be able to do it.

As far as hours worked in Red Knight material, I put in about an average of two hours every day. This goes with answering emails, phone calls, or arranging and sending the info that is supposed to go to my state reps. Apparently I have been doing a decent job as most of the material that has been sent out has gotten me phone calls asking “What do I do with this?”, as most of the reps have not been getting all the info they need. As Director of the Dixie, I also sent it out for a vote and designed a website for the Southern Region. The best part about this site is being able to register AND pay online for the Dixie. This is the first and probably the last website I ever design on my own. Marie was quite happy when it was done due to the many late nights of loud bangs and dirty words coming from me at the computer. Overall, it turned out well for a novice and took about thirty hours for me to get it done right over the course of about a week or two.

The Southern region has grown quickly since I have been elected. We added nine chapters from August to December and have quite a few more applications still out there. I have made contact with every applicant as well as sent all the info to the respected state reps for follow up. All of the state reps now know that I count on them to make a difference. They were not sure what to do when I first starting sending them info, but I think they are grasping what the job of a state rep is.

All chapter Presidents have been notified by me personally about the Chapter Business Trademark License Agreements, as well as the By-Laws. I do not want to overwhelm anyone but I hope these items are coming in to the respected places fast and furiously.

Unfortunately, I have not done much traveling as of yet, but have made visits with NC and SC chapters and have been on the phone and the computer trying to introduce myself to everyone. I have been pushing the Dixie hard and hope to have a huge turnout this year. With this being my first EOY report, I can only hope that I have done my position proud and maybe helped this great club improve a little.

Loyal to Our Duty

Jack Jarvis  
RKIFMC Southern Director

**Gil Rekken, Western Region Director, End of Year Report  
(NO REPORT SUBMITTED)**

## **Patrick Reynolds, Newsletter Editor**

As the editor for the newsletter it is my goal to present to you and the members of our organization the very best product I can produce. In order for me to accomplish this goal it will be necessary for me to devote a good deal of my time learning the ‘tricks of the trade’ in editing and publishing. And in learning these I also have to convert what was up to this point an extremely well-developed and edited hard copy paper to a newsletter that will be completely web based.

But this will take a change in thinking not only for our board but also for our readers. The board has been willing to take this gamble, to leave something that is familiar and venture into something that is different.

As for our readers, I realize that holding a paper and turning the pages gives the reader an intimacy that is lacking in just viewing words and pictures on a screen. So it is my intention to make up for that loss by including things that the hard copy newsletter couldn't. Hyper linking articles that may be of particular interest to our readers will be a standard practice. Establishing deadlines and keeping to them will guarantee our readers that what they want published on a certain date, will be published. Working closely with our webmaster – Steve – I will raise the level of the artwork and illustrations.

As with our hard copy newsletter and the work that Bob did, I expend all my effort to make our web newsletter will be something that we can all utilize, and can all be proud of.

Patrick Reynolds

## **Steve Chappell, By-Law Chair, End of Year Report**

The Chapter bylaws continued to trickle in for the year. At this point, we have fifty-five chapters and associations, which have had their bylaws accepted.

I have found that many of the chapters did not download the latest version of the generic bylaws from the web. This included a couple of the associations that submitted bylaws. It is much easier for me to examine and correct proposed bylaws when the membership uses the forms provided on the web.

We have fewer chapters who are admitting to using 1% rules than we have had in the past. The biggest problems have been probation for members, earning, and owning the patches. Since we have so many chapters that have not filed their intent, to use chapter bylaws or follow Int. bylaws, I do not know if these problems continue.

As of December 30, 2008, ninety-four chapters/associations have contacted me with their intent. Twenty-two have chosen to run under International bylaws and seventy-two have chosen to add individual Chapter bylaws. Of those seventy-two, seventeen chapters/associations have not returned their corrected proposed bylaws and

thus, are still considered to be operating under just the International bylaws.

Respectfully,

Steve Chappell By-Laws Chair RKMC

### **Steve Chappell, Web Liaison, End of Year Report**

**Please read all of this because there is some important information for every Board member.**

The web updates went fairly well this year. There were some times when the web master was under the weather for one reason or another and the updates were not as prompt as I would have liked, but, overall, it was a good year.

There was some misunderstanding from club members about the twice a month posting of their information. There was also some misunderstanding about linking from the web page to personal pages instead of qualified, Chapter controlled web pages.

One item that the Board must attend to is the posting of biographies from each Board member. The new Board members probably were not informed of the request. It was suggested and accepted to do this just prior to the last convention and I asked everyone to submit your bio at that time. I had hoped that I would not have to ask for the information more than once but here goes the second time. So far, I have a bio from Henry, Jack Jarvis, Leo and Patrick. It has been suggested by, other than Board members, that I publish what I have and shame the rest into submitting theirs. That, I will not do. How ridiculous to even suggest. I will not publish the Board bios until I have them from all of the Board.

I have attempted to keep current with all of the links that we have from our web pages. I have had to delete some that were dead and others that had obviously changed since they were first linked. It is important that we keep all unnecessary and incorrect information at a minimum so that our bandwidth or usable memory on the server is not wasted. The Chapters are starting to understand that they need the Chapter Business Trademark License in order to be linked from the web page. It has taken many emails and lots of explanation as to the rules for linking for this to catch on.

Just last week, Marcy made some additions to our web domain names and we have transferred our entire list of web domains to a US company with automatic renewals so that we will not be left out in the cold, as it were. We now own the following domain names:

Redkinghtsmc.com  
Redknightsmc.net  
Redknightsmc.us  
Redknightsmc.org  
Redknightsmc.ca

It is more important than ever that we let our membership know that the newsletter is now on the web only. This is going to save our club money and our newsletter editor time. Patrick has done a great job of hitting the ground running but we must remember to stick to the deadlines that he has published for submissions to the newsletter. Once he sends it to me, I convert it to a PDF file and have Marcy post it. If you send information after the deadlines, it will just have to wait until the next newsletter.

From now on, the submission of pictures to be posted on the galleries or on the grand tour page will be restricted to two hundred kilobits or less. Up to this time, I have been accepting any size picture and downsizing it with my own software. This is going to stop. Just last week, I received a bunch of grand tour pictures and it crashed my computer twice. There were ten pictures and each one was over a meg and a half. (1500 kilobits)

The Web Forums are doing well also. Marcy and George Colby have finally come up with a solution to the problem of “web robots” clogging the forum with bogus applications. At one point, George was getting forty fake applications per day. I believe that the forum is still being under utilized. At present, we have about three hundred members who have taken the time to join. George has done a great job in plodding along and doing the application checks on that amount of members. Unfortunately, for a club of eight thousand, three hundred is not a large participation. However, I feel that the forums are the quickest and easiest way to disseminate information.

There continues to be some problems with our email system. These problems seem to be with the local internet service providers for each of the Board members. Usually, the ISP thinks that our web mail is spam and blocks it. In addition, there has been some problem with the Board members not having correct setting on their laptops. I hope that the problems have been addressed and corrected. Remember, write down your user name and password and keep it in a safe place, (and remember what that place is) the password was given to you and it is possible to change it, please do not. I cannot check your account when Marcy emails me of a usage problem if you have changed your password.

With the advent of Windows Vista and its forced use on the new machines, it is very important that each Board member become friends with a local computer technician who they can turn to for help with their computer. These are great tools but they are simply doorstops if they do not work the way they are supposed to work. Marcy and I can give you the settings for the email but getting it to work at your home is not something that we can do over the phone.

I will continue to try to solve any of the problems that you may encounter with the web page, the forum or your computers. I am stuck in Windows XP and do not know Vista so be aware of that.

Respectfully,

Steve Chappell  
Web Liaison RKMC

## George Colby, Red Knights Forum Moderator, End of Year Report

2008 has been a busy year for our new forum and me. The original forum was deleted because of numerous "BOT" applications and contamination. That is to say, "Computer generated bogus" applications and virus plants. In an effort to keep our new forum "clean" I was appointed (I actually volunteered) to be the Moderator.

My duties include:

1. Checking all applications against the Red Knights Master Roster (I receive updated rosters on a regular basis) to ascertain as to whether the applicant is a member in good standing or a computer generated "BOT". (Bots can access legitimate forum members and flood their email with "spam" if they get through.)

2. Emailing each legitimate applicant of his / her acceptance and activating his / her user name and password.

If the applicant is rejected (usually for non-payment of dues or their name not appearing on their chapter roster) he / she is also informed and his / her application is deleted. This enables them to reapply once the problem has been resolved. When it is a matter of non-payment of dues, I forward a copy of the message to the International Secretary and treasurer. This enables them to keep an eye out for a check.

3. I am responsible for perusing the forum and keeping an eye on content and correctness of comments for any particular subject.

Should I find something that is improper, I am responsible for seeing to it that the author is informed of his / her inappropriate messaging. I would also delete the post if deemed necessary. If things really got out of control, I would have to ban the offender(s).

I work under the direction of, and am answerable to, the Web Liaison Steve Chappell.

Things started quite rocky in 2008. My email was bombarded daily with 10-15 "bogus" applications. Each one had to be reviewed and checked against the Red Knights master roster. It was a time consuming frustrating job, but I did volunteer for it.

I was in constant contact with Steve Chappell and our Web Master Marcy. The three of us were working on ways to stop the bots. Marcy managed (after a few months of adding layers of security) to put a stop to them. There are currently over 300 members of the forum and I am happy to say that no serious "issue" has needed to be resolved.

The forum is accessible from our web site and I invite you to register. One never knows when something will show up that sparks your interest. If you are planning a trip, you can ask for places to see along your route and get replies from those who live in those regions.

Got something to sell? The forum is a good place to post it. Technical information and chapter news are other subjects posted.

International convention news as well as regional conventions and major events are other subjects posted by members from all over.

If you have not yet applied, please do. If you are already, a member thanks you.

If there is a forum section you would like to see added let me know. I am reachable by private message. Just click on "Forum Moderator" at the site. (Once you are registered)

Regards to all and be safe.  
George Colby

### **Grand Tour, End of Year Report, Henry Heideman Chair**

2008, was another banner year for Grand Tour. In January, we received our new pins, which are a 1 1/8" Cloisonné design as opposed to the 1" photo screen-printed pin we had.

During the year, I spent a little over 50 hours to send out 346 certificates and pins although 80 of them had been earned in 2007. As of Dec 31, 2008, exactly 1300 members have earned a Grand Tour Certificate and Pin since the program was re-instated in 1999.

Grand Touring is becoming more of a chapter event than an individual ride. In 2008, thirty-eight chapters (318 members) completed a Grand Tour. Three Tours included more than one chapter as three chapters in Massachusetts rode a tour together as did two New York chapters and two Connecticut chapters. Twenty-eight individuals recorded Grand Tours.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Henry Heideman  
Chairman Grand Tour Committee

### **Bob Laford, Past Newsletter Editor, 2008 Spring Issue Newsletter report**

Spring 2008 Newsletter Issue Report Date: May 28, 2008

Here is a breakdown of the newsletter:

- 5,584 U.S. households, 567 Canadian households, 55 Overseas households
- Printing and mailing was forwarded to First Responder News, so I do not have figures on that cost. To assist the board with cost comparisons from the past, the 2007 Fall newsletter printing cost was \$0.59 per copy. With mailing cost added in, each newsletter cost basically \$1.05 to produce and mail for the fall.

If you compare the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 newsletters, there is a definite difference in the paper quality, stock, and appearance. The board will need to decide if the savings in printing costs with First Responder is sufficient enough to balance the lesser quality of finished product.

The draft was available for review on April 13 with final changes made by the board during the ensuing week. The final revision was forwarded to the First Responder on April 19. Just to give a timeline reference, I received my personal copy in the mail

on May 28, 2008.

An additional piece of data to share with you is that I received 31 pieces of mail back after the Fall 2007 mailing. The U.S. mailing is done bulk rate so we do not receive them back, but of those returned 24 were from Canada and 7 were from New Zealand. That accounts for 4% of the Canadian and 12% of the overseas mailings. The New Zealand returns were almost all because of “insufficient address.” When we did mail all the newsletters first class and received all of the no deliverables back, we averaged 2-3% returns. If you make the assumption that this still holds true, that means that around 175 U.S. households were non-deliverable during the fall bulk-rate mailing.

I do want to express my satisfaction with the cooperation and professionalism that we have received from the vendors we have used in the past. Both Fieldstone Press of Orange, Massachusetts and Inquiry Systems of Southbridge, Massachusetts were always nothing but helpful and patient with me as we developed our bi-annual mailing. I hope that you continue to have a level of service at least equal to them in the new format. If plans change, I know that each of these vendors would be more than happy to step up and work with the Red Knights again.

Again, I must say that the past ten years working with the board as your newsletter and web page person has been a great experience. We have grown from 650 newsletters to over 6,200 in the mailing. I wish the next editor as much enjoyment in the position as the biggest plus of the job is the interaction with those members that are most enthusiastic about what their chapters and the Red Knights are doing.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Laford

**Red Knights Int. Firefighters Motorcycle Club Inc.  
Leo J. Patry**

International Treasurer  
6000 Battersea Rd., R.R. # 2  
Battersea, Ontario, K0H 1H0  
Canada

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**YEAR END REPORT FOR 2008**  
**January 1<sup>st</sup> till December 31, 2008**

January 19, 2009

**GENERAL ACCOUNT**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b> <b>Jan 1 2008-Mar 31</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b> <b>Apr 1-Jun 30</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b> <b>Jul 1 – Sept 30</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b> <b>Oct 1 – Dec 31</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b> \$ 54,731.21	<b>Opening Balance</b> \$ 93,258.72	<b>Opening Balance</b> \$ 76,921.34	<b>Opening Balance</b> \$ 69,011.14
<b>Deposits</b> \$ 75,632.28	<b>Deposits</b> \$ 49,218.14	<b>Deposits</b> \$ 31,541.66	<b>Deposits</b> \$ 20,995.96
<b>Expenditures</b> \$ 37,104.77	<b>Expenditures</b> \$ 65,555.52	<b>Expenditures</b> \$ 42,451.86	<b>Expenditures</b> \$ 29,782.94
<b>Closing Balance</b> \$ 93,258.72	<b>Closing Balance</b> \$ 76,921.34	<b>Closing Balance</b> \$ 69,011.14	<b>Closing Balance</b> \$ 60,224.16

**INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

December 31, 2008                      \$72,155.61

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**CHAPTERS IN GOOD STANDING**

<b>1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b>
221 of 281	271 of 299	294 of 300	300 of 304

**M.A.L's**  
**IN GOOD STANDING**

<b>1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b>
202	232	257	256

**CHAPTERS IN ARREARS**

<b>1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b>
60	28	6	4

**4 CHAPTERS ARE IN ARREARS FOR THE YEAR OF 2008**

Florida 12,      Illinois 15,      New York 28,      Wisconsin 1

## BREAK DOWN OF EXPENDATURES

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quartet</b>
Telephone	\$ 287.86	\$ 192.00	\$ 348.00	\$ 325.53
Postage	\$ 897.74	\$ 5,133.42	\$ 1,786.75	\$ 2,058.00
Photo-Copies	\$ 663.40	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 468.31	\$ 343.74
Office Supplies	\$ 345.51	\$ 280.52	\$ 2,850.03	\$ 8,045.20
Insurance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,270.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 0.00
Fee's	\$ 2,600.64	\$ 692.22	\$ 11,879.67	\$ 2,032.58
Honorariums	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Regalia	\$ 5,575.39	\$ 14,514.41	\$ 10,889.56	\$ 9,422.73
Donations	\$ 0.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.00
Publicity	\$15,372.10	\$ 5,611.54	\$ 2,084.20	\$ 250.00
50-50 Draw	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Heaven 1	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,417.68	\$ 248.39
Travel	\$ 862.13	\$ 4,361.41	\$ 5,427.66	\$ 8,969.92
Investments	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,104.77</b>	<b>\$65,555.52</b>	<b>\$ 42,451.86</b>	<b>\$29,782.94</b>

**Year to Date Expenditures \$174,895.09 true total is 154,895.09  
(20,000.00 for investments taken from the 65,555.52 in the second quarter**

## SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT INTERNATIONAL QUARTERMASTER

<u>STOCK ON HAND</u>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4th</b>
December 31, 2007	Value	\$ 15,379.50		
March 31, 2008	Value	\$ 17,219.95		
June 30, 2008	Value	\$ 15,198.56		
September 30, 2008	Value	\$ 27,020.56		
December 31, 2008	Value	\$ 25,804.98		
First Quarter General	\$ 93,258.72	\$ 76,921.34	69,011.14	60,224.16
First Quarter Investments	\$ 50,795.48	\$ 71,487.00	71,487.00	72,155.61
First Quarter Quartermaster	\$ 17,219.95	\$ 15,198.56	27,020.86	25,804.98

Net worth of R.K.I.F.M.C. Inc Dec 31, 2007 153,505.53

Total Net worth  
R.K.I.F.M.C. Inc.                   \$ 161,274.15   \$ 166,606.90   \$ 167,519.00   158,184.75

Increase of 4,679.22 Since Dec 31, 2007