RED KNIGHTS MC EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION



Newsletter #1/2024

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Hello fellow European Red Knights and welcome to the first **EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER.**

My name is Steve Williamson, President of England 2. Some of you will know that I was previously the Editor of the International Newsletter for 9 years and the European Reporter for 10 years. I left these positions in October last year and I had a discussed with the European Association President, Peter Abbring about having a **European Newsletter**.

So here we are, this Newsletter can be a good place to let your European Brothers and Sisters know what your chapter has been doing or has planned for the future; your travels and your chapter parties, your charity events and more. Let me have your stories and photographs and I'll see that they go in this new **European Newsletter**.

Here we go with the first edition and I hope you enjoy it, remember, send me your stories and news to the email address below so that I can let fellow European Red Knights know about your Chapter activities. Thank you to everyone that has sent me their stories for this edition.

For this new **European Newsletter** to be a success I need you to send your stories and news, it doesn't have to be very big, a few paragraphs and a couple of photos would be great.

I look forward to receiving your articles and to publishing them here in your **European Association Newsletter**, you can send them to me at newsletter@redknightsmc.eu.

Steve Williamson, Editor



COVER PHOTO

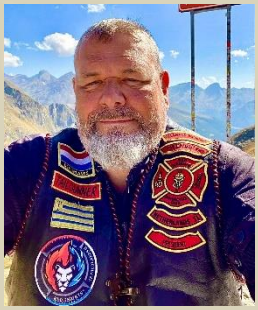
Red Knights gather together at a European Convention

The next Newsletter will be published in December 2024…

Your articles must reach me by **15th November 2024.**

Newsletter Editor - Steve Williamson
newsletter@redknightsmc.eu

MEET THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD



Peter Abbring
President



Patrick Weiss
Vice President



Martin Kroll
Secretary



Olaf Böse
Treasurer



Florian Lohmann
Road Captain

Our European Association President sends you this message

Dear brothers and sisters,

The first 6 months as European president are already over. It was mainly a period of getting to know the members of the European board, visiting various chapters in Europe and reading up on the various procedures and rules of the general Red Knights organization. While reading all this information, I sometimes wondered whether too many rules have been drawn up over the years. Perhaps a point of attention for later. But certainly, an interesting topic to exchange ideas about with you.

We are now working hard with the European government. In the beginning it was especially important to determine the right priorities, but we have now got things on track internally. I would like to inform you about what we are currently doing.

First of all, the fantastic news that two new countries have joined the European Red Knights family, a warm welcome to the new chapters Romania 1 and Czech Republic 1. We hope to meet you in person somewhere soon.

Steve Williamson will keep you regularly informed of European Red Knights news through this European Newsletter, my request to all of you to make a small report of a Ride-out, chapter party, anniversary or participation in a trade fair and to email him newsletter@redknightsmc.eu

Our webmaster Markus is working in the background to give the website a new look. The first steps have already been taken and it looks good. It is expected that we will be able to present this new site in Leipzig during the presidential meeting.

We will make more promotional material available that the chapters can use to promote the Red Knights at fairs and open days. This plan is now being drawn up and financial resources are being made available to realize it.

That brings me to the financial part, the European Board has no fixed income and is therefore dependent on the voluntary contribution of the chapters and MALs. There are already quite a number of chapters that have made the contribution for this year, but not all of them yet.

For €2 per member you can help us create more promotional material. The chapter that organizes the Eucon also receives support from the voluntary contribution pot. With your contribution you also help your brothers and sisters to organize a great event.

The project to organize a promotional tour through European countries where there is no or only 1 chapter is now being developed. Discussions are underway with countries where we could organize this.

Work is also underway to set up a program to provide spiritual assistance to the Red Knights who need it. Further information will follow when this project is more detailed.

Finally, we are working on merchandise, a design team is working on designing and having an original T-shirt made. Make room in your wardrobe because this will become a collector's item!

The motorcycle season has now started again and if I follow it on Facebook and other social media, this is also the season of parties. The Presidents' Meeting in Germany, for example, was a great opportunity to see several old friends again and get to know new people.

We were also at the Germany 6 party in Dinslaken. A super fun party. BBQ, something to drink and a good atmosphere, exactly what it's all about in my opinion.

Together with a number of members of my own chapter, Netherlands II, we participated in the season opening of Belgium 8, a fun tour through the border area of Belgium and the Netherlands and we attended the ceremonial opening of the Fire Department monument of England 4 in Essex, a memorable day for all of us and also a great example of what enthusiastic Red Knights can achieve when they join forces.

The Gathering of the Knights of Belgium 2 will soon be on the program, perhaps we will meet there again.

There are more fun events on my personal schedule, so who knows, we may meet somewhere in Europe. If you have any questions, comments, ideas or constructive criticism, please do not hesitate to email me.

president@redknightsmc.eu

Peter Abbring

A word from our European Quartermaster / International Quartermaster Assistant, Henning Thies

Hello brothers and sisters,
I have been doing the job as QM for almost 1.5 years now and I am overwhelmed by the good response I am getting. I have all the relevant patches in my warehouse for immediate delivery. Unfortunately, we don't have a patch manufacturer in Europe that can keep up with the prices from the USA, so we still have to accept the long waiting times for custom patches.
I also have a large number of the European patches - European Association Patch / European Meeting Patch and the European Association Pin in stock. I would be happy to see these patches on every vest.
I will also be at the International Convention in Leipzig and will have a selection of pins and patches with me.
Here's to continued good cooperation
with best wishes
Henning


Red Knights
Belgium II
RED KNIGHTS MC
FIREFIGHTERS
RED KNIGHTS
BELGIUM 4
Ireland 1
France 2
European
Member at Large
Belgium 3
RED KNIGHTS
BELGIUM 1
RED KNIGHTS
MOTORCYCLE CLUB
BELGIUM VII
ENGLAND
RED KNIGHTS
AUSTRIA II
Motorcycle Club
FIREFIGHTERS
BELGIUM VI
RED KNIGHTS
BELGIUM
8
RED KNIGHTS MC
20
19
GERMANY XXV
RED KNIGHTS
MOTORCYCLE CLUB
Belgium 5
RED KNIGHTS
NETHERLANDS 1
RED KNIGHTS MC
SWITZERLAND 2
XXII
GERMANY XXII
FRA Chapter V
Red Knights
Switzerland 1
RKMC
Switzerland VI
Red Knights
MC
GER XXIV
2019
Germany VII
Red Knights
FRA CHAP. VII

Red Knights International Firefighters
Motorcycle Club® Inc.
Europe Association Office of the
Secretary
Elsepaßweg 58 D-46446 Emmerich am Rhein
Germany secretary@redknightsmc.eu

Minutes of the Board Meeting
January 27th, 2024
ZOOM-Meeting

Participants:	Peter Abbring	PA	President
	Patrick Weiß	PW	Vice-President
	Martin Kroll	MK	Secretary
	Olaf Böse	OB	Treasurer
	Florian Lohmann	FL	Road Captain
	Henning Thies	HT	Quartermaster
	Sven Coopman	SC	MAL Representative Guest:
Excused:	Tom van der Kley	RD	Regional Director Region 7
	Marcus Honkisz	MH	Webmaster

3. 1. Welcome and report of the President:

PA opens the Meeting at 19:02 h and welcomes everyone.

In recent weeks, PA has held numerous one-on-one meetings with the members of the Board and the Regional Director. Another Online-Meeting with the Country Representatives and the Regional Director as a groupmeeting harmonises tasks and responsibilities. The structure of the work on the Board of the EU Association will be more strongly orientated as a service provider for the members in Europe.

The matters that are discussed in the Board meetings will be summarized in a "Minutes for all" and sent to the CRs for further distribution.

The Chapter DK2 is working on an app with which all members, chapters and regions of the RKMC can network worldwide. The app currently has a Danish interface, but DK2 is working on a version in English. As soon as the app is ready for use, it will be made available to 3 to 4 chapters for a test run. Once the results of the test run have been implemented, the app will be made available to every Red Knight free of charge (latest info: there might be a minor amount to be paid if new serverspace has to be bought, this discussion is to be held in the future. For now its free of charge) The launch of the app is planned for the end of 2024/beginning of 2025.

4. 2. Elections:

In 2024, regular elections will be held for the positions of President and Secretary on the Board of the EU Association.
In accordance with the SOG, a Nominations Committee was formed 210 days before the Presidents Meeting in Leipzig with Villa (former President Germany 3) as its head.
180 days before the meeting in Leipzig, a letter from the Nomination Committee will be sent to the CRs about the possibility of applying for one of the positions.
The current incumbents (Peter Abbring and Martin Kroll) have declared their willingness to fulfil the functions for the next 2 years.

5. Report of the Treasurer:

There is currently around € 3,100 in the till (31. August 2023) Expenditure is pending:

- Ordering patches for the Iron Butt programme for the next few years
- A new patch must be designed to fulfil the 100,000 km level; this task will be carried out by FL. The design will be presented to the Board.

The last order for information flyers went wrong, they were lost in the post.
Currently, only 41% of all chapters pay the voluntary dues of € 2 per member to the EU Association. Some chapters / members / MAL do not pay this voluntary due because they do not know what this money is used for.
OB will write an information letter explaining exactly what the EU Association uses the money for.

4. Welcome Package

In future, the European Association will provide a Support & Welcome Package for new chapters in Europe. Among other things, it will contain all the important contact details of the European Board's contact persons, the valid SOG and important information for finding your way around the Red Knights Family for the first time. It will also explain the options for purchasing patches via the EU Quartermaster.

5. International Convention 2024 in Leipzig

A room for a maximum of 70 people can be made available in the hotel for the Presidents' Meeting of the EU Association.
Alternatively, the meeting can be held on the event site of the Friday evening event. In this case, however, the participants of the meeting would have to be driven to the event site by shuttle bus before everyone else.

6. Liaison officer for future EuCon

The organisers of future EuCon will be appointed a liaison person from the Board of the EU Association, who will be available as a permanent contact person throughout the preparation and implementation of EuCon.
For EuCon 2025 in Italy, this task will be assumed by FL (FloLo).
NL2's advance commitment to organise EuCon 2026 cannot be maintained, as only venues/hotels whose prices are no longer within reasonable limits are available during this period.

7. New information for all members

PA had a phone call with Steve Williamson to see if he would be willing to organise a European newsletter to be published every 3 months. Steve has agreed, thank you very much.

The Board of the EU Association has decided that a new homepage for the EU Association will be created. MH has already started the preparatory work for this, the homepage should be created by September 2024. However, MH still needs support.

The Board of the EU Association is therefore asking all chapters for help, and is particularly looking for creative and committed (young) members for whom an appealing and up-todate design and maintenance of a homepage are a matter of course.

In future, the calendar implemented on the homepage should be designed in such a way that the European chapters can enter their dates directly there.

8. Status MAL and Business

SC informs the Board that as the European MAL Representative he will submit a request for an amendment to Section 1:05 of the International By Laws, to introduce the bottom rocker on the back of the Vest for MAL either with the country (e.g. FINLAND) without a chapter number or with the country name and the addition MAL (e.g. FINLAND-MAL).

9. Annual RKMC Promotion Tour and exploring new Countries

The Board discussed the possibilities and opportunities offered by an annual promotional tour in countries where the RKMC is not yet represented at all or only with a few chapters.

We will initially only do this in countries where no confrontation with the 1% MC scene is to be expected.

MK will intensify preliminary talks with an interested chapter for a tour in 2026 and present new results in 3 months.

10. PTSD Program der EU Association

PW is preparing a conceptual plan for this programme and will send it to other interested Members for further coordination.

This point will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

11. Online Q & A European Members

An open Zoom meeting of the Board of the EU Association for a Q & A with all interested European chapters will be held on a trial basis in May 2024 and will be offered quarterly thereafter.

Further information on this will be made available to the CRs in April for further distribution.

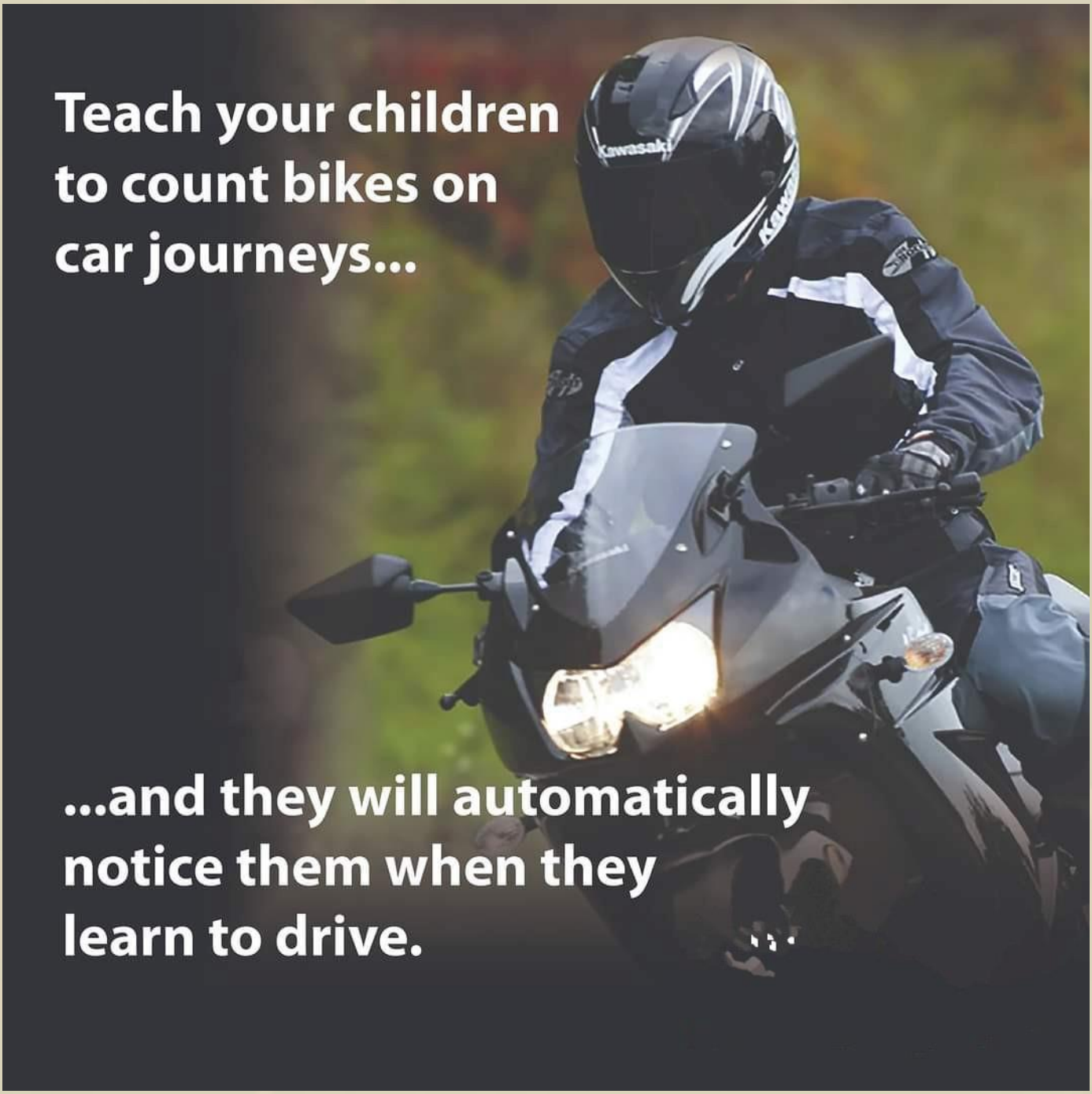
12. Photocontest

The Board of the EU Association and in particular the webmaster, supported by the creative assistants currently being sought, will be organising a photo contest where photos of parties, charity events, Exhibitions and other club life of the European chapters can be collected.

13. Next meeting

The Board of the EU Association will come together for the next meeting on Saturday 09 March 2024 at 10 a.m. in Neustadt an der Saale.
Those who cannot attend in person will receive a Zoom invitation.

For the protocol: Martin Kroll



News from around Europe

RED KNIGHTS PROMOTED AT MOTORCYCLE WORLD BODENSEE

In January Red Knights from Germany 1, 5, 33 and Austria 4 attended the Motorcycle World Bodensee event in Friedrichshafen to promote the Red Knights to the motorcycle world.

The event was attended by motorcyclists from all around the region and many were introduced to the Red Knights for the first time.

As was stated by one of our Red Knights, “no matter where, together we are strong.”







MOTORCYCLE CLUB RALLIES TO HELP BABY BEREAVEMENT CHARITY

Aid - members of Red Knights Motorcycle Club England 4 Chapter with Penny Norris, of the Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals Charity

A baby bereavement charity has received thousands of pounds from a motorcycle club.

The International Firefighters Motorcycle Club Red Knights England 4 Chapter raised £2,752, and an additional £405 in Gift Aid, for the Rosemary Suite of the Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals Charity.

This service provides support to families grieving the loss of a baby.

Penny Norris, trust and corporate fundraising manager for Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals Charity, said: “It’s been an absolute pleasure to work with the Red Knights this past year.

“They’ve been so committed to their fundraising for the Rosemary Suite at Colchester Hospital, and their activities have been unusual and fun.

“From prom, wedding, and funeral escorts by motorbike to fire station open days and quiz and disco nights, they’ve worked hard to raise funds for our baby bereavement suite.

“The money raised will enable us to improve the facilities and give couples the space to make decisions and come to terms with the loss of their baby. “Thank you, we’re very grateful.”

MONTHS OF ACTIVITY RAISE MONEY FOR BABY BEREAVEMENT CHARITY

The creation of the memorial follows a year of activity by England 4 which has seen them raise a fantastic £2752 for their chosen charity and their hard work was covered in their local press. This incredible amount was raised through raffles and by the chapter giving escorts for weddings, proms and any event that they were asked to escort.

SWITZERLAND 4 RE-ELECT THEIR OFFICERS

Switzerland 4 annual Meeting. All officers have been re-elected at their positions. One member "changed" from Associate- to Active member as she started her Firefighter career at her local Fire Department. Another successful story of somebody became a firefighter through the Red Knights! 15 year membership Pins were awarded to Giuliano Felline, Silke and Thomas Delboi.



THEY SAID YES! – Germany 2 Enjoy Wedding Celebrations

In April Germany 2's VP Hatti and his Petra said YES to each other. Of course, the Chapter surprised their two members with a delegation and together they were toasted for their well-being as newlyweds.

Since Hatti is also the group leader of the Krad specialized group at Fachzug I&K - Landkreis Wolfenbüttel, Germany 2's President Micha and Kropfi, for once, exchanged their hats for their uniforms and conveyed the congratulations of the comrades.



The newlyweds were wished `all the best and lots of fun` on their journey of life together!

ENGLAND 2 DONATE TO HOSPITAL CHARITY TWICE IN FEBRUARY

PACT
Registered Charity No. 508412

Following the devastating news in 2021 that the grandson of one England 2 members was undergoing treatment for Leukaemia, it was decided to make a donation to a charity that was helping his family through this terrible time.

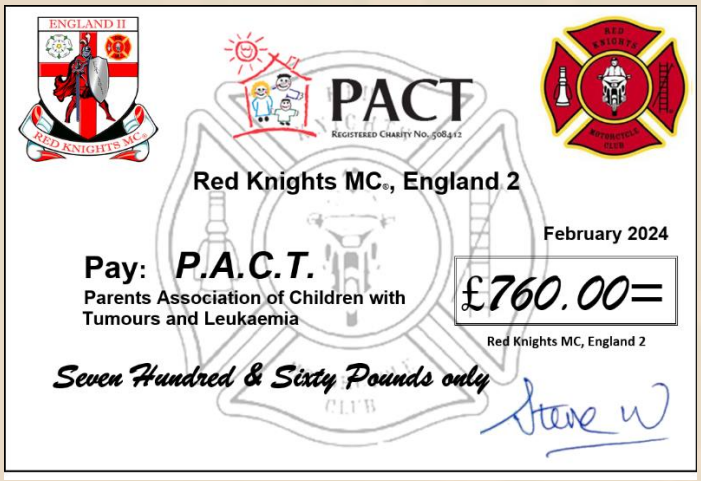
The P.A.C.T. charity (Parents of Children with Tumours & Leukaemia) provide among many things, financial help, accommodation, days out and holidays for any family that has the misfortune to have a child going through cancer treatment.

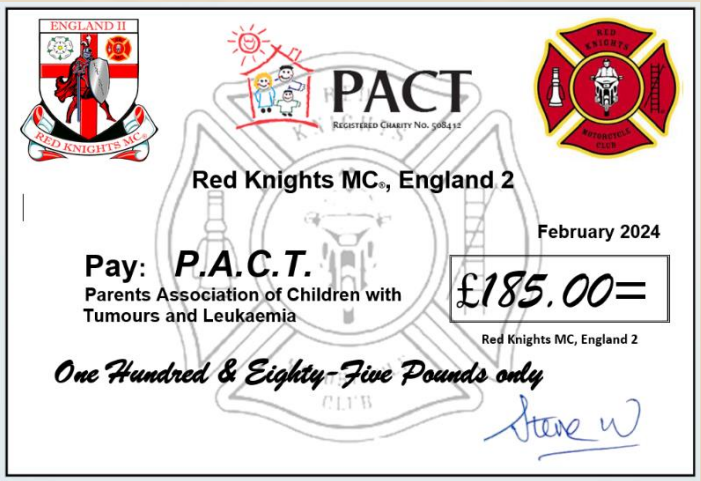
As one of their own was in this position and receiving P.A.C.T.'s help, England 2 adopted P.A.C.T. as their Chapter Charity and any future donations from the chapter will go to this worthy cause.

England 2 received the great news in November that our member's grandson's treatment has been successful and he is doing well.

England 2 were happy when in February when they were able to donate their second cheque for £760 to PA.C.T. to help them continue their good work and this was followed shortly afterwards with a third cheque for £185.

This money had raised for the charity through the sale of their Chapter pins and patches and through generous donations of members.





GERMANY XII REWARD MEMBERS AT THEIR GENERAL MEETING



On 15.03.2024, Germany held their general meeting in the Alter Kanal Forest guest house. President Christian Friedrich was able to welcome 24 out of 31 members. After the annual reports and a good meal in between, the award of honors took place.

Christian thanked Svenja Rebmann and Helmut Krogmann with a gift for letting us hold our garden party at their place last year. Thank you again for this.

Olaf Scherer, their road captain, was awarded with his Iron Butt in Silver for 10200 km was handed over and Helmut Krogmann was given his Iron Butt gold award for 11500 km. The Chapter's heartfelt congratulations were given to them both.

Svenja Rebmann, Sandra Lambrecht, Nicole Ramachers, Marion Knoop, Bernd van den Berg and Andreas Effinghausen were honored for 5-year membership and their quartermaster Henning Thies was honored for his 10 years of Red Knights membership.

We congratulate all those that were honored at their general meeting.









ITALY 1's WEEKEND WITH FAMILY

In our video conference meetings, we are mostly organizing the European Rally of 2025. Now it was time to meet in person, so we decided to meet at the base of Alpi Apuane, high mountains in Tuscany famous for Carrara Marble… where Michelangelo's David was "born"; The location had been a winter rally called Motofusten.

A weekend with the family to organize, yes, but also to be together.



Roger, Matina and their dog Debbie from Germany drove by camper 800Km.

Baloo, Angie and their doggies arrived with the motorhome from Switzerland and drove 600Km.

Andy our President from Garda Lake, Karika from Parma and Ilaria from Florence by car.

Nastro, Pados Sound and Francy were the only ones by Bike…..the true Bikers!!!



The meeting point was near the Devil's Bridge a very suggestive place around 12:30, lunch time naturally. After lunch so we directed ourselves with bikes with Pados as RoadCaptain ahead and the vehicles behind. We joined the winter rally Motofusten, on the place the motorhomes revealed to be very useful: tables, chairs, music and beer appeared.

The meeting started with Nastro as Chairman opened with his famous "pippone"…a very long speech.

Decisions, tasks and responsibilities were assigned, now we are really ready to make the European Rally of 2025 come true.

As sun sets down over the mountains comes the party time with "vinbrulé" hot spiced wine. The first cheer goes to our founder and former President Leonardo Pilone in Heaven 1 : "Thank you for putting all of us together"!



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



It was early for dinner, so Andy made magic, offered opening with salami, bread and wine.
Then, Roger made more magic and produced some meat, 12 (too much?!?) American steaks to be grilled on the huge firepit built on purpose, we obviously finished them all....
...naturally!!!!!



The night was still young so Baloo took out a bottle of Parampampoli, hot spiced liquor. The flames were high and the fire was dangerous but, no problem.....the "pompieri" (italian for firefighters) have no fear and we put out the flames....the last cheers



Now it was time to sleep.
The luckiest ones put on their pajamas and they entered into the camper. Someone slept in the car. The "hardest" bikers slept in tents.
The meeting was useful and, at the same time, a beautiful day.

A nice Family weekend.

Red Knights Motorcycle Club Italy1

REMEMBER!

The next Newsletter will be published in December 2024...

Your articles must reach me by 15th November.

newsletter@redknightsmc.eu

First German Rallye in Goslar

It was, as our president Whitie said, a crazy idea. But it has become reality. This weekend the first Germany Rallye of the German Red Knights Chapters took place.

As venue we chose the Hotel Harzlodge in Goslar, because it was very centrally located.



Members from the German Chapters 2, 6, 12, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26 und 34 accepted our invitaton, arrived one by one and the place filled up with motorcycles.



In the evening there was a buffet, but also other highlights were on the program. After Whitie, as President of the chapter Germany 14 and organizer of the rally, addressed a few words to the general public, three new members (Fuchs, Esche and Berre) were asked to come forward. They received their knighthoods today.



Nelly, a MAL, had also announces his interest in joining the 14ers and he also received his saber guide and the knighthood.

A big welcome to all the new members.



Then we lined up for a group photo. The rest of the evening was planned as a cozy get-together.



On Saturday followed a trip to the Josephs Cross in the southern Harz. Since many Red Knights participated in the ride. We rode in three groups with a time interval of 10 minutes. Two groups met at the Josephs Cross. The third group got a bit lost and drove directly to our last meeting point.

There was a summer toboggan and some members try to outdo each other with the highest speed. This was a lot of fun.

After returning to the Harzlodge, we ended the evening again in a cozy atmosphere.

On Sunday, after breakfast, everyone packed their bags and headed home after a big farewell.

Conclusion, a successful weekend and we look hopefully forward to the next time in 2024. Thanks for the great ”crazy idea”.

Germany 14.

`GERMANY 2` - A CHAPTER UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT



Germany 2 was established in 2009 and were the second Chapter of the RKMC in Germany and also in Europe. From the 14 founding Members 9 are still active in our Chapter.
Today we have 30 Members, including the German Representative of the Red Knights Michael Pförtner and the president of the German "Feuerwehrverband" Karl-Heinz Banse.
2024 is our 15th anniversary and we will celebrate it like almost every year before at the natural lake "Fümmelsee".
Most of the European Red Knights know this location because the second of our organized European Convention 2019 took place there. In 2012 we organized the first (only for Red Knights) European Convention also in our hometown Wolfenbüttel. We are also proud to say that we have participated at every European Convention since 2011 (Blue and Red Knights together) and also visited two international Conventions. In 2015 and 2022 we organized with some other German Chapters a information stand at the international fire fair "Interschutz" in Hannover.
In every year since our foundation, we collect and donate for "Paulichen - Initiative für brandverletzte Kinder" and a local youth swimming association. Our "Chapter Life" takes place in regularly meetings at least one in a month. In the summer we ride motorcycles together, in the winter we meet each other in local restaurants and the whole year we try to participate at as many meetings and parties as possible from other Chapters.





Netherlands II's Tulip Rally



On Friday April 19th the time had come, the first International Red Knights weekend organized by Netherlands II. We had found a nice, small campsite in the top of the province Noord Holland. To be precise, in the village of Van Ewijcksluis at the Wad noch Meer campsite. We had 3 chalets and a caravan at our disposal, enough space for the 15 guests who were invited. After the reception on Friday, we ate a pasta meal together and spent the evening enjoying a little bingo and some bites and drinks.



Saturday after breakfast it was time for the Ride-out with a group of 25 motorcycles. Our Road Captain Johan developed a beautiful route past many tulip fields and windmills and through little villages. The route brought us to the Alkmaar fire station where both professional and volunteer fire brigades share the barracks together.

After the lunch the group got a great tour behind the scenes of the fire station. After driving back onto the road in style through the fire exit hall, we headed towards to the city of Medemblik where coffee and cake were served in the dungeon of Radboud Castle. We were back around 16:00 hrs, well in time for the BBQ and another pleasant evening.

After Sunday breakfast we said our goodbyes. Despite a spot of rain every now and then and some windy nights, we can all look back on a very successful weekend.

If you are interested to visit the aera and want a nice place to stay look at the website of the camping site www.wadnochmeer.nl















Red Knights Germany 22 – firefighters are always ready for action!

Like in many other countries, the first of May is an official holiday in Germany.

Due to several occasions, our members decided to split up.

Our newest brother Simon visited the open day at the Gladbeck fire department and met there with our brothers and sisters from GER 24.

Our officers Scholli (Vice) and Hannes (Secretary) decided to take a smaller tour and visit the summer party at the volunteer fire department in Remscheid-Lennep. After some cool drinks and nice talks with comrades they decided to continue their journey and enjoy another ride.

Although Solingen and Remscheid are larger cities, there are many rural areas, ideal for cruising.

Due to the holiday and the very sunny and warm weather, there was plenty of traffic on the roads.

In the very outskirts of Remscheid, they recognized that the traffic came to a halt. Scholli spotted a motorcycle lying on the road and a heavily damaged car right next to it.

There were no warning signs or any other clues that the situation was under control.

He signalled Hannes, who was riding behind him and couldn´t catch a glance that there was obviously a situation where their assistance was needed.

Both of them are not only firemen and trained officers, but also paramedics, (Rettungssanitäter). So they rushed past the waiting cars and used their bikes to block the road, one in each direction. The two decent and inconspicuously bikes were perfect for the job.

They knew what to do – no words needed.

Scholli immediately took care of the injured motorcycle rider and learned that the motorcycle rider had crashed right into the driver's side of car because the car was doing a u-turn on the road. The biker flew on the roof of the car and dropped down after that. A complete body check showed that the driver had multiple guardian angels because he had no visible injuries. He was awake and able to walk, pulse was stable, but he had some pain in the stomach. This could be an alarm sign of abdominal trauma!

Whilst Scholli took care of the motorcyclist, Hannes gained an overview over the scene. Because no one else had taken action before, he also had to initiate the emergency call. Due to the abdominal pain, an emergency doctor was needed.

The car driver had no injuries, but a serious shock and several times our Knights had to prevent spectators from lighting up a cigarette…

Although the scene was seven kilometers from the station, the Remscheid fire department and ambulance did arrive very quickly – although it felt much longer for the for them to arrive.

After the motorcycle rider was handed over the ambulance crew and emergency doctor, both Red Knights gave their names to the police for further questions.

So, they could continue their trip after about half an hour, some adrenaline still in their veins.

No thinks needed – they were just doing what was needed.

A local newspaper and some internet reporters wrote articles mentioning the Red Knights MC as first responders.



Honoring the Fallen: Inauguration of the UK National Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial in Essex, England



The spirit of camaraderie and remembrance was palpable as members of the Red Knights from across Europe and beyond gathered alongside distinguished guests for the official inauguration of the National Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial. Held on May 4, 2024, at the Living Memorial complex in Rettendon, Essex, the event marked a significant milestone in honouring the bravery and sacrifice of fallen fire service personnel.

At the heart of the ceremony was the dedication of the memorial, a poignant tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice during or after their period of service. Spearheaded by the England 4 Chapter of the Red Knights, the initiative aims to create a lasting legacy that would serve as a place of remembrance and reflection for generations to come. Red Knights from Netherlands, Belgium and all over England were in attendance.

Members of the Red Knights England 4 Chapter played a pivotal role in bringing the memorial to fruition as part of an unwavering commitment to honouring fallen comrades.



The chapter's dedication and tireless efforts were instrumental in ensuring the success of the project, from conception to completion. The project was made possible with generous funding from the British Fire Brigades Union, and with the support of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and countless local businesses and individuals who contributed to the success of the project.

International Vice President of the Red Knights Norm Beausoleil travelled from the US to attend the inauguration and deliver opening remarks. The ceremony saw the participation of senior colleagues, including Moira Bruin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, who delivered heartfelt remarks underscoring the importance of the occasion. David Hurst, High Sheriff of Essex, also spoke, highlighting the significance of the memorial in paying tribute to the courage and sacrifice of firefighters.



A special moment came with the official opening of the memorial by Cllr Linda Mascot, Mayor of Chelmsford. Fr John Bloomer of the Chelmsford Diocese led the assembly in a solemn service, offering prayers for the fallen and blessings for the memorial. His words of comfort and solace resonated deeply with attendees, reaffirming the enduring bonds of brotherhood and solidarity among firefighters, especially meaningful as May 4 is also St. Florian's Day, the patron saint of firefighters.



Throughout the ceremony, the Red Knights motto, "Loyal to Our Duty," echoed as a guiding principle, reflecting the commitment of fire service personnel to serve their communities with honour and integrity. In his closing remarks, Ronnie Patterson, President of Red Knights England 4, encapsulated the spirit of the occasion, stating, "Today, we honour the courageous men and women who gave their lives in service to others. Their legacy lives on in our hearts, and this memorial stands as a testament to their sacrifice."

The ceremony concluded with a stirring performance by the Sutherland Pipes and Drums, leaving attendees with a sense of reverence and gratitude for the courageous men and women who work in the fire service.

As the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club continues its mission of camaraderie and service, the National Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial stands as a powerful symbol of remembrance and solidarity, a testament to the enduring spirit of the fire service community.

With the inauguration ceremony successfully commemorating the sacrifices of fallen firefighters, the Red Knights look forward to continuing their mission of honouring their legacy and serving their communities with dedication and pride.

Anton Shelupanov, Comms Officer, England 4







Once a Colleague, always a Colleague!

“Me and Big Jim!”

A chance meeting makes a Firefighter look back to a time gone by:



30 odd years ago we served together on White Watch at Southend Fire Station. A great bunch of guys, really enjoyed my time with them.

One night the bells went down and as we left the Station, we could actually see the sky glowing about 2 miles away. Whatever was going on, it was going to be a good shout.

Back in the day furniture used to be stuffed with highly flammable foam, and we had a factory full of it on our patch, and it had caught fire!

When you first reported for your shift at the Station you were given your primary role for the night. Me and Jim were in the ‘wear chairs’ which meant that we were expected on arrival at scene to exit the fire engine fully rigged in PPE and Breathing Apparatus, ready to deploy straight in and start search and rescue operations. As an officer, I was also the Team Leader.

For those wondering how Big Jim got his name, the clue is in the photo. He was a good, solid guy, knew his stuff. I was in good hands.

Anyway, on arrival at scene the fire was going from top to bottom, the radiated heat alone meaning our engines were parked well out of harm’s way. The thick black acrid smoke pouring through the roof appeared to be 100ft high. This was getting interesting.

Our Guvnor did a quick recce whilst me and Jim started up our air and ran out a hose line. At the same time our pump operator was finding a decent water supply.

A quick look at Jim and we made an entry through the front door.

The heat was unbelievable. Although we were as low down as we could get, the whole of my body was burning. Jim wasn’t saying much so I guessed he could feel it too!

We started a left-hand search, firefighting as we went. Our water supply was pretty much turning to superheated steam, making the heat even more unbearable.

After about 5 minutes we found a metal staircase leading up to a mezzanine floor. This was the main source of the fire and our best chance of knocking it down.

I knew at this stage that going up would most likely mean even hotter, but we were in now, so might as well crack on. A quick check of our air supply told me we had about 10 minutes before we needed to head back out.

Continued:

I managed to get to the top of the staircase and about 3 metres into the mezzanine when I heard an almighty noise behind be. As Jim had left the top of the staircase he had gone through the floor. Me being that bit lighter hadn't on my way through.

F--k! F--k! F--k!

I still don't know to this day how I managed to get him back up again, but I did. Some once in a lifetime superpower that hasn't manifested itself again since, perhaps?

Anyway, time to get out, back down the staircase and out the way we came. But not before giving it large with our water supply. One last go at the raging beast.

As we exited one of my colleagues ran over and started hitting me on the back.

'F--k off, will you' I wasn't in the mood.

'You're on fire' he said.

Me and Jim sat down and took our helmets and masks off. As well as the back of my tunic, the top of my helmet had started to catch fire and my visor was melting. My skin had dilated to such an extent that my head was glowing purple.

The Guvnor came over.

'F--k me, I thought you two were dead'

For the rest of my career, I never again experienced heat like it. On reflection I think that me and Big Jim had a very lucky escape that night.

Anyway, I bumped into Jim at the Inauguration of the Red Plaque Firefighters' Memorial and the memory came flooding back. We were both on our Harleys. The big man upstairs obviously thought we had earned them.

Those were the days!

These are the memories of David Hadjicostas, England 4

Hello from Belgium 10,



I would like to introduce myself Ronald "poepa" Ricour. I am President of Belgium X.

We are situated in the centre of beautiful Limburg; Namely Genk. Genk is a coal mining town. But also, the city where the Limburg Fire School is housed. PLOT Province of Limburg education and training.

Why do I want to make this clear. Our Chapter was actually founded by Plot's instructors. I myself had contacted Danny Vanoeckel. President of Belgium 8. He is now our representative for Belgium.

He gave me tips on how to establish our chapter. We started with 10 men.

Our recognition is there from November 21, 2024. Since then, we have grown to 32 members. Our goal is to bring the 3 zones of our province together under 1 chapter.

14 of our members are - or have been intructors on the Plot, 3 of them permanently employed as professional instructors.

3 members are officers, 11 are non-commissioned officers, and we have 1 woman as a member. She is our secretary.

As a new chapter we are still finding our way in, organizing rides, competing with other chapters, getting involved in charities.

We hope to meet you sometime at an event somewhere.

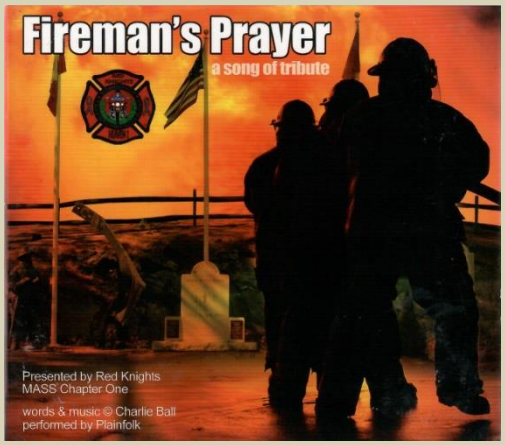
Greetings

Ronald "Poepa" Ricour





Une belle histoire !



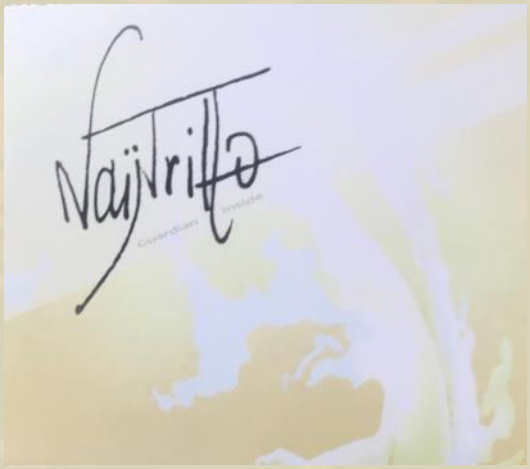
La fille d'Hélène du chapitre France 1, a traduit les paroles de la prière en français et a réinterprété la chanson avec son groupe Naytrillo. Marion nous raconte cette histoire :

C'est en 2022 que nous nous sommes regroupés sous le nom NayTrillo pour réinterpréter la prière des pompiers, hymne des Red Knights. La version originale de ce titre est "Fireman's Prayer" et est originalement interprétée par Charles Ball au sein du groupe Plainfolk. En version anglaise à l'origine, nous avons pris comme un challenge le fait de répondre au souhait du chapitre Red Knights France 1 de pouvoir prier en français sur le même air. Le texte a été légèrement modifié pour correspondre au mouvement global de la mélodie originale mais se rapproche au plus près du texte, de l'intention et de l'écriture de Charles Ball : les pompiers sont au centre avec leur force pleine, leur courage, leurs peines et leur détermination.

Lors de la création de l'album de NayTrillo s'est posée la question d'ajouter la reprise de Fireman's Prayer aux autres compositions. Nous avons décidé de remonter jusqu'à la source et de remettre cette décision à l'interprète du titre original : Charles Ball. Nous avons finalement eu la chance d'obtenir son accord direct après les efforts menés par 2 membres de France 1 : JR et Hélène pour retrouver les contacts des uns et des autres ! En effet, il y avait peu de chance que les adresses mails soient toujours valides, et encore moins lues après tant d'années (le dernier album de Plainfolk datant de 1996 !)

C'est donc après quelques échanges avec Charles et grâce à son soutien que nous avons aujourd'hui l'honneur d'interpréter notre version de son œuvre dans notre album fraîchement éclot !

- Pour écouter la prière en Français, lien youtube : https://youtu.be/JjULRvFWxKc?feature=shared
- Pour acheter l'album, découvrir d'autres chansons et encourager ce groupe : https://NayTrillo.bandcamp.com
- Pour en savoir plus sur le titre original : https://eu.telegram.com/story/news/local/east-valley/2006/04/16/plainfolk-does-it-old-fashioned/53108255007/



Traduction Google : Anglais

A nice story !

The daughter of Hélène, member of France 1, translated the words of the prayer into French and reinterpreted the song with her group Naytrillo. She tells us this story:

It was in 2022 that we came together under the name NayTrillo to reinterpret the firefighters' prayer, the anthem of the red knights. The original version of this title is "Fireman's Prayer" and is originally performed by Charles Ball in the group Plainfolk. Originally in English version, we took it as a challenge to respond to the wish of the Red Knights France 1 chapter to be able to pray in French to the same tune. The text has been slightly modified to match the overall movement of the original melody but comes as close as possible to the text, the intention and the writing of Charles Ball: the firefighters are in the center with their full strength, their courage, their sorrows and their determination.

During the creation of NayTrillo's album the question arose of adding the cover of Fireman's Prayer to the other compositions. We decided to go back to the source and hand this decision over to the singer of the original title: Charles Ball. We finally had the chance to obtain his direct agreement after the efforts made by 2 members of France 1: JR and Hélène to find each other's contacts! Indeed, there was little chance that

the email addresses would still be valid, let alone read after so many years (the last Plainfolk album dates from 1996!)

It is therefore after a few discussions with Charles and thanks to his support that today we have the honor of performing our version of his work in our newly hatched album!

https://NayTrillo.bandcamp.com

Traduction Google : Allemand

Eine schöne Geschichte!

Die Tochter von Hélène, Mitglied von France 1, übersetzte die Worte des Gebets ins Französische und interpretierte das Lied mit ihrer Gruppe Naytrillo neu. Sie erzählt uns diese Geschichte:

Im Jahr 2022 kamen wir unter dem Namen NayTrillo zusammen, um das Feuerwehrgebet, die Hymne der Roten Ritter, neu zu interpretieren. Die Originalversion dieses Titels ist „Fireman's Prayer“ und wurde ursprünglich von Charles Ball in der Gruppe Plainfolk aufgeführt. Ursprünglich in englischer Sprache, sahen wir es als Herausforderung, dem Wunsch des Kapitels Red Knights France 1 nachzukommen, auf Französisch zu derselben Melodie beten zu können. Der Text wurde leicht abgeändert, um sich an die Gesamtbewegung der Originalmelodie anzupassen, kommt aber dem Text, der Intention und der Schreibweise von Charles Ball so nahe wie möglich: Im Mittelpunkt stehen die Feuerwehrleute mit ihrer ganzen Kraft, ihrem Mut, ihren Sorgen und ihre Entschlossenheit.

Während der Entstehung von NayTrillos Album stellte sich die Frage, das Cover von Fireman's Prayer zu den anderen Kompositionen hinzuzufügen. Wir beschlossen, zur Quelle zurückzukehren und diese Entscheidung dem Sänger des Originaltitels zu überlassen: Charles Ball. Nach den Bemühungen zweier Mitglieder von France 1: JR und Hélène, Kontakte füreinander zu finden, hatten wir endlich die Chance, seine direkte Zustimmung zu erhalten! Tatsächlich bestand kaum eine Chance, dass die E-Mail-Adressen nach so vielen Jahren noch gültig wären, geschweige denn, dass sie gelesen würden (das letzte Plainfolk-Album stammt aus dem Jahr 1996!)

Nach einigen Gesprächen mit Charles und dank seiner Unterstützung haben wir heute die Ehre, unsere Version seines Werks in unserem neu entstandenen Album aufzuführen!

https://NayTrillo.bandcamp.com

CAN YOU SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES? *(answers are after Future Events)*





12.5 Anniversary for Red Knights Netherlands 1.

The Red Knights Netherlands 1 was founded on May 13, 2011. Time for a party. Since 12.5 years after its founding would take place in November and this would not be in ideal weather conditions, it has been decided to postpone the celebration to the spring of 2024.

On the weekend of May 26 and 27 it was party time.

The organizers had found a beautiful location in Kerkrade, Limburg, in the south of the Netherlands. A hotel with a castle next to it where the dinner and party could take place.

In the early morning, the various members from all over the country were on their way early to be welcomed with coffee and Limburg pie.





At 10:00 am the ride-out towards Maastricht started where we visited the locks of Maastricht.

The route continued across the border into Belgium where a visit was made to the American cemetery and memorial site Henry-Chapelle for the fallen American soldiers during the Second World War.





After laying flowers at the monument and a moment of silence, the route continued from Belgium to Germany and then reached the 3-country point of the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany in Vaals. Time to stretch the legs and enjoy lunch at restaurant 'De Bokkenrijders' in Vaals









After lunch the ride continued through beautiful hills and forests towards the castle in Kerkrade.

Despite the rain it was a beautiful ride-out. The motorcycles were parked and everyone could freshen up before dinner.





The 3-course menu was served and plenty of drinks were available. After dinner it was time for an official moment. In the past year, 2 chapters have been added in the Netherlands, Netherlands 2 and Netherlands 3. These chapters partly arose from Chapter 1. This expansion of chapters within the Netherlands is a positive development of the Red Knights family within the Netherlands and beyond. This party was all about fraternization and solidarity between the Dutch chapters.



There were several anniversaries for the 10-year membership and several members were recognized for their contribution to the chapter.

After a presidency of more than 11 years, Peter "Pyro" Dekker has decided not to continue the role of President Chapter 1, but to remain as a member of Chapter 1. Over the past year, Peter has been unable to function properly due to PTSD and the presidency has been transferred to Ray 'Wing' Oosterbaan. Peter will of course continue to support the current board where necessary and will play an active role for the club as a photographer/filmmaker for the chapter. He thanks the members for the support of recent years and has every confidence in the current board.





In particular, Margriet "Daisy" Brinxma was recognized as a thank you for her remarkable commitment to chapter 1, her support of her partner Peter "Tailgunner" Abbring in the establishment of chapter 2 and his role as Red Knights European Association President and her active contribution to setting up foreign trips for which she even made an international flight to arrange the necessary matters. She also brought one of our English brothers from the convention in Fussach to the ferry in Belgium so he could go home after an accident. She is always willing to reach out a helping hand. A true Knight!

After the official part, the party could get going. Snacks and drinks were served in abundance and a competition was organized to use XVR to extinguish a fire on a cruise ship. A bottle of Jack Daniels was ready for the winner Lennart “Rhino” van Rheenen.



A successful party!!

The next morning, we had breakfast together at 8:00 am, after which everyone could check out and start the return journey home.



Thanks to Ray "Wing" and Jolanda for the great organization of this party.

FRANCE 2 CELEBRATE THEIR 11 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

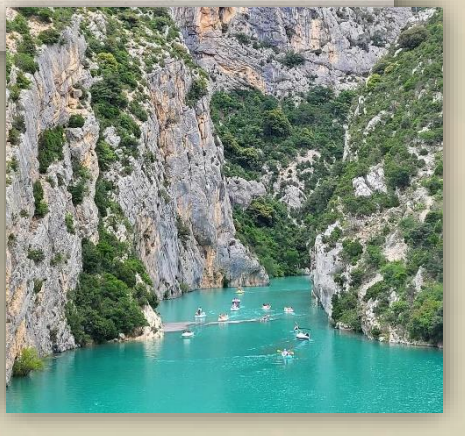
The weekend of May 23 to 26 saw the 11th anniversary of France 2, which took place in the Var.
Brothers and sisters from Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and France joined us in this wonderful gathering of fraternity, joy and conviviality.
We passed through a wooden pipe factory, the fabulous lake of Sainte Croix in the Haut Var, magnificent scenery, the blessing by Abbé Chapotin of the motorcycles and members in Solliès-ville and, on Saturday evening, the “verre de l'amitié” on the beachside to the sound of Vice President Francis Ducatillon's guitar. Thanks also to Road Captain Thierry Duval and deputy treasurer Marie José, without whom the anniversary wouldn't have taken place.
I had the honor of officially integrating our treasurer Christophe Delcroix, who was unable to attend on the day in question.
Thanks to all who came to our anniversary, and long live the France 2 Chapter!







Loyal to Our Duty,
Lionel Paillot,
Président France 2



FUTURE EVENTS

GATHERING OF THE KNIGHTS

14TH - 15TH - 16TH OF JUNE 2024
FIRE STATION OOSTKAMP

PROGRAM

Friday	Cozy get-together
Saturday	Ride out for Red Knights
	Dinner
	Party
Sunday	Signed route for all motorcyclist

Boven De Wolken

RED KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Red Knights Belgium 11

SAVE THE DATE

1. CHAPTERPARTY
RKMC GERMANY 4

WANN? 21.06.24 – 23.06.24

WO? BIKE INN
LUISENTHALER STRASSE 115,
39114 MAGDEBURG

PARTY-AUSFAHRT-ZELTPLATZ

WEITERE INFORMATIONEN & BUCHUNG UNTER:
WWW.RED-KNIGHTS-GERMANY4.DE

PRIVATVERANSTALTUNG - WIR HAFTEN FÜR NIX UND NIEMANDEN

RED KNIGHTS MC PORTUGAL 1

RKMC EUROPE ASSOCIATION 2011 2021 10 YEARS

1º Aniversário

Red Knights Motorcycle Club

Portugal 1

7 de Julho 2024

Música ao vivo
Comida e bebida
Muita animação
Surpresas



Um Red Knight não se
Ajoelha perante as chamas
Por as temer, mas sim por as
Respeitar.

Apoios:

BOMBEIROS VOLUNTÁRIOS DE LAGOS
ALGARVE - PORTUGAL

Local a definir brevemente

DAE

SAVE THE DATE

15. Anniversary
RKMC® Germany 2
WOLFENBÜTTEL

GERMANY 2 red knights

12.-14. July 2024

Red Knights MC
Austria IV



EINLADUNG

Zum Sommerfest

Am 15. Und 16. Juni

In Fussach

Anreise ab 12.00 Uhr



Kleine ausfahrt ist ab 15.00 geplant

Hafenstrasse 14 Pfadfinderheim

6972 Fußach

Übernachtungsmöglichkeiten im Großraum ca. 20 Betten

Camping möglich. Wer ein Zimmer möchte, kann sich bei uns melden.

Für das Abendessen und frühstück berechnen wir 40 €, essen solange der Vorrat reicht.

Anmeldungen unter: rkmcaustria4@gmx.at

Anmeldeschluß ist der 14. Juni 2024

Wir freuen uns auf euch

Red Knights MC Austria IV

Red Knights MC Germany 34

Wann : 19.07.24-21.07.24
Beginn 15 Uhr

Feuerstelle, Zeltplatz, Duschen,
WC sind vorhanden

Freitag

Steak und Würstchen vom Grill, verschiedene Salate
Lagerfeuer, Benzingespräche

Samstag

Frühstück ab 8 Uhr
13 Uhr gemeinsame Ausfahrt
19 Uhr Begrüßung der Gäste
Lagerfeuer
Steak und Würstchen vom Grill, verschiedene Salate

Sonntag

Frühstück ab 8 Uhr
Abreise, Verabschiedung

Wir möchten Euch ganz herzlich zu unserer Gründungsfeier des Chapters Germany 34 einladen um mit uns zu feiern

Übernachtungsgäste bitte anmelden
zwecks Planung!
unter : info.rkmc34@gmx.de
Anmeldung bitte bis 30.06.24

Wo : Naturfreundehaus Leichlingen
Am Block 4
42799 Leichlingen





www.redknightsmc.com
www.redknightsmc.eu

Want to know more?

RED KNIGHTS® MC BELGIUM 8
Stationed in Oostmalle province Antwerpen
E-mail: belgium8@redknightsmc.com

For more information see us on
Facebook: RedKnightsMCBelgium8

SEPT 6-8TH 2024
10-1 YEARS
RED KNIGHTS® MC
BELGIUM 8

European "Pirate" Convention

Attitude is just a small thing that makes a big difference

Red Knights® International Firefighter Motorcycle Club

RED KNIGHTS® MC
BELGIUM 8

On October 17, 2015, Belgium 8 was recognized as the 3rd Flemish Chapter. We have around 30 members, mainly from the province of Antwerp, and we have our home base in Oostmalle. It is therefore a great pleasure to invite you to our beautiful municipality and Province on the occasion of our 10-1th birthday.



Our municipality is famous for the Trappist and especially the Triple of Westmalle which our mayor calls "the best that this world can offer". Enjoy it, but in moderation ...



Because the fire brigade is an essential part of our lives, we would also like to take you to the Antwerp Fire Brigade, with 800 career firefighters the largest departement in our region. We will visit their main station along the Noorderlaan.

Then we will take you for a nice drive along the Belgian-Dutch border.

PROGRAM

Friday, September 6, 2024
18.00 reception and registration
19.00 dinner
21.00 Mil's Musicbar

Saterday, September 7, 2024
7.00-8.30 breakfast
9.00 Ride To Antwerp
10.00 Visit Fire Station
12.00 Lunch
13.00 Tour by the Netherlands/Belgian border
16.00 Coffee
18.00 Dinner
19.00 Official moment
20.00 Mil's Musicbar

Sunday, september 8, 2024
12.00 farewell

Bar open from 8.00—2.00 Last Call 1.30

We stay in a residential area and therefore we ask you to adjust your driving behavior accordingly.

The registration form can be found here:

https://bit.ly/31Chqd3

Sleeping

You can bring your tent or come with your camper.

There's public transport between Antwerp—Oostmalle—Turnhout at least every 30min. If interested, we'll sent you the schedule.

Nice place to stay is **Hotel** De Heidebloem Handelslei 55, 2980 Zoersel. But it has only 19 rooms. So you have to make your reservation in time. Www.deheidebloem.net

There's a **youth hostel** Gagelhof Gagelhoflaan 18, 2980 Zoersel. We'll try to organise transport to this hostel because it's hard te reach by public transport. Here it's also necessary to book in Time. The number of rooms for 2 and 4 persons is limited.
https://www.jeugdherbergen.be/nl/zoersel

Or you can book in a bed and breakfast nearby of a hotel in Antwerp or Turnhout.

Here you can find a map with an overview.

We ask you to register by May 1th 2024 at the latest.

You will receive a confirmation email and we will receive your payment.

We look forward to meeting as many brothers and sisters as possible.

RED KNIGHTS MC GER 9 + GER 19
LADEN EIN

RED KNIGHTS
Firefighter
Motorcycle
Club
2014
GER IX.

Red Knights
Germany

10
5+1

JUBILÄEN PARTY

13 SEPTEMBER
ANREISE
14 PARTY
15 FRÜHSTÜCK

45731 WALTROP

AUSFAHRT - LAGERFEUER - PARTY

ZELTPLATZ & WOMO PLATZ VORHANDEN

RKMC GERMANY 9 + GERMANY 19

5-JAHRES-PARTY

RED KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

GERMANY XXIV

WANN?

27. – 29. September 2024

WO?

Annaberg 31-35, Haltern am See

ÜBERNACHTUNG?

Mehrbettzimmer (begrenzt!) & Zeltplatz

HIGHLIGHT?

Am Samstag spielen für euch: Tales of Tinnef

Privatveranstaltung! Anmeldungen bis zum 31.07.24 an Germany24@redknightsmc.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE ANSWERS



RED KNIGHTS FRANCE III

1 9 8 2

RED KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

NOMBREUSES ANIMATIONS TOUTE LA JOURNÉE

5€ / Casque

Au profit de

Les scénarios de Charli

RDV: La Fère
Place de L'artilleur

Le 7 septembre 2024

Balade de 100 km

Inscription 9h
DEPART 10h

buvette et restauration

LA FÈRE