RED KNIGHTS MC EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION



Newsletter #2/2024

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Your first RKMC European Association Newsletter was well received and I hope we can continue to produce it and keep all our Brothers & Sisters informed of the events that we take part in across Europe.

Not only do your articles appear in this Newsletter, I have once again taken up the position as the European Reporter for the RKMC International Newsletter. So whatever we publish in this European Newsletter will also be sent for inclusion in the International Newsletter, and thanks to you sending your stories to me we had the best coverage of any region in the last International Newsletter, so I send all contributors a big thank you for sending your articles to me.

As another riding season comes to a close, we look forward to the 2025 EuCon in Florence and it is good to report that the event looks like being a huge success, it was fully sold out in less than 4 days of registration going live. Italy 1 is working hard to try and accommodate everyone that wants to attend and a waiting list for those that were unable to register has been set up.

Once again, European Red Knights continue to raise money for charities, this is something we should all be very proud of and some donations have been published in the first two newsletters. It is something to shout about so let me know about your chapter's Charity Donations and I'll tell everyone about it.

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

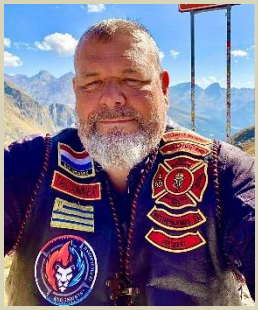
Motorcycle in the foyer at the International / European Convention

The next Newsletter will be published in June 2025…

Your articles must reach me by **15th May 2025.**

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

Dear brothers and sisters,

In front of you is the second version of the European newsletter. Given the many positive reactions to the first newsletter, you appreciate the set-up and nice pieces of our editor Steve. Nice to see that his hard work is appreciated! In addition, a thank you to everyone who has written a piece or contributed in some other way, together we will make it a beautiful newsletter.

Of course, various activities will also be organized by the chapters during the winter period. Of course, we would like to read the reports in the next newsletter. So, send your contribution to newsletter@redknightsmc.eu

Unfortunately, summer has come to an end and autumn is slowly making its appearance in Europe, only 5 more weeks and then it will be Christmas again. At the moment I write this, the weather in the Netherlands is nice and quiet. Let's hope that the weather remains as good as it is throughout Europe this autumn and winter so that we as firefighters can get through our shifts in a normal way. If you do have to go out at night and at dawn, take good care of yourself and your comrades and return safely to the post.

A lot has happened since the last newsletter, culminating in the international convention in Leipzig from 12 to 18 August.

Nice to meet old friends there again and to be able to start new friendships. It was a very nice and pleasant weekend with a bbq on Friday evening at a super location and a very stylish dinner on Saturday evening. On the warm Friday evening was the annual meeting with the European presidents. Apart from the fact that the technology of the sound system let us down, it was a good meeting in which a number of things were explained and the secretary and the president were re-elected.

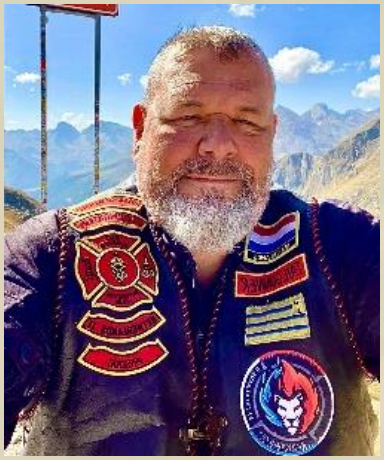
In the coming period, we as a European board will continue with the ongoing projects that I wrote about in the previous newsletter. These include the website, the promotional material, the promotional tour and PTSD support program.

The new website www.redknightsmc.eu went live during the International Convention in Leipzig and has now been visited by more than 1000 different members! Our webmaster is still working on perfecting a few things and testing some new ideas. One of the points that will go live soon is the possibility to place your event and parties in the agenda as a chapter. At the moment there is still a lot of old material on the site, as we are working on updating it.

Our Road Captain Florian is busy shaping the promotional tour. It has been decided to hold it in Northern Italy in the week before the Eucon in September. More information and routes will follow soon via email and it will of course come back in the next newsletter

During the meeting, the voluntary contribution of € 2.00 per member to the European Council was also discussed. Further on in this newsletter you will find an explanation of what we want to use this voluntary contribution for

So, there's a lot going on in the background. I am aware that this is not visible to many of you, that is also being worked on. How and in what way I will share with you soon. Keep an eye on the social media and the website and if you have any ideas, don't hesitate to share them with me via email president@redknightsmc.eu



I hope to be able to meet you all again in the spring, for now very nice and cozy Christmas.

Sincerely,Peter "Tailgunner" Abbring,

President of the European Association Board

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear Knights,

During the Presidents meeting in Lepizig, a call was made to pay the voluntary contribution of € 2.00 per member to the European treasurer. Why are we actually asking you this, what happens to this money? The European Board has no fixed income and is therefore dependent on the voluntary contribution of the chapters and MAL's.

First of all, this money is not used to pay the members of the EU board! No member of the EU board receives contribution for their work, there is no contribution for any costs whatsoever. No travel expenses, no accommodation costs. Everything we do as members of the EU board is completely voluntary.

A frequently heard comment is that as a member you already pay to the USA. Yes, that is correct. That is the contribution you pay to be a member of the Red Knights. This gives you the right to call yourself a Red Knight and to wear the colours of the club. Just like with any other club you may be a member of.

So, what do we want and can we do with the money from the voluntary dues? What we as the European Association want to accomplish is not to support the chapters with money but with material. There is one exception, it has been customary for years that the chapter that organizes the EuCon can receive a contribution to the costs from the European Organisation based on 30% of the voluntary contribution pot. So, the more there is in this pot, the more we can contribute and the lower the registration fee for the event could be.

In addition, we want to provide the chapters with promotional material for fairs and open days to promote the Red Knights. Think of roll-up banners, flags and other decorations. We can pay for the purchase and shipping thanks to the voluntary contribution. The more money there is in the fund, the more we can purchase and support the chapters.

The website costs money to keep it up and running, again we can pay for this via the voluntary contribution. These are the three most important points for us that we can do with the voluntary contribution. We know that this will always be a point of discussion and that is fine. But then have that discussion with us as the European Board, engage in conversation with us.

We are always open to suggestions and constructive criticism, not only on this topic but on everything we do.

If you want to make your donation to the European Association you can do this by PayPal. The email address you can use is treasurer@redknightsmc.eu Don't forget to click "sending to a friend/family" this way the transfer is free of charge.

CONTINUED:

If you have any questions, you can always email or call one of the members of the board.

President: Peter Abbring – president@redknightsmc.eu

Vice President: Patrick Weiss –- vicepresident@redknightsmc.eu

Secretary: Martin Kroll –- secretary@redknightsmc.eu

Treasurer: Olaf Böse - treasurer@redknightsmc.eu

Road Captain: Florian Lohmann - roadcaptain@redknightsmc.eu

Quartermaster: Henning Thies - euquartermaster@redknightsmc.eu

Webmaster: Markus Honkisz - webmaster@redknightsmc.eu

MAL Representative: Sven Coopman - eumalrep@redknightsmc.com

On behalf of the European Board,

Peter Abbring, President of the European Association Board

REMEMBER!

The next Newsletter will be published in June 2025...

Your articles must reach me by 15th May 2025.

newsletter@redknightsmc.eu

Steve Williamson, Editor

ITALY 1's MEMORIAL DAY FOR PILONE



Leonardo Scarpellini President and founder of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Italia1 was known to all as 'Pilone'.

He was a tall, sturdy man with two big hands, a big face and drank beer like it was water. If you met him, you were afraid, because of his size, and your first thought was that you hoped you would never see him angry.

However, a simple greeting, a handshake (your hand disappeared into his) was enough for his big face to explode into a huge smile and you could read the happiness in his eyes. The 'giant' would immediately turn into a 'child' and a playmate who smiled at life.

April 18 would have been his 50th birthday and Club Italy1 wanted to remember him with his "brother" bikers. Our Road Captain Pados called for a "meeting" of all his biker friends on Saturday, April 13, making a rendezvous at the exit of the Florence South highway, at 10 am. The tam-tam went all the way to Germany from our Brothers & Sisters Roger and Martina who left on their motorcycles on Thursday to reach Switzerland, where Mauro and Angelina hosted them. On Friday they hit the road and rendezvoused in Modena, where they met up with Andy and Soldier, then reached Nastro's Club House to spend the night. Saturday morning was an early wake-up call for everyone, and excitement began to set in. Pados is the first to arrive, then Sound, Ilaria and Karika, arrived to join the group at Nastro's Club House. Our Road Captain advises us that many had responded to the invitation and within seconds, the meeting point is filled with motorcycles: 2...5....10....30.....40.....60



Pilone's brother Lorenzo also arrives with his DUCATI "fire" red, and greets everyone, one by one, as Pilone would have done.

As in all our events, Francesco Martinucci, "Pilone's" work colleague, with his professional equipment always takes care of the filming.

https://youtu.be/4RaGoWF0fjA?si=jUJsWUO75Qi6NPdo

The Road Capitan makes the signal for departure, the "centaurs" all get on their iron horses, the roar of the motorcycles is heard, the "iron snake" begins to devour the road.





In 30 minutes we arrive at the cemetery of San Donato in Collina, waiting for us, of course, Francesa is holding a large bouquet of red and yellow flowers. The ride down to the parking lot is obliged to pass in front of the cemetery, and every biker who passes makes the rumble of his bike echo in the valley as to feel to "Pilone" that we are coming.

Francesca, begins to have her first moments of emotion, but her spirit is so great that she finds the strength to greet all the participants one by one.

Andy, our current President, takes Francesca under his arm and at a slow pace they walked to "Pilone", followed by all their biker friends. They are all bikers with leather jackets, tattoos and "tough guy" expressions. Some are wearing dark glasses so as not to show their emotion, and some are "scornful of danger" and show all their emotion. The "strongest among" all is always Francesca who, together with her Leonardo, start talking and thank everyone for participating.



It is our custom, when we remember or visit "Pilone", drink of beer and in his honor pour a few of beer on the ground, as if to share once again, a drink with our "Presidonte" (that's what we called him as President was not enough to describe a "great" man). We proceed to distribute the beer glasses to everyone.

Andy raises his glass and loudly announces the cheers, "per Pilone."

The voices of everyone present echo through the small silent cemetery, as if to make it, if only for a moment, a place to party. Where there is "Pilone" there is party, passion, love and Brotherhood.



With our thoughts and emotions, we put on our helmets, close our jackets and all get back on our motorcycles. With our Road Captain in the lead, the "iron snake" winds through the hills around Florence, where the motorcyclists' eyes are lost among the typical Tuscan landscapes.





There is also time for a stop in a large square, where Francesco Martinucci, with his drone, takes a photo from above, as if to symbolize "Pilone" looking at us, blessing us and thanking us all.

The destination is a beautiful restaurant at the foot of the church Certosa in Florence, where Pilone's dad and mom are waiting for us. They have never meet almost any of the bikers present, but greet them all as if they were their own children. At the lunch we also invited Laura, president of the Mayer Association of the Children's Hospital Burn Unit, who explained their social commitment. Everyone participated with a small donation. The "little" of "many" can do so much.

The lunch was held in total cheerfulness and biker brotherhood, as Pilone himself would have wished. At the end, everyone returned to their homes, not without a farewell between pats on the back and bikers handshakes.



Club Italy1 continued its motorcycle journey, again through the hills of Florence until it arrived at the Florence Fire Station, the oldest Fire Station in Italy still in operation and Pilone's place of work. The welcome of course was "fraternal."

The day has come to an end, Italy1 returns, each to his home, aware that we have had an intense day, sad, because we would never have wanted to experience it, but at the same time happy, for have in our mind and heart, Pilone.

Red Knights Motorcycle Club Italy1







RED KNIGHTS BELGIUM 4 IS PLEASED TO HAVE HONOURED THEIR PRESIDENT

Congratulations to Aurelie Meunier on being honoured recently by her Chapter, Belgium 4 for her past and continued work within the Red Knights.

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY TIME FOR GERMANY 26



In September Germany 26 went to the church as guests at the wedding of Treasurer Anne and Road Captain Sebastian from Germany 30, also taking part were members of the German Chapters 6, 14, 24 and of course Germany 30 was there and didn't miss the opportunity to stand in line to congratulate and then escort them to the wedding celebration.

Afterwards, our members went on to the anniversary celebrations of Germany 9 and Germany 19 in the beautiful Ruhr area, or more precisely to Waltrop. There we were able to attend a slightly different reception with a knighthood before we were able to congratulate those celebrating their anniversary and present them with our gift.

After the official part was completed, we moved on to the cozy part with lots of cold drinks and grilled food. All in all, another eventful and great weekend.











Wedding Announcement, Germany 30

Anne and Sebastian Wemmer have tied the knot!



Treasurer Anne and Road Captain Sebastian from Chapter Germany 30 were married on September 14th in Emmerich am Rhein.

Representatives of the active fire brigade, the youth fire brigade, and the children's fire brigade of the city of Emmerich am Rhein, as well as numerous members of the German Chapters 6, 14, 24, 26, and 30 of the Red Knights MC and members of friendly MCs congratulated them in front of the church.

On behalf of the entire Red Knight International Motorcycle Club, we wish you a lifetime of happiness and many miles of love and laughter together.

NETHERLANDS II WEDDING CELEBRATIONS



Red Knights Netherlands II were very pleased in September to announce that they attended the wedding ceremony of 'sergeant at arms' Daniel Burggraaff with his lovely bride Rinske Keizer.



Netherlands II wish the happy couple and their two sons much love and happiness.

GERMANY XXIV CELEBRATE THEIR 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY & A BUSY 2024



The last weekend in September was the 5th year anniversary of their chapter and it had to be celebrated!

Germany XXIV have had so many things going on recently including a party with our brothers and sisters from other chapters and with friends clubs, a bag toss tournament, a ride out with 25 motorbikes and live music from the Tales of Tinnef,, these all set the framework program for a weekend that will remain in our good memory for a long time.

Not only did their members have a great time but there was also a good purpose too. They used the festive occasion and supported the workshop for people with disabilities in Dorsten-Wulfen and the Klara Hospiz Marl gGmbH with a donation!





Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us and helped us support the important work of both organizations here locally!

CONTINUED:

They said yes!!!

Our members Joline and Christian have said yes to each other in Styrum Castle!
We did not miss the opportunity to congratulate them personally and wish them all the best for the future together!!



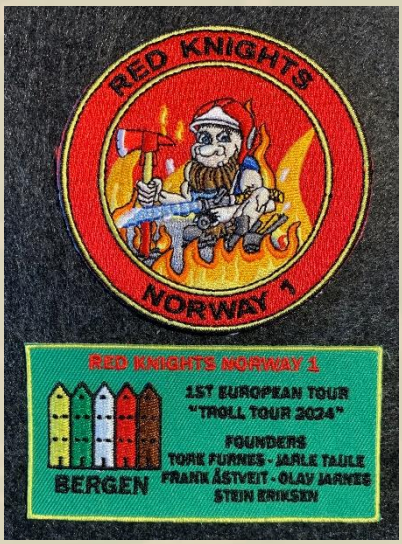




4125 km across Danmark, Sweden and Norway

On 22.6.24 it started towards Danmark. Jan, President of Danmark 1 took the time to tour through Danmark with us. Afterwards we enjoyed his and Lotte's hospitality.
Thank you very much for that!!

Then we went to the south of Sweden. In great weather we let the beautiful landscape pass us by and finally reached our starting point of the Troll Tour in Bergen. Guided by Norway 1, we could enjoy spectacular views of fjords and mountains.
With 25 motorcycles we went through the longest driveable tunnel in the world and at 1,500 m we could look at the Geirangerfjord at 3 degrees.
The troll tour was great! Many thanks to Norway 1 for the great organisation!



We will gladly come back!!

Bettina “Tina” Rogge

EUROPEAN RED KNIGHTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN LEIPZIG

Margriet Brixma `Daisy` received the Outstanding Contribution For Dedicated Service Award in recognition of her Exceptional Leadership, years of hard work and Valuable Contribution to the Red Knights.





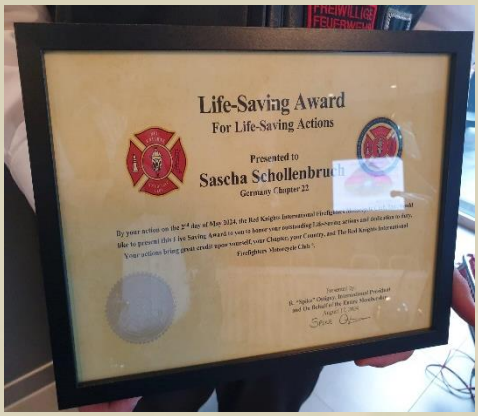
RKMC Chapter England 4 received the President's Merit Award for Dedicated Service in recognition of their hard work in setting up the Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial in Rettendon, Essex . The award was accepted on the behalf at the Convention by UK Member at Large, Tom Foster, who presented it to the Chapter on his way home from Leipzig.





Sascha Schollenbruch & Hanns-Ulrich Adam received the Life-Saving Award in recognition of their actions 0n 2 May 2024, the two members Sascha Schollenbruch and Hanns-Ulrich Adam of Chapter Germany 22 of the Red Knights International Firefighters MC were driving along the Bundesstraße 51 after attending a fire service festival when they reached the scene of an accident where a motorcyclist and a car had collided shortly before.

The two secured the scene of the accident, alerted the necessary emergency services and carried out life-saving measures on the accident victims until the emergency services arrived.







Daniel `Wauzi` Waldspurger received European Red Knight of the year Award for 2024.



CONGRATULATIONS to all of them on their Awards and thank you for your commitment and service, and for representing the Red Knights MC in such exemplary ways.

CHARITY RECEIVES YOUR LEIPZIG CONVENTION DONATIONS





Germany 18 was honoured to be able to hand over your donations from the International Convention 2024 in Leipzig to the "Have-a-last-wish-Car" Project.

A cheque for €1000 was donated thanks to the generosity of all Red Knights that attended the International Convention in Leipzig.

THE `VIKING MASTER` TOUR EXPLAINED

In 2021, Rasmus Lillemose and I came up with the idea of the Viking Master Tour. The aim was to ride another challenge in addition to the Grand Tour Master and get to know as much of Denmark as possible.

The entire tour consists of 4 subtasks. Each partial task must be completed within one year. Specifically, there is the DANMARK Tour, in which you have to drive to a fire station whose town begins with each letter in the word Danmark. In the 5 Regions Tour, fire stations in the 5 different regions of Denmark must be visited and in the Compass Tour, the northernmost, southernmost, easternmost and westernmost fire stations in Denmark must be visited. After completing the 3 tasks comes the enjoyable part. The Viking Master Patch can only be obtained in person, by participating in one of the DK1 parties, an excursion or a DK1 meeting. However, you only receive the patch if you have completed all the other tasks.

Here is the report on my Viking Master with some tips and recommendations:

The journey to Denmark is not worth mentioning, as it only involved the motorway, the Elbe tunnel and lots of traffic jams. Of course, you can also make the journey more interesting by taking smaller side roads, but time played a decisive role for me here.



My starting point for the tour was Vojens in Syddanmark, where I stopped at the first fire station (5 regions) on the first day of the actual tour. I continued via Rødding (Danma R k) to Hvide Sande (Compass West), which took me directly to the second region, Midtjylland. A little further inland, the fire stations (5 Regions) and Års (D A nmark) were on my list. The first day came to an end in Års after 303 kilometres on small roads with a maximum speed of 80km/h. Those who like the north of Germany will feel at home in the regions of Syd- and Midtjylland.



Day 2 of the tour went north, past Dronninglund (D anmark), Ålbæk (5 regions) to the northernmost fire station in Skagen in Nordjylland. A great holiday region, lots of beaches and German is understood almost everywhere. To start the next day and for my early ferry crossing, I took the motorway back to Randers, where the second day ended after 351 km.

The third day had to be changed slightly. The original plan to take the Ebeltoft - Sjællands Odde ferry had to be changed to the Aarhus - Sjællands Odde ferry due to the closure of Ebeltoft harbour. Tip: get the app from Molslinjen, here you can book tickets and see timetable changes. This app is also useful for the connection to Bornholm. From Sjællands Odde in Sjælland we travelled via Asnæs (next A for Danmark) and Mørkøv (Dan M ark), on to Næstved (Da N mark). After the ferry crossing and arrival in Sjællands Odde, the real holiday began for me. After the typical holiday regions of Nord-, Midtjylland and Syddanmark, here you have peace and quiet for the most part and can enjoy the fantastic landscape with every metre. I booked the night ferry from Køge for the crossing to Bornholm, so after the fire station in Gedser (Compass South) I travelled via Præstø Havn (motorbike meeting point, delicious ice cream, great food) towards Køge. The day ended at about 410 kilometres.



Day 4 started at 0.30 a.m. with the night ferry to Rønne on Bornholm. If you choose this crossing, you will arrive on Bornholm at 6.00 am. All cafés and bakeries are closed at this time. Have a coffee on the ferry, the next one is at 8.00 am. Bornholm is small, in 100km you have travelled once around the island. So don't rush, enjoy the time and the scenery. Keep as far south as possible from Rønne towards Nexø, where there are great beaches and plenty of sea to see. For the Compass Tour, visit the guardhouse in Nexø. Coffee and a small snack are available from 8.00 a.m. at Coffee Creative in the harbour. On the way back, we took the northern route back towards Rønne, along the cliffs with lovely little harbour towns and lots of sights. Just follow the signs on your tour. I spent the night at Hotel Skovly, great breakfast, nice accommodation and a short drive to the harbour in Rønne.

Day 5 began with another ferry crossing, this time to Ystad, Sweden. If you're still working on the alphabet tour, here's the Y. After a 1.5-hour ferry crossing with the fast ferry, we travelled briefly through Sweden and over the Øresund Bridge back to Denmark. Book your ticket for the bridge online beforehand, so you can drive straight through the control with licence plate recognition and don't have to book a crossing at the terminal.



On the way to the island of Orø, where the last fire station and a party were waiting for me, I had to stop at Kirke Hyllinge (Danmar K) and Skibby (Hovedstaden region). I took the last photo of the fire stations on the island of Orø in the harbour. I had now also completed the Sjælland region. Now it was time for the cosy part of the trip, the annual MC Iceland party.

All in all, it was about 1,600 kilometres in Denmark, plus the journey there and back. Every kilometre was worth it. Next time, I would plan even fewer motorways, but rather one more day of travelling, and perhaps make a detour to the island of Fyn.

After the trip, my personal favourites are Bornholm and the area around Sjællands Odde and Asnæs. Great views, great motorbike routes.

Use the apps offered by the ferries, so you always have an up-to-date overview of which ferries are travelling when.

Card payment is possible everywhere, if not (only happened to me once), you will find a solution together. I, for example, was able to pay for my coffee in euros.

Every Dane speaks English, especially in the holiday regions German is also understood.

Use ferry connections, they are not that expensive. A 5-hour ferry connection to Bornholm cost me €33. WIFI included. Far cheaper than the Rostock or Puttgarden ferry connections.

If you have any questions, you can find out more on our website www.RKMCDK1.eu. The members of DK 1 will also be happy to help.

Please make sure to use GEO-tagging for your photos, which works well with the free GPS Map Camera app, for example.

The real aim is to have a 'hygge' time. Get into conversation with people (any harbour café is an ideal place) and enjoy the landscape, which could hardly be more different. Have a good time in Denmark.







Joerg "Höffi" Hoefken

Quarter Master, Denmark 1

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





Our journey to Red Knights International Convention 2024 in Leipzig.

On August 11th Switzerland 1 and a member of Switzerland 3 gathered for a Ride with the goal, Red Knights International Convention in Leipzig, Germany. Sunday morning, about 8:30 our journey began in Veldheim Aargau, Switzerland. 3 Motorcycles, 4 Red Knights, about 1'000 Kilometers and, during the Ride, a lot of cool encounters.



All back roads, beautiful countryside's and excellent weather. Coffee stopp in Engen, Germany, lunch at Leutkircher Kutlurbrauerei, Leutkirch im Allgäu. A Former Railway Station.

CONTINUED:

The plan was to meetup with one or two members of Germany 15 who are stationed in Allgäu. To our surprise about 12 members of the chapter showed up at the Railway Station in Miesbach. In convoy with the chapter, we were escorted the last view Kilometers to our Hotel in Rosenheim. After a quick shower the next highlight came along, dinner at the Happinger Hof, Rosenheim, Biergarten. A visit at the Kolbenmoor Fire Department, and a final beer on the town square completed a beautiful evening.





Day two promised us a about 500 Kilometer ride through beautiful Allgäu and Bayern, again accompanied by a member of Germany 15.



We met with Kai in Landshut for Coffee, and drove, following this Red Knight through his backyard, to the wonderful place for lunch at Restaurant Seeterassen in Happurg.



After saying goodbye to Kai and his son, sure to meet them soon in Leipzig, our journey continued riding on the German Autobahn for the last leg of about 300 Kilometers. All went well till 150 KM, then one of the Bikes was losing parts of his back tire.

Pulling out at the next Rest area, the damage became visible, a big part of the tread was torn out.

Nobody was hurt, and, after we made sure the Rider and Passenger were okay, they waited for a tow truck, and we went on to Leipzig.

CONTINUED:

After a warm welcome at the Host Hotel by Germany 18, by Waldi and his crew, we waited for our fellow travelers to arrive. In the cozy bar of the Hotel, we were welcomed by gusts that arrived before us and dropped in during the evening. With great support of the Hotel Staff, keeping the kitchen open for us, we were complete again around midnight.





Thank You Germany 15 and Germany 18, Waldi's crew, for a great adventure and an exceptional international convention in Leipzig.

Gery `Dutchy` Jansen

England II Ride to Hadrian's Wall 2024.

Many of you will probably know something about Hadrian's Wall. It crosses northern England, but is not the border with Scotland, that is further north.

About three years ago I organised a chapter ride to this ancient monument, but only three of us went. Clearly the word spread, when I asked at the International Convention in Fussach, if anyone was interested in another visit, I was surprised by the enthusiastic response. We achieved an international event when Sven Coopman (the famous Belgian MAL), who is no stranger to many of you, said that he would attend.

I have organised trips to the Wall before, but never on this scale. The Inn where I normally book accommodation was too small, so we ended up occupying most of the Angel Inn, Corbridge, Northumberland. I wrote an itinerary and sent out route details. All done well in advance. All sorted? You might think so.

The evening before we were due to go, I was contacted by Dale Priestly, an England 2 Chapter member, who told me that the first Roman monument I had planned to visit was closed all week. I thought that this would not be a problem and consulted the English Heritage web site. The Fort that was my back up plan was, according to the official web site also closed for the week. I quickly checked the other places that I planned to visit and found to my great relief that they were all open as normal.

We all rendezvoused at Wetherby Services on the A1 at 09:30 and set off north at 10:00. The weather was kind, we had experienced a lot of rain for months, but the sun even made an appearance. En route to the first visit we passed one of the sites that the internet site confidently said was shut. It was very busy, clearly the website was wrong. I made a note and carried on to my revised visit. This turned out to be a piece of good luck. Birdoswald Fort is quite a long way west, in Cumbria, but has some unique features.

https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/birdoswald-roman-

CONTINUED:

When we arrived, we were told that we were welcome to see the archaeological dig that was investigating the civilian village that had stood next to the fort. When we walked to the dig site, they had exposed the public bath house. The two men who stepped forward to tell us about the discovery were two of the UK's most eminent archaeologists. They were able to tell us a great deal about their investigation.





Once we had looked at the fort, which had been occupied for many years by a regiment of Auxiliary soldiers from Romania, we rode back east on the New Military Road (built in the C18th) to Corbridge for a shower, dinner and a few beers. Those of you who have attended events with England II will know that we only drink beer to be sociable so we settled in for a few drinks and a night of merriment and laughs before retiring to bed.

We were on the road at 09:30 the next morning for the ride to the Roman Army Museum.
https://romanarmymuseum.com

This is part of the Vindolanda Trust and is a very high-quality exhibition. The Roman Fort of Magna stood at this site, though it had never been investigated by archaeologists. They're now on the second year of a five-year project to investigate the site. As a result, we were able to visit another live dig. They were excavating finds every few minutes, both from the fort and the civilian settlement.

The museum gives a very clear picture of the lives of the soldiers who were posted to the most northern part of the Roman Empire. It must have been a very hard life, but there were rewards for those who served their time and were honourably discharged.

You can buy a ticket for this museum that will also get admittance to Vindolanda 13km away on the same day. £16.50, it is good value.



We rode to Vindolanda (The White Field in English). We had all afternoon to look at this large site, with its superb museum. There has been an ongoing project to excavate the site since the 1970's and there is about another forty years' worth of digging to do. This fort is older than the wall and the Emperor Hadrian visited there on a tour of inspection immediately prior to the construction commencing.

We joined an official tour with a guide, who showed us important features of the site that included the fort and the village that accompanied it. There settlements were officially sanctioned to provide leisure activities for the troops in such an isolated place.

Among the most important items found at this site are the Vindolanda Tablets. Small pieces of tree bark used in the way we use post cards. They include complains about poor supplies, a letter of thanks for some warm underwear and socks, an invoice for half a kilo of pepper (imported from India), and most importantly an invitation to a birthday party. It contains the earliest example of a woman's hand writing and signature in Europe.

Though sometimes you get "that visitor" who explains things for the guide.

Both these museums are incredibly informative, have good shops and nice cafes.

https://www.vindolanda.com

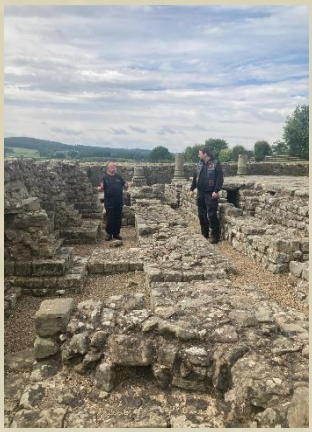
CONTINUED:

We returned to Corbridge, shower and change and because we're English (and a Belgian) we went for a curry. We can recommend the Valley Junction, a short walk from the inn, it is part of the railway station and the food and hospitality were first class.



On our last morning, we visited Corbridge Roman Town. When you see it now, it is a little confusing, because you are looking at the evidence of nearly four hundred years of occupation, and it isn't clear what related to which period unless you have studied very carefully. It is a good site and has a small, but very good museum.







https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/corbridge-roman-to…

After this we made our way south toward home. In time I will organise another tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.











If any of you are planning to visit the UK and want to see this beautiful and historic area, I would be pleased to give you any information I can or offer my services as a guide.

Andy McFarlane, Vice President, England 2

BELGIUM 8 CELEBRATE THEIR 10TH BIRTHDAY (EARLY)



After Corona virus stole their 5th birthday party leading to the cancellation of their celebrations, they decided that they would better be safe this time around and planned their 10th (– 1 year) birthday celebrations in September 2024 instead of waiting until 2025. During their celebrations they visited one of the biggest stations in Belgium, Station North in Antwerp. In the pictures they can be seen in the station's crisis room and in front of the station at the monument for their fallen firemen. Belgium 8 also held a Whisky tasting with #DimsDrams and were able to donate 750 euros to #abovendeclouds. They thank everyone who contributed to this.





ENGLAND 2 MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD FROM THE KING'S REPRESENTATIVE



England 2 member Tim Marston was honoured to receive the Lord Lieutenant's Award at the recent Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Awards Ceremony. The Lord Lieutenant is the Representative of the King in the county of Nottinghamshire.

Tim received his award in recognition of his tireless work over the past 18 years organising the Nottingham Motorcycle Easter Egg Run, a run that attracts hundreds of riders to take part.



After the awards Tim said *" I am extremely honoured and humbled to have received an award this evening as part of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Annual Awards Ceremony. My award acknowledged 18 years of organising and running the Nottinghamshire Motorcycle Easter Egg Run*



Un Week-End Festif au Bord du Lac de Vassivière avec les Red Knights® MC Chapter France



Du 14 au 16 juin 2024, le lac de Vassivière a vibré au rythme des moteurs et des rires, accueillant près de 60 membres des Chapters français des Red Knights® MC pour un week-end mémorable.

Malgré une météo pluvieuse, l'ambiance était joyeuse, festive et fraternelle, au programme une balade à moto à travers les magnifiques routes touristiques qui entourent le lac, L'occasion parfaite pour une photo de groupe au bord de l'eau, un moment symbolique de partage entre amis.

La soirée s'est animée autour d'animations comme le karaoké et les fléchettes, permettant à chacun de montrer ses talents ou de se lancer dans des duels amicaux. Les rires résonnaient et les chants s'élevaient, transformant la pluie en une simple toile de fond à une fête vibrante.

Un moment de recueillement a également été au programme, avec des discours du Country Rep et des Présidents de Chapters présents. Un hommage a été rendu aux membres disparus, accompagné de l'hymne des Red Knights®, une occasion de se souvenir et de célébrer la camaraderie. Des récompenses de Grand Tour ont également été remises, soulignant les contributions de chacun à la communauté.

Malgré les gouttes de pluie, l'atmosphère était chaleureuse et pleine de fraternité. Les retrouvailles avec des amis de longue date, ainsi que les nouvelles rencontres, ont enrichi cette expérience collective. Chaque membre est reparti le cœur léger, avec des souvenirs gravés à jamais.

Le rendez-vous est donné en 2026 !

A Festive Weekend at Lac de Vassivière with Red Knights® MC Chapters France

From June 14 to 16, 2024, Lac de Vassivière vibrated to the rhythm of engines and laughter, welcoming nearly 60 members of the French Red Knights® MC Chapters for a memorable weekend.

Despite the rainy weather, the atmosphere was joyful, festive and fraternal, with a motorcycle ride along the magnificent tourist routes surrounding the lake, the perfect opportunity for a group photo by the water, a symbolic moment of sharing between friends.

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The evening was enlivened by entertainment such as karaoke and darts, allowing everyone to show off their talents or engage in friendly duels. Laughter resounded and songs soared, transforming the rain into a simple backdrop to a vibrant party.

A moment of recollection was also part of the program, with speeches by Country Rep and the Chapters Presidents present. A tribute was paid to departed members, accompanied by the Red Knights® anthem, an occasion to remember and celebrate camaraderie. Grand Tour awards were also presented, highlighting everyone's contributions to the community.

Despite the raindrops, the atmosphere was warm and fraternal. Reunions with old friends, as well as new encounters, enriched this collective experience. Each member left with a light heart, and memories engraved forever.

See you in 2026!

Germany 30 hold their Annual Charity Run and Celebrate Oktoberfest

On 12.10.2024 their annual event took place in the framework of the Deichtour charity run followed by Oktoberfest party. The tour went 110km, over the most beautiful ponds in the region. During the charity run, at a stop at Spijksedijk, Laurens "Chino" was knighted Into the Red Knights. Following the tour, at the fire station Emmerich on Pastor-Breuer-Str. the Oktoberfest was celebrated with white beer, pretzels and liver cheese in a bun.



At the event, their goals and values as RKMC are always at the forefront. They want to maintain comradeship among motorcycle-riding firefighters at home and abroad, with their relatives and everyone else who is enthusiastic about it. Another very important point for them is the support of non-profits, charities, social organizations and foundations. So this year Germany 30 have been able to donate to the Star Hours through their donation box and the revenue of the event. It came together to be a great sum. At this point, a very big thank you to all donors. It is hoped that in this way, they will be able to join hands a little bit with the project of the Star Hours, financed entirely from donations. Keep up the good work!



Germany 30 was able to hand-over a donation of €900 to Bianca and Pascal Wieners, with great pride.

The Star Hours are voluntarily organized by the Johannites.

CONTINUED

They provide beautiful moments, precious time and priceless memories for people who are critically ill. This is how these people can experience moments that are for granted for us.

The star hours have been around since 2020 and is from an idea of the chief physician of anesthesia and intensive care of the St.Willibrord hospital in Emmerich, Prof. Dr. Joachim von Alst was born, who is also active as a volunteer at the Johannitern. There is close cooperation with the palliative network in Emmerich.

For more information, interest, etc. See the attached link. :

https://www.johanniter.de/.../johanniter-sternstunden-im.../











Une Soirée Inoubliable pour le 5ème Anniversaire de France 7

Le 12 octobre, les Red Knights® se sont réunis chez France 7 pour célébrer le 5ème anniversaire de du Chapter. C'était une soirée empreinte d'émoDon, de souvenirs et de fesDvités, réunissant les membres de la famille des Red Knights dans une ambiance chaleureuse.

La soirée a débuté par un moment solennel en hommage à nos camarades disparus. C'était une manière touchante de se souvenir de ceux qui ont contribué à la richesse de notre chapitre. Ensuite, nous avons procédé aux remises de récompenses pour le Grand Tour, célébrant les exploits et l'engagement de nos membres.
Les remises de couleurs ont ajouté une touche symbolique à la soirée, renforçant notre fierté d'appartenir aux Red Knights.
Les récompenses, dont des pin's marquant nos 5 ans, ont été accueillies avec des applaudissements et des sourires.

Pour l’occasion, France 7 avait prévu une paella, accompagnée de produits locaux savoureux. La soirée s’est ensuite animée avec des parDes endiablées de looping louis et beaucoup de rires. Chaque membre a apporté sa touche personnelle, et l’énergie était contagieuse. Nous avons partagé des anecdotes, renforçant encore plus nos liens.

Ce 5ème anniversaire a été non seulement un moment de célébraDon, mais aussi une belle occasion de se rappeler pourquoi nous faisons parDe des Red Knights. Ensemble, nous avons non seulement honoré notre passé, mais aussi regardé vers l’avenir avec enthousiasme.

An Unforgetable Evening for France 7's 5th Anniversary

On October 12, the Red Knights® gathered at France 7 to celebrate the Chapter's 5th anniversary. It was an evening full of emotion, memories and festivities, bringing together members of the Red Knights family in a warm atmosphere.

The evening began with a solemn tribute to our fallen comrades. It was a touching way to remember those who have contributed to the richness of our chapter. Then came the Grand Tour awards, celebrating the achievements and commitment of our members.
The presentation of colours added a symbolic touch to the evening, reinforcing our pride in belonging to the Red Knights.
The awards, including pins marking our 5th anniversary, were greeted with applause and smiles.

For the occasion, France 7 had provided paella, accompanied by tasty local produce. The evening was then brought to life with frenzied games of looping louis and lots of laughter. Each member brought his or her own personal touch, and the energy was contagious. We shared anecdotes, strengthening our bonds even more.

This 5th anniversary was not only a moment of celebration, but also a great opportunity to remember why we are part of the Red Knights. Together, we not only honoured our past, but also looked to the future with enthusiasm.



England 4 Ride to Belgium 8's Birthday: A Weekend of Brotherhood, Rain, and Memories



In September, six members of Red Knights England 4 set out on an adventure to celebrate the birthday of our friends Belgium 8. It was a journey filled with camaraderie, impressive sights, great riding, and a little bit (well, a lot) of rain!

A Wet Start

Our journey to Belgium started with high spirits and damp gear. The weather wasn't kind, and we found ourselves riding through heavy rain much of the way. Not so much Red Knights, more Wet Knights! Despite this, the promise of reuniting with our Red Knights brothers and sisters and celebrating Belgium 8's special day kept us motivated. True to Red Knights' spirit of resilience, the wet ride only added to the sense of accomplishment once we arrived.

Belgium 8's Legendary Hospitality

From the moment we reached our destination, the hospitality of Belgium 8 was second to none. Members from multiple Red Knights chapters across Europe came together for the event, and the spirit of friendship and fraternity was palpable. Whether sharing stories, swapping patches, or raising a glass (or two), it was clear that the bonds of the Red Knights extend far beyond borders.

A Visit to Antwerp Fire Station

One of the highlights of the weekend was a tour of the massive Antwerp fire station, hosted by Brandweer Zone Antwerpen colleagues. The station is one of the largest and most modern in Europe, and we were blown away by its scale and efficiency. From state-of-the-art firefighting equipment to their fascinating response systems, the visit offered a new appreciation for how our firefighting brothers and sisters in Belgium operate. For us as fire service personnel and supporters, the tour was both impressive and inspiring.

Riding Through the Countryside

After the fire station visit, Belgium 8 led us on a scenic ride through the beautiful Belgian and Dutch countryside. Rolling green fields, charming villages, a national park, and smooth roads made for a perfect ride. It was a reminder of why we ride as Red Knights—not just for the destination, but for the journey and the people we share it with.

The Infamous Tripp-Trapp

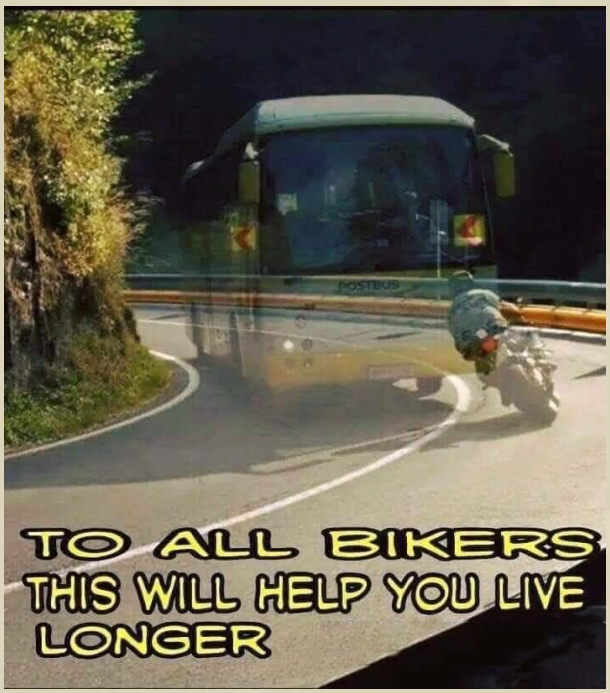
No celebration would be complete without sampling the local fare, and Belgium 8 didn't disappoint. We were introduced to the famous "Tripp-Trapp," a mix of two Belgian beers that is as delicious as it is deceptively strong. While it felt a little dangerous, we decided it was a risk worth taking. Let's just say, Tripp-Trapp left a memorable impression!

Grateful for Brotherhood

As the weekend came to a close, we reflected on what makes the Red Knights so special. Belgium 8's event wasn't just a birthday party; it was a celebration of the global brotherhood that unites us. We left with full hearts, fantastic memories, and a deep gratitude for Belgium 8 and everyone who joined the celebration.

The ride home was, once again, a wet one. But no amount of rain could dampen the joy we felt from the weekend. Thank you, Belgium 8, for your hospitality, friendship, and for reminding us why we're proud to call ourselves Red Knights. Until next time, ride safe and "Loyal to Our Duty!"







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To reach the village from Figline Valdarno Station: bus transportation is available by purchasing a ticket at the front desk or at the village infopoint after the trip

infopoint.girasole@huopenair.com

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