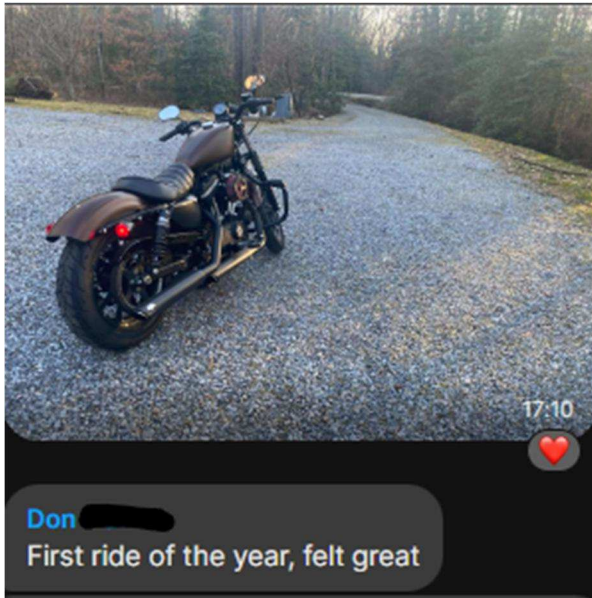




## Happy Valentine's Day

Love is in the air – or is that lust? As usual, February is a slow month for motorcyclists; however, this year... not so much!

From our 'Motorcyclists on Signal' group on 9<sup>th</sup> February:



It's great to see so much passion for riding, as well as for their fellow riders!

Oh, what was that about that 'Motorcyclists on Signal' group? Oh, yes – if you're on Signal, and you're an active biker, please join us by clicking on this link: <https://bit.ly/motonsig>

We are allowing people to join without moderation at this time, however, we will activate new member approval requirements if things go south.

There are members of several gay motorcycle clubs as well as GDIs. We only ask that you keep the conversation reasonable.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning

There's lots of stuff going on behind the scenes putting together our 60th anniversary this year. Just a quick glance at our calendar annual see that we have two week long trips planned this year and we're going to do it a bit differently than previous trips, people will be able to join and leave at their leisure.

The first and foremost is our motorcycle weekend over Memorial Day weekend in the Pittsburgh PA area following, we're looking at doing a ride possibly into Ohio and then back again for Pittsburgh pride the following weekend! But that's not all, DC pride in Washington is the following weekend. We hope to join up with Three Rivers motorcycle club in Pittsburgh for their pride parade, Spartan emcee in Washington DC for their pride parade and a quickie on the side and Harrisburg PA with the Pennsmen just before we head into Pittsburgh for Memorial Day weekend... all of this is still in the works.

Our second week long ride is up in the air but we are considering the state of Maine doing a New England trip with multiple stops.

Does any of this sound interesting? If so join our social meetings every third Wednesday of the month and help us plan it! Got more to give? Start coming to our open general meetings on the first Wednesday of the month and consider joining Empire City!

## 25 Motorcycle Safety Tips

From the law offices of Meiorowitz & Wasserberg Accident Injury Lawyers, with offices all over New York, the east coast and Chicago, we present some of the 25 Motorcycle Safety Tips from their website at <https://www.samndan.com/25-motorcycle-safety-tips/>

### 1. Select the right bike

One of the earliest decisions in your motorcycle journey can significantly impact your future safety. Choosing the right bike is a key safety precaution. Your bike should be appropriately sized for your height and weight, and the engine should suit your skill level. Consider buying a bike with innovative [safety features](#) such as:

- Electronic tire pressure monitoring
- [Anti-lock braking](#)
- Drag-torque slip control
- Adaptive headlights and LED lighting
- Automatic clutch and shift
- Stability and traction control

### 2. Know your bike

You should be familiar with your motorcycle's current condition and any quirks your bike may have. Each motorcycle is unique, so if you have recently purchased a new bike, you should invest time in familiarizing yourself with it. Get to know how it rides and how it handles turns. Ride it enough on easy roads to learn where all the buttons and switches are so you aren't left fishing for them at high speeds.

### 3. Check and recheck the weather

The weather can play an integral factor in the safety and enjoyability of your motorcycle outing. Whether you are taking a relaxed backcountry ride on a lazy Sunday afternoon or a cross-country trip, the weather is a crucial aspect of your ride. Ice, snow, and rain can compromise your riding safety due to lowered traction and visibility.

### 4. Don't forget the pre-ride

A thorough pre-ride inspection can certainly save you the hassle of a breakdown, and it could save your life. Before heading out, give your bike a comprehensive examination to ensure everything is working correctly. If something isn't right, fix it or delay your outing until you can.

### 5. Ride defensively

Always follow the rules of the road and never give other drivers the benefit of the doubt. Instead, assume other drivers are distracted, poor drivers and that they cannot see you. You should also implement the [Search, Evaluate, Execute Strategy](#):

- **Search** for factors that could increase your risk
- **Evaluate** potential problems that may arise from these factors
- **Execute** manoeuvres to prevent the hazardous interaction

### 6. Make yourself visible

You are safer when other drivers know you're on the road. To ensure your visibility, implement the following precautions:

- Use reflective decals on your clothing and motorcycle
- Check that your headlight is working
- Flash your brake light when stopping or slowing

### 7. Wear a full-face helmet

A full-face helmet is one of your most important safety devices when riding a motorcycle. Helmets marked with the DOT label have passed the United States Department of Transportation standards.

A full-face helmet provides complete coverage for your face, head, and jaw. When choosing a helmet, it's essential to select the correct size.

## 8. Know your escape route

Always know where you can veer off if another driver acts erratically. You never know when someone may make a poor decision. They could pull out, fail to see you, or stop suddenly, causing you to crash if you are caught unaware. You should already know where you can escape if this occurs.

## 9. Dress for the ride and a crash — ATGATT

You should accept that a crash is possible whenever you jump on your motorcycle. Make sure you always have protective gear — every single time you ride.

ATGATT: All the gear, all the time.

Full safety clothing includes:

- Helmet
- Leathers
- Boots
- Gloves

These pieces should be strong enough to help you avoid severe road rash and other injuries associated with motorcycle accidents.

## 10. Corner within your skill limits

When you need to corner, keep it within your skill limits and your motorcycle's limits. Cornering too aggressively is a [major contributor](#) to bike accidents.

When cornering, it is [easy to oversteer](#) by:

- Accelerating into the corner too aggressively or too early
- Entering the corner too quickly
- Braking into the corner
- Lifting off the throttle or braking mid-corner

## 11. Ride with your head on a swivel

"Keep your head on a swivel" is safety advice bikers hear regularly. It means you must constantly be on the lookout for potential threats to your safety. You may be an excellent driver, but there is no guarantee that everyone else on the road is as well. Being hyperaware of your surroundings can protect you from potential hazards.

You should maintain awareness of other vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, animals, and other objects that could interfere with your route. Be aware of where you could evade these hazards if they were to interfere with your passage.

## 12. Stay left or right in slowing traffic

Sometimes traffic can suddenly begin to slow. When this happens, keeping your motorcycle to the left or right of the vehicle in front of you is best. This manoeuvre can help keep an escape route open if needed. It also offers some protection if a driver rear-ends the car behind you. You should be far enough to either side to prevent getting crushed between the car behind you and the one in front of you.

If traffic stops, be ready to go if danger strikes. Keep your eyes on the mirror scanning for trouble, your bike in gear, and your clutch depressed.

See the rest on Meiorowitz & Wasserberg Accident Injury Lawyers' website at <https://www.samndan.com/25-motorcycle-safety-tips/>





# UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

## Some Featured Rides & Events from our calendar:

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 21:00 – 00:30:** EVENT: Spartan's Bar Night - Pitchers & Catchers Leather Social at Pitchers DC, 2317 18th St NW, WDC

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 20:00 – 21:00:** SOCIAL MEETING: we host a social teleconference the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. Enter the gathering with this link: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Feb:** EVENT: Snowbound Leather Weekend, Provincetown, MA

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Mar, 20:00 – 21:00:** OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties my attend.

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Mar, 12:00 – 14:00:** EVENT: Chili Cook-Off at Williams Harley-Davidson, Williams Harley-Davidson, 1100 US-22, Lebanon, NJ

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Mar, 10:00 – 14:00:** RIDE: Williams' H-D Spring Kickoff Ride (Weather Permitting), Williams Harley-Davidson, 1100 US-22, Lebanon, NJ 08833

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Mar, 18:00 – 23:00:** EVENT: Spearhead LDSC's 54th Anniversary, The Cherie Bistro, 538 Church St, Toronto, ON Canada

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Mar, 20:00 – 21:00:** SOCIAL MEETING: we host a social teleconference the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. Enter the gathering with this link: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 18:00 – 00:00:** EVENT: Long Island Ravens Anniversary Dinner 18:00 – 20:00 at Paddy's Loft, 1286 Hicksville Rd, Massapequa, NY 11758, followed by Long Island Ravens Anniversary Barnight. Info & Tickets: <http://liravensmc.org/neo-main.php>

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Mar – Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Apr:** EVENT: Easter in Berlin. More information here: <https://blf.de/easterberlin/> (warning: strict dress codes)

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar, 20:00 – 21:00:** OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties my attend.

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Mar, 20:00 – 21:00:** SOCIAL MEETING: we host a social teleconference the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. Enter the gathering with this link: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> – Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Apr:** EVENT: ShipMates Club of Baltimore 50th Anniversary (*see page 1 for information*)

**Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Tue 28<sup>th</sup> May:** RIDE: ECMC's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Biker Weekend in Pittsburgh with Sight-Seeing/Riding around PA! Thursday we'll meeting Harrisburg, Mondy night, we'll stay in the Philly area... full plans yet to be determined.

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jul – Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Jul:** RIDE: ECMC's 60th Anniversary Summer Ride. This ride, proposed to go to Maine, will be our SECOND week-long ride for our 60th Anniversary! Yes, we're considering TWO week-long rides in 2024!!!

**Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Oct – Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Oct:** EVENT: Empire City MC's 60th Anniversary Weekend in New York City, NY. Details in 2024!

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**REMEMBER:** There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to bookmark <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us on some great rides! Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.**

For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view and download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on social media at <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> where you can chat with us.

Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at [newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org](mailto:newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org)  
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