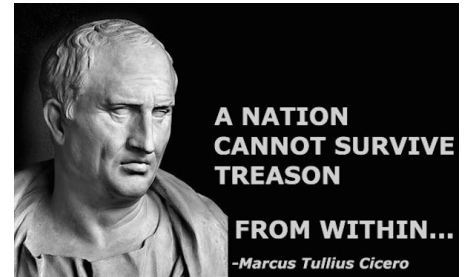




TREASON!

In December, Empire City MC opens up nominations for officers and in January, we elect whom we wish to serve on the Executive Board, each year – 2021 is no different. There was no treason and we expect an orderly transfer of power on 16th January 2021; however, this year, without an installation dinner, due to COVID-19. We'll make up for it when we're all vaccinated! Here is the run down on ECMC's 2021 Officers:

President ----- Mark W (incumbent, term limit)
Vice President ----- Earl D
Road Captain ----- Erik R (incumbent, term limit)
Secretary ----- Gary P
Treasurer ----- Chaz A (incumbent, term limit)

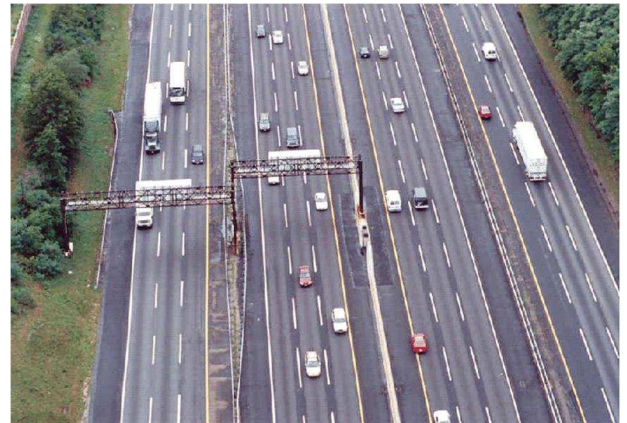


Congratulations to everyone!

Truck Lane vs Car Lane on New Jersey Turnpike

During this last summer of driving back and forth from Phila. to NYC to attend ECMC events I was able to gauge a pretty good assessment of driving in the Truck Lane vs the Car Lane [on I-95].

I have observed that driving in the truck lanes there is a lot less traffic in these lanes (1 truck = about 3 cars). There is a lot of room to sit and relax and enjoy the ride. The NJT is notorious for being a "white knuckled" ride on a good day. That was until the widening of the NJT from 3 lanes to 6 lanes in each direction from Exit 6 to Exit 9 eliminated the bottleneck of cars and trucks merging into 3 lanes. Kudos NJT for this \$200 million expansion! This was followed by the I-95 connection in Bucks County connecting the PA turnpike to I-95 with fly-overs to make a smooth and seamless transition. Together the completion of these 2 projects equals door-to-door service from my place in Phila to Chaz and KK's place in 1.5 hours on a non-rush hour time of day.



The last time I rode in the Truck Lane this summer I performed car counting, in the same amount of space in the truck lane there was 3 trucks compared to 15 cars with 15 different types of drivers and driving skills (cough-cough NJ drivers). I felt totally safe driving amongst the trucks, keeping safe distances, waving to truckers, and enjoying a nice ride. I am glad that NJT offers Car or Truck lanes. This plan seemed to be the way to go until the last time I drove to NYC and the entire car section was closed and everybody was in the Truck lane. I could feel the hair on my neck standing up and my "white knuckles" returning for a 2 hour tense ride to NYC.

If you have not had an opportunity of riding in the truck lane I would highly recommend giving it a try you will never go back to the car lane.

While researching information for this article I came across some general motorcycle safety information, you can never be too safe!

Why Are Motorcycles Safer Than Cars?

Debating whether or not riding a motorcycle is safer than driving a car is an argument that will go on for years. Accident wise, you are far worse off if you crash on your motorcycle opposed to inside your car. An accident that leaves your car with a dent can put a motorcyclist in the hospital, though fear of riding is usually based on prejudice and what you've heard – not real experience.

Safety on the road comes down to how likely you are to have an accident in the first place. If you're on a motorcycle, the safety factor comes in as you realize you can avoid accidents easier. In a car, you feel safe because you have protection around you, but your options are more limited. There's no denying that a careless motorcyclist can kill themselves easier than a careless driver, but when it comes down to proficient drivers, I would give motorcyclists the safety edge.

They can see more, evade better and attend to the road with limited distractions.

A rider's perception is broader than a car's. Having a better view of the road means you can spot obstacles or danger earlier and avoid it more appropriately. If a motorcyclist turns their head, they have a clear all-around vision of their surrounding with no bodywork creating blind spots. When you see more, you can avoid more. So, if seeing danger first is better to avoid a crash, then motorcycles are safer than cars.



A motorcyclist's field of view is much further and wider than that of a car's. Riders can also move left or right in their lane for a better view of what's ahead in case a large vehicle like a SUV or truck blocks their vision. In contrast, a car driver must remain on the steering wheel side in their vehicle. If you see more, you avoid more.

Evade Better:

Since a motorcycle is smaller than a car, it makes it less of a target to be hit on the road. Its compact size gives riders more places to go safely. If a car ahead makes a sudden stop, the car behind it may rear end it. Pile ups happen due to cars in their lanes not having anywhere to manoeuvre in a sudden stop. Motorcyclists have a few more evasion options than cars as they can swerve to the side, or even split lanes depending if its legal in their state. They can

even pull into the shoulder lane if there are riding on a highway. In terms of accident evasion, motorcycles have the upper edge. They are overall more mobile than cars and can accelerate better out of a troubled situation.

Attend Better:

When you don't have a protective shield around you on the road, your brain must work with your body to keep it safe. Riding a few feet above the ground should be enough to have your full attention. Drivers are more comfortable as they have the luxury of air-conditioning or heat while they cruise inside their enclosed vehicle. This gives them more ways to be distracted from the road. Anything from food, drinks, cell phones, cigarettes, passengers and plenty more, can take a driver's attention away from what's in front of them which is a main cause of road accidents. Focusing on one thing impairs your attention of another. This makes motorcycles safer because they increase attention and diminish distractions.



Now these reasons may not go hand in hand with the actual statistics of yearly accidents, but if you eliminate all the squids and careless drivers on the road, then motorcyclists have the edge. The stakes are higher, but if you ride safe, you'll be less likely to have an accident in the first place.

The Evil of Facebook Grows...

We all know about the Cambridge Analytica scandal in where facebook handed over all their data (ahem, *our...* our data) in order to manipulate people in so many ways, but most importantly, the 2016 U.S. Elections. Well, Cambridge Analytica is gone now, but that hasn't stopped facebook from sucking up as much data about you as possible – even if you're not on facebook!

There has been a mass exodus from facebook since 2017, but the foul taste of facebook's invasion of privacy has been re-kindled by the fact that they bought WhatsApp, one of the most popular chat and communications collaboration tools in the world and this month they have rolled out new Terms Of Service and Privacy Policy, which, if you read the fine print mean that they can gather much more information on you than you might realise!

Combine this with the fact that facebook started using artificial intelligence to police not only public groups, but closed private groups as well... We tested facebook's AI with this image. Even with ALL the "naughty bits" covered up and then obfuscating it to 25x25 pixels, it determined that this image is an "adult photograph" and ended up SUSPENDING a member for 30 days.

When an appeal was made, an instant denial of appeal screen appeared, stating that "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there aren't enough employees to respond to your appeal. Your appeal is rejected."

Due to these disturbing facts, and the fact that facebook has been mining data from everything we post on it's service, from the metadata on uploaded photographs to GPS locations of our mobile phones, we've started a new Empire City MC social media group on 'MeWe' and we're moving off of WhatsApp over to 'Signal'. MeWe is like facebook, but without the evil tracking, datamining and restrictions on what images you can post (i.e. legal adult images and humour can be posted on MeWe). Signal is like WhatsApp, but it is Open Source code (so we know there aren't any backdoors that corporations can syphon our data into their huge servers for police and corporations).

I know it sounds a little conspiracy-theoristy to say that big corporations like Amazon, Google, Apple, Microsoft, Facebook and others are tracking and saving everything we say, type, call, everywhere we travel to, everyone we hang out with, and everything we purchase until you start to notice, hey – after looking at boats on Amazon.com, suddenly I'm seeing banner ads for boats and boating equipment on recon.com or iheartradio.com – you'll start to be alarmed and wonder what else they know. Trust me: You don't want to know, it's very scary. To quote one director, "Our software knows more about you than you know about yourself!"

So, in that vein, I'd like to welcome you to our new social media haunt: <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc>



Can You Spot Emil?

In this very old photo of Empire City MC, can you spot Emil? He is in this picture! Who else do you recognise?

Empire City MC has been collecting photos and documents that relate to our club's history. They will be scanned and placed online for any interested party.

The "Empire City MC Archive Project" is being led by Chaz and we're 99% done sorting documents and are almost ready to begin scanning them in... but before we do, this is LAST CALL to send any more in that might be out there so we can incorporate them into our archive.

If you have any ECMC-related documents or photos, please reach out to Chaz Antonelli (ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) and let him know about what you have. Thanks!



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events:

Sat 16th January: ELECTION: New ECMC offices take effect.

Wed 3rd February, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month now hosted via teleconference due to COVID-19. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Fri 12th February: Chinese New Year – Year of the Ox

Wed 3rd March, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month now hosted via teleconference due to COVID-19. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Wed 7th April, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month now hosted via teleconference due to COVID-19. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Wed 5th May, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month now hosted via teleconference due to COVID-19. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

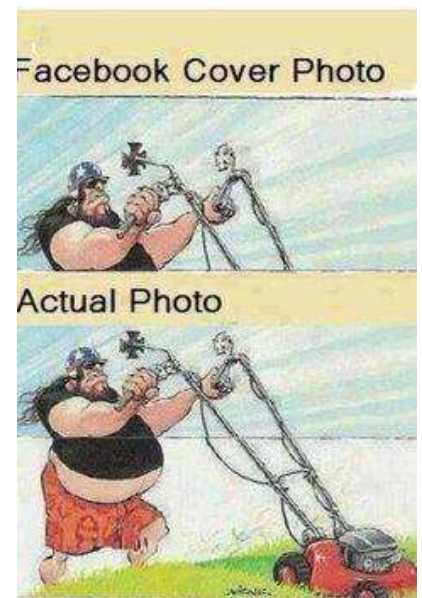
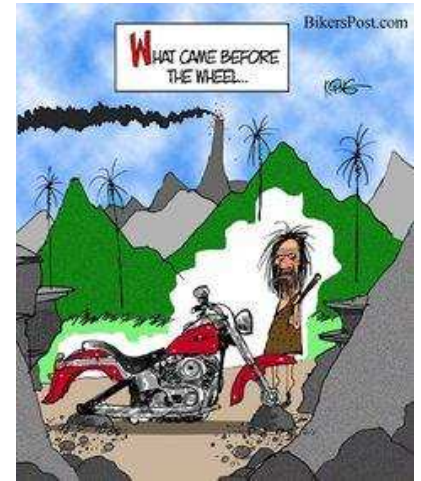
Sunday, 23rd May: RIDE: The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride, a police-escorted ride around New York City to benefit prostate and testicular cancer awareness. Pre-register now at www.gentlemansride.com and prepare yourself to ride dapper!

Fri 28th – Mon 31st May: RIDE: Empire City MC's 10th Annual Motorcycle Weekend. Save the date and come celebrate our 10th (and last) Annual Motorcycle Weekend at The Ranch! Details coming soon...

Fri 18th June: EVENT: Empire City MC's 57th Annual Bike Blessing!

Sat 19th June: RIDE: Empire City MC's 57th Annual Biker Picnic!

Sun 27th June: RIDE: Empire City MC leads the Gay Pride March beside our sister club, the Sirens MC!



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 15th 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
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