



A Series of "What If's" - Part 1 Weather

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Most of the time, Safety and Skill articles are constructed to present information for readers to consider, or as a basis to educate riders on improving skills that may need a little more attention. One reader referred to me as the *Dear Abby* of motorcycle safety, saying that I have uncommon common sense. It's not your everyday compliment or comparison, but I'll take it.

One thing I often hear is: I understand that I shouldn't do this or that, or try not to be in a certain situation, but what if I am? What should I do? In a perfect world, we would avoid all the situations that could increase our risks, but sometimes we're stuck right in the middle of them. It could be by accident, or just by playing the odds that you wouldn't be there and yet there you are. With that thought, I'll be doing a series of columns discussing the infamous what-ifs we may find ourselves in.

One of motorcyclists' biggest nemeses is rain, especially the heavy downpour kind. While none of us plan to ride in these conditions, they can sometimes come up fast. Now, how many of you have used an underpass for protection from the sudden storm or seen others do this? While it may be natural instinct to seek shelter, an underpass may not be the safest place to be. Many times, those locations are prone to flash flooding during a downpour, causing other vehicles to lose control right where you thought it was safe. Also, keep in mind that during heavy downpours, a car's windshield wipers struggle to keep the view clear. Another thing to keep in mind is that in bad weather like this, vision is reduced due to the lack of sunlight and those underpasses become even darker. How about just pulling over to the shoulder to wait it out? Once again, the possible loss of vision could result in unwanted consequences. So what could we do?

The better thing is to continue as safely as you can until you can get to an area that will afford you more protection. Use the tracks from vehicles in front of you as a path where the water may not be as deep. Remember that braking distances will increase due to the lack of traction, so keep a safe distance. Riding to the next exit or turning off will almost certainly make you wetter than you'd like to be, but the cost in time to dry off is without doubt far less than the expense of a bad situation.

Scared to ride in the rain? Would you wind up riding so slow that you could be causing another problem (faster moving traffic not seeing you or noticing your speed)? Don't let your nerves get the better of you. Adjust your speed accordingly; if your bike has flashers, use them and keep a firm grip on the handlebars until you find a safer place to hang out while waiting for the storm to pass. If you make the decision to park on the shoulder or below that dark underpass, try to keep your bike, and yourself, as far off the road as possible.

What if the rain turns to hail? At that point, if you aren't wearing a fullface helmet, you'll wish you had the benefits of one. Hail hurts just standing in it; being unprotected and moving at any speed will just amplify the sting of those ice pellets. They also make things real slick on the road. Tough judgment call here: do you keep going or stop where you can and try to protect yourself from the pounding ice? This is a time when you have to evaluate all the conditions and risks to see what works best for you.

How about snow? If you think it couldn't happen, don't be too sure. I had to deal with walking out of a restaurant after a lunch on an early summer day in a higher elevation to find over an inch of snow covering everything. As much as it may be challenging, riding in snow is achievable. It is better to approach it differently than rain, meaning, don't ride in the car tracks. Those tracks may just pack the snow to a slipperier level. Consider riding within the new snow. Sure, there's obvious traction loss, but if the snow isn't too deep, it can be done. Also, keep your stopping distance in mind; being heavy on the brakes in snow could have a seriously bad effect. Your alternatives would be to either wait for the snow to melt, which could take longer than you like, or call a flatbed tow to bring you to a lower, dryer elevation. Once again, take into account which approach is best for your skill level.

Sure, the best thing to do with those what-if situations is to avoid them, but that may not always be possible. The bottom line with suddenly having to deal with those unwanted circumstances is to be able to recognize the possible risks in your choices. Remember to make use of that uncommonly used common sense and be safe out there.



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Street Skills LLC



We are pleased to welcome and announce *Street Skills LLC* as a Promotional Sponsor to our Program. Besides being a leading Motorcycle Riding Instruction Program in upstate New York, their website is a great resource of information. Click their logo to check it out

Empire State Motorcycle Safety Education Program is introducing a new motorcycle riding educational experience of real time training that is co-sponsored with

ON THE ROAD AGAIN



***Road Rider Training & Scenic Tour at its Best
September 24-25, 2016***

Ever feel that practicing in parking lots or even doing training such as track days really doesn't give you what you need to be prepared for everyday riding on our roadways? We certainly do. Our SkilledRider Safety Tour is a fantastic way to become a more proficient rider by not only increasing your situational awareness development, but to learn or enhance riding skills used for everyday riding at real time, real world conditions.

Our instructional and learner centered approach will help you focus on every thought process, motorcycle adjustment and skill adjustment for road, traffic, environmental plus operator conditions. Becoming a smoother rider through education, practice and proficiency will help reduce the risks associated with motorcycle riding.

Technical aspects of set up and approaches for safe flowing cornering, lane adjustments for all conditions, speed adjustments with various method options plus learning to "read the road" are just a couple of the major cornerstones of our program. You will not only be exposed to possibly new information on skill techniques, but have the ability to demonstrate what you have learned with instant feedback and commentary from our trained Skills Advisers.

Motorcycling is a fun exciting motorsport, but it does have its risks. Education, practice of skills and use of information with continued reinforcement will not only raise your level of safety, but believe it or not - raise your overall riding experiences and joy of motorcycling.

This is a unique opportunity for any rider to enhance their riding with the combination of a scenic tour through some of the more enjoyable roads in the region.

Program Details

- Two Days of Scenic Touring with Personalized Riding Training
- Includes One Night Hotel Plus Day One Lunch & Dinner
- One Year Free Membership with Empire State Motorcycle Safety Education Program
- Gift Swag Bag from Sponsor 1-800-HURT-911 / Attorney Philip Franckel

Program Cost - \$850 – Limited Spots Available

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SkilledRider Program Sponsors

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LOVE JUGS

In conjunction with our announcement of our SkilledRider Safety Tour Program, anyone that purchases online a cooling fan system from Love-Jugs for their Harley-Davidson or Indian motorcycle will receive a \$50 Rebate from Empire State Motorcycle Safety Education Program. **When ordering, enter *Empire MC Safety* in the *Who Referred You?* box**

Rebate offer ends August 31, 2016



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out?

Send your Event Flyers to
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UPCOMING
EVENTS

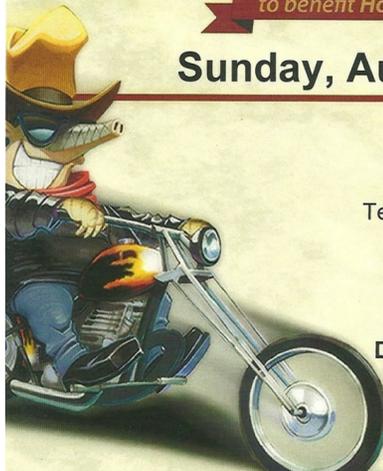
RENEGADE



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13th Annual
≡ Texas Roadhouse ≡
MOTORCYCLE RIDE
to benefit Homes For Our Troops



Sunday, August 7th, 2016

Registration Location:
Texas Roadhouse in East Meadow, NY
2571 Hempstead Turnpike
Register from 8am to 10am

***** ENDING LOCATION *****
Deer Park Fire Dept Training Field
973 Nicholls Rd. Deer Park

Big Roadhouse BBQ and Concert.
Along with Line Dancing and Raffles

In advance you may register online at www.hfotusa.org/bikerun or register in person at East Meadow TXRH between 8 am and 10 am. First 300 Registrants for rides will receive a Complimentary Ride T-Shirt!

Ride Fees: \$30 Single Rider, \$50 with a Passenger, \$10 for Non-riders. Ride includes a Legendary Breakfast, Texas-Sized BBQ, and Concert at the end of the Ride.



REDRUM Motorcycle Club & NYC Harley Davidson

**Native American Scholarship Run
& Bike Blessing
Sunday August 7th
NYC Harley Davidson
Northern Blvd**



Celtic Motorcycle Club NEW YORK

RALLY & BASH
August 13-14, 2016

Celebrating 25 Years
1991 - 2016

VENUE: Catskill Pheasantry
374 Neer Rd, Long Eddy, NY 12760
(845) 887-4487
www.catskillpheasantry.com

Rally Badge - DJ - Live Music - Food - Events
Camping and Accomodation Available

For further info visit: www.celticmcc.com
or call Ger Curtin at 845-222-3512
or call Dave Hallinan at 914-262-3478

 American Motorcyclist Association Sanctioned Event



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AN ADVANCED CORNERING CLINIC

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- Practice exercises designed to progressively build cornering confidence.
- Be safer in real world situations by increasing your skill safety margin.
- Get a feel for track day skills or make your future track days more enjoyable.
- All motorcycles welcome!

Contact **OTRA** Motorcycle School to sign up! Class size is limited.
631-862-RIDE OR INFO@LRN2RIDE.COM

QUEENSBORO

Sunday August 14th
10:00am - 5:00pm
Bike Events Begin at 12:00pm

SWAP MEET

50/50
SEE MEMBER FOR AVAILABILITY
(WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT)

SUMMERFEST 2016

CASH PRIZES
FOR
BIKER GAMES
CLUB WITH BEST REP

BALDWIN HOSE CO. 3
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\$10.00 DONATION
VENDORS FOOD BEVERAGES
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Second Annual

FREDDY'S RUN




Formerly "Pop's Run"

To benefit the Amyloid Research Team at the Boston University School of Medicine

Hosted by

**The Nassau Wings
Motorcycle Club**

and

the Amyloidosis Support Group
In Loving Memory of "Fast Freddy" Peteani

Sunday, August 21, 2016

Sign up from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

\$20.00 Participation Donation

Cyrus Chai & Coffee Company

1 Railroad Plaza
Bay Shore, NY 11706

Kickstands up at 12:00

Party begins at 12:30 PM at
South Shore Motorcycle Club
6 Seabro Avenue
Amityville, NY 11701

Music Provided By



Music! Food! 50/50! Door Prizes!

For more information call 516-680-0178
or surf into www.FreddysRun.org



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8/27/16

10 AM REGISTRATION 11 AM KSU
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ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE ARMY RANGER LEAD THE WAY FUND
FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.HDNYC.COM




New York Wounded Vet Run
Saturday, August 29, 2015



Motorcycle Ride and BBQ
\$20 a Rider, \$10 per passenger,
\$20 American Legion Post Walk-ins
Registration starts at 10 am- Kickstands up 12:30pm
Start: Empire Harley Davidson 8 Industrial Lane, New Rochelle, NY 10805
End: 1:45 pm-American Legion #390 160 Marvin Ave., Hempstead, NY 11550
Ceremony- Food- Entertainment
This Motorcycle run is in honor of Sgt. Eddie Ryan
All Proceeds go to Sgt. Eddie Ryan
Questions contact Mark @ 718-813-2484
email: NYWVR@yahoo.com
Donations can be sent to:
The New York Wounded Vet Run, 555 McLean Ave Apt 5E, Yonkers, NY 10705




Police Escorted Run
Bike Not Required to Participate-- Everyone Welcome
For More Info: www.TheyFoughtWeRide.com
Those who do not ride please join us at
American Legion #390 to welcome Bikers and Veterans!

www.motorcyclesafetyprogram.org

Empire State Motorcycle Safety Education Program, Inc(ESMSEP) is a not for profit, 501(c)3 outreach education organization group of like minded motorcycle safety enthusiasts working towards the goal of promoting motorcycle awareness and the benefits of rider education through FREE informational seminars at libraries, adult continuing ed programs, dealerships, club/group meetings, rallies, etc. Our primary goal is to present the information to licensed motorcycle operators as to the importance of continuing rider education, but our information can also be extremely useful for newer riders as well. To date, there is no one in NYS that presently addresses what we do..

ESMSEP has a Member Benefit Program that includes a FREE \$4000 life insurance policy plus discounted offers from our Sponsoring Partners. ESMSEP currently has 90+ Sponsoring Partners listed on our website that have joined our team with many of them offering a benefit offer for our membership that have pledge to support this new exciting venture. All of them are extremely supportive of our task and recognize the value of it for the motorcycling community plus the potential for future customers that appreciate their support of motorcycle safety. We have more sponsors than any other not for profit motorcycle organization in the country.

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Empire State Motorcycle Safety Education Program
215 S. Centre Ave
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

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