



New Jersey Pride

On Sunday June 3rd Geno K. and I met up on the Garden State Parkway and rode to Asbury Park for Jersey Pride. At the event we were joined by our club brother Mario L who lives in Asbury Park.

Pride starts for me when I cross the Driscoll Bridge (GSP), the world's widest bridge by lane count and geographical landmark separating Northern NJ from the Shore Points. The New Jersey Pride Parade stages in front the Asbury Municipal Building. I am always energized by the old and new faces lining up to represent the community. An honourable mention to my friends Daddy Dion and Sal who celebrated their 35th Anniversary on June 3rd. They tirelessly support the LGBTQ community and represent the very reason we march!



Of course, the climax of the event occurs as the parade crosses the sunset Bridge across from the festival grounds and Historic Asbury Park Convention Center. Seven Years ago, I was new to the community and ridding. Today I am grateful for their Support and Love.



Motorcycle Only Checkpoints Still a Reality in Many States – We need YOUR help to report them!

Imagine riding your motorcycle to a benefit and seeing a sign saying “Motorcycles must exit at rest area.” Although you’ve done nothing wrong, and your motorcycle registration and insurance are up to date and current, you will be subject to a random seizure and inspection. You pull into the rest area as instructed and are greeted by LEOs from multiple agencies, including the gang task force. While one group conducts safety inspections the gang task force uses the opportunity to take pictures and document every motorcycle stopped. Very few citations are issued relative to the number of bikes stopped. Since 2007, similar incidents have happened all over America. And now, you too have just experienced a motorcycle-only checkpoint, or MOC.



History of Motorcycle-Only Checkpoints

Most date the birth of MOC’s as 2007 as a way to crackdown on motorcyclists in New York. In April of 2006, New York State Police Trooper Craig J. Todeschini attempted to chase down a reckless speeder on a motorcycle and lost control of his SUV. He died after he struck a tree.

“Response to this incident by the NYSP, which was widely acknowledged in law enforcement circles and elsewhere as categorical retaliation against motorcyclists, was fairly prompt. Less than a year and a half after Todeschini’s death, the country’s first-ever motorcycle-only checkpoint – named “Operation 5060” in the memory and honor of Todeschini’s badge number – was conducted on I-84 in East Fishkill, New York by the NYSP and led by then- Sergeant J. Halvorsen. This operation was a pilot – a blueprint for things to come.”

After 2007, motorcycle-only checkpoints began appearing in other states. New York was so proud of this scheme “that they went touring the country showing law enforcement agencies around the nation how to do it.” This strategy was an easy sell as it amounted to huge wins for both the law enforcement agencies and the municipalities. Police ran the checkpoints on overtime and the feds footed the bill so the municipality didn’t pay for any of it.

Response From Motorcyclists- State and Federal Legislation

The motorcycle rights movement immediately began to mobilize at the state and federal level after news of MOC’s started to spread. There were incidents in other states like Georgia and Florida and many states acted proactively. As of 2016, Texas, California, Louisiana, Maryland and 15 other states ban MOC’s, some through legislation and some through judicial proceedings.

Meanwhile, both the American Motorcyclist Association and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation pursued legislation at the federal level. “After eight years, Congress finally banned the use of federal funds for motorcycle only checkpoints on December 3, 2015. The ban was part of a \$305 billion highway bill called Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (or FAST) Act.”

MOC’s Still Occurring in Some States

Despite what many believe, the battle over motorcycle-only checkpoints is not over. Although Congress banned federal funding for motorcycle-only checkpoints in the 2015 Fast Act, these discriminatory stops continue in some states without federal assistance.

For example, on November 6, 2016 Suffolk County Police Highway Patrol Bureau officers, New York State Police troopers and MTA Police officers conducted motorcycle safety checkpoints on eastbound Sunrise Highway at exit 55 and eastbound Long Island Expressway. 169 motorcycles were stopped and 54 citations were issued. Those cited were independents, not club members.

MOC’s Are Discriminatory Profiling.

Cloaked under the justification of safety, motorcycle-only checkpoints unfairly target motorcyclists and motorcycles as a form of transportation. According to the AMA, “Motorcycle-only checkpoints are discriminatory, forcing riders and their passengers to do something not asked of other citizens, simply because we

Suffolk Police News Release



For Immediate Release

November 6, 2016

Incident: Fifty-Four Summonses Issued at Motorcycle Safety Checkpoints
Location: Eastbound Sunrise Highway and Eastbound Long Island Expressway
Date/Time: Sunday, November 6, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Suffolk County Police Highway Patrol Bureau officers, New York State Police troopers and MTA Police officers conducted motorcycle safety checkpoints today on eastbound Sunrise Highway at exit 55 and eastbound Long Island Expressway between exits 65 and 66.

Officers stopped 169 motorcycles between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. as they passed through the checkpoints and a total of 54 summonses were issued for the following violations:

- 14 Unlicensed Operator
- 2 Suspended License
- 10 Un-inspected Motorcycle
- 3 Unregistered Motorcycle
- 2 Uninsured Motorcycle
- 10 Helmet Not Approved by New York State Department of Transportation.
- 6 Modified/Loud Exhaust System
- 1 Other Equipment Violations
- 6 Failure to Comply with Lawful Order

A criminal charge is an **accusation**. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Authority: Timothy D. Sini, Police Commissioner
IP-351243 Suffolk County Police Department...02/1835

Motorcycle Only Checkpoints (continued)

- choose to travel on two wheels, or three, instead of four. The AMA believes the money used for these operations could be better spent supporting programs that conduct rider education, reduce distracted driving and encourage motorist awareness of motorcycles." One of ECMC's prospects was pulled over FIVE TIMES in one day by MOCs last week! This is insane.

Motorcycle-only checkpoints are a strategy used by police to harass and conduct searches of motorcyclists under the pretence of checking for the bikers' compliance with licensing, helmet laws, exhaust emissions and exhaust noise. The stops only applied to motorcyclists.

They are often carried out by so-called special task forces and they are often staged near motorcycle rallies and events to better single out motorcyclists.

What's the Solution?

Motorcyclists in states like New York that have not prohibited the practice, should unify and push for a state legislation prohibiting motorcycle profiling including discriminatory motorcycle-only checkpoints. Motorcyclists should not be targeted because of their chosen mode of transportation or based on an outdated biker stereotype. Funds being used to conduct expensive and ineffective MOC's would better be used to enhance motorcycle safety and education.

Until then... you can help!

Enrol in Motorcycle Checkpoint Alerts at <http://www.nymstf.org/cas/> so you can be alerted by others who report MOCs around the New York City area.

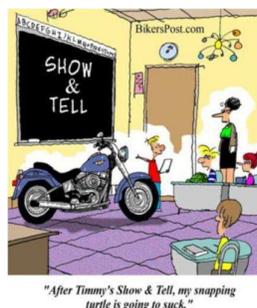
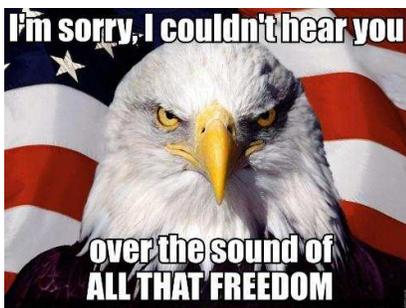
We need your help, biker or not! Report checkpoints when you see them! If you discover a police checkpoint pulling over bikers, please send a text message to the NYMSTF at **347-410-6783** (save this number to your phone's contacts as "Checkpoints" right now!) Make the first word of your message CHECKPOINT, followed by a very brief description (130 characters or fewer if possible) of the checkpoint's location. Your text will be published to our Checkpoint RSS/XML feed, our Twitter account and to our text message subscribers within five minutes.



What do you do if you're stopped?

Be respectful to the officer, remember, he's just following orders – he doesn't want to be there anymore than you do. Politely respond to any questions/requests the officer has, keeping in mind your civil rights. Present your driving licence, insurance card, and any other legally allowable information they request. If they issue you a summons, take it – you'll have your day in court, the officer cannot cancel a ticket at the roadside. If they opt to "voucher" (take) your bike, turn on your alarm system to prevent the engine from being started so they will have to flatbed it, not ride it back to the station as many have reported. Insist on proof in writing where your bike is being taken and if they do not comply with this request, call 911. Record or remember badge numbers and names of the officers you are interacting with. Remember the phrase: "Am I being detained, or am I free to go?"

Report MOC incidents to The New York Motorcycle & Scooter Task Force: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nymstf/> and the American Motorcyclist Association (<http://www.americanmotorcyclist.com>). Send a copy of your summons to the DMV, pleading NOT GUILTY and requesting a hearing. 9 times out of 10, the cop won't show, something will be wrong with their recollection of the incident or the citation itself will have invalid data – you need not hire a lawyer. If they find you guilty for some reason, you have 30 days to appeal and at an appeal, I recommend you do hire a lawyer – they will find the chink in the armour. Turn the screws on the cops and the DMV for doing this. Waste their time, just like they're wasting yours.



Folsom Street East Fair

On Sunday, June 17, 2018 Empire City Motorcycle Club participated in Folsom Street East Street fair. As in years past we had several motorcycles for people to have their photographs professionally taken (a BIG thanks to Flash!) while sitting on a bike. These photos were then made available to the photographed individual on our website.

We also provided information about ECMC to interested potential prospects. We provided bumper stickers, ear plugs, keychain flashlights, and pens.

The day was beautiful and well attended and a good time was had by all.



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Fri 14th July: RIDE: Vision Zero Run. KSU at 2pm. Info at <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10156574684534540>

Wed 1st August 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're booked into.

Fri-Sun 3rd-5th August: RIDE: The Arktos Bear Run in New London, OH 44851. Details at <http://www.arktosbears.org/>

Thu-Mon 16th-20th August: RIDE: Gay Pride Montréal. See: <http://www.fiertemontrealpride.com/en/pride/>

Fri-Sun 24th-26th August: EVENT: CLAWS Sordid Summer Blow-Out, Pigs In The Pool. See: <http://bit.ly/claws2018>

Fri-Tue 31st August – 4th September: RIDE: The Delta Run (a/k/a "Gay Kink Camp"), an invitational camping event.

Wed 5th September 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're booked into.

Fri-Sun 14th-16th September: RIDE: Black & Blue Weekend at Oneida Campground.

Thu-Sun 20th-23rd September: RIDE: Cycle for the Cause - The Northeast AIDS Ride. See: <http://bit.ly/c4tc2018>

Fri-Sun 28th-30th September: EVENT: 22nd Mates Leather Weekend, Provincetown, MA.

Sun 30th September: RIDE: The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride. On Sunday September 30th 2018, tens of thousands of distinguished gentlemen in hundreds of cities worldwide will don their cravats, tweak their moustaches, press their tweed and sit astride their classic and vintage styled motorcycles to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and men's mental health.

Wed 3rd October 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're booked into.

In the planning stages:

Xxx 00th August: RIDE: Leake & Watts Buddy Ride. As a hat-tip to those at Leake & Watts (Rising Ground) and all the good they go to help foster children, we're going to give the employees and volunteers at Rising Ground a ride on the back of our bikes out of the city and into the mountains!

Xxx 00th October 19:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's 54th Anniversary Dinner – T/B/D

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Bookmark our official calendar at 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



Empire City MC is a proud member of the Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council. For more information about membership with Empire City MC, [click here](#) to view/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application.



We're on facebook at <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com>
All material copyright ©MMXVII Empire City MC, Inc., All rights reserved

Send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at news@EmpireCityMC.com