



EDMONTON TOY RUN ASSOCIATION

Making a difference in the lives of children since 1984

NEWSLETTER

Issue #6 - July 2025

Santa's Mailbag

The Many Benefits of Motorcycle Riding

Almost every day, someone asks me, Jay, "Why do you ride?" I usually answer that it is the ultimate in freedom; there is nothing like being on a motorcycle, no matter the conditions. Motorcycle riding is more than just a thrilling hobby; it's a lifestyle that brings a wide range of benefits, from personal health to environmental and economic gains. Whether you're a weekend rider or a daily commuter, getting on two wheels can enhance your life in ways you may not expect. Here's a look at some of the key advantages of motorcycle riding.

Now don't judge me, there are many benefits, including health benefits. Riding a motorcycle engages your core, arms, and legs, helping to improve balance, coordination, and muscle tone. It may not replace the gym, but it's a low-impact workout that keeps your body active, especially during longer rides or twisty roads.

In regard to mental health and stress reduction, the focus required to ride helps clear your mind and reduce stress. The sense of freedom, the wind in your face, and the open road all contribute to a meditative experience that can lift your mood and combat anxiety or depression. I know once I start a ride it is very difficult to stop, unless I have to pee.... Every two hours now that I am old....

Motorcycle riders develop sharper reflexes and better situational awareness. Constantly scanning the road, adjusting speed, and reacting to changing traffic conditions keeps your mind sharp and responsive. Remember to always create space!! Smart throttle, smart downshifting, and braking.

There are environmental benefits as well. Motorcycles generally emit fewer greenhouse gases and consume less fuel than cars. Modern bikes, especially those with fuel-injection systems, are increasingly eco-friendly, producing a smaller carbon footprint.

Motorcycles take up less space on the road and in parking areas. More riders on two wheels means less congestion, smoother traffic flow, and shorter commute times for everyone.

Compared to cars, motorcycles use fewer materials during manufacturing and require less energy to operate. This results in less environmental impact throughout the vehicle's life cycle. Motorcycles can travel twice the distance of many cars on a single tank of gas.

While regular maintenance is important, motorcycles typically have fewer parts and lower maintenance costs than cars. Many basic tasks, such as oil changes or brake pad replacements, can be done affordably or even by the rider.

Motorcycle insurance is usually much cheaper than car insurance, and registration fees tend to be lower as well. This makes motorcycles an appealing option for budget-conscious individuals.

Between reduced fuel use, lower insurance premiums, and minimal maintenance, motorcycle owners often experience long-term savings that add up quickly compared to the costs of owning and operating a four-wheeled vehicle.

Motorcycle riding offers a unique blend of physical activity, mental clarity, environmental responsibility, and economic efficiency. While it's important to prioritize safety and wear the proper gear, the rewards of riding go far beyond the thrill. For those of us who embrace the two-wheeled lifestyle, the road ahead is not only exciting, it's also healthier, greener, and more affordable.

So, to all of us who ride motorcycles, the recommendation to friends and family, and people who do not ride is... look for a smarter way to move through life. Consider taking the scenic route on a motorcycle. It will improve your life! There is no sooner or later, there is only now. Get out and ride!!

Jay Padilla
Planning Committee Chair
www.edmontontoyrun.org

2nd Annual Poker Run - August 16th, 2025

Are you ready?

We at the Edmonton Toy Run sure are!! We can hardly wait for our big event in September- you will be blown away by what we have planned!! But, in the meantime, let's enjoy the beautiful riding season with our **2nd Annual Poker Run!!**

Join us for a day/evening of fun with our new route and exciting biker games. Try to pull the best poker hand, get your 50/50 tickets, bid on Silent Auction items, and enjoy brisket or a hot dog on a bun.

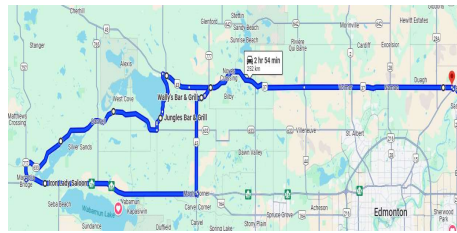
Toy collection boxes will be set up at each stop for those wanting to donate a few toys. Any of the toys/donations collected at those stops will stay in that area to help those in need.

Did you know you don't have to ride a motorcycle to join in on the fun? 2, 3, or 4 wheels (all licensed and insured roadworthy vehicles are welcome). Love to see a few of those classic cars out. Spread the word, and we'll see you at Six Pak Saloon on August 16th.

Note: This is a fun Poker Rally in addition to our annual Toy Run on September 21st.



Planned Route



Start - Six Pak Saloon

22524 AB-37, Sturgeon County, AB T8L 5A6

58 min (81.4 km) to 1st stop

1st Stop - Jungle's Bar & Grill

5015 50 Ave, Alberta Beach, AB T0E 0A0

Head west on AB-37 W toward

Range Rd 231

Turn right onto AB-43 N

Turn left onto St Anne Trail/Range Rd 32

Continue to follow St Anne

Trail/Sunset Dr/50 Ave

Continue onto 50 Ave

The destination will be on the left

32 min (46.7 km) to the 2nd stop

2nd Stop - Iron Lady Saloon

53.584587143260144,

-114.79051956350236, Gainford,

AB T0E 0W0

Head southwest on 50 Ave toward

51 St

Turn left onto 60 St

Continue onto Range Rd 33

Turn right onto AB-633 W

Turn left onto AB-757 S

Turn left onto AB-16 (signs for Edmonton)

The destination will be on the left

32 min (54.2 km) to the 3rd stop

3rd Stop - Wally's Bar & Grill

5400 Lac St Anne Trail S, Onaway, AB T0E 1V0

Head north on Township Rd 533 toward AB-16

Continue on AB-16 to AB-43 exit

Continue on AB-43 N to the Onaway exit.

Turn right onto Lac St Anne Trail S
The destination will be on your left
50 min (69.4 km) to end

End - Six Pak Saloon

22524 AB-37, Sturgeon County, AB T8L 5A6

Follow Lac St Anne Trail S to AB-37 E

Turn right onto AB-37

The destination will be on your left

Upcoming Events by Edmonton Toy Run

July 22nd - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

August 16th - 2nd Annual Poker Run at Six Pack Saloon. This year, bike games will be added to the fun.

August 19th - Co-Host Bike Night @ Blackjacks with OBB

September 16th - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

September 21st - 42nd Annual Edmonton Toy Run.

Check out our web page for even more events!

<https://edmontontoyrun.org/event-calendar>

Featured Rider(s)/Business

Every month, we try to feature a rider or business within the community. Do you know of an individual either in the biking or car world, or a business you would like to see featured? Would you like to be featured in our next newsletter? Why not send an email to Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com



Bursary

Did you know the Edmonton Toy Run has a bursary available for those applying to any post-secondary education?

Applications are now being accepted. Click on the link below for more information and to access the 2025 Bursary Package.

<https://edmontontoyrun.org/bursary-1>

The application deadline is August 30th, 2025.

Sponsorship

Every year, our sponsors play a big part in what we do by donating to a great cause.

If you would like to become a sponsor or know of a business or

individual that would like to become a sponsor, please let us know by sending an email to us at: Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com



Dad Joke

Q - What did the snow say to the Rocky Mountains?

A - We've got you covered.

A Blast From The Past

Edmonton Journal - Friday, September 23, 1988

Toy run

The fifth annual toy run motorcycle parade for Santas Anonymous leaves Westmount Shopping Centre Sunday at 1 p.m. The parade, led by Santa Claus on a motorcycle, is open to all motorcyclists. Participants are each asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to needy children through Santas Anonymous. The riders proceed with an Edmonton city police escort to the Capilano Mall. Last year, the event drew 750 bikes, according to Edmonton toy run co-ordinator Jan Steenson. If weather is good Sunday, Steenson expects the same number or more.



Get your tickets for the **WestJet Gift of Flight** raffle in support of the Edmonton Toy Run.

Tickets are only \$20 each, and you could win

ONE ROUND-TRIP FLIGHT FOR TWO GUESTS to any regularly scheduled and marketed WestJet destination.

Tickets are available at any of our events or through the website:

<https://edmontontoyrun.org/raffles>

AGLC licence #728222

Draw date: September 21st, 2025

Where will your travels take you?

Contact Information:

Edmonton Toy Run:

edmontontoyrun@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed!

The Edmonton Toy Run is in need of volunteers to help out at some of our various events throughout the year.

If you would like to volunteer at any of our events, please let one of us know so that we can put you on a contact list. You can also send an email to Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com

Committee Members:

Jay Padilla, Hazel Gillis, Heather Gillis, Nevin Kublik, Gabe Barrington-Moss, Denise Chenier, Nik Hewlett, Amanda Thiessen, Darren Thiessen, Freya Giroux, Madison Paterson, Danielle Rowland-Dow, Terrence Rowland-Dow, Daphne Dowbush, David Dowbush

Links to Edmonton Toy Run:



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Get your **2025 Membership** through the website @

<https://edmontontoyrun.org/memberships>