

The STRAIGHTTALK

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The Newsletter

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Staying Safe During Boating Season



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Calendar

- ◆ Seattle Int'l Film Festival 6/12
- ◆ Flag Day 6/14
- ◆ Father's Day 6/19
- ◆ First Day of Summer! 6/21

**It's Getting
Hot!!!
Who wants some
free Jamba
Juice?!**

See Back for Details

We have had a record amount of rainfall this year, but now that June is here, hopefully the sun will make an appearance. Once it does, many Washingtonians will certainly take advantage by taking a boat out into the water. Here are some helpful tips to keep you safe, along with some important laws to remember to keep you out of trouble.

4 Quick Tips for Safe Boating

- 1) Always wear a lifejacket – Most boating accident deaths happen because someone wasn't wearing a life jacket. They may not be the most fashionable of accessories, but they save lives.
- 2) Always have an assistant skipper – Make sure that another person on board knows how to operate the boat in the event that something happens and you are unable to captain your vessel.
- 3) Use common sense – Operate your boat at a safe speed, and steer clear of larger boats that may have difficulty turning or stopping quickly.
- 4) Keep track of the weather – It's always a good idea to check the weather forecast before you head out for the day. Keep a close eye on any changes in weather, such as darkening clouds, rough winds or a sudden drop in temperature.

4 Boating Laws to Remember

- 1) Washington state law prohibits anyone from operating a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The probability of getting into a boating accident doubles when you have been drinking and driving a boat intoxicated. The legal limit is .08.
- 2) You must be at least 12-years-old to operate a boat, and all operators of a vessel with 15 horsepower or greater must take a safety education course to obtain a boater education card.
- 3) It's always a safe idea to wear a life jacket, but children 12-years-old and younger are required to wear a life jacket at all times on board a boat, unless in a completely enclosed area.
- 4) Accidents causing damage over \$2,000 and/or requiring medical treatment beyond first aid, such as death or disappearance, must be reported to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction where the accident occurred.

With the limited amount of sunshine that we experience here in Washington State, we all know that you have to take advantage of boating weather whenever possible. Practicing safe boating will help ensure that we are all able to enjoy the beautiful weather on those rarely seen sunny days.

Q&A With Pacific Northwest Motorcycle Safety President, Dave Wendell

Dave Wendell, President of PNW Motorcycle Safety was kind enough to answer a few questions about motorcycle safety and how his classes prepare riders for the road.

Q.) How do you prepare beginning riders to complete the BRC (Basic Rider Course)?

A.) We use the most modern Adult Learning Techniques to keep all of our classes “high challenge, low threat.” This puts the student in charge of their own learning, and keeps stress and anxiety low. In the classroom, we put students in groups of 3 or 4, depending on class size, and foster LOTS of interactive discussion between students on the topics they need to know to safely operate a 2-wheeled vehicle. The riding exercises are all based on a building-block concept starting with simple skills, each one building on the last one in complexity and skill level.

The Basic RiderCourse is the Motorcycle Foundation’s “learn to ride (safely)” course. It literally starts with “this is a motorcycle and here’s where the controls are,” progressing to being able to pass the written and riding tests in less than 16 hours of instruction. We also offer a pre-BRC course called First Ride, which is only 4 hours long, has a student to Instructor ratio of 3:1, and serves as a slower paced introduction to riding a motorcycle.

Q.) What kind of classes do you offer more experienced riders looking for additional training?

A.) We actually offer several different courses beyond the First Ride and BRC. We offer the Experienced RiderCourse for those people looking for more training on their own bike. Our On-Street Course has 4 different levels and offers an opportunity for no more than 4 students at a time to receive personal coaching from 2 Advisors while riding on public roadways. We also offer MSF’s Advanced RiderCourse that teaches higher level skills such as swerving in the middle of a curve, threshold braking, decreasing radius curves and more.

Q.) Do you believe current training requirements for an endorsement are enough?

A.) We don’t believe any training should be compulsory. However, in motorcycling, we’ve taken a different approach than the Drivers Ed. world did. Rather than try to teach you everything you need to know in one 6-week to 3-month long course, we split it up into smaller chunks. Unfortunately, the average motorcyclist takes the BRC, and gets just barely enough knowledge to pass the tests, then never returns.

PNW Motorcycle Safety offers classes at the Supermall in Auburn, and the Kitsap Mall in Silverdale. For more information, you can call Dave at (360) 779-6378, or check out their website: www.pnwmotorcyclesafety.com.

The Sun is Out, Time for Golf!



Premier Law Group attorney, Patrick Kang, teeing off

When PLG attorney Patrick Kang isn’t hard at work in the office or the courtroom, you will probably find him out on a golf course. Now that the sun is finally back and the weather is heating up, Patrick wanted to share his list of his 5 favorite courses in the Puget Sound area.

Patrick’s Top 5 Puget Sound Golf Courses

1) Chamber’s Bay (Tacoma, WA)

June Green Fees: \$145.00 Weekday
\$165.00 Weekend

For more information: www.chambersbaygolf.com

2) Home Course (Dupont, WA)

June Green Fees: \$52.00 Monday-Thursday
\$62.00 Friday-Sunday

For more information: www.thehomecourse.com

3) Trophy Lake (Port Orchard, WA)

June Green Fees: Rates vary throughout the day
between \$40-\$80

For more information: www.trophylakegolf.com

4) West Seattle (Seattle, WA)

June Green Fees: \$32.00 Weekday
\$37.00 Weekend

For more information: www.premiergc.com/west-seattle.php

5) Gold Mountain (Bremerton, WA)

June Green Fees: \$42.00 Monday-Thursday
\$46.00 Friday
\$60.00 Saturday, Sunday

For more information: www.goldmt.com

Major League Baseball's DUI Problem

After a string of recent DUI's by MLB players, should the League start taking action?

While Major League Baseball has focused its attention on the issue of performance enhancing drugs that have plagued the game in recent years, a new problem has arisen. This year alone, six MLB players have been charged with drunk driving. These players include Miguel Cabrera, Coco Crisp, and Adam Kennedy of the Seattle Mariners. While the league has punished seemingly lesser infractions (Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen was suspended for two games for using Twitter after an ejection) nothing has been done about the recent string of DUI's. This has sparked a bit of a debate about whether or not the league should take action. Before forming an opinion on this, it is important to look at how other professional leagues have handled this problem.

In the NBA there have been multiple suspensions for DUI charges in recent years. In 2008, former Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony was suspended for the first two games of the season by the Nuggets after being charged with a DUI in the offseason. The NBA has stayed consistent with its policy, suspending multiple other players for DUI's in recent years as well

In the NFL, it is against the collective bargaining agreement to suspend a player for a DUI charge. When Braylon Edwards was charged with a DUI late last year, he was allowed to suit up for the following game, but did not play. Deactivation of a player for drunk driving is against the labor agreement, but the player faces a maximum fine of \$50,000 under the league's substance abuse policy.

Newsletter now to be sent out quarterly

In an effort to save some trees, we will only be sending our newsletter in the mail every third month. We will, however, continue to write our newsletter on a monthly basis and send it out via email on off-months. If you would like to get our emailed newsletters, and do not know if we have your email address, please send us an email at scott@plg-llc.com. Thank you, and we look forward to continuing sending you useful and interesting information every month!



In Major League Baseball, there is no established punishment for a player charged with a DUI. The league will discuss this growing problem in December when the collective bargaining agreement expires. Until then, players who are charged with drunk driving will not face any serious consequences for their actions.

Drunk driving is a serious crime that can have irreversible consequences on an innocent driver. Some argue that the legal consequences are enough of a deterrent and that the MLB should not add any other consequences. This, however, is proving not to be the case. When players are caught driving under the influence, it not only reflects poorly on the player who committed the act, but the entire league as well. By suspending players following a DUI, the player will lose a significant amount of money for time off the field – which may be enough of a deterrent to prevent future drunk driving, and potentially prevent lives from being lost.

You Have Questions—We Have Answers!

Question...

Is a rear end collision in Washington automatically the fault of the rear driver?

Answer...

There is no automatic determination of fault in Washington - which means technically, the answer is no. BUT, there is almost always an automatic presumption held by the jury, which blames the rear driver.

Insurance companies know that juries lean this way, and they will likely refuse a rear driver's claim. In a case like this, it is essential to hire an experienced auto accident lawyer to help even the playing field

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FREE Legal Resource Guides



- *The Truth About Washington Auto Accidents*
- *The Truth About Washington Motorcycle Accidents*
- *The Truth About Buying Washington Auto Insurance*
- *In Case of Death: Straight Talk on Washington Wrongful Death*

Contact: scott@plg-llc.com

Trivia Question of the Month

Premier Law Group attorney Darryl Parker is a licensed attorney in Washington, and what other U.S. state? (*hint - answer can be found on our website)

First person to email the correct answer to scott@plg-llc.com will win a Jamba Juice gift card!!



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We Want to Feature YOU in Our Newsletter!

That's right, we want to recognize those of you that are doing amazing things in our next newsletter in a new feature called "Community Member Spotlight!"

If you, or someone you know deserves recognition for something they do, please let us know!

Email Scott at scott@plg-llc.com with some background information and contact info to follow up on, and we'll write a feature article on this community hero for our next newsletter!



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