



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

From the Captain's Log When PSM to PGD is not SFB – so Plan B



MLK weekend seemed like a nice opportunity for a quick jaunt down to Ft. Myers to visit with my 84- year old Mom. Allegiant Air from Portsmouth had some good prices for Friday to Monday travel so I went on my “smart phone” to grab some tics. With Allegiant’s smart phone app you have a scroll down menu on the bottom of your screen to pick your departure and arrival airports, by their alphabet designation. Somehow, I booked PSM to SFB. I sent a copy of my itinerary to my Mom and she called a couple days later to ask me why I was flying into Sanford-Orlando. I told her no, I was flying into Punta Gordo-Ft. Myers. She said that would be PSM to PGD, not PSM to SFB. Damn, crap, need to change that. On Allegiant, like most airlines, while it is cheap to fly if you hit it right, the rebooking fees can be more than new tickets, and so it was. By the time I got back online the only flights from PSM to PGD were very late Friday arrivals so Plan B, I got a new one-way return flight from Punta Gorda to Portsmouth and kept the southbound tic PSM to SFB and opted to rent a car from SFB and drive it to Ft. Myers, a mere 3 hours. Error #2.

Landing at SFB and renting the car was seamless, while not Orlando International, SFM is a sizable airport. Start the car, hit Google Maps to Ft. Myers on my smart phone, and away I went. Within minutes, Google Maps rerouted me past my chosen route of 27S to 17S to 41S into Ft. Myers because of a crash along Rt. 27S, and puts me on I-4W from Orlando to Tampa as an alternative. That is an extra 50 miles, and also bumper to bumper traffic. About 30 minutes in and my cell phone was chirping low battery so I grabbed my Chinese knockoff I-Phone charger and plugged it in, only to see the charging light switch to red and shut down. If I held the charger wire with my thumb just right, pushing a bit sideways into the phone, I would see the charging bolt flicker green for 2-3 seconds, and then back to red. This ordeal proved frustrating and a bit difficult in I-4 traffic so I gave up, but just before I did, my Mom was trying to call me for an ETA, but the phone died.

Over 5 hours later, I walk into my Mom’s kitchen and she is visibly shaking. After checking with Allegiant and finding my flight landed on-time, and 5 hours later, she begins watching the news for traffic fatalities. She was just about to call Florida Highway Patrol. So, we then both needed a drink.

We did have a great weekend and a parting lunch at PGD just before I boarded to PSM. •



February 2020 News



Double Chocolate Banana Muffins

Surprise your sweetheart with a treat that's healthier than a box of chocolates (but still really tasty)!

INGREDIENTS

- 3 medium-sized ripe bananas, mashed
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 large egg
- 2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- ½ cup 2% or nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1 cup whole wheat pastry flour
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ cup chocolate chips

PREPARATION

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- Mix ripe bananas, honey, vanilla, egg, oil, and Greek yogurt until well combined.
- Add pastry flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt to the mixture. Mix until combined, then stir in 1/3 cup of your chocolate chips.
- Pour batter into greased muffin cups. Sprinkle your remaining chocolate chips on top, then bake for 23-27 minutes until a toothpick inserted into the muffins comes out clean. •



Winter Motorcycling Challenges— More Than Snow and Ice

Motorcyclists face unique circumstances. They have only two points of contact with the road, are more vulnerable in a crash, and rider visibility is a perpetual issue—problems magnified by winter conditions.

In regions that experience winter's full barrage, motorcyclists are more scarce. However, one winter many moons ago when I had insufficient funds to own a car and a motorcycle, I owned just a motorcycle and drove a complete winter, snowstorms and all, to my undergraduate classes and it proved challenging some days. On a motorcycle, particularity in winter, other motorists may not expect you on the roadways, the sun's low angle over winter complicates visibility, too. A motorcycle's response with cold feet and hands does not match the summertime. Cold tires have diminished traction compared to warm ones. Tire pressure will be affected. Freeze-and-thaw can lead to potholes, cracks in the road, etc., which are even more threatening to motorcyclists. Road salt and chemical treatments can compromise traction, and a road's outer edges are more susceptible to ice buildup.

Sometimes temperatures fluctuate rapidly. Traveling through wooded/shaded areas or descending into low-lying areas may lead to a wet road suddenly becoming an icy one.

Dressing properly for the elements is critical. The cold can make a rider feel fatigued, diminishing alertness and reaction time, and cause muscles to stiffen, hampering maneuverability. Simply shivering can be distracting. Equipping a motorcycle with cold-weather wind guards and winter riding pegs can help combat winter conditions.

Finally, motorcyclists caught in a snowstorm need to employ commonsense measures like any other motorist: slow down, increase following distance, signal earlier, or pull over.

If you are crazy enough to drive a motorcycle in NH winters, and are injured in a motorcycle accident due to someone else's negligence, contact a good motorcycle or auto accident attorney to protect your rights. •





Not Everyone's an Expert ... Witness, That Is

Most personal injury cases are settled out of court, but when an agreeable settlement cannot be reached, the stage is set for a trial. It is incumbent upon the injured party to prove that the defendant's actions caused their injury and that they deserve compensation. In some circumstances, the services of an expert witness may bolster their case. The defendant also has that tool at their disposal.

An expert witness is a professional who has extensive training and knowledge in a specific subject area—for instance, medicine, mental health, auto accident reconstruction, economics, etc. Their job is to offer neutral, unbiased opinions on the matter for which they were retained. They are not to be advocates for one side or the other, but are paid handsomely for their services. They rarely bite the hand that feeds them.

An expert witness may be a *testifying* or *consulting* witness. A testifying expert witness delivers testimony in the courtroom and is expected to skillfully communicate their opinions and information in understandable, accessible terms. They are also subject to the rules of discovery. The opposing party must be notified of their identity, field of expertise, subject matter of their testimony, opinions to which they will testify, and the basis of their opinions so they can prepare for rebuttal and cross-examination.

A consulting expert witness offers behind-the-scenes clarification and explanation of key issues to the attorney who retained them. Consulting expert witnesses do not testify in court and are not subject to the rules of discovery.

The stakes can be enormous in personal injury cases. Expert witnesses don't come cheap, but they may mean the difference between obtaining fair compensation and receiving no compensation at all. •

February 2020 Notable Dates

February 1
National Serpent Day

February 4
National Homemade Soup Day

February 7
National Bubble Gum Day

February 15
National Wisconsin Day

February 20
National Love Your Pet Day

February 24
National Tortilla Chip Day

February 26
National Tell a Fairy Tale Day

February 28
National Public Sleeping Day

Hardship License

New Hampshire passed a law a few years ago which allows individuals convicted of a true first offense DWI to apply for limited driving privileges or what is known as a hardship or Cinderella license. These limited driving privileges allow individuals who qualify to drive under certain, limited, conditions.

The first condition an individual must meet is to be convicted of a true first offense. In other words, if you are convicted of a first offense but previously have a conviction for a DWI, you will not be eligible to qualify for the hardship license.

If you have been convicted of a true first offense, you then have a decision about whether a limited driving privilege works for you.

The application for a limited driving privilege license asks for information about when and where you are asking to drive. The "limited" driving privilege is truly that. It is limited to what the court order allows you to do. For instance, if you drive for a living (i.e., postal worker) you will not get an Order allowing you to drive the truck all day on your route. But, if you merely drive to and from a location to work each day, the court might approve driving privileges for that purpose. You would need to put the location of your employment and the hours you would be working. Any operation of a vehicle by you other than those specific times and places would result in your arrest. You could also apply for limited operating privileges to get to and from medical treatment. Finally, if you commute to a trade school or college, you could ask the court to allow you to drive to and from that school.

The limited privileges, whatever that looks like, will not start until you have served a minimum of forty-five days of the suspension of your license. Once you are eligible to begin driving, you will be required to install (and pay for) an Interlock Device. The law requires that Interlock Device to be installed for a minimum of twelve months. In other words, even if you have a loss of license that is less than twelve months, you will still have an interlock device on your car for twelve months. In most cases, it does not make sense on a true first offense for an individual to apply for limited driving privileges due to this requirement. •



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Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



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Cathy's Corner

New Year's Celebration

I think that I've mentioned before that my husband loves to ski. He's also very good (he wouldn't say that but I will). So, when Pats Peak decided to do a ski and celebrate the New Year I knew where I would be celebrating this year. We have friends with whom we have been skiing with most of our married lives and knew that they would think that this was a great idea, too.

Pats Peak has completely renovated the original lodge and built a new lodge next to it. The new lodge is one of the nicest ski lodges in New Hampshire. The new lodge was open only to those who bought tickets for the New Year's event. The ski lifts (and tubing) were open to those attending from 3-10 pm. Inside the lodge, they had three separate buffets, a band and a comedy show. Of course they had alcohol. The pub and two other bars were open.



We didn't ski until 10:00. I'm too old to ski that long and then have anything left to dance. After a few hours, we went inside and enjoyed the food, drinks and music. At midnight out on the slopes they dropped the ball and set off fireworks. We could stand out on the deck and watch. Even if skiing isn't how you'd like to spend New Year's Eve, the celebration had something for everyone. ●