

## **Biker Information Guide**

Proudly Presents Feature Writer

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*Biker Billy hosts a syndicated television cooking show*

### **"Biker Billy Cooks with Fire"**

#### **Don't Panic; Have Faith**



A long time ago I learned that that phrase has a lot of applications in motorcycling, especially for experienced riders. If you are just starting out as a new rider, however, it has a preamble—get professional training, practice your skills, and then don't panic; have faith.

I remember more than once hydroplaning while riding at speed in the rain. I am not advocating this, but I have done it in fast-moving traffic when slowing down would have gotten me run over by aggressive drivers in four- to eighteen-wheeled vehicles. I remember one time in particular—Interstate 40 in Pennsylvania, the road surface in both lanes deeply rutted from heavy truck traffic. Riding behind any vehicle, particularly trucks, placed me in a blinding cloud of mist. With nowhere to safely pull over, I did what I had to: I got out in front of the pack and rode fast enough to stay there. Then it happened.

I felt it deep in my gut—I was hydroplaning, my traction had zeroed out, and I was simple flying on top of the water. At that moment if I did anything, merely moved a small muscle, I would have . . . well, I likely wouldn't be here writing this today. As I look back on that moment, which seemed like an eternity but was over in seconds, I now realize that what I had done was apply the concept of "Don't panic; have faith," or DPHF for short.

I have used DPHF many times in my decades of riding. Going into a turn too fast? DPHF and ride through it. Nutty driver in traffic? DPHF and use that Motorcycle Safety Foundation training and those practiced skills. The net result is to avoid catastrophe and live to ride another day. DPHF won't save you from being a fool, like doing an eighty-mile-an-hour wheelie on public roads, but if you are on the sane side of tomfoolery, it will help you when surprises pop up in your chosen path.

"Don't panic; have faith" also applies well to the rest of life. As we approach the new riding season this year, our nation is going through a really rough time. I don't need to remind you of the economic woes, the vitriolic elections, or the shenanigans that Washington, D.C., and your local state capitols are doing, claiming that they will bail out the economy

and save you. In the end it is more likely they will just make things worse, although they and their cronies will do just fine. So how does DPHF help you through these troubled times?

Remember you are an American—we the people always come back, and we “git her done.” You probably already own the tools you need to restart the economy, to make or save jobs, and to restore the nation to its true glory; you just need to add DPHF. You can start with your motorcycle. Sounds like a lot for a humble bike to do? Well, it, and you, can do it!

Your motorcycle will save you money every time you ride it. (While gas may seem cheap in January as I write this, it will surely go up again.) With that money, you can restart the real American economy. Washington, D.C., will focus on big corporations, big industries, and Wall Street, so while the politicians fiddle, we must save ourselves. Here is how I think it can work.

Ride your motorcycle as much as you can for everything you must do, and take the savings and spend them where they will do some real good. Here is a list of places to start, and I’m sure you can add to it.

- 1) Support business in the motorcycle industry from dealerships to vendors and mail-order companies here in America. Include the advertisers in this magazine!
- 2) Attend local rallies, motorcycle shows, and rides; support charities that traditionally depend on bikers. Don’t let our weaker brethren down.
- 3) Eat at Mom and Pop roadhouses, diners, and restaurants. Go there on the bike and be a good tipper.
- 4) Shop in your local stores and markets. Keep Main Street in business.
- 5) Maintain your memberships, or join our motorcycle-rights organizations.

Make yourself known as a motorcycle rider to all the businesses that you patronize. Carry in your helmet if you wear one; park the bike where the business owner can see it. Talk up how riding is saving you the money you are spending with them. We all will be making difficult adjustments as we pass through these difficult times. By being true to your passion for all things motorcycle and by using that tool to make friends and supporters along the way, we will emerge stronger. Have Faith; Don’t Panic!

## **Elvis's Deep-Fried Peanut Butter and Banana Sandwich - Arnold's Drive-In Decatur, Indiana**

3 tablespoons creamy peanut butter  
2 slices cinnamon raisin bread  
1/2 banana, sliced into 3 long strips  
2 cups Drake's brand batter mix  
Powdered sugar

Preheat a deep fryer to 365°F. The oil level should be deep enough to submerge a sandwich without overflowing.

Spread peanut butter on both slices of bread. Place the banana strips on one of the slices of bread. Put the other slice of bread on top to make a sandwich. Mix the Drake's mix with water and stir to make a thick "pancakelike" consistency. Completely submerge the sandwich into the mix, making sure to coat every inch of bread, including the creases!

Immediately submerge into deep fryer. It is best to put the sandwich in something like a fryer basket, and then I put another basket directly on top so it will be totally sunk in oil. Turn over after about 1 minute and again submerge. Be careful not to let the basket stick to the wet dip mix. It will be done after 3 to 3 1/2 minutes of deep frying. Let cool 1 minute, cut diagonally, and finish by dusting with powdered sugar.

Makes 1 sandwich.