

Hi Everyone - Here is the info for your Club for entering Canada and coming back into the U.S. Entering Canada is no problem, just go. Coming back is the issue.

First, you had asked about an "Enhanced License." (about \$45.00) Unfortunately this is only offered in states bordering Canada and Mexico. Just about everyone in New York now has one now because of the Canadian Casinos. This gets us back into the U.S. from Canada BY CAR relatively easy. (Our son living in Parma Heights tried for this because he visits friends in Canada when he comes home and could not have it because of being an Ohio State resident.)

Second, a "Passport Card." This is what our son ended up getting but feels he should have gone for a full passport. This "Passport Card" is only for getting you back into the U.S. from Canada and Mexico DRIVING. It is not acceptable for international flying. Only for driving. Much like our "Enhanced License", but for all states. I think he paid \$80. but please check that out.

Third, the full Passport. If anyone in your club plan to be travelling anywhere else out of the country, they should definitely go with the full passport right off the bat. Passports are good for 10 years as you all probably know. Tom and I got ours last year because of all the problems we now have coming back from Canada and they cost us \$110.00 each. Living right here only a couple miles from the borders, we have tough times going back and forth now with all the terrorism.

The choice is yours, but the Enhanced License is something you cannot have being from Ohio. Also, because of the new laws, I would also suggest you start the process now so you have your cards in plenty of time. But, my son received his Passport Card within 7 weeks. You do have to have an original birth certificate and mail it in with your application, but they are very efficient with mailing your birth certificate back in a timely manner.

You won't believe this. Last year Tom and I had "cardio-lite stress tests" in which they inject some sort of nuclear dyes into the heart area. (Then they make you run 10 miles uphill on a treadmill and hope you don't drop dead during the test. Just a little humor) Anyway, we were coming back from Canada and all of a sudden all hell broke loose and they pulled us aside, asking if one of us had a nuclear test recently. Yep, it was Tom that time. Tom had to be tested at the border while I drove the car through a special building and it was tested (for bombs I guess.) After a time we were cleared to cross into the U.S. They also told us it is recommended that if you have had any type of medical tests like this to bring a statement from your doctor to speed the process of crossing back into the U.S. Another issue for your group to keep in mind of they have had medical testing. The dye stays with a person about two months. This issue won't keep you out of Canada or back into U.S. but it will be a problem if you don't have documentation. They are now used to this at the border and more efficient with it. Generally, they are nice about everything.

Since 911, and with the ease of terrorists, illegals, etc getting here from Canada, things have changed so, so much for us in New York. But, that's ok and you shouldn't have any problems. Also want to mention that if anyone in your group doesn't want to go into Canada or buy the pass cards, etc. We have rides, picnics, etc. every day you can join in. Or we can give you more cues to ride around here on your own.

Now you asked about the traffic situation on Niagara Falls Blvd. where you will be staying. The blvd. is a four lane, major highway, but does not have a white line to the right indicating a bike lane or walking. This is also a major traffic pocket, especially on Fridays and Saturdays. Ellicott Creek Park that I have mentioned which is where we would pick the riders up, or a good starting place for your group (after driving there), is only 1.7 miles from your hotel. We drove it and clocked it. Also, there is sidewalk all the way from the Motel to the Park entrance. Tom scoffed at that, but hey, sidewalk is safer than the middle of the street.

There is you have it for this report. You can Google "Enhanced License," "Passport Card," and "Passport" for more info if you wish.

Sue Williams