



## **Empire City MC's Motorcycle Weekend – Reminder!**

I don't want to blame *everything* on Donald Trump, but as far as our plans for "Motorcycle Week" in Hershey PA goes, everyone we've spoken to is terrified of the serious downturn in the economy thanks to Trump's tariffs, not to mention the possible discontinuation of Social Security, it's simply not a good time to spend a lot of money on hotels when our disposable income retirement and jobs are all in question at this time. We had some really great options, including a 7-bedroom/7-bathroom house in Lancaster PA (which was a lot cheaper than Hershey was looking!) But after we polled many people, we determined there was simply not enough interest at this time due to the economy.

So, we polled people who ride with us as well as our fellow members and have decided that we need to pull back the event to the bare bones. Rather than making it a full weeklong event just focus on Memorial Day weekend. I am pleased to say that after much discussion we have decided on this simple plan: Due to the economy being in the shitter, we are scaling back on what was to be a weeklong ride based out of Hershey, PA to our long-standing Memorial Day weekend at Mike Natale's farm once again.

There is no up-front charge for this event, everything will be "dutch treat" as the weekend progresses; however, we do request that you RSVP on our eventbrite page (link at the bottom) as there is limited space!



We are asking that people arrive at Mike & Doug's at 17:00 on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025. Here is the rough schedule of events:

Fri 23 May	Arrive at The Farm by 17:00, dutch treat dinner at Kodiax Barn & Grill (the axe tossing place down
	the hill from Mike's home) at 19:00
Sat 24 May	Late morning ride to allow time for travellers that might be arriving that morning. KSU by 11:00,
	lunch at a road-side location (dutch treat), dinner @ Mike & Doug's
Sun 25 May	Breakfast at Mike & Doug's, Mystery Ride (Mike's choice) could be 5 minutes away or 2 hours away –
	you will find out, dinner out (dutch treat)
Mon 26 May	Breakfast @ Mike & Doug's depart by 10:00

Each participant will be asked to make a cash contribution, in the neighbourhood of \$40-50, to pay for breakfasts, snacks, beverages and housekeeping. Thank you in advance for helping us make this event an annual success!

#### **Important addresses:**

Mike & Doug's, 392 Dally Rd, Coal Center, PA 15423 Kodiax Barn & Grill, 1001 Guttman Ave, Charleroi, PA 15022

### A Barnight for Gnome

Spartan MC hosted a well-attended barnight at Uproar Bar in Washington, DC on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in memory and celebration of their recently departed member Gnome (photo on the right), who unexpectantly passed.









In addition to the barnight, the entire mother's day weekend featured events and a motorcycle ride in his memory.

# **Bike Blessing & Biker Picnic**

Our plans to hold our Bike Blessing in Atlantic City, New Jersey has been cancelled by the venue due to event conflicts. Being merely one month away, having to reset all our plans will be a tall order.

Kindly SAVE THE JUNE 21 & 22 DATES for an event to be posted online our calendar soon. It will appear in next month's Rumblings Newsletter – we're having a rough start to this year's riding season, eh?





#### **More Fallen Warriors**

Russ Shaner was heavily involved with multiple gay organisations, perhaps mostly with the Rochester Theatre Organ Society and the Rochester Rams MC, but behind the scenes he was involved with much more... He was an integral part of Chaz Antonelli (ECMC)'s life from the early 80s until recently, providing some of the hardware that made Multicom-4 BBS (the world's largest GLBT pre-internet computer network) expand from one city to many others, as well as set up public terminals in gay bars, stores and bathhouses, thus networking and mobilising the GLBT community in the 80s and 90s! Russ passed gently in the hospital with friends.

The Rochester Theater Organ
Society is sadden to announce the
passing of Russ Shaner. Russ
fulfilled many roles at RTOS from
Board Member to Maintenance
Leader on the RTOS Grierson 4/23
Wurlitzer, Publisher of the "RTOS
Blower" newsletter and Program
Chairman.

# In Memory of ...

# Russell E. Shaner

- · RTOS Honorary Member
- · Program Chair 40+ Years
- · Past President & Vice President
- 4/23 Crew Chief
- · Blower Newsletter Contributor
- Concert Program Designer



A memorial program is scheduled for Sunday,13<sup>th</sup> July, 2025. A Russ Shaner memorial page has been built which includes all the program details as well as further details of Russ' life: <a href="https://rtosonline.org/russ-shaner-memorial/">https://rtosonline.org/russ-shaner-memorial/</a>



**Bruce Clark** was another Theatre Organ aficionado who passed last month; however, it was also his *day job*, he was a retired pipe organ technician for the American Piano Company! Bruce was an Associate Member of the Rochester Rams and collected antiques in his simple home on Interlaken Beach. Unlike many others, Bruce's antiques were in use!! The old vertical fire-hazard toaster, the fridge with coils on top, his player pianos... it was always a joy to visit Bruce and see what new things he had collected.





Bruce Clark is the man in the photo on the left wearing a hat along with some ECMC members and friends...

Both Russ and Bruce shall be missed...

