



Empire City MC's Monthly Newsletter August 2014



ECMC Rumbblings

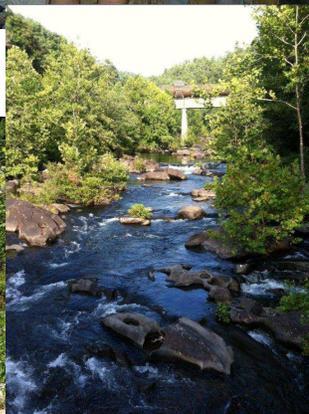
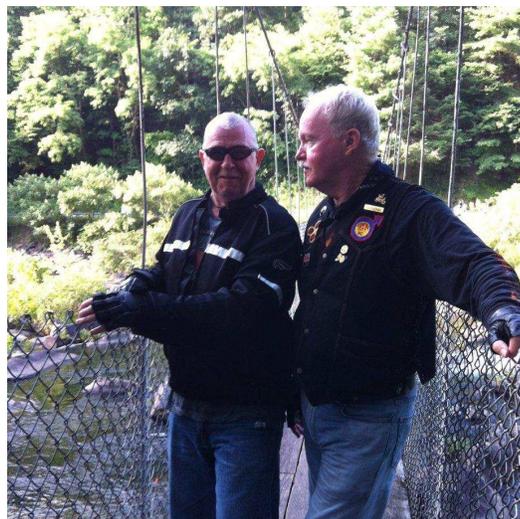


EMPIRE CITY MC SLAYS THE DRAGON!

Our 50th Anniversary Week-Long Ride to the Tail of the Dragon (Deals Gap, North Carolina) is now in the history books. We're still processing the hours of video footage and hundreds of photos taken whilst we were there.

We were delighted to host nearly two dozen men from all over the United States in two remote, yet modern, houses in the wilderness for a week.

Many photos and videos are at [facebook.com/groups/empirecitymc](https://www.facebook.com/groups/empirecitymc), but for your pleasure, a few are shown here!



ECMC'S 50th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Time is running out on the \$145/night special at our host hotel (DoubleTree Hilton Hotel & Suites Jersey City) for ECMC's 50th Anniversary Weekend. As I write this article, there are only a few rooms left at these rates. Some additional rooms have been added for \$159/night, but there's no guarantee that they will be available for much longer. Although our event is in October if you intend to stay at the host hotel and want to take advantage of this discount, you need book your reservations now.

In addition, our early-bird special pricing for our full run fee and dinner/dance yacht cruise expires on the 15th of August 2014. Prices increase to \$139 for the dinner/dance yacht cruise package, and \$199 for the full-weekend package. Get your applications in today!

Run applications are available online at <http://EmpireCityMC.com>

Please note: The zip code for our club's mailing address has changed! Please use our new zip code for all correspondence, including run applications. Using our old zip code will result in returned letters. Our correct address is at the bottom of this newsletter and on our website at <http://EmpireCityMC.com>



ECMC INVADERS THE RAMS' RUN AND TORONTO!

Last call!! The Rochester Rams are one of the few remaining clubs that has an annual outdoor run. If you haven't been to one in a long time, you don't want to miss this one! Bikes and cages are both welcome; however, bunkhouse sleeping arrangements are earmarked for bikers first (ever try to put a tent on the back of a bike? It don't work!)

Empire City MC makes this run one of our annual events, and since the Rams' Run is so close to Canada, following the run we take a two day motorcycle trip to Toronto, Canada – and if you're on a motorcycle, you're welcome to tag along!

Space at the Rams' Run is extremely limited and their cut-off date is August 15th! If you plan to go, contact the Rochester Rams' Run Chairman at axel@rochester.rr.com today! If you're going to the Rams' Run or are interested in joining us in Toronto (motorcycles only!), please let our Road Captain (Joe) know you're joining us by e-mailing him at Road-Captain@EmpireCityMC.com

SOUND OFF! 2014 BIKER WEEKEND POLL ONLINE NOW

For the past three years, we've been holding our Biker Weekend in Upstate New York over the long Memorial Day Weekend – through the advice of many participants, we've refined this event into a fantastic weekend that draws more people each year. We're considering even more changes, such as departing NYC on Friday instead of Saturday, allowing more needed relaxation time at "The Ranch", after the 350 mile trip to get there! We'd love to hear your comments and suggestions.



Take the ECMC Biker Weekend Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PKFFLKP>

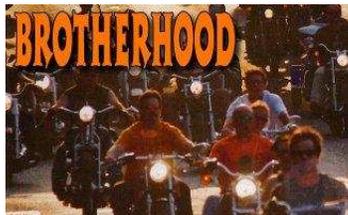


ECMC IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Michael (Mike) M., a member of the Twilight Guard was just voted in this month as an Associate Member of Empire City MC! Mike made the long drive down to North Carolina for our Deals Gap ride this past week and was also on our recent Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour ride last month. Mike's often seen at the Long Island Ravens' Run, as well as other AMCC club events! We welcome you, Mike, as our newest member! Congratulations!

The photo of Mike (left) shows him on the Deals Gap week-long ride at one of our many adventures – this one being overcoming his fear of heights by ziplining down nine ziplines in the Tennessee Smokey Mountains Forest area. Way to go Mike!

THE GAY MC DICHOTOMY, OR THE RISE AND FALL OF GAY MCs



What's in a name? – what exactly is an MC? The acronym “MC” typically means “Motorcycle Club”; however, over the past 40 years we've seen it used more often to describe gay men's clubs/organizations in where no motorcycles are ever seen. Why? Let's look at the basic characteristics of an average motorcycle club: they consist of rugged, butch men who live a wild and action-packed lifestyle and are generally shunned by the community. They wear all sorts of leather & denim garb from boots and jackets to chaps and caps. They are very close friends, depending on one another, as no one else will give them the time of day. They are a brotherhood of men. Much of these descriptions were similar to the gay leather community just a few decades ago. There's no doubt that the motorcycle club image is something that gay leathermen could relate to back then, as being gay wasn't only unfashionable, it was downright dangerous.

These times, they are a-changing! Times have really changed since the Stonewall riots in 1969. Who would have ever even imagined we'd be getting married, being granted equal rights or adopting children? It's been a long and strange trip to get where we are today and sometimes it seems as if the “MC community” is no longer needed, as we've gained much acceptance. The gay community, in general, has been pacified into the normal, mundane and socially acceptable life of our straight counterparts.

Before facebook, the internet or even electronic mail, the only way to communicate with other men of similar interest was at the gay bars – these were our forums, our homes and our social centres. In some cases, print material such as Drummer magazine or the classified ads in the Village Voice sufficed to reach out to the underground gay leather community, but the gay bar was truly the centre of our universe back then. Gay bars were in such demand that some enforced strict dress codes to ensure only specific segments of the gay community could enter, such as the original Eagle or The Spike. This was a major boon to the gay leather community. MCs flourished. There were so many active clubs that in 1976 the AMCC (Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council) was formed to ensure fair treatment to all member clubs in respect to event planning and territory. Ahhh... the golden years! Sadly, this was about to change in 1981.

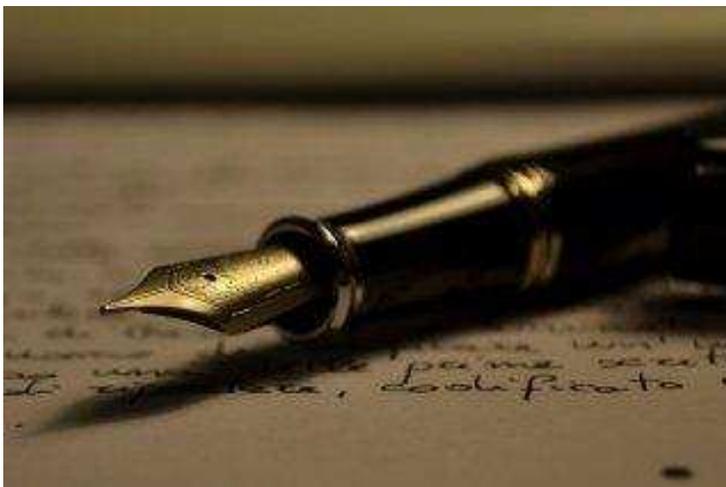
You can't even use the word “decimation” to describe the damage done to the leather community from AIDS in the 80s and early 90s, as the word decimation is derived from Latin meaning “removal of a tenth”. We lost a hell of a lot more than 1/10th, but somehow we survived. The next problem was waiting for us: apathy and slough. Since the mid-90s we've seen a sharp decline in the number of clubs and the number of members in each club. We've also seen many bars close or change their dress code policies to allow anyone to enter. Many leathermen don't even bother to put on their leather to go out, even more don't bother to go out at all. The creation of online cruising sites such as recon, manhunt and others have made the bar scene somewhat obsolete. Add to that the heavy enforcement of DUI laws, smoking bans and the higher cost of “going out”. Moreover, virtually everything that was once only accessible exclusively to people within the leather community is now available to anyone.

What was the point of joining an MC anymore? Where do we go from here? There are many hidden values in the MCs that you simply cannot get online or from an “app”. Our clubs have done a pretty lousy job following our fore-fathers advice when it comes to recruitment and self-promotion. I was raised by the leather club community, in particular, a real motorcycle-riding leather club community where the “MC” did stand for motorcycle club! It was in the MC that I learned values such as honour, loyalty and respect – things that can't be learnt from a book or a website. I learned the true value of the word “brother” and also realized that although you can choose your friends, you can't choose your *family*, and that includes your leather/riding family. Compromise was a hard lesson learnt for me, but done so successfully within the MC. Nothing can compare to an MC when it comes to having friends whom are so close that you can call them “brother” and honestly mean it. I couldn't imagine my life without the MCs that helped raise me from 17 years old to today. Why can't this simple message be easily conveyed today? I don't know – maybe you do? How often do you tell your online friends about life in an MC? Do you speak of it with pride? Do you invite others to check it out? I believe if everyone reached out to just one other person we could revitalize the club community. As Trident International says, “Give a damn!” Mark my words, times will change again and I fear that the gays whom have been assimilated into the straight community will be just as discriminatory towards leathermen as the straights were towards the gays in the 60s/70s!

ENVISION YOUR ARTICLE HERE!

Got something to say? Got something to share?

End your news, articles and photos to Secretary@EmpireCityMC.com for consideration for our monthly newsletter! Be sure to let us know when you write, that your submission is for use in our newsletter!



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

AUGUST 19th: Ear Inn Biker Gathering! Come to the Ear Inn at 326 Spring St in NYC for our monthly "motorcycle night"! Meet up with hundreds of other bikers -- including members of the NJ Eagles, City Cruisers, loads of GDIs and more! Great men, great beer, great food! It's only once a month, so polish your bike's chrome and meet up at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month during riding season! (Non-riders are welcome to come as well!)

AUGUST 21st-27th: ECMC invades the Rochester Rams' Run then heads to Canada for two days in fantastic Toronto!

AUGUST 29th-SEPTEMBER 1st: Come along with ECMC as we go to the AMCC all-club Barnight at the Bike Stop in Philadelphia, PA as well as The Philadelphian's 40th Anniversary Dinner! Cheesesteaks and pretzels abound!

SEPTEMBER 3rd: ECMC's Open General Meeting. Empire City MC's open general meetings are held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're booked into.

SEPTEMBER 19th-21st: ECMC invades Pittsburgh to welcome the "Three River Leather Club" into the AMCC and celebrate their special weekend event: Pittsburgh Leather Pride Weekend and Mr/Ms Pittsburgh Leather Fetish Contest - [more information here](#).

SEPTEMBER 26th-28th: Are you feeling lucky?? It's the Lucky Bear Weekend in Las Vegas, NV! Click [here](#) for details!

OCTOBER 1st: ECMC's Open General Meeting. Empire City MC's open general meetings are held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're booked into.

OCTOBER 10th-12th: Empire City MC's 50th Anniversary Weekend. We'll be hosting an AMCC meeting, as well as putting on a "proper" weekend-long run event in New York City! We're pleased to announce the return of our infamous dinner cruise with premium open bar on our private yacht! Additional information at <http://EmpireCityMC.com>

OCTOBER 17th-19th: NJ Leather Weekend in Asbury Park!

OCTOBER 21st: Ear Inn Biker Gathering! Come to the Ear Inn at 326 Spring St in NYC for our monthly "motorcycle night"! Meet up with hundreds of other bikers -- including members of the NJ Eagles, City Cruisers, loads of GDIs and more! Great men, great beer, great food! It's only once a month, so polish your bike's chrome and meet up at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month during riding season! (Non-riders are welcome to come as well!)

NOVEMBER 29th: BUCKS MC presents Santa Saturday™ in New Hope, PA or Asbury Park, NJ.

DECEMBER 6th: Empire City MC's 51st Annual Holiday Party & Toy Drive at Rockbar NYC.

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Bookmark our official calendar at <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us!

Empire City MC's mailing address is:

Empire City MC
PO Box 1881
New York, NY 10113-1881

Are you interested in becoming a member of ECMC? For more information about membership with Empire City Motorcycle Club, or to download our membership application, constitution and bylaws, please [click here](#).

Get in on the conversation! Join our facebook group, just [click here](#).

