



FIRE ON FIRE ISLAND, CHERRY GROVE, 27th MARCH

On 27th March, a large fire (which apparently started at Holly House) occurred in Cherry Grove on Fire Island. It burned most of the early morning injuring two fire-fighters and destroying two homes and all of the Cherry Grove Hotel. The Ice Palace Nightclub, adjacent to the hotel, managed to escape unharmed; however, the hotel was completely converted to cinders and ash, destroying a gay icon where many famous celebrities once stayed.

Excelsior MC and Twilight Guard are hosting 'Lust For Life, the 20/40 Run' in Cherry Grove on Fire Island 15th-17th May. Although their host hotel is The Belvedere, both clubs are aware that some people made reservations at the Cherry Grove Hotel. Both clubs plan on moving forward with their joint 40th and 20th Anniversary Run and are working closely with Fire Island vendors to ensure the event will go smoothly.

Victor of Excelsior MC has located additional lodging in Cherry Grove for those affected by the fire. Please contact Victor by e-mail at vic400@aol.com - do it quickly, as there is limited space.



THE BALTIMORE EAGLE NEEDS OUR HELP

The Baltimore Eagle, home to the City's leather community for over two decades, commenced renovations in preparation for their grand re-opening in late 2015. Their million-dollar reconstruction aims to restore the Eagle building and brand to its former glory as one of the original, premier leather clubs on the East Coast.

Since closing their doors for renovation, their management team worked cooperatively with City Liquor Board administrators to ensure compliance with the process for successful transfer of their liquor license. In light of their progress, Liquor Board administrators promised them that their liquor license was secure. Nevertheless, on 9th April 2015, after new Liquor Board commissioners were appointed, they decided to revoke The Baltimore Eagle's liquor license anyway.

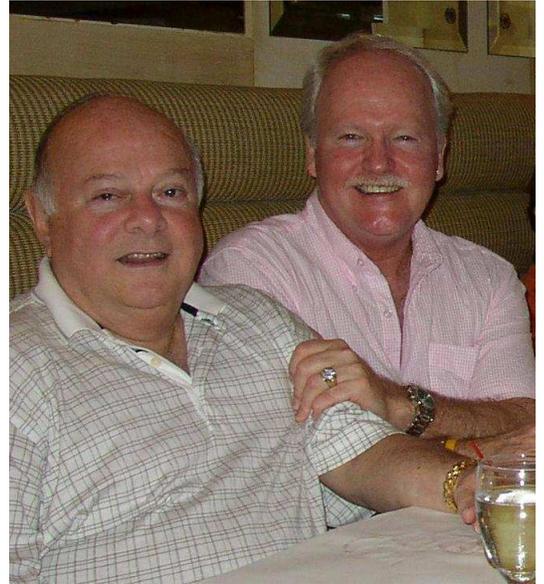


Read more and take action at <http://www.thebaltimoreeagle.com/> - Thank you!

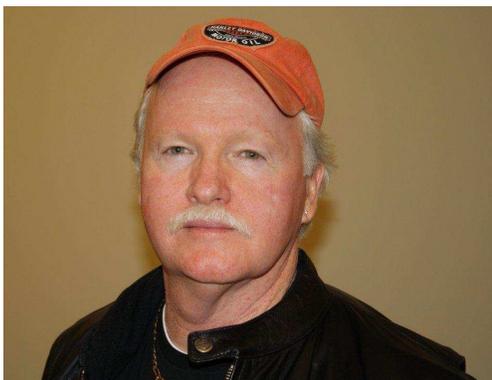
MEET THE MEMBER – GENO



Geno has been a full member of ECMC since August 2009. He came to New York City on a business trip about 17 years ago and decided to go out to a club where, by random chance, he met the man of his dreams, Louie. Like a lesbian in heat, the U-Haul was loaded and he was on his way from Texas to New York City (and has been here since!) Geno remains “a Texan in New York”, however, loves being away from the Texas politics! To him, ECMC means brotherhood, friendship and the sharing of a common interest.



Geno’s one of those “R.A.W.” guys – that’s “Ride All Winter” for you non-bikers. Riding his motorcycle releases all his stress. “When you’re riding, you only think about what you are doing”, he stated. Therefore; as long as the road is clean of ice and snow, you’ll see him out riding his 2004 Harley-Davidson Road King. When there is snow out there, his second favourite activity is snow skiing.



His idea of a “perfect ride” is a twisty/curvy two-lane highway like the “[Tail of the Dragon](#)” (US

Highway 129). When he’s rounding those twisties, you can hear him coming, as he’s almost always playing classic rock on his sound system.

When I asked him what his favourite album was, he struggled and had to give me three: Born To Run, Sticky Fingers and Led Zeppelin II. His idea of a dream bike (other than the one he already owns) is the Captain America E-Z Rider, but commented that it’s too bad they’re not comfortable to ride!

WELCOME AARON!



It’s always a pleasure to welcome a new member to the club, and at this month’s meeting we did just that! Aaron G was added to our ranks of full members following a rather long, winter-long in fact, pledge period.

Whilst reading the Unicorn Horn newsletter earlier this year, it was mentioned that many clubs and long-standing events have been cancelled forever because of “the lack of ‘new blood’ to take charge of the duties of operation”. I am grateful to see Aaron onboard as our 12th full member in a club that’s (on average) getting *younger* every year! Yeah, they do things differently, but underneath it all, it’s still the same club!

ECMC’S BIKER WEEKEND DEADLINE 15th MAY!!

The deadline for registering for Empire City’s Biker Weekend is the 15th of May. Do not rely on the post office to get it on time, register online at <http://ecmc-2015-bw.eventbrite.com/> sales will automatically end at midnight on the 15th and we will be unable to restart them. We must have an accurate headcount for bed space and food requirements by the end of the 15th. Thank you.



OLD SCHOOL: CLUB RUNS AND THE FRIENDSHIP PIN

Please note: The following is not typical of Empire City MC but more of the 70s/80s *leather* MCs as a whole. You might have heard a *different* story than the one I am about to tell, I'm not the one to say who's right or wrong.

There are various rumours where some of the 'gay leather code' came from. Most of our history was passed down verbally from one man to another. Verbal history is subject to alteration, corruption, embellishment or one's own interpretation.

Being gay and forced to live 'closeted' in the 70s and 80s was difficult enough, being a leatherman meant you were a minority within a minority! There was a burning need to meet people akin to yourself. Computer Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs) were the closest thing we had to the internet back then. Much of our community was restricted to cork boards at gay alliance centres, free trashy newspapers with personal ads, Drummer magazine personals and socialising at the leather bars (if you were lucky enough to have one of those close by).

The leather clubs were the gay version of the Freemasons, a secret society with many secret rituals and just as many connections to some of the most influential persons in the corporate world. Being a member of a leather club was imperative should you wish to meet other men with the same sexual interests as yourself.

The word 'RUN' was stolen from the motorcycle community. In the motorcycle world, a 'run' referred to a lengthy, group motorcycle ride, typically two or more days over a weekend. In the gay leather world, the word 'RUN' was used to indicate a weekend-long event hosted by a leather club, often hidden in the countryside at a private campground where rustic cabins were provided or you needed to bring your own tent. In some cases, the 'in-town run' would be held in a sleazy no-tell motel, somewhere they would look the other way when about 100 men donned in leather would scream, yell and party down. These weekends were purely testosterone fuelled and full of ravenous leather sex.



AMCC '76

THE BICENTENNIAL RUN

ATLANTIC CITY

SEPTEMBER 18-25
1976

\$299 - 8 DAYS
\$175 - 4 DAYS

SPLIT-RUN FEE (\$175.)
FOR EITHER FIRST OR
LAST HALF OF RUN OR
FIRST COND, FIRST SERVE BASIS

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

- * Double Occupancy Room (2 people - 2 beds)
- * Breakfast & Dinner Daily
- * Drink Coupons for Local Establishments
- * Cocktail Parties
- * All Activities and Tours
- * Entertainment

LANAI ROOMS AVAILABLE AT
\$25 ADDITIONAL FEE

All participants wishing to room together must submit their application, with deposits, in the same envelope.

A deposit of at least \$24, must be included with your application. Balance will be billed in equal bi-monthly installments. Acknowledgement of application will be sent with first invoice.

PLEASE PRINT - PLACE LETTERS IN SPACES ALLOTTED

Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____
 Address: _____ APT. NO. _____
 City: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____ CLUB Affiliation: _____

ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED - REGULAR ROOM _____ LANAI _____ (\$25 Additional)

AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT ENCLOSED \$ _____ CHECK _____ MONEY ORDER _____

WILL YOU BE BRINGING YOUR BIKE - YES _____ NO _____ RIDING _____ HAULING _____

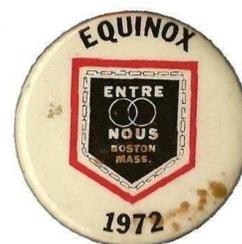
PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE & MAIL TO:
AMCC '76, INC.
P. O. BOX 3682
GEORGETOWN STATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007

"I understand that the AMCC '76, Inc. is not responsible for injury or personal property. I also certify that I am not a minor."
Signed: _____

For many gay men, club runs were the *only* sexual outlet they had, making them extremely desirable. In almost all cases, attendees must have been a full member of a known leather club or be a guest vouched for by a member of a known leather club. If you do not meet the criteria, your run application would not be accepted. In other cases, club members had preferential treatment and could enroll early, whilst non-club members, known as "GDIs" (God-Damned Independents) had last dibs for remaining space.

If you didn't live through this period in time, it must be very difficult to comprehend what it was like. There was anonymous gay sex going on in every dark corner. It wasn't unusual to have sex with nearly every person on a run, if you planned it out right.

Enter: 'The Run Pin' and 'The Friendship Pin'. A run pin was typically the logo used for the event with the year or event number. For example: W16 for the Wheels 16 run. A run pin served a couple of purposes:



1) It indicated you were allowed to be on the run during the event, a make-shift visual ticket. Those without their run pins would be escorted off the property. (Yes, people had been known to 'crash' runs).

2) It could be worn on your bar vest, indicating to others that you were on the run. My bar vest literally weighs about 16lbs due to the weight of the pins - I rarely wear it out anymore.



I'm sure you too have seen the guys in the vests with dozens, if not hundreds of pins on them. These are mostly a combination of run and friendship pins.

The friendship pin is typically a pin featuring the logo of the club of the person giving it (i.e. the head of a ram for the Rochester Rams). Here's where some of that freemason secret ritual shit comes in! In the 'old school manner', a friendship pin was given, typically at leather club run to people you wanted to have sex with! You would reach inside their 501s and locate the end of their penis (that's right, real leathermen in the 70s/80s did not wear underwear!) and affix the friendship pin upside-down, on their 501s in proximity to the end of their penis. That upside-down bit was important! After you had sex with them, you'd turn the pin upright and they could then move it from their jeans to their vest. It wasn't uncommon to see the cutest or most well-hung guys sporting three or more upside-down friendship pins at the Friday meet-n-greets on a run!



One of the awards at closing ceremonies at runs was the 'pig of the run' or 'mister congeniality' for the person that was seen having the most sex all weekend long. We really believed in free love and unfortunately this was a major contributing factor to the demise of the leather community as we were unaware of HIV/AIDS at that time.

We still have club runs today; however, most are 'in-town runs' at respectable hotels. For example, look at the Harbour Masters of Maine's annual Sail Away weekend in October or the Long Island Ravens' run in March. Outdoor runs such as The Rochester Rams Run, The Bucks MC 100 Men in the Woods and others don't take place anymore as they became cost-prohibitive. While we still have run pins and friendship pins, much of the ritualistic secret-society stuff is gone (at least for now).

Photo credits: Friendship Pin: Tommy R, Run Application/Run Pin: Scott E, Bar Vest/Selfie: Chaz A

Noteworthy: Scott E of the Bay State Marauders has been posting a lot of leather club run history to the AMCC facebook group on 'throwback Thursdays' - check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/amcc76/>

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS CALL IT QUILTS

In this internet age and of the rise of gay and leather acceptance, many MCs can't entice new members to join as the old ones retire or move away. Once of the latest actual 'MOTORCYCLE CLUBS' to go is the Rocky Mountaineers of Denver, Colorado (est 1968).

For those of you old enough to remember the Golden Fleece Run and Triangles Bar in Denver, all the out-of-area bikes stalling because they were running too rich for the altitude, you missed an amazing series of events.

The Rocky Mountaineers were a great bunch of guys that used to travel extensively in the 70s and 80s, and should

you be travelling through Denver and gave them a head's up, they'd come out en mass to welcome you to the mile high city. It pains me to say farewell to the Rocky Mountaineers, but with a smile, I can definitely say that they'll be remembered with great joy by many, they did make a difference and they sure as hell left a mark on gay history!



The Rocky Mountaineers

Motorcycle Club of Colorado, Inc.

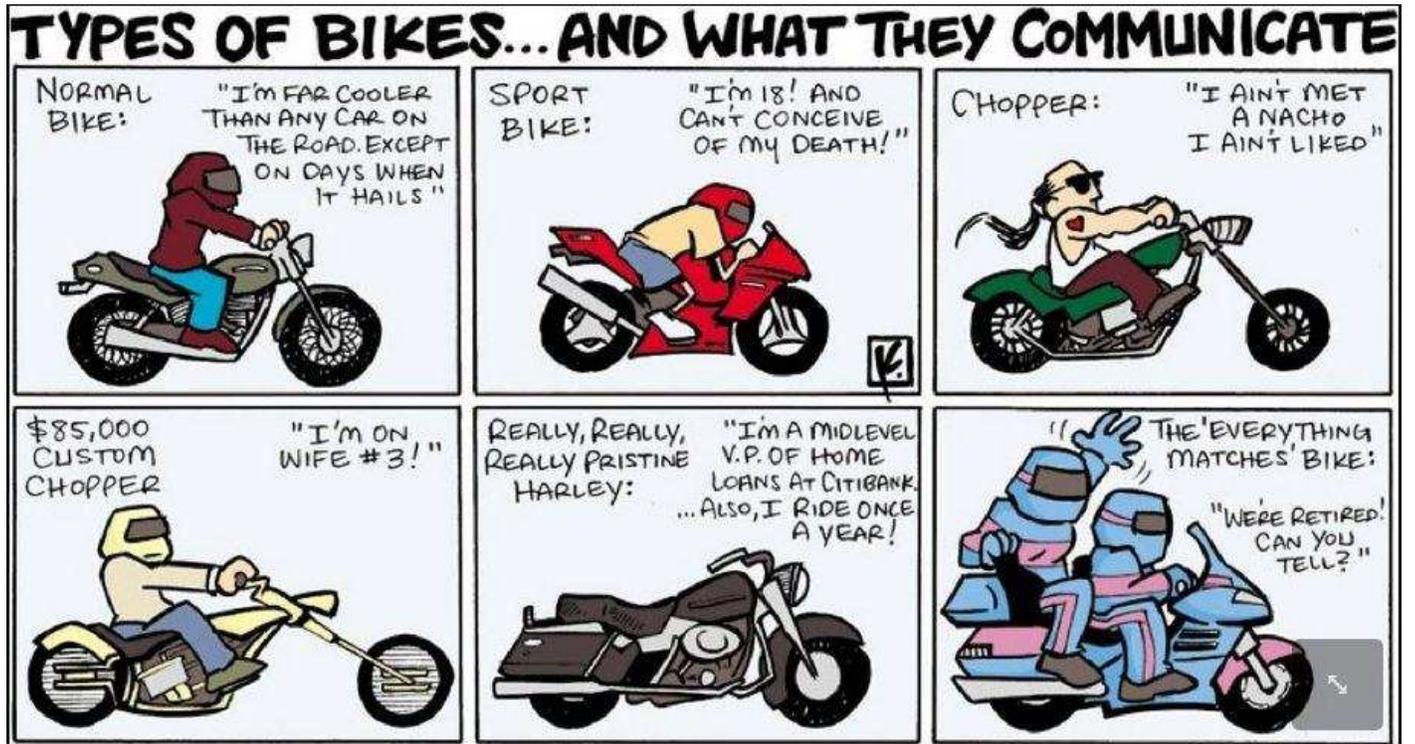
P.O. Box 2629
Denver CO
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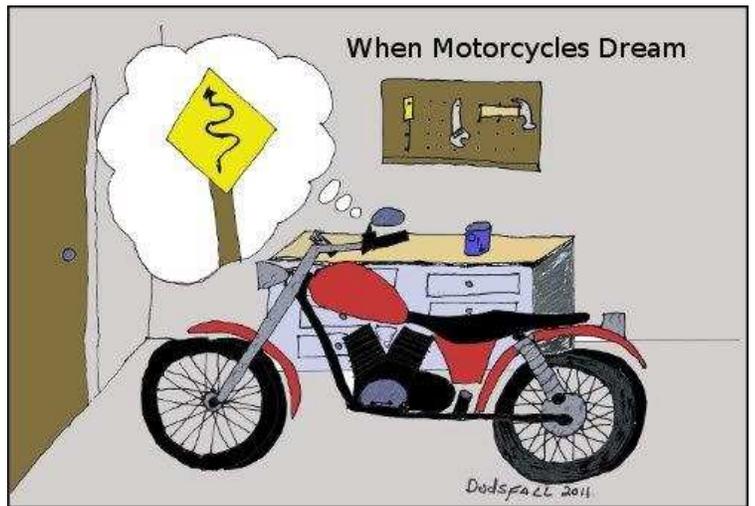
The Rocky Mountaineers Motorcycle Club of Colorado has evolved considerably since it began in 1968. Our membership has changed too. Some members have developed other interests, some have moved away, many have grown frail, and many have passed on.

The club has lost a lot of members over the years, unfortunately we haven't had much success attracting and retaining new and younger members. It breaks our collective hearts to admit we simply don't have the membership to continue operation. ***The Rocky Mountaineers Motorcycle Club of Colorado has officially retired its colors, liquidated its assets, and ceased all operation.***

We thank everyone who has participated with Mountaineers over its many years and made the club so successful. Good Bye, and remember keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down.



THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID IT'S A RICE BURNER.



THE PRESIDENT'S (EVIL ED'S) LAST WORD...

As May rolls around, we hear the rumbling of our bikes as many of us take advantage of the sporadic good weather and venture out for our first rides of the season. I strongly encourage everyone to be conscious of cars, trucks and other motorcycles. Do not take it for granted that you can be seen riding your motorcycle or that you can see other vehicles. It takes less than a second to cause a serious accident.



Remember: Riding in a group in proper formation helps increase safety. We invite you to join us on one or more of our rides this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

May 15th-17th: The Twilight Guard & Excelsior MC 'Lust For Life 20/40 Run' on Fire Island! Yes, Twilight Guard is turning 20 years old and Excelsior MC is turning 40! Join them both for a combined run on Fire Island! For information, go to: <http://j.mp/2040-2015>

May 16th: RIDE: New Hope Pride, New Hope, PA.

May 22nd-25th: Hey bikers!! Save Memorial Day weekend for Empire City MC's annual Biker Weekend. We're adding an extra day to our long weekend event this year by heading up to The Ranch on Friday, 22nd May! This motorcycle-only low-cost event is a favourite for many. Applications are attached to the end of this newsletter!

June 3rd: Empire City MC's open general meeting. Held 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.

June 7th: RIDE: New Jersey Pride, Asbury Park, NJ

June 13th: RIDE: Billy Joel Motorcycle Museum on Long Island

June 19th: ECMC's 51st Annual Bike Christening at Ty's Bar, Christopher St, New York, NY

June 20th: ECMC's 51st Annual Biker's Picnic! Location T/B/A

June 21st: ECMC will be at Folsom Street East - see <http://www.FolsomStreetEast.com/> for details.

June 28th: The Sirens MC and Empire City MC lead the annual gay pride march in Manhattan down 5th Avenue to the West Village.

July 1st: Empire City MC's open general meeting. Held 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.

July 3rd-6th: The Ranch's annual 4th of July Weekend-Long Party! Register with Al & Dan please, accommodations are limited.

REMEMBER: There will be plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to 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! [Click here](#) to join our facebook group or go to <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com/>

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