



ECMC's 52nd ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

On 5th December 2015, Empire City MC hosted the 52nd Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive to benefit Leake & Watts Childcare Services.

We're happy to report that with the help of our guests, hundreds of toys were collected for this worthy cause – plus there were some great door prizes for many of the attendees!

Founded as an orphanage in 1831, Leake & Watts is a not-for-profit children and family services agency dedicated to serving vulnerable children and families of the Bronx and the greater New York City metro area. Their organization is committed to addressing the challenges associated with poverty, disabilities, and a lack of access to education and basic services. Over their 180 year history, they have continually adapted and expanded our services to meet the changing needs of the community. Today, they provide child welfare, early childhood education, special education, developmental disabilities services and juvenile justice services to over 5,000 children, adults and families each day.



Leake & Watts was the only orphanage to accept HIV+/AIDS children in the 80s during the beginning of the AIDS crisis and was the first orphanage to allow same-sex adoptions! Empire City MC is proud to support them.



IS GAY LEATHER/MC CULTURE FINALLY DEAD?

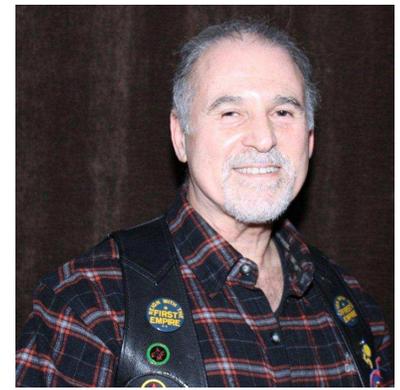
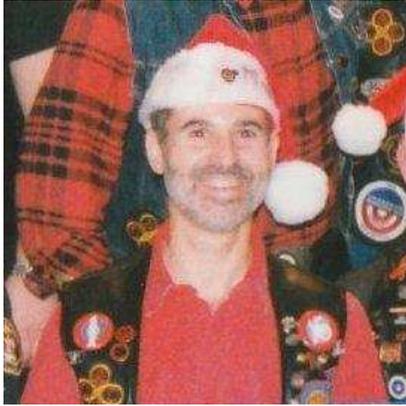
I started to populate my 2016 calendar early December as I typically do. I traditionally seek out events, especially outdoor motorcycle and leather club runs, lately settling more and more for in-town "hotel" runs. I filtered out all events with "contest", "sash" and "title" in their subject/body to discover there are no listed runs in 2016 for the leather/motorcycle community. I did locate a few "bear" events, such as the "Palm Springs Bear Convergence" and "Octobearfest" in Dallas, which will be nice – but as with the famous 1970s anti-pollution PSA featuring the Native American beside the highway with the single tear in his eye, I too grew visibly upset with the lack of club events that are club-based, not contest-based.

Contests can be fun, but I think they are the destroyers of our community when taken seriously. They divide and conquer members of our community and teach *complete and utter inclusion*, which is simply not realistic: we need some events to be womyn only or men only, or

SMBD players only or motorcycle only. Diversity is what makes our communities special! If gentrifying of our cities wasn't bad enough, they're now gentrifying our culture, telling us that there is only one way you can be a "leatherman" – the way as preached from the pulpit of the leather contest culture. The "Leatherman's Handbook" was never intended to be a Bible – just advice. I prefer to have an average-looking guy with well-worn, non-matching leather who's comfortable with themselves as a person in bed with me, rather than a leather fashion victim – wouldn't you? Gentrification sucks.

MEET THE MEMBER – MARK W

Mark W is the longest continuous member of Empire City MC to date. Mark joined ECMC May 1975 – over 40 years ago as of today. In that time, Mark has seen the club go through many changes with many highs and some serious lows. One of the lowest points was when members would fight at meetings, sometimes physically. In many cases where this occurred, the club would fork spawning the formation of different and new clubs like The City Cruisers, Wheels MC, Cycle MC and others. The crowning achievement, in Mark's opinion, was the first time ECMC held their Holiday Party to benefit Leake & Watts in the early 80s. L&W was the first foster care agency to accept children with HIV as well as allow same-sex couples serve as foster parents. Nowadays, L&W helps same-sex couples adopt children! Also, Mark was very impressed with ECMC's Anniversary Boat Cruise, something which had never been done by any other club at the time. It was spectacular.

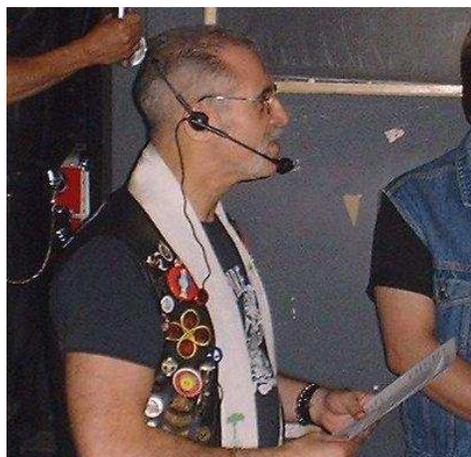
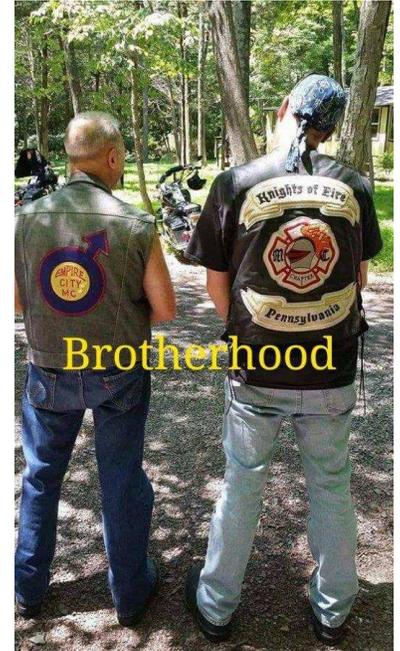


Mark joined ECMC during some interesting times in the NYC club boom. Details are sketchy but there appeared to be one massive club, "NYMBC" which allegedly splintered into many other clubs including Nine Plus and ECMC. Mark had been a member of Nine Plus in the initial splitting up of NYMBC, but as time passed, his love of horse riding, leather and SM/BD had matured to the desire to have a powerful machine reverberating between his legs. It seemed a natural progression to him. He got his motorcycle licence, learning to ride on a simulator. Just as he would compete, jump and show his horse, so too did he with his "iron horse", boasting about jumping his motorcycle in his younger years.

His first bike was a Honda K1, which he bought from his ECMC sponsor, Walter K. Since then, he's had a total of three additional bikes: a Honda Magna 750 V-45, a BMW K1, and his present ride, a 1996 H-D with 55,000 miles!

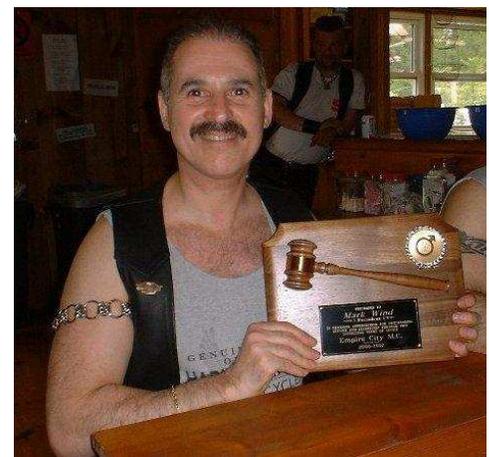
Mark adds that all-in-all, the club has vastly improved over time, now featuring more brotherliness, camaraderie and most importantly, more club rides and events than ever before!

As Mark approaches retirement, he has no plans to become an emeritus member* – he plans to continue onward with Empire City MC as well as getting more time to ride.



← Being an ordained minister, Mark has also been the official "bike blesser" for Empire City MC at the annual Bike Blessing for many years. Jim N officiated over the bike blessing the first eight years Mark was in the club. Mark served as Jim's assistant until Jim passed from AIDS.

→ Mark had also served as president of Empire City MC eight times in his 40 years, the first time in 1981 and more recently in 1996.



***Emeritus member:** All Associate Members and Full Members of Empire City MC are required at all times to own and ride a motorcycle as outlined in our bylaws. When a member or his motorcycle is incapacitated, they have a limited amount of time to resolve the situation or risk being expelled from the club. When a member has served their tenure (ten-years) as a Full Member in good standing, they have the option of becoming a member emeritus which has no dues nor riding requirement. Emeritus members cannot make motions, vote, hold office nor wear a "cheese-grater" (our large studded backpatch, indicating full membership). All emeritus members are honoured and respected former full members of ECMC and are very important historians to our organisation.

BIKER FUNNY PAGES



November's Caption Contest

In November, we asked you to help us caption this photo. Here are just some of the suggestions we got on ECMC's facebook group:

Michael M: I told you. Pants down first!

Jenson S: My turn to drive

Seamus M: I know there's a kick starter here someplace!

Mark B: I'm always here to help when you get a flat tire

Joe C: This is how we ride!

Joseph M: I'm going to ride you like I ride this motorcycle.

Steven G: Put a helmet on it??

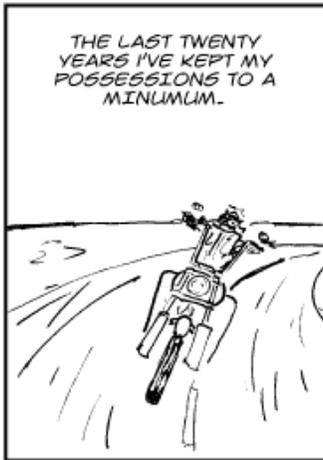
Harry T: Let's break in these new pants

Joseph C: Where the rubber meets the road!

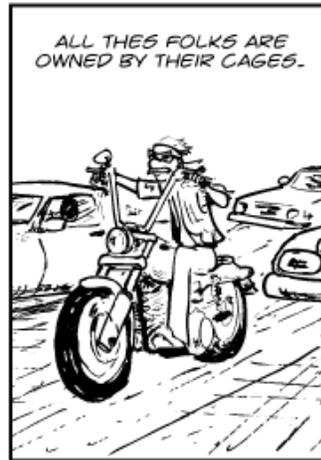
Aaron G: That is NOT how you check the oil on a motorcycle, Dipstick!

Edward M: I told you I chain drive not aSHAFT!

KEEPING UP WITH JONES

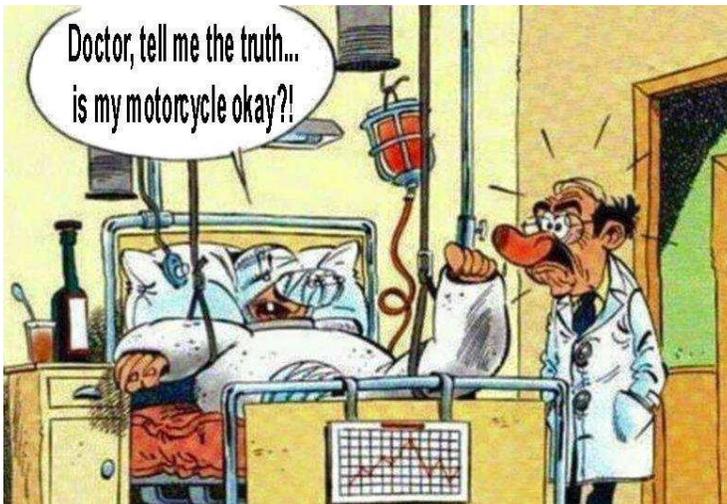


by Rob Campbell



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SAVE THE DATE!

Empire City MC's Biker Weekend in the Finger Lakes will once again be held on MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (27-30th May 2016).

Biker Weekend is a MOTORCYCLE ONLY event – you must arrive by motorcycle (rider or passenger). Applications will be out in late February. We look forward to hosting you again!

BIKER WEEKEND

LEATHER/MC CLUB LEADERSHIP

One of the most important things about being a member of any organisation or club like ECMC is to foster, develop and encourage leadership skills – yet, so often we dismiss this crucial element.

I've personally applied much of the leadership skills I've developed within the MC community to my career and vice-versa. There's not much difference between the two. In addition to project and budget planning, dealing with different personalities in a professional and cordial manner is vital for both.

How many times do you see similar characteristics to someone you work with as you do a brother in your club?

The solution to a leadership training problem is to scrap it in favour of leadership development. Don't train leaders. Coach them, mentor them, disciple them and develop them – don't attempt to train them.

Where training attempts to standardize by blending to a norm and acclimating to the status quo, development strives to call out the unique and differentiate by shattering the status quo. Training is something leaders dread and will try and avoid, whereas they will embrace and look forward to development. Development is nuanced, contextual, collaborative, fluid, and above all else, actionable.

As ECMC enters our 2016 election period, I do not have any expectations for myself being an officer again; however, I do sincerely hope that whomever is elected into the executive board focus much of their time on leadership development for all of our members – especially encouraging some of our more quiet members to speak up, express opinions and take charge.

A word especially for the office of President: Set realistic goals for each member and task people with duties that will challenge them and make them grow. It's easy point out someone's faults – it's much more difficult to see their skills. One word can cure or crush.



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

6th January: Empire City MC's open general meeting is held the first Wednesday of the month at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Check the posted schedule to see which room we're in.

16th January: BARNIGHT: Join ECMC at the **new** DC Eagle for an amazing and sexy barnight on Saturday night during the Centaur MC's Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend! Mark your calendars now!

24th January: ECMC's 52nd Annual Installation Dinner. Contact any ECMC member for an invitation.

3rd February: Empire City MC's open general meeting is held the first Wednesday of the month at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Check the posted schedule to see which room we're in.

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
10 W 15th St, Suite 609
New York, NY 10011-6821



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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