



**February 2017/  
March 2017**

## **Empire City Motorcycle Club Newsletter**

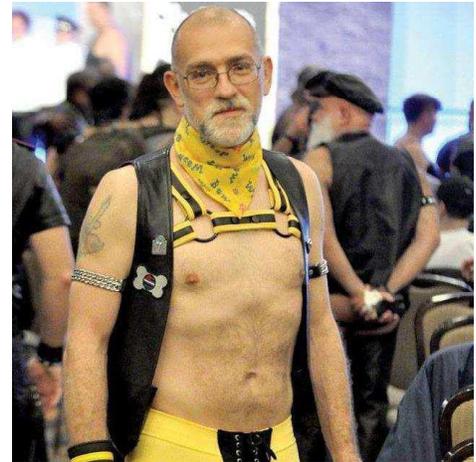


**RUMBLINGS**

### **AS SEEN ON FACEBOOK . . .**

I've been involved with leather and community clubs since my earliest days in the community. I've been a full member of two clubs, served in multiple capacities as member and officer (including terms in both as president). All told, that encompasses 95% or more of my 15+ in this community. Add to it that I'm an associate member of several leather or kink clubs in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions, some of which have been around 20, 30, even 40 years or more. That's a decent amount of direct experience, but even more importantly, it's a collective experience of decades from which I've learned much of what I know today.

When you put on a backpatch or membership pin, you're stating to the community that you are part of something greater than yourself. You are taking on the responsibility to treat that club and everyone in it with respect and dignity. You are assuring the rest of the club that you are dedicated to furthering what the club stands for, its mission and its image. You are stating that you will carry yourself in a manner befitting the expectations of a member of that club and that you will support that club in its endeavours.



If you can't fulfil those basic responsibilities, then you shouldn't be wearing that patch or pin. If you can't treat club-brothers and sisters with a modicum of respect, if you can't sublimate your own ego and personal ambitions to better the collective effort and goals, you don't belong there. If you spend more time denigrating the efforts and work of the members and leadership rather than putting in your own time and effort to help the collective endeavours, you do not understand the meaning of brotherhood. If you consistently put your own goals and agenda before the needs of your club, you are failing to support the club you outwardly profess to be a member of. If your actions and decisions effectively penalize or in any way impact the development of the club, your priorities are questionable and are creating an unhealthy environment within the club.

If you're going to engage in petty bullshit that brings the group down, take the patch off or remove the membership pin. You don't deserve it.

Club membership is an obligation and a responsibility, neither of which should be taken lightly. That patch on your back, or that pin on your chest, means something. There's probably a history that goes with it, and it's on you to do your part to uphold what was and add to it as it goes forward.

There are two key requirements for successful club development: loyalty and respect. When those are taken out, it devolves into a toxic morass that helps no one and hurts many. People who cannot show loyalty to their club and respect to their club-brothers and sisters are a detriment to the whole.

Every successful club out there is one where the members within it learned to work together to further the club and what it does. It's probably safe to say every club out there has seen its share of internal conflict – we're all human. But the clubs that worked through it, that put the good of the whole and the community to the fore, those are the ones still with us. They're the ones that dug into the barrel and tossed out the bad apples that threatened to ruin the whole endeavour. The clubs that survive are the ones where members work to address what needs addressing rather than cast blame hither and yon.

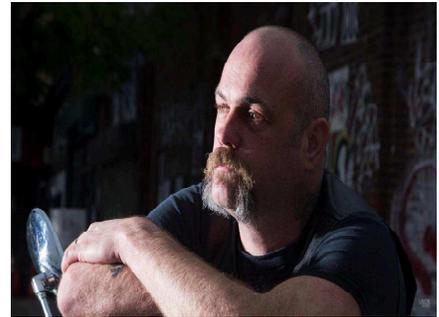
Clubs are formed to meet a need or perhaps several needs in the community they serve and the people in it. In those regional or local areas where multiple leather or kink/fetish clubs exist side-by-side, the successful formula is where they work together, helping each other and the community to which they belong. There is no competition to meet community needs, but rather communal effort toward that end. And, when the community need or niche is a narrowly-defined one or resources are limited, the unifying course is the one that brings everything together, not separate it into "competing" groups. The goal is to bring the community together, not factionalize it.

I can only hope these spasms of negativity are a passing phenomenon. That there are clubs out there more than 40 years old reassures me that such groups will remain part of our community culture in years to come.

Pup Tripp

## MEET THE MEMBER: CHAZ A.

In his early years, Chaz rode a mini-bike, which his father made for him. It wasn't long before he was living on his own and had a 400CC Yamaha Maxim. It was also the bike that he bravely rode on his own to New York City to meet up with a club he had never heard of before: "Empire City Motorcycle Club". Chaz was already a well-established member of the leather/motorcycle scene in Upstate New York and Toronto, Ontario and a frequent visitor to New York City – but to be going to the city to meet up with a group of strangers for an "Annual Biker's Picnic" – he didn't know what to expect. Formation riding in the driving rain at 80MPH on the I-78 through New Jersey was terrifying for the young biker, but it was also quite exciting – all these leather-clad men who shared Chaz' passion for motorcycles going to an "undisclosed location" was almost too much. That was many years ago, and his story of his first ECMC Biker's Picnic has been told again and again, as has the fact that he was a regular at the Biker Picnic weekends years after year. He started bringing other people "known as virgin sacrifices" to these weekends on the back of his bike, then later, led small groups from Rochester down to the city for the ECMC Biker Picnic.



Since those times, Chaz has had a second V-twin Yamaha red bike (he forgets the model/name), as it was only an intermediate bike while "Studley" was being repaired following a collision where a drunk rear-ended him, turning his bike into a hammock shape – it was never the same, even after unfolding it. Then came the bike he cherished for nearly 20 years, an 1100CC Yamaha Virago. The only real accessories in those days were chrome and gold stuff, there were no GPS systems, mobile phones and on-board radios/cassette players were pretty rough, so this was the bike he was to have until his accident in 2004. The street had been milled while he was unaware, inside "The Alley" bar in Boston, upon turning the corner his bike dropped into the milled surface and hit a water main sticking 8" out of the road... The aluminum engine case, which was part of the frame, had been cracked open with oil pouring out into the sidewalk where he and the bike had landed.

Three days in bed with cracked ribs, but arrangements could be made over the phone. Chaz had his shop in Framingham, MA come and pick up his custom Yamaha from the side of the road where he had left it the night before and simultaneously started putting together what was to become "Sabazios", his forth bike and biggest yet. This was a 2004, black, 1700CC Yamaha Road Star and sadly, due to the accident a few days prior, was unable to get it to NYC for ECMC's bike christening that year – but he didn't give up hope! It happened to be ECMC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and they were about to have a week-long ride to the White Mountains and Green Mountains and Chaz was looking forward to this event. He called Jeff Arnold of ECMC to ask if Mark W (who blesses the bikes) could perform a special bike blessing in Lincoln, NH at the hotel which was to be "home base" for the event. Mark was very willing to do this and it turned out that two other folks wanted their bikes christened as well that trip!

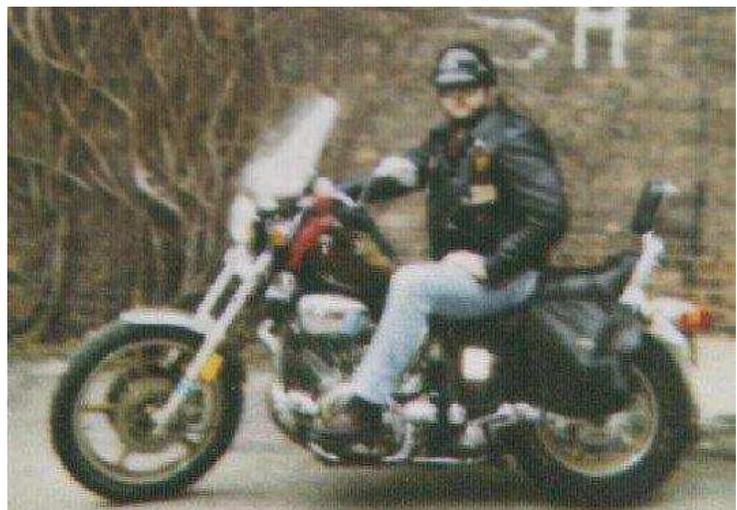
After all these years of coming to ECMC events, Chaz had never applied to be a member, as he moved around too much and was not in NYC on a full-time basis – in fact from 2003-2008 he was based in Boston, MA. The brotherhood of Empire City MC had noticed this and created a new membership level, "Associate Member" because of Chaz' situation and he was asked to apply. Chaz became the first Associate Member of Empire City MC in mid-2004, just before Jeff Arnold passed.

Chaz moved to NYC full-time in December 2008 and asked the club if he could pledge for full membership. Of the people in the club at that moment in time, only two of those full members remain: Mark W and Eddie M. Since becoming a member, the club has been through many changes and Chaz has been the inspiration for some of those changes and has held the office of President, Vice President and Secretary. He can be found plotting with his cohort Evil Ed (and others) regularly.

Chaz was raised by the gay leather/levi/motorcycle club community since leaving home as a teen. His first long-distance ride as a passenger was on the back of a Honda 550-4 from Rochester to Utica for the Utica Tri's Anniversary weekend by his buddy Jim P (Rochester Rams, MC). Richard and Jim taught Chaz how to ride. Chaz has paid this forward with many others helping them to learn to ride, and nowadays by simply encouraging them to take the Motorcycle Safety Classes. Over two dozen riders got their start from Chaz' encouragement and advice.

What's Chaz' dream bike? Chaz was seen at the last International Motorcycle Show eyeing the Harley-Davidson Ultra Glide Limited (a \$40k bike!), but he says that he will keep Sabazios a while longer. "Motorcycles are like leather pants", he says, "they have their own character and after you've worn them for a while, they become your *favourite* – going out and buying a new pair is unconscionable until you've worn out the old ones! "

As for a dream tour, Chaz is seriously considering a motorcycle tour of Italy, including those wicked cool twisty roads through the Italian Alps (as seen on YouTube, like this one: <http://bit.ly/alps-ride>).



**Empire City MC's Annual Motorcycle Weekend - May 26th – 29th, 2017  
Information and Run Application**



With the help of many friends and the dedication of ECMC members, we're excited to announce another great Memorial Day Weekend riding experience including some meals, accommodations and more! Won't you join ECMC for Motorcycle Weekend?

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May ..... Ride with us to "The Ranch" in Hemlock, NY through the scenic Hudson Valley Region and the Southern Tier of New York State with multiple breaks/pick-up points.

Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> May .... Explore upstate New York's Finger Lakes region!

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> May ..... Explore upstate New York's Finger Lakes region!

Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> May ..... Ride with us back to New York City.

In order to best prepare and accommodate everyone, we ask that you carefully review the ride as outlined and submit your completed application with \$40/per person run fee to Empire City MC before 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. Space is limited to 25 bikers & buddies!

**This is a motorcycle only event!** No four-wheeled vehicles are allowed! We understand there are riders from all over that would like to participate in this event without having to enter New York City; therefore we have several meet-up points and times specified in the map on page two. Included for your \$40 run fee are: Accommodations at The Ranch, three dinners and three breakfasts, open bar all weekend at The Ranch. Each person must complete this form and send it in.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ I am:  Buddy Rider /  Rider

I will meet up at (see map on page 2):  A,  B,  C,  D,  E,  F, or  G

Emergency Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that I have attained at least twenty-one (21) years of age and that I, based upon mutual covenants and considerations, will not hold Empire City Motorcycle Club, Inc. (a.k.a. ECMC), Al Rizzo/Dan Marty (a.k.a. The Ranch) nor the individual and collective officers, members, servants, agents, employees thereof liable for any injury to my person or property during the period of Empire City MC's Annual Motorcycle Weekend. I further agree to indemnify, save harmless and hold harmless Empire City Motorcycle Club, Inc. (a.k.a. ECMC), Al Rizzo/Dan Marty (a.k.a. The Ranch) or the individual and collective officers, members, servants, agents, employees thereof from any and all liability, serious injury, economic loss, and any other loss arising from whatever event, source, manner and/or nature which they may suffer as a result of claims, demands, costs or judgments against them, individually and/or collectively, arising out of their individually and/or collectively granting to me the privilege of attending and participating in part and/or whole of Empire City MC's Annual Motorcycle Weekend.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

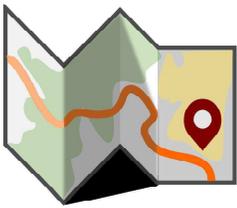
Once you've completed the filling in the planning portion (with the maps below), you must mail this application to our Run Chairman for processing. Remember: Bed space will be assigned on a 'first registered, first served' basis, so don't delay!

Please read the directions carefully and return this page with payment (\$40 per person) by U.S. Mail to:

**Empire City MC Motorcycle Weekend  
10 W 15th St, Suite 609  
New York, NY 10011-6821**

**Save time: Apply online at <https://ecmc-mw-2017.eventbrite.com>**





Please note: This may be a different route from prior years – we mix it up!

Don't forget to tick the box on page one to let us know where you're meeting up with us! Furthermore, it's vital that your motorcycle is in good working order and you are on time to your respective meet-up location.

**Meet-up Point "A" (Lexington Candy Shop, New York, NY)**

09:00 - 10:00 ... Breakfast at Lexington Candy Shop, 1226 Lexington Ave at 83rd St, New York, NY 10028  
10:00 - 11:00 ... Kickstands up from Lexington Candy Shop and ride 21 mi (0:60)

**Meet-up Point "B" (Left Exit Gas Station on the Palisades Pkwy, MM 1.7 just after crossing back into NYS)**

11:00 - 11:15 ... Gas up, bathroom/snack break. Note: GPS: 41°01'39.0"N 73°56'17.9"W  
11:15 - 12:15 ... Kickstands up and ride 54 mi (0:60)

**Meet-up Point "C" (Quickway Twin Cone/Quickway Diner/Citgo, RR 17K, Bloomingburg, NY 12721)**

12:15 - 12:30 ... Gas up, bathroom/snack break/ice cream  
12:30 - 13:45 ... Kickstands up and ride ~82 mi (0:75)

**Meet-up Point "D" (LUNCH STOP at Butterfields Cafe, 16 Division St, Deposit, NY 13754)**

13:45 - 14:45 ... Gas up at the Citgo, then ride around the corner to Butterfield's Café for lunch.  
14:45 - 16:00 ... Kickstands up and ride 71 mi (0:66)

**Meet-up Point "E" (Dandy Mini Mart, 363 White Wagon Rd, Sayre, PA 18840)**

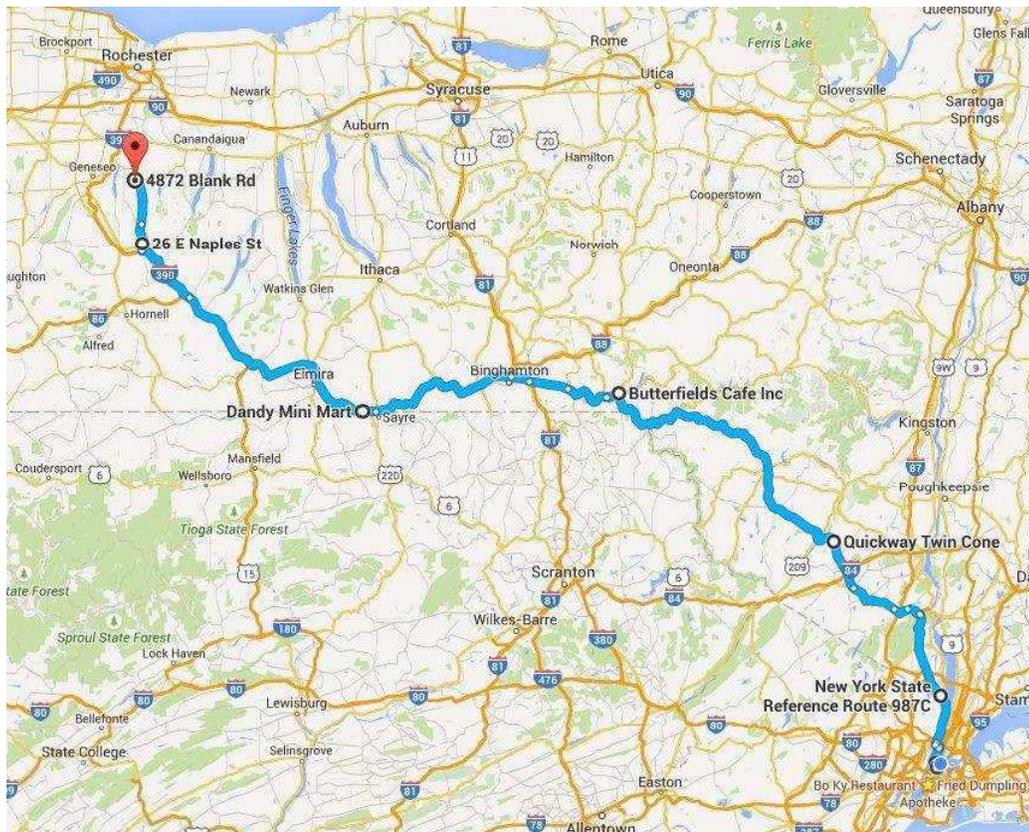
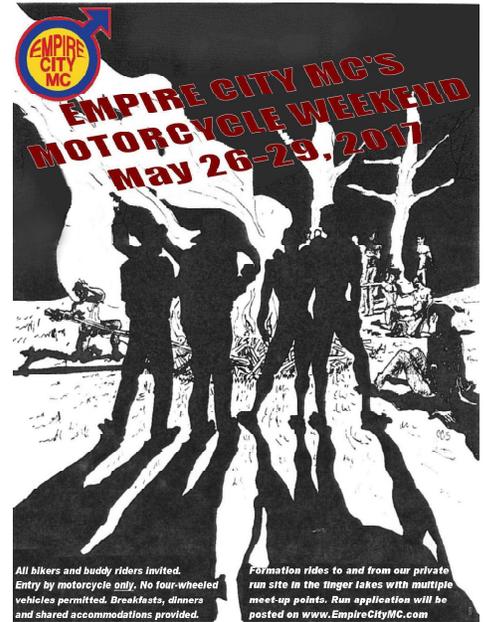
16:00 - 16:15 ... Gas up, bathroom/snack break  
16:15 - 17:20 ... Kickstands up and ride 77 mi (0:70)

**Meet-up Point "F" (7-Eleven/Mobil, 26 E Naples St, Wayland, NY 14572)**

17:20 - 17:40 ... Gas up, bathroom/snack break  
17:40 - 18:00 ... Kickstands up and ride 16 mi (0:20)

**Meet-up Point "G" (The Ranch, 4872 Blank Rd, Hemlock, NY 14466)**

18:00 ..... Arrive at The Ranch, unpack and go to Lima Country Club for dinner



What do you need to bring?

A bed, clean linens and towels will be provided by The Ranch, but for your safety and comfort, we recommend you bring the following:

- bike tool kit
- extra bungee cords
- rain gear
- driving license
- motorcycle registration
- motorcycle insurance card
- mobile phone charger
- medications
- motorcycle insurance card
- dry clothing
- club colours (vest)
- favourite sex toy (optional) ;-)

NOTES:

You may interactively view/tweak our route map online at: <http://bit.ly/2017-BIKER>

The Ranch has play space (should you be interested), as well as a pool, hot tub, bar, nature trails and more! Read more about The Ranch at <http://i.mp/TheRanch>



NOTE: In 2017, our first meal (on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May) will be at the Lima Golf & Country Club, 7470 Chase Rd Lima, NY 14485. Their Friday Fish Fry is well known as being one of the best in the area (of course, there are other entrees to select from as well!) A credit of \$10 per person is included with your run fee for your Friday meal.

We will provide Saturday, Sunday and Monday breakfasts at The Ranch, Saturday and Sunday dinners at The Ranch. All lunches and on-the-road meals are your own responsibility.

Save time: Apply online at <https://ecmc-mw-2017.eventbrite.com>

# UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

- 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH:** "Night of 1000 Gowns", Marriot Marquis 1535 Broadway, New York, NY 5:00-11:30 P.M.
- 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> MARCH** Conductors Leather Club Run, Nashville TN.
- 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH** Pocono Warriors 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner - Fratelli's Italian Bistro, 1339 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 7:00-9:00 P.M.
- 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> APRIL** Bears, Bikers & Mayhem - Gettysburg PA.
- 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> APRIL** Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend – Cleveland OH.
- 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL** Hogs 4 Hope Croton-on-the Dam, NY. (Rain Date May 7<sup>th</sup>)
- 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May** **ECMC Motorcycle Weekend 2017!!!** - Hemlock, NY.
- 4<sup>th</sup> June** New Jersey Pride Parade – Asbury Park, NJ.
- 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June** **ECMC at the National Pride March Weekend** – Washington DC.
- 10<sup>th</sup> June** **ECMC Barnight at the DC Eagle** during National Pride March Weekend
- 16<sup>th</sup> June** **ECMC Bike Blessing at Ty's Bar NYC** – 114 Christopher Street, New York NY.
- 17<sup>th</sup> June** **ECMC Biker Picnic** (Location: SECRET!)
- 25<sup>th</sup> June** ECMC at the NYC Gay Pride March – New York NY.

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

## RECENT EVENTS

Empire City MC and Excelsior MC have been working on creating more and more non-bar based social events recently. As Gabriel says: "if you want a scene, you need to be seen!"



This past month, ECMC and some Excelsior members invaded Modern Pinball on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave where you can play pinball as much as you like for an hourly price, or all day! We also went to the Museum of the City of New York in January to see the Queer New York City installation.

These are fun times indeed! Our hanger-on, Jack D was there playing none other than "Wheel of Fortune!" pinball!



Be sure to watch for other upcoming events on our calendars and facebook pages – future events will include some movies, galleries and more!

Got a suggestion? Send it to [ecmc@empirecitymc.com](mailto:ecmc@empirecitymc.com) with a subject line of "social events"

## ECMC DOMINATES AMCC

For the first time ever in the history of AMCC (The Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council), two newly elected officers on the Executive Board are from the same member club – Empire City Motorcycle Club!

Congratulations to the new President of AMCC, Evil Ed and Michael M, the new Secretary of AMCC.

Yes, we're afraid – very afraid!



## THE LAST WORD

I think it's important to understand that under the "new regime" in Washington, DC that we all take any and all actions necessary to protect the equal rights we've worked very hard for over the past 48+ years. We've paid with our blood, sweat and tears and so much more.



That's why I feel it's important that every able-bodied gay man, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer folk make an appearance in Washington, DC this June 11<sup>th</sup> for the huge march/demonstration.

A collage of promotional graphics for a Pre-Pride Barnight event. On the left is a Twitter post from Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) that reads: "This will be the best barnight at the DC Eagle ever. It's going to be HUGE! SO AMAZING!". Below the tweet is the Empire City MC logo. In the center is the Potomac MC logo, featuring an eagle with wings spread and the text 'POTOMAC MC'. To the right of the Potomac MC logo is text that reads: "Empire City MC in cooperation with Potomac MC and the DC Eagle present... Pre-Pride Barnight at the DC Eagle June 10th from 9PM Two Clubs! Beer Specials! Jell-O Shots! \$8 Buzz Cuts!". On the far right is a poster for the National Pride March with the text "COME OUT... COME OUT... wherever you are" and "The National Pride March June 11th • Starting at 10AM Washington DC's National Mall".

Empire City will be there, and just to get our spirits up, we're hosting a barnight alongside Potomac MC at the DC Eagle on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 starting at 9PM. Potomac MC will be on the west side of the bar (by the billiards table) and Empire City will be on the east side, in the back room! Both clubs will have draught beer specials and Jell-O shooters, Empire City MC will also be featuring \$8 buzz cuts (by a professional!) so you look your best on Sunday!

We hope to see you there!



## Note:

The DC Eagle is now located at  
3701 Benning Rd NE  
Washington, DC 20019