



Happy Holidays!



From all of us at Empire City Motorcycle Club to all of you... we wish you the warmest of holiday seasons no matter what (if anything) you celebrate!



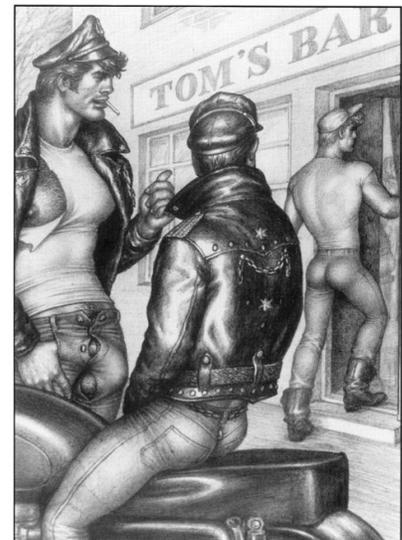
Gay social networking in the '80s

Facebook started in 2004. Yahoo groups started in 2001. Even proper public use of the Internet didn't begin until the 90s... So, how did gay men of the 80s cruise and meet without the internet or a smartphone? The answer was: Gay rags and gay bars.

I want to focus on networking and making friends only. Yes, there were tearooms (toilets), bookstores, the McBurney YMCA residences, the piers, the trucks, the Ramble (a cruisy part of Central Park) and other "cruisy spots", all posing a risk for entrapment by police, criminals, gay-bashers and other nefarious sort. We'll not consider these spots as they were only meant for quick sexual acts (not friendship nor relationships).

The majority of gay men would go to their watering hole of choice nearly every night (and there were a lot to choose from!) This was the place to meet people, talk about the day's events, even (shudder) watch Dynasty on Wednesday nights at the leather bar as we cheered on Alexia! The ladies room was almost always the "fuck room" because women were never in our bars, unless they were brought in for a specific reason by a male patron.

Before we had e-mail and Yahoo groups, we'd read and post in the personal ads in gay rags (publications) "GWM seeks GWM for S&M/VA, no fats/no fems box 121". Yeah, it wasn't fast but it worked! We'd depend on the Damron Guide when we travelled because we didn't have the rainbow flag on shop windows back then. Just as being a gay man meant you lived two separate lives: your day-to-day working/family life and your gay life, business too were just as closeted! Once arriving in a foreign city, we'd bee-line it to the nearest gay bar and pick up any and all publications at that bar to see what was going on, where we could/should go for fun, and read the personals. Of course, if you were an unknown you'd be considered "fresh meat" and almost always had the upper hand when visiting another city. (Next month: Gay leather clubs in the 80s!)



The second to the Last-Last Word...

ECMC's elections are upon us at our next meeting, therefore, January's newsletter will be my last-last word for a while. It has been an honour to serve as president for a total of four years over the past six years. I've seen some wonderful growth and brotherhood within the club as the global climate seems as unsure as any time ever, including the Cuba Missile Crisis. 2017 has been a difficult year with a xenophobic, misogynistic, white-supremacist hate-filled cheeto in the White House. I hold my head in shame when I travel the world finding myself having to apologise for his tweets. Just last week, the Secretary of State told Americans that "our president" has put us at great risk for loss of life and limb. Think about that for a second. The president has prompted attacks on citizens. Then there's the internal strife of getting older... nearly every one of our members, one by one, has suffered injury or loss this year – from fathers and brothers to lovers and friends. It makes you want to give up. These are the times when we really need to kick our heels in and be steadfast as the brothers we all are in the leather/gay/motorcycle communities. Write some weekly reminders in your calendar to call a friend randomly out of the blue just to chat with no agenda and no distractions. Facebook, IMs, texting doesn't count – make a voice call. Invite them out for a drink or dinner. You won't be sorry. From all of us in Empire City MC, we wish you the best of holiday seasons!



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UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Fri 29th December – Mon 1st January: It's Al Rizzo's birthday and New Year's Eve Party at [The Ranch](#), Hemlock, NY

Wed 3rd January 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, 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. **Election of 2018 Officers!**

Sun 28th January 18:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC Installation of Officers Dinner – ask any ECMC member for details.

Sat, 13th January 2018, 21:00 – 02:00: Empire City MC hosts Leather/Biker Barnight at the DC Eagle, 3701 Benning Rd NE, Washington, DC. It's Centaur MC's M.A.L. weekend, so don your leather and come on out! The fun starts at 9pm!

Wed 7th February 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, 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.

Wed 14th February 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's "V.D." Barnight – more information forthcoming! (Yeah, V.D. is Valentine's Day, you silly people!!)

Wed 7th March 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open 7th General Meeting, 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.

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 calendar.EmpireCityMC.com and come along with us on some great rides!

Our physical mailing address is:

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Empire City MC is a proud member of the Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council. For more information about membership with Empire City MC, [click here](#) to view/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application.



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