



It's time for Pride Week – that means: Bike Blessing, Biker Picnic, Folsom Street East and the Gay March!

Come out, come out! This weekend kicks off with our Bike Blessing in front of Ty's on Friday, 15th June starting at 6pm. Then, on Saturday, meet up (on your bike, or your friend's bike) for our free Biker Picnic (admission by motorcycle only) and on Sunday it's Folsom Street East – come check out our double-wide booth where you can get your picture taken on some of the sexiest bikes! One week later, it's the Gay Pride March (this year is the 49th anniversary of Stonewall, so the route has changed!) – so remember:



FRIDAY 15th: BIKE BLESSING AT TY'S, 6PM
SATURDAY 16th: BIKER PICNIC, 9AM SWEET LIFE CAFÉ
SUNDAY 17th: FOLSOM STREET EAST FAIR
SUNDAY 24th: GAY PRIDE MARCH

ECMC's Motorcycle Weekend!

Wow – just wow. Empire City MC's Memorial Day Motorcycle Weekend was simply amazing this year – everything from the ride up, the ride back, the fantastic meals served to us all weekend-long, the camaraderie of the guests – we couldn't have had a better time!



I'm not going to mention just how busy the play space was, as they say, what happens at The Ranch stays at The Ranch; but I can talk about our other events! Our day trips were fun and included: Cycle Stop, Extreme Biker Leather, Ground Rounds (prime beef hamburgers) at Bill Gray's and Abbot's Frozen Custard. On Sunday afternoon, we had a pizza-baking contest! We were all exposed to "craft beers", thanks to the folks from Three Rivers MC. There was even a very touching collaring ceremony on Friday night! Sunday, "anti-road gremlin bells" were presented to three new bikes/bikers: Jack, Erik and Earl.



There were some new faces and some regulars – and sadly a couple of guys who couldn't make it at the last minute. ☹️

Once again, we need to give a **big thank you to: Al & Dan (proprietors of The Ranch) for providing the venue and accommodations, K.K. for spending his own money to fly up to Rochester ahead of us and shop for all the food he's planned to serve us, and Ed G for being a huge help in the kitchen!**

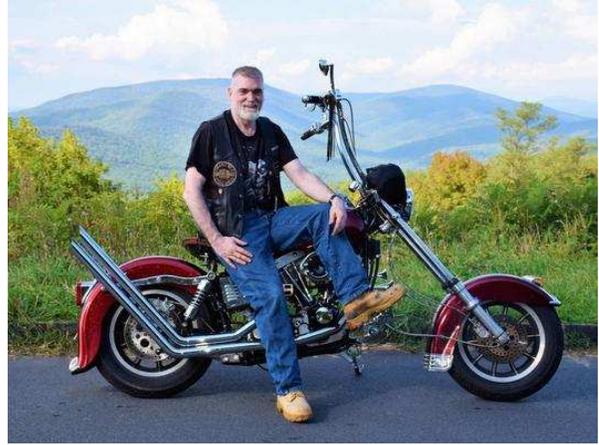
If you've never been – you really should reserve the dates and come in 2019. We have limited space, but unlimited fun! Save the dates: 24th-27th May 2019. It's a lot of fun on a long weekend for under \$100!



LGBT Bikers Say They Just Want to Ride

Written by Rick Barrett, originally published in the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

As a long-time biker and an openly gay man, Tom Hood says there likely always will be a place for motorcycle groups that cater to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members. Those groups, he says, aren't as necessary as they were years ago. But they're still a place where LGBT motorcyclists can relax and be themselves without fear of scrutiny or criticism. "That's not possible for some people in a mixed or straight environment," Hood said. Originally from Platteville, Hood is president of the Riders Motorcycle Club in Boston, one of the nation's oldest gay men's motorcycle groups. The club was formed in the early 1980s when the biker community didn't welcome LGBT riders who openly expressed their sexuality. Now, LGBT bikers say things are much better, although there are exceptions. "I personally would be very cautious" in some situations, said Terri Coughlin, a lesbian motorcyclist and former Harley-Davidson Inc. employee. "But for those of us who want to come out and live our lives authentically, motorcycling is another expression of personal freedom," Coughlin said.



Harley-Davidson is a sponsor of this week's PrideFest Milwaukee, a celebration of the LGBT community that runs Thursday through Sunday at Maier Festival Park. Coughlin says she's grateful Harley has taken that role, since years ago she had a hurtful experience while volunteering at one of the company's motorcycling events. "I am very impressed and happy that they've come a long way since then," she said. This will be the first year PrideFest has a motorcycle parade, with several hundred bikes expected to participate Saturday. "It's definitely not exclusive to LGBTs. You won't be crashing the party if you don't have a rainbow flag," said Cormac Kehoe, one of the organizers. Parades like this are a sign of better times, according to Hood, who attended Lawrence University in Appleton from 1985 through 1987. Years ago, he belonged to an outlaw biker club, but as a gay man, he has since made Riders his group. Some outlaw clubs (known as "1 percenters" because 99 percent of bikers don't belong to them) have a strong anti-gay bias. Yet most people in motorcycling pay little or no attention to someone's gender or sexual identity, according to Hood. "I can go on other rides and not feel like I am under any scrutiny or pressure. Generally, the way it works in the motorcycle world is, if you give respect you get respect," he said.



Trying to build motorcycle ridership and attract new customers, Harley-Davidson has stepped up its marketing aimed at younger people and racial minorities. LGBT bikers say the company has a mixed record in reaching out to them. When he was a Harley Owners Group member, Hood said, "there was never anything in their publications that even mentioned LGBTs at all." Yet Harleys are popular with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender bikers, said Chaz Antonelli, past president of the Empire City Motorcycle Club, in New York, the oldest gay men's biker group in the nation. "They are already marketing to us in their own way, saying this is your freedom, your ability to do what you want, when you want," he said.

Still, not everyone has embraced some of the changes. Four years ago, a Salt Lake City police officer got into trouble when he objected to riding in the motorcycle brigade at the front of a gay pride parade, saying it was a violation of his religious liberties. Eric Moutsos said he was unfairly labelled a bigot because he simply asked to swap roles and work a different part of the parade in June 2014. Moutsos, a Mormon, said he felt uncomfortable doing what he considered to be celebratory circles with other motorcycles leading the parade. But he said he never refused to be part of it. He was placed on leave and later resigned. The police department said it would not tolerate "bias and bigotry," and that it did not allow personal beliefs to enter into an officer's decision to accept an assignment. Moutsos said he was offended by the notion that he would treat gays and lesbians differently than anyone else. "It is unquestionably my duty as a police officer to protect everyone's right to hold a parade or other event but is it also my duty to celebrate everyone's parade?" he said in a statement in 2015. Many motorcyclists not part of the LGBT community say someone's gender or sexual identity is their own personal business.

"The world is a big place. Play nice with others," said Ted Palmatier, a long-time member of the DMZ Motorcycle Club, for veterans, in Burlington. "Personally, I wish a lot of people would just loosen up their underwear. ... It's a little too tight," he said. While there will probably always be a place for LGBT motorcycle groups, Hood said, over time there will be less need for them as society becomes more accepting. At one time, Riders Motorcycle Club had 140 members; now it's down to about 55. Hood said he thinks the LGBT community can claim a victory when it's no longer a big deal for sports stars and celebrities to announce they are homosexual. "And the fifth thing down the list you would use to describe a person is their sexual identity."

A View From a New Rider

As a new rider, I have found the motorcycle community to be very welcoming. As a new gay rider, I was searching for a way to meet other men who have a similar enthusiasm for riding, and I was so lucky to find the Empire City Motorcycle Club. It has been a revelation to me that a group of guys have all been so welcoming and supportive and enthusiastic about me as a person and a new rider. I have felt from the first meeting I attended a sense of inclusion that I don't think I have ever felt before. From the offers to join members on rides individually and in groups, to the most recent



Motorcycle Weekend, which, even though it tested my limits as a rider, was a wonderful

event. I was given many tips and evaluations of my riding, all of which were done in a supportive and positive manner, and I think I was most surprised at how much the members were looking out for me.

I have found a new family of like-minded people, and I could not have found a better welcome on my new motorcycle journey, and on my personal journey as well.

— Erik R, New Gay Rider



What's Cooking? Bake Your Own "New York" Bagels

Ah, the New York bagel, perhaps the archetype of all other modern bagels. Thick, starchy, fluffy, and super salty; bagels don't get much better than this.

Ingredients:

- Water, as needed
- 1 medium potato, peeled, quartered
- 1 packet active yeast
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tablespoon kosher salt
- 1½ tablespoons sugar, divided
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups boiling water
- Fine cornmeal, for dusting
- 1 egg white mixed with 1 teaspoon water



Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil over high heat; add potato and cook 15 minutes, until softened. Remove from water, reserving 1/3 cup liquid; drain and set aside.
2. Transfer reserved 1/3 cup cooking liquid to a small bowl; sprinkle yeast over and stir gently. Set aside for 3 minutes.
3. Sift flour, salt, and ½ tablespoon of sugar together in a large bowl; add yeast mixture. Add oil and another 2/3 cup water; stir well. Add eggs and stir to form a dough ball.
4. Turn dough out onto a floured surface; knead 10 minutes, until firm. Transfer dough to a medium greased bowl; cover and allow to rise in a warm place for 60 minutes.
5. Punch down the dough to flatten; remove from bowl. Cut dough into 18 equal pieces; shape each into a 6-inch long, ¾-inch thick rope. Bring the ends of each rope together and pinch to a close, using a little water on the end to help secure. Cover all rings with a towel; allow to rise 20 minutes.
6. Preheat oven to 450°F. Lightly grease a baking sheet; dust gently with fine cornmeal (prevents bagels from sticking). Bring a large pot of water and remaining 1 tablespoon sugar to a boil.
7. Drop bagels into boiling water one at a time, cooking each 3 minutes. Remove from water, gently place on paper towels, and repeat with remaining bagels.
8. Transfer boiled bagels to prepared baking sheet. Brush tops of bagels with egg white mixture (optional: sprinkle with preferred toppings such as sesame seeds, poppy seeds, garlic, etc.) and bake for 15 minutes, until bagels are golden.

The Last Word

So Thankful.

Reaching the milestone age of 50 years should elicit an emotional response; however, I certainly I felt no differently than when I turned 30 or 40 except perhaps a slightly greyer beard and a new dad bod – children not included. Still, the highlight of the celebratory weekend was having several of my ECMC brothers join my husband, Yves and me at your home in Sagaponack, NY on eastern Long Island. While inclement weather spoiled our Sunday Run along Old Montauk Highway, [a beautiful motorcycle ride through the Pine Barrens along the southern coast of Long Island with the ocean visible along the way], we were able to ride into Sag Harbour, a quaint community and former whaling town on Saturday afternoon. After parking our motorcycles and meandering a bit through town, we stopped at the local bakery shop for the super-sized cookies. Undoubtedly my brothers thought my dad bod needed some assistance! Just one of many moments that made the weekend extra special. Thank you, brothers and others . . . and grazie mille to brother Brian who assisted me with rolling out the homemade spinach pasta for the Lasagna Romagnole on Saturday night. If you weren't there for dinner, "Boiardi" did you miss out!



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Fri 15th June: EVENT: ECMC's Annual Bike Blessing at Ty's Bar NYC, 114 Christopher St. Bikers: Show up between 6pm-7pm, blessing and christening begins at 7:30pm! Fun for all, biker or not!

Saturday 16th June: RIDE: ECMC's Annual Bike Biker Picnic. Join us for this FREE picnic, but you must come by motorcycle – it's bikers and buddies only! Meet-up at 9am for dutch-treat breakfast at Sweet Life Cafe, 147 Christopher St. K-S-U at 10am sharp!

Sunday 17th June: EVENT: Folsom Street East – more details coming in the next newsletter and online.

Saturday 23rd June: RIDE: ECMC's Annual Bike Biker Picnic. Rain Date. (If 16th June is a wash-out, we'll do it on the 23rd!)

Sunday 24th June: RIDE: NYC Gay Pride March! This year the route will change to test the 2019 World Pride and 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Come see the parade or ride in it! Limited tickets at <http://www.sirensnyc.com/pride2018.php>

Wed 11th July 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. (Due to 4th July, we moved to the following week!)

Sat 14th July 20:00 – 21:00: RIDE: Leake & Watts Buddy Ride. As a hat-tip to those at Leake & Watts (Rising Ground) and all the good they go to help foster children, we're going to give the employees and volunteers at Rising Ground a ride on the back of our bikes out of the city and into the mountains!

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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