



## Is It Armageddon Yet?

Well, well, well... COVID-19 is throwing quite a spanner into the gearworks of the start of the 2020 motorcycle riding season.

As this month's newsletter is being cobbled together, New York City has all but shut down and a curfew or "shelter-in-place" order is being discussed. Many shelves in the shops that are open are empty.

We've been watching Italy and Spain on the news, knowing that they are one and two weeks ahead of us.

Empire City MC will host our Open Monthly Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 on a *teleconference*, and not in person, but we're hopeful that things will clear up in a few weeks.

In this issue of Rumbings, we are announcing our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorcycle Weekend and the application to come along is on the last page of this newsletter. Our event is over Memorial Day Weekend, which is in late May. I know it's hard for everyone to even think beyond next week at this time with all that's going on, but I wanted to assure you that we are continuing to plan our event...

**HOWEVER**, due to the present health crisis, we are only taking payment for the run with a personal cheque or money order. If by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 New York State (or your local municipality) is still under a state of emergency, we will NOT deposit the cheques and return them to you for a full refund.

We do all the grocery shopping on the Thursday and Friday before the event, so we need an accurate headcount. We also need to have a rough idea of how many are coming, so we're staging our run fee this year. Early-birds only pay \$50/pp, but ordinary ticket sales are \$60/pp.

We hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe, we also hope to see you on your sexy motorcycle this May at the ECMC Annual Motorcycle Weekend in the Fingerlakes.

## Bikes Out!

As quarantine zones clear up, it's time to get our motorcycles back on the road! We're already planning some fun rides this year, despite the lousy start! Check our calendar on page FOUR, and be sure to visit <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> to see the latest updates added between newsletters.

If you're also a cage-driver, please WATCH FOR MOTORCYCLES as the season has begun already and we're already seeing bikes all over the place. Encourage people to count the motorcycles as they drive or challenging their passengers to find them first – this helps train the minds of people to be on the lookout for motorcycles whilst playing a fun game.

We want you to be happy, healthy and safe!

## BE ADVISED:

- Avoid crowded spaces = Ride Motorcycles
- Do not use public transportation = Ride Motorcycles
- Well ventilated spaces are virus free = Ride Motorcycles
- Protect your nose and mouth = Ride Motorcycles
- Recommended use of Gloves = Ride Motorcycles
- Try not to touch contaminated surfaces = Don't let anyone touch your Motorcycle
- Avoid shaking hands = Do not remove your gloves when getting off the Motorcycle
- Keep a Safe distance from people who sneeze or cough = Ride Motorcycles
- Maintain a positive and prudent attitude = Only way to ride a Motorcycle

\*Feel Free to Share this Important Information



## Spearhead Turns Fifty

On the cusp of the pandemic, I went to Spearhead LDSC of Toronto's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A weekend full of fun, friends and history. Spearhead is an older club that has been around for some time with annual events like Round-Up (their Labour Day Weekend Run), Paint-Yer-Burger fund raiser, and the Boat Cruise formerly known as "Mariposa Bell" as well as many others...



**Meet & Greet ♦ Drag Queen Dirty Bingo ♦ All-You-Can-Eat Brunch ♦ Dancing Boys ♦ Formal Dinner ♦ Sauna Fun ♦ Pool Party**

As usual, Spearhead had a ton of things for us to do and a lot of new and old friends. The Ottawa Knights were there in spades, as were several other clubs and title-holders. Even though on the eve of the Coronavirus, we got together from high and low to celebrate Spearhead's 50<sup>th</sup> year.



### PONDER THIS:

Similarly to New York City, the local Canadian grocery store in what used to be the Maple Leaf Gardens had empty shelves for items like cleaners, paper towels, pasta and shelf-stable stuff; **HOWEVER**, the Marijuana store was well-stocked, quick to assist and full of friendly people who weren't in any panic whatsoever!



## What's Cooking? Drop Biscuits!

While you're stuck at home as COVID-19 wreaks havoc around the world, why not take a stab at baking this month? Here's an article that originally appeared in The Art of Manliness about how to make drop biscuits.

Biscuits have an unfair reputation as being hard to make. Yes, the flaky, perfectly round variety are indeed somewhat of a pain. (And those Pillsbury rolls in a can are darn good.) But most people aren't familiar with a whole category called *drop biscuits*. These biscuits are scone-like in both texture and appearance, but taste just like the delicious fresh biscuit you're craving. Also, they're *crazy easy*.

If you've never made anything in your life, you can make these biscuits. It takes longer for the oven to preheat than it does to mix them up. Make them tonight for dinner and impress your loved ones (or yourself!).

### Ingredients

1 Cup All-Purpose Flour	1/2 Tablespoon Baking Powder
1 Tablespoon Sugar	Pinch of Salt (1/4-1/8 Teaspoon)
1/4 Cup Melted Butter	1/2 Cup Milk

**Preheat oven to 450°F (230°C):** Wait until it hits at least 200°F (95°C) before doing the rest; you don't want the batter sitting too long before baking.



**Melt butter:** This is a pro-tip, as most people are likely just doing it in the microwave. I always hate doing that because of the butter explosions and uneven melting; one part will be boiling while some butter remains unmelted. Just do it on the stovetop in a small pot (especially if you have a gas range since it heats up almost instantly); it only takes a couple minutes and melts way more evenly.



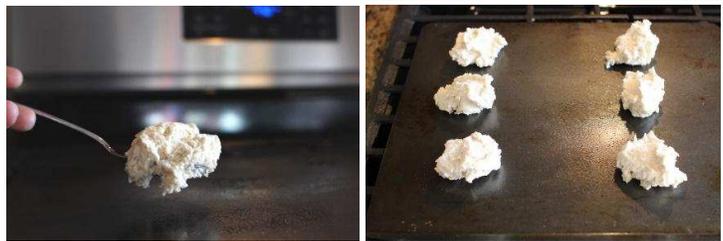
Once melted, using either the microwave or stovetop, let it cool just a bit. Which is why I'm putting this step so early in the directions.



**Mix dry ingredients:** Add flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt to a small mixing bowl. Mix with whisk or fork.

**Add wet ingredients:** Add milk and butter (order doesn't really matter) to the mixing bowl and mix it up!

Using a spatula, mix up the batter. It should come together pretty easily and end up with a consistency that would equate to a really thick pancake batter.



**Dollop onto baking sheet:** Using a big spoon (if you have two spoon sizes in your drawer, use the big one), "drop" a large dollop onto a greased baking sheet. This is where the term drop biscuit comes from. You're going for 6 biscuits, so portion it out accordingly. If there's extra in the mixing bowl, just add it to the smallest biscuits.

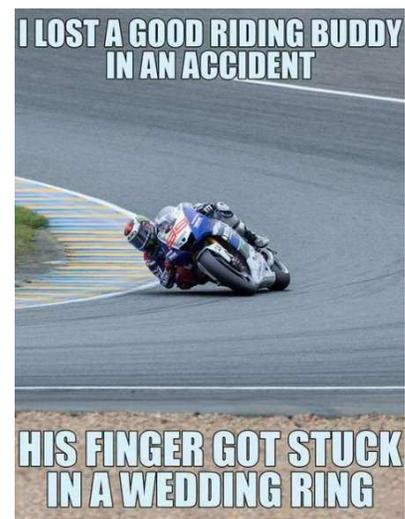
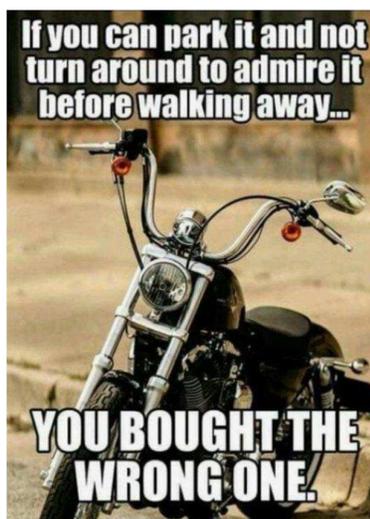
**Bake 10 minutes:** You want the edges to be browning when you pull them out and enjoy them warm! Biscuits are best served basically right out of the oven. Let them sit just a few minutes before dishing up. They're delicious and fluffy on their own, but of course can also accommodate butter, jam, etc.



This recipe can easily be scaled up, mainly if entertaining a bigger group or if you're feeling especially hungry. In general, though, I prefer to keep it small since leftover biscuits are never as good the next day. They're so quick and easy you might as well just make them fresh whenever you want them. *Prep time:* ~10 minutes (likely even less). *Total time from start to finish:* 25 minutes (15 of which is given for the oven to preheat). *Yields:* 6 biscuits (two per person seems about right for adults)

## Biker Funnies

**Best tattoo award goes to...**



# UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April, 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, due to Coronavirus COVID-19, this month's meeting will be held by teleconference only. If you want to attend, reach out to [ChazAntonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April, 09:00 – 17:00:** RIDE: The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Hogs For Hope Run to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. More information and sign up: <https://empireharley.com/event/5439/hogs4hope>

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> May, 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 in.

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mon 25<sup>th</sup> May:** RIDE: Empire City MC's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorcycle Weekend in the Finger Lakes Region! Applications are attached to this newsletter on the last page. Payments will **not** be cashed until after 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and only if we get the "all clear" from the Department of Health – if there are any issues with the virus after 15<sup>th</sup> May at your location or ours, we shall cancel the event and return your personal cheque or money orders. We're only looking for a commitment in cash at this time.

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> – Sun 31<sup>st</sup> May:** EVENT: Bear Albany presents "Bear Pride" in Albany, NY. Information at: <http://www.bearalbany.com>

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 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 in.

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> June, 18:00-21:00:** EVENT: ECMC Bike Blessing at Ty's Bar NYC, 114 Christopher St, New York, NY

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June, 09:00-18:00:** RIDE: ECMC's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual **FREE** Biker Picnic (entry by motorcycle only!) More information coming soon, but we'll meet up at Sweet Life Cafe, 147 Christopher St, New York, NY 10014 at 09:00 for coffee/breakfast, ksu (kick-stands-up) at 10:00 and we'll ride to an undisclosed location for our free biker picnic!

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> June, 10:00-17:00:** EVENT: Folsom Street East, 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary at W 27<sup>th</sup> St & 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, New York, NY

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup> June, 10:00-17:00:** RIDE: NYC Gay Pride March / 51st Anniversary of Stonewall

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> 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 in.

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July, 11:00 – 17:00:** RIDE: Mel & Jose's 4th of July Party and Barbeque

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> July, 09-17:00:** RIDE: River Tubing with Hunterdon County HOGs

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> - Mon 17<sup>th</sup> May:** RIDE: Gay Pride Montréal! The dates are now confirmed! I recommend staying at the Hôtel St-Denis, which is right by the park where all the activities are. It's inexpensive and very close to everything! We have had a lot of success with this trip the last five years and there's still more to see & do! As with the prior years, groups & individuals will go up and come back at their own pace. Everyone will need to make their own accommodation plans and we'll use WhatsApp to coordinate meet-ups for breakfast to chat about the day's plans. If you're NOT RIDING, just meet us up there -- riders and non-riders welcome -- you can even take the train if you like!

**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](http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com) and come along with us on some great rides! Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.** Empire City MC is a member of the Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council.

For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on facebook at <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com>

Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at [newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org](mailto:newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org)

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**Empire City MC's Annual Motorcycle Weekend  
22nd-25th May 2020  
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?

- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> ..... 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.
- Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> ..... Explore upstate New York's Finger Lakes region!
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> ..... Explore upstate New York's Finger Lakes region!
- Mon 25<sup>th</sup> ..... 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 your run fee to Empire City MC. Space is strictly limited to 20 bikers/buddies!

**NEW RUN FEE: Up to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020, \$50/per person, after 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020, \$60/per person.**

**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 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 you at (see map on page 2):  A,  B,  C,  D, or  E

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.

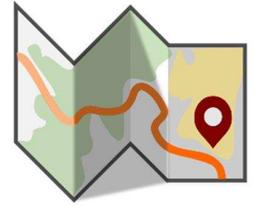
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this application in to our Run Chairman for processing. 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 by mail to:

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



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 26.6 mi (0:60)

**Meet-up Point "B" (Exxon Gas Station, 842 NJ-17, Ramsey, NJ 07446)**

11:00 - 11:15 ... Gas up, bathroom/snack break. Everyone must gas up at this stop!  
 11:15 - 13:30 ... Kickstands up and ride 128 mi (2:15)

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

13:30 - 14:45 ... Butterfield's Café for lunch, then fuel stop at Sunoco 2nd St & Dean St  
 14:45 - 16:45 ... Kickstands up and ride 100 mi (2:00)

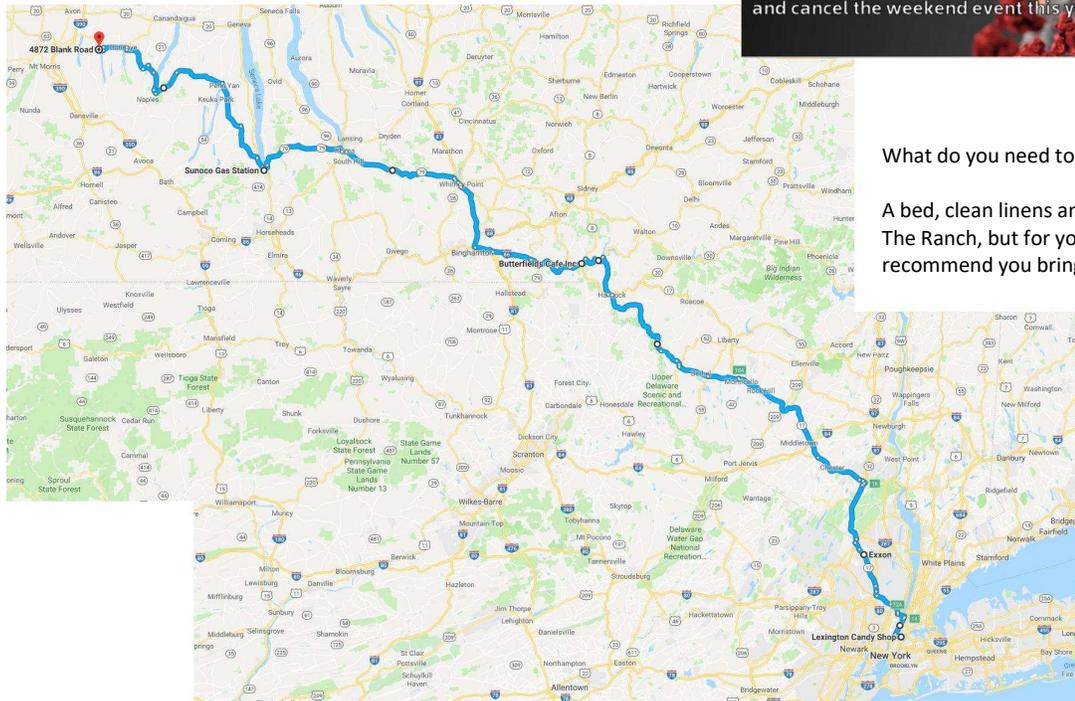
**Meet-up Point "D" (Sunoco Gas Station, N Franklin St & 9th St, Watkins Glen, NY 14891)**

16:45 - 17:00 ... Gas up, bathroom/snack break  
 17:00 - 18:30 ... Kickstands up and ride 68.4 mi (1:30)

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

18:30 ..... Arrive at The Ranch and get your first meal!

**Our COVID-19 promise:**  
 We will hold and not deposit your payment until the 15th of May 2020. At which point, if there are still any quarantines or health issues in respect to the Coronavirus COVID-19, we shall return 100% of all funds and cancel the weekend event this year.



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) ;-)

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- You may view/tweak our interactive route map online at: <http://j.mp/ECMC2020MW>
- The Ranch has play space as well as a pool, hot tub, bar, nature trails and more! Read more about The Ranch at <http://j.mp/TheRanch>
- We will provide gourmet meals at The Ranch on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.
- All lunch-time meals and on-the-road meals are your own responsibility.
- After registering, we will send you a confirmation letter with further details.

