



2021 Highway Bill Unveiled

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure unveiled its 2021 highway bill, titled the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in American Act. As you may remember, every five years Congress is required to reauthorize many of the highway related spending bills it passes. The current highway bill, known as the FAST Act, was given a one-year extension last year and is set to expire in September of 2021. The bill introduced Friday is a key component of the major infrastructure spending push the Biden Administration has made a top priority.



For the last two years, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation and its members have diligently educated and lobbied lawmakers about the need to include motorcyclist specific priorities in a new highway bill. These grassroots efforts were given a boost with the inclusion of three major motorcyclist specific items in the bill. The Democrat lead bill includes the following provisions in its nearly 1,300 pages of text:

1. Expanded prohibition on motorcycle only check points, including prohibiting using the clothing or apparel of riders or their passengers to profile or target bikers.
2. Reestablishment of the Motorcyclist Advisory Council, which gives bikers a voice within the Federal Highway Administration. Included in the bill, a seat on the council is specifically designated for a "representative of a national motorcycle foundation."
3. Inclusion of motorcycles as a specific category that autonomous vehicle studies must account for during the testing of this new technology. Additionally, a motorcyclist rights organization is assigned a seat on an autonomous vehicle working group at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The road ahead for a massive infrastructure plan remains uncertain. Negotiations between the House, Senate and White House will be contentious and as always political.

The 10th Motorcycle Weekend at The Ranch

Aside from a wet and cold ride up on Friday and an "indoor day" on Saturday, Empire City had filled The Ranch up to 100% capacity this past Memorial Day Weekend. Only one guest was unable to make it (due to illness). Once again, K.K. prepared a menu that rivals some of the top restaurants and served six gourmet meals to some very hungry bikers!

As this was our last Motorcycle Weekend at The Ranch, a commemorative plaque was presented to The Ranch Hands, Al Rizzo and Dan Marty for their ten years of solid dedication to fostering our club and the brotherhood that comes with leather and riding motorcycles. We're not saying we're not going back, just that we're moving the event elsewhere starting in 2022.

The next page features select photos from the event, others can be seen on MeWe: <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc>



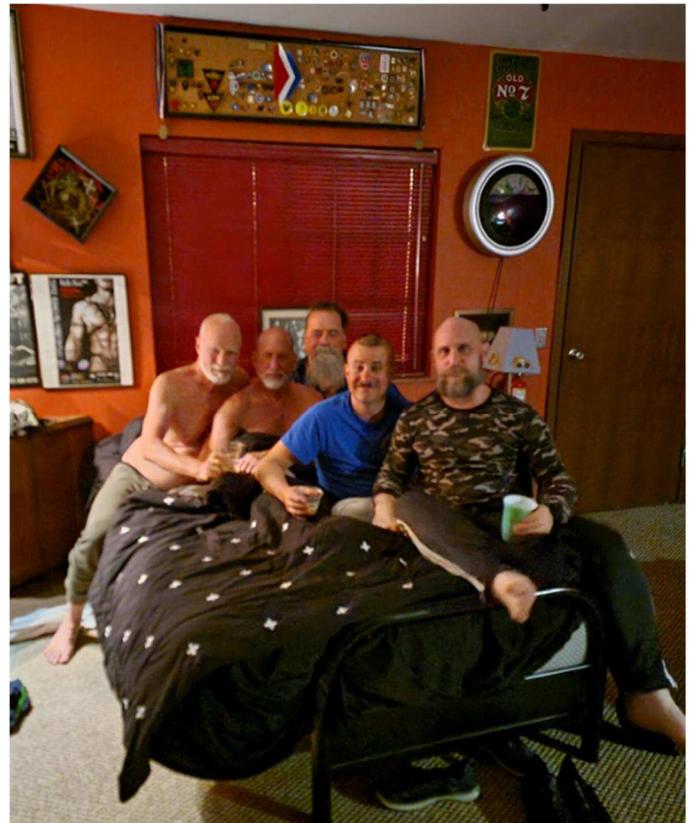
What a great-looking group of men!



Al Rizzo surrounded by bikers! Yum!



It was our Associate Member Jay's birthday!



Meanwhile in the bunkhouse... Pittsburgh folks are about to get Scot drunk on craft beer!



K.K. and just *some* of our kitchen crew

EMPIRE CITY MC's **BIKE BLESSING**

Friday, 18th June 2021

Arrive at 6pm, event starts at 7pm!

Ty's Bar

114 Christopher St, New York, NY 10014



Empire City MC is ecstatic to announce the return of our annual bike christening and blessing. If you have a motorcycle or just dig bikers, come on down to Ty's for our annual bike christening and blessing. If your bike needs to be christened (named), please arrive by 6pm and identify yourself to any Empire City MC member and we will provide you information on how it is done. A blessing of all the motorcycles will follow. Please wear your mask as required (the rules are changing every day) if asked.

As with tradition, the day after the Bike Blessing, Empire City MC will host our 57th ANNUAL FREE BIKER'S PICNIC at a secret, undisclosed location. This event is for persons arriving by motorcycle only. Meet at 9am for breakfast at Sweet Life Café, 147 Christopher St, New York, NY 10014. Kick-stands up with full tanks and empty bladders at 10am. For our 2nd meet-up location, contact Road-Captain@EmpireCityMC.com to obtain the time/address.



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events:

Fri 11th – Sun 13th June: RIDE: Hillside Campground Duck Derby Weekend

Fri 18th June: EVENT: Empire City MC's 57th Annual Bike Blessing at Ty's Bar – New York City

Sat 19th June: RIDE: Empire City MC's 57th Annual Biker Picnic! BIKERS/PASSENGERS ONLY! Meet at 9am for breakfast at Sweet Life Café, 147 Christopher St, New York, NY 10014. Kick-stands up with full tanks and empty bladders at 10am. For 2nd meet-up location, contact Road-Captain@EmpireCityMC.com to obtain the time/address.

Sun 27th June: RIDE: Empire City MC regrets to inform everyone that due to COVID-19, 2021's Gay Pride March is once again CANCELLED; **however**, we are working on a possible pride parade ride of our own, circling New York City. For meet-up location, contact Road-Captain@EmpireCityMC.com to obtain the time/address.

Wed 7th July, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month. This month might be the return to the in-person meetings at The Centre! All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Fri 23rd – Sun 25th July: RIDE: "611" Steam Train Weekend. See last month's newsletter for information about this exciting event!

Fri 28th July – 3rd August: RIDE: Return to the Finger Lakes! We'll be spending seven days in the Finger Lakes, at a centrally located hotel. There will be daily activities, rides, hikes and more! This trip is being coordinated by Treasurer@EmpireCityMC.com and everything will be à la carte. For more information, contact them please.

Wed 4th August, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month. This month might be the return to the in-person meetings at The Centre! All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Thu 5th – Sun 8th August: RIDE: Hillside Illumination Weekend

Fri 13th – Mon 16th August: RIDE: Montréal Pride Weekend (yet to be confirmed)

Sat 28th – Sun 29th August: RIDE: New York International Air (Aeroplane) Show at the Orange County Airport (planning phase)

Wed 1st September, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month. This month might be the return to the in-person meetings at The Centre! All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Fri 3rd – Tues 7th August: EVENT: The Delta International Brotherhood Run (invitational)

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to bookmark <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us on some great rides! Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.**

For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view and download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on social media at <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> where you can chat with us.

Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org
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