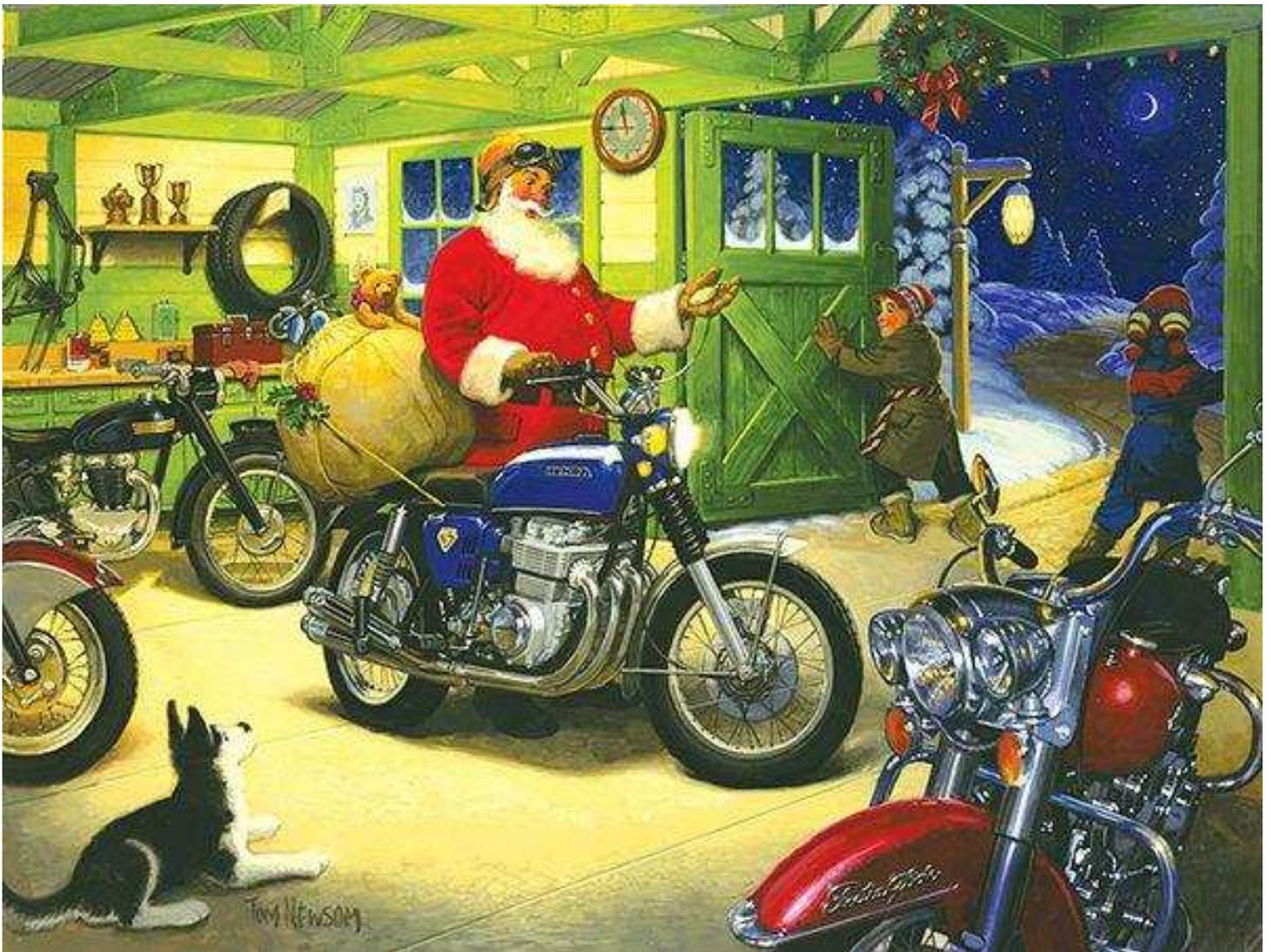




EMPIRE CITY MOTORCYCLE CLUB WISHES YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



As the sun sets upon our second riding season with COVID-19 being the focal point of the entire year, please allow this "new normal" serve as a constant reminder to appreciate not what we're lacking, but what we have in life and to never take friends for granted.

## ECMC's 58<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party in the Rear View

Our first Stonewall Inn appearance for a holiday party after the initial onset of COVID-19 was to me a great success. Maybe there weren't that many people, but those that were there seemed genuinely thrilled to be able to see each other in person. The food and the ambience were most welcoming. It was obvious that the amount of love and concern that we put in to make this party a success was quite evident.

*- Mark W*

Coming together as a unified group on our club's 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary for this event to help people and organizations less fortunate than us humbles my heart to be able to help.

The comradely and friendships of ECMC members, associates, and friends from near and far when our club gathers for such a special evening felt extra special as we navigate our way out of this COVID mess. It was great to catch up with old friends and meet new friends over the weekend.

*- Gary P*

Each year we celebrate our support of Rising Ground for all the wonderful work they do, and this year, as we returned to an in-person celebration at the Stonewall Inn, was no exception. The food was great, and plentiful, and the door prize lottery was co-hosted by our brother Jack and special guest Hibiscus! But the reason for gathering was to celebrate the crew of Rising Ground, and I think we made sure they knew how much we value them, and I think they all had had a wonderful time. I know I did.

*- Erik R*

A festive return to 'near normalcy' - it was, as always, well run and enjoyable, casual affair which I look forward to. Was a pleasure seeing friends in person. Kudos to all involved.

*- Michael C*

It was thrilling to kick off the holiday season by bringing back our Toy Drive! It's a favourite, time-honoured celebration of charity, community, and fraternity. It never ceases to amaze how much joy, magic, and laughter this event brings, especially now. A few new surprises tossed in with an always-delectable spread makes our Toy Drive that much more memorable! I can't wait to see what future events have in store!

*- Jack D*



*(continued next page)*

As always, a favourite event of mine, even though these days, I'm working the entire thing – not a participant.

I dearly miss the days long past when we went to Raymond's and had run of the entire place, including a cost check, bar, and a buffet that was always outstanding... but wait! We seem to have all of that back and more at Stonewall Inn!

Yes. This is a "must do" event on my books, even if I wasn't an officer of the club!

- Chaz A



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### On The Road with Boot Black Jack

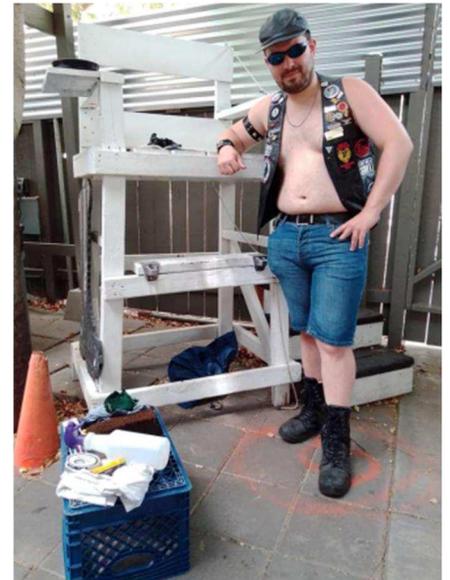
Empire City MC's "Boy Jack" has been honing his bootblacking skills during his travels. After breaking in his kit during the 2019 Harbor Masters Run in Portland, ME, he's been taking his skills on the road.

The photo on the right is from his stint at the Barracks in Palm Springs, CA on what *would have been* NYC Pride 2020. This past June, he highlighted his first trip to Florida at the Ramrod in Wilton-Manors. Most recently, he guest bootblacked at our very own Eagle this past weekend at their club night.

Proud not only to represent ECMC and the leather contingent, a portion of his proceeds will benefit various charities, including SAGE, where he has been a proud volunteer for over a decade!

Next time you see Boy Jack, be sure to give him a hug and let him work his magic!

He'll be sure to pay it forward!

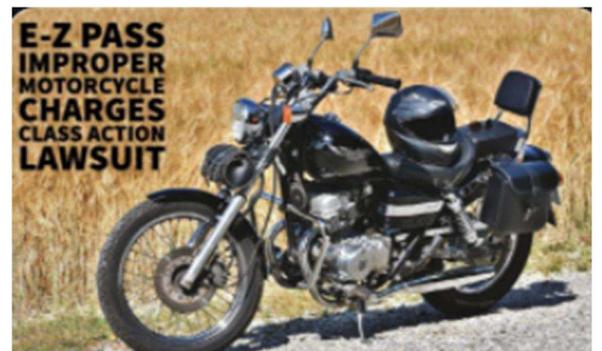


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### E-Z Pass Lawsuit Filed – Please Register!

On October 7, 2021, Sauder Schelkopf filed a class action lawsuit (<https://www.sauderschelkopf.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/E-Z-Pass-Complaint-as-filed.pdf>) on behalf of E-ZPass customers with motorcycle E-ZPass transponders. It has been alleged that individuals with motorcycle transponders have reported being incorrectly classified as other vehicle types, including as cars and trucks, which has led to the collection of excessive fees.

We are looking for others who were/are similarly affected by E-Z Pass' transponders misclassifying your vehicle and over-charging your bank card or account. Please visit this website to self-identify: <https://www.sauderschelkopf.com/investigations/e-z-pass-improper-motorcycle-charges-class-action-lawsuit/> or this shorter link: <https://bit.ly/ezlawsuit> -- there is no cost to you to join this class action lawsuit.



## A New Law to End Drunk Driving – Will it work?

In the United States, there are roughly 28 people who die in drunk-driving crashes each day — that's one person every 52 minutes... that is roughly 10,000 deaths per year. President Biden's \$1 trillion infrastructure bill contains a provision to require automakers to find a way to use technology to significantly reduce this scourge.

Starting in 2026, automakers will have to install technology that detects and prevents drunk drivers from operating their vehicles.

Under the new law, the car must “passively monitor the performance of a driver of a motor vehicle to accurately identify whether that driver may be impaired.” Over the next few years, the Transportation Department will assess and choose the technological solution(s).

That technology could be in-car, infrared cameras that monitor driver behaviour and attentiveness. If the system detected impairment, it would issue a warning and, if the behaviour persists, pull the car over to the side of the road and self-disable.

Alternatively, it could be built-in sensors that measure alcohol levels such as an "interlock" device. Under current New York law, anyone convicted of driving while intoxicated must install such an "interlock" device for, at least, 6 months. This device is a breathalyser that works in sync with your ignition. Blow too much and the car will not start or continue to operate. The breathalyser option arguably fails to comport with the law's requirement of a "passive" system and any option could face privacy challenges in the courts.

With that said, the new law a courageous and impressive attack on a long-standing problem in this county. “We applaud the long overdue effort. It’s monumental,” said Alex Otte, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Otte described the new law as the “single most important legislation” in MADDs’s history that marks “the beginning of the end of drunk driving.”



## UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

### Some Featured Rides & Events from our calendar:

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 20:00 – 21:00:** MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month by teleconference only at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM> - all interested gay motorcycle owners encouraged to attend! Elections of new officers to be held at this meeting!

**January 2022 - TBD:** EVENT: Installation of new ECMC Officers. We might be doing it differently this coming year!!

**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 20:00 – 21:00:** MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month by teleconference only at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM> - all interested gay motorcycle owners encouraged to attend!

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org)  
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