



## Last Call for ECMC's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorcycle Weekend

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorcycle Weekend will take place in two weeks! It's too late to register by mail, but you might be able to still register online at <https://ecmc-mw-2019.eventbrite.com>

This event has all the makings of a long-weekend-outdoor run, meals, booze, rides, fun! This event has been a cornerstone of the start of riding season for Empire City MC for the past eight years and was based around the former ECMC Bike Blessing and Biker's Picnic held at Valinor Farms in the 80s and 90s. Although the ECMC bike blessing and biker picnic are now held during Gay Pride Week in New York City, the Motorcycle Weekend over Memorial Day Weekend has always been a source of joy for many.

Three gourmet dinners, three fantastic breakfasts, comfortable indoor accommodations (no tenting required!), open bar every evening, thanks to our gracious hosts, Al & Dan. The new hot tub has been installed, the pool is open and ready and the playroom in barn is ready for anyone whom chooses to use it! All this for \$40.

If you cannot ride up on Friday, you can come Saturday instead. We want you to come and we're flexible – just reach out to the Run Chairman, [ChazAntonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) to make any special arrangements. There is NO run application attached to the newsletter this month as there is no time left to mail it in. We will have blank applications for those who register online.



## United 93 / Three Rivers / Arktos: Bears in the Woods

Last year we went to the Arktos Bear Run in New London, Ohio and had a great time – we said we'd come back in 2019, and we're planning to do just that; however, this time, we're going to break the trip to the run up into two journeys and add two destinations along the way: A stop-over on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August at the United 93 Memorial site just outside of Pittsburgh, PA and staying the night in Pittsburgh, PA to visit our friends from the Three Rivers MC!



Whether you're from New York, Pittsburgh or somewhere along the way, if you're interested in coming along with us on this trip (bikes or not), we have pre-paid a fantastic cabin at the campground with air conditioning, refrigerator, microwave and beds for eight men! The reservation has been pre-paid for by Chaz of ECMC, so please reach out to him at [ChazAntonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) to reserve your spot in the bunkhouse! Please note: The run fee is a separate fee and needs to be paid to Arktos directly by any attendees.

Although the [Arktos Bears website](#) is temporarily down, be assured, there will be an Arktos "Bears in the Woods 2019" at Freedom Valley Campground in New London, Ohio the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> August 2019! You will not go hungry and you will not go to bed horny! These bears know how to treat you right.

You need not bunk with us if you prefer to tent it, or have an RV; however, if you want to stay in our bunkhouse, the cost is \$85 for the weekend, payable to Chaz.



## Pop in your TARDIS and go back to the gay leather bars of the 70s

Oh, the glory days! Mandatory leather dress codes at the door, slings in use over the bar, very active back rooms, cigar smoking leathermen with chaps, boots, harnesses, caps and all the sweat that goes with it. If you were you alive in the 70s or 80s and remember this scenario, you're blessed. Gentrification and "inclusion" (I use in quotes, as it really does just the opposite for leathermen) have crushed the leather bars in New York City. When we tell stories to the next generation of men, their eyes open in disbelief at the stories simply because they have never experienced anything quite like The Mineshaft, the original NYC Eagle, The Spike or other classic NYC leather bars.



Well, you can relive these experiences (or live them for the first time) when you go to "Easter in Berlin", a weekend of leather debauchery in Berlin, Germany. Thousands of leathermen descend upon Berlin days before the Easter weekend loaded with energy drinks to keep them going for the next seven days. Last month, I visited for my very first time and was very impressed with what I saw.

I particularly enjoyed the fact that mobile phones are naysayed from the get-go, as you can see in the photo above, which I stealthfully took of a placard on the bar top at "New Action" which reads "This is a place for talking, drinking and fuck." I wish I could have taken photos of the bar, the back room, the piss trough and the men that were there – but it's not allowed. It wasn't allowed at any of the venues, and rightfully so!

I did manage to snap photos of the Puppy's Walkies on Sunday morning. This contingent of pups and handlers is a drop in the bucket of the number of leathermen there.

Over 7,000 leatherman went to "Snax" a leather sex/leather dance party at Lab.Oratory, a disused four-floor eastern German industrial manufacturing plant which has been converted into a multi-dance floor, multi-play room, 40+ slings, piss-tubs and more space for men only. The photo on the right is of the two lines awaiting entry to snax – the lines died down about 3am but the party went on until noon the next day. Think about it: 40+ slings and 7,000+ leathermen. Oh my! (in a George Takei voice)



I'm still awe-struck from everything that went on and the sheer number of venues and events for the weekend – many not in the official programme. Many I can't even write about in this article!

If you're a leatherman or are into leathersex and have never been to Berlin, book your ticket now – seriously. This place is everything that we used to have in New York City before the crackdowns and disneyfication of the city. They make me want to learn German and move there!

## Biker-wear is what now?

The dress-code at the "BOG Biker Party" at Scheune in Berlin read "no textiles". Odd. I wondered what they meant as I showed up in my boots, 501s, chaps, shirt, colours (vest), harness, leather arm and wrist bands, muir cap and leather jacket with overlay – the typical way I would ride my motorcycle. The denim overlay, 501s and t-shirt were verboten! They were the textiles. Well, this is how I ride motorcycle, how do *you* ride motorcycle? Easy! A leather onesie or two-piece riding suit! Gay leather bikers evolved differently in Germany than in the United States. They embrace the entire leather-clad suits for riding, not the Leather/Levi design adopted here. They allowed me in and they were all dressed in full riding suits – it was sexy and different. I still wonder how easy it is to take a piss when wearing one of those suits though!



## A motorcycle is what now?

Do you remember the article a few months ago about what defines a motorcycle (a/k/a is the Slingshot a bike or a car?) Well, it seems we're not the only people asking that question, as National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is also seeking clarification regarding the proper definition of a motorcycle. Read this article from the Motorcycle Riders Foundation:



For Immediate Release

April 12, 2019

Letter sent to NHTSA Seeking Clarification on the Definition of a Motorcycle

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation would like to thank Congressman Michael Burgess (TX) and Congressman Tim Walberg (MI) for a letter they sent this week to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) seeking clarification regarding the definition of a motorcycle. In addition to Congressman Burgess and Congressman Wahlberg, the following U.S. Representatives joined their colleagues in signing the letter: Congressman Troy Balderson (OH), Congressman Doug Lamborn (CO), Congressman Collin Peterson (MN), Congressman Steve Stivers (OH) and Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA). The current definition is decades old and so broad that new vehicles on our roadways, with numerous carlike features, are defined as motorcycles.

"As you know, NHTSA has long defined a motorcycle as a 'motor vehicle with motive power having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.' While this was a clear characterization for many years, the recent emergence of a new class of vehicle that has attributes of both automobiles and motorcycles has created confusion," the members wrote. "We respectfully request a response that describes whether NHTSA believes the current federal definition of a motorcycle is appropriate and if not, what NHTSA is doing to address this issue."

The ambiguity of the classification of these new vehicles as either motorcycles or autocycles has created a patchwork of rules and regulations at the state level for licensing, registration and insurance. The MRF believes that a review of this definition is needed and would help provide clarity to states when making decisions on how to appropriately regulate them. We thank these seven members of Congress for seeking clarification from NHTSA on this issue of importance to motorcyclists.

President of the MRF, Kirk "Hardtail" Willard, stated "For three years our members have asked us to tackle the federal definition of a motorcycle. This letter is the first step in helping us understand the current thought process of NHTSA and hopefully opens up a dialogue on the topic. We thank this bipartisan group of Congressmen for their leadership on this issue."

Link to the Letter: [https://burgess.house.gov/uploadedfiles/04112019\\_burgess\\_walberg\\_letter\\_to\\_nhtsa.pdf](https://burgess.house.gov/uploadedfiles/04112019_burgess_walberg_letter_to_nhtsa.pdf)

About Motorcycle Riders Foundation: The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) provides leadership at the federal level for states' motorcyclists' rights organizations as well as motorcycle clubs and individual riders. The MRF is chiefly concerned with issues at the national and international levels that impact the freedom and safety of American street motorcyclists. The MRF is committed to being a national advocate for the advancement of motorcycling and its associated lifestyle and works in conjunction with its partners to help educate elected officials and policymakers in Washington and beyond.

# UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

**Wed 1<sup>st</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 booked into.

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> – Mon 27<sup>th</sup> May:** RIDE: Empire City's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorcycle Weekend in the fingerlakes! (admission by motorcycle only!) This event is filling up – please register soon or risk being left out. Registration must be completed on-line at this point – do not mail it in to ensure you're properly registered. Do NOT show up without a confirmation letter!

**Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May – Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> June:** RIDE: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual LGBT Motorcycle Weekend at Rainbow Mountain in the Pocono Mountains

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> June 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting.

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup> June 11:00-17:00:** RIDE: 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Philadelphia Gay Pride March 2019. Meet-up at 13th & Spruce St, Philadelphia, PA

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> June 18:00-21:00:** EVENT: ECMC's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual \*FREE\* Bike Blessing at Ty's Bar – just show up from 6pm-7pm, the blessing and christening will be at 8:00pm. If this is your bike's first time, you can get your bike christened (named) – so have your bike's name ready – be creative and choose something that calls to you.

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June 09:00-17:00:** RIDE: ECMC's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual \*FREE\* Biker Picnic (admission by motorcycle only!) Meet up on your motorcycle at 9am at Sweet Life Café, 147 Christopher St, New York, NY 10014. We shall depart at 10am promptly to an undisclosed location somewhere within an hour's journey! This is a motorcycle-mandatory event. Lunch will be provided.

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> June 18:00-21:00:** EVENT: Folsom Street East, 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary. Come by Empire City MC's booths and get your photo taken on one of our sexy bikes, get a free gift or just say hello! FSE will be twice its normal size this year due to World Pride.

**Sun 30<sup>th</sup> June 12:00-16:00:** RIDE: NYC Gay Pride March. Empire City MC leads the gay pride march with the Sirens MC for this, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stonewall and World Pride! Don't miss this one! If you're a biker and want to ride in the parade, visit <http://bit.ly/2019worldpride> to register. Hurry! Registration is limited to 200 motorcycles!

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> July 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting.

**Thu 1<sup>st</sup> – Sun 4<sup>th</sup> August:** RIDE: Empire City MC will visit the United 93 Crash Site Memorial, stay overnight in Philadelphia to hang with the Three Rivers MC, the following morning, it's on to the Arktos Bear Run in New London, OH. This four-day event will proved to be quite fun for all! Contact [ChazAntonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) for more details and to register.

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> August 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting.

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> – Mon 19<sup>th</sup> August:** RIDE: Montréal Gay Pride Weekend! ECMC has been going to this event for the past four years and we always have some fun! Montréal is hopping during their gay pride and if you don't have any fun, you didn't try! Contact [ChazAntonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) for more details and to register.

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> – Sun 15<sup>th</sup> September:** RIDE: Empire City's Week-Long Anniversary Ride to Provincetown, MA! This is still in the works.

**Fri 11<sup>th</sup> – Mon 14<sup>th</sup> October:** EVENT: Empire City MC's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend.

**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 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.

We're on facebook at <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com>

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