



ECMC's 2020 Motorcycle Weekend a Success During COVID-19!

Our 9th Annual Motorcycle Weekend in the Finger Lakes region took place this past Memorial Day Weekend. We waited until the very last moment to commit to the event, or cancelling it outright due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our first priority is the health and safety of our hosts, guests and members, so it's not needed to be said that we were very concerned of having a gathering of twenty people in a confined space. We had a multiple-point checklist (including regular touch-less IR temperature checks) to ensure (as best we could) our hosts, guests and ourselves were free of COVID-19 plus we enforced a no outerwear/footwear policy inside of The Ranch during the entire event. We did not want anyone getting sick because of our event, and I'm happy to report that two weeks following the event, no symptoms have been reported from any of our members, guests nor hosts!

The weekend was packed with fantastic people from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, New York City and elsewhere! The only rain encountered on the entire trip (whilst we were riding) was a light mist for about half an hour as we were in the Horseheads, NY area as we headed up towards The Ranch – it was so light that the road remained dry.

My very own husband, K.K. once again planned feasts twice daily for everyone, simply amazing food which was enjoyed by all. We had a "Cards Against Humanity" game going on Saturday night for several hours, the bar was hopping and the playroom was quite active as well! We treated the entire property as a sterile zone, keeping everyone as safe as we could.

We went on rides around the Finger Lakes area every day! With so many businesses closed, or operating under special to-go only environments, we focused upon outdoor sites such as Niagara Falls (US side only), Mt Hope Cemetery (where we saw the graves of Susan B Anthony and Samuel Douglass), many craft beer breweries in the area (who all offered to-go cans and growlers), Highland Park, the birthplace of the Mormon religion (the Joseph Smith farm in Palmyra, NY) and many, many other sites which can be seen from *outside*, with our masks on, safe from crowds!

We owe a world of gratitude to our hosts, Al Rizzo and Dan Marty for trusting us with their home in these harrowing times. Nearly everyone at this event had been locked in their own homes for over two months, terrified of getting deliveries, going grocery shopping, or even to open a window to get fresh air. This wonderful weekend where we could actually socialise with reduced fear of getting infected was thoroughly appreciated.

Oh, and the Tide Pods™ shots were delicious! It's true: consuming Tide Pods™ kept the virus away, the millennials love it!

Next year will be our 10th Anniversary of this event, and might be the last one we host at The Ranch, so be alert of applications for ECMC's 2021 Motorcycle Weekend coming to this newsletter in Q1 2021.



More Cancelled Events ☹️

I'm sorry to report the following events have been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns:

- Bear Albany presents "Bear Pride" in Albany, NY
- ECMC Bike Blessing at Ty's Bar
- Folsom Street East
- New York Stonewall March / Pride Parade
- Mel & Jose's 4th of July Party
- The 2020 Delta Run



Six Years of "Rumblings"

What began as an occasional listing of major events and rides transmitted by e-mail to our friends, associates and fellow clubs became a proper newsletter in June 2014 when all of our events for our 50th Anniversary became more than a simple e-mail could handle. Since then, we've been publishing a monthly newsletter with very few exceptions.

In the years before computers were commonplace, let alone e-mail and the internet, nearly every club produced their own newsletter to let people know what was events and related news was going on – the gay leather/biker bars were our "social network" where we spoke of things like the Vietnam War Draft, AIDS/HIV, who's doing what and so on. Club newsletters which were placed in bars and mailed (postal mail) were pretty much the only way to promote club events. They were an important and integral part of our very closeted society.

In 2014, it was unusual to see a club newsletter return to being created, let alone flourish as a dependable source of news for what a club which was at one point just one step above a "secret society", but Rumblings was just that. The only other club newsletter created on a monthly basis that I am aware of are "The Unicorn Horn", a publication of the Unicorn, MC in Cleveland, Ohio. It would be unfair to leave out Spearhead LDSC's "Philia" newsletter, but I believe that one is quarterly.

If you're interested in pondering back in our prior issues of Rumblings, you can find ALL of our newsletters online at <http://empirecitymc.com/newsletter/> -- we've had many great articles over the years, and there are more to come!



Empire City MC's Annual Biker's Picnic

Due to the fact that our host bar, Ty's, remains closed during the COVID-19 global pandemic, our Annual Bike Blessing has been cancelled this year; **however**, on 20th June 2020 we will host the Biker's Picnic with a few changes to encourage social-distancing:

*** MOTORCYCLE ONLY EVENT - YOU MUST ATTEND BY MOTORCYCLE! ***

09:00am - Meet up on 1st Ave between 106th and 107th Streets. There will be take-out coffee, pastries and breakfast sandwiches available for purchase from La Tropezienne Bakery, 2131 1st Ave (one block from our meet-up point). Please have a full tank and an empty bladder (there is fuel near this location!)

10:00am - We shall depart promptly at 10:00 to the secondary meet-up location roughly 75 miles north, arriving by 11:30am.

11:30am - We will all meet up at Snake's home (288 Echo Rd, Bloomingburg, NY 12721), and at noon we'll ride from there to a local road-side take-away place for lunch, the meal courtesy of Empire City MC.

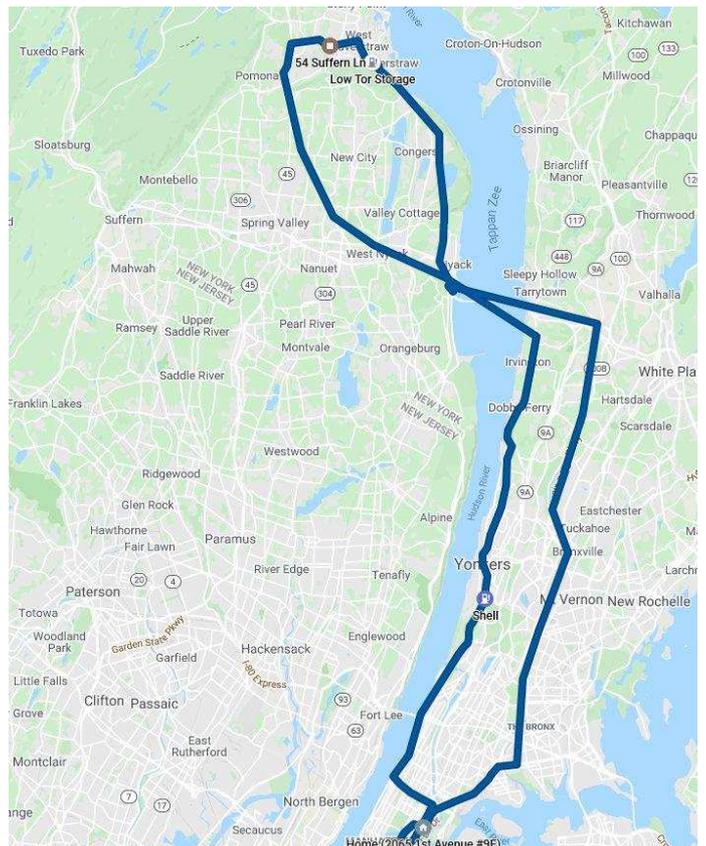
12:30pm - We will depart lunch to go for an exciting and scenic ride in the Catskills Region, returning back to NYC, planning on allowing everyone to be home by 7pm.

Any questions? E-mail our Road captain at RoadCaptain@EmpireCityMC.com

ECMC 2020 Rides So Far:

Since the thaw, we've been riding (cautiously) to safe venues and sights that we can see without crowds. It's been really great to get out of the house and get some fresh air (safely), plus the meditative state that riding a motorcycle brings!

Here are some photos from our 2020 journeys so far:





But is it a “motorcycle”?

The photo below of the lawnmower motorcycle was discovered on the internet by our friend David R – we’re still trying to figure out if it qualifies as a “motorcycle” or not, and the jury’s not out yet!! 😊

The photo to the left seems to be more of what we might consider as a “motorcycle”!



Then there’s the very odd-looking “unicycle” on the left, which I think many people to see, would love to try riding – but where the hell does the number tag go and what about brake/head lights?

How To [Safely] Carry A Concealed-Carry Gun On A Motorcycle

By Luke McCoy

There’s no “one size fits all” approach to riding a motorcycle with a concealed carry pistol. A lot of how you can learn to be comfortable riding a motorcycle with your CC pistol is taking a look at how you’re situated on the bike.

Three basic seating configurations (with a lot of varying extremes) are:

- Forward leaning
- Upright
- Backward leaning

Depending on your motorcycle ride style, this will change where you can fit a concealed carry pistol in your waistband. And overall, we do recommend you ride with an Inside the Waistband (IWB) holster that offers high-retention. Wherever you wind up holstering, make sure it’s in a place that will stay with you no matter where the bike goes.

1. Forward Leaning Motorcycle Concealed Carry Styles (Racing, etc.)

Motorcycles that require you to maintain a strong forward leaning position can make it tricky to keep it on an Inside the Waistband (IWB) concealed



carry holster. For these situations, if you're able to get a pocket holster and fit it to the inside chest of your jacket, you can reasonably guarantee it's secured.

The only other available space is behind the back in a radical 5 o'clock or 6 o'clock position. In terms of concealed carry holster placement, this isn't particularly ideal. Unfortunately, it will print heavily depending on how you ride. It's also not in the most secure location for high speed and sharp manoeuvring.

If you think you'll be traveling at a fast rate of speed and making sharp turns, secure your pistol in a pocket holster secured within the chest pocket of a thick motorcycle jacket.

2. Upright Motorcycle Concealed Carry Styles (Touring, etc.)

With an upright seating arrangement, you have a wide degree of choices. Ideally, the most comfortable for an IWB holster will usually be within a 4 to 5 o'clock (around the kidney) or strong-side carry (3 o'clock). Because of where your legs are aligned, appendix carry isn't much of an option.

If you're bringing a passenger along for the ride, have them straddle you as they normally would and just give them a heads-up as to where your firearm is situated. No matter where they are, they shouldn't be situated in any way, shape or form so their body crosses the muzzle of the gun. That shouldn't be too difficult given the above recommendations.

3. Backwards Leaning Motorcycles (Custom Choppers, etc.)

Some motorcycles can put you almost in a fully reclined position.

This allows you to reasonably attempt an appendix carry depending on the size of your gun. If that's not comfortable, try a strong-side carry. For this riding style, that's the ideal position for an inside the waistband holster. Alternate suggestions are like the forward leaning motorcycle tips – pocket holster within the chest pocket of your jacket. If that's not possible, always ensure it's locked into a high retention holster.

4. Final Considerations for Motorcycle CCW

Your riding style, your motorcycle, your gun – your rules. That said, whenever possible always try to ensure that your firearm is kept in either a pocket holster within a zipped coat pocket OR a high-retention kydex or leather IWB holster. This ensures positive pressure is applied to the firearm in a safe manner.

Here's a few other brief suggestions:

- Always secure the trigger guard inside a holster of some kind.
- Always keep the firearm on your person unless you plan on locking it in a cargo box.
- Never wear a holster that lets your gun flag other drivers (or your passenger).
- Ankle holsters aren't helpful for motorcycle rides.
- Try out different positions until you find one (or two) that work best with your riding style.

Disclaimer

Empire City MC has no opinion of ownership of legal, licenced weapons nor the carrying of such weapons on your motorcycle or person; however, ECMC is a peaceful organisation and as such, does not tolerate illegal use of such weapons. In order to carry a concealed weapon in New York City, a special licence/permit is required (which is quite difficult to obtain).



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Keep Calm and Ride On

As 2020 progresses, it's becoming obvious that ALL events involving more than 10 people are being cancelled. The Delta Run (the LAST outdoor leather run on the east coast) just cancelled their annual Labour Day Run, leaving NOTHING on the calendar until the snow comes. Even Ty's has no idea when they will be able to re-open.

That being said, Empire City MC will continue to have official motorcycle rides nearly every weekend with destinations that are naturally social-distancing or social-distancing friendly.

We shall post them on our calendar at <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> as well as here on our facebook group.

ALL safe motorcycle riders are welcomed to come along! Just read the information for each ride to ensure your riding skills are appropriate for each ride.



Some Featured Rides & Events:

Sat 20th June, 09:00-18:00: RIDE: ECMC's 56th Annual **FREE** Bike Blessing and Biker Picnic (entry by motorcycle only!) Meet up on 1st Ave between 106th and 107th Streets in Manhattan. There will be take-out coffee, pastries and breakfast sandwiches available for purchase from La Tropezienne Bakery. Please have a full tank and an empty bladder (there is fuel near this location!) We shall depart (KSU) promptly at 10:00 to an undisclosed location roughly 75 miles north. At 11:30, we will have our Bike Blessing on site, then ride to a take-away burger/grill for lunch in the local area, the meal courtesy of Empire City MC. At 12:30, we will depart lunch to go for an exciting and scenic ride in the Catskills Region, returning back to NYC, planning on allowing everyone to be home by 19:00. Any questions? E-mail our Road captain at RoadCaptain@EmpireCityMC.com

Wed 1st July, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month now hosted on Zoom Teleconference due to COVID-19. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Join our Zoom Meeting with your computer at: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/959200515?pwd=NVVja2tZd0pndzFuU1hWaEZZRC84dz09>

Sat 25th July, 09-17:00: RIDE: Delaware River Tubing Trip with Hunterdon County HOGs (\$19.95/pp, prepaid)

Wed 5th August, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month now hosted on Zoom Teleconference due to COVID-19. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Join our Zoom Meeting with your computer at: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/959200515?pwd=NVVja2tZd0pndzFuU1hWaEZZRC84dz09>

Fri 14th - Mon 17th August: RIDE: Gay Pride Montréal! We recommend staying at the Hôtel St-Denis, which is close to the park where all the stage activities are. It's inexpensive and very close to everything! We have had a lot of success with this trip over 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! 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/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're also on facebook at <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com> where you can chat with us.

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