



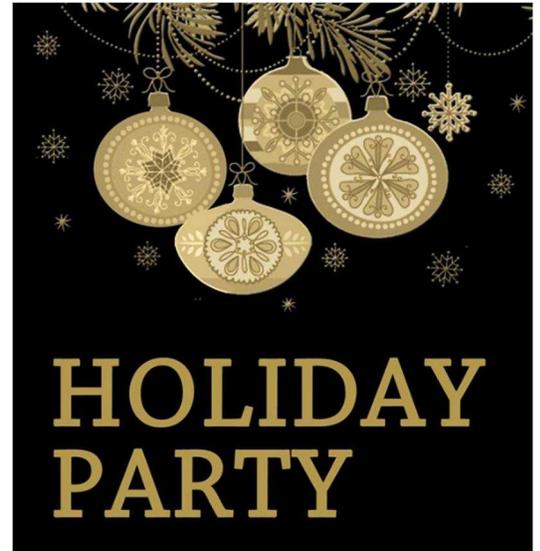
Empire City MC's 57th Annual Holiday Party and Gift Drive

It's with heavy heart we report that we cannot host our annual Holiday Party and Gift Drive for Rising Ground this year, as Stonewall Inn (our venue) remains closed at this time. In lieu of a physical gathering, we are going to host a huge online Zoom party and instead of bringing a gift, we've asked Rising Ground to set up a "wish list" on Amazon of the things they desire to re-gift to the kids under their care. Here is what you need to know:

Step 1) Make a donation directly to Rising Ground on Amazon.com by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/ECMC2020>

Step 2) Join the ECMC Zoom party at 6pm on 5th December 2020 by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/2020ECMC>

We really wish we could celebrate with everyone in person, but that is not safe to do at this time. Rising Ground is in dire need of gift cards for their children and teens, so please give what you can.



Empire City MC's Extended Labour Day Weekend Pennsylvania Tour



If there's one positive take-away from this year, it's that we've put more miles on our motorcycles than we have any other season, except for our 50th Anniversary. Staying in small, health-vetted groups, we managed to go from New York City to Philadelphia, then on to Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and then back home to New York City. With the daily touring rides, we clocked over 1,000 miles on this trip alone and we had no rain whatsoever on the entire trip! Score!

Much thanks to all the people and clubs that made this trip possible, especially our hosts! Although we didn't see any Philadelphians, we did see many members of the Three Rivers Leather Club, and the Pennsmen! The pool party was quite the treat too!

There are many photos on our facebook group: <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com> for you to check out.

Cheesecake to Cheesesteak – A New York to Philadelphia Experience

Did you know that Empire City MC has three members in the Philadelphia area? Yep! New York City and Philadelphia are about one to two hours travel time (depending on traffic) and this year, we've held several events and rides in the Philly area to better engage with our brothers from there.

In the first weekend of October, our member Gary P was cleared to ride his motorcycle again, following his elbow surgery. No time was wasted – we hosted a weekend based at his and Earl D's homes in Philadelphia. It included two touring rides, a catered roof-deck sunset dinner party, outdoor dining at Morning Glory Café and Fitzwater Café, cocktails at the newly re-opened Bike Stop and proper Cheesesteak Subs in a park setting.

As always, COVID-19 screening and routine temperature checking were done to mitigate COVID-19. With this plague expected to last up until 2023, it's important that all of us start to learn to live with this "new normal" and not hide. Life is full of risks, such as riding motorcycles, crossing the street and eating at McDonald's, with proper mitigation, we can carry on like this as long as needed whilst the disbelieving non-mask wearers will eventually die off. Just be safe, wear your mask, wash your hands and ride on!



Empire City MC Quietly Celebrates its 56th Anniversary

Thanks to outdoor dining, all active full members and a few associate members and friends of Empire City MC were able to have a pleasant anniversary dinner at the upscale Italian restaurant, Da Claudio in the financial district of NYC. We intentionally kept the gathering small due to COVID-19. We had slated a motorcycle ride for the day before, but had decided to cancel it at the last minute due to weather and attendance concerns.

56 is a remarkable age for any gay organisation and we owe much to our founding members for taking a risk in the pre-Stonewall Riots days for forming our club. Although our membership rises and falls, we've survived so much distain and hate from so many people over the years and have grown to be fully accepted by the general public and remain relevant even today.



We're excited to see that there as been in influx of interest in membership for the club recently. We've received a number of sincere letters from gay motorcyclists who are wanting to know more about ECMC. We hope that they hang out with us, attend our events and rides and are encouraged that even with COVID-19, we can all still do things together.

Our annual election of officers us upon us in December, so it's time once again to start thinking about the following year, our 57th year. What will we do? Where will we go? Whomever is in the executive board has great influence over this.

Open General Meetings: What are they?

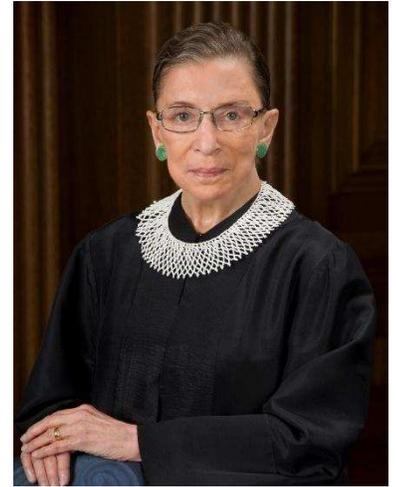
Empire City MC, like most motorcycle clubs, have monthly meetings to discuss rides, events, news and make all the decisions that affect our club. They are traditionally held in person, most often at The Centre – but with COVID-19, they have been online mostly. All persons interested are welcomed to participate by going to <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM> at 20:00 on the 1st Wednesday of each month (2nd Wednesday if the 1st Wednesday is a bank holiday). It is a great way to get to know our club and if you're interested in joining, to meet our members. Put it in your calendar now and check it out!



Supreme Court & Politics in General – We’re Riding for Biden!

It’s been an interesting four years to say the least. World-wide leaders were polled this month to see which leaders they trusted most, and Trump is less trusted than Putin and Xi and the U.S. is hitting historic lows of approval from its closest allies. This is indeed a sad state of affairs. I know we’re preaching to the choir about voting blue this coming November, since nearly all of us are fully aware that most of the republicans, since the Reagan era, have despised people not exactly like themselves – gays, lesbians, bisexuals, persons of colour, females and the list goes on... and under Trump, it’s been much worse! The only thing preventing his unconstitutional executive orders has been the court system. But...

That court system has been packed by Trump with a very enabling republican senate whereas President Barack Obama *nominated* over four hundred individuals for federal judgeships during his presidency, but congress only confirmed 329 of those judgeships. In Trumps four years, he has had 218 Article III judges nominated, including two associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, 53 judges for the United States courts of appeals, 161 judges for the United States district courts, and two judges for the United States Court of International Trade.



Now, due to the sad untimely death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the republicans find themselves in the same situation Obama had at the end of his term: a vacancy in the Supreme Court. But, if you remember correctly, the senate refused to hold hearings for Obama’s nomination because just hours after Scalia’s death, Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that he would block any such move. It was an election year, he said; “the American people should have a voice in deciding who should sit on the court, and the appointment should wait until after the election.” Senate Republicans joined with him in blocking the appointment.



Senate Republicans may be forced to eat their own words four years after they blocked Barack Obama from filling a vacant supreme court seat in an election. The circumstances are the same — only the years, the names and the sides have changed.

Republicans, true to their slimy typical “do as I say, not as I do” modus operandi are now rushing to seat an ultra-conservative justice during an election cycle. Our leaders need to hear from us today. We need to call, write and do whatever necessary to prevent this travesty of justice!

We also need to tell out elected representatives NO MORE CROSSING THE AISLE!! The democrats MUST GROW A SPINE. We need to force EVERYTHING WE WANT DOWN THEIR FUCKING THROATS LIKE THEY DID TO US!! Cooperation is NOT in the language of republicans unless there is a bribe involved.

There are some bikers out there waving their MAGA/TRUMP flags around – they are deluded. Trump is NOT good for any of us, gay, straight, biker or non-biker alike. He is a con artist. He is a liar. He is a deceiver. If I were religious, I’d be as bold to say he is the anti-Christ. He needs to go down, as do ALL of the republicans that support him. Like it or not, we must become involved on all levels of politics this year and years going forward to ensure we let our elected representatives know: WE WILL STAND NO MORE BULLSHIT!

The Sirens MC (the lesbian motorcycle group in NYC) are hosting a Campaign Ride to Elect Biden/Harris 2020 this coming weekend, Saturday, 17 October from 12:00-18:00. We are expecting some “Proud Boys” and rival, Trump-loving biker clubs/gangs to show up and attempt to intimidate us. Everyone who can come, should come – even if you don’t have a bike – please show up and show your support! Please register for this FREE MOTORCYCLE RIDE at: <http://bit.ly/bidenride>

We will gather near the Cyclone Roller Coaster in Coney Island, 801 Riegelmann Boardwalk, Brooklyn, NY, 11224 at 12 o’clock noon on Saturday, 17 October.

We are riding because: All Americans deserve equal civil and human rights regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, and/or ability. Our government and institutions need to make meaningful progress toward systemic anti-racism. Police departments and other law enforcement should protect and serve their citizens, not the other way around. Police must be held accountable for excessive force, racism, and abuse of power used against its citizens. The government needs to make significant strides in providing affordable healthcare and education to all. Treatment of non-U.S. citizens as terrorists must stop. Organizations such as ICE and Border Patrol need to discontinue the human rights violations that they perpetrate on a regular basis. The government needs to provide better support for veterans, low-income households, the homeless, and those with mental and physical disabilities. Climate change is one of the most significant global threats that we face today. The government must make meaningful progress in reducing our environmental footprint. And the current administration is failing to uphold the values and principles that make up the integrity and functionality of this country! Please join us!!

Farewell Empire City!

In modern American history, we have never seen such a sudden mass exodus away from our major cities. Overall, the U.S. economy is a complete and total disaster in 2020, but moving companies and real estate agents that work in desirable rural and suburban areas are absolutely thriving right now. Each weekend we are seeing long lines at U-Haul rental facilities, moving companies can't handle all of the requests that they are getting, and property values are shifting at a pace that is difficult to believe. Homes in our core urban areas are losing value very rapidly, and at the same time we are seeing bidding wars for some rural and suburban properties that are absolutely insane.



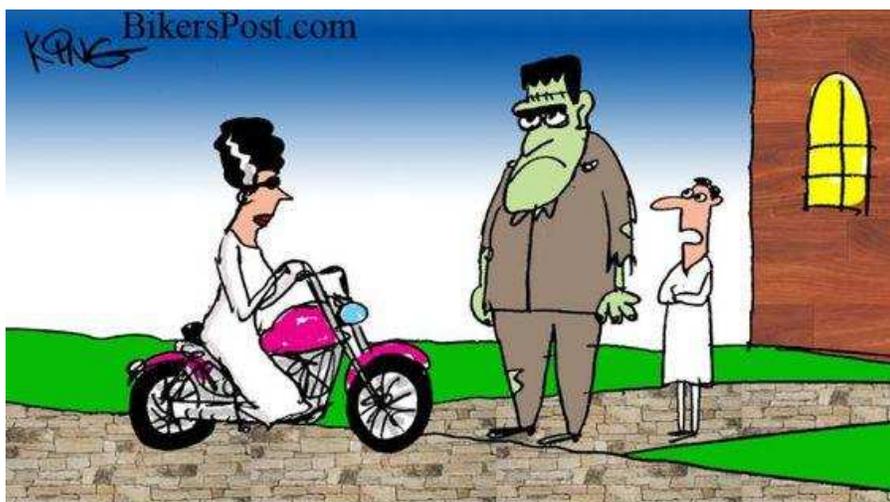
The New York Times reported that hundreds of thousands of people have already left New York City. After losing so many residents, you would think that the mass exodus would be slowing down, but that does not appear to be happening. In fact, we are being told that "moving trucks were out in force" on the Upper West Side on Saturday.

But, is all lost? Not really... in the 1970s, New York City went bankrupt, and in the 2020s, we're headed that way again, rapidly. In the 70s, we had some of the most amazing things happen. Gay liberation was moving into full steam, and without funding, the police couldn't do much to stop us. The piers, the trucks, the back rooms, the private clubs all proliferated. Disco was in full swing and the newly popularised drug "cocaine" was becoming a bit *too popular* for some people's likings. Yes, there was garbage in the streets, but rent was affordable, cops weren't harassing the gays as much and NYC was party central for many! Times square had live sex shows long before Viagra was created (I still don't know how those guys did it!)

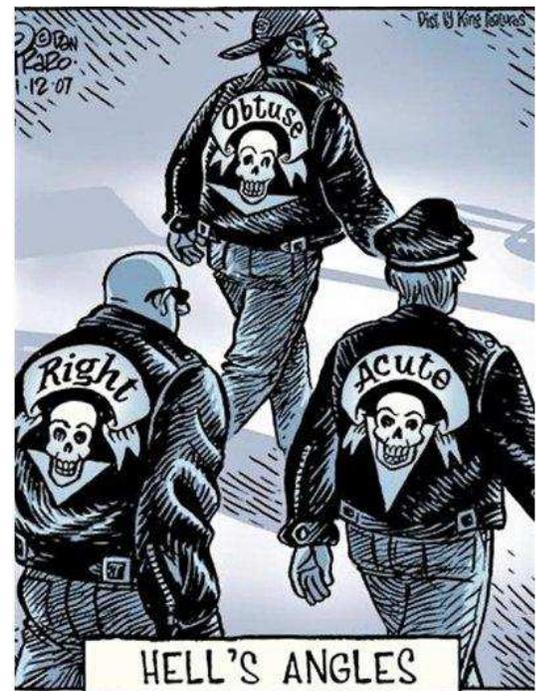
Most of the people "abandoning ship" are the rich bitches that displaced us not too long ago – the middle class, the artists, the small gay bars, the antique shops on Washington Street in the Village and so many more. This virus transcends race, age, gender, culture and economic status – the longer it lasts, the lower the values of property will go down. When it hits rock bottom, that's when we need to make our move and buy up (not rent!) as much as we can and hold it. Make NYC our city once again.

Yes, we're also losing some liberal folks in the mass exodus as well, but if they move to red states, their vote will mater so much more, thanks to the faulty United States Electoral College which makes Jethro's vote in Montana 36 times the strength of any New York resident. Imaging what would happen if the GAYS moved en force into Mississippi or Alabama! We could take those backwards, gay-hating conservative states and flip them!

So, it's not all bad – just keep a level head, get out, VOTE BLUE and carry on!



"No offense, Frankenstein, but your bride is waaaay cooler than you."



Send your biker funnies, photos or articles to newsletter@empirecitymc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events:

Sat 17th October, 12:00-18:00: RIDE: Campaign Ride to Elect Biden/Harris 2020. We will gather near the Cyclone Roller Coaster in Coney Island, 801 Riegelmann Boardwalk, Brooklyn, NY at 12 o'clock noon. Register for this FREE RIDE at: <http://bit.ly/bidenride>

It's that time of year when the weather is unpredictable. Keep a close eye on our calendar at <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along when you can! We're looking doing some fantastic fall rides, such as:

- Fall Foliage Ride and pizza party in Quakertown, PA,
- Cranberry Bog and Hindenburg disaster site ride in southern NJ,
- Rail Explorers USA (hand-powered rail car) running in the Catskills,
- Minnewaska State Park Preserve Hike, Hike the Hudson Valley,
- New Hope Railroad - Historic Tourist Railroad and more!

Sun 18th October, 12:00-18:00: RIDE: T/B/A – check our calendar!

Sat 24th October, 12:00-18:00: RIDE: T/B/A – check our calendar!

Sun 25th October, 12:00-18:00: RIDE: T/B/A – check our calendar!

Sat 31st October, 12:00-18:00: RIDE: T/B/A – check our calendar!

Sun 1st November, 12:00-18:00: RIDE: T/B/A – check our calendar!

Wed 4th November, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month now hosted via teleconference due to COVID-19. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Wed 2nd December, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month now hosted via teleconference due to COVID-19. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Sat 5th December, 18:00 – 21:00: EVENT: ECMC's 57th **VIRTUAL** Annual Holiday Party & Gift Drive. Step 1) Make a donation directly to Rising Ground on Amazon.com by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/ECMC2020>, Step 2) Join the ECMC Zoom party at 6pm on 5th December 2020 by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/2020ECMC> and join the party online!

Thu 31st December 2020: Happy New Year! Farewell 2020! We won't miss you.

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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*Empire City MC's
57th Annual
Holiday Party
and Gift Drive
benefitting
Rising Ground*



We're so disappointed that due to COVID-19, we are unable to host an in-person party this year, but here's what we're doing instead:

In lieu of a physical gathering, we are going to host a huge online Zoom party and instead of bringing a gift, we've asked Rising Ground to set up a "wish list" on Amazon of the things they desire to re-gift to the kids under their care.

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The members of Empire City MC will be there to hang out with everyone and we'll have some surprises for you too! If you do not have a computer with internet connection, please contact Chaz Antonelli at +1 646 827-6222 (voice only) to obtain a local telephone number so you can CALL IN to the party!

We really wish we could celebrate with everyone in person, but that is not safe to do at this time. Rising Ground is in dire need of gift cards for their children and teens, so please give what you can.

We sincerely wish you and yours all the best in 2021, an end to the political regime as well as end to the COVID-19 virus so we can all be together again in peace!

