



9/11 – Twenty Years Later

Not a lot can be said here. People born in 2001 are almost old enough to go to the bar and weren't around to see what transpired on that fateful Tuesday. Many others have simply allowed the memories of that terrifying day to fade... that eerie silence, the lack of planes in the sky, the sirens, the smoke and smells of jet fuel accompanied by the fear that this was indeed the beginning of the end of the world for us all.

Now the 20th anniversary of these attacks on American soil are upon us and although apparently numerous tributes and runs have been planned, none of them seem to have the transparency that Empire City MC needs to feel comfortable forking over \$50 per person. Not for nothing, but many straight MCs are Trump-supporters and we do not want a dime going to any charity that might benefit the anti-gay, racist, white-supremacist MAGA folk.



From about 2002 forward, there was a midnight run from N.Y. H-D in Queens which went over the Queensborough Bridge, down 2nd Ave, across 42nd St to crowds of applauding and cheering people over to the West Side Highway and then down to what we used to call "Ground Zero" for a prayer service and laying of a wreath for all the people we lost on that fateful day. Sadly, due to politics, lack of support, liability, or other reasons, that ride seemed to have ceased since the new WTC 1 opened.

It's now the 8th of September – three days from 11 September 2021

and we still have NO CLUE as to which ride (if any) we will be on, as communications has been utter shit (other than thinly veiled threats/guilt trips in multiple spam-level e-mails for the 'Run For Ritchie' stating that if we didn't pay \$54 per person to attend this ride, we're scum).

Frankly, the marketing whomever is organising this run has really soured it for us. Communications for other 9/11 rides have been lousy, and we're sad to say that you'll need to check our official club calendar at <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> the next few days to see if we'll be on any 9/11 rides this year.



The 27th Delta Run (Delta 21) a Success!

Okay – this will be a two-section story. If you’ve ever been on the Buck’s Run, the Rochester Rams Run, the Centaur’s Run or 100 Men In The Woods (The Bucks MC Run), you know what an outdoor run entails and this section will be boring to you – skip down to section two where I discuss the Delta Run specifically.

A quick clarification: There used to be two primary kinds of runs in the 80s. “In-Town runs” and “Outdoor runs”. This article has specifically to do with outdoor runs. Although there are similar factors Between the two kinds of runs, in town runs tended to be hosted at a hotel and bars within a city and involved a lot of drinking and driving or bust transportation whereas outdoor runs you would park your vehicle upon arrival and not go back to it again until after the run was over as everything you could possibly want you brought with you or is provided for you at the run site.



Today, in town runs have morphed into either anniversary weekends or leather contests (a/k/a beauty pageants), typically benefiting someone outside our immediate community and outdoor runs simply no longer exist in the North-East United States.

OK - if you're still here, you’ve never been to an outdoor leather run in your life. I can tell you first-hand, you're missing some incredible experiences. In the 1970s and 80s there were many gay leather clubs and many gay leather bars. HIV, ‘leather contests’, mobile phones and the Internet have all changed that over time. Now, what “leather bars” we have left in the U.S.A. are all pale comparisons to what they used to be and Club runs are pretty much non-existent. AMCC came into being because there were so many leather clubs holding so many runs, they were conflicting and fighting with each other over who had “rights” to a weekend or not. The AMCC “Articles of Agreement” and a unified (sanctioned) calendar helped stop the infighting amongst the dozens of gay clubs.



Let that thought sink in: There were so many gay outdoor leather runs that the clubs were fighting over available weekends.

At some door outdoor runs, you would need to bring a tent and a sleeping bag because there were no cabins. They had a shelter with tables for eating meals and hosting cocktail parties, a beer truck (or coolers) and sometimes portapotties for bathrooms! For larger runs like the Rams Run, the Spearhead Run and the Centaur Run, a campground with cabins, beds and a proper industrial kitchen was par for the course.



On these outdoor runs, depending on the kind of leather club that was hosting them, you would have people events, motorcycle events, scavenger hunt, possibly a show put on by the host club or by guest clubs and in addition you would have awards given out to clubs for putting on cocktail parties and participation. The entire event was coordinated with multiple events from the moment you arrived until the moment you departed and there was traditionally some places at the run site designated for group sexual activity with all sorts of equipment from stocks, fuck-benches, glory hole cabins and bondage tables to slings and piss-tubs! These were typically called “play cabins”. At the Rams Run and Spearhead Run, Cabin-4 was the fisting cabin and had multiple slings! At traditional outdoor runs, many events were full of pomp and circumstance which required you to wear your formal leather, such as the pre-dinner cocktail party and the formal dinner.

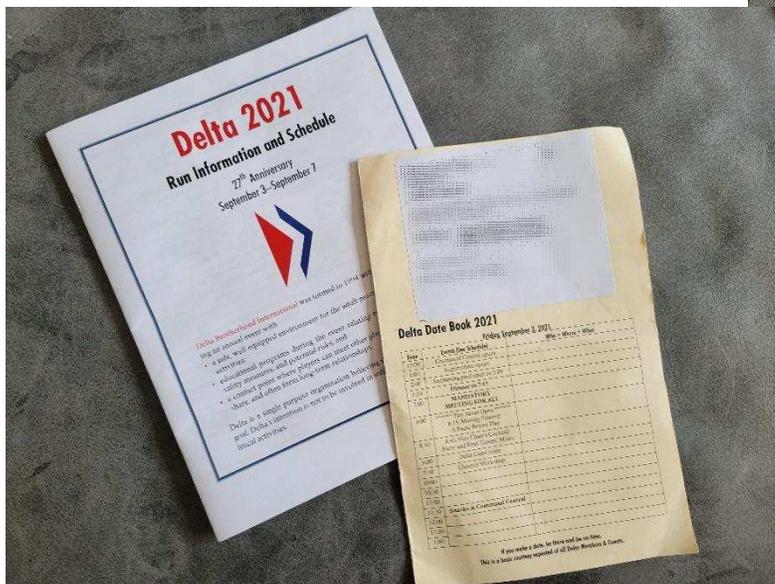


The photos from top to bottom in this section are from:

- 31 AUG 1984: Spearhead Round-Up #9 'Boot Camp' – The Run Show
- 23 AUG 1991: Rochester Rams Western Leather-Levi Weekend 1 – Motorcycle Games
- 26 JUL 2003: Unicorn Run & Great Unicorn Steak Roast – The Rochester Rams hanging out chatting
- 03 SEP 2004: Spearhead Round Up – Membership Cocktail Party

SECTION TWO – The DELTA Run

The Delta Run differs in several ways from your traditional leather motorcycle/men’s club outdoor runs: the primary focus is on S&M, B&D and kinky sexual encounters and things like people events, bike events, award ceremonies and cocktail parties simply aren’t a part of the picture. In addition your Run Book, there is a “Dance Card”/“Date Card”/“Date Book” where you may optionally schedule playtime with other run participants. This year, three rubber wristbands were included in the run package: red, yellow and green indicating if you are willing for someone to come up and touch/hug you with or without permission. I only saw one



person wearing a red wristband the entire weekend. The event starts on the Friday morning prior to Labour Day and continues until 11AM the Tuesday after Labour Day. There are very few mandatory events, other than the mandatory meeting and your duty shift. If you’re not at the mess hall at mealtime, you’ll have to wait until the next meal (or get by on snacks at command central).

Delta also returns the old gay leather run tradition of requiring interested participants be sponsored by a member of Delta in good standing. This means that this is an invitation-only event and if you need to find a Delta member to get an invitation to the run if you’d like to go – you can't simply just sign up and go.

When you arrive at the delta run on Friday, after filling-in your waiver/disclaimer and pick up your run pack, you're off to your cabin to unpack and then move your car to the upper parking lot (vehicles are not allowed to be parked on the run site). It's then time to get out and socialise! The big gymnasiums (which are dungeons) aren't quite ready for you yet, but the huge swimming pool is and there are people hanging out at command central where there is beer, water, coffee soda and snacks 24x7. This is the time you should start socialising. Meet new and old friends start filling up your dance card. This isn't speed-dating nor your usual suck & fuck type of date - we're talking about sessions for flogging, bondage, single tailing, humiliation, mumification and so much more... All those hanky colours you've been interested in, but were afraid to try! Unlike picking up a random stranger with a black hanky in the left pocket in some dark leather bar, every person at the Delta Run has been vetted and you can trust people here. In addition, in all of the play spaces that are mutually shared, there are dungeon masters who monitor all activity ensuring the safety for all involved.

MIKE HERNANDEZ, PALM SPRINGS, CA

Mike Hernandez has an impish sense of humor. He's been in the Leather/kink community for 30 years, but prefers to work behind the scenes. When not working ridiculous hours, pursuing culinary endeavors, or plotting and planning, he typically be found channeling Oscar the Grouch (minus the trash can). Member of Hot Ash (back in the day) and currently of Delta Brotherhood International.



At the delta run there are four primary massive play spaces with all sorts of shared dungeon equipment. They are the size of hockey fields and two of them are indoors and two of them are outdoors. In addition, there is an area called pleasure hill which has a number of cabins which have highly specialised equipment for testing, watersports, bondage, shaving and more! There is also the cigar gazebo which is a nice place to stop and rest once in a while and chat with roadkill bill and have a Scotch and a big cigar.

Unlike any other run I've known of, at the Delta Run, in addition to your run fee you also are required as a participant (member or not) to perform at least one work shift. As everybody who attends the run pasta work one work shift this makes the run operate smoothly and everybody is invested. You could be driving the taxi from the upper gym down to the lower gym back and forth for your shift, picking up people who don't want to climb the hill or you could be a specialised position because of your skill set such as an EMT or lifeguard at the pool. You can arrange your work shift to work best with your time and ability well before the run begins.

There's not a lot I can really show photographically as cameras are pretty much frowned upon, so let your imagination run wild. Yes, it's that amazing. What happens at Delta pretty much stays at Delta. If anything you're reading here sounds like something you'd like to try, or something you've got experience with, or just something you'd like to see, you can get an invite to the Delta Run by enquiring any Delta member. In Empire City MC, Chaz A is a Delta member in good standing. Being invited is only the first step, when they open the run for guests (a few weeks after Delta members are allowed to register), guests may register and it's first-come, first served – so you need to be quick. It fills up fast!

The Delta Run is held over Labour Day Weekend each year, and they just concluded their 27th Anniversary yesterday at the time of this newsletter. There was no Delta Run in 2020 due to COVID-19 (although they did make a commemorative patch for 'the run that never was' in a greyscale [shown in the photo above]). Everything you need for the weekend is provided (i.e. meals, beverages, beds, cabins, sheets, pillows, etc) you only need bring your clothing and the things you will want when there (toys, leather, medications, and so on).

Standard accommodation are the bunkhouses (cabins) which have camp beds (not bunk beds). The bunks hold up to eight persons per bunk. Each bunk has two toilets, two showers and two wash basins. The photo on the right is the front view of a common bunkhouse at Delta. You can pay more to get a private cabin or semi-private cabin with a real bed or optional air conditioning; however, in my personal opinion, I feel that the bunkhouses are the best way to meet new people and make new friends.

The average cost for standard accommodations for the long-long-weekend are \$570 per person and is worth every penny.

Bye-Bye Centre?

Since Empire City MC has members in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Florida and elsewhere, we've been hosting our monthly Open General Meetings by Zoom Telepresence (video teleconference) as well as in person at The Centre; however, since COVID-19 shut down The Centre for meeting space, we've been meeting exclusively by teleconference for over a year.

We have found that telepresence has been very helpful in allowing ALL of our members to have an equal voice in club affairs and has allowed guests from clubs in other parts of the world to join in and discuss events.

We presently have a motion on hold for discussion at October's OGM to remove our in-person meetings at The Centre and continue with just the telepresence system, saving money and freeing up resources at The Centre!

If you want any say in the matter, please join our October meeting as we discuss and vote on this motion. Thank you!



The End is Neigh!

Following Labour Day, it's the time of year when hurricanes, rain and cold come down upon us at unpredictable times and the club starts to shorten club rides. It's also the time of year when many of our members and associates start looking at their club participation and start panicking that they haven't gotten in their required rides or events for the year!

On one hand, there haven't been very many events in 2021 due to COVID-19, but on the other hand there have been a lot of rides on the calendar, so there shouldn't be any reason other than for medical reasons that people don't have all the rides they require to keep their membership in good standing.

I expect to see a few short little rides popping up on our calendar over the next two months. This is a perfect time for anyone who's missing required participation to come along and go for a ride and have some fun on these day trips – it's also a nice short day-trip for non-members! Mark is planning a ride in the western New Jersey area with a lunch stop, followed by a dip in his heated salt-water pool! Also, our secretary is working with our road captain to plan a trip to the crash site for the Hindenburg and cranberry bogs of New Jersey (hopefully during our anniversary weekend in October – but that depends on when the cranberries are ready for harvesting!)



As far as events go, we've got two big 2021 events still coming up (with other possibilities on the horizon). Our first and foremost event will be our 57th Anniversary Dinner which will be on the 9th of October. Just like our installation dinner, it will be a family-style Italian feast at a fixed price. The other big event is our 58th Annual Holiday Party and Gift Drive to benefit Rising Ground Family Services. We have not yet heard from the Stonewall Inn in regard to using their second floor on Saturday, 4th December, but we will secure a location by the end of September.

If anyone is interested in suggesting some day-trips, let our road captain know and he can help plan it and if anyone has any ideas for any events, reach out to our vice-president so he can help plan those! Christmas is less than three months away!



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events:

Sat 11th September: RIDE: 20th Anniversary of the attack on 9/11 – check our online calendar!

Sat 18th September: RIDE: Mark's Ride. Please RSVP on the calendar and meet at Mark's home (2 Laurelton Trail, Flemington, NJ 08822) at 11:00. Go for a ride to lunch, then return to Mark's for a swim in the pool!

Sat 25th September: RIDE: Bike HSS Benefit Ride. Register at <https://bikehss.org/>

Thu 30th September – Mon 4th October: EVENT: Mates Leather Weekend XXIV

Wed 6th October, 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!

Fri 8th – Mon 11th October: EVENT: ECMC 57th Anniversary Weekend:

Fri 8th October: Meet & Greet at Ty's (21:00)
Sat 9th October: EVENT: ECMC's 57th Anniversary Dinner
Sun 10th October: RIDE: Cranberry Bog / Hindenburg Crash Site

Wed 3rd November, 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!

Wed 1st December, 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! Initial nominations for 2022 Officers at this meeting!

Fri 3rd – Sun 5th December: EVENT: Empire City MC's 58th Annual Gift Drive & Holiday Party Weekend:

Fri Dec 3rd: EVENT: Excelsior MC's Trim-A-Tree
Sat Dec 4th: EVENT: ECMC's 58th Annual Gift Drive & Holiday Party
Sun Dec 5th: EVENT: Sunday Brunch & Cigar Smoker

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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