



Empire City MC's Monthly Newsletter October 2014

ECMC Rumbblings



ECMC 50th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND RECAP – PART I

After settling in at our host hotel in Jersey City, NJ, our weekend began on Friday night with an amazing barnight at Ty's →



Friday after-hours cocktails were served by the **Bay State Marauders** (Cape Codders of course) – we don't remember much after that, until the sun came up and **Twilight Guard** punished our livers some more with morning mimosas! The group split into several directions from this point: the 176th AMCC Meeting, a motorcycle tour and a gay history walking tour of Greenwich Village! →



Just when you thought you'd recovered, here come the **Harbor Masters** with a circulating cocktail fountain that I simply can't show a photo of, without getting an X-rating 😊. The fountain served up screwdrivers, then you got to add the "bonus" liquor to make it a Comfortable Screw, a Slow Comfortable Screw, or a Slow Comfortable Screw Against The Wall! This is a photo of the "toppings bar" →



It was then time to queue up to board the yacht. Men from all over the eastern seaboard (and as far north as Toronto) came! **Jose and Mel of Bucks MC** provided champagne for an anniversary toast, there was a parade of colours, dinner and dancing. You couldn't have asked for better weather! For what happened next, read the November edition of "Rumbblings!"



EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN



Actual photo of ECMC members in late 1960s

As many of you are quite aware, Empire City MC has been through many changes over its fifty years of existence. We've had good times and we've had difficult times. We've seen the rise of the gay suffrage and liberation, the discovery and treatment for HIV/AIDS and we've gained and lost many members over our long history. Even a few "competing" clubs were founded by former ECMC members and although most of those clubs are no longer around, a few do remain – and that's a good thing! We helped create and were one of the first [AMCC](#) (Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council) member clubs. We continue to promote and foster it.

ECMC may have appeared lose its way at times and some may have thought we were on the verge of extinction; however, through the efforts of some dedicated men, we've managed to keep going!

A few years ago it became apparent that ECMC was in need of a refresh. In order to accomplish this goal, we reinvented ourselves by recruiting a few new members, changing our thought processes and drafting a brand new constitution and by-laws. Some people are frightened of change but we needed it badly. With the help of existing and new members working together a massive effort was made to be more outgoing, supportive, social and to attend a variety events all over the eastern United States.

All of these changes had a strong positive effect on the club – it completely redesigned the structure of the club, putting focus upon how new members are brought in and requirements for all members and officers alike. It's really helped, and it's helped make us grow once more! Of course, the glue that binds us is our love and passion of riding motorcycles, which will always be what truly defines us.

As of this writing, we currently have eleven very active full members, three very dedicated associate members, a handful of emeritus members and many club and GDI supporters! We've been seen (and will continue to be seen) at many AMCC club events, as well as non-AMCC events. I honestly believe that each and every member is proud of our club and wears their colours with pride.

OLD SCHOOL

Since we're looking back this month, this might be the perfect time to remind some of the baby-boomer generation to help "school" some of our younger tribe about how things used to be. Below are just a few examples of some of the things 'that used to be', and probably should be brought back!

Billeting – is described in the dictionary as "to provide lodging for; quarter" and was once a common expression used by members of gay MCs. Complete "strangers" would open their homes up for members of other gay MCs, even not knowing the person personally. Being a member of and wearing a backpatch from a known gay MC was more important than a credit card is in today's times when it came to getting into private parties, some bars and more importantly, visiting other cities. Your club's backpatch were your credentials and your carte blanche when travelling. Want to visit New York City? Philadelphia? Cleveland? You could reach out to clubs in those cities and members of the club would step up to put them up for a night (or weekend) in their home! This was an inexpensive way for club members to travel, make new friends plus a fantastic way to develop inter-club camaraderie! Many of us still practice this lost art. It would be nice to see more people billeting other club members once again.



The Hanky Code – this is classic and still observed today by many! Basically, [the hanky code](#) is a colour-coded system employed usually among gay casual-sex seekers or BDSM practitioners to indicate preferred sexual fetishes, what kind of sex they are seeking, and whether they are a top/dominant or bottom/submissive. The hanky code was widely used in the 1970s and 80s by gay and bisexual men. The original list (which was far smaller than today) was included in Larry Townsend's "[The Leatherman's Handbook II](#)". In all seriousness, in a dimly lit bar with red accent lighting, it's quite difficult to distinguish "charcoal" from "grey" or "brown", so other than the original basic seven colours, it doesn't directly work; however, it's always been a great conversation-starter! You can always go up to someone sporting a hanky and ask, "What colour is that? What's it mean?"

GDI – simply put, this means "God Dammed Independent", someone who isn't a member of a club, typically one that goes to club-sponsored events such as runs or barnights who is there to have fun, but doesn't contribute to the club community by being involved.

Levi's 501 Shrink-to-Fit Jeans – If you wanted to be seen with a nice tight pair of jeans that hugged and cupped your junk, Levi's 501 Shrink-to-Fit Jeans was the only way to accomplish this back in the day, and honestly, in my opinion, is still the best! There's a detailed section of Leatherman's Handbook on how to properly shrink them in the bathtub, but denimhunters.com has also embraced it on their website, check it out, [click here](#). They won't tell you about taking a brush to the crotch like the LH does, but that's okay!

Do you have any "old school" expressions or examples to share? We'd love to hear them and publish them! Submit yours to secretary@empirecitymc.com, or if you're interested to hear more, strike up a conversation with anyone who was born before 1970!

Might I suggest some time by the fire with Uncle Bunt (Tom J.) from the Unicorns MC? ☺

THE BIKER'S CREED

- I ride because it is fun.
- I ride because I enjoy the freedom I feel from being exposed to the elements, and the vulnerability to the danger that is intrinsic to riding.
- I do not ride because it is fashionable to do so.
- I ride my machine, not wear it. My machine is not a symbol of status. It exists simply for me, and me alone.
- My machine is not a toy. It is an extension of my being, and I will treat it accordingly, with the same respect as I have for myself.
- I strive to understand the inner-workings of my machine, from the most basic to the most complex.
- I will learn everything I can about my machine, so that I am reliant upon no one but myself for its health and well being.
- I strive to constantly better my skill of control over my machine. I will learn its limits, and use my skill to become one with my machine so that we may keep each other alive. I am the master, it is the servant. Working together in harmony, we will become an invincible team.
- I do not fear death. I will, however, do all possible to avoid death prematurely. Fear is the enemy, not death. Fear on the highway leads to death, therefore I will not let fear be my master. I will master it.
- My machines will outlive me. Therefore, they are my legacy. I will care for them for future bikers to cherish as I have cherished them, whoever they may be.
- I do not ride to gain attention, respect, or fear from those that do NOT ride, nor do I wish to intimidate or annoy them. For those that do not know me, all I wish from them is to ignore me. For those that desire to know me, I will share with them the truth of myself, so that they might understand me and not fear others like me.
- I will never be the aggressor on the highway. However, should others mess with me, their aggression will be dealt with in as severe manner as I can cast upon them.
- I will show respect to other bikers more experienced or knowledgeable than I am. I will learn from them all I can. However, if my respect is not acknowledged or appreciated, it will end.
- I will not show disrespect to other bikers less experienced or knowledgeable than I am. I will teach them what I can. However, if they show me disrespect, they will be slapped.
- It will be my task to mentor new riders, that so desire, into the lifestyle of the biker, so that the breed shall continue. I shall instruct them, as I have been instructed by those before me. I shall preserve and honor traditions of bikers before me, and I will pass them on unaltered.
- I will not judge other bikers on their choice of machine, their appearance, or their profession. I will judge them only on their conduct as bikers. I am proud of my accomplishments as a biker, though I will not flaunt them to others. If they ask, I will share them.
- I will stand ready to help any other biker that truly needs my help.
- I will never ask another biker to do for me what I can do for myself.
- I am not a part-time biker. I am a biker when, and where ever I go. I am proud to be a biker, and hide my chosen lifestyle from no one. I ride because I love freedom, independence, and the movement of the ground beneath me. But most of all, I ride to better understand myself, my machine, the lands in which I ride, and to seek out and know other bikers like myself.



THE LAST WORD...

Riding season is nearly over for the year but that doesn't mean we're going in to hibernation!!

Check out our [website](#), [official calendar](#) or [facebook group](#) to see what we're up to! We'll be going to some Twilight Guard barnights in Danbury, expect to see us at Centaur MC's Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend in Washington D.C.! Coming to NYC? Reach out to us and let's have fun!



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

OCTOBER 18th: RIDE: Dilly's & NJ Day Ride. Meet at Lexington Candy Shop, 1226 Lexington Ave. New York, New York 10028
Kickstands up: 11:00 am (arrive at 10:00 if you want breakfast)

OCTOBER 21st: Ear Inn Biker Gathering! Come to the Ear Inn at 326 Spring St in NYC for our monthly "motorcycle night"! Meet up with hundreds of other bikers -- including members of the NJ Eagles, City Cruisers, loads of GDIs and more! Great men, great beer, great food! It's only once a month, so polish your bike's chrome and meet up at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month during riding season! (Non-riders are welcome to come as well!)

OCTOBER 24th-26th: Harbour Masters of Maine present "Sail Away 2014", their 32nd Anniversary in Ogunquit, ME. For more information, visit <http://www.harbormastersofmaine.com/run2014.html>

NOVEMBER 5th: Empire City MC's open general meeting. Held 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.

NOVEMBER 15th: Rochester Rams' Rich Richards' Memorial Toy Drive in Rochester, NY. [Click here for details.](#)

NOVEMBER 29th: BUCKS MC presents Santa Saturday™ in New Hope, PA or Asbury Park, NJ. [Click here for details.](#)

DECEMBER 3rd: Empire City MC's open general meeting. Held 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.

DECEMBER 6th: Empire City MC's 51st Annual Holiday Party & Toy Drive at Stonewall Inn! ***NEW VENUE!*** See the last two pages of the newsletter for more information. To order tickets online, go to www.EmpireCityMC.com

DECEMBER 31st: New Year's Eve & Albert's Birthday blow-out at [The Ranch](#) in Hemlock, NY.

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 <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us!

Empire City MC's mailing address is:

Empire City MC
PO Box 1881
New York, NY 10113-1881

Are you interested in becoming a member of ECMC? For more information about membership with Empire City Motorcycle Club, or to download our membership application, constitution and bylaws, please [click here](#).

Get in on the conversation! Join our facebook group, just [click here](#).

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Empire City MC is proud to announce our 51st Annual Holiday Party & Toy Drive



Saturday, December 6th
6 PM - 9 PM at Stonewall Inn
53 Christopher St, New York City

Our 51st Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive for Leake & Watts will be simple and fun again this year in a private social setting with light fare.

**Tickets \$25 in advance
or \$30 at the door**

- Fantastic door prizes. Coat check.
- Plenty of light fare/appetizers all night!
- Holiday Jell-O Shots and more surprises!
- Make it a weekend! Excelsior MC's Trim-a-Tree on Dec 5th



Don't forget to bring a new, unwrapped gift or toy suitable for a child or teenager to benefit Leake & Watts Services!

**Tickets are on sale online now at
www.EmpireCityMC.com or
complete the reverse and mail it in**

For more information about our event or to donate a door prize, please contact our Vice President, Eddie, by e-mail at: vice-president@empirecitymc.com

Mail-in Ticket Order Form

Please complete and mail this form to:

Empire City MC Holiday Party
PO Box 1881
New York, NY 10113-1881

Name _____

Club (if any) _____

e-Mail _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Quantity of tickets _____ at \$25/ea, total \$ _____

All tickets will be held in buyer's name at the door, identification may be required. Confirmation will be done by electronic mail, or in the event there is no e-mail address provided, by telephone.



Visit www.ExcelsiorMC.com for information about Excelsior MC's Trim-a-Tree on December 5th