



Fierté Montreal (Montréal Pride)

Rather than Toronto this year, which seems to have become gentrified to such an extent that the leather/biker community is non-existent, we set our sites on Montréal this year instead. It's closer to us and there were rumours of an active leather lifestyle! So Empire City rode up to Montréal Québec for their Pride March 11th-16th August 2016. The bulk of us managed to avoid rain completely and zipped north on the I-87 to Albany, then when we knew the rain was south of us, we too some lovely back roads in Vermont, eventually re-joining the highway system at I-89 and crossing over into Canada with the permission of a very sexy border guard! For those interested, we took the following route: <https://goo.gl/maps/C2Yv6pi1dqr> (excluding gas and lunch stops).

For those interested in travelling to Montréal by bike, take note: There is FREE motorcycle parking dotted around the city! To quote their website: "The Ville de Montréal reserves parking zones for motorcyclists that are prohibited for other vehicles. These parking spaces are free for motorbikes. Most of the reserves parking zones for motorcyclists are available from April 1st to October 31st, but some are available all year long. Please note that from November 1st to March 31st, the parking of motorcycles is prohibited. During that period, the parking spaces will be available to motorists at an hourly rate." See their website for locations: <http://bit.ly/MTL-MOTO-PARKING>

Our haunt of choice for the trip was Aigle Noir (Black Eagle) Montréal, which is not associated with the one in Toronto. We'd gather around 10:30AM every morning for brunch at Cora (and at "Bistro Tôt ou Tard" for Sunday brunch) to plan out each day. We ate dinner at the famous Schwartz's Deli (famous for Montréal smoked meat sandwiches), The Keg Steakhouse & Bar and elsewhere. Of course, what trip to Québec would be complete without Montréal Bagels!? Some of us made a side trip to St-Viateur Bagel Bakery for some of their famous wood-fired, sesame seed encrusted bagels/baigles!

We stood and watched their Pride Parade on Sunday. Justin Trudeau, The Prime Minister of Canada (sort of the equivalent to the United States' president) was at the front of the parade! There were floats and marching bands and more, all leading to the "Gay Village". For some reason, we found it amusing that the parade was sponsored by Pfizer's Viagra. For information about Fierté Montréal (Montréal Pride), see their official website: <http://www.fiertemontrealpride.com/>

Upon riding home, once again, we had rain to contend with after crossing back into the United States – mostly light mist, you know the kind: annoying, making the front of your pant legs wet, but not strong enough to make you seek shelter or don a rain suit. Speaking of entering into the United States, after I was through, I pulled ahead and awaited Loki to be released from the customs and immigration toll plaza, watching in my rear-view when suddenly there were two, three, then five border agents surrounding Loki's bike. This didn't look good. They were pointing at his bike and asking questions. Were we in for detainment? Nope. They all came over to check out Loki's sexy classic-looking Royal Enfield motorcycle! Phew. At about 70 miles north of Albany, the sky looked ominous, so we stopped to have lunch and allow the foul weather pass over. Then the sun came out and all was well with the world!

As we came closer to Albany, we left the highway and did a ride through Albany, including going up to (and under) the Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza and "The Egg", the four monolithic government buildings in Albany. After crossing the Hudson River, we took NY 9-J south (a beautiful 22-mile motorcycle riding road!) and continues to ride on the non-interstate highways: US-9, NY-23, NY-82, etc... But then we got word that there was a terrible storm coming across New Jersey, so we hopped on the I-684 (I got to ride helmetless for a few miles in Connecticut!) and then it was onto the Hutch and back home. We all made it home safe and dry.

Montréal was just a great time from the culture to the food to the adventure. I think we'll be back soon!



Meet The Member:

Our brother, club member Darryl Smith to be interview for next month's issue of Rumbings . . .



The Last Word

It specifies in our Constitution and Bylaws that there are to be no more than 25 Full Members of Empire City MC. Why, you ask? We're not going for quantity, but quality. Empire City MC strives to be a small group of high quality men who are brotherly, kind, respectful and honest with each other and outsiders. At the time of writing this, we now have FOURTEEN FULL MEMBERS and TWO PLEDGES, which, if voted in, will bring us to SIXTEEN FULL MEMBERS – that's more than we've had in our club in a very long time.

Wait! Two pledges? Thought there was only Loki left! Well surprise, surprise, surprise! We have a new pledge as of this month! William P is the newest person to pledge Empire City MC! I'm sure we'll have a lot more to tell you about William over the next few months as he goes through the ropes of becoming a full member! Don't forget, we've also got two Associate Members, Michael C of the Long Island Ravens and Gary P of the Philadelphians MC.

Speaking of our Constitution and Bylaws, a new version was just ratified this month! Albeit, just some simple clarifications and minor edits/changes, but one major change: Before, only the Road Captain and President has term limits of two consecutive years, now all officers have this term limit. This was brought up as a Constitutional amendment to ensure that multiple people maintained skills for each office, in the event someone leaves. Seriously, I think Mark has been our Treasurer for ten-plus years going now! If you'd like to see our Constitution and Bylaws, they are available on-line for all to see (in nifty PDF format) at: <http://empirecitymc.com/ECMC%20Constitution%20&%20Bylaws.pdf>

Some other things that happened from the end of July to present day are: Tom Johnson of the Unicorn MC (Cleveland, OH) celebrated his 80th birthday at the Leather Stallion Saloon with many of his friends (and a few others!). He was pleasantly surprised by friends from far away, Duane M, Albert R (Pop), K.K. (ECMC's TFL) and myself (Chaz A) along with present and former members of the Unicorn Motorcycle Club. When Albert presented the massive gourmet birthday cake, Tom, to be funny, pushed it into Albert's face – then asked, "ok, now where's the real cake?" – oops. Should have known that was going to happen! Also, Empire City MC cleaned out their closet! Yes, we spent the better half of an afternoon going through our stores of old minutes, photography albums, club colours (banners) and trophies dating back to 1966! We photographed all the club colours, awards and trophies, and once cropped and indexed, we shall put them all online for all to see! We're considering shipping the trophies to the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago, IL.

Lastly and speaking of club size, when you have more than eight persons on a formation motorcycle ride, simply starting up from a petrol & piss stop to a simple lane change becomes far more complex and dangerous. Eighteen bikes in a row is longer than a

double-tandem tractor-trailer. I've been chatting with the Road Captain, Geno about starting to split our more attended rides into two fleets: Interstates and Byways. Interstates would be the folks that love to ride interstate highways at speeds up to and over 65 MPH/100 KPH. Byways would be those lively, sometimes shaded roads that sometimes pass through towns and villages with speeds from 30 MPH/50 KPH to 55 MPH/90 KPH. Some of these "byways" are quite nice and are still fast, like the NYS Route 9-J (see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_State_Route_9J). Bob Kirsop of the Unicorn MC swears by the scenic byway route, considering we've got some guys in ECMC that enjoy the twisty country roads more than the adrenaline-fuelled rush of making the dotted lines on the road peel, I think this will be a nice experiment to allow an enjoyable ride for all.



Keep the rubber side down,
Empire City MC President, Chaz

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

7th September: ECMC's Open General Meeting at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All riders and prospective members welcomed!

9th – 11th September: RIDE to Aaron & Yves (by invitation only)

24th September: RIDE Fallen Heroes Run [tentative]

29th September – 3rd October: RIDE Mate's Leather Weekend, Provincetown, MA

5th October: ECMC's Open General Meeting at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All riders and prospective members welcomed!

14th – 16th October: ECMC's 52nd Anniversary Weekend featuring the 182nd AMCC Meeting

21st – 23rd October: Harbour Masters 34th Anniversary "A Little Dingy", Portland, ME

2nd November: ECMC's Open General Meeting at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All riders and prospective members welcomed!

26th November: Bucks MC presents the 43rd Annual Santa Saturday® in Asbury Park, NJ

2nd – 4th December: Excelsior MC's Trim-a-Tree & ECMC's 53rd Annual Holiday Party & Toy Drive Weekend in NYC

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 and come along with us on some great rides!

Our physical mailing address is:

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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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