



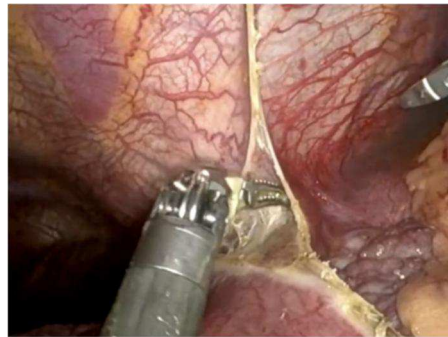
Organ Donors are Angels

Many of you have often heard a motorcyclist referred to as “organ donors” for our choice of hobby. However, there are others that have chosen to volunteer as organ donors in the event of their passing, gifting life-giving parts of themselves to strangers. That gift benefited the life of ECMC’s Associate member Mike Conley’s partner Doni.

Some of you know Doni through ECMC events and the NYC Pride Parade where he’s helped as support marshal for KK, or buddy ridden with Mike or other members. Doni has been living with chronic liver disease since 2018. As with many long-term health problems, there are many highs and lows as the problem progresses. Recently though, Doni had been facing repeated hospitalizations due to issues related to his failing liver. The liver controls and affects many of the normal body processes that maintain energy and dangerous chemical filtering. The last years was especially taxing as it exacerbated other issues he was dealing with and the remedy for them. Many of you saw the post for a live liver donor request they sent out as the chances for a donor liver were seemingly not available.

In a whirlwind of equally unfortunate and fortunate events this past March, Doni was finally gifted with a new liver.

Starting off from another round of Asides (fluid retention) needing draining from the abdomen, the procedure and the fluid allowed a large infection of e coli to establish which cause severe pain for Doni who was also dealing with a hernia that could not be repaired due to the liver issues. The doctors at Stony Brook Hospital were able to get that under control after a week. He was instructed to contact NY Presbyterian who were handling his liver transplant search if he was again hospitalized for any issues like this. They immediately set up to have him transferred into their NYP-Weill Cornell hospital to continue the care. The issue had always been his MELD score which determines your urgency for a liver had always been low (13 out of 40). He’d get sick on Long Island and SBH would clear the issue so when he went to NYP, his test results showed him as “healthy”. For the first time, SBH submitted the blood tests and issues before the transfer which updated his MELD score to a 21. Something they never did before.



Now that NYP had him in-house, the doctors handling him were able to take advantage of the now higher score to move his case forward. He was transferred on Thursday morning and they finished clearing the infection and fluid (4 Liters!). By Saturday morning the opportunity for a donated liver materialized as the intended recipient was unable to get to the hospital for the procedure. Doni was a match for the now unclaimed organ. His doctor pushed but was over-ruled by the transplant board as there were other higher on the priority list that they could get in for the transplant.

By some miracle, Sunday afternoon his doctor was notified that a second liver that was a match for Doni might be available and let Doni know, but not to get overly excited as she had to work the system. She confided she'd gotten them for patients with an 18 score previously. Monday 5 AM she was able to report the liver was his and that he'd be going in Tuesday morning for the transplant. Doni was prepped and scheduled for the 10-hour surgery. The surgery would be even more remarkable in that it was completely executed using a robotic system, the DaVinci, a first of its kind. The team at NY Presbyterian were amazing that the liver was the perfect fit for Doni and the procedure went off without a hitch. He will hardly have any scars due to the robotic procedure making smaller incisions achievable.

Two weeks later, Doni is home and recovering well and though feeling some pain still, is getting better daily. He will be on heavy amounts meds for the next 3 months and a life-long anti-rejection medicine going forward. The good thing is he's now out of the limbo of the When and If. He can now focus on a renewed lease on life and health. (Okay, no more margheritas or cigarettes, but well worth it) April is Organ Donors Month. I encourage all of us "organ donors" on two-wheels to register and in the tragic event of our passing, by any means, we can pass along the gift of life and joy you can bring to complete strangers.

Long Island Ravens Get Punk'd for 33rd Anniversary

The members of the L.I. Ravens MC celebrated their 33rd anniversary this past March 21-23. Founded in 1992, this annual celebration was a full weekend run held in Farmingville, NY. The host hotel was the Hampton Inn Brookhaven which they used 3 years ago for the 30th Anniversary just after Covid 19 restrictions were ended. Once again location provided a convenient epicentre for the weekend's activities.

The theme for the weekend "Steampunk & Amethyst", set the tone for a fun weekend. Part of the weekend was dedicated to the AMCC 204th business meeting. This brought many clubs from the organizing group to attend the Saturday meeting. The rest of the weekend was centred around a gala Steampunk Costume dinner dance. That was evident everywhere you looked as event rooms were decorated with steampunk themed wall-hangings and props. Members were rarely seen without some cosplay elements such as top hats and gearworks. The club hosted cocktails also followed along with the Excelsior MC bring an Amethyst cake for theirs and the Philadelphians going full Edgar Allen Poe. The Dinner Dance, "Gilded Affair", showcased the creative and amazing talent of our guest with many outrageous ensembles that fitted the theme. Ravens member Rusty supplied a plethora of truly inspired custom created hats and props for the guests. The venue, Gotham, was ideally suited for the evening which easily managed the assemblage with ample seats and great music. Overall, a truly wonderful affair.

One thing the Ravens don't skimp on is the hospitality. All meals were included Friday through Sunday and no shortages. Drinks and cocktails were always readily available. The hotel venue offered separate hospitality and fully equipped playrooms. The ravens really want their guest and friends to have a wonderful experience, and they delivered. Saturday featured 2 seminars to fill the day out. The first a "Life in the time of tRump" featuring a video presentation from The Leather Coach who lives in Ireland and featured some great strategies foe enduring and being active in the face of the Project 25 rollouts. Second was a Blood Control instruction hosted by Jim Schofield which gave great training and info as we all face the possibilities of violence during the protests we are all finding ourselves part of.

All together a great weekend of fun and fraternity was had by those that attended. Next up for the L.I. ravens MC is the Excelsior Fire Island Leather weekend where they will be hosting a cocktail party. Then during the summer, they will be at Hillside Campgrounds for Bears 3 July 24-27 and offer a communal meal plan and site share. Please feel free to reach our if interested in joining them at either.





Photos from Long Island Ravens Get Punk'd for 33rd Anniversary, "Steampunk & Amethyst", courtesy of ECMC Associate Member Michael C

**PART 2 of Rumblings will be out next week!
We will have information about ECMC's 2025
Motorcycle Weekend and more!**

The Last Word: A letter from the President of Empire City MC

Greetings ECMC family and Friends

As we head into April we are all waiting for the warmer weather to arrive so we can get those motorcycles out of storage and on the road! Some of our more seasoned riders have already had their motorcycles on the road several times in 2025. True Iron Butts!

Looking ahead to our events calendar our 1st official ride is not until the end of May. That doesn't stop any of our full/associate members from organizing an event or a ride in your locale. The current By-Laws for ECMC state that a ride or event can be made with 1 Executive Board member and 1 full member, or 3 associate members present for an event/ride to be "official". The plan would need to be presented to the Road Captain and be entered onto our official ECMC club calendar at least 48 hours before the event/ride in order for it to count as an "official ride".

Stay tuned in the very near future as this requirement will be updated and more than likely change. ECMC's current full-time members are in the process of rewriting our Constitution and By-Laws. The goal is to make it easier and less convoluted to form official rides/events in your location. My personal goal is to have the Constitution & By-Laws completed by June 2025. Stay tuned.

If you have not done so and plan to ride with ECMC in 2025 please submit the needed information to our Road Captain. That would include a MC endorsed driver's license, owners' card, proof of insurance and in some states proof of current inspection.

Prior to riding in 2025 some hygiene issue to think about is cleaning the inside of your helmet, if you have foam inserts (most are removable for cleaning or replacement) attached is a link about what is growing in our helmets. Link: [Microbial Diversity and Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern of Bacteria Associated with Motorcycle Helmets - PMC](#)

The bottom line: Conclusion The findings suggest that motorcycle riders should follow good hygiene practices and regularly clean their helmets with suitable sterilant to avoid the risk of microbial contamination and reduce the associated risks.

On a personal note, for all rides that I am in attendance in 2025, I will be promoting and will have ear plugs available. Hopefully this will help save our hearing. I am aware of 2 current members with hearing deficits, and most likely from riding our motorcycles. I would like to keep us from becoming the seniors that say "what" "what did you say"

IBH & Happy Motoring
Gary P. President ECMC



ECMC SOCIAL HOURS & OPEN GENERAL MEETINGS: Empire City MC hosts two primary meetings monthly. Our Open General Meetings are on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month, 20:00-21:00. Our Social Hours are on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month, 20:00-21:00. All interested parties are welcomed, keeping in mind that our O.G.M. is a business meeting. You may join any of our conference calls by using Zoom Teleconference software and utilizing this link: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-MEET>

For even further information, in our organisation, the Vice President (vice-president@empirecitymc.com) is in charge of EVENTS the Road Captain (road-captain@empirecitymc.com) for RIDES (travel), president (president@empirecitymc.com) for meetings.

There are other events and rides in our official calendar! Be sure to bookmark our official calendar at <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.

Join the conversation! Chat with us and other bikers on our private 'Motorcyclists on Signal' group: <https://bit.ly/motonsig> - for membership information, <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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