



1969-2025 Pride Marches On!

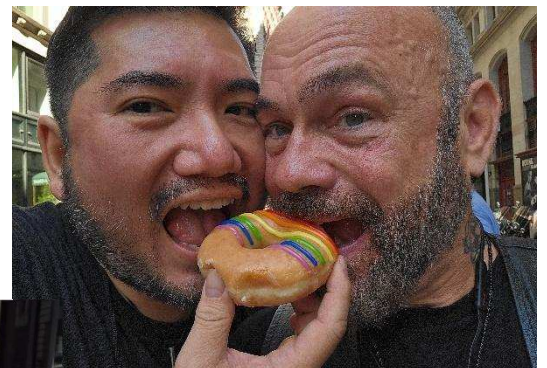
Once again, Empire City MC led the Stonewall Pride March alongside Sirens MC, marching to be seen and heard! It's crucial to participate in person and make your voice heard! Also, ensure you are registered and vote in every election and encourage four others to do so too. Although it can feel overwhelming, attending pride events like those in New York City, Washington DC, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Asbury Park, and Atlantic City helps ensure visibility and advocacy. We're all fighting for our basic human rights, while the government feels that we shouldn't exist. *Due to current government policies, if you participate, please be careful at public gatherings not only for violent people, but also for over-surveillance technologies in use. read more: <https://bit.ly/surveillancedefense>*

Woah! What's with all the **pink** shirts?

At our 50th anniversary in 2014, "Evil Ed" C was our president. His husband was Tony. With all the rides and events to celebrate our 50th anniversary, we knew we were going to depend on our spouses and boyfriends to help with the heavy lifting.

History: The boyfriend or husband of the president of most gay "MCs" (includes non-riding clubs) is referred to as the T.F.L. (The First Lady). It was common that "tif-ills" (TFLs) would host a "TFL Tea" cocktail party for all TFLs present at most runs.

We created an unofficial group called the "ECMC Ladies Auxiliary" of all the people that were helping us make our 50th anniversary special. Most them were pillions (people who ride on the back seat). We even had special T-shirts made-up for the parade for the people carrying our banner that year! We've referred to this ancillary group of people that hang out and help us with all of our work to be the "Ladies Auxiliary" in a kind-hearted way. Every year, K.K. seeks out volunteers to act as marshals to walk along with the motorcycles, Keeping them aligned and safe. But this year one of the marshals who's helped us for years went and had a bunch of our ECMC T-shirt designs printed on pink T-shirts for our marshals! We were simply amazed with how much love and admiration they showed us!



Trans Visibilty - Project Sidewalk Chalk

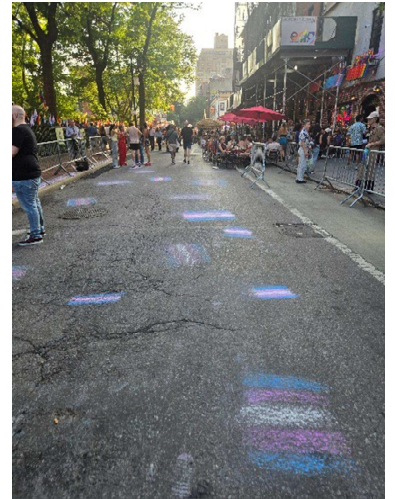
Empire City MC has a recent reputation of causing trouble with sidewalk chalk. Just days before the Stonewall Pride March in New York City, the federal government who is in charge of the Stonewall National Monument (and park) on Christopher St decided to tarnish our history and try to eradicate and erase queer and trans people from our collective histories. They removed the famous statues from the park and they also took down all references to queer and trans including the trans flags that used to fly there. Currently, Empire City has no trans members, but we have trans friends. We will not let them erase them.



So, we got to work to stand up for our friends. We bought 50 sticks of pink white and blue sidewalk chalk and set out to recruit people to put trans flags all over the streets and sidewalks surrounding the Stonewall National Monument.

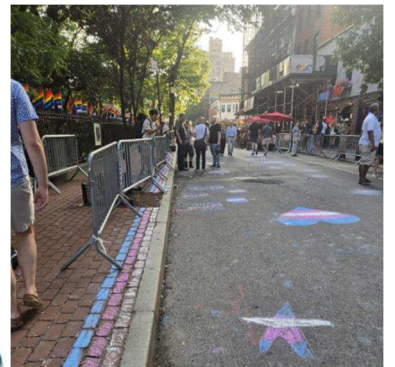
We were surprised when dozens of people showed up to help and one couple brought actual trans flags and heavy duty zip ties to put trans flags back up on the fence surrounding the park. Many remained in place throughout the parade!

We did this the night before the parade was to take place. We did this because it's a highly visible highly photographed area during the parade. We sincerely hope that everybody follow in our footsteps and not cower down to the administration that sees itself as a legitimate monarchy in our free country. Speak up, take action, show support to others!



We seem to have started a trend! Additional trans flags have been showing up on sidewalks and roadways around New York City since our project took place!

It might be simple but it's a clear message that trans people are people and will not be going away!



If you are a trans in need of hormones and you cannot get them in your state, please reach out to the Four Thieves Vinegar Collective at www.fourthievesvinegar.org – you can learn how to make your own oestrogen and testosterone for pennies a dose!

Watch some of their videos at <https://bit.ly/fourthieves>
(please use please common sense before using chemicals in or on your body)



Our 61st Annual Bike Blessing & Biker Picnic

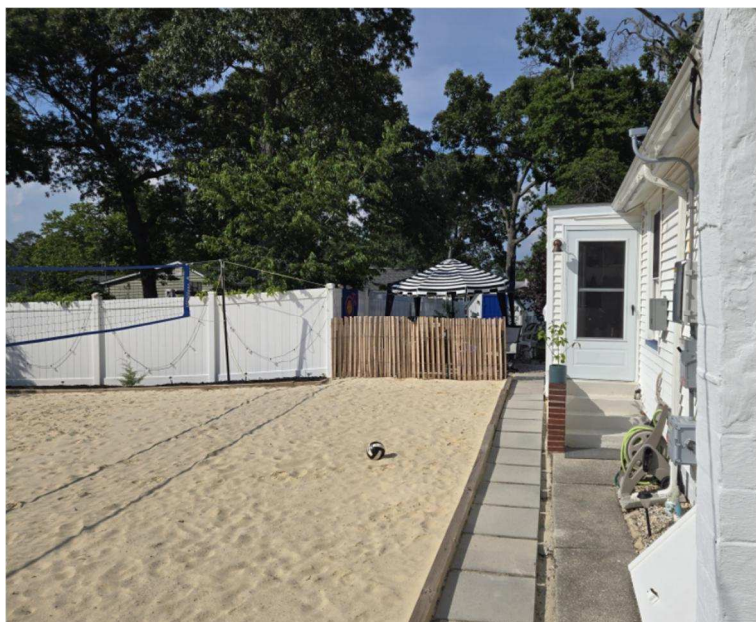
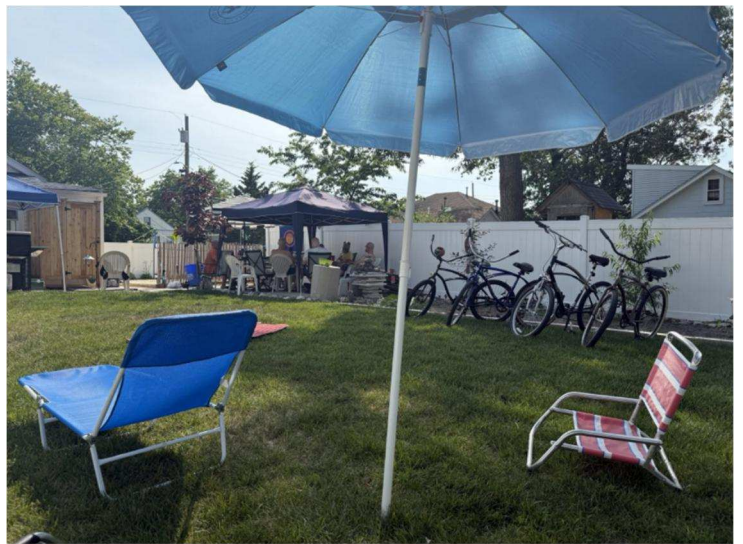
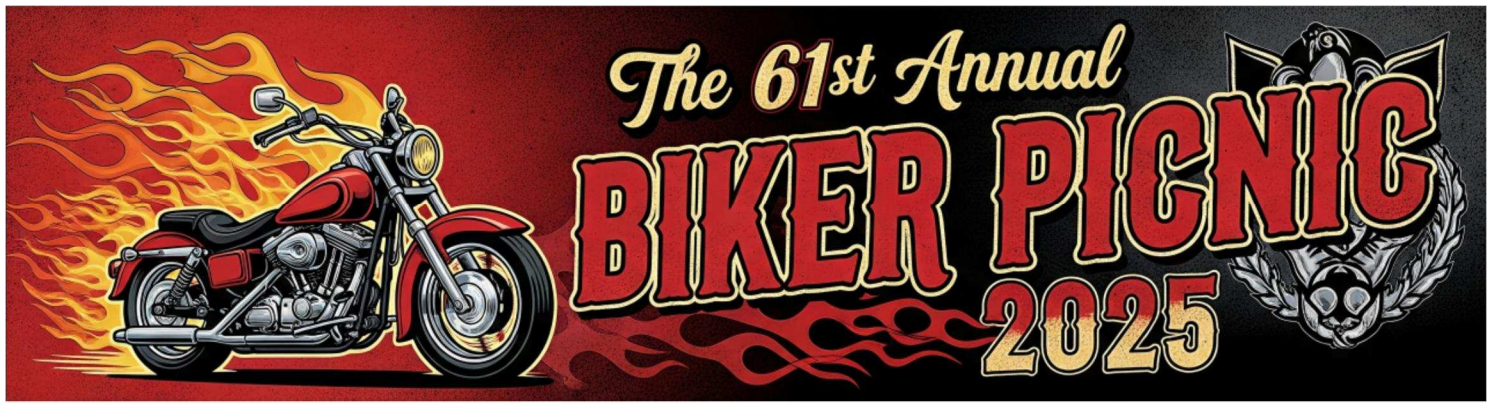
Ty's Was once again home to our annual motorcycle christening and blessing. Attendance was high on this very hot day including Ruby, a member of the Sirens MC! Pictures on this page are of the blessing on Christopher St in front of Ty's.

Mark Wind, now an Emeritus Member officiated as usual.

Three new motorcycles were christened (named), and a whole crowd of bikes got blessed for the riding season, followed by pizza for all!

The next day, people from various starting points went to the biker picnic hosted by President Gary in Somers point NJ. In New York, we started at our usual upper east-side haunt, the Lexington Candy Counter. We didn't hit too much traffic on the way down, nor on the way back! Gary sure knows how to throw a party! Following the BBQ, we got frozen custard at The Custard Hut before heading our own ways home...



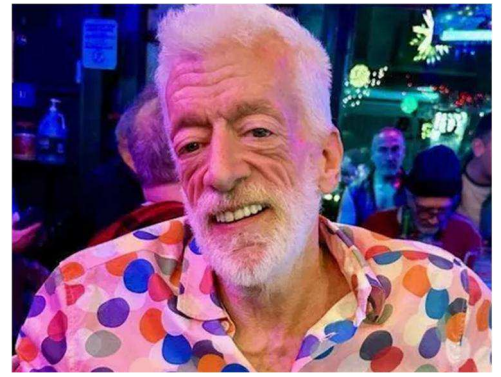


The passing of George Lovell

On 10th June, on facebook, Ty's reported:

"it is with a heavy heart that I have to announce that one of our Ty's family members, George Lovell passed away today of a heart attack. He will be very much missed by all of us at the bar. We will keep everyone posted about a memorial service from him."

See Ty's facebook posting here: <https://bit.ly/GeorgeLovell> 🙄



New Tax Deduction for American-Made Motorcycle Purchases

Great news for motorcycle enthusiasts! The recently passed H.R. 1 legislation, often dubbed the "Big Beautiful Bill," includes a significant provision benefiting those who buy new motorcycles made or assembled in the United States. According to the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, the **interest paid on loans for qualifying new motorcycle purchases will now be tax-deductible.**

This new deduction is "above-the-line," meaning it reduces your adjusted gross income (AGI) before your taxable income is calculated. This is a big win because it makes the deduction available to most taxpayers, even those who don't itemize.

Here are the key details:

- **Cap:** The deduction has a cap of **\$10,000.**
- **Income Phase-Outs:** The benefit phases out as income levels increase.
- **Qualifying Vehicles:** The vehicle must be "manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways" and includes cars, minivans, vans, SUVs, pickup trucks, and motorcycles.
- **Temporary Policy:** This policy is **temporary, expiring in 2028.**

American Made/Assembled Motorcycles Reporting 2025 Production

Full Production Motorcycles

Buell Motorcycles
Harley Davidson Motorcycles
Indian Motorcycles
Zero Motorcycles

Bespoke/Boutique/Limited Production Motorcycles

ARCH Motorcycle
Boss Hoss Cycles
Cleveland CycleWerks
Combat Motors Motorcycles
Curtiss Motorcycles
Janus Motorcycles
Lightning Motorcycles

(examples, not intended as fully comprehensive list)

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation, advocating for street riders in Washington, D.C., applauds this tax provision, seeing it as a policy that supports both the growth of motorcycling and American manufacturing. If you're considering a new bike in the next three years, research how this new policy might benefit you!

No Kings Protest

The current political climate is causing alarm. There's been a recent announcement of 60 new "concentration camps" planned for construction across the United States, reminiscent of facilities like "Alligator Alcatraz" in Florida. Furthermore, the sitting President has reportedly considered revoking the citizenship of a naturalized U.S. citizen and deporting him, simply because he's running for mayor of New York City and hasn't aligned with the President's wishes.



These actions draw unsettling parallels to historical events presently in Moscow and post-WWI Nazi Germany. While protests are escalating nationwide, there's a concern that too many people remain complacent, potentially waiting until it's too late to act.

During a recent "No Kings" protest in Chattanooga, TN, as part of a nationwide event, it was inspiring to witness everyday citizens—workers, teachers, and retirees—gathering in the public square to voice their unequivocal opposition to current government actions. The path to the mid-term elections will be challenging. It feels as though the few favourable court rulings are the only bulwark preserving democracy. The hope is that our nation can withstand this period, overcome what many perceive as tyranny, and swiftly replace those in power—particularly within the Supreme Court and the Executive Branch—to begin repairing the damage.

HOIST



Pig Weekend VI: The Occult

Oct 3 - 5, 2025

**Whips, Warlocks,
and Wicked
Deeds!**

WHISPERING OAKS RETREAT & CAMPGROUND | HAMPSHIRE, TN
HOIST MEN OF LEATHER & FETISH • HOISTMEMPHIS.ORG

The Last Word from President Gary

Greetings ECMC members/associates/friends, this letter is way overdue, but I hope everyone has been enjoying the holidays and especially Pride month. I wanted to recap a few events and memorable moments shared with ECMC brotherhood.

My first official ride of the season occurred on May 18. It was ride organized by our Secretary, Earl. We met at my place and had a nice ride over to Atlantic City and the Byrdcage, we enjoyed some refreshments and light fare. This was opportunity for one of our e-board members and full members Earl to assess the location for possible bar night who are other events to look at this location if you have not been here it is a brand new LGBT venue the first to open since all of the bars and clubs had closed in Atlantic City about 20 years ago it's nice to have a fresh place to go the people are friendly the management is even more friendlier and they will bend over backwards to accommodate us for future events – stay tuned.

The first event to happen for me was Saturday May 31st, 2025, this was my first pride event in South Jersey. This event occurred in Ocean City, NJ and consisted of a stroll along the boardwalk (about 10 blocks), we had flags flying posters and signs and we were a noticeable presence on the boardwalk, this was followed by a venue filled with LGBT vendors information gatherers political people and musicians. Living here in Somers Point I sometimes feel like I might be the only LGBT person in South Jersey at times, but I made a lot of connections and look forward to future events with the South Jersey LGBT groups. On a personal note in between events my family celebrated moms 91st birthday, and mom and dad's 70th wedding anniversary, they married in 1955!

June 19 saw Lewis and Tim arrive from Pittsburgh to Somers Point NJ, they arrived in perfect time, racing ahead of the bad weather that eventually hit us here while we were enjoying a true seafood meal on the bay at Smitty's Clam Bar. As the storm was passing, I noticed that we might be able to see a nice sunset over the bay. I drove my cage to the southern tip of Somers Point, with a view of "Drag Island" (there is also "Rainbow Island" on the eastern side of Somers Point, and no I didn't make these names up!). As we viewed the sunset and got great photos, I noticed a small rainbow appearing, the next thing that appeared in the sky was a full rainbow right before our eyes. It was amazing!

June 20 Lewis and Tim and I headed to the Big Apple for the 61st Annual Motorcycle bike blessing. We made great timing up the Garden State Parkway to the NJ Turnpike to the Holland Tunnel (2 hours, 8 minutes!) Side note: the HOV lanes on the I-95/NJT are in the truck lanes! Scot secured some motorcycle parking for the event in front of Ty's early in the morning. What a nice evening of camaraderie, although a bittersweet moment, as Ty's was still mourning the loss of their manager George, just one week prior. George was remembered with a moment of silence by all attendees. ECMC members wore black ribbons to express condolences in the loss. During the event I got to hang out with Ruby from the Sirens MC. She is a sweet person if you get a chance to meet her. We blessed her yellow BMW. We also agreed to meet at a billiard hall or location with food and a few tables to have an ECMC vs Sirens Pool Tournament – stay tuned for more information! After the blessing, I returned to Somers Point doing the same route and again, 2 hours and 8 minutes!

On June 21 I needed to be home and prepping for the 61st Annual Motorcycle Picnic. The NYC contingent arrived at approximately 12:45 and ready to party! The temperature was about 83 degrees with low humidity. I had a lot of fun making sure that 100% of the attendees would be able to eat outside in the



shade, there was volleyball, firepit, bicycles available for riding, and more! The menu was hot dogs/cheeseburgers/pork sausage, mom's baked bean recipe, potato salad, and coleslaw and I topped it out with a homemade blueberry pie. I think almost all the food was eaten, and hardly any leftovers. I do enjoy hosting this event and hope I can in the future.

June 29th, it was back to NYC for the 55th Annual Pride March. I again did the same route to NYC; except this time, I went through the Lincoln Tunnel. I was running a few minutes late and arrived at the entrance point at 9:58am just in time as access was closed at 10:00am. Whew - that was too close. It is always fun decorating our bikes, hanging out with each other and connecting with a few peeps that we sometimes only see at the parade. We had a well-organized group of volunteer marshals, all in pink ECMC shirts that they had made themselves! It was nice to see so many friendly faces in pink with and our t-shirt design supporting and promoting us! I personally think it was a cool design and reminded me of Speed Racer for some reason. Great event, no issues and I arrived home by 16:00.



July 9th, Wolf Pup and Wiley stopped over and we went over for a photo-op at "Lucy the Elephant" and had a nice meal with a view of Lucy. The boys departed trying to race home before the next storm hit.

Upcoming Events: On July 12, a double header! The first event is the Emilio Caranza wreath laying event in the middle of the Pine Barrens. If you are not familiar with Emilio, he is considered "the Mexican Charles Lindburgh". Approximately 97 years ago, he crashed in the Barrens after being summoned home to Mexico in bad weather because "his manhood was in question", which added to the intrigue and mystery! ECMC has now been laying a wreath along with about twenty other organisations and heads of state such as: The American Legion, The Masons, the Mexican Ambassador, Foreign and National Dignitaries – even some of Emilio's remaining family has attended this annual event. It is a respectful and solemn event. We, as a club, represent the citizens of NYC when we stand in line to lay our wreath at his memorial site. The second event that day will be an "invasion" of the Byrdcage in Atlantic City. This is meet mingle and enjoy the new venue here in South jersey. In the future we hope to have an official bar night here.

We look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming rides and events this summer, please keep checking the calendar as some last-minute rides will appear.

IBH 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 utilising 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.

Events, rides and meetings are in our official calendar. Add our official calendar to your personal calendar by going to <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> then click "add to calendar" in the lower left. Our rides, meetings and events will then appear on your calendar so you know where to meet up!

Chat with us, and other bikers, on our private 'Motorcyclists on Signal' group. Install Signal on your mobile phone and then click here to join the private, encrypted channel: <https://bit.ly/motonsig>



ECMC membership information is available on our website at www.EmpireCityMC.com - view our constitution, bylaws and membership application from the membership tab.

We're also on MeWe social media at <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> and on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/empirecitymc> (although we're not very active in either!)

Please send any announcements, articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org

