

RUMBLINGS



*Empire City MC's
Monthly Newsletter
February 2026*



Spartans Lose a Member

We're sad to report that on 9th Feb 2026 at around 4am, **Joe Morris** (Spartans Member 119) passed. Joe was a long-standing member of the Spartan MC, although he has been an alumnus for some time. He is survived by his beloved husband Ellis.



First Meeting of the New Officers

Last week, the newly elected officers of Empire City MC held their first board meeting of the year. With riding season still mostly on pause, the meeting clocked in at a record-setting 28 minutes — one of the shortest in club history!

Of course, as always, the real conversations happened before and after the meeting. Members caught up on life, work, winter projects, and what's happening in their neighbourhoods. Even in the off-season, the camaraderie never slows down.

A Scheduling Conundrum

This year presents a unique challenge: for the first time ever, our Motorcycle Blessing weekend conflicts with the Washington, DC Pride Parade.

For the past three to four years, we've proudly ridden alongside Spartan MC in the DC Pride Parade. It has become a meaningful weekend filled with brotherhood, visibility, and shared pride between our clubs. The conflict forces us to take a thoughtful look at how we balance tradition and opportunity.

A Look Back at Our Traditions

For the past 20 years, our Motorcycle Blessing has been held on the Friday of the weekend before the NYC Pride March. Before that, it traditionally took place on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, followed by the Biker Picnic on Saturday — and often celebrations that continued through the long weekend.

Over time, we realized the Biker Picnic needed to stand on its own. Originally promoted as a free picnic for men on motorcycles, it had gradually evolved into a full weekend party during the 1980s and 1990s. When we intentionally scaled it back to its original format, some members missed the larger weekend event.

To honour both traditions, we shifted the Blessing and Picnic to the week before NYC Pride and reestablished Memorial Day weekend as "Motorcycle Weekend" — a long weekend getaway dedicated to riding, relaxing, and enjoying our own private space together.

The first ten years were hosted at Al and Dan's place, affectionately known as "The Ranch," in the Finger Lakes of upstate New York. After that, we moved the weekend to western Pennsylvania at The Farm, home of Mike N, one of our associate members.

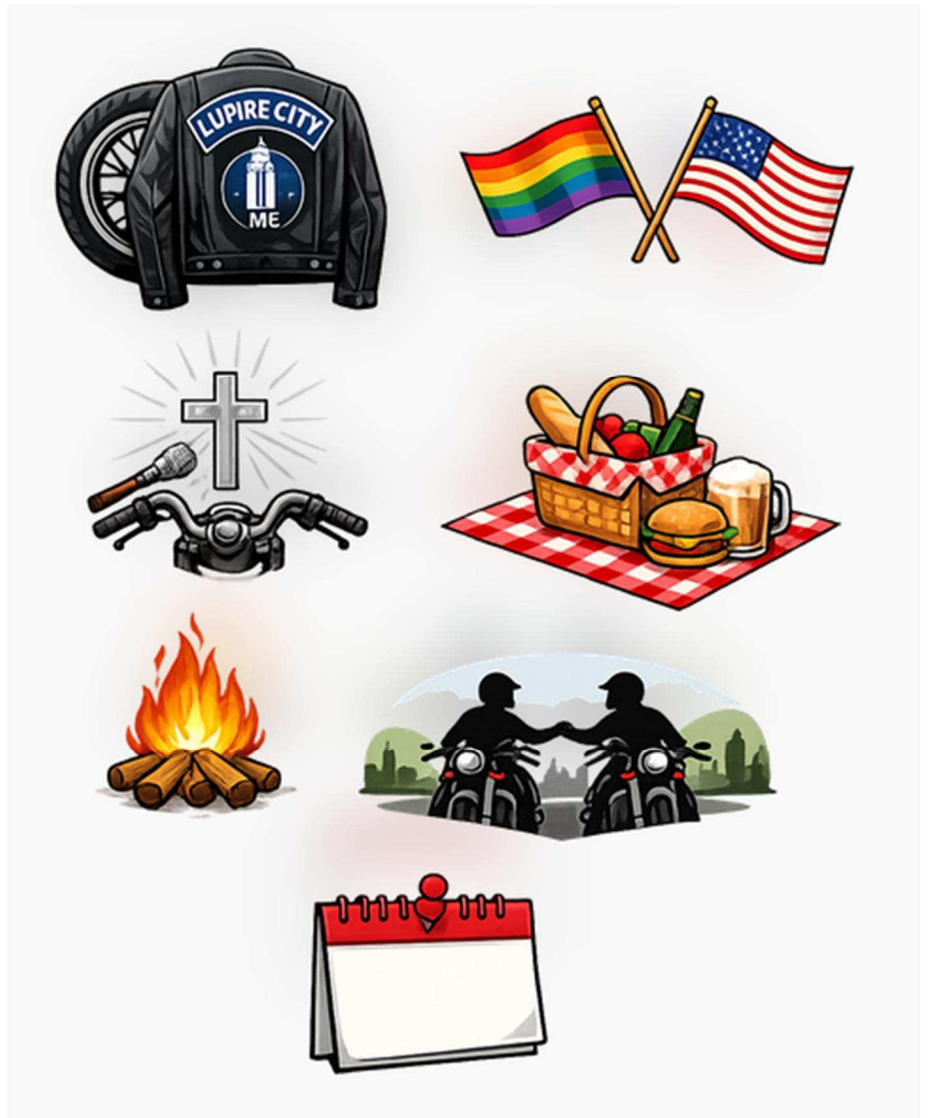
As costs for food, beverages, and hosting increased, participants began contributing a modest amount to help offset expenses. Most of these funds go directly toward food and supplies, with a portion helping homeowners cover wear, tear, and cleanup.

What's Next

One of the first orders of business at this year's inaugural meeting was appointing a committee to evaluate our options and recommend how to resolve this scheduling conflict.

We're committed to finding a solution that honours our traditions while supporting the brotherhoods we've built beyond our chapter. Stay tuned — and keep a close eye on the club calendar as plans are finalized.

Post-note: I asked A.I. to create some 'icon graphics' to accompany this article. Look at the upper right of what it suggested. I had to share this — "LUIPIRE CITY ME", A Microphone and a Cross? Really? ...and of course, we always hold hands when riding! — ROFL 🤪



It's Fucking Cold

While our motorcycles are out in the freezing cold (hopefully not!), what do bikers do when they can't ride their bikes? It's been fucking cold all across the eastern seaboard this winter – even the RAW-folk (Ride All Winter) have abandoned their motorcycles in these massive snow piles lining the streets of New York City!

One of the things that Empire City MC has done for the past 15 years, when the weather has been appropriately cold, is take a trek up to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada for an event called Winterlude!

[Winterlude](#) is a winter carnival that features massive snow and ice sculptures, all sorts of events throughout the city, as well as the most amazing outdoor skating rink (which, in the summertime, is the Rideau Canal!) Over 5 kilometers of brushed outdoor ice with many attractions along the banks of the canal for you to enjoy! Beavertails and hot chocolate are faves (beavertails are fried dough), but there are also arts and entertainment!



An extra bonus is that we get to hang with the Ottawa Knights M.C. and the Ottawa Knight Riders (their motorcycling members!)

So don't let winter get you down! Bundle up and get out there! (Pro tip: if you like skiing or snowboarding reach out to our club hanger-on "Wiley" who is always on the slopes in Vermont, every weekend in wintertime.)

Fun Trip to Ottawa!

FEB 13, FRIDAY

- 10:55–12:40 ✈️ EWR to Ottawa (Chaz & Gary's Flight)
- 12:22–13:58 🚆 Montreal to Ottawa (JM's Train)
- 15:30–16:30 🏠 Hotel Check-In at The Business Inn & Suites

FEB 14, SATURDAY

- 09:00–10:00 ☀️ Breakfast at The Business Inn
- 11:00–16:00 🛼 Skate on the Rideau Canal

FEB 15, SUNDAY

- 10:18–11:48 🚆 Ottawa to Montreal (JM's Train)
- 12:00–16:00 🏔️ Alex's Hike
- 18:30–20:00 🍷 Dinner with Great Big Pete

FEB 16, MONDAY

- All Day 🇺🇸 COMPANY HOLIDAY (President's Day)
- 11:00–12:00 🏠 Hotel Check-Out
- 15:55–17:25 ✈️ Ottawa to EWR (Chaz & Gary's Flight)

I Rode in January (in Georgia)

Read that again. January 2026. And I was riding! Last month, Atlanta delivered one of those rare winter gifts — blue skies, bright sun, and just enough warmth to melt the frost off the grass. The second I saw it, I knew: Today's the day. **Sabados was coming out!**

When I bought Bluey — my new Softail — in 2025, I moved my 2004 Road Star down to my dad's place in Georgia. At first glance that sounds practical. But here's the real win:

- I've got a bike in another state.
- A free place to store it.
- It lives on a trickle charger.
- And when I fly down, it's always ready to roll.
- No rentals. No waiting. Just grab the helmet and go.



Now here's the part that shocked me. When I went to register and insure it in Georgia, even stripped down to bare-bones coverage, the insurance cost more than twice what I paid in New York for full comprehensive. Twice! That's wild. Still? Worth it.

Having my own machine down there — rocking another "ECMC" tag — means whenever Georgia gives me one of those golden winter days, I'm not watching it from inside. I'm riding through it. And that's a feeling you can't price. 🏍️

One For The Road

One final photo of Joe Morris:



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> Please send any articles, classified ads, club event ads, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org.

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