

RUMBLINGS



*Empire City MC's
Monthly Newsletter
May 2026*



Motorcycle Week '26 is in 8 days!

In merely one week (from publishing date), we will begin our 12-day "Motorcycle Week".

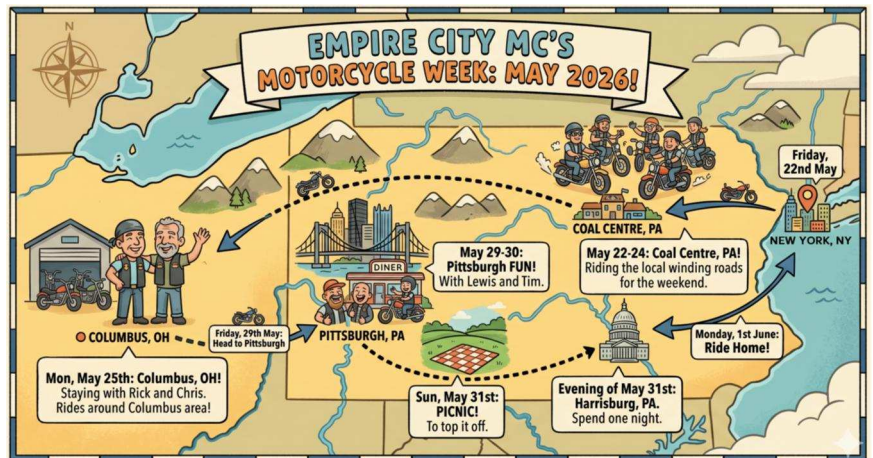
In the past we've had applications, fees and all sorts of things to help coordinate and pay for this event. This year we're doing at "biker style" - come on your own join up with us at any part of the trip. You are responsible for your own lodging and your own meals and everything in between...

On Thursday 21st May, we will depart New York City from The Lexington Candy Counter, headed to Harrisburg for one night. On Friday 22nd we will depart Harrisburg, heading to Coal Centre, PA. On Monday the 25th, we will ride to Columbus, OH. On the 29th, we will ride to Pittsburgh, PA and on Sunday the 31st, we will be in Harrisburg again. We'll split up the following morning Monday the 1st of June.

This is a motorcycle-only event. You must arrive by motorcycle in order to participate. At each of our destinations we have a designated host hotel, and although you need not stay at our designated hotel, we will be departing from those hotels as per our calendar. We will utilise our calendar to identify our host hotels, and other information pertaining to the trip.

Keep this handy website available if you're planning on coming so you can locate us: <https://calendar.empirecitymc.com/> (note: if there are changes in our plans for any reason, including weather, we will update the calendar live! It is a vital tool to see where we are at and where we are staying this entire trip.)

For more information, call +1 212-212-2429 and speak with Chaz. If you get voicemail, leave a message. This number DOES NOT ACCEPT text messages; only voice calls accepted! You may TEXT to us at +1 347-491-9887 (text only number!)



Montreal Pride, The Ranch, & Hillside Pup Weekend

In August, we will make a trip up to Montreal Pride 6th-10th August, followed by a ride to The Ranch in the fingerlakes 10th-13th August, then Leather Pup Weekend at Hillside Campgrounds in Gibson, PA 13th-16th August. All men are welcomed! If you can get to Montreal, The Ranch or Hillside on your own, you need not come by motorcycle – but we will!

CHANGE OF DATE! DROPPING THE IRON-BUTT PORTION.

We are planning to depart on the 6th of August instead of the 7th, alleviating us up the iron butt ride to Montreal directly from New York.

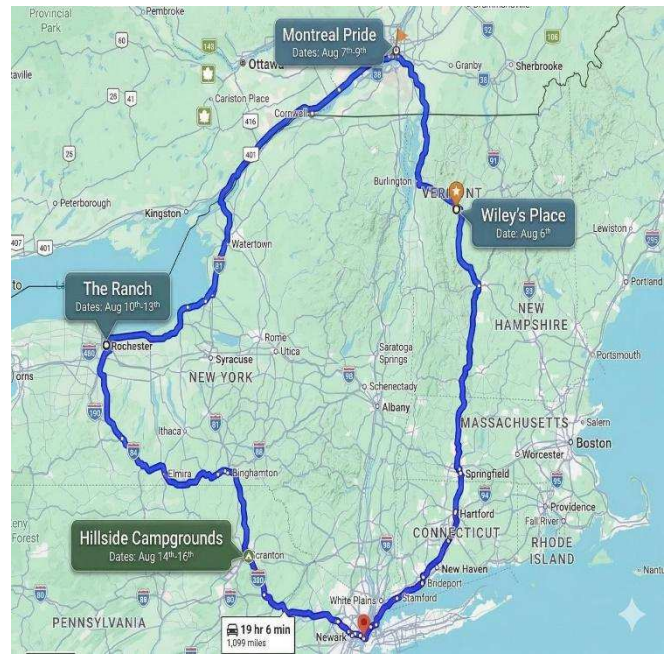
Information on where we will be staying in the Adirondacks or Vermont will be provided on our club calendar!

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On 6th August, we will Department New York aiming for the Adirondacks/Vermont area. We will spend the night and continue our journey to Montreal on the 7th of August arriving Friday afternoon. We will have some fun Friday night, Saturday and watch the parade on Sunday! We will depart Monday morning to head to Rochester, NY where we will have dinner and then arrive at The Ranch in Hemlock, NY in the beautiful fingerlakes area! We will spend Tuesday and Wednesday riding around the New York fingerlakes area. On Thursday, we'll ride 3 hours to Hillside Campgrounds, a day before Leather Pup Weekend commences – allowing all in our group to chill the night before!

You must purchase a 2026 Hillside Campgrounds membership card before entering the site. See <https://hillside.camp/> for details and requirements for entering the campground before planning to attend! In addition, you will need to arrange for your own accommodations and any weekend fees for the campground. Hillside is a clothing-optional, male-only space.

You need not commit to the entire ride, and you need not arrive by bike. For more information, contact Erik, our Road Captain.



Bob Kirsop Update

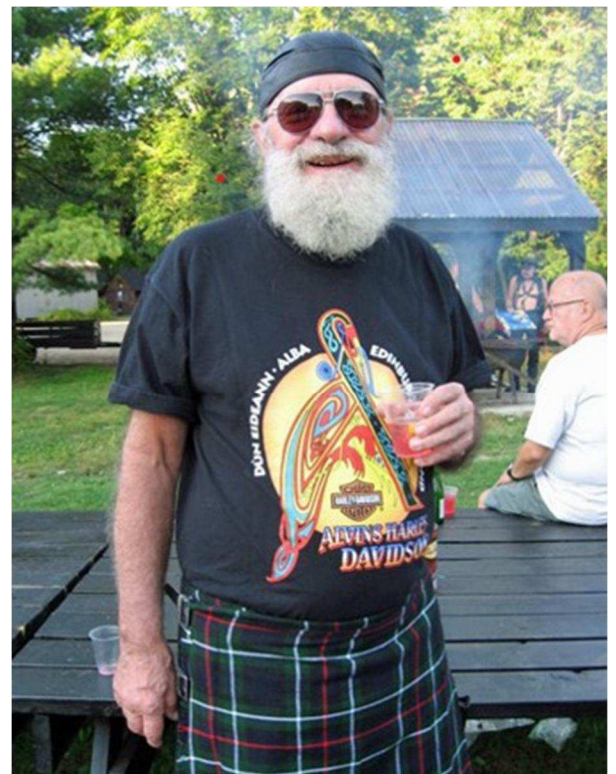
We have received word that our fellow biker, Bob Kirsop of Unicorn MC, has been transferred from the assisted living centre in Cleveland (where we visited him May 2024) to Lifecare Hospice.

Reports say Bob has had a couple of “good” days recently. He has been sitting up in a special reclining chair and has even been nibbling on some M&Ms.

For those who know Bob, this may be an important time to reach out and share a message, memory, or word of kindness.

Bob has been in assisted living for some time and gave up riding more than 10 years ago, but his connection to the motorcycle community remains strong. He was a regular contributor to the Unicorn Horn newsletter ([see their newsletter archives here](#)), a former Road Captain of Unicorn MC, and a familiar presence among clubs throughout the Northeast, including Empire City MC, Spearhead LDSC, the Ottawa Knights, the Rochester Rams, the Buffalo Bulldogs, the Syracuse Journeymen, and many others.

There is more than one hospice with the same name. Sadly, at the time of writing, we are unable to confirm which Hospice Bob is located at, no one answers any phones at and of the Lifecare Hospices in Ohio.



ECMC Now Riding in Georgia!

As you may recall, in August of last year I bought my first Harley-Davidson an electric blue 2018 Softail. Many wonder what happened to Sabados, my 2004 Yamaha Road Star. I'm happy to report that she is doing well in the Atlanta, GA area!

Since my father has retired down here, I decided it was fitting that so should my motorcycle! She now has her own private garage and trickle charger to keep her happy when I'm not here, but while I am here, I've got a bike to ride, and it also increases ECMC's "turf" into the state of Georgia! This yet is another expansion in addition to our full member in Kentucky!

As for my Harley, it now sports the tag that used to be on Sabados: ECMC NY.

Harley Blues, or Bluey, the Blue Harley

I've got to admit that the Softail has some serious torque with some get up and go that just might leave you behind if you're not careful! She's a beautifully engineered machine, with wonderful handling and her electric blue just lights up the highway!

I wish I felt as good about Harley-Davidson as a company as I do about the bike. Most riders eventually want to own a Harley, but the brand's past behaviour soured it for me—being harassed for riding a "jap bike" (something Harley encouraged among some riders), being told to "buy American" (even though Honda is often more American-made than Harley), and, finally, the fanfare the company gave to Trump during a factory visit. I thought things had changed and that H-D had embraced DEI, so I decided it was finally time to buy one—only to watch two-thirds of their dealerships shut down amid disputes over how dealers have been treated. Now I live in the largest city in the United States, and I still don't have an official Harley dealer with a service bay within an hour of my home in Manhattan. I will write a more detailed story later.

I rode my bike up to Danbury Harley-Davidson in December of 2025 for winter storage and to have some mods done. I picked it up on 15th April 2026 and rode at home! She sure looks pretty with her new tour pack on and her "ECMC" tag, formally on Sabados!

Be sure to come see her when she's officially christened "Bluey" at ECMC's Motorcycle Blessing at Ty's on 26th June at 19:00!

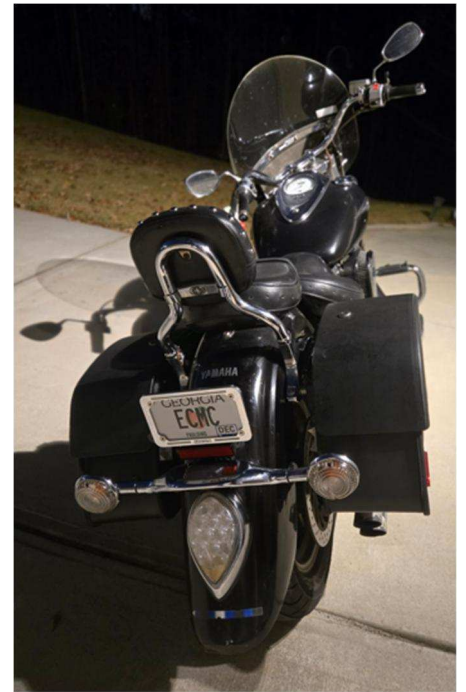


Photo: Bluey with new pipes, tour pack, pillion seat, hard saddle bags, crash bars, and horn!

What's with the new "S" on our website?

You may have noticed that our website now works as both: <http://EmpireCityMC.com> and <https://EmpireCityMC.com> that little extra "s" stands for secure.

In plain English, HTTPS helps create an encrypted connection between our website and your web browser. It is the modern web standard, and many browsers now warn people when a site does not use it.

Here is an easy way to think about it: Using regular HTTP is a bit like sending a postcard through the mail. The address is on it, the message is written on the back, and anyone who handles it along the way could potentially read what it says. Using HTTPS is more like sending that same message inside a security envelope. The outside still shows where it is going, but the message itself is protected from casual viewing while it travels between your browser and the website.

What's with the 'S' on your website?
That little "S" stands for **SECURITY**.
Here's the difference in plain English.

HTTP = like a postcard
Anyone along the way can read what's on it.

Not secure.
Your information is visible and vulnerable.

Secure, encrypted connection

HTTPS = like a sealed envelope
The message is sealed and protected all the way to its destination.

Secure.
Your information stays private and protected.

With HTTPS, your browser and the website communicate through a private, encrypted tunnel.

HTTPS protects what matters:

- Your personal information
- Logins and passwords
- Payments and purchases
- Messages and communications
- Your trust and peace of mind

Look for the padlock. Choose HTTPS. Ride with confidence.

Our website does not process payments, collect financial information, or handle private transactions. It is simply a place where we share information about the club, events, rides, and announcements. For a long time, there was no urgent need for encrypted browsing on a simple informational site like ours.

But times have changed. Modern browsers increasingly expect websites to use HTTPS, even simple ones. Without it, visitors may see warnings saying a site is "not secure," which can look alarming even when the site is harmless. Fortunately, SSL certificates are now more accessible than they used to be. We are using Let's Encrypt, a free certificate service supported by the Electronic Frontier Foundation and others. Even though the certificate itself is free, keeping it working with our current hosting setup still takes some technical effort, especially because we do not have full server access to automate renewals.

So, what does this mean for you? It means that if your browser previously warned you that our website was "not secure," those warnings should now be gone. The site is still the same Empire City MC website — it is just being delivered through a more secure, modern connection.

ECMC Meetings, Events & Contact Information

Empire City MC hosts two primary Zoom meetings each month: Open General Meeting: First Wednesday of each month, 8:00–9:00 PM, Social Hour: Third Wednesday of each month, 8:00–9:00 PM All interested parties are welcome. Please note that the Open General Meeting is a club business meeting. Join any ECMC conference call using Zoom: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-MEET>

President — president@empirecitymc.com
Rides & Travel: Road Captain — road-captain@empirecitymc.com
Events: Vice President — vice-president@empirecitymc.com

ECMC rides, meetings, and events are listed on our [official calendar](#). Chat with ECMC and other bikers in our private Motorcyclists on Signal group. Install Signal on your phone, then join here: <https://bit.ly/motonsig> Membership information is available on our website: www.EmpireCityMC.com, just visit the membership tab to view our constitution, bylaws, and membership application.

You can also find us on social media: MeWe: <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/empirecitymc>

Send newsletter articles, classified ads, club event notices, photos, and letters to the editor to: newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org — our mailing address is Empire City MC, c/o Ty's Bar, 114 Christopher St, New York, NY 10014. ©MMXXVI Empire City MC, Inc. All rights reserved.

