



ECMC at Leake & Watts' Summer BBQ

Empire City MC has supported Leake & Watts Foster Care since the 80s, but never have we done so outside of the Christmas holiday season when we hold our annual toy drive to benefit them... This year, with thanks to our member Scot L's suggestion, we sat down with them to become more integrated with them to see what else we could help with – one of those things was their annual Summer BBQ. Funding has been tight and one of the things they could not afford this year was a “bounce house”, something that the kids really enjoyed in the past. Not only did ECMC get them a bounce house, we also showed up with some bikes to let the kids get their pictures taken on them! It was a great afternoon of fun!

In addition to the kiddies, Evil Ed and Chaz took two of the L&W employees for their first-ever motorcycle ride (just around the block for about a mile) – this made us think that we should set up a special buddy ride day for the employees at L&W who would like to go for a day-trip! Look for this coming up on our calendar soon!



Interested in seeing photos and videos from this event? See them here: <http://bit.ly/2017-06-29LW> (note: you must be a member of ECMC's facebook group to see them!)

Canada Day & Independence Day at The Ranch

Once again, another wonderful long weekend at “The Ranch” in Hemlock, NY for the Canadian and American holidays. In attendance were: Bob K and Tom J of Unicorn MC, Earl D and Chaz A of Empire City MC, Chip McD, Michael & Marcus from Potsdam, some newcomers: Scott D from the UK and Alex from Philadelphia and of course, our hosts, Al & Dan!

This was Scott's first long-distance ride, being my biker buddy from New York City all the way to The Ranch and back! Congratulations on your first “iron butt ride” Scott!



Upon Friday's arrival, some of us went to the Lima Country Club for their fantastic fish fry, others went to Fratelli's Italian Restaurant in nearby Lakeville. We scattered on Saturday to shop, go antiquing and to visit friends and family. On Sunday, we had a massive dinner (with thanks to a lot of our kitchen volunteers led by K.K.) including steamed clams, home-made macaroni and cheese (made with 7-year-old cheddar cheese) and BBQ pork ribs! Later that evening, a firework display thanks to the generosity of our hosts, Al & Dan!

When Scott and I returned to NYC, we went on a combination of highways and byways, like Egypt Valley Road, NY-21 thru Naples, NY-53 to the US-I-86 to US-I-99 into Pennsylvania to PA-6 (a beautiful road), crossing at the Dingman's Ferry Bridge, the last privately owned toll bridge (\$1) on the Delaware River and one of the last few in the United States, being owned and operated by the Dingmans Choice and Delaware Bridge Company!

Interested in seeing photos and videos from the weekend? See them here: <http://bit.ly/2017-0704> (note: you must be a member of ECMC's facebook group to see them!)

Meet the Member: Steven G

Steve G has been a full member of Empire City Motorcycle Club for just a over year, but what a year it has been! Introduced to ECMC by current club Secretary, Aaron G, Steve has energetically dived into club fundraising and other activities, selling more ECMC 2017 calendars than anyone else at the club's Holiday Party last year and providing haircuts at the club's recent bar-night at the DC Eagle during the weekend of the Nation Pride March in Washington DC in June.



Steve grew up between Queens and Long Island, NY, his interest in motorcycles began at the tender young age of 19. The boss at the hair salon where he worked was an active rider and Steve taken with the rider-lifestyle ever since.



His first bike was a Suzuki GN250, a small street cruiser very popular at that time with first new riders, but considers himself a Harley man. His current ride is a 2011 Harley Fat Boy, but says that his favourite bike was his '82 Harley Sturgis FXB.

Steve now lives between Brooklyn and Sag Harbour, LI with his husband, John of two years.

His favourite ride of all time was riding with his ECMC brothers in the NYC Gay Pride Parade for the first time in 2016!

2017 Gay Pride in Washington and New York!



In June, Empire City MC was present at both the march on Washington, the "National Equality March" as well as the 48th anniversary of the Stonewall March in New York City.

It's more important than ever that we stand up and are seen, not allowing our hard-earned rights from being revoked by the very vocal right-wing nutters.



In addition to marching, it's important that everyone reach out to their elected representatives and be engaged with their local politics as well as state and national levels!

More event photos:



Stonewall March, New York City
<http://bit.ly/2017-06-25SW>

National Equality March, Washington DC
<http://bit.ly/2017-0611WDC>



Barnights, then and now

Barnights are an important part of the gay leather/gay biker club scene. Not only are they a gathering of like-minded men to discuss current events and cruise, they are where the majority of money is made that helps keep a club operational. Moreover, they help promote the bar itself.

Going back to days before the internet (the 70s and 80s), there was a much more symbiotic relationship between clubs and the bars and both relied on each other more than they do today. Empire City MC used to hold monthly barnights at The Spike.

They were a lot of work, but they were a lot of fun too! It wasn't uncommon for club members to literally take over a bar on a barnight, including: bartending, bar-backing, cleaning, selling 50/50 tickets, working the door, etc.



As time has moved forward, this sort of thing is unheard of. The last New York bar that allowed club members to work behind the bar was the Ninth Avenue Saloon, but when it was sold a few years ago, that stopped completely.

The closest thing to what we had can be seen at the DC Eagle in Washington, DC. They have a special "beer bar" set up for the host club to sling beer and Jell-O shots. It's a far cry from working the main bar where one would mix cocktails, but it's something more than nothing. The DC Eagle has been very helpful in keeping this tradition alive and we thank them for it.

Clubs need cash to operate, keeping their websites up and running, paying for friendship and run pins, promotional materials, their patches and to support their chosen charities. Barnights are what create the cashflow clubs so desperately needed but as barnight revenue streams have nearly all dried up, some creative ideas are needed.

ECMC Bike Christening & Biker Picnic 2017

Every year Empire City MC hosts an annual Bike Blessing & Christening, followed by the Biker Picnic. Both are free events, Ty's has mainly been our host bar since the Spike closed so many years ago, and this year was no different, providing the champagne for the christening and the pizzas for the crowds of bikers and biker-lovers! Thanks again to Ty's for making it a great night!

For the first time (that I know of), our Biker Picnic was cancelled at the 11th hour when, due to inclement weather, none of our guests showed up at the starting point of Sweet Life Café on Christopher St. A quick call from our "secret location" in Pennsylvania (Eddie's Shack) determined that it was raining cats and dogs and there was a flash-flood alert for much of the area.

The food was donated to a worthy place and there was no picnic in 2017 to the disappointment of us all. ☹️



See more photos of the Bike Blessing at: <http://bit.ly/2017-0617>



Biker Picnic vs Motorcycle Weekend: Some might not remember is that in the 90s and early 2000s, our Biker Picnic was a weekend-long affair with housing, several meals and all sorts of fun – in 2011 we branched the weekend-long event into our "Motorcycle Weekend" which is over Memorial Day weekend. The Biker Picnic is just that: a picnic and nothing else. This was done to end any confusion about what the events had to offer. If you miss the old Biker Picnic which were full of activity and lasted an entire weekend, consider coming to our Motorcycle Weekend! The price is always a steal – it's a full weekend run for under \$50, including accommodations!

ECMC Mail Bag

From: Donald L.
Date: May 25, 2017 at 5:25:54 PM EDT
To: news@EmpireCityMC.com
Subject: Bikers Picnic



Just correct a few little notes on the Bikers picnic [article from last month's newsletter]:
One of the first ECMC biker's picnics was held at Dean S's home, a partner of Walter K (an ECMC member).

After that it was held at my partner's house in Hopewell, NJ from about 1975. Valinor Farms was purchased in 1990 and the first picnic was held there before much work was done. The pool was dug in and the barn was started. The pool was not covered yet so it was an outdoor pool that year.

There were no residents at the hospice at that time. The 1st hospice resident was a club person and he passed away while living at Valinor. There was another person there at the time. After that, we had a full house. One of the residents accidentally burnt down the house on New Year's Eve 1996. The fire was started by smoking on the couch. He fell asleep, got up and went to bed and the alarm went off shortly thereafter. Keith was able to get them all out safe. As the alarm was hooked to a monitoring company, Keith called 911 but the alarm company never notified the Fire Department, so we had a claim with the alarm company.

The people living at the hospice were offered the chance to try the new AIDS medicine cocktail but they all turned it down as they were tired of trying different medications that didn't work. After rebuilding from the fire, once again we had a full house. Everyone staying there this time was on the AIDS cocktail and did so well that they were moving out and getting their own places. After that the nightmare began. In order to keep our non-profit status, we needed someone to be in residence. We were getting people from institutions, jail, crazy people, anyone that need to be in an institution.

Then the board of directors pulled some very nasty things, trying to get my partner sign over the farm to them and get rid of me. Remember, it was my home too! Mark W he was on the board and he was the only person that told me what they were trying to do. I thank Mark for that. So, if it was not for the board of Directors there might be a Valinor Farms still today.

Anyway, my point is that it said in the article Valinor Farms only had one resident – that is inaccurate. Keith B and myself ran Valinor Farms for 16 years and I don't know how it can be said we only had one resident in the 16 years we were opened. Unfortunately, we had many more.

I am now in Florida and you must have heard of Keith. He and I were involved with the club scene since 1975. Keith was well known, had a couple of terms as AMCC president and donated much time and a lot of money to help keep it going. I don't think there will ever be another person like Keith, his generosity could never be matched by anyone and anyone who knew Keith knows what I mean and had the greatest admiration for him and would agree he was one of a kind.

Sincerely,
Don Lehrman

Editor's reply:

Dear Don. Thank you for your kind letter! Remember that the information I had on hand to write the article was based on my personal knowledge from attending the ECMC Biker Picnic (long before ever becoming a member). I remember staying at someone's home in my sleeping bag with loads of hot and horny bikers, then I remember Valinor Farms before the pool was complete (mud pit) with no roof, then later the last Biker Picnic at Valinor Farms just after it was closed. I knew Keith and he knew me when I was 18 years old! I even went to the Pocono Warrior's 100 Men In The Woods Run at Valinor Farms at least once. Sometimes memory cheats, but I can say that I always had a great time at Valinor Farms and I remember you and Keith well. I also met people like Mel F, Jose R, Mark W, Jeff A, Paul M, Kevin K and so many others. I treasure the days I spent there, so much that I returned to the former Valinor Farms property last year to take some photos and actually meet someone living there! Oddly enough, the kitchen, kitchen porch, pool room, "living/dining room" all look like nothing has changed since you guys left. Even the "no smoking" dymo label on the sliding door to the kitchen is still there! I don't know where I heard that there was only one resident, but I remember hearing that from someone... In any case, I'm very happy you set the record straight.

If you'd like to see what Valinor Farms looks like today, go to <http://bit.ly/ValinorFarms> (note: you must be a member of the Empire City MC facebook group to see the album)

Send your comments for publication to news@EmpireCityMC.com

4th of July BBQ at Mel & Jose's

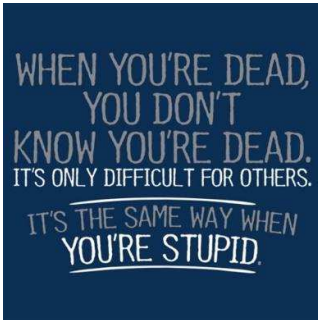


One thing's for sure: Mel & Jose know how to throw a BBQ! This past weekend, on 8th July, Bucks MC (and former ECMC members) Mel & Jose held their annual 4th of July BBQ and many ECMC members were there, including Eddie M who just got out of major knee-replacement surgery two weeks prior! There was a massive spread of food, snacks and hospitality. Thanks guys!



More photos: <http://bit.ly/2017-0708>

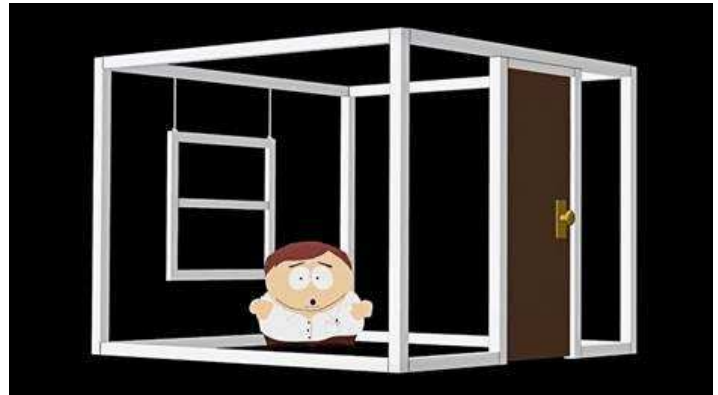
Biker Funnies



The Last Word – Dude: Where's my safe space?

As a gay male, some might say I'm part of a privileged class and have no need for a "safe space", but I want to be clear about this: I am a masculine gay white male interested in other masculine gay men. I don't want females (or anyone dressing like females), snot-nosed preppies or mixed-gender people in my private/cruising space. Don't get me wrong, I love drag and females as much as the next man, but there is a time and a place and the leather bar isn't that time nor space, unless it's something very special and clearly advertised in advance so the real men can stay home that night!

Gay bars in New York City and various other parts of the world have become havens for fag-hags and leather bars don't even care who comes in anymore. Former leathermen don't bother to put on their leather and go out and hunt anymore (myself included!), we'd rather stay home and curl up with recon.com where we can openly discriminate based on people's profile photos!



I wonder what would happen if the L.U.R.E. were to be open once again, dress code in place. Do you think it would be a roaring success and leathermen would come out again? Do you think there would be a discrimination lawsuit because the twink with the manbun was told to fuck off and die?

Then there's the double-standard. When someone rents space at The Centre or the G.A.G.V., they sign a contract that states you cannot discriminate in your rented meeting space; however, that isn't enforced for the lesbian twelve step programmes! How is that fair?

Don't get me wrong... I love that the world has become so much more accepting of persons of all walks of life but I don't think that should come at the cost of our gay bars, the "original safe space" for gay men. If you go to Amsterdam, you have to ring a bell to get into the gay leather/sex bars, and if you don't fit the bill, you don't get buzzed in! In North Carolina, you must be a member to enter most gay bars. Perhaps it's time for at least one gay bar to do something like these two examples in New York City? It would be an interesting social experiment. – Chaz

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

July Rides: Check our calendar at <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com>

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

13th August: RIDE: Blue Knights NY2 Annual Suicide Run to benefit various charities. Cost: \$35.00 Single and \$55.00 Double. Registration 8:00AM to 10:00AM at Allan Shandler Park, Entrance on Jerome Avenue, 1/4 mile south of 233 St in "Da Bronx"

17th-21st August: RIDE: Montréal Gay Pride March! We had a really good time with this last year and there's a lot more still to do there! Like last year, there will be two groups going up and coming back: highway riders and country riders – everyone makes their own accommodation plans and we'll use What'sApp or SMS to arrange meet-ups for breakfast to chat about the day's plans. If you can, go up on 17th August (Thursday) and come home 21st August (Monday). It's a straight shot there and back, about 9 hours (at the speed limit) including gas-ups, food breaks and the Canadian/United States border. RIDERS: If you're riding with us, meet at Lexington Candy Counter at 8am for breakfast, 9am kick-stands-up. If you're NOT RIDING, just meet us up there on Thursday night -- riders and non-riders welcome -- you can even take the train if you like! Remember: There is FREE MOTORCYCLE parking in Montréal in special areas. Gay Pride Montréal information: <http://www.fiertemontrealpride.com/en/pride/>

6th September: ECMC's Open General Meeting at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All riders and prospective members welcomed!

9th-10th September: EVENT: The New York LGBT Expo at Javits's

14th-17th September: RIDE: Ride for the Cause. This is being discussed and coordinated presently. All hotel, gas, mileage expenses are to be refunded to motorcycle riders who volunteer to help "heard" and protect the folks riding bicycles on this three-day bike trek fundraiser. VERY GOOD to EXCELLENT motorcycle riding skills and training are REQUIRED. <http://cycleforthecause.org/>

15th-17th September: EVENT: Black & Blue Party at Oneida Campground. For more information, contact Evil Ed. Annual membership fee to Oneida Campground plus weekend accommodation must be paid to attend.

29th September – 1st October: RIDE: Mates Leather Weekend (21st Anniversary). www.MatesLeatherWeekend.com

4th October: ECMC's Open General Meeting at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All riders and prospective members welcomed!

Coming sooner than you realise:

October: ECMC's Anniversary Dinner (T/B/A)

2nd December: SAVE THE DATE! AN AMCC SANCTIONED EVENT: ECMC's Annual Holiday Party & Toy Drive at the Stonewall Inn

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.



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