



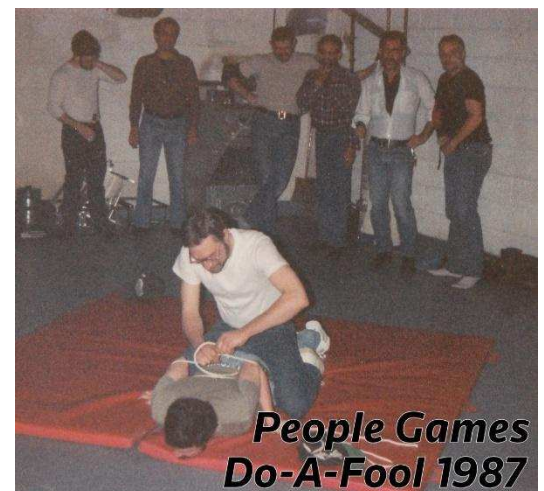
## The Rochester Rams MC Calls It Quits

Gay motorcycle and/or leather clubs are like non-renewable resources, once they are gone, they are gone. As you can see in the letter below, The Rochester Rams has closed shop.

The Rochester Rams has been in existence since the early 70s, based out of Rochester, New York and was a frequent guest at Empire City MC events in the 80s, 90s and beyond. Now, as you can read below, they have closed shop. The Rochester Rams MC were one of the clubs decimated by AIDS in the 80s, but survived. They also survived Vietnam, Reagan, Bush Sr and Bush Jr, the death of all three original owners of the Bachelor Forum (their home bar), even the gentrification and female invasion of the Bachelor Forum under its new ownership who really never supported the Rams like the previous three did. Several huffy members left and formed other clubs, such as L.O.L.A. (The Lake Ontario Leatherman Association), G.H.L.A. (The Golden Horseshoe Leather Association), even a sex club known as the "Barn Parties" seemed to originate from confrontations with the Rochester Rams. A former president, Rich Richards was under our watchful eye and cared for as best we could whilst he died from liver cancer. In our darkest days, we made panels for the AIDS Quilt for some of our fallen members – the number of deceased members is heart-breaking.



The Rochester Rams had a motion on the table to dissolve the club once before in the late 80s due to the fact over half our members were in hospital with AIDS. In 1987 a valiant effort to do something fun, *anything fun* to change our moods and make us proud once again of our damaged club, we pretty much forced every able-bodied member to attend the Tribe MC's Annual "Do-A-Fool" Run in April 1987 with the plan of taking 1<sup>st</sup> place participation, proudly bring the trophy back to Rochester! Members who couldn't afford the \$80 run fee were paid for by the club – we were determined to win! There was strong competition from our splinter group, L.O.L.A. At the slave auction, L.O.L.A. pooled their "fuck bucks" and bought Walt Dyer, our President at the time. A certain L.O.L.A. member, who's still alive today was heard yelling at Walt: "Ok, boy – now it's time for some dick-work!" – Walt looked back at us while carried away by L.O.L.A. with the same expression that Dabney Coleman had on his face at the end of film "9 to 5" when he said "Brazil?" This happened because we needed to host a cocktail party, participate in the scavenger hunt, play all the "people games" and enter the slave auction in order to gain participation points to snag 1<sup>st</sup> place. We won. I was so happy that upon returning to the Rams' home on Laurelton St, I ran up to the attic to show Richard Bradbury, a former president of the Rams the trophy and I tripped and the trophy tumbled down the stairs and fell apart! The trophy you see in the case at the Forum was re-constructed!



We proved we could keep the club going and take care of our sick and dying by winning 1<sup>st</sup> place participation which gave us the confidence to join with the Utica Tris MC to host the first outdoor Rams' Run since before AIDS. Yeah, we went just over \$3,000 over budget – but each year thereafter, the run got bigger and better (and more on budget!)

The Rochester Rams were the source for so many stories, memories and friends – and all the tangible items that trigger these memories of these things will be given away, or possibly thrown away.



Here is the letter from The Rochester Rams Secretary:

Dear Associate Members and Friends of the Rams,

It is my sad duty to inform you that the members of the Rochester Rams voted unanimously to dissolve the club per the rules of our Constitution. Some may already be aware of this from the public posts on our social media accounts.

While we appreciate the support given by the community over the years, that support has waned, and membership has fallen, to persistently low and untenable levels. Despite spending time, money, and effort to broaden our outreach, participation in events such as bar nights and the toy drive have declined. It was our fervent hope that younger members of the community would step up, but with only one exception, newer members have not committed to the club.

The timeline for dissolution follows:

- June was the final bar night
- the club will dispose of physical assets during July and early August
- items with historical value, such as club banners will be sent to the Leather Archives (note that all photographs, newsletters, and other records were scanned and sent to the archives earlier last year)
- the website and social media sites discontinued by the end of August
- remaining funds donated to charity and the bank account closed by the end of August
- dissolution completed by the end of September 2019

We ask that all associate and lifetime members keep their patches and continue to wear them. If you have personal items stored in the clubhouse, please contact us immediately to coordinate their return. Please contact us if you would like any photographs, awards or other items as souvenirs.

Sincerely,

Pup Scrubs  
Club Secretary, The Rochester Rams

So, why did I open this article up with treating clubs like “non-renewable resources”? Because it’s not only the Rams who are in this boat. Many other clubs are down to only a handful of members and, quite honestly, only have one meeting or event each year! The backpatch isn’t seen anywhere other than that. The alarm bells have been ringing for some time, we need to promote and support our clubs or they will all vanish. Even Empire City MC, which had 17 full members just two years ago, is now down to nine full members, and of that nine, each one of us has health, family, job or other drama doing on that’s made it impossible to even get an all-member photograph for our webpage this year! So, don’t think it can’t happen – none of our clubs is “too big to fail”. As Trident MC used to say “Give A Damn!”

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### **Empire City MC Scales Back 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans**

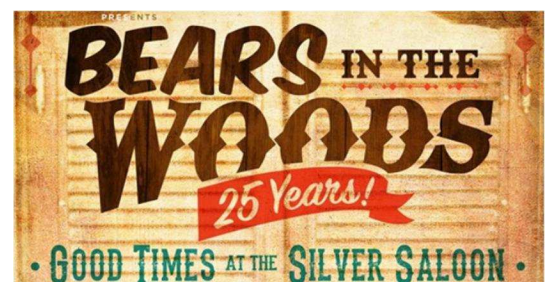
Empire City MC hosts the AMCC meeting once every five years. When AMCC comes to town, we can guarantee at least 80 people will go on our dinner cruise (which is the guaranteed head count for the yacht company). Hosting the AMCC meeting was crucial for us to ensure participation. This year we did not get the points needed to host the meeting and another club will be hosting it. Knowing full well that without the AMCC meeting we won’t get nearly the participation we need to break-even, we have sadly had to cancel the host hotel, the barnights and the dinner cruise. We’re so sorry this had to happen and we know some of you really love our every-five-year special weekend, but this year, our 55<sup>th</sup>, we’re going to rent an entire restaurant on Saturday night, 12<sup>th</sup> October and host a leather dinner instead. Details will be forthcoming.

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### **Last Call for Arktos!! There are only two single beds left in the air-conditioned bunk house!**

What does a bear do in the woods? Come along and find out!

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Arktos Bear Run, entitled “Good Times at the Silver Saloon” will be held at Freedom Valley Campground in New London, Ohio Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Empire City MC has reserved the only eight-man, air-conditioned bunkhouse at the campground during the run and this is the last call for accommodations in the private cabin.



In 2018, Empire City members had a great time at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Arktos Run and we had agreed that we'd go back in 2019, but because the trip there was so long, we agreed to break the outbound trip into two portions make the long haul easier and arrive at the campground earlier. This year we'll leave New York City on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> August and ride to the United 93 National Memorial (something we've longed to see), afterwards we'll stay overnight in the Pittsburgh, PA area at our friend Michael N's home (which is very similar to The Ranch in Hemlock, NY – lots of beds, a bar, decks, hot tub, pool, etc.)



We'll depart from Michael's home in Coal Centre, PA and head on a mixture of highways, interstates and back roads to Freedom Valley Campground, along with some of our other motorcycling friends from Three Rivers MC.

If you're interested, there are several injection points and coming by motorcycle is not mandatory, although the ride portion is. You can meet us at the Run Site, United 93 or in Coal Centre – we just need to know where to expect you.

If you're interested in going, here's what you need to do:

Contact Chaz Antonelli at [ChazAntonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) to reserve a bed (if any remain) and he will send you a request on PayPal for \$83.00 for the single bed. Once you have confirmed and paid your accommodations, pay the \$125 Arktos Run Fee online at: <http://bit.ly/Arktos2019> (this pays for food, drink and other amenities at the run). When you get to the campground, pay \$10 for bedding (if you didn't bring your own) and campground membership fee (if required). Let me know where you will meet us up.

Some people have expressed concern over the cost of the run fee, but please keep in mind this is food, drink and admission for all Run Events all weekend long. You may stay in the cabin during the run without paying the run fee; however, you will not get any of the run amenities such as meals, beverages, run kit, etc. The run fee is separate from the cost of accommodations in the cabin. You can alternatively pay the run fee, bring a tent and not pay for accommodations in the cabin.

## Armand Receives an Award

Armand is motorcycle mechanic who helps the bikers every year at the Gay Pride March if they have mechanical problems.

He's provided emergency fixes for disabled motorcycles in the march which often last until you can bring in your bike to a dealership for proper repair.

The photo on the right was taken at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stonewall March / World Pride in June 2019 just before we all rode down 5<sup>th</sup> Ave leading the parade.

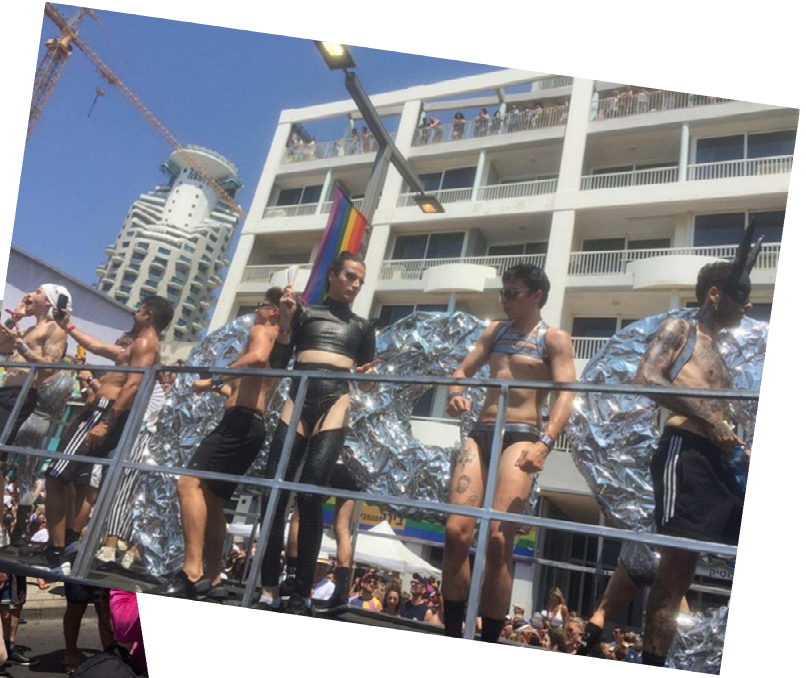
Much thanks go to the people behind the scenes who coordinate the motorcycle portion of the Gay Pride March, from the Sirens MC for organising the event and taking care of the expense, to folks like Armand who help riders in distress during the parade. It's the people behind the scenes that make what we do look easy.



Arminian receiving certificate from Cheryl of the Sirens for helping with the motorcycles

## Gay Pride in Tel Aviv

June 15<sup>th</sup> in Tel Aviv, Israel was very hot, but it did nothing to dampen the spirits of the over 250,000 revellers who celebrated World Pride in Tel Aviv, Israel, making it the largest celebration of LGBTQ in the Middle East.



It drew crowds from all across Europe and the world, including Neal Patrick Harris as the 2019 International Pride Ambassador. With flatbed trucks done up in various flavours of Pride with dancers, seemingly immune to the heat, gyrating and waving to the very enthusiastic crowd, it was quite a show.

We had a great time in the crowd cheering on the dancers on the trucks and crowds of revellers following behind the trucks, some done up in Pride colours, many not, but all enjoying the music and the community spirit. The balconies of many of the buildings, and some of the roofs, on the parade route were filled with people cheering and waving and dancing to the music pounding out from the very large speakers mounted on the trucks. Following the parade, there was a large party on the beach, with live shows and booths selling food and drinks and a large selection of Pride items. All in all, it was a very enjoyable time, and the feeling of community was very apparent.



## ECMC Biker Weekend

The weekend prior to the Gay Pride March is designated as ECMC's "Biker Weekend" – this consists of two or three events:

- Bike Christening & Blessing
- Biker Picnic
- Folsom Street East

This year was no different as we hosted and attended all three events, all with great weather and fun times! We had a record number of motorcycles at the Bike Christening, thanks to many of the Sirens MC showing up! A big thanks to Ty's for providing us the location, as well as champagne and pizza to ring in the celebration!

Our Biker Picnic, a free event for bikers coming by motorcycle only, had just under 20 attendees and was hosted at Mark W's and Terry P's home in New Jersey. They opened their home to us all, shopped and prepared food and were most welcoming! Their salt-water pool was a nice refreshing treat on the hot day.

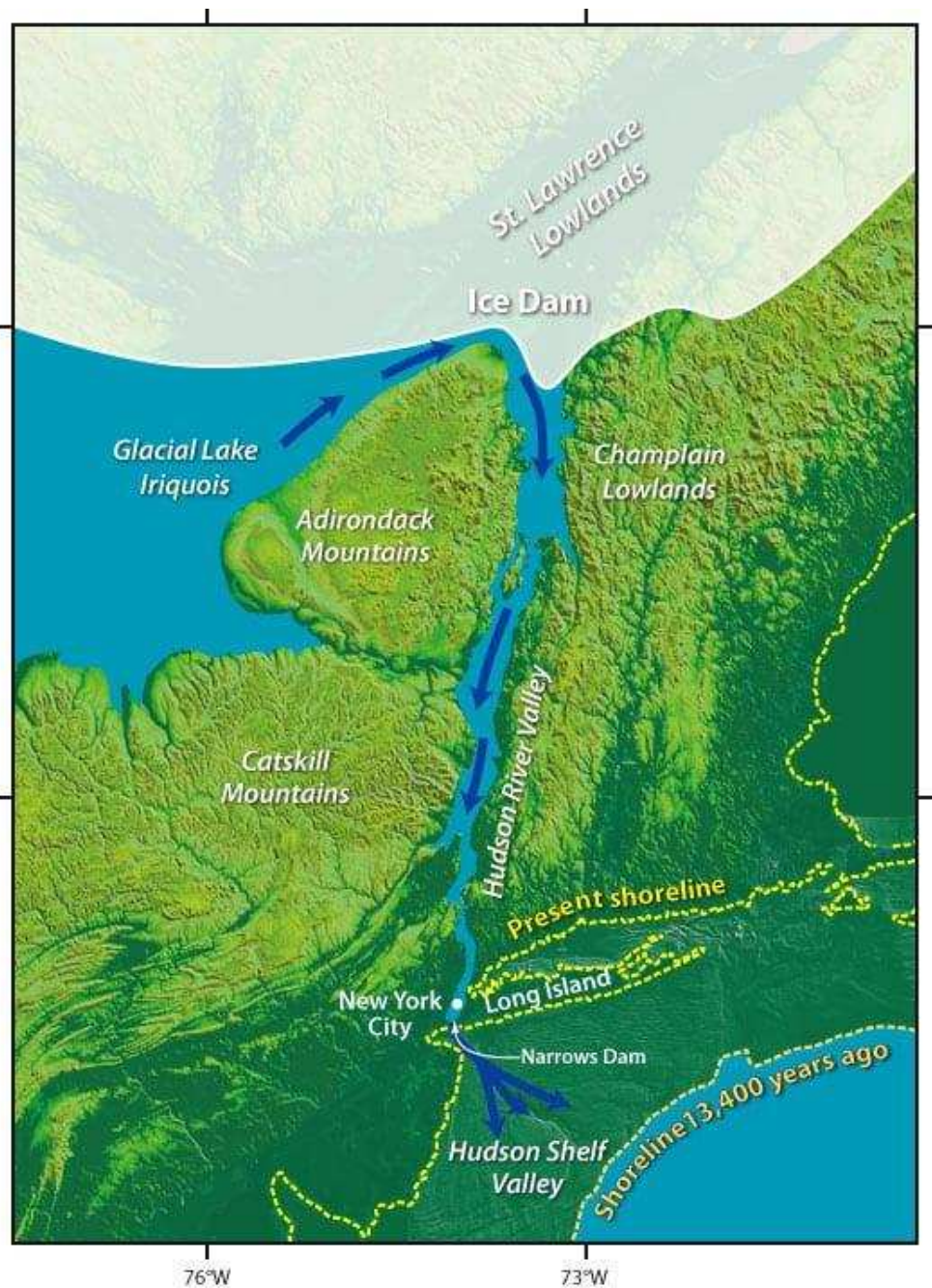
Folsom Street East also went swimmingly, this year it was twice the length as normal to accommodate the visitors for World Pride. ECMC also allowed folks to sit on our bikes and take their own photos (which we felt would be easier).

## The Great Flood of New York

By Shelley Dawicki

Trapped behind the Adirondack Mountains and a tremendous ice sheet, glacial Lake Iroquois was three times the size of modern Lake Ontario. Then, 13,350 years ago, the natural ice dam collapsed. Floodwaters rushed down the Hudson River Valley; past modern Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island; through an earthen dam where the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge now stands; and across another hundred miles into the North Atlantic. The water level in Lake Iroquois dropped 120 meters (400 feet), and rocks the size of Volkswagens moved hundreds of miles downstream.

Beyond reshaping the landscape, the catastrophic flood also had dramatic impacts on Earth's climate. It may have triggered a brief but global period of colder climate known as the Intra-Allerod Cold Period, said Jeff Donnelly, a geologist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The torrent from the glacial lake would have thundered into the North Atlantic, adding a vast freshwater "lid" on the ocean surface that could have rearranged ocean circulation and changed climate patterns, said Donnelly, who is a fellow of both the Ocean and Climate Change Institute and the Coastal Ocean Institute at WHOI.

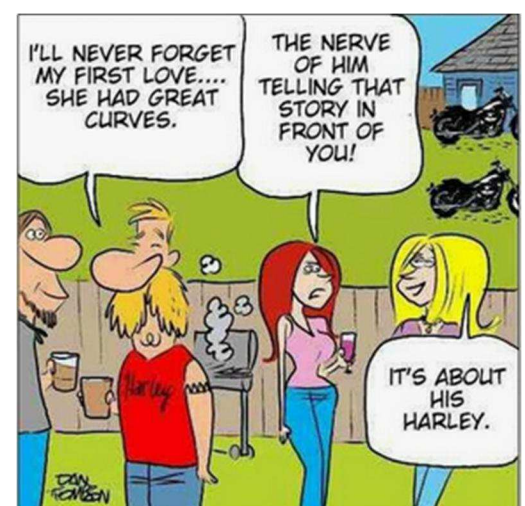


Scientists have long suspected that large discharges of glacial water into the ocean could drive climate fluctuations, but linking discharge events like the Hudson flood with individual climate changes has been difficult because of the challenges in pinpointing the location, timing, and amount of the discharges.

Donnelly and colleagues analysed sediments from the Hudson River Valley, which extends under water on the continental shelf (see map). On huge sediment lobes on the shelf, where sediments are normally the size of sand grains, they found car-sized boulders—which were likely pushed there by the great flood.

The team also analysed ancient pollens deposited by the flood in sediments near the Tappan Zee Bridge and the Holland Tunnel, as well as walrus fossils buried by the flood in the offshore sediment lobes. The results precisely dated—for the first time—the discharge from Lake Iroquois and linked it to the Intra-Allerod Cold Period.

This article first appeared on: <http://bit.ly/greatfloodny>



# UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> July, 14:00-16:00 July:** RIDE: Sagaponack Run. Sun, 14 July, meet up at 86 Old Farm Rd, Sagaponack, NY 11962. Kick-stands up at 2PM sharp!

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> – Sun 21<sup>st</sup> July:** EVENT: Three Rivers Leather Club - Summer Jamboree. Three Rivers Leather Club (Pittsburgh, PA) is proud to announce their Summer Jamboree club run. The location will be on a rural farm approximately 30 miles south of Pittsburgh, PA in the beautiful Monongahela Valley region. The 189<sup>th</sup> MEETING of the ATLANTIC MOTORCYCLE COORDINATING COUNCIL will be held during this weekend. Registration is fully online at: <https://trlc.net/>

**Thu 1<sup>st</sup> – Sun 4<sup>th</sup> August:** RIDE: Empire City MC will visit the United 93 Crash Site Memorial, stay overnight in Pittsburgh to hang with Mike and the Three Rivers MC gang, the following morning, it's on to the Arktos Bear Run in New London, OH. This four-day event will prove to be quite fun for all! Contact [ChazAntonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) for more details and to register. Cabin space is limited.

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> August, 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> – Mon 19<sup>th</sup> August:** RIDE: Montréal Gay Pride Weekend! ECMC has been going to this event for the past four years and we always have some fun! Montréal is hopping during their gay pride and if you don't have any fun, you didn't try! Contact [ChazAntonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) for more details and to register.

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> September, 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup> October, 18:00-23:00:** EVENT: Empire City MC's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at Elmo, 156 7th Ave, New York, NY 10011. More information will be coming for this event shortly, but we have the entire restaurant to ourselves, so this should be fun!

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> November, 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November:** EVENT: Harbour Masters of Maine - 37th Sailaway in Portland, Maine.

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> December, 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> December, 18:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive at 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](http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com) and come along with us on some great rides!

Our physical mailing address is:

**Empire City MC**  
10 W 15<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 609  
New York, NY 10011-6821



Empire City MC is a member of the Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council. For more information about membership with Empire City MC, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on facebook at <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com> Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at [newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org](mailto:newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org)

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