



Happy Holidays from Empire City MC

It's hard to imagine that 2020 is only a few weeks away. When we were younger, we had some incredible expectations for the year 2000. When Y2K came and proved itself to be a bit of a dud (no flying cars, cancer is still taking people's lives, and the never-ending wars), we turned our hopes to 2020... and here it comes.

It's so hard to be humble and thankful when there are recently elected officials around the planet who think being a 'fag' or a 'dyke' is an abomination and worthy of a death sentence!

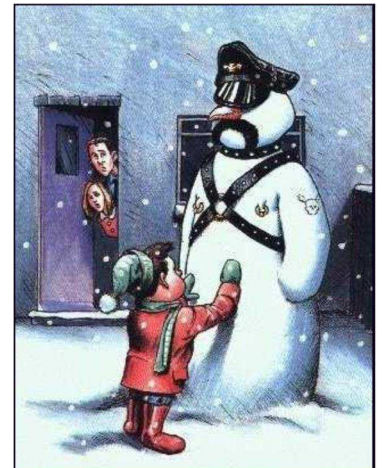
Once again, we find that we can't rest and enjoy the hard-earned fruits of our labours – we have to take to the streets and fight for our rights again. I don't know about you, but I'm getting too old for this shit and it seems that the generation after mine isn't doing much on their own.

The grass-roots base for the gay leather/motorcycle club community is also fading, as you will see in the article below, four more clubs are shutting down operations. This puts a strain on the remaining members and shuts down many traditional events. What was the last outdoor run you attended? The Unicorn MC Run with the Great Unicorn Steak Roast? The Pocono Warriors' 100 Men in the Woods? The Rams Run? The Spearhead Run? All gone.

As we try to keep up appearances and continue to be the driving force behind our respective clubs, remember how important the gay motorcycle/mens clubs were to you when you were coming out. Appreciate the time we had together and remember the joy we had by having our little pockets of acceptance in a world that wanted us all to lay down and die. The purpose behind our respective organisations hasn't changed and the importance of them hasn't diminished. Hold your head up! Keep wearing your colours at bars and clubs! Tell the new generation why we exist and welcome them into the fold.

Most importantly, take time to reflect on the wonderful things we've all seen and done, giving thanks to the hundreds of club members who came before us to blaze the trail... pass it on.

Happy Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Solstice, Festivus or whatever you celebrate!



More clubs vanish into history...

Earlier this year, the Rochester Rams closed up shop. Then Iron Guard BC went on indefinite hiatus. Now, following this week's AMCC meeting, we have heard that Reading Railmen and Twilight Guard are closing shop, as is SNC (Sixty-Nine Club) the only AMCC club based in London, UK. That will further reduce the number of AMCC-affiliated clubs from 22 to 18. 2019 has been another rough year for all traditional gay "leather clubs".



ECMC's 56th Annual Holiday Party & Gift Drive

On 7th December 2019, ECMC hosted their 56th Annual Holiday Party and Gift Drive.

Of all the events Empire City MC hosts year after year, this has to be one of my personal favourites!

Yeah, it's changed names over the years – it started as "Toys For Tots" (until the homophobic Marine Corp told us to rename our event or be sued!)



No matter how small the club became, this was the one event that happened no matter what. It was also the most heavily advertised ECMC event, encouraging and attracting many people from many clubs.

No matter where I lived, this was the one ECMC event I would always try to attend.

This year saw a decrease in guest attendance, but that didn't stop us from having a good time! Michael greeted guests and worked the door, putting on the wristbands and handing out door prize tickets. K.K., Cindy and Rob (regular volunteers and friends of ECMC) were there to put leis on our guests and help prepare and pass delicious food were instrumental for making the evening run smoothly. Our new friends Gaby and Mike from Chicago also lent a hand! Our pledge Jack oversaw the door prize raffle once again as Chaz spun some festive and funny holiday tunes!

Rising Ground was in the house to receive the donations, and thanks to the Sirens MC, there were a LOT of gift



cards for the kids – something that they are always looking for. What many don't know is that some of these gifts and gift cards are stock-piled to dole out to the kids when they have a birthday, get good grades and other similar purposes. Gathering gifts and gift cards is vital for Rising Ground's year-round operations with the kids.

Thanks to YOU for supporting this annual effort!

Poor Harley-Davidson Sales (a joke)

The slump in sales at Harley-Davidson is not the fault of President Trump! Apparently, the Baby Boomers all have motorcycles. Generation X is only buying a few, and the next generation isn't buying any. So, a study was done recently to find out why Millennials don't ride motorcycles.



- They don't get a trophy and a recognition plaque just for buying one.
- Their pants won't pull up far enough for them to straddle the seat.
- They can't get a smartphone to their ear with a helmet on.
- They can't use two hands to eat while driving.
- They don't have enough muscle to hold a bike up when stopped.
- They might have a bug hit them in the face and then they'd need emergency care.
- Motorcycles don't have air conditioning.
- They can't afford one because they spent 10 years in college trying to get a degree in Humanities, Social Studies, or Gender Studies – for which no jobs are available.
- They're allergic to fresh air.
- Their pyjamas get caught on the exhaust pipes.
- They might get their hands dirty checking the oil.
- The handle bars have buttons and levers that can't be controlled by touchscreen.
- Motorcycles don't come with training wheels like their bicycles did.
- They have to shift manually and use something called a clutch.
- It's too hard to take selfies while riding.
- The face shield on their helmet interferes with their nose ring.
- They'd have to use leg muscles to back up.
- Motorcycles don't have power steering or power brakes.
- When they stop, a light breeze might blow exhaust in their face.
- Rain would expose them to unsoftened water.
- A vigorous ride might scare their therapy dog, and then the dog would need therapy too.
- They can't get the motorcycle down the basement stairs of their parents' home.

Thanks to our friend David R of Delaware for sending this in!

ECMC Recruitment Drive

You don't have to be crazy to join us, but it helps! Empire City MC is looking for a few good men in the New York City area to join us for the 2020 riding season. Here are some of the basic requirements:

- Own and operate a motorcycle safely and legally.
- Be a gay or bisexual man.
- Commit to club events, meetings and functions.
- Be a team player, accepting responsibility where you can.
- Uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of Empire City MC.

There are a lot of wonderful perks when you're a member of a club, and especially of a real motorcycle club like ECMC is. ECMC is a "chosen family", and although dysfunctional at times, we have each-others backs. We go on trips and adventures! We go to other club events, such as the Arktos Run, The Delta Run, Montréal Gay Pride! We host our own events, such as our Motorcycle Weekend on Memorial Day Weekend, our Bike Blessing, Biker Picnic, Holiday Party and more!

Go to <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> for more information. Anyone interested should speak with a full member, come to a meeting and scope it out.

You might be surprised just how much you love it!

JOIN THE CLUB



ECMC Nominations & Elections

December and January are upon us – in ECMC, that means it's time to elect our officers for the upcoming year. As ECMC has a term limit of two years for each office, there's always a shake-up in leadership. Since we're about to lose two full members who are shifting to Associate membership in January, this will make the club compliment the smallest it's been since 2009: six full members and one pledge. Of those six, two members have been unable to attend meetings for all of 2019. If this continues, we'll have only four active full members and five officer positions to fill. This makes things quite stressful but agile for change! I'm hoping to see a handful of new members in 2020 and expect to shake a few things up.



Now is a great time to start to hang with the club and get to know the members in preparation of applying for full membership!

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Wed 8th January 2020, 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. Elections for officers! Please note that this meeting is on the SECOND WEDNESDAY due to the New Year's Day Bank Holiday on the 1st Wednesday.

Sat 18th January, 17:00 – 19:00: Empire City MC's 56th Installation Dinner with special guest, ECMC Associate Member "Evil" Ed Caraballo. This will be held at VaPiano, 113 University Pl, New York, NY (Union Square area), completely dutch treat, as every person gets their own card to bill their food choices to – so easy. **[DUE TO A CONFLICT WITH M.A.L., THIS EVENT IS TENTATIVE! CHECK WITH AN ECMC MEMBER OR OUR CALENDAR BEFORE ATTENDING!]**

Wed 5th February, 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.

Wed 4th March, 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.

Wed 1st April, 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.

Wed 6th May, 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 22nd – Mon 25th May: Empire City MC's 9th Annual Motorcycle Weekend in the Finger Lakes Region! Save the date!

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: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.** Empire City MC is a member of the Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council.

For membership information, 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

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