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### **ECMC's Motorcycle Weekend is this month**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Empire City Motorcycle Weekend in the fingerlakes is rapidly approaching, and as it stands at this time – we've still got a green light that the New York City quarantine will be relaxed on 15 May 2020.

Get your application at <http://empirecitymc.com/> and mail it in now with your run fee. We will NOT deposit your personal cheque until we confirm that the event will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at the end of day.



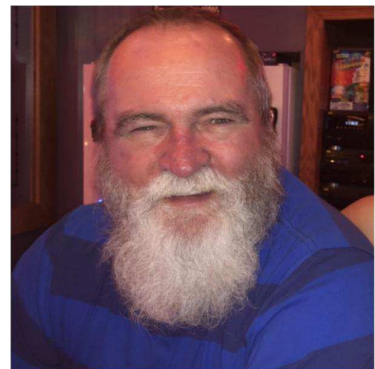
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### **Welcome Back Earl**

Empire City welcomes back Earl D as a full member as of March 2020's Open General Meeting. Earl is one of two full members in the Philadelphia Area and was one of our more active members a few years ago. We look forward to seeing Earl on our rides in 2020!

Earl has a 2018 Blue Honda Goldwing and can be seen riding with his life partner, Alex in the back seat on many of his rides. Earl is a fixture at the Motorcycle Weekend and has been to Gay Pride in Montréal with Empire City many times.

We're glad Earl and Gary both came back into the club as full members, as rather recently, we've lost many members.



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### **Los Angeles Satyrs member succumbs to COVID-19**

This letter below was written 7 April at 14:50 PDT on Twitter by Jeff Wacha, Garry Bowie's husband. Jeff and Garry are in the photo below kissing. Garry is on the right. Empire City MC mourns the loss of Garry, an instrumental member of Satyrs MC and a friend to many.

Many of you have been trying to reach me for information regarding Garry Bowie and his battle with COVID-19. I've been silent as there has not been very much I could share that would answer all of your questions, and I knew that whatever information I provided would most likely not be enough, even though it was the limit of the information I had as well.



Garry died this morning about 9:30 as a result of the damage COVID-19 did to his lungs and body.

Garry started exhibiting flu-like symptoms on Thursday evening, March 19. He didn't have shortness of breath but had almost all of the other symptoms. Garry was very sick the entire time, spent a lot of time in bed, resting, and working on his laptop. He didn't get any worse, but he showed no improvement either. Late in the eve on Friday, March 27, his breathing became shallow and rapid. I tried to get him to go to the hospital, but he was insistent that we wait until morning to see if he was better as he "didn't want to sit at the ER with all of those other people's germs." My trying to convince him that he already had all those germs was unsuccessful, and it made no change in his stubbornness. If you knew Garry, you knew that you couldn't talk him into

anything once he had his mindset. His breathing had not improved by early Saturday morning, March 28, and I called an ambulance. I dressed him and helped him walk to the front door, where the paramedics put him on a gurney and loaded him into the ambulance. They immediately put him on oxygen. I was able to exchange just a few words to him before they shut the doors and left with him. I told him how much I loved him, and he told me how much he loved me. It was the last time I would see him.

It was in the ER that he posted a picture of himself with an oxygen mask on Facebook (*image on the right*). He immediately received a long list of good wishes, a litany of questions, and a few comments that, although I know they were well-intentioned, were probably not the most appropriate to tell someone who is suffering from a virus that has such a high mortality rate. It immediately sent me into an extreme state of anxiety and a panic attack, and I was able to reach him on his phone and ask him to take the posting down, which he did.

I was able to talk to him for a couple of minutes at a time while he was in the ER, most of which was just reminding him how much I love him, and him telling me how much he loves me. We had one last set of "I love you" before they sedated him so they could intubate and put him on a ventilator. This was about 2:00 PM on Saturday, March 28. I had no idea it would be the last time I spoke to my husband; my reason for living; the man who has supported me emotionally the previous 20 years and kept me alive; the man who made me laugh every day that we were together; the man who made each day together even more beautiful than the day before; the man who always knew what to do to help me see the light at the end of the tunnel when I started spiraling into the abyss; the man who surprised me with deliveries of flowers just because he "knew you needed it right now and to remind you how much I love you."

He was the man who often said, as I often said to him, we couldn't imagine life without each other. I'm finding I don't know what my life is going to be without him and how I'm going to carry on without him. We should have had at least another 25 years together. It's what we planned for when we bought this house. He loved this house and took great pride in making improvements to it. This is where we planned to grow older and grayer together. I can't fathom doing that on my own and not sure if I will be able to stay in the house we both loved, given the current state of the economy.

When admitted, they found he had pneumonia in both lungs and ARDS. He would show a little improvement one day, and a set back the next. His reliance on oxygen would improve only slightly, but his kidneys were in free fall. I would receive a call with updates each morning from the ICU team treating him. Those calls were my only source of information since I could not go to the hospital. The few times I did try to call during the day, the nursing staff was overwhelmed, although very respectful and sympathetic, but unable to give me any more information different from the earlier, daily conversation with one of the treating doctors. Some of the doctors tried to give me encouraging reports and signs of hope, and some were blunter about pushing me to approve a DNR for him, which I could not bring myself to do. On Sunday morning, during the daily call, Garry's pulmonary specialist advised me that his passing was imminent, that keeping him in an induced coma was only prolonging the inevitable, forcing his body to continue to degrade with toxins building up that would lead to heart failure. Although he was in no pain and could not be aware of what was going on, they stressed that we should allow him a dignified death on his terms and not be in a state of paralysis, which only causes more stress on the body as it tries to shut down. Removing the paralytic drugs from his system and keeping him sedated and doing comfort care, would allow him to leave when he was ready without fighting a bunch of tubes and machines.

From the day Garry was admitted, I had daily conversations with a dear, supportive friend who is a doctor so they could help me understand in layman's term the medical information the ICU team provided me each morning. When the pulmonary specialist delivered the devastating news on Sunday, she agreed to talk to our friend so they could help me understand his condition and any hope of recovery as well as put to rest my fears that the actions I was being asked to approve and put into play were not premature. I won't mention their name here as some well-meaning people may try to reach out to them to get further information. That would serve no purpose because I've told you everything here that is relevant; their support has been incredible during this period. I do not want to thank them by opening a litany of messages to them from people asking them



questions that they can't answer anyway due to HIPAA regulations and my request to keep our conversations confidential. But you know who you are, and I'll be eternally grateful for your kindness, wisdom, and unconditional support through this.

I have only spoken to a handful of people during this time and have intentionally not posted it to Facebook. My siblings and their families have been Godsend throughout, and their support has been incredible. The loss of Garry equally devastates them. There were also a handful of other people that I kept updated daily due to underlying circumstances. I know how many of you cared for Garry and wanted to know more. I apologize for being silent so long, but I was encouraged to focus on self-care by those few friends and family I spoke with, as well as Garry's doctors and the social worker I was assigned. They felt I needed to limit my stress and maintain my health because if Garry were to recover, it would be a long journey for him, and I would need to be healthy enough to care for him. I also felt it was the only way to maintain what little of my mental health I had remaining. I had very little information to share and, knowing how loved Garry was by everyone's life he touched, and I knew that you would have many more questions than I could answer or give justice.

Garry had a heart of gold, even though he didn't always like you to know it and hid it as much as possible. I try not to think that his love of his community and providing care for those in need and those less fortunate may have been the factor in his exposure to the COVID-19 virus. He was the most intelligent man I've ever known. His thirst for learning and research always astounded me. Talented beyond measure, no matter what tasks or projects he took on, which were way more than any human should attempt, they were always completed to the fullest of his ability and beyond everyone's expectations. For him, his work was never just good enough; he strived to make it better in every way possible. Everything he touched appeared to be touched by magic.

I am at a complete loss right now. I don't know what I need or want for myself right now. Most of my time has been spent in a fetal position on the sofa, waiting for my daily call from the ICU. I truly meant I couldn't imagine my life without him, always sure that I would never have to know. Now he's not here, and I am lost. I don't have any idea how I'll work through this. I lived for Garry. He was my entire world.

If you have stories to share about Garry and pictures, please post them to his Facebook page or my page. Knowing how many lives he impacted and that others loved him as I do may or may not help me right now, but I know in the future, I will appreciate everything you could share. The Facebook posts are useful but I would also appreciate it if you would also email me everything so I can compile it into a permanent record. It would be one that I'll be able to share with all of you once we are allowed to have public gatherings again and celebrate his life. I'm hoping that also allows you to share things that might otherwise get you in Facebook jail. Garry loved to laugh and loved to instigate, so please help me keep all the memories of that little troublemaker alive. My personal email is [JeffWacha@gmail.com](mailto:JeffWacha@gmail.com)

Garry has compiled a wealth of historical documents for several organizations. Please be assured that all of his archives will remain intact as he left them. I'll reach out to you in the future to help me go through the items Garry may have for your organization so you can decide on what you want to do with them. He was preparing a large number of archives for the ONE Institute. Everything is safe and will remain to be. I will need help going through everything to get it to the place it needs to be, but I can't begin that now. I don't know how soon it will be before I can walk into his studio here without falling apart. When I get to that point, I'll need a lot of assistance to make sure things are properly cataloged and archived to the appropriate place.

As for me, I may be unresponsive, so please don't take offense if I'm slow in getting back to you. I will try, but I can't make any promises this early in the process. Every time I start to talk about Garry, my heart explodes from my chest.

Thank you for loving Garry and supporting him for so many years in every endeavor he took on.

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## **New York Stonewall March / Pride Parade Cancelled**

New York City's Mayor Bill de Blasio has announced that permits for June events—including parades, concerts, rallies, and large gatherings in the city — have been cancelled in light of the ongoing public health crisis caused by COVID-19. The decision impacts the 2020 Pride parade and other NYC Pride celebrations, Puerto Rican Day and Salute to Israel parades, among others.

"A lot of these events are postponed," de Blasio shared in an April 20 briefing. "Permits are cancelled for June, but a lot of the event organizers are looking at doing something later in the year, and we're going to work with them on that... The bottom line is to think about safety, saving lives, and protecting people's health."



# UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mon 25<sup>th</sup> May:** RIDE: Empire City MC's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorcycle Weekend in the Finger Lakes Region! Applications are attached to this newsletter on the last page. Payments will **not** be cashed until after 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and only if we get the "all clear" from the Department of Health – if there are any issues with the virus after 15<sup>th</sup> May at your location or ours, we shall cancel the event and return your personal cheque or money orders. We're only looking for a commitment in cash at this time.

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> – Sun 31<sup>st</sup> May:** EVENT: Bear Albany presents "Bear Pride" in Albany, NY. Information at: <http://www.bearalbany.com>

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm. Check <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> to see if we'll be meeting in person or on Zoom Teleconference. We now host our meetings on Zoom as well as in person!

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> June, 18:00-21:00:** EVENT: ECMC Bike Blessing at Ty's Bar NYC, 114 Christopher St, New York, NY

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June, 09:00-18:00:** RIDE: ECMC's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual **FREE** Biker Picnic (entry by motorcycle only!) More information coming soon, but we'll meet up at Sweet Life Cafe, 147 Christopher St, New York, NY 10014 at 09:00 for coffee/breakfast, KSU (kick-stands-up) at 10:00 and we'll ride to an undisclosed location for our free biker picnic!

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup> June, 10:00-17:00:** RIDE: NYC Gay Pride March / 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Stonewall – **\*\* CANCELLED \*\***

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> July, 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 11<sup>th</sup> July, 11:00 – 17:00:** RIDE: Mel & Jose's 4th of July Party and Barbeque

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> July, 09-17:00:** RIDE: Delaware River Tubing Trip with Hunterdon County HOGs (\$19.95/pp, prepaid)

**Wed 5<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 7<sup>th</sup> - Sun 9<sup>th</sup> August:** RIDE: Arktos Bears of Northeast Ohio Annual Run. Circle J.J. Ranch in Scio, Ohio.

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> - Mon 17<sup>th</sup> August:** RIDE: Gay Pride Montréal! We recommend staying at the Hôtel St-Denis, which is close to the park where all the stage activities are. It's inexpensive and very close to everything! We have had a lot of success with this trip over the last five years and there's still more to see & do! As with the prior years, groups & individuals will go up and come back at their own pace. Everyone will need to make their own accommodation plans and we'll use What'sApp to coordinate meet-ups for breakfast to chat about the day's plans. If you're NOT RIDING, just meet us up there -- riders and non-riders welcome -- you can even take the train if you like!

**Wed 2<sup>nd</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.

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> – Tue 8<sup>th</sup> September:** RIDE/EVENT: 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Delta Run (by invitation only)

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**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 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](mailto:newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org)

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