



It's The End!!!

As we slide out of 2020 and in to 2021, we're looking forward to a world that returns to some form of normality. We have several vaccines to defeat not only COVID-19, but apparently most possible Coronaviruses, being rolled out in many countries. Sadly, the Trump Administration [passed on the chance to secure more of Pfizer vaccine](#), so we won't have enough to vaccinate all citizens until late 2021. This transitions us from the virus to the leadership of the United States, as the people have spoken and Trump has been kicked out of office – no matter how many lawsuits his legal team files, the Supreme Court won't take up his case, as he planned them to. He is toast and is will be gone. He has spoken of a 2024 run, but hopefully by then he and his corrupt family and friends will be behind bars for the crap they pulled whilst in office – "drain the swamp" indeed!



Let's take a moment to reflect on the last year, the last four years in fact. Our work is cut out for us, there's a lot to fix. We still have the Georgia Run-Off Senate Elections, and the democrats need to take BOTH seats to thwart the plans of the Dark Sith Lord (Mitch McConnell) from hobbling Joe Biden's administration. In Joe's acceptance speech, he speaks of healing the country and bringing everyone together – typical spineless democratic bullshit. We must take control of the Senate and, with as much force as Trump used, undo all the shit he did by force. Screw the "feelings" of republicans and conservatives, just as they fucked us over the past four years. It's our job to hold the democratic leader's feet to the fire and be relentlessly gay!



The 10th Annual ECMC Motorcycle Weekend

All good things... here's a head's up for all you bikers: 2021 will be our last Motorcycle Weekend at The Ranch (Al & Dan's home) in the fingerlakes. If we want to continue the ECMC Motorcycle Weekend, we will need to find a new venue in 2022. For those of you who haven't been, our Memorial Day weekend ride up to the fingerlakes area of New York State is a wonderful and fun event at a ridiculously low price, as there is no profit margin and thanks to the generosity of Al and Dan, free accommodations.



ECMC's 2021 Motorcycle Weekend will be 28th-31st May 2021, so save the date. There are limited accommodations, so save the date and watch for run applications in February 2021 and get them in quickly. Following that, we will be entertaining suggestions for alternative locations for the event. Privacy and price being of utmost importance.

Thanksgiving Dinner and other Haters

"Do you have to ruin Thanksgiving by being political?", says my father at the Thanksgiving dinner table. Of course, as a gay man, I am forced to support the democrats, because in order to get votes, the republican party has decided to align itself with some of the worst scum on the planet: white supremacists, anti-choice, anti-trans and anti-gay, far-right evangelistic ministries (which is doubly shocking as the church and state should be separate), the K.K.K., the Proud Boys and the list goes on...



When people tell you to "not be political", they are really trying to shut you down in the same way that the "American Family Association" will tell their sheeple to write to corporations asking them to "remain neutral in the culture war". The AFA in this context is doing the same thing that my father is: telling me to stop promoting my beliefs and only listen to *his beliefs*, as his point of view is the only correct one. As Melissa Hillman says: When people say "Why do you have to make everything political?" they're using "political" to refer to the social messaging that's inherent in any work about race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, size, class, religious minorities, etc. Let's cut to the chase: They mean, "I do not wish to examine the ways in which this work depicts and/or impacts marginalized people in our culture."



The GOP didn't change its platform from 2016, sending a clear message to LGBTQ people. The executive committee of the Republican National Committee voted to scale back its nominating convention and to leave its platform unchanged. The GOP kept the strongly transphobic and homophobic platform it released in 2016. The president of the Log Cabin Republicans, a group that represents LGBTQ conservatives, said in a fundraising email in 2016 that he was "mad as hell" about the platform. Gregory Angelo said it was "the most anti-LGBT platform in the party's 162-year history." Trump voters are morons – gay Trump voters doubly so.

Anyone who isn't a grade-two drop-out can clearly see that the republican party distains the GLBT community and seeks to marginalise or eliminate them. Trump held up a rainbow flag in 2016 to "show support" for the GLBT community in order to gain votes; however, once in power he does the same thing every other republican has for years: block equal rights, nothing to address

ongoing GLBT discrimination and under Trump, the republicans are working towards eliminating same-sex marriage and removing the right for gay couples to adopt! Did you know that being HIV+ is a "prior medical condition"? Trump and the republican party seek to eliminate ObamaCare (the Affordable Care Act), which allows you to get health insurance and not fear being denied because of a prior condition. Simply put: Trump and the republicans want us dead. We have to fight or lay down and die.

So, you have a choice: Speak up and be heard everywhere and all the time about the injustices taking place to benefit rich, old white men who seek to control you, your body and your mind or shut up and allow them to form concentration camps and death squads when they decide they've had enough of us. You laugh now, but the new generation doesn't believe McCarthyism actually took place in this country – when it comes around again in a new form, they won't see it coming! Don't let anyone tell you not to be political because everything is political.



Excelsior MC and Empire City MC both have “Virtual Holiday Parties”

Both Excelsior MC’s Trim-A-Tree and Empire City MC’s were virtual this year as our venues are closed and COVID-19 threatens our lives once again. Both events were quite different, with Excelsior MC’s being a curated, almost a television-show produced event in where only the hosts and their guests could see each other and guests could “speak” via typing on the right panel of the screen. The event was recorded and is [online facebook](#) to see over and over. There were short video specials and entertainment the whole event, and it was an amazing event for a small club to put together – we were quite impressed!



On the next day, ECMC had their holiday party and gift drive. Gifts this year being from Amazon’s Wish List for Rising Ground, and our in-person event being held on an open Zoom Teleconference where people could come and go as they pleased. Our newest member, Jack D also hosted several games during the party to keep the party going an hour beyond it’s time limit!



Of course, it’s not the same as when we all get together at The Eagle and Stonewall Inn, but we’re doing what we can in these desperate times. With COVID-19 vaccines coming throughout 2021, we sincerely hope to see a return to our venues (what’s left of them) to reunite in great numbers and celebrate as we mourn the loss of so many gay-owned businesses, such as the DC Eagle, the 9th Avenue Saloon, Therapy NYC, and so many others.

Gay bars were already closing their doors before the virus hit. Their decline began sometime around 2002 and has since accelerated. Research shows that as many as [37% of the United States’ gay bars shut down from 2007 to 2019](#).

On the one hand, this decline can be seen as a sign of shifting attitudes toward LGBT people; on the other hand, their closure represents the loss of a vital community space. Unfortunately, gay bars in communities where they’re needed most – where they serve the most vulnerable segments of the LGBT population – will have the most difficult time rebounding from the crisis.

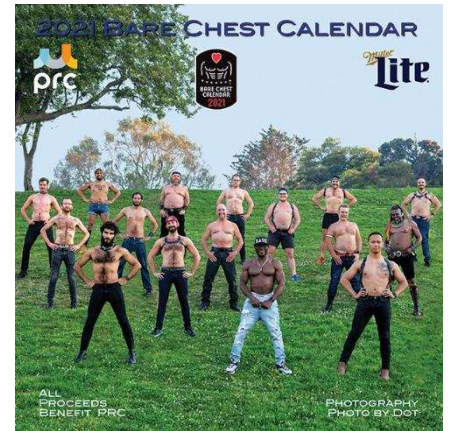




The Bare Chest Calendar and 'Team BCC' exist for one purpose: to raise vital funds that support the mission of their beneficiary PRC (Positive Resource Center). PRC has been transforming the Bay Area for decades, helping those affected by HIV/AIDS, substance use, or mental health issues realize their best selves by providing the support and services they need to reclaim their lives.

Services include emergency financial assistance for short-term security; legal representation for access to basic income and healthcare benefits; and residential treatment, supportive housing, and employment training for longer-term social rehabilitation.

The Bare Chest Calendar's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/barechestcalendar> and get your calendar online here: <https://www.barechest.org/purchase.html>



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events:

Thu 31st December 2020: Happy New Year! Farewell 2020! We won't miss 2020!!

Wed 6th January 2021, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month now hosted via teleconference due to COVID-19. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM> Tonight: Election of officers.

Sunday, 23rd May 2021: RIDE: The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride. The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride from 2021 will permanently move to May, with the next ride being held on Sunday, 23 May 2021. Pre-register now at www.gentlemansride.com and prepare yourself to ride dapper!

Fri 28th – Mon 31st May 2021: RIDE: Empire City MC's 10th Annual Motorcycle Weekend. Save the date and come celebrate our 10th (and last) Annual Motorcycle Weekend at The Ranch! Details coming soon...

Fri 18th June 2021: EVENT: Empire City MC's 57th Annual Bike Blessing!

Sat 19th June 2021: RIDE: Empire City MC's 57th Annual Biker Picnic!

Sun 27th June 2021: RIDE: Empire City MC leads the Gay Pride March beside our sister club, the Sirens MC!

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to bookmark <http://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.**

For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're also on facebook at <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com> where you can chat with us.

Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org
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