



Trains, Trains, Trains!

Trains have a special place in many motorcyclist's hearts – big, loud, powerful and hard to stop are attributes that certainly can be attributed to both trains and motorcycles. When I first came out as a gay, leather biker-bear, I noticed there were a similar number of interests and pastimes shared in the community, trains were one of them. David S (Utica Tris MC), Bob K and Tom J (Unicorn MC) and dozens of others love trains and their history – from riding them to keeping log books of “train spotting” where they denote the carriage numbers as they roil past... why haven't we done a train-oriented ride yet? Well, that's changing in 2021, as we're going to have two of them this year! Three lucky members and friends of ECMC will be acting as engineer, coal man (fireman) and jump seat on “611”, the last F-series steam locomotive in May on a one-hour journey. That's all well and good, but what about everyone else?



In July we're having a train weekend, will be sleeping in caboose carriages which have been converted into motel rooms, and we've reserved the entire Presidential Carriage on the 611 Train for our group of up to 20 persons! We're inviting everyone, biker or not, to come along with us. Information is in the attached flyer. We hope you get on the list before it's full!

Disinfect Your Passenger Helmets Often

In an interesting reveal, microorganisms associated with commercial motorcycle helmets were investigated in the commercial city of Lagos, Nigeria. It should be noted that, “Commercial motorcycle helmets” are shared helmets!

Motorcycles are a popular means of [public] transportation, especially for short distance. Its frequent use and patronage is very high because it is faster, convenient and can easily manoeuvre through the regular traffic jam and get to any destination provided there is road. The Nigerian crash helmet law came into force 1st January 2009 and has made it compulsory for both the motorcycle rider and passenger to wear a helmet; however, motorcycle helmet could constitute a health hazard to the users: Constant handling and use of helmets by different individuals could create a prime breeding ground for many microorganisms such as bacteria and mildews and a possible transmission of pathogenic microorganisms as well as communicable diseases among users!



The human skin is constantly in contact with environmental microorganisms and become readily colonized by certain microbial species. The adult human skin supports about 10¹² cfu/ml bacteria. The normal microbiota of the skin includes: Coagulase negative Staphylococcus, diptheroides, Staphylococcus aureus, streptococcus (various species), Bacillus spp, Mallassezia furfur, Candida spp and occasionally, Mycobacterium spp are found on the skin. This normal microbiota can produce disease condition if introduced into foreign locations or compromised hosts.

300 motorcycle helmets were randomly collected from different commercial motorcyclists in two densely populated areas of Lagos: Yaba College of Technology and Lagos University Teaching Hospital main gates respectively. Two sterile swabs moistened with sterile water were rotated over the inner surface of each helmet and cultured on MacConkey Agar and Nutrient Agar for bacterial growth and Sabouraud Dextrose Agar for fungi growth. The plates for bacteria growth were incubated aerobically at 37 °C for 48 hours, while plates for fungi at 28 °C for 2 weeks. Biochemical tests were used to identify bacteria; while, cultural characteristics were used for fungi identification. If you're interested, read the entire report at <http://bit.ly/helmet-wash>

The Hanky Code – Revisited

Yes, we all are familiar with the classic “Hanky Code”, created in the early 70s to identify sexual interests in the dimly lit leather bars, but isn't it time for a re-write? Here is the 2021 Hanky Code, presented for your amusement:

BUTCH OMI
69
TRADE CO.

YOU TROLL BACK TO THE LATTICE WITH THE TRADE FOR SOME PLATE ONLY TO FIND OUT HE'S A VEGAN! OR HE DROPS THE BUTCH WITH JAZZ MARTINI'S. IT ALL GOES MESHIGENERI! WELL NO MODE! GET HIP TO THE NEW HANKY CODES.

FOR BONA TRADE, KNOW YOUR...
HANKY
COLOUR
DE
ALL THE LATEST STYLES!

KELLY GREEN
WL: VEGAN
WR: RECYCLER

SHADY GREY
WL: TOTAL BITCH
WR: FRENEMY

ATTRACT THE RIGHT T.B.H BEFORE THEY EVEN OPEN THEIR SCRECH. YOU'LL BE *Attracting* IN NO TIME!

ECRU
WL: SUGAR DADDY
WR: SUGAR BABY

ROYAL BLUE
WL: TEAM GAGA
WR: TEAM MADGE

WHEAT
WL: GLUTEN FREE
WR: ORGANIC

GRINDR GOLD
WL: ONLINE SLUT
WR: CATFISH

LIPSTICK
WL: FAUX MASC
WR: FEMME ONLY

PLUM
WL: WAITROSE
WR: ALDI

RUSTY
WL: GINGER LOVER
WR: GINGERPHOBE

VIOLET
WL: UNICORN
WR: MERMAID

ROUGE
WL: MAC
WR: RIMMEL

BLACK
WL: NO BATTERY
WR: NO DATA

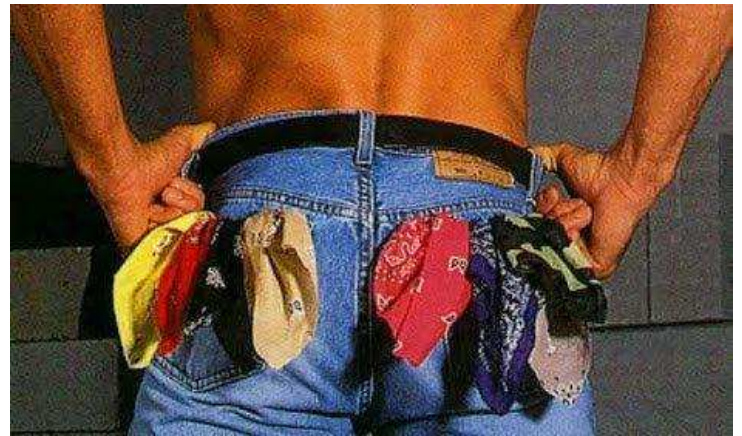
FOLD IT LIKE A PRO!

Powered by
TRASH
HI-ENERGY RADIO

Yes... this is not serious. Flip the page to see the REAL Hanky Code!

Okay, here's the real Hanky Code! Remember that left is active (top) and right pocket is passive (bottom):

Color	Meaning
 Black	S&M
 Blue (Dark)	Anal sex
 Blue (Light)	Oral sex
 Brown	Scat
 Green	Hustler/prostitution
 Grey	Bondage
 Orange	Anything goes
 Purple	Piercing
 Red	Fisting
 Yellow	Watersports



Yeah, buddy – we know you're a SLUT. You need not over-do it.

Perhaps you should invest in an **ORANGE HANKY** ?



The Old Guard: Classical Leather Culture Revisited (Part III)

by Guy Baldwin

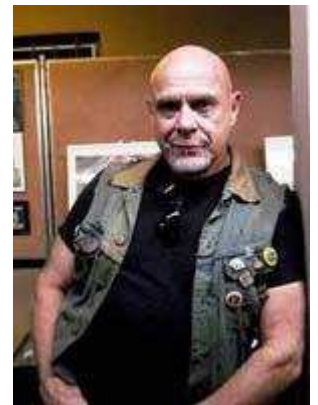
Publicly, the barons tended to respect each other, but privately, many of them made judgments about each other when differences of Protocol began to emerge. The people in each baron's circle were usually made aware of his opinions on these matters. Intolerance and gossip began to take its toll eventually.

Once the American population began to become more mobile as air travel came to be within the economic reach of the middle and lower classes, leathersmen soon came to discover that there was considerable variation in how the barons did things from place to place. Some of the barons themselves were so provincial that they themselves were unaware of the range of variation in the Protocols of the leather world. In Europe, the Medieval feudal system disintegrated in part because the lower classes became more educated and well-travelled.



As this awareness about differences in the Protocols began to spread, respect for the baronial class of leathersmen slowly began to shift. With the birth of SM organizations in the early 1970's, their information was spread to anyone just for the asking, and the role of the barons became progressively less and less important. Many of the barons became teachers in those organizations in the early years, and as such, were forced to be less dogmatic and rigid themselves. It is entirely possible that even if HIV had not come along, these cracks in the Old Guard would eventually have produced the situation we now have, or one very much like it.

These variations in protocol echo even today, I often discover that those most critical of the Old Guard actually first learned about it or were exposed to it in one of its more rigid and



conservative manifestations, whereas those less critical came to know the Old Guard from one of the more flexible branches of it. The leather population has been so shuffled around today, that in any city, one can now find Orthodox, Conservative and Reformed branches of the Old Guard traditions, just as one might in Judaism. In Old Guard terms, Orthodox could easily stand for Master/slave oriented people; Conservative could be seen as Top/bottom wiring; and Reformed could include the “anything goes” people. No wonder newcomers have to stand back from it all and shake their heads!

When HIV hit the leather world, the Old Guard took a very heavy hit early on. In a matter of months, the attention of the many clans around the country was suddenly confronted with new challenges. The bike club tradition of raising money for injured members was easily translated to fund-raising charities to support the burgeoning HIV damage being done in people’s lives. Many of the most effective early leaders in the HIV support effort came from the leather world for exactly this reason—we had practice at it.

Apart from the terrible losses we suffered, the most unfortunate consequence of the HIV nightmare was that much of the attention elders had invested in the socialization and support of newcomers to the leather scene—to our children, as it were, was no longer available. The elders became preoccupied with helping each other, or trying to. And as in any culture, when elders can make no time for their children, those elders become ever more irrelevant, as children begin to seek their own solutions.

The cracks in the Old Guard were the result of expanding awareness of variation in the Protocols, the unkind ways that some of the barons treated others with different ways of doing things, the development of leather organizations. All these cracks and some others would have guaranteed a significant change anyway. So would the assimilation of the soldiers coming back from Vietnam as disillusioned losers—so different from the triumphant victors following WWII. But the arrival of HIV was a hammer blow to the social ecosystem of the leather world, the centerpiece of which was the Old Guard, and it has never been the same. None of us will

At its best, the Old Guard was protective of newcomers and elders alike, and offered a balanced and structured way to investigate sexualities that were challenging and demanding, and even sometimes life-threatening. It was an orderly way by which information was transmitted from elders to newcomers, from generation to generation in a graduated way as people were ready for deeper information about how leathersex worked. It did so by creating a network of people based on mutual affection, respect for age and experience, and a shared interest in things socially taboo.

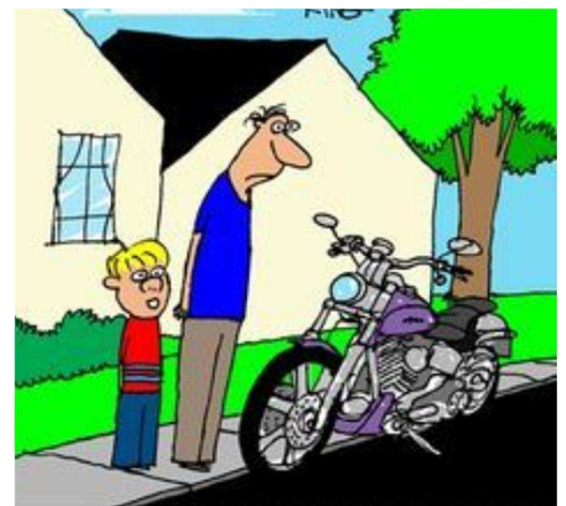
It guarded the mysteries of leather ritual from those who would have exploited them for theatrical effect, chic, or merely from dilettantism — all things that we are confronted with now to one degree or another, and on a scale that would have embarrassed and saddened the elders of 30 years ago. For better or for worse, most of them are not around to witness it today. But some are.

At its worst, the Old Guard sanctified misconceptions by calling them “traditions”; the myth of slave training is just one case in point most Masters know next to nothing about submission, for example. It also tended to over control the rate of learning for newbies, and underestimated the potential of its own membership. While it fostered friendships fairly well, it often had problems with real intimacy and had trouble integrating issues of romance and love with SM sexualities. And it had a very hard time discussing any of these things in anything like an open way. At the same time, it was sadly elitist, racist and ageist as well.

Today, the Old Guard seems somehow dated to many in the leather world. And of course, it is. But so are *Gone With the Wind*; Fred Astair and Ginger Rodgers; *The Micky Mouse Club*; Nietzsche, Karl Marx and Freud. Clearly, there were good things in all of these mixed in with some not so good things. Certainly one reason people remain interested in the Old Guard is that we had a good fix on a number of things that were truly sexy, and which offered a reassuring structure to the expressions of Dominance and submission... the mixture of authority with sexuality.

Interest in that mixture is not likely to become irrelevant any time soon; *Gone With the Wind*, after all, has just been re-released, and is expected to play to packed houses. In a very similar way, the Old Guard is classical and timeless .. , and younger leather folks are taking a renewed interest in it. Time will tell.

This article is written by Guy Baldwin on the Old Guard and appeared in Issue #20 of International Leatherman (now defunct) in October 1998. This article is being re-published here for educational purposes under the fair-use doctrine (17 U.S.C. § 107).



“I bought it with the \$5-a-week allowance you give me. I discovered I have a real talent for playing the stock market.”

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events:

Fri 21st May: RIDE: Drive a train! (*THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT!*) Members and friends of Empire City MC are going to serve as Engineer (driver), Coal Man and Jump Seat workers on the last "F-series" locomotive for a one-hour trip in the Lancaster, PA area. This is the same engine which will pull the train for our July Steam Train Weekend!

Fri 28th – Mon 31st May: RIDE: Empire City MC's 10th Annual Motorcycle Weekend. Cut-off for applications is midnight on Tuesday, 18th May 2021. We are very, very close to maxing out on guests! If you want to go, you need to let us know now.

Wed 2nd June, 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>

Fri 11th – Sun 13th June: RIDE: Hillside Campground Duck Derby Weekend (planning phase)

Fri 18th June: EVENT: Empire City MC's 57th Annual Bike Blessing at Ty's Bar – New York City (yet to be confirmed)

Sat 19th June: RIDE: Empire City MC's 57th Annual Biker Picnic! (yet to be confirmed)

Sun 27th June: RIDE: Empire City MC regrets to inform everyone that due to COVID-19, 2021's Gay Pride March is once again CANCELLED; **however**, we are working on a possible pride parade ride of our own, circling New York City – more info as this develops.

Wed 7th July, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month. This month might be the return to the in-person meetings at The Centre! All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Fri 23rd – Sun 25th July: RIDE: "611" Steam Train Weekend. See attached flyer for information about this exciting event!

Wed 4th August, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month. This month might be the return to the in-person meetings at The Centre! All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

Thu 5th – Sun 8th August: RIDE: Hillside Illumination Weekend

Fri 13th – Mon 16th August: RIDE: Montréal Pride Weekend (yet to be confirmed)

Sat 28th – Sun 29th August: RIDE: New York International Air (Aeroplane) Show at the Orange County Airport (planning phase)

Wed 1st September, 20:00 – 21:00: MEETING: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month. This month might be the return to the in-person meetings at The Centre! All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. Attend our Open General Meeting with your computer at: <http://bit.ly/ECMC-OGM>

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 and download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on social media at <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> where you can chat with us.

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



**Empire City MC
presents...**

**"611" Steam Train
Weekend**



**23^d-25th July 2021
Lancaster, PA vicinity**



Sleep in a caboose for two nights at the Red Caboose Motel!

The Red Caboose Motel is a 48-room train motel in the Amish country near Ronks, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where guests stay in actual railroad cabooses. The motel consists of over three dozen cabooses and some other railroad cars, such as dining cars that serve as a restaurant. (~\$280 per couple)



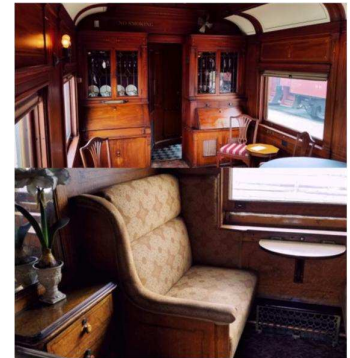
**Take a one-hour ride in
the Presidential Carriage
with the 611 locomotive
leading the way!**

**Empire City MC has
reserved the entire
carriage for ourselves!**

A luxurious experience

available on a limited basis. Relax in air-conditioned comfort.

Confections and beverages may be purchased separately on-board. (~\$60 per person)



**Afterward, we'll go to Miller's famous Smorgasbord for
some Amish Dutch foods that will blow you away!**

Interested and want more information?

**Contact secretary@EmpireCityMC.com to be
added to the guest-list and to be given
further information on registering and
reserving motel space.**

