



WHAT?!? HOLIDAY PARTY TIME ALREADY?!?

As we end the 2015 riding season (at least the end of the riding season for sane people), we prepare for our last hurrah of every year, our annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive benefitting Leake & Watts Foster Care. This will be our 52nd annual event, formerly known as "ECMC's Toys for Tots", until the U.S. Marine Corp sent us a 'cease and desist' letter!



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th
ROCKBAR NYC, 185 CHRISTOPHER ST
DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

You can purchase your tickets now at <http://ecmc-52nd-xmas.eventbrite.com> or use the mail-in form on the last page of this newsletter.

There is no price increase from the last two years! \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door! Remember to bring a new, unwrapped toy suitable for a toddler, child or teenager. Write the date on your calendar and please invite a friend or two! As with the past two years, we will serve light fare and appetisers throughout the event and there will be a cash bar.

LOOP-THE-LAKE POST-EVENT RUN-DOWN (PART 1)

Loop-The-Lake was a smashing success! Over 1,800 accumulated miles over 10 days with folks from the Bay State Marauders, The Harbour Masters in Portland, the Ottawa Knights and Ottawa Knight Riders, Spearhead LDSC in Toronto and many, many friends from over the years along the way (such as Dave R. from NH in VT, Cliff and Pierre in Toronto, Alex and Frank in Ottawa and Al and Dan in Hemlock!) We couldn't ask for better weather, although we did bring heated vests and gloves in the event of cold weather. Late September in Canada can be quite 'iffy' weather. I've seen it snow up there on a Labour Day weekend more than once!



See all of our photos from our trip, go to <http://photos.chazhome.com/20150918LoopTheLake> – all the photos are in chronological order, each segment beginning with a map that shows the *actual route taken from GPS*, not just the 'planned route'. We went a few places not originally planned, just because they were there – such as grabbing a slice of 'beach pizza' in Salisbury Beach, NH! (photo left)



In honour of the Spartan MC, who say: "It's not an *official Spartan's ride* until there's a U-turn and some Ice Cream!", Michael and I stopped in Quincy, MA (my former home of 5 years in the Boston area) for some "Arctic Swirls" at the Dairy Freeze on Adams St. (photo above, right)



Then we shipped it up to Boston to meet the Bay State Marauders at their new watering hole, the Cathedral Station, a gay bar that serves food! (photo left)



On the way to Boston, stop number one was at [Louis' Lunch](#) in New Haven, CT the birthplace of the hamburger! "The beginnings of the hamburger sandwich as we all know it today was really quite simple. One day in 1900, a gentleman hurriedly walked into Louis' Lunch and told proprietor Louis Lassen he was in a rush and wanted something he could eat on the run. In an instant, Louis placed his own blend of ground steak trimmings between two slices of toast and sent the gentleman on his way. And so, the most recognizable American sandwich was born."

O.M.G. the burgers are AMAZING, unlike anything you've ever had and still cooked in the original vertical broilers (shown in this photo between the white toaster and the hamburger-making person).



It was lobster pie and a lobster roll when we crossed into Maine on "International Talk Like a Pirate Day", 19 September. [The Harbour Masters' MC](#) had a special barnight at [Blackstones' Bar](#) in Portland, ME welcoming ECMC as we continued to 'loop' Lake Ontario!

The "[Buddy Bikers](#)", an off-shoot of the Harbour Masters joined us on Sunday morning for a beautiful ride across Maine and New Hampshire through the [Kancamagus Highway](#) (with several stops to enjoy nature!)



Ever use a wood-fired hot tub? Well, we spent Sunday night at [Gargoyle House](#) in Wells River, VT which is a gay men's clothing-optional resort with just that, along with wood-fired sauna and some amazing chow too! Check 'em out if you can! I'm going to try to get the club to stop there in 2016 on our way to Montréal, rather than our annual Toronto Trip! Gargoyle House is great for chilling out.

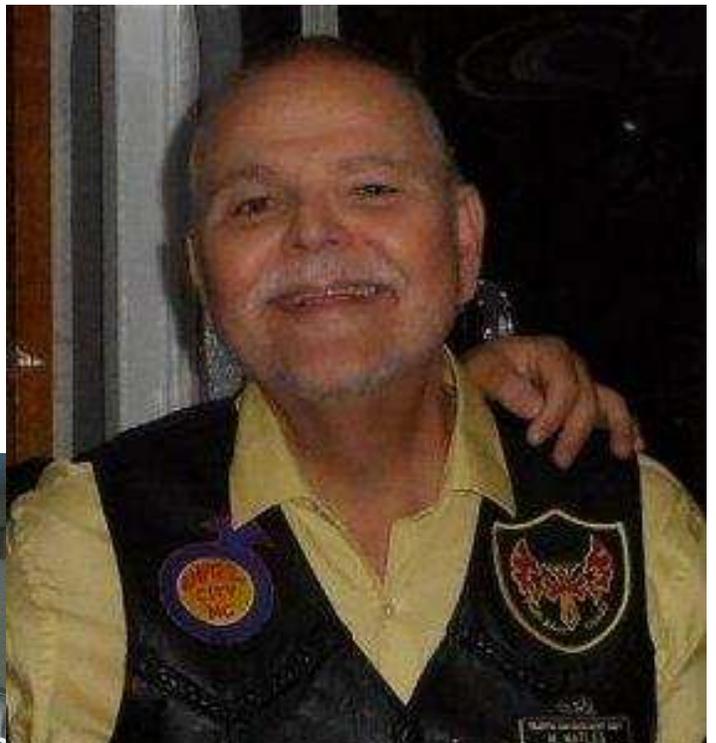
On Monday morning, we headed north to Montréal, PQ, Canada going over the tiniest USA/CANADA border-crossing I'd ever seen and onto a road named "Scenic Route" which was very much like the Tail of the Dragon with hills, twists and turns!

I'm out of room to say any more right now, so you'll have to check out the photos on the website (above) and wait until next month's instalment of Loop-the-Lake Post-Event Run-Down, Part II!



MEET THE MEMBER – MICHAEL M

Empire City MC's Associate Member, Michael M is also an Honorary Life Member of the Twilight Guard and an Associate Member of the following clubs: NEPA (NE Pennsylvania Leathermen), Low Country Leather, Tarheel Leather, Trident Knights and CLAWS (not to be confused with CLAW in Ohio). Although associated with many leather clubs, Michael is not a "patch collector" – he actually participates in all of the clubs he's involved with; however, Empire City MC is the only motorcycle club that requires motorcycles. It's this reason that he became involved with ECMC, even though he lives in South Carolina and Pennsylvania. As he says, "ECMC is a fraternal group of gay men who travel and truly exhibit what brotherhood is".



Michael says that his favourite rides with the club have been the Loop-the-Lake ride (which just wrapped up 28th September) and our 50th Anniversary Ride to the "Tail of the Dragon" in North Carolina (where he zip-lined for the first time ever!) He looks forward to even more phenomenal riding with the club in the years to come.

There is a lot of gay lifestyle cross-over with ECMC from Bears to Leathermen. When I asked Michael: Leather, Yea or Nay, it was a resounding "Yea!" Michael really enjoys the look, feel and smell of leather and believes it to have been something deeply planted in his brain at the tender age of 11 when he found himself lusting after leather-clad bikers. As mentioned by several other members, his dream ride would be riding route 66 with other club members. [Mental note: We need to do this, perhaps for our 55th Anniversary!] In Pennsylvania, bikers recently celebrated the repeal of the helmet law, ushering in "helmet choice" for bikers. Although Michael feels that bikers should be able to do what they wish, he still always wears his helmet.



Michael is legally wed to his husband of ten years, Ed H. Ed calls Charleston, South Carolina his home while Michael hops from Oneida Campground and nearby Nicholson, PA in the summer and Charleston in the winter. Michael considers himself blessed as his husband, who is non-leather and a not a biker, is very comfortable letting Michael have free reign to travel and have fun.

Michael has been riding since he was 17, although his mother said "over her dead body" when he asked if he could get a motorcycle, his father countermanded her! His first bike was a 305 Yamaha and later on, he was in the Traffic Enforcement Unit of the Detroit Police, which overjoyed him as he got paid to wear leather and ride a motorcycle!





I'm sorry, but shouldn't there be an apostrophe in that?



Caption the photo contest! Put your entry on our facebook page!





It was pointed out by Paul R that in last month's "Loop-the-lake" article, Iron Guard was mentioned as a defunct club in Montréal. Iron Cross is a New York City club and is doing just fine, recently celebrating their 40th anniversary. It was "Iron Cross" and "MC Faucon" which were the Montréal clubs. There are indeed no known gay leather nor gay biker clubs in Montréal any longer.



ANOTHER STAR BURNS OUT – KINDRED OF MAINE

After 18 years, Kindred of Maine will be closing its doors. The Harbor Masters and Kindred have been the mainstay organizations in Maine for the leather community and Kindred shall be missed. The Harbor Masters will be paying tribute to Kindred at their Sailaway Run in October 2015.

All Empire City MC Members wish the best to all Kindred members.

There's **NOT** an app for that: If you don't support your leather or motorcycle clubs or their bars, they will go away... MCs are the backbone of our community. Grinder, Growlr nor any other "app" will ever compare to the brotherhood and camaraderie you get from being an active member in a club. To quote our brothers of Trident, M.C. International, "Give A Damn!" – before it's too late please!

WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MCs

There's a wonderful article on CNN's website by William Dulaney where he spent 15 years in the motorcycle community to discover the cold, hard truth about motorcycle clubs: "The reality of everyday life in motorcycle clubs is neither dangerous nor exciting" he goes on to say "[to his] surprise, most MCs adhere strictly to Robert's Rules of Order during official meetings!"

"Why people join MCs:

Over the years, I've come to understand that identity may be the main purpose people join MCs.



It's not easy becoming a patch-holder. Many have compared "prospecting" – the process of earning full membership – to that of military basic training, where the individual is broken down in order to be reformed into a part of a collective: To think not of one's self but of others, and to understand that one's actions or inactions impact the team and the organization. But prospecting takes months and sometime a year or more (5 years for one MC).

Prospecting is physically, emotionally, and intellectually demanding and not everyone can do it. A significant amount of social status is conferred upon those with the steel to make it. Perhaps this is the only obvious similarity between MCs and gangs.

That sense of brotherhood was on display at a funeral for a patch-holder slain at Waco. I witnessed members of the Hells Angels, Bandidos, Mongols, Vagos and more than 50 other motorcycle clubs come together in peace to mourn the passing of a man who touched the lives of so many in his community."



Read the whole article here: <http://j.mp/cnn-biker>

I think you'll see a lot of similarity with Kiwi Callahan's "Where I Don't Belong" where she interviewed ECMC: <http://j.mp/ecmc-widb>

This proves that straight, gay, professional, outlaw, whatever, BIKER culture is a universal culture of brotherhood and loyalty.

"We have very real dangers to our society, our American way of life, but MCs are unequivocally not among those dangers. In my experience, patch-holders represent the very people who protect us from those threats."

THE LAST WORD

While it may have appeared Empire City MC was a little quiet this year, best believe we are vibrant and is going strong. We decided earlier this year we would take a laid back approach for 2015 since we had such a busy but fun 2014. I encourage you keep watch for what's coming in 2016.... Expect more rides, bar nights and possibly a few special events (wink). Stay tuned... more to come!!!



Evil Ed, President,
Empire City MC

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

October 7th: Empire City MC's open general meeting is held the first Wednesday of the month at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Check the posted schedule to see which room we're in.

October 11th (Daytime): RIDE: Concrete Canyon Run

October 11th (Evening): Empire City MC's 51st Anniversary Dinner. Speak to any ECMC member if you'd like an invitation to attend.

October 16th-18th: RIDE/EVENT: Harbour Masters' Annual Run, Ogunquit, ME. <http://www.harbormastersofmaine.com/>

November 4th: Empire City MC's open general meeting is held the first Wednesday of the month at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Check the posted schedule to see which room we're in.

November 14th: ECMC Road Trip to the D.C. Eagle

November 20-22nd: Leather Homecoming in Rochester & Rochester Rams MC Toy Drive

December 2nd: Empire City MC's open general meeting is held the first Wednesday of the month at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Check the posted schedule to see which room we're in.

December 4th: BARNIGHT: Excelsior MC's Annual Trim-A-Tree to be held at the Eagle NYC!

December 5th: Empire City MC's 52nd Annual Holiday Party & Toy Drive to benefit Leake & Watts Children's Centre!

January 6th: Empire City MC's open general meeting is held the first Wednesday of the month at The Centre, 208 W 13th St, NYC. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Check the posted schedule to see which room we're in.

January 16th 2016: BARNIGHT: Join ECMC at the **new** DC Eagle for an amazing and sexy barnight on Saturday night during the Centaur MC's Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend! Mark your calendars now!

REMEMBER: There will be plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to bookmark our official calendar at <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us!

Empire City MC's mailing address is:

Empire City MC
10 W 15th St, Suite 609
New York, NY 10011-6821



Are you interested in becoming a member of ECMC? For more information about membership with Empire City Motorcycle Club, or to download our membership application, constitution and bylaws, please [click here](#).

Get in on the conversation! [Click here](#) to join our facebook group or go to <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com/>

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Empire City MC is proud to announce our 52nd Annual Holiday Party & Toy Drive



Saturday, December 5th
6 PM - 9 PM at Rockbar NYC
185 Christopher St, New York City

Our 52nd Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive benefitting Leake & Watts will be simple and fun again this year in a private social setting with light fare.

Advance tickets, \$25 online or by mail
ecmc-52nd-xmas.eventbrite.com
or \$30 at the door

- **Fantastic door prizes. Coat check.**
- **Plenty of light fare and appetizers for all!**
- **Holiday Jell-O Shots and more surprises!**
- **Make it a weekend! Excelsior MC's Trim-a-Tree on Dec 4th**

Don't forget to bring a new, unwrapped gift or toy suitable for a child or teenager to benefit Leake & Watts Services!

For more information about our event or to donate a door prize, please contact Darryl, our Vice President, by e-mail at: vice-president@empirecitymc.com

Mail-in Ticket Order Form

Please complete and mail this form to:

Empire City MC Holiday Party
10 W 15th St, Suite 609
New York, NY 10011-6821

Name _____

Club (if any) _____

e-Mail _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Quantity of tickets _____ at \$25/ea, total \$ _____

All tickets will be held in buyer's name at the door, identification may be required. Confirmation will be done by electronic mail, or in the event there is no e-mail address provided, by telephone.



Visit www.ExcelsiorMC.com for information about Excelsior MC's Trim-a-Tree on December 4th