



Arkto's Bear Run

The first weekend of August was the Arkto's Bear Run, hosted by [Arkto's](#) at [Freedom Valley Campground](#) (a gay, male-only campground near New London, OH).

The ride from New York City was 500 miles and due to some bad weather and a failed motorcycle battery, it took us from 8:00AM to 10:00PM to get there.

Thanks to the miracle of GPS and Google tracking, we can display an accurate map (above) of our travels. We spent from 3:12PM to 3:56PM under a bridge to escape (left photo) the multiple and torrential downpours.



Wait – did you say battery failure? Yep. There were four of us on this “iron butt” trip and since we were all coming from various starting points, we met up at Denny's in Bloomsburg, PA. Following lunch, we went to top up fuel for the first 140 miles together – but Joe's bike wasn't having it. There was no power whatsoever. Making a very long story short, we borrowed jumper cables from a good samaritan and made it to a motorcycle shop that had one we could buy. Against advice, we hit the road and allowed the bike to charge the battery as we drove – then, the rain started. We got soaked, but managed to hide under a bridge for 45 minutes while it blew over. Another gas-up, then another – it was getting late. We called to let them know we were going to be late and woofed down a ‘meal’ at Burger King.



Once getting there, we were happy to discover that the cabins and bunkhouse were air-conditioned and had electric outlets! There was even a fridge and microwave! All the comforts of home. The run kits were left on our beds and had all sorts of

handy things, including a flashlight! After unpacking, we discovered the pool was open 24/7, so some of us took a shower and hit the heated pool. (Did I mention this is a campground, not a resort?) Arkto's made sure that things kept moving all weekend and we were all well fed, as one should be at a bear run! Sadly, our friends from the Rochester Rams nor Unicorn MC were nowhere to be seen, but Duane M was in tent city. Some of the tents had track lighting with dimmers and outdoor inflatable big-screen TV screens! We parked our bikes in front of the bunkhouse, and although there were ruffled curtains in the windows, the butchness factor went up ten-fold with the addition of them! Some of our members disregarded the warnings about the “toxic (spiked) lemonade” served poolside Saturday afternoon and was in rate form! He was hurting a little bit the next morning. On Sunday, we packed up and got a bit of a late start 10:30 AM and we all got home around 9:00PM. Our butts were a bit sore from the long ride, but we're in agreement that we want to return in 2019 – but perhaps with a stay-over on the way there and back.

Insignia Management

It's needless to point out that when a club has existed for nearly 55 years, a few backpatches go missing from time to time. Sometimes its a member dying and being buried in their colours or perhaps a member resigning and not returning their colours for whatever reason. Once in a while, we hear of someone showing up in a city and behaving badly whilst wearing "Empire City MC" colours – let it be known that the persons photographed below are the only persons authorised to wear ECMC patches and/or cheesegraters (our studded leather jacket cover). Of course, this does not include *promotional items* such as friendship pins, t-shirts, hats and so on – just our official insignia, as shown below.



Below are examples of our official colours (patches and our cheesegrater). Only full members in good standing are allowed to wear back patches, the small ECMC front patch, AMCC patch and/or cheesegraters. Associate members are allowed to wear only our small ECMC front patch. AMCC patches may only be worn by full members of [AMCC sanctioned clubs](#).



So, what do you do if you see someone wearing our colours whom you feel shouldn't be? Please take a clear picture of the person wearing our colours (but do not put yourself in jeopardy) and e-mail it to ecmc@EmpireCityMC.com with your name and contact information, as well as any information you have about your encounter with the false ECMC member and we'll take it from there. Do not put yourself at risk by attempting to confiscate their colours yourself!

Sausage Making

In the late 19th century, the German Prussian politician Otto von Bismarck said, "Laws are like sausages. It's better not to see them being made."

Any member of any active motorcycle club which does things (rides, events, benefits, etc) know that meetings suck and decisions don't always go your way. It's like the sausage factory – a lot of things go into something that aren't quite palatable, but the end result is greater than the sum.

In a recent meeting, it was mentioned by someone, "why they bother being a full member" when it would be easier to just be a GDI and attend events and rides, having all the fun without any of the effort, expense or work.



Of course, everyone should know that if there were no full members, meetings nor committees, the things we all enjoy – the rides, the parties, the travel, meeting others, fundraising for our favourite charities simply wouldn't happen. Yes, it does suck to be a full member of a club, even more so if you're an officer or chairman of a committee, but it's a calling and a purpose. I was raised by motorcycle clubs and know that when I pay my annual dues and attend the never-ending meetings that it's important to keep this noble lifestyle alive not only for the *next* generation, but for our existing one! When you're a full member of a club, you have friends for life that typically exceed the level of personal commitment that even biological families live up to. When you're a GDI, you might have H-D roadside assistance for when your bike breaks down, but will they be there to bail your ass out of jail? Throw you in rehab when you have a problem with drugs or alcohol? Teach you what's right and wrong? Hell no.

If you're a club member and are thinking of calling it quits, envision where your head was at when you were a hanger-on, a prospect and a pledge – the excitement and thrill of being a brother. It's all still there, you just have to step back and adjust your view – when you hit hard times, we're your support system – we're much more than just fun rides and events.

Funny Pages



"Not to lecture, but the skull of your fallen enemy is reusable and much less wasteful."

The Last Word

August and September are the last dependable-weather bike-riding months (for long-distance riding at least), and we're already into August!! Eeeks! As you can see in our upcoming events & rides, there are a few more long distance rides taking place, but more importantly, please keep a watchful eye on calendar.EmpireCityMC.com because that's where we list our nearly-spontaneous day-rides, and almost anyone is welcome to join us. I'm sure there will be a few day rides posted over the next eight weeks as we have a new pledge who needs to complete his required rides before able to be voted on as a full member and we also have some full and associate members who need to get their official club rides in for the year or jeopardise their membership in the club!

Yes, we have mandatory participation requirements in our club, and frankly, I think that all clubs should do the same. Our Open General Meetings are mandatory attendance for all full-members (except in the case where work, health or family *occasionally* get in the way). Without these requirements, we stand to have a bunch of back-patch-wearing folk that really have no say in the club nor bond on the road with the club. We can't stand for that – we're brothers and need to behave like it.

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Thu-Mon 16th-20th August: RIDE: Gay Pride Montréal. This ride has become a staple for some ECMC members. We make our own reservations for accommodations and we share live GPS tracking and we all head north on our own, at our own pace. We arrange to meet up for meals and fun by using SMS group texting. It's a group event, yet you make your own plans too! It's quite unlike many of our other trips – and Gay Pride Montréal is simply fun! See: <http://www.fiertemontrealpride.com/en/pride/>

Fri-Sun 24th-26th August: T/B/D

Fri-Tue 31st August – 4th September: RIDE: The Delta Run (a/k/a "Gay Kink Camp"), an invitational camping event. Please note, the run is full and no more applications are being accepted and there is not a waiting list.

Wed 5th 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 booked into.

Sat 8th September: RIDE: Leake & Watts Buddy Ride. As a hat-tip to those at Leake & Watts (Rising Ground) and all the good they go to help foster children, we're going to give the employees and volunteers at Rising Ground a ride on the back of our bikes out of the city and into the mountains! This is a closed members-only ride. (Date is tentative!)

Fri-Sun 14th-16th September: RIDE: Black & Blue Weekend at Oneida Campground.

Thu-Sun 20th-23rd September: RIDE: Cycle for the Cause is an epic three day, 275 mile bicycle ride from Boston to New York that raises millions to fund the fight to end AIDS. Motorcycles are used to escort and coordinate this ride. All meals, fuel and accommodations are paid for in full for motorcycle volunteers for this four-day event. See: <http://bit.ly/c4tc2018>

Sat 22nd September: RIDE: 6th Annual Brad Fox Joe Wargo Fallen Heroes Motorcycle Run. An escorted motorcycle run paying respect to fallen peace officers and K-9s. Meet up at 5 Centre Square in Easton, PA and register at 9AM, event ends at 4PM and is a loop-ride (you'll end up back where you started). See: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/BradFoxJoeWargoFallenHerosRun>

Fri-Sun 28th-30th September: EVENT: 22nd Mates Leather Weekend, Provincetown, MA. Mates is a kick-back, have a good time, meet some hot new friends weekend for those who want to hang out, socialize, relax or party with other like-minded people in Leather, Rubber and Uniforms. Mates Leather Weekend is brought to you by Rick Conley, long-time Provincetown resident and leatherman. See: <https://www.matesleatherweekend.com/>

Sun 30th September: RIDE: The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride. On Sunday September 30th 2018, tens of thousands of distinguished gentlemen in hundreds of cities worldwide will don their cravats, tweak their moustaches, press their tweed and sit astride their classic and vintage styled motorcycles to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and men's mental health.

Wed 3rd October 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 booked into.

Sun 14th October 19:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's 54th Anniversary Dinner – T/B/D (Tentative 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:

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New York, NY 10011-6821



Empire City MC is a proud member of the Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council. For more information about membership with Empire City MC, [click here](#) to view/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application.



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