



## Pride March 2021: Empire City and the Sirens

We knew that the 2021 Gay Pride March was going to be confusing due to the fact that permits are issued months in advance, and in early 2021, we had no idea what the COVID-19 situation would be in New York City.

As the time got closer, we read about rifts between two very different Gay Pride Marches, one group called "Reclaim Pride" and the other called "Heritage of Pride". Both are in a contentious fight over inclusion, corporate money/corruption, and police participation. Similar issues have led to the destruction of the committees for both the Philadelphia and Boston Gay Pride Marches.

While the word on the street was that there was to be no "official 2021 Gay Pride March", ABC News wanted to have pride parade footage to air on television (allegedly due to contract a contract between them and the heritage of pride folk), so a scaled-down pride parade took place. The bikers were left out of all discussions and what was discussed was behind closed doors. Who's getting money from whom is outside of our knowledge, but it's obvious something's afoot!



It was decided and published last month that Empire City MC would make last minute decision on what was going to happen in respect to our participation in any parade or march at the Starlight Diner following a conversation and breakfast. We reached out to The Sirens MC, whom had decided to meet up at a park, then ride up 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. We wanted to go down 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and have a moment of silence in front of Stonewall Inn on Christopher St.

We met up at the diner as planned and after and after having a light breakfast, we dolled up our rides with rainbow pride flags and such and headed down 34<sup>th</sup> St to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. We turned right onto 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and were directly behind several city busses, taxicabs and passenger vehicles. As we approached another cross-street (a cross street in where the busses, cabs and cars were permitted to travel) our motorcycles were forbidden the same access by NYPD. We then wormed our way back-and-forth over 5<sup>th</sup> Ave in a frustrating path trying to eventually end up on and driving down 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, but by 23<sup>rd</sup> St 5<sup>th</sup> Ave was pretty much closed to motorised traffic. We could see the makeshift parade (which we were not invited to participate in) progressed down 5<sup>th</sup> Ave while we headed down 23<sup>rd</sup> St to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave and we saw The Sirens ride past. We decided to make a legal right turn on to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave and another



police officer attempted to halt us his officer attempted to halt us and said we could not pass. This was clearly harassment now. I don't know why they tried to shut us down to shut us down like this, but our cool heads prevailed as we turned off our engines and walked our bikes from 23<sup>rd</sup> St onto 6<sup>th</sup> Ave and started them and drove yeah then started them back up and drove alongside The Sirens to the delight of onlookers waving pride flags and yelling support! When we got to 41<sup>st</sup> St we had turned off 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, parked and declared it the end of the ride for us!

It is uncertain what will happen at the 2022 Pride March, but we can state with assurance that no matter what happens, we shall ride our legally licensed and insured vehicles on legal roadways in New York City for which we pay tax to maintain whether or not we're invited!

Remember: The first NYC Pride Parade was a riot!

## 2021 Bike Blessing & Biker Picnic



Bikes.. lots of bikes! Empire City MC's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike Blessing was quite the success!

Lots of thanks to Ty's for hosting our event, and providing everyone with champagne for the bike blessings and pizza for us to munch on! A fun time was had by all!



Our Biker's Picnic was held the following day at Mark & Terry's home in New Jersey. Not many photos were taken there due to all the naked swimming! 😊

Special thanks to Terry Puffer and Mark Wind for opening their home, shopping and preparing food and drink and letting us all cool off in your pool!



## Hillside's Duck Derby (11-12-13 June)

The bottom three photos are from Hillside's 'Duck Derby weekend' – a duck race (of sorts) benefitting the Hillside Memorial Garden and fabulous prizes! Our next trip to Hillside shall be their Illumination Weekend!



## Rest in Peace, Captain Emilio Carranza

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Captain Emilio Carranza Memorial Service was held at his crash site monument located in Tabernacle, New Jersey on Saturday 10 July 2021. The monument was discovered accidentally last October 2020 by our member Gary P while looking for cranberry bogs to tour. While driving through the Pine Barrens of Southern New Jersey, we noticed a large monument about 10 feet tall and about 5 feet squared with a lot of Mexican reference. Not knowing anything about this structure in the middle of nowhere piqued his interest. After some research, he learned of the Annual Memorial Service held on the closest Saturday to the actual crash event date. Fast forward to this past Saturday in the middle of the Pine Barrens.



Gary was really impressed by the number of organizations that were attending this event annually, including The American Legion Mount Holly Post #11, who took responsibility of returning his body to his home-town in Mexico, and remains in charge of the annual service.

There was a delegation of Mexican politicians from NYC, Philadelphia, and from the Mexican Embassy in Washington DC. Locally, there were representatives from the Carranza family, the American Legion, VFW, Mason Central Lodge #44, NJ State politicians and numerous NJ departments were well represented.



The event started with speeches, award presentations and a fly-by of four older planes to be followed by wreath laying by all of the groups attending. The service itself was very respectful and moving. There were speeches and letters read from the Carranza Family. The intrigue into this crash is still a mystery as plane crashes in 1928 were not inspected by the FAA like they are today. There are rumours as to a telegram found in his pocket stating that "his manhood was in question and he needed to return to Mexico immediately to defend himself", but that telegram has vanished and it's meaning lost to time. Some of us think that he was being accused of being a



homosexual, which was a pretty bad thing back then! This meant Emilio had to fly with lightning and rain (not the most favourable of conditions). Furthermore, his plane was loaded to the max for a non-stop flight from NYC to Mexico City.

During the services they even do a re-enactment sending search parties into the woods and returning with his body on a stretcher. All in all, it was a moving experience that I look forward to attending next year.

This year due to COVID-19 they cancelled the luncheon at the local high school. Gary (photo on left) heard that that it consists of food, drink and local Mexican dances.





# UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

## Some Featured Rides & Events:

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sun 25<sup>th</sup> July:** RIDE: "611" Steam Train Weekend in Ronks, PA!

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> – Sun 8<sup>th</sup> August:** RIDE: Hillside Illumination Weekend.

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> – Mon 16<sup>th</sup> August:** RIDE: Montréal Pride Weekend (yet to be confirmed)

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

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tues 7<sup>th</sup> September:** EVENT: The Delta International Brotherhood Run (invitational)

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> September:** RIDE: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the attack on 9/11.

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> September:** RIDE: Bike HSS Benefit Ride. Register at <https://bikehss.org/>

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> October, 20:00 – 21:00:** MEETING: 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. All motorcyclists are welcome to participate. If not in the local area, you may attend our Open General Meeting via Zoom Teleconference 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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