



### ECMC Invades Pittsburgh

Last weekend, members of the Pittsburgh leather community welcomed the Empire City Motorcycle Club to a dinner in Bloomfield. The club is one of the nation's oldest all-riding motorcycle clubs organized by and for gay men. The dinner, held at G's on Liberty, drew numerous members of the leather, bear and pup community.

Based in New York City and formed in 1964, riding adventures and travel to other cities has long been key to ECMC's success. This off-season visit to Pittsburgh was a first and came a week after a visit to Harrisburg for the Pennsmen's 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



"It was not ECMC's first visit to Pittsburgh. As a riding club, most of our activities take place in the summer months, and don't necessarily involve visits to cities or other clubs," explains local ECMC member Lewis Kwett, who organized the event with his partner Tim Moore. "Tim and I wanted a chance to introduce our ECMC brothers to the Pittsburgh community, not just Three Rivers Leather Club, but also Barons of Steel, Fort Pitt Bears, Steel City Pups, Bear Friends of Pittsburgh, current and past title holders, and friends."

The visiting club and many at the dinner capped off the evening with a visit to P-Town, where TRLC held its "Jail and Bail" bar night.

### It Truly Is Us Versus Them Now

I'm sure, that you are aware of what's going on in the world. There's a new world war developing. It's not a war against countries, it's a war against idealisms. On one side we have the Republicans, MAGA, Russian Federation (Putin), China (Xi), North Korea (Kim Jun-Un) and various other countries that live under and iron fist. Personal and individual



liberties and freedoms are being curtailed. Anything that goes outside of the government approved norm are to be eradicated. to ensure compliance, they are not allowing women in classrooms in some countries, removing books from libraries, directing teachers at what they can and cannot teach, and there's so much more.

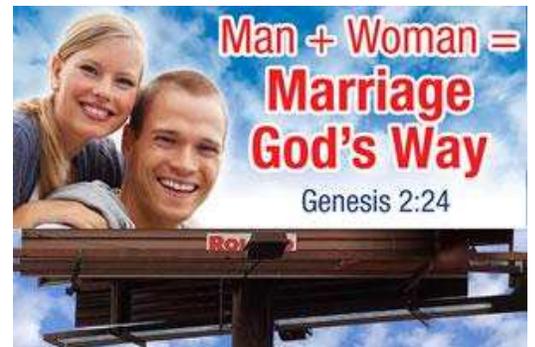


On the other side of the coin we have what is commonly known as “The Liberals”, in some cases some Democrats fall under this category but unfortunately, many do not. when you envision a liberal I'm sure a long haired hippie tree hugger comes to mind, but that's not the only kind of liberal there is most every person reading this newsletter is liberal to a great extent, they are liberal because they are free to express their identity as they wish, they are liberal because they are free to express their opinions, and they do!, and more importantly, liberals let other people live their own life provided it doesn't harm others.

This battle between personal liberties and government exploitation is slowly coming to a head and a lot of the battleground is right here in the United States.

### **Anti-Woman, Anti-Trans, Anti-Drag, anti-Everything!**

We are finding ourselves as a community, once more, facing terrible threats from our elected officials who behave more like tyrants. We have been promised small government by the GOP again and again, but what we see when they are elected never aligns with their platform. Instead, we see the government barging into our personal lives, our bedrooms, our relationships, and even how we raise our children!



Recently, Tennessee signed a bill that officially outlaws men wearing women's clothing in public places (drag). Obviously, this is completely arbitrary law and against the First Amendment. Meanwhile, down in Florida



they have been on a tirade of bill writing. There are so many bills being proposed in Florida that are anti-gay, anti-trans, anti-lesbian, anti-woman that my head is spinning.

Ron DeSantis is so upset that Disney spoke against him on his “Don't Say Gay” bill, that he has taken away their ability to self-govern in Florida , something they've had in place for many years which actually helped prevent Floridians from paying the taxes Disney World would cost them. It is vital that we stay on Walt Disney's ass, letting them know they must stand strong against this tyrant!

The most restrictive abortion laws might be signed by Ron DeSantis before the month is out. this would be a restriction to having an abortion only within the first six weeks of pregnancy, most women don't even realise they're pregnant by this time! We now have Walgreens/Duane Reade jumping on the bandwagon saying they will not stock RU486 (the morning-after pill). Under pressure from people on Twitter, they have issued a statement which reads: “once it has FDA approval, they will stock it in all states that allow it”. This statement is an outright lie because the FDA already approved the medication quite some time ago. this compounds the statement they made some time ago saying they will allow their pharmacists to deny filling prescriptions to people they don't like under their sincerely held religious beliefs (for example, condoms, AIDS/HIV medications, PReP medications, Count reception medications and devices and so on...)



There are other similar bills being proposed in Alabama, Texas, and even several Iowa GOP lawmakers are seeking a ban on same-sex marriage, making people ask: "Is that even possible?"

I have a strange feeling that something from the pandemic triggered this radical shift, but in all honesty I think this is outside manipulation of American citizens (as well as other world citizens) to favour tyranny over freedom. Even in Canada last year, we saw some of the most outrageous behaviour from Canadians (well, what we were led to believe were Canadians!) in the form of the trucker protests and blockade of their capital city of Ottawa. If you can get Canadians to act like that, I fear just how much they could influence people in the United States because we have been dumbed down for centuries.



At this critical junction in human existence, it is more vital than ever for us not to take a back seat and just watch the news. There are things that you can do without throwing Molotov cocktails through the windows of our city halls that will have better effect on ensuring our personal liberties are maintained:

- Know where your money is going! Immediately BOYCOTT organisations that do not support our way of life.
- Let organisations that support hate know you are boycotting them by e-mailing/tweeting to them.
- Don't take a back seat to politics speak up! speak out! and do as much as you can, including peaceful protesting.
- Attend or be in a gay March in your city or town - if there isn't one *create one*. (**I'm looking at you Philadelphia!**)
- Support your local GLBT Community Centres – they will be our command HQs when we need them most!
- Support our brothers and sisters fighting back in Georgia and Ukraine against the tyranny of Putin.
- If you have skills, put them to use to help defeat tyranny (I/T Army of Ukraine is a good start!)
- Get your news from a variety of trusted sources, use your head and learn what propaganda looks like.
- Send a letter to your representatives letting them know how important your personal liberties are to you.
- Stand up to tyranny, tell other people when they are being gaslit by Fox News, NewsMax, Trump, MAGA or OAN.
- Don't donate through the United way donate directly to the causes you believe in!
- Don't be afraid! There are literally millions of us out there!



Boycott: All Chinese goods (look for where your purchases are manufactured!)  
Walgreens and Duane Reade, Chick fil-A, and the others at HRC: <https://www.hrc.org/>

Boycotts work! Need proof? Watch this: <https://nbcnews.to/429wpZt>

Not sure where to start? Drop me an e-mail at [ChazAntonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ChazAntonelli@gmail.com) I'll be glad to help!

# UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

## Some Featured Rides & Events from our calendar:

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Mar, 20:00 – 21:00:** SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Mar:** EVENT: Bear Albany Presents "Toga Bear" (Albany, NY) Bear Albany is bringing back one of their most popular weekends, starting with meet & greet on Friday, a day at the baths on Saturday, followed by the main event: a Toga Bear Dance Party on Saturday night at ROCKS! More information and hotel details at <http://www.bearalbany.com/>

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Apr, 20:00 – 21:00:** OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties my attend.

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Apr, 20:00 – 21:00:** SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr & Sat 29<sup>th</sup>, 18:00 – 22:00:** EVENT: Beer Bash with Boy Jack the Boot Black at The Barracks Bar in Palm Springs, California!

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 20:00 – 21:00:** OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties my attend.

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Mar:** EVENT: Bear Albany Presents "Bear Prom" (Albany, NY). More information at <http://www.bearalbany.com/>

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May:** RIDE: Spartan MC is hosting "Marathon" this year. They are inviting other clubs to come along! They will travel to Asheville, NC and riding the tail of the dragon (as well as other roads!) They are heading down Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May and are returning the following Monday. Note: It's a two day ride to and from Asheville. Day one will end around South Boston, VA. Any interested parties should reach out to Spartan MC's VP at: [Vice.President@SpartanMC.com](mailto:Vice.President@SpartanMC.com)

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> May, 10:00-17:00:** RIDE: Distinguished Gentleman's Ride in NYC! Register at <https://www.gentlemansride.com/>, then meet up on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Peck Slip Plaza, Peck Slip, New York, NY 10038 on the ray of the ride – we'll ride through most of NYC's boroughs!

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May:** RIDE: ECMC's 12th Annual Motorcycle Weekend (New York City, Philadelphia, Harrisburg & Pittsburgh!) Details and Run Application coming later this month!



Chaz are standing by for your call now!

Interested in any of these events or rides? Call Chaz, the Road Captain of Empire City MC to find out more, or RSVP.

In Empire City MC, the Vice President (Gary P) oversees coordinating all EVENTS (designated with the word "EVENT" in the calendar), and the Road Captain (Chaz A) is in charge of all rides/travel and accommodation (designated with the word "RIDE" in the calendar).

Chaz is happy to act as a conduit to arrange your involvement with any of our events/rides with a simple voice phone call to +1 212-212-CHAZ (2429) – hours for live assistance are 9am-10pm, 7-days a week. Voice only: No texts are allowed on this number at this time [we're working on that]. If you get voice mail, please leave a message.

**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.

Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at [newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org](mailto:newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org)  
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