The 2025 Long-Distance Riding Season is Ending

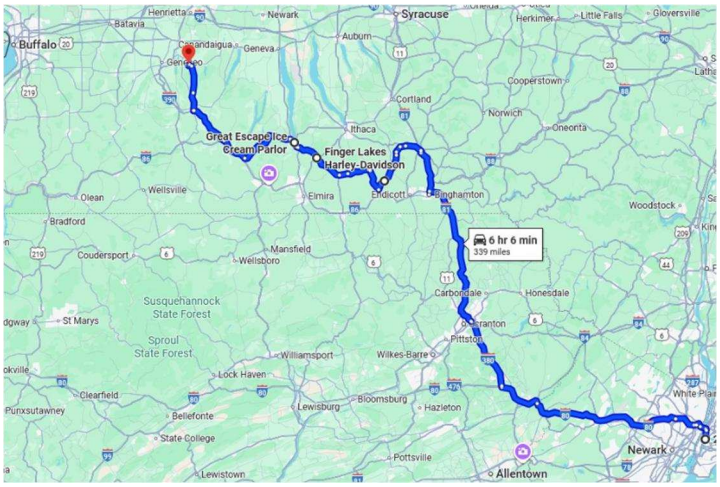
Empire City MC has changed remarkably since our 50th anniversary. We now have members that stretch across the northeast United States, this means that we need to ensure that all of our members have an appropriate level of rights to participate! Over the past 11 years we have expanded our ride itineraries to allow people to join and depart at various positions locations on the rides. As we are a fraternal organization it is vital that every member know every other member… we do not want to recreate just a riding club like HOG or Star Riders.

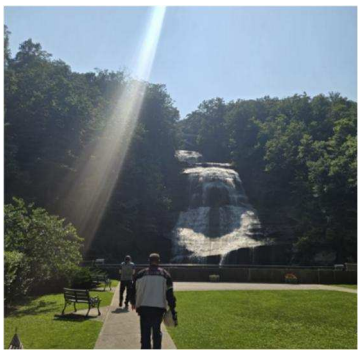
To facilitate these requirements, this summer we did a series of rides that allowed people from across our membership area to participate without having to ride for 7 hours, to just go riding! Since our last newsletter on 9th July, we have executed thousands of miles in rides – here are a few:

2025-07-12 98th Annual Emilio Carranza Memorial

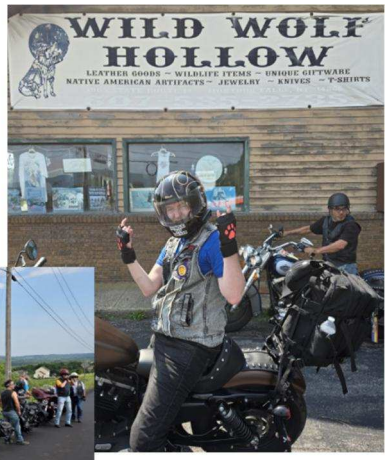
2025-07-12 ECMC 'Invades' the Byrdcage

2025-07-15 Fingerlakes & Hillside Trip

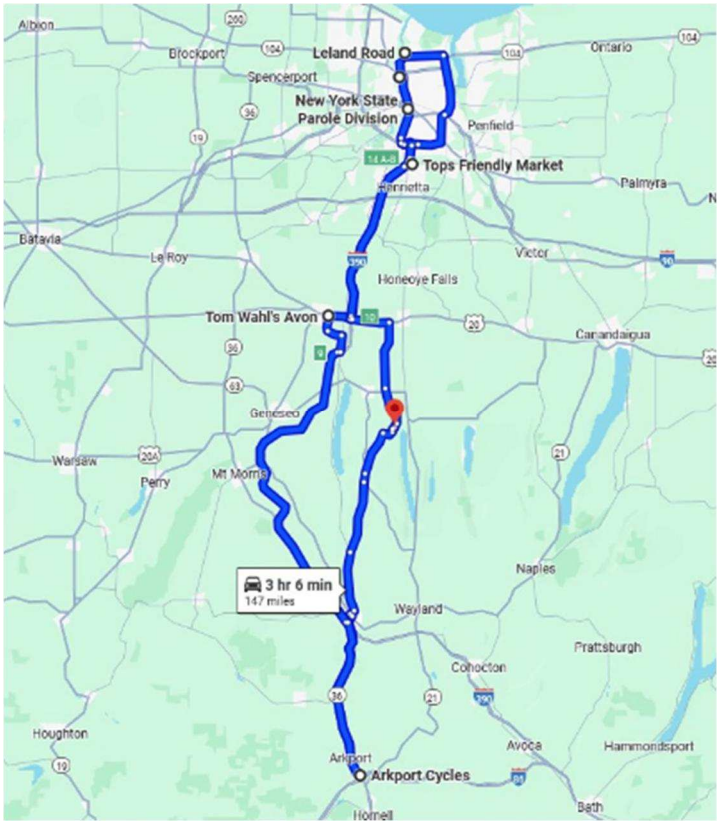


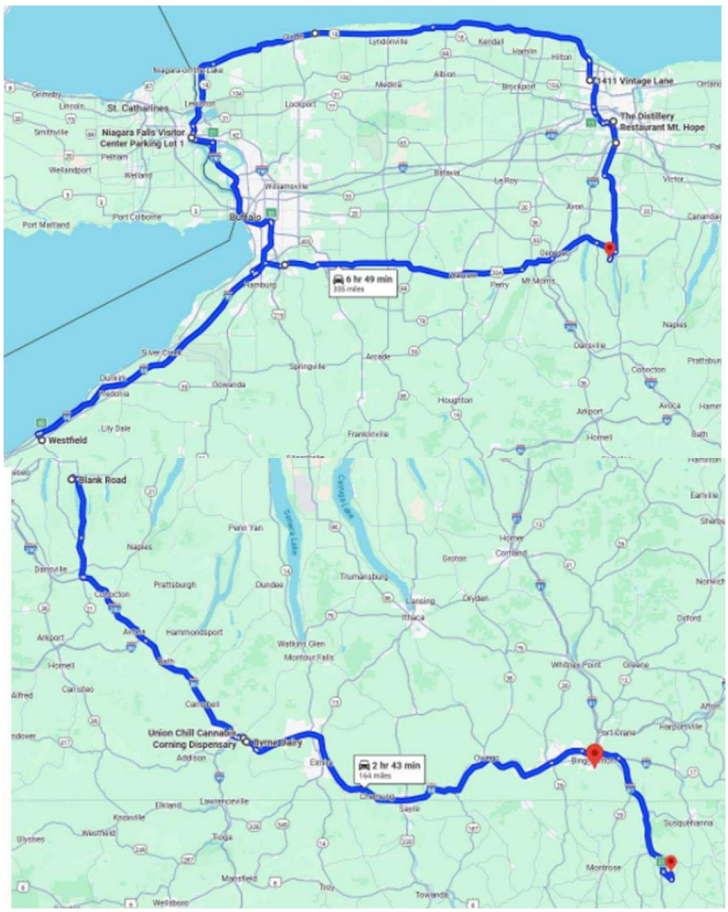


Day 1

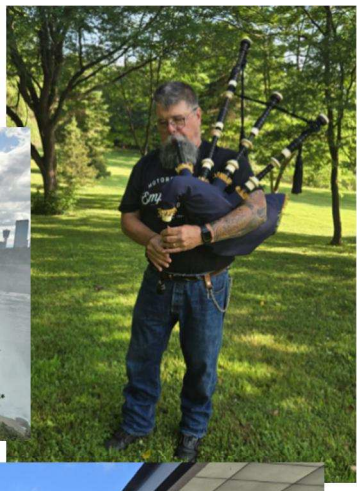


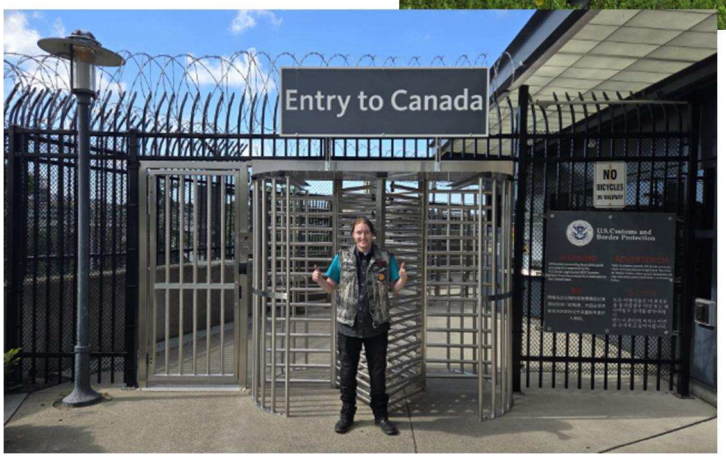
Day 2





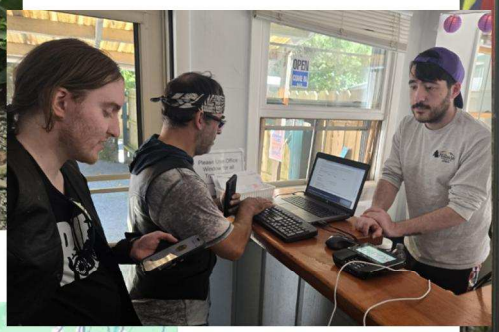
Day 3

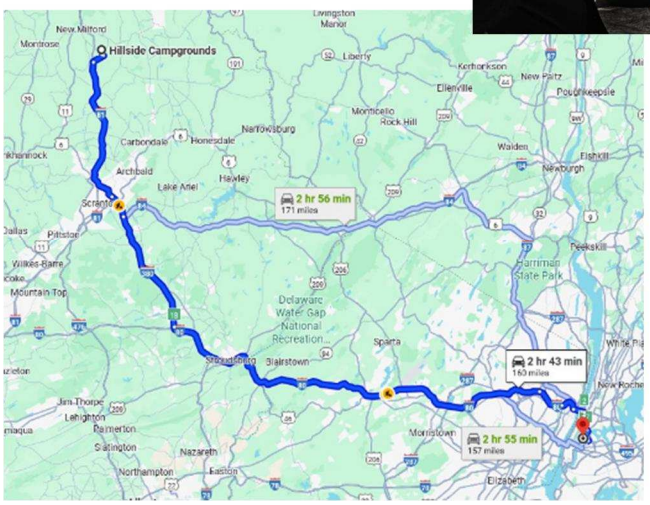




Day 4

Hillside Campgrounds

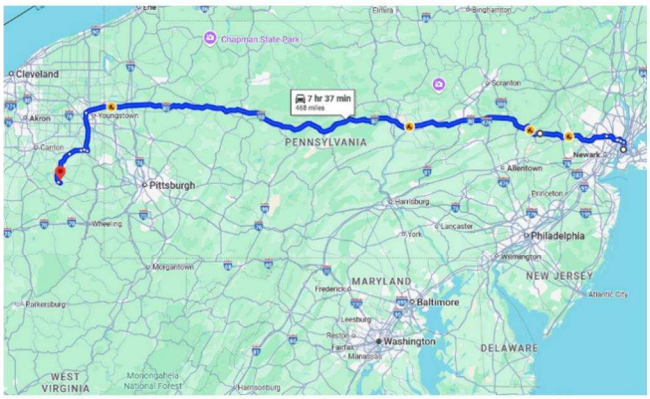




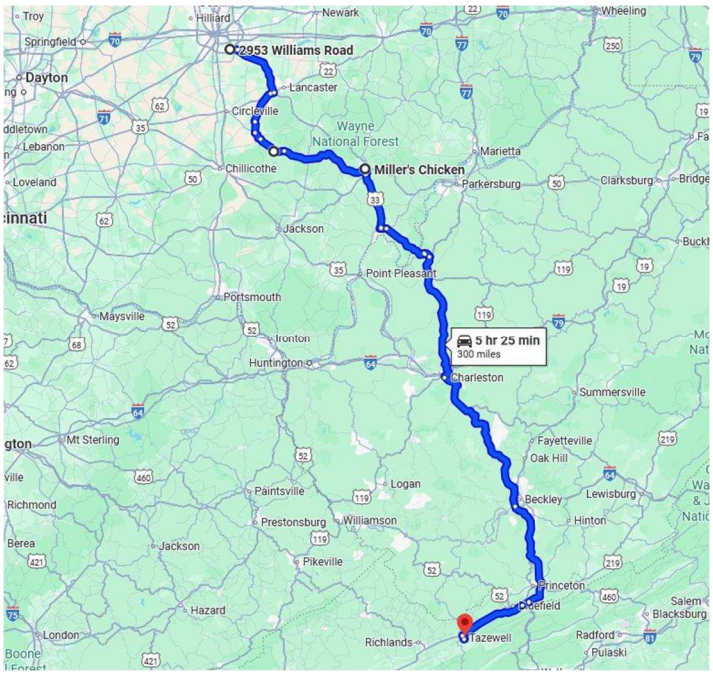
Day 5

Return home to unpack, wash and re-pack!

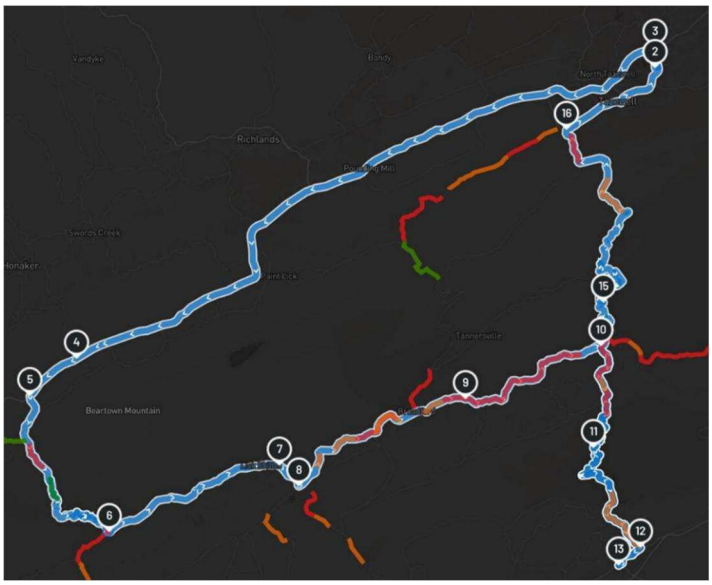
2025-07-25 Circle J.J. Ranch Campout



2025-08-01 Back of the Dragon (Spartan MC Mini-Marathon)

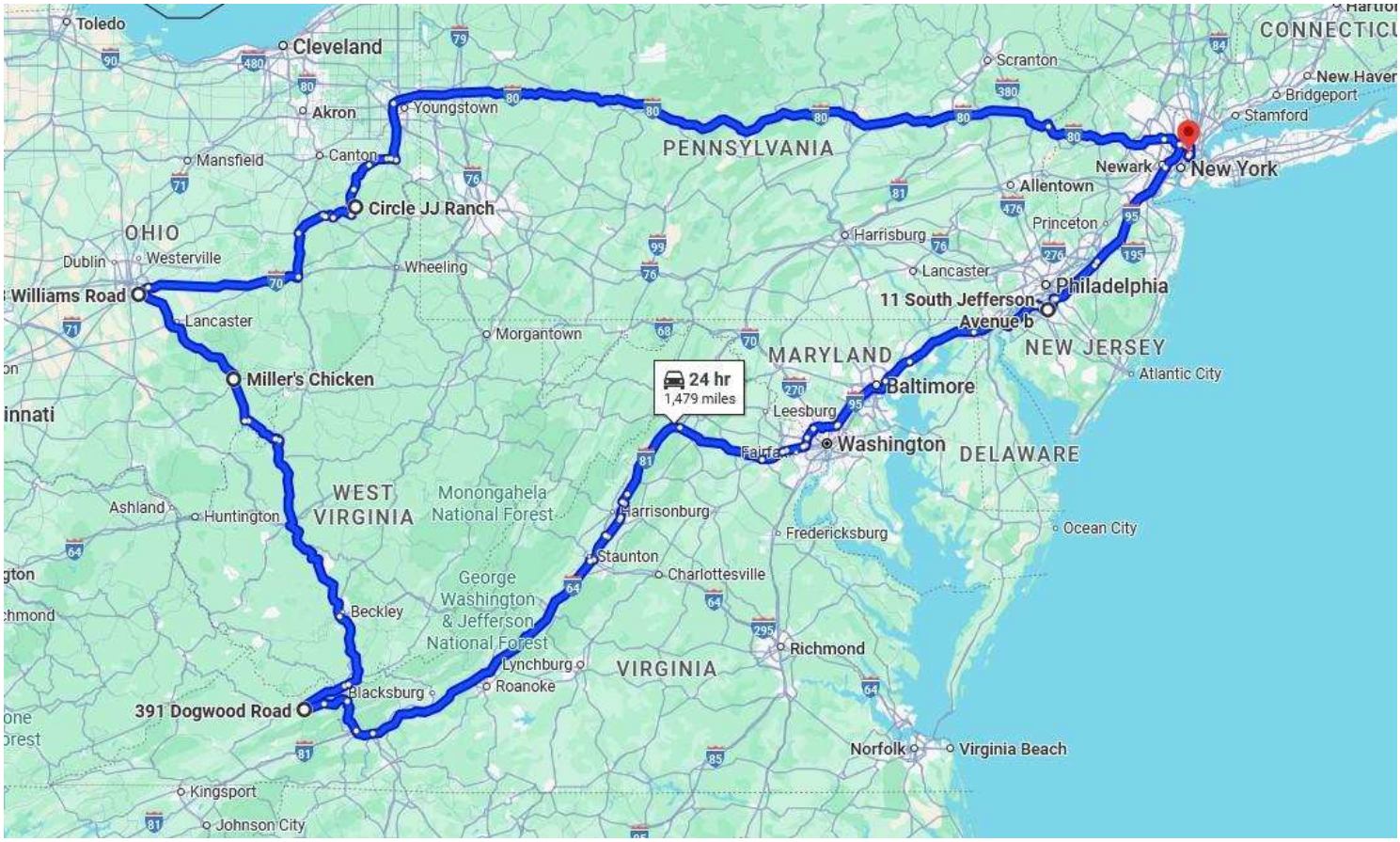


Back of the Dragon is a 32-mile stretch of Route 16 in Virginia with 438 winding curves and stunning views. It is a popular destination for motorcycle and sports car enthusiasts, with a trail, a business and an event.



The Back of the Dragon Mini-Marathon was planned and executed by our friends at Spartan MC out of Washington, DC – the only other all-gay/bi motorcycle riding club in the northeast.

Big kudos to Spartan MC – it was so much fun!



Getting to Circle J.J., then the Back of the Dragon, and then back to our respective homes resulted in over 1,479 miles were ridden! This does NOT include all the miles we rode for fun each day!

My First Harley-Davidson

When I was young and I wanted to get a street motorcycle, the first one I bought was a Yamaha maxim, a 400cc machine that could go fast and was lightweight. It was within my ability to handle and afford at the time. Other motorcycle riders on Harleys would harass me because I was riding a “rice burner” … this was my introduction into motorcycling, and quite frankly I was not very happy with the way other riders (read: H-D) would treat me on my smaller, imported bike. Even if at the time a Harley were available at the right price I would simply never purchase nor ride one because of the attitude that's perceived by other riders. Overtime Harley-Davidson has been knocked down a few pegs from being the only American manufactured motorcycle to exporting much of their manufacturing doing exactly what the other motorcycle companies were doing… I have heard rumors that some of their bikes are 100% made in China now. I guess that took the wind out of the sails of the people who used to harass me in the 80s.

I purchased a new bike in 2004, a 1700cc Yamaha Road Star. It was a beautiful bike and still is! People who really did not know what to look for to determine the model and make of a bike thought it was a Harley, including many Harley riders themselves! It's a V-Twin and had the appearance of a H-D Softail. Well times have changed, Harley, who has really dicked around with their customers and other motorcyclists for many years, has been knocked down quite a few pegs and for what I've heard, is barely staying in business now because of their decisions. Some of these decisions were political in nature, others were just simply rude to other motorcyclists.

After riding the Back of the Dragon the first weekend of August, and subsequently fishtailing off the road once, I knew that my time with Sabados (my Road Star) was nearing its end in respect to long distance and sport riding. I remembered seeing a beautiful electric blue Harley-Davidson at Arkport Cycles on the trip we made to Rochester between the 15th and 18th of July. The time was right for me to finally get my old man Harley-Davidson motorcycle!

Harleys are very different from other motorcycles, so I absorbed the manual before flying up to the Rochester area to test ride the bike. Although only 100cc larger than Sabados and 50lbs lighter, the H-D Softail has some serious get up and go! It's got 6 gears, the highest one not even relevant until you hit 80 miles an hour!

After test riding the bike I decided that I wanted it. Several hours later I was on the road heading back home to New York City on my new Harley!

As I was riding towards home, I was making good time. I decided to stop and visit some friends at Hillside Campgrounds on the way and have my dinner. After departing, I noticed my onboard clock was flashing 12:00. That's not good, I had just set that! Before getting on I-81 I stopped at a disused Mobil fuel station to set the clock; however, when I went to start the bike it made clicking noises as if the battery were dying. Yep – I had an old battery which was sitting on the sales room floor for some time. It was nearing 19:30, what was I going to do? In desperation I called the dealership and surprisingly they answered! When they found out what had happened, they apologized and the owner drove three hours one way with a new battery to get me back on the road again! That's the kind of service you don't get in big cities! I can't say enough good about the process and recovery with Arkport Cycle! It was too late to ride home at that point, so I headed up to hillside to spend the night and refresh.

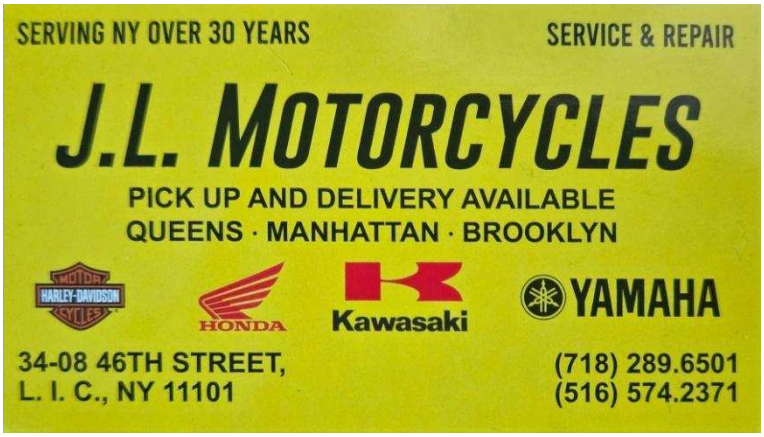
The next morning, Wiley rode up from the Philadelphia area to hillside campgrounds to escort me back to New York City. Wiley had finally replaced the bald tire on the back of his Softail Heritage and It installed his new rear directionals replacing the ones that got ripped off by a car in New York City. We had some coffee that morning and started heading home. After we got on the I-84 heading east we stopped at a rest area for a moment and we went to swap bikes so he could feel what mine was like and vice-versa. Unfortunately, at that time his motorcycle decided to have an electrical fault so severe we had to tow it back home! This is par for the course following just how many miles we had put on our bikes the past few weeks!

Since returning home I've ridden the bike several times in the city and she is a beast! I've named her “Bluey” And we'll probably set up a special time to do a christening if not next year at our bike blessing.

Of course, now that I have a Harley I need to find a mechanic who can serve as it so widely recommended a place in Queens since all the Harley-Davidson dealerships in New York City are gone.

J.L. Motorcycles Reminds me of the old-fashioned sole-proprietorship motorcycle shops where you get to know your mechanics and the owner and you can simply call anytime and get advice if you need it – unlike the new motorcycle shops where you don't know who works on your bike and you have to book an appointment weeks out.

Here is their business card, should you be interested:



Upcoming Rides & Events

Date	R/E	Title
8/24	RIDE	Long Island Loop Trip / Visiting Michael & Donnie
8/27	EVENT	Haddon Lake Park for free Wheatus concert
9/7	RIDE	Visiting the Cub Room Bar in New Hope, PA
9/13	RIDE	9/11 Midnight Remembrance Ride - 24th Anniversary (doubtful this will happen this year)
9/10	RIDE	Bike HSS Benefit Ride
9/18	EVENT	Earl's RCL Cruise
10/2	EVENT	HOIST Pig Weekend - 10th Anniversary
11/29	EVENT	52nd Annual Bucks MC Santa Saturday™
12/6	EVENT	ECMC's 62nd Annual Toys for Tots

Classified Ads / Bikes Wanted / For Sale

Selling a bike? Looking for a bike/bike parts? We'll run your motorcycle-centric classified ads in our newsletter! Send pertinent information and contact details for publication, along with photos to newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org

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FOR SALE

2006 Softail Deluxe with about 5,000 miles

$6,000 or best offer

Contact Mel & Jose at 908-347-7387

FOR SALE

1996 H-D Road King FLHI with about 59,000 miles

Over 107 cubic inches, custom exhaust with flat end-cap, backrest and mustang seat (removable, not shown in photo)

$5,000 or best offer

Contact Mark by texting 917-769-6630 or e-mail harleyguy@usa.com

‘Mexican Lindbergh’: Emilio Carranza Remembered at Memorial

Article by P Kenneth Burns, WHYY - 12 July 2025

Dozens of people from across the region converged Saturday on a remote part of the Wharton State Forest near Tabernacle,
New Jersey – about 40 miles east of Philadelphia – to pay homage to an early aviation hero.

They were celebrating the memory of Emilio Carranza, a Mexican fighter pilot who, while completing a goodwill mission in 1928, died when his plane crashed in the Pine Barrens.

“We have to remember planes at the time were a rarity,” said Robert Barney, chairman of the Carranza Memorial Committee of American Legion Post 11 in Mount Holly, New Jersey. “It was a new invention. They really didn’t have much use for them, so they experimented with it.”

The Carranza Memorial within Wharton State Forest in Tabernacle, New Jersey before the 98th annual memorial service for Mexican Capt. Emilio Carranza. A model of Carranza’s plane, “The Mexican Exceelsior,” is on display in front of the obelisk, that was built in Mexico. (P. Kenneth Burns/WHYY)

Representatives from several organizations were in attendance at the memorial, including the Tabernacle Township Committee, Empire City Motorcycle Club of New York City, Ballet Folklórico de Mexicano de Nueva York, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Mexican Consulates in Philadelphia, New Brunswick, New Jersey and New York City. Saturday’s ceremony comes as tensions between the United States and Mexico have heightened over trade and immigration, among other issues. Attendees at the Carranza Memorial said they hope the service will be a reminder of the close ties the two nations share.

Carranza is also known as the Lindbergh of Mexico

Actor Peter Titus stands next to items related to Emilio Carranza that he has collected. He has portrayed the Mexican aviation hero for several years. (WHYY)

Back in 1927, when the United States attempted to recalibrate its relationship with Latin America, aviating legend Charles Lindbergh was asked by U.S. Ambassador Dwight Morrow to fly a “goodwill tour” starting in Mexico City. At that time, Lindbergh had just completed the first nonstop transatlantic flight between New York and Paris.

A portrait of Mexican aviator Emilio Carranza sits at the base of the Carranza Memorial in Tabernacle, New Jersey with a piece of his plane resting behind it. (P. Kenneth Burns/WHYY)

Carranza, an accomplished pilot in his own right, held the record for the third-longest nonstop solo flight between Mexico City and San Diego. He also admired Lindbergh. The two met when Lindbergh came to Mexico.

“The two immediately become friends because they shared the same ideals and aspirations,” Barney said.

It was decided that Carranza would fly from Mexico City towards Washington, D.C. on a plane similar to Lindbergh’s “Spirit of St. Louis” – dubbed “The Mexican Excelsior.” But his arrival to the American capital was delayed due to fog and he was forced to land in North Carolina.

When he arrived in New York City, Carranza was nicknamed the “Mexican Lindbergh.”

Summer thunderstorms kept postponing Carranza’s flight home to Mexico City. After a month in the U.S., he ignored the advice of other pilots, including Lindbergh, and departed for Mexico.

Members of American Legion Post 11, based in Mount Holly, New Jersey, re-enact the moment in 1928 when the remains of Mexican fighter pilot Emilio Carranza were recovered from the woods. The post, which was activated by the sheriff as a search and rescue team, has been holding a memorial service for Carranza for nearly a century. (P. Kenneth Burns/WHYY)

Carranza would crash in the Pine Barrens, 85 miles into his flight. The wreckage and Carranza's body were discovered by John Carr and his family, while they were picking berries nearby.

The sheriff activated Post 11 as a search and rescue team to recover Carranza's remains.

There are conflicting reports on why the plane went down, Barney said. The National Transportation Safety Board said the plane was hit by lightning. But according to the military, it was engine trouble based on the position of a straddle on the spark arrestor.

Carranza's remains were ultimately returned to Mexico by train with full military honours.

During Saturday's ceremony, members of Post 11 reenacted the moment they were charged with seeking Carranza's remains.

They entered the woods and re-emerged moments later with a stretcher carrying a model depicting how Carranza was found, with a metal flashlight in his hand.

Ceremony is a reminder of the friendship between the United States and Mexico

Saturday was the 98th service held in Carranza's memory. The memorial, built in Mexico, was erected in New Jersey in 1933.
Carlos Obrador, head consul for the Mexican Consulate based in Philadelphia, said the event was an important reminder about the close ties shared by the two neighbouring countries.

"It is a great moment to highlight the importance of Mexico for United States and also the importance of United States in Mexico," he said. "This is a very important event … that remind us every single year for the last 98 years how friendship works."

Head Consul Carlos Obrador of the Mexican Consulate based in Philadelphia gives remarks during the 98th annual memorial service for Mexican fighter pilot Emilio Carranza in Tabernacle, New Jersey (P. Kenneth Burns/WHYY)

That sentiment was also shared by 17-year-old Jonathan Scott Jr., a life scout with Boy Scout Troop 439, based in Tabernacle, New Jersey. He was part of a service project that cleaned up the memorial.

"I have friends that live in this country, and the fact that we can bond with other countries and not be bickering all the time is very important," he said. "This is an example, we have come together to honour somebody, and I hope we see more events like this in the future around the world."

Notes: We expect that the 99th Emilio Carranza Memorial will be held on 11th July 2026. All are welcome, bikers and non-bikers. Following the memorial, although there is normally free food and beverages served at the memorial, we will pop over to a local bar & grill for lunch. The 100th anniversary of his crash will be in 2027, we expect will be a massive event.

Another Long Ride? Why not!

Labour Day weekend is fast approaching, and it's shaping up to be a busy one. I'll be leading a multi-hop, **one-way ride** to Atlanta, GA—departing from Oxford, PA on the day-after Labour Day, Tuesday, September 2nd, and arriving on Friday, September 5th. If you'd like to join the ride, please contact me at ChazAntonelli@gmail.com – I will be relocating my Road Star to the Atlanta, GA area.

Greetings from the President's Desk

I hope this message finds you enjoying some of the best riding weather of 2025. Nothing is more relaxing than going for a quick motorcycle ride after a hard day of work and ending it with a dip in the Atlantic Ocean, this is one of my favourite perks of living in south Jersey.

The month of July had me tied up with family duties, but I sure enjoyed seeing the photos and hearing the anticks of the club members at Hillside, Circle JJ, Pittsburgh, the Back of the Dragon, the Finger lakes and other numerous rides. The cocktail party at Circle JJ look like a lot of fun! Thank you to Lewis and Tim and Rick for all your efforts putting that weekend together! Kudos!

Next Tuesday Aug 19, there will be a ride and meet up for $1 tacos in Hammonton, NJ (the Blueberry Capital of the World) sometime after work, stay tuned for a calendar posting. We will be discussing another graveyard or mausoleum ride and tour for possibly the end of Sept or into October.

Also stay tuned in September 2025 as ECMC will be going International, not on land as we have done to Montreal and Toronto, but this will be the 1st time ECMC will be hitting the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Hitting ports of Boston, MA and Portland, ME. We learned recently our cruise will be having an overnight in the furthest point north at St. John's in Newfoundland. The northern lights should be visible.

Before the riding seasons ends, I will work with Ruby of the Sirens in the hopes of finally getting our clubs together for some Billard playing, and BBQ. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

I want to send a special thanks To Wiley and Wolf Pup for adding a lot of rides and fun things for the club members to join in on. Much appreciated!

IBH
Gary P. President ECMC

ECMC SOCIAL HOURS & OPEN GENERAL MEETINGS: Empire City MC hosts two primary meetings monthly. Our Open General Meetings are on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month, 20:00-21:00. Our Social Hours are on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month, 20:00-21:00. All interested parties are welcomed, keeping in mind that our O.G.M. is a business meeting. You may join any of our conference calls by using Zoom Teleconference software and utilising this link: **https://bit.ly/ECMC-MEET**

For even further information, in our organisation, the Vice President (vice-president@empirecitymc.com) is in charge of EVENTS the Road Captain (road-captain@empirecitymc.com) for RIDES (travel), president (president@empirecitymc.com) for meetings.

Events, rides and meetings are in our official calendar. Add our official calendar to your personal calendar by going to http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com then click "add to calendar" in the lower left. Our rides, meetings and events will then appear on your calendar, so you know where to meet up!

Chat with us, and other bikers, on our private 'Motorcyclists on Signal' group. Install Signal on your mobile phone and then click here to join the private, encrypted channel: https://bit.ly/motonsig

ECMC membership information is available on our website at www.EmpirCityMC.com - view our constitution, bylaws and membership application from the membership tab.

We're also on MeWe social media at https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc and on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/empirecitymc (although we're not very active in either!)

Please send any articles, classified ads, club event ads, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org. Our mailing address is Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, #609, New York, NY 10011. All material copyright ©MMXXV Empire City MC, Inc., All rights reserved.