The Canada Loop Ride – Montreal Pride, The Ranch, & Hillside Pup Weekend, August 6th – 16th, 2026

Get ready for an epic, multi-stage summer run we're calling the "Canada Loop"! We are heading up to Montreal Pride, rolling through the Finger Lakes for some incredible riding, and wrapping up the trip at Hillside Campgrounds for Leather Pup Weekend.

All men are welcome! While the core group is riding up on two wheels, a motorcycle is *not* required—if you want to meet us in Montreal, the Finger Lakes, or Hillside on your own, you are more than welcome to join the party. You also do not need to commit to the entire 10-day trip; feel free to join for whatever legs fit your schedule. *See next page for all the details!*

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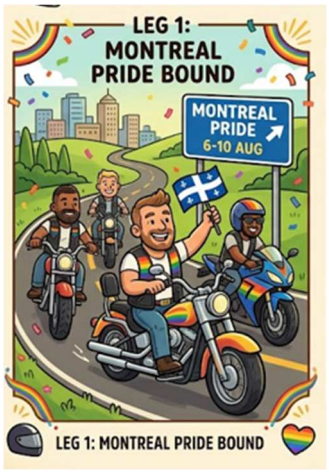
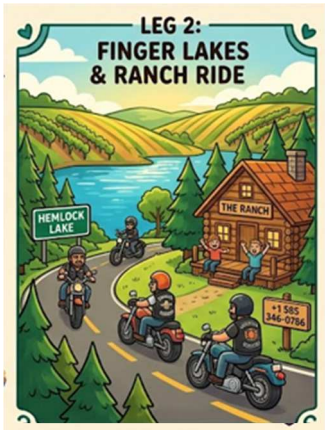




🗓️ The Itinerary

Leg 1: The Road to Montreal Pride (August 6–10)

- Thursday, August 6: We depart New York and head north, spending the night just past Albany, NY to break up the saddle time.
- Friday, August 7: We kick off the second half of the journey, arriving in Montreal by Friday afternoon. Enjoy the city and the nightlife Friday night and all day Saturday!
- Sunday, August 9: We hit the streets to watch the spectacular Montreal Gay Pride Parade.

Leg 2: The Finger Lakes & Bob Kirsop Memorial Ride (August 10–13)

- Monday, August 10: We depart Montreal in the morning and head toward Rochester, NY for dinner. From there, it's a short evening ride to The Ranch in Hemlock, NY.
- Tuesday, August 11 & Wednesday, August 12: Two full days of riding through the beautiful roads of the New York Finger Lakes region. During this leg, we will hold a special memorial ride and remembrance for our brother and fellow biker, Bob Kirsop.

Leg 3: Hillside Leather Pup Weekend (August 13–16)

- Thursday, August 13: We take a scenic 3-hour ride down to Hillside Campgrounds in Gibson, PA. Arriving a day before Leather Pup Weekend officially commences gives everyone a chance to unpack, unwind, and chill by the campfire.

🏨 Accommodation & Booking Logistics - Because this run covers three distinct destinations, you are responsible for booking your own accommodations. Please review the specific details for each stop:

📍 Stop 1: Albany, NY (Night of Aug 6) - Where we are staying: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Albany Airport Area - Latham, 400 Old Loudon Rd, Latham, NY 12110. Note: You do not have to stay at this specific hotel, but if you are riding out with us the next morning, you must be at this location by 10:00 AM for meetup, with Kickstands Up (KSU) at 10:30 AM sharp.

📍 Stop 2: Montreal, QC (Aug 7–10) - Where we are staying: Everyone is arranging their own lodging to fit their budget and preferences. Location target: To stay close to the action, look for accommodations near Émilie-Gamelin Place (1500 Rue Berri, Montreal, Quebec H2L 2C4), the park right on Sainte-Catherine where the main festival performances take place.

📍 Stop 3: The Ranch – Hemlock, NY (Aug 10–13) - Where we are staying: Space at The Ranch is first-come, first-served, and the hosts manage the guest list directly. How to book: You must call Al & Dan's landline at +1 (585) 346-0786 to reserve your spot. *Voice calls only, between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM.*

📍 Stop 4: Hillside Gay Men's Campground – Gibson, PA (Aug 13–16) - Requirements: Hillside is a clothing-optional, male-only space. You must purchase a 2026 Hillside Campgrounds membership card before you can enter the site. How to book: You are responsible for your own campsite/cabin bookings and weekend event fees. Visit hillside.camp to review all entry requirements and secure your spot before making your final plans.

🗺️ Stay Connected & Informed - If you are planning to join us out on the road, bookmark our live event calendar: 👉 http://calendar.empirecitymc.com

⚠️ Crucial Note: If our plans change for any reason—including weather delays or route adjustments—we will update this calendar live. Keep it handy throughout the trip so you always know exactly where the pack is located and where we are staying for the night.

For any questions, route details, or further information, please reach out directly to our Road Captain, Erik. See you on the road!

Empire City MC Annual Bike Blessing

You know summer is in the air when it's time for Empire City's Annual Bike Blessing & Christening! Because of a scheduling conflict with this year's Pride March in Washington D.C., we have moved our event to the Friday prior to the Stonewall Riot March. This means we are celebrating a week later than usual.

If you are joining us with a new bike, this is your chance to get it christened (named). We highly recommend deciding on a name before you arrive, as this is a common conundrum for many new riders! We are happy to announce that our emeritus member, Mark Wind, will once again be performing the christenings and the blessing.

If you are arriving by motorcycle, you can park in front of Ty's any time after 10:00. Empire City members will be present to guard these spots starting at 09:00. You need not remain at Ty's – you can explore the city while your bike is guarded by us. Most riders begin to arrive after 17:00, and the festivities officially begin at 19:00 PM. If you don't have a motorcycle, that's okay—we love admirers, too! Come celebrate a new season of riding with Empire City and our fellow clubs.

ECMC to Lay Wreath at 99th Anniversary

Empire City MC will once again lay a wreath of flowers on behalf of the people of New York City at the Emilio Carranza Memorial, the location where Emilio Carranza's plane crashed 99 years ago. You need not attend this on a motorcycle the public is welcomed! It's in the pine barrens so plan accordingly. The actual invitation from the American Legion is below. (Motorcycle instructions are below)

Emilio Carranza Memorial Ride, Saturday, July 11th

If you plan to ride out with Empire City MC to honour the memory of Captain Emilio Carranza at the upcoming memorial service, please review the logistical details and requirements below.

🗺️ **Meetup Points & Route Details -** To accommodate riders coming from different areas, we will have multiple meetup locations along the route.

- **Check the Live Calendar:** Check the 11th of July on our online calendar at http://calendar.empirecitymc.com to find the location near you, or
- **Propose a Location:** Additional meetup points may be added by the Road Captain as needed. If you would like to propose a new meetup location or let us know which stop you'll be joining, please reach out directly to Road-Captain@EmpireCityMC.com

👕 **Dress Code & Club Cololours -** This is a formal and solemn remembrance ceremony, and we ask all participants to dress accordingly.

- **Respectful Attire:** Please remember to dress respectfully for the ceremony or bring a change of clothes.
- **Club Colours:** If you have club colours, you are expected to wear them for the event.

💐 **Wreath & Post-Ceremony Luncheon**

- **Wreath Presentation:** Thanks to Gary, arrangements have already been finalized for the club's memorial wreath to be delivered directly to the monument site.
- **Luncheon RSVP:** There will be a post-ceremony luncheon following the services. If you intend to eat with us, **you must RSVP in advance**. Please refer to the event information on the prior page.

We look forward to riding together for this meaningful tribute. Keep an eye on the club calendar for any live updates or changes!

Bikers Inside the Beltway: They're Coming for the Aftermarket, Your Livelihood, and Your Lifestyle

Let's cut through the noise: there is a direct hit coming for the motorcycle aftermarket, and we need to draw the line right now.
Across the country, independent shops, custom builders, parts manufacturers, and distributors support an estimated **120,000 to 180,000 American jobs**. These aren't corporate bureaucrats in boardrooms—these are real people with real skills, running businesses built from the ground up. Right now, that entire ecosystem is in the crosshairs.

The Battle for the Right to Repair: While riders and independent shops face mounting technical hurdles, certain industry insiders are actively pushing to **defeat H.R. 1566 — the REPAIR Act**.

Let's be clear about what is at stake. The passage of H.R. 1566 is vital because it will:

- **Prevent lock-out diagnostics** that bar you from servicing your own vehicle.
- **Guarantee open access** to critical repair parts and data.
- **Protect the Right to Repair**, allowing riders to modify, maintain, and control their own machines.

Defeating this legislation doesn't just hurt the everyday rider—it guts the independent shops, mechanics, and builders who keep motorcycle culture alive. If the opposition succeeds, small businesses will close, custom builders will disappear, and the aftermarket will be squeezed out in favour of total corporate control.

Stand Up. Speak Out. Fight Back! If the motorcycle community doesn't fight back now, there won't be an independent aftermarket left to defend. We need every rider, builder, and enthusiast to answer the call to action.

- **Support H.R. 1566:** Contact your representatives and demand they vote in favour of the REPAIR Act.
- **Show Up in Person:** Make your voice heard where it matters most—attend **Bikers Inside the Beltway** and look out for updates on our live club calendar.

Protect the aftermarket. Protect your livelihood. Protect the future of motorcycling.

Empire City MC: Now Riding in Kentucky 🗺️🏍️

We are thrilled to announce that Empire City MC has officially crossed into a new time zone! We now have a full member living full-time in the Bluegrass State. A huge shoutout to Earl and Alex as they fly the ECMC colours in Kentucky!

📍 **Where We Ride: Our Growing Footprint** - We recently rewrote our bylaws and constitution to shed rigid geographic boundaries and focus on what we do best: *riding*. While we are steadily diversifying across the Northeast and beyond, we are incredibly proud to have active members representing the club in all of these cities:

Ambridge, PA
Columbus, OH
New York, NY
Pittsburgh, PA
Ravenna, KY
Somers Point, NJ
Coal Center, PA
Monmouth Junction, NJ
Philadelphia, PA
Poughkeepsie, NY
Selden, NY
Wenonah, NJ

🤝 **Who We Are & What We Stand For** - Empire City MC is a fun, fraternal organization dedicated to brotherhood, open roads, and great destinations. But we are more than just a riding club. We proudly stand with our community by representing at pride marches and fiercely opposing the oppression of the gay leather community.

🌈 **Gay or Bi Rider? Don't Ride Alone!** - If you are a gay or bisexual motorcycle enthusiast looking for camaraderie and a great pack to hit the asphalt with, you don't have to roll solo.

- All Are Welcome: With the rare exception of private club runs or specifically gender-oriented destinations, every single ride on our calendar is public and open to any motorcycle rider.
- How to Join Us: Want to see if ECMC is the right fit for you? The absolute best way to check us out and investigate membership is to just come out and start riding with us!

👉 Check out our upcoming pack runs and events on our public calendar, and let's get those wheels turning!

ECMC Motorcycle Week 2026 ECMC

Although a little wet on two days of the trip, the 2026 Empire City MC motorcycle week has successfully concluded for another year! People joined and left at their leisure on this entire trip, creating a diverse environment for everybody! We had guest ride leaders like Mike N, Lewis K and Rick M – all of which Took us on some of their favourite windy roads in their regions of coal centre, Columbus and Pittsburgh! Photos and videos can be seen online at https://bit.ly/2026ECMCmw

It always seems that Memorial Day weekend likes to make us wet, no matter which day we start on! The club is presently discussing our 2027 options, including moving it off of Memorial Day weekend and pushing it out into mid–May. There is also discussion of attending IML next year to present Mike Matles' colours to the Leather Archives & Museum.

ECMC at Pittsburgh Pride March

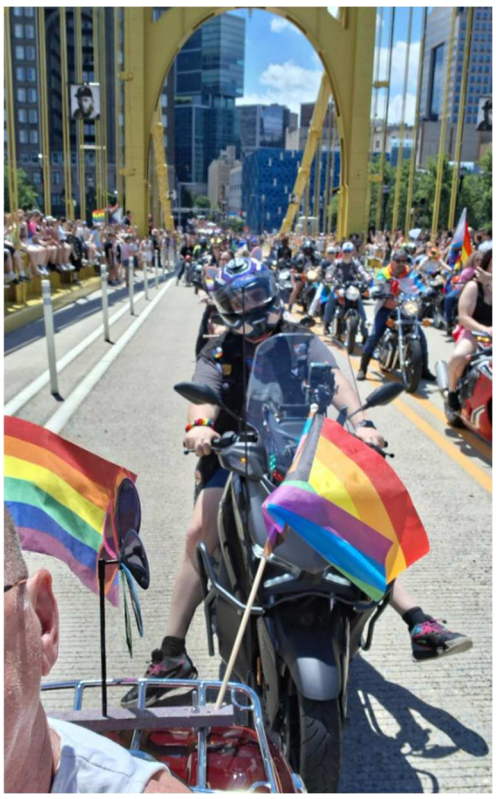
Pride month is upon us! That means that Empire City MC will be appearing in Pride Marches all over the world!

We were seen this past weekend in Pittsburgh Pride!

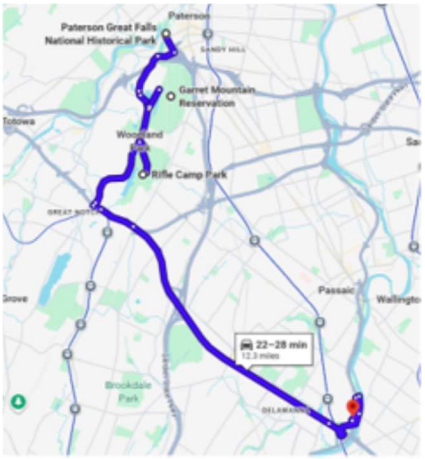
Our members Mike N, Lewis K and Hunter were all there, as were some of our friends and partners!

Enjoy these photos, and watch for us at these upcoming marches:

Washington D.C. Pride – 20th June
New York Pride – 29th June
Hamburg, Germany Pride – 1st August
Fierté Montreal – 9th August



ECMC Annual Biker's Picnic



Our Annual Biker's Picnic will be held 27th June (the day before the Gay Pride March in New York City). This is a FREE event, hosted by Empire City MC!

This year, our meet-up location will be the carpark for Paterson Great Falls at 11:00. The address is 72 McBride Ave Ext, Paterson, NJ 07501. Look for ECMC Colours on a bike!

We will park the motorcycles in the car park, take the five-minute walk up to the falls to admire the falls and a photo op while other people arrive.

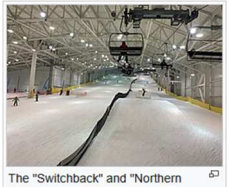
Kickstands up at noon from the Paterson Great Falls Carpark for a fun, scenic one-hour motorcycle loop that explores the high points and unique topography on the eastern edge of New Jersey, combining rushing water, ridge-line cruising, and classic twisties before pulling into our lunch destination, Rutt's Hut for deep-fried hotdogs, compliments of Empire City MC!

All persons arriving by motorcycle are welcome! Here is the generalised riding map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/sbCJoyXgWaHoLgiv6

What's Rutt's Hut? Rutt's Hut, Located in Clifton, New Jersey known for its style of deep-fried hot dogs. Our original process of frying causes the hot dog casings to crack and split, which has led to the nickname "Rippers". The original roadside stand was opened in 1928. The relish is just as famous as the hot dogs -- made with a secret blend of mustard and spices. Rutt's Hut has been featured on the PBS special A Hot Dog Program, USA Today, numerous Food Network shows and the Travel Channel's Deep-Fried Paradise. It is also listed in the book 1,000 Places to See in the USA and Canada Before You Die. Check it out: https://www.ruttshut.com/

For those interested, we'll swing by The American Dream shopping mall following lunch!

American Dream is a super-regional shopping mall and is the second largest mall in the United States behind the Mall of America. In addition to hundreds of shops, they feature ALL of these year-round indoor amenities: NHL-sized ice rink, theme park, Water Park, ski slope, Two miniature 18-hole golf courses, Movie Theater and Bowling Alley, Legoland Discovery Center, Sea Life Aquarium, Hapik indoor rock climbing facility, Mirror Maze attraction, The Game Room powered by Hasbro, Jump, a virtual reality cliff jumping attraction, a trampoline park, An Escape Room complex with six puzzle rooms by The Escape Game, Sesame Street Learn & Play, Topgolf Swing Suite, Dream Live Performing Arts Center and a Go-Kart track!


The "Switchback" and "Northern Lights" trails at Big Snow American Dream (February 2020)

Bikes for Sale

To list your motorcycle, or motorcycle parts in our newsletter, send your name, phone number, photos and description of bike/parts to newsletter@EmpireCityMC.com – Empire City MC wants to foster the brotherhood of riding by making people aware of these offers.

Bob Kirsop – Sad News

We are saddened to report that Bob Kirsop passed away last month. While his death was not unexpected, it remains a profound loss to the entire gay motorcycle riding community.

We will celebrate Bob's life with a memorial motorcycle ride through the Finger Lakes region, a highlight of our upcoming Canada loop trip. Our members will also gather at The Ranch in Hemlock, New York, to raise a toast in his honour.

Bob was a devoted, long-term member of former Unicorn MC. He is survived by his life partner, Tom Johnson, who is a fellow brother in the Unicorns and a renowned chef, comically known as the “Cruel Chef”.

For more information, contact Al & Dan at The Ranch.

ECMC Meetings, Events & Contact Information

Empire City MC hosts two primary Zoom meetings each month: Open General Meeting: First Wednesday of each month, 8:00–9:00 PM, Social Hour: Third Wednesday of each month, 8:00–9:00 PM All interested parties are welcome. Please note that the Open General Meeting is a club business meeting. Join any ECMC conference call using Zoom: https://bit.ly/ECMC-MEET

President — president@empirecitymc.com
Rides & Travel: Road Captain — road-captain@empirecitymc.com
Events: Vice President — vice-president@empirecitymc.com

ECMC rides, meetings, and events are listed on our official calendar. Chat with ECMC and other bikers in our private Motorcyclists on Signal group. Install Signal on your phone, then join here: https://bit.ly/motonsig Membership information is available on our website: www.EmpireCityMC.com, just visit the membership tab to view our constitution, bylaws, and membership application.

You can also find us on social media: MeWe: https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc and Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/empirecitymc

Send newsletter articles, classified ads, club event notices, photos, and letters to the editor to: newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org – our mailing address is Empire City MC, c/o Ty’s Bar, 114 Christopher St, New York, NY 10014. ©MMXXVI Empire City MC, Inc. All rights reserved.