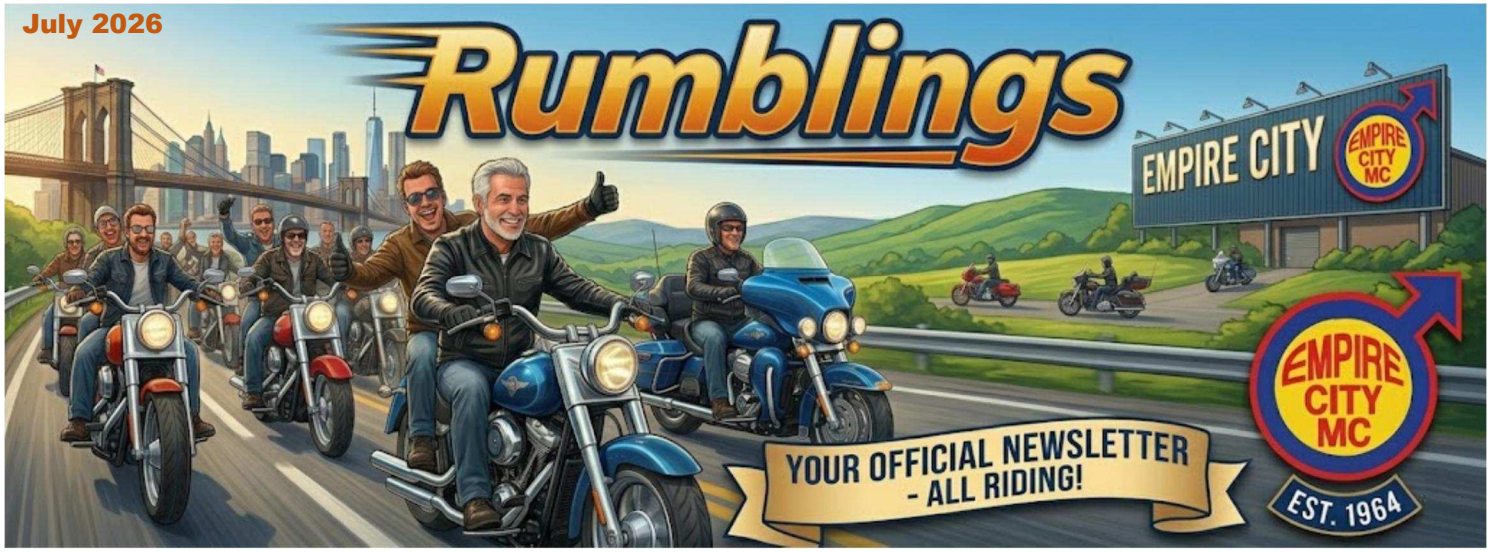


Pride Month 2026

Pride month may be finished for 2026, but our pride still shows! Come ride with us this July and August on these following trips:

Day Rides

11 Jul, Sat 08:30-14:30 RIDE: Emilio Carranza Memorial
12 Jul, Sun 11:00-16:00 RIDE: Rutt's Hut/American Dream
18 Jul, Sat 10:00-16:00 RIDE: Least of Saints MC Fallen Brothers Run

Overnight & Multiple-Day Rides

06 Aug, Thu --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop (Day 1/4)
07 Aug, Fri --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop (Day 2/4)
08 Aug, Sat --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop (Day 3/4)
09 Aug, Sun --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop (Day 4/4)
10 Aug, Mon --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop: The Ranch (Day 1/3)
11 Aug, Tue --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop: The Ranch (Day 2/3)
12 Aug, Wed --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop: The Ranch (Day 3/3)
13 Aug, Thu --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop: Hillside Leather Pup Weekend (Day 1/4)
14 Aug, Fri --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop: Hillside Leather Pup Weekend (Day 2/4)
15 Aug, Sat --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop: Hillside Leather Pup Weekend (Day 3/4)
16 Aug, Sun --all-day-- RIDE: Canada Loop: Hillside Leather Pup Weekend (Day 4/4)

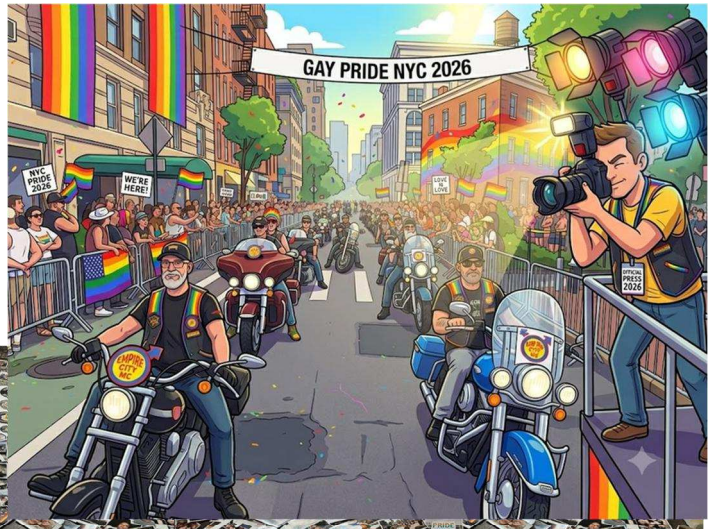
Non-Riding Events

10 Jul, Fri 20:00-23:00 EVENT: Excelsior MC Bar Night, The Dickens

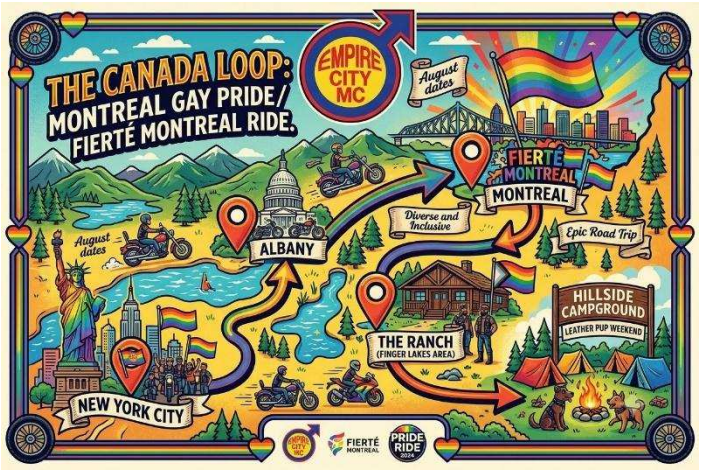
For more information on any of these trips, check out the entries in out calendar at http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com

We have hundreds of photos!! To see photos from these recent rides and events, open this newsletter and click on the events below:

- 2026-05-21 ECMC Motorcycle Week
- 2026-06-07 Pittsburgh Pride Parade
- 2026-06-19 ECMC at Spartans' DC Pride March
- 2026-06-25 Bob Kirsop's Funeral
- 2026-06-26 ECMC's 62nd Annual Bike Blessing & Biker Picnic
- 2026-06-28 Stonewall March



The Canada Loop Ride



Join us for a multi-day, multi-segment adventure from New York City to Albany, Vermont, Montréal, Rochester, the Finger Lakes, and the Pocono Mountains!

You do not have to ride every segment - join us for one section, several sections, or the entire trip. There are also no motorcycle requirements for participating. Come by motorcycle, car, plane, train, or whatever gets you there! You must identify and present outwardly as male in order to participate on this trip, as there are multiple male-only accommodation components. If you do not present as male, and wish to participate, contact our Road Captain for advice.

Our trip begins on Thursday, August 6, when we depart New York City from the Lexington Candy Shop and ride north to our designated host hotel near the Albany airport area.

On Friday, August 7, we continue from the Albany area into beautiful Vermont, riding through the islands of Lake Champlain before crossing into Québec, Canada, at a small, simple border crossing. We expect to arrive in Montréal in the early afternoon, giving everyone time to check into their hotels or hostels and enjoy the city.

Montréal Pride Week concludes with the parade on Sunday. We will not be riding motorcycles in the parade, but we will be there as observers, supporters, and proud participants in the celebration. We will stay one additional night in Montréal.

On Monday morning, August 10, we will meet bright and early for breakfast at Cora's, with motorcycles parked nearby in the free motorcycle lot. After breakfast, we will depart Montréal for Rochester, NY, crossing back into the United States at the Thousand Islands Bridge. From there, we will take I-81 south through New York, then NY-104 west toward Rochester, where we will all meet for dinner.

After dinner, we will continue to The Ranch, Al & Dan's home in Hemlock, NY. We will spend three nights and two full days in the Finger Lakes region, riding the scenic roads, enjoying the lakes, and spending time together in one of the most beautiful areas of New York State.

On Thursday morning, we will depart The Ranch and head toward Hillside Campgrounds, the all-male gay campground in Gibson, PA. We will stay at Hillside from Thursday night through Sunday morning for Leather Pup Weekend, with time to enjoy the campground, the community, and rides through the beautiful Pocono Mountains region.

On Sunday morning, we will depart Hillside and head back to our respective homes.

Important notes: This trip includes two international border crossings: entering Canada and returning to the United States. You must have a valid passport or enhanced driver's license to cross the border. Do not bring weapons or drugs into Canada. Anyone who is unable to cross the border will be responsible for returning on their own.

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel, hostel, campground membership, and campground reservation arrangements. The trip also includes a three-night stay at The Ranch, the private home of Al & Dan. Contact them at +1 585 346-0786 to make accommodations plans.

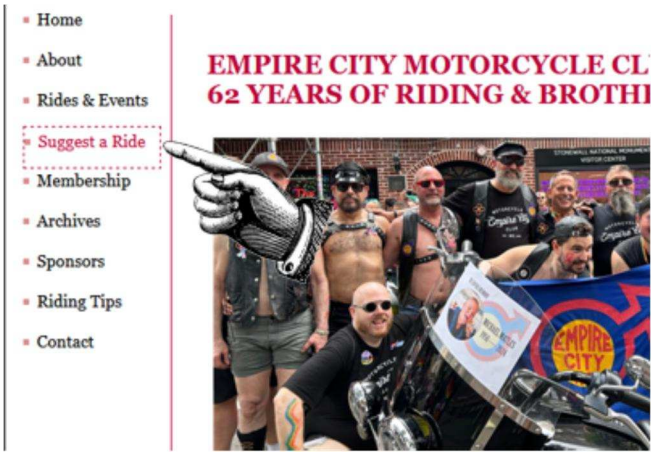
Handy web links for this trip:

- Our Route Map
- Visiting Canada
- What is The Ranch?
- Our Hotel in Albany
- Gay Pride Montréal
- Hillside Campgrounds Webpage

"Suggest a Ride" Is Now Live!

Have a great ride or event idea? We'd love to hear it!

A new "Suggest a Ride" option is now available on the left-hand menu of our website at www.EmpireCityMC.com. It's an easy way to submit ideas for rides, social events, and other activities for the club to consider.



To give your suggestion the best chance of being selected, please include as much detail as possible, including:

- Date and time
- Meeting location
- Kickstands-up time
- Destination(s)
- Purpose or highlights of the ride
- Where the ride ends
- Approximate ending time
- Any costs or admission fees participants should expect

The more complete your submission, the easier it is for the officers to evaluate and schedule your idea. Empire City MC is always looking for new roads to ride and new adventures to share. If you've got an idea, don't keep it to yourself—submit your ride suggestion today!

Double Sad News

Shortly after last month's newsletter was published, **Bob Kirsop** began his final journey.

A gathering of family and friends—including members of Empire City MC—travelled to just outside **Cleveland, Ohio**, to attend the interment of his ashes and celebrate a life well lived.

Pictured is Bob's longtime partner, **Tom Johnson**, wearing the blue sweater, surrounded by those who came to pay their final respects.

also…

Just this past week, on the very same day we gathered to lay Bob to rest, our former President, **Gary Papouschek**, said his own final farewell to his father, **Don Papouschek**, after serving as his devoted caregiver for many years.

Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with Gary, his family, and his Empire City MC family during this time of loss. We hope they find comfort in the love and support of those around them and in the many cherished memories they shared.

In lieu of flowers, send memorial contributions in Don Papouschek's honour to:

Masonic Village at Warminster – Resident Treat Fund
(Please be sure to specify "Treat Fund" with your donation.)
850 Norristown Road
Warminster, PA 18974

2022 Empire City MC T-Shirts Are Back!

Our 2022 commemorative, dual-sided Empire City MC T-shirts were a huge success! We sold out **both production runs**, with shirts selling for $20 each during our street sales. Although our inventory is gone, we've uploaded the original designs to Custom Ink so members and friends can continue ordering shirts whenever they like.

A few things to keep in mind:

Empire City MC does not profit from these sales. Any money you pay goes directly to Custom Ink. Because Custom Ink charges setup fees, ordering a single shirt can be relatively expensive. If possible, consider placing a group order to reduce the per-shirt cost and save on shipping. You're not limited to T-shirts! Custom Ink allows you to apply the artwork to a variety of other products if you'd like.

We're also exploring the idea of adding an official Empire City MC online store in the future, making it even easier to purchase ECMC-branded merchandise.

Interested? Visit www.EmpireCityMC.com, scroll down until you see the **"Back by Popular Demand"** T-shirt graphic, and click it for ordering information.

ECMC Meetings, Events & Contact Information

Meetings: Empire City MC hosts two Zoom gatherings each month and everyone is welcome! The Open General Meeting is our monthly business meeting, while the Social Hour is an informal opportunity to socialize and catch up with fellow riders. Participate at https://bit.ly/ECMC-MEET

Open General Meeting
First Wednesday of each month
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM (Eastern)

Biker's Social Hour
Third Wednesday of each month
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM (Eastern)

Rides, Events and Comms: Stay up to date by visiting our official online calendar. Looking to chat with us and fellow riders? click here to enter our "Motorcyclists on Signal" group, a chat for bikers only. Stay connected with Empire City MC on these social media channels: MeWe, Facebook

Membership: Click here to learn more about membership, including: our Constitution, By-Laws, Membership Application, and information about Empire City MC.

Submissions: We welcome newsletter articles, ride reports, classified ads, club event announcements, photographs, and Letters to the Editor – just sent them to newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org

Our physical mailing address is Empire City MC, c/o Ty's Bar, 114 Christopher St, New York, NY 10014
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