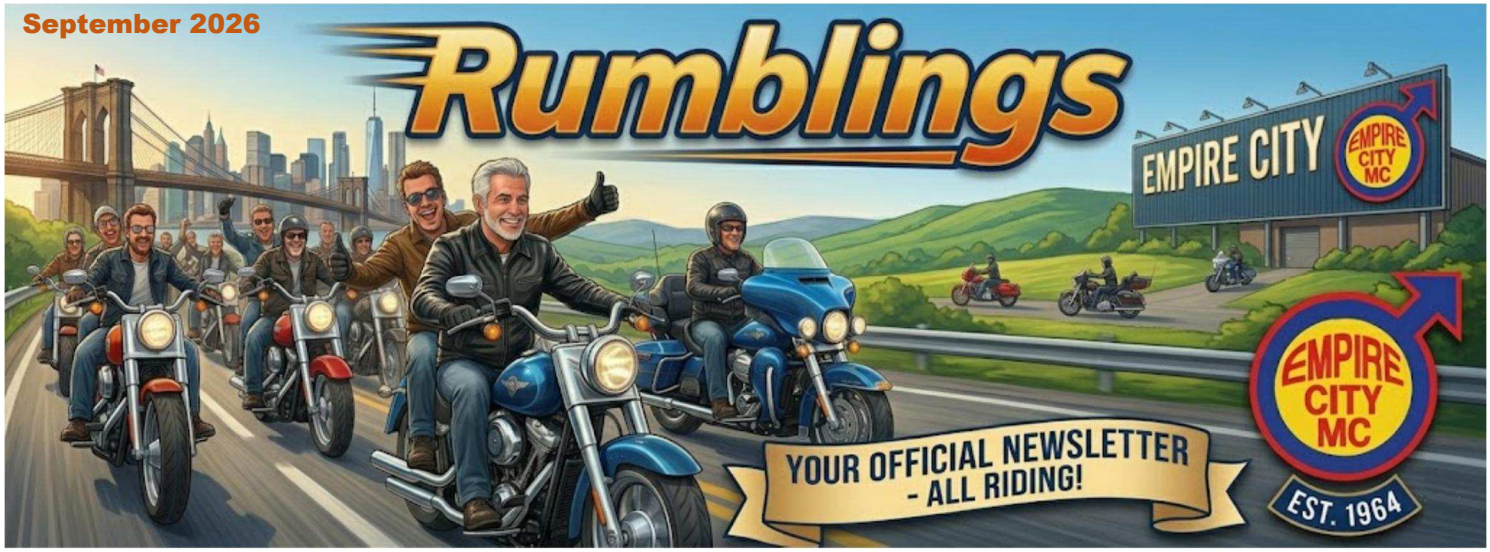



## ECMC at Hamburg Pride!

30th June 2019 was the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City. Most believe the Stonewall Riots in New York City was the global uprising that ushered in equal rights for the GLBT community. It was world pride and one of the largest celebrations we had in New York City! Two women from dykes on bikes Hamburg showed up but didn't have motorcycles to ride. Instead, they carried the banner for Empire City Motorcycle Club the entire length of the parade!

We reciprocated by carrying the Hamburg dykes on bikes banner the entire length of the Hamburg Pride parade this year! It was glorious leading this parade on foot despite the sun and the heat, especially considering the tragedy two weeks prior in Berlin. Rather than cower, the Hamburg Pride parade broke all attendance records! It was the largest they've ever seen! We will not be oppressed by nor be afraid of anyone!!

*As the parade is prepped KK stands ready!*

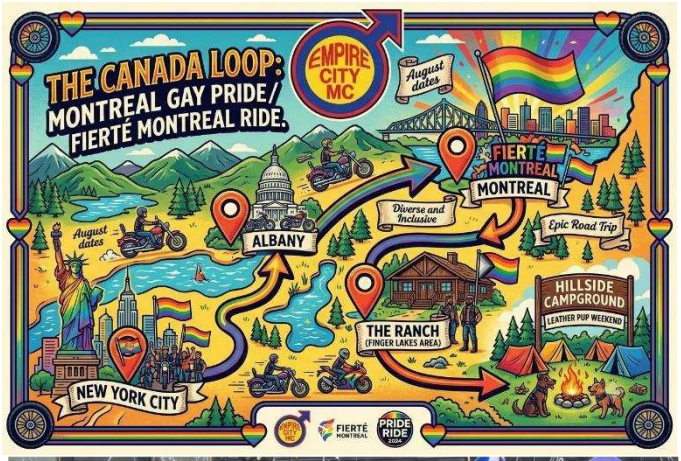
*Unlike the USA, Germany welcomes us!*

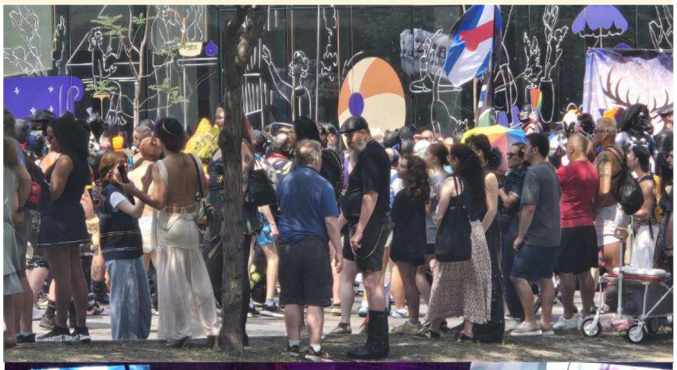
When we arrived at the Hamburg airport, we were greeted with rainbow flags and pride symbols everywhere! Unlike the United States, where they elect a paedophile who declares the GLBT community to be paedophiles themselves, Germany doesn't tolerate that authoritarian bullshit! They'd been through it before!

Following the parade which occurred on Saturday, we were invited to participate in a ride on motorcycles around Hamburg Germany! This was amazing as it was a police-escorted ride in where they closed down streets and blocked intersections giving priority to all the motorcyclists there were at least 30 bikers in the ride around Hamburg on Sunday!

Much thanks to Indira and Püppi of the Hamburg Dykes on Bikes for inviting us, allowing us to carry their banner in the parade, and for lending a bike to ride on Sunday!

## The Great Canada Loop Ride



Remember that this ride included Albany, Montreal, Rochester, the Finger Lakes in New York State, the ranch in hemlock NY, and hillside campgrounds in Gibson PA! It was an 11-day trip and there were over a dozen participants associated with our club attending them all! Eleven days, multiple destinations, and the freedom to join or leave whenever it suited you—that was the idea behind the Great Canadian Loop Ride!

The journey brought together several memorable events: Montréal Pride, a memorial for Bob Kirsop at The Ranch, and Leather Pup Weekend at Hillside Campgrounds. Best of all, the weather cooperated beautifully. Apart from one rainy evening, we encountered virtually no rain while riding.

Our first overnight stop was in Albany, New York, just a few hours north of New York City. Because of the rain, we abandoned our original plan to visit ROCKS—one of Albany's gay watering holes—and grab some late-night burgers nearby. Instead, we stayed at the hotel's bar and grill, where we ate burgers, drank beer, and played pub trivia. It turned out to be a relaxed and enjoyable start to the adventure—and, fortunately, that was the only significant rain that interfered with our riding.

The following day, additional riders joined us at the host hotel. From Albany, we enjoyed a beautiful ride north through Vermont, stopping for lunch at Handy's Luncheonette in Burlington. We then continued across the Lake Champlain islands, crossed into Québec, and made our way to Montréal. Throughout our Montréal weekend, we frequently separated and reconvened, giving everyone the freedom to enjoy the city in his own way. Each of us came away with different experiences and stories to share. Yours truly took a ride on Montréal's new Réseau express métropolitain, better known as the REM. Although the entire network is not yet complete, we rode the beautiful new commuter railway all the way to its current end of the line.

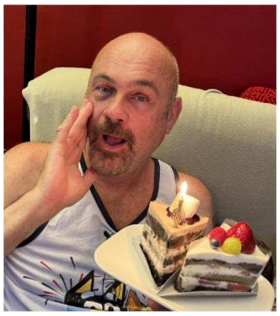
We also learned that Sainte-Catherine Street will undergo extensive work over the next three years as it is transformed into a permanent pedestrian plaza. The finished project should be impressive, but many Village merchants are understandably worried about surviving the lengthy construction period. Some businesses have chosen not to renew their leases and are closing their doors.

Unfortunately, this may accelerate the gentrification already affecting Montréal's Gay Village. We may soon see more trendy shops, fewer longstanding neighbourhood businesses, and considerably higher prices.

Looking ahead, Canada Pride—Canada's version of WorldPride—will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, next year, and I am seriously considering attending! The full Great Canadian Loop Ride included Albany, Montréal, Rochester, the Finger Lakes, The Ranch in Hemlock, New York, and Hillside Campgrounds in Gibson, Pennsylvania. Over the course of 11 days, more than a dozen people associated with our club participated in some or all of this remarkable adventure.

A few photographs are attached, but to appreciate the entire journey, take a look at the complete photo collection: https://bit.ly/4hCBvYe

## World Travels & Happy Birthday



many already know, my husband, K.K., is a flight attendant—which means I have flight privileges! I can travel almost anywhere in the world at an extremely low cost, although it is certainly not the most reliable way to get around. I can board a flight only when there is an unsold seat and no other standby passenger with higher priority or greater seniority is waiting for it.

This year marked my 60th birthday. Although I don't always feel 60, there are certainly days when I do! To celebrate this milestone, I set my sights on Iceland, and K.K. came along for the adventure.

This visit was dramatically different from my trip in January 2023. Back then, Iceland was locked in near-perpetual darkness, the temperatures were below freezing, and the Northern Lights danced across the sky. In July, however, we found a much milder and greener landscape, with lush fields broken up by scattered volcanic rock.

We rented a car and drove the famous Golden Circle. Its three principal attractions are Þingvellir National Park, Gullfoss waterfall, and the geothermal area of Haukadalur, home to the geysers Geysir and Strokkur.

Iceland in July feels like an entirely different country from Iceland in January. During the summer, daylight lasts almost around the clock, with only a couple of hours of dimness each night. In winter, it is nearly the opposite: darkness prevails, interrupted by a few hours of purple twilight as the sun briefly peeks above the horizon before disappearing again.

After Iceland, we continued to Hamburg, Germany, where Dykes on Bikes participated in the Hamburg Pride parade. We also joined a police-escorted motorcycle ride around the city.

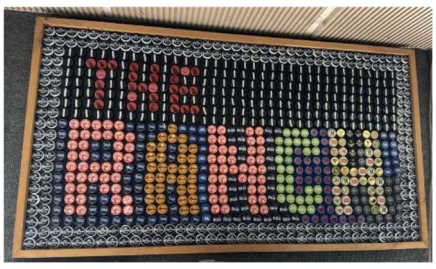
On Monday morning, we boarded another plane—this time bound for Milan, Italy. In just two days, we managed to visit the opera house and its museum, see the magnificent Duomo, travel to Lake Como, and squeeze in several other sights.

From Milan, we flew home to New York City—but only briefly! We had just enough time to unpack, do the laundry, repack, and set off on our motorcycles the following day. We rode north to Albany, continued into Canada to Montreal, and then headed south through Rochester before arriving at Hillside Campgrounds. Together, the journey became our "Great Canadian Loop Ride."

Unfortunately, I had to leave Hillside early because I was attending a computer-security conference with a friend. On Friday, August 14, I packed up my motorcycle and began the ride home.

The conference was held at its new venue, the New Yorker Hotel. It is always one of the highlights of my year—a chance to reconnect with hacker friends who travel from around the world to attend.

All told, it was quite a way to celebrate turning 60: Iceland, Hamburg, Milan, a motorcycle tour through New York and Canada, and finally a gathering of old friends in Manhattan. I may feel 60 on some days, but this certainly wasn't one of those trips!



## Ride With Us – and Consider Joining ECMC!

There is nothing quite like riding with a group of friends. The shared adventures, unexpected discoveries, roadside meals, laughter, and stories told long after the motorcycles have been parked are all part of what makes Empire City Motorcycle Club special.

Whether you are looking for people to ride with, hoping to become more involved in the motorcycling community, or simply curious about ECMC, we invite you to come out and get to know us.

Last year, we adopted a new constitution and bylaws that refocused the club on its primary purpose: riding motorcycles. We also simplified the way people can become involved and progress through the different levels of membership. Since not everyone wants to read the entire constitution and bylaws, here is the short version:

1. **If it is on our public calendar, you are invited!**

You do not have to be a member to attend our published rides and events. Come along, meet the members, and experience the fun and camaraderie of riding with ECMC. http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com or suggest a ride for us at: https://EmpireCityMC.com/ride/

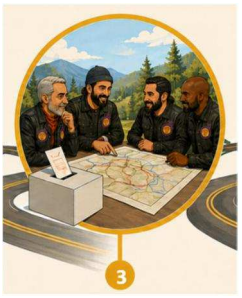
Occasionally, a ride or event may include a destination with its own admission requirements, such as Hillside Campgrounds or another exclusively male space. Before attending, open the event details on our calendar and confirm that you meet any requirements established by the venue. Otherwise, pick an event, bring your motorcycle, and join us!

### 2. Enjoyed riding with us? Become an associate member!

After joining us for a few rides or events, you may decide that you would like to become part of the club. Associate membership is the first step toward every other form of ECMC membership. The process is simple: ride with us, participate in our events, and get to know the members. Once you have made a connection, ask a member whether he would be willing to sponsor your application. Associate membership includes:

- A $10 application fee
- Annual dues of just $10
- A requirement to participate in at least one club ride per year
- Participation on a motorcycle that is licensed, insured, inspected, and owned by you

It is an easy and affordable way to become part of ECMC while enjoying the support, friendship, and added confidence that come from riding with an established group.



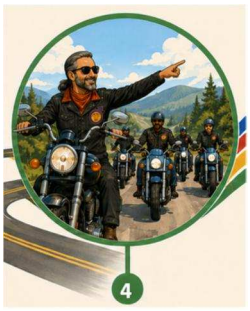

### 3. Ready for a greater role? Become a full member!

After at least six months as an associate member, you are welcome to apply for full membership.

Full members have voting privileges and a direct voice in shaping the club's rides, events, priorities, and future. Annual dues are $100, and full members must participate in at least three club rides per year on a motorcycle that is licensed, insured, inspected, and owned by them.

If you enjoy ECMC and want to help decide where the road takes us next, full membership may be right for you.

### 4. Help lead the club as an officer!




After one year as a full member, you may consider becoming an officer.

Our officers play an important role in planning rides and events, guiding the club, and keeping ECMC moving forward. If you are passionate about motorcycles, enjoy bringing people together, or have ideas for new destinations and adventures, serving as an officer can be an exciting and rewarding way to contribute.

The best way to discover whether ECMC is right for you is simply to ride with us. You will meet other motorcyclists, explore new roads and destinations, and become part of a community built around friendship, camaraderie, and a shared love of riding.

Look at our calendar, choose an upcoming ride or event, and come meet us. Your next great motorcycle adventure—and your next group of friends—may be waiting!

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## 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

Ride/Event Suggestions: You can request a ride or event at https://empirecitymc.com/ride/

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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