2027 Motorcycle Week Planning Underway

Get ready to tackle one of the most famous stretches of asphalt in North America! The upcoming Tail of the Dragon ride invites members and friends of Empire City MC, Fair Folk MC, and Spartan MC to take on US Route 129 at Deals Gap. Guarded by the Great Smoky Mountains and Cherokee National Forest, this world-renowned 11-mile run packs 318 tight curves, hairpin switchbacks, and elevation shifts into a single continuous stretch of mountain road, delivering an unmatched thrill for leather-clad riders looking to carve up the pavement together.

Make your voice heard - visit the survey at https://bit.ly/TOD2027

To make this trip as seamless and well-attended as possible, we have set up a survey website, designed to gather input on dates, logistics, and accommodations. By sharing your availability for July 2027 and indicating your travel preferences, you will help us lock in the ideal week, secure group lodging, and coordinate scenic convoy routes. If you are interested in this ride, please take a minute to fill out the survey so we can tailor the itinerary to match everyone's schedule—help us pick the date and come along for the ride!

HSS Ride 2027 – Date Conformed – 18th September 2027

Empire City MC is the exclusive motorcycle club for the HSS Ride! Other clubs may participate at ECMC's discretion. Our Moto Volunteers help keep the ride running smoothly by assisting at busy or complicated intersections, helping cyclists cross safely, and sweeping the routes for riders who may have lost their way. We lend a hand wherever needed—and have a great time doing it!

ALL ROUTES FOLLOW LEGAL ROADWAYS—NOT BICYCLE TRAILS.

Complimentary hotel accommodation - As of 2025, HSS offers our registered Moto Volunteers complimentary hotel rooms, with a minimum of two people per room. Riding up on Friday evening means we can enjoy an overnight stay and be just minutes from the event Saturday morning. It saves us a cold, dark 5:00 a.m. departure from NYC! We've taken advantage of this arrangement in recent years, and it has made participating much more enjoyable. If you'd like to join the Friday ride and stay overnight, let the Road Captain know. **You must register with both HSS and the Road Captain to participate and receive hotel accommodation.** Prefer to travel on Saturday morning? You may skip the Friday ride and hotel stay, provided you register with both HSS and the Road Captain and commit to arriving at the designated meet-up location by 8:00 a.m. The Road Captain will confirm your hotel arrangements or Saturday meet-up plans when you register.

All Moto Volunteers receive a volunteer T-shirt, snacks, lunch, water, and more.
It's a great day of riding, helping others, and having fun—come join us!

Hawk's Nest, a Broken Cable, and a Roadside Rescue

Our Saturday, September 12th "**Hawk & Goat Ride**" came with an unscheduled stop—and a reminder that a little resourcefulness and teamwork can go a long way.

The day began with breakfast at **The Lexington Candy Counter** before heading out towards Port Jervis. After leaving New York, crossing the GW, then on to NJ-4 to the 208 and then the US-17 to 17-A, then on Route 1A and then finally Route 6 to "downtown" Port Jervis. Once we got on 17-A, all the roads were absolutely stunning for motorcycle riding!

At 12:00, we arrived at meet-up point 2: **the Elks–Charlie Brox Memorial Park Overlook**. It was our first time to this hidden gem! Getting there off the 97 featured a short, but beautiful ride with amazing switchbacks and awesome road conditions to an overlook with NJ High Point Park and Port Jervis beneath you. If you look closely in the second photo, you'll see the NJ High Point Monument in the distance! From there, the route took us north through Hawk's Nest, stopping for lunch at **Millbrook on the River**.

The ride included both northbound and southbound passes through Hawk's Nest before we fuelled up and headed east towards Bear Mountain and the Goat Trail.

Suddenly, at 15:45, Wiley's Softail broke its throttle cable. Naturally, this happened just fifteen minutes before most motorcycle shops were due to close for the day, with many not reopening until Tuesday. Apparently, throttle cables have an excellent sense of dramatic timing.

I managed to locate a motorcycle parts vendor operating out of a self-storage facility just seven miles from where we were stranded. Erik and Brett followed me on an impromptu parts run, and we returned with a replacement cable—and a way to get Wiley back on the road.

With the part secured and repairs still ahead, we encouraged Brett to head home. He had farther to travel than the rest of us, and there was no sense delaying his journey while Wiley finished the repair work. By 17:38, we were rolling again. The breakdown had rearranged our afternoon, but it hadn't beaten us.

We made it to the Goat Trail in good time, rode the twisties there, and then the Sprain Parkway to NY 9-A (Henry Hudson) to bring us home. Everyone made it home safely by 19:30.

Thanks to everyone for the patience, help, and company. A ride doesn't always follow the itinerary, but getting everyone home safely is the part that matters most.

Special Thanks to

Buckshot Cycles (see the self-storage photo), https://buckshotcycles.myshopify.com/ came to our rescue when others were closing for the weekend! If you find yourself needing parts, be sure to reach out to him at +1 846 344-6943. He was truly a friend when we were in need.

Before You Trade Lead for Lithium – The Fine Print

While lithium starter batteries offer lighter weight and strong cranking performance, switching from traditional lead-acid or AGM batteries requires careful evaluation. Lithium iron phosphate ($LiFePO_4$) batteries are available for Harleys, but manufacturers' instructions outline important operating conditions beyond a simple plug-and-play swap.

Cold-Weather Preparation: Cold temperatures impact lithium performance. Manufacturer Shorai notes that starting at $40^{\circ}F$ may require running the electrical load for 30 seconds, extending to four or five minutes at $0^{\circ}F$ to warm the battery internally. Furthermore, charging must be performed above freezing.

Charging System Compatibility: Physical fit does not guarantee electrical compatibility. EarthX advises against installing certain lithium batteries on pre-1986 motorsport vehicles unless the charging systems are appropriately upgraded for a regulated range of 13.8–14.6 volts.

SUMMARY OF KEY OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

- Check vintage charging system voltages before installation.
- Warm up electrical loads during extreme cold starts.
- Verify exact charger compatibility to avoid damage.
- Understand built-in BMS protection and jump-pack rules.

Charger Selection: Standard lead-acid chargers featuring desulfation functions can damage lithium batteries. Riders must use approved chargers, such as dual-mode options designed specifically for different chemistries.

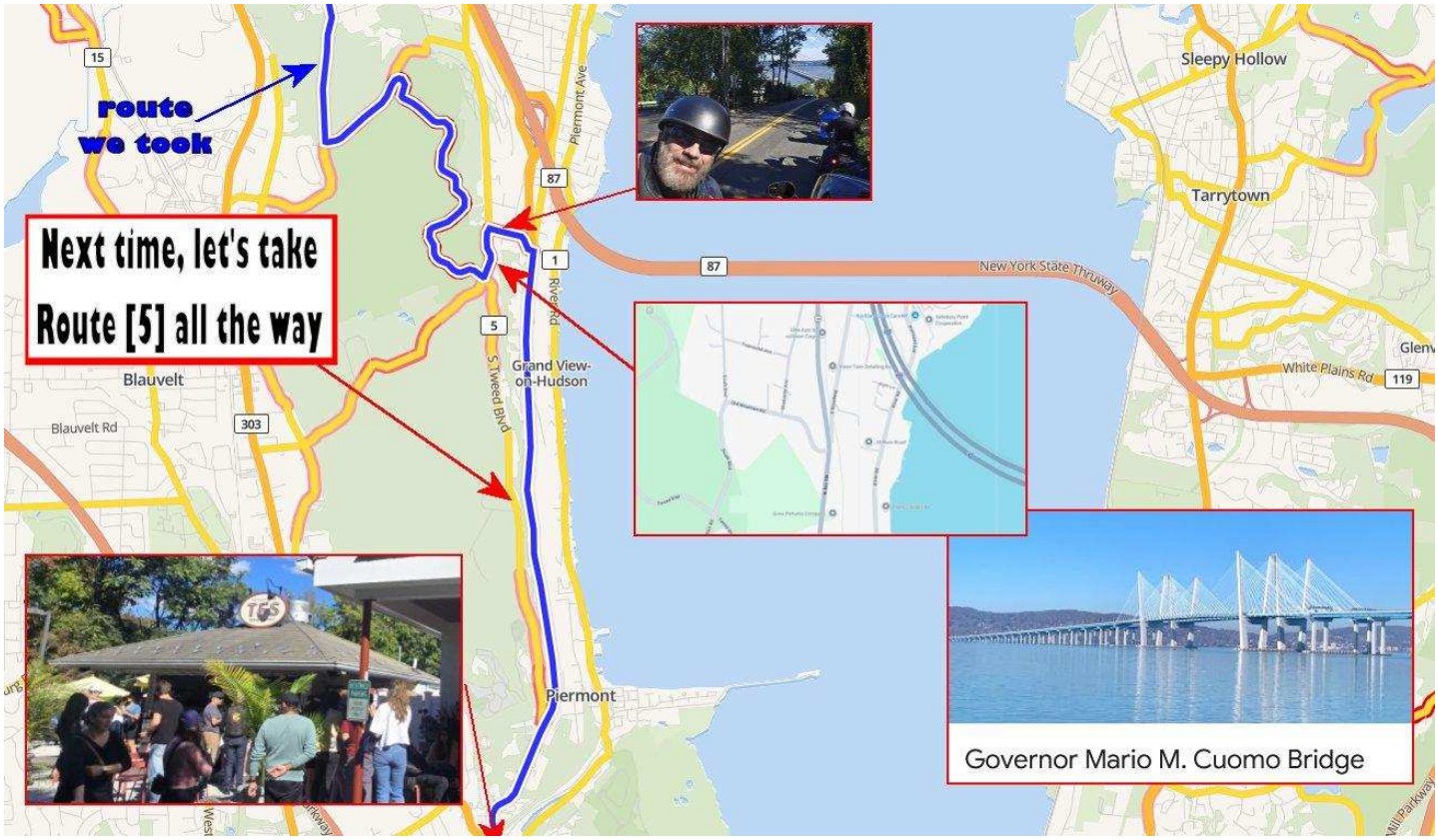
BMS and Roadside Recovery: Many lithium batteries feature a Battery Management System (BMS) that may trigger a protective disconnection during excessive cranking or low voltage. Recovery procedures vary; for example, Shorai restricts the use of lithium jump packs, while EarthX permits them under specific conditions.

Capacity vs. Starting Power: Equivalent starting ratings ("PBeq") do not reflect actual cell storage capacity (e.g., an LFX18 battery provides 6Ah of actual capacity). Additionally, key-off electrical drains on Harleys mean storage charging may still be needed after one to two months.

The Verdict: Battery Tender recommends AGM for cold-weather commuting, touring, and general Harley use, while lithium suits riders prioritizing weight savings. Lithium batteries are viable for selected applications, but require verifying model fitment, temperature limits, and charging compatibility before purchase.

Footnotes & Sources: [1] Russ' Ocean State Harley-Davidson; [2] Shorai FAQ & Charging Guidelines; [3] Shorai Storage Instructions; [4] EarthX FAQ; [5] EarthX Charging Guide; [6] Battery Tender Comparison.

Along the Hudson — Views and Notes for Next Time



Fall Foliage Ride — Taking the Scenic Way Home

Our Saturday, October 3rd Fall Foliage Ride came with a deliberately flexible itinerary. The calendar called for breakfast at the Lexington Candy Shop at 09:00, kickstands up at 10:00, and a day spent looking for autumn scenery. The route would be decided over breakfast. Leaves, after all, are notoriously bad at keeping appointments.

The day's loop took us through northern New Jersey and into New York, trading the city for wooded roads around the Ringwood area before turning east towards the Hudson. The photographs tell the story: sunshine, blue skies, motorcycles, and a canopy that was still mostly green, with touches of autumn beginning to show. Peak colour would have to wait. The riding certainly didn't.

By late morning, there was time for a group photo beneath the trees. Later, the river supplied a different sort of scenery. Near the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, a view down towards the Hudson was worth a pause—and another photograph. A foliage ride can make room for a little bridge appreciation!

At about 14:00, the motorcycles were lined up at The Filling Station on Route 9W in Palisades. The photos show a busy lunch stop, riders gathering outside, and the kitchen in action. It was a fitting place to stop: the bikes had brought us this far; now it was the riders' turn to refuel.

The ride also gave us another route to think about for next time. The annotated map records the winding approach near the bridge and a note to try Route 5 all the way on a future outing. That is one of the pleasures of a club ride: even while enjoying today's roads, we are quietly collecting ideas for the next one.

Navigation was part of the conversation, too. Before the ride, I had flagged Calimoto as an app worth trying, following some increasingly unhelpful Google Maps instructions, as "Take the interchange ahead" is not much comfort when you are leading motorcycles through unfamiliar roads. A navigation app ought to reduce the guesswork!

Thanks to everyone who came along for a day out of the city. The trees may not have been ready for their full autumn performance, but the roads, river views, and company gave us plenty to enjoy. We can always go back and check on those leaves.

A late-morning stop beneath the trees.

Back in the saddle near the Hudson.

The Filling Station: time to refuel the riders.

Lunch preparations at The Filling Station.

The day's loop through northern New Jersey and back along the Hudson.

Empire City MC – West

Good company. Great roads. A high-point finish.

PITTSBURGH & THE LAUREL HIGHLANDS • LATE SEPTEMBER 2026

Empire City MC's western contingent wrapped up September with an informal Pittsburgh gathering and a Saturday ride through the Laurel Highlands. Rick rode in from Columbus, and Mike H came from Beaver County, meeting at Lewis and Tim's place. Earl and Alex joined the fun, stopping overnight on their way to a cruise out of Port Liberty. A fine seafood dinner at Roland's in the Strip District provided the perfect setting to catch up and settle Saturday's riding plans.

Saturday morning brought Brianna along for the first leg to Coal Center, where Mike N and his friend Jeff joined the group. Then came a brisk, scenic run to Ohiopyle and lunch at Falls City Taproom. There, the riders met up with Jack, a longtime friend recently back in the saddle. From Ohiopyle, the group continued to Mt. Davis, Pennsylvania's highest natural point. It was a fitting finish to the formal ride led by Mike N—and the perfect excuse for one last photo of the riders and their machines. Good roads, good friends, and a little altitude: a fine western outing!

01 / Pittsburgh: good company to start the weekend.

02 / Saturday: the group gathers for the ride.

03 / Out on the road in the Laurel Highlands.

04 / Lunch and conversation at Falls City Taproom.

05 / Mt. Davis: a high point of the outing.

06 / Riders and machines at the final stop.

ECMC's 63rd Annual Toy Drive to be held at Bucks MC Santa Saturday® again this year!

Help Us Fill the Van for Rising Ground!

Please join us in supporting the Bucks MC's 53rd annual Santa Saturday® celebration in New Hope, Pennsylvania, over Thanksgiving weekend!

When you attend, please consider bringing several low-denomination gift cards—$5, $10 or $15—or a new, unwrapped, **non-plush** toy suitable for a child from infancy through age 18.

Empire City MC has supported the organization now known as Rising Ground. At that time, it operated under the Leake & Watts name. In 1985, it became the first social-service agency in the nation to support children living with HIV/AIDS.

In previous years, Empire City traditionally hosted a separate holiday toy drive. Last year, however, we approached the Bucks MC about holding our collection during Santa Saturday®. Combining the two events made it easier for people who wanted to support both worthwhile causes—especially at a time when household budgets have become increasingly tight.

The response was extraordinary! We received so many toys and gift cards that our rental car couldn't hold everything, and we had to enlist someone with a larger vehicle to help transport the donations back to New York City. This year, we'll be better prepared: we're bringing a van!

After entering the main Santa Saturday® event on Saturday, look for the Empire City MC Toy Drive table just outside the main room.

Many people don't realize that these donations are used throughout the following calendar year—not only during the holidays. Rising Ground distributes toys and gift cards to recognize birthdays, good grades, personal achievements and other important milestones in the lives of the children it serves.

That's why we specifically request low-denomination gift cards, preferably without holiday-themed designs. This allows Rising Ground to distribute them appropriately throughout the year and celebrate many different accomplishments and occasions.

If you would rather donate directly to Rising Ground, please do! It is an exceptionally worthwhile organization dedicated to strengthening families and helping children, parents and caregivers overcome difficult circumstances. Its services include counselling, supervised family visits and programs that help young parents develop the skills and stability needed to care successfully for their children.

Whether you bring one toy, a few gift cards or make a direct contribution, every donation can make a meaningful difference in a child's life.

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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