



# Michigan Sport Touring Report

April 2016

Editor – Ian Orr

## Adventures in Motorcycle Radar Detector Installation

By Vince Cardinale

I decided to equip my motorcycle with a radar detector after hearing numerous Performance Award tales of woe. Plus, if the government engages in wholesale electronic surveillance of motorists (two wheel and otherwise) without probable cause by means of traffic radar, I at least want to know when I am under said wholesale surveillance.

### Motorcycle Radar Detector Selection

The Adaptiv TPX (v2.0 current) radar detector is perhaps the best known motorcycle-specific device. Many reviews may be found on the web. Decide for yourself.

I instead elected to share a single detector between my two and four wheel vehicles. High-end units can be pricy (generally speaking, you get what you pay for) and I am not talented enough to operate a car and bike simultaneously.

I chose the Escort Redline (sister unit Beltronics STi Magnum) due to excellent performance, mostly reasonable price, Escort Live radar detector social network app compatibility, and finally - unlike many other devices - no radio frequency energy emissions. That last point means you will not set off other radar detectors in your riding group, or radar detector detectors; at present radar detectors are illegal in Virginia, Washington DC and parts of Canada such as Ontario. Get the picture?

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### Mounting Location



Real estate is at a premium on my 2009 BMW R1200GS. A Garmin Zumo 390 (4.3" screen) already resides on the leftside handlebar. Below and to the left of the GPS is the heated gear remote controller atop the clutch reservoir. On the rightside handlebar lives my smart phone holder. The radar detector ideally needs an unobstructed forward-looking location. The upper windshield bracket, left side, directly behind the windshield was chosen as the mounting point. This location does not interfere with the left grip at full lock, does not obstruct the instrument cluster, the windshield protects the detector from the elements, and the unit is accessible to my non-throttle left hand while underway.

### Mounting the Radar Detector

Because I selected a non-waterproof radar detector, and because these units can be attractive to thieves, I decided to mount the device in such a way that it could quickly and easily be dismantled and securely stored in my locking, waterproof hard side bag.

In addition to offering numerous mounting hardware options for just about any bike, RAM MOUNTS also offers a magnetic radar detector mount: Power Plate III (RAP-300-1x). This is a 2-piece, rare earth magnetic quick-disconnect mount. The magnetic base attaches to the ubiquitous 1-inch RAM ball mount (RAM-B-202U), while a self-adhesive metallic strip attaches to the bottom of the radar detector. (The latter requires a flat mounting surface on the unit.)

To clear my bike's adjustable windshield in the lowermost position, the Redline needed to be affixed to the RAM magnetic mount metal strip at the very front of the detector. To accommodate an indent at that location, a flat polycarbonate mounting plate was used. The magnetic mount metal strip attaches to polycarbonate plate using the provided double-face tape strip; and the detector attaches to the polycarbonate plate using Scotch brand super strength Velcro.

For portability, one magnetic base was installed on my bike, another in my car.

### **Alerting**

The Escort Redline's tiny internal speaker was not up to the task of audio alerting with the bike at speed. Enter the Escort Radar Detector External Auxiliary Speaker 001SPK-E0; 2.25"W x 2.25"H x 2.25"D, 12-volt external power. It connects to Redline's 3.5 mm external speaker jack. The detector's built-in volume control limits external speaker sound output, which is loud enough to be heard at freeway speeds, even with the use of ear plugs. I used Scotch brand super strength Velcro to attach the bottom of the speaker to the top of the Escort Redline, allowing both to be easily removed from the bike as a single unit.

I decided against auxiliary visual alerting. Several options are available, in helmet as well as external mount. My concern was being blinded at night. The Escort Redline visual display auto-dims at night. It was not clear that the auxiliary visual alerts would do so.

### **Power**

The Escort Redline radar detector and external auxiliary speaker both require 12-volt DC to operate. Powering the Redline is the Escort Direct Wire SmartCord 0010057-2; 1" x 1.5" x 1"; Blue power light - easier on the eyes at night. This power connector wires directly to a 12-volt source, and features a MUTE button to silence the detector audio alert. I used the same Scotch brand super strength Velcro to attach the Smartcord control head to the right side of the external auxiliary speaker.

Conveniently, my R1200GS has a switched power plug next to the steering head. (BMW-style, of course...) Powerlet's 90-degree 12v plug to Coax Female PPC-028-06 makes quick removal a snap. I cut and spliced one lead of a heated gear male "Y" power cord to the Escort Direct Wire SmartCord, and the other "Y" power cord lead to the external auxiliary speaker power lines. The wires are secured between the unit and the windshield.

If your bike does not have a power plug within easy reach of the controls, consider installing one. They are really nice to have. (Heated gear, smart phone / tablet / laptop, GPS, etc.)

### **Removal**

Removing the detector, speaker, control head and all wiring from the bike as a single unit entails grab-and-twist of the detector assembly, followed by unplugging the Powerlet 90-degree power plug.

### **Waze**

Do you Waze? Waze is a community-based social media traffic and navigation app for your smart phone. Users are generally kind enough to report police location when they are spotted. Waze is why I mount my smart phone to the handlebar. The combination of Waze plus radar detector might be enough to keep you from running afoul of Johnny Law.

# The Other West Virginia

By Jac Brown

The ideal road for most MSTR riders is curvy, smooth, and empty. It's ridden at a comfortable to brisk pace with the fun coming from reading the road and being one with your bike. When I ride with you guys and most of the time riding alone, I do the same. But I will let you in on a dirty little secret. Sometimes, when I'm riding alone, I keep going when the pavement stops.



My KLR isn't some light weight supercross bike on race knobbies. It's a 400 pound bike with a big rider and luggage riding on street oriented tires. So I'm not talking about sand or mud. These aren't trails, but small, hard pack roads that you could comfortably ride on any street bike, much less a GS, a Multi, or a Tiger.



I'm also not talking about riding fast. I'm on these back dirt roads to explore the country, so I ride slow, stop often, and keep my camera available in my tank bag. Please note that I'm no Don Pennington. His work is photography as art. Mine is closer to snapshots.



Last fall, before the wet Fall Color Ride, I did some riding on my own in North Eastern W. Va. It was a combination of exploring paved roads that I hadn't seen and exploring W. Virginia's one lane dirt and gravel roads. For example, there is a one lane gravel, Forest Service road that runs 50 miles along a ridge with no houses or traffic.



In the country north east of Elkins, the mountains change from orderly parallel ridges and become twisted with rivers running in

every direction. In this country, there are very few paved roads, so I spent a day or two exploring.



The fun thing about these roads is that you never know what is around the corner. There are a surprising number of small farms on these ridges. Once in a while, you have to open and shut a gate because the road runs through a farmers pasture. It's all part of adventure.



## MSTR Heads Up

Here's a listing of some of the upcoming local events and meetings within the next few weeks.

With much thanks to Bob Slobin he has setup an MSTR web page where he works at Continental Linen Service. Members can purchase embroidered logo wear with the MSTR logo. Visit the website here: <http://www.clsimage.com/customwebsites/mstr/mstr.html>

## MSTR EAST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, April 23, 2016, @ 8:30 AM

East breakfast meeting is at **Doc's Sport Retreat** in Livonia, MI. Doc's is located at 19265 Victor Parkway. East of I-275, north of 7 mile road and across from Dave and Buster's. Gregg Mitchell will be moderating this meeting.

## All Clubs Ride

Sunday, May 1, 2016, @ 10:00 AM

The annual All Clubs Ride is planned for May 1st, meeting at 10:00 am at the Stockbridge Town Square Gazebo. This year will feature the returning Swap Meet that will be held from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and is free to the public.



## **MSTR WEST Breakfast Meeting**

**Saturday, May 14, 2016, @ 10:00 AM**

West breakfast meeting is at the **Alibi Bar & Grill**, 1394 E. Riverside Drive, Ionia, MI ([www.alibionia.com](http://www.alibionia.com)). Please send an email to Gala ([gschip@me.com](mailto:gschip@me.com)) so she can plan on providing breakfast for everyone who attends. "Banjo" Bart Reiter will be moderating this meeting. Breakfast will be available for \$11 plus tax & tip.

If you know of a local motorcycle event in Michigan or Ontario the MSTR would be interested in send Ian Orr an e-mail at [Communications@mstriders.com](mailto:Communications@mstriders.com) with the details.



## **MSTR 2016 Rides**

One of the goals of the MSTR is to organize a few multi-day rides each year specifically for our members in

some of the premier riding areas in the Midwest and Southeast. With the exception of the MoArk and MR2 events all MSTR rides are limited to those who are current members of the MSTR. The full 2016 schedule is still in development. There are several rides that have been scheduled and a few still being planned. Others will be posted here and on the MSTR website as the year unfolds.



## **2016 MSTR Mileage Program**

**All year**

The MSTR will run an informal mileage program for MSTR members to track and compare their yearly miles with other members. To participate you need to do nothing more than record your motorcycle's starting mileage(s) for 2016 and then periodically send a mileage update to Ian at [Communications@mstriders.com](mailto:Communications@mstriders.com) with the subject "Mileage update". Every time you send me an update I'll send an acknowledgement. If you don't hear back within a couple of weeks then I didn't get your e-mail. Go to the MSTR website ([www.mstriders.com/](http://www.mstriders.com/)) and visit the Events page for additional details.

## **2016 MSTR Life's a Beach Grand Tour**

**April 1 – December 1  
Michigan**

Get your motorcycle ready: oil change, new tires, scheduled maintenance completed and recreation pass on your Michigan registration. The Life's a Beach Grand Tour, will open on April 1.

All of this year's checkpoints will be at public beaches on the great lakes in Michigan. As in the last 2 years, I have 8 checkpoints in the lower peninsula and 6 in the upper peninsula. I have also picked 1 or 2 nearby points of interest as suggestions for extra credit. Those can be visited for 1 point each, or any other unique Michigan tourist trap, business, museum, point of interest or restaurant will also qualify for extra credit, with a maximum of 3 extra credit points per checkpoint. Additionally, since this is the Michigan "Life's a Beach" grand tour, I'm offering 10 extra credit points for anyone who gets a photo of him/herself relaxing on the beach (sitting in a collapsible camping chair, holding a camping cup, while wearing his/her riding gear). I will also organize a ride to a local beach for a group photo of same after a Saturday breakfast

meeting during the summer. And, if we include a group photo of everyone who wears an Aerostitch in that repose, I have no doubt it would qualify for a cover photo for next year's Aerostitch catalog.

Keith Danielson, the event organizer, will be making the official announcement and circulating a signup sheet at the April 23 breakfast meeting. If you can't attend you can e-mail Keith at [keith.danielson@wowway.com](mailto:keith.danielson@wowway.com) of if you signed up for Keith's Grand Tour last year, he'll send you the rider information packet via e-mail. If you're not able to make the ride this year you can just delete the e-mail.

## MoArk Adventure 9

**April 13–16, 2016**  
**Missouri / Arkansas**

37 riders and one co-rider spent 3 to 4 days shredding their tires along more than a thousand miles of some of the best Ozark back roads to be found.

Despite multiple, multiple, multiple cautionary tales about making sure you had new or almost new tires, three riders got to spend part of one valuable riding day searching out, buying and installing somewhat expensive new tires. Following are some of my personal stories from MoArk9:

- Despite the best efforts of some dozen suicidal "darting" squirrels they failed in every attempt to throw themselves under our wheels. We didn't feel a single soft "thump".
- When startled a Golden eagle can go full vertical with outstretched 8' wingspan in seconds – WOW! Kinda hard to look where you're supposed to go with nature strutting her stuff like that.
- The basso profundo of a Ducati 1198S can be used to herd an errant cow with a bad case of wanderlust, and even make her jump back over a 5' tall fence.

- It's not smart to make a girl cry by moving her brand new BMW while she's not looking and having her think it's stolen. Once again, my apologies to Vivian – thank God she has a good sense of humor.

## Rough Rider 1/2K

**Saturday, May 7, 2016**

We're nearly there! The 4th annual *Rough Rider 1/2-K* day-ride is less than 31 days away. And, have to tell you, I'm ready to go!

The theme for this year's RR 1/2-K is going to be Covered Bridges. For those new to this event, the MSTR has a longer event, the [Rough Rider 1000](#), which is 1,000 miles in 24 hours. The original RR 1/2-K was originally designed as a 'warm-up' event, since most folks would not have ridden much—if at all—prior to the formal 1K.

The inaugural ride took us to see 4 covered bridges; [one of which](#) has since been lost to arson. This year, we've found a new slate of bridges to visit. One, Langley Covered Bridge, may be included again due to its popularity and photogenic aspects. David Bonskey and JT Pedersen are working to refine the route as we speak.

The intent is for this to be a very social, day-ride, not to exceed 500 miles. Prior years have actually been in the 375-400 range. We ride for ~90 miles, stop to fuel up and social a bit, then ride another ~90, stop for ~20 minutes, then repeat. In the middle somewhere we have a planned lunch stop. Overall duration, somewhat impacted by weather, is around 12 hours.

With riders coming from around the area, including Ohio, this year's event is *tentatively* planned to start from the Espresso Royale in downtown Ann Arbor, Michigan. The route will be an elongated ellipse, stretching toward western Michigan. Beyond that, you'll need to sign up to learn more.

### **SIGN UP:**

Send an email to [jt.pedersen@live.com](mailto:jt.pedersen@live.com)  
Include:

**Subject Line: RR 1/2-K**  
**Name** (first and last)

**Cell #**

**Email** (yes, even if I can go 'get it' from your header)

**Emergency Contact:** Name, relation, cell Number of riders coming with you

**Each participant** *must* provide the requested information. Two reasons; One, it's convenient, and prefilling the form speeds the registration process; just sign, get coffee, and prepare to have fun. Second, if there's an emergency, knowing who to contact on your behalf will be important and time-sensitive.

*This is an open event*, not constrained to MSTR members. Existing members are encouraged to use this event to show their friends who we are, why they may wish to join us.

**Note:** A basic legal disclaimer and release is required to be completed (with personal info, above) and signed. Each rider acknowledges they are solely responsible for themselves, accept all risks. We ride in small groups, are focused on riding safely, and being positive representatives of the sport to the public.

Organizer: JT Pedersen,

[jt.pedersen@live.com](mailto:jt.pedersen@live.com)

Co-organizer: David Bonskey

**MR<sup>2</sup>**

**Michigan Renegade Mountain Ride**

**May 15–21, 2016  
Waynesville, NC**

Two days of travel and five days of riding in the premier riding area of the South East: The Great Smoky Mountains.

**Ride HQ: All week**

**Best Western Smoky Mountain Inn**

130 Shiloh Trail, Waynesville, North Carolina 28786-9007. **Phone: 828-456-4402**

**Ride Organizer: Ian Orr**

[Communications@mstriders.com](mailto:Communications@mstriders.com)

**MR<sup>2</sup> Reservations:**

- Due to a two large groups staying on the weekend there are no more rooms available on Sunday night, May 15. A wait list is being maintained by the hotel.
- The hotel expects to know by April 25/26 if rooms will become available for those on the waitlist.
- The hotel is accepting reservations at the discount rate from May 16 to 22.
- The hotel agreed to open the breakfast area at 6:30am for us.

A group dinner has been arranged for Wednesday, May 18. Details will be available by e-mail to registered riders.

A 48-page rider packet, consisting of a route overview, detailed route maps and turn-by-turn directions, will be e-mailed to all registered riders. The e-mail will also poll attendees who are interested in receiving the routes as .gpx files for their GPS units.

As of April 18 there are 72 people signed up for MR<sup>2</sup>.

**MSTR Roughrider VI**

**Washington Bound**

**Saturday, June 4, 2016**

Riders, it's that time of year again. For the sixth time the annual MSTR Roughrider 1000 will begin at 4:00am the morning of June 4, 2016, and continue thereafter until completion of 1000 miles of continuous motorcycling, within 24 hours, less gas and a dining stop. The ride is approximately one month later than in previous years. We anticipate warmer weather and riding conditions more suited to your long distance riding pleasure.

This year's ride, "Washington Bound" is a eastern foray to Frederick, Maryland, located at the Northwest boundary of our nation's Capital, Washington, D.C. We will be riding from Michigan, through Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The outbound leg is generally to the east and the return route from the Capital in a Northwesterly direction.

The roads and scenery are beautiful especially on the eastern half of both legs. The route is approximately 1065 miles and should be completed in about eighteen hours, including all stops. There will be a dining stop in Frederick, Maryland before the return leg. As customary, the ride will meet IBA (Iron Butt Association) rules so that all riders who complete the ride may apply for a IBA Saddlesore Certificate and membership in the IBA. This ride does not require participants to speed for completion. A safe ride should be every participant's first priority and riding goal.

Upon completion of the ride, as required, each participant will receive a MSTR Roughrider 1000 Certificate and commemorative shirt provided by John Horner of BMW of Southeast Michigan.

To assist in ride preparation and planning (certificates, shirts, etc.) I would appreciate, as soon as possible, the emailed name, address, t-shirt size and cell phone number of all riders who intend participate on the ride. In addition, there will be a "sign up" sheet available at the April and May breakfast meetings.

#### **MANDATORY RIDERS MEETING:**

There is a mandatory riders meeting on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 6:00 pm, at BMW of Southeast Michigan; pizza will be served and all details of the ride reviewed at that time.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Odom at [tjopc1@gmail.com](mailto:tjopc1@gmail.com)

**MSO**

*Mid South Odyssey*

**Middlesboro, KY**

**June 16–19**

**Cat Herder – Gregg Mitchell**

Join us in Middlesboro, KY to ride some great roads in SE KY and NE Tennessee on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>. The following hotel will be ride headquarters:

**Sleep Inn & Suites**  
**Address: 1260 N 12th Street**  
**Phone:(606) 576-7829**

Should they fill up, the following hotel is nearby.

**Holiday Inn Express**  
**Address: 1252 N 12th St**  
**Phone:(606) 248-6860**

There will be a **Mandatory "Rider's Meeting"** held at the **Sleep Inn** every evening, beginning on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> at **9:00 PM**, where we'll set up the riding groups, review the routes and prepare for the next day's ride.

If you want to participate - here's what you do -  
1. Make your hotel reservations at one of the hotels **without delay**. There is **NOT** a block of rooms being "Held".

#### **VERY IMPORTANT!**

2. **Let me know that you're planning on being there – Maps and directions will be distributed by email ONLY to those whose name I have on record as attending**

Contact Gregg Mitchell at the following:

[1 of 4@mstriders.com](mailto:1of4@mstriders.com)

Phone 248-760-0841 (Cell)

248-377-8170 (Work)

**BGB**

**Blue Grass Boogie**

**Morehead, KY**

**July 14– 17**

**Cat Herder – Gregg Mitchell**

Join us in Morehead, KY to ride some great roads in Eastern Kentucky on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>. I expect everyone will be homeward bound on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll be staying at the following Motel:

**Hampton Inn**  
**500 Hampton Way**  
**I-64 Exit State Route 32**  
**Phone: 1-606-780-0601**

Should they fill up, or if you want a little less expensive room, there are plenty of other motels nearby.

There will be a **Mandatory "Rider's Meeting"** held at the hotel every evening, beginning on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> at **9:00 PM**, where we'll set up the riding groups, review the routes and prepare for the next day's ride. If you want to participate - here's what you do:

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Phone 248-760-0841 (Cell)

248-377-8170 (Work)

## **MSTR Newsletter & Website**

The MSTR Newsletter and Website ([www.mstriders.com/](http://www.mstriders.com/)) belong to you, the members. Both of them can only be as good and as interesting as you make them. If you've got something to say about a ride, your bike, perhaps a trip you're planning, whatever, send it in for the newsletter and/or website to:

Ian Orr: [Communications@mstriders.com](mailto:Communications@mstriders.com)

## **MSTR Dealer Members & News**

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**BMW Motorcycles of SE Michigan**  
[www.bmwmcsem.com/](http://www.bmwmcsem.com/)

**CHARITY FASHION SHOW**  
**APRIL 22, 2016**

We will show all the new spring gear at our annual Charity Fashion Show. The show is scheduled for 6 to 9 PM on Friday, April 22. Our charity is the family of Trooper Chad Wolf, who was killed in the line of duty August 8, 2015. Your \$25 ticket purchase brings an evening of motorcycling camaraderie, refreshments and heavy hors d'oeuvres. We will feature new fashions from BMW, KLIM, Alpinestars, Firstgear, and Schuberth. Your ticket will also bring entry into our door prize drawing. The door prizes this year are fantastic. Plan now to join us for an evening of fun. **Please call Samantha at 734.453.0500 to purchase your ticket.**

### **10TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE** **MAY 21, 2016**

It doesn't seem like 10 years, but it has been! To celebrate, we will have a fantastic open house. Not only will we have the outstanding food, entertainments, demo rides and door prizes that you are used to, we will also have BMW's official stunt rider, Chris "Teach" McNeil a vintage bike show and a charity motorcycle raffle. You do not want to miss this. Plan now to join all of your fellow motorcycling friends for a day of fun.

Keep watching our web site for more information.

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**BMW of Grand Rapids**  
[www.bmwmcgr.com/](http://www.bmwmcgr.com/)

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**Ducati Detroit**  
[www.ducaticetroit.com/](http://www.ducaticetroit.com/)

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**Fox Powersports**  
[www.foxpowersports.com/](http://www.foxpowersports.com/)

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**WELCOME TO CLS**

CLS is a family owned business founded in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1899. From then forward we have striven to be the best provider of linen services which was soon followed by uniform services, mats, mops, custom apparel, and facility products. We offer both rental and purchase options for all of our products as well as a range of laundry services for our linens and uniforms. Our goal is and always has been to provide the highest level of customer service with integrity.