



Michigan Sport Touring Report

September 2016

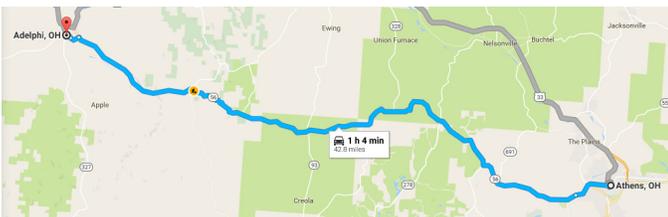
Editor – Ian Orr

The Highway of Zeus and Apollo

By Jac Brown



OK, it's not really called that. But since the road runs from Adelphi to Athens, it seems like it deserves some kind of reference to ancient Greece.



In real life, it's called Ohio 56 and is one of my favorite roads in Ohio. It runs through the Hocking Hills for about 40 miles and has a variety of curves from low to high speed and, usually, smooth asphalt. The problem is that it doesn't go anywhere that we usually go. There was construction on the Adelphi end of things when I passed there recently, so save your run for later when it should be smooth again.

If you are looking for a road to connect to Hwy 56, on the west end I can recommend Ohio Hwy 327 down through Tar Hollow country. Do keep a weather eye on your speed as I have seen a police car along that stretch more than once. Hwy 327 will take you all the way to Wellston or you can navigate over to Hwy 335 which is fun and takes you further south. From the east end, roads to the south are not interesting, but every other direction is fun.

And now for an obscure fact; Hwy 56 runs along Queer Creek for several miles. It makes me wonder how it got its name. I'm guessing that queer didn't have today's meaning back in the day.



The two photos are from Google's Street View (nice fall views, thanks Google). I admit it, I was having too much fun to stop and take a picture.

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

By MJ Allmond

How many of us have gone back to school year after year and been asked to write about their Summer Vacation? Well here's mine!



It sounded like a good idea, last summer, when our 72 year old neighbor & friend Ben, said he wanted to ride to Colorado to visit his friends Jack and Sue who lived in Florissant, but he was afraid to journey that far from home on a motorcycle by himself. So, being the kind hearted, neighborly person that Curt is, he said of course we could ride out & back with him & then Mary Jo & I could explore CO while we are there.

Our friend rides a Suzuki 650 Bergman (scooter on steroids). He does not like the expressways. So, we laid out a 1350 mile trip there taking highways & only got on the freeway when we had to. 75 miles on I-69 to Ft. Wayne & then it was Hwy 24 to Palmyra, MO the first day (500+ miles). Then we picked up Hwy 36 across MO & KS landing in Hoxie, KS for the 2nd night, (another 500+ miles). The 3rd day we had to get on I-70 for about 135 miles until we hit Limon, CO where we again picked up Hwy 24 to Colorado Springs. We landed in Florissant, CO northwest of Pikes Peak early in the afternoon after only 350 miles that day! WE MADE IT!

We spent the rest of day 3 & the next day trying to get acclimated to the 8800 foot elevation and Curt was working on getting over a sinus thing he picked up from the hotel in Hoxie. On day 5, Curt & I set off to conquer Pikes Peak! I KNEW Curt could do it easily, but I had my concerns....not so much getting to the top, but then I had to come back down! Yes, surprisingly I made it; of course I took so long coming down that Curt actually turned around once and headed back up the mountain to make sure I

was ok! I was fine but I ended up behind some pokey drivers in cars. Thanks Babe! We had lunch in Cripple Creek before we headed back to Florissant.



Day 6 was our day to take off over the mountains leaving Ben behind to visit with his old friends. We left Florissant on some very twisty back roads....where we even had to stop to let the Free Range Cattle cross, and every time we started to move forward they ran back out into the road again just to mess with us. We continued on and picked up Hwy 50 heading west to Gunnison. It was a beautiful day & Hwy 50 was a nice winding road with good sweepers that ran through a valley alongside a river frequented by people tubing and kayaking.



We took a break and fueled up in Gunnison before heading west to pick up 92 N, Black Canyon Rd. It was AWESOME! (This was one of the roads that Curt really wanted to ride!). Black Canyon Rd is a smooth twisty route that runs along the East rim of Black Canyon, the scenery is amazing, road conditions were great and it goes on for about 70 miles.



We made it to Delta that night where I insisted we find a room with a restaurant within walking distance. Curt of course found the right place....only 1 room left, so we took it!

Day 7 we took off to ride the Million Dollar Hwy! We left Delta on Hwy 50 heading south to Hwy 550 on our way to MDH, I was on the outside lane....closest to the 'DROP-OFF' side! Curt hit the curves & I lost sight of him....next thing I know, he's waiting on the side of the road looking waaaay down! I slowed down & he told me to keep going. He said he was struggling trying to keep me in his mirrors....it was much easier for him to keep an eye on the road and me if I was in front of him. He was afraid if I went off the side of the mountain, he wouldn't know where to look for the body.....and he knew my sons would never forgive him if he didn't find me! Note: with ABS there wouldn't be any skid marks visible ;-). There weren't many cars on the MDH. so we did have a Great ride. When we got to Silverton, we stopped for breakfast....Curt thought it was an awesome ride & he wanted to do it again....I told him I'd just wait for him in Silverton! Silverton is a beautiful little town lost in time! Curt thought if he had to be

stranded anywhere he wouldn't mind being stranded there! But, we continued on...we hit Durango & kept right on going (it's gotten to be a very BIG town). We took hwy 160 west to hwy 184 to 145 N. Nice twisty mountain roads all to ourselves. We stopped in Rico for a short break; it was hot, 87 degrees. We sat at someone's little table on the sidewalk. When we took off again, we couldn't see the black clouds forming in the distance over the mountains. We hit those dark clouds after only about 15 miles....first it was rain & then the HAIL started. The temp dropped to 57 degrees & of course, there was NO safe place to pull off the road to gear up....so we rode on. Does hail hurt, HAILL YES it HURTS!! We crossed the mountain pass near Telluride, but kept on riding. We finally dried out and when we arrived in Norwood we landed the LAST room in the only motel open! (What is it with last rooms?) No restaurant nearby, so we rode 2-up back a mile or so to a nice tavern in the middle of this small, not much ever happening, little town in the middle of nowhere.

When we started on this journey, Curt had a list of 4 things he wanted to do:

1. Pike's Peak.
2. Black Canyon Road (Hwy 92).
3. Million Dollar Hwy (Hwy 550).
4. Lunch at "Shooter's Grill" in Rifle, CO.

3 down & 1 to go!

Day 8 we continued north on 145 until we hit 141 N. This stretch of road was really nice, nothing really tight, but a very nice twisty road....right in the bottom of a Canyon! I never realized how diverse the landscape is in CO. There are mountains of Aspen trees, mountains of Pine trees, mountains of boulders & rock, red rock canyons, deserts, lush green valleys, and abandoned mining sights! Mountains so high they still had snow on the top! I found so many places that I thought would be THE perfect place to resettle that I forgot where they were! Oh well, another road trip! We got to Gateway hoping to find gas....we were almost at 225

miles on this fill up! Gateway is like a Private town! We did find gas next to the fire station, but no food. Never fear, I always have something to snack on. Our goal was to get to Rifle, CO in time to have lunch @ Shooter's Grill. We got to Grand Junction where we hopped on I-70 for 55 miles in order to make our lunch stop.



Don't know if you've ever heard of Shooter's Grill, but they are a Pro Second Amendment establishment. The owner & all the wait staff open carry every day! Any one is allowed & encouraged to open carry in their place of business.

Needless to say, they have NEVER been robbed! The food was excellent too! From here we headed north to pick up 325 over another mountain to New Castle. We hopped on I-70 for a short run to Glenwood Springs, where we headed south into the mountains again. We picked up Hwy 133 over to Paonia. We stopped for ice cream in downtown Paonia while we looked for a place for the night. The owner of the Ice Cream place said they have a big BMWCC (BMW Motorcycle Club of CO) ride from Paonia every year. It's the Top O' The Rockies Rally. They had about 550 riders there this past July with some GREAT roads to ride. We found a room with a small café next door. It was supposed to rain, so Curt pulled the bikes up under the awning.

Day 9 it had rained during the night, but there was a window of opportunity, so we started out. It seems that we were conveniently at the north end of Hwy 92, so once again, Curt got to experience this awesome road along the Black Canyon but

going in the opposite direction. The clouds were heavy, but the road was dry. So even though our windshields were wet, we were dry until we got close to Hwy 50 again, then it started to pour! Originally our plan was to head south on 149 before we hit Gunnison, but it was raining so hard & the sky was even blacker to the south, so we decided to stay on Hwy 50 & get a hot cup of coffee & breakfast in Gunnison. We thought Hwy 50 would be safer in the downpour than the smaller, twistier 149.

We found a café with HOT coffee & we dried out some. The rain let up & we headed back out on 50 to 114 south. We left the mountains & found more low land...the sun came out by the time we reached Saguache... we had finally gotten ahead of the storm! We headed back north on 285 (this was probably the straightest road we had been on in days), until we hit hwy 50 once again. It was still early in the afternoon & we hadn't done nearly enough twisty roads yet, so before we headed back to Florissant, we detoured south on 69. We hadn't gone too far south when we realized that the storm we had left behind in the morning had caught up to us and was straight ahead! Luckily we turned & headed east on 96 before we got into the worst of the storm. This turned out to be an unexpectedly tight road...the sign as we entered the canyon said TREACHEROUS road for motorcycles. I could hear Curt giggling in the microphone (he loves seeing signs like that), we rounded the mountain & found we were in the STORM! Rain came down so hard, we could hardly see & of course no shoulder or anywhere to stop! We rode for about 10 miles through the rain before we turned north to Florence. Stopped for a while to dry out again but then we saw the storm & heard the thunder to the west. It was rolling in ready to hit us again. We boogied northwest on hwy 50 staying just ahead of the storm. But you could see the rain coming down in sheets just a few miles from us. I was sure it was going to catch us as we were stopped in heavy traffic in Canyon City. Once through the traffic we throttled up & headed to hwy 9, then to county road 11, to CR 1 back to

Florissant. No Free Range Cattle this time, but we did see a big Mule Deer with the largest rack I've ever seen! We made it back in time for dinner that night. We rode 1160 miles of Colorado mountain roads in 4 days & saw so much diverse landscape. It was an incredible journey. Sadly, it was time to head back home.

Saturday July 2 we packed up & headed for home with black clouds surrounding us again. Luckily we only had a little rain to the north of Pikes Peak. We took a different route home CO Hwy 94 to stay off of I-70. It was a good road, but very straight & flat. I don't think there was a curve or a hill for the next 250 miles. We took Hwy 94 to Hwy 40. Be very careful if you ever ride this road.....gas stations are few & far between. Curt & I did not gas up in Ellicott when Ben filled the Bergman; we had only gone 78 miles on this tank! Little did we know, there was NO gas for the next 150 miles. We were about ready to detour to find gas, when Ben said he saw 2 pumps back next to a building. Curt went back to check it out....no sign, no gas station, but there were 2 pumps. Credit card only, 1 was diesel & the other was a gas pump! That was close....it was really hot & humid & the thought of being stranded was not pleasant. We had a fairly uneventful return trip. We took 3 full days coming home because we had to change directions several times with all of the severe storms surrounding us! We managed to evade them all & throttle up as needed to out run them during the day. It would rain at night, but that's ok. We never saw the sun until we crossed back into MI & then that was only for about 30 minutes as if to say WELCOME HOME! 3967 miles in 12 days with only about 350 miles of expressways, not bad! The best part of the trip was I got to ride it all with Curt! And even though he tried to lose me in the mountains, I still managed to follow him home!

A special thanks to Jac Brown and MJ Allmond for their articles featured this month.

Remember... It doesn't pay a reward, but your articles will be appreciated by your fellow members and the newsletter editor, and you will also earn points toward the **2016 MOTY Award!**

MSTR Heads Up



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

mstriders.com with the details.

MSTR EAST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, September 24, 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.

MSTR WEST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, October 8, 2016, @ 10:00 AM

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



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. All MSTR rides are limited to those who are current members of the MSTR.

2016 MSTR Mileage Program

All year

The MSTR is running 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 with the subject "Mileage update". Every time you send Ian an update he'll send an acknowledgement. If you don't hear back within a couple of weeks then he didn't get your e-mail. Go to the MSTR website (www.mstriders.com/) and visit the Events page for additional details.

2016 MSTR Life's a Beach Grand Tour

Michigan April 1 – December 1

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, has been open since April 1.

All of this year's checkpoints are 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. If you want to participate send an e-mail to Keith at keith.danielson@wowway.com or 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.

WVR WEST VIRGINIA RAID

Lewisburg, WV September 29 – Oct 2 Cat Herder – Gregg Mitchell

Please consider joining your fellow MSTR members on this, the last organized out of State ride in our first year of operation. The schedule and details for this ride are as follows:

Thursday, September 29,

Trailer or ride to Marietta, OH.

We'll be staying the night there at The Microtel Inn and Suites. A group dinner at 7:00 PM is being arranged for those who arrive in time to take part. Following dinner – around 9:00 PM there will be a mandatory Rider's Meeting at the motel, where we'll discuss the next days' ride and arrange our riding groups.

NOTE: We are looking for a volunteer(s) to

coordinate a breakfast and a "Ride Down" to Marietta for those who may wish to form up groups to ride down together.

Friday, September 30, our groups will ride a twisty, turn filled route from Marietta, OH to Lewisburg, WV. We will be staying there Friday and Saturday evening at the Quality Inn in Lewisburg, WV. At 9:00 PM there will be a mandatory Rider's Meeting at the motel, where we'll discuss the next days' ride and make any necessary changes to our riding groups.

NOTE: We will be in Lewisburg at the same time as the MSTA is holding their Fall Colors Ride **AND** we are staying in the same hotel! **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE!**

Saturday, October 1, our groups will ride one of several proposed routes/loops from and back to the hotel in Lewisburg, WV

Sunday, October 2, we will ride a 250 mile route, returning to Marietta, OH. From there everyone will either continue riding to their chosen destination for the day, or they will load up the trailers in Marietta and continue home.

If you're interested in joining us, you need to get the following done – **without delay**

1. Make your **Thursday night** reservation:

Microtel Inn & Suites
506 Pike Street
Marietta, OH 45750
Phone: 740-373-7373

If they are fully booked – there is a Hampton Inn adjacent to the Microtel and a Super 8 across the road.

2. Make your Friday and Saturday night reservations:

Quality Inn
Address
Lewisburg, WV
Phone: 304-645-7722

If the Quality Inn is sold out – there is a Hampton Inn adjacent to the QI location.

3. Contact Gregg to get your name on the

distribution list for Route Maps and further information regarding the trip. There will be a sign-up sheet for this ride at the August and September monthly meetings.

Contact Gregg Mitchell at the following:

1_of_4@mstriders.com
248-760-0841 (cell)
248-377-8170 (work)

MSTR Newsletter & Website

The MSTR Newsletter and Website (www.mstriders.com/) belong to you, the members. They both 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

MSTR Photo Gallery

The MSTR maintains a SmugMug photo gallery (<https://mstriders.smugmug.com/>) to allow members to upload and download pictures of various club events. Upload and download passwords are sent out to participants for each event. Click on the above link or visit the MSTR website and select the MSTR Photo Gallery link to check out all the events pictures.

MSTR

Dealer Members & News

BMW Motorcycles of SE Michigan www.bmwmcsem.com/

Schuberth Demo Day, Sep 24

Schuberth is introducing a wide range of new helmets this year. We are very fortunate that Peter Meade, National Sales Manager for Schuberth will be here for the entire day on Saturday, Sept 24. Peter will have the full range of helmets and be available for consultation and sizing. We may even have a few specials that day. Plan now to join us.

OKTOBERFEST **EARLY NOTICE**

Our fall classic, Oktoberfest, will be held on Saturday, Oct 1. Plan now to join us for great German food, demo rides, special pricing, entertainment and general motorcycling fun.

BMW of Grand Rapids www.bmwmcgr.com/

Ducati Detroit www.ducatidetroit.com/

Grattan Track day, Sep 26

We will be hosting two track days this year, the second being at Grattan Raceway on September 26th with Sportbike Track Time. We will have the demo bikes available to ride and lunch will be provided by Ducati Detroit. As with any normal STT track day, full classroom instruction and on-track instructors will be available, the cost is only \$195 for the day.

Transportation is available. We will also be offering bike prep in the Service Department. Registration can be completed by emailing

Trackdays@DucatiDetroit.com and payment can be completed through the Event Page via PayPal, click the link below to take you to the page.

<http://www.ducatidetroit.com/community/blog/grattan-trackday/>

Fox Powersports www.foxpowersports.com/

Genthe Honda Powersports www.genthehondapowersports.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.