



Michigan Sport Touring Report

November 2016

Editor – Ian Orr

Three Days at Barber

With Nate Kern

By Don Pennington

The weekend of May 21, 2016, Jan & I were at the 10th anniversary of BMW South East Michigan. Nate Kern was part of the celebration and had brought his race bikes to be displayed and talked about at the dealership, one of them being a BMW R9t. Nate said he would be at Barber the first week of October to participate in the Vintage Days racing program with his R9t. As we continued to talk about this event he asked why not come down and give him some encouragement as he raced. Jan thought it would be a great adventure so we booked a room close to the Barber facility.



Barber Museum

Traveling to Barber by motorcycle took three days since Jan made a route to travel back roads through Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and finally Alabama on our way to Barber. Even though we had never been to Barber,

we had heard many outstanding comments about how outstanding the facility was. Entrance onto the facility Friday morning proved all comments we had heard to be justified. The landscaping was exceptional with manicured gardens and metal sculptures scattered throughout the grounds.

Separate areas comprised vender areas, a huge motorcycle swap area, race track, camping, etc. The prize gem of the 740 acre site is the Barber Museum which is architecturally outstanding and contains a massive collection of historic motorcycles and other unique items. More on this later...

After arriving we parked our bikes, boarded the trolley, and got off at the gate to the paddock area where we located Nate at the corner of the first level of the paddocks.



Jan and Nate

Prior to our arrival he had already participated in practice laps on Thursday and this was Friday which consisted of more practice laps determining the type of tires, gear ratios, and suspension settings to use on the races to begin on Saturday and conclude on Sunday.

Nates preparation was considerable and the racing was amazing.



BMW R9t

He had prepared an R9t to race against other bikes of considerably more horse power and that were specifically designed for racing. Even with the limitations of the R9t, Nate could out corner any other rider on the track and pull away while he was doing it; however it was difficult to compete with the dominate power of other bikes on the straightaways.

Even with Nate's intense preparation and focus on racing there was still time to talk to the public and impress future racers.



Future Racer

Numerous people sat on the R9t and had their photograph taken with Nate.

Based on the two practice days, Nate earned the pole position when he raced three times on Saturday and twice on Sunday. To be successful, Nate said he had had to be first into turn one when the races began.



Nate's First into Turn One

By doing this he could gain ground and hold off the more powerful bikes on the straightaways. He accomplished this on four of the five races he participated in. Watching Nate ride was astounding – no one hung off their bike more on the curves – most of the time all that could be seen on a curve was his boot and lower leg on the seat – the rest of his body was hugging the ground.



Hanging Off

Of the five races, Nate finished 4th three times and 5th two times. One 5th place finish was after sliding the R9t across the track on the cylinder head entering a curve and the

other 5th place finish was with the rear suspension blown out. Race announcers and other racers were amazed at his accomplishments on the R9t – a bike not made or designed for racing.

Between races on Sunday, Jan & I visited the astounding Barber Museum on the site. The museum construction and presentation of motorcycles in unique ways is remarkable. Even though our viewing time was short, Jan was able to find her first motorcycle – a Honda CB350.



Jan's First Motorcycle

After three days at the race track with Nate, talking with numerous people, and seeing the hundreds of vintage bikes, it was time to say goodbye and continue our trip. The next morning Jan & I continued traveling west on our bikes looking for two towns by the name of Pennington – one in Louisiana, and the other in Texas.

2016 Life's a Beach Grand Tour

By Keith Danielson

It's been a good year for riding, with many warm days, and few rainy ones. But now November is upon us. Hopefully you have had many opportunities to get out and ride, whether for one of the organized rides, the Wednesday or Sunday rides, your own favorite place to ride, or our grand tour.

Though the season is about over for many, for a few hardy souls we're not quite done with 2016 yet. For them 2016 is still just winding down. If you are in the latter category and have been procrastinating about getting out to visit our beautiful beaches, or have been waiting for the crowds at the beaches to thin out, now is the time to do it. For the record, the crowds have dissipated, and the beaches are empty. Before the gales of November come early (que Gordon Lightfoot), it's time to visit those last couple of beaches and get your photos sent in to me.



Steve Chaikin celebrating Life's a Beach

Although the rules said that the grand tour ends on November 15, I'll accept your pictures until next Sunday, November 20, so you can get that last photo after the meeting next Saturday (I should have listed the end date as 11/20 anyway). After that, I reserve the right to not accept any more photos. I plan to get an article put together for the next newsletter with a summary of this year's grand tour.

Although the quality of Michigan roads leaves something to be desired, Michigan offers many interesting things to see and do if you look around. To that end, I already have an idea for next year's grand tour percolating through my brain. The theme has been selected, and now I'm looking at which checkpoints to choose and what kind of a catchy name I can come up with for it.

In the meantime, clean up the bike and do the service it needs, put the battery tender on, and get ready for next year's grand tour of Michigan. I'll have more information by the MOTY banquet on January 7. See you down the road.

A special thanks to **Don Pennington** and **Keith Danielson** 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 with the details.

MSTR EAST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, November 19, 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, December 10, 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 Year End Banquet

Saturday, January 7, 2017, @ 6:00 PM

All MSTRiders and guests are invited to join us for the 1st Annual MSTR Awards Banquet to be held at Karl's Cabin Restaurant. The banquet provides a great opportunity to get out of the house for an evening in the off-season, have a great dinner with your friends in the MSTR and recognize those riders who have achieved significant participation in and contribution to the MSTR in its very first year.

Karl's Cabin is located at 6005 Gotfredson Rd, Plymouth, Michigan. Your RSVP and pre-payment are required. A signup form will be sent out by MailChimp and will be available at the December breakfast meetings.

MSTR 2016 Rides



One of the goals of the MSTR is to organize a few multi-day rides each year specifically for MSTRiders in some of the premier riding areas in the Midwest and Southeast. All of these rides are limited to those who are current MSTRiders.

2016 MSTR Mileage Program

January 1 – December 17

The MSTR is running an informal mileage program for MSTRiders to track and compare their yearly miles with other riders. 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". Go to the MSTR website (www.mstriders.com/) and visit the Events page for additional details.

2017 MSTR Event Calendar

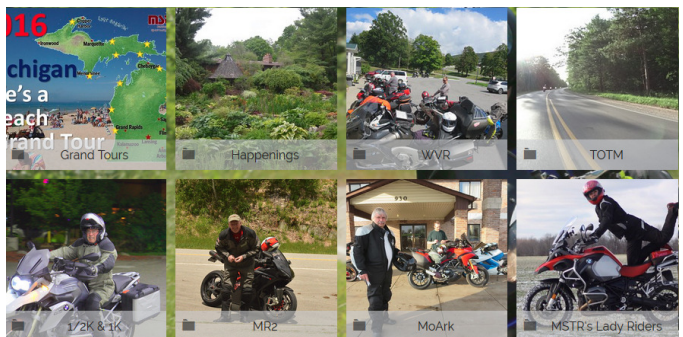
The 2017 MSTR Event Calendar is taking shape. Check out the events and dates at the Event page on the MSTR website (www.mstriders.com/).

MSTR Newsletter & Website

The MSTR Newsletter and Website (www.mstriders.com/) belong to you, the MSTRiders. 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 MSTRiders 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 event pictures.



MSTR Dealer Members & News

BMW Motorcycles of SE Michigan
www.bmwmcsem.com/

Open House
December 10th

BMW of Grand Rapids
www.bmwmcgr.com/

Christmas Open House
December 3rd, 9am to 3pm

Come celebrate the holidays with us! We will have snacks and live music, not to mention MOTORCYCLES!

Ducati Detroit
www.ducaticetroit.com/

Fox Powersports
www.foxpowersports.com/

Black Friday Sales Event
November 25th, 9am to 7pm

Please patronize the following businesses owned by your fellow MSTR Members, whenever possible.



June 2016
FREE

Midwest Motorcyclist
Celebrating 18 Years
The Complete Guide to Motorcycling in the Midwest

Test Ride:
2016 Harley-Davidson Street Glide
Smooth, Cool & Fast

Also in this issue:
Destination Ride
Nelson Riggs
Tank Bag Review
Handlebar Tech Talk

Exclusive First Ride:
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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.