



Michigan Sport Touring Report

April 2017

Editor – Ian Orr

Reminiscing

By Ian Orr

I didn't receive any articles this month and don't have any saved. The following two stories are from my riding days in northern Ontario,

2017 will be my 40th year of riding motorcycles. Like many of you I've amassed a collection of statistics, stories and memories. I'll spare you the drudgery of reading through 40 years of detailed statistics such as total miles, # of bikes, highest speed, longest ride, # of accidents, longest day, # of tickets, highest mileage year, lowest mileage year, etc. (582,000, 12, 174, 4,700, 4, 1150, 2, 1980, 1993). I've compiled a selection of memories that still stand out years later. These memories were formed riding solo, riding with old friends, new friends and, of course riding with you, fellow MSTRiders. Here are two:

Dueling lights

In order to travel safely at night in northern Ontario (few deer but a lot of moose) installing big, high wattage headlights and driving lights are the key to survival. In a fit of "one-upsmanship" my friend, Mark, and I ended up with 120w/100w headlights, two narrow beam 150w driving lights (my bike) and two 150w aircraft landing lights (Mark's bike). Back in those days I rode a big touring bike capable of powering a small town so wattage was not a problem.

During an early evening run on a northern highway (both of us running on low beam headlights only) we encountered a semi with

one poorly aimed low beam. You know the kind – that single headlight is aimed directly at you and you can't escape its piercing glare. Almost simultaneously Mark and I switched to our 120w high beams – sort of a visual "up yours". In reply the front of the semi lit up as the driver returned our optic assault and turned on his high beams plus two, low wattage fog lamps. Giggling like the children we were Mark and I flicked our driving lights to ON. The entire road in front of us lit up with an explosion of brilliant white light. So much light in fact that it reflected off the semi back into our faces. Moments later I swear I heard the semi driver cackle as he leaned forward and pressed a button surely marked "supernova". There was an audible "whoomp" as 4 gigantic driving lights erupted to life from somewhere in front of us, spewing billions of photons on our direction. Seems semi drivers like to see objects at night like everyone else. Every object and feature in our vicinity disappeared, not to become bathed in light but to become light itself. We were floating in a sea of pure white, eyelids squeezed shut, heads cowed slightly downwards but unable to stop the white energy from painfully irradiating our retinas. An instant later the pain stopped as the semi blasted past only to be replaced by a violent swirling gale and total inky blackness. Blinking rapidly and desperately turning our heads in a futile attempt to see anything we simultaneously slowed to a stop – right in the center of the highway. Fortunately for us there was no traffic in either direction (after all this was northern Ontario). We sat long enough for the bright white spots in our eyes to dull first to yellow and then to gray.

Yes officer ...

Many of us like to ride along a few mph above the posted limit. Some like to hurtle along at some whole number increment of the posted limit. Getting nabbed is always a possibility. If nabbed we may or may not be written up but the message is clear – the law does not condone speeding. But what do you do if a police officer TELLS you to speed?

Many years ago a group of touring and sport-touring bikes were returning from a lazy afternoon of touring distant backroads when they came upon a police roadblock. Seems the driver of tanker truck, carrying a volatile chemical, had dozed off in the middle of a gentle right-hand turn and left the road. The truck ended up on its side in the median, liquid contents spilling slowly into the grass. Upon reaching the ground the liquid reacted with ground water, causing a thin white fog. For the most part the fog dissipated into the air before it reached the highway on either side of the median. Every once in while it built up into a sizable cloud before wafting slowly across the road far in front of us. There were squad cars positioned on both sides of the divided highway and at both ends of the spill (about 2 miles apart) and the police communicated back and forth trying to decide what to do. After determining the liquid was only mildly corrosive and the fog less so they decided to let the traffic through in small groups – we were the first group. An officer approached our group with walkie-talkie in hand. I heard the policeman on the far side of the spill speak over the walkie-talkie “Tell everyone to roll their windows up and turn their fans off”. Our policeman replied “These guys are all on motorcycles”. The far policeman’s voice squawked “Tell them to watch the fog and, as soon as it clears, go as fast as they can”. You could have heard a pin drop – we had just been authorized to “go as fast as we can”. We sat there as a single non-smiling, non-moving entity – everyone wearing their best poker face, lest we tip off the constabulary to what was about to happen. Riders and passengers re-positioned

themselves and loosened up stiff muscles in preparation. A slight breeze cleared the fog from the ground. The glorious words “Go ahead” came for the officer. We inched slowly forward, giving the tail-end riders space to clear “our” policeman (didn’t want to tip him off until it was too late). And then, as a single twelve-hundred horsepower, 16 wheel entity, we whacked the throttles wide open. I will never forget the moment, surrounded by almost 9 liters of screaming, wailing motorcycle engines individually spinning toward redlines, clutch-less up-shifts and someone’s on-board stereo howling out Springsteen’s anthem “Born to Run” (we always were a melodramatic bunch!), wind-driven tears flowing from our eyes. As we approached our benefactor (that would be the officer who said “go as fast as they can”) at well into triple digit speeds we could see his demeanor change. Shoulders slumped down, head rolled forward onto his chest as he began a slow side-to-side head shake as if to say “I can’t believe I actually told them to go as fast as they can”! High speed prevented us from waving our thanks so we blasted our horns in a chorus of united joy as we passed – head still forward he merely raised one hand in acknowledgement “You’re welcome”.

Remember... All published articles earn a free breakfast and your articles will be appreciated by your fellow members and the newsletter editor, and you will also earn points toward the **2017 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 **WEST Breakfast Meeting**

Saturday, May 6, 2017, @ 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. Breakfast will be available for \$11 plus tax & tip. Bart Reiter will be moderating this meeting.

MSTR **EAST Breakfast Meeting**

Saturday, April 22, 2017, @ 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. Augie Fernandes will be moderating this meeting.



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 MSTRiders. There are many rides that have been scheduled. The dates for most events have already been set and are listed on the Events page of the MSTR Website (www.mstriders.com).

2017 MSTR **Deposed Depots Grand Tour**

March 25 – November 19, 2017
Michigan

With spring already here, and the riding season under way, the details are being finalized for the MSTR 2017 grand tour. The theme for this year is old railroad depots. Michigan has a rich history of railroads. Before the advent of the automobile and today's road infrastructure, businesses relied on the railroads for transportation of raw materials and products from and to the far corners of the state, and railroads were the fastest means for people to get around the state. Most towns that the railroad passed through had a depot where people and cargo could get on or off the train. Some were large and elaborate, others were a small one room building near the tracks, but all were easily identifiable as a railroad depot. Today, many of these have been abandoned or repurposed and relocated.



Grandest Deposited Depot of them all
Michigan Central Station, Detroit

Keith is calling this year's grand tour the 2017 Michigan Deposited Depots Grand Tour. As in the past, we will have 14 checkpoints, with 8 in the Lower Peninsula, and 6 in the Upper Peninsula. A grand tour has minimal organization – there are no routes, no planned hotel stops, and no organized group rides – only checkpoints. It is completed at your own leisure, whichever weekend or weekday you choose to go for a ride. You can visit one checkpoint each day, or a few each weekend, or plan a route around the state to visit all 14 in one trip. You can do it

alone, or you can find one or more riding buddies to share the experience with. Additionally, you can earn up to 3 extra credit points for each checkpoint (42 extra credit points total) for stopping to see other Michigan attractions. These can be other depots, museums, historical points of interest, scenic attractions, tourist attractions, and unique Michigan restaurants. Most importantly, it is a good excuse to go out for a ride on your motorcycle and see some of the history and beauty that Michigan has to offer.

Keith is still picking the depots we'll be visiting, but intend to have it all finalized in time to send out information packets and begin visiting checkpoints on March 25. All photo proofs of your visits will be due to me by November 19.

Ride Organizer: Keith Danielson
keith.danielson@wowway.com

Fair Weather Frolic

Dates: April 27-30
Marietta, OH

This ride is for people who can only afford one day off for a trip and can easily ask to take Friday off with little notice.

The ride will only happen on one of the proposed weekends and IF the weather for that weekend looks like we will wake up to ~50+F temps each day with little to no possibly of rain.

Schedule:

- 1st Day (Thursday) – ride/drive down in afternoon, after work
- Friday - ride
- Sat - ride
- Sunday - possibly ride in the morning for a few hours, saddle up, drive home

Russ McClelland will call the ball on Tuesday of that week if the weather is in our favor, and if you can join us, reply back to Russ quickly and organize quickly how you're

going to travel. If the weather is never favorable, then the ride won't happen on any of the weekends.

Russ's trailer can accommodate 4 bikes. For those that wish to ride, please feel free to meet us there. Russ live in Walled Lake/Novi for trailer meetup point.

Ride Organizer: Russ McClelland
russell.mcclelland@gmail.com

MoArk Adventure 10

April 12-15, 2017
Missouri/Arkansas

This ride is a "curve-chaser's" delight. Three days of riding and 1,000 tire-shredding miles in the Ozarks to start out your riding season.

Ride HQ: Day 1 (April 12):
Super 8 (www.super8.com)
930 Valley Creek Drive, Int. of Hwy 67 & 32,
Farmington, MO, 63640.
Phone: 573-756-0344

Ride HQ: Days 2 & 3 (April 13 & 14):
The Comfort Inn (www.comfortinn.com)
1031 Highland Circle, Mountain Home, AR,
7265.
Phone: 870-424-9000

This ride begins in Farmington, MO. We'll meet there for dinner on Wednesday, April 12. There will be a mandatory rider's meeting at the Super 8 around 9:00 PM following a dinner at Dexter BBQ (next door to the hotel). On Thursday, we'll be taking a twisty route from Farmington, MO to Mountain Home, AR. We'll be staying Thursday, April 13 and Friday, April 14 at the Comfort Inn. On Friday we'll be riding on some of the best roads in Arkansas that are south and west of Mountain Home. We'll return to Farmington, MO from Mountain Home on Saturday.

Ride Organizer: Gregg Mitchell
pancho9450@earthlink.net

ROUGH RIDER 1/2-K RIDE

**Saturday, May 6, 2017
Michigan**

The 5th annual *Rough Rider 1/2-K* day-ride is just under 1 month away. JT Pedersen is working on the details and will have a sign-up list available at upcoming breakfast meetings.

Organizer: JT Pedersen
jt.pedersen@live.com



**International Female Ride Day
Saturday, May 6, 2017**

**MSTR Ladies Ride Day
Sunday, May 7, 2017**

There are three events on May 6; the West side MSTR breakfast in Ionia, the Rough Rider 1/2 K Ride and the International Female Ride Day.

If you are going to the West side breakfast meeting & want to ride afterwards, that would qualify as 'Female Riding'. Last year there were three MSTR females who joined in on the 1/2 K Ride! That was Fun! If you are riding on the 1/2 K, just think of ALL the other Ladies riding too!



MJ Allmond polled several ladies at the last breakfast meeting & the consensus was to have the MSTR Ladies Ride Day on Sunday, May 7th. There's already a general Sunday ride that starts in Pinkney, so the ladies that show up, could just ride as a group.

So Ladies, SAVE the Date, Sunday May 7th 2017 for the **First MSTR Ladies Ride Day!** More information to follow.

Organizer: MJ Allmond
vtxchick@hotmail.com



**Michigan Renegade Mountain Ride
May 14–20, 2017
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
Phone: 828-456-4402

A block of rooms are being held as follows:

- Check-in: On or after Saturday, May 14, check-out: Saturday, May 21.

- \$70/night + tax. Same rate for King and Double, 24hr cancellation. The Inn may also allow you to book early and stay later at this rate - you might need to sweet talk them a bit. Request the MSTRiders rooms and rate

Add your name to the sign-up list of those planning to attend at any of our monthly meetings or send an email to Ian as noted below. Be sure to make your hotel reservations early. As of April 9 we have 60 MSTRiders signed up.

Ride Organizer: Ian Orr
Communications@mstriders.com

ROUGH RIDER 1K VII

**Roughrider 1000, "Heartland Tornado"
 Saturday, June 3**



Heartland Tornado

By this time, all the bikes should be warmed up, ready to go with little more than an excuse

to get out on the road. Most of you will have scuffed the tires, been on a trip or two and be ready for this year's Seventh Annual, MSTR Roughrider 1000, "Heartland Tornado"; a 1000 mile continuous ride to be completed in less than 24 Hours.

The ride, in the customary manner, will begin at the Speedway Station on Haggerty Rd, Northville, and follow an interstate route westerly towards Gary, Indiana, then southeasterly through Indianapolis and Louisville, then south to Cave City, Kentucky. After a lunch stop, we will continue our return trip northerly on I-85/I-75 through Cincinnati, Lima, Toledo and home to the point of beginning.

The route will qualify for the Iron Butt Saddle Sore 1000 for which, each rider may apply. Since the beginning of the Rough Rider event over 100 riders have earned the MSTR and the IBA Certificates. The riders meeting will be held at Southwest Michigan BMW on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be served. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April and May monthly meetings. If you have questions or want to sign up, please contact Terry Odom. We look forward to riding with you. Terry Odom, Keith Danielson, John Horner and Peter Stephan.

Organizer: Terry Odom
tjopc1@gmail.com

MSO **Mid South Odyssey**

**June 15-18, 2017
 Middlesboro, KY**

Steve Gross is the event organizer for the Mid South Odyssey ride in Middlesboro, KY. Steve is working on the details and will have sign-up sheets available at the April and May breakfast meetings.

Organizer: Steve Gross
stevegross@ameritech.net

BGB

Blue Grass Boogie

July 13–16, 2017
Morehead, KY

Kelly McCrystal has volunteered to be the cat herder for the Blue Grass Boogie. The routes are already done and we'll be staying at the same location as last year. Sign-up sheets will be available at the April and May breakfast meetings.

Organizer: Kelly McCrystal
kmcc927@comcast.net

BBR 2

Barn Burn Raid 2

August 17–20, 2017
Marietta, OH

This is an early ride-hotel announcement. The ride hotel has agreed to hold a block of rooms at a reduced rate and recommended booking these rooms now to ensure availability due to other (non-motorcycle) group bookings.

Ride HQ: All week
Best Western Plus Marietta Hotel
701 Pike St, Marietta, OH 45750
Phone: 740 374-9660

A block of 40 rooms are being held as follows:

- Check-in: On or after Wednesday, August 16, check-out: Sunday, August 20. \$76/night + tax. Same rate for King and Doubles. Request the MSTRiders rooms and rate
- I requested ground floor for all the rooms, which they will try to meet
- After July 19 the blocked rooms will be released to the general public. If there are rooms available AFTER July 19 we'll still get the \$76 rate. If we need more than 40 rooms we'll still get the \$76 rate

- As with all MSTR events with a pre-arranged reduced rate room these are ONLY available to MSTRiders. Anyone not on the attendee list provided to the hotel prior to the event will have their room rate increased to the standard rate

The sign-up sheet for BBR 2 will be available at the April and May West and East meetings. The routes will be similar to last year's BBR event.

Ride Organizer: Ian Orr
Communications@mstriders.com

SEE

Solar Eclipse Event

August 21, 2017
White House, TN

A total solar eclipse will occur on Monday, August 21, 2017, which is the day after the 2017 Barn Burn Raid. Vince Cardinale is gathering names of interested riders to gauge interest as follows:

Observe the eclipse from or near White House, TN, which also provides the most direct and shortest return to the Detroit Metro region. There are several hotels in or near White House, which is approximately 6h 40m from Marietta, OH by expressway. The optimal local viewing location would be the Cherry Mound Baptist Church parking lot, which will enjoy 2' 39" of totality.

- Partial phase starts at 11:58AM (CDT)
- Totality starts at 1:26PM (CDT)
- Partial phase ends at 2:53PM (CDT)

All participants should wear eclipse glasses such as these: [eclipse glasses](#). Check the [eclipse map](#) to see the full eclipse path.

Don't wait too long on this. A total solar eclipse is an international event so good rooms will go quickly.

Organizer: Vince Cardinale
vincent6355@att.net

MSTR Newsletter & Website

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

BMW of Grand Rapids
www.bmwmcgr.com/

College Bike Shop
www.collegebikeshop.com/

Ducati Detroit
www.ducatidetroit.com/

Fox Powersports
www.foxpowersports.com/

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

Chip Ashton

CJ'S HEAD & HOLE SHOP
Head & Boring Service for 2 & 4 cycle engines
248-683-6344

1140 Shady Lane ♦ Waterford, MI 48327

BellaCorse SEL-MOTION MOTORSPORTS MARKETING
POB 760403, LATHRUP VILLAGE, MI 48076
TEL: 248.569.2850 FAX: 309.422.2407
www.bellacorse.com



MICHAEL SELMAN
sales@bellacorse.com

1-248-853-4333

Glenn V Brechner Welding, Inc.

303 S. Grey Rd
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

web site www.mywelder.net e-mail qvbweldinginc@aol.com

"metal welded or brazed repair or production"

Get a GRIP! **PETE MEYER**

HAMMERGRIPS
CUSTOM CUT TANK GRIPS



bighammer@chartermi.net
(231) 499-7935
1800 Nelson Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686

OZONE BIKE WORKS

Dave "O" Ostaszewski
State Certified Master Motorcycle Mechanic
We service all makes, models, foreign and domestic.

Union Lake, MI • 313.663.2836
daveo@ozonebikeworks.com • ozonebikeworks.com

OUR COMPLETE LIST OF PERSONALIZED SERVICES

- Mechanical repair and maintenance of all brands
- Cylinder boring and valve-jobs
- Carburetor cleaning, restoration and synchronizing
- Plastic and metal repair
- OEM, powder coating, replica and custom painting
- Accessory installations (GPS, electrical, lights, exhaust and suspension)
- Tire changing and disposal
- Free pick-up and delivery within 20 miles
- Servicing sport, dirt, touring and cruiser bikes.



WILLIAM W. WEBB, PRIVATE ATTORNEY
248-647-9000
Author of the The Traffic Ticket Maze
<http://statebar.net/trafficticket.pdf>



BMW Motorcycles of Grand Rapids



Blane Kamp
General Manager

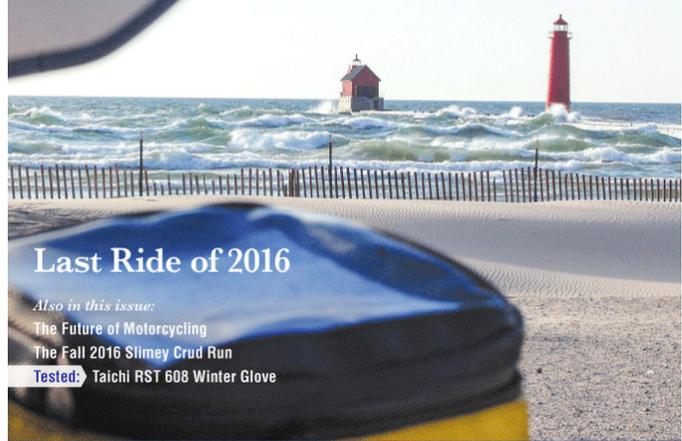
616.530.6900
Fax: 616.530.8421
5995 South Division Grand Rapids, MI 49548
blane.kamp@bmwmcgr.com / www.bmwmcgr.com

January 2017
FREE



midwestmotorcyclist.com

Midwest Motorcyclist
Celebrating 19 Years
The Complete Guide to Motorcycling in the Midwest



Last Ride of 2016

Also in this issue:
The Future of Motorcycling
The Fall 2016 Slimey Crud Run
Tested: Taichi RST 608 Winter Glove

Happy New Year!



DUCATI DETROIT 248.792.8999
MICHIGAN'S EXCLUSIVE DUCATI DEALER

33828 Woodward Ave
Birmingham, MI 48009 | DucatiDetroit.com

