



Michigan Sport Touring Report

February 2018

Editor – Ian Orr

Success... created behind the scenes

By John Cirner

For any of us who have attended an MSTR activity we are fortunate enough to have enjoyed a great time, with great friends, at an event that created some lasting memories over the years. What many of us do not know about is the hours of work by the individuals who are brave enough to step up to make the memories happen for the rest of us. They are the reason we are lucky to enjoy so many great rides, breakfast meetings, social events and countless perks without expectation of the recognition they so deserve. While I'm fairly certain they would be reluctant to accept the applause, and might not even be comfortable to print this article in the newsletter, I thought it was time to point the spotlight in their direction.

I can tell you that after many years of volunteering to run events for the MSTR and other organizations it is a more difficult task than you might imagine. Typically an event that comes off as successful (as measured by how smooth things go and how good a time the attendees have) is accomplished by good planning and hours of effort behind the scenes. We have a number of volunteers in the MSTR that have taken the lead to provide us with some great times. The recent and very successful MSTR year-end banquet was the catalyst that sparked my creative impulse to put together this extended "thank you note" to the numerous individuals who make it all happen.

Let me begin by stating there is no way I could possibly recognize (or remember) every single

MSTR member that has taken a leadership role or contributed to an event or ride so please pardon any omissions. We all do it for the personal satisfaction of seeing people have a good time anyway so I'm comfortable knowing no one's feelings will be hurt!

Starting with the "founding fathers" of our relatively new MSTR group, special thanks goes out to Augie Fernandez, Ian Orr, Gregg Mitchell and Bart Reiter for putting the wheels on this organization. Their insight and leadership played a huge part in the accelerated launch and growth of our group to over 200 members. The transition from MSTA to MSTR was for the most part seamless and smooth and could not have happened without hours of back room planning and organizing. We all know that the members make the group a success (pat yourselves on the back) but these guys managed to herd the mass majority of "cats" into one group with minimal scratches and attitude adjustments. I have lived with cats most of my life and that is no easy task!

From the monthly East AND West side breakfast meetings, MSTRiders website, monthly newsletter, photo gallery, mileage program, numerous rides, social events, awards, t-shirts, hats, 50/50 raffles and so much more I can assure you these things don't just happen on their own! Again, it's the members and the leadership (herding) that make this all appear so smooth and effortless because of great planning and a desire to have fun with the hobby we all love so much.

A big thank you to everyone and anyone who has volunteered as an event leader over the years from the days of the HSTA, MSTA and MSTR. From the MoArk adventure, annual

Using an iPhone or Android as a Motorcycle GPS?

By Roger Zander

Is it a good choice for you? Here are some considerations:

Do you already have a GPS mounted on your bike, is it working well and can it be updated to current maps for free? If that is the case, you may want to ignore the rest of this article. If you do not have a GPS for your motorcycle and do have a smart phone, then you can save a lot of money by using the phone as a GPS. If you have older maps on your GPS and want to avoid paying for updates, you can also save money by using your phone as a GPS. However, if you try to use Google maps for navigation, it is very difficult to get onto and stay on the best motorcycle riding roads.

There are a number of motorcycle apps available for your phone. Since I have an iPhone, those from the App Store are the ones available to me. The most highly rated iPhone apps are: inRoute, Rever and Scenic. They all are free (no advertisements) with some premium add-on features. These apps allow you to create and import motorcycle routes.



Real motorcycle GPS units should come with some type of mounting hardware. Mounting a

Grand Tour, Rough Rider half and full rides, Ladies Ride Day, MR2, Mid-South Odyssey, Blue Grass Boogie, Barn Burner, Sunday and Wednesday Morning rides and the Tip of the Mitt (my personal favorite!) we have more ride events for members than most have time to attend! Leading these events, organizing the accommodations, planning the routes and GPS maps, holding the riders meetings and all the other prep and organizing is quite time consuming for those who volunteer their free time for our rides. Gregg Mitchell , Keith Danielson, JT Pedersen, Terry Odom, MJ Allmond, Ian Orr, Steve Gross, Kelly McCrystal, Dave O, Peter Stephan, and others I might have missed ...we thank you!

From time to time we actually get off the bikes to enjoy some great social events like Don and Jan Pennington's Summer Sizzler and Bart & Marian's MSTR Picnic. All they require from us is to show up and have a great time ... what could be easier? I cannot finish this extended thank you note without recognizing our Dealer Members and businesses owned by MSTR members. John Horner and BMW of SE Michigan, Charlie Knoll and Ducati Detroit, and others are always welcoming MSTR members at their dealership events.

And then there was the MSTR year-end banquet! All you had to do was walk through the door of the private room at Karl's Kabin to appreciate the effort that went into the evening's success. From the decorations throughout the room (thank you Sue Ozimek for the creative centerpieces), the fabulous dessert table (thank you Charlie Knoll and Ducati Detroit) and of course our official "MSTR Hugger" (I would thank you MJ but we all know you enjoy it as much if not more than we do) we all enjoyed the efforts of a great team and organization. The members might make the MSTR group as good as it is but it's the volunteers (AKA cat herders) that make the rides and events a success!

Again, thank you all!

phone requires some means to secure it from vibrating loose or popping out with a road impact. RAM mounts is one option to look at. I have a RAM 4 finger spring grip that works well, when I want to see my phone.

The location for the mounting needs to be where the screen can be easily seen without moving your line of sight very far off the road ahead. Usually that will be somewhere centered between the handgrips. For the phone screen to be seen in the daytime, the display brightness may need to be set to maximum.

Will you want to touch the screen to make changes? First, you will need to easily reach it with your left hand. Second, your glove fingertips will need to be compatible for phone touch screens.

Running the GPS and having a bright display will rapidly drain the battery. You will need to consider leaving a charger plugged into the phone so that it will run for a full days ride.

If you want to hear voice directions from the phone GPS, a Bluetooth headset in the helmet or Bluetooth ear buds will be required. Running a 3.5 mm speaker wire from the phone to your headset is an option but it can easily get pulled out. Doing this is really old school and looks totally uncool.

Exposure to the elements is a serious consideration. Sunlight can overheat a phone and water from rain or road spray should be avoided (even if the phone is "water-resistant"). A waterproof case for the phone may solve the water issue. Another potential problem is exposure to a fuel splash. A real GPS for a motorcycle is resistant to these exposure hazards.

A special thanks to John Cirner and Roger Zander for their articles and pictures featured this month.

Remember... All published articles earn a free breakfast, entry into the year-end newsletter drawing AND your articles will be

appreciated by your fellow members and the newsletter editor, and you will also earn points toward the **2018 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, February 24, 2018, @ 9:00 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, March 10, 2018, @ 9:00 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. Keith Danielson will be moderating this meeting. Breakfast will be available for \$11 plus tax & tip. **Note the start time has changed to 9:00 AM.**



MSTR 2018 Rides

In 2017 we'll have a similar number of events for MSTRiders to attend.

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

MoArk Adventure 11

April 18-21, 2018
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. Check your tires for tread prior to this ride – the roads here will chew them up aggressively.

Ride HQ: Day 1 (April 18):

Holiday Inn Express (www.hiexpress.com)
820 Market St, Farmington, MO 63640
Farmington, MO, 63640
Phone: 573-701-0505

Note: For the budget conscious the Super 8 across the road is an alternative

Ride HQ: Days 2 & 3 (April 19 & 20):

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 18. There will be a mandatory rider's meeting at the Holiday Inn Express 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 19 and Friday, April 20 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, April 21.

To join us at **MoArk 11** add your name to the sign-up list at any of our monthly meetings or send an email to Gregg as noted below. Be sure to make your hotel reservations early.

Ride Organizer: Gregg Mitchell
g.mitchell0549@gmail.com



Michigan Renegade Mountain Ride
May 13–19, 2018
Waynesville, NC

There will be two days of travel and five days of riding on some of the best motorcycle roads in the US. We stay at one location and, each day, choose from any one of 20 different routes. Most riders will ride anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 miles so be sure to have good tires with lots of tread.

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 13, check-out: Saturday, May 21.
- \$75/night + tax. Same rate for King and Double, 24hr cancellation. Request the MSTRiders rooms and rate

The ride begins and ends in Waynesville, NC. There will be a mandatory rider's meeting at the hotel on Sunday, May 14 at 8pm.

On Wednesday, May 16th we'll have a group dinner at Fat Buddy's BBQ. You must indicate on the sign-up sheet if you plan to join us.

The hotel owner added a BBQ grill for our use, so about one week before the event starts we'll

pick one warm and dry evening to have an onsite group cookout. Those who want to join in can either bring their own food for the BBQ or, as we did last year, pick it up at a local grocery store.

To join us for **mr2** add your name on the sign-up list at any of our monthly meetings or send an email to Ian as noted below. Be sure to make your hotel reservations early. Event information including Rider Information Packages and GPS routes will only be sent to those who have signed up.

Ride Organizer: Ian Orr
Communications@mstriders.com

MSO

Mid South Odyssey

For 2018 the **MSO** event, held in mid-June, will be put on hiatus to encourage MSTRiders to attend the new **7R2** event.

7R2

7 Ranges Ride

June 28–Jul1, 2018
St. Clairsville, OH

If you are like me, you are counting the days until riding season. You might even be thinking about which club rides to go on this summer. And I'm here to give you a new choice and make the decision more difficult. But first, a few gratuitous pictures of twisty roads to get you in the mood.

Exploring always has been in my DNA, so the idea of having a new ride in a new area is very appealing. After some scouting, I'm ready to offer the "7 Ranges Ride" or 7R2 for weekend of June 28 thru July 1.



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Where – The routes are north of the Marietta routes, sharing a few roads along the way, and run in Ohio, W. Virginia, and Pennsylvania. We almost make it to Maryland, but the roads are better in WV, so I skipped Maryland.

Base of Operations – St. Clairsville, Ohio, a suburb of Wheeling. Towing time is the same as Marietta.

Routes – At the moment, I have 5 routes between 240 and 300 miles long. The roads are very good with lots of variety. They range from narrow backroads with no centerline to a 30 miles stretch of smooth highway sweepers. The countryside varies from quaint farmland to hollars down by the creek to forest on good size mountains.

As for the routes themselves, we have The Dragon, Ohiopyle Falls, Wypm's Gap, Mohican River, and Gnadenhutten. In truth, we don't actually ride into Gnadenhutten, only nearby, but I just like saying it.

The Dragon – Down at MR2 you only get the tail, but here you get the whole Dragon. Actually, in this part of West Virginia, the highways are named after the local sports team, so the Dragon Highway is named after the Cameron Dragons. We also have the Hundred Hornets Highway and the North Marion Husky Highway. These roads are mainly state highways with higher speeds and good sight lines. But that doesn't mean they are boring. They put a smile on my face everytime.

Ohiopyle Falls – Ohiopyle is in the heart of the Youghiogheny River country. The mountains here are bigger than the hills we normally see in Ohio and WV. The Ohiopyle route is mainly in W. Virginia and Pennsylvania. It is pretty evenly divided between small backroads and higher speed highways. My favorite sweeper section is on this route.

For those architecture enthusiasts, there are two Frank Lloyd Wright houses near Ohiopyle that are open for tours in the summer. Kentuck Knob is on the route just west of Ohiopyle and Falling Water is just east of Ohiopyle about 2 miles off the route. If you shortcut the first part of the Ohiopyle route by freeway/toll road, you can save almost 1½ hours and have time to take a tour. I am told that the tickets sell out in

advance, so it's best to plan this option well in advance.



Wypm's Gap – The Wypm's Gap ride runs in W. Virginia and Pennsylvania and has an extra dollop of small roads with tighter twists and narrow roads. Great roads, but you may be tired by the end of the day.

Mohican River – This entire area is the home of many Amish communities, so you may see Amish on any of the routes. But the route that comes the closest to a large group of Amish is the Mohican River route. It runs along the edge of the Holmes County Amish communities. Make sure you wave to the Amish. The young people especially seem to be intrigued by motorcycles.

Of course, that also means an interesting choice for lunch. The first opportunity is a small town bar in Glenmont. But if you are curious to try something else, there are two Amish staffed restaurants near Charm, Ohio, a small side trip off the route. Both restaurants are listed on the GPS.

History – You may ask why name it the 7 Ranges Ride? In the 1780's, when the United States was a new country, the first survey by the new government was along the frontier in the eastern part of Ohio. It ran 7 townships west from Stubenville and south along the Ohio River with the most southern townships touching the river east of Marietta. A range is the east-west dimension of a township, so the survey was known as the 7 Ranges Survey and the area of Ohio we are riding in is still known as the 7 Ranges country.

The roads have an interesting history too. In 1796, Ebenezer Zane got funding from Congress to make a settlement road going west from Wheeling that arced southwest across Ohio and rejoined the Ohio River at Maysville, KY. It was known as Zane's Trace.

In the 1830's, Congress authorized the first federal highway. It started in Cumberland, Maryland (the end of navigable waters on the Potomac), ran northwest to Wheeling, along the route of Zanes Trace, and then straight west to the Mississippi River. As the first federal highway, it is known as the National Road and today's US40 mainly follows the route of the old National Road. Our route wanders along the National Road on both sides of the river.

If you decide to ride the 9 miles into Wheeling for dinner and you cross from Wheeling Island to Wheeling on Virginia Street, you will be crossing the Ohio River on a suspension bridge from the original National Road. When it was built in 1849, it was the largest suspension bridge in the world. Still in use with weight limitations, it remains the oldest vehicular suspension bridge still in use.

I hope I have wetted your appetite for riding some new country and will join me on the 7 Ranges Ride.

Ride Organizer: Jac Brown
jac.brown@2020comm.net

Check the MSTR Events webpage for dates and details for the above events.

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.

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Escaping Winter in Baja

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