



Michigan Sport Touring Report

September 2018

Editor – Rachel Durling

Thank You!

By: *MJ Allmond*

So, what do you do when you wind up chatting with our lovely newsletter editor with a drink in your hand? Well, you volunteer to write an article for the MSTR Newsletter of course.

First, I want to give a big shout of THANKS out to Bart Reiter and his lovely wife Marian for putting on an incredible spread for their picnic over Labor Day weekend. The weather was great, hot but good, except for that one small cloud, even though the sky was blue and the sun was shining there was just that one small cloud that drizzled a tiny bit but I don't think anyone got wet. Like I said, the food was great, Marian worked her magic with the grill, a few 'pops' and good friends to share the camaraderie. Oops, I can't forget to tell you about the desserts, Loret's 'Golden Balls' were FABULOUS! What!! You don't know what 'Golden Balls' are..... I guess you'll just have to come to next year's picnic (I heard a rumor that Bart is already planning for next year, so put it on your calendar now!) and hope that Loret will once again bring her 'Golden Balls'! 'Nuff said!



Second, I want to THANK Keith for setting up the Barn Burn Raid! I had a really great time. (Other than the BW, but that's another story.) The weather looked to be a washout at first glance but when you ride a motorcycle, who believes the weather report. My group of loyal followers had 3 very enjoyable days of riding and never got wet! I think everyone in my group got to ride where they wanted to, how they wanted to and had fun! Gala, I'm so glad you brought Liza down to hang out with us. I will say that there was a lot of construction on the roads which made for an interesting ride to say the least, like going around a curve downhill only to find a stop light in the middle of nowhere. WOW! Sorry Chip!



My group wound up going slightly OFF course one day. I thought we were on a goat path of sorts, but Jac knew just the road I was talking about. The road started off as a nice two lane road, windy road with lines down the middle then the lines disappeared and the road started to shrink! It was still slightly paved except where half the road had washed out. I was sure I was hearing Deliverance banjo music coming from somewhere in the distance. We persevered and finally wound up 'SOMEWHERE ON 250' then managed to find our way back to the motel with dark clouds looming ahead, but no liquid sunshine! All-in-all it was a great 3 days of riding! Thanks for sticking it out with me guys & gals! HUGS!!

“Why should I join an old man motorcycle group”?

By: Rachel Durling

The title of this article is the exact same statement that I had been telling my Dad for about a year, back from about 2010-2011. My now husband, Max and I, had been dating for about 2 years at the time and he had helped me get my first sport bike, a 1996 Honda CBR 600. That was a good little bike for me to learn how to motorcycle on but looking back, we come a long way.

My first contact with the club, then the MSTA, was when my Mom couldn't go to the annual banquet with my Dad and he needed a date, so I went. I sat next to Keith Danielson and he had a binder full of text and pictures of him taking apart his CBR 600 F4. In my head, I was thinking, “this guy is really into all things motorcycles in the most detailed oriented way ever”. Everyone was so welcoming and fun, I thought I can see why my Dad hangs out with these people.

The next spring my Dad was raving over riding his motorcycle in the Smoky Mountains and he offered to take us to go to the Mountain Madness ride at the Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge in Robbinsville, NC the spring of 2011 but we needed to become

members first to go on the ride. I remember Max saying, “Why do we have to join a motorcycle club to ride roads in NC”? We joined anyway, my Dad was so excited and we didn't know what we were in for!



We arrived at the Mountain Madness ride with only riding jackets, helmets and gloves; riding in work boots. Max and I were met by Steve Gross with a warm welcome but also an appropriately stern warning about the roads in the Smoky Mountains and some helpful riding tips. Steve was right though, I thought the first few turns just coming out of the Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge were the best roads I had ever ridden on, that was probably true but not for long. We were amazed at the beauty and the fun of riding on curvy and scenic roads like the Cherohala Skyway, Deals Gap, 28 and others. At that point I knew one of the reasons that you join an old man motorcycle group, the beauty of the ride. I was also amazed by the group leader Chip Ashton; he was then 69 years old and just ripping a BMW GS 1200 through the twisties. I thought I'll never be as fast as this guy, but little did I know, that I would learn so much from these people that, at the time, I had just met and they would become some of the best friends that I have ever had.



Since then Max has had countless numbers of motorcycles and gear as I tend to hold on to things for a bit longer. We have ridden our motorcycles (and trailered them) many places in the US with plans to take trips motorcycling to foreign countries in the next few years. As you read this we are likely in Arkansas riding again this year (Hurricane Florence changed our Smoky Mountain sport touring trip to an Ozark Mountain sport touring trip). But the best thing about the MSTR motorcycling group is the people that you meet, that you get to enjoy motorcycling with and then you get to call your friends. This is the most enjoyable and rewarding reason to join an old man motorcycle group.



We are now enjoying getting other people involved in the love of sport biking and sport

touring and it feels like we have come full circle.



A special thanks to **MJ Allmond** for her article 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 attending send Ian Orr an e-mail at Communications@mstriders.com with the details.

Sunday September 16th, 2018
12 Noon to 4pm
The Village of Stockbridge

"A Great Place To Ride To"

Nestled in the corner of Ingham, Livingston, Jackson & Washtenaw Counties



Come and enjoy a day of Vintage, Classic and Remarkable Motorcycles displayed around The Village Green by clubs & individuals invited to show their best. Clubs are invited to showcase club activities & member motorcycles.

Individuals with unique, rare or historic Motorcycles are invited to contact Suzi
(Participation in the show by invitation only)

SPECTATORS WELCOME!

Breakfast 8-12 at the Presbyterian Church
Stockbridge Lions Club Pulled Pork Lunch
Noon onwards behind Town Hall

For more information contact Suzi: 517-851-7437

MSTR
EAST Breakfast Meeting

NEW LOCATION

Saturday, September 22 2018, @ 9:00 AM
George Murphy's at the Creek at 36000 W.
Seven Mile Road, Livonia, MI.

Gregg Mitchell will be moderating this meeting.

ANNOUNCING
MSTR East Side Meeting Location Change

If you were at the meeting on Saturday, Aug 25, you heard that Doc's is closing for a period of time for renovations.

Beginning with the September 22 east side meeting, we will be meeting for our breakfast and meeting at George Murphy's at the Creek. This is the restaurant located at Fox Creek Golf Course, at 36000 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, MI. The restaurant is located about 1.1 miles east of I-275. You will get off of I-275 and go the same direction you've been going, except you will keep on going for another mile, until you see the sign as pictured below on the left side of Seven Mile Road.

The breakfast will be a buffet, very similar to what we have had at Doc's, and the cost will be \$12.39, including tax and gratuity. The time will be 9:00 am, and we can begin gathering about 8:30 to catch up with friends before the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at our next east side meeting.

MSTR
WEST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, October 13, 2018, @ 9:00 AM
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.

Keith Danielson will be moderating this meeting.

MSTR
2018 Rides



In 2018 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)

2018 MSTR Historic Courthouse Grand Tour

April 23 – November 17, 2018
Michigan

This year's Grand Tour is starting to come to and end. Keith named it the 2018 Michigan Historic Courthouse Grand Tour this year.

It's not too late though, you can still get a few beautiful Michigan rides in before the riding season is over and earn some MOTY points too.

Event details can be found here ([2018 Grand Tour](#)) and you can always contact Keith to sign up and for more information.

Ride Organizer: Keith Danielson
keith.danielson@att.net

FCR

Fall Color Ride
Oct 3–7, 2018
Waynesville, NC

There will be two days of travel and three 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.

Ride HQ: All week

Best Western Smoky Mountain Inn
130 Shiloh Trail, Waynesville, North Carolina,
Phone: (828) 456-4402

A block of rooms is being held as follows:

- Check-in: Wednesday, October 3, check-out: Sunday, October 7

- \$90/night + tax. Same rate for King and Double, 24hr cancellation. Request the MSTRiders rooms and rate
- Option to check-in Sunday, September 30 and stay the entire week but note FCR doesn't officially start until the rider's meeting on October 3rd

The ride begins and ends in Waynesville, NC. There will be a mandatory rider's meeting at the hotel on Wednesday, October 3 at 8pm.

Event information including Rider Information Packages and GPS routes will only be sent to those who have signed up. To join us for FCR add your name to the sign-up sheet at an upcoming monthly meeting or send an email to lan.

Ride Organizer: Ian Orr
Communications@mstriders.com

MSTR Newsletter & Website

The MSTR Website ([MSTR website](#)) and Newsletter 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:

Rachel Durling: rachelshott@gmail.com

MSTR Photo Gallery

The MSTR maintains a SmugMug photo gallery ([MSTR Smugmug](#)) 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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