



Michigan
Sport Touring Report

October 2020

Editor – Rachel Durling

Terry Odom

It saddens us deeply to announce that MSTR member Terry Odom passed away from complications resulting from Covid-19 on Friday October 16th, 2020.

Many of you had met Terry as he had been a strong supporter of MSTR, attending many meetings, riding and social events, he had also been one of the main organizers of our RoughRider 1000 events which we have done most years since 2011. His presence in the club will truly be missed by many for a long time.

Terry's wife, son, daughters and their families all covet your thoughts and prayers in this difficult time.

At our next MSTR east side meeting, this coming Saturday, October 24th (at the ITC Sports Park in Novi again), we'll set aside time to remember Terry in stories and any pictures you have that you would like to share. Next month we will have more pictures and stories from members about Terry.



**West Virginia Fall Color Ride
Wrap-up**

By: Keith Danielson

This year's Fall Color Ride to Lewisburg, WV, was attended by a total of 15 riders. As is customary, we met in Marietta, OH on Thursday evening to start the event, with seven people meeting in Toledo on Thursday morning for the ride down to Marietta. For those intrepid riders, the ride down was absolutely glorious, with cool temperatures getting to Toledo, but getting milder as the day went on, and becoming quite comfortable by the time we got to the Warehouse restaurant in Coshocton, where we were able to enjoy the weather and the friendship as we had lunch outdoors. We arrived in Marietta in good time to meet up with the other seven other riders for dinner in small groups, followed by our riders' meeting in the parking lot of the Microtel.

The Friday ride to Lewisburg included many of our favorite roads, including Hwy 31, Hwy 16, and Hwy 5 to Glenville to the first gas stop. From there, a short hop on US-119 took us to Cedar Creek road. This was a county road, that was nearly perfect road surface for most of the way, but a bit narrow in some places. Cedar Creek road took us through Cedar Creek State Park (who'da thunk it), and back out to Hwy 5 south of Burnsville, then to US-19 and down to Flatwoods. A second, optional gas stop was offered in Flatwoods for those with a short fuel range, and then we took Hwy 15 over to Diana and Hwy 20 for our lunch stop at the Hometown Diner.

The hometown Diner didn't look like much, but was shown on Google Maps with 4.5 stars. Everyone who works there does all of the jobs. They were friendly, and the hometown cooked food was every bit as good as mom makes it.



After lunch there were 3 routes to choose from, with a longer 146-mile route, and two shorter routes of 99 miles or 115 miles. My group, consisting of me (Keith), Kelly, and Don, and one other group of two riders (who shall remain nameless), elected to take the longer route, which started by heading north on Hwy 20 past Holly River State Park, to Rock Cave. This section of Hwy 20 is a really fun section of road. For those with a short fuel range, who may not have refueled back in Flatwoods, there was one more optional gas stop just before Rock Cave. After Rock Cave, we turned onto county road 11, Alexander-Helvetia Road. This is the same road we took to lunch last year at the town of Helvetia. This year, though, instead of continuing on Helvetia-Adolf road after Helvetia, we turned onto Pickens road, AKA county road 45. County road 45 continues all the way through to Hwy 15, and is a nice heavy line on Google Maps. As we were riding along, the road suddenly made a sharp, downhill, hairpin turn to the right. As soon as we made that turn, I looked at my GPS, and the magenta line was no longer visible – I had missed a turn. We continued down into Pickens, and then made a u-turn to get back to the route, and as soon as we got to the hairpin turn, I saw where I had missed the turn. Although the paved road made the hairpin turn, the route (county road 45) went straight, and became gravel 100 feet later. The GPS said it was 12 miles to the next turn, so we stopped to contemplate if we should continue, or find an alternate route to stay on pavement. Very shortly, a woman pulled up in

a side-by-side and asked if we needed help. She confirmed that it was indeed 12 miles of gravel if we continued, but informed us that it was also all gravel past Pickens. To stay on paved roads, we would have to go back to Helvetia and turn right, and go all the way to US-219 and then south to get back to the route. We decided to go for the 12 miles of gravel, not knowing for sure how far the next gas stop would be if we back-tracked, so we soldiered on. The road was pretty hard packed, with some 2-inch or so stones in some places, but there were no water crossings, and much to our relief, the gravel ended after only about 11 miles, and the road became paved for the last mile to Hwy 15.

We continued on, and shortly passed the group of two riders, stopped along the road, so we waved as we went by. They were not too happy that we didn't stop, as one of the two, who was riding on a motorcycle with a limited fuel range, had run out of fuel. They were able to siphon some fuel out of the other bike (they didn't really need our help to do that anyway), and continue, but they hadn't transferred enough fuel, so he ran out again and they had to transfer some more to get to the next gas station. My group made it to the gas stop with no difficulty, although Kelly was nearly on reserve when we got to the gas station. After refueling, as we continued on down US-219, our fun ride was made a little less so, as it began to rain, and we came up behind not one, but two cop cars, that continued most of the way down to Lewisburg. Mercifully, about 4 miles before Lewisburg, we got off of US-219 to go to the Smooth Ambler Distillery, where we did a small taste test, and then bought a few bottles for later in the trip.



Once in Lewisburg, we met up with new member Mike Dupuis from South Carolina, who joined my group for the Saturday ride. Our route took us up US-219 (much more fun without cops and trucks pulling tractors on utility trailers) to Marlinton, then up to Cass, over Snowshoe mountain, and back down to Slaty Fork. There we got back on US-219 and headed up to Hwy 15 and over to Webster Springs. About ½ mile before Webster Springs, traffic came to a stop. We crept forward for a little bit, then stopped and shut off the engines. Eventually, we flagged down one of the occasional cars going in the opposite direction to ask what was going on. It seems that in Webster Springs, they were giving away free food to those in need. Although we had been hoping to get food in Webster Springs, we had been expecting to get it at a restaurant, and with no indication of how soon that might happen, decided to turn around and go back to Slaty Fork and get gas again, and get lunch. Once bikes and riders were refueled, we got back on US-219 south to Hwy 150, the Highland Scenic Highway, then Hwy 39 and resumed the route heading south on Hwy 20 and east on US-60 back to Lewisburg.

Sunday dawned foggy and cool. As the fog lifted, most of the riders headed back to Marietta and back home, but Keith, Tom, Don, Jan, and Mike headed south to Waynesville for the MR2 ride, or home to SC. We had more fog for a while, but as the fog cleared, the temperatures came up, and we really enjoyed the beautiful roads and nearly cloudless blue sky. The 383-mile route took mostly 2-lane roads with nice sweepers, with a few sections of divided highway or freeway to make a little bit of time. It also included several places to jump off the route onto the expressway to make time to Waynesville if needed. One of the highlights of the route (if you like tight twisties) is the Back of the Dragon, Hwy 16, from Tazewell, VA, to Marion, VA. This 30-mile stretch of road crosses over 3 mountain ridges, with some of the tightest twisties you'll likely ever find on a state highway. The surface is in good shape, and it offers brief periods to relax and catch your breath between the ridges. After lunch in Marion, Mike left us

to head home to SC. Later in the day, when we got to Bakersville, I called an audible and deviated from the route to take Hwy 80 south to Micaville and US-19E. There, we agreed we had had enough fun for the day, and took US-19E, which is a nice divided highway, over to I-26, to slab it the rest of the way in to Waynesville. After getting gas, we found dinner at the local Mexican restaurant before heading up to the Best Western to meet up with everyone else who was attending the Michigan Renegade Mountain Ride (MR2).



Check back in a future issue of the Michigan Sport Touring Report for all of the details of MR2, and then don't take my word for how much fun it was, but plan to attend one or both of these events yourself next year.

A special thanks to Keith Danielson for the article and pictures featured this month.

Remember... All published articles earn a free breakfast, entry into the year-end newsletter drawing AND your fellow members and the newsletter editor will appreciate your articles. You will also earn points toward the **2020 MOTY Award!**



MSTR Heads Up

Here is a listing of some of the upcoming local events and meetings within the next few months. If you know of a local motorcycle event in Michigan or

Ontario the MSTR would be interested in send it to Rachel Durling at Communications@mstriders.com with the details.

MSTR EAST Breakfast Meetings

ITC Community Sports Park
51000 Eight Mile Rd, Northville, MI 48167
Saturday October 24th, 2020

Gather at 8:30am and we will start the meeting at 9:00am. There will be 50/50 tickets for sale. Bring your own coffee, since it could be quite cool, and pick up a breakfast at the nearby fast food restaurants if you would like.

We may need to make to make the rest of the meetings via Zoom for the winter months. The November East Side meeting is scheduled for **November 21, 2020 at 9am** (the 3rd Saturday of the month due to the Thanksgiving break)

MSTR WEST Breakfast Meetings

The next west-side MSTR meeting is planned on **November 14, 2020 at 9:00am**

Please check your email for Mailchimp announcements for updates as it will likely be a **Zoom meeting at Lake Community Park in Portland if the weather is nice.**

Twisty Road Riding Seminars

By: Bill Webb

If you are interested in taking a future seminar, which may not be until Spring, you can make a \$25.00 contribution at the following link and secure your seminar slot. Or, even if you do not want to take a seminar...you can make a tax-deductible donation at the same link.

paypal.me/MotorcycleSafetyAsso

Email Bill Webb at:

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for more information.



**Twisty
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**Interested? Send an
email to
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MSTR 2021 Rides

Please check the MSTR website for an updated list of the rides and events for 2021. We need to plan our rides for June and July and we also need some new ride coordinators. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to the address below. A complete list of events is on the Events page of the MSTR website (www.mstriders.com).

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 have something to say about a ride, your bike, perhaps a trip you are planning, whatever, send it in for the newsletter and/or website to: Rachel Durling at: communications@mstriders.com

For Your Information

Regarding politics; the MSTR does not and shall not support any political party. Political discussions are not allowed during MSTR meetings or events.

Regarding human rights; the MSTR does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status in any of its activities.

You are free to have whatever political views you desire, but please leave them at home or on Facebook. Please don't bring them to the MSTR.

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MSTR Photo Gallery

The MSTR maintains a Smug Mug 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.

FCR and MR2 2020 pictures:



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