



Michigan
Sport Touring Report

May 2022

Editor – Rachel Durling

MoArk 14 Wrap-up

By: Ian Orr

As the first long ride of the year MoArk (Missouri-Arkansas) has always been an opportunity to shake out the cobwebs and practice proper throttle and brake control. After a few straight stretches we then add in some corners and begin to properly link apexes. That's the plan...plans change.

Due to epic, and endless rainfall early arrivers sat out day one on Monday and went to the movies, where we could hear the rain hammering onto the roof – above the sound of the action movie!

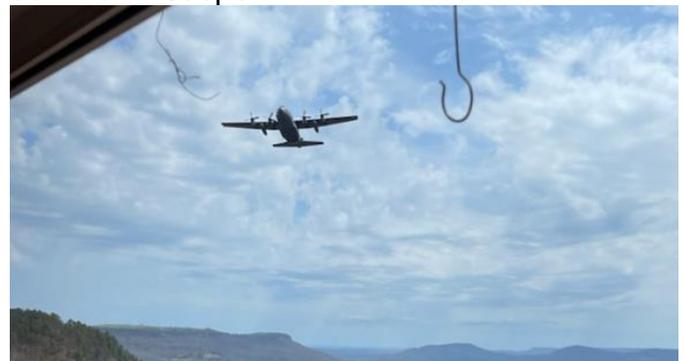
Tuesday, day two dawned bright and chillingly cold. Kickstands up and we rolled out into an eye-watering 34°F morning. The temperature eventually warmed up to the mid-50s and the 300-mile loop cheered everyone up and wore them out at the same time.

Wednesday, day three and the rains returned – another non-riding day for early arrivers and an all-day rain ride for those coming from Michigan. Several of the early arrivers jumped into a car and scouted Missouri C, from Cherokee Pass to Annapolis, which we had heard was closed to through-traffic due to bridge construction. Not only did we confirm the road was impassable at the bridge but the heavy construction equipment had destroyed both straightaways and corners along a lot of highway C. We came up with an alternate road, highway 49 heading north out of Annapolis, which eventually led back to Farmington. On the way back we stopped for lunch at the

Rustler Café in Pilot Knob, where the drenching rain overtopped sandbags at the back door of the café...and we were the lucky ones. Several MSTR members, riding in from Michigan had to just grin and bear it through the rain and arrived at the Farmington hotel, only to squelch and drip their way to their rooms.

Thursday, the first day of MoArk proper was perfect for everyone. Sunny blue skies, no wind and very little traffic. All five riding groups enjoyed a near perfect day of riding, ending with a brisk sprint up Push Mountain Road to arrive in Mountain Home. There was a contretemps with an Eminence local – but you'll need to join us at a breakfast meeting to get the details.

Friday, loop day out of Mountain Home. The weather radar showed a strange bow-shaped cloud front approaching from the west. All was clear on the other side of the bow...we only had to persevere through 20 minutes of light rain while heading out along Push Mountain Road. Most groups elected to head to Jasper and eat at the Cliff House Inn or the Ozark Café in downtown Jasper.



We were stunned to see an Air Force C-130, clawing for altitude, wobble its way directly over

the Cliff House Inn, all four engines roaring at full throttle – WOW! During dinner we heard a commotion from fellow diners, who told us a tornado had just made a direct hit on Salem, Arkansas...the traditional site of our last and first gas stops to and from Mountain Home.

The final day, Saturday, could either be done as a relaxed ride back to Farmington and grab a room for the night or a high-speed sprint back to the trailers, load up and head back towards Michigan – I heard almost everyone did the latter.

All-in-all MoArk 14 was a roaring success for all 20 MSTRiders. A bit damp at times but seeing greenery, enjoying curves and smelling spring sure beat the gloomy Michigan April weather.

MR2 7 Wrap-up

By: Ian Orr

Epic. Perfect. It doesn't get any better. One of the best.



It's easy to run out of superlatives to describe MR2 7. The weather was a close to ideal as possible every single day. When it was just warm there was no wind and when it was hot there was a beautiful breeze. If the day started with fog that same fog disappeared just as the roads began to twist and turn. Each day's ride ended with tired riders slumped in chairs outside their rooms, cooling off with some favorite drink and sharing stories of their day – scenic mountain overlooks, visits to spectacular waterfalls, a black bear wandering

in front of one group, a newly paved road with no line markings and shrouded from the sun, making it difficult to figure out where the apexes were and a local NASCAR wannabe using both lanes, both shoulders and some gravel in an pathetic demonstration of stupidity.

Many of us made a visit to Deal's Gap and saw the annual gathering of two-strokes, where everything from smoky 125s to clean-running Suzuki GT750 and GT850 "water buffalos" could be seen, smelled and touched.

As a group we ate communal meals at the back of the hotel as much as possible – we had a taco night, a pizza night and a BBQ night. Several people visited one or more of their favorite Waynesville restaurants, including Bogart's, Clyde's, Haywood Smokehouse, Kobe Express and others.

Max and Rachel hooked up their projector and on two nights we watched MotoGP and Superbike races on the side of their trailer.

There were no performance riding awards but we did have one incident – a thoughtless driver pulled out across the path of Ray Kantola on the Cherohala Skyway. Although he was able to get the bike slowed down a lot Ray couldn't avoid colliding with the side of the car. He came away with a sore wrist and bruised groin...the bike didn't do nearly as well, with the triple clamp column snapped at the top, front wheel and exhaust pipes dented and the front of the fairing completely destroyed. Bad news was the bike was totaled. Good news was Ray had a new bike by Thursday – which was necessary since he rode down to MR2 and needed it for the ride back up on Saturday morning.

With 43 MSTRiders in attendance, great weather for more than a week and 20 routes from which to choose most people averaged at least 1,000 miles and many topped 1,500 miles.

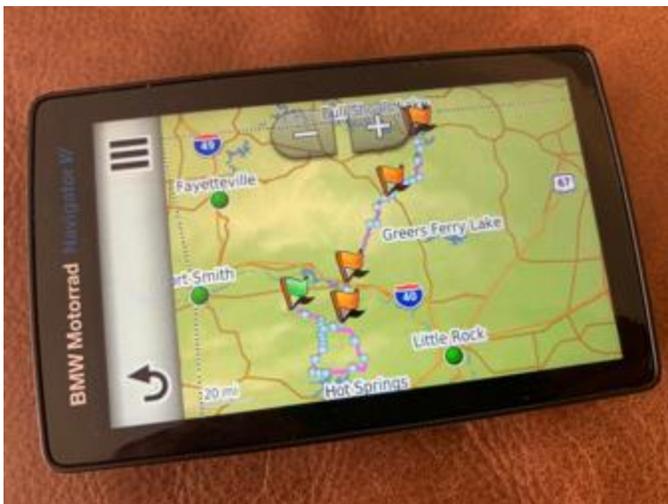
For MR2 8 in 2023 I've already updated several routes, skipping some of the tedious sections of the BRP near Asheville, and added a new route called the Triple Double. If you were there this

year you know where that route goes. If you weren't...there's always next year. Or, to quote one of my favorite people, Warren Miller, "If you don't do it this year, you will be one year older when you do".

Navigating GPS Navigation

By: Kent Niederhofer

Those MSTR members who serve as point leaders in the organized rides scheduled by the club understand the importance of having their GPS routes reliably loaded so they don't find themselves and their group horribly lost on some remote dirt or gravel road. And while it's not absolutely necessary for those who don't lead the ride, it's certainly wise for participants to have the routes loaded since sometimes "stuff happens."



However, one factor that can get in the way of a seamless ride is that routes don't always load the same way onto different GPS devices. There are lots of reasons for this but there are steps that can be taken to minimize the risk and we'll cover them here.

A Few Definitions

Before we start, let's make sure we're calibrated by covering some of the terminology used when planning travel. Common terms that are frequently used include routes, tracks, waypoints and shaping points but they are often misused as they have a very specific meaning which is as follows:

- *Waypoints* are specific locations you record and store in the device. Waypoints can mark where you are, where you are going, or where you have been.
- *Shaping points* are any position along a route that, if set properly, will not alert you when you arrive. They are used to modify the route path and do not contain arrival time or distance between points information.
- *Routes* are created on the computer (in Basecamp) or on the navigation device and are pre-defined paths created from a group of location points in the sequence you desire to navigate them. They can be user generated waypoints or POI's (points of interest) that have been loaded from a map or from Basecamp.
- *Tracks* are a series of breadcrumbs that form a trail that allows you to see where you or another individual have traveled in the past (i.e., they are recorded by your GPS device). They contain track points, not waypoints or POI's that form a line which you can use to navigate a path previously taken. There are two different types of tracks:
 - **Active Track Log:**
 - Contains track points for your current activity
 - Can be cleared at the start of a new activity
 - Can be set to wrap around (overwrite older track points)
 - Can be saved as a "Saved Track"
 - **Saved Tracks:**
 - Created typically from the active track log
 - Can have a limit to the maximum amount of track points based on the device (e.g., 250, 500, 10,000 track points maximum)
 - Creation can result in points being consolidated (on device) or truncated (from computer to device) depending on the source, to meet above device track point limitations
 - Creation can result in data removal based on the device (e.g., date, time, speed and accessory data)

Now let's cover the reliable transfer of routes and tracks.

Transferring Routes or Tracks

Prior to an MSTR ride, the ride organizer traditionally works with MSTR leadership to post the latest routes and tracks to a secure location on the club's website (www.mstriders.com) which is accessible only to our membership. These routes have been audited and can be relied by ride participants who use them.

It's important to note that when transferring routes, you are not transferring the line that you see on your screen in Basecamp but you are actually transferring a set of POI's, waypoints, and shaping points. As a result, when these points are loaded into Basecamp or your navigation device, the route has to be recalculated by "connecting the dots" which it does based on the settings that you've selected on that particular device. If you are using a different map version or have your preferences set differently than the originator, it's quite likely you'll end up with a different ride plan than the original.

To avoid these issues, make sure that the software on your devices reflect the latest revision, and have the settings and preferences set to a common standard (i.e., ideally that used by the route originator). For example, in preparation for our MoArk ride, I selected the following Basecamp (for Mac) and GPS device settings:

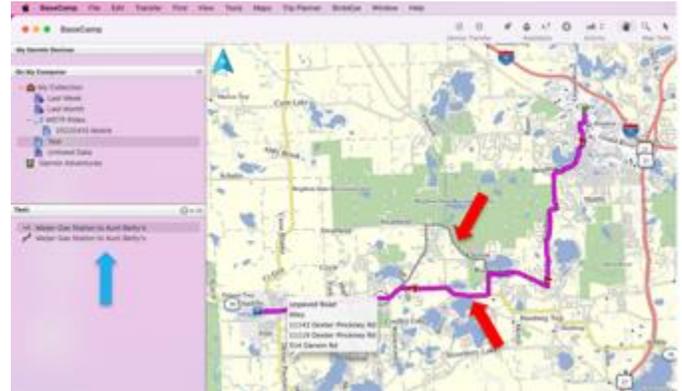
Maps Version: City Navigator North America NT 2023.1

Route Recalculation: Off

Calculation Mode: Faster

Avoidances: None

Fig. 1 – Track vs. Route in Basecamp



The aforementioned map is the latest available by Garmin and the settings/preferences ensure minimal deviation of the route recalculation that takes place on the receiving device subsequent to the transfer. Furthermore, you should always download both the routes and tracks – whether that be to Basecamp on your computer or to your navigation device. The reason for this is that the track, which does not get recalculated upon transfer, can be used to audit the route.

This is done by selecting both the track and its corresponding route name in the left sidebar with your cursor. With the two now highlighted, the track will stand out when the two don't align (see red arrow in Fig. 1). Now the user can zoom into the area where the deviation exists, "grab" a point on the divergent section of route using the cursor and drag it over the track. The shaping point which is added ensures that the route flows as intended.

Besides a visual inspection on the screen, another method that can be used to identify deviations between tracks and routes is to check the travel distance for each. This can be performed by double-clicking on the track name at which point a window pops up that shows the mileage in the lower left corner (see yellow arrow in Fig. 2). Next you would double-click on the route, which would also result in a window popping up, but then select the "Information" icon which is a blue circle with the letter "I" inside (see amber arrow in Fig. 3).

Fig. 2 – Track Distance in Basecamp

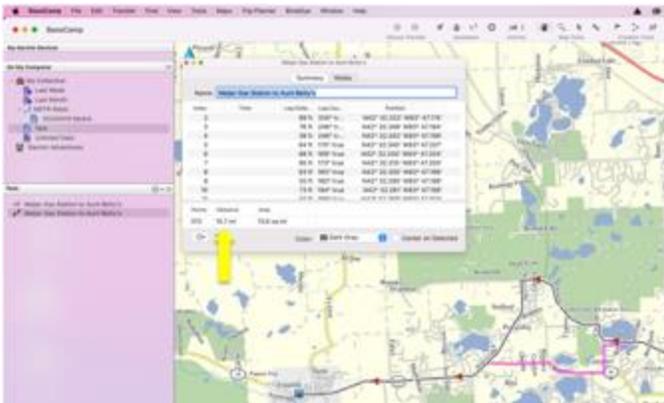
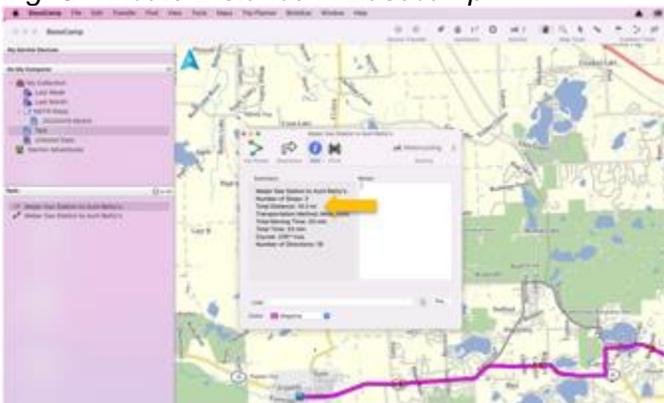


Fig. 3 – Route Distance in Basecamp



After verifying that both track and route are the same, they can be transferred to the navigation device at which point the same check should be performed. The steps to do this are obviously modestly different but not difficult. First, the track should be displayed on the map by clicking on “Apps”, then “Tracks” and then selecting the desired track. Next, click on the drop-down menu in the upper left corner of the device and select the “Show on Map” checkbox. This now displays the selected track on the map permanently which serves as the basis for comparison with the route. In the final step, back out to the “Apps” menu, select “Trip Planner”, and then select the corresponding route. Now both the track and the route are displayed on the screen. Once again, the two can be compared to determine where the route does not follow the track. If there is a deviation, it’s an indicator that your route might require some additional shaping points in this area which can be easily done in Basecamp followed by the transfer of the updated route.

While the process certainly appears tedious on the surface, more often than not you will only

find a handful of routes that deviate from the track – and the corrections made on the few that are off often work the first time. The good news is that by following this process, you can take comfort in the fact that you’ll be traveling the intended route and enjoy it all the more.

But Wait, There’s More!

The question often comes up, “should I use a route or a track?” In general, and as recommended by Garmin, the following guideline can be followed:

- Routes are best suited for reaching a specific destination, or set of destinations, when the path being taken is not important. When navigating a route, directions will be provided either as a straight line to the destination(s) or, when using a routable mapping product, as an automatically calculated path using available roads and/or trails. If you go off course on a route, the path will recalculate (depending on your navigation device settings) based on your current location.
- Tracks are best suited when it’s necessary to travel on a very specific path to reach the desired destination. When navigating a track, it’s possible to recreate an exact hike or ride that you or someone else has completed previously. If you go off course on a track, the GPS unit will redirect you back to the original path rather than recalculating a new one.

In closing, remember that these are only guidelines based on my own accumulated experience but the best way to develop best practices is by experimenting with these things yourself. Good luck and I hope this summary provides enough insight for a good start point!

A special thanks to [Kent Niederhofer](#) for his 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 **2022 MOTY Awards!**



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 Rachel Durling an e-mail to Communications@mstriders.com with the details.

MSTR East Breakfast Meetings

Our next East Side Breakfast meeting will be on Saturday, on June 25, 2022, at Coach's Corner, 36000 W Seven Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48152 at 9am.

MSTR West Breakfast Meetings

Our next West Side MSTR meeting will be on June 11, 2022, at the Alibi Bar & Grill, 1394 East Riverside Dr, Ionia, MI, 48846 at 9am.

Please email Gala at gschip@me.com to let her know that you will be there for breakfast, so that she can plan to have enough food for everyone.

Don & Jan Pennington's Summer Sizzle BBQ Sunday, June 5th

All MSTRiders are welcome to join Don and Jan Pennington at their home for their annual summer BBQ. The following flyer lists the details but make sure you allow time to walk their amazing garden – it's like something plucked right out of an elvish Lord of the Rings dream!

Sunday, June 5th, 2022
Don & Jan Pennington's
Summer Sizzle Bar-be-Que.
(MSTR, BMWTCO, & Invited Guests)
Festivities Begin At 2:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

Bring drinks and dish to pass.
Bar-Be-Que will be provided.

An occasion to see: Cycle Movies, Plan Trips, Tell Stories, Socialize, Garden Walk!!!

Don: (734) 645-4961 Jan: (734) 645-4963
dopennington@comcast.net

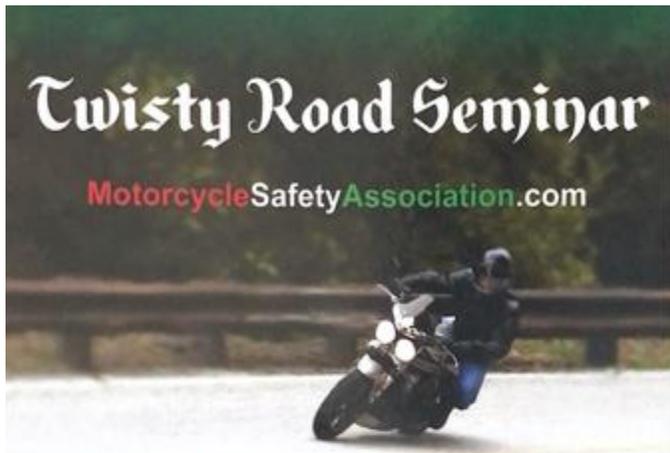
5427 Pine View Drive Ypsilanti Michigan 48197

Our dealer member, BMW Motorcycles of SE Michigan is having an event on June 17 & 18: www.bmwmcsem.com/michigan-superbike-meetup-22/ See link for more details.

Michigan Superbike Meetup 2022
Hosted by BMW Motorcycles of Southeast Michigan

Mark your calendars! We're bringing you **TWO** Michigan Superbike Meetup 22: **TWO** days for a fun-filled and exciting weekend of motorcycle activities.

When: Friday, June 17 & Saturday, June 18
Where: 14855 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170
Who: Superbike enthusiasts of all makes and models.
What: Stunt show, dyno shootout, meet local influencers like EazyE197, 5upmotorcycles, and 650ib, food, superbikes, and BMW demo rides.



Twisty Road Seminar

MotorcycleSafetyAssociation.com

What a Professional rider says about the Seminar

"The Twisty Road Seminar offers sound advice to all street riders, regardless of experience level"
Mark Miller, Isle of Man TT – 1st Place Winner

About us

The Motorcycle Safety Association is a State of Michigan Non-Profit corporation. The U.S. Treasury Department has determined the Association is a charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are therefore tax deductible to the extent the law allows.



info@MotorcycleSafetyAssociation.com



MSTR 2022 Rides

Please check the MSTR website on the events page for a list of the rides and events for 2022 (www.mstriders.com). If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to the address above.

Note: MSTRider membership is required to attend an MSTR riding event. We will not be able to add your name to an event sign-up list unless you are a current MSTRider or until your New MSTRider Form or MSTRider Renewal form and fee are received. Go to www.mstriders.com, then navigate to the Resources page and scroll down to the **New**

[MSTRider Form](#) or the [MSTRider Renewal Form](#).

Seven Ranges Ride

June 17-19, 2022 Wheeling, WV

Join us for the Seven Ranges Ride based in Wheeling, WV., June 17–19. Wheeling is relatively close, so it makes for an easy weekend ride. Hotel check-in on Thursday, June 16, ride on Friday and Saturday, check out and ride home Sunday, June 19. Routes are in Ohio using the same routes as last year.

The ride is based in Wheeling at the Springhill Suites with the hotel address and phone listed below. Call the phone number below, press 0 for the front desk, and ask for the MSTR room block rate. The rate is \$124 plus tax. The room block is valid through June 1. After that, room price reverts to the market rate. We have 10 rooms reserved in the room block, so please email me if we should run out of rooms. The hotel is a very comfortable hotel with a friendly and helpful staff. Remember to tip your housekeepers.

Springhill Suites by Marriott 908 National Rd. Wheeling, WV 304-232-8903 (dial 0 for front desk)

As usual, we will have a riders meeting to sign waivers and make up riding groups on Thursday and Friday evenings at 9pm. Routes will be available roughly two weeks before the ride. There will be routes down and back from the east side of Mansfield near where the hills and curves begin. Please make your own groups for riding down and back.

Please send me an email if you are interested in signing up. Please include the usual information, name, roommate (if decided) or if you are looking for a roommate, whether you are riding or towing, and your emergency contact name and number. I look forward to seeing you there.

Event Organizer: Jac Brown
E-mail: jac.brown999@gmail.com

UNCR III (Up North Camping Ride)

July 7th-12th, 2022
Lake Superior Circle Tour



A celebration of the end of pandemic border closures, this year's ride will be a circle tour of Lake Superior. A slab ride across the Mackinaw Bridge to Brimley State Park and then follow the shoreline clockwise to the Minnesota- Canadian Border with camping at Fort Wilkins, Twin Harbors, MN., Grand Marais, MN. into Canada Rossport Provincial Park and Marathon, Ontario then back to Sault Saint Marie, MI. Enjoy nearly 425 miles of Trans Canada 17 without permanent traffic lights. Scenic vistas, waterfalls and constant changes from lake level to mountain tops. Most meals will be in restaurants but there may be one stop that packing some goodies along might be advisable.

Lake Superior is its own weather maker. It could be 85F a few miles from the lake and 60F or less for the daily high along the coast. Pack with layering in mind to keep comfortable. Rain gear is always a smart item to pack along as well as insect repellent or a bug head net. All travel in Canada will be during daylight hours for safety. I have done this trip several times and each time was different weather. Each time I went, it was a great time and a view of the lake and mountains that were very memorable. Passport or enhanced driver's license required.

Event Organizer: Bob Komjathy Email:
Rx_mich@yahoo.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:
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 based on 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.

MSTR Dealer Members

BMW Motorcycles of SE Michigan
www.bmwmcsem.com/

BMW of Grand Rapids
www.bmwmcgr.com/

Ducati Detroit
www.ducaticetroit.com/

College Bike Shop
www.collegebikeshop.com/

Honda Suzuki of Warren
www.hondasuzukiofwarren.com

BMW Detroit
www.bmwdetroit.com

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.



Please patronize the following businesses owned by your fellow MSTR Members and Dealers 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 gvbweldinginc@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.



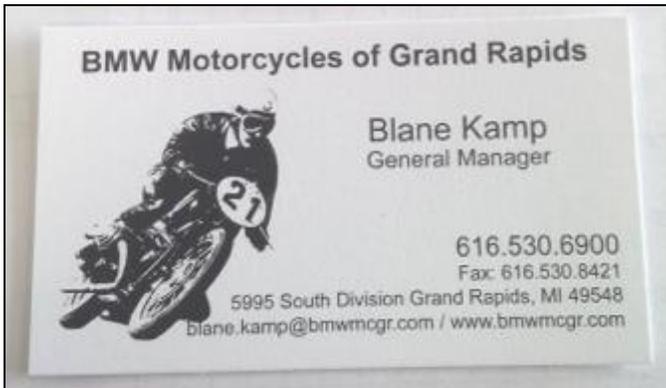
WILLIAM W. WEBB, PRIVATE ATTORNEY
 248-647-9000
 Author of the The Traffic Ticket Maze
<http://statebar.net/trafficticket.pdf>

H of Warren HONDA SUZUKI of Warren

SUZUKI HONDA HONDA Power Equipment

30822 Ryan Rd Warren MI 48092, Just South of 13 Mile

Parts/Sales info@hondasuzukiofwarren.com Service
 (586)751-1200 www.hondasuzukiofwarren.com (586)751-1010



1301 S. Rochester Rd., Suite B, Rochester Hills, MI 48307
www.bmwdetroit.com (248) 402-4010