



Michigan
Sport Touring Report

October 2022

Editor – Rachel Durling

Searching for the Light

By: Bob Komjathy

It's September 27th and many MSTR members are on the Fall Color Ride possibly ready to do the side stroke through the remnants of Hurricane Ian Orr. :o) The weather looked promising going up north in the opposite direction as the pack to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights. Weather research showed a possibility of a good window of clear night skies before the expected peak. The plan was to take the VW and pack more gear but a recent timing belt replacement by a local shop failed so that was out. The motorcycle was the next good option, but it also meant traveling with just the little Fuji camera, a couple of lens choices, and a tripod.

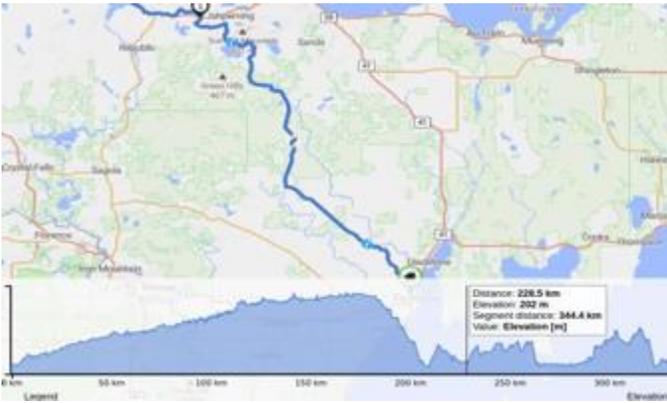
I researched hotels and decided based on weather predictions that Copper Harbor was the best candidate to head to. Bella Vista Hotel had a room for one night but was booked up for the rest of the week as was the case for all the other local hotels. Not to worry, the second night was scheduled at Fort Wilkins State Park, and I would just pack along the tent and sleeping bag plus one more luxury not knowing how cold it might actually get... an electric blanket.

Pat wanted to go to the Dexter Cider Mill on September 28th when I sprung the news to her, I wanted to go a day earlier due to weather and aurora predictions. Being the good boy that I am, Dexter came first if she wanted to go there a little earlier than she had planned. Cider and donuts at 10:30 and back home by 11:30 a.m. The bike being packed and ready to go the night before, changed into Fall riding gear, kissed her

goodbye and hit the road taking 96 to US127 to the Mackinac Bridge. I made it to Escanaba, MI. by 7 p.m. where I found a room at the Econolodge hotel for the night (27F was the outside temp). This would leave me about 210 miles of ride remaining into Copper Harbor. The 28th was pure slabbing but the rest of my time in the U.P. would be all back roads. I borrowed part of my Up North Camping Ride which uses a route I call the Taconite Byway. It passes by many Iron mines in the western Marquette County area. Very curvy... some new pavement, some older surfaces. The curves, elevation changes, and Fall colors are getting quite nice in this area right now.



I spent most of the sunlight hours riding and exploring water falls along my journey including a new one to me in the Keweenaw, Hungarian Falls. I set up the camera on a tripod to capture two Hungarians in the same image. It's just outside the town of Hubbell, MI. on M-26 east of the Houghton airport on a dirt road with a steep incline.



The route on M-26 was full of color in the trees started with an immediate right turn past the Houghton- Hancock Bridge and followed it along the Torch Lake western shoreline to Laurium then US 41 to the M-26 Eagle River junction. The rest of my ride would follow the Lake Superior coast into Copper Harbor.

Night time: Not going to get much sleep tonight as the main event was to begin around 3 a.m.. This was probably the longest best view I have had in the lower 48 of the Northern Lights in my life. Intense colors covering the first 3rd of the night sky for almost 2 hours. On my FB page I have a public compilation video of the view. What was also amazing to me with all the hotel bookings for this event, I was the only one outside to take it in.



The next morning, breakfast, pack the bike, check out, and down to the state park. I set up camp and immediately went in the tent and slept for a few hours. Got up around 2 p.m. and went for an afternoon ride back down US 41 to Mohawk and out to Gay, MI. The tree colors

were amazing. The route back was to ride M-26 along the coast ... I never get tired of this route. Dinner in Copper Harbor then near sunset up to Brockway Mountain Drive. The chances of Northern Lights on the 30th were not going to be good due to cloud cover approaching from the northwest.... However looking south was going to remain pretty nice till 1 a.m.. If I can't see the northern lights, I can focus in on the southern lights... the Milky Way. Got a few nice pics of it with my bike in the shot. This was a combined flash for the near field and a long exposure to catch the stars. About 11 p.m. with the Moon setting the light from the stars are not bleached out.



Capturing some nice shots, I called it a night so I could be fresh for the ride home... 589 miles to my driveway. It was a great 4-day adventure and a very rewarding experience. I'd do it again in a heartbeat.



Fall Color Ride

By: Keith Danielson

The Fall Color Ride happened September 29 through October 2 – kind of. With a pretty good number of planned participants, but a dire weather forecast for Lewisburg thinning the pack, we had 14 adventurous riders who actually showed up, while 8 smart riders cried ‘Uncle’ and canceled for the whole weekend. Of the 14 who showed up in Marietta, 4 took advantage of the back-to-back scheduled ROTE and FCR, riding up from West Jefferson, NC on Thursday.

The riding on Thursday was quite nice, with mild temperatures and sunny skies – enough such that your intrepid scribe and his trailering partner/roommate unloaded the bikes after arriving for a quick ride up and back on SR 26. Meanwhile, Jac Brown, Hal Kramer, and Don & Jan Pennington enjoyed Jac’s route and the great weather heading up from North Carolina. Several of those present found themselves at



DaVinci’s for a fantastic Italian dinner before heading back for the riders’ meeting. By this time, most, if not all, had already canceled their reservations in Lewisburg for Friday and Saturday nights, and extended their stay in Marietta.



Friday morning, after carefully watching the weather channel for news of Hal, several riders decided to go riding for the day and see what Saturday would bring, while the less adventurous among us decided to get back up north toward home while the gettin’ was good (and dry). Those who stayed were rewarded with a great day of riding (mostly). My group, including Ian, Keith, Neal, Don and Hal, headed down 16 to Clay, then down to Gauley Bridge, and over to Hawks Nest State Park for a great lunch at the lodge overlooking the New River.



After lunch, Hal (the man) took off toward home in Granite Falls, NC, intending to be in before dark, and hoping to avoid the rain before Hal (the hurricane) got there. He was half successful, as Hal (the man) did get safely home shortly before dark, although Hal (the

hurricane) beat him to it, leaving him to ride in some pretty heavy rain and blustery wind for the last few hours, while the rest of the riders enjoyed the ride back to Marietta.

Hurricane Hal (technically just a tropical depression by now) joined us in Marietta in the early morning hours on Saturday. Most of those remaining, headed out on Saturday for home, leaving in a steady rain for the first hour or so. Having been deceived into thinking that the rain might come in and head right out, allowing for some riding later in the day on Saturday, a couple people stayed until late morning. When it became clear that Hal was not leaving any time soon, the last riders loaded up and checked out before lunch and headed for home.

After trailering back to Lake Orion on Saturday, my ride concluded on Sunday, taking a direct route back to Pentwater via Frankfort and Arcadia Bluffs, accompanied by nearly cloudless blue skies and temperatures in the 50s for the whole day.



While it turned out to be a somewhat abbreviated weekend, I believe that it would be accurate to state that all who made it to Marietta for the weekend had a great time,—including Hal.

I can't wait for next year's Fall Color Ride. I hope you'll join in the adventure then.

A special thanks to Keith Danielson, and to Bob Komjathy for his article and amazing 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

This month's east side breakfast meeting will be at on Saturday October 22, 2022 at 9:00am, at George's Senate in Northville located at 39430 Dun Rovin Dr, Northville, MI 48168.

Roy Winseck has put together a day ride after our east side meeting this Saturday from Karl's Cabin to Holly, MI. He will be leaving after the meeting. If you are interested, be ready to ride after the meeting Saturday. He made a GPX route. If you would like it, please email Rachel at communications@gmail.com or Roy (see the directory recently sent out if you need his email address).



tentative list of rides and events for 2023 (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**.

MSTR West Lunch Meetings

Our next west side lunch meeting will be on Saturday November 12, 2022, at 11am at the Alibi Bar & Grill, 1394 East Riverside Dr, Ionia, MI 48846.

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

Unfortunately the rides for 2022 have been completed for the year. Please check the MSTR website on the events page for a list of the

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

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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.

Riding memories from ROTE:





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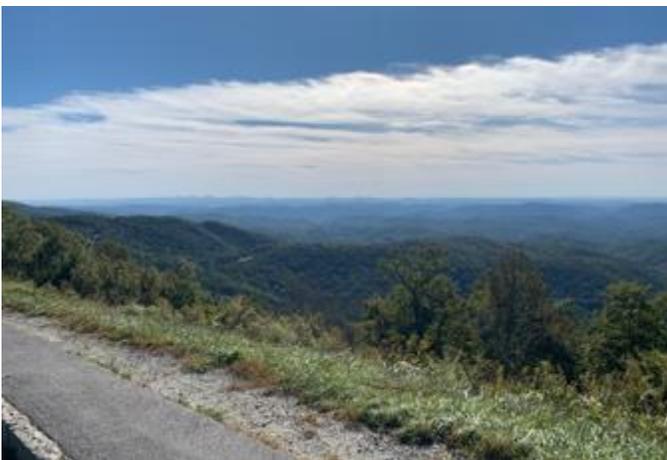
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