



Michigan
Sport Touring Riders Report

May 2023

Editor – Ian Orr

Ladies Day Ride

By: *mj Campbell*



Another successful Ladies Day Ride done and in the books. The day started out a little questionable...Dave & I started off in nice weather....it looked dark where we were headed and sure enough, it started to rain...not a downpour, but a steady rain. We got to the Hamburg Coney about 9:30 and wondered if anyone else would brave the rain and show up. Ian and Loret Orr were next to arrive, followed by Carol Zimmerman and Susan Ahn, then Rachel and Max Durling and finally Craig Blogin.

The restaurant was really, really busy...the manager said another restaurant in the complex had to close due to a water problem...she said not to worry, she would get us in. She did make room for us by 10!

Heidi Nagel and Mike Maksymmetz arrived a little after 10. In total there were 11 MSTRiders - six ladies and five men, who braved the elements and enjoyed a good breakfast. I was so excited; we finally had more ladies than men!

The rain stopped while we were eating and

socializing. There were 2 more men (Pete Beightol and Dave McCatty) waiting by the bikes. We saddled up and had a great ride. No rain and the roads were just a little wet when we started up, but they soon dried and the sun shone on the rest of our day.

Rachel led the ladies and Max took the lead for the men. We had a nice hour + long ride around the Waterloo area and then met up in Stockbridge where we enjoyed looking at a lot of bikes - we even saw David Bonskey's new Ducati Multistrada!



Thanks to everyone who joined in our Ladies Day Ride & a Big HUG to those who braved the liquid sunshine to enjoy breakfast at Hamburg Coney!

MR2

By: *Steve Gross*

MR2 is in the rear-view mirror once again. 51 riders (a new high) rode somewhere around 60,000 miles over the course of a week in the Smokies. A great time was had by all!

I spent the week prior to MR2 in Banner Elk (near Grandfather Mountain) with my wife and 2 other couples on a non-riding vacation. I didn't bring my

bike with me—knowing that if I had, I would want to spend every day riding, not doing the other planned activities (drinking and hiking, not necessarily in that order). My wife brought me to Waynesville on Saturday. We stopped by Dale Walkler's Wheels Through Time Museum, which I had never visited before. Although it's dedicated to American iron, it's worth a visit and I highly recommend it. Between the Mt. Garfield (Muskegon) Hillclimb exhibit and the Jack Pine Enduro machines, there is a lot of Michigan history on display there. After a rib lunch at the Haywood Smokehouse, my wife dropped me off at the Best Western and returned to Banner Elk.



A couple hours later, my roommate Dave O arrived with my BMW R1250GS and his KTM Duke 890 in his trailer. After unloading, we had a late sushi dinner at Kobe and then got a good night sleep for the next day of riding.

On Sunday, Dave and I hit some of our favorite roads: 28, a surprisingly deserted Deal's Gap (I guess all the squids were spending Mother's Day with their moms), and the Cherohala Skyway. We had lunch at a spot Dave recommended—the Tellico Marina on 72 just before 411. It's only open Thursday to Sunday, but worth a stop if you like eating outdoors on the water. We also took a short detour to Bald River Falls, just off the Cherohala coming out of Tellico Plains. Worth

the trip!



The weather on Monday was a little iffy. We started on the Twin Loops route but bypassed some of the morning route due to fog and rain. Sadly, that meant missing Canada Rd, but we had a nice run down to Mountain Rest and lunch at Cornucopia in Cashiers. We took the opportunity to ride 28 to Lauda once again, even though that meant we got rained on late in the day. Worth it!

There were a lot of "I think" tires that turned into "nope" tires this MR2. I won't name names, except my own. By Monday evening, it was clear that I didn't have four more days of front tire left on my GS. I had brought a new tire with me, so on Tuesday morning I headed over to Waynesville Cycle Center to get it spooned on. They did a great job, and by 10:15 my riding group met me there and we took off for another great day of riding. Thanks to Pat Quinlan, Dave O, Craig Blogin, and Neil Wagner for their patience with my poor planning.



On Wednesday the five of us went down to Helen—as did many others. The weather was perfect, and for the most part so were the roads.

The tar snakes on 107 were a bit disconcerting to some of our group, so we decided to give them a miss on the return trip, even though that meant we also only did Warwoman Road one way. Wolf Pen Gap, Richard B. Russell Parkway, and 60 more than made up for that!

The weather forecast showed that we should go north on Thursday, so we set our sights on Little Switzerland via the Rattler and Blue Ridge Parkway. Neil split off to ride with others—the weather gods frowned on this betrayal and drenched him (and his companions) all day. Craig stayed with us but switched to his KTM 890 Adventure with knobby tires. We were dry but chilly in the morning—I was glad to have my heated jacket. At the Blairsville gas stop, the temps were rising so we removed some layers. We all regretted this choice soon after, as we climbed the Blue Ridge where the temps plummeted to the 40s! No lunch has ever tasted better than the hot food at the Little Switzerland Resort! After lunch, I put the heated gear back on and was glad for it when we hit the fog and rain north of Asheville on the BRP. We took a break at the Craggy Dome Overlook to warm up—sadly they did not have any hot coffee available, but we enjoyed the heat from the wood stove there for a while. We decided to bail out of the BRP at Asheville if the fog continued—but fortunately it didn't, so we just stayed on the scenic route to Waynesville.



On Friday, Craig wanted to do some dirtbiking with his 890 Adventure. He accompanied us on 28 and Wayah Rd, but afterwards headed over to the dirt and gravel near the Cherohala Skyway. We took the long way around to the Skyway via the Gap and had a mostly clean run—surprising for a Friday! Lunch again at the

Tellico Marina, and then over to the Skyway once again. We passed by Craig taking a break on the Skyway but didn't regroup with him until day's end. I managed to drop my GS at a stop, but being a GS, it is designed to fall over with minimal damage. That's the only time on the ride I really noticed the weight since I needed help to stand it up again.



After about 1700 miles on the GS, I have to say I'm really impressed with it. My pace might be a little slower on the GS compared to my S1000R, but it's so easy to ride that I just don't care. And, at the end of the day I'm not sore and tired! I was also able to fix the tip-over damage at home for zero dollars, with a heat gun and a black marker.

All in all, I'd say MR2 was a huge success and I'm looking forward to next year already.

TRIP CHECKLIST

- room for one more item?

By: *Carol Zimmerman*

I am so excited that riding season is here again. As I am planning for these trips, I always make a checklist.

- ☒ Helmet
- ☒ Riding Gear
- ☒ GPS Routes
- ☒ Tire Treads
- ☒ Great riding buddies

You get the idea. One thing that I will add to my checklist this year is to bring a stash of cash; mostly ones and fives I can use for gratuity for the hospitality staff at the hotels we are staying at. As you know, most of these ladies make very little money doing maid service or doing breakfast preparation. Many hotel chains will not allow a tip jar to be put out in the breakfast area. However, gratuity may always be given personally. Keep a few ones in your pocket to tip these gals for making our experience more enjoyable.



What you may not know about room service, is that staff changes regularly. So, the maid that cleans your room on Monday is not the same person who cleans it on Tuesday. You may have noticed the little envelopes that are on the nightstand with a name on them. Your gratuity is greatly appreciated. I have heard that some people leave a gratuity at the end of their stay for the entire time we are there. This is a wonderful acknowledgement of appreciated service. I ask you to take a little extra time to divvy it up daily using those envelopes to ensure that each staff member receives the tip they so well deserve.

I don't know about you, but when I return to my room after a long day's ride, it feels great to come into a room that is all clean and restocked. I have found that if I tip regularly, I get even better service.

We generally receive quite a discount on rooms when we do a block for the club. Think of the difference in that discount as your hospitality money. Be generous...tip appreciatively!

A special thanks to mj Campbell, Steve Gross and Carol Zimmerman 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 fellow members and the newsletter editor will appreciate your articles. You will also earn points toward the **2023 MOTY Awards!**



MSTR would be interested in send Ian Orr an e-mail to Ridership@mstriders.com with the details.

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 East Breakfast Meetings


This month's east side breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, May 27, 2023 at 9:00am at George's Senate in Northville, located at 39430 Dun Rovin Dr. Northville, MI 48168

MSTR West Breakfast Meetings

Our next west side lunch meeting will be on Saturday, June 10, 2023, 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.



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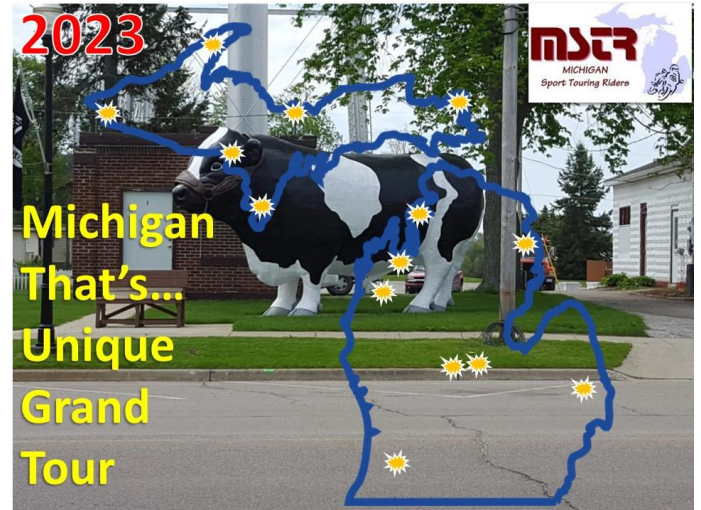
MSTR 2023 Rides

Here is a listing of the next few MSTRiding events for this year. For a full list of our 2023 events, please check the MSTR website ((www.mstriders.com) and go to the **Events** page. 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**.

2023 Michigan That's... Unique Grand Tour

The grand tour returns for 2023. The theme this year will be unique things to see in Michigan and will be called the *2023 Michigan That's... Unique Grand Tour*. It will once again take you all over the lower peninsula and the upper peninsula, to give you a good chance to enjoy some of the things that Michigan has to offer. As in the past, this is an event to do at your own pace, on your own schedule, alone or with one or more friends. You can visit as many of the checkpoints as your time and energy permit. When visiting a checkpoint, you will simply take a photo of your motorcycle with the Grand Tour sign and the checkpoint behind as shown in the photo, and then send your photos to me for proof of your visit.



Basically, the grand tour is simply 14 destinations, and an excuse to get out on your motorcycle and ride around our great lake state. If you think you might like to participate but don't know if you will find the time to do all 14 checkpoints, sign up to receive the information packet anyway. There's no obligation to visit any checkpoints, just a lot of great places to go and things to see if you do.

At the end of the year, we'll tally up the results, and give awards at the MOTY banquet to participants who completed the grand tour.

The grand tour will run from Saturday, March 25 to Sunday, November 19.

If you have participated in the past, I'll send out all the information with rules, a list of checkpoints, the sign to hang on your motorcycle, and a .gpx file with all the checkpoints. If you haven't participated in the past, you can sign up at any meeting, or send an email to keithmdanielson@gmail.com, and I'll send the information out.

See you out on the road.

Sunday, June 4th, 2023

Don & Jan Pennington's

Summer Sizzle Bar-be-Que.

(MSTR, BMWTC, & Invited Guests)

Festivities Begin At 2:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

Bring drinks and dish to pass.

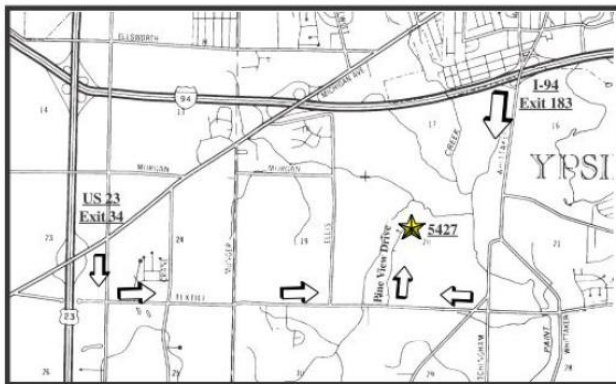
Bar-Be-Que will be provided.

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

Don: (734) 645-4961

Jan: (734) 645-4963

donpennington@comcast.net



5427 Pine View Drive

Ypsilanti Michigan 48197

HT2

Hocking Hills Twisty Tour

June 15 - 18

Logan, Ohio

June is a time when people are busy with family activities, and it is sometimes a little hot and humid. So, the idea was to put together a weekend ride as close to home as possible. Hmmm, a ride in the Hocking Hills seems like a good idea.

Based in Logan, Ohio, the hotel is about 260 miles from Livonia by freeway or about 60 miles closer than Marietta. That's close enough that you could even work Thursday, slab it down to Logan Thursday evening, and get 3 days of good riding for the cost of only 1 day off. Since the ride home is only 4 hours, you can ride for a while on Sunday before heading north.

What's old is new again.

Back in the day, Don and Jan Pennington ran a

ride in the Hocking Hills, so we are keeping the name, Hocking Hills Twisty Tour, in their honor. The routes cover the Hocking Hills and down around the southern tip of Ohio. They only briefly touch the edge of the roads we ride around Marietta, so for most of us, the roads are all new.

Most of the routes go down to the Ohio River and one route has lunch at Miller's Chicken in Athens. That's a really cool local joint that is not to be missed. I'm hoping to get points from Dave and Lee Ann Marcotte for that one. Going further with the relaxed weekend idea, most of the rides have really good lunch places and are less than 250 miles, so you can get back to the hotel, have a shower, and relax before dinner.

We will be staying at the MainStay Suites/Sleep Inn in Logan, Ohio. This is a 2-in-1 hotel with the MainStay rooms a little cheaper. It's also a newer hotel with a friendly staff and a decent breakfast. For dinner, we have 3 tasty restaurants in walking distance.

I don't know why, but room blocks seem to be unpopular with some hotels these days. Your plan should be to sign up for the Choice Hotels rewards program and book your room as early as possible. I booked my room in March and got a rate of \$110, but this area is a place that folks from Columbus come for the weekend. I have seen summer rates for this hotel and the next-door Holiday Inn Express in the \$250 to \$275 range, so book early.

I will be bringing sign-up sheets to meeting or you can email me to be put on the list.

Event Organizer: Jac Brown

Email: jac.brown999@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you there. It is a beautiful area with some great roads and it's always good to discover someplace new or rediscover someplace that you haven't been in a while.

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:

Ian Orr: (ridership@mstriders.com)

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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.

Photos from the Ladies Day Ride and MR2:



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