



*Michigan*  
*Sport Touring Riders Report*

August 2023

Editor – Ian Orr

## BBR7 Wrap-up

By: Keith Danielson



The 2023 edition of the Barn Burn Raid was held from August 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. It was intended to be flexible to accommodate whatever people's schedules would allow, with some people arriving as early as Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> and staying to the 20<sup>th</sup>, and others arriving as late as Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>, and some people leaving early. There were a total of 28 riders who participated in this year's BBR, and none were disappointed with the options presented for riding.

For those riding down on Saturday and Sunday, the weather was mixed with periods of sun and rain. For me, arriving on Saturday, it would rain for a little while, then the sun would come out. About the time I was getting dried out, I'd encounter another shower, and I'd once again feel the water entering my old worn-out riding suit. Once in Marietta, it was beautiful riding weather all day Sunday for those got in on Saturday, with mild temperatures, and clear skies. The weather on Monday was not quite so good (mild understatement here), as it

rained pretty much all day, and the motorcycles stayed parked all day. Not all was lost, however, as we did have some good Euchre games in the lobby of the hotel. Once past the rain on Monday, however, the rest of the week proved to be some of the best weather ever for the Barn Burn Raid with little to no rain, and temperatures only reaching into the mid-80s most days.



As for routes, there were 13 routes to choose from with 9 having the option to run it clockwise or counterclockwise. These included a couple of new routes to the Hocking Hills and Hawk's Nest State Park. The Hocking Hills ride featured a couple of options for lunch in Nelsonville, and Hawk's Nest State Park has a beautiful lodge that serves up a great lunch, taken while overlooking the New River Gorge. The usual options included the Beallsville (lunch at the Beallsville Diner), Big Muskie ride (gotta stop to see the Big Muskie Bucket), the Wee Circle, Circle, and Great Circle rides, the Hillbilly ride (lunch at Hillbilly Hot Dogs), New River Gorge ride, and the WV Figure Eight ride. The rides offered distances ranging from 180 miles to 329 miles, taking riders in all directions from Marietta. In addition to all of those, there were two rides of 90 and 100 miles for those who had trailered down and wanted to get in one last ride

on Sunday before loading the bikes on/in the trailer and heading home. All of the rides offered twisties to satisfy those looking to wear their tires from edge to edge, and lunch stops that give mom's home cooking a run for the money, all of which make you want to go back and do it all over again. The most difficult decision each day had to be just picking which great ride to do for the day and which direction to do it in.



At the end of each day, the second most difficult decision of the day presented itself in deciding where to go for dinner. With the choices available, it was possible to eat dinner in a different establishment every night that one was there, with virtually every type of cuisine you could imagine available.

All in all, there is little doubt that this year's BBR was one of the best ever, and that everyone who attended hated for the week to come to a close and head home.

Next year, we'll return to Marietta in August for BBR8. Put it on your calendar, schedule your vacation, tell the kids or relatives that you have a mandatory meeting elsewhere and to come on another date, and make sure you don't miss it again.

See you next year, August 11 to 18 in Marietta, Ohio for BBR8.

For more pictures from the event, be sure to visit the [SmugMug MSTRiders 2023 BBR gallery](#).

**A special thanks to Keith Danielson for his article 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 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 Ian Orr an e-mail to [Ridership@mstriders.com](mailto:Ridership@mstriders.com) with the details.

## MSTR East Breakfast Meetings \*\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\*\*

**This month's east side breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, August 26th, 2023 at 9:00am at Senate Coney Island in Livonia, located at 34359 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150**

## MSTR West Brunch Meetings

**Our next west side brunch meeting will be on Saturday, September 9th, 2023, at 10am at the Alibi Bar & Grill, 1394 East Riverside Dr, Ionia, MI 48846.**

## Cherohala Skyway closure

Cherohala Skyway, the 43-mile National Scenic Byway and National Forest Scenic Byway that connects Tellico, Plains, Tennessee and Robbinsville, has been closed.

The Graham County Emergency Planning Committee met Wednesday and voted to close the road as part of a state of emergency declaration due to complete road failure from

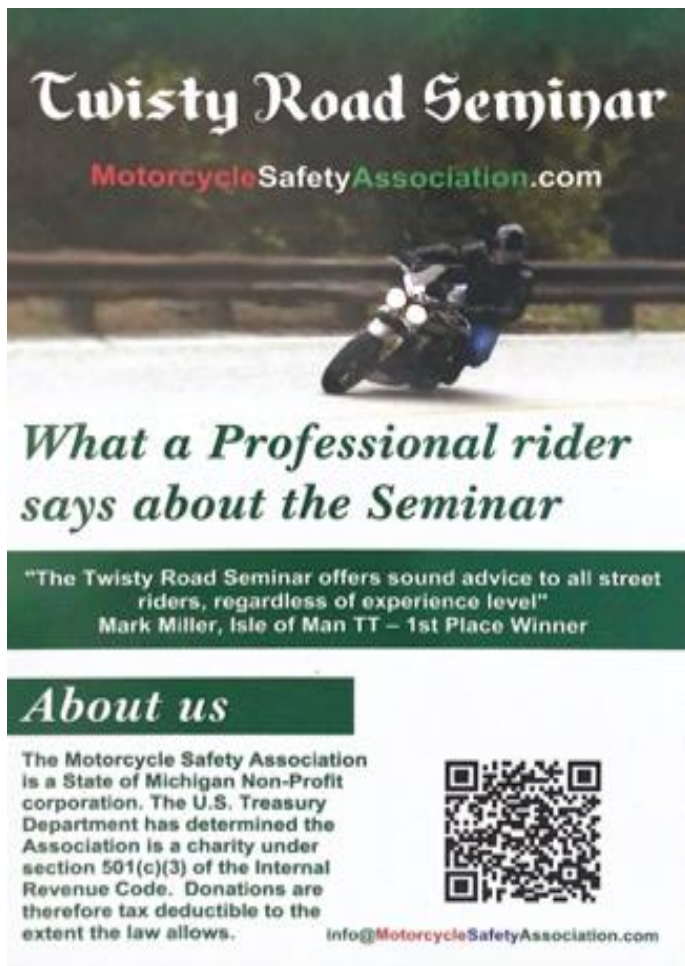


flooding. A barricade has been put in place with no checkpoint.

No timeline has been given as to when the road might reopen.

We expect it will be repaired in time for next year's MSTR MR2 event in May.

Visit [TDOT](#) or [Cherohala Skyway National Scenic Byway](#) for closures associated with the Cherohala Skyway.



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info@MotorcycleSafetyAssociation.com



Scan the above QR code with your smartphone to learn more about the Twisty Road Seminar.

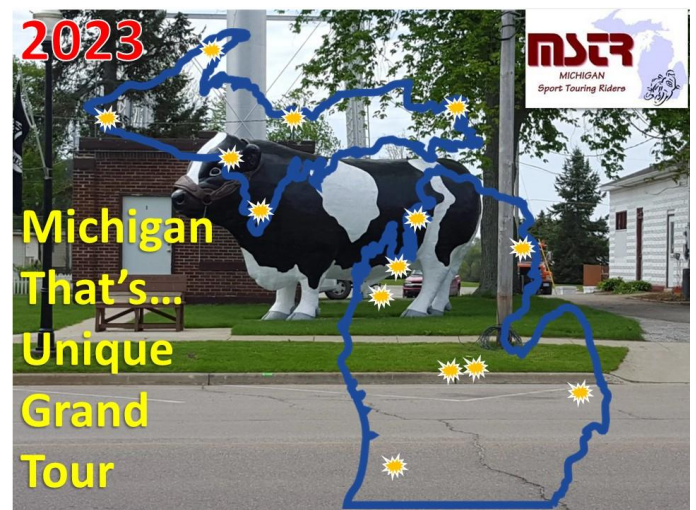
## MSTR Upcoming Rides

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 until November 19. If you would like to do the 2023 Michigan That's... Unique Grand Tour, you can sign up at any meeting, or send an email to [keithmdanielson@gmail.com](mailto:keithmdanielson@gmail.com), and I'll send the information out.

See you out on the road.

## **TOTM 15**

### **Tip Of The Mitt 15**

**September 14 – September 17, 2023**  
**Bellaire, Michigan**



September will be here before you know it and Bellaire MI is a great place to go riding and spend time with friends. Come and ride Alden Highway, M88 to Old Dixie and then on to Charlevoix. Take the scenic tour of the Leelanau Peninsula. How about that M-119 "Tunnel of Trees" loop? Enjoy an outside garden lunch at the Legs Inn. Take a short, \$3 cable ferry ride across Lake Charlevoix in Ironton. Come on, you can do it: Ride across the Mackinaw Straits over that big, beautiful bridge. Choices, choices,

choices!

The event headquarters (the Legend Cottage Inn at Shanty Creek) is completely booked as of today. A room or two may become available if someone must cancel at the last minute so contact Pete Stephan. If you still want to participate you can visit the website: <https://golfbellaire.com/accommodations.php> to check out alternate accommodations.

**Legend Cottage Inn at Shanty Creek**  
**5670 Shanty Creek Rd, Bellaire, MI 49615**  
**Phone: 231 533-3162**

If you are not familiar with Shanty Creek Resort there are nearby coffee and dining venues within an easy walk from the Legend Cottage Inn: The Pelican's Nest, Sarducci's Creekside, The Lakeview Restaurant and The Shanty Bar and Grill.

From the Lakeview Hotel, which very close to the Legend Cottage Inn, we can take the available shuttle to get us into Bellaire proper (although not all at once). Once in town you can enjoy the Corner Bistro, Mammoth Distillery, Be Well Meadery, The Bellaire Bar, Toonies, M88 Coffee, Short's Brewery and the Lunch Box.

There will be mandatory rider's meetings on Thursday and Friday night held in the parking lot of the Legend Cottage Inn to discuss point riders, riding groups and GPS routes. GPS Routes will be available around the beginning to September to everyone who has signed up.

**If you want to participate - here's what you do:**

Let Pete know you are going to participate by sending him an e-mail with your name, cell number, email address, riding or trailering, staying at the Inn or staying elsewhere. Pete has already sent an email to all the current participants to determine if they would like to ride as part of a group to Bellaire on Thursday, September 14

**Event Co-organizers:**

**Pete Stephan:** [rideamotorcycle@gmail.com](mailto:rideamotorcycle@gmail.com)

**Bob Komjathy:** [Rx\\_mich@yahoo.com](mailto:Rx_mich@yahoo.com) (route master)



## Fall Color Ride '23

### September 28-October 1, 2022



This year our Fall Color Ride returns at the end of September to the beginning of October. This is somewhat of a traveling event, as we will begin in Marietta, OH on Thursday evening, Sep 28 with dinner and a rider's meeting. On Friday we'll split up into groups, and head south into West Virginia following some of our usual assortment of twisty bits of tarmac, and maybe some slightly different ones too, arriving in Lewisburg on Friday afternoon.

Once there, you can remove some of the baggage from your motorcycle, because Saturday we'll enjoy some of the twisty treats that West Virginia and Virginia have to offer and return to the same place at the end of the day. On Sunday, Oct 1, we'll ride a more direct route, though still with a good amount of interesting roads for the return to Marietta and back home. Most people will load the bikes back into the trailers after arrival in Marietta on Sunday and arrive back home on Sunday evening.

To sign up, send an email to [keithmdanielson@gmail.com](mailto:keithmdanielson@gmail.com), or sign up at an upcoming meeting.

We'll be there along with the MSTA FCR. If you want to get the MSTA routes, you can register by emailing Chris Shoop at [shoopce@gmail.com](mailto:shoopce@gmail.com) or by going to [planetreg.com](http://planetreg.com) to register online. There is no cost to register with the MSTA, though they will take donations. All fees in excess of the minimal event costs will go to Ride for Kids. You don't need to be an MSTA member.

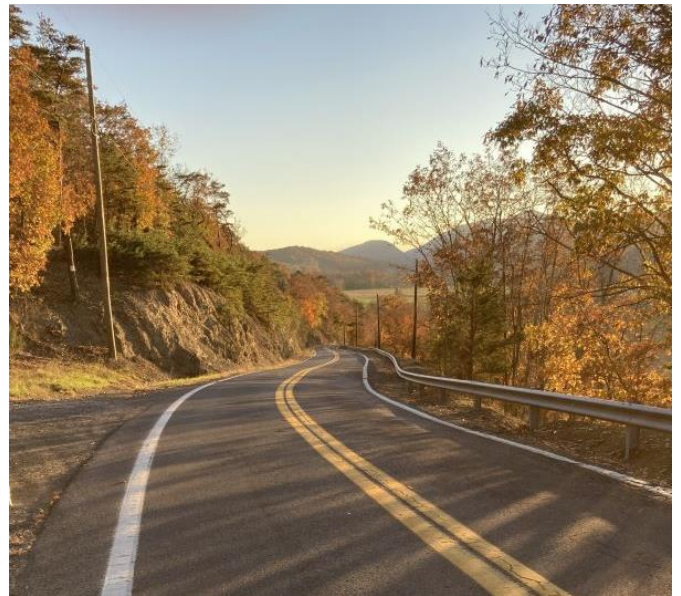
Our Marietta accommodations will be at the Microtel Inn & Suites. They have a large parking area behind the hotel where we can leave trailers and tow vehicles. There is no block of rooms, so if you want to go, just call the Microtel directly at

(740) 373-7373 to reserve your room. Use your AAA, AARP or other discount for their best rate. In Lewisburg, call the Quality Inn & Suites directly at (304) 645-7722. When you register with Keith he'll send you information for the group rate at the Quality Inn.

See also the information for the MSTR Riding on the Edge event if you want to extend the good vibes by riding in North Carolina/Tennessee/Virginia before going to Lewisburg.

## Riding on the Edge

### September 24 - 29, 2023



The Fall Color Ride (FCR) in Lewisburg is the last ride of the year. Wouldn't it be great to be able to stretch out that last ride of the year and discover some new roads in the process? That was the idea behind **Riding on the Edge (ROTE)**, ride some new roads on the weekdays before FCR. Of course, the extra riding would have to be flexible to let people do as many or as few days as they wanted. And it would have to be in easy reach of Lewisburg. Where to start?

Somewhere south and east of the intersection of Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia is West Jefferson, NC. It sits at 3000 feet elevation on the Appalachian Plateau and is surrounded by the Blue Ridge mountains. It lies in beautiful country and is surrounded by some very nice

roads. West Jefferson sits about halfway between Lewisburg and Waynesville and 170 miles to Lewisburg. It is also 560 miles by slab and a little over 600 miles by backroads from Livonia and about 280 miles from Marietta.

That leaves some interesting possibilities. There is a 2-day, backroads route down from Toledo. The ambitious can ride down Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23 and 24, ride ROTE routes Monday through Thursday, and follow the 1-day route from West Jefferson to Lewisburg on Friday, Sept 29.

Some will want to do that except head up to Marietta on Thursday. Then make the traditional ride from Marietta to Lewisburg on Friday.

Still others will come down later or trailer down. Do what works for you.

For those of you who don't want to ride in Virginia, no worries. Only one of the routes spends any time riding in the Forbidden Zone. The majority of the routes and miles are in N. Carolina with a dash of Tennessee on the western routes.

Now, down to the details. The dates you have (top of the page). The location you have. To avoid non-members taking advantage of our room block, I am asking that you sign up at one of the meetings or email me at the address below to be on the sign-up sheet. Please remind me and I will send you the hotel details and will send you a link and instructions for making a reservation. Hope to see you down there.

**Event Organizer:**

**Jac Brown:** [jac.brown999@gmail.com](mailto:jac.brown999@gmail.com)

## MSTR Newsletter and Website

The MSTR Newsletter and Website ([www.mstriders.com/](http://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](mailto:ridership@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.

**Photos from Barn Burn Raid 7:**









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