



*Michigan*  
*Sport Touring Riders Report*

September 2023

Editor – Ian Orr

**TOTM 15 Wrap-up**  
**September 14-17, 2023**

**By: Bob Komjathy**

It is that time of the year again when great friends old and new get together to explore and enjoy the northern lower peninsula and parts of the upper peninsula. Using Bellaire, Michigan and the Shanty Creek Legends Cottage Inn as our base camp, there were route options to go up, down, east, and west by the most indirect routes with the most curves per mile to explore areas less traveled. The weather couldn't have been better. Cool in the mornings and mild by afternoon and sunny for most of the day. There were 27 participants including one from Sao Paulo, Brazil.



I made a couple of new routes for this year and refreshed the previous ones. There were 15 routes to choose from and 2 local days to ride them so if one part of the state was of less interest, surely there was another that went someplace you would like to explore. I still had not been up to riding a motorcycle so I came to the event with my car and a trailer in case someone had mechanical issues including most of the tools to do some repairs. No tows were needed but we did have a couple of standing still tip-overs that required a turn indicator repaired.

I wanted to proof out a new route to Rogers City so that was my intended plan. It turns out Peter, his wife, Mark Herman and Roland from Holland wanted to do



the route, too. Since I had a gps with the route programmed into it and two others were old school with maps only, I was grinning a bit but I was the leader of the group using a Ford Focus. I was mindful in the curves to keep the speed up so the others could do a little leaning without impairment. So that was a new experience for me. It was quite a nice ride and we found a great restaurant at the M-211 Grill. The ride report shared with others had them choosing this route the second day. This route has great vistas from elevation and lots of curvy roads.



The second day was to proof the other route I made for the U.P. remaining off of US-2 and using back roads to get to Engadine. The lunch stop was supposed to be the Pine and Dine but was closed when I got there. No worries, on to Newberry and Timber Charlies had wonderful burgers. Rachel and Max's group did the tunnel of trees and Engadine

combined. They, too, found another place to eat that they liked a lot MooFinFries on US-2. The route takes the Hiawatha Trail from St. Ignace to Engadine. We had the entire road to ourselves. The riders could have ridden 12 abreast at full speed for nearly the entire run without seeing other traffic.

I continued up M-123 to Tahquamenon Falls and Crisp Point Lighthouse which may be another future route idea with an option for a small BDR for adventure bikes since it has a stretch of curvy dirt roads with elevation changes with tunnel of trees style curves that they can enjoy for 34 miles (17 miles in and out). I did this route in the Focus and I made it through but almost everything going in was 4 wheel drive, quads, and dirt bikes. Stay tuned if interested!

Sunday we broke up into individual riders and small groups for the ride home. I ventured out to the west side of the state to the Grand Traverse Lighthouse and a stop at the Cherry Hut for pies for our kid's families, mother-in-law, and a turkey dinner and cherry pie for my wife.



A special thanks to **Bob Komjathy** 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

**Our next east side breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, September 23rd, 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 lunch meeting will be on Saturday, October 14th, 2023, at 11am 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.

On 9/6, TDOT reported that they expect the road will have temporary repairs completed by September 22, weather permitting, with permanent repairs to be made at a later date.

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

Visit [TDOT](https://www.tdot.ga.gov/) or [Cherohala Skyway National Scenic Byway](https://www.nps.gov/cherohala/) for the latest information on closures associated with the Cherohala Skyway.





# Twisty Road Seminar

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## 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



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 last two MSTRiding events for this year. For a full list of our 2023 events, please check the MSTR website ([www.mstriders.com](http://www.mstriders.com)) and go to the *Events* page. If you are interested in volunteering to organize a future event, please send an email to [ridership@mstriders.com](mailto:ridership@mstriders.com).

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](http://www.mstriders.com), then navigate to the *Membership/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 is back for 2023, and it's nearing the deadline for sending in your picture proofs of your visits to the checkpoints. The theme this year is unique things to see in Michigan and is called the *2023 Michigan That's... Unique Grand Tour*.



It takes 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, 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 runs until November 19. If you

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

## Fall Color Ride '23

### September 28-October 1, 2023



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. 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 TOTM:






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