



Michigan Sport Touring Riders Report

October 2023

Editor – Heidi Nagel

Riding On The Edge (ROTE) 2023

By: Jac Brown

The Riding on the Edge for 2023 is complete with seven attendees, good roads, good weather, and a good time had by all. But don't tell anybody, we want to keep some of these roads to ourselves.

We were a bit of an odd group. Starting with me, I had a mechanical problem before I even got out of Michigan and had to get a tow truck ride home. But since I was host, I jumped in my Fiat 500 and met the rest of the group at the first night hotel. From then on, I ran sweep and dinner cab on all the routes.

Jan stepped in as point rider. *Thank you, Jan.* Everybody stayed in line on the bikes, but she couldn't keep control off the bikes. You see, we had three excellent liars in the group, so as soon as the kickstands went down, the tall tales grew and grew. Entertaining to listen to up to a point.



A Promising Sign - ROTE 2023

For the most part, the weather was fine, just a few drops here and there, but we did have low clouds in the morning on most days. What I learned is that the low

clouds get stuck on the edge of the Blue Ridge plateau which is close by. The trick is to ride away from the Blue Ridge on top of the plateau and things got better quickly.



Recruiting New MSTR Moombers - ROTE 2023

Of course, there will be revisions to the routes as they develop with experience. For one thing, we won't be going through Boone or along 105, no matter what time of day. I have been thinking that Ian is right, a four-letter acronym is too long. I am thinking about renaming the ride. How about "The Edge Ride" or TER? I'm open to suggestions.

Altogether, it makes a nice compliment to the FCR and I am already looking forward to next year. Hopefully on a motorcycle.

Sand Dune Shenanigans

By: Mike Maksymetz

A few days before Labor Day weekend, a friend posted that they have a lakefront camp site at Silver Lake they can't use. Heidi and I didn't have plans, so let's go! And, of course, let's bring some bikes and try riding the dunes. In order to ride from the campsite to the ORV area, we brought our dual-sport bikes, a 1973 Honda XL250 and a 1993 Yamaha XT225 Serow.



Airing Down the Tires at the ORV Staging area

Saturday morning – With all the appropriate gear, ORV and trail stickers, 10-foot-tall **square** safety flags (triangle flags are not allowed), and tire pressure down to about 15psi, we passed the “spark arrester” test required for motorcycles, and headed straight up the ORV area entrance. You get about 10 feet of pavement to shift into 2nd and then it’s up a dune as far as the eye can see. We then proceeded to stall, fall over, lose flags (3x), face-plant in the sand (Heidi), dig ourselves out, and get thoroughly exhausted.



No kickstand Needed for Heidi's Serow in the Sand

I've tackled sandy portions of west Michigan ORV trails, but this is completely different. There's a reason you see very few dirt bikes at Silver Lake (the smart ones have paddle tires) ... It's difficult! Perhaps, especially so on vintage bikes! The *only* way to ride here is to get, and stay, on top of the sand. Ride with as much weight as possible on the back tire to keep the front tire “floating”, then give it as much speed as possible. Steering is “managed” by weighting pegs. If you miss that shift to second gear and go into neutral, you stop dead and have to start all over again. Starting from a dead stop takes enormous effort. At one point, I look

down at my gauges while climbing a dune, the bike's in third gear, revving close to the red line, and the speedo barely registering 20mph.

Saturday afternoon – I headed back to the dunes on my own. Bad idea! Out on the dunes it's drunken mayhem with full-size pickups careening around at 50 mph. Fearing for my life, I headed out of there ASAP.

Sunday morning – We start out as soon as the dunes open at 9:00 am. If you are going to try this, be early. With tire pressure now down to 10 psi, we had a blast! It was challenging to say the least, but that rush of exhilaration once you find your Zen makes it all worth it. Not sure we'd go back anytime soon, but it's definitely something to cross off my motorcycling adventure list.



The Honda XL250 is a tank!

Silver Lake ORV Area is located along the shores of Lake Michigan between Muskegon and Ludington with 450 acres of dunes open to ORV riders. This is the only place east of the Mississippi where you can enjoy riding freely on sand dunes. The shifting dunes promise a different terrain every time you visit them.

Special thanks to Jac Brown and Mike Maksymetz for their articles 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 are some of the upcoming local events and meetings. If you know of a local motorcycle event in Michigan or Ontario that MSTR members might be interested in, send Ian Orr an e-mail to Ridership@mstriders.com with the details.



MSTR East Breakfast Meetings

Our next east side breakfast meeting is Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 9:00 am at Senate Coney Island, 34359 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

Note: The November and December 2023 east side breakfast meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturdays due to the holidays. Mark your calendars for **November 18** and **December 16**, 2023.

MSTR West Lunch Meetings

Our next west side lunch meeting is Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 11:00 am at the Alibi Bar & Grill, 1394 East Riverside Dr., Ionia, MI 48846.

MSTR 2023 MOTY Banquet

The 2023 MSTR MOTY Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 10th at Zerbo's Market & Bistro at 3000 E West Maple Road, Commerce Twp 48390.


This is the same location as last year's banquet. More details, including dinner menu choices and reservation forms, will be available at upcoming meetings.



A gorgeous fall road scene from ROTE 2023

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

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

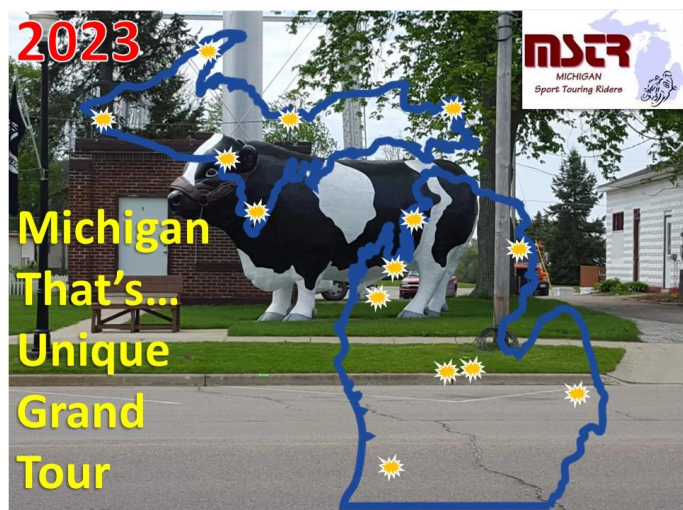
MSTR Upcoming Rides

For a full list of tentative MSTR 2024 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 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, 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 theme this year is unique things to see in Michigan!



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, and I'll send the information out.

MSTR Newsletter and 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 you can send it in for the newsletter and website to **Heidi Nagel** at heidijn@gmail.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.

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