



Michigan Sport Touring Riders Report

November 2023

Editor – Heidi Nagel

Finally, Alaska! Part 1

By: Roland Knoepke

After numerous times trying to get “Way Up North” to Alaska, I put together **The Plan**. Many people were interested, but noncommittal. After talking to my wife Carey, a ‘very’ wise individual, I decided to go on my own, crazy or not!

To prepare for this trip, I read magazine articles about riding to Alaska. In addition, I read [“Alaska by Motorcycle: How to Motorcycle to Alaska”](#) by Dr. Gregory W. Frazier, and [“The World-Famous Alaska Highway: A Guide to the Alcan & Other Wilderness Roads of the North”](#) by Tricia Brown. The most helpful resource was the latest edition of [“The Milepost,”](#) which is the best travel guide to Alaska. I also talked to a number of riders that had gone before me and was given invaluable advice.

Many adventurous riders like to find places to stay along the way, but I like to book in advance so I know where I’m staying each night. I planned on camping five out of 29 nights. The other 24 nights were a mix of motels, old hotels, B&B’s, and cabins. After packing, rethinking my gear, then repacking, I got it narrowed down. I also packed copies of my legal documents (even of the GS’s title), but all I was required to show at borders was my Passport. So easy!



*Just before leaving,
6/5/2023 – Feeling much
happier than I look!*

My first night was June 5, when I camped at Flowing Well Campground west of Manistique. It was very peaceful. Traveling West on Hwy 2, I was met with on and off light rain. The first 5 days were only between 300 and 450 miles. Easy!

My first surprise of the trip came shortly after I entered Montana. Here, U.S. Route 2 is the main (only) street through the small town of Culbertson and it was completely torn down to mud and sand. The ruts were up to my axels! I wouldn’t want to ride through those few miles on anything other than an adventure bike with 50/50 tires.

I crossed into Canada west of Glacier National Park at the Roosville crossing, where it was once again raining. I stayed at Mountain View Cabins North of Golden, BC on Hwy 1, and really enjoyed this location.



*Mountain View Cabins
Golden, British Columbia*



Mountain View – Promise delivered!

The next day I backtracked to Golden and followed Hwy 1 to Lake Louise. This is a wonderful road up and through the Rocky Mountains. I then headed to the Icefields Pkwy on Hwy 93. Though very busy it was really beautiful! Out of Jasper, I took Hwy 16 to Prince George.



On the way to Prince George, British Columbia

More to come in Part 2!

Fall Color Ride Wrap-up

By: Keith Danielson

Immediately following the *Riding on the Edge (ROTE)* event (see last month's *Michigan Sport Touring Riders Report* by Jac Brown), we held the *Fall Color Ride* in conjunction with the MSTA in Lewisburg, West Virginia. Several riders came directly from the ROTE, but for others, this event officially started in Marietta, Ohio. Eleven different routes, generated over the last four years, provide various ways to get from Marietta to Lewisburg. Riders can choose based on route, distance, or preferred lunch stop.

In Lewisburg, the MSTA "Just for Fun" free event offered 16 routes of varying distances going in all directions from Lewisburg, with several points of interest along the way. Those who arrived on Thursday accompanied one of the groups of MSTA riders on Friday. This was a fun day riding with and getting to know new people.

On Saturday, MSTRiders split into two groups: One led by Jan Pennington, and the other led by Russ McClelland. Russ' group (Keith Danielson, Don Pennington, Susan Ahn, and Craig Blogin) enjoyed a great 256-mile route. After a BBQ and burgers lunch at the Rebel Smokehouse in Mullens, WV, we experienced the highlight of the route! WV-10 has very nice technical twisties over and around a couple of mountains. We continued back to Lewisburg for dinner,

where we enjoyed an entertaining night of stories from the road, with riders *kicking lies and telling tires*.



Riders with Foggy "Fall Color"

Sunday morning in Lewisburg was foggy, but clear skies were promised. We had 199 miles to get back to Marietta. Despite the lure of more great West Virginia backroads, Tom Hudson and I decided to hightail it home on the interstate. 665 miles and 11 hours later, I was back home and preparing for my next ride.

Next year's plan is to ride down to Marietta on Wednesday, then to Lewisburg on Thursday. This will allow us to take advantage of the routes around Lewisburg. This event will be followed by the *Riding on the Edge*, so that those who wish to and can take more time can maximize the fun for the last ride of the season. I hope to see you at next year's *Fall Color Ride*.

A special thanks to Jeff Anderson, Roland Knoepke, and Keith Danielson for the articles 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 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.

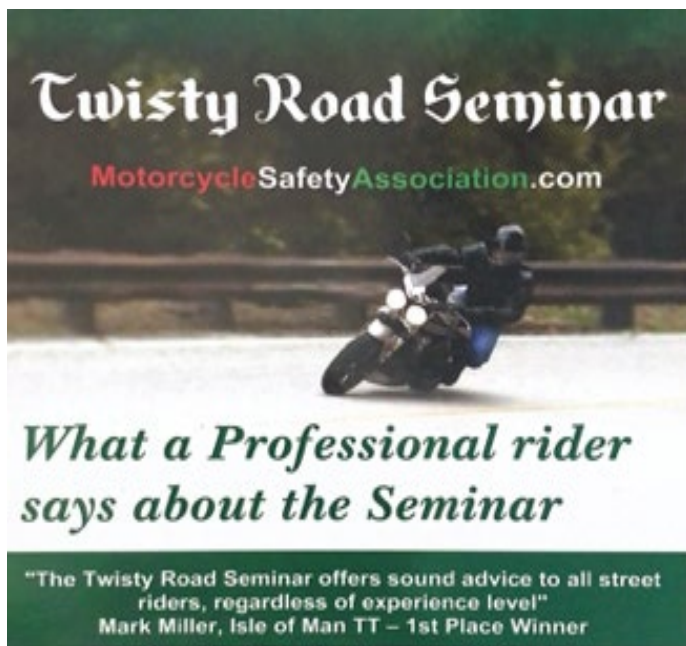
MSTR East Breakfast Meetings

Our next east side breakfast meeting is **Saturday, November 18, 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, December 9, 2023, at 11:00 am 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

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

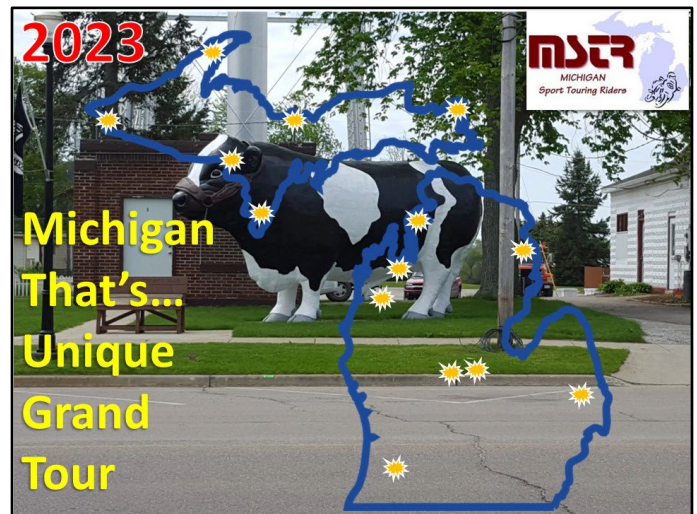
MSTR Upcoming Rides

For a full list of 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 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 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 December 31! (Note the date extension!)** 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, whatever, send it in for the newsletter and/or website to:

Heidi Nagel, 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.

Bike Photos: Battle of the Brits

Submitted By: Jeff Anderson



- The Ariel Square 4 rode into the show ahead of me and sounded amazing.



- The Mystery Ship and Triumph X75 were designed by Craig Vetter in the 1970's. The bikes were both owned by the same person and in mint condition.

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