



Michigan Sport Touring Riders Report

January 2024

Editor – Heidi Nagel

My Very Memorable Motel Stay

By: Keith Danielson

A long time ago I went to a far-away place on vacation...

Actually, it was in 1986. After I had purchased my first BMW, a 1985 K100RS in Alaska Blue, and I had managed to save up a whole bunch of vacation when my employer allowed us to accumulate up to two years' worth of vacation accrual. With four weeks of vacation to spend, I decided to take a trip out to the west coast. On the way out, I stopped overnight in Portland, OR to visit relatives, then via Mount St. Helens to Bellevue, WA to visit my sister and her family for a week. Family visits mostly done, I rode and camped on my way down the Pacific coast from the tip of the Olympic Peninsula, all the way down to San Diego, with a detour to see Crater Lake, and more visits to relatives in Bakersfield and Ventura, CA. It was certainly a memorable trip, with many great photos taken along the way before heading back east.

But the subject of this screed is not the wonderful journey and many memories from that trip. No, this is all about the memorable motel stay that I had on the way back east.

I began my journey back east, leaving San Diego, and riding across the Sierra Nevada mountains and through the desert. By the time I got to Holbrook, AZ, it was past dark, and I was getting kind of tired. Ready to call it a day, I pulled into town. Upon seeing the Sandman Motel, and not seeing any other hotels or motels around, I turned into the parking lot, thinking this would do. The name of the motel itself should have caused me to keep going... but it didn't.

As I pulled up toward the office, one of two guys sitting on the tailgate of a pickup truck drinking beer jumped off and came running toward me and did a flying karate kick from about 20 feet away. Laughing, he asked if he had scared me, and went back to the pickup truck to continue drinking his beer. I should have turned right back around then and continued... but I didn't.

I proceeded to park my motorcycle in front of the office and headed inside. When I asked if they had a room, he asked "for how long?" At that, I should have turned around and gotten back on the motorcycle and continued... but I didn't.

I told him for one night, and he said it would be \$12. Again, I should have turned around and gotten back on the motorcycle and continued... but I didn't.

I paid my \$12, got the key, and parked the motorcycle outside the door to my room. Upon entering the room and turning on the lights, I was greeted by the sight of maroon carpeting on the floor, red velvet bedspreads on the beds, and red floral print paper decorating the walls. I should have turned around then, returned the key, and gotten back on the motorcycle and continued... but I didn't.

I unloaded my gear from the motorcycle and brought it into the room. In the bathroom, the paint was peeling, and didn't look particularly clean, but I figured I was committed now. I wasn't going to spend all night in the bathroom, and I was only staying for one night, so I figured it would do, and I took my much-needed shower. Refreshed after the shower, I put my quarter in the box for the magic fingers and proceeded to slide between the not-too-soft sheets and went to sleep.

Around about 3:00 in the morning, I woke up and couldn't stop itching. After several futile minutes trying to go back to sleep, I got up, got my sleeping bag out of my duffle bag, laid it out on the bed, and then was able to go back to sleep.

Around 5:00, I was awakened by knocking at the door. I rolled over and covered my head with the pillow, but the knocking persisted, even more vigorously. No longer able to ignore it, I crawled out of the sleeping bag, put my blue jeans on, went to the door and opened it. Outside, there was a young woman, who asked if Candy was here. Somewhat confused, I looked around, pointed over to the right and said, "there's a machine over there."

"No, Candy, my sister! Is she here?" she replied.

"No, she's not here," I said.

"Are you sure?" she asked.

"Yes, I'm sure."

"What time is it?" she asked.

"Just a moment," I replied, walked back into the room to get my watch, and came back to the door and told her, "Five o'clock."

At that, she said "thanks," and finally walked away.

Now, I can be a slow learner at times, but that did it. I finally got the message. I closed the door, went back into the room, packed up my sleeping bag and other belongings, loaded up the motorcycle... and I left.

I headed to the restaurant next door for breakfast before hopping on the bike and riding off into the sunrise to continue my journey back east.

And that... is my very memorable motel stay.

A special thanks to 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!**

2023 MSTR MOTY Banquet

Saturday, February 10

Zerbo's Market & Bistro
3000 E. West Maple Road
Commerce Twp. MI 48390

Meet & Greet: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Dinner Service: 6:00 PM

MOTY Awards Presentation: 7:30 PM

Annual Meeting w/Officer Elections: 8:30 PM

Banquet reservation forms will be available at the upcoming East side meeting. They can also be downloaded by selecting the link in the meeting announcement emails sent prior to the meetings.

Note: Saturday (1/27/2024) is the last time to pay in person. We have 60 people signed up...and we have room for up to 100.

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, January 27, 2023, at 9:00 am at Senate Coney Island, 34359 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

MSTR West Lunch Meetings

Our next west side lunch meeting is Saturday, March 9, 2023, at 11:00 am at the Alibi Bar & Grill, 1394 East Riverside Dr., Ionia, MI 48846.

California North BDR Expedition Documentary


Enjoy a free showing of the most recent BDR Film at **BMW Motorcycles of Grand Rapids**
5995 Division Ave. S.
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Saturday, February 24, 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Join us as we follow the BDR team and special guests as they navigate the backcountry of Northern California through the scenic High Sierras.



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

MSTR 2024 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**.

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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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.


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