



Michigan Sport Touring Riders

March 2024 Newsletter

Editor - Heidi Nagel

Club Meetings

Eastside

Saturday, March 23, 9 AM
Senate Coney Island
34359 Plymouth Rd. Livonia

Westside

Saturday, April 13, 11 AM
Alibi Bar & Grill
1394 E. Riverside Dr. Ionia

Membership

If you haven't renewed your membership, here is the [2024 Renewal Form](#).

Need an MSTR New Member Form for friend?

Well, then, here you go, [2024 New Rider Membership Form](#)

MSTR Mileage Program

If you are new to the mileage program, or have a new bike for the 2024 season, send an email with your bike's make, model, and starting 2024 mileage to **Ian Orr**, at ridership@mstriders.com.

Upcoming Club Events

Check our Events page for more information on these events.

Missouri-Arkansas (MoArk)

April 17 - 20, 2024
(MoArk16, See p.4 for detail)

Arizona Winter Get-away

By Bob Komjathy

There's snow on the ground and my R1150RT is sitting on my trailer, while I am chomping at the bit to GO! After some delays, I finally called my wife in the late afternoon to let her know I am leaving. She says, "Be careful and have a great time!" That night I made it to a Hatfield Hotel, near Paducah, Kentucky. I asked if they had a room, and if not could the McCoy's Hotel put me up for the night? This earned me a grin from the clerk.

The next day I made it to Shamrock, Texas. With light rain turning into to snowflakes, it was definitely time to get off the road. The next morning, after passing many severely damaged 18-wheelers that were either ripped apart or resting on their roofs, I got off the congested and slippery interstate at Santa Rosa, New Mexico to stop for lunch. Locals said I-40 was closed further west, so after some great Mexican food, I made my way further south on U.S. 54 toward Ruidoso, NM. Icy fog and freezing rain made for some spectacular scenery. Halfway through New Mexico, the skies opened up and became sunny. Temps went from 22 to 66°F in 30 miles. Scud clouds hugging the mountains and valley; but sunshine showing me a nice panoramic of the tallest mountain in New Mexico. After lunch in Las Cruces, the day ended near Wilcox, AZ.



My first motorcycle ride was to the [Chiricahua National Monument](#), where I enjoyed scenic vistas into Mexico to the south. Then, I packed up and headed to [Picacho Peak State Park](#), my home base for the

following week. While temperatures were in the 70's to 80's during the day, at night it dropped to 32°F. Since I had power at the campsite, a simple fix was an electric blanket for a twin size bed inside the sleeping bag. (One definition of *desert* is a temperature difference of 50° between day and night.)

Late winter Arizona is a conglomerate of paradoxes; with warmth, cold, desert, rain, bugs, animals, and birds. Even hummingbirds that can regulate their energy to do quite well in the cold nights. There are 18 species of hummingbirds in that part of Arizona. The [Anna's Hummingbird](#) is the most comical, as it climbs 25-feet in the air then dives towards the ground stopping just inches above, then cracks its tail like a whip to impress the ladies.



I managed to get 1,100+ miles of motorcycling under my belt during the week. On my way to the [Kitt Peak Observatory](#) (7,800 feet), I made a loop to Arizona City, then turned southwest on AZ-15 where I had the road to myself for 50+ miles. Heading to the top of the mountain, ice and sand on the north faces of the mountain made the going slower than normal. I took a tour of the Solar Telescope, which goes several hundred feet into the mountain where the sunlight is reflected on mirrors to the observation point. On the top of the solar telescope building is a mirror that follows the sun with precision through the sky and

directs its rays down into the mountain. I then continued down towards Tucson and cut through the [Saguaro National Park](#) back to Picacho.

Another daytrip was to the top of [Mount Lemmon](#), following the [Salt River Canyon](#) scenic drive before heading back. [The Devil's Highway](#) (AKA Route 666) was treacherous due to fresh snow, so that's where I stopped. Nearby U.S. 60 is a fun ride with some really pretty vistas. Another fun road goes from Picacho I-10 to AZ-79, with some nice curves through open-range desert. Here I had to be on the lookout for cows freely crossing the road as well as the cattle rails leading into and out of open range.

One place I have gone several times is the Saguaro National Park and the [Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Zoo](#). Along the way, I recommend stopping by the village of Picture Rocks, named for the petroglyphs in the rocks near the center of town. Nearby [Pinal County Airpark](#) not only has an Air National Guard unit with Apache helicopters and F16s, it is also a graveyard for grounded airliners. I saw an Air Transat jet I had been on in the past, one of several preserved till needed again.



Of course, bring your hiking shoes! One morning, I climbed to the top of Picacho Peak. What a view! My

Upcoming Club Events

Continued from page 1

½ K Ride (see p. 4 for detail)
May 4, 2024

Ladies' Ride (Tentative. **We need a coordinator!)**
May 5, 2024

Michigan Renegade Mountain Ride (MR2)
May 12 - 18, 2024

Don & Jan Pennington's Summer Sizzle BBQ
June 2, 2024

Hocking Hills Twisty Tour (HT2)
June 12 - 15, 2024

Up North Camping Ride IV
July 11 - 21, 2024

Barn Burn Raid (BBR)
August 15 - 18, 2024 (standard)
August 11 - 18, 2024 (add-on)

Tip Of The Mitt (TOTM)
September 12 - 15, 2024

Fall Color Ride (FCR)
September 25 - 29, 2024

Last Fall Ride (LFR)
September 29 - October 4, 2024

God, the desert was as green as I have ever seen it, with poppies and lupine blooming. Anyone heading out that way in the next few weeks should be in for a beautiful desert bloom.

All great things come to an end and it was time to head back home. In addition to the riding and the sites, I had great food and hung out a bit with some old friends who migrated from Michigan.

Special thanks to **Bob Komjathy** for this, and *all* the articles featured this month!

Remember: All published articles earn 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 **2024 MOTY Awards!**

Ride to the Path of Totality!

with Bob Komjathy

On **April 8, 2024**, Bob will lead a ride to Wapakoneta and Dayton, Ohio to view the total eclipse of the sun. What better place to see a total eclipse than from the home town of the first man to walk on the Moon? Planned departure is from the Brighton Meijer gas station, following back roads in Ohio to the final destination. Riders can either return to Michigan that afternoon, or stay overnight in Dayton and visit the [National Museum of the United States Air Force](#) before returning home.

If you would like to participate in this ride, contact Bob Komjathy, (810) 599-0273.

Note: This is not a club ride, so MSTR membership is not required. Anyone may join!

Remember to ATGATT when viewing the eclipse! You can purchase eclipse viewing glasses online. For more information about the 2021 Total Eclipse, including how to make a viewing apparatus, check out, <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when>.



½ K Ride with Bob Komjathy

The ride departs the Brighton Meijer gas station Sat, May 4 at 9:00 AM. **Be ready to go with a full tank.** The route is 370 miles to Benton Harbor and back. If you get there before 3:00 PM, lunch is at the [Mason Jar Cafe](#). If not, the backup restaurant is [Plank's Tavern on the Water](#) in St. Joseph. The route takes you to both, so you can choose. Both restaurants offer outdoor seating.

Members can email Bob at Rx_Mich@yahoo.com for gpx files and any other questions.

MoArk16 Ride – More Detail

April 17-20, 2024

This ride is a “curve-chaser’s” delight. There are three days of riding, with 1,000 tire-shredding miles in the Ozark’s to start out your riding season. Check your tires for tread prior to this ride, the roads here will chew them up aggressively. Many riders have shown up with “I think” tires and ended up buying expensive tires mid-ride and losing a day of riding. If in doubt, mount new tires.

MoArk 16 begins in Farmington, Missouri. We’ll meet there for dinner on Wednesday, April 17th. There will be a mandatory **point** riders meeting around 8:00 or 8:30pm and then a mandatory riders meeting at 9:00pm to sign a waiver and put riding groups together. On Thursday morning you can choose one of six routes from Farmington to Mountain Home, Arkansas. We’ll then be staying Thursday, April 18th and Friday, April 19th in Mountain Home. On Friday you have a choice of five loop routes (or make up your own) but no matter which you’ll be riding on some of the best roads in Arkansas. On Saturday you again have a choice of six routes to return to Farmington, Missouri from Mountain Home, arriving mid-afternoon and then prepare for the ride or trailer trip back to Michigan.

To join us for MoArk 16 get your name on the sign-up list by sending an email to Ian as shown below. Event information including hotel information, a rider package and GPS routes will only be provided to those who have signed up.

Members can contact Ian Orr: at mclorr1198@gmail.com for more information.




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.



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