



Michigan Sport Touring Riders

July 2024 Newsletter

Editor - Heidi Nagel

Celebration of Life for Pete Beightol

Friday, August 9, 5-8:00 PM

Raintree Park

3775 John R Rd., Troy, MI

Share stories, raise a glass, and honor Pete's memory and life.

Commemoration at 6:30 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations can be

made to The [Sierra Club](#),
[Michigan Chapter](#).

Club Meetings & Events

Eastside Meeting

Saturday, July 27, 9 AM

Senate Coney Island

34359 Plymouth Rd. Livonia

Westside Meeting

Saturday, August 10, 11 AM

Alibi Bar & Grill

1394 E. Riverside Dr. Ionia

Barn Burn Raid (BBR)

See *June Newsletter*, p. 2 for details

August 15 - 18, 2024 (standard)

August 11 - 18, 2024 (add-on)

Tip of The Mitt 16 (TOTM)

See p. 2 for details

September 12 - 15, 2024

Fall Color Ride (FCR)

See p. 4 for details

September 25 - 29, 2024

Last Fall Ride (LFR)

September 29 - October 4, 2024

Roger & Terry's (and Ken & Kent's) Big Adventure

Installment #1 (of several to many)

By Kent Niederhofer

I don't recall at what point the two isotopes named Zander and Morisi collided resulting the big bang that would conceive the plan for an epic, cross-country trip to attend the BMW MOA Rally in Redmond, OR but it seemed like it was February or March of 2024. It wasn't much after that that the idea's Newtonian forces began to draw me – as well as Ken Snodgrass – into joining their party of two which I did after only modest exposure to the concept.

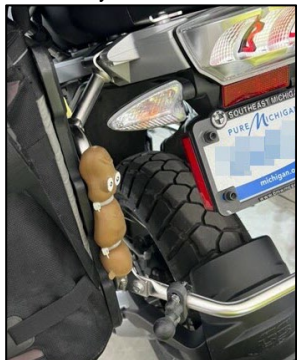
I can't say that there weren't points where I had some level of trepidation thinking what the hell am I doing signing up for a 6,000 mile plus trip that will include traveling hours on end over some of the most sinisterly flat and boring parts of the country (I'm talking to you Montana, North and South Dakota) that the 48 contiguous states have to offer. But once I was in, I was in, and there came point where my charade had gone on long enough that I couldn't bring myself to suffer the embarrassment of withdrawing so I stuck with it.

Suffice it to say, with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, it was one of the best decisions I made. One of the products of that 22-day trip was a daily log that I kept so I could remember all of the stuff we did and places we visited. Plus, given the grand nature of the ride, it seemed appropriate to share it with others, namely on Facebook, and now here in the MSTR Newsletter. I've read my daily log multiple times since I've been back and it still brings a smile to my face. I'm hoping that, whether you're reading it for the first time or a second time, it will do the same for you. And now onto our adventure...

Day 0 (2-Jun-24) – I've spent the better part of this weekend trying to figure out how to pack clothing, camping gear, tools, video and camera equipment, and provisions into two panniers, a duffel and a small tank bag for an epic three-week, cross-country motorcycle trip which will take us to Redmond, OR and back. This is where the BMW MOA rally will take place and we will cover over 6,000 miles.

Along the way, my riding chums and I will stop at sites such as Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park, Glacier Lake and other treasures. The *bus* leaves tomorrow morning at 9:00 AM sharp and the first stop will be in St. Ignace.

As has been the case in the past, my trusty riding companion, affectionately named "James Brown" will ride along ensuring the safety of our wagon train and keeping a watchful eye out for potential hoodlums. If you've ever met James Brown during the course of my travels, you know he is the sh*t!



"James Brown" along for the ride

Day 1 (3-Jun-24) – Our party of three departed at 9:00 AM rendezvousing with our fourth at the Clio rest area off of I-75N. After a short chat with a local (I think it's great how people are attracted to motorcyclists) and a nature break, we were underway again. It was our plan to slab it early on until we broke away from the influence of Metro Detroit and Flint, ultimately taking M-23N along the east coast of the state with much of Lake Huron in view.

We had several stops planned including the [Antique Toy and Firehouse Museum](#) in Bay City, with multiple acres of vintage and toy firetrucks and equipment under roof. Our hosts, Don and Mike, provided an overview of the museum's history as well as some of the more unique pieces of equipment including the Super Pumper which could spray water at 8,800 gallons per minute!



Antique Toy and Firehouse Museum, Bay City

After fueling the bikes and ourselves at Fergie's Pizza in Standish, we headed to Alpena Community College to get a snapshot of a statue of what looks like Paul Bunyan on a bad acid trip. Don't ask why, it just had to be done I'm told.

Tip of the Mitt 16 (TOTM)

September 12- 15, 2024

Bellaire, MI

Event Organizers:

- Pete Stephan, rideamotorcycle@gmail.com
- Bob Komjathy, Rx_mich@yahoo.com

Bellaire is a great place to go riding and spend time with friends. Come and ride Alden Highway, M88 to Old Dixie and then on to Charlevoix. Take the scenic tour of the Leelanau Peninsula. How about that M-119 "Tunnel of Trees" loop? Enjoy an outside garden lunch at the Legs Inn. Take a short, \$5 cable ferry ride across Lake Charlevoix in Ironton. Come on, you can do it: Ride across the Mackinaw Straits over that big beautiful bridge. Choices, choices, choices!

We have managed a place to lay our head, revel in the day's events, and get out and about in and around Bellaire.

Legend Cottage Inn at Shanty Creek

5670 Shanty Creek Rd, Bellaire, MI 49615

Phone: **231 533-8123**

Contact: **Vonda Manga**

If you are not familiar with Shanty Creek Resort, there are nearby coffee and dining venues within an easy walk from the Legend Cottage Inn. From the Lakeview Hotel, which very close to the Legend Cottage Inn, we can take the available shuttle to get us into Bellaire proper (although not all at once) where there are many dining options.

If you want to participate - here's what you do:

- 1) Call Vonda Manga (**don't book online**) and let her know you are an MSTR member. All rooms are \$82/night, tax included. Microwaves and Refrigerators are in each.
- 2) Let Pete know you are going to participate by sending him an e-mail with your name, cell number, email address, riding or trailering, staying at the Inn or staying elsewhere.

There will be mandatory riders' meetings on Thursday and Friday night held in the parking lot of the Legend Cottage Inn to discuss point riders, riding groups and GPS routes. GPS Routes will be available around the beginning to September to everyone who has signed up.

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.

2024 Grand Tour

If interested in taking in some of *Michigan's Attractions and Oddities* contact Keith at keithmdanielson@gmail.com or sign up at a meeting. See the [April 2024 Newsletter](#) for more detail.

The next stop was a local tourist attraction called the [Mystery Spot](#) where the building's rooms feature optical illusions intended to disorient the viewer while the forces of gravity affect the human body in strange ways. I've had tequila do the same thing so I wasn't that impressed and we left shortly after arriving!



The Mystery Spot – “Where gravity is a little different”

Our final stop before reaching our destination was [Lehto's Pasties](#) – apparently the world's best pasties are produced here – to pick up take-out for dinner later. For those not familiar with pasties (pronounced “pass-tee’s” by Yoopers and those in the know), this “delicacy” is unique to Michigan's Upper Peninsula – made of beef, rutabaga, and potatoes encased in a baked puff pastry shell – and as bad as they taste, they should remain so!

Shortly after departing, we arrived at the [Brevort Lake Campground](#). With rain in the forecast, we set up our tents as soon as the bikes were parked. We then settled in and chowed down on our football-sized pasties along with some whitefish dip and crackers that were (thankfully) procured as well. There is no doubt that we'll all sleep well tonight.

Day 2 (4-Jun-24) – Reveille was around 6:00 AM and our four-man crew reluctantly began the task of tearing down and packing up our camping gear. We were on the road in just over an hour and arrived at a little roadside breakfast place called the Beary Patch Restaurant in Engadine. The food was the usual breakfast fare but the portions were sizable and the pancake that came with my platter of eggs and double order of bacon was the size of a Frisbee!

Thereafter we departed for Grand Marais and it should be noted that there are two Grand Marais's – one in MN and the other in MI. Grand Marais, MN is a bougie waterfront town with cute clothes and gift shops as well as quaint restaurants that sit on the north shore of Lake Superior by a beautiful marina with numerous sailboats. On the other hand, Grand Marais, MI is a small Podunk town whose main attraction is the [Pickle Barrel House Museum](#) which, apparently, is what we were planning to see. Thankfully it was closed as “pickle season” is in the fall – boo-hoo!



Finnish/Norwegian Editor's Note
Pasties are so delicious that it's a wonder why the Finnish don't rule the culinary world.



Pickle Barrel House Museum, Grand Marais

This last tourist attraction has inspired me to consider opening Kent's Kumquat Museum in proximity to my birthplace. Naturally, there would be an annual kumquat festival that could take place on April 1st but nothing is firm at this time. Of course, there would be a Kumquat King and Queen though in its first year I would nominate myself king. The queen would be voted in by festival attendees but I reserve the right to abdicate or behead her if I'm not happy with the selection. I will be reaching out to each of you as prospective investors at \$10K per share for a slice of the action and I anticipate a return that will double your money in no time. Stay tuned. Now back to our regularly scheduled program...

A far more enjoyable venture was our ride on H-58 running through [Picture Rocks National Lakeshore](#). This route meandered through a beautiful pine and hardwood forest along the southern shore of Lake Superior. Sadly, the speed limit of 45 mph nearly put us to sleep as we droned along for what seemed like an eternity but the deliverable at the end of this ride was a visit to [Munising Falls](#) – one of seven falls along this route – which was absolutely stunning and a sight to behold.

Thereafter, we were off to another tourist attraction known as the [Lumberjack Tavern](#) in Big Bay, where the movie "[Anatomy of a Murder](#)" was filmed (released in 1959). The movie starred James Stewart, Lee Remick, Ben Gazzara, and George C. Scott and was loosely based on real events that took place in the town in 1952. Thankfully, the tavern was closed and so we left only minutes after we arrived mitigating a second murder from taking place.



Lumberjack Tavern – No recent murders!

With our final tourist attraction for the day checked off, we returned to Marquette for dinner at the [Steinhaus Restaurant](#). The menu featured German cuisine with a contemporary twist and, as an experienced consumer of good, homemade German dishes, I give this restaurant five out of five stars!

With bellies full, we rode the final leg of our day's 307-mile trip to Escanaba, where we had rooms reserved at the [House of Ludington Hotel & Restaurant](#), a relic that was built in 1864, offering rooms and beds that were sized for the Lollipop Kids from the Wizard of Oz. Nonetheless, we are all sufficiently tired that having our feet hang over the end of our beds by 18" won't really matter much.

As Kent indicated earlier, **Stay Tuned** for more. As space allows, this "Go West!" saga will continue!

Special thanks to [Kent Niederhofer](#) and [Jeff Anderson](#) for the articles and photos 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!**

Fall Color Ride (FCR)

September 25-29, 2024

Marietta, OH

Event Organizer: **Keith Danielson**,
keithdanielson@gmail.com

We begin in Marietta, OH on Wed. evening, 9/25 with dinner and a rider's meeting. On Thursday 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 Thursday. Once there, you can remove some of the baggage from your motorcycle, because Friday and 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, 9/29 you can either ride a more direct route, though still with a good amount of interesting roads, for the return to Marietta and back home, or you can head south from Marietta to West Jefferson, NC to participate in the [MSTR's Last Fall Ride](#), which starts on 9/29 and ends on 10/4. See the overview sheet for the information on the Last Fall Ride (LFR).

To sign up for the **Fall Color Ride**, send an email to Keith. There are no block rooms, so to make reservations, call:

- Microtel Inn & Suites, Marietta, OH, (740) 373-7373
- Quality Inn & Suites, Lewisburg, WV, (304) 645-7722

Gilmore Car Museum Vintage Motorcycle Show

By Jeff Anderson

The [Gilmore Car Museum](#) Vintage Motorcycle Show was picture perfect weather and the vintage bikes displayed were very nice. The show itself had well over 100 vintage bikes and many additional bikes were in the swap meet area. And then of course there's the several hundred bikes that were ride-ins from the spectators. Here are a few highlights:

- A somewhat rare Ducati Paso in mint condition



- 1940 Ariel square four that was ridden to the show (I think the owner said he travelled over 50 miles to get there!). This bike was originally from New Zealand and the owner was from the UK.




- A very rare Nimbus, a 750 inline 4-cylinder engine bike made in Denmark from 1919 - 1960. This particular bike was from the early 1950's.



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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