



Michigan Sport Touring Riders

August 2024 Newsletter

Editor - Heidi Nagel

Club Meetings & Events

Eastside Meeting

Saturday, September 24, 9 AM

Senate Coney Island

34359 Plymouth Rd. Livonia

Special Note for attendees of

MR2: MR2 in 2025 will be held May 11-16. To prevent riders from succumbing to WAP-itis (weather app prediction-itis) **we'll have a drawing for 1 free night** for someone who has stayed for at least 6 nights at the Best Western Smoky Mountain Inn.

Westside Meeting

Saturday, August 14, 11 AM

Alibi Bar & Grill

1394 E. Riverside Dr. Ionia

Rides

Tip of The Mitt 16 (TOTM)

See p.2 for a TOTM Invite!

See July Newsletter for ride info

September 12 - 15, 2024

Fall Color Ride (FCR)

September 25 - 29, 2024

Last Fall Ride (LFR)

September 29 - October 4, 2024

2024 Grand Tour

If interested in taking in some of *Michigan's Attractions and Oddities*, see the [April 2024 Newsletter](#) for more detail.

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

Installment #2 (of many). See the [July Newsletter](#) for the first Installment, *By Kent Niederhofer*

Day 3 (June 5, 2024) – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote [“... into each life some rain must fall”](#) and apparently the SOB was talking about me and my peeps on this very day! We awoke to the sound of rain bouncing off of the hotel windows which meant getting wet while loading the bikes with our gear. Based on a local recommendation, we rode off in the rain with plans to dine at Rosie's Diner and, wouldn't you know it, the place was closed. As a result, we decided to inspect another local site called the [Walk of the Planets](#). This is a series of waist-high street signs situated along Ludington Avenue that includes a placard providing some interesting facts about of each one the planets. Needless to say, it only took me a few minutes to find my favorite one...



Q: *What do Captain Kirk and toilet paper have in common?*

A: *They both wipe Klingons off Uranus!*

Our next stop would be Schuette's Overstock in Mellen Twp., where a giant concrete roadside deer was on display for all passersby to see. This statue is not alone, as we passed similar structures elsewhere in the Upper Peninsula modeled after bears, miners, and other figures encouraging countless idiots like us to stop, snap photographs, and spend money on useless trinkets that would be thrown out in a week or gifted to a relative that you really don't like. After the obligatory photographs, we left for our next and final tourist spot – but one we'd enjoy far more than most any seen during the course of this trip, that being the Stormy Kromer Shop in Ironwood.

[Stormy Kromer](#) is famous for its iconic winter cap featuring ear flaps similar to that worn by Walter Matthau in the movie, Grumpy Old Men, as well as Elmer Fudd, while hunting that “wascally wabbit”, Bugs Bunny – two movie stars who I’ve successfully modeled my life after. With the highlight of our day – nay the trip – now firmly under our belt, we headed to the nearby Suffolk Street Eatery which offered a range of scrumptious salads and sandwiches, often with clever names like Notorious P.I.G. or the Bada Bing, for its patrons to enjoy.



*Man #1, “That’s a big cap.”
Man #2, “Yep.”*

Fully satiated, we exited the restaurant and heard the crack of lightning as the skies opened up and rain began to pour down. We made the wise choice to remain under the awning until the rain cleared sufficiently for us to ride off. After an hour or so of riding, we were greeted by sunshine – right up until we saw another storm front approach, pelting us with more rain and winds that tossed our bikes about. That experience drove us to wait the storm out once again under a gas station island canopy for half an hour before resuming our trip. This theme would repeat itself throughout the remainder of our 337-mile trip until we arrived at our final destination, the Radisson Hotel, in Duluth, MN, where a bag of Fritos and a can of salted peanuts provided the evening’s last round of nourishment before retiring.

Day 4 (June 6, 2024) – Day 4 started out with a delicious breakfast at the Radisson Hotel’s Harbor 360 restaurant on the 16th floor. The restaurant is so named because the top floor rotates about the building’s circular cross-section at a rate of one revolution per hour providing a 360-degree view of the city and Lake Superior. Our waitress delivered my bacon and apple

1st Annual TOTM Burger & Brat Burn

September 12, beginning at 12:00 PM

Home of John & Ann Cirner

6783 Colonial Ct

Gaylord, MI 49735

Event Organizer:

- **John Cirner**, (248) 396-5882

RSVP by September 8

We will take care of feeding and hydrating you before your last 35-mile stretch to Shanty Creek. We will provide lunch (burgers and brats), sides, chips, water, and soda. Let us know if you have a food preference or any food allergies.



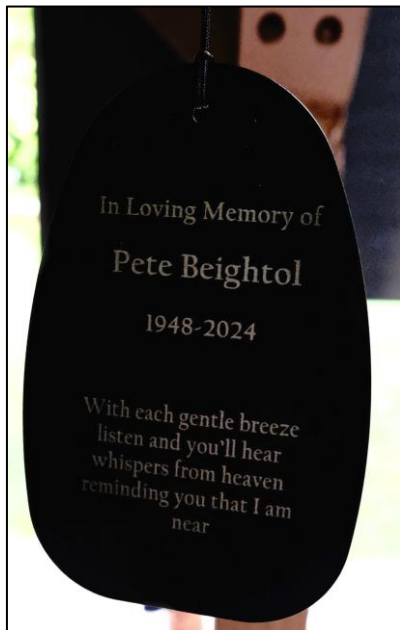
Please be mindful of your ride into the Michaywe’ development (35mph signs are posted when you enter the subdivision) as there are several golf cart crossings, almost always deer alongside the road, and plenty of Northern Michigan sand in the corners! When you get to our place, the checkered flag will be up on the flag pole, pull into the driveway past the mailbox for easy parking and out!

We have a fun route to Shanty Creek via Mancelona Road, just outside our door, it’s a great ride, great road surface, and twisty end to your ride to Shanty Creek!



Mandatory Photo of Actual Motorcycles

Remembering Pete



On August 9, at Raintree Park in Troy, Mi. there was a memorial for Pete Beightol. About 150 people attended, including several members of MSTR. It was a time to share stories about his life and the joy he brought to friends and family. It was easy to see that he was a special person that touched many in his life. His enthusiasm for things went beyond riding motorcycles to kayaking, nature in general, camping, hiking, carpentry, real estate, and most of all, devotion to his family.



I will remember him for his participation in several MSTR outings over the years and just being the gentle soul I knew him to be. A fellow cancer survivor, he didn't let it slow him down. He overcame the post-surgery challenges, and never lost his joy in living.

Rest in Peace ... you have earned it!

~ Bob Komjathy

strudel waffles topped with syrup – and by the fifth bite I was reminded of eating large volumes of sugar for breakfast in my childhood.

After leaving the hotel, the original plan was for a quick visit to the [Aerostitch](#) Factory Store followed by a 430-mile ride that would take us to Bismarck, ND. However, things did not play out as originally scripted. Terry Morisi decided he needed to purchase a new riding jacket but was quickly overwhelmed by the number of styles, sizes, and color choices – light tan, light grey, medium grey, dark grey, really dark grey, unbelievably dark grey that was pretty much black, and Hi-Viz yellow. In an effort to ensure that his nearly \$900 investment wasn't squandered on a poor choice, he called his wife for advice, while his riding colleagues simultaneously chirped-in, providing much needed assistance, until his head was spinning. It was midway through this ordeal that the bottom fell out of my sugar high and I entered a near-comatose state with my legs now supported by the glass case near the checkout. The decision on whether to buy or not to buy the matching pants stretched the transaction to two hours but in the end, our Italian Stallion left Duluth bathed in florescent yellow for the world – including the Chinese and the Russians – to see.



Terry, sporting his new riding jacket – Very demure! Very Safe!

It was now 11:45 AM and we all realized that slabbing it to Bismarck was out of the question but that didn't keep us from making haste to cover as much ground as possible while there was daylight. As is protocol for these lengthy rides, frequent stops are required by old men to answer nature's call and restock the body with liquids, critical vitamins and nutrients. This time, they were supplied to the author by Snickers and Mountain Dew while others fed on alternate forms of sucrose. As mid-afternoon approached, some of our members were becoming hangry and the need to find a late lunch spot became critical. After getting some advice from two visitors out of San Antonio that had no idea what they were talking about, we pulled into The Piggy BBQ in Walker, MN. Ribs, brisket and pulled pork were mainstays on the menu and we ordered all of it – and to no one's disappointment. With the sacrificial bovine devoured, we left with our revised destination, Jamestown, ND, in sight.

However, only minutes after leaving Walker, we entered the neighboring town of Akeley where a giant statue of [Paul Bunyan](#) spoke to us saying, “Hey, you three idiots! Here’s another stupid tourist attraction that you should take a photograph of.” So of course, we obeyed.



Where’s Terry?

Back on the road, we were again facing endless miles of flat, country highway which could be covered quite quickly... were it not for one exception. Apparently, the county road commission decided that multiple sections of road crossing culverts that ferried storm waters away needed to be re-graveled and, in their opinion, made these roads un-crossable. Our two-wheeled mounts proved otherwise until we encountered a Caterpillar D-5 dozer and its’ operator that told us otherwise. I’d estimate that the re-routing added another 20 miles and 40 minutes to our ride which, despite several lengthy stretches at 85 mph, thankfully ended when we pulled into the Hampton Inn in Jamestown, ND around 8:20 PM.

Day 5 (June 7, 2024) – Even with the shortfall in the prior day’s mileage covered, day 5 was planned to be relatively short in terms of distance to allow for an early arrival and some sightseeing at the end of the day. One tidbit that we learned while at the Hampton Inn is that we were near the [world’s largest buffalo monument](#). Needless to say, that golden nugget was too fascinating to pass by and we were on our way. Two miles and four minutes later, we rolled up into this kitschy western town where, majestically perched on an elevated berm, is a 60-ton, 26-foot tall, anatomically correct concrete bison. After our inspection, we left for the [Theodore Roosevelt National Park](#), where we would camp for the night.

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



Kent, AKA “Dwarfed by Tatanka”

Upon arrival, we secured our camp site, staked our claim by setting up our tents, and headed into town for a bite to eat. We then rode a 22-mile, sight-seeing loop around the central section of the park with several lookout points offering beautiful vistas of the wind- and water-ravaged landscape. Here we had the

pleasure of seeing bison herds (not technically “buffalo”, which are native to Africa) including two solitary males that stood along the side of the road.



It doesn't look freezing cold, but...

Day 6 (June 8, 2024) – We got off to a rough start, having not anticipated temperatures would dip so low. Rated for 30°F, my sleeping bag did not keep my gilets warm. I scrambled in the middle of the night multiple times to don yesterday's sweaty socks and other garb in an effort to stave off the frosty cold. The morning sun couldn't come fast enough.



Cody, Badass Campground Pup

Finally, the sun's radiant heat began to warm us up, and it brought along a visit from the neighbor's German Shepard-Welsh Corgi mix, **Cody**. With his sharp yips and barks, he tootled around with sufficient confidence to remind us who was boss, while also enjoying head and back scratches... | Not a bad way to start a day of adventure. **Stay tuned for the next installment!**

Special thanks to Kent Niederhofer and Jeff Bob Komjathy 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!**

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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