



Michigan Sport Touring Riders

September 2024 Newsletter

Editor - Heidi Nagel

Club Meetings & Events

Eastside Meeting

Saturday, September 28, 9 AM
Senate Coney Island
34359 Plymouth Rd. Livonia

Westside Meeting

Saturday, October 12, 11 AM
Alibi Bar & Grill
1394 E. Riverside Dr. Ionia

Rides

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.

Want to add a 2025 Event?

The first and third weekends of every month are always available for new events, except where it would conflict with either of our two monthly breakfast meetings. Other weekends may also be available with at least six to nine months' notice, as we need time to get agreement from and update our MSTRiders. For more information on hosting an event, contact Ian Orr at ridership@mstriders.com.

Barn Burn Raid (BBR) Ride Report

By Ian Orr

BBR 9 was a hit, with 18 MSTRiders arriving at the hotel headquarters in Marietta, Ohio to enjoy the best roads in Ohio and West Virginia. The weather was perfect, with warm mornings (no fog) and dry afternoons (low humidity). We had a lunch-time rain on Friday, but it was bone-dry after we finished lunch. There was also a brief rain shower on Saturday. Unfortunately for them, several potential attendees paid far too much attention to the weather *forecasts* and "bailed", anticipating they might actually have to bail during the event.

I know I'm starting to sound like a scratched record but far too many MSTRiders are attaching far too much significance to a high percentage [Probability of Precipitation \(PoP\)](#) and deciding to sit at home on the couch instead of going riding or worse, leaving an event early. $POP = Confidence \times Coverage$. If a weather app/forecaster is confident there's a 90% chance that 90% of the area will get precipitation, then the POP is $90\% \times 90\% = 81\%$. That's about what the mid-week prediction was for Marietta, but we didn't see a single drop of rain until Friday. In fact, there weren't even significant clouds during the week. In this case, the confidence percentage and coverage percentage were both absolutely wrong.



BBR 2024 Crew, The Non-Bailers

BBR riders had a choice of 20 different routes, most of which had minor tweaks from last year. Roads included long sweeping, endless curves, tight, technical twisties and little tortured backroads, buried between tree-lined hills. There was a riding group for every pace and road for every taste. Some of us "discovered" new lunch spots and these will be added to next year's routes. One group even took in

some culture and visited the [National Road and Zane Gray Museum](#) in Norwich, OH.



Diorama celebrating “the Father of the Western Novel”

Evenings started with some après-ride beverages under the hotel front porch and then a visit to one of our favorite restaurants. Due to an eBike tipover and some elbow damage, Pete Stephan joined us in his bright yellow Honda S2000 and scouted out a couple of new restaurants for dinner, one of which is now on my wife’s “must” visit for next year. We ended each evening with the mandatory rider’s meetings, which always started late.



More Non-Bailers, Squinting Into All That Sun

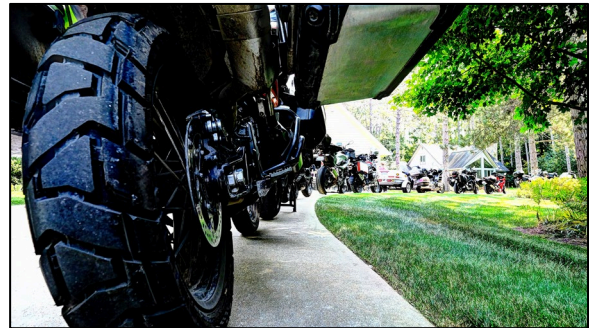
Despite the spirited riding pace and challenging roads there were no incidents or performance driving awards. BBR riding distances varied from over 1,500 miles for those who stayed for the entire week to a couple hundred miles for those who stayed for a couple of days.

If you want to see what we did, then go to our Smugmug gallery and check out the [2024 BBR gallery](#).

~ Ian Orr

Tip of the Mitt Ride Report (TOTM), Take 1, By Bob Komjathy

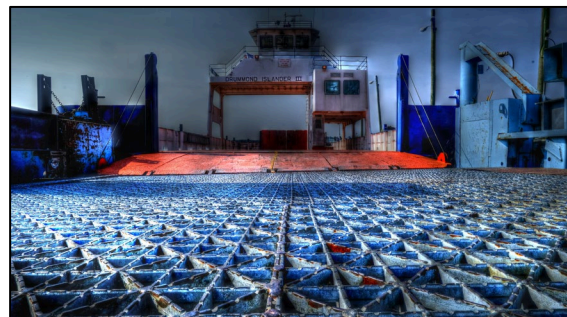
This year was one of the best weather years we have had for TOTM, with daily sun and mild temperatures no matter where your chosen adventure took you for the day. It all started out with a ride up to Gaylord to visit the Cirner’s home for the First Annual Hamburger, Chicken Wings, and Brat Cookout. Great food and pretty much everyone showed up near the same time. Thank you John and Ann for your hospitality!



A Picnic Party Perspective

The [Shanty Creek](#) accommodations were comfortable but unfortunately, the group was spread out in a variety of locations around the property. We still managed to get together for a nightly ride meeting or to go out to eat. That was not the original plan as many of us reserved early and were told we would be in the Legends where we were last year. Apparently that property changed hands and we had to be set-up elsewhere.

Friday morning, our group started out on the Rogers City route. Really nice back roads and overlooking vistas on the Mackinac Straights Highway. The ride got curvier east of I-75. The east side of Mullet Lake and around Black Lake was well liked. Lunch at Kortman’s Restaurant in Rogers City.



Drummond Islander Ferry

Tip of the Mitt Ride Report (TOTM), Take 2, *By Ian Orr*

If you missed this year's TOTM ride, here's four reasons you may well have missed THE best TOTM we've ever had and may ever have for a long time.

First, the people. A record-setting 28 MSTRiders attended TOTM and enjoyed four days of great riding and camaraderie. Thanks to Bob Komjathy we had the choice of 16 routes, separated into OUT (Shanty Creek to lunch) and BACK (lunch back to Shanty Creek). On the first day, our group stitched four different routes together and didn't have a single Pippin. *[Editor's Note: This, I am told is an inside joke and not a reference to any mischievous Hobbits.]*

Second, before TOTM even started two of our up-north MSTRiders, Ann and John Cirner, hosted a fabulous Burger & Brat Burn at their home. They pulled out all the stops and provided perfectly cooked burgers and brats, four different kinds of soft drinks and water for everyone who rode in, and even for Pete and Tami Stephan, who arrived in their stylish, bright yellow, Honda S2000 convertible. John and I even discussed putting on a bikini bike wash, but unfortunately Amazon didn't have anything in our size.

Third, the weather for the entire TOTM was more like mid-summer in southeast Michigan than early-fall in northern Michigan. Every day started in the mid-60s and the temperature climbed to the 80s, and stayed there through evening. No need for heated seats, handlebars or gear, but we did end up buying lots of water to drink at gas stops and I personally ran out of bug spray for cleaning my face shield.

Saturday's ride took us up to Drummond Island. Some curvy roads in the morning were just gorgeous with early morning layered fog in the valleys and low sun made for some gorgeous scenes to ride in. On I-75 approaching the Mackinac Bridge, it was lit in golden early morning light and with the towers obscured by fog, it made for some magic moments. Arriving at Detour left us with about a 20-minute wait for the ferry with lunch at the Bear Track Inn Restaurant. The place was old school looking and simple décor but the food was excellent.



Bear Mooning a Honda

Lunch being over we headed to the end of M-134 and made it to the end of the trail. Turning back was a very brisk ride trying to make the ferry in time... or that was the excuse to go very fast through the curves. The ride back was mostly slab to get people back to base camp before 6 p.m.

Sunday, Gary Ibershoff, Bill Prenniger, and I headed off for home on the published route taking them on the Mackinac Trail on the western side of the state to about Big Rapids. Lunch was at the Farmer's Table in Remus, Mi. and enjoyed. Most everyone I talked to had good things to say about their extended weekend in Bellaire, Michigan and continues to be a favorite MSTR ride with near 30 participants.

~ Bob Komjathy



Fourth, the accommodations were stunning. Our previous digs at the Legend Cottages, which Pete Stephan organized, had been sold so Shanty Creek upgraded us all to two-bedroom condo units, with one king bed, an ensuite bathroom with a jacuzzi tub and a huge walk-in shower, a second bedroom with a queen bed, a second bathroom, full kitchen, living room and dining room and table for six. The one negative was we were spread all over the Shanty Creek resort so it was difficult to get-together at the end of each day. Riders' meetings were held in front of the Shanty Creek's lone, on-site Italian restaurant, Sarduccis. I very much doubt we'll get accommodations like that next year, and to be honest, I'd rather downscale a bit so we can all kick tires and tell lies in a parking lot at the end of each day.



Too serious for Kicking Tires and Telling Lies, this must be a Riders' Meeting

If you want to see what we did then go to our Smugmug gallery and check out the [2024 TOTM gallery](#). ~Ian Orr

Special thanks to **Bob Komjathy and Ian Orr** for the articles and photos featured this month! Next month we'll pick up with where we left our heroes, Roger & Terry and Ken & Kent, on their Big Adventure.

Remember: All published articles earn entry into the yearend newsletter drawing AND your fellow members and the newsletter editor will appreciate your articles. You will also earn points toward the **2024 MOTY Awards!**

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