



Michigan Sport Touring Riders

November 2024 Newsletter

Editor - Heidi Nagel

Club Meetings & Events

Eastside Meeting

Saturday, November 23, 9 AM

Saturday, December 21, 9 AM

Senate Coney Island

34359 Plymouth Rd. Livonia

Westside Meeting

Saturday, December 14, 11 AM

Alibi Bar & Grill

1394 E. Riverside Dr. Ionia

Save the Date: MOTY Banquet

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Zerbo's Market & Bistro

More info to come!

2024 Grand Tour

If you participated in *Michigan's Attractions and Oddities*, be sure to send your photos to Keith at keithmdanielson@gmail.com.

2024 Mileage Program

Don't forget to send your end-of-year mileage to **Ian Orr**, at ridership@mstriders.com.

2025 Membership Forms

[2025 MSTR New Members' Form](#)

[2025 MSTR Renewing Membership Form](#)

Note that the links should open a PDF file. If that doesn't work, please try the [Membership / Resources](#) section of the webpage.

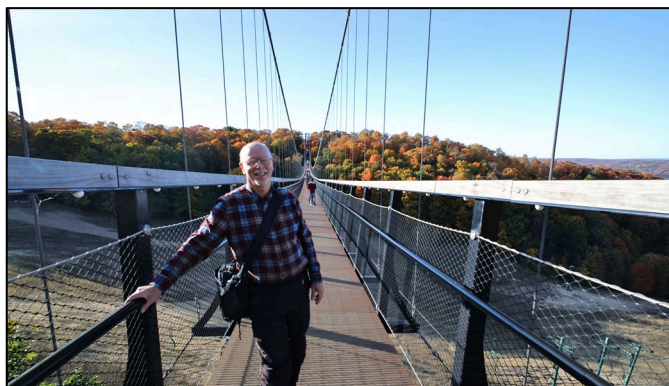
Michigan Fall Color Ride

By *Bob Komjathy*

The weather was going to be perfect in Michigan. It seemed silly not to take advantage of it. I did all my chores, so why not a *Fall Color Run*, checking off a Grand Tour extra credit site on the way.

I left home Friday morning around the same time as the frost was beginning to melt on the lawn. With a heated jacket liner on under a very thin REI jacket, I was actually warm enough that I didn't need to plug in the jacket until later in the day. Pretty good for mid-October!

I rode to US 127 and US10 then picked up M115 near Cadillac and took that most of the way up to Arcadia. The fall colors began to pop in Cadillac. Low morning sun made them stand out even more as I worked my way up north. I took a few photos in Arcadia and Elberta, then kept going north to Boyne Mountain, where I purchased a ticket for the [SkyBridge](#). The colors of the surrounding hills in the late afternoon light were worth the price. A chairlift ride takes you to the cable suspension bridge between ski slopes. There were so many people there, it made it challenging to walk a straight line with grace. Although stabilized by suspension cables and cable stays to a matching run of cables in the ground, the bridge still sways *quite* a bit, but it was nice to get off the bike long enough that I didn't feel glued to the motorcycle seat.



Taking the SkyBridge for a swing

After that, I made a beeline to the Mackinac Bridge. I took another picture there, then on to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. I got a room at the [Adoba Lockview Motel](#). After a solid night's sleep, I was on my way again by 8:45 a.m. I took all backroads for the rest of my time in the U.P., beginning with the [Whitefish Bay National Scenic Byway](#). The colors were stunning! The first 7 miles are through a native reservation

2025 Event Schedule

Get your calendar out!

Missouri-Arkansas (MoArk)

April 16-19, 2025

½ K Ride

May 3, 2025

Ladies' Ride

May 4, 2025

Michigan Renegade Mountain Ride (MR2)

May 11-16, 2025

Don & Jan Pennington's Summer Sizzle BBQ

June 1, 2025

Hocking Hills Twisty Tour (HT2)

June 12-15, 2025 (Tentative)

Up North Camping Ride V (UNCR)

July 10-20, 2025

Barn Burn Raid (BBR)

August 14-17,
or August 10-17, 2025

Tip of the Mitt (TOTM)

September 11-14, 2025

Fall Color Ride (FCR)

September 26-28, 2025 (Tentative)

Last Fall Ride (LFR)

September 28-October 3, 2025
(Tentative)

If you've ever thought to yourself, "*Gee whiz, I really wish I had a Michigan Sport Touring Riders t-shirt!*", you are in luck!

[Click here to download the T-shirt order form.](#)

Available in long sleeve or short sleeve with a plethora of color options.

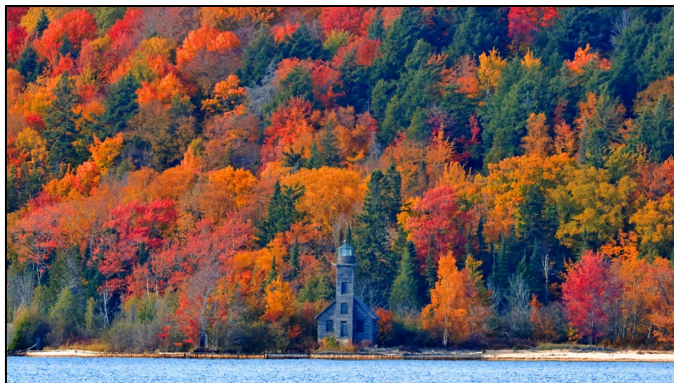
so the speed limit is 35 mph until clear of the inhabited areas. Of special note is the [Bay Mills Resort & Casino](#). Rooms are only \$135 a night and they have their own restaurants on property. There are many areas on the byway that are canopy colored and were just begging to be captured but if I didn't move along, I was going to be traveling past dark in heavy deer country. It was a hoot to ride this with all the color and nice twisty road similar to US41 without the elevation changes.



*Orange you sad you weren't here too? (It's Ok to groan! I can't hear you.)
Bob is teasing a Michigan Fall Color Ride in 2025!*

After a quick stop in Paradise for gas, I was on to [Tahquamenon Falls](#). The platform next to the falls was under construction (bummer). After the falls, I rode M123 back down to Newberry, M28 to M77 back up to Grand Marais, and onto H58 all the way to Munising. H58 is another delightful road made absolutely awesome in fall golds, reds and yellows. The whole time the eye is taking in all this autumn glory, which is quickly outdone by the next scene around the bend.

Arriving in Munising, I captured a neat shot of the [Grand Island East Channel Lighthouse](#). Other than the windows for the light, the structure is constructed entirely of wood. Munising usually has color in the hills surrounding the town far later than the rest of the area. Gold and yellows abounding make the town below shimmer in their glory.



Grand Island Channel Lighthouse... Just, Wow!

With that done, time to leave the north shore and head south working my way back home. It was a wonderful time spent among nature's unique beauty blessed upon this part of the state. I arrived back home in Brighton just a little after 9 p.m.

~ Bob Komjathy

Roger & Terry's (and Ken & Kent's) Big Adventure Installment #3 (of many).

By *Kent Niederhofer*

If you recall, we left our heroes at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. We rejoin them on their epic quest to attend the MBW MOA Rally in Redmond, Oregon.

Day 6 (June 8, 2024) – Our next stop was the [Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument](#) in Crow Agency, MT where General Custer's last stand took place in 1876. We had a very long way to go and, in order to get there, made good use of our BMW boxer engine's peak power in sixth gear for extended periods of time in order to cover ground quickly. We did this most effectively passing several groups of other riders rumbling along on their Harley's and other V-twins. A friendly wave of the hand was given to reduce the probability of getting an ass-kicking at the next gas stop. **Fun fact:** Did you know that a BMW R1200RT will get 50 mpg at 50 mph but will get half that mileage at twice the speed?

To borrow a quote from Smokey and the Bandit, "We had a long way to go but a short time to get there." Despite our best efforts, we arrived with only 30 minutes left before closing so we toured the site via the meandering, 10-mile paved trail with placards identifying locations where significant events took place during the course of the battle. The engagement, which took place on June 25 – 26 was a very one-sided affair that involved 210 Union soldiers who faced over 600 Lakota and Cheyenne Indians. Most of you no doubt know that it was a bad day at the office for Mr. Custer and his men.



Stone markers littered across the battlefield identify where soldiers had fallen to the indigenous warriors.

Upon our return, we had ten minutes left to tour the museum which had both sides' weapons on display.

Some interesting facts were that the Indians made use of repeating rifles sold to them by Caucasian arms dealers and that 42% of Custer's troops were foreign-born – predominantly Irish and German! The one-sided slaughter was lost for several reasons but chief among them was Custer, who graduated last in his class at West Point, split his vastly outnumbered troops into four groups during the attack. He also chose to not employ the Gatling guns, which would have provided a significant advantage in terms of fire power, that were available to him because he felt towing them would slow down his attack. I would encourage you to read a bit about the days' events as it is an interesting topic.

With the last park ranger shooing us out of the site so he could get home, we departed for a bed and breakfast found in Billings, MT, about an hour away. We dismounted our beasts too pooped to do much more than shower, order some take out, and pass out.

Day 7 (June 9, 2024) – Today's ride wasn't scheduled to include any sight-seeing as there weren't the usual tourist traps featuring concrete dinosaurs or a fake, ancient Indian burial ground. Instead, we were blessed with a couple hundred miles of some of the most majestic landscape we'd seen thus far. Among the sights were rugged mountains with jagged rock formations jutting up and out of a dusting of topsoil which was just barely enough to allow the gnarly, twisted pines to grow.



Montana Landscape, with Motorcycle

Interestingly, it is the north face of these mountains that hosts the dense pine forest, whereas conifers on the south face were far and few between. We assumed that either a surplus or deficit in sun or rain was a contributor to the difference in flora. We also watched winding and untamed rivers run alongside much of the I-90W highway we rode to our final destination.

Despite the abundance of wilderness, the influence of man's hand was also visible with ranches whose Black Angus, Hereford, or Shorthorn cattle were on display. It is difficult to describe the scenery in words that are fitting given the landscape's grandeur.



The journey is really about the friends you meet along the way!

We found a campground in [Beavertail Hill State Park](#). Pulling in around 4:30 PM, we decided to rent a site with a tipi in order to avoid the evening setup and morning teardown of tents. We had bested the prior day's 352-mile ride by 18 miles bringing the Day 7 total to 2,364 miles to date. The evening's meals consisted of coconut curry chicken, beef stew, and pork sausage with gravy MRE's made on the Jet Boil portable cooktop. Dessert was provided by Frito Lay, the US government ([Pop-Tarts](#)), Snickers, Milky Way, and Twix.

~Kent Niederhofer



Here's a little preview of the next installment, when our heroes take a morning dip in a brisk mountain stream.

Special thanks to **Bob Komjathy** and **Kent Niederhofer** for the articles and photos featured this month!

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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