



# Michigan Sport Touring Riders

## December 2024 Newsletter

Editor - Heidi Nagel

### Club Meetings & Events

#### Eastside Meeting

Saturday, December 21, 9 AM  
[Senate Coney Island](#)  
34359 Plymouth Rd. Livonia

#### Westside Meeting

Saturday, January 11, 11 AM  
[Alibi Bar & Grill](#)  
1394 E. Riverside Dr. Ionia

#### MOTY Awards Banquet

Saturday, February 22, 2025  
[Zerbo's Market & Bistro](#)  
See page 2 for more detail and to  
download the reservation form!

#### 2024 Grand Tour

If you participated in *Michigan's Attractions and Oddities*, be sure to send your photos by 12/31 to [keithmdanielson@gmail.com](mailto:keithmdanielson@gmail.com)

#### 2024 Mileage Program

Don't forget to send your end-of-year mileage to **Ian Orr**, at [ridership@mstriders.com](mailto:ridership@mstriders.com).

#### 2025 Membership Forms

Current members, get \$5 off your 2025 membership by renewing before February 1!

[2025 MSTR Renewing Membership Form](#)

[2025 MSTR New Members' Form](#)

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

### **Roger & Terry's (and Ken & Kent's) Big Adventure Installment #4 (with a few more coming).**

By *Kent Niederhofer*

*Last seen, our heroes had partaken of a perfectly respectable camping meal of MREs, chips, and candy, and were slumbering somewhere in Montana.*

**Day 8** (June 10, 2024) – One member of our crew woke from his slumber at 5:00 AM and deciding to freshen up with a swim in the Clark Fork River which ran adjacent to the [Beavertail State Park Campground](#) where we'd made our home. Mind you, we are up in the mountains where the air is thin and cold. This dip in the water allowed our bold rider to wash the prior day's sweat off of his body at the cost of "incredible shrinkage." The rest of us waved the opportunity off, knowing there would be warm showers available at day's end.



After packing up, we left for the River City Grill in Missoula, MT for breakfast. This adventurer decided to tackle a delicacy called the Breakfast Skillet which featured potatoes, ham, onion, and eggs slathered in a coating of [Hollandaise sauce](#). I asked myself, "What is Hollandaise sauce?" and it wasn't long before I would find out. Not only would the ingredients remain unknown to me, I found the taste and texture strange as well. About halfway into my meal, I could feel the blood flow in my circulatory system start to slow down to a crawl. It appeared that I had consumed arterial caulk disguised as a breakfast topping and no amount of Cholula hot sauce could reduce the viscosity of this glue, so the skillet remained half-eaten as a testimony to my defeat.

Our planned route would take us through some of western MT's most beautiful regions where we would find pine-covered mountains on both sides of the valleys separating them. One such scene was on a winding section of

## **2025 Event Schedule**

### **MOTY Awards Banquet**

**Saturday, February 22, 2025**

**Zerbo's Market & Bistro**

3000 E. West Maple Road

Commerce Township, MI 48390

**Meet & Greet 5 - 6 PM**

**Dinner Service 6 PM**

**Annual Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Awards Presentation 8:30 PM**

[Click HERE to download the Reservation Form.](#)

### **2025 Rides!**

#### **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)*

road cut into the hillside offering a view of the [Clark Fork River](#)'s waters cascading over jagged rocks and fallen timber creating whitecaps in the rapids. The site repeated itself as we turned onto Route 12 where the [Lochsa River](#) winds through the [Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests](#). On the far side of the river, some 50 feet above the bank, was a rail spur that ran what seemed like the full length of the river. On this rail spur were unladen, yellow, graffiti-marked railcars that stretched for miles along the track. With rail cars estimated at 80 feet in length (approximately two containers long) and with our three-bike caravan moving at 60 mph (equal to one mile per minute), we estimated that the train had roughly 500 cars in it given the six to eight minutes we rode alongside from start to finish. It was only a short time thereafter that we saw a large bird of prey flying across the river. This avian had a very large body and wings with a white head and tail – and was quickly recognized as a bald eagle. With so many beautiful sights, we decided to celebrate the end of this section of our ride with a roadside photograph depicting a sign announcing “Winding Road Next 99 Miles”.



In the small town of [Kamiah, ID](#), we stopped for gas and a liquids replenishment break as well as a quick visit to the Kamiah Post Office to drop off a postcard to family. Our ride continued from there onto the [Chief Timothy Park](#) in Clarkston, WA where, after a very pleasurable 260-mile ride, we secured our campsite and set up tents. With the first order tasks completed, we changed into our swimming trunks and ran for the dock to shock our overheated bodies with the cold waters of the [Snake River](#). Internal body temperatures were restored with a hot shower followed by another fine meal consisting of MRE's. Dessert that evening consisted of campfire-roasted S'mores that proved a challenge to eat as our liquefied chocolate was only restored to its former solid state by dropping it inside a sealed plastic bag and into the aforementioned river to cool off. With the chocolate restored to a solid, two of our campers showcased their enthusiasm for the marshmallow-chocolate-graham cracker treat with the evidence smeared across their mustaches.

As our campfire slowly burned out, we made our way to our respective tents and sealed ourselves into our sleeping bag cocoons knowing tomorrow would be another day of glorious riding.

**Day 9** (June 11, 2024) – This day was pretty mellow as weirdness goes but the natural wonders and sightseeing was “off the hook” to borrow a phrase that is no longer in style and proves how nerdy I am. The day would end with just 167 additional miles but they were no less spectacular than any others ridden thus far.





As unbelievable as it sounds, the sunlight illuminated our tents at 4:30 AM and while I did my best to catch another hour's worth of rest, I was fighting a lost cause (much like James Brown but more on him later). After tossing and turning a bit, I finally got up at 5:30 AM and started packing my gear. My colleagues had given up the fight much earlier and already had a head start on the process. By 7:30 AM, we were ready to roll and so we headed for Hazel's Restaurant in neighboring Clarkston, WA.



Our trio is familiar with [Hazel's Good Eats](#) from our outing last year, and it would not disappoint. Out of an abundance of caution, I stuck with the old "tried-and-true" ordering eggs and steak – a college hangover special that could be purchased for \$6.99 at any \*SUNY town.

*\*Fun fact – This MSTR newsletter editor is also a SUNY grad! (MLS, University at Albany)*

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.

Freshly fortified, we left Clarkston via Route 129 heading south for OR. This ride was a mix of open country highway with vast farms and cattle ranches as well as pine tree-lined, twisty, hilltop roads. Along the way, we also saw several bison herds, many who were still shedding their winter coats and therefore looked rather ragged. It is mind-boggling to look at these animals whose enormous heads are nearly as large as their bodies and whose massive shoulders feature a pronounced, muscular, almost dromedary-looking hump.



While Route 129 changed names to Highway 3 as we crossed the border into OR, the level of entertainment remained just as high. In fact, added to the mix was the [Wallowa Mountain range](#) which featured snow-covered mountains off in the distance. The roadside photograph taken could not capture this awe-inspiring view, something that simply isn't seen in the Midwest.



As we got deeper and deeper into the pine forest, the road began to look more like a paved trail narrowing to about 1 ¼ car widths with a minefield of potholes and pavement that flowed like a rollercoaster. We eventually broke through the shadows of the pine forest just as the road surface became more civilized. Nearing the end of the route, we came upon the quaint, artsy town of Joseph, OR, which was bustling with tourists darting in and out of the small shops as well as BMW riders taking a brief respite as they headed to the rally.



Our last turn before reaching our final destination was [Hells Canyon](#), named for both the red sandstone cliffs that lined stretches of the road as well as temperatures that reached an unholy 95°F. Once again, the scenery was an absolute delight but with sweat pouring profusely out of every pore, we chose to end the ride early and pull into the [Copperfield Campground](#) in Oxbow, OR, at 1:45 PM.



*Having hitched across the country, Captain Brown fought to the end, eventually succumbing to his injuries in Oxbow, OR. He was given a hero's sendoff to Valhalla. R.I.P Captain Brown*

~Kent Niederhofer

Special thanks to **Kent Niederhofer** for the article 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!**

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