



Michigan Sport Touring Riders

May 2025 Newsletter

Editor - Heidi Nagel

Club Meetings & Events

Eastside Meeting

Saturday, May 31*, 9 AM

[Senate Coney Island](#)

34359 Plymouth Rd. Livonia

*Meeting is on the 5th Saturday of the month to avoid the holiday.

Westside Meeting

Saturday, June 14, 11 AM

[Alibi Bar & Grill](#)

1394 E. Riverside Dr. Ionia

2025 Grand Tour

The [2025 Historic Libraries Grand Tour](#) will take you to a variety of Carnegie Libraries around the state. You can sign up at a meeting or request the information by emailing keithmdanielson@gmail.com.

2025 Mileage Program

If you are *new* to the Mileage Program for 2025, or have a new motorcycle (!) send your *starter* 2025 mileage to **Ian Orr**, at ridership@mstriders.com.

2025 Membership Forms

[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.

MoArk 17 – Ride Report by Ian Orr

The yearly MoArk Adventure kicks off the MSTR riding season with a reintroduction to warm spring days, budding trees, and some of THE best motorcycling roads in the US. This year, riders could choose from the standard 4-day, Wednesday to Saturday MoArk Adventure, or the extended 7-day MoArk Adventure. Two chose the former and eight chose the latter, including yours truly.

For this extended ride, I borrowed and modified routes from Frank Stuetzler's 2024 extended MoArk ride. The roads were a mix of endlessly twisty, one-lane back roads, perfectly manicured two-lane secondary roads and a couple of four-lane highways when we had to make time. I added a couple of tourist sights to keep things interesting.



[Eureka Springs](#) is an eclectic small town located in Carroll County, Arkansas. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Distinctive Designation, as determined by the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#). To say we were all awestruck is an understatement. As we rode along the main street we were surrounded by all manner of art deco museums and front yard statuary, only to come upon the [Cathouse Lounge](#), a real biker bar, which evoked the memory of a young couple we all know who spent time at the bar while on their honeymoon ride. That night our group walked about half an hour to an Italian restaurant, where we ate some exceptional Italian food. The return walk was required to burn off pasta calories and some REALLY expensive wine.

Our second and third nights were spent up on a ridge at the [Lodge at Mount Magazine](#). Half the group stayed in rooms in the lodge and half the group shared a two-bedroom cabin, equipped with a full kitchen,

Don & Jan Pennington's Summer Sizzle BBQ

Sunday, June 1, 2024
Festivities begin at 2:00 PM

5427 Pine View Dr.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

***** Rain or Shine *****

Bring drinks and a dish to pass.
Barbecue will be provided. This
year there will be a competition,
starting at 4:00 PM, with some
GREAT prizes!

2025 Rides!

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 (standard),
or August 10-17, 2025

Tip of the Mitt (TOTM)

September 11-14, 2025
See Note on page 3

Fall Color Ride (FCR)

September 26-28, 2025 (Tentative)

Last Fall Ride (LFR)

*September 28-October 3, 2025
(Tentative)*

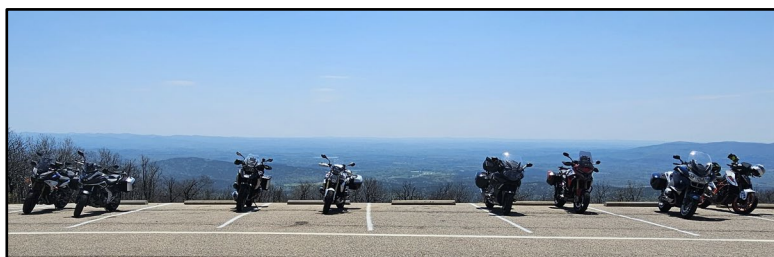
living room with a pullout couch, fireplace, veranda and a hot tub. The views from the cabin veranda were stunning, and remained so, even when Craig Blogin decided to use the hot tub.



On day two, we rode from Mount Magazine to the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge and back. Many years ago Gregg Mitchell created the original MoArk ride where we stayed at the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge and I figured we would recreate the memory of riding the Wilhelmina Trail and visit the marvelous stone lodge. Well, as F. Scott Fitzgerald penned "You can't repeat the past"! The trail is now a goat path, with eroded, worn-out pavement and the stone lodge was torn down and replaced with a pathetic replica. I definitely won't be repeating this day ride anytime soon. The view, however, was still epic.



Our second last day of riding, from Mount Magazine to Mountain Home, traveled along some of the best roads you can ride anywhere in the US, including the Pig Trail out of Clarkeville, freshly-paved AK-16 to the [Alum Cove Natural Bridge](#), AK-7 to the [Cliff House Inn](#) and on to Jasper, AK-123 and finally, my all-time favorite, Push Mountain Road (aka AK-341).



We met the other MoArk riders in Mountain Home and wrapped-up the day celebrating Jim Ellis' 80th birthday. I can only hope my family is as understanding when I tell them "I just wanna ride"!



...and then the weather boogeyman showed up, with forecasts of torrential downpours the next day. We all elected head back to Farmington, Missouri and on to our homes in Michigan.

Finally, the following sentence is copied verbatim from last year's MoArk newsletter article, "**Despite multiple, multiple, multiple cautionary tales about making sure you had new or almost new tires, a couple of riders got to spend part of one valuable riding day searching out, buying and installing somewhat expensive new tires....**" One rider discovered finding a replacement for his somewhat unusual 19" front tire was like looking for chicken teeth. The other rider's rear tire wore all the way down to the inner tire liner...no tread, no cord, just that last thin piece of rubber onto which the manufacturer adds stuff to actually make it a tire!

MoArk 2026 will include both standard versions and the extended versions. Quoting Warren Miller, the eponymous ski movie maker, "If you don't do it this year, you'll be one year older when you do."

~ Ian Orr

2025 ½K Ride Report *by Bob Komjathy*

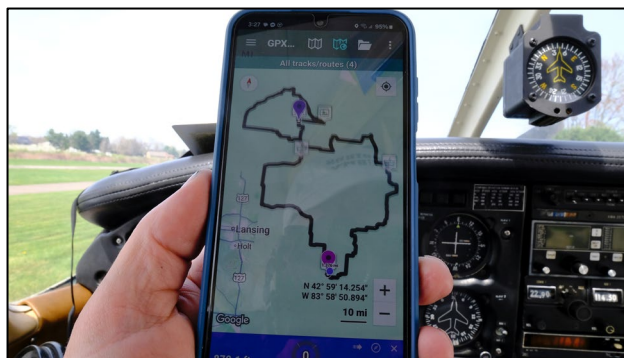
On a cool and cloudy, but rain-free day, 16 MSTR riders set out to explore mid-Michigan on mostly back roads with the goal of putting in nearly 500 miles. After a lunch stop, the route took us into the city of Saginaw for a photo-op at the [Silos](#). An artist was commissioned to paint the silos along the Saginaw River. It's the second largest mural in the United States and it's in our own back yard!



The remainder of the ride took us over to the east side of I-75 through Frankenmuth and Vassar then down towards Milford and back to Brighton. For a video of part of the route, check out, <https://youtu.be/1R9fVTWupYs>. All-in-all, a pleasant day to ride with friends and an excuse to dust off your motorcycle and get things squared away for the riding season.

The Pre-Ride Preparation

As I have done in the past, I form the route, overlay it on Google Maps and search it for gravel while zoomed in to the max. [Curvature](#) is pretty good about gravel but neither it, nor [Garmin Basecamp](#) is infallible when it comes to avoiding gravel, or labelling a road as gravel when it absolutely is not.



The final touches happen after I fly the route in my Piper Archer II, in order to verify the pavement and

check for road closures and construction zones. I have an aviation GPS attached to the pilot's yoke and my cell phone attached to the copilot's yoke running GPX Viewer Pro with the intended route being shown. If I stray from the route, it shows a red dotted line to the closest intersection into the original route. This helps me see if I am over the road or paralleling my intended course. Can I see everything that could be an issue? No.

For this flight, I called up Great Lakes Approach as soon as I left Brighton Airport and told them I was doing an aerial survey that would take me into Flint, Lansing, and Midland-Saginaw-Bay City air traffic control zones. They gave me a transponder code and passed me on to each controlling agency's frequency until I cleared their control then back to Great Lakes Approach. At Tri-City Airport my path took me right up to the fence line of the airport before turning south towards Saginaw. When I told the tower I was scoping out a motorcycle route for MSTR's Saturday ride, several pilots came on the frequency to wish us a good ride.

~ Bob Komjathy

A Gold Wind in Harley Town ***By Dave Marcotte, Part 1 of 2***

Chapter 1: Sturgis or Bust!! (August 2010)

I have not been this excited over going on a vacation since maybe my first trip to Disney Land. It was a scary type of excited. I was planning to accomplish 4,500 miles on our new 2009 Honda Gold Wing without hurting myself or my wife Lee Ann. An added plus would be to not hurt the bike. Lee Ann and I have been on many other trips before, but this one was longer and more "colorful". Planning was a combination of high detail and "what-ever." The route was South Lyon, MI to Sturgis, SD, to Yellowstone & Tetons in Wyoming, then back home. There were significant funds tied up in non-refundable reservations in Sturgis so the initial travel schedule had to be maintained.



Chapter 2: On the Road Again

Both Friday and Saturday were uneventful, with many hours of locked cruise control, and few stops for sightseeing. The bike was good, MP3 playing, and good conversation. Occasionally Lee Ann's helmet would tap mine lightly as her head bobbed in the wind. She frequently sleeps on the back. End of the second day, after about 14 hours in the saddle, a random motel began to look like a very good idea. We wanted to be in Sturgis before noon Sunday.



Sunday we were up early, me with my elevated "scary excited" feeling. It was Bike Week, when Harley takeover Sturgis. I was concerned I was pushing the Harley social tolerance with the Gold Wing. Wings and Harleys are different, Right?

Those familiar with Sturgis Bike Week know of the [Buffalo Chip Campground](#). We had reservations at "The Chip" for 3 days camping, seven rock concerts and a "Pitch Fork Fondue." Daytimes were filled with riding through the Black Hills and Badlands with stops at Mount Rushmore and Devils Tower. Nights were filled with great music and responsible/excessive drinking. Given both the concerts and our tent were inside The Chip, I would not need to wrestle 1,700 lbs. of bike, trailer and passenger around police checkpoints. Park & Party.

Chapter 3: Sailing Down the Road

Ok, as part of our detail planning, we had a simple pen-ink map provided by the Buffalo Chip Campground. It suggests “take the back road to the Camp Ground to avoid in-town traffic”. This was our second trip to Sturgis, first with the Gold Wing. From experience, we know the town is gridlocked with bike traffic, so the back road was an attractive alternative. Lee Ann holds the map; pasted on my back as we roll down the expressway, reading all the fine print that wind buffeting would permit. Finally, FINALLY, I get to knock the bike off cruise control and the engine begins winding down off its drone. Off the ramp, stop, turn right, and gravel. GRAVEL, as far as the eye can see.



Pulling to the roadside, I turn up the intercom volume. “Uh... Lee Ann. How much gravel road is there to the Camp Ground?” Response: “Can’t really tell, there is no scale on the map. Doesn’t look really far and they say the roads are well kept.” I Pause. Breathe. What the hay, the bike needs to be washed anyway. Gravel it is.

As it turns out, not having a scale on the map is part of the joke. Yes, the gravel road is well kept, and it’s about 20+ miles long. The whole way was more like sailing than riding. I hate (deep) gravel.



Finally, over the crest of a large hill, with a view of about 5 miles, we see beautiful South Dakota and the Buffalo Chip Camp Ground. It’s HUGE! The Campground is HUGE, and packed with bikes,

motor homes and tents. Then a moment of panic, will we find a place to camp?

Chapter 4: Let the Venting begin

Please realize it’s not only Lee Ann and I who are “venting” in Sturgis. The place is designed, indeed honed, to provide an opportunity to vent for, per Sturgis records, more than 500,000 people, who all LOVE Motorcycles. The bikes are beautiful. Yes, predominantly Harleys, but at any time you see other Gold Wings, BMW’s, Indians, crotch-rockets, and every model and year of every bike ever made. You can see in every rider their pride in their ride.

Given my 56 years of experience (as of 2010), I took great relief in seeing some of the really OLD guys, with white beards and beer bellies so big they had not seen their feet in decades, still riding! Yes, I will confess my wife did occasionally “indicate” that my eyes were to “remain front and centered.” But it wasn’t my fault, there was a trailer full of [“Jagermeister Girls”](#)!

The Camping spot we found was grassy, had good bike access, and was a quick walk to the stage and showers. With no rest for the wicked, the gear was unloaded, tent with “front porch” went up, bike was covered, refreshment began, and we walked to the stage for the two concerts that started at dusk.



Chapter 5: Harleys in the Concert House

You know what is really funny and cool at the same time? Buffalo Chip Concerts are “open air” outside events. There’s an elevated Stage, fantastic “pound your chest” sound system, and very few chairs.

Why bother with chairs when you can just sit on your bike, listen & watch the concert! Bikes and Riders are permitted entry into the concerts, right up to the stage. So, why bother to clap when you like a song? It’s much easier to rev your engine! VAROOM! VROOOM! Pop. Pop. VROOOM! ROOOOOOOM! Although I don’t really like the loud constant noise of a “baloney pipe” Harley on the expressway, I do love listening to a dozen acres of them roaring in approval of a ZZ Top favorite!

Very Cool!



~Dave Marcotte

Special thanks to **Ian Orr**, **Bob Komjathy**, and **Dave Marcotte** for articles and photos featured this month!

Remember: All published articles earn entry into the year-end newsletter drawing AND your fellow members and newsletter editor appreciate you! You will also earn points toward the **2025 MOTY Awards!**

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