



# Michigan Sport Touring Riders

## August 2026 Newsletter

Editor - Peter Stephan

In this issue!  
Smoked Fish!?  
TOTM 18

### Club Meetings & Events

#### **Eastside Meeting**

Saturday, August 22, 9 AM  
[Senate Coney Island](#)  
34359 Plymouth Rd. Livonia

#### **Westside Just for Fun**

Saturday, September 12, 11 AM  
[Alibi Bar & Grill](#)  
1394 E. Riverside Dr. Ionia

### 2026 Membership Forms

#### [2026 MSTR New Membership Form](#)

New members may join for \$25. The form includes the release form for new members to join in 2026 rides.

Learn more about MSTR  
HERE: [https://  
mstriders.com](https://mstriders.com)



Remember the good stuff. Be charitable.

**Chip Ashton**

## Holy MSTR Smoked Fish Ride

By Steven Kineman



In my continued quest of "chasing the end of that long white line" I began in June to plan a 3300 mile, 10 day solo moto adventure astride my trusty 2024 Honda Africa Twin ES. I set the dates and itinerary to accomplish just that to begin Thursday 07-16 and end on Saturday 07-25-26.

Plan was to go to Sault Saint Marie, Ontario, turn left and take the Trans Canadian Highway 17 to Winnipeg, Manitoba. Turn left again toward Rapid City, SD then left again to Wisconsin's Manitowoc Badger car ferry, back to my Charlotte, MI home, wife Marie and her one eyed cat Wink. This simple route would protect me against my propensity to get hopelessly turned around and lost.

Problem is that I also am very good at picking the wrong travel dates (record heat, snow, torrential rain, airline and municipal union strikes, you get the idea). Many of you are from the Metro Detroit area and will recall that the morning of my departure set the record for the worst air quality ever recorded in Michigan due to being down wind from the Northern Ontario wildfires, exactly where I planned to go. Did this deter your intrepid wanderer ? Seems not, for I set out as planned in the thick, post apocalyptic haze of which worsened with each turn of the wheel North, where my fellow lead foot, hammer lane Michiganders were forced to actually slow down on some sections of 175 because of limited visibility.

In addition, I had doubts that I would be allowed into Canada due to recent tensions, but thankfully crossed without a full body cavity search. While in Canada, MSTR's Ian Orr graciously offered the assistance of his brother who lives in Thunder Bay should I encounter any problems. What a nice gesture ! Being so far away from home, this was greatly appreciated.

About 75 miles from Thunder Bay I stopped for a bite to eat at a tiny diner and the locals immediately chatted me up asking the usual questions (where ya from eh, where ya going, are you alone, how long have ya been on the road, what kind of bike is that anyway?). During this I was also asked "do ya have motel reservations in Thunder Bay ?" of which I replied "Yes". They then informed me "lucky for ya cause EVERY room for a 150 Kilometer radius has been booked by the fire evacuees and will be for several days".



I thanked them and pressed on to my Thunder Bay motel (ironically the most expensive on the trip) located in a sketchy part of town which ranked as one of the worst accommodations I have ever experienced. The toilet leaked, creating a slick and dangerous floor, which flowed down hill to a musty and damp bedroom carpet, air conditioner and TV both broken. The bed felt like I was sleeping on multiple bags of hardening, outdated, and irregular shaped marshmallow bags. Maybe I missed the sign that said "rooms rented by the hour"?

With an aching back I could not get out of there fast enough and left way before dawn to make the run of 422 miles to Winnipeg in the ever present choking smoke. Once I passed Kenora near Manitoba's border, the dense plume miraculously disappeared, along with my sore throat and stinging, watery eyes. After that I turned left as planned and took secondary roads to ND's Enchanted Highway continuing to Rapid City. I stayed two days doing loops, which brought me to biker heaven Sturgis (where ATGATT is a rarity), Mt Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Black Hills, Needles Highway, Wall Drug, and the Badlands.

After that I turned left again toward my Michigan home, wife Marie and her one eyed cat, who by the way does not think much of me. I can report that I did not reach "the end of that long white line" but did come away with a story to tell.



## 2026 Event Schedule

### Tip Of The Mitt (TOTM)

\* September 10 – 13, 2026

### Fall Color Ride (FCR)

\* September 23 – 27, 2026

### Last Fall Ride (LFR)

\* TBD, 2026

\* Multi-day events include travel days to and from the event.

## 2026 TOTM 18

Peter Stephan Organizer  
Bob Komjathy Master Ride Planner

So, you want to brag about how you have explored Michigan while riding your Motorcycle? Join us for the Tip of the Mitt event. It's September 10-13.

We will have ride routes that you can ponder over and decide: Where to?

You want to cross the Bridge? How about Sault Saint Marie to see a freighter use the lock and witness the new construction of the biggest lock ever.

How about a lighthouse or two.

You like views of the water, hillsides, trees, trees, trees?

The places picked for a meal are sure to put a smile across your belly.

Many of us will be spending our nights sleeping at the Baymont in Gaylord the central location of our gatherings and fellowship. Others may wish to book a room at the Quality Inn.

## 2026 Michigan Bridges Grand Tour

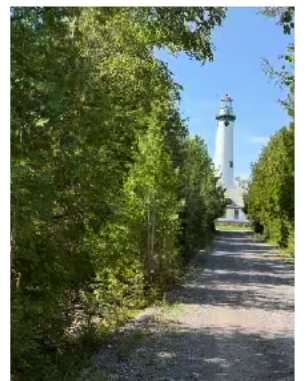
Keith Danielson, Creator and Organizer



As in the past, all you will need to do is sign up at a meeting, or request the information directly by emailing me at [keithmdanielson@gmail.com](mailto:keithmdanielson@gmail.com) to receive the detailed information for the grand

Special thanks to Steven for the article and photos featured in this issue.

**Remember:** All published articles earn entry into the year-end newsletter drawing AND your fellow members and newsletter editor appreciate you! You



## MSTR Dealer Members and Members' Businesses



Dave "O" Ostaszewski  
State Certified Master Motorcycle Mechanic  
**We service all makes, models, foreign and domestic.**

Union Lake, MI • 313.663.2836  
daveo@ozonebikeworks.com • ozonebikeworks.com

### OUR COMPLETE LIST OF PERSONALIZED SERVICES

- Mechanical repair and maintenance of all brands
- Cylinder boring and valve-jobs
- Carburetor cleaning, restoration and synchronizing
- Plastic and metal repair
- OEM, powder coating, replica and custom painting
- Accessory installations (GPS, electrical, lights, exhaust and suspension)
- Tire changing and disposal
- Free pick-up and delivery within 20 miles
- Servicing sport, dirt, touring and cruiser bikes.

everyday  
**edibles**<sup>TM</sup>  
home-created meals made to order

Carol Zimmerman  
313-320-6962  
carol@everyday-edibles.com  
Canton, MI 48188  
www.everyday-edibles.com  
**Your Every Occasion Caterer**

1185 S Rochester Rd, Suite A, Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 402-4010

BMW  
MOTORCYCLES  
of DETROIT

BMW  
MOTORRAD



BMW  
MOTORCYCLES OF  
**GRAND RAPIDS**  
BMWMCGR.COM

**ROYAL  
ENFIELD**

5995 S DIVISION AVE GRAND RAPIDS MI 49548  
616-530-6900

July 10 @ 9:00 am - July 11 @ 6:00 pm

### Royal Enfield Demo Truck

Royal Enfield Demo Truck Event — July 10 & 11 The Royal Enfield Demo Truck is coming to town, and this is your chance to experience the ride for yourself. Join us for a hands-on weekend packed with test rides, expert staff, and full hospitality. Friday, July 10 — 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday,...



Motorcycles of Southeast Michigan

14855 N. Sheldon Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
Phone: +1 (734) 453-0500

MV AGUSTA  
HAS ARRIVED  
Now in Stock

Chip Ashton

**CJ'S HEAD & HOLE SHOP**

Head & Boring Service for 2 & 4 cycle engines

248-683-6344

1140 Shady Lane ♦ Waterford, MI 48327



**MICHIGAN'S EXCLUSIVE DUCATI DEALER  
HAS A NEW HOME**

248.792.8999  
DUCATIDETROIT.COM

21399 TELEGRAPH RD.  
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033