



Squadron News

October 2011

Editor – Gregg Mitchell

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT!

Saturday, **Oct. 22, 2011**, we will be meeting at **Karl's Cabin** restaurant in Plymouth, MI. Karl's is located on **Gotfredson Road, just north of M-14**. From I-275 / I-96 take M14 West towards Ann Arbor. Gotfredson Road is exit # 15.

The meeting begins at 8:30 AM

Late arrivers are always welcome!

My Fall Colors Ride

By Bob Komjathy

I finally got a block of time off from work... delayed by a month due to scheduling. The plan was to go around Lake Superior in the counterclockwise direction out to Winnipeg, Manitoba and then drop down to Nebraska to view an air museum. My plans looked to change looking at the route 1 week earlier due to the first snow coming through the area but then things started to warm up a bit. As I got closer to my departure date, the temps were warming up enough and the outlook for the next week was stable and above 36 for the lows temps. Checking on the Tobermory ferry, I found out it was still running and weekday departures didn't need a reservation. If the weather was going to cooperate, I figured why not include the eastern side of Lake Huron in the mix.

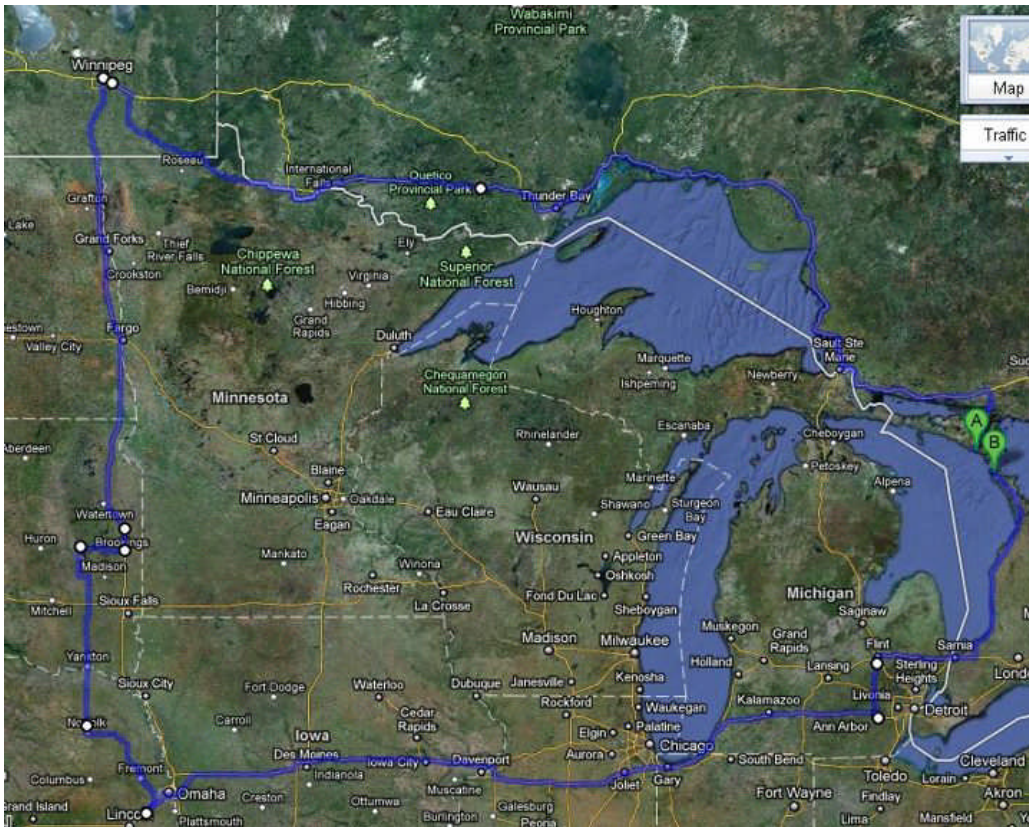
I left directly from work on Wednesday evening and headed up to Port Huron in bright sunshine and crossed over the Bluewater Bridge into Canada. I was asked

where I was going and I replied to Winnipeg, Alberta, then I added, "This is the shortest way there right?" He leaned out of his booth and looked down the road and smiled. I got asked the usual questions; was I bringing in any weapons, guns, knives, mace. I answered not even a blunder buss. More important to them was that I was not bringing in any cigarettes and alcohol. God forbid they miss out on some Goods and Services Taxes. I went up the 402 to highway 8 and 21 to follow along the coast, a mere 298 mile ride after work before arriving in Tobermory in time for the early morning ferry. I stopped in Kincardine, Ontario for gas and a bite to eat. I had enough gas to make it there but I gas stations would not open up until after the ferry had departed. I grabbed a ghetto burger at McDonalds, (the only one of the t rip), a full tank of gas and put on my rain suit. I had been paralleling a frontal boundary all evening and I was about to cross into it. I didn't realize how strong the storms were or I would have stayed put a while. Rain was coming down in sheets and near horizontal as well as gust front winds to deal with. I slowed down and kept going. One lane road and a sloped gravel shoulder didn't lend itself to stopping anyway. About 20 minutes later, I was through the worst of it so I kept going. I am glad I had the full faced helmet because seeing the road was bad enough. Now I can't imagine how I would have done it otherwise.

Breaking through the other side of the storm was amazing. I was treated to a perfectly, clear star lit sky and no real background lights to contend with, I got to see a really neat meteor shower that lasted

up to my arrival in Tobermory. 11:10 p.m. I arrived at my hotel. My gloves were drenched but amazingly everything else was dry. The Blue Bay Motel put a lock box on my door knob to my room and gave me a code to open it to get my room key. I was able to just walk in, set the heat and go to bed. I called home and let my wife Pat know I was there and shutting down for the night.

Baymouth. The farmland and forest were in the early stages of colors. Getting off the island is by crossing over a single lane bridge. Red light, wait for the other side to pass, shut down the bike and wait a bit. Stopped at the intersection of Trans-Canada 17 and Queens Highway 6 and picked up some moose hide moccasins at an outpost for my wife.



This was going to be a shorter day due to the ferry crossing and waiting for the ferry to board, etc. The colors in this part of the trip were absolutely gorgeous, brilliant reds and oranges up the slopes of each mountain. I made a quick stop near the Agawa River and Falls to stretch my legs and empty my bladder. I stopped at a small hotel east of Wawa. It was run by a Polish couple and they did the cooking as well. At least I wasn't going to be treated to a burnt cardboard tasting meal tonight!

The next morning, up at 6:30, showered, shaved and out the door by 7:15. The ferry dock is just down the street but they want you there 1 hour before departure. The Chicheemun ferry provides ropes for bike tie-downs. It is not necessary to bring your own. Approximately \$35 US for both the bike and me for the fare. The voyage takes 2 hours. We passed the Bruce Peninsula lighthouse and the light was in service as we passed by. The sun was in and out of clouds from the frontal zone I had passed through the night before.

Manitoulin Island is a rather large island, with 65 miles of riding to reach the mainland from the southern port of

The next morning was an early start to my day. The engine was turned over at 7 a.m. and heated jacket was definitely needed along with the heated gloves. All the trees were covered in a fine dew and running in and out of fog as the sun rose. I was riding into a fog rainbow from the low angle sun. I passed around a curve and over the top of a hill and broke out into clear skies. Coming around another bend, I was treated to a bald eagle grabbing a rabbit at the side of the road and he continued his flight almost into my bike. I was kind of laughing, the bunny must have been thinking "out of the pan and into the fire"...I am going to be eaten or a bug splat on a windshield. I saw 4 more bald eagles this

day...none would match as close of an encounter as the first. This was going to be one of the long days for me. Only 714 miles but about 30 stops and shut down the bike waiting for traffic to pass on a single open lane from the opposite direction. I only lucked out twice that our side was just starting out by the time I reached the construction zone.

If you go this route, be prepared for some price shock at the pumps! 5.1 gallons was \$33.75 Canadian and they wanted a 10% premium on top of that for using US currency. That is \$1 more per gallon than I pay for 100 octane low Lead aviation fuel! I took some of the luster out of the guy's eyes when I said then let's put it on my credit card and let them give me the correct exchange rate AND you pay a 3% premium to process the card. Along my way I now realize by the signage that I am now in the Arctic Ocean water shed. From this point on, everything flows NORTH! Around the western rim of Lake Superior, I re-entered the USA for about 120 miles into Minnesota and re-entered Canada just past Lake of the Woods. Tonight I am at a hotel in Steinbach, a Mennonite community. Tomorrow morning will be downtown Winnipeg.

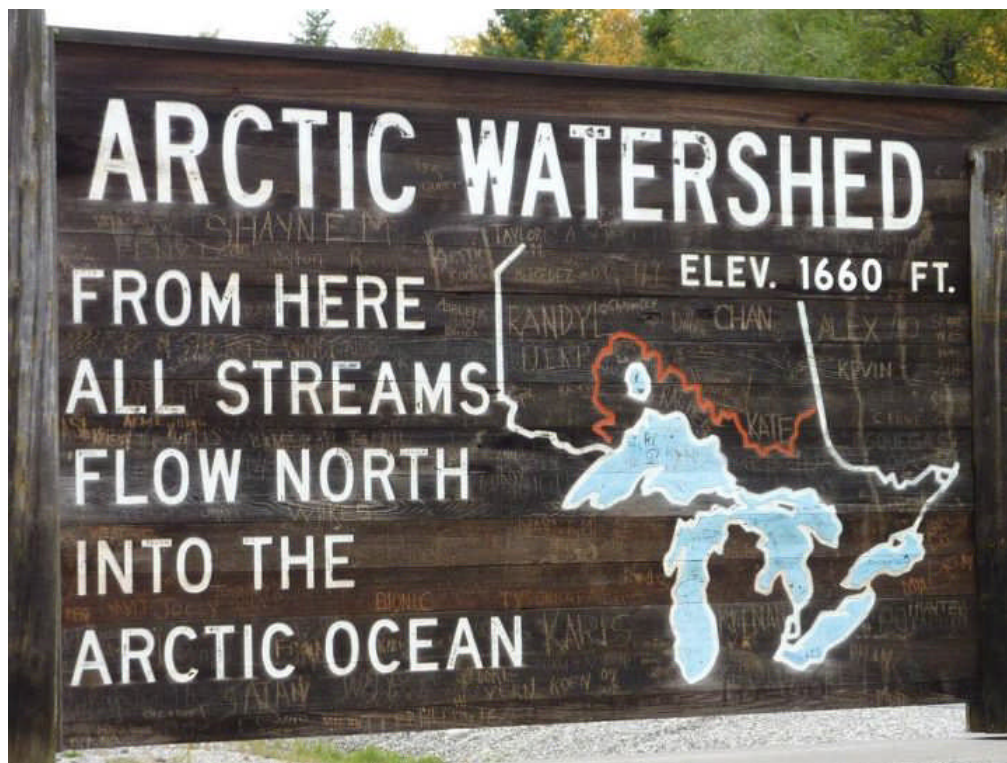
After a bit of shopping for the wife in downtown Winnipeg, it was time to head south. From noon to near 9 p.m. was all straight through farm land. Almost every field from Winnipeg to Nebraska was busy being harvested. It is

difficult to fathom how much farm equipment and grain haulers were being used all at once and where the equipment comes from. A whole day's ride south and I am just getting down to Mackinaw Island latitudes by the end of the day to Brookings, South Dakota. The next morning was a 50 mile detour west to the town of DeSmet to the farmstead home of Laura Ingalls Wilder (Little House on the Prairie) children's books. I got to see a sod house, made flour from wheat in a coffee grinder, made rope, even a corn cob doll. It was a ride back in time to the 1860's to see what life was like from a child's eye.

Now it was going to be a run for Nebraska. In Yankton, South Dakota near the state line, you have to stop at Jo Dean's for lunch. \$13.50 all you desire to eat and all farm fresh. I had black angus sirloin tips and steamed mushrooms as big as my fist. The fried chicken was also fork tender to perfection. The veggies both steamed and salads were as fresh as if I just picked them

myself. Back in the saddle and finish up the day in Ashland, Nebraska . No hotels nearby so I stopped in the small downtown and poke my nose into an art store and ask where

can I stay since I wanted to go to the air and space museum the next morning and the closest hotel was 14 miles to the east.





The owner said there was a bed and breakfast in town and of course there is the lodge. Lodge? Where? Oh it's at the state park. Wow! It's Sunday, they have to have a room free without a reservation. The Strategic Air Command Air and Space Museum was less than 300 feet from the entrance of the state park. They had a room only \$80 a night and one of the nicest rooms of the trip. Pleasantly surprised and now I had the whole park to walk around and get some exercise in. As you can see, I could get up very close to the wild life. Nebraska does it right. This Mulroney State Park has a 50-60 room lodge like something you would find at Yellowstone, 70 private individual cabins with fire places and 150 camp sites along with an ice skating park, water park, toboggan runs, hiking trails, children's activity center, and theater. It was a novel set-up from what I have ever seen in Michigan.

Monday morning is at the museum. It is nicely maintained and awe inspiring to see the B36...a plane larger than a B52 bomber. It could carry enough fuel to leave the US Bomb a target on another continent and fly

back home on one tank of gas. When I saw all the exhibits, I had to ask a glaring question... how did all these planes get here if there is no runway nearby. The answer: All were trucked in. The B36 alone cost 3 million dollars to move here on the old US roads. They also had a neat exhibit of memorabilia from John Wayne movies. His birthplace was just across the state line in Iowa.

I stopped at a Victory motorcycle dealer and inquired about getting a new rear tire. The chip sealed roads from Winnipeg to Nebraska were taking its toll. I was down to the wear bars in the center of the tire. No one had my size and the only BMW dealer in Omaha



was closed Monday. I still had tread but I was entering rain through most of Iowa, Illinois. I ended up having to wait on that idea, as it turned out, nearly 360 miles of rain before breaking out of it near Gary, Indiana. I kept going till I got home near 3 a.m. Tuesday morning and 3,048 miles later, 748 miles for the day, I figured I was through the worst of it and didn't want to get a room then have the weather reposition itself to have to drive through it again. I am

grateful I participated in the Coshocton and Tip of the Mitt rides prior to this because it gave me a chance to test out the cold and wet weather equipment. By the time I got to start this trip, I had packed and worn the right stuff for a long comfortable ride. Tuesday was set up as a buffer day if I needed it, I still had it off from work and relaxed. It was a fun time; I was still geeked into Sunday.

A special thanks to Bob Komjathy for the article featured this month!

REMEMBER

It doesn't pay a reward, but your articles will be appreciated by all your fellow members and your local editor AND you will earn points toward the **2011 SMOTY Award!** If nothing else - you'll get to see your name in print, somewhere other than on the Post Office bulletin board!



MICHIGAN SQUADRON RIDING EVENTS 2011

Our 2011 schedule has been completed and provided many of our squadron members with the opportunity to “ride the twisties” as noted in the following review of the past year.

MoArk Adventure

10 members in attendance, Missouri / Arkansas

Rough Rider 1000

15 members in attendance

Michigan Mountain Madness 2011

33 members in attendance, North Carolina

Blue Grass Boogie

12 members in attendance, Morehead, KY

Michigan's Ohio Blitz (MOB)

18 members in attendance, SE Ohio

Tip of The Mitt

26 members in attendance, Michigan

In addition members of our squadron attended several of the MSTA Regional and National Events –

STAR

33 members in attendance – Johnson City, TN

River City Ride

3 members in attendance – Madison, IN

Mail Pouch Fly-By

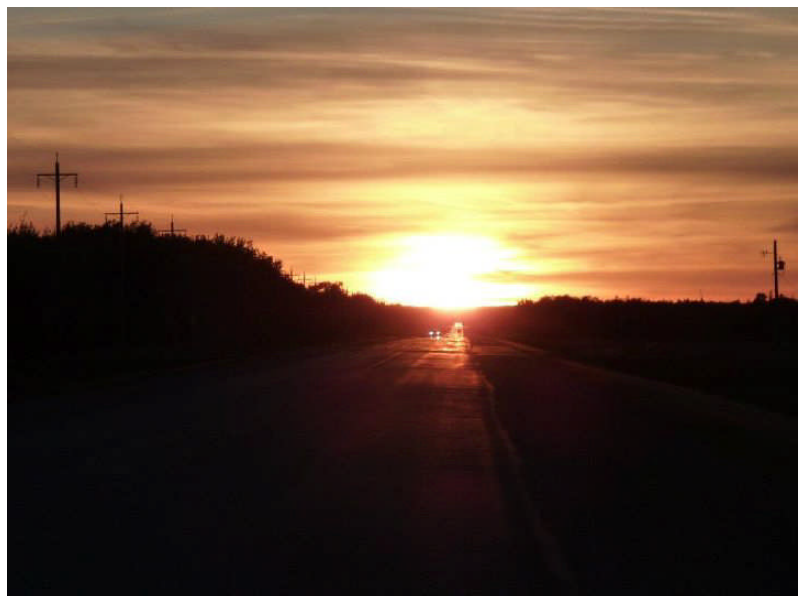
31 members in attendance, Marietta, OH

Fall Colors Ride

16 members in attendance, Snowshoe, WV

In all, a little over 40% of our membership participated in the rides for 2011.

If you're among those who didn't participate in any events this year, try to make it a point to do so in 2012. The events are one of the best ways to improve your riding skills and get to know your fellow squadron members better. The 2012 schedule will start taking shape in the next few months, so, watch this space in your newsletters and get ready to mark your calendars and make some plans to go and “ride the twisties” with your fellow squadron members.



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October 22, 2011 – Saturday 8:30 AM
Michigan MSTA Monthly Meeting
Karl's Cabin Restaurant
Gotfredson Rd, Plymouth, MI
Just north of M14

November 19, 2011 – Saturday 8:30 AM
Michigan MSTA Monthly Meeting
Karl's Cabin Restaurant
Gotfredson Rd, Plymouth, MI
Just north of M14

December 17, 2011 – Saturday 8:30 AM
Michigan MSTA Monthly Meeting
Karl's Cabin Restaurant
Gotfredson Rd, Plymouth, MI
Just north of M14

January 6 - 8, 2012
International Motorcycle Show – Novi, MI

SMOTY Awards Dinner

Our fifth Annual "Squadron Member of the Year" awards dinner will be held following the International Motorcycle Show, on Saturday, January 7, 2012. All Michigan Squadron Members and their guests are invited to attend. We'll be gathering at Karl's Cabin in Plymouth at 6:00 that evening.

We'll be recognizing those members who have managed to attend all of our monthly meetings, those who have attended the most events and of course our Squadron Member of the Year.

Reservations will be required and must be submitted prior to December 28, 2011.

Reservation forms will be emailed to all members soon and made available at our Saturday meetings beginning in November.

We have seating for 110 people available and there is a possibility that this dinner will be sold out. Get your reservations in as early as possible.

In the event of a sell-out, we plan to make some arrangements for others to attend the awards portion of the ceremony.

I'll be looking forward to seeing all of you there!

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Welcome to the MSTA

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to the Michigan MSTA Squadron:

Dennis Baker – South Lyon
Dan Parks – Novi
John Quigley – Rochester Hills
Dan Schaub – Howell
Jody Schaub – Howell
Denice Smith - Wixom

Current Squadron Membership
168

The MSTA Michigan Squadron and Newsletter belong to you, the members. Both of them can only be as good and as interesting as you make it. Take the time to contribute. If you've got something to say about a ride, your bike, perhaps a trip you're planning, whatever. Send it in for the newsletter –

To:

Gregg Mitchell – mi_msta@earthlink.net

Get informed of all the National and Regional MSTA Events at the National web-site and Forums

<http://www.sporttouring.us>

Please patronize the following businesses owned by your fellow MSTA Squadron Members, whenever possible



WILLIAM W. WEBB, PRIVATE ATTORNEY
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 Author of the The Traffic Ticket Maze
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