

7/24 MONDAY

Left home at 6:00 am ~18 miles to Niles MI, stopped for coffee downtown, reached the amtrak Station @ 8:15, a big fella came inside, he carried his things in trash bags and asked to borrow \$4 for a train ticket to Chicago I told him I'd need to go to an ATM, he said there was one at a gas station 4 blocks down, I said I didn't want to pay a fee to withdraw money for him. He didn't seem happy about that and I felt guilty for not helping. He left and asked me to let the station attendant know he would be back for his bags. departed for Kalamazoo at 9:30, arrived at 10:15. Bicycled east, stopped in Galesburg for lunch. milk, an energy drink & bananas, was able to get 50 cash too, picked up a paved trail near Battle Creek, very rough surface, rode it to downtown Battle Creek, nice area. East side trail closure & I had to do some backtracking. After a bit the route fell on a rough Hiking trail, steep & sandy in spots, turned off route ASAP. Stopped at a Subway in Marshall MI and ate while the rain poured down. Called ahead to book a campsite but there was no answer, found a Weblink to pay on-line, seemed legit, and only \$10. arrived to a locked gate but got around it, fella cutting grass came to talk and I told him I booked on-line and showed him my phone receipt, followed him back to a nice shaded spot with showers nearby. Got a good night's sleep.

\$25 amtrak
\$3 coffee
\$6 groceries
\$10 camp
\$44 total

7-25 TUESDAY

Up at 5am on the road by 6am, stopped at Biggby Coffee in Albion for a nice breakfast and Coffee. Stopped at DG in Conrad MI for an energy drink & snacks, the clerk broke the Fifty dollar bill for me, said my timing was good, I said everything is about timing, she agreed. picked up Falling waters trail, into Jackson MI to MLK drive, then N to downtown, just N of DT went through Armory Arts, an interesting area. Then a Few miles of busy roads to reach Mike Levine lakelands trail. stopped at Stockbridge for groceries. 1.5 mile off route to Hell's Creek Campground, \$20 for a primitive spot, with pool & shower, nice.

\$12 breakfast
\$5 dollar general
\$6 groceries
\$20 camp
\$43 total

7-25 Continued. Hornet got me at the pool gate, then he showed me his mad dance, wrong gate anyhow, it was locked. Stung on the finger, just above my wedding ring, I moved the ring to my right hand, moderate allergic swelling ensued.



7-26 WEDNESDAY

Up @ 6am on road by 6:45, 3 miles to Pinckney MI. Stopped at Aunt Betty's restaurant and ordered the 'Big Breakfast', delicious. It's about another 43 mile ride to reach Pontiac from here. I may catch the train back to Niles at Pontiac, I may continue but I would need to ride another 30 miles to reach a campground and T-storms are in the forecast. 10am I stopped at Mc'D s and bought that Amtrak ticket online, the train departs at 5:28 pm. downhill shortly thereafter, a bug flew in my mouth and i quickly spit him out, too late, stung my LIP. I took it easy the rest of the day, lots of rest stops. The route included a nice Mountain Bike single track for a bit. warm temps in the 80's, stopped at an ALDI's just off the trail for lunch, Kale Salad, yogurt & protein water, storm rolled in just before I reached the Amtrak station @ ~3:30pm

\$17 Breakfast
\$2 McD's
\$8 Aldi
\$48 Amtrak
\$75 total

2019. 4075
2020. 2101
2021. 3863
2022. 3126
2023. 4399
2024. 3317

6 year total: 20,881 miles