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Michigan Sport Touring Report

June 2017

Editor – Ian Orr

Rough Rider 1000 VII ...a woman's perspective

By mj Allmond

The manager and staff at the Best Western Smoky Mountain Inn pulled out all the stops this year and, combined with the near perfect weather, fifty attendees enjoyed 6:00am breakfasts at the Inn, fabulous all day rides on area back roads, pre-dinner apres-riding, great dining in local restaurants, followed by many evenings of adult beverage taste testing. The two new gas fire pits, surrounded by cushioned wicker chairs, were the perfect place to rest road-weary bones well into the night. Added touches included a new treat bag in our rooms, every other night, filled with bottled water, cookies and popcorn and, thanks to Dennis, several people enjoyed a refreshing afternoon swim in the pool, which was opened just for us. Note to self – bring a swimsuit next year!

We were all caught by surprise when the manager, Pratik, showed us the brand new gas barbecue he had installed for our use – we wasted no time and christened it on Thursday evening. Surprise turned to delight when Pratik arrived at our barbecue with a large cooler full

of beer and joined us for several hours of storytelling! When was the last time you shared an evening of eating and drinking with your hotel manager? Second note to self – plan an onsite barbecue next year...and Clyde is a very good griller!



If you've never been to this event you owe it to yourself to attend next year.



Iron Butt Ladies

Last month at the West MSTR monthly meeting, Keith Danielson got up & spoke about the RR 1000 ride coming up on Sat. June 3rd. I asked Keith if I wanted to do the ride, would there be someone that would be willing to ride with me?!?

He said of course there would... the riders divide into small groups & take off. I signed up for the ride! Lynn Higbee said that if I did it, she would too!

I had forgotten that I had signed up for it until Terry Odom asked me at the next East MSTR meeting if I was the one that had signed up. I said yes & he gave me details about the pre-ride mtg & where the Speedway was that we would be leaving from. I asked Curt to drive by so I could get my bearings. We found the Speedway & I noticed that there was a Holiday Inn Express right next door to the Speedway. With a KSU time of 4 am, I decided that I would book a room there. I contacted Lynn & she agreed that we should book a room for 2 nights, Fri. & Sat. She had about 1 ½ hr ride to get there & I had just over an hour. We booked our room & the ride was on!

The 2 Curts decided to make sure Lynn & I got to our hotel safely, so they rode with us. Curt H. was going to stay there & ride around the thumb on Sat. My Curt decided to start the ride with us & ride back as far as Parma with the group. (I'm sure he wanted to make sure I was safe! THANKS Babe!)

Sat. am the alarm went off at 2:45. Lynn & I got up & left @ 3:30 for the Speedway right next door. We were ready to do this! (I had done an Iron Butt several years ago, riding from Chelsea to Hershey, PA on a CHOCOLATE RUN, but never turned in the paperwork for it!) Anyway, after we filled our tanks, we parked by the bikes already there. Terry Odom had told us that we would be riding with Peter Stephan & himself. Terry talked about the ride & gave us some good hints for successfully completing the ride. He also told both of us that we would NEVER be alone & that if either of us had a problem, he would make sure that we were safely taken care of! That made me feel better. We were the last group to leave, we departed at 4:10!

True to his word, we stopped about every 100 miles +/- . I did fine until about 10 am...my eyes started to get very fatigued. So at our next stop, Terry told me to sit down & close my eyes for a few mins. I took my jacket off & laid down on the grass in the shade of a tree & closed my eyes for about 5 + mins....that did it! I was refreshed & ready to hit the road

again. I think Peter & Terry were taking it easy at first to make sure that Lynn & I were doing ok. Once they saw that we were doing fine & riding well, I think they picked it up some & we had an awesome day! There was a lot of good camaraderie! Terry was quick to boost our confidence at our stops by telling us how well we were doing. And Peter kept telling us to keep hydrated, eat protein bars & sip 5 hour energy at every stop. We got back to the Speedway Safe & Sound at 11:13 pm. Peter & Terry congratulated us both on a successful ride! I thanked them both for making me feel confident that I could do it & knowing that I would be well taken care of if anything happened. SAFETY FIRST! THANKS so much for hanging in there with us guys! Couldn't have done it without you! And a Big THANKS to my Curt for making sure my bike was ready to go....tires, oil, coolant, lights etc!

Now to just do the paperwork for my Iron Butt Certificate. But I REALLY did it because I want one of John Horner's t-shirts! (Teal is a GREAT color John! Wink, wink)

Rough Rider 1000 VII ...a woman's perspective

By Lynn Higbee



I rode on the back of the motorcycle as a passenger for a very long time, people asked all the time why don't you ride your own? My answer would normally be because I couldn't sleep on my own. Truth is I never thought I could actually do everything you have to do to ride my own. You know; start it, shift it up and down remember to put my feet down when you

stop and watch out for all the other crazy drivers out there, all that stuff you have to remember to do. Well I turned 50 and heard there were classes out there for \$25.00 to teach you how to ride your own motorcycle I thought for \$25.00 why not try it. My husband Curt could have shown me the ropes but I figured we would do more arguing than teaching & learning so I signed up for the first class of the Spring. I think Curt was pretty excited about it because he bought me my first bike before I even took the class my 1998 BMW R1200C that had 10,000 miles on it. I took the class and was so nervous, now remember I am 50 years old and never rode my own bike before so I was really starting from scratch, they told me at the class that that was a good thing because I didn't have any bad habits to break. Well it was a weekend class from Friday to Sunday the class seemed pretty hard and I did end up not passing it. I was not deterred at least now I knew the basics so we went out and got my permit. I put many, many miles on my bike that summer and brushed up on my riding skills. I still needed to take the road test so I thought why don't I just take the class again for \$25.00 why not, so I took the class and had no problems that time it was a piece of cake this time passed with flying colors. I have ridden for 4 years now and I would not get on the back of a bike unless I absolutely had to because I LOVE riding my own.

Someone asked me if I would be interested in riding the 1000 mile Iron Butt ride I answered are you crazy NO! That was pretty much it on the subject. I kept seeing the Iron Butt Ride show up in our MSTR updates and started thinking why not try it, so I talked with my riding buddy MJ and we both pretty much last minute decided to try it. Everyone I told that I was going to ride 1000 miles in 24 hrs all thought we were crazy, well now I had to prove them right;) We started at 4:00 am, first we were briefed by our fearless leaders Peter Stephen and Terry Odom gave us some basic rules to follow & advised to stay hydrated, if you use energy drinks like 5 hr energy to sip on it at each stop don't guzzle it and it will give you constant energy instead of a blast of energy

and they were right. To my surprise I didn't get tired once, did I say it was the high 80's low 90's all day. I guess I was so excited about finishing it the heat didn't bother me, Peter & Terry made it easy for me, you are saying yeah right but I am telling you it was not hard at all, to be honest the last hour was the longest but I still won't say it was hard. We returned back to our starting point at 11:15 pm. Yes we were beat but it was a good feeling to have accomplished what many do not even try. I even plan to do the 1500 miles in 36 hrs Iron Butt Ride so take my word it's not that bad, if I can do it anyone can do it the people that put the ride on supply you with everything you need all you have to do is sign up and show up.

Summer Sizzle Bar-Be-Que

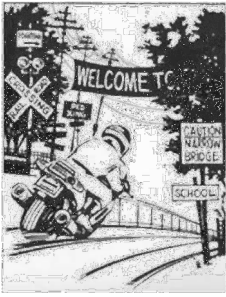


Once again Don and Jan Pennington hosted THE place to be on the first Sunday in June. Following the day after the Rough Rider 1000 (and several of the Iron Butt riders attended) the weather sizzled, the food was great, the gardens were glorious and their place was filled with motorcyclists. In grand tradition all the ladies left with red roses from Don as a memento.

A special thanks to mj Allmond and Lynn Higbee for their articles featured this month.

Remember... All published articles earn a free breakfast and your articles will be appreciated by your fellow members and the

newsletter editor, and you will also earn points toward the **2017 MOTY Award!**



MSTR Heads Up

Here's a listing of some of the upcoming local events and meetings within the next few weeks. If you know of a local motorcycle event in Michigan or Ontario the MSTR would be interested in send Ian Orr an e-mail at Communications@mstriders.com with the details.

MSTR EAST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, June 24, 2017, @ 8:30 AM

East breakfast meeting is at **Doc's Sport Retreat** in Livonia, MI. Doc's is located at 19265 Victor Parkway. East of I-275, north of 7 mile road and across from Dave and Buster's. Augie Fernandes will be moderating this meeting.

MSTR WEST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, July 8, 2017, @ 10:00 AM

West breakfast meeting is at the **Alibi Bar & Grill**, 1394 E. Riverside Drive, Ionia, MI (www.alibionia.com). Please send an email to Gala (gschip@me.com) so she can plan on providing breakfast for everyone who attends. Breakfast will be available for \$11 plus tax & tip. Bart Reiter will be moderating this meeting.

MSTR 2017 Rides



One of the goals of the MSTR is to organize a few multi-day rides each year specifically for our members in some of the

premier riding areas in the Midwest and Southeast. All MSTR rides are limited to those who are current MSTRiders. The dates for most events have already been set and are listed on the Events page of the MSTR Website (www.mstriders.com).

2017 MSTR

Deposed Depots Grand Tour

March 25 – November 19, 2017
Michigan

Keith's 2017 Michigan Deposed Depots Grand Tour is in full swing. There are 14 checkpoints, with 8 in the Lower Peninsula, and 6 in the Upper Peninsula. Additionally, you can earn up to 3 extra credit points for each checkpoint (42 extra credit points total) for stopping to see other Michigan attractions. These can be other depots, museums, historical points of interest, scenic attractions, tourist attractions, and unique Michigan restaurants. All photo proofs of your visits will be due to Keith by November 19.

Ride Organizer: Keith Danielson
keith.danielson@wowway.com

BGB

Blue Grass Boogie

July 13–16, 2017
Morehead, KY

Join us in Morehead, KY to ride some great roads in Eastern Kentucky on Friday the 14th and Saturday 15th. I expect everyone will be homeward bound on Sunday the 16th. We'll be staying at the following Motel:

Hampton Inn
500 Hampton Way
I-64 Exit State Route 32
Phone: 1-606-780-0601

Should they fill up, or if you want a little less expensive room, there are plenty of other motels nearby.

There will be a **Mandatory "Rider's Meeting"** held at the hotel every evening, beginning on Thursday July 13th at 9:00 PM, where we'll set up the riding groups, review the routes and prepare for the next day's ride. If you want to participate - here's what you do:

1. Make your hotel reservations at the hotel without delay. There is NOT a block of rooms being "Held".
2. Let Kelly know that you're planning on being there – maps and directions will be distributed by email ONLY to those whose names are on record as attending

Organizer: Kelly McCrystal
kmcc927@comcast.net

Leamington Flat Track Race

Saturday, July 15, 2017
Leamington, Ontario

Phil Bolichowski will host a BBQ lunch and ride through Essex County to the Leamington Fair Grounds to attend the "THUNDER FEST" Motorcycle Flat Track Race.

BBQ at Phil's home: 12-2pm
435 Runstedler, LaSalle, Ontario

Ride to the track: 2-5pm

Attend race: 5-10pm

Race location:

194 Erie Street, N. Leamington, Ontario

Entry: \$15 Canadian. Sign for a free pit pass at the gate

All MSTR members are welcome by car or bike. Bring the family. Leamington is a small farm community about ½hr from the bridge.

Please RSVP for a head count

Organizer: Phil Bolichowski
Phone: 519 819-0758
philb@arlentool.com

BBR 2

Barn Burn Raid 2

August 17–20, 2017
Marietta, OH

The ride hotel has agreed to hold a block of rooms at a reduced rate and recommended booking these rooms now to ensure availability due to other (non-motorcycle) group bookings.

Ride HQ: All week
Best Western Plus Marietta Hotel
701 Pike St, Marietta, OH 45750
Phone: 740 374-9660

A block of 40 rooms are being held as follows:

- Check-in: On or after Wednesday, August 16, check-out: Sunday, August 20. \$76/night + tax. Same rate for King and Doubles. Request the MSTRiders rooms and rate
- I requested ground floor for all the rooms, which they will try to meet
- After July 19 the blocked rooms will be released to the general public. If there are rooms available AFTER July 19 we'll still get the \$76 rate. If we need more than 40 rooms we'll still get the \$76 rate
- As with all MSTR events with a pre-arranged reduced rate room these are ONLY available to MSTRiders.

The sign-up sheet for BBR 2 will be available at the June and July West and East meetings. The routes will be similar to last year's BBR event. There will be two pre-rides on Thursday and Friday for those who are riding down.

There is also a special pre-BBR event available for those with some extra time on their hands and a willingness to get wet. Come to the June East meeting or the July West meeting for details.

Ride Organizer: Ian Orr
Communications@mstriders.com

SEE

Solar Eclipse Event

August 21, 2017

White House, TN

A total solar eclipse will occur on Monday, August 21, 2017, which is the day after the 2017 Barn Burn Raid. Vince Cardinale is gathering names of interested riders to gauge interest as follows:

Observe the eclipse from or near White House, TN, which also provides the most direct and shortest return to the Detroit Metro region. There are several hotels in or near White House, which is approximately 6h 40m from Marietta, OH by expressway.

The optimal local viewing location would be the Cherry Mound Baptist Church parking lot, which will enjoy 2' 39" of totality.

- Partial phase starts at 11:58AM (CDT)
- Totality starts at 1:26PM (CDT)
- Partial phase ends at 2:53PM (CDT)

All participants should wear eclipse glasses such as these: [eclipse glasses](#). Check the [eclipse map](#) to see the full eclipse path. Don't wait too long on this. A total solar eclipse is an international event so good rooms will go quickly.

Organizer: Vince Cardinale
vincent6355@att.net

MSTR Newsletter & Website

The MSTR Newsletter and Website (www.mstriders.com/) belong to you, the riders. They both can only be as good and as interesting as you make them. 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 and/or website to:

Ian Orr: Communications@mstriders.com

MSTR Photo Gallery

The MSTR maintains a SmugMug photo gallery (<https://mstriders.smugmug.com/>) to allow riders to upload and download pictures of various club events. Upload and download passwords are sent out to participants for each event. Click on the above link or visit the MSTR website and select the MSTR Photo Gallery link to check out all the event pictures.

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www.foxpowersports.com/


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Tested: 2017 BMW RnineT Scrambler



Charlotte Kainz Memorial Race Review
Touring New Zealand, Part 2

Also in this issue:
Father & Son H-D Project Bike II
Reviewed: 2018 BMW HP4 Race



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