



Michigan Sport Touring Report

July 2017

Editor – Ian Orr

Ladies Track Day

By mj Allmond

I have been riding a motorcycle for about 12+ yrs. now. Well, I should say I was on 2 wheels....I was used to riding a 'Lazy Boy Recliner' bike (as Curt called my VTX). Anyway, I bought my BMW R1200R in Nov. of 2013. It was a totally different ride than my VTX. I used to ride 'IN' the bike, now I ride 'ON' the bike. I soon realized that I had to learn about riding a Sport Touring bike all over again. Several members of the then MSTA group mentioned that I should do a 'Track Day'. They said it really helped them to conquer cornering better. They assured me that it is one of the safest places to ride....it's a 'controlled environment' with no cagers to worry about, no debris & NO potholes. They also have emergency medical crews there to offer help in the event it's needed. I listened & filed the information away. I just couldn't see myself getting on a race track at all! But, then along came Sue



Ozimek & she said how much 'Fun' it would be if we did the Ladies Track Day together. I'd already done the Rough Rider earlier in June, so I said "Sure, why not"!

I checked with my insurance company to make sure I would be covered on the track & I was told I would be. So Sue & I registered for the LTD taking place on July 4 at Grattan. As the day came closer, I started to get

EXCITED about it. Curt checked my bike over & got it stripped down & ready for the track.

We got up @ 4am on the 4th & were on the road by 5. As we got closer to the track, I started thinking "What are you doing? Are you nuts?" By the time the rider's meeting started, I had almost talked myself into NOT doing it. But thanks to my good friend Sue supporting me & telling me it would be OK, I got myself in a group to ride. Now those of you that know how I ride, can understand....I don't like to GO FAST! But I was assured I would learn to ride corners of ALL kinds better.

The first time around was just to learn the track & get a feel for how wide it is (40 ft. wide enough for 4 cars to go side by side). I rode it in 2nd gear, 3rd on the straight; I think I even put it in 1st for the bus stop! Then we started working on how to ride the corners better using throttle control & increasing speed to help 'hold' the bike in the turn.

I was in the 'SLOW' group (No surprise there)...but after the 2nd time out, Mike, the head Novice coach, asked if anyone in my group wanted to split off. I said sure, I would (Where did that come from? Who said that?). So, from then on, I had my own personal coach Turns out it was the best decision I could have made.

When I got off the track for the 3rd time, both Curt & Augie said they were watching for my bike & they wondered who had been riding my bike that last lap! I had started to improve that much, that fast! I was actually PASSING other riders. (I know hard to believe!)

After lunch, it was all about body position. That was very hard for me to do & of course, I don't ride a sport bike, my sport-touring bike lets me sit up straight....not the correct posture for the track. But I persevered & started holding better lines & wound up much smoother in the corners.

At the end of the day, I had conquered my fears & survived the track! People ask me if it was FUN....I answer that it was an EXPERIENCE! I was exhausted after riding the track. I don't know that this experience will allow me to let go of my fears & ride faster, but what it did do was to let me see what my bike is really capable of doing & also what I was able to do on the bike. I have looked at my photos on 129 photos and there is a BIG difference from session 1 to session 7!



I don't know what my speed was on the track (our pit crew, Curt & Augie had taped over the speedometers) and it really doesn't matter. Because by the end of the last session, my tach was reading 5,000 rpms in 6th gear on the straight.! (YES, my bike does have 6 gears! LOL) I will admit now that I did have a big smile on my face; I was feeling more confident, going strong and enjoying myself!

Would I do it again? Probably! Now that a week has gone by, I guess I can say that it really was FUN!

Mike assured me that they don't change anything they do for the LTD. In fact he said the coaches like to work with the ladies, because we LISTEN to them! Thanks Mike! I really do feel more confident in my abilities!

Big THANKS to our umbrella boys & pit crew, Curt & Augie. We couldn't have done it at all without you two!

Leamington Flat Track Race

By Ian Orr



Canadian Maple Leaf shaped hamburgers. Spicy sausages and home-made baked beans – these are a few of my favorite things! Phil and Helen Bolichowski put on a fabulous spread of

home-made and home-cooked BBQ for a group of hungry MSTR and non-MSTR motorcyclists. We all enjoyed their hospitality on their deck, resting and gorging for several hours in anticipation of a backroads ride to watch the THUNDER FEST motorcycle flat track race.



My wife and I hadn't ridden on Canadian roads in some time and we'd never attended a flat track race. On both counts we came away impressed. The hand-picked (by Phil) roads were all in great shape, versus the typical Michigan torture tests. Two riding "events" stood out; first, while doubling the

recommended corner speed on the sign is my usual corner calibration method it didn't take long to realize that doubling 40 and entering at 80 while two-up might work when the sign is in miles per hour but not so much when it's kilometers per hour. Entering a 40kph (25mph) turn at 80mph (130kph) is hard on the brake pads, tires and biological soft parts! Second, an airborne, wild Canadian turkey at FWO looked just like a Scud missile as it crossed directly in front of our path – more insults to the soft parts! Thanks to Phil for leading us along some of the best roads in southwest Ontario – my GPS memorized it all.

After 3½ hours of strafing backroads we arrived at the track just past 6:30pm. Lore and I had discussed the long day and upcoming nighttime ride back with an international border crossing and decided we'd tell Phil we would head home and skip the races...and then we heard the thunderous sound of big bore singles and twins echoing around the track and decided to enjoy the feast – and that's why it's called THUNDER FEST!

My first thought was these riders are nuts – fully dressed out in thick leather, steel sliding shoe over the left boot, foot down on the track, drifting the bike through the turn, with a rooster-tail of small rocks arcing backwards, throttle either full on or full off with a rear brake (only) just in case. My second thought was WHAT! An 8yr old girl who could have been playing with dolls in her house was instead learning how to drift a two-stroke minibike through a gravel turn. A gathering of young teenaged boys were doing their best to impress an equally young group of pretty teenaged girls – all wearing heavy leather suits, full-face helmets and not a single cell phone in sight. No discrimination here, the girls race with the



boys. Let me rephrase that – the girls RACE the boys. In the last event we stayed to watch, two girls came first and third against a field comprised of 20+ riders. And this wasn't some last chance qualifier, it was a semi-final race.

Finally, as we walked around the track we were both surprised at Phil's expertise on all things flat track and how many racers, old and young, knew Phil. Well, it turns out Phil raced flat track many years ago and we heard through the Bolichowski grapevine he was a Canadian flat track champion.

A special thanks to mj Allmond for her article 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, July 22, 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, August 12, 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
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 Nov. 19.

Organizer: Keith Danielson
keith.danielson@wowway.com

BBR 2

Barn Burn Raid 2

August 17–20
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 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.

A pre-event, white water raft trip on the New River has been arranged for adventurous MSTRiders on Wednesday, August 16th. The trip begins near Fayetteville, WV at 9:00am and ends around 4:00pm. The \$140 per person cost includes transportation to and from the New River and a lunch on the river. Eight riders have signed up, filling up one raft and we have room for more. It's about

500 freeway miles from southeast Michigan to Fayetteville, WV so we're staying at the Quality Inn New River in Fayetteville on Tuesday, August 15th to be ready for the raft trip the next morning. You can check out [Adventures on the Gorge](#) on the web and look up the Canyon Rim Lower New River day trip. If you're interested send an e-mail to Ian Orr for more information and how to book on the same raft trip.

Organizer: Ian Orr
Communications@mstriders.com

SEE

Solar Eclipse Event
Monday, August 21st
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

Reiter MSTR Picnic

Sunday, September 3rd
Haslett, Michigan

Join your MSTR riding buddies for an afternoon of laid-back relaxation, darts, bean bag toss and some wicked potato gun action. Food and drinks will be provided but feel free to bring a dish to pass and your own favorite beverage. The picnic starts at 2pm.

Bart and Marian Reiter Residence
9777 Missaukee Lane
Haslett MI 48840

Organizer: Bart Reiter
banjobart@aol.com

TOTM

Tip Of The Mitt

September 14 – 17
Bellaire, Michigan

Come and join us in Bellaire, Michigan for some of the best scenic riding around northwest Michigan. Starting from the Inn you may choose to ride the Pinky Finger Route through Northport, or maybe the Ring Finger Route through Cross Village is more to your liking. And yes, you brave souls might want to ride the Middle Finger Route up to St. Ignace. We have routes available from last year or you can make up your own. We'll be staying at the following motel:

Bellaire Inn
728 E Cayuga St,
Bellaire, MI 49615
Phone: 231 533-7777

There will be a pre-ride on Thursday the 14th starting out from Leo's Coney Island in Hartland, Michigan (on Highland Rd near US23). Arrive early for breakfast with kickstands up no later than 9am.

If you want to participate - here's what you do:

1. Call Debbie, at the Bellaire Inn, to make reservations. Most rooms are double beds, so line up a partner if you wish. Please be patient. The property is managed by one person. You may have to leave a message initially. Make sure you mention you are a member of the MSTR. NOTE: there are cancellation charges if cancel several days before the event. Make your reservations soon since the Inn fills up quickly.

VERY IMPORTANT!

2. Let Peter or John know you're planning on being there – Maps and directions will be distributed by email ONLY to those whose names they have on record as attending.

Organizer: Pete Stephan
rideamotorcycle@gmail.com
248-250-1772 (cell)

Organizer: John Cirner
jcirner@charter.net
248-396-5882 (cell)

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.

MSTR Dealer Members

BMW Motorcycles of SE Michigan
www.bmwmcsem.com/

BMW of Grand Rapids
www.bmwmcgr.com/

College Bike Shop
www.collegebikeshop.com/

Ducati Detroit
www.ducatidetroit.com/

Fox Powersports
www.foxpowersports.com/

Please patronize the following businesses owned by your fellow MSTR Members, whenever possible.

Chip Ashton

CJ'S HEAD & HOLE SHOP
Head & Boring Service for 2 & 4 cycle engines
248-683-6344

1140 Shady Lane ♦ Waterford, MI 48327

BellaCorse SEL-MOTION MOTORSPORTS MARKETING
POB 760403, LATHRUP VILLAGE, MI 48076
TEL: 248.569.2850 FAX: 309.422.2407
www.bellacorse.com



MICHAEL SELMAN
sales@bellacorse.com

1-248-853-4333

Glenn V Brechner Welding, Inc.

303 S. Grey Rd
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

web site www.mywelder.net e-mail qvbweldinginc@aol.com

"metal welded or brazed repair or production"

Get a GRIP! **PETE MEYER**

HAMMERGRIPS
CUSTOM CUT TANK GRIPS



bighammer@chartermi.net
(231) 499-7935
1800 Nelson Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686

OZONE BIKE WORKS

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.



WILLIAM W. WEBB, PRIVATE ATTORNEY
248-647-9000
Author of the The Traffic Ticket Maze
<http://statebar.net/trafficticket.pdf>



BMW Motorcycles of Grand Rapids



Blane Kamp
General Manager

616.530.6900
Fax: 616.530.8421
5995 South Division Grand Rapids, MI 49548
blane.kamp@bmwmcgr.com / www.bmwmcgr.com



Midwest Motorcyclist

July 2017
FREE

Celebrating 19 Years

2017 H-D Road King Special

Also in this issue:
I Tested: Giant Loop Fender Bag
I Garage Company Museum Tour

Gilmore Vintage Bike Ride Review

XR400R Adventure Shakedown Tour



DUCATI DETROIT 248.792.8999

MICHIGAN'S EXCLUSIVE DUCATI DEALER

33828 Woodward Ave
Birmingham, MI 48009 | DucatiDetroit.com



the Alibi

The Alibi Bar & Grill

1394 E Riverside Dr, Ionia MI 48846 - ph (616) 527-1810