



Accidental Owner

By Joseph Arozarena

When I picked up my new Yamaha FJ-09, I had a bit of a surreal feeling. I was in Port Clinton, Ohio about an hour and a half from my home. I had just purchased a motorcycle that I'd never seen or ridden before and the truth is that just a couple weeks prior, I wasn't even intending to buy a bike.

I think everyone who owns a motorcycle has a love of them in all their styles, shapes and sizes. We're always checking out what is new, what's going to the annual bike show, looking through a dealer's showroom while we're there for maintenance or to pick up a part. We can't help ourselves. We love the machines, the technology, style changes. If it's new and different, we're checking it out. Regardless of how happy we might be at the moment with the bikes in our garage we all know that there's something else out there that we'd love to try.

In my particular case, I wasn't even considering a new bike. I had my Yamaha FJR as my touring bike and a Kawasaki Ninja 650 as my MSTR sport bike. I was content but a friend, Brian, had been on the lookout for something new and different. He had a cruiser but was thinking about buying a bike more suited to sport riding. One day, I got a text message from Brian with a photo of an FJ-09. It was a brand new 2015 model sitting in a dealership in Ohio that had been discounted significantly. His text message asked me and another friend, Dave, what he should do. Dave and I both said that he should buy it. It was an excellent bike, brand

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new, deeply discounted – it was a great value.

A little time went by and it was clear that Brian wasn't ready to buy. He was interested, but not ready to pull the trigger. I, on the other hand, had wheels turning in my head. Yes, I liked my Ninja. I'd had some great fun on it, including two MoArk trips and a Blue Grass Boogie where I was quite pleased with how well it kept up with the larger bikes. But I knew that the 650 was a little bit smaller than what I really wanted. And the FJ-09 was an 850cc. That's a great size, in my opinion and it's a triple cylinder which reminded me of my Triumph Sprint 955, which I truly loved riding. I started doing the math in my head – what I could get for selling the Ninja, how much the new bike would cost out the door, the benefit of having a brand new bike and how many years use I could get out of it... it was all leading me to the conclusion that I should buy the bike. There was one serious problem... the color.

The bike that Brian had been looking at was a matte grey. I already had a grey bike, my FJR, and I always like brightly colored bikes. My Ninja was a beautiful orange and black. My FJR was a 2013 and was offered only in grey. I remember being terribly disappointed when the following 2014 model came out in a very nice blue. The point is, there was no way I was going to have two grey bikes. I could have had Dave O. paint my FJR, but that's an expensive choice to make. I decided to look at the dealership's website to see if they had any other FJ-09s available. The website didn't even show the one grey one that Brian had been looking at, so I thought maybe it had been sold. I decided to call them to be sure. When I called they said

they had two grey ones and.... a red one still in the crate. Red! It only took me a minute to Google the bike and look at the photos of the red model. SOLD! At that point, I put a deposit on it and just had to wait for them to assemble the bike and get it ready for me.

Brian was quite shocked when I told him that I'd bought the bike. I told him the grey one was still there, waiting for him, but as of today he hasn't made the decision to buy it. He did, however, drive me to Port Clinton so that I could pick up mine. It seemed like the right thing to do since it was his fault that I bought it.

Now my Ninja is for sale and I'm preparing to take my new FJ-09 on its first MSTR ride – the 7 Ridges Ride. What a strange, very unexpected series of events, but in the end it was all for the better.

The point is... even if you don't think you're in the market for a new motorcycle, you really are. We all are.

Perpetual Training (or still learning for 40 years)

By Vincent Ursini

My kids got together and decided they were taking their dear ole Dad to the Indy 500 for their Father's day gift. (Awesome, how great is that the kids can afford to bring their Dad anywhere?) I headed out on my bike towards Indianapolis to join in. That Saturday brought sketchy conditions, warm temperatures and showers everywhere. Fortunately I missed most of the heavy downpours that seemed to surround me on the way down and rode through the scattered showers that were in my path.

Things were looking up, the skies cleared on I-24 west bound towards Fort Wayne, that is until the bike and I got there. A stray shower started up right over the newly paved and striped entrance ramp to I-69 south bound. It is a nice 270° on ramp to the south bound

freeway, which normally would be one of my favorite curves to bank over and throttle on towards the merge. My preservation instinct kicked in and as the rain picked up, I set the bike into a more conservative lean angle at a reasonable speed. Just wanted to get there, right?

Two-thirds into the turn, I looked north to see what the traffic situation was and how best to merge into traffic. That's when I realized the bike had had drifted a little wide. I pushed the bars into a correction to tighten the line, just as the front tire hit the little wet white line. Goodbye traction hello tank slapper!

Now things went into automatic mode, no thinking, just reacting. The foot attached to my surgically repaired hip, instantly dropped off the peg, and stabbed the pavement to upright the bike. Dirt tracking on a Concours, geez! As soon as I got free of the white line, I accelerated and the tank slapper instantly calmed down. All the while, the driver in the car on the freeway moved over one lane as they saw I was in a "bit of distress". The real moment would've been watching me slide across the freeway, sparks trailing as I go into the ditch on the other side, but fortunately that didn't happen this day.

Literally one mile down the road from that freeway ramp, the sun broke out and the skies cleared. I spent the remainder of the ride thinking about what could have happened. I thought to myself, how I would explain to my surgeon that I snapped both screws that hold that little ceramic ball on my new hip joint. Should I have asked for those reinforced, crash proof screws? I could envision his face and he was not amused.

This little episode took all of about 2 to 3 seconds. It reminds you why, after 40 years of riding, you still need to continually train yourself on what to do and what not to do. It's what you sign up for when riding motorcycles. That day I was lucky but needless to say, I avoided every white stripe for the remainder of the two hour ride. Happy trails!

A special thanks to **Joseph Arozarena & Vincent Ursini** for their articles featured this month.

Remember... All published articles earn a free breakfast, entry into the year-end newsletter drawing AND your articles will be appreciated by your fellow members and the newsletter editor, and you will also earn points toward the **2018 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 attending send Ian Orr an e-mail at Communications@mstriders.com with the details.

MSTR EAST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, July 28, 2018, @ 9:00 AM
Doc's Sports Retreat, 19265 Victor Parkway
Livonia, MI

Gregg Mitchell will be moderating this meeting

MSTR WEST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, August 11, 2018, @ 9:00 AM
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.

Keith Danielson will be moderating this meeting.



August 12th in Ypsilanti at Corner Brewery

BIKE SHOW

Noon - Registration Open

4pm - Registration Closes

5pm - Awards and Raffle Winner announced.

9th Annual TON-UP Motorcycle and Music Festival is a motorcycle & music festival featuring vintage and custom motorcycles, scooters, and mopeds.



MSTR 2018 Rides

In 2018 we'll have a similar number of events for MSTRiders to attend.

The dates for many events have already been set and are listed on the Events page of the MSTR Website (www.mstriders.com)

2018 MSTR Historic Courthouse Grand Tour

April 23 – November 17, 2018
Michigan

This year's Grand Tour has been finalized. Keith is calling it the 2018 Michigan Historic Courthouse Grand Tour this year.

Event details can be found here ([2018 Grand Tour](#)) and you can always contact Keith to sign up and for more information.

Ride Organizer: Keith Danielson
keith.danielson@att.net

BGB Blue Grass Boogie

July 19–22, 2018
Morehead, KY

Join us in Morehead, KY to ride some great roads in Eastern Kentucky on Friday the 20th and Saturday the 21st. We'll be staying at the following hotel:

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 19th 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".

The sign-up sheet will be available at upcoming monthly meetings or contact Kelly.

Ride Organizer: Kelly McCrystal
kmcc927@comcast.net

ROUGH RIDER 1000 **NASHVILLE STRINGS** August 4th & 5th

The ride has been cancelled due to logistic considerations that impact the ride, our apologies to all the members who were looking forward to and participating in the ride.

We will again plan for the ride next season, and welcome all those who wish to participate.

Ride Organizer: Terry Odom

BBR 3 Pre-Event

August 15, 2018
Fayetteville, WV

Dave Ostaszewski is organizing a day-long white water raft trip on the New River prior to the start of BBR 3. This will be the same trip enjoyed by eight MSTRiders last year.

We'll travel and stay at the following hotel in Fayetteville, WV on Tuesday, August 14th. Ask for the MSTR room rate.

Quality Inn New River Gorge
103 Elliott's Way, Fayetteville, WV 25840
(304) 574-3443

The raft trip starts mid-morning on August 15th and finishes around 4pm. After changing back into dry clothes we'll travel back to Marietta, OH and get an early start on BBR 3 on August 16th.

The sign-up sheet for the raft trip will be available at upcoming monthly meetings or contact Dave.

Event Organizer: Dave Ostaszewski
1daveo@comcast.net

BBR 3 ***Burn Burn Raid 3***

August 17–19, 2018
Marietta, OH

This is an early ride-hotel announcement. 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 25 rooms are being held as follows:

- Check-in: On or after Wednesday, August 15, check-out: Sunday, August 19. Request the MSTRiders rooms and rate

The routes will be similar to last year's BBR event. The event proper runs from August 17th to the 19th but many MSTRiders arrive early to enjoy the area roads.

The sign-up sheet for BBR 3 will be available at upcoming monthly meetings or contact Keith.

Ride Organizer: Keith Danielson
keith.danielson@att.net

TOTM 10

Tip Of The Mitt 10

September 13 – 16
Bellaire, Michigan

Come and join us in Bellaire, Michigan for the 10th anniversary of the Tip Of The Mitt ride and enjoy some of the best scenic riding around northwest Michigan. 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

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 you wait to cancel several days before the

event. Make your reservations soon since the Inn fills up quickly.

VERY IMPORTANT!

2. John Cirner will be sending out a separate email with a Rider Roster of everyone signed up to go AND the GPS routes for TOTM 10. In addition to confirming your attendance John and Pete Stephan would appreciate knowing what day you plan to arrive in Bellaire, if you are riding up with a group (or independent), and who you are rooming with or if you are looking for a roommate.

There will be mandatory riders meetings on Thursday and Friday night held in the parking lot of the Bellaire Inn before the group walk into Bellaire for dinner.

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

MSTR

Newsletter & Website

The MSTR Website ([MSTR website](#)) and Newsletter belong to you, the MSTRiders. 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:

Rachel Durling: rachelshott@gmail.com

MSTR

Photo Gallery

The MSTR maintains a SmugMug photo gallery ([MSTR Smugmug](#)) 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 & News

BMW Motorcycles of SE Michigan
www.bmwmcsem.com/

BMW of Grand Rapids
www.bmwmcgr.com/

Ducati Detroit
www.ducatidetroit.com/

Fox Powersports
www.foxpowersports.com/

College Bike Shop
www.collegebikeshop.com/

7 Ranges Ride Photos



BBR 3

Barn Burn Raid 3

Marietta, OH

T-shirt Order Form



The T-shirt will have a small MSTR logo on the front left chest and a large logo (1 but likely 2 colors) for the Barn Burn event on the back.

This rough draft that Max's co-worker has volunteered to do for free again.

Gildan DryBlend 50/50 T-Shirt in **Red**
Item Code: 8000

A more breathable alternative to the Gildan 5000.

- 5.6 oz. 50% cotton/50% polyester
 - DryBlend moisture wicking fabric
- See www.createmytee.com

Please write how many shirts that you would like to purchase in the size(s) you would like to order. \$20.00

Small _____

Medium _____

Large _____

XL _____

XXL _____

Please mail check to/or pay in person at the next MSTR meeting to Max or Rachel Durling by August 1st, 2018. Cash, check or money order. \$20.00

We will bring printed order forms to the next meeting, so bring cash, check or money order if you would like to pay at the meeting.

**Max & Rachel Durling
700 Whitney St.
Brighton, MI 48116**

Name(s) _____

Phone # _____

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

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Author of the The Traffic Ticket Maze

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