



Michigan Sport Touring Report

November 2018

Editor – Rachel Durling

1st Year of Motorcycling Experience

By *Rebecca Bailey*

“The point is... even if you don't think you're in the market for a new motorcycle, you really are. We all are”, from an article written by Joe Arozarena.

I took a trip to Virginia with him and loved being on a motorcycle. He sent me an email about a bike he had found for sale. I didn't know I needed or wanted a bike. I didn't even have an endorsement. I had never ridden alone. It seemed like a great idea!

I called the owner and set up an appointment to see it. We arrived and she had the bike running. Joe took it for a ride, because I didn't know how. The bike seemed to ride great. I sat on it and liked the size and way it fit; a deep red color. I made her an offer, she accepted and we started to drive it home. It was a cold evening in November; the bike stopped running like it was out of gas not far into the trip. We waited on the side of the road and the owner brought some jumper cables and we got it started again. It soon died and I went to buy fresh gas and a battery. I explained I needed the battery to go in the bike and work right away, although the AutoZone woman did not really understand what she gave me. The battery needed to be filled and charged!! We got the bike back to the parking lot of the subdivision where we had bought it and left it there for the night.

The next night we returned with the fully charged battery and got it running and ready

to drive home. It was a dark and cold night. The bike ran fine once it was warmed up.

It was a long winter looking at the bike in the garage unable to ride. It's like a new toy you can't take out of the box. Washtenaw community college had a beginner motorcycle class that I could sign up for. A small step, but signing up seemed to be all I could do at the time. There was an online portion of the class that needed to be completed before the first day. Feeling the need to learn everything I could, I scored 100% on that portion of the course.

The class was April 13-15; it was a weekend of freezing rain and snow. I didn't want to postpone for fear of not getting into another class and wasting valuable time. The Friday evening class was easy. It was indoors in a heated room with great instructors.



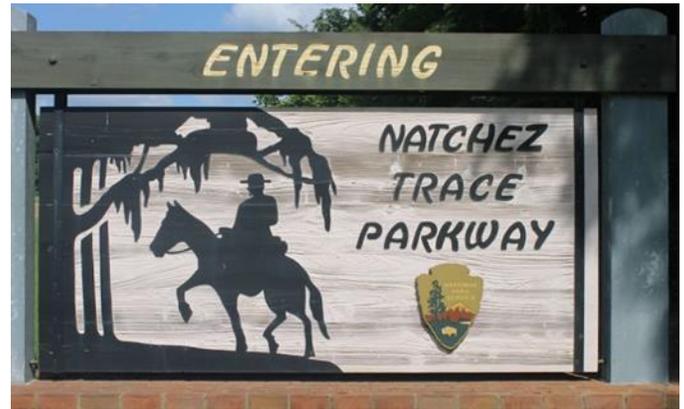
Saturday afternoon was a different story. It was 40 degrees and raining the entire five hours of practice. The motorcycling skills they were teaching were all very easy things to do but only when the shivering was under control. There were breaks halfway through to put on dry boots and clothes over frostbitten fingers and toes. Standing in puddles of rain trying to focus on the next lesson wasn't easy, but necessary if I wanted to pass. The skills developed over the course of the day and seemed enjoyable

while I was moving. I was anxious to learn more, but even more anxious to get warm and feel my toes again.

Sunday morning came with a sheet of ice on my car windshield, and no word that the class was canceled. I was a little more prepared and in an attempt to keep my feet dry and possibly warmer as I put them in plastic grocery bags before slipping them into my boots. It's the little things that make me feel smart and successful. The temperature had dropped to 34 degrees and we had a very steady rain. Stopping quickly in a small box with numb fingers and toes on wet pavement was difficult but not impossible. I had heard a rumor that some bikes had very new tires that hadn't been broken in yet. I took a bike with somewhat more used tires. Doing a figure 8 in a small box proved to be one of the more difficult tasks. Not impossible but very difficult.

After being thoroughly frozen but changing into a fresh pair of boots and gloves, we stood in the rain to hear instructions on our test. It was all set up and all we had to do was focus and do what we had practiced. Just as in practice, the figure 8 seemed to be the most difficult. Stopping quickly from a fast speed was easy. It seemed like a very long test and most of my focus was on keeping the shivering under control. When it was all over they showed us our report cards. I didn't get a perfect score but enough to pass and get an endorsement on my license!

The next month while waiting for some warmer temperatures seemed to take forever. Finally it was finally time for me to take it out and try some of my skills on my own bike. There was a parking lot near my house that I rode the bike to. I practiced turning and stopping and slaloming between the light poles. It was more fun than I thought it would be. Then I ventured out on to neighborhood streets. Although there was never a destination, I found a variety of streets and experiences to better my skills. I would ride for about 45 minutes at a time.



In August I took the bike to Nashville Tennessee with the help of a friend. We rode one morning for about an hour just around the area. It was great to take some new roads and have a great ride. We had another morning to ride and choose the Natchez Trace Parkway for the beautiful scenery and curves. It was something I had not done much of but was very excited to try. The ride there was not too long and soon we were on the Parkway trail. I needed to remember everything I learned so long ago in the rain like never break in a curve, look in the direction you want to go and lean. It seemed easy enough, and it was. Following another bike helped me to determine what speed I could take a curve at. I was able to keep up and really enjoy the ride. As I was looking at the curve going into it, I just needed to remind myself I knew what to do. I knew I could pick up more speed in the curve if I felt like I was doing well. The ride back was even more fun because I knew I could go a little faster and really enjoy the ride. The Natchez Trace is the type of road that makes riding fun there was a little traffic, great views and winding curvy roads.

I took another long ride, not too long after that; a couple hours toward the West side of the state. I hadn't taken any longer trips since the Natchez Trace. I was riding a Yamaha 250 with no windshield. I could really feel the wind on my neck and body. I hadn't checked the weather in the direction we were heading and ended up in a rainstorm. We made a few stops at gas stations for cover and put on the frog togs. It was a warm rain but not ideal for riding. It

was still great to be riding, experiencing new roads and places.

The riding I did throughout the summer really showed me that I needed a more powerful bike. Picking up speed in traffic and having a windshield were high on my list. Another important factor for me was that it was a good looking bike. I wanted bright red or bright blue. I was realizing that in used bikes there are a lot available but you can't always pick your color. Miles, size and condition are most important. After test driving a few and lots of window shopping, I test rode a bright red 750 Honda Aero with leather saddlebags and a few other great accessories. With the help of an expert I made the decision to buy. The bike was great, but the weather was not. I've only had one short ride and now I just look at it in the garage and hope for an early spring and some great rides.



A special thanks to **Rebecca Bailey** for her article 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, November 17th, 2018, @ 9:00 AM
George Murphy's at the Creek, 36000 W
Seven Mile Road, Livonia

Gregg Mitchell will be moderating this meeting.

MSTR WEST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, December 8th, 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.

MSTR Banquet

January 5th, 2018

We're excited to announce our year end banquet will be held at George Murphy's at The Creek in Livonia on Saturday, January 5th. Details will be provided in upcoming newsletters and the MSTR website.

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 ended. Keith called it the 2018 Michigan Historic Courthouse Grand Tour this year.

Please contact Keith by email to get your Grand Tour stops to him by this coming Sunday, November 18th. He will have a presentation at the annual banquet of the people that completed all the lower and Upper Peninsula stops.

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

2018 MSTR Mileage Program January 1st – Middle of December

If you are participating in the mileage program you should be getting emails from Ian Orr.

If you are participating please send in the following to this e-mail address:
mclorr1198@gmail.com

- 1.) Your name. Remember, many e-mail addresses don't show your name.
- 2.) Your mileage, in one of two formats:
Send the 2018 starting odometer reading of all the street motorcycle(s) you'll be tracking and, if it's for more than one motorcycle, a "name" for each motorcycle. The names can be

motorcycles A, B, C, red, white, blue, the actual motorcycle model or whatever method you want me to identify it. I'll plug the mileages into a grid and do the math. If you participated in 2017 I'll use your ending mileage(s) from 2017 as the 2018 starting mileage **or** you track your total mileage for all your motorcycles and send the mileage to me. In either case we're on the honor system. There's no need to send in "proof" of any kind, such a picture of your odometer.

What are the rules?

You must be an MSTR member for your mileage to count. Mileage accrues from January 1st, 2018 or, if you join after January 1st, from the date you joined the MSTR Mileage can be submitted for all street motorcycles ridden by a single rider. Track miles on track bikes don't count. Mileage on rental bikes is included. Program ends mid to end of December, to allow time to compile the data.

MOTY (Member of the Year) points will be awarded in 4 categories:
Average mileage female rider: 3 MOTY points.
Average mileage male rider: 3 MOTY points.
Highest mileage female rider: 2 MOTY points.
Highest mileage male rider: 2 MOTY points.
There will also be a cash award for each of the above.
Free breakfast

MSTR Newsletter & Website

The MSTR Website ([MSTR website](http://www.mstriders.com)) 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.bmwcmsem.com/

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www.collegebikeshop.com/

Photos from last year's MSTR banquet



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