



## Michigan Sport Touring Report

August 2019

Editor – Rachel Durling

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### Barn Burn Raid 4

We had 70 who had signed up to attend, and 58 MSTRiders who actually showed up and signed in. The weather was a bit on the warm side, but while there was a small amount of rain for those who rode on Thursday, there was no rain on Friday or Saturday on the official event days, though riders heading home on Sunday may have encountered some rain also. The plentiful route choices provided many miles of fantastic riding, and a few little surprises.

All in all, BBR4 went off very well. Thanks to all who attended. To those who thought about it but didn't, we hope we'll see you there next year.

### Motorcycle Tires and Plugs

By: *Jac Brown*

When it comes to flat tires on the road with a motorcycle, I have been luckier than I deserve. I started riding again more than 16 years ago and, until MSO 2019, I had not had a flat. It is a good thing too. Almost all of my miles have been on dirt bike, spoke rims with street tires and the vast majority has been with tubes in the tires. To be honest, I do not think I could remove and patch a tube on the side of the road. These stiff road tires on these narrow dirt bike rims make dismounting and mounting a tire into about a half day of hard work in the shop. It is nearly impossible on the side of the road.

Realizing that I was pushing my luck, this season I converted the spoke wheels on my KTM to “tubeless” by sealing the spokes with a special 3M sealant tape. You might say that the universe wanted me to practice my tire plug skills by giving me a drywall screw in the rear tire at the end of the Friday MSO ride. It did take some practice to get it right. My first attempt on Friday evening leaked some air, so I ended up plugging it again Saturday on side of the road. That one held long enough for me to complete the Saturday ride and ride home.

With my new interest in plugging motorcycle tires, I discussed the subject with other riders and got a range of opinions on the reliability of a plugged motorcycle tire.

Some of you who know me may remember that I spent my career in car vehicle dynamics, which means that I, among other things, tuned suspensions and tires. Riding home, I started wondering what the expert opinion of plugging a motorcycle tire might be. Then I remembered that I knew an expert or two that I could ask.

I will tell you up front that, based on my car experience, I was a proponent of plugging motorcycle tires. I assumed that, like a car tire, a well-executed tire plug could last the life of the tire.

When I got home, I got online and found Dunlop's position on plugging tires. As shown below, they say never use a plug alone to patch a tire and the only acceptable repair is a “plug/patch”.

### 13 - Tire Repair

Some punctures in motorcycle tires may be repaired.

Dunlop recommends only permanent plug-patch repairs of small (maximum 1/4-inch diameter) tread-area punctures from within the dismantled tire by a qualified tire repair shop or motorcycle dealer. Never perform an exterior repair and never use an inner tube as a substitute for a proper repair. Speed should not exceed 50 mph for the first 24 hours after repair, and the repaired tire should never be used over 75 mph. Advise your customer to check inflation pressure after tire cools for at least three (3) hours following run-in, or sooner if air loss is suspected. See the Dunlop Service Advisory for additional motorcycle tubeless-tire repair information. Follow the same repair procedures for tires on rims requiring tube replacement. The repairer is solely responsible for the repair and any instructions to the repaired-tire user.

Advise your customers that no form of temporary repair should be attempted because secondary damage caused by a penetrating object may not be detected and tire or tube deflation may occur at a later date.

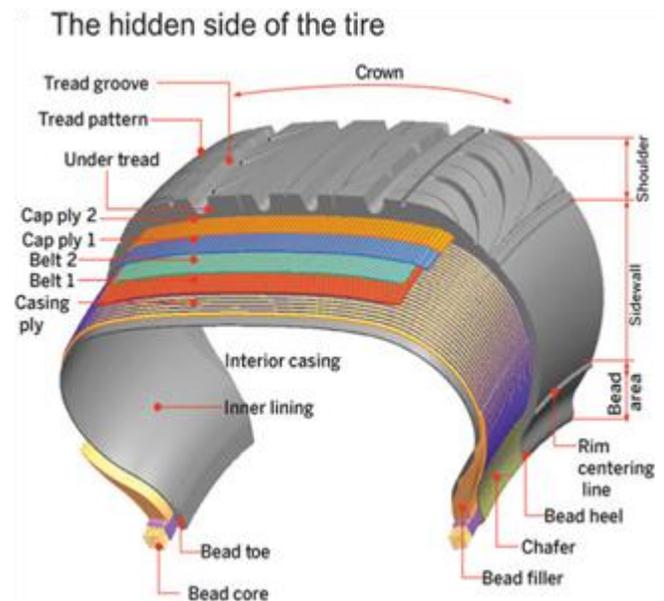
Dunlop does not recommend the use of liquid sealants. These are a form of temporary repair, and they may adversely affect ply material and mask secondary damage caused by a penetrating object. Advise your customers that reliance upon sealants can result in sudden tire failure and accident.

My next stop was to email my friend, Frank. He is a retired tire designer of great expertise. Frank was the father of the original BFG Comp TA and spent time at BFG, Michelin, Dunlop, and Kumho.

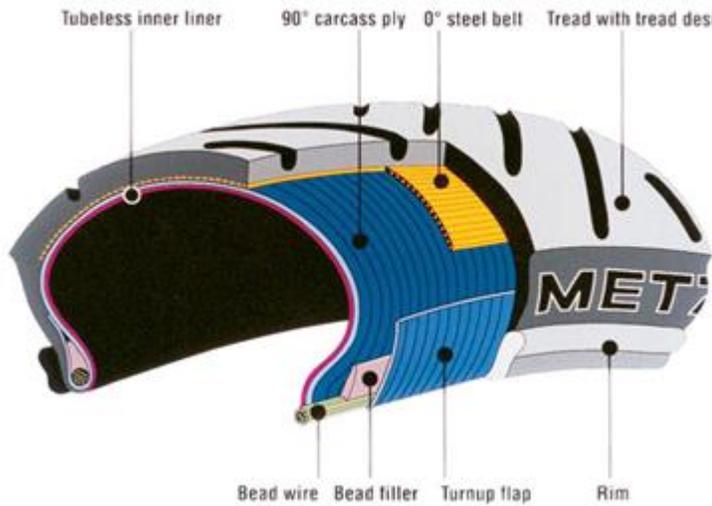
Frank's response was that a motorcycle and a car tire are very different things. He pointed out that the tread of a motorcycle tire does a lot of stretching and compressing because of the curved crown of the tread. This means that it is much easier for a plug to come out of a motorcycle tire, even when properly installed. His advice was to get the plugged tire off the bike as soon as possible.

I am still going to use plugs as an emergency roadside fix only, but I am also going to be careful of the stress that I put on a plug in a motorcycle tire and get will take it off the bike as soon as I get home.

I thought it would be interesting to look at the differences in tire construction between a motorcycle and a car tire. There are two cut-away sketches of the inside construction of a typical car and motorcycle tire shown below. The casing or body ply of the tire is almost the same in a motorcycle and a car. Cords run straight across from one bead to the other. The car tire shape is flatter in the tread area, but otherwise similar. Both these tires are radial ply.



[Link to the Dunlop website about tire care](#)



crabs' claws were so sharp that my friend's front tire was punctured and they had to try to find a repair place nearby.

A motorcycle repair shop was found, but the mechanic was out of tire plugs. Not to worry, he had a ready solution. It turns out that condom is a useful replacement for the traditional tire plug. The condom plug lasted the rest of the trip.

Attribution: the cut-away sketches were borrowed from Google Images with the motorcycle tire from bareasschoppers.com and the car tire from overdrive.in.

The big difference comes in the belt. The car has two belts (usually steel) that form a cross hatch because of their cord angles. That structure is really strong, even when punctured, and a car tire plug can often live the life of the tire.

On the other hand, the typical motorcycle tire belt is a single cord that is wrapped around the circumference of the tread. When punctured, the belt cord is cut and can pull away from the hole. Also, as the tire rolls through the contact patch, the belt compresses, then stretches making the loss of a plug possible. As you can imagine, high speed and high load are likely to make this situation worse.

Take it from a motorcycle tire plug convert, if you have to plug your tire along the way, take it a bit easy and keep close track of the tire pressure. Then get that tire off the bike as soon as you can.

To end this article, I have a short but true story about plugging motorcycle tires. A friend of mine vacationed in Cuba last winter, including 2 weeks exploring with a guide and a rented motorcycle.

It turns out that it was the season for crabs to come out of the ocean and lay their eggs on the shore. My friend and his guide came across the place where the crabs were crossing the road and there were so many that they couldn't avoid hitting a few of them. The

**A special thanks to Jac Brown for the article and pictures featured this month.**

**Remember...** All published articles earn a free breakfast, entry into the year-end newsletter drawing AND your fellow members and the newsletter editor will appreciate your articles. You will also earn points toward the **2019 MOTY Award!**



## MSTR Heads Up

Here is 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 Rachel Durling an e-mail at [Communications@mstriders.com](mailto:Communications@mstriders.com) with the details.

## MSTR EAST Breakfast Meeting

**Saturday, September 20th, 2019, @ 9:00 AM**

East breakfast meeting is at **George Murphy's at the Creek (Now called COACH'S CORNER)**, 36000 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152.

## MSTR WEST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, September 7th, 2019, @ 9:00 AM

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

## **MSTR ROUGHRIDER** **1000 VIII**

*“Cumberland Mountain Bootleggers  
Run”*

**Notice:** Please be advised that the Awards and T-shirts will be given out on **September 28th** at the East MSTR meeting.

## **Bart & Marian's MSTR Picnic** **September 1, 2019 at 2:00 pm**

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.

Bart and Marian Reiter Residence  
9777 Missaukee Ln. Haslett, MI 48840



**Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
Camp Dearborn is hosting the Battle of the Brits. There will be classic British, European, and pre-1984 American bikes, awards, swap meet, vendors, food and beverages.

- Spectator admission: \$8 per vehicle.
- Bike show entry fee: \$10, plus \$8 Camp Dearborn entry fee (payable at the gate).
- Swap-meet spaces: \$40 for first space (additional spaces \$30), plus \$8 Camp Dearborn entry fee.

**Sunday September 15th, 2019**  
**12 Noon to 4pm**  
**The Village of Stockbridge**  
“A Great Place To Ride To”  
Nestled in the corner of Ingham, Livingston, Jackson & Washtenaw Counties

Come and enjoy a day of Vintage, Classic and Remarkable Motorcycles displayed around The Village Green by clubs & individuals invited to show their best. Clubs are invited to showcase club activities & member motorcycles. Individuals with unique, rare or historic Motorcycles are invited to contact Suzi  
(Participation in the show by invitation only)

**SPECTATORS WELCOME!**

Breakfast 8-12 at the Presbyterian Church  
Stockbridge Lions Club Pulled Pork Lunch  
Noon onwards behind Town Hall

For more information contact Suzi: 517-851-7437

All Clubs Day is Free



## MSTR 2019 Rides

Most 2019 rides are listed below. Please check the MSTR website for the list of the rides and events for rest of the year. The dates for the events have already been set and are listed on the Events page of the MSTR website ([www.mstriders.com](http://www.mstriders.com))



This year Keith Danielson's Grand Tour will take you on a Michigan journey to see some of our state parks at your own leisure throughout the spring, summer and fall.

You must have your pictures in to Keith by November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please see MSTRiders.com under Events for more information.

## Tip of the Mitt

September 12-15, 2019

September 12th is the day we head out to Bellaire for a romp in northwest MI. This is three-night event. We spend our nights at the Bellaire Inn, knowing you will be attending the event will make me happy.

Some of us gather for breakfast in Highland MI for the start north. Some of us will ride solo or pair up. It's all good, no matter how you wish to

go. We go home on Sunday. Typically, many of our past participants take off whenever they feel like it, choosing a route they prefer.

**Call Debbie Dailey at the Bellaire Inn to book your room. 231-533-7777.** If she does not answer leave a message. Let her know you are with MSTR. The sooner the better as another event (Paddle Antrim) is also going on that weekend as well. There is a 7-day cancellation policy (so set your calendars to remind yourself).

Typically ride routes are prepared for the Leelanau Peninsula (Pinky Finger), the Legs Inn (Ring Finger), the Bridge (Middle Finger). Our friend Bob Komjathy is going to help us out with that.

We have plenty of Bellaire Restaurants, to make your choice for your late afternoon and evening fulfillment of food and drink. All of this is fifteen-minute walk from the Inn.

The restaurant next door is closed right now; breakfast is not provided at the hotel. Therefore, I have been speaking with Christina and Alan Balko, who own the Market M88 to cater bakery items and coffee to the Bellaire Inn Friday and Saturday morning. Any thoughts about this; share them with me.

Sign-up at the next meeting and/or send me message that you wish to be a part of this.

**Ride Organizer:** Peter Stephan  
[Rideamotorcycle@gmail.com](mailto:Rideamotorcycle@gmail.com)

## Fall Color Ride

October 3-6, 2019

This year our Fall Color Ride will return to Lewisburg, WV. As in the past, this will be a bit of a traveling event, as we will begin in Marietta, OH on Thursday evening with dinner and a rider's meeting. On Friday, we'll split up into groups, and head south into West Virginia following some of our usual assortment of twisty bits of tarmac, and maybe some slightly different ones, to arriving in Lewisburg on Friday afternoon.

Once there, you can remove some of the excess baggage from your motorcycle, because Saturday we'll enjoy some of the twisty treats that West Virginia and Virginia have to offer and return to the same place at the end of the day.

On Sunday, we'll ride a more direct route, though still with a good amount of interesting roads for the return to Marietta and back home.

Our Marietta accommodations will be at the Microtel Inn & Suites. They have a large parking area behind the hotel where we can leave trailers and tow vehicles. Most people will load the bikes back into the trailers after arrival in Marietta on Sunday and arrive back home on Sunday evening, though if you would like, you could stay another night in Marietta and make a more leisurely return home on Monday.

We have a block of rooms set aside at the Quality Inn & Suites. Call the hotel directly at (304) 645-7722 and tell them you're with the MSTR. Rooms will be \$88 per night for 1 King, or \$91 per night for 2 Queen beds. Don't delay if you want to attend, as the block of rooms will be released on September 4.

The Microtel Inn & Suites, Marietta telephone number is (740) 373-7373. We will have a block of rooms under 'MSTR'. The rooms will be available for booking after August 15. Call the hotel direct to book your room (or you can book though one of the online booking sites and may get a better rate)

## MSTR Newsletter & Website

The MSTR Newsletter and Website ([www.mstriders.com](http://www.mstriders.com)) belong to you, the riders. They both can only be as good and as interesting as you make them. If you have something to say about a ride, your bike, perhaps a trip you are planning, whatever, send it in for the newsletter and/or website to:

**Rachel Durling:**  
[communications@mstriders.com](mailto:communications@mstriders.com)

## MSTR Dealer Members & News

**BMW Motorcycles of SE Michigan**  
[www.bmwmcsem.com/](http://www.bmwmcsem.com/)

**BMW of Grand Rapids**  
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**Ducati Detroit**  
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**College Bike Shop**  
[www.collegebikeshop.com/](http://www.collegebikeshop.com/)

**Honda Suzuki of Warren**  
[www.hondasuzukiofwarren.com](http://www.hondasuzukiofwarren.com)

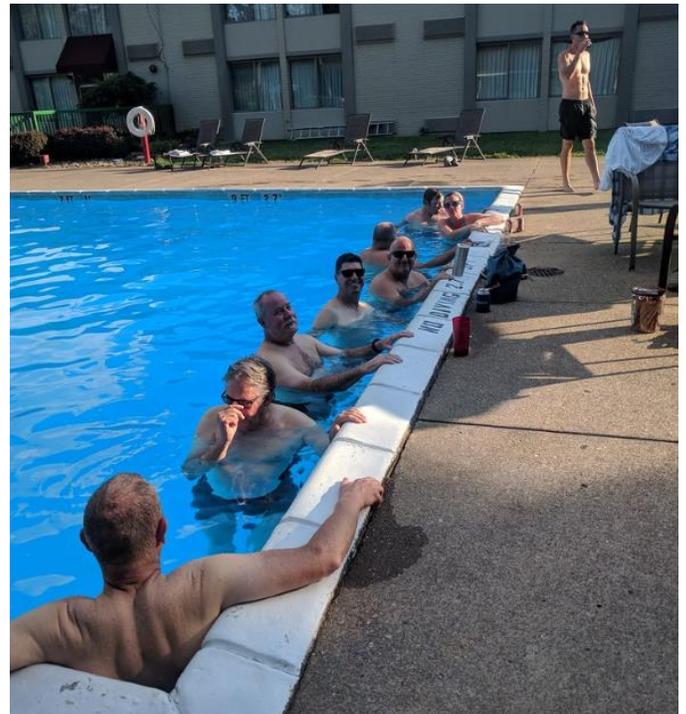
**BMW Detroit**  
[www.bmwdetroit.com](http://www.bmwdetroit.com)



# MSTR Photo Gallery

The MSTR maintains a Smug Mug 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.

## Barn Burn Raid 4 pictures



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

**Chip Ashton**

**CJ'S HEAD & HOLE SHOP**  
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 TEL: 248.569.2850 FAX: 309.422.2407  
[www.bellacorse.com](http://www.bellacorse.com)



**MICHAEL SELMAN**  
 sales@bellacorse.com

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**Glenn V Brechner Welding, Inc.**

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