



Michigan Sport Touring Report

September 2020

Editor – Rachel Durling

Tip of the Mitt Wrap Up

By: Peter Stephan

They came from near and far to be a part of this year's Tip of the Mitt event. On their way home from riding out West, the Pennington's spent the weekend with 28 others in Bellaire for a long beautiful weekend of riding. We had MSTR members join us from Charlevoix and as far away as Missouri. A nice group of riders captured the sound and smells of Bob Komjathy's exhaust as he led the way from Brighton. Many of us arrived at the Bellaire Inn (thanks to Debbie Dailey) to spend our nights there remembering the good day of riding that was had. Other brave members set up to camp nearby.

Once settled in, the fellowship began. Conversations about where we would ride Friday and Saturday were completed. Groups formed for the next day were set after our six o'clock meet in the parking lot.

What's for dinner? Ian led the way and ordered a bunch of gut busting pizzas on Thursday night. Some of us went to Bellaire and chose Toonie's, or Short's, or the Corner Bistro the other nights for dinner.

Some MSTR members were off to the Leelanau or Mission Peninsula in the morning. Some went to Cross Village and the scenic M119. Others went towards Frankfort. All got "home" safely. Apple orchards, pumpkin fields, light houses, and a hint that the fall colors were

a part of the fun of taking those roads less travelled.

There was tire kicking at the end of the day with stories of our rides. More eating. More anti-freeze consumption before heading off to sleep.



We woke up on Saturday morning with a heavy frost on our saddles. That did not stop Jan and Don to head out for breakfast at 7am to eat at Toonie's. Many of us brought our own food to eat. The Cirner's had brought their coffee. Some of us took the stroll into town for breakfast at the Lunch Box or the M88 Grind. Once done with that, off we went to explore another set of routes provided by Bob Komjathy. All of us had a story to share about their ride later that evening during the impromptu picnic and the toast to fellow friends who are no longer with us.

After the fun of catching up with our riding buddies it was time to go to sleep and dream about the day ahead. By 10am Sunday

morning nearly everyone had ridden off. Sunday was a beautiful day to ride home. A half a dozen ways were taken.

It appears that TOTM 12 was successful in having people enjoy their motorcycles, the companions in the group rides, and the fellowship thereafter. Let's look forward to another TOTM in 2021.

BMW Track Day

By: Neil Wagner

There is something magical about taking a Monday off work in order to do a track day. Monday August 31st was the BMW Track Day at Grattan Raceway. It was a hoot; so much so that my sweet, normally understanding girlfriend quickly grew tired of my enthusiastic reminiscing. There were BMWs, from R 1250 GS Adventure bikes to S1000RRs, but the BMW Track Day is open to all types of bikes.



There were a lot of dedicated track bikes at the event; maybe some of the riders were lingering from the Sport Bike Track Time event that took place Saturday and Sunday. There was an Indian Scout, which went down hard in corner 4, across from where the riders waited to enter the track. We were reminded throughout the day by instructors this event wasn't exactly a track day, it was a safe driving class, or something like that. But, riding on a track encourages you to go fast, your fast, whatever that is. One of the guys in the advanced group

went down early in the day and broke his leg. There were a few other incidents.



I spent about an hour getting my 2004 R1100S ready for the event. I lowered tire pressure to 32/30, removed the Rapid Dog bar backs to drop my clip-ons to their original height, removed the aftermarket adapters to bring the pegs back up, took off mirrors, passenger pegs, and the RAM phone mount. I taped up lamps, reflectors, and wheel weights. I was at tech inspection as soon as they opened at 7:30. The inspector asked me to zip tie up my side stand because I had an older bike. Older bike?!? I have a 2004...oh wait...It is an older bike. It somehow never occurred to me how old it was but the R1100S came out about 20 years ago. I did the California Super Bike School last year and they supplied S1000RRs. The S1000RR is an amazing bike, but I do feel much more confident on my own motorcycle. I registered for the novice group. I have done track days before and for a minute thought about registering in the intermediate group, but I did not want to slow anyone down, and I appreciate the instruction that comes along with the novice group.

At 8:30 we had a mandatory rider meeting. The novice riders met together afterwards and were put in different groups based on self-identified ability. At 9:00 riders started going out on the track; first the intermediate riders, then at 9:20 the advanced riders, then at 9:40 the novices. This pattern repeated all day. The novice riders followed their instructor around the track the first few times out, each

time with a different thing to work on. First, to get a sense of how wide the track was, we rode on the far outside side of the track, then the inside, then we followed our instructor on the lines we would likely use for the rest of the day. The next time out we rode without using brakes in order to get use the throttle to help steer us around corners. Speeds gradually increased throughout the day until we were free to ride on our own in the afternoon. The novice group could only pass on the straight away, which I was fine with. While we were being led by an instructor, I glanced down at my clock to get an idea of how many laps we would do in each 20 minute session. We were doing laps in just under 2 minutes. To put that in some kind of perspective, I overheard one of the instructors say she did a lap in 1:29 on her R6 with the advanced riders in the session before us. Yeah, we were going kind of slow but it felt spirited. Riders started going home after lunch so there was much less traffic on the track during the last two times out. My speed increased significantly.

What I liked most about riding on a track was how I got a do-over every 2 minutes. I might take a bad line but I could try it again the next lap. I did the BMW track day last year on Continental ContiMotions. I felt the bike slide a little on those tires, not enough to go into panic mode, just enough to really get my attention. This year I had fresh Michelin Road 5s. They didn't slide at all but apparently I was leaning over further and now dragging my foot pegs, which really got my attention. Each lap I got a little more comfortable with this. My confidence increased. I fanaticized about getting a track bike. I thought about going to Geringman, or maybe Mid-Ohio. That is what happens when endorphins are careening through your blood stream. Slowly I came back down to reality. When I got home, I inflated my tires back up, raised my bars and lowered my pegs, reinstalled mirrors, passenger pegs, and the RAM mount. I checked work email and renewed my AARP membership. I cannot wait for track day next year.

A special thanks to Peter Stephan and Neil Wagner 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 **2020 MOTY Award!**



MSTR Heads Up

Here is a listing of some of the upcoming local events and meetings within the next few months. If you know of a local motorcycle

event in Michigan or Ontario the MSTR would be interested in send Rachel Durling an e-mail to

Communications@mstriders.com with the details.

MSTR EAST Breakfast Meetings

**ITC Community Sports Park
51000 Eight Mile Rd, Northville, MI 48167
Saturday September 26th, 2020**

Meet at 8:30am and we will start the meeting at 9:00am to beat the heat. There will be 50/50 tickets for sale. Bring your own coffee and pick up a breakfast at the nearby fast food restaurants if you would like.

Bob Komjathy has agreed to moderate this meeting. Thanks Bob!

MSTR WEST Breakfast Meetings

The next west-side MSTR meeting is planned on October 10th, 2020 at 9:00am

Please check your email for Mailchimp announcements for updates as it will likely be at **Community Lake Park** in **Portland**.



Twisty Road Seminar Takes Some New Turns

By: **Bill Webb**

Another Motorcycle Safety Association Twisty Road Seminar was completed. Appreciation is extended to Keith Danielson, an experienced twisty road rider, who volunteered as a Training Officer in the last seminar. And while not in the picture, appreciation is extended to Kent Niederhofer who has not missed one seminar as a volunteer Training Officer. As you might have guessed, the seminar program is only successful because of volunteers.

Appreciation is also extended to Max Durling, who volunteered to take the seminar and share

his observations as an experienced twisty road rider. Here are his comments:

I found the seminar to be very informative, particularly my arm position which made me more conscious of what I am doing with my upper body and helped me stay loose and steer the bike much better. I also liked the video on where to look using the term "Home position" something about having a phrase like that stuck in your head to remind you. Then spending some time practicing on the same corners for a couple hours really helps bring it all together. I have read most of Keith Codes books so I already knew about survival reactions, but for people that are not familiar with his books it is a great thing to teach. Even if you are a pretty good rider, I think there is always something to learn or practice to be a better and safer rider. Thanks
--Max Durling

Max does not know it yet, but I will be endeavoring to get him to be a volunteer Training Officer.

The current goal is to keep one seminar slot open to allow someone who previously took the seminar to do the seminar again. There is no limit on re-takes...and they are free!



Our first person requesting a re-take was MJ, here are her comments:

I wanted to say THANKS for letting me retake the riding part of the seminar. It was good for me, I knew what to do, but it was good to be able to practice with my new sport bike. I felt a lot more confident & capable this time. Several people have commented that they can see a difference in my riding ability. I think it's a good

*thing that I really got to know that strip of Williamston Rd. I rode it yesterday & really used that FUN control you showed me! I find that I am smoother & holding a better line in the curves by looking as far down the road as I can. It's coming more naturally now! I don't think I'll be saying I survived the ride...I'm confident that I will now say I had FUN!! Thanks for all your help!
HUGS, --M.J. Almond*

Another person who took the seminar is likewise looking to take the seminar again...

...I was pretty good before with being in the right gear and looking far enough ahead. I do feel that the class helped with proper riding posture/arm position even though I am not 100% comfortable with my arms that close to my side while turning. I am sure it will become second nature as I use the techniques more and more.

I will be watching for the next one as I mentioned earlier, I would like to try it again with the bike running properly. Thanks Bill!

--Mike Goulin

Solomon observed that one person sharpens another. Therefore, appreciation is extended to the many people that have contributed or reviewed the Twisty Road Seminar Training Outline and thereby sharpened its focus. The outline has evolved and is better than ever because of those contributions.

Just this month, a racer and highly experienced road rider, Michael Neeves, Chief Road Tester for Motorcycle Consumer News, reviewed the Twisty Road Training Outline and observed: "Your seminar looks very thorough!" Several of Mr. Neeves' riding techniques are embedded into the training outline.

Another seminar will be conducted at the end of September or first part of October and it is already fully enrolled. There are lots of Ducati motorcycles in the next seminar.

The Motorcycle Safety Association, the non-profit corporation created to conduct the seminars, got a bit of good news from the

Government. The U.S. Treasury Department has determined the Association is a charity under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code...thus donations are now tax deductible. While the Association has no employees or paid contractors, having a nominal budget will allow us to reimburse the out-of-pocket expenses of our volunteer Training Officers.

In fairness, riders are admitted to the seminars on a first-to-sign-up first to get-in basis. Therefore, if you are interested in taking a future seminar, which may not be until Spring, you can make a \$25.00 contribution at the following link and secure your seminar slot. Or, even if you do not want to take a seminar...you can make a tax-deductible donation at the same link.

paypal.me/MotorcycleSafetyAsso



MSTR 2020 Rides

Please check the MSTR website for an updated list of the rides and events for rest of the year. Some dates have been adjusted for the events have already been set and sadly some had to be canceled due to Covid19. A complete list of events is on the Events page of the MSTR website (www.mstriders.com).

Fall Color Ride '20

September 24-27, 2020

This year our Fall Color Ride returns a week earlier than in years past. Once again, this is somewhat 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 too, arriving in Lewisburg on Friday afternoon.

Once there, you can remove some of the 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.

To sign up, you can send an email to keith.danielson@att.net, or sign up at an upcoming meeting, or sign-up electronically [here](#).

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. There is no block of rooms, so if you want to go, just call the Microtel directly at (740) 373-7373 to reserve your room. Use your AAA or AARP discount for their best rate.

In Lewisburg, call the Quality Inn & Suites directly at (304) 645-7722. Once again, use your AAA or AARP membership for a 10% discount.

The FCR MR2 follows the full week after this event, so if you are able to work it out, you can make it a full 1 ½ week adventure, and ride directly from Lewisburg to Waynesville, NC to continue the fun.

FCR MR2

Fall Color Ride
Michigan Renegade Mountain Ride
Waynesville, North Carolina
September 28-October 3, 2020

The official dates for this ride are Monday, September 28th to Friday, October 2nd although most people arrive on Sunday, September 27th and leave on Saturday, October 3rd.

The event's home base is the Best Western in Waynesville, NC. Address: 130 Shiloh Tr, Waynesville, NC 28786.

We have reserved/blocked all 16 the rooms at the back for anyone staying all week. Anyone staying less than 6 or 7 nights will be booked at the front of the hotel, on the top floor, which is easy walk to the back of the hotel to visit with your motorcycle buddies. Depending on room availability you may be able to arrive early and leave late.

The rate is \$79.99/night. Call the Best Western in Waynesville at (828) 456-4402 and reserve under the MSTR. It's best to call early in the morning during the week to speak to Debra or Angie. Email Ian or put your name on the list at a meeting.

Ride Coordinator:

Ian Orr: ridership@mstriders.com

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 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

For Your Information

Regarding politics; the MSTR does not and shall not support any political party. Political discussions are not allowed during MSTR meetings or events.

Regarding human rights; the MSTR does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status in any of its activities.

You are free to have whatever political views you desire, but please leave them at home or

on Facebook. Please don't bring them to the MSTR.

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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.

Tip of the Mitt 2020 pictures:





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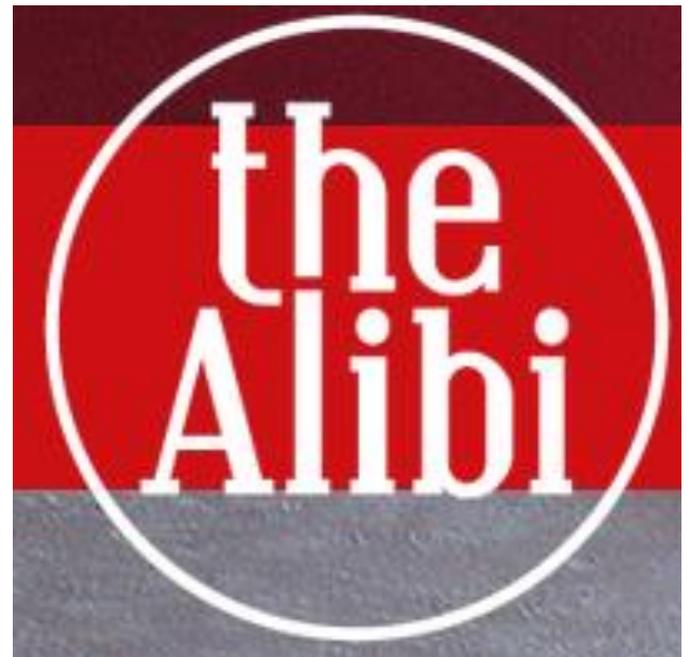
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