



Sport Touring News

April 11

Editor: Gregg Mitchell

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT!

Saturday, **April 23, 2011**, we will be meeting at **Karl's Cabin** restaurant in Plymouth, MI. Karl's is located on **Gotfredson Road, just north of M-14**. From I-275 / I-96 take M14 West towards Ann Arbor. Gotfredson Road is exit # 15.

The meeting begins at 8:30 AM

However late arrivers are always welcome!

Life Happens

By Pedro Gregorio

Life is funny. Just when you think you know what you want, fate whacks you over the head with a two by four. My two by four came in the form of that black Harley Davidson Dyna Wide Glide I saw at the local dealer last month. Ever since I sacrificed my Triumph Sprint ST to the deer gods I've been cruising eBay and Craig's List trying to find a replacement. After riding my wife's BMW R1200GS to West Virginia last year I knew it wasn't The One. So I explored other adventure touring choices and found a Suzuki Vstrom 1000 in Saline, MI. It looked good, had all the options I wanted, and the price was right but it was way too cold and snowy to ride. I won't buy a bike model I've never ridden so it would have to wait until spring.

But the Suzuki's chances of occupying my garage were shot down by the epiphany that I had in the Harley dealer: I cannot own an ugly bike. Now before all ten Suzuki Vstrom owners in the MSTA fire off angry emails, I realize that beauty

is in the eye of the beholder and one man's Harley is another man's Vstrom. But as beautiful as that black Wide Glide was, I knew that I couldn't buy it. There's a reason why I've never owned a cruiser: I'm a one-bike man and my one bike not only has to appeal to my aesthetic side but has to also be versatile enough to combine comfort with performance and handling. For months I've been watching every Sprint ST that popped up on eBay. There was one in Pennsylvania that even after 3 bidless stints still wouldn't accept my offer. Out of all the bikes I could think of, the ST was number one on my list. Number one, that is, until that Saturday when I visited Motor City HD. That same day I had lunch with my wife, we talked about my realization and she said something that struck a chord. "You don't want a Sprint ST," she stated matter of factly. "Why not?" I replied. "Because if you did you would have bought one by now." The woman is nothing if not insightful and brutally honest. She had made a point I couldn't refute. Then she said something that made my choice crystal clear, "you need a naked bike." Now, if you've read some of my previous articles you know that naked bikes are my favorite segment of the motorcycle world. With her GS, the most versatile and practical bike ever, parked in the garage, I really had no reason to buy another practical bike. As soon as she said the words "naked bike" I knew exactly what my next bike was going to be: a Triumph Speed Triple. My wife agreed and immediately declared matte black the color of choice. The bug-eyed, dual headlight, '05 to '10 Speed Triple has been my favorite naked bike ever since it came out. After Triumph Detroit lent me their demo model for a couple of days a few years ago I was hooked. The same delicious 1050cc triple as my ST but with

100 fewer pounds to carry. What more could I ask for?



onto the trailer I wanted to make sure it ran well. Evan, the owner, had forgotten to charge the

battery so we both found out how hard it is to bump start a Speed Triple. A pair of jumper cables solved that problem. Hearing the beautiful sound of the triple through the factory optional Arrow exhaust brought back a lot of good

Karma grabbed that two by four and gave me another whack when we got home. I searched eBay for a Speed Triple and a matte black 2008 model popped up with half an hour left in the auction. A couple of offers later I was the proud owner of a Speed Triple with some very tasty accessories. Eight months of agonizing about what bike I should get had been resolved in one day of serendipity. The Speed Triple was in Richmond, Virginia, so one weekend in February my wife and I drove the 600 miles each way to trailer the bike back. Before loading the bike



memories. My short ride confirmed two things: I love this bike and the Italians really should stay away from engineering anything that has a function. The Rizoma rear view mirrors that the first owner had installed look stunning but are the most useless appendages I've ever seen.

With the Triple safely secured on the trailer we headed back home. We came this close to missing the huge snowstorm about to hit Michigan. At the Ohio border it started to come down hard and by the time we got home my new bike looked like a Speed Tripsicle. Getting the bike

off the trailer in a blinding snowstorm was a first for me but with my wife's help, we managed. A lot of warm water buckets later my baby was safe and sound in the garage. It's only been a few days and I'm still getting used to having this object of motorcycle art sharing space with my wife's GS. Just today I was standing there drinking a cup of hot tea after snow blowing the driveway admiring the pit bull lines of the Speed Triple. Who would have thought that eight months after losing my bike I'd be looking at something this raw and powerful in my garage? Like I said, life happens.

Ride Like A Pro – Great Lakes

You are invited: Saturday, June 4, 2011, I am organizing a *Ride Like A Pro* (RLAP) course for our group. RLAP is for *experienced riders* (at least 1,000 miles of riding) with a focus on low-speed handling. But, to only say that would be to short change a great program.

Perhaps you've attended the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Beginner, Experienced, and Advanced courses. Perhaps you've wanted to continue developing your skills further. RLAP was developed by Jerry Palladino. An MSF and police motor officer instructor, he took a 40 hour, \$600 course, spread over 5 days, and distilled the essence into a course you can take in 4-5 hours. For \$150.

The backbone of the RLAP course is that it offers the exact same police motor officer techniques that are taught to all incoming police motor officers (minus the 'cop' stuff). The course is low stress, yet serious, challenging, and a lot of fun. Motorcycle skills developed and mastered at low speeds generally translate into better skills at high speeds, and a more overall understanding of your machine—and you. MSF gets you going. Track schools help you go fast. When you climb on the motorcycle and try to maneuver it around a parking lot, a U-turn on a subdivision street, or other limited spaces, you may still be part of a very infamous club: the Foot Draggers. RLAP's goal is to help you rise above 'that club' and be able to handle your machine safely at *all* speeds, with confidence and safety.

If nothing else, the practiced skills in RLAP can help you demonstrate your expertise and professionalism. Want to look cool in front of other riders and 'cagers' alike? *Everybody* is impressed when they see someone tool a motorcycle, especially a large one, around in slow mo-, in complete control, and without putting their feet down!

Here are the details:

Ride Like A Pro – Great Lakes

Date: Saturday, June 4, 2011

Time: 09:00a– 2:00p (may end earlier, depending on class size)

Location: Shrine Auditorium & Conference Center
24350 Southfield Road
Southfield, Michigan 48075.

Cost: \$150.00

Organizer: JT Pedersen, jt@jtpedersen.net,
734.516.0139

Course sizes of 6 to 12. Early registration is suggested so we can have as many 'MSTA' attendees as possible.

TO REGISTER, and learn more visit
www.ridelikeapro-gl.com

For even more, Jerry Palladino's own site is at:
www.ridelikeapro.com

*Best endorsement I can give: I've done it once.
Now, I'm doing it again.*

A special thanks to Pedro Gregorio and JT Pedersen for the articles featured this month!

REMEMBER.....

It doesn't pay a reward, but your articles will be appreciated by all your fellow members and your local editor AND you will earn points toward the **2011 SMOTY Award!** If nothing else - you'll get to see your name in print, somewhere other than on the Post Office bulletin board!

The MSTA Michigan Squadron and Newsletter belong to you - the

Membership. Both of them can only be as good and as interesting as you make it --- so take the time to contribute. 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 --

To:

Gregg Mitchell – mi_msta@earthlink.net

Get informed of all the National and Regional
MSTA Events at the National web-site and
Forums

<http://www.sporttouring.us>



MICHIGAN SQUADRON RIDING EVENTS 2011

One of the traditions of the Michigan Squadron of the MSTA is to organize a few events each year specifically for our State Squadron. These events are not sanctioned or official events of the MSTA, but are limited to those who are current members of the MSTA.

The full 2011 schedule is still in development, however there a few events that have been scheduled. Others will be posted here as the year unfolds.



**May 22 – 28
Ironhorse MC Lodge
Stecoah, NC**

Michigan Squadron Hallmark - May in the Smokies! Ride Headquarters will be at the Ironhorse Motorcycle Lodge in Stecoah, NC. We'll be riding on the best roads found in Western NC, North GA and Eastern TN for **five** glorious days. If you want to attend this event, do not delay

making your reservations any longer. The entire property is open for our group to reserve until February.

29+ of your fellow Michigan Members are already signed up and booked into the resort.

RESERVE NOW to insure you have the spot you want at the Lodge.

To learn more about this event and how to make your reservation, point your browser at the following link

<http://ironhorse.msta.us>

Event Organizer: Bill Webb

billwebb@england.edu

Blue Grass Boogie

Morehead, KY, July 14 – 17, 2011

Event Organizer – Gregg Mitchell

mi_msta@earthlink.net

Join us in Morehead, KY for two or three days of exploring great roads in Kentucky. For those who want to arrive on Thursday evening, July 14, we'll have a choice of six routes to ride on Friday the 15th. If you'd like to arrive on Friday -- we'll be doing more riding on Saturday the 16th. I expect everyone will be homeward bound on Sunday.

We'll be staying at the following Motel -

Holiday Inn Express

110 Toms Drive

Phone 606-784-5796 for reservations.

Should they fill up, there are other motels nearby.

There will be a **Mandatory "Rider's Meeting"** held at the hotel at 9:00 PM, where we'll set up the riding groups, review the routes and prepare for the next days 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".

VERY IMPORTANT!

2. Let me know that you're planning on being there – Maps and directions will be distributed by email ONLY to those whose name I have on record as attending

You can contact me at the following:

E-Mail – mi_msta@earthlink.net

Phone 248-760-0841 (Cell)

248-377-8170 (Work)

M.O.B. - 2011

Michigan's Ohio Blitz
July 29 - 31, 2011, SE Ohio
Event Organizer – Gregg Mitchell
mi_msta@earthlink.net

Details to be announced

TIP OF THE MITT

September 15 – 18, 2011

Bellaire. MI

Event Organizers:

Peter Stephan --

pstephan153646MI@comcast.net

John Cirner –

jcirner@comcast.net



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April 29, 2011 – 6:00 PM
Motorcycle Fashion Show
@ BMW SE Michigan

All proceeds will benefit the UCP – United Cerebral Palsy. Tickets are \$ 15.00 in advance, \$ 20 at the door. Food and beverages will be provided. Contact Audrey at the dealership for details 734.981.1479

May 6 – 8, 2011
Demo Days – Open House
Triumph Detroit – new location
50622 Van Dyke, Shelby Twp.

May 7, 2011 – “Rough Rider 1000” Ride
An Iron Butt Association style ride – 1000 miles in 24 hours. *Equivalent to the IBA “Saddle Sore 1000”*

Contact Terry Odom if you’re interested in participating.

tjopc@aol.com

May 14, 2011 – OPEN HOUSE
BMW SE Michigan
Demo Rides – Eats. What more could you ask for?



May 16, 2011 – TRACK DAY, GRATTAN

Sponsored by BMW SE Michigan

Contact Audrey at the dealership for details and to reserve a spot at the track!

734.981.1479

May 21, 2011 – Saturday

8:30 AM

Michigan MSTA Monthly Meeting

Karl's Cabin Restaurant

Gotfredson Rd., Plymouth, MI

June 5, 2011 – PENNINGTON'S BBQ

2:00 PM till ???

5427 Pine View Drive, Ypsilanti 48197

June 26 – 29, 2011

STAR 2011, Johnson City, Tennessee

Reservation forms and information for this, our National Meeting Event is available at the STAR page on the National Web Site.

<http://star.sporttouring.us/>

We always have lots of great door prizes at STAR and this year in addition to all the great stuff that our vendors normally provide, Garmin has ante'd up some really top shelf items. At the members meeting on Monday night we will give away to some lucky member a Garmin Zumo 660 having a retail value of about \$800. All you have to do is be there and, of course, have the correct number on your wristband. A second Zumo (Model 665) having a retail value of about \$1,000 will be given away at the Wednesday night banquet based on drawing of bike raffle tickets. That's in addition to the Triumph Tiger, the Held luggage, the Aerostich and the Ohlins shock! Those \$5 raffle tickets are lookin' pretty darned good, huh?

The winner of the Raffle Bike this year will have a choice of either a Triumph Tiger 800 or a Tiger 800EX

It looks like the turnout for the Event will be a record setter. The main hotel, The Holiday Inn is fully booked and space in the surrounding overflow hotels is going fast. **DON'T WAIT**

ANY LONGER TO GET YOURSELF REGISTERED!

July 29 – 31

MSTA REGIONAL EVENT

River City Ride

Madison, IN

Contact Moose Parish for additional Information:

mooseparish@sbcglobal.net

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Welcome to the MSTA

Please join me in welcoming the following new member(s) to the Michigan MSTA Squadron:

Mike Kozykoski - Dearborn
Jeffery Turner – Sterling Heights

Current Squadron Membership – 146

For the individual(s) listed below - this will be your last Michigan Newsletter if you don't renew within the next 30 days **AND advise me with a call or email**. If you feel this information is in error - call me. If you wish to renew and need a form, let me know and I'll send you one or print out the copy at the MSTA Website. Online renewal is also available at:

<http://sporttouring.us>

We're going to miss you if you don't renew

Tom Decker - Clarkston

Our policy regarding "Prospects" is to provide them with a "local" newsletter for 3 months following their introduction to the club. Under those guidelines this will be the last newsletter for the following individual(s):

Jim Hull – Pinckney
Bob Jones – Canton

When you have a moment – check out the Michigan Squadron web site for late breaking information

www.msta.us



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