



# Sport Touring News

February 09

Editor: Gregg Mitchell

Welcome everyone to the Michigan Squadron of the “new” **MSTA** (Motorcycle Sport Touring Association).

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT!

Saturday, February 28, 2009, 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!*

**This month's post meeting Workshop:  
SWAP MEET – Bring those motorcycle items that you no longer need and offer them to your fellow MSTAs Members**

## TIP OF THE MITT A Teaser

*By Peter Stephan*

We have got to have more wishful and positive thinking!

With all the negatives going on in this country it is difficult to anticipate a good year for 2009. Despite that, we can still dream and plan rides that we might want to participate in, whether it is to be a solo or group ride.

As a member of the Michigan Squadron of the MSTAs we have many people who attend our monthly meetings but often do not join in

with the organized rides we have during the year.

Make a resolution to change that! One that is coming up for the weekend of September 11, 2009 is the “Tip of the Mitt”. You have got to join us for this one.

There are four number one reasons for participating in this ride:

1. The ride up
1. The area we are congregating
1. Riding around
1. The ride back

### The Ride Up

There are a number of ways to get to northwest Michigan, but like you, I like to take the longer way up. This eliminates the freeways to get us there faster, but allows us to smell the roses, the corn, the mint, and the barnyards along the way.

From Howell we will do a meander that takes us generally west through Coshocton, Byron, Laingsburg and Ionia. This segment of the ride is generally flat and straight offering opportunities to explore how well our machinery works. If the weather cooperates we will see a great deal of corn, some forest, possibly some wildlife, and gliders.

From Ionia, M66 is a good road that takes us through Stanton, Lake City, and Kalkaska. There is an opportunity to take a detour to the Clifford Lake Inn, west of Stanton. Or maybe something a little simpler at the Anderson and Girls Orchard for a sandwich, ice cream and fruit. Some of might like to take a late lunch in Lake City at the Food Factory, which has a place to sit outside and look at the lake

activity. Just don't miss the segment of M66 north of there with some long views of the road at whatever pace you are in the mood for all the way to just south of Kalkaska. (Just Remember to keep your heads up and monitor your "speed-minders").

### **Congregating**

Take a look at the town of Bellaire, MI. We have golf, boating, fishing, great roads, good food, and nice place to stay. The Bellaire Inn (bellaireinn.com) just east of town is our selected place to rest for the couple of nights we will be spending there. Right next door is a place called Pete's Place, which has very nice food at reasonable prices and hours that suit your desire to eat pretty much any time? Around the corner to the south are some nice sweepers on M88, but before that there is a Glen's Market, which is a great store for all kinds of things, particularly if you are looking for some ice cream (their freezer section is outstanding) or other commodities you might want at the room. Down the road a piece to Bellaire downtown are a couple of nice places for food and drink, one of them is Shorts Brewery. You will not be disappointed by the quality of the beverages brewed here, nor will you go hungry as they have some excellent pizzas and sandwiches.

### **Riding Around**

Many of you know a great deal about Michigan. Maybe you have picked up a copy of "Motorcycling Across Michigan" by William Murphy. Or you have traveled the many by-ways like I have. So you know there are some excellent opportunities to explore the hills and dales of this part of the state. You can head west towards Torch Lake and take the road north and south of the lake on East Torch Lake Road taking you to Rapid City and Elk Lake. Or you can go north towards Charlevoix, going through Central Lake and Ellsworth. Heading northeast there are some high views and twisty bits all the way to Boyne City. One of my personal favorites is M32 between East Jordan and Boyne Falls.

There is definitely a days worth of running around we can do.

### **The Ride Back**

Heading east out of Bellaire, taking M88 and onto C38 until we get to the east side of I-75, allows us to take the scenic by-way towards Mio and Rose City, past West Branch and then through Standish, Bay City and south on M15 to get home.

In Mio, you may want to consider making a lunch stop at one of three local places, such as the Ausable Restaurant. Along the way you may want to make a stop at any one of a few roadside vegetable stands for something fresh from the farm.

So there you have it. Sleep on it and let us know you would like to participate, make your reservations at the Bellaire Inn. When we get closer to the time of this event we will have more details for you.

*Editor's Note:*

*Contact information for Tip of the Mitt can be found in 2009 Events section further on in this newsletter.*

## **RIDING "OLDER"**

*From the an Internet Forum  
Submitted by Ray Melosh*

OK, here is my 2 cents worth, on the subject. I am in no way qualified to back it with any kind of research, other than my own! Please no lawyers or other hangers on....

I have simply discovered, as I grow older that my riding abilities are less than they were, years ago. At the same time, my riding experience is at an all time high. So.....for an older rider, what are the reasons and consequences of this? The reasons are that as we grow older, we could end up with health conditions that may affect our ability to carry out all the functions for the safe riding of our bikes, the consequences in the worst case could result in crashing the bike.

So.....in this mix we need to consider HOW we ride in order to avoid any problems. IF we are able to recognize factors in any deficiency we

may personally have, then we can counter that by riding with consideration of those factors and hopefully lead a long and safe riding life, for as long as we are able to.

Everyone is affected differently and some are not at all, consider yourself fortunate if you have no health problems etc. But that is only part of the equation, the other part is that as we grow older, many of us simply "slow" down, particularly in the brain area, call it a lower "processor" speed. Our eyes pass information to the brain and it needs to be "processed" then the brain issues a "command" to the relevant body parts, to do something! When riding a bike, there is lots of input to the brain, from the eyes (and ears, too) this information needs to be processed, THEN prioritized and executed, quickly.

Now, usually a bike crash is the result of seeing one thing happening, before your very eyes, you start to "process" this and suddenly, something happens from left field. A younger, fast thinking person has more ability to deal with this, but may lack the experience of an older person, where the older person cannot deal with the left field problem quickly, they may be able to execute a better solution. Trouble is.....time is not on their side in all of this. The result could be for the older person, right decision but not quick enough, in time. The younger rider (depending on experience) would probably be quicker to recognize the left field problem and be faster to execute the right/wrong decision? Again, its personal experience, that comes in here.

In my personal case, I have noticed that my "processor" speed has dropped, so that means my reaction time to any and multiple events has slowed, it also has affected my co-ordination to a lesser degree and whilst these things are not noticeable in the everyday tasks of life, they sure are noticeable when you are blasting along at 100 km/h plus, on a crowded freeway riding a motorcycle!! This is another reason why I do not listen to music, use a hands-free cell phone while riding etc.....it robs me of processor speed. What feeble level of processing power my brain has left, it is totally dedicated to keeping my machine upright. There may come a day that I am unable to safely ride a motorcycle as a result of

the brain simply getting too tired and slow.

OK, so I have just come back from a 6400 km trip through Namibia & South Africa on our 1200GS, my wife sat on the back for every kilometer and the one thing that really helped our trip go without real incident, was our Intercom.....she was the "second" set of eyes on the road and to the sides. Yes. Without her I would have nearly T-boned a Baboon. Trust me....hitting it would have been nasty. On top of that, I could tell her that there was a 20 meter stretch of sand ahead -- "hang on" tight!

Our cruising speed was about 95 km/h most of the time, sometimes a little slower; this speed left me plenty of time to deal with any situations that could have required me to take action, in an emergency. Many other riders probably could have done the same trip at maybe 110 km/h, just as safely as us. Realizing my current abilities, I rode at a conservative speed that I thought was safe, and fortunately we had no trouble.

I guess as I get older, I have become more reluctant to go on group rides for this reason; road speeds are usually higher than I am comfortable with, particularly if I have my wife or someone else as pillion, where responsibility is paramount. I guess none of the above really becomes a problem UNLESS we ride outside of our personal ability and known effects of that ability. Yes, I must admit that some days are definitely better than others and I recognize that as part of my riding considerations, too.

**A special thanks to Peter Stephan and Ray Melosh 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 **2009 SMOTY Award!**

If nothing else - you'll get to see your name in print, somewhere other than on the Post Office bulletin board!



## MICHIGAN SQUADRON RIDING EVENTS 2009

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

The full 2009 schedule is still in development; however some events have been scheduled. Others will be posted here as the year unfolds.

## No-Ark Adventure 2

April 15–19, 2009  
Missouri / Arkansas

This event is a “curve-chaser’s” delight. Three days of riding (1100 tire shredding miles) in the Ozarks, to start your riding season out.

This ride begins in Park Hills, MO. We’ll meet there for dinner on Wednesday April 15. We’ll be staying the night at **Rosener’s Inn** and we’ll have a rider’s meeting there around 9:00 PM following a dinner at CB Joe’s Bar-B-Q.

To make a reservation at Rosener’s for Wednesday night, call **573-431-4241**.

On Thursday, we’ll be taking a twisty route from Park Hills, MO to Russellville, AR. We’ll be staying Thursday and Friday nights at **The Best Western in Russellville** - To make your reservations there; call **479-967-1000**.

On Friday we’ll be riding on some of the best roads in Arkansas that are north and west of Russellville.

We’ll return to Park Hills, MO from Russellville on Saturday.

If you plan on making this trip, make your hotel reservations and let me know that you’ll be joining us.

Event Organizer: Gregg Mitchell  
[MI\\_HSTA@ voyager.net](mailto:MI_HSTA@voyager.net)



May 17 – 23, 2009  
Ironhorse MC  
Lodge

Stecoah, NC

A Michigan Squadron Hallmark - May in the Smokies! For the first time - 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.

Currently there are over 40 people with reservations at the resort (subject to two of them getting their membership applications in for the MSTTA – Jim Juranich and Joe Naparano).

There are still some spots left at this time. If you want to attend this event,

DO NOT DELAY making your reservations any longer. RESERVE NOW to insure you have a spot.

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

<http://ironhorse.mi-hsta.com>

Event Organizer : Bill Webb  
[wwebb@statebar.net](mailto:wwebb@statebar.net)

## M.O.B. - 2009

Michigan's Ohio Blitz

July 23 - 26, 2009, SE Ohio

Event Organizer – Gregg Mitchell  
[MI\\_HSTA@ voyager.net](mailto:MI_HSTA@voyager.net)

Details to be announced





# TIP OF THE MITT

September 11 – 13, 2009  
Bellaire, MI

After a five year hiatus – The Tip of the Mitt ride  
is **BACK!**

Event Headquarters – Bellaire Inn  
[www.bellaireinn.com](http://www.bellaireinn.com)

### Event Organizers:

John Cirner –  
[jcirner@comcast.net](mailto:jcirner@comcast.net)

Peter Stephan --  
[pstephan153646MI@comcast.net](mailto:pstephan153646MI@comcast.net)

More Details to Follow

## HAZARDous TOUR

Hazard, KY, Sept 25 - 27, 2009  
Event Organizer – Gregg Mitchell  
[MI\\_HSTA@ voyager.net](mailto:MI_HSTA@voyager.net)

Details to be announced



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P!

February 28, 2009 – Saturday  
Michigan MSTA Monthly Meeting  
**Karl's Cabin Restaurant**  
Gotfredson Rd., Plymouth, MI  
8:30 AM

Post Meeting **WORKSHOP:**  
**SWAP MEET** – Buy and sell those unused  
motorcycle items!

March 5, 2009  
**Ice Racing at the Palace**

X-Treme International Ice Racing (XiiR), a professional racing tour involving speedway motorcycles and quads on ice will hold the eight round of its sixth annual championship indoor ice racing series at The Palace on Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets at \$22.50 reserved and \$15 general admission go on sale this Saturday, January 10 at 10 a.m. at Palacenet.com, The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations. Special Superfan seating is also available. Kids 12 and under receive a half-price discount on reserved seats. Tickets may also be charged by phone to American Express, Discover, Visa and MasterCard by calling 1-800-745-3000.

Special discounts are available for scouts and groups by calling the Group Sales office at 248/371-2055.

Backed by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), X-Treme International Ice Racing has multiple heats of speedway motorcycles and quads racing on ice going from 0-60 miles per hour in less than three seconds.

The speedway motorcycles are very lightweight, volatile machines that resemble mountain bikes with large powerful engines burning on nitromethane fuel. What separates these bikes from other forms of racing is the 2000 metal studs added to the tires for traction with no brakes for stopping and a no brakes allowed rule.

The event includes 20-25 races of four riders racing handlebar-to-handlebar for four laps. Competitors from all over the world including England, Scotland, Canada and the United States will earn points to qualify for the final race in which one competitor will win a grand prize. The quad division features highly modified ATVs built and prepared specifically for oval track ice racing. Any engine or chassis configuration is allowed as long as the machine is rear wheel driven and no wider than 52" at any point. Wild machines seen nowhere else and crazy bump-and-grind action are the trademarks of XiiR/AMA quad racing.

Speedway motorcycles riders and quad racers will hold an autograph session at the end of the event for all fans.

**March 28, 2009**

**Post Meeting WORKSHOP:**

**Tire Repair / Changing – Auburn Hills, MI**

**April 28 – May 2, 2009**

**Triumph “Anniversary Days”**

Special promotions at Triumph Detroit

**May 9, 2009**

**OPEN HOUSE – BMW SE Michigan  
A MSTA Member Owned Dealership**

**May 15 – 17, 2009**

Demo Days – Triumph Detroit

**June 21 – 24, 2009**

**STAR 2009**

Staunton, VA

Reservation forms for this, our National Meeting Event are available in your STARReview VOL. 27, No. 7\*2008, and online at the STAR web site

<http://star.ridehsta.com/>

The Event Headquarters, Stonewall Jackson Hotel has only 128 rooms, so if we have a “normal” turnout for this event, I expect that many people will find themselves at one of the nearby overflow locations.

The sooner you register, the better your chances will be for getting a room at the headquarters location. So **RESERVE NOW!**

**The 2009 Raffle Bike is the magnificent  
Triumph Sprint ST!!**

## **MEMBERSHIP INFO**

### **Current Squadron Membership – 115**

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 once and awhile and 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\\_HSTA@voyager.net](mailto:MI_HSTA@voyager.net)**



1daveo@comcast.net  
248-360-2184

**SPECIALIZING IN**

- Custom or Restoration Paint Work
- Plastic Repair

The following businesses are special friends to the Michigan MSTA Squadron. Please be sure to patronize them whenever you can.





**Ice Racing - Mt. Pleasant MI  
Feb. 22, 2009**