



Squadron News

July 2011

Editor – Gregg Mitchell

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT!

Saturday, **July 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

Late arrivers are always welcome!

If you are planning on doing the MOB Ride, July 29 – 31, this is a meeting you want to attend. We will be discussing the details and arrangements for this ride at some time during the meeting!

Ride Like a Pro – Revisited

By JT Pedersen

Over the years, a number of your fellow MSTA-MI members have taken the *Ride Like a Pro* course. Pedro and I have both contributed our thoughts in past, distant newsletters.

This time around I organized the RLAP at a new venue. Alpha Training Centers is no longer conducting the program due to a licensing dispute. Instead, Ride Like a Pro is now available, here in Southfield (Shriner's facility), and taught by Gary Lewandowski (www.ridelikeapro-gl.com).

Gary is an active sheriff's deputy and conducts their riders' safety programs. Though RLAP, he has the opportunity to extend many of the same exercises (albeit with slightly reduced demands) to his fellow civilian riders.

We were truly blessed. Instead of forecast rain, we had a gorgeous, blue sky/fluffy white cloud day, with a near-constant 5MPH breeze across the parking lot, with temps only into the lower 80s. The combination worked out just great. Two riders



needed to reschedule, so we had 5 folks (including Dan Kohls, Kim Ewen-MSTA, and me), able to take a relaxed approach and just *enjoy* the activity.



Our fellow riders' machines include Goldwings, Harley-Davidsons, a Concourse, and one ZRX. We started each exercise with a brief instruction of what we were about to do, why, and a practical demonstration by Gary.

One entertaining side note, Gary's using a police bike (complete with PA system) to illustrate. Compared to other track courses, using a PA system (either on his bike, or the portable unit he has), is *really* helpful. For a change, you can actually *hear*, clearly, what the instructor is trying to say.

One key take-away from the course, is that you need to *look* where you want the bike to go. You hear this in MSF, California Superbike, and other schools as well. It just as important that you do so



when moving at 1-10 MPH as it is at 100. As you look at each picture of Gary, Kim, Dan, and I, going through the exercises, note how we're looking at where we're *planning* to go,

where we *want the bike to go*. It really seems remedial at times. But that's part of the great value of this course. Even if you've done it before, you think you know it all, being reminded and then going through practical exercises helps bring it all home again.

As I took video and pictures of everyone going through their exercises, I continued to enjoy watching the guys on the bigger bikes bend their iron to their will. As in the shot nearby, of Dan on his Harley, it is far more impressive to watch a big



bike bend through the exercise than of me on my little ZRX. The leans more dramatic, the exhaust notes hitting you in the chest as they womp-womp-womp by you, and seeing them stay in the range (for the most part<g>).

Dan shared some of his own observations regarding the course...

"Gary was very perceptive of what I was doing incorrectly.

He accurately identified my mistakes and



recommended how I should change what I was doing.

The following day I went on a 60 mile charity ride and was able to practice the 'friction-zone' technique during the slower portions of the ride.

The session also validated techniques I had discovered for myself during 26 years of riding, and apply a little more thought to what I had been doing."

Kim Ewen felt the course was worth his time. He indicated he found it very enlightening regarding his skills in the context of the bike he's riding. Kim also mentioned he felt a bit disappointed. Since you'll see Kim at upcoming MSTA-MI squadron meetings, I'm

sure he'll be happy to share more of his own thoughts with you.

What a great way to spend a Saturday morning! Can't wait to do it again next year.

A Strange Engine Problem

By Bob Kiessel

When we returned home from Michigan Mountain Madness, we were greeted by threatening clouds at the state line, so we pushed our pace considerably to make it home on that hot Sunday afternoon. We arrived in the garage just as the tornado sirens sounded. I turned off my 1 liter Yamaha FZ1 and headed for the basement.

It was a week before I had an opportunity to warm up the bike for an oil change. When I went out to start it, the engine sounded like it was almost free-wheeling—like it had no compression. So I pulled the plugs which looked OK. I checked for spark and it was healthy. I checked my fuel bowls and they were full. So I tried to start engine after new plugs and it still sounds like no compression in all four cylinders. 🤔

It ran perfectly the last time I rode it. What could it be? The mind goes wild--

- 1) Cam chain problem causing cam or ignition timing change?
- 2) Holes in pistons—can't happen to all four at once...
- 3) Blown cylinder head gasket?
- 4) Cracked cylinder head? I did have a problem where I dumped half of my coolant on the Blue Ridge Parkway on our lunch ride out to Doug and Diane Pippins Place in Asheville—

Next I did a compression check—the cylinders had a high of about 60-65 psi down to 20 psi on cylinder 4. Bogey is 205 psi—it's something major!!! Am I going to need a new engine?

OK time to tear it down to see what happened. I drained the oil and checked for coolant in oil. There was no water but the oil smelled bad and was very runny—strange, oil had only about 4,000 miles and it was Shell Rotella Semi Synth.

So I posted what I had learned so far on the FZ1 owner's website to see if this happened to anyone else. Of course, I got a several suggestions, but two of them stood out. One was a guy's experience with a high performance version of the Ford 4.6L DOHC aluminum block police engine. He

experienced something similar, the dealers didn't know what to do, but long cranking finally got it to start.

The second was from a member in Spain who recalled both a Honda 1 liter bike and a Yamaha FJR1300 that experienced similar events after long Autobahn high speed runs. They eventually put oil in the combustion chamber (without plugs) and cranked the engine for long periods and the engine resealed. BTW—all these engines have aluminum blocks...

So I tried it—pulled the plugs, squirted a small amount of oil in the spark plug holes, put fresh oil in the crankcase, and ran the engine on the starter for a few minutes—I then checked cylinder 4—the 20psi reading was now 185 psi!!

I'm thinking the loss of coolant allowed the oil to break down as it tried to cool the engine and, even though the coolant was replaced, the oil was scorched and awaiting a change at home. It either totally drained from the cylinder walls or the piston rings stuck in the pistons as the pistons cooled and shrunk in diameter, causing loss of ring sealing. The fresh oil on both sides of the rings cleaned them sufficiently to reseat the motor.

I put the plugs in and it started right up and is running as strong as it always has. Put this one in your memory banks—it could happen to you!!

MI-MSTA Roughrider "1000" Revisited

By Terry Odom

One day in May! That's all it took for fourteen members of the MSTA, Michigan Squadron, to begin and complete an extra ordinary motorcycle challenge; a 1000 mile ride in less than 24 hours. The event not only tested their riding ability and concentration, but resulted in the knowledge and satisfaction of having completed a riding feat, reserved, only, for the most tenacious and those who challenge the outside boundaries of the ordinary and good sense to undertake a ride of this magnitude. Most of us, contrary to our riding fantasies, and articles we read in cycle magazines, will never be able to ride a Moto-GP race, the Alps, or to the tip of Africa on a motorcycle; but a Roughrider "1000" is a riding test of skill, endurance, concentration and just plain grit that we



Enough said!
 We congratulate you all (with a special thanks to Betty Ward who, "knew she could do it" and did) for your participation in this successful club event and contribution to the riding diversity that makes the MSTA such a worthwhile organization for the cycling experiences of its members.

*Editor's Note:
 The Roughrider 1000 ride was created and organized by Terry Odom, our 2010 Squadron "Rookie of The Year". John Horner, Owner of BMW*

all can accomplish if we just accept the challenge and say to ourselves, "I can do it!".

On, May 7, 2011, MSTA members: Chip Ashton, Keith Danielson, Jim Ellis, Kim Ewen, Mike Fettinger, Gary Gulick, Mark Herman, John Horner, Jim Murray, Terry Odom, Gary Perkins, Kentaro Roy, Peter Stephan and Betty Ward began such a ride in Novi, Michigan, south to Lexington, KY, east to Charleston, WV, northeast to I-80 near Pittsburgh, PA, west to the Ohio Turnpike before completing the ride at the beginning point in Novi, Michigan; a total of approximately 1050 miles in eighteen hours! All who started the ride finished.

Stories about the ride are as varied as the personalities of the participants.

Keith Danielson, one of the clubs more prolific riders, was the first to start, finished first and probably rode a couple hundred extra miles just to settle down. Another rider needed the encouragement of his riding partners to finish; there were 12 other experiences in between, shared by the riders at the gas pumps when the ride was complete. Two riders, John Horner and Kim Ewen, even caught the long distance bug; both have entertained the idea of joining me on an Iron Butt Association (IBA), Border to Border Gold ride from Canada, to Mexico in 24 hours.

SE Michigan, not only participated in the ride, he also donated the commemorative T Shirts for all of the participants who completed the ride. This ride also resulted in FIVE new members who joined our Squadron in order to participate. All in all, The RR1000 was a tremendously successful ride. Please join me in extending a special thanks to Terry and John for their efforts and contributions on behalf of the MSTA Michigan Squadron!

A special thanks to JT Pedersen, Bob Kiessel and Terry Odom 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!





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.

M.O.B. – 2011

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

LAST CALL FOR THIS EVENT

Friday, July 29

RIDE - from Michigan to Coshocton, OH

We'll be staying at the following Hotel -
**Country Squire Inn and Suites, 275 S
Whitewoman St, Phone 740-622-9823**

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

NOTE: Several riders will meet for breakfast at Bob Evans in Toledo Friday morning.

From there they will form groups for the ride to Coshocton. Details for this will be distributed to those who get their names to me for the event.

Saturday, July 30

Several routes are planned with a lunch stop at the popular Beallsville Diner. After lunch, lots of entertaining miles of twisty pavement to **New Philadelphia, OH**. Make your reservation at:

**Best Western Dutch Valley Inn
161 Bluebell Dr SW
Phone - 330-339-6500**

Dinner -- tire kicking, and telling lies about the days ride follows our arrival.

Sunday, July 31

RIDE back home to Michigan

If you want to participate - here's what you do -

1. Make your hotel reservations at both Hotels **without delay**
There is a **NOT** a block of rooms being held
2. Let me know that you're joining in - I need an accurate head count for planning purposes.

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

There are 11 members signed up for this thus far!

TIP OF THE MITT

September 15 – 18, 2011

Bellaire, MI

Event Organizers:

Peter Stephan --

pstephan153646MI@comcast.net

John Cirner –

jcirner@charter.net

More information regarding this event will be forthcoming soon from the organizers. The event will be posted in the "Just For Fun" Events Calendar on the National Website soon – opening it up to MSTA Members from neighboring Squadrons!





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July 23, 2011 – Saturday

8:30 AM

Michigan MSTA Monthly Meeting

Karl's Cabin Restaurant

Gotfredson Rd, Plymouth, MI

Just north of M14

July 29 – 31

MSTA REGIONAL EVENT

River City Ride

Madison, IN

Go to the RCR Web Site for more information and

Pre-Registration Information

<http://tinyurl.com/428mevl>

DON'T WAIT ANY LONGER TO GET YOURSELF REGISTERED!

Pre-Registration forms for this event are also available at our monthly breakfast meeting!

August 19 - 21

MSTA REGIONAL EVENT

Mail Pouch Fly By

Marietta, OH

For more information and to download a Pre-Registration Form, go to

<http://tinyurl.com/3n5mc7m>

DON'T WAIT ANY LONGER TO GET YOURSELF REGISTERED!

Pre-Registration forms for this event are also available at our monthly breakfast meeting!

August 19, 2011

PRE-RIDE – Mail Pouch Fly-By

If you're planning on going to the Mail Pouch Fly-By, there's no need to ride down to Marietta alone! Keith Danielson is organizing his Annual Pre-Ride to the Fly-By as noted below. By taking part in this, you not only have good company for the ride down – you will also be awarded 1.5 SMOTY points in addition to the 3.5 that you earn for attending the Fly-By itself! **5 SMOTY Points for 1 Event** - such a deal!

Here are the details from Keith:

We will be meeting for the ride to the Fly-by on Friday, August 19, at the Bob Evans restaurant located at 435 Lemoyne Rd., in Northwood, OH. This is the one off of I-280 exit 6 (SR-51/Curtice Rd.). Plan on being at the restaurant at about 7:30 for breakfast. Before we ride, we'll have a brief pre-ride meeting to form our riding groups and review our group riding etiquette. If you don't want to eat breakfast, show up around 8:10 or so for the pre-ride meeting. We'll plan to depart at about 8:30. The first stop will be about 90 miles after we start, so please have enough fuel to go that far before you come to the restaurant - there is a BP station on the corner almost right next door. The ride will consist of some pleasant roads with some curves to Coshocton for lunch, then a choice of 2 routes after lunch, with one route being a fairly direct route, but still with some nice curves to enjoy, and the other offering a few more curves via a slightly more round-about route. Either way, I have no doubt that you will find enough curves to be entertained on the way down.

If you're interested in this, please email me at keith.danielson@att.net.

I'll send you the routes in .gpx format for those techno weenies with GPS, and a file with maps and printed directions for those who are "Old School Cool" and think that GPS stands for "Gimme a Pint of Scotch", or something like that (sorry, that's just the first thing that came to my mind).

I hope to see many of you at the Fly-by, and hope that you'll join me for a great ride there on Friday.

September 18 – Sunday

Noon till 4:00 PM

ALL CLUBS Day – Stockbridge, MI

5th Annual All CLUBS DAY

Sunday September 18, 2011
12 noon to 4pm
The Village of Stockbridge

"A Great Place To Ride To"

Nestled in the corner of Ingham, Livingston,
Jackson and Washtenaw Counties

Come & enjoy a day of Vintage, Classic
and Remarkable Motorcycles displayed
around the Village Green by clubs
invited to show their best
(Participation in show by invitation only)

Spectators Welcome!

Breakfast & Lunch Available

ALL
CLUBS
DAY

For more
information
contact Suzi
517-851-7457

MEMBERSHIP INFO

**Current Squadron
Membership
157**

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

**Jim Bergum – Howell
Ernie Hohner – Petersburg
Russ McClelland – Walled Lake
James Protzmann – Iron Mountain**

Our policy regarding "Prospects" is to provide them with a "local" newsletter and Meeting date advisements for 3 months following their introduction to the club. Under those guidelines



this will be the last newsletter for the following individual(s):

Eli Cooper
Max Cooper
Bob Jones – Canton
Ralph Skipton

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

www.msta.us

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daveo@ozonebikeworks.com • www.ozonebikeworks.com
313-663-2836 • southeastern Michigan