

Finger Lakes Rally 2013

Aug. 30-Sept. 2



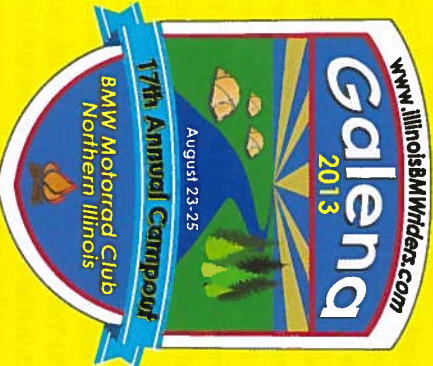
We invite BMW riders and guests to the 39th Finger Lakes Rally in beautiful Watkins Glen, NY.

Come and experience many touring opportunities in this most scenic area of New York State.

Preregistration forms available at: www.fingertakesbmw.org

See the "When and Where" for more info.

Motorcycle Campout!



August 23-25 Galena, IL Camping, Food, Rides and Friends

Join us in the historic town of Galena, IL for a great time filled with your old & new friends. Tour the river valleys of IL, WI, MN, IA then camp under the shade trees.

IllinoisBMWriders.com

Three-Season Test Report - BMW Streetguard 3 Suit

By Moshe K. Levy #108259

COMPARED TO WHEN I FIRST STARTED riding in 1997, today's marketplace is positively brimming with choices for motorcyclists who are looking for premium riding gear. Such customers are looking for quality and durability above all else, and lately they've been demanding some form to accompany the function. Enter BMW's Streetguard 3 Suit, the company's top-of-the-line touring ensemble.

This current version 3 has been on the market for approximately four years, and its high tech construction is still relatively progressive. Swiss textile manufacturer Schoeller developed the external fabric, Keprosshield, a composite made from Kevlar, cotton and polyamide elements. The Keprosshield is directly bonded to an inner C-Change membrane, which is both waterproof and windproof. While the construction is obviously very durable, it still offers the rider a degree of elasticity lacking in many competitive suits. The material stretches easily over heated gear or bulky winter clothing, and it doesn't fight you in distending around what's underneath the suit - very nice, especially when it's freezing outside and you're in a hurry to zip up.

Speaking of which, the jacket's beefy single zipper is easily manipulated while wearing thick winter gloves, and it always seals vault-tight against the elements, as do all the other Aquazip fasteners on the exterior pockets. Fabric lanyards are included on all exterior zippers for easier gloved operation. Naturally, the jacket and pants zip together sturdily. The jacket's detachable, leather-lined storm collar and effective 3M Thinsulate lining, combined with the pants' high-cut, fleece-lined waistband, resulted in the heated gear gathering dust in the closet for most of the winter's commutes. It

simply wasn't necessary to use, even for this famously cold-averse columnist, until temps got seriously below freezing. Meanwhile, during warmer weather, the exterior's Schoeller Coldblack treatment reflects sunlight and provides a minimum UPF30 UV protection, while the elongated, vertically zippered vents under each arm provide a satisfactory degree of ventilation for all but the hottest days of summer.

The cut and styling of the suit live up to its European pedigree, and though not quite as industrial as the faithful Aerostich, it clearly emphasizes functionality as paramount. Storage is plentiful and the placement of pockets themselves is also attentive to the commuter's needs. Two cavernous main interior pockets easily swallow more than any sane rider would carry, and there is even a cell phone pocket on the right side, which is "radiation resistant." There are several more pockets throughout - available if you need them, but hardly necessary. BMW's NP Protective Armor provides generous coverage across the back, shoulders, elbows, hips and knees, with a coccyx protector optional. Reflective material is present (although admittedly not as abundant as I'd like to see) on the front and back of the jacket, as well as the side of the pants legs.

For the purposes of this review, the suit was used for three seasons during the grind of the daily commute to work, as well as several extended trips and weekend getaways. For all intents and purposes, it is not realistic to consider the SG3 jacket for true summer riding. Above 80 degrees, even with the vents wide open and the insulation liners removed, the rider will start to become aware that this is entirely too much jacket for higher temperatures. Above 90

degrees, you will positively roast. But with those limitations in mind, what we have here in the Streetguard 3 is absolutely one of the most versatile motorcycling suits on the market today, especially for those of us who venture out into all types of weather. This suit has survived many a full day's riding in torrential winter downpours without letting in a drop of water, nor even the slightest draft of wind. To test further, I had my wife turn the garden hose on me full blast for about 10 minutes. The results were the same—completely sealed, completely dry and completely warm. As expected, the suit broke in over time and felt like a second skin after a few thousand miles. Also the NP

A armor was quite pliable and comfortable, even in sub-freezing temperatures. The colder it gets, the more this suit shines, sealing out the elements and providing a reliable comfort no matter what was going on outside. The Keprosshield material and all hardware are wearing like iron, and I have no doubt that at least a full decade of use can be expected out of this suit in daily commuting duty. Indeed, there is a feeling here of substantial quality and robust construction, as expected at this price point.

Criticisms are few but worth mentioning, nonetheless. The pants could use lengthier ankle zippers to make pulling over boots easier. (Come to think of it, I'm still surprised that BMW doesn't offer a proper set of overpants, so that office casual can be worn underneath without wrinkling.) The jacket could use a redesign of the cuff area for two reasons. First, the cuff adjustments are actuated with zips and Velcro flaps, which look sleek, but functionally take some fidgeting in order to get results, and are not particularly glove friendly. A tackle-style Velcro strap would be a far more functional (if less aesthetic) solution. Second, the cuff flap is situated such that its "open end" faces upward, meaning as it rains, water pools inside the flap. Of course, no water ever got inside during the testing, but it's still unnerving to see, and there is really



no reason why said flap cannot be designed to face downward where no water can pool.

Further, the jacket's storm flap is evenly overlapped from left to right, which can cause bunching as the zipper is pulled up. Some other jackets in this class have a more logical arrangement of an upper and lower flap instead of two identical ones, which makes things easier to zip up on the fly. Finally, the SG3 jacket's 3M Thinsulate liner is not suitable to wear by itself - again, several manufacturers offer fashionable inner liners which can be worn independently of the main jacket, which is quite useful once the rider gets off the bike and requires warmth without all the bulk. Some of this is nippingking to be sure, but at this price, something close to perfection is expected in this competitive segment.

Despite these shortcomings, the Streetguard 3 is, without question, one of the finest riding suits available today and should definitely be on any short list for first-class quality gear you may be considering. ☺

BMW Streetguard 3 Suit

Colors: Black or Black/Grey/Orange

Sizes (Ladies): 6-16/6L-14L/6P-14P

Sizes (Men): 36-56/40L-50L/40S-52S

Jacket MSRP: \$959

Pants MSRP: \$659

Visit: www.bmw-riders-gear.com/



Complete Your BMW

More Information:
www.w-bmwparts.com

Wunderlich AMERICA

1.831.761.1070
125 Hangar Way #160, Watsonville, CA 95076
www.wunderlichamerica.com

Restoration & Maintenance

Web Store



Hard to Find Parts for BMW Motorcycles /5 to K75

bmw2valve.com

1.831.761.1070

Brought to you by Wunderlich AMERICA