

Who was this piloting the giant, snaking it through the woods? It couldn't have been me. But it was. I laughed as I bounced a jug and shoulder off a tall stump. This was fun, the big kind of fun that grabs you and makes you want to scream a thank you at the world. The fun you had those first miles you ever put on a motorcycle.

The corruption of an M5 ride aside, these courses delivered. The on-road portion honed some important skills and may have even shed some of those bad habits that sneak into all of our riding. More valuable to me, was the off-road portion. Something clicked that had never before. In a few short hours under the tutelage of excellent instructors, my off-road riding abilities improved dramatically. I couldn't

ask for anything more.

The small classes, where they aim for a one to four ratio of instructors to students, fill quickly. You can opt to take a one day on-road or off road class or a two day class where the first day is on-road and the second off. Prices start at \$480/day if you ride your own bike and up to \$650/day if you ride one of the school's bikes. For that modest price difference, I would definitely opt to bang someone else's bike off a tree stump. These courses are not intended for the beginning rider and you must supply your own riding gear. For maximum poseur points, I suggest showing up in a well-worn Rallye 2 jacket. While summer is prime riding season for most of the country, fall and

spring or even winter would be the best time to attend to avoid the broiling southern heat.

Lastly, while you're there, don't miss out on seeing some of BMW's heritage and modern workings. If they're not in the midst of getting ready for a new product launch, you can tour the factory where they build upwards of 160,000 vehicles a year for distribution worldwide. Also adjacent to the factory is the BMW museum, the Zentrum. There you can see an ever changing exhibit of BMW history including the old and new from cars to aircraft engines to the bikes we love.

I've just ordered a set of TKC 80's to replace the Tourances on my bike. I need knobs. 

