



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

April 2024 - Volume 17 Issue 4

In April 2024 Issue:

- Page 1 – [Feature Article](#)
Page 5 – [Safety Talk](#)
Page 6 – [Florida News](#)
Page 7 – [Florida Rides](#)
Page 9 – [Future Florida Rides](#)
Page 10 – [Florida MSTa Apparel](#)
Page 11 – [Classified Ads](#)

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Feature Article

MSTA North Georgia Classic Greatest Hits

By Tom Blake

[Editor's Request: If you have ridden somewhere interesting at any time and would like to share your experiences and some photos from your journey with other riders, please contact editor@flmsta.org to publish an article. Thanks!]

[Editor's Note: This article was previously published in the April 2021 and April 2023 issues of the FLMSTA Gator Tale.]

*[Ed. Note: A long standing Southeastern tradition for the MSTa, we kick-off the riding season in style at the **North Georgia Classic**. This year, we will rally for three days (April 26-28, 2024) out of one of our historical locations, a "Classic" spot...if you will. The quiet town of **Dillard** in beautiful Rabun County will play host this year. We have successfully held this event in Dillard previously, as well as our famous Dual Sport gathering, and we look forward to returning. (Helen has been a great location in the past, but sometimes a little change is good.) The mountains are calling, come ring in the new riding year with us!]*

Mountain Valley Inn, 13 Royalty Lane, Dillard, GA phone: 706-746-5373

Call the hotel directly to make your reservation. Do not book online. Ask for Mick, let him know you are with MSTa. Event coordinator: Chad Barker at c.marion.barker@gmail.com Complete information is available at ridemsta-ga.com/events/rallies/n-ga-classic-2024/



*Cherohala Skyway between
Robbinsville NC & Tellico Plains, TN*

The North Georgia Classic is coming up April 26 through 28. There's no registration. You don't even need to be an MSTa member. It's one of the best Friday-thru-Sunday get-togethers going in one of the best riding areas in the southeast. I encourage you to go. You can even take non- MSTa friends along.

I take my time getting up there and start getting into the rhythm of the mountains. For the North Georgia Classic in Helen, I typically arrive late on Thursday afternoon, a day ahead of the rally's start. Unlike in Florida, there are excellent ride options in almost every direction. But, given the short duration of the event, I've whittled down a long list of possibilities to what I consider the top tier of rides to recommend along with some to and from options. My list includes 1) **Wayah Rd to the Nantahala Gorge and lunch at the River's End Restaurant at the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC); 2) the Cherohala Skyway; 3) Tail of the Dragon; 4) US 60 between Morganton and Suches; 5) GA 180; 6) US 129 over Blood Mountain; and 7) the Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway.**

NOC via Wayah Rd. Always at the top of my list is lunch at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in NC and going by way of Wayah Rd promises a good challenge. I like to include US 76 over to Clayton early on. It's curvy but not overly challenging. It's a good road to begin re-adjusting your mind and muscle memory on for mountain riding... getting the rhythm of the mountains at moderate speed. The quickest way to 76 is to take GA 17 north over the mountain from Helen. It's plenty twisty and steep with its share of tar snakes so you may want to take it easy the first time over. A more laid back alternative is to turn right on GA 356 from just north of

Helen. Ride past Unicoi State Park and go left on GA 197 past picturesque Lake Burton to 76. Either way, I begin thinking about safe corner entry speed and lane position, pondering what the optimum track through the corner to the exit should be and trying to hit it precisely, keeping the engine in its power band and applying throttle and braking inputs smoothly. It's an iterative process of mistakes and refinement that continues the whole time I'm up there. It's all about technique and precision, not outright speed.



Wayah Road meanders north and climbs steeply up the mountain

Wayah is a good workout with plenty of second gear switchbacks, dips, climbs and twists. Downstream of the lake, it also has some abrupt turns onto bridges that come into view suddenly – not a time to be carrying too much speed. And not all the pavement is in the greatest condition. It's not, by any means, a dangerous ride, but it is prudent to ride a bit conservatively and stay alert. By contrast, the ride along the Nantahala River in the gorge is utterly relaxing as you meander along the river's rapids.



Nantahala Outdoor Center

The Robbinsville end of 143 is very technical. But then it opens up and allows you to build good speed as you ascend the mountain. Depending upon conditions, you may ride up into a cloud and then come out into clear skies near the summit. The route number changes to TN 165 as you descend into Tellico Plains. From Robbinsville to Tellico plains there is close to 50 miles of superb tarmac and stunning views. There are numerous pull outs for great views although, truthfully, you may be having too much fun to stop.

You have options for leaving (or getting to) Tellico Plains. One is the Skyway, of course. A second is to head south on 68 and then GA 60 – perhaps all the way through Suches, GA via Copperhill and Morganton (described below). Or a third is to take 68 to TN 123 which becomes GA 294, and that takes you to US 64 west of Murphy. The latter is a lot of fun.

At Clayton, turn north on US 23/441 toward Franklin, NC and then take US 64 west. **Wayah Road** heads north from US 64 about 4 miles west of 441. The road meanders past an LBJ Jobs Corp campus then climbs steeply up the mountain before descending past very picturesque Nantahala Lake and onward to US 19/74 in the Nantahala Gorge. Take 19 east about 8 miles along the river to the NOC. Estimate about 3 hours plus breaks for the whole journey.



Many switchbacks along Wayah Road

Nantahala Outdoor Center's setting is picturesque and inviting. In fact, this is one of my favorite places in the world. I never miss a chance to stop to have lunch at the River's End Restaurant overlooking the river.

Cherohala Skyway. This is one of the most exhilarating rides in the eastern US. To get there, point your bike west on 19 and as you come up out of the gorge, turn right on US 129 and head for Robbinsville. Just a little north of town, turn west on NC 143 and you will soon be on the Skyway.



Along the Cherohala Skyway



Tellico Plains, TN to Franklin, NC via the Dragon, Deal's Gap and Fontana Dam

The Dragon. Stay away from the Dragon on weekends – it's way too crowded. And now, the sports car folks are spending their weekends out there and don't seem to mind crossing centerline in blind curves. It is also heavily patrolled on weekends.

Head east on TN 165 about a mile. Turn north on TN 360 which squiggles along the west side of Tellico Lake to US 411. Turn right on 411 for just under three miles to TN 72. Turn southeast on 72 which roughly follows the eastern side of Tellico Lake until you T-bone into US 129. All very pleasant. Turn right on Skyway right on 129 as it meanders along the north side of Chilhowee Lake and then the

southwest edge of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. The climax is the Tail of the Dragon's 318 curves in 11 miles to Deal's Gap. The climax, literally, is the Tail of the Dragon's 318 curves in 11 miles to Deal's Gap. Lots of puckering, braking, looking over your shoulder to see where the road goes, cornering and accelerating! And roadside picture takers are out for a buck.

After the obligatory stop and perhaps food or fuel at Deal's Gap, turn east on US 28. You will find 28 to have all you could want in a mountain highway. Follow it across Fontana Dam and all the way to US 19/74. Just keep an eye out for the Swain County deputy. Turn east on 19 about 4 miles and then south on 28 again at the gas station. Below the gas station, it becomes extremely (but pleasantly) gnarly for a ways and finally comes into Franklin, NC where you can hop on US23/441 south into GA. Or take US 64 west and then south on Hwy 175 to Hiawassee. Estimate 3 hours plus break time.

GA 60 between Morganton and Suches. This is an experience you just don't want to miss. The road surface is good, and you can carry good speed. I love this road! It is exciting from end to end. The northern section nearer Morganton has some excellent higher speed sweepers. The center area meanders through pictorial meadows and farmland. In the mountain approaching Suches things tighten up. It has everything and is on my 'to do' list every time I'm in the area. In fact, it's so much fun that I usually ride it multiple times.



GA 60 south of Suches

There is one decreasing radius curve to warn you about. It's a right-hander if you're heading north, with a side road joining it mid-curve from the west. Suches is most notably known to motorcyclists as the location of the Two Wheels Only (TWO) campground and the western terminus of GA 180. From Suches, you can head south on 60 to US 19, take GA 180 east (see below) or turn around and go back toward Morganton. South of Suches, 60 is an entertaining road - a paradise of twists and turns. The views off the mountain are spectacular if you are of a mind to peak. Then turn left on 19 to 129 and attack Blood Mountain (also below) or to head to Helen by way of Cleveland. Or go right to Dahlonega, a small college town with a gold mining past and a variety of interesting shops and eateries in the town square.



Brasstown Bald observatory

GA 180. Another good ride. It's called Wolf Pen Gap Rd between Suches and US 129 adjacent Vogel State Park. The section near Vogel is steep and gnarly and will demand your attention. Then turn north for a couple miles on 129 and east again on 180. You can follow the eastern section past the 180 Spur, all the way to US 17 south of Hiawassee (north of Helen). Brasstown Bald is the highest point in GA and the visitor center can be accessed via the very steep and squiggly 180 Spur to the north. There's an observation tower at the summit with great views outside and local history exhibits inside. It's said that on a clear day you can see Atlanta from up there.

US 129 over Blood Mountain. Great fun. It's steep and curvy including numerous lower gear switchbacks. On weekends, there's always a crowd of motorcyclists on it so it's also patrolled. Up at the summit, the Appalachian (hiking) Trail crosses 129 running right through Neel's Gap Store. Access Blood Mountain on the north end from Blairsville or from GA 180 where it intersects 129. From the south come through Dahlonega, with its gold mining history, Cleveland or Suches.

The Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway. Aka GA 348 - the icing on the riding cake. It is just thrilling! While only about 14 miles long, it's the perfect exclamation point to a great day of mountain riding. I prefer to run it west to east because the eastern descent out of the mountain has an excellent road surface and is just an



Neel's Gap Store

incredible succession of fast sweepers. Access it south of Blairsville from GA 180 about a mile east of US 129. It terminates at GA 75 ALT just west of Helen.



Fast sweepers on the Richard Russell Scenic Highway

Final notes... if you are a fan of mountain riding, the general area of the North Georgia Classic is arguably the best place to ride in the southeastern US. April is the perfect time of year to be there if you don't mind that the vegetation hasn't greened up yet. Winter temperatures are moderating but still cool. It's too early yet for the crowds that make driving through towns impossible and out on the highways maddening. The only downside is that April can also be unpredictable weather-wise. My recommendation is to book early (just make sure you can cancel, if necessary) and keep an eye on the

forecasts. Don't forget, forecasts do change as the target dates get closer. So, don't panic and cancel too early!

Safe journeys and good health, *Tom Blake*

Safety Talk

IMPORTANT NOTICES: *Ultimately, the safety of motorcycle riders and their passengers is their own responsibility. Nothing presented in the column supersedes, negates or relieves a motorcyclist and/or passenger from assumption of personal responsibility for their actions and safety.*

NOTE: *The author has been engaged in and taught the concepts of Risk and Threat for the past 30 years, both in senior government training and operations and at the college level, as well as an MSF Rider Coach, track coach and volunteer motorcycle instructor.*

Risk and Threat in Motorcycling By Doug Westly

Another Daytona Bike Week is over and several more riders were killed or injured in crashes in Florida. Happens every year. We see an average of more than one motorcycle crash fatality every day in our state. Actually, closer to two, as in 2023 there were a total of 602 motorcycle riders and passengers killed in Florida (source: FL DMV 2023 statistics).



Risk and threat are things we accept and need to deal with in motorcycling. The very nature of our sport means we open ourselves to higher levels of risk, and the threat potential that goes along with it. But how does the concept of risk and threat really apply in motorcycling?

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), in its Basic Rider Course (BRC), boils it down to one simple approach: “SEE”. The acronym stands for Search, Evaluate, Execute. As a teachable counter application, the acronym works well. However, when deconstructed, risk and threat are two distinctly different components and should really be viewed as such. There are lots of academic, industry and conceptual definitions, but in terms of motorcycling, it is actually easy to understand.

Risk is a factor or series of factors that COULD present danger to a rider. They can be environmental, personal or mechanical. Environmental examples might include poor road conditions, heavy traffic, a foggy morning with limited visibility, etc. Personal risk factors are things like a lack of experience or training, or not being mentally prepared or focused for a ride. Mechanical risks might be something as simple as overdue servicing (when was the last time you checked your tire wear?).

Threat is completely different. Threat is a condition that presents an IMMEDIATE danger to the motorcyclist. While a blind curve might be a risk, finding an oncoming car in your lane while rounding that curve is now a threat.

Risk does not always equate to threat. Threat can materialize without an underlying (perceivable) risk. However, higher risk factors do make the potential for threat more likely. Riding in heavy traffic is a risk that raises higher potential for threats. On the other hand, an unexpected mechanical failure at speed can become a threat without an underlying perceived risk (provided the rider mitigated the risk in the first place and kept her/his bike in good condition).

The real challenge is not simply risk and threat. Understand these WILL occur if you ride a motorcycle. Your problem is how to respond to and either eliminate or mitigate the risk, and hopefully lower the potential for threat as you ride. Not all risks can be eliminated, but many can be mitigated. Threats can only be responded to as they occur. It boils down to a few simple rules:

1. **Training and education.** Learn how to improve your riding skills (that means continuing education). Understand the risk factors. Practice what you learn.
2. **Mental Focus.** Always ride smart. Never ride when you’re not focused on the ride. Never, EVER ride impaired. ALWAYS play the “what if” game when you’re on your motorcycle. Focus on your riding environment.
3. **Learn to recognize elevating risk factors.** Recognize the blind curve COULD present a threat. Decide in advance what you’re going to do when the car suddenly materializes in your lane.

Here is one final thought...Never let your ego overcome your ability. Your worst threat when you’re out riding might just be yourself.

Ride safe! – Doug Westly



South Director's Report

Ah, we had four rides this month of March...

The Florida riders continued to embrace our season for riding!! And few out of state members enjoyed our annual Daytona Bike Week Lunch as well. Meanwhile, April looks to be just as good!

Be sure to catch all the results of the month below! Tom sends in two reports, one for the Olympic Restaurant and another for the RiverGrille on the Tomoka. Doug reports in with the Solomon's Castle ride.



We filled the available motorcycle parking at the Boathouse on the South ride to Ft. Myers



17 FLMSTA riders from all over the state gathered at the Boathouse in Ft. Myers

On the South ride to Ft. Myers, we had Jim P., Buck J., Tulio S., Mike S. join me at the new Wawa station for our meet-up! A better choice over the 7-11 across the street! As usual for our westerly rides under Lake O, there's not a lot to test our riding skills. Until you have a rear-tire spoke come loose approaching South Bay! No danger to Mike, but discovering just what was making all that noise took a while. As a result, he decided to shorten his trip and head home. We were back to 5 riders as Don M. was waiting for us at the Love's Station in Moore Haven.

Arriving "early on time" allowed the Boathouse time to set up a table for the 17 of us who gathered from across the state. A few had been MIA for a while... Another good showing of support by the members and riders! We were quite proud to have filled the available motorcycle parking with our collection of bikes. The restaurant sits on the Caloosahatchee River, with a huge covered area open to the breezes of the day! We enjoyed ourselves with good food, decent service, good vibes and lots of gab!! Our 50/50 raffle netted our winner, Denise F. \$35, which she donated back to the Club! As always, a BIG THANKS to all who participate! And Eve is back

selling MSTA hats. A good thing, as Kevin B. was looking for one!

The weather continued to cooperate for us as we made our way home via separate paths! The ride coordinators surely appreciate your support and attendance!!

What's Next??

We will have a full year of rides, to the east, west, south and even a chance of a few more northerly rides. The three of us are kicking around several ideas for the pending summer months in addition to the rest of the year. Stay tuned and check the calendar often!!

And we will host a JUST FOR FUN weekend wrapped around this year's Riding Into History show! April 18-21. A separate email was sent with the details and a RSVP request. Time to respond is short, so please RSVP ASAP!!

The **East Central Lunch Ride to Drifters Riverfront Bar & Grill** in Astor happens **April 6th!! NOTE:** This is a change of venue from last month! The **South Lunch Ride** returns to **The Sandhill Grill at Pinecrest Golf Course**, in Avon Park on **April 13th**. And be sure to get to a new-to-us location, **Pancho's Villa Mexican Restaurant** in San Antonio, FL (really!) on **April 27th** for the **West Central Lunch Ride**.

Membership News!!

If you are receiving the *Gator Tale*, but not my announcements, **PLEASE** email me ASAP to correct my files. I believe I'm up to date...

THANKS to Don Moe for his efforts EVERY month to bring our Florida membership up to date with all the news about our new and renewing members!!

Here's what we know today...

We added a new member to the FLMSTA: Brian Carpenter of Boca Raton. Also, an MSTA member from another area just moved to Florida – Sam Beloff of Palm Bay. Welcome!

These Florida memberships have recently renewed:

Roy Clark Laura Gonzalez James Siler

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Eve Blasur Becky De Shazo-Westly Larry Solomon Doug Westly

We urge all our members to renew their memberships and continue supporting their MSTA. If you have a question about when your membership expires, please contact the membership committee at membership@ridemsta.com. Renewing or joining can be done quickly and securely online at PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew or PlanetReg.com/MSTAjoin respectively. If you use a pre-printed form from STARreview or an ITR, be sure to mail it to the new member of our new membership team, **Scott Snedden, 11484 Waterwood Dr., Tyler, TX 75703**, and not to the address of any prior membership director.

If you only want to update your phone, email, bikes, or other details, you can do so quickly via PlanetReg.com/MSTAupdate. **Please include enough unchanging information to assure the correct member is updated in the database.**

When you encounter a rider who would seem to be a good fit as a new MSTA member, please pass along one of our brand-new **Invitation-To-Ride Tri-folds!** For each new member you recruit and who provides your name and/or membership number on the application, you will receive a coupon for a **raffle ticket for the motorcycle touring package drawing at our next STAR event**. Any new or current member who joins or renews as a Sustaining Member will likewise receive a coupon for a raffle ticket for each year of the new membership term.

Random Ramblings!!

With 3 OR 4 rides a month, you have plenty of chances to invite a friend along and introduce them to our group!! More ITRs are available now...You know what to do...

We will continue to support our local, small business restaurants. Please send your recommendations to any of the ride coordinators.

Hoping you're living the life you love, and loving the life you live...

When you can...

Join one of our monthly rides!!

And invite a friend to ride along!!

Ride well! Ride often!! Do it safely!!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Director





East-Central Ride – Olympic Restaurant, Avon Park, FL – Tom Blake

Eleven showed up at the **Olympic Restaurant in Avon Park**. Not too bad considering the clouds and forecasted threat of storms. We opted for the screened porch and once seated, Doug asked how many years each of us had been riding. I believe the sum was 479 years or 43 each on average. A very seasoned group! Among a slew of other topics, we had a lot of recommendations for riding in Montana (Larry is planning a trip). Mike won the 50/50, splitting \$50 with the club.



I'm a big fan of Greek cuisine and was really looking forward to eating there. Surprisingly, the menu only had a handful of Greek selections. That's OK, their gyro was good. Noteworthy, too, our server kept pitchers of all our different beverages on the table and never let them run out. Most places you get one glassful. In addition to good food, decent prices and great service, the place was clean and tastefully decorated. So, it was not surprising that folks were standing in line to get in as we were leaving!

Bike Week Lunch Ride – RiverGrille on the Tomoka, Ormond Beach, FL

This is our way of welcoming visiting MSTA members in town for Bike Week – FLMSTA style. This year, like last, the luncheon was held at the **RiverGrille on the Tomoka** in mainland **Ormond Beach**. It's a very nice property featuring Creole/Cajun-inspired food in a relaxed, forested setting overlooking the historic Tomoka River. The weather was nice, so 28 of us filled all six tables on the lower outdoor deck overlooking the river. What a view! Everyone enjoyed the socializing, the food and service, the convenient and attractive location - the whole shebang. I would call it a big success.



A little post-event research reveals that this year there were only four out-of-state MSTA attendees – one each from IN, NC, TX and OH. Eighteen were FL MSTA and another six were in-state riding friends. Historically, out-of-state attendance has accounted for roughly half of the total. So, this year was definitely an outlier.



Next up: The April ride destination has been changed to **Drifters Riverfront Bar & Grill in Astor** – previously the Blackwater Inn. Hearing good things about this place, now under new ownership, so let's go check it out.

28 riders filled all six tables at the RiverGrille on the Tomoka for Bike Week Lunch Ride.

West Central Lunch Ride – Solomon’s Castle, Ona, FL – Doug Westly

Saturday’s FLMSTA ride to Solomon’s Castle went off under sunny skies and warm temperatures. Attendance was held back just a little since it was also Easter weekend, but nevertheless, we had 12 brave MSTA riders who came out. That included a half dozen that Tom brought over from the East coast. Good food and lots of motorcycle talk from everyone. Doug showed off some new technology to the group, a Heads Up Display unit in his helmet that he is testing for the industry. Carl ended up scoring the 50/50, taking home gas and lunch money.



If you missed out, take the opportunity to find Solomon’s Castle on your own...it’s worth the ride. Hopefully you can join us next month for the west central ride to Poncho’s Villa Restaurant in San Antonio, FL for great Mexican food!

Florida Rides This Month

Always remember to check the Florida MSTA [Event Calendar](#) and/or your email for updates on scheduled rides. Changes in times, dates, and especially locations are often out of our control and with short notice.

MSTA Florida East Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, April 6th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Drifters Riverfront Bar & Grill, 55716 Front St, Astor, FL ☎ (352) 759-2802 ([map](#))**

Description: A CHANGE OF VENUE!! This is the old Blackwater Inn that HSTA/MSTA used to patronize before they closed. They’re located just off SR 40 on the west side of the river. New owners have cleaned the place up. We have reports that their food, service and prices are good. Great St Johns River views. They have plenty of paved parking. Plus, it’s at a location easily accessible by east central, central and north riders.

Contact: Tom, tblake1@cfl.rr.com, or ☎ (321) 794-6147

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, April 13th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Sandhill Grill at Pinecrest Golf Course, 2250 Little Lake Bonnet Rd, Avon Park, FL ☎ (239) 332-2628 ([map](#))**

Description: A great time was had here last year! So here we go again!! Take time to enjoy the surrounding roads...

Contact: Van, busavanflmsta@gmail.com, or ☎ (561) 386-2594

Just For Fun Weekend

24th Annual Riding Into History - Motorcycle Concours d'Elegance

When: **Friday, April 19th – MSTA Lunch Ride – Depart & Return to Hotel**

Location: **Quality Inn & Suites Riverfront, 201 N 1st St, Palatka, FL ☎ (386) 328-3481 ([map](#))**

When: **Saturday, April 20th, 10:00 AM - Riding into History Motorcycle Concours d'Elegance**

Location: **Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine 4730 Dixie Hwy South, St. Augustine, FL <https://ridingintohistory.org> ([map](#))**

Description: Hotel deals, Friday group ride and lunch, Riding Into History event on Saturday...

MSTA Florida West Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, April 27th, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Pancho's Villa Mexican Restaurant**, 32804 Pennsylvania Ave, **San Antonio, FL**
☎ (352) 588-3037 ([map](#))

Description: NOTE!! We dine at 11:00 AM as this popular destination fills up fast!! And another new-to-us location!! Join us, won't you?!?

Contact: Doug, flwingrdr@msn.com, or ☎ (813) 928-1663

Just For Fun Rally - North Georgia Classic

When: Friday-Sunday, **April 26-28, 2024**

Location: Mountain Valley Inn Dillard, 13 Royalty Lane, **Dillard, GA** ☎ (706) 746-5373 ([map](#))

Description: The North Georgia Classic 2024 - A Just for Fun Rally with no rally fees. No meals provided.

Coordinator: Chad Barker, c.marion.barker@gmail.com

Contact: <https://www.ridemsta-ga.com/events/rallies/n-ga-classic-2024/>

Future Florida Rides

Note that the future ride events are included to facilitate longer term planning. The destinations and/or dates may be changed just before the ride dates. Please check the Florida MSTAs [Event Calendar](#) for any updates.

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, May 4th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Lightsey's Seafood Restaurant & Fish Co.**, 1506 S Parrott Ave, **Okeechobee, FL**
☎ (863) 763-4276 ([map](#))

Description: Always a favorite! Join us to see why!!

Contact: Van, busavanflmsta@gmail.com, or ☎ (561) 386-2594

MSTA Florida East Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, May 11th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **The Port Steak & Seafood**, 16000 Lake Hatchineha Rd., **Poinciana, FL** ☎ (863) 949-4835 ([map](#))

Description: New-to-us destination. Lakefront dining with views from every seat. The menu is weighted toward seafood. Prices look reasonable. Paved parking. Recommended.

Contact: Tom, tblakel@cfl.rr.com, or ☎ (321) 794-6147

MSTA Florida West Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, May 18th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Gloria's Restaurant**, 4816 US Hwy 17N, **Bowling Green, FL**
☎ (863) 375-9955 ([map](#))

Description: Another new-to-us location!! Looks like good home-cooking style food and reasonable prices. Join us, won't you?!?

Contact: Doug, flwingrdr@msn.com, or ☎ (813) 928-1663

MSTA TriSTAR Rally

When: Thursday-Monday (Memorial Day Weekend), **May 23-27, 2024**

Location: Alleghany Inn, 341 N Main St, **Sparta**, NC 📞 Hotel phone: (888) 372-2501 ([map](#))

Description: Over Memorial Day Weekend! The name of this Rally says it all! TriSTAR is named for its unique location in Sparta, NC which is a quaint town located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Sparta NC is a stone's throw from Virginia and Tennessee so riders can enjoy the beauty of all three states in the same ride. Sparta is a small town with a population of about 2000. Despite its small size, there are plenty of things to do when not riding.

Contact: ridemsta.com/nc-tristar

For additional Florida events and information, [click here](#) to see the Florida MSTA website's Events page. The Florida MSTA chapter also has a presence on Facebook with upcoming events and past photos: [click here](#).

Florida MSTA Apparel



As a reminder, our Florida State Storefront is open online for your MSTA-branded apparel! Go to mstaflorida.qbstores.com. We have made arrangements with the supplier for our National Gearbox to allow our State membership to buy shirts, hats, etc. with our State logos directly from the source!!! No muss, no fuss!! Order yours today!! They offer both embroidery and digital print options. Click onto the Embroidered Apparel or Shop By Logo for each option.

Don't hesitate to contact Queensboro directly with any and all questions. They are very customer friendly. They also offer Polo shirts and T-shirts with pockets!! Shopping finds online... We found some fun motorcycle t-shirts you can order online. Click the image for this particular t-shirt. There are other fun motorcycle t-shirts online at <https://teespring.com/shop/motorcycle-tshirts>.

These MSTA websites have extensive event information:



[National MSTA RideMSTA.com](#) [SE Regional MSTA MSTA-SE.com](#) [Florida MSTA FLMSTA.org](#)

We're also on Facebook: facebook.com/FLMSTA/

More Contact Information			
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Classified Ads

To find a buyer for your motorcycle items, please send your ad and pictures by email to editor@flmsta.org. Don't trash it, recycle it! One man's trash is another man's treasure!