



# The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the  
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

August 2022 - Volume 15 Issue 8

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## Feature Article

### Our 2022 Big Lynn Lodge Adventure

By Tom Blake

The Big Lynn Lodge Rally at Little Switzerland in western NC was coming up in mid-July, and Rose was as anxious as I was to get out of the Florida heat and humidity and spend some quality time in the cool mountains. She doesn't ride any more so we decided to trailer the KTM – instead of me riding and her driving.



*Big Lynn Lodge in Little Switzerland, NC*

Wednesday morning, while I was getting things ready to load into my Ford Edge, she showed up and I helped get her stuff loaded, as well as my suitcase, and then made way for her to park her car in my garage. We then promptly took off, and about nine hours later arrived in Greenwood, SC for the night. When we got up the next morning, I couldn't remember loading my riding gear. And, when I checked the car, sure enough, they weren't there. Well, shoot! At this point, Rose had no interest in going back. So, we drove up to Big Lynn Lodge anyways. What a huge disappointment!



*Some of the cottages at Big Lynn Lodge*

After most everyone showed up Thursday evening, I mentioned my oversight to a few folks. One guy said he had an extra full face (flip-up) helmet he could loan me. His roommate, Spenser – a new member, had a spare pair of Kevlar-lined jeans. Amazingly, both fit just fine. So Friday morning, I rode the Blue Ridge Parkway down to Asheville and bought a Cortech jacket at MR Cycles. Better safe than sorry! (My boots and gloves were in the suitcase.) Then I rode the parkway back to Big Lynn with a bit more vigor.

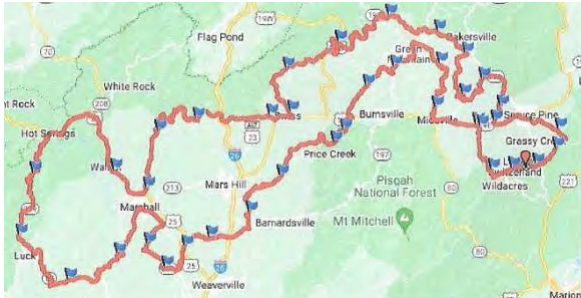
That afternoon, I got a structural massage from Anne Marie LaFrance who lives in the area and is a fixture at this rally. There's no charge, but tips are appreciated. She has a very long list of certifications and has even received some training in China. She can give the typical feel-good massages like Rose got. Or, she can address more difficult-to-correct structural issues. In my case, I was hoping she could get a little more range of motion from my old, arthritic shoulders. Well, she pressed on some pressure points so strongly that I was almost crying out! She did my shoulders some good, but it will take more than one session to correct my ingrained ailments. I really wish we lived closer to one another.



*The comfortable lounge and adjacent dining area at the lodge*

Seating in the lodge's dining room is assigned by room number. We happened to be next to a couple from Ohio – Bryan and Karen. After conversing at length over three meals, the four of us (along with everyone else) had a very enjoyable Friday evening listening to a local band called “Almost Vintage” and drinking our fill of adult-beverages. They played a variety of rock and country hits from the outdoor

patio. We all thought they did a great job and didn't want them to quit. Steve, from Lake City, FL was there, too, having a grand time..



*“Lots of Turns 225-mile Loop” in NC*

Bryan on his Kawasaki Z1000 and I on my KTM 1290 Super Duke GT decided to spend the day Saturday riding the “Lots of Turns 225-mile Loop”. It endlessly zigged and zagged and rose and fell heading west (beyond Asheville to the south) then curved north and then back east (below Hot Springs) to Little Switzerland. There were so many turns that we decided to lop off about one third of the western-most segment by cutting north on US 19 and picking the loop back up on the eastbound section. Even still, we were out all day and were pretty much spent by the time we got back. Thanks to Doug Pippin for his

excellent route planning! This was just one of about 17 GPS downloadable routes to choose from...

Closing ceremonies were Saturday after dinner. There was a 50/50 drawing, and Dave Brickner handed out a variety of prizes. We had planned to leave Sunday, but Rose and I decided to enjoy a few more days in the mountains. So on Sunday, we drove down the Parkway to Mt. Mitchell. At 6,684 feet, it's the highest mainland peak east of the Mississippi River. The road spirals up past the park restaurant to a parking area near the top, but there are about a hundred yards or so of moderately steep hiking path to get to the observation deck at the summit. And up there, you have great views in all directions.



*Atop 6684-ft. Mt Mitchell and on the observation deck*

On Monday, we drove north on the parkway to Linville Falls and spent most of the morning hiking up to four of the falls' overlooks – great views and what a workout! Felt good.



*South portion of the Linn Cove Viaduct*

Afterward, we drove further north to the Linn Cove Viaduct. The viaduct is basically a bridge which arcs around the side of an ancient mountain to preserve its rugged terrain and forests. Uniquely, the various 50-ton prefabricated sections are held together with massive steel tendons and epoxy – a technique which originated in Europe.



*Linville Falls*

On Tuesday, we just stayed at the lodge, read, worked crosswords, took short walks and enjoyed the cool breezes. We did drive over to Bonnie & Clyde's Restaurant near Bakersville for lunch. There wasn't much to it, but the hamburgers were good.





*Bogart's Restaurant – Waynesville, NC*

Wednesday, on our way south, we stopped at Bogart's Restaurant in Waynesville, NC for lunch. The place has lots of character, and their food and service are always top notch. Bill and Nicole turned us on to this place several years ago, and now we try to get over there whenever we're in the area.

US 441 took us south through GA. Just below Athens, we were in the process of accelerating from a stoplight. I had just glanced down at the instrument panel for a second when BAM, something hit the front of the car. Me: "What the hell was that?" Rose: "I think it was a deer!" Honestly, I never saw the

darn thing. It apparently came in low and hit the bumper below the grill. We never felt or heard anything except for the one BAM. So, it must have gotten chucked off to the side. I stopped down the road a ways where I could safely pull off. Didn't really notice any damage (although I've since noticed some minor plastic issues on the right side and some residual deer hair wedged into crevasses). Later on, the front pre-collision sensor quit working per a message on the display. And without that, there was no cruise control either. Well dang.

We stayed on US 441 into lake City then cut over to FL 100 to Palatka. US 17 took us down to Crescent City where we stopped for a 2:30 lunch at 3 Bananas (one of the FL MSTA's favorite places).

When we got back in the car, neither the Audio, the Navigation, the car-activated Phone, the Climate system, the Apps panel nor the Settings menu worked. The center display screen had frozen. I could use my cell manually and some separate temperature controls but not via the touch display nor steering wheel buttons. Mostly, I missed the Nav but had traveled to 3 Bananas enough to remember the way home. So we were OK. Thank goodness it hadn't happened earlier.



*3 Bananas restaurant in Crescent City, FL*

We managed to avoid all interstates on the way home. That's a first. Once home and after the time it took to unload the bike, disconnect and park the trailer, etcetera, the electronics started working again. But not the collision / cruise. Ford service is working on the car as I write. We were fortunate the deer damage was minor. And BTW, the pre-collision sensor did not detect the deer either.

Two final notes: 1) I had a negative COVID test after returning home. That after interacting with many of the attendees and others in route. 2) The roads in this area of NC are even more challenging than those in N GA and far western NC. That was a surprise and reason enough to go back...

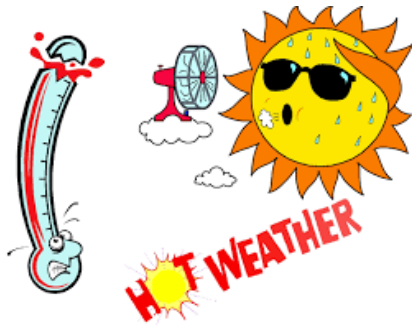
And that, my friends, concludes the report on our 2022 Big Lynn Lodge adventure.

– 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. [Ed. Note: This article was previously published in the July 2014 edition of The Florida MSTA Gator Tale.]*

### **Subtropics By Doug Westly**



I always get a chuckle when northern or western riders come to Florida in summer and ask “How do you ride in this weather?”

We are now in the middle of summer. I saw 97° outside temperature indicated on my GS instrument panel the other day. Even our cats refuse to go outside during middle of the day. So, how do we cope with the hot weather riding?

First off, pay attention to the cats. If they aren’t going out when the sun is high in the sky, maybe we shouldn’t be hopping on our bikes at that time, either. The easiest way to beat the heat is to ride first thing in the morning and/or late afternoon into evening. Mid-afternoons in Florida should be re-served for naps, boating, and BBQs...in that order. I never get past the first one.

Next: Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. If you wait until you’re thirsty to start drinking water, you’re too late. If you know you’re going to be riding, start hydrating well before that.

Let’s all know the symptoms of hyperthermia, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. I won’t go into all the medical information here, as it would take the rest of the column, but if you’re going to be out in the Florida summer sun, make sure you bone up on the medical safety aspects.

Choose your gear wisely. I saw at least one rider this past weekend in full, non-perforated race leathers, riding on the street in the heat of the day. While I applaud him for his views on crash safety, I question his common sense. Part of safety is understanding the relationship between your gear and the environment, and encapsulating yourself in a leather sauna suit, in 95°-plus weather for a street ride is probably not an exhibition of understanding. That’s why they make perforated leather, armored mesh, etc. Good undergarments that wick sweat can help. If you need to, soak down your t-shirt and your gear, then get back on and ride. It will turn your gear into an air conditioner.

Whatever you do, DON’T say to yourself, “It’s too hot for gear. Just this once I’ll only ride in...” Don’t do it. Fail.

If you’ve decided to go ahead and ride in the heat of the day, make sure the environment is part of your ride strategy. Limit yourself to short rides, or short stages in a longer ride. Take lots of breaks. Keep up the fluid intake. Wear a backpack reservoir and sip regularly throughout the ride.

Finally, watch out for each other as well as yourself. Let’s all take care as we ride during the hot summer months!

*Ride safe! – Doug Westly*



## South Director's Report

### **The lazy days of summer...**

Well, it may have been for some, but not for your Directors!! First off, we had to scramble the dates for the Central Ride, as Johnny's Eggs was still on vacation July 9<sup>th</sup>. A simple bump to July 16<sup>th</sup> and we were good to go. We took the hint, and checked with Myshelly's... They were on vacation until August 1<sup>st</sup>! Fortunately, the Kountry Kitchen in Immokalee is "always" open, so we switched up the locations and busied ourselves with several announcements tracking the updates!

The Central Ride was a big hit!! Carl's report is below. The large turnout was much appreciated, by the Eggs staff, Carl and me!!

I'll add in a few words here, as I led a small group of Southies up to Frostproof. All were glad they made the ride! Especially James, as this year has thrown his riding schedule all to hell! We managed the morning ride in the mid 70's, a welcomed relief from the usual temps. We caught up with Larry at a new rendezvous, and the four of us meandered over hill and dale to Johnny's. We liked the route so much, we rode it back home...with one additional element. Along the Bee Line Hwy, if there's rain in the area, you'll encounter it there! We split the heavy clouds and welcomed a brief shower. With the temps back up near 90°, the evaporative effect kept us comfortable right to our back doors!

With the large Central attendance, our 50/50 raffle was well funded. Becky was our lucky winner, and graciously donated her half back to the Club! We added \$50 to our previous sum, and now have a total of \$783. Always a BIG THANKS to all who participate in our raffle!!

In contrast, the South Ride was enjoyed by just three of us. JR and Buck were waiting for me at the 7-11, and off we went to Clewiston. Nobody was waiting for us there, so off we went to Immokalee. The route through the vast "agri-glades" was under puffy clouds and blue skies. Recent rains left the corners clean and predictable. And the roads were all ours!! The Kountry Kitchen maintained its deserved reputation. We even hung around a little longer to keep Larry company for his meal after a late arrival. He was on his way to see his parents further west...We made our way home over different roads, but fortunately, still ended up at the Village Market for a welcomed ice cream stop. And, as some of you know, in the Glades, if there's rain in the area,

you'll encounter it there! We split the heavy clouds and welcomed a brief shower. With the temps back up near 90°, the evaporative effect kept us comfortable right to our back doors! Deja vu all over again....



*JR, Larry and Buck at the Kountry Kitchen in Immokalee*

## **What's Next??**

The Central Brunch ride happens first. Head to **The Cup Diner in St. Cloud on August 6<sup>th</sup>**. Two weeks later, the South Brunch ride lands at **Myshelly's Kitchen in Arcadia on August 20<sup>th</sup>**. Look for the announcements soon. Just two more Brunch rides left this year!!



## 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...

FLMSTA welcomes a new member, Buck DeShazo, of Auburndale. Welcome!

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Carlos Albuerne	James Faulkner	Joshua Ridder	Tulio Suarez Thillet	Tom Trieschmann
			Bob Summers	Lynn Trieschmann

These Florida memberships have recently renewed their membership in the MSTA:

Dell Haverland      Ellen Kocher

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](mailto:membership@ridemsta.com). Renewing or joining can be done quickly and securely online at [PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew) or [PlanetReg.com/MSTAjoin](http://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](http://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.

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## Random Ramblings!!

We've had some really fine riding this summer, despite the late afternoon temps at nearly 90°. I get ribbed about how early the starts are for the Brunch rides; but rolling along in the mid 70's with the sun rising in the east is a wonderful way to begin a day!!

Well, we've coped with COVID for 2½ YEARS now, and likely you all have settled your score with the pandemic and your course of action. As the variants continue to circulate around the globe, please stay vigilant and continue to be healthy.

*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 Co-Director**





## Central Director's Report

### **July Central Ride – Johnny's Egg Works, Frostproof, FL**

Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> was clear with pleasant temps in the mid 70's. Two of us met and departed for Johnny's Egg Works via the dreaded I-4 through Orlando. With the I-4 Ultimate Project finally completed, the ride through Orlando early in the morning was not crowded, and traffic was flowing at 70 mph. We took US 27 south, and once we cleared Haines City, traffic was not crowded. The two of us arrived at Johnny's at 08:50 AM to find three riders already there. Soon 16 riders were there. It was about an even split between Central and South riders.

Johnny's excellent staff accommodated us in their meeting room, and we could all sit together. Service was great and the food delicious. Conversation flowed freely, and camaraderie was great. Frostproof is off of the beaten path and offers a relaxing change of pace. Around 11AM, we began to break up and go our separate ways.

For the ride home, we chose to ride FL 17 up to Dundee where we hopped back on US 27 and rode north to Minneola. From there we took backroads to Apopka and home.



*16 Central and Southie riders showed up for a great time at Johnny's Egg Works in Frostproof.*

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## 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 Central Brunch Ride**

When: Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: **The Cup Diner**, 1407 13th St, St Cloud, FL ☎ (407) 891-1488 ([map](#))

Description: Another favorite deserving a return visit!!

Contact: Carl, [carltr6@hotmail.com](mailto:carltr6@hotmail.com), or ☎ (386) 793-0030

### **MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride**

When: Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: **Myshelly's Kitchen**, 15 W. Oak St., Arcadia, FL ☎ (863) 993-5030 ([map](#))

Description: They treated us so nicely the last time we landed here. Great food and service in a homey atmosphere.

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

## MSTA Red River Gorge Just For Fun Rally – Slade, KY

When: **Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**

Location: **Ramada Limited Mount Sterling**, 115 Stone Trace Dr, **Mt Sterling, KY** ([map](#))

Description: Red River Gorge Just For Fun Rally. This is an MSTA-sanctioned event. No rally fee.

However, we will be collecting donations for the Dan Clark Safety Fund at the Rally and ask you to give whatever you can (suggested donation is \$10). We will be using the Ramada Inn in Mt. Sterling as our rally HQ again. They have kindly given us the same rate as the past 2 years of \$84.95 plus tax per night. You must CALL the hotel to secure your room. Please ask for a room in the MSTA BLOCK. The phone number is 859-497-9400, ask for Heather. All rooms not reserved by August 1st will go back to the general public.

You can register for the event at <https://reg.planetreg.com/httpsreg.planetReg.comRRGR2022>  
Registration will open on January 1, 2022.

No MSTA routes will be given out to anyone that does not pre-register or register at the event. Routes in GPX form will be available to all registered participants.

Contact: Coordinator: Patrick Mogavero 859-620-6352 / [kzrex@aol.com](mailto:kzrex@aol.com)

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## 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 MSTA [Event Calendar](#) for any updates.

### **MSTA Florida Central Lunch Ride**

When: **Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Gator Joe's Beach Bar & Grill**, 12431 SE 135 Ave, **Ocklawaha, FL** ☎ (407)891-1488 ([map](#))

Description: Yup, we're sneaking in an early season LUNCH ride! Back to Lake Weir! We'll dine on the north shore at an old favorite. Lots of good grub to accompany the gab out on the deck overlooking the lake!

Contact: Carl, [carltr6@hotmail.com](mailto:carltr6@hotmail.com), or ☎ (386) 793-0030

### **MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride**

When: **Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

Location: **Landing Strip Cafe**, 2800 NW 20th Trail, **Okeechobee, FL** ☎ (239) 657-6606 ([map](#))

Description: It's been forever since we dined here as a group. Time to drop back in!!

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

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](#).

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## Florida MSTA Apparel



As a reminder, our Florida State Storefront is open online for your MSTA-branded apparel! Go to [mstaflorida.qbstores.com](http://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>.

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These MSTA websites have extensive event information:

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*National MSTA* [RideMSTA.com](http://RideMSTA.com)    *SE Regional MSTA* [MSTA-SE.com](http://MSTA-SE.com)    *Florida MSTA* [FLMSTA.org](http://FLMSTA.org)

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We're also on Facebook: [facebook.com/FLMSTA/](https://facebook.com/FLMSTA/)

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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](mailto:editor@flmsta.org).  
Don't trash it, recycle it! One man's trash is another man's treasure!