



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

March 2024 - Volume 17 Issue 3

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Contact Information:

Florida State Director:

Van VanSteelant – busavanflmsta@gmail.com

East Central Florida Area Rep:

Tom Blake – tblake1@cfl.rr.com

West Central Florida Area Rep:

Doug Westly – flwingrdr@msn.com

Florida Gator Tale Editor:

Kim Longacre – editor@flmsta.org

Feature Article

Daytona and Riding the Ormond Scenic Loop Trail

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 issue of the FLMSTA Gator Tale.]

Larry couldn't make Van's Sebring ride in February and was keen to do something the following Saturday. Eckert was also up for some seat time. Since we hadn't been to Daytona in a while, I suggested heading up that



The Loop Trail

way and doing **The Ormond Scenic Loop Trail**. Neither of them had ridden it before.

Also, with Bike Week and Spring Break coming up, there was just no way I was going to get in amongst all that humanity just yet. But going up there early, maybe stopping at a bike shop or two and doing **The Loop** would be a good substitute. Two birds with one stone. We met Saturday morning, shoved off at nine and headed north on *US 1*.

To add a little spice, at Port St John just below the power plants, we took *King's Highway* west to *Grissom Parkway* and then turned north about 4 miles to *Perimeter Road*. This was the plum to be picked. *Perimeter Road* skirts around the south and southeast edge of Spaceport Regional Airport back to *US 1* [[map](#)]. It has about ten really nice curves that you can carry good speed on with short straights in between. There's not much in the way of elevation changes, but it otherwise was almost as good as being in north Georgia – at least for a few minutes. That got everyone's blood pumping again and from there, we got back on *US 1* to Daytona.



Tomoka State Park

Our first stop was an extended one at Euro Cycles of Daytona, the BMW / Triumph / Energica dealer, for a much needed break and some socially distanced tire kicking. One thing I like about BMW dealers is that most have free bottled water, sodas and coffee. This one's located just across the Halifax River Bridge from iconic *Main Street, Daytona Beach*.

From there we headed north on *Beach Street* along the Halifax River into the city of [Ormond Beach](#). The **Loop Trail** starts at *Grenada Boulevard (SR 40)*. To run it clockwise, there's about 3 miles of residential area along 2-lane *North Beach Street*.

The nicer homes on larger lots were on the river side to the east. Then we encountered almost two miles of very rural, heavily treed terrain through a section of [Tomoka State Park](#).



*Live oak canopy over
Old Dixie Hwy*

The road began to get curvy as it crossed the Tomoka River into low country with water on both sides. We were now in the lower part of [Bulow Creek State Park](#). The road, now called *Old Dixie Hwy*, meandered about five miles in a northerly direction through more lowlands and then under a beautiful canopy of old oaks to *Walter Boardman Lane*. There the loop trail turned east.

Walter Boardman Lane was about a mile of mildly descending narrow 2-lane. The trees on either side were standing in swampy terrain, and then we were out of the trees and barely above the marsh's waterline. Across a

bridge, the trail turned right onto *High Bridge Road* which headed south then abruptly east, still barely above the marsh waters on either side. Then it rose a bit and crossed the Halifax River onto the barrier island.

On the east side of the Halifax just over the bridge, we found a park on the south side with shaded picnic tables, restrooms and a boat ramp. So we stopped to leisurely dig into our BYO lunches, chat and watch the boat traffic out in the river and the ones launching or trailering. Did I mention, the sun was out all day and temperatures ranged from about 73° to 83° but were mostly in the upper 70's? It was just a beautiful late February day to be out and about.



*Scenic view along
Highbridge Road*

From there, the Loop can follow *John Anderson Drive* about 9 miles south along the east side of the Halifax to *SR 40*. The first part of it is more rural. Or you can continue east 0.2 miles to *A1A* and follow it to *SR 40* - whatever melds best with the rest of your day's plans. Of course, you can also run the Loop counter-clockwise.



*Ocean view along A1A in
Ormond-by-the-Sea*

I usually take *Anderson*, but the two stops we had already made ran a little long. To get Larry home on schedule, we opted for *A1A*. I'm not sure it was helpful because it seemed like everyone in northern Volusia County was at the beach that afternoon. We didn't make good time, but at least we didn't have to stop until we got to Ormond Beach. And the scenery was great because 2-lane *A1A* here was just off the beach sands. Much of that area is called *Ormond-by-the-Sea*.

Here's a link to a [Trip Advisor website](#) with 83 photos taken along or near the Loop Trail [[photos](#)]. They will give you a better understanding of the visually stimulating scenery the Loop ride offers. Click on the first photo to enlarge it and then you can scroll easily through them.

Even apart from the scenery though, The Loop Trail can be quite enjoyable, especially if you have the opportunity to pick it up a bit out in the rural areas. There are enough curves out there to bump the heart rate up a bit and get a little grin going. It's hard to do during Bike Week because the trail is packed with riders. Plus, there's all the distracting HOG noise. The off season is better.

From *A1A*, we cut across [Main Street in Daytona Beach](#) as a further nod to Bike Week, and then followed less-trafficked *Peninsula Drive* south. Eventually, we took *Dunlawton Avenue* over to *I-95* and then pinned our ears back.

All in all, it was a day very well spent. My thanks to Larry for the motivation and to both he and Eckert for the good company. Larry since wrote that he made it home in time. When I finally wound down, slumber overtook me with a very contented smile still on my face.



*Looking east on Main Street,
Daytona Beach*

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.*

Left-Turning Drivers

By Doug Westly

Ok, Gang. Last month, just within one week in the Tampa Bay area we have lost two riders to left-turning drivers. Everyone needs to refocus on the risks out there on the road, particularly in high traffic areas!

Here are the facts. The most likely place for multi-vehicle accidents involving a motorcycle is at an intersection. Statistically, it is more likely to be another vehicle turning left in front of an approaching motorcycle or otherwise violating the rider's right-of-way.

Now, I'm going to say something a lot of riders aren't going to want to hear. Even though the other driver may have been at fault in this type of crash, there are times when the rider contributed to the incident, either through a lack of awareness or outright actions in violation of traffic laws.

First off, remember that every entrance to a road is an intersection. Whether it's a home driveway, an exit from a parking lot, or a multi-lane highway intersection, we need to have our rider radar tuned up and on high anytime we are riding in areas with intersections.

Drivers simply are not conditioned to see motorcycles. Add to that the distractions found in driving today, particularly the dreaded cell phone usage, and it's no wonder we don't see even more crashes out there on the roads.

Now, about those riding actions that add to the risk. Not paying attention when approaching an active intersection is probably the main culprit. When we approach a potentially dangerous intersection, we need to actively identify potential dangers. It could be a car sitting at the spot in the road where it could be turning left, creeping slowly forward or with the front wheels already pointing in the direction of the turn. Is the driver on the cell phone? Are they even looking in our direction as we approach? Is the light about to change and they are going to run the yellow or red light? Riders need to actively ask these questions to themselves as they watch the situation closely.

In at least one of the incidents in the Tampa Bay Area last month, the motorcycle's speed was also a factor. If the speed limit is 35 mph and you're approaching the intersection at 60 mph, the left-turning driver may be assuming you're observing the speed limit and has enough time to make the turn. Don't be part of the problem that might end your riding days or worse.

Also, don't get caught like the other drivers, focusing on your own cell phone while you ride. We're better than that (or should be!).

The MSF calls it "SEE", meaning Search-Evaluate-Execute. Actively look for risk when you're out riding. If you see that potential risk, evaluate it and decide what action you're going to take. If necessary, slow down and give yourself more time to react. The techniques work. Watch those intersections and don't get caught by surprise!

Ride safe! – Doug Westly





South Director's Report

We continue to make the most of our best riding season...

Our three lunch rides drew sizable crowds, who enjoyed wonderful weather, good grub and lots of gab!! Again, several attendees made more than one lunch. Good times were had by all! Please check out Tom's and Doug's reports below.

And our 50/50 raffle fund also had a good month. The East lunch ride generated \$32, the South lunch added \$42, and the West ride kicked in \$60! for a total of \$134 in February! We start March with \$365.00. Always a **BIG THANKS** to all who participate.



3 tables of hungry riders enjoyed the tasty offerings at Saltwater Marina Restaurant in Sebastian



22 West, Central and South guys and gals joined the Central Lunch Ride to Sebastian

The South ride was coastal, both in route and setting. We started with 10 riders at our meet-up, having three members from the South Florida Riders Club join us for the ride. We picked up one more enroute, and enjoyed a leisurely cruise along the intracoastal waterway up to the Saltwater Marina Restaurant in Sebastian. Doug and Becky joined us from the West, and the usual Central guys and gals rounded out attendance to 22! We even added a new member, Brian Carpenter, as a result the "good vibrations" enjoyed by all!

The setting is picture perfect and the three tables of hungry riders carried on and enjoyed the tasty offerings! What a way to spend the day! With several other options dotting the intracoastal, we will continue to enjoy this area for years to come.

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 will be sent soon with the details and a RSVP request...

The East Central Lunch Ride to the Olympic Restaurant happened March 2nd!! Though the weather was overcast, we had a good crowd and good times! The Daytona Lunch Ride returns to the RiverGrille on the Tomoka on March 7th. The South Lunch Ride returns to The Boathouse Tiki Bar and Grill in Ft. Myers on March 16th. And, be sure to get to Solomon's Castle in Ona on March 30th 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 – Charles Quesenberry of Vero Beach. Welcome!

These Florida memberships have recently renewed:

Michael Demario Larry Gonzalez Alan Spears

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Roy Clark Robert Croot Laura Gonzalez Raymond Harcourt James Siler

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!!

How can you not like the "winter" down here... Cooler temps and longer rides await!! When you can...Join one of our monthly rides!!

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 – Deland Fish House, Deland, FL – Tom Blake

The East Central ride this month was to the Deland Fish House in, you guessed it, Deland. Seven riders from the Space Coast BMW Riders Club joined us. I was absolutely delighted with the turnout including riders from Winter Park, The Villages, St Augustine, Vero, Lakeland and Stuart – as well as the Melbourne contingent. I even persuaded past member, Keith Harrison from the Flagler area, to ride over. It was just a really nice get-together of twenty individuals all with a common passion and so much to chat about.



The 50/50 grossed \$65 with \$33 going to Terry Casto. Tulio from Stuart was hands down the LD champ with 197 miles traveled to get there (and close to 234 to get home).

The restaurant was clean and very nice. The food was tasty and not too pricy. Our group pretty much filled one whole wing of the dining area. Our waitress, who also worked cash, stayed really busy but did, under the circumstances, a commendable job.

Next month, East-Central is sponsoring our normal lunch, this time at the Olympic Restaurant in Avon Park on the 2nd and the Thursday Bike Week Lunch at the RiverGrille on the Tomoka in Ormond Beach on the 7th. The Olympic Restaurant is new to us, so I'm excited to give them a try. We used the RiverGrille last year for Bike Week, and it was very well received. So, please mark your calendars and join us for both if you can.

West Central Lunch Ride – The Shamrock Inn, Floral City, FL – Doug Westly



17 riders rode some of the backroads in the state to Floral City for the West Central Ride.

The West Central Lunch Ride to Floral City was amazing last week. A total of 17 riders showed up, undoubtedly due to the beautiful weather and some of the best backroads in the state. The Shamrock Inn is always a group favorite and as in past years, it didn't disappoint. It's just a little family-run place in what passes for downtown Floral City. Good food and prices that haven't gone through the roof (at least yet!).

By the way, Floral City is a one stoplight town, and that's just for the turn off the highway into the enclave. If you haven't ridden the roads in and around Floral City to Brooksville, you're missing fantastic, uncrowded and good pavement that wanders through pastures, woods and small towns. For the more adventurous, there are routes of broken pavement and dirt roads as well.

If you missed this one, be sure to join us next month for our annual foray down to Solomon's Castle in Ona.

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, March 2nd, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Olympic Restaurant, 504 US Hwy 27, Avon Park, FL** ☎ (863) 452-2700 ([map](#))

Description: New to us. As you might guess, the menu is slanted toward Greek food, pastries and desserts. Appears to be roomy, good for groups and has ample paved parking.

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

MSTA Daytona Bike Week Lunch Ride

When: **Thursday, March 7th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **RiverGrille on the Tomoka, 950 US-1, Ormond Beach, FL** ☎ (386) 615-2004 ([map](#))

Description: This is a repeat location for our Thursday Bike Week Lunch from last year. No one can complain about having a long ride from the Daytona attractions to get here. Very attractive and easy-to-get-to location next to the Tomoka River off US 1 in Ormond Beach. They open at 11:30, and we'd like to be first in line for their usual quick seating.

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

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, March 16th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **The Boathouse Tiki Bar & Grill – Fort Myers, 17101 SR 31, Fort Myers, FL**
☎ (239) 332-2628 ([map](#))

Description: Here we go again! The few who ventured here before had a GREAT time! Plan to be there "early-on-time" as it does get crowded, and they require all who want a seat to be present before they will seat you.

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

MSTA Florida West Central Lunch Ride

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

Location: **Solomon's Castle, 4533 Solomon Rd, Ona, FL** ☎ (863) 494-6077 ([map](#))

Description: A favorite for many years! Check it out for yourself!!

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

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 East Central Lunch Ride

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

Location: **Funky Pelican, 215 S Ocean Shore Blvd, Flagler Beach, FL** ☎ (386) 439-0011 ([map](#))

Description: New to us - this place is right on the beach next to the Flagler pier guaranteeing fantastic ocean and pier views. Varied menu weighted toward seafood. Parking appears to be along A1A next to the boardwalk.

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: **TBD**

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/>

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			
Kim Longacre Newsletter Editor editor@flmsta.org	P. 'Van' VanSteelant FL State Director ☎ (561) 386-2594 busavanflmsta@gmail.com	Tom Blake East Central Area Rep ☎ (321) 794-6147 tblake1@cfl.rr.com	Doug Westly West Central Area Rep ☎ (813) 928-1663 flwingrdr@msn.com

Classified Ads

2018 Kawasaki Ninja 1000 ABS For Sale



- Corner carver AND a long-distance companion!
- One owner
- Stock bike
- 16,872 adult ridden miles
- 1043 cc 6 speed
- Side bags with trims/keyed to the bike
- 1 year-old battery
- 1500 miles on Dunlop RoadSmart IV tires
- 1500 miles on dealer oil change
- **Recent Price Reduction! Now asking \$8,960.00**

Van, FL State Director

busavanflmsta@gmail.com / (561) 386-2594

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!