



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

September 2022 - Volume 15 Issue 9

In September 2022 Issue:

- Page 1 – [Feature Article](#)
- Page 2 – [Safety Talk](#)
- Page 3 – [Florida News](#)
- Page 5 – [Florida Rides](#)
- Page 6 – [Future Florida Rides](#)
- Page 6 – [Florida MSTA Apparel](#)
- Page 7 – [Classified Ads](#)

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Feature Article

STAR 2022 Cape Girardeau, MO Two-Wheeled Memories That Will Last a Lifetime!

By Jerry James

We are going to change things up this month. Last year, for our Feature Article, we welcomed a report about STAR 2021 from **Jerry and Jamie James**. It was their first ever STAR, and their enthusiasm was clearly



*Beautiful morning for a ride
at STAR 2022 in Cape Girardeau, MO
photo: Jerry James*

evident! Even though we had nearly 20 Floridians in attendance, including moi, I thought sharing a first-timer's perspective with the "crusty oldtimers" would reignite fond memories of our own first event. And their wonderful blog would offer far more to enjoy beyond their words...

Well, somebody else thought Jerry and Jamie did a terrific job last year, and engaged them to write up a report for the latest STARReview, covering STAR 2022. Prior to receiving the magazine on Wednesday, Kim and I had received word from Jerry that he would be thrilled if we promoted their blog and website as our "Feature Article" in lieu of a written report this month.



*Click the STAR 2022 logo to see
photos from this year's STAR Rally.*

So, here ya go!! Head to (*click the link*) <https://motoadrenalinetours.blog>

for a thoroughly entertaining STAR 2022 report from two truly enthusiastic motorcyclists! Their videos and photos are well done, and complement their report in the latest STARReview! And be sure to noodle around their site and check out their other offerings.

For photos from this year's STAR Rally, go to the photos page on the [FLMSTA website](#) for a link to the STAR 2022 Photos or click the STAR 2022 logo [here](#).

We'll be back to "normal" next month... 😊

– Van VanSteelant

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 February 2015 edition of The Florida MSTA Gator Tale.]*



Head and Eyes By Doug Westly

This month's article is all about technique. Something as simple, or maybe not so, as how you use your head and eyes.

Everyone has heard the phrase "You go where you look". Why does it happen? There is a bio-mechanical term called "body indexing". Simply explained, your head is attached to the rest of you, so when you turn your head, the body naturally orients in that direction. Since you are attached to the bike at the handlebars, butt and feet, so goes the motorcycle. Your eyes further refine this by giving you a visual target at which to aim your body and bike. That's why we tell riders to look through the curve; look away from the obstacle to a clear path, etc. If you look at the dead skunk in the road, you're probably going to hit it...and spend a lot of time cleaning afterwards, both the bike and yourself.

The head and eyes do a few other things for us in terms of riding. One of the main contributions is to our balance, particularly at slow speed. Have you ever seen someone wobble to a stop or when they start off? The next time you see it, look at their head and eyes. Chances are they are looking down. Your balance is controlled by your inner ear, collectively called the vestibular system in terms of balance. Without going into a lot of medical detail, suffice it to say that in order to keep our balance, we use our eyes and head to orient ourselves relative to the horizon, or perpendicular to the ground. If you wonder why you are wobbling when you stop, check your head and eyes position. Keeping them up and on the horizon, and letting your peripheral vision control your stopping point, will smooth out your stops. The same thing for your starts. Don't bother looking at the bike as you ease out the clutch. Keep your head and eyes up, and it will help your balance. It becomes even more critical in slow tight turns, like U-turns in parking lots. Yes, you need to turn your head and eyes to see around that tight turn. However, you also need to keep your head and eyes up and level while you complete the turn.

Some more thoughts about head and eyes. Experts tell us our central vision extends to only about 3 degrees off center. Everything outside of that is peripheral vision. We think it is a lot wider than that, because we routinely move our head and eyes in search of visual information. While peripheral vision is a good thing, we need to constantly keep our eyes moving, using our central vision to gather visual data to keep ourselves safe.

Don't get complacent with your head and eyes. Keep looking around. MSF suggests using a system for gathering visual information. Think "Road surface - Traffic devices - Other Traffic" and use these as categories to visually search for clues and information to keep you safe as you ride.

Your head and eyes are one of the keys to safe, smooth riding. They are also critical in keeping you safe as you enjoy our amazing sport!

Ride safe! – Doug Westly



South Director's Report

Another Floridian summer month...

It must be challenging for the weather reporters to spin the same forecast week after week and make it sound new and exciting... "Lows in the 80's, highs in the 90's, with a real chance of rain somewhere in Florida." It does make planning easier, as it will be hot and humid, and likely rainy. Again.

Breaking news... for me at least!! In my absence this year, this terrific news slipped by me! Two of our own were recognized at STAR this summer! **Jim Park** was presented with the President's Award! Pat gets to choose one member each year to recognize for their accomplishments and contributions to the Club over the years. I can vouch for Jim's worthiness!!

And, **Ellen Kocher** was presented with the Jean Monacelli award! This unique MSTA award has a wonderful history, honoring a wonderful early member in the HSTA. Ellen was joined on stage with several of the past winners. Including our own Eve Blazsur! Congratulations!!

Carl's "report" on the Central Brunch ride to the Cup Diner is below. We also have a bad news/good news report on a fellow member. Catch it all below.

The South Brunch ride was a big draw! I met Buck, Jim, Steve, Bob and JR at the 7-11 before the sunrise. We caught the orange ball arising in our rear view mirrors as we headed to Love's. There, we met Larry, Don and Brian, and made the most of straight-line roads to Arcadia. A pleasant ride in the high 70's under mostly clear skies.

We joined Dorothy and Dennis, Eve, Tom, Alan and Doug who were arranging for our group table to be re-established, as another riding group was seated at our reserved table due to a lack of communication among the staff at Myshelly's. A hint of pending difficulties.

Prior to the difficulties, our 50/50 raffle was well funded. Doug was our lucky winner, and graciously donated his half back to the Club! We added \$48 to our previous sum, and now have a total of \$831. Always a BIG THANKS to all who participate in our raffle!!

We ended up at two tables. Lots of gab and good cheer for most of the morning. The smaller table enjoyed a typical meal and service. In fact, they were able to leave for home before our meals even arrived. Our 11-meal order was mishandled. One of our members had to leave before eating, after riding 90 minutes to join us. And like last year, there were additional issues with the checks and recording of payments. To summarize our experience, and be polite in a few words, the training of her staff is inadequate. It's a shame really, as the facility and food are quite good. With a later than expected departure time, most of us made our own way home. I soloed a direct route home to honor an appointment, while four Southies made their way along the Venus bypass and likely enjoyed an ice cream stop in Clewiston...!



Lots of gab and good cheer at Myshelly's in Arcadia

What's Next??

The **Central LUNCH** ride happens first. Head to **Gator Joe's Beach Bar & Grill in Ocklawaha on Sept. 10th**. Yep, a headstart on the fall lunch rides!! Two weeks later, the **South Brunch** ride lands at the **Landing Strip Cafe in Okeechobee on September 24th**. Look for the announcements soon. We switch to LUNCH rides for real in October!

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 (3) new members: Michael Kwon of Plant City, Mabel Navarro of Altamonte Springs, and Kendra Semenick of Port Orange. Welcome!

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Carlos Albuerne Joshua Ridder Tulio Suarez Thillet Brian Van Scoy

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

Jim Faulkner Bob Summers Lynn Trieschmann Tom Trieschmann

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!!

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

August Central Ride – The Cup Diner, St. Cloud, FL

Carl will rejoin us for next month's report. There was a ride to The Cup Diner on August 6th. Seven riders from near and far attended. As The Cup is a regular stop, I have to assume that all enjoyed another terrific brunch with good cheer and great grub!!

Be sure to join Carl and Central riders for LUNCH at Gator Joe's on Sept. 10th!! We snuck in an early LUNCH ride this year. Come on out and enjoy the water view!

On a serious note, **Jacky Ilse Zeigler**, an FLMSTA member from Ft. Lauderdale, was in a single-vehicle motorcycle wreck on Friday, August 19th en route to Arcadia for the MSTA South Brunch. She suffered a broken right shoulder blade and collarbone injury, as well as damage to her left eye. Fortunately, her vision is not impaired. The accident occurred on CR 74, Blemont Road, in Charlotte County near the Glades County line. Because of the remote location, she was life-flighted to the trauma center in Ft. Myers.

There were no witnesses to the accident, and she doesn't remember what happened. Her motorcycle is totaled. Thankfully, she will recover fully, and she is going to replace the bike. We send our best wishes for Jacky to get better and be back riding again soon.

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 Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, **September 10th, 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, or 📞 (386) 793-0030

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Saturday, **September 24th, 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, or ☎ (561) 386-2594

MSTA Fall Colors Just For Fun Rally – Lewisburg, WV

When: **Thursday, September 29th – Sunday, October 2nd**
Location: **Quality Inn**, 178 Coleman Dr, **Lewisburg, WV** ([map](#))
Description: Fall Colors Just For Fun Rally. This is an MSTA-sanctioned event. No rally fee.
Quality Inn – 304-645-7722
Contact: Coordinator: Chris Shoop 304-488-9128 / shoopce@gmail.com

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, **October 8th, 12 PM – 2 PM**
Location: **Don Jose Mexican Restaurant**, 4731 Lakeview Dr, **Sebring, FL** ☎ (863) 385-9316 ([map](#))
Description: We are officially back to LUNCH RIDES!! This place keeps bringing us back!! Waterside patio, central location (beware of a Southie invasion), and a few good roads to enjoy!! FYI - They open the doors at NOON, with the waiting line forming 15-20 minutes earlier!!
Contact: Carl, carltr6@hotmail.com, or ☎ (386) 793-0030

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Saturday, **October 29th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**
Location: **Log Cabin BBQ**, 480 W Hickpochee Ave, **LaBelle, FL** ☎ (863) 675-3418 ([map](#))
Description: We've enjoyed their brunch...EVERYBODY wanted to try their lunch menu. See ya there!!
Contact: Van, 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](#).

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/

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Classified Ads

Motorcycle For Sale:



BMW R1250RT

Contact Phil Baxter – teal1500@yahoo.com

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!