



FLMSTA Newsletter | June
2025

June 2025 | Volume 19 | Issue 6

Welcome to the **Florida Gator Tale Newsletter** from the Florida Chapter of the MSTA! We've updated the newsletter to make it easy to read on your phone or tablet. However, you can still download a .pdf of this newsletter and archived newsletters from the FLMSTA website [here](#). The **Florida Gator Tale** includes all the news about rides, feature articles, Florida state reports and safety information to keep you current with the Florida MSTA.



Rides

Florida Rides This Month

IMPORTANT NOTE: Always remember to check the 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. Please check the [rides calendar](#) for possible updates.

South Brunch Ride

When: **Saturday, June 7, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Location: **Rosé Café**, 12 North Desoto Ave., **Arcadia, FL**
(863)-993-0111 ([map](#))

Description: New to us place in historic Arcadia. Fantastic breakfast/brunch menu from blueberry banana pancakes to steak sandwiches. Looks good!

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

East Central Breakfast Ride

When: **Saturday, June 14, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

Location: **Mulberry Lane Cafe**, 3440 N. Harbor City Blvd.,
Melbourne, FL (321) 426-7149 ([map](#))

Description: Not only a café - a bakery, too. Paved parking. We had very good breakfasts here last year.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

West Central Brunch Ride

When: **Saturday, June 21, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Location: **Hitchin Post Cafe**, 10903 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., **Lithia, FL**
(813) 737-4026 ([map](#))

Description: Omelettes, skillet and large sandwiches for a hearty breakfast/brunch. Can't wait to try it - highly recommended.

Contact: Bob Shields, boju29@msn.com

Just For Fun MSTA Rally - Red River Gorge Rally

Friday-Sunday, June 6-8

Location: **Comfort Inn**, 105 Stone Trace Drive, **Mt. Sterling, KY**
(859) 498-4050

Description: The 2025 edition of the Red River Gorge Rally - A Just for Fun MSTA Rally with no rally fees. No meals provided.

Coordinator: Patrick Mogavero, patrickmogavero@gmail.com

Contact: <https://ridemsta.com/ky-rrgorge/>

MSTA West Virginia Canaan Valley Rally 2025

Friday-Monday, June 27-July 1

Location: **Canaan Valley Resort**, 105 Stone Trace Drive, **Davis, WV**

Description: Head for the Mountains! The mountains of West 'almost heaven' Virginia! Experience some of the best twisty roads to be found anywhere and some of the best adventure riding to be found in the eastern US. Registration required.

Coordinator: Patrick Mogavero, patrickmogavero@gmail.com

Contact: <https://ridemsta.com/wv-canaan/>

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 [rides calendar](#) for possible updates.

East Central Breakfast Ride

When: **Saturday, July 5, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

Location: **Backwater-Wickham Road**, 5555 N. Wickham Rd. #101, **Melbourne, FL** (321) 600-4335 ([map](#))

Description: Unique and comfy spot for breakfast, including create-your-own pancakes! Friendly and attentive service, cool atmosphere and reasonable prices.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

West Central Brunch Ride

When: **Saturday, July 19, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Location: **Mulberry Cafe & Coffeehouse**, 113 W. Badcock Blvd.,
Mulberry, FL (863) 943-4560 ([map](#))

Description: Bob S. will be your host for this event!! Join him, won't you?!? The menu is to die for... Bring your appetite!

Contact: Bob Shields, boju29@msn.com

South Brunch Ride

When: **Saturday, July 26, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Location: **Happy Chef Restaurant**, 1506 US-27, **Lake Placid, FL**
(863) 465-2443 ([map](#))

Description: Favorite destination, new-to-us restaurant!
Simple fare, home-cooked goodies!

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

Just For Fun MSTA Big Lynn Lodge Ride

Thursday-Sunday, July 10-13

Location: **Big Lynn Lodge**, Highway 226A, **Little Switzerland, NC**
(828) 765-4257

Coordinator: Chris Parker, chris@roadwolfdesign.com

Contact: <https://ridemsta.com/nc-biglynn/>

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](#)

Feature Article

Sorry, there's no Feature Article this month because we've run out of repeatable resources. If you'd like to see new feature articles, crack those knuckles and play those keyboards and send along anything you'd like to share. You know what you like to read about, and we know a lot of you have decades of experiences that would make for great reading!! Kim will gladly work with you to coordinate photos, placement and content editing. We don't grade here!!

Editor's Request: 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!]

Safety Talk



Situational Awareness by Doug Westly

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.

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the April 2021 edition of the FLMSTA Gator Tale.

Two weeks ago, Becky and I were in Reno, NV, managing demonstration rides at one of our Honda events. I was out on a demo ride with another of our team riders. He was leading the customer flight of seven bikes, and I was bringing up the rear as chase rider. The demo route was through an industrial and health care (hospital, clinics, etc.) area of the town. Our flight was in the

left lane of a 4-lane road (2 lanes in each direction, with a center divider containing additional, alternation turn lanes), passing a slow moving car in the right lane. The driver of the car was obviously looking for something. The flight had just passed and as the last bike, I was right beside the car...when the driver decided what she really wanted to do was turn left, without warning. She pulled directly into my lane, then into the median turn lane.

Fortunately, I was watching her as I started to pass, and saw her swing the steering wheel and the car start to come over at me. As she moved into my lane, with me right beside the driver's door, it forced me into the turn lane. I couldn't slow down, as that was what she was doing. I couldn't swerve into the oncoming lanes and traffic. My only choice was to accelerate around and in front of her. I was able to slide around the left front corner of her car and miss the upcoming median curb as well. You could see the shocked look on her face as she realized I was there...and then gone.

This was an atypical car/motorcycle encounter. Most crashes and near crashes involving cars and motorcycles occur when the car turns into the path of the oncoming bike. In this case, she literally just came over two lanes while I was right beside her. She never looked, checked her blind spot, etc. So what does this mean for us, as riders?

Situational awareness can be defined as being cognizant of the activities going on around us. As riders, it means paying attention to those actions and activities that can impact our safety, no matter how unlikely.

In this case, the atypical behavior of the vehicle and driver, the slow speed and her looking for something, caught my attention. It had also caught the attention of my lead rider, who alerted me to the vehicle's activity in advance. Both of these brought my focus on the vehicle as I started to pass, and I wasn't really surprised when it all started to go bad. Really mad...but not surprised.

We can't always predict drivers and their behaviors. However, when we spot a vehicle/driver behaving erratically or out of context with

the driving situation, it becomes absolutely critical that we pay attention to what's going on. This is not to exclude maintaining other awareness of the environment, but certainly any erratic driving should catch our notice.

My lead rider said he never saw what happened. However, he said he knew something occurred and could guess, based on my language exploding in his ears, over the radio.

The moral of the story? Situational awareness can save your life, or at least your riding day!

Ride safe! – Doug Westly

Florida News



Florida News

Well, 'the heat is on...' And 'here comes the rain again...'

The arrival of June causes several shifts regarding our riding options. We will have rides scheduled through to September. After that, **WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR WEST AREA AND NORTH AREA REP(S) FOR REST OF 2025 AND BEYOND.** Contact Van for details. We can entertain a flexible schedule(ing) where 1-4 different members could organize events throughout the year.

THIS IS YOUR CLUB. MAKE

IT INTO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE!!

And you've likely noticed the absence of a feature article this month. As noted previously, we've run out of repeatable resources. If you'd like to see new ones, crack those knuckles and play those keyboards and send along anything you'd like to share. You know what you like to read about, and I know a lot of you have decades of experiences that would make for great reading!! Kim will gladly work with you to coordinate photos, placement and content editing. We don't grade here!!

Eve hosted her first Brunch Event at the Wooden Spoon in Plant City on May 3rd! Seven attended, including three from way over Eastside, and a couple from mid-State!! All went well, and all appreciated having a West Central destination!! Look for more West Central rides hosted by Eve or Bob this summer!!

The South Lunch Ride to Lightsey's was well attended, as its central location makes it appealing to a lot of members and friends! Four Southies met up to make the short ride over familiar roads to lunch. As usual, the service was good, the food was great, and the gab-fest was only quieted briefly as the food was served! What was likely the last 50/50 raffle for the summer was well funded, and Mike B. took home \$24. An updated sum for the first half of the year will appear in the next Gator Tale. A **BIG THANKS** to all who participate!!

I took advantage of switching roles for the ride home, and tail-gunned for lead rider, Jim P. Since the weather was still nice enough, we wandered along the east side of Lake O. before cutting back across PB County. By the time we pulled into home, we were reminded why we have brunch rides for the next few months...



South Ride to Lightsey's in Okeechobee

AND, you'd think I would have remembered that reminder a week later when I made my way solo to the last East Central Lunch ride. After a lot of group rides, it's always a kick to ride alone and set one's own pace and wandering route. After a hearty lunch with Tom and the gang (BTW, Eve made all three events this month!!), I decided to squeeze in one last l o n g ride home. After 3.5 hours in the first 90° weather of 2025, I was more than ready for the A/C and a cool shower!!

What's Next?

On June 7th, join the Southies for BRUNCH at Rose' Cafe' in Arcadia!! And Tom will host the East Central Breakfast Ride to the Mulberry Lane Cafe in Melbourne on June 14th. Be sure to join Bob as he hosts his first BRUNCH ride at the Hitchin Post Cafe in Lithia! I hear it's a hidden gem...

We have inserted an email response "button" to our announcements to assist our coordinators with the reservation headcount. Click on the green "button", then hit the send arrow. The pre-loaded email will be on its way!! Easy peasey!!



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...

Pat Mogavero is *officially* our new MSTA Membership Director! He has hit the ground running, having been involved for a few years behind the scenes with the tortured transition to the new online based registry. We will be adapting to the new presentation of monthly data over the next few months. We may have a periodic "catch up" month announcing new members and who are about to expire.

FLMSTA added these new members this month - Erik Azar from St. Augustine and Mark Jean of Green Cove Springs - Welcome!

These Florida memberships have recently renewed:

- Larry Solomon

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

- Robert Croot

- **Robert Fisher**
- **Michael Yandel**

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 **NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM** at <https://ridemsta.com/membership-account/membership-levels/> or simply visit the **MSTA Website** at www.ridemsta.com and **LOG IN** and then click on **MEMBERSHIP**.

When you encounter a rider who would seem to be a good fit as a new MSTA member, please direct them to the **MSTA Website** at www.ridemsta.com. 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

You've registered for STAR '25 by now, right?? I am!! And I have my hotel reservations!

Keep on coming out to enjoy all the rides we have planned this year and bring a friend! 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
Tom Blake

May 17th: Just got back from the *Olympic Restaurant* in Avon Park. Whew... I had forgotten how much fun a 2 ½ hour ride in 95° F heat can be! Now I remember. Whewwww!!!! The house A/C feels really good.

Yesterday evening I located my water bladder backpack deep in one of the kitchen cabinets, pulled it out and gave it a dish soap and water bath inside and out and then rinsed it thoroughly. I filled it with ice cubes and tossed it in the freezer. I also dug out my Fly Cooling Vest, soaked it in a bucket of water for a while and then hung it in the shower to drip the excess off. At one of my overnight bathroom visits, I folded and rolled it up and stuck it in a soft cooler (small enough to put in a saddlebag) and stuck the cooler in my frig. This morning just before leaving the house, I added some ice to the cooler and transferred both to my RT's saddlebag. I would save them for the ride home.

I got to the rendezvous just before KSU time and worked on my BMW GPS app which was going haywire – again! Jay B from way south in PSL showed up at shove-off time and we headed for the Yeehaw Junction Pilot station for a break and to hopefully meet up with anyone else who might want to join in. No one showed, so we were off at 9:50 as planned. We rode south on 441, west on NW 240th Street and south on NW 176 Ave to 98. 176th has a few usually fun kinks near the south end, but crews were working on the power lines, and we sat for a good 10 to 15 minutes at the north end of a 2-mile section of one-way traffic waiting to be led through the work zone by a ridiculously slow guide vehicle. We pulled in at the Olympic Restaurant at 11:29 just behind Van. Jeff, Eve, Bob and Mike were already inside cooling off.



The Olympic restaurant kept our glasses filled and the A/C cool after a very hot East Central lunch ride.

The restaurant was the high point of the day. Clean, nicely decorated, our tables lined up. They got drink orders filled right away and kept the glasses filled. Our food orders didn't take all that long to get prepped and favorable comments were coming from everyone after the first bite. Mike got a to-go box so he could share with his wife at home. The rest of us went through our food like starving, rabid dogs. OK, that's slightly exaggerated. But we had a really fun time.

I should mention that the vest provided a fair amount of cooling for most of the 2 ½ hour ride home. It helped that the humidity was not sky high. Those things don't really work that well in high humidity because there's no evaporation to cool your skin. The cool water eventually just turns to hot water. My water bladder went dry about 45 minutes out.

Oh, and did I mention love bugs?

Up next: Breakfast get togethers begin in June for the East-Central area. Ride, drive, bicycle or walk to the Melbourne-area restaurant

by 8 AM. Leading off will be a June 14th return to the popular *Mulberry Lane Café* along US1 in North Melbourne. They cook up some really awesome breakfasts and what could be more fun than a bunch of friendly sport-touring riders gabbing away about this and that.

Safe journeys, *Tom*

Florida MSTA Apparel



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>.

Classified Ads



2019 KTM Super Duke GT For Sale - \$10,500

Contact: Tom Blake at 321-794-6147 or email tblake1@cfl.rr.com

Current mileage: ~18.3K
(Approx 3,600/yr.)

Well cared for and maintained

New Michelin Pilot Road 6's at
15,869 miles

Battery replaced April 2022,
maintained with Battery Tender

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

Contact Information

These MSTA websites have extensive event information:

National MSTA: [RideMSTA.com](https://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

busavanflmsta@gmail.com

(561) 386-2594

Tom Blake, East Central Area Rep

(321) 794-6147

tblake1@cfl.rr.com

FL MSTA

217 SE 3rd Street, Boynton Beach, FL
United States of America



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