



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 10 Issue 1

Events in January 2017

Details on Page 12

In This Issue:

- Page 1 – [Feature Article](#)
- Page 8 – [Safety Talk](#)
- Page 10 – [Florida News](#)
- Page 12 – [Florida Rides](#)
- Page 13 – [Future Florida Rides](#)
- Page 13 – [Regional Events](#)
- Page 15 – [Mystery Hyperlink](#)
- Page 15 – [Classified Ads](#)

Contact Information:

South Florida Director:

Van VanSteelant – busavan@flmsta.org

Central Florida Director:

Terese Vipond – termayn@gmail.com

Safety Editor:

Doug Westly – flwingrdr@msn.com

Florida Gator Tale Editor:

Don Moe – editor@flmsta.org

Happy New Year

Feature Article

Wind River Range Wyoming

By TommyTFC, from Iowa

[Ed: This [article](#) was originally posted by Tommy on the [AdvRider discussion forum](#) under 'Ride Reports - Day Trippin' on 9/14/2015. It has been slightly abbreviated and edited for publication. All photos by the author unless stated otherwise. Click on images for larger photos.]

I took my GS to Wyoming to try it out off highway. This is my first BMW and first true adventure bike. That thing really will do everything I've heard about. It handles great in the dirt.

I wanted to take a few day rides and stay in a hotel at night. We stayed in Lander and Pinedale. The US Forrest service office in Lander was very helpful. I picked up the maps and recommended rides there.

Sink Canyon from the top looking back at Lander. A nice bit of mountain switchbacks to the top.

From Lander entering Sink Canyon.



The gravel roads once you leave the black top.



Mountain lakes are abundant in the Wind River Range. This is Fiddlers Lake.



Once you get off the maintained gravel it gets rough quickly. This road exceeded my skill level.



Typical vista along US Forest Service road 300. I'm stopped at the 4-wheeler unloading area for road 355 to Christina Lake. Once again the trail exceeded my skill level.



Once I got off route 300 I tried a different spot that wasn't so full of trees.



A bit further up Limestone Mountain.



On the way to Pinedale I rode out to South Pass City.



The next day I rode from Pinedale to Green Lakes, the head waters of the Green River.



I'm from Iowa and this is not your Iowa grandmother's gravel. I made adjustments to suspension and tire pressure and got an upgrade on my skills. The washboard took a bit to figure out. A bit faster is better. I found 25-30 about right.

Getting a bit more off-road. The area was littered with campers. I was never alone for long.



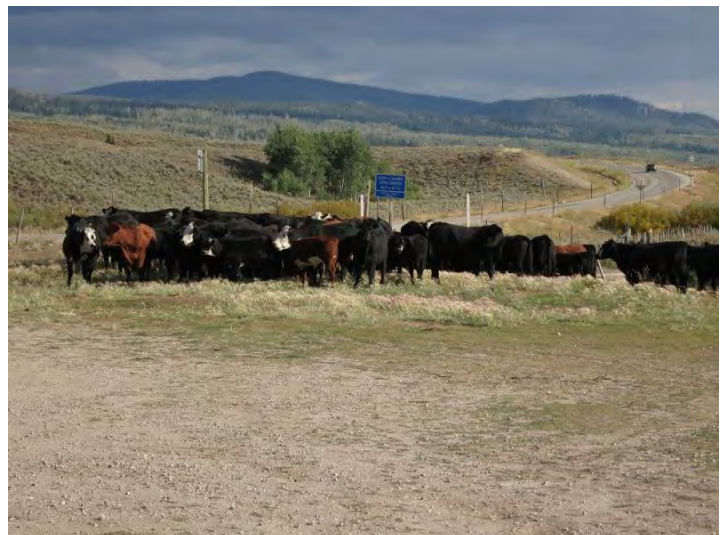
The Green River was always by your side.



I'm used to boat ramps but this was kind of a boat ramp for 4-wheelers.



Oh and lots of free range cows.



We took a day off. My wife came but stayed in town. The following day I rode over Union Pass.

Simple wooden bridge was fun.



The roads were about the same but the views were grander.

There's no sign telling you when you've reached the top but this seemed to be it.



The only animals I saw were birds and cows.



Coming down on the Dubois side, this cabin was near the top.



Made it. 50 miles of gravel. Not hard, could have taken most any car. It just got a little tight in places.



Dubois has its own Badlands.



The next day I took a quick ride into Red Canyon.



Not far down the road you run into no trespassing signs, so I turned around.



Got back on the highway and headed north. Rode through Wind River Canyon towards Thermopolis.



And stopped at the Wyoming Dinosaur Museum.



Loaded up the bike and drove to find my grandfather's grave in Sheridan.



After that it was just the long drive through South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa back home.

Editor's Request

We ask that our members assist this newsletter by writing a brief article about a motorcycle trip that they enjoyed and include several photos.

Contact me by email at editor@flmsta.org
or by phone at ☎ 561-746-7714
for further information.

SAFETY TALK

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *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.*

MSTA Track Day is Coming!- Part III

You already know about the MSTA/COG track day coming in February 2017. Dennis has been working hard to make sure this is really going to happen.

Noted motorcycle guru Ken Condon will be on hand as the senior instructor, with assistance from Becky, myself, other instructors and safety riders.

In Part I of this article we already talked about the general event information. Now we want to focus on how this non-sport bike track day is going to benefit attending Riders.

First, you have to recognize the advantages of a race track. You are riding on good pavement, with a groomed surface, good traction and a known path of travel. You get to ride the same track/path over and over again, until you become very familiar with how the pavement feels, the approaches to the corners, the radius and change in radius for each corner. You don't have to worry about the riding surface, but rather can use it to your advantage.

Next, look at the traffic. It is all going in the same direction. There are very specific rules to the traffic, which EVERYONE follows. The other traffic is a known quantity. Additionally, the track activity (riding) will be monitored by safety riders. This means you don't have to be overly concerned with silly stuff from other track riders.

So if you don't have to worry about either the riding surface or the traffic, what does that do for you? It frees your mind (think "The Matrix"!). It allows you to now focus entirely on your riding technique. Want to practice your braking? Lots of opportunities for this, with the approach to every corner. Need to work on your cornering technique? Well, Jennings has 14 corners (9 left and 5 right) that will give your technique a workout. How about basic skills like head and eye usage, etc.? Don't worry about that, you'll be looking as far ahead as you can, once you get used to track riding techniques.

Now we'll throw in another benefit. We will have Ken and other instructors on hand, to work with Riders as a group, and one-on-one as needed or requested, to improve on all these skills.

There is another very unique benefit to a practice track day. It actually improves and speeds up your riding reflexes. Because most riders tend to ride faster on the track, by necessity their riding and response reflexes



COG/MSTA
Concours Owners Group Motorcycle Sport-Touring Association

Street Bike TRACK DAY!

SPORT-TOURING SCHOOL

Friday, February 24, 2017
JENNINGS GP
Jennings, Florida

Increase Your Confidence Improve Your Skills

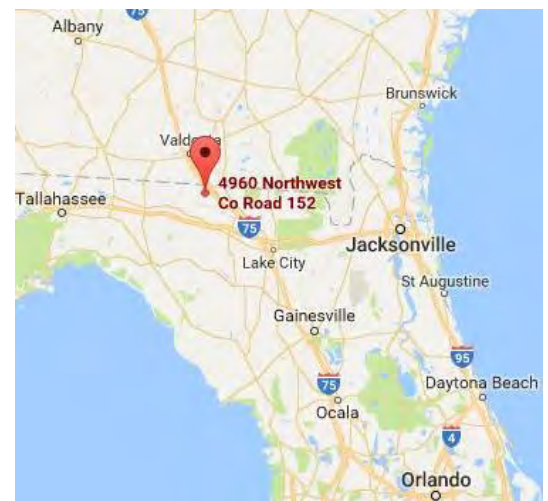
Instruction by Ken Condon
Author, Journalist & Riding Coach
at Riding in the Zone Motorcyclist Training 
Riding in the Zone.com

\$150.00
includes lunch

Minimal Preparation Required
Leather Rentals Available

Registration & Info:

 
ridemsta.com cog-online.org



have to speed up. This means that when you transition back to the street, your improved reflexes makes handling non-routine situations even easier. In essence, it slows down the event, as your improved reflexes (from eye movement/line of sight to muscle memory and everything in-between) have sped up from your track experience.

One last benefit? You'll have a blast! More than one new non-sport bike track rider has become a dedicated track junkie.

Come out to track, get the chance to absorb Ken's expertise, and explore your own riding at the same time. You won't regret it!

Doug Westly – Safety Editor
radmoto@hotmail.com

For more details, discussion and registration information, see this [forum thread](#) on the MSTA National website.

Description: We have a Street Bike/Sport Touring Track Day setup for February 24th, 2017 at Jennings GP Track (Rain or Shine). Ken Condon of “Riding in the Zone” fame will be the facilitator. We have 25 slots available on a “first come first serve” basis. Dennis will start a waiting list for us if we fill all the slots.

To Register: Send your name, address and email address plus a check for \$150 made payable to MSTA. A full refund is available if you need to cancel at least 30 days prior to the event.

Mail to:

[Dennis Villarose](#), 32 Laurelcrest Lane, Travelers Rest, SC 29690 ☎561-329-3257

[Update from Jim Park (11/22/2016): We have already filled over half the spaces for track day! Dianne Park is working on obtaining a discounted group rate at a nearby hotel.]

Florida News

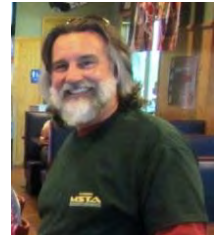
South Director's Report

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I trust o'Saint Nick was good to you all... Now to figure out how to fit that one more farkle to the cockpit!!

Well, winter in Florida has not been disappointing... We had great riding weather for both of our lunch rides! The Central ride went to Outriggers Restaurant up in New Smyrna Beach.

Our South ride turned out to be both great and tedious! Our small group left WPB and enjoyed open roads and wonderful weather. Until we ducked off I-75 one exit too soon. We found where ALL the cars we missed all day to be ALL on Tamiami Trail!! Fortunately, the Gulf View Grill was well worth the red lights!! They set up for 10 of us, and we filled every seat! And we had two old friends from a Total Control Advanced Riding course join us in progress... The Gulf view was awesome, the service was efficient and pleasant, and the food had all of us smiling!! A wonderful way to end the year of rides that took us all over the state! Our last raffle went well, especially for Alan Berry! He repeated as our winner, taking \$28 home to help defer the cost of that new part... :) That leaves our standing total for the year at \$942.50!! We had a few ideas floated around for how to spend the balance after we set aside the few hundred \$\$ we need for the yearly website costs. I think we could send some of our proceeds to the Dan Clark Safety Fund to help reimburse our members who wisely purchase safety gear or attend approved rider training and submit their receipts for consideration. (Hint, hint, members!! All submissions must be in by Jan. 31!) Meanwhile, back at lunch, Santa Van brought along a few donated items to give away after Alan cashed in! We had gift swapping, arm twisting negotiations and good ribbing for some time after lunch!



Van VanSteelant

Thanks to some local knowledge, our ride home was much less taxing! All and all, a wonderful 425+mile day for the Eastsiders!! Check out the photos on our website!! And make your plans to join us next year for more fun and frolic!!

What's Next??

Well gang, our whole year of 2017 is planned out and posted to [our website](#)!! The dates are set, the South ride destinations for all 12 months have been chosen, along with the Central rides for the beginning of the year! We have our lunch/brunch rides, our usual Daytona lunch ride, as well as our Track Day event and the first Just-For-Fun weekend already on the books!! I've included the Regional events that have been confirmed to date, and of course, STAR 2017!! Get to our site and see for yourself!! www.flmsta.org

In January, we start with the Central Lunch ride on January 7th to the [Umatilla Inn & Restaurant](#) in Umatilla. On January 21st, hook up with the Southies for a ride to a new-to-us destination in Fort Pierce! We will dine at the [12A Buoy](#) on their Fishermans Wharf! This place looks great, and it happens to be only 10 minutes away from the [Navy UDT/SEAL National Museum](#)! I highly recommend a visit!!

February brings our usual lunch rides, and ends with a bang in Jennings, FL with our Combo Track Day!! Get signed up today!!!

Membership News

My heartfelt THANKS to Don Moe for his efforts last month to bring our Florida membership up to date with all the news about our new and renewing members!! Don is part of a multi-member team nationwide who have stepped up to wrestle the membership rolls into a lean, mean, manageable process!! Believe me, they took on a hydra-headed monster and seem to have tamed the beast down to a human-friendly Pitbull!!

Here's what we know today... (Don's input)

In December no new members in Florida joined the MSTA.

We thank the following Florida members for recently renewing their memberships:

Stephen Evans
Steve Marcum

Norman Nelson
Hugh Palmer

Phillip Ridgdill

These Florida memberships have expired since November 1st:

Alan Berry

Stephen Grasso

Eric Kuritzky

Joe & Becky Wolf

These Florida memberships will expire soon:

Frederick Blackall
Jim Cavanagh

Chuck & Frances Headrick
Ken & JoAnna Murray

David & Leslie Noyes

We urge all our members to renew their memberships and continue supporting the MSTA.

Random Ramblings!

Check out the info about the Just-For-Fun Weekend in Ocala, happening just before Bike Weeks!! I've heard that only 3-4 rooms have been reserved. That leaves lots of room for many more of you!! The hotel has been well chosen for its location and quality, as well as its proximity to several dining options all within walking distance!! And the local riding in the area is a welcomed relief to what we have in South Fl.!!

I didn't hear from anybody about their top three of anything motorcycle... Here are mine:

1. One more year of riding the 'Busa all over Florida; AND I finally got to ride outside of Florida for the first time since 2013...
2. I had several members step up this year that helped nullify the drama from a couple of the trials and tribulations with my bike, and other "issues"... "You gotta have friends..." Thanks to all of you!!
3. The on-going support from a truly great group of members and friends who make my role as State Co-Director rewarding year after year!! We all have numerous demands on our time. I appreciate that many of you choose to make time for our get-togethers and shared love of two wheels!!

Look for another reason to get out and join us for more gab and grub... ;)

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report

Central Florida January Lunch Ride:

Saturday, **January 7th**, 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM,

[Umatilla Inn & Restaurant](#)

605 N. Central Ave.

Umatilla, FL 32784

☎352-669-1325

Teresa Vipond, DeLand

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Florida Rides This Month

Important Note

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: Sat., **January 7th**, 11:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Where: [Umatilla Inn & Restaurant](#) – 605 N. Central Ave., Umatilla, FL 32784 ☎352-669-1325 ([map](#))

Description: Join us for lunch at a new location.

Contact: Teresa Vipond termayn@gmail.com or ☎713-504-5763

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **January 21st**, 11:45 AM – 2:00 PM **NOTE: Date Changed!**

Where: [12A Buoy](#) – 22 Fishermans Wharf, Fort Pierce, FL 34950 ☎772-672-4524 ([map](#))

Description: A new-to-us place on the water with a terrific menu!! Start out the New Year with a sweet lunch ride with your fellow members and friends!!

If you haven't visited the Navy UDT/SEAL Museum that's just a bit up the road, this would be a perfect time to check it out. It's 10 minutes away from our restaurant! Check out www.navysealmuseum.com for all the details.

Contact: Van busavan@flmsta.org or ☎561-386-2594

Future Florida Events

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 possible updates.

MSTA Florida Central Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **February 11th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: TBA
Description: Place holder for the January lunch ride.
Contact: Teresa Vipond termayn@gmail.com or ☎713-504-5763

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **February 18th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [Nav-A-Gator Bar & Grill](#), 9700 SW Riverview Cir, Arcadia, FL 34269 ☎941-625-4407 ([map](#))
Description: We're heading back to an old favorite!! The new reviews look good, and it's been a few years since we were here. Join us for some real Florida flavor and atmosphere!!
Contact: Van busavan@flmsta.org or ☎561-386-2594

Regional Events

MSTA/COG Street Bike/Sport Touring Track Day

When: Friday, **February 24, 2017**
Where: [Jennings GP](#), 4960 NW Co Road 152, Jennings, FL 32053 ☎386-938-1110 ([map](#))
Description: This info came from MSTA President, Dennis Villarose:

We have a Street Bike/Sport Touring Track Day setup for February 24th, 2017 at Jennings GP Track (Rain or Shine). Ken Condon of "Riding in the Zone" fame will be the facilitator.

We have 25 slots available on a "first come first serve" basis. [*Update from Jim Park: We have already filled over half the spaces for track day! Dianne Park is working on obtaining a discounted group rate at a nearby hotel.*]

I will start a waiting list for us, once it's filled. A full refund is available if they cancel 30 days prior to the event.

Please have our members send a check for \$150, made payable to MSTA. Please mail to my home address below.

Dennis Villarose
32 Laurelcrest Lane
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
☎561-329-3257

[Daytona Just-For-Fun Event in Ocala](#)

When: Fri-Sun., **March 10-12, 2017**

Where: [Quality Inn](#), 3434 SW College Road, Ocala, FL ☎352-854-3200 ([map](#))

Description: We have put together a GREAT weekend of fun and frolic for our members, far and wide!! This is a great lead in to Bike Weeks!! And, on the following Thursday, we have our MSTA Lunch Ride!



Don't delay in making your reservations, as this arrangement will expire sooner than you think. Read through the details below, secured by a couple of excellent planners!! A big THANKS to them, and we'll see you there!!

Stay tuned for further event details and ride ideas...

Room rates are greatly discounted for this time of year. We have a block of 10 rooms at \$99 a night, before taxes. This includes a hot breakfast, heated pool, 24-hour fitness center, Wi-Fi throughout the hotel, and cookies and milk from 8:00-9:00 PM each evening. 😊

We have protected the price (\$99) for March 9th in the event that anyone from out of the area would like to arrive on Thursday for a good night's sleep and an early start the next morning on Friday, the 10th.

Keep in mind that not only are these dates at the start of Bike Week in nearby Daytona Beach, it is also the heart of our tourist season so rooms may start to disappear quickly. Just call the telephone number above and reserve as soon as you know you can make it. You can cancel 24 hours prior to the date of your reservation. Any un-reserved rooms in the block of rooms will cancel on Friday, February 24, 2017. Just refer to the MSTA block of rooms when you make your reservation.

[MSTA Daytona Lunch Ride](#)

When: Thurs., **March 16, 2017**

Where: [Brian's Bar-B-Que](#), 795 N. Spring Garden Ave, DeLand, FL 32720 ☎386-736-8851 ([map](#))

Description: We have a winner!! We are moving our destination to DeLand this year. Its proximity to the track allows you to make the most of the vendor activity AND enjoy a fantastic lunch with friends old and new!! Plenty of room and great food!!

And for those looking for a little Florida riding, Teresa and Tim will be leading a ride after lunch to points north and west of DeLand!! They are local to the area, so you can be sure to enjoy the ride!!

The Midway will open Friday, March 10th, and run through Saturday, March 18th.

Racing goes on all week!! Check out the activities for the 76th Annual Bike Week at [DaytonaInternationalSpeedway.com](#)

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](#).

We welcome articles and comments from our members for publication. Contact the editor at: editor@flmsta.org.

The MSTA National [website](#) has extensive event information:

- 🏍️ To join the MSTA or renew your membership: [click here](#).
- 🏍️ For the sanctioned events: [click here](#).
- 🏍️ For Just-For-Fun events in 2016: [click here](#).

National MSTA [ridemsta.com](#)

Florida MSTA [www.flmsta.org](#)

14 of 15 The Florida Gator Tale
January 2017 [www.flmsta.org](#)



More Contact Information

Don Moe Newsletter Editor 300 N. Hwy A1A, Apt. J-206 Jupiter, FL 33477 ☎ 561-346-1009 editor@flmsta.org	Paul 'Van' VanSteelant South Director 217 S.E. 3 rd Street Boynton Beach, FL 33435 ☎ 561-386-2594 busavan@flmsta.org	Teresa Vipond Central Director Deland, FL ☎ 713-504-5763 termayn@gmail.com	Vacant Northeast Director ☎
--	---	--	--

ALL GRAPHICS WERE PROVIDED BY THE CREDITED AUTHOR, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Mystery Hyperlink of the Month

This month's [Mystery Hyperlink](#) is related to the safety article.

CLASSIFIED ADS

To find a buyer for your motorcycle items, please send your ad and pictures by email to editor@flmsta.org