



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 10 Issue 5

Events in May 2017

Details on Page 10

In This Issue:

- Page 1 – [Feature Article](#)
- Page 5 – [Safety Talk](#)
- Page 6 – [Florida News](#)
- Page 8 – [Member Report](#)
- Page 8 – [Florida MSTA Apparel](#)
- Page 10 – [Florida Rides](#)
- Page 10 – [Special Events](#)
- Page 11 – [Future Florida Rides](#)
- Page 11 – [Regional Events](#)
- Page 12 – [STAR 2017](#)
- Page 14 – [Mystery Hyperlink](#)
- Page 14 – [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

Feature Article

The Moonshine Lunch Run

By Jim Park

“If you don’t make it to Moonshine, you ain’t a motorcycle rider, you’re just a motorcycle owner.” – Terry Hammond (deceased), founder of the MLR.

The Moonshine Lunch Run is a gathering of long distance riders from all over the country. It takes place each year in early April in literally in the middle of nowhere in southeastern Illinois.

The event was started by the late Terry Hammond back in 2004. Terry was a local farmer that loved to ride. He knew that once the planting season started he would be hard pressed to do what he loved most, riding his motorcycle. So he started a long distance ride-in to an obscure little country store in the farmlands of Illinois, the [Moonshine General Store](#).

Without GPS and proper coordinates (and even then) the store is extremely difficult to find. It consists of two buildings, the store and an accompanying outhouse, at a “wide spot” in the road near the southwest corner of Clark County. The sign on the front of the store boasts of a population of two and it is correct!

My first time to the Moonshine Lunch Run (or MLR as some refer to it) was back in 2012. Early April in the Midwest can bring some harsh weather conditions, as was the case in 2012 and again this year for their 13th annual event.

Each time I have gone it has been a spur of the moment decision. This year the weather forecast called for so-so weather but nothing great. A couple of days before the event a strong cold front was predicted to move rapidly into the entire Midwest region. Knowing this I decided to get an



The Moonshine General Store Photos: Jim Park

early start this year if I was to go at all. Also, packing is always difficult and time consuming for this ride as you may encounter a temperature swing of 60 degrees, along with possible rain and even snow.

Mid-week obligations dictated a late departure time. So after completing my doctor's appointment and other local errands, I wasn't on my bike until midafternoon. Due to my late start, I only made it as far as Lake City, Florida, a little over 300 miles from home.

Day 2 was unlike my first short day on the road as it included only 100 miles of Interstate riding. I exited I-75 somewhere south of Tifton, Georgia, heading northwest on primarily back roads for the remainder of the trip north; however I did pass through a few large cities such as Columbus, Georgia and Birmingham, Alabama along the way.

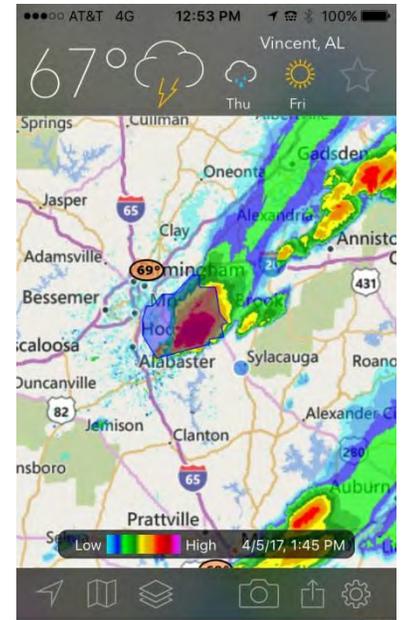
The weather remained decent and traffic light but making good headway on back roads is always difficult. I covered only 450 miles this day stopping early in Athens, Alabama (20 miles west of Huntsville) for the night. Had I known what kind of weather was in store for me the next day, I would have ridden much further.

After securing a room and unpacking the bike, I changed into a tee shirt, shorts and flip flops and walked to a nearby Ruby Tuesday's for dinner and a cold beer. I spent about an hour in the restaurant. When I opened the door to leave, the wind was howling and the temperature had dropped a good 10 degrees. The predicted cold/rain front was arriving!

Early the next morning I awoke to high winds, rain and temperatures in the low 40's. I usually don't mind riding in rain, but I hate starting out in it, especially cold rain! Looking at the distance I needed to cover that day and the terrible weather conditions, I was glad I had shortened that day's ride by putting in the 300 miles a couple of days earlier. The wind was pretty much continuous all day but the intermittent gusts could easily catch you off guard and move you across your lane. The rain was never real heavy but continuous for about the first 6 hours of the day.

Late morning I stopped at a mom & pop diner for a bite to eat and to get warm. My rain gear did its job keeping me dry but I was cold...real cold! I entered the diner, shed my wet gear and ordered a hot chocolate (I'm sorry to say that I'm not a coffee drinker). An "observant" (I actually have a better word) restaurant patron turned to me and said, "I bet its cold out there on that motor-sicle today." I just nodded and continued to read my menu. I tried texting the Boss (Dianne) to let her know I was taking a break, but my hands were shaking so badly I couldn't hit the keys on my cell phone! After an hour in the diner and multiple conversations with the locals, I had my body temperature somewhat back to normal. I said my goodbyes, geared up and headed back out into the cold rain.

My destination and accommodations for the next few days was the Lincoln Suites in Marshall, Illinois. I had originally planned on staying in Terre Haute, IN as all hotels close to Moonshine had been booked weeks in advance. However on



Lincoln Suites in Marshall, Illinois

my way to the event, I received a text message from Randy Bridgewater (MSTA New Jersey State Director) asking me to share a room, so Marshall, IL it was....30 miles closer to Moonshine!

I watched my GPS radar closely for the remainder of the day stopping often for the severe weather to clear ahead of me. I heard stories later of golf ball size hail and extreme high winds both of which I was able to avoid! Fortunately, the last two hours of the ride was windy but under clearing skies. I arrived at the hotel around 2:00 PM (Central Time) about 4 hours ahead of Randy. A hot shower and the room heater felt great!

Several other riders also arrived that day and soon the parking lot had more motorcycles than cars. That evening Randy and I and about a dozen other riders walked next door to a steakhouse for a nice dinner and a few adult beverages. Most everyone discussed over dinner similar experiences with the weather but the primary complaint was the God-awful wind!

Living in Florida for 47 years, you forget how cold, cold weather can be. The next morning it was 34 degrees and frost was on the bike. Needless to say the sun was much higher in the sky that morning and much warmer before I threw a leg over the bike.

Moonshine has grown since its inception. The actual MLR is on a Saturday but there are several other activities taking place (primarily involving eating) both the day before and after the MLR.

We spent our late morning hours at the Moonshine Store to get a jump on the anticipated next day's crowd. We purchased our obligatory Moonshine tee shirts and sampled their food. After that we took a short ride over to a tractor garage in Casey, Illinois for a fund raising barbeque. A best guess was over 100 riders showed up to enjoy some great BBQ, baked beans and coleslaw.

Later that evening a dinner and awards gathering took place at [Richard's Farm Restaurant](#), also in Casey, with a reported over 300 in attendance. With falling temperatures, several of us elected to skip that outing.

The next morning was the THE Moonshine Lunch Run. In spite of once again having temperatures in the 30's, six of us rode to the store about 20 miles away and arrived around 7:30AM (Central Time).

The store is famous for serving up their "Moonburgers." It is a generous sized hamburger with all of the fix-uns. I don't eat hamburgers often and least of all for breakfast, but the burgers were fantastic!

A couple of hours of socializing and hamburger consumption took place before the really big crowds started to arrive. The folks at Moonshine judge their crowd size each year based upon the number of burgers sold. This year they broke the record by selling 3,362 burgers by day's end!



Inside the Moonshine Store



I'm really enjoying that Moonburger!

I could see around 9:30 AM that it was likely that I would be parked in and with nearly 1,300 miles ahead of me, I decided it was time to say my goodbyes and hit the road.

It was a perfect day to ride. The skies were clear, the air was calm and the roads were empty except for the occasional oncoming motorcycle headed north for a Moonburger.

Around mid-day I crossed the Ohio River on the Cave-in-Rock, IL ferry. This is a free ferry crossing to Kentucky. Due to the recent heavy rains the river was swollen and the river current was strong requiring the ferry to navigate far upstream in order to properly reach the unloading ramp on the Kentucky shoreline.



Waiting to take the ferry across the Ohio River.

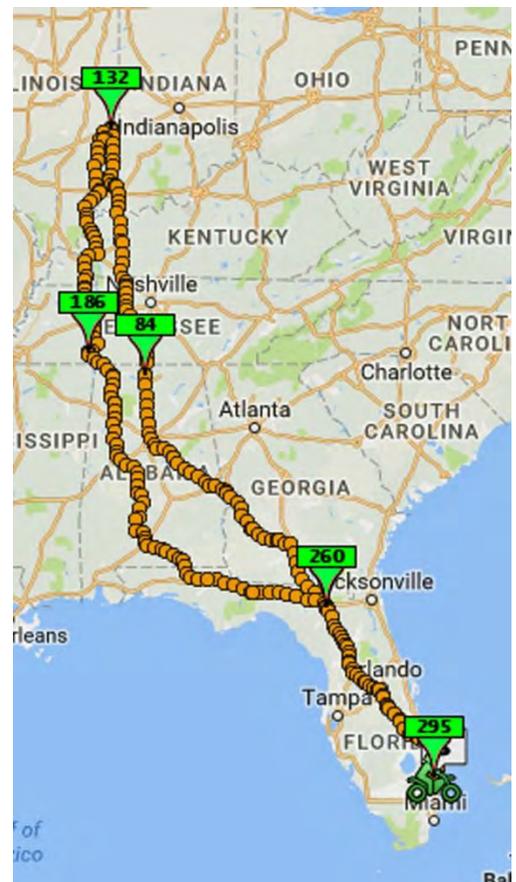
The remainder of the day was passing through small towns and enjoying rising temperatures. I spent that night in Savannah, Tennessee.

Basically my next to last travel day was spent riding back roads through Alabama. It is a beautiful state with modest homes where pride of ownership is obvious. I eventually reached I-10 and headed east.

It would have been a long day, but I could have made it home that day. However, not being on any particular schedule, I chose to again stop at the same hotel in Lake City, FL that I had stopped on my first day. I had never tried a Rodeway Inn prior to this trip but this one was clean, reasonably priced and walking distance to several restaurants; a recommended stop.

One nice thing about traveling alone is you can set your own schedule. I had gone to bed early and consequently woke up early. So I took an early start. I enjoyed an extended breakfast stop and still pulled into my driveway by 10:30 AM.

The Moonshine Lunch Run is a unique experience. It is definitely worth doing at least once if for nothing more than to add to your ride resume. You will meet lots of nice people and enjoy some fantastic Midwest food. Mark your calendar and take the time to experience it. You won't be disappointed.



My SPOT Tracking Log

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.*

The Howling...Wind

A few years ago, Becky and I took a cross-country motorcycle trip, destination California and the Laguna Sea MotoGP races. I've ridden across the country several times, and rode out west whenever I've lived in that part of the country, and the one thing you can count on out there is the wind. It's almost always blowing, and blowing hard. On this particular trip we were west of Ely, NV on US 50 (known as "The Loneliest Road" and for good reason), when we encountered the fiercest winds I've ever ridden through. West of Ely, US 50 alternates between mountain ridges and valleys, all oriented north-south. The wind was coming from the north that day, and at times so intense we had to lean our bikes at about a 25 degree angle into the wind just to stay in the lane. We rode next to the north side of the road, as gusts would occasionally lob us into the other side of the lane. We had to be careful, as every time we encountered a wind buffer such as an embankment on the north side of the road, the wind would be blocked and our lean would almost carry us off the road. At one point, we finally stopped in the lee of one embankment, just to rest and shelter.



Photos: [2 Wheeled Adventures](#)

So how do we deal with wind as riders? The problem for riders is understanding the wind. Headwinds just slow you down and make 30 mph seem like 60 mph. Tailwinds? Just enjoy them. It is the side winds that get us in trouble.

Rule One: Check the weather. Not just wind speed, but direction as well. Our winds in Florida come from all directions, unlike the west where winds are generally from the north.

Know when to say no. That day in NV the wind was probably blowing at 35-40 mph, and we were unfortunately caught out 100 miles from any civilization. We had no choice but to ride when it was safe enough, and shelter when we had to. But that was an extreme situation. For your daily riding, if the winds exceed your comfort level, either don't ride or take the car. It's that simple.

If you're already riding, watch for wind sign. Some of the best indicators are the trees and bushes along the roadside. If they are leaning and blowing in the wind, you will be, too. Birds are another good indicator. If they are flying into the wind and not going anywhere, that's a pretty quick sign that you should watch out.

Your bike makes a difference as well. Heavy bikes counter the wind more effectively than light bikes, to a degree. However, big bikes with fairings and bags offer more surface area for the wind to affect. It's a trade-off. Some of the worst motorcycle characteristics, in terms of wind resistance and affect, are those with solid wheels, as now the wind can actually push against the wheels, impacting the rider's control of the machine.



Bottom Line: Become weather smart. Not only for rain and other conditions, but for the wind as well. When the wind warnings come out, pay attention and decide if and how you are going to handle it!

Ride Safe!

Doug Westly – Safety Editor

radmoto@hotmail.com

Florida News

South Director's Report

SO, I HAVE THIS PAIN OVER HERE... AND TAKE A LOOK AT THIS... AIN'T THAT SOMETHING....
WHAT DO YA SAY, DOC??

Getting older is NOT for the wussies! April may bring spring showers... and some extra pains and grumblings...

OK, so I'm a little late getting my minor contribution to this heralded newsletter in on time. The local creeping-crud knocked me to my bed over the weekend, and kept me from a decent day at work today. I know of two other rough-riders who dealt with minor setbacks this month as well. And a dear friend to many near and wide is once again facing many months of recovery and rehab.... But as Quincy Jones said many years ago, "it beats waking up rubbing your elbows against the inside of a pine box!!"

We did have two rides in April that entertained smaller than usual crowds. Look for the Central report a little later. The South ride had its own foibles! I had an electrical contractor unexpectedly move his Saturday work day to THE ride day, and our usual back up ride leaders had their very own issues for that day!! Yikes! I did hear very good things about the new-to-us destination, [Woody's River Roo Pub and Grill!](#) Though a little pricy, the location and setting, along with good food and service, made it worthy of a return visit!! And, the weather was for us rather than against us. A little blustery, but still in the 80's. Thanks to Rich Peabody for sending in these two photos from Woody's.



Van VanSteelant



What's Next??

As I promoted last month, we have our RTE dates set for the whole of 2017!! Realize that nothing is set in stone, and we have already moved an April date to accommodate the popular North Georgia Classic. So, be sure to check our RIDES calendar often to insure you never miss one of our events!!

Mark your calendars NOW for the LAST lunch rides until October!! The Central Lunch Ride heads to the [St. John's River Grille](#) in DeLand! Be there by Noon on Saturday, May 6th. A week later, join the Southies for a ride to the [Lone Cabbage Fish Camp](#)!! That's about as far north as the Southies get, so we hope to have a few of the Central gang meet up with us!! It wasn't by design that we ended up with two lunch rides so far east. Stuff just happens, despite our efforts to spread the joy all around.

Here's what's happening this summer for the FL MSTA membership. Teresa and Tim will be on the road virtually all summer. She wisely went looking for somebody to help her keep the BRUNCH schedule going in her absence. Boom, there was Tom Blake, sly smile, ready to help. He smartly asked around for suggestions, and hit the mother lode when Hugh Palmer sent along a spreadsheet of restaurants that the BMW club has visited!! So, he mulled everything over, and laid out our BRUNCH dates from June-Sept. Check out our summer plans now at www.flmsta.org A huge bunch of THANK YOUS for all involved in keeping our RTEs on track!!

Membership News

I'll say this the rest of the year... My heartfelt 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...

In April, no new members joined the MSTA from Florida. Looks like we need to spread around a new batch of our Invitation-To-Ride quad-folds!! Remember that for each new member you recruit and who provides your name and/or membership number on the application, you will receive a \$10 STARbucks coupon that you can use towards event registration fees and membership dues until 12/31/2018. The MSTA Executive Committee recently decided to discontinue issuing STARbucks after the end of 2017 and issue coupons for raffle tickets in 2018.

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

Rebecca DeShazo-Westly	Pete Kauk	Edwin Zaslow
Robert Fischer	Doug Westly	

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will very soon:

Clifford Burke	Larry Fitch	Robert 'Bob' Shields
Michael Burkett	Howard Jacobson	

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

I will be in touch the Membership team this week to secure the new pricing inserts and updated address labels. I have lots of ITRs that need updating. I will be sure to get those out to everybody ASAP. We certainly need to spread the word about our great club!!

Random Ramblings!

We have so much fun planned for the rest of the year!! If you've never ventured to one of our events, consider changing that lapse real soon!! My first STAR was in Avon, CO. I rode with a great buddy from Reno, NV after shipping my 'Busa from Florida. That was in 2006... My first event in Florida was a Lunch ride to Okeechobee. I rode solo. That was in 2001... My first event ever was a Lunch ride in Connecticut. I rode solo. That was 1990... Try it, YOU'LL LIKE IT!

You are planning on attending [STAR 2017 IN COLORADO](#) (PDF), right??? The links for registration and the raffle bike are posted on the National site, in a recent email sent to all members nationwide, and right here!! Get 'r done!!! [Ed: In March updated information was posted at [this link](#) (pdf).]

Registration: www.planetreg.com/star2017

2017 Honda Africa Twin: www.planetreg.com/mstaraffle2017

There are several good reasons why the MSTA have held rallies in Colorado repeatedly over the decades... #1- Amazing riding!! If you've never ridden west of the Mississippi River, you are in for a stunning experience!! Join us for the fun!!

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report

Central Florida May Lunch Ride:

Saturday, **May 6th**, 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM,

St. John's River Grille

2997 State Road 44 West,
DeLand, FL 32720

Teresa Vipond, DeLand

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Member Report

Steve Evans from Lake City submitted this report and photos of the Central Lunch Ride on April 8th to [J.B. Boondocks](#) in Howey-in-the-Hills. — Thanks, Steve!

Saturday April 8th was a beautiful day for a ride. I left Lake City at 0830 hrs with a temp of 42 degrees and not a single cloud to be seen for the lunch at 12:00 N and just kept riding the back roads east and west and east again slowing working my way south until suddenly it was 11:00 and I was still north of Ocala. I ended up jumping on I-75 and the turnpike and was able to get to the town of Howey-in-the-Hills and J.B. Boondocks by the noon hour where there were 5 other members on our Florida MSTA group. The map shows it to be 125 miles from driveway to parking lot but I ended up doing 189 miles just to get there, but who cares. As I said – it was a beautiful day for a ride.



The food was good, the view was great and the company was fantastic but unfortunately only 6 of us showed up. I rode half of the way home with Roy Clark (a COG member but attends many MSTA lunches) and he showed me some new and curvy roads I did not know about as we headed north. Hugh Palmer (tall gentleman on the left in the pic) will be leaving us in a week or two as he and his wife live up in Hiawassee Georgia on the Hiawassee River six or so months out of the year. So if you're up there for the MSTA event in Helen (April 21-22-23) or the BMW event in Hiawassee (May 5-6-7) give him a shout as he'd be more than happy to ride with you.

Among the three pictures one shows a [Rewaco RF1 trike](#) that was parked in the parking lot. I believe it is German made. Although impressive to look at, its getup and go doesn't seem to be there. According to their website it has a 1500 cc inline-four engine with 108 horsepower, a top speed of only 102, and from 0 to 60 it takes 7.2 seconds. Besides that it doesn't lean. ☺ But it does have some candle power on the front end & I believe it will be seen by drivers.



I arrived home with 345 miles for the day and an enjoyable lunch and riding experience. It was a very good day. Thank you Teresa - it's appreciated.

Steve

Florida MSTA Apparel

We have just released the link for our Florida State Storefront!! 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!!



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., **May 6th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [St. John's River Grille](#) – 2997 State Road 44 West, DeLand, FL 32720 ☎386-736-6601 ([map](#))
Description: Join the Central Gang for lunch with a water view!! Great menu, and if you're in the mood, they have an extensive boat rental fleet for a little "après déjeuner" fun and frolic!!
Last Central LUNCH ride until September!!
Contact: Teresa Vipond, termayn@gmail.com, or ☎713-504-5763

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **May 13th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [Lone Cabbage Fish Camp](#), 8199 W. King St, Cocoa, FL 32926 ☎321-632-4199 ([map](#))
Description: We had blast here last year!! And it gives us a chance for the Central and South groups to meet up over some tasty grub!! This is just about as far north as the Southies get to ride!
This will be the last LUNCH ride for us until September!!
Contact: Van, busavan@flmsta.org, or ☎561-386-2594

Special Event

Riding Into History Bike Show

When: Sat., **May 20th**
Where: World Golf Village, St Augustine, FL 32092 ([map](#))
Description: Once again, the big show comes to St. Augustine!! Hit their website for all the details!!
www.ridingintohistory.org

This year, they are honoring the Japanese Motorcycle!! And they have the father/son team of Yvon and Miguel Duhamel as Grand Marshals!! Both are AMA Hall of Fame members, as well as many, many other awards!!

Hot damn!

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 possible updates.

MSTA Florida Central Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **June 3rd**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Where: [Mary's Kountry Kitchen](#) – 15945 County Rd 448, Tavares, FL 32778 ☎352-343-6823 ([map](#))
Description: First BRUNCH ride of the season!! We are scheduling this ride early in the month, as STAR2017 is a week earlier this year.
In the southwest corner of Tavares not far from US 19. We've been here before. They serve up excellent breakfasts at reasonable prices. And good roads are nearby.
Contact: Teresa Vipond, termayn@gmail.com, or ☎713-504-5763

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **June 24th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Where: [JR's Runway Café](#) – 130 Authority Ln., Sebring, FL 33870 ☎863-655-0732 ([map](#))
Description: We had a terrific time here during our last visit! Lots of parking, cool planes to check out, and good food to top it all off!!
Contact: Van, busavan@flmsta.org, or ☎561-386-2594

Regional Events

Tri-STAR

When: Fri.-Mon., **May 26-29, 2017**
Where: [Alleghany Inn](#) – 341 N. Main St, Sparta, NC 28675 ☎888-372-2501 ([map](#))
Description: A regional favorite!! Special room rate. We'll have a cookout Friday night, a catered dinner Saturday night, and make a trek down to the Mexican restaurant at the other end of town for dinner Sunday night.
Location: Sparta, NC – Excellent street riding in Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern North Carolina.
Websites: msta-se.com/tristar/ and ridemsta.com/srblog/tri-star/
Forum: ridemsta.com/mstaforums/tristar/2017-tristar-event/
Contact: Geoffrey Greene, hawkgtrider@aol.com, ☎cell (865) 659-4755, home (865) 922-9887

Big Lynn Lodge Event

When: Fri.-Sun., **July 21-23, 2017**
Where: [Big Lynn Lodge](#) – Hwy. 226A, Little Switzerland, NC ☎800-654-5232 ([map](#))
Description: Another regional favorite!! The Big Lynn Lodge is located 300 feet off the Blue Ridge Parkway on [North Carolina Highway 226A](#) in/near Little Switzerland, NC and is literally hanging on the side of the mountain right on NC-226A. You will be AMAZED at the view and you will be ASTONISHED by the roads! The riding is what I go there for but the scenery and the location is what has me staying.
Location: Little Switzerland, NC – Excellent street riding in Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina.
Websites: msta-se.com/BLynn and ridemsta.com/srblog/big-lynn-lodge-ride
Forum: ridemsta.com/mstaforums/big-lynn-lodge-ride/
Contact: David Brickner, brick@ncwireless.net, ☎828-448-5429

STAR 2017

STAR 2017 – the annual rally of The Motorcycle Sport Touring Association (MSTA) will take place in Colorado Springs June 11-15, 2017



STAR 2017 (our 35th anniversary STAR!) will be headquartered in the beautiful Hotel Elegante, [just off of Interstate 25](#), in southern Colorado Springs:



Due to the usual heavy demand when we have a STAR in Colorado, the hotel is extending our special rate to cover dates before and after STAR.

Online STAR 2017 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

www.planetReg.com/STAR2017

Update: [STAR 2017 News - March 25, 2017](#) (PDF)

A few STAR 2017 Highlights

- 🏍 Spectacular 14,000 ft Pikes Peak only a short ride from the hotel.
- 🏍 Beautiful Garden of the Gods city park – another short ride.
- 🏍 Fabulous scenic mountain routes including rides to Independence Pass and Aspen, Cottonwood Pass, Mount Evans, Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Leadville, Rocky Mountain National Park – and more! Colorado Springs is in the nexus of Pike, San Isabel, Arapahoe, White River and Roosevelt National Forests.
- 🏍 Proximity to scenic wonders like the Great Sand Dunes National Park.
- 🏍 Superb dual sporting – close to the hotel – Rampart Range (the dual sport playground of the Front Range) and the Gold Belt Scenic Byway through Victor and Cripple Creek, plus more exciting dual sport venues.
- 🏍 Full support by one of Colorado’s premier motorcycle dealers, Apex Sports – just a short trip from the hotel.
- 🏍 A beautiful and vibrant downtown area a short distance away, with a diversity of night life.
- 🏍 Many nearby restaurants and micro-breweries, including the hotels own award-winning restaurant and bar.
- 🏍 Many museums and historical sites within and surrounding Colorado Springs.
- 🏍 Great shopping in Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs.
- 🏍 A climate that is very comfortable all summer.
- 🏍 Many, many non-riding sight-seeing venues like, Seven Falls, Royal Gorge, Pike Peak Cog Railway, US Air Force Academy, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Manitou Cliff Dwellings and more! If there ever was a STAR to bring the family to, this is it.
- 🏍 A very motorcycle friendly community.

If you are on the MSTA email list you will get an email with a link to the registration site. For those who prefer to register by mail, print out the registration form at this link and mail it in with your payment (check or CC): ridemsta.com/srblog/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Star-17-Application.pdf

Can anyone attend? **YES** – You do need to be an MSTA member to attend, but your registration is discounted equal to a one year membership! Contact us to get your discount code or if you have questions:

☎ 970-667-0460

✉ hhemstreet@planetreg.com

Want to know more about visiting the Colorado Springs area?

🏍 View photos: www.visitcos.com

🏍 Download the visitors’ brochure: www.visitcos.com/order-official-visitor-guide

Want to talk about or plan with other members – join us on our MSTA STAR 2017 Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/cospringsstar

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 2017: [click here](#).

National MSTA ridemsta.com

Florida MSTA 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.



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