



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 10 Issue 6

Events in June 2017

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Feature Article

High In Colorado

By JonS, Arizona

[Ed: This article was originally posted April 12, 2010 in the [Ride Reports](#) section of the Sport-Touring.net forum at:

<http://www.sport-touring.net/forums/index.php/topic,51992.msg1202871.html>

It has been slightly edited for publication. All photos by the author.]

When I woke Easter Morning, I was annoyed with everything and especially my wife. This didn't seem like a promising day, so I called friends in [Colorado](#) to see if they would have me for the night. Yes, they were glad to have me. Then I told my long suffering wife the situation, after which I went out and adjusted and lubed the chain on my neglected bike.

It record time I was on the road. It turned out to be a gorgeous day and the roads through the [Navajo](#) land had no traffic, as usual for a Sunday morn. Then I entered Colorado, it was more of the same, but a good deal of traffic going the other way. I have no idea why. [McElmo Canyon](#), which ends at [Cortez](#), is one of the best roads for twisties

around here and it sure worked for me.

Leaving Cortez and then [Dolores](#), I came to another motorcycle heaven. [CO-141](#), the highway along the [Dolores River](#), is so beautiful, with many sweeping turns. Before too long, I saw my future: the [San Juan Mountains](#).

The next time I stopped to take a picture, I found my batteries were dead. 🚗🔋 Oh well, I will be back tomorrow.

It was a great, uneventful ride to [Montrose](#), and Mike's and Val's ranch. They are wonderful friends, whom I have known for a very long time.



Next morning, I left at about 9:00 and soon found that the wind had shown up. After dealing with it for a short time, I decided to just ignore it and enjoy the ride.

This is what I saw after leaving Montrose.



It's almost boring, after a while, how beautiful Colorado is with the winter snow. 😊

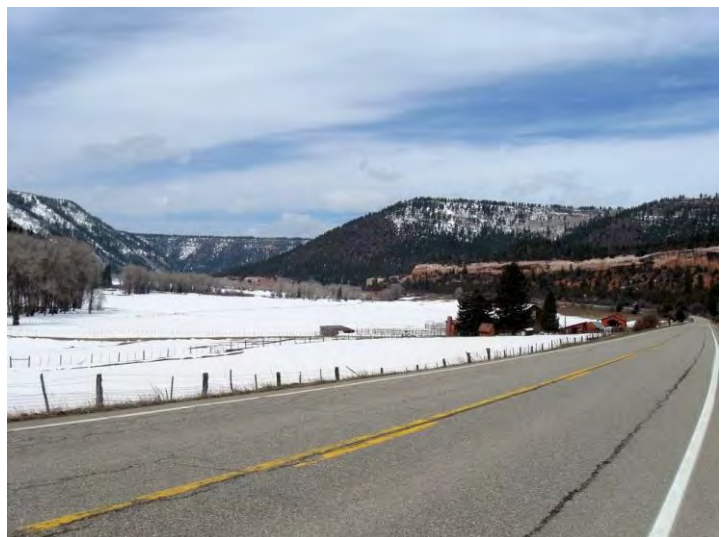


On the way down, I stopped in the town of [Rico](#) (El. 8,800') for a Monster and a snack before heading to the flatter land.

This is **the** road to Dolores. The whole highway is so great. I kept passing ranches that looked so inviting to live at. Colorado has way too much beauty for its own good. 🤔 😊



Then it was on to [Telluride](#) and lots of wind coming from all directions, it seemed. No problem, just do the ride.



The wind was getting worse by the time I got to McElmo Canyon Hwy ([County Road G](#)). Here is a shot and it's actually a sunny day. That's [Ute Mountain](#) in the background.

This is [Aneth](#), a Navajo town in Utah, with full dust storm. Luckily, no part of me was exposed, so I just motored on, no problem. I did leave the shield down when I took the pic.



Soon, I was back in my neighborhood and the side of town where we live was not suffering like the west side. In the end, the trip was just what the Doc ordered. I felt renewed and ready to get back in the game.



There's no place like home. 🏠

After reading what I had written, it sounds way too idyllic. It was just one of those times when all the stars were in line. 🙏

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.

Latest Helmet Scores!

Source: www.news-medical.net

Ok, I'm on my helmet wearing warpath again. I know that as responsible riders and MSTA members, everyone reading this column ALWAYS wears their helmet, right? However we have probably all had the helmet discussion with those less enlightened. To help you out the next time you attempt to discuss this issue with the cranially unprotected, here are some of the newest facts.

The June issue of *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, the official medical journal of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, says that in Michigan, head and facial injuries in motorcycle crashes has doubled since the state relaxed its motorcycle helmet laws.

Michigan repealed its universal motorcycle helmet law in 2012, in favor of the now in vogue "Over 21 no helmet as long as you meet criteria" statute. In this case, the criteria are a combination of training/experience and insurance coverage.

The study took three years of crashes before the change in the helmet law and 3 years after. This included 4,643 motorcycle trauma patients seen at 29 Michigan trauma centers. Here are the results of the study:

- 🏍️ Under the new law, the percentage of motorcycle trauma patients riding without helmets more than doubled, from 20 to 44 percent. Go figure...
- 🏍️ The study specifically addressed cranio-maxillo-facial (CMF) injuries. That translates to head, jaw and facial areas.
- 🏍️ The rate of CMF injuries increased from 25.5 percent to 37.2 percent, including an increase of 28 percent in fractures and a 56 percent increase in soft tissue injuries.
- 🏍️ Fractures of cheekbones increased significantly.
- 🏍️ So did facial lacerations, contusions and abrasions.
- 🏍️ Based on the study's findings, researchers estimate wearing a motorcycle helmet can decrease the risk of facial trauma by half, while requiring all riders to wear helmets could cut facial injuries by more than 30 per cent.
- 🏍️ So what does all this mean? Simple.
- 🏍️ Anyone who argues that helmets do not protect a rider doesn't understand or just doesn't care about the realities of risk in our sport.
- 🏍️ Helmets save lives and protect motorcyclists.
- 🏍️ Given the rate of increased maxillofacial injuries in the study, a full face helmet will give more protection than a "beanie", half or 3/4 helmet.

It goes back to the rider. You may never change their opinion, but at least you'll have more information for the discussion.

Oh, and just in case you've ever thought about riding without a helmet, you should look up the study. It may change your mind, too.

Ride Safe!

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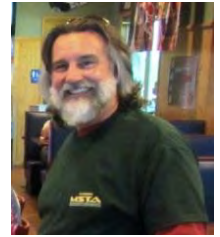


Florida News

South Director's Report

AHH, SUMMERTIME, AND THE RIDERS ARE PACKING... LEAVING... DINING... RIDING... SMILING!!

So, who's going to STAR 2017?? Who went to T-29? Who went to Tri-Star? Who went on our lunch rides?? Who just sat home...



Van VanSteelant

We enjoyed two great destinations for lunch this month. It was purely accidental that both rides were so far east for many of our members. We do our best to keep everybody happy. The Central gang enjoyed the fine food at [St. John's River Grille](#) in DeLand! A week later, the Southies ventured way up to the [Lone Cabbage Fish Camp](#)! That's about as far north as the South group gets for a RTE. And we hoped to meet up with several of our Central members as we were "in their back yard". Alas, the 10 riders in our group riding from the greater West Palm area were all who made the event!! We began with five from our starting point, and became 10 by our second meet-up place. A big THANKS to Jim Park and Don Moe for once again stepping up to make the ride safe and fun for all. We split into two groups of five, with a courtesy space between us for our own good, and for the other road users. With our Senas linked, we made great time and delivered everyone to the restaurant with big grins! Here are several photos from the event *(Photos by James Scott S and Don Moe)*:



And the grins never left... The service was terrific, and the food was tasty! We enjoyed water front dining and a pleasant breeze! Check out our [PHOTO site](#) for the evidence along several videos recorded and uploaded by James Scott S! Our newest member, Doug Christensen, and his riding buddy, Scott Auld, fit right in and look forward to our next ride!! Our 50/50 raffle was a big hit too! We had a \$70 pot, with thanks to Dayna and Steve! And, thanks to Dayna, who donated her winning half back to us, we now stand at \$1110.00!!

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, so, be sure to check our RIDES calendar often to insure you never miss one of our events!!

www.flmsta.org

The Central BRUNCH ride kicks off the best June ever!! On June 3rd, head to [Mary's Kountry Kitchen](#), at 15945 County Rd 448, in Tavares. Our BRUNCH rides start at 9:30AM. This allows for a decent ride time to the restaurant, and still gets you home before the worst of the day's heat!

It's a long wait for the South BRUNCH ride, as we have STAR 2017 from June 11-14! Get yourself to Colorado for our annual rally! It's not too late to register... Rooms are still available... And buy some Bike Raffle tickets!! You can't win the bike if you don't have a ticket!! Go to www.ridemsta.com for all the details!!

And upon your return, look for the South BRUNCH ride to [JR's Runway Cafe](#), on 130 Authority Ln., in Sebring! We ride on June 24th. We had a terrific time during our last visit, and plan to repeat the fun times!!

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...

We welcome these two new members from Florida into the MSTA who joined in May:

Douglas Christensen - Lake Worth Michael Porter - Ormond Beach

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 Florida member for recently renewing his membership:

Bill McDaniel

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will very soon:

Michael Burkett Larry Fitch Robert 'Bob' Shields

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!

A big THANKS for all who emailed back their full support of our Chapter donation of \$500 to the Dan Clark Safety Program!! Be at the Members Meeting at STAR to watch it happen!! And read the article about the fund and the man and the family behind it all in the latest STARreview, pages 22-24. What perfect timing!

I look forward to meeting up with all of you in Colorado Springs! Be sure to bring along our Florida Chapter T-shirts!! It's always a hoot to see us all in our "colors"!! Be sure to volunteer for a few hours while you're out

there. A LOT of work goes into putting a STAR together. Helping out during the event will be GREATLY appreciated!!

The Total Control Advance Rider System will be a blast! And to take the course from THE man who literally wrote the book... Whooooo!!!

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van
MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report

Central Florida June Brunch Ride:

Saturday, **June 3rd**, 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM,

[St. John's River Grille](#)

2997 State Road 44 West,
DeLand, FL 32720

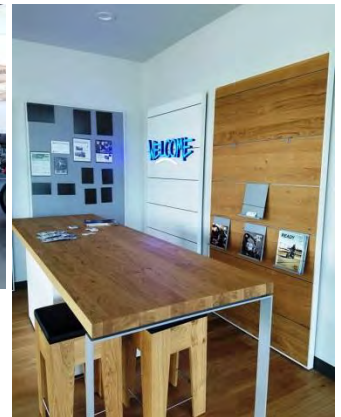
Teresa Vipond, DeLand
MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Member Report

Tom Blake in the Melbourne area reports that a new BMW dealership has opened its doors:

There's a new BMW dealer in town -- [Power BMW Motorcycles of Palm Bay](#). They're open Tuesday – Friday from 10–7 and Saturday from 9–5. They're at 190 Interstate Ct SE, Palm Bay which is adjacent (just east of) I-95 and just south of Malabar Rd (SR-514), behind (south of) Pam Bay Ford. ([map](#)) ☎321-215-2065.

When I first drove by, I thought the place was still empty. But after driving past, turning around and going the other way, I spied some bikes outside. So I stopped and went in. They opened in mid-May and are still getting set up, still waiting on deliveries, etc. A grand opening is in the works. But they have a good selection of BMW's and a several Triumphs and are already making sales and doing service.



The owner is a Triumph dealer in Dade County. The GM came here from Jacksonville where he was at a BMW dealership. There's also a sales guy, a parts/service manager and a service tech with level-2 training. I'm told their shop

rate is \$95/hour which is very reasonable for a BMW dealer. They expect to support an area from Daytona to Orlando to Stuart or a little further down with customer-oriented sales and service. This is an exciting and welcome development. While they have some new Triumphs there, they are still in discussions with Triumph about becoming a dealer.

They also plan on having a bike night on the first Thursday of the month with the possibility of expanding to two per month at some point.

If you get a chance, drop by and check 'em out.

Tom

Florida MSTA Apparel

We have recently 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 Brunch 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 Brunch 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

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 Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **July 8th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Where: [Osteen Diner](#), 195 S. State Road 415, Osteen, FL 32764 ☎407-323-6469 ([map](#))
Description: This nice small-town restaurant has been around for a long time and is very popular. We've eaten there before and found the food to be very good and the servers were pleasant and friendly
Contact: Teresa Vipond, termayn@gmail.com, or ☎713-504-5763

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **July 15th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Where: [Marsh Landing Restaurant](#), 44 N Broadway St, Fellsmere, FL 32948 ☎772-571-8622 ([map](#))
Description: We just can't resist this landmark setting and terrific restaurant!! If you haven't joined us here in the past, make up for what you've been missing...
Contact: Van, busavan@flmsta.org, or ☎561-386-2594

Regional Events

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 - May 31, 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

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



This month's [Mystery Hyperlink](#) (PDF) 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