



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 10 Issue 8

Events in August 2017

Details on Page 12

In This Issue:

- Page 1 – [Feature Article](#)
- Page 7 – [Safety Talk](#)
- Page 8 – [Florida News](#)
- Page 11 – [STAR Photos](#)
- Page 11 – [Florida MSTA Apparel](#)
- Page 12 – [Florida Rides](#)
- Page 12 – [Future Florida Rides](#)
- Page 13 – [Regional Events](#)
- Page 14 – [Mystery Hyperlink](#)
- Page 14 – [Classified Ads](#)

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Feature Article

STAR 2017!!

By 'Van' VanSteelant

[Photos by Jim Park, Luis Santiago, Mike Tissandier, Bryan Dunlap and others were uploaded to msta.smuqmuq.com/STARPhotos/STAR-2017 unless noted otherwise. Click for larger versions. Referenced photo index numbers may change if additional photos are uploaded.]

What follows are the rantings and adventures of just one participant in this year's Sport Touring Association Rally. I had plenty of company! Although attendance was down a little from previous STARS in Colorado, our presence couldn't be ignored! If you haven't looked over the photos on the National site for STAR 2017, you should!! I refer to them throughout this article. If you were there, memories! If not, see what you missed!!

Just like last year, early planning was a must. Several riding/transportation options were discussed amongst the usual suspects here in Florida. By February, two had dropped out for work reasons. That left Don Moe and myself. After several pro and con debates, I decided to try something new. I'd fly to Colorado, and rent a bike for

the week. This arrangement had several advantages, with little extra costs. As Bob Shields and I had ridden to STAR '12 in Avon, I was not going to repeat that exercise in abuse. And, by avoiding 8 days of "commuting" to and from Colorado Springs, I'd have more time to actually ride in the Rockies!!

Decision made, time to spend some money!! Would you believe that I had to compromise some of my decisions on bikes in early March for a June rental?? Early planning.... I made my arrangements with [EagleRider](#) out of Denver. This was a good fit for many reasons. Flights were less expensive to Denver, and they had [BMW R1200RT](#)s for rent! I'll say this now... EagleRider, in Denver, made my whole rental experience as painless as possible!! No opportunity to help me out was missed!

With the logistics for my whole vacation planned by the end of March, time was spent making up a "to do in CO" list. A quick look at the map, and topography, and you could see why we were based in Colorado Springs!! To the West was a rider's nirvana! And then came the announcement of a training day with [Lee Parks](#). I had attended his Level One class of Total Control Advanced Rider Training back in 2010. I signed up ASAP, especially after they promoted that Lee himself would be leading the classes. Just another perk of sticking around after STAR rather than hot-footing it home...

Saturday, Day One...

Up early. Planes, trains, cabs and an R1200RT!! The trip out to Denver went off without a hitch. I had rented an RT in Florida (thru a friend to the MSTA – rentmymotorcycle.com) prior to STAR to familiarize myself with the bike. That effort was rewarded when it came time to pack for the flight, and for the repack onto the bike! The short 90-minute ride to the hotel was a perfect intro to the beauty of riding in CO. It was sweet to leave home in the morning, and join several friends for a scrumptious dinner in downtown CS!

Sunday, Day Two...

As a true flat-lander, where I double my elevation from sea level by walking upstairs to our second floor, acclimating to the Rockies is essential for your wellbeing! Don and I choose an easy 200-mile ride to get me back into curve-carving shape. You can relive that ride in the July issue of the Gator Tale!!

Sunday is the first day of any STAR, and the Opening Night festivities were highlighted by the wise words of the local CO State Patrol Trooper. That's him in the adjacent photo (868). He was to the point, with lots of advice to having a great time AND to be safe doing it. With lots of humor! He admonished us with this: during his long career, he had never had a rider in ATGATT become DOS/DOA, ever. And, then confessed that he wouldn't recognize any of us out on the roads!! I believe that we all went ticket free for this STAR!!



Colorado State Trooper

Photo #868

Monday, Day Three...

This was a doozy of a day!! A small group of us made our way to the top of [Pikes Peak](#)! The ride and road was spectacular!! To watch how we didn't ride up the mountain, check out the video at [this link](#)! The video is stunning! And you get a real feel for the road and the scenery!!

Alas, I was not ready for 14,100+ feet just yet. Once I made it to the top, I felt the first signs of "mountain sickness" kick in. With many ski trips, and some minor climbing experience, I knew my next move had to be a few thousand feet back down the mountain. I found a pull out with a perfect vista view, and waited for a familiar "face" to come around the corner. Jim Park and I had a blast making our way back to the mountain general store. But only after a nearly disastrous encounter with the bicycle vendors!! Somehow, "they" wangled a deal to take tourists up to the top of Pikes

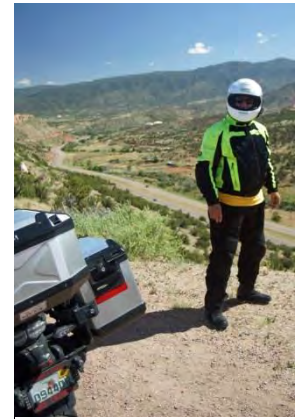


Van on R1200RT heading up Pikes Peak

Photo: Don Moe

Peak in passenger vans, loaded with bicycles on the roof. Then they turn these innocents loose on the mountain!! The vans follow them down the mountain, stopping anywhere they want, including the apex of a hairpin turn, to collect the panicked and/or crashed riders!! You can't imagine the mayhem that ensues when 20 plus vehicles are forced to crawl behind this incompetence. Passing on double yellows on blind mountain curves is just the first step to navigating around these barely-rolling road blocks!!

That was just the morning ride!! We enjoyed a brilliant lunch that was “just 8 miles away” from the general store... as the crow flies! None of us could stop laughing as the GPS kept us going and going and going... Afterward, we mounted up for one more ascent. Not far from the [Royal Gorge](#), we located the entrance to the [Skyline Drive](#). This gem is one way, along the spine of a ridge that’s only a few thousand feet up from the valley. But... there are sections where the eight foot wide road has only four feet of shoulder on each side!! You have to be choosy about when to take in the view!! Some of our crew welcomed the chance to de-cramp their fingers at the nearby convenience store!! Check out photos [1092-1099](#)!!



Van on Skyline Drive (#1096)

Monday nights are when the Members’ Meeting takes place. Key aspects of the Club are reported on and reviewed. Announcements are made. And awards are handed out!! Once again, our Editor In Chief took home his award for Newsletter of the Year, AGAIN!! This was also when I was able to present the caretakers of the Dan Clark Safety Program, Carl and Denise Wieman, (to my right in photo 1109), with our generous donation of \$500 from the proceeds of our 50/50 raffle. Florida Members, I thank you for your contributions!! Our presentation was very well received!! I had several people thank me after the meeting as well. It was a proud moment for our Chapter!!



Denise and Carl Wieman with Van

Photo #1109

Tuesday, Day Four...

This day is for the MSTA Lunch Ride!! The incredibly talented STAR organizers found a beautiful State Park, with gazebos located steps from a raging mountain river!! A local restaurant made up the bag lunches, and BANG!, you have a one of the best Lunch Rides since the last time we were in Colorado!! Here’s the secret... the route they laid out was stunning! Though our initial group for this ride was to be four, it grew to nine. It happens at STAR. Fortunately, I had two seasoned group riding coordinators and Sena 20s to rely on. We kept it safe and simple for the 60 miles to the lunch. The pace allowed us all to enjoy the vistas and sinuous roads!! Check out our merry group in the photos [98-106](#), [760-768](#), and [1186-1197](#) on the STAR 2017 Photo site!

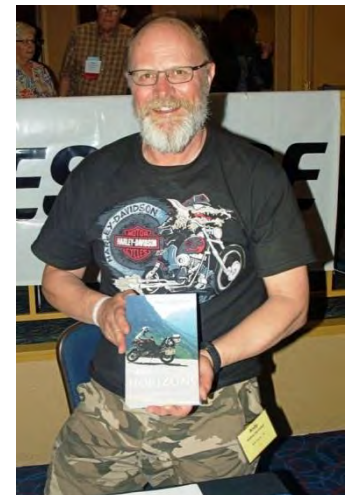


Lunch Ride

Photo #98

After lunch, Don and I rode away to enjoy the remaining 122 miles back to the hotel. We were in nirvana for 100 miles! We saw six approaching cars and one bike all afternoon. We voted CR-77 as THE road of STAR!! I won’t share anything more, as it may incriminate me... 😊

The evening is set aside for seminars. I attended Andrew Earnshaw’s presentation. That’s him in photo 1120. Wow!! He and his wife have been traveling the world on two wheels for years. He regaled us with tales of travels across much of the



Andrew Earnshaw

Photo #1120

Northern hemisphere! Their trip to STAR was inspired in part by his online friendship with Jim Park. Both Jim and Andrew are photo buffs and two wheel adventures. Their communications resulted in Andrew becoming a MSTA member, based in his native England. Look for more from him “down the road”!!

Wednesday, Day Five...

Rise and shine!! Don made plans for a dual-sport/adventure ride to a mystery destination. I made it a day for solo riding back to one of my first mountain ascents. Back in '06, STAR was based in Avon. A simple ride from there was up and over Independence Pass. CR-82 is only open from late May to early October. It's the fun way to get to Aspen!! This year, the ride over to Indy Pass meant a commitment to SR-24, right from Colorado Springs. This ride was thrilling, boring, beautiful, chilly, and a wonderful day of self-absorption. I made all the decisions and suffered/enjoyed all the consequences. Oh, and view from the pass was just as amazing as I remembered it eleven years ago!



Continental Divide marker at Independence Pass Photo: Van



Panoramic View at top of Independence Pass Photo: Van VanSteelant

Ah, the bittersweet ending to STAR 2017! Ups... Don Moe wins the President's Award!! Photo 1347! Don's efforts with our Membership rolls were recognized both at the Membership meeting and at the Banquet. All thought his selection was well founded!!

The dinner was tasty! The bike winner was present once again. Although we had a delay in the verification process, it was settled that the winner was the winner! And then... In an effort to help out the financial side of the Club, they offered to donate the Honda back to the EC! I'm sure the confusion that offer caused was settled with a call to American Honda. Stay tuned.

Downs... An innocent announcement about a member's concern sparked a lengthy floor discussion that should have been started during the Members' Meeting rather than our farewell dinner. And I did miss a keynote



MSTA Pres. Villarose presents award to Don Moe Photo: #1347

speaker this year! Alonzo Bodden was a highlight last year!! But then, you hear from members who complain about how long the banquet lasts... 😊

After conclusion of the banquet, those Florida members still in the room, along with a friend of Buck Jones, gathered for a group photo (996)!!

Thursday, Day Six...

Whoa, this is the earliest I've been up all week!! We had to be at the [Pikes Peak International Raceway](#) by 7:30 AM to sign in for the Total Control ART Level 2 class! Despite the rising temperatures, all went well! I thoroughly enjoyed the full morning session that we spent with Lee Parks himself. You can tell that he has thought about his subject for some time!! And his ability to instantly adapt to any motorcycle is amazing! During several of the riding exercises, he would demonstrate the skill set on your bike, with you behind him, in order to truly see and feel what he wanted you to learn. Priceless experience!! It was a terrific day of skills development and another wakeup call on how much there is to learn about riding a motorcycle proficiently and masterfully! You really need to take a class like this at least every 2-3 years. You'd be surprised how many bad habits creep back into your riding behavior.

This evening was for decompressing and packing up for the next two days on the road! Don had set up some terrific routes, using some of the info from a couple of STAR rides along with our own objectives. Another mountain top beckoned!

Friday, Day Seven...

Away we go!! We make our way to the National Park entrance for the ride up to the summit of [Mt. Evans](#). I believe it's the highest paved road in America. Wow, what an adventure! Just a little bit of wind found us on the ascent as well as the descent. And by now, I had fully acclimated, as we were way up there at the summit!

As we exited the Park, we picked a rustic lodge for lunch. We never did figure out why we had to wait an hour for our lunch to arrive, but the humming birds kept us mostly entertained!!

The rest of the afternoon was a trip down memory lane for Don. We retraced several roads that he knew from several recent visits to Colorado, including [Loveland Pass](#). And I enjoyed every mile!

Our evening destination was a sweet [Airbnb](#) in [Silverthorne](#). Having spent time in the area, he took us on a "refresher" tour around the spectacular [Dillon Reservoir](#).



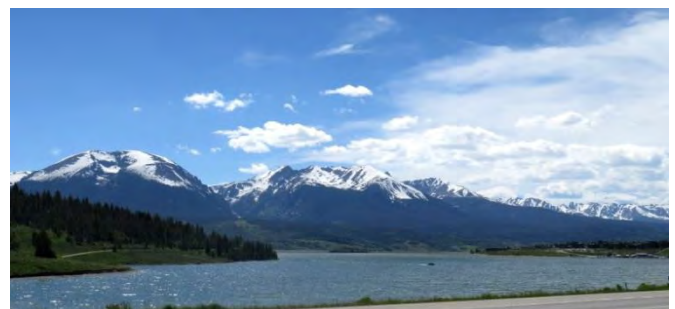
Florida MSTA members at STAR

Photo: #996



Van at the viewpoint on [Mt. Evans](#)

Photo: Don Moe



View across Dillon Reservoir near Frisco, Colorado

Photo: Don Moe

Despite the passage of time, he found every turn that we needed!! Upon reaching the Airbnb, the owner suggested we would enjoy a scrumptious dinner at a wonderful Italian restaurant on the edge of the [Blue River](#). Ah, Colorado riding and dining!!

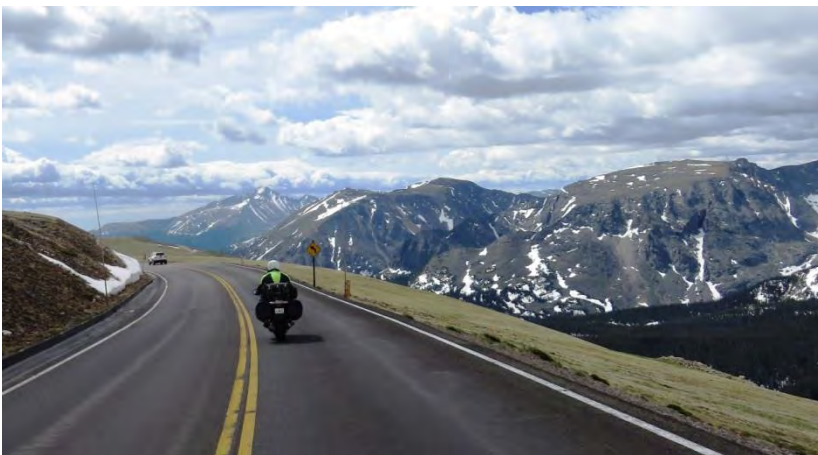
Saturday, Day Eight...

Damn... Every good time comes to an end... BUT, not until we have one more day of rip roaring fun!! We have so much crammed into one day; we roll just as the sun breaks cover! We fill up our tanks and bellies for a blast to [Rocky Mountain National Park](#). WOW!! The roads to, through and away from this bit of heaven are just plain stunning!! Miles of curves for hours on end! Mountain vistas, fuzzy antlered [elk](#) nibbling grass at the edge of the road, and one more summit conquered!!



Van on BMW R1200RT in RMNP

Photos: Don Moe



Van leads the way along [Trail Ridge Road](#) through [Rocky Mountain National Park](#)

And then, how about more curves... We make our way to [Boulder](#) for a late lunch, by way of Boulder Canyon alongside [Boulder Creek](#)! We rode this for thirty minutes. I don't think we had more than 2,000 feet of straight road!! A perfect departure dessert for this Florida boy. My eyes are "sweating" just thinking about it...

We say our goodbyes. Don has weeks more of riding fun ahead of him. I have a solo blast down I-25 to turn in the BMW and make my way back out to the [Days Inn](#) "next" to the Denver airport. If you've ever flown in or out of Denver, you know that there isn't anything next to the airport. Nothing is closer than a 15-20 minute highway drive! Plan accordingly! Fortunately, I had done my homework. My logistical planning rewarded me with nearly stress free travels!!

So, let me ask you, have you already started planning for STAR 2018 in Wisconsin??



A large [Elk](#) alongside Trail Ridge Road



Riding through Boulder Canyon

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.*

Florida Summer = Rain

Yep, it's here...the rainy season. I was riding home from my local shop just the other day and it happened. I had beautiful sunny weather for the ride to the dealer, and was there about 20 minutes. I walked out to my bike and the storm clouds were already gathering. During the 12 mile ride back home, it was in succession sunny, cloudy, dark, drizzle, pouring rain, wet roads with standing water, then bright and sunny again. Welcome to Florida in the summertime.



We could spend an entire afternoon telling war stories about Florida rain. What I would like to pass along here are what I think are the most critical parts of this enduring FL summer riding malady:

- Rule 1: It's going to rain. Accept it and just think of it as a way to cool off. The best part is seeing the riders trying to ride in the pouring downpour; those that aren't wearing a helmet or gear.
- Rule 1a: When you pass them, make sure you wave... 😊
- Rule 2: When the roads first get wet, the water pushes all the oil to the top. The roads get SLICK. Be super careful. (If you can) Turn up the traction control. Turn down the power delivery. Stay out of the lane centers where all the oil and grease accumulates.
- Rule 3: Increase your following distance. Enough said.
- Rule 4: Watch out for the crazy cage drivers. A lot of them have no clue what reduced traction on wet roads even means.
- Rule 5: Watch the clouds: Dark is bad. Black is worse. I've changed directions more than once to avoid the oncoming Black Wall of Death.
- Rule 6: A GPS with weather radar is worth its weight in, well at least silver. It can tell you which storm fronts you can ride through, and when you need to apply Rule 5, above.
- Rule 7: Rain is one thing. When you start hearing thunder, that's something else. I once had a bolt hit the tree I was riding by at the time. The concussion pushed me almost off the road. And that one didn't even hit me. Avoid noisy storms when at all possible!
- Rule 8: Want to avoid all the rain? Ride in the early mornings.
- Rule 9: Rule 8 doesn't always work...
- Rule 10: Riding in the FL summer rain is an exercise in caution. Focus on your riding techniques, traction, traffic awareness, etc. If it gets too bad, seek refuge. Chances are the weather will change in 5 minutes anyway.

Year around riding is one of the reasons we all live in this awesome State. With it comes a few challenges, one of them being the summer rains. Take it in stride, make sure you realize the safety precautions required when the raindrops start to fall, and ensure you always Ride Safe!

Ride Safe!

Doug Westly – Safety Editor

Florida News

South Director's Report

THE LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER...

Well, not for a bunch of you guys and gals!! The Central Gang had a good ride to the [Osteen Diner](#), in Osteen, FL! Get the details in the Central report below. The South Brunch Ride to the [Marsh Landing Restaurant](#) in Fellsmere attracted enough of us to garner the large banquet room off the main restaurant. That may have been to the staff's benefit as much as ours!!

When nearly 20 of us get our "motors" running, it can get a little loud!! As always, the Marsh Landing treated us well. And every newcomer had the same reaction to their first visit – this place is so cool!! We have loads of photos on [our site](#) from this ride!! Check out the [video](#), which leads the collection of shots from this month's ride! Thanks, James!! *[Click on photos for larger versions.]*



Van VanSteelant



Inside the Marsh Landing Restaurant in Fellsmere



Photos: James Scott Siler

We had several BMW MOAs return for another brunch with us, along with some new faces. And Larry Gonzalez reappeared after quite some time away!! Dennis and Dorothy made their way from Okeechobee, and Rich Peabody took the long distance award, riding up from Venice!! With a good crowd, our 50/50 raffle always turns out well. Once again, our winner, Don Williams, graciously donated his winning half back to the Club! Adding the \$82 pot gets us to \$756.00. Always a big THANK YOU to all who participate!!

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!! [flmsta.org](#)

First up, we have the Central Brunch Ride scheduled for August 12th. We changed the location a few weeks ago. We are going to the [Grills Riverside Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar](#), at 6075 N. US Highway 1, in Melbourne! Our scout did his research and made the decision to move our festivities to this much better option! This waterfront diner has plenty of parking and is prepared for a big turn out!!

A week later, August 19th, the South Brunch Ride heads to an old favorite! [Main Street America An Eatery](#), at 22 S. Main Ave, in lovely Lake Placid. Between the fine food and exciting local roads, we just can't stay away!! Make your plans now.

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!!

OK, TIME TO BRAG!! ON DON MOE!! AGAIN... HE WAS AWARDED THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD THIS YEAR FOR HIS ASTOUNDING EFFORTS TOWARD THE REORGANIZATION OF OUR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP RECORDS. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HIS EFFORTS, AND THOSE OF THE OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HAVE RESURRECTED OUR ROLLS AND RESTORED TRUE MEMBERSHIP SERVICES!! THE WHOLE BANQUET CROWD APPLAUDED DENNIS' CHOICE!!

Here's what we know today...

We welcome new member Ed Palmer from Riverview, who joined the MSTA in July.

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 applications, you will receive a \$10 STAR Bucks coupon that you can use towards event registration fees and membership dues until 12/31/2018. The MSTA Executive Committee decided in March to discontinue issuing STAR Bucks after the end of 2017 and issue coupons for raffle tickets in 2018.

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

Dennis & Dorothy Anderson Ellen S. Kocher Bob Shields

These Florida memberships will expire soon or have recently expired:

Mary Crawford John B. Hunt Steve Phillips

We urge all our members to renew their memberships and to continue supporting their MSTA. If you have a question about when your membership expires, please contact me at membership@ridemsta.com.

Random Ramblings!

We have enjoyed larger than usual turnouts for this summer's Brunch rides!! I thank you all for your support of our events and Club!!

We have distributed a number of ITRs – Invitation To Ride – to many of our active members. I do hope that they spend very little time in your tank bags and much more time in worthy prospects' hands! Remember, our STAR Bucks reward program ends this year. Take advantage now!! Remember how you first heard about the MSTA...

If you have a favorite Brunch/Lunch destination, please share your treasure with the rest of us!! Email me with the info and we will work it into the next schedule of RTEs! Keep in mind that the restaurant needs to be able to handle 15-20 of us on top of their usual crowd. We always work with the staff to make it easy for them to make us happy!!

Have you started planning for STAR 2018? *[It will be in La Crosse, Wisconsin in June.]*

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report

Central Florida August Brunch Ride:

Saturday, **August 12th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

[Grills Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar](#)

6075 N. US Highway 1

Melbourne, FL 32940

July Central Report by Tom Blake for Teresa Vipond:

Well, we couldn't have asked for better weather for the July Central ride. Yes, it got a little warm by noon. But it was July after all. The brunch attracted several more riders than expected – a pleasant surprise. Four of the Melbourne-area regulars – Steve, Bill, Tom and our long-sidelined good friend Larry – made a spirited run from West Melbourne out to Deer Park and then up through Christmas, Chuluota and Geneva to the [Osteen Diner](#) in the little town of (wait for it) Osteen.

At the diner, we found a nicely shaded area to park right across from a line of about eleven CanAm Spyders – each uniquely decked out, a couple with custom paint. We were just dismounting when new member Mike from Ormond Beach pulled in on his Suzuki Bandit. Inside, I announced to the wait person that we were with the MSTA and had a reservation for a group of eight. This didn't seem to register with her and we were shown to a table in the front dining room large enough for the five of us plus one more. Since I wasn't really expecting anyone else, I said OK. We were just sitting down when I spotted Doug Westly walking toward the door from the other dining room. We got his attention but he said he had to get on the road to meet up with his wife. Too bad we missed each other upon arrival and we're sorry he wasn't able to join us at least for a little while.

And then as we were finishing up our meals, Robert (red ST1300), from the Tampa area, strolled in and sat down with us long enough to wolf down a BLT and coffee and chat for a while. I was curious how long it took him to ride all the way from the other side of the state. My guess was well over 3 hours. He said about an hour and a half via I-4! Since my experience is that I-4 is a parking lot in the Kissimmee-Orlando area, I'm now thinking this Robert fellow must be in tight with the traffic gods. We need this guy in our riding group as often as possible! We were pleased that he made the trip over. Same for Mike.

Afterward, all six of us mounted up and beat a path across Maytown Rd to Oak Hill where Mike turned north. The rest of us rode down US-1 and cut over onto SR-3 which meanders down through the [Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge](#) to Titusville. Unfortunately, the ride leader failed to read the large, electronic sign at the entrance to SR-3 that said the [Haulover Canal](#) draw bridge was closed for repair. So, when we got to the blocked off and raised bridge, we had no choice but to turn around and backtrack 8 miles. Sorry guys! Robert rode with us to Melbourne where we all split in different directions for home. Good times.

Now to new business. On August 12th, you are invited to the 9:30 Central Brunch at [Grills Riverside](#) which is at 6075 N Highway (US) 1, Melbourne, FL 32940 ([map](#)) This is a location change – previously it was the Grills at Port Canaveral. Unfortunately, the Port Canaveral restaurant is slammed Saturday mornings and they do not take reservations, contrary to my previous understanding. Grills Riverside has the same great food. And while it is not at the port, it is right on a particularly scenic section of the [Indian River Lagoon](#) just north of the [Pineda](#)

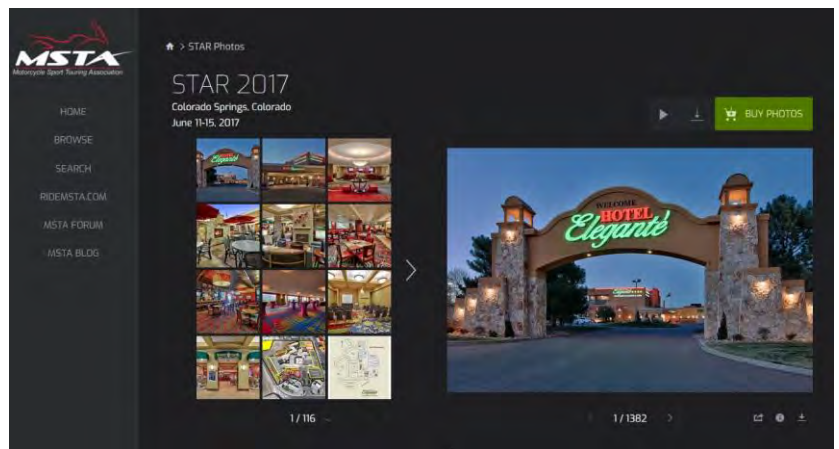
[Causeway](#) (SR-404, accessible from I-95 to A1A). Grills is on the river side of US-1. Southbound riders will have to go past a short distance and then make a U-turn in the dip before the overpass and come back. The parking lot is large and paved.

We have ample space reserved for a large turnout with a great view of the river. Also, I've noticed that it's getting light out a little earlier this time of year so maybe some of you further away will be motivated to get out for a good Saturday ride. The more the merrier.

Teresa Vipond,
DeLand
MSTA Florida State Co-Director

STAR Photos

Jim Park reminds everyone that DVD disks with many photos from STAR 2017 have been mailed out to members who ordered them with their registration. The photos have also been uploaded to the STAR 2017 section of the MSTA online photo gallery at msta.smugmug.com/STARPhotos/STAR-2017, shown here. At this time there are nearly 1,400 photos available for viewing online or downloading to your computer.



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., **August 12th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Grills Riverside Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar](#), 6075 N. US Highway 1, Melbourne, FL 32940 ☎321-242-8999 ([map](#))

Description: Excellent food. Waterfront dining along a particularly scenic stretch of the Indian River Lagoon. It sits just north of the Pineda Causeway (SR-404, accessible from I-95 to A1A) on the river side of US-1. Southbound riders will have to go past a short distance and then make a U-turn in the dip before the overpass and come back. The parking lot is large and paved. We have ample space reserved with a great view of the river.

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

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **August 19th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Main Street America An Eatery](#), 22 S. Main Ave, Lake Placid, FL 33852 ☎863-465-7733 ([map](#))

Description: Another can't-miss location that we have visited year after year!! The local roads and the delicious food make a brilliant combination!!

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., **September 9th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Red Wing Restaurant](#), 12500 FL-33, Groveland, FL 34736 ☎352-429-2997 ([map](#))

Description: Last Central BRUNCH ride of the year!!

This is a great little restaurant just a few miles south of Groveland that we've enjoyed many times before

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

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **September 23rd**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Lakeside Grill](#), 1111 S. Parrott Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34974 ☎863-357-4745 ([map](#))

Description: A new-to-us location with a terrific menu, and a very convenient location!!

The LAST BRUNCH ride of the year!!

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

Regional Events

There are no AMA-sanctioned MSTA events scheduled for August in the southeastern region of the US. However, a Just-For-Fun event and a sanctioned event are happening in September.

Rick's Ride In – Middlesboro, KY

When: Fri.-Sun., **Sept. 15-17**
Where: [Holiday Inn Express](#), 1252 12th Street, Middlesboro, KY 40965 ☎606 248-6860 – Request the MSTA special rate. ([map](#))
Description: Twisty and scenic riding around the Cumberland Gap (KY, TN, VA).
Contact: [Rick Giddish](#)

[MSTA Fall Colors Ride](#) – Lewisburg, West Virginia

When: Fri.-Sun., **Sept. 29 – Oct 1**
Where: [Quality Inn](#), 540 North Jefferson Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901 ☎304-645-7722 – Request the MSTA special rate and reservation #2720348 for our group discount. ([map](#))
Description: Meet with fellow MSTA members and ride the great roads of West Virginia to see the fall colors. For additional important information, visit the FCR webpage at [msta-se.com/fcr](#).
Contact: Syd Mayes, touringman5@gmail.com, or Home ☎804-265-8636 or Cell ☎804-721-3399

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

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

Mystery Hyperlink of the Month

This month there are three good Mystery Hyperlinks related to the safety article:

[Mystery Hyperlink 1](#)

[Mystery Hyperlink 2](#)

[Mystery Hyperlink 3](#)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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