



# The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of  
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 10 Issue 9

## Events in September 2017

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## Feature Article

### **Riding in Utah and Colorado**

By Tom Blake

*[In this article Tom recounts portions of his trips to Utah and Colorado in 2009/2010.]*

Entering southwestern Utah from Nevada was like entering a different world. The visuals were starkly different. Nevada was all brown sand and [Joshua trees](#). SW Utah was suddenly red-orange sandstone arches, spires, mesas, buttes, gullies and pinnacles. The land had turned wildly colorful... and beautiful.

After a restful, late September night in [St. George](#), my plan was to visit nearby [Zion National Park](#), followed by [Bryce Canyon](#) a little further to the northeast. These would be followed by [Capitol Reef](#) even further northeast and then I'd work my way east through [Canyonlands](#) and finally close it out with [Arches](#) up near [Moab](#). However, a cold front was working its way in from the NW and snow was expected at higher elevations in central Utah later in the day.



Approaching Zion National park in Southwest Utah



Entrance to Zion National Park

Nevertheless, I-15 and then UT-9, also called the [Zion - Mount Carmel Highway](#), got me to Zion, which was just spectacular. You ride through a canyon roughly along the north fork of the [Virgin River](#) and are just in awe of the colorful rock formations. About halfway through, you can take advantage of a bus tour of Scenic Drive, which follows the north fork of the river in a more northerly direction. This road is not open to personal



The Great White Throne



Checkerboard Mesa

vehicles. I didn't take the time, given the forecast, and continued along UT-9. This involved many switchbacks to accommodate rapid elevation changes and included a tunnel, just over a mile long, built in the late 1920's with openings every so often to let fresh air in. Visit this park if you have the chance. You will not be disappointed.

Several miles east of Zion, I picked up US-89 heading north. There were several small towns along this road, each of which was guarded at one end or the other by a deputy sheriff in a white Suburban. This, of course, necessitated slowdowns and careful attention to speed limits. Most of these small towns, by the way, do not have gas stations. If you plan to come this way, plan your fill ups accordingly.

After turning ESE onto UT-12 toward Bryce Canyon NP, I encountered Red Canyon which was small but with fabulous visuals. Located within the [Dixie National Forest](#), it's not a national park so there was no entry fee.



Red Canyon

I could have stayed on UT-12 through a portion of Bryce and then taken it north to Capitol Reef but elected, instead, to head south on UT-63, the 18 or so mile park road. Beyond the visitor center, the road steadily climbs to over 9,100 feet at the south end. Along the way there are several parking areas with overlooks of the awesome and colorful pinnacles and spires called hoodoos, as well as arches - all on the east-facing side of the



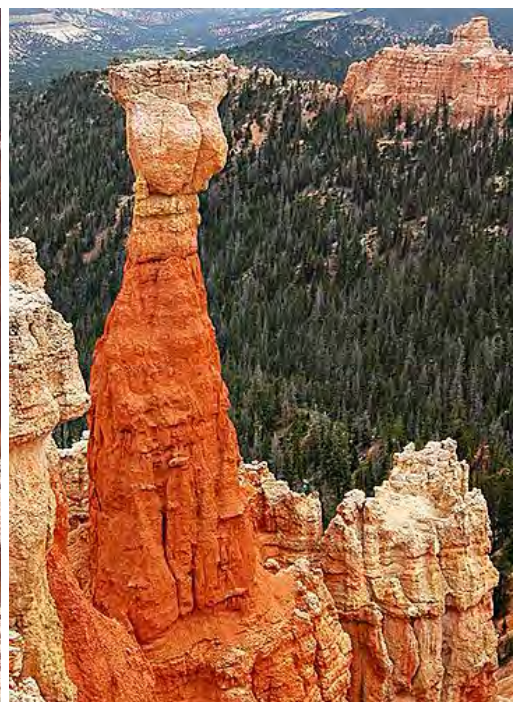
Natural Bridge at Bryce Canyon



Hoodoos



The Hunter



Agua Overlook

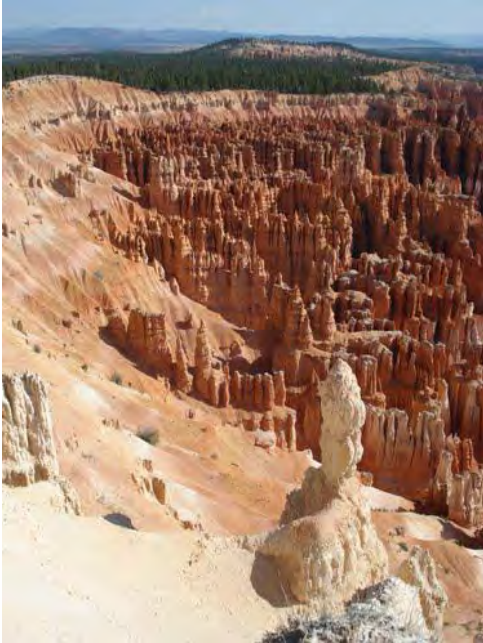
mountain. And panoramic views of the lowlands beyond were just spectacular. On a clear day, which this was, they say you can see for 100 miles or more. What an experience.

Many years ago, I read a collection of about six books written by [Carlos Castaneda](#) about a young cultural anthropologist seeking initially to study the uses of medicinal plants among Indians of the Southwest and northern Mexico. He described meeting a [Yaqui](#) sorcerer from Mexico by the name of [Don Juan Matus](#) who took him, over a period of years, into the very



heart of sorcery, challenging both imagination and reason, shaking the very foundations of one's belief in what is natural and logical. This was all very *heady* stuff, in a 1970's sense, and left an impression.

Among other bizarre occurrences, Don Juan could change himself from a person into a [raven](#) and vice versa. Well, as luck would have it, I spotted a raven (maybe it was just a crow) at the very first parking area I came to in the ascent up the Bryce Canyon mountain. And at each successive parking area this bird seemed to reappear. It was, to say the least, quite spooky!



Natural Amphitheatre



Rainbow Point

By the time I got to Bryce, it had become chilly. By the time I left, it was downright frigid and I was layering up. Given the weather forecast, Capitol Reef was out of the question. In fact, a major change in plans was in order. After a hot cup of coffee at the bottom of the mountain, it was time to head south, way south — to Arizona.

Back out on US-89, I rode down through [Kanab](#) and then over to [Page, Arizona](#). The scenery and ride were pleasant. [Lake Powell](#) and the [Glen Canyon Dam](#) on the [Colorado River](#) are situated near Page. This was all



Labyrinth Canyon on Lake Powell



Glen Canyon Dam and Bridge at Page, AZ

very nice but I had seen them before. In fact, since it was only 4 o'clock or so, I decided to press on to [Flagstaff](#) for the night. This would be about as far as I could go before dark.

The bad thing about Flagstaff is that it's about 10,000 feet above sea level. That means it can be a very cold place. When I got up the next morning, it was 30 degrees! I took my time with the continental breakfast and by 9:00, it had warmed up to a reasonable 43 degrees.

I took I-40 and old [Route 66](#) east to [Winslow](#) and then [Holbrook](#) where I stopped to visit old friends. Just east of Holbrook, I turned north on AZ-77. This lead to 264 heading east and then 191 north all the way to Moab, UT and Arches NP. These are all rural, meandering 2-lanes and thus very enjoyable. Much of this Arizona territory was through either [Navajo](#) or [Hopi](#) reservation. Towns, when I saw one, were very small. Vegetation was sparse. Cattle were usually limited to less than a dozen in a field of view — the land just won't support more, I guess. Contrast this to Kansas, later in the trip, where crops were plentiful and herds were generally in the hundreds.



Arches National Park near Moab, UT



More Arches National Park – Balanced Stone (right)

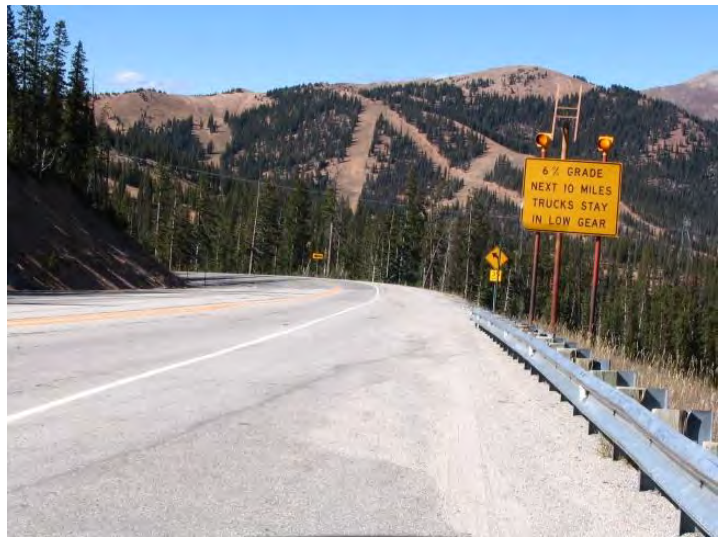
Moab looked like it could be a very interesting little town to spend some time in. There were a goodly number of shops, gas stations, restaurants and hotels. I believe there are also movie sets in the area. Some of [John Wayne](#)'s movies, I was told, were shot there back in the day.

Arches NP is just north of Moab. It's a rather sprawling affair. There's a single park road that runs about 18 miles up through it, with a couple short side roads jutting off. And then you come back the opposite direction to get out. There is a lot to see and take pictures of along the first 10 miles and then you would have to go some distance to see then next stuff. I wanted to get to [Grand Junction, Colorado](#) for the night so did not venture the whole way. Nevertheless, I saw some extraordinary rock formations in varying shades of red. Some were rock walls, some were thin fins. There are over 2000 cataloged arches in the park. I was particularly impressed with the "balanced stone."

Grand Junction made a good starting point for the next day's ride along the [Black Canyon of the Gunnison River](#) on CO-92 and over the [San Juan Mountain Range](#) on US-50. The Black Canyon of the Gunnison is unique in North America for its narrowness, sheer walls, startling depth and, of course, its dark color. Ski trails



[Black Canyon of the Gunnison](#)



[Ski Slopes on the San Juan's](#)

were all over [Monarch Mountain](#) (in the San Juan's) and the summit was just below 12,000 feet. This state has some fabulous riding and scenery. Do not pass up a chance to enjoy it.

At 12,095 feet, [Independence Pass](#) on CO-82 between [Leadville](#) and [Aspen](#) sits atop the highest ridge in the [Sawatch Range](#) - the upper third of which was largely covered with snow pack. The road up is narrow and treacherous with numerous switchbacks and unprotected, sheer drop-offs right at the edge of the pavement in several places. And I'm talking a l-o-n-g way to the bottom! Not survivable. I put on all my thermal gear for the ascent but up top it was 64 degrees



[Independence Pass](#)  
Snowpack but note the shorts and footwear on these tourists

so off came the thermos as I was sweating. The ride back down puts you next to the drop offs so self-preservation demands undivided attention most of the way down. Still, there are incredible views out into the valley when you work up the nerve to briefly look away from the road.

Rumbling over the 3" x 12" wood plank suspension [bridge](#) spanning [Royal Gorge](#) near [Cañon City](#) had me on my toes as the bridge is some 1,063 feet above the [Arkansas River](#) and I was praying for no splinters in my ST1300's tires. After riding over it, I parked and walked back to look over the edge. About the time I made it to the middle of the bridge, a propane tank truck started across. The whole bridge was bouncing and wiggling as I hurried to a solid support pylon. **Far** below, rafters were floating down the river unaware of the anxiety above.



Plank suspension bridge over Royal Gorge and the view from it down into the gorge where rafters were enjoying a float on the Arkansas River

The upper Arkansas River between Leadville and [Pueblo](#) must be one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country as I passed one group after another along US-50 and up US-24. No doubt, great fun.

It got really cold coming into [Colorado Springs](#) that evening. I was glad to get a room, take a long, hot shower, get some hot food in me and finally settle down for the night in a nice soft, warm bed. The following morning it was still cold. And then heading east toward Kansas it started to rain. But the last week more than made up for any discomfort I would face on the next leg of my journey.

## 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.*

### Intersections

The very first rule of intersections is that drivers of other vehicles (the 4 wheels and greater kind) do not see you. Not that they can't see you. They just don't. Remember that at EVERY intersection you come to.

And just to be clear, intersections are everywhere. Not just the kind with lights and stop signs. When you think about it, every driveway that empties into a street is an intersection. Every alley that opens onto a street is an intersection. Intersections are everywhere.

As you approach an intersection, you have to scan in all directions. The threat can come from anywhere. You already know to look left and right. But what about in front of you? One of the most frequent two vehicle (or more) crashes, where a motorcycle is one of the vehicles, is in intersections, where the other vehicle turns left in front of the bike. You also have to look BEHIND you. You may be slowing down for an intersection, anticipating traffic or a red light, but is the driver of the car behind you paying attention?



Motorcycle Riding Tips

Graphic: [MotorcycleLawyer.ca](http://MotorcycleLawyer.ca)

So what do you do when a dangerous situation starts to unfold at that intersection you are approaching?

Rule No. 1: SLOW DOWN. Speed reduces reaction time and distance. Slowing down even a little may buy you the extra time you need.

Rule No. 2: Be ready for the unexpected. That car in opposing center lane could unexpectedly turn left, across the turn lane, and into your path of travel.

Rule No. 3: The light will change when you least expect it. Be ready for it.

Rule No. 4: Drivers don't care about Rule No. 3. They will run the red light. Be ready for it.

Now for some practical tips...

- 🚗 Always look at the tires of cars stopped in the opposing lanes of travel. Are they turned in your direction? Are they starting to roll?
- 🚗 Check the drivers. Are they paying attention? Are they distracted?
- 🚗 Expect the road surface in intersections to be slippery. Cars and trucks stop for lights and stop signs. Oil drips. Grease drips. Antifreeze leaks. It all ends up under your tires.

Here is one of my favorite techniques for intersections, specifically when there is a car in the opposite lane, waiting to turn left, potentially across my path of travel.

Whenever possible and safe, I will adjust my path of travel very slightly, and aim my bike almost directly at the opposing vehicle as I approach the intersection. This puts my headlight right in their eyes. It also gives me more control over my path of travel if they do start to turn and enter my path. Instead of being committed to straight thru the intersection or swerving possibly into them, by adjusting my trajectory slightly and for all practical purposes aiming at the opposing car, I can then react by swerving either in front of or behind the other vehicle.

The bottom line is that every rider needs to focus on those areas and locations where threat can impact their ride. Intersections where vehicle paths transect are some of the most potentially threatening environments for motorcyclists.

Every rider should develop threat awareness techniques that allow them to scan, identify and react to possible danger.

Ride Safe!

Doug Westly – Safety Editor

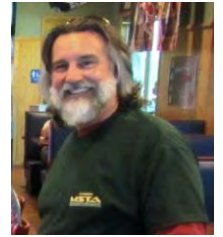


## Florida News

### South Director's Report

#### EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS...

As I write this, my heart, and a few dollars (HINT, HINT) to the American Red Cross, goes out to the citizens and Members who are getting pounded by Harvey. This too shall pass, and an All-America style recovery will happen. And for a brief moment, we just might see something positive out of D.C...



Van VanSteelant

On to our story for this month!! You'll read Tom's report about the wonderful Central Brunch Ride below! Check out the location photos!! Yours truly joined the fun as a member participant. Great ride, (290 miles RT), good food and lively gab!!

The South Brunch Ride was equal to the task. Three early risers made their way to the starting point, and spent the next couple of hours chasing each other to an MSTA favorite, the Main Street America eatery!! We had perfect summer weather, with the temps holding in the 70's the whole way over to Lake Placid!!

With just three us moseying along... we had a few extra minutes to enjoy an "insider's" loop around town before parking next to what looked like a Honda dealership... Oh, it was just part of the expanding menagerie of bikes stabled in Doug and Becky's garage!! The perks of a Honda contract. They had friends Kevin and Nick join them for the ride from Tampa. By 9:30, we had 14 riders and friends carrying on and telling tales!!



As usual, the service was suburb... yes, Doug did have to wait too long for his pancakes, but we were all enjoying the morning so much, nobody was rushed through their brunch! This was a super turnout for an August ride. We even had a guest appearance by Judy, sister to Jim Park, and local Lake Placid resident! Of course, this means our 50/50 raffle was well funded once again. Our special thanks to two members who attempted to "stack the deck" in their favor with very generous donations... to no avail, as Rich Peabody cleaned up with the winners half of \$38! He then donated back \$20, so the Club ended up with \$58 to add to our pot. We stand at \$814.00. 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!!

[www.flmsta.org](http://www.flmsta.org)

We are set for the last of our seasonal brunch rides in September. The Central Brunch Ride is up first. On Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, you'd better make your way to the Red Wing Restaurant that's just a little outside of Groveland!! This stop is a regular addition to our calendars. If you're wondering why, stop on by!!

Two weeks later, come play with the Southies for the last brunch ride of the year! On Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will try a new-to-us location that's been recommended by a couple of our usual scouts. We will settle in at the Lakeside Grill in downtown Okeechobee! We should have a large crowd at this event!

Of course, there are many of you still aching to get in one more "summer" ride. We have TWO options on hand!! The evergreen Ozark's BS Rally happens Sept. 8-10 in Theodosia, MO. And, for many members outside of Florida, the end of the month marks the beginning of fall, highlighted by the Fall Colors Ride in Lewisburg, WV, from Sept. 29-Oct. 1.

September is also the month for the AIMExpo this year!! The organizers have moved the event up one month, and away from us!! They will set up shop in Columbus, OH, Sept. 21-24. As you know, MSTA will have a booth on the floor, populated by members from Ohio, Kentucky and other surrounding states. If you're attending, be sure to stop in and say HI!! We are in booth 2038. And, be sure to check out the AMSOIL booth, 1152. Members Tim and Teresa Vipond will be there, right in the middle of the "Made in America" floor section!!

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!!

### Here's what we know today...

No Florida riders renewed or joined the MSTA in August.

These Florida memberships will expire soon or have recently expired:

David Cassell

Mary Crawford

John B. Hunt

Don Later

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](mailto:membership@ridemsta.com).

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.

## 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 are closer to our "winter" riding weather...

If you have purchased anything motorcycle related that has blown you away with its features or price or performance, send me and/or Don an email with a short write up and website. We'll try to include a Member's Promo each month... (See my contribution in this issue...)

STAR 2018 is "just around the corner..." *[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 September Brunch Ride:**

Saturday, **September 9<sup>th</sup>**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

[Red Wing Restaurant](#)

12500 FL-33

Groveland, FL 34736

### **August Central Report by Tom Blake for Teresa Vipond:**

(Note: Teresa asked me in March if I'd coordinate the Central brunch rides this year since she would be on extended vacation through September. I reluctantly agreed but look forward to her return in October.)

There are times when nothing seems to start out right. And you wonder if it will be worth the effort. That's kind of how this Saturday was shaping up. One of the Friday night talk shows on MSNBC had me wound up tight as a drum with the reported political lunacy and skullduggery and I headed to the bedroom in a state of great agitation. Then I struggled to get my decades-old alarm clock set to go off at 6 a.m. In bed and still highly disquieted, I tossed and turned. And then tossed and turned some more. And then some more. And then, it seemed way too quickly, I was rudely awakened from a very deep sleep by that dang alarm. I hit the snooze. In a while I forced myself up and headed to the kitchen to put coffee on. Glancing at the clock in the kitchen, it said 5:15. What the hey! Back in the bedroom, the clock said 6:15 – in error. Unbelievable. None of this was boding well.

At 7:00, I walked into a warm wall of humidity as I stepped into the garage. Ugh! Then I was on the bike and heading through Valkaria, with a nice cooling breeze, to the first rendezvous point in Malabar. Steve, from Melbourne Beach, pulled in right after me. The Melbourne BMW crowd, whom I thought was going to piggyback with us, decided to go elsewhere for their mid-month ride. So, at 7:45, after coffees, some good banter and no other riders, we were off to Wabasso to pick up our good friend Bill.

Then, finally, the ride over to and up A1A and across the Pineda Causeway to [Grills](#) became very enjoyable. The Wabasso causeway consists of three bridges, one of which is tall with a curve on the east end as you descend steeply onto the barrier island. Nice. A1A is mostly rural from the causeway road to Melbourne Beach and 2-lane until you get to US-192 in Indianalantic. The ocean is on one side with the Indian River on the other and neither is very far from the road in places. The Sebastian Inlet Bridge is tall and offers nice views. I always slow way down going over to gawk.

Coming across the Pineda is always pleasurable. You cross two high bridges – one over the Banana River, the other over the Indian River – each providing great views of the respective river and surrounding area. Both rivers are wide here and separated by a mere sliver of Merritt Island. And this morning, the skies were mostly clear and sunny with just a light breeze making the water appear shimmering and inviting. I could make out *Grills* on the mainland sitting at the river's edge just a little north of the causeway. It was beginning to look like the start of what might become a fantastic day. Maybe.

Jerry, our long-lost buddy from Cocoa, was already at *Grills* when we arrived. Nice. So that made four of us. I was expecting Van and possibly one more from south FL to make a showing and hopefully Mike would ride

down from Ormond Beach. I even held out hope that a couple of the local guys might show up by car. The hostess had our tables for twenty all nicely set up. I said we were going to be a lot smaller in number today and, since it was so nice, could we sit outside on the deck? No problem. We were just served our beverages when Van walked in with Mike in tow. Eventually, Steve, Doug and Scott showed up as a group from Jupiter, Boynton Beach and Coral Springs, respectively. And since it had by now warmed up, they decided to dine inside in the A/C where we joined them once we got our checks paid.



Scott, Doug and Steve

The restaurant was a multi-level and quite attractive facility inside and out. It had large, floor-to-ceiling windows on the east and south sides providing excellent views of the picturesque river and outside decks. On the south deck, there was an oblong bar with thatched palm roof and deck tables all around. The covered deck on the east side of the building facing the river is where the six of us sat around a large round table. And they had a stage and dance floor west of the outside bar for the afternoon and evening crowds.



View to the east across the Indian River. Merritt Island in the background. Outside thatch-roofed bar with separated dance floor to the right.

So, after a bit of a sputtering start, we wound up with a nice group of nine riders – many of whom came from quite a distance away. Thank-you all for making the trip. Of course, we had a lot of interesting things to talk about. And *Grills* served up some really good food. My 3-egg bacon and Colby cheese omelet with home fries/onions/peppers and toast was seriously good and under \$10. On the way out, I noted a Suzuki SV650, a couple Yamaha FZ-07's, a BMW R1200GSA, a Suzuki Hayabusa, a Suzuki Bandit, a KTM Adventure, a Triumph Explorer and a Triumph Bonneville T120. Beautiful. After some parking lot banter as we geared up, we were then – in a *poof* - all headed off in different directions for our rides home. In the end, I must say, everything worked out just fine. It was definitely worth the effort.



Nice mix of bikes. Three Suzukis, two Yamahas, two Triumphs, a BMW and a KTM.



Clockwise from front-left: Mike, Van, Steve, Jerry and Tom. Bill behind the camera.  
 (The gals behind us were quietly enjoying what looked to be champagne-orange juice mixtures!)



From the left: Tom, Van, Steve, Jerry, Mike, Doug, Steve and Scott (the one hiding behind the car).  
 Very nice of them and Van to make the long trip up. Thanks to all who rode in. Bill, again, working the camera.  
 Look at that sky – it had turned into a beautiful day.

Next month - September - will see the last brunches of 2017. The Central brunch is scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> at an old favorite – the [Red Wing Restaurant](#) - on SR-33 just south of Groveland. Good central location. Good food. Good roads. Good friends. I hope to see many of you there.

Teresa Vipond,  
 DeLand  
 MSTA Florida State Co-Director

## **Member's Promo**

This blurb will hopefully inspire a few more of you to send in a BRIEF write up for a motorcycle product or service that has BLOWN you away with either price, features, performance, innovation...Good friend to the MSTA, [www.motoskiveez.com](http://www.motoskiveez.com), introduced their Technical Riding Shirt to us at STAR. I have worn it here in Florida on every ride since STAR. It is AMAZING! It is not the typical compression, evaporative undergarment you've seen over the last few years. To the contrary, it is purposely loose fitting, with generous ventilated areas to wick sweat away into the air flow of your mesh jacket!! I am blown away by how much air it flows...pun intended! Check out their website for all of their products. I heartily recommend this Shirt!!

Van VanSteelant

## **Florida MSTA Apparel**

We have recently released the link for our Florida State Storefront!! Go to [mstaflorida.qbstores.com](http://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., **September 9<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto:termayn@gmail.com), or ☎713-504-5763

### **MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride**

When: Sat., **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 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](mailto: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 Lunch Ride**

When: Sat., **October 7<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
Where: TBD  
Description: Place holder.  
Contact: Teresa Vipond, [termayn@gmail.com](mailto:termayn@gmail.com), or ☎713-504-5763

### **MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride**

When: Sat., **October 21<sup>st</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
Where: [Solomon's Castle](#), 4533 Solomon Rd, Ona, FL 33865 ☎863-494-6077 ([map](#))  
Description: Always a favorite!! It's been some time since we enjoyed this one-of-a-kind location!! Join the Southies as we transition back to LUNCH rides!!  
Contact: Van, [busavan@flmsta.org](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Middlesboro, KY 40965 ☎606-248-6860 – Request the MSTA special rate. ([map](#))  
Description: Twisty and scenic riding as well as dual-sport/adventure trails around the Cumberland Gap (KY, TN, VA). Read [this posting](#) on the MSTA forum for additional information. For off-road information, read [this posting](#) on the ADV forum.  
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](http://msta-se.com/fcr).  
Contact: Syd Mayes, [touringman5@gmail.com](mailto:touringman5@gmail.com), or Home ☎804-265-8636 or Cell ☎804-721-3399

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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](mailto: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](#).

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National MSTA [ridemsta.com](http://ridemsta.com)

Florida MSTA [www.flmsta.org](http://www.flmsta.org)

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More Contact Information			
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**ALL GRAPHICS WERE PROVIDED BY THE CREDITED AUTHOR, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

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## 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](mailto:editor@flmsta.org)