



# The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of  
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 10 Issue 12

## Events in December 2017

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## Feature Article

### Solo 4-Day Trip to Quebec

By JNUNZMAN

[Ed: This article was originally posted August 9, 2009 in the [Ride Reports](#) section of the Sport-Touring.net forum at: [sport-touring.net/forums/index.php/topic,42921.msg981360.html](http://sport-touring.net/forums/index.php/topic,42921.msg981360.html) It has been slightly edited for publication. All photos by the author.]

I had the rare opportunity to take a solo trip due to conflicting scheduling with my wife. I'd always wanted to go into the [Laurentian Region](#) of Quebec but normally don't have the opportunity to do so.....until last Wednesday.

Being that I also just bought a 2-man tent for my son's [Webelo](#) campout, I thought that I'd take the opportunity to conserve a little bit cash and try something different by camping when the opportunity presents itself.

My plans were to get to northern VT, Burlington area preferably on the first night. Get to [Trois Rivieres](#), Quebec and beyond on Rt 155 en route to [Lac St. Jean](#), the second day. Head west to the [St. Lawrence River](#) and take a ferry to the south side, making my way to Maine on day 3. Moving thru the [Rangeley Lakes](#) region down into the [White](#)

[Mtns](#), and across to the western edge of VT on Day 4. Then slab down the NY State Thruway home on day 5.

However.....I over planned and failed to plan for the little things that sometimes come up and bite us, slowing the rate of travel.



This photo shows me ready to roll. I had an unintended delay to install a new front tire as I didn't want to make the trip on the rubber that was on the bike. I really had to make time as I finally rolled out at 2:30 PM.

While flying thru north Jersey on Rt. 287, I hit a sudden thunderstorm that soaked me before I was able to pull off and put in my liners.

By the time I hit upstate NY, the weather was hot and sunny which enabled me to shed the liners and completely dry off. I hit [Rutland, VT](#) at around 8:30 PM.

**Rule #1**....Don't try to find a campground in the dark. I ended up staying at the local Red Roof Inn.

I awoke the next morning to gorgeous weather and a wonderful forecast.....for Vermont. They had predicted that there would be scattered showers the further north that you go. I didn't want to break with the program so I headed towards the Canadian border.

This pic was taken in [Bridport, VT](#) on the way to say hello to my aunt who wasn't home. I had a 5-mile section of freshly graded gravel road that I had to take and it was the first time that I have ever thought that I was going to put the bike down. I came off a small bridge, hit the gravel at about 35, and the bike started what I can only describe as the "death wobble". I let up on the throttle to slow up and luckily the bike stayed upright. It was a pucker moment.



The weather was gorgeous but extremely windy on the way up to the Quebec border. I hit customs, handed over the passport, answered some questions and blew on thru.



While I needed to make time, I slabbed it around Montreal, encountering construction backups and general congestion. I wasn't fun, especially when the monsoon hit. While I will normally ride thru the rain with liners in place, it came down so hard that I thought it would be better to sit it out under a bridge until it let up. I eventually hit Trois Rivieres and started up Rt. 155. The clouds broke and the sun started shining brightly.



Rt. 155 isn't technical, but it is extremely scenic as it follows the gorgeous [St. Maurice River](#). Lots of sweepers, and lots of log trucks.

I went as far as [St. Roch de Mekinac](#), found a really nice campground (Camp Nunz) on the river and decided to stop and camp. It was about 5:30, I was tired and needed a rest. I set up camp in 10 minutes and laid on the picnic table in the warm sun. This is my first campsite ever. I found it quite enjoyable.



**Rule # 2**.....If you camp, remember that you don't have TV or a computer with you.



I became a bit bored and you can't figure on speaking to the locals unless you know French. I found that most people that I ran into spoke NO English at all. I became quite good at speaking with my hands. It comes with being Italian.

I then backtracked and stopped at a little luncheonette that I had passed about 8 miles back. The only thing that I could identify on the menu was a cheese-burger.....and ordered something called "[Poutine](#)" which is the French Canadian version of cheese fries with beef gravy. It was pretty good.



I stopped by a fishing boat ramp on the way back and admired the scenery at dusk.

I awoke in my tent a little cold at about 4 AM to the sound of rain on my tent. Nothing was leaking so I went back to sleep and I awoke to overcast skies and



temps in the high 50's.....the rain had ended. I broke camp, packed the bike, showered, and hit the road. I had anticipated making it all the way to [Chicoutimi](#) by nightfall, maybe further, but..... long lines due to construction.

After the construction, the roads opened up, traffic turned off and I basically had the road to myself. But I

worried about the weather as I headed north. It seemed much more ominous and seemed to be getting much colder.

Then the barrage of moose warning signs began...



The scenery was truly gorgeous. Take note of the clouds..

I arrived in [La Tuque](#), which looks like a manufactured town like what you see in “Ice Road Truckers”. Lots of convenience stores, gas stations, and quad dealers, not much else. While stopping for gas it started to pour, the wind started to pick up, and it got cold. The sky to the north was really black now and I made the executive decision to head back the way I came, hit the St. Lawrence River, and head north along Rt. 138. It really killed me to turn around as I really wanted to get to Lac St. Jean, but I failed to factor in the much colder temps. I had only my summer mesh and the liners, which are quite warm, but not up to keeping my warm for an extended period of time in cold and rain.



**Rule #3**.....Expect the unexpected when it comes to the weather and plan your gear accordingly.

On the way back, the weather got better and better and the sun came out which made me feel better about my decision to turn around.

Due to little or no traffic, the ride back was incredibly fun. I made great time blasting by the numerous log trucks. Even if they were going at a good pace, I didn't like getting pelted with dirt clumps and debris and just blasted on by. I believe that I must have ruffled one trucker's feathers by passing him. As I was stopped by the construction flag man, waiting our turn to go, I watched this very large truck coming up behind me. I was the last in line. This truck had plenty of time to see that traffic had stopped, but I sat with bike in gear staring at my mirror and thinking that he was still travelling a bit fast. The flag man started waving the cars on and this truck ran up my backside and hit his air brakes at the last possible moment, stopping the truck mere inches from the back of my bike. A moment before he stopped, the car in front of me took off and I literally dumped the clutch and took off doing a wheelie awaiting the impact that didn't come. Pucker moment #2.

Anyway, on the way up 138 into [Quebec City](#), every town that I went thru had been freshly rained on while I remained in bright sunlight most of the time. I could see the huge clouds up ahead, traveling in the same

direction as me. The little towns along the way were gorgeous, much like being in Europe, with similar architecture. These gorgeous cathedrals were in about every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> town.

The views of the St. Lawrence River were gorgeous also.



I had hit Quebec City by about 4:30 and wasn't sure whether to stop for the night and walk around a bit, or, press on. The sun started shining more and more, it was warming up.....so I decided to press on and hope to

make it to the border in Gore, Maine, and then to Rangleley Lake. I had to slab it for a bit, but for a highway, the view was beautiful. I wasn't on it long before I hit the secondary roads and wound my way to the US border. These shots are from Rt. 204 and 161 in far eastern Quebec. It was really cool how I was right behind the storm. I could see it in front of me, but the sun kept breaking thru all around me to bask me in its rays.



I then went thru customs in Gore, Maine. I forgot to take pictures as I had to disassemble my luggage so the border agents could make sure that I wasn't smuggling any liquor. As soon as I hit Rt. 27, the fun began. It was freshly paved and like a roller coaster. It's amazing how adrenaline wakes you up!!! The beauty of northern Maine is astounding.



Lake Mégantic, QC

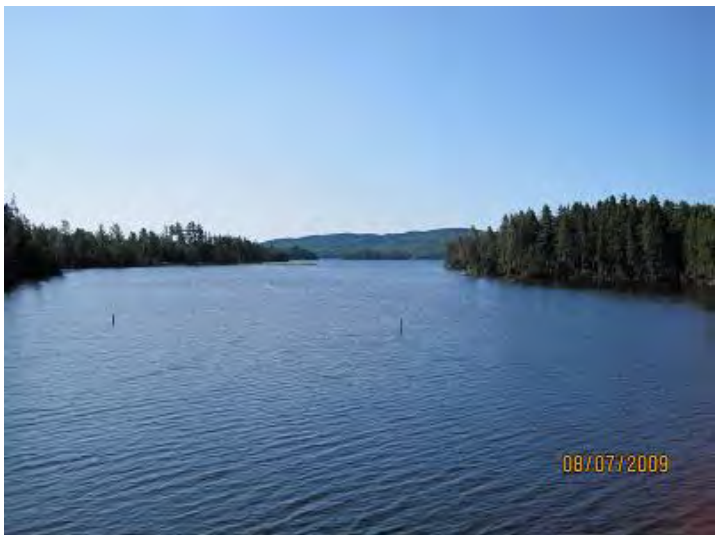


Again, it started getting cold and I had a chill that I couldn't shake. While I pondered camping, and passed plenty of places, I just couldn't bear the thought of sleeping in a cold tent. I needed warm....and some Crown Royal. I found a nice hotel in Rangeley that just happened to have a bar and restaurant on premises.....just what the Dr. ordered.



Just outside of Rangeley.

I slept great, packed the bike up and was on the road by 8:30am. My plans were to cut down into the White Mtns., go to the top of Mt. Washington, head west on the [Kancamagus](#), and take Rt. 2 into Vermont. However, plans were made to be changed.....



I made my way down Rt. 16, or, “Moose Alley” as it’s known by. Pretty damn remote. No traffic whatsoever, but the pavement was like a washboard. I may have chipped a tooth or 2!! The scenery was incredible.

As soon as I hit the Great North Woods at the NH border, the road was freshly paved and twisty as a snake. Note the road sign on the left margin of the picture.



I had so much fun blasting down this incredibly twisty road, that I only took a few pics!!! There were loads of fishermen, kayakers, and canoers. This looks very relaxing.

As I said, plans were made to be changed. I have never been to the White Mtn region on a weekend, always during the week. The traffic going thru Conway was horrendous. The line of cars waiting to go up the Mt. Washington toll road started a quarter mile from the entrance. The cops were all over Rt. 16 on the twistiest parts of it, and there was a bike race going on. I didn’t even mention the amount of RV’s travelling along Rt. 112 at a snail’s pace. It was then that frustration set in and I decided to go home. I hit the Garmin and followed its directions. I arrived home at 8:30 pm last night. I stopped only for gas and the occasional chocolate milk. It was a 550-mile day. I haven’t left the house today.

## **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.*

### **What are Sipes?**

No, not “Snipes”, but rather “Sipes”. We all know Snipes are mythical animals...although once in my youth, after a night of rousing social activities, I think I might have seen one. Sipes are small cuts in the tread blocks of tires. So what do they do and should you care?

Several sources suggest siping was actually invented in the 1920s, when a worker cut small grooves in the rubber tread of his shoes, to increase traction on wet, slippery floors. Since then, siping (the process of cutting small grooves, or sipes, into rubber) has become a real art form.

In motorcycling, siping got its start on the racetrack (like a lot of other riding innovations). Enterprising riders and mechanics would take a razor knife and cut thin grooves in the tire tread blocks, in an effort to increase traction. This is still done by some, and it can be a real art form.

The tire manufacturers have long known that siping can increase wet weather and other low traction tire performance. Nowadays almost every major tire manufacturer uses some type of siping on its all-weather (street) tires. Just take a look at a Michelin PR4 and you'll see the highly precise siping patterns in the front and rear tires.



Michelin Pilot Road 4 (Front)

The challenge with siping is making sure the sipe pattern contributes to tire performance, and does not negatively affect the way the tire flexes due to stresses of weight, road conditions, bike dynamics (weight loading and unloading, cornering, braking, acceleration, etc.)

The most current siping is molded into the tire at manufacturing, and some sipes are actually designed in multiple layers, with an outside that flexes to allow more water in (removing it from the traction point between the tire and road), while deeper in the sipe is reinforced. This internal reinforcement allows the tire to resist unwanted internal flexing along the sipe lines.

Sipes are incredibly useful in moving extra water and other impediments to low traction out and away from your contact patch.

Should you cut sipes in your own tires? After all, this is how it got started. The answer is a very qualified “No”. Tire manufacturers mold sipe patterns into tire treads only after extensive research and development. Unless you are a serious racer/race mechanic who understands the dynamics of tire action in use, just don't do it! Like I said before, aftermarket sipe cutting is an art form, and the average rider doesn't have the tire dynamics knowledge to understand how extra slashes in a tire tread are going to impact handling, wear, etc. It's just not worth it.

So the next time you check your tires, take the time to look at the sipes. It may give you a greater appreciation into how much technology really goes into keeping you safe.

I'm going Snipe hunting now...

Ride Safe!

Doug Westly – Safety Editor



## Florida News

### South Director's Report

#### SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN...

As I type these words, the crush of the retail industry is in full force to empty your bank accounts AND add to your personal debt ceiling... Buyer beware... Learn things before parting with your greenbacks...

On a lighter note, we had some fun in November!! Tom's report follows. The turnout for the Central Lunch was better than realized at the time! We'll make sure that you all find each other from now on!! As evidenced by the blow out attendance for the South Lunch ride to a new-to-us location, [Squid Lips](#)! When they said they were on the water, south of Sebastian, they meant ON the water! What a place! When I set up our visit, they first thought we were the "group of 35" already scheduled to appear. Once I cleared the air, we were good for a table of 15. You can imagine my concern when the Southies group already numbered 15 by the time we stopped at the Cumberland Farms!! A quick call landed us room for 5 more. By arriving just early enough to establish our growing presence, we took over one more table to accommodate the 24 of us!! The staff treated us very



Van VanSteelant



Tom Blake and Jim Park on footbridge to Squid Lips

Photo: Don Mae



Panoramic Photo inside Squid Lips

Photo: Jim Park

well, our server made sure our orders beat the "35" others, and we all enjoyed a terrific afternoon!! The group also felt generous toward our 50/50 raffle... The pot swelled to \$104... Our first time winner, Don Mroczenski, then donated \$30 of his share back to the Club!!! So, our pot stands at \$930.00! Always a big THANK YOU to all who participate!!

It was nice to see several new/returning faces amongst the hungry crowd! From Snowbirds to Melbourne "locals" to a past trainer with Lee Park's Total Control school... You just never know who will be at our events! And, everybody has a great story to tell. If you're not there, you'll miss them all!! And you thought we only went for the great grub...

## What's Next??

Be sure to check our [RIDES](#) calendar often to insure you never miss one of our events!! [www.flmsta.org](http://www.flmsta.org) The ride dates for 2018 are in progress. All of the dates, and the first three month's destinations will be posted by December 1. Stay tuned... We have some new ideas and places in mind!!

In our immediate future, we have our two lunch rides for December. The Central Gang goes first, with a ride on December 9<sup>th</sup>, to [Peck's Old Port Cove](#), over in Crystal River. It has been quite some time since our last visit here, but fear not, Tom made sure that all is well and they are looking for a great turn out!! This will make for a great day ride!

With the Holiday crush coming, the Southies Lunch ride happens the very next weekend. We ride on December 17<sup>th</sup> to the [OK Corral Gun Club](#)!! We had a blast the last time we visited this unique location. BUT, YOU NEED TO READ ABOUT THIS EVENT!! First, we dine on SUNDAY. Second, we will enjoy their BRUNCH SPREAD, which runs from 10 AM – 2 PM. Since they have a multitude of distractions available throughout their property, I anticipate that we will set this event up to run all four hours. We might not have a big group sit-down for brunch, but, we should have members wandering the various buildings and shooting ranges for the whole brunch time. I'll fine-tune the agenda with my ride announcement prior to the event. Meanwhile, check out their website for lots of info and history... [www.okcorralgunclub.com](http://www.okcorralgunclub.com)

It's not too early to make your plans for the fun and games that the Florida Chapter has set up for the MSTA members country wide! Look at March 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> for our **Daytona Just For Fun Event** – in Ocala!! We have everything in place for this weekend, including discounted room rates. And our Daytona Lunch Ride happens on THURSDAY, March 15<sup>th</sup>. New location, but same great times for our locals and out-of-staters!!

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

## Membership News

I'll say this for 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 several new Florida riders who joined the MSTA in November:

Richard Danieri West Palm Beach	Brian & Diana Dickerson Bartow	Dennis Mitchell Ellenton
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We thank these Florida members for renewing their memberships in November:

Thomas Blake	Don Later	Stephen Phillips
Terry L. Brown	Hugh Palmer	Roger Spice

These Florida memberships will expire soon or have recently expired:

Alan Berry	Laura R. Gonzalez	Don Mroczenski	Alan & Terry Singer
Frederick Blackall	Keith Harrison	Phillip Ridgill	Larry Snell
Jim Cavanagh	Steve Marcum	Bill & Nicole Rorke	Tim & Teresa Vipond
Stephen Evans	Alan Miller	James Siler	

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). Renewing or joining can be quickly and securely done online at [PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew) or [PlanetReg.com/MSTAJoin](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTAJoin). If you use a pre-printed form from STARreview or an ITR, be sure to mail it to Beth Hemstreet, 5560 Stone Church Court, Loveland, CO 80537, and not to the address of a prior membership director.

If you only want to update your phone, email, bikes, or other details, you can do so quickly via [PlanetReg.com/MSTAupdate](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTAupdate).

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 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 instead issue coupons for raffle tickets in 2018.

## Random Ramblings!

We are so close to our “winter” riding weather... Though the raining season seems to not want to leave... I just hope all those souls who were crying about the “drought” back in May are finally happy... cheezzz...

We know that some of you are just holding back... Don’t keep secrets from the rest of us! 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...

Some of us are already making our plans, as STAR 2018 is “just around the corner...” Read the promos in the STARreview Magazine! You just might be surprised about the location and the riding options!!

Happy Holidays (every one of them!) to one and all!!

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

## Central Director’s Report

### From Your New Central Co-Director

How did this happen, anyways? One of the first lessons during my Air Force years was “**Do not volunteer!**”. Then in March, Teresa asked me if I would cover the four Central Brunch rides for her this year. I cleared my throat and mumbled something that could be mistaken for “O-o-h... O-k-a-a-y”. Well, really, I couldn’t refuse. And it was just four months!



Tom Blake

But wait – where would we go? Thankfully, Hugh Palmer gave this old process engineer a *spreadsheet* of restaurants that the BMW folks eat at. Beautiful! I added columns for sorting and broke central into zones. Places were added that we’ve gone to before plus some that I was personally familiar with. Did the restaurants offer brunch, take reservations and were they good for groups? I checked the spreadsheet against on-line resources like Yelp and even called some for confirmation. And... Viola! The task of finding restaurants by zone and city became, suddenly, quite manageable.

But here’s the problem – greater Orlando and the attractions. Nobody wants to ride into or through that congestion. The general Tampa-Lakeland area has as many members as the rest of the Central region combined. The Melbourne area has a handful, including me. There are a couple more to the north - Winter Park and beyond. And several are northeast of Orlando from Deland over to the Ormand Beach area. For brunches, we only have about a 2½-hour maximum ride time window.

It will be hot. So where could we go that's within the shortest range for **all** Central riders? The Tavares and Groveland areas came to mind for slightly cooler June and September. Then for sweltering July and August, out of self-preservation really, ride times were significantly shortened to Osteen and then Melbourne. So, in addition to my spreadsheet data, you perhaps see a method or logical selection *process*.

In October I found out that Teresa had stepped down. Dagnabit! Well, I already had my easy-to-use spreadsheet and process. And volunteering becomes a lot easier when you're having fun. So, like it or not, I'm now your Director for the Central region. Lunch spots running out thru May have already selected (2018's are still tentative). They are some of my personal favorites. I hope yours as well. Keep an eye on the website and newsletters.

Looking forward, I will do my best to accommodate all Central riders in as many rides as possible. They will be scattered throughout the whole Central region – coast to coast, north to south and corner to corner. Some will also be accessible to far north state riders and others to the Southies. I hope you will all join us as you can. However, please realize that due to Orlando, it is just not possible to accommodate everyone every single time, especially for the shorter brunch rides. The areas accessible to all would be too limited and repetitious. Hopefully, between Van and myself, we will be able to coordinate offering something for everyone in any given month. So, for example, if I schedule a ride to a great place in the far northeast, Van will schedule somewhere that riders from the southwest section of Central can attend, and vice-versa.

Also, I will do my utmost to attend each of the rides that I schedule. Unless it's storming, I'm ailing or the bike is broken, count on me being there. Also, I'm always open to suggestions about where to ride or what to do. Please do not feel bashful. If you have a suggestion, I really want to hear it. There are no bad suggestions.

**I am here to help make the Central Florida MSTAs experience the best it can be for you.** I will need your help, of course. I also hope to foster a lot of enthusiastic participation. Some may call that *having fun*. **Let's all plan on having a lot of fun.**

### Central Florida December Lunch Ride

Saturday, **December 9<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

[Peck's Old Port Cove](#)

139 N. Ozello Trail

Crystal River, FL 34429

### November Central Report

[Gator Joe's](#) in Ocklawaha was our November ride. Always great fun to ride up there – not just for the cool destination and good food but the roads are especially entertaining, as well. It started out sunny but ended up on the damp side. Well, make that downright wet, but just showers and a bit windy. Bill & Nicole and I met Alan (Tampa) up there and enjoyed some good chow and chatter. We hope to see Alan many more times. He's a seasoned FJR rider and fits right in. On the way up, we struggled to stay in front of the rain clouds blowing in from the east. Once beyond Sanford we stayed dry. On the way home, we hit steady rain for about the last hour. For Bill, Nicole and me, it was about 3 hours of ride time each way. I slept really well and long that night.



L→R: Alan, Tom, Nicole & Bill

The next day I found out that Roy and four of his friends from the Gainesville area had been there (at my invitation – he’s a previous member). And he said they saw two more MSTA folks there, as well. That makes eleven that I now know of. It’s a huge shame we didn’t all connect. Apparently, we were all looking for familiar faces but somehow missed one another.

I take responsibility and will make changes going forward. Part of the issue was that there were a ton of motorcyclists there. The biggest error, however, was perhaps that, although I mentioned MSTA while making the reservation, I noticed when we got there, they only had my name on their cluttered list but not MSTA. So, anyone arriving and asking for MSTA only got a questioning stare and shoulder shrug. I had them fix that but, obviously, too late. My sincere apologies.

[Peck’s Old Port Cove](#) closes out 2017 for Central starting at **12-noon on December 9<sup>th</sup>**. They’re on an isle out in the gulf near Crystal River. Follow winding Ozello Trail to get there from US 98. It’s a classic seafood cottage with great water views and plenty of parking. They’ve assured me that after Irma, they are open for *business as usual*. It should be easily doable for all Central riders although the Melbourne group will have a long haul. Fortunately, average temperatures and rainfall amounts are moderating so it should be good riding.

Van mentioned the Grand Opening of [Power BMW of Palm Bay](#) last month and reports on the event with pictures in this issue. I’d like to add that the GM, David Quinn, took note of our professional presentation and stated that he wants to join the MSTA because we also do things and go places. I’m working on that — we should probably try to work in occasional Sunday rides to accommodate people like him who’d like to ride with us but must work every Saturday. I’d like feedback on that – pro or con.

He recently told me they’ve seen a nice jump in business since the grand opening. Owning a GS, I’ve had some dealings with them already and all have been positive. Their service department includes one of the best techs in the state (recruited from Pensacola). Everyone there tries to make the customer experience a good one and they are, I believe, succeeding. I would not be surprised to get some good promotions from them going forward. OK, that’s the Power BMW plug. Good folks.

Finally, I’d like to express my best wishes to all of you for a festive and joyous holiday season. Please make it a safe one.

Tom Blake  
MSTA Florida State Co-Director

## **BMW of Palm Bay Grand Opening**

Report by Van VanSteelant

It all started several months ago, when Tom Blake discovered the establishment of a new bike dealer a mere 15 minutes from his home. As he is a GS owner, how good is that!! So, after handshakes, stories long and short, placing MSTA promotional info in their patron lounge, working with a receptive Manager... we got invited to their Grand Opening Celebration!! What could be better than a Club looking for members of a certain type and a dealer looking for riders of the same type??

As you read elsewhere, we collectively supplied and “man/womaned” up our substantial corner of the dealership for our Club promotion. I think the photos show us off rather well!! And our location put us next to the doors leading to the BWM Factory demo ride table and the bikes! We had a very steady flow of riders to meet and greet, and handed out nearly all of our supply of ITRs and STARreviews!! We had just the right mix of

volunteers, and enough of us so we could peel off and demo a bike or two throughout the day!! “ya gotta have friends...”



A special thanks to Tom, who multi-tasked all week. While arranging for our booth, he also offered his hospitality to those of us who came up Friday to set up our display, work the crowd, and return on Saturday for the big show! He even managed to get the rain gods to sit down on Saturday for the whole of the Celebration!! His efforts made this event a pleasure for everyone.

As we said our good-byes, the Manager made it clear that this event was just the beginning. He plans to host other gatherings throughout the year, and would include us in his planning. A great first impression was shared both ways!! So, the next time you're looking at BMWs, or just in the area, check them out!!

[bmwmcofpalmbay.com](http://bmwmcofpalmbay.com)



**POWER BMW MOTORCYCLES  
OF PALM BAY**

190 Interstate Ct. SE ([map](#))

Palm Bay, FL 32909

☎321-215-2065

## **Florida MSTA Apparel**

As a reminder, we have recently opened our Florida State Storefront online!! 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 Lunch Ride**

When: Sat., **December 9<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
Where: [Peck's Old Port Cove](#), 139 N. Ozello Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429 ☎352-795-2806 ([map](#))  
Description: This is another old favorite located near the end of a winding road at the edge of an islet out in the Gulf of Mexico. American and tasty local seafood. You don't want to miss this one.  
Contact: Tom Blake, [tblakel@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblakel@cfl.rr.com), or ☎321-723-2857

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

When: Sun., **December 17<sup>th</sup>**, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Where: [OK Corral Gun Club](#), 9449 NE 48th St., Okeechobee, FL 34972 ☎863-357-2226 ([map](#))  
Description: OK, it's technically a brunch ride...  
And, it does fall on a Sunday...  
So, join us anyway for lots of fun and frolic just before the holidays!!  
We'll arrange for a group setting, and try to set up the same discounts offered during our last visit for anyone who wants to try their shooting skills. I know I'll be after a few more clays...  
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., **January 6<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
Where: [Westgate Smokehouse Grill](#), 3200 River Ranch Blvd, River Ranch, FL 33867 ☎863-692-1321 ([map](#))  
Description: Situated on the Kissimmee River off SR-60 between Lake Wales and Yeehaw Junction, the Smokehouse Grill offers great views and a diverse menu that features appetizers, salads, burgers, sandwiches, baskets and desserts. The grill is part of a resort including lodges, cabins, saloon, RV and tent camping; rodeos and other events; and an airstrip.  
Contact: Tom Blake, [tblakel@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblakel@cfl.rr.com), or ☎321-723-2857

## [MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride](#)

When: Sun., **January 20<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
Where: TBA  
Description: Placeholder for future event. Details coming soon. Check our [website](#).  
Contact: Van, [busavan@flmsta.org](mailto:busavan@flmsta.org), or ☎561-386-2594

## **Regional Events**

### [MSTA Daytona Just-For-Fun Event](#)

When: Fri.-Sun., **March 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Where: [Quality Inn](#), 3434 SW College Road, Ocala, FL 34474 ☎352-854-3200 ([map](#))  
Description: We have put together a GREAT weekend of fun and frolic for our members, far and wide!! This is a great lead into Bike Weeks!! And, on the following Thursday, we have our MSTA Lunch Ride!!  
Don't delay in making your reservations, as this arrangement will expire sooner than you think. Read through the details below, secured by a couple of excellent planners!! A big THANKS to them, and we'll see you there!!  
Stay tuned for further event details and ride ideas...  
Hotel Telephone ☎352 854-3200.  
Room rates are greatly discounted for this time of year. We have a block of 10 rooms at \$89 a night, before taxes. This includes a hot breakfast, heated pool, 24-hour fitness center, WiFi throughout the hotel, and cookies and milk from 8:00-9:00 PM each evening. ☺  
We have protected the price (\$89) for March 8<sup>th</sup> in the event that anyone from out of the area would like to arrive on Thursday for a good night's sleep and an early start the next morning on Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Keep in mind that not only are these dates the start of Bike Week in nearby Daytona Beach, it is also the heart of our tourist season so rooms may start to disappear quickly. Just call the telephone number above and reserve as soon as you know you can make it. You can cancel 24 hours prior to the date of your reservation. Any un-reserved rooms in the block of rooms will cancel on Wednesday, February 28, 2018.  
Just refer to the MSTA block of rooms when you make your reservation.  
Contact: Van, [busavan@flmsta.org](mailto:busavan@flmsta.org) or ☎561-386-2594

### [MSTA Daytona Bike Week Just-For-Fun Lunch](#)

When: Thursday, **March 15<sup>th</sup>**, 11:30 AM  
Where: [1884 Restaurant and Bar](#), 12 East Magnolia Avenue, Eustis, FL 32726 ☎800-856-1884 ([map](#))  
Description: We have a new destination for this year's luncheon and you are really going to like it. It's the perfect spot not too far away from Daytona's crowds in the small town of Eustis. The reservation has been made. The 1884 Restaurant and Bar is in a large, old 2-story brick building in easily accessible downtown. Inside it has wide-open spaces, tall ceiling, hardwood floors and dark wood bar and furniture and sections of marble wall. It is quite impressive in a manly sort of way. They will be able to easily accommodate all of us.  
Lunches are made from locally grown, fresh produce and meats, along with homemade desserts from the in-house baker. Prices are moderate, in the \$9 to \$14 range, but you get your money's worth. Be sure to check their website for pictures, menus and more at [1884restaurantandbar.com](http://1884restaurantandbar.com).  
If you're coming from out of town, you cannot get there without traveling some of Florida's better motorcycling roads. ([map](#))  
From the Daytona speedway, it is just over an hour's ride. Follow US-92 west into Deland. Turn left on FL-15A (Spring Garden Ave) for just under 2 miles then right on FL-44. Once over the river, bare right again on FL-42 for an enjoyable 19-mile jaunt. Then go left on US-19 into Eustis. FL-42 is a particularly good ride. Staying on FL-44 can save you 4 minutes but is not nearly as much fun.



From Ocala, take US-441/27 south to Cr-464 and follow it southeast about 16 miles to Cr-25. Turn left on 25 through the small town of Ocklawaha. Cr-25 continues around the east side of Lake Weir and drops down to FL-42 at Weirsdale. Go left on 42 about 9 miles, then right on Cr-452. 452 is a very pleasant 12-mile run to US-19 where you turn right into downtown Eustis. Ride time should be just over an hour.

You can park on the Magnolia Ave in front of the restaurant. But the better alternative is the parking lot behind the restaurant on its south side. There is a back entrance. As you get to Eustis, keep on 19 (Bay St) to Magnolia Ave. Turn left on Magnolia, then right on the first street (Eustis St). Then take the first right again onto E. Orange (SR-44), then right again into the lot before crossing Bay St (19).

Contact: Tom Blake, [tblake1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblake1@cfl.rr.com) or ☎321-723-2857

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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**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

### Riding Leathers

**Brand:** Joe Rocket

**Model:** GPX Type R

**Size:** 42

**MSRP:** \$600+

**Pads:** knee pucks, forearms, shoulders, and back, all removable.

**Other:** Zipper up the front, zippered arm vent, and a zippered inner pocket

**Details:** I bought these Joe Rocket leathers with the intention to hit up a few track days. Sadly, I only got a chance to wear them once on a local back roads ride. They are in NEW condition and have been kept inside, in A/C, NOT kept in the garage heat ever.

**ASKING PRICE:** \$300 obo

**Contact:** Bobby Shields - [rjs@mail.usf.edu](mailto:rjs@mail.usf.edu) or

☎ 863-513-3627, call, text, or e-mail.

Please leave a message if you call.



To find a buyer for your motorcycle items, please send your ad and pictures by email to [editor@flmsta.org](mailto:editor@flmsta.org)