



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 9 Issue 11

Events in November

Details on Page 11

In This Issue:

- Page 1 – [Feature Article](#)
- Page 5 – [Safety Talk](#)
- Page 7 – [Florida News](#)
- Page 9 – [Member Comment](#)
- Page 11 – [Florida Rides](#)
- Page 12 – [Future Florida Rides](#)
- Page 12 – [Regional Events](#)
- Page 13 – [Special Event](#)
- Page 14 – [Mystery Hyperlink](#)
- Page 15 – [Classified Ads](#)

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Feature Article

Day Tripp'n in Virginia

By Eric, [The Virginian](#)

[Ed: This [article](#) was originally posted by Eric, using the handle [The Virginian](#), to the [AdvRider](#) discussion forum under 'Ride Reports - Day Trippin'' on June 12, 2016. It has been slightly abbreviated and edited for publication. All photos by the author unless stated otherwise. Click on photos for larger versions.]

This weekend I had an event to go to which was a birthday celebration campout. I've been very quietly collecting camping gear, bargain basement, closeouts, scratch and dent, etc. trying to get it on the cheap. Wow, "light" camping gear gets to be expensive.

Destination Luray, VA! So I plotted some nice back roads that rocked for the most part. So I took off early from Spotsylvania and made my way up 522 to Culpepper, picked up 729 north and weaved my way back over to Flint Hill where I picked up 522 again to Front Royal.

I stopped and took a few pictures this morning, nothing epic just some typical rural VA.



Vineyards are popping up all over the state! These were slave houses back in a day and folks live in them now.



So I work my way up 340 to Luray... Nothing notable but the Blue Ridge Mountains are beautiful to me. I have these really jacked up directions to get to the campground. Turn left on gravel road by tractor, etc. I had to go through two horse/livestock gates. Getting on and off the bike loaded down with stuff for camping is a workout. I have some off-road experience but not on a heavy bike loaded to the gills! Yikes!

Love these old colonial homes.



I cross this stream and my inside voice is saying “if I hear banjo music...”



I finally get there and now the task of setting up camp and I have no idea what I'm doing.



My fold out table came in damn handy! I have a couple of chairs that stow into a small bag as well. Overall I learned a lot about what did work for camping and what failed.

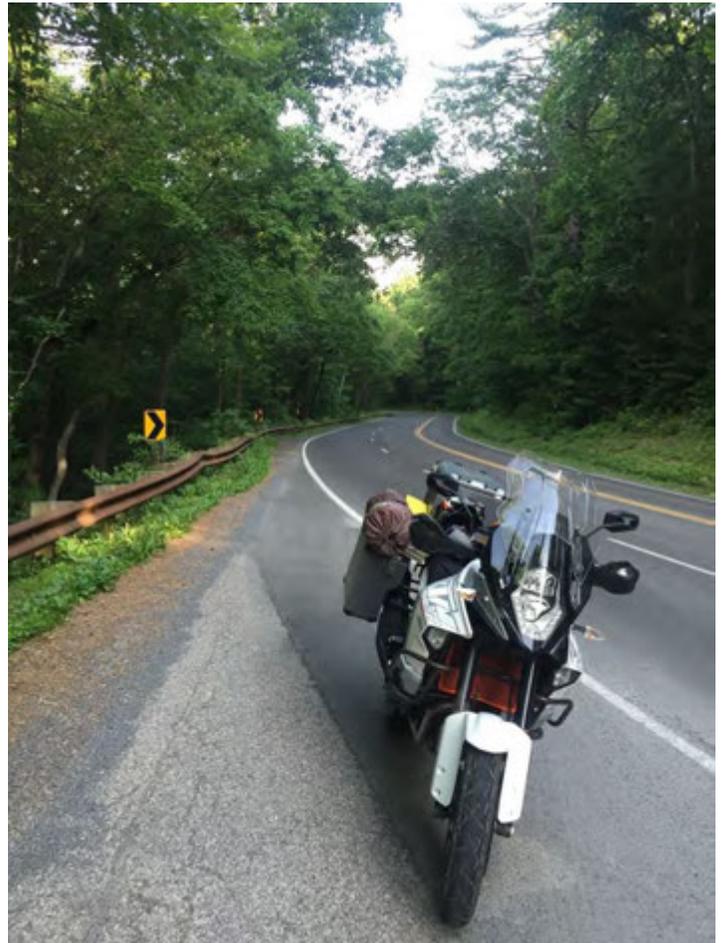


Smallmouth bass fishing, tubing, canoes, great music, beer chicken right off the spit, booze and beer. Yep, I'm a bit hurt this morning...

My family had a generator out in the field and ran a cord to power a full sound system with light show!



So this morning I take 211 through the Shenandoah National Forest. What a great ride and best done early in the morning when there's very little traffic.



I'm trying my hand at videos so here's a n00bs attempt at a short clip of rolling through the Shenandoah Nat'l Forest. Click on graphic below or this link to view it:

vimeo.com/170384249

Thanks for reading!

Eric



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.

MSTA Track Day is Coming!- Part I

Hey, Everyone! Guess What? MSTA and COG (Concours Owners Group) are hosting a joint, [non-sportbike track day](#) on Friday, February 24, 21017, at [Jennings Raceway](#), in Jennings, FL.

I know I've talked about track days before (as have others), but now is a great time to outline the plan for the MSTA Track Day. First off, it is not "race day". There are no trophies, no races, no timed laps, etc. Instead, the MSTA Track Day is designed to be an opportunity for Riders who may not have track riding experience to go and safely explore their riding limits and those of their machine. Think of it as advanced riders training in a fun environment!

To help with this, MSTA President Dennis Villarose and the Executive Committee have been working with noted motorcycle guru [Ken Condon](#) to develop a track day specifically for MSTA (and we will have some Concours Owners Group Riders joining us as well).

Ken, as well as Becky, myself, and other instructors and assistants, will be on hand that day to work with the Riders on general riding techniques and principles. If you haven't had the opportunity to read Ken's writings and philosophies on motorcycling, I highly encourage you to look into [his offerings](#). As a recognized writer and expert in our sport, Ken brings a great set of knowledge and experience he is going to pass along to everyone!

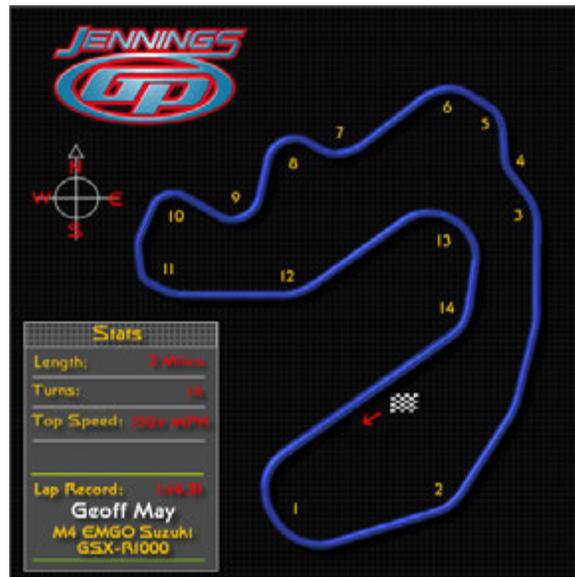
So what is going to happen at track day? Here is the scoop...

First off, make sure you sign up in advance! See the information on the [MSTA website](#), under the calendar for February 2017.

Riders will show up between 7-7:30 AM on Track Day.

Event staff will be on hand to assist Riders with their bike setup, making sure they have safety equipment, etc.

There will be a morning Riders Meeting, where the track rules and the day's riding agenda will be reviewed for everyone.



Jennings Track Layout

Graphic: [Jennings GP](#)



Photo: [RidingInTheZone](#)

Riders will be grouped according to their own and event staff assessments to help maximize safety and everyone's fun for the day, as well as to help with the training aspects of the day.

The track will open for riding at 9 AM. The groups will alternate between track time and time back in the pits and with event staff to discuss techniques, bike characteristics, control methodology, etc.

Lunch is included and will be catered, so everyone can relax around a good meal. Half the fun is the camaraderie!

After lunch, riding starts up again. The afternoon will be more open, as riders get the opportunity to work on their own technique, as well as those learned from the morning sessions.

By 5 PM, when the track riding closes, Riders will be exhausted. They will have spent the entire day working on their riding, learning their limits and the limits of their bikes, as well as absorbing and practicing new techniques.

Next Month: How this non-sportbike track day is going to benefit the attending Riders!

Ride Safe!

[Doug Westly](#) – Safety Editor

Skilled riders demonstrate these touring motorcycles in some amazing leans...

[Click images for sources.]

Triumph Trophy SE



BMW R1200RT



BMW R1200GS



Honda Goldwing GL1800



Florida News

South Director's Report

TRICK OR TREAT!! WE ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME AND HURRICANE SEASON!! YOUR MORNING RIDES WILL BE BRIGHTER, AND THE WEATHER PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO LEARN TO CHILL AGAIN...

And weather was a BIG deal for us in October!! Matthew was a bitch, but it could have been a LOT worse for all of us! Turned out to be great for Home Depot/Lowes/Harbor Freight/Publix, and brought our neighbors out to share the load of storm prep. I'm still counting my blessings...

Unfortunately, attendance to the following weekend's Central ride to [Tortilleria La Mexicana](#) in Haines City was hampered by the cleanup efforts by everybody close to the coast. I heard two adventurers made their way, and highly recommend that we return to this fine establishment as soon as possible!!

A couple of weeks later, the South ride to [Harpoon Harry's](#) fell on one the finest days for riding since March!! Yours truly had a little clutch trouble right out of my drive way... Fortunately, cell phones and truly understanding members made the most of the day!! Nine of you made your way to some fine waterside dining, including two very new members, Joe and Becky Wolf!! (In the adjacent photo.) I have remedied my problem for now, so you will see me at the next ride!!

In between our lunch rides, we had the show of shows, [AIMExpo](#), and again in Orlando! Despite Orlando being Orlando, the show was terrific and very well attended. You did notice fewer vendors this year compared to last, but it did not detract from the experience. Nearly 475 booths is still a lot of territory to cover!! There was a good mix of returning vendors and brand new first timers! I had a chance to speak with several of the first timers, and they were very happy with the show and crowds. Sadly, if you procrastinated over the last four years.... you lose!! The show moves to Columbus, OH next year, and Las Vegas, NV the following year! Catch up with the [event photos](#)...

As for our Just For Fun Social Gathering... You needed a score card to keep up with the substitutions we pulled together to make the most of our Saturday night!! I'll spare you the details. As we are a flexible group, we zigged and zagged our way along International Drive, and landed at [Chuy's Tex-Mex](#)!! They were VERY GOOD to us, and 10+ members and friends had a fantastic night of eating and drinking!! Most of us were within walking distance to our hotels, and the few who had to roll did so on 4 wheels, responsibly...

What's Next??

We have "front loaded" the next two months with our Lunch Ride schedule. On November 5th, join the Central Gang for lunch at [1884 Restaurant and Bar](#), in Eustis! You can walk off a little of your lunch at a nearby city



Van VanSteelant



L→R: Dianne Park, Reid Lucas, Tina Kowalski, Rick Lucas, Don Williams, Buck Jones and Jim Park Photo: Don Moe

park overlooking Lake Eustis!! The following week, November 12th, the Southies head for the ocean! We'll ride to the [Sebastian Beach Inn](#), in Melbourne Beach!?! After lunch, consider taking in the [US Navy Seal Museum](#) in Ft. Pierce. Very much worth the visit! As always, we have more info on our twice awarded website... www.flmsta.org

And, if you keep scrolling through our calendar, you'll see a couple of events already on the books for next year!! You hopefully received my email about the Sport Touring Track day at Jennings... We have a Just For Fun Event just prior to the start of Bike Week, in Ocala... And we will host another Daytona Lunch ride during Bike Week!!

Membership News

Well, since our last newsletter, a major revamping of our National Membership Directorship has taken place. We now have several members nationwide working different subcategories of our Membership! This should streamline the whole process while reducing the burden of work on any one volunteer.

I have received the most-anticipated update just this week. It spans from June of 2015 to last week!! I need a little more time to review and update my files. I plan to send out a formal email welcoming all of our new members, as well as reminders of renewal, by next weekend!! It's been a long time coming, and I want to make sure I get everything right!

Random Ramblings!

I thoroughly enjoyed the AIMExpo this year!! The Outside Show was the largest it's ever been, with lots of demo opportunities and off road training options. Several brand new products were on display inside... The enthusiasm of their inventors/marketers was contagious! I for one will miss not having it in our "backyard" the next few years.

While wandering the floor, I made sure to stop at the [Amsoil](#) booth, run by our very own Tim and Teresa Vipond! They were doing a banging business and look to be a major player in the Columbus show next year! If you are not familiar with the Amsoil product line, and the MSTA discount on offer, contact them at: Timvipond@comcast.net.

Teresa and I were able to catch up with some State business as well. We finalized the Daytona Lunch Ride destination, and discussed several upcoming lunch ride ideas. Look forward to some new destinations and activities!!



Our RIDES calendar is already filling up with great events! Some of these involve overnight stays, and/or a weekend commitment. Get in the habit of checking for new additions regularly. Don't count on an email announcement from me, nor a once-a-month update in this newsletter. We are fortunate to have several members who step up and plan out these events, secure discounted hotel rates, etc. Take the time to plan ahead, and join us for the fun and frolic!!

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van
MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report

Upcoming Central Brunch Rides

Central Florida November Brunch Ride:

Saturday, **November 5th**, 11:45 PM – 2:00 PM,

[1884 Restaurant & Bar](#)

12 E. Magnolia Ave,

Eustis, FL 32726

☎800-856-1884 ([map](#))

There is some street parking on Magnolia in front of the restaurant and a larger lot behind the restaurant off of Bay St. One block west is a city park to walk around with a view of Lake Eustis.

Teresa Vipond, DeLand

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Member Comment

In mid-October Tom Blake rode up to Hiawassee, GA for a few days and just submitted this brief article:

Ramblings from the Mountains

October 16 to 22, 2016... another fabulous trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains. I left Sunday and met up Monday with old riding buddy, Ken, who rode over from Greenville, NC. We both arrived at the [River's End Restaurant](#) at the [Nantahala Outdoor Center](#) in western North Carolina for lunch. Then off for a jaunt over back roads to Hiawassee to get checked in to the Holiday Inn Express. Then back out to take advantage of the moderate temps and long yearned for mountain riding.

Unlike April, when I was up there last, this time of year is when Mother Nature truly blesses with the colorful changing of the leaves. But that's not why I go up in October. It's the curvy roads, of course, and cooler weather. After a summer of sweat here in Florida, the cooler temperatures are hugely satisfying. Temps made it into the low 80's by the afternoons and 50's overnight. Thursday night a cold front came through dropping a little rain in the wee hours. Friday was breezy and overcast to start but the skies started clearing by mid-day. Low 70's was all it could muster and then down to the low 40's overnight into Saturday morning – which is when we started for home. Fortunately, I was prepared and, by layering, remained comfortable all the way home. The thermometer got up to 71 as I reentered Florida but then fell off at dusk. It took 11 hours in total, including gas stops, for the trip home of right at 600 miles. The whole week was very pleasant.

The last two times up there I had elected to trailer the bike due to a little bursitis on my sit-down parts. I found that certain vehicles aggravated the situation while others did not. The first time I rode the Beemer up, there were no issues. But something changed and riding for over an hour and a half became uncomfortable. I recently demoed a new [Motus MSTR](#) (Victory/Polaris dealer on US-1 south of Fort Pierce). The seat gave me absolutely no problems. (At \$36k, however, the Motus is not the answer. But damn, it was fun! He should also have an MST (non-R) in stock by now – only \$31k!) But compared to my

BMW, the Motus seat was lower and closer to the pegs. And this got me to thinking. Upon examination, I found that my BMW seat was in the high position both front and rear. So, I put the rear to the low position and voilà. The first day, I rode to Commerce, GA with no pain whatsoever. We rode between 200 and 300 miles every day while up there – no issues. And I rode all the way home in one day with no pain. I am a happy camper and once again a cross-country rider!

A good friend of mine retired and, with a partner, purchased a campground in the mountains north of Murphy, NC. They cater to motorcyclists, the Jeep crowd and others. It's called Crawford's Campground and they keep the grounds and facilities spotless. Here's the link: crawfordscg.com. From their website:

Conveniently located just 11 miles outside the historic town of Murphy, North Carolina, at an elevation of 1850 feet, surrounded by mountains! Closer to the natural beauty the area is known for. We are nestled in the center of a peaceful valley with a 360 degree view of the mountains that surround us. The campsites border the many bubbling streams that pass through our valley.

A Full Service Campground, we have 2 separate bath houses with private individual bathing facilities, 3 Bunkhouses as well as Primitive sites. We have a large pavilion for your group meetings, family reunions, fully lighted with electricity available.

We are open year round, be sure to check with the office to make proper precautions to prevent freezing, as you will be responsible for pipe freeze damage at your site.

So, from Murphy we rode Joe Brown and Hanging Dog Roads up to the campground and paid a visit. They will be advertising on a motorcycle touring map covering an area from Nashville to Ashville and northern GA to southern KY. The map includes 40 or so ride loops (paved). He gave us each a map to take along and I've already added a new loop to my ever-expanding list of roads ridden. The maps are free and are also available on line at WildRides.info. Check them out. The new route begins just west of Tellico Plains, TN. From 68, turn south on 39 to 315 and then left on 30 to Lake Ocoee. Being short of time, we then came east on 64 which in that area was scenic and kept us entertained.

During the week, we covered all the familiar territory including the [Cherohala Skyway](#), the [Dragon](#), a bit of the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) and the so-called [Gauntlet](#) which includes highways 60, 129, 180 and 348 (the [Richard Russell Scenic Parkway](#)). I should mention that the western half of 348 is now resurfaced and just as pristine as the eastern half. This has always been a remarkable, must-do ride and now even more so.

We got to Suches twice and both times the [Two Wheels of Suches](#) campground (old TWO) was closed. That is, the restaurant part was closed. There were people camping on the property. I don't know exactly what is going on. As mentioned before, the parking lot is now paved and the building and grounds are in good repair.

I did not take one picture this go around and since I've reported on many of the roads in a previous article about the North Georgia Classic in Helen – further elaboration would be redundant.

Now that the temps are moderating back here in Florida, I am looking forward to more seat time in the state and some pleasant lunch rides with all of you.

Safe riding.

Tom Blake

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., **November 5th**, 11:45 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [1884 Restaurant & Bar](#) – 12 East Magnolia Ave, Eustis, FL 32726 ☎800-856-1884 ([map](#))
Description: There is some street parking on Magnolia in front of the restaurant & a larger lot behind the restaurant off of Bay St. One block west is a city park to walk around with a view of Lake Eustis.
Contact: Teresa Vipond termayn@gmail.com or ☎713-504-5763

Non-MSTA Special Event: The Long Riders Digital Scavenger Hunt 2016.

When: Sat., **November 5th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [Quality Inn & Suites](#), 30307 Cortez Blvd, Brooksville, FL 34602
Description: Florida 10-hour mini endurance rally. This is a 10-hour mini-endurance rally which will be run on November 5, 2016, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It should be a low-key, fun event for novices, and challenging for the more experienced. The registration fee is \$50.00 single rider, \$75.00 two up and includes Friday and Saturday night dinners.
Important information: floridadigitalrally.com
Contact: skyking96w@gmail.com

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **November 12th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [Sebastian Beach Inn](#), 7035 Florida A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951 ☎321-728-4311 ([map](#))
Description: This month should be a fantastic time to make our way to this OCEAN front restaurant!! Watch the hearty beach goers and work on your winter tan while enjoying the ocean breeze!! Ahhh, “winter” in Florida....
Contact: Van busavan@flmsta.org or ☎561-386-2594

Future Florida Events

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., **December 10th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: TBA
Description: Place holder for the December lunch ride.
Contact: Teresa Vipond termayn@gmail.com or ☎713-504-5763

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **December 17th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [Gulf View Grill](#), 2095 N Beach Rd, Englewood, FL 34223 ☎ (map)
Description: Well... Rounding out a fantastic year of riding and dining, we head once more to an island restaurant with Gulf views!! This is yet another new-to-us destination. Looking forward to wrapping up another year of MSTA RTEs!! See ya thar!!
Contact: Van busavan@flmsta.org or ☎561-386-2594

Regional Events

MSTA/COG Street Bike/Sport Touring Track Day

When: Friday, **February 24, 2017**
Where: [Jennings GP](#), 4960 NW Co Road 152, Jennings, FL 32053 ☎386-938-1110 ([map](#))
Description: This info came from MSTA President, Dennis Villarose:

We have a Street Bike/Sport Touring Track Day setup for February 24th, 2017 at Jennings GP Track (Rain or Shine). Ken Condon of “Riding in the Zone” fame will be the facilitator.

We have 25 slots available on a “first come first serve” basis.

I will start a waiting list for us, once it’s filled. A full refund is available if they cancel 30 days prior to the event.

Please have our members send a check for \$150, made payable to MSTA. Please mail to my home address below.

Dennis Villarose
32 Laurelcrest Lane
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
☎561-329-3257

Daytona Just-For-Fun Event in Ocala

When: Fri-Sun., **March 10-12, 2017**
Where: [Quality Inn](#), 3434 SW College Road, Ocala, FL ☎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 in to 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...

Room rates are greatly discounted for this time of year. We have a block of 10 rooms at \$99 a night, before taxes. This includes a hot breakfast, heated pool, 24-hour fitness center, Wi-Fi throughout the hotel, and cookies and milk from 8:00-9:00 PM each evening. 😊

We have protected the price (\$99) for March 9th 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 10th.

Keep in mind that not only are these dates at 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 Friday, February 24, 2017. Just refer to the MSTA block of rooms when you make your reservation.

[MSTA Daytona Lunch Ride](#)

When: Thurs., **March 16, 2017**

Where: [Brian's Bar-B-Que](#), 795 N. Spring Garden Ave, DeLand, FL 32720 ☎386-736-8851 ([map](#))

Description: We have a winner!! We are moving our destination to DeLand this year. Its proximity to the track allows you to make the most of the vendor activity AND enjoy a fantastic lunch with friends old and new!! Plenty of room and great food!!

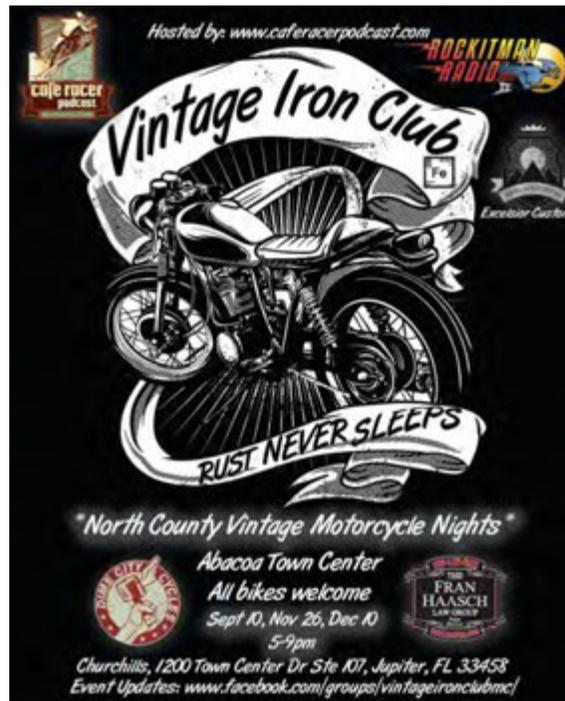
And for those looking for a little Florida riding, Teresa and Tim will be leading a ride after lunch to points north and west of DeLand!! They are local to the area, so you can be sure to enjoy the ride!!

The Midway will open Friday, March 10th, and run through Saturday, March 18th.

Racing goes on all week!! Check out the activities for the 76th Annual Bike Week at [DaytonaInternationalSpeedway.com](#)

Special Event

This bimonthly event by the Vintage Iron Club takes place again on November 26th in Jupiter in the Abacoa Town Center.



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 2016: [click here](#).

National MSTA ridemsta.com

Florida MSTA www.flmsta.org

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

Mystery Hyperlink of the Month

This month's [Mystery Hyperlink](#) is related to the safety article.

CLASSIFIED ADS

2012 Ducati Multistrada 1200s Sport

Only 7,600 miles and in excellent condition.

- Complete factory luggage, (top case and side cases),
- Ohlin ESA suspension,
- AltRider crash bars,
- Puig aftermarket windshield,
- New battery and tires,
- Complete factory carbon fiber kit that comes with the sport model.

Over \$2,000.00 dollars in options and extras.

Reduced to: \$10,800.00 o.b.o.

Call Steve Phillips for more info

☎ 561-307-0861



Riding Apparel

After “oversampling” the VEGA product line while acting as a rep, I am offering my samples at a great deal to MSTA members..... I will deliver them on a nice day to anyone south of Route I-4 at no charge. I have found that the sizing of VEGA products runs pretty true:

- ☎ First is a great jacket for the sport bike rider, as it has a built in back-pack! The **VEGA “Pack” Jacket** is XL and in Day-Glo green. It retails for \$200.00. I am offering it for only **\$100.00**. [Video](#)
- ☎ **VEGA Monarch Jacket** in XL....this is a nice mesh jacket with a lining. Grey. Retails for \$160.00.....sale price **\$80.00**. [Info Link](#)
- ☎ **VEGA MK3 Winter Jacket** in XL, black. Reg: \$170.00...sale: **\$90.00**. This is cut a little longer for better wind protection. [Info Link](#)
- ☎ Two VEGA Mercury Mesh jackets! One is a men’s size XL in black and a lady’s size large in pink. I am very fond of my Mercury jacket, as it offers super ventilation while having good armor. Plus, I just toss mine into the washer and hang to dry! These retail for \$100.00. Now just **\$55.00 each....both for \$100.00**. [Info Link](#)

Contact: Rich Peabody, Paradise, FL ☎(201) 669-2605 cell or ☎(941) 244-6781 home

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