



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 9 Issue 12

Events in December

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Feature Article

Bark at the Moon Ride plus Heat, Fires and Storms

August 19-23, 2016

By Keith E. Williams, a.k.a. WANDRNG
from Southern California

[Ed: This [article](#) was originally posted by Keith on the [Concours Owners Group](#) discussion forum under 'Ride Reports, Roads, Routes, and Places' on 9/1/2016 as well as on the [WanderingBackRoads.com](#) website. It has been slightly abbreviated and edited for publication. All photos by the author unless stated otherwise. Click on images for larger photos or to watch videos. Click on embedded map links to display routes.]

[Author's note: If you hate reading, skip to Day 4 first -- Hopefully at least one person will read through my adventure - the report mentions many awesome riding roads.]

Was riding out to Las Vegas for the *Bark at the Moon* ride on August 21st, so I decided to go a couple days early, take a couple of days to get back and enjoy some scenery and roads. The entire trip was amazing, but the biggest adventure was on Day 4. But we'll start with the days that were only great.

Day 1 Got a real late start, 4 PM, and decided I could get halfway to Vegas, to about Bishop or Big Pine, by nightfall. Kind of an auspicious start when 20 miles up Hwy 108 heading for the [Sonora Pass](#) over the Sierra Nevada's, I ran into a [15 mile traffic](#) (Map Link) creep on a two-lane road with no real side road options. So I (and other motorcyclists) spent the next hour splitting in the few places it was possible, passing 30 "parked" cars at a time when we reached a dotted line section to squeeze in at the other end of the passing section. The cagers were pretty mundane about it all, no yelling, cussing or birds and often made room for motorcycles. Thanks to them. Took me 45 minutes to go the 15 miles - can't imagine how long it took vehicles on all fours.



This lead straight to the day's sweetest treat - Sonora Pass. As fun, twisty, beautiful and empty as ever. Pure riding pleasure. (I've tried to keep the videos short so they aren't too boring.) (Map Link: [Sonora Pass - Sonora CA to Hwy 395](#))



On completion of Sonora Pass, on past the US Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, I headed south on scenic 395. Because of the earlier delays it was already getting dark when passing Bridgeport, CA, full night by Lee Vining (so I couldn't even see Mono Lake and its spires). Mammoth Lakes was nothing but a sign. As I rolled into Bishop CA, checked hotels/motels and mostly either full or REALLY summer expensive. Hungry, but continued on to Big Pine.

[Big Pine Motel](#) in Big Pine, CA had one room left and she let me have it at a discount as she wanted to go home and once I was in, she was done in the office for the night. Win. Every restaurant in Big Pine (all two of them) was closed by then. Lose. Walked down to one of the two open gas/markets. Got a 1.99 gas station hoagie, small bag of "Full Dressed" Ruffles (if you haven't tried them, do), an orange crush - and for dessert, bought a 6.5 oz. plastic bottle of Jack.

Sat in the nicely tended courtyard of the Big Pine Motel on a swinging bench in the moonlight and soft park lights in the quiet eating a simple meal reflecting on what was and what was to come.

Day 2 started early with a protein bar. Headed east on a new road for me, CA Hwy 168, that on the map promised some sweeps and twists before reaching flat straight desert in Nevada. (Map Link: [Hwy 168 - Big Pine CA to Oasis CA](#))



Yaahooo. LOTS of twists and sweeps running through whoopdee dos!! Like riding a rollercoaster. Other than the one RV that believed he should be able to drive in any lane that was convenient, Hwy 168 was flat out amazing and recommended.

Hwy 168 led me to NV Hwy 266 and eventually Hwy 95 in Nevada where I headed south. Stopped in Beatty, NV for some fuel and photos. But it was hot so I headed on the Vegas before it got REALLY hot. (Hwy 95 is kind of a bore by the way).





When I hit Las Vegas from the north, it was the first time in eight or more years from this direction. Holy Cowabunga Batman - such growth - and all of it standard boring western US style metropolis filled with chains. Freewayed it through to my destination [Best Western](#) actually in Henderson. This would be my napping HQ prior to Bark at the Moon.

Got there at 1 PM - asked the nice young clerk if she could store some of my luggage until it was check in time. Instead she gave me the room early. I moved in. Searched out some passable food. Then relaxed / napped until it was time for the Barking to start.

Bark at the Moon - A midnight ride at through Lake Mead Rec Area and Valley of Fire State Park. Fun and adventure. [Read a couple of reports and see a few pics and videos here.](#)

After OMC and I wrapped it up the Bark at the Moon, I went back to the BW for a couple of hours of shuteye.

Day 3 (kinda) started with a pleasant ride up to [Mt. Charleston](#). Who knew there was skiing 30 minutes out of Vegas. Tons of people and traffic that late Sunday morning heading up for some hiking and outdoorsing. After peaking (on a road anyway) I headed back out and then south to the road to Pahrump. (Map Link: [Road to Mount Charleston](#))



The start, overlooking Vegas from the hill - you can see the Luxor light beam for reference

Stopped for pizza in [Pahrump](#). Nice older lady took my order. Looked at me funny when I ordered and walked off slowly looking confused. I can then hear her in the back saying, "Half and half, can we do that? Do we charge for four toppings or two? Have you ever heard of that?" The pizza cooks says, "What half and half, what, that's what he ordered? Well, it's still only two toppings per half, so..." They talked for 5 minutes about it. The whole time me thinking, what kind of pizza place has never heard of a half and half pizza? What kind a pizza am I gonna get? Turns out an awesome and tasty pizza for one. Nice job [Nicco's Pizza](#) in Pahrump.

Spent the night at a Best Western in Pahrump. Got to bed early to catch up from the Bark at the Moon. So no losing, gambling, for me.

Day 4 started with the Best Western free breakfast. Checked [Death Valley](#) weather the night before - said 100 by Noon. Figured get up early and get through the desert [National Park](#) before then, plus I had a long ride in mind for the day. (Map Link: [Full Day 4](#))



Got to the [Furnace Creek](#) visitor center by 9:30 AM. 101 degrees already. Somebody got it wrong. So bought a magnet and hit the road to get out of DV quick.

The [Death Valley section of State Route 190 west of Panamint](#) (Map Link) can be a lot of fun to ride. This day there was almost no traffic and turned out to be a dream.

I hit Coso Junction on 395 by about Noon. Got some fuel along with water and snacks for later as the next hundred plus miles would be remote and take a while.

I've never ridden through [Kennedy Meadows](#) or on Mt. Sherman Road that crosses over [Mt. Sherman Pass](#) in the Southern Sierras. It's closed 5 to 6 months out of the year - but August is no issue.



This southern pass starts out with an eastbound turn off 395 onto 9 Mile Canyon Road. 9 Mile Canyon leads up through high desert mountains, beautiful and sparse. Gotta watch for sand and rocks on the road during the enjoyable ride and gain in altitude. It eventually connects with the Kennedy Meadows road that then cruises through, you guessed it, Kennedy Meadows. All lovely and scenic. (Map Link: [9 Mile Canyon](#))

On the west side of Kennedy Meadows the road changes to Mt. Sherman Rd for the trip farther west and eventually over Mt. Sherman Pass to arrive at the [Kern Plateau](#) featuring the [Kern River](#) itself. The road is fun grouping of twists and sweeps that gains altitude at an aggressive rate - at least according to maps.

The trip has been fun and enjoyable not to mention well worth it up till now. But this is where it becomes an adventure.

Mt. Sherman Road was in pretty good shape for a stretch of asphalt that is closed five months of the year with snow on it. Twists and sweeps gliding through the tall pines with the scent of forest and unfortunately fires in the air. I'd been watching the haze of fire smoke grow and get closer as I moved westward. (Map Link: [Mt. Sherman Road - Kennedy Meadows to Mt. Sherman Pass](#))



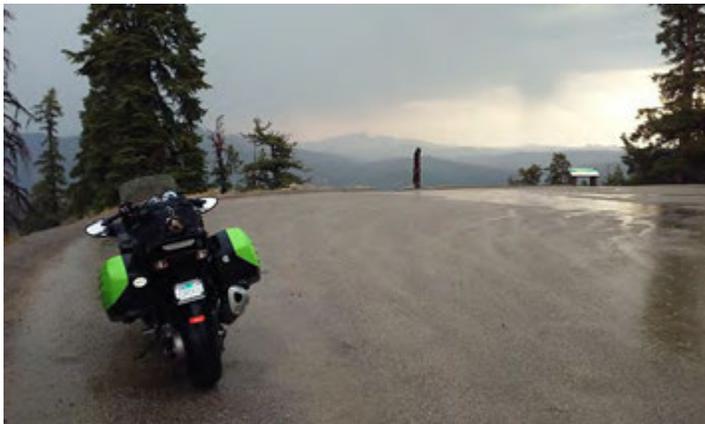
The rain starts at about 50 seconds.

At about 3/4 of the way up to Sherman Pass at 9,200 ft., I found out the hard way that not all of that haze was from the fires. It started to rain sparsely. Rain giant drops. Then pour, drench, cascade those same giant drops. I was drenched within a minute - the mesh jacket and boots that three hours ago were in the 101 degree Death Valley desert didn't provide much protection. The temp was now 52 degrees and falling. I continued on as I was soaked so why stop.

The rain switched to falling slush; wet, goopy, clingy slush. But that didn't last long, cause it turned to thumbnail sized hail - just frickin' ouch. What the ...

It quickly morphed into a mix of rain, slush, hail and snow pouring from the sky. But the part that concerned me the most, were the sheets of water, slush and mud sliding down and across the road. I could feel the bike losing traction.

And right at that point, I reach the top of the pass where there was a small gravelish parking vista spot with a tiny cement one shitter outhouse with a tiny little vestibule. So I pulled in, hopped off and camped out in that vestibule.



Waiting for a reduction in all forms of H₂O, I stood there eating the three Chips-Ahoy cookies that I had bought in Coso Junction, soaking wet, shivering in the 42 degree storm, watching the lightning strikes slowly creep up the hill towards me, wondering if these stupid cookies I'm eating while standing under a toilet roof, waiting to be electrocuted were going to be my last meal.

Closest lightning strike turned out to be 50 to 60 yards and the thunder boomed around me at the very same moment it flashed. So loud. Scared the crap out of me and I was only three feet from a plastic seat over a hole in the ground. From then on the strikes were farther away, to the east of me. The cascading water slowly started to dissipate.



Grabbed a towel from the saddle bags, dried myself a little and then the C14 seat and grips. Mounted back up and headed down the west side towards Kern River in a now slight drizzle.

The weather dried up as I continued on down the west side twists and sweeps. You would think that would be enough adventure for one day. But nope.

I reached the Kern River and Mountain Hwy 99 where I turned northwest. As I passed the tiny hamlet of Johnsonsdale there was a temporary sign on the side of the road, "Road Closed Ahead". Whaaaaa? (Map Link: [Pass to Road Closure + start of dirt road](#))



Three corners later, road block with "Road Closed" signs. Stupid fires!

Six stinking miles short of the intersection of Mountain Hwy 99 and Great Western Divide Hwy they've closed the road. Great Western Divide is open from where it connects to Mtn Hwy 99, but I can't go the last six miles of Mtn Hwy 99 to get there. The fire is still 15 miles to the south and west of me - I just need six more miles.



I talked to "officials" going past the road block. I went back to the fire staging area in Johnsondale and begged fire people, forestry people, CHP people and anyone I could find to let me sneak through. Lead me through, Just look the other damn way while I raced that last six miles. No luck and no bites.

I was told about a small road (they thought it was gravel and dirt) that was up another dead end road that headed north east. It was only four miles long and cut between the two roads I needed. Went to look. Yep, there's a road and it's sparse loose gravel on dirt - that is currently a slippery clay mud. That is out for me and my 700 pound bike. (Map Link: [The dirt road I skipped](#))

So the only choice left is south down to [Kernville](#).

I head the opposite way, south on Mountain Hwy 99. This is great road by BTW, smooth and in good shape with the requisite sweeps and twists. Best of all there is no traffic. Zero. Not one car, truck, motorcycle or fire

vehicle in 43 miles. And I rode it like that :-) The first cars I see about a mile out of Kernville are two Kern County Sheriff patrol cars. Good thing the welcome sign to Kernville came about a ½ mile before the turn they were sitting at. (Map Link: [Mountain Hwy 99 - Johsondale to Kernville section](#))

Because the storm and the fire now have me way behind schedule (I am supposed to have dinner with relatives this evening), I blow on through Kernville skipping chow and a break. I head out 155 from the west side of Lake Isabella.

Five miles up 155 (Map Link: 155 [which is a fabulous road by the way](#)) guess what I run into... yep a CHP blocking the road. As I pull up he says “Sorry, just closed it 10 minutes ago. The fire is coming back this way again. 15 miles up it’s literally on highway 155. Even if I let you pass you couldn’t get there.” I kind of looked at him and asked, “Where? How do you know where I’m going?”. He says, “You are the guy that was just up at the closure at the top of Mountain Hwy 99, right?” I nod. He says, “The guys up there called down when we closed the road a few minutes ago and asked me to tell the guy on the green motorcycle they were sorry but 155 was open when then sent you down.” He assured me that Hwy 178 going west from the south side of Lake Isabella was open and would stay that way.

I’m picturing myself getting home by way of San Diego and the coast roads at this point.

He was right. Hwy 178 west was open and to my great surprise, once again, completely empty. Another amazing road with sweeps, twists and vistas that is normally packed and slowed by traffic was like a road reserved for me. I made the absolute most of it and enjoyed a brisk ride out of the Sierras. Hwy 178 has never been this exciting before. (Map Link: [Hwy 178 - Lake Isabella to Bakersfield](#))

Once to Bakersfield I slabbed it up to relatives for a tasty Mexican dinner with some excellent Margaritas and great company.

Day 5, slabbed it home.

Hopefully someone made it all the way to this point of my report. Most of the roads mentioned are worth riding if you make it out west.

Thanks for reading.

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 II

How Track Days Increase Cornering & Braking Confidence

By Ken Condon, Safety Expert

MSTA and COG are teaming up to offer a special "Sport-Touring" Track Day on February 24 at Jennings GP racetrack in Jennings, FL.

My name is Ken Condon. I'm lead instructor with *Tony's Track Days* and own the *Riding in the Zone* school. I also write a column for *Motorcyclist Magazine*.

I've been asked to be the lead instructor at this special training day. My task is to help each participant leave with a stronger understanding of advanced techniques that increase cornering and braking confidence.

More About the Day

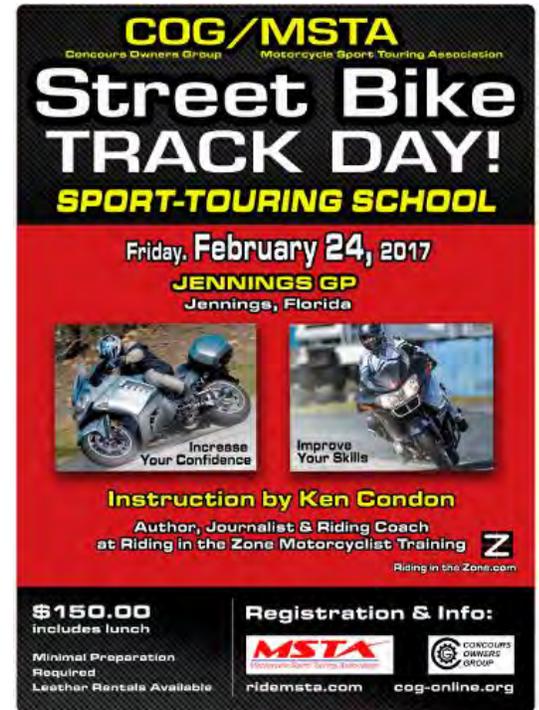
Track Days are the most exciting, fun and effective way to improve your riding skills! Training on a racetrack means you are able to concentrate on advancing your skill level without the typical hazards faced on the street...potholes, sand, tar snakes and Buicks.

This training event is for street riders wanting to advance their skills in a non-threatening environment void of typical street hazards. While most track days are full of sport bikes, the MSTA/COG track day will consist of regular old street bikes, mostly sport tourers. We will have separate groups to accommodate various bikes and riders.

We expect that most attendees will be new track day riders who are going to be as nervous as you. Not to worry. We will have experienced, friendly staff and volunteers who are eager to help you learn and have a great time.

It's Not About Speed

You may be thinking that riding on a racetrack requires fast riding. But track days are not about speed! Yes, you must be able to sustain typical highway speeds and to ride predictably, but you don't have to ride faster than you want. For those who want to, you can let 'er rip, but you must be utterly respectful of your fellow riders. Remember that it's much more important that you ride at a comfortable speed that allows you to practice new techniques and have a safe day.



COG/MSTA
Concourse Owners Group Motorcycle Sport-Touring Association

Street Bike TRACK DAY!

SPORT-TOURING SCHOOL

Friday, February 24, 2017
JENNINGS GP
Jennings, Florida



Instruction by Ken Condon
Author, Journalist & Riding Coach
at Riding in the Zone Motorcyclist Training 
Riding in the Zone.com

\$150.00
includes lunch

Minimal Preparation Required
Leather Rentals Available

Registration & Info:



ridemsta.com cog-online.org



It's About Fun!

Imagine the perfect twisty road, but with no oncoming traffic, sand, gravel, guardrails or distracted drivers in big sedans and you start to get the idea of what a track day is. Oh, and did I mention no speed limits? Riding on a racetrack is not only a safer place to ride, but you can also go as fast as you want without the risk of getting an expensive speeding ticket and insurance points.

You'll also get to commiserate and socialize with like-minded motorcyclists. Many of us expect to be at the track the night before to greet and meet and get excited about the next day.

It's About Learning!

Track days are also a great place to develop your skills and where you can explore the capabilities of your bike, the tires and yourself. Even if you think you're the best darn rider on the road, you can be sure that you have more to learn. Perhaps you've taken a few parking lot courses and read articles about riding technique. Great! But, those skills don't become a part of your arsenal until you have applied them at real world speeds.

The MSTA/COG track day will feature classroom time between riding sessions. Expect a garage seminar on body positioning and some on-track coaching as well. The beauty of riding on a racetrack is that you visit each corner multiple times so you can work on the techniques and perfect each corner as the day goes on.

Get Ready

Visit the "Riding in the Zone" Blog (www.ridinginthezone.com) to learn more about all aspects of cornering, including trail-braking, body positioning and other advanced riding techniques, and to order an autographed copy of my books, "Riding in the Zone" and "Motorcycling the Right Way". Please pre-order, since I will not have books with me at the track.

Sign Up

The MSTA/COG "Sport-Touring" Track Day is an awesome investment in time and money. Visit the MSTA website for all the details and to register. See you there!

Ken Condon

For more details, discussion and registration information, see this [forum thread](#) on the MSTA National website.

Description: 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. Dennis will start a waiting list for us if we fill all the slots.

To Register: Send your name, address and email address plus a check for \$150 made payable to MSTA. A full refund is available if you need to cancel at least 30 days prior to the event.

Mail to:

[Dennis Villarose](#), 32 Laurelcrest Lane, Travelers Rest, SC 29690 ☎561-329-3257

[Update from Jim Park (11/22/2016): We have already filled over half the spaces for track day! Dianne Park is working on obtaining a discounted group rate at a nearby hotel.]

Florida News

South Director's Report

GIVING THANKS, LOOKING AHEAD

I trust all of you enjoyed Turkey Day, 'cepting the turkeys... As we near the end of another terrific year of riding, one can't help to reflect on the good times had on our two-wheeled companions!! This month's newsletter, and next month's, will attempt to hit most of the highlights. Please send along your own Top 3 from 2016 and we'll add them to our year end issue!!



Van VanSteelant

As for our November RTEs, we hit a new place for the Central Gang, and an old favorite for the Southies!! You'll read about the ride and lunch to the [1884 Restaurant and Bar](#) in Eustis in Teresa's report. Let me tell you about our ride and lunch to the [Sebastian Beach Inn](#)!! Spectacular day for riding, an improved route offering differing views, lots of riders, an accomplished tail gunner and the recent renovations to the Inn all added up to one tremendous lunch ride!!! We have photos posted to our site which should make you regret not making this ride!! It's always a pleasure to have a plan come together and have 22 friendly faces reaffirm that the effort is worth it!! We also had a new friend join the list of first attendance/first time winner of our 50/50 raffle!! Tina road two up with Rick Lucas, and took home \$45 as her winnings! And our Chapter total now stands at \$884.50. Always a BIG thanks to all who participate!!

What's Next??

Mark your calendars for Dec. 10th and Dec. 17th!! The Central Gang make their way to [Outriggers Restaurant](#) in New Smyrna Beach to end the year on great note! The next week, the Southies ride to the Gulf coast to try out a new-to-us location, the [Gulf View Grill](#) in Englewood!! This time of year, we try to spread our destinations out to the 2-4 hour ride time, just so we can rub it in a little with our north of Florida membership!!

We will endeavor to have the first six months of RTE dates set up by the middle of December. Meanwhile, if you keep scrolling through our calendar, you'll see a couple of events already on the books for next year!! You 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!! Get in the habit of checking for new additions regularly. Don't count on only 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!!

Membership News

This is what I wrote last month: "I have received the much 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!" Well... I did welcome the newest members! I didn't get to the renewals... I will get them out in December, so we can start 2017 with a clean slate!

In October our newsletter editor, Don Moe, volunteered to manage the MSTA Membership database. He reports that, as of 11/30, several MSTA FL memberships have already expired or will expire very soon. Please visit the [MSTA website](#) to renew easily online or to download the membership application for mailing. The MSTA database lists 101 currently active and very recently expired Florida memberships.

We welcome one new member, who joined late in November: Don Mroczenski in Tamarac.

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

Stephen Albert	Terry Brown	Rick Sapir
Thomas Blake	Paul Heydemann	Alan & Terri Singer

These Florida memberships have expired since June 1st:

Mark Del Pico	Allison Klay	Norman Nelson	Roger Spice
Stephen Evans	Paul Maerz	Phil Ridgill	Matthew Terry
Boyd Harrell	Glenn Monroe	Larry Snell	Ronald Winn

These Florida memberships expire at the end of November:

Alan Berry	Stephen Grasso	Eric Kuritzky	Hugh Palmer	Joe & Becky Wolf
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We urge all our members to renew their memberships and continue supporting the MSTA.

Random Ramblings!

Ah, the end of the year summaries, holiday gift wish lists, shoulda-coulda-woulda remembrances... Send me your Top 3 and look for mine next month!!

Meanwhile, get out and ride!! Hit up your favorite websites or local dealers for that one more farkle that you've been eyeing all year...

Call or email some members in your "neighborhood" and set up a ride for brunch, or lunch, or dinner...

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van
MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report

November Central Ride Report

10 riders enjoyed the great weather for the ride to Eustis and the good eats at the 1884 Restaurant downtown. The historic building was a big department store in its former life for the residents of this quaint town. After lunch we all took a walk over to the lakefront park and came upon a classic car show with live musical entertainment.

Central Florida December Lunch Ride:

Saturday, **December 10th**, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM,

[Outriggers Restaurant](#)

200 Boatyard St.

New Smyrna Beach, FL

Located just off the North Causeway in New Smyrna Beach, they serve contemporary versions of southern classics. A table is reserved on the outdoor patio. So let's hope for more good weather.

Teresa Vipond, DeLand
MSTA Florida State Co-Director

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 10th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: [Outriggers Restaurant](#) – 200 Boatyard St., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169 ☎386-428-6888 ([map](#))

Description: Located just off the North Causeway in New Smyrna Beach, they serve contemporary versions of southern classics. A table is reserved on the outdoor patio. So let's hope for more good weather. Enjoy the final feast of 2016 with your fellow members and friends!!

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 ☎941-475-3500 ([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

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., **January 7th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: TBA

Description: Place holder for the January lunch ride.

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

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **January 14th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: TBA

Description: Place holder for the January lunch ride.

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. [*Update from Jim Park: We have already filled over half the spaces for track day! Dianne Park is working on obtaining a discounted group rate at a nearby hotel.*]

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!!

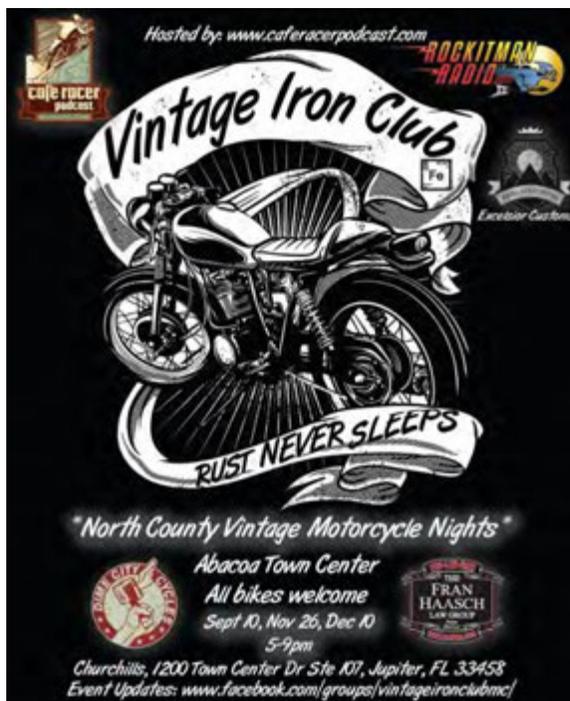
And for those looking for a little Florida riding, Teresa and Tim will be leading a ride after lunch to points north and west of DeLand!! They are local to the area, so you can be sure to enjoy the ride!!

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 December 10th 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

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