



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 8 Issue 5

Events in May

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Contact Information:

South Florida Director:

Van VanSteelant – busavan@flahsta.org

Central Florida Director:

Terese Vipond – termayn@gmail.com

Safety Editor:

Doug Westly – flwingrdr@msn.com

Florida Gator Tale Editor:

Don Moe – editor@flmsta.org

Feature Article

Corporate Sponsored GSs Ride the Appalachians

By Ray Crampton, Raleigh, NC

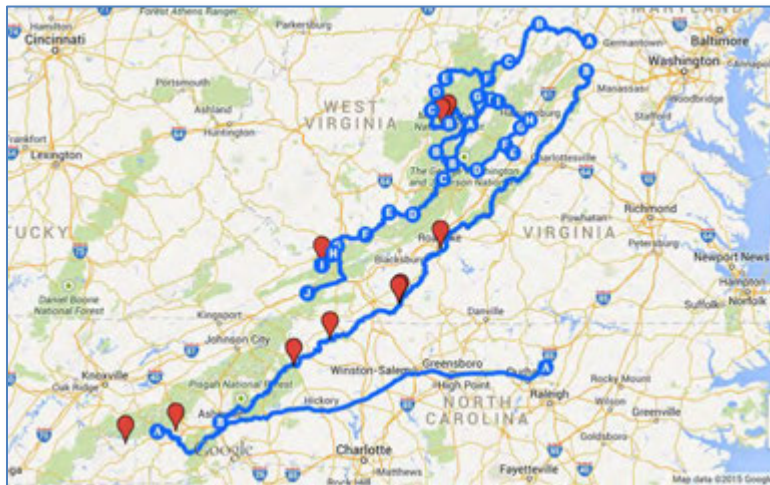
[Ed: Under the handle, "rcrampton", Ray posted [this ride report](#) to the "Day Trippin'" section of the [AdvRider.com Forum](#) on 3/24/2015. It has been edited for publication. All photos by the author unless stated otherwise.]

A friend/coworker (Pradeep, AKA Deep) and I are going through a strange turn of events at work while transitioning out of our current jobs. For the next couple of weeks we have only 1-2 hours per day of work and it can be taken care of remotely. The obvious idea jumped out: "let's do a ride!"

A couple of hours of planning, a couple of hours to pack, and we're on our way!

The Route:

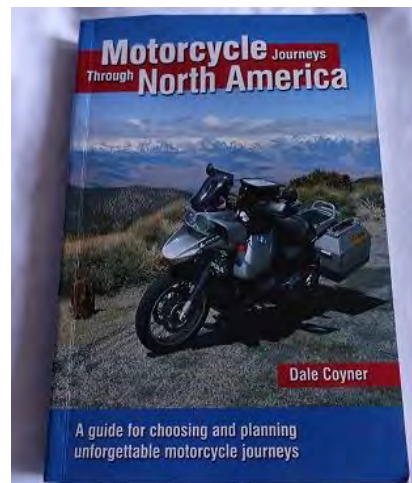
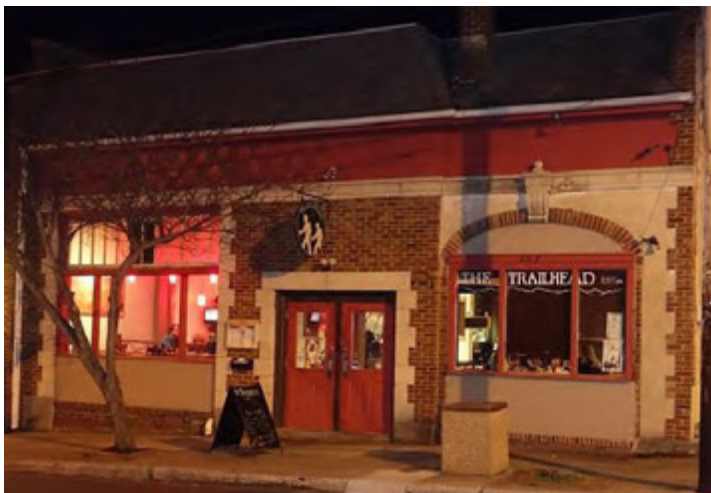
- 🏍 Ride from Raleigh to Cherokee on I40.
Blah, but not bad when you're still on the payroll!
- 🏍 Ride the Blue Ridge Parkway south to north
- 🏍 Skip up to Winchester and ride south to Monterey which should be gorgeous.
- 🏍 Loop around the Greenbrier area, through Cass, etc.
- 🏍 Loop around the Staunton area
- 🏍 Ride south to the Marion/Abingdon area
- 🏍 Find a route home



For the visually inclined, like me, check the map... ↩

The planning was made easy by this book Deep gave me last Christmas. →

We left in the afternoon, stopping for dinner of decent burgers at [The Trailhead](#) in Black Mountain, NC:



Sorting out why the heated gloves aren't working. We will be riding down into the 30's. →

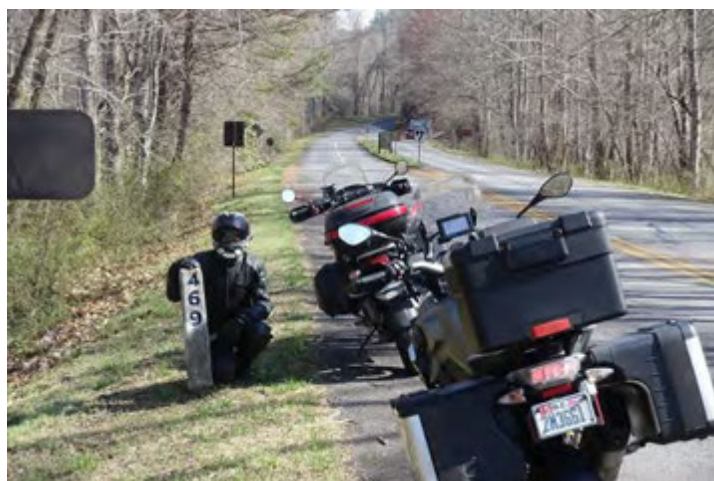


Day 2

With a special thanks to our corporate sponsors, we worked... 30 minutes each today and rode over 8 hours. If only this could go on for more than a few weeks...

After arriving at the hotel late last night, 11:45pm, we got a full night's sleep. Regardless, it wasn't easy pulling me out of bed, even at 9am.

The weather app said it was in the mid 40's so we took our time at breakfast, giving the world a chance to warm up. As you can see, this Microtel had motorcycle parking. Lucky for us it was in the sun so



the bikes were warmed up and ready to go. We departed on the late side, 11am. The camera's autofocus seemed to put a priority on the motorcycles, so I think I bought the right camera for these trips. ☺

The first mile marker at the southern terminus of the BRP is as good as it gets for the start of a full day of riding!

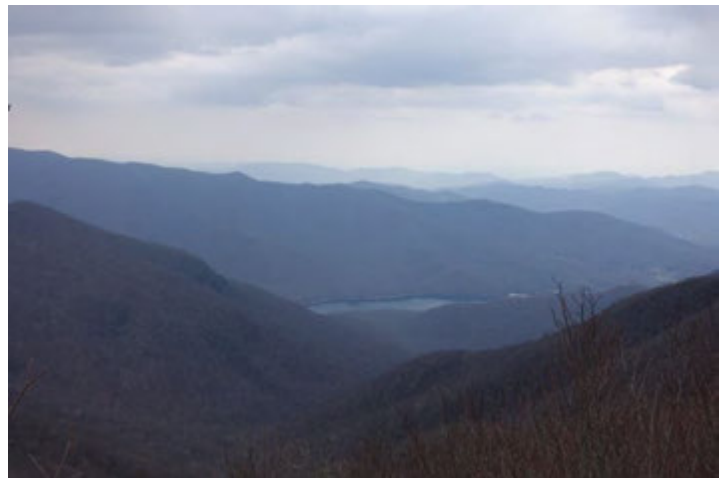
Still a sunny day when we crossed the highest elevation of the BRP just before noon. →

You can see why they call these “Smoky Mountains”.



Not long after this overlook we came to the Devil’s Courthouse section, where the BRP was closed, around mile marker 423. We had to take a fairly long detour around this section, and another short section that was closed, so we had it our way at Burger King: quick.

Along the way we passed this cool bridge which reminds me of the crazy things people ride across on round-the-world trips, so I had to ride it. ↓



We got back on the parkway at 4pm. So far we had ridden a whopping 46 miles of the BRP and it felt like the day was over. We kicked it up and rode almost nonstop until 7:15pm, when we got off at MM248, hoping to stay at Iron Horse Station to get a large dinner and crash for the night. No dice, it’s not open for the season yet. We had to exit there anyway to take the next and final detour around a closed section. An hour later we ended up at the Best Western in Elkin with dinner at the Cracker Barrel across the street. 8 hours in the saddle today, especially coming off of winter, with little conditioning.

We started the day pretty rough on the sweeping turns but got things smoothed out and feeling great by the time we signed off. Tomorrow looks like rain and mid-40s temperature-wise. We will hope to at least stay dry on the inside. I’m trying a new rain gear setup that is as yet untested.

Day 3

Another thank-you to our most awesome corporate sponsors. I got a voice mail from my boss that essentially said, "Sorry we haven't talked in a while, if you need anything you know where to find me." I called and fortunately went to voice mail, "Hey, thanks for the call. Everything is going great on my end." Deep put in a solid 45 minutes. Another great day on the clock!

Today was truly amazing. Had you told us what the weather would be like, we'd never have guessed that this would be one of the best riding days of our lives.

- ✓ Cold – check, 30's to 40's
- ✓ Heated gear problems – check, one of Deep's gloves was working at 50%, the other not at all
- ✓ Fog – check, came in late and stayed until 2pm, then came in again before dusk
- ✓ Rain – check
- ✓ Rain suit problems – check, the zipper in the top of my Frog Toggs went out last June, after only a dozen trips; the zipper in the bottoms was flaking out today, only a few uses later.

But, even with those working against us we had some truly awesome scenery. There is stillness at the transition from winter to spring, when it is cold and wet outside, the trees haven't yet come back to life, and nature is still buttoned down. We had the parkway to ourselves, measuring single digit cars/hour while we rode. Road conditions were excellent, even if wet. I won't try to ineloquently put it into words. Hopefully the pics below do the day some justice.

We got an earlier start today, leaving about 10:15. The ride to the parkway was 30 minutes then we were hauling butt, really digging the twisties. It was chilly but visibility was great, the road was great and we were having the time of our lives.

The parkway has a number of tunnels and bridges, but this one was especially nice. The old wooden fences lining the road, the perspective of the curved road passing through, was all perfect. →

We really enjoyed some of the green scenery.



This rather odd house/church/sniper tower caught our eye. →

About 10am a heavy fog set in. It's unusual to see it set in this late and it stayed around until about 2pm. We ran into fog patches off and on all day, keeping our



A nice pic of Deep relaxing on a break. 15 minute break, no cars.

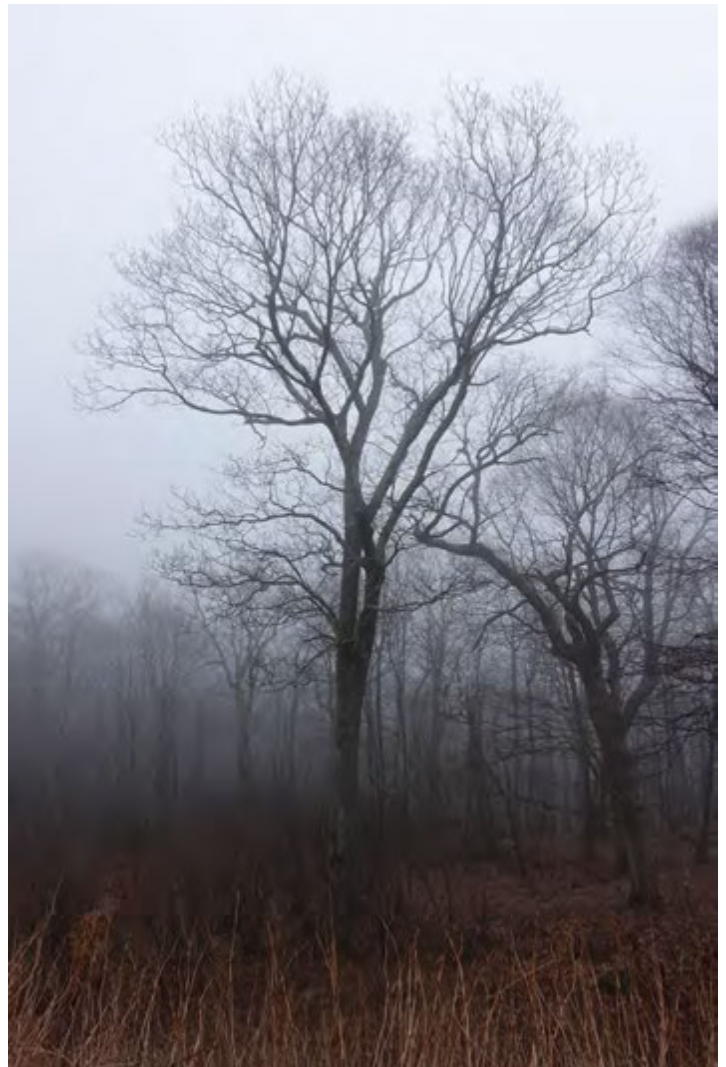


Some trees, without leaves, let you see an incredible amount of detail that would be overlooked as soon as leaves sprout in April. These two in particular caught my eye. → and ↘

We stopped for lunch around MM200 at highway 52. There's an awesome diner there, be sure to check it out. The hash browns were NOT out of a bag in the freezer. We're talking fresh grated potatoes. The rest of the meal was just as good.



speed in check quite often but providing some truly awesome scenery. Seriously, the fog was a blessing, not a curse. 35mph was about as fast as we could roll through this.



We took the short detour to Mill Mountain to check out the Roanoke Star. It's a little cheesy, but I grew up in Roanoke and it was nice to see it again.



Late in the afternoon we passed through this grove of trees. The sun was peeking out of the clouds, coming down at an angle that lit up one side of all of the trees. I stopped as quickly as I could but the sun was already diffused by clouds again. Still, this is a nice view. The road is perfectly clean but there are leaves covering the ground on each side, creating a texture to the ground that reminds us of fall but with a contrast of feeling like a cold, wet, winter day yet we know spring is almost upon us.



From here on we enjoyed countless awesome pieces of scenery, but pretty much rode the day out until the end of the BRP.



We revisited the route plan at dinner today; it was Cracker Barrel again! Deep wants to be back to Raleigh Saturday night for the Cricket World Cup. I will probably keep riding. So, we decided to work in some variety in the ride tomorrow and will skip Skyline Drive and instead head to the Staunton→ Monterey→ Cass→ Covington kind of area.

I hope everyone enjoys reading as much as we've enjoyed writing and sharing.

Sticky side down, one day at a time 😊



Day 4

Special thanks to our corporate sponsors, I worked 15 minutes; Deep worked 90 minutes. We had 8 hours in the saddle. Great VM from my manager today: "Ray, I got your message, thanks. It doesn't sound like you need anything from me so I was just letting you know I got your message." Really nice guy, and cool that we only talk monthly.

Deep was up at 7am today. What's up with that? We got a slightly earlier start, getting on the road before 10am, going towards Staunton. There's a really cool historic area down there. We didn't stop to take pics but if you go by, ride through, rather than around Staunton.

We rode some sweet, rolling hills with gentle curves all over VA and WV in this area today. The VA side tended to be more rolling meadows, the WV side more rugged and rocky. We did more riding and less picture taking today but here are a few to share. Lighting was generally not that good when I took pics, but it was a sweet day of riding.

The route on my map above is awesome. All of it. Enjoy it if you want a pavement ride out there.

There is a ton of pasture, dairy farms, beef, sheep, horses, goats.... A lot like this. ↙



Some rolling hills near that valley.



We had a few sprinkles of rain here and there throughout the day. I put my rain gear on to be safe but never really needed it. We hit Franklin, WV around lunch time and, after running through town, nothing really jumped out at us. We chose the Fox's Pizza Den on the north end of Main St. The food was good; the owner Pamela was a riot. She made us feel like we had been locals for our entire lives. If you're ever in town, stop in and chat her up; you'll be glad you did.

A lot of the roads we followed ran parallel to creeks. So, much of the day we had nice views of creeks with good flow. This one was one of the wider ones for sure, most were several feet across. →

A nice valley on the WV side. ↓



We were very surprised to run into a lot of patches of snow throughout the day. It would be over 60 degrees outside, warm and sunny yet a patch of snow on the hill nearby. They got hammered a few weeks ago and some still remains.



Most were more like this. →

We came across Green Bank, which has a radio astronomy tour, exhibit and of course telescopes. The precision with which they have to tackle engineering problems is impressive. Deep is a materials science



engineer by training, me an electrical engineer. We can really appreciate the technical accomplishments. That said, we have to scratch our heads on why it's so imperative to tax us and spend it on this stuff. Better save this topic for another thread ☺...

This baby has a 2.3 acre mirror that is made up of 2,000 individual mirrors with precision alignment motors on each. Cool stuff (and lots of tax money ☺). →

Nearby is Cass, WV. This whole area is a haven for motorcyclists with Cass being a central point. Cass was founded in 1900 with the primary productivity being lumber at a local mill which you can see the ruins of in this photo:



In its heyday in the early 1900's and later, it employed ~150 people, ran two shifts of 11 hours each and produced 100,000 ft of lumber per day. Impressive. The mill was powered by a steam engine of its own. The railroad, which is what Cass is primarily known for, was to transport the lumber out. They still run a steam locomotive up and down the track during tourist season, later this year.

A benefit of being there outside of tourist season is that we could get a picture of an old iron horse next to our newer steeds. →

We got on down the road towards Hot Springs and noticed that an 18-wheeler pulling a large tanker was right on our tail. We were on a curvy road and hitting the corners pretty hard. 55mph on a corner marked 30mph kind of speeds. Certainly not at our limit, but we were pushing much faster than we thought an 18-wheeler could ever possibly run. This



guy stuck with us for maybe 10 miles until we parted ways. I wanted to buy that dude a drink, maybe another day. Maybe I'll run into him at an autocross event where he's rockin' his truck, tanker and all.

Coming into Hot Springs, VA, we passed the Omni Homestead Resort. Impressive! ↙



We boogied out of there and made our way down 220 towards Covington. I pushed a passing zone a bit hard and came way too close to sending myself into a guard rail. I'm amazed, and thankful at the stopping power of these Tourances in the rain. My wife and mom

I'm more of a nature guy than a country club guy these days, so I found the steam coming out of the ground in town to be more interesting:



(different people, thank you) may be reading this, so I'll leave out the rest of the details. We ended up rolling all the way to Daleville, VA, to my parent's house for tonight. We hit pretty consistent rain on the way down. My glasses and visor were wet and foggy, the road was wet, and visibility was terrible. Between the near hit of

a guard rail at Mach 2 and issues due to visibility, we both agreed today had more serious risk issues than we've maybe ever had in a day before. We took note for the future; we should have parked the bikes and chilled at a hotel instead. Bad decision but we were lucky, a few times.

Deep decided to keep on back home to Raleigh to take care of some things tomorrow. Thanks for the ride, partner. We will do it again before you move to CA. If you can swing the trip to Alaska, I'm in. Just let me know when we leave.

I'm doing some fix-ups for my parents tonight and tomorrow and will hit the road again tomorrow or Saturday. Depending on the weather and my mood I'll maybe go across VA to the coast, maybe back over to WV, maybe Blacksburg, not sure.

The ride will continue, thanks for reading y'all!

Day 5

Thanks to my corporate sponsor, I did 15 solid minutes of work on this, my last formal day in corporate America. It's been an awesome career, I've loved it. Truly. I turned in my notice several weeks ago with plans to spend the next few years enjoying life. I'm planning the TAT this fall, starting late August on my XR650L, and maybe Alaska between now and then on my 1150GS. I've got a few more months of pay coming from this sponsor. I'm gonna get a couple of weeks of paddling in British Columbia, more motorcycling, a week of human-powered cycling, and am producing a podcast on literature, "In the Margins", with a good friend. Couldn't be better!

Due to a lot of weather alerts and a threatening forecast, I decided to crash with my parents for today. As you'll see later, while it rained all morning, it turned out to be a nice day, partly sunny even. After sleeping in, I started working on my stack of Rider magazines. The Honda NM4 looks like a cool concept and a good strategic move in terms of having a motorcycle that is an easy transition for the newer generation of drivers that have never used a manual transmission. These pansy city boys need it easy or they won't try ☺. Once they come over, we can MAN THEM THE @\$!& UP 😊

My mom and I went to the [BBQ Grill and Sauce Company](#) for lunch, over in Vinton, VA. The guy who owns this place helped me buy my first motorcycle, a 1994 Ninja 600, which I bought in 1995. He went to pick it up and rode it home for me. It's been downhill since. ☺ He bought this BBQ house last September and I was glad to finally eat there today and see Ryan. It's been probably 15 years since we last talked in person. If you go through Roanoke, consider dropping in. The BBQ is great and be sure to chat up Ryan, the owner; he can talk motorcycles for hours and is a rider at the core.

I helped mom with a few other odds and ends: wireless printer setup, some smartphone debug, carrying heavy stuff around the house, some plumbing help, etc.

Homebase today has some nice views; I snapped one pic looking out in the front. →



I did manage a couple of hours of riding late in the afternoon, coming home just after dark set in. It rained all morning, but the sun was out after about 1pm and I was really [jonesing](#) to get back on the bike. I snapped a few pics of things that jumped out at me, but mostly I just rode the road.

The sun came out of the clouds and really lit up the wet, green pastures and freshly washed and glistening graveyard below. Hard to capture on film, but here goes. →

I did a double take on this, a tree growing out of the top of this... this, whatever it is. I grew up here and probably drove by this 100 times and never saw this in its younger days of growth. ↓



Further down the road this chimney caught my eye. Every angle had nice lighting and shadow effects. Here's one picture I liked.



Another half hour down the road in Catawba, there was a gorgeous view of a stream going through a valley. Again, hard to capture this on camera, but it was a nice scene.



Finally, this log cabin caught my wife's eye, and mine when we drove by once. We plan to build a log home of our own one day, but aren't sure when we feel like taking that one on. →

At this point I'm planning to ride out tomorrow, in 30-degree but hopefully sunny weather, and head across Virginia and maybe back home tomorrow night.

For now I'm going to enjoy some of Mom's homemade, from scratch pizza, to finish off an awesome food day. Nothing against Cracker Barrel, but this was REAL food!!!

Final Day

For the final day, it was pretty cold. My heated jacket was working intermittently. Either the connection to the battery is intermittent, or, more likely the battery or jacket side of the plug is intermittent. It would run for a while, and then stop. When I got cold, I knew it was time to fiddle with it again. My right heated glove was also intermittent so I alternated between comfy enough versus numb all day. ☺

I do have 20 years as an electrical engineer. I guess I'll figure this one out pronto so I can keep riding in comfort.

So, I kept the speeds down and enjoyed the scenery as I wandered east across VA and then around the hills and countryside around Danville, South Boston, and other areas in the region. There's a lot of nice riding in these here parts.

I managed to meander home about 10:30 with my wife waiting anxiously to get in the hot tub and hear about the trip.

I didn't take any pics today since I mostly had no feeling or dexterity in my fingers. Also, it was a day where I just felt like riding and, given I've ridden these areas more times than I can count; nothing was jumping out at me.

Final tallies:

- Duration: 6 days
- Distance: just over 1,600 miles
- Nicest section: Blue Ridge Parkway to ourselves, rounded the rear tire back off ☺
- Camera: [Sony DSC-RX100 iii](#) — I can't say enough good about this beast. What an upgrade over my 10 year old DSLR.
- Best part: getting one more ride in with my riding buddy, Deep, before he moves off to the Bay area. It was fun man!

Looking forward:

- Planning my TAT trip in August, though it doesn't look like you need to plan much.
- Looking at when to schedule in an Alaska trip
- Thinking about TDF. I'm not sure I want to do a trip that long but it seems like the kind of trip I'd like to do at some point in my life.
- Looking at when to do a trip around the west from here.

Thanks to those who have read and followed along, I hope you've enjoyed it and I look forward to reading about your trips.

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.

The 10 Golden Rules (More or Less)

1. Thou shalt honor ATGATT, lest ye be struck by the pestilence of rash and fracture during the moment of unwanted communion with Mother Earth.
2. To thy own bike be true. Thy steed shall carry its rider (and passenger) valiantly, and asks only of thy care and maintenance.
3. Honor thy tires, as they are the hooves of thy steed. Pressure bears thy ride, and rubber the ethereal connection to glorious pavement (or dirt...). Do not forsake them.
4. Caress thy mount, but do not force. Thy ride is like the butterfly. It responds to controlled, yet relaxed grasp. Punish thy steed with over controlling force and it may turn against thee.
5. Thy brakes are the most fragile of all. Squeezed firmly when need be and they shall obey, but grabbed without care and they may bite. (“All Hail ABS”).
6. Respect the Goddess of Traction. She is gracious but fickle. She may be shared through speed and cornering, but never exceeded. Anger her at thine own peril. For those so in need, ye may seek the protection found in the wizardry of Traction Control.
7. Commune only with those who share thine own vision of the Perfect Ride. Forsake those who stray from your path (Literally, at times...).
8. Thine eyes are the Path of the Ride. Remember this, lest ye wander from the Path (Again, literally).
9. Observe the sanctity of T-Clock. Fail not to adhere to its tenants, lest ye violate Golden Rule #2.
10. Respect and honor thy sport. Offer it well to all who observe.

The preceding was brought to you by your friendly, neighborhood safety guy. Sure, there are probably about another dozen or so Golden Rules we could put down without a lot of effort. The challenge we face is actually remembering them all as we prepare to venture out, or when actually on the ride.

The reality is that as experienced motorcyclists, we can become complacent about things as simple as ride preparation, or even basic aspects of motorcycle control. Basic techniques can become stale, again through complacency and a lack of attention. Practice, practice, practice.

As for honoring thy sport, this is perhaps where we fall short most often. We need to remember that we are all ambassadors of motorcycling. When we ride, we need to see ourselves from the perspective of the other motorists on the road as well. A positive impression will perhaps result in a little more consideration from them, either towards you or perhaps other motorcyclists in their future.

I wish you safe and happy riding!

Ride Safe!

***Doug Westly* – Safety Editor**

Florida News

South Director's Report

Hey, If You Don't Try It....

We had another great month of Florida events!! The Central RTE went to [Country Angels Restaurant](#) in Polk City! I heard good things, and you'll read all about a little later!!

We followed that up with a special event that tied into the world class [Barrett-Jackson auction](#) held at the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach. The plan was to enjoy the event at your own pace, meet up for lunch and then kick some more tires!! *[Photos by Jim Park]*



Van VanSteelant



We had four of us meet up for breakfast, hit the gates just after they opened and took in the event 1-2-3!! I decided to sign up for the free thrill ride in the new generation 5 Dodge Viper – long wait, but a real kick in the ass!! By the time I jumped out of the seat, our group had had their fill and departed.

I was lucky enough to meet up with the Real Men of Port Charlotte inside the auction hall!! They had decided to make a weekend of it, staying at the [Roland Martin Fish Camp](#) in Clewiston. You know, where we had a damp lunch ride a while back!! That turned out to be a great scouting trip for them, which made the auction weekend a no-brainer!! Timing is everything, and they were just about done with the car show, and so they

made their way home after the lunch plans fizzled away in the heat of the day. I met up with my significant other for lunch, as planned, and enjoyed another 3 hours of nostalgia bliss!! What a collection of vehicles!! And the acres of auto and lifestyle products and services to peruse made for a full day!!

So... We tried something different, with modest success. We'll keep trying to expand the "concept lunch" in the future to create a little "added value" for our members.

What's Next??

For May, we have the last of our lunch rides until October!! As this will be the last opportunity to ride for a few hours to enjoy a fine meal and each other's company, we have picked some spots a little further down the road!! On May 9th, the Central Ride will be at [Coyote Rojo 2](#) Mexican Restaurant in Groveland. The following weekend, May 16th, join the South Lunch Ride at [Waldo's](#) at the [Driftwood Resort](#), in Vero Beach, FL!! I recently took some friends here for dinner and had a GREAT time! They have ocean side seating, rustic appeal, and just the right amount of funky-ness!!

Later in the month, look to join your friends at the MSTA [TriSTAR](#) ride in North Carolina over the Memorial Weekend of May 23-25th. If you can't make the out-of-state trip, make your way to the [Riding Into History](#) motorcycle show in St. Augustine on May 23rd. This is a world class, judged event with motorcycles from 1900's through today!! And set your DVR to your CBS Sports Network channel to catch the delayed coverage of the new MOTO AMERICA/AMA RACING series!! They have two races in May!! So far so good for them!

We are always looking for unique lunch spots for the next few months. As long as they can handle 10-20 riders at once, we want to hear from you!! AND know this: we are looking for members to share anything that interests them with the rest of the gang!! Favorite roads traveled recently; travel photos; why your ride is the best; what your first ride was; recent training you've completed and your "a-ha" moment; best advice you've ever heard about motorcycling; new gear purchases; new parts, farkles, accessories that everybody else should know about; promote your motorcycle biz or product that we all should know about... You get the idea, so, send your idea to me and we'll see what/where/when we can enjoy your presentation!! The more the merrier!! Don't worry about how long you need to entertain us! Two minutes or twenty, it won't matter! If we could do this at every ride....

We are in the final stages of scheduling all of the 2015 lunch/brunch rides. The dates and places are posted through May. The rest of the dates-only are posted through November, so you'll be able to mark your calendars and be sure to line up those pesky "honey dos" around the reality of what's really important....

Membership News

I'll have our MSTA Invitation To Ride quad-folds at our next events. We are in the midst of the transition of Membership Directors for a month or two, so we will be slightly behind in our reporting of new members and renewal prompts. We welcome Michael Tissandier aboard and offer many thanks to Choon Gan for his years of volunteer service updating and streamlining our membership rolls!! Well done to you both!!

We should have some news early in May, so I'll send a separate email with the latest info as soon as possible!!

As a heads up to all, be sure to forward any new email addresses or changes to our BRAND NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, Michael Tissandier!! membership@ridemsta.com. He then forwards the info to the various State Directors, VP's, and EC, as well as our newsletter editor.

Random Ramblings!

[STAR](#) is almost here!! Be sure to [register](#), get your room arrangements settled, and make you plans to scrub some rubber off the SIDES of your squared-off Florida tires!!!

You know that you earn \$5 STARBUCKs for each new member you recruit to the MSTA, right?!? You can use them for MSTA products, event registrations, membership renewals, etc. BE SURE TO GET YOUR SUPPLY OF OUR N E W ITRs (Invitation to Ride) quad-folds at our next RTE, or email me and I'll send some along to you!!!

Be sure to check our National site for the latest schedule of [sanctioned events](#) for 2015. I count ten, including STAR. That doesn't include the "Just For Fun" events that will pop up during the year!! We have sooo many opportunities to ride with our club!!

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report

On Sat. April 11th, 14 riders attended our Polk City lunch ride including a couple of new faces - Mark Del Pico & Chuck Anoff from Sarasota. A few of the guys said they enjoyed the "Twisties Through Central Florida Countryside" ride as suggested on [motorcycleroads.com](#).

We'll finish up the lunch-ride season on Sat. May 9th in Groveland at the [Coyote Rojo 2](#) Mexican Restaurant at 12pm. The address is 214 W. Broad St., Groveland, 34736. Also from [motorcycleroads.com](#) is the Green Swamp Tour that passes through town. It's described as having lots of twisties (for Florida), rural riding, & little traffic...

<http://www.motorcycleroads.com/75/164/Routes/Green-Swamp-Tour---Northeast-of-Tampa.html>

Teresa Vipond

DeLand, FL

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Northeast Director's Report

If you would consider taking the position of Northeast Director, please contact Van.

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., **May 9th**, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Where: [Coyote Rojo 2 Mexican Restaurant](#) – 214 W. Broad St., Groveland, 34736 ☎352-557-8999 ([map](#))

Description: Informal eatery serving burritos, chimichangas & other traditional Mexican dishes.

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

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **May 16th**, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Where: **Waldo's** at the **Driftwood Resort** – 3150 Ocean Drive, Vero Beach, FL 32963 ☎772-231-7091 ([map](#))

Description: I recently took some friends here for dinner and had a GREAT time! They have ocean side seating, rustic appeal, and just the right amount of funky-ness!!

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

Just For Fun Event

When: Fri., **May 22** – Sat., **23rd**, 10 am – 5 pm

Where: **Riding Into History Motorcycle Concours**, World Golf Village, St. Augustine, FL ([map](#))

Description: “Riding into History™ (RIH) is a world class Vintage Motorcycle Concours d’Elegance. Since its inception, Riding Into History has been held at the World Golf Village near St. Augustine, Florida. It has received widespread coverage and articles have been written about it all over the world. It was also nationally featured on the Speed Channel. This competition attracts between 300 and 400 antique and vintage motorcycles each year. Collectors from all over America bring their motorcycles to the show, and they are displayed around the lake which forms the centerpiece of the World Golf Village.”

Contact: info@ridingintohistory.org or ☎904-677-9452

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 Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **June 13th**, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Where: **T.B.A.**

Description: Place holder for our June brunch ride for our Central area members and friends!! Stay tuned!!

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

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **June ??th**, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Where: **T.B.A.**

Description: Place holder for our June brunch ride for our South area members and friends!! Stay tuned!!

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

Upcoming Regional Events

MSTA TriSTAR

When: Thurs., **May 22nd**, to Mon., **May 25th**

Where: **MSTA TriSTAR Rally**, **Alleghany Inn**, 341 North Main Street, Sparta, NC ☎888-372-2501 or 336-372-2501 ([map](#))

Description: Meet with fellow MSTA members and ride some of the best roads in the Southeast, including the **Blue Ridge Parkway**. Find more information on the MSTA SE Region website, msta-se.com/tristar. For those unfamiliar with Sparta, this website has further information, sparta-nc.com. NOTE: If the toll-free number for the Alleghany Inn does not answer, call ☎336-372-2501.

Contact: “Iguana” Joe Thomas - Iguanajoe@bellsouth.net or ☎828-768-1462

Member Profile

We would like to publish profiles of our members, on a strictly voluntary basis of course. If you would like to participate, please send an email (or a letter) to the [editor](#) of our Florida newsletter and answer as many of the following questions as you feel appropriate. Please send an attachment with a suitable photo of you with your primary or favorite motorcycle. If you prefer to send by regular mail, please find the mailing address [below](#).

Member Profile Questions:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Hometown/State? | Who or what was your biggest influence in motorcycling? |
| What was your first motorcycle? | What are your favorite places to ride? |
| Current motorcycles? | Describe a memorable motorcycle adventure? |
| What is your all-time favorite motorcycle? | What is the best motorcycle advice or tip learned over the years? |
| How long have you been riding? | What turns you on about motorcycles or riding? |
| When did you join the MSTA? | What do you get out of your MSTA membership? |
| How did you hear about the MSTA? | What are your hobbies and interests outside of motorcycling? |

Thank you for your participation.

For additional Florida events and information, [click here](#) to see the Florida MSTA website's Events page.

MSTA website information on upcoming sanctioned events: [click here](#). For Just-For-Fun events: [click here](#).

National MSTA www.ridemsta.com

Florida MSTA www.flmsta.org

More Contact Information

Don Moe Newsletter Editor 300 N. Hwy A1A, Apt. J-206 Jupiter, FL 33477 ☎ 561-346-1009 editor@flmsta.org	Paul 'Van' VanSteelant South Director 217 S.E. 3rd Street Boynton Beach, FL 33435 ☎ 561-386-2594 busavan@flahsta.org	Teresa Vipond Central Director Deland, FL ☎ 713-504-5763 termayn@gmail.com	Vacant Northeast Director ☎
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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](#) provides a European perspective on this month's safety article. This [link](#) has related information about braking.

CLASSIFIED ADS

2003 Honda VFR800 (32,615 miles)

It is time for me to sell my 2003 Honda VFR800 and move on to having more fun with cars. All maintenance is up to date. Perfect running condition. Starts every time. Some scratches on the side from previous owner. The rest of the paint and body and all good. Located in South Lakeland. Feel free to come look or meet up, but no test rides without cash in hand.

Asking \$3400 obo

The details:

This bike is excellent. Not just excellent condition, but as a bike too. It is a blast to go around the mine roads or to take it 200 miles to lunch or 600 miles to the Barber Vintage Festival. The rear tire was installed at 26,327 miles (Pirelli Angel ST) and the front was installed at 29,855 miles (Pirelli Angel GT). The current miles on the bike are 32,615. Based on my last rear ST, there should be about 3-4k left. The last tire on the front was an ST and got 11k and the GT is said to last longer, so there is more than 8k left on the front. The oil was changed with the front tire, so there is 5k left until the next one. The coolant was flushed around 25k and then replaced with Water Wetter. It was required for track days, but sadly, I never found time to make it to Jennings. The spark plugs are due for replacement and if I have time before it sells, I will replace them. It also has a K&N air filter installed. It comes with a Corbin Saddle with a back rest and a cowl cover.

I average 42-46 mpg when having fun and 45-49 when cruising on the highway. Yes, it has VTEC and no, it doesn't feel like an abrupt blast when it "kicks in". It is a perfectly smooth transition. The bike goes from 2-valve to 4-valve operation and becomes more spunky. It is great for up to 500 miles +/-, but if you plan on going across country, I would recommend 1" risers. The bike is very nimble for its size and I usually take it 230 miles before filling up and it isn't even on "E" yet.

If you have any questions, please ask. I want this bike to go to a good home where somebody will enjoy it as much as I did.

Other Items:

A set of size 42 [Joe Rocket Leathers](#) that have been worn once are also for sale. Mine are the red ones. Leathers were about \$600 new.

Asking \$350.

A [Sargent seat](#) which is better for long distance and shorter riders that will be sold separately. Mine has the red stripe. Sargent is about \$300 new. This is very lightly used.

Asking \$250.

See my [Craigslist Ad](#) for further information and additional photos.

Contact: Bobby Shields – ☎863-513-3627 – ✉ rjs@mail.usf.edu



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