



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 8 Issue 6

Events in June

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Feature Article

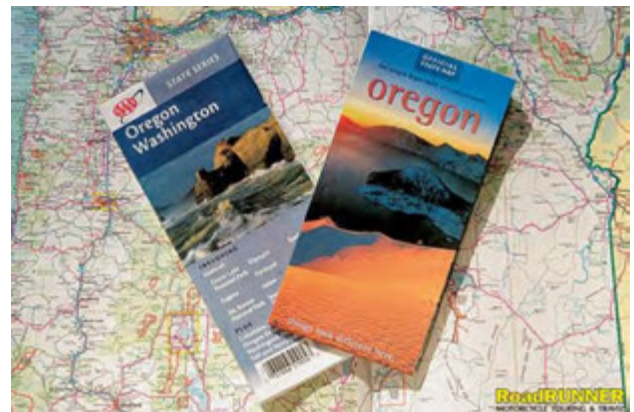
Travel Planning

By Jim Park

It's that time of year again. The ice and snow have gone away up north, the trees and plants are starting to green and kids are getting out of schools for their summer break. In other words, it's time to ride!

Pre-planning is key to a great road trip. Granted, some of the best rides have been when you were lost, but spending a couple of weeks "lost" will get old real fast and you may miss the good stuff.

Knowing in advance where the great roads and sights along the way are located will greatly enhance any road trip, especially if you have limited time.



I always carry State Highway maps with me while on the road. However, I use my GPS and related software to plan my rides and to navigate my route. My personal choice for a GPS unit is *Garmin* and their related *BaseCamp* software but note that this is an expanding market and there are several choices available to the consumer.

Motorcycle GPS Units:

- 🏍️ Garmin: buy.garmin.com/en-US/US/cOnTheRoad-cMotorcycles-p1.html
- 🏍️ Tomtom: tomtom.com/en_us/drive/motorcycle/products/index.html

I usually begin my planning by going to the Internet for nearly all of my information. I start with State Department of Tourism sites. Most States provide a wealth of information at no charge in either a digital format or better yet, maps and brochures can be mailed directly to you. Note that it may take up to six weeks to receive this information in the mail from some States, so order early!

State Department of Tourism sites:

- 🏍️ statelocalgov.net/50states-tourism.cfm
- 🏍️ usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Travel-Tourism/State-Tourism.shtml

The next step in the planning stage is the nitty-gritty stuff; the twisty roads, the State and National Parks or even the unusual or weird stuff along the way. I have accumulated several sites that work as a planning tool to aid and enhance your trip.

Let's start with roads. Most of us know about the Blue Ridge Parkway, Natchez Trace or the Skyline Drive but there's a lot more, less-traveled highways out there. A good source for those off the beaten path roads are rider's forums. Sites like our own ridemsta.com/mstaforums will have members that have a wealth of information on local back roads. More often than not, they will email you their favorite routes in a GPS file format so you can simply incorporate the route into your trip. Also, if you subscribe to *RoadRunner Motorcycle Touring & Travel* magazine (roadrunner.travel) you can download the GPS & printed routes of their monthly articles. Here are but a few sites to consider when you are doing your route research:

- 🏍️ Blue Ridge Parkway: blueridgeparkway.org (there are lots more sites)
- 🏍️ Natchez Trace: nps.gov/natr/index.htm
- 🏍️ Cherohalla Skyway: cherohalla.org/motorcycles.html
- 🏍️ Skyline Drive: visitskylinedrive.org/Home.aspx
- 🏍️ Lincoln Highway: lincolnhighwayassoc.org
- 🏍️ DOT Scenic Byways: fhwa.dot.gov/byways/
- 🏍️ Motorcycle Roads US: motorcycleroads.us
- 🏍️ Mohawk Trail: mohawktrail.com/driving-tours.html
- 🏍️ Cabot Trail: cabottrail.com
- 🏍️ Alaska Highway*: milepost.com/highway_info/alaska_highway
bellsalaska.com/myalaska/alaska_highway.html

* Get a copy of "The Milepost" at your local bookstore for this trip!

Although our National and State Parks are getting loved to death and often over crowded, it is still worth the time to make them a part of your trip. These are a few of the sites that I reference for maps, food and accommodations within the parks:

- 🏍️ America's State Parks: stateparks.com/usa.html
- 🏍️ State/National Park Directory: touristinformationdirectory.com/parks/state_park.htm
- 🏍️ National Park Service: nps.gov/findapark/index.htm

Finding sights along the way or even making that side trip will add to any road trip. I often refer to these sites for a diversion to my travels:

- 🏍️ Waterfalls: allstays.com/Special/waterfalls-map.htm
- 🏍️ Lighthouses: lighthousefriends.com/maps.html
- 🏍️ Ferry Crossings: howderfamily.com/travel/united_states_ferry_map.html

🚲 Covered Bridges: find.mapmuse.com/interest/covered-bridges

🚲 Points of Interest (note there is a small fee for bulk downloads): poirectory.com/poifiles/united_states

Then there's the part of your trip where you see the unusual or even weird stuff. Usually you just stumble upon things like the "world's largest ball of twine" but there are actually books and websites that will give you the details on these sights. So if you are into the weird, here you go:

🚲 Roadside America: roadsideamerica.com

🚲 Back on Tack: gethep.net/road

I sometimes pick up a travel book that tweaks my interest. I tend to stay away from those books that tackle the "best roads" for the entire country as they tend to leave out details and side trips that the regional travel books include. Here is a recommended list of just a few:

🚲 *The Milepost* - an Alaska Travel Planner – Published annually

🚲 *Motorcycle Journeys Through New England* *– by Martin C. Berke

🚲 *Motorcycle Journeys Through Atlantic Canada** – by Rannie Gillis & Ken Aiken

🚲 *Motorcycle Journeys Through Appalachian*s* – by Dale Coyner

* There are a series of these "Motorcycle Journeys Through...." books. I have found them to be well written and informative.

🚲 *The Ride Guide*, America's best motorcycle guide (Appalachian edition) – by I. Michael & Barbara Ring

🚲 *Roadfood* – by Jane & Michael Stern's

There is virtually an infinite amount of information available today for planning that perfect road trip. There are books and Internet sites that not only list such things as lighthouses, caves or wineries but also provide detailed directions and/or GPS coordinates. Bottom line is to do your homework before you travel and make the most out of your trip.

Ride safe!

–JEP–

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.

Summer Heat!

It's that time of year again. Becky and I rode back yesterday from the Riding Into History vintage bike gathering in St Augustine. On the way home, the ambient temperature readout on Becky's new VFR1200FD told her it hit 95 degrees as we rode through the Ocala forest. Our trip home was 4 hours in the Florida heat.

Every year starting about this time and for the next 4-5 months, all of us in Flatistan (central and south Florida) face this same challenge...the heat.

There are lots of ways to combat the heat. Some motorcycle owners just say the heck with it and don't ride. I discount them as fair weather riders. The real answer is to recognize the heat factor and plan for it.

For short rides, pick the right time. If you can ride first thing in the morning, you can usually get in several hours of bearable temperatures from dawn to about 11am or so. The same thing applies for the afternoon and evening hours. After about 4pm, riding becomes fun again.

If you want to ride in the middle of the day during our hot season, there are a couple of strategies to help you out.

First off, don't think that riding in a t-shirt and shorts will make you feel cooler. The blazing sun on your skin will only cook you like a Thanksgiving Turkey. Besides that, you have pledged to wear ATGATT, right?

Armored mesh gear is the way to go. The air flows through it and the gear keeps the sun off.

Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. If you wait until you're thirsty to stop for a drink (of water!), then you're already dehydrating. Drink early, drink often. If you're riding longer distance and don't want to stop, invest in a Camelbak® or other water supply system that you can draw from on the ride.

There are lots of commercial cooling vests, rags, etc, on the market. There is even an electric a/c system available for motorcycles. I've tested it and it works, but it seems bulky and a little impractical, at least for my riding style.

Want some easy, low-cost A/C while you ride? Take a bottle of cold water and pour it over your shirt, then immediately put your mesh jacket on and ride. The air flowing through the jacket turns that wet t-shirt into a cooling vest. Even in 95 degree weather in Florida it will keep you cool for at least 30-45 minutes. The jacket keeps the sun off the shirt and that combined with our humidity prevents the shirt from drying out too quickly.

Whatever you do, watch for the signs of heat-related illnesses. Don't overdo it. Take frequent breaks.

Finally, watch out for each other as well as yourself. Let's all take care as we ride during the hot summer months!

Ride Safe!

Doug Westly – Safety Editor

Florida News

South Director's Report

IT'S SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVING IS EASY....

Yes, the snowbirds are gone... Traffic is lighter... And we are approaching 80 degrees by 7AM!!! How about that summertime in Florida?!? Fortunately, we had a wonderful month of May to enjoy our last lunch rides of the season. The Central group made their way to Coyote Rojo in Groveland for some fine dining – Teresa's report to follow. And the South group also tried out a new destination for lunch. We had 12 members and friends make their way to Waldo's at the Driftwood Inn in Vero Beach. As we enjoyed a spectacularly sunny day, several diners choose the fully shaded tables over the partially shaded group table they had set up for us. This worked out just fine, and everybody commented on how cool the restaurant was, and how they never knew it was there!! We spent over 2 hours gabbing and eating!! Even the parking situation was a non-issue. We had riders from Lake Placid, Okeechobee, Melbourne, Palm Beach County, and Vero!! Check out the photos by Don Moe!!



Van VanSteelant



What's Next??

We are back to BRUNCH RIDES for the next few months. As the heat builds, we get an earlier start to our gatherings. This approach means that we choose destinations more centrally located so we can still enjoy a 1-2 hour ride to and fro, and beat the mid-day heat!! On June 6th, make your way to the SOUTH BRUNCH RIDE at the Crossroads Restaurant, in Okeechobee! It's been a while since we enjoyed this establishment... The next weekend, June 13th, the CENTRAL BRUNCH RIDE will happen at Main Street American and Eatery in downtown Lake Placid!! Expect a LARGE crowd at this one, as the South group will most likely "crash" the party too!!

Be sure to check out our website www.flmsta.org for info on the full summer of brunch rides as well as the National Ride to Work Day event on Monday, June 15th. You'll find some very familiar names are involved in the creation and continuation of this significant day!!

And last, but not least... STAR 2015 in Springdale, AR will take place from Sunday, June 21st thru Wednesday, June 24th. This is our annual national rally where 300-400 members get together for fun, rides, membership news, fun, rides, new friendships, fun, renewed friendships, fun, rides, banquet feasting, rides, raffle bike award, door prizes, fun, bench racing, rides, fun... You get the idea!! There's still time to register and book a room... You can even sign up at the door!! The STAR rally is a huge undertaking, organized and run entirely by VOLUNTEER efforts!! Many of the volunteers have worked on this rally for over a year!! You owe to yourself to attend these rallies and really grasp the BIG picture of what the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association is all about!! And THANK everybody you see for their efforts in making this event a reality!!!

We are always looking for unique lunch/brunch 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....

I'd like to thank the members who have recently sent along some suggestions! We will be venturing to new venues once we return to our lunch ride schedule. Stay tuned!!

We are in the final stages of scheduling all of the 2015 lunch/brunch rides. The dates and places are posted through October. The rest of the dates-only are posted through December, 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

Well, we are back to normal for our national updates to our membership rolls. We had several new members come aboard over the transition period, but I must admit, I don't know who did what when!! The list I saw covered several months of new sign ups, and most of the names had previously been promoted. If I missed highlighting your new membership in past newsletters, let me know ASAP, and I'll make up for it next month!!

Meanwhile, we have new members to welcome this month!! Michael Burkett (Royal Palm Beach) and Matthew Terry (Rutland).

If you know any of the following members, let them know that their membership has, or is about expire:

Stephen Albert	Eve Blazsur	Wilma Boyle
Scott Courtney	L. Dee Cramer	Robert Fischer
Boyd Harrell	Pete Kauk	George Kunkle
Michael Miller	Glenn Monroe	Stephen Phillips
Charles Quesenberry	Bobby Shields	Robert Shields
Ron Stechert	Carlton Tedrick	Edwin Zaslow

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!

You are planning on attending STAR 2015....

With the "summer" riding season upon us, be extra careful out there!! Though we are blessed with year round riding, when you venture outside of our state, you are heading into territory where cage drivers haven't seen, nor looked for a motorcycle for months!! You need to make yourself extra obvious and ride as if you are invisible to other road users. You've all read plenty of safety articles (THANKS AGAIN, Doug!!) but how often do you put that info into conscience practice??!!?? ATGATT is just the beginning of the measures you need to consider!! Think about your riding every time you start you bike. EVERY TIME!

A lot of volunteer work went into the creation of our splendid website, and the constant tweaking keeps us busy all month long. The info in the RIDES calendar is there for you – check-in often, as updates, cancelations, additions, etc. happen regularly. As this is the FLORIDA MSTA site, you are welcome to send along any moto related info that would be of interest to the rest of us!! I will do my best to add it to the site ASAP. I'd recommend at least a month's lead time so others will have a chance to check out the event info and plan according.

YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING STAR 2015....

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van
MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report

Central FL Brunch Rides -

Sat. JUNE 13th, 9:30-11:30. Recommended by one of the Melbourne members -

Main Street American and Eatery
22 South Main St.
Lake Placid, FL 33852
863-465-7733

Clean, plenty of room, good food, reasonable prices.

Sat. **JULY 11th**, 9:30 - 11:30 According to tripadvisor.com, the place where the locals eat breakfast -

C's Waffles
4166 S. Atlantic Ave.
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169
386-663-3915

If any of you are making the journey to Arkansas for STAR in June, look for the Amsoil motorhome in the parking lot. Stop by & say Hi!

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 South Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **June 6th**, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Where: [Crossroads Restaurant](#), 5050 NE 128th Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34974 ([map](#))
Description: Just off the intersection of SR 70 and NE 128th Ave. A great old standby that we haven't frequented in quite some time!!
Contact: Van - busavan@flahsta.org or ☎561-386-2594

MSTA Florida Central Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **June 13th**, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Where: [Main Street America An Eatery](#), 22 South Main St., Lake Placid, FL 33852 ([map](#))
Description: Recommended by one of the Melbourne members. Clean, plenty of room, good food, and reasonable prices.
Contact: Teresa Vipond - termayn@gmail.com or ☎713-504-5763

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., **July 11th**, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Where: [C's Waffles](#), 4166 South Atlantic Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169 ([map](#))
Description: According to TripAdvisor.com, the place where the locals eat breakfast!!
Contact: Teresa Vipond - termayn@gmail.com or ☎713-504-5763

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **July 18th**, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Where: **Beef 'O' Brady's**, 892 West Sugarland Highway, Clewiston, FL 33440 ([map](#))

Description: We found out how great this place was for lunch a while back, so we're going to give their breakfast a try!! Top off your brunch with a ride around the Big Lake!!

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

Upcoming Regional Events

Regional events from around the country are posted to the [MSTA National forum](#) under "Events".

Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day 2015

When: Mon, **June 15th** all day

Where: EVERYWHERE!!

Description: Ride your motorcycle or scooter on this day to demonstrate:

- 🏍 The number of motorcyclists to the general public and to politicians.
- 🏍 That motorcyclists are from all occupations and all walks of life.
- 🏍 That motorcyclists can reduce traffic and parking congestion in large cities.
- 🏍 That motorcycles are for transportation as well as recreation.
- 🏍 That motorcycling is a social good.

For further information visit their website, ridetowork.org, or [Facebook page](#)

Contact: Ride to Work is a 501 c4 nonprofit, all-volunteer effort. Organizers include Andy Goldfine, Lynn Wisneski and Christine Holt

Member Profile

This month we showcase the profile of Matt Terry, a recent new member in Florida.

Hometown/State? *Rutland, FL, now; grew up in Little Rock, AR thru high school; raised family in Tampa, wife Allison's hometown.*

Who or what was your biggest influence in motorcycling? *My friend and MD, Art Pettygrove, came to me in 2012 saying "We're buying motorcycles." Cheapest entry bike with ABS was the Monster, and the love-affair with Ducati was born.*

What was your first motorcycle? *2012 Ducati Monster 696, nicknamed Grindel*

What are your favorite places to ride? *Ozarks, western CO, southern UT*

Current motorcycles? *Still have Grindel, but ride a '14 Diavel Strada mostly*

Describe a memorable motorcycle adventure? *Taking the family up the Moki Dugway, at the top of which our 19-yo daughter parked, found a boulder, sat and cried the tension away. She'd taken her CBR, loaded with luggage, up all 1200' of unpaved 11% grade with six gravel-scattered switchbacks, without a hitch on her second day ever touring outside our Florida flatlands (OK, my bad), and it was a bit nerve-wracking for us all, to be sure. She recovered, made the remaining 1200+ miles just fine!*

What is your all-time favorite motorcycle? *2014 Ducati Diavel Strada (acquired in May of 2013 from Melillimoto) with some improvements, most of all a Russell Day-long seat and Clearwater Darlas, both of which have saved my asses many times. Also added Rizoma rear signals, R&P sliders to rest my legs on, a luggage rack I made with an additional brake light, and a Vololight module. The bike is the perfect one for my wife and me to see the country and have serious moto-fun doing it. With its panniers, tank and tail bags, and especially the trailer, we can carry anything we need, including the dog and a spare tire. For a new rider*

like me, its slipper clutch and ABS/TC system are sure lifesavers. It has the best engine and EFI to effortlessly power two-up up to Pike's Peak's 14,000 foot parking lot and Brembos to glide safely down from it, plus get you out of the trouble the marvelous "you think it, it happens" motor can get you in elsewhere; it gets you around obstacles briskly, shall we say. It's seen Utah's 12, Bryce, Zion, Capital Reef, Grand Staircase, Glen Canyon and Burr Trail, and the North Rim, all twice. Monument Valley, the Moki Dugway, Moab and more, the Black Canyon and Colorado's Nat'l Monument and Black Canyon and 50, 92, 141, 149, and 550, Arizona's Coronado Trail, and the Blue Ridge Parkway have all been a gas, I even ventured her 10 miles up unpaved Phantom Canyon and it was joyful, comfortable, secure riding everywhere, but she is at her very best in the Ozarks, the country's best mountain riding (IMO) swooping and dipping with the roads like a swallow-tailed kite, as if glued to it by its ergos, slipper-clutch/TC/ABS and eight inch rear Pirelli. It really puts the sport in sport-touring! The Push Mountain Route, AR 341, did in my chicken strips, and my mileage on that tire was a record low 3200, if that tells you anything...

What is the best motorcycle advice or tip learned over the years? *"Trust the bike." From a Guzzi-riding geezer (no trike!) at a grocery store. I also learned from practice to control my line and lean with my throttle, saving my butt from a big pothole in that hard turn at the bottom of Glenwood Canyon... Oh, and "Hydrate!"*

How long have you been riding? *Since November 2012.*

What turns you on about motorcycles or riding? *The usual stuff everyone digs, I suppose, acceleration, cornering, the increased focus, the beauty of our countryside, being with my gal. I have always loved traveling in general. I have a longer version I'll * at the bottom of this. We also both very much enjoy MotoGP and SBK racing on the telly.*

When did you join the MSTA? *Today, after attending the May Lunch Ride in Groveland, meeting such nice people.*

What do you get out of your MSTA membership? *So far, in a day, several fine, like-minded new acquaintances/friends (Tim, Phil, Jim, and fellow newbie Scott were the guys Allison and I sat with and got to talk to), and the May Newsletter, the only one I've read yet, is terrific. I especially liked the humorous and literate 10 Golden Rules for Safe Motorcycling, and look forward to the archive.*

How did you hear about the MSTA? *Saw a listing for the 2015 STAR in Rider magazine, then looked you up online.*

What are your hobbies and interests outside of motorcycling? *I'm a classical and jazz guitar player by schooling but love most music, enjoy amateur astronomy and telescope making, reading mostly non-fiction, shooting, writing, riding trains, visiting Civil War battlefield parks, caves, seeing good movies, spotting raptors, eating fine soup.*

***Ethos: A Motorcycle Touring Centre Fugue**

Freedom, which equates to beauty and happiness as $F=(b+h)c^2/M$ (where c is choice and M is money) has always been as much the attracting force to motorcyclists as $F=ma$. Don't like where you are? Twist that throttle and find that greener pasture, that bluer highway, that dreamier day. Motorcycle touring offers an intimate experience of everywhere you want to go, and its airborne insect population! It's the feeling you get sweeping across the twisting diving network of ridgelines in the Ozarks like swallow-tail kite, or tooling along a high "hogback", the big dark birds soaring *below you* on both sides, the scent of thousands of junipers rising with them on the warm valley air; it's the feeling of sailing among the green firs and golden aspen, dew frost refracting our "rising" sun through the long grasses at their feet, on up to where only deathless rocks grow:

lichen-caps with the snow fog an inch a decade, in the good decades. It's the skipping heartbeat when back in the tree line a mule-deer leaps onto and then off of your lane, before splashing through a creek probably no one has ever seen much more of than this view you have now, after hard-braking and hard-breathing, exhilarated with survival—*Yeah you're good*, you're telling yourself! Remind it's greater to be lucky. Motorcycle touring is the sickly death-smell of that skunk and the lusty life-scent of fresh earth the first fat drops of rain raise up, it's the grin you get when the rainstorm breaks apart into rainbows placed just for you, the grin that appears each time you pass the last mailbox and captive grazer and enter the rolling tree-canopied pathway, its musty green forest riot barely suffers drops of sunlight to sizzle through as you bob and weave it for miles until brashly giving way to the full-on and nearly-blinding thing, almost as intoxicating as the scent of the freshly-mown hay out drying on this old pasture, long-since hewn from the wood, probably by the mower's grandfather; when you notice your grin's grown into a sun-spread smile as round the bend approaching the junction, you glide by their perfectly-maintained hundred-year-old farmhouse and barn striking a symphonic chord within you as deep and harmonically ineffable as the world-wide ocean, which the sign says is only a few score miles down thata way, if you want it...hmmm... 'On the way back, for sunset and a bowl of chowder,' you decide as you slow and wave to the farmer on his tractor, his wife on her porch, and Oh! their kids manning the fruit/eggs & local-honey stand! After securing your jar of apple-blossom “bee-barf” the boy had called it to amuse me but mainly to annoy his sister who assured me it isn't that at all at all, the best you've had in years you hope to find later, you take the way up toward the narrow end of the valley and the mountains fill your view, for now.

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 [on page 12](#).

Member Profile Questions:

Hometown/State?

What was your first motorcycle?

Current motorcycles?

What is your all-time favorite motorcycle?

How long have you been riding?

When did you join the MSTA?

How did you hear about the MSTA?

Who or what was your biggest influence in motorcycling?

What are your favorite places to ride?

Describe a memorable motorcycle adventure?

What is the best motorcycle advice or tip learned over the years?

What turns you on about motorcycles or riding?

What do you get out of your MSTA membership?

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

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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](#) (PDF) provides additional information related to the safety article.

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 \$3,300 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 it's 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