



# The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of  
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 7 Issue 2

## Events in February

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## Feature Article

### **Southern California Fun!**

by Doug Westly

If you've never ridden in Southern California, you don't know what you're missing. Becky and I ride out there a lot, both because of our work for Honda and because it is just an AWESOME place to ride. We try to take at least one week a year and journey to SoCal for some road time.

In 2013 we headed to the state's southern areas during the first week of December. Fortunately, Honda doesn't mind loaning us a couple of bikes whenever we're in town, so upon arrival at LAX we jumped into a taxi and headed to Honda's secret off-site storage location in Los Angeles. No, we can't tell you where it is...keeping the secret is part of our contract! This year we opted for a pair of bikes in Honda's new "700" line. We always ride bigger bikes, so decided it was time to go light and maneuverable for this trip. Accordingly, Becky picked up a new CTX700N and I opted for an NC700X. Both bikes were equipped with Honda's new Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) option,

which allow for either automatic or manual shifting (with handlebar mounted paddle shifters). The DCTs would prove to be a wise choice later in the trip. After a quick meeting with our Honda bosses, we changed into our riding gear and set off, headed first to Huntington Beach, south of downtown Los Angeles.

Huntington Beach is surfer central, where surfers come from around the world to challenge each other and the waves in yearly surfing competitions. It is also the home of some great friends of ours. Keith is a senior manager at Honda and his wife Brittany is a freelance copy editor with a flourishing business. They decided this year to take a few days off and play tour guides as we all rode SoCal together. We spent our first night at their home, planning our trip and playing with their three cats...

### **Editor's Monthly Note:**

Again I ask everyone to submit articles, stories, sale items and other information of interest to *The FL MSTA Gator Tale*. We rely on you to make this newsletter interesting and informative.

To be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list, please contact [Choon Gan](#) at MSTA National.

We wish you all safe and fun rides!

Don Moe, Editor

Helpful tip No. 1 for any tour: Find someone who really knows the area and REALLY knows how to ride. Keith was a Marine in his former life, stationed at Camp Pendleton. He was also the head of the Marines combat motorcycle reconnaissance unit, serving on two wheels in the Iraqi desert during the First Gulf War. He knows bikes and knows SoCal. After an evening of maps, Google Earth, a bottle of wine and cats, we had a plan for our tour.

Helpful tip No. 2: Pack light. Fortunately Keith and Brittany were two-up on their BMW R1200GS (A long story...actually my former GS, now residing in CA), so he was packing all the necessary tools and bike gear. That means Becky and I showed up with just our personal riding and casual gear. One medium dry bag each, strapped across the back seat of each of our bikes did the trick.

Day 1 of our touring began with a run south on the PCH from Huntington Beach down to Newport Beach, just to see how the other one-percent live. You know the area is affluent when you pass an auto consignment lot and it is full of Porsches and Ferraris. After Newport Beach, we cut inland and headed for the back roads of California. From there we wove our way down two-lane canyon roads and over passes until we reached the eastern, rural area of San Diego County. Keith cut his riding teeth here and knows roads, both paved and dirt, that you couldn't find with anyone else.

It was a beautiful day, with the sun shining, blue skies and 70-degree temperatures down in the canyons. A quick stop for lunch at one of their favorite Mexican restaurants (this became a theme for the next three days), and then we headed farther east.

Our next challenge, as Keith put it, was the steepest paved road he has ever ridden. It turned out to be just a short section, maybe a half mile long, of single lane back road that led down a pass in the hills on either side, but Holy C%&(! Not exaggerating, the road is well over a 20% downgrade, with tight switchbacks all the way down. It was so steep the bikes wouldn't hold constant speed even in first gear, and we had to work the brakes down the slope. I've ridden Lombard Street in San Francisco, and this beats that famous downgrade, hands down. Very cool...once you're at the bottom!

From there it was off to our next destination, Mount Palomar. We didn't go all the way to the observatory, but did circumnavigate the mountain at about 6,000 feet. The temperature dropped into the high 30s at the top, so



Looking out into the High Desert and Borrego Springs from Montezuma Pass.



Our hotel room (2nd floor) in Borrego Springs!

we were happy when we started down the other side. From there it was through Montezuma Valley (including a couple of short dirt road sections) and down into the high desert for our first stop of the night, Borrego Springs, CA.

Accommodations in Borrego Springs are few, but we found a cool little western-style resort, with a good restaurant and a bar to hang out in for the night. We spent the evening hanging with the local characters... and there are a lot of them in Borrego Springs!

Day two started off with a Mexican breakfast (see, I told you it was a theme), and then on the bikes and headed northeast. We set out across the desert for a refueling stop at the northwest corner of the Salton Sea. A little history is in order here. The Salton Sea was created by a huge flood from the Colorado River in 1905 and is the largest lake in California. Anyway, after a beautiful ride on a sunny day through the high desert, we made a refueling and provisioning stop in Mecca, CA. Both were necessary, as our lunchtime destination was further north, Joshua Tree National Monument. To get there, we rode a fabulous little paved trail called Box Canyon Road, which wound through desert washes and hills.

We came into Joshua Tree Park from the south, after crossing over I-10. We were feeling a little smug, seeing all those cages and trucks, plodding along the Interstate while we were adventuring through the California back country. We spent the next three hours riding from south to north, including finding a great picnic stop in the giant rocks of the park, where we snacked on (what else?) Mexican bread.

After touring Joshua Tree, we set our sights on the second night's destination, the cool little roadside stop of Pioneertown, in Yucca Valley. Pioneertown actually started as an old west motion picture set in the 1940s, and many of the famous, early westerns were filmed here. Now with a permanent population of 350, it still retains all the old set buildings and a very famous bar/restaurant where the likes of Eric Clapton and others have been known to show up on a Friday night, to play an impromptu set or two!



Becky with friends Brittany and Keith, at Summit View in Joshua Tree National Monument.



Casual off-roading stop in Joshua Tree National Monument.



Headed west, down from Big Bear Lake. Still above the snow line!

Our lodging for the night was the Pioneertown Motel, the only establishment in town. Not exactly a Holiday Inn Express, but it fit perfectly with the theme for this trip. We had a great time at the restaurant, with dinner and a band jamming on stage.

Day 3 of our SoCal tour started out with temperatures in the 40s. We layered up and now aimed the bikes northwest. Our first destination of the morning, for brunch, was a little airport café at the airstrip serving Big Bear Lake resort. To get there we took a circular route through Lucerne Valley, then up the mountain to Big Bear Lake. Big Bear Lake is one of the premier recreation areas near Los Angeles, sitting above 6,700 feet in the mountains of San Bernardino County. Again it got a little cool on the ride up the mountain, but some hot beverages and brunch at the café made up for it.

After brunch, we did a ride-by of the open ski resorts, then started back down the mountain, headed west back to Los Angeles. Like all other routes for the tour, this one consisted of narrow mountain roads with steep downgrades. What made this leg different was we were now above the snow line. Even with the sunny day and temperatures rising, there were still patches of ice in some of the shadows and corners, so careful riding was the order of the afternoon! This is where the DCTs really paid off, as we didn't have to worry about shifting and maintaining good clutch control/traction while navigating the icy patches. Honda's DCT system really does work as advertised.

The end of the day found us back at our hosts' home, with lots of new memories and stories! But...not the end of our SoCal riding adventure.

The next morning we thanked our wonderful friends and set out for ourselves. With great weather still beckoning, we turned our bikes north. Our objective this day was the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), north of Los Angeles. That meant a quick ride up the infamous 405 freeway. Fortunately we have ridden in California enough that we're familiar with that most welcome technique of all: Lane Splitting. While it is not something we would ever do at home, it is not illegal in California and after experiencing traffic on the 405, I can say with some certainty it is actually safer (if performed carefully) than just trying to maintain an adequate safety margin in rush hour traffic. BTW, the California Highway Patrol takes the same position and actually promotes lane splitting as a safe traffic management technique for motorcyclists.

After a dash up the 405 and west on I-10 (referred to locally as "the 10"), we found ourselves on the PCH in Malibu. Our destination this morning was one of the famous motorcycle hangouts in Malibu, Neptune's Net



A great motorcycle hangout on the Pacific Coast Highway. Neptune's Net in Malibu on a busy Sunday morning.



A beautiful day along the PCH! Honda was gracious in loaning us a NC700X and a CTX700N for our trip.

restaurant. As it was a beautiful Sunday morning, EVERYONE had the same idea. We arrived at the restaurant right at 11 AM, and there were literally hundreds of motorcycles and custom cars already parked. We got lucky with parking spots and a great table right on the front porch. We perched for a while, ate and watched the fun. Afterwards, we headed up the PCH to the Santa Barbara pier for ice cream and then back to Ventura Beach for the night.

Our final day on the bikes started with a quick ride down to Oxnard for one of our traditions. We never go to CA without stopping at In-n-Out Burger for at least one lunch. If you haven't eaten there, you're missing out. You can't order anything but old-fashioned hamburgers and fries. Awesome! Then it was headed back south to drop off the bikes after lunch. Of course we couldn't take the direct route, so it was through the Potrero Valley (horse farms), then up through the canyon roads, including famous Mulholland Drive, etc. We finished up by dropping back down into Malibu via one of our favorite trails, Decker Canyon Road. After that it was south through Malibu, the 10, the 405 (more lane splitting) and finally arriving back at Honda's off-site location.



One of our favorite SoCal roads, Decker Canyon Road, above Malibu and the Pacific Ocean.

Overall, the ride was about 900 miles in five days of riding. It doesn't sound like much, but included 90% back roads, the SoCal canyons, the high desert, mountain roads above the snow line, and pleasant miles along the Pacific Coast Highway. Like I said at the beginning, if you haven't ridden in Southern California yet, you are missing out!

Now if we can just win the lotto, we've already picked out the street in Ventura Beach where we're going to build the house with the six-car garage...

*Doug Westly*

## ***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 Differences Between Bikers and Motorcyclists***

As we are now into 2014, how about some (hopefully) humorous thoughts about safety, bikers and motorcyclists:

- Biker: Thinks a helmet is not necessary, and if forced to wear it, uses it as a place to put inane little stickers with rude sayings. Very grown up...
- Motorcyclist: Knows the value of "wearing whatever your brain is worth."
- Biker: Wears fingerless gloves to show everyone he's "cool." Really?
- Motorcyclist: Considers gloves based on comfort, protection and flexibility for controls input. OK, color coordination is allowed.
- Biker: Checks tire pressure whenever tires start looking like squashed bagels.
- Motorcyclist: Not only checks tire pressure before a ride, but even knows the differences between stick and oil-filled gauges. Oh, and has an air compressor in the garage or carries one on the bike.
- Biker: Thinks "safety" means wearing a high-vis T-shirt, shorts and sandals. Sigh...
- Motorcyclist: Understands safety gear means to think about both abrasion and impact factors. Don't get me started about jeans...
- Biker: Spends his (or her) spare change on chrome farkles. Perhaps it is to see reflection while preening at bike night.
- Motorcyclist: Can't wait to save enough spare change to take another safety course!
- Biker: "Had to lay 'er down to save it." I heard this one again just last week. Where do I even start?
- Motorcyclist: Knows the bike's emergency braking capabilities and how to use them!
- ...and finally:
- Biker: The bike is the price of entry to the weekend warrior lifestyle.
- Motorcyclist: The ride is the lifestyle.

Which one are you?

**Ride Safe!**

**[Doug Westly](#) – Safety Editor**

## Florida News

### South Director's Report

Ah, to suffer through a winter in South Florida! My condolences to our North Florida members. As I write this, they are witness to subfreezing temps, ice/snow, and several more days of real winter weather. But down here, we're living in 84 degree days.... So, we went riding this month!!

First stop, [Solomon's Castle](#), in out of the way Ona, FL!! After a few weeks off to recover from the holiday season, we gathered again for fun and frolic!! We had 24 riders make the trip to the Castle. Some only had to ride 80 miles round-trip, while a few of us put 385+ on the odo!! Though the morning dawned with a chill in the air, technology ruled, along with a few electrons, and heated gear kept the "thin of blood" toasty! The Eastsiders enjoyed a rambling ride over hill and dale, and arrived fashionably late. The rough and tumble Westerners were already awaiting their meals!! This did ease things for the cooks, and allowed for A LOT of conversation time!! As several of the West Side riders have been a, let's say, infrequent presence at our RTEs of late, it was GREAT to



Van VanSteelant



catch up with them!! (Same can be said for some of the Eastsiders who haven't made the rides west of Lakeland!!) As I pulled in to home a little after the sun had set, I had to grin at our good fortune to have spent nearly 12 hours riding and eating in the middle of January!! It was a perfect way to start the New Year!!

In fact, we enjoyed ourselves so much that we did it all over again the very next weekend!! This time, we headed to a new favorite, [Dock 633](#), in Lake Placid, FL! And 24 riders made the trip again!! This time, everybody rode 220-300 miles round trip, regardless of their starting point! And the heated gear made another appearance, though for only the first hour or two. The rest of the day proved to be perfect with only a wind blocker/liner under the mesh jackets! The Westsiders arrived a bit before us again, though the South Lunch rides are scheduled to start at noon... So we were late to them, and early for us!! Once again, with such a great turn out,



our slight delay worked out for the kitchen, and everybody enjoyed very timely service. And, as usual here, the food was great!

We also had time to offer up the 50/50 raffle. We had a new winner, who shared in the \$64 dollar pot! So, our Chapter's till now stands at \$312.50!! Thanks again to all who participate. We will be covering the costs of some new updates and changes to our State website over the next several months. I'll keep you posted so you'll know where the dollars are going!



At the conclusion of our lunch, many of us took advantage of an offer by one of our own: Roger Spice graciously opened his garage to let us drool over his collection of 22 bikes, give or take!! It's obvious that this is a passion of Roger's, and he has some of the real milestone bikes of the last 60+ years. And the grease under his nails is well earned, as he has a shop area the envy of all who gathered to enjoy his collection!! Thanks a bunch, Roger!!

Earlier in the month, many of us also enjoyed a little "dinner and a movie" one Thursday night in West Palm Beach!! Our own Dianne Park orchestrated a brilliant night out for 135 like-minded riders!! The draw was the documentary, [Why We Ride](#). **What a beautiful collection of emotions and passions!!** I know that at least once during the movie, everybody there had to wipe a tear or two away from one or both eyes!! The people who were interviewed each had such powerful stories! No matter what stripe of rider you are, you will be moved by at least one of the tales or histories that are shared from the heart in this movie! If you can see this in a theatre, DO IT!! At least get the DVD and find a BIG screen TV to get the best effect. A HUGE THANKS to Dianne, and Jim's perseverance! Did I mention that Dianne also wrangled a happy hour discount at Tequila Cowboys just downstairs from the theatre?!? At least 50 joined up to get ready for the showing, with lots of our own tales of why we ride!! If only the temperature had been 10 degrees warmer, we might have filled the 50-70 parking spots that the local HOG group arranged! We did have nearly 35 brave souls as it was!! [Ed: Additional showings are [scheduled](#) around Florida and the USA.]



Dianne Park welcomes attendees to the showing

## What's Next??

We do have some more fun planned for you in February!! On Saturday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, the Central Lunch Ride will be held at the [Chop Shop](#) in Lakeland, FL. It starts at Noon, and there are a few suggestions on routing in the details found at <http://www.flahsta.org/events>. This will be a great destination for nearly everybody!! Two weeks later, the South Lunch Ride will be at [Beef 'O' Brady's](#), right in Clewiston, FL. This is a new place for us, but it has been given a few thumbs up from our scouts! This destination allows for a trip all around Lake Okeechobee, regardless of your starting point!!

And for anybody within 90 minutes of West Palm Beach, have we got a show for you!! See the link for ALL the details, as this event doubled in scope and venue before the flyers were even printed!! We are talking about

closing several blocks of **the** street in WPB for most of Saturday! Some 250 vintage show bikes are registered! Live bands! The [Ace Café](#) presence!! And we, the MSTA, are a sponsor and vendor of the show!! This means several things, but the most important one is this: **We must have volunteers come forward to help promote the club at our booth**, right in the heart of the event!! We are looking for several of you to make a minor commitment of 30-60 minutes to meet and greet the passersby and share your story about our club!! You could spend 30 minutes, go take in the show and a band, and come back for another 30 later in the day!! And you've seen that day two is out at [Palm Beach International Raceway](#)! Yes, the whole show hits the track for another day in the sun! Track rides, Track day event, Ace Café, vintage bikes at speed!! Check out the links, and contact Van ASAP to join us for a weekend of amazing motorcycling fun and club building!!

Looking forward to March, we have at least two events planned. March 8<sup>th</sup> will find you in Venice, FL at [Snookhaven Restaurant](#)! Great description from Rich Peabody!! (Yeah, he's the member profiled in the January newsletter!!) The next week will find us back at [Jay Bee's](#) in Lake Wales. As they only do lunch and dinner, we have to make sure we hit them during our lunch ride window! As March is also when Bike Weeks happen, there's a very good chance that Phil will organize another Daytona Lunch Ride during the week before the big races!! Stay tuned!!

## Membership News

As we receive updates about our current state membership after we "go to press", we don't always welcome our new members as soon as they sign up! We don't have any new sign-ups for this issue, but stay tuned!!

As a heads up to all, be sure to forward any new email addresses or changes to Choon Gan at [membership@ridemsta.com](mailto:membership@ridemsta.com). He then forwards the info to the various State Directors, VPs, and EC, as well as our newsletter editor. We have had an uptick in bounced emails lately, and most likely it's a simple fix to get back in the loop.

We welcome the following renewal:

- Don Williams

If you know any the following riders, please let them know that their MSTA memberships have recently expired or will expire at the end of February:

- Steve Bazydola
- Roy Clark
- Bruce Cynamon
- Richard Franklin
- Charles & Frances Headrick
- Whit Hyde
- J Phillip Johnston
- Rick Lucas
- Chuck Privateer
- Rick Sapir
- Jon Selby

## Co-Director News

Phil Ridgdill has reached the end of his commitment for developing the NE area of Florida. He met with little success, truth be told. There are several real reasons for this situation. But, we have been discussing a few alternative methods to try to get some activity back in this area. Stay tuned. We are in this for the long run!!

We are STILL looking for somebody to take up the reigns in the Central region!! Thoughts are that anybody as far south as Sebring/Lake Placid up to Ocala would be a perfect candidate to step up and put their stamp on this area! An alternative would be somebody in the Tampa/Pasco County area, who could reach out at least to the fringes of Orlando for ride destinations! Contact Van at my usual contacts!!

## STAR 2014

You know [registration is OPEN](#) and they have picked [an awesome bike](#) for the raffle give-away, right?!? The sooner you sign up, the sooner you can begin your trip planning! Hit the [National site/Forum](#) for other member input and possible riding partners. If you are on the fence about whether [Rapid City](#) is worth the effort – GO!! Within 100 miles of the hotel, you have several real reasons to go. Stretch out to the [Badlands](#), and you have all the reason you need to get your arse out of Florida and into the upper Plains!! The EC took into account a lot of member input when they picked this destination. This is a terrific place to hang out for a few days of rallying!!

### Random Ramblings!

Despite sounding like a broken record, we have another link to the [AMIExpo](#) that will happen once again this October 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. There is a lot of new and necessary info already on their site! And you'll find some fine [reminiscing over 2013](#) by Larry Little himself!

During one of the butt-stops we had returning from Solomon's Castle, several of us talked about organizing a proper [MSF Experienced Rider Course](#) for our membership. We have access to real MSF instructors, and we could arrange for a "private" class of members/friends only. That's as far as we have taken the idea. We need to know if there is real support among you for getting this done!! We would set it up in the greater Palm Beach County area (at least the first one, hint, hint...) and would schedule it for no later than April to avoid the heat! It would be initially be open to members and friends. If we "sell" out with just members, even better. [Email me](#) with sincere interest, and we will see what we can do!!

I would like to thank two members who really made this month's riding a real pleasure for many of us: Don Moe, for leading the Eastsiders to Solomon's with only 3 minutes' notice due to an acute health issue for the scheduled leader (he did fully recover!) And to Jim Park, who met the Eastsiders at the edge of Lake Placid and proceeded to lead us around his favorite loop of roads for nearly an hour before lunch!! Thanks Guys!!

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

### Central Director's Report

We thank Bob Shields for his excellent help as Central Director in 2013 and wish him well with his family responsibilities. Hopefully he will be able to return in the future.

We are still in need of a member to take of the position of Central Director. Please contact Van if you are possibly interested.

### Northeast Director's Report

We thank Phil Ridgill for his efforts at encouraging more activity in the NE region of Florida. If you would consider taking the position of Northeast Director, please contact Van.

## Member Comment

### Why We Ride Movie Night

Over a hundred local motorcycle enthusiast and their guests recently attended a viewing of the new motorcycle movie “Why We Ride” in West Palm Beach. This was a special viewing of the movie that was done using the website [tugg.com](http://tugg.com) with the MSTA acting as the promoter. A thank you goes out to MSTA member Dianne Park for actually organizing and arranging the event.

The movie was shown on January 16, 2014 at the City Place Muvico Theater in down town West Palm Beach. While there was some initial concern whether or not the required minimum number of tickets could be sold to have the event, thanks to the efforts of Dianne and others “getting the word out,” the movie was actually a sell-out with all 135 seats being sold.

For those who wanted to arrive early, there was also a “Happy Hour” at a nearby bar and restaurant located in City Place.

While it not my intention to give a review of the movie itself, I think it is safe to say if you have any interest in motorcycles, you will enjoy this movie. The movie includes some excellent footage of various types of riding from Motocross to MotoGP. It also allows different riders, some famous and some not famous, to as the title indicates, say why they ride.

Thanks again to Dianne and the others who helped make this event possible. It was great to have an opportunity to see the movie and spend a night out socializing with friends.

Steve Phillips

## **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, **February 8<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Where: [Chop Shop](#) – 126 S. Kentucky Ave, Lakeland, FL 33801 ☎863- 603-4040 ([map](#))

Description: This is a neat burger joint with a hot rod theme in beautiful downtown Lakeland. Nice locally owned spot. Come into downtown from 33 from the north or 98 from the south to slip into downtown with little traffic. Take the time for a loop around scenic Lake Morton and Lake Hollingsworth just south of downtown.

Contact: Bob Shields - [boju29@msn.com](mailto:boju29@msn.com) or ☎863-513-3626

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

When: Sat, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 12 pm – 1:00 pm

Where: [Beef ‘o’ Brady’s](#) – 892 W. Sugarland Hwy., Clewiston, FL 33440 ☎863- 983-5002 ([map](#))

Description: We’ve received a few thumbs-up about this place, and it’s located just about right to take in a trip all around Lake Okeechobee! We’ll be looking for all of our South FL members to make this ride, right in their back yard!!

Contact: Van - [busavan@flahsta.org](mailto:busavan@flahsta.org) or ☎561-386-2594

## Vintage Iron Motorcycle Festival

### Day #1

When: Sat, **February 8<sup>th</sup>**, 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Where: 500 Block of Clematis Street, West Palm Beach, FL

### Day #2

When: Sun, **February 9<sup>th</sup>**, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Where: Palm Beach International Speedway



## Iron & Clematis Vintage Motorcycle Festival

The Downtown Development Authority and Vintage Iron Club have joined forces to bring one of the largest growing cultural movements to Palm Beach County. The vintage motorcycle revival has taken the nation by storm over the last few years and Clematis Street will be hosting what will become one of the largest annual vintage bike festivals in Florida. This Inaugural Iron & Clematis Vintage Motorcycle Festival will be hosted on the 500 block of Clematis St. in West Palm Beach. We will be closing down the entire city block for the event February 8<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 9 PM.

### Update

The Iron & Clematis Vintage Motorcycle Festival has become a two day event! The show is still the same on Saturday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, except it is starting an hour earlier at 2 PM to 9 PM. The added feature for the two-day event is **Iron-On-The-Track!** This will take place at Palm Beach International Speedway on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>! We have rented the road course for the day's event from 10 AM to 5 PM. We are selling tickets to ride the road course

with your vintage iron/modern classic bikes. Tickets will be available Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at the PBIR tent at a discounted advance purchase price and at: [www.racepbir.com](http://www.racepbir.com)

The PBIR event is hosting drag races, stunt motorcycle shows, high-speed motorcycle, practice laps, vendor tents, and an Ace Café Pavilion! All Iron-On-The-Track tickets to ride the road course are a separate cost. If you have never ridden a road course even in a parade lap fashion, DO IT! It is pretty exciting! We do it every year at the Barber Speedway Vintage Festival and it is so much fun! The laps are not race laps. Let's face it; most of us are not skilled enough to run a course like this in a race-type fashion. But I assure you its plenty fast enough to have great time and get perspective when pros hit the course!

Festival organizers expect over 250 vintage bikes. There will be trophies awarded for best-in-show bikes, a vintage fashion show at sunset, stage lectures on the history of motorcycles & Café Racers, more than 25 national and local vendors displaying their goods, and live music from the Buckleheads, Morgan Bernard Band, Slip and the Spinouts, & The Riot Act. After parties at O'Sheas & Longboards will feature more live music. Admission is free for a full day of family fun, and parking is available nearby.

Bikes are encouraged to meet at O'Shea's & Longboards in downtown West Palm Beach from 8-10 AM to head to the track where high speed pros will be on the course throughout the day, and vintage motorcycles will be allowed on the track for street speed-style parade laps and or Fast Track simulated racing. Over 25 local and national vendors will be on site, and the Ace Café Pavilion will be open all day with spectacular views of the track, food & beverages on sale, and the iconic Ace Café merchandise. Admission to Ace Café is free.

## Track Options:

### 1. Vintage/Modern classics: Street Speed Parade laps

This will be street speed style tours of the Road Course with your vintage motorcycle 25 years or older or Modern classic/café racer.

\* Modern bike restrictions on parade lap (must be: café racer, modern classic, or smaller bikes. (No full dress bikes)

Track speed limit on back stretch is 80 mph.

3 laps at a time broken into two 15-min ride sessions. Everyone who follows the rules is guaranteed 3 laps. There will be four 30 minute parade lap sessions spilt into 15-min rides.

Have you and your bike ready in the paddock area 15 min before parade laps session begins.

Each rider who has run one session is welcome to return for additional sessions and ride the track again provided all the first time riders have gone. It is a first come first served basis after all riders have gone one session.

No passing. No slingshotting. No speeding. 80-mph speed limit on back straight.

Helmets required. Signed Wavier form required.

Prices at the gate: \$10 GA to \$60 for Vintage track parade lap package. Advance discount tickets are available at RacePBIR.com beginning on January 13<sup>th</sup>, and at the PBIR tent on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Iron & Clematis Vintage Motorcycle Festival for \$50.00.

Gates open 7 AM – 7 PM.

### 2. Track Lapping Sessions (with Florida Track Days):

Six One hour track sessions broken into 20 minute intervals. Novice, Intermediate, and Pro.

Your level will be determined by track officials. This is limited to 60 riders for the day's Track Lapping Sessions.

Prices \$185 for six one-hour sessions. Open to Vintage and modern bikes. Advance tickets are available at RacePBIR.com beginning on January 13<sup>th</sup>, and at the PBIR tent on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Iron & Clematis Vintage Motorcycle Festival. No discount for the FAST TRACK sessions.

Gates open 7 AM – 7 PM.

The festival will also donate a portion of the profits to the Canine Companions for Independence, the U.S.'s largest non-profit provider of assistance dogs for people with disabilities. Visit them at [cci.org](http://cci.org).

This is a family event for people who enjoy vintage motorcycles with a gentleman's touch, and an opportunity to explore custom and restored motorcycles with vintage themed entrainment throughout the day.

PBIR is located at: 17047 Beeline Hwy, Jupiter, FL 33478.

For a full roster of all festival events, and all the latest information, please visit:  
[www.facebook.com/VintageIronClub](http://www.facebook.com/VintageIronClub)

### Treasure Coast Bike Fest

When: Sun, **February 9<sup>th</sup>**, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Where: Memorial Park, 300 SE Ocean Blvd.,  
Stuart, FL



## **Future Florida Events**

Note that the March 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, **March 8<sup>th</sup>**, 12:30 pm – 12:30 pm

Where: [Snookhaven](#) – 5000 East Venice Avenue, 5000 East Venice Avenue ☎941-485-7221 ([map](#))

Description: A recommendation from member Rich Peabody. We were going to be there earlier in the fall riding season but they were under renovation. Here is a little teaser from Rich's email, "...Snook Haven, which is a great place on the Myakka River where a couple of early Tarzan movies were filmed." Remember to bring your loin cloth!

Contact: Bob Shields - [boju29@msn.com](mailto:boju29@msn.com) or ☎863-513-3626

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

When: Sat, **March 15<sup>th</sup>**, 12 pm – 1:00 pm

Where: [Jay Bee's](#) – 8625 SR 60, East Lake Wales, FL 33898 ☎863-696-1901 ([map](#))

Description: Hey, not exactly "south", but then who follows all the rules!! This place is rock steady, not open for breakfast, so we hit now that spring has sprung!! There are a few routes to get here without a lot of droning on 60 as well!!

Contact: Van - [busavan@flahsta.org](mailto:busavan@flahsta.org) or ☎561-386-2594

## **Member Profile**

Just as we see in other MSTA Newsletters, such as STARReview and the recent CO/WY Quarterly Newsletter, we would also 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 16](#).

### 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.

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For additional Florida events and information, [click here](#) to see Florida MSTA web site Events page.

MSTA website information on upcoming events: [click here](#).

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National MSTA [www.ridemsta.com](http://www.ridemsta.com)

Florida MSTA [www.flahsta.org](http://www.flahsta.org)

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### More Contact Information

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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 in keeping with our safety article.

Also check out [this additional page](#) about a related subject!

### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

To find a buyer for your unwanted motorcycle items, please send your ad and pictures by e-mail to [editor@flahsta.org](mailto:editor@flahsta.org)