

The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association Volume 7 Issue 3

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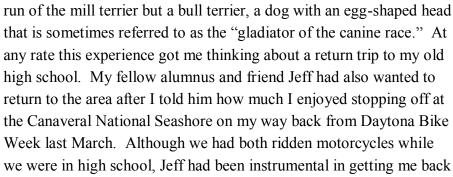
Feature Article

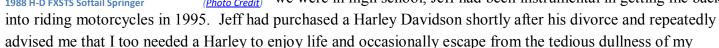
The Home of the Fighting Terriers

Recently the subject of team mascots came up while socializing with fellow riders and I proclaimed my high school mascot was one of the

most fearsome of all creatures, the Terrier. Yes sports fans, I graduated from Titusville High School, the home of the fighting Titusville Terriers. After being met with looks of disbelief and laughter, I tried to explain to my incredulous friends that the Titusville Terrier is not your ordinary









1988 H-D FXSTS Softail Springer

(Photo Credit)

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



suburban existence. This eventually resulted in my purchase of a 1988 Harley Davidson Softail Springer, shown in the sample photo.

Jeff and I decided to make the ride up to Titusville on Saturday, January 18, 2014. A cold front had come down the state and the skies were cloudless. The temperature was hovering around 50 degrees when we left at 8:00 AM and headed north on I-95 from West Palm Beach. I was on my ST1300. Jeff had remained loyal to the Harley Davidson brand and was riding a CVO Electra Glide. When we pulled into the gas station on Highway-50 some two hours later, I confirmed on my phone's weather app that it had not gotten any warmer and that, while it was expected to warm up to the mid-sixties in West Palm Beach, another cold front was on its way down the state and Titusville would have a low of 38 degrees and a high of 56 degrees that day. Although I was fairly comfortable in my ATGATT and full face helmet, Jeff looked a little frozen after riding two hours with his open face helmet and short windshield. After topping up with fuel, we decided that our next stop would be the old high school.

In driving through town, it became sadly apparent that Titusville has been badly impacted by the cancellation of the shuttle program and general downturn of the economy. I lived there in the late 60's and early 70's when men were landing on the moon and the space program was at its peak due to the Apollo program. One of my extracurricular activities, besides playing football and surfing, was being involved with the Civil Air Patrol. When the Apollo launches would take place, the town's population would literally swell by hundreds of

thousands of people and we would assist in traffic control. People would begin arriving days before the launch and would park wherever they could along the banks of the Indian River, which separates Titusville from the launch pads on Merritt Island. It has been estimated that over one million people gathered on July 16, 1969 to watch the Apollo-11 launch.

Upon arriving at the old alma mater, we took some obligatory pictures. Mine accompany this article. We then decided to drive by our respective old houses before having lunch at one of the remaining great attractions of Titusville, Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant. I'm sorry to say that I had never been to Dixie Crossroads before, although I had heard about it many times. That day it was cold and I wanted some good seafood gumbo to warm me up. I was a bit disappointed when I did not see it on the menu. However, my disappointment did not last long as I was informed by the waitress that their soup of the day was New Orleans style chowder, a/k/a seafood gumbo. It was fantastic and made the trip worthwhile by itself. I suggest if you have never been there, go. It is not expensive, at least not for lunch, and it is worth the ride. It is also big enough to handle a large group, so I also recommend it as a ride to eat destination for group rides.

Following lunch, Jeff and I decided to head out to the <u>Canaveral National</u> <u>Seashore</u>. For those of you who are not familiar with it, the Canaveral

Seashore. For those of you who are not familiar with it, the Canaveral
National Seashore is located on a barrier Island that is accessed from Titusville in the south and New Smyrna
Beach in the North, as shown in the adjacent map. The southern part is known as Playalinda Beach, (Spanish



for Beautiful Beach), the middle section as Klondike Beach, and the northern section as Apollo Beach. Unfortunately, A1A does not run the entire length of the seashore. For that reason if you want to access the southern part of the park traveling from the north you will have to enter via the Kennedy Parkway (Florida State Road 3), which intersects with US-1 just south of Oak Hill. The area became a national park in 1975. The following link will bring up a larger version of the adjacent map in PDF format:

nps.gov/cana/planyourvisit/upload/CANAmap1.pdf

It's easy to get to the Canaveral National Seashore from Titusville. We were already on Garden Street where Dixie Crossroads is located, so all we had to do was head east over the causeway and then connect with Highway-402. There is a manned gate and a charge of \$5.00 dollars per vehicle to enter the park.

Playalinda Beach is in fact a beautiful beach, as I hope the accompanying photos show. It wasn't a national park when I used to go surfing at the beach in high school, but it was occasionally closed for security reasons when there was a launch. If you visit the beach you can clearly see the VAB, (Vehicle Assembly Building) and the historic launch pads 39A and 39B used in the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs.

After taking a few photos of the beach, Jeff and I decided to take the Kennedy Parkway (Florida State Road 3) north to pick up US-1 at Oak Hill before heading back south to West Palm Beach. The Kennedy Parkway is an enjoyable road since it is passes through an uninhabited area and has very little traffic. The only potential stop occurs if the bridge is up at the Haulover canal that connects Mosquito Lagoon with the north end of the Indian River. I have included a picture taken last year when I actually caught the bridge on my way back from Daytona Beach. We were only on US-1 for a few miles before picking up I-95 north of Titusville and heading back south.

Overall I would say it turned out to be a great day with good weather, riding and food. What more could I ask for except maybe a different name for my high school mascot.



Playalinda Beach



Tracking station with Mosquito Lagoon in the background

Steve Phillips



Haulover Canal Bridge



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.

Coping with the Left-Turn Menace

We've all seen it and talked about it. So why does it still happen? Why do we continue to lose so many riders (and sometimes friends) to the left-turning vehicle that violates our right-of-way? According to statistics, more motorcycle-involved multi-car accidents occur at/in intersections than anywhere else on public roads (Source: MSF).

There are lots of factors involved in left-turn car/motorcycle crashes. The most obvious one is the inability of the driver to visually recognize the approaching



motorcycle in the oncoming lane. Whether it is a distracted driver, someone trying to squeeze through a perceived "hole" in the traffic, etc. the result is usually bad news for the motorcyclist.

So how do we cope with this all-too common traffic menace? Here are just a few thoughts, collected from various sources, riders and just plain old experience:

First off, we just have to make the assumption that NOBODY sees us on the road. Just because you're wearing hi-vis everything, from underwear to a one-piece, day-glow orange, LED-lit billboard suit, do not expect that to protect you. SOME drivers may see it. Ride like you're invisible.

Treat every intersection with caution. That doesn't just mean the ones with lights, stop signs and so on. Remember, every driveway emptying onto your road is an intersection. Every side street off your path of travel is an opportunity for a driver to turn in front of you.

Pay attention to vehicles as they approach or are facing you in the oncoming lanes. If they are stopped or are slowing, expect them to turn...and not see you in the process.

Can we catch clues about their intentions? Watch the driver. See where they are looking. Oh, and just because you make eye contact with them, don't assume they actually see you. Catching a theme here?

Another effective tactic, particularly at controlled intersections where vehicles are waiting to turn, is to watch the front tires. If they start to turn or roll, you can guarantee the driver intends to GO.

How about announcing your presence? Modulating headlight systems seem to work well and are legal in all 50 states, provided they are activated only during daylight hours. On the other hand, flashing your high beams can be a two-edged sword. The other driver may think you're indicating for them to proceed with their turn. Be careful about signals!

Finally, a last thought...SLOW DOWN for those intersections and situations where an unwanted physics lesson with another vehicle is a real possibility. Remember to SCAN AHEAD for traffic and possible danger. Don't forget the MSF mantra: SEARCH-EVALUATE-EXECUTE (SEE)! (It really does work...)

Ride Safe!

Doug Westly – Safety Editor



Florida News

South Director's Report

Can you hear the motors running? That's the sound of thousands of motorcyclists packing their stuff and moving to Florida before next winter hits!!!

Can you believe how lucky we are to hang out in this oasis of sun and fun?!?!? What a month for riding and biker activities! We had plans for most weekends, and next month looks to be the same! Let's start at the beginning!!



Van VanSteelant

We had a lunch ride to Lakeland on Feb. 8th. As reported by one of the 6 attendees, the weather was rather awful, and he was surprised to have 5 others actually join him!! Fortunately, the nastiness held off after lunch, and 5 riders made the most of the mine roads south of town!! And the <u>Chop Shop</u> worked out great and will be kept in rotation for future lunches!

While some of you were struggling with the weather on Feb. 8th, many of us were basking in the sunshine in downtown West Palm Beach! The Florida MSTA was one of the sponsors in the first Vintage Iron Club bike show on Clematis. We had a great spot to promote the Club, and broke out our spanking new banner!! We had consistent traffic from 2pm-8pm, and handed out 40-50 Quad Folds to likely prospects! We hope to hear from Choon with a tally of new members attributable to our efforts. Oh, and the show was terrific too! Lots of sweet rides, interesting mix of vendors and lifestyle products, and decent music all day long. Our spot was perfect – we could appreciate the rockabilly without having to shout over it!! As a first time event for the organizers, they get a B+. There is room for improvement on many fronts, and I'm sure they will take the input from the participants to make next year's event better and bigger. A big shout out to our volunteers, Don Moe, Steve Phillips, and Ellen Kocher, who shared the booth space with yours truly and Jim Park, who did a fantastic job of putting this whole event together for us!! [Ed: Check out Jim Park's article and several photos from the event on page 8.]

We had one more RTE to a new place in Clewiston! We had 20+ members and friends descend on Beef 'O'

Brady's for a terrific lunch on a perfect day for riding!! We had locals, near locals (Broward and Miami members!), and the crew from Melbourne, who looked to make it a 350+ mile day! The place is nothing to look at from the outside, but is was spacious, the service efficient, and the food was surprisingly good!! This will be another keeper. And though it is not anywhere "interesting", I did notice that nearly everybody took my suggestion to incorporate an extended ride around the big lake!! It bears repeating, your participation on these Chapter rides is VERY rewarding for the organizer!! Oh, we also had a big 50/50 result! Our winner was Jim Park, who graciously donated



Charlie Quesenberry, Larry Fitch, Tom Blake, Van VanSteelan

his "winnings" back to the Club! We now have \$363.50 in the kitty. Again, a big THANKS to all who participate!!



I know that we have been collecting funds with our 50/50 for some time now. And here's why we have done so. We are in the midst of redesigning our State website. Step one was to renew our existing site for another year, along with the attendant email addresses. This gives us a little time to create and fine tune our new site. We also registered a new domain name for our new site. So far, our costs come to \$113.50. The "labor" for the new design is coming out of my "pocket", as Member of (my) Household, Kim Longacre, is working her magic on bringing our site into the 21st century. Stay tuned!

What's Next??

Springing into March, we have several rides planned for you. Starting March 8th, we will enjoy a ride to Venice, FL, to the Snook Haven Restaurant! A new RTE "scout" has tested this for our benefit and reports all is good! A special ride is planned for the following week! Pay attention as this RTE happens on THURSDAY, March 13th, at the South Beach Grill, at the southern end of St. Augustine. This is about an hour north of Daytona, right on the ocean!! Phil Ridgdill has organized these lunch rides during Bike Week for a long while, and has mastered finding really neat places to gather and break bread!! Then we head back to Jay Bee's on March 22nd!! I know it seems like we were just there, but time flies, and we need to catch them again before we switch back to Brunch rides! Note that the South Lunch ride to Jay Bee's is on a different date than we promoted in our last newsletter!! Be sure to check out all the details for these rides at flahsta.org.

Looking ahead to April, we ride to <u>Gator Joe's</u> in Ocklawaha on April 12th; and to <u>Harpoon Harry's</u> at Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda on April 19th!! Get these dates blocked out in your calendar NOW! And you know we have rides scheduled out through June...

Membership News

As we often receive updates about our current state membership after we "go to press", we don't always welcome our new Florida members as soon as they sign up!

This month we can welcome the following new member:

• John Kyle – Davie

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 March:

- Steve Bazydola Jupiter
- Roy Clark Gainesville
- Judy A Erickson Ruskin
- Mark Lewis Jupiter
- Rick Lucas Jupiter
- Paul & Julie Rohan Homestead

As a heads up to all, be sure to forward any new email addresses or changes to Choon Gan at 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.



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 for more information and also the 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, including the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, and Devil's



<u>Tower</u>. You can even see <u>Sturgis</u> without the rowdiness or take a tour of a decommissioned <u>Minuteman Missile</u> launch facility. 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!!

SPECIAL REPORT!! SPECIAL REPORT!!

Read all about it!! In the latest *Rider* magazine, we get more great press from Lance Oliver, who wrote about last year's STAR in Lexington!!! Starting on page 80! Woo-Hoo!!

Random Ramblings!

Well, some recent emails got mixed results! So far, nobody has stepped up to take Bob's place as the Central Co-Director. On the other hand, I did get several positive responses to the MSF Experienced Rider Course offer! I will sort through the various requests shortly, and hope to be able to set up more than one group course for us. We have more than one course instructor to provide the training, and we may be able to set up an east and west side event. Fees and location TBD. Stay tuned!!

If you missed the theater showing of Why We Ride, the #1 Motorcycle Film in America is now available for digital download and streaming or on DVD! Don't miss out on the film that everyone on two wheels is talking about! Click on this link.

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report

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

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



Member Comment

Inaugural West Palm Beach Vintage Bike Show and MSTA Membership Drive By Jim Park

It was an unseasonably warm February afternoon, a perfect day to enjoy the first vintage bike show in downtown West Palm Beach. I had first gotten wind of this event back in October. Having manned our MSTA booth in St. Augustine at Riding-into-History on many occasions, I saw this as an opportunity to have our very own booth at a similar event. A chance to attract new members to join the MSTA!

It was an easy task to get the MSTA Executive Committee to cough up the necessary vendor fee, provide a stack of StaReview magazines to handout and a good supply of membership application forms. So Van and I did an inventory of what we had on hand to set up a proper booth. Van had the canopy and chairs and I brought the tables and a laptop. We were all set!

The show started at 2:00 PM; however, we already had people stopping by our booth asking questions about the MSTA well before the official start time. With the help of Don Moe, Ellen Kocher and



Steve Phillips, the day went relatively fast. Our best guess was that we handed out around nearly 50 membership applications, not a bad day.

The show was a total success! I never heard the final count but there were well over 300 vintage bikes on show. The street was packed while bands played throughout the day and well into the evening hours.

In case you missed the event this year, be sure to mark your calendar for next year's event. You won't want to miss it!

Here are several photos of motorcycles (and people) at the event. (Photos by Don Moe)















Plus several vendors







Florida Rides This Month

Important Note

Always remember to check the Florida MSTA <u>Event Calendar</u> 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, **March 8th**, 11:30 pm - 12:30 pm

Where: Snookhaven – 5000 East Venice Avenue, Venice, FL 34292 \$\mathbb{\textit{2}}\equiv 941-485-7221 (\text{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!

MSTA Florida Daytona Lunch Ride

When: Thursday, March 13th, 11:00 AM SHARP!

Where: South Beach Grill – 45 Cubbedge Road, St. Augustine, FL 32080 \$\mathbb{\text{2080}}\ 904-471-8700 (\text{map})

Description: Everybody needs to be there by 11am, just as the place opens for lunch to secure the upper floor of the

restaurant and the ocean view! We'll need to make a "show of force" and make the place ours!! This place is roughly 50-60 minutes north of the Racetrack, via I-95. You could make a longer route either going or

returning, as there are some rather nice roads along the ocean!

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat, **March 22nd**, 12 pm - 1:00 pm

Where: <u>Jay Bee's</u> – 8625 SR 60, East Lake Wales, FL **2** 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 or \$\infty\$561-386-2594

Manufacturer's Special Event

Aerostich in Brandon

You don't have to ride to Duluth, Minnesota to try on the world-famous long-lasting Aerostich riding gear! Aerostich is coming to Florida for a four-day Pop-Up event in Brandon, FL from March 6th to 9th, 9 AM-7 PM. This is a great opportunity in our back yard for riders to come out and see their products. At other events, we've had between 500 and 1000 riders stop by. It's a fun time. For more information, visit the website: aerostich.com/popupfla



Future Florida Events

Note that the April 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, **April 12th**, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Where: <u>Gator Joe's</u> – 12431 SE 135th Ave., Ocklawaha, FL 32179 **2**352-288-3100 (map)

Description: Year after year, one of our best ride locations. We typically have 20-30 riders attending. It's a

hidden treasure near Ocala. Gator Joe's is on a dock on the lake with beautiful views in every

direction. Try the Gator Philly Sub if they still offer it.

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat, **April 19**th, 12 pm - 1:00 pm

Where: Harpoon Harry's at Fisherman's Village – 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, #55, Punta Gorda, FL 33951

2941-637-1177 (map)

Description: We are changing things up for our usual ride to the Punta Gorda area. This year, we will hit up

Harry's!! We have been here many years ago, and had a great time!! One of our own recently paid a visit, and reports that it's still all that, and the bike parking is right up by the front door!!

And it's right on the water, on Charlotte Harbor!!

Contact: Van - <u>busavan@flahsta.org</u> or **2**561-386-2594

Member Profile

Our second Member Profile was submitted by Jim Park. Thanks, Jim!

Hometown/State? I was born and raised in the Southern Indiana town of Madison located on the Ohio River.

What was your first motorcycle? 350 Bridgestone (oil injected two-cycle). I had to stop every 100 miles to remove and clean the spark plugs.

Current motorcycle? I currently ride a 2013 Triumph Explorer.

What is your all-time favorite motorcycle? Easy question, the Honda ST1300. I had two back-to-back and put on nearly a quarter million miles on the set.

How long have you been riding? I hate to admit this but I started riding in 1969. I had a 25 year hiatus due to schooling and business but took it up again in 1995.

When did you join the MSTA? 2004.

How did you hear about the MSTA? I stumbled across the Florida website that Bill Royal had set up. Went to a RTE in Frostproof and have been a member ever since.

Who or what was your biggest influence in motorcycling? I guess I would say the television series that played on NBC in the late 60's, *Then Came Bronson*. The series starred Michael Parks who dropped out of the business world and rode his Harley Sportster around the country. The episode would open each week with the star riding his bike down the Pacific Coast Highway. I made up my mind that I would do that some day!



What are your favorite places to ride? I have ridden most of the States along with my wife, but I think our favorite area is Northeast Georgia and Western North Carolina.



Describe a memorable motorcycle adventure? I guess that would be our 2005 trip to Europe with the folks from *RoadRunner* magazine. We covered four countries in ten days, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy.

What is the best motorcycle advice or tip learned over the years? Ride within your limits. There are no prizes for first place in street riding.

What turns you on about motorcycles or riding? Just about everything. I like the open air where you see and smell everything, to entering a high speed sweeper and picking the right line and lean angle.



What do you get out of your MSTA membership? Meeting great people and enjoying the sights along the way to the events.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of motorcycling? I enjoy photography and hiking.

We would like to publish additional 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 Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

Member Profile Ouestions:

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 Florida MSTA web site Events page.

MSTA website information on upcoming events: click here.

National MSTA www.ridemsta.com

Florida MSTA www.flahsta.org

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





This month's <u>Mystery Hyperlink</u> is in keeping with our safety article. Also check out <u>this additional page</u> 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

