



# The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of  
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 7 Issue 5

## Events in May

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## Feature Article

### **Cedaredge Lunch Ride at STAR 2012**

by Don Moe

[Note: This article was previously prepared in July 2012 after attending STAR in Avon, Colorado and posted on my [travelogue website](#). Even though this ride took place nearly two years ago, I hope that many readers will still enjoy this article and other attendees will enjoy reminiscing about their rides through scenic Colorado. Throughout this article, click on the map or photos for higher resolution versions stored on my website. In addition to included photos taken during the day's excursion, there are many more in [this section](#) of my website.]

On Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, many of the attendees at the MSTA rally in [Avon](#) followed the recommended route through interesting and scenic terrain to the small town of [Cedaredge](#), where we gathered at [The Ole Bakery Café](#) for our rally luncheon. I rode with three fellow members of the Florida MSTA chapter: Van VanSteelant, Bob Shields, and

Dennis Villarose, who later became our current MSTA president. The adjacent map shows our route to Cedaredge and the return to Avon.

We departed Avon just after 8:30 AM and headed west along I-70 under gorgeous blue skies and pleasant temperatures. For most of the excursion, traffic was light and moved along smoothly. After 106 miles in nearly 1½ hours, we reached I-70 exit #62 at [De Beque](#), where we stopped for a 30-minute break and some welcome



### **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

refreshments. This also gave me an opportunity to change the exhausted battery in my camera, since I had taken numerous pictures along the way, especially through the scenic [Glenwood Canyon](#).

This first photo shows the view westward near the town of [Gypsum](#), located about 27 miles west of Avon.

As I was leading our group during the leg to De Beque, the other riders are not shown.



View of the terrain near the town of Gypsum

This next sequence of eight photos shows the approach to and travel through Glenwood Canyon. It was quite an engineering achievement to construct a four-lane Interstate highway through this narrow canyon in an attractive and ecological manner in this environmentally very sensitive area along the [Colorado River](#). There is also a single line railroad track on the opposite side of the river.



Approaching Glenwood Canyon from the east



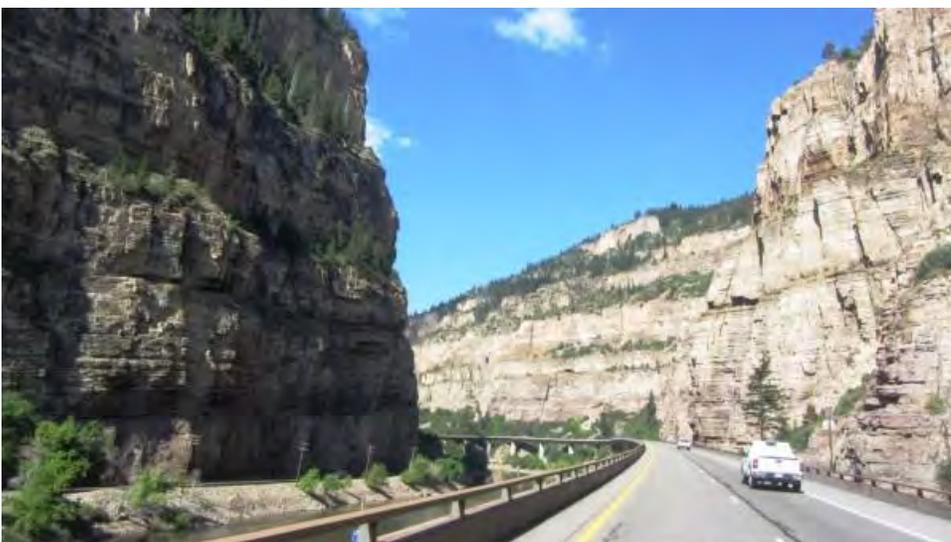
Entering Glenwood Canyon



Numerous concrete pillars support the westbound highway deck



Approaching the first and very short tunnel for the westbound lanes



The Canyon narrows further. The railroad track is visible on the south side of the river.



Approaching a tight corner before a lengthy tunnel



Riding through the well-lit tunnel



On the west side of the tunnel, the Canyon widens and the eastbound lanes are now visible.

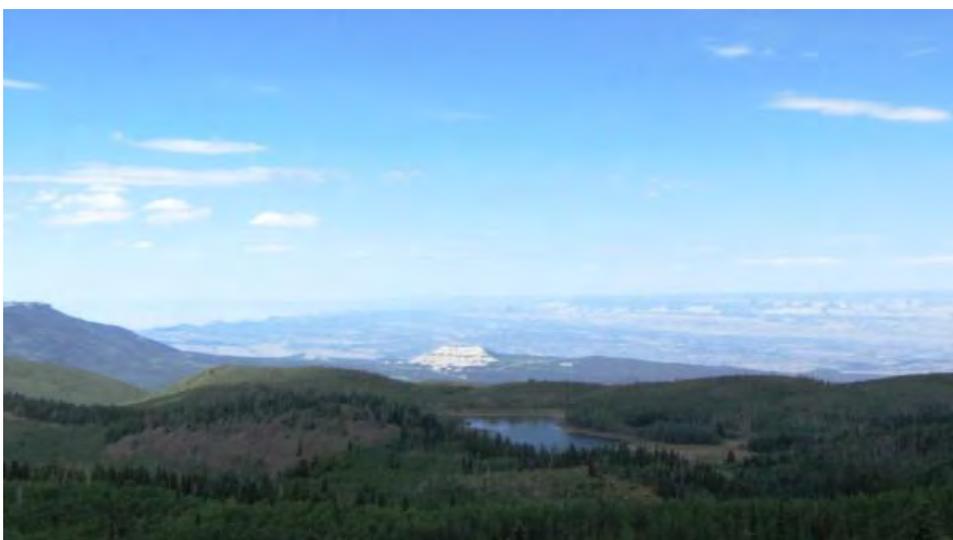
These next photos show our ride south along Hwy-45½ on the eastern side of Black Mountain, and continuing along Hwy-65 over [Grand Mesa](#) to Cedaredge. Since we unfortunately did not stop at any pull-offs or overlooks, I took nearly all the photos during the excursion while riding.

This first photo shows Van leading us on his Hayabusa after departing from De Beque.



Van leads us south from De Beque along Hwy-45½

As the highway's elevation increased along the north slope of Grand Mesa, the view to the north became a grand vista. This photo shows one of the better views that I captured while riding.



View toward the north as the highway snakes up the northern slope of Grand Mesa

Atop Grand Mesa we passed several reservoirs of small to moderate sizes, including this one at 10,600-ft elevation, named “Grand Mesa Reservoir No. 9.”



Grand Mesa Reservoir No. 9 at 10,600-ft elevation

This next photo shows Van leading us past the [Ward Creek Reservoir](#) at 9,800-ft elevation. Many of these reservoirs have obvious recreational uses, such as fishing, camping and hiking.



Riding past Ward Creek Reservoir along Hwy-65

As on the north side, the road along the south side of Grand Mesa, offered many nice curves as we snaked our way down to the elevation of Cedaredge (6,300 ft).



We all enjoy the sweeping curves, like this one, as well as much tighter ones

Upon arriving at the Ole Bakery Café at 11:40 AM, we parked in a new parking lot across the street. The sight of so many motorcycles already there was impressive. My first thought: we're in for a long wait for a table.



Many riders had already arrived for the luncheon

The café was a rather nondescript brown building. Our luncheon was hosted on the large veranda behind the building.



Van in front of The Ole Bakery Café

As our small group reached the veranda, a table was just being cleaned off, allowing us to take seats after a very short wait. Other riders were not so fortunate and waited longer for tables.



The veranda behind the cafe was packed and several riders had to wait for a table

At 12:40 PM following lunch, our group continued south on Hwy-65 and then east on Hwy-92 to the town of [Hotchkiss](#), where we turned north onto Hwy-133. This road took us through the [Paonia State Park](#), past Paonia Reservoir and through a portion of the [Gunnison National Forest](#). After riding through Carbondale, we reached Glenwood Springs and turned east on I-70 to return to Avon.

This photo shows a small section of the Paonia Reservoir.



Paonia Reservoir in Paonia State Park

The Forest Service's sign ahead in this next photo indicates that we are at the northern border of the Gunnison National Forest.



Leaving the Gunnison National Forest about half way between Hotchkiss and Carbondale

These next two photos show another narrow canyon as the road and [Crystal River](#) squeeze through a narrow section.



Riding through the canyon along Crystal River



Although no more than a stream, Crystal River can be seen more clearly in this photo

From Glenwood Springs we retraced our path along I-70 and arrived back at the [Christie Lodge](#) in Avon by nearly 3:30 PM. We all enjoyed the lunch ride through some spectacular scenery! The lunch was good too.

## ***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 Lure of Modern Electronics***

I was having a discussion track-side the other day with a fellow rider, and the conversation wandered to modern electronic systems on today's motorcycles.

By now probably everyone knows about ABS, traction control, anti-wheelie control, launch control, quick-shifters, etc. Our conversation started there and quickly led to how these systems impact not only motorcycle control, but potentially can change rider behavior.

Especially when we talk about those systems that impact safety (ABS, traction control, etc.), I think (and have personally experienced) these systems can offer a sense of extra safety and security when riding. There is nothing wrong with this, as long as we don't abuse that extra margin of safety by pushing the performance riding envelope even farther as a result.

Case in point, and I'll tattle on myself here: Awhile back I was riding a Ducati Multistrada 1200S. Ducati in recent years has been at the forefront of electronic systems development in production motorcycles and the Multistrada is no exception. It has an outstanding adjustable traction control system. I was on one of my favorite back roads, hitting the corners fairly hard. In the middle of one corner I hit an unexpected patch of sand. The rear tire lost traction and started to spin and drift.

Immediately I felt the traction control kick in. The system chopped power to the rear wheel, allowing the tire to slow and regain traction. After I got through the corner (and probably extracted the seat from my rear...), I began to think about it. I knew beforehand the traction control was there and could help out if I started having a traction issue. Would I have been pushing through the corners as hard without it?

I'm not suggesting we shouldn't have these systems. Far from it! I believe these modern electronic systems offer outstanding safety support to our riding. However, along with this comes the idea that since we have them, maybe they will allow us to push just a little harder.

At the end of our conversation, we agreed upon a couple of issues. One, we like the new systems. Two, it is entirely possible that these new, amazing electronic systems have the potential to just delay the inevitable, IF the rider uses them to push their own riding level to a continually higher risk level. In a worst case scenario it could allow a rider the overconfidence to turn a bad crash into a spectacularly bad crash, once he or she exceeds the enhanced safety limits offered by the electronics systems.

Bottom line? New systems enhance safety, but they can't control rider behavior. We are responsible for our own safety. We can't blame the bike (usually) when it all goes wrong. The problem is most likely the nut that connects the handlebars to the seat. :)

**Ride Safe!**

**[Doug Westly](#) – Safety Editor**



**Unless you can do this reliably and repeatedly, you probably need traction control!**  
Photo: [Motorcycle.com](http://Motorcycle.com)

## Florida News

### South Director's Report

**Well, you win some and you lose some!!**

Unfortunately, I spent most of April off the 'Busa!! The Central Lunch ride to [Gator Joe's](#) was just a bit out of reach for the Eastsiders, and seemingly most of the rest of you!! Only four riders made it on a beautiful day!! Usually, we see 15-20 members/friends at this very popular hangout. From the pictures I received, it's clear the guys had an excellent "day at the beach" and plenty of gab time!!



Van VanSteelant

As for the South ride to [Harpoon Harry's](#), I blew it!! The weather all the way over here near the ocean didn't change up until it was too late for me to alter my plans. I made the decision to not ride while it was raining, with thunder and lightning for added effect! By the time I would have left to make the rendezvous point, it was still debatable. But, I had already shifted my day's plans and riding wasn't in the works. Of course, it turned out to be a BEAUTIFUL day to ride to Punta Gorda! The reports back from several of the participants made it clear that next time, I need to wait until the last minute to decide go/no-go!!



Our group had two tables on the open-air deck.

### What's Next??

We have two great lunch rides coming up in May! The Central Lunch Ride will return to a regular stop – [Solomon's Castle](#) in Ona, FL. This makes a good ride for nearly everybody, and the last time we were here, we almost filled up the "back room"!! The South Lunch Ride will be to another favorite! We land at [Capt. Hiram's Inn](#) in Sebastian, FL. As always, the details, times and maps are at our website: [www.flahsta.org](http://www.flahsta.org). Looking ahead, we have one last lunch ride for the Central members. The [Hayseed Café](#) in Webster, FL, will have you licking your fingers after hitting their lunch buffet!! The South members will get a head start on our summer BRUNCH rides with a trip to Main Street America in Lake Placid, FL. You don't want to miss out on this place!!

### 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 Tower](#). You can even see [Sturgis](#) without the rowdiness or take a tour of a decommissioned [Minuteman Missile](#) 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!!



Mount Rushmore

## 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 members:

- Charles Quesenberry, Vero Beach
- David & Diana Cassell, Crestwood

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 May:

- Steve Bazydola
- Dell Haverland
- Stephen Phillips
- Roy Clark
- Rick Lucas
- Paul & Julie Rohan
- Drew Dill
- Michael Miller
- Bobby Shields
- John Hallman
- Larry O’Blender
- Robert Shields
- Boyd Harrell
- Ronald Outwater
- Julian Samborski

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.

## Random Ramblings!

Here’s where we stand on several issues that you have been showing interest in of late!

MSF Training--We have lots of support for training classes! All but one wants to do the training in Oct./Nov.! And we have enough members to schedule classes in Tampa and the West Palm area!! So, after the summer weather settles down, we will establish the where and what for you to improve your skills. We have nearly equal interest in the BRC2 and ARC courses. We’ll see if we can’t make both classes happen! Obviously, you can continue to email me with your interest up through August!

Tee-Shirts – Your requests have come in big time!! We have enough orders to go forward with our pricing research. We should have firm numbers in 2 weeks. You’ll hear from me again to confirm the shirt type, color and cost.

[AIMExpo](#) – As I’m writing this, it looks good for our Just For Fun Event in Orlando!! As many details will be finalized in the next 5-10 days, be on the lookout for an email update. A B I G thanks to those who have committed to helping at the MSTA booth!! We still need more help, but we have just enough support at the moment for the EC to continue with their contractual obligations. [Ed: Larry Little has written [an article](#) about the AMA’s decision to hold the 2014 National Convention alongside the AIMExpo in Orlando.]

New website – Work has moved forward on our site! It looks real nice, and that’s all I can say.

With the summer riding season and big travel plans (STAR!) right around the corner, you can expect a bunch of loose ends to be tied up by June 1st.

I’ll be looking for you at our lunch rides this month – I gotta make up for last month!!

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.

## Florida Rides This Month

### Important Note

Always remember to check the Florida MSTA [Event Calendar](#) and/or your email for updates on scheduled rides. Changes in times, dates, and especially locations are often out of our control and with short notice.

### MSTA Florida Central Lunch Ride

When: Sat, **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 11:30 pm – 12:30 pm

Where: [Solomon's Castle](#) – 4533 Solomon Rd, Ona, FL 33865 ☎863-494-6077 ([map](#))

Description: This is another spot that is on the southern end of our Central Florida area, so we hope to see some of our South Florida riders attending. We will eat in an old ship wreck and some of us may choose to tour the art in the castle. This place is tucked away in the middle of nowhere... nothing but open roads. A popular motorcycle location.

### MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat, **May 17<sup>th</sup>**, 12 pm – 1:00 pm

Where: [Capt. Hiram's Inn](#) - 1580 US Hwy. 1, Sebastian, FL ☎772-589-4345 ([map](#))

Description: It's been a while since we've been here and now's the time to correct that! This place is always a winner!! Great water view, lots of space for us to carry on, and great food and service. This will be our last LUNCH ride for now, as June begins our BRUNCH schedule!!

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

## Future Florida Events

Note that the June 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, **June 21<sup>st</sup>**, 11:30 pm – 12:30 pm

Where: [Hayseed Café](#) – 599 N. Market Blvd., Webster, FL 33597 ☎352-568-8008 ([map](#))

Description: Bring your appetite. This is one of the best buffet lunch spots in the south with fried chicken just like mama made. Last lunch run before the heat of the summer sets in and we move to breakfast/brunch spots.

## **MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride**

When: Sat, **June 28<sup>th</sup>**, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Where: **Main Street America** - 15 S. Main St., Lake Placid, FL 33852 ☎863-465-7733 ([map](#))

Description: BRUNCH rides are back!! It must be getting hot out there!! This is a no-brainer destination!! Great local roads, great breakfast options, and within two hours of most of our members!! Get up early and join us!

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

## **Future Regional Events**

As the Summer riding season dawns, you may wish to attend these popular regional MSTA events being held in areas with fantastic riding on nice, twisting roads through some beautiful scenery, including the Blue Ridge Parkway.

### **MSTA TriSTAR**

When: **Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Monday, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Where: [Alleghany Inn](#) – 341 North Main Street, Sparta, NC 28675

Description: Special motel rates and more information for this event are available at [msta-se.com/tristar](http://msta-se.com/tristar).

Contact: Joe Thomas – [IguanaJoe@bellsouth.net](mailto:IguanaJoe@bellsouth.net) or ☎828-687-1462

### **MSTA Big Lynn Lodge**

When: **Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Where: [Big Lynn Lodge](#) – Box 459 Hwy 226-A, Little Switzerland, North Carolina 28749

Description: The Big Lynn Lodge is located in/near Little Switzerland, NC and is literally hanging on the side of the mountain right on NC-226A. You will be AMAZED at the view and you will be ASTONISHED by the roads! The Big Lynn Lodge has a unique “formula” in that their nightly room rate INCLUDES an excellent home styled cooked meal and a full Breakfast for each person! Special motel rates and additional information are available at [msta-se.com/BLynn](http://msta-se.com/BLynn).

Contact: “Brick” Dave Brickner – [brick@ncwireless.net](mailto:brick@ncwireless.net) or ☎828-448-5429

## **Member Profile**

We would like to publish profiles of our members, on a strictly voluntary basis of course. If you would like to participate, please send an email (or a letter) to the editor of our Florida newsletter and answer as many of the following questions as you feel appropriate. Please send an attachment with a suitable photo of you with your primary or favorite motorcycle. If you prefer to send by regular mail, please find the mailing address on page [14](#).

### 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 Florida MSTTA web site Events page.

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

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

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

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

## Mystery Hyperlink of the Month

This month's [Mystery Hyperlink](#) is in keeping with our safety article.

Also check out [this additional page](#) about the same topic!

## 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)