



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of
the Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 7 Issue 11

Events in November

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Feature Article

Deer Collision

by Charlie Thompson | CO

[Ed: This article was recently posted on the MSTA [website](#) and is reprinted here for the benefit of our members with his permission.]

Fourteen days into a 3-week motorcycling vacation, disaster struck. Or more correctly, I struck a deer. I'm going to share this story in the hope that others will learn from my experience.

My fiancée and I had enjoyed nine days on the road exploring the Maine Coast, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton Island and the famous Cabot Trail. On July 6, 2014, Diane flew home from Bangor, Maine. I continued my ride back to Colorado on my 2001 Honda Gold Wing, pulling a Uni-Go trailer. To make the ride home more interesting I decided to cut across New England and avoid Interstates as much as possible.



This photo shows where the deer collision occurred.

On Monday July 7th, as I approached Rutland, Vermont a line of heavy rain storms moved in. I waited out the rain at a country store. At about 2:00 PM, I left Rutland, headed west on US-4. This road is a 2-lane limited access highway.

For a brief moment I looked down at my speedometer and set the cruise control for the posted speed limit of 65 mph. As I looked up . . .

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

WHAM! I hit the deer before I realized what had happened. All I saw was a deer head in my windshield. I hit the buck in the head and shoulder area. If I had seen him before the impact, perhaps I may have been able to swerve around him. That split second to check my speedo was all the time it took for the deer to leap from the vegetation, over the guard rail and into my path of travel.

The impact caused the handlebars to be ripped from my hands and my body to be thrown forward and right. The bike veered left into the passing lane and fell onto its right side. At this point I was thinking to myself, "Let's hope all this riding gear works." My bike and I slid on the pavement for a while and then down the embankment. When I came to a stop, I was lying on my back and my bike was a little farther down the hill.

First thing that entered my mind was, "am I on the road and am I going to get run over?" My helmet shield and glasses were fogged up but I could make out green stuff all around me. ("Whew, I'm off the road!")

I pulled my helmet and gloves off and started to survey my body parts. A guy, following in a car behind me, had stopped and ran down the hill yelling to me, "Oh my God! Are you okay? That was horrible! I thought you would be dead!" By then the pain in my right leg was becoming very noticeable. I looked down at my lower leg and discovered it was bent about 45 degrees to the right and twisted 90 degrees. In an attempt to lighten the moment I asked, "Do ya think it's broken?" The guy said, "It's broken!" Fortunately, we did not see any blood, so at least it wasn't a compound fracture.

Soon the state police and an ambulance arrived. It was a short ride back to the hospital.

PAIN!! OMG the PAIN!! I have never felt pain like that, ever. The EMTs started me on morphine at the crash site. It was quite a challenge for them to get me on a back board, up the wet slippery hill and into the ambulance.

At the hospital I was CAT scanned and x-rayed. No internal injuries! I had a cut knee, a broken rib and a few bruises. (I later learned that I had torn the rotator cuff in my right shoulder as well.) Surgery, to straighten my leg, was scheduled for the next day.



(Here is something to think about for you solo travelers. When you crash, far from home, you are all alone. This was a very scary incident for me. I called my fiancée and she got on a plane that afternoon and was at my bedside about 02:30 AM the following morning. Diane is amazing! And I thank God she was not on the bike when I crashed.)

The Rutland Hospital orthopedic surgeon was excellent and I now have a titanium rod in my leg. I laid in the hospital for three more days waiting for the pain and swelling to go down. It didn't. Dilaudid is a very effective pain medication, but it gave me nightmares and crazy sweats. (I only used the Dilaudid till I got home to Colorado, as I did not like the side effects.)

I was discharged from the hospital on July 11th and Diane loaded me into the back seat of a small SUV to get me to Connecticut where we returned her rental car. OMG, that was a PAINFUL ride!

Now we had to make a decision. Fly home or rent an SUV and drive? I could not use a walker for more than 30' without bouts of perspiration, throbbing pain and swelling recurring in my right leg. My shoulder and rib injuries ruled out crutches. There was no way I could get on a plane, as a wheelchair was too wide for an airplane aisle. Nor could I sit for 4-5 hours in an airplane seat. We rested two more days in a hotel and decided to drive, the rationale being that I could keep my leg elevated and we could take our time as needed. The 2,000-mile drive home took us four days. My hero, Diane, did it all.

To add insult to injury, my crash had pitched me into a patch of poison sumac, which developed into a miserable rash. We had to make a trip to an urgent care center and get a prescription to fight the rash.

Lessons learned:

Lesson 1) Protective riding gear saves skin and lives. I was wearing an Arai helmet, mesh armored gloves, Olympia GT Air jacket, Air Glide pants over shorts, and heavy leather hunting boots. The helmet took a good hit to the chin-bar and temple area. No helmet = dead Charlie. Open face helmet = ugly looking Charlie. I continue to be a fan of full-face helmets.

Lesson 2) When you crash a long way from home, it's very expensive and time consuming to return home. Your bike insurance does not cover it. Next riding season I will be investing in "[MedjetAssist](#)" insurance. Progressive Insurance totaled my bike, reimbursed me for my gear and let me keep the trailer. They were very fair.

Lesson 3) Skill may not save you. I am a very experienced and skilled rider. I also teach motorcycle safety classes. I don't think there was anything I could have done to avoid the crash. It happened too suddenly. If I had seen him sooner, maybe . . . I will never know.

Lesson 4) If you ride a lot (20,000 miles per year in my case), you greatly increase your chances of an animal collision. I have had several close calls in the last few years and have been thinking in the back of my mind, "It's only a matter of time."

Lesson 5) Have disability insurance. I will miss at least 12 weeks of work. Thankfully I have excellent medical and disability insurance through my employer.

Lastly, this stupid deer didn't play by the rules! Deer are only supposed to ambush you at dawn or dusk. Consensus is that the critters were stirred up by the line of storms passing through the area that day. Hey, stupid deer, it's 2:00 PM, stay off the road! (Damn 'giant' forest rats!)

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.

Just Say No!

On a recent, bright, sunny Sunday morning, Becky and I met up with a group of riders for a morning breakfast ride. We were looking forward to meeting with a couple of our friends, and have a pleasant ride to a morning meal spot.

We were the first ones at the meet-up location, and as we waited the bikes started rolling in. The ride planner had told us to expect about 8 bikes or so. When the number went past 10, I started to take note of who was showing up. We recognized about half of them, and the other half were complete unknowns. All on sport bikes, mostly Ducatis, but that wasn't the issue. After all, I've got my Duc in the garage as well. The issue was seeing race suits with (unscuffed) knee pucks on one or two and yet other riders way less than ATGATT. Neither of these is necessary for and/or appropriate for the street. However, they do tend to suggest a type of riding mentality.



Sport bikes on the Tail of the Dragon

Photo: [Jeremy Dixon](#)

The next clue was when one of the riders jokingly commented about their recent rides, saying (and I quote), "It seems every time we go out, we get pulled over." Nevertheless, I knew who was leading the ride and figured he would hold down the speed and rein in any silly behavior. I should have known better...

Just to be cautious, I let the planner and ride leader both know that Becky and I would trail the group that morning, just to watch the riding. It turned out to be the right call. The group took off and the testosterone injection process took its inevitable hold over most of the riders.

By the time we hit the first set of real back road curves, I was watching riders set up for blind curves in the oncoming lane. I watched riders passing each other in the group. The riders were too tightly bunched (all 15 of them at this point!), and it looked inevitable that someone was going to target fixate in a corner.

The group reached the end of the first set of corners, and the ride leader waited to gather everyone up. I paused until everyone was stopped, then rode up to the ride leader, told him what was going on, wished him a safe ride and informed him that Becky and I would be dropping out of the group. Yes, she had seen the riding behavior as well and was in full agreement. We waved them goodbye and went our own separate way. We had a great ride, stopped for a nice breakfast and enjoyed the back roads going home.

It's easy to get caught up in the group riding mentality. Once you are with the group, there is a lot of peer pressure to stay with them, ride as they do, and be part of the ride. But if the group is not riding safely, or is otherwise exceeding the boundaries of prudent riding, then it's time to step up and say, "Hey, I don't want to be here." There is probably someone else who feels the same way.

Don't be a lemming. If you don't like the way the group is riding, Just Say No!

Ride Safe!

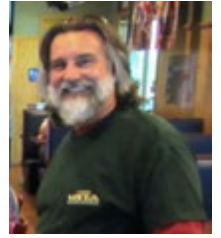
[Doug Westly](#) – Safety Editor

Florida News

South Director's Report

WHAT A MONTH TO BE MEMBER OF THE MSTA!!!

We had two wonderful lunch rides!! Yeah, the weather is getting better!! Some of you made your way out of state to enjoy the beauty of W. VA and/or AL. I hope to read about those adventures right here, real soon!! Oh, and then there was that little industry show in Orlando!!!



Van VanSteelant

Here's what Glenn Monroe had to say about the Central Lunch ride:

“Three riders braved the threatening weather to attend the MSTA Florida Central lunch at the Lake Harris Hideaway today. Ron Wipp rode his Ducati down from Alachua and Jon Selby rode his Aprilia in from Spring Hill, while I came up from Lakeland on my Triumph. It turned out to be a great day to ride. We enjoyed a long lunch and great conversation under the live oaks.”

Too bad so many stayed away from such a lovely destination! Fortunately, you all made up for it at our end of month South Lunch ride to Sebastian Beach Inn!! 22 riders, members and friends rode to the beach on a perfect day!! Though the sea breeze made dining on the beach side deck too uncomfortable, we all enjoyed the rustic dining room and the view!! And our 50/50 raffle was another hit! New friend, Eileen took her share of the \$62 pot! Adding our \$31 to our kitty brings the total to \$420.00! Thanks to all who participate!! We'll be adding the proceeds from the t-shirt sales shortly. BTW, I continue to bring them to our lunches. Make sure to get to one ASAP so you can show off your new “colors”!!



We filled nearly half the restaurant inside and even more arrived after this photo was taken

We had a local field trip planned for after lunch to add a little value to our gathering. Very few of you stopped at the [Navy UDT/SEAL Museum](#) in Ft. Pierce. Let me tell you, you missed a great experience. It is a terrific tribute to the men and women who started and continue to serve in one, if not THE, most elite fighting force in our military! Privately run, and fully national in scope, you owe it to yourself to spend the 60-90 minutes it

takes to embrace the displays. Add a little more time to walk the surrounding grounds!! WOW!!

Drum roll please... [AIMExpo](#) was TREMENDOUS!! First, THANKS to all the volunteers who positively rocked the MSTA booth!! We had show visitors all day long on both days!! We handed out hundreds of ITRs and info!! We'll keep you posted on the results of our recruiting efforts. AND, the EC and PR had a lot of success networking during the trade-only days!! We have made significant contacts with a broad spectrum of the cycle industry. From advertising to event sponsors to STAR vendors, the EC/PR even spent Sat. and Sun. pursuing leads and making great contacts. Let's just say we ALL think our participation will prove fruitful!!

As for the show, WOW!!! You had to have really hustled to take it all in in just one day! If you wanted to demo the various models at the outside venue, you would need two days! And many of you did just that, taking advantage of our reduced hotel rates!! BTW, on Sun. morning, I noticed that the Comfort Inn posted "sold out" signs on the front doors!! I went with an agenda, and between my time in the booth and canvassing the floor, I needed the two days!! Remember, they added 100,000 sq. ft. this year, and plan to add another 100,000 for next year's show!! Make your plans NOW for next year! Oct. 15-18th!! *[Some photos from AIM Expo...]*

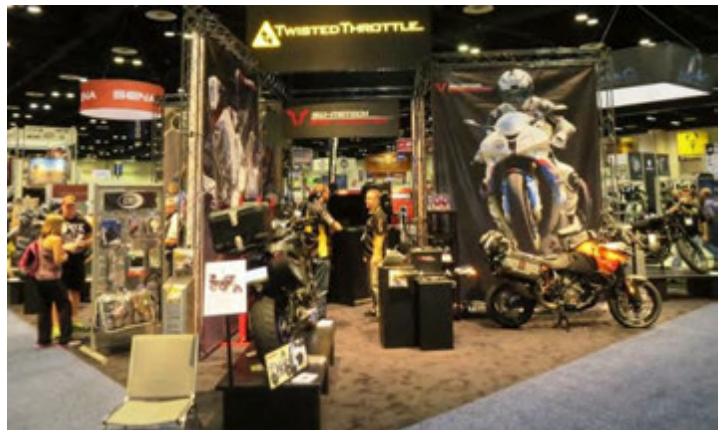


↳R: Jim Park, Ellen Kocher, Dianne Park, Dennis Villarose



Ducati promoted their new Scrambler

Photo: Don Moe



Twisted Throttle promoted various dual-sport accessories

Photo: Don Moe



Sena presented new Bluetooth communications equipment

Photo: Don Moe



Yamaha displayed the 2015 Super Ténéré

Photo: Jim Park

What's Next??

We have two great lunch rides planned for November!! First, we head to Deland!

November 8th

The Perfect Spot- Deland, FL

The Perfect spot is one of our coolest lunch ride destinations. It is located right at the Deland Airport at their world famous sky diving school. It's a sports bar/restaurant with a sky diving theme. The landing spot is right off the deck of the restaurant. Bike parking right up front.

Take a lesson...learn to jump!

[The Perfect Spot](#)

1600 Flightline Blvd
DeLand, Florida 32724
(386) 734-0088

The next weekend, we head southwest to Everglades City!!

November 15th NOTE: 11:45AM START TIME. See why below!!

Everglades Seafood Depot, Everglades City, Florida

We were here back in January, for the first time in a quite a while. And we were impressed!! This place is on the river, with open air dining, and a good mix on the menu. It's on your left, about a mile after crossing over the bridge to EC. It's next to the Captain's Table Hotel.

[Everglades Seafood Depot](#)

102 Collier Ave.
Everglades City, FL 34139
(239) 695-0075

Here are two suggestions to make this trip even better!! One, just down the road from the restaurant, there is a concession of the [Everglades National Park](#), called [Everglades National Park Boat Tours](#). They offer boat tours that last 90 minutes and are worth the price of admission!! I did this tour in the late '90s, and had a great time!! To make sure we get to the dock on time, I have moved the lunch start time up to 11:45AM. Check out the link, and make your reservations now!!

OR, second, a bit down the Tamiami Trail lies Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery! It's located about 30 miles and 30 min. east of Everglades City. If you don't want to boat ride in nature, you can take in Clyde's vision of Florida, especially the Everglades!! This artist is world famous for his photography and his innovative print techniques!! Here's the info:

[Clyde Butcher Big Cypress Gallery](#)

52388 Tamiami Trail, Ochopee, FL (mile marker 54.4)

Check out their Swamp Walks that start right behind the Gallery!

We are always looking for unique lunch spots for the next few months. As long as they can handle 10-20 riders at once, we want to hear from you!! And know this; we are looking for members to share anything that interests them with the rest of the gang!! Favorite roads traveled recently; travel photos; why your ride is the best; what your first ride was; recent training you've completed and your "a-ha" moment; best advice you've ever heard

about motorcycling; new gear purchases; new parts, farkles, accessories that everybody else should know about; promote your motorcycle biz or product that we all should know about... You get the idea, so, send your idea to me and we'll see what/where/when we can enjoy your presentation!! The more the merrier!! Don't worry about how long you need to entertain us! Two minutes or twenty, it won't matter! If we could only do this at every ride...

Membership News

BIG NEWS!! READ IT HERE FIRST!! OUR TOP STORY....

We have a new Central Florida State Co-Director!! Over the course of the AIMExpo weekend, **Teresa Vipond** stepped forward to take the helm of our central location, starting immediately!! Teresa and her husband, Tim, reside in Deland and are independent representatives for Amsoil lubricants. They were once State Directors for Texas, so she will be hitting the ground at a full sprint in her new role here in Florida. Be sure to make the next lunch ride and welcome our newest volunteer!!! Thanks Teresa!!

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:

- Mark Del Pico, Sarasota
- Paul Maerz, North Port
- Larry Snell, Rotonda West

If you know any the following riders, please let them know that their MSTTA memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

- Buck DeShazo
- Samuel Kalush
- Sean Ledingham
- Stephen Evans
- Woody Kitney
- James Pettit
- Neil Fogelberg
- Don Later
- Tom Roe

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.

Random Ramblings!

VOLUNTEERING. It's the life blood of any organization. "If nobody's doing anything, nothing's getting done!"

We had a great event at AIMExpo, and that's solely attributable to the efforts of the volunteers who stepped up and made something happen!! And don't take for granted the efforts of the leadership of the Executive Committee. Though they "work" for all of our benefit, this event required a significant extra effort on their part. The calls, organizing, funding, and travel expense are just the beginning. Dennis Villarose, Dianne and Jim Park were there from Wednesday afternoon through Sun afternoon!! And the EC would not have funded the booth without the Florida chapter volunteers!! So, the ten of you (Dorothy and Dennis Anderson, Don Moe, Steve Phillips, Ellen Kocher, Paul Heydeman, Jon Selby, Bob and Bobby Shields, and yours truly) can take a bow!!

To reacquaint yourselves with the results of your fellow member's efforts over the last few years, look up the August issue where you'll find Dianne's excellent summary of our terrific rides and events. And know that more are on the way. We are kicking around a "Just For Fun" weekend in Feb./March. And we just might be

able to pull off the MSF training class(es) before the end of the year. I'll need a volunteer(s) to help with the final planning....

Ride well! Ride often! Do it safely!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Member Comment

Dianne Park comments on AIM Expo

I know that Van did an excellent job of capturing much of the excitement as well as our efforts and success in Orlando at AIMExpo – see elsewhere in this newsletter. To add just a few additional details especially about the first two days, getting to meet the dealers and other vendors – while it was a ton of fun, surprisingly, it was physically and mentally exhausting by the end of each day! (Can't wait to do it again!)

I am not talking about setting up the booth. That was actually pretty easy – thanks to Jim Park and Kathleen Bridgewater. But case in point – Kathleen had her Pacer app running and being together basically all day, I think I can safely say that we each did at least 15,000 steps most days – and that was before walking back to the hotel after dinner – another half mile!!! Bruised feet??? I think anyone who was there Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday was talking about “bruised feet”!!!

That was a huge expo hall. 500 vendors take up a lot of space, especially with the large booths of Twisted Throttle, Schuberth, Kawasaki, Vintage motorcycles, and many more big exhibitors. Go Pro had a very clean, gorgeous looking full 18-wheel rig inside the expo center as did Tucker Rocky. And on Friday we were treated to some great AMA classes upstairs and waaay down the hall, read – lots more steps – but also fun and informative. The AMA had a really big presence at AIMExpo with a huge and wonderfully accommodating staff.

Another real treat, once the work day was over, was having the opportunity to have dinner at Café Tu Tu Tango on Friday night with Steve Nemish and his No-Mar group, Jose Iglesias with Total Parts Distributors and Sarah and all the rest of the great peeps with the Mayham Group. Also, we certainly had a nice turn out with about 15 MSTA members from around the state at the Yard House on Saturday night – an outstanding dinner along with a great selection of their 150 draft beers!

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, **November 8th**, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Where: [The Perfect Spot](#) – 1600 Flightline Blvd., Deland, FL 32724 ☎386-734-0088 ([map](#))

Description: The Perfect spot is one of our coolest lunch ride destinations. It is located right at the Deland Airport at their world famous sky diving school. It's a sports bar/restaurant with a sky diving theme. The landing spot is right off the deck of the restaurant. Bike parking right up front. Take a lesson...learn to jump!

Contact: Bob - boju29@msn.com

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat, **November 15th**, 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

Where: [Everglades Seafood Depot](#) – 102 Collier Ave., Everglades City, FL 34139 ☎239-695-0075 ([map](#))

Description: We were here back in January, for the first time in a quite a while. And we were impressed!! This place is on the river, with open air dining, and a good mix on the menu. It's on your left, about a mile after crossing over the bridge to EC. It's next to the Captain's Table Hotel.

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

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 Lunch Ride

When: Sat, **December 6th**, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

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

Description: Check the Florida MSTA [website](#) for updates.

Contact:

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat, **December 13th**, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

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

Description: Check the Florida MSTA [website](#) for updates

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

Member Profile

This month's Member Profile was submitted by new member Mark Buerger. Thanks, Mark!

Hometown/State? Bradenton, FL.

What was your first motorcycle? (Cushman Scooter) Honda CB-350.

Current motorcycles? 2008 BMW R1200GS Adventure.

What is your all-time favorite motorcycle? 2008 BMW R1200GS Adventure.

How long have you been riding? 51 years.

When did you join the MSTA? October 25, 2014.

How did you hear about the MSTA? From member Mark Del Pico.

Who or what was your biggest influence in motorcycling? Charlie Parker.

What are your favorite places to ride? North Georgia, Eastern Tennessee, Western North Carolina, Ozarks.

Describe a memorable motorcycle adventures? 1st Ride on Arkansas Hwy 7.

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

What turns you on about motorcycles or riding? Just about everything – the air (except in the heat of FL summers), the free flowing movement, the camaraderie, the sights.

What do you get out of your MSTA membership? Anticipation of meeting great riders on great rides.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of motorcycling? Mountain Biking, kayaking, Bicycling, Cribbage, Scrabble, hunting, fishing, camping, loafing, a good drink (just one when day is done) & a good cigar.

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](#).

Member Profile Questions:

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

Thank you for your participation.

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

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

National MSTA www.ridemsta.com

Florida MSTA www.flmsta.org

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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) and [this link](#) are in keeping with our safety article.

Also check out [this other webpage](#) that includes info about CB radios on motorcycles.

CLASSIFIED ADS

2008 BMW F800ST w/ABS

Blue, saddle and tank bags, heated grips, 18,300 miles.

Dropped, but gently, just a few scratches.

\$6,700.



Contact: Judy Erickson ☎813-468-0288 (MSTA 11900 RG)

To find a buyer for your unwanted motorcycle items, please send your ad and pictures by e-mail to

editor@flmsta.org