



FLMSTA Newsletter | Sept 2025

September 2025 | Volume 19 | Issue 9

Welcome to the **Florida Gator Tale Newsletter** from the Florida Chapter of the MSTA! We've updated the newsletter to make it easy to read on your phone or tablet. However, you can still download a .pdf of this newsletter and archived newsletters from the FLMSTA website [here](#). The **Florida Gator Tale** includes all the news about rides, feature articles, Florida state reports and safety information to keep you current with the Florida MSTA.



Rides

Florida Rides This Month

IMPORTANT NOTE: Always remember to check the 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. Please check the [rides calendar](#) for possible updates.

South Brunch Ride

When: **Saturday, September 6, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Location: **Old Dixie Cafe North**, 11189 SE Federal Highway,
Hobe Sound, FL (772) 245-8587 ([map](#))

Description: New-to-us destination, close for the Eastsiders, looks good!

Contact: Van, busavanflmsta@gmail.com or (561) 386-2594

East Central Breakfast Ride

When: **Saturday, September 13, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Location: **Sunnyside Cafe**, 300 Ocean Ave., **Melbourne Beach, FL**
(321) 733-5590 ([map](#))

Description: Member recommended. Delicious breakfasts & fresh-squeezed OJ. Many praise the generous portions & cleanliness! Friendly service.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

West Central Brunch Ride

When: **Saturday, September 20, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

Location: **Gloria's Restaurant**, 4816 US-17 N, **Bowling Green, FL**
(863) 375-9955 ([map](#))

Description: Eve will be your host for the last SUMMER ride for the Westsiders! We hope to have events for the October and November by the end of August...

Contact: Eve Blazsur, 6saturdaysretired@gmail.com

Future Florida Rides

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 [rides calendar](#) for possible updates.

MSTA STAR National Rally - Williamsport, PA

Saturday-Wednesday, October 4-8

Location: **Genetti Hotel**, 200 W. 4th St., **Williamsport, PA**
(570) 326-6600

Coordinator: Dennis Villarose, ipnman2002@yahoo.com

Contact: <https://ridemsta.com/star>

South Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, October 18, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **The Log Cabin**, 480 W. Hickpochee Ave., **LaBelle, FL**
(863) 675-3418 ([map](#))

Description: It's been awhile since we dined here...Still looks irresistible!! Join us, won't you?!

Contact: Van, busavanflmsta@gmail.com or (561) 386-2594

East Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, October 25, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Wild Turkey Tavern**, 2751 U.S. Hwy 27 S., **Avon Park, FL**
(863) 452-5284 ([map](#))

Description: New-to-us! This place looks fantastic with camo outside and dark wood, redneck-country vibe inside. Great food & service. Paved parking.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

West Central Brunch Ride

When: **TBD**

Location: **TBD**

For additional Florida events and information, to see the Florida MSTA website's Events page.

The Florida MSTA chapter also has a presence on Facebook with upcoming events and past photos:

Feature Article

Sorry, there's no Feature Article this month because we've run out of repeatable resources. If you'd like to see new feature articles, crack those knuckles and play those keyboards and send along anything you'd like to share. You know what you like to read about, and we know a lot of you have decades of experiences that would make for great reading!! Kim will gladly work with you to coordinate photos, placement and content editing. We don't grade here!!

Editor's Request: you have ridden somewhere interesting at any time and would like to share your experiences and some photos from your journey with other riders, please contact editor@flmsta.org to publish an article. Thanks!]

Safety Talk

Head and Eyes by Doug Westly

IMPORTANT NOTICES: 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.

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the September 2022 edition of the FLMSTA Gator Tale.]

This month's article is all about technique. Something as simple, or maybe not so, as how you use your head and eyes.

Everyone has heard the phrase "You go where you look". Why does it happen? There is a bio-mechanical term called "body indexing". Simply explained, your head is attached to the rest of you, so when you turn your head, the body naturally orients in that direction. Since you are attached to the bike at the handlebars, butt and feet, so goes the motorcycle. Your eyes further refine this by giving you a visual target at which to aim your body and bike. That's why we tell riders to look through the curve; look away from the obstacle to a clear path, etc. If you look at the dead skunk in the road, you're probably going to hit it...and spend a lot of time cleaning afterwards, both the bike and yourself.

The head and eyes do a few other things for us in terms of riding. One of the main contributions is to our balance, particularly at slow speed. Have you ever seen someone wobble to a stop or when they start off? The next time you see it, look at their head and eyes. Chances are they are looking down. Your balance is controlled by your inner ear, collectively called the vestibular system in terms of balance. Without going into a lot of medical detail, suffice it to say that in order to keep our balance, we use our eyes and head to orient ourselves relative to the horizon, or perpendicular to the ground. If you wonder why you are wobbling when you stop, check your head and eyes position. Keeping them up and on the horizon, and letting your peripheral vision control your stopping point, will smooth out your stops. The same thing for your starts. Don't bother looking at the bike as you ease out the clutch. Keep your head and eyes up, and it will help your balance. It becomes even more critical in slow tight turns, like U-turns in parking lots. Yes, you need to turn your head and eyes to see around that tight turn. However, you also need to keep your head and eyes up and level while you complete the turn.

Some more thoughts about head and eyes. Experts tell us our central vision extends to only about 3 degrees off center. Everything outside of that is peripheral vision. We think it is a lot wider than that, because we routinely move our head and eyes in search of visual information. While peripheral vision is a good thing, we need to constantly keep our eyes moving, using our central vision to gather visual data to keep ourselves safe.

Don't get complacent with your head and eyes. Keep looking around. MSF suggests using a system for gathering visual information. Think "Road surface - Traffic devices - Other Traffic" and use these as categories to visually search for clues and information to keep you safe as you ride.

Your head and eyes are one of the keys to safe, smooth riding. They are also critical in keeping you safe as you enjoy our amazing sport!

Ride safe! – Doug Westly

Florida News

Florida News

Here we go!! The "unofficial" end to summer...some place?!? One month until STAR... Get your motor running!!

Reminder... We have **THREE RIDES EACH MONTH** scheduled through to September. After that, **WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR WEST AREA AND NORTH AREA REP(S) FOR REST OF 2025 AND BEYOND.** Contact Van for details. We can

entertain a flexible schedule(ing) where 1-4 different members could organize events throughout the year.

THIS IS YOUR CLUB, MAKE IT INTO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE!!

And you've likely noticed we do not have a feature article this month. Look for a big wrap up article about STAR in the November Gator Tale. That's not a misprint. We will be away most of September, and will not put a newsletter out for October.

Also, be sure to catch Tom's breakfast ride report below. And Eve hosted the West Central Brunch Event at the Mike's Grill on August 9th! Four rode in to join Eve, and managed to enjoy brunch AND get home before the downpours! Look for more West Central rides hosted by Eve or Bob this summer!! A **BIG** thanks to them for hosting this summer's brunch rides out West!!

We had a pleasant surprise for the South Brunch Ride on August 16th. Thirteen(!) riders made their way to Eggshells Kitchen in Okeechobee!! The staff was very accommodating, as we took up more space than the 8 places they had prepared for us. (see photo) We enjoyed terrific food and service, and lots of gab!! Summer travel plans, MotoGP results, and of course, STAR! Larry D. was also thrilled with the results of the 50/50 raffle! He donated \$10 back from the winner's purse of \$30. So, adding \$40 brings our sum to \$1,243.00 A **BIG THANKS** to all who participate!!

NOW HEAR THIS!! Eve has a stash of new MSTA Tri-Fold

hats! And now in TWO color options!! See the details under FLMSTA Apparel below. These are the last ones until we find another manufacturer.

If any FLMSTA member wants one, Eve Blazsur will have a supply of hats at the West Breakfast Ride on September 20th in Bowling Green. Price is still \$20 each (cash).

Last, but not least, to all of you who take the time to send your comments and suggestions to me/us!! They are most welcome!! Remember, this is YOUR club, and to make it better often lies with the membership rather than the leadership. I thank you all for your support!!

What's Next?

On September 6th, join Van for the South Brunch Ride to Old Dixie Cafe North in Hobe Sound! Be sure to join Tom on September 13th as he hosts the East Central Breakfast ride to the Sunnyside Cafe in Melbourne Beach! And the following week, on September 20th, Eve will host the West Central Brunch at Gloria's Restaurant in Bowling Green!

We have inserted an email response "button" to our announcements to assist our coordinators with the reservation headcount. Click on the green "button", then hit the send arrow. The pre-loaded email will be on its way!! Easy peasey!!

Membership News!!

If you are receiving the *Gator Tale*, but not my announcements, **PLEASE** email me ASAP to correct my files. I believe I'm up to date...

Pat Mogavero is officially our new MSTA Membership Director! We will be adapting to the new presentation of monthly data over the next few months. We may have a periodic "catch up" month announcing new members and who are about to expire. patrickmogavero@gmail.com. Contact him directly with any membership issues.

FLMSTA added a new member this month - Rick Hahn of Vero Beach - Welcome!

These Florida memberships will or have recently expired:

- **Thomas Kusen**

We urge all our members to renew their memberships and continue supporting their MSTA. If you have a question about when your membership expires, please contact the **NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM** at <https://ridemsta.com/membership-account/membership-levels/> or simply visit the **MSTA Website** at www.ridemsta.com and **LOG IN** and then click on **MEMBERSHIP**.

When you encounter a rider who would seem to be a good fit as a new MSTA member, please direct them to the **MSTA Website** at www.ridemsta.com. For each new member you recruit and who provides your name and/or membership number on the application, you will receive a coupon for a **raffle ticket for the motorcycle touring package drawing at our next STAR event**. Any new or current member who joins or renews as a Sustaining Member will likewise receive a coupon for a raffle ticket for each year of the new membership term.

Random Ramblings

You've registered for STAR '25 by now, right?? I am!! And I have my hotel reservations!

Keep on coming out to enjoy all the rides we have planned this year and bring a friend!

Please send your recommendations to any of the ride coordinators.

Hoping you're living the life you love, and loving the life you live...

When you can...

Join one of our monthly rides!!

And invite a friend to ride along!!

Ride well! Ride often!! Do it safely!!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Director

Le Crepe de France-
Downtown,
Melbourne

Tom Blake

La Crepe de France - Downtown in old Melbourne was our August 2nd breakfast spot. We had a nice gathering of eight riders although the Sun City contingent drove. Thanks to Mike and Eve for coming all the way over. Eve's ulterior motive was to sell a few MSTa caps – which she did. The extra effort and expense were appreciated, Eve (she stayed in a hotel Friday night). Larry and Joy were just back from their summer vacation in Colorado. Sounds like they had a grand time.

A lot of talk centered around using the Auto Train up to STAR in Williamsport, PA and back in October. Both Larry's have experience – Larry F more recently and both were able to offer some good guidance. Larry F is planning to do the Barber Vintage Festival in Alabama with his brother Charlie during the same timeframe this year. Mike, Bill and Andy were at the other end of the table, and I didn't catch much of their chatter as the dining room was a tad noisy.

The crepes, of course, were delicious as always.

Up next: Member recommended *Sunnyside Café*, 300 Ocean Ave (A1A) in Melbourne Beach is our September 13th breakfast site. This will be the last breakfast for the year and then we'll return to lunch rides in October after STAR.

Safe journeys, *Tom*

Florida MSTA Apparel



Florida MSTA Apparel

As a reminder, our Florida State Storefront is open online for your MSTA-branded apparel! Go to mstaflorida.qbstores.com.

We have made arrangements with the supplier for our National Gearbox to allow our State membership to buy shirts, hats, etc. with our State logos directly from the source!!! No muss, no fuss!! Order yours today!! They

offer both embroidery and digital print options. Click onto the Embroidered Apparel or Shop By Logo for each option. Don't hesitate to contact Queensboro directly with any and all questions. They are very customer friendly. They also offer Polo shirts and T-shirts with pockets!!

MSTA Trifold Hats

MSTA has made MSTa trifold hats available again. We now have 2 colors from which to choose. If any FLMSTA member wants one, Eve Blazsur will have a supply of hats at the West Breakfast Ride on August 20th in Bartow. Price is still \$20 each (cash).

Classified Ads

2024 Yamaha Tracer 9 GT + For Sale - \$13,000

Contact: Stephen Evans at sl.evans@comcast.net

Current mileage: only 6,000 miles

Over \$3,000 of after-market items, not to mention a ton of OEM items/electronics:

Garmin Zumo XT GPS in a lockable GPS mount w/ a Ram locking knob (bike also has its own OEM GPS)

SW-Motech Crash Bars (27 mm)

2 sets of Clearwater "Darla" lights w/ extra amber lenses

2 Tank Bags - (1) SW-Motech Day Pro Tank Bag & (2) a SW-Motech Trail Tank Bag & both use the same lockable mount

SW-Motech Kickstand Extension Foot

Lic Plate Frame w/ Brake & Turn Signal Lights

Piaa Slim Line 500 HK Sports Horn

Radiator Guard - Universal Hwy Pegs

Heated Grips

Quick Shifter & Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC)

Battery Tender Hook up

Chain Adjustment Wrenches

Nelson-Rigg Cover

2 Keys & Owner's Manual

2019 KTM Super Duke GT For Sale - \$10,500

Contact: Tom Blake at 321-794-6147 or
email tblake1@cfl.rr.com

Current mileage: ~18.3K
(Approx 3,600/yr.)

Well cared for and
maintained

New Michelin Pilot Road 6's
at 15,869 miles

Battery replaced April 2022,
maintained with Battery
Tender

To find a buyer for your motorcycle items, please send your ad and pictures by email to editor@flmsta.org. Don't trash it, recycle it! One man's trash is another man's treasure!

Contact Information

These MSTA websites have extensive event information:

National MSTA: RideMSTA.com

SE Regional MSTA: MSTA-SE.com

Florida MSTA: FLMSTA.org

We're also on **Facebook:** facebook.com/FLMSTA/

More contact information:

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