



# The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the  
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 12 Issue 8

## Events August 2019

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### Contact Information:

#### **South Florida Director:**

Van VanSteelant – [busavan@flmsta.org](mailto:busavan@flmsta.org)

#### **Central Florida Director:**

Tom Blake – [tblake1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblake1@cfl.rr.com)

#### **Safety Editor:**

Doug Westly – [flwingrdr@msn.com](mailto:flwingrdr@msn.com)

#### **Florida Gator Tale Editor:**

Don Moe – [editor@flmsta.org](mailto:editor@flmsta.org)

## Feature Article

### STAR 2019

## An adventure in our “back yard”...

By “Van” VanSteelant  
FL State Co-Director

*[Readers, I attempted to include many appropriate photos from the STAR collection on the National website. Space and editing may have left several options on the “cutting room floor”. You ought to check out all of the photos on the STAR 2019 site, even if you didn’t attend. In fact, if that’s “you”, it’s even more important to browse the collection. No better way to sense the fun and frolic that we have while you are hanging around the house... 😊. Click on photos for high-res versions.]*

The eastern STAR landed in Bristol, VA this year. You might know the “better” half in TN for the NASCAR track! Either way, we were



[Bristol Race Track](#)

located in the midst of great roads within five to ten minutes of the host hotel. Up front, know this. I came focused on riding the roads. I did not take in any of the “sights”. Fortunately, dining options in the hotel and/or a short walk out the front door worked out fine for my riding ambitions and evening obligations. And the bar had plenty of local lager on tap once the bike was parked and covered!

As in the past, my plans leading up to my departure went through several revisions. After considering driving up with the bike in a pickup bed, the logistics included visiting friends going up and returning home put me on the Hayabusa for the roundtrip. Though most of the miles were interstate or multi-lane, I found enough 2-lane fun to put a smile on my face by day’s end. Thursday afternoon, leaving from work in Stuart, FL, the first stop was to overnight in Kingsland, GA. Exit 3, just inside the GA border, you’ll find 10+ lodging choices and nearly that many dining options. This location is ideal for launching your next day’s ride. Going north, you can

easily make your way into North Carolina. Or, heading south, an early start had me home in South Florida by 11:45 AM ahead of the worst heat!

The first real day of riding turned “funner” the closer I got to my friend’s house in Pittsboro, NC. Once off of I-95 and eventually onto a 2-lane rolling bliss over hill and dale, I parked and joined them for a backyard cookout. Phil and Boots were terrific hosts, even knowing that I’d return again the next weekend on my way back home! The roads leading to their secluded abode are what you’d expect in rural NC – curvy and hilly and nothing like South Florida!! Even the last 1.1 miles of gravel road leading to their driveway added something special to the end of my day-long 430-mile ride!

Saturday, away we go!! I’ve got places to be and people to meet... My way west to Bristol found me on every manner of road. Eventually picking up NC-421 mid-state, I kept day dreaming of the last 11 serpentine miles of nirvana just south of the hotel.

I was introduced to the Snake Road back in 2011 when STAR was based in Johnson City, TN. That day’s ride was epic for me for many reasons. This was to be my first



opportunity to relive those memories. As my ride west progressed, so did the cloud cover. I was overdue for a break and gas stop, and randomly pulled into a corner station with a large “quickie-mart” attached. After gassing up and parking, the clouds decided to lighten their load of moisture. Upon my arrival, I had noticed a few other riders who matched our Club’s “description” (ATGATT!). Who else... Past-Prez. and current Just-For-Fun organizer, Brick, and three other riders decided to stop and revive in Mountain City in preparation of riding the Snake into Bristol! After waiting out the worst of the downpour, we donned our rain gear and “enjoyed” the only encounter I had with rain in three days!



A surprising number of members arrived on Saturday, making for lots of hugs and greetings! It also allowed many to take care of early registration and wander out to the Honda Demo truck. And a good thing, too! My roommate for the rally, Bob Shields and I



took care of Honda's legal obligations and caught up with fellow Florida member, Becky DeShazo-Westly. She had the pleasure of corralling all the MSTA "cats" for the next four days of demo rides! Hubby Doug was off playing in the dirt someplace... in an official capacity for Honda! Those two have performed yeoman duty for Honda over the last several years. We ALL thank them for the efforts and their ability to convince the head office to support our rally. Remember, just weeks before Bristol, they were at Americade with 40,000+ attendees!!

Following up with Becky a few weeks later, she confirmed that Honda's commitment to our rally netted them nearly 300 demo rides and plenty of feedback from the riders. Bob and I were good for four of them! For our last demo, we rode the Goldwing Tour and Goldwing. Clicking the ride mode into SPORT totally changes the bike. We had a blast! The engine sound, the suspension and DCT all behave differently, in unison. A while back, I rented an ST 1300 for several days. The new Wing in SPORT will let you forget all about that long-ago bike. And when you hit the interstate, click TOUR and glide to your next destination. It's a very good bike!



Sunday, we rode!! Big grins! Some GPS issues, as usual. Solution... just keep riding! The reward for our perseverance was a dry run up the length of the Snake that was soaking wet the day before - a proper road-welcoming to STAR. The actual Welcoming Ceremony that evening went very well! The local Deputy was well practiced with his remarks and appropriate warnings. The event dealer was warmly welcomed. The hors d'oeuvres were devoured!! And the hotel bar and restaurant was a very popular destination for the rest of the night!!



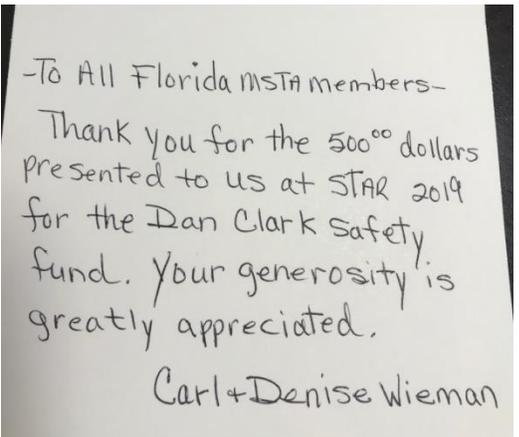
Monday, we rode!! It was an epic route, including the “back of the Dragon”. Well, it was for some of us. Sixty miles into the middle of nowhere, following a refreshment break, my ‘busa went dark. No click-click. No dash. Nada! Remember that warm welcome the event dealership received last night? Out came the phones, GPS pins and texts. Atlas Honda/Yamaha Motorcycle Dealership on Lee Hwy. in Bristol, VA sent their man LT out with a truck and trailer to haul my butt and bike back to the dealership. As soon as I signed the service request, my bike was apart and they smartly started with the simplest possible trouble. Yup, the battery had shorted internally. Powered up a new one. Checked that the charging system was functioning properly. Buttoned myself up and paid my bill. When they noticed I had 110,000+ miles on the odometer, I got another round of handshakes!! Ah, this is why our rally always needs to sign up an event dealer! I was back at the hotel in time for beer-thirty!

Monday night hosts the annual Members Meeting. Thankfully, most of the rally attendees packed the room each year. The level of interest shown by the general membership is to be commended. The highlights included: a brief Treasurer’s report, complete with good news about the financial stability of the Club; a brief Membership report by Pat M. indicated that our general make-up and numbers were holding steady. Several members were recognized for their recruiting efforts - Tom Blake among them!

Two additional highlights involved Tom and yours truly. First, we were awarded “State Directors of the Year” by the EC. Something about our continued efforts to enhance the Florida Chapter experience... All kidding aside, we were surprised and honored. Dennis pointed out our monthly events, the awards for the Newsletter and Website, and the Just-For-Fun events that draw out-of-state members every year. Tom made sure to acknowledge the efforts and support of all the Florida members from the podium. As I do every Thanksgiving, I thank ALL the behind-the-scenes volunteers who play a huge part in making the Florida Chapter an example to follow. Tom and I enjoy our leadership roles and freely share the spot light with all of you.



Which brings us to the best moment for the Florida membership! Once again, we were able to share our good fortune with the Club at large. Due to the continued support



of our voluntary 50/50 raffles, we collected a surplus that the membership agreed to donate to three entities. The first was the MSTA Dan Clark Safety Program. We presented our \$500 contribution to Carl and Denise Wieman. A BIG thank you to all who participated during our brunch/lunch rides!!

Tuesday, we rode!! This time, we made haste to the MSTA Lunch Ride. Bob and I took the short/fast route to the [Warriors Path State Park Pavilion](#). Though the scenic interstate made it simple to get there, we followed the GPS through one neighborhood after another until we entered the park from the opposite direction from where the photographers were prepared to take lunch ride photos! The poor guy came running so he could include us in the montage of lunch photos.



The Planning Team picked a great place to hold the event. The pavilion was huge and had a proper catering counter/prep area. The food was fresh and delicious! And, the Park itself offered everything from a golf course to boating and hiking.



After lunch, we chose the “long” return route back to the hotel. Wow, what a great combination of roads! No gravel, and nothing wider than two lanes. Canopied stretches and ridge line views into the next county. Horses, cows and squirrels - nearly three hours riding bliss! We liked it so much, we decided to ride it again on Wednesday...

The Tuesday Seminars happened after dinner. I made it to the middle one, put on by Honda. Chief marketing big-wig Jim delighted us with a colorful and informative presentation covering the past 60 years of the Honda Motor Company. No matter how well versed you think you are about all things Honda, you’d learn something new from this slide show! Afterward, as Jim bravely did in Vermont, he opened the floor to the SRO crowd. And he began to fill his laptop with questions, requests, demands, complaints and atta-boys! Fast fingers on that guy. I even squeezed in my comment about the Goldwing in SPORT. I suspect the disbelieving former ST owners hadn’t actually demo’d the Wing.... 😊

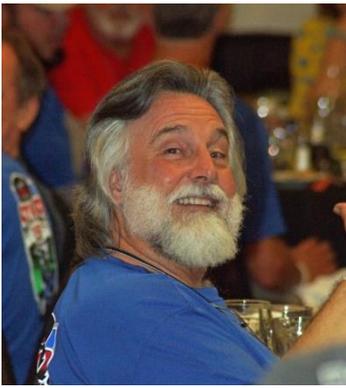
Wednesday, we rode!! In fact, Bob and I decided to relive the Lunch ride route. We chose the “long” way there, and repeated the “long” route home. We had heard the former route had a few disappointing sections. True that. Fact is, without the nearly continuous GPS prompts, you’d never have made it to the park. Sometimes, one can over-complicate a route in the effort to make it “interesting”. One section had us on a one-lane road for miles. How fortunate that the only vehicle we encountered used the only pullout available for several miles. A courtesy wave to that UPS driver! Ah, but the ride back from the Park was our reward.

“All good things come to an end...” And so we headed out for the group photo and into the banquet! Herding 300+ bikers into a collective is always entertaining! Mission accomplished, we headed in for the Closing Banquet. We had enough Florida members in attendance to take up two tables and more!



# 2019 STAR BRISTOL, VIRGINIA





The sit-down dinner service was passable. I can vouch for how delicious the vegetarian entree was. Hint, hint to you all... The evening played out without a snag. Awards, plaques and prizes were presented and given.

Best of all, Wayne Keesee from Travelers Rest, SC, the winner of the Goldwing was in the house!!!

Some of us lamented the lack of a guest speaker this year, as Long Haul Paul was such a big hit

last year. Believe me, lining up somebody you'd like to listen to is a monumental task. Especially with our "budget".



You ought to know by now that former Florida member and all around good guy, Dennis Villarose, has retired from President to Member as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. His swan song in Bristol went very nicely. Dennis took over the helm under less than ideal circumstances and hit the road running. The Club has settled into a nice place under his leadership and the vast assistance of the Executive Committee. Many members on the EC have served together for several years now, which led significantly to the renewed stability of the Club. Despite a few "body blows" over the past five years, cooler heads prevailed and DETERMINED PERSEVERANCE won the day. We thank you Dennis!!



You ought to know by now that former VP, Pat Mogavero, has taken up the Presidency. Having worked side by side with Dennis since the sudden passing of Ann Redner, Pat is perfectly prepared to keep the wheels rolling. Enthusiastic best describes our new "fearless leader"! I expect good things... Moving into the VP chair is Norm Kern. I think the only MSTAs activity Norm hasn't performed is that of EC member! You've read his words in the STARReview for years. He is a relentless and successful promoter of the Mailpouch Flyby Week.

And I hear, he can mind-meld with any GPS unit... Welcome to both!!

So, the party was over. It was Thursday. I rode!! See, as my plans came together for STAR - on the way back I included a long lunch with a dear high school friend living in Charlotte. This was to be the fewest miles between us since 1975. The catch was, we'd have to meet on Friday. So, I just had to stick around and ride a few more roads before heading to Charlotte for lunch and then Pittsboro for dinner and bed. Somebody had to do it! As the parking lot emptied, I said my farewells and took off for another round of clear sky riding on some



terrific roads. True to form, the planned route led me to a “bridge out” road closure. I just hit “recalculate” and added a few more miles and smiles to the day. Did I mention that another run up the Snake was on tap?? Returning in time for a late lunch and some domestic chores before my departure the next day, I was stuck by the “loneliness” of the day after...



Friday, and I am outta here! A pre-dawn departure has me in Charlotte by 11:00 AM and catching up Lorraine and Ed. 44 years is a long time between face-to-face events. Oddly, it didn't take very long to “catch up” and then properly delve into the near past and current future! By 2:30 PM, we all had someplace else to be. Hugs and promises, and off we went. The ride to Pittsboro once again turned “funner” the closer I got to Phil's driveway! After scrubbing a day's worth of road grime off in the shower, the three of us headed to an unexpected delight! Though they live 15+miles from the center of little Pittsboro, “sorta out there”, within 7

minutes of their house, several daring entrepreneurs have set up eateries and a tap house that hit way above their weight class!! Just a brilliant night of fine food and Belgian beer!!

After hearing about STAR and checking out the National website, Phil signed up. He's connected to a few other riding groups, so I hope they all eventually link up and add to the NC chapter's numbers! It's Saturday, and I was on the road again. You know how this turns out. Two-lane hill and dale faded to four lanes to interstate. Riding most of I-95 through SC, I witnessed the inexcusable result of a "road user" traveling 10 mph under the posted limit. Picture this, if you will... I-95 was two lanes in each direction. 30% of the traffic was semi-trailers, all on a time clock. Because of this one driver, essentially I-95 became one lane southbound. I know this for certain because I passed them 15 miles north of the GA border, and NONE of the prior 125 miles of traffic issues existed ahead of them. Truck after truck were determined to get 500 feet ahead of the other. That only took two miles for each pass, at 65 mph, if they were on level ground.... OMG!

Kingsland was a very welcomed sight. Gassed up for tomorrow's ride. Checked in. Grubbed up at Cracker Barrel. Hit the pillow early and I was the second body into the breakfast room on Sunday. I watched the sun rise while flying south through north Florida. The only two patrol cars I saw over 11 days of riding were idling north of Jacksonville and south of St. Augustine. As I approached Stuart, it sunk in just how densely populated the coast of South Florida really is. It was Sunday, 10:45 AM, and all five lanes south of Indiantown Rd. were filled with traffic. Fortunately, nobody was driving 10 under the limit!! And the 'busa knew the rest of the way home.

### Florida Attendees Group Photo

I believe the following list FL members who were at STAR is complete. The ones at the end departed early, and are not in the FL group shot. In no particular order, first names/nicknames only:

Don M. Ray H. Bob S. Don M. Don W. Bill R. Nicole R. Steve P. "BMW" Joe Stephen E. Dan I. Dale H. Jim P. Dianne P. Van Eve B. Dennis A. Dorothy A. Ellen K. Fred C. Becky D.W. Larry T. and wife Dennis M. Tom B. MIA: Buck J. Prior P. Steve A. James S. Laura G.



## **SAFETY TALK**

**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.*

*Due to his busy schedule with Honda, Doug Westly has decided to discontinue his safety columns in our Florida MSTA Newsletter as well as in STARreview. We sincerely thank Doug for his many years of excellent articles. Until another rider steps forward to volunteer to prepare new safety-related articles, we will republish Doug's previous articles, with his permission.*

### **What Fails First on a Motorcycle?**

[Ed: This article previously appeared in the April 2012 edition of The Florida MSTA Grapevine.]

Modern motorcycles are a wonder of technology. Just in last month's issue we talked about ABS, traction control, etc. There are GPS systems that incorporate XM Radio and real-time weather radar displays. There is probably an on-board cappuccino machine on some bike, somewhere. But even with all this, bikes still occasionally breakdown or have some other malfunction that causes a crash. So what are these and how likely is that you'll be involved in a riding malfunction that results in a crash?

Well, if we approach it from an inspection perspective, we can break it down pretty readily. Tires are always the first culprit. How often do you check your air pressure? Just a couple of pounds difference causes increased tire wear, can impact traction, lower tire life, etc. Brake pads should be inspected regularly, and brake fluid changed at least yearly. Suspension components don't fail very often, but fork seals can leak. When was the last time you checked your forks?

Electrical or electronic malfunctions aren't too common, but modern motorcycles are pretty complex and with complexity comes a possible increased chance of failure.

Final drives are always suspect. Shaft and belt drives are generally reliable, and chains take a little more work, but with a little maintenance these systems tend to stay in shape and dependable.

So we haven't really narrowed it down yet, have we? What tends to fail first on a motorcycle?

Wheels are almost bulletproof, and a well-maintained engine nowadays will run well past 100,000 miles and more.

Occasionally a manufacturer will goof in the build process and let a defect slip through the line. Most of the times these are caught through recall actions.

After all this, have you figured it out yet? There is one essential part of the motorcycle that we haven't addressed. There is one part of the motorcycle that usually fails before any other, leading to that unintended outcome of the bike on its side, with its tongue hanging out.

What usually fails first on a motorcycle? The answer is pretty simple: *It is the NUT that connects the handlebar grips to the seat!* More often than not, it is rider error that becomes the primary factor in a crash.

Don't be the failure point. Ride smart. Focus on your riding, and your preparation for riding. Ride right and ride safe!

**Ride Safe!**

*Doug Westly – Safety Editor*

See our [Mystery Hyperlink](#) for further information on this topic.

## Florida News

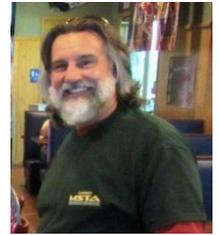
### South Director's Report

#### Hot times, summer in the city...

The late Johnny Carson: "It's so hot..."

Audience: "How hot is it??"

JC: "It's so hot, the media won't stop talking about how hot it is in the summertime..." (my words, not his 😊)



Van VanSteelant

Well, our Brunch-time rides seem to be what the membership likes about the summer here in Florida!! Tom's report below highlights the Central Ride. And how about his STAR article in last month's Gator Tale!!

The South Ride was also to a new-to-us location. 17 riders met up at Dimitri's Family Kitchen, and were welcomed with open arms!! They had everything prepared, and our server, Jackie, was a wizard at keeping us all happy! Everybody commented that we ought to keep this place in rotation!! (Jackie did get a heads up from Roger Spice earlier in the week when he was there for lunch with his Friday riding group!!)

Over half of the attendees rode more than 100 miles to join in the fun. After a long absence, David Summer reappeared with Bob Shields. Steve Balistreri, newly recruited by Eve, made his first event. The Honda crew had a rare weekend home in Florida... Within a few days of Saturday, Doug goes northeast and Becky out west!!

Then there's the "Orlando" duo! Carl and Alan joined Tom for the Central RTE, and a week later, rode to Sebring for the South RTE!! Carl shared a story I can fully relate to. He celebrated a birthday recently, and his family surprised him with the gift of a tandem skydiving adventure in DeLand. The Central riders know this place well from the numerous lunch rides held there. Well, Carl was still smiling ear to ear at lunch, retelling the thrill of leaving a perfectly good airplane for a 120mph free fall!! If you haven't jumped before, I can also recommend it!!

Our 50/50 raffle was once again well supported. I want to thank all of you who continue to contribute to our fund. Mike Engestrom won \$38.00!! (*I will send out the new total in a separate email after sending the other two donations to the organizations helping our Vets with PTSD.*)

AND, the FLORIDA membership received a very nice THANK YOU from Carl and Denise, who manage the Dan Clark Safety Program for the MSTA. You can see Tom and I with Carl and Denise in photo #494 in the STAR 2019 Photo collection on the National Site. Our Chapter's contribution was very much appreciated.

#### What's Next??

How about two more BRUNCH rides?!? The Central ride heads to the [Koffee Kup](#), in St. Cloud! It has a great reputation with other riders and many locals. Put August 10<sup>th</sup> in your calendar!! Check our website for detailed instructions about the location and parking. [www.flmsta.org](http://www.flmsta.org)

The South ride repeats our adventure from last year!! First, we dine on SUNDAY!!! Still 9:30. On August 18<sup>th</sup> we return to [Shuckers](#) on Hutchinson Island in Jensen Beach. They put out a wonderful spread, including made-to-order-omelets! Join us ocean front for something a little different.

## 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...

My heartfelt THANKS to Don Moe for his efforts EVERY month to bring our Florida membership up to date with all the news about our new and renewing members!!

## Here's what we know today...

We thank this Florida member for renewing his membership in July:

Ed Palmer

This Florida membership will expire soon:

Ellen Kocher

We urge all our members to renew their memberships and to continue supporting their MSTA. If you have a question about when your membership expires, please contact the membership committee at [membership@ridemsta.com](mailto:membership@ridemsta.com). Renewing or joining can be quickly and securely done online at [PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew) or [PlanetReg.com/MSTAjoin](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTAjoin) respectively. If you use a pre-printed form from STARreview or an ITR, be sure to mail it to Beth Hemstreet, 5560 Stone Church Court, Loveland, CO 80537, and not to the address of a prior membership director.

If you only want to update your phone, email, bikes, or other details, you can do so quickly via [PlanetReg.com/MSTAupdate](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTAupdate). Please include enough unchanging information to assure the correct member is updated in the database.

When you encounter a rider who would seem to be a good fit as a new MSTA member, please pass along one of our Invitation-To-Ride quad-folds! 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 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!

The Central members finally get to enjoy a Brunch ride!!

The riding at STAR was terrific!!

Thank you all for your continued support of our Chapter!!

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

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

## Central Director's Report - June 2019

**Camelot:** We know this word from legend as the realm of mythical King Arthur and his round table. It also is a word connoting glittering romance and optimism. Jacqueline Kennedy used the term “Camelot” to describe her deceased husband’s presidency, at least in part because he enjoyed listening to the musical of the same name. The closing song contained this lyric - “*Don’t let it be forgot, that once there was a spot, for one brief, shining moment that was known as Camelot. There’ll be great presidents again ... but there will never be another Camelot.*”



Tom Blake

Well, not being a town native, it’s hard to associate the *Camelot* in Oak Hill’s **Camelot Country Restaurant** with the aura of charisma associated with the *Camelot* of King Arthur and Kennedy. The restaurant, after all, is a rather small, undistinguished looking place situated at the Oak Hill Flea Market, of all places. The sign looks more like an afterthought compared to the much larger FLEA MARKET sign above it. In any case, hardly



*Camelot* evoking. So, I had to ask – how is it that this place became known as the *Camelot* Country Restaurant?

The short answer, from a regular sitting at a nearby booth, was that the owner had a restaurant of the same name in Pennsylvania before he moved to Oak Hill. OK, then, what was the inspiration for **that** restaurant? The owner wasn’t there to ask so there’ll be no resolution of the mystery for now.

However, I googled “Camelot Country Restaurant in PA”. The only exact hit was a restaurant in the central PA town of Reedsville. Reedsville had a population of 641 in the 2010 census – mostly Amish. One of the two restaurant reviews read “*This restaurant is CLOSED (meaning no longer in business – tb). We can be grateful. The food was lousy and who wants to smell the restroom deodorizer when walking past the counter.*” Knowing the Pennsylvania Dutch as I do, it’s possible that *Camelot Country* was just a little inside joke knowing that the reality was quite different.

One unusual menu item at the Oak Hill restaurant was scrapple - an ethnic food of the Pennsylvania Dutch, including the Mennonites and Amish. It is traditionally a mush of pork scraps and trimmings combined with cornmeal and flour, often wheat or buckwheat, and spices. The mush is formed into a semi-solid congealed loaf, and slices are then pan-fried before serving. Scraps of meat left over from butchering, not used or sold elsewhere, were made into scrapple to avoid waste.

I ordered one serving so we could all have a taste. There were two slices approximately 4" x 2" x 3/8" thick. There wasn't much body to them. I cut the two patties into about 12 bites. They fell apart just trying to fork them onto our plates. And there wasn't much taste – very bland. But the price was steep - \$3.99! The waitress explained that it was hard to find scrapple in Florida. Rose told me they fell apart because not enough meal or flour was used. I think they also should have been fried longer.

Well, I cannot say for sure that the Oak Hill restaurant and the one in Reedsville had the same owner. Food at Oak Hill was good. Portion sizes were adequate but not plentiful (actually a good thing). The furniture was plain and a little dated but the place was clean. The wait staff were friendly and accommodating. Prices were reasonable – except for the scrapple. No aromas were emanating from the restrooms. They cater to regular town folks and flea market shoppers and were doing a good business.

About our riders... most reported very enjoyable rides getting there. Two rode up from Bartow – easily the LD riders of the day. We were glad they did. Diana, it seems, has rented a dirt bike and is going to be taking riding lessons on it up in the Carolinas soon. Another rider recently celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday - his kids came from far and wide and bought him a sky dive flight. Way to go, Carl. Happy Birthday! But he's not the oldest – two of us are actually older. As you can imagine, we all had a good time eating and talking. And that's just the way it should be.



Next month, how about a nice early morning ride to the family owned **Koffee Kup** in downtown St. Cloud? They're located on the south side of US-192 under the water tower. Access parking from the side street to the west. They stay busy. They know we're coming and the manager is adept at getting groups seated promptly. I suggest getting there a little early to facilitate the process. Really good food reasonably priced. Details below and on-line.

Safe Journeys,

*Tom Blake*

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

### Central Florida July Brunch Ride

Sat., August 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

[Koffee Kup](#) ([map](#))

1407 13<sup>th</sup> St

St. Cloud, FL 34769

### Florida MSTA Apparel

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

## **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 Brunch Ride**

When: Sat., **August 10<sup>th</sup>**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Koffee Kup](#), 1407 13<sup>th</sup> St, St. Cloud, FL 34769 ☎407-891-1488 ([map](#))

Description: New to us but well known by locals and Space Coast BMW riders, I'm told this place has the best breakfasts in Osceola County! They're one block south of US 192 in downtown St Cloud – right under the water tower. This is a family diner well known for home-style food at reasonable prices.

Contact: Tom Blake, [tblakel@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblakel@cfl.rr.com), or ☎321-723-2857

### **MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride**

When: Sun., **August 18<sup>th</sup>**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Shuckers](#), 9800 South Ocean Drive, Hutchinson Island, Jensen Beach, FL 34957 ☎772-229-1224 ([map](#))

Description: **SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY!!!**

We had a blast here last year! On the beach. Easy access. A change of pace, a change of day... Their BRUNCH includes made-to-order omelets and more! See what you missed...

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

## **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 Florida MSTA [Event Calendar](#) for possible updates.

### **MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride**

When: Sun., **September 21<sup>st</sup>**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Main Street America An Eatery](#), 22 S Main Ave, Lake Placid, FL 33852 ☎863-465-7733 ([map](#))

Description: **LAST BRUNCH RIDE OF THE SEASON!!**

Even if this place wasn't smack dab in the middle of the "funnest" roads around, we would still head here again! Great service, good food and they always treat us well!

Reminder--cash \$\$\$ only here

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

### **MSTA Florida Central Brunch Ride**

When: Sat., **September 28<sup>th</sup>**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Grills Riverside](#), 6075 N. Hwy 1, Melbourne 32940 ☎321-242-8999 ([map](#))

Description: We had a decent turnout here last year. On the shore of the scenic Indian River Lagoon, this sizable and beautiful place serves up good breakfasts to go along with picturesque water views from inside and out.

And there's plenty of paved parking.

Contact: Tom Blake, [tblakel@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblakel@cfl.rr.com), or ☎321-723-2857

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For additional Florida events and information, [click here](#) 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: [click here](#). We welcome articles and comments from our members for publication. Contact the editor at: [editor@flmsta.org](mailto:editor@flmsta.org). The MSTA National [website](#) has extensive event information:

- 🛵 To join the MSTA or renew your membership: [click here](#).
- 🛵 For the Events in 2019: [click here](#).

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National MSTA [RideMSTA.com](http://RideMSTA.com)

Florida MSTA [FLMSTA.org](http://FLMSTA.org)

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More Contact Information			
<b>Don Moe</b> Newsletter Editor 300 N. Hwy A1A, Apt. J-206 Jupiter, FL 33477 ☎561-346-1009 <a href="mailto:editor@flmsta.org">editor@flmsta.org</a>	<b>Paul 'Van' VanSteelant</b> South Director 217 S.E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street Boynton Beach, FL 33435 ☎561-386-2594 <a href="mailto:busavan@flmsta.org">busavan@flmsta.org</a>	<b>Tom Blake</b> Central Director 3835 Laurens Ave. Grant-Valkaria, FL 32950 ☎321-723-2857 <a href="mailto:tblakel@cfl.rr.com">tblakel@cfl.rr.com</a>	We're also on Facebook:  <a href="https://facebook.com/FLMSTA/">facebook.com/FLMSTA/</a>

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

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## Mystery Hyperlink of the Month

This month's [Mystery Hyperlink](#) is related to the safety article.

### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

To find a buyer for your motorcycle items, please send your ad and pictures by email to [editor@flmsta.org](mailto:editor@flmsta.org)

#### **Editor's Request:**

If you have ridden somewhere interesting at any time and would like to share with other riders your experiences and some photos from your journey, please contact me at [editor@flmsta.org](mailto:editor@flmsta.org) to discuss publishing an article. I can offer assistance in preparing your article. Thanks!