



# The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the  
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

August 2021 - Volume 14 Issue 8

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## Feature Article

### **STAR 2021 – An MSTA Event!**

### **Our First STAR: Was It Worth the Trip?**

**By Jerry James**

*[Ed. Note: This is a reprint of a blog post by Jerry James, MSTA member, of his fantastic trip to STAR 2021 in Canaan Valley, WV in June. The abridged blog is reprinted below, but to see the entire text and all the wonderful pictures from his trip, please visit his website blog at <https://motoadrenalinetours.blog/2021/> ]*

We were so disappointed that due to the world events, STAR 2020 in Cape Girardeau was cancelled.

We were so excited to



attend our first STAR. When the decision was made that 2021 would be held in Canaan Valley in West Virginia, Jamie and I were all in. We signed up early and started to look at how we could make it a good 10-day vacation. The wheels were put into motion and the planning started.

After a few days of planning, we decided that we would head out to STAR on Thursday June 10th after I got out of work. We would continue early Friday morning and get into Canaan Valley sometime around late afternoon. This would be easy to do as we made the choice to trailer the bike. We wanted to be able to camp during our stay and this is the easiest way to do that.

Black Water Falls SP was our destination for the rest of the week. We would camp there and spend the rest of the week exploring the West Virginia landscape. The stage was set for an epic journey, so let's ride!



**THURSDAY JUNE 10: THE ADVENTURE BEGINS.. AFTER WORK OF COURSE!**

It is always a long day when you start vacation at the end of a work day. The good news was, the day went by quickly. Jamie met me at the store around 3 pm and we were ready to hit the road. We rolled a few hours down the road and stayed at a hotel in Rolla Missouri. Looking back on it we probably could have driven a few more hours and had gotten closer to our destination. We ate a quick dinner and made it an early night, as we wanted to get going early the next morning.

FRIDAY JUNE 11: WEST VIRGINIA HERE WE COME! THE RAIN JOINED US AS WELL!

We got up early, grabbed some coffee and was in the Jeep headed to Canaan Valley by 6 am. We beat the Friday morning traffic in St. Louis and enjoyed a nice drive across Missouri, Indiana and Kentucky. We did not stop much as we were making great time. Jamie and I love road trips. It is a great time to chat and solve all of the worlds issues. The weather was great until we rolled in West Virginia. As soon as we crossed the border the skies opened up and it rained...HARD, for the next 5 hours! We were very happy to be in the nice dry confines of our Jeep. There are times when a trailer is awesome and this was one of those times.



*As soon as we crossed the border to WV, the skies opened up.*

We arrived at the [Canaan Valley Resort](#) around 7 pm, wet and a little stressed out after driving hours in some of the hardest rain we have seen in a long time. We left the bike on the trailer since it was still raining and more importantly we were starving! The rooms were decent at the hotel, but the lounge was awesome. It was open, served cold beer and had some pretty darn good pizza. It was not a long night. We had been on the road all day and the visions of great roads were in our heads. We slept very well.

SATURDAY JUNE 12: TODAY WE RIDE! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!

I got up bright and early to grab a cup of coffee before heading down to the jeep to unload the Versys. We slept very well, and we were excited to hit the road. We had set up a ride on Facebook earlier in the week. We did not know who would be coming, but it really did not matter. We wanted to enjoy the wonderful sights and smells of West Virginia.



*We wanted to enjoy the wonderful sights and smells of West Virginia*

Jamie and I have gotten the routine down in unloading the Big V. We had her off the trailer, bags installed and ready to roll with 30 minutes. We went inside had breakfast and then geared up to ride. As we approached the lot, we were greeted by Tom Ernst, his wife Kelly is the new treasurer for the MSTA, so he was solo for the day, as she attended to MSTA business. He would be joining Jamie and I on the ride today. He was the only rider who joined us, on this fine day. We had a wonderful day riding. This is one of the reasons we love riding events. It is a great opportunity to meet new riding friends. Tom was great to ride with. We look forward to riding with him and his wife real soon.

We got back to the hotel in time to register, get some swag and to relax and kick tires for the rest of the evening. It was a wonderful way to start our first STAR experience. The lobby was full of riders and the smiles

and laughs could be heard all over the resort. It was a great feeling. It had been a long time since gatherings like this had happened. Everyone was making the best of it.

Walking the parking lot is always one of my favorite things to do, during these events. It is so cool to see all of the bikes, to speak with new friends and to catch up with others. The evening cooled down and the rains stayed away, so the rest of the evening was very pleasant. Tomorrow would be another day of good riding and exploring some of the most beautiful countryside in America. Life is good and we were just starting our vacation.



*It's so cool to see all the bikes, speak with new friends and catch up with others.*



*Relaxing at the resort hotel*

Jamie and I enjoyed the evening together, as we enjoyed a few beers and just relaxed, hanging out around the resort. The rooms had a nice little balcony and that is where our evening ended. It had been a wonderful day.

### SUNDAY JUNE 13: DRONES, COUNTRY ROADS, CAMP SET UP AND OH YEAH THE RAINS CAME!

We woke up to a rather wet forecast for the day. It looked as if the skies would open up in mid afternoon. We enjoyed a nice cup of coffee in the early hours of the morning, taking in the cool temps and the amazing views. It could not have been more perfect of a set up to fly the drone. So off I went. I took the drone up and was able to capture some pretty cool video, along with some great photo images. It was a beautiful Sunday morning..

Yehea, Tommy Victor and his friend (sorry I forgot his name) joined us for a short ride to breakfast. Jamie and I had to be back by 11am to check out of the room. We had reservations at Black Water Falls SP for the remainder of the week. We are more comfortable with the camping life instead of the resort life. The ride was great and the company was even better. We had a great morning and enjoyed each others company. Breakfast was good and the short ride was just what the doctor ordered.



*Great photos and cool video from the drone*

We ate at the [Brandywine Family Dining](#), a small quaint place with good food and service. If you are ever in the area, you should go check it out.



*The roads in WV are wonderful.*

We took the backroads back to the hotel. The roads in West Virginia are wonderful. It was a great way to start the day with a good little breakfast ride. We got back to the hotel in plenty of time to pack up and check out, without having to rush around. The campground was only 10 miles from the resort.

[Black Water Falls SP](#) was easy to find and we were surprised at how nice the campgrounds were. Yehea Stephen from Ft Worth Texas was already set up on the site next to ours. Jamie and I would call this campsite home for the next few days. It took about an hour to set up camp. We were fortunate for that, as the rains came and continued for most of the evening.

We went into town and had some dinner at a local pizza place called [Sirianni's Pizza Cafe](#). The service was slow, as the place was packed, but we were not in a hurry. We took our time, had a couple of beers and got back to the tent to sleep the night away. Tomorrow we would ride again.

## MONDAY JUNE 14: YEEHA RECOVERING, BACON WAFFLES, WIND TURBINES AND TWISTY ROADS!

Monday morning rolled around and the weather cleared. We had rain most of the evening, which made it great sleeping weather. Our friend Yeeha was struggling with some food poisoning from earlier in the week. He decided to stay close to camp and do some smaller rides for the day. We loaded up a route that was supplied from the STAR event and hit the road. It was a route that took us on narrow country roads, outlined with huge wind turbines, with beautiful valley views of rolling farmland. It was a great morning to explore.

Our first stop was breakfast at a local place called the [Breakfast Nook](#). The food was very good and the owner took time to tell us the story of the restaurant. He talked me into getting a bacon waffle and I have to admit, it was tasty. Jamie had the biscuits and gravy. I got a little taste and DAMN they were good. I would be getting that the next time we ate there.



*Most of the roads were small 2-lane roads*

The roads in this area vary in width and surface. Most of the roads are small 2-lane roads with little margin of error if you go off the side of the road. The roads are all twisty and the grin factor is set at 100! The road surface was not the best; however, when it was rough, it allowed for a slower pace and some time for us to take in the breath taking scenery. We really enjoyed the riding and the various change of scenery made it a wonderful day of two-wheeled excitement.



*The roads are all twisty, and the grin factor is set at 100!*

We met up for a late lunch at the [Main Street Grill in Romney WV](#). The theme for this trip, was not to be in a hurry for service. Most places were under staffed and it could be felt. We were not in a hurry so it was not a big issue. The food was good and our server was very nice.

We enjoyed the rest of the afternoon, at the camp site. We just hung out, took a nap and enjoyed the cool weather. There was a couple that came in from Virginia camped next to us with the greatest little trailer. We spent some time taking a quick tour of their awesome rig.

You can check out more information about the [Sylvanssport Go](#) here on their website.



*We love setting up camp and being able to sleep in the great outdoors.*

We really enjoy doing the basecamp thing. We love setting up camp and being able to sleep in the great outdoors, cook our own food and mingle with other like minded people. It gives us the best of both worlds. We get to bring enough camping gear to be comfortable, we enjoy the savings that camping provides and we have the Jeep to explore in if the weather turn bad.

We love motorcycle camping; however this type of camping allows for some creature comforts that could not be enjoyed if we had to carry all the gear exclusively on the bike.

We spent the afternoon, taking some pictures and video. It was so relaxing, just hanging out at camp. We made dinner and watched, as the deer made their way around the back of our camp. We got the drone up and took some pictures of the surrounding area. Just another great day here in West Virginia.

## TUESDAY JUNE 15: YEEHA JOINS US FOR A RIDE. SENECA ROCKS, DOOR PRIZES AND CAMPFIRES.

Today was awesome. Yeeha started to feel better, so we loaded another route from the STAR archives and hit the road. We did breakfast again at the Nook. As had been the case earlier in the week, the food was great, the service was better and another day was started in the best of ways. Good food and coffee makes for a great day! We rode up to the resort to check the door prize list. Jamie and I won a couple of gifts. The day was getting better by the minute.

Today was the most technical riding of the trip so far. There were many twisty roads with plenty of challenges to keep us on our toes. Today was an amazing day of riding. Jamie and I have rode in many states. CO, NM, UT, TN, NC, KY are some of our favorite places to ride and today West Virginia joined that list. WOW! This was one of the best days of riding we have had in a long time. We enjoyed a spirited pace on some of the best roads in the country. It was in a word... **SPECTACULAR!**



*There were many twisty roads with plenty of challenges to keep us on our toes.*

On a side note the Versys rolled 18,000 miles on this trip.

The afternoon was filled with more great roads, with spectacular views around every corner. The valleys and farm images stood out like we were reading a national geographic magazine. For those people that do not enjoy our two-wheeled hobby, it is hard to explain how grand the day was. The sights, the smells and the pure adrenaline of spirited riding is one that we will not soon forget.

We ended up with a little stop at [Seneca Rocks](#). We had to do the stop at [Yokum's](#) to get a drink and to take some pictures. We spoke with a number of riders that came in and out for fuel and gas. It was a great place to take in the views along with enjoying all the motorcycle traffic.

We headed back to camp to cook some dinner and to enjoy more of the great outdoors. We have a good set up for cooking at camp. I love cooking while camping and nothing tastes better than food by a campsite. Throw in a few adult beverages and it makes for a wonderful evening.

## WEDNESDAY JUNE 16: MORE SPECTACULAR RIDING, HIKING BLACK WATER FALLS, MSTA GROUP PICTURE AND BANQUET.

We awoke to the sound of birds on this chilly morning! The temperature was a very pleasing 42°! While we had been enjoying very comfortable temperatures for the entire length of our journey, we were seeing that back home in Arkansas, summer had rushed in with a vengeance. We were so thankful to be waking up in beautiful, cool West Virginia.

We got up, enjoyed a nice cup of camp coffee, then geared up and headed to MSTA central. We enjoyed a nice breakfast and then loaded up to go for a ride. Like I mentioned before, the weather was very comfortable and it made for a wonderful morning to ride. We explored the countryside and just took our time meandering around the area. We were in no rush, just soaking in the freedom that only two wheels can provide.

We stopped and had lunch at a neat little place that had been recommended by someone on the MSTA Facebook page. [Melanie's Family Restaurant](#) located in Aurora WV. The staff was very nice and they expressed genuine joy that some of the riders from STAR had been stopping by and eating in their establishment. We had a great time, chatting with the locals and explaining why so many riders from all over the country would come to their little slice of the world. We smiled and expressed our gratitude, for having the opportunity to ride around the area and mingle with the locals. We told them how lucky they were to live in such a beautiful place.

One of the great things about exploring on our motorcycle is finding little “mom & pop” treasures like Melanie's. On these trips we do our best to help support the local community. Time and time again we are not disappointed.

We finished up lunch and reluctantly got our gear together and got back on the road. Today was a big day as the STAR banquet was this evening, so we wanted to get back in plenty of time to hang out and attend our first STAR closing event.

We arrived at the camp site sooner than we had anticipated, so we put on some comfy clothes, jumped in the Jeep and headed down to [Black Water Falls](#). This trail and waterfall was only a mile down the road from the campsite. The area had some serious rainfall in the past 48-72 hours so the falls were flowing with aggression. It was a nice little hike to the falls, however the time spent was well worth it. The falls were spectacular. If you are ever in the area, this is a “Must See” spot.



*Black Water Falls*

Jamie and I were attending our first STAR Banquet so we did not know what to expect. The hotel was buzzing with laughter and activity. Everyone was starting to understand that this great event was coming to an end and most folks would be loading up and heading home the next day. We spent a couple of hours enjoying everyone's company and taking in a few adult beverages.



*MSTA Group drone shot with my mini*

Before dinner was served the group was escorted outside for a group photo. I had spoken with Patrick, our illustrious president and he thought it would be cool to take some drone shots, so I launched my mini and took a few shots. It was a lot of fun hanging out with all of these motorcycle enthusiasts.

After the group picture we all made it inside to grab a table and to share a meal together. The food was decent, I don't recall what we had, so it must not have been that good. However the company and the conversation made up for any deficiencies in the area of food. We all had a wonderful time and the highlight of the evening was Calling Peter on speaker phone to let him know he had won the motorcycle they had given away! It was a great way to end the evening.

We finished up saying our goodbyes and headed back to the campsite. Jamie and I were so glad that our trip would not end for a couple of more days...

TO ANSWER THE QUESTION AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS POST. WAS IT WORTH THE TRIP?

Absolutely! Jamie and I enjoyed the MSTA STAR in Canaan Valley West Virginia. We met some great folks, got to ride some amazing roads and we felt like part of a group that is interested in growing our great hobby! I want to take a moment to thank the Executive Committee for all of their hand work in making our FIRST STAR a memorable one. Patrick, Norm and the rest of the team, deserve kudos for organizing such a wonderful event. The routes were well thought out and the venue was perfect for the size of our group. We loved the fact that we could camp close by and still take part in all of the events. We are already looking forward to attending next years event. So until that time comes, be safe out there.

To read this entire blog post, please visit online - <https://motoadrenalinetours.blog>

—Jerry James

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[motoadrenalinetours.blog](https://motoadrenalinetours.blog)

[motoadrenalinetours.com](https://motoadrenalinetours.com)

[www.youtube.com/c/jerryjames2up](https://www.youtube.com/c/jerryjames2up)

## *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. [Ed. Note: This article was previously published in the February 2018 edition of The Florida MSTA Gator Tale.]*

### **Solo Riding – Best Recommendations**

***By Doug Westly***



Photo: [The Lost Adventure](#)

As I prepare for a Saturday solo ride of about 400 miles, it occurs to me that MSTA riders are a strange bunch. While most motorcyclists are happy always being in a group, we occasionally (and for some, always) like to get out by ourselves. And I am not talking about a ride around the block, either. It may be across the state, or in my case down to the Everglades and back, just for lunch, or even across the country with nobody to keep us company except the bike.

There are entire books, online forums and seminars where you can find tips and hints on long-distance, solo riding. Long distance riders all have their own tips and techniques. Here are a few of mine:

- *A thorough bike check.* You are going out there, depending on your mount to get you to your destination. Before you go, do a thorough inspection of the bike. I don't mean a once-over. I am talking about putting your hands on every nut, bolt, fastener, cable, line, light, spoke, etc. Don't just check air pressure. Rotate the tires and inspect the tread. Do I even have to mention oil? Well, I did, anyway. Find it before it finds you, otherwise luck could mean you're stuck on a backroad in the middle of nowhere. And do this check at least a week in advance, so you have time to order, repair, replace or fix anything without having to rush at the last minute.
- *Make a riding plan.* That means route, gas stops, meals, nightly stops if it is over-night, etc. Take a look at the weather fore-cast and plan, plan, plan. Once you make the plan, stick to it. Oh, and tell someone the plan. That way they know where to go look if the worst were to happen.
- *Check-in.* With today's communications, there is no reason to ever be out of touch. Enable your location finding for your significant other. If you are going to be way out there, then get a SPOT or other type of satellite communications. It's easy, fairly inexpensive and means you can always reach out if you need. Don't let your loved ones worry.
- *Don't overextend yourself.* Make sure your riding plan is realistic. Take more frequent stops. Long distance riders tend to want to just keep riding. There is a difference between fun long ride and an Iron Butt challenge.
- *If you haven't done a lot of long distance days, try this.* Instead of thinking about it as one long ride, imagine it as a number of short rides, from one planned stop to the next one. Mentally that makes it a lot easier to absorb and manage.
- *Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.* Start before the ride. If you wait until the morning of the trip, you're too late. Your body needs time to absorb and process. Once you're on the road, stay hydrated. Use a hydration system. That way you can take sips during the ride, and not depend on stopping to get a drink.

Finally, go out there and enjoy the solitude. I do some of my best thinking when I'm on a long, solo ride. Maybe an epiphany will strike you as well, while you're alone on the road.

***Ride safe!*** – Doug Westly



## South Director's Report

### What do they know...

Ah, the weather watchers and prognosticators had us nervous all week. 90% chance of downpours and up to 2" of accumulation...They even had me worried!! ☹️

So, announcements made, tire pressures checked, lights and blinkers lit and a double check of the rain gear, and I'm off to our rendezvous location. Half expecting to be on my own, I parked next to Ellen, who was very early-on-time! Just a beautiful morning, blue sky, puffy clouds and a nearly full moon setting to the west...Oh, it's July, so 90% humidity is always part of the fun. At straight up 7 am, the two of us leave for the ride. Two of the Real Men were likely to meet us in Sebring, as they usually meet up in Clewiston rather than slog to Jupiter to ride over the north end of Lake O. And several no-shows among the usual Southies will earn them a poke in the ribs as time goes by!!

A brief stop at the Marathon at Crossroads netted us another rider! Larry Gonzalez surprised us for sure. He needed another excuse to put more miles on his gorgeous new Hayabusa! Suzuki really hit a homerun with only their third model update since 1999! I'm a little biased, but damn that's a nice bike!!



*Beautiful morning with the full moon setting in the west*



*Kicking tires in Dmitri's parking lot*

The three of us enjoyed a wonderful ride over familiar roads and had plenty of time to kill, kicking tires in Dmitri's parking lot. Dennis and Dorothy are really enjoying their new Spyder. Tom cruised in on the KTM, and Alan rode in on Ellen's old BMW, sharing the minor tweaks that he's added to the bike. Another surprise was Tom Batchelor on his Concours. You might know him better as the Safety Editor for the STARReview!! And indeed, Don and Buck joined us for brunch having enjoyed the clear roads from Clewiston and south of Lake Placid that we know so well. Don continues to reign as our high-mileage rider!

With the 10 of us anchoring a wall of tables, the tall tales and consumption of delicious brunch entries commenced! Good times, good food and good gab...Obviously, we were all making up for last year's deprivations!

We had enough interest in the 50/50 raffle, and Lucky Larry took home \$20! Our new total now stands at \$714. A few bills are coming due, so a follow-up email will soon let the members know where we stand.

We did a weather radar check as we suited up for the ride home. Not wanting to press our luck and threaten our dry gear, we chose to book it home rather than check out the flower show in Lake Placid. And it was a wise choice. I believe one and all made it home just before the raindrops hit.



*Good times, good food, good gab*

Check out Carl's great adventure during the Central Brunch Ride below. Flexibility is the key...!

## What's Next??

Ok, I intend to support and encourage everybody's decision on whether to ride, eat or be merry. I am leaving the BRUNCH/LUNCH rides as scheduled WITH CONDITIONS!! Though nearly all restrictions have been lifted for restaurants and bars, I will continue to contact the restaurants to listen to how they are operating. I will send out the usual email announcements after my research.

We have our usual two RTEs on deck. The **Central Ride on August 14th** will be a BRUNCH ride to **The Cup Diner in St. Cloud**. The **South Ride on August 21st** will also be a BRUNCH ride to a new-to-us location in **Arcadia**. We have a room set aside for 10-12 of us at **Myshelly's Kitchen!** Mark your calendars now so nothing else fits on your schedule!!

## 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...

The Florida MSTA welcomed three new members – Robert Miller and Kim Krzywicki from St. Augustine and Joshua Ridder from Wellington.

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Carlos Albuerne	Alan Hartzog	Dell Haverland	Tom & Lynn	Carl Mobley
Richard Peabody	Tulio Suarez Thillet	Bob Summers	Trieschmann	Brian Van Scoy

These Florida memberships have recently renewed their membership in the MSTA:

Dee Cramer	Dale Hall	Ellen Kocher
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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 membership committee at [membership@ridemsta.com](mailto:membership@ridemsta.com). Renewing or joining can be done quickly and securely 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 the new member of our new membership team, **Scott Snedden, 11484 Waterwood Dr., Tyler, TX 75703**, and not to the address of any 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 brand new **Invitation-To-Ride Tri-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!!

With the newly released guidelines regarding the opportunities for vaccinated people to mingle safely, I do hope to see more riders roll up their sleeves asap.

*We are finally realizing the positive results of the convergence of the mental, economic and medical recoveries, which are simply all tied together with the behavior of our populace...Despite the recent setbacks, please do your small part to keep any positive momentum going!!*

*When you can...*

*Join one of our monthly rides!!*

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

**ATGATT Van**

**MSTA Florida State Co-Director**



*Carl Swofford*

### Central Director's Report

#### **July Central Ride – Four Seasons/Johnny's Egg Works, Frostproof**

Saturday morning was clear and cool. Two of us left Altamonte Springs at 07:30 AM headed for Sebring. It was a cool and pleasant ride through Orlando and down US 27. I-4 through Orlando saw light traffic and was actually nice.

We arrived at the Four Seasons at 09:00 AM to find seven other riders there and the Four Seasons closed. A note on the door stated they were closed until July 15th.

Either I had misunderstood them, or they had misunderstood me when I had called the restaurant to confirm. Lesson learned: Call a *week* prior and not a *month* prior. Fortunately, two of our members were familiar with Frostproof and recommended **Johnny's Egg Works in downtown Frostproof**. Eight of us proceeded to Johnny's, and one of our members decided to return to Tampa.



*Johnny's Egg Works turned out to be a good choice.*



*Good food and excellent service at Johnny's Egg Works*

Johnny's Egg Works turned out to be a good choice. The staff put two tables together and all eight of us sat together without any wait time. The food was good and well prepared. The staff and service were excellent. We had a relaxing meal and great fellowship. Johnny's is good for a future brunch ride.

For the ride home, the two of us elected to ride FL 17, former US 27 Alternate which is a 2-lane scenic, and hilly road with some actual curves. It's a nice ride. We crossed I-4 and continued on US 27 to Acorre and took back roads to US 441 in Zellwood and then home. While that route was a few more miles, it not only avoided I-4 congestion through Orlando but was also more scenic.

## **Florida Rides This Month**

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: Saturday, **August 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 11:30 AM**

Location: **The Cup Diner**, 1407 13<sup>th</sup> Street, **St. Cloud, FL** 📞 (407) 891-1488 ([map](#))

Description: A bit more urban compared to some of our destinations...But look at the menu and the rave reviews! Join the Central riders for gab and grub! They might even share a secret road or two with ya!!

We have decided to drop the park locations for the remainder of 2021. With the summer heat and the significant vaccination rates for our cohort, we think fewer of you will still consider a picnic table over restaurant service.

Contact: Carl, [carltr6@hotmail.com](mailto:carltr6@hotmail.com), or 📞 (386) 793-0030

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

When: Saturday, **August 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 – 11: 30 AM**

Location: **Myshelly's Kitchen**, 15 W. Oak Street, **Arcadia, FL** 📞 (863) 993-5030 ([map](#))

Description: NEW!! Let's check out this new destination. Just might be all the reason we need to visit Arcadia!! We'll have a room for ourselves, and they'll be fresh back from their summer vacation!!

We have decided to drop the park locations for the remainder of 2021. With the summer heat and the significant vaccination rates for our cohort, we think fewer of you will still consider a picnic table over restaurant service.

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

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## **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 any updates.

### **MSTA Florida Central Lunch Ride**

When: Saturday, **September 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Gator Joe's Beach Bar & Grill**, 12431 SE 135 Ave, Ocklawaha FL 📞 (352) 288-3100 ([map](#))

Description: Yup, we are sneaking in an early season LUNCH ride!! Back to Lake Weir!! We'll dine on the north shore at an old favorite. Lots of good grub to accompany the gab out on the deck overlooking the lake!!

We have decided to drop the park locations for the remainder of 2021. With the summer heat and the significant vaccination rates for our cohort, we think fewer of you will still consider a picnic table over restaurant service.

Contact: Carl, [carltr6@hotmail.com](mailto:carltr6@hotmail.com), or 📞 (386) 793-0030

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

When: Saturday, **September 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 11: 30 AM**

Location: **Rick's Diner**, 466 SW Port St Lucie Blvd #101, Port St. Lucie, FL 📞 (863) 993-2337 ([map](#))

Description: Another NEW destination for the Southies...We have a few routes to consider...SW Citrus Blvd. will definitely be one of them!

We have decided to drop the park locations for the remainder of 2021. With the summer heat and the significant vaccination rates for our cohort, we think fewer of you will still consider a picnic table over restaurant service.

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

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](#).

## **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!!



Shopping finds online... We found some fun motorcycle t-shirts you can order online. Click the image for this particular t-shirt. There are other fun motorcycle t-shirts online at <https://teespring.com/shop/motorcycle-tshirts>.

## **North Director Needed**

If you would consider taking the position of North Director, please contact Van, [busavanflmsta@gmail.com](mailto:busavanflmsta@gmail.com).

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.

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

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

### **More Contact Information**

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## **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). Don't trash it, recycle it! One man's trash is another man's treasure!