



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

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Feature Article

Key West – A Rider’s Destination

By Doug Westley

[Ed: This article previously appeared in the 3/2011 edition of this newsletter. Some details may have changed since then.]

So you haven’t ridden to [Key West](#) yet? What are you waiting for? One of the advantages of living in Florida is that you’ve got a premier motorcycle adventure destination at your southern doorstep. Approximately 164 miles from Miami and only 90 miles from Havana, Cuba, Key West welcomes motorcyclists with open arms. Over 40 bridges link Key West to mainland Florida, and riding them is one of the highlights of a ride to the Southernmost point in the continental United States. From the west central part of the Sunshine State it is about an 8-hour ride.

Your journey really begins in Florida City, the last town on the Florida peninsula, en route to the land of Margaritas and green flashes at sunset. In Florida City you actually have two route choices taking you to [Key Largo](#), the most northern of the Florida Keys. You can follow the tourista lemmings, wandering down single file on [US Hwy 1](#), or you can take Card Sound Road to the left. OK, so you have to pay a buck to cross one toll bridge, but there’s MUCH less traffic, the scenery through the little fishing villages is cool, and you immediately feel like you’re out of the mainland insanity. Oh, and this is the home of Florida [crocodiles](#) (the real ones that can actually run more than 20 miles an hour on dry land), so watch for them in the brackish waters next to the road.

Good timing will put you on Card Sound Road sometime around lunch, so you can stop at [Alabama Jacks Restaurant and Bar](#). Don’t worry, you can’t miss it. Order the conch fritters (that’s pronounced “conk”, by the way) and



blackened [Mahi](#)! After lunch, with your belly stuffed, you'll continue onto Key Largo and eventually rejoin Hwy 1. You'll suffer with the Key Largo and [Islamorada](#) traffic for a few miles, then eventually make your way to [Marathon](#) and the Middle Keys. Here the traffic thins out, the sea air cools your ride and you can relax all the way to Key West. Don't forget to stop at the little parking area just on the north side of [Seven Mile Bridge](#), on the right side of the road, to get the obligatory bridge picture!



Seven Mile Bridge

Photo: [Daytona Motorcycle Training](#)

Okay, you've made it to Key West. Hmm, where do you stay? Good planning means reservations were made at any number of hotels, B&Bs or campgrounds on Key West or in the lower Keys. This is particularly important if you plan on going during any one of the festivals that occur all year long. Expect higher (much higher!) hotel prices if you go during any of the large events. If you are into the night life, the place to be in Key West is [Duval Street](#), so pick a B&B or hotel within walking distance. Confused? Just search "[Duval Crawl](#)" on the web and you'll soon understand.

There's much more to Key West than just hanging out at [Captain Tony's](#) or [Sloppy Joe's](#) (although it was good enough for [Ernest Hemingway](#)). There are museums, tours, fishing charters, scuba diving, snorkeling trips, sunset cruises, and the list goes on. Or, you can just go lay on the beach.



Sloppy Joe's Bar

Photo: [Riders-Share.com](#)



Fort Jefferson/Dry Tortugas National Park

Photo: [Florida Weekly](#)

If you get bored in Key West, it is your own fault! I highly recommend taking either the [Fast Cat](#) or the [seaplane charter](#) out to [Fort Jefferson](#) in the [Dry Tortugas National Park](#). It is an amazing place and a fascinating piece of American history. The seaplane ride is particularly fun!



A couple of warnings are in order here. First off, Key West is a "lifestyle friendly" town. You will probably see evidence of it both during the day and evening hours. Everyone keeps to themselves and it is not

intrusive, but it is there. Second, be aware that Key West is also a cruise ship destination, so Duval Street can get crowded when a ship is in port. Actually, when you take situation number two and intersect it with situation number one on Duval Street, it gets pretty comical.

This brings us to another point. One of the great experiences of Key West is the people watching. You will see literally everything on Duval Street, particularly if there is a festival underway and it coincides with a cruise ship visit. Be non-judgmental, find a good people watching spot (one of the many outdoor cafes work well), sit back with a [Land Shark](#) in your hand and watch the sights. It really is the best show in town. For the really adventurous souls, go during [Fantasy Fest](#), in late October. By city decree, body paint qualifies as clothing during Fantasy Fest, as long as there is a (very minimal) personal covering as well. You will truly see the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly! If you decide to go to Fantasy Fest, make sure you get your reservations at least 6 months in advance. Otherwise there is not a room to be had on the island.

Here's the final secret: Getting out of Key West. Remember that US Hwy 1 is a two-lane road, all the way back north as well. Everyone comes down to party on a Friday afternoon/evening and leaves on a Sunday afternoon. Never try to leave Key West the afternoon following a major festival, or any Sunday afternoon. Plan your retreat in advance.

That's about it. If you've never been to Key West, you don't know what you're missing. If you're not sure about going, give us a call. Becky and I ride down to the Southernmost Point at least a couple of times a year, just to escape the mainland madness for some relaxation. We may not know everything about the island, but we guarantee you we've got some friends there that do, and that can arrange just about anything for visitors. Oh, and if you don't know about the rooftop bar and the sunset green flash, you truly haven't spent enough time in Key West!



Southernmost Point Buoy

For Further Information:

- [Key West Wikipedia Entry](#)
- [Key West Travel](#)
- [Florida Weekly – Key West Edition](#)
- [Dry Tortugas National Park Ferry](#)
- [Southernmost Point Buoy Wikipedia Entry](#)

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 MSTAs 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.

Safety and Repair Equipment

[Ed. Note: This article was previously published in the May 2012 edition of The Florida MSTAs Grapevine.]

A couple of months ago I was on a weekend morning ride with a club that I don't usually hang out with. They had asked Becky and me along to evaluate their group riding techniques, so of course we said we'd be glad to accompany them on one of their regular outings.

Everything was going fine until about halfway through the ride, until after one particular curve I looked back (I was riding about mid-way in the group at that point) and didn't see anyone behind me. I slowed down, the front of the group left me (more about that at another time), and eventually I turned around to go see what happened.

After back-tracking about a mile, I found the rest of the group. One of the bikes had a flat (his tires were practically bald to begin with...sigh), and despite there being at least 7-8 other bikes stopped with him, NO ONE had a tire repair kit or air compressor. Did I mention that we had a lot of long-distance riders in this group?

Fortunately I always carry my safety and repair gear in my bike. They were kind of sheepish about asking to borrow my tire stuff, but we all had a good laugh about it. We got the offending tire fixed and sent him along his way to the dealership, with an escort rider, to get the tire replaced.

Which brings us to today's topic... What do you carry with you when you ride?

As a minimum, I always have the following:

- 🛵 Tire Repair Kit: There are lots of varieties out there. I tend to fall back on the old reliable gooey string stuff. It is not as fancy as the rubber plug guns, etc. but it does the job and stores very compactly.
- 🛵 Air Compressor: I have a standard 12-volt compact compressor that will plug directly into the accessory plug off the battery. I also carry the optional battery clips, in case I have to loan it out to someone who doesn't have a matching accessory plug.
- 🛵 Neon Safety Vest: These pack up small and light. Vests are handy if you have to direct traffic, or just want to be visible on the side of the road without wearing a full hi-vis jacket.
- 🛵 First-Aid Kit: 'Nuff said. Just make it a good one!
- 🛵 Cellphone: Very few of us leave home without it.
- 🛵 Mechanical Repair Kit: Modern bikes rarely ever fail, but I did experience a leak around my oil filter recently, and if I didn't have a full kit with me, I probably couldn't have fixed it on the side of the road.
- 🛵 Finally, I also carry a SPOT transmitter. Where we ride the cell phone coverage has gaps, and it would be just my luck to need immediate help and not be in cell range.

So, what do you carry with you? Or are you confident you'll never have a problem?

Doug Westly – Safety Editor (Retired)



Don't Let This Ruin Your Ride Photo: [BMW](#)

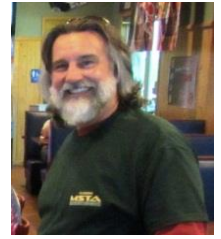
See our [Mystery Hyperlink](#) for further information on this topic.

Florida News

South Director's Report

Have you ever noticed how little attention Florida gets during the winter weather reports....???

We hang out down here in perfect riding weather for months on end, and not one mention from Al Roker!!



Van VanSteelant

So off we go, with **FOUR** big rides in January! You need to catch Tom's report about the New Year's Day ride to [Peck's Old Port Cove](#) at the end of W. Ozello Trail. And take the few minutes to enjoy Doug Farnham's **wonderful** YouTube [video](#) of the ride and attendees! Wished I'da been there... And lots of you were *there!!* Then, Tom's choice for a new lunch destination was also well attended. Seems the clearing skies and 70s all day may have played a role in the turn out... Al, did ya catch that??

I bet you're counting fingers and seem to have one extra. Some of you know better! Newly relocated member Ed Clay reached out recently and organized a terrific *Just-For-Fun* ride for our most northerly membership on January 18th. Five riders met up for lunch at [Phish Tales](#) in Lake City for lunch. This served the new group well. Introductions and planning for the after-lunch group ride happened over the delicious lunch. And then off they went, enjoying the weather, riding first north to White Springs in southern Georgia, then back south through hill and dale to end up in picturesque [Falling Creek Park](#). As only one of three natural falls in all of Florida, it's quite the place!! Ed has plans to set up more to these rides during this year for the benefit of our deserving members. He'll let us know when, and we'll make sure everybody hears about it! And if you're in Ed's "neighborhood", be sure to drop him an email so he can be sure to include you in his planning!!



L→R: Steve Albert, Ed Clay, Roy Clark, Tom Trieschmann, Mike Emanuel

And now, for the South Lunch Ride... We headed way north for the Southies, up to [Lone Cabbage Fish Camp](#) in Cocoa! Seven of us met up early for the 150 miles of back road rambling. Recent member, Mike Shook, got up extra early to ride up from Delray.





We were cruising along, enjoying the sunshine and stiff breeze, when Buck let us know his BMW dash lit up with a warning light. Within minutes, we confirmed that his rear tire was indeed flat. Safely parked off on a side road, out came the compressors, plug kits and water to find the offending leak. Whatever poked his center tread didn't stay stuck... Found the hole, plugged it and re-inflated... you never notice how slow those mini-compressors are until you need to put 36 pounds in at once... Buck headed home (later reporting he was safe and sound); we regrouped and headed for lunch! Arriving late, I was outta sorts for the event. Photos were taken, names were later shared, and we all really did have a splendid day in the sun!! Al, did ya catch that?? And the ride home was event free and with big smiles all around!

Tom's Central ride to Tillie's netted \$37 from the 50/50 raffle. That brings our total to \$570.00. As always, a BIG THANKS to all who participate!!

What's Next??

We have a year's worth of rides scheduled through 2020!! You gotta go to www.flmsta.org and click RIDES Look at the usual calendar, or hit Agenda for a scrollable list. The Central Lunch Ride heads to the **Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo**, on 3200 River Ranch Blvd, in River Ranch. Get there by **11:30AM on Feb. 8th**. We will likely pack the deck again, as I suspect a few of the Southies will "crash" the party!! Two weeks later, join the crowd of Southies as we hit the **Village Brewhouse**, at 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Unit G37, in Punta Gorda. We have dined at a few of the restaurants on the Esplanade over the years. This destination will be new-to-us. The view and menu looks terrific!

AND BIG NEWS!! We have revived the Daytona Bike Weeks' event this year, AND we added a fun ride on Saturday to the official MSTA Central Lunch Ride for good measure! *How sweet it is...* The first weekend in March is the beginning of Bike Weeks, so we can expect a few out-of-towners to be in attendance in Ocala! We have rooms blocked off at a great price at the same location as before. Only the name has changed, and they refurbished the rooms for good measure! **I'D CALL NOW AND BOOK YOUR WEEKEND!!** Daytona still

draws them in, and rooms will go quick across the State. **FULL DETAILS** at www.flmsta.org Catch up with the Central Lunch Ride and the SPECIAL Daytona Bike Week Lunch Ride details as well!!

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 welcome three new Florida riders who joined the MSTA since early January:

Juan Gomez Wayne Semenick Ilse Zeigler

We thank these Florida members for recently renewing their memberships:

Tom Batchelor Nir Frucht Alan Miller Dennis & Donna Villarose
Robert Croot Steve Marcum Stephen Phillips

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Frederick Blackall William Corrow Chuck Headrick Victor Salisbury
Frederick A. Christ Raymond Harcourt Kevin Healey Eckart Schneider
James Clement Keith Harrison David & Leslie Noyes Alan Spears

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. Renewing or joining can be done quickly and securely online at PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew or 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, 5380 Old Bullard Rd, Suite 600-315, Tyler, TX 75703**, who replaces the retiring Beth Hemstreet, 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. 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!

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND CLICKING ON THE LINK TO A *RIDER* MAGAZINE ARTICLE THAT TOM PROVIDES IN HIS CENTRAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Jenny Smith writes about group riding techniques and considerations. As she has to assume a mass audience for her writing, I'm blessed to share my thoughts with only "local" conditions to concentrate on....

FIRST AND FOREMOST – always ride your own ride. Only you are responsible for your safety. Consider the surroundings, the group and your abilities. Our past Safety Editor said it best at the beginning of each of his columns...

In random order:

Consistent throttle and spacing enhances the safety of the group, as we can stay together out on the open road, minimizing the chances of somebody attempting to “cut in line”. We often keep our group size to 5-7 riders. If we have more, we will establish two groups with a significant space between them to allow other road users to fit in. Win-Win for all.

For 10+ years, our groups have used rider-to-rider communications. The tech has evolved, but the result has remained the same. The leader and tail-gunner (sweep rider) are always able to coordinate lane changes, vehicle passes and group dynamics. Usually several other riders have comms as well, making for good conversation and great group awareness. This communication also eliminates the need to run red lights or arrows. The tail rider knows where we are going, and can let the leader know how many are stuck at the light. The leader can judge if it’s better to pull over or figure that they will easily catch up. Nobody will be left behind...

Using the vast array of country roads throughout the State, we often encounter narrow rural roads. You can tell by the lack of a centerline and fog lines at the shoulder. Look to ride single file rather than staggered, and add more space between you and the rider ahead of you. This break in formation is also acceptable when pacing through corners and sweepers. You’ve seen the cornering diagrams in the training manuals, showing the out-in-out line, which maximizes the sight line through most corners. Drop back into the stagger as you roll onto the straights.

When passing as a group, ALWAYS make your own assessment and decision to pass. If you go... GO!! The next rider will be looking to get around safely AND have room to pull back into the group without creating panic for the driver we just passed.

Just a few tips from me. There are lots of books and safety columns out there that cover this topic in great depth. Feel free to look around. The *Rider* article is a very good, comprehensive start.

By the way, solo riding is a lot of fun. You get to set the pace, choose the route, when/if to stop, and nobody ever second guesses your decisions!!

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

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report - December 2019

Leading off – we had a *Royal* New Year's Day ride to [Peck's Old Port Cove](#) near Crystal River - New Year, New Miles! Then, on the 11th, the regular Central lunch was at [Tillie's Tavern & Grill](#) in Eustis.



Tom Blake

The fun will continue in February with the [Westgate Smoke House Grill](#) at River Ranch off Sr60. Our Bike Week lunch this March will be at the [St John's River Grill](#) west of Deland. Then we're back up to the northwest for [The Cove Pub & Grub](#) in Inverness. [3 Bananas](#) in Crescent City is on tap for April. That gets us to brunch time. I hope you are as excited about this lineup as I am.

Peck's: A lot of folks had been waiting impatiently for this ride. Nearly perfect weather was predicted. Personally, I even called up Peck's on-line... all that delicious-looking seafood. My mouth was watering. Four of us took the leisurely, mostly back-roads route over from Melbourne. We brushed the south side of St Cloud, and then ticked off Kissimmee, Champion's Gate, Groveland, Center Hill, Bushnell, Floral City and Inverness. All told, we enjoyed nearly four hours of pleasant riding and a couple breaks. Thirty-eight showed up including Bill Royal, who started this tradition. Larry Troutman rode all the way down from Pennsylvania (just for this event, he kidded). Based on the faces and names that I recognized, most areas of the state were represented. There were a bunch of faces I didn't know. So, thanks to everyone who brought along friends. It was a really nice gathering. Great camaraderie, food and service. We had an absolutely gorgeous day to ride although probably pretty crisp to start from our northern counties. Thank-you to all who participated.

One of my riding pals, Doug Farnham, put together a six-minute video of our ride. The first part is on FL 48 coming into Floral City under a canopy of giant oaks and the rest is on Ozello Trail. Plus, you may recognize the stills taken at Peck's. Nice work, Doug. Thank-you. In place of the normal pictures, just open this link to Doug's nicely done video: [Jan 1, 2020 Peck's Ride](#)

Track Days at Jennings GP: Doug Re, a COG guy and Jennings GP track-day trainer, was at Peck's to pitch his February training event. Time left to sign up was short, so he texted me information which was then emailed to FL MSTA members and friends so we could take advantage of the significantly reduced pricing he offered. Don got it in time for the January newsletter. It was a tremendous opportunity for some great training. I hope some of you were able to take advantage. We appreciate you, Douglas Re.

Tillie's: I was anxious to try this place. The property, like many in downtown Eustis, is very attractive. Unlike the 1884 Restaurant just down the street (and no longer in business), Tillie's (left in the picture) has ample parking and a nice grassy park directly across the street. The food was good, plentiful and reasonably priced.

Weather-wise, it was gusty practically all day and overcast skies threatened. We got a little mist in the



Sanford area going up and a couple light sprinkles heading over to Daytona afterward. By late afternoon the grey turned to baby blue, at least on the east coast. Temperatures remained in the mid to upper 70's all day. So, it was comfortable riding and finished up beautifully.

I made the reservation for twelve and was pleasantly surprised when twenty showed up. Fortunately, Tillie's had the space. In addition to our core mid-state group – Hugh, Carl, Alan, Budd and Dale, I was pleased to see Eve and Dennis make a showing from the center-west area; Steve and Roy were down from north Florida; surprisingly, Roger showed up from Highlands County and Ron was there from way down in southern Broward County. Larry, from Indian River County, rode up with Eckert, Doug and me.



New faces included previous HSTA member Ron McNary from Seminole County. Ron won half of the \$75 50/50. \$37 to the club. Now living in The Villages in addition to Dale are Voytek Kulesza, Barney Saunders and Ed Furbeck. Ed is a Sustaining Member originally from Indiana – one of Moose Parish's long-time riders. The final new face - Jeff Walton (and his wife) winter in Eve's neighborhood. As always, thanks to each of you for participating – come again. I hope your day of riding was as satisfying as mine.

Group Riding: A recent article on Rider Magazine.com entitled "Group Riding Best Practices" aligns fairly well with my understanding of how the process should work. To read it yourself, open this hyperlink: [link](#).

Safe Journeys,

Tom Blake

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Florida January Lunch Ride

Sat., February 8th, 11:30 PM – 1:30 PM

[Westgate River Ranch Resort](#), ([map](#))

3200 River Ranch Blvd,
River Ranch, FL 33867

Northeast Director Needed

If you would consider taking the position of Northeast Director, please contact Van, busavan@flmsta.org.

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!!

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., **February 8th**, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Where: [Westgate River Ranch Resort](#), 3200 River Ranch Blvd, River Ranch, FL 33867 ☎863-692-1321 ([map](#))

Description: This will be our 3rd trip. It's definitely a unique property. And despite the SR-60 slog, it has been very well attended. We'll do the enclosed deck again since it's a little quieter and they do have heaters out there. I suspect there will be a few Southies filling a table or two as well!

Contact: Tom Blake, tblake1@cfl.rr.com, or ☎321-723-2857

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **February 22nd**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: [Village Brewhouse](#), 1200 W Retta Esplanade, Unit G37, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 ☎941-621-8329 ([map](#))

Description: Though we are returning to a familiar location, we are dining at a new-to-us establishment!! There must be 4-6 restaurants on this esplanade... Time for a change of tables! We do have several west side destinations planned this year. Be sure to make them all!!

Contact: Van, 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 Central Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **March 7th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: [The Cove Pub and Grub](#), 1242 S. Cove Camp Pt, Inverness, Florida 34450 ☎352-344-5894 ([map](#))

Description: Well, this is a new destination on the west side of the state. It sounds unique and pretty interesting. So let's give them a try. I think you will be pleased.

Contact: Tom Blake, tblake1@cfl.rr.com, or ☎321-723-2857

MSTA Bike Week Lunch Ride

When: Thurs., **March 12th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [St. John's Marina & Resort](#), 2999 FL-44, DeLand, FL 32720 ☎386-736-6601 ([map](#))
Description: Instead of the 1884 Restaurant in Eustis, this year we're moving to St John's River just west of Deland. It's only about a half hour from the Daytona Speedway. As you approach the bridge on Sr44, turn right at the KOA sign and follow the paved road back and then along the river to the Grill. Great river and marina views. The food's not bad either.
Contact: Tom Blake, tblake1@cfl.rr.com, or ☎321-723-2857

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **March 21st**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [Havana Café of the Everglades](#), 191 Smallwood Dr, Chokoloskee, FL 34138 ☎239-695-2214 ([map](#))
Description: A brand new destination for us!! I know, it's near the end of the road, literally! Their decor and menu are not to be missed. Join us for our yearly, southerly ride.
Contact: Van, busavan@flmsta.org, or ☎561-386-2594

Regional Events

February COG-Sponsored Rider Training at Jennings GP

When: Fri.-Sun., **February 7th-9th**
Where: Motorcycle Race Track, Jennings, FL
Description: From email sent by Tom Blake to Florida riders...

Florida MSTAs Members and Friends,

Doug Re, a Concours Owners Group (COG) member and Jennings GP track day trainer, attended the Peck's luncheon and offered a very reduced rate for any of our members/friends who would like to participate in the upcoming class on February 7th to 9th.

Since time is of the essence, he texted me some information which I am passing on to you now. **He believes the class will fill up by the 3rd week of January so there's not much time to waste.** He is giving us the class for half the Jennings Price. Class and track time will be \$140. He also got us a discount on leather suit rentals. Camping is included in your gate fee of \$10. Attendees are to arrive Friday evening (7th). Training is on Saturday. There will be a campfire Fri and Sat nights. The group enjoys going to dinner together at a restaurant in Lake Park. Details to be shared when you get there. There will also be a track walk that starts 45min prior to sunset Friday evening.

If you would like to improve your riding skills to become a safer street rider and one who gains more enjoyment from riding, then sign up. Doug emphasizes – racing is not allowed. It is a training program done at a closed race course with large run-off areas. Class and track time is Saturday. Each hour is comprised of 20 minutes in class, followed by 20 minutes of skill practice, and 20 minutes of debriefing in the paddock. There will be 7 skills sessions during the day.

The track is located just off of I-75 near Jennings, FL – Exit 467 close to the Florida-Georgia line. [Map](#)

For specific information on the COG-led training, go to this link: [Jennings Track Day February Event](#)

To see video of the COG-MSTA sessions a few years ago, go to this link: <https://youtu.be/bTFaPLeTyY4>

Doug will accept non-refundable sign-up money via PayPal at his e-mail douglasjre@gmail.com or phone (407) 791-1543.

Skill comes first, speed comes naturally. Hence you have to slow down if you want to go fast.

I hope many of you will decide to take advantage of this generous offer. Thank-you, Doug Re, for extending it to FL MSTAs.

Contact: Doug Re ☎douglasjre@gmail.com ☎(407) 791-1543

Daytona Beach Bike Week

When: **March 6th-15th**
Where: Daytona Beach, FL
Information: Check out the website: www.officialbikeweek.com

Daytona Just-For-Fun Event - In Ocala

When: Fri.-Sun., **March 6th-8th**
Where: [Equus Inn](#), 3434 College Road Ocala, FL 34474 ☎352-854-3200 (previously Quality Inn) ([map](#))
Description: From email sent by Tom Blake to Florida riders...

IT'S BACK!! JOIN US FOR A GREAT WEEKEND OF "WINTER" RIDING AND FROLIC!!

We have revived the Daytona Bike Weeks event this year, and we added a ride to the official MSTA Central Lunch Ride for good measure! How sweet it is...

We return to the same hotel, under new name and management, which has served us so well in the past. The newly remodeled rooms are a nice bonus! We have 15 rooms set aside at the rate below for rooms with two queen beds. This location is within easy walking distance to several restaurants and is close to good roads!

Remember, this is the beginning of Daytona Bike Weeks. Rooms across the whole of Florida will be booking up shortly!

I'D CALL NOW AND BOOK YOUR WEEKEND!!

RESERVATIONS: Call 352-854-3200, Ask for the MSTA rate \$79.00/night + tax for 2 queen beds Friday & Saturday nights. Cancellations up to 24 hours prior to arrival.

This is set for the weekend leading into Bike Week AND our MSTA Central Lunch Ride is scheduled that weekend just down the road at the Cove Pub & Grub in Inverness which should make a nice Saturday ride!

Contact: Tom Blake, tblake1@cfl.rr.com, or ☎321-723-2857

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. 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](#).

National MSTA RideMSTA.com

Florida MSTA 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](#) 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

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 to discuss publishing an article. I can offer assistance in preparing your article. Thanks!