



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

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Events January 2020

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Feature Article

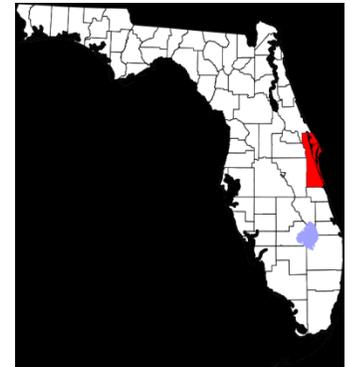
Touring Brevard County

By Tom Blake
Florida Co-Director

[Ed: This article previously appeared in the 4/2012 edition of this newsletter. Some details may have changed since then.]

I used to rely solely on maps. Now it's GPS. But zoomed in to see the smaller, often more interesting roads, you lose the bigger picture. The shortcoming of both is that they're never as good as being intimately familiar with the local roads.

So... as a service to fellow riders, I offer the following description of Brevard County geography, roadways and certain popular attractions to help those who may like to visit or travel through the area but would rather avoid the interstate.



As highlighted in red in the map, Brevard County is located along the east coast of central Florida. Volusia County (Daytona) is to the north. Indian River (Vero) is to the south. Osceola (Kissimmee) and Orange (Orlando) are to the west.

Geographically, there are 3 land masses separated by water. The barrier islands run from Cape Canaveral (eastern-most triangular area above) north into Volusia County with Mosquito Lagoon to the west, and from the Cape south all the way to Ft. Pierce with the Banana and Indian Rivers to the west. Merritt Island runs from above the Cape to Melbourne with the Banana River to the east and the Indian River to the west. And, of course, there's the mainland. There are no communities exclusively west of I-95 within Brevard County. The St. Johns River starts west of Palm Bay and flows northward through Jacksonville to the ocean.



The main cities on the mainland south-to-north include Palm Bay, Melbourne, Rockledge, Cocoa and Titusville. On the beach are Melbourne Beach, Indialantic, Indian Harbor Beach, Satellite Beach, [Patrick AFB](#), Cocoa Beach and Cape Canaveral. The unincorporated community known as Merritt Island lies east of Cocoa on Merritt Island (the island). [Kennedy Space Center](#) (KSC) is on the Cape and northern part of Merritt Island west of the Cape. [Port Canaveral](#) is on the south cape just north of the town of Cape Canaveral.

West-east county access roads working south to north are 192 (Melbourne), 520 (Cocoa), 528 (N Cocoa), 50 (Titusville) and Hwy 46 (Mims). 528 is a toll road west of I-95.

There are seven causeways to the islands:

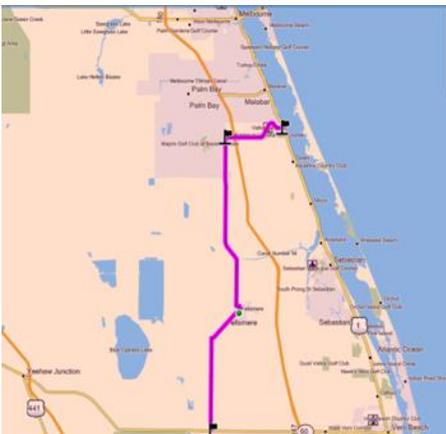
- 1) Melbourne to Indialantic (192);
- 2) Melbourne to Indian Harbor Beach (518);
- 3) N. Melbourne to S. Merritt Island, PAFB & Satellite Beach (404);
- 4) Cocoa to Merritt Island & Cocoa Beach (520);
- 5) N. Cocoa to Merritt Island & Port Canaveral (528);
- 6) S. Titusville to KSC (405);
- 7) Titusville to Merritt Island National Wildlife Sanctuary (Max Brewer Parkway).

The main north-south roadways on the mainland are I-95 west of the cities and US 1 which passes through the communities. Rte 3 runs the length of Merritt Island although you have to detour around the working part of the space center. On the barrier island, A1A enters from Indian River County and continues north to Port Canaveral. You can cross the county S-N on I-95 in about an hour. Any of the other routes or combinations will take about 2 hours.

Another access from the south and west is Rte 512 from SR 60 between Yeehaw Junction and Vero. Follow it to Fellsmere and then take Rte 507 from Fellsmere to as far north as Melbourne.



US 1 is highlighted from Wabasso in IR County to Oak Hill in Volusia and runs very close to the west bank of the Indian River in most areas.



Highlighted are Rte 512 between Rte 60 and Fellsmere and Rte 507 north of Fellsmere, then Valkaria Rd east (near where I live) to US 1.

These are rural 2-lanes at least until 507 crosses 514 (Malabar Rd). Then it's 4-lane and stoplights up into Melbourne where it joins US

1. I recommend turning east to US 1 at Micco, Grant, Valkaria or Malabar Roads because US 1 runs right along the Indian River and is quite pleasant by comparison.

A1A follows the barrier island from north of Ft. Pierce Inlet, through Vero Beach in Indian River County and enters Brevard at the Sebastian Inlet.

Then it travels all the way to Port Canaveral where it merges into 528 westbound. It's a nice 2-lane with good scenery all the way to Indialantic

east of Melbourne. Then it turns to 4-lane the rest of the way to the port. But it's still a scenic ride regardless of the number of lanes.

Except for KSC, most of the attractions are along A1A. The [Sebastian Inlet State Park](#) offers fishing, boating and sun bathing. I at least slow way down crossing the tall bridge just to gawk.

About a mile north of the inlet on the river side is [Long Point Park](#).



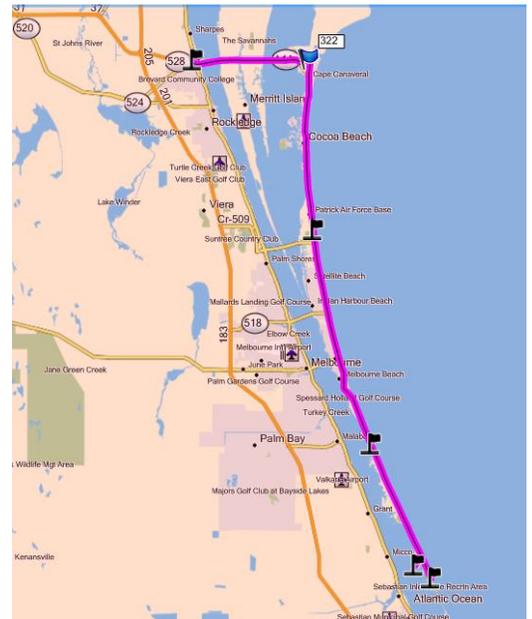
Long Point Park along the Indian River. Hiking trails are on the island to the left of the park.

It's a popular destination with camp sites right at the water's edge. Fishing, hiking, kayaking, canoeing and motor boating are popular here. A wooden foot bridge connects to a small island with hiking trails. The park has several pavilions, grills and room in between for volleyball or other activities. There's a charge for camping but not for casual access to the park. It's fun to just ride in, circle around the park's perimeter and ride back out again. Or you can stop and just enjoy the peaceful surroundings or do a little hiking.

The [Juan Ponce De León Landing Historic Site](#) is located a few miles south of Melbourne Beach. There's a small ocean access park there with a historical marker. This is where De León first came ashore in 1513. There is some disagreement about the location. Some believe it was near St Augustine and still others think it was at Ponce Inlet south of Daytona Beach. In any case, he is credited with being the first European to set foot on Florida, which he named.

[Patrick Air Force Base](#) is located between Satellite Beach and Cocoa Beach. It is home to the 45th Space Wing which manages all unmanned rocket launches at the cape. Access is restricted since 9/11. But you can still see the runways and aircraft. A1A is also right next to the beach here so there are good ocean views.

[Port Canaveral](#) is at the northern end of this section of A1A. Several cruise lines including Disney, Carnival, Royal Caribbean and Norwegian use the port so when they're in, you can marvel at the sight



Highlighted is A1A from Sebastian Inlet to Port Canaveral including Long Point and De Leon Landing Historical Site Park, PAFB then west on 528 to Hwy 3.



The bridge at Sebastian Inlet as viewed from the south jetty looking NW (©Google Earth).



Table with a view at Port Canaveral (©Google Earth).

of towering ocean liners. Exit onto King Street at the port. There are several nice restaurants right along the water. I particularly like Grills Seafood and Tiki Deck on Flounder St (2nd left from King). Besides good food, the view or the port is excellent. Jetty Park, at the end of King St. is a nice place to camp, fish or just relax but there's a fee to get out there. At the west edge of the port is a lock to allow smaller boats access the Banana River or vice versa.

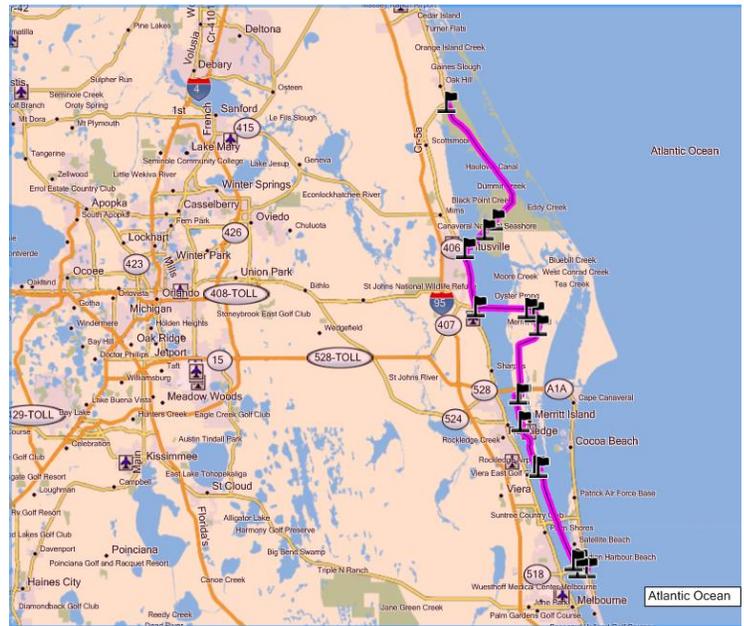
Hwy 3 runs the length of Merritt Island from Indian Harbor Beach (518 then north 2 lights on S. Patrick Drive to Hwy 3) all the way to where it joins US 1 below Oak Hill in southern Volusia County. However, the working part of KSC is restricted so you have to detour west on Space Commerce Way and Hwy 405, pick up US 1 north into Titusville and then take the Max Brewer Parkway (east at the Burger King) back northeast to Hwy 3.

Except for the community of Merritt Island, Hwy 3 is rural, pleasant and relaxing. The southern end is extremely narrow and slow going until you cross Hwy 404 (Pineda Causeway) but supremely scenic. I often take Tropical Trail around the eastern edge of Merritt Island (the community) to avoid most of the congestion. You can pick it up 5 miles south of 520 and follow it to Pioneer Rd about 3 miles north of 520. Or jog 1 stoplight west when you get to 520. Pioneer gets you back to Hwy 3 up to KSC.

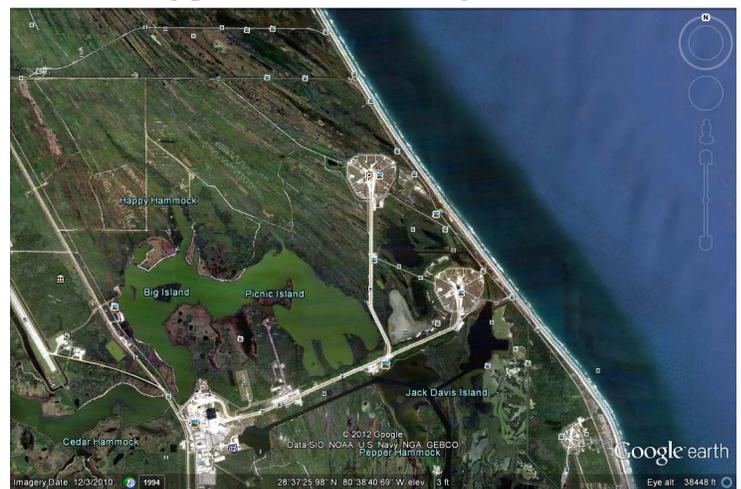
[Kennedy Visitor Center](#) is a must see if you've never been there or if it's been a while. After Space Commerce Way turn east on 405. You can easily spend a whole day, especially if you take the bus tour. There are a large number of exhibits, an Imax theatre which is excellent, the simulated Space Shuttle Take-Off Ride, which will shake you severely I'm told, and bus tours of the working part of KSC including the VAB and some of the launch sites. There is an admission charge.

Afterward, take 405 west across the Indian River and then US 1 north through Titusville. From downtown Titusville, you can stay on US 1 up through the small towns of Mims and Scottsmeer to Volusia County. However, I generally prefer to take the Max Brewer Parkway northeast onto the [Merritt Island National Wildlife Sanctuary](#) and then Hwy 3 northwest to US 1.

Northern Hwy 3 crosses Haulover Canal about halfway up. It was dug in the late 1800's to facilitate



Highlighted from A1A in IHB to KSC Visitor's Center on Merritt Island (map ctr) via 518, S. Patrick Dr, Hwy 3, Tropical Trail, Pioneer, Hwy 3, Space Commerce Way and 405. Then to US 1 in Volusia County via 405, US 1 (into Titusville), Max Brewer Pkwy to the NE and Hwy 3 NW through the Merritt Island Wildlife Sanctuary.



KSC launch pads 39A and B (right) and VAB (bottom left) (©Google Earth).

getting boats and cargo between Mosquito Lagoon and the Indian River (both are part of the Intracoastal). Prior to the railway, this is how commerce, mail, etc. were transported. Before the canal, people had to haul their boats across the strip of land – hence the name. The water in the canal is usually warm and this attracts manatees. A paved road just south of the drawbridge takes you to a dock and boat launch area. There are almost always manatees in there plus it's quiet, peaceful and just plain nice. There's also a manatee viewing area just north of the bridge. It's a little treacherous getting a motorcycle over the short dirt access road but can be done with a little care.

Well, there you have it. Hopefully, you will find this helpful on your next trip to or through Brevard County.

Tom Blake

SAFETY TALK

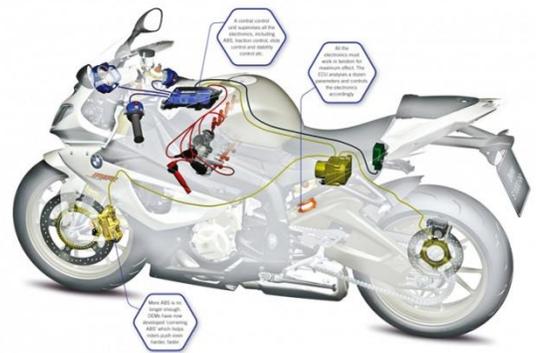
IMPORTANT NOTICES: Ultimately, the safety of motorcycle riders and their passengers is their own responsibility. Nothing presented in the column supersedes, negates or relieves a motorcyclist and/or passenger from assumption of personal responsibility for their actions and safety.

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.

Electronics...The New Safety

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

I like to think of myself as a proficient, experienced rider. But even after 40 years, 500K+ miles and tons of rider training, things can still happen. A few weeks ago, I was out burning up the back roads with an equally experienced and very talented riding friend. He was leading when we jammed into a tight, right-hand sweeper. All of a sudden he saw the danger and pulled even tighter into the corner to avoid it. Before I could alter my line, both of my tires were in the middle of a sand patch. I was rolling on the throttle through the turn, with the bike heeled over far enough that my toe sliders were just about to touch down when the bike started to slide sideways through the sand. Thankfully my traction control (TC) cut in and instantly reduced power to the rear wheel, preventing it from spinning in the sand due to reduced traction at that particular moment. I only had to wait out the sideways slide until the tires caught, once they slid through to clean pavement on the other side of the sand.



Safety Electronics for High-End Motorcycles

[AutoTechReview](#)

Did I make an error? You bet. It also reminded me that where we ride, sand in the corners is an everyday concern. Fortunately the electronics systems on my motorcycle stepped in to provide that extra level of safety.

It used to be that we were in awe of a new type of suspension or steering control system. There are lots of us still around who were riding before anti-lock brakes, or even disc brakes were common. But now in addition to improving mechanical systems, computer-controlled electronic systems are offering new realms of motorcycle safety.

- ❧ Electronic Suspension Adjustment (ESA) can modify your suspension response based on road conditions and riding desires.
- ❧ Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS) lets you know what's really in your rubber. The best systems have digital readouts to give you exact pressures at any time.
- ❧ The newest anti-lock brakes are no longer just mechanical. They are electronically-controlled systems that work so fast even the experts are in awe of them.
- ❧ Traction Control (TC) will control rear wheel spin if you suddenly lose traction (let's say you hit some sand while leaned over hard in a corner...).

I've heard some veteran riders bemoan the advent of electronic systems, saying they take away from the skill of riding. The reality is that these systems can be adjusted to conform to riding conditions and requirements, and only intervene when rider skill is overcome by events, conditions or just plain error.

If you haven't kept up to date on new motorcycle safety systems, take the time to read up on them. Get to know the systems on your bike or systems available when it comes time to shop for a new ride. Who knows?

Electronic control systems may just save your bacon one day.

Doug Westly – Safety Editor (Retired)

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

Florida News

South Director's Report

Look left, look right, look forward, look back...

Sounds like every motorcycle training course I've ever taken!! But this is the end of the year... end of the decade. So, we'll spend a little time looking around!

I began my adventures in State leadership back in February of 2009. While recovering from total hip replacement surgery, I was dragged into the electronic/internet world whimpering and limping. Yes, I was that dinosaur you've heard about who managed to avoid all things email and internet until then. Prior to sitting in front of our desktop iMac, I did occasionally look over Kim's shoulder to see what all the fuss was about! But, thanks to Bill Royal's and Kim's immense patience and high tolerance for repetitive instruction, here I am!



Van VanSteelant

Entering my 11th year, I'm glad to say that the Florida Chapter has endured and flourished! With the great assistance of Central Region Co-Directors, we have continued to offer two monthly rides and additional opportunities to share our mutual love of all things two-wheeled. We have been graced with many, many other volunteers whose efforts have benefited the Chapter and National Club as well. Just For Fun events that draw out-of-towners to sunny Florida. Special Edition lunch rides! Florida members serving on the Executive Committee and other National Level positions. Twice we were able to contribute to the Dan Clark Safety Program all the while maintaining the best State website!! And just this year, we donated to two foundations that have succeeded in blending motorcycles, therapy and recovery to help our Vets with PTSD.

Eyes up, looking forward, heading where we're looking... We are working to expand our riding opportunities and activities further north in Florida. Nothing happens overnight, but we ought to have a few reasons-to-ride in place during 2020. Though there's lots of inertia to overcome, we have some momentum started, and are always looking for 2-3 members who can help us out with ideas, planning, attendance... Keep looking through the corners!!

Our decision to hold only one ride in December worked out very well. We had 21-23 riders join the festivities at Jay Bee's in Lake Wales. In addition to Jay Bee's usual great service, all were pleased with their lunch selections as well. The 50/50 raffle was won by Roger Spice, who epitomizes the "only takes one ticket" to win!! The \$43.00 winnings helped offset his recent shopping spree... Combined with the \$27.00 that came from the Special Lunch Ride on Black Friday (see Tom's excellent report below), we end the year with \$533.00 in our kitty. Again, a BIG THANK YOU to all who participate!



But wait, there's more... Santa Van brought along some MST swag that needed to find new homes. Everybody took home a beverage coolie, and two riders made off with new hats, courtesy of Roger, who ordered

them a size too big. Check out Buck Jones and Larry Solomon!

As for the most excellent ride that Saturday, WOW!! The weather was our friend. The back roads were mostly empty... or the rolling road blocks were easily dispatched. The small group of Eastsiders made their way over many familiar roads. And as if Roger had just been waiting down the road, he rolled in right behind us at our gas stop before riding the last leg of the trip. Many of you know that Roger has more than 1-2 bikes ☺. His ride this day was the new [BMW 310GS](#), side bags and all!! Sweet! Please read Tom's account of his group's ride following Roger back down the same roads the Eastsiders enjoyed both ways! Good times!!

What's Next??

By the time this arrives in your mailbox, the 2nd annual revival of the New Year's Lunch Ride to [Peck's Old Port Cove](#) will be history. Look forward to Tom's report on the good times had on the first day of 2020!

Do mark your calendars for the **Central Lunch Ride** on Saturday, **Jan. 11th**, to [Tillies Tavern & Grill](#), 31 E Magnolia Ave, in Eustis. While the Central ride heads west, the South ride heads north!?!? A week later, **Jan. 18th**, the **South Lunch Ride** heads to the [Lone Cabbage Fish Camp](#), 8199 W King St, in Cocoa. Both of these rides offer our members a great opportunity to enjoy the "winter" riding conditions in Florida!

Now hear this... The whole year of riding events is now posted to our website!! Yes, lunches, brunches, special rides, bike shows, regional rides, and STAR 2020!! More to be posted as the info rolls in. Check out www.flmsta.org

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 December:

Chad Barker Roy Clark Jeffrey Withrow

We thank these Florida members for recently renewing their memberships:

Carlyson Delgado Don Moe Don Mroczenski

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Tom Batchelor	Michael Ewanus	Kevin Healey	John Randolph
Frederick Blackall	Nir Frucht	Steve Marcum	Phillip Ridgdill
William Corrow	Raymond Harcourt	Alan Miller	Alan Spears
Robert Croot	Keith Harrison	David & Leslie Noyes	Dennis & Donna Villarose
Richard Danieri	Chuck Headrick	Stephen Phillips	

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!

Thank you all for your continued support of our Chapter!! Please reach out to your riding friends and acquaintances and invite them to one of our upcoming rides. If you don't ask, they'll never know what they're missing...

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

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report - December 2019

A belated **Season's Greetings** to everyone.

May you have a prosperous and **Happy New Year**... and many, many miles of safe motorcycling.



Tom Blake

Our **Black Friday** ride was about as nice as any we've had. Now, I know many of you think this is the absolute **worst** day of the year to be on a motorcycle. It wasn't. Actually, traffic was light in the morning after the stores filled up early. Even I-95 was light coming up through West Palm, Jim Park said. Traffic picked up some in the afternoon but was still not a problem.

Jim was standing at my rendezvous spot in West Melbourne talking to Doug Farnham when I pulled in. In all, thirteen showed up at [Goodrich's Seafood](#) in Oak Hill. David Sumner came all the way from the west side of the state. And Dennis Villarose from way up north. Having the day off, Claude Hayes even showed up. Hugh Palmer brought along Vermont snowbird, Ray Atwood. Carl Swofford, Budd Breheim, Hal Smith and Alan Spears were there, too. First-timer Bill Walton rode all the way up from Mims



– what 15 miles? He saw Jim’s FB posting and decided to join us. Nice to meet both Bill and Ray. Thanks to all of you who rode in.

We sat out on the covered deck next to the Intracoastal. What a gorgeous day to spend quality time outside with friends. I got a lot of positive feedback about Goodrich’s. Someone summed it up this way, “It was like eating at Captain Hiram’s but at half the cost.” Carl likes the place so much he brings his wife almost weekly since we had the first ride there last year. He says on top of everything else, their Key Lime pie is just excellent.

The 50/50 grossed \$55. \$28 to Alan and \$27 to FLMSTA.



A good number of Central riders made their way to Van’s lunch at Jay Bee’s on Pearl Harbor Day. Those of us who droned across SR60 were desperate for an alternate way home. We hooked up with Roger De Coster... er, Spice, for a romp down Walk in Water Rd and around the east side of Reedy Lake to Old Avon Park Rd and US17. I had not been on Walk in Water before but will add it to my list of good rides. No moss grew on our tires, that’s for sure. Roger signaled us for the turnoff to Arbuckle Rd just north of Sebring and the rest of us headed east from there. Well done, Roger. What a **blast!**

On January 11th, we will sit down to lunch at [Tillie’s Tavern & Grill](#) in Eustis for the normal Central get together. It’s just down the street from the 1884 Restaurant. Several of our guys tried it out this past summer and said they liked it better than 1884. So, let’s do it! Fun roads up that way, too.

Please note upcoming ride details below and on our website. Each is a great excuse to ride and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow riders.

Safe Journeys,

Tom Blake

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Florida January Lunch Ride

Sat., **January 11th**, 11:30 PM – 1:30 PM

[Tillies Tavern & Grill](#) ([map](#))

31 E. Magnolia Ave

Eustis FL 32726

Northeast Director Needed

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

Ride Suggestions

This month we have another contribution by Florida MSTA member Stephen Evans. Others are welcome to submit their ride suggestions too.

It was 34 degrees on Thursday morning here in Lake City, Florida when I took a container of flammable liquid that was in place over a hot engine and put the whole thing between my legs. However, have no fear as I was wearing my Duluth Fire Retardant Crotch Panties with the super stretch fabric. I fired up the engine, twisted the throttle and was off to north Georgia to see the [Georgia Guidestone Monument](#) which is one of about twenty or so “Stonehenge Monuments” around the United States. Please Google this as it has a extremely interesting history behind it.



Since it was just a quick two-day trip up and back, I didn't even bother to put on the saddle bags. I spent the night in Hartwell, Georgia, about 12 miles north of the monument. When leaving on Friday morning at 0720, it was 24 degrees. The first two hours of each morning was chilly to say the least, but I had beautiful skies and zero traffic as I took all back roads. It was really nice riding coming in at 355 miles each way.

My favorite saying on the monument was: “Avoid petty laws and useless officials.”

I'm wondering if we could get some members of Congress to go on a field trip to this place so they can read and take in that saying. I don't know about you but I'd want them to read it more than once so they wouldn't misinterpret any of the words.



Enjoy the pics.

Steve

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., **January 11th**, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Where: [Tillies Tavern & Grill](#), 31 E. Magnolia Ave, Eustis FL 32726 ☎352-602-7929 ([map](#))
Description: Hugh, Carl and several other northern Orlando guys tried this place out a few months ago and thought it was even better than the 1884 Restaurant that everyone else thought was so good. So we'll give it a try. They're just down the street from 1884.
Contact: Tom Blake, tblake1@cfl.rr.com, or ☎321-723-2857

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **January 18th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [Lone Cabbage Fish Camp](#), 8199 W King St, Cocoa, FL 32926 ☎321-632-4199 ([map](#))
Description: It's been awhile since the Southies ventured so far north for lunch... Join us as we head through some of our favorite cow fields and rural Florida! I expect we'll see a few smiling faces of our Central members as well.
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., **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

Regional Events

14th Annual Dania Beach Vintage Motorcycle Show

When: Sat., **January 25th**, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Where: **Frost Park**, 300 NE 2nd St, Dania Beach, FL 33004
Information: Check out the website: www.daniabeachvintagebikeshow.com

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 MSTA 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 MSTA.

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

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

More Contact Information

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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!