



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

January 2023 - Volume 16 Issue 1

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Feature Article

1,386 Miles for Lunch

By Stephen Evans

A friend of mine, Eugene, who is 76 and an avid motorcyclist, had a bucket list item that he wanted to get checked off. He is a retired Major after 20 years in the Army and then taught for the Army for another 21 years. When Eugene was a young man and stationed at Fort Bliss (located in Texas and New



Our lunch destination - Posta De Mesilla in Las Cruces, NM, one of the best Mexican restaurants in the area

Mexico near El Paso), he ate a meal at a restaurant in [Las Cruces,](#)

[New Mexico](#) named [La Posta De Mesilla](#) and his meal was called Chili Relleno — thus the reason for the trip. It had been 50 years since he had this dish at this restaurant and he was going with his bother Larry and two other riders, Eric and Patrick. Larry is 68, previously an engineer for DuPont, is married with grown children and is now likewise retired.

When Eugene asked me if I wanted to come along, I thought about this for some time, putting at least 2 seconds of thought into this invite, and said, “of course, I’ll come.” It’s not every day when one gets to ride to New Mexico for lunch and besides I love Mexican food – not to mention a good margarita. Not only that but I get to “RIDE” which I’m very passionate about.



(l-r): Larry, Eugene, Patrick & Eric

Eric, who is 60, was a corporate lawyer and retired at the age of 47 and has been goofing off ever since (and I say more power to him). He’s married with grown children, his wife is a dentist, and they live in Tennessee up near the Kentucky border in a small town. Eric rides down to the Valdosta area where Larry and Eugene live on Friday (November 1st) and spends the night at Eugene’s house. Eugene and Eric met back in 1995 when they were doing the Iron Butt Rally that year (11,000 miles in 11 days). The next morning (Saturday, November 2nd) as the three of them (Eugene, Larry & Eric) are leaving the Valdosta area, I’m leaving Lake City and we are all going to meet at a Shell gas station in Tallahassee and head west.

The first night finds us in McComb, Mississippi and for me it was 548 miles - a little less for them. The second night finds us in Palestine, Texas (373 miles) where we hook up with Patrick who lives up north in Denton, Texas. Patrick is waiting for us as we pull into the motel in Palestine. Patrick is 65, had retired at the

age of 60 by selling his construction business (steel buildings) in Dallas, and now lives on a 60-acre ranch up in the Denton area with his wife. He also has grown children as we all do.

The next morning, Monday, November 4, the five of us are on the road at 0700 hrs. in a very sunny and brisk 52-degree day which beats the day before when it was only 42 degrees — but who really cares as we're riding and that's where we want to be. We decide to change the route somewhat and go to Fort Stockton (531 miles) way over in west Texas on I-10 between San Antonio and El Paso. Other than getting to Mobile, Alabama the first day on I-10, it has been all back roads, which is great. It's even greater in Texas as the speed limit is either 70 or 75 on these two-lane back roads because someone in Texas has a brain that works and realizes that there are long distances to travel and today's vehicles are not 6,000 lb. beasts with drum brakes as they were years ago. GOD BLESS TEXAS for their common sense is what I say. Add to that the fact that the shoulder is about 2/3 as wide as the lane itself and when you're coming up on a slower vehicle they pull off somewhat on to the shoulder to let you pass... I love these Texas people and am hoping they adopt me.

Tuesday morning we are off again at 0700. Instead of taking I-10 from Fort Stockton to El Paso and then I-25 to Las Cruces a distance of 284 miles, we stay on the back roads, riding 352 miles getting to the La Posta De Mesilla Restaurant at 1300 hrs. It was worth every mile as some of the scenery out in the desert was just beautiful. The restaurant is located in the historic section of Las Cruces and it's a very old part of the city which adds to its charm. Some 150 years ago it was called something else and was in part a hotel and a stopping point for the Butterfield Stagecoach Line which ran from San Diego to San Antonio via Las Cruces, at the time the biggest city between the two. Back in that day, it had such visitors as Billy the Kid, Kit Carson and Pancho Villa and much later General Douglas MacArthur ate there. Then in 1939 a young woman with a lot of spunk named Katy Griggs Camunez took over and it became what it is today – a 17,000 sq. ft. restaurant called La Posta De Mesilla, which is known throughout the southwest as one of the very best Mexican restaurants around. Today it is run by Katy's great niece and her husband.

I will say this about the famous dish called Chili Relleno - I ate it all but was not blown away by it. I would have rather had an all-beef burrito with cheese, lettuce, tomato and sour cream. However that is just this one man's opinion, and it means nothing in the scheme of things. I didn't think it was bad, I just thought it was bland. Now some of you may be thinking that - gee, Steve rode all that way for a lunch that he didn't like but that's not correct. The Chili Relleno dish was on Eugene's bucket list, not on mine, and I was along for the RIDE which was a really nice one. I wanted to go for a ride and that's what I got to do. In fact my total mileage was 3,557 miles, and I'd do it again in a NY second.

Over lunch we talked about where to go next and, with it getting dark earlier because of the time change, we decided to go to [Alamogordo, New Mexico](#) some 70 miles to the northeast of Las Cruces for the night and decide there where to go next. Over dinner we talked about going north up into Utah and the Canyonlands National Park, but it seemed each of us had something to get home to. Thus, we decided to cut the trip short and go home. I had left Linda in a rental house in strange neighborhood after only three days and felt I needed to get home to her and Jessie.

We decided that we'd visit [Roswell](#) in the morning since we were starting out on back roads and it wouldn't be out of our way. Roswell, not to be confused with Area 51 in Nevada, is where some say a UFO crashed in July of 1947. Gee, I was born in 1947... — Do you think there's a possibility that maybe I was on.... — Na, it couldn't be. As the story goes, it crashed in Roswell and the government took all the debris and the occupants to Area 51 in Nevada.

The ride to Roswell was just beautiful (US-70 and US-380) as it took us up and thru the [Sacramento Mountains](#) and the [Lincoln National Forest](#) all while passing thru the [Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation](#). When we went over Apache Summit at just over 7,500 feet, the temperature dropped down into the low 40's and the scenery was just gorgeous. As we pull into Roswell we decide to go to the [Roswell UFO Museum](#) and check out the aliens - or maybe some of our family members.



As we pulled into Roswell, we decided to check out the aliens at the Roswell UFO Museum

Although we knew that upon leaving Roswell, we were going to run into a cold front with some rain, we thought we could get by Plains, Texas before it really started around 1 PM (according to the weather channel). That wasn't going to happen. We weren't but maybe 20 miles east of Roswell with it being 11:30 when the skies opened up, and we got hammered and I mean hammered. Eric and Patrick only had to get back to Patrick's house in Denton. However, Eugene and Larry had to get to Valdosta, and I needed to get to Lake City. Stopping in some small west Texas town to fill up, they all decided to have lunch, but I wanted to go on and thus we said our good-byes. So for me, it was off to Post, Texas where I caught US-84 down to I-20, through Sweetwater to Abilene for the night which put me at 445 miles for the day. I really needed time to dry out. I made the mistake of only wearing my rain jacket and not my rain pants out of Roswell and paid dearly for it as I was soaked. The rain was just unbelievable as it rained hard all day.

They have these signs out in west Texas that say – “Caution road may flood” - and I found those signs to be very true, not only out on the highway but also even more so in the small towns at the intersections. I had to go through some dips at intersections that had to be 4 or 5 inches deep, and the water would splash upwards covering me from the hips down. Did I mention to you that I failed to put on my rain pants? By now, I had some really nasty lightning around me and some was just a little too close by.

So as I passed through Tahoka, Texas, I spotted a building with an overhang and pulled off. As I pulled up under the overhang, a woman came out and told me to pull further up closer to the building, which I do. It was 59°, and I was wet and cold with a slight shiver - make that soaked with a slight shiver - and I needed to use the bathroom. She directed me to the bathroom and on the way out, an older gentleman offered me a hot cup of coffee. It turned out that I was at a store called the John Witt Butane Gas Co. (Farmers co-op) which was founded years ago by John Witt who had by now passed on. The gentleman who gave me the cup of coffee was Guy Witt, John's son, and he 83 years old, and the woman who told me to pull further was Pam, Guy's daughter. Not only did I get to use the bathroom, get a cup of hot coffee and warm up, but I also got to talk to these people and a few others as I stayed for about a half hour. I could not express enough gratitude to Guy, Pam and her two grown kids as I had a wonderful time, and it was Texas hospitality at its best. While there, a man came in with his son (5) and started telling us all about the hogs on his daddy's farm. Then he and I started making snorting sounds to one another like hogs do. We had everyone laughing and most of all, the boy – he was a cutie and loved to laugh. When I left, he came to the door and watched me leave and waved goodbye - just a really sweet boy. It was a wonderful stop in time, and it would have never happened if I were in a car. Even though the weather was nasty, I had a great memory come out of that storm and intended to send Pam and Guy a short thank-you note with a copy of this story.

It seemed to have lightened somewhat as I left, but I soon found out that Mother Nature was pulling a fast one on me as within a half hour it was worse than before. It became extremely dark, as if it was almost night time, and raining so hard it was difficult to see. Everyone was slowing down to around 30 mph and running with their emergency flashers on as visibility was next to nothing. Then, miles on down the road I could see some light, almost like a sunrise, and then I was coming out of the storm. Also at this time I could see three

areas where the clouds were starting a downspout but it never materialized. Looking back on it now it was all quite amazing.

Most everything I had on went into the dryer at the hotel in Abilene and, using a blow dryer in the room, I did my gloves and boots, both of which were rainproof, although nothing works as it should in the weather I was in. I was surprised the blower still worked as I had it doing overtime duty that night and used it again the next morning, when as I get on the road, guess what – it was still raining although not as hard as the day before. I knew I needed to get through Ft. Worth and Dallas, and I was hoping I had two things in my favor. One, I knew I-20 goes south down around both cities as I-30 goes straight through them, and I hoped to be there early enough where I only had the beginning of rush hour and not the peak of it. I got lucky as everything worked out, and nothing was as bad as it could have been – like the accident (an 18 wheeler on fire) on the west bound lanes that had traffic backed up for just over six miles, and yes I measured it. Plus, the rain had now stopped and stayed that way 'til I got into Mississippi. So now it's on to Shreveport on I-20 and then I-49 south down to I-10 through Baton Rouge where I stopped in Gulfport, Mississippi with 807 miles under my belt for the day. The good news was that I was dry as I got dressed for the weather from the start, and it hadn't rain as long or as hard as the day before.

All was good on the morning of Friday the 8th as I had less than 450 miles to get home. Chances were that I'd have no rain, but I dressed for it anyway. Although no rain came my way, the wind gusts did, and one tended to get blown around somewhat on a bike which can wear one out. However, I was on the home stretch and could see the light at the end of the tunnel, so Mother Nature could bring whatever she so desired. I arrived home at exactly 1 pm with 435 miles for the day.



Overall, it was a GREAT trip, but then to me all motorcycle trips are great.

Overall, it was a GREAT trip and for many reasons, but then to me all motorcycle trips are great. Some are just more so than others. I cannot express how much I love to ride on two wheels and taking trips. Bad weather is just something that one must adapt to as you're going to get wet, cold and blown about, but it's still all good. I've ridden in four snow storms, and the next day life was good and all was beautiful. A long-distance ride on a motorcycle is no different than life itself if you think about it. There's a start and a finish and in between you're learning new things, meeting new people and having to adjust on a daily basis to what life throws at you. When you're on two wheels life is very enjoyable.

I hope this story finds everyone in good health and happy. –Steve

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. [Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the January 2015 FLMSTA Gator Tale.]*

New Year's Resolutions

By Doug Westly

Everybody makes them. Sometimes they're kept, sometimes not. How about some New Year's Resolutions that could save your life?

These are mine...

- I will always check my bike before I ride. That includes
- checking the tires, tire pressures, brakes, drivetrain, lights,
- controls, etc. I will also check my wife and riding partner's
- bike, as that is part of our agreed division of pre-ride duties. Nothing is more important to me than her safety! (Yes, she cross-checks me as well.)
- I will also check myself. Am I ready to ride? Is my mind on my riding, and not distracted? Am I rested and not tired? I promise to walk away from a ride if I am not ready. I have nothing to prove.
- I will always wear All The Gear All The Time (ATGATT). I will routinely inspect my gear, particularly my helmet, to ensure it will protect me if needed.
- I will ride responsibly and safely. That means cooperating with other traffic. I will not be a squid on the public streets.
- I will carefully decide with whom I ride. My riding partners should demonstrate the same care towards riding that I do. I will not ride outside my comfort zone. I will ride my own line and ride.
- I will practice good riding techniques. I will focus on my riding. I will stay alert to possible hazards (Remember the MSF's Search-Evaluate-Execute strategy?).
- I will seek out more rider training in 2015. For me, that means my annual RiderCoach refresher and this year probably another track school!
- I will always maintain my motorcycles. That means following the maintenance schedule in the Owner's Manual. It means regularly cleaning my bike, not just to show it off, but also as a means to detect possible problems or maintenance issues.
- I am an experienced rider. I recognize that newer riders may look to me or watch how I ride. I will do my best to present a good example of a mature, safe rider. At the same time, it is also my responsibility to show newer riders that safe riding is also fun riding.
- If I see unacceptable riding behavior or unsafe riding techniques, I will take it upon myself to address these issues. I will do it politely and positively. I recognize that, as much as possible, we should all watch out for each other.



Ok, none of us are perfect. I'm sure there will be times when I'll forget something. The important part of this is that I recognize how much motorcycling is a part of my life, and how I want to be able to continue riding. These resolutions are how to make that happen.

How about you? Ready for another year of riding in 2023?

Ride safe! – Doug Westly



South Director's Report

A look back, but eyes forward on the road to 2023...

As we "normalized" our lives to COVID-19, many of us returned to mostly pre-pandemic activities. Group rides, outdoor dining, ventilated indoor dining, regional gatherings, and the big one, STAR '22!! More miles and lots of smiles with minor accommodations to our daily routines. Advances in vaccines and available treatments reduced the spread and the consequences of COVID-19. Regardless, more can still be done to make all of us safer and live longer. Please stay vigilant.

Rides... We had them! And many of you came along for the fun and frolic! Some even "double dipped", catching both Central and South rides in one month! Oh, and this being Florida, we rode in heat, rain, squalls, heat, and a bit of nippy cold back in January! We hit many of our old favorites, with a sprinkling of new destinations. And more than once, we changed things up due to weather or closures!!

STAR '22 had a decent turnout and lots of fine roads in an area many visited for the first time. The major issue this year was the near 100-degree days for most of the event. Early departures were the solution, which made sure everyone was back in time for the free spread the Drury Hotel provided! Wish I could have attended...

More than a few members enjoyed the SE Regional events. The organizers are forever improving the venues and activities. Consider attending one in 2023...

Back to December's Statewide Lunch Ride... Once again, I had to follow my own rules and stay home to further my recovery from a serious cold. And NOT spread the germs amongst the holiday revelers! Que my standins... James took the reins again in my stead, and led a comfortable group over a wonderful back roads route to the Twin Props! Tom made sure everyone took home some MST swag and managed a successful raffle. His report follows. We end the year adding \$70.00 to our total, for \$1,048.00. I'll send a separate email to you detailing the GoDaddy expenses for 2022 and the resulting sum to start off 2023. Always a BIG THANKS to all who participate in our raffle!! You all help make our Chapter look good nationwide!

And we have lots of reasons to welcome 2023!!

Let's lead off with the two new members at the helm as Central Area Reps! The Eastside welcomes **Tom Blake** back to familiar territory. With responsibility for only half of the geography, he plans to spread his destinations out a little further afield. And the Westside will be **Doug Westley's** playground! He brings new enthusiasm to the fore, and we look forward to better serving the western membership. Now to work on the Northern area...

By the time this issue arrives, 16 riders will have enjoyed the New Year's Day Lunch Ride to Peck's Old Port. The January weather was perfect for our first gathering of 2023! Doug led 7 riders from his Brooksville meetup, thrilling them with his secret stash of backroads, ending with the outstanding Ozello Trail! Look for more in the February Gator Tale...

The other **three (!)** rides in January find us all over the State. The **East Central Lunch Ride on January 14th** heads to a new-to-us location, **Charlie and Jakes Barbecue in Indian Harbour Beach**. The next Saturday, **January 21st**, join us for the **South Lunch Ride** when we return to the **Gator Shack Restaurant** in the **Babcock Ranch**. Look to take their Eco Tour after lunch. And the **January 28th West Central Lunch Ride** returns to **Solomon's Castle in Ona**. Yes, they have reopened after Hurricane Ian! Look for a few Southies to join the fun!

Looking way ahead, registration is now open for **STAR '23!!** Members received a detailed email with all the info needed to make your plans... **NOW!!** Committing early makes it so much easier to ensure your attendance! You know it's in **Knoxville**, right?!?

And for those who have followed Carl's and Ilse's recovery... Both are continuing to improve and have begun their serious rehab. They are still looking to be back on two wheels in a few months...

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...

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...

FLMSTA welcomes a new member – Tod Powers of Ocala. Great to have you ride with us!

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Tom Batchelor	Frederick Blackall	Michael Brennan	Robert Croot	Stephen Evans
Nir Frucht	Larry Gonzalez	Raymond Harcourt	Garth Jenkins	Michael Lombardo
Gary Pastorella	Carolyn Pastorella	Prior Powers	Bob Shields	Alan Spears
Dennis Villarose	Donna Villarose	Jeffrey Withrow	Ilse Zeigler	

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

Gary Gray	Mike Halburnt	Dennis Mitchell	Don Moe	Don Mroczenski
Tulio Suarez				

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. 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, 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. **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 touring package drawing at our next STAR event.** Any new or current member who joins or renews as a Sustaining Member will likewise receive a coupon for a raffle ticket for each year of the new membership term.



Random Ramblings!!

Well, we've coped with COVID for over nearly 3 YEARS now, and likely you all have settled your score with the pandemic and your course of action. FYI, the latest Covalent boosters are available. As the variants continue to circulate around the globe, please stay vigilant and continue to be healthy.

We are back to LUNCH rides for the next several months. And we begin to offer 3 rides a month for your pleasure!!

We've had a terrific year sharing good grub and lots of great gab!! Our new personnel ought to make 2023 even more better... 😊

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

When you can...

Join one of our monthly rides!!

And invite a friend to ride along!!

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

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Statewide Holiday Lunch Ride – The Twisted Prop, Winter Haven, FL – Tom Blake

Note: This was Van's event, but you're getting the report from me because Van was a bit under the weather and didn't want to make everyone uncomfortable around his coughs and sneezes. Everyone I mentioned this to, appreciated his decision.

Now then... To my great surprise, "twisted prop" has nothing to do with airplanes (I'm ex-Air Force, see). The restaurant sits along side Lake May in south, central Winter Haven. There must be twenty-five or thirty lakes in the area. So, it has all to do with boat propellers. In fact, there's a no-longer-used, paved boat ramp right next to the building. The Twisted Prop is a smallish place with indoor and outdoor seating. Seventeen of us were in the larger outside, screened-in area, gathered around one long group of tables and another about half the size.



Perfect lunch ride to the Twisted Prop in Winter Haven. Pleasant weather, lots of gab and a great way to close out 2022

James brought gifts from Van – a bag of red MSTA koozies and a roll of raffle tickets. I brought gifts too – three more MSTA koozies and four small chamois which came by way of a State Farm agent at the Marietta rally. So, hallelujah, everyone got something for the holidays.

Dale and Denny, without being asked, were kind enough to take care of raffle ticket sales for which I was very grateful. It really is a two-person job although Van always makes it look easy. They sold \$70 worth of tickets. Gary P. from the Miami area was the winner. And as he usually does, he donated his share back to the club. Thank-you, kind sir.

Rick, the restaurant manager, was very accommodating. The food varied somewhat. I had a buffalo chicken wrap that was as good as I've ever eaten – very good. A few ordered cheeseburger salads. I saw them go past. Couldn't see the greens. But ground hamburger covered the whole serving, and then cheese was drizzled back and forth on top of the meat. It surely looked delicious. Jeff, at my table, ordered fish and was disappointed with its size. But I didn't hear any complaints about the taste. The place was busy and some of our orders took a while. Of course, there was plenty of gab to distract from hunger pangs. Our young wait person had no idea who ordered what when it came time to deliver. I still gave her a good tip.

I had Rick, the manager, snapped a couple pictures. James was doing his own captures – some of which will be available online.

Everyone coming from the east rode through a bank of thick, ground-hugging clouds from just west of US 441 all the way to Winter Haven. That kept temperatures in the low to mid-60's which became a bit chilling for those of us in mesh gear. I had my seat and grip heaters on low. Otherwise, the ride over was extremely pleasant. While we ate, the fog burnt off and that put the thermometer up into the mid to upper 70's for the ride home. Just about a perfect way to bring 2022's riding activities to a proper close.

Happy Holidays to you all,

Tom

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.

Just For Fun New Year's Lunch Ride

When: Sunday, January 1st, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: **Peck's Old Port Cove**, 139 N. Ozello Trail, **Crystal River**, FL ☎ (352) 795-2806 ([map](#))

Description: Let's keep the tradition going!! Just a great way to kick off the new year!! Reservations are made!

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

MSTA Florida East Central Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, January 14th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: **Charlie and Jake's Barbecue**, 490 E. Eau Gallie Blvd, **Indian Harbour Beach**, FL ☎ (321) 777-7675 ([map](#))

Description: New for us, C & J's has been around for many years and offers pretty good lunches and service in an inviting environment. They're on the north side of the Eau Gallie causeway between the Indian River and the ocean. There's lots of room inside including a private room and plenty of paved parking.

Contact: Tom, tblakel@cfl.rr.com, or ☎ (321) 794-6147

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, January 21st, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: **Gator Shack Restaurant at Babcock Ranch Eco Tours**, 8502 FL-31, **Punta Gorda**, FL ☎ (800) 500-5583 ([map](#))

Description: A return to Florida's true nature...Laid back lunch spot, surrounded by pre-1940's landscape!

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

MSTA Florida West Central Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, January 28th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: **Solomon's Castle**, 4533 Solomon Rd., **Ona**, FL ☎ (863) 494-6077 ([map](#))

Description: YEAH!! It is open for business again!! We begin the year with Doug's efforts to create more opportunities for the Central members!! There's a chance a few Southies may appear! We had to cancel the South Ride due to Ian's wrath.

Contact: Doug, flwingrdr@msn.com, or ☎ (813) 928-1663

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 East Central Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, February 4th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: **St. John's River Grille**, 2997 FL-44, **Deland**, FL ☎ (386) 855-2427 ([map](#))

Description: St John's River Grille – We've been here before during Bike Week. The restaurant is right on the St John's River west of Deland with plenty of boat traffic to eyeball while we gnaw and gab. Turn in at the KOA sign and follow the road back. It's a nice looking place with ample paved parking.

Contact: Tom, tblake1@cfl.rr.com, or ☎ (321) 794-6147

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, February 18th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: **Sebastian Saltwater Marina and Lodge**, 1732 Indian River Dr., **Sebastian**, FL ☎ (772) 918-4229 ([map](#))

Description: On the water, repairs made, and ready for us!!

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

MSTA Florida West Central Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, February 25th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: **Florida Cracker Cook Shack**, 511 S. Broad Street, **Brooksville**, FL ☎ (352) 796-9197 ([map](#))

Description: This is the old Ma's Restaurant, now reopened as a BBQ place. Haven't been since the reopening, but it's got good reviews and looks good from the outside with a remodel.

Contact: Doug, flwingrdr@msn.com, or ☎ (813) 928-1663

Daytona Bike Week

When: Friday-Sunday, **March 3 – 12, 2023**

Location: **Daytona Beach**, FL ☎ (352) 795-2806 ([map](#))

Description: 82nd Anniversary of Bike Week in Daytona. Possible races:

Flat track / Supercross / Daytona 200 Road Race

Contact: www.officialbikeweek.com

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. 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>.

These MSTA websites have extensive event information:

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

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