



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 13 Issue 6

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[Feature Article](#)

My Dream Ride to Montana

By Tom Blake

[Ed: This continues Tom's multi-part article that began with "Here's How I Got Started in Motorcycling" in the May 2020 issue. Hyperlinks added.]

It was part of a month-long trek I made after retiring in 2009 and then repeated in 2013. I've reported on the rides some years ago; but for this report, aspects of both are melded into a composite story about my dream ride to Montana. The dream originated in the early '70's.



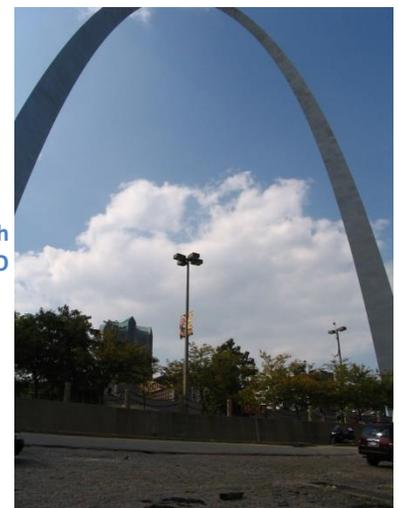
Leaving home on September 8th, the day after Labor Day, my first major milestone was to visit [Hannibal](#), Missouri, the boyhood home of [Mark Twain](#) (Samuel Clemens). Since it was along the way, I

stopped for lunch at the [Nantahala Outdoor Center](#) restaurant in western North Carolina. After that, it was on to the [Cherohala Skyway](#) connecting Robbinsville, NC with Tellico Plains, TN. I spent the night near Nashville.

The rolling hills of central Tennessee, western Kentucky and southern Illinois led pleasantly to the [Gateway](#)



Nantahala River at the
Nantahala Outdoor Center



Gateway Arch
St Louis, MO

[Arch National Park](#) just across the Mississippi River in [St Louis](#), Missouri. Then after a short slog west on I-70, I was able to exit onto MO 79 which roughly paralleled the western side of the river all the way up to Hannibal.

Mark Twain's house and white-washed picket fence, [Becky Thatcher's](#) house across the street, [Huck Finn's](#) house behind Sawyer's, Twain's father's office and the old drug store on the corner below Becky's house are all maintained as national landmarks. And about a block to the east beyond a tall, concrete levy, flowed the Big Muddy – the mighty [Mississippi River](#). I stayed downtown a second night in order to take a ride on a real Mississippi [river boat](#) the next morning.

Following the boat ride, I zigged and zagged across Missouri and Iowa, crossed the [Missouri River](#) into Nebraska and finally slipped back across the river into [Sioux City](#), Iowa for the night. This was all pleasant but unremarkable except that I rode through first the [Omaha](#) and then the adjacent [Winnebago Reservation](#) just before crossing back into Iowa. Both were unexpected and the latter was a huge surprise as I didn't know there was actually a tribe called Winnebago's. I just thought they were RV's!



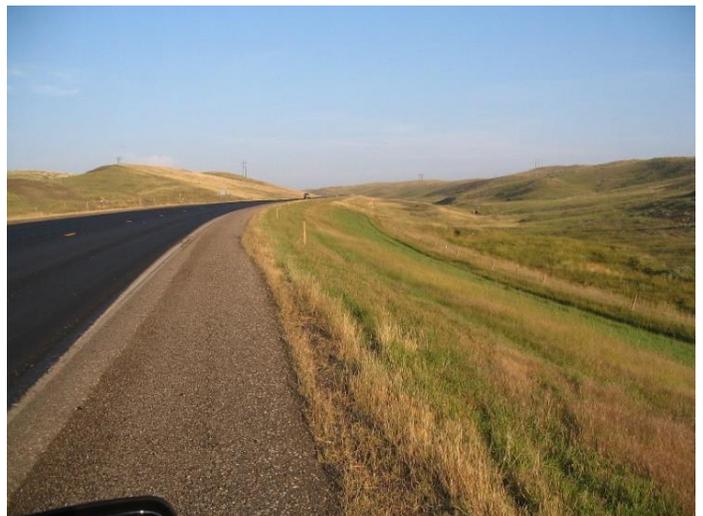
Mark Twain's boyhood home w/white picket fence.



Mississippi river boat at Hannibal, MO sitting alongside their floating office and gift shop.



Wind farm west of Pipestone, MN



Rolling prairie south of Pierre, SD

In southwestern Minnesota the next morning, less than a mile north of the town of [Pipestone](#) lies a small red [quartzite](#) quarry, which is a national monument. The quartzite was and is used to make ceremonial pipes important to traditional [Plains Indian spiritual practices](#). Only people of Native American ancestry are allowed to quarry the stone there.

Also, those giant [wind turbine](#) blades are fabricated at Pipestone. Almost 800 working examples can be seen in the area and in many other locations across the northern plains where strong winds seem to be an almost constant feature.

South Dakota has a number of interesting attractions beginning for me with the [Badlands National Park](#) just south of the town of [Wall](#) along I-90 in western SD. I lived in Wall for several months for my first USAF duty assignment after tech school. We had a radar site on top of a butte just south of the park. I was there from December 1967 until April 1968. Then we moved the site to Arizona. South Dakota was no place to be in the winter. But I ate many a breakfast at iconic [Wall Drug](#). Very little of it was open during the winter. In the summer, the store takes up nearly the whole block.

Further west, everyone's heard of [Mount Rushmore](#) and the [Black Hills](#) and towns such as [Sturgis](#), [Lead](#) and [Deadwood](#) roughly 40 miles northwest of [Rapid City](#). The latter is where in 1876, [Wild Bill Hickok](#) (right) was shot dead in [Nuttall and Mann's Saloon](#) No. 10 by scoundrel [Jack McCall](#). [Calamity Jane](#) is buried, by her request, next to Wild Bill up on [boot hill](#). I rode on to Sturgis but was not favorably impressed so rode back to Deadwood for the night and up to the cemetery in the morning. Google Calamity Jane sometime. She looked pretty tough.



Wild Bill Hickok



In the Badland NP, South Dakota



Mule deer inside the Badlands seemed oblivious to humans

In 1874, Colonel [George Armstrong Custer](#) led an expedition into the Black Hills and announced the discovery of gold on [French Creek](#) near what became the town of [Custer](#) (about 40 miles southwest of Rapid City). The announcement triggered the [Black Hills gold rush](#). Subsequent European settlement has been described as illegal, since it lay within the territory granted to the [Lakota Indians](#) in the [1868 Treaty of Laramie](#). Disputes over the Hills are still ongoing.

The next day, just north of Deadwood, I picked up US 24 over to [Devils Tower National Monument](#) in northeastern Wyoming (right). The ride over was exceptionally pleasant and as I got closer, the 1,267 ft. tower, loomed ever larger.



Devils Tower, Wyoming

Afterward, I retraced US 24 back to South Dakota and turned north on US 85 to [Bowman](#), North Dakota. From there, US 12 took me to [Miles City](#), Montana for the night. I finally made it to MONTANA! Turns out, eastern Montana is mostly prairie like in the Dakotas and sparsely populated.

The next morning, I visited the [Little Bighorn Battlefield](#) site situated along I-90 southeast of [Billings](#). In the 1876 battle, several thousand Lakota and [Cheyenne](#) warriors overwhelmed General Custer's [7th Cavalry](#) killing



General Custer

263 of some 700 soldiers riding with Custer (left), [Major Reno](#) and [Captain Benteen](#). All of those with Custer perished on this hill, now called [Reno Hill](#) (right).



Reno Hill

The Reno and Benteen forces were separated from Custer's by as much as 3 miles in a failed attempt to surround the Indian camp in the valley along the [Little Bighorn River](#). The Indians met them with stiff resistance thus preventing the army from threatening their camp.

The [Bighorn Mountains](#) are in northcentral Wyoming. US 14A climbs straight up into them heading west. Suddenly, I was several thousand feet up on my way to 9,000 ft. or so on an absolutely wonderful highway with awesome elevations, views, switchbacks and overlooks. These are not your eastern Appalachian's or Smokies — these are seriously big.



US 385 between Rapid City and Deadwood, SD was actually a very good ride.



Wild Bill Hickok held a pair of Aces and Eight's (dead man's hand) when he was killed here.

The next morning in [Cody](#) I was anxious to get moving for a ride over the famed 10,847 ft. [Beartooth Pass](#). The [Beartooth Mountains](#) are situated northwest of Cody and lie in both Wyoming and Montana. Routes 120 and 296 lead to 212 which crosses the mountains. Part of 296 traces the path of the [Nez Perce](#) escape from the army after being surrounded in [Yellowstone National Park](#) and is called [Chief Joseph Scenic Byway](#). Both 296 and 212 are loaded with turns, switchbacks and abrupt drop-offs – many with little or no guardrails! Some reminded me of pictures I'd seen of the Alps.



Near the summit of Beartooth Pass (left)

Coming down the north side of the mountain (right)



I stopped for a late lunch in a little town called [Red Lodge](#), Montana – named for a red-dyed teepee, an example of which sat in the park. It would really have been nice to redo the pass in the opposite direction, but it would have put me back to Cody at an unreasonable hour. So, I went back by way of 308, 72 and 120.

The next morning, I rode through Yellowstone NP and then headed north from [Gardiner](#) to [Kalispell](#), Montana, keeping west of the main mountain range. Along the way up, I chatted with a local at a gas stop. Talking about temperatures, he used the term “30 above”. Apparently, there was a need to differentiate above from below zero. “Oh yeah”, he said, “40 or even 50 below are not uncommon in these parts.” What on earth provokes people to live in such conditions?

Unfortunately, the next morning when I left Kalispell for [Glacier National Park](#) it was getting ready to rain. By the time I got to the park it **was** raining and downright chilly. The ranger at the entrance said [Logan Pass](#) was closed due to an overnight snow and the [Going-To-The-Sun Road](#) through the pass would be closed for the season beginning at midnight. Bummer! I really wanted to ride that road. Every cycle magazine I've ever read has featured at least one article about riding it.

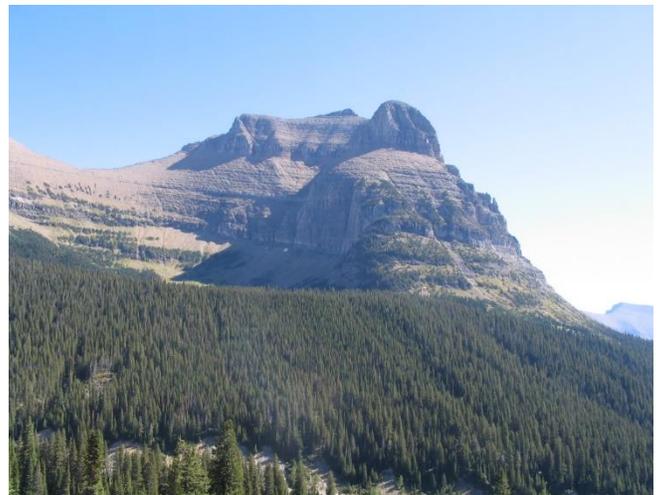
Well, I was there, so I pressed ahead anyways and made it about halfway up. Then the road turned to mud! That was it. I turned back. I had talked to other riders the night before and they were able to get through. This was my biggest disappointment of the trip.



The pictures above show (left) a distant waterfall and (right) a section of the Going-to-the-Sun Road with a low stone divider between the road and eternity on the other side. Obviously, rain was obscuring visibility.

After leaving the park, I backtracked west to US 2 and headed for Idaho and parts beyond.

In 2013, I got back out to Glacier NP and was able to ride the Going-to-the-Sun Road east to west under nearly optimum weather conditions. To give you just a taste, four pictures of the magnificent geography follow.



In conclusion, my dream to ride a motorcycle to Montana was finally realized in 2009, and then repeated in 2013. Over the years I've been fortunate to ride in all forty-eight of the lower states and five Canadian provinces. It has been a marvelous experience. I hope you will someday fulfill your riding dreams. If you haven't already, start making plans now. Then when the time is right, go do it!

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.

A Tale of Survival

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

In an article in 2012, I wrote about a friend of mine who was killed by a left-turning driver while he was riding just north of Brooksville. In this edition I'd like to bring you a much happier story, yet one that still provides the safety message as a moral.

Another friend of mine was recently on a cross-country trip. We were in Utah together, working at a motorsports event and his next event work was in Pennsylvania. He left Utah, on his way first to Kentucky for a family reunion, and then had planned to travel to Pennsylvania from there.

(Before I go any farther, allow me to establish the rider's credentials. He is not only an MSF RiderCoach; he is also a RiderCoach trainer. He rides around 75-100k miles a year and doesn't even own a car. His BMW F800GS is his only ride, and he takes it all over the country while working motorsports events.)

The next thing I know (a few days later), I get a text saying he's in the hospital in West Virginia. Here's the rest of the story:

He was headed to Pennsylvania on the Interstate, and was running right at 70 mph, having just crossed through a construction area. All of a sudden his front tire blew out. There was no warning, no indication the tire was going to give out. Conjecture is that the tire picked up something in the construction zone, but this is just a best guess.

According to the rider, the bike swerved left and then back again as he tried to hold it upright. The bike finally went down on its right side and he ended up on top of it for part of the resulting slide. The bike slid off the pavement and into the median, with rider coming off and ending up lying beside the bike, with the oil pan separated from the bike, lying beside his head.

The rider was conscious and remembering his training, tried not to move. Instead he slowly and carefully reached down to where his SPOT emergency transponder was fastened onto his riding gear and activated the SOS mode. The SPOT worked as advertised and emergency personnel were on the scene in just a couple of minutes. The SPOT response also automatically notified his wife back in Tampa, FL. Thanks to his full ATGATT philosophy, the resulting medical intervention (including an overnight hospital stay for observation) revealed only bumps and bruises. No broken bones, no road rash, etc.

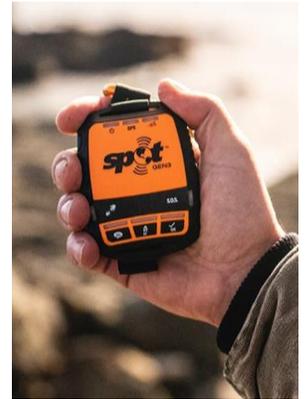
The bike unfortunately wasn't so lucky. We held a wake for it a few weeks later...

The moral I promised? You never know when it is going to happen. No matter how proficient a rider, no matter when or where, you need to be ready. ATGATT may save your life. Having a way to yell for help might not hurt, either...

Are you prepared?

Doug Westly – Safety Editor (Retired)

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



Spot Gen 3 Satellite
GPS Messenger

Florida News

Special Announcement from Don Moe, Editor

This June 2020 issue of *The Florida Gator Tale* is my final newsletter after taking over from Doug Westly starting with the February 2012 issue. After preparing the newsletter for eight years and four months, the time has come to hand over the editor's duties to a worthy successor and very capable editor, Kim Longacre. I will continue with the national MSTAs as the Membership Database Manager.

Kim provided the following introduction:



Kim Longacre

Meet the Better Half of Van

Kim Longacre – The New Editor of the Florida Gator Tale Newsletter

Hi! I'm Kim Longacre, the other half "Van" VanSteelant, State Director of the FLMSTA. While I don't ride my own motorcycle, I have been known to ride on the back of Van's motorcycles over the years. In fact, Van and I rode a Gold Wing across the U.S. after college many years ago (I won't say how many years ago!) Living with a motorcycle enthusiast all these years, I am interested in all things bikes.

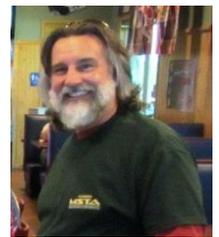
Though I don't go on any of the FLMSTA lunch rides, I am involved in the FLMSTA, namely, the website. I created and designed (and continue to update) the award-winning FLMSTA website. Since I have been involved in the FLMSTA website for some years now, we thought it would be a good idea for me to take over as editor of the monthly newsletter after Don Moe "retires" his newsletter editorship. So, for the July newsletter, I will take over the reins of *The Florida Gator Tale* and hopefully try to live up to the legendary efforts of Don as editor.

The content of the newsletter will not change. We will still email all FLMSTA members notices of the monthly newsletter which will include a feature article, safety information, membership news and calendars of upcoming rides and events. As always, please submit any articles, photos, and information you would like included in the newsletter to editor@flmsta.org, and I will receive it and include it the upcoming newsletter(s). I'm looking forward to working with the members of FLMSTA and putting together a great monthly newsletter.

South Director's Report

WELL, ANOTHER MONTH ADAPTING TO SHIFTING NOTIONS OF CIVIL BEHAVIOR...

On our home front, we continue to be healthy and utilize as many guidelines as possible. The life we save may be yours... We sincerely hope that all of you have marked off another month of good health for yourselves and those near and dear to you. As for the how the general public is fairing, we'll have to wait and see what the numbers show... Troubling, all indications are that our reliance on the validity of those reports may have to be tempered.



Van VanSteelant

We did manage a couple of rides in May! As the relaxing of gathering guidelines rolled out over the same time as our South Brunch ride, neither the original destination nor any other options in the area were ideally set up for our visit. As a result, we made several recommendations for getting out on a fun ride. So, our MSTAs South Fun Ride gathered at a very nice park just outside of Indiantown! We had eight riders and Kevin 4-wheeling! The group agreed on distancing and mask/no mask. Easy-peasy, as shown in the photo on the next page. Once the sun broke through the clouds, we made our way to a covered picnic area and spread out so everybody was still comfortable. Some brought snacks/beverages. Some continued the fun with a short stopover at Port Mayaca on the way home. All agreed that finally getting to ride and catch up together was very welcomed!!



Nine members of the SE Florida MSTTA Group met at Timer Powers Park on 5/17/2020
L→R: Kevin Healey, Rob Croot, Ellen Kocher, Prior Powers, Buck Jones, James Siler, Van VanSteelant, Steve Phillips

Photo: Don Moe

The Central Brunch ride actually was a BRUNCH ride! Carl kindly sent in a brief report and photo evidence of the ride to the Goodrich Seafood Restaurant. See his story on page [11](#).

Please remember, only you can make the decision on whether to join a ride.

A SPECIAL MENTION!!

As you've read elsewhere in this AWARD winning newsletter, this is Don Moe's final issue as Editor. During my tenure as Director, I have been blessed terrific support by our fellow Florida membership. Initially, Doug Westly took the editorship reins from Bill Royal. Once Honda became a full time gig, and then some, for Doug, Don Moe stepped up and has done a spectacular job for many years. In fact, at Don's insistence, the EC stopped awarding Don the perineal Best Newsletter Award at STAR. Nobody had surpassed his efforts in 3-4 years!

As a newsletter is one of several required elements to qualify as a State Chapter in the MSTTA, it has been a rewarding adventure working with Don as he exceeded the expectations and set the bar for others to follow. The *Gator Tale* has been exceptionally well handled by Don. And now he has made the transition to our newest editor a walk in the park....

I know this because Kim Longacre has accepted the mantle of Editor. Some of you know she is my significant other AND better half!! In addition, she has been a long time MSTTA Member of Household. Kim brings years of experience editing newsletters for businesses and various organizations. You can find her introduction article on the previous page. We are in good hands going forward.

WHAT'S NEXT??

Ok, **just like last month**, hang with me. I intend to support and encourage everybody's decision on whether to ride, eat or be merry. I am leaving the two brunch rides as scheduled. ***WITH CONDITIONS!!*** I will contact the restaurants to listen to how they will operate if they are cooking and serving. I will send out the usual email announcements after conversing with the restaurants. It will only be then that we'll know if we have a ride to

enjoy. I'll share what I'm told to help you make your own decisions. I am truly hoping we can get together, **safely**, and support the local economies.

Of course, **just like last month**, there are a few other options available to us if a "regular sit down" brunch is out of the question. Since we wear helmets and many of us are wired up with communicators, "social distancing" is a no-brainer!! We could bring along our own "brown bag" brunch/lunch and find a welcoming place to spread out and eat! And/Or, I can send out an email to you with the email addresses of members in your area; say a 60 mile radius. Then you could reach out and set up "local rides" all over the state. Of course, the ultimate definition of "distancing" is a solo ride!!

When we set up the calendar back in January, STAR was scheduled for the first half of June. Hence, our BRUNCH rides are happening during the last two weekends. You know that STAR is now scheduled over the Labor Day weekend in September, 9/5-9/9. Check out the RIDES calendar for all the details and events through December www.flmsta.org

First up, on Saturday, June 20th, we have the **Central Brunch Ride to the [Four Seasons Restaurant](#)**, at 5298 US-27, in Frostproof! Look for a confirmation email a week before the ride with the latest info.

The next Saturday, June 27th, we have the **South Brunch Ride to the [Crossroads Restaurant](#)**, at 5050 NE 128th Ave, in Okeechobee! Look for a confirmation email a week before the ride with the latest info.

As this is written, both places are open and have 50% occupancy for indoor dining. Their dilemma is whether 10-15 riders might take over their available tables if we want to distance ourselves.

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...

No new Florida riders have joined the MSTA recently.

We thank these six Florida members for recently renewing their memberships:

Douglas Christensen	Pete Kauk	Glenn Monroe
Robert Fischer	Michael L Miller	Larry Solomon

These seven Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Steve Balistreri	L Dee Cramer	Bill McDaniel	Ron Stechert
Budd Breheim	Michael Engestrom	Bob Shields	

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, 11484 Waterwood Dr., Tyler, TX 75703**, who replaced the retired Beth Hemstreet, and not to the address of any prior membership director. (Please note that this is Scott's home address instead of the previous mailbox.)

If you only want to update your phone, email, bikes, or other details, you can do so quickly either online via PlanetReg.com/MSTAupdate or by email to membership@ridemsta.com. 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! Make sure that the mail-in address is to Scott Snedden and not to an old address. 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!

For the next month, PLEASE heed the directions of our local and state leadership and the health departments. Stay the course with social distancing and consistent hygiene efforts.

This too shall pass. Be a contributor to the efforts to hasten the decline in the deaths from and spread of COVID-19.

We've lost more people now than due to outright war in Korea and Vietnam.

When you can... Ride well! Ride often!! Do it safely!!!

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

MSTA Central Fun Ride!!

Report submitted by Carl Swofford.

Six of us rode over to Goodrich's Saturday for the brunch. Apparently, we were the only MSTA riders there. If there were others, I didn't recognize them nor did I recognize any bikes.

We had a great ride via the Maytown road out of Osteen. The camaraderie was superb and the food delicious. We ate out on the porch. No customers were eating inside. Social distancing was part of the plan. The six of us chose to eat at one table and not distance ourselves from each other. The tables on the porch were more than six feet apart. We missed the MSTA group but we represented MSTA well.

Ride safe and stay healthy.

Carl Swofford



L→R: Hal Smith, Alan Spears, Claude Hayes, Budd Breheim, Carl's wife (Photo: Carl Swofford)

Northeast and Central Directors Needed

If you would consider taking the position of Northeast or Central 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

**EVENTS MAY BE CANCELED OR POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19.
CHECK WITH EVENT COORDINATORS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**

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.

Back in April, STAR 2020 was moved to September!

We hope to find an environment healthy enough to allow us to gather for fine grub and good gab!

[MSTA Florida Central Brunch Ride](#)

When: Sat., **June 20th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Four Seasons Restaurant](#), 5298 US-27, Frostproof, FL 33843 ☎863-635-2951 ([map](#))

Description: This will be our 3rd trip. They're centrally located east to west, accessible and clean. Food has been good and prices very reasonable. Plenty of seating and paved parking.

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

[MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride](#)

When: Sat., **June 27th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Crossroads Restaurant](#), 5050 NE 128th Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34974 ☎863-763-8333 ([map](#))

Description: It's been years since we dined here. Let's fix that!! Simple location, good food and great service. Join us at the long table for grub and gab!!

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 Brunch Ride](#)

When: Sat., **July 11th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Red Wing Restaurant](#), 12500 FL-33, Groveland, FL 34736 ☎352-429-2997 ([map](#))

Description: It's been a while since we've been here. It's on the small side so don't be late. Food has been good and prices reasonable. They are centrally located.

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

[MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride](#)

When: Sat., **July 25th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Description: The roads... The location... The service... The food!!! See ya at one of our best destinations!

Contact: Van, busavan@flmsta.org, or ☎561-386-2594

Regional Events

Red River Gorge (KY) Rally

When: Thur.-Sun., July 9th–12th

Where: [The Ramada Inn](#), 115 Stone Trace Dr., Mt. Sterling, KY 40353 ☎859-497-9400 ([map](#))

Description: An MSTA sanctioned sport touring rally with all proceeds supporting the Dan Clark Safety Fund. Come and enjoy the twisty and scenic roads of Eastern Kentucky, The Daniel Boone National Forest, Horse Country around Lexington, and several state parks and lakes. Eastern Kentucky is a rider's paradise with miles and miles of great technical roads and almost no traffic. Open to ALL riders, no club affiliation needed.

They have a block of rooms held under the MSTA name, and includes a hot breakfast. Several restaurants within an easy walk. Large shady riders lounge in the rear of the hotel. Pool and Hot Tub. Call hotel directly and make your own reservation. Overflow hotel next door (Comfort Inn). Located right off of I-64.

Rally Registration at PlanetReg.com/RedRiverGorgeRally2020

Facebook: Red River Gorge Rally 2020 — Link: facebook.com/events/404335960468017

Contact: Patrick Mogavero patrickmogavero@gmail.com

Information: The event webpage is available at ridemsta.com/events

Big Lynn Lodge MSTA Rally

When: Fri.-Sun., July 17th–19th

Where: [Big Lynn Lodge](#), 10860 Hwy 226A, Little Switzerland, NC 28749 ☎828-765-4257 ([map](#))

Description: An MSTA Sanctioned Rally. Open to ALL riders.

Located on the Blue Ridge Parkway east of Asheville, NC, the Big Lynn Lodge provides an excellent dropping off point for your exploration of the mountains of North Carolina and the upcountry of South Carolina. Endless mountain roads to ride with several great destinations not far.

The Big Lynn Lodge will be available for reservations by calling 800-645-5232 and asking for a room in the MSTA block. Room rates include both breakfast and dinner. Don't delay as this rally usually fills up very quickly and there is always a waiting list of people wanting to attend!

Info at: msta-se.com/BLynn or facebook.com/events/776978822664067

Contact: Dave Brickner, dwbrick@gmail.com or ☎828-448-5429

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 2020: [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 Hyperlinks are related to the safety article.

[Hyperlink #1](#)

[Hyperlink #2](#)

[Hyperlink #3](#)

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!