



# The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the  
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 13 Issue 3

## Events March 2020

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## Feature Article

### *The North Georgia Classic Based in Helen - Georgia's Alpine Village*

By Tom Blake

[Ed: A prior version of this article appeared in the 4/2019 edition of this newsletter. Photos and maps by author except as noted. Updates by author.]

**Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** are the official 2020 NGC rally dates. This is a just for fun gathering – no fees, no schedules. Think of it as a season-opening, informal get-together for sport touring riders in one of the best mountain riding areas in the southeast. What do we do? RIDE – all around those beautiful mountains during the day. Eat and tell tall tales in the evenings.

The **Quality Inn** (ph.: 706-878-2268) is once again the host hotel. Rooms are clean and comfortable. A block of them is being held at an \$89/night rate until April 10<sup>th</sup>. Here's a link to the event posting with all pertinent information on the MSTA's Southeast Region website: <http://msta-se.com/helen/>.



The Quality Inn, Helen... where most of us stay. It's a block off the main drag.

One of the nicest things about Helen is that it's a small town. Restaurants and watering holes are easy walks from the hotel. So, once you get back from the day's ride, you can park the bike for the night and do everything else on foot. It also has an Alpine theme so it's an interesting place to sightsee and people watch.

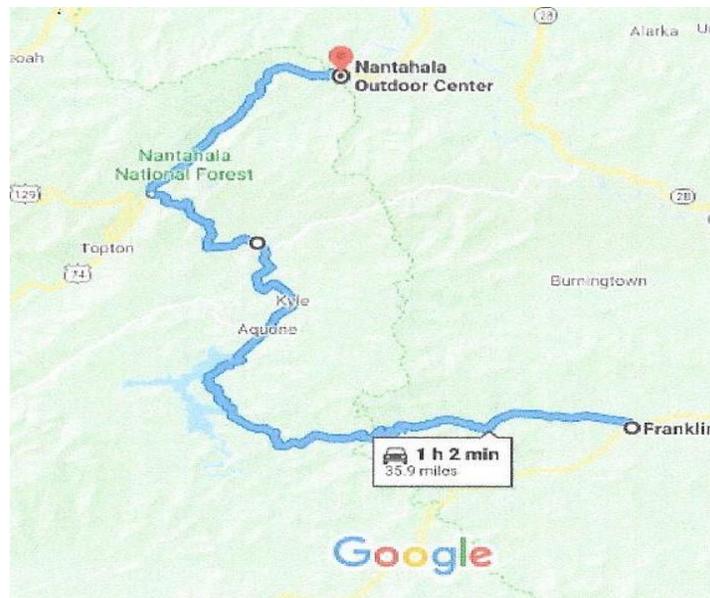
What about the riding? To start out, a less-demanding highway such as US 76 or GA 356 taken at moderate speed facilitates a re-adjustment of one's Florida mindset to mountain riding... I call it *getting into the rhythm of the mountains*.

This is when to start thinking about safe corner entry speeds, lane position for maximum sight distance through the curve, optimum track through the apex to exit, keeping the engine in its power band and applying smooth throttle and braking inputs, etc. As this *rhythm* seeps back into your psyche, it allows safe and incremental increases in velocity. And that equates to having much more fun.

**It's worthwhile considering... all these roads are also a bonanza to fitness-minded bicyclists. Be prepared to unexpectedly meet them anywhere including mid-turn. And don't forget about the possibility of animals, gravel, downed trees, etc. around any blind corner. Adjust your speed to the amount of sight distance you have into the curve. To be safe, you have to be able to recognize an obstacle and then react to stop, slow or make significant course corrections while staying within your lane. Lower speed gives you more time to react and therefore, a better chance to avoid the obstacle safely.**

Now, if you are new to this area, here are six of my absolute favorite rides, not in any particular order. It doesn't matter if you start at one end or the other. And you can find lots of interesting and challenging riding just getting to them. You won't be able to do all of them in one day. So, pick and choose to build your own daily ride plan. You may decide to run some of them multiple times. The condition of all these roads was very good the last time up. (Photos are mine unless indicated.)

**#1 - Wayah Rd.** Always near the top of my list is lunch at the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) beside the river in North Carolina and Wayah Rd is a great way to get there. Access Wayah Rd from US 64 a few miles west of Franklin, NC or from US 19/74 a few miles west of the NOC.



Wayah Rd. between US 84 and US 19/74 and the Nantahala Outdoor Center



On Wayah Rd westbound before heading up the mountain (Photo: Google Earth)



One of the many switchbacks along Wayah Rd (Photo: Google Earth)



Sunset on Nantahala Lake which feeds the river (Internet)



US 19/74 along the Nantahala River (Photo: Google Earth)



The Nantahala (River) Outdoor Center – restaurant at right, foreground

**#2, The Cherochala Skyway.** It runs on NC 143 west from Robbinsville, NC and TN 165 takes it into Tellico Plains, TN. This is one of the most exhilarating rides in the eastern US. Most turns allow good speed and the views can be spectacular up there.



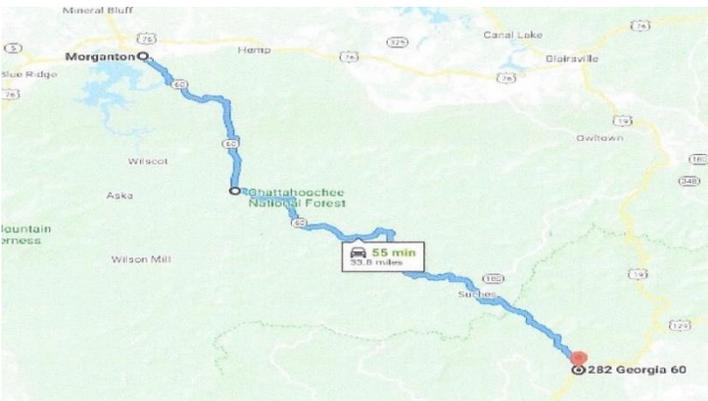
The Cherochala Skyway between Tellico Plains, TN and Robbinsville, NC



Views of the Cherohala Skyway (from Google Earth)

**#3, GA 60 between Morganton and Suches and on down to US 19 below Suches.** It's an experience you just don't want to miss. I love this road! It is exciting and challenging from end to end. There's one decreasing radius turn about midway that, at speed, can cause considerable puckering, especially if you're northbound.

Two Wheels of Suches is a motorcycle-only campground and on weekends their restaurant is open for breakfasts and lunches. They also serve diner on Fridays and Saturdays. It makes for a good rest stop even if the restaurant isn't open because there's almost always a crowd of riders there to kick tires with and furniture on the porch to relax on. There's also a convenience store/gas station across the street at the junction of 60 and 180.

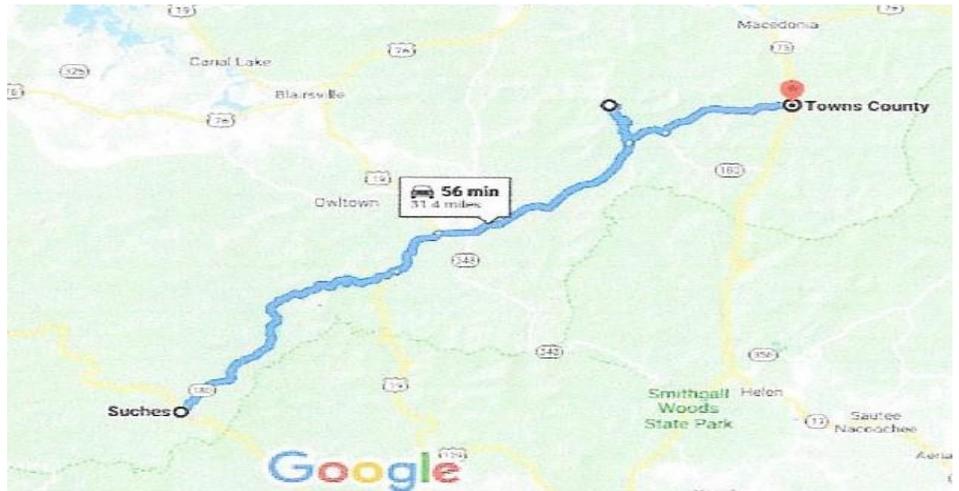


GA 60 between Morganton, Suches and US 19



Two Wheels of Suches at GA 60 & 180 (Google Earth)

**#4, GA 180 between Suches and US 17 north of Helen.** It's called Wolf Pen Gap Rd from Suches over to US 129 adjacent Vogel State Park. The section near Vogel is steep and gnarly and will demand your full attention. Then turn north for a couple miles on 129 and east again on 180. You can follow the eastern section past the 180 Spur to Brasstown Bald, all the way to US 17 between Helen and Hiawassee.



GA 180 from Suches to GA 17 - and the 180 Spur (north) to Brasstown Bald



Wolf Pen Gap Rd (GA 180) cuts right.



On the mountain above Vogel State Park (Photos: Google)

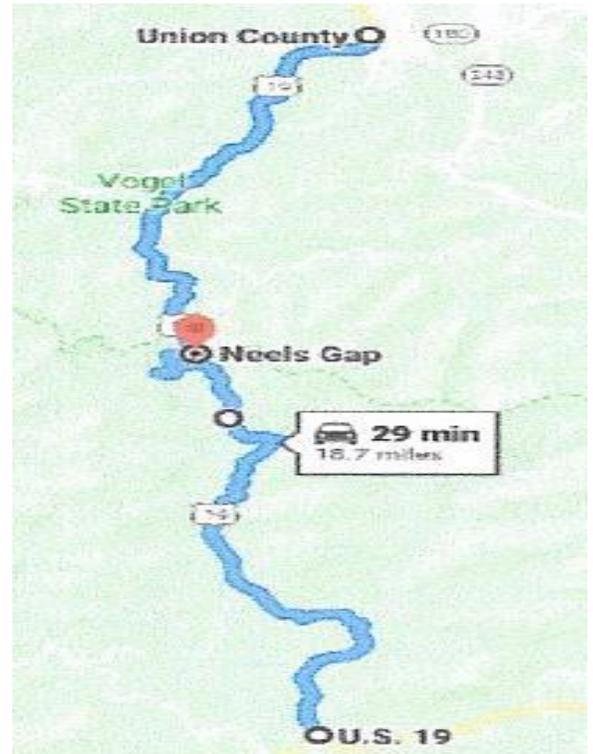
**Brasstown Bald** is the highest point in Georgia and the visitor center can be accessed via the short but very steep and twisty 180 Spur. There's an observatory at the summit with great views outside and local history exhibits inside. It's said that on a clear day you can see Atlanta from up there.



Brasstown Bald Observatory

(Photo: Google Earth)

#5, US 129 over Blood Mountain is great fun. It's steep and curvy including numerous lower gear switchbacks. Access Blood Mountain on the north end from Blairsville or from GA 180 where it intersects 129. From the south come through Dahlonega, with its gold mining history, Cleveland or Suches. Neel's Gap store sits atop the mountain and makes a nice rest stop. The Appalachian hiking trail runs right through the building.



US 129 over Blood Mountain – between 180 and 60



Front of Neel's Gap Store

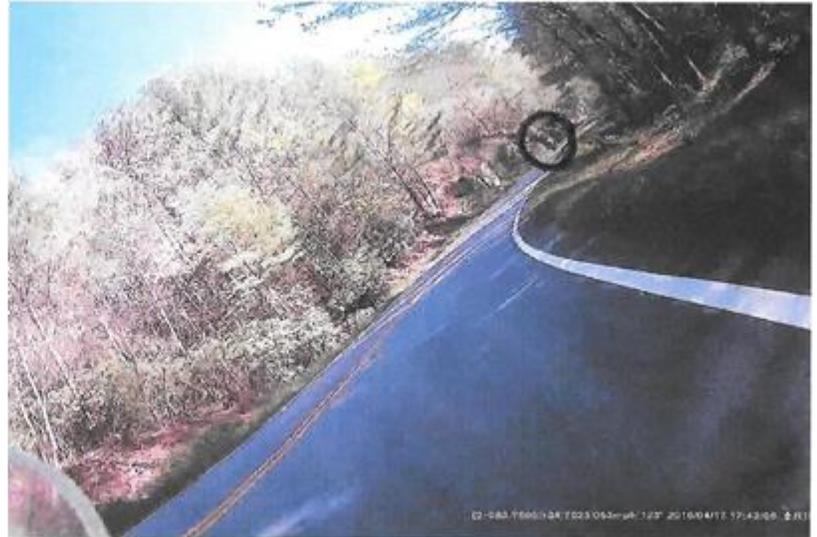


Backside with hiking trail approaching from the east

#6 - Now finally, the icing on the riding cake -- the **Richard B. Russel Scenic Highway**, aka **GA 348**. It is just thrilling! While only about 14 miles long, it can be the perfect exclamation point to a great day of mountain riding. I prefer to run it west to east because the eastern descent out of the mountain has an excellent road surface and is just an incredible succession of fast sweepers. Access it south of Blairsville from GA 180 about a mile east of US 129. It terminates at GA 75 ALT just west of Helen.



GA 348 – the Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway



Descending the mountain. That little spec of yellow way out ahead of Don is yours truly (Don Moe's dashcam)

So back in *Alpine* Helen now... it's time to get to the hotel, put the bike to bed, change into street clothes and begin the tall tales down in the parking lot. Continue with friends through dinner at a nice restaurant in town and wash it all down with your favorite elixirs. Then it's back to the hotel for more camaraderie. And finally, to bed. Mornings start slowly. Riders unusually enjoy a relaxed, complimentary breakfast right at the hotel and are rarely in the saddle before 9 a.m.



Downtown scenes in Helen



(Internet)

**Final notes...** If you are a fan of mountain riding, this is the place to do it. April is the perfect time of year to be there if you don't mind that the vegetation hasn't greened up yet. Winter temperatures are moderating but still cool. It's too early for the crowds that make riding through towns impossible and the highways maddening. The only downside is that April can be unpredictable weather-wise. Rain is the issue. The last several years have been just about perfect. My recommendation is to book early — just make sure you understand the hotel's cancellation policy. If you do cancel and then change your mind, it may still be possible to rebook. It's not tourist season just yet so they may have rooms available. Hopefully, you can talk them into the original price. I'm really looking forward to the 2020 NGC. How about you?

Guten Tag,

*Tom*

## 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.

### **When the Rubber Quits Meeting the Road**

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

OK, this is just WRONG! This was spotted at a recent MSTA rally (note the rear bumper sticker!). The owner of this bike will remain anonymous, but the photographer, a friend of mine and respected MSTA'er, said the rider actually rode another 30 miles on this tire AFTER the picture was taken. That final ride on the tire was to a dealership, for (finally) a tire change.

As mentioned in a previous article, I recently had to patch another guy's tire on the side of the road. His tire wasn't this much of a disaster, but there wasn't any tread left on it, either. That was bad enough, not to mention he had no tire plug/repair kit, no air compressor, nothing.

Some riders may not realize that tire condition and pressure have a radical effect on the handling characteristics (and safety) of the motorcycle. Just the change of a few pounds of air pressure can cause a bike to handle differently. Remember, your safety and ability to control the motorcycle resides in your contact patches; those few square inches of rubber on each tire actually in contact with the pavement at any given moment in time. Change the tire pressure or allow a severe degradation of the tire and you alter the handling of the bike.

Of course, when it gets this bad, you're just asking for a catastrophic tire failure.

If nothing else, what kind of statement does make about the rider? Is this someone you want in front of you during a group ride? If he/she doesn't take care of their bike, what else don't they care about in terms of motorcycling? One look at this and I am certainly not going to ride with him/her.

When was the last time you checked your tires and tire pressure? Don't do it at home because you have no way to fill your tires? Spend less than \$100 and buy yourself a little pancake air compressor for the garage or a compact pump as well as a repair kit to take along. Check your tire pressure religiously. Inspect your tires routinely.

Above all else, don't end up with a tire like this. You may not get as lucky as this rider.

**Doug Westly – Safety Editor (Retired)**

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



Picture courtesy of Sam Ubling

## Florida News

### South Director's Report

**While most of the ski resorts around the country are enjoying a banner year for snow, we have set, or nearly set, record high temps all month!! Thusly, we truly enjoyed two lunch rides in February!!**



Van VanSteelant

Tom's report below covers the tremendous Central Lunch Ride! The River Ranch location draws riders from all over Florida. And the 10+ Southies did their part to swell the attendance and the raffle total... Did I mention what a beautiful day we had for riding?? I want to thank my Tail Gunners who do yeomen duty on each ride to keep the entire group safe and together!! If you've ridden with me before, be sure to give the last rider in line a thumbs-up 👍 as well.

The South Lunch Ride got off to rough start. Despite our best efforts to arrange seating for 15-20 of us, nobody would take reservations or they figure waiting 2-3 days to respond to our request for banquet service is a sustainable business practice... So I checked with a destination that's been on the radar for years. [Muscle Car City](#) in Punta Gorda was more than accommodating and genuinely happy to entertain us!!

Their facility is huge, with ample space allotted for their [Sting Ray Restaurant](#). As you can see in the photos, the parking is ample and Rick Treworgy's stunning collection is well worth a visit by enthusiasts and casual admirers alike!!



Five Southies gathered at the 7-11 after brief rides through sprinkles and showers. As predicted, we were blue skies and gusty breezes all the way across the state. Don M. joined us at our stop at Loves. Good roads ahead and we arrived right on schedule!! Five more hearty riders made their way to enjoy the good eats and lots of gab!! Two were newcomers, Larry and Sharon, who rode over together. As active members of the Gold Coast

Beemers, riding a little ways from Fort Lauderdale was just a perfect way to spend the day!! Look forward to more info from them about mutually appealing events in the near future!!

Our cheery group totaled up \$50.00 for the 50/50 raffle. And Don White made off with \$25 of it, handing in the winning ticket! We sent \$21.00 to Go Daddy for a year's domain service this month. But we had a great result from the Central Lunch Ride (Tom's saga can be found below!!), so for February, we add \$59.00 to our pot, now at \$629.00. We expect another bill to arrive soon for the remainder of our website expenses. *We are well prepared for it, thanks to all of you who participate every month!!*

## What's Next??

We have 4 events planned for you this month!! Two of them happen over the SAME WEEKEND!! The **JUST FOR FUN EVENT--IN OCALA** runs from Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. You all received a promo email last week, and all of the details are available on our terrific website. [www.flmsta.org](http://www.flmsta.org). Jim Park intends to organize his JFF ride on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, to incorporate the MSTA Central Lunch Ride to **The Cove Pub and Grub, on 1242 S Cove Camp Pt, in Inverness.** You can expect locals and out-of-towners to join in all the festivities! Remember, this weekend kicks off the fun and frolic of Daytona Bike Week!!

Which means the **MSTA Daytona Bike Week Lunch Ride** will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup>, at the **St. John's Marina & Resort, at 2999 FL-44, in DeLand!!** Tom's choice this year is closer to the Track, with great river and marina views. Get there a little early to grab the best seats!!

And then we'll have the South Lunch Ride on March 21<sup>st</sup>. With all the activities up "north", we'll head about as far south as we can get without a boat! This unique location, the **Havana Café of the Everglades, on 191 Smallwood Dr, in Chokoloskee,** will have recovered from the humongous Seafood Festival, held in February. Colorful, with a great menu and an accommodating staff!

**So, get out there and leave some rubber on the road!!**

## 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 four new Florida riders who joined the MSTA since early January:

David Hammer                  Brian Johnson                  Dale Kallaway                  Kristen Metz

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

Frederick Blackall                  Keith Harrison                  Alan Spears  
Raymond Harcourt                  David & Leslie Noyes

These 14 Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Eve Blazsur                  Rebecca DeShazo-Westly                  Glenn Monroe                  Doug Westly  
Frederick Christ                  Chuck Headrick                  Victor Salisbury                  Ed Zaslow  
James Clement                  Kevin Healey                  Eckart Schneider  
William Corrow                  Adrian Jones                  Larry Solomon

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](mailto:membership@ridemsta.com). Renewing or joining can be done quickly and securely online at [PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew) or [PlanetReg.com/MSTAjoin](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTAjoin) respectively. If you use a pre-printed form from STARreview or an ITR, be sure to mail it to the new member of our new membership team, **Scott Snedden, 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](http://PlanetReg.com/MSTAupdate). Please include enough unchanging information to assure the correct member is updated in the database.

When you encounter a rider who would seem to be a good fit as a new MSTA member, please pass along one of our 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!**

Be sure to keep up to date with all of the events and riding opportunities that we can enjoy all year long. Do you know that insurance companies actually offer partial-year coverage plans for our more northerly members who simply park their rides for months on end waiting for the sleet and black ice to disappear?!?!?

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 - February 2020

So, off my group went for the drone across 192 to 441 to 60 to River Ranch on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Three turns in 71 miles and we were there! Well, 441 had a few kinks to make things interesting and the 2-lane stretch of 60 had its share of impatient and aggressive drivers to stay alert for. Otherwise it was very pleasant, rural riding. We left West Melbourne in two well-separated groups. Additional riders joined in at Yeehaw Junction.



Tom Blake

The *Space Coast BMW Riders* decided to piggy-back on our ride since they've had good experiences over there, as well. Plus, I have dinner nearly every Wednesday evening with their core group at Jason's Deli in West Melbourne. We have much in common.

So, was that Saturday a beautiful day to ride or what? Blue skies, upper 60's to low 70's. Even the early chill felt good. The parking lot at River Ranch looked awesome with all the bikes in a double line down the middle and along the edges. Including the SC BMW Riders, we had a nice crowd of twenty-eight. Rose, two of her neighbors and her brother and sister-in-law drove over to make a grand total of thirty-three.



The Smokehouse Grill doesn't take reservations, but my calls ahead and their willingness to accommodate insured us plenty of room out on the patio. They weren't willing to rearrange furniture but the four- and six-person tables allowed plenty of good conversations and we were all in the same area. We also got to experience airboats motoring down the channel towards the Kissimmee River and observe several other watercrafts outside in the marina. It's hard not to ride past the Takoda Village's huge *Luxe* teepees without puzzling about what

*glamping* in one would be like. And where else in Florida can you see emus and bison roaming about in pastures?



Pictures of some of the attendees. Sorry, I didn't get everyone.  
Thanks to Ed Jorgensen for the parking lot photo

As I sold 50/50 tickets, I was stuffing bills willy-nilly into my left pants pocket with my bike's key fob. When I got done, I reached in and pulled out a wad of cash and gave it to Rose to count. She came up with \$56. SC BMW rider Bob Lomnicky had the winning ticket. I gave him \$26 and Van \$25. There was enough noise on the patio that not everyone heard me call the winning number. Bob Shields complained later with a laugh that he never even got to feel the disappointment of hearing someone else's number being called. Oh, Bob! Anyway, thanks to all who participated.

But wait, there's more. My KTM has keyless ignition. When I got home, I went to empty my pockets and – holly crap – there was another \$60 in the key pocket! Thinking back on it, I knew that I sold 21 strips of 7 because I had them clipped together in groups of 20 and had to take one strip from a spare group. So,  $21 \times \$5 = \$105$ . Plus, there were 6 single tickets at \$1 each. That works out to \$111 (or  $\$56 + \$60$ ). So, finally, all moneys were correctly accounted for. I mailed Bob and Van an addition \$30 each to set the books straight. Maybe I should just let Van do all ticket sales from now on.

**Track Days at Jennings GP:** On New Year's Day at Peck's, Doug Re offered our riders substantially reduced pricing for his early February Track Days event at Jennings. Following up this month, I asked him how many participated. Several of our folks had shown interest and the word got out quickly state-wide. So, when Doug wrote back that **none** of our group went, that was disappointing to hear. I hope he will make the same offer sometime in the future... maybe later in the year. These sessions focus on skills training to make us better/safer street riders, not on race prep.

**Next up in the central part of the state** are the 3-day **Daytona Just For Fun (JFF) event** based in Ocala that Jim Park organizes, the **Central lunch** not that far away at [The Cove Pub & Grub](#) in Inverness the same weekend. Then the following Thursday we're doing our annual **Bike Week lunch** at the [St John's River Grille](#) at the river west of Deland. In addition to our regulars, the latter attracts many out-of-state riders who are in town for Bike Week. Reservations have already been made for the Cove and the Grille. See all details below and on-line. And then there's the **South lunch** way, way down in [Chokoloskee](#) (*Cha-co-loss-key*). We've got a

lot going on for our members and friends in March. I hope one or more of these events will entice you to get on your bike and ride.

Safe Journeys,

*Tom Blake*

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

### **Central Florida March Lunch Ride**

Sat., **March 7<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**The Cove Pub and Grub,** ([map](#))

1242 S Cove Camp Pt,

Inverness, FL 34450

### **Northeast Director Needed**

If you would consider taking the position of Northeast Director, please contact Van, [busavan@flmsta.org](mailto: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](http://mstaflorida.qbstores.com). We have made arrangements with the supplier for our National Gearbox to allow our State membership to buy shirts, hats, etc. with our State logos directly from the source!!! No muss, no fuss!! Order yours today!!



They offer both embroidery and digital print options. Click onto the Embroidered Apparel or Shop By Logo for each option. Don't hesitate to contact Queensboro directly with any and all questions. They are very customer friendly. They also offer Polo shirts and T-shirts with pockets!!

## **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., **March 7<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

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

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

Contact: Tom Blake, [tblake1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblake1@cfl.rr.com), or ☎321-723-2857

### **MSTA Bike Week Lunch Ride**

When: Thurs., **March 12<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: [St. John's Marina & Resort](#), 2999 FL-44, DeLand, FL 32720 ☎386-736-6601 ([map](#))

Description: Instead of the 1884 Restaurant in Eustis, this year we're moving to St John's River just west of Deland. It's only about a half hour from the Daytona Speedway. As you approach the bridge on Sr44, turn right at the KOA sign and follow the paved road back and then along the river to the Grill. Great river and marina views. The food's not bad either.

Contact: Tom Blake, [tblake1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblake1@cfl.rr.com), or ☎321-723-2857

### **MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride**

When: Sat., **March 21<sup>st</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: [Havana Café of the Everglades](#), 191 Smallwood Dr, Chokoloskee, FL 34138 ☎239-695-2214 ([map](#))

Description: A brand new destination for us!! I know, it's near the end of the road, literally! Their decor and menu are not to be missed. Join us for our yearly, southerly ride.

Contact: Van, [busavan@flmsta.org](mailto: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., **April 4<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: [3 Bananas](#), 11 S. Lake St, Crescent City, FL 32112 ☎386-698-2861 ([map](#))

Description: This place is one of the most unique lakeside places we ride to and it just overflows with character. US17 is a pleasure to ride. If you've ever been there before, you need no cajoling to go back. It's one of a small handful that I would ride all day for.

Contact: Tom Blake, [tblake1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblake1@cfl.rr.com), or ☎321-723-2857

### **MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride**

When: Thurs., **April 18<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: [Sunset Grille](#), 2650 US-27, Sebring, FL 33870 ☎863-471-3900 ([map](#))

Description: We return to a recent favorite! The back patio and lakeside location makes this simple establishment a must visit... I bet we'll see a few Central members join us here as well.

Contact: Van, [busavan@flmsta.org](mailto:busavan@flmsta.org), or ☎561-386-2594

## **Regional Events**

### **Daytona Beach Bike Week**

When: **March 6<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**  
Where: Daytona Beach, FL  
Information: Check out the website: [www.officialbikeweek.com](http://www.officialbikeweek.com)

### **Daytona Just-For-Fun Event - In Ocala**

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

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

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

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

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

**I'D CALL NOW AND BOOK YOUR WEEKEND!!**

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

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

Contact: Tom Blake, [tblake1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tblake1@cfl.rr.com), or ☎321-723-2857

### **Norm's & Doug's Dillard Dual-Sport Just-for-Fun Event**

When: Thurs.-Sun., **April 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**  
Where: [The Gateway Inn](#), 64 White Oak Ln, Dillard, GA 30537 ☎706-746-3585 ([map](#))  
Description: A weekend of fairly easy Dual-Sport riding. Mostly two-track, lots of gravel, some rocks, some dirt.  
Information: Check out the website: [msta-se.com/Dillard.pdf](http://msta-se.com/Dillard.pdf)  
Contact: Norm Kern, [nkern@kernvideo.com](mailto:nkern@kernvideo.com), or ☎937-609-0931  
Doug Pippin, [doug.pippin@bellsouth.net](mailto:doug.pippin@bellsouth.net), or ☎828-490-8529

### **North Georgia Classic / Just-for-Fun Event**

When: Fri.-Sun., **April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**  
Where: [Quality Inn Downtown Helen](#), 15 Yonah St, Helen, GA 30545 ☎706-878-2268 ([map](#))  
Description: Ride some of the best roads in the Southeast.  
Information: Check out the website: [msta-se.com/helen](http://msta-se.com/helen)  
Contact: Andray Hubble, [andrayhubble@gmail.com](mailto:andrayhubble@gmail.com), or ☎256-572-2719

### **21st Annual Riding Into History**

When: Sat., **April 25<sup>th</sup>**, 10:00 AM  
Where: [World Golf Village](#), 1 World Golf Pl, St. Augustine, FL 32092 ([map](#))  
Description: Celebrating: Brilliant British Bikes.  
Information: Website: [ridingintohistory.org](http://ridingintohistory.org), or Facebook: [facebook.com/riding.into.history](https://facebook.com/riding.into.history)

## Shenandoah Spring Romp / Dual-Sport & Street Ride

When: Thurs.-Sun., April 23<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>  
Where: [The Village Inn Harrisonburg](#), 4979 S. Valley Pike, Harrisonburg, VA 22801 ☎540-434-7355 ([map](#))  
Description: This Virginia location has excellent dual-sport mountain trails and awesome twisty street roads!  
Information: Check out the website: [msta-se.com/Shenandoah.pdf](http://msta-se.com/Shenandoah.pdf)  
Contact: Galen Diehl, [giediehl4@comcast.net](mailto:giediehl4@comcast.net), or ☎256-572-2719

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](mailto: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](http://RideMSTA.com)

Florida MSTA [FLMSTA.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@flmsta.org) to discuss publishing an article. I can offer assistance in preparing your article. Thanks!