



# The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the  
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

March 2021 - Volume 14 Issue 3

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## Contact Information:

### South Florida Director:

Van VanSteelant – [busavanflmsta@gmail.com](mailto:busavanflmsta@gmail.com)

### Central Florida Director:

Carl Swofford - [ndnhawk44@hotmail.com](mailto:ndnhawk44@hotmail.com)

### Safety Editor:

Please volunteer!

### Florida Gator Tale Editor:

Kim Longacre – [editor@flmsta.org](mailto:editor@flmsta.org)

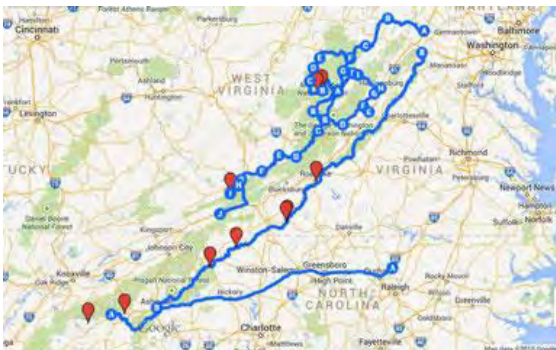
## Feature Article

### Corporate Sponsored GSs Ride the Appalachians

By Ray Crampton, Raleigh, NC

[Ed. Note: This article was previously published in the May 2015 edition of The Florida MSTA Gator Tale. Under the handle, “rcrampton”, Ray posted this ride report to the “Day Trippin’” section of the AdvRider.com Forum on 3/24/2015. It has been edited for publication. All photos by the author unless stated otherwise.]

A friend/coworker (Pradeep, AKA Deep) and I are going through a strange turn of events at work while transitioning out of our current jobs. For the next couple of weeks we have only 1-2 hours per day of work and it can be taken care of remotely. The obvious idea jumped out: “let’s do a ride!” A couple of hours of planning, a couple of hours to pack, and we’re on our way!



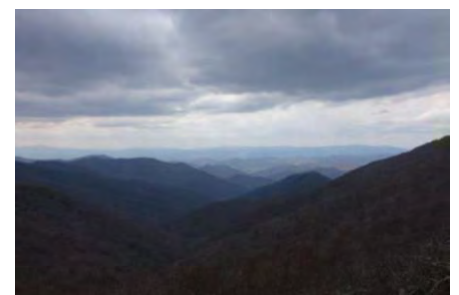
*The route on my map is awesome. All of it.  
Enjoy it if you want a pavement ride out there!*

### The Route:

- Ride from Raleigh to Cherokee on I40. Blah, but not bad when you’re still on the payroll!
- Ride the Blue Ridge Parkway south to north
- Skip up to Winchester and ride south to Monterey which should be gorgeous.
- Loop around the Greenbrier area, through Cass, etc.
- Loop around the Staunton area
- Ride south to the Marion/Abingdon area
- Find a route home

The first mile marker at the southern terminus of the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) is as good as it gets for the start of a full day of riding! Still a sunny day when we crossed the highest elevation of the BRP just before noon. You can see why they call these “Smoky Mountains”.

Not long after this overlook we came to the Devil’s Courthouse section, where the BRP was closed, around mile marker 423. We had to take a fairly long detour around this section, and another short section that was closed, so we had it our way at Burger King: quick.



*You can see why they call these  
“Smoky Mountains”.*



*We passed this cool bridge, so I had to ride it.*

Along the way we passed this cool bridge which reminds me of the crazy things people ride across on round-the-world trips, so I had to ride it.

We got back on the parkway at 4 pm. So far, we had ridden a whopping 46 miles of the BRP, and it felt like the day was over. We kicked it up and rode almost nonstop until 7:15 pm, when we got off at MM248, hoping to stay at Iron Horse Station to get a large dinner and crash for the night. No dice, it's not open for the season yet. We had to exit there anyway to take the next and final detour around a closed section. An hour later we ended up at the Best Western in Elkin with dinner at the Cracker Barrel across the street.

Eight hours in the saddle today, especially coming off of winter, with little conditioning. We had started the day off pretty rough on the sweeping turns but got things smoothed out and feeling great by the time we signed off. Tomorrow looks like rain and mid-40s temperature-wise. We will hope to at least stay dry on the inside. I'm going to try a new rain gear setup that is as yet untested.

Day 3 was truly amazing. Had you told us what the weather would be like, we'd never have guessed that this would be one of the best riding days of our lives.

- ✓ Cold - check, 30's to 40's
- ✓ Heated gear problems - check, one of Deep's gloves was working at 50%, the other not at all
- ✓ Fog - check, came in late and stayed until 2pm, then came in again before dusk
- ✓ Rain - check
- ✓ Rain suit problems - check, the zipper in the top of my Frog Toggs went out last June, after only a dozen trips; the zipper in the bottoms was flaking out today, only a few uses later.

But, even with those working against us we had some truly awesome scenery. There is stillness at the transition from winter to spring, when it is cold and wet outside, the trees haven't yet come back to life, and nature is still buttoned down. We had the parkway to ourselves, measuring single digit cars/hour while we rode. Road conditions were excellent, even if wet. I won't try to ineloquently put it into words.

We got an earlier start today, leaving about 10:15. The ride to the parkway was 30 minutes then we were hauling butt, really digging the twisties. It was chilly but visibility was great, the road was great and we were having the time of our lives.



*We had some truly awesome scenery.*



*An especially nice bridge on the BRP*

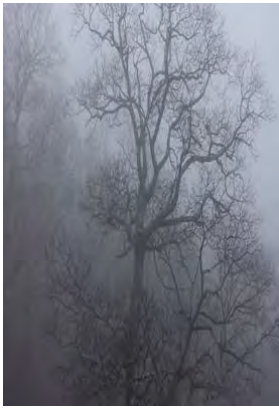
The parkway has a number of tunnels and bridges, but this one was especially nice. The old wooden fences lining the road, the perspective of the curved road passing through, was all perfect.

About 10 am a heavy fog set in. It was unusual to see it set in this late, and it stayed around until about 2 pm. We ran into fog patches off and on all day, keeping our speed in check quite often but providing some truly awesome scenery.

Seriously, the fog was a blessing, not a curse. 35 mph was about as fast as we could roll through this.



*This rather odd house/church/sniper tower caught our eye.*



*Trees without leaves let you see an incredible amount of detail.*

We stopped for lunch around MM200 at highway 52. There's an awesome diner there, be sure to check it out. The hash browns were NOT out of a bag in the freezer. We're talking fresh grated potatoes. The rest of the meal was just as good.

Late in the afternoon we passed through this grove of trees. The sun was peeking out of the clouds, coming down at an angle that lit up one side of all of the trees. I stopped as quickly as I could but the sun was already diffused by clouds again. Still, the view was nice. The road is perfectly clean but there are leaves covering the ground on each side, creating a texture to the ground that reminds us of fall but with a contrast of feeling like a cold, wet, winter day yet we know spring is almost upon us.

Day 4 - We got a slightly earlier start, getting on the road before 10 am, going towards Staunton, Virginia. There's a really cool historic area down there. We didn't stop to take pics but if you go by, ride through, rather than around Staunton.

We rode some sweet, rolling hills with gentle curves all over Virginia and West Virginia in the area. The VA side tended to be more rolling meadows, the WV side more rugged and rocky. We did more riding and less picture taking today but here are a few to share. Lighting was generally not that good when I took pics, but it was a sweet day of riding.

There is a ton of pasture, dairy farms, beef, sheep, horses, goats. We were very surprised to run into a lot of patches of snow throughout the day. It would be over 60° outside, warm and sunny yet a patch of snow on the hill nearby. They had gotten hammered a few weeks before and some still remained.



*Rolling hills near a nice valley on the West Virginia side*

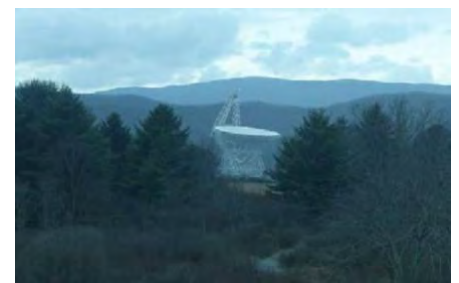


*A lot of the roads ran parallel to creeks.*

We had a few sprinkles of rain here and there throughout the day. I had put my rain gear on to be safe but never really needed it. We hit Franklin, WV around lunch time and, after running through town, nothing really jumped out at us. We chose the Fox's Pizza Den on the north end of Main St. The food was good; the owner Pamela was a riot. She made us feel like we had been locals for our entire lives. If you're ever in town, stop in and chat her up; you'll be glad you did.

A lot of the roads we followed ran parallel to creeks. So, much of the day we had nice views of creeks with good flow. This one was one of the wider ones for sure, most were several feet across.

We came across Green Bank Science Center, which has a radio astronomy tour, exhibit and of course telescopes. The precision with which they have to tackle engineering problems is impressive. Deep is a materials science engineer by training, me an electrical engineer. We can really appreciate the technical accomplishments. This baby has a 2.3-acre mirror that is made up of 2,000 individual mirrors with precision alignment motors on each. Cool stuff!



*This telescope has a 2.3-acre mirror!*



*Picture of an old iron horse next to our newer steeds*

Nearby is Cass, West Virginia. This whole area is a haven for motorcyclists with Cass being a central point. Cass was founded in 1900 with the primary productivity being lumber at a local mill. In its heyday in the early 1900's and later, it employed around 150 people, ran two shifts of 11 hours each and produced 100,000 ft of lumber per day. Impressive! The mill was powered by a steam engine of its own. The railroad, which is what Cass is primarily known for, was to transport the lumber out. They still run a steam locomotive up and down the track during tourist season, later this year.

We got on down the road towards Hot Springs and noticed that an 18-wheeler pulling a large tanker was right on our tail. We were on a curvy road and hitting the corners pretty hard. 55mph on a corner marked 30 mph kind of speeds. Certainly not at our limit, but we were pushing much faster than we thought an 18-wheeler could ever possibly run. This guy stuck with us for maybe 10 miles until we parted ways. I wanted to buy that dude a drink, maybe another day. Maybe I'll run into him at an autocross event where he's rockin' his truck, tanker and all.

Coming into Hot Springs, Virginia, we passed the Omni Homestead Resort. Impressive! I'm more of a nature guy than a country club guy these days, so I found the steam coming out of the ground in town to be more interesting!



*Impressive Omni Homestead Resort but I liked the steam coming out of the ground!*

We boogied out of there and made our way down 220 towards Covington. I pushed a passing zone a bit hard and came way too close to sending myself into a guard rail. I'm amazed, and thankful at the stopping power of these Tourances in the rain. We ended up rolling all the way to Daleville, VA, to my parent's house. We hit pretty consistent rain on the way down. My glasses and visor were wet and foggy, the road was wet, and visibility was terrible. Between the near hit of a guard rail at Mach 2 and issues due to visibility, we both agreed today had more serious risk issues than we've maybe ever had in a day before. We took note for the future; we should have parked the bikes and chilled at a hotel instead. Bad decision but we were lucky, a few times.

For the final day, it was pretty cold. My heated jacket was working intermittently. Either the connection to the battery is intermittent, or, more likely the battery or jacket side of the plug is intermittent. It would run for a while, and then stop. When I got cold, I knew it was time to fiddle with it again. My right heated glove was also intermittent, so I alternated between comfy enough versus numb all day.

So, I kept the speeds down and enjoyed the scenery as I wandered east across Virginia and then around the hills and countryside around Danville, South Boston, and other areas in the region. There's a lot of nice riding in these here parts. I managed to meander home about o' dark thirty with my wife waiting anxiously to get in the hot tub and hear about the trip. – Ray Crampton

## *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. [Ed. Note: This article was previously published in the October 2015 edition of The Florida MSTA Gator Tale.]*

### **Tips for Group Ride Leaders By Doug Westly**



*photo: Don Moe*

Here are a few tips for those of you that will be leading group rides...

First and foremost, always remember that you are no longer riding for yourself. You are now responsible for the group. That means adjust-ing your riding style so that it fits the group's requirements, wants and collective ride expertise.

Speaking of ride expertise, also remember that your group ride dynamics need to fit the least experienced and/or capable rider in the group. This is caveated by saying each rider has to be able to meet the group expectation of riding expertise. If a rider simply can't keep up or is not comfortable with the ride expectations, then it is up to you as the Ride Leader to address this situation.

One of the ride strategies common to many groups or clubs is to place the most experienced and/or capable rider up front as the Ride Leader. There is nothing wrong with this, AS ALONG AS the Ride Leader realizes this is not so he/she can demonstrate to everyone behind how fast/extreme they can ride. Doing this only forces group members to try and keep up, often pushing them beyond their capabilities and/or comfort levels. At best this results in a miserable ride for the group. At worst, someone exceeds their limits and a crash ensues. Being Ride Leader does not mean showing off. It means being responsible.

So how do Ride Leaders ensure a fun, safe ride for their group? Here are a few basic rules of thumb:

- A good strategy is to take the weakest or least confident rider in the group and place them right behind the Ride Leader, or at least in mid-group. Placing them at the rear only guarantees they will be trying to keep up, possibly by exceeding their ride confidence or capabilities.
- Place a trusted rider at the rear of the group to ride "Tail". It takes a patient rider to ride Tail, as they also need to understand the ride is about the group, not themselves.
- Learn to ride with one eye almost constantly on your rearview mirrors.
- Slow starts and slow stops are the rule of the day. Don't make the group try to play catch-up or look like a compressing slinky when you're stopping.
- Safety, safety, safety. Remember you need large gaps in traffic. Red lights are your friend in group rides. Anticipate them and use them; don't try to beat them.
- Finally, make sure to do a good pre-ride briefing. All group riders need to be on the same page, know the ride objectives, route, Ride Leader expectations, etc.

It is YOUR job as Ride Leader to keep the group safe. Do some good planning, pre-run the route if possible and make sure you remember the ride is not about you...it's about everyone behind you!!

***Ride safe!*** – Doug Westly

## Florida News



*"Van" VanSteelant*

### South Director's Report

#### **So, how hot is it?? Welcome to "Hate Florida Weeks"...**

Is it any wonder why Florida is welcoming thousands of new arrivals every month?!? Having suffered through our "winter" temps earlier this month, the past few weeks have been our reward!! Just an FYI--a dear friend of mine in Minneapolis shared that our air temps were 99° apart several times this month!!!

The Central Lunch Ride was well attended, returning to a regular favorite! Carl's report is below. It's always rewarding to have our organizing efforts well supported!!



Which is also how the South Lunch Ride went on Feb. 20th! We had 20+ riders from Ft. Lauderdale to Melbourne to Orlando to Sun City...as well as Sebring. New member, Brian, rode over to Crossroads to join a few of the Eastsiders to ride back to the Sunset Grille, mere blocks from his garage!! What a day for a ride!! Blue sky, high 50s into the 60s, and a good breeze to make sure you paid attention to your cornering lines!!

The restaurant was ready, with ample outside seating that half of the arrivals enjoyed. The rest of the group took up a few tables inside. Meanwhile, a few miles around the west side of Lake Jackson, another 8 of us gathered at the park destination. Since our last visit, the County has repaired the parking lot and boat ramp, spruced up the landscaping and just need to finish up the permanent restrooms. We all welcomed the sunshine against the pleasant breeze coming off the lake!



*Ample outside seating at the Sunset Grille*



*8 riders enjoyed lunch at Vets Park on Lake Jackson*

To continue the good times, six of us took the long way home, south through Venus and then an ice cream stop at our favorite market east of Clewiston!! I left my house around 8:30 am and parked the Ninja at 5:45 pm. Nearly 300 miles of riding bliss!!

### **What's Next??**

Ok, I intend to support and encourage everybody's decision on whether to ride, eat or be merry. I am leaving the LUNCH rides as scheduled WITH CONDITIONS!! Though restrictions have been lifted for several types of restaurants and bars, I will continue to contact the restaurants to listen to how they are operating. I will send out the usual email announcements after my research.

Of course, we will continue exercising the option for a "regular sit down" LUNCH by brown-bagging our own lunch refreshments and finding a welcoming place to "spread out" to eat and gab! Additionally, we have "regionalized" the email addresses of members in your area; say a 60-mile radius. This enables you up to

reach out and set up "local rides" all over the state, any time you're motivated! Of course, the ultimate definition of "social distancing" is a solo ride!!

We have THREE destinations scheduled for March. First up, we have the annual **Daytona Bike Week LUNCH Ride!!** Join local and out-of-state riders on **THURSDAY, March 11th, at St. John's Marina & Resort**, at 2999 FL-44, in **DeLand** for an 11:45 AM sit-down. We continue this tradition started by our own Phil Ridgill. Look for Carl's ride announcement...

On **March 20th**, the **South Ride** ends up at **Waldo's Restaurant**, on the ocean in **Vero Beach!** It's been a few years since our last visit. Time to check it out again!! And the BYO crowd can head to **South Beach Park**, mere minutes south of Waldo's.

The following **Saturday, the 27th**, the **Central Lunch Ride** will hit the west side of Florida. Plan on a Noon gathering at **Woody's River Roo Pub & Grill**, on 5717 18th St E, in **Ellenton**. We'll use the same **Tom Bennett Park** option for the BYO group that is just south of the eatery.

## Random Ramblings!!

Many of us fall into one or more of the cohorts that will qualify for the earliest distribution of vaccines. Some of you are reporting success stories, though most include how difficult it was to get the appointments or the remote locations you had to drive to. Many are still fighting the battle against the very poor planning by nearly everybody involved in the vaccination process!!

I encourage you to make the most of the riding opportunities we have during our "winter" months. Call up a friend who only rides the 4-5 months between snow storms for a different perspective!!

*The mental, economic and medical recoveries are simply all tied together with the behavior of our populace...*

*When you can...*

*Join one of our monthly rides!!*

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

**ATGATT Van**  
**MSTA Florida State Co-Director**



*Carl Swofford*

## Central Director's Report

### February Central Lunch Ride – Tillie's Tavern, Eustis

Saturday morning dawned partly cloudy and a cool. The weather forecast was a 50% chance of rain with the rain beginning about 3PM. We were in between two fronts. A warm front was moving north and had already passed central Florida. A cold front was moving south and expected to arrive late afternoon. Our morning temp was 63° when three of us met to begin our back roads ride to Eustis. Kickstands were up at 10 AM for our relatively short 32-mile ride to Eustis and **Tillie's Tavern**. It was a very pleasant, relaxing ride.

At Tillie's, we met 12 other riders from various parts of central Florida. All 15 of us enjoyed the warmer weather from what had been gripping the state. The food at Tillies was good and the fellowship great. A very enjoyable lunch. A really good turnout of riders!



*Good turnout of riders for the Central Lunch Ride to Eustis – pleasant ride, great fellowship and the food at Tillie’s was good!*

At 1 o’clock we all saddled up for our return trips. It was about 73° and overcast. The ride home was pleasant and uneventful. I got home about 2:15, and the rains started about 3 PM. It was a good ride with great camaraderie.

### February South Ride – Sunset Grille, Sebring



*Good food, view and fellowship at the Sunset Grille*

Saturday morning was a bit chilly; our summer weather had been swept away by a cold front. It was 50° when three of us Central Florida riders gathered in Altamonte Springs at 9:00 AM. We had planned on kickstands up at 9:15 AM, but one bike failed to fire – weak battery. Out came the jumper cables, the seat came off and the cables were hooked up. The bike fired right up - we didn’t get underway until about 9:30. Traffic on I4 through Orlando was moderate and moving right along. We survived a chilly ride on I4 and exited onto US 27 south.

The ride south on US 27 was pleasant with light traffic once we were south of Haines City. We arrived at the Sunset Grille in Sebring at 11:40. Several riders had already arrived, and we socialized until time to be seated at noon. Altogether, there were 13 riders at the Sunset Grille. The food was good, the staff efficient and friendly and the fellowship great.

We departed for home around 1:30. We elected to travel SR 17 north rather than US 27. SR 17 is scenic, curvy and hilly. It is a relaxing ride. Just south of Haines City, we rejoined US 27 and elected to take in it through Mineola and then take back roads to US 441 in Zellwood to avoid congested I4 through Orlando. It was a pleasant, relaxing ride home. We rode a total of 225 miles.

## 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 a new MSTA member: Bill Hart / Royal Palm Beach

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

Keith Harrison	Laura Gonzalez	Kevin Healey	Ray Harcourt	Fred Christ
James Siler	Chuck Headrick	Leslie Noyes	David Noyes	Victor Salisbury
	Steve Marcum	Alan Spears	Eckhart Schneider	





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

Tom Batchelor	Frederick Blackall	Dennis Villarose	Donna Villarose	Jeffrey Withrow
Juan Gomez	Brian Johnson	Dale Kallaway	Kristen Metza	Ilse Zeigler
David Hammer	Wayne Semenick	Don Moe		

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](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, 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](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 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 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.

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## **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.

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

When: MSTA Lunch Ride – **Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 am – 2:15 pm**

Daytona Bike Week - Friday-Sunday, **March 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**

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

Description: This year, we're returning 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 SR 44, 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: Carl, [carltr6@hotmail.com](mailto:carltr6@hotmail.com), or ☎ (386) 793-0030

Daytona Bike Week - Possible bike races: Flat Track, Supercross and Daytona 200 Road Race  
[www.officialbikeweek.com](http://www.officialbikeweek.com)

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

When: **Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 12 – 2 PM**

Location: **Waldo's Restaurant**, 3150 Ocean Drive, Vero Beach, FL ☎ (772) 231-7091 ([map](#))

Description: It's been years since we were here! Still looks inviting, and it's ON the ocean with outside poolside tables!! Mere minutes south of Waldo's, the BYO group will enjoy **South Beach Park!**

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

## **MSTA Florida Central Lunch Ride**

When: Saturday, **March 27<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 - 2 PM**

Location: **Woody's River Roo Pub & Grill**, 5717 18th St E., Ellenton, FL ☎ (941) 722-2391 ([map](#))

Description: We shouldn't have as much competition for chairs and tables in March verses the winter snow bird season! Join us for some riverside grub and gab! For those looking to BYO, we'll likely to return to **Tom Bennett Park**.

Contact: Carl, [carltr6@hotmail.com](mailto:carltr6@hotmail.com), or ☎ (386) 793-0030

## **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 MSTAs [Event Calendar](#) for any updates.

## **MSTA Florida Central Lunch Ride**

When: Saturday, **April 10<sup>th</sup>, 12 - 2 PM**

Location: **3 Bananas**, 11 South Lake St., Crescent City, FL ☎ (386) 698-2861 ([map](#))

Description: Everyone who's been to 3 Bananas knows this is one of our most popular destinations. Indoor and outdoor seating is right at the edge of scenic Crescent Lake. They have a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, not to mention a good selection of sandwiches and wraps at moderate prices. Nice rural 2-laners get you there. For the BYO crowd, **Lake Stella Park** is 4 minutes to the west...

Contact: Carl, [ndnhawk44@hotmail.com](mailto:ndnhawk44@hotmail.com), or ☎ (386) 793-0030

## **MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride**

When: Saturday, **April 17<sup>th</sup>, 12 - 2 PM**

Location: **Laishley Crab House**, 150 Laishley Court, Punta Gorda, FL ☎ (941) 205-5566 ([map](#))

Description: This restaurant has been a favorite of ours over the years. Join the Southies and more for a ride across the state for a wonderful lunch at the Laishley Crab House! Located ON the water in Punta Gorda, we have had memorable outings here over several years! If the weather holds, we can be outside on their wonderful, covered deck overlooking Charlotte Harbor and the Peace River! For the BYO crowd, **Ponce De Leon Park** is 4 miles/11 minutes to the west. Sweet!

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

## **MSTA Shenandoah Spring Romp – Just For Fun**

When: MSTAs Shenandoah Spring Romp – Just For Fun – Thursday-Sunday, **April 8-11**

Location: **Mount Solon**, Mount Solon, Virginia ([map](#))

Description: A **Just For Fun FREE** event with an emphasis on Dual Sport Riding, hosted by Galen Diehl  
This Virginia location has excellent dual sport mountain trails and awesome twisty street roads!  
Routes will be provided

Camping: Downy Meadow RV Campground

71 Shulls Lane, Mount Solon, VA 22843

Negotiated rate of \$15.00 per night----CASH

Other lodging available - <https://tinyurl.com/3xrjpa7r>

Contact: Eric or Danielle Showalter 540-820-3605 / 540-830-2670 / MSTAs Web site: [www.ridemsta.com](http://www.ridemsta.com)

## MSTA North Georgia Classic – Just For Fun

When: MSTA North Georgia Classic – Just For Fun – Friday-Sunday, **April 23-25**

Location: Helen, Georgia ([map](#))

Description: A **Just For Fun FREE** event....No Rally fee

Show up, pick a route, go ride. Several dining options in Helen. Experience the North Georgia mountains with other Sport Touring enthusiasts. Camping options close by.

Hotel: Quality Inn Helen, 15 Yonah Street, Helen, Georgia ☎ (706) 878-2268

Negotiated rate of \$89.00 per night

Ask for rooms in MSTA Block. 17 double rooms set aside on the first floor, first come, first serve.

Cutoff date is April 15

Contact: Andray Hubble 256-572-2719 / [andrayhubble@gmail.com](mailto:andrayhubble@gmail.com) / MSTA Web site: [www.ridemsta.com](http://www.ridemsta.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](#).

## North Director Needed

If you would consider taking the position of North Director, please contact Van, [busavanflmsta@gmail.com](mailto:busavanflmsta@gmail.com).

## 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!!



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.

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National MSTA [RideMSTA.com](http://RideMSTA.com)

Florida MSTA [FLMSTA.org](http://FLMSTA.org)

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### More Contact Information

<b>Kim Longacre</b> Newsletter Editor <a href="mailto:editor@flmsta.org">editor@flmsta.org</a>	<b>P. 'Van' VanSteelant</b> South Director ☎ (561) 386-2594 <a href="mailto:busavanflmsta@gmail.com">busavanflmsta@gmail.com</a>	<b>Carl Swofford</b> Central Director ☎ (386) 793-0030 <a href="mailto:ndnhawk44@hotmail.com">ndnhawk44@hotmail.com</a>	<b>We're also on Facebook:</b> <a href="https://facebook.com/FLMSTA/">facebook.com/FLMSTA/</a>
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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](mailto:editor@flmsta.org). Don't trash it, recycle it! One man's trash is another man's treasure!