



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

Volume 12 Issue 5

Events in May 2019

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Feature Article

MSTA TriSTAR in Sparta, NC Memorial Weekend 2012

By Don Moe

[Ed: Although this article previously appeared in the 6/2012 edition of this newsletter, the content may encourage our readers to attend the MSTA TriSTAR event this month (5/24-27/2019). Photos and maps by author except as noted.]

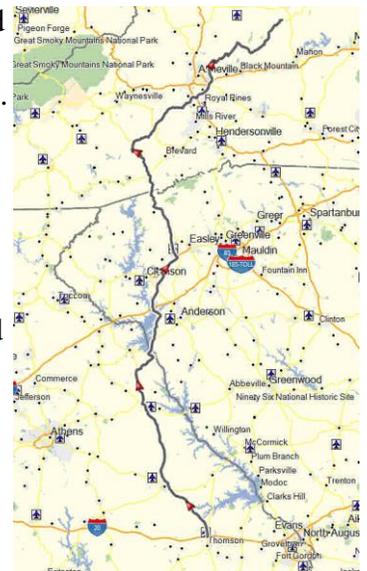
On Wednesday, May 23rd, I mounted my trusty Kawasaki Concours 14, now with nearly 50K miles in the sixteen months of my owning it, and headed north on I-95 on the first leg of my trip to attend the 2012 TriSTAR rally. I'd been looking forward to visiting that area again.

In general I try to avoid the super-slab highways, even if it takes much longer than on US, state or county highways. But I was eager to get into Georgia as soon as possible, where there is a greater selection of good secondary roads north, which often have much less traffic and pass through some nice small towns. In planning such trips, I use Garmin MapSource to route around the larger towns and cities as much as possible and transfer the route to my Zumo 665.

Upon reaching the I-295 Bypass just south of Jacksonville, I followed it west around to exit 28 where I continued north on US-1 and various state roads. Eventually I reached my first overnight stop at the EconoLodge motel near I-20 in Thomson, GA. The first day's ride was thus 527 miles in 9½ hours, including stops for lunch and refueling. Upon arriving the motel owner recognized me, since I had stayed at his motel during my return trip from Sparta in 2011, and gave me a nice welcome. At the nearby Chinese buffet restaurant, I sampled from a good selection of various dishes.

Departing from Thomson and staying to the west of the Savannah River, I continued north until I crossed into South Carolina at the south end of Hartwell Lake. (See adjacent map.) Needing to refuel, I stopped at a station at the intersection of SC-24 and SC-187 to discover that they offered ethanol-free fuel, including premium, at a competitive price, presumably due to boaters enjoying the nearby Hartwell Lake. It seemed that my fuel economy improved slightly (~10%) with the pure gasoline.

Now that I was getting closer to the Appalachians, the roads were finally getting interesting with more curves and scenery. Since my plan included riding the Blue Ridge Parkway again, I followed US-178 from Liberty, SC to US-64 in Rosman, NC, where I switched to the very twisty Parkway Road.



Shortly after turning onto the Blue Ridge Parkway, I stopped briefly at the overlook called *Devil's Courthouse* to take several photos, including these two.



View from the *Devil's Courthouse* overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway at 5,462 ft elevation.



View of the bare rock profile named *Devil's Courthouse*

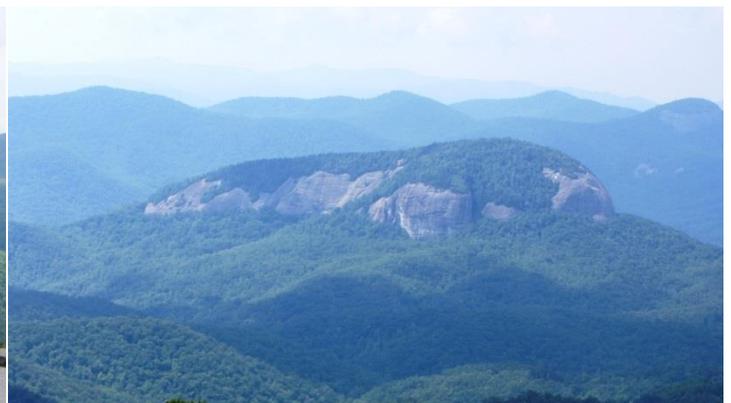
About 30 minutes further along the Parkway, I also stopped at the *Pounding Mill* overlook to take several additional photos.



Panoramic view east from the Pounding Mill overlook



View north towards *Frying Pan Mountain* from the *Pounding Mill* overlook. The Parkway snakes around the hills.



Telephoto view of *Looking Glass Rock*

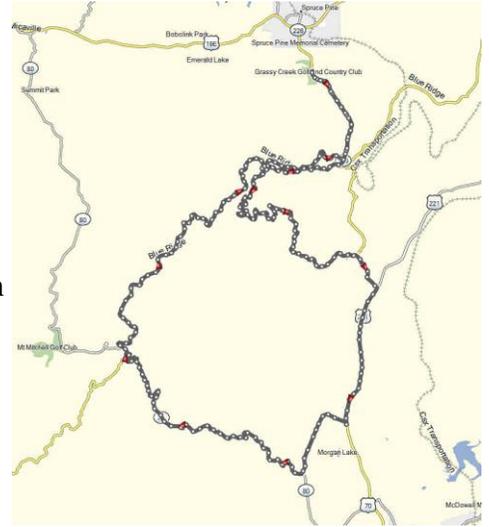
Although I could easily have made it all the way to Sparta on this second day of my trip, I had decided to stop early at the [Switzerland Inn](#) along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, NC. I was curious about the

lodge and wanted to ride some of the nearby twisties, such as the section called [Diamondback](#), NC-226A, which has 190 curves in 12 miles.

After 252 miles in 6½ hours, I arrived at the Inn around 2 PM and unloaded the bike for riding the local twisties. After taking a break, I headed out on a loop tour that included NC-226A, US-221, NC-80 and the Blue Ridge Parkway. (See adjacent map.) As I returned to Little Switzerland, I decided it would be wise to refuel before stopping for the night. The closest stations were in nearby Spruce Pine and I found that the Exxon station there also offered ethanol-free premium.

Upon returning to the Inn, I found several other motorcycles parked there, including Ducati and Aprilia dual-sports, belonging to Ian and Kelly, two MSTA members from Michigan, whom I met after Ian spotted my MSTA sticker and introduced himself. Later on, we had some nice conversation over a couple beers on the Inn's patio followed by dinner in the restaurant. Since they hadn't known about TriSTAR, they had not planned on attending it. Our MSTA events could doubtless benefit from additional promotion.

Here are three photos I took outside the Switzerland Inn under beautiful skies:



Valley-side view of the Inn

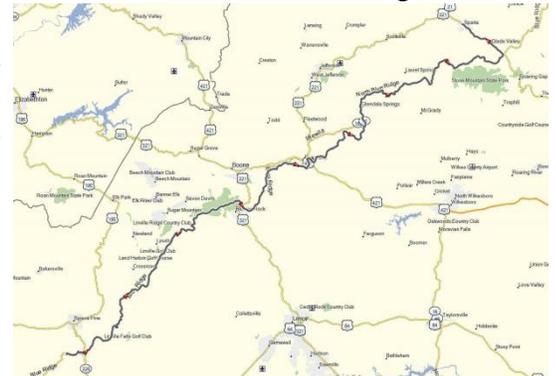


View of the valley from the Inn



Several of the motorcycles on the highway-side of the Inn. Mine is the 5th in line.

The next morning, May 25th, I departed the Switzerland Inn around 10 AM and continued north along the Blue Ridge Parkway for 113 miles to Sparta, arriving at the [Alleghany Inn](#) at 12:20 PM, which was hosting the TriSTAR rally. (See the adjacent map.) The ride was uneventful except for several construction zones that restricted traffic to a single lane. The scenery was as beautiful as usual under sunny, mostly clear skies.



Upon arriving in Sparta, I found Beth Hobbs, our hostess at Tri-STAR, together with John Kilmartin, the motel manager, and two workers all busily setting up the tents and tables for our rally. They already had hung numerous pendants and banners from the upper floor railing. It was already looking rather festive, as shown in this photo. After setting up the tent sections, they anchored everything with the white paint buckets filled with water in case of high winds. Other riders, who had arrived early, were mostly out riding when I arrived.



Beth Hobbs (in yellow) and John Kilmartin (in white) set up the tents with two helpers.

At the evening cookout with hotdogs and hamburgers with the fixings, I heard that around 70 participants attended the event this year. The [gallery section](#) of the MSTA website has numerous photos from several TriSTAR events over the years.

On Saturday morning, it became obvious that my rear tire did not last as long as I had anticipated and that I must replace it before riding the local twisties, and especially before returning home. Gary Christopher assisted me in finding a shop nearby that had a suitable tire and could put it on that morning. He, Ken from Michigan, and I rode the 38 miles from Sparta to the Mt. Airy Yamaha dealer in just under an hour and their mechanic quickly mounted the new tire. Afterward North Carolina MSTA member “Iguana” Joe joined us for lunch at the nearby *Ruby Tuesday*.

Following lunch, Gary led Ken and me on a spirited 140-mile ride through southern Virginia. (See adjacent map.) Living in the flatland of Michigan, Ken is not yet very confident in the corners due lack of practice. On this outing he got plenty of practice, while remaining within his comfort zone.

We returned to Sparta about 6:30 and just in time for the catered dinner party under the tents. Baked chicken and pulled pork with the fixings were on the menu. We were certainly ready for that along with a couple beers after the day’s riding.

In addition to the food, the highlight of the evening was doubtless the raffle drawing of the numerous items provided by various vendors, including a \$200 leather jacket, size large. After the first two or three winners turned it down for being too small, the next winner happily took it, even though it was probably two sizes too large for her.

On Sunday morning I heard the news that Beth’s husband, Tony, had collided with a dog or coyote while riding his motorcycle on Saturday night and had broken his right leg. Fortunately he’s now on the mend and undergoing rehabilitation. Since Beth had gone with him to the hospital, those of us still at the motel pitched in to help pack up her things and to load their two motorcycles onto their trailer.

Following a leisurely breakfast at the adjacent café, Ken and I embarked on a final ride together during this event. Although quite lengthy at 250 miles, we rode at a more relaxed pace than on Saturday and returned to Sparta 7½ hours later. The route included sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Roan Mountain State Park. (See the adjacent map.) Ken had not previously ridden along the Parkway and was happy for the opportunity.

I had first met Ken and wife Vicky at TriSTAR the previous year, after I spotted his red Kawasaki Concours 14 (2009) in the parking lot. After seeing them again at STAR2011 in Johnson City, I visited their home in Mason, MI during my cross-country tour in July, 2011. They plan to attend STAR2012 in Avon too. It’s nice to develop good



Beth Hobbs introduces the raffle session

Photo by Roger Willis



relationships at these events.

Although I had considered heading home to Florida on Monday, May 29th, Tropical Storm Beryl was causing some serious and badly needed rain across northern Florida and southern Georgia. The prospect of riding through tropical storm conditions certainly didn't appeal to me. Not being in any hurry, I decided to remain in sunny and dry northwestern North Carolina and to enjoy a final day of fun riding.

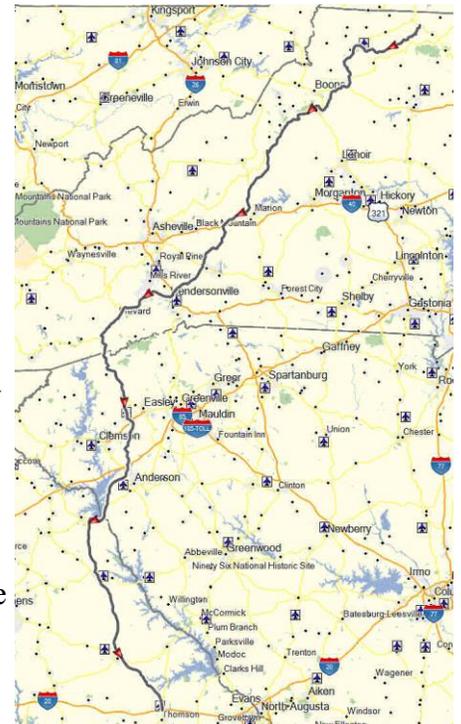
The route I selected took me to the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, Shady Valley, along US-421 (a.k.a. *The Snake*), along the south shore of Watauga Lake, past Roan Mountain and back to Sparta. (See adjacent map.) It took me nearly six hours to cover the 227 miles, including a lunch stop at the Shady Valley Country Store, where I took this panoramic photo to show the numerous motorcycles there.



The Shady Valley Country Store is a favorite stop for food and fuel before riding *The Snake*, US-421, towards Mountain City, TN.

Although the tropical storm had weakened overnight and moved further east, the ride south towards Florida on Tuesday, May 29th, was not as dry as I had hoped. Thus I had to put on my rain gear for a while when I was near Blowing Rock and passed under a feeder band of the storm. Thankfully the rain was mostly light to moderate. After clearing that area, I was able to take off the rain gear again.

My route south from Sparta was initially along NC-18 and portions of the Blue Ridge Parkway. At Old Fort, located about 20 miles east of Asheville along I-40, I followed Bat Cave Road south towards Hendersonville. There are numerous tight twisties along that road. Once I reached Rosman, NC, I followed nearly the same route back to Thomson as coming north.



I returned to the same EconoLodge in Thomson, GA. The price was reasonable at around \$50 with taxes and I was looking forward to dinner at the nearby Chinese buffet.

On Wednesday, the 30th, the final leg of my return trip was almost the same as my first leg heading north, except for two brief rain showers. After nearly 11 hours and 523 miles, including stops for lunch, fuel and rain gear once again, I arrived back in Jupiter safe and sound.

I hope that you enjoyed reading this report of my trip to North Carolina. Perhaps next year several more MSTA members from Florida will attend TriSTAR and enjoy riding the nice roads in that area. It's certainly worth the effort!

Don Moe

SAFETY TALK

IMPORTANT NOTICE: 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.

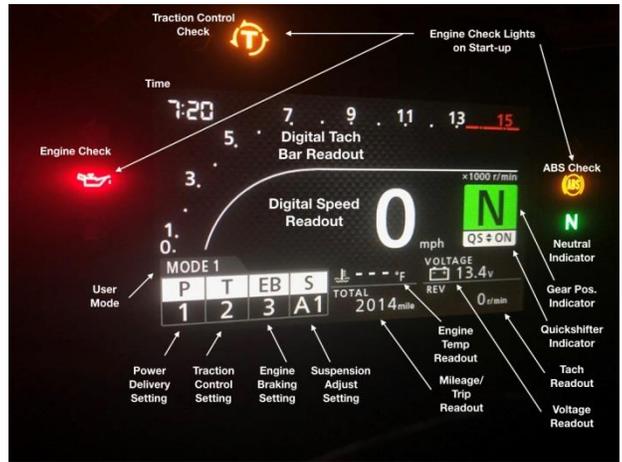
Know Your Settings

Today's motorcycles, like everything else, are getting more and more sophisticated. Cutting-edge electronics means riders can regulate everything from active suspension to engine braking power. Along with this comes a need for the rider to be able to understand, interpret and manage these settings.

The first challenge can be simply decoding everything your dash is telling you. As just one example, here is (one of) the dash readouts on my current sport bike. As if all this isn't enough, I can also cycle the dash readout over to another completely different display for track riding, to give lap times and other electronic control options.

So what does all this mean, and how do we use it?

Modern, technology-enabled motorcycles can allow you to (depending upon the model) electronically control bike parameters such as:



- 🏍️ **Power Delivery:** How hard or soft the power comes on. For spirited riding, you might want the hardest delivery, while riding in the rain would require the softest power delivery.
- 🏍️ **Traction Control (TC):** How sensitive the TC is to traction interruption and when it activates.
- 🏍️ **Engine Braking:** How much engine braking is provided upon throttle close.
- 🏍️ **ABS Control:** Being able to turn the ABS On/Off, and in some cases disconnecting the front and rear wheel ABS.
- 🏍️ **Suspension Settings:** Being able to adjust rebound, compression, etc.

In a lot of bikes, these settings, either all or many of them, can be changed while the bike is in motion, and/or allow the rider to pre-set combinations of the settings.

The biggest challenge is really just knowing what settings to use for the different riding conditions. As just a couple of examples:

- 🏍️ Riding in the rain usually dictates softer power, engine braking and suspension settings, to help maintain traction on wet roads.
- 🏍️ More spirited riding means quicker power delivery (throttle) settings and tighter suspension. However, if the roads aren't smooth enough, a tighter suspension setting could also work against bike control.
- 🏍️ Heading to the track? Now you want maximum power on demand, suspension settings to complement quick corner turn-ins and more wheelie control.
- 🏍️ On Dual Clutch Transmissions (DCT), you can even adjust the electronic rpm shift points. Pretty cool...

Have you really gone through the menus on that new sport tourer, ADV bike or power cruiser? Have you spent the time with your owner's manual to really understand every advantage your bike's electronics offer?

Knowing your bike is another key to riding safe!

Ride Safe!

Doug Westly – Safety Editor

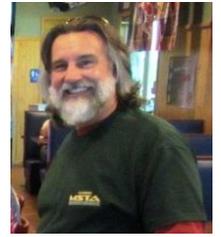
See our [Mystery Hyperlink](#) for further information on this topic.

Florida News

South Director's Report

YOU MEET THE NICEST PEOPLE...

A lovely April, indeed! Many of us had the good fortune to attend both lunch rides this month. Tom's report on the uniqueness of the Westgate River Ranch follows below. We had a terrific turn out, evidenced by the number of bikes in the parking lot and the numerous servers that came to our rescue as we loaded up their outdoor seating area. And I always enjoy being just a part of the crowd at the Central events. Tom has assimilated the Master of Ceremonies role quite well!



Van VanSteelant

As for the adventures of the Southies... Our ride to the Central Lunch was uneventful and perfectly enjoyable. Riding our usual collection of available curves, we arrived in the midst of other early achievers and had time for some genuine tire kicking before making our way inside/outside for lots of gab and plenty of grub! Our group reorganized after a few decided to linger and investigate the multitude of attractions and accommodations available to the adventurous traveler. Efficiency over scenery led us to Turnpike our return to whence we came...

Two weeks later, a cast of 5 set out to run some of our favorite curves "backwards" compared to recent travels. Due to consistently strong winds, our pace remained polite, yet not boring. Succeeding in finding the longest way to Jaxon's On-the-Lake, we found our parking options to be under the shady trees in the grass. Ever prepared for soft soils, no tip overs were observed! We joined many others in our own section of the restaurant, allowing us to carry on as we wished. Though the kitchen handled us mostly a table at a time, we never have a problem filling the time with good cheer and tall tales. You meet the nicest people... 😊



Photos: Don Moe

With 21 in attendance, we were blessed with another significant 50/50 raffle. Alan Miller took home \$55 and the FLMSTA added the Southies' \$55 to Central's \$85 take to give us \$140.00 for the month. That brings our grand total to \$1,722.00. A **BIG** thanks for the large turnouts and participators!! Those who were with us in Lake Placid heard me address our intentions for our over-sized raffle pot. During May, I will send out an email to the members detailing what Tom and I propose for spending/distributing our good fortune. Based on the reaction at Jaxon's, we think we have a few terrific ideas. Stay tuned!!

What's Next??

Hopefully, you made your plans for the Just For Fun Event, organized by member Kevin Healey. The **Wizard's Wild Weekend** kicks off May 3rd in Cedar Key. There is WAY too much info to share here about this event. Head to the website and click away!

But wait, there's more....

Regardless of your weekend attendance, there is a **SPECIAL JUST FOR FUN LUNCH RIDE** open to EVERYBODY to **Peck's Old Port Cove, on 139 N Ozello Trail, in Crystal River, FL!!** A ride from Cedar Key is planned, but ALL are welcome to head to one of our favorite lunch spots! Again, more info can be found at www.flmsta.org

May marks the end of our LUNCH rides until October. You know, the heat and stuff... The last Central Lunch Ride happens May 11th. Join the fun at Lake Harris Hide A Way, on 11912 Lane Park Rd, in Tavares. This destination is on our calendar every year. Find out why...

The next weekend, May 18th, the Southies head to another favorite. Capt. Hiram's Resort, on 1580 US-1, in Sebastian. A scenic ride, dining on the Indian River, with plenty of room for all our shenanigans!! Mark your calendars NOW!!

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 two new Florida riders who joined the MSTA in April:

Adrian Jones Larry Solomon

We thank these five Florida members for renewing their memberships in April:

Eve Blazsur Glenn Monroe Ed Zaslou
Rebecca DeShazo-Westly Doug Westly

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

Alan Berry Robert Fischer Bill Royal
Douglas Christensen Pete Kauk Robert 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 quickly and securely done 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 Beth Hemstreet, 5560 Stone Church Court, Loveland, CO 80537, and not to the address of a prior membership director.

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!

Well, STAR 2019 really is right around the corner! You know what to do... Register, buy bike raffle tickets and secure a room!! If you are new to the MSTA, you REALLY want to attend this STAR as it is located in the middle of spectacular riding. And with years of prior experience, the Executive Committee is well practiced at organizing these complex events. This year's event ought to be amazing!!

On a local note, A BIG THANK YOU to all of the participants who have turned out for the first four months of riding events!! It's truly rewarding to see the parking lot full of bikes and the tables full of smiling faces!! And we have had several new faces to look at too!! If you have recruited a new member, thank you!!

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

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Director's Report - April 2019

We returned to the **Smokehouse Grill** at Westgate River Ranch Resort for our April lunch. Last time we were there it was cold, so we ate inside. It was very comfortable and attractive. But boy, was it ever **n-o-i-s-y**. We decided to pick a *slightly* warmer month next time and try the outside patio. Well, wouldn't you know, the patio was mostly enclosed with all hard surfaces and, again, noisy. Not as bad and different, but still.... The worst part - it was warm and a little humid with no a/c. The fortunate ones had a big fan pointed towards them.



Tom Blake

But, hey, the food was good, and we had plenty of servers tending to our needs. I think we all had a good time. There was no shortage of chatter. The restaurant certainly had the room. The Resort was an interesting place out there in the middle of nowhere. Some hung around afterwards just to look the place over and gawk at the Texas Longhorn cattle herd, the Takoda Village *Luxe Teepees*, emus, rock climbing challenge, zip lines, airfield, RV park, rodeo corral, horses and more. We may give this place one more shot in a cooler month as they do have heaters out on the patio. It is otherwise a very appealing, centrally located destination.





(Photos courtesy of Brian Dickerson)

Thirty-three signed the attendance sheet, of which, twenty-eight were riders. The other five included Rose, two of her neighbors plus her brother and sister-in-law who all drove over. The more the merrier. It was nice to see riders come from as far away as Winter Park, Altamonte Springs, Longwood, The Villages, New Smyrna and Port Orange to the north. And several rode up from Jupiter, West Palm and Boynton Beach to the south. Melbourne, Bartow, Lake City and the Tampa Bay area were represented as well. Did I miss anyone?

For riding distance to the event, there were five in the 140 to 144-mile range. The average was 103. So, we are certainly a group who takes to heart Freddie Mercury's "get on your bikes and **r-i-d-e**" lyric from the song *Fat Bottomed Girls*.

Of the twenty-eight riders, fifteen were members. That means thirteen were *potential* members getting a taste of who we are and what a super association we have. Kudos to all who brought along non-member friends. I can't think of a better way to grow our **sport touring**-oriented association over time.

We do need to keep an emphasis on wearing proper riding attire. The minimum requirement would be a DOT-approved helmet, eye protection (face shield or shatter-proof glasses/goggles), gloves, long pants, long sleeves and shoes covering the ankles. However, a cornerstone of our approach to riding safety is wearing **All The Gear All The Time (ATGATT)** – including motorcycle-specific footwear, gloves, jackets, pants and a full-faced or modular helmet. Members may be able to get partial refunds for purchases of safety gear through the MSTA's Dan Clark Safety Fund. See ridemsta.com/srblog/dan-clark-safety-program/.

The 50/50 grossed \$111. Van won. He kept \$20 and generously donated \$35 back to the club, which now adds \$86 to the kitty.

The next Central lunch is on **May 11th**. **Lake Harris Hideaway** is the place. Lunch starts at **11:30**. It's right on the north shore of Lake Harris west of **Tavares** and is another of our favorites. See the **Florida Rides This Month** section of the newsletter for the address and full description. Also, consult the calendar at flmsta.org/rides for all details and any late updates. I look forward to seeing you there. You will find it enjoyable on many levels.



Now, this will be the last Central lunch ride until October. We go into survival mode for the very hot, sticky and often rainier summer months by reverting to 9:30 a.m. brunches from June thru September. We keep riding but get our fun done early, before the worst of it hits.

Safe Journeys,

Tom Blake

MSTA Florida State Co-Director

Central Florida May Lunch Ride

Sat., May 11th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

[Lake Harris Hideaway](#) ([map](#))

11912 Lane Park Rd

Tavares, FL 32778

Florida MSTA Apparel

As a reminder, our Florida State Storefront is open online for your MSTA-branded apparel! Go to mstaflorida.qbstores.com. We have made arrangements with the supplier for our National Gearbox to allow our State membership to buy shirts, hats, etc. with our State logos directly from the source!!! No muss, no fuss!! Order yours today!!



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

Florida Rides This Month

Important Note

Always remember to check the Florida MSTA [Event Calendar](#) and/or your email for updates on scheduled rides. Changes in times, dates, and especially locations are often out of our control and with short notice.

[MSTA Florida Central Lunch Ride](#)

When: Sat., May 11th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Where: [Lake Harris Hideaway](#), 11912 Lane Park Rd, Tavares, FL 32778 ☎352-343-3585 ([map](#))

Description: This is an old favorite that we never seem to get tired of. It sits at the edge of Lake Harris with covered, on-deck seating and a gorgeous view of the lake. They carry a good selection of appetizers, burgers, sandwiches, melts, salads and sides at reasonable prices.

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

[MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride](#)

When: Sat., May 18th, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: [Capt Hiram's Resort](#), 1580 US-1, Sebastian, FL 32958 ☎772-388-8588 ([map](#))

Description: THE LAST LUNCH RIDE OF THE SEASON!!

Join the Southies for a return to a real winner! Lots of space, right on the river, at the end of a scenic ride!

Hint: early arrivals will find parking by the front door...

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., **June 11th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Four Seasons](#), 5298 Hwy 29, Frostproof, FL 33843 ☎863-635-2951 ([map](#))

Description: FIRST BRUNCH RIDE OF THE SEASON!!

It's not fancy. Just generous portions of inexpensive, good home cooked food with great service. The 'go to' place in this centrally located neck of the woods with plenty of paved parking. Get out of town and enjoy a relaxing country ride to and from this place.

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

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Sat., **June 15th**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: [Two Peas Café](#), 870 W Hickpochee Ave #500, LaBelle, FL 33935 ☎863-675-2891 ([map](#))

Description: A perfect BRUNCH destination!! Old school goodness, family owned and easy to get to from everywhere!!

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

Regional Events

Just For Fun — Wizard's Wild Weekend

When: Wed.-Sun., **May 3-5, 2019**

Where: Cedar Key, Florida 32625 ([map](#))

Description: **MSTA Member, Kevin Healey, has reorganized his famous weekend of adventures in Cedar Key!! Below is a brief outline of the weekend's events. A full length email went out March 11th with all the nitty gritty and hotel info.**

If you did not receive that email, contact Kevin at 011wizard@gmail.com

Use this Link: <http://forums.delphiforums.com/MCTourer/messages/?msg=57079.1>

In the event you are new to this little gathering, here is a brief overview. My nickname is Wizard – hence the Wizard's Wild Weekend – we are anything but wild. To be clear, you should know that we gather for Wizard's Wild Weekend in Cedar Key, Florida!!! This year's dates are Friday May 3, Saturday May 4 and depart Sunday May 5, 2019. If you have not been to Cedar Key – well, you haven't lived!!! Everyone needs to be in Cedar Key at least ONCE in your lifetime. In case you're in the dark on this unspoiled treasure...it is NOT in the Florida Keys! Surprise! It's right on the Gulf of Mexico – 65 miles west of Ocala – 135 Miles North of Tampa – just to give you a rough idea.

Planned activities include:

- Dinner gathering Friday night, May 3rd
- Breakfast Saturday Morning at Annie's Café.
- A lunch RTE on May 4th to Peck's Old Port Cove
- Our official dinner together on May 4th is at 6:30pm at The Island Room.
- After dinner we will adjourn to a local bar for a brew or two.
- Casual Goodbye Breakfast Sunday morning, May 5th.

Contact: Kevin Healey at 011wizard@gmail.com

Special Just For Fun Lunch Ride

When: Sat., **May 4th**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Where: [Peck's Old Port Cove](#), 139 N. Ozello Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429 ☎352-795-2806 ([map](#))
Description: In conjunction with **Wizard's Wild Weekend in Cedar Key** Florida - there is always a **RTE** during the week-end. Those already in Cedar Key will join a group ride to lunch from Cedar Key - others will just meet us at our lunch destination. **All are welcome to join in for the lunch!** Details as follows:

Peck's Old Port Cove
139 N. Ozello Trail
Crystal River, FL 34429

May 4th, 2019 - High NOON!

Kevin went to Peck's to meet the MSTA crew on New Year's Day. It was his first time there. He was hooked!! As many of you already know - it is really a picture perfect spot! Nice ride in, right on the water. Peck's is rich in local history and rich in delicious food. So, here's another chance to enjoy this favorite destination! Pictures and map here: tinyurl.com/y6h73gww

Contact: Kevin Healey, 011wizard@gmail.com

MSTA Regional TriSTAR

When: Fri.-Mon., **May 24-27, 2019**
Where: [Alleghany Inn](#), 341 N Main St, Sparta, NC 28675 ☎888-372-2501 or 336-372-2501 ([map](#))
Description: A regional favorite!! Since STAR2019 takes place a few weeks later in nearby Bristol, TN, the event has been designated as a Just-for-Fun event this year and thus no registration or meals as in the past.
Location: Sparta, NC – Excellent street riding in Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern North Carolina.
Contact: Geoffrey Greene at hawkgtrider@aol.com or ☎865-659-4755
Information: The event webpage is available at www.msta-se.com/tristar/

For additional Florida events and information, [click here](#) to see the Florida MSTA website's Events page.

The Florida MSTA chapter also has a presence on Facebook with upcoming events and past photos: [click here](#).

We welcome articles and comments from our members for publication. Contact the editor at: editor@flmsta.org.

The MSTA National [website](#) has extensive event information:

🚲 To join the MSTA or renew your membership: [click here](#).

🚲 For the Events in 2019: [click here](#).

National MSTA RideMSTA.com

Florida MSTA FLMSTA.org

More Contact Information

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ALL GRAPHICS WERE PROVIDED BY THE CREDITED AUTHOR, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Mystery Hyperlink of the Month

This month's [Mystery Hyperlink](#) is related to the safety article

CLASSIFIED ADS

Dianese Men's Leather Motorcycle Street/Track Pants \$175.00 US

Mens Size - 54 (US 36" waist)

- Pants are in near **NEW** condition (preowned)
- No scuffs or scratches
- 100% Leather
- Waist zipper attaches to any Dianese jacket
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- 2 zipper front pockets
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Shipping \$15.00 for standard delivery

Contact: Dave at dzoerb714@yahoo.com



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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!