



The Florida Gator Tale

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the
Motorcycle Sport Touring Association

November 2021 - Volume 14 Issue 11

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Contact Information:

South Florida Director:

Van VanSteelant – busavanflmsta@gmail.com

Central Florida Director:

Carl Swofford – carltr6@hotmail.com

North Florida Director:

Roy Clark – rmkc99@gmail.com

Florida Gator Tale Editor:

Kim Longacre – editor@flmsta.org

Feature Article

Our Great TT Bucket List Quest

By David Sumner

[Ed. Note: This article was previously published in the October 2019 edition of The Florida MSTA Gator Tale. Hyperlinks have been added.]

Bucket-list trips need lots of lead time to be successful. Here's a repeat article to whet your interest and get to planning your next trip, overseas or otherwise. Ya know ya wanna!!—Van

I have long been in awe of the fabled racers of the **Tourist Trophy**

(TT) races of the **Isle Of Man (IOM)**. Thus, a visit has been at the top of my bucket list for many years. This series of races among motorized gladiators has been an annual event since 1907. In the opening year, the fastest lap of 46 mph was set on the 37.75-mile course by a Peugeot-powered Norton. Over the years this figure has steadily grown to over 135 mph (by Peter Hickman last year) – this done on surface roads, not a bona fide track! There are heaps of fine videos about this race series on YouTube. Check out a few.

My wife and I have enjoyed several self-guided trips in North America, Europe and New Zealand over the years, so I had high confidence that an economical IOM trip could easily be set up. I was soon humbled! Two years ago, I attempted to assemble the components of a journey, which included not only trains and boats and planes, but cars, buses and motorcycles, too. I looked for advice online and spoke to a couple people who had been there. Even so, the task of coordinating the whole shebang seemed too daunting. I could imagine arriving at a transfer point, having missed a stitch somewhere, and ending up marooned. I postponed the attempt for one year. It seemed like I was building a clock from a bag of bits – at least for my limited imagination. Granted, the simple course would have been to fly directly to the IOM and pay a consolidator, such as Duke Travel www.dukettravel.com, for a package deal. However, doing the coordination myself would save some bucks and add flexibility.

Many months passed before I set out again to build the trip. This time the pieces clicked! We decided to dip our toe into the TT experience by going to the Classic TT in August, rather than the main TT in May. As a bonus, the Manx Grand Prix, operated since 1923, is held at the same time on the same course. Our goal was to take in all that we possibly could of the TT experience, while avoiding the crazy mobs, high cost, congestion and transport issues that come with the May event. My order of bookings was as follows:



In between TT races at a prized vantage point – The Raven pub at Ballaugh

- 1 – Air travel to – where??
- 2 – Lodging on the IOM
- 3 – Ferry to and from the IOM
- 4 – Book a bike for a day to ride the course
- 5 – Book a car for three days to tour the island
- 6 – Race event tickets for grandstands, etc.
- 7 – Dining reservations at Creg-Ny-Baa



...then she left me for George – right in front of her sister!

Liverpool is a fun and interesting city – a great place to overcome jet lag before setting out for the Isle Of Man. Besides Beatles mania, there are many more serious sites, such as the Liverpool Cathedral, the second largest in the world, after St. Peter’s in the Vatican. Also, the waterfront played a critical part in shipbuilding during WWII.

The next morning, we taxied to the docks to board the Isle Of Man Steam Packet, www.steam-packet.com. This cavernous ferry boat quickly devoured scores of motorcycles, cars and trucks for the 3-hour crossing to Douglas. The ship offered comfortable seating, a



Loading onto the Steam Packet ferry

snack bar including cappuccino and Guinness, casino machines and even a theatre room.

From the Douglas ferry terminal, we caught a city bus to our hotel. After check-in, we hurried off to the nearest pub for a bite and a pint of Okell’s, the local brew. Lots of fans choose to pitch tents for the duration, but that choice is for the young. There is also “glamping”, offered by a couple vendors, which is an improved experience, including raised platforms and good bedding in yurt-style tents. Still, crowds, noise and shared baths were not desirable to our brides. Instead, we found our way to the Best Western Hotel & Casino in Douglas on the Queens Promenade. Their amenities were equivalent to a Quality Inn in the U.S. The hotel could use a face lift, but it is ocean-front, comfortable, quiet and convenient to the Noble Park grandstands.



Defying gravity at Ballaugh Bridge

Visit www.iomtt.com, www.isleofman.com and www.visitisleofman.com for some useful resources. Soon we began the fun part of the trip. We moseyed up toward the Grandstands area and watched a bit of practice. The lovely boom of Norton Manx thumpers and other makes echoed off old stone walls and buildings. Lots of people were watching, but it was not really crowded; nor were we ever crowded out of great viewing anywhere during the trip. Our choice to make our maiden visit during the Classic TT rather than the May TT had been entirely the right decision! By the way, the Classic TT festivities have a shorter time frame than the May TT, so the promoters pack a lot into it, such as the Festival of Jurby across the island from Douglas and a performance by a troupe of comic daredevils known as the Purple Helmets.

As we wandered around Douglas and the rest of the isle, we saw a few unusual motorcycles, such as a 1928 Norton with sidecar, a steampunk HRD and a magnificent herd of German Horex 1200cc 165hp turbo V6 hooligan bikes. At around \$45k per copy, we had never seen a Horex before. Now before us were ten or so, scattered along the Promenade like flotsam!



Heavy metal with a heavy price! Horex's to your heart's desire, right here.

We budgeted four days to enjoy motorcycles, racing and the IOM culture. In that time, we were able to view the course from three prized vantage points, including the Grandstands, Ballaugh Bridge and Creg-Ny-Baa. At the Grandstands you can watch the starts and some speedy passes.

At Ballaugh Bridge you can watch the riders get airborne as they leap over. The preferred vantage point here is from The Raven pub, where you can get food and drink as you watch. Before practice on Friday, a local ambulance zipped by and caught more air than any of the racers. Clearly, he was just hotdogging it for the crowd, but yeah – it was pretty cool!



One of a series of timed launches



The Craig-Ny-Baa corner. Note the spectators on the balcony.

Our third spot was the pub at Creg-Ny-Baa, which is situated at the apex of an “ell”. Riders approach on a 1/2-mile straight, round the corner, and depart on a one-mile straight. Wheee! The Creg was fairly packed, but we were served an excellent fish and chips dinner, with Okell's, in record time.

We rented a motorcycle for a day from Mike Banks at www.motorcycleadventures.im. If you're interested, be sure to book one early! Mike outfitted us splendidly, including helmets and jackets. We rode the track one leisurely lap in each direction. I had expected the road to be rough and cobbled, but it is well paved and smooth. It was a pleasure to travel, at least at the posted speed limit. At race pace it would be a different animal! Incidentally, when riding counter-clockwise, reverse of race direction, the view of the city of Ramsey as you slip down 2034-foot Snaefell mountain, is a special surprise. Racers don't get a chance to see that glorious view.

On Saturday, we stationed ourselves at or near the Grandstands. We watched the legendary John McGuinness win yet again astride a Paton, a racing bike campaigned since 1958 by Giuseppe Pattoni, a former racer-cum-tuner for Mondial motorcycles. Vendors abound at the Grandstands, with tee shirts as cheap as £5. Plus, you can walk around the pits and chat up the riders, the crew and the camp followers.

Both racing and practice sessions are scheduled after workday hours on weekdays. Thus, there is plenty of time to explore the course and the rest of the island in between them. You can completely circumnavigate the island in about three hours, even touching the extreme points. We rented a Hyundai Santa Fe from www.oceanford.com. In my opinion, a slimmer car would have been preferred as we bounced amongst typically narrow British hedgerows. Motoring anxiously on the wrong side, it's easy to scrape paint from a shiny new side panel, so a wise driver will spring for full insurance coverage.



Liquid revenge on McGuinness!



Miata MX3 – but why?!

As we travelled around, we came across a most unusual vehicle, a boat-tailed 3-wheeler Miata! We never got to speak with the proud owner, but I snapped a couple photos.

A few of the interesting non-racing sites include the Laxey Wheel, a huge steampunk water pump from the 1850's, the

wonderful Murray's Motorcycle Museum, the Fairy Bridge, where racers go to ask the fairies for protection, the Chasms, Rushen Castle, the 3500-year-old Meayll (Mull) Stone Circle and photogenic Peel Castle. There are expansive overlooks aplenty around the island where you can stretch your legs and take in wonderful rugged scenery.



Murray's Motorcycle Museum where Peter Murray introduced us to sidecar racing at his wonderful museum. He's a hoot!

A local in Peel suggested that we lunch at The Creek Inn, a pub across from the marina. It was a great choice. I got a meal of "queenies", small clams with big flavor. We were seated next to the team of John McGuinness, who were in full pit regalia. I had to congratulate them on their win. I added that I knew that they were the true heroes of the victory. They concurred, of course!



(L-R) Racers visit the Fairy Bridge to request safety and good fortune. Classic Triumphs at rest in the beautiful, quaint village of Cregneash. The town of Peel and its castle are worth some time!



Down a narrow road which we had to share with disgruntled locals

The Isle Of Man reminded us of Ireland – rolling pastures of grazing sheep, craggy coastline, changing sky. As are all of the British Isles, travel by motorcycle is the oyster's ice skates! As stated earlier, driving a six-foot-wide car down a squiggly, rock-walled, 7-foot-wide road - shared with oncoming traffic – is taxing to one's nervous system. If you can get your hands on a bike, motorcycling is an improved way to travel. But now I'm preaching to the choir!

–David Sumner

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 September 2018 edition of The Florida MSTA Gator Tale.]*

Visualize Your Path *By Doug Westly*



Just last week I watched a rider attempt to complete a wide, left turn at a paved intersection, from a two-lane road onto a four-lane highway. The rider started the turn well, then halfway through the turn looked to his/her (gender is irrelevant) right and saw the grassy shoulder. You know what happened next, right? Visual target fixation; followed by the bike's immediate change in direction. The bike and rider subsequently exited the pavement and ended up in the wet grass.

Also awhile back, I saw the aftermath of a single vehicle motorcycle crash on an interstate exit ramp. The rider failed to negotiate a sweeping right exit, instead locking up the rear tire (as evidenced by the magnificent black skid mark) and the bike ending up straight through the curve and off the outside edge. You just have to know where the rider was looking when it all went wrong.

In MSF classes they teach riders to keep their head and eyes up; as the old saying goes "Look where you want to go." As experienced riders, we've all heard the mantra, and hopefully we understand the need for it.

I would like to suggest that you take it one step further. More than just looking where you want to go; try actually visualizing your path. Looking where you want to go is the first step. You have to look in the right direction to start. But, while you are orienting your head and eyes in the desired direction of travel, make an effort to actually see the path in front of you, and visualize your (bike's) movement as it travels that path. It's more than looking where you want to go. It is mentally seeing yourself riding the path. It's really another one of those motorcycle Zen things.

Being able to visualize the path can do several things for you:

- It forces your eyes and mental process to keep moving forward, lessening the potential for target fixation.
- It allows you to visually sweep the path for any danger, obstruction, navigation challenges, etc.
- In cornering, it helps you judge speed, entry point, turn radius, exit point and the path itself.
- It keeps the rider engaged in the process of riding, and lessens the chances of distraction.
- It gives you more opportunity to correctly execute the turn, corner, or just initiate an easy avoidance maneuver around an obstacle in the road.

Certainly there are times when we all like to relax as we're riding, to take in the scenery and just enjoy the ride. But, when the riding starts getting more challenging, it is time to put those well-honed skills to use. And, the harder you ride, the more important it becomes to exercise those skills.

Focusing on the path and actually being able to visualize it might just save you one day from one of the unintended outcomes I mentioned at the beginning. You just never know...

Ride safe! – Doug Westly



South Director's Report

The equinox has passed, the solstice approaches...And our best riding weather is just ahead!!

We have 4!! rides planned for November, and one Statewide event for December. And now's the time to send in your suggestions and recommendations for next year's events. We have a few already. Combined with the several new places this year, next year ought to be another good one!!

You'll find the Central and North reports below. The Central ride enticed a few Southies to chance the weather...All of us got wet, and some were drenched, on their way home. BUT, the morning ride made the day's adventure worthwhile!! The 50/50 raffle was well supported, and Buck took home half of the \$70! Our new total is \$792. As always, a BIG thanks to all who participate!! Be sure to catch Roy's report on his "sophomore" ride event. It was a big success!!

The South ride to a new-to-us destination offered two routes. Ellen and I took the longer one to Clewiston and met up with eight others from near and far! West coast, East coast and just up the road!! During the week before the ride, I had contacted Sam, the owner, and he was good and ready for us!! The Staghorn Kitchen is simple, but the food is outstanding!! Sam was gracious and generous! Two trays of wings on the house, and other nibbles were served up as well. The vibe is laid back, and the service was always rendered with a smile! Nearly everyone vowed to return on their own to sample another tasty menu item or two! Though the ride to and fro is ho-hum, the destination is more than worth it! We'll be back...



Tom rode to Clewiston from Malabar for the South ride



Food was outstanding at the Staghorn Kitchen in Clewiston for the South Ride

What's Next??

NOW HEAR THIS!! We will have a **Just For Fun Lunch Ride on Black Friday, November 26th**. Tom Blake has stepped up for this one, and we have his ride promotion below!

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!!

Nearly all restrictions have been lifted for restaurants and bars. Combined with the slight reduction in statewide hospital occupancy, I doubt any new warnings or mandates will be forthcoming. We will continue to contact the restaurants to listen to how they are operating. I will send out the usual email announcements after our research.

We have **THREE RTEs** on deck. The **Central ride on November 6th** will be a LUNCH ride to Goodrich Seafood & Oyster House in **Oak Hill**. The **South ride on November 13th** will be a LUNCH ride to a new-to-us location in **Punta Gorda**. The Gator Shack Restaurant at Babcock Ranch Eco Tours looks inviting! AND Roy has set up the **North ride on November 20th** which will offer BREAKFAST and/or LUNCH and a HORSE COUNTRY TOUR, depending on your inclinations! Come on, mark your calendars now so nothing else fits on your schedule!!

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...

The Florida MSTA welcomes 4 new members – Mary Davis, Bristol, Steve Hudson, Bristol, Joseph Walsh, Sebastian and Robert Holder, St. Augustine. Welcome!

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:
Brian Dickerson Dennis Mitchell Michael Shooks Harry Smith
Diana Dickerson

These Florida memberships have recently renewed their membership in the MSTA:
Steve Albert Carlos Albuerne Tom Blake Mike Halburnt

We urge all our members to renew their memberships and continue supporting their MSTA. If you have a question about when your membership expires, please contact the membership committee at membership@ridemsta.com. Renewing or joining can be done quickly and securely online at PlanetReg.com/MSTArenew or PlanetReg.com/MSTAjoin respectively. If you use a pre-printed form from STARreview or an ITR, be sure to mail it to the new member of our new membership team, **Scott Snedden, 11484 Waterwood Dr., Tyler, TX 75703**, and not to the address of any prior membership director.

If you only want to update your phone, email, bikes, or other details, you can do so quickly via PlanetReg.com/MSTAupdate. **Please include enough unchanging information to assure the correct member is updated in the database.**

When you encounter a rider who would seem to be a good fit as a new MSTA member, please pass along one of our brand-new **Invitation-To-Ride Tri-folds!** For each new member you recruit and who provides your name and/or membership number on the application, you will receive a coupon for a **raffle ticket for the motorcycle 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!!

With the latest surge of the scourge now in remission, together with an increase in vaccination rates that will likely minimize the severity of the next resurgence, I do hope to see more riders roll up their sleeves for a shot to keep any positive momentum going!! Most of us qualify for the booster shots, which I received last week.

When you can...

Join one of our monthly rides!!

And invite a friend to ride along!!

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

ATGATT Van

MSTA Florida State Co-Director



Carl Swofford

Central Director's Report

October Central Ride – Don Jose Mexican Restaurant, Sebring

A cold front passed through central Florida Friday night. This time of year, a cold front simply means lower humidity and temps in the mid 80's instead of 90. Thus, Saturday morning was mild and pleasant. Three of us met in Altamonte Springs for a 2-hour, 94-mile to Sebring for a Mexican lunch. The weather forecast for our part of Central Florida was a 40% chance of passing showers decreasing to 20% by mid-afternoon. However, the front was right across the Sebring area with a 60% chance of rain.

We departed at 09:15 AM via I-4 heading for US 27 South. I-4 traffic was amazingly light through Orlando, and that leg of the ride was pleasant. We took a break at the Wawa on US 27 just south of I-4 in case any riders from Lake County wanted to meet up. None were there, so at 10:00 AM we resumed our trek south. The ride was uneventful except for a semi-tractor sideways in the middle lane of US 27 in the Dundee area. After dodging that obstacle, we continued on to Sebring arriving at Don Jose's 11:15 AM to find Eve had already arrived. Shortly thereafter, others began arriving. Tom and his group arrived from the East coast, and Van and the Southies arrived. In total we had 17 in attendance, the best turnout for a Central ride post-Covid.

We elected to eat inside due to the heat and the threat of rain. That turned out to be as wise decision as it poured around 12:30 PM. The staff at Don Jose's were excellent and the service great. They put tables together and seated us a one, long table. Conversation was lively and spirited, the camaraderie great. The food was well prepared and very tasty. Buck Jones traveled the farthest, 159 miles followed by Ilse, 151 miles.

Around 1:15 PM as it was time to leave the rain started again. Rain gear came out. And we all left in the rain, another downpour. For riders heading north and west, we ran out of the rain in about 10 minutes and from Avon Park north, the roads were dry. I looked at the radar, and I don't think riders heading south and east were as fortunate. Our little group chose to take scenic FL 17 north to Haines City where we picked up US 27. We took backroads around Orlando to Zellwood to avoid I-4 in Orlando.

It was a good ride and a great lunch.



Great turnout for the Central Lunch Ride at Don Jose's in Sebring – even with the rain!



Roy Clark

North Director's Report

October Northern Ride – The Meet, The Ride, The Lunch

What a beautiful day with fun fellow riders on a scenic riverside road to a table of food overlooking the St. John's River in East Palatka! Again, I'd like to thank Van and Kim in helping to make this ride happen. I won't refer to them as "behind the scenes" people as their results are very well known, but I'm not sure how much members know how helpful they are to folks like me.

So, now on to the recognition of the people who make the day as good as it was and that's this group (right).

And this group: Corky Bell's facility, staff, and the St. John's (Below-rider Kim is taking the picture).



The Meet:

Saturday arrived with us knowing the weather was forecast to be wonderful and it was. All of us showed at the meet in Green Cove Springs and some had coffee and we all had some Bike talk and introductions. We also had our pre-ride safety talk.



The Ride:

Underway...

...and over the river



...then along the river



*...to a stop at Riverdale Park
(Rider Kim's on this Gold Wing)*

...through the backroads of Hastings



...to Corky Bell's at Gator Landing

...where a number of us consumed the special of Ribs & Shrimp with two sides and three tasty hush pups.

Ride fun. (I believe we did!)

Roy



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 Florida Central Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, **November 6th, 11:30 am – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Goodrich Seafood & Oyster House**, 253 River Rd., Oak Hill, FL ☎ (386) 345-3397 ([map](#))

Description: We are back to LUNCH RIDES!! We're going back to a waterside location!! An old favorite that always delivers! Right on the Indian River, Goodrich Seafood & Oyster House features oysters, po' boys and Southern-style seafood and a back patio.

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

MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, **November 13th, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

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

Description: Just a little off the beaten path...A new place for us with a history and added value for those who just want to know more about old Florida!! This place is for eats and tours. Check out www.babcockranchecotours.com for all the options. The history link alone is worth the website visit!!

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

MSTA Florida North Breakfast Ride / Horse Country Tour / Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, **November 20th, 7:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **BREAKFAST - Florida Cracker Kitchen**, 7154 SE County Road 21B, Keystone Heights, FL ☎ (352) 473-9873 ([map](#))

LUNCH – The Yearling Restaurant, 14531 East County Road 325, Hawthorne, FL ☎ (352) 466-3999 ([map](#))

Description: **BREAKFAST from 7 am** at Florida Cracker Kitchen in Keystone Heights, and **HORSE COUNTRY TOUR kickstands up at 8:30 am**. This is 150 miles of the curviest most scenic roads, perhaps Florida has to offer, strung together one after another. Many Florida long-time riders have commented after this ride: "I've ridden Florida for 20 years and never knew we had roads like these." The shame is we'll be passing by many more great roads to get to lunch by noon! **LUNCH at Noon** in seats at The Yearling Restaurant in Hawthorne. This veteran spot, The Yearling Restaurant offers catfish, frog legs & other regional fare, plus live music in homey digs. A unique restaurant in Cross Creek which is close by (0.6 mi.) the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Marjorie Kinnan Rawling's, restored 1930s Cross Creek farmhouse that offers tours & walkable gardens, is nearby. The Yearling, was required reading when I was in school and may still be. Great food, and a back country setting. Many of October's riders are planning on the breakfast and tour ride. Let's get some other of North's members or interested Sport Tourers to join us on this ride as you can use the roads as part of rides to many other Florida Locales like the upcoming December, January rides to farther south locations. Also, I used to do this tour yearly with COG, and it drew from hundreds of miles away.

Contact: Roy, rmkc99@gmail.com or ☎ (352) 363-9348

MSTA Black Friday Lunch Ride

When: Friday, November 26th, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Location: **Marsh Landing Restaurant**, 44 N. Broadway St., Fellsmere, FL ☎ (772) 571-8622 ([map](#))

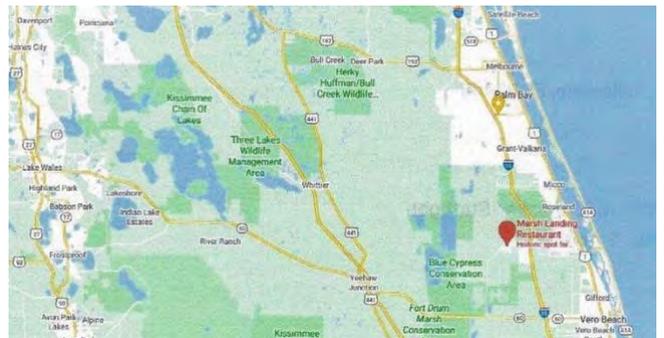
Description: We will once again offer you an escape from the melee of frantic shoppers...And we'll head inland to an old favorite of ours! It's been quite some time since we stopped in for LUNCH here. Bring your appetite and good cheer for a wonderful afternoon of good grub and great gab!!

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

Van asked if I would mind doing the Black Friday event this year. OK, but since Goodrich's Seafood is going to be the Central ride spot earlier in November, an alternate will be needed. Preferably, one away from shopping crowds and also one easy to get to. I settled on **Marsh Landing** in Fellsmere, which is in north, central Indian River County. Fellsmere is a small town, and there's not much around it except 2-lane roads.

Some of you have been to Marsh Landing before for brunch although it's been quite a while. Here's where it's at.

- It's at 44 North Broadway St.
- about a block north of CR 512
- a few blocks east of CR 507
- just 3 miles west of I-95
- CR 510 from Wabasso links into CR 512 just a little east of I-95



The building was constructed in 1926 to house the Fellsmere Estates sales office. Floods in 1927 and the Great Depression of 1929 tanked the housing boom. Florida Crystal Sugar Company took over the building as their headquarters until the early 1960's. Then it was used for municipal purposes into the 1980's and then boarded up. The current owners, a mother and her daughter, purchased the property in late 1995, restored it to its original glory and opened the restaurant in November, 2002. They've been open for business ever since.

In addition to the large, uncrowded central dining room, there's a banquet room in the south end large enough to seat up to 80 and a couple of other rooms in the back for smaller parties.



Their lunch menu is extensive, including everything from frog legs to gator tail to fried green tomatoes to salads, sandwiches, burgers, catfish and more. Something for everyone and most in the \$8 to \$11 range.

The whole idea of a post-Thanksgiving, Black Friday ride is to take advantage of the day off from work and, if you are not bent on Christmas shopping, to get out on that motorcycle and enjoy a mostly rural ride, some good food and, oh yes, *great* company. Temperatures will have moderated by then making for especially nice riding. I can't wait!

If you could let me know at least a week in advance if you are *inclined* to attend, I'll reserve ample seating. Email me at tblake1@cfl.rr.com or text to 321-794-6147. Thanks. Hope to see you there!

Future Florida Rides

Note that the future ride events are included to facilitate longer term planning. The destinations and/or dates may be changed just before the ride dates. Please check the Florida MSTA [Event Calendar](#) for any updates.

MSTA Statewide Holiday Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, **December 11th, 11:30 am – 1:30 PM**

Location: **Flightline Café & Catering**, 2073 US-92 West, Winter Haven, FL ☎ (863) 875-5869 ([map](#))

Description: We close out the year at yet another destination!! We have had great success dining at airport restaurants over the years, and this looks like another great opportunity!! The back door leads to the runways...Again, this is our STATEWIDE HOLIDAY LUNCH, so we hope to see a whole bunch of you!!

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

MSTA Statewide New Year's Lunch Ride

When: Saturday, **January 1st, 11:45 AM – 1:45 PM**

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

Description: Here we go again!! NEW YEAR, NEW MILES!!! Start 2022 off in a (Bill) Royal sort of way with a lunch ride to one of Florida's best gulf-coast seafood restaurants near the end of one of Florida's twistiest roads. Mealtime is at 11:45AM.

Peck's Old Port Cove is old Florida charm at its very best. They are located out in the gulf's marshes between the towns of Crystal River and Homosassa Springs. Nine miles of twisty Ozello Trail gets you out there from US-98. Everybody raves about Peck's seafood. In addition, the waterside property is clean and comfortable, and the whole staff at Peck's are extremely accommodating. They have ample seating outside, so we will anticipate occupying as much of it as possible. They also have a 50-seat dining room which may come into play. There's plenty of parking.

Long distance riders may wish to get near by December 31st (or earlier). We're not reserving rooms and don't have any activities planned. However, the **Equus Inn** at 3434 SW College Rd, **Ocala** is suggested (previously a Quality Inn, they have a 4-star rating with Trip Advisor and others). We've used them in the past during Bike Week. They offer comfortable rooms at reasonable rates with complimentary breakfasts and in-room coffee, microwave & fridge, etc. More importantly, very good restaurants and watering holes are just a short walk away. And in the morning, it's only about an hour's ride through mostly rural Florida to Peck's. You can phone the **hotel directly at (352)-854-3200**. Verify cancellation policy and book early.

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

For additional Florida events and information, [click here](#) to see the Florida MSTA website's Events page. The Florida MSTA chapter also has a presence on Facebook with upcoming events and past photos: [click here](#).

Florida MSTA Apparel



As a reminder, our Florida State Storefront is open online for your MSTA-branded apparel! Go to mstaflorida.qbstores.com. We have made arrangements with the supplier for our National Gearbox to allow our State membership to buy shirts, hats, etc. with our State logos directly from the source!!! No muss, no fuss!! Order yours today!! They offer both embroidery and digital print options. Click onto the Embroidered Apparel or Shop By Logo for each option. Don't hesitate to contact Queensboro directly with any and all questions. They are very customer friendly. They also offer Polo shirts and T-shirts with pockets!! Shopping finds online... We found some fun motorcycle t-shirts you can order online. Click the image for this particular t-shirt. There are other fun motorcycle t-shirts online at <https://teespring.com/shop/motorcycle-tshirts>.



The MSTA National website has extensive event information.

National MSTA RideMSTA.com

Florida MSTA FLMSTA.org

We're also on Facebook:

facebook.com/FLMSTA/

More Contact Information			
Kim Longacre Newsletter Editor editor@flmsta.org	P. 'Van' VanSteelant South Director ☎ (561) 386-2594 busavanflmsta@gmail.com	Carl Swofford Central Director ☎ (386) 793-0030 carltr6@hotmail.com	Roy Clark North Director ☎ (352) 363-9348 rmkc99@gmail.com

Classified Ads

To find a buyer for your motorcycle items, please send your ad and pictures by email to editor@flmsta.org. Don't trash it, recycle it! One man's trash is another man's treasure!