



FLMSTA Newsletter | Nov 2025

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Welcome to the **Florida Gator Tale Newsletter** from the Florida Chapter of the MSTA! We've updated the newsletter to make it easy to read on your phone or tablet. However, you can still download a .pdf of this newsletter and archived newsletters from the FLMSTA website [here](#). The **Florida Gator Tale** includes all the news about rides, feature articles, Florida state reports and safety information to keep you current with the Florida MSTA.



Rides

Florida Rides This Month

IMPORTANT NOTE: Always remember to check the 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. Please check the [rides calendar](#) for possible updates.

East Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, November 8, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

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

Description: An old favorite on Crescent Lake with loads of character. Decent menu.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

West Central Lunch Ride

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

Location: **The Egg Factory**, 6960 Florida Ave. South, **Lakeland, FL**
(863) 940-2099 ([map](#))

Description: BE SURE YOU ARE AT THE CORRECT LOCATION!!
There are 2 Egg Factorys in Lakeland!!

Contact: Eve Blazsur, 6saturdaysretired@gmail.com

South Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, November 22, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **The Rusty Putter**, 6005 Anthem Pkwy., **Ave Maria, FL**
(239) 867-4846 ([map](#))

Description: We had a good time here a few years back. Nice setting, good food and an easy ride to get there.

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

MSTA Black Friday Lunch Ride

When: **Friday, November 28, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Cherry Pocket Steak N Seafood**, 3100 Canal Rd., **Lake Wales, FL** (863) 880-1223 ([map](#))

Description: Lakefront dining on the north shore of Lake Pierce. Varied menu and reasonable prices. Paved moto parking behind the restaurant. They've turned this place around, and we had a great time there last year!!

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

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 [rides calendar](#) for possible updates.

MSTA North Holiday Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, December 6, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Gator Joe's Beach Bar & Grill**, 12431 SE 135 Ave.,
Ocklawaha, FL (352) 288-3100 ([map](#))

Description: An old favorite with a center-north location and Key West vibe! Watching sea planes taking off and landing on Lake Weir is a real possibility!

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

MSTA South Holiday Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, December 13, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Dock 633**, 633 Lake June Rd., **Lake Placid, FL**
(863) 699-6330 ([map](#))

Description: This place always treats us well! So join us for Holiday event!! BTW, there's ample parking around back.

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

For additional Florida events and information, to see the Florida MSTAs website's Events page.

The Florida MSTAs chapter also has a presence on Facebook with upcoming events and past photos:

Feature Article

[Editor's Request: If you have ridden somewhere interesting at any time and would like to share your experiences and some photos from your journey with other riders, please contact editor@flmsta.org to publish an article. Thanks!]

The Fun and Frolic of STAR '25

By Van VanSteelant

Day 1 Friday - My STAR adventure begins in Cheshire, CT. After an overnight visit with Kim's bro and sister-in-law, Kim's off to the airport to go back to Florida, and I'm off to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, trailering the bike. An earlier start would have relieved some of the stress resulting from the strange Google route and the parking SNAFU at the hotel. A little back story...I had an appointment with the STAR dealership to address a back tire likely out of balance, and partially successful battery installation back in New Brunswick in Canada.

Fortunately, when I arrived at the hotel in Williamsport, I was greeted by several other members amid the same hotel parking SNAFU, and they offered a helping hand to unload the bike and storing the Kendon trailer. A quick change in a hotel bathroom and off to the dealership. Further stress relief was found at the dealership. They found the rear tire was out of balance, and they snuggled the battery into its proper position and re-hooked up all the wiring. I got back to the hotel in time to secure the trailer, the car, and the bike. Upon checking in, I found out I had the last available room in the whole hotel. Good thing I had called from the dealership to confirm that I was going to utilize my long-standing reservation!

Seems we had more Friday arrivals than the hotel anticipated. Hence, the restaurant staff was overwhelmed. When I wandered over to a table of friendly faces, they were just barely finishing their meals. A quick order of a beer and appetizer managed to get me fed while they were still trying to get their second or third beers. Alas, plenty of time to make plans for Saturday.

Finally, time to unload the car. I filled one of the luggage carts to the point of items falling off (seems you always fill all the cargo space available!). I fortunately found myself in a double queen room rather than the single queen that I had reserved, with plenty of room to spread out that car's worth of stuff...

Day 2 Saturday - At dinner the previous evening, I found out that Jim was committed to some on-site volunteer work for Saturday, which meant I needed to source another riding partner. Even more importantly, a rider with the routes!! I had some issues with my GPS before I left and didn't have time to download any of the rides from the event website. Luckily, I sat next to Dale Hall. Avid rider, MSTa member, and honcho of the Central Florida Sport Touring Group on Facebook. He has managed to recruit seven or eight of them into the MSTa over the last couple of years. One of them, Vince, was sitting across from me. They graciously accepted my plea to join them on Saturday for the ride that they had already selected to do.

Waking up Saturday morning to extremely dense ground fog, it looked like it was going to create a delay in our departure. If changes were needed, texts would be shared. As it turned out, the sun came up, the fog burned off, and no change of plans were needed. Unfortunately, I interpreted the lack of texts incorrectly. The original plan of leaving at nine still stood! Imagine my surprise and embarrassment when I walked out the door at 8:59 and found Dale and Vince fully geared up,

wondering where the hell I was. I scrambled into my gear, joining them as quickly as possible. Of course, that meant I was leaving with a half a tank of gas, which might get me 75 miles into the ride. There was a gas stop incorporated into the route, around the time for a butt break as well.

The route was spectacular in the Poconos of Pennsylvania. With more than decent pavement, lots of curves, lots of elevation changes, lots of trees... In other words, just what you would expect to have on a rally route! But as the miles were adding up and up, I was wondering just when that gas stop might happen. Fortunately, before the siphon had to come out of the side case, we rolled into a multipurpose refuge. They had a single pump with premium. Old school methodology - pay inside, pump, next.

Refreshed and topped off, we departed for the rest of the ride. This route also had an alternative, which we took 6 miles up to the top of Hyner State Park. Built back in the day by the CCC, it overlooks a wonderful river valley. Back in the heyday of hang gliding, this was a favorite launching point for those who dared.

[Read more...](#)

Safety Talk

Group Riding Tips by Doug Westly

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.

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the July 2019 edition of the FLMSTA Gator Tale.]

Here are some good safety tips for group riding!

A good ride starts with a good ride leader. That means a leader who rides for the group, not for himself or herself. A good leader will consider the riding abilities of the group, and will conduct the ride at the level of the least experienced or skilled rider.

Every group ride should start with a ride briefing. It doesn't have to be a 20-minute safety lecture, but it should include the basics as a reminder. These typically include route to be followed, group formation, cautions about road conditions, what to do in case of an emergency, etc. It is the responsibility of the ride organizer or ride leader to make sure this critically important step is accomplished.

Every rider has a role to play in a group ride. The leader sets the pace and tone for the ride. Riders maintain safe spacing distances, focus on the ride and the group. Riders should remain courteous to others in the group, not crowding or pushing those ahead, and not accelerating away to the point of leaving others behind. There shouldn't be any passing within the group unless it's signaled and accepted by the rider being passed. If this is going to be allowed, how it is accomplished is up to group agreement.

Then there is the sweep rider, another critical component. Ideally the lead and sweep rider will have communications with each other. While not an absolute must, communications makes the job of sweep rider a lot easier. The sweep rider should be responsible for maintaining observation of the group as it rides, and be able to alert the lead rider if he or she spots any potential concerns or problems.

The one continuing challenge with group rides is the group getting separated during the ride. There is an easy solution that

should be routine for all group rides. Never lose sight of the rider behind you. If the group starts to string out, or gets separated by traffic or a light, then a rider should slow down until they can see their fellow group member behind them. If the ride route takes a turn while the group is separated, then the last rider still in the first part of the group should wait at the turn until the rest catch up.

A good group ride is a cooperative effort. It takes effort on the part of all riders to make sure the ride is safe, fun and successful. Remember that you may have to make a few minor sacrifices for the good and safety of the group. In fact, you may find that if the group slows you down a little, you may discover some time to relax and really enjoy the countryside.

By following these group riding tips, you can enjoy a nice outing with fellow MSTA riders.

Ride safe! – Doug Westly

Florida News

Florida News

We are back! Thirty days on the road, and lots to share!!

A double issue of the *Gator Tale*!! The feature article gives you my take on STAR '25. Good times and great roads!! You can see all the photos from STAR 2025 on the MSTA website at ridemsta.com and click on photos and you'll see the STAR photo archive.

I'll share our adventures in Maine and the Canadian Maritimes next month. Tom includes his take on STAR in his extended report below. Make your plans NOW for STAR '26 in Arkansas!

Back on September 6th, the Southies gathered at the Old Dixie Cafe in Hobe Sound. We took over two tables with 13

attendees!! Some infrequent visitors made surprise appearances! Joe, Kevin and especially Prior were welcome additions!! And as luck would have it, Prior won the 50/50 raffle! Which he donated back to the Club...\$68 added to the fund.

On Sept. 20th, Eve hosted the West Central Brunch Ride. Twelve riders from near and far enjoyed the fixings at Gloria's in Bowling Green. Then she headed to STAR!

On Oct. 18th, we hosted TWO lunch rides, due to the three hosts' attendance at STAR '25. Eve had five riders at the Eagle Lake Diner, in Eagle Lake! Seems Tom B. didn't get in enough miles at STAR, as he was the long-distance standout. Conversely, Ellen and I had a quiet lunch at The Log Cabin BBQ. We enjoyed our pleasant ride in the Floridian autumn weather!!

The following Saturday, Tom hosted lunch at the Wild Turkey Tavern in Avon Park. This location enticed riders from East, West and South! With such a good crowd, the East lunch 50/50 was well funded. And winner Larry donated his half back to the Club... \$62 added to the fund.

So, adding \$130 brings our sum to \$1,373.00 **A BIG THANKS** to all who participate!! Look for an email with a suggestion on how we can share our good fortune with the MSTA.

Last, but not least, thanks to all of you who take the time to send your comments and suggestions to me/us!! They are most welcome!! Remember, this is YOUR club, and to make it better often lies with the membership rather than the leadership. I thank you all for your support!!

What's Next?

We have **FOUR** rides planned for November!! Be sure to join Tom on Nov. 8th as he hosts the East Central Lunch ride to 3 Bananas in Crescent City! And the following week, on November 15th, Eve will host the West Central Lunch ride at The Egg Factory in Lakeland! Be sure to head to the one on the calendar--there are two Egg Factorys in Lakeland!! On November 22nd, join Van for the South Lunch ride to The Rusty Putter in Ave Maria! **AND** on November 28th, Black Friday, we return to the Cherry Pocket Steak n Seafood in Lake Wales! Looking ahead, we'll have our two Holiday Lunches; north on December 6th and south on December 13th.

We have inserted an email response "button" to our announcements to assist our coordinators with the reservation headcount. Click on the green "button", then hit the send arrow. The pre-loaded email will be on its way!! Easy peasey!!

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...

Pat Mogavero is officially our new MSTA Membership Director! We will be adapting to the new presentation of monthly data over the next few months. Each month has seen improvements to the reporting that's available from our new membership software. And the SD's have made additional requests for specific data that Pat has found ways to provide!! patrickmogavero@gmail.com Contact him directly with any membership issues.

The following MSTA memberships have or will be expiring soon:

- **Sam Beloff**
- **Michael Shooks**
- **Robert Parsons**
- **Terry Casto**
- **Richard Alleman**
- **Claude Hayes**
- **Hugh Palmer**

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 **NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM** at <https://ridemsta.com/membership-account/membership-levels/> or simply visit the **MSTA Website** at www.ridemsta.com and **LOG IN** and then click on **MEMBERSHIP**.

When you encounter a rider who would seem to be a good fit as a new MSTA member, please direct them to the **MSTA Website** at www.ridemsta.com. 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 touring package 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

Our best riding weather is upon us!! The holiday decorations can wait another day - get out and ride!!

Please send your recommendations to any of the ride coordinators.

Hoping you're living the life you love, and loving the life you live...

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 Director

Sept-Oct 2025 East Central News

Tom Blake

In September we had breakfast at *Sunnyside Café* in Melbourne Beach with good grub, good grab and excellent service. New member Rick H from Vero Beach was there with his Indian buddy, Hal. No...he *rides* an Indian. Rick has been at several of our recent rides and finally decided to join. Glad to have him on board. This was not Hal's first time either. (Talk to him, Rick.) Terry C drove down from not far away – nice to see him, he'd been out of town for a while. And Larry F cruised down on his beautiful blue K1600 sans top case. Looks much better that way, Larry. And don't you know, I forgot all about taking pictures.

STAR 2025 was my opportunity to revisit all the places in Pennsylvania where my family and I grew up. Memories...(see my childhood home in Boalsburg and little ole me, age 3 or 4, at left)

And I will say that Pennsylvania's Allegany and Pocono Mountains, though not as tall as the southern Blue Ridge or Smokies, offered exceptionally enjoyable riding opportunities including in the broad, rolling valleys between ridges. Pennsylvania's population density is much greater - meaning there are many more small towns and villages - and secondary roads connecting them. They twist and turn left and right, up and down. And, to the state's credit and my delight,

Pennsylvania has done a really good job in recent years of getting these roads resurfaced and into good shape.

I also experienced the Amtrak Auto Train between Sanford, FL and Lorton, VA (and back) for the first time. The 19-hour journey (4 pm to 9 am both directions) replaces 2 or 3 days of riding plus the expense of hotels, meals, gas, etc. Dinner and breakfast were included in the fare. Sleeping was a challenge with the train jostling around. But I made it unscathed.

Back in Florida now, 15 of us rode to the *Wild Turkey Tavern* near Avon Park for the October EC lunch. The group was split fairly evenly by area with WC having a slight edge. For their part, the Tavern was ready for us with a long row of tables set up inside along one wall – enough for 20. Our waitress was probably the best we've had in a long while, very efficiently and pleasantly tending to drinks then food then checks. Food prep seemed quick. Everyone had plenty to eat and from what I could gather, it all tasted pretty darn good. I thanked the restaurant staff as we were leaving. They welcomed us back any time. Larry F from my area won the 50/50 and donated his \$31 back to the club, and it all went straight to Van who was there to accept it. Thanks to all who attended. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the weather, the riding, the Wild Turkey Tavern and the camaraderie... I know I did!

Up next: *Three Bananas* in Crescent City is on the agenda for Nov 8th. It's been a while and I'm really looking forward to the place's unique charm, lake views and the entertaining roads up that way. I'm also looking forward to seeing many central and north riders there.

Also, our **Black Friday ride** will be to *Cherry Pockets*, again, just north of Lake Wales. That's on the 28th this year. Had a good experience there last year. So let's try for a repeat.

Safe journeys, *Tom*

Florida MSTA Apparel



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!!

MSTA Bifold Hats

MSTA has made MSTA trifold hats available again. We now have 2 colors from which to choose. If any FLMSTA

member wants one, Eve Blazsur will have a supply of hats at the West Lunch Ride in November in Lakeland. Price is still \$20 each (cash).

Classified Ads

2019 KTM Super Duke GT For Sale - \$11,495

Contact: Tom Blake at 321-794-6147 or
email tblake1@cfl.rr.com

Current mileage: ~18.3K
(Approx 3,600/yr.)

Well cared for and
maintained

New Michelin Pilot Road 6's
at 15,869 miles

Battery replaced April 2022,
maintained with Battery
Tender

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!

Contact Information

These MSTA websites have extensive event information:

National MSTA: RideMSTA.com

SE Regional MSTA: MSTA-SE.com

Florida MSTA: FLMSTA.org

We're also on **Facebook:** facebook.com/FLMSTA/

More contact information:

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