



FLMSTA Newsletter | Mar 2025

March 2025 | Volume 19 | Issue 3

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, March 1, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Olympic Restaurant**, 504 U.S. 27, **Avon Park, FL (863) 452-2700** ([map](#))

Description: Greek and American food, pastries and desserts. Roomy, good for groups and has ample paved parking.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

FLMSTA Daytona Bike Week Lunch Ride

When: **Thursday, March 6, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **RiverGrille on the Tomoka**, 950 US-1, **Ormond Beach, FL**

(386) 615-2004 ([map](#))

Description: FL MSTA has been hosting this event for many years, and this will be the third at this convenient and attractive, riverside location. They open at 11:30, and we want to be the first in line. So come a little early if you can and join in a friendly meet-and-greet outside.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

West Central Lunch Ride

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

Location: **Broadway Diner**, 1380 N. Broadway Ave., **Bartow, FL (863) 537-7647** ([map](#))

Description: Adding a West Central option that Van will host. New place for us! Great menu, lots of parking! Join us, won't you?!?

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

South Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, March 15, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **River Deck at Squid Lips**, 1670 Indian River Dr.,
Sebastian, FL

(772) 918-8220 ([map](#))

Description: New destination in a familiar location!! ON the water, tasty menu and even motorcycle parking!!

Contact: Van, busavanfilmsta@gmail.com 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 [rides calendar](#) for possible updates.

East Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, April 5, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Drifters Riverfront Bar & Grill**, 55716 Front St., **Astor, FL**

(352) 759-2802 ([map](#))

Description: This is the old Blackwater Inn in Astor next to the St Johns River. They have a big menu - about anything you could want. Plenty of paved parking. Reopened since the 2023 floods.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

South Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, April 12, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **The Boathouse Tiki Bar & Grill**, 17101 SR 31, **Fort Myers, FL** (239) 332-2628 ([map](#))

Description: Always a great time here!! Riverside, huge open dining room and a good vibe!!

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

West Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, April 26, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Giovanni's Main Street Kitchen**, 221 West Main St.,
Wauchula, FL (772) 918-8220 ([map](#))

Description: Adding a West Central option that Tom will host.
We switched to a different location...Looks terrific! Indoor/outdoor seating and great menu!!

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

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](#)

Feature Article



Daytona and Riding the Ormond Scenic Loop Trail

By Tom Blake

[Editor's Note: We are repeating Tom's article on Daytona and the Ormond Scenic Loop Trail from last year because we haven't received any riding articles from the FLMSTA membership.]

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!]

Larry couldn't make Van's Sebring ride in February and was keen to do something the following Saturday. Eckert was also up for some seat time. Since we hadn't been to Daytona in a while, I suggested heading up that way and doing **The Ormond Scenic Loop Trail**. Neither of them had ridden it before.

Also, with Bike Week and Spring Break coming up, there was just no way I was going to get in amongst all that humanity just yet. But going up there early, maybe stopping at a bike shop or two and doing **The Loop** would be a good substitute. Two birds with one stone. We met Saturday morning, shoved off at nine and headed north on *US 1*.

To add a little spice, at Port St John just below the power plants, we took *King's Highway west to Grissom Parkway* and then turned north about 4 miles to *Perimeter Road*. This was the plum to be picked. *Perimeter Road* skirts around the south and southeast edge of Spaceport Regional Airport back to *US 1* [see the map above]. It has about ten really nice curves that you can carry good speed on with short straights in between. There's not much in the way of elevation changes, but it otherwise was almost as good as being in north Georgia – at least for a few minutes. That got everyone's blood pumping again and from there, we got back on *US 1* to Daytona.

Our first stop was an extended one at Euro Cycles of Daytona, the BMW / Triumph / Energica dealer, for a much needed break and some socially distanced tire kicking. One thing I like about BMW dealers is that most have free bottled water, sodas and coffee. This one's located just across the Halifax River Bridge from iconic *Main Street, Daytona Beach*.



From there we headed north on *Beach Street* along the Halifax River into the city of Ormond Beach. The **Loop Trail** starts at *Grenada Boulevard (SR 40)*. To run it clockwise, there's about 3 miles of residential area along 2-lane *North Beach Street*.

The nicer homes on larger lots were on the river side to the east. Then we encountered almost two miles of very rural, heavily treed terrain through a section of [Tomoka State Park](#).



The road began to get curvy as it crossed the Tomoka River into low country with water on both sides. We were now in the lower part of [Bulow Creek State Park](#). The road, now called *Old Dixie Hwy*, meandered about five miles in a northerly direction through more lowlands and then under a beautiful canopy of old oaks to *Walter Boardman Lane*. There the loop trail turned east.

[Read More](#)



Road Trip! 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 May 2016 edition of the FLMSTA Gator Tale.]

It's Spring. That means road trips for a lot of folks. With road trips comes preparation. Here are some thoughts for preparing you and your bike for that upcoming long distance journey:

- **Maintenance!** Is the bike ready? No, it won't make it those last thousand miles before you think the cords will start to show. If needed, replace the tires, both of them.
- **Brakes.** Check them. If the pads are getting close, change them! Why worry during the trip? If you don't know how to inspect pads, find someone who does. Or look it up. Easy to do and a critical safety item on the list.
- **Fluids?** Is this starting to sound like a T-CLOCK check? That's because basically it is the same thing. Are you due, or close to an oil change interval? Same applies to that chain condition, or your final drive service. Just Do It!
- **General Bike Condition.** Cables, hoses, fasteners, wheels, all that stuff.

- **Equipment.** Now we're talking safety equipment. That means tools (and knowing what to take, not those stupid "all-in-one", prepackaged kits. Take what you need and what fits your bike. Don't forget the tire patch kit (I prepare the old-fashioned strings and glue, just because they still seem to work the best and are the most versatile, but there are other solutions out there). Along with that comes a miniature air compressor and tire gauge.
- **First Aid Kit.** Please don't set off on a journey without one. How big and complete is up to you, but something as simple as a splinter can ruin your riding day.
- **Rain Suit.** One-piece or two-piece. It is up to you. A rain suit is not a convenience on a long trip. It is a necessity. I prefer two-piece, just because of the more flexible combinations.
- **Finally, a SPOT.** If you don't know what a SPOT is by now, you aren't a real rider! Get it and learn to use at least the basic features. It's a great way for the family to keep track of you as well. A note on SPOTs: Do not attach them to the bike. Keep it on your person. If the unthinkable happens and you are lying in the ditch, you may not be able to crawl back up and reach your bike-mounted SPOT to hit the emergency beacon.
- **Finally, the Rider?** Are YOU ready? Physically, are you in shape? Mentally, are you prepared for the journey?

One Final Thought: We're all going to put a lot of miles on our bikes this year. Let's look out for ourselves and one another. Ride your own ride and know your limits. And as always, ATGATT!

Ride Safe! Doug Westly

Florida News



Florida News

Are you having fun yet??

Another wonderful month of riding, eating and gabbing!!

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR WEST AREA AND NORTH AREA REP(S) FOR 2025 AND BEYOND. Contact Van for details. We can entertain a flexible schedule(ing) where 1-4 different members could organize events throughout the year.

THIS IS YOUR CLUB, MAKE IT INTO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE!!

Our three rides in a row saw several repeat attendees. See Tom's first ride of the month report below. Good times!! The South lunch ride was next. It had been a few years since we made our way to the Smokehouse On The River, mostly due to significant storm events. Well, they recovered, but changed up their service model. Which we encountered just as we walked through the front door...We adapted, honed our self-service skills and had a good time. As the orders came out one at a time, we took over several tables the length of the waterside room. As I wandered the room checking in, all was well. An accommodating group we are!!



South Ride to Smokehouse on the River in River Ranch

Our rides to and fro were uneventful, as the routes were rather mundane. A little challenge with US 60 traffic, but that just keeps things interesting. Not so for the West Central lunch ride to Solomon's Castle the next week. My rather new Garmin XT has become unreliable. Like it blacks out completely! So, just when I needed to make the crucial turn to get to the Castle, we flew right by! Our correction eventually got us back to the tables 30 minutes late! So, rattled a little, I managed the sign in sheet and the meet and greet. Group photos and the 50/50 raffle totally escaped my attention. Seems I was distracted with ordering and

eating...Nonetheless, 14 riders had a great time, dining outdoors in perfect weather, and glad to have a chance to roast my tardiness!!

With the 20-person turnout for the South lunch, our 50/50 was well funded as well. And a BIG thanks to Larry and Joy who donated their \$40 winnings back to the Club! We started February with \$899. Adding February's East sum of \$27 to the South sum of \$80 adds up to \$107, which brings us to \$1006. As always, a **BIG THANKS** to all who participate!!

What's Next?

On March 1st, we had a great time at the East Central Lunch at Cowpoke's. Look for Tom's report next month! Van will host the West Central Lunch Ride to the Broadway Dinner in Bartow on March 8th. Van will also head up the South Lunch Ride to the River Deck at Squid Lips on the river in Sebastian on March 15th.

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...

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!!

FLMSTA added 2 new members this month:

Jeffrey Walton of Sun City Center and Lance Buerke of Port St. Lucie - Welcome!

These Florida memberships have recently renewed:

- **Brian Carpenter**
- **Roy Clark**
- **Michael Demario**
- **Michael Ewanus**
- **Herman Greinstein**
- **Charles Quesenberry**
- **Bob Shields**
- **Alan Spears**

These Florida memberships have recently expired or will expire soon:

- **Larry Gonzalez**
- **Claude Hayes**
- **Wade Osborne**
- **Carlyle Swofford**

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.

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 ! 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

Keep on coming out to enjoy all the rides we have planned this year and bring a friend!

As more destinations recover from the combined couple of years, we will continue to support our local, small business restaurants. 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



East Central Ride

Deland Fish House,
Deland, FL

Tom Blake

The *Deland Fish House* lunch ride went well. Sixteen rode in from an area spanning from Tampa to Gainesville to Jacksonville and down through St Augustine and Melbourne to Vero Beach (LD) and parts in

between. The weather was springtime-like with blue skies and temps reaching into the mid-80's – no doubt a strong factor in the good turnout.

We pretty much filled up the front parking lot and had a nice meet and greet before heading inside. Staff had set up a row of tables along the eastern end of the dining area which worked out perfectly. The chatter never really tapered off until the food arrived and then only for the first mouthful or two. As you might expect, the menu heavily favored fresh seafood – which, based on responses, was excellent. They remembered us from last year. And, we must have left a good impression as they asked some questions suggesting they'd like our business to be more frequent. Well, that's a nice sign.

Bob S had the lucky 50/50 ticket worth \$28.



And finally, just In case it slipped up on you, the **Daytona Beach Bike Week** festivities kick off on Friday, February 28th and run through Sunday, March 9th. It's not what it used to be but still draws big crowds including many out-of-state MSTTA members happy to savor some sunshine.

Next up: On March 1st we head to *Cowpokes Watering Hole* in Sebring. This one's new to me but looks very interesting. And on

Thursday the 6th, FL MSTA welcomes out of state riders to a **Bike Week Luncheon** at *The Riverside Grill on the Tomoka* in Ormand Beach. See the email announcement in your inbox, or check the Rides section here and online for details. Please come join us for both if you can. –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!! 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>.

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!

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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