



FLMSTA Newsletter | Dec 2025

December 2025 | Volume 19 | Issue 12

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.

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, 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.

MSTA New Year's Lunch Ride

When: **Thursday, January 1, 12:00 - 2:00 PM**

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

Description: Let's keep the New Year, New Miles tradition going.

Great seafood with Old Florida ambiance and 9 miles of twisty Ozello Trail to get out there. Bring something to put under your kickstand. And invite a non-member riding friend or two to come along. We'll try to get the large dining room reserved if pre-ride responses justify it. Tom will coordinate with Peck's. He'll even plan to see you there if the sky isn't crying.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

West Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, January 10, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Eagle Lake Family Diner** 185 5th Street, **Eagle Lake, FL**
(772) 489-2285 ([map](#))

Description: Yes, we know the West and East Central lunch rides are on the same day, but they are far enough apart, so there won't be any overlap.

Eve is your host the first quarter of rides in 2026. Behave, and we may be able to keep her onboard for more...

The place looks terrific, with breakfast all day, and home cooking no matter what you order!!

Contact: Eve Blazsur, 6saturdaysretired@gmail.com

East Central Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, January 17, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Airport Tiki**, 2982 Curtis King Blvd., **Fort Pierce, FL**
(772) 489-2285 ([map](#))

Description: A hidden gem. Enjoy a good meal and watch the planes land and take off! Plenty of seating and paved parking.

Contact: Tom (321) 794-6147

South Lunch Ride

When: **Saturday, January 24, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Location: **Scotty's Tiki Bar**, 920 E. Del Monte Ave., **Clewiston, FL**
(800) 473-6766 ([map](#))

Description: It's been a long while since we stopped by here. New management, tiki-style vibe and a good menu!!

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

For additional Florida events and information, 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:

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!]



Road Trip to Maine and the Canadian Maritimes

By Van VanSteelant

The 23 days before STAR '25

The first 12....

We took a road trip vacation to Maine and the Canadian Maritimes over the 23 days in September before STAR '25. We

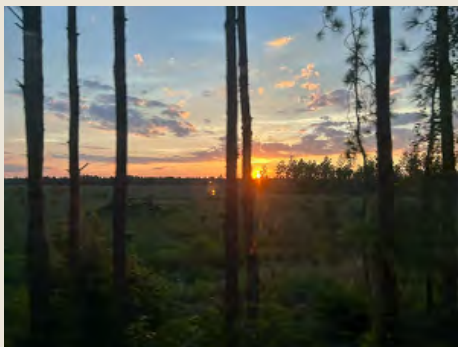
trailed the Suzuki GT+ behind Kim's Hyundai Kona up to Maine and then rode separately throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in Canada. What a wonderful and scenic trip we had!



Day 1. First, ya gotta have the vehicles. Kim's Kona, with a new hitch to pull the new Kendon bike trailer, which holds my '24 Suzuki GT+. Kim and I planned on this adventure for months, so acquisitions were made after

deliberate considerations.

Then pack and get outta town!! Much easier said than done, right? Seems you never allow enough time to cover the surprises, like loading the bike in a rush and needing a neighbor's help to right the bike off the trailer fender and into the wheel chock...You'll never find the GT's first dent unless I point it out. The scar on my left leg is more obvious.



I made the AutoTrain with 20 minutes to spare, and spent the trip to Lorton, Virginia, nursing my leg, back, and bruised ego. Splurging on a "roomette" over the usual coach seat was fortuitous! The attractive sunset, dinner wine and a

few aspirin made for a nice evening

Day 2. "Enjoying" the thrill of driving eight hours over winter ravaged interstates in the Northeast and avoiding the trailer restrictions, landed me in Cheshire, Connecticut, home to Kim's youngest brother, Tim and the lovely Laura. Kim had wisely

chosen to fly up that day. Catching up over pizza and libations led to proper wound care and a go-bag of first aid supplies! There's nothing like family ties.

Day 3. The final day of "getting there". Another 5.5 hours enduring ravaged roadways in New England, and we are with good friends Keith and Ann, just outside of Bangor, Maine. A scrumptious dinner, libations and a night's sky full of stars completed the decompression following 1700 miles of focused efforts.

Day 4. Vacation really starts now! Unhook and unload the trailer. Shake down ride up a few wonderful Maine country roads. The **Robbins Scenic Overlook** and the **Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway**...look at the hills...read the history!!

Ann prepares feast of her favorite recipes, and we go pescatarian for the rest of our vacation. Few places rival Maine and the Maritimes for their "fruits de mer".

[Read more...](#)

Safety Talk



Safety Mindset 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 June 2016 edition of the FLMSTA Gator Tale.]

This month I want to talk a little about the most important piece of safety equipment for any rider; the gear between their ears.

The other day I was out riding and a bike went past me in the other direction. I always take note of what another rider is wearing, just for my own interest. In this case, the rider was wearing shorts, sneakers, a short sleeve T-shirt, fingerless gloves, a ball cap and...wait for it...a bright green safety vest. Really? What kind of a zombie-mummified brain function does it take to think that throwing a safety vest over your barely there clothes will keep you safe?

I also don't understand why riders strap the helmet on their bike, instead of on their head. My wife has a theory that they promised their family they would ride with a helmet, then take it off as soon as they are around the corner from the house.

There is a saying going around (paraphrased): "Motorcycling is not in itself dangerous. However, it is extremely unforgiving of ignorance or stupidity." To this I would add "...or a lack of preparation". Part of preparation is a safety mindset.

What is a safety mindset? It is the idea that whenever you start to think about going for a ride, the FIRST part of the preparation is thinking about safety.

Even as I write this, I'm thinking about going for a ride this morning. I've been dealing with a minor back sprain for the last couple of days, and my first mental exercise is asking myself if I'm healed and ready to ride.

Am I mentally prepared to ride? What is the weather like? What will the traffic conditions be when I get on the bike at (pick an hour of the day)? Have I done all the pre-ride checks, ensuring the bike is ready and safe to ride? Is all my riding gear ready?

A safety mindset means that staying safe is always foremost in your riding thought process. It is not an afterthought or an "Oh, by the way..." moment.

Even after you are on the bike and riding, safety should continue to be the first consideration. A rider should continuously evaluate riding conditions, traffic, environmental changes, to ensure their safety. Does that take all the fun out of riding? On the contrary, ensuring the ride is safe means being able to consciously relax and enjoy the moment.

There is one more thought about a safety mindset. Never ignore the little voice in the back of your head when it comes to safety. If the little voice is murmuring that something is not right with the idea of riding, your bike, the ride itself, then listen to it.

Thinking safety and making it part of your riding routine will help keep you in one piece out there!

Ride safe! – Doug Westly

Florida News



Florida News

Happy Holidays!!

The feature article gives you my take on the first 12 days of our adventures in Maine and the Canadian Maritimes. The rest follows next month! Good times and great roads!! Tom includes his East Lunch, the Black Friday Lunch and promos for December and January in his extended report below

Eve hosted the November 15th West Lunch ride to The Egg Factory in Lakeland. 11 riders enjoyed a wonderful weather day

and a lovely lunch!! She even enticed three East siders to ride 130-160 miles one way!!

On November 22, the Southies gathered at the Rusty Putter in Ava Maria. We spread out over two tables with 9 riders. We enjoyed our patio setting, watching the golfers engaged in a daylong tournament. The food was good, the service mediocre, but the company and great stories carried the day! The beautiful day started with a group ride through the agri-glades south of Lake Okeechobee. Sooo different from the coastline communities!! And then you swing into Ava Maria, and the Del Webb development is immense and growing! Florida in stark contrasts!!



South ride to the Rusty Putter in Ave Maria

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!

The East and the Black Friday lunch raffles added \$47, which brings our sum to \$1,420.00. **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 **three Holiday Lunch** rides planned!!

- Tom will host the North Holiday Lunch at Gator Joe's on December 6th.
- Van will host the South Holiday Lunch at Dock 633 on December 13th.
- We will have our annual New Year's ride to Peck's Old Port Cove in Crystal River on January 1st.

We'll be looking for the usual big turnouts!

And we have a surprise or two to share with you!!

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.

FLMSTA welcomes Neil Kanterman of Parkland as a new member. Welcome!

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!!

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



Nov 2025 East Central News

Tom Blake



We hadn't been to ***Three Bananas*** in Crescent City for quite a while but it has its charms and they pulled us back for the November EC ride. It was shocking to see a battleship gray building! We'd become accustomed to the unique and alluring pastel blue and yellow paint scheme. Anyway, it was a very pleasant surprise to

have seventeen attend (since only about six notified me in advance of their intentions). Fortunately, the staff was able to push some tables around inside so we could all be together. A

very noisy affair. Boy, did it ever get quiet when the food arrived.

Jim R won the 50/50 worth \$30. We had 5 riders and a passenger with 150 or more miles. Jay B from St Lucie County was the LD champ hands down with close to 200! Thanks to everyone who attended. I think we all had a really good time.



And for those with the Friday off and more interested in riding than shopping, we returned to centrally located ***Cherry Pocket Steak and Seafood*** northeast of Lake Wales on **Black Friday**.

Cherry Pocket is a sprawling affair with a separate paved motorcycle parking area out

back alongside the covered boat slips. Out near the water we could see two seaplanes tied up. We opted for sitting indoors since it was still a might chilly outside – having started off in the 50's.

Twelve attended including Van, Buck, Tulio and Michael from the southeast, Brian (south central), Alan (north central), Bob, Eve, Denny and Mike from the west side and Rick and I from east. Bob won the 50/50 worth \$20.

Several commented favorably about the place. The food, BTW, was very good. It certainly is centrally located and easy to get to for those south of Orlando. Plus we found some very curvy roads (by Florida standards) getting in and out of there.

Heading home, the weather was as good as it gets with clear skies and temps in the 60's. Rick and I took a detour south to near Sebring on our way home and enjoyed every minute.

Up next: Charismatic **Gator Joe's** in Ocklawaha is on the agenda for **December 6th**. This will be the **North Holiday Lunch** get together again this year. There are lots of fun roads up that way, too. Ho-ho-ho!

And since it's coming right up on **January 1st**, don't forget our annual "**New Year – New Miles**" ride to **Peck's Old Port Cove** near Crystal River. Great seafood and about 9 miles of curvy Ozella Trail out through the gulf's marshes to get there. It's become a FL MSTA tradition. They have a large room which seats up to 50. And there's ample parking - the lot's not paved but mostly hard packed. To be safe, bring a kickstand plate just in case. We always have a great time there.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all, *Tom*

Florida MSTA Apparel

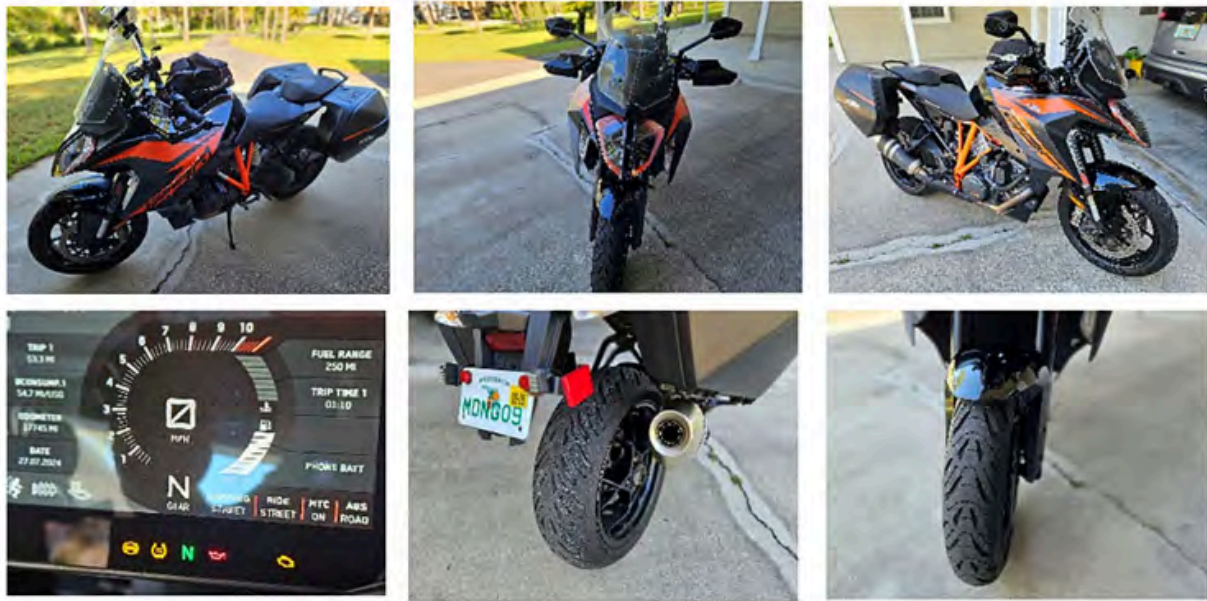


Florida MSTA Apparel

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!!

Classified Ads



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

Contact: Tom Blake at 321-794-6147

Current mileage: ~19.4K (Approx 3,600/yr.)

All maintenance per KTM specifications

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

Battery replaced October 2025

Factory electronic cruise control

Heated seats and grips

Electronic suspension, selectable preload and damping

Selectable ABS, Motorcycle Traction Control

TPMS

Quick shifter

Adjustable wind screen height

Quick mount/release tank bag

Large removable rear seat bag (24 – 36L)

Removable panier bags

Hyperlite brake flasher set

R&G Crash Protectors

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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