



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

April 2007



Florida News

Submitted By: Sam Ulbing & Bill Royal

North News:

I was disappointed to see only 17 Florida members have signed up so far for STAR 2007. In contrast Michigan and Ohio each have over 30. Florida is only a day's ride from Asheville and the roads up there are as good as any I have ridden. Let's see if we can beat Ohio with 40 or more of us going. I guarantee that you will like the event and especially because it is the 25th anniversary and special events are being planned.

12 people attended the Saturday "Get Away From the Mad-dening Crowd" lunch ride last month to Akins in Bell. That was good considering the 'official' Bike Week lunch was just two days earlier. Long distance riders were the Lynch's and Groleau's from Palmetto and Largo respectively. They and Mike Sistrunk commented on how nice the country roads were in that area and in fact they all arrived late because they wanted to explore more of the back roads! I suspect we will have more rides there.

South News:

Fist off, yes this newsletter is late. My apologies. I am really looking for a volunteer to step up to help and/or take over the newsletter. In October it will have been 6 years and my job has been taking more of my attention than less.

Now for the news - We had a nice turnout of 24 for the South lunch ride to the Crossroads restaurant in Okeechobee. That was a new destination for us on the north east corner of Okeechobee



We sure took up most of the parking lot at the South Lunch ride to the Crossroads!

and we found a nice bypass around the town to take in the future. Long Distance honors went to Bob & Cheryl Fischer who rode 220 miles 2-up to make the lunch! It was great seeing them at a south lunch ride. Orvil Roesberry had 2nd place at 205 miles on his 750 Magna. Way to go Orvil!

Bike Week Lunch:

We had a decent turnout for the bike week lunch, though there was no sign in sheet so we don't have an official count. The weather was "Florida Perfect" and folks started arriving as early as 11:30. However, as is often the case, many of

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This 2 time award winning newsletter is produced and edited by:

Bill Royal
HSTA Florida Newsletter Editor

Web Addresses:

If you're "connected" be sure to check out the National HSTA Site at: www.ridehsta.com

And the Award Winning Florida HSTA Site at: www.flahsta.org

The Florida Chapter of the HSTA has two State Directors. They Are:

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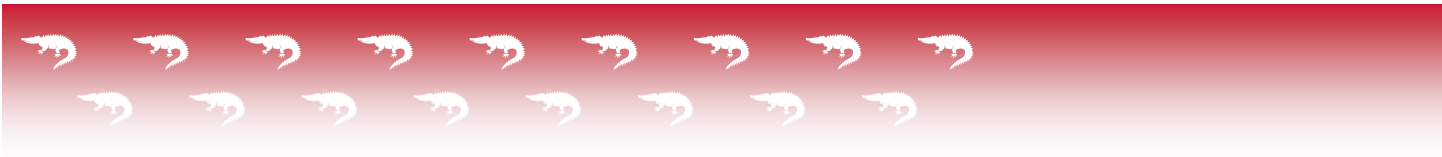
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Welcome to the Club!

We would like to extend a hearty and sincere welcome to the following recent new members. Thank you for choosing to join our group. Many long lasting friendships have begun here and we hope your experience will be a satisfying one!

Name	Location	Ride	Introduced By
Paul DeShazo	Sebring	'03 ST1300	Buck DeShazo



Free Ads

Motorcycle related items - wanted or for sale, riding buddies or room mates for events can be placed right here - for free! Just send them to arrive by the 15th for the next month's publication. Send to Bill Royal, 1521 New Bedford Drive, Sun City Center, FL. 33573 or email to ridefl@flahsta.org.

For Sale

Bikes

2003 Honda VFR800VTEC Interceptor, 7500 mi., factory hard bags, Power Commander, Scorpion cans, sport touring windscreen, Heli Bars, Throttlemeister cruise, new Dunlop D220's, Silver. Sport Touring Ready! \$7500.00
Contact: Richard at 954.675.4728 or rpk2fla1@yahoo.com

Gear

Men's **Cortech GX Air Jacket**- Large/44- Yellow&Black
Men's **Cortech GX Air Pants**- Large/36-Black
Men's **Cortech GX Air Gloves**- XLarge-Yellow&Black
Asking \$150.00 for the SET.
Contact: Dennis - 561-329-3257- ipnman2002@yahoo.com

Shoei RF -- 800 full face white helmet, new, still in box with factory packaging. Size XXS, perfect for a young passenger. Price: \$125
Contact: diannelpark@yahoo.com or 561-793-7907.

KBC Helmet - FFR Flip Top silver and black. This helmet is brand new. I wore it twice and realized that I do not have a KBC head. \$175.00

Givi T80 Tank Bag - Magnetic. The bag has a map case and a clear rain cover \$50.00

Kapa top trunk for the Suzuki VStrom - Silver color matched for the '02 Vstrom - \$100.00

Fenda Extenda for Vstrom - Brand new - never installed - \$20.00

Stock regular and Tall windshields for a DL1000 VStrom - \$50.00 and \$75.00 respectively

Contact: Larry Fitch at fitchle@hotmail.com or 321-266-8757

Other

Wells Cargo Cycle Wagon enclosed motorcycle trailer - Lightly used, probably less than 5,000 miles. 12.5' X 7' box, probably 16 to 17 feet overall. Tandem axle, electric brakes, aero nose cone, diamond plate aluminum fenders, black with chrome bottom trim, rear ramp door with spring assist, paneled inside with interior lights, wheel chocks and multiple floor and side tie down points, side door on front right side. This trailer cost over \$6,000 new, current models are about \$7,000. Buy mine for \$4,500. Will deliver up to 250 miles for cost of gas. I can E-mail photos upon request. Contact Jan Berryman, Tallahassee, Florida (850) 893-2253 or E-mail berryman15@comcast.net.

Florida News

Submitted By: Bill Royal & Sam Ulbing

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the earlier served folks left before the later served folks finished, so there were apparently no pictures taken at the event - none that I got any copies of anyway. I am sure that there was a lot of catching up done during the lunch between the local folks and the out of staters who were in town for Bike Week.

Spring Fling Update:

Unfortunately, we missed our 20 room threshold by 3 rooms for some extra \$\$\$ from the hotel. Given that STAR08 will be in April, combined with the dwindling turnout for Spring Fling, we may well not have this event next year. I AM still planning a lunch ride rendezvous on Friday the 20th on the way to the Spring Fling, but have yet to firm up the plans so stay tuned. I should have it out in email and on the website by next Sunday.

STAR07 Update:

As Sam mentioned we have a weak advance booking for STAR attendance from Florida this year. What's with that? I have a route plan calling for two leisurely 350 mile days (all non-interstate!) to and from Asheville. And anyone who wishes is welcome to tag along. For those with little vacation time, it's only ~680 miles from Tampa to Asheville, by either I-75 through Atlanta or I-95 through Jacksonville and then I-26 through Columbia, SC. Either way, it's about a 9.5 to 10 hour driving time ride. That's an easy days ride especially if you're starting out north of Tampa. So if you haven't

already, please consider making the trip. I guarantee you will have a great time, make lots of new friends and make some memories of a lifetime.

Ride Stats:

Anyone who has attended a lunch ride recently is familiar with the "sign-in" sheets. You may wonder what those amount to after they are filled out. Well, here's a taste.

Since September '02 when I started them, and minus the 2-3 that were either lost or never made, we have had 83 ride events, with 2071 attendee sign-ins, totaling 250,000 miles or riding ONE WAY!) to those events!

The listing on the right shows the riders with 20 or more ride event attended in decreasing order.

Name	Grand Total
Bill Royal	82
Eve Blazsur	49
Sam Ulbing	37
Fanny Haine	36
Bob Shields	29
Bob Fischer	28
Phil Ridgdill	28
Bob Niszczak	26
Larry Fitch	24
Richard Herrington	25
Jim Park	24
Rob Medwed	23
Scott Wingarter	22
Henry Custer	20
Cheryl Fischer	21
Anne Lynch	21
Sue Roe	20
Jim Cavanagh	20
Ed Lynch	20

Florida News

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Make	Total	% of Total
Honda	1100	52.987%
BMW	237	11.416%
(blank)	236	Pillion riders
Yamaha	107	5.154%
Suzuki	104	5.010%
HD	105	5.058%
Kawasaki	97	4.672%
Triumph	38	1.830%
CAR	24	1.156%
Aprilia	10	0.482%
Ducati	7	0.337%

Including all attendees, member and non-member alike, the HONDA brand amounts to 52% of the total attendance. The following chart shows most of the rest of the breakdown by make (excluding makes with 5 or less appearances). If I limit the table to Members only, the Honda/BMW total climbs to 73% of the total.

Count of Model	HSTA Member	Y	Grand Total
ST1100	52	208	260
Gold Wing	95	122	217
ST1300	39	168	207
VFR	10	51	61
PC 800	19	37	56
Concours	36	5	41
Magna 750	8	33	41
Hayabusa	2	36	38
FJR1300	15	21	36
R1150RT	8	26	34
Silverwing	13	18	31
R1100RT	10	21	31
VTX 1300	6	21	27
FZ1	8	15	23
V-STROM	2	20	22

With Sport-Touring being our middle name, the table on the left would appear to bear that out: The top 5 models attending our ride events have been ST1100 & 1300's, Gold Wings, VFR's and PC800's. We probably have had more sport models of late, but they've yet to surpass totals of the previous years attendees.

Then there are the places we've gone. Here are the Top 15 most attended venues:

Place	Count
Jack's Diner	138
Gator Joe's	134
Blackwater Inn	131
Lake Susan Lodge	128
Peck's Old Port Cove Restaurant	119
3 Bananas	113
Ye Olde Boarding House	110
Cherry Pocket	98
Nav-A-Gator Grille	66
Runway Café	57
Paradise Harbor Marina	52
Jaxson's	52
Lone Cabbage Fish Camp	51
Gator Landing	49
Carmichael's	45

I hope to be able to put together some more detailed data around the locations, perhaps even putting up for a vote your favorite places to go. It would be interesting to see if the voted places match the attended places! Also, note that 3 of these top 15 venues have since closed or moved from their original locations.

Well, that's about all the space I have this month. I really would like to see more of the membership out on rides. It is, after all, all about YOU and riding...

Ride Safe, Ride Smart, Ride Home!

Upcoming Rides/Events

Ride/Events are compiled for your convenience from a variety of sources. HSTA sponsored rides are indicated with the "♦" symbol. If you are considering making any of the rides we suggest you call the contact ahead of time to confirm the ride is still on as listed.

♦ **HSTA Florida North Lunch Ride - April 14th - Outback Crab Shack, St. Augustine, FL.** Lunch at 11:45 AM. Located on 8155 County Road 13 N, St Augustine. It is located on the St John's River. N29 57.607 W81 32.601 <http://www.theoutbackcrabshack.com/> (lots of cookies however). Bob Vanderwaag has offered to fill in for Buck to run this since Buck got a better offer for that day. Please let Bob know if you plan to attend. Contact: bvanderwaag@yahoo.com

Future North Rides/Dates:

May 12th - Salt Creek Seafood, Suwannee, FL (Sam Ulbing)

June 09 - JT's Seafood Shak, Flagler Beach (Bob Fischer)

♦ **HSTA Florida "On the Way To Spring Fling" Lunch Ride - April 20th - Details to be posted by email and on website - stay tuned!** Contact: BillRoyalRideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

♦ **3rd Annual Spring Fling Weekend - April 20-22 - Quality Inn, Thomasville, GA.** We've opened this ride up by invitation to the BMWNEF and the COG groups so there could be a pretty good crowd. Only 15 rooms are booked so far - we upped the block to 32 rooms but the hold deadline is Mar 20th so you must book NOW!

For more details go to: <http://members.cox.net/n4uau/HSTA/RealFlorida07.htm>

Contact: Bill Royal at RideFL@flahsta.org or Jim Park at jimpark53@adelphia.net

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Upcoming Rides/Events

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Future South Rides/Dates: May 19th - Fresh Choice, Lakeland
 June 2nd - TBD July 14th - TBD Aug. 18th - TBD Sep. 8th. - TBD

◆ And all the rest of the HSTA National schedule...

NOTES: Event schedule is subject to change without notice. Please be sure to check with the listed contact before making your plans!

For non-HSTA members reading this on the internet, be advised that attendance at these National Events requires HSTA membership. You can join at the event and your event fee gets waived (one time only)!

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Web Address/E-mail
April 27-28-29	Helen North Georgia Classic	Motel 6 - 8171 SR 75 Helen, GA 30545 706-878-8888	Eric Larsen 770-805-0607 (hm)	http://bellsouthpwp.net/p/l/pippin01/helen/page1/html enlarsen@bellsouth.net
May 18-19-20	Twistar 2007	Voyager Inn Reedsburg, WI 1-800-444-4493	Ray Kang 952-476-6677 (wk)	www.hstatwistar.info riding@hstatwistar.info
May 25-26-27-28 (4 days)	Tri-Star	Allegheny Inn Sparta, NC 888-372-2501	Galen Diehl 276-647-3162 (hm)	http://bellsouthpwp.net/p/l/pippin01/tristar/page1.htm gdiehl@kimbanet.com
June 24-25-26-27	STAR 2007	Crowne Plaza Resort Asheville, NC 800-733-3211 or 882-254-3211	Harry & Beth Hemstreet 970-667-0460 (hm) 240-376-7447 (fax)	http://www.ridehsta.com/star/2007/star07@hemko.com
August 3-4-5	Nolichucky Valley Rally	Holiday Inn Express Erwin, TN 1-800-304-7958	Richard Giddish 423-245-5558 (hm)	http://webpages.charter.net/jrandall/erwin/erwin.htm rickandnick@hartern.net
August 24-25-26	Mail Pouch Fly By	Best Value Inn Marietta, OH 1-800-526-5947	Jon Campbell 513-932-3341 (hm)	
September 7-8-9	Ozarks BS Rally	Theodosia Marina & Resort Highway 160 Theodosia, MO	Ed & Linda Young 417-926-3075 (hm) magna@fidnet.com	http://come.to/The_Ozarks_BS_Rally
September 14-15-16	River City Ride	Vevay, Indiana (hotel not yet determined)	Don Moose Parish 317-936-5818 (hm)	mparish@hrtc.net
September 21-22-23	SE Star	Holiday Inn Express 64 White Oak Lane Dillard, Georgia 706-746-3585	Trey Hall 615-367-6495 (hm)	Strey1100@aol.com
October 5-6-7	Friends of Freddie's	Rosener's Resort Park Hills, MO 1-800-888-4241	Bob LaMear 636-938-3788 (hm)	racerboy@fms4u.com
October 19-20-21	AR By Way Boogie	Paris Inn 2010 E. Walnut Paris, AR 72855 479-963-2400	Mario Caruso 501-318-5233 - office 501-622-0987 (cell) Hot Springs AR 71901	guinzomoto@arkansasrider.com
November 2-3-4	Texas Hill Country Ride	YO Ranch Resort 2033 Sidney Baker Kerrville, TX 78028 877-967-3767	Ken Bowen & Dave and Connie Schluter	http://www.geocities.com/jfpoulos/THC2007.html TXHillCountryRally@gmail.com