



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

August 2007



STAR07 and Beyond

Submitted By: Eve Blazsur

As STAR 2007 Asheville drew near, we made our preparations; bikes, clothing, navigational aids, routes. Little did we know that we would be way-laid only 10 miles out of town (Sun City Center). The day dawned bright and hot as we three; Bill Royal, Eve Blazsur, Fanny Haine, started out on another HSTA adventure. However, as we barely reached speed on I-75 Bill indicated that there was "a problem". His trusty ST1100 was starving for fuel and cutting out. A sorrier sight could not be seen along the highway. We looked like the Clampetts; helmets strewn along the grass, jackets thrown everywhere, Bill's seat and luggage and tools off the bike and on the ground. Bill said he thought we were blessed with a Harley experience. Amazingly enough only 1/2 hour later Bill had reassembled the bike and averted a tragedy. Now we were REALLY off to STAR.



"The Clampetts" - Eve Blazsur and Fanny Haine with photographer Bill Royal's bike in the middle. Sure LOOKS like they're going far!

If any of you have not yet attended a STAR, you simply must make it a point to go. They are great. This year in Asheville, NC was no exception; great riding, great new friendships, great attendance, great food. I always look forward to seeing old friends and am excited to see where the lunch ride will be. This was no disappointment as we had delicious BBQ at the Wheels Through Time museum in Maggie Valley. The museum's tribute to female riders is special and

not to be missed. Another day Bill and friends rode to breakfast and Mount Mitchell. I made my way to the Biltmore Estates and Gardens with an end-of-day stop at the winery on the estate. I allowed myself to enjoy the tour and wine tasting there as I utilized a local shuttle service from the hotel.

Over 400 attended the banquet and enjoyed our featured guest speaker Fred Rau. You may recognize Fred's name; he writes articles for Motorcycle Consumer News. He entertained us at dinner with a wonderful discourse a la Jeff Foxworthy; you know you're a motorcyclist if... (one of my favorites) "you ever deliberately ran out of gas just to see how far your machine would go". Besides enjoying a delicious dinner, awards were awarded, STAR 2008 was announced, prizes were raffled including a Honda VFR800. I believe I speak for everyone when I say that it was another wonderful event. A huge "thank you" to everyone who made this year another superb STAR.

You'll have to tune in next month for a continuation of this story as Fanny Haine and I made our way through 9 states, several hikes, critter encounters and 3,171 miles later finally arrived home from STAR07.

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

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HSTA Florida Newsletter
Editor

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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

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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
Gordon Meinscher	Milton, FL	ST1300 & KLR650	Not specified



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, (address on front page of newsletter) or email to ridefl@flahsta.org.

For Sale

Bikes

2003 Honda ST 1300ABS, @37K miles of faultless performance, all scheduled maintenance performed - synthetic oil only, 90% of fuel run through the bike has been Chevron Techron 93, new Bridgestone O20s in April; extras include: MC Cruise, running lights, heated grips, back-off brake light, custom Ventura pack bracket - Ventura pack, small grip bar and small Nelson pack part of package. 30 months remaining on Honda Factory Extended Warranty Metallic grey, with a few scratches. \$9,000.
Contact: Tom at 352.336.7294 (preferred) or t.kerkoff@att.net

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

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

Garmin 478, includes power cord, software, pre-loaded maps and cover (does not include antenna). \$700

VTX 1300 Corbin seat (used one day only!) \$400
Contact John French 561-350-6177 (no email)

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.

Wanted

Small off road bike 80cc-125cc 4stroke, 3-5 yrs old, Honda, Yamaha or Suzuki.
Contact Phil Ridgdill Email foxrdr@bellsouth.net, 904 287 9654

The Quest for STAR

Submitted By: Orvil Roesberry

Once upon a time in the kingdom of Florida there dwelt an impoverished but brave knight by the name of Sir Orvil of Roesberry. To say that he was impoverished is somewhat of an overstatement, for he had only one old and tired steed to his name. However he kept it well groomed and cared for and also it was descended from the royal steeds of the mystical land of Honda. so he knew that it could be depended on to carry him to battle whenever and wherever he desired.

To say that Sir Orvil was brave might be a slight overstatement also, for he had never really did anything on his own as yet, only followed other knights to their weekly feasts. As the



**Sir Orvil of Roesberry
Ready to face the Dragon**

other noble knights sat around the table, spinning their tales of daring, Sir Orvil sat silent, but he dreamed of brave and noble deeds. It was also rumored that he had won his Knight-hood in a poker game, whom some might whisper in private, was rigged. (this was never proven)

Then one day in the early spring there came a decree from the Royal house of Bill and Sam that all brave knights of the realm should journey to the far off land of Kare-O-Lina in search of the magical STAR of HSTA. It was rumored to be kept at a mountain Castle called Crowne Plaza of Asheville. Sir Orvil read the royal decree with a certain amount of fear and trepidation.

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Ramblin' Around!

Submitted By: Phil Ridgill

WOW, HSTA STAR, Asheville, NC. This was the best STAR that Carmel & I have been to. What a great place for STAR. Can we have it here again??? We all owe Dave Brickner and his Volunteer Staff a big THANK YOU. I know it takes a tremendous effort to organize a HSTA STAR, a job very well done Dave. Carmel and I owe Doug Pip-pin for all the info he gave us about Asheville, 100% accurate, Thank You Doug. Next Year Texas, we will make that one for sure. SE STAR is in Sept, we're planning on going up Thursday and returning on Sunday. I'll volunteer to take everyone (Florida group) on a cool ride Friday, just let me know who is interested, it's a neat ride.

I've had a word with both Sam and Bill Royal about having a 3 day weekend non event in North Florida, possibly in late Oct 07. Give all you guys down there in South Florida a chance to see some roads up here in N.FL. We don't have anything that will match NE GA or Alabama but they are better than South FL, I think. It would also give us a better opportunity to socialize as a group with an overnight or two. Before we get too far into this I'd like to know if any of you are interested. The main location, (just off I-75) would be just west of Gainesville - motels are available, restaurants close by and hopefully good cool weather. If we have enough interest, I'll sort it out.

We finally replaced our 1200GS, a nice new ST1300. This one is very nice, though still a bit heavy, it's as smooth as silk and has all kinds of torque on the bottom end. The gas mileage was a big surprise; we got 51mpg on a quick weekend ride to NE GA. My ST1100 didn't make that kind mileage. I've heard complaints on the ST1300 about heat on the legs & feet, I haven't had that experience on mine although I'm sure there is a lot of heat pouring out the faring the way that motor is packed in. My temp bar goes to 3 bars and stays right there, I keep an eye on that. After a 1200 mile weekend Carmel is quite happy with the comfort on the ST1300.

Summer is here guys and its bloody HOT, keep your cool and I don't necessarily mean your body temp, I mean your mental cool. It's hot and tempers are short, kids are out of school and Mom is hauling the kids all over town in her monster SUV, she's not exactly happy about it either and she's not looking in the mirrors. There's a big RED Sign on this SUV. " WARNING STAY WELL CLEAR ". Pay close attention to that warning, this vehicle turns left or right at anytime and stops any place in the road without any warning whatsoever. Then we have Dad, he's on the way to work makes a quick stop at

MD's for a hot cup of Coffee. And here we are on a busy Six lane street, right beside Dad's SUV, with a Traffic Light about every 3/10s of a mile, the phone rings and of course he has to answer the bloody thing.. He can't answer the phone, hold his hot coffee and drive at the same time, so what's a guy to do, push that little button on the arm rest and down goes the window and he will just politely pour his coffee on the ground while he's driving along at 35mph. You don't want to be a position beside or behind him. You have to remain cool, you can't attack a 4-5000 pound SUV with a 700 pound Motorcycle. We all know who would win that battle.

On one other note - About eight years ago I met this young guy,



From L - Ryan Baker and Mike Ashurst
at a classified site somewhere north of Kabul, Afghanistan

Mike Ashurst riding with his Father, HSTA member Randy Ashurst. Mike rode to Marietta Ohio STAR 1999, with Carmel and I along with his Dad and Chuck Headrick. Mike rode the fire out of that little Suzuki he was riding, he also won the youngest rider at Marietta. I'm quite proud of Mike and I know his father is also, just thought I'd pass along this Photo of S/SGT Mike Ashurst doing his duty.

Ride Safe, Smart & keep your mental cool

Phil Ridgill

The Quest for STAR

Continued...

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For he had heard wild tales of this far off mountainous land. It was told in whispered conversation late at night that the natives of this far off land, although friendly, had one leg shorter than the other from walking in the mountains. Some said that in places the trails, although smooth and hard, went up into the clouds and were shrouded in cold clammy mists where anything could trap the un-wary rider, they whispered it's name, "Cherohala, home of the

Gods". One teller of tales said that nowhere could one find a straight trail, but that they all twisted and turned, like snakes, so greatly that at times the rider might meet himself coming the other way on the trail, not nice and flat and straight like the kingdom of Florida. Others sat around the campfire late at night and in hushed tones told of a mountain pass where there lived a Dragon of fierce reputation and if a Knight were to travel into his realm and not be

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North News

Submitted By: Bob Fischer

Floyd's Diner Breakfast Ride, July 14

Kudos to Sam for coming up with the breakfast ride idea! A chance to beat the heat and hopefully the rain too. Twelve of us showed up for a great breakfast at one of my favorite places to eat, Floyd's Diner in High Springs.

The morning weather was very mild which made the ride over very enjoyable. The only down side to my ride was a hornet that got into my helmet and lodged behind my right ear! Making a very hasty roadside stop, I got my helmet off and saw a decidedly angry bee fly away. Not before he had stung me a couple of times. All things considered, if that's the worst thing that happens to me while riding a motorcycle, I am a pretty lucky guy.

We met at 9:00 am at Floyd's. Phil Kaminski took top mileage honors with a 125 mile ride from Mt. Dora. With our group being so small, we had no trouble being seated and the service was great. As usual, the food at Floyd's was some of the best that I've had on any HSTA ride. The other nice thing about the small group was

that it encouraged more conversation among us.

At 10:00 am we ended our meal. Sam, with some company, decided to head south for some additional riding. They ran into a bunch of rain and got soaked! With helmet visor down and locked, I headed east. I managed to avoid most of the rain. The pavement was wet almost everywhere I went, but I stayed dry. I could see rain and lightning all around me. The only real rain I encountered was when I turned onto my street and pulled into the driveway. Pretty lucky.

Even though we did not avoid the rain, I still think the breakfast ride idea is great for the summer. Only having to contend with the heat and possible rain on the way home makes for an easier ride. Even with my 2.5 hour ride home, I was back in my garage by 12:30 and had plenty of the day left to do other things.

South News

Submitted By: Bill Royal

South Ride:

We had a 1st time ever occurrence of both the North and South rides being scheduled on the same day! Not only that, but both were Brunch format instead of lunch intended to beat the heat and thunderstorms. More on that in a bit, but first, the details. We had a big group of some 25 attendees and we all showed up at a new spot for us in down town Lake Placid called Main Street America. Despite being nearly standing room only with regular business, they had the exact number of seats reserved for us, pretty much all together and the food and service were both outstanding! The only small downside to the venue was that the parking was on-street, and we were spread out on both sides of the street and for some several hundred feet in both directions. In spite of that, I liked this venue so much, I scheduled a repeat in August!

The "Real Men" group from South Florida had a pretty good sized gang, with P. Van Steelant taking long distance honors at 173 miles one way for brunch! There was also a small contingent of guest riders from the Melbourne/Titusville environs. I hope they enjoyed the ride after brunch. I had a larger than expected group riding to brunch from the Tampa area, including one time member and frequent Iron Butt participant Frank Brown - who told me he had planned on making the North ride, but slept late so joined us instead.

I think that was the better choice weather wise as we didn't encounter any rain at all going or returning from the ride. I am not so sure Frank didn't get wet as the further North we rode the darker it was getting. And I didn't hear from Orvil who had to make it back to Hudson, but he would have needed a miracle to avoid the rain from what I saw on the radar when I got in. I did see a message from AD Williams who had ridden after the North ride down through Horse

Country with Sam and it sounds like they did get doused pretty good. They may have been the lucky ones because by noon it was H-O-T HOT and a bit of a shower would have been welcome relief.

So, 12 at the North ride and another 25 at the South, pretty darn good turnout for a HOT rain threatening day in Florida! Way to go riders. Maybe this Brunch format is here to stay, at least for the summer.

Other Events:

It really looks like the Spring Fling just will not work out for 2008 due, in part, to the scheduling of STAR. However we DO have another opportunity for a weekend event, and one closer to the center of the state. I am talking about the event that Phil Ridgill is offering up for October, up near Gainesville. Now, Phil is offering, but he needs the support of the membership in the form of PARTICIPATION. This would be a great opportunity to get in some nice riding AND some quality social time in the evening so please let him know if you'd like to see this event go off. Phil, you can count me in for sure!

Also, even though we are just back from STAR07, NOW is the time to be planning for STAR08 because, for the first time in several years, it is NOT the same June week as usual. To avoid the sweltering heat of summer, the event will be in the Spring (April 6-9, 2008) so time is short already. I've heard a lot about Texas Hill Country and it looks like yet another great adventure. It would be really great if we could get 50 Florida members to go. The Website just went up so you can check it out at: <http://www.txhsta.com/Star2008.html>

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South News

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More FLAHSTA News:

Since Phil submitted the item about Mike Ashurst, I thought I might mention some other Florida HSTA folks who are also in the services. We haven't heard from him in a while, but we do miss Matt Harper on our rides and look forward to his safe return. Also, Bob Flanagan, who rode out of Tampa with us several times has accepted the position of president of the Missouri Military Academy in Mexico, MO and is in the process of moving there. We will miss him here in Florida, but I am sure he will be a great addition to the MOSIL chapter once he gets settled. I apologize if I have left any other military folks out, if I have it's just because I didn't know you or the military connection about you.

Riding with the HSTA:

I decided to write this item because of something Eve mentioned to me the other day. She was out on a Thurs morning breakfast ride and got roped into leading a group of 10 or so riders. They all just meet up at a parking lot and then decide where they want to go and who will lead... At any rate, Eve led the group to the Lakeland-Linder Regional Airport and as they were seating for breakfast, one rider (Gold Wing) is talking about his gas mileage and in that conversation, he mentions to Eve that I won't have good gas mileage today because you ride FAST!". Later, as they were preparing to leave, he mentioned it again, this time to which Eve replied "If you think I ride fast, you should try chasing my boyfriend around the state for several years - he has two speeds; fast and faster". Now, having been an HSTA member for a few years now and knowing how different groups ride, I do NOT consider myself to be particularly fast. Yes, faster than the average cruising around town rider, but certainly not sport bike pace fast. There was another thread on the FLAHSTA Yahoo group about safe riding and my name was mentioned a couple of times, both I thought in a very flattering way (thanks gang!). This all got me to thinking about riding, safety and speed and helped me focus on just how "relative" this all is. What is fast to one rider may be down right slow to another. A corner entry speed that is well within the safety limits of a well seasoned rider may be well beyond the capabilities of a newer rider. I only

mention this because it brings up the most important point to remember whenever we ride, and especially more so when riding in a group. - **Ride your own ride** - We say this frequently, but it is much easier to say than it can be to actually do. Some folks like riding behind a slightly faster rider because they can use that difference to "stretch" and thus hopefully develop better skills. On the other hand, some folks who have much less skill level development sometimes feel they are holding up the group and thus will begin exceeding their limits - not a good thing to do.

The bottom line is that alone or in a group "the most failure prone item is the nut connecting the handlebars to the seat" - that is the rider. It is each and every rider's sole responsibility to know their machine, their own skill levels and maintain full and complete control of their ride at all times. A big part of success in this regard is self awareness. Maintaining a perspective about how well you are riding vs. just having fun and/or keeping up with the person in front of you is a key component of safe riding. Some days we can be "in the zone" and everything just seems smooth and natural, while another ride we might feel much less "at one" with the bike. It is the rider's responsibility to recognize this and adjust their riding accordingly. This may not come naturally. It can be all too easy to have our attention sucked into a funnel that takes us away from such observations yet it is key to be able to maintain the wider perspective. It's all about multi-tasking and doing so in a very disciplined way so that you are constantly scanning the road ahead, your instruments, your mirrors, your surroundings and your inner self and assessing and assembling all that into a situational awareness that puts you "In control" and not simply "reacting" to what is going on.

One last item - One of the best pieces of advice I feel I ever got about riding came from an article called "The Pace" - If you've never read it or it's been a long time, I highly recommend a read - and then try to practice what it says - you'll be a much better rider for it! Check it out at: <http://www.ridehsta.com/thepace.htm>

Ride safe, Ride Smart - Ride Home!

The Quest for STAR

Continued...

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riding with utmost care the Dragon would devour him. This mountain kingdom was definitely not a place for the faint of heart.

None the less Sir Orvil made up his mind that, not only would he take on this quest, but he would venture into this strange and frightening land alone. He would make this pilgrimage to capture the magical Star of HSTA, whatever it was, and bring it home. After all he had ridden to Ozello many times, even though it was said that Ozello was a mere Lizard and not a real Dragon. He would begin early in the month of June, the better to spy out this strange and wondrous land. He would stay away from their cities and would camp under the stars at a place the natives called Blue Ridge Mo-

torcycle Campground of Cruso (strange names in this land) and question all the natives about this strange land of theirs, learning all that he could about their customs and festivals. Visiting all the little villages and towns. Maybe even challenging the fierce dragon in his lair. Of course there was a very old saying. "Don't mess with dragons, they might bite you on the.....", but still

Editors Note: Sir Orvil never did quite make it to STAR. He returned home, un-injured so that was good news and we are hoping to have a more detailed update on the quest in a future issue of the Gator Tale. Stay Tuned!



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 Brunch Ride - Aug 11th - Shamrock Inn, Floral City, FL. Brunch at 9:45 AM.** Located at 8343 E Orange Ave, Floral City, FL 34436 - 352.726.6414 GPS: N28 45.014 W82 17.763 AD Williams mentioned that it's somewhat of a motorcycle landmark in Floral City and it must be. It actually pops up when you zoom into Floral City on City Navigator! Contact: Bob Shields boju29@msn.com or (863) 646-9016

♦ **HSTA Florida North Brunch Ride - Aug 18th - Poppies, Interlachen, FL. Brunch at 9:00 AM** Located at 175 Hwy 315 in Interlachen - a very nice (new) place and has a unique offering. She bakes fresh muffins, breads, and pastries as well as Breakfast sandwiches, Breakfast Pizza's, and quiche. Great coffee!!!!!! Not your usual grits, eggs, and bacon. There is outside patio seating with ceiling fans and probably adequate inside seating. We can reserve the patio. The parking is new asphalt and plenty of it. Contact:: Buck DeShazo reefdiver@windstream.net or (386) 684-6783

Future North Rides/Dates: TBD

♦ **HSTA Florida South Brunch Ride - Aug 25th - Main Street America, Lake Placid, FL - Brunch at 9:30 AM-** Located at 22 South Main St., Lake Placid, FL. 863-465-7733. This place was such a hit in July, I decided to do it again! We need to let the restaurant know a headcount so please call the contact to advise if you plan to attend. GPS Loc: N27 17.817 W81 22.001 Contact: Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

Future South Rides/Dates: Sep. 8th. - TBD Oct 6th - TBD Nov 10th - TBD Dec 15th - 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
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	Baymont Inn Corydon, IN	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)	http://tinyurl.com/8de29 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