

The Florida MSTA Grapevine

You heard it through the Grapevine...

Volume 3 Issue 8

Events in August

details on page 9

In This Issue:

- Pages 1 - Feature Article
- Page 1 - Monthly Riding Tip
- Page 4 - Mystery Hyperlink
- Page 5 - Grapevine
- Page 6 - STAR trip reporting!
- Page 7 - Florida News
- Page 10 - Florida August Rides
- Page 10 - Classifieds

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Feature Article

Our Feature Article this month provides more excerpts (and a couple of pics!) from Fanny Haine's diary as she continues her summer European motorcycle odyssey...

20 JUNE (SUNDAY): BASTOGNE

Today was a good day to do laundry. I must go to a public "laundromat" to do so. Stepping into one of those places is like entering a different world. Before my departure to France I did my laundry a Sunday morning. I was alone until a guy in his late 20's came in with several baskets full of laundry. Apparently he had never done laundry because I had to explain to him in details how to do the laundry, where to put the soap, the money and so on. He was somewhat of a nervous wreck. He then explained to me his situation. He was married and had five children, the last one especially by accident ! His wife was mad as she accused him of not helping with the kids and not acting like a married man. He told me how he regrets now to have this family and asked for my opinion. The guy was OK, he was polite and did not ask me for anything (like money), but he was a mess. We spent 45 minutes trying to resolve all his problems, it was quite an experience. Then when he saw I was with the bike, he almost flipped over and thought it was just fantastic. Funny, this last Friday night as I was listening in the early evening a band playing in the park, this guy came to me and say, oh you are the lady with the bike, how are you doing. We chatted for a while and then he left.

MONTHLY RIDING TIP: Riding over the limit...

You don't just go out and do an Iron Butt ride. You plan and train for it. Riding when you're tired also doesn't make sense. Do you know it is possible to fall asleep while you're astride your bike, rolling down the road? (Ask me how I know, from an experience way back in my youth and foolishness...) Motorcycling takes focus, grasshopper... :) Before you get on your favorite bike, ask yourself if both you and the bike are ready. It doesn't matter how long the ride, or how technical. What matters is that in addition to the bike being ready, you are prepared both mentally and physically. Listen to yourself. If the voice inside you says its not a good time to ride, listen to it! - ed.

Now this morning as I arrived all the machines were taken but one (fortunately for me). Shortly after two women, a young one and an old one, with a young daughter came in, followed by some guy well dressed. The women and the child were dressed any which way. I have not the slightest clue of what kind of language they were speaking, but after observing them a while, my guess is that they were gypsies. The younger one asked me too where to put the conditioner, when I said she asked, she did with gesture as she did not speak a word of French. I was glad to be there without the bike, my backpack and with no wallet except for my change. All the machine were theirs. The man watched what they were doing but never lifted a finger. They all screamed at one another. The young girl started to take the place apart. Sometimes the guy would kind of kick her with his foot so she would stay quiet. Some other guy showed up extremely well dressed, checked thing out and left. Discretely I went to the window to see what he was driving, it was a nice large car with a French plate. The women went to get some food which look quite greasy and messy and they all proceeded to eat the food on the table used normally to fold your clothes. When they were finished they all had greasy hands and nowhere to wipe them because there is no toilet there. Some food had fallen on the floor and were dragged by walking making some nice streaks on the floor. The door was filthy and who knows about the table. When I got my laundry out of the machine I put it straight in my bag without touching anything. It was interesting to see how in 45 minutes a place which was OK had become a disaster area. During that time another woman came to use a machine, she had high heels gold shoes, short skirt, low neck line and lots of make-up. At 10 in the morning she looked like she was in the wrong place. Anyway all that is fun.



No descriptions with these pics of her trip, but then again...

You just don't need any...

21 JUNE (MONDAY) : BASTOGNE, SUMMER DAY

Tonight I was told that a memorial march organized by the Belgian army every year was taking place this week. This consists of walking 4 days in a row a distance of either 20 miles or 10 miles everyday. The participation is huge, 4,000 people of all ages are coming from all over to participate. It was the first time I heard about it. Once the hotel told me I went to the "headquarters" to see if I could register now because registrations are supposed to be done in advance. Many people sleep on cots in one building, others in tents or camping. The army has installed showers and washing facilities and is providing breakfast and dinner, even lunch. They are also buses taking people back and forth to the marches as they do not make a loop. As I did not require food or lodging, they agreed to take me in.

22 JUNE (TUESDAY) : FIRST LEG OF THE MEMORIAL MARCHE

Up early to be at the bus at 8 AM which took us to a village named Sainte Ode to start the 10 miles walk leading to another small town named Saint Hubert. I choose to do four times 10 miles, because I am not sure my legs could do 20 miles four days in a row. Would you believe that the majority is doing the 20 miles. People doing the 10 miles filled only three buses. The trail takes us through the pine trees forest and nice fields. The day was beautiful with perfect temperatures. All the participants and organizers were very nice too. I walked my 10 miles in 3 hours which was not bad for me. Upon completion I felt I was still OK, so I should be ready to do same thing, other trail tomorrow.



23 JUNE (WEDNESDAY) : SECOND LEG OF THE MEMORIAL MARCHE

This morning the bus took us to a village named Bourcy and we were walking back to Bastogne. The trail was mostly flat winding in the middle of farms and fields. Saw many cows and their calves.

24 JUNE (THURSDAY) : THIRD LEG OF THE MEMORIAL MARCHE

Had to leave earlier today, the bus rode an hour away from Bastogne to a village named Hotton. Again very pleasant walk passing through many nice forests. As it was warmer it was nice to be in the shade. We arrived at Marche en Famenne where the buses took us back to Bastogne. After three days many people like me started to feel kind of stiff, but everyone will be ready to go again tomorrow.

25 JUNE (FRIDAY) : FOURTH AND LAST LEG OF THE MARCHE

Early start again today to ride to a village named Champlon. I walked with a couple guys I met yesterday. This walk was harder because of a couple of steep hills. However we kept a good pace and finished the walk quite fast. We arrived at La Roche, small town with an old fortress castle type. And the bus brought us back to Bastogne.

26 JUNE (SATURDAY) : RIDE TO BOUILLON

With such a nice day, I decided to do a 250 Km round trip to Bouillon and then follow the river La Semois which is very twisty. It took me about 5 hours to do the ride as I took my time and enjoyed the scenery. The river is between two mounts full of trees, so there is the water at the bottom and everything else is green with various shades as the forests have many different types of trees. The river is a very quiet one, there were many people kayaking, many ducks, and many bunch of grass with white flowers floating at the surface. Had a nice fresh salad for lunch. I was surprised to see so few people around but it was better for the ride.

OK, she
wins...

Coollest
place to
ride...

Ever.



Mystery Hyperlink of the Month

The Dragon is open again! Check it out...



Marsh Restaurant, Fellsmere, FL...The scene of this past Saturday's brunch rendezvous.



Hi Eve! We see you waving, waaayy in the back!

Heard Thru the Grapevine:

From Bill: The Florida MSTA membership was stunned to learn of the sudden and tragic loss of Jonce Hubble, son of Martha & Andre Hubble in Guntersville AL in a freak work accident on July 22nd. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and our dear friends Martha & Andre.

From Van: Buck Jones is back on the 'Busa!! He's been able to make the last few weekends worth of local breakfast rides. He's starting to put some weight back on and rebuilding his butt calluses!! He's a determined SOB and has come to grips with his current situation and making it work on a daily basis. He is being very careful not to over-do-it, as he does not want to suffer even a slight setback. The Real Men will keep you posted.

From Chuck Headrick: We finally arrived at our 2nd home in Murphy on June 13th. The last several weeks have been mostly spent on getting the property in shape, cutting down head high weeds, trees and repairing the driveway. We have been trying to sell our 26' TT in Florida since last Dec. with no luck, so we hauled it back up here to try and sell. ***We would like to invite any of our fellow MSTA'ers that want to ride this area, for a weekend or week to visit us and stay in the empty TT at no cost. It is all hooked up and waiting. Please give us at least a weeks notice of your arrival. It'll be here until Nov unless we are lucky enough to sell it by that time.*** Except for a few runs into town and a short fun-run on a local road, I haven't had much bike time. The temps have been near record highs since we arrived but the humidity has been low and the morning temps in the low 60's.

Make sure you check out the Florida Group site on the MSTA Forum at:

<http://www.sporttouring.us/group.php?groupid=30>

Here is the first submission of 2010 STAR Trip Reports! Keep 'em coming! - ed.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2010 STAR TRIP

By Tom Blake

It was quite a trip - 6700 miles in total on the ST1300 again. My GPS software calculates the "fastest" mileage to Taos as 1849. I left a couple weeks early in order to do some riding in CO and UT before the rally. Then, anticipating very hot weather on the way back, I wanted to be able to head straight home.

A few highlights...

-Stopped at the Barber Motorsports Park just off I-20 east of Birmingham, AL on the way out and spent about 4 hours touring their motorcycle (mostly) and car museum. Five floors of exhibits and they have much more either stored or being worked on. Find some excuse to get out there - it's incredible. They also have a fantastic road race course. Some teams were doing tire testing that day and could be observed from within the museum building.

-At Weatherford west of Oklahoma City I noticed a large number of giant wind turbines in the area. A local informed me it was the largest wind farm in the state and was owned by FPL. This was quite unexpected. I've since written FPL to try to understand how they are using this asset. Are they somehow able to transfer the electricity to FL (doubtful) or are they selling it out there and using the profits to offset expenses? In any case, I'm all for it.

-Cutting across the TX panhandle north of Amarillo toward Raton, NM, I encountered one field full of natural gas pumpers after another - a fraction of which are still productive. One might expect the landowners to all be driving Lincolns and living in grand homes. But no. It was quite the opposite. Guess we know who gets the mine and who gets the shaft in that business.

-Heading toward Raton late one afternoon, the sky directly ahead was dark, layered and alive. It looked menacing and evilly foreboding. And then as I dreaded the worst, the highway would veer left or right toward daylight. This happened many times but as I neared Raton I knew that my luck had run out. I checked into a hotel. It started to rain lightly as I unpacked and covered the bike. By the time I got to my 2nd floor room it was a gully-washer. A close call. The next day was beautiful.

-On the way over the mountain between Durango and Silverton, CO on Rte 550 I encountered sleet! After a warm up in Silverton, I put on the rain suit (mostly for added insulation) and continued north over Red Mountain to Ouray. At higher elevations it sleeted again. The stuff was packing on my windscreen! Temp on the dash read as low as 36F. Absolutely a great motorcycle road even if I did have to slow down.

-In Canyonlands NP southwest of Moab, UT, the Green River, originating somewhere in WY, winds its way quite dramatically through deep ravines. Small by comparison, the Colorado River also winds through the park from a more northeasterly direction and joins the Green. The combined river is then called - the Colorado! One would think the larger river would determine the combined name. Politics or water rights apparently played a deciding role.

-Was riding along about 8:30 am on UT12 between Torrey (just outside Capitol Reef NP) and Boulder and fiddling with the GPS. Next thing, I suddenly became aware of something TAN filling my windscreen and then the handle bars shook pretty strongly. It had to have been a deer (although I never saw anything but the flash of tan) and its rear hoof or leg must have bumped my front tire as it leaped out of the way. The only scenery I saw the rest of the morning was the road in front of me and about 30 feet on either side. That was as close a call as you can have without injury or bike damage. I was forcefully reminded that mornings and evenings in the country are bad times to be distracted. Whatever it was, it was gone when I rode back that way later in the morning and hopefully unhurt.

-The wind was howling all afternoon on this particular day. I took a car ferry across part of white capped Lake Powell in Glen Canyon connecting the northern end of UT276 with the southern end back to UT95. Later, while traveling about 65 mph with the wind. I reached out with my left arm but could feel absolutely no wind resistance. It also produced no cooling affect.

-At the rally in Taos, I got to demo ride a new Triumph Tiger, the new Ducati Multistrada and the new Honda VFR 1200F with dual clutch transmission (selectable auto or paddle shift with selectable Drive or Sport mode controlling engine and shift point mapping). I actually liked the Tiger the best - as a potential 2nd bike. Simple, fun and it fit me really well. The Ducati was the most sporty and had the best sound and most power. I really liked the technology of the Honda - draws on their MotoGP knowledge - but the ergonomics are not for me. None would be a suitable replacement for my ST1300.

-On Friday after the rally, Rose and I were staying in Santa Fe. We rode the RailRunner commuter train down to Albuquerque (about 1 1/2 hour trip), walked around downtown including the Old Town area and then used the city buses to cover ground quickly. The RR tickets were \$5 for me (senior) and \$7 for her. They were day passes so included the trip back to Santa Fe that evening. They also covered all city bus service. Great price and the train ride was really cool. I want to do some cross country rail travel now.

-On the way home, it was up to 102 in the TX panhandle and western OK. The next day it got up to 99 crossing AK, Memphis and into MS. Got caught up in a lot of late afternoon rain in GA. Damn but it's nice to be home again.

Florida News **South Director's Report**

Hot Summer Greetings to you all!! I do hope that the weather is not causing everybody to stay indoors, when there is so much to enjoy early in the morning. We had a marvelous sunrise ride today up to Fellsmere for the South Brunch Ride!! We had the best turnout in quite some time today. Doug and Becky took time out from their Honda Demo-bike responsibilities to ride in from the Tampa area with Bill and Eve. Seems they found some fun roads on their cross-state adventure. And Bob, from Lakeland, was granted some "time off for good behavior", as he has been taking care of his wonderful daughter after recent surgery. She's doing very well and expects to start her school year right on time. Dennis and Dorothy made it over from Okeechobee. I suspect we will see them often this summer, as the remainder of the Brunch Rides will be located up and down the middle of the state to make it easier for everybody to get to an event. As for the East Siders, we had members Dennis, Don, Dell, Dianne, Jim and Van who were joined by potential members Bill and George. We made two rendezvous to simplify the gathering of us all, and the plan actually worked!! I think will use that tactic again.

Though there's not much in and around Fellsmere, unless you're an orange or a cow, the town and the building that is now the restaurant have been around "forever"! Built in 1926 for the local developer, it has been reused and remodeled over the years, but it has held onto its charm and much of the original woodworking and windows. We enjoyed a large meeting room, where another MC club from the Space Coast also had the same breakfast idea as we did. Though the staff knew we were coming with 10-15 people, the 16-18 in the other party caught them by surprise!! Fortunately, we

all had LOTS to talk about, and the slight delay in service just made it easier for everybody to catch up and have that second cup of coffee. On top of that, everybody enjoyed their menu choice!! We looked over their lunch menu as well, and will plan a lunch ride this winter, so those who missed out today will get another chance in the New Year. We'll just double check on the waitstaff for our next event!

Though I was not able to attend STAR last month, I have heard only GREAT things about it. And you should enjoy the articles that were contributed for this newsletter. The weather cooperated, the routes were fun, the scenery was spectacular, and the event went on without a hitch. Not bad for a VOLUNTEER run event!! I hope you've marked your calendar for next years event in Tennessee!

Do keep up with the Brunch rides that are scheduled-out for the rest of the summer. You will find them on the FL Home site as well as on the National site. There are some old favorites coming up as well as some new destinations. And for those whose schedules allow, be sure to check out the National events calendar. There is something organized and happening every month around the country. This is your club!! Get out and enjoy it!! **ATGATT Van**

North Director's Report

For the report regarding the June and July Florida Central Brunch rides, aside from the locations they were nearly identical. Typical hot, sunny weather (though not too hot at the earlier hours) made them both enjoyable rides to get to and get home before it became really uncomfortable. The locations were very nice with the June ride to Billy's Cafe in Tavares and the July ride to a new venue for us - the Redwing Cafe in Groveland (THANKS to Bob Shields for getting this and others onto the calendar). The exact same four rides showed up for both of these rides - Myself (Bill Royal), Doug McClure, Bob Shields and Thomas Blake. We all had nice rides and enjoyed good meals together. Our only wonder was why there weren't more riders in attendance? We have two rides in August to Winter Haven and LaBelle, so we hope to see a few more turn out for some riding and socializing.

I believe there are some other stories already submitted to recount some of the STAR 2010 rides so just a note - we had three award winners this year - Jim McClure won Newsletter of the year. Jim wanted me to thank all of YOU who made that happen by submitting articles and stories through out the year. Hopefully we can make our current newsletter editor - Doug Westly a winner next year! Eve Blazsur won Top Mileage Winner - Ladies Master's division with 31,041 miles ridden in 2009. That makes 4 years in a row that Eve has garnered top mileage awards for women in this club. Way to Go Eve! Unfortunately it marks the last time she will win this award as the Executive Committee has decided to discontinue the mileage awards as we have known them. Lastly and also not without some controversy, I managed to eek out a 2nd place in the Men's Touring division for the second year in a row. **Ride Safe - Bill**

A little more info on Lee Parks' Total Control® Advanced Riding Course scheduled for Lakeland, Florida in October, November and December 2010.

In June we had an article concerning the *Lee Parks' Total Control Advanced Riding Course (ARC)* in the Grapevine. Since then, we've pulled together a little more information.

Looking at our event and lunch ride schedule, we found that many of us will be attending the MSTA Oktoberfest event in Alachua the weekend of October 22nd. Our MSTA schedule is open for the November 20th and December 11th course dates. The November date is just before the holiday season and may fit in better with most people's schedules. So it was decided that November 20-21st will be a great weekend to get as many MSTA members and friends together for the *Lee Parks Advanced Riding Course and Skills Day*.

If you have already signed up for the October or December dates, and you want to switch, just contact *Lee Parks* and ask them to make the changes. If we can get at least 6 people to attend in November, we will get the discounted group rate for the course and Skills day.

Lee Parks advised that the ARC class on Saturday is a full day course (8 AM – 5 PM) and the Skills Day on Sunday is optional. The Skills Day is scheduled from 8 AM - 3 PM, but *Lee Parks* advises that most people are done by noon. There should be plenty of time on Skills Day to practice what you learned in the ARC course and still get home by Sunday afternoon. If Sunday following the course still does not work for you, there is also the option of attending the next Skills Day scheduled for December 12th in Lakeland. Once you have completed the ARC course, you can attend as many of the Skills Days, anywhere in the country, as many times as you want! (Skills Day fees apply)

So in a nutshell, we are hoping for as many MSTA members and friends as possible to attend the November 20th *Lee Parks' Advanced Riders Course*. There will be a group discount if we can get 6 or more people to register for November and the Sunday Skills Day schedule will allow plenty of time for travel back home. Registration and more information are available through the Total Control web site at <http://www.totalcontroltraining.net/index.html>. If you need information beyond what is on the web site, give them a call or send them an email. They have been very responsive to any questions I've had. If you have any questions about the location of the course, local restaurants or hotels, just drop me an email at Boju29@msn.com and I will be happy to help.

If you plan to attend and need to stay overnight, here are some options:

La Quinta Inn & Suites, Lakeland West, 1024 Crevasse St, Lakeland, FL 33809, Phone: 863 859 2866, Fax: 863 859 2956

The Terrace Hotel, 329 Main Street, Lakeland, Florida, 33801, Phone: 863 688 0800

http://www.preferredboutique.com/Preferred_Boutique/hotels/index.aspx?src=2605338&id=69959

Hyatt Place Lakeland Center, 525 West Orange Street, Lakeland, FL 33815, Phone: 863 413 1122 Fax: 863 413 1133

[Maps & Directions to Hyatt Place Lakeland Center](#)

*Also check with Choice Hotels website for hotels in the area. They give a great discount to MSTA!

Hope to see you there.

Bob Shields

Florida Rides in August

August 7, Saturday, 10am-11am – MSTA Florida Central Brunch Ride. Southeast Eatery, 3378 Cypress Gardens Rd, Winter Haven, FL 33884

This is a new place on the southeast side of Winter Haven near the old Cypress Gardens, now Lego Land. It's only about 15 minutes from our popular lunch spot, the Cherry Pocket. They opened about 8 months ago and are getting rave reviews for the breakfast and lunch. There's a little Greek twist to many of the meals. Contact: Bob Shields boju29@msn.com or (863)523-3626

August 21, Saturday, 9am-10am – MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride. Flora and Ella's, 550 State Highway 80, Labelle, FL

This is an oldie but goodie!! Come join us for a little of old Florida dining. Contact Van at (561) 386-2594 or busavan@flahsta.org .

For additional Florida events, [click here](#) to see Florida MSTA web site Events page.

MSTA web site information on "Just For Fun Events": [click here](#).

National MSTA www.ridemsta.com

Florida MSTA www.flahsta.org

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ALL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE PROVIDED BY THE CREDITED AUTHOR, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

C L A S S I F I E D A D S

Note: If you have bikes, gear or other motorcycle stuff, here's the place to hawk it!

Nothing for sale this month!