

The Florida HSTA Grapevine

you heard it through the grapevine

Volume 1 Issue 2

Events in February:

2 - Corky Bell's - Palatka
9 - Catfish Johnny's - Panasoffkee
23 - Flight Line Grill - Bartow

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www.ridehsta.com

Also, the award winning Florida
HSTA website at: www.flahsta.org

Florida Yahoo Group: [http://
groups.yahoo.com/group/FIAHSTA/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FIAHSTA/)

Feature Article : Gadgets and Farkles

by Buck DeShazo

It is not often that I get real excited about an aftermarket item for a motorcycle. After all I am known as the "Farkle King", right Sam?

I was beginning to get a little distraught about mounting my G.P.S. on the new Goldwing. I looked, looked, researched and researched some more and just could not come up with a system of mounting that was conducive to the sleek lines of the wing. I really liked the centerline mounting that I had on



the ST, however I could not find this arrangement for the wing. It seemed that every thing was targeted for the brake reservoir or the clutch reservoir and I was doomed to having this piece of electronic equipment setting on the outside edge of the cockpit. This is far from an ideal perch as you have to look away from your path of travel to verify position from the G.P.S. I could see this as a real safety problem. Add to this it looked like it was positioned as an afterthought with no real plan and that defiantly is not my venue as I am somewhat of a perfectionist. As a final act of desperation I asked someone for help. Rule 3 in the "Man's Book" is not to ask for directions, read the instructions, See BUCK, Page 2

New Members

We welcome the following new member this month:
Whit Hyde Jacksonville hitwyde@aol.com ST1300....
Introduced to HSTA by Craig Merritt.

Send Contributions, Comments, Classifieds, etc to:

Jim McClure: (JAMCCLUR3@aol.com)

or ask another man for advice. I do not know for sure who authored this book but I think his first name was Neanderthal. Now along came my brother-in-law , Doug, who suggested that I [look up the texelent system](#). This is a relatively new system out there and it is very well engineered and did exactly what I was looking for. It puts the G.P.S. in the centerline of the bike, is unobtrusive and really looks like a factory addition. (editor's note. The texelent system is the bar that runs from reservoir to reservoir in the pictures.)

Anyone who is looking to add electronic systems to their wing and keep the profile of the bike simple and stylish should investigate this system. I really like this system, it is well engineered and machined well and the fitment to the wing is Honda quality.

[Florida News from the Directors](#)

[South News](#)

The 5th Annual New Year’s Day lunch ride drew a big crowd of 40 people on what started out a somewhat iffy with the weather day, but turned into a beautiful day to start the new year. A good number of them joined up with my group ride out of Sun City Center as we searched out the best back roads in a never-ending quest to find the twistiest route to get to eat. Bill & Shirley Groleau joined us from their home in Largo and as a result, garnered the longest distance honors with 186 miles. There were many folks in the 130 range and just a handful who were in under 100 miles. Then came a special unexpected surprise. Sam Ulbing got everyone’s attention in order to make a presentation – turns out that Sam, with the help of a number of others members from around the state took up a collection in order to get an award plaque made to commemorate my seven year run as Newsletter Editor. The plaque has prints of the covers of my first and last issues, along with a name plate showing my name, the seven year span of the newsletter and the fact that it was a two time Best Newsletter award winner, and finally the inscription “The Florida HSTA Members Thank You”. The plaque is outstanding and I will cherish it always. I must say I was a bit overwhelmed. But, Sam wasn’t finished. It turns out that when the call for donations went out for the plaque, the response was so large that Sam had a problem – some left over \$\$\$.

Left over to the tune of \$240 which, I was informed, has only two conditions – 1. I must use the money for something(s) for my bike and 2. I have to write about the purchases in a newsletter article. I was pretty much speechless. I have often heard it said that this club has the best people and that is what makes it the club it is. Well if ever one needed an example, here it was. I am deeply moved by the sentiment and the actions taken by you all. See SOUTH, Page 3

Heard through the Grapevine:

- ➔ Sam Ulbing is helping the Supervisor of Elections in Alachua County train poll workers for the upcoming presidential primary elections. Have you registered to vote?
- ➔ Fanny is going on a round the world cruise stopping at 42 ports including Panama, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Cambodia, Dubai, Egypt, and the Mediterranean. Hope she checks out the motorcycle situations there.
- ➔ Rob Medwed was recently named president of CNL Investor Services Company
- ➔ Bob Shields has become the proud parent of a nearly new 2006 FJR “...to straighten up a bit and get out of the wind!”

What have you heard or what did you do that others might like to know about? Tell us so we can include it here.



To Sam for marshaling the troops to the idea, and all the donors who contributed my sincerest THANK YOU. In addition, I would like to thank everyone who ever submitted an article for the newsletter – it was only through and with your support that I was able to make the newsletter what it was.

Finally, I would like to thank every one who ever attended a lunch ride. Even in the months where I had no article submissions, I always had rides to write about and your participation makes that all possible. You are all truly the BEST!

Now, lets all get out and ride!

Also: I have updated the [website Events page](#) with what was originally to be the events calendar. An actual calendar turned out to be more than I can manage at the moment but I did manage to get a spreadsheet format, showing in date order HSTA local, HSTA National and other major events in a manner that should aid anyone looking to make a trip out of a string of events. Feedback is welcome!

North News

Bill Royal got a pleasant surprise at his annual New Year's ride. I had asked several members if they would like to contribute a few dollars as a 'thank you' to Bill for his 7 years of doing Gator Tale. The response was overwhelming and so I was able to present him with a [unique plaque and a gift certificate for \\$240](#). It is clear

that while Bill did not win a third National award, the Florida members thought his newsletter was the best.



The lunch ride at Caribbean Jack's was a great success with 28 rides coming from as far away as 244 miles! The food was a bit different from normal with items such as the Mahi BLT sandwich. Set right on the ICW the restaurant is also a marina and [as you can see from the photos](#) there were some large yachts at the dock. Member Rob Medwed keeps his boat there but unfortunately could not be at the lunch to show us his boat. I couldn't help wondering if one of the boats in the photo was his.

Response to a possible Spring Fling this year has been minimal hence it is going to be a very

informal event. It will be based out of Lake Park, Georgia which is just south of Valdosta and suggested date will be 11 and 12 April. See [Other Events, Page 6](#). Additional details to follow in next edition.



Ramblin' Around : by Phil Ridgdill

The Cold Weather has arrived here and I'm glad of that. Its just great to ride in the cool air, set of leathers makes it perfect. Ok, I know you guys in South Florida are laughing, you got the Balmy Winter Weather but we got the roads up here in N.FL. I don't mind the cold, down to about 32 degrees, after that I park the Bike. I can't imagine how the guys in Michigan, and Wisconsin ride in the winter.

I would imagine that all of you have heard of Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman and The Long Way Around. We have the complete Trip on Disc and we've watched it twice and enjoyed it even more the second time. If you haven't seen it, get the disc you'll really enjoy it.. They've completed another Adventure now, The Long way Down, John O'Groats to Cape Town SA. Carmel's Sister sent me the book and I've just finished reading it. The book is fascinating, people they meet along the way absolutely amazing. I think its best to get the book and read it, then get the disc, makes it so much more interesting. In my book, these guys are Adventurers. I've heard comments from other Motorcyclists, " Anybody could do this if they had all the support these guys had ", I don't think so. Sure, they had a lot of support but they were out there on their own quite a bit and witnessed the problems in Africa. Read the Book and get the disc I believe the consensus will be they are Adventurers.

Daytona is just around the corner, Bike week will be here in less than 60 days. Be sure and join us for the Daytona HSTA Lunch.

Ride Safe and Smart **Phil**

Want to Change Your Own Tires? : by Doug Pippin

One of the more expensive maintenance items for motorcycling is tires. Your life could depend on them so they need to be in good shape. Unlike automobile tires that can get 40,000 miles and more, motorcycle tires wear out much more quickly. With the modern high technical compounds and techniques used in their manufacture, motorcycle tires offer great traction in all the conditions: fast, slow, wet, dry, hot, cold, smooth, rough etc The trade off for this fantastic traction is increased tire wear. Depending on the type, the conditions you ride in, and the "fun factor" you apply (twisting your wrist) tires can last as little as 2,000 miles and very seldom exceed 10,000 miles. So if you ride a lot you'll be changing tires often.

Modern high tech tires are not inexpensive. One tire often costs 3 to 4 times that of a comparable automobile tire, so prudent motorcyclists are usually looking for ways to cut their tire budgets.

One way to do this is to purchase your tires through the Internet and change them yourself.

My first experience with motorcycles was as an off-road enduro rider and when tires wore out or needed to be replaced because of lack of traction I just took the wheel off, laid it on the ground and changed it using brute force and a few tire irons. This usually resulted in a few cuss words and some sore knuckles. It never entered my mind to take the bike to a shop to have the tires changed.

After many years of dirt bike riding I purchased a wrecked Honda 350CL that I repaired for my first road bike. I didn't ride it a lot as I was still heavily into dirt riding.

Eventually I sold the 350 and moved on to bigger bikes and started riding on the road more often. That's when I realized that tires were a major expense in my motorcycle habit. I found I could buy tires through the internet at much reduced cost and take them to a local independent shop to change and balance.

When this shop went out of business I tried to have my tires mounted at the local motorcycle shops but found that they would only change tires if you bought the tires from them at a much higher cost.

So I reverted back to changing them myself with a few modifications. See TIRES, Page 5

TIRES from Page 4

I bought a tire balance stand, a bead breaker, put a bolt through a big piece of plywood for a support stand, made up some adapters for the wheel to fit on so I could clamp the wheel down, and used tire irons and plastic rim protectors, and again brute force. This was a labor intensive method but I persevered for a few years and improved my tire changing technique.

Over time I found that I had accumulated several motorcycles so I was changing more and more tires.

I looked at purchasing a Coats 220 tire changer but balked at the \$800 plus cost. Then I heard about the Harbor Freight tire changer and bought the base unit and motorcycle adapter when they were on sale for less than \$70.

It took me a while to figure out how to use this machine to it's full potential. I read articles about tire changing, experimented with various tools and methods, made some modifications to the tire changer itself, and today I have a process that is quick and easy and lets me change tires at my convenience. I've even installed new tires for a trip, saving the not totally worn out ones to use again.

I usually keep a couple tires that are have a little tread left in the barn and on a few occasions have rescued fellow motorcyclists when they miscalculated their tire wear while riding in the mountains.

I also have this whole process documented with photos and descriptions in my [SmugMug account](#) double click on the first frame and page through the photos with descriptions.

I always shop for the best prices but here's a few places where I purchase tires; [Southwest Moto Tires](#)
[Chaparral-Racing](#) [Sportbiketracktime](#)

Ed. Note: This article is being used with permission of the author, Doug Pippin, who is the South East Regional Vice President of HSTA. Doug has extensive riding experience, both on and off road, and we very much appreciate this contribution of his knowledge and experience to this edition.

[Florida Rides this Month](#)

February 2 - 11:30 AM [Corky Bell's](#) see map here [131 Crystal Cove Dr, Palatka, FL 32177](#) (386) 325-1094. Approximate GPS N29 40.567 W81 39.350

Located on the St John's river this restaurant has a good reputation. Organized by Bob Fischer.

Please let him know if you plan to attend at: mbapool@bellsouth.net

February 9 [Catfish Johnny's](#) 11:45 AM, 2396 County Road 470, Lake Panasoffkee FL. 352-793-2083 .

From I=75, head west on CR470 3.1 miles. The restaurant will be on your left. Coming from State Road 44, head South on CR 470 6.5 miles. The restaurant will be on your right.

Approximate GPS- N28 47.482 W82 07.918 Scott Wingerter needs to know how many plan to attend so please let him know: vmax97@peoplepc.com

February 23rd – Flight Line Grill at Bartow Municipal Airport, Bartow, FL. 3383 Lunch at 11:30 AM Phone 863-519-5484 – Approx GPS N27 56.956 W81 46.908. Plenty of paved parking, motorcycle friendly small aero museum on premises. Contact: Bill Royal – ridefl@flahsta.org

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Upcoming HSTA Events

HSTA Daytona Bike Week (2008) Lunch will be Thursday, March 6th '08 at the Artisan Inn, Deland FL. Lunch will start at 11:30am, separate dining area, order off the menu, reserved parking for Bikes. The Artisan Inn is about 20-25 minute ride west of Daytona Speedway. The Inn is on US 17 South in Deland. Easy to find, from Daytona US92 west to US17 (Woodland Blvd), left turn on US17 proceed South on 17, Artisan Inn will be on your left approx 3-4 miles (215 S. Woodland Blvd.). www.delandArtisaninn.com , map on the site.

Also [here on Google Maps](#) if you want to get directions. Further information Contact,

Phil Ridgill, 904 287 9654 or 904 699 2447 or rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

Other Events

The 2008 Spring Fling will be held in Lake Park, Ga 11,12,13 of April. Since there appears to be only a small amount of interest it is not possible to get a group rate. There are 4 hotels just west of I-75 all within 100 yards of each other. BUT when I was up there scouting I got a special Jennings' rate at the Days Inn of \$55. Lee and I will be staying there. Short of the Hampton it seems to be the nicest hotel in town. There is a Quality Inn about half a mile away (but not easy walking distance due to traffic) which lists at \$49 and HSTA rate is \$39. I think the Days Inn is worth the difference, and it would be great if we could all stay at the same place.

Within a few yards of the group of 4 hotels are a Pizza Hut and a Cracker Barrel plus some fast food places. Within walking distance of the Quality are other restaurants like Shoney's and a local family restaurant.

Days Inn information: 229-559-0229. Tell them Dortha Smith, the manager, said our motorcycle group could have the Jennings rate of \$55. When I made reservations, the clerk said cancellation is 6 PM day of arrival.

You can get information on other hotels by [clicking here](#) or doing a Google on Lake Park hotels (the link is too long to copy and paste.)

I have a nice route laid out for Saturday and possibly will have time to find more. I also have routes to Lake Park from Gainesville and back on some nice back roads. I will locate a restaurant in the area where we can meet for lunch for those who want to ride up together. I plan to have Sunday brunch at White Springs, the Telford Inn, which has an awesome buffet on the way home.

More to follow. Sam Ulbing, co-director FL HSTA and Spring Fling organizer

Hey everybody, Faye and I came down to Pensacola on Christmas Day (yes we are snow birds) we plan on being here till we go to TX for STAR. I hope all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I've talked to Sam about having a N/W FL,S.AL,S.GA.or any place else lunch ride.I was thinking west of Tallahassee but if folks from Jacksonville etc.are interested we could meet around Tallahassee.I'm open to suggestions. Since I'm from MO. I don't know any restaurants, I need help there too. We would like to include as many people as possible from the great N/W so Tallahassee would probably be as far east to go, normally.We do not want to interfere with the normal N.FL.ride that goes on now,this would be a different Sat.I know that a lot of those rides are a long ride from the N/W.We plan on making some of them sometime though. If your interested in a get together please email me or call Home Phone 850-457-8176 Cell 636-297-5363 and we can talk about it. Thanks, Bobby Breuer

MORE EVENTS INFORMATION ON PAGE 7

More Events

HSTA has recently set up a web site which covers "Just For Fun Events". There will be much more information on this in the March '08 edition of THE GRAPEVINE, but we thought you might want to take an early look at it. The web address is <http://tinyurl.com/3dnxtf>. Let us know what you think!

Classifieds

Bikes

2005 LT, Excellent Condition, 33K miles, BMW Comm 2 System, Nav II GPS, XM Sat Radio, BMW CB Radio,PIAA 1100X Lights, Convenience Pkg, Heated Seats and Grips, KonTour Driver Seat, BMW Comfort Seat for Passenger, AM-FM-CD Changer, Cee Bailey WS, Run-N-Lites, 3 BMW Liner Bags, Mag's Bag for Top Case---\$16,500 Contact: Dennis--561-329-3257 or ipnman2002@yahoo.com

97 ST1100 ABS/TCS 22,018 miles Handlebar risers, BMW grips BW Streetpilot, aux fuse box, Honda volt meter, Works shock, wind deflectors with blind spot mirrors, BMW electrical plug, 60's Honda racing decal clear coated in, Acc shelf, 3m reflective tape on bags, 45°valve stems, fenda extenda, H4 headlight adapters, bungee buddies on bags, bag flopper stoppers. All fluids recent change, extra oil filter and service manual. New MEz6 front and ME880 on the rear with lots of tread left. Images [here](#). \$5300 or best offer Contact: Mitch - mitch96@pobox.com

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

1977 BMW R100RS with 32000 miles in good condition. BMW tank bag, saddle bags, small luggage rack, stock & tall windshields. \$4000.00 Contact: Art Bremer 352-464-2000 (st.ops@earthlink.net)

Gear

2005 VFR stock seat. Little used. \$25 plus shipping. [View Here](#). Sam Ulbing, n4uau@cox.net

ST1100 Rick Mayer seat - Black Vinyl for person 5'11 #190 32" inseam with bar risers... \$250 obo, you pay shipping. Escort Solo S2 radar detector (wireless) hardly used \$ 200 Images of both items at same Flickr site as listed in the 97 ST1100 ad. Contact: Mitch - mitch96@pobox.com

Corbin "Gunfighter & Lady" seat and backrest for ST1100. \$250.00 Contact: Art Bremer 352-464-2000 (st.ops@earthlink.net)

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

VarioBar Handlebar System. www.gillestooling.com , cut from high strength Aircraft Aluminium AL 7075. Can be used as clip ons, Multi Adjustable, this kit come with a 3 inch riser ext multi Adjustable, fits BlkBird/VFR or any bike with same diameter fork tube. Phil Ridgdill 904 287 9654 Email rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

Wanted

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

If you have any changes to your classified ad, please send them to jamcclur3@aol.com.

This section is for members who are planning to participate in STAR '08 in Kerrville, and would like to be in contact with other members regarding travel arrangements, riding groups, routes, equipment, etc. There will be two basic groups:

STAR '08
MEMBER BULLETIN BOARD

THOSE WITH FIRM (OR PRETTY FIRM) PLANS WHO ARE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER RIDER, ETC.

I'm looking for:

- someone to share rental of a double motorcycle trailer, and split travel costs, or
- someone to share a spot on your double trailer and split travel costs, or
- someone who wants to trailer one way and ride one way, or
- a group riding to Kerrville from Florida and willing to include another rider.

I have reservations for a 2-bed room at Y.O. ranch already. I'm willing to share the room.

If you have any other ideas on sharing the cost of travel between FL and Kerrville, I am interested in them.

Phil Kaminski (352) 383-3693 PhilCath@embarqmail.com

THOSE WHO ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGE AND STILL HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN TRAVEL DAYS, ACCOMMODATIONS, ETC.

Tom Blake	Valkaria, FL	tblake1@cfl.rr.com
Gary Gray	Spring Hill, FL	gary@grayinformationsolutions.com
Richard Hallam	Alva, FL	hallam17621@embarqmail.com
Mike Sistrunk	Ocklawaha, FL	stromenmeister@yahoo.com