

# The Florida MSTA Grapevine

You heard it through the Grapevine...

Volume 5 Issue 2

## Events in February

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### Contact Information:

#### **North Florida Director:**

Bill Royal – [RideFL@flahsta.org](mailto:RideFL@flahsta.org)

#### **South Florida Director:**

VanVanSteelant – [Busavan@flahsta.org](mailto:Busavan@flahsta.org)

#### **Grapevine Editor:**

Don Moe – [editor@flahsta.org](mailto:editor@flahsta.org)

## Feature Article

### **Flickr: Motorcycle Touring** A different way of meeting riders

By

Jim Park

Those of you who know me, know that I have a passion for two things, traveling via motorcycle and photography. Seems the two go pretty well together.

Several years back I discovered a photo site that was great for sharing your photography with others. There are many sites available to the avid photographer, but my personal favorite is *Flickr*.

*Flickr's* basic account is free and allows you to upload 2 videos and 300MB worth of photos each calendar month. The *Flickr Pro* account is basically unlimited posting of your photography at a reasonable rate of \$24.95 per year.

The *Flickr* site allows you to organize your photos into albums, collections and galleries. I have organized my site, for example, into four collections: Nature Photography, Family Photos, A Bit of This and That, and Two Wheel Trips. Each collection is then organized into individual albums, (i.e., 2001 West Trip, Local Rides, etc.). The site also allows you to geo-reference the location of your photograph. The map is displayed neatly along side of the photo depicting the regional location such as the country or city and then a much closer location showing the street level.

But what makes the site interesting is the ability to interact with other photographers. Not only can you view photos posted by others but you can comment or ask questions about the photograph.

While exploring the features of *Flickr*, I discovered the ability to set up a photo group. A group is where Flickr

### **Editor's Monthly Note:**

This newsletter issue is my first as editor of The Grapevine, and I look forward carrying on the high quality that Doug has achieved during his two-year tenure. We thank him very much for his service and his continued support through the monthly safety articles and any others that he wishes to contribute.

Now that [National MSTA website](http://www.nationalmsta.org) can manage user newsletter subscriptions for the state chapters, we urge you to go there immediately and enter your email address under "MSTA Newsletters" on the left side, select Florida (at least), and click on the submit button. Beginning with the March issue, we will rely on the national site to distribute all future newsletter editions.

As my first request, I ask everyone to submit articles, stories, sale items and other information of interest to the FL MSTA Grapevine. I wish you all safe and fun rides in 2012 and look forward to meeting you personally at the upcoming events! – Don Moe

members can post their photos according to the group guidelines and create group discussions. I chose to set up a “Motorcycle Touring” group. At the time I expected very little interest in the group, but boy was I wrong!

Today the motorcycle touring group has nearly 1500 members from all over the world, with over 15,000 contributing photographs and 80 discussion groups. There are members as far away as China, Iceland, Argentina, England and Viet Nam, just to name a few. The site has grown so large that I have a co-administrator (screen name Will Design Works), Koichi Takahashi.

Koichi lives in Yonezawa, Japan just 50 miles from the nuclear disaster. He was fortunate that he personally suffered minimal damage from the earthquake however some of his family members were forced to relocate to the Tokyo area for the safety of their children. I am trying to talk him into coming stateside one year to attend a STAR rally.

Last year I was able to meet with several *Flickr* members on my trip west. I met with a member in Washington for lunch and another member in Oregon, Chuck, who gave me a personal tour of the area on his 1974 BMW R90S but I had to pass on an invite to spend the evening with Priti, a molecular biophysicist and her husband in San Francisco due to a timing issue.

I have spent many enjoyable hours on *Flickr* both viewing photographs from around the world and reading comments from other avid two wheel travelers.

Take a moment and explore *Flickr*, better yet join the site. After all it free and you don’t get any spin off spam. The best feature however is the really interesting people you’ll meet!

**My photo site:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ridemyst/collections/>

**Motorcycle Touring Group:** <http://www.flickr.com/groups/motorcycletrips/>

## ***SAFETY TALK***

***IMPORTANT NOTICE: 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.***

### ***You and Your Motorcycle –***

#### ***It’s a Zen Thing***

You’ve probably reached it at some point in your motorcycling career. It is that time in your riding where you and the bike cease to become separate entities. Instead you feel like you and your mount are interconnected. How do you know when you’ve reached that point? It is actually very easy to describe. It is the point where you don’t even know you’ve been shifting but somehow you are suddenly in sixth gear. It is the point where you are looking far around the corner, but still know exactly where you are on the road. You can feel the traction of the tire on the road surface. You know exactly how much lean angle you have in the tight, decreasing radius curve, and how much farther you can push the bike. You forget about shifting by the tachometer, or checking the gear position indicator. You shift by feel and sound. Instinctively you know when you are in the middle of the power band. You and the bike are truly one. If you haven’t yet achieved this higher state of motorcycling consciousness, you’re in for a treat when it finally happens.



Bike pointed in one direction, rider in another, but both in sync.

So what does this have to do with safety? Again, it is pretty easy. When you reach the stage of mind melding with your metal steed (*Forgive me, Mr. Spock*), it frees your mind and eyes to reach out and understand the riding environment.

We can focus on the traffic and road conditions around and ahead of us. If we're in traffic, it allows us to search ahead and hopefully predict what the other drivers and vehicles may *do (right out of the MSF manual, only hopefully even at a higher level)*. It lets us see and feel the riding environment, understanding it almost instinctively.

So how do we achieve this higher state of motorcycling consciousness, and add to our safety margin? Once again, it is not difficult. We ride...and ride...and ride. It doesn't happen just taking the bike out for a weekend spin. A Saturday afternoon jaunt to the local poser hangout won't do it. You need to spend time with your beloved mount. Ride in all weather conditions. Learn your true limits as well as those of your bike. Get advanced training. Pick the brains of other riders. Most will be only too happy to oblige! **Just get out and ride!**

*Doug Westly – Safety Editor*

## **Request for STAR2012 Volunteers**

MSTA VP Dennis Villarose has requested volunteers to assist at STAR2012 in Avon, Colorado. Here are some of the positions: welcome teams, filling STAR packets, and registration. Your efforts would only require one hour out of the whole week. Of course, offers to do more would certainly be welcomed! The point being, one hour from 30 people makes a big difference, rather than wearing out one or two people for 15-30 hours!

Anyone interested in volunteering at STAR2012 should contact Van or Bill. Thanks!

## **Florida News**

### **South Director's Report**

Greetings to all you lucky riders!!! Have you looked at the weather outside of Florida lately??? Wow, are we in the right spot at the right time!! First, welcome our new newsletter editor, Don Moe. He has graced us with his talents, and we are grateful for his time and efforts!

This month's South Lunch ride actually started as a breakfast ride. A small group of us met up for a GPS seminar and light breakfast at Panera's. Great info, especially for the less adept at the fine art of route creation! No names, but yours truly was very happy to be there that morning!! We departed from there on our newly created route to Big Bertha's, taking the long way round, arriving just behind the Port Charlotte group!!

It was a bit nippy to enjoy the pool, or the el-fresco dining options!! But we were able to command a table for 20, which warmed the place right up! By the time we all were chowing down on our orders, we had 24 hearty souls happy to be in such good company! The conversations continued longer than usual, no doubt because of the participants, and not the cool weather waiting for our return rides home. You know, I over heard people making plans for the North GA Classic, STAR, and beyond! It's only January!! "I love it when a plan comes together!" – The A team.

One of the highlights of the lunch was the unveiling of the NEW FL. MST A T-SHIRT!! In the "flesh" even! We have been promoting our member shirt for a few weeks, and will do so until every last one of you has 5 of them hanging in your closet. OK, how about ONE!?! We are closing in on our initial order requirement, so the sooner you send in your size and check, to sooner we all get to sport our new look!

One reason to have a FL member shirt is to let us stand out in the crowd when we are at the regional and national events. Imagine the impact of 30-50 members sporting our “colors” at STAR! And to add to that great impression, if we are seen in our shirts while fulfilling an hour or two of volunteer work, we just might inspire some other states to step up and serve during STAR as well! If many spend just an hour helping out, the burden will not overwhelm the few! Let Bill or myself know when you can help out, and we will coordinate with our EXEC VP to make the most of your efforts. Remember, that VP is our own Dennis Villarose!

Be sure to look at our State Website for upcoming events!! We have lunches/brunches scheduled. We have a Daytona lunch ride scheduled! We will have a presence once again at Ride Into History, this May. We have some volunteers lined up to man our booth, but we need a few more. This is a spectacular event, and Japanese Bikes are the theme of the show this year! We can only imagine what we will see this year....

And if you have something that makes your heart race, send an email to Bill or me, and we will try to include it in the schedule. I know that six of us had a blast attending a Lee Park’s Total Control Class a while back, and they are very interested in helping many more of us have the same experience! Bob Shields has maintained a “conversation” with the owners, and they have several ways to help us become better, safer riders. And now is the time to take their classes, as the range gets mighty hot in the summer!

ATGATT Van

### North Director’s Report

It was a GREAT day for a ride and it showed - we left Sun City Center with some dozen or so bikes. Despite the large group we managed to stay together pretty well most of the way. We did make one unplanned stop, but we used only as much time as we had already cut off the schedule so we arrived exactly on time as planned at the Shamrock Pub in Davenport, FL. There were already several riders/bikes there and shortly after we arrived several more came streaming in, to put us at approximately 30 or so riders!



We took over nearly the entire parking lot at the Shamrock Pub...

We had no less than three Go-Pro Hero HD cameras on 2 bikes on the trip there so hopefully we’ll have some pix and maybe even video to share too.

The venue was nice with plenty of paved parking and plenty of room, both inside and out. We all opted for lunch on the patio. The service was good, though with this many orders the kitchen was strained so there was a pretty good spread in when various folks got their food. Most of the comments I heard about the food was that it was very good, especially the burgers.



As well as the entire patio area!



Jim Park shows off the new FL MSTA T-Shirt at Big Bertha’s.

I showed around the new Florida T-Shirt while we waited for our food and folks liked it, so much so that I ran out of order forms! Call or email [Jim Park](#) if you didn't get one and if you did take one and didn't turn it in to me at the lunch be sure to send it to Jim ASAP so we can get the order in soon and all together! [Ed: the order form is also on page 7 of this issue.]

As always time to leave came way too soon, and by 1:00 folks were starting to trickle away towards home. My large group saddled up and headed home down US27 and eventually through some nice twisty roads into Winter Haven. We eventually got home, though it proved to be more of a chore keeping everybody together than it had on the way there. Despite losing half the group at the end of Agricola Rd, everyone made it home safe and sound and I hope ready for another day.

We still really need ride coordinators who could set up rides in the northern section of the State, maybe even an additional one for rides in the panhandle area too! It's a perfect excuse to plan your own ride so come on and get involved! Pick a place and date and let us know and then just ride there. It's that simple. Call or email me (Bill Royal) if you are interested.

Also, STAR 2012 is coming up in June in Avon, Colorado. If you haven't registered yet, there's still time. The Christie Lodge is a great venue and Avon is a superb location to base your adventures in Colorado and nearby states.

Bill Royal  
'91 ST1100 - "SilverSTreak"  
STOC #1137 MST A #9359 IBA #31709  
<http://silverstreakst.net>

## **Florida Rides This Month**

### **MSTA Florida South Lunch Ride**

When: Sat, February 11, 2012, Noon-1:00pm  
Where: Stan's Idle Hour, 221 Goodland Dr. W., Goodland, FL ([map](#))  
Description: It's been a while since we made our way to Stan's! This water front dining establishment has been around forever, and so has a great following. If this is your first visit, you are in for some grins and good food!!  
Contact: Van at 561-386-2594 or [busavan@flahsta.org](mailto:busavan@flahsta.org)

### **MSTA Florida Central Lunch Ride**

When: Sat, February 18, 2012, Noon-1:00pm  
Where: Sebring Diner - 4040 US-27 S Sebring, Fl, 33870 ([map](#))  
Description: An old-time diner with great food, easy to find, paved parking and lots of ways to get there!  
Contact: Bill Royal [RideFL@flahsta.org](mailto:RideFL@flahsta.org) or 813-633-8155

For additional Florida events and information, [click here](#) to see Florida MST A web site Events page.

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

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*National MST A* [www.sporttouring.us](http://www.sporttouring.us)

*Florida MST A* [www.flahsta.org](http://www.flahsta.org)

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## More Contact Information

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**Bill Royal**  
North Director and Webmaster  
1521 New Bedford Dr.  
Sun City Center, FL 33573  
813-633-8155

**Paul "Van" VanSteelant**  
South Director  
217 S.E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Boynton Beach, FL 33435-4522  
561-386-2594

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

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# Mystery Hyperlink of the Month

This month's Mystery Hyperlink was suggested by Jim Park.

## **CLASSIFIED AD**

### **Bike For Sale**

2004 BMW R1150RT ABS, Loaded, Great Bike! \$7500. ☎407-325-7205 in Orlando.

This motorcycle is in excellent condition, a great way to own a fine BMW for less than you would expect to pay! Since this bike has only 17,303 miles, it is still very young for a BMW. Mechanically it is completely sound and runs terrific. Both tires are in good shape, and everything else on this bike is fine. It has an electric adjustable windshield, dual 12-volt power outlets, and heated grips. The seat is very comfortable. This machine is set up to travel, with quick-release BMW locking hard saddlebags and a locking waterproof top case already installed. If you think that you might want a BMW sport tourer, this is a great way to own one without a huge price tag. Extras include: Taller Cee Bailey windshield, premium removable saddlebag liners, RAM mounts at three locations, outside air thermometer.



## **Get Your Florida MSTA Tee Shirt!**



These great looking forest green shirts will be available to the Florida MSTA members and yes you can even have it with a pocket if you want! We will be printing the shirts in bulk so we can pass the savings on to you.

Order before February 12, 2012 to receive the discounted price of \$20, plus shipping.\* After this date prices may vary.

\*You can avoid shipping costs by picking up your shirt at a MSTA lunch meeting.

### **Complete the order form below**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Size/amount: \_\_\_XXL \_\_\_XL \_\_\_L \_\_\_M \_\_\_S

Pocket? \_\_\_ Yes, I want a pocket \_\_\_ No, I don't want a pocket

Shipped? \_\_\_ Please ship, I have included the additional cost \_\_\_ No, I will pick it up at the next lunch

\$20/shirt X \_\_\_ = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Shipping \$5.00 or \$8.00 for two shirts (Optional)

Total Amount Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Mail Check to: [Jim Park](#), 761 Whipoorwill Terrace, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

**BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS IF YOU WANT IT MAILED!!!**