



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

January 2006



Riding Through 2005

Submitted By: Eve Blazsur

At the end of another year it is hard to believe how quickly time passes. This year of 2005 was filled with rides to familiar and new places, filling almost 19,000 miles for me.

We started off the new year on January 1st with another annual lunch ride to Ozello, FL. The ride was quite popular with over 40 folks, HSTA members and non-members who enjoyed riding and lunching together. Also in January was another annual ride to Key West, FL. Great seafood and the obligatory photo at the most southern point in the US was the name of this game. And as an extra bonus we got a private tour of Homestead Raceway as the formula cars were wrapping up a practice session. The view from the upper outside deck where the spotters stand is awesome.

The next major event was the first Tallahassee Spring Fling hosted by Sam Ulbing. It was such a success we are planning to attend the 2nd Spring Fling in April of 2006.

After Tallahassee it was on to Biloxi, MS (a new destination) and New Orleans, LA (revisited after 35 years). In hindsight this trip gave new meaning to the phrase "don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today". I am so glad that I have fresh memories of these two cities prior to their current states of devastation.

June provided a double-header ride, our national STAR in Lexington, KY and the Honda Hoot in Knoxville, TN. Lexington, KY was a brand new destination for me and gave new meaning to the term "horse country" with beautiful rolling hills, stately farms and stables, and the obligatory tour through a bourbon distillery. This was my second year for the Honda Hoot but I took ad-

vantage of different local attractions, national forests, and previously unriden local roads.

HSTA lunch rides rounded out a hot July and August. I always enjoy our club lunches where the socializing is foremost and time is spent catching up with new and old friends.

On to September which was my first SE STAR at Dillard, GA. with a great location, great folks, great hotel, and great riding. I smiled every day with our itinerary of parks, waterfalls, twisty roads, and superb weather. I can't wait until next year to ride and see even more of what this lovely area has to offer.

October's ride was a joint effort with FL and GA members creating the first dual-state invitational weekend to St. Simons Island, GA. A smaller number of riders offered a more intimate gathering, and the location offered us a day ride to Savannah, GA. All in all the weekend was a success although too short as is the case most often.

November rounded out the year with more lunch rides. You'd think we would weigh in at a gazillion pounds with all the eating we do, but we always manage to ride it off. And December provided the world's largest toy run with over 35,000 riders donating toys for children. We attend this event about every three years. That seems to be enough time to let us forget the potential peril of riding with 35,000 riders and only remember the great time we all had.

Which brings us to the new year and I want to wish everyone a very safe and happy new year filled with new adventures that great memories are made of.

This 2 time award winning newsletter is produced and edited by:
Bill Royal
HSTA Florida Newsletter Editor

Web Addresses:

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

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

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

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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!

No new members this month

Free Ads

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

For Sale Gear

Tour Master Cortech GX Air mesh summer riding pants.

Women's size small, tag says small 8-10 but this is a very small 8-10. Removable padding, washable, sold as is, great condition. \$80.00 & you pay shipping. Paid \$169.00 new. Pants legs are too short for me, but provide great air circulation for summer riding. Contact me by email: ebloeday@mindspring.com or phone: 813-633-8155. I can send a photo or bring them to a lunch ride.

Other

2003 FunMover 35C (toy hauler w / living space) - Ford F650 / Cat diesel / Allison 6 sp - 8x10 cargo area (2 bikes) - Power lift - Diesel Generator - 1 Slide out - Sleeps <6 - Sat TV - Roof-top observation deck - many, many extras - 37K miles - Ext Warr - Exc Cond - \$93,500. Jim, FL - 352.324.0569 - jamcclur3@aol.com

Adjustable Hook & Loop Heated Grip pads, \$30.00 - Phil Ridgill 904 287 9654, rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

2 Michelin Pilot Sport 130/70 ZR-16 tires. Selling for \$50 each, buyer to pay shipping if your not local.

1 1996 to 1998 CBR900RR Honda Service Manual including a parts microfiche CD \$10 buyer responsible for shipping. Contact: Doug Pippin 828-684-8488 or dpippin5@bellsouth.net

North News

Submitted By: Sam Ulbing

The December ride to Newberry's Backyard BBQ set a near record with 42 people. Bill Royal again brought a large group from the south and because I see some of you only once a year, I forget names. Did you know that for only \$9 you can get an 'official' HSTA name tag from: Arthur Phillips, 7 South Fillmore St, Beverly Hills, FL, 34465? Art prefers money orders but will take checks from HSTA members. (Add \$3 if you want magnetic attachment) The tag looks like the photo and you can even add your town. I wish more members would wear name tags. It would also make it easier for prospective members who are meeting lots of new people at the same time.

I am about to place an order for Florida HSTA shirts. They will be identical to the ones we got last time but I am asking for a better quality shirt so the cost will be slightly more, around \$15. Let me know ASAP if you want one.



Put April 7- 9, 2006 on your calendar for the Second Annual Spring Fling which will be located in Thomasville, Ga. Thomasville is only about 40 miles NE of Tallahassee and has less traffic and more country roads. Details will follow.

If you have not joined the FL HSTA Yahoo Group, you are missing out. There is a database of who in Florida is going to STAR 06 and in the spring we'll have one for Helen. This can help you hook up with others. I am currently conducting a poll on which restaurants the members liked best. There are photos of many of the events and various members and their bikes. This group offers you a way to contact all the members and it is free to join. If you don't like getting emails from groups, you can turn off the email option.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FIAHSTA/>

You all have read Paul VanSteelant's article about his near disastrous interaction with a truck. This and the fact that a number of experienced members nationally have had serious accidents convinces me that we need to run an Experienced Riders MSF class for our members. When is the last time you practiced panic stops, swerving, low speed turns or stopping in the middle of a turn? These are the kinds of skills that need to be practiced and the course does just that. SO: I am looking for a volunteer to organize and coordinate one. Ideally it would be centrally located but if not perhaps we can turn it into a mini ride event, the Ride and Learn Event. If you would like to volunteer let me know, this spring would be an ideal time for it. Honda Riders Club will reimburse much of the cost of the course and perhaps the HSTA Don Clark fund would also recognize it as a safety related item for their award program.

Jan 21, 2006 12 noon Gator Joe's, Ocklawaha, FL. Location: 12431 SE 135th Ave, Ocklawaha, FL. At the intersection of CR25 and 314A turn toward the lake. The restaurant is on the lake. GPS: N29 02 26.0 W81 55 42.4

Feb 12: Floyds, High Springs NOTE this is a change from the schedule shown in the last news letter. It is a SUNDAY lunch ride as some members have said Saturday is not a good day for them. We will see how it works out.

March ?? Here's your chance to recommend a new lunch ride.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Remember to ride safely.

Retrospective

Submitted By: Bill Royal

For the year 2005, the HSTA Florida chapter sponsored 19 lunch rides to 18 different destinations. We had a total attendance of 526 attendees, who rode 54,807 miles ONE-WAY to attend the events. 68% of the attendees were HSTA members! Four of the rides drew more than 40 attendees!

102 members made 1 or more rides, with 31 making 5 or more, and 13 making 8 or more. The top 5 attendees (all at 10 rides or more) were: Bill Royal - 18, Eve Blazsur - 14, Bob Shields - 12, Sam Ulbing - 11, and Bob Nisczak - 11.

We added more members than we lost to close out the year at 102 FL newsletter recipients. For a state this size we really should have way more and we hope to get there by continuing to do what we are doing and then adding some more. We had two other weekend events that were well attended - well, OK, one was less than stellar, but considering the hurricane knocking on the door that weekend, it was still remarkable!

We had a good representation at STAR with ~ 24 members attending, which was good enough to get us 3rd or 4th for attendance by state if I recall correctly. This year will be a challenge for us because of the location - Avon, CO. Don't let that stop you! Some folks will trailer out, others are definitely riding. Speak up now if you have any interest as you can likely tag along on the adventure of a lifetime. We also managed to eke out the top attending state at the SE-STAR in Dillard. Way to go. I know I saw a lot of you there and I didn't see anyone who wasn't having a great time.

As always, it is the membership that really makes a club work or not. By participating you are the fuel that makes the club engine run so make an effort to get out there and join in the fun. And

even better, if you can afford a few cycles, we can use some help making the club go. By that I mean it would be great if we had some folks step up to lead some rides in addition to what Sam and I already put on. Or, if I could get someone to take over the newsletter, that would free me up to do other new things. Whatever you can do, please think about it. I know I get lot of enjoyment out of what I give to the club and I know you could too!

Ride Safe, Ride Smart, Ride Home!



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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 South Lunch Ride - January 14th, 2006 - Jack's Diner, Frostproof, FL.** Lunch at Noon. 18 W Wall St. (Just off US27A/SR17 right in the center of town) GPS: N27° 44' 45.38 W81° 31' 50.73" in hddd° mm'ss.s° format. - Phone: 863-6351912
Contact: Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

Future South Rides/Dates: TBD

Escape to the Conch Republic - Jan 21st, 2006 - Florida City/Key West/Miami - Weekend Event sponsored by the Concours Owners Group - Southeastern Region. We did this last year and had a ball! The event is based out of Florida City, with a Saturday jaunt down to Key West and back. Some folks may stay in Key West Saturday evening, others will go back to Florida City to party at the hostel. Sunday morning is a breakfast at South Beach in Miami. Check it out at: <http://www.concours.org/se/specialpages/escapetoconcrepublic.htm> or
Contact: Pauli at paul.heydemann@netzero.net

♦ **HSTA Florida North Lunch Ride - January 21st, 2005 - Gator Joe's, Ocklawaha, FL.** Located 12431 SE 135th Ave, Ocklawaha, FL. At the intersection of CR25 and 314A turn toward the lake. The restaurant is on the lake. GPS: N29 02 26.0 W81 55 42.4 in hddd° mm'ss.s° format. Contact: Sam Ulbing n4uau@cox.net or 352-262-6221

Future North Rides/Dates: Feb 12 (Sunday!) – Floyd's in High Springs March - ???

Upcoming Rides/Events

(Continued from page 3)

◆ 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
Feb 17-19	Ride the Rio: El Duodecimo	Chisos Mining Co Motel Terlingua, TX 432-371-2254	Dave Gorham 281-996-5043	www.ridetherio.com cycledog@sbcglobal.net
April 7-8	T - 18	Queen Wilhemina Lodge/State Park 1933 Hwy 270	Becky Wing 501-824-3413 (h) 501-824-5738 (w)	bwing@pgtc.com www.hpnt.net/T/T-home.htm
April 28-30	Helen North Georgia Classic	Alpenhof Hotel 15 Yonah Street Helen, GA 800-535-8678	Eric Larsen 770-805-0607 enlarsen@bellsouth.net	http://bellsouthpwp.net/p/l/pippin01/helen/page1/htm
May 5-7	AR By Way Boogie	Hot Springs Village Inn 4429 N. Hwy 7 Hot Springs Village, AR 501-992-9600 or 888-922-9601	Robert Bashaw 870-460-9570	artravlr@searth.net
Not Yet Known	Twistar 2006			
May 26-29 (4 days)	Tri-Star	Allegheny Inn Sparta, NC 888-372-2501	Galen Diehl 276-647-3162 gdiehl@kimbanet.com	http://bellsouthpwp.net/p/l/pippin01/tristar/page1.htm
June 18-21	STAR 2006	The Christie Lodge Avon, Colorado	Mike Morris (Registrar) 580-745-2294 (w) 580-924-6878 (h)	mikemelody@netcommander.com
August 4-6	Nolichucky Valley Rally	Holiday Inn Express Erwin, TN	Richard Giddish 423-245-5558 (home) rickandnick@hartern.net	http://webpages.charter.net/jrandall/erwin/erwin.htm
Aug 25-27	Mail Pouch Fly By	Best Value Inn (formerly Knights Inn) Marietta, OH	Jon Campbell 513-932-3341 (home)	
Sept. 8-10	Ozarks BS Rally	Theodosia Marina & Resort Highway 160 Theodosia, Missouri	Ed & Linda Young 417-926-3075 magna@fidnet.com	http://come.to/The Ozarks BS Rally
Sept. 15-17	River City Ride	Hotel not yet determined Kentucky	Gary Dehner 606-233-0321 (o) 606-223-9117 (h)	g.dehner@insightbb.com
Sept. - 22-24	SE Star	Holiday Inn Express 64 White Oak Lane Dillard, Georgia 706-746-3585	Trey Hall 615-367-6495 Strey1100@aol.com	
Sept. 29- 10-01	Friends of Freddie - XIII	Tradition Inn Intersection of Hwy 67 & W Farmington, MO 877-355-6205	Bob LaMear 636-938-3788	racerboy@fms4u.com
Nov. 3-5	Texas Hill Country Ride	YO Ranch Resort 2033 Sidney Baker Kerrville, TX 78028 877-967-3767	Joe Paolili 830-537-5552 joep@beecreek.net	http://michelleandjoe.com/hsta.htm