

The Florida HSTA Grapevine

you heard it through the grapevine

Volume 1 Issue 1

Events in January:

1- Ozello New Year's Day Ride
12- Caribbean Jacks, Daytona

details on page 4

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HSTA website at: www.flahsta.org

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

Feature Article

From the Editors

We want to thank Bill Royal for all his fine work with the Gator Tale. It is with some trepidation that we are following in his footsteps.

The new Florida newsletter is going to be electronically oriented and hopes to take advantage of the many benefits available to electronic newsletters. For instance there are hyperlinks in the issue that will allow you to access web sites. Under Classifieds Mitch has pictures of his ST1100 on Flickr. If you click on his link (the word HERE) you can see them. If you submit an article with photos and references we

will make them hyperlinks. For instance you may have several photos (as Jim's Kerrville article does) the newsletter only has room for one of the photos in reduced size but if you click on the photo you will be able to view all the photos.

We want this to be a newsletter *by the members* and hope to only edit it not create all the articles. In order for this to happen WE NEED YOUR INPUT or we will not have much of a newsletter. Note we have a new section called Heard Through the Grapevine. As you will see it contains snippets of items concerning our members that might be of
(Continued on page 3)

New Members

There are no new members to introduce this month.

If anyone has changes to make for the Bluebook, please send them to Dick Parker at parkerrk1@comcast.net by January 15th.

Send Contributions, Comments, Classifieds etc to:

Jim McClure: (JAMCCLUR3@aol.com)

Florida News from the Directors

North News

The turn out for Petrillo's lunch event was good at 28. I thought the food was very good and the service was friendly. Some people did have a few issues with being served late, but I suspect this was because we had nearly 50% more attendees than the restaurant expected. You couldn't have asked for better riding weather, wish it would be that way all year long!



Illustration 1: Petrillos Trenton FL, click for more pictures

Heard through the Grapevine:

- ➔ John Cali recently completed a course at the Jennings Race Track
- ➔ Mike Peppin just got back from a trip. He took the Auto Train to Washington and then rode back on the Blue Ridge. He reports that one morning the temperatures were 20F.
- ➔ Fannie Hanie just returned from a visit to Belgium. She reports that she did not get to ride but visited a lot of friends.
- ➔ Larry Fitch got a promotion at work and now reports he is busier than ever.
- ➔ Bob and Cheryl Fischer went on a boat cruise and spent two days at sea with tropical storm Noel. Bob got sick and could not speak for four days.
- ➔ Gerry Stellwagen had a 'discussion' with a left turning truck. The truck won and Gerry has a broken leg and collar bone but is recuperating at home.

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

[In last months North News](#) I asked if there was any interest in holding a Spring Fling the weekend of April 11. Because STAR is also in April this year I suspect many will be going there. To date I have had **NO** response so I am assuming there is not enough interest to hold one this year. If you are interested and think you might attend, let me know. If we have enough interest I'll organize one. Sam

Thanks to the efforts of Jim McClure we are able to continue doing a newsletter. Jim is hoping to receive a lot of member contributions so that he has a variety of stuff to publish. Please send him any items you think might be of interest to other members.

South News

I made two lunch rides in December. The Trenton ride I had a large turnout to make the trip up and we had a great ride. The terrific weather probably had something to do with it. The restaurant was a little overwhelmed, but considering that 10 more showed than they were told, it wasn't so bad. I had a really twisty back road return which apparently was too much so—we kept shedding riders off due to needing to get home sooner such that our original 10 or so was down to 4 by the actual end of the ride. It was a nice 356 mile day. *(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 1)

interest to others. This affords members an opportunity to contribute without having to write a lengthy article. We also hope to establish a “Gadgets and Farkels” section where you can post brief reviews of various motorcycle gadgets you have tried and liked or disliked. We want to include a “Tech Tips” section with topics such as how to change a tire, tune a motor, adjust suspension and that sort of stuff where our experienced members can help those who are not quite sure of how to do some of these things. All this needs your input!

This new style newsletter will be an evolving thing as we learn how to do it and we are open to suggestions. Please send comments and contributions to Jim McClure. (JAMCCLUR3@aol.com)



RAMBLIN AROUND

What’s your Passion, New Bikes, Sport Bikes, Cruisers, Dual Sport, Sport Touring machines or Vintage Bikes? Sport Bikes are getting lighter, more powerful and I hope tyre science can keep up with this sort of progress. When you look at the new Busa, GSXR 1000, 750 and 600, the new Ninja’s from Kawasaki and the new Honda CBR 1000R, 600RR, Yamaha R1, R6, these bikes are all fantastic machines, makes you wonder where the line will be drawn on all this power. Seems like everyone makes a Dual Sport, or what they would like you to think is a Dual Sport. Cruisers, the motors are getting some big HP, a bit too much HP for the weight and wheelbase. Of course, if you live in the land of straight line roads, I guess its ok. I would surmise that this type of machine is the most popular bike in the USA. Dual Sport Bikes, this is where there are some big differences. BMW, KTM, Kawasaki and Suzuki offer excellent machines. So many options, I would have one of each if I could. If you’re a motorcyclist, you can’t go wrong with any of the new Motorcycles on the market today.

My Uncle Bud gave me my first ride on a motorcycle, can’t remember how old I was. I can remember riding down a dirt road; don’t know what kind of motorcycle it was, I do remember it had what I thought was a big seat. It sure beat the %\$&* out of my bicycle, great fun. When I was in High School, I would “borrow “ a motorcycle every once in awhile and have a little fun and return it. By this time the bug had me. Fast Forward to the late fifties, in Japan (courtesy of Uncle Sam) we would rent motorcycles and ride them like mad men, it was great fun, a bit crazy but great fun. It was in the US during mid sixties when I bought my first bike, which I thought was the best thing on wheels. When I look back and think about these bikes, they were complete rubbish when you compare them to the new bikes offered today.

Today, if you have \$72,000 large you can purchase a V-4 MotoGP Replica that is street legal. I guess what I’m trying to say is, this is the time to be a motorcyclist. I’m sure it will get better but with what’s offered today, I don’t know how.

We’re having a change here in Florida with the Florida Gator Tale. It seems like yesterday when Henry Custer and I had a meeting with Bill Royal about taking over the Florida HSTA Newsletter but it was 7 years ago. Henry had been taking care of the newsletter for quite some time and we were fortunate that Bill Royal stepped up and took it over. If you have a look at the National HSTA site and check out all the local newsletters, the Florida Gator Tale is way out in front. We all, here in Florida, owe Bill Royal for all the effort he put into the State HSTA Newsletter. A job well done, Thank you Bill and Thank you Eve also, I know you put a big effort into this. We all appreciate what the both of you have done for the HSTA (FL).

Ride Safe & Smart, Phil Ridgdill

Florida Rides this Month

Jan 1st 12 Noon - HSTA Florida 5th(?) Annual New Year's Day Lunch Ride - Old Port Cove, Ozello (Crystal River), FL. Located at 139 N Ozello Trl (CR 494) in Crystal River, FL. This is a great location to start your riding year off right. Ozello Trail is also known as the "Deal's Gap of Florida" and you'll have to ride it to the end to get to this place. Let's hope the weather treats us a little better this year! GPS: N28 51.477 W82 40.095 Contact: Bill Royal - RideFL@flahsta.org or (813)633-8155



Jan. 12th - 11:30 AM - [Caribbean Jack's, \(click for google map\)](#) - 701 Ballough Rd, Daytona Beach, FL 32114, 386-523-3000, Approx GPS N29 13.570 W81 01.417. *Please let Mike Peppin know if you are planning to attend.* (MikePepin1@aol.com)



Weekend of Jan. 19-20 COG Escape to the Conc Republic V -

How "low" can ya go? Cruz down with us to Key West so ya can say, BTDT.

Leaving: 8am Saturday 1/19/08 From: Quick Mart Mobil (used to be Chevron), 16 N Krome Ave, Florida City 33034, 305-245-8981. This is on the corner of SR997 (Krome Ave/SW 177 Ave) & SR9336 (Palm Dr/SW 344 St), 1 block W of US1, and 1 block S of the end of the FL Turdpike Extension (SR821).

Destination: Half Shell Raw Bar, 231 Margaret St, Key West 33040, 305-294-7496. This is at Lands End Marina near the corner of Margaret & Caroline. ETA will be 11am. See [their web site here](#). Note - these are not "group rides". After lunch there'll be time for playing tourist, get a pic at the Southernmost Point, etc...then we're rollin back to Florida City. Fun/budget accommodations are available 1 block W of the above Mobil that can also handle camping: Everglades Hostel, 20 SW 2nd Ave, Florida City 33034, 305-248-1122, 800-372-3874. Book online at <http://www.evergladeshostel.com/accommodations.htm>. Enter COG in Special Requirements so they can keep us nutcases together.

The next morning we'll take the scenic route thru Mijami to breakfast in kewl South Beach... Leaving: 7am Sunday 1/20/08 From: above Mobil Destination: Front Porch Cafe, 1418 Ocean Dr, Miami Beach 33139, 305-531-8300. ETA will be 8am. See <http://www.miamibeach411.com/Restaurants/frontporch.html>. Hope to seeya there...enjoy the ride! Paulie, Mijami Floriduh, '01 Conc, COG, HSTA, MTF paul.heydemann@netzero.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

STAR '08 – KERRVILLE, TX

What you need to know about riding in Hill Country!

Submitted by Jim McClure

“There ain't no stinking hills in Texas” a friend told me. He was wrong! Here's hoping many from HSTA – Florida will be able to get out to STAR '08 to see for yourself. If you have not been out that way before, I would encourage you to make a real effort to participate in this event and ride some of the most unique roads you will find anywhere. I have been out there three times for a total of about two weeks, and have enjoyed it each time. Each trip has been different. The first time I was there in the month of April, and the second and third times in July and August, respectively, and I can happily report that April is much better from a weather standpoint. I did a write-up on my trips out there in '03 and it can be found in the [December 2003](#)



issue of the Florida Gator Tale. That *Illustration 2: To see more pictures click here.* article will give you some insight as to the better roads (they're all good), what you might expect to find on the road surface (how 'bout coming around a curve at about 60mph and finding a bunch of cattle out in the road?), and something about points of interest in Hill Country. The third time I was there, in August '05, I found a road with pretty steep hills and was concerned that if someone were heading up hill, riding two up, and popped the throttle for a second or two, they just might end up riding solo! If you ask, I'll tell you which road that is. Sam Ulbing also wrote about Hill Country in the [December 2005](#) issue when he rode out with Chuck Headrick.

If you have any specific questions, please let Sam or me know. We'll try to answer them and you may end up providing the topic for another article on STAR '08.

(Continued from page 2) The ride to Goodland, well that was another story altogether. The weather was, well a bit threatening, but it wasn't raining when I went to the Winn Dixie for the start. I was the only one there! I waited until it was time to leave-and I was still the only one there! So, I left alone prepared for the ride and hoping the weather would hold – and it did. It actually got clearer the further south I went and by the time I made it to the gas stop it was pretty clear. Still, nobody there to pick up either. So, off I went and was greatly relieved to find the South Florida contingent of 12 all there. I joined them for lunch and eventually Eve made her way in after hitting the gym first so at least I had a riding partner for the home trip. We took back roads home most of the way and did hit one short (less than one minute) burst of rain as we headed up 31 into Arcadia. We stopped there for gas and the rest of the ride home was enjoyable. Another 339 miles :-)

I finally got my Iron Butt certifications for the rides I did back in August! It took a while, but it was worth the wait. As I write this, I am preparing to close out the year with one final ride – a SS1000 to Stockton, AL for the stagecoach ride-in. Leaving at 1:00 AM for Stockton, AL – 530 miles away – have lunch with a bunch of other long distance maniacs, and then back home hopefully just in time for the start of the Patriots final regular season game – Go Pats!

So, I hope you all had a great 2007 and I look forward to seeing you out on the road in 2008. Maybe you'll kick it off with us at the annual New Year's day ride! Best wishes for a happy holiday season and an even better 2008. Ride Safe, Ride Smart – Ride home! Bill Royal

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

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