

The Florida MSTA Grapevine

You heard it through the Grapevine...

Volume 4 Issue 7

Events in July

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Feature Article Provided Separately

No Advertisements this month...

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Feature Article Introduction

International Motorcycling - A Lesson in Preparedness

Editor's Note: This month's article was furnished by member Jean Larsen. It is much too long for inclusion into the newsletter, but contains extremely valuable information for anyone thinking about taking an extreme, international motorcycle adventure.

The article, appended to your newsletter email as a separate .pdf file, is a first-person narrative by Mike Paull, who participated in a Globberiders 2002 World Tour, only to find himself unexpectedly in the hands of Chinese doctors after a traffic accident at the very start of the trip. His trip is well-documented, both through his blog and other media.

While an older account, it is both entertaining and eye-opening, and I suggest everyone take the time to read it.... - ed.

Editor's Monthly Note:

Even as you're reading this, STAR 2011 is underway in Tennessee. There are all kinds of activities going on in Johnson City as part of MSTA's annual rally. Stayin' Safe safety sessions are already underway. There will be a raffle, as usual, with the winner receiving their choice of a new 2011 Triumph Tiger 800 or Tiger 800XC, provided by the event dealer, Kingsport Cycle, Kingsport, TN. There are rides planned throughout the countryside, dinner events, and all sorts of other great stuff this week at STAR 2011.

If you're not there, you're missing out... Plan on it next year! - ed.

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 own actions and safety.

Dance of the Suicidal Squirrel



Just in case you haven't stepped outside in the last few days, this is just a quick reminder that Florida is a sub-tropical environment. What does that have to do with motorcycling? It means we share the road with every manner of warm and cold-blooded creature you can imagine. We have to dodge pigs, alligators, deer, turtles, buzzards, etc. while touring the back roads. The editor once even had a full grown river otter go sauntering across the road in front of him. So how do you respond to such a wide range of potential, probably moving obstacles? The answer is...it depends. Don't get between an alligator and his/her watering hole, because that's where they will run to if startled. By the way, the little ones can run pretty fast, too. Turtles don't move fast, and will just pull into their shell when threatened, so don't expect them to move at all upon hearing/feeling your approach. Ever see a flock of buzzards around a road kill ahead of you? Expect them to fly directly up when startled. It is best to start sounding the horn from far away, to give them time to disperse. Pigs, especially wild male boars, get just downright ornery. Give them a wide berth. And then there are the squirrels....While some animals can be predictable in their reaction to oncoming, two-wheeled machines of impending death, the poor squirrel in the middle of the road just can't mentally process this threat. They survive by being cute and eating nuts, not necessarily in that order, and certainly without higher cerebral thought process. Ever see the Dance of the Suicidal Squirrel? That's the squirrel that can't figure out which way to run as you're bearing down on it, so it runs back and forth several times in the middle of the road. The problem for the motorcyclist is that you can't predict which way they will eventually flee (if at all). You are as likely to swerve into the path of a panicking squirrel as you are to avoid it. This could cause a secondary reaction, eventually leading to loss of control. Sorry animal lovers, but in the interest of self-preservation, it is often best to ignore the squirrel and continue on your original path of travel. Trying to outguess the squirrel is (sorry) fruitless. Hopefully the squirrel will come up with the correct, final answer and dodge away from your bike. If not, at least you have not endangered yourself, passenger and/or others with whom you are riding.

The Florida MSTA Group Leadership

Florida News

South Director's Report

"Summer Time, and living is easy..." Hope you all have made the decision to keep riding this summer, and make the most of the opportunities that the MSTA or your riding buddies have to offer! There's no shortage of events for the next few months!!

The East-Siders had a Just For Fun breakfast ride on June 5th. We have made contact with another loosely organized group of riders based in Palm Beach and surrounding counties, and have invited them to join in on a few of our informal rides. And they have done the same for us. So, on Sunday, we had 20 riders and passengers make their way to the Cross Roads Diner for some grub and gab! About half of the riders made their own way there, and the other half followed me around the east side of Lake O. (Boy, do we need RAIN!!!) We split our group in half to ensure a safe and friendly ride to breakfast. We had a nearly 50-50 split among the two groups. Needless to say, we handed out the new MSTA ITR QUAD-FOLDS to each of the potential new members!! If you do not have your own supply of the new member-getters, contact Bill or myself and we will get some to you ASAP. As usual, the staff and cook were very accommodating. And the conversations hardly stopped except to say yes to another refill!! After regrouping in the parking lot, the stories and tire kicking went on for another 15-20 minutes, with the promise to repeat this adventure sooner than later.

The Brunch Ride on July 18th reinforced the reason we shifted to an earlier meeting time. We hit 93-97 degrees on our ride home from the Sebring Diner! Fortunately, we were back in our A/C by two-ish, after a stop in Clewiston for some welcomed ice cream relief. That's right, we had desert after brunch!! But I'm telling the end of the story first...

Five East-Siders met up at our usual rendezvous, including new member from Miami, Dave. We picked up two more members along the way up the east side of Lake O, and made a brief butt-break next to the Cross Roads Diner. Save for an almost-encounter with a slow-to-elevate vulture, the ride was uneventful. In the parking lot of the Diner, we met up with Bob and "long time no see" Scott, who's about to return to Alaska for the summer! Three other riders came over to say Hi, and it turns out they were there to eat a go. They ended up joining one of our tables and got a new quad-fold ITR to boot! Bill rode in from the west side with four others, including "long time no see" Fannie! And I think she is about to head to Europe for the summer, but don't quote me on that!! Greg and his better half, Dennis and Dorothy, along with Roger on his vintage Norton Commando, rounded out the hungry crew!

As usual, the Sebring Diner accommodated the 23 of us, and were most efficient in providing us their tasty

goodies! If you're ever in the area, stop by. You don't have to wait for an MSTA invitation to see how good this place is! Once our food hit the tables, the decibel level in our half of the diner dropped in half, as everybody minded their Mother's manners and did not talk with a mouthful!!

So, by the time you are reading this, lots of FI members will be returning from STAR. The luckier ones will be continuing on to even more adventures around the country before heading home later in July/August/September!! You can look forward to a few articles and pictures in our next newsletter. And plan to attend the BRUNCH rides scheduled for July. You'll be glad you did!!

ATGATT Van

North Director's Report

The Central Brunch Ride to Lakeland drew just 6 riders so it wasn't a big hit. Yes, the weather was HOT but not yet unbearable so I don't really know why the turnout was so weak. Thankfully the South ride a week later had a great turnout so that was nice to see. I am writing this from STAR 2011 in Johnson City TN. There's a good number of Florida members here though I don't have the exact count. The riding is incredible. We have had some showers but nothing all day so it hasn't really impacted the riding at all. Wishing I could stay a few more days :-)

Hope to see more riders at the July rides back in Florida. Remember, it take member participation to make a club work so come on out for a ride and meet up with other riding members.

Bill Royal

'91 ST1100 - "SilverSTreak"

STOC #1137 MSTA #9359 IBA #31709

<http://silverstreakst.net>



Florida Rides This Month

MSTA Florida Central Brunch Ride

When: Sat, July 16, 2011, 9:30am – 10:30am

Where: Jay Bees - 8625 State Road 60 East, Lake Wales, FL 33898 ([map](#))

Description: Plenty of paved parking, easy to find and about as central in FL as it gets. Contact: Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Sat, July 23, 2011, 9:30am – 10:30am

Where: Crossroads Diner, 5050 NE 128th Ave, Okeechobee, FL ([map](#))

Description: This is favorite of the East-Siders! We always have a great time here. Lots of parking, lots of tables, and great service! If you're interested, you can stop by a local dealership just down the road on SR 70, or head a little further south and take in a view of the Big O! Contact: Van at 561-386-2594 or busavan@flahsta.org

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

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

National MSTA www.sporttouring.us

Florida MSTA www.flahsta.org

Mystery Hyperlink of the Month

This month's Mystery Hyperlink is furnished courtesy of Buck DeShazo, who obviously has too much time on his hands while he recovers from some surgery. It is an informative website from across the Pond. Get well soon, Buck!

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