



# FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

June 2007



## The Quest for STAR

Submitted By: Orvil Roesberry

Once upon a time in the kingdom of Florida there dwelt an impoverished but brave knight by the name of Sir Orvil of Roesberry. To say that he was impoverished is somewhat of an understatement, for he had only one old and tired steed to his name. However he kept it well groomed and cared for and also it was descended from the royal steeds of the mystical land of Honda . so he knew that it could be depended on to carry him to battle whenever and wherever he desired. To say that Sir Orvil was brave might be a slight overstatement also, for he had never really did anything on his own as yet, only followed other knights to their weekly feasts. As the other noble knights sat around the table, spinning their tales of daring, Sir Orvil sat silent, but he dreamed of brave and noble deeds. It was also rumored that he had won his Knighthood in a poker game, whom some might whisper in private, was rigged. (this was never proven)

Then one day in the early spring there came a decree from the Royal house of Bill and Sam that all brave knights of the realm should journey to the far off land of Kare-O-Lina in search of the magical STAR of HSTA. It was rumored to be kept at a mountain Castle called Crowne Plaza of Asheville. Sir Orvil read the royal decree with a certain amount of fear and trepidation. For he had heard wild tales of this far off mountainous land. It was told in whispered conversation late at night that the natives of this far off land, although friendly, had one leg shorter than the other from walking in the mountains. Some said that in places the trails, although smooth and hard, went up into the clouds and were shrouded in cold clammy mists where anything could trap the unwary rider - they whispered it's name,

"Cherohala, home of the Gods". One teller of tales said that nowhere could one find a straight trail, but that they all twisted and turned, like snakes, so greatly that at times the rider might meet himself coming the other way on the trail, not nice and flat and straight like the kingdom of Florida. Others sat around the campfire late at night and in hushed tones told of a mountain pass where there lived a Dragon of fierce reputation and if a Knight were to travel into his realm and not be riding with utmost care the Dragon would devour him. This mountain kingdom was definitely not a place for the faint of heart.

None the less Sir Orvil made up his mind that, not only would he take on this quest, but he would venture into this strange and frightening land alone. He would make this pilgrimage to capture the magical Star of HSTA, whatever it was, and bring it home. After all he had ridden to Ozello many times, even though it was said that Ozello was a mere Lizard and not a real Dragon. He would begin early in the month of June, the better to spy out this strange and wondrous land. He would stay away from their cities and would camp under the stars at a place the natives called Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground of Cruso (strange names in this land) and question all the natives about this strange land of theirs, learning all that he could about their customs and festivals. Visiting all the little villages and towns. Maybe even challenging the fierce dragon in his lair. Of course there was a very old saying. "Don't mess with dragons, they might bite you on the.....".

## 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!

Name	Location	Ride	Introduced By
Scott Slater	Palmetto	FJR1300	Eve Blazsur
Marge Slater	Palmetto	MOH	Eve Blazsur

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](http://www.ridehsta.com)

And the Award Winning Florida HSTA Site at: [www.flahsta.org](http://www.flahsta.org)

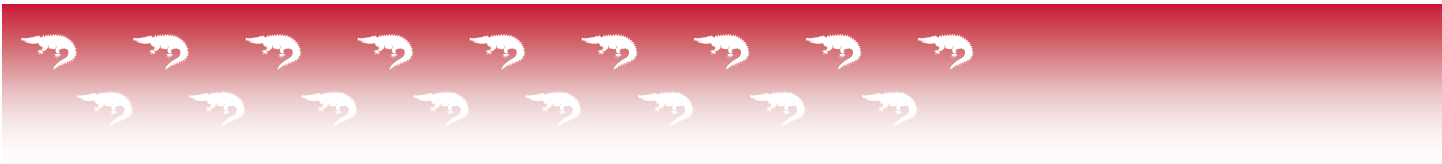
The Florida Chapter of the HSTA has two State Directors.

FL North:  
Sam Ulbing  
545 Turkey Creek, Alachua, FL  
32615 352-262-6221  
n4uau@cox.net

FL South:  
Bill Royal  
1521 New Bedford Dr  
Sun City Center, FL 33573  
(813) 633-8155  
RideFL@flahsta.org

### Inside this issue:

The Quest for STAR	1
Free Ads	2
Florida News	2, 3
SPLAT!	3
Rides/Events	4



## 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, (address on front page of newsletter) or email to [ridefl@flahsta.org](mailto:ridefl@flahsta.org).

### For Sale

#### Bikes

**2003 Honda ST 1300ABS**, @37K miles of faultless performance, all scheduled maintenance performed - synthetic oil only, 90% of fuel run through the bike has been Chevron Techron 93, new Bridgestone O20s in April; extras include: MC Cruise, running lights, heated grips, back-off brake light, custom Ventura pack bracket - Ventura pack, small grip bar and small Nelson pack part of package. 30 months remaining on Honda Factory Extended Warranty Metallic grey, with a few scratches. \$9,000.  
Contact: Tom at 352.336.7294 (preferred) or [t.kerkoff@att.net](mailto:t.kerkoff@att.net)

**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](mailto:rpk2fla1@yahoo.com)

#### Gear

Men's **Cortech GX Air Jacket**- Large/44- Yellow & Black  
Men's **Cortech GX Air Pants**- Large/36-Black  
Men's **Cortech GX Air Gloves**-XLarge-Yellow&Black  
Asking \$150.00 for the SET.  
Contact: Dennis - 561-329-3257- [ipnman2002@yahoo.com](mailto:ipnman2002@yahoo.com)

**KBC Helmet - FFR Flip Top silver and black**. This helmet is brand

new. I wore it twice and realized that I do not have a KBC head. \$175.00

**Givi T80 Tank Bag** - Magnetic. The bag has a map case and a clear rain cover \$50.00

**Kapa top trunk** for the Suzuki VStrom - Silver color matched for the '02 Vstrom - \$100.00

**Fenda Extenda** for Vstrom - Brand new - never installed - \$20.00

**Stock regular and Tall windshields** for a DL1000 VStrom - \$50.00 and \$75.00 respectively

Contact: Larry Fitch at [fitchle@hotmail.com](mailto:fitchle@hotmail.com) or 321-266-8757

**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

**Wells Cargo Cycle Wagon enclosed motorcycle trailer** - Lightly used, probably less than 5,000 miles. 12.5' X 7' box, probably 16 to 17 feet overall. Tandem axle, electric brakes, aero nose cone, diamond plate aluminum fenders, black with chrome bottom trim, rear ramp door with spring assist, paneled inside with interior lights, wheel chocks and multiple floor and side tie down points, side door on front right side. This trailer cost over \$6,000 new, current models are about \$7,000. Buy mine for \$4,500. Will deliver up to 250 miles for cost of gas. I can E-mail photos upon request. Contact Jan Berryman, Tallahassee, Florida (850) 893-2253 or E-mail [berryman15@comcast.net](mailto:berryman15@comcast.net).

---

## Florida News

Submitted By: Sam Ulbing & Bill Royal

### North News:

The north lunch ride to Suwannee was fine if you lived in Gainesville or down south but not so good for the group on the east coast. The various wild fires resulted in road closing and dense smoke which caused about 6 wise riders to abandon the ride and go to an impromptu smoke free location.

For the ten of us who made it, the weather was ideal, partly sunny with a light breeze off the Gulf of Mexico providing clean air. I always enjoy sitting on the patio overlooking the river and marshes. It's what the tourist bureau calls "The Real Florida" and what I call "the soon to be developed into condos Florida".

Last month I proposed Breakfast Rides for the summer and asked for volunteers. There have been no volunteers so far. If I get more volunteers I will send out emails to everyone. A breakfast ride only beats the heat if it is a local ride hence the desire to have several each month rather than just a north and south event. Please volunteer.

### South News:

The South lunch ride was, well interesting... I started out at 7:30 AM with a surprisingly large group of several riders and we rode about an hour to have breakfast in Bartow FL, where I planned an after-breakfast loop to return to the same venue for lunch. Much to my surprise, I learned that ALL of the riders who came with me for breakfast planned to skip the loop ride and head home! That left me with but one trusty knight - Orvil of Roesberry, who would be riding the loop. But just as we were about to head out, my faithful maiden Eve showed up with a band of several venturesome riders so we had a nice group for the ride after all.

Who would have thought that with a prediction of a 10% chance of rain, in a land where we have had no rain to speak of for months we would ride into - rain! I think we found the only showers in the state. Most was light and it was spotty, but just after we dropped off some who decided they'd had enough, the remaining 4 of us ran into a short but heavy rain that almost forced us to stop for the visibility! It also hit at some of the best riding roads so it kept the

*(Continued on page 3)*



# Splat....another Plecia Nearctica!

Submitted By: Jim Park

I can't speak for the Tampa group but the "Real Men" from South Florida certainly encountered their share of Love Bugs while returning from the May HSTA lunch ride. There were times when the impact of the little devils was so frequent it reminded you of rain drops in an August thunderstorm. Our group was forced to stop three times on the return trip home to clean the darn things off of our windshield and helmet visors.

Riding in such conditions gives one a chance to ponder, how exactly did so many of these things get here? So after a couple of hours cleaning up the bikes I decided to do a little research. Here is what I found.

I'm sure we've all heard the story that Love Bugs were bio-engineered at the University of Florida in an attempt to develop an insect that would eat the mosquito. Sorry, Seminole Fans but you can't bash the Gators for this one!

Love Bugs (aka Plecia nearctica Hardy) migrated from Central America. The first documented sighting here in Florida was back in 1947. They have since been sighted as far north as North Carolina.

Seems that the little darlings are highly acidic, so they have very few natural predators. If you've ever inadvertently eaten one I'm sure you'll understand why any self respecting bird would not be

interested! The bugs are so acidic that they will remove the paint from your bike if not removed in 48 hours.



"Real Man" P.Van Steelant & his Hayabusa  
Photo courtesy: Jim Park

More bad news, the Love Bug is attracted to anethole, an essential oil found in many plants. How does that affect us you ask? Well, truck, automobile and motorcycle exhausts have a similar odor as this anethole stuff. So, it's no fluke that these annoying creatures congregate along highways and intersections.

A bit of good news is that the Love Bug only mates twice a year which occurs roughly in the months of May and September. The female lives for only 68 hours during which time she has only two things on her mind, mating and laying eggs. Once she has mated the male becomes permanently attached and is nothing but dead weight to the female. Okay, gals, I'm sure you all have a wise comment to insert here!

My research divulged little as to the cleaning of the Love Bug. Plastic screening and/or cooking "Pam" were suggested as a preemptive measure. One article suggested (and personal experience confirms) that hydrogen peroxide is a good cleaner. All sources agreed that soap, water and plain old elbow grease did the best.

More good news is that May is behind us. So ride relatively bug free for the rest of the summer....well until September, anyway.

---

## Florida News

Continued...

*(Continued from page 2)*  
enjoyment down a bit. On the plus side, it did significantly mitigate the love bug impacts, even washing away some that we did manage to accumulate! Four of us made it back to the lunch venue where we met up with a bunch of others (17 in all) who rode in from various points, including one new couple, Rex & Sonia, on an ST1300 from Titusville. They saw the club on the internet and decided to drop in to see what we are all about. We hope they liked the group well enough to come back for more.

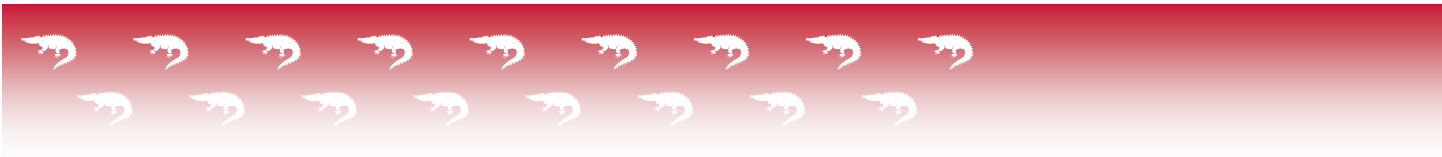
P. Van Steelant took long distance ride honors at 215 miles, while the "loop group" managed to turn their 45 mile distance from home into a 138 mile dodge the rain fest. Orvil Roesberry earned an honorable mention for riding the longest distance in to make the breakfast ride, then the loop, and I understand after lunch he

was going to re-run some of the best roads in the loop on his way home.

### STAR07 -

As of 6/1/07, There are 419 attendees pre-registered. Florida has 28 registrants and one more I know is going but not yet registered. It's a nice mix from Miami to Jax on the East coast and from Inglis to Ft. Meyers on the West. We look forward to seeing them as well as old friends from other states.

The rest of you I hope will share stories of your June rides with us in the newsletter!



## 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 North Lunch Ride - Jun 9th - JT's Seafood Shak, Flagler Beach, FL.** Lunch at 11:45 AM. Located at 5224 N. Ocean Shore Blvd. (A1A), Palm Coast. It's ABOUT ten miles north of the Flagler Beach pier. 386-446-4337. Approx. GPS Coordinates: N29 35.680 W81 11.684. Please let the contact know in advance if you plan to attend. Contact: Bob Fischer mbapool@bellsouth.net

Future North Rides/Dates: Jul & Aug: Breakfast Rides - Volunteers?

♦ **HSTA Florida South Lunch Ride - No Ride Scheduled due to STAR**

Future South Rides/Dates: June NO RIDE due to STAR (unless someone else wants to run one!)  
 July 14th - TBD Aug. 18th - TBD Sep. 8th. - TBD

♦ 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
June 24-25-26-27	STAR 2007	Crowne Plaza Resort Asheville, NC 800-733-3211 or 882-254-3211	Harry & Beth Hemstreet 970-667-0460 (hm) 240-376-7447 (fax)	<a href="http://www.ridehsta.com/star/2007/star07@hemko.com">http://www.ridehsta.com/star/2007/star07@hemko.com</a>
August 3-4-5	Nolichucky Valley Rally	Holiday Inn Express Erwin, TN 1-800-304-7958	Richard Giddish 423-245-5558 (hm)	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/873z7">http://tinyurl.com/873z7</a> rickandnick@hartern.net
August 24-25-26	Mail Pouch Fly By	Best Value Inn Marietta, OH 1-800-526-5947	Jon Campbell 513-932-3341 (hm)	
September 7-8-9	Ozarks BS Rally	Theodosia Marina & Resort Highway 160 Theodosia, MO	<a href="mailto:Ed&amp;Linda.Young@fidnet.com">Ed &amp; Linda Young</a> <a href="tel:417-926-3075">417-926-3075 (hm)</a> <a href="mailto:magna@fidnet.com">magna@fidnet.com</a>	<a href="http://come.to/The_Ozarks_BS_Rally">http://come.to/The_Ozarks_BS_Rally</a>
September 14-15-16	River City Ride	Vevay, Indiana (hotel not yet determined)	Don Moose Parish 317-936-5818 (hm)	<a href="mailto:mparish@hrtc.net">mparish@hrtc.net</a>
September 21-22-23	SE Star	Holiday Inn Express 64 White Oak Lane Dillard, Georgia 706-746-3585	Trey Hall 615-367-6495 (hm)	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/8de29">http://tinyurl.com/8de29</a> Strey1100@aol.com
October 5-6-7	Friends of Freddie's	Rosener's Resort Park Hills, MO 1-800-888-4241	Bob LaMear 636-938-3788 (hm)	<a href="http://racerboy@fms4u.com">racerboy@fms4u.com</a>
October 19-20-21	AR By Way Boogie	Paris Inn 2010 E. Walnut Paris, AR 72855 479-963-2400	Mario Caruso 501-318-5233 - office 501-622-0987 (cell) Hot Springs AR 71901	<a href="mailto:quinzomoto@arkansasrider.com">quinzomoto@arkansasrider.com</a>
November 2-3-4	Texas Hill Country Ride	YO Ranch Resort 2033 Sidney Baker Kerrville, TX 78028 877-967-3767	Ken Bowen & Dave and Connie Schluter	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/jfpoulos/THC2007.html">http://www.geocities.com/jfpoulos/THC2007.html</a> <a href="mailto:TXHillCountryRally@gmail.com">TXHillCountryRally@gmail.com</a>