

The Florida MSTA Grapevine

You heard it through the Grapevine...

Volume 4 Issue 6

Events in June

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Contact Information:

North Florida Director:

Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org

South Florida Director:

VanVanSteelant Busavan@flahsta.org

Grapevine Editor:

Doug Westly flwingrdr@msn.com

Feature

A Real Motorcycling Story

by Bill Royal, MSTA FL Co-Director

I was going to write about our trip out to Las Vegas and back. We took six days each way, and covered 4700 miles or thereabout. But then I got distracted by another story I had partially read some time ago. Our trip has some interesting elements in it including one errant driver in my lane through a tight turn, some snow (with attendant low temps in the high 20's - both going and returning), and some very heavy rain (though we missed out on the most severe weather). Sounds kind of exciting until you start thinking about this:

In 1903 a young gentleman from San Francisco by the name of George A. Wyman rode, pushed, pulled, carried, and crawled his 1902 "California" brand motor bicycle from San Francisco to New York City. He achieved this monumental undertaking before the first automobile crossing by Dr. Horatio Nelson Jackson (in his Winton Automobile) and made better time, finishing his adventure in New

York City at the "New York Motorcycle Club" rooms, 1904 Broadway, a mere 50 days after departing San Francisco. Amazingly, over half of Mr. Wyman's journey was accomplished by pounding over the ties of the trans-continental railroad as there were no "real" roads in the sense that we, in the modern age, have come to

Editor's Monthly Note:

Still looking for contributed articles. Come on folks, send them in! - ed.

think of for Mr. Wyman to travel upon.

1903, the year of Wyman's coast-to-coast journey, was a landmark year filled with "first" accomplishments. The first "Harley-Davison" motorcycle was produced, the first year of Henry Ford's famous automobile company; as previously mentioned this was the year of the first automobile crossing of the U.S., the year the first Tour De France bicycle race was run, and the first flight of the Wright Brothers airplane, just to name a few. George Wyman's account was originally published in a series of articles, in his own words, in "The Motorcycle"; a periodical of the time dedicated to motorcycling. "The Motorcycle" was a relatively short-lived periodical, in publication from 1903 until 1906, and yet played a key role in the history of motorcycling. George Wyman's incredible account was in their premier issue (Issue 1, Volume 1, June 1903). Unfortunately, this accomplishment was for the most part lost and forgotten. George A. Wyman never received the credit he was due for this historic feat. This series of articles was found and reprinted in a special edition of "Road Rider" magazine in its complete form in the late 1970's (1979). Yet again it was lost and forgotten until published, in installments, in "The Antique Motorcycle" a publication of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America. Still Mr. Wyman and his accomplishment remained somewhat obscure.

I have since learned that much of the route that George Wyman rode (when he wasn't on the railroad tracks!) was what was to become the Lincoln Highway - which My riding buddy Larry and I know well having ridden it in 2009 - covering 3452 miles in 12 days. Consider though that we rode on mostly paved roadways with plentiful fuel and refreshment opportunities along the way, and on bikes packing 90+ HP, capable of 100+ MPH. Now think about doing the same ride on a motor-driven bicycle with a 1.5 HP engine capable of approximately 25mph using the 30-octane gasoline of the day, with a range of 75-100 miles. Throttle control was not yet perfected, and engine revolutions were mainly controlled by means of a spark timing mechanism. The wick-type carburetor was crude, consisting of a metal box with internal baffles stuffed with cotton batting. With no float chamber, the rider had to open the gasoline tap periodically to admit fuel into the carburetor.

So, after reading more of his account I decided that our trip wasn't really quite so news-worthy. If you want to read something really amazing, drop me an email at bill@silverstreakst.net and I'll send you a copy of the entire story (its too long to publish in the newsletter). It can be a little hard to read as its written in the then vernacular but trust me it is WELL worth the read, and I guarantee that it will give you pause to think about what is a true motorcycle riding accomplishment

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.

The Right Tires

This discussion appears as a result of a ride one of our state members undertook with some friends just last weekend. They were riding the back roads north of Brooksville, an area with exceptional (for Florida) curves, and even some little rolling hills thrown in. The group was a mixture of high performance bikes, including BMW R1200GS and R1150GS models, Ducati Multistradas and Monsters, with a Honda CBR1000RR and a Triumph Scrambler 900 thrown in for good measure. It was a very experienced group, most being track riders as well, so the ride was spirited. Nevertheless, this group rides together frequently and everyone was comfortable with the pace. Then it happened. As the group arced around a tight sweeper at about 40-50 mph, the rear tire of the R1150GS came loose. The bike and rider started a low-side fall in the middle of the corner. The bike went over as far as the left engine crash bar, which stopped the low-side fall, and the rider managed to recover the bike and continue. At the next stop, the entire group had a long meeting about the almost-crash, trying to analyze cause and effect. A consensus was reached after discussion about the speed and line around the corner, as well as inspection of the crash bar, tires and rest of the machine. Everyone agreed that the pace around that particular corner, while not extreme for the abilities of the riders or the capabilities of the motorcycles involved, had exceeded the dual-purpose design parameters of the R1150GS' tires. It was only through the good fortune of well placed and strong crash bars, along with an exceptional recovery effort by the rider, that he managed to avoid to avoid the crash.

Which brings us to this: When you think about what tires to mount on your steed, are you thinking about only cost and fit, or are you taking into account the actual use for that rubber? If you start pushing your bike to its limits, are the tires up to it, and are they really designed for the kind of effort you're asking of them?

Just a safety thought for today...your tires are your friends...

The Florida MSTTA Group Leadership

Florida News

South Director's Report

Feeeeelllll the Heat!! Spring has sprung, and summer is here. Hope you all were able to still enjoy the opportunities to ride this past month. We had a great South Lunch ride to Everglades Holiday Park on May 7th. Though the crowd was small, the lunch lasted almost two hours!! The location was chosen to entice our Broward and south membership, and three new members made the show! Richard and his fellow Gold Winger Les were joined by Mike. All three are new to MSTA over the last few months! I was met at the usual rendezvous by George and Don. We made the ride south via the super-slabs to avoid the luv-bug issue in the Glades that kept a few members from joining us. Seems they are in force this spring!!

So the six of us had a great time learning about each other and their riding escapades! This club sure has some interesting members, who bring a lot to the table no matter where they go!! You deserve to share in these stories and learn a thing or two from your fellow members. Make it a point to keep up with the events calendars and catch up with what you've been missing! You won't regret a minute of the experience.

Also this month, several of us made the annual trip to Riding Into History, where our own newsletter editor had part of his (and Becky's!) collection on display. I rave about this event every year, and it never disappoints! Aren't any of you who haven't attended a Ride Into History (RIH) just a little curious about a bike show that has some of our members attending year after year?!? We've even made it a Just For Fun event more than once, like this year. This is not the same ol same ol year after year. It is worthy of your time and a few bucks, which goes to charity! And to top it off, it's organizer is one of our own, Bill Robinson!! Once again Bill, GREAT JOB!!

This year we had, in no particular order, Dave and his bride Helen, Bill and the effervescent Eve, Doug and the lovely Becky, Phil and the charming Carmel, Bob, John, Roger and yours truly. Most of us stayed at the Quality Inn, which made coordination a snap. Some made it up Friday night, the rest of us made it up Sat. morning in time for the start of the show. And what a show!! You will find whatever it is that makes you swoon at this show. And you get to talk with the owners about their pride and joy. Everybody has a story to tell, just like Doug and Becky. The next time you catch up with them, be sure to ask them about the whole story, including who now owns their bike!!

After the show, we enjoyed a ride in the heat, which lead us to a great local's restaurant on the beach. A great meal was had, and then more riding!! We went from ocean side to curvy river-side road in less than 20 minutes. This is neat area to ride around, and it gets even better a bit further west. Then we chilled by the pool, got ready for dinner, and had another great meal! This time, we were blessed with a ride in Phil's Suburban, so all of us could have an adult beverage or two. It's so nice to know the locals!! And for "desert", we were blessed by a visit with Kevin Schwantz, RIH Grand Marshall, World GP Champion, Riding School operator, Military Rider Safety Trainer instructor and all around good guy!! WAY COOL!! My thanks to Phil and Carmel for helping to make this special event all the better because of their friendship!!

On Sunday, Phil joined Bob and me for one last ride-about before we made our way home. I've always enjoyed every opportunity to ride with a local on their favorite roads. You'd never find half of the roads that you end up on, and you don't have to worry about getting lost! So, next year, maybe a few more of you will consider making the trip to the St. Augustine area and find out first hand what you've been missing!!

Be sure to check the Florida event site of our upcoming BRUNCH schedule. Bill has a Central ride planned, and I will be setting up the South rides by the time you read this. ATGATT Van



Editor's Note: Just to dispel curiosity, the bike in question is our 1978 Yamaha DT 125 Enduro, which we displayed at RIH. While Kevin Schwantz and his family were touring the bikes, they stopped by to chat (Becky and Kevin's girlfriend are friends) and check out the DT. It turns out Kevin's dad and a close friend, both with Kevin at the event, were Yamaha dealers back in the 1970s. His friend fell in love with this reminder of his Yamaha days. He was smitten and eventually made us an offer on the DT that we couldn't refuse. This very week we are delivering the little Yamaha to his shop in Winter Haven, where it will find a good home in his personal collection...

North Director's Report

For May, we did end up with two scheduled lunch rides. The South ride was on May 7th, to Everglades Holiday Park, Southwest Ranches, FL 3333. I was out of town in Las Vegas so I don't know what the attendance was. Hopefully Van will have details in his report. In the meantime we had a weekend event scheduled around the Riding Into History event held at the World Golf Village in St Augustine. I managed to get back from Vegas and scheduled in a lunch ride on the Friday of that weekend which given the short notice and the fact that it was a weekday was no surprise that only three of us made it to the lunch. Eve and I stopped for lunch at the Yalaha Bakery and to my great surprise Jim McClure showed up to join us for lunch! So we had an official turnout of three. From there Eve and I made our way up to St Augustine where we eventually met up with John French and Doug & Becky Westly for a Friday evening dinner. On Saturday Eve, John and I rode up along the St. Johns river to the RIH event. Upon entry we met up with Doug & Becky again who had an entry in the show. Eventually a few other members showed up with Phil & Carmel Ridgill, Van, Roger Spice, Bob Shields and a few other accomplices. After lunch some of the group headed out into the searing afternoon heat for a ride, while others elected to hit the hotel pool. Then for dinner, Phil & Carmel rounded us all up in Phil's SUV and we went out for dinner at a place called the Gypsy Cab Company where to our surprise we spotted Bill Robinson with RIH Event guest and famous motorcycle racer Kevin Schwantz seated for dinner. We got our own tables, but after dinner Bill and Kevin stopped by our table and we got personal introductions and handshakes with the renowned racer! On Sunday everyone headed out for home having spent another fine Florida weekend revolving around motorcycles :-)

The RIH show itself was its usual awesome self. If you've never been it really is a must do to see the evolution of motorcycles, from the bicycles to the very earliest bicycles with motors added and on down the line of development. There really is something for everyone and in a great setting.

For June we have the STAR event which I hope to see many of you at. Being held in Johnson City TN, its right in the heart of some of the very best riding on the east coast in the Smoky Mountains.

Bill Royal, MSTA Florida State Co-Director & Webmaster

Florida Rides This Month

MSTA Florida Central Brunch Ride

When: Sat, June 11, 2011, 10am - 11am

Where: Golden Corral, 4532 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33813 ([map](#))

Description: Trying something different here... A larger buffet place where we don't have to worry about numbers of people ahead of time and no group gratuity either! Contact: Bill at 813-633-8155 or rideFL@flahsta.org

MSTA Florida South Brunch Ride

When: Sat, June 18, 9:30am – 10:30am

Where: Sebring Diner, 4040 US Hwy 27S, Sebring, FL ([map](#))

Description: We are starting off the BRUNCH schedule with a new favorite! The roads leading to this shining stainless steel diner are worthy of the edges of your tires. And...the food is what makes breakfast in America getting up for!! 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

With lots of FL MSTa'ers headed for STAR 2011, this site's topic is definitely en route!

More Contact Information

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. 3rd Street
Boynton Beach, FL 33435-4522
561-386-2594

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

ADVERTISEMENTS

Riders Needed

WEAVERVILLE, CA – June 10-12, 2011

I'm looking for one or two fellow riders who would like to journey from Florida to Weaverville, CA to join the "Western Ducati Madness" event. You don't have to own or ride a Ducati. Northern CA is great riding territory if you've not been there before, or if you simply want to go again. I am planning a two week trip, including the three days with the group in California. Bob Barnesky, 352-270-8723 or email rbarnesky@tampabay.rr.com

Motorcycles For Sale

2003 Honda ST1300, 19,780 miles, silver, Honda Box, Heated Grips, Total Pref. Risers, like new condition, one owner, purchased new in Indiana. Bike is now located in Ft. Myers. Tom Sizemore, 317-431-4114 or sizemore.agency@att.net

2007 Triumph Tiger 1050, 11,137 miles, Caspian blue, original owner, adult miles, pristine condition. Bike runs perfectly, has never been back to the dealer. Tires: Dunlop SportMAX with at least half tread life left. Extras: engine crash bars, center stand, luggage rack, hard locking tail trunk. Last oil/filter change at 10,795 miles w/Mobil MX4T exclusively. Price: \$6,490. Pictures available upon request. Bob Barnesky, 352-270-8723 or rbarnesky@tampabay.rr.com

(Ed. Note: I've seen this bike and while I haven't inspected it closely, it is from casual assessment a very clean and well-kept ride.)

Gear For Sale

Tour Master Cortech GX Air lady's black mesh summer riding pants. Women's size small, inseam short 27". Removable padding, washable, sold as is, great condition. Worn twice. \$40.00 & you pay shipping. Paid \$169.00 new. Contact Eve by email: eblueday@mindspring.com or phone: 813-633-8155. I can send a photo or bring them to a lunch ride.