



# FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

May 2007



## Spring Fling

Submitted By: Dianne Park

Would you like Chamber of Commerce weather, great roads with lots of curves and sweepers, terrific friends to ride with, and great food (usually very cheap) at every stop? That pretty well describes the 2007 HSTA Spring Fling Ride in Thomasville, Ga. last weekend.

The SE group left Thursday morning doing all back roads to Perry, FL. We had a fun and tasty seafood dinner at a restaurant right beside our hotel that night. Since the restaurant ran out of desserts, most of us walked 2 minutes to another restaurant and had some outstanding key lime pie.

A big highlight on Friday was our stop in Apalachicola. What a neat town! And they have a coffee shop to outdo Starbuck's! Jim Park got us on some super roads from there to Thomasville where we starting catching up with the rest of the Spring Fling group late Friday afternoon. We all congregated in the Covey lounge in our hotel for

(mostly free) drinks from 5:30-7:00 and then walked to dinner at whatever suited each group's fancy, since we had several restaurants to pick from.



**The SE Crew at The Big Oak**  
From L-R (rear) Bob Shields, John French, Jim McClure, P.Van Steelant, Scott Bills, Dianne Park, Jim Park (front) Gerry & Fran Heatherington

the loose sand and back onto pavement after about 10 minutes.

Lunch was a highlight in Havana, Ga. at The Mockingbird Café which borders on a health food  
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Saturday, by "popular demand" Jim Park's group went back to Boston, Ga. to a restaurant named Boston's (wonder where they got that name?) But I don't think anyone was disappointed with the food. They sure know how to fix grits!

It would not have been a full Jim-Park-ride without hitting a fair portion of dirt roads. Not to disappoint, he found one! Probably only a couple of miles long, and we all managed to stay out 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](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. They Are:

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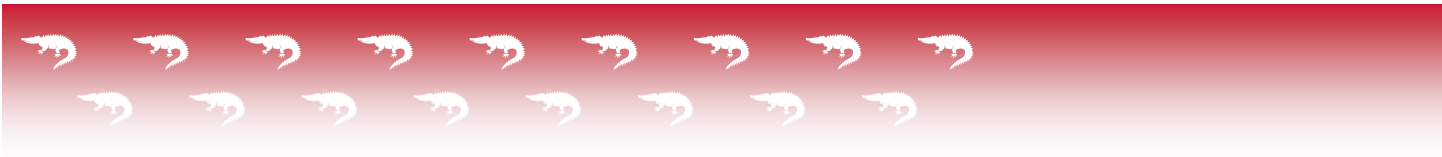
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## Welcome to the Club!

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!

Name	Location	Ride	Introduced By
Charles Hafer	Palm Beach	Not listed	Internet
Judy Erickson	Ruskin	Yamaha VSTAR	Lunch Rides
Stirling Watts	Palm Bay	Triumph Sprint ST	Larry Watts
Kirsten Arthur	Palm Bay	MOH	Larry Watts



## 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](mailto:ridefl@flahsta.org).

### For Sale

#### Bikes

**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)

**Shoei RF -- 800 full face white helmet**, new, still in box with factory packaging. Size XXS, perfect for a young passenger. Price: \$125  
Contact: [diannelpark@yahoo.com](mailto:diannelpark@yahoo.com) or 561-793-7907.

**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

#### 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).

## Spring Fling

Continued...

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type menu, but really was good food. It's a very cute little town with a bunch of shops, ivy covered buildings and plenty of on street parking.

Bill Royal's group did the same loop as Jim Park's group going the opposite direction, but, without hesitation, skipped the dirt road portion of the ride. Smart man! During the ensuing route recovery they stopped for lunch at a genuine southern fried chicken place in Thomasville that was the real deal. Bill's group had a few more riders originally, but one Larry & Sally Troutman had to make a plane connection so left the ride half way through, and John & Bobbie Sagraves discovered a low beam out on his ST1100 hack rig so skipped the day ride altogether.

At the end of the day, everybody in both groups walked across the street to CrawDaddy's Restaurant



Bill Royal's "reverse route" group on boat ramp for Lake Jackson  
L-R Orvil Roesberry, Fannie Haine, Jim Cavanagh, Eve Blazsur, Steve Marcum

for a seafood buffet where we all shared our day's adventures. After dinner, we congregated on the hotel's veranda to further embellish the day's activities. Bottom line ... great time, just way too short!



# Florida News

Submitted By: Sam Ulbing & Bill Royal

## North News:

The Helen event was a blast and here are a few highlights. I understand one of the other attendees will be writing a 'feature article' about it soon. 65 people were registered with 11 of them from Florida; way fewer than the 23 from Georgia. There was NO rain – the weather was perfect: low in the 40s and highs in 70s. Bobby and Faye Breuer got run into by a wild pig causing an end to their ride only 6 miles out of town. Fortunately they were okay, kept the bike upright. The pig seemed okay too as it left the scene of the accident. They said it couldn't be done but I did it – rode the Dragon and never saw another bike! It might have helped that it was 8AM on Monday and I did see some bikers getting ready as I passed the store.

Going up I rode with Larry Fitch, Bob Fischer and Rob Medwed who went in style on their Wings and ST while I toughed it out on the VFR. The little bike did great with the return trip home on Monday totaling 550 miles including the run through the Dragon. Now I need to get rid of those aches and pains.

The next great event up in the mountains is STAR in June. So far 346 people have signed up. Have you? You will miss a great time if you don't go!

## South News:

Spring Fling was a success, despite the lower than expected turnout. The final tally was 28 attendees. Several of the lucky (retired) ones were also making the Helen event the following weekend. There was some smoke in the air on Friday and Saturday mornings due to the brush fires in Waycross, but nothing that impacted the riding save the slight smell and haziness, both of which mostly went away as the days played out. The hotel pool was still just a tad too cool to fully enjoy yet. Oh, and I am told that one of the key members of the West Palm crew really wanted to make the Spring Fling but was prevented due to some questionable reason? :-)

There was no other South Lunch ride - it seems everything was conspiring against it. First, I discovered that even though I had

made the plan, I managed to drop getting it into the newsletter last month. Then, after announcing it by email, when I called the establishment to let them know we were coming, I was informed that their hours changed and they were no longer open for lunch! Well, all I can say is - I tried.

There has been much discussion of lunch rides, attendance, service at the lunches, etc. Some of you may have noticed that I have not made it to as many of the north rides as I used to. That is due to a mix of reasons, some time, some financial, and some just practical. I figure that if I stop bringing a dozen or so riders to the north lunch rides, the service to the remaining attendees will improve. I have even been toying with the thought of scheduling south lunch rides on some same dates as north rides, especially when the north ride is really north. Stay tuned for developments on that.

I have had one offer for partially taking over the newsletter, but in order for that to happen we would have to stop sending it hardcopy to everyone who has computer access. It would be that, or switch to B&W... No decision there yet so if you have an opinion now is the time to weigh in on that. Also, Sam Ulbing is seeking someone to assume his state co-directorship. We'd really like it to be someone in the northern part of the state, maybe in the Jax, Perry, St. Augustine triangle.

**STAR07** - As of the time of writing, Florida has 24 registered. That puts us tied with TN for 5th, but MS only has 25 - so if a few more register, we could still break into the top 3! Trust me - it will be a vacation you will treasure. If you're not sure about riding so far, maybe a first timer, we have a small (3 bikes) group riding up in 2 days (one overnight) at a nice leisurely pace so here's your chance!

On a sad note, many of us will recall the recent news of the shooting at the NASA-JSC facility in Texas which left one hostage dead. What you may not have known is that the victim was an HSTA member and ST1300 rider, David Beverly from Seabrook, TX. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and his wife Linda.

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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 North Lunch Ride - May 12th - Salt Creek Seafood, Suwannee, FL.** Lunch at 11:45 AM. (352) 542-7072. This is the end of CR 349. Take Rt 19/27 into Old Town and turn left at the light. Good country roads in this part of Florida. The restaurant has a deck overlooking Salt Creek and the food is good. Let me know if you plan to make it. GPS approx N29 19.693 W83 09.064  
Contact: Sam Ulbing n4uau@cox.net or 352-262-6221

Future North Rides/Dates: June 09 - JT's Seafood Shak, Flagler Beach (Bob Fischer) Jul & Aug: Breakfast Rides - Volunteers?

**Riding Into History - Concours D'Elegance - May 19th - World Golf Village, St. Augustine, FL** - This is a perennial favorite of many. We do not have a booth presence this year, but it's a great take, especially if you've never been.

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## Upcoming Rides/Events

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♦ **HSTA Florida South Lunch Ride - May 26th - LJ's Diner, Bartow, FL.** Lunch at 11:45 AM. This is a new location that Bob Shields has found and he says the food is good, the service great, and pay on the way out so no waiting on the server for the check! Located at 1396 E Main St, Bartow, FL 33830 - (Intersection of BUS 60 & US 17/98). Menu available online at: <http://www.wvbf.com/radiostore/ljsdiner.htm> GPS: N27 53.812 W81 49.722 There are some nice rides in the area, especially the "mine roads" so if you don't know about them just ask!

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
May 18-19-20	Twistar 2007	Voyager Inn Reedsburg, WI 1-800-444-4493	Ray Kang 952-476-6677 (wk)	<a href="http://www.hstatwistar.info">www.hstatwistar.info</a> <a href="mailto:riding@hstatwistar.info">riding@hstatwistar.info</a>
May 25-26-27-28 (4 days)	Tri-Star	Allegheny Inn Sparta, NC 888-372-2501	Galen Diehl 276-647-3162 (hm)	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/bb2k2gdiehl@kimbanet.com">http://tinyurl.com/bb2k2gdiehl@kimbanet.com</a>
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/873z7rickandnick@hartern.net">http://tinyurl.com/873z7rickandnick@hartern.net</a>
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/8de29Strey1100@aol.com">http://tinyurl.com/8de29Strey1100@aol.com</a>
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:guinzomoto@arkansasrider.com">guinzomoto@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>