



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

November 2005



FL/GA Invitational Event

Submitted By: Sam Ulbing



FL/GA Invitational Attendees (Left to right)

Back Row: Dave Headrick, Chuck Headrick, Karl Kocher, Eric Larsen, Fanny Haine, Sissy Horne, Scott Wingerter
Middle Row: Sam Ulbing, Randy Ashurst, Eve Blazsur, Anne Lynch, Ed Lynch
Front Row: Matt Harper, Ashley Horne, Bill Royal

Why would anyone want ride to St Simons Island? The roads are not as nice as north Georgia and I suspect many of our members thought this way about the FL/GA Invitational. There are two

main reasons for joining HSTA: events organized in nice riding areas and the people. The FL/GA event was about the people and was a huge

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This 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

And the Award Winning Florida HSTA Site at:
www.flahsta.org

The Florida Chapter of the HSTA has two State Directors. They Are:

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South Geography: Bill Royal
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RideFL@flahsta.org

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
Allen D Williams	Tampa	'04 Yamaha FZ6	Word of mouth

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FL/GA Invitational Event

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success. Mack, the manager of the Island House Quality Inn put



Nice Spread!

on a great wine and cheese party for us. At 5 PM all 15 of the attendees (2 from SC and 3 from GA) congregated in the meeting room and for over an hour we talked and drank wine. I got to know many members who I had not even met until this event. You know, we do have a really good group of people. Fun to ride with and fun to party with.

Were the roads any good? Well several people said: "I didn't realize south Georgia had roads as nice as the ones we were just on". But without a doubt the socializing was the high point of the event. Next year, if we do this again, it will be called the Florida Georgia Wine and Cheese Party. I suspect free wine and cheese may entice more of our members to come to it and get to meet other members!

Sam Ulbing

Editors Note: (I needed to fill a little more space) Many more folks who planned on attending got scared off by Hurricane Wilma, either those who were in the path and needed to prepare or those who just felt it was too much of a risk for riding in the rain. Well, the hurricane did come, and it did affect a number of members in South Florida directly, though nothing serious that I have heard to date. After our breakfast meet on Saturday, on the way up, we got just about a half hour or so of light rain. Eve and I elected to take the direct route home on Sunday and we managed to make it all the way home with no rain! Great event, and hats off to Sam for organizing it. Look forward to the next one and hopefully more can make it then. - Bill Royal



Casual atmosphere and great company made for an excellent social event.

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.

For Sale

Gear

Triumph Summer Weight Motorcycle Jacket. Black. Size 46 US 56 UK New. Worn 3 times. Fully perforated panels. Cordura construction. Removable CE95 protectors, shoulders and elbows. Removable back insert. Excellent condition. Too many jackets. \$75.00. Tom Roe 321-777-0219 or RTR2169@aol.com

Accessories

Rides

Looking for a riding buddy in the Lakeland area to partner up on HSTA rides and other central Florida rides in the evenings and weekends. I ride both a sport bike and a sport touring bike but enjoy all kinds of riding and bikes.

I ride both the North and South monthly HSTA rides and I'm planning on attending some of the STAR events this year. Give me a call if you're within 45 minutes of Lakeland and want to try linking up. Bob Shields 863-646-9016 home or boju29@msn.com



Safety Corner

Submitted By: Bill Royal

I came up with this section last month because it fit in the "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" event that I mentioned. I didn't (and still don't) plan on doing it again every month, but two things happened. 1. I needed another article to fill out the newsletter, and 2. As you may have heard, our good friend and STARreview editor, "Moose" was seriously injured in a motorcycle incident a few weeks back. As a result of the "Moose incident" there has been a rash of posts, especially on the HSTA State Director's list, about what our HSTA Club's efforts are relating to safety. One post in particular stuck out to me. It wasn't even ostensibly about safety per se, rather about the reason given by a non-renewing member. The former member said he didn't renew because "The riding speeds are not a fit for him - too fast".

Now that statement caught my attention. Not because I don't think there are folks in the club that ride really fast, but because I also know there are folks in the club who DON'T. Too bad I thought. He never got the chance to meet the other types of riders in the club. I know we've tried to get the MAP thing off the ground, but that's been running into the problem of getting enough volunteers to team with riders requesting it. Often when asked why they don't offer to be MAP's. I've heard that some more experienced riders when approached about participating are reluctant to give up their riding vacation to ride in a style different than they prefer. That is understandable. Here again, I believe it's because we lack a way of classifying riders so every-

one can have an idea of what to expect from a ride and/or its leader.

I have led numerous rides here in FL and always tried to tailor the pace to the riders that show up. Yes, that gets to be a real challenge when a large number show (>8) or even with 8 or fewer, there is a wide disparity between skill levels. The faster riders towards the front and we'll keep you in sight is still intimidating to the slower riders at the back. I know for certain that I have led numerous rides at a far slower pace than when I rode in the STAR New Members rides. In an ideal world we'd have multiple leaders who ride multiple differing paces. However, even if we had the people to do so, how do we organize such rides?

I think we need some type of classification system to help us in this regard. Something like between 3 and 5 "tiers" where the "Ricky Racers" (SPORT/tourers) are at one end and the "Stop & Smell the Roses" (sport/TOURERS) are at the other end. Maybe then we could begin to effectively coordinate resources to accommodate every one and not end up alienating anyone. I doubt we have the people to do this on any consistent basis at the state level, but I do think it could work at the larger National events.

Any thoughts?

Bill Royal - Ride Safe, Ride Smart, Ride Home.

December South Lunch Ride Weekend Event

Submitted By: Bill Royal

I have some special plans for the December South Lunch ride weekend... Now, this isn't for everyone, and especially so if you shun group riding or crowds so beware.

The Saturday lunch ride will be a pretty normal affair. We'll lead anyone wishing to ride with us from the Winn Dixie in Sun City Center as usual, down through some nice back roads to a new destination for us - the Sonny's BBQ in Clewiston. Up to here, it's our normal lunch ride program and you are welcome to make this part only if that's your desire.

From there, it changes though, as Eve and I will not be returning to SCC this day. Instead we're heading out after lunch to Boynton Beach where we'll visit my Mom, and spend the night. Then, on Sunday morning, we'll be heading for the Toys in the Sun Run. If you haven't heard of this it's one of, if not the biggest toy run anywhere. Here's a prelude for this year's event -

The world's largest motorcyclists charity parade and event leaves from Pompano Harness Track and ends at Markham Park in Sunrise. Scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2005, more than 70,000 motorcyclists and twice as many people are expected to participate in the ["Annual Christmas Toys in the Sun Run"](#) presented by Rick Case Honda. Proceeds benefit the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida and the Boys and Girls Club of Broward County Florida. Motorcyclists line up at

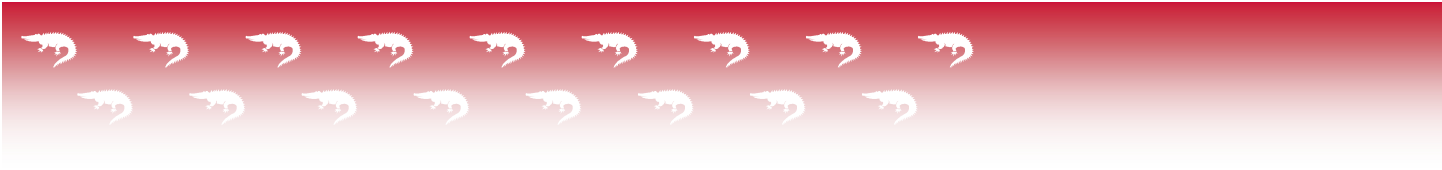
7 a.m. and start at 10 a.m. I-95 South of Atlantic to I-595 West to 136th Avenue and SR 84 (exit for Markham Park) will be completely closed down for the duration of the run, which lasts about three hours. This year's Grand Marshals are Steven Tyler from Aerosmith, Richie Sambora of Bon Jovi, and BSO Sheriff Ken Jenne. \$10 to attend and one unwrapped toy.

So, we'll be meeting at 6:00 AM for breakfast at the IHOP at the intersection of S Pompano Pkwy (Powerline Rd/SR845) and SW 14th St (Gateway). After that, we'll head into the track to stage for the run, then spend the next few hours people and bike watching until the ride kicks off at 10:00 AM. The ride to the park is a hoot, with thousands of spectators along the way waving and cheering us on. Speeds never exceed 45 and mostly its much slower. There is ample police escort all along the route, complete with their reindeer antlers :-)

Once at the park, we'll tour and shop around a bit and plan to leave early enough to make it back to the Tampa area before or very close to dusk.

Hope some of you can/will make this unique event!

For more info on the event check out:
<http://www.toysinthesunrun.com/index.htm>



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. (RSVP always helpful if you know)

♦ **HSTA Florida South Lunch Ride - November 12th, 2005 - Nav-A-Gator, Lake Suzy, FL.** Lunch at Noon. Last attempt here was called for rain, though a few "Real Men" did make it from South Florida :) Let's try to ALL make it this time. Located on the Peace River, at the end of Peace River Ave - off of CR769 (King's Hwy) Map details on FLA HSTA website.
 GPS: N27 03.662 W82 00.081 in hddd° mm.mmm° format See you there! Contact: Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

Future South Rides/Dates:

Dec 3rd - Clewiston - (Sonny's BBQ) Jan 1st - Ozello - (Pecks Old Port Cove)

♦ **HSTA Florida North Lunch Ride - November 19th, 2005 - Gator Landing, Palatka, FL.** Suggested by Bob Fischer this place is on the St John's River. On the south side of Route 17 just east of the bridge. It has a big sign.
 Approx GPS: N29 38 37.9 W81 36 21.7 in hddd° mm'ss.s° format
 Contact: Sam Ulbing n4uau@cox.net or 352-262-6221

Future North Rides/Dates:

December 10- also new: The Backyard BBQ in Newberry.

January 21 - Gator Joe's in Ocklawaha.

Feb ?? – Orlando Dinner/ Museum ride?

Toy Run in the Sun - Sunday Dec. 4th, 2005 - See December South Lunch Ride Weekend Event article for more details

♦ And all the rest of the HSTA National schedule...

NOTES: 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
November 4-6	Texas Hill Country Ride	YO Ranch Resort 2033 Sidney Baker Kerrville, TX 78028 877-967-3767



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