



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

November 2007



Fall Fantastic

Submitted By: Dianne Park

FABULOUS -- Let's do it again next weekend!!!

it's still fun to ride in the open air back of a pickup truck like you did when you were a kid - at least I hope you did!

That's the best way I can sum up the non-event ride to Alachua, FL last weekend. Phil, you really had a winner - with every road, every restaurant, and the absolutely perfect weather.

Jim Park led the southern group who left south Florida around 7:00 am, enjoying back roads the whole way to Alachua (including, of course, one dirt road - wouldn't be a true Jim Park ride without one!) and arrived shortly after 5:00 to an excited and warm welcoming committee of Carmel & Phil Ridgill.

We eagerly discussed making the extra effort to go to the really neat, as we discovered, downtown section of Alachua rather than just walking across the street to a Sonny's BBQ. Great decision! Thanks to Chuck and Francis Headrick who graciously offered that those who did not want to get back on their bikes could pile in his truck. (Yes,

had grown up there!

And then there was the place he selected for lunch, The Telford Inn. Words wouldn't do the

Someone suggested Italian once we got there, and I'm still thinking that evening, for me, was the highlight of the trip - although that's a tough call.

Because the next day, after the early-to-rise southern group went out and "eventually" located breakfast (!), I went back to the hotel to catch up with the not-quite-as-early-to-rise rest of the group, gassed up and man, ... then the fun really started. Again, with perfect weather, and great roads with beautiful scenery, Phil led about 10 of us through those areas of North Central Florida, with no map and no GPS (unless Carmel was telling him where to go!) like he



A very happy crew at lunch on the Fall Fantastic

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This 2 time award winning newsletter is produced and edited by:

Bill Royal
HSTA Florida Newsletter Editor

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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

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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
Bruce Belrose	Tallahassee, FL	FJR1300	MCN Magazine
Sam Brandes	Sun City Center, FL	Silverwing	Road Runner Mag
Douglas Walker	Jacksonville, FL	several	Unspecified magazine



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.

For Sale

Bikes

2005 LT, Excellent Condition, 33K miles, BMW Comm 2 System, Nav II GPS, XM Sat Radio, BMW CB Radio, PIAA 1100X Lights, Convenience Pkg, Heated Seats and Grips, KonTour Driver Seat, BMW Comfort Seat for Passenger, AM-FM-CD Changer, Cee Bailey WS, Run-N-Lites, 3 BMW Liner Bags, Mag's Bag for Top Case---\$16,500 Contact: Dennis--561-329-3257 or ipnman2002@yahoo.com

97 ST1100 ABS/TCS 22,018 miles Handlebar risers, BMW grips BW Streetpilot, aux fuse box, Honda volt meter, Works shock, wind deflectors with blind spot mirrors, BMW electrical plug, 60's Honda racing decal clear coated in, Acc shelf, 3m reflective tape on bags, 45°valve stems, fenda extenda, H4 headlight adapters, bungee buddies on bags, bag flopper stoppers. All fluids recent change, extra oil filter and service manual. New MEz6 front and ME880 on the rear with lots of tread left. Images at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/15127070@N07/sets/72157602439300241/> \$5300 or best offer Contact: Mitch - mitch96@pobox.com

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

1977 BMW R100RS with 32000 miles in good condition. BMW tank bag, saddle bags, small luggage rack, stock & tall windshields. \$4000.00 Contact: Art Bremer 352-464-2000 (st.ops@earthlink.net)

Gear

ST1100 Rick Mayer seat - Black Vinyl for person 5'11 #190 32" inseam with bar risers... \$250 obo, you pay shipping.
Escort Solo S2 radar detector (wireless) hardly used \$ 200 Images of both items at same Flickr site as listed in the 97 ST1100 ad. Contact: Mitch - mitch96@pobox.com

Corbin "Gunfighter & Lady" seat and backrest for ST1100. \$250.00 Contact: Art Bremer 352-464-2000 (st.ops@earthlink.net)

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

VarioBar Handlebar System. www.gillestooling.com, cut from high strength Aircraft Aluminium AL 7075. Can be used as clip ons, Multi Adjustable, this kit come with a 3 inch riser ext multi Adjustable, fits BikBird/VFR or any bike with same diameter fork tube. Phil Ridgdill 904 287 0654 Email rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

Wanted

Small off road bike 80cc-125cc 4stroke, 3-5 yrs old, Honda, Yamaha or Suzuki. Contact Phil Ridgdill Email rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net, 904 287 9654

Fall Fantastic

Continued...

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inn, or the area, justice -- check out the pics of the weekend!!!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ridemyst/sets/72157602439475745/>

Leaving there, Phil found more great roads and scenery for the rest of the afternoon and still got us back to the motel with ample time to rest up, and shower and socialize before dinner.

But Phil & Carmel weren't done impressing us yet! They had another really cool place picked out for dinner that night. Again, with Chuck & Francis to the rescue, everyone was chauffeured via the pickup.

We are now about to get really spoiled with more great food at a place as unique as its name -- Trombone Charlie's. And just to add a finishing touch, there was a 5 or 6 piece "band" that added to the

last half hour of our dinner with some great jazz and tons of talent.

After dinner, we all piled back into the pickup, but when we reached our hotel no one went to their rooms. A "party" broke out in the parking lot with our small group recapping the day and genuinely appreciating all the effort Phil & Carmel had put into making everything SO much fun.

I guess it's the "old" English teacher in me, but ... they get an A+ in my book --along with a request to do it again. (But it's been awhile since I've brushed up "in the English" department, so although Phil & Carmel get an A+, please don't grade the article. That would be scary. I only agreed to bail Jim out since he was the one who was supposed to write it!) Speaking of scary -- Happy Halloween!



The Trip That Almost Wasn't

Submitted by: Jim Cavanaugh

September 2007

It was the evening before Tom, Ron and I were to leave for the mountains, that I loaded about sixty pounds of traveling and camping gear on my ST1100. I noticed that when the bike was on the side stand it stood up straighter than usual, so I decided the rear spring needed to be set up a notch.

Against my better judgment, I pushed the bike into the garage while wearing open toed sandals. Since the bike was setting lower than normal and with the heavy load my first attempt to put the bike on the center stand failed. As I put extra effort into the second attempt I felt an excruciating pain in my left toe. Apparently, when the bike came down on the failed attempt, the side stand landed on my toe and crushed it like a grape. It was not until the side stand came off of the toe that I felt the first pain.

My toe was split in two places down the end and I was bleeding out

three sides of the toenail. My first thought was that I was going to let Tom and Ron down, since I was kind of the trip coordinator/navigator. However, I decided to see what morning brought before telling the guys. I was not very optimistic, since this was my primary shifting toe. In the morning, I reduced the bandaging as much as possible to get my foot into my riding boot. Actually, the tight fit seemed to reduce the pain.

Finally, we were on our way. However, after about six miles, the alternator on Ron's Gold Wing went out. We decided that Tom and I would go ahead, while Ron got his bike fixed and we would meet later in North Carolina. Unfortunately, Ron's bike was not finished until several days after Tom and I returned home.

The rest of the trip was a great success, although there were some very painful shifts and none of the planned hiking. As for the toe, I healed up and I expect a new toenail to come in where the old one was.

Florida News

Submitted By: Bill Royal & Sam Ulbing

October was a great month for HSTA Florida. We had an event every weekend of the month, and from the reports all were well attended and the folks who attended had great times with riding and socializing. Even the last event in Deland where there was pretty crappy weather (rain on both coasts, and threatening all across the interior) we had a decent turnout. You all deserve a big hand - for the organizers who sponsored the events and the attendees who made them a success by coming. Way To Go Florida!

Sam and I were both disappointed that we were unable to make the Fall Fantastic, but we hope we can keep that event going next year and share the fun with more of you. From Dianne Parks' article it sounded like a winner to me.

November promises more of the same, although with the major holidays upon us we'll all have other demands on our time besides riding. I would remind us all that during the holidays, drivers are likely to be even more distracted than ever so when you do get out to ride remember to ride defensively and take nothing for granted.

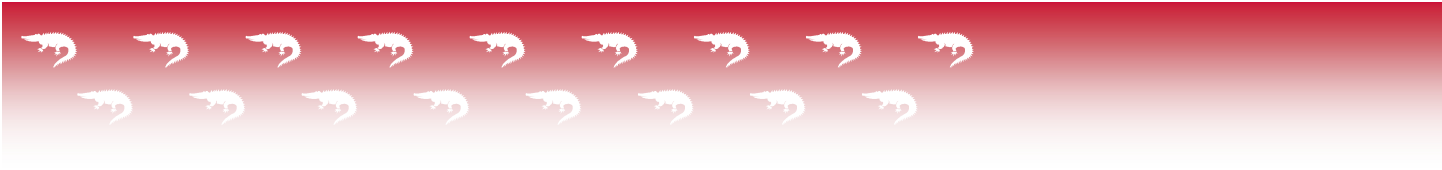
In my last newsletter I reported that Sam Ulbing planned on giving up his State Co-Director position. There has been a change and at least for the time being he will be remaining in place. In fact, he is working on a plan to work with some others to pick up the newsletter duties that I am retiring from with my final issue next month. I am told that they are leaning towards an electronic distribution, limiting printed and mailed copies to only those who require it so if you prefer otherwise now would be the time to speak up and make your desires known.

I do want to say how much I appreciate all the comments and kudos I have received at lunch ride events lately about my editing and production of the current newsletter. I sure wish I could see my

way to continue, but other responsibilities have grown to the point that something has to give and since I have been doing it for so long, the newsletter has to get the nod in that regard. Maybe when I retire I can pick it back up again. In the meantime I would encourage you all to support whoever takes it on by submitting articles, sponsoring rides/events or even stepping up to see if you can help or take over the editing duties.

I do intend to continue to maintain the HSTA Florida Website and hopefully, be a bit more timely with not having to deal with the newsletter duties. It may be that you will get the electronic newsletter by coming to the website to download it.

Spring Fling - At this time it appears that both Sam and I are not going to be able to make STAR in Texas so we are looking to hold a Spring Fling sometime around the same time. We are looking for possible locations. From the last two we have discovered that hotels can be hard to come by, especially at reasonable rates so there is some work to be done to make this happen. If anyone has any ideas about locations, please drop Sam or myself a line.



Upcoming Rides/Events

Ride/Events are compiled for your convenience from a variety of sources. 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 Lunch Ride - Nov. 3rd - Gator Joe's, Ocklawaha FL - Lunch at 11:30 - 12471 SE 135 Ave, Ocklawaha 352-288-3100. It is right on the lake. GPS: N29 02.47 W081 55.78 in degrees and decimal minutes. At the intersection of CR464C and 25, right in the heart of downtown Ocklawaha, turn south toward the lake and you'll find it. Contact: Sam Ulbing n4uau@cox.net 352-262-6221

HSTA Florida Brunch Ride - Nov. 10th - Broadway Café, Ft. Meade, FL, Brunch at 10:30 AM 119 West Broadway in Fort Meade, FL 33841. 863-285-7077, one block west of the intersection of US 17 and SR 630. Great food, great prices, and plenty of room! Contact: Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

HSTA Florida Lunch Ride - Nov. 17th - Rosie's, Lake Wales, FL. Lunch at 11:30 AM Rosie's is located at the marina near Lake Kissimme State Park. It's just a little north of SR 60 on Camp Mack. I found some very nice roads approaching Rosie's from the West. The approach from Frost Proof wasn't bad either. There is a large weigh in stage with sponsors signs, etc... right next to the restaurant.. Approx GPS coordinates: N27 58.635 W81 22.585
Contact: Bob Shields boju29@msn.com or (863) 646-9016

Upcoming Rides/Events -

- Dec. 8th - 11:30 AM - Petrillo's (Former Olde Boarding House), Trenton - Sam Ulbing
- Dec. 15th - 12:00 Noon - Stan's Idle Hour, Goodland - Bill Royal
- Jan. 1st - 12:00 Noon - New Years Day ride - Peck's Old Port Cove, Ozello (Crystal River) - Bill Royal
- Jan. 12th - 11:30 Am - Caribbean Jack's, Daytona Beach - Mike Peppin

Future 2008 unscheduled but "in the works" lunches:
 A picnic at Buck DeShazo's house in Interlachen in early spring
 Cat Fish Johnny's Lake Panasoffkee – Scott Wingerter.
 A Cook-out affair at Rob & Joan Medwed's place - date TDB

Your name could be on this list – give us ideas for rides.

Also, we'd like to try something new this coming year - a calendar that includes not only HSTA events, but also any of the other "big events" that our members might be considering going to - ie: Honda Hoot, Americade, etc. The idea is to help us schedule our local events to minimize conflicts. So, if you have events that you have gone to in the past or are considering going to this year, please email ridefl@flahsta.org with the event name and date(s) if possible.

We are ALWAYS looking for additional rides/sponsors so feel free to set something up and let's share it!

◆ 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
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	http://www.geocities.com/jfpoulos/THC2007.html TXHillCountryRally@gmail.com