



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

October 2005



Florida News

Submitted By: Bill Royal



SE-STAR FL Attendees: From L to R - Rob Medwed, Camille & Ashley Horn, Paul Heydemann, Bill Royal, Eve Blazsur, Terry Brown, Sam Ulbing, Bob Fischer, Fanny Haine, Larry Fitch, Bob Shields, Buck DeShazo, Art Bremer

LOTS of riding activity this month to report on!

If you didn't make the SE-STAR event in Dillard GA, you missed out on a fabulous riding weekend. Some 70+ attendees showed up from several states, but Florida recorded the largest % of attendance with 24 (including several new members!) making the ride. A few of them were

missing when we took the group photo above, but note all he smiling faces! More to come in another article.

We also had our regular two lunch rides this month, on back to back weekends. The South ride drew 22 attendees who averaged 103 miles
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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:

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

South Geography: Bill Royal
1521 New Bedford Dr
Sun City Center, FL 33573
(813) 633-8155
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
Camille Horn	Jacksonville	MOH	Ashley Horne
Kurt Gratzol	Indian Rocks Beach	'03 ST1100	John Paul Gray
Teresa Hunter	Indian Rocks Beach	MOH	Kurt Gratzol
Roger Spice	Lake Placid	'05 FJR + others	magazine

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Florida News

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to get there on a beautiful, dry, hot day to Jaxson's in Lake Placid, FL. Some of us arrived as early as 11:30 due to either ride plan mis-calculation or throttle exuberance - I'll let someone else make that call :-). By Noon, everyone was there and we sat around a long table doing the usual BS'ing while we waited for and then ate our lunches. If you've never been to this place you really owe it to yourself to check it out, either on your own or the next time we go on a ride there. The food is excellent, the service top notch and the prices very reasonable. We got to eat out on the patio in back, overlooking the lake. They even had a huge fan and sun shade to keep us all comfortable!

The North Lunch ride was the following weekend and to a well known favorite of the club, Ye Olde Boarding House in Trenton, FL. We drew another decent crowd of 26, each averaging 118 miles to arrive at this one. Once again we had unusually dry weather for this time of year in Florida so no worries about rain on the way home for a change! Great food - cheap and lots of great friends and conversation, and then all too soon it was time to head back home.

There was one more ride this month - The Bull Shoals rally in Theodosia, MO. I am dying to make this one day, but so far just not enough vacation time to make them all. I do know that FL

member Henry Custer made it because I saw his picture on the event's website! Actually, Henry told me he was going to attend. I am sure he had a great time though I am still awaiting a trip report :-)

So, for me personally, despite having some down time on Silver-Streak for tire maintenance, attending the club rides and occasional commute to work yielded a sweet 2600 miles this month. That made me one lucky (and happy) rider.



FL Members (L to R) Buck DeShazo, Terry Brown, Larry Fitch and Bob Shields - Lounging around enjoying the arrival Bar-B-Que at SE-STAR 05

Unfortunately, others in our club were not so blessed. Although the good news is that apparently the twin Hurricanes of Katrina and Rita didn't take the lives of any of our current or former members, there are several who have lost something - and in a few cases, everything - homes, bikes, possessions, etc. There is an HSTA Hurricane Relief Fund established specifically to as-

sist our HSTA Family members with hurricane recovery efforts. You can make a donation (if you haven't already) by sending a check payable to "HSTA" and write in the memo: HSTA Hurricane Katrina Fund. All funds will go directly to support HSTA members in need.

Should there be excess donations the funds will go directly to the Salvation Army to the Katrina Relief Fund. Also, at each of the HSTA Sanctioned events there has been a collection made there

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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

BRAND NEW Dunlop D404 - 80/90-21. \$50.00 plus shipping. Or if you bring me the bike or the wheel, I'll mount it for free! Contact Scott Wingerter, Inglis, FL 352-447-2662 or Vmax97@peoplepc.com

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

Did you know that each and every day 116 people are killed in a traffic accident nationwide? It's not something we often like to think about, but it is the reality. And while I believe our club as a whole tends to be pretty aware of safety we have lost members tragically in the past, so it can't hurt to review safety from all aspects periodically. Because of this the National Society of Professional Engineers has sponsored a program called **Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day**. For more details on this point your web browser to: www.brakesonfatalities.org

We all know there are many factors that can contribute to a crash, and not all of them are within our personal control. However, driving habits are a significant factor in crashes and they are entirely within our control. As motorcyclists, we may have a keener awareness of the importance of safety in our driving habits due to the exposed nature of riding a motorcycle. On the other hand, we also are human and as such we are prone to forget things, lose focus, be in a hurry, etc. All of these can and do affect our judgment while riding and can ultimately lead to disaster.

Riding Gear -

Our group is excellent at wearing the proper riding gear and also about maintaining our machines as well. Those are two very important aspects that we are well ahead of other motorcycle riding groups at. Yet, still we have suffered those tragic losses in the past. What else can/should we be focusing on?

Here are a few tips I would add, based on observations of rides.

Aggressive Driving -

Yes we all like to have fun, and sometimes that includes exceeding the speed limits or even passing in a no-passing zone. There may well be times when these are necessary and/or safe, but how often do we get caught up in the moment and do them when we really shouldn't? When we do these things we may have given thought to our own safety, but do we always give thought to the safety of others, both fellow MC riders and the other vehicles we

so desperately feel the need to pass? How often have you heard, or even talked yourself, about "pushing the envelope"? The street is no place to be pushing the envelope. We should always maintain a wide safety margin for the unexpected. If you crossed the centerline you didn't leave any margin of safety... Remember - Exceeding the posted speed limits or driving too fast for conditions is a factor in one third of ALL fatal crashes! The only place to be pushing the envelope is on a closed track with adequate safety preparations.

Distractions -

As drivers of MC's and cars we all know about the constant distractions that arise while driving. I am sure there's no one reading this who hasn't cursed a car driver for cutting them off only to then see that the driver was so distracted he or she never even saw us. But there are also a lot of potential distractions for us as MC riders as well. Trying to maintain a group together, focusing on directions, or other navigation aids, riding with discomfort are but a few that we need to maintain constant vigilance over lest we ignore our primary task - that of riding safely - paying attention to our speed, and our situational awareness.

I am sure you all can think of more, and that is the goal of this effort - to get us all to think about the seriousness of driving. Because we do it every day we tend to take it for granted and that's what really can get us and those around us in trouble!

"The most critical part of a motor cycle is the nut connecting the seat to the handlebars!"

Ride Safe, Ride Smart, Ride Home!

Florida News

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and from what I understand we've been a generous group so keep it up!

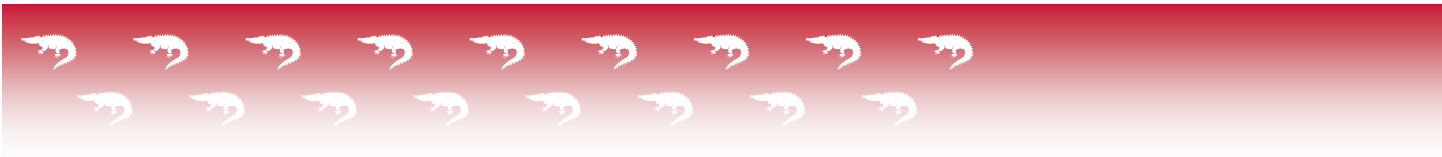
North News from Sam Ulbing:

The FI/Ga Invitational is on 22/23 October. Remember we encourage you to invite non members so they can see what HSTA is all about.

Saturday will feature a Wine and Cheese party at the hotel. On Saturday at 9 AM I will have breakfast at Cracker Boys in Hawthorne, FL (on Rt 441) and then leave promptly at 10 AM to ride back roads up to St Simons, Ga. This is about a 3 hour ride leaving several hours to explore St Simons Island before the Wine and

Cheese party. Any who want to ride up with me on my secret, uncharted, never before ridden back roads are welcome to join. Even if you can't make the event you are welcome to come have breakfast. Breakfast is buffet or order off the menu style.

On Sunday (8 AM ish) I am taking some neat back roads across south Georgia to White Springs, FL (about 3.5 hour ride) where the Telford Inn has a GREAT Sunday Buffet starting at 11 AM (it makes The Boarding House buffet look meager) . White Springs is located near I - 75 so those of you who have to return to middle or south FL can make time going back, or follow me on some more back roads to Alachua, FL and then get on I-75; it will only add 20-30 minutes to the time and there are some great roads here too.



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 - October 15th, 2005 - Cherry Pocket, Lake Wales, FL.** Lunch at Noon. We've only been here once before but everyone that found it liked it. It's located on the NW corner of Lake Pierce, at 3100 Canal Rd. The GPS coordinates are N27° 59.731' W81° 32.623'. If you need more info they have a website www.cherrypocket.com. See you there!
 Contact: Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

Future South Rides/Dates:

Nov 12th - Lake Suzy - (Nav-A-Gator)

Dec 3rd - Clewiston - (Sonny's BBQ)

Jan 1st - Ozello - (Pecks Old Port Cove)

♦ **HSTA Florida North Lunch Ride - October 23-24, 2005 - See Below.** This is an OPEN event meaning HSTA Membership is NOT required. Please invite your non-member riding friends to attend and see what the HSTA is all about. Breakfast at Cracker Boys in Hawthorne, FL (on Rt 441) and then leave promptly at 10 AM to ride back roads up to St Simons, Ga. This is about a 3 hour ride leaving several hours to explore St Simons Island before the Wine and Cheese party. Contact: Sam Ulbing n4uau@cox.net or 352-262-6221

Future North Rides/Dates:

November 19 - A new place: Gator Landing in Palatka

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

January 21 - Gator Joe's in Ocklawaha.

Feb ?? – Orlando Dinner/ Museum ride?

♦ **Florida/Georgia Invitational Dinner Ride - October 22-23, 2005 - Quality Inn Island House - 411 Longview Plaza Frederica Rd. , St Simons Island, GA, US, 31522** Phone: (800) 870-3736 or (912) 634-0660. Check the Yahoo website or call your state director to see if you can hook up with a group, or just ride on your own to the event hotel. Whichever just go ride! **BOOK NOW!**

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

NOTES: Schedule now updated with 2005 events. Some events are still tentative. 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



October 10th 2005

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

What's the goal?

To heighten consciousness about what people can do - and what official steps they should support - to reduce transportation fatalities.

For more information, see the article "Safety Corner" on page 3 of this newsletter and/or browse over to: www.brakesonfatalities.org

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