



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

September 2005



Florida News

Submitted By: Bill Royal

North News - Sam Ulbing

This time the weather cooperated for the ride to RJ Gators. About 20 attended including Matt Harper, a Georgia member who rode down to meet the group. Matt, who is a pilot for the Air Force, expects to be transferred to the Tampa area. The other 'notable' was Larry Fitch who

members.cox.net/n4uau/HSTA/fgidr.html OR <http://www.flahsta.org/events.htm> OR on our Yahoo Group.

The Orlando Museum is having an Art of The Motorcycle display running next year. Have you ever seen a STEAM motorcycle? How about the *Orient*, the first commercially produced motorcy-



Member Bob Shields heads in for lunch

rode 256 miles one way in the hot weather. His sacrifice was more noteworthy because he is negotiating for a new set of wheels but chose to do the lunch ride rather than arm twist the dealer that Saturday.

Don't forget the Florida/Georgia Invitational Ride is only two months away on 22-23 October. Only 2 people have signed up so far. We need your participation to make it happen so make your reservation soon! Details at <http://>

cle? This would be an ideal opportunity to have a mid-winter (Feb?) dinner (overnight) get together in the Orlando area combined with a tour of this unique exhibit. Information about the event is here: http://www.omart.org/pressreleases/art_of_the_motorcycle.html Let me know if this would be of interest. It will only happen if enough people are interested. It's up to you the members!!

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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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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
Al J Bogard	Brandon	None listed	Internet



Ramblin Around

Submitted By: Phil Ridgdill

I know there are a lot of our members (HSTA) that subscribe or read Motorcycle Consumer news, I certainly hope you read Fred Rau, Contact Patch, in the Sept 2005 issue. WORST DRIVERS; I've written about this before but Fred seems to put it in a much better perspective. There's no doubt about it, our Licensed (hopefully) Drivers are just pitiful. Some of you have traveled around the world, you've seen drivers in different parts of the world. I'm sure they have their share of idiot drivers but from what I've seen, we got the worlds worst. Ok, you've been to Italy and the drivers are fast, no doubt about that, but they're skillful and respectful of other drivers/motorcycle riders, they know what they're doing. United Kingdom and Ireland are both that way, its tough to get a drivers License in both UK/IRE. You know how easy it is to get drivers license here in Florida, it's easy. A 15 year old child can get a permit, doesn't have to take a test just apply for and get a permit to drive and can legally drive on the public road in daylight hours as long as she/he has a licensed Adult/driver in the car. One year after the issue of the Permit, they can take a written test and a parking lot Drivers Test and receive a Drivers License if they pass. Fred also brought up the fact that "the US has the worst drivers in the world. There are reams and reams of Scientific studies available through the UN and other organizations to back this up". Pitiful.

Sorry about this guys, I just had to say something about this. Simply because we are all Motorcyclists and we need to be aware of the Car/Truck/Vehicle drivers on the road today.

I finally had a good go on the ST1300. OHHH My goodness, this is a fine machine. Thanks to Tim Miller, I had a go on a new one. This bike is SMOOTH unbelievably so, makes my ST1100 feel like Bronco Horse, that's a bit of exaggeration, I realize that. But, its definitely smoother than an ST1100 or the BMW 1200RT. I was really surprised how comfortable it was, sitting position was fine for me. I don't know how Tim had the seat adjusted, it fit me fine and the bike felt very light to me. However, make no doubt about it, ST1300 is a heavy bike. 727lbs with a full load of fuel is heavy. I don't remember how much fuel was on when I rode it but the steering was exceptionally easy. Acceleration, this bike is bloody fast and it will accelerate very well. The BMW 1200RT and the Honda ST1300 are both miles & miles ahead of the FJR1300. The FJR is a fine motorcycle but it can not compare to these two bikes. The BMW & Honda have so much more quality, FJR has motor but that's all its got. You can flip a coin, 1200RT or ST1300, they're the best Full Faring Sport Touring Bikes you can buy. The 1200GS is still the best all around motorcycle on the market.

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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

Bikes

2002 VFR800i - VTEC engine, like new condition. 6500 miles never abused & never down. 40+ MPG on regular gas! Wired for Trickle Charger and Escort. Other goodies include Givi Windshield (+ OEM), Heli Bars (+ OEM). Color Coordinated Tank Bra, Stem Stand. Over \$300 of soft luggage: TourMaster Saddlebags, two-stage Tank Bag, and Rocket Locker Tail Bag Asking \$7,000. - Gerry Stellwagon - gfsHOME@verizon.net

1991 Honda ST1100. Excellent condition, Silver, 88k miles, always garaged, original owner. Sargent Leather seat, MEZ 4 tyres, luggage rack, works performance shock & orig. shock, 3 windshields, Audio com with Radar connection, Properly serviced and on Mobil 1 syn oil (Motorcycle). Asking \$3775 obo.. North FL area. Phil Ridgdill 904 287 9654 or rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

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



Florida News

Continued...

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Monthly Lunch Rides:

The September 17: The Olde Boarding House in Trenton. October 22/23: Fl/Ga Invitational Dinner Ride: breakfast and dinner.

November 19 - A new place: Gator Landing in Palatka, Fl
December 10- also new: The Backyard BBQ in Newberry.
January 21 - Gator Joe's in Ocklawaha.

Feb ?? – Orlando Dinner/ Museum ride?

I am looking for suggestions for restaurants in the greater Ocala area for future lunch rides.

South News - Bill Royal

Another great month of riding in Florida. Despite the summertime heat

and threat of rain many of us enjoyed the riding. It was a small group I had heading up to the North ride. I left Sun City Center alone, but picked up Rich Herrington along the way and then at the halfway point we hooked up with Bob Shields who came up out of Lakeland. I messed up a bit in rushing my ride plan to press so we were about 30 minutes ahead of schedule as we

headed up I-75, so what better excuse for a little detour. We got off in Alachua and tried to find some decent roads around. Did OK, but I think we missed out on the best ones. Maybe next time...



The South ride had a big turnout. I had a dozen or so bikes for the 80 mile ride to there and another dozen or so showed up from all over including the "Real Men" riders from South Florida (sans their leader Jim Park who was over in Europe on a motorcycle tour) P. Van Steelant and Fred Schilling from that group took top mileage honors at 159 and 180 respectively.



South Ride - Lined up on both sides of the street!

This was our first trip back to Jack's/ Frostproof since the hurricanes wreaked their havoc there last summer. We filled up the place and they treated us great. Food was good and priced

right and there was plenty of time for chatting. Then folks started departing for home. Yeah, it was pretty warm going home, but I really didn't hear too many complaints!

Ride Safe - Ride Smart - Ride Home

Ramblin Around

Continued...

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Since I'm rambling on a bit, have you bought gas lately? I decided I would use my ST1100, doing my little chores around town and wouldn't you know, had to buy gas. My light hadn't come on yet and it wasn't completely out of gas but I thought time to refill. 5.71gal at \$2.849 comes out to \$ 16.26, I've never paid that much to fill any motorcycle gas tank. Later on, after my granddaughters Volley ball game the car needed gas, \$53.00 and it was full. The ST made 215 miles on 5.71 gals, that's a little over 37mpg, not bad at all. My car gets 23-24 mpg city and if you take it easy 28mpg on the highway, that's ok but its nothing to get excited about. Check out this www.honda.co.uk and have a look at the Accord I-ctdi, Urban (city) 37.7mpg, Extra Urban (highway) 58.9mpg, Combined mileage 48.7 mpg. Hello, this is more like it.

Mr. Honda, why don't we have these cars available in the good old USA. Don't give me all this bit about we don't have the fuel for these cars, that's rubbish. We have the fuel. And the other bit about emissions, that's rubbish also, these cars have the proper emission controls. When your getting an average of say 15mpg in the USA and paying close to \$3.00gal for fuel, high mileage vehicles are available in other parts of the world and we can't have them. Definitely something is not right guys/gals. I wonder why???

Ride your Motorcycle, you'll conserve fuel and save a little \$\$\$.

Ride Safe & Smart

Phil Ridgill



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** - September 10th, 2005 - **Jaxson's, Lake Placid, FL**. The address is SR S621 or Lake June Rd. The GPS coordinates are: N27° 19.225', W81° 23.099' The phone number of the place is 863-465-4674 Hope to see you there! Contact: Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

Future South Rides/Dates:

Oct 15th - Cherry Pocket - Lake Wales Nov 12th - TBA Dec 3rd - Clewiston, FL

♦ **HSTA Florida North Lunch Ride** - September 17th, 2005 - **Ye Olde Boarding House, Trenton FL**. Lunch at 12:00 Noon. We've been to this location often before and it's always been a popular spot with an outstanding buffet meal. See you there. Contact: Sam Ulbing n4uau@cox.net or 352-262-6221

Future North Rides/Dates:

October 22/23: Fl/Ga Invitational Dinner Ride: breakfast and dinner. November 19 - A new place: Gator Landing in Palatka, Fl
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! More details elsewhere in this newsletter

♦ 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
September 9-11	Ozarks BS Rally	Theodosia Marina & Resort - Highway 160 Theodosia, MO
September 16-18	River City Ride	Baymont Inn - 2495 Landmark Avenue Corydon, Indiana 812-738-1500
September 23-25	SE Star	Holiday Inn Express 64 White Oak Lane Dillard, Georgia 706-746-3585
September 30-October 2	Friends of Freddie - XIII	Tradition Inn Intersection of Hwy 67 & W Farmington, MO 877-355-6205
November 4-6	Texas Hill Country Ride	YO Ranch Resort 2033 Sidney Baker Kerrville, TX 78028 877-967-3767



National Stop on Red Week

National Stop on Red Week - a week dedicated to educating Americans about the dangers of running red lights – will now takes place starting last Saturday of August every year, going from Saturday to Friday. This year, National Stop on Red Week is August 27-September 2, 2005.

For more information on this topic, please point your web browser to:

http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersections/srlr_week.htm



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