



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

September 2006



Florida News

Submitted By: Bill Royal, Rob Medwed & Sam Ulbing

South Brunch Ride

Jack's Diner - Frostproof - Aug. 12th
Bill Royal

We had a very nice turnout of 19 riders to the "south's" first stab at a Breakfast/Brunch vs. Lunch ride. There were essentially two groups - my riders from the Tampa area, and the West Palm group. About equal riders from each. The West Palm group had the longer ride, yet they managed to arrive first. My group had a few issues keeping together such that we arrived (together) just on time. Long Distance honors go the Scott Bills who somehow managed to ride from Lake Placid to Frostproof (about 32 miles as the crow flies) and covered 257 miles on his new 05 ST1300. Maybe he went to Miami first :-)

Sam's Sunday Breakfast ride to the Melrose Café on Aug 13th had 7 riders make it, including 3 non-members.

North Lunch Ride

Swamphouse Debary FL. - August 19th
Rob Medwed

The threat of thunderstorms could not keep away the 12 riders who showed up at the Swamphouse in Debary for the North lunch ride. Located right on the St. Johns River was a great setting for this lunch ride. Those who arrived early were treated to a boat fire in the river. Apparently things in the water can still catch on fire. As is the case with many of our lunch rides, the food was good and the company was great. The long distance award goes to Sam and the Gainesville crew that logged



HSTA Florida Member Joan Medwed astride her brand new Kawasaki Vulcan 500

over 150 miles each way. Sam brought along a few guests from the Concours Owners Group. They shared lunch and some good conversation with us. The Melbourne crew logged a respectable 90 plus miles each way. We also had a new low miles record when Mike Johnson logged an
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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

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
Richard Kihnley	Deerfield Beach	Not Listed	Friend

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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

2003 36' FourWinds Motorhome (FunMover 35C) -8x10 cargo area set up for 2 motorcycles w/pwr bike lift - 300hp TurboDiesel w/ Allison 6 sp - 7.5kw Diesel Gen - 1 Slideout - sleeps up to 6 - SatTV- Many options/extras - Photos upon request - Ext Warr - Exc Cond - Recently serviced - 38k - \$86,500 - 352.324.0569- jamcclur3@aol.com

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.

Tour Master Cortech GX Air mesh summer riding pants. Women's size small, tag says small 8-10 but this is a very small 8-10. Removable padding, washable, sold as is, great condition. \$50.00 & you pay shipping. Paid \$169.00 new. Contact me by email: ebloeday@mindspring.com or phone: 813-633-8155. I can send a photo or bring them to a lunch ride.

Adjustable Hook & Loop Heated Grip pads, \$30.00 - Phil Ridgill 904 287 9654, rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

Shoel 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 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
Larry Fitch at fitchle@hotmail.com or 321-266-8757

Trips

Hike N Ride: Spend 6 days riding the most beautiful rural and back country roads in CT and NH. Stopping occasionally to hike a breathtaking loop trail that leads to outstanding views. Must be in good physical shape. Every night will be spent in a different luxurious Bed and Breakfast. Estimated price is \$1030.00 PP double occupancy. Price includes all breakfast and dinner but does not include transportation to and from Sharon, CT (meeting place) or alcoholic beverages. See New England at its finest and prettiest...in the fall. This trip is planned for mid September 06 (exact date to be announced soon). Please email me for details, questions and if you have an interest. strev3nking@yahoo.com. This trip is limited to only 10 people.

Florida News

Continued...

(Continued from page 1)

impressive ¼ mile in his GMC Sierra. Either Mike lives very close or he spent the night in his truck. In addition Joan Medwed rode her brand spankin' new Kawasaki Vulcan 500 on her maiden voyage. She just passed her motorcycle license exams and has now graduated from pillion status to a rider. Way to go Joan!

Last but by no means least:

Chris Hughes hosted a **Saturday, Aug 26th - 8:30 AM breakfast ride** at Billy's Café in Tavares. This ended up being a joint club event between the COG and HSTA. We had a very decent 13 rider turnout, with the COG group edging out the HSTA for members attending. Despite the threatening rain Eve and I rose early to make a 6:30 AM departure to make the 8:30 AM breakfast and were rewarded with a (mostly) dry ride with very low traffic and even a beautiful rainbow thrown in! Once again the long distance honors went to another South Florida rider, Paulie Heydemann left at only God knows what hour to cover 269 miles to arrive EARLY for the

8:30 AM breakfast! Way to GO Paulie!

I really liked the venue and hope to do it again soon.

Sam mentioned an observation that we've really begun to develop a nice group of women riders here in Florida. And I am talking about serious women riders, the likes of Sue Roe, Fanny Haine, Eve Blazsur and others who are logging 10-15K + miles a year on a regular basis. So, while we may have a ways to go regarding recruiting younger riders, we are at least attracting our share of the women riders and I hope that speaks to the friendly, accepting nature of our club. We hope to entice one or more of these women riders to perhaps pen an occasional article to this newsletter on their experience...

Don't forget that **SE Star in Dillard, GA. is 22 to 24 Sept.** Hurricanes permitting this is a really fun event. Hope you plan to attend.

Bill, Sam and Rob

Ramblin Around

Submitted By: Phil Ridgill

Reading all the accounts of STAR 2006 in Avon Colorado, I'm sorry Carmel and I didn't make it this year. Bill Royal's account of the ride out to Colorado was very interesting. He has it right, back roads are the best. Back Road America is still alive guys, just get out there and take a look at it. These bloody Interstates; I guess they're ok for Trucks and if you're in a great hurry - and I'm just as guilty as anyone. I've been out there on the Super Slab many times but I avoid it as much as possible. However, more important is Eve's "Ride of a Lifetime". Well done Eve, Long distance Female Rider award at STAR and then we have the Ride of a Lifetime. That's the best written article about ones motorcycle adventures we've seen in a long time.

Riding into History event: a big thanks to Bill & Eve and Jim & Dianne Park for helping at the HSTA booth during the event. It was a fantastic show, ABVMC & BMWNEF are to be congratulated on a job well done. This year's show was about Asian Bikes, exceptionally nice motorcycles in the show. If you haven't been to one of these RIH events, by all means make the event next year. It's very difficult to say if we picked up any new members this year, time will tell that. We certainly got a lot of inquiries about the HSTA and we all enjoyed talking to the people that stopped at our booth.

Every once in awhile I go back and review all the HSTA photo's that I have, lunch rides, group meetings and some STAR Photo's. We've a problem, I don't see very many young people in this club. I'm sure we have a few young people but I don't see very many. Ok, I understand we're all young - motorcycles keep us thinking young but all of you know what I mean by "young". Next time you're on a lunch ride or a meeting with your HSTA colleagues, look around; how many guys/gals do you see in their 20's or 30's. It's difficult to attract young members to this club, we're not "bikers" (of course that word bikers depends on your mind set). My experience is that we are motorcyclists who enjoy most all aspects of the sport. When we have a local lunch ride or whatever, if you have some people (guys/gals) you ride with that aren't members, invite them to our HSTA rides, we need some young influence. As you all know, Florida is one of the fastest growing States in the HSTA Membership. A lot of credit for that goes to Bill Royal and his work on the Monthly newsletter, along with Sam and his efforts. Lets all make an effort to keep that up.

Ride Safe & Smart - Phil Ridgill

Over The Pond '06

Submitted By: Paulie COG 4561, HSTA 11498

Editors Note: I was so excited when I got Paulie to submit an article about his motorcycle trip in Europe this summer... That excitement turned to terror as I looked over the 20+ paragraphs (one paragraph per day) and the 250+ AWESOME photographs he sent me...

Terror is because I have no idea how to trim his text without losing the experience of the trip and even if I didn't include ANY of the pictures, it'll take several months of Gator Tale issues to get it all in! But, I am going to make a try and we'll see how it goes. I won't be able to get in many of the pix but will try to get some of the best. So, here goes - installment 1 of ???

Oh and the article is written in "Mijamise" so I left it unedited for the effect ;-)

Over The Pond '06 -

Ok, let's get the serious biz out of the way first. I'm mighty fortunate & grateful to have received the honor of being the COG (Concours Owners Group) Over the Pond (OtP) '06 Traveler, following the tradition of COG honchos Guy, Rick & Linda. This grand trip to the GCE (GTR Club Europe) Rally and beyond is dedicated to my mom Ellen, who raved about her travels in Scandinavia. She passed on last November after a full 84 years, greatly missed by all who knew her. The trip was enabled by the generous COG & GCE members

that elected me & contributed pledges to make it happen. Fundraising was organized by the EGB (Evil Grin Boyz) - Hans, Ted, & Spencer. All these ingredients added up to a wonderful 3.5 week ride in a place that I've been dreaming about visiting for a *long* time.



Paulie and his host Marc

On 6/8 my bro Rick kindly gave me a ride to Mijami International Airport for the redeye nonstop to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Somewhere in the process of dragging my mountain of luggage to the counter my shades took a hike. Even tho I never found em, strafing the area gave me a mission to help wile away the 3+ hours plus an excuse to size up the other passengers. Martinair (based in Holland) was the carrier & I gotta say their service was excellent. Upon boarding I grabbed a free copy of the (London) Guardian & got a surprising amount of reading enjoyment. Prolly more content than a month of the lousy Mijami Herald. In the course of the ~10 hr flite I eventually got a bit of poor quality zzzzs and spoke to a Swedish lady across the aisle about surstromming, the "delicacy" that I was gonna be subjected to at the GCE Rally. Making a face, she said

that she would never even consider trying it. Oy.

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Driving Miss Sandy & Grandboys to STAR06

Submitted By: Tom Mewborn

Driving Miss Sandy and, Grand Boys hauling a "Lead Wing" to HSTA STAR 06 in Avon, Colorado

In June of 1992, Miss Sandy, my bride was employed and only had two weeks vacation. I had six weeks of vacation and the many years of my Sandy playing tennis had not taken a toll on her knees. That year, I rode solo to Avon pulling a trailer behind the Gold Wing. Sandy flew to the Denver airport where I picked her up and after attending STAR, we traveled west into Utah, New Mexico and Arizona then back to Denver where Sandy flew home. That was a fantastic trip for us, and we often talked about attending another STAR in Colorado

Well time has passed. Knees and old age has taken its toll. Also, since our last Colorado Star, we have been blessed with Grandsons whom we take on a trip every summer. So earlier this year, Sandy and I discussed a trip to Avon to attend STAR 06... Originally plans were for me to ride out - Sandy would rent a car and meet me in Avon (She no longer rides with me due either to bad knees or my poor motorcycle skills, just not sure which, at least a good excuse for her.)

Well plans changed, and after discussions with our Grandsons Zachary age 10, Kyle age 7 and their parents our daughter Kelli and her hubby Jeff. A decision was made to take the two grand boys with us and after STAR Kelli/Jeff and Aaron who will be two in August would fly out and join us in Frisco, Co..We would then venture on to Cortez to visit Mesa Verde, Durango for the Durango to Silverton Train, Colorado Springs, then "ALL the GRANDBOYS and our daughter Kelli and Son in law Jeff would fly home, leaving Sandy and I to drag the "Lead Wing" back to Florida.

On Monday, June 11th., We loaded up and left New Port Richey (About 25 miles North of Tampa) and arrived in Avon on June 17th., after visiting friends in Biloxi, Miss. and touring the Pan Handle Plains Museum of the Plains in Amarillo, Texas, and the Palo Duro Canyon in Canyon, Texas..

On Saturday, June 17th., we arrived at the "Christie Lodge" in Avon, Colorado. As we approached the Lodge the signs and Lodge staff were directing us to a trailer unloading area. Within ten minutes we had the "Lead Wing" off the trailer, our luggage unloaded, Zachary and I took the trailer over to a storage area. We returned to the Lodge and were efficiently checked in and registered by the HSTA Volunteers.

Within several minutes we were located in our room, where Thanks to Lyn Weas, Managing Director, a nice cold six pack of brew was waiting for our pleasure. Thank you very much Lynn and the Christie Lodge Staff for the excellent service and facilities.

The Grand Boys immediately hit "Pop's" up for some change for the video arcade, Sandy checked out the laundry and I was off to locate old friends having been a HSTA member since 1991. It was great to see old friends, they all looked great. I have said for years that hobbies and especially riding bikes with HSTA friends keeps one not only young at heart but young in age...just ask Don Clark who is 87 and who rode in from California.



L-R Back: Judy Travis, Sandy & Tom Mewborn
L-R Front: Mewborn Grandson's Kyle & Zachary
Photo courtesy Tom Mewborn
Taken on Trail Ridge Rd. on way up to Estes Park
In Rocky Mountain National Park

The first day at STAR, Zachary my oldest grandson age 10 and I took a test ride up to Leadville in the morning, then later in the afternoon, "Pop's" wanted to get out and scrape the Air Horn, so I rode back up to Leadville solo. While coming off the mountain, I lost the rear brakes. The old "Lead Wing" now has 113K plus miles on her. Apparently, the folks at Leesburg Honda in Florida had not properly bled the brakes when I had new tires installed prior to the trip. No problem, our HSTA STAR planners had made arrangements to have a dealer from Denver at Avon to service our bikes and the brakes were repaired promptly by a very skilled Honda Mechanic - Thanks Tim.

Zachary and I teamed up with our favorite leader and Co-Florida Director Bill Royal and his sweetie

Miss Eve for the lunch ride to Grand Lake. We had a very nice ride taking the Tail Gunner position and watching Bill carve thru those wonderful curves on his ST-1100, (This Fool sold his ST-1100) and watching Miss Eve taking a great line and is no slough on those high mountain twisties.

We had a very nice lunch thanks to our HSTA organizers at the "Sage Brush Cafe" (In fact a few days later while visiting our friend Judi in Denver we drove back thru Estes Park and the Rocky Mountain National Park and had dinner at the Sagebrush Cafe. I enjoyed a wonderful "Prime Rib Cut".) I also took the time to again thank them for catering our HSTA event. They remember us and had wonderful comments on our club. I noticed they still had the "Welcome HSTA Sign" at the city entrance sign.

On Wednesday, Zachary and I rode thru Glenwood Springs Canyon,
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Driving Miss Sandy & Grandboys to STAR06

Continued...

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Aspen, (85 Octane was being given away at \$3.92.9.I know those movie stars have money) On to Independence Pass, back thru Leadville to Avon, just another wonderful route as suggested by our HSTA planners.

I would like to congratulate Miss Eve for the long distance Female rider and congrats to our Florida News Letter Editor Bill Royal. I was disappointed that Bill did not receive the first place award. In my opinion, he deserves first place. Based on this years judging. We as members need to support Bill with articles, ideas and etc. since the categories included the number of articles submitted by members. I took the time to look at the other news letters on display, and We Florida Folks are blessed to have Bill as our newsletter editor. He has the others beat by a country mile. Please let all of us support him this next year. Then we can all yell very loud at Asheville, when he wins first place again.

After STAR, we stayed a day longer and took the boys on the ski lift to Beaver Creek, where we did some hiking, played putt-putt golf, and Zachary did the bungee cord thing. We left on Friday June 23rd. drove to Denver visited a friend, stored the "Lead Wing" and trailer. On Monday June 26th., We drove out to Frisco, Colorado, checked into a hotel and waited for our daughter Kelli, Son in law Jeff and Aaron to arrive from Florida. Upon their arrival we follow them in their rental car to Cortez where we toured the Mesa Verde Indian Ruins, then to Durango where we rode the Durango to Silverton Train, then on to Colorado Springs to visit Seven Falls and Winds of the Caves then to Denver where our Daughter Kelli/Jeff and the

boys flew home leaving Sandy and I in Denver.

We hung around Denver with our friend Judi for the holiday and on Wednesday July 5th. We started dragging the "Lead Wing" east, with a stop in Huntsville, Ala. visiting my kid sister and celebrating her 6x birthday. We arrived home on Tuesday July 11th.one month after our departure.

In summary, we had a wonderful trip. Dragging the "Lead Wing" over 4000 miles in order to ride about 600 miles of those wonderful Colorado roads, renewing old friendships and fellowship with those of our HSTA Gang from Florida - Bill, Eve, Sam, Lee, etc.

STAR 07 will be in Asheville, N.C. We have a son Steve in Asheville who is a "Gold Wing Rider", our plans are to make STAR 07 and recruit our son. Hope all of our Florida friends will try to make this one. You will have fun and maybe we can win the largest state award. My plans are to win the bike in 07 to replace the tired old "Lead Wing".

A very big Thanks to our organizers and volunteers for STAR 06, and The Christie Lodge and the entire Staff.

A very big Thanks to Bill and Sam for all they do to support our wonderful HSTA Florida Club, all the efforts they put in for our rides and local events.

Tom & Sandy Mewborn
New Port Richey, Fla.

Over The Pond '06

Continued...

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At Schipol airport Marc (the '05 Otp Traveler to the US) was there to pick me up. Since he was a head taller than the rest of the crowd and was wearing a GTR shirt, spotting him was EZ. Marc showed me around via the scenic route to his townhouse in the village of Dronten. On the way we stopped to replace my sunglasses, buy groceries, & add minutes to his cel that I was gonna borrow. Happy, friendly folks are out on wheels & on foot all over. I like it here! We collaborated to make a good dinner of Marc's design & I eventually collapsed after jet lag kicked my ass with a vengeance.

Marc is generously allowing me to thrash, uh, I mean gently putt away on his GTR1000. As far as I can tell the GTR is identical to a Conc cept it has fairing extenders & slightly diff lighting. Plan A was for me to leave early this morning from his place. But the bike wasn't ready - it was still getting new tars & brake pads at his mechanic friend's house, quite a ways contrary to my planned travel direction. I had to give myself a "Paulie, cool yer jets!" tude adjustment cause I'm an impatient cuss. Now I see that the EU pace of life is decidedly slower. Marc continued taking good care of me by helping load my piles onto his GTR. He was understandably sad to see it leaving. Off to the gas station we went where I discovered low brake fluid & 35 psi in the tars. Gotta love that non do it

yourself service! I finally rolled away ~11:30am & joined the well-behaved but busy ~110 kph traffic on the bland motorway (expressway). Marc's GPS came in handy a few times but since I'm more of a map guy, I didn't use it much. It's hard to get lost - EU road signs are superior as long as ya know the name of the next town in yer direction. Crossing into no-speed-limit Germany I picked it up to ~140 kph, beyond which the GTR got *really* thirsty for that \$\$\$\$ petrol. Here ya gotta watch for vehicles coming up from behind at warp speed. Germany is the host of the huge World Cup, and caravans supporting different teams are on the road. A group of ~20 goofy orange decorated Isettas from the Netherlands was the most memorable. Temps cooled and traffic thinned out & slowed back down in Denmark, where a most fantastic bridge joins Fyn & Sjaelland. I was happy to arrive at the Copenhagen Amager hostel ~8:30pm after 966 km.

Next Month - More of the adventure and hopefully room for a few more Pix!



Upcoming Rides/Events

Ride/Events are compiled for your convenience from a variety of sources. HSTA sponsored rides are indicated with the "♦" symbol.

NOTE: Event schedule is subject to change without notice. Please be sure to check with the listed contact before making your plans!

♦ **HSTA Florida North Lunch Ride - September 9th - Gator Landing, Palatka** - 12:00 noon. This restaurant is on the St John's River at 181 S Highway on the south side just east of the bridge. It has a big sign. If the weather is good we can sit out on the deck. Approx GPS: N29 38 37.9 W81 36 21.7 - Contact: Rob Medwed - medwed@cfl.rr.com .

Future North Rides/Dates:
Oct 28th - River Grille, Ormond Beach

♦ **HSTA Florida South Lunch Ride - September 16th** - Myakka River Oyster Bar - Venice, Fl. Lunch at 12:00 Noon. 941-423-9616 - We had a great turnout the first time we went here several months ago. Located at 121 Playmore Dr in Venice - Just off the Tamiami Trail (US 41) a stone's throw from the intersection of US41 and N River Rd (Exit 191 off I75). GPS: N27 02.615 W82 17.670
Contact: Bill Royal RideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

Future South Rides/Dates: Oct 14th - TBD Nov 18th - TBD

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

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)!

Late Change - FOF XIII - Location changed - Please be sure to check/re-book your reservations if attending this event!

It is important that anyone who made reservations at the Tradition Inn cancel them to avoid being charged for those rooms.

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Web Address/E-mail
Sept. 8-10	Ozarks BS Rally	Theodosia Marina & Resort Highway 160 Theodosia , Missouri	Ed & Linda Young 417-926-3075 magna@fidnet.com	http://come.to/The Ozarks BS Rally
Sept. 15-17	River City Ride	Holiday Inn Express 141 Inn Road Carrollton, Kentucky 502/732-6661 or 1-800-HOLIDAY	Gary Dehner 606-233-0321 (o) 606-223-9117 (h)	g.dehner@insightbb.com
Sept.- 22-24	SE Star	Holiday Inn Express 64 White Oak Lane Dillard, Georgia 706-746-3585	Trey Hall 615-367-6495 Strey1100@aol.com	http://tinyurl.com/8de29
Sept. 29- 10-01	Friends of Freddie - XIII	Rosener's Inn Park Hills, MO 800-888-4241	Bob LaMear 636-938-3788	racerboy@fms4u.com
Nov. 3-5	Texas Hill Country Ride	YO Ranch Resort 2033 Sidney Baker Kerrville, TX 78028 877-967-3767	Joe Paolilli 830-537-5552 joep@beecreek.net	http://www.geocities.com/jfpoulos/THC2006.html

Tech Corner

Submitted By: Scott Wingerter

Here is a tip for riders of bikes with a chain drive.

I just installed a new chain/sprocket kit from RK. The same kit was installed at 56,982 miles and lasted until 158,306 miles.

That's **101,324 miles from the chain and sprocket.**

I attribute the longevity to the use of Mobile 1 75W-90 Synthetic Gear Lube as a chain lubricant. I'm not a fanatic about lubricating

the chain; if it looks shiny indicating it has a oil film, I leave it alone. Riding in rain will require re-lubing, but I've gone 700-800 miles without re-lubing in ideal conditions.

BTW....the chain kit is Part# 1086-980W. Stock chain RK530XS0/108-17/43. No affiliation with RK or Mobile Oil. I just found a combination that works. Scott Wingerter