

FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

April 2004



March Re-Cap

Submitted By: Bill Royal

Chalk up another great month for the Florida chapter of the HSTA! We had only one scheduled lunch ride due to Daytona Bike week and its associated festivities. Phil talks about all that in his monthly feature, Ramblin Around later in this

For the one lunch ride we did have, I want first of all to say a HUGE **Thank You** to the 25 riders who attended along with their 4 pillion riders. What a great turnout! As usual, it was about a 50/50 mix of members to non-members, but I



Some of the Lunch Ride "line-up" across the street from Jack's Diner

issue. He also talks about the annual Bike Week Dinner that he puts together and though I couldn't make it due to the Friday scheduling, Phil tells of a nice evening there as well.

did get requests from several folks for ITR's. Non-member Paul Heydermann took highest mileage honors, riding his Kawasaki Concours 242 miles up from Miami! Highest mileage hon-

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Special points of interest:

- *Bike Week Recap in Ramblin Around—Pg. 3*
- *Ride the Rio and other HSTA Adventures—Pg. 4*
- *April Ride Schedule—Pg. 6*

Web Addresses:

✓ If you're "connected" be sure to check out the National HSTA Site at: www.ridehsta.com

✓ And the Florida HSTA Site at: www.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!

No New Members this month!

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March Re-Cap

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ors by a club member went to Jerry Kraus, who rode his Honda ST1300 up from Coral Springs, FL, covering 221 miles as well as hooking up with P. Van Steelant and Bob Shields along the way.

There was a strong presence from Melbourne, though only one - Tom Roe - was a member. The rest of them were non-members who had heard about us from the website and decided to join us for lunch. One of them Steve Spragins, rode in on his sharp looking HD V-ROD, he said because his Honda was in the shop! Now, I've heard everything (chuckle). A nice bunch and we hope to see them back again soon.

My group from the Tampa area, consisted of eight bikes including Tom Mewborn with his grandson Zachary coming in from New Port Richey, and Bill Tribble, who due to working a lot of week-ends doesn't get to make as many rides as he'd like. And last, but

not least, were the folks who rode in on their own routes, including Robert & Joan Medwed from Sanford, and John Watts with his gal Pat Stiles, who rode up from Ellenton. As most of you know, John is a former State Co-Director from Florida who is now retired and leading the nomadic life of a PMB (Professional Motorcycle Bum) ;-). Look for an article on John's escapades elsewhere in this issue of the Gator Tale.

Ride Safe and we'll see you out on the road!

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 wgr@sprynet.com.

For Sale

1982 HONDA CB 900F - \$2,500 OBO
Rare bike in excellent condition with 11,955 original miles. Original owner – bike purchased new in 1986. Always garaged and adult-owned and maintained. All original parts (except seat) are included: bar, cables, peg holders, exhaust, shocks, Hondaline back rack & back rest. Engine is all stock. Honda Sport Kit was installed on date of purchase. Vance & Hines SS exhaust – sounds great, not too loud. Eclipse standard tank bag also included. Perfect bike for everyday ride or restoration project. Please call Van in Boynton Beach (S. Florida) at 561-386-2594.

2002 BMW R1150R - Blue - 14,000 miles - sm BMW wind-

screen - heated grips - accessory port - Warranty 'til 8/04 - exc cond - \$7,900 - Contact: Jim McClure at 352-324-0569 or jamclur3@aol.com

Leather Jacket- Fieldsheer, excellent condition, size 40/42 White/Blue/Black \$150.00 obo
MOTOPORT Spyder Jacket, Red & Black, size Med \$150.00 obo Phil 904 287 9654 or rfoxrdr@earthlink.net

2003 Honda ST1300 ABS - 7000mi, Excellent Condition. Includes Honda Service Manual. \$9400. Contact Maurice Avera (904) 278-8203 or amavera@comcast.net

Riders Wanted

STAR'04 - OK, the time for talk is nearly over! Some Florida members are planning the RIDE to CA for STAR04 and if you'd like to tag along now is the time to start planning! Eve and I (Bill Royal) are planning five 575 mile days each way to STAR04 and back. So far we have one other rider going. If you'd like to join us, please let me know so we can make the appropriate plans (hotel rooms and the like). We have time constraints this year so have to take mostly interstates to make the 2900 miles in 5 days. There are other folks who are planning a bit more leisurely ride, starting as early as the 15th from Louisiana. It's not too late to make plans to ride in a group but you need to let us know soon!

My ride plan is now up at :
<http://silverstreakst.net/Routes/STAR04/STAR04%20Route.htm>
We will be doing overnight stops in Mobile, AL, Tyler, TX, Amarillo, TX and Flagstaff, AZ. Bob & Stacie Chappuis (LA State Director) and Florida member Chuck Headrick will be traveling together on secondary roads and meeting up with us on a couple of the nights.

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MOTO GUZZI

CASCAS



Craig Vetter Rides Into History

Submitted By: William Robinson

Famous motorcyclist, designer and inventor Craig Vetter will serve as Grand Marshall of Riding Into History at the World Golf Village near St. Augustine on May 15. He will also be the featured speaker at the Biker's Ball that evening. HSTA members can contact me, Bill Robinson, at RIH2004@aol.com for additional information on how they can attend the events at discounted prices.

Vetter is an AMA Hall of Fame member, and below is part of his official Hall of Fame biography:

Vetter's first motorcycle was a World War II-era Cushman scooter. As a teenager, Vetter began showing signs of his future when he tried to improve his Cushman by building bodywork for the scooter out of papier-mâché. While his crude modifications did not hold up to the elements (rain didn't mix very well with papier-mâché), his fertile imagination was already forming ideas that would change the face of motorcycling.

Craig founded the Vetter Corporation, a company that became famous for its touring and sport fairings for motorcycles from the late 1960s into the 1980s. Vetter's designs were so innovative and influential that they inspired directions in motorcycle design.

The fairing business grew dramatically in the early 1970s when Vetter began producing high-quality touring fairings for the larger motorcycles that were hitting the market, such as Honda's CB750. Vetter added features such as storage, electrical connections and headlight adjustment. The Windjammer Series fairings were the most popular in the Vetter line and they sold in the tens

of thousands.

The Vetter company branched out to produce a variety of accessories from hard luggage to sidecars and helmets. Vetter even made fairings for several manufacturers and they became factory options and even standard equipment on several motorcycles in the late 1970s.

Vetter was also a racer and won amateur road racing championships. He sponsored Reg Pridmore and the Vetter Kawasaki team during the late 1970s in the burgeoning sport of Superbike racing. He also sponsored his famous fuel economy contests. Using streamlined fairings, some of the motorcycles were able to squeeze more than 400 miles out of a gallon of gas.

By the late 1970s, manufacturers began to sell motorcycles with factory fairings and Vetter realized that the demand for aftermarket fairings would soon dwindle. He sold Vetter in 1978 to concentrate on designing new products. He moved his family to a large ranch near Carmel, California, to dedicate himself to raising his two sons, Zak and Morgan, with his wife Carol.

Craig's current projects include the Defiant scooter, powered by a Harley-Davidson Sportster engine. It seems that he may have come full circle since his Cushman days.

For more information go to: RidingIntoHistory.org or CraigVetter.com

Ramblin Around

Submitted By: Phil Ridgdill

Daytona is over, great week, weather was perfect and from the rumors I hear, haven't seen any official reports, 3 fatal accidents involving motorcycles during the week. If that is correct, will be the lowest I've heard of in quite awhile. I have to admit I didn't see anybody doing anything outrageous; there again I didn't go over to the beach or travel down Main street. I had a good time this year, seeing all the new motorcycles and having a walk around the Cycle World Show. In particular I was very interested in having a look at the new BMW 1200GS. Very nice looking machine; compact and you can see where they trimmed the weight off that baby. This machine has got my interest up. Already we're seeing reports out of South Africa about this bike and they all seem to be quite good. I'll wait until its been out on the market for awhile.

Its my understanding that this bike comes standard with alloy wheels and options include spoke wheels, ABS, hand guards & saddlebag mounts. Its also my understanding that BMW North America will bring these bikes to the USA with spoke Wheels & ABS equipped. We all know what that will do to the price. Options on BMW motorcycles are priced quite high. Hopefully the standard 1200GS will be available at a later date. This will be a nice Motorcycle but BMW would be wise not to price themselves out of

the market.

Racing this year at Daytona, I'd say it was good but not what it really should be. The name Daytona implies top quality racing and it is for NASCAR but not for World Class Motorcycle Racing or World Class Sport Car Racing. The Daytona International Speedway is for so-called Stock Car racing: NASCAR. When was the last time we had a World Championship Racing Team (Motorcycles) here at Daytona? It's been a long time ago. The track does not meet World Championship Standards and they will not participate at Daytona. You really can't blame them. The place is bloody dangerous. I hear a lot about we will have a World Class MOTOGP in 2005 and I certainly hope it will be at Birmingham.

The Daytona 200 mile race was quite interesting for a number of different reasons. A big one was Honda introducing the 1000RR to the AMA Superbike Championship and Eric Boström on a so-called factory supported Ducati Superbike. If you were there for the race and had your stopwatch, E Boss had the field covered. My son and I were watching closely and we both had same opinion; the Ducati will not last 200 miles at the pace E Boss was setting. As all of you know, Ducati's are a bit fragile but they will be a

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Ride The Rio and Other Adventures

Submitted By: John Watts

Well here it is! Mr. Bill Royal, our illustrious newsletter editor / state co-director put it to me that I had to give him a write up on some of my activities this past winter. There are many HSTA events both riding and non-riding all winter long.

You can start out with Cajun Christmas in Louisiana hosted by Bob and Stacie Chappuis. It is probably the most unusual of our events. I am pretty sure that it is the only one that Santa attends. The new location offers much more than the Chicot events did. I would like to tell you the new location but they keep changing the name of the park. If you really want to know it just call Bob or Stacie and ask what it is this week. If at all interested in going next year contact Bob, he is Louisiana state director and is in the Blue Book.

The next event is purely social, with some of the best chili I've had in a long time. It is Danny Gordon's Cabin Fever, held at his Honda dealership in Sherman TX. He is also the prime mover behind our Mena, AR ride held in April. This is another classic ride featuring the Talimena Parkway and the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge.

Now to the main point of this whole exercise:

R. T. R.

Or Ride The Rio. February 20-22, 2003. This is one event with a very rich history. A very good description of it is, "The middle of nowhere in the middle of winter". None of the 100+ riders at this event rode less than 400 miles to attend. Our ride from Ft. Worth TX was a four day, 1500 mile round trip. Myself and Max Hendrix started out from Brock TX very early and by the time we left breakfast we had grown to a group of 6 bikes; 2 Honda's, 2 BMW's and 2 Yamaha FJR's. With Brad Mobley leading we had a very interesting ride to Fort Davis TX for our first night away from home. A very kind soul with a lot of foresight had arranged a wonderful Mexican buffet dinner. The following day was graced with more great motorcycle roads, Texas style. The distances out there are so vast that traffic was never a problem and you could easily check out both you and your chosen mounts limits. Our ride from Fort



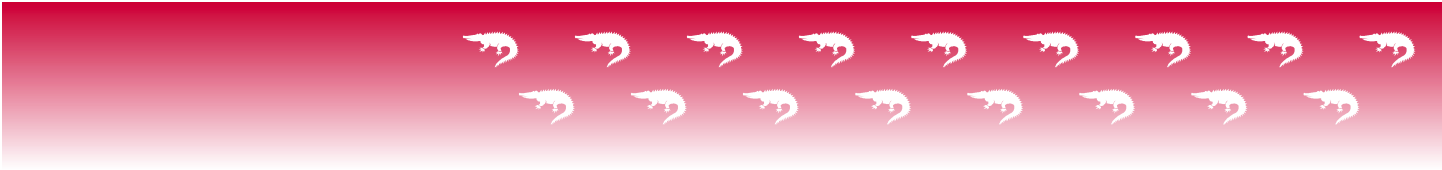
An infamous draw for RTR is Clay Henry - the beer drinking goat, AND Mayor of Lajitas, TX!



Davis to Terlingua offered some of the best riding in this part of the world. This route offers scenery that is so spectacular you have to experience it, and the high desert is the only place to find it. Friday night was registration and barbeque with a whole lot of tire kicking. Saturday morning broke clear and cool. Some of the crew went out dual sport riding while the rest did their best to leave as much rubber on the local roads as possible. I went into Big Bend National Park and spent most of the day just wandering around and talking to folks. Eventually I made my way to the banks of the "mighty" Rio Grande, about 6-8" deep and all of 15 feet across at this spot. There are so many things in this
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Carving the twisties - Texas style!



Ramblin Around

Continued...

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threat for the AMA Superbike Championship. The Daytona 200 is the only race on the AMA schedule with pit stops as far as I know and the other races on the schedule are quite a bit shorter. If Ducati of Italy wants to win the Daytona 200 mile race they will have to bring a World Championship Superbike team to Daytona and even then, big question mark. However, don't count out Eric Bostrom for the AMA Superbike Championship. He will definitely be in the hunt.

The Daytona Race Schedule caused a lot of problems this year. The Hotel industry and the various associations struggled to get all the arrangements sorted out. I would like thank all of you that supported the HSTA Dinner at Indigo Lakes on Friday. I was a bit disappointed that we didn't have the crowd that I thought we may have but Friday was a problem for some people so we'll sort it out for next year. Also, Thanks to Mr. John Duss for showing off that beautiful RC-30, a very rare and nice machine. Thanks to Jon Seidel from American Honda for bringing the Honda 1000RR, giving us all the inside information on the machine. We certainly appreciate that.

I've changed my email address; rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net is my current address. I'm in the process of organizing a new HSTA email list, if you want on the list, send me an email stating so. I have a complete list of every one in FL, however if I don't hear from you I'll assume that you do not want to be on my FL HSTA list.

I've located a place for HSTA FL to have weekend event, close to

good roads and so-so places to eat. Accommodation prices have to be sorted out. I need to know, as close as possible, how many of you will attend. Its understood that everyone has different considerations here but I've got to have some sort of an idea in order to negotiate a good rate on rooms. If only 4 or 5 people want to do this our room rates may not be as good as we would like. And it may not be worth the trouble. So, if your fairly sure you would attend please let me know.

Here is something that would interest everyone. On May 15 2004, at The World Golf Village, The Atlantic Beach Vintage Motorcycle Club will put on the annual Riding Into History Motorcycle Concours de Elegance. This year British Bikes will be featured. The event is sponsored by BMWNEF, Sargent Cycle Products, Sea Turtle Inn, Adamec Harley Davidson of Jacksonville, BMW Motorcycles of Daytona Beach, and 100.7 classic rock radio. This is really a nice event that has grown over the past 5 years into a well-recognized event. If you haven't been to this type of event before and even if you have, do it, it's a good day. Check it out at www.ridingintohistory.org.

Ride Safe & Smart

Phil Ridgill

Ride The Rio and Other Adventures

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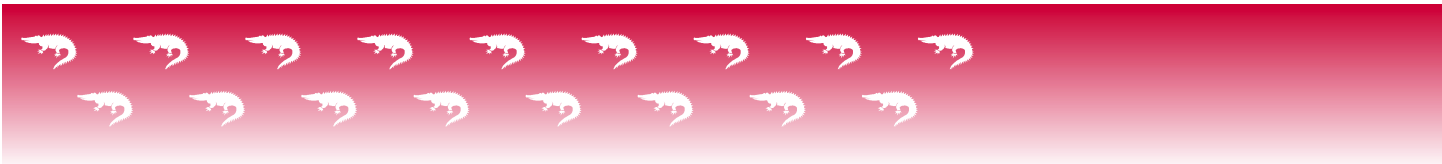
area to see and do that four days is not enough time. Try to allow at least a week and start with whatever pleases you. They have everything available from a beer-drinking goat, "Clay Henry" to one of the largest telescopic arrays in the country at McDonald Observatory.

The weather in February is anyone's guess, from 85 degrees and windy to snowing. This year started a little cool but a stiff wind prior to the ride had cleared all of the dust from the air making the views crystal clear. Dave and Tonie Gorham and their entire crew need to be given a lot of credit for advancing the quality of this (I think) 10-year event. All in all a pretty safe bunch, about 100 riders averaging around 1000 miles with only two minor incidents involving nothing more than some dented plastic and bruised pride. The only injury of any consequence that I am aware of involved a little girl (age 5 or 6?) thrown from a horse and breaking her arm. She appeared on Saturday at the closing banquet none the worse for wear and still able to smile, typical child, very resilient. (I always knew that horses were too dangerous and not to be trusted. Besides I could never find the clutch.)

Now just a short few notes on gears, glue and labor. These are

the things that make an organization like the HSTA work. Not everyone has the talents (someone else is typing & spell-checking this. Thanks Pat.) nor the time or dedication to fill a volunteer position like state director or newsletter editor. These are both very demanding jobs, especially if you're wearing both hats at once. Any help offered will be greatly appreciated. Maybe a suggestion for a lunch ride, a short article (with pictures) of your latest motorcycle ride/vacation or any help you could offer on rides or events they sponsor. I learned a long time ago that you get a lot more out if you put a little in.

Sincerely,
John Watts
Ex Florida Co-director
(Now, retiree extraordinaire)



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.

♦ **HSTA Florida North Lunch Ride - Saturday, April 24th - Blackwater Inn, Astor, FL.** Lunch at 12:00 Noon. This will be our annual HSTA & BMWNEF Lunch Ride. We should have quite a large group, if you plan on being there arrive early. All of you are quite familiar with this location so I hope to see you all there. If you need any further information, contact Phil Ridgdill 904 287 9654 or rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

♦ **HSTA Florida South Lunch Ride - Saturday, April 17th - The Landing Strip - Okeechobee FL.** Lunch at 12:00 Noon. Located at the Okeechobee regional airport, on NW 20th Trl, Off of US98/SR700, just north west of the center of Okeechobee. We were here 2 months ago and got buzzed by a war bird so we just had to go back! Contact: Bill Royal - RideFL@flahsta.org or (813)633-8155

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

NOTES: Schedule now updated with 2004 events. Events highlighted in gray are still tentative. For those and other events marked as unconfirmed, 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 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| April 16-18 | T-16 | Queen Wilhelmina Lodge - Mena, AR (800)264-2477 | Danny Gordon (903) 463-4973 |
| April 23-25 | Road and Track Rally | The Brass Door Motel - Gassville AR (870)435-2288 | Tim Bailey (901) 737-7210 Biking2gether@aol.com Kathy Mellembakken (870) 322-7777 peeweetvet@yahoo.com Peter Pietz (870) 435-6777 pggeitz@cox-internet.com |
| Apr 30-May 2 | Helen 2004 | Alpenhof Motel - Helen, GA. 800-535-8678 | Eric Larsen (770) 805- 0607 enlarsen@bellsouth.net |
| May 22-23 | Twistar 2004 | Spring Green Motel - Spring Green, WI (608) 588-2141 | John Perkins (608) 280-8204 john@cs.wisc.edu |
| May 28-31 (Memorial Day W/E) | Tri-Star | Allegheny Inn - Sparta, NC (888)372- 2501 (mention HSTA when you call) | Galen Diehl (276)647-3162 gdiehl@kimbanet.com |
| June 20-23 | STAR '04 | Sierra Nevada Rodeway Inn - Mammoth Lakes, CA | Jim Alexander (925) 458-4596 |
| August 27-29 | Mail Pouch Fly-by | Knights Inn - 506 Pike Street Marietta, Ohio (800) 526 5947 | Jon Campbell (513) 932-3341 |
| September 10-12 | Ozarks BS Rally | Theodosia Marina & Resort - Highway 160 Theodosia, Missouri (417)273 4444 | Ed & Linda Young (417) 926-3075 magna@fidnet.com |
| September 17-19 | SE-Star | Holiday Inn Express64 White Oak Lane Dillard, Georgia (706)746 3585 | Trey Hall (615) 574-9927 strey1100@aol.com |
| September 24-26 | Byway Boogie | Location unconfirmed | Robert Bashaw (870) 460-9570 Robert.Bashaw@ocse.state.ar.us |
| Oct 1-3 | River City Ride | Baymont Inn - 2495 Landmark Avenue Corydon, Indiana (812) 738 1500 | Don "Moose" Parish (317) 936-5818 mparish@hrtc.net |
| Oct 8-10 | FOF - XII | Tradition Inn - Farmington, MO (877)355-6205 | Bob LaMear (636)938-3788 racerboy@fms4u.com |
| Nov 4-7 | Texas Hill Country Ride | YO Ranch Resort - 2033 Sidney Baker Kerrville, Texas 78028(877)967-3767 | Joe Paolilli (830) 537-5552 joep@beecreek.net |

