

FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

December 2004



The Natchez Trace

Submitted By: Scott Wingerter

Both of my children live in Spring Hill, TN, so I try and visit several times a year. My son had just bought his first motorcycle, a 87 Honda Magna . He was real excited about it and was anxious for me to see it. Good excuse to visit. But this time I would take a couple of extra days and head to Nashville via the Natchez Trace.

I've read about the Trace in several magazines and have been on it a couple of times taking it from the north end south across the Tennessee River. But only that far. Now was a good time to do the

whole 442.3 miles. Early the morning of August 24th (5 AM), I fired up the VFR and headed north. I only took back roads, US19 North to Perry, 98 west to FL 267 and then a variety of back roads to US90, eventually picking up US 98 again directly into Natchez, MS—660 miles in a little over 12 hours. I found a motel and checked

in.

The next morning I went down into the "old" Natchez by the river. The buildings are similar to New Orleans, two or three story with wrought iron balconies but much smaller in scale. After

taking a few pictures of the river and the gambling boats, I rode across the bridge to Vidalia LA and took some more pictures from a different perspective.

Time to hit the Trace. At the southern end, it is not completed yet so you have

to enter from US 61. The Trace is beautiful! The road surface is great, and it's surrounded by forests, meadows and gentle hills and curves. Even though the speed limit is 50 MPH, you can run 60 with no problems. There are many points of interest depicting the history of the Trace dealing

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Entrance to the Natchez Trace

This 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 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!

Gary Burgess

LaBelle, FL

ST1300

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One of My Favorite Rides

Submitted By: John Watts

This is one of my favorite rides. It makes a loop of approximately 190 miles and will give you some of everything we ask for in a ride (see map).

I start by filling up with gas at the intersection of routes 74/64 & 129/19 in Ranger NC (home). The four-lane road East (5 mi.) takes you thru Murphy NC to your first turn, right onto route 64 down along the Hiwassee River (you know how straight rivers in the mountains are). Follow this till you turn north on route 141 for some great sweepers thru farm country. When you pick up routes 129/19 again in Marble NC you turn right (East) till you loose the four-lane and it becomes a friendlier ride as you follow route 129 as it turns north/west toward TN.

This section again follows a river (lots of rafting) with the matching curves. When you arrive at Robinsville you take a right onto route 143. This road and route 28, your next left, will give you enough of what we love that you might not need to ride "The Gap" when you get there. When route 28 and 129 intersect you have reached the start of "The Tail of The Dragon". At this point I usually take a break while "the kids" go north to play on the tail. Grab

a bite, buy a T-shirt or do some tire kicking/bench racing while waiting for departure.

As we depart on route 129 south we enjoy some more of the same back to Robinsville. Here, we intersect with route 143 again. This time we turn left (West) toward the Cherohala Skyway. It is a 40 mile ride on a National Forest road (45mph) which allows you to appreciate the "Smokey Mountains" and all the natural beauty they offer. (Unless the cloud layer drops – Ed.) You really should slow down and bring a camera because there are lots of good "photo ops" along the way.

NC route 143 becomes TN route 165 and leads you into Tellico Plains, TN. There you turn south onto route 68 before turning east on route 123 which then becomes route 294 at the NC border. Route 294 brings you back to routes 74/64 and a turn east returns us to the beginning.

All in all this ride offers a full day with sections as technical as anyone could ask for and is therefore tricky in spots so please
(Continued on page 3)

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

Bikes

2001 Silver Reflex. 250cc automatic with ABS brakes. 21,500 miles. Nearly New Tires, Battery and Drive Belt. Tinted Givi wind-screen and locking Givi Trunk, Cover, Honda shop manual. (Original windscreen in box.) Senior owned, Excellent condition. \$3,200. Henry Custer, Ruskin, FL. Phone: 813-641-2106, E-mail: ridefl@att.net

1991 Honda ST1100. Excellent condition, Silver, 88k miles, always garaged, original owner. Sargent Leather seat, MEZ 4 tyres, luggage rack, works performance shock & org shock, 3 wind-shields, Audio com with Radar connection, Properly serviced and on Mobil 1 syn oil (Motorcycle). Asking \$4200.00. North FL area. Phil Ridgdill 904 287 9654 or rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

2002 Honda CBR1100XX (Silver)
13500 miles Gen-mar risers, throttlemiester cruise control, Full Ventura Luggage System (2 racks, 3 bags)
Honda extended warranty. Excellent condition.
This bike makes an awesome sport touring mount.
\$7900.00 - Mark Hanke 321-403-4289 cell Melbourne, Fl.

Gear

Motorcycle lift for Harley- Davidson or cruisers type bikes. Folds flat for storage. Activated manually with long lever. \$ 70.00

Chaps, nice quality black leather with fringes on the side. New, never worn. Size: waist 36" , inseam 34". \$ 80.00

Pants, black leather, jeans style, liner. Made in Germany. Size: waist 33" , inseam 32" . \$ 50.00

Pants, nice soft black suede leather, jeans style, liner. Made in Germany. New, never worn. Size: waist 33" , inseam 34". \$ 100.00

Women's gloves, black leather with fringes, from Harley-Davidson, new, never worn. Size small. \$ 25.00

Helmet open face black leather from Harley-Davidson. Size small. \$ 60.00

Blanket, black with Harley-Davidson's name stitched on blanket, new. \$ 25.00

Call 813 634-2223 or email hainef@earthlink.net.

RoadGear Riding Pants size 30/34, worn 1 time, \$100.00,

BMW Air-Flow 2 pants size 38R (Euro) approx 34 US size, vented, worn 1 time \$150.00

Leather Jacket Fieldsheer, excellent condition, size 40/42 White/Blue/Black \$150.00 obo

MOTOPOST Spyder Jacket, Red & Black, size Med \$150.00 obo
Phil Ridgdill 904 287 9654 or rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

The Natchez Trace

Continued...

(Continued from page 1)
with the Indian conflicts and the Civil War. I stopped several times and read the information that was available. Traffic is virtually non-existent. I rode many times for 10 minutes without seeing another vehicle. The Trace is not complete through Jackson, MS and it's a real shock to ride in this serene environment and be dumped right into the Interstate for the 20 miles detour through Jackson. Back on the Trace, things returned to normal. I gassed up at Jeff Busby north of Jackson, the only fuel available on the Trace. I found a motel for the night in Tupelo MS (Birthplace of Elvis). The next morning, back on the Trace again. You have to ride this road to appreciate it. Meticulously maintained and no trash or debris to be seen anywhere. As I approached Franklin, TN, I could have exited at 96 and headed into town, but I wanted to take it to the end at Hwy 100. Arriving at



Gambling Boats

the northernmost end, I stopped to take a picture and turned back to pick up HWY 96. As it was just getting to dusk, the deer were out in droves. Dozens of them grazing in the roadside. They were all quite calm and not at all disturbed by a motor vehicle, but I watched them closely until I got off the Trace.

Now, it was back to civilization again; traffic, traffic, traffic. About a hour later I arrived at my son's house. Saturday we rode to Lynchburg and took the Jack Daniels distillery tour. Tennessee has some great roads, and I'd like to be closer to my kids and grandchildren but I guess I've been in Florida to long. Tennessee gets cold and I can't cut the cold anymore.

If you have the opportunity to ride the Trace, do it. - it's a memorable ride!
Scott Wingerter

One of My Favorite Rides

Continued...

(Continued from page 2)
ride within your limits and keep the dirty side down.

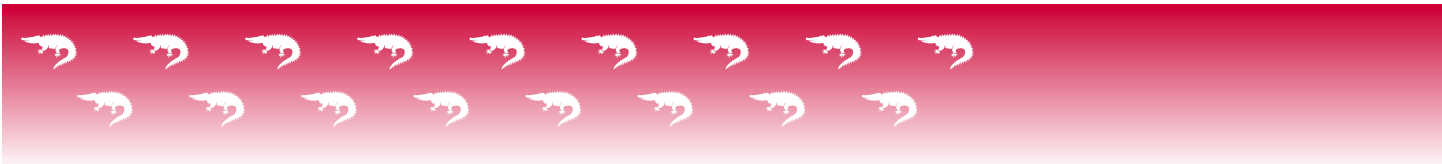
When you are in town give me a call, cell# (941) 685-3549 (blue book has different FL number) I usually ride every day.



John J. Watts
Retiree Extraordinaire

One of My Favorite Rides - Detailed Directions

Dist	Turn		Road
	Start	at	US 19
	Go straight (NE)	on	US 19 (US 129 (SR 11))
in 5.56 mi	Turn right (ESE)	on to	US 64
in 4.38 mi	Turn left (NNE)	on to	SR 1519 (Slow Creek Rd (N C Hwy 141))
in 4.75 mi	Bear right (NNE)	on to	SR 141
in 3.42 mi	Turn right (ENE)	on to	US 19 (US 74 (US 129))
in 15.12 mi	Turn left (NW)	on to	US 129
in 11.42 mi	Turn right (NE)	on to	SR 143
in 8.72 mi	Turn left (WNN)	on to	SR 28 (Fontana Rd)
in 11.34 mi	Turn right (WNN)	on	SR 28 (Fontana Rd)
in 8.71 mi	Stop	at	US 129 (Tail of the Dragon)
	Go straight (NW)	on	SR 28
in 0.00 mi	Turn left (SE)	on to	US 129
in 16.20 mi	Turn right (W)	on to	SR 143 (Massey Branch Rd)
in 13.00 mi	Go straight (W)	on to	Cherahala Skwy (SR 143)
in 12.06 mi	Bear right (NNW)	on to	SR 143 (National Forest Rd)
in 1.08 mi	Go straight (N)	on to	National Forest Rd
in 0.02 mi	Go straight (NNW)	on to	Cherahala Skwy (SR 143)
in 1.59 mi	Turn left (W)	on to	SR 165
in 24.15 mi	Turn left (S)	on to	SR 68
in 2.20 mi	Turn left (S)	on	SR 68
in 20.46 mi	Turn left (SSW)	on	SR 68
in 0.79 mi	Turn left (E)	on to	SR 123
in 1.19 mi	Go straight (SE)	on to	SR 294
in 13.34 mi	Turn left (E)	on to	US 64 (US 74)
in 2.49 mi	Finish	at	US 64



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 North Lunch Ride - Saturday, December 11th - Crackers Bar, Grill & Tiki - Crystal River, FL.** Lunch at 12:00 Noon. Located at 502 NW 6th St, Crystal River. (GPS: N28 53 56.6 W82 35 52.3) Just off of Hwy 19, next to the Best Western. Dist: Jax 132, Melb 163, Sun City 106. Contact: Sam Ulbing - 352-262-6221 or n4uau@cox.net

Future North Rides:

15 January: - The Boarding House, Trenton, FL BMW members encouraged to join us. 19 February: - Carmichaels, Ocala
19 March: - The Outback Crab Shack: - St Augustine on St Johns River. This is the week AFTER Bikeweek.

♦ **HSTA Florida South Lunch Ride - Saturday, December 18th - Lake Susan Lodge - Clermont FL** This is a nice central location and a favorite of most who've been there. Located at 11834 Lakeshore Drive, and just off US27 in Clermont it's easy to get to and right in the heart of Lake County and it's great MC roads. Not to be missed. GPS: N28 31.169 W81 45.541 Contact: Bill Royal - RideFL@flahsta.org or (813)633-8155

Future South Rides: (TBA - To Be Announced) Feb 5th - TBA Mar 5th - TBA

♦ **3rd Annual New Year's Day Ride - Saturday, January 1st, 2005 - Peck's Old Port Cove Restaurant - Crystal River -** Lunch at Noon Located at 139 N Ozello Trl in Crystal River, FL. This is great location to start your riding year off right. Ozello Trail is also known as the "Deal's Gap of Florida" and you'll have to ride it to the end to get to this place. If you didn't/couldn't make Sam's ride to Crystal River you really need to make this one. GPS: N28 51.477 W82 40.095 Contact: Bill Royal - RideFL@flahsta.org or (813)633-8155

♦ **First Ever Weekday Lunch Ride- TBD in January - Horse & Hounds - Ocala, FL.** The trial mid-week lunch ride to the Horse and Hounds was a great success and all agreed that we should do it again. Six bikes and seven people attended with Sue Roe from Bradenton logging the longest distance on her GL1800 Trike, 168 miles one way! The food was good and for 'dessert', we did a short loop through horse country stopping for a photo op at one of the more impressive horse places, Robert's Quarter horses. I especially enjoyed having a smaller group because we were all able to talk with each other.



Look for another mid week ride in January.

♦ **"Just for Fun Weekend Event - April weekend TBD, 2005 TBD, Tallahassee, FL.** Florida will be doing a just for fun event in early to mid April. Location will be around Tallahassee Florida. Contrary to general opinion, there are some nice roads in that part of Florida. Details to follow soon-for next issue. Sam Ulbing, co-director

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