

FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

January 2005



2004 Year in Review

Submitted By: Bill Royal

As we finish up another year I thought it would be nice to recap a few things about what we did in this chapter this past year. As Phil talks about in his Ramblin Around column, it's all about you the membership and what you do that makes the club work for you or not. To that end, I thought the following statistics would shed some light (you do know I actually DO something with those sign in sheets don't you? ;-))

For 2004, we held 16 lunch rides, which a total of 285 riders rode a grand total of 33436 miles ONE WAY to attend. 40 Pillions accompanied them for the rides. That's an average of 22 attendees to each ride with 117 miles average ride to make them. The longest one-way ride to a lunch was Bob & Cheryl Fisher who rode 381 miles to the Everglades City lunch ride in February. Rob & Joan Medwed did 320 to the same ride. In fact many folks sometimes often rode over 200 miles to make the lunch rides, including Dianne Park, Jim Park (on their own rides), George Curran, Gerry Stellwagon, Jerry Kraus, P. Van Steelant to name just the HSTA Members who did so. Our most attended ride was the 4/24 ride to the Blackwater Inn (this was a joint event with the North Florida BMW gang), the least attended was the recent 12/11 ride to Crystal River (too busy shopping to ride?).

I am very happy to report that there were NO serious incidents or accidents going to or from ANY of the lunch rides, though there were a few minor off the road scrapes that I heard of. That's a great testament to everyone's collective skills, practices, gear and yes, a measure of luck

thrown in too.

The most popular make of attendee ride was Honda, with the Gold Wing and ST1100 tied at 56 appearances each, but with the addition of the 42 ST1300 appearances, the ST's won that honor. We had 1 Moto Guzzi LeMans and 1 Ural Tourist (with sidecar) tie for rarest makes to show, but the rarest bike overall that I saw was Andy Gaul's exotic NR750. Rounding out the top 10 for most attended rides after the ST's and Gold Wings was the Honda Magna 750, the BMW R1150RT, the Suzuki Hayabusa, the Suzuki V-Strom, the Honda PC800, VFR and finally the Triumph Tiger. So a very well rounded bunch these top 10! Oh, by the way, the HD Electra Glides fell just out of the top 10 to take 11th spot--so anyone who thinks Honda in the name means we're a Honda only club should be told about that fact.

Lastly, while I don't have the figure specific to 2004, for all the records in my database (870 rider attendees), 56% (485) were HSTA Members, while 44% (385) were not. I do know this is an increase in member attendance % over what it was last year. Some of that, I believe is due to former non-members joining and attending, and some is more members attending for the first time, both of which are good things.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of those who contributed articles to the newsletters of this past year. You are the BEST and without you this newsletter would just be another piece of
(Continued on page 4)

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 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!

Buck DeShazo	Interlachen, FL	ST1300
Ed Lynch	Ruskin, FL	BMW
Anne Lynch	Ruskin, FL	Aprilia Atlantic

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Ramblin Around

Submitted By: Phil Ridgdill

The Honda Sport Touring Association is an all volunteer operated Motorcycle Club, as all of you well know. According to my ancient dictionary - Volunteer: a person who offers to do something of his/her own free will or to give of one's own free will. We certainly have a lot of damn good people who volunteer in this Club. When I was a volunteer for this club, I would read every HSTA State Newsletter that was on our Web site just to see what everyone else was doing. I found all kinds of different activities, in various States, but the one thing in common that every State had, 90% of the time, it was centered around a RIDE. Dinner Rides, Lunch Rides, Weekend Rides, etc. No committees, no weekly/monthly meetings, an annual meeting might be something to consider, other than that if you want a meeting, call one of your colleagues in the HSTA, he/she will volunteer to go riding with you. No Political power plays about who is running the club in this State. You want to do something in the club, call Sam Ulbing or Bill Royal, they are your VOLUNTEER State Directors and they are willing to help. In this club it's the HSTA MEMBERS that really count and the ideas that you have make this club work. If you want to Volun-

teer for a position in the HSTA, State Director, Editor for Newsletter, etc, or Whatever, make it known. If you do take a position, one thing to remember, the moment you think there is no one else out there in the club that can do this, think again! Wrong thought mate, there are lots of people in your club that can take your volunteer position. That's the exact moment you need to look for a Volunteer to take your position. That's the way it should be, fresh thoughts and new ideas always come about.

I will be organizing a **Lunch Ride for Daytona Bike Week:**

Highjackers Restaurant, Bunnell Airport, Bunnell FL. Lunch at 12:00 noon, Thursday March 10 2005. Location 3 miles east of Bunnell on FL SR100, 1 mile west of I-95 on FL SR100. If you would like any further information, Contact Phil Ridgdill, 904 287 9654, 904 699 2447 or rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net.

Ride Safe & Smart
Phil Ridgdill

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.

2001 BMW K1200 LTC Pacific Blue 25K , dir serviced, Autocom, Piaas, CB, Cee Bailey W/S, Kisan and Run-in Lights, 6 Disc CD

changer, Luggage Rack, garage kept. \$ 13,000.
Contact: Dennis Villarose - ipnman2002@yahoo.com

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

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

Special Weekend Event Announcement

Submitted By: Sam Ulbing

The First Annual

Real Florida Spring Fling

WHEN: 8, 9, 10 April 2005

WHERE: Tallahassee, Fl. Ride the unspoiled country roads of the Florida Panhandle before they get all built up like south Florida's roads. Do a tri-state tour of Florida, Georgia, and Alabama.

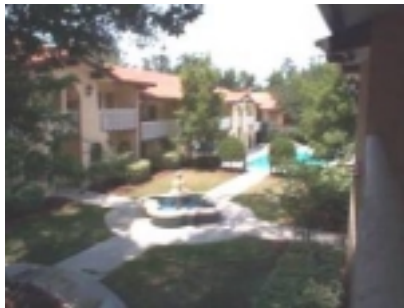


WHO: HSTA members and spouses. If you are not a member I can send you an application.

TELL ME MORE: Hundreds of miles of roads with little traffic, some of the nicest oak canopies anywhere, Gulf of Mexico beaches and fresh seafood near by, many state parks one with a cave to tour, one with a 150 foot bluff overlooking the river (Florida is not all flat land). Ponce Deleon Springs might make you 30 years younger. Bring your non-riding spouse because there is a lot for non-riders to do: museums, plantation tours and much more.

We have a block of rooms being held until 21 March at Guesthouse Inn and Suites (old Shoney's). Price is \$59 but only \$49 if we rent more than 20 rooms. Two-story suites are available, suitable for 2

couples (\$99 or \$79 more than 20 rooms). **BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH HSTA** to get the discount rate. The motel is a lovely plantation style motel with large oaks and built around a garden courtyard with a fountain and swimming pool. There are two great restaurants within 100 yards. Shoney's and Julies with an outstanding menu.



Make your reservation early and choose a room facing the courtyard or one facing your parking space. You can cancel up to 4PM on 8 April, if you have a change of plans phone the hotel direct 850-386-8286. 2801 North Monroe at exit 199 of I-10

REGISTER: Please let me know when you have made your room reservation so I can be sure we get the discount. I will also email directions for a scenic route to the hotel, probably the nicest roads in all of Florida. I will send Garmin GPS waypoints and suggested routes to those who request them so you can load them into your GPS before leaving.

Sam Ulbing, State co-director Florida, 352-262-6221
n4uau@cox.net



Sam Ulbing - State Director & Sponsor of the Spring Fling

Picture taken at the Cajun Christmas event courtesy Dave Brickner

Canopy roads: <http://www.co.leon.fl.us/PUBWORKS/oper/canopy/visitCR.asp>
Parks: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/>
To Do In Tallahassee: <http://www.seeTallahassee.com>
Julies: <http://www.juliesplace.net/>

Editors Note: We have been without a Florida HSTA Sponsored weekend event for a couple of years now, yet we get a lot of feedback that this is something folks want to do. If so, please be sure not to miss this one and maybe while there you can help plan the next one!



2004 Year in Review

Continued...

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junk mail. Folks like Scott Wingerter, Jim & Dianne Park, Bob Fischer, Fanny Haine, Larry Fitch, Chuck Headrick, Jim McClure, Bill Robinson, Sam Ulbing and Phil Ridgdill—my thanks to you from the bottom of my heart and if I missed anyone I am sorry - your input is appreciated, it's just hard keeping track of every single one of you!

And, since his name just came up, I would like to acknowledge our most former State Director Phil Ridgdill for all he has done and continues to do for this club. Aside from all the "visible" stuff like organizing and leading lunch rides, his annual Bike Week dinner and the like. Phil has put countless more hours and \$\$\$ into making this state chapter what it is today. Whether calling folks on the phone to renew interest to making up our own State chapter T-shirts, and all the way up to personally funding a post card recruiting campaign we did back in September, Phil has done more for this club than anyone else that I know of since I've been here and we all owe him a pat on the back, handshake or just a thanks whenever you all get the chance.

So having recapped '04, what do we have in store for 2005? Well, I certainly think more of the same, but over and beyond that we hope to come up with more events that will help boost attendance all across the state. Sam's Spring Fling is one good example so I hope you'll all try to make that. Also in January, even when we can't run it ourselves, we're always willing to share with another club, this time the Concours Owners Group to do a Key

West Escape ride. Although it's not a twisty ride, the ocean views are great off the bridges on the way down, and the weather is always warmer there than anywhere north so why not try to make that one if you can. Then there's this summer's STAR 05 in Lexington, KY. No 5000 mile ride this year so no excuse not to go. Just beware the twisties and hills you'll encounter there will be a big challenge after the kind of riding we have here in central and southern Florida. Whatever you do, we hope you get out and ride and look forward to maybe meeting up on the road.

So you may ask, what can I do to help make our club better? Well my first reply is to get out and ride, especially to the lunch rides where you'll get a chance to meet your fellow riders and learn - about locations, techniques, gear and all kinds of stuff. Also, try to get to know the members and riders in your area. There are several members who do not have internet access so their only notice of rides is this newsletter, and if a non-member, they don't even get that. Try calling these folks to invite them on the rides. You'll both be glad you did! After that, offer to lead a group, even if only yourself and one other rider. I know there are folks who would like to attend but don't want to ride alone so find out who is near you—member or not—and invite them to join you on a ride. At a minimum you'll get practice riding, and the most maybe a new friend for life! Then there's always penning an article for the next newsletter—we always need articles! Then there's the fact that I have been doing the newsletter for about 4 years now and someday will need to pass it along to someone new... Well, maybe someday ;-) Till Then - Ride Safe!

Lunch Rides '04 Montage



All three pictures taken at the 11/20 lunch ride in Branford, FL
Top Left: Keith & Monica Oster
Left: Cheryl & Bob Fischer
Top: Joan & Rob Medwed



Fanny Haine with her Longest Distance Woman Rider to STAR 04 Award 8/28 in High Springs



Helen & Jim Wilson aside their 1935 Ural Tourist!



Jan 10 turnout to Astor



3 Silvers—ST, VROD & FJR at 3/20 ride to Frostproof



Nicer weather at the Jan 24 ride to Okeechobee!



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)

♦ **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 a 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

♦ **HSTA Florida North Lunch Ride** - Saturday, January 15th - **Ye Olde Boarding House - Trenton, FL**. Lunch at 12:00 Noon. . Contact: Sam Ulbing - 352-262-6221 or n4uau@cox.net

Future North Rides:

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, February 5th - **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) Mar 5th - TBA

Escape to the Conch Republic II - Key West - Saturday-Sunday January 22-23 - **Florida City/Key West/Miami** - This is a COG (Concours Owners Group) sponsored ride that our friend Paulie is putting together and so graciously invited the HSTA folks to! It's very similar to our old Key West Escape so if anyone wondered about that or wished they'd have attended, here's another chance. Join us for the 130 mile cruz down to Key West. Be ready for spectacular vistas on the bridges! Leaving: 8am Saturday 1/22/05 - From: Palm Corner Chevron, 16 N Krome Ave, Florida City 33034, 305-245-8981. This is on the corner of SR997 (Krome Ave/SW 177 Ave) & SR9336 (Palm Dr/SW 344 St), 1 block W of US1, and 1 block S of the end of the FL Turdpike Extension. Destination: Half Shell Raw Bar, 231 Margaret St, Key West FL 33040, 305-294-2964. This is at Lands End Marina near the corner of Margaret & Caroline. ETA will be 11am. See <http://www.halfshellrawbar.com/Index1.html>

After lunch there'll be a bit of time to play tourist & poke around Old Town. We'll then ride to the Southernmost Point for the obligatory photo op, then back to Florida City.

If ya need a place to stay, there are some fun/budget accommodations available 1 block W of the above Chevron that can also handle camping: Everglades Hostel, 20 SW 2nd Ave, 305-248-1122, 800-372-3874. If possible, please book online at <http://www.evergladeshostel.com/accommodations.htm> Mention COG so they can keep us hoodlums together.

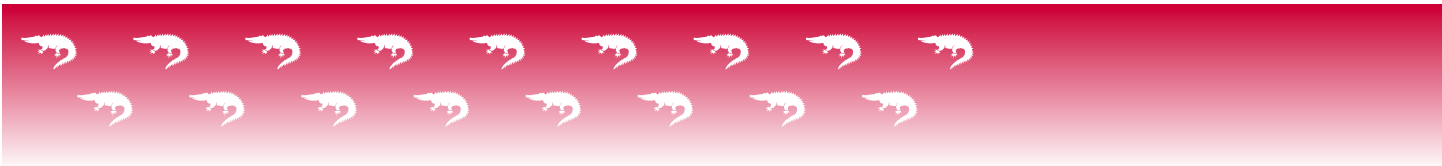
If yer staying over, we'll take the scenic route thru Mijami to breakfast in kewl South Beach. Leaving: 7am Sunday 1/23/05 From: above Chevron - Destination: Front Porch Cafe, 1418 Ocean Dr, Miami Beach 33139, 305-531-8300. ETA will be 8am. See <http://www.miamibeach411.com/Restaurants/frontporch.html>

Hope to seeya there...enjoy the ride! Paulie in Mijami, '01 Conc, COG #4561, South Floriduh AAD, paul.heydemann@netzero.net

♦ **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.

♦ **Real Florida Spring Fling** - April 8-10, 2005 - **The Guesthouse Inn & Suites, Tallahassee, FL**. This will be the first of what we hope to make an annual weekend event. We have not had a weekend event in Florida since the demise of the Key West Escape a couple years back, so if you like this type of event, please be sure to attend! You DO have to be a member of the HSTA to attend this event. Contact: Sam Ulbing - 352-262-6221 or n4uau@cox.net

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Upcoming Rides/Events

Continued...

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◆ 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
Feb. 18-20	Ride the Rio: El Duodecimo	Chisos Mining Co Motel - Terlingua, TX 432-371-2254
April 8-10	T-17	Queen Wilhelmina Lodge - Mena, AR 800-264-2477
April 28-May 1	Helen 2005	Alpenhof Hotel - 15 Yonah Street, Helen, GA 800-535-8678
May 6-8	AR By Way Boogie	Hot Springs Village Inn - 4429 N. Hwy 7, Hot Springs Village, AR 888-922-9601
May 13-15	Twistar 2005	Voyageur Inn - Reedsburg, WI 800-444-4493
May 27-30	Tri-Star	Allegheny Inn - Sparta, NC 888-372-2501
June 19-22	STAR 2005	Holiday Inn North - Lexington, KY
August 12-14	Nolichucky Valley Rally	Holiday Inn Express - Erwin, TN
August 26-28	Mail Pouch Fly By	Best Value Inn (formerly Knights Inn) - Marietta, OH
September 9-11	Ozarks BS Rally	Theodosia Marina & Resort - Highway 160
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
October 7-9	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

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