

FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

July 2004



Tri-STAR Report

Submitted By: Chuck Headrick

The trip to Sparta started at my brother's house in Lexington, SC. We took US176/221 and the BRP. The trip back home Sunday was via US221

and 321 that involved a little incident, but more on that later. My brother and I both agree that the route to Sparta was the most enjoyable even though there were a lot of little towns to pass through. US321 is a 4 lane, with little traffic, most of the

way but offers little else. Either way, they both beat the hell out of the Super Slab I-77.

My brother Dave and I arrived in Sparta NC, on Friday afternoon under some very light rain. Although rain would appear again during this great

event, it was only during the evening when most of the group had already finished and busy telling their adventures of the day. It was also raining

lightly for a short period when departing for the trip home on Sunday. The temp's for the weekend were a very enjoyable mid 60's to the mid 80's late in the afternoon in the low-lands.

Shortly after we had arrived at the site motel, we

had met up with a new friend Sam Ulbing and an old friend; I mean that in several ways, John Watts.

Both are from Florida and from our collective

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Chuck & Dave Headrick, Sam Ulbing, John Watts

This award winning newsletter is produced

and edited by:

Bill Royal

HSTA Florida

Newsletter Editor

1521 New Bedford

Drive

Sun City Center, FL

33573

(813)633-8155

RideFL@flahsta.org

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!

Robert "Bob" Shields - Boynton Beach, FL - Tiger I955

Alan "Terry" Neiman - Palm Bay, FL - ST1100

Michael Sistrunk - Ocklawaha, FL - ST1300

Wayne Teumer - Fairhope, AL - FZ1

Warren Renshaw - Hanceville, AL - SV650

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Ramblin Around

Submitted By: Phil Ridgdill

We've just returned from STAR in California, sorry we're a bit late this month with the newsletter. If you've attended an HSTA STAR, you know they're all just a super amount of fun & good rides. Carmel & I have missed one since 1995 and we've had a great time at all of the STARS but I have to say, the State of California has it all. Mammoth Lakes is just beautiful, great riding although we didn't have a bike on this trip. We had a nice ride up the coast from LA to Monterey, the coast line from Morro Bay to Carmel by the Sea is spectacular, if you've never done this ride, by all means do it. The drive from Merced-Mariposa through the Yosemite to Lee Vining and on to Mammoth Lakes, its hard to describe, its just OTT beautiful.

I would like to congratulate Florida HSTA Member Fanny Haine who rode her Goldwing solo from Sun City Center FL to Mammoth, a distance of almost 3000 miles. I don't think any female solo riders at Mammoth were even close to this distance. Well done Fanny.

Don't forget our July 17 Lunch ride the Dublin Station in Deland FL, we'll have a few things to discuss and I have 10 or 12 new HSTA FL T-shirts to sell.

Ride Safe & Smart

Phil Ridgdill

Tri-STAR Report

Continued...

(Continued from page 1)

memories the only Floridians at the rally. After the burgers and hot dogs offered by Gaylan Diehl (Tri-STAR Event Director) and his gang, we kicked the usual tires till late in-to-the-night. We had all agreed, after my protest for a late start, to meet and have breakfast at 7:30 and then head out for the days ride. I think we finally went to bed around 9:30. ;-)

During breakfast we decided on a modified Roan Mountain route, that Gaylan had pre-planned, of 247 miles.

At Damascus VA, we parked on an intersection island for a little rest and to figure out where our next road was. Even though we had all left our open containers back at the motel, we wondered about the police vehicle check a hundred yards down the road. We discovered with the aid of Sam's GPS, a small back road of less than a mile that by-passed the road block, just a hundred feet away in the opposite direction.

We stopped for some photo ops at Backbone Rock Rec. Area about 3.5 miles outside Damascus on SR133, which Sam had known about from a previous trip (picture on page 3). This is a very nice park with lots of shade, and well worth the time spent. Dave had a low speed tip over in the middle of the road when he attempted to do a U turn to set up for the photo. With his KLR height and the slope of the road he had run out of leg before he could stop the fall. Only damage was to his pride.

For lunch, we stopped at Lake Watauga Point Rec. Area (picture on page 3) in Tennessee to eat the subs' we had purchased back in Mountain City. We found a nice picnic table, shaded by trees and overlooking beautiful lake Watauga. For entertainment, there was a plane performing barrel roles and loops and a some what noisy jet ski.

(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

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 rfoxdr@bellsouth.net

1991 Honda ST1100, excellent condition, 88k, Leather Sargent Seat, Luggage rack, Standard windscreen & 4 inch taller wind-screen for winter, MEZ 4 tires, Works Performance rear shock & Stock shock, Race Tec Fork springs, new brake pads. \$5000 OBO. Phil Ridgdill rfoxdr@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.



Tri-STAR Report

Continued...

(Continued from page 2)

It was shortly after this that we departed Gaylan's pre-planned route taking SR67/167 and 88 back to Sparta. SR88 was quite bumpy and in need of some major repair, but we had taken this route because Dave and I were going to take Gaylan's US221 selected route on Sunday, for the trip home.

Saturday night dinner, out on a patio connected to the motel, featured a great catered Bar-B-Q meal that allowed many members to go back for seconds and a few others to sneak in another trip or two. The overcast brought darkness early and produced rain that was detectable by John, I and any others that enjoy the freedom of not having hair to worry about. We managed to meet up with and seat with some old friends from Georgia, Randy Ashurst and his son Mike. The last time we had met, was for the trip to STAR '99 at Marietta, Ohio. Randy seems to have calmed down a little in his older age, but still has an endless bag of stories to tell. Mike is a great young man that is recently out of the Army and currently in the Guard. I think the snoring that Randy and I did in the motel room at STAR prepared him well for the Army fox holes. At the motel, we would wake up to find Mike laying on the bathroom floor with the door closed attempting to get some sleep.

Thanks to the great Vendor support, just about everyone was able to enjoy a freebie during the after dinner drawings. I think everyone at our table won a gift except John Watts. Some of us almost won twice ;-)

Thanks also to Gaylan, and the many others that I know must have helped, for your efforts and a great Rally. See you next year.

For those that have lingered on, now is the rest of the story of the trip home. When entering the town of Chester SC, on route 321; I in the lead on the left, and David following on the right. We approached the intersection of SR 9 with no indication of 321, so my assumption was straight

ahead. With a red traffic light, we were preparing to stop and Dave was pulling up along side me to exchange a comment or two if we felt the urge (neither of us are given to a lot of unnecessary speech).

Before I was aware that he was coming aside, the light turned green. As we entered the intersection I looked to the right and noticed a sign for 321 & 9, so I made a quick right turn. I'm sure you can guess what came next. It's kind of a blur from that point on but the next thing I knew Dave and I were swapping BMW blue with Kawasaki red as we collided in the intersection. Both of us went down, Dave in obvious pain, was still pinned under his bike. Except for the shock, I felt well and got up quickly to help Dave and get the bike off. Within 15 minutes Dave was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he received several shots for his cracked rib and was released after about an hour. The bikes were still rideable, with mine sustaining the most damage a

broke saddle bag, smashed turn signal/mirror pod, deep gouges in valve cover, scratch's on a small area of the paint job and a misaligned front fairing sub frame. We continued the remaining 50 or so miles home. During this ride, my chest under the right arm was starting to feel sore and I was thinking "bruised muscle".

It was the next day while working on the bikes that I heard a "POP" and felt a terrible pain that caused me to almost black out. Sooooo, off to the emergency room I go. It turned out my cracked rib (bruised muscle) became a broken one.

The main lesson: If you do not know for sure where other riders are around you, DO NOT MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES. Continue straight (if you can), slow, communicate, make a "U'e" and pick back up the proper route.

Also, Dave and I had spoken on a previous trip about staying a safe distance behind and we have been making a sincere effort to do just that, when we

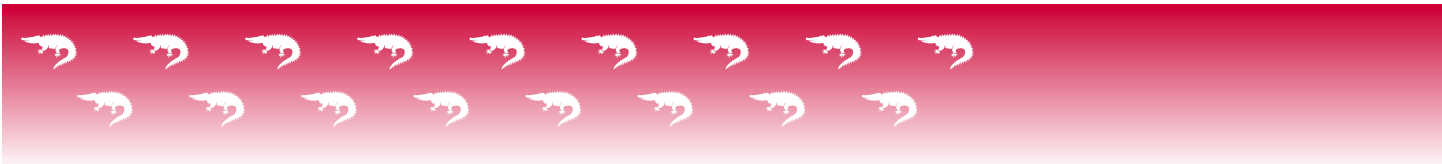
were on the open road. But it is also important even at low speeds.



Backbone Rock Recreational Area



Lake Watauga Point Recreational Area



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, July 17th - Dublin Station Pub - Deland, FL.** Lunch at 12:00 Noon. I would like to see ALL our FL Membership at this meeting but I know that's not possible. But if you can, please make this meeting as we will have a few things to discuss and an important announcement!

- ♦ **HSTA Florida South Lunch Ride - Saturday, July 24th - Cherry Pocket Kountry Klub - Lake Wales, FL.** This is another new location, but I am told by folks who recommend it a very quaint and nice out of the way spot on Lake Pierce. Go to www.cherrypocket.com for directions. Hope to see you there! Contact: Bill Royal - RideFL@flahsta.org or (813)633-8155

- ♦ 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)!

Date	Event	Location	Contact
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	Heber Springs, AR	Arild Mellembakken 870-322-7777
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

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Service
Robin, Phillip




FL - AL News

Submitted By: Bill Royal

Not much room this month, but here goes:

While several FL members attended STAR 04, others who couldn't make that attended the Honda Hoot in Knoxville. Hopefully we'll get a trip report on that adventure.

The single Lunch Ride in June was a great success with some 20 or so riders attending. Jim & Dianne Park once again took long distance member honors with 125 miles, while Bob Shields and P. Van Steelant were right behind them at 124. One non-member, Paul Heydemann rode further, covering 182 miles to join us from Miami, FL.!

I am very sad to report the loss of a long-time HSTA member - Martha Bazzell from Springville, AL died as a result of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident in Memphis TN. Our thoughts, prayers and sincere condolences go out to her friends and family, especially her beloved husband "Baz". (A former HSTA - AL State Director)

