

FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

June 2005



Florida News

Submitted By: Bill Royal

Here I sit on Memorial Day weekend, pondering the un-official start to another summer season. For many here in sunny FLA, that means cutting back or even quitting riding altogether due to the heat and threat of thunderstorms. But for most of the riders who are members of this club it

four letter word - work - but I am going to definitely make our annual flagship event STAR later this month, and from that I'll manage to sneak in an STOC (ST Owners club) event in NC called EaSTOC. Even if you can't make any of those, there's still two more HSTA events in August and



**Fuel/Rest Stop in Brooksville for the South crew on it's way up the North lunch ride to Gator Joe's
3 Silver mounts and 2 of them '91 ST's!**

simply means a switch to riding to other destinations and events. As I was prepping this newsletter I was astonished at the number of events our club has to offer. There were three alone this month; the AR By Way Boogie, TwiSTAR, and Tri-star. I didn't get to make any of them due to that

a whopping choice of 4 more in September! So get out and ride - see more of this great country, and make some new friends along the way.

As for the Florida chapter, we've been busily riding.
(Continued on page 3)

**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

Inside this issue:

Florida News	1,3
Crashing Beauty	2,3
Free Ads	2
Paid Ads	4
Rides/Events	4

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
Earl Muhlbauer	Sun City Center, FL	'90 Pacific Coast	Bill Royal
Chris Hughes	Eustis, FL	'98 Pacific Coast +	Internet



Crashing Beauty

Submitted By: Jim Cavanaugh

Ed Note: This article is one of several from a compilation of member Jim Cavanaugh's riding experiences over the years. One was already published previously and I expect to get the rest of them in as space permits. Great Stuff - and I am sure more of you have tales to tell so let's see them!

Crashing Beauty

Pisgah Mountain, NC - 1999

One lazy afternoon, when I was staying in the Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground, several of us were sitting in the shade chatting, when a man and woman rode in. They parked their bikes near the office and walked to where we were sitting and asked if they could sit and rest for a while. It seemed somewhat strange, but they seemed very nice and after all, they were comrades.

The man was the grandfatherly type, about sixty years old, while the woman was very attractive and in her early thirties. It turned out that they were father and daughter. He was from Hendersonville, North Carolina and she was visiting from Fort Lauderdale,

Florida.

After about ten minutes a fire truck drove up and one of the fireman came up to us and asked if we knew anything about a motorcycle accident. The visitors said maybe somebody thought they had a problem since they had stopped up the road to put a piece of clothing in a saddlebag. The firemen left and we chatted for a while longer before the couple got up to leave. I also got up to go for a ride.

As I went to leave the campground, the couple was riding out, just ahead of me. The man was on a Gold Wing and the lady was on a BMW. The drive is somewhat steep as it comes up to the road, making entering the road a little difficult if you have to stop for traffic. As the man pulled out on the road the lady followed, appearing a little unstable. When she was halfway through the turn, she suddenly went down. I stopped and helped her pick up the bike, after which she thanked me and went on her way. Neither she nor the bike appeared to suffer any damage.

(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 ridefl@flahsta.org.

For Sale

Bikes

2002 VFR800i - VTEC engine, like new condition. 6500 miles never abused & never down. 40+ MPG on regular gas! Wired for Trickle Charger and Escort. Other goodies include Givi Windshield (+ OEM), Heli Bars (+ OEM). Color Coordinated Tank Bra, Stem Stand. Over \$300 of soft luggage: TourMaster Saddlebags, two-stage Tank Bag, and Rocket Locker Tail Bag Asking \$7,000. - Gerry Stellwagon - gfsHOME@verizon.net

1991 Honda ST1100. Excellent condition, Silver, 88k miles, always garaged, original owner. Sargent Leather seat, MEZ 4 tyres, luggage rack, works performance shock & orig. shock, 3 windshields, Audio com with Radar connection, Properly serviced and on Mobil 1 syn oil (Motorcycle). Asking \$3775 obo.. North FL area. Phil Ridgdill 904 287 9654 or rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

2001 BMW K1200 LTC Pacific Blue 25K , dlr 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

Triumph Summer Weight Motorcycle Jacket. Black. Size 46 US 56 UK New. Worn 3 times. Fully perforated panels. Cordura construction. Removable CE95 protectors, shoulders and elbows. Removable back insert. Excellent condition. Too many jackets. \$75.00. Tom Roe 321-777-0219 or RTR2169@aol.com

Accessories

BRAND NEW Dunlop D404— 80/90-21. \$50.00 plus shipping. Or if you bring me the bike or the wheel, I'll mount it for free! Contact Scott Wingerter, Inglis, FL 352-447-2662 or Vmax97@peoplepc.com

Rides

STAR05 plans I know about: Fanny Haine is riding up all back roads in 3 days starting out on Friday. Eve and I are riding up all interstate to keep the commute to two days starting on Saturday. Eve and Fanny will be hitting the Honda Hoot after STAR and I the STOC event EaSTOC. I sure hope more of you are planning to go— just keeping it a secret ;-) If you're wanting to get in on any of these plans, email or call Bill Royal - (813)633-8155 or RideFL@flahsta.org



Florida News

Continued...

(Continued from page 1)

ing along as usual. We had two very well attended lunch rides in May. The first was Sam's North ride up to Gator Joe's in Ocklawaha. 24 riders and 1 passenger attended that event on an absolutely stunning day with mild temps and plenty of sun. 68% of the attendees were HSTA members with some of the others requesting membership applications. Long distance honors were shared by three riders who all came mostly out of the way to meet up and ride with the Tampa group - Sue Roe, Bob Flanagan and Bob Shields all had 170-180 miles on the clock getting to the lunch.

Then, just a week later, we had 32 attendees make it to the Lone Cabbage Fish Camp in Cocoa, FL. This was a new destination for us, but the turnout was great, the food decent, and the weather was picture perfect (unless you were headed back northward towards Ocala where I understand a few folks got a little shower along the way). Our membership attendance was at 66%, continuing a trend upwards from our average of about 50%. There were 15 riders who topped 150 miles to get to the lunch with two of them topping out the list at 200+ - Sue Roe and Bob Shields (notice any trends here?) There were also several 1st time attendees there as well and a number of them were interested in club membership. We hope to see them all back in the future and should they choose to join the club we welcome them for a lifetime of friendship and safe riding!

In other news from around Florida, Sam Ulbing writes: Rob Medwed and I attended the Helen HSTA event on April 29th. A summary of notable points from my perspective: 32F, heavy rain, dense fog, 5264 curves - outstanding as always :) . We met our newest Florida member Bob Flanagan who signed up at the event - welcome Bob! The SE-Star in Dillard, GA. is on Sept 23 - 25th. If you haven't done an event in the GA. mountains, I encour-

age you to go. It would be nice to have a large FI attendance and hopefully conditions will be better than last year when the Park's got "hurricaned" out.

Due to the positive response of the Spring Fling, I'm working on a couple of possible new events for our Florida group. More later.

And yet more newsworthy info is about members Keith & Monica Oster. They recently completed a series of rides where they visited and took a photograph of themselves in front of each of the 67 County Seat courthouses throughout Florida. More on this as well as pictures of their adventure are available online at their website at: <http://www.monkei.com/Florida67Riders/index.htm> Way to go Keith & Monica!

This item just in: Member Rob Medwed was out enjoying his brand new VTX when he stopped behind other traffic at a red light. A woman, driving an SUV and apparently distracted from driving, plowed into Rob from behind (with no signs of ever having tried to slow or stop), totaling his VTX and throwing him onto the trunk of the car in front of him. Rob was taken to the hospital for X-rays and examination, but fortunately, his injuries appear to be relatively minor. He is on crutches but no broken bones and he's expecting to recuperate within weeks. Luckily his lovely wife Joan was NOT on the back seat as the bike was severely damaged, especially the back half. We all wish Rob a swift and complete recovery.

Well, that's about it for this month. I may or may not publish a newsletter in July due to STAR and whether I can get one out in a timely manner. If not, look to the website for ride info and another newsletter in August for sure.

Ride Safe!

Crashing Beauty

Continued...

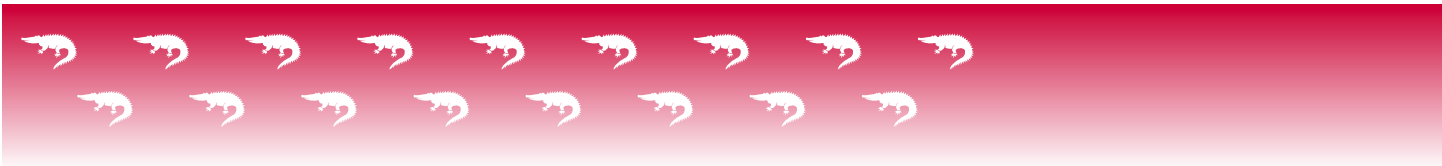
(Continued from page 2)

I followed them five miles up Pisgah Mountain, to the Blue Ridge Parkway, where the man decided to make an abrupt left turn. He actually went farther than he should and turned into the entrance for traffic from the opposite direction. As the lady was trying to make the same awkward turn, she went down in the middle of the highway. I quickly parked and flagged some traffic around her. She was pinned under the bike, but not injured. The fender and one turn signal had some damage, as did the young lady's ego. She said her sister was going to be very unhappy with her, since she had borrowed her bike to go riding with her dad. She said that she had been taking riding lessons in Florida and wanted to show her dad that she had learned to ride.

I helped her over to her father who was waiting at the side of the road. To spare the young lady any more embarrassment I decided to ride on. However, the more I thought of how disheartened she must feel, I decided to return and try to give some words of en-

couragement. When I came back I found them at an overlook on the BRP. When I got off the bike, the young lady said, "I just told my dad that I hope I never see that man again". We chatted for a few minutes and I went to the Pisgah Inn, where I parked the bike and decided to take a hike through the campground. As I walked out the driveway the couple rode in. I covered my head and ducked like I was afraid of getting hit. The young lady broke out in a laugh.

It became very apparent that this lovely young woman was trying very hard to meet her father's expectations. Her sister had learned to ride and she apparently felt she had to do the same. She was at an obvious disadvantage, with a bike much too high for her and the mountainous terrain, to which she was not accustomed. After this I began to think that she must have fallen before they came to the campground and somebody reported it to the fire department.



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 South Lunch Ride** - June 4th, 2005 - **Nav-A-Gator Grill, Lake Suzy, FL**. The last time we went here was 9/11/04—and that was our first time since the original date which had to be cancelled due to hurricane Charley. We only had 11 make it to that first outing so I hope we can entice a few more of you to make this one. It's located at the DeSoto Marina on the Peace River just off CR 769 which runs between I-75 near Port Charlotte and SR72 just west of Arcadia. GPS: N27° 3.643' by W82° 0.171' or go to www.nav-a-gator.com for directions. Contact: Bill Royal rideFL@flahsta.org or 813-633-8155

Future South Rides/Dates: July 23rd - Paradise Harbor Marina, Howey-in-theHills, FL Aug 13th - TBA Sept 10th -TBA

♦ **HSTA Florida North Lunch Ride** - June 11th, 2005 - **RJ Gators, Lake City, FL**. 2281 US 90 West, Lake City. About a mile east of I-75 on the north side of Rt 90. Phone: 386-755-944. GPS to come via email. Contact: Sam Ulbing n4uau@cox.net or 352-262-6221

Future North Rides/Dates: July 16th - 3 Bananas in Crescent City.

♦ 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
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 Theodosia, MO
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
September 30-October 2	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



Interstate CYCLES

HONDA • SUZUKI • YAMAHA
Sales • Parts • Service

Dan Drehoff
Parts Manager

580 S.W. Florida Gateway Dr.
Lake City, FL 32024 Toll Free (877) 596-2453

*Tire Special: \$20 off Sugg. Retail PLUS
Free Mount and Balance.*

Paid Advertising

The vendor featured here has supported our club by supplying door prizes for our Florida Spring Fling. If you get the opportunity please be sure to support them !