

FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

May 2004



April Rides

Submitted By: Bill Royal

Oh, you just gotta love Florida! We had two lunch rides on back to back weekends this month and both had outstanding turnouts. For the "South" ride to the Landing Strip Café at Okeechobee airport, I led a group of 12 bikes from Sun City Center, picking up another three along the way. When we arrived at the destination, there were another several riders dismounting for a total of 29 bikes. We just about busted the seams of the place, but everyone got fed and watered and eventually back on their way home. My group mostly went back the way they came, but myself and a few other adventurous riders scouted out some new potential destinations and covered some 315 miles round trip. We scouted a place called Light-



A pretty good size and definitely happy crowd after lunch!

sey's—it's a seafood joint on the north west side of the Big "O". A little pricey, but not too bad and definitely a place where we could have whatever size turnout we could muster without space or parking problems. Look for this as a ride some

time this summer. Unfortunately, I was remiss in remembering my sign in sheets so I do not have complete data for this ride, But non-HSTA member Paul Heyderman

who rode up from Miami on his Connie looks to have top distance honors with Tom Roe apparently having found a most circuitous route to cover 100 miles getting in from Melbourne.

It was just a scant weekend later when we
(Continued on page 3)

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Special points of interest:

- *STAR '04 Plans change - Pg. 3*
- *Special Ride to Riding Into History Pg. 4*

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!

Norm England - Clearwater - ST1100 Fay England - Clearwater - KLX400
Jim Park - West Palm Beach - ST1300 Dianne Park - West Palm Beach - 1150RT

And transferees into FL from other states:

Perry Houck - ST4 & Ducati Multistrada - Destin
Sharon Powers - Navaree Bobbie Walters - Navaree

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Ramblin Around

Submitted By: Phil Ridgdill

Last month my bit about MOTOGP had to be edited as we do have a problem, at times, with space. Bill does one heck of a job with our Newsletter and now that he is once again working, it's even more of a problem. However, please continue to send in articles about your Motorcycle Trips or whatever you think may be of interest to your colleagues in the HSTA.

With regards to MOTOGP, it would be fantastic if we could have a race here in USA. I find it quite amazing that a small country like Qatar will have a World Championship MOTOGP and we haven't one yet. The rumors are we will have one in 2005 and I do hope it's in Birmingham AL. From what I've heard & read, the Homestead track and the Barber Motorsports Track in Birmingham are being considered. Homestead is another Car track and I hope they don't get the race. I will have to say Homestead has a lot going for it, Miami. Miami has the South Beach night life, that's a big attraction, major TV network communications in place, a large International airport although I must say, Atlanta International Airport about an hour from Birmingham, is a much better Airport (I think). These World Championship Races draw large crowds, Spain close to 200,000, Assen in Holland well over 100,000, we don't see these kind of crowds for a Motorcycle Race in the USA. Ok, I agree that we have a large group at Daytona during Bike week, maybe 400-500,000 motorcycles in town. How many do you think are at the race track for the Daytona 200 mile race? If we get a MOTOGP Race in 2005, we will not have the crowds that they have in Europe for a World Class race. But, we would definitely have a large crowd for the race. I hope that the Barber Motorsports (Birmingham) people don't have to compete with Homestead for this race(ISC), that would be extremely difficult. It would be great if the American Motorcycling Journalists and the

AMA will push for this race to be held in Birmingham AL.

Speaking of MOTOGP, did you watch the first race? I don't think there could be a doubt in anyone's mind as to who is the number one rider in the world, Valentino Rossi won the race first time out on the Yamaha, which looked to be a bit short on hp. Fantastic race, I certainly hope we get a race 2005.

I will not be able to organize a lunch ride for the month of May or June, I have quite a few projects in May and we'll be in California in June. I'll organize one in July. If you want to go for a ride, check your HSTA Blue Book for a member close by, give'em a call and off you go.

Riding into History event will take place on May 15th at The World Golf Village. Very nice event, the Concours de Elegance will feature British machines. There will also be a display of significant Hondas, this display will be organized by Bill Ferren .

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

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

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

Riders Wanted

STAR'04 - PLAN CHANGE! - Due to unforeseen circumstances our planned trip to STAR has been cancelled. There ARE still riders going from Florida however. They are hooking up with LA State Director Bob Chappuis and his entourage and departing from Louisiana on June 16th for a 5 day, ~400 miles a day trip.

Honda Hoot - June OK, so I know I am not alone in just not being able to fit a trip to CA into the schedule this summer. So how about it, anyone else thinking about making the "Hoot" instead? We are, so let's make some plans together! Contact: Bill Royal— (813) 633-8155 or RideFL@flahsta.org



April Rides

Continued...

(Continued from page 1)

mounted up again this time for the joint HSTA/BMWNEF ride to the Blackwater Inn at Astor FL. This one pulled in a huge crowd with 48 attendees riding in on 44 mounts. And what a nice mix of rides there were. Everything from a vintage '76 BMW R75/6 to an exotic '04 Ducati Multistrada. There were two '04 ST1300's sporting a gorgeous blue color, and the usual numbers of Gold Wings, and ST1100's. There was even a good group of cruisers, including a Honda Magna 750, a Yamaha Virago and heck, there was even one Silverwing there too! This time I DID come prepared so got a good take on the attendance. High mileage kudos go to a great new member couple—Jim and Dianne Park who each rode in on their own '04 ride—his an ST1300 and hers a BMW 1150RT. They rode 240 miles all the way up from West Palm Beach to join in the fun. I got to chat with them at length at lunch and they're seasoned riders with lots of great information to share. I really look forward to seeing and even riding with them in the future. Total mileage by all riders one-way to the event was 5,224! That's if for this month—See you out on the road in May or June!

Ride Safe,
Bill Royal



New Members Jim Park (on left) and Dianne Park (on right) discussing rides with Scott Wingeter (inside left) and Ron McNary (inside right)

The Ride NOT Taken

Submitted By: Bill Royal

So what happened? Why are we suddenly not riding the STAR 04 as planned? Well, it certainly wasn't an easy decision for either Eve or myself, but we both think that we made the right one and here's how we got to that.

When we left for STAR '03, we had discussed not planning for STAR '04 so that we could take a non-motorcycling vacation. Heresy? Maybe, but it pays to diversify and that was the plan—right up until Eve heard STAR '04 announced for California. Eve spent some of her teens in CA and has a special fondness for it and I like any riding challenge so when it was announced she looked at me and I her and said a collective "We're going to STAR 04!" Of course, I was still un-employed then and time wasn't even a factor to start. So with much excitement, we busily made plans to go, sent in our registration fee and then all of a sudden—I got a job! Now things would get complicated. The new job came with 2 weeks vacation plus a couple of personal days. Star 04 for us was roughly 2750 miles away. I figured, I could use up 5 days each way and still have the couple of personal days left over. So, 5 days into 2750 miles equals 550 mile days. Certainly well within my experience and capabilities, but the longest day Eve ever had up until now was 275... So we thought it would be prudent and sensible to do a little shake-down ride to see how this was going to work. We planned a two day trip—one up and one back to Ft. Walton Beach. That was just about 75 miles short of our first day's plan for STAR and riding back home the next day gave us the luxury to run out of steam at home vs. 1000 miles away.

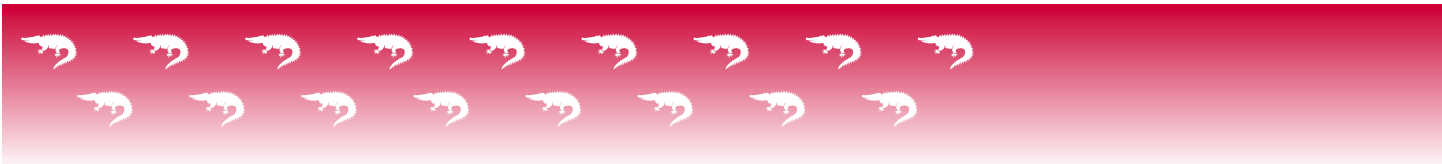
Well, I have to say that Eve did a great job. For someone riding a

cruiser, never having done more than 275 in a day and now covering 904 miles over two days I was thrilled she made it so well. But when we got home she had a come to Jesus meeting with me and explained that was the very MAX miles she could do in a day. Any more and it would turn from a vacation to torture. Well, I am a pretty nice guy, and one certainly not into torturing my SO :-). Besides, we were 100 miles a day short AND we'd had perfect weather on the shakedown ride, a luxury we just couldn't assume for the entire trip out and back. So, ultimately, we decided that for safety's sake we would have to forgo this ride. Being tired on the road is a dangerous mix and as much as we both love riding, we also both keep safety at the top of our riding checklists. So, we're gonna miss Star '04. Maybe next time when we're both retired and can laze across the country enjoying the scenery will do the trick. In the meantime, we're now freed up to get to some of the other rides we've wanted to make but couldn't, and that starts with Helen, GA. This very weekend! Yes, while you're reading this, we'll be on our way to Helen! Maybe you will be to in which case, you'll be reading this after we've seen you :-). We're also going to try to make the Honda Hoot instead of STAR so, anyone else interested? Let me know.

In the meantime, have a nice time and enjoy the ride, but above all, keep safety at the top of your list too! We want to get to ride with each and every one of you along the way.

Ride Safe,

Bill Royal



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** - NO Planned ride this month or June due to STAR and other commitments!

♦ **HSTA Florida Special Ride - Saturday, May 15th - Riding Into History - World Golf Village, FL.** This is a special ride to check out one of Florida's premiere motorcycle events (or just another excuse for a really long ride!) :-). It's 205 miles and a 3.5 hour ride by mostly highway, but we're going for it. Lunch will be as you like it and departure for home is anyone's schedule. 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
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 Express 64 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

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