

FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

October 2003



Lunch Ride Redux

Submitted By: Bill Royal

Here I am, writing a newsletter article because I didn't have any submissions waiting to go in... I know several of you made trips on your bikes this summer so how about a few words about it. What was it like? How was the weather? What did you see/do? How was the riding, the roads, the people?

I say I know people were away, because the two lunch rides in September had very minimal turn-outs. In mid-month, we tried a new place for us—

Gator Joe's on Lake Weir in Oklawaha. Although there were only 17 riders and 1 passenger, the group did represent the club from all over the state. We had attendees from as far south as Nokomis (Way to go Jerry Stellwagon for riding 204 miles to make this one!) and "Fearless

Leader" Phil Ridgdill brought a smaller than usual group from Jacksonville. Recently joined members Bob & Cheryl Fischer made it in from Palm Coast on their Gold Wing, and Rich Douds valiantly represented the otherwise missing Mel-

bourne group. Sam Ubbing brought along a friend with a clone of his ST1300 that made for a nice pair showing. I led a small group of 4 bikes up from Sun City Center area, and Eve Blazsur rode her Magna 750—all by

herself up from Sun City Center (she wanted to take a little shorter route than the 150 miles I took the rest of the group on). Eve still managed a very respectable 112 miles! The place was very nice. Though parking was a bit tight right in

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Lunch Ride Attendees at Gator Joe's in Oklawaha
See the article for most of the names :-)

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Special points of interest:

- Only one Lunch Ride in October—See pg. 4
- State Website updated with maps and ride stats

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!

Jerry Kraus - Coral Springs

W.H. Williamson - Vero Beach

Sid & Bobbie Spann - Ruskin

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Ramblin Around

Submitted By: Phil Ridgdill

Have you had a good look at the new Harley's? If you like a naked Bike, the new Sportster looks great. I'm not sure of its performance but it certainly looks nice. I'm not exactly fond of spoke wheels, the XL 1200R Sportster has alloys front & rear, very nice looking machine. It also appears to have the foot pegs in the normal position, the feet forward position on both 883C & 1200C looks very uncomfortable. According to P.Egan the new Harley's are reliable and cheap to maintain.

2004 looks another banner year for new motorcycles. Honda is introducing the CBR1000RR. The bike looks fantastic, 6 spd gearbox, dual stage fuel injection, 2 injectors per cylinder, rear suspension looks like RCV211 Motogp style. This looks like the bike that Honda will re-enter the World Super Bike racing with. Of course they may enter this machine in the AMA Superbike series as well. Yamaha appears to be serious as well, the new YZF-R1 not only looks good, it will be a tough competitor in the racing arena, 998cc, in-line four designed to put out 180hp with a claimed dry wt. of 379lbs. I hear Kawasaki claims a dry wt. of 365lbs for the new Z10. The 2004 Racing season is going to be very interesting.

I'm quite happy with my new Blackbird, it will not be as quick as

all these new sport bikes but it's enough for me. I enjoyed the ride to Oklawaha for lunch; the Blackbird handles quite well for me, its still a bit tight with only 900 miles on the clock. An Ohlins Shock on the rear will be my first add on, I'll wait until tyre change time for that, should smooth out the rear a bit. A fully adjustable Ohlins Front Fork would be nice; I hate to think what that would cost, too much for me. It does burn a little more fuel than I thought it would, maybe with a few more miles on that will improve.

By the time you receive this months newsletter, Carmel & I, along with the Jacksonville HSTA Group, Ron Ritchie, Steve Smith, Alan & Terri Singer, Bill & Valerie Robinson, Bill Peterson, Craig Merritt, Scott Signorini & Sarah Hales will be in Bolzano Italy on another Edelweiss Tour. This year it's the Dolomites of Italy, Bill Robinson will write an article about the tour and Alan will be our official photographer. Hopefully we'll have it together in next month's newsletter. Expect to see quite a few photographs of the very latest in motorcycles as some of the guys will take in the Milan Show, photos will be courtesy of MotoEuroGarage.

Ride Safe & Smart

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

1987 Honda Hurricane CBR1000. 39K Corbin, Yoshimura exhaust, K&N, etc. Recent tune up, timing chain, sprockets and chain. Beautiful condition. Always Mobil 1. Regret to sell but lack room for two bikes. \$3200. Call Alan 850-668-0886 or mericke@attglobal.net

ST1100 accessories. Corbin leather seat \$195.00, Ventura Sport Rack w/L brackets \$85.00, Hondaline Backrest w/bag \$85.00, Gen Mar bar risers \$55.00, Haynes Repair Manual \$10.00, Lockhart Phillips Tank Bra \$10.00, Stock windshield good condition \$50.00. Contact: Terry Brown 321-724-4559 or tlbst1100@yahoo.com or tbrown02@harris.com

1982 HONDA CB 900F - \$2,500 OBO

Rare bike in excellent condition with 11,955 original miles. Original owner – bike purchased new in 1986. Always garaged and adult-owned and maintained. All original parts (except seat) are included: bar, cables, peg holders, exhaust, shocks, Hondaline back rack & back rest. Engine is all stock. Honda Sport Kit was installed on date of purchase. Vance & Hines SS exhaust –

sounds great, not too loud. Eclipse standard tank bag also included. Perfect bike for everyday ride or restoration project. Please call Van in Boynton Beach (S. Florida) at 561-386-2594.

2003 Honda ST1300, Throttlemeister and Givi Bag setup. Always garaged and covered, all maintenance performed, 9000 miles, Bike is as new. Average retail price(KBB) for this bike is \$10795.00 Tom's price is \$9500 Contact Tom Roe at 321 777-0219 or rtr2169@aol.com

1991 ST-1100 Silver, Outstanding condition 29,700 miles, Roller bearings in steering head, tank bag w/am/fm radio, tail bag, J&M CB. Always Garage kept. Picture available. \$5500 Contact: Tom Mewborn – tom.mew@verizon.net

Lunch Ride Redux

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front of the place, there was ample space in adjacent lots. We chose to sit inside the air-conditioning as it's still summer here in Florida, but even there the view out onto the lake was nice. It would be real nice to make it back here in the cooler months when we could sit out on the deck. The food was good, I thought and the prices reasonable. The place was pretty busy, with other bikers as well as boaters from the lake docking in for lunch, but the service was decent and we got in and out in a reasonable time. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and then it was once again time to head home. I managed to get back home just minutes before the skies opened up yet again, though this would be the last of my good luck with the weather as you'll see in the next lunch ride details.

On Saturday, the 27th, we found ourselves going to yet another new place. We had a favorite place at Sherianne's Runway Café in Sebring, but they've since moved out of the airport (which was one of the big advantages to going there) so I scouted out a new place - Jaxson's. It's a little place situated right on Lake June in Lake Placid. If that's too many lakes for you, I understand, but this IS Florida and we do have a LOT of lakes! It's actually off the beaten path by a bit making it a charming place to go. I led another brave group of 6 riders and 2 passengers over from SCC, exploring some "new-to-me" back roads around Sweetwater and Crewsville. We didn't quite make the full exact route I planned, but did do most of it, now leaving a bit more to explore. Found some nice little twisties, a one-lane bridge, and a couple of barely two-lane wooden bridges. We arrived about 20 minutes ahead of schedule due to the missed section of the route, but that was fine since they seemed to have lost the notice that I had called to let them know there was a group coming. We got seated, got our beverages of choice and awaited the rest of the riders to show. Well, Sandra Ingram made it over from Jupiter on her Nighthawk all by herself, and a bit later, Frank Brown, fresh from his 2003 Iron Butt ride rolled in, but that was it! So, the eleven of us ordered and ate while swapping stories and having the usual good times. The place was, well, not bad. It has potential, especially if we were to sit out on the sandy beach overlooking the lake. Inside was a bit



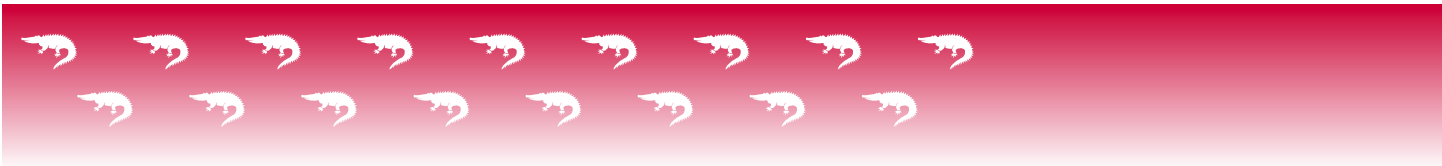
**Sam Ulbing and his buddy's twin ST1300's
along side new members Bob & Cheryl Fischer's Gold Wing**

small, and we'd have been split up a bit if the usual 20 or more had shown. We eventually mounted up to make the trip home. Now the weather had been decent, if a tad warm and muggy, but as is usual for this time of the year, afternoon storms were in the forecast. We headed out north on US17, planning to make a gas stop at SR 66 just south of Sebring and then heading west on 66 from there. But as soon as we turned north on 17 I was wary. The sky ahead was black and the further we went, the blacker it got. We were still 5 miles from the gas station when I decided we were going to make a complete route change to try to avoid some of what was ahead. So, I lead an about face and we headed south on 17. Looking south and west, the skies looked MUCH more friendly and I was thinking we might actually make it home rain free. I know that's what I was thinking while some gassed up in

Lake Placid while I just sat on my bike, not opting to change into my rain gear sitting in my saddlebag. Gassed up, we headed the several more miles south on 17 to then turn right onto SR70. I was still thinking the skies looked so much better than they had to the north when we approached an area of sky that was light gray. You know how you can usually see the rain—dark bands coming down from the clouds? He He. Not this time.

Seemingly out of nowhere, we rode right into a pretty heavy rain that only got worse as we went further. Stopping now was useless, anyone not already in rain gear was wet to the shirt and there was no shelter available to stop anyhow. So we pressed onward, albeit at a much lowered speed due to the very poor visibility. We did ride out to a clear spot, for a few minutes, before we were back in it again. It was around here that the rain began creeping down my legs and into my 100% waterproof boots... I knew from my GPS that we had 50 miles to go, and at the 40 MPH we were making, that was going to be a lonnnng ride. It was. We did get an occasional break, only to then be burst down upon again. It was like that the whole length of SR70, until we turned north in Bradenton where we found a clear spot that followed us all the rest of the way home. I was almost dry when I got home, save for my waterlogged boots and gloves. I felt especially bad for the two teen-age passengers we had along for the ride, They were wearing only jeans,

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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.

Only ONE lunch ride this month due to Fearless Leader Phil and his Jax cohorts cavorting about in Europe on another Edelweiss Tour

Also, if you haven't checked out our website recently, please do so. I've added a whole new section of maps of our various lunch ride locations as well as a summary of the lunch ride attendance stats. Check it out and let me know what you think. I am especially interested in any suggestions you might have to make the website more valuable to you as a resource in your pursuit of motorcycling enjoyment.

♦ **HSTA Florida Lunch Ride - Saturday October 18th - Lake Susan Lodge - Clermont, FL.** Lunch at 12:00 Noon. I know, we were just there in August! But this is a great location, about as central to all of the membership as is possible in a state as large as Florida. There are also several very nice roads in and around the area (CR561, CR455, SR/CR437, SR/CR545 to name a few) so do try to make this one if you can. See you all there! For details/questions, contact: Bill Royal—RideFL@flahsta.org or (813)633-8155

♦ And all the rest of the HSTA National schedule...

Date	Event	Location	Contact
Oct. 03-05	River City Ride	Corydon, Indiana	Don Parish (317) 936-5818 mparish@hrtc.net
Oct. 10-12	FOF X	Parkshills, Missouri	James Radcliff (314) 213-5854 jradcliff@frenchgerleman.com
Nov. 01-03	Texas Hill Country	Kerrville, Texas	Jim Poulos (817) 268-4620 jamo1935@aol.com

Lunch Ride Redux

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t-shirts and helmets! They claimed to have still enjoyed the ride, but I factor much of that to their age. I was certainly glad it wasn't me back there and clad as I was, I was still very happy to be home when we got there. The only good news about the storm was it was uncharacteristically quiet. I saw only one strike of lightning—well, actually only the flash, not the strike, and from the thunder I knew even that was quite far away. So that made it less stressful. So thus ended another HSTA Lunch Ride in Central Florida.



Until I see you again - Ride Safe!

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