



FLORIDA GATOR TALE

Honda Sport Touring Association

December 2007



End of an Era

Submitted By: Bill Royal

Era?, well, OK maybe not quite up to that standard. But you may be surprised, as I was, that my very first Gator Tale was issued in November of 2000! That makes this, my last issue, a full seven years of publishing your newsletter. My how the time flies by.

I must say, I have mixed feelings about moving on. I truly have enjoyed editing the newsletter and certainly have learned a lot along the way. It helped me with names of members (I am terrible with names) and it helped me focus on the club rather than just myself. On the other hand it was a labor to produce to be sure. Especially so on those occasions where I had to write every single article; which was thankfully not too often. I learned MS Publisher really well, and was quite pleased with the one of a kind look and feel that I was able to achieve. I learned a LOT about color printing from just how little workload an ink jet printer can handle to just how expensive a laser color printer's supplies are. But ultimately, I enjoyed sharing the Florida HSTA experience with you all and I truly believe the newsletter has been a great tool in that regard as well as helping with recruiting new members.

Being a numbers person, I thought I would share some stats about the newsletter. Although I started publishing with the November 2000 issue, I didn't start to keep detailed records until September of 2001. Total months I published (counting this last newsletter) was 73.

Now counting only the period when I kept detailed records I know I printed and mailed 7856 copies of the newsletter, totaling 42, 512 pages! My it seems like a lot now. The average cost to the club (for which I was reimbursed) was approx. \$0.79 per newsletter which translates out to an average cost per member per year of just about \$9.50 - all these \$\$ figures include newsletter production and postage.

I went through three printers during the course. I started with a Canon S450 ink-jet, which in addition to being extremely slow AND requiring manual 2-siding, it ultimately began eating through ink heads - it just wasn't engineered for the duty cycle I was asking of it. I then bought a used Xerox 820 Phaser wax-ink printer. This solved my production speed issues with it's automatic 2-siding and the print quality was outstanding. Alas, the cost of the ink cubes was a killer, and eventually it self destructed from age (the plastic internal parts became brittle and began breaking (I believe a "feature" built in by Xerox to ensure "upgrades"). With that experience I would never buy another Xerox product again. I replaced the Phaser with an Okidata C5800 which is a laser/toner based system and the speed, quality and reliability have all been there, however toner costs are still too high to continue full color production without a substantial increase in what I would have to ask the club for. And, although I was spending out of my pocket to support the newsletter in part, there were a few folks who made contributions to help defray the costs. Some asked that they remain nameless and

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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
Will McLandsborough	Cape Coral	Honda Spirit 750	Internet/Bill Royal
Gary Gray	Spring Hill	ST1300	MSN Newsgroup
Vickie Gray	Spring Hill	MOH	Gary Gray

This 2 time 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 Award Winning Florida HSTA Site at: www.flahsta.org

The Florida Chapter of the HSTA has two State Directors.

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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, (address on front page of newsletter) or email to ridefl@flahsta.org.

For Sale

Bikes

2005 LT, Excellent Condition, 33K miles, BMW Comm 2 System, Nav II GPS, XM Sat Radio, BMW CB Radio, PIAA 1100X Lights, Convenience Pkg, Heated Seats and Grips, KonTour Driver Seat, BMW Comfort Seat for Passenger, AM-FM-CD Changer, Cee Bailey WS, Run-N-Lites, 3 BMW Liner Bags, Mag's Bag for Top Case---\$16,500 Contact: Dennis--561-329-3257 or ipnman2002@yahoo.com

97 ST1100 ABS/TCS 22,018 miles Handlebar risers, BMW grips BW Streetpilot, aux fuse box, Honda volt meter, Works shock, wind deflectors with blind spot mirrors, BMW electrical plug, 60's Honda racing decal clear coated in, Acc shelf, 3m reflective tape on bags, 45°valve stems, fenda extenda, H4 headlight adapters, bungee buddies on bags, bag flopper stoppers. All fluids recent change, extra oil filter and service manual. New MEz6 front and ME880 on the rear with lots of tread left. Images at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/15127070@N07/sets/72157602439300241/> \$5300 or best offer Contact: Mitch - mitch96@pobox.com

2003 Honda VFR800VTEC Interceptor, 7500 mi., factory hard bags, Power Commander, Scorpion cans, sport touring windscreen, Heli Bars, Throttlemeister cruise, new Dunlop D220's, Silver. Sport Touring Ready! \$7500.00 Contact: Richard at 954.675.4728 or rpk2fla1@yahoo.com

1977 BMW R100RS with 32000 miles in good condition. BMW tank bag, saddle bags, small luggage rack, stock & tall windshields. \$4000.00 Contact: Art Bremer 352-464-2000 (st.ops@earthlink.net)

Gear

ST1100 Rick Mayer seat - Black Vinyl for person 5'11 #190 32" inseam with bar risers... \$250 obo, you pay shipping.
Escort Solo S2 radar detector (wireless) hardly used \$ 200 Images of both items at same Flickr site as listed in the 97 ST1100 ad. Contact: Mitch - mitch96@pobox.com

Corbin "Gunfighter & Lady" seat and backrest for ST1100. \$250.00 Contact: Art Bremer 352-464-2000 (st.ops@earthlink.net)

Garmin 478, includes power cord, software, pre-loaded maps and cover (does not include antenna). \$700

VTX 1300 Corbin seat (used one day only!) \$400 Contact John French 561-350-6177 (no email)

Other

VarioBar Handlebar System. www.gillestooling.com, cut from high strength Aircraft Aluminium AL 7075. Can be used as clip ons, Multi Adjustable, this kit come with a 3 inch riser ext multi Adjustable, fits BikBird/VFR or any bike with same diameter fork tube. Phil Ridgdill 904 287 0654 Email rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

Wanted

Small off road bike 80cc-125cc 4stroke, 3-5 yrs old, Honda, Yamaha or Suzuki. Contact Phil Ridgdill Email rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net, 904 287 9654

End of an Era

Continued...


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that's fine and one person even donated \$100 to help out - for which I am truly grateful.

And while I am on the subject of thank you's - I need to acknowledge all the folks who took the time to write and submit articles - Phil Ridgdill for his "Ramblin Around" series, Larry Fitch, Jim & Diane Park, Jim Cavanagh, Will Robinson, Fanny Haine, Scott Wingerter, Craig Merritt, Terry Brown and of course Sam Ulbing - and so many others - you were all great and really helped share the wealth within the club by supporting the newsletter in that way. Also, I would be remiss if not for a very special thank you to my S.O. Eve Blazsur who provided the very best in proofreading services and saved me from oh so many embarrassments. All my major blunders occurred when she was away riding and thus unavailable to proofread. 'Nuff said. And then last, but by no means least - all

you readers who countless times have gone out of your way at a lunch ride to say thanks or tell me how much you enjoyed reading the newsletter or just give me an "Attaboy" for the effort. Those were absolutely the most rewarding parts of this newsletter editing adventure and the thing I will miss the most. Thanks to you all for making the journey such a pleasure!

For details on what is to come, please be sure to read Sam's South News article on Page 3.



The “H” in HSTA

Submitted by: Bill Royal

Wow, what a topic to start up in my last newsletter...

Any of you who have been around for a while probably remember the push to change the name of the club a while back. Actually it seems to be a perennial thing and is once again raising its head. For the rest of you a little background.

The HSTA (Honda Sport Touring Association) evolved from an originally name “Honda 44 Riders Club” or something to that effect, and when it grew and folks got more serious about the club and they came up with a charter, bylaws and all that the name was made the HSTA - a name which according to our by-laws requires a majority vote of the membership to change. From time to time folks have proposed changing the name and about seven years ago we actually had a vote on it (something less than 50% of the members even bothered to vote) but the majority who did vote, voted to KEEP the H (Honda) in the name so that was it for then..

Now a member from Texas posted an item to the HSTA National list (which is NOT restricted in any way to HSTA members) that kicked off a pretty good debate that started about changing the name of the club, but which also morphed into the perceived membership decline, our online web presence, and our “competition - other online M/C “clubs”...

As a result of all this the Executive committee has decided to start with this call for input -

Request for Input - Possible HSTA Name Change OR not...

The discussion of a possible name change vote was lively during our November EC conference call. The last vote was almost 7 years ago and we feel that enough members on both sides of the issue have expressed an interest in conducting another vote.

The designated communication tool for the entire membership is STARReview. To successfully hold a vote we feel that the membership needs to be well informed of both sides of this issue. In the first issue of 2008 we intend on having a short article from the EC explaining the voting process that is required under our operating By-Laws. Also there will be two articles one explaining each side of this issue. Please submit your point of view for keeping the name Honda Sport Touring Association or for changing the name from Honda Sport Touring Association to our new STARReview Managing Editor Chuck Davis at chuck_davis@comcast.net. Please keep your submission to 100 words or less. Submission deadline is January 7, 2008. Please no suggested names only your reasoning why the name should change or why it should not. Chuck will select the submissions to be printed in the STARReview.

Following these two points of view will be a note calling for letters to the Editor asking the members to tell their side of the issue. We feel that we must allow sufficient time for the members to receive the STARReview and submit there point of view so these points of view will be in the 2nd and/or the 3rd issues of the year.

This is YOUR club and we want you to tell us the direction you want it to go!

Sincerely
Dave “Brick” Brickner
Proud President of HSTA

I don’t have room here to say all I have to say on this but I DO plan on making my thoughts known and I would ask all of you who want to see this club prosper in the future to please lend an ear and give some thought to the points and most importantly, VOTE when the time comes. The most successful thing that could come out of this process is no matter which way the vote goes, if 75% or more of the membership participates in the voting.

Florida News

Submitted By: Sam Ulbing

Lots of things are in the works as 2007 ends. Bill has been trying for some time to find someone to take over the job of newsletter editor which he has been editing, publishing and mailing for 7 years. That is a lot of work. While there are other award winning newsletters, Bill’s is the only one *mailed* out in color. He prints them himself and takes a loss on each copy. We all owe Bill huge thanks for all his work.

Jim McClure has offered to help me keep a newsletter going. He says it will be less elegant than Bill’s was unless someone with Publisher skills would like to help him. The new newsletter will have a new name and it will be an electronic newsletter. Electronic is a lot less work, costs much less, and offers advantages that printed newsletters cannot. So be looking for the January newsletter in your email inbox. Make sure your email address is correct in the National HSTA files as we will be using them for our mailing list. If it

is not, let Dick Parker (parkerr1@comcast.net) and me know. If you don’t have email, let me know and I’ll see if we can make a limited number of black and white copies to mail.

While STAR 2008 takes place in Texas from April 6 – 9, National has approved our having a Spring Fling non event that month. I have found a new location near Valdosta which offers new roads to explore. However, if everyone is out in Texas there is no point in having a Spring Fling. Let me know if you THINK you might want to attend a Spring Fling the weekend of 11 April. If there is enough interest I will organize it. I need to know by the end of January.

Finally we are starting to fill in the 2008 Lunch Ride calendar. Bill and I would like to offer as many Florida ride events as possible. We need your help to make this happen. It is easy and rewarding so please contact us with your idea.



Upcoming Rides/Events

Ride/Events are compiled for your convenience from a variety of sources. 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 Lunch Ride - Dec. 8th - Petrillo's (former Olde Boarding House), Trenton, FL. Lunch at 11:30 AM

GPS N29 36.820 W82 49.151 which is one block NW of the intersection of Rt. 129 and Rt. 26. The food is Italian and when Lee and I ate there found it very good. No buffet.

I need to know by Wed 6 Dec how many are coming as they will need to bring in extra staff if we have a large turn out.

You can view a Google map at:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=114039707164159813376.00043ee9b0d1fd1ed72fc&z=19&om=1>

HSTA Florida Lunch Ride - Dec. 15th - Stan's Idle Hour, Goodland, FL. Lunch at 12:00 Noon This one's almost as far south as Everglades City, but a bit more westerly as well. The address is 221 Goodland Dr W in Goodland, FL. Look for Marco Island and Goodland is due south from there. GPS: N25 55.542 W81 39.113 Website at: <http://www.stansidlehour.net/Index.html>

HSTA Florida 5th(?) Annual New Year's Day Lunch Ride - Jan. 1st - Old Port Cove, Ozello (Crystal River), FL. Lunch at 12:00 Noon

Located at 139 N Ozello Trl (CR 494) 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. Let's hope the weather treats us a little better this year! GPS: N28 51.477 W82 40.095 Contact: Bill Royal - RideFL@flahsta.org or (813)633-8155

COG Escape to the Conc Republic V - Weekend of Jan. 19-20

How "low" can ya go? Cruz down with us to Key West so ya can say, BTDT.

Leaving: 8am Saturday 1/19/08 From: Quick Mart Mobil (used to be 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 (SR821).

Destination: Half Shell Raw Bar, 231 Margaret St, Key West 33040, 305-294-7496. This is at Lands End Marina near the corner of Margaret & Caroline. ETA will be 11am. See <http://www.halfshellrawbar.com/home.html> Note - these are not "group rides".

After lunch there'll be time for playing tourist, get a pic at the Southernmost Point, etc...then we're rollin back to Florida City.

Fun/budget accommodations are available 1 block W of the above Mobil that can also handle camping: Everglades Hostel, 20 SW 2nd Ave, Florida City 33034, 305-248-1122, 800-372-3874. Book online at <http://www.evergladeshostel.com/accommodations.htm>

Enter COG in Special Requirements so they can keep us nutcases together.

The next morning we'll take the scenic route thru Mijami to breakfast in kewl South Beach...

Leaving: 7am Sunday 1/20/08 From: above Mobil 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, Mijami Floriduh, '01 Conc, COG, HSTA, MTF paul.heydemann@netzero.net

Upcoming Rides/Events -

Jan. 12th - 11:30 Am - Caribbean Jack's, Daytona Beach - Mike Peppin

Future 2008 unscheduled but "in the works" lunches:

A picnic at Buck DeShazo's house in Interlachen in early spring

Cat Fish Johnny's Lake Panasoffkee - Scott Wingerter.

A Cook-out affair at Rob & Joan Medwed's place - date TDB

Your name could be on this list - give us ideas for rides.

Also, we'd like to try something new this coming year - a calendar that includes not only HSTA events, but also any of the other "big events" that our members might be considering going to - ie: Honda Hoot, Americade, etc. The idea is to help us schedule our local events to minimize conflicts. So, if you have events that you have gone to in the past or are considering going to this year, please email ridefl@flahsta.org with the event name and date(s) if possible.

We are ALWAYS looking for additional rides/sponsors so feel free to set something up and let's share it!