



Southeast Region



Newsletter

August 2008

From Your Regional VP

It's late August and we have only one HSTA Regional Event left on the calendar, SE Star in Dillard Georgia. You'll find information on SE Star on page 5 of this newsletter. Hope you can make it to this great rally. There's also information on an October non-event or if you prefer the name "Just for Fun Event" and Rick Giddish is working on a second possible non-event in the fall.

You'll also find reports from some of the sanctioned regional events that have taken place this year.

Recently there's been a lot of commotion about changing the name of the HSTA. The main reason was to eliminate Honda from the name since we are not brand oriented. According to the club bylaws ballots were sent out in the StaReview Vol 27 No 4 and were to be mailed to the treasurer to be received by August 20. A 25% quorum of the membership is required for the vote to be valid. This quorum was not met so the vote is not valid and the name of the HSTA remains as is.

The success of this newsletter is up to you. So tell us what's going on in your area. Ride reports, bike reports, social events, all that kind of stuff. Write an article, send an email, or a photo or whatever of your motorcycling adventures to your state director/newsletter editor. Contact information is listed on page 7.

It doesn't have to be fancy, just let us know what's going on. If they don't use the information for their state newsletter they'll forward it on to me for this regional publication.

...thanks for taking the time to read this.

Doug Pippin

HSTA SE Regional VP

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Southeast Region Membership Facts

**349 members
as of August 1, 2008**

Alabama	11
Florida	115
Georgia	56
Mississippi	2
North Carolina	48
South Carolina	18
Tennessee	62
Virginia	37

Do you have information, photos, stories or tall tales that you'd like to share with fellow HSTA members?

Information and articles should be related to SE Region HSTA members or events.

Are you planning a "just for fun event"?

Do you have a regularly scheduled ride?

Send all information to:

Doug Pippin

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828-684-8488

If you received this newsletter in the mail please send me your e-mail address so I can add you to the electronic distribution, saving the HSTA money and your editor a lot of work.

The electronic version has web links to photos and events etc. and is in color. Also at some point we may stop the mailed version.

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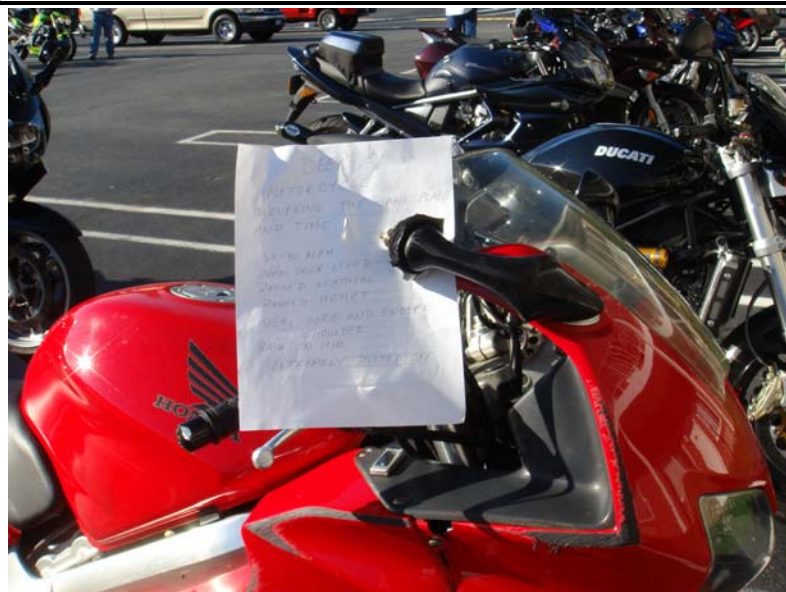
Member News

Bob Ratcliffe (Loudon, TN) had an unfortunate encounter with a deer during his ride Saturday at TriStar that put him on the ground.

To keep from having to repeat the story of the incident Bob put a note (below) on his bike.

The note says;

- Deer & motorcycle occupying the same space and time
- 25 – 40 mph
- Damn deer lived
- Rashed leathers
- Rashed helmet
- Very sore and swollen shoulder
- Rash on hip
- Very pissed off



Eric Larsen—Preparing to Ride to Mail Pouch Fly By

I'm reminded of Andray when he did a Bun Burner a couple years ago as I begin my trip to Ohio this am.

A week ago I got the inclination to go to the Marietta Fly By in Ohio. Itching for a trip, the prospect of riding 625 miles to the event and a 1500 mile weekend seems pretty attractive. While waiting for Hurricane Fay to decide which way to go, I prepped both the VFR and the Valkyrie to make the trip. Charging batteries, changing oil, looking at tires. Weather good - ride the VFR. Weather more dampish, ride the Valk. Noticed the Valk Battery was acting a little peculiar. Not really holding the charge like it used to. I recently hooked up a constant on voltmeter and fused relay for the GPS, heated clothing leads. The setup performed perfectly on the 3000 mile trip to Texas in April. Hmm... We'll see. Noticed the left blinker switch on the VFR had been rotating more - the plastic retaining pin broke off a few years ago, but I've been able to ignore that until now. So I started working on that just in case I need to take the VFR.

Some of your TRiStar volunteers at work

Event Coordinator Galen Diehl at work



Nancy and Flo Taking care of registration



Fast Forward to Thursday. Talking to my brother in Chicago, I finally convince him to go to an HSTA event with me. We've both ridden since we were kids, but have never really been on any trips together. He has a Harley and can't really buy into the "all brands" mantra that the HSTA embraces, but hey, that's ok. He's riding.

Pack all the stuff on the Valk, so we can "cruise" together. I recently read an article Peter Egan wrote (Leanings from Cycle World) concerning riding in a group. Like machines make for better overall trip satisfaction. Having spent time waiting on the VFR for more "relaxed" riders on different styles of machines, or the inverse of riding my tail off on the Valk to keep in at least near distant touch with more sporting riders, The Valkyrie won the bid to be the ride to Ohio. Scabbing it is more conducive to the cruiser anyway.

Get up this am at the ugly butt crack before dawn (4:30). I

(Continued on page 4)

Recent Events

TriStar Rally Report (Quest for a Pork Chop Samich)

By Rick Giddish

There is an old saying that goes something like "The best made plans are doomed to failure" or something like that. This never held truer than when my wife Nicky and I went to leave for TriSTAR. We were having some remodeling done in our house and the contractor was almost finished with all the work. We were both off of work on Friday and figured the contractor would start early Friday so they could finish up early for the long Holiday weekend. Boy, were we ever wrong. By the time the contractors put up their tools and left and we got our riding gear on and saddled up for the ride to Sparta, the sun was setting on the river we have to cross to get out of our neighborhood.

Now, I normally try not to ever ride at night, but in this case we really had no choice. We needed to be in Sparta Friday night so we could head out for our destination Saturday morning. So, off we headed with the sun slowly setting, chasing our shadows as we headed due east toward Sparta. In order to arrive sooner, we headed up the four lane to the Interstate and rode it for awhile before getting off on Hwy 58. For those who have never ridden this road from Damascus, VA, eastward, it is very curvy and a fun road to ride on while it is still light!!! But in the dark, with a stock ST1100 headlight, it was just not much fun. To top it off, I was very tired and we were both in one of those "I just want to get there in one piece moods" after waiting all day on the contractor.

Leaving Damascus behind us, the sky continued to darken as the stars started to shine. There is something magical about that twilight time when you still have enough light to see the scenery, but the stars can all be seen. On we rode, by now in darkness with only the headlight illuminating the road and the edges of the tree line bordering the road. Ah.... the trees, and within them, all sorts of critters...especially the dreaded forest rat, also know as bambi, or more properly, plain old deer. My wife and I have both hit deer in our cars less than a mile from our house on the way to work, so we were all too familiar with the unpredictable nature of them. They can charge out of the woods with no warning and little time to react as many people can attest. With this concern it was more than a little nerve wracking to constantly scan the sides of the road looking for the first hint of something moving....

On we rode further, curve after curve until we came upon a section of road that had been recently repaved, if you could call it that. There were no Bots Dots, no reflective strips, noting to tell where the edge of the pavement ended and the

dirt/grass began. After surviving several miles of this "newly" paved road we came up an open gas station up near White Top Virginia. Why was this a surprise? Well, it seems most of the gas stations and convenience stores had closed up early. There must be some law in southwest Virginia that says they all need to close after 9pm on Friday as most we passed were all closed up with the lights off. So finding this one open was a blessing. I quickly gulped down a Red Bull energy drink and we headed on our way. I was good to go the rest of the ride. Continuing on Hwy 58 we finally came upon our assortment of nighttime critters. First up was an opossum that just sat in the opposite lane and didn't move a muscle as we whizzed by on the ST. Next up was a black cat that ran off the side of the road as we approached. Not sure if it crossed in front of us or not. A few more miles down the road and we came up over a hill and came upon two deer in the opposite lane. Luckily they both bolted into the woods on that side of the road. By now it was time to turn south toward Sparta. Luckily we had no closer critter encounters for the rest of the ride. We pulled into the parking lot after 11pm and there were still a few late niters up to welcome us.

We checked in and climbed into bed for a good nights rest. The next morning we met up with Bill "Woovis" Swartz and mentioned that we were heading to Mt. Airy that morning to Snappy Diner for a pork chop samich. Woovis said that he wanted to go along, but that he heard the restaurant was supposed to close early in the day. He quickly made a phone call to the restaurant and found out they indeed close right after lunch.



Woovis & Nicky enjoying their pork chop samich

(Continued on page 4)

Quest for a Pork Chop Samich (Continued from page 3)

We quickly geared up and headed out toward Mt Airy determined to get there before they closed and so we could get our samiches. I managed to get us to Mt. Airy without getting us lost and Woovis used his GPS to get us to the downtown area. We were able to get a parking space right in front of Snappy Diner. The only problem was a long line that extended out in the street in front of the diner. Nicky quickly dumped her gear and held a spot in line for Woovis and me. While we waited the aroma of the pork chop samiches was intense. We finally made our way inside and we seated. No need for Woovis and Nicky to look at a menu...they both knew what they wanted for lunch. I ordered something different for a little variety and before we knew it the food was at the table. Woovis and Nicky now were ready to determine if the trip and wait was worth it.

Woovis opened wide and took a big bite out of the samich.....and yes...it was good!!! While we continued to eat who would walk in, but Otis the drunk from Mayberry. Well, it wasn't actually Otis, but a man playing him. You see, they play up the whole Mayberry theme in Mt Airy as supposedly that is the town on which Andy Griffith based the TV series.

After finishing up our pork chop samiches we headed for a stroll downtown to look at "Mayberry Choppers" t-shirt. It's the one with a picture of Deputy Barney Fife sitting on a motorcycle with side car. I wanted to get the shirt for a friend of mine who was going in for cancer surgery He is a huge Mayberry fan. After going in numerous stores we finally found one. Mission complete it was time for some ice cream dessert. We all sat along Main Street and finished up the ice cream.

It was time to do a little more local site seeing, so we headed over to the Town of Pilot Mountain and cruised up and down Main Street. It didn't look like much was going on and instead of hanging around and possible terrorizing the population with our sport-touring motorcycles; we headed up to Pilot Mountain State Park.

For those who have never ridden to the top of the park and stood at the overlook, it is an incredible site. The Carolina flatlands start more or less right at the base of the mountain. It is rather impressive to say the least. We stood there admiring the view, and watching the hawks soar along the ridge. Woovis and I spotted several nice little farms with ponds that would make great places to retire and move to. All too soon it was time to head back to Sparta for the HSTA dinner. As usual Galen and Flo did a great job with the catered dinner. Numerous door prizes were given out and everyone had a swell time.

While it is nice to go to events, and enjoy the local ride routes, with curvy roads and all, sometimes it is nice to enjoy a little "local flavor" too.

Preparing to Ride to Mail Pouch Fly By(Continued from page 2)

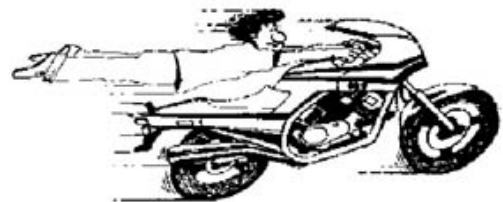
dress, get the 'stitch on and prepare to go to work for a half day before heading north. Unhook the tender (lights on green trickle - good deal). Roll out the bike and notice the voltmeter is at 12.2V. Hmm..... that's not stellar. I'd like for that to be higher. I've noticed in the past it starts fine at 11.8V, so I thumb the starter and.....#*\$&*@!!! Weak dying attempt and the dreaded click click click. No fire at all. Curses!!!!!! Well, I guess it's the VFR then. No time to change all the gear right now - different bags and such. I'll leave a little early and change them out . Well, since I'm suited up, I'll just ride the VFR into the office. Roll the Valk in the garage, hook up the tender and hope tit charges, roll the VFR out. Dang it's getting a little toasty in all this gear..... Hop on the VFR and #\$\$@*! I never reattached all the turn signal crap last night. Getting late now, I have to go to work.... now..... dammit.... This ain't good.

Strip the gear off, get in the truck and go to work. Man, this aint a good omen. At least I can have coffee on the way in. Murmur to myself on the way into the office as only men can. raggum fraggum stupid sum bum.....

Ok, the Valkerie won't start, the VFR needs some assembly and I have 1500 miles to so in three days. Ohio seems farther away now. Some of the fun has left the building.

Let's think over the options. My trip to Ohio just got at least two hours longer. No matter which bike I take, there's work to be done. No blast out from the office like I planned. My thrifty side is to hope to Valk battery is charged when I get home, it starts and I take the tender with me, just in case. I have m/c jumper cable too. It'll be ok. Really don't want to ride the VFR with my brother on his Road King. That would just blow. That battery is only two years old too. Why is it not starting? I know the electronics I installed are seeping a little current, but the tender was on! mutter mutter mutter.....

You know, when I was getting everything ready, the tender didn't really want to charge the Valk battery like it usually does. I only got the green light indicating a trickle charge. There must be something electrically gremlin-like that with the added fuse panels and relay, it tricks the tender into thinking it needs to trickle charge only. I checked the charge plug on the bike and found the fuse was blown and changed that. Charged up just fine after that, just like usual. Started up fine too. hmm..... I did get impatient and hooked up the car charger thinking that would juice it up faster. 10A for a half an hour shouldn't hurt it. Further impatience prompted me to hit the boost though. 60A may have fried something. Doh....dingbat. I better just go get another battery and learn from my mistakes. Nothing sucks more than having to work on a day when you plan to ride, and having to do some maintenance to get going. Always in the back of your mind. I'll work some job related trip out to get a battery this am. As long as the rain holds off.....



Tales from the 2008 HSTA Moab non-event

By Micky Tyler (Virginia)

As soon as Johnny Goodwin and I arrived at "Moab Rim Campground", we hooked up with Don Christenson from MN whom we met at Eldon Rix's campsite. He took us on a guided tour of Arches National Park. We also visited Gemini Bridges, Long Canyon (with Pucker Pass) and Dead Horse Point - all on our first day!

Next day, he took us around the White Rim Trail.

After that we were on our own as Don unfortunately pulled a tendon in his arm helping me lift my DR650 after a fall. For the balance of the week we rode Castle Valley, Onion Creek, Fisher Valley, Kokopelli Trail, Thompson Valley Trail, LaSalle Mountain Loop. Chicken Corners Trail and finished our week doing the Hey Joe Mine Trail.

It was great having all the folks there to offer suggestions and to fellowship with that had been there before.

We barely scratched the surface, so, we're planning to go back next year.

Click on Images For Larger View



Mickey in the rocks at Gemini Bridges



Johnny at Gemini Bridges



Johnny Goodwin on the Trail



Moose & the Famous Margarita Machine



"Hey Joe" abandoned Uranium Mine



Canyonland National Park

Photos From Some of the recent Events can be viewed at the following web pages
Just click on the link to view the photos

[HSTA SE Region Information Site](#)

[Picasa SE HSTA Photo Album](#)

[SmugMug SE HSTA Photo Album](#)

[2007 Nolichucky Valley Rally](#)

[2008 Nolichucky Valley Rally](#)

[2006 SE Star](#)

[2007 SE Star](#)

[2007 Helen North Georgia Classic](#)

[2007 TriStar](#)

[2008 TriStar](#)

[2007 Etowah Dual Sport Non-Event](#)

[2007 Moab HSTA non-event](#)

[2005 Moab HSTA non-event](#)

[2006 Dillard Dual Sport non-event](#)

Thanks to the following members for their contribution to this newsletter:

Rick Giddish for the article on Tristar

Eric Larsen for his humorous story (even though he doesn't know I copied & pasted from his e-mail messages)

Sam Phillips for his article on TriStar. I just got my Vol 27 No 5 StaReview today and Sam's article is on page 27 so I didn't want to repeat it here. Be sure and read it in the StaReview.



SE Star

Dillard Georgia

September 19 thru 21, 2008

Event contacts, information and pre-registration form is on the SE Star web site. Click on link for information or contact event coordinator Steve Rodnon, 828-389-9314

The Road routes, Adventure routes, and Dual Sport routes are available now for members who will be attending SE Star. Available are printable sheets in pdf format and also GPS coordinates for the routes. The password protected files can be downloaded at; <http://tinyurl.com/SE-Star-Routes>

Contact Doug Pippin d_pippin_89@bellsouth.net for the password to unlock the routes only if you'll be attending SE Star.

2008 Fall Colors Ride, October 3-5, 2008

Fall Colors Ride this year will be hosted at the Snowshoe Mountain Resort, in Snowshoe, WV. This is an ideal location for riding the curvy roads of West Virginia; or for visiting the many tourist attractions such as the Cass Railroad, Greenbank-home to the National Radio Observatory, Seneca Rocks and so much more!

Website for more info: <http://www.randolphcountywv.com/>

There are no registration fees for this event which is open to HSTA members and non-members. NOTE the special room rate at SNOWSHOE MOUNTAIN is for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights-in case some want to extend their weekend stay.

Please also note when making a reservation, that SNOWSHOE MTN has a strict cancellation policy.

Contact me directly about reserving space for the Saturday group evening meal.

Galen Diehl
HSTA Virginia State Director
(276) 647-3162h
gediehl4@comcast.net

We now have a web site for Southeast "Just For Fun" Events

<http://tinyurl.com/HSTA-SE-Just-For-Fun>

Click the link to see what's coming up. If you have events planned and want them added to the site, e-mail Doug Pippin d_pippin_89@bellsouth.net



Yahoo Groups

- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [North & South Carolina](#)
- [Tennessee](#)
- [Virginia](#)

Web Sites

- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Virginia](#)
- [Tennessee](#)

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