



Southeast Region



Newsletter

December 2008

From Your Regional VP

Well here it is late December and I'm just getting around to publishing the fourth quarter SE Region newsletter due in November. We'll try and back on track with timing for the February newsletter.

We held three successful SE HSTA regional events and three very successful "Just for Fun" events this past year.

With our national Star back in it's normal June timeframe our first event of the year the North Georgia Classic held in Helen Georgia will again be a sanctioned event and be back in it's normal April timeframe. And two of the 2008 "Just for Fun" events have been so successful that they'll be sanctioned events for 2009.

That makes six sanctioned events for our region in the coming year. And add to that Star 2009 to be held in Staunton VA making it seven HSTA events for our region. This is by far the most sanctioned events held in any HSTA region.

Please plan on attending some or all of these rallies and please make sure you thank the volunteers that make these events possible.

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

Doug Pippin

HSTA SE Regional VP

d_pippin_89@bellsouth.net

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Southeast Region Membership Facts

**345 members
as of December 1, 2008**

Alabama.....	11
Florida.....	108
Georgia.....	55
Mississippi.....	2
North Carolina.....	48
South Carolina.....	17
Tennessee.....	61
Virginia.....	43

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

d_pippin_89@bellsouth.net

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.

Member News

Some of you may have met Don Clark at an HSTA event over the years. Don lives in California and attends our national Star each year as well as many other motorcycling events. After receiving the oldest member award for many years he asked that we quit awarding it to him.

Here's a message I received from Moose Parish.

Don Clark turns 90 on 1/4/09.

He doesn't want a party, which Margy and I have been looking forward to since his 80th!! Anyway, keep this in mind and let's make sure he is snowed under with Birthday cards, come the first of the year.

Moose

PS He won't be here for the MotoGP this year. He's riding the 3 Flags rally (Mexico to Canada) instead!!!!!!!

So if you know Don or even if you don't send him a birthday card. Heck I hope I just make it to 90 let alone still be riding at that age.

Here's his address;

8918 SVL Box
13000 Palos Grande
Victorville CA 92395

Here's a report from Warren Renshaw's recent track day

Well, made it back from Barber alive. A friend of mine did his first track day today and was riding a DL-1000 V-Strom. I was a bit worried about him but he did fine. What a day this was. First, Mark Sheldon with sport bike track time really drilled it in us at the riders meeting to take it easy this morning as the track temp was just 52 degrees. Said they had 12 crashes yesterday (sat). Said one fellow in the novice group didn't even make it thru the first turn of the first lap!!

They led us around a first lap at about 50 mph and upped the pace a tad on the second lap, but still a very easy pace. Well, this guy just lost it a couple bikes in front me. Have no idea what happened, it was on the back chicane. I felt sorry for him. It's a wonder he didn't get run over. We didn't have too many crashes today thank goodness.

I was really anxious to see how the SV did as compared to the ZX9 I had before. I was in the Intermediate group and today's group seemed really fast, faster than before, but maybe that's because everybody else had a bunch more hp as I was the only SV and bike of it's kind out there. They were all dedicated sportbikes so I got blitzed on the straights. I

also need more lean angle as I would lean and gas it, only to have the pegs scrape, jerk it back up and watch the guy in front pull away. I also noticed that my brakes seemed to get weaker as the day wore on. I had to squeeze the lever harder and the lever got ever closer to the bar. Ok, I need 70 more hp, more lean angle and better brakes to catch these guys. Last time on the ZX9 I was in the top third but this time the bottom third for sure.

The biggest frustration was getting my new lap timer to work. I only got a two or three runs with it working so I'm not for sure my best time but best time recorded was 1'56" which was about my avg on the ZX9 when fighting traffic, best of 1'49" on it. But the SV was a total hoot on the track. I shouldn't dis it too much because this was my most fun track day ever!
Warren

American Honda Cancels 2009 'Honda Hoot' Due To 'Economic Uncertainty'

American Honda announced today that the 2008 Honda Hoot will bring to a close 15 years of what has been one of the most successful motorcycle rallies in history. Over the years, almost a quarter of a million guests attended the Honda Hoot which was born in the hills of Ashville North Carolina and eventually moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. At the first event, a little over 3000 attendees enjoyed what would grow to become one of the largest rallies in North America

The Hoot set new precedence for what a motorcycle rally should be, offering not only wonderful opportunity to test ride new products but also focusing on family fun and growing the industry from the ground up. Based on the current economic crunch which may have significant impact on our customers during 2009, American Honda will take this time to seek out new and innovative ways to engage with our customers so that we can continue to ride together.

American Honda extends our deepest gratitude to the more than 1300 volunteers who helped make the Honda Hoot a success and to all our event sponsors, to our two host cities, Knoxville, TN and Asheville, NC, and especially to all the good people who helped make the Hoot such a great event.

Editors Note. Although HRCA's Hoot started in Asheville in 1993 the first HRCA event was held in Avon Colorado in conjunction with HSTA's 1992 Star held at the same time and place. All HSTA Star attendees were given free entry to the HRCA events in Avon. The following year HRCA moved their event to Asheville and it became the Honda Hoot.

Recent Events

Florida

HSTA was a co-sponsor of the Florida Coast2Coast Charity ride organized by member Al Bogard. A cross the state ride that raised over \$5000. I heard that a few people got lost after missing a turn but everyone wound up at the destination safe and sound.

BikeSafe NC

HSTA members Andre' Vonsiatsky, Budd Midkiff and a friend completed the Bike Safe NC class in Raleigh on December 12, 2009. Here's a report of their experiences.

Our class was VERY ATYPICAL of a normal BikeSafe class. Most everyone had some level of advanced or professional biking experience and/or training. There were several who did not show up, so it was a 1:1 ratio of student to motorcop (which was nice).

The class was worth it for the insight, but clearly it was most beneficial for someone who has taken little to no formal training. If you had done only basic and advanced MSF, this class would be worth the time (and money, if a fee was involved). For someone else, the most it will do is either teach you or reinforce safe biking practices. It's all good, but for someone who already has the skills, the class can be a bit of a disappointment.

Using myself as an example, on a scale of 1-5 on various riding issues to be evaluated (1 being best, 5 being worst), I started out with all 1's. The only real advice my observer had was that he noted that I take my bike out of gear when at a stop (intersection/light). It was a matter of preference because he understood that holding in the clutch and waiting when there's a car in front of you and no real practical avenue of escape is somewhat pointless (and tiring). Otherwise, as far as being safe on the road, watching for hazards, proper riding technique...I was doing it all correctly before they taught us the stuff that should make us safer. Bud got similar comments.

Still, it was scary that this limited amount of training resulted in a 25% reduction in motorcycle fatalities in England. That just speaks to how unskilled most motorcycle drivers are that a little bit of knowledge can save so many lives.

Things that I think would make this class better; First, the track (for legal reasons) was closed to us. I can somewhat understand that, but I really thought we'd be learning how to handle our bikes like motorcops are trained to. I'd honestly pay for that kind of training...even if it was a scaled down version of the basic 80-hour class motorcops get. Still, there was supposed to be observation on how we handled road hazards and collision avoidance. That's something best done in a controlled environment. So, what critique you got in that area was 100% dependent on what happened when you went out on the street. Most of us had no close calls worth mentioning.

Second, although the class is still in the early stages, it would be worth it to take the classroom material/presentation and go to a production studio and make video that can be posted online. This way the classroom lesson is available far and wide.

Third, as Bud pointed out, we got a lot of nice BikeSafe farkles (pen & highlighter, mini-pin, coaster, keychain....which I kept joking about selling on eBay), but no "class materials" that summed up the key points of what was being taught. What good is an acronym if you don't remember it by 3 pm? I brought a notepad, but I left it in the Givi after the first ride.

So, was the class worth it? Yes. Should YOU take it? Well, education is always a good thing, even if it just reinforces what you already know. However...you must base your expectations on your skill level. The more experienced/trained (or driving instructor) won't get much improvement from the class of value, but someone with only MSF will carry much more from it. Frankly, I think advanced MSF should be done away with and merged into the BikeSafe program since it seems to be more effective than what advanced MSF does alone.

You can find out more about Bikesafe NC at

<http://www.nccrimecontrol.org/Index2.cfm?a=000003,000014,001583>

Florida HSTA had 23 lunch rides in 2008

The Michigan HSTA squadron has an annual spring event called Michigan Mountain Madness where they come down for an extended weekend of riding in the mountains. The event has been held at Mountain Brook Resort in Dillsboro for quite a few years. For 2009 the event has been moved to the Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge in Stecoa NC. They reserved all the cabins and have opened up the event to HSTA members. Here's the info from the event coordinator Bill Webb

There are a few cabins remaining for a great riding event scheduled for 17-23 May 2009 at the Ironhorse Motorcycle Lodge in North Carolina. Reservations restricted to HSTA members. Aside from the cabin rooms, those wanting the most economical accommodations can opt for the bunkhouse for only \$24.95 nightly.

See <http://ironhorse.mi-hsta.com/>

HSTA has a new web site and message forum.

Check out the web site at

<http://www.ridehsta.com/hsta/>

And the message forum at

<http://www.ridehsta.com/hsta/forum/index.php>

There's a SE Region section on the forum at

<http://www.ridehsta.com/hsta/forum/index.php?board=102.0>

Navigation Aid

If you're an AMA member they have a new benefit with discounts on Garmin GPS units

Go here here for more information

<http://www.amadirectlink.com/news/2008/GarminGPSBenefit.asp>

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

Andre' Vonsiatsky and friend for the article on Bikesafe NC

Warren Renshaw for his track day story (even though he doesn't know I copied & pasted from his e-mail messages)

Your name could appear here. Just send information about your adventure to the newsletter editor.

Photos From Some of the recent Events can be viewed at the following web pages

2006 Dillard DS Non-Event

<http://tinyurl.com/Dillard-DS-2006>

2007 Etowah Dual Sport Non-Event

<http://tinyurl.com/Etowah-2007>

2007 NVR

<http://tinyurl.com/NVR-2007A>

2008 NVR

<http://tinyurl.com/NVR-08-photos>

2007 SE Star

<http://tinyurl.com/2fevxx>

2008 SE Star

<http://tinyurl.com/SEStar08-Photos>

2007 Helen North Georgia Classic

<http://tinyurl.com/SEStar-07>

2007 TriStar

<http://tinyurl.com/SE-Star-2007>

2008 TriStar

<http://tinyurl.com/TriStar-2008>

HSTA SE Region Information

<http://tinyurl.com/SE-Info>

SE Region Newsletter Archive

<http://tinyurl.com/HSTA-SE-Newsletter>

SE Region Just For Fun Events

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

2009 SE Region Sanctioned Events

North Georgia Classic—Helen Georgia
April 24 thru 26, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/HSTA-Helen>



TriStar—Sparta NC
May 22 thru 25, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/HSTA-TriStar>



Nolichucky Valley Rally—Erwin TN
July 31 thru August 2, 2009

<http://www.ridehsta.com/tennessee/nolichucky/>



SE Star—Dillard GA
September 18 thru 20 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/HSTA-SeStar>



Fall Colors Ride—Snowshoe, WV
October 2 thru 4 2009

<http://www.ridehsta.com/westvirginia/fcr/>



Etowah Adventure—Etowah TN
October 16 thru 18 2009

<http://www.ridehsta.com/tennessee/etowah/>



SE Region Just For Fun Events

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

SE Region Just For Fun Events

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

Excaped to the Conc Republic VI, 1/31/09

Just say NO to the scourge of winter PMS!
 C'mon down South for some fine scenery, good eats, & great folks.

Leaving: 8am Saturday 1/31/09

From: Quik Mart Mobil, 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,
 05-294-7496.

This is at Lands End Marina near the corner of Margaret & Caroline.
 ETA will be 11am.

<http://www.halfshellrawbar.com/home.html>

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, or mention COG if ya call.

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

Leaving: 7am Sunday 2/1/09 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>

Note that these are not group rides. And there's no h in this Conc.
 for more infos, discussion & planning...

<http://www.ridehsta.com/hsta/forum/index.php?topic=1076.0>

Hope to see ya there...enjoy the ride!

Paulie COG, HSTA, MTF, ROK

'01 Conc, Mijami Floriduh

YOUR HSTA Volunteers

Florida State Co-Director	Bill Royal	wgr@sprynet.com	813-633-8155
Florida State Co-Director	Sam Ulbing	n4uau@cox.net	352-262-6221
Florida Newsletter Editor	Jim McClure	jamclur3@aol.com	352-324-0569
Georgia & Alabama State Director & NL Editor	Eric Larsen	enlarsen@bellsouth.net	770-422-9433
North Carolina State Director	Rick Brant	drbrant@infionline.net	336-945-6945
South Carolina State Director	Matt Thornton	thorn2wheels@yahoo.com	864-244-7147
Tennessee East State Director	Rick Giddish	rickandnick@chartertn.net	423-245-5558
Tennessee West & Mississippi State Director	Tom Sullivan	sullivantom@comcast.net	901-751-1414
Tennessee Newsletter Editor	Jim Randall	jrandall@chartertn.net	423-239-8530
Virginia State Director & Newsletter Editor	Galen Diehl	gediehl4@comcast.net	276-647-3162
Southeast Region VP	Doug Pippin	d_pippin_89@bellsouth.net	828-684-8488