



Southeast Region



Newsletter

February 2009

From Your Regional VP

Well it is winter and except for the most southern states, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, our winter riding is sometimes limited. This winter has been especially cold and the roads in the higher elevations in the mountains do get salt, sand etc. because of snow and ice. So we often do more dual sport riding in the winter.

And when there is a nice day predicted you can bet there will be lots of bikes out on the roads and trails, both street bikes and dual sport bikes.

Personally I started the year off right with a 100 mile plus dual sport ride on New Years Day.

As the days get longer and the sun gets higher in the sky and we've had a few nice rain showers to clean the winter debris from the roads the riding will only get better.

And don't forget that we will have 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.

Doug Pippin

HSTA SE Regional VP

d_pippin_89@bellsouth.net

Southeast Region Membership Facts

342 members
as of February 1, 2009

Alabama	11
Florida	106
Georgia	51
Mississippi	2
North Carolina	51
South Carolina	16
Tennessee	60
Virginia	45

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

In This Issue

Member News	Page 2
Recent Events	Page 3
Members Articles.....	Page 4 and 5
Upcoming Events	Page 6 and 7
Your HSTA Volunteers	Page 7

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

A big welcome to new Florida State Co-Director Paul (Van) VanSteelant lives in Boynton Beach, FL.

He prefers to be called by his nickname Van

e-mail busavan@flahsta.org

best phone contact number--561-386-2594(cell)



Photo (above) is an old one from 2003

Van writes;

I ride a '03 'Busa, set up for Sport Touring rather than the track--though it worked VERY well at the two track days that I've done so far!!!

I started riding in 1976. I have had few periods of "down time" due to a lack of a bike, but I have always made up for this "condition" as soon as the new ride arrived! I am proud AMA member for 24 years and think the new direction they have taken is going to turn out terrifically. Time will tell with regards to the new racing management.

I signed up with HSTA in 1987, while living in Philly. A lunch ride in '92 was the first activity that I participated in, while living in Connecticut. We had 12 members in all of New England at the time. We had half of the members show up that day in central Connecticut. for lunch. I was asked to take over the Connecticut directorship at that

time, but timing is everything, and had to decline.

After moving to Florida, I rekindled my activity in the summer of 2001. I've been making 9 to 10 lunch rides a year ever since.

For STAR '06, I shipped my 'Busa to Reno, NV so that I could criss-cross Utah with my riding buddy who lives in Reno.

Love Southern Utah!!!! Locally, I've ridden to a couple of Spring Flings and SE Star in GA/NC/TN. Great fun!!

My significant other of 31 years does occasionally join me on the 'Busa, but much preferred the '78 Gold Wing that we rode around out West for 3 months in 1980. That's a story for another time!

No kids, one horse, four cats, one job each, and a new right hip joint on New Years Eve. That last item will slow me down for a few months, doctors orders!! I will try to attend the local events by truck, but I can't wait to get back on 2 wheels!!!

Other interests: skiing, hockey (no longer can play), skydiving (no longer can!), scuba diving (plan to return to ASAP).

Thanks to Sam Ulbing for his many years of service as Florida State Co-Director, coordinating lunch rides and hosting several Florida events.

Sam, Enjoy your new status as member



HSTA member Randy Lifshotz recently moved from Ft. Lauderdale to 26 Gray Wolf Lane Hendersonville, NC 28792 e-mail rlifshotz@hotmail.com

Recent Events

Georgia's Annual Cold Butt Ride January 2009

Well, it was a good ole traditional cold butt ride. Joe Jamison, Jim Burnett, Tom Victor and I rode a couple hundred miles in grey, damp, cold weather. Thanks to the 'lectrics (cept of iron man Tom), we stayed mostly warm. We tried to limit our breakfast intake at Simply Southern to a small breakfast with moderate success, but ate well at the Amicalola Falls Logge Maple Returaunt. The Lunch Buffett was tasty and warmed our bellies. On the way there, we stopped in at TWO and GT had the fire going, and heat on so we warmed up a bit there before we ventured up to the Falls. Nice time, and while it wasn't the coldest start of a Cold Butt Ride, it never ventured out of the 30's all day.

Well, it just so happens that Tom Victor is an IBA member and he had no electrics. He was the iron man or Iron Butt winner this year.

Heydemann

Posted January 30, 2009

Hello, everyone. My name is Vaughn Lamer and I moved to Charlotte this past summer from Detroit, where I was part of the Michigan HSTA squadron.

A few weeks ago I was laid off since no one has or can get money for architecture projects. So now that I have a little time on my hands before any new architecture work comes along, I'm planning a two week motorcycle trip along the south coast where the sun shines a little more. I've blocked out February 7-21 as rough dates. I don't yet have a specific itinerary, but was hoping that for part of the trip I might be able to stay a night with other HSTA folks that live along the route, or at least hear suggestions for roads, restaurants, and hotels.

Posted February 8, 2009

I'm leaving about noon today for the 3000 trip! I've been able to make arrangements with 3 HSTA hosts through email and the blue book. It also looks like I'll be able to connect with an HSTA ride on Saturday, Feb 14 so if you're in the neighborhood of Bill Royal outside of Tampa, I'd be glad to see you there.

I'm looking forward to what I hope will be a great trip.

Vaughn

Excapse to the Conc Republic VI

Organized by Paul Heydemann

01/31/09 to 02/02/09

Leaving: 8am Saturday 1/31/09

From: Quik Mart Mobil, in Florida City

Visit Key West

Back to Florida City

And finally a breakfast at the Front Porch Café in Miami Beach

No specific report, however here's a few photos



Where's Waldo by Rick Giddish

So let's set the stage for this saga.

It's early Saturday morning January 31st and my wife notices our cat going into his litter box several times in quick succession Oh Oh!!! That's not good.

Time to get him to the vets office and Quick!!!!

Just as I am about to dial the vets office to see if they can schedule him in on short notice, the phone rings

It's Jim Randall calling to see if I want to go DS riding tomorrow in the Pisgah National Forest. Yeah Jim, I'd like to go, but the rear tire on the creamsicle has only a hint of tread on it and I'll need to see if I can get ahold of the other half of my tire changing team and get it done not to mention getting our cat to the vet.

In the meantime, off to the vets I scurry with Booger (The worlds meanest passive- aggressive cat in tow). In the past he was kicked out the vet's office when they couldn't handle him.

We get to the vets office, luckily, he doesn't dismember the vet, he gets a shot, a prescription and we head home with no human fatalities.

I spend the afternoon waiting for my friend to call Little did I know, he called while we were at the pharmacy, picking up the cats prescription, but he did not leave a message.

Well, evening comes and he still hasn't called so I figure he is out of town, or has an emergency as he is VERY reliable. I just about give up going and tell Jim, that I may not go. Jim graciously offered to have me come over to his house and change the tire, but I really wanted to try out the new dirt bike tire changing stiff I had bought from No-Mar.

I went down in the basement and looked over my Telly Sevalous/Yule Bryner rear tire Hmmm that hint of tread might just be enough to get me thru the day IF I go easy.

So I call Jim back and say Let's go.

Early Sunday morning before 8am, the temp is still only 24 degrees. (That's like subzero for southerners). Jim shows up about 7:45am and we load up my bike and head over to Linville to unload the bikes.

The plan is to ride down to Mortimer.

<http://appalachianhistory.blogspot.com/2007/08/north-carolina-ghost-town.html>

and meet Brick (AKA Dave Bricker), then ride up to Blowing Rock, where we can terrorize the locals (Yeah Right) and get some lunch at the BBQ place. Well, Jim and I unload the bikes, turn on the electric heated gear and hit the trail.

We meander (Southern saying) on down the Mountain, and in a short time, reach the downtown Mecca of Mortimer There's not really a downtown and it's not really a Mecca either, but hey, that's my story

and I'm sticking to it.

Anyway, we get down to the prearranged rendezvous point and no Brick!!! Hmmm We are a little early, so Jim figured we could ride on down to the bottom of the Gorge and wait for him there It's the most likely way for him to head up to Mortimer.

So, off we go again, with Jim in the lead and me tailing along.

We get to the bottom and wait for Brick and wait and wait a little more It a nice sunny day and warming up and if I had a cot and a blanket I could have picked a spot across the road and took a nice nap under the clear blue sky.

After a while, we decide to head back up to Mortimer, to see if Brick snuck in the back way and is waiting for us Jim takes off and I tag along again.

We arrive back in Mortimer and Where's Brick.

Hmmmmm this is getting to be like one of those Where Waldo things now.

While Jim and I were waiting for Brick to show up, several thoughts went thru my pea brain.

1. Brick loaded up the KLR to head to Mortimer, overshot his destination, and was now on a Round the World Tour.

2. He had met some prospective HSTA members and was busy still trying to tell them that we were not a Honda only club.

3. He had recently worked on the KLR and had done more harm than good.

So Jim checked his phone and lo and behold there was a message from Brick that said.

"I won the Lottery I'm heading on a Tour Round the World".

Well.

Not really.

It said something about the KLR having a dead battery and he was sorry but he would not be going to make lunch.

Now, I'm not going to say much.

But a friend, a real friend who really likes BBQ would have fired up one of the other street bikes in his garage and headed over on paved roads to meet us for lunch.

So anyway off Jim and I go heading up toward Blowing Rock for some BBQ for lunch. You ride on Forest Roads until you kinda pop up out of the woods on a residential street with some very nice houses on it. It's kinda funny riding thru downtown Blowing Rock on a pair of Dual Sport bikes the looks one gets are pretty funny seems the yuppies that hang around there are just not used to that sight.

We get to Woodlands BBQ and get a table, place our

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

order, and enjoy some tasty BBQ on a cold day, while solving all the worlds problems before lunch is over.

We head back out for the rest of the ride, heading down the Pisgah National Forest mountain range on some very scenic Forest Service roads. Finally arriving at a paved road that takes us by the Brown Mountain ORV area which is closed for the winter.

We head back up the Forest Roads over toward Grandfather Mountain. On the way up, Jim and I swap bikes for a short time .It is fun to see how different bikes feel when going directly from one to the other. Jim's bike (A DR350) is considerably lighter than mine, and any trail or goat path off of the main road looked mighty tempting.

Before long, we were up on a short section of pavement heading toward the next Forest Road when we passed a state trooper in a unmarked white Dodge, who had a unlucky rider on a Triumph Speed Triple pulled over. I knew that guy was not having any fun that day.

After a quick stop to switch back on our respective bikes, we turned around and headed back by the trooper again I watched in my rearview mirror as we went by him and went over the hill. He had not moved up to that point, so I cruised along enjoying the curves when all of a sudden I look in my mirror and see the white Dodge pop up over the hill closing fast.

Uh Oh!!!

What is the posted speed limit here anyway.

I slow up some as he approaches from behind down to 50, then 45 I fully expect his lights to come on any moment at least to pull me over for running a "drag slick" as a rear tire.

Finally the road opens up with a passing lane and he slowly rolls by me and Jim he makes a u-turn and takes up a position to nab another unhappy victim.

A final turn on another Forest Road puts us back toward the trailer for the drive on home. We get back to the trailer about 5pm, and load up the bikes as one of the locals (who races Hare Scrambles) stops by to chat.

We chase the sunset on the way home, and pull into my driveway to unload my bike before Jim heads home.

What a great winter day for a ride just a little cool, but with the leaves off the trees and a crisp blue sky, the views were incredible.

Thanks for the phone call Jim It was a great way to spend a winter day.

Winter Ride by Eric Larsen

I don't ride a lot compared to others or from previous years when life's responsibilities were less demanding, but there are times that when I get the opportunity to take a little putt around, than I fall in love with riding motorcycles once again. The other evening was just such an occasion.

I'd been working around the house all day, readying it for

family guests arriving for Christmas. Around 6 or so, I'd been at it for 10-12 hours and needed to get out of the house. The weather was conducive to a nice ride. 60-65 degrees, not raining, but still wet from the recent rains. No wind. I felt a stroll around the area to check out the local Christmas lights was in order. I have an affection for the lit holiday decorations that stems from my childhood in the Midwest. Coming home from my grandparents' house on Sunday evening, it was about a 45-min drive and occasionally it would be a light snow falling. Something about snow falling in the light of streetlights in the winter is special to me. The multi colored big bulb lights always drew my gaze. We always had a few lights, but never enough to satisfy my whims. As an adult, I turn into Clark Griswold, browning out the neighborhood. No LEDs for me man! Big Bulbs! Lots o' lectricity! Each house I move into, I have to upgrade the electrical circuits to satisfy my power needs for more lights. But I digress..

The evening weather was perfect. As I fired up the Valkyrie and geared up, the smell of exhaust and the glow of my own Christmas lights got me in a great mood. The area we live in usually has a good number of lights around, and the City Square of Marietta is abound with old time all American city activity. A good destination. As I pulled out, it felt good to get the wind in my face. No the harsh cold wind or 100 mph, but a soft cool breeze. I stood up on the pegs and just putted at 40, feeling like a long time friend had just returned. I routed around come of the neighborhoods that surround the Kennesaw National Battlefield Park. Lots of older, historic homes, lit up nicely for the holidays. The park, if you are not familiar, is comprised of battlefields in the area from the civil war, and the park sprawls around a lot. Residences and small subdivisions occupy it's boundaries. Nice places, nice curvy roads, good scenery. Perfect for a cruiser like the Valk.

After navigation around that area, I made my way into Marietta, but made sure to go down the old streets that have all the beautiful old homes. Most every town has such a street or two with homes that were on the main travel routes, built before WWII. Gorgeous old manors with lots of landscapes, lights and grandeur. Ending at the Marietta Square, it's the gem of the city parks. Old copper roof gazebos, a fountain, Christmas lights abound, even the little lights and bags around the sidewalks. Santa's house is there for the kiddies to visit Santa during the holidays. Old churches, main street businesses with lots of folks around. A recently renovated old theater, The Strand, is finally open. Neat stuff for a evening ride around the square a couple of times.

Heading home, I remember why I love riding so much. This type of trip will keep that romance alive for the next couple months while the weather is less than perfect. Pictures could never do the memory justice. I'll just have the smile on my face when I look in the garage at the bikes, waiting patiently for the next ride.

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 any HSTA member.

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>

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

Eric Larsen (Georgia State Director) for the article on the a "Winter Ride" and the annual "Cold Butt Ride".

Van VanSteenlant (Florida State Co-Director) for his "bio"

Rick Giddish (East Tennessee State Director) for "Where's Waldo".

Your name could appear here. Just send information

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>

HSTA Daytona Bike Week (2009) Lunch

The annual Bike Week lunch will be held Thursday March 5th 09 at the Backwater Inn, Astor Park FL.

Lunch will start at 12:00, in a separate dining area.

Choose from the salad bar or order off the menu. There will be reserved parking for Bikes.

The Backwater Inn is located 30 minutes west of Daytona on US 40.

For further information Call

Phil Ridgdill

904 287 9654 or 904 699 2447

rfoxrdr@bellsouth.net

From Matt Thornton North Georgia Classic Coordinator

It's time to start planning to attend the North Georgia Classic, April 24-26, 2009, in Helen, GA. My goal is to continue this "Classic" HSTA event with a back to basics theme.

Helen, GA offers a unique setting for an HSTA event. Everything we need is within walking distance of the motel. This event is all about the ride, and there are great roads in north GA.

In these challenging times, the goal is to make this event as fun and cost effective as possible. I hope to see you all at the North Georgia Classic.

Here is all the info. <http://tinyurl.com/HSTA-Helen>

Matt Thornton

109 Whittlin Way

Taylors, SC 29687

864-979-3626

thorn2wheels@yahoo.com

YOUR HSTA Volunteers

Florida State Co-Director	Bill Royal	wgr@sprynet.com	813-633-8155
Florida State Co-Director	Van VanSteelant....	busavan@flahsta.org	561-386-2594
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