



## Freedom's Road Newsletter

Written by Freddy Freedom

### FREEDOM'S ROAD Biketoberfest 2008.

Biketoberfest 2008, (October 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>) is not as big as Daytona Bike Week but the weather is a lot better which makes the riding great at this time of the year. Like Daytona, biker's from all over converging on Daytona Beach itchin' for some ridin', some good times' and maybe even some, beach time (Beautiful time of year for the beach. The water is perfect and the humid 90's plus are gone! Mid to upper 80's!). Biketoberfest marks the beginning of the end of the ridin' season for most of the country. So one last trip maybe just what the Dr. ordered.



For a lot of us, this is our last chance to do some warm weather ridin'. The "Newly Wed or Nearly Dead State" is a little different. The winter population explodes due to the Snow Birds migration, coupled that with the regular residents and it's like Houston tryin' to stuff seven outfits with matching shoes in an overnight bag. So a few driving tips/warnings may help...

"The Green Arrow Turn"! One of the toughest things to get used to, being from the north, was the green arrow left turn. Thank God I didn't get killed or got a ticket, for every red arrow I ran before I got use to the "Green Arrow Turn". So watch the lights!

"The Refresher Discount Course"! Another idiosyncrasy particular to the Medicare State is, anyone over 62, who takes a drivers refresher course gets a discount on their insurance, so they've all jumped on the band wagon. Problem is, whoever designed the course musta been rear ended and pushed into an intersection at some time. The course teaches em' to stop about 60 feet short of the intersection!

"The I'm Comin' Around U-ee"! The third unusual difference you might find strange unless otherwise posted it's legal to make a 180 degree "U-ee" at the intersections! So just because you have the light is green doesn't necessary mean you're clear to proceed without worry...the guy coming towards you may decide to make a U-turn in the intersection!

"The Red Light Game"! Caution!!! Red Light running has become a popular sport in the Sunshine State, coming in third behind Bingo and Golf! It's an exciting high speed, hard hitting

action game! The best strategy for this game is, to keep an eye on the opponent at all times and have a good defensive plan ready to go!

“No Helmet State”. Florida isn’t actually a “No Helmet” state. Florida law requires a \$10,000.00 medical rider on your insurance policy before going topless. I don’t know what the repercussions would be if you had an accident and didn’t have it. You may want to investigate before you forego the skid lid.

After visiting the establishments and vendors along Main Street, Atlantic Avenue and running up and down US-1, there are some super “Day Trips” worth mentioning. You came down here to ride, so ride!

Other than the nationally known theme parks, there’re lots of things to do and see located from one to three hours ride from Daytona.

*St. Augustine*, the oldest city in the United States, is about a 45 minute ride north, up I-95. There you’ll find the Fountain of Youth, which I’m sure will interest your Biker Babes, Ripley’s Believe It Or Not museum, the country’s first jail and a cool shopping area full of unusual shops. A short carriage tour or the train tour will get ya familiar with the city in short order.

Heading west across Highway 40 through the Ocala National Forest it’s only about an hour and twenty minutes to *Silver Springs*, home of the famous glass bottom boats. It hosts some great concerts and an outta control water park. If you decide to stay the night there’re lots of local motels.

If you’re into *River* which you’ll Silver Springs is Bass! Fishing guides boat for some great even see a manatee or Continuing across might wanna head which skirts the Ocala Lake George to State cuts through the forest



fishing...the *St Johns* cross on your way to famous for monster are available or rent a sighting. You might a gator or two. State Road 40 you north on State Road 19 National Forest and Road 314 south which back to 40 west.

As you continue west past Silver Springs to Ocala if you head south on I-75 about 12 miles to exit 341, State Road 484 on the east side of I-75 you’ll find *Big Daddy Don Garlit’s* drag racing museum.

Continuing west on 40 about 18 miles west of Ocala is *Dunnellon*, located slightly south of State Road 40 on US-41. When you come to US-41 head south a couple miles you’ll come to *Rainbow Spring State Park*. It is one of only five, 5-star, state parks in the country. There you can rent canoes or just enjoy the parks’ crystal clear 72 degree water the swimming is great! If you continue south on US-41, another couple miles to downtown Dunnellon you’ll come to The

*Anglers Family Resort located on the Withlacoochee River* where it flows under US-41. Rent a pontoon or a fishing boat and go up river to where the to the Rainbow River empties into the Withlacoochee River and head up the crystal clear Rainbow or swing right staying on the Withlacoochee and in just a blink of an eye you're cruising through the "Jungles" of the Withlacoochee River. I wouldn't recommend swimming in the Withlacoochee; you never know where the gators might be! BE SURE TO TAKE YOUR CAMERA. The natural beauty of both rivers as well as the wildlife is something to behold!



*Cedar Key* is about a three hour ride due west of Daytona, on the Nature Coast. This Gulf Side town is loaded with waterside pubs, restaurants, and shops. Island hopping tours are available ([www.cedarkeyislandhopper.com](http://www.cedarkeyislandhopper.com)), or rent a boat and do your own thing. Inshore and Gulf fishing charters are available. To get to Cedar Key, head west on 40 through Silver Springs, into Ocala. Pick up US-27 north to 326 west to US-19, head north on US-19 to 24, (Otter Creek) go west on 24. Make it an over night thing grab a bite to eat, order up your favorite beverage, settle back and enjoy a spectacular Gulf sunset. There're plenty of

accommodations available. Hit the road by 10AM and you'll be back in Daytona 'bout the time the rest of the gang are recovering from their hangovers!

...Or head south from Cedar Key down the Nature Coast on US-19 about 30 miles to *Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park*, manatee capital of the world and check out the manatees. While in Homosassa give the famous/infamous "OzelloTrail" a whirl. Ozello Trail is a beautiful two lane black-top road that twists and turns about 10 miles through the jungle to the Gulf. Be forewarned, Ozello Trail is not prejudice or discriminatory. One miscalculation and it's....SPLISH-SPLASH you're taking a bath, in water and muck up to your A--! Big or small, OzelloTrail gets 'em' all!

South of Homosassa on U.S. 19 about 15 miles is *Weeki Wachee* (U.S. 19 & State Road 50) home of the famous mermaid shows, definitely worth a go see! Then it's 50 east to I- 75 north to 40 east to Daytona.

After a couple hard days at Daytona, venture out and see some of the not-so-familiar things. These trips are scenic country roads, through forests, horse ranches, and cattle ranches. Take home more than maxed out charge all cards and memories of hangovers. Take the memories of some great rides. Remember it will still be pretty cold when you get home. So ride while you are here! So, if the huge crowds are not your gig, this one might be for you!

Thanks for riding with me. We have a lotta road to ride, so please ride safe.

**Hogs In Ministry**

So let's ride!

*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:13*