

(CLUB PROFILE)



Have-a-Tampa

PHOTO COURTESY TBJSC

TEXT BY BILL HUDGINS

If you like year-round riding with lots of choices and variety where to ride, fascinating scenery and wildlife, and a laid-back lifestyle, well, then have-a-Tampa. That is certainly the attitude of the **Tampa Bay Jet Ski Club (TBJSC)**, an **AWA Charter Club** formed Sept. 1, 2005.

The club brought together two groups that had been thinking about organizing under AWA, according to Jason Esterline, Secretary/Membership Coordinator and one of the founders. He says some of his friends had discussed the idea with AWA Executive Director Chris Manthos. Then they were contacted by another group, headed by John McEneaney, offering to team up for a single club.

"We talked a few times and found out we had the same ideas for the club, and here we are," Jason says. McEneaney is president of the TBJSC. Nearly all of the 20 current members turn out for rides and gatherings — not hard to understand, considering the New Year's Day ride came off on a beautiful 77-degree day. Most members ride year-round.

"We're really lucky: Our area is surrounded on three sides by water," Jason says. "In fact, we have several of the top beaches in the country within our area. Riding around by the Skyway Bridge, the Manatee River, Downtown Tampa, Egmont Key, and Fort DeSoto are some of our frequent places. "Our group really likes to go places," he adds. "It's not unusual for us to ride 90-plus miles on a good day."

The club is planning a three-to-four day camping trip on the Suwannee River sometime in March. "Several of us are planning on making the D.C. Freedom Ride put on by the AWA in the summer," Jason says.

"We've really gotten together a great group of people, who all seem to mesh really well. The support of the AWA was what got us going, they provided the encouragement, information and even put a few of us together to talk which helped us get it off the ground.

"We're a group that's big on the riding, and upholding our image as a PWC community."