

2011 Iron Butt Rally, Day 6
Saturday, June 25, 2011

Leg 2 Options

After a quick riders' meeting at 4:00 am this morning, bonus listings were distributed for leg 2 of the 2011 Iron Butt rally. Most riders were on the road quickly as there were no surprises in the bonus listing. Consistent with the guidance provided to riders before the start, the bonus points for state capitals were slightly higher and generally proportional to the time required to reach them from the base route.

Ken Meese and Kirsten Talken-Spauling at the 4:00 am Riders' Meeting



Dick Peek Looking Well-Rested at the Riders' Meeting



Roger Sinclair Receives the Leg 2 Bonus Listing from Lisa Landry



The most direct route from Checkpoint 1 in Cheektowaga, New York, to Checkpoint 2 in Jacksonville, Florida, is only 1053 miles. Total time from when the bonus listings were handed out this morning until the opening of the Jacksonville checkpoint at 5:00 pm on Monday is 61 hours (just over 2 ½ days). About 1,800 miles is required to document visits to all 14 states on leg 2 of the base route (which does not include Florida). Still, there is plenty of time available to pick up a lot of capital bonuses.

For riders planning on completing the Four Corners Tour, the leg 2 mileage increases to 2,588 unless they managed to score the Madawaska, Maine corner on leg 1. This requires averaging 1,000 miles per day for the next 2 ½ days. Attempting to document both Madawaska, Maine and Key West Florida on leg 2 would require a 3,584 mile ride with an average speed of 59 mph. That doesn't allow a rider enough time to be well-rested at the beginning of the final leg given the lower speed limits and higher levels of traffic congestion in the Eastern U.S.

An additional factor related to the routing choices for leg 2 is that riders have been advised to arrive at Checkpoint 2 early in order to get enough rest for the start of leg 3. Instead of the 8-hour break between the opening of Checkpoint 1 and the distribution of the leg 2 bonus listings, there is only a 5-hour break at Checkpoint 2. As in previous rallies, the final leg will be much more important than the earlier legs and riders are well-advised to be rested at the start.

Caution: If you have a rider in the rally we ask that you NOT communicate the following information to them until they reach Jacksonville. It's important to keep them focused on their own safety.

Leg 2 is not off to great start. After finishing leg 1 in 6th place, John Coons was involved in a single-vehicle accident this morning less than 10 miles from the Checkpoint 1 hotel in Cheektowaga, New York. According to the police report, John's bike apparently hydroplaned on a wet stretch of Interstate 90 and went down. Lisa Landry has spent most of the day with John at the hospital and trying to arrange for his transportation home.

John went down hard enough to break some ribs, his right clavicle and a few bones in his left hand. His helmet also took a significant whack. As is often the case with head trauma, John currently has no memory of what happened and is a bit dazed but his sense of humor is intact. Lisa is being told that his prognosis is for a complete recovery. Med Jet is picking him up in the morning and John should be safely tucked into Mayo in Rochester, Minnesota, by tomorrow evening.

Tomorrow is another travel day for IBR staff and a Call-In bonus day for the riders. I'll provide an update on where everyone is tomorrow night when I get to Jacksonville.

Tom Austin
June 25, 2011

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