

2011 Iron Butt Rally, Day 8  
Monday, June 27, 2011

### Jim Frens Bags Key West Early

Jim Frens provided high drama at Checkpoint 2 in Jacksonville, Florida, by being the only rider to document a visit to Key West on leg 2 and then making it to the check-in table only 16 seconds after the 5:00 pm opening of the checkpoint window. He was more than happy to accept the 15 penalty points for being late.

### Jim Frens Sprints to Stop the Clock in Jacksonville



Photo by Steve Hobart

Since the Four Corners Tour is an all-or-nothing combo bonus, Key West adds nothing to his score at this point, but, as explained in more detail below, Frens is now positioned to leap-frog many other riders on the final leg.

### Leg 2 Standings

Ken Meese, Dick Peek, and Roger Sinclair hung on to the top three positions, but Sinclair moved past Peek into 2<sup>nd</sup> place by abandoning the Four Corners Tour and picking up more state capital bonus points. Meese increased his lead with another strong leg.

Staying in 4<sup>th</sup> place, Eric Jewell gained on Sinclair and Peek by scoring all of the available capitals on this leg.

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding moved up from 7<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, edging past Chris Sakala, who is now in 6<sup>th</sup> place. Mark Crane moved up from 8<sup>th</sup> place to 7<sup>th</sup> place.

Moving up into the top ten standings are Curt Gran, now in 8<sup>th</sup> place; the 2-up team of Tom and Rosie Sperry, now in 9<sup>th</sup> place; and John Harrison, now in 10<sup>th</sup> place after a strong leg.

The complete leg 2 standings are as follows:

Place	First Name	Last Name	Make	Model	Miles	Points
1	Ken	Meese	BMW	K1300 GT	9,001	10,339
2	Roger	Sinclair	BMW	R1150 GSA	8,344	9,569
3	Dick	Peek	Yamaha	FJR1300	8,450	8,722
4	Eric	Jewell	Honda	ST 1300	8,153	8,702
5	Kirsten	Talken-Spaulding	BMW	R1200RT	8,170	8,685
6	Chris	Sakala	BMW	R1200RT	8,211	8,602
7	Mark	Crane	BMW	R1200 GSA	8,568	8,249
8	Curt	Gran	Honda	ST1300	8,896	8,067
9	Tom/Rosie	Sperry	Honda	Gold Wing	8,146	7,810
10	John	Harrison	Honda	ST1300	7,914	7,767
11	Tom	Loftus	Honda	ST1300	8,710	7,689
12	Brian	Johnson	BMW	K1200LT	8,383	7,670
13	Peter	Behm	Yamaha	FJR 1300	8,329	7,427
14	Art	Garvin	Honda	Gold Wing	7,360	7,327
15	George	Barker	Honda	Gold Wing	7,178	7,259
16	Aaron/Rena	Miller	Honda	Gold Wing	7,295	6,998
17	Daniel	Roth	BMW	R1200 GS	7,383	6,986
18	Karl	Snell	BMW	R1200 GS	6,994	6,971
19	Brant	Moteelall	Yamaha	FJR 1300	7,558	6,914
20	Jim	Frens	Honda	Gold Wing	9,354	6,389
21	Corey	Nuehring	Yamaha	FJR 1300	8,095	6,337
22	Wallace	French	BMW	R1100 RT	7,411	6,288
23	Wendy	Crockett	Yamaha	FJR 1300	8,437	5,938
24	John	Stamps	BMW	R1200RT	6,381	5,807
25	Jon	Good	BMW	R1200 RT	6,744	5,655
26	Perry	Karsten	Yamaha	FJR 1300	7,225	5,567
27	Dave	Hembroff	Yamaha	FJR 1300	6,456	5,513
28	John	Frick	BMW	K1200LT	6,981	5,486
29	Michael/Betty	Ligons	Honda	Gold Wing	7,577	5,366
30	Rod	Schween	BMW	R1200 GS	6,671	5,267
31	Andy	Kirby	Honda	ST1300	7,740	5,205

32	Shuey	Wolfe	Honda	ST 1300	7,402	5,126
33	Tim	Masterson	BMW	R1200 GSA	8,212	5,098
34	Greg/Pat	Blewett	Honda	Gold Wing	6,950	5,096
35	Peter	Delean	Yamaha	FJR 1300	7,467	5,056
36	Roger	Allen	BMW	R1200 GS A	6,622	4,875
37	Kathleen	Allen	BMW	R1200 GS A	6,617	4,875
38	Howard	Entman	Yamaha	FJR 1300	6,485	4,814
39	Robert	Wilensky	Yamaha	DL 1000	6,655	4,777
40	Mike	Jackman	Honda	Gold Wing	6,768	4,664
41	Dennis	Powell	Honda	Gold Wing	6,614	4,571
42	Tony	Hudson	Honda	Gold Wing	6,121	4,436
43	Patrick	Clark	Yamaha	Road Star	7,470	4,266
44	Gerhard	Memmen- Krueger	Honda	Gold Wing	6,836	4,179
45	Greg	Guillermo	Yamaha	FJR 1300	7,123	3,999
46	Andy	Mackey	BMW	R1200 GS A	7,632	3,822
47	Jeremy	Loveall	BMW	R1200 RT	6,654	3,820
48	Shane/Annette	Cudlin	Honda	Gold Wing	6,862	3,727
49	Michael	Boge	Honda	ST1300	7,336	3,592
50	Jeff/Carol	Fremder	BMW	R1100RT	6,158	3,589
51	Michael	Mehaffy	Yamaha	FJR 1300	7,456	3,466
52	Dean	Mccurdy	BMW	R1200 RT	5,986	3,459
53	Bill	Wade	BMW	R1200 GS A	7,517	3,376
54	Kurt	Dix	Kawasaki	Concours	7,076	3,348
55	David	Fick	BMW	R1200 GS A	6,709	3,341
56	Terry	Neale	Yamaha	FJR 1300	7,108	3,227
57	Jennyfer	Audet	Honda	CBR1100XX	7,496	3,168
58	Jacques	Titolo	Kawasaki	XZ12R	7,450	3,168
59	Nancy	Oswald	BMW	R1200 GS	7,539	3,058
60	BB	Neely	BMW	R1200RT	4,949	3,026
61	W	Boyer	BMW	R1200RT	7,598	2,800
62	Colin	Goodall	Yamaha	FJR 1300	5,905	2,723
63	Bob	Rippy	BMW	R1200 RT	6,095	2,718
64	Robert	Chadwick	Harley	Road Glide	7,123	2,637
65	Steve	Aikens	BMW	R1200 RT	6,636	2,573
66	Philip	Weston	Yamaha	FZ1	7,143	2,559
67	Alex	Harper	Yamaha	FJR1300	5,989	2,510
68	Robert	Joers	Honda	Gold Wing	6,647	2,307
69	Brian	Bray	Suzuki	SV 650	5,876	2,247
70	Bryan	Neagle	Honda	ST 1300	6,954	1,962
71	Neil	Hejny	Honda	Gold Wing	5,856	1,898
72	Stan	Dulemba	BMW	R1200 RT	6,048	1,869
73	Cletha	Walstrand	BMW	F650 GS	6,190	1,586
74	Bobby	Fox	BMW	R1200 GS A	5,965	1,331

75	Doug	Barrett	Yamaha	FJR 1300	5,762	1,266
76	Chris	Ogden	BMW	R1200 GS	5,743	1,266
77	Bill	Thweatt	Honda	ST1300	6,804	990
78	Rob	Jaime	Honda	Gold Wing	7,059	894
79	John	Young	Triumph	T150 Trident	5,728	885
80	Earl	Damron	Kawasaki	KLR 650	6,992	555
81	Cliff	Wall	Honda	Gold Wing	5,930	195
82	Cameron	Brister	Yamaha	FJR 1300	6,037	-1,644
DNF	John	Coons	BMW	R1100 RSL	5,250	5,000
DNF	Brian	Jack	BMW	R1150 GS A	5,312	4,397
DNF	Darrin	Hicks	Harley	Electra Glide	5,178	3,520
DNF	Don	Speck	Harley	Road Glide	4,598	882
DNF	Jim	Winterer	Suzuki	DL 650	1,975	0

Don Speck withdrew after deciding he was too far behind schedule to make the Jacksonville checkpoint on time. Brian Jack has withdrawn due to mechanical problems with his BMW R1150GSA. After salvaging his ride once by replacing a failed driveshaft on the road, Brian's transmission now appears to be failing. He has rented a U-Haul van to take the bike back home.

### Leg 3 Bonus Listing

As should have been evident from the "Overview" of the rally that the riders received in Seattle, there are some big points available for state capitol buildings on leg 3. A key sentence, referring to alternatives to the 4,800 point Four Corners Tour bonus, was the following:

*At least as many points will be available to be a Gold Medal finisher by documenting visits to state capitol buildings while riding approximately the same distance.*

Two other important hints were the following sentences:

*The points for each capitol building vary based primarily on the additional time required to reach each location. As in previous Iron Butt Rallies, the points available will increase in the later stages of the rally.*

So the question riders needed to ask themselves was "Do I really want to plan to ride to Madawaska, Maine and freaking Key West, Florida, when I'm being told that, if I concentrate on state capitals, I can score 'at least as many points... ..while riding approximately the same distance'?"

Additional clues as to the correct answer were in the leg 1 bonus listing. On leg one, the side trip to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, added about 400 miles and was good for 1,000 points. Making a ballpark estimate that leg 3 bonuses might be about twice as valuable

due to the progression in point values that routinely occurs as the rally progresses, a capital requiring a 400 mile side trip would be good for about 2,000 points. That's 5,000 points per 1,000 miles, more than the bonus points available for the entire Four Corners Tour. Since Key West alone requires a side trip of 1,000 miles, doing Key West as part of the Four Corners Tour on leg 3 should not have looked like a good option to state capitals.

The attraction of the Four Corners Tour for many riders was the guarantee of a Gold Medal finish for the combination of 48 states plus the Four Corners. But as was confirmed tonight when the leg 3 bonus listings were distributed, Four Corners was not the high point choice unless you could do Key West on leg 2. And getting Key West on leg 2 wasn't easy.

The minimum distance from Cheektowaga to Jacksonville by way of Madawaska, Maine, and Key West, Florida was almost 3,600 miles along the base route with Madawaska and Key West added on. In the 61 hours that were available, 3,600 miles is a tough ride on the Interstates of the Western U.S. On this particular route, 3,600 miles in 61 hours is on the verge of impossible. But Jim Frens pulled it off, riding a staggering 3,678 miles and bringing his total distance traveled in 7 ½ days to 9,354 miles. It was a heroic ride, but he wasn't very well rested when the leg 3 bonus listings were handed out at 10 pm. He is going to need to take more rest time on leg 3 than other riders.

Although Frens slipped from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> place on leg 2, he has only a 250 mile side trip to San Ysidro remaining to collect the 4,800 points for the Four Corners Tour bonus. All other riders in contention for the Four Corners bonus are facing 1,250 extra miles to get both Key West and San Ysidro. The choice these riders face is between continuing the Four Corners Tour for the guaranteed Gold Medal or writing off all of the time spent documenting the first two corners and going for the higher points available for the leg 3 capitals. It will be a bitter pill to swallow, but riders hoping for a podium finish will likely abandon the Four Corners if they take the time to carefully consider the advantage of concentrating on state capitals on the final leg.

Assuming the other top riders abandon the Four Corners, Frens will gain 4,800 points on them by the completion of leg 3. If Frens can score as many points for state capitals as the leaders, he will win. But he has the extra 250 miles to pick up San Ysidro and, more importantly, a sleep debt to work off.

Tom Austin  
June 27, 2011  
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