

2011 Iron Butt Rally, Day 9
Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Lisa Wins the Bet

As explained in yesterday's report, more points are available on leg 3 to riders who abandon the Four Corners combo bonus and concentrate on state capitals instead of making the 1,000 mile round trip to Key West and the 250 mile side trip to San Ysidro before the finish. We expected the lure of the Gold Medal finish to result in many riders sticking with the Four Corners option, regardless of the effect on their score. But I expected all of the riders with a shot at a top ten finish to kiss the trip to Madawaska goodbye and blow off Key West. Lisa Landry disagreed.

"Look at the numbers!" I told her. But Lisa didn't think most riders would look at the numbers; she thought they would be so fixated on their current plan that they wouldn't take the time required to determine that a change in plans made sense. As we watched the Spot tracks of riders leaving Checkpoint 2, it became clear that I'm going to have to wash Lisa's Gold Wing.

A Rider Leaves Checkpoint 2 Late Monday Night



Ken Meese and Dick Peek were both headed for Key West along with most of the other riders who were planning on completing the Four Corners Tour. Ken may have enough of a lead to hang on for the win, but other top ten riders are likely going to be closing the gap. While Dick Peek was spending the time to document Madawaska on leg 2, Roger

Sinclair moved into second place by abandoning the Four Corners Tour on leg 2 and scoring more capitals. Similarly, 4th place rider, Eric Jewell pulled to within 20 points of Peek by running the table on leg 2 and documenting all 15 available capitals, a feat that just wasn't possible with a detour to Madawaska.

It's a shame that Steve Hobart wasn't in a position to capture the look on Eric's face when Michael Kneebone announced that he was now only 20 points behind one of the riders who went to Alaska. It was almost as good as the expression on Curt Gran's face when it was announced that his strong leg 2 ride had moved him into the top ten.

Curt Gran Finds Out He Is In 8th Place



Tomorrow's Call-In bonus will provide an update on how the riders are progressing.

Tom Austin

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