

## Day 11 – Glide Path

The 2015 Iron Butt Rally is in its final 24 hours. Day 11. Everyone always thinks Friday is Day 11. It's not, really. Well...it is, at least for a few hours. Since the rally started at 10 AM on Monday last week, the eleventh 24 hour period ends at 10 AM on Friday. Riders will start arriving back at in Albuquerque Thursday night, with a steady stream anticipated throughout the evening. Rally staff will be glued to the SpotWalla page through the night, tracking riders until all are safely accounted for. The scoring room will open at 5 AM. Coffee will be poured. Tension will thicken. Dozens of volunteers will be on hand as well, running, fetching and milling about as needed. Again, this event just isn't possible without the volunteers. And, then, when the last rider is checked in or 10 AM, whichever happens first, it will be over. Only thing left to do after that is the countin'. And sleep. Shortly after the Finisher's Banquet has ended, I will upload the final chapter of this year's report with the official results.

Riders again outsmarted me with perfect Call In bonuses, with all but one making the call within the window. The messages reflected the wide range of emotions expected on Day 10; denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Drew Dill (calling from his 25<sup>th</sup> state): "Ride is going great. Wonderful roads in Wisconsin. The motorcycle is running much better since she got closer to her birthplace. Not drinking as much oil as she is gas. Life is good on the road. Everything you guys said would happen has happened and all the advice has come in handy at one time or another. Thank you all back at the IBA staff. You're awesome. This rally is just a life dream. Thank you for letting us enjoy it."



Dave Legnosky called from Saratoga, New York, leaving all the required information. Unfortunately, the call was 34 minutes early. Thankfully, it appeared to be a practice call as Dave called in again later within the window. Dave must be in the Zone. Near midnight he was outside Killington, Vermont, some 2144 miles from Albuquerque. At 3 PM he was already southwest of St. Louis...getting soaked....again.

*(left – Dave studies weather maps at the first checkpoint.)*

Eric Jewell: "This is a fantastic rally, man. Seeing the country, visiting all of these sites, just great fun. Amazing roads. Couldn't be happier. I wish I was scoring better, but that's another thing. DC just kicked my butt. I wasted sooo much time there. By far the hottest Iron Butt Rally I've ever done. Always just a good time just cruising around the country. Again, this is a FANTASTIC rally. It is the world championship of rallying not world championship of riding. Good times." Eric later came across Mark Crane sleeping in a parking lot, so he joined him in room #2 at the Iron Butt Motel. A few hours later, Crane woke him up and they are enjoying the waning hours riding together.



Glenn Pancoast called from Homestead National Monument of America and reported the park ranger was so excited to have IBR visitors, he took Glenn's picture and posted it on the park's Facebook page. *(Glenn, this photo will NOT count as the required photo for points. Sorry.)*

Steve McCaa (calling from Kimball, Nebraska): "PS, it's 55 degrees and raining. If it starts to snow, I think I'm going to cry."

Nancy Lefcourt couldn't help but hear the Harry Chapin classic *30,000 Pounds of Bananas* as she rode into Scranton, Pennsylvania. Couldn't get it out of her head in fact. And now you can't, either. Late word is that Nancy is fighting a leak from a cracked wheel, stopping frequently to keep airing her tire.

Matt Wise: "I want to thank the staff for making this an outstanding event. This has been fantastic again like 2013 the first year I did this. Let Mike know I'm interested again in 2017 already if he's got a list going early. I want to be the first one to get my name in that hat."

Paul Tong was heading to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield "If I don't drown first."

Greg and Wini Farmer (calling from Independence, Missouri): "It's been a helluva couple of days. We haven't seen the sun, raining like crazy, flash flood warnings, fog. Gotta love it." *(right - "We can't take that blue road, Greg. That's a river.")*



Greg and Pat Blewett (from Topeka, Kansas): “We’re finally out of the rain.”

Paul Slaton (calling from Canon Falls, Minnesota): “I want to take a minute to tell you I am having a great time. Just really enjoying myself more than I ever thought I would be. I’m having a pretty good leg. I think I got a pretty good plan going. I think I got a nice little route going. Everything is falling into place. No great big surprises or anything or any insurmountable obstacles yet. Now if I could just keep the voices in my helmet from taking over and taking it some place different we should be okay.”

Will Barclay (calling from International Falls, Minnesota, where Will said it was a little chilly): “I hope you guys are having as much fun as I am.” We hope Will is having fun. At 3 PM he was coming through Miles City, Montana. At 960 miles from the finish, he is the one of the handful of riders still more than 950 miles from the finish. There’s an irony somewhere in there, but God help me, I can’t find it.

Gregg Lenentine: “Let me start again. My current location is.....Oh, I’ll call you back.”

Kirsten Talken-Spaulling: “Third time’s the charm.” Good thing she called again. We only received two.

David Walls: “I have not had a great rally. I have had a great time. But everything seems to be not meshing. I dropped my motorcycle today. First time I’ve ever dropped a motorcycle like that. *(laughing)* I was pinned underneath it for a minute before I figured out how to get from under it. I just can’t seem to get some positive inertia. But I will be there Friday for the finish. I thank all of you for everything you’ve done.” Dave was in 76<sup>th</sup> place leaving Kingsport on Monday. Judging by his track, he should picked up more than enough states and parks to finish. It will come down to the scoring table. It always does. *(right – Dave is fetching bonuses however he can*



Tom Loftus (calling from Weldon Springs, Missouri): “I’m going to get out of here because I have a tornado warning on my GPS and I believe it. Talk to you later.” Smart thinking, Tom. Two years ago, a tornado cut a 22 mile swath through Weldon Springs.

Chris Comly: “My present location is a state of confusion. I’m having so much fun that perhaps the rally staff could stay another 11 days so I could do this all over and fix my mistakes.” *(ed. No Chris. That is definitely not happening).*

Pat Ford and daughter, Rebecca Martinez:  
“We are holed up in the Best Western (St. Charles, Missouri). We tried to get a ride with Noah as he came by on his ark swimming down the road. It rained on us most of the day.” *(right – Pat and Rebecca were the hit of the father-daughter dance at the banquet.)*



Mark Crane: “Challenging leg for me. Less than stellar in some ways. I lost 16 hours. Anyway, I’m feeling better now and I am going to soldier on through.”

Brian Bumpus: “I have been through 3 GPS’s. I purchased a new one today. It lasted two hours in the rain even wrapped in a bag. So I have no GPS. I’m coming in with what I have left.”

Perry Karsten: “As far as what’s new? Oh, yeah, it’s raining again. Every single day. Once I get dried out it rains some more. Tell Tom the number of points he assigned that bonus location was dramatically less than it should have been. That was one brutal road in, about 6 miles of gravel, knotty gravel, dirt, sand. Yeah it was a lot of fun to ride. A lot of fun to ride. At the bridge there was a storm coming in. Then the rain started and what was a gnarly, sandy, dirt, rutted and washboard road coming in turned into a much more interesting road coming out. Tell Tom that 631 points for that road was not enough.”

Irishman Chris McGaffin: “It is absolutely pissing down over here in (Springfield) Illinois, utterly pissing down and I am miserable. Utterly and totally miserable. Soaked. Even in Iowa it was pissing down.”

Eric Bray has been fighting a pain in his ears and pinched nerve that has cut into his Leg 3 plan. He believes he has the states and parks to finish and see what bonuses he can pick up on the way in. Eric must be feeling better, or powering through the pain. By 3 PM, he had dipped south to make one more pass through Texas before heading home. He’s not alone down there. Robert Scott, Kit Chunhawong, Don Duck, and Josh Mountain all made the Texas pass. Terry and Lynda Lahman also worked through Texas earlier.

Mike Riley (near Lancaster, Pennsylvania): “This sure has been a heck of a ride. It’s been a lot of fun. See you all in a couple of days.”

Bob Bowman: “I am having so much fun I think it would be a terrific idea if we added a Leg 4 and just rerun Leg 1 and put 4 more days on here. Run that by Lisa and let me know how that turns out.” *(Bob, I mentioned it to the Rallymaster. She has revoked my Man Card. Thanks, dude.)*

Alex Ciurczak (from Sterling, Kentucky): "I'm a little bit worried about the flash flooding in Kentucky. It's going to be a challenging next couple of hours." Unfortunately for Alex, he was back in the rain again today. All day.

Chris Ross: "It's Day 10. I'm doing great. I'm sad this things almost over. I could keep going and am so thankful for having got a slot in this thing."

Danny Dossman: "I lost about 4 hours this morning in the repair shop having to coolant pump and fan replaced. But I have not gone psycho as our scribe indicated. I'm having a great time and in spite of the rain. LET'S FINISH THIS THING! GO IBR!" No, Danny. No psychosis here.

Mike Langford (in Mission, Kansas): "I have been through some tremendous storm cells and it's been a lot of fun." For the rider we were worried about making the start, he looks to be lined up to finish on time.

Garry Springgay: "My estimates have me back in Albuquerque, God willing and if the creek don't rise, between 5-7 AM Friday."

Don Duck (from Vicksburg, Mississippi): "I'm heading for the barn and having a great time."

Jerome Byrd was doing fine. He's always fine. He's a machine on autopilot methodically working his way to finish this time. Jerome struggled in 2013. While taking pictures inside the Henry Ford Museum, the batteries in camera died. He ran outside for replacement batteries, but was unable to get back into the museum as it had closed. He eventually completed that bonus after spending the night in Dearborn, but still failed to finish. He came to Albuquerque with unfinished business. He was even fine when the security guard at the tomb of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. refused to let him take his bonus photo and ushered him away. The bonus instructions directed riders to the take a picture of the slain civil rights leader's tomb at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Site. As it turns out, the tomb is actually on the grounds of The King Center, across the street and operated by the King Family, not the facility



operated by the National Park System. Not surprisingly, the security guard at The King Center was not aware that a bunch of tired and ripe motorcyclists would be streaming through over a week to plant a flag and take pictures. Several riders reported the guard was less than polite. Riders able to demonstrate their presence at the site will still receive credit for the bonus.

At 3 PM, just 17 hours before the penalty points start accruing, the riders are starting to line up for their final approach. Most seem to be on track to roll into the Sheraton parking lot between

4-7 AM. Four riders were already in New Mexico, likely to touchdown before dark. First in is a tough spot. Assuming you bagged your bonuses correctly and are a finisher, you spend the next two years wondering how much better you could have done with the extra time. No extra points for early arrival. More unfinished business. Another dozen were within 8-10 hours out. At least 16 more, including Al Holtsberry, were slogging through yet another series of thunderstorms and torrential rains. Whatever electronics are still working at this point will probably short out. 17 more were working in and out of Kansas, but at least were behind the severe weather.

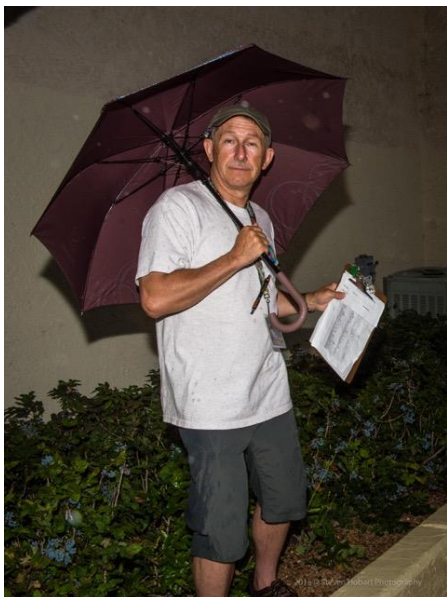
MORU  
Mount Rushmore National Memorial  
SD-244  
Keystone, SD  
Coordinates: 43.8761 -103.4607  
July 9, 12:45 pm



Mount Rushmore National Memorial is visited by nearly three million people each year that come to marvel at the majestic beauty of the Black Hills of South Dakota and learn about the birth, growth, development and preservation of the country.

Have your Rider Number recorded by IBR staff not later than 12:45 pm at the roadside parking area at the specified coordinates. Be in the group picture taken by IBR staff at 1:00 pm with the other riders who are present. Your flag must be visible in the photo.

*(Right – Dennis Bitner scores his rest bonus waiting for riders at the Mount Rushmore group photo location)*

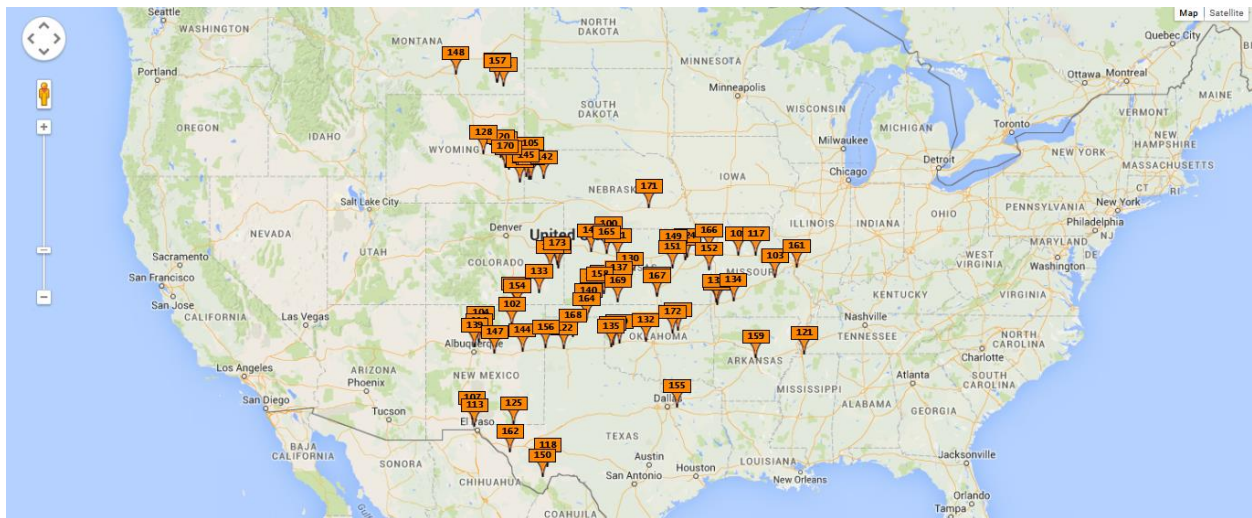


*(Left – John Ferber, Bitner’s umbrella girl for the photo bonuses)*



Based on spot tracking, it looked as if 13 riders gathered for the photo bonus at Mount Rushmore at 12:45. From there, riders have just over 822 miles to the finish. Nine riders turned south, likely to collect bonuses in the area or along the way. But Jim Owen, Tonie Cowen, Bob Lilley and the 2-up team of Jon Good and Ande Bergman all turned north and appear to be trying to reach a handful of Montana bonuses, including the 3,333 points at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument - *940 miles away*. Will Barclay is likely to meet them there.

For the first time in Iron Butt Rally armchair analysis, it is almost impossible to predict the winner. Even with the spot tracking, it's difficult to determine exactly which bonuses were collected. Anyone of the Top Five could have it. But, don't rule out any one of 10-15 more riders, including Craig Brooks who had met the state and park threshold by the end of Leg 2. Brooks has spent the last 4 days just sucking up points as far north as Boston. *(right - Craig Brooks is all business on Leg 3)*



Stay tuned and hit Refresh often!

Chris Cimino  
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Iron Butt Rally©