

Friday June 30 Sidebar #4

Damage assessment

Don Duck lost his rally flag. Per the rules, he started collecting bonuses with his face in the photo. Then he found his rally flag! Woohoo, right? No. He can't go back to the flag. One of our scorers will be looking for a Duck in all of Don's photos that follow that first bonus selfie. The upside? If he does not lose his flag again, he will avoid a lost flag penalty at the finish.

Eric Lipps called Lisa and reported that his horsepower rich FJR managed to break traction on an oil slick in a rain drenched intersection. The rear end slide turned into a high side. Eric is suffering from a sore wrist as a result of his ejection seat launch, but is on the bike and heading back toward Checkpoint 2. The FJR needs a few small parts. The request was passed to the FJR Forum, LDRider list, and IBDone list.

Eric Vaillancourt has already located the needed parts and will have them here at Rally Central for Lipps on Saturday, if the Spotwalla addicts on the FJR forum have not already delivered them somewhere along his incoming route. It is awesome how this community steps up to help riders in need. Much like Rich Reid stepping up to assist riders at the start, Eric V is approaching MVP status for his assistance to multiple riders with mechanical issues at the Allen checkpoint.

The Wellers are not the only riders with fuel leaking issues. Bob Lilley called in with some choice words (most of them NSFW) for BMW after experiencing a leaking factory quick disconnect fitting. We are not sure of the bike status, but he is still moving, although the gas fumes are choking him.

Roy Kjendal hit a road gator (translation: tire carcass) on Friday, just outside of Grand Junction, Colorado. He is OK. His BMW K1600GTL, not so much. Coolant is leaking from the radiator, so he is nursing the bike in to Grand Junction BMW for repairs.

Damage to the cooling system has been an issue for Roy. A few weeks prior to the IBR, during the Ride Around Texas, Roy found coolant exiting the bike. The Texas dealership misdiagnosed the leak as coming from the engine block. Roy paid a significant towing fee to have the bike moved to his home dealership in New Hampshire, only to discover that it was coming from the radiator, not the aluminum casting. It was repaired.

Mike Hutsal had a difficult Leg 1 due to some serious gastric distress. The distress has continued into Leg 2. He is an experienced vet and is not giving up yet, but appears to have altered his route to allow him to get back to the checkpoint and regroup for Leg 3.

Garry Springgay let us know he had a failing fuel pump Thursday evening. Calls for assistance were issued. As of Friday, Garry has gotten a replacement fuel pump for his ST1300 and is back on the road.

Robert Bolger found that his Concours 14 had apparently defaulted to NASCAR mode and would only turn left. He called to let us know why his SPOT was stopped as he looked for the cause of the problem. Apparently a fairing screw had backed out and managed to drop into the one spot that would allow it to jam between the frame and triple clamp steering stop on the right side and not be visible until getting in just the right position with a flashlight. Robert is back on the road, with the option to turn left or right as needed.

Robert Koeber, is riding a 1994 Pan European ST1100. He has reported some type of fuel issue that he thinks is related to the heat. A few solutions have been offered from rally watchers. The ST1100 has a good reputation for reliability. It was one of the premier choices for a rally bike prior to the introduction of the FJR. Hopefully it's an easy fix as Koeber is trying for his first finish in two starts.

Kirsten Talken-Spaulling reportedly hit some diesel fuel on an access ramp near Shreveport while heading for a scheduled stop at a dealer to change a tire. She went down on the ramp, but the damage seems to be minor. She is bruised and sore but plans to get some rest, ice, a new rear tire, and return to collecting bonuses. Between the trailer drop and the diesel encounter, her BMW RT has been down on both sides now, so hopefully balance has returned to the force and she will be fine for the rest of the rally.

Rick Snyder is out of the rally. He reported that a shipping crate fell off of a truck right in front of his 1995 BMW R1100GS. Richard hit the unavoidable disintegrating crate and went down. He received some injuries, but received clearance and is on his way home on the bike. The only certainty is that he won't be traveling at Iron Butt pace. We wish him all the best and a quick recovery.

The two bike team of Greg Rice and Rob Wilensky, ranked in the rarified air of the top 5 in the IBR after the first checkpoint, has dissolved and withdrawn from the rally. We don't have all of the details of the break up, but it was *not* due to a failure of the infamous upside down BMW. We also have not yet reviewed our previously posted 'top ten reasons to be a team in the IBR' to see which of those might apply.

On a lighter note, today is Peter Green's birthday and Paul Tong sang happy birthday to him during their call-in bonus. No word on whether there were Almond Joy candy bars with candles presented during the ceremony. Even though they are sharing a bike, this team seems to be having a blast being in the top five.

Margaret Peart successfully made her call-in bonus on time. She also noted that it had been raining, but she was enjoying a “cool and lovely ride” in Alabama this morning.

Jim Winterer and Lisa Erbes called with news that they needed to replace her NUVI GPS. She also spoke very highly of the desolation they were experiencing in west Texas and the desirability of the area as a place for humans to live, however the amount of sarcasm dripping from her phone may have garbled the details of her message. Team WinterErbes seems to be having a lot of fun, no surprise since Lisa has been dreaming of riding in the IBR for years. Her enthusiasm is contagious.

Wolfe Bonham continued his highly entertaining call-in antics. This time his phone persona was that of a pirate. However, his call was after the window closed. Arrg! Shiver me timbers! Despite the missed time window, Wolfe is obviously having a fun rally.

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