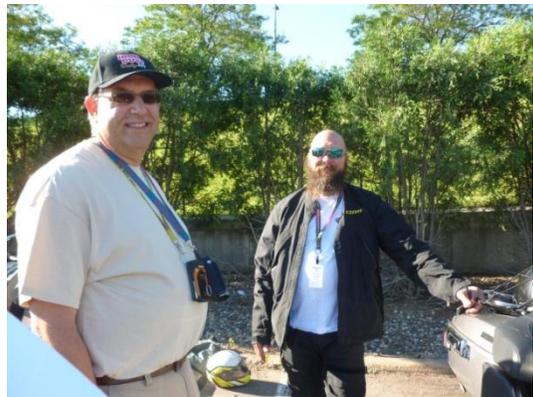
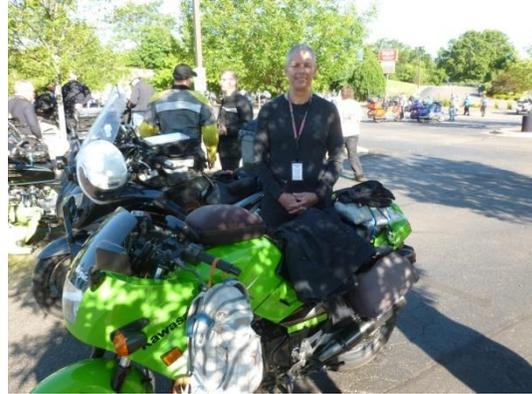


Monday June 26 Day 01 Nerves, waiting, rolling

Would you believe that the weather was great for the start of the IBR? Photos do not do this Minnesota morning justice, it was beautiful. Cool air, sunny skies, and low humidity. Perfect riding weather.























The riders were required to have their bikes parked in the impound area by 7:30 a.m. The bikes were not to be moved after that time. It is not often that a rider gets mentioned in back to back daily reports, but the affable Rob Jamie has been on a roll.

Yesterday he rode 3 laps for the odo check. This morning, after the 7:30 a.m. deadline, he had a brain fart and decided the parking was better elsewhere. He moved his bike to a different location, the staff noticed, and it earned Rob a last place start and another mention in the daily reports.



I talked with him afterwards and he acknowledged that he needed to get his head in the game. A check of his Spot tracker appears to confirm that he has done so successfully and is making good progress.

The riders needed to be at their bikes at 8:00 a.m. for the odometer checks. One rider left his assigned post. Nature called for a restroom break and Chris Comly was not in position when the staff came around for the verification. He found himself moved to the last starting spot in the field. He took it all in stride. Someone has to be last. Considering all the he has been through to get his Sportster to the starting line, at least he was able to depart with the other riders.



On Sunday, after lunch, rider Mark Crane indicated to me that he was surprised that he did not get mentioned in the report for being one of the last riders to arrive for registration. Mark and Eric Jewel are well known for arriving at the start of the IBR at the last minute. So much so, that the Rallymaster instituted the Crane/Jewel rule this year. If a rider was unable to begin their check in process on Saturday, the rider had to present themselves to Dale at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday or be disqualified.

Just doing what one is supposed to do, such as arriving before registration closes, typically does not rate a mention in the limited space of a daily report. However, dropping your bike on the starting row of the IBR and creating a domino effect that takes another rider down IS something

that is certain to get some exposure. This seems to happen at every IBR start and efficient scribes have the paragraph pre-written, only needing to fill in the names.

Mark Crane did just that this morning. Mark can't catch a break and apparently no good deed goes unpunished for rider Steve Bracken. Followers of the IBR will recall Steve's good deed of loaning his bike to a rider during the last rally to allow a finish. Mark's BMW GS got away from him and fell onto Steve and his FJR. Both bikes went down on the pavement.



Fortunately, no one seemed to be hurt. A number of bystanders jumped into action and got both bikes back up quickly. The bikes involved did not appear to suffer significant damage. Fortunately, both riders were able to depart under their own power.



Once Warchild pointed to the first rider and waved them out, the start crew was able to get 107 bikes out of the Marriott parking lot in 6 minutes and 15 seconds. The Boge family was waved out first, completing a parade lap through the impound area, to the cheers and honking horns of everyone. The Boges paused as planned after their parade lap and Rob Nye was directed out, followed by the rest of the riders in turn. The St. Louis Park and Minnetonka Police Departments provided traffic control to assist the riders getting to I-394.









A casual survey of the riders before the start indicated that maybe half of the field had plans to go to the first group photo bonus this afternoon. It is worth 2317 points. If riders can find some way to make it the end of a string and still get there on time, it could be worth 4634 points.

APC

World's Largest Prairie Chicken

I-94 Exit 38 south

Rothsay, MN

46.4814, -96.2816

1400, June 26, 2017

Have your photo taken by IBR staff in front of the giant Prairie Chicken as part of a group.

The 9,000 pound creature was designed and built by Art Fosse as Rothsay's contribution to America's 1976 Bicentennial. A bronze plaque in front informs all that, "On June 10, 1975, Rothsay was designated Prairie Chicken Capital of Minnesota."



Dennis Bitner and John Ferber reported 60 rider flags present for the Leg 1 group photo, including 5 two-up teams.

*John Harrison
IBR Scribe
Iron Butt Rally©*

Photos by John Harrison, Tim Masterson