

IBR 2017 July 06 Day 11 Pressure, points, finishing

Matt Wise reported that he felt an earthquake in the middle of his rest bonus and really did not appreciate the interruption of his nap. If not for an online news report confirming an earthquake of magnitude 5.8 on the Richter scale occurred in Montana, we would have been inclined to think Matt was just experiencing the aftershocks of a gas station burrito.

The three bike team of John Carrel, Tim Hayosh, and Tim Mahoney are riding a smart rally while at the same time having a lot of fun together. Tracking indicates that the Team Rescue Dog rookies and vet Garry Springgay may be the only riders to climb inside the giant T-Rex dinosaur at Drumheller, Alberta to collect this bonus. We look forward to seeing their photos.

PDD

Drumheller Visitor Information Centre
60 1 Ave W
Drumheller, AB

51.4672, -112.7090
1000 to 1730

Take a photo from inside the mouth of the World's Largest Dinosaur showing the teeth with the area landscape in the background.



This 25-meter tall dinosaur is claimed to be the world's largest. It was built in the year 2000 at a cost over \$1 million. Drumheller is internationally recognized for its rich abundance of dinosaur fossils and the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology

Ian McPhee reported that his BMW RT starter was not working this morning, but he was able to get it repaired and is on the road again. Ian is incredible and never gives up – we love that about him.

Scott Miller exited the interstate last night and then immediately re-entered the highway on the return ramp, contacting a hard-to-see curb and the bike went down. He is OK, the bike not so much but has withdrawn from the rally.

Giel Kerkhof's track indicates that he is one of many riders doing some backtracking, perhaps to build better string sequences. In any case, some of the roads he has been riding out west sure are great for motorcycling plus we enjoy watching the spot tracker move in circles.

Lisa Erbes did not tell us whether Jim 'ducked' or not, but she took a bee to the chin. The sting did not deter her spirits and she was excited to report that they were planning to take the ferry across Lake Michigan instead of fighting traffic through Chicago. Good choice.

Speaking of ferries, vet Jeff Wilson appears to be the only rider to take the ferry to Vancouver Island to collect the bonus in Victoria, BC. We'll see how that works for him.

WOT

Victoria Orca Topiary
Wharf St and Government St
Victoria, BC

48.4227, -123.3681

Daylight Hours Only

Take a photo of the Orca topiary.

This large topiary of an Orca mother and calf has been making an annual summer appearance since 2010. The 6-ton display takes weeks to create and contains roughly 12 thousand plants.



John Kerr, who hit a deer earlier and employed a unique ingredient for his repair casting mix to fix his bike, has hit another deer. The bike is likely totaled this time and John is now the one needing casting work. He has a broken leg, both tibia and fibula. Kerr is a doctor and really should know better, but has reportedly not taken any pain meds because he wants to be able to find a ride and finish the rally. He was searching for a sidecar to pilot. Sometimes doctors are the worst patients.

At this stage of the rally, riding *past* the finish hotel can be mentally challenging for a tired rider. The siren call of a comfortable bed and much desired rest can be powerful, perhaps even intoxicating. Vet Bucky Dent found the fortitude to resist the voices of comfort and rest as he rode his Super Tenere past the finish hotel last night, on his way to rack up additional points.

Rookie Ken Cook also summoned the strength needed to resist the voices and bypassed the hotel last night in search of more points in North Dakota. During his call-in, he let us know that he learned something new on Leg 3. According to Ken, if you schedule twisty, technical roads on Day 9 of the IBR, you need to bring a new set of brake pads or a new pair of shorts, because one of them is going to need changing.

Greg Fizer's track shows that after departing Dallas, he went to Montana via San Diego, California. He appears to be planning to collect the group photo bonus one the way back to the barn.

Rookie Dale Liechty's route for Leg 3 has been mostly in the Rockies on excellent and scenic motorcycle roads. Veterans Eric Edelman and Cliff Walls appear to have followed similar plans.

Chuck Lackey reported in from a nighttime only bonus stop in Shreveport, LA. Some guy in a pick-up truck pulled up and asked "Did you get it?" Chuck thought he was talking about the rally bonus and said "Yes." Guy said "It was a slippery bastard." Further discussion revealed that the guy was unaware of the IBR, he was just out playing Pokemon Go. Is that still a 'thing'?

Wolfe Bonham, the pilot/pirate/surfer dude call-in chameleon topped it all off with a Trekkie transponder call yesterday. The Captain of the Starship Farkles lamented a variety of black hole time sucks encountered on Leg 3. The bonus call letters reported were Phaser-Dilithium-Yoda and Leonard-Data-Ferengi. No points will be deducted for inserting Yoda (Star Wars) into the Star Trek canon. Sheldon Cooper's posse might like string theory, but would no doubt be appalled at Wolfe's faux pas.

Wolfe's BMW starter motor is dragging. Apparently his calls to Scotty in engineering for more power have gone unanswered, so he is leaving the bike engine running as much as possible, channeling his inner Kiecker. Also, no word on the progress of his concurrent Grand Tour stops.

Michael Turnpenny, a rookie from the UK, plotted a final leg route to collect a bonus in Nova Scotia that included some time on Appalachian Mountain backroads, New York City, and multiple Canadian border crossings. Obviously, the man is a glutton for punishment.

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding noted in her call-in that she was coming *from* a bonus on a *paved* road, calling from a stop on a *paved* road, going *to* a bonus on a *paved* road, and planning to *remain* on *paved* roads for the rest of the rally.

Mike Heitkamp added a sincere thank you to the end of his call-in bonus, directed to the Team Strange crew and "Chris in Maine", who drove four hours to get a replacement tire to him on a holiday.

Vet and UK IBA President Phillip Weston swapped bikes but did not have a mount for his GPS. He decided to put it in his pocket. He apparently made a wrong turn and went too far in the wrong direction before realizing it. He expects to be back in time for the banquet, but not in time to be a finisher.

Robert Koeber arrived at the finish early this afternoon on his 1996 ST1100 after a good run from Dallas, through NYC and back to Minneapolis. His rally was in doubt when he left Dallas with a failing fuel pump and no parts available to resolve the problem, at least within the time available. Robert aborted a final string of planned bonuses near the finish when the bike's performance began degrading further, which appears to have been a good decision. He believes he has collected enough points to be a finisher.

AGL

World's Largest Grasshopper
100th Ave SW
Lefor, ND area

46.6617, -102.5596

1400, July 6, 2017

Have your photo taken by IBR staff in front of the monstrous grasshopper as part of a group.

Local metal sculptor and retired school teacher Gary Greff created a series of large statues to draw visitors off the interstate and down the "Enchanted Highway". This large grasshopper was erected in the spring 1999. It is considered to be the world's largest grasshopper.



The Leg 3 group photo bonus is about 7.5 hours away from the finish. It remains to be determined whether the riders will head straight to the barn and a comfortable bed, or resist the Siren's call and use the remaining time in the rally to add points to their totals. The 41 rider flags represented at the group bonus, as well as the remaining riders pursuing different trajectories, have some decisions to make.



It all comes down to choices and distance during the next few hours. Some of the riders are on the bubble to get to the finish on time. Some are likely to be deep into the 20-point-per-minute time penalty. Some may not have enough time left, depending on traffic and other unknowns

between their current location and the Minneapolis Marriott West. What was Landry's comment on reading this? "Tick Tock."

The finishers report will be posted after the winner is announced at the banquet Friday night.

John Harrison
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