

2011 Iron Butt Rally, Day 4
Thursday, June 23, 2011

Jim Winterer is fine, but out of the rally. Lisa Landry received a call from an emergency medical technician on Thursday evening at the scene of the accident Jim was involved in. Jim's bike went down on I-65 near Scottsburg, Indiana, when he locked up the front tire while making a panic stop to avoid hitting an 18-wheeler stopping rapidly in front of him. His gear is shredded, he has some facial lacerations, but there were no other injuries except for a few bruises.

The best news is that Lisa was able to talk to Jim at the scene and he sounds fine. In fact, he actually sounds smarter than before the accident because one of his comments to Lisa was "I'll never ride another rally bike without ABS again." This is a statement coming from a very accomplished trials rider who can handle a motorcycle better than most of the riders in this rally. MedJet is transporting his bike back to Minnesota and his son, competing in a trials competition nearby, will pick Jim up later today so all is well.

Based on the reports we have received, all other riders are still on their way to Checkpoint 1 in Cheektowaga, New York.

At least three riders have ridden beyond the Cheektowaga checkpoint and are documenting visits to the New England states that they would otherwise have to pick up on leg 2. Two of those riders are apparently planning to pick up Madawaska, Maine, the second leg of the Four Corners Tour. This makes it possible to get to Key West on leg 2, which would be a huge advantage. There will be a lot more time to score high-point state capitals on the final leg if Key West has already been documented.

Tomorrow

Much of the day on Friday will be spent preparing for the arrival of the riders at the Millennium Hotel here in Cheektowaga. Steve Hobart will hold a meeting with the scorers at 3:30 pm to go over some changes being made to expedite the scoring process this year. Scoring will begin at 5:00 pm, three hours before the opening of the Checkpoint 1 window.

Beginning about 4:30 pm, a buffet will be served featuring Beef on Weck (Google it) and Buffalo Wings.

Scoring will continue until about 10:00 p.m., by which time all of the riders will hopefully be resting up for the start of leg 2 at 4:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Tom Austin
June 23, 2011
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