

2022 Senior Butt Rally
Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Day 4

Moving Day:

After Tuesday night the teams have basically reached the half way mark of the rally. On Wednesday, Day 4, it's moving day. Time to make hay while the sun shines and rack up the points before the push home. The return to Texas for most, but perhaps not all teams, will begin tomorrow, Thursday. This is due in part to a heavy pointed group photo bonus in the region that will almost certainly be hard to pass up, followed by the release of a new set of "Friday Only" bonuses, a first for the SBR/JBR. What this means to those of you who don't rally is that essentially the rally will now be split into two "legs", the first of which ends Thursday night. The second and final leg begins Friday and culminates with the Finish at the host hotel in Allen, TX. Riders will be mainly focused on the new bonuses which they were told at the Start Banquet would have generally higher point values than the previous bonuses. Translation, if you plan and ride a good route there is a chance to make up ground on the field.

Some teams are in need of that opportunity in a big way. Dropped bikes, deer strike damage, broken windshields, temporary lost phones and other calamities have been reported. How much these have impacted point totals is unknown, but any setback in rally time is magnified exponentially as time goes on. The earlier in the ride you encounter a problem the longer it has to work its way into your plan and cause a problem, sort of like that screw you dropped somewhere inside the bike while you were installing a farkle. You know it's going to come back to haunt you. You just don't know when. But you do know it will suck when it does.

The Legends Strike:

Two of our "Legend" bonus contributors have had riders actually show up at bonuses in their home area. Under cover of darkness, Lyle Monroe and Dan Lessert snuck a photo at the historical sign in Huntsville, Tennessee commemorating the "Free and Independent State of Scott", a bonus suggested by Eric Faires, IBA #66. The pic of them accomplishing that was shown in the Day 2 Report so I won't repeat it here. In an email reply to me Eric commented, "Ain't that the cat's meow." Yep Eric, it is. It's also a lot of points.

Rick Miller, IBA #342, contributed several bonuses but perhaps the best is the Mason-Dixon Historical Marker which pays tribute to the Mason Dixon 20-20 Endurance Rally. The marker, which rests on the "Miller Estate" in West Virginia, pays tribute to Rick and Jean Miller and all of the volunteers who put on this magnificent rally from 2000 to 2020. It is possibly the only historical type marker in the United States on which you will see the word "Cheesedick". Rick posted on social media that he had to put a shirt on when the first riders showed up at the bonus. I will say no more other than to call your attention to the helpful sign he put out to help the riders locate the bonus. I'm not sure what significance the rope in the tree was intended to play.

The Mason-Dixon Historical Marker and the very elaborate and helpful signage provided by Rick Miller (342).



More attrition updates:

We reported previously that Ed Feyereisen of team **Cedar Beavers** had an unplanned get off. After getting back to the host hotel, Ed now reports that he has sold his damaged bike, is licking his minor wounds, and has purchased a plane ticket back home for Sunday so he can stay for the Saturday night Big As Texas Party. Case closed.

Mike Hall of **Team BoomChakaLaca** (I think I spelled it right this time), is feeling better at home and told me not to sell his ticket to Saturday night. This must be some party for everyone to stick around for it. Or maybe they just want to hear the great Dean Tanji tell everyone about the making of Hard Miles or how he came up with the name "Bite the Weeenie" for the Ride to Eat to Pinks. I'm seeing a pattern here, but I don't know what it is.

Volunteer Blues:

The Iron Butt Association volunteer staff that puts on this huge undertaking is not immune to attrition either. More than one member has fallen ill or had conflicts arise this year. Luckily we have had a few faithful devotees step up to fill in. If things move a little slow, or you experience any issues, know that we are doing our best to put on a good rally and a good show. There are a lot of moving parts and a lot of plates that have to spin at the same time. Be patient.

With that I will have to close to get this posted and pack up for the move back to the hotel tomorrow from my temporary Rally Central location. I will leave you with some pics from the road from the people who are out there living the adventure.

See you all soon!

