

2022 Senior Butt Rally
Thursday, September 22, 2022
Day 5

Turning Home:

For most teams today was a day to head south. South from wherever. And in this year's SBR/JBR wherever has been all over the map. Yes, I know I use bad puns. But the teams really have been spread in a shotgun pattern across the U.S. Some have ventured more west and north but most have opted for the high point opportunities in the east. The dreaded traffic and cramped quarters are not great for motorcycle riding necessarily, but the bonus opportunities were relatively high and with the SBR teams enjoying the ability to string some triple point state capitol buildings together, it was just too much for some to avoid.

JBR riders had less reason to venture east having a different puzzle to solve, and many have chosen to ride in whatever area they feel most comfortable exploring, or that they just wanted to do some riding in. Their point totals will be less than most SBR finisher totals, but their effort to earn them will be no less strenuous. There are last minute no-draw Iron Butt Rally spots on the line for the two top finishing JBR riders, provided they are not already in the 2023 IBR. That means of course, that if you aren't in the IBR already, you have to outpoint all other riders to make it in. The no-draws don't filter down to the next eligible rider. It is the IBR after all that most of our rally riders aspire to be in. You'll have to earn it here if you want to join the fray.

The end of the southern turn for 29 riders was the host hotel for the event, the Courtyard Marriott, in Allen, Texas. I'm not drinking and I know how to count. And I know 29 does not divide evenly by two. One lone rider, the wayward and ever moving Glenn Royal of **BoomChakaLaca** fame, left to ride on his own by former friend and teammate, Mike Hall, who had to withdraw due to illness, motored in by his lonesome to participate in the high point group photo bonus staged at the hotel. I mentioned previously that Mike will be at the Finisher Banquet. I'm fairly sure they will rekindle their friendship over a strong adult beverage when they reunite on Saturday.

Those looking to still earn spots in the IBR are partly drawn to this particular SBR/JBR due to the presence of some IBR royalty. The celebrity subjects of the group photo were IBR Rallymistress, Lisa Landry, and "Hard Miles" creator and three time Finisher, Dean Tanji. Next to appear on the scene will be one of the IBR's premier Routemasters, Jeff Earls. Jeff has been the routemaster of each IBR held since 2017 (my personal favorite IBR by the way), and will be on hand to lead a meeting of the 2023 IBR rookies on Saturday. Take notes kids. That stuff is real important. The photo work was done by legendary IBR photographer, Steve Hobart. At exactly 8:00pm Steve started snapping away a series of snaps that will hopefully earn those present a few points, provided of course they signed in with rally staff before joining the pic.



The excellent photography of Steve Hobart, capturing the happy faces of the SBR/JBR. I hope they look that good at the finish.

Leg – Friday:

All teams, including those that did not attend the group photo in Allen, were sent a new set of bonus material that is available to them after midnight Thursday. These bonuses carry significantly larger bonus values than bonuses in the original rally book. The new bonuses, plus any unclaimed bonuses in the original book, now constitute effectively a second leg to the rally. We'll see how both the seasoned rally pros and the newbies attack this opportunity. How well they do tomorrow will determine who stands at the top of the podium when the rally is over. I hear computers whirring to life all over the building. This should be fun.

I leave you with the customary catch of pics from the day. See you tomorrow at the finish.



