

2021 Senior Butt Rally
Wednesday, September 29, 2021
Day 4

By mid-afternoon Tuesday, following the restful big point grab at the VTWINS and CHOP bonuses in Big Sky, Montana, all the teams had chosen to re-enter full rally mode and were well on their way to more bonus collecting. Most headed east to mine the rich bonus points across the upper tier states. Some who had taken an easterly route to arrive at Big Sky were naturally headed south and west to gather up what they missed on the way there.

Only one team, for reasons they may reveal later, headed northwest to bag the relatively few bonuses in that direction. Team Bucky & Barnes ('99 IBR winner George Barnes and IBR vet Bucky Dent) made a stop for a cheeseburger at the BOGE bonus in St. Maries, Idaho, at the Burger Express establishment owned by multiple IBR finisher Michael Boge. Michael's very well written post of that hookup will be posted today as Day 4 – Bonus Report. Perhaps it was a case of familiar territory as George lives in Washington near Seattle. Originally, I thought maybe he was headed home for free lodging. A check of the spot tracks reveals they came to their senses and are wheeling south to continue bonus hunting.

Bucky Dent, as taken by George Barnes at the Anaconda smoke stack bonus in Montana. Racking up points in the great Northwest.



The most wayward team, at least in relation to the physical positioning of the rest of the field, continues to be Mike Hall and Troy Martin, the Chuckleheads. Fresh from their partying in Key West they have made their way back across the southern U.S., bobbing along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico like a giant pufferfish, swallowing up bonuses with amazing efficiency. Did they see something in the Rally Book the other teams failed to notice? Was Key West, often a sucker bonus in other rallies, really the magic pill for success in the 2021 SBR? IBR history would say no, but the SBR is making its own history as we go. No word yet on where the party is tonight. If there is one, hopefully they will share a photo again.



Medical issues have been a constant topic for this group. Dan Lessert, of kidney stone fame, and Glenn Royal were seen in Provo, Utah bagging a bonus previously featured in the Iron Butt Rally. The location is a simple lower star motel, which had been the scene of a murder. That qualified it as a bonus for Routemaster Bob Higdon's theme, "Crime Scenes", in 2009. I hope they didn't check in there thinking that would be a good place to pass a stone. While these two JBR warriors, Team Bitdog, may not gain enough points on their journey for Finisher status, they have certainly earned a lot of respect for soldiering on.

Another tooth has been claimed. This one *belonged* to Danny Dossman who is the older half of team Test Dummies. Danny is known for his unusual "on the bike" eating habits during rallies. One of his favorite treats, among several oddities, are Hot Tamales candies. These tasty sugar morsels resemble red suppositories. They give Danny the sugar fix he needs to get going in the morning. No, they are not used in the traditional way a suppository might be administered. Danny eats them. Well, if you bite down on a Hot Tamale candy that has been left in your tank bag in freezing overnight temperatures in Utah, instead of enjoying that gooey sugary fix you are used to, you might break a tooth. I'm afraid to ask whether Danny has resorted to the other method of Hot Tamale injection to get his sugar fix. I have ridden a lot of miles with Danny. I would put nothing past the man.

Matt Wise, the other half of Team Test Dummies, once road 45,000 miles to set a new LD record. Clearly, something tripped in his mind during that ride. That, or he has had too many of Danny's Hot Tamales.



From medical now to mechanical, another machine malfunction has struck. This time it is another radiator issue. What are the odds we would have two radiator issues in one SBR? Right now, they sit at 100%. Seems Team Body Odor, IBR vet Dennis Cunningham and rally rookie Steve Kotlarz, detected a

different kind of odor coming from Dennis' 2012 BMW K1300S somewhere near Sturgis, South Dakota. This odor smelled like melting engine parts, something that you would not normally want to smell during a rally unless of course you had given up on your rally and decided to set fire to your bike just for fun and amusement. Dennis made a frantic call from the side of the road to the Rallymaster explaining that their rally had come to an end, and that he needed a tow to a nearby BMW dealer. I covered the mouthpiece to the phone and let out a big belly laugh while I got on the internet to search. A BMW bike dealer in Sturgis? Get real...

Son of a gun. There is one! Dennis called the folks and then called me back. He went on to explain that due to his lack of routing skills he was now only one mile from the dealership. He had intended to take a fork in the road to cut off some distance while motoring back to the interstate from their most recent bonus, and by missing the turn, he ended up right under their nose when the bike failed. After discovering his good fortune, he filled the bike with water, road part of the way downhill to the dealership, then killed the engine and coasted the rest when the bike began to overheat. The good folks at the dealership, Sturgis Motorsports, promised to work them in. Dennis now claimed that maybe their rally wasn't over and wanted to know if he needed to call me to let me know if they got back in. I told him to eat some Hot Tamale's and get some rest.



Dan and Steve's problems started here. Having just scored a Wild Card bonus that would have doubled the value of this bonus, Dan and Steve seemed to be doing well. Dan called the Rallymaster after starting their rest bonus to inform me that he had taken a photo of the *wrong side* of the sign, which was now over 90 miles away.

And, in other news today...

Gosh, I just cannot get these guys out of the report. I am only posting this at the end because I wanted to get over 1,000 words and I didn't have anything else to say. Team Perfecto, the current leaders in the Bike Diversity Challenge, an event not on the official SBR agenda, are looking to up their lead in said "Challenge". Would be scribe, Paul Meyer, has helped me out again. And, I quote, sort of...

"We are in Velva, North Dakota. All safe, but another broken bike. NO, it is not the Kawasaki this time. It seems Dave's trusty Harley Davidson decided our leisurely pace was not to its liking, so in rebellion it stripped its drive belt. We're in contact with Minot HD who has a belt and will get us in first thing tomorrow morning. No idea if the 30 miles of gravel road we did earlier has any bearing on our current situation, but we will keep you posted. Until later, Team Perfecto, having a blast in the 2021 SBR."

Please, Paul, don't keep me posted. I wonder if they know the prize in that Challenge is a box of frozen Hot Tamales.



Random pictures of motorcyclists not necessarily riding in the 2021 SBR or JBR...

