

2021 Senior Butt Rally
Thursday, September 30, 2021
Day 5

Day 5 finds all of the previously reported rider / bike issues worked out and those teams have returned to the road. David Uhl of Team Perfecto has a new belt drive on his Harley and he and teammate Paul Meyer are headed south. Unfortunately, they are too far out to make it to the Finish on time Friday. They made the dreaded call to Rally Central this evening to officially withdraw from the field. The plan is to get some much-needed rest and then push through to the Finish hotel by late tomorrow night. Given what they have been through mechanically over the past few days, I put those odds at 50/50.

Dennis Cunningham's BMW radiator is repaired, and he and fellow Team Body Odor rider Steve Kotlarz are rolling again. The repair job took four hours off the clock, and paired with a big point mistake in New Mexico, they have some work to do to catch up to the field. With less than 24 hours left on the clock, and a high point, almost required rest bonus to pull off, their point accumulation window is closing fast.

Jack Airle experienced a problem with his 2018 Honda NC750XD. We are not sure exactly what was wrong with it but the problem was first reported last night after the daily report went out. The breakdown occurred in the Colorado Springs area. By early today, they were back on the road after a tow, and a fix of a somewhat mysterious nature. The DCT bike wouldn't shift through the gears but as soon as the mechanic rocked the bike backward, it snapped out of its frozen state and began operating correctly. I think they call that voodoo magic. Whatever he did, it got the Ancient Mariners back on the road. They have plenty of time to complete their run as long as the automatic transmission gremlins do not wake back up.

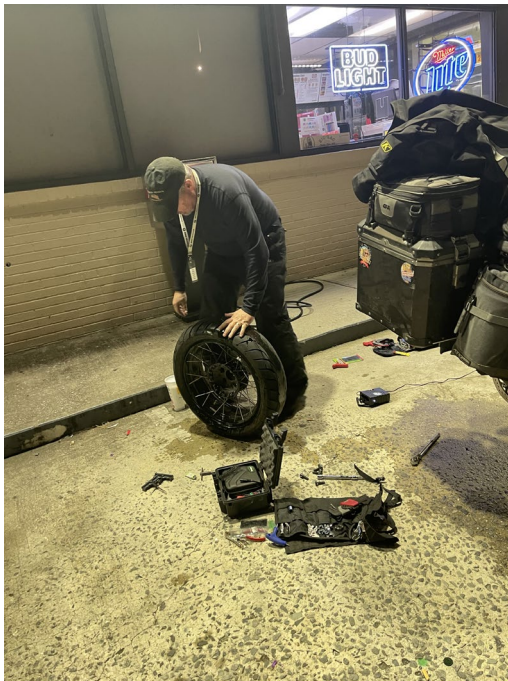
That brings us to today's mechanical malfunction, brought to you by Mike Hall of the Chuckleheads. You remember them. They had the party down in Key West and then worked their way around to the Hot Coffee bonus in Hot Coffee, Mississippi before plowing through Louisiana and on into Texas. Mike's teammate, Troy Martin, made the call to Rally Central to report a loss of power to the drive train on Mike's BMW RT. You would naturally think final drive failure but the report of the noises they heard and the lack of a locked up rear wheel led most of the armchair mechanics here thinking driveshaft or a broken U-joint.

The first words of the call were filled with the resignation of an inevitable DNF. After some discussion, they determined they could in fact fashion a Finish out of the situation with a replacement bike, if one could be found and brought to them at the site of the bike failure just south of Pecos, Texas. Word was put out through social media and a loaner found in the form of one Chris Hopper. Chris had reported before the rally that he had a couple of bikes in rally ready condition that would be available if needed. The replacement bike is on its way and will arrive late tonight. Mike and Troy set about getting some food and bagging a final rest bonus. Hats off to Chris Hopper who besides being a stand up LD guy is currently on a quest to bag 100,000 miles in 100 days. We all sure hope he completes that mission.

Sometimes a disabled bike can lead to chicken abuse. Rallying is ugly business. Nothing to see here. Move on.

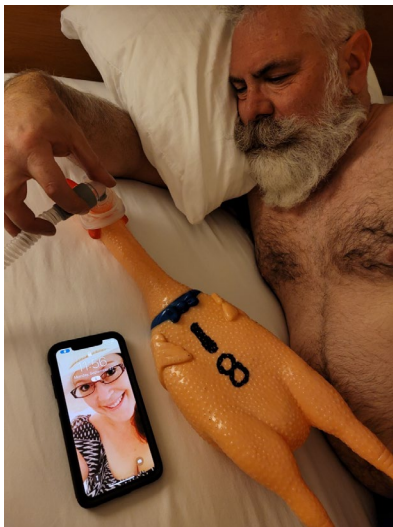


In other news tonight, Matt Wise had a flat. The flat got fixed. He and toothless Danny Dossman are back on the road. Now, that is all a story should have to say. A simple problem. A simple solution. Except for the fact that a disagreement has once again broken out between the two Test Dummies. In a late text after the flat incident, Danny wrote, "We lost valuable time. We are going again, headed east away from Texas. We'll see how that works out." I love those guys. Hope they Finish this time.



What is most obvious here is that Danny Dossman is really good at watching and taking pictures.

Random pictures of motorcyclists that may or may not be in the SBR/JBR:



Day 6, the final riding day of the rally, will be summarized tomorrow.