

# BIG AS TEXAS RALLY



How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time! The same applies to the BBG1500 (Bun Burner Gold 1500 miles in 24 hrs). Considered one of the IBA's extreme rides, the BBG is a monster!



## 1,552 Miles in 24 Hours



## Howdy from Texas

In October, the IBA hosted a long distance rally in Allen, TX. This year, the theme was about shooting critters (with a camera) all over the state of Texas. Prior to the event, the IBA sent us a list with the location of 25 critters to create our own route in advance of the event. We were required to take a picture of at least 6 critters with our rally flag and ride a minimum of 1,000 miles in 24 hrs to be considered a finisher. If we rode the 1,000 mile minimum, we would qualify for a Saddle Sore 1000. But, if we continued for over 1,500 miles within the 24 hr time

frame, we would also qualify for a BBG1500. Karen has many 1,000 mile days under her belt, she was ready to go for the gold! And, who was I to disagree!

Our strategy to complete a BBG was to keep the wheels turning as much as possible! Eat on the bike (Karen would carry beef jerky and peanuts). When I get hungry, she shoves food in my mouth! Gotta love her! When we stop to get a picture of a critter or stop for gas, we don't waste time. We take care of business and get back on the bike! We have plenty of time while riding to talk and enjoy each other's company, anything else would burn up valuable time.

Another part of our strategy was to stay out of congested areas, so we picked several critters in West Texas.

This would allow us to cover a lot of miles without a lot of traffic or traffic lights. And, Texas roads are made for riding! They keep all of their roads well maintained!

At 5:30 am on Friday morning, rally flags were issued, each with a different rider number. Our flag was number 62. This flag was required to be in all of the pictures. After taking the picture, we would email it back to rally headquarters. The IBA also verified our odometers prior to releasing us at 6:00 am and when we returned.

Our first critters were located in downtown Dallas about 30 miles from Rally Headquarters. The beginning of rush hour didn't

present any problems. Actually, to avoid some traffic at one of the exit ramps, we let the GPS reroute us. We got lucky as the GPS routed us onto a 4 lane divided highway with very little traffic. Yay! We're out of Dallas! Traffic was never an issue the rest of the ride!



**Frogs in Dallas**

When Karen and I were first married, I was stationed at Ft Hood, TX. The next critter on the list was located in Lampasas. Bagging this catfish would give us an opportunity to ride by Ft Hood and the area where we lived for a year. Boy, have things changed since 1978! It was awesome to revisit the area. It brought back some great memories of our first year together.



**Catfish in Lampasas**

From there, we headed to Abilene to shoot the Lorax. It was a great ride through Texas Hill Country as we started our westward trek. The sun was shining and the temperature

was perfect. We were riding on some great back roads having a great time!



**Lorax in Abilene**

Next, we headed to Ft Stockton to bag the roadrunner. Now, the temperature had warmed up to 100 degrees. But, it was a dry heat! No problem!



**Roadrunner in Ft Stockton**

Big Bend is another area in Texas that we love. It just so happened the next critter on the list was located in Terlingua at the Starlight Theatre. Evidently, a goat named Clay Henry, was once known as the mayor of the nearby town of Lajitas to attract tourists. People would stick a beer bottle in his mouth and he would raise his head and drink it down. It was said this goat could drink 35-40 beers daily! He was killed by his son, then current goat mayor, Clay Henry Jr, in a drunken rutting season brawl over a female. Some

stuff, you just can't make up! All joking aside, it's not really about the critter as much as it is about the ride! The Big Bend area is beautiful! Desert and mountains! We love it!



**Clay Henry in Terlingua**

From Terlingua, we rode north to the Panhandle Plains city of Lubbock for critter number six. We made it there about 11:00 pm just as a strong thunderstorm hit! We stopped in a football stadium parking lot looking all over for this prehistoric creature. It was pouring down rain so hard, we could hardly see across the parking lot! Plus, a football game just ended and cars were lined up leaving the parking lot as we were entering it. We stopped and waited just a few minutes for things to die down. After bagging the mammoth, it was time to head back to the Dallas area to complete the ride!



**Mammoth in Lubbock**

The storm was heading west so that meant as we head east we had to ride completely through it! Time to suck it up, buttercup! We still had over 300 miles to ride! The next 100 miles was some of the worst rain we have ever ridden in! As we rode out of the rain, we rode into the wind. The wind was unbelievable for the next 100 miles! But, we made it through it safe and sound and dry. Good gear does make a difference! Karen is such a trooper! Most people wouldn't think of riding through the weather that we just rode through. She's ridden in some very challenging conditions in the past. I'm sure she attributes a lot of it to good gear too. Riding comfortable is key! Experience does play a big part, too.

We finally made it back to Rally Headquarters in Allen, TX at 4:13 am. We did it! 1,552 miles in 22 hours and 13 minutes! Afterward, we stopped for a hot meal at the only thing open, a McDonald's drive-thru. Back at the hotel, we got to chat with a few friends that were just returning from their ride too. Then, we crashed for the night. At least, what was left of it!

Saturday night was the banquet. Certificates were presented and other rally swag was passed out by the IBA President and staff. Out of 50 bikes, men and women, there were only two 2-up couples. The other 2-up couple was a father and his teenage daughter. She had not ridden an Iron Butt ride with her Dad, so they would complete the SS1000. Two bikes did not complete all the minimum

requirement of 1,000 miles or bagging 6 creatures for one reason or another. They were considered DNF (Did Not Finish). Only 5 bikes completed a BBG1500.

But, there were many others that had completed some sort of Iron Butt Ride to attend the banquet/party. There were riders from as far as Minnesota, Idaho, California, etc. About 150 people attended the banquet/party.



**Rally Swag**

During the banquet, three long distance riders gave presentations on special long distance challenges they had completed. One presentation was about a family riding in the Iron Butt Rally (11,000 miles in 11 days!). A father, mother and their 8 year old daughter completed this feat on a Harley Road King with a sidecar! They rode all over North America in those 11 days. They had several great stories to tell, memories they will cherish the rest of their lives. Time well spent together!

Another IBA member talked about his "Hell Week", 1,500 miles a day for 7 days! Yes, you read that right, over 10,500 miles in a week! This rider was pretty shy, so standing in

front of a crowd was not his favorite thing to do. He said doing the ride was much easier! But, he did tell us how he set up his bike and the challenges that went along with this incredible feat!



**IBA Banquet/Party**

The final presentation was about one of the IBA tour rides. A tour ride is not a 1,000 mile is 24 hour type ride. The tour rides have longer time requirements that could cover up to a year or beyond. This particular rider talked about his "IBA Lighthouse Insanity GOLD EXTREME" - 180 lighthouses on two different oceans, the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes in 12 consecutive months. He visited a total of 230 lighthouses in 25 states and 3 Canadian provinces. A great story with a lot of miles covered!

Although this type of riding is not for everyone, Karen and I love it! What makes it so special is that we're enjoying it together! Plus, the people are special too! Like GWRRR or any other organization, it's fun to hangout and visit others with like-minded interests.

