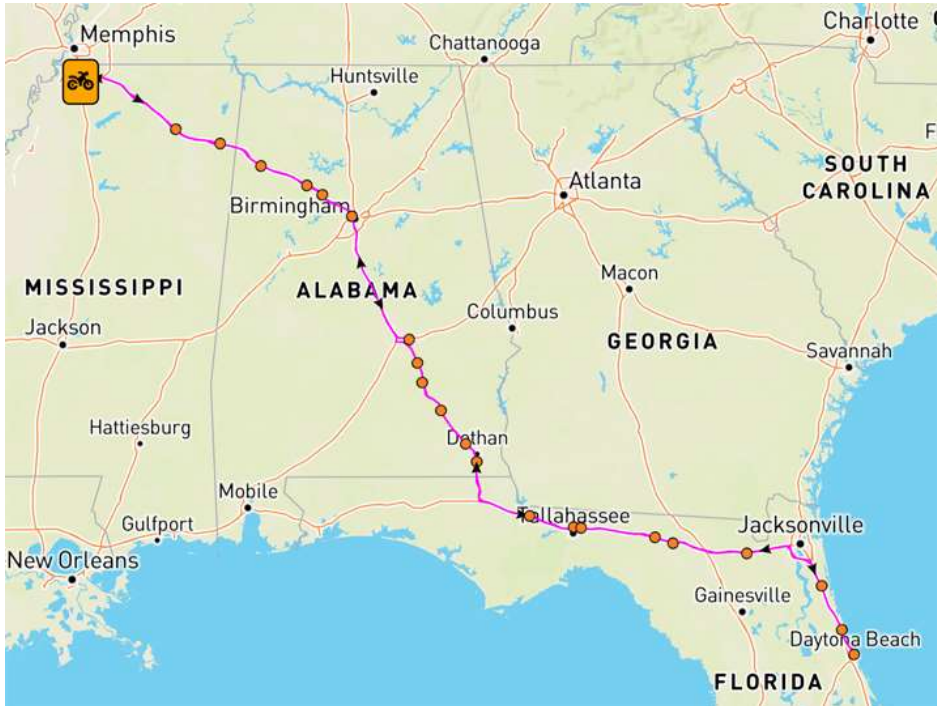


Daytona Beach Bun Burner



1,562 Miles in 31 hrs. 10 min.

Bun Burner is an Iron Butt term for a 1,500-mile ride in less than 36-hours. It just so happened that from Hernando, MS to Daytona Beach, FL and back to Hernando is 1,562 miles. Our motorcycle pull-behind trailer was there, and I needed to get it!

The week prior, Karen and I had attended an IBA event in Jacksonville then went on to a Pizza Party for Iron Butt Rally finishers in Daytona Beach. These events are held every year during Bike Week. Unfortunately, as we were leaving, a wheel bearing on our trailer failed. As we were riding through the town of Daytona Beach, a lady in car

pulled up beside us and said our trailer wheel was wobbling.

We immediately pulled over into a shopping center parking lot to check it out! Now, what do we do? I looked to see if there were any BMW motorcycle dealers in the area. There was! And it was only 3 miles away! I tried to call them. No answer. So, we decided to ride there and speak to them in person.

When we arrived, they were busy! They had a Bike Week crowd! The parking lot was full of demo bikes, special sales, tables and people! With all that was going on, this dealership was very

accommodating and polite. They said they would repair our trailer. I would need to ship the parts to them since they weren't associated with Bushtec trailers. They would also keep our trailer inside their secure building. We were thrilled! We disconnected the trailer and rode the bike home. I would return once it was fixed.



Bad Wheel Bearing

When we arrived home, I ordered two wheel assemblies to be shipped to Euro Cycles in Daytona Beach. They would arrive on Wednesday. After that, I spoke to the service manager. He told me the trailer would be ready by Saturday.

Fortunately, we didn't have any plans for the following weekend, so I planned a ride to pick up the trailer. The dealership was 780 miles from Hernando. If I left after work on Friday and rode until midnight, I should be able to cover about 500 miles to Tallahassee, Florida. Then, wake up early on Saturday, complete the ride to

Daytona Beach, pick up the trailer and ride home for an additional 1,000 miles. If all goes well, that would meet the Bun Burner requirements for the IBA.

Friday afternoon, I left the house at 3:00 pm and rode down to the local Circle K. Official start DBR (Dated Business Receipt) was 3:04 pm, March 15, 2024. It was a misty, light rain and 68 degrees as I left Hernando.

Thunderstorms blew through earlier that night/morning. It looked like I would ride into the same weather system from Birmingham to Montgomery. Fortunately, I was right behind it! It was wet, but not raining as I rode through that area.

As I continued on to Dothan, the temperature remained pretty steady climbing only a degree or two. It was 8:30 pm by now. I had made good time! Traffic was light for a Friday evening.

I checked into a hotel in Tallahassee at 12:30 am. I decided not to set an alarm. Hopefully, I will wake-up early on my own.

Well, I woke-up at 4:30 am. Oh no! This is too early. I closed my eyes hoping to get another hour or two of sleep. I woke up again at 5:30 am. Then, I tossed and turned for a few minutes. I finally picked up my phone and looked at the weather. It said heavy rain and thunderstorms due in 35 minutes! That's all the motivation I needed to jump up and get on the road!



Rain Behind Me

The temperature was still 70 degrees early Saturday morning. It soon climbed into the 80's as I headed toward Daytona Beach.

Spring Break traffic was thick as I rode around Jacksonville. Karen called. I was talking to her as I passed my exit to I-95 south! I made a U-turn at the next exit so I could return to I-95. 80 miles later, I made it to Euro Cycles. It was 10:00 am.



Ready to Head Home

The trailer was ready! All in all, I was probably in and out of there in 15 minutes! I was back out on the road headed to the house!

As I retraced my route north on I-95, I stopped in St. Augustine for

lunch at Sonny's BBQ. Quick and pretty good! Back on the road with clear skies and warm temperatures.

In Jacksonville, I headed west on I-10. The temperature peaked at 94 degrees in the panhandle of Florida. It was 2:00 pm as I returned to Tallahassee where I started my day.

I continued back through Dothan, up to Montgomery and on to Birmingham. It was a great day to be on the bike! After leaving Birmingham, I took I-22 toward Memphis. The sun went down along with the temperature. Not cold, but down to around 60 degrees. Definitely the coolest part of the trip. It was nice riding in comfortable temperatures for a change! Our last few trips have been down in the 40's.

As I was riding along on I-22, I wondered where Jimmy Burns was located. He had left early that morning to catch some guys out of Texas doing an Iron Butt ride. Jimmy was going to lead them back to Southaven, MS for some Memphis BBQ. Then, Jimmy would split with the group and complete an Iron Butt ride himself.

So, I called Jimmy to see where he was. From Southaven, he rode south to Winona, MS, then headed east to Starkville, MS to say hi to his son and daughter-in-law. From there, he planned to ride north to Tupelo and head towards his home near Hernando. That would put him on I-

22 in Tupelo about the same time that I would be rolling through!

I called Karen as I approached Tupelo. I asked her to look at Jimmy's Spot (Satellite Tracking System) to see where he was. She said he was right behind me, if not ahead of me! Since the Spot is set to ping every 5 minutes, there's a 5-minute lag on the SpotWalla display.

Karen and I both know from past experience that someone could be a mile ahead of you or behind you and you never know. So, I continued on with my ride.

After dark, I did see a coyote along the right shoulder of I-22. It looked like he was getting ready to cross the road. Later on, I spotted some deer off to the right grazing.

I finally made it back to the Hernando Circle K for my end DBR. Official end time – 10:14, March 16 for a total of 1,562 miles in 31 hrs., 10 min. Bun Burner complete!

As I finished up my required odometer/DBR photos as part of the IBA submission process, Jimmy Burns comes riding in on his Harley Road Glide with it's loud pipes roaring! He was completing his 1,030-mile day!

It was good to see him finish his ride! We exchanged handshakes and hugs before going our separate ways. We both had long days!



Iron Butt Rider, Jimmy Burns

When I arrived home, Karen couldn't believe that I had been to Daytona Beach and back already since I just left home the afternoon before.

It was a great ride! Better weather than expected on the way to Daytona Beach. I made good time! I hoped to make it a Bun Burner, but if I didn't, that would've okay too! I had the whole weekend. It was good to make it back with a day to spare!

It was also good to get the trailer back with two new wheel assemblies. We plan to take it on a trip to Alaska in August. Hopefully, the road gremlins are worked out with no problems later this summer.

2022 BMW K1600 GA

Distance: 1,562 miles

Time: 31 hrs, 10 min.

Average Speed: 50 mph

Fuel Used: 49.461 gal

Fuel Mileage: 31 mpg

High Temperature: 94°

Low Temperature: 60°