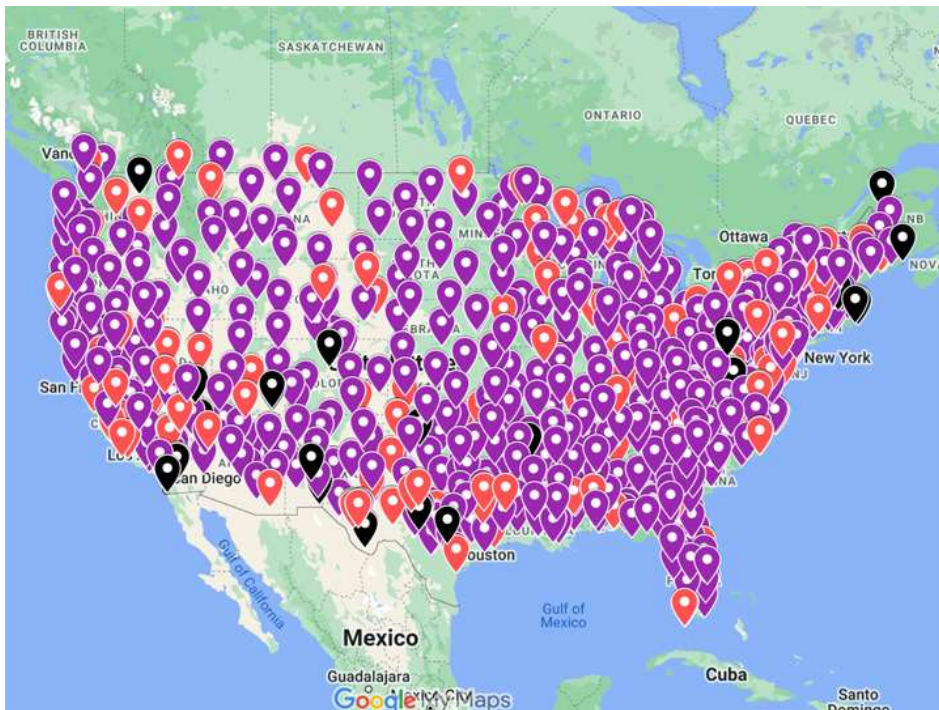


FAT 1000



RTE-X-USA Locations for 2023

There are numerous motorcycle challenges every year from different groups and organizations in the long-distance community. These challenges include long-distance rallies (scavenger hunts) that may last from 10 hours to multiple days in length, to other challenges that can last up to a year.

RTE-X-USA (Ride-To-Eat Across the USA) is a Facebook group that offers a new map every year of eating establishments.

Typically, each establishment is worth 1 point for a picture of your bike next to the establishment's sign and another point can be earned if you enter the establishment during

business hours and provide a picture of what you ate.

POI's (Points of Interest) are also included for extra points by providing a picture of your bike next to the attraction. Quarterly point winners are awarded gift cards and bragging rights.

With all the activities that are available, there's no excuse not to ride and enjoy some long-distance fun!

Karen and I have been participating in the RTE-X-USA for several years. It's fun! And, the food is great! But, I had not completed an IBA (Iron Butt Association) ride in

conjunction with this challenge. It was finally time to get FAT!

You can earn FAT (Five at a Time) status by visiting at least 5 RTE locations during an Iron Butt ride (at least 1,000 miles in 24 hours).

My plan was to ride down to Houma, LA, then head east to Ocean Springs, MS to meet a friend for lunch before heading back north to Hernando while stopping at various locations along my route.

I started out in Hernando at our local gas station at 3:30 am on Saturday, January 28. After fueling the bike and getting a DBR (Dated Business Receipt) with my official start time, a coyote trotted across the parking lot! By the looks of it, I would say he was relatively young (yearling). Running through town didn't seem to bother him. He didn't pay any attention to me. Official start time 3:39 am.

It was 40 degrees as I turned onto the I-55 entrance ramp. Traffic was light as I headed south. The temperature soon bottomed out at 33 degrees and stayed there until after sunrise.

As I rode in the dark between Hernando and Jackson. I saw quite a few deer grazing on the right side of the road. About halfway to Jackson, there was another deer in the median. That's scary! He had to

cross the interstate to get over there and will have to cross again to get back. Other than that, it was an uneventful ride down to Jackson where I made my first fuel stop.

On this ride, I was on our new 2022 BMW K1600 Grand America. We bought it in September, and I have been slowly farkling it. (Farkles: Functional accessories that may look nice.) A custom Russell Day Long seat just arrived the day before. This was a must have before I attempted any Iron Butt rides on this bike. This was going to be a shakedown ride to make sure the bike was setup comfortably.

During this ride, I also collected points for another challenge called the AULDR (America's Ultimate Long Distance Rider). I plan to do an Iron Butt ride for that challenge in the near future and will write more details about it then.

A hint of sunrise was starting to appear as I pulled out of the gas station in Jackson. The temperature had increased a few degrees.

My next stop was to get a photo of a locomotive in Terry, MS for the AULDR.

In Crystal Springs, MS, I stopped at Louise Open Pit BBQ. At 6:50 am, this place was closed. Good for 1 point!



Louise Open Pit BBQ

I continued south to the Louisiana State sign for another AULDR photo, then on to Kentland for another RTE stop. Hart's BBQ was closed, but good for 1 point!



Hart's BBQ

I continued south to Tangipahoa and then east to Franklinton for a couple of AULDR photos. I headed back west to I-55 before continuing south to Ponchatoula for another AULDR photo, then on to Middendorfs in Manchac.

I was just down at Middendorfs a month ago since it was on last year's RTE challenge too! And, their turtle soup was excellent! But, at 10:00 am, they weren't open, so I continued on. Good for 1 point!



Middendorfs

At the visitor's center in Gray, I stopped for a photo of a pair of giant shrimp boots. This was a special POI worth 2 points!



Shrimp Boots

Boudreau & Thibodeau's Cajun Cookin' in Houma was just a few miles south. This is where I planned to eat lunch. I was hungry for some Cajun food! The crawfish pasta was outstanding!



Boudreau & Thibodeau's

I was glad that I arrived when they opened. I got right in, ordered and was served in a timely manner! By the time I left, the place was full!

Since I got a photo of the restaurant from the outside and my lunch dish on the inside, I earned 2 points at this stop!

From here, I headed east around New Orleans. The temperature peaked at 74 degrees. It was a beautiful day on the Gulf Coast!

I headed to the Sunrise Café in Bay St. Louis, MS. This place was closed—Not because I was early, but because I was late! This was a breakfast joint. Good for 1 point!



Sunrise Café

My next stop was “The Shed” about 48 miles away. I planned to meet another LD (Long Distance) rider at 2:00 pm there. It was 1:30 pm. I wasn’t sure if I’d make it in time! I arrived 20 minutes late, but so did he!

Greg Rice is a very accomplished LD rider! He was attempting his 74th BBG (1,500 miles in 24 hours). He had posted on Facebook that he planned to be at The Shed at 2:00 pm for lunch.

I first met Greg in 2005 at an MTF (Motorcycle Tourer’s Forum) 50cc/100ccc event (< 50 hours Coast to Coast or < 100 hours Coast to Coast). Greg and I both completed the 100ccc (JAX – SAN – JAX) during that event. After that, Greg went on to complete many extreme Iron Butt rides! He has over 100,000 miles of BBG’s alone! Incredible!



Greg Rice

We visited for about an hour before departing. He headed back to Ft Lauderdale as I headed back to Hernando.



Donanella's Bar & Grill

My next stop was at Donanella's Bar & Grill near Hattiesburg. It was closed. I was too early for this one! It didn’t open until 5:00 pm. Good for 1 point!

By now, my headset was dead. I could no longer hear music or talk on the phone. So, I dug out my powerpack when I found out, I packed the wrong cord!

I texted Karen of my dilemma. She replied back saying that a truck stop probably has what I need!

Just a few miles away was a POI. The Sullivan-Kilrain Marker was the location of the longest bare-knuckle prizefight in history! It lasted 2 hours and 16 minutes in 1889! Good for 1 point!



Sullivan-Kilrain Marker

By now, it was 4:30 pm. I had over 300 miles to go! No more stops except for gas!

I headed up around Hattiesburg and jumped on I-59 to Meridian. Near Laurel, I stopped to fuel up at a Love’s Truck Stop. As I went to the restroom, I walked by a whole wall of cords and chargers. That Karen is one smart chick! I love that girl!

From there I took Hwy 45 north to Tupelo where I got on I-22 heading northwest toward Memphis.

It wasn’t until I got to Byhalia (about 20 miles from home) when it

started a light continuous rain. It was dark and the temperature was 57 degrees.

I finally arrived back in Hernando at 9:45 pm, 18 hours and 6 minutes from when I started! Total miles 1,034.

It was an awesome day! I really enjoyed riding the new bike! I found a couple things that needed some

small tweaks, but nothing major. The weather wasn't too bad. I'm prepared for the cold weather and rain. 74 degrees on the Gulf Coast was a treat! Especially in January!

My photos and route were approved by the RTE-X-USA and the IBA. And, I got to sit down and enjoy a few minutes with Greg Rice! Mission Accomplished! I was FAT and happy!

2022 BMW K1600 GA

Distance: 1,034 miles

Time: 18 hrs, 6 min.

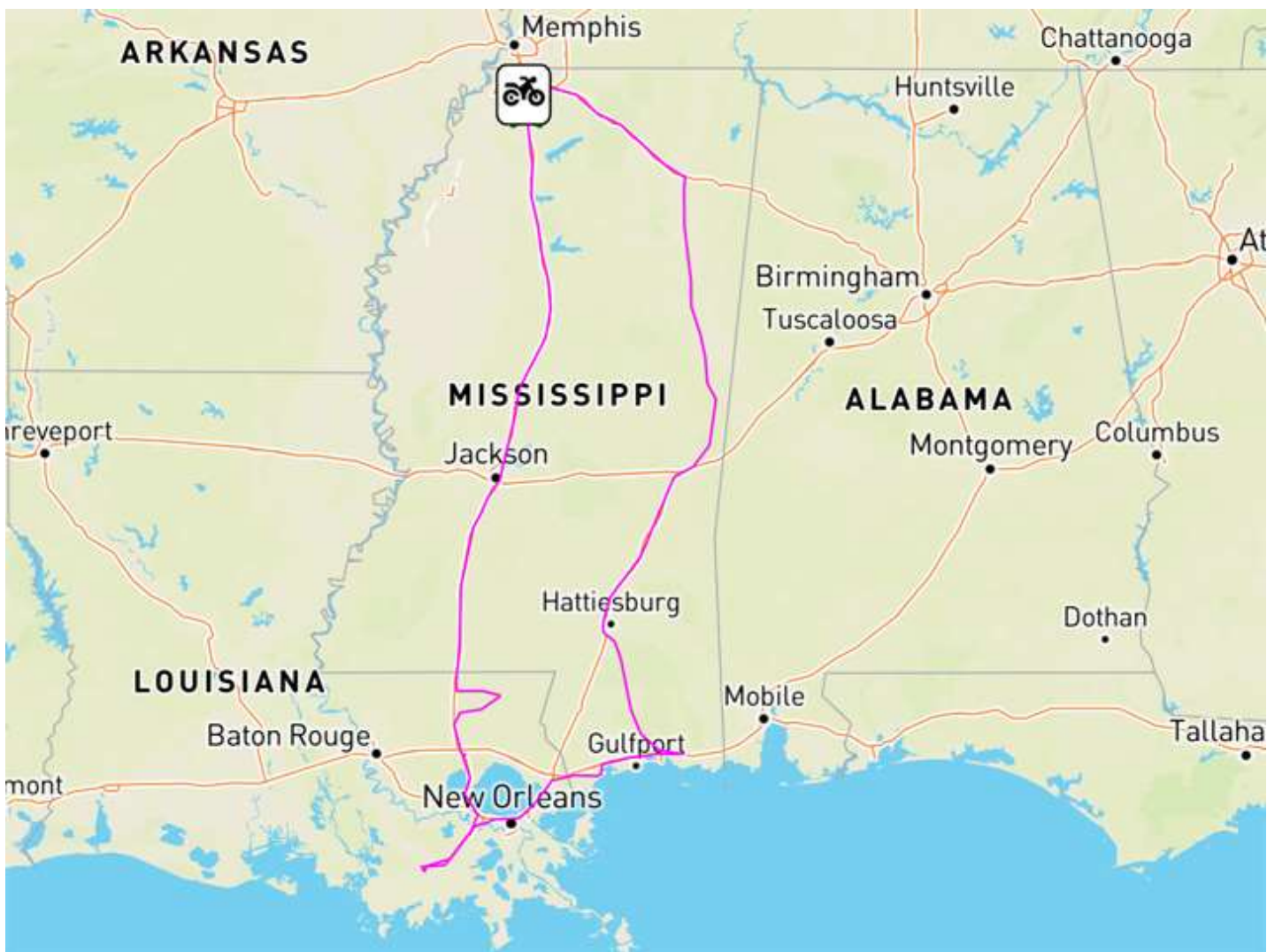
Average Speed: 57 mph

Fuel Used: 29.342 gal

Fuel Mileage: 35 mpg

High Temperature: 74°

Low Temperature: 33°



1,034 Mile Route