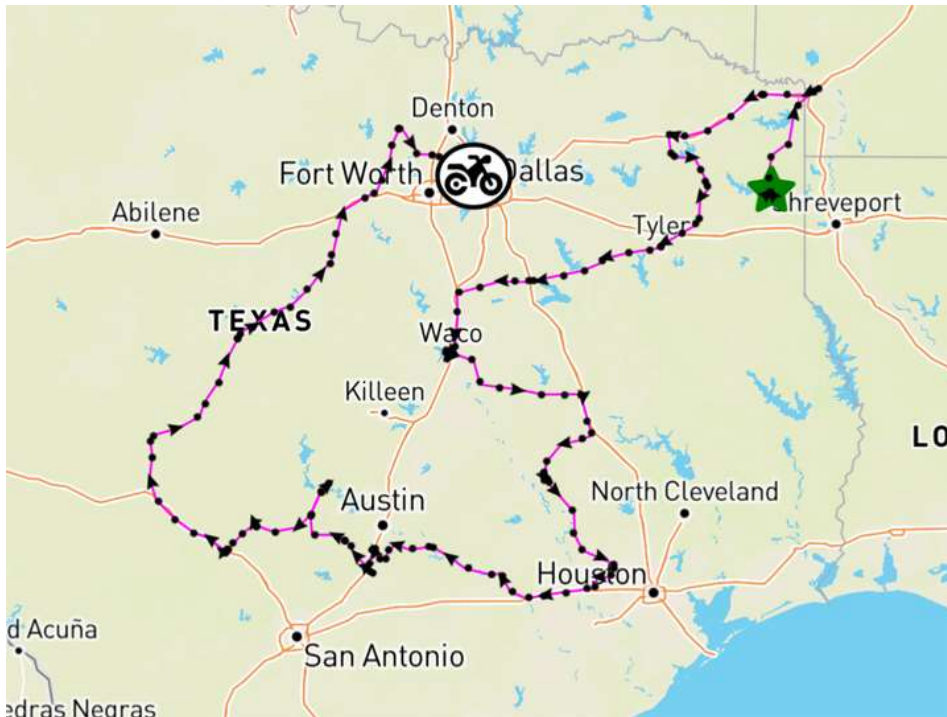


Heart of Texas Rally '22



1,433 Miles During 36-Hour Rally

This year, the 2022 Heart of Texas Rally was scheduled for 36 hours. The theme was “Days of Thunder” after the movie about NASCAR racing.

The object of the rally was to earn bonus points by riding to specific locations. You document these bonus locations by taking a picture of what’s listed in the rally book. Your rally flag and passenger, if 2-up, were required in every picture.

Since it was a NASCAR theme, you were also required to take “pit stops”. Pit stops earned you “fuel credits”. If you wanted to earn “points”, you had to have enough fuel credits to claim all, or partial

points. For example, if you wanted to earn a 500-point bonus, you needed at least 500 fuel credits. If you only had 400 fuel credits, you would only receive 400 points. Then, you would have to replenish your fuel credits before acquiring anymore points. You could bank as many fuel credits as you wanted, but at the end, these fuel credits worthless toward your total score.

We received our rally packet two weeks in advance, so we could plan our route. The packet contained a nice rally book, numbered flag and thumb drive with GPS files of all locations. Bonus locations and pit stops were scattered around the entire state of Texas along with one

bonus located in Texarkana, AR. The bonuses would be various racetracks, such as dirt tracks, BMX, motocross, go-cart, Moto-GP, NASCAR, etc., while the pit stops were old, out of commission, gas stations.

You were allowed to start anywhere in the state. Karen and I chose to start in Jefferson, TX. There was a huge pit stop worth 2,025 fuel credits. This would allow us to get up to 2,025 bonuses points before stopping again for more fuel credits. A big plus!



Texas Welcome Center

We left home on a Wednesday after work and rode to Malvern, AR for the night. The next day, we rode to Jefferson, TX to stage ourselves for the 5:30 am start on Friday morning.

We arrived in Jefferson by noon on Thursday. This was a cool little town. A lot of little shops and restaurants walking distance from the old historic Kahn Hotel where we spent the night.

Karen and I walked around the town and visited several shops. Then, we hopped on the bike to scout out a gas station that would be open at 5:30 the next morning to start the rally. We also checked out our first pit stop to see where we would be riding to next.



Kahn Hotel in Background

After dinner, we walked around town a little more before going back to our room to prepare for the rally.

Friday morning, we were up at 4:30 and on the road by 5:00. The 24-hour gas station, that we scouted the day before, was where we got a DBR (Dated Business Receipt) to start the rally. This receipt had to have location, date and time. The timestamp could be no earlier than 5:30 am on the morning of April 29. Three other riders were there to start the rally. One from Montgomery, AL and another from Atlanta, GA. Not sure where the third rider was from.

I filled the gas tank up, then printed the receipt. My iPhone said 5:30. The receipt said 5:29. Darn! Again, I squeezed a few drops of gas in the tank for another receipt. This time it said 5:32. Yay! We're off!



Pit Stop 2,025 Fuel Credits

The pit stop was less than a mile away. There were 5 bikes there counting us. The fifth bike was Art Garvin, a friend from Akron, OH. We've known Art for almost 20 years through long distance riding and the Motorcycles Tourer's Forum (MTF).

After bagging the pit stop, the five bikes took off in all different directions! Karen and I headed north to get the Texarkana bonus. We didn't see any other bikes until near the end of the rally 36 hours later.



Texarkana Speedway

From Texarkana, we snaked south and east stopping at these little out of the way race tracks. Some were out on remote country roads. One place that we were looking forward to visit was a place named "FRed

Lobster International Speedway and Fireworks Stand". I even read a crazy book about it's beginnings prior to the rally! Not only could you take a picture of the fireworks stand for 671 points, but you could also claim 971 points for attaching a FRed Lobster sticker on your bike somewhere and take a picture of it. The sticker also had to be on the bike during check-in at the end of the rally!



FRed Lobster

And, FRed Lobster was one of those remote places. One of the craziest/stupiest things I've seen and read about in a while!

We continued to Tyler, TX collecting bonuses then onto Waco where several bonuses were located. Waco had a lot of construction going on along with a lot of traffic. This slowed us down considerably until we were out of town.

From there, we rode back roads down toward Houston and around to Katy (Houston Suburb) collecting bonuses. Houston is a massive city! We were hoping to make it through that mess and to another bonus before dusk.

Some bonuses were available 24-hours. A few had a daylight/hours restriction on them. One of our bonuses west of Houston had a “daylight only” restriction. Sunset was scheduled for 7:50 pm that day. We took a picture of the Hennessey Racing sign near Sealy right at 7:50! Whew! Just in time!



Hennessey Racing Building

Next, we headed toward San Marcos collecting more bonuses then onto the Austin area for a hotel.

At least 4 hours of rest was required during the rally, but you could claim up to 8 hours of rest for points. You had to determine if you could claim more points resting or out riding during the extra 4-hour rest period. We determined the rest was worth the points!



San Marcos

To claim the rest bonus, we had to stop between the hours of 7:30 pm and 6:30 am. We stopped at 10:30 pm to claim the full 8 hours (Or most of it anyway). We stopped and obtained a DBR (Dated Business Receipt) to document the start of the rest. Then, obtained another receipt from the same location at the end of the rest to stop the clock. In-between the receipts, we could not collect any other bonuses.

After 17 ½ hours of riding, we stopped for the night. We were up and back on the bike by 6:00 am getting our stop receipt! We had another big day of riding ahead of us!



Driftwood Pit Stop

It was awesome watching the sunrise as we rode through the curvy, winding, back roads of Texas Hill Country near Driftwood. Up and down and around! That morning ride was worth the price of admission in itself!

Since we didn't collect all the bonuses that we had planned on for day one, we weren't sure if we had time for all on our list today. So, after the first couple bonuses, we

stopped for our lunch break to decide what to do.

Lunch breaks were a big multiplier for your rest break. We were allotted one lunch break per day. It would be a mandatory 45-minute stop anywhere with a required receipt that included food. The Rally Master, Paul Tong, had created an app for these rallies where you would submit your pictures. This app also had a timer on it to include your rest and lunch breaks. When you stopped for a rest or lunch break, you would start the timer. Then, at the end of the break, you would stop the timer. Receipts were required also. This app would submit the information to rally central where a special spreadsheet would do all the calculations for each rider.

Every rally is different. For this rally, if you finished one minute late, you're out! DNF (Did Not Finish)! So, timing is everything! We decided to shed 7 locations on our route. This would cost us over 2,000 points. But, it would be better than a DNF!



Menard Pit Stop

This cut out San Angelo and Abilene from our route. We would ride around the west side of Ft Worth and then north to some big point locations that put us in a good position to enter the Dallas area where the rally ended.

Our last stop was the Texas International Speedway. After I jumped off the bike and snapped a picture of Karen another rider rode up and handed Karen his flag! It kind of shocked us until we saw Danny Dossman smiling through his helmet! What a character! He was gone before we had time to submit our bonus! Then, we started to see several other riders. We knew the end was near!

their total was 1,000 points less than what we had calculated. We found the START points were missing. Once that was found and corrected, we agreed to the score. That took all of 10 minutes! Very fast compared to some rallies where they review all of your pictures individually with you.



Rally Central

together! How could it get any better than that!



Banquet

Thank you, Paul Tong and staff for a great time!



Danny Dossman's Flag

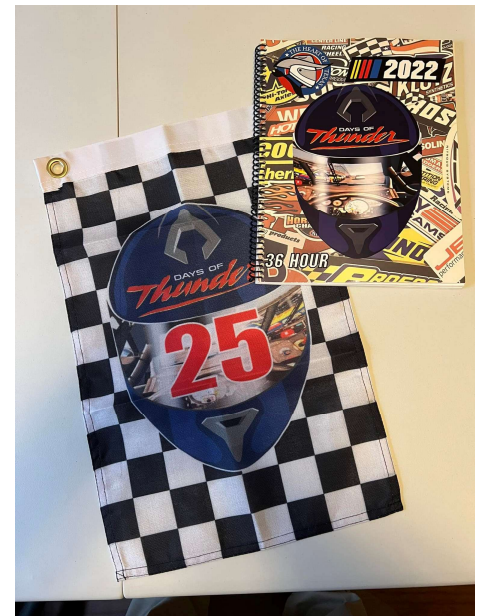


Check-In

We went to our room and got ready for the banquet. It was a first-class meal and presentation. 44 bikes had completed the rally, 2 bikes had accidents during the rally (the riders were fine and in attendance) and 4 bikes were DNS (Did Not Start) for various reasons.

We arrived at rally headquarters with 30 minutes to spare! Once we checked into the hotel, we headed over to scoring. We were given a sheet with all our scores calculated on it. We reviewed it and decided

Karen and I were excited to place 29th. We know how hard we ride! Plus, all the places we went and the friends we saw, made for another great adventure! And, we did it



Rally Flag and Book

