

Shark Attack 1000



SHARK ATTACK 1000 route – 1,049 miles

To kick-off the riding season each year, the Iron Butt Association (IBA) holds an annual party in Jacksonville, Florida during Bike Week. During this multi-day event, the IBA usually offers several themed rides specific to the event. This year (2022), they offered the “Shark Attack 1000” and the “Shark Attack 1500” along with an annual staple, the “Krazy Key West 1000”. Since I’ve already completed the Krazy Key West 1000, Karen and I decided to go for the Shark Attack 1000.

We left after work on Tuesday at 3:00 pm. It rained buckets until we

hit Birmingham, AL. After that, the rain died down with a chill in the air until we arrived in Dothan around 11:00 pm. The next morning, the rain continued all the way to Jacksonville. We did get in front of it for a while until we decided to stop and eat each lunch. Then, the rain storm caught back up with us the rest of the ride in. Karen was prepared! She brought some dishwashing gloves from home to protect her leather gloves from the rain!

In Jacksonville, it was great to see old friends and meet new ones. We arrived early enough to see Paul

Pelland (aka PP) put on a hilarious show about the Iron Butt community while raising money for Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Paul, an IBR (Iron Butt Rally) finisher, has been on a quest to ride a million miles to cure MS! He’s quite the character!



Hopper and PP

Thursday is ride day! We were up at 4:30 am. We got the bike ready to ride, then went to breakfast. The host hotel provides us with a nice breakfast buffet every morning of the event. After breakfast, we checked-in for the ride and received our rally flag. The riders’ meeting was held in the front of the hotel at 6:30 am. Mike Kneebone (IBA President) would give a safety briefing and update us on any issues that might affect our ride. Since it was raining with thunderstorms lingering, he made it clear the ride didn’t have to be accomplished today but could be completed within a 2 year window if riders had any second thoughts concerning the weather. At 6:40 am, the Shark Attack 1500 riders were released.

The Shark Attack and Crazy Key West 1000 riders were released soon after that.

This particular ride had 7 required shark landmarks. We would provide a photo of each landmark with Karen and our flag included. Starting at the host hotel and riding to each landmark in order would verify that we completed the 1,049 miles of this themed challenge.



Riders' Meeting

Fortunately, the rain only lasted the first 100 miles of the ride! We were prepared to be in it all day! After that, the sky remained overcast which kept the heat down. We couldn't have asked for a better day! As with all IBA events, the specialty rides are usually tougher than the average SS1000 and the Shark Attack was no different! In this ride, there were over 400 miles of non-interstate highways. This can be more tedious and time consuming with slower speeds and added stops due to stoplights, stop signs and towns.

Our first stop was in Cedar Key. When we arrived to photograph the shark statue at the elementary school, there were several other

riders already there and arriving! We jumped off the bike, got the required photo and back on the bike in record time.



First Catch

As we headed out on State Rd 24, we blew by Kith Burkingstock and Greg Fizer. As we passed, I gave them the Iron Butt salute! A little Iron Butt fun with friends! Typically, we don't see any bikes as we ride in-between the required locations. But, once we arrive, we see several!

Stop number two took us inland near Disney World. Not only did this little tourist attraction have a huge replica of a shark hanging from an overhead support, but there was also a small replica of the most southern buoy from Key West. Like the location before, we were off the bike, picture taken and back on the road!

Stop number three took us to Sarasota. As we arrived, we got into some thick bumper-to-bumper traffic for about 30 minutes. We eventually came up to an accident scene with a motorcycle laying in 2 parts in the middle of the intersection. It was one of our

fellow riders! She had pulled out too far into the intersection and was hit by an oncoming car! The car ripped the front end of her Road King completely off! Luckily, she was okay, but went to the hospital to make sure. That was just another eye-opener of how dangerous motorcycling can be! We exited the highway, got our required photo of the hanging shark from the shopping center sign, then back on the bike heading south.



2nd Catch

Stop number four took us down to Naples, then onto the Tamiami Trail (Highway 41). This road turns into a great two-lane road through the Everglades. On one side is a ditch/stream full of alligators. We were riding on the opposite side of the road, so no gators were to be seen except for one dead carcass in the side ditch on our side of the road. The picture for this stop required a sign that pointed to "Shark Valley". After that, we

headed south to Homestead where the traffic was awful! And slow! We had hoped on stopping at our favorite fruit stand for a key lime milkshake, but we were an hour too late! Oh well! Onward to our next stop.



Key Largo Sunset

Stop number five took us to Key Largo! The sun was setting as we entered this key. Karen was able to catch a photo of it! Once we got a picture of the mural with a shark coming out of it, we stopped at Hobo's Café for dinner. This was a nice little break plus we got to enjoy some real key lime pie! It was excellent! Now, back on the bike to head north!



6th Catch

Stop number six took us to Palm Beach Gardens to get a picture of an underground shark breaking out of

the pavement. It was pretty cool! As we arrived, there were a few bikes there taking pictures and another guy tinkering with his bike. We would play leap frog with them the rest of the way. Back on the bike we go!



Last Catch of the Day

Stop number seven took us to Daytona Beach! This was right in the middle of Bike Week at 1:00 am. Not many bikes out, but the ones that were out were raising hell racing down the streets! We rode by the Daytona Speedway. It was full of vendor tents and awnings, but dark and quiet as we rode by. We snaked our way through Daytona and out to the beach where our last shark was mounted on the top of a gift shop. Our new friends were there taking their pictures. We took our photo then headed north toward the hotel to complete this ride!

I-95 was quiet as we rode north. A group of three crotch rockets surrounded us for a couple minutes. I guess they were checking us out at 2:00 am before blasting out in front of us never to be seen again! The road was wet too! We were lucky to stay dry most of the ride. It had been a great day! We finally made it back

to Jacksonville to a gas station for an end receipt. 2:30 am was our official end time for an official time of 19 hours and 50 minutes to complete the ride!



Ride Complete

Back at the hotel, we were ready for bed! After about 5 hours of sleep we were up for breakfast and the final requirement, to get a picture of the both of us (with our flag) in front of a shark-nosed Harley. Thanks to Ken Cowart for providing his bike for the photo op!

At 4:00 pm, Mike Kneebone presented certificates to everyone that had accomplished a ride that day and to all of those who did an IBA ride to get to Jacksonville from their home location.



Certificate Time

A banquet was held at 6:00 pm. There, we were taught how to use the latest technology to submit our rides through a cellphone tracking app. But, the highlight of the evening was seeing our close friend, Kith Burkingstock receive his “One Million Miles” award from IBA President, Mike Kneebone! Wow! What an accomplishment!



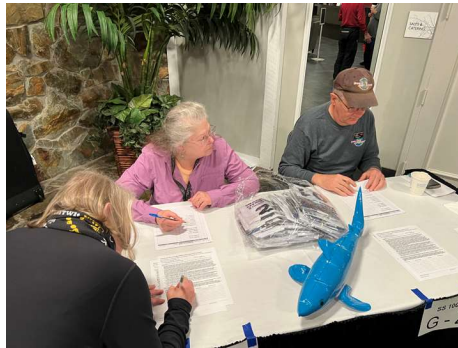
MTF Friends



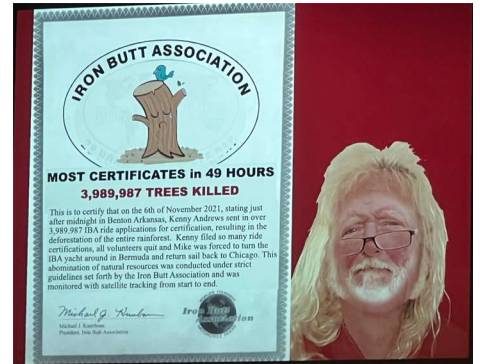
Shark-Nosed Harley



One Million Miles



Ride Check-In



Over 100 IBA Rides

The next morning we headed home! It had been a great event with great friends and a great ride! But, most of all, Karen and I got to do it together!



Hard Riders



100,000 Miles in 100 Days

**Shark Attack 1000
2016 Honda Gold Wing**

Distance: 1,049 miles

Time: 19 hrs, 50 min.

Average Speed: 53 mph

Low Temperature: 64°

High Temperature: 88°



Hard Riders



Long Haul Paul Pelland (PP)