



Hosted by Mile Monsters, Inc, a long-distance riders' charity group, The Monster 100 - 100 DAYS, 2 riders per day, 1,000 miles each: 200,000 MILES! A charity ride to raise money for a small group of boys with Duchene Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). The goal was for each rider to not only ride 1,000 miles, but to also raise \$1,000. The main purpose was to buy a special needs van for one of the boys named Drew.

This event was based on Chris 'Hop' Hopper's 100,000 miles in 100 days ride. Only this time, a different rider would ride 1,000 miles each day. When the ride was announced, the first 100 slots (one rider per day) were filled within 50 hours. Mile Monsters, Inc decided to add another 100 riders (an additional rider per day). Those slots filled up within a couple of weeks!

The ride started on May 4, 2023 with Mile Monsters founder, Jeff "Riot" Wyatt starting the event and

ending with Chris "Hop" Hopper finishing the event on August 11 at Sturgis, South Dakota during Bike Week.

Karen and I were one of the original 100 riders to sign-up. Every rider created their own unique route. We did our 1,000-mile ride on Saturday, May 27. Our route was the "Ride 4-Drew". We started in Drew, Mississippi, then rode to Drew, Louisiana; Drew, Georgia and ended in Drew, Kentucky. Thanks to our generous family and friends, we raised \$1,300.



Our Turn - Day 24/100

We looked forward to riding to Sturgis to join Chris Hopper and the

other Monsters on the last 50 miles of this epic charity ride! On the last day, Chris would lead the last 50 of his 1,000-mile day with any of the riders that could make it to Sturgis for the Finish Line activities. We planned to be there!

On Wednesday, August 9, 2023, we left after work at 3:00 pm. Our plan was to do an Iron Butt ride up to South Dakota. We stopped half-way in Kansas City, Kansas for a few hours sleep before continuing to Chamberlain, SD to finish our 1,065-mile ride in less than 24 hours.

We lucked out, the weather in Hernando had been stormy earlier that day, but there was a break that afternoon when we departed. Bad storms would return later that evening.

We rode up to St. Louis on I-55, then headed west on I-70 to Kansas City. We arrived at our hotel around 11:00 pm. We were back on the bike before 6:00 am and headed north on I-29 to Sioux Falls, SD.



Corn Palace

Our first stop was in Mitchell, SD to see the Corn Palace. We were there

20 years ago with our friends, Hayward & Trena Mathis. This year's design did not disappoint!

From there, we continued west on I-90 to Chamberlain, SD. We ended our 1,000-mile ride around 1:30 pm on Thursday, August 10th. We were off the clock, so we could take our time and visit the beautiful Dignity statue.



Dignity Statue

Dignity of Earth and Sky (shortened to Dignity for brevity) is a sculpture on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River near Chamberlain, South Dakota. The 50-foot stainless steel statue by South Dakota artist laureate Dale Claude Lamphere depicts an Indigenous woman in Plains-style dress receiving a star quilt.

Norm and Eunabel McKie of Rapid City, South Dakota, announced their gift of Dignity to the State of South Dakota in 2014, in honor of the 125th anniversary of South Dakota statehood. (Wikipedia)

From there, we rode to Wall, SD where we visited Wall Drug and spent the night. The hotel rooms there were a lot cheaper than a last-

minute room in Rapid City during the rally!



Wall Drug

The next morning, Friday, August 11th, we headed for Sturgis 80 miles away. It was a beautiful morning. We wanted to check out Main Street before it got too busy.

We arrived around 10:00 am. People were starting to open their businesses as motorcycles were arriving. We walked around Main Street and the local area for a little over an hour. When we left around 11:30 am, the place was filling up. That was enough for both of us. Been there, done that!



Main Street Sturgis

From there, we headed to the Full Throttle Saloon (FTS) to check it out. Like downtown Sturgis, the FTS was just waking up too. Known

as the World's largest biker bar, it was a big party place. It was very industrial. Huge machines were everywhere! It did have a neat décor to it. And, it was BIG! We walked around and could imagine the place raging at night. Again, we just wanted to see it—Check!



Full Throttle Saloon

From there, we headed to Rapid City and checked into our room. We were glad they checked us in early! This allowed us to unload the bike before we headed to the Monster 100 event across the street.

The Ramkota Best Western is where the Monster 100 finish party was located. We rode over there to stage our bike for the last 50-mile ride and visited with everyone while we waited for the activities to begin.

Everyone was waiting on Chris Hopper to return from his crazy last day ride. He had left from the Rapid City/Sturgis area the night before at 10:00 pm. His ride took him over to Chief Joseph Highway and Beartooth Pass. Both are very technical roads in the daytime, let alone at the night!

Chris arrived at the Ramkota around 2:00 pm. The plan was to have everyone staged and ready to ride with him starting at 3:30 pm. There were around 60 riders. Karen and I were there early enough to get in line close to the front.



Bikes Staged

This was a special ride that not only ended the Monster 100, but also included the 5 DMD boys riding along! We pulled out of the parking lot at the Ramkota and headed east on I-90 for 25 miles where we did a U-turn and headed back.



Last 50 Miles

Once back in Rapid City, we rode to the Black Hills Harley Davidson dealership where they had several vendors setup for Bike Week. All the Monster 100 riders jammed in around the Wild Ass (seat cushions) booth. The owner, Craig Johnson and his wife, Renee, are huge Mile

Monster supporters. Renee is the one that came up with the Monster 100 ride concept. It was only fitting to end the ride there!

When we all arrived there, Drew's new special needs van was sitting there with a big "Finish Line" banner hanging on it! It was an exciting time as everyone gathered around the van to see Mile Monster founder Jeff "Riot" Wyatt officially end the ride with Drew!



The Finish Line

Everyone hung around taking pictures and enjoying the moment of what had been accomplished over the past 100 days! It was exciting to be a part of it!



Our Hero, Drew

From there, we all headed back to the Ramkota for the Finish Line Party! It was a great time! Riot

recognized all the volunteers that made this event happen. But, the majority of the party was recognizing the 5 boys! He had them staged outside the room, then made them feel like rock stars as he called them in one at a time! Each boy made their way up to the stage where Riot put the spotlight on them! Something that probably would never happen in their day-to-day struggle with DMD. To see those boys smile and enjoy the moment was priceless!



Rock Stars

During the party, money was continued to be raised through raffle sales, promotional item sales, etc. There was a lot of energy in the room! At the end, Riot talked about several events that Mile Monsters, Inc are planning for next year to include Hoka Hey riders raising money, a 15,000 mile in 15-day Forrest Gump ride and a one-day event on June 21, 2024, where as many riders that want can participate in a 1,000-mile ride on their own! A big 2024 planned!

The next day, Saturday, August 12, we planned to spend riding in the Black Hills. We pulled out of the parking lot around 7:00 am and

headed for Custer State Park. There, we had the park to ourselves! It was awesome!

We had to slow down in one area of the park to allow bison to cross the road. There was a huge herd scattered all around us and spread out on both sides of the road. We just let them do their thing. They didn't pay any attention to us.



Custer State Park

From there, we rode over to an area where there were wild horses and burros.

These animals have roamed the expanses of Custer State Park for nearly a century when they were first used as pack animals to get visitors from Sylvan Lake Lodge up the steep path to the summit of Black Elk Peak, the highest point in the U.S. east of the Rockies. When those tourist trips ended, the working burros were released to the wild and the tiny feral herd has since shared the park with neighbors, including whitetail and mule deer, wild turkeys, elk, antelope, bison, and coyote. Blackhillsbadlands.com

We continued through the park to a prairie dog town. There were several prairie dogs standing up checking us out as we rode by. If

we slowed down or got too close they would run into their hole. We did see a sneaky coyote on the opposite side of the road, down in the ditch, make his way directly across the road from the prairie dog town, unknowing to the little dogs. We didn't stick around to see if he got one or not, but he was pretty close to them the last time we saw him!



Prairie Dog

From there, we rode toward Needles Highway. On the way, we passed by the Crazy Horse memorial. We could tell they had made some progress since we were here 20 years ago. At that rate, they might be done in a couple hundred years!



Crazy Horse

The Needles Eye Tunnel is pretty awesome! Just big enough for a vehicle to pass through, you would have to be careful as you entered it.



Needles Eye

While we were stopped looking around, a SUV drove through the tunnel toward us with a mountain goat and baby in front of it running through the tunnel. Another couple was taking pictures as the goats ran toward us. I thought the baby was going to ram them, but at the last minute the little goat made a sharp left turn into the steep mountainous area. Mother goat followed!



Momma Mountain Goat

It was a beautiful area that we enjoyed for a few minutes. Back on the bike, we headed for Spearfish Canyon.

By now, it was about 11:00 am. We were starting to see a lot more bikes on the road as we rode toward Deadwood, then on to Spearfish Canyon.

Last time we were here, we didn't take the opportunity to ride this scenic canyon. I'm glad we did on this trip. It was a nice ride! The speed limit was 35 mph. I wonder if it's always that slow or just during the rally.

From there, we headed back to our hotel room in Rapid City. We were to meet our friends, Don and Dee Yates for dinner that evening.

At dinner time, the weather wasn't looking good! So, we Ubered over to the Firehouse Restaurant in downtown Rapid City. It was a neat place with old horse-drawn water pumper trailers hanging from the ceiling. Plus, a lot of other old firehouse memorabilia decorated the large restaurant. We enjoyed our meal with Don & Dee, then Ubered back to the hotel. Both of us were leaving the next morning. Don & Dee were headed west to continue their vacation. Karen and I were headed home.

That evening, Karen said "Let's Iron Butt it home!" We set the alarm for 5:00 am. When we woke up, the weather was bad in the area. We decided to get some more sleep. By 8:30 am, we were pulling out of the parking lot. A late start for us! But, it worked out perfect!

As we headed east on I-90, it was very windy from the storm that had blown through. At Sioux Falls, we headed south on I-29. When we got to Council Bluffs, Iowa, we were routed over to Omaha, Nebraska due to construction. We stopped for

gas and decided to eat. I looked at past and present RTE-X-USA stops and found one within a mile of our location.



Alpine Inn

The Alpine Inn was a great little place. When we arrived, only one table was full—we could sit anywhere! We chose a table by the window. Just outside the window was a deck with pieces of chicken and chicken bones laying on it. We couldn't figure out what the garbage was doing there until a few minutes later... Raccoons started showing up to eat! It was awesome to sit there and watch them! It started out with big 2 raccoons. Then, I saw 2 more big ones run across the street and work their way up to the platform. At the same time, the restaurant started to fill-up!



Alpine Inn Window Attraction

We enjoyed watching the coons as we ate! By the time we left, the restaurant was full! They were known for their chicken, but we ordered the breaded tenderloin sandwiches. They were good too!

From there, we headed south to Kansas City. It was dark and stormy by the time we got there. Lightning flashed in the sky as the rain poured down. Once we got around the city headed east on I-70, we were in the left lane going highway speeds. Just outside of the perimeter, we hit a rut! The rain was pouring down! This rut had the bike wobbling profusely! I man-handled the bike out of the rut, then we got sucked back in! The rear end of the bike slid sideways as the bike wobbled again! For what seemed like a few minutes, but was probably only a few seconds, we were in trouble! This time, I forced the bike to the right and into the next lane. Luckily, there was no one next to us on this busy 4-lane highway (our side). Fortunately, I didn't do anything drastic! I didn't want the bike any less stable than it already was, so, I didn't slow down or brake. Whew! That was close!

The rain and lightning continued most of the way across Missouri. In St. Louis, we headed south on I-55. It was midnight by now. Karen could see on the radar that the weather was going to get worse! We made it to Cape Girardeau by 1:00 am and got a hotel room. After that, we could hear a bad storm move through!

At Cape Girardeau, we ended our Iron Butt ride with 1,063 miles! We were 190 miles from home and had the rest of the next day to get there!

The next morning at 9:00 am, we were at the Chick-Fil-A, a block away, eating breakfast. It was a beautiful day! The ride home from Cape Girardeau was enjoyable and uneventful. It was a great way to end a great trip!

We arrived home around 12:30 pm. It's always a great feeling to arrive home safe and to look back at the miles we covered and all the things we saw—incredible! Memories we will always cherish! This was a special ride that helped some very special children! We're blessed to be able to do what we do!



Wall, SD



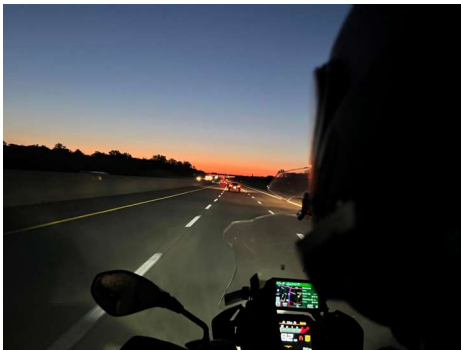
Iron Creek Tunnel



Sturgis



Needles Eye Tunnel



Sunrise



Corn Palace



Dignity



Monster 100 Party

Iron Butt Home

2019 BMW R1250GSA

Distance: 1,063 miles

Time: 16 hrs, 31 min.

Average Speed: 64 mph

Fuel Used: 35.508 gal

Fuel Mileage: 29 mpg

High Temperature: 75°

Low Temperature: 67°