

OKC Lunch Run



Oklahoma City Lunch Run

The alarm blares at 3:00 am. I jump out of bed. Karen does not!

We had been fighting Covid for a week. We were signed up for the SNAFU Rally in Warner Robins, Georgia, but Covid protocols prevailed. Even though we were feeling better, Doctor's orders had us out of quarantine, but to mask indoors for the next few days. We decided, it was best to avoid a group gathering at the SNAFU Rally, but a Saddle Sore 1000 would be a good way to end our cabin fever!

I was a couple of days ahead of Karen in the Covid recovery process. She needed an extra day of rest for her body to recover. So, I

headed out the door for some much-needed wind therapy!

The plan was to head over to Small Mountain Street Tacos in Medicine Park, Oklahoma with Karen. Since she wasn't riding today, I would play it by ear. The goal was to complete an Iron Butt ride for the month of November. This would complete my string of consecutive IBA (Iron Butt Association) rides, at least one a month for a year!

Down at the local Circle K, I zeroed out the trip meters on the bike and GPS, then fueled up. Official start DBR (Dated Business Receipt) - 3:40 am Saturday, October 4, 2023

It was 53 degrees as I headed north on I-55—Warmer than I thought it

would be! The dark, clear sky above was full of stars and FedEx planes. Cool!

I rode up through Memphis to I-40, then west across the Mississippi River into Arkansas. Not too many trucks on I-40 at this time of the morning. That made for a much better ride over to Little Rock.

Just before entering the Little Rock area, I rode by a buck at the edge of the right shoulder. It was a large-bodied deer with a small 6-point rack. All it had to do was to take one or two steps forward and I would have hit it! Luckily, it had his head down eating and only looked up when I rode by.

This was a bad time of the year to ride since deer were in the rut. During breeding season, they move a lot more throughout the day compared to the other 11 months of the year. This was a sobering reminder—Be alert!

First fuel stop, Conway, Arkansas at 6:10 am. This exit was surprisingly busy this time of the morning. Back on I-40 westbound!

By now, it was still dark and the temperature had bottomed out at 44 degrees. Fortunately, the interstate was still relatively light as far as traffic was concerned. Ride on!

As I crossed into Oklahoma, a huge bald eagle flew in front of me. It had a bright white head and tail feathers. It was beautiful!

My next stop was in Sallisaw about 20 miles into the state. It was 8:30 am. By now, I was thinking about lunch. I could cut out about 150 miles if I shorten my route to Oklahoma City. Hmm, I bet they've got some good BBQ! So, I GTS'd it (Google that stuff)! A couple sites listed Clark Crew BBQ. That's it! So, I entered it into my GPS and continued west!



Clark Crew BBQ

I arrived as they opened at 11:00 am. I ordered the ribs and burnt end plate. It was amazing! Good choice, Mark!



Ribs and Burnt Ends

The good thing about BBQ is it's already cooked! So, it doesn't take long to prepare your plate and bring it to you. I was probably in and out of there in 30 minutes. Back on the road headed east toward home!

By now, the temperature had warmed up to 70 degrees! It turned out to be a great day!

Traffic in Oklahoma City wasn't too bad. Before leaving town, I fueled up near Tinker Air Force Base. Now, I was ready to ride!

Since I cut 150 miles from my route, I should get home a couple hours earlier than I had originally planned. I should arrive just after sunset.

As I backtracked east through Oklahoma and Arkansas, I was disappointed in the fall colors. This should have been a premium weekend to view them, but dry conditions had taken its toll. The colors were dull matt colors instead of vivid radiant colors that one would expect. I noticed this all along the route.

I stopped in Van Buren, Arkansas to fuel up. We've spent many nights at that exit on our trips out west!

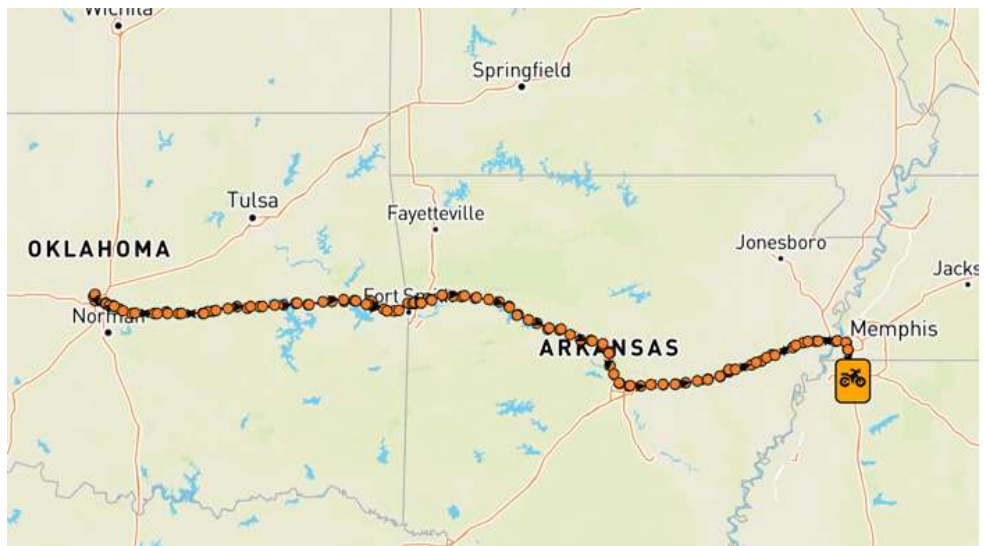
The temperature peaked at 80 degrees that afternoon in Arkansas.

Truck traffic picked up between Little Rock and Memphis—Typical I-40 riding.

I had one more fuel stop in Brinkley before arriving back in Hernando. Official end DBR - 6:57 pm for a total of 1,011 miles in 15 hours and 17 minutes.

I had a great day of wind therapy! Awesome weather with great riding temperatures—Just what the doctor ordered!

2022 BMW K1600B GA
Distance: 1,011 miles
Time: 15 hrs, 17 min.
Average Speed: 66 mph
Fuel Used: 31.228 gal
Fuel Mileage: 32 mpg
High Temperature: 80°
Low Temperature: 44°



1,011 Mile Route from Hernando to OKC and Back