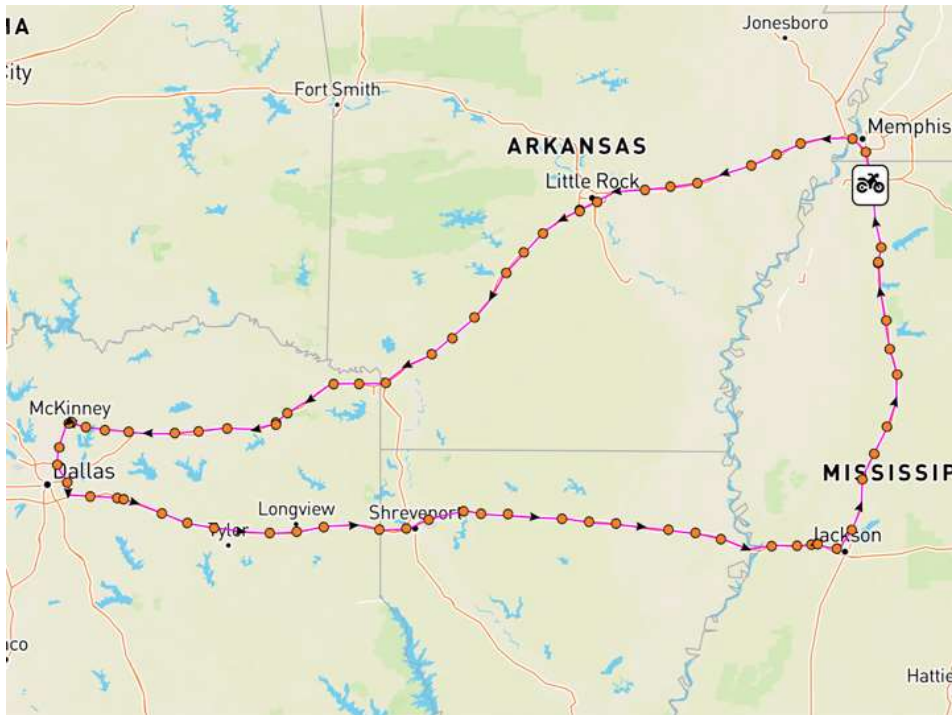


Polar Bear 1000



Our Route was 1,089 Miles

“For those riders who enjoy a nice brisk ride to start the new year, this is the ride for them.”

Here are the Iron Butt Association (IBA) requirements for the Polar Bear 1000:

Any SaddleSore ride is acceptable for this certificate.

The ride must be completed in less than 24 hours. At least one DBR must show January 1.

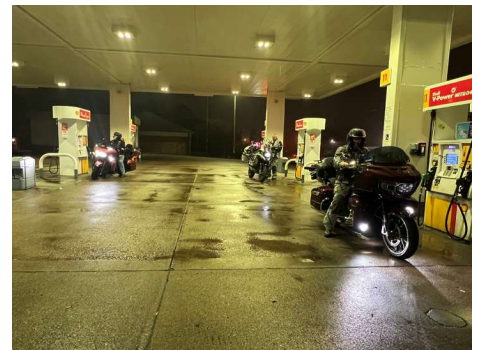
Your official time is determined by the starting and ending receipts. PLEASE check these documents and make sure the clock and date are correct!

Jimmy Burns, Chris O’Neal and I were tired of the Memphis area BBQ, we were ready for some Texas BBQ! We agreed to do a lunch ride to the Dallas, TX area for some brisket. And, that’s what we did!

Our plan was to take I-40 over to Little Rock, AR and jump on I-30 down to Dallas. Then, take the long way home heading east on I-20 through Louisiana to Jackson, MS and up I-55 to Hernando.

Since Karen was awake when I got up, she decided to drive down to the gas station to take pictures and see us off! I love this girl!

Everyone was early when met at the local gas station for our required start DBRs (Dated Business Receipt) to begin our adventure. We were excited to get a chance to ride since the last few weeks had been cold, wet, and miserable. Today’s forecast looked to be perfect along our entire route! Official start time 4:43 am, Saturday, December 31, 2022. We were off!



4:43 am

During this trip, all of us had Bluetooth headsets that allowed us to talk to each other. We could also make phone calls, listen to music and GPS commands. Technology is amazing!

As we headed up I-55, we had just crossed into Tennessee when all of a sudden, I see two or three light-colored suitcases scattered on the right side of our lane! I immediately warn Jimmy and Chris behind me! These headsets were priceless at that moment! Jimmy and Chris were able to maneuver around the suitcases and debris without incident. The next ½ mile had other

debris strung out in our lane. We had to be careful.

No problem after that until we crossed the Mississippi River into Arkansas. Fog! Not too bad at first, but the fog eventually got thicker as we rode toward Little Rock. We thought we would eventually ride out of it, but no! The fog stayed with us well into Texas. About 60 miles south of Texarkana, it started to lighten up as the sun finally burned a hole through the fog until it dissipated—Bright blue skies prevailed!

When we started the ride in Hernando, the temperature was 58 degrees. As we rode through Arkansas, it dipped down in the low 50's. Just after sunrise, the temperature bottomed out at 51 degrees before it slowly climbed up into the 60's by the time we made it to Hutchins BBQ in McKinney, TX.



Hutchins BBQ in McKinney, TX

We arrived at 11:20 am. There was a line already out the door! They had only been open for 20 minutes! That was a good sign—the food would be good! But, a bad sign, if you're on the Iron Butt clock!

Fortunately, the line moved at a good pace, and we were ordering food within 15 or 20 minutes.

We all got the brisket and a Texas Twinkie (a huge jalapeno pepper stuffed with chopped brisket and cream cheese wrapped in bacon). That alone was worth the trip!



Check out that Texas Twinkie

We took our time and enjoyed a great meal and great fellowship! We were ahead of schedule as we left the BBQ joint and headed south around Dallas to I-20.



Let's Eat!

Traffic was thick as we rode down Hwy 75. But, once we got over in the far left HOV lane we were comforted to know that we only had the right lane to worry about. When we were trying to exit onto I-635 (the second outer loop around

Dallas), the signage was a little confusing, but we managed to finagle our way through the confusion and onto the I-635 eastbound lanes.

On I-635, there was a bottleneck where a truck pulling a camper had spun around 180 degrees and the camper was laying over on its side! This took up three of the four lanes with the emergency vehicles surrounding the crash site! Once we made it through that mess, we were back on track!

The temperature peaked at 72 degrees. It was a perfect day to ride!

We jumped on I-20 and headed east. As we were riding through Shreveport, I was leading. The speed limit was 50 mph. I had backed off from 80 to 70. Cars were flying by us! Jimmy says, you better pick up the pace or we're going to get run over!



Jimmy's Shirt Says It All!

From there, the ride over to Jackson, MS was uneventful. Once the sun went down and darkness crept in, Jimmy would move over into the lane beside me. We would turn on our bright lights and light up the

road in front of us! Chris was right behind us enjoying daylight again! We tried not to be too much of a nuisance to other drivers, but some areas were just too dark not to have our bright lights on—especially since the close call with debris we had first thing that morning!

We crossed the Mississippi River into Vicksburg and continued on to I-220 around Jackson. Traffic increased and we were concerned with drunk drivers since it was New Year's Eve. We knew once we made it around Jackson and onto I-55 northbound it would be smooth sailing the rest of the way home. And, it was!

Traffic was a non-issue the rest of route! Jimmy was in the lane beside me as we headed north. Bright lights lit the way home. A few times, Jimmy pointed out deer eating grass on the right side of the interstate, but they were no threat. We did ride up on fresh blood in my lane with a dead deer over on the left shoulder. We could tell that had happened earlier this evening and glad we weren't around.

We did run into light fog in a few areas and were concerned that it would get worse. But, it didn't. The temperature did drop back down into the 50's.

We arrived back in Hernando around 9:43 pm, 17 hours from when we started—But, our ride wasn't over yet! The requirements state we must have at least one DBR (Dated Business Receipt) on January 1. No Problem, we have

until 4:43 am to complete the ride (24-hour period).

Chris wanted to ring in the New Year with his wife, Kathy. He had asked if Karen and I would join them at the American Legion for the NYE celebration. What else are we going to do—right? Jimmy headed home to check in on his wife, Toni. She was working this evening since she is the General Manager at one of the Casinos in Tunica.



Chris and Kathy



Happy New Year!

We all split off and went our separate ways. I headed home to get cleaned up and out of my riding clothes. When I arrived home, Karen was ready to ring in the New Year! Within minutes we were headed to the American Legion in Nesbit. We rode the bike since I would need to complete my ride with the proper DBR after midnight.

When we arrived at the legion, the parking lot was full! Well, except for the motorcycle parking. We had it all to ourselves.

We arrived around 11:00 pm and got to enjoy the festivities for about an hour! Once we counted down for the New Year, had a champagne toast, and kissed our wives, we were ready to complete our ride and hit the bed!

We headed back to Hernando to the gas station where we started at nearly 20 hours ago. Official end receipt 12:17 am. Final stats: 1,089 GPS miles in 19 hours and 34 minutes.

What a way to end 2022 and start 2023! It was a way to get out of the winter funk and enjoy a day on the bike with great friends! The food was awesome, too! Especially, the Texas Twinkie! And, we got to ring in the New Year with our wives as part of the ride!

Note: This was my 50th Iron Butt ride!

2019 BMW R1250GSA

Distance: 1,089 miles

Time: 19 hrs, 34 min.

Average Speed: 55 mph

Fuel Used: 33.987 gal

Fuel Mileage: 31 mpg

Low Temperature: 51°

High Temperature: 72°