Alaska, the Long Way! (AKA 48 Plus)

In 1998, a man by the name of Ron Ayres shattered the world record for riding a motorcycle to 48 states in 6 days 31 minutes. But, he didn't stop there, he continued on to Alaska to create a new world record of riding to 49 states in 7 days, 20 minutes. Ron wrote a book about this adventure "Against the Clock". Later, this ride became known as one of the Iron Butt Association's (IBA) most extreme rides and named the 48+ (48 states plus Alaska) which included a 10 day time limit.

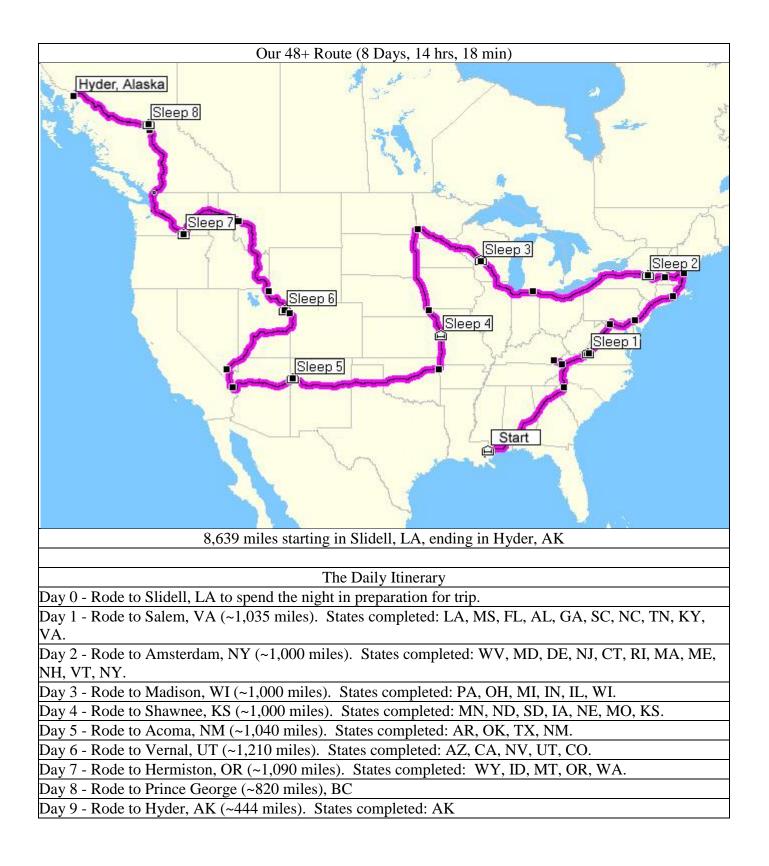
Ron Ayres use to celebrate his world record ride every year in Hyder, AK by hosting an event known as "Hyder Seek". (Note: Hyder is the southernmost town in Alaska accessible by road.) Typically, this is when other riders would take the 48+ challenge and meet Ron Ayres in Hyder for his annual celebration.

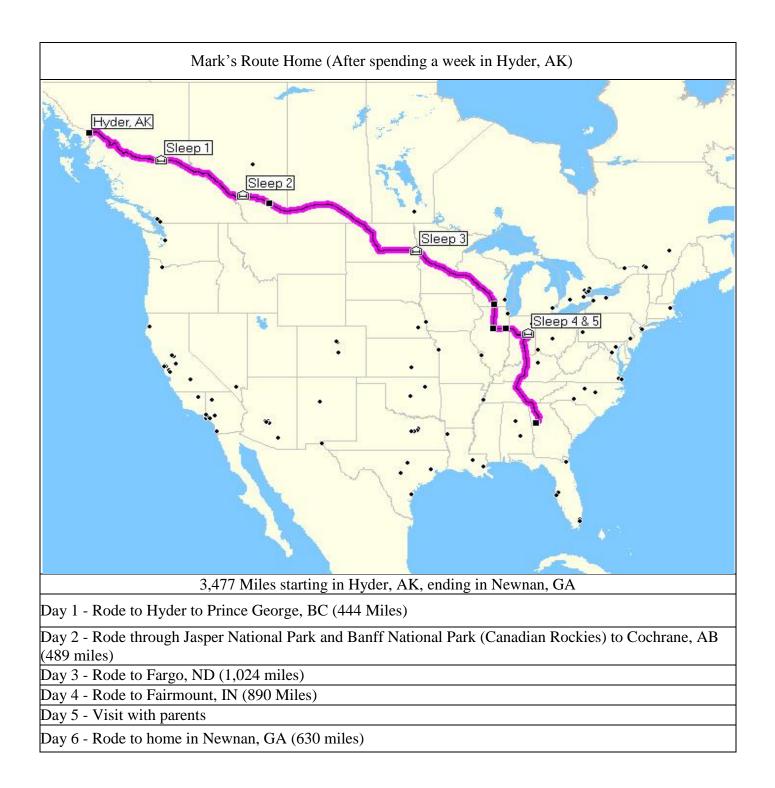
Riding the 48+ had been a dream of mine since reading Ron Ayres book years ago. In 2007, Hyder Seek was scheduled during Memorial weekend (May 25 & 26). I planned this ride for over a year. Several months before I was to start the ride, Tom Fuchs asked if he could join me. This had been a dream of Tom's for many years, too. I'm glad Tom rode with me. He was a great riding partner during the trip. I was the 80th and Tom was the 81st rider to complete this ride since its inception.

Note: In 2009, Tom Fuch was diagnosed with Leukemia. He passed away in 2011. During those 2 years, Tom thanked me many times for "The ride of his life!" He was a great friend!



Tom Fuchs, Ron Ayres and Mark Campbell in Hyder, AK in May 2007





For more information:

Visit my website at: <u>http://www.camelbikers.com/48+/album/index.html</u> The Iron Butt Association at: <u>www.ironbutt.com</u>