

### **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 80<sup>th</sup> and Tom was the 81<sup>st</sup> 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**

Our 48+ Route (8 Days, 14 hrs, 18 min)



8,639 miles starting in Slidell, LA, ending in Hyder, AK

The Daily Itinerary

Day 0 - Rode to Slidell, LA to spend the night in preparation for trip.

Day 1 - Rode to Salem, VA (~1,035 miles). States completed: LA, MS, FL, AL, GA, SC, NC, TN, KY, VA.

Day 2 - Rode to Amsterdam, NY (~1,000 miles). States completed: WV, MD, DE, NJ, CT, RI, MA, ME, NH, VT, NY.

Day 3 - Rode to Madison, WI (~1,000 miles). States completed: PA, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI.

Day 4 - Rode to Shawnee, KS (~1,000 miles). States completed: MN, ND, SD, IA, NE, MO, KS.

Day 5 - Rode to Acoma, NM (~1,040 miles). States completed: AR, OK, TX, NM.

Day 6 - Rode to Vernal, UT (~1,210 miles). States completed: AZ, CA, NV, UT, CO.

Day 7 - Rode to Hermiston, OR (~1,090 miles). States completed: WY, ID, MT, OR, WA.

Day 8 - Rode to Prince George (~820 miles), BC

Day 9 - Rode to Hyder, AK (~444 miles). States completed: AK

Mark's Route Home (After spending a week in Hyder, AK)



3,477 Miles starting in Hyder, AK, ending in Newnan, GA

Day 1 - Rode to Hyder to Prince George, BC (444 Miles)

Day 2 - Rode through Jasper National Park and Banff National Park (Canadian Rockies) to Cochrane, AB (489 miles)

Day 3 - Rode to Fargo, ND (1,024 miles)

Day 4 - Rode to Fairmount, IN (890 Miles)

Day 5 - Visit with parents

Day 6 - Rode to home in Newnan, GA (630 miles)

For more information:

Visit my website at: <http://www.camelbikers.com/48+/album/index.html>

The Iron Butt Association at: [www.ironbutt.com](http://www.ironbutt.com)