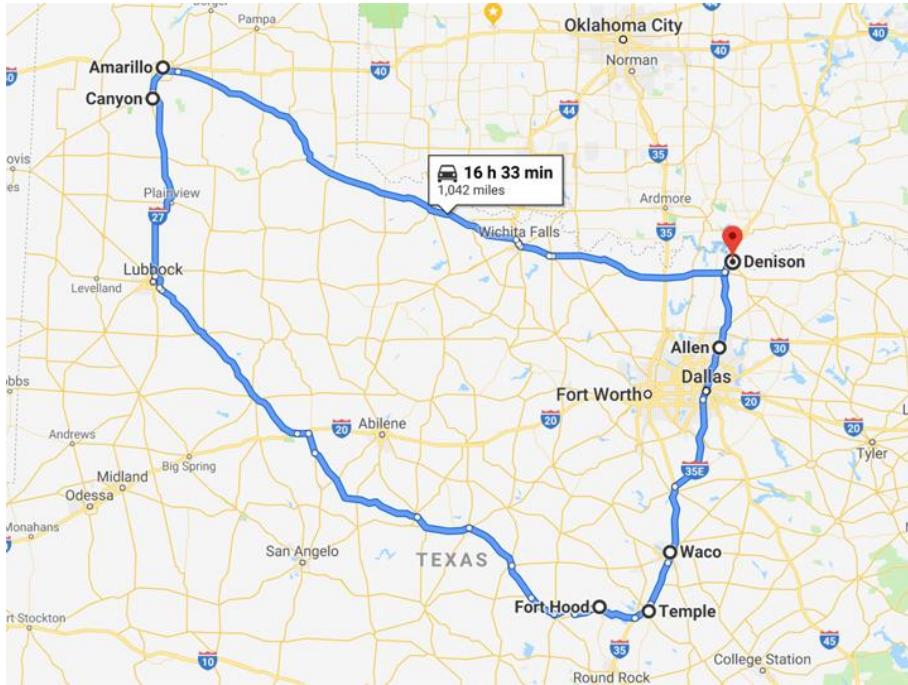


2019 Big as Texas Party



Everything's Bigger in Texas 1000

The Big as Texas (BAT) Party is one of our favorite Iron Butt events! This was our 4th year in a row attending this event. The 3-day event included a BaseCamp seminar on Thursday, organized Iron Butt Rides on Friday, then a banquet with guest speakers on Saturday. And of course, a lot of fellowship in-between with friends old and new! This year, we rode our new BMW R1250GSA to the party!



Denison, TX

We arrived at the host hotel around noon on Thursday. We were looking forward to the BaseCamp (GPS software) seminar presented by IBR veteran Tim Masterson. During the seminar, Tim pointed out a lot of the interesting software features. This is very beneficial when dealing with hundreds of waypoints and trying to make the most efficient route while participating in long distance rallies. We're glad we attended!

That evening, a large group takes the hotel shuttle to a local BBQ place, "The Cackel and Oink". And, this place did not disappoint! Karen and I both enjoyed the brisket!

The fellowship at these events is all about motorcycles, equipment, and interesting places to ride! And, the Iron Butt community has a lot to say about all of it! After dinner, we head

to our room to prepare for an early morning departure the next day.

Friday morning our alarm goes off at 4:30 am! We jump out of bed with anticipation of participating in the "Everything's Bigger in Texas 1000"!



Rally Flag

We head down to check in for the ride, sign the AMA waiver and receive our rally flag. This flag must be in all of the required pictures taken on our ride to validate the 1,000 mile route.

We attend the 5:45 am Rider's Meeting before being released at 6:00 am. All in all, there were 36 riders participating in the SS1000 and about a dozen participating in the BBG1500.



5:45 am Rider's Meeting

As we leave the parking lot, the temperature is already 83 degrees! We jump on the expressway and head south to “Big Ray’s BBQ” in Allen, TX. This is home of the Defective Gene Pool’s annual get-together every February.



Big Ray’s BBQ

It’s still dark as we jump off the bike and take the mandatory photo with Karen, the flag and the required landmark in the background. We jump back on the bike and I install my phone in a mount on the handlebars. The phone mount is a spring loaded gizmo that has 4 rubber prongs that squeeze onto the sides of your phone. Well, one for those rubber mounts was pressing against one of the side buttons on my phone. Little did I know this would activate an emergency contact feature once we were back on the expressway, heading south in Dallas rush-hour traffic! We were at highway speeds in the middle of several lanes of wall to wall traffic moving south into the heart of Dallas! I glanced down and noticed my phone light up! I see that it’s trying to call 9-1-1! I try to cancel the call, but when I do, I see a new message that says “Contacting #1 Emergency Contact”. I try to

cancel out of that! Then, I see “Contacting #2 Emergency Contact”. Again, I try to cancel out of that! Then, I see “Contacting #3 Emergency Contact” and then #4. Holy cow! What’s going on here! About 20 minutes later, our son calls! It’s 4:30 in the morning in California and he’s receiving emergency texts from me! I tell him that we are on a ride and I’ve accidentally butt dialed him! It was too complicated to tell him exactly what was going on!

The bad thing is... our son was contacted during our last Iron Butt ride by the ride host. Karen and I had ventured off the intended route and the host called our son to see if he knew what we were doing! We sure hope our son doesn’t think we’re crying wolf when a real emergency occurs! Now, back to the ride at hand.

Traffic was thick as we ride through the middle of Dallas. Once we made it through there, we knew the rest of the day would be a piece of cake! Our next stop was to get a picture of the “Big Red” sign at the “Health Camp Drive-In” located in Waco, TX.

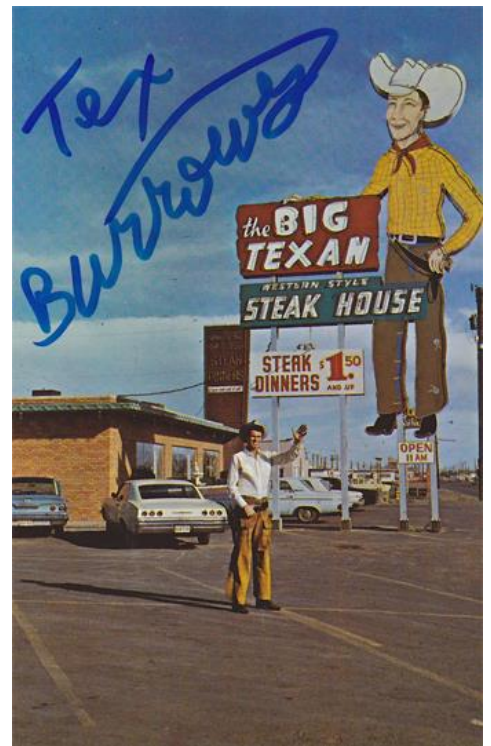


Big Red Sign

From here, we head to the IHOP in Temple, TX to get a picture with “Big Tex Burrows”. He is the cowboy depicted on the sign of the “Big Texan Steakhouse” in Amarillo, TX. During his college days, 50 years ago, Big Tex would dress like a cowboy and meet customers in the parking lot at the Big Texan Steakhouse. He gave each rider an autographed postcard that he had saved from that era!



Big Tex Burrows



50 Years Ago

This time, we hop back on the bike and go off route a little bit. By doing this, we would ride by Ft. Hood Army Base and through Copperas Cove, TX. Karen and I lived here our first year of marriage as this was my first duty station in the Army (40 years ago!). This brought back a lot of great memories even though the only thing that didn't change was a Church's Chicken in Copperas Cove. We remembered that place since we would eat there on special occasions back in those days!



Ft. Hood Army Base

Our next stop was 440 miles away in Canyon, TX. This is where the new BMW GSA would show us just how many miles we could get on a tank of gas. We rode 4 hours non-stop, not quite 300 miles before stopping for fuel! This is 100 miles farther than we can go on a tank of gas with the Gold Wing! During this leg, the temperature would rise up to 97 degrees! The warmest we would see on the ride. But, it was a dry heat!

In Canyon, we were required to get a picture of the "Big Tex Randall" statue. There we saw several other riders taking their mandatory photos and horsing around. We had

just ridden for miles without seeing anyone that we recognized, then all of a sudden there were about 4 or 5 bikes here just for a few seconds, before everyone dispersed again!



Big Tex Randall

The "Big Texan Steakhouse" in Amarillo is our next stop and only 25 miles away. We decided if there wasn't a crowd waiting for dinner on this Friday night that we would take a break and eat. We hadn't eaten much of anything since 5:00 am and it was now 6:00 pm.

We're in luck! No waiting at the Big Texan! We took our final mandatory photo inside the steakhouse. This photo was of a framed set pictures on the wall of Tex Burrows back in the day when he worked here! Then, we took a little break to eat a nice dinner and cool off.



Big Texan Steakhouse



Photos of Tex Burrows

Now, it was time to head back 341 miles to the host hotel in Denison. Once we arrived, we were required to get a business dated receipt with date, time and location on it to document our finish time.

We arrived at 11:31 pm. Now, the ride is officially over!

Ride Stats
1,036 miles
17 hours, 31 minutes
59.2 mph average
30.5 gallons gas
34 mpg

The next day, we have our ride validated by IBA officials and receive our certificates a few hours later. At the banquet that night, they announced the winners of the inaugural "Senior Butt Rally". It was a great evening to watch these teams receive their awards from the 6-day event! This was another awesome event that we already look forward to attending next year!