

Rubber Chicken 1000



1,079 Miles in 18 Hours, 45 Minutes

Karen and I have attended the Iron Butt Association's BAT (Big as Texas) Party every year since 2016. We always participate in one of the rides they offer. This year, the Rubber Chicken 1000 was the main event!

A little background, a rubber chicken has always been part of the BAT within the Senior and Junior Butt Rallies (scavenger hunts)—but no one ever really knew why. The one-day ride available this year gave us an opportunity to join in on the fun! We didn't have to ride in the 6-day scavenger hunt to be involved with the rubber chicken. We looked forward to a fun ride!

A couple weeks prior to the BAT event, directions and GPS files were

emailed to all participants. This was our first glance at what the ride was about. The route started at BAT headquarters in Allen, Texas. The first stop would be the world's largest chicken at The Chicken House in Branson, Missouri. Then, on to Spa City Ink in Hot Springs, Arkansas for the tattooed chicken on a pole. Third on the list was a large rooster statue in an abandoned parking lot in Shreveport, Louisiana. And finally, a meal-stop at Denny's in Nacogdoches, Texas to feed your rubber chicken before ending back at BAT headquarters in Allen, Texas.

On Thursday, September 21st, we checked in at 6:00 am. Instead of a numbered flag, we received rubber

chicken #20! It was required (with number showing) in all our mandatory pictures. Snap a picture at each stop and return to BAT headquarters. This would confirm you rode the 1,000-mile route.

There were about 35 riders at the pre-ride briefing. We were released at 6:45 am. At the bike, I was required to take a photo of our odometer reading before leaving.

It was a humid 76 degrees as we headed north toward Oklahoma. We continued northeast to I-40 eastbound where we stopped to fuel up. Glenn Royal (former Texas city mayor) was at the gas station fueling up. We would see him occasionally throughout the day. After that, we headed east on I-40 into Arkansas.

After we passed the Fort Smith area, we headed north on I-49. This took us through some beautiful Ozark countryside to Fayetteville (Home of Walmart). From there, we continued on backroads to Branson.

During this stretch, we followed a small group of four bikes, Doug Vance, Gene Cofer, Larry Telling and Mike Schuster (some hardcore riders). About 10 miles before we arrived in Branson, we had to break away and fuel up.

Back on the bike, we made it to The Chicken House for photo #1. There were several riders leaving and others arriving as we took the

required photo. By now, it was 1:00 pm and the temperature was rising!



Branson, Missouri

From there, we headed south back into Arkansas where we rode Hwy 7 down to Hot Springs. This was a beautiful curvy road through the Ozarks! There were a couple of construction sites with pilot vehicles that we had to wait on. The temperature peaked at 101 degrees! It was HOT when we were stopped, but tolerable while moving.

The first 400 miles to Branson went by quickly due to the comfortable temperatures and good traffic flow! The 180 miles from Branson to Hot Springs seemed a lot longer due to the curvy roads, hot temperatures and construction. But the Ozark scenery was awesome!



Hot Springs, Arkansas

We arrived in Hot Springs around 5:30 pm and stopped at Spa City Ink

for photo #2. Again, there were riders departing and arriving as we took our required photo. The temperature was back down in the 90's by now.

We continued south on Hwy 7 to I-30 westbound to Texarkana. There we hit I-49 south to Shreveport. It was dark when we pulled into the abandoned parking lot in downtown Shreveport. A large rooster statue was the only thing there. We jumped off the bike and snapped photo #3.



Shreveport, Louisiana

From there, we headed to our next stop in Nacogdoches, Texas. We rode on I-20 west into Texas, then south on secondary roads. At Denny's, we were required to get a photo of us eating with our chicken. When we arrived, there were several riders eating and others leaving.



Nacogdoches, Texas

We walked in the restaurant and the Denny's staff was very helpful to get us in and out quickly! The waitresses were enjoying the fun! Some of them were getting in the photo with the riders and their chickens. Riders would walk in squawking their rubber chickens! It was great to see riders having a good time with this! Most were in good spirits. Some were tired.



Feeding Our Chicken

By now, it was 10:00 pm. We still had 200 miles to ride back to BAT headquarters in Allen. After our meal, we headed north on secondary roads to I-20 at Longview, Texas, then, westbound to Dallas.

It was after midnight when we rode around Dallas. Several multi-lane sections of the major highway were funneled down to one-lane for nightly construction. Fortunately, there wasn't much traffic! We finally made it to the last stop at a RaceTrac gas station in Allen. Our official end time was 1:30 am for a total of 1,079 miles in 18 hours and 45 minutes.

We were tired by the time we arrived at the host hotel a half mile away. Verification of our ride was later that day from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

We were first in line for verification later that morning. Mike Kneebone (IBA President) said he followed us on Facebook. We were in and out in just a few minutes. Everything checked out fine! Our certificates were presented the next day prior to the closing banquet.

Friday afternoon was filled with seminars by Rally Master Jeff Earls (Creating the Iron Butt Rally Bonus locations and Scoring); Rally Master Lisa Landry (IBR Logistics and Planning); IBR winner Mike Brooke (IBR strategies). That evening was a no host dinner at a local sports bar. And there was plenty of time for fellowship with our long-distance friends.

Saturday, there was a RTE (Ride to Eat) about 20 miles away at the Tender Smokehouse BBQ joint in Celina, Texas. We rode out there with Craig & Rhonda Moore and Jimmy Burns. It was a great little place with excellent brisket. Other long-distance riders were in and out. A lot of adventurous stories were being told at each table by these hardcore riders!

That afternoon was a seminar by Jim Owens (3-time IBR champion) on IBR preparation and strategy.

Saturday evening was the banquet where individuals were recognized. There were approximately 150 riders in attendance. Cliff Wall was the key speaker. He revealed the background of the rubber chicken and why it will always be included in BAT events. It was a legacy of Cliff's first long-distance event to honor Rally Master Jack Tollett,

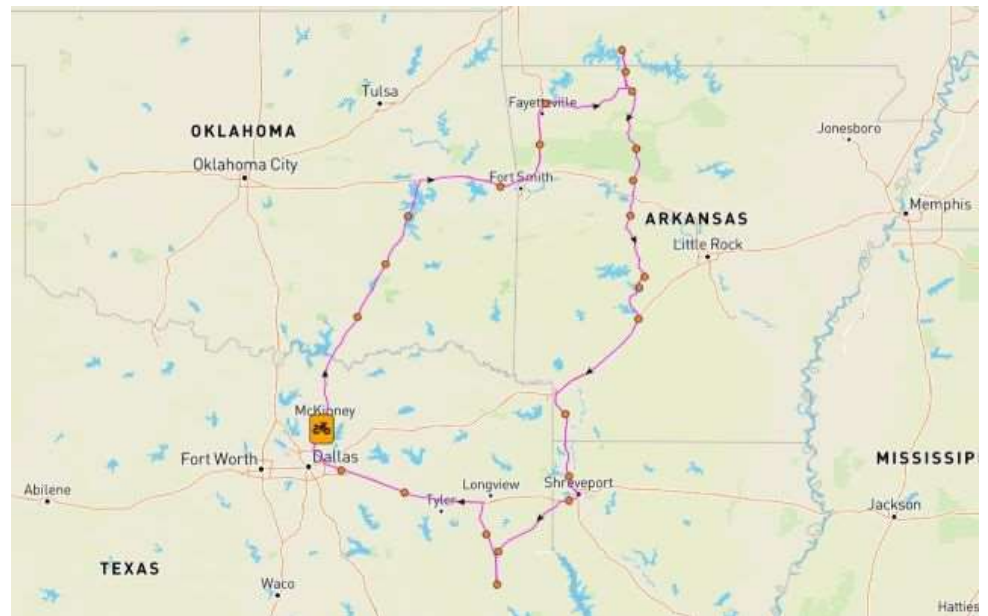
who passed away in 2013. During his Walz Across Texas rally, participants were required to carry a rubber chicken with them throughout the rally. Cliff's presentation was comical and had everyone laughing! It was a great time!

On the way home Sunday, we did a Mini-Hero ride to support Mile Monsters. We were required to ride at least 507 miles. The money Mile Monsters raises through these challenge rides goes to help a small group of boys (our Heros) with DMD (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy).

We arrived home around 3:00 pm. We had a great time at the BAT visiting with and meeting new long-

distance friends. The Rubber Chicken 1000 was a hoot! The BMW K1600 Grand America performed flawlessly. And, spending time with Karen on these crazy adventures—Priceless!

2022 BMW K1600GA
Distance: 1,079 miles
Time: 18 hrs, 45 min.
Average Speed: 57 mph
Fuel Used: 29.823 gal
Fuel Mileage: 36 mpg
High Temperature: 101°
Low Temperature: 76°



Rubber Chicken Route