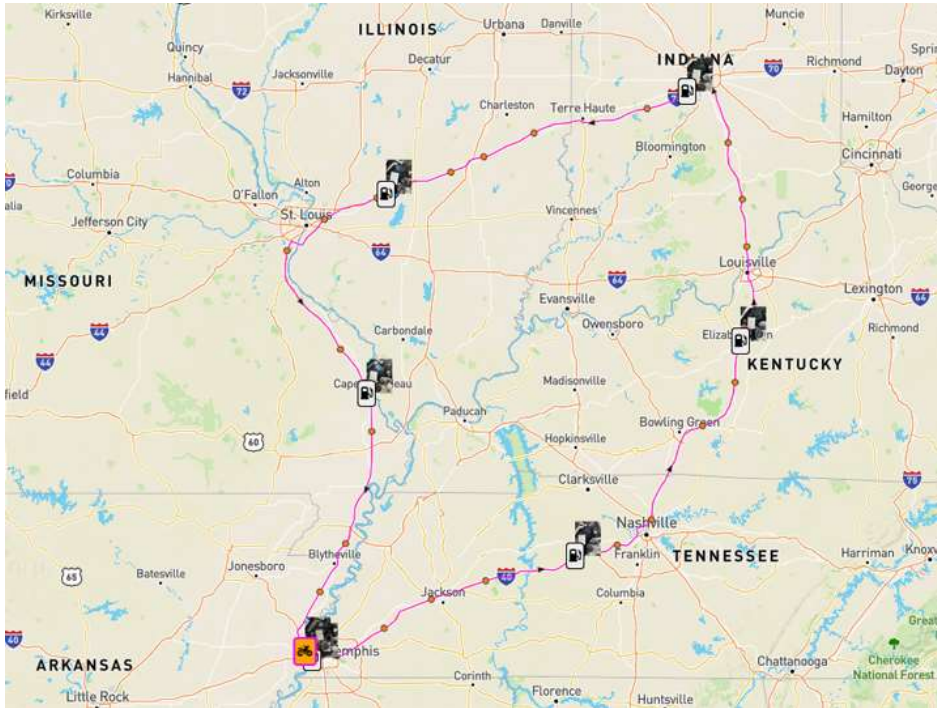


# ***Indy Lunch Run***



**1,028 Miles in 16 hrs. 30 min.**

I recently met Greg Hairston. Although not new to long-distance riding, he was very interested in the Iron Butt Association (IBA).

Recently, the IBA started a mentor program. A new member could get fast-tracked into the IBA if he is mentored by a Premier member. To be eligible to join the IBA, you must first complete a ride of at least 1,000 miles in under 24-hours.

I asked Greg if he would be interested in the mentor program. We would do a lunch ride to Indianapolis and back. I would show him how to properly document and submit all the

requirements for an Iron Butt ride—He would acquire and learn the tools of the trade so to speak. He was excited!

I would also introduce Greg to a Hoosier staple—a breaded tenderloin sandwich!

Since Greg lives in Millington, Tennessee and I live in Hernando, Mississippi, we met halfway in West Memphis at the Flying J Truck Stop at 4:00 am.

Before the ride, Greg needed to download a tracking app on his phone and open a SpotWalla account. These are the tools he will learn to use during the ride.

Greg has an Android phone, so he downloaded Bubbler. iPhone users would download SWTracker. When the app is linked to SpotWalla The apps will ping location data every 10 minutes. SpotWalla collects the data and displays it real-time on an online map. You can also upload a picture through the app which displays the image on the SpotWalla map at the location from which it was sent.

Since the whole concept behind the IBA is a documented ride. Uploading a picture of a current DBR (Dated Business Receipt) next to your motorcycle odometer documents: date, time, location and mileage electronically. This along with your track (a magenta line connecting the pings on the SpotWalla map) is the information the IBA uses to verify a ride. Easy and precise! Once you do this a couple of times, it only takes a minute to complete! And, IBA submission time at the end of the ride is minimal!

Our plan was to take a counterclockwise route from West Memphis, Arkansas to Nashville, Tennessee; Louisville, Kentucky; Indianapolis, Indiana; Effingham, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri and then return to West Memphis.

Thursday morning, I arrived at the Flying J around 3:40 am. The

entrance to the gas pumps was closed since they were repaving the parking lot! What? Just a few minutes later, Greg arrived. We decided to go down the street to the Pilot Truck Stop.

At the Pilot station, we fueled up. I briefly showed Greg what information is required in the photo (Pertinent DBR info and odometer). Then, he uploaded it from the Bubbler app to SpotWalla. Official start time was 3:52 am.

It was a muggy 80 degrees as we got started on I-40 eastbound. The pavement was wet going around the top of Memphis since it had just rained minutes before.

As we were leaving the Memphis metro area, there were LEO (Law Enforcement Officers) two abreast in the median along I-40 in several locations! I bet we saw at least 20 LEOs by the time we reached Jackson, Tennessee! This must have been part of the Southern Slowdown effort they had been talking about on the news.

Since it was a weekday, traffic wasn't too bad. The overcast skies kept the temperatures down. It was a great start to our ride!

Greg was riding a new Harley Davidson Pan America Special. This is Harley's adventure bike. I was on my BMW adventure bike. Both are great motorcycles!

Dickson, Tennessee was our first gas stop at 6:23 am. By now, the sun

was up, but the clouds hid it from view. We were both feeling great!

No matter which way I routed, we would hit Nashville at rush hour. Since I like to save the easiest part of my route for the end, we headed to Nashville at the beginning. Fortunately, it was no big deal! We hit Briley Parkway bypassing downtown. It was a breeze! Even when we merged onto I-65 northbound, traffic wasn't an issue.

We continued on to Bowling Green. I enjoy seeing what the Corvette plant has out on display as I ride by—beautiful new vettes!

Our second gas stop was in Elizabethtown, Kentucky around 10:00 am. We were about 200 miles from our destination in Indianapolis. The sky was still overcast!

As we continued north, I noticed that my phone wasn't charging. I didn't charge it the night before knowing I would charge it during the ride. I had to pull into a rest area to check it out. I had replaced the charging cord earlier. That didn't seem work, so I checked all the connections. That should do it! Off we go!

My phone did charge for a little while, just enough to keep it alive! I've really never had issues with it before. Later, I figured out the charging cords weren't compatible with the cover on my iPhone.

We made it to Indianapolis! Traffic was thick as we exited off onto I-465 (The Indy Loop). From there, we exited off in Plainfield and fueled up. The Oasis Diner was only a few miles away.

By now, it was 12:30 pm and the sky was clearing. The sun started to heat up, but not too bad. The highest temperature for the day was 88 degrees without the humidity that we were used to in the Memphis area. It was comfortable for July.

A year prior, Karen and I found the Oasis Diner online as one of top restaurants in Indianapolis for serving breaded tenderloins.



**Oasis Diner**

I don't think Greg was expecting the massive size of these sandwiches! As we were ordering, a couple next to us were being served their sandwiches. I pointed to them and told Greg; those are the sandwiches! Greg couldn't believe it! He wanted to try one!

***What's more Midwestern than a Hoosier breaded pork tenderloin sandwich?***

*It's economical and often massive—defined by a slice of pork pounded*

out until it's as big as a dinner plate. Many of the best versions come from bars and diners. It's practical. Why eat schnitzel with a knife and fork when you can put it on a bun?

Most importantly, it's darn good. You've never had a piece of fried chicken as tender as a golden-brown breaded pork tenderloin.

The breaded pork tenderloin sandwich—known to some fans as a BPT—isn't exclusive to Indiana, though it likely originated there in the early 1900s.

Still, it's hardly mainstream. And if you don't know better, the outrageous size of many pounded tenderloins might have you thinking that the sandwich is some kind of culinary joke. Paraphrased from [Midwesterner.substack.com](http://Midwesterner.substack.com).



**Breaded Pork Tenderloin**

While we were seated, we looked at Greg's SpotWalla map. For some reason, his DBRs weren't uploading. Hmmm!

We had a great lunch. I told him that I had allotted one hour for lunch. I can usually complete a 1,000-mile ride with one lunch break in about

16 ½ hours. It was time to get back on the road!



**Greg Hairston**

We jumped back onto I-70 westbound toward Terre Haute, Indiana. From there, we rode through Effingham, Illinois then onto St. Louis.

The sun didn't last long as the clouds reappeared. This made for a great riding day!

As we were traveling along, I thought about the process I go through on my SWTracker app when uploading a DBR pic. I remember that not only do I select the picture, but then I must hit the send button! I bet that's it!

At our next gas stop in Greenville, Illinois, I mentioned this to Greg. His Bubbler app worked very similar to my SWTracker! That was the problem! During that same stop, I showed him how to go into SpotWalla and manually embed the previous DBRs. Greg caught on fast!

As we approached St. Louis, we took the outer loop around the south side of the city to I-55. This was a nice bypass with little traffic.

We stopped again in Cape Girardeau, Missouri at 6:18 pm. We had made great time! We only had 170 miles back to West Memphis! Let's finish this ride!

When we were within 5 miles of where we started, I decided to stop in Marion, Arkansas for an end receipt. This station had much easier access than the Pilot Truck Stop in West Memphis. Official end time was 8:18 pm for a total of 1,028 miles in 16 hrs and 26 min.

We had a great ride! Greg was a quick study! He was tired, but already talking about doing more IBA rides! That's awesome! And, I hope he enjoyed a little taste of Hoosier hospitality along with the breaded tenderloin sandwich!

Congratulations to new IBA member, Greg Hairston!

### **2019 BMW R1250GSA**

**Distance: 1,028 miles**

**Time: 16 hrs, 30 min.**

**Average Speed: 62 mph**

**Fuel Used: 27.973 gal**

**Fuel Mileage: 36 mpg**

**High Temperature: 80°**

**Low Temperature: 88°**