



### When 365 days of riding are not enough!

This specialty ride, The Leap Year 1000, by the Iron Butt Association (IBA) was an opportunity to kickstart this year's riding season. Criteria: 1,000 miles in 24 hours of which at least 50% of it had to be completed on Leap Day.

Since Karen had read about this ride 6 weeks prior, she wanted us to participate. (That coming from a lady that swore her first Iron Butt ride would be her last! And, that was 16 certified Iron Butt rides ago!)

Unfortunately, the week before the ride, Karen came down with a bad case of the flu. She really didn't need to be out in the wind all day in her condition. So, the

plan was for me to go solo while she recuperated at home.

Leap Day, I woke up before the alarm and was out the door by 5:00 am. I rode down the street to the new BP station to get my start receipt. Keep in mind, that DBRs (Dated Business Receipts) are documentation that are required for Iron Butt rides. These receipts need to have the correct date, time and address to be valid. After I filled up with gas at the BP station, I looked at the receipt. Darn it! This receipt had the correct date and time, but no address. It did have a BP station number that would ultimately identify this station, but I didn't want that hassle. I wanted to provide the

best form of documentation that I could, so when the IBA verified my ride, there would be no questions. Since this receipt was no good, I rode down to the square in Hernando to another gas station. This time, I went inside and bought a pack of gum and asked for a receipt. When the clerk handed me the receipt, I read down through it. Darn it! This receipt did not have the correct time! Next stop, the local bank for an ATM receipt. Bingo! Everything was accurate! Now, I'm on the clock! This initial receipt confirms all my start information: 2/29/20 at 5:35 am in Hernando, MS. I now have 24 hours to ride 1,000 miles!

The temperature is a little brisk this morning. The GSA's TFT displayed 35 degrees. No problem! My Warm n Safe electric jacket liner kept me toasty warm! Since I was riding north to go south (counterclockwise in the illustration), I needed to stop and document that corner of my route with guess what? Another receipt! I stopped just outside West Memphis and added a gallon of gas to the GSA's huge gas tank. Viola! A good receipt!

Now, I jumped back on the road to ride! I-40 truck traffic was relatively light this morning, thank goodness! At times, it can be a real pain! I follow I-40 west to Little Rock where I take the I-440 bypass over to I-30. The sun is up and life is good!

Just prior to Texarkana, AR, the low fuel light illuminates. Time to refuel! Ah! Another good receipt! These receipts will be entered on a ride log to be submitted to the IBA. To verify my route, the IBA will enter all of my receipts into a program such as google maps to confirm I rode at least 1,000 miles in the allotted 24 hours.

In Texarkana, I take I-49 south through Shreveport and Alexandria to Lafayette, LA stopping only for fuel when necessary. In Lafayette, I jump on I-10 east over to Baton Rouge where the traffic clogs up to stop and go. But, the sky is blue and the temperature has warmed up to 75 degrees! It's a great day to be on the bike! The traffic is not that big of a nuisance. I probably lose 15 or 20 minutes of time. I just go with the flow and enjoy the day.



Metairie, LA

From there, I ride down to Metairie, LA, a northeastern suburb of New Orleans. There, I stop at the Acme Oyster House for dinner. By now, it's 4:00 pm and I haven't had anything to eat since that bowl of cereal before I left the house. The parking lot at Acme was full! I found the last spot! Now, I'm thinking "Oh no!, I don't have time to wait in line!" No problem! I walked inside and was seated at the bar immediately! There was no waiting! Evidently, there are more seats than parking spots! I was served relatively fast too! The char-grilled oysters were to die for! This was worth the ride! Plus, I ordered their Rockefeller oyster soup. It was amazing!



Char-Grilled Oysters

After dinner, I'm back out on the road. I jump on I-55 and head north. I set the cruise and sit back and enjoy the ride! As I arrive in Jackson, MS, the sun is fading away as darkness begins.

From Jackson north, I saw quite a few deer at the side of I-55 grazing. I would guess that I saw around 15 to 20 between there and Hernando. They were busy

eating and didn't seem to mind the traffic.

I arrive back in Hernando and stop to get my end receipt. I fuel up at a different gas station than where I started that morning. The receipt is good! The official end time is 10:14 pm.

I had called Karen a few minutes before to see if she wanted to meet me at the Waffle House in Hernando for a celebratory meal. She had been waiting on my call. We ate and talked about the ride. It had been a great day! I was glad Karen was there to meet me to celebrate another successful ride! Now, I was tired and ready to go home and dream about the next adventure.

Ride Stats
Distance: 1,059 miles
Time: 16 hrs, 39 min.
Average Speed: 63 mph
Fuel Used: 32.714 gal
Fuel Mileage: 32 mpg
Low Temperature: 35°
High Temperature: 75°