

Navy Birthday Ride



1,061 Miles in 17 hrs. 4 min.

IBA Requirements for an Armed Forces Birthday Ride: Your ride must include at least one DBR (Dated Business Receipt) for 13 October. You must visit at least four locations that are associated with the branch of service being celebrated. Each location must be at least 150 miles from any other location.

My goal is to complete all the Armed Services birthday rides. I've already completed three: Space Force, Marines and Air Force. It was time to tackle the Navy!

I was up and out of the house by 4:15 am. It was 71 degrees as I rode

down to the local Circle K for my start DBR. I fueled up and headed north. Official start time was 4:23 am.

My planned stops were the Naval Support Activity Mid-South located in Millington, Tennessee, Naval Air Station Meridian, Mississippi, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida and the Naval Reserve Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Memphis was dark and quiet as I rode through. It was still very dark when I arrived in Millington at 5:06 am. I jumped off the motorcycle, took a selfie as required proof,

uploaded it to my SpotWalla map and jumped back on the bike!



Millington, TN

Since it was Sunday, traffic was light as I rode around Memphis on I-269. I headed southeast on I-22 toward Tupelo, the temperature slowly dropped. By the time I was on ALT 45 south, it was in the upper 50's. Hmmmm, maybe I should have brought my heated gear! It's that time of the year, I need to stick it in my saddlebags for the rest of this cold season!

I watched the horizon light up to a beautiful red glow as the sun rose. I enjoy watching the sun rise on the bike!



Meridian, MS

By the time I arrived at the Naval Air Station in Meridian, it was 9:00 am. The temperature had warmed back up to a comfortable riding temp.

It wasn't too busy when I stopped and parked the bike in front of the front gate. I did all the required documentation before heading south to Mobile, Alabama! It was a great day to be on the bike!

I rode through the tunnel then over the Mobile Bay bridge on I-10. Traffic picked up! Oh! It's fall break!

From Mobile, it's only 60 miles to Pensacola. It was a slow ride through traffic around town to the Naval Air Station. I rode to the Naval Air Museum for a photo. Then, I climbed back on the bike and fought traffic back to I-10. This took more time than I expected. It was 12:30 pm.



Pensacola, FL

As I rode around Pensacola on my way back to I-10, I started looking for a place to eat. I didn't see anything interesting until I got back to the Mobile Bay Bridge. There, I stopped at Ralph & Kacoo's

Seafood Restaurant for some oysters! They were great!



Oysters Rockefeller

Back on the bike, I headed west on I-10 to I-55 north. The temperature increased to 88 degrees as I rode along the Gulf Coast. Traffic was heavy along the way!

Once I rode out of Louisiana on I-55 northbound, traffic started to thin out. I was glad! I thought I might fight fall breakers returning home, but I didn't! It was a nice ride up to Jackson. When I exited off toward the Naval Reserve center, a fair was going on! The fairgrounds were right beside the Navy Center!

The police had the road blocked in front of the building that I needed a picture of. I parked beside the squad car in the middle of the road and asked if my bike would be okay there while I took some pictures across the street. I explained what I was doing. The policeman said no problem! He was glad to accommodate me!

After a couple quick pics, I was back on the bike and outta there!



Jackson, MS

It was dark as I rode north out of Jackson. Once I got out of the city limits, the traffic died down to hardly anything.

The last time that I rode up from Jackson to home a month ago, I saw a lot of deer beside I-55. This time, I didn't see any, only one coyote.

I made it back to Hernando in good time! Official end time 9:27 pm for a total of 1,061 miles in 17 hours and 4 minutes!

I enjoy the Armed Service Birthday rides! I know several friends that served in that branch and thought of them throughout the ride. And, it was a beautiful day! Happy 249th Birthday, Navy!

2024 BMW R1250GSA

Distance: 1,061 miles

Time: 17 hrs, 4 min.

Average Speed: 62 mph

Fuel Used: 32.793 gal

Fuel Mileage: 32 mpg

High Temperature: 88°

Low Temperature: 54°