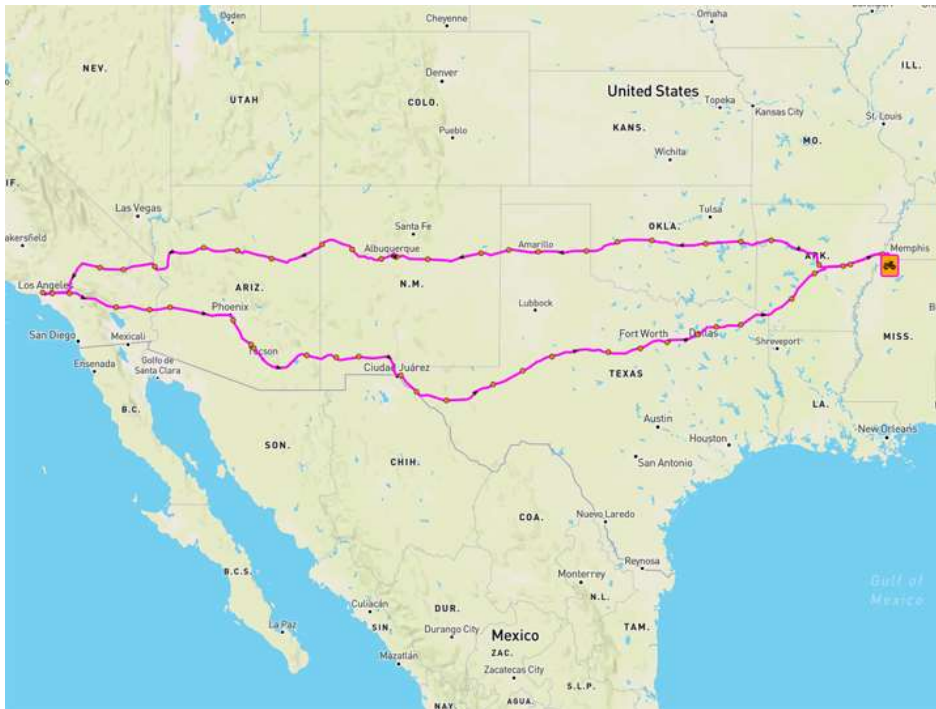


# *Pink's Hot Dog Run*



**3,755 Miles in 4-Days.**

I've heard about this event for years. It was time to go!

***IBA (Iron Butt Association) Annual Pink's World Famous Hot Dogs Ride:*** *This ride celebrates the annual gathering of Long-Distance motorcycle riders at Pink's Famous Hot Dogs, a Hollywood Legend that's also been a bonus location for numerous motorcycle rallies.*

*The date for "Bite the Weenie" at Pink's in Los Angeles is always the Saturday before Thanksgiving.*

*You may start and end your ride anywhere you choose. Just include a visit to Pink's and send some photos of your Pink's visit with your ride certification application.*

My plan was to leave Friday morning and return home Monday evening and attempt three IBA rides during the 4-day trip to the West Coast and back: a SaddleSore 1000 (1,000 miles in 24 hours) from Hernando to Albuquerque, a Bun Burner 1500 (1,500 miles in 36 hours) from Albuquerque to Pink's to El Paso then finish up with a SaddleSore 1000 from El Paso to Hernando.

The real challenge was to arrive at Pink's during the RTE hours and not waste too much time before or after in order to complete the Bun Burner 1500 successfully.

Friday, November 22, 2024 - I was up at 5:00 am and rode down to the

local Circle K for my start DBR (Dated Business Receipt). Official start time 5:39 am. After uploading my receipt to SpotWalla (tracking website), I zeroed out my odometer and GPS. Then, as I was trying to access my route in the GPS, I became aware the route was not in there! What? How did I forget to load the current route? Hmmm! I had changed the route several times tweaking it, I didn't load my latest changes. So, back to the house, I went!

Karen was startled when I opened the garage door and walked inside. I told her what happened then I went in our office and loaded the most current plan into the GPS. It only took a few minutes. I was back on the bike and headed west in no time!

The temperature was in the low 40's as I rode through Memphis. I was prepared for the colder temperatures on this ride. The forecast out west on I-40 would be cold at times. So, I had on all my electric heated gear: shirt, pant liners, boot insoles and gloves.

The shirt and gloves are connected. A dual controller is mounted on my right handlebar. On one knob, I can control the temperature of my shirt. The other knob allows me to control the temperature of my gloves.

Likewise, my pant liners and boot insoles are connected. That dual

controller is mounted on my left handlebar. This setup kept me very comfortable!

Traffic wasn't too bad since I was ahead of the morning rush hour. Shortly after I crossed over the Mississippi River headed west, the sun rose behind me.

It was 8:00 am as I rode over the top of Little Rock, Arkansas. Perfect timing again as rush hour was over. No problems at all! I enjoyed the ride!

I had an uneventful ride across Oklahoma. The temperature slowly rose to the low 60's. I hoped the pre-holiday traffic wouldn't affect my ride. So far, it hadn't!

Part of my plan was to eat one meal a day. I started this routine 4 days in advance. Eating only one meal a day has a huge affect on my energy level—No ups and downs! I don't get tired at all! This worked well during the Iron Butt Rally and some other big rides I've completed.



**Amarillo Texas**

I looked forward to The Big Texan Steakhouse in Amarillo for my one meal on Friday. Karen and I have

stopped here several times over the years. I arrived around 3:30 pm. The parking lot was full, but I got right in and seated. I enjoyed a prime rib dinner.



**Big Texan Menu**

Back on the bike, I headed west. As I passed the iconic Cadillac Ranch, there were several cars parked along the frontage road. I noticed a couple of food trucks parked along the path to the Cadillac display. They must have been taking advantage of the pre-holiday crowds!

As I continued on, the temperature crept down along with the sun. About 30 miles prior to entering Albuquerque, it bottomed out at 28 degrees!

I stopped in Albuquerque to fuel up and end a SaddleSore 1000. Official end time 8:38 pm Mountain time which translated into 1,030 miles in 15 hours and 59 min.

There were several homeless people hanging around the gas station. One was scavenging through the trash cans. Another was sleeping on the asphalt next to the front door. It was cold and all he had on was a sweatshirt and pants. Sad!

From there, the hotel was a mile away. When I arrived, it was surrounded with a tall rod-iron fence. The gate was closed. I had to ring the front desk, who in turn gave me a code to open the gate.

I didn't sleep well that night. I think the high altitude had something to do with it. The next morning, I didn't want to leave before 10:00 am. Pink's was 800 miles away. That would have me arriving just when the RTE was to begin at 10:00 pm.

Saturday, November 23, 2024 - To burn some time before leaving Albuquerque, I looked up to see if they had a postcard mural. They did! So, I rode over for a photo op.



**Postcard Mural**

Around 10:00 am, I pulled into a Chick-fil-a to get some ice tea and a start receipt. As I pulled into the parking lot, my rear brake screeched! Loud metal-to-metal contact! Oh no!

I looked up a BMW dealer in Albuquerque. They were open! I rode over to see if they could help me. The service manager looked at it and said that rear brake is smoked!



I told him that it was a new bike! He said they'd get it on the rack and check it out. It might be a few days if we have to order parts! Oh no!



**Sandia BMW**

A few minutes later, the service manager told me the rear rotor and brake pads were toast. It looks like you rode the brake for some time. There's nothing else wrong with the bike. The good news is we think we have all the parts.

There was no other explanation. I guess I could've got complacent on the ride. I was thankful they got me in and had the parts! I'll take the hit—I had no choice.

Within an hour and a half, they had me back on the road. This put me behind, but if all goes well, I should still make it in time for the RTE at Pink's. I stopped for a new start receipt at a nearby ATM. Official start time 12:26 pm Mountain Time.

By now, the temperature had warmed up into the 50's. I forgot how beautiful it was as I crossed New Mexico! This is what I ride for!

In Arizona, I reminisced as I rode through the Petrified Forest area. Karen and I visited that National Park in 2017.

It cooled down as I rode through higher elevations at Flagstaff—Another beautiful area! There were some remnants of snow on the sides of the road. As I descended, the temperature warmed up again. It was dark by the time I entered California at 7:00 pm Pacific Time.



**California State Line**

With 260 miles to go, it looked like I would make it to Pink's around 10:30 pm. The RTE was from 10:00 - 12:00 am. I was making good time—Especially since the brake needed replaced!

As I rode through the desert on my way to Barstow, I remembered that stretch of road from the 4-Corners X-ride that I did in 2021. It was just me and the semi-trucks as I continued west in the dark. The California speed limit for trucks was 55 mph! I must have passed hundreds of them!

I stopped for gas in Ludlow, CA. Premium gas was \$7 a gallon! What???



**California Gas**

At Barstow, I headed south on I-15 through Victorville and into San Bernardino where I jumped on I-10 into Los Angeles. Now, it started to rain and the battery in my headset went dead!

With my headset dead, I had to keep looking down at my GPS for directions since there were no audio commands. The LA traffic was thick, and visibility was terrible due to the rain. I was glad to finally make it to Pink's with no other issues! Arrival time 10:45 pm.



**Pink's Hot Dogs in Hollywood**

There were 8 or 9 other long-distance riders that made the trek to this year's RTE. The host, Dean Tanji, was sitting under an umbrella out of the rain. He had a sign-in sheet for those attending. I shook his hand and signed in.



### Pink's Order Area

The two chili dogs I ate were delicious! Maybe it was due to my one meal that day, but I'm hoping it was because they were actually good! I hung out for about an hour in the light rain and took several pictures before heading out.

Traffic was horrible when I left Hollywood at midnight on my way to San Bernardino. My visor fogged up due to the humidity. I finally arrived at my hotel around 1:30 am.

Sunday, November 24, 2024 - It was a quick night! I woke up after 4-hours of sleep. I jumped up, brushed my teeth and got on the bike! I was happy to leave town while the traffic was at a lull!

The skies were overcast with the temperature in the low 50's as I headed east. This leg, I would take I-10. The clouds vanished and blue skies prevailed within an hour and the temperature rose into the low 70's. Ah! What a great day!

I stopped for fuel after I entered Arizona. That DBR guaranteed a SaddleSore 1000 (1,000 miles in 24 hours) in case I couldn't complete

the Bun Burner 1500 (1,500 miles in 36 hours) as planned.

When I arrived in Phoenix, the GPS wanted to route me around town. I was enjoying the ride and decided to continue through the city. Sometimes, I want to see the downtown area. It was noon on Sunday and traffic wasn't bad. I enjoyed the ride and urban scenery!

Shortly after Phoenix, I stopped at the Picacho Peaks State Park exit for gas. There were a lot of Saguaro cactus in the area. I love these huge, beautiful, cactus. So, I stopped for a photo op!



### Giant Saguaro Cactus

Per Wikipedia, I would guess this cactus to be over 100 years old.

**Wikipedia:** *Saguaros have a relatively long lifespan, often exceeding 150 years. They may grow their first side arm around 75–100 years of age, but some never grow any arms.*

As I returned to I-10, I noticed Rooster Cogburn's Ostrich Ranch. There must have been hundreds if not a thousand ostriches there. I had to turn around and see this place!

As I entered the gate, a roadrunner was milling around. I tried to get a picture, but he ran for cover when I stopped!

If Karen was with me, we would've taken the time to tour the ostrich ranch. Hopefully, we can make it back some time! I think we would enjoy it!



### Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch

After a few pictures, I jumped back on I-10 eastbound. I crossed into New Mexico and stopped at Deming for gas. This DBR secured my Bun Burner! Official time was 5:01 pm which translated into 1,520 miles in less than 30 hours for a Bun Burner Silver!

The Bun Burner series of rides include 3 different levels all which are 1,500 miles in length. A regular Bun Burner time limit is 36 hours, a silver is 30 hours, and a gold is 24 hours. With stopping to eat and 4-hours of sleep, I was thrilled to complete the silver level ride!

I continued on to El Paso for the night. When I arrived, I stopped at Rudy's BBQ for my meal of the day.



### **Rudy's BBQ in El Paso**

I enjoyed the brisket plate. I was glad to arrive relatively early in the evening as I wanted to get a good night's sleep before attempting my final SaddleSore 1000 on this trip.

Monday, November 25, 2024 – After a good night's sleep, I got a start receipt. Official start time 6:39 am Mountain Time. The temperature was in the low 60's. Time to ride!

Texas is a big state! From El Paso, it was 800 miles across the state to Texarkana. From there, it was another 300 miles home for a total of 1,100 miles.

The temperature warmed up into the 70's as I rode east to Van Horn. I jumped on I-20 headed toward Dallas. In Pecos, the temperature started to drop—Down to 48 degrees!

As I continued to Odessa and then Midland, I thought about the recent TV series "Landman". It's an intense show about the oil industry in that part of the country. I laughed to myself about stopping to see

Billy Bob Thorton and asking if he needed any help.

But, it was the cold temperatures that kept my attention. I didn't prepare for it to be this cold today. If it were any colder, I would've stopped to add more heated gear. But, I continued on.

Prior to entering Fort Worth, I stopped for fuel. It was 4:00 pm. I knew that it would be rush hour by the time I got to Dallas.

It was stop and go as I rode through downtown Dallas. Once I made it through to the east side of town, I thought I was through the worst of it. WRONG!

After I rode over Lake Ray Hubbard, traffic stopped! It took at least an hour, if not longer, to go two miles—Bumper to bumper traffic. I just walked the bike along at a snail's pace! I was never so happy to get through that mess!

When I decided to stop in Sulphur Springs for my daily meal, it was 7:00 pm. I was toast! I still had 400 miles to make it home. I was miserable! All I could think about was why I needed to stop for the night—It was cold, it was dark, it was at least another 6 hours, etc...

I called Karen and told her that I would be spending the night in Texarkana, 100 miles away. She was glad to hear that I would be stopping for the night!

After I had an awesome brisket plate at Soulman's BBQ, I jumped back

on the bike. Within minutes, I felt great! My demeanor changed from a negative to positive attitude!

All of a sudden, all I could think of was why I didn't need to stop for the night—I had warmed up and felt great, it would only be colder in the morning, it was a clear night, visibility was great, and traffic was light! That meal reinvigorated me!

The next 6 hours home turned out to be a great ride! I didn't regret not stopping at all! When I stopped on the other side of Little Rock for fuel, I was glad about the decision that I had made. I enjoyed the rest of the ride home!

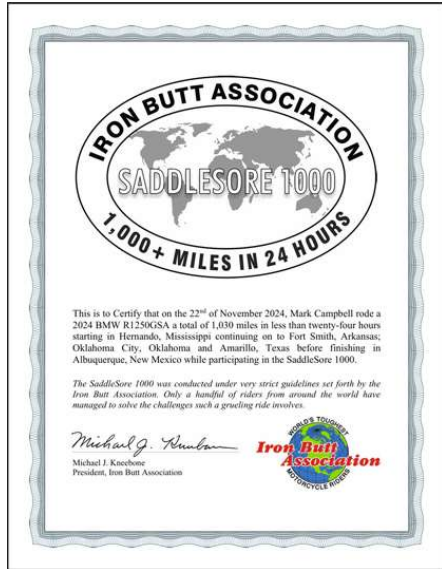
It was late as I rode into Memphis—No traffic! I finally arrived back in Hernando at the Circle K. Official end time was 1:02 am Central Time for a grand total of 1,104 miles in 17 hours and 23 minutes. What a ride!

I was glad to be able to finally attend Pink's RTE! I guess it makes it more memorable with all the challenges I overcame!

Los Angeles was the only major city in the U.S. that I really hadn't ridden through. Riding to Hollywood for a hot dog was very rewarding! And, even the rain didn't dampen my spirits (pun intended)!

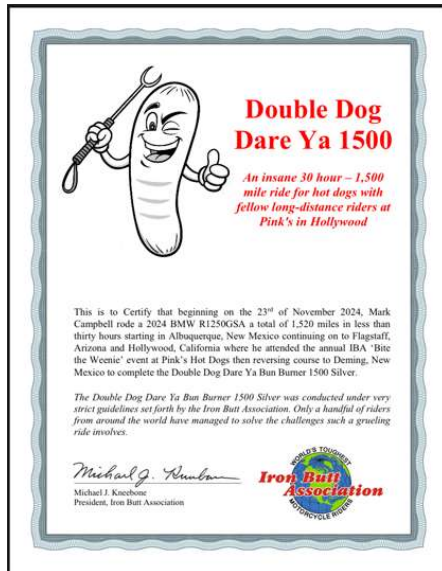
It's amazing where you can go and what you can see in a short amount of time! Long-distance Iron Butt riding has really brought a lot of adventure and personal satisfaction to my life! Ride on!





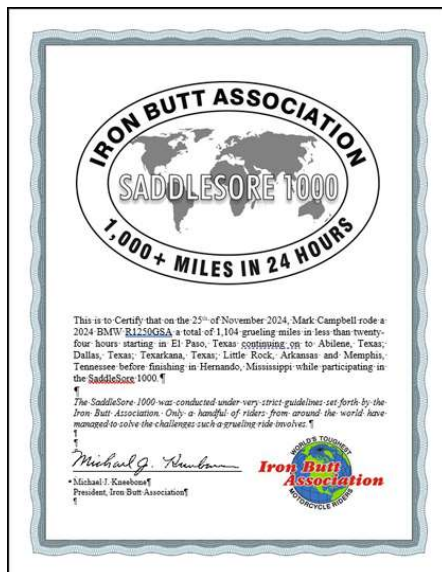
**2024 BMW R1250GSA**  
**Albuquerque SS1000**

Distance: 1,030 miles  
Time: 15 hrs, 59 min.  
Average Speed: 64 mph  
Fuel Used: 33.633 gal  
Fuel Mileage: 29 mpg  
High Temperature: 61°  
Low Temperature: 28°



**2024 BMW R1250GSA**  
**Pink's BBS1500**

Distance: 1,520 miles  
Time: 29 hrs, 35 min.  
Average Speed: 51 mph  
Fuel Used: 46.486 gal  
Fuel Mileage: 31 mpg  
High Temperature: 70°  
Low Temperature: 44°



**2024 BMW R1250GSA**  
**El Paso 1000**

Distance: 1,104 miles  
Time: 17 hrs, 23 min.  
Average Speed: 63 mph  
Fuel Used: 37.098 gal  
Fuel Mileage: 29 mpg  
High Temperature: 73°  
Low Temperature: 46°