

2010 Iron Butt 5000 Rally, Day 5  
Friday, August 20, 2010

As I write this on Friday night, we have no idea who is going to win this rally. Leg 1 leader John Coons appears to be riding his plan, as far as we can tell. However, second place rider Chris Sakala is going for broke with a unique and challenging route that only one other rider appears to have considered (but failed to execute). Also going for the win, Jim and Donna Phillips, in third place at the end of Leg 1, attempted the almost impossible combination of Point Cabrillo Light Station and Live Oak Resort, but missed the time window at the resort.

The point totals available for several of the routing options are close enough that its going to come down to who had the time to pick up some out-of-the-way bonuses or bag a few Waffle Houses on the way in. Oh, did I not previously mention the Waffle House bonus?

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Waffle House            25 points each Available 24 hours            Anywhere

Poor Curt Gran. Eddie got him good a few years ago during ButtLite III when Curt visited 47 (yes FORTY-SEVEN!) Waffle Houses and got credit for.....one. Sooo to turn the tables a bit, get a receipt at any Waffle House you come to. Or every one. Even 47, we don't care.

Write the date, time and odometer reading on each receipt. Count 'em up and put the number in the blank next to the code WH below.

Code: WH\_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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### The Various Paths to Spartanburg

There were four primary options for Leg 2 built around the following bonuses:

1. Point Cabrillo (Mendocino, CA);
2. Kafka, Inc. (Phoenix, CA) and Live Oak Resort (Washington, TX);
3. Java Hut (Minneapolis, MN); and
4. Java Hut and Live Oak Resort.

Point Cabrillo – A route built around Point Cabrillo provided a brute force approach to becoming a rally finisher by making a truly monster ride without having to worry about stringing together a lot of different bonuses, many of which had time windows. The most direct route from Denver to Spartanburg by way of Point Cabrillo is almost 4,200 miles. Assuming a rider got on the road by 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday (2 hours after the start of the riders meeting), there were exactly 73 hours remaining before the opening of the final checkpoint. Allowing just 4 hours for the rest bonus, a 61 mph average speed is required for the remaining time, close to a Bun Burner Gold pace. There's little time for any

bonuses that aren't located very close the basic route. However, there is a bonus in Amarillo right along the route and a couple of bonuses in Atlanta that can be added for just a few extra miles, which brings the possible point total (including the fuel log, rest bonus, and Call-In bonuses) to 11,665, in the same range as the points available for two of the other primary options.

Kafka – Live Oak – It was glaringly obvious that the second-highest point bonus at Kafka, Inc. could be combined with the high-point, Live Oak Resort bonus. At least eight other bonuses could be added to this combination without substantially increasing the total miles required. 11,336 total points (including the fuel log, rest bonus, and Call-In bonuses) were available for a 3,700 mile ride (500 fewer miles than Point Cabrillo).

Java Hut – A route built around Java Hut, plus a number of smaller bonuses along the way, was a good choice for riders with the objective of becoming a “finisher.” By riding just under 3,000 miles, there were at least 16 bonuses available for just over 9,200 points.

Java Hut – Live Oak – The Java Hut – Live Oak combination wasn't as easy to see as the Kafka – Live Oak combination but it provided about 500 more points in almost exactly the same number of miles (3,700). It was a much better choice than the combination of Point Cabrillo plus the three other bonuses along the route. A total of at least 18 bonus locations were available along Java Hut – Live Oak route.

Kafka – Java Hut? – A combination I thought few, if any, riders would seriously consider is Kafka and Java Hut. Just these two bonuses, combined with the rest, fuel, and Call-In bonuses, are good for 10,773 points and it's only a 3,600 mile ride! The problem with this combination is the time window on Kafka and the possible delay in getting the pin-striping job. Because Kafka was only available on Thursday morning, it wasn't possible to try for Java Hut first. Making the fairly optimistic assumption of getting out of Kafka by 11:00 a.m., there would be exactly 45 hours left to get to Java Hut and then Spartanburg without penalty points. That's a ride of just over 2,800 miles with no side trips for other bonuses. It's almost a Bun Burner Gold 3000, a ride that doesn't provide much time for collecting bonuses even if they are close to the route. However, any rider who makes this combination won't need much more than the Java Hut after leaving Kafka. There is time to score at least 932 points and do the rest bonus before arriving at Kafka. That makes a total of 11,705 points available for getting nothing other than Java Hut on the way to Spartanburg. Only a few extra minutes are required to exceed 12,000 points.

Only two riders declared this combination at the start of Leg 2: Chris Sakala and Joe Zulaski. Joe wisely changed his mind before leaving Kafka. Chris has gone for it. He encountered terrible weather on the way from Phoenix to Minneapolis, but he made it and called in at 1:14 p.m. Pacific Time just after scoring the Java Hut. He needs to exceed a BBG pace to make it directly to the finish with no side trips. If he pulls it off and picks up a few bonuses along the way, he is going to be tough to beat.

Point Cabrillo Plus Live Oak? – As noted above, Point Cabrillo is one hell of a ride even for a rider who heads straight to Spartanburg on the trip east. But 4,200 miles on a 3-day leg wasn't enough of a challenge for Jim and Donna Phillips. They tried to score Live

Oak Resort on the way back, adding 245 miles to an already difficult route. Based on the time I estimate they got to Point Cabrillo, they needed to ride 3,086 miles in 23.5 hours to finish on time. The Phillips apparently made a costly mistake reading the Live Oak Resort bonus. Although the time window is from 10 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. today, the following statement was included in the bonus listing:

*Note: you must arrive no later than 2 pm in order to fulfill this bonus. Sign in and out with Allen Dye; he'll be enjoying all the resort has to offer. Don't bother being late.*

Jim and Donna didn't arrive until 2:55 p.m. having made a very time consuming side trip for nothing. Had they pulled this off, they would have been serious contenders for the top spot.

#### Call-In Bonuses

The Call-In bonuses went a little smoother today but two riders, Jerome Byrd and Brant Moteelall were early. Betsy Young forgot to give her rider number, but that's the least of her problems. She called just minutes before the close of the Call-In time window, which was 9:00 p.m. eastern time, from Groom, Texas. That's 1,241 miles from the finish. To avoid penalty points, she has to average 95.5 mph on her rented Harley with no auxiliary fuel. Just to make the 6:00 p.m. banquet requires almost a BBG pace.

Dan Legg, Patrick Hochberg, and Mike Allen all reported that they were on the verge of heat exhaustion yesterday and had to radically alter their route plans in order to take time to cool down. They are still hoping to have enough points to qualify as finishers.

Peter Delean was the only rider I didn't hear from who is still in the rally.

#### Tomorrow's Activities

The scorers meeting starts tomorrow morning at 5:00 a.m. Scoring for the early arrivals will start at 6:00 a.m. It will take the rest of the time available before the 6:00 p.m. banquet to complete the scoring and auditing process. IBR staff and volunteers working with me here in Spartanburg include my wife Helen, Bill Shaw, Dave McQueeney, Bill Watt, Ira Agins, Dennis Bitner, Greg Roberts, Steve Hobart, Dale Wilson, John Harrison, David E.B. Smith, Rick and Jean Miller, Jim and Donna Fousek, Ed Otto, Lisa Erbes and, of course, Lisa Landry and Mike Kneebone.

Tom Austin  
August 20, 2010  
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