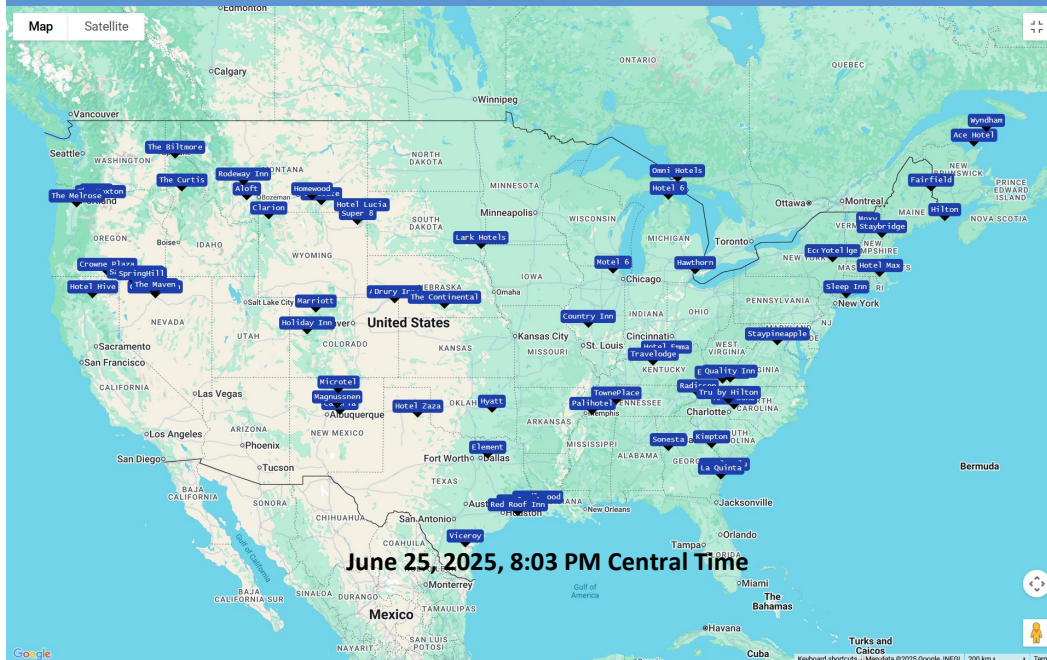


# The Iron Butt Daily

Volume 12, June 25, 2025



## Notes from the Road

- **Andy Mackey** called Paul this morning, concerned he may have blown his ride and would become a DNF. Paul told him that, as far as he could tell, he hadn't blown it yet and it looked to Paul that he would still be a finisher. Andy thought for a second and then agreed with Paul after realizing today was Wednesday and not Thursday. The IBR can do that.
- **Thomas Bake** is another rider who lost his flag and is using his rally book in its place.



A group of riders at the Battery Point Lighthouse

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## Peace and Serenity

Today's audio bonus was: "Describe the most peaceful and serene riding moment you experienced during this rally."

- **Bob Bowman:** When he was just riding along. "The traffic was good, the weather was good, the bike was running smooth and it was just a good moment. It didn't last long, but it was a good moment."
- **Jim Hicks:** "Two in the morning last night. I had the New York Thruway to myself and it was beautiful out and had time to reflect on how moving this experience is."
- **Alex Alpert:** "Going in to New York City Monday night. There wasn't another car around and compared to what I was expecting, that was the serene moment."
- **Brian North:** "The most peaceful riding experience on this trip so far was yesterday evening alongside the Columbia River right at sunset. Very peaceful."
- **Chris and Stella Wiltshire:** "All day yesterday because Bill [Karitis, their teammate] had lost his voice and couldn't talk all day over the comms. It was an absolutely glorious riding day" in Montana and Idaho. "It was lovely. But actually, it

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## Peace and Serenity (Continued from page 1)

was peaceful.”

- **Bill Karitis** [the Wiltshire’s teammate]: “Well, I guess it would be when I left and I didn’t have to listen to Paul [Tong] talk about crayons anymore. That was it.”
- **Lionel Ramos**: “Last night riding from Oklahoma City to Albuquerque and it was nice and quiet. The stars were out, the moon was out, and there was no one on the highway. It gave me a chance to reflect on my rally experience and focus on what’s on hand to get the rally finished. So it was a great moment.”
- **Scott Durham**: “Yesterday morning, coming across the Chesapeake Bay on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge at sunrise. No traffic, just me and a couple of bald eagles.”
- **Dan Stephans**: “Probably last night, coming out of the 97 degrees in Houston, where it started raining nice and light and comfy and where the temperature dropped to 87 and it was real nice. It lasted probably about 15 minutes.”
- **Keith Underdahl**: “Was actually this morning. I was riding along the shoreline of the Gaspé Peninsula at about 3:34 AM and the sun started to rise over the Atlantic Ocean. There was no traffic. It was just beautiful watching the sun rise and the air was fresh, and it wasn’t 98 degrees. It was just a perfect moment.”
- **Andy Mackey**: “When I was riding through the woods in Maine by the ocean and I realized that I would probably be a DNF and it’s OK. I’m still on the bucket ride list and it’s OK.” [Note: as of this writing, Andy is not a DNF and still has a good chance for finisher status.]
- **Sjef Vanderaa**: “When I know I’ve completed the Rallymaster’s audio bonus requirement.”
- **Anastasia Dudzinski**: “Cruising through Yellowstone. It’s one of the most beautiful places that I’ve ever been and there is absolutely nothing in New Jersey that looks anything like what Yellowstone looks like and I’m really glad I got to have that experience. Just put on some low music and just relaxed and let myself cruise and it was really nice. I’m glad I decided to go there.”
- **Matt Gerry**: “The ride from the IBA memorial in Gerlach, NV to Spokane, WA on the back roads. Very peaceful, lots of open range. Cattle and horses just along the roadways. Yeah. Really beautiful. This entire ride’s been pretty serene, but that was one of the most memorable moments.”
- **Jacob Wetzel**: “Riding on US 58, I think, in the very, like, tip of Virginia after you come through Kentucky and the tunnel

there just on the other side of Tennessee. You’re riding down in there between the two mountains and, like, this valley. There was nobody on the road with me. It was just beautiful and a nice, peaceful moment.”

- **Avraham Azrieli**: “Leaving my hotel at sunrise in Conway, NH riding through the small roads in New Hampshire and Vermont to the Canadian border. That was serene and beautiful. The best motorcycling.”
- **Scott Evey**: “Going up to Alabama’s highest point all by myself on the roads. Curvy, swervy, ups and downs, beautiful scenery. I just loved the ride and I was in my element. Forgot about everything else all around me.”
- **Matt Wise**: “Idaho State Road 20. Cutting across there it was a pretty good road, nice scenery. But it was weird that I was the only one on the road for a very long time, no traffic to contend with except when I caught up to the Scooterball [Scooter Cannonball] riders, who were going about 20 miles an hour slower than everybody else. But that was a pretty good one.”
- **Wade Chauncey**: “When I showed up at Voni Graves’ red water tank in the Big Bend area of Texas. I got in there pretty late. There was no cars, no traffic at all. There was no light, no moon, no ambient lighting. It was just pitch black dark. After walking up the hill to collect the bonus, I came back down to the bike and just hung out for a moment and just enjoyed the silence and the serenity. I could see all the stars in the Milky Way. It was a pretty cool moment.” That’s the stuff that feeds your heart and soul.
- **Michael Kozicki**: “Riding away from the Iron Butt memorial when the sun was setting behind the mountains. It was pretty nice.”
- **Michael Creamer**: “Rolling out of Coralville at the beginning of Leg 2 because I just had a sense that I knew what I was supposed to be doing and my cares had all kind of left me and I have caught up with what I thought I wanted to do on that leg. This was a good feeling.”
- **Christopher Dewall**: The road between the Beartooth highway and Cooke City, MT. Just the twists and the turns and the mountains in the background. Just sheer bliss to ride.”
- **Bucky Dent**: “Riding in Kansas with the sunset to my right and just after that the storm clouds that were to my left took it away. You know what they say—the gods of serenity giveth and the gods of serenity taketh away.”

## Notes from the Road cont. *(Continued from page 1)*

- **Jim Craig** broke his drive shaft and is out of the rally. Russell Black, his riding partner, is still in.
- **Daniel Eckert** has withdrawn for personal reasons.

## Photos from the Road



**Art Garvins's** daughter **Stefanie**: "When your dad calls and asks you to meet him and bring him a Coke, that's what you do. Met him at one of his bonus stops for the Iron Butt Rally and even got in the picture. Glad I got to see him, even if it was for a very short visit."



## Road Food



**Kerri Miller** gets brave and goes for Buffalo Wild Wings. Wild!



**Del Meyer** goes for the fresh veggies at Uncle Jack's



**Anastasia Dudzinsk** at the Galaxy Diner



**Steve Gallant** chowed down on wraps at Helen's



**Michael Shell** doesn't need to be brave to have breakfast at Braves



**Stephen Creamer** is chowing down at Hoptown



**Lee Miller** is liking the Mexican food at Mi Ranchero



**Craig Phillips** at the Country Pride



Here's **Marissa's** meal.  
Where's **Bryan's**?



**John Anderson** also goes for Mexican food at El Toro. No bull.



## Here's the Church and Here's the Steeple

Today's photo to accompany the audio bonus reads: "Take a picture of your motorcycle and flag with a church WITH A STEEPLE in the background. A church steeple is a tall, pointed structure, typically found on churches and other religious buildings, that rises above the main roof."

