

MY BEST RALLY TO DATE

By Gary Deitrick

Here it is October 2010 and Mr Steve Chalmers our Rally Master or Bastard depending on the moment. Steve really is a good guy who's number one priority is that the riders have a good time (if you don't it your own fault). This year the Utah 1088 is celebrating it's 20th anniversary and things were just a little different you had a choice of 12hr, 24hr or 72hr.

I had all these plans to do all these things to my wing this past winter some family things came up and funds started to get a little tight so it didn't get all the things done that I wanted but that's the way it goes. I was afraid that I would have to sell my wing which meant that my rally days were over but things have a way of working out. The winter passes with the help of the list, finally June rolls around.

I have a whole different approach to this rally game than most, I ride rally to go places and see things that I just wouldn't do other wise. Of course I want to have a good score but that isn't as important as being safe and having fun. On the wall of my shop I have a map of places I have been on a cycle. I have spent time looking at it and there are a lot of roads yet to cover and I knew this rally I would be going to Oklahoma weather permitting (I don't intentionally ride into extreme bad weather.) In the RWYB I stayed in the northern part of the mid-west to avoid bad weather. It was a crappy route as far as points but I sure had fun.

1 June 2011 the bonus locations were sent out at midnight east coast time I had already went to bed but got up at 0200 and printed them off and went back to bed. This is when the fun really begins planning you route. As said I knew that I would be going to Oklahoma this time since I have never touched foot in that state. It worked out really good three bonuses there so I wouldn't be totally wasting my time. I had a nice loop figured out and I could cut short if time was an issue. I knew it was not a winning route but like I have said in the past the only one I worry about beating is me. The caliber of riders that have entered this rally are excellent, several are capable of riding 1500 miles a day for the 3 days and it was accomplished during this rally great ride Matt. I looked at several routes but they just looked that they were just a little to aggressive for me I wanted my average under 50mph.

My route was shoot gun, Arches NP, Palisades Co, Lamar Co, Hooker OK, Oklahoma City OK, Okemah Ok, Fayetteville AR, Cuba MO, Fenton MO, Rich Hill MO, Kansas City KA and Chimney Rock NE. I thought real hard about putting Storm Lake IA on the list decided against it just didn't want to be tempted. I rode my complete route and only had about 45 mins to spare and picked all my chosen bonus, mileage ended up 3499.9 this was just about all the ride that I was able to handle. I left one hotel bonus on the table forgot to get my picture. The only real screw up on my route out side of a few issues with gps but I didn't have any maps with me with enough detail to help in those situations.

I want to thank Brian Roberts for his counsel after my 10n10 report you will see the first half of our route was the same. I got hung up on the pink elephant Fenton and Cuba being

so close together I didn't see the rest of the bigger loop that Brian did. Without the change in the NY bonus I feel that Brian would have had a podium finish nice ride.

I'm happy with my finish and hope this isn't too boring, Thanks Steve, Janiel, all the volunteers and to everyone at MERA for making this experience so much fun. I really miss Ken he has added much to this sport and to this list and he will never be forgotten.
Rest in Peace