

Sunday June 16 Day -1 The Road Less Traveled

When I saw the rally book Jeff put together for this event, I emailed Lisa and asked if it was too late to resign as scribe and enter as a rider. Of course, I knew it was too late, but wow...this rally should be so much fun!

The theme of 2019 IBR is "The Road Less Traveled". Jeff based it on a line from Robert Frost's famous poem "The Road Not Taken". While researching the poem, I found that Frost wrote it as a joke and was surprised when the public saw it as a serious work. According to an article by Kathrine Robinson, Frost wrote "The Road Not Taken" in 1916 as a joke for his friend and fellow poet, Edward Thomas.

When the two of them would go on walks together, Edward frequently had trouble deciding which path to choose. Later, if the path did not prove to lead where he expected, Edward would lament having not taking the one not chosen, as it might have been better. Frost's thoughts on this indecision are reflected in the poem.

All the rally riders will face similar choices tonight, choices of which road less traveled is the best one to take. And some riders may find themselves haunted by the choices not made, much as Frost's good friend Edward, as they work their way through the bonus listings in the rally packet.

Perhaps, during the next 11+ days, many of these riders will be surprised how their perspective of what Frost meant by this poem may change.

The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Riders who have completed check in and received their rally packets at the IBR Start Banquet tonight:

#	Last Name	First Name	**	Home	Bike Year	Bile Make	Bike Model
1	Smith	Patrick	V	TX	2019	HD	Ultra Limited
2	Jewell	Eric	V	CA	2012	Honda	ST1300
3	Winterer/Erbes	Jim/Lisa	V	MN/MN	2008	Yamaha	FJR1300
4	Owen	James	V	PA	2018	BMW	R1200RT
5	Lahman	Terry	V	WA	2017	Honda	Africa Twin
6	Lahman	Lynda	V	WA	2018	Honda	Africa Twin
8	Crockett	Wendy	V	SD	2005	Yamaha	FJR1300
9	Rice	Greg	V	NC	2019	BMW	R1200GSA
10	Gatensby	Maura	V	BC	2012	Honda	ST1300
11	Peart	Margaret	V	TAS Aus	2007	BMW	R1200GSA
12	Roth	Daniel	V	GA	2011	BMW	R1200GSA
13	Nuehring	Corey	V	IA	2014	Yamaha	FJR1300
15	Mackey	Andy	V	CA	2009	BMW	R1200GSA
16	Wall	Cliff	V	TX	2014	Yamaha	Super Tenere
17	Brooks	Craig	V	CO	2011	BMW	R1200GS
18	Bray	Eric	V	VA	2015	BMW	R1200GSA
19	Coons	John	V	MN	1994	BMW	R1100RSL
20	Heitkamp	Mike	V	MN	2015	BMW	R1200GSA
21	Gabrick	Connie	V	MN	2009	Victory	Vision
22	McPhee	Ian	V	QLD Aus	2000	BMW	R1100RT
23	Weller	Kevin/Lynda	V	UK/UK	2014	Yamaha	Super Tenere
24	Lenentine	Gregg	V	VA	2010	Yamaha	FJR1300
25	Stadtler	Don	V	FL	2008	HD	Softtail
26	Starrett	Mark	V	CA	2006	Honda	Goldwing
27	Riley	Mike	V	OK	2012	Kawasaki	Concours14
28	Purney	Chris	V	NV	2016	Yamaha	Super Tenere
29	Kerkhof	Michiel	V	Portugal	2014	HD	Ultra Limited
30	Beaulac	Marc	V	AZ	2006	Honda	Goldwing
31	Slaton	Paul	V	TX	2006	Yamaha	FJR1300
32	Bowman	Bob	V	MO	2007	Honda	ST1300
33	Edelman	Eric	V	NY	2018	BMW	K1600B
34	Worden	Kurt	V	CA	2017	Kawasaki	Versys
35	Dossman	Danny	V	TX	2016	BMW	R1200GSA
36	Duck	Don	V	OK	2014	Triumph	Trophy
37	Monroe	Lyle	V	TN	2014	Honda	Goldwing
38	Chunhawong	Kit	V	UT	2013	Yamaha	FJR1300

39	Green	Joe	V	FL	2016	BMW	R1200GS
40	Lefcourt	Nancy	V	CA	2013	BMW	R1200RT
41	Chernin/Davis	Eric/Shirley	V	FL/FL	2012	Honda	Goldwing
42	Farmer	Greg	V	CO	2016	Honda	Goldwing
43	Comly	Chris	V	PA	2006	HD	Sportster
44	Dent	Bucky	V	VA	2014	Yamaha	Super Tenere
45	Green	Peter	V	NM	2013	Triumph	Trophy
46	Aman	Ken	V	NY	2016	Yamaha	FJR1300
47	Bonham	Wolfe	V	ON	2003	BMW	R1150GSA
48	Connacher	Billy	V	SC	2016	BMW	R1200GSA
49	Hall	Andrew	V	LA	2013	Honda	Goldwing
50	Spink	Dylan	V	NH	1983	Honda	Silverwing
51	Myren	Mike	V	MN	2015	Yamaha	FJR1300
52	Fizer	Greg	V	GA	2014	Honda	Goldwing
53	Long	Justin	V	WA	2015	Yamaha	FJR1300
54	Huval	John/Nadine	V	LA	2016	Honda	Goldwing
55	Burriss	Jim	V	SC	2013	Victory	CC Tour
56	McCoy	Lonnie	V	TX	2018	BMW	R1200GSA
57	Diederich/Denton	Steve/Micki	V	CA/CA	2013	Honda	Goldwing
58	Buskell	Eric	V	FL	2019	HD	Road Glide
59	Crowley	Dan	V	NC	2018	Honda	Goldwing
60	Cumbie	Bill	V	TX	2018	Honda	Goldwing
61	Cover	Martin	V	MD	2016	BMW	K1600GTL
62	Little/McCallum	Martin/Rebecca	V	NSW Aus	2007	BMW	R1200RT
63	Anderson	Jerald	V	MD	1974	Suzuki	GT750
65	Partin	Paul	V	OK	2008	Honda	Goldwing
66	Lackey	Chuck	V	GA	2008	Yamaha	FJR1300
67	Davies	Cathy	R	GA	2001	Honda	Goldwing
68	Dennett	Greg	R	KS	2002	Honda	ST1100
69	Spearman	Thomas	UB	IN	2013	BMW	K1600GTL
70	Vook	Stephen/Tamara	R	ND/ND	2012	BMW	K1600GTL
71	Lightner	Robert	R	FL	2013	BMW	K1600GT
72	Ballard	Lew	R	IA	2018	HD	Ultra LTD
73	Bialt	Marcel	R	NY	2017	BMW	R1200GS
74	Snell	Steve	R	GA	2017	Honda	Goldwing
75	Edwards	Bruce	R	VA	2017	BMW	R1200RT
76	Campbell	Merril	R	UT	2014	KTM	Adv 1190
77	Baker	Michael	R	VA	2015	BMW	R1200GSA
78	Fisher	Joe	R	N Ireland	2006	Honda	ST1300

80	Watz	Benny	R	Sweden	2019	HD	Ultra Glide
82	Epley	James	R	VA	2015	Triumph	Trophy
83	Kasdorf	Chris	R	BC	2005	Honda	ST1300
84	Meyer	Paul	R	KS	2015	Triumph	Trophy
85	Cover Rufo	Lisa	R	MD	2016	BMW	R1200GSA
86	Gardner	Kevin	R	GA	2008	Honda	Goldwing
87	Rooney	Chris	UB	FL	2017	Yamaha	FJR1300
88	Kjendal	Roy	UB	NH	2016	BMW	K1600GTL
89	Smith	JD	R	AZ	2015	BMW	R1200GSA
90	Lucas	Jesse	R	AL	2013	Yamaha	FJR1300
91	Byrd	Andrew	UB	OH	2012	Kawasaki	Concours
92	Andrews	Kenneth	R	AR	2019	HD	Road Glide
93	Kerr	Jon	UB	UT	2018	Honda	Goldwing
94	Nuehring	Brian	R	MO	2014	Yamaha	FJR1300
95	Messick	Ron	R	MO	2014	Yamaha	FJR1300
96	Gebler	Jeffrey	R	S Aus	2010	Honda	Goldwing
97	Patacca	Angelo	R	FL	2015	BMW	R1200GSA
98	Moore	Michael	R	NV	2018	Honda	Goldwing
99	Carlo	Robert	R	CA	2011	HD	Road Glide
100	Best	Mike	R	UT	2018	Honda	Goldwing
101	Long	David	R	MN	2006	BMW	R120RT
102	Cowart	Ken	R	AR	2019	HD	Road Glide
103	Gallant	Steve	R	MA	2012	Honda	ST1300

The rider meeting included a s number of admonitions from rally architect Jeff Earls. Riders must claim all bonuses on the bonus claim sheets, including tracking, call-in, and rest bonuses. There will be 3 call-in bonuses over the course of the rally, each with a 12 hour window, but no grace period. Riders will have 3 minutes to provide their name, rider number, the last bonus collected, the current location, and the next planned bonus.

Riders may rest anytime they need to, but there will be 3 rest bonus opportunities over the course of the next 11days where riders will be able to collect points for being off their bike and resting. Each of the 3 will be a 4 hour documented stop, at a minimum. However riders will be able to collect even more points for staying up to 8 hours. No other bonus may be claimed during the rest bonus, not even a call-in bonus.

Riders will have a 2 hour window at the checkpoints to check in with rally staff. Checkpoint 1 will open at 8:00 p.m. on the 20th. Penalty points, at the rate of 10 points per minute, will start to accrue at 1 second after 8:00:00 p.m. Riders who fail to stop the clock by 10:00 p.m. will not be considered a rally finisher. Riders may present themselves for scoring at 5:00 p.m.

More than a few attendees were heard commenting on how great the food was at the banquet. Lisa Landry and the Marriott staff outdid themselves.



Thankfully, the riders were done with a great dining experience, because judging for the looks on the rider's faces in the room as Jeff highlighted some critical information regarding the rally packs, swallowing or just trying to eat while one's jaw was on the floor may have been difficult after the rally packs were opened.

The riders have the bonus information, however, Jeff and the Rallymaster want the riders to carefully read the info and directions listed for each bonus. To help make this happen, the GPS coordinates provided in electronic form are close enough to the bonus locations for general routing, but with few exceptions, the coordinates are not at the exact bonus location. Riders will need to read each bonus description to determine both the directions for the waypoint and the requirements to collect the bonus.

Past rallies have provided bonus opportunities in a variety of locations, including a lot of destinations deep in the confines of mega metro areas like New York or Los Angeles. However, in a rally centered around roads less traveled, if you think placing most of the bonus locations inside thousands of acres of concrete and steel, hundreds of miles of multi-lane pavement carrying tens of thousands of vehicles per hour, and millions of people crammed into multi-story dwellings would seem odd, you would be correct.

These riders will certainly have opportunities to explore roads less traveled. We will post examples of potential bonus destinations in the coming days.

There are some interesting bikes entered in the 2019 IBR:



If you were not at the start, can you identify this motorcycle?

The staff made a few visits to riders after they had some time to start planning:



Owen brought paper maps...

Jim



Eric

Jewell checking the weather...



Wendy Crockett talking about hiking and being glad she brought her hiking boots...

MISCELLANEOUS

For now, let's cover some of the news from Rally Central, as Day -1 is always an interesting time:

Unfortunately, Dan Simmonds withdrew and will not start the rally. This late decision freed up Bill Thweatt's loaner Super Tenere for Cliff Wall to ride. The service manager of Powersports of Greenville worked late on Saturday trying to get the problem with Cliff's Goldwing identified and corrected, but despite his generous and best efforts, they were unable to achieve a resolution in time. Cliff accepted Bill's kind offer of the Super Tenere and ran it through tech early this morning.

Peter Green lost his phone, no word on whether he has found it or bought a replacement.

Maura Gatensby called in Friday to report getting sick during her ride to Greenville. She arrived late Saturday, reported feeling much better. She is checked in and planning to start the rally Monday morning.

Hammy Tan was sitting at the tech inspection table holding court for a few friends. He was apparently spinning an embellished yarn somehow involving Lisa Landry. Would you like to guess what the friends he was talking to knew, but he did not? Yep, The Rallymaster was standing directly behind him. It took him longer than you might think to realize this. By all accounts it was hilarious.

2017 gold medal top 10 finisher Ken Aman rolled up to the odometer check on his FJR and had a few moments of difficulty figuring out the trip meter reset on his electronic dashboard. Based on his performance in the previous IBR, we are sure he will put this glitch behind him and have no problem finding bonus locations on his GPS.

Veteran Jerald Anderson is back with his Suzuki GT750 two-stroke triple, but somehow missed the email with the time change for the rider meeting. He arrived 17 minutes late. The penalty for this oversight? Jerald will have to attend the missed meeting ... after the other riders depart on Monday.



A few rookies posted their satellite links to social media, causing them to have to have another meeting with rally staff to change their URL addresses. By the way, Jason Jonas' awesome Spotwalla tracking for the riders went live this evening. Go to <http://ibr.wvi.com/> for the link. Please do not hit refresh every

few minutes, as it may create issues for the server. It should refresh on its own and Jason will likely have some great composites of each leg available in a timely manner.

Even IBR riders ask silly questions at rider meetings. “What size will the ice cubes be?” in the cooler provided at the start. No, not going to name that rider, nor the one who asked: “How do I know what the correct time is?” Wow.

The riders all gathered for a photo across the street at the Michelin North American Headquarters. Apparently, not everyone received the memo about wearing the blue rally t-shirt for the photo.



Tom Loftus was a great friend of the rally and friend to of many of us. He started 10 IBRs and finished 7, with two of those finishes in the top 10. Unfortunately, Tom was taken from us too soon early this year.

A rally flag with his IBR number, 106, will be carried by Tom's friends Dennis Bitner and John Ferber as they ride to the group photo bonus locations. Tom's flag will be in the group photos.



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