

Sidebar 3

The delay in publishing the Epilog was not a result of your scribe trying to get a ton of info about the rally typed into a document. It was not a case of writer's block. It was simply a lack of time available to write anything at all.

On my return home after the finish of the rally, I was still recovering from some gastro distress which had plagued me Friday and Saturday at the finish in South Carolina. Add to that my son being involved in a multi-car crash and totaling his truck on the Wednesday before the finish. Add to that returning to my office to find out the a/c drain above the ceiling had malfunctioned and my office was flooded while I was gone. Add to that my project workload being somewhat heavy for the summer and our company purchasing another company while I was away. Add to that July 4th is my wife's birthday. The sum of all the parts has been no time to write the epilog this awesome rally deserves. Oh, and no, the dog did not eat my homework, but only because I don't have a dog right now.

I have seen some of the rider reports and blogs being published online and they are great. The riders have more info about their rides than the scribe could ever accumulate; and it is firsthand instead of second, third, or fourth hand. We are all looking forward to reading more about what the riders experienced and their routing choices. I wish all the riders would take time to publish what happened on their IBR adventures.

Wendy posted this on Facebook, reprinted here by permission:

IBR ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

"What I should have said:

This event was truly one for the ages. Deceptive in its simplicity, diabolical in its execution. There wasn't a single correct solution, with constantly shifting variables such that even the most skilled player ultimately had to leave a large part of their success in the hands of Lady Luck. Every single one of us rode a different ride, and nearly every one of them had the potential to be the winning solution.

One construction zone here, one wandering Winnebago there, and the outcome would be totally different. That's on top of the added retro twist, providing waypoints that were just within the (100 mile or so) vicinity along with written directions to the actual location, plus the potential for time-consuming tasks involved in order to actually secure the points. I LOVED it. Absolutely loved it. What an amazing way to pull everybody's collective heads back out of the spreadsheets and make us pay attention to the puzzle. Like I said, deceptive in its simplicity, diabolical in its execution.

I'd considered taking 2019 off, spending my vacation with the family, but I lost my resolve as soon as I saw that Jeff Earls would once again be the rally master. I am SO glad I threw my name in. I have never had more fun in a rally, hands down. From beginning to end, from the roads to the bonus locations, twisty bits of asphalt to twists in the game, I was hooked. I can't say enough to thank Jeff for this absolutely stunning event. And even the best rally idea couldn't be executed without the indefatigable [Lisa Landry](#), [Michael Kneebone](#), and an army of amazing volunteers. The Iron Butt family truly makes this event what it is. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for

bringing us together every two years, then flinging us violently apart, then bringing us all back together for this amazing celebration of the fringe of motorcycle exploration. Without you, we'd just be a bunch of weirdos bumbling about the continent.

What I actually said:

"I heard there were people online saying they'd win the rally by finding the winner, following her around for 11 days, then picking up one more bonus. Well, only [Ian McPhee](#) had the cajones <note, I was there and she used a slightly different term> to try and it killed his final drive. Thank you and goodnight. 😊"

In my defense, I did previously attempt to recruit [Tyler Risk](#) to be my wing lady so she could help me make good words come out of my face. Unfortunately she couldn't be at the finish line and I was tragically left to my own devices. Thank you to everyone who had more faith in me than I had in myself, and thank you to everyone who understands that I had no actual expectation of winning and was left at a nearly complete loss for words when the big moment came. This was a huge rally filled with amazing riders and determined in large part by luck. It really was anyone's game to win, and it still seems quite surreal that my exhilarating adventure was enough to bring home the win. I will truly never forget the feeling of that moment, and I thank each and every one of you who helped celebrate the amazing rides and incredible adventures of all 109 riders."

Of course, few in the banquet room heard any of Wendy's comments, the clapping and cheering for her was far too loud for her voice and the sound system to overcome. Congratulations again on making history in fine style!

*John Harrison
IBR Scribe
Iron Butt Rally©*

It has been my pleasure to serve as your scribe again for this rally. The kindness of the feedback received has more than made up for the frustration of being unable to discuss rally strategy due to the possibility of such discussions being transmitted and changing the outcome of the rally. Hopefully, what has been covered was sufficient to whet your appetite for following the next Big Dance, in 2021.