

Wednesday June 28 Sidebar #3

I.T. Notes

Jason Jonas is the owner and creative guru of Spotwalla. We are all fascinated with the info and visuals that he makes available through his remarkable web skills. He does not charge for this service and operates on donations from generous and grateful users.

Jason has requested that we remind everyone to please stop hitting refresh on the Spotwalla page, as that causes the page to ping Google Maps with a new map request every time you do that. There is a GREEN countdown clock in your browser showing the time to the next update (it is a 5min countdown). If you really must refresh what you are seeing, hit the GREEN countdown button instead of refreshing the page to avoid extra Google requests that are costly to Jason and also result in the recent crashes of the system.

One other note for those new to viewing the Spotwalla page regarding icon colors: Green means an OK message was sent by the rider, Yellow means a Custom message was sent, Red means a Help message has been sent (note that those are monitored), and Orange means the unit is in tracking mode.

In another critical I.T. area regarding the Iron Butt Webpage, we would like to thank Doug Chapman, 2005 IBR Gold Medal Finisher, for donating a high bandwidth server for the IBA's use for the duration of the rally. Doug's generosity should alleviate the crashes we have been experiencing due to the higher than anticipated usage.

Jason and the IBR Staff thank you all for your interest and for your cooperation!

String Theory

We should clarify that creating strings to double the last bonus in the string is not necessarily a requirement to be a finisher. If a rider does choose to collect strings on Leg 1, a string could be Land1-Land2-Land3 with the point value of Land3 getting doubled. Rest bonuses and call-in bonuses do not affect strings. So a rider could collect Air1- Air2- Call1-Air3 and get the point value of Air3 doubled. Or collect Water1-Rest1-Water2-Water3 and get the point value of Water3 doubled. However, collecting a Land bonus in the middle of a string of Mythical bonuses on Leg 1 would break the string. For example, if a rider collected Mythical1-Mythical2-Land1-Mythical3, the rider would have broken the Mythical string and would not get the point value for M3 doubled. They would get all of the standard points, assuming they documented the bonus correctly.

So what happens if a rider has three Land strings in a row? That would look like this: Land1-Land2-Land3-land4-Land5-Land6-Land7-Land8-Land9. You would expect to have Land3, Land6, and Land 9 each doubled in points. But if Land2, for example, gets denied at the scoring table for not having the flag visible, does that break all of the strings? No, it only breaks the first string. Land3 in string 1 would be assessed at the listed value, but if collected properly, Land6 and Land 9 would double.

Scoring opened at 5:00 p.m. with 20 riders having checked in by that time. Things should start to happen rapidly, as the riders have until 8:00 p.m. to check in without a penalty. They can still check in between 8:00 p.m. and the close of the checkpoint window at 10:00 p.m., but it will cost them 10 points per minute, starting at 8:00:01 p.m. Arrival at 10:00:01 p.m. or later will result in a DNF.