

2023 Heart of Texas Daily Report – 4/28/2023

We have the best riders ever! I get so many sweet “Good Morning” messages, including this one from Karen Handley

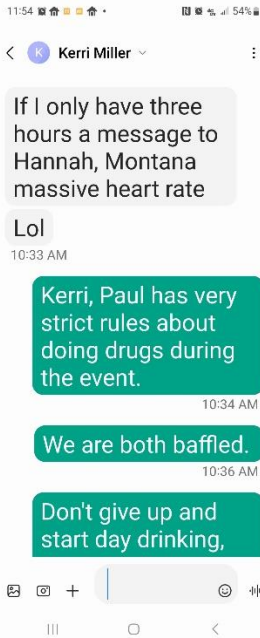


And this one from Eric Buskell



As of 6AM Friday, 1,760 bonuses dealt with. Riders are doing well and handling the crap the rally throws at them quite well.

We love having fun with the riders. Kerri Miller is a reliable source of entertainment. She’s also respectful about not taking too much time with silliness because we are busy. But here’s a text exchange with her:



We can't remember what she meant to say but was using speech to text and this is what we got. Boy did we have a good laugh about that. Kerri is the ONLY female pilot in this event. We had two others who dropped before the start. That is exactly why the Valkyrie Moto Rally is happening. We wanted to create an event for women to start from the most basic, if that's what they need. But also have some of these experienced gals around to provide support, advice, etc. We're really looking forward to it. Coming this October, based in Fort Smith, AR www.vmrally.com.

One of the bonuses is in Corsicana, it was available for the 4-day riders Wednesday noon to Thursday noon. Riders were to get a photo of the Palace Theatre where a statue honoring the late, great Billy Joe Shaver is planned to be. We could see on the marquee that the Mrs. Texas pageant is going to be happening Friday and Saturday, photo courtesy of Howard Phelps



This bonus is available anytime for the 2-day folks so we were hoping there might be some interesting interactions and fun stories on Friday. Low and behold, 4-day rider Alex Alpert, met Mrs. Houston! We

suggested he invite her to the rally banquet on Saturday, but foolish Alex didn't get her number. I guess she's married, so maybe not really appropriate.



THIS is why we included the bit about getting going from a flat in our Rules and Guidance document. Of course we can't require it or ensure folks have what they need to fix a flat, but boy do we recommend it. Bill Karitis (AKA Special K 1) put his skills to the test. I suppose you know you're loved in this community when your friends share photos of your misfortune so that others can have a chuckle as well. Of course, we would never do this if it were a truly bad situation. This is the stuff we prepare for and learn to deal with. It's only an inconvenience and not a tragedy. Bill did get going but rumor going round this Texas town that he's still having some issues. We'll keep Bill in our thoughts for a successful ride and arrival in College Station. Gotta keep him healthy for his attempt at a shiny new plate backer in a couple months.

Cory Ure also had a flat, but we haven't heard another peep from him other than bonus submissions so presume he's doing great. His wonderful, fun wife, Annette, is going to give us a hand here tomorrow and we're very grateful for her assistance.

Okay, rally stuff. We are super excited to see what the riders do over the next 24+ hours as this year's Heart of Texas Rally comes to a close. We appreciate that folks want to come have fun with us and spend their time chasing bonuses around Texas. Yes, putting an event on is a ton of work and can be stress inducing at times. But man is it fun to watch the hard work unfold and hear the riders telling their fun stories from the road.

As most rallies have rest bonuses, so do we. We also have meal bonuses. Riders are rewarded for taking a 45-minute meal break at select restaurants. They're typically small, mom and pop type places that either we like or have been featured as outstanding local spots on various lists in Texas publications, newspapers, etc. There's a couple restaurants that are starting to love our riders and we love them back. The Heart of Texas Grill in San Augustine is simply terrific. In this event, having a meal at this particular restaurant gives the rider the best advantage. The staff there understand the riders want to get in and out quickly and often make recommendations to help the rider get food quickly. A new favorite is Arnold's Family Restaurant in Lone Star. They figured out what's going on and started giving our riders free t-shirts! What? Rallies are the best! As of this writing, 6 of our riders have been there. This restaurant is likely to be more attractive in future events.

Okay, so meals. Riders are awarded additive exponents for visiting these restaurants. Heart of Texas Grill has been a favorite for many years, I mean, the name is kinda cool, so.... But yeah, that restaurant has a 3 exponent. Arnold's is currently a 1.25, but you can bet they will move up on the list in the future. Anyway, all these numbers, between 1 and 3 will then be added together and become the exponent on a multiplier of their rest minutes. As an example, a rider has successfully claimed 4 meal bonuses (1 per day is permitted, though they can eat as often as they like, they only get points for 1 per rally day). The exponent add for the locations are 3, 1, 1 and 1. Add those up and the exponent will be 6. This pretend 4-day rider successfully claimed 1000 rest minutes.

So, the calculation would be:

Rest minutes $\times Z^6$

Z is a constant – 1.7 for 4-day and 3 for the 2-day

$$1000 \times 1.7^6 = 24,138$$

BUT, if a rider maxed the sleep (24 hours or 1,440 minutes) and maxed the exponents at 9, that rider would receive $1440 \times 1.7^9 = 170,767$. I'm sure we can all agree that is a whole lot more than 24,138. Maxing sleep and eating at the suggested restaurants is rewarded mightily.

Today (Friday) at noon, the 4 day riders will shift over to chasing planets. Come tomorrow, they might elect to continue the planet hunt, but they will have an opportunity to get other locations they might need to complete a Tour or for whatever other reason by donning the beard and sunglasses they were given in their rally pack. Robert Long got a head start on this and made our day when he sent this photo-



We will be busy preparing for the riders tomorrow, but will try to get something out to the folks following along. Final results and photos will be shared after the event as well. It's a lot of work breaking down from a rally and staff will be traveling in various directions as well after the event so please be patient with us. We are so grateful.