

**What Don did on his Memorial Day Weekend?
Or
It's 3:30 in the morning – This must be Cleveland**

So, for those of you who don't know, I did an endurance rally ride (The Mason Dixon 20-20 DOA rally) this weekend. This was a pretty basic rally format. You were given a list of places that you could go, each of which had a bonus point value associated with it. The total rally length was 33 hours with a mandatory three-hour sleep break. The person with the highest number of points at the end of the time was the winner. Sounds simple right? Well, there were some additional rules that you had to deal with. The first interesting one was that there was a 2020-mile limit on the ride. If you went over that distance you lost points for every mile over. So, you could ride more than 2020 miles but the bonus points that you were getting for the extra miles had better add up to more than the per mile penalty. The next rule had to do with time. The 33 hours started at 6AM on Saturday. It ended at 3PM on Sunday. For the hour between 3-4 you lost 20 points/minute. For the hours between 4-5 you lost 202 points for every minute that you were in past 3PM (this is the important part). 5-6 you lost 2020 point per minute past 3PM. After 6 you lost 20,200 point/minute. So, once again you could be late but the bonus points you got had better be worth more than the penalties. One more rule/bonus just to make things lively. There is a wild card. The profits from the rally go to a children's care fund. This bonus is buying a bunch of things for the kids (2 cassette tapes, 2 gel ink pens + note pad, Silly putty, Lego's, Cards, Mail polish, Pop beads for an baby, rattle and \$5 worth of lottery tickets). You get bonus points for each of these things and a bunch more points if you get everything.

A group called the Mason Dixon 20-20 put on the rally. I'm not sure where the name comes from but if you abbreviate it you get MD 20-20 which is a well known and cheap alcoholic drink. These guys put on a class act. The rally was incredibly well run. For real details you can check out the rally web site at:

<http://www.masondixon20-20.org/>

In case you haven't looked at the web site yet, DOA stands for Diners of America. The vast majority of the bonus sites were diners. The riding area was roughly bounded by Maine in the northeast, Sault Sainte Marie in the northwest, Key West in the south and St. Paul in the west. Yes, you should understand by now that there are a lot of miles to ride. The entire rally is part of a set of rallies that culminate in the Bi-annual Iron Butt rally (last years winner did ~13,000 miles in 11 days to win).

I decide on a strategy that will hit all of the places in Ohio (I don't succeed in getting them all ☹). So, here's what my days looked like.

Day	Time	Location	Miles	Notes
Friday	1045 AM	Valencia, PA	34681	Leave from Home for the rally starting site in York PA.

	410 PM	York, PA	34940	After stopping for lunch arrive in York PA. The rally site is at a Holiday Inn. Check in. Odometer checks (run a measured course and match the odometer reading against actual distance to get a correction factor). Dinner. Presentation by two riders from the 2001 Iron Butt.
Saturday	430 AM	York, PA	34940	Get up and start packing bike. There is a riders meeting at 5:15 and a 6:00AM start time.
Saturday	600 AM	York PA	34940	Start
	834 AM	Friendsville MD	35121	Fuel
	930 AM	Fairmont WV	35174	D.J. 50's/60's Diner. The question to be answered to prove you were here is: "What company, city and state are on the neon clock over the bar?". Dropped my helmet here. I keep telling Deb that no helmet ever fell off of the ground. I should have heeded my own advice. Not only did it fall off but the parking lot is on a slant so it rolled down the parking lot with me in hot pursuit.
	1015 AM	Mt. Morris, PA	35207	This is the site of one of the original survey markers for the Mason-Dixon line. The marker is on private ground so you can't get to it. The question here is: "What are the numbers on the telephone pole next to the 40 MPH sign at the intersection"
	1209 PM	Norwich, OH	35341	Fuel
	113 AM	Columbus, OH	35410	This is the Ohio History Center. In the center there is a railroad caboose. The question is "What are the numbers on the car?"
	259 PM	Cincinnati, OH	35524	The Diner on Sycamore. The question here is: "Who is the manufacturer of the diner car". The problem is that the diner closed three weeks ago. For proof here I got the real-estate brokers name & number.
	310 PM	Cincinnati, OH	35528	Fuel
	430 PM	Dayton, OH	35581	Roxy's Diner. The question: "On the

				glass window in the lobby, what are the initials on the railroad car". Continuing a string of bad luck this diner is also closed. Wrote a description of what I could see through the glass.
	450 PM	Dayton, OH	35591	Finally stopped for a meal. After two closed diners I had to settle for Bob Evans.
	722 PM	Mansfield, OH	35716	Fuel
	907 PM	? – Just short of Cleveland	35790	It starts to pour! Riding in the rain isn't usually a big deal but this is really bad. I can't see a thing. Seems like a great time for the rest break. I find a hotel and check in. Find a near by MAC machine and get out \$20. This receipt will be the proof of the starting time for the stop.
Sunday	316AM	? – Just short of Cleveland	35792	Get another MAC slip. This is the ending time. 6 hours – This is going to keep me out of the running ;-)
	330 AM	Cleveland, OH	35806	Jacob's field – Gate C: "What years did Robert William Andrew Feller serve in the US Navy?"
	444 AM	Canton, OH	35869	Saxton House: "What are the 4-way tests of the Canton Rotary New Market Park?" I knew this before I got there. The Four Way test is the same for all Rotary clubs.
	553 AM	Lisbon. OH	35906	Steel Trolley Diner – "On the clock over the door, "What Time Is IT?". I have coffee and a BLT here. This is the first of these diners that I've actually been able to eat in! Had a great conversation with a couple of the folks eating breakfast.
	722AM	Mars, PA	35961	Fuel – Yes! Mars, PA. Yes I stopped in and said hi & bye to Deb.
	735AM	Richland, PA		I stopped in Wall Mart to get my wild card stuff. Spend a bunch of time (a precious commodity at this point) looking for this stuff. I get everything EXCEPT the pop beads.
	829 AM	Gibsonia	35971	Venus Diner – "What types of pies do they serve". Yes, this is almost an

				entire hour after the stopping at the Wall Mart.
	918 AM	Blairsville, PA	36019	Dean's Diner – “According to the placemat, since what year has Deans been on this location” And you have to return with a placemat! I ask the waitress for a cup of coffee and a placemat. She gets one and folds it nicely for me. I'm not the first person who has been here and asked for the same thing! Leaving Deans I get lost in Derry PA. The GPS is no help. I finally find someone who gives me directions. About this time my face shield comes off on one side. I've somehow lost parts (see Fairmont WV). I take off the face shield and put it in a side bag.
		Ligonier, PA		Meet up with another rider who has just been to Dean's. We'll ride together for the rest of the day.
	1101 AM	Somerset, PA	36085	Summit Diner – “Get a coffee mug and a receipt”. Nice mug. The guy at the counter could not figure out why to people in funny space suits walked in an just bought coffee mugs and specifically asked for receipts.
	1142 AM	Shanksville, PA	36105	Flight 93 Memorial – “What is the name of the first officer of flight 93”. We both planted flags that we had been carrying during the entire rally at this site. If you are in the area you should visit this. Now it's time to haul some butt back to York. It's going to be real close for the 3:00 deadline!
	1240 PM	Bedford, PA	36136	Fuel
	231 PM	York, PA	36255	Round the Clock Diner – “What is the address of the diner?”. The answer to this one is on an outside awning. You would be surprised at the number of people who went inside to ask!
	235 PM	York, PA		I spend some time looking for any place that might sell toys. I NEED that pop bead set. Can't find one!
	251 PM	York, PA	36259	Check back in!
	305 PM	York, PA		Sit down with the rally officials and go

				over my rally book. This is where they check that the answers are correct, that the miles make sense and that you did stop for three hours
	700 PM	York, PA		Rally dinner. Nice spread. Lots of great stories about the ride. Got ready for bed, but first fixed my helmet using, you guessed it, duct tape!
Monday	400 AM	York PA	36259	Get up and on the road home
	705 AM	Valencia, PA	36490	Get home.

So in 33 hours I covered 1,318 miles. I collected 2,099,801 bonus points. Sounds like a lot right? Not even close. This point score put me right in the middle of the pack, 44 out of 80. The winner collected 4,339,652 bonus points and hit Rockland Maine! This was great fun. Lots of nice people. Lots of great riding. I can't wait until next year!

By-the-way, if you want to know any of the answers just drop me a line!

Things I learned doing this ride:

- 1) The RT is a great bike for this type of ride. Smooth and easy to sit on for long periods of time.
- 2) I have to do something about throttle control. My right wrist really hurt by the end. I have a Throttlemister but I need to do something else.
- 3) I'm not really happy with my Corbin seat. I think that I can do much better here.
- 4) The Motolites are great. Lot's of light when you need it.
- 5) I need to do better planning. I'm sure that I could have covered less miles and gotten more points. I have to figure out some way of doing bonus picks. Maybe putting all of the locations on a map to get a visual impression of where things are?
- 6) The GPS is a really valuable tool. I picked locations using Street Atlas and then got the Lat/Long from it. I then create waypoints for the GPS. At each stop I just plugged in the waypoint for the next stop and went.
- 7) Check the screws on my helmet more often.