

SS1000 Report

Hey, Guys! Thought you might be interested in our latest adventure. Sat. June 11, Mike and I participated in the Motorcycle Tourers Forum (MTF) Regional Saddle Sore 1000. We rode from Wichita Falls, Texas, to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and back to Wichita Falls, "official" miles 1033 in 16.5 hours. Mike rode his 2004 BMW R1150R Rockster and I rode my 1997 BMW R850R.

Most of the day the weather was good. But after going through Amarillo in the morning, we rode through about 20 miles of dense fog. Then coming back through Amarillo, we encountered rain, sleet, hail, and forming tornadoes. When we stopped for gas in Clarendon, we found out that we just missed a tornado. Then the weather was perfect again.

After I got my last gas receipt at 9:45 p.m. at Wichita Falls and pulled out of the gas station, my 850 stalled -- wouldn't restart. Thankfully, I finished the ride and help was available. The local site coordinators stored my bike for me until I could come back to get it. Mike and I rode home 300 miles 2-up on the Rockster -- FUN!

Then I had the pleasure of making the 630 miles round-trip back to Wichita Falls in the truck with the trailer to pick up my bike. And THEN I rode 400 miles round-trip with truck and trailer to Austin to my favorite BMW dealer -- Lone Star BMW -- to deliver the sick 850 to get her fixed. While I was at Lone Star, I spied a beautiful blue 2004 BMW R1150RS with only 4000 miles on it and told them to just go ahead and load her on my empty trailer. Yeah!!! (This will be a co-owned bike with Mike.)

It turned out that the 850's fuel pump gave out and had to be replaced. Got her picked up this past Sat. and is now running great.

The SS1000 was quite a challenge and don't know how but ... I DID IT!

Stay tuned for my next interesting adventure "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" on their Blazing Saddles 2005 tour of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland coming up in July (led by the leading lady long-distance rider, Voni Graves.)

~ Frances Dear
