

I'll start with an overview of the time leading up to the MN1K. I have been planning since this winter to run the rally this year. My only sales person decides to go to Spain with to meet up with his sweetie while she is on a college trip for her last 6 credits. She just happens to be my step daughter. So now I am going to be really short staffed for the 14th. I still plan on taking the day off and running anyway. The forecast for that Saturday changes plans along with General Manager / wife having other commitments and can't cover for me either. Yet I still plan on running.

Tuesday I get up early after being up tinkering with my bike till midnight. I tell my now X wife that I will be at work by 11:30 after picking up some of my Mandatory bonuses. Large argument ensues about how I play too much and don't work enough...blah blah blah. Glad she's my X now! So I did not get any of my mandatory bonuses on Tuesday morning. So after this huge argument I decide (foolishly) withdraw from the rally. Of course it is to late now. Oh well I have wasted \$80 in worse ways. Reluctantly post my withdrawal and sit in my pity pot. ☹ Then John 503 kick starts my brain again. Yes! I can take the start and come to work then leave after that. ☺ So Tuesday evening I split a half an hour early and hit Moon and Delano. Needing my brothers' signature on some papers anyway I get two of the 5 done that night and get back to the store to drop barney off and pick up my car to take it home. No keys <insert few favorite words here> get Barney back out ride home. Wednesday up early to let techs in to get started wrenching. Plan to do my other three bonus stops Thursday morning instead. Up late adjusting lights on Barney another post midnight bedtime this time it is 1:30.

Thursday up at 6 and on the road by 6:30. Need to make a quick loop around the twin cities. St. Paul, Warner, Midwest and home. Make good time to St. Paul. They open at 9 and I am there at 8:15. So I dart off to Denny's for breakfast. Back over to St. Paul HD at 8:50. Ogling there extremely clean service department <drool> waiting for 9 opening I run into Kurt Harter one of the staffers there. He gives me a tour and tells me that there service manager used to manage an aircraft carrier in the armed forces. Ah HA, that explains the tidiness. After 9 and getting my receipt I head off to Warner. It was kind of cloudy and a couple of sprinkles but nothing serious. Uneventful stops at Warner and Midwest and back home. Work till 8 Thursday night up late again and cannot recall why. But it was at least midnight.

Up at 6:30 this time the Girls (Lina and Sassie the potbellied pigs) are hungry for breakfast early <grumble-grumble>. Friday work all day, when not thinking about the rally, and anxious to get to the liars banquet so I can get some real info and start laying out my route. Have a great dinner and meet up with some new friends from the <insert bad Asian accent here> BONZAI run. Get the rally pack and.....damn rally bastards...er I mean rally buddies. Here I sit with non bonus runs that I cannot do. NOW I get to sleep, yea right, with anticipation of what lies ahead. Read "you might want to bowl a game or three" so off to the alley's. I even thought of bringing my own ball along but decided not to, too heavy to put in bike. Bowl a game and decide to take my chances with what kind of bonus it might turn out to be. So after bowling and lying and bench racing with Allen, Jim, Mark, and I can't remember who else. I head home back Barney into the garage and double check the supplies for the run. After the festivities and getting Barney tucked in for the night I crawl into bed again after midnight with the alarm set at 7:00 to meet Mark and Allen for breakfast in the morning at Perkins in Monticello.

Saturday morning I arrive a half an hour earlier than we had decided. Giddy with anticipation but depressed that I have to work after taking the start. Discuss the finer points of being in the retail business, racing, long distance riding, bikes and such. After a healthy breakfast we all head over to the Bowling alley to get ready for the start. People were milling about, making last minute adjustments to gear and organizing important stuff. I think I rearranged my tour pak three times and checked my clock against the "official time" whenever the time was announced. Which didn't do any good cause I forgot what it was in comparison to my watch by the time I went to check it against my bike clock. Then I realized that my GPS was already synchronized with rally time any way. Oh well it helped kill the time. Ahhhh finally 9:30 I finally get to see the real rally pack. Map out highlighter ready list in hand, make notes on corrections. Listening carefully pays off later. "Bonus 11 the number we are looking for is the pay phone next to the video phone in Jerry's bar parking lot, not the number of the video phone." Get all but one bonus laid out on the map. The great lakes tour of MN. Hop on the Barney Glide at 10:00 and head off to work. In the store by 10:35 and take the bonus list and map into my office and spread it out on my drafting table and desk. Fire up Map quest and go get a Credit card receipt for the start of my sleep bonus. Help some customers get a break in the action and type in the cities for the great lakes tour. Best route 1day + ixnay that idea. Go help out at the parts counter. Half an hour later look at map again. Hmmmmmm maybe NW angle?!?! Another customer on the floor, not selling much today and surprised how not busy we are. Must be too nice to shop for motorcycles everyone is out riding them<&*%^&%\$#*^&&>. Not very focused on selling today more worried about which points can I get to? By the time three o'clock rolls around I have decided. Little Falls first, then up to Pequot Lakes, Then Motley. Motley and Pequot are time sensitive and I know I can make them. Then N.W. to Erskine, this is a good sized bonus and not too far out of the way for the trip to the N.W. angle. So from Erskine North on 59 to Thief River Falls for a fuel stop cut off on 32 up to 11 and over to Roseau. Top off in Roseau because the bonus list shows limited possibility of fuel or stores open up there. Dusk is falling it is about 9:00. Roll north out of Roseau and head for Canada eh. Stop at the check station and talk with a very friendly border guard. He has seen a few bikes come through and already knows where I am going. We exchange a small conversation about my headlights and what kind of bike I am riding. Roll on and wish I could have been up in that area during the day I bet it is very pretty. The critters are starting to jump around now, no not that critter☺. The HID's are working pretty well but need some tweaking. Note to self, adjust headlight at next bonus stop. The closer I get to the N.W. angle the darker it is getting. I meet a couple of bikes on my way in. What a great ride back in to there the Gravel road is one of the best I have ever ridden on and I used to live on one. Ditches narrowing and brush growing higher the throttle closed a little more with every mile. The poor adjustment is hindering the lights for sure. Stop for another border check point. This is my first experience with the video phone check point thing. Helpful hint take out ear plugs before talking to border personnel on video phone. Make the turn and head off to Jerry's Bar and Grill. Across the parking lot searching.....Ah Ha, there it is, allrighty then, I grab my list and pen and get the number off the phone booth phone next to the video phone. With my trusty little cheapo flash light I double and triple check the number and the directions on the bonus list. I got it. I wasn't going to miss this bonus on a brain fart or some other small technicality. I made

this bonus & I am going to get the credit for it. Grab my tool for adjusting the headlight that I conveniently packed in an easy to get to place. I was thinking well when I put that there. Half a turn there and a half a turn here and presto I can see again, I hope. Back on the bike and head back to Canada eh. Wow I can see! That really helped but I think I got them a little too high on the left. Oh well can't stop now. See a few more bikes on the way out. Make my stop at the video check point again and get my clearance to go back across. Lots of deer and critters out now that it is shortly after real nightfall. I only got flashed once so the head light adjustment must not be too bad. Make a left on 12 and head to Warroad get through the check point at the U.S. station with no trouble and the officers on duty there were very pleasant also. Roll in to Warroad and stop to pee and get fuel. Run into the guy riding a nighthawk, sorry I can't remember your name, He has hit every poorly marked road and construction area I the state I think. Plus the windshield he has is obviously just a little too short because he has had to stop and clean his face shield a lot. Ah... the joys of riding a bagger. I fill up with fuel throw on the electric vest, warmer gloves and my riding pants, toasty. Wash the headlight off mark fuel receipt with time and mileage rolling again. Two blocks later.....did that receipt have the town and all pertinent info? Turn around and double check, good it is all there. Off to Baudette to get a picture of Willie the walleye. Hint number two, cheap Polaroid cameras do not take good night pictures. As I try number three my new acquaintance from Warroad rolls by then turns around and parks by Barney and Willie. He has a much better Polaroid. He even gave me a picture for my bonus. What a guy. As I wait for another picture to develop I look over the bonus list for my next stop. Walker? I don't have that marked on my map as a regular bonus. So I read on..... Hey I can do that after Bemidji. So with another bonus filled out and picture in the baggie I head off to Carp. Thinking to my self it is not on a Rand McNally map it probably is not going to show up on the GPS either. As I get closer I pay closer attention to the moving map and low and behold Carp. Whoo hoo roll in on the north side of town and like it had a beacon on it rolled right up to the Historic marker about the fire there in the early 1900's. Another bonus done and Bemidji is up next on the agenda. Roll south out of Carp and over to 72 again. South to 71 and into Bemidji, roll up to the park a start searching for the sign about lake aging. I'll be damned if I can remember it now. After looking at just about every other sign in the park I found it. Saw a couple of bikes roll in while I was getting back on Barney. I tell those two where to find the right sign and head south out of town on hwy 71 south to MN200 east. Then south on MN371 into Walker so I can find the MN fishing hall of fame. Need to get the price of admission off of the sign inside the front door. No admission charged but donations accepted. Now back north on 371 and up to US 2 and head east to Bena and the big fish supper club. Blow right by it the first time and double back wow it is darker than a well diggers ass up here at night. Fatigue is setting in now and cheap Polaroid rears its ugly head again bike pointed at the fish finally I get one that "might" pass scoring table. But too much time wasted already next stop Deer River for another fish statue picture. God I hate this *&^\$# camera point bike at fish again and use up another package of film and get one that is really "iffy". Now I am extremely tired and running short on time I bail out on the Floodwood bonus to try and get a lap of Lake Mille Lacs. I head south at Grand Rapids on 169 and headed for Lake Mille Lacs. Getting the nods pretty bad now as the sun in coming up and it is warming up toasty and tired are not a good combo. The last week of up too late and up too early is

really starting to hurt me now. I know I have the time to do a lap and get home under the time frame but just can't do it. Nods are getting worse haven't eaten enough during the last 24 hours so I bee line it to the finish. Skipping the last two bonus points I wanted, lap of Mille Lacs and Rush city. Oh well I just can't go on. Cut cross country home to the shop and find some people already there. At 7:15 I finished. Thank God, I am home relax a little and open up make some coffee. After waiting for the finish to open I get my check in done wash my face off drink a couple of cups of coffee. Grab my rally pak and my baggie of receipts and photos and head off to add up my score. Every thing in order all points look good and say a quick prayer for my marginal photos. I am first to the scoring table. Lucky me I get John Ryti for my scorer I've known John for a few years from the Race track that might help the cause.....NOT! No friends when at the scoring table. Bonus's are looking good so far. One of the first receipts is Morey fish in Motley. I have been to the one in Brainerd before so when I got the receipt and it did not have the location on it I asked the lady behind the counter if she could fill it in for me and initial it. She was glad to do so. Since I was the first one to the table, anyone that got cash receipt and did not verify the location did not get the points...Sorry guys. Some times it pays to be first to the score table I guess. Then came the dark photos...<gulp>.....I expect them to be denied.....John looks.....and looks some more..... " I don't know Brett".....He calls for second opinion.....Ken looks.....hmmmm....I don't know Brett".....<gulp>..... Then Adam comes over.....<double gulp>.....He has much better eyesight than myself and the other scorers. HE PASSES THEM!!!! YE HAW!! My first experience at the Team Strange scorers table and all of my points pass the scrutiny of the officials. These guys aren't so tough. I finished my first MN1K and got all bonus's I claimed. That I think was an accomplishment in and of its self. Then I started thinking about the week before, and the 41/2 hour "rest bonus"(no rest just work) lack of sleep and finishing at 7:15 instead of closer to the end at 10:00 that means that I did a 24 hour rally and rode for 16:45 and pulled a top of class finish right out of my butt!

How I did it I think is still a mystery to me. But I am looking forward to my next rally and really getting excited about the 2004 MN1K. Maybe even the Butt Lite.....Barney rides again at the Buffalo run this fall.

A special thanks to Team Strange for putting on a first class event and hope to be involved in any way I can in your future events.

Brett Donahue
& the Barney Glide (99 H-D Road Glide)
TS 515
IBA 326