

All Around Alabama Challenge

Our ABEES-BMWMOAL All Around Alabama Challenge is to circumnavigate Alabama staying inside the state boundaries within either 48 hours or 72 hours. You may start at any location along the route and must return to that location within the allotted time. The challenge can be ridden clockwise or counter clockwise. Along the way, you will ride through many interesting small to medium sized towns and cities. Most of the roads you ride are small scenic county roads, some are very twisty, and you will make 223 turns within the 1,293 miles to complete the ride.

The All Around Alabama challenge will test your endurance, navigational and planning skills to a very high degree, even when using a GPS. To help with your navigation, a calibrated route sheet, divided into five legs: Gulf Shores to Red Bay, Red Bay to Ardmore, Ardmore to Ranburn, Ranburn to Cottonwood, Cottonwood to Gulf Shores, gives you turn-by-turn directions including total miles and leg miles. A Route sheet is available for you to download at http://www.bmwmoal.org/gps_route_planning.php), as an MS Word file and also an Adobe .pdf file. The route sheet is sized so that you can cut it to fit a roll chart or place in the map window of your tank bag.

As a contingency, in case the Mobile Bay Ferry is inoperable, the route can be altered by starting at Highways 59 & 180 in Gulf Shores and then riding around Mobile Bay through Mobile, then down Dauphin Island Parkway to Hwy 188. The ferry schedule may be obtained at www.mobilebayferry.com/schedule.html.

Because no motorcycle has the same odometer calibration, the route sheet and Garmin GPS route file should be considered to give you approximate distances between turns. The 0 distance on the route sheet indicates your next turn is between 0 ft and 1/2 mile. The arrow points to the direction of turn at each waypoint.

We are on the honor system, but your photographs and stories about interesting discoveries you make along the way will be greatly appreciated, so please send your stories and photos to the newsletter editor, and, or post them to our website forums. As you ride by ABEES points, be sure to check them off for qualifying to win some great prizes. Riders, who successfully complete the All Around Alabama challenge and having ridden to twenty or more ABEES locations will receive either ten (within 48 hours or five within 72 hours) bonus tickets for a chance to win one of the prizes.

Please be careful! Many of the small roads that you will be riding on are in deer country, so plan your ride so you won't be riding after dark. Also, please do not override your endurance. If you feel tired, stop your motorcycle and take a break.

Good luck with completing the BMWMOAL-ABEES All around Alabama challenge. You will need it. This is not easy, but it is lots of fun to ride and well worth your time and effort.